

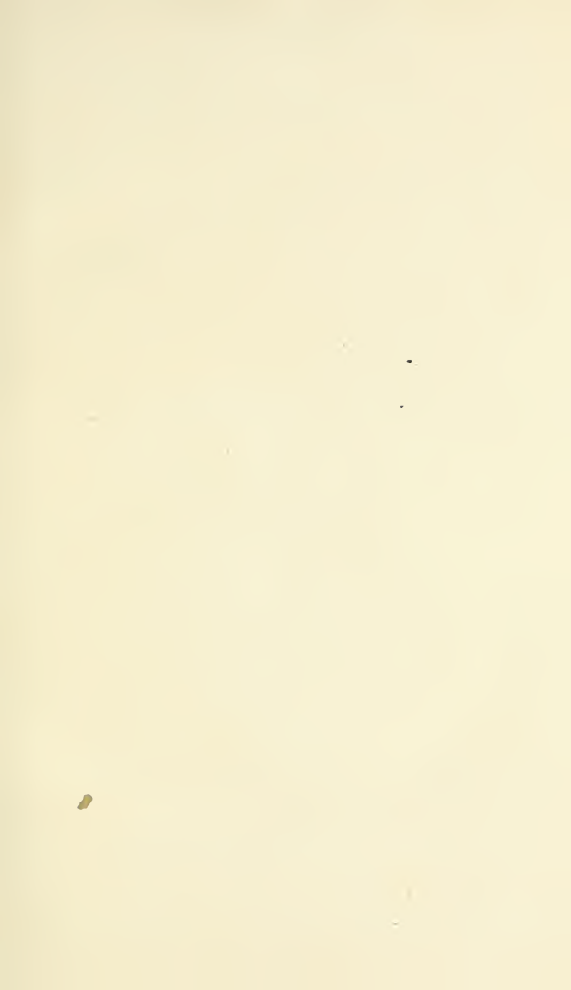


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TOPOGRAPHY  
OF  
**Great Britain,**  
OR,  
**BRITISH TRAVELLER'S**  
*POCKET DIRECTORY;*  
BEING AN ACCURATE AND COMPREHENSIVE  
TOPOGRAPHICAL AND STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION  
OF  
ALL THE COUNTIES  
IN  
**England, Scotland, and Wales,**  
WITH THE  
ADJACENT ISLANDS:  
ILLUSTRATED WITH  
*MAPS OF THE COUNTIES,*  
WHICH FORM  
A COMPLETE BRITISH ATLAS.

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*BY G. A. COOKE, ESQ.*

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VOL. VIII.  
CONTAINING  
HERTFORDSHIRE AND ESSEX.

—◆—  
**London:**

*Printed, by Assignment from the Executors of the late C. Cooke,*

FOR  
SHERWOOD, NEELY, AND JONES, PATERNOSTER-ROW;  
AND SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.



# INDEX OF DISTANCES FROM TOWN TO TOWN,

## In the County of Hertford.

The names of the respective Towns are on the top and side, and the square where both meet gives the distance.

	St. Alban's, . . . Distant from London. . . Miles,			
Baldock, . . .	18	Baldock, . . .	. . .	20
Barnet, . . .	10	Barnet, . . .	. . .	37
Berkhamstead, . . .	12	Berkhamstead, . . .	. . .	11
Buntingford, . . .	24	Buntingford, . . .	. . .	26
Hatfield, . . .	5	Hatfield, . . .	. . .	31
Hemel Hempstead	6	Hemel Hempstead, . . .	. . .	19
Hertford, . . .	12	Hertford, . . .	. . .	23
Hoddesdon, . . .	15	Hoddesdon, . . .	. . .	21
Puckridge, . . .	20	Puckridge, . . .	. . .	17
Rickmansworth, . . .	11	Rickmansworth, . . .	. . .	27
Roydon, . . .	26	Roydon, . . .	. . .	18
Stevenage, . . .	12	Stevenage, . . .	. . .	38
Ware, . . .	15	Ware, . . .	. . .	31
Watford, . . .	7	Watford, . . .	. . .	20

# INSPECTION TABLE FOR THE COUNTY OF HERTFORD.

<i>Bounded by</i>	<i>Extent</i>	<i>Contains</i>	<i>Sends to Parliament</i>	<i>Produce and Manufactures.</i>
On the north by the counties of Bedford and Cambridge.	In length about 36 miles.	8 hundreds,	6 Members, <i>viz.</i>	The chief produce of the county is wheat and barley, of which great quantities are manufactured into meal and malt.
On the east by Essex.	In breadth 28 miles.	19 market-towns,	2 for the county,	
On the south by Middlesex.	In circumference about 120 miles.	949 villages,	2 for St. Albans,	
And on the west by the counties of Buckingham and Bedford.		About 400,000 acres, 97,577 inhabitants.	2 for Hertford.	

HERTFORDSHIRE is comprised within the dioceses of London and Lincoln, and province of Canterbury.



# AN ITINERARY OF ALL THE DIRECT AND PRINCIPAL CROSS ROADS IN HERTFORDSHIRE.

In which are included the STAGES, INNS, and  
GENTLEMEN'S SEATS.

*N. B. The first Column contains the Names of Places passed through; the Figures that follow shew the Distances from Place to Place, Town to Town, and Stages; and in the last Column are the names of Gentlemen's Seats and Inns. The right and left of the Roads are distinguished by the letters R and L.*

## JOURNEY FROM TRING TO LONDON THROUGH BERKHEMPSTEAD, AND WATFORD.

Tring to				Northcote Court, William Smart, Esq. L.
North Church	$3\frac{3}{4}$	$3\frac{3}{4}$		Woodcock Hill, Sir Stephen Langston, R.
BERKHEMPSTEAD	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{1}{4}$		Inn—King's Arms. At Berkhempestead, Berkhempestead Castle, John Rooper, Esq. and Pilkington Manor House, Joseph Kirkman, esq. L.
				Bartletts, Augustus Peckell, esq. R. New Lodge, John Moore, esq. L.
Broadway	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{3}{4}$		Sec Hackster's End, John Field, esq. L.
Bourn End	$\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{1}{4}$		West Brook Key, P. R. Luard, esq. R.
Boxmoor	1	$8\frac{1}{4}$		Boxmoor Hall, ——— Mead, esq. R.
Two Waters	1	$9\frac{3}{4}$		
<i>At Two Waters on L. a T. R. to Hemel Hempstead.</i>				

King's Langley	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{3}{4}$	
Hunton Bridge	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$13\frac{1}{4}$	Langley Bury, ——— Kings-
Cross the Gude			man, esq. R
River.			
— — —			Russell's Farm, Ladies Ann
— — —			and Maria Capel. L
— — —			Grove Park, Earl of
— — —			Clarendon, R
— — —			Cashiobury Park, Earl of
— — —			Essex, R
— — —			Wiggen Hall, ——— Deacon,
			esq. R
WATFORD	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$16\frac{3}{4}$	Inns—White Hart, Rose
At Watford on			and Crown.
L a T. R. to St.			
Albans, on R to			
Rickmansworth.			
Cross the Colne			
River.			
— — —			Bushey Grove, D. Hali-
			burton, esq. L. Wiggen
			Hall, ——— Capper, esq. L
Bushey	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$18\frac{1}{4}$	From Bushey Heath see the
			following seats: Meor
			Park, C. Williams, esq.
			Orney House, Hon. Wil-
			liam Bucknal. Pinner
			Hill, ——— Bridges, esq. ;
			and Hartsborn Manor
			Place, Mrs. Brewer, R.
			Porters, Earl of Alie-
			mont ; and Wrotham
			House, George Byng,
			esq. L
— — —			Bentley Priory, Marquis of
— — —			Abercorn.
			Seats of ——— Forbes, esq ;
			——— Chural, esq. and
			——— Torrians, esq. L

Stanmore	$3\frac{1}{4}$	$21\frac{1}{2}$	At Stanmore ——— Drummond, esq. R
Edgware	2	$23\frac{1}{4}$	Inns—Crane, White Hart. Canons Park, — O'Kelly, esq. R
<i>At Edgware on L to St. Albans, through Idestrey.</i>			
Hyde	$1\frac{3}{4}$	25	Inn—King's Arms.
<i>Cross the Brent River.</i>			
— — —			Seats of Earl of Macclesfield; and ——— Montague, esq. L.
— — —			Mapes, ——— White, esq. R
— — —			Brands, Lady Salisbury, R
Kilburn	$4\frac{1}{4}$	$29\frac{1}{4}$	At Kilburn, see Bellsizes
Paddington	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$30\frac{3}{4}$	House, ——— Richardson, esq.
<i>At Paddington on R to Harrow on the Hill; on L to Islington.</i>			
London	$\frac{1}{2}$	$31\frac{1}{4}$	

JOURNEY FROM DUNSTABLE TO BARNET,  
THROUGH ST. ALBANS.

Dunstable to Market Street	$4\frac{1}{4}$	$4\frac{1}{4}$	Inn—Sun.
— — —			Market Cell, Joseph Howell, esq. L formerly a Nunnery of Benedictines.
Redburn	4	$8\frac{1}{4}$	Inn—Black Bull.
<i>Cross the Colne River.</i>			
— — —			Gorhambury, Lord Grimston.
ST. ALBANS	$4\frac{1}{4}$	$8\frac{1}{2}$	Inns—Angel, White Hart, Woolpack.
<i>At St. Albans on L a T. R. to Hatfield and Lu-</i>			
			Holloway House, Countess Dowager Spencer. St.

ton on R to Wat-  
ford.

Stephens, Mrs. Howard,  
R

Cross the Colne  
River.

Colney Bridge

3 $\frac{1}{4}$

11 $\frac{3}{4}$

See Porters, Earl of  
Altamont.

Tittenhanger, Earl of  
Hardwick. L

Seat of Mrs. Crawley, L

Salisbury, — Snell, esq. R

Ridge Hill

2

15 $\frac{3}{4}$

At Ridge Hill, Shenley Par-  
sonage, Rev. Mr. Baley.

South Mims

1 $\frac{1}{4}$

15

Inn—White Hart.

North Mims, H. Brown,  
esq. L

Dancer's Hill, Captain Al-  
len; a seat of — Olton,  
esq. L

Seat of — Wilson, esq. R

Durham, J. Trotter, esq. R

Kitt's End

2 $\frac{1}{4}$

17 $\frac{1}{4}$

New Lodge, Baronneau, esq.;

Barnet Pillar

$\frac{3}{4}$

18

and Wrotham Park, G.

Byng, esq. L

On L a T. R.  
to Hatfield and  
Hertford.

BARNET

$\frac{3}{4}$

18 $\frac{3}{4}$

Inns — Green Man, Red  
Lion.

## JOURNEY FROM ROYSTON TO WALTHAM CROSS,

THROUGH BUNTINGFORD, PUCKRIDGE, WARE, AND  
HODDESDON.

Royston to

Buckland

Chipping

4

4

Inn—Chequers.

1 $\frac{3}{4}$

5 $\frac{1}{4}$

Inn—Royal Oak.

Widial Hall, Thomas  
Calvert, esq. L

Corney Bury, — Butts,  
esq. L

BUNTINGFORD	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	7	Inns—Bell, George.
— — —			Hormead Bury, Thomas
Cross the Rib			Welsh, esq. L. Aspenden
River.			Hall, Gilbert Franklin,
— — —			esq. R
— — —			Coles Hill, T. Gregg, esq.
— — —			and a seat of Rev. Dr.
— — —			Laws.
A T. R. to Cam-			Hamels, late John Mellish,
bridge on L.			esq.
PUCKRIDGE	4	11	Inn—Bell.
— — —			Old Hall, a Roman Catholic
Collier's End	2	13	College.
Wade's Mill	2	15	Inn—Feathers.
— — —			Youngsberry, D. Giles, esq.
— — —			L
— — —			Thundridge Bury, P. Hol-
Cross the Quin			lingworth, esq. L
River.			
WARE	2	17	Inns—Bull, Saracen's Head.
— — —			Ware Park, late Paul Ben-
On R a T. R.			field, esq. R
to Stevenage.			
Cross the New and			
Lea Rivers.			
Amwell	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	Amwell Bury, Major Brown,
Near the New			R
River on R a T. R.			
to Hertford.			
— — —			Haly Hall, — Leake, esq.
HODDESDON	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	21	Inns—Black Lion, Bull.
A T. R. to			
Hertford on R.			
Broxbourn	1	22	Inn—Black Bull.
Cross the New			Broxbourn Bury,
River.			S. Bosanquet, esq. R
Wormley	1	23	Wormley Bury, Sir Abraham
			Hunce, bart. R

Cheshunt Wash	$\frac{3}{4}$	$23\frac{3}{4}$	Cheshunt Nunnery, Mrs. Blackwood.
Cheshunt Street	1	$24\frac{3}{4}$	Inn— <i>Haunch of Venison.</i>
Turner's Hill	1	$25\frac{3}{4}$	
Waltham Cross	$\frac{1}{2}$	$26\frac{1}{4}$	Inns— <i>Falcon, Four Swans.</i>
— — —			<i>Theobalds, Geo. Prescott, esq. R</i>

## JOURNEY FROM BOURN BRIDGE TO SAWBRIDGEWORTH,

THROUGH QUENDON, STANSTED, MOUNTITCHET, AND  
HOCKERIL OR BISHOPS STORTFORD.

Bourn Bridge to Great Chesterford	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$	Inn— <i>Crown.</i>
<i>A mile before we come to Great Chesterford on R a T. R. to Cam- bridge.</i>			
Littlebury	$2\frac{1}{2}$	7	Inn— <i>Red Lion.</i>
— — —			<i>Audley End, Lord Braybrooke.</i>
— — —			<i>Shortgrove Hall, Percy Wyldham, esq. L.</i>
Newport	$3\frac{1}{4}$	$10\frac{3}{4}$	Inn— <i>Star, Debden Hall, Mrs. Chiswell.</i>
<i>A mile before we reach Newport a T. R. to Suffron Walden, L.</i>			
— — —			<i>Quendon Flatts, Henry Cranmer, esq. R</i>
QUENDON	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$13\frac{1}{4}$	
Ugley	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$14\frac{1}{2}$	
STANSTED	}	2	Inns — <i>Rose and Crown, White Bear.</i>
MOUNTITCHET			<i>Stansted Hall, William Heath, esq. L.</i>
— — —			
HOCKERIL OR	}	3	Inns— <i>Crown, Red Lion.</i>
BISHOPS			<i>Walbury, John Houlton, esq. L</i>
STORTFORD.			

<i>Cross the River</i>			
<i>Stort.</i>			
Thorley	1½	21	Thorley Hall, ——— Crant, esq. R
Spelbrook	¾	21¾	Inn—Greyhound.
SAWBRIDGE- WORTH	}	2	Inn—White Lion.
			Hyde Hall, Earl of Roden. Pishiobury, Mrs. Mills.

## JOURNEY FROM HITCHEN TO HODDESDON,

THROUGH STEVENAGE AND HERTFORD.

Hitchen to			
Little Wymondley	2¼	2¼	
STEVENAGE	2	4¼	Inn—Swan.
<i>At Stevenage on</i>			
<i>L a T. R. to Bal-</i>			
<i>dock.</i>			
— — —			Knebworth Place, Jonathan Morgan, esq. R. Kneb- worth, William Johnson, esq. R
— — —			Frogmore Hall, Sir Thomas Durant, bart. L
— — —			Aston House, Alexander Irwin, esq. L
— — —			Sheephall Bury, Michael Heathcote, esq.
Broadwater	2	6½	At Broadwater, William
Bragbury End	2¼	8½	Whittington, esq.
Watton	2¼	10¾	Woodhall House, Hon. Mr. Smith, L
<i>A T. R. on L to</i>			
<i>Ware,</i>			
Stapleford	2¼	13¼	Panshanger. Earl Coxper.
— — —			Goldings, Richard Emmet, esq. R
Waterford	1¼	14½	Inns—Bell, Falcon, Half Moon.
HERTFORD	2¼	16¾	

*At the end of  
Hertford, on L a  
T. R. to Ware;  
on R to Chipping  
Barnet and Hat-  
field.*

Little Heath

1 $\frac{1}{2}$  18 $\frac{1}{4}$

Balls, Lord John  
Townshend. (esq.  
Jennings Bury, E. Calamy,  
Haily Bury, William  
Walker, esq.

HODDESDON

2 $\frac{1}{2}$  20 $\frac{3}{4}$

Inns—Black Lion, Bull.

### JOURNEY FROM TRING TO ROYSTON,

THROUGH DUNSTABLE, HITCHEN, AND BALDOCK.

Tring to

— — —

Stocks House, William  
Hayton, esq.

DUNSTABLE

10 10

Inns—Bull, Crown, Sugar  
Loaf.

— — —

About 4 miles from Dunstable  
on L is Sundon House,  
Earl of Egmont.

Leagrave

2 $\frac{1}{2}$  12 $\frac{1}{2}$

*Two miles and  
a half beyond Lea-  
grave, on R a T.  
R. to Luton; on  
L to Bedford.*

— — —

Lilly House, John Sowerby,  
esq.

— — —

Little Offley, Richard  
Shepherd, esq.

— — —

Highdown House, Henry  
Emilius Delmé, esq.

HITCHIN

10 22 $\frac{1}{2}$

Inn—Sun.

*At Hitchin, on  
the R a T R. to  
Stevenage, Barnet,*



<i>and London, on L</i>			
<i>to Bedford.</i>			
Walworth	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	23 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Letchworth	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	25	
<i>Near Baldock</i>			
<i>on L a T. R. to</i>			
<i>Bedford.</i>			
BALDOCK	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	27 $\frac{1}{4}$	Inn— <i>White Horse.</i>
<i>At Baldock, on</i>			
<i>R a T. R. to Ste-</i>			
<i>venage and Lon-</i>			
<i>don; on L to St.</i>			
<i>Neots.</i>			
Odsey Grange	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{4}$	<i>At Odsey, E. K. Fordham,</i>
The Thirst	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	32 $\frac{1}{4}$	<i>esq.</i>
ROYSTON	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{4}$	Inns— <i>Bull, Red Lion.</i>
<i>At Royston, on</i>			<i>At Royston is a subterraneous</i>
<i>R, a T. R. to</i>			<i>Cave, said to have been a</i>
<i>Ware and London;</i>			<i>Roman Chapel.</i>
<i>on L to Hunting-</i>			
<i>don, St. Ives, and</i>			
<i>Cambridge through</i>			
<i>Melbourn.</i>			

## JOURNEY FROM CHARLEY WOOD TO WARE,

THROUGH RICKMANSWORTH, WATFORD, ST. ALBANS,  
HATFIELD, AND HERTFORD.

Charley Wood to			
RICKMANSWORTH	2	2	Inn— <i>Swan.</i> <i>At Rickmans-</i>
<i>Cross the Gade</i>			<i>worth, is Moor Park, C.</i>
<i>River.</i>			<i>Williams, esq. R. Bury</i>
—			<i>Park, Fotherley Whitfield,</i>
—			<i>esq. L</i>
—			<i>Cashiobury, Earl of Essex. L</i>
—			<i>Grove Park, Earl of Cla-</i>
—			<i>rendon, L</i>
—			<i>Russell's Farm, Ladies Ann</i>
—			<i>and Maria Cupel.</i>

WATFORD

3

5

Inns — *Rose and Crown,*  
*White Hart.**At Watford on*  
*R a T. R. to Edg-*  
*ware, and London;*  
*on L to Berkhem-*  
*stead.*

Garstons

 $2\frac{1}{4}$  $7\frac{1}{4}$ 

Waterdale

 $1\frac{1}{4}$  $8\frac{1}{2}$ 

St. Stephens

 $3\frac{1}{2}$ 

12

St. ALBANS

1

13

Inns—*Angel, White Hart,*  
*Woolpack.*  
*Holloway House, Countess*  
*Dowager Spencer.**At St. Albans a*  
*T. R. on R to*  
*Chipping Barnet*  
*and London; on L*  
*to Dunstable and*  
*Luton.*

Four Wents

 $2\frac{3}{4}$  $15\frac{3}{4}$ 

HATFIELD

 $2\frac{1}{4}$ 

18

Inn—*Salisbury Arms.*  
*Hatfield House, Marquis of*  
*Salisbury.**At Hatfield a*  
*T. R. on R to*  
*Chipping Barnet*  
*and London, on L*  
*to Hitchin and*  
*Stevenage.**Cross the Lea*  
*River.**Near Cole Green*  
*on R a T. R. to*  
*Chipping Barnet.*  
Cole Green $3\frac{3}{4}$  $21\frac{3}{4}$ *At Cole Green, Seat of Lord*  
*Coxper.*

Hartingfordbury

 $2\frac{1}{4}$ 

24

*Hartingfordbury Park, S.*  
*Baker, esq. l.*

HERTFORD	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	25 $\frac{1}{4}$	Inns—Bell, Falcon, Half, Moon.
At Hertford a T. R. on R to Hoddesdon ; on L to Stevenage.			Castle, Lord Pery.
— — —			Balls, Lord John Townsend.
Near Ware a T. R. on R to Hoddesdon and London.			
— — —			Ware Park, Thomas Hope Byde, esq.
Cross the New and Lea Rivers.			
WARE	3	28 $\frac{1}{4}$	Inns—Bull, Saracen's Head.

END OF THE ITINERARY.

## CORRECT LIST OF ALL THE FAIRS

IN

## HERTFORDSHIRE.

- St. Albans*—March 25 and 26, October 10 and 11, for servants, horses, cows and sheep.
- Albury, Portmore Heath*—July 17, toys.
- Baldock*—March 7, last Thursday in May, August 5, October 2, December 11, large fairs for cheese, household goods, and cattle.
- Barnet*—April 8, 9, 10, linen-drapery, mercery, toys, &c. September 4 and 5, the harvest fair, commonly called the Welch fair, for Welch cattle and horses; September 6, mercery, &c, sometimes a few horses, pigs, &c.
- Barkway*—July 20, pedlary ware.
- Bennington*—June 20, pedlary ware.
- Berkhamstead*—Shrove Monday, Whit Monday, a small fair for cattle; August 5, cheese; September 29, statute fair; October 11, statute.
- Braughing*—Whit Monday, toys.
- Buntingford*—June 29, St. Andrew, November 30, pedlar's ware.
- Hatfield*—April 23, October 18, toys.
- Hemel Hempstead*—Holy Thursday, sheep; Third Monday in September, statute.
- Hempstead*—First Thursday after Whitsun-week, horses, cows, sheep and servants.
- Hertford*—Saturday fortnight before Easter, May 12, July 5, November, 8, horses and other cattle.
- Hitchin*—Easter Tuesday and Whit Tuesday, sheep and pedlary.
- Hoddesdon*—June 29, toys.
- Little Hadham, Bury Green*—July 15, toys.
- Much Hadham*—Wednesday before June 29, toys.
- Northall Statute*—September 28.

- Preston*, near Hitchin — First Wednesday in May, and Wednesday before October 29, sheep.
- Puckeridge Statute* — September 19.
- Purton*, near Hitchin — Fourth Thursday after April 5, Fourth Thursday after October 10, sheep.
- Redbourn* — First Wednesday after New-year's day, Wednesday in Whit-week, sheep.
- Rickmansworth* — July 20, November 24, horses, black cattle, sheep, hogs; Saturday before the third Monday in September; hiring servants.
- Royston* — Ash Wednesday, Wednesday in Easter week, Wednesday in Whitsun - week, first Wednesday in July, first Wednesday after October 10, cattle of all sorts.
- Saunbridgeworth* — April 23, October 19, horses.
- Standon* — April 25
- Stevenage* — Nine days before Easter, Nine days before Whitsunday, First Friday in Septemb. hawkers and pedlars, and a little cheese; cattle market.
- Stortford Bishop's* — Holy Thursday after Trinity Sunday, October 10, horses and cattle.
- Tring* — Easter Tuesday; October 10, hiring servants.
- Ware* — Last Tuesday in April, Tuesday before St. Matthew, September 21, horses and other cattle.
- Watford* — Last Tuesday in March, Trinity Thursday, for pleasure; May 12, August 31, cattle, horses, &c. September 9, a statute for hiring servants.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF  
THE COUNTY OF HERTFORD.

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SITUATION AND CLIMATE.

THE county of Hertford is situated among the midland counties, and enjoys a mild genial climate, and healthy atmosphere. Its aspect is for the most part agreeable, the country being in general beautifully diversified with hill and dale, richly clothed with noble woods, and thickly studded with numberless beautiful parks, the seats of nobility and gentry.

BOUNDARIES.

Such is the irregularity of the boundaries of this county that it is impossible to say what is its form; that of an ellipsis is, however, the form to which it most nearly approaches. The longest axis laying in a direction nearly north-east and south-west, the shortest south-east and north-west.

Upon the north it is bounded for a few miles by the county of Cambridge; at the north-eastern angle of the county is situated a small building commonly known by the name of *Knowle's Folly*; at this spot the counties of Cambridge, Herts, and Essex meet, and hence proceeding in a southerly direction Essex forms the eastern boundary, being divided from Hertford by the river Stort, from Bishop's Stortford to its confluence with the Lea, a little to the east of Hoddesdon, and by the united streams of the Stort and Lea from this point to Waltham Abbey, in the vicinity of which it quits Hertfordshire, and entering Middlesex continues to form the western boundary of Essex, till they arrive at Poplar, where they pour their tributary waters into the Thames. From Waltham Cross to West Hide the southern boundary of Hertford is formed, with some considerable indentures, by Middlesex; hence

hence proceeding, with many and great deviations from a rectilineal course, in a northerly direction, as far as the neighbourhood of Studham, the western boundary is formed by the county of Bucks, and from this point as far as Hinxworth upon the confines of Cambridge, Bedford, and Herts, the county of Bedford bounds it upon the west and north.

## EXTENT.

From the irregularity of its form there is much difficulty in ascertaining with precision the dimensions of this county; measured, however, from Royston, upon its north-eastern confines, to the extremity of its most southerly indenture with Bucks, its greatest length is about 38 miles, and its greatest breadth, taken in an oblique direction from Bishop's Stortford in the east, to Drayton upon the confines of Buckinghamshire in the west, measures nearly the same distance: its medium length may, however, be grossly estimated at 34, and its breadth at 26 miles. Its ambit is calculated at somewhat between 130 and 140 miles; and its superficial contents said by Hally, to amount to 451,000 acres; an admeasure-ment which we are inclined to suspect exceeds the truth considerably.

## POPULATION, &amp;c.

Hertfordshire returns six members to parliament: viz. two for the county, and four for the two boroughs of St. Albans and Hertford. The population of the county consisted, according to the last returns, of 48,063 males, and 49,514 females.

## ANCIENT HISTORY.

Prior to the invasion of the Romans, Hertford, with the adjoining counties of Bedford and Bucks, constituted the territory of the Cassii Trinobantes and Cattiechulatii, over whom Cassivelaunus reigned,

ed, making, as some are inclined to conjecture, Verulam his chief place of residence. When the Romans, under the conduct of their illustrious commander Julius Cæsar, made their first descent upon the shores of Britain, the several nations who at that time occupied the island summoned their forces to repel the invaders, and Cassivelaunus was unanimously chosen commander in chief. Unavailing, however, were the desperate efforts made by these undisciplined though gallant natives, to oppose the steady and disciplined troops of Rome, accustomed to conquest, flushed with the triumphs of recent victories, and headed by a general idolized by his soldiers, whose courage he animated, and whose affections he gained, by the most persuasive manners, and the most artful conduct. Cassivelaunus, convinced of the inefficacy of further resistance, was compelled to bow before the victor, and the shores of Britain were added to the provinces of the Romans. Upon the final subjugation of the southern parts of the island, and their division into districts or governments, Hertfordshire constituted a portion of one of these to which, in compliment to the first conqueror of the country, was given the name of *Flavia Cæsariensis*.

When her domestic misfortunes obliged Rome to withdraw her legions from the distant provinces, their place in this country was supplied by the Saxons, another race of invaders, who divided the country into a number of distinct kingdoms or principalities, at which time the county of Hertford was unequally divided between the kingdom of the East Saxons and that of Mercia; Ermine Street being conjectured by Salmon to have constituted the boundary.



## RIVERS.

The principal rivers of this county are the *Lea* and the *Colne*; and these two are composed of many inferior streams, most of whose sources lie within the county; and join the principal rivers at different distances from their sources. The *Lea* rises near *Lea grave*, in *Bedfordshire*, enters *Hertfordshire* near *Bower-heath*, and traverses the county in a direction nearly from north-west to south-east to its conflux with the *Stort*, about a mile east of *Hoddesdon*: then runs nearly south, and continues with that river, for the most part the boundary of the county towards the east.

The *Maran*, or *Mimerum*, rises near *Frogmore*, in *Hitchin* hundred; and with the *Beane*, which rises near *Cromer*, in *Odsay* hundred, joins the *Lea* near *Hertford*.

The sources of the *Rib* are near *Buntingford*, in *Edwintree* hundred; it is increased in its course by the waters of the *Quin*, which rises near *Biggin*, in the same hundred, and joins the *Lea* between *Hertford* and *Ware*. From these rivers united, the inhabitants of the metropolis derive a leading comfort of life, conveyed to them by the *New River*. The source of the *Ash* is also in *Edwintree* hundred: it runs near *Upperwick*, and falls into the *Lea*, about a mile below *Ware*. The *Stort* rises in *Essex*, is navigable from *Bishop's Stortford* to its junction with the *Lea*, which is also navigable from *Hertford* to the *Thames*. Several other small streams, whose sources are also in *Hertfordshire*, fall into the *Stort*, which is principally the eastern boundary of the country towards *Essex*, from near *Bishop's Stortford* to its junction with the *Lea*. The *Verulam*, *Verlam*, or *Muse* river, rises in *Dacorum* hundred, near *Margretting-street*, and the confines of *Bedfordshire*, runs nearly south-south-east to *St. Albans*,

bans, and by the walls of the Roman Verulam; from thence nearly south, watering some meadows in its course, till it loses its name and consequence near Colney-street, in the river Colne, which is there a small stream, and rises near *Kir*, or *Kits*; and in Middlesex, taking nearly a northern course to North Mims, then north-west to Coney-heath, and from thence nearly south-west, to its conflux with the Muse, being joined near the conflux by a small stream which rises near Elstree. The classic Verulam, now under this name (*Colne*), runs nearly south-west to Watford, then west by south to Rickmansworth, and about a mile and a half beyond it, and from thence nearly south till it leaves the county. The *Gade*, which rises also in Dacorum hundred, near Gaddesden, and the confines of Buckinghamshire, joins, near Carner-hall, the Bulburn river, which rises near Penley-hall in the same hundred, and takes from the junction nearly a south by east direction, runs through Lord Clarendon's and Lord Essex's parks, at King's Langley and Cashiobury, and then nearly south-west to its conflux with the Chesham river near Rickmansworth, and to its junction with the Colne.

These are the principal streams which intersect and water the county of Hertford in all directions, and they would unquestionably be of the utmost consequence (if not shackled by mill-owners) in watering the adjoining meadows and low grounds, in a county which produces so little natural grass. The nine sister spring of the celebrated Cam at Ashmead; the source of the Hix near Hitchen, and the source of other rivers, are in this county.

#### CANALS.

The Grand Junction Canal, from Branston Wharf on the Coventry Canal to Old Brentford, where  
it

it joins the Thames, enters the county of Hertford above Berkhamstead, and follows the course of the Bulburn and Gade to Rickmansworth, and from thence the course of the Colne, till it leaves the county.

The proprietors of the navigation proposed to tunnel under Crossley-hill; but the Earl of Essex, actuated by motives of patriotism becoming his high rank, and consonant with his philanthropy, agreed that the navigation should pass through his park, which it accordingly does; great expence in tunneling was thus saved to the proprietors, and of freight in course to the public. An act passed for another canal from St. Albans to join the Grand Junction below Cashiobury Park; but for want of power to raise 17,000*l.* by subscription, nothing has yet been done towards carrying it into execution.

## CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS.

The county of HERTFORD is divided into eight hundreds, and these subdivided into 134 parishes containing about 17 market towns, of which two are boroughs, and nearly 949 villages. It is at present included in the home circuit, and belongs to the province of Canterbury; part of the county is in the diocese of Lincoln, and part in that of London.

# TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY OF HERTFORD.

*Journey from Cambridge to London ; by Royston,  
Ware, and Hoddesdon.*

AT the distance of about 13 miles from Cambridge, we reach ROYSTON, a thriving and populous market town, seated in a bottom, upon the confines of the counties of Cambridge and Herts. The origin of this place has been a source of much contention among antiquarians ; the following account receives the most credit. It is taken from the history of the county :

“ Since the time of the Conquest one DAME ROISE,” (or, as others will have it, Roysia) “ a woman of great name, and high esteem, in that age ; whom some think to have been the daughter of AUBREY DE VERE, Chief Justice of England, under King Henry I. and wife to Geoffrey de Mandeville, the first Earl of Essex ; or, as others say, the wife of Richard de Clare, and others the Countess of Norfolk, erected there a cross in the highway (which was held in those days a pious work, to put passengers in mind of Christ’s passion), whereupon this place was called ROISE’S CROSS, until *Eustace de Mere*, Lord of Nucells, *Ralph de Roricester*, with some other persons, purchased a place adjoining to the Cross, where Eustace built a monastery for Austin Canons, giving 100 acres of wood, and 30 acres of land, with common of the pasture to the same ; when therefore he, and several others, had endowed it with a competent revenue for the maintenance of these canons, houses and inns were erected there which, in process of time, did multiply to a town, so that then instead of ROYSE’S CROSS, it was called ROYSE’S TOWN, and afterwards, by contraction of the words into one, ROYSTON.”

The

The manor of this town was granted by Richard I. to the monastery. This monarch likewise granted the privilege of holding a fair annually, during Whitsun-Week, and a market every Wednesday. In consequence of the additional privileges granted to this town, by Henry III. joined to its convenient situation, this town rapidly increased in trade and population. An accidental fire, however, in the reign of Henry IV. reduced to ashes the greater part of it; but from this misfortune it soon rose with renewed splendour, and became famous for a great resort of maltsters and other cornfactors.

At the period of the Dissolution the revenues of the monastery were, as Dugdale informs us, valued at 89l. 16s. Speed, however, mentions their amount as 106l. 3s. 1d. Upon the Dissolution, Robert Chester, one of the gentlemen of the privy chamber, purchased the site of the priory, with all its appurtenances and liberties, and three fairs annually, from Henry, for the sum of 1761l. 5s. The date of the charter making over this grant is the 20th of December, 1541. The estate continued in his family for several generations; at present, however, it is the property of the Hon. Thomas Brand. Except the church few traces of the monastic buildings remain.

Here were two other religious establishments besides the monastery; but of these also few vestiges now remain.

In the August of 1742 as some workmen were driving a post into the ground, to support a bench for the market-women in the market-place, they accidentally discovered a perpendicular opening, which communicated with a kind of subterraneous oratory, which had been dug out of the chalk, supposed, by Dr. Stukely, to have been executed by the direction of the Lady Roysia, for an oratory and burial place for herself; an opinion, however, which has been much disputed amongst the learned.

The opening into this singular cavern, when first discovered, had holes cut in its sides to assist the persons descending; this opening was, however, soon enlarged, through the impatience of the townspeople, who, expecting to discover some hidden treasure, were anxious to get the clay expeditiously cleared out of the crypt, which was found to contain about 200 loads of rubbish; in return for all this trouble and expence they had only the satisfaction of finding the decaying fragments of a human skeleton.

The internal structure of this singular excavation is extremely curious; its form is circular, and its roof was finished after the manner of a dome, in the centre of which was the entrance we have already noticed. Rude sculptures, representing the Crucifixion, and other similar scenes, occupy the lower part of the sides, and round the whole runs a low raised seat, of about a foot in height, and from two to three wide, interrupted only upon the east, by a cavity commonly called the Grave. For the convenience of those who are desirous of examining this curious and, in all probability, unique cavern, an easy entrance has been made by a regular descent, cut through the chalk, from an adjoining house. This cave measures about 25 feet in diameter, and between 30 and 40 in height.

The Church here, which formerly belonged to the Priory, but was purchased by the inhabitants of the parish, for their use, soon after the Dissolution, consists of a nave, chancel, and side aisles; a low embattled tower, containing five bells, stands at the western extremity of the building; in the aisles are several curious old monuments.

The chalk downs in the vicinity of Royston are much frequented by a singular and beautiful species of crow; the head, the under part of the neck, and the wings are of a black colour, glossed over with a fine blue; the remaining parts are of a pale ash-

ash colour. They have broad and flat toes, by means of which they are enabled the better to walk upon marshy grounds; this bird is migratory, arriving and departing about the same time with the woodcocks.

Royston is built chiefly of brick, the streets are narrow, and the population 976. The Ikenuld way crosses its lower part, and barrows are to be found upon almost every eminence in its vicinity, especially to the east.

About three miles south-west, among the tops of small hills, hanging, as it were, over Royston, is the village of **THERFIELD**, anciently called **Thurfield**, so called from the hill on which it is seated. The manor was given by **Ethericke**, bishop of **Sherborne**, in the year 930, to the abbey of **St. Benedict of Ramsey**. Not far hence is the village of **KELLS-HULL**, which was granted by **Ethelred**, father of **Edward the Confessor**, to the abbey of **Ely**; it is still attached to that bishoprick.

Upon a hill in **Harborough Field**, in the parish of **Ashwell**, are traces of a square Roman camp; the elevated situation of which was well calculated to overlook the country.

To the south-east of **Royston**, at the distance of about two miles, is the manor and park of **NEWSSELL's**, belonging, at present, to the **Hon. John Peachey**.

In the year 1743, several Roman antiquities, consisting of a brazen image of **Mars**, a brass handle, and seven thin brass plates, of which two had engraved the figure of **Vulcan**, and five that of **Mars**, supposed by **Mr. Ward**, to have been the ornaments of a shrine, erected about the reign of **Dioclesian**, were found in a chalk pit, in **Rockley Wood**, not far from **Newsells**. Two of the plates, engraved with the figure of **Mars**, bore also the following inscriptions :

MARTI  
IOVIALI  
TI. CLAUDIVS. PRIMVS  
ATTII LIBER  
V. S. L. M.

---

D. MARTI ALATOR.  
DVM. CENSORINVS  
GEMELLI FIL.  
V. S. L. M.

Adjoining to the park of Newsells, and only separated from it by the road, is the singular though not inelegant mansion of COCKENHATCH, seated in an agreeable, and handsomely wooded, park. Its name is supposed to be derived from that of its first possessor, a Saxon called Cockenach, to whom it belonged before the Norman Invasion.

A little further south is the village of BARKAWAY, which, though once a populous and thriving market town, is at present a place of little repute. It is situated in the hundred of Edwinstree. The Church, a handsome building, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, stands nearly in the centre of the village; it contains several monuments of the Chester family, and the windows of the north side contain some fragments of painted glass. The population of Barkaway is 699; the number of houses 147.

At ANSREY, a small village to the south-east of Barkaway, are the remains of a castle, built, immediately after the Conquest, by Eústace, Earl of Boulogne, at the command of William, for the purpose of keeping the English in the greater subjection. The moat surrounding the artificial mount upon which the keep was erected, with the additional works made in the reign of John, still remain.

In the Church at BRENT PELHAM, a village adjoining to Anstey, is a singular monument to the  
memory



memory of O PIER'S SHONKES, who is said to have possessed a manor in this parish shortly after the Conquest. The following singular inscription is engraved over the tomb, which is situated in the north wall of the nave :

O PIER'S SHONKES

*Who died anno 1086*

*Tantum Fama manet Cadmi, sanctique Georgi*

*Posthuma Tempus Edax Ossa Sepulchra vonat .*

*Hoc tamen in Muro tutus, qui perdidit anguem*

*Invito positus Dæmone Shonkus erat.*

Nothing of Cadmus, nor St. George, those names  
Of great renown, survives them ; but their fames  
Time was so sharp set as to make no bones  
Of theirs, nor of their monumental stones ;  
But SHONKE one serpent kills, t'other defies,  
And in this wall, as in a fortress, lies.

Returning to the great turnpike road leading from Royston, we reach the small market town of BUNTINGFORD, distant about 31 miles from London, and seven from Royston. The privilege of holding a market here, was granted to Elizabeth de Burge, by Edward III. in consideration of receiving the annual rent of six-pence. The chapel was built by voluntary contributions from the parishioners, under the direction of the Rev. Alexander Strange, who was vicar during the space of 46 years. This town is deserving of notice as the birth-place of the learned, pious, and benevolent Dr. Seth Ward, bishop of Salisbury, who founded here an alms-house for eight poor men and women.

Proceeding from Buntingford the road is accompanied, for some distance, by the little river Rib, which we cross near the park of Hamels ; here, quitting the turnpike road, we proceed by cross-roads to BISHOP'S STORTFORD, a market town of some size and consequence, situated upon the banks of the Stort, on the eastern borders of the county,

in the centre of a rich corn country; it is 30 miles distant from London, 26 from Cambridge, and 31 from Newmarket. Upon an artificial mount to the east of Stortford are the ruins of WAYTMORE CASTLE, built in the time of William the Conqueror. At that time a prison stood at the bottom of the hill, where soldiers mounted guard, and the rents of certain lands were given to support it. William afterwards gave it to the bishops of London, from which circumstance it obtained the name of Bishop's Stortford. Offended at the conduct of one of the bishops King John demolished both the castle and prison, but soon after was compelled by the Pope to make restitution.

The hill or keep of the castle is artificial, made of earth, with a breast-work a-top of stones and mortar; a bank of earth leads from it, through the fen-y ground, on which it was seated, to the north-east. There is a large wall from the top of the hill yet remaining. The bishop's prison was in being in Bishop Bonner's time; upon its site was erected an inn.

Bishop's Stortford is built in the form of a cross, the two principal streets crossing each other at right angles. There is no particular manufacture carried on here; malt, of which large quantities are made, is the staple commodity; most of the malt manufactured in the adjoining towns, especially at Saffron Walden, is brought to this town, and given to the care of persons, called meters, who have a small commission for selling it to the factors or brewers in London, whither it is conveyed in barges. At the weekly market, which is held upon Tuesday, large quantities of grain are sold. There are three fairs held here during the year, viz. one nine days before Whitsuntide, and another nine days after it, chiefly for horses and horned cattle. The fair upon the 10th of October is the most considerable.

A water communication with the metropolis was established

established in the year 1709, since which period the trade and commerce of this town have rapidly increased. The navigation from hence into the river Lea is 14 miles, and from its junction with that river to London 18 miles. Before the river Lea was made navigable the malt used to be warehoused at Stanstead and Ware, until it was shipped aboard the barges. The opening of the New Navigation has of course considerably reduced the malt-market at Ware; which, however, still retains its reputation for pale malt, as Stortford for brown.

The Church is dedicated to St. Michael; it is a lofty building, situated upon high ground; in the tower there is a fine ring of eight bells. The interior of the church consists of a nave, chancel and aisles; it contains many ancient and curious monuments.

The population of this town is 2305, and the number of houses 456.

Five miles south of Bishop's Stortford, and like it seated upon the banks of the Stort and confines of Essex, is the village of SAWBRIDGEWORTH, or as it is corruptly, though commonly, called, *Sabsey*, or *Sabsworth*, the Church of which is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and consists of a nave, chancel, and side aisles; at the west end is a heavy embattled tower. The monuments here are numerous and interesting: that erected in the chancel to the memory, as it is said, of Sir Ralph Jocelyn, knt. merits attention; it is an altar tomb, constructed with Bethersden marble, having a rich pointed canopy over it.

A little to the south-west of Sawbridgeworth, is the agreeable village of HUNSDON, which is pleasantly seated upon a rising ground, and overlooks the rich and beautiful meadows through which the Stort winds in its progress to join the Lea. Here Henry VIII. built a palace for the education of his children; this building, which afterwards obtained the

the name of HUNSDON HOUSE, has been considerably reduced in size ; it still, however, preserves a grand and venerable appearance.

Returning from this digression, we regain the turnpike road at the pleasant village of AMWELL, which takes its name from a spring of water, called *Emma's Well*, which rises on the hill upon which the church is situated, and forms one of the sources of the New River. The beautiful scenery which this delightful eminence presents is poetically and accurately described by the late John Scott, Esq. in his poem of Amwell :

“ How picturesque the view, where up the side  
Of that steep bank, her roofs of russet thatch  
Rise mix'd with trees, above whose swelling tops  
Ascends the tall church tow'r, and loftier still  
The hills extended ridge ! How picturesque  
Where slow beneath that bank the silver stream  
Glides by the flowery isle, and willow groves  
Wave on its northern verge, with trembling tufts  
Of osier intermix'd.”

Upon the small island noticed in the foregoing lines, has been lately erected an urn, supported by a pedestal, in the centre of a close thicket of evergreens, to the memory of that truly useful and patriotic citizen, Sir Hugh Middleton, to whose active and generous exertions the citizens of London are indebted for the supply of water furnished by the New River, of which a fuller account will be found in our description of the county of Middlesex. Each side of the pedestal bears an appropriate inscription ; we shall copy that upon the south side which is as follows :

Sacred to the Memory of  
SIR HUGH MYDELTON, Baronet,  
Whose succesful care,  
Assisted by the patronage of his king,  
Conveyed

Conveyed this stream to LONDON :

An immortal work :

Since man cannot more nearly

Imitate the Deity,

Than in bestowing health.

A Latin translation of the foregoing occupies the north side. Upon the west is an account of the distance hence to Chadwell, where is the other source of the New River; the length of the river, and the name of the person who erected this monument.

Upon the summit of the hill on which the church stands may be traced the remains of a very extensive fortification. A large tumulus, or barrow, stands in a field in this parish, which has from this circumstance obtained the name of Barrow Field, and adjoining to it are vestiges of an ancient Roman road.

Proceeding hence, about one mile westward we arrive at WARE, which is a populous market and post town, situated upon the western banks of the river Lea; founded, according to some, in the year 914, by an order from Edward I. When the road was first made to pass through this town, a strong iron chain was placed across the bridge to prevent the passage of goods and carriages this way, to the disadvantage of Hertford; the keys of this chain were in the possession of the bailiff of the latter place, and no carriages, &c. were allowed to pass without first paying toll to him. This obstruction was removed by the Earl of Winchester, who obtained this manor; from that period Ware has rapidly increased in trade and population, so as even to eclipse the more ancient and celebrated town of Hertford.

Ware is celebrated for its enormous bed, which measures twelve feet square, and is still preserved at an inn here. Twelve butchers and their wives slept

slept in this bed at once ; being placed in alternate pairs, so that each man was next to his own wife.

This is a place of considerable trade in malt and corn, which are conveyed hence to London, by the river, and a navigable canal. The barges which convey these articles to the metropolis bring back coals in return. The weekly market is held upon Tuesday.

In the year 1408 this town was inundated ; since that period weirs and sluices have been constructed to prevent similar accidents, to which, from its low situation, it was extremely liable.

Here was formerly a Benedictine priory, dependent upon the abbey of *St. Ebrulph*, at *Utica* in Normandy ; it was richly endowed by the benefactions of various pious persons, and when, during his contests with France, Edward III. seized upon the alien priories, this was farmed at the yearly rent of 200*l*. Upon the final suppression of foreign religious establishments, this was granted by Henry V. to the convent at Shene ; and when upon the Dissolution, this latter was granted with its possessions to Trinity College, Cambridge, this priory was also included in the grant. Upon the banks of the river, not far from the church, some of the walls of the ancient buildings remain ; these are at present fitted up and adapted to the purposes of a modern habitation. Within the north-east corner of the building is an obtuse arch, which rests upon corbels, and exhibits the superior parts of human figures, of which one appears to be dressed in a full suit of armour.

Besides the foregoing, another religious establishment for friars of the Franciscan order stood at the northern extremity of the town.

St. Mary's, which is the parochial church, is a large structure, and is divided within into a nave, chancel, and aisles, it is roofed with timber ; this was  
formerly

formerly richly decorated; of these embellishments the most perfect remains are to be found in the roof of the south chancel, which is divided into square compartments, of which each contains some legendary subject, or the portrait of a saint. Here is a large collection of interesting monuments; the tower, which stands at the west end is embattled. The population of Ware amounts to 2950, and the number of houses to 580.

In February and March 1802, four stone coffins, each consisting of a single stone, neatly excavated and squared, and having a lid also of a single flag, were discovered at the depth of about three feet below the surface, in Bury Field, which is situated at the south-west corner of the town. Three of these coffins lay almost close together, while the fourth was separated from them by a distance of about 20 feet. They were found to contain lime, and the bones, which were regularly disposed, had acquired a deep yellow, and in some places a deep reddish brown tinge. In one of the coffins the skull was found, with a small quantity of short tufty hair adhering to it. The coffins measured from six feet seven inches to seven feet three inches in length, and were formed of a yellowish calcareous stone, filled with fossil shells, much resembling the *Lumacelli* of the Italians. At the same time with the coffin was discovered a small copper coin of Constantine the Great, having upon the obverse the emperor's head, crowned with a laurel wreath, and upon the reverse two victories supporting a shield, with the legend VOTA PR. or VOT. X.

Beautifully situated, upon an agreeable eminence, overlooking the rich meadows between Ware and Hertford, is WARE PARK, the seat of Thomas Hope Hyde, Esq. who built the present elegant mansion in place of the old manor house, which had been the residence of the Fanshaw family, to whom this estate formerly belonged.

The springs of Chadwell, which supply the New River with water, rise in the meadows opposite to Ware Park, and their contents are collected into a small bason, railed round.

Two miles south-west of Ware is the ancient borough town of HERTFORD, situated upon the banks of the Lea, at the distance of 21 miles from London, in a fine pleasant country, surrounded by gentlemen's seats. The Saxon monarchs often kept their court here, and at the division of the kingdom into counties this was appointed the county town for Hertfordshire. Alfred built a castle here, to defend the town and its vicinity from the predatory incursions of the Danes, who having built a fortress at Ware were in the habit of sallying out of it and pillaging the neighbourhood. But few remains of the original castle are to be seen at present. What now stands is constructed of brick, excepting only an high tower, which is of considerable antiquity, of the reign of James I. The interior, which consists of small but neat and convenient apartments, has been recently filled up for the College which has been lately established for the education of cadets, previous to their going to the East Indies. This establishment embraces two institutions, of which one is destined to be a school for boys of an early age, who will be here initiated in the elements of general learning, along with those accomplishments which also constitute a part of the education at other seminaries.

This school is designed to be introductory to the college, so that the students who commence with it will enjoy the advantages of an uniform education, commenced at an early period of life, and continued without interruption to the time of their entering upon the duties of their public stations.

At the age of 15 years the students will be admitted into the college, at which they are to prosecute their studies till they attain the age of 18, or  
are



are sent by the Court of Directors to their several destinations. The elements of oriental literature, history, customs, political and civil œconomy, &c. &c. in conjunction with the usual routine of education, as followed at our universities, will constitute the system of instruction at this college, the object of which is to qualify cadets for the various and confidential offices which they will be called upon to fill during their residence in the East.

The government of the establishment is vested in the hands of a principal, on whom, particularly, devolves the important duty of watching over the religious and moral conduct of the young men committed to his care and superintendance; he is to discharge the duties of a divinity professor, and, in conjunction with such of the professors as are in holy orders, to preach in the college chapel, and at the stated seasons to perform the solemn rites of the established church. The remaining members of the establishment are professors of mathematics and natural philosophy, humanity, and philology; history and political œconomy, general policy and the laws of England; oriental literature. Besides these professors, masters of the French language, of fencing, &c. &c. are connected with the institution.

The object of the lectures in Oriental Literature will be the illustration of the history, manners, and customs of the several nations in India with whom we have any intercourse; and also the furnishing of practical instruction in the rudiments of the Eastern languages, particularly Persian and Arabic.

The Mathematical Course is to be introductory to that of Natural Philosophy, and is designed to instruct the students in the elementary parts of Euclid, algebra, trigonometry, conic sections, logarithms, and fluxions.

The course of Natural Philosophy will illustrate

the various laws and phenomena of mechanics, hydrostatics, optics, and astronomy; the attention being chiefly directed to the arts and objects of common life. In this course will be included a popular course of lectures upon chemistry, mineralogy, and natural history.

The course of lectures upon Classical and General Literature will embrace the various branches of Belles Lettres, and the students of this class will be exercised in every species of composition adapted to their future occasions.

The principles of Law, History, and Political Economy, will be illustrated in the course of lectures appropriated to those branches, and in which, besides general history, the particular history and statistics of the various modern nations of Europe, with the principles of general polity, of the laws of England, and of the British constitution, will be distinctly treated of.

There are two terms in the year, each consisting of 20 weeks. The first term commences upon the 2d of February, and ends upon the 19th of June; the second begins upon the 1st of August, and ends upon the 21st of December.

The public annual examination of the students takes place under the superintendence of the principal in the last week of the second term, and at its conclusion the students are arranged according to their proficiency into separate lists, by the principal and the professors; the latter of whom are the examiners. A copy of their lists is transmitted forthwith to the Court of Directors, by whom it is inserted in the public records of the company; and upon this occasion, the chairman, deputy-chairman, college committee, and other persons appointed by the Directors, attend for the purpose of conferring prizes upon those who appear deserving of them.

The expence of education here is 100 guineas annually,

annually, of which 50 guineas are paid at the beginning of each term to the company, who for this provide the students with almost every requisite accommodation, and 70 guineas is annually paid to the master of the school by his pupils, which sum defrays all the expences of education in the usual course of classics, French, &c. &c.

The New College, when completed, will be of a quadrangular form, and contain accommodations for a large number of students.

The College is confined exclusively to students designed for the civil service of the company in India ; the school is, however, open to the public at large.

Hertford formerly possessed a monastery, which stood in the east part of the town ; it was founded by Raliph de Limesay, a nephew of William the Conqueror, who afterwards became a monk, and was interred in the church belonging to the monastery. At the Dissolution its annual revenues amounted, according to Dugdale, to 86l. 14s. 2d. Upon the site of the monastic buildings has been erected a good modern dwelling house.

Besides the church belonging to the above-mentioned religious establishment, Hertford possessed four parochial churches : of these but two now remain, viz. All Saints, and St. Andrews ; of which the former is the principal : it is a spacious edifice, the interior of which is divided into a nave, chancel, and aisles. At the west end the governors of Christ's Hospital have erected a gallery for the children belonging to the Nursery for that hospital, which is established in this town, and at which the children are kept till vacancies occur in the school in London ; this gallery is capable of containing 200 children. Among the many curious monumental inscriptions in this church is one in the Saxon character and old Norman French, to the memory of *John Hunger, Esq.* master cook to Queen Catherine,

rine, who appears to have frequently made Hertford her place of residence.

The other public buildings here are the Sessions House, the Market House, the Town Hall, which were neatly rebuilt with brick, about 40 years since, and a School House, designed for the junior children of Christ's Hospital in London. This is a large building, situated at the east side of the town, and forming three sides of a square. Here are accommodations for about 500 children, the senior part of which number are removed to London as vacancies occur there, and others are admitted in their room. There is a good free-school, and also a Sunday-school here.

Hertford is in general regarded as an extremely healthy, respectable, and thriving town. The County Gaol and Penitentiary House are situated at one end of it. It contains two meeting houses for Dissenters, and one for Quakers. There are four fairs here annually; and the assizes for the county, the quarter sessions, county courts, and elections of representatives for the county, are held here.

This is a borough town; the first account we have of the return of members to serve in Parliament for it is in the year 1300. The right of election is vested in the inhabitants householders, the freemen resident, and the freemen non-resident; the mayor is the returning officer, and the number of electors about 570.

Hertford has obtained many privileges from the various monarchs who have succeeded the Conqueror. Henry VI. who kept his Easter here in 1429, ordained by his charter confirming the market, that no other should be kept on the same days, within seven miles, upon pain of having the goods seized by the bailiff of Hertford. This manor being at that time part of Queen Margaret's jointure, the courts were held in her name, and she appointed a horse-fair to be kept in whatever part of the town  
the

the bailiffs and constables thought proper. In the reign of Henry VII. the standard of weights and measures was fixed here; and Queen Mary rendered this a corporation. In the 25th and 35th years of the reign of Elizabeth, when the plague raged in London, Michaelmas term was kept here, and a new charter was granted by that Queen, which vested the government of the corporation in the hands of a bailiff, 11 capital burgesses, and 16 assistants. Another charter was granted by James the First, by which the government of the corporation was vested in the mayor, burgesses, and assistants; the mayor to be chosen out of the burgesses.

The ancient British name of this town was *Duro-cobrivæ* or *Red Ford*, from the supposition the gravel at the ford over the Lea was red. Whence it has been conjectured by some that its present name is a corruption of the Saxon *Herudford* or *Herodford*, the signification of which is similar. Dr. Gibson derives it, however, from *Hart*, a deer, with which formerly this county abounded, and *ford*, an opinion in some degree sanctioned by the arms of the town which are a hart couchant in the water.

The population of the four parishes and the Blue Coat School district, amount to 3,360; the number of houses to 542.

One mile west of Hertford is the small village of **HERTINGFORD BURY**, which is pleasantly situated, and contains some good houses: St. Mary's, which is in the parish, contains several monuments, among which the cenotaph erected in memory of William, second Earl Cowper and son of the Lord Chancellor Cowper, is the most remarkable. Adjoining to this village is **PANSHANGER**, the delightful seat of Peter Leopold Lewis Francis Cowper, Earl Cowper and Viscount Ferndwich. The situation of this mansion is singularly fine; it has recently been much

enlarged and improved. The park, though small, is well wooded, and contains one tree, which has been distinguished for upwards of a century by the name of the *Great Oak*, and which, notwithstanding its vast antiquity, still continues luxuriant and flourishing; its girth, at the height of five feet from the ground, measures 17 feet, and it sends off its lowermost branches at the height of about 12 feet. The river Maran forms the south-western boundary of the park, to the beauty and animation of which it contributes in no small degree.

Upon the left of the turnpike road leading towards Hatfield is situated the fine park and mansion of BAYFORD BURY, which belonged in the reign of the Confessor to Earl Tosti. The present building is modern, and does not occupy the site of the ancient manor house; it is seated upon an eminence which commands a beautiful and extensive prospect. The present possessor is William Baller. In the village of Bayford is the parish church, which is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin; in it are many monuments to the memory of the different lords of the manor.

To the north-east of Bayford Bury is the extensive park of BRICKENDEN BURY, beautifully diversified with wood and water. Previous to the Dissolution this estate belonged to Waltham Abbey in Essex, to which it had been granted by Edward the Confessor. The abbots had the privilege of fishing in the river Lea, and making whatever pools they pleased within the bounds of the manor; they had also the liberty of free warren. The manor now belongs to a gentleman of the name of Morgan.

Upon a hill, to the right of the road leading from Hertford to Hoddesdon, stands BALLS, the elegant seat of the Marquis Townsend; it is situated in a pleasing park, which overlooks the town. The house was erected in the reign of Charles I. by Sir John Harrison.

Four miles south-east of Hertford is the handsome town of HODDESDON, which is situated close to the river Lea, and is inhabited by many genteel families ; it is 17 miles from London, three from Ware, and five from Hertford, through Ware. The town is about three quarters of a mile long, and is a great thoroughfare to the North. The Market-house, which is of timber, exhibits a curious specimen of ancient architecture ; it is supported upon arches and pillars, and contains a number of extremely rude and grotesque figures, carved upon different parts of it ; this singular structure is considerably out of repair. Adjoining to it is a conduit of excellent water, for which the inhabitants are indebted to the liberality of the family of Rawdons, one of whom (Marmaduke Rawdon, Esq.) left by his will, in the year 1679, an annual sum to keep it in repair.

Hoddesdon is a chapelry in the parishes of Amwell and Broxbourn, and formerly constituted part of the property of the *Basingbourns*, who had the liberty of free warren here. The chapel is a neat modern edifice, built of brick, about 30 years since. There is no manufactory carried on here. The population of this town is 1227 ; the number of houses 227. The weekly market is held upon Wednesday for butchers' meat, &c. and there is an annual fair upon the 29th of July.

In the parish of Stansted Abbot, upon the road leading hence to Ware, is situated the RYE HOUSE, an ancient building of no small celebrity in the history of England. It was built in the reign of Henry VI. by Andrew Ogard, to whom that monarch granted permission to impark his manor of Rye, and build a castle on it. Part of the building (which now serves the parish for a work-house) has both battlements and loop-holes, and was, not improbably, the gate of the castle which Andrew Ogard was permitted to erect.

What,

What, however, renders this structure most remarkable is, its being the spot selected for the assassination of Charles II. in the year 1683. It was then tenanted by a maltster of the name of Rumbold, who had served in the army of Oliver Cromwell. Hume, after stating that a regular plan of a conspiracy was laid, and a council of six conspirators elected, says, in continuation, that "while these schemes were concerting among the leaders, there was an inferior order of conspirators, who had frequent meetings, and together with the insurrection, carried on projects quite unknown to Monmouth and the cabal of six. When these men were together, they indulged themselves in the most desperate and most criminal discourse; they frequently mentioned the assassination of the King and the Duke, to which they had given the familiar appellation of *lopping*; they even went so far as to have thought of a scheme for that purpose. Rumbold possessed a farm called the *Rye House*, which lay on the road to Newmarket, whither the King commonly went once a year for the diversion of the races. A plan of this farm had been laid before some of the conspirators by Rumbold, who shewed them how easy it would be, by overturning a cart, to stop at that place the King's coach; while they might fire upon him from the hedges, and be enabled afterwards, through bye-lanes, and across the fields, to make their escape. But though the plausibility of the scheme gave great pleasure to the conspirators, no concerted design was as yet laid, nor any men, horses, or arms provided. The whole was little more than loose discourse, the overflowings of zeal and rancour." When, however, this affair became afterwards a subject of judicial investigation, it was dignified with the title of the *Rye-House Plot*, and Colonel Walcot, with many others, were actually condemned and executed as privy to the plan.



The village of STANSTED ABBOT, was, at the period of the Doomesday survey, a borough town of some note, under the jurisdiction of a portreeve and seven burgesses. The church contains several old monuments.

One mile south of Hoddesdon, is the small but agreeable village of BROXBURN, situated upon a rising ground, and divided by rich meadows from the river Lea; about the centre of the village is a bridge thrown over the New River, which here crosses the road on its way to London.

The Church is a handsome building, erected probably about the time of Henry VI. It consists of a nave, chancel, and aisles. Upon the north side is a chapel, built in the year 1522, by Sir William Say, Knt. this chapel is deserving of notice for the excellence of its workmanship. An altar tomb of grey marble, with a slight reddish tinge, and covered by a rich canopy, resting on four octagonal pillars, is erected in memory of the founder of this chapel, beneath the arch which divides it from the chancel; the brass plates which were placed upon the sides of the tomb have been taken away.

A square tower, of two stories in height, adjoins to the north side of this chapel; a small door connects it with the chancel. The ascent to the uppermost story is by a small staircase; it has extremely narrow windows, which are further secured by strong iron bars. This tower is supposed to have been designed for keeping the vestments, plate, and other property of the church.

The interior of this church exhibits a neat appearance; the font is of considerable antiquity, and of nice workmanship. At the west end of the building is a tower, which supports an octagonal spire, and another small chapel.

To the left of the village is BROXBURN BURY, a spacious mansion, pleasantly situated in the centre  
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of a large park, which has been much enlarged and beautified by Jacob Bosanquet, Esq. who is the present proprietor. This was originally the seat of Lord Monson.

At the distance of about half a mile from Broxbourn is the village of WORMLEY. The church here is small, and consists only of a nave and chancel, which last is lighted by three lancet windows; there is a small doorway of Norman architecture upon the north side; and the whole building, especially the west end, exhibits strong marks of considerable antiquity. It contains many monumental inscriptions, mostly in the black letter, engraven upon brasses. This manor, previous to the Dissolution, formed part of the endowment of Waltham Abbey in Essex. A little to the west of the village is the mansion house and park of WORMLEY BURY, at present the residence of Sir Abraham Hume, Bart. The house is substantially built with brick, and has a handsome portico in front, resting upon four stone pillars of the composite order. Though the limits of the park are not extensive, yet it is so judiciously laid out as to possess no inconsiderable share of beauty, which is considerably heightened by a large sheet of water, over which a handsome Chinese bridge has been thrown. The New River passes a little to the east of the park.

Proceeding about one mile and a half further, we arrive at the large and agreeable village of CHESHUNT, the chief part of which is built along the sides of the road. The name by which this village is designated in the Doomsday survey is that of *Cestrehunt*, from which circumstance, as also from the remains of an ancient camp being found in this vicinity, antiquarians are inclined to suppose that this was the *Durolitum* of Antoninus's itinerary. Many coins of Adrian, Claudius, Gothicus, and Constantine, have been found near this village. The church here is a handsome edifice of the time of Henry

Henry VI. it was built by Nicholas Dixon, who for 30 years possessed the rectory of this parish, and is interred in the chancel. Not far from the church is a house, in which Richard Cromwell, the abdicated protector, upon his return from the continent, passed the latter part of his life under the borrowed name of Clark.

In this village was formerly a nunnery, of which some remains still exist at the northern extremity.

CHE-HUNT House, a plain brick building, is situated in a small park, a little to the west of the village; it belongs at present to the family of the Shaws.

About a mile to the southward of Cheshunt House is THEOBALDS, the noble park and seat of Sir George Buston Prescott, Bart. whose grandfather, George Prescott, Esq. purchased the estate in the year 1762, from the Duke of Portland, to whose ancestor the Earl of Portland, it was granted by William III. Here Cecil, the great Lord Barleigh, erected a magnificent mansion, with extensive gardens, in which he seems to have anticipated all the absurdities commonly ascribed to a taste supposed to have been long after imported from Holland. "The garden" (says Heutzer) "is encompassed with a ditch, filled with water, and large enough to have the pleasure of rowing in a boat between the shrubs: it was adorned with a great variety of trees and plants, labryntis made with much labour, a *jet d'eau* with its bason of white marble, and with columns and pyramids." This deservedly-exploded taste is well censured by Mason, in his English Garden, where he thus expresses his disapprobation:

"O how unlike the scene my fancy forms,  
Did Folly heretofore with Wealth conspire,  
To plan that formal, dull, disjointed scene,  
Which *once* was called a Garden! Britain still  
Bears on her breast full many a hideous wound

Given

Given by the cruel pair, when, borrowing aid  
 From geometric skill, they vainly strove,  
 By line, by plummet, and unfeeling sheers,  
 To form with verdure, what the builder form'd  
 With stone. Egregious madness ! yet pursued  
 With pains unwearied, with expence unsumm'd,  
 And science doating. Here the sidelong walks  
 Of shaven yew ; the holly's prickly arms  
 Trimm'd into high arcades ; the tonsile box  
 Wove, in mosaic mode, of many a curl,  
 Around the figur'd carpet of the lawn.  
 Hence too deformities of harder cure :  
 The terrace mound uplifted ; the long line  
 Deep-delv'd of flat canal ; and all that Toil,  
 Misled by *Tasteless Fashion*, could atchieve  
 To mar fair Nature's lineaments divine."

Lord Burleigh was one of the greatest contributors of his time to the science of botany, then in its infant state. He patronized that distinguished botanist John Gerrard, and collected in his own garden the greatest variety of plants ever before seen in a private garden. Queen Elizabeth paid this nobleman no less than 12 visits at this place ; each of these visits cost him from 2 to 3,000*l.* her stay being prolonged from three weeks to a month, and even six weeks. Her first visit was paid upon the 27th of July, 1564. This was repeated in the year 1571, when Lord Burleigh presented her with a complementary ode, and a view of the house. She visited him in 1572, 1575, 1577, and 1583, which last was a visit of but four days duration, her retinue being very large ; she was attended at this time by the Earls of Leicester and Warwick, Lord Howard, who was lord admiral, Lord Hunsdon, Sir Christopher Hatton, and Sir Francis Walsingham. The four remaining visits were paid in 1591, 1593, 1594, and 1596 ; of this last mention is made by the Earl of Monmouth. Lord Burleigh left this  
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seat to his younger son Sir Robert Cecil, who was afterwards created Earl of Salisbury; a man not less eminent as a statesman than his father. In the time of this nobleman, James I. having rested here for one night, as he was travelling to London to take possession of the crown, was so fascinated with the beauty of the place, that he exchanged with him the manor of Hatfield for this, and afterwards enlarged the park, which he surrounded with a wall of 10 miles in length. This park became a favourite residence of James, and was often visited by him on account of its vicinity to Enfield Chace, furnishing him with the pleasure of hunting, an exercise of which he was passionately fond. Here this monarch breathed his last upon the 27th of March, 1625.

Theobalds was the occasional residence of Charles the First. While he continued here the petition from the two houses of Parliament was presented to him; and from this place he shortly after set out to erect his standard, and head his forces, at Nottingham.—In the civil war, which immediately followed this procedure, Theobalds was plundered and defaced. In 1649, when it was debated whether the crown-lands should be sold or not, it was at first agreed to except this estate; a subsequent vote, however, condemned it. The parliamentary commissioners reported it to be, in 1650, “an excellent building, in good repair, by no means fit to be demolished.”—Its annual value, independent of the park, was stated to be 200*l.* and the estimate of the building materials rated at 8,275*l.* 11*s.* The park was surveyed and found to contain 2,508 acres, the value of which, with six lodges erected upon the premises, and of which Colonel Cecil possessed one, was estimated at the annual amount of 1,545*l.* 15*s.* 4*d.*

Upon the Restoration, this manor was granted by Charles II. to George Monk, Duke of Albemarle; reverting, however, for want of heirs male, to the

crown upon his death, it was granted to William Bentinck, Earl of Portland, by William III. ; descending from him to the present Duke of Portland, by whom it was sold in 1762 to George Prescott, Esq. whose grandson now possesses it. Previous to its being purchased by Mr. Prescott the park had been divided into farms, and in about three years afterwards the remaining fragments of the ancient palace were removed to make room for the houses which now form Theobald's Square. Mr. Prescott then inclosed a new park of about 205 acres, in which he built a handsome mansion of brick, upon an agreeable eminence, commanding a beautiful, extensive, and diversified prospect; the present mansion is situated at the distance of about one mile north-west of the site of the palace; the New River runs through the park, in view of the house.

Quitting Theobalds, we regain the turnpike road at the village of WALTHAM CROSS, situated upon the confines of the county, and denominated from one of those beautiful stone crosses erected by the pious affection of Edward I. in honour of his beloved Queen Eleanor, whose corpse rested here on its way from Lincolnshire to Westminster. Eleanor, daughter to Ferdinand III. of Castile and Arragon, had been espoused to Edward from motives of policy, but not affection; yet, contrary to the usual issue of such matches, she acquired in a short time a most ardent and sincere attachment for her husband, whose life, it is said, she saved by sucking the poison out of a wound he received from an assassin in the Holy Land. Her affection was returned with no less ardour by Edward, who deeply regretted her death, which took place at Hardeley, near Grantham in Lincolnshire, in the November of 1291. Edward neglected no token of respect to her memory; by his direction her bowels were buried in the cathedral at Lincoln; her corpse, however, was  
carried

carried to Westminster Abbey, and crosses were erected at the different places at which it rested during this journey; of these crosses those at Gedding-ton, Northampton, and Waltham, alone remain; this last is the most defaced, notwithstanding the thrice-made exertions of the Antiquarian Society in its behalf. Like the crosses at Gedding-ton and Northampton, this also was originally surrounded with a flight of steps, which have been long since removed; its upper parts have been greatly mutilated, the foliage mostly defaced, and the battlements, &c. broken. Its form is hexagonal, and it is divided into three stories, of which the centre one is open, and contains statues of the queen in whose honour it was erected; in the undermost story each side is divided into two compartments, with shields exhibiting the arms of England, of Castile and Leon, quartered together. The cornice over this story consists of foliage and lion's heads, surmounted by a battlement pierced with quatrefoils. The second story consists of 12 open tabernacles in pairs, but so divided that the pillar intersects the middle of the statue behind it: these terminate in ornamented pediments, with a bouquet on the top; and the pillars that supported them are also purfled in two stories. This, like the first story, terminates with a cornice and battlement, and supports the third story, which is of solid masonry, ornamented with single compartments in relief, resembling those below, and supporting the broken shaft of a plain cross. The statues of the Queen are crowned, she holds a cordon in her left, and a sceptre in her right hand.

Waltham Cross is a hamlet to the parish of Cheshunt, and contains some good houses. We here enter the county of Middlesex. Hence to London is a distance of 11 miles, through a richly-cultivated and populous country.

*Journey from Royston to Hertford; through Baldock and Stevenage.*

Quitting Royston we proceed, in a south-western direction, along the confines of the county for a distance of nearly six miles; and two miles further enter the neat, open, and pleasant market-town of BALDOCK, which is delightfully situated in a hilly country, at the distance of 37 miles from London, eight from Royston, five from Hitchin, and six from Stevenage.

Baldock is noted for the excellence of its malt, of which, and barley, large quantities are sold at the weekly market, which is held upon Thursday. From its situation upon the great north road, this town is a great thoroughfare, from which circumstance it derives no small advantage; it was founded before the reign of Henry III. by the Knights Templars. It has been latterly much improved, and contains many good brick houses; the name originally given to this town by its founders was *Balbeck*, which has been corrupted into *Baldock*. The Knights Templars also erected building to the east of the town, in the parish of *Clothall*, where traces of their ruins are occasionally discovered.

*Agricola's*, now called *Ickling-Way*, passes through Baldock in its course from *Ickleton*, formerly *Icklington* in Cambridgeshire, to *Ickleford*, or *Icklingford* in Herts.

The Church is a large and handsome edifice, erected (but at what period is not precisely ascertained) upon the site of that which was built by the Knights Templars; it contains many ancient monuments.

Upon the hills to the south are the remains of a Roman and Danish encampment, fronting those upon Ashwell and Willbury hills. Among the various bequests to this parish is one of 10*l.* left by a gentleman of the name of Parker, who has directed  
by



by his will that this sum should be expended in the purchase of 26 penny loaves every Sunday, which having lain upon his grave during the time that the bell tolls for divine service, are to be distributed among the poor.

Baldock contains about 1,283 inhabitants, and 231 houses.

About three miles west of Baldock, upon Willbury Hill, in the vicinity of Ickleford, are the traces of an ancient camp of about seven acres; the *Ick-nield*, or, as it is sometimes called, the Ickling-Way, crosses its area, and Salmon mentions that a silver coin of the Empress Faustina was found here.

Between the years 1720 and 1724 a number of Roman antiquities and some human skeletons, were dug up by some workmen between Caldicot and Henxworth; they consisted of urns of various sizes, containing burned bones and ashes; pateræ of fine red earth, having names impressed upon them; lachrymatories of glass; the handle and neck of a glass simpulum, &c. &c. The skeletons lay about a foot below the surface, in the direction of south-east and north-west; near each skeleton was an urn.

About five miles from Baldock, and one from Stevenage, is the village of LITTLE WYMONDLEY, where Richard de Argentine founded a priory for Austin canons in the reign of Henry III.; its possessions at the time of the Dissolution were estimated at the annual value of 37l. 10s. 6½d. After the Suppression it was leased by Henry VIII. to James Nudham, gentleman; whose son John Nudham afterwards obtained a grant of the fee of the property. The manor of Little Wymondley comprises about 300 acres; it contains a noble chesnut tree, of an immense size and great antiquity.

An academy for the education of ministers for the Presbyterian Church is established at Wymondley House, to which it was removed from North-

ampton, where it was first established in the year 1729. There is an extensive and valuable collection of books in the library, which also contains a cabinet of medals, and a judicious collection of various natural productions.

One mile south of Wymondley is the respectable market-town of STEVENAGE, which is principally built upon each side of the road, and consists of one principal and several lesser streets; its original name was *Stigenhace* or *Stigenaught*, which was first corrupted into *Stevenach*, and afterwards, by an easy gradation, to its present name. The Church consists of a nave, chancel, and aisles; upon each side of the chancel is a small chapel, and close to the altar are two niches for containing holy water. The church is small, and dedicated to St. Nicholas.

This parish contains 1,254 inhabitants, and 267 houses.

Nearly three quarters of a mile south of this village are six large barrows, arranged in one line upon the east side of the road. They have, with considerable appearance of probability, been ascribed to the Danes; a few of them have been opened, but without leading to any important discovery. Owing to the proximity of the markets of Baldock and Hitchin, the market here has fallen into disuse.

About three miles east of Stevenage is the village of WALKERN. The Manor-house is at present in the occupation of a farmer, it is surrounded by a deep fosse. The Church is a small structure; under an arch upon its south wall is the defaced effigy of a Knight Templar.

Adjoining to Walkern is YARDLEY, the manor of which belongs to the cathedral of St Paul's in London. The manor house is remarkable as having been for upwards of two centuries the residence of the ancient family of the *Chauncys*, who took their

name

name from *Chauncy*, a small town of Picardy, in the neighbourhood of *Amiens*; the first of this family that visited England was a follower of William's, about the year 1068, when he settled in Yorkshire. The most distinguished, however, of this family was Henry, the celebrated historian of this county, who having completed his education at Caius College, Cambridge, entered himself a student at the Middle Temple, and was called to the bar in the year 1656, and attained very considerable eminence in his profession. Though not without its defects, his "*Historical Antiquities of Hertfordshire*" is a work of no small value. This learned and useful man died in the year 1700, leaving three sons and four daughters.

South of the last-mentioned places are situated the village and manor of ASHTON, which formerly constituted part of the demesne of the Saxon monarchs; the manor house is a very ancient brick building, with singularly ornamented chimneys.

Returning to the great road, we pass through the village of WATTON, which is about six miles south-east of Stevenage, somewhat above five miles from Ware, and about the same distance from Hertford.

Adjoining to the village, upon the road leading to Ware, is situated WATTON WOOD-HALL, the delightful residence of Samuel Smith, Esq. The mansion is large, spacious, and beautifully seated upon the summit of a gentle eminence, commanding a most agreeable prospect; the park is of considerable extent, and is well wooded, several tributary streams wind among the hills, which diversify the grounds, in their course to the river Bean, which flows through the western part of the park. The old manor house, which was burned to the ground in the year 1772, was a magnificent quadrangular structure, containing a noble gallery of 300 feet in length; the

the gateway was built of brick and was flanked by round towers.

The Church of Watton contains a variety of monumental inscriptions, commemorative of the family of the *Botelers*, who were the possessors of the manor from the reign of Henry, I. to the year 1778.

A little to the east of Watton Wood Hall is the manor of SACOMBE, which at the time of the Domesday survey belonged to Peter de Valoines, after passing through the hands of a number of masters, this estate came to the family of Caswall in the year 1758. It belongs at present to George Caswall, Esq. whose father having taken down the old family mansion which was situated in the park, erected in its place another house at some little distance ; to this he gave the name of *Cold Harbour*.

From Watton to Hertford, a distance of a little more than five miles, the road follows nearly the same direction as the river Bean, which meandering through, and enriching a number of beautiful and fertile meadows, hastens to pour its tributary waters into the river Lea at Hertford, near to which, in the parish of *Bengeo*, at a place called TEMPLE CHEL-SING, may be still seen the remains of a preceptory belonging to the Knights Templars ; these ruins are surrounded by a moat.

*Journey from Bedford to Chipping Barnet, through Hitchin and Hatfield.*

Fourteen miles south south-east of Bedford we enter the county of Hertford, a little to the left of ICKLEFORD, a small village, the etymology of whose name is traced from the *Icknield*, or *Ickling Way*, one of the Roman roads which, traversing the island from east to west, passed through this place. The church-yard is distinguished by being the burial place of Henry Boswell, King of the Gypsies. This eccentric character died in the year 1760, having attained

attained to the advanced age of 90 years : here are also interred his wife and grand-daughter. According to tradition Ickleford was at some very distant period a markettown. Hence to Hitchin is a distance of about two miles.

HITCHIN is a large and populous town, of considerable antiquity, pleasantly situated at the foot of a high hill, which shelters it from the sharp easterly winds. The situation and air are accounted remarkably healthy, and many respectable families reside here. This town is divided into three wards, which are governed by two constables, two head-boroughs for each ward, two leather-sellers &c. &c. It is situated 84 miles north-west of London, in longitude 10 sec. west, latitude 51 deg. 56 sec. north.

The name of Hitchin is derived from the river which runs through it ; though Mr. Norden, a writer of Queen Elizabeth's reign, insists that its proper name is *Hitchend*, because of its former situation at the end of a wood called *Hitch*, which does not however at present approach so near to the town. There was at that time in the immediate vicinity of the town an indurated marle, fitter for burning into quicklime, than for manure, as the quantity of calcareous matter greatly preponderated ; this marle, however, when mixed with some that was softer, and contained a large proportion of argill (*alumen*) which also abounded in this neighbourhood, made a very serviceable manure. This town formerly constituted part of the possessions of the Mercian kings ; it was also celebrated for the staple commodities of the kingdom, and several merchants of the staple of Calais made it their place of residence ; this trade is now however wholly lost : its market, which has existed from a very remote period, has long been and still continues famous for the large quantities of wheat and other corn which is sold in it. This market is held weekly upon.

upon Tuesday, and by a prescriptive right corn of all kinds is exempt from toll.

Hitchin was a place of note at the period of Alfred's division of the county into hundreds; it remained in possession of the Saxon kings, and continued in the Crown till the reign of the Confessor, by whom it, with other possessions, was granted to Earl Harold, who retained possession of it during his life: upon his falling in battle nine miles from Hastings in Sussex, this manor once more reverted to the crown, and was reserved by William the Conqueror; his Son and successor William Rufus, however, granted it to Bernard de Baliol, Baron of Be- well in Northumberland. After passing through a variety of possessors, this manor again reverted to the Crown, to which it still continues attached.

Nearly in the centre of the town stands the Church, a noble building of stone, erected upon the site of a more antient edifice some time about the year 1450. It measures 153 feet long and 60 broad in its interior, which is spacious, and it is divided into a nave, chancel, and aisles. The architecture is of the pointed style, and St. Andrew is its patron saint. In the massive tower at the west end, which measures 21 feet in diameter and supports a small octagonal spire, there is a good ring of bells. The building is embattled throughout, and the principal chancel further decorated with pinnacles. In the north and south chancels are some curious monuments.

Not far from the church stood formerly the priory of Biggin, the period at which it was founded is not known; it was for nuns of the Gilbertine order, and at the Suppression possessed, according to Speed, the annual revenue of 15l. 1s. 11d.

Another priory for White Carmelites, was founded here in the reign of Edward II. by John Bloomville, Adam Rouse, and John Cobham, and by them dedicated to our Saviour and the Blessed Virgin.

At

At the Dissolution it was surrendered, upon the 29th day of May 1531, to Henry VIII. by John Butler, the prior, and four of his brethren; few vestiges of the monastic buildings can be now traced, as a modern house has been erected upon their site.

Here is a Free-school for the education of 45 poor boys, with a house for the master adjoining to it: 100l. was bequeathed, as an additional endowment, to this charity in the year 1668, by John Skynner, Gent.

There is also a Charity School for 36 girls; and 16 Alms-houses for the residence of as many old, poor, and infirm men and women.

The population of Hitchin is 3161; 1508 of whom were in 1801 ascertained to be males, and 1653 females. The number of houses here is 674.

Six miles north-west of Hitchin, upon the confines of Bedfordshire, is the village of HEXTON. In the neighbourhood a battle was fought between the Danes and Saxons, the memory of which is perpetuated by a number of barrows. The church is dedicated to Saint Faith, the patroness of a well which springs up the church-yard, and has a statue of the saint erected over it. Half a mile south of this is a fortified place called Ravensborough Castle: the area of this encampment is somewhat of an elliptical form, and contains about 15 acres; it is situated upon the summit of an extremely high and steep hill, and is surrounded by a single trench and rampart; such is the natural strength of this place that it may be defended by a small number of men, as it is scarcely accessible except by one approach: its etymology, according to Dr. Stukely, is *Roman's Borough*, which has been contracted into Ravensborough; this seems, however, to be erroneous, and we are rather justified in ascribing this fortification to the Danes, and tracing its name from the celebrated standard of that nation. A  
little

little to the north of this station the Icknield way enters the county of Bedford.

About three miles west of Hitchin is the village of GREAT OFFLEY, which is situated upon an high and commanding eminence. Adjoining to it are the Park and Manor-House called *Offley Place*, this is a spacious and interesting edifice, built about the year 1600 by Sir Richard Spencer. Offley Church consists of a nave, chancel, and aisles: it contains many monuments of the Spencer family. Sir Thomas Salusbury rebuilt the chancel, at the entrance into which is inscribed, upon tablets of black marble, the following account of the Spencer family.

IN MEMORY OF THAT BRANCH OF THE SPENCER  
FAMILY SETTLED AT OFFLEY.

Sir John Spencer, from whom the present Earl of Sunderland is descended, settled his eldest son at Althorpe in Northamptonshire; his second son, Sir Thomas Spencer, at Clarendon in Warwickshire; his third son, Sir William Spencer, at Yarnton in Oxfordshire; and Anno Dom. 1554 purchased the manors of Offley, St. Leger's, and Cockern Hoo, which he settled upon his fourth son, Sir Richard Spencer, in 1577, who married Hellen, the fourth daughter and coheir of Sir John Bocket, of Bocket Hall, by Hellen, his first wife, daughter and coheir of Sir Robert Litton of Knebworth. He built Offley Place about the year 1600; and died in November 1624; and was succeeded by his son Sir John Spencer, who married Mary, daughter of Sir Henry Anderson of Pendley. &c.

Three miles south of Great Offley is the manor of KING'S WALDEN; previous to the Conquest, this estate belonged to Earl Harold, upon whose death at the battle of Hastings it devolved to the crown, and continued attached to it till Henry I. granted it to Peter de Valoigns; it was afterwards  
the



the property of various families ; it is now the property of George William Hale, Esq. grandson to Sir Bernard Hale, Knt. who was a baron of the Exchequer, in the reign of George II. who was a descendant of Richard Hale, citizen and grocer of London, who obtained this manor by purchase, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The park in which the manor-house is situated, is not extensive but is well wooded, and handsomely laid out.

Adjoining to the last-mentioned park, is STAGENHOE, the seat of Robert Thornton Heysham, a handsome building, erected about the year 1650, in a small park, by Sir John Hale, Knt. This estate is situated in the parish of Paul's Walden, the manor of which was granted by King Offa to the monastery of St. Albans ; upon the Suppression it was annexed by Henry VIII. to St. Paul's cathedral, London, to which it still belongs.

Returning to the great road, we pass, at the distance of about five miles from Hitchin, the Park of KNEBWORTH which is situated upon the left side of the road ; the manor-house, which is seated in this park, consists of a large pile of brick building enclosing a quadrangular court ; in the centre of the principal front is a square castellated pile of greater antiquity than the other parts of the edifice.

Not far from the manor-house is a small church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin ; it consists only of a body and chancel, and has a low tower at the west end ; upon the north side of the chancel is a chapel, or burial place of the family of Lyttons, to whom this estate anciently belonged.

Following the great road for a little more than a mile we again digress about three miles to the right, and having crossed the Maran, a small stream tributary to the Lea, which it joins at Hertford, we arrive at the village of AYOT St. LAWRENCE, the

manor of which formerly composed part of the demesne of the ancient Saxon sovereigns, and afterwards formed part of the property of Earl Harold, but falling to the crown with his other possessions, after the fatal battle of Hastings, it was granted by the Conqueror to Robert de Gernon. It is at present the property of Samuel Lyde, Esq. whose seat, a neat building of brick, called **LYDES**, is pleasantly situated in a small park adjoining to the village.

In this village are two churches, of which the the more ancient is at present in ruins; the New Church, which was erected under the auspices of that celebrated architect Nicholas Revet, after a Grecian plan, has been much admired for the elegance with which it is finished. The west front is formed of a handsome colonade, at each extremity of which is an open pavilion connected with it, and surmounted by a dome; in the centre is a portico, under which is the chief entrance to the church. The inscription upon the pediment informs us that this church was erected by the late Sir Lionel Lyde, who had been an eminent tobacconist in London, and to whose memory is inscribed a white marble pedestal erected in the centre of the southern pavilion, and upon the back of which is an inscription to commemorate the architect who superintended the work. The following is the inscription upon the pediment of the portico.

Hanc 'Aedem D. O. M. LIONEL LYDE Baronetus. Manerii Dom. et Ecclesiae patron. extrusit  
A. C. MDCC.LXXVIII.

The inscription upon the pedestal under the pavilion in commemoration of the architect is as follows:

NICOLAUS REVETT *Suffolciensis*  
*Qui plurimos annos*  
*Romæ, Athenis, et Smyrnæ commoratus*

HANC

HANC ECCLESIAM  
*Ad antiquæ Architecturæ Exemplaria*  
*Quæ in Græcia atque Asia Minori*  
*Adhuc visuntur*  
*designavit ; extruxit, decoravit.*  
 HOC MONUMENTUM posuit  
*Sumptibus LYONELLI LYDE, Baronetti*  
 A. D. MDCC.LXXVIII.

The ground plan of the old church is singular, being nearly of the form of a double cube ; it is divided into two parts by pointed arches, and of these the eastern part is subdivided into two chancels, connected together by an arch. The tower, which constitutes nearly an eighth of the whole building, is situated at the north-west angle of the western part of the fabric ; it is connected with the nave by means of pointed arches. The pillars of the arch which separates the north chancel and the nave, have their capitals curiously and beautifully enriched with foliage and birds ; the mouldings are also finished with the greatest care, and those which are outermost have human figures carved upon them. This chancel contained among other monuments an altar-tomb placed against the north wall ; the sides are neatly ornamented with ranges of pointed arches sculptured in relief, with trefoil heads. The recumbent effigies of Sir John Barre and his lady (to whose memory this was erected) placed upon the top, have been shockingly defaced. This monument is at present to be seen in the tower.

The south chancel also contains some curious monuments and tombs ; among these the most remarkable is a stone coffin, which for a long time was only regarded as a seat, till, in consequence of the accidental falling of a beam upon it, a portion of one of the corners of the lid was broken off, and discovered a human skull, placed in a cavity which appeared to have been purposely made to receive

it; the remainder of the skeleton was found upon the opening of the coffin, in the month of August, 1801. This coffin is placed upon the south side of the wall which divides the chancels; on its lid is sculptured an ornamental cross, resembling in its form that upon the coffin of William Rufus, who was interred at Winchester; in the middle of the cross is a ridge sloping away towards the edges.

The east window of the north chancel was remarkably beautiful, and contained the arms of the Bristowes, to whom this manor formerly belonged, in painted glass; over these, enclosed in a bordure, charged with the cognizances of the houses of York and Lancaster, were the arms of England. Upon the dilapidation of the church, this window was removed to a house in its vicinity, where it is still preserved.

In the manor of LAMER, at a short distance to the south-west of Ayot St. Laurence, is the seat of Charles Drake Garrard, Esq. the house, which is a handsome building, is agreeably situated upon a commanding eminence in a small park; this manor is situated in the parish of WHETHAMFSTEAD, the village of which lies about a mile south of the park, upon the banks of the river Lea. St. Helen's, the parish church, is a curious structure of considerable antiquity, built in the form of a cross, with the tower springing from the intersection of the transept and nave; the tower is surmounted with an octagonal spire of good proportions. This church contains the monuments of several respectable families.

This parish derives its name from the ancient one of *Watamestide*, by which it is mentioned in the Doomsday survey. At this place the barons, who confederated against Edward II. and his favourite, collected their forces.

The population of the parish, according to the returns.

returns under the late act, is 1,043; the number of houses 205.

Returning north-east from this digression, we regain the turnpike road at the village of WELWYN, through which the little river *Maran* flows. This village and manor are attached to the rectory, the presentation to which belongs to All Souls College, Oxford. In the year 1730, Young, the celebrated author of the *Night Thoughts*, was presented with living by the college, and retained possession of it till his death, which happened in the month of April, 1765. A great part of his *Night Thoughts*, with many of his lesser poems, were composed in this pleasing retirement. This truly pious and amiable divine, was interred in the chancel of the church here, close to the remains of his wife Lady Elizabeth Lee, who died in 1741, no less beloved than lamented by her husband. A monument has been erected to their memory, by Frederick, their only son, whose character officious Calumny has so unjustifiably traduced. The following is the inscription he has placed upon it:

M. S.  
*Optimi Parentes*  
 EDWARDI YOUNG, L L. D.  
*Hujus Ecclesiæ Rect.*  
 Et ELIZABETHÆ,  
*Fam. prænob.*  
*Conjugis ejus amantissimæ*  
*Pio et gratissimo animo*  
*Hoc marmor posuit*  
 F. Y.  
*Filius Superstes.*

Tradition records Welwyn as the place at which, upon Hoe Tuesday, the memorable massacre of the Danes commenced.

The population of the parish is estimated at 1,015 persons; the number of houses 163.

South-east of Welwyn, along the banks of the Maran, are situated the Mansion House, Park, and manor of TEWING. This manor belonged formerly to St. Alban's Abbey, but upon the Conquest was granted to Peter de Valoigns ; it afterwards came into the possession of the canons of St. Bartholomew in London ; and upon the Suppression it was granted by Henry VIII. to John Cook, Esq. Broxbourn, whose daughter Frances, co-heiress with her brother Henry, sold this manor to Richard Hale, Esq. This estate was again sold by his younger son to whom he had left it, to William Cecil, Earl of Salisbury, by whom it was settled upon his third son William, whose grandson sold it to James Fleet, Esq. son of Sir John Fleet, who was lord mayor of London ; upon his death in 1733, he left this estate to his widow, whose singular history and sufferings merit some notice. After having been twice a widow, she married Charles, the eighth Lord Cathcart, in the year 1739, and upon his decease in the ensuing year, she entered a fourth time into the bonds of matrimony with Lieut. Col. Hugh Macquire ; this fourth marriage was not equally auspicious with her former ones ; for, without any assigned or even conjectured cause, her savage husband, shortly after their union, threw her into an obscure and severe confinement in a remote part of Ireland, where he kept her a close prisoner during the remainder of his life. The particulars of this infamous transaction may be found somewhat detailed by Mr. Edgeworth, in a note at the pages 47 and 49 of his sisters' novel of *Castle Rackrent*. This gentleman assures us that he was himself personally acquainted with Colonel Macquire, and examined the maid, who lived with him at the period of Lady Cathcart's confinement, as to the truth of the story. During this period the colonel was constantly visited by the neighbouring gentry : and it was his regular custom at dinner, to send his compliments to Lady Cathcart,

cart, informing her that the company had the honour to drink her ladyship's health, and begging to know whether there was any thing at table that she would like to eat : to this the answer was uniformly "Lady Cathcart's compliments, and she has every thing she wants." Upon Colonel Macquire's death her ladyship was liberated. Upon first receiving intelligence of her husband's death, and her consequent liberation, she doubted the veracity of those who informed her, and who, as she for a considerable time imagined, were only bantering her. When released, she was found in a state closely approaching that of perfect nudity, she had an old red wig upon her head, and appeared as if her understanding had been considerably impaired by the length and solitude of her confinement, which had lasted for nearly twenty years. She declared that when released, she scarcely knew one person from another.

An instance of honesty in a poor woman which Mr. Edgeworth notices, should not be forgotten.—Lady Cathcart possessed some remarkably fine diamonds, which she prized highly, and having successfully concealed from her husband, was anxious to get them removed from his house; least he should by any chance discover them. She had neither servant nor friend whom she could intrust with this commission; but having observed a poor beggar woman, who used to visit the house, she spoke to her from the window of her prison, and having obtained her promise of performing whatever she would ask, threw a packet containing the jewels to her. The poor woman, punctual to her promise, delivered the parcel according to its direction; and Lady Cathcart, upon her release at the distance of about 20 years received her jewels in safety. This lady having attained to the advanced age of 98 years, died in the month of August, 1789, and was interred in the church-yard at Tewing.

Her first husband, Joseph Sabine, Esq. a general officer

officer of no small distinction, who served under the great Duke of Marlborough, rebuilt the manor-house at Tewing in a most magnificent manner, and embellished it with paintings of the battles of the illustrious warrior under whom he served.—General Sabine fell in the desperate engagement at Fontenoy, whence his remains were carried and interred in the church-yard here.

At the opposite side of the river is the Park of DIGSWELL; the name of this manor, in the Domesday survey, is Dicheleswell; it was in the reign of Edward I. the property of Lawrence de St. Nicholas. The Church contains several ancient monuments, deserving the attention of the antiquarian.

Adjoining to Digswell is BROCKET HALL, the elegant seat of Lord Viscount Melbourne. This place takes its name from its former possessors, the ancient family of the Brocketts. Upon the site of the old manor house a handsome modern building has been erected, after the designs of Mr. James Paine. The apartments, which are superbly furnished and fitted up, are further decorated by the paintings of the first masters. The river Lea, which winds through the park, adds not a little to its beauty; a handsome bridge has been thrown over it, and in one place it is expanded into a lake of some magnitude.

Proceeding hence along the great road, we soon arrive at the town of HATFIELD; distant from London 19 miles and a half; eight and a half from Chipping Barnet; seven from Hertford, nine from Ware, six from St. Alban's, five from Welwyn, 14 from Hitchin, 12 from Stevenage, and 14 from Luton. Hatfield was part of the property of the Saxon monarchs, till the time of Edgar, who granted it to the monastery of Ely. At the Conquest it was found still in the possession of that monastery; when that was erected into a bishopric, in the reign of Henry I. this place became one of the places of the  
bishop's



bishop's residence, whence it obtained the name of *Bishop's Hatfield*. Previous to her accession to the throne, Queen Elizabeth for many years made the palace here her place of residence, and having been much pleased with its situation, took it from the bishop of Ely, giving him in place of it another manor. Hatfield was again exchanged by James I. about the year 1607, with Robert Cecil, Earl of Salisbury, for the manor of Theobalds, of which we have given some account in a former part of this volume.

Hatfield Church is a handsome structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and aisles; at the west end is an embattled tower, and upon the north side of the chancel is the burial place of the Earls of Salisbury; this chapel contains but one monument, which is commemorative of the founder, Robert Cecil, the first Earl of Salisbury of that surname: this nobleman is represented lying in his robes, upon a black marble slab, which has for its supporters the cardinal Virtues, who are represented as kneeling, and dressed in virgin habits, with their appropriate emblems; these figures are of white marble, as is also another figure underneath, which exhibits the skeleton of the earl, stretched upon a mat, which seems to be spread upon another black marble slab, similar to the uppermost one. The mat is done with remarkable accuracy, and without close examination might be easily imagined to be real.

Hatfield contains two charity and two sunday-schools; the number of inhabitants amounted at the time of the last returns to 2,442, and the number of houses to 482.

Close to the town is HATFIELD HOUSE, where the Marquis of Salisbury, who is proprietor of the town and manor, chiefly resides. The house, which is large, and built of brick, is delightfully situated in a beautifully diversified park, of many miles circumference, and bounded upon the north by the river

river Lea, which enlivens the scenery not a little.—The mansion-house, which was built about the year 1611, by Sir Robert Cecil, has the form of half the letter H. A lofty tower rises near the centre. The late Earl of Salisbury improved this extremely, and restored it to its ancient magnificence. The house contains many spacious and elegant apartments, in most of which are many valuable paintings.

The demense of Hatfield House is richly wooded, and contains some uncommonly picturesque scenery; it was originally divided by Robert Cecil, the first Earl of Salisbury, into two parks, of which one was designed for the reception of red, the other of fallow deer; the same earl also planted a vineyard in one of them, and this, we are informed, was in existence at the period of Charles the First's confinement here.

With a view to the benefitting of her tenantry, the present Marchioness of Salisbury promotes by personal example, as well as every possible encouragement, the spirit of agricultural enterprise; and well aware of the force of the maxim that example avails more than precept, has appropriated a considerable portion of ground to agricultural research; this place, designed solely for experiments, contains about 17 acres, is well fenced and intersected at proper intervals with walls for the greater convenience of inspecting the crops, and is kept remarkably neat.

About four miles south-west of Hatfield, in the parish of Ridge, is TITTENHANGER, which was anciently the property and occasional residence of the abbots of St. Albans. Upon the Dissolution this manor was granted by Henry VIII. to Sir Thomas Pope, who founded Trinity College at Oxford. This gentleman made Tittenhanger his principal place of residence during his life; upon his death it came into the possession of the family of Blounts;

Blounts; and afterwards, by the marriage of Catherine, sole heiress of these estates, it came into the family of the Gorks. The manor-house, which was built in the year 1654, by Sir Henry Pope Blount, is large and convenient, and several of the apartments contain portraits of the Blount family, not, however, deserving of much if any notice, if we except a three-quarter length of Catherine, Lady Bolunt, which was painted by Sir Godfrey Kneller.

About one mile and a half south-west of Tittenhanger, is COLNEY HOUSE, the residence of George Anderson, Esq. Formerly this manor constituted part of that of the Weald, and was known by the name of Colney Chapel, in consequence, as is imagined by some, of the remains of a religious building which stood within the park, and was enclosed by a moat; its site is at present covered with shrubbery, and laid out in walks.

The Manor-house was built of Tottenhoe stone, about 27 years ago, by Governor Bouchier, who expended upon the building and the improvements of the park, which contains about 150 acres, the sum of 53,000*l*. This mansion is uniform and handsome, consisting of wings and a centre, it has two fronts, of that to the east is the principal; at the entrance here is a semicircular portico, surmounted by an half dome. The west front has an entrance which differs in some respects from this. The interior of the house is divided into a considerable number of apartments, which are elegantly and classically fitted up; the two rooms measure, each, 31 feet in length, 21 in breadth, and 15 in height. A subterraneous passage connects the dwelling-house with the offices which are situated some little distance from it, and are concealed from view by a thick plantation of evergreens and other trees.

The Park is of considerable extent, and well wooded, much of it is laid out in pleasure grounds, which are well stocked with fruit trees; and in the  
green.

green-house, which is very large, is a valuable collection of exotics.

In this vicinity is the little village of SHENLY, which is composed chiefly of a few cottages, collected in the neighbourhood of the Parish-church, which is an ancient building of squared flint and brick, dedicated to Saint Botolph; its interior consists of an oblong body, which is lighted by large pointed windows, the casings of which are of Tottenhoe stone: it has no tower; there are a few monuments contained in it, and among them one to the memory of Philip Falle, who has written a history of the islands of Guernsey and Jersey, and was for many years rector of this parish.

Upon a beautiful eminence, which commands a rich and extensive prospect, at the distance of about two miles south of the church and village is the Parsonage House, a neat and commodious structure, with a good garden, &c. &c. The right of presentation to this rectory belongs to the Newcome family, one of whom the Rev. Peter Newcome, who wrote an historical description of the abbey at St. Alban's, is at present the incumbent.

About three miles south of Hatfield, upon the right side of the road, is the pleasantly-situated mansion of BROOKMANS, agreeably seated in a handsome park; the present proprietor is S. R. Gausen, Esq. Close adjoining to the south-east is another agreeable seat and park, called GOBIONS or GUBBINS, chiefly distinguished as having, in the reign of Henry VII. belonged to the father of the illustrious Sir Thomas More. A little to the west of these, but in the same parish, is NORTH MIMS, an extremely handsome structure, delightfully seated in a handsome park, which derives additional beauty from the river Colne, which winds through it in its progress to the Thames, into which it pours its tributary waters, swelled by the accession of several minor streams in the vicinity of Staines.—

The

The scenery of the park, and that also of the adjoining country is remarkably picturesque and beautiful. On the eastern side is situated the Parish-church of North Mims, which consists of a nave, aisles, and chancel. The tower, which is embattled, stands at the west end; this church contains many monuments, among which a magnificent one erected to the memory of John Lord Somers, (who in the reign of William III. was appointed Lord High Chancellor, with the title of Baron of Evesham, and died upon the 20th of April, A. D. 1716) is most remarkable; it is placed in the chancel.

Returning to the great road, we enter the county of Middlesex, not far from the 15th mile stone, and crossing a narrow projection of it which runs into Hertfordshire, we reach the town of CHIPPING BARNET, which stands partly in Middlesex, and partly in Herts, being intersected by the boundary of the counties; it is 11 miles north-west of London, nine south of Hatfield, and 10 south-east of St. Alban's. From its elevated situation it is by some denominated High Barnet; and from its market, which was granted by Henry IV. it has obtained the distinguishing name of *Chipping* or *Chepinge*. Barnet is a populous and thriving town, deriving the greatest advantages from its situation as a thoroughfare; the mails to Leeds, Chester, Manchester, and Liverpool, daily passing twice through it. The church is an extremely ancient fabric having been erected so early as 1400, by John Moot, who was abbot of St. Alban's. This ancient edifice has much appearance of that venerable grandeur which most of the buildings of that age possess in a greater or a lesser degree. It consists internally of a nave, chancel, and aisles, which latter are divided from the nave by pointed arches, which rest upon clustered pillars. The tower is low and embattled; in the nave, chancel, and aisles, are several monuments, interesting only to the antiquarian. This ancient edifice is situated in the centre

tre of the town, and is only a chapel of ease to the village of East Barnet, where is the parish-church.

The Free-school in this town, was founded and partly endowed by Queen Elizabeth, and partly by Alderman Owen of London, whose additional endowment is paid by the Fishmonger's Company, by whom are appointed 24 governors; the master and usher of the school, are elected by the governors, and are required to instruct seven poor children gratis, and the children of all the remaining parishioners at an extremely moderate quarterly charge.

In this town are also 12 commodious Almshouses, well calculated for the advantage and comfort of the poor.

The common right belonging to this parish is very extensive. Not far from the centre of the common, adjoining to the race ground, is a mineral spring, formerly of some celebrity, though now but little noticed; an attempt has been fruitlessly made, within these few last years, to revive its fame, and form an establishment for invalids here.

Barnet is governed by a chief magistrate, high constable, and subordinate officers: a court leet, for the manor, is held annually at Easter. Here is a weekly market, held under the old grant of Henry II.; there are three fairs, of which the first, in July, is chiefly for toys, the other two, which are in September and October, are chiefly confined to cattle.

The country in the vicinity of Barnet is healthy and fertile, producing excellent hay, in the greatest abundance for the London markets.

A little to the north of Barnet, upon the road leading to Hadley, is an obelisk, erected in commemoration of the great victory gained upon this spot, by Edward III. upon the 14th of April, 1471. The mention of this column, however, belongs properly to the description of the county of Middlesex, to which

which we must take the liberty of referring our readers.

Crossing a narrow stripe of the county of Herts, which here indents with that of Middlesex in an uncommon manner, we enter Middlesex, at the 12th mile stone.

*Journey from Dunstable to Edgware; through Redburn, St. Alban's, Watford, and Bushey.*

About half a mile from Dunstable, we enter the county of Hertfordshire and proceeding along the great north-western road, in a south-eastern direction, re-enter the county of Bedford at the 30th mile stone; here is a narrow tongue of Bedfordshire, penetrating into Hertfordshire, the little village of Market Street, nearly occupies its entire breadth. Passing through this we emerge, at its south-eastern extremity, once more into the county of Herts, not far from the 29th mile stone. At a short distance to the right of the road is BEECHWOOD PARK, the agreeable residence of Sir John Sebright, Bart. into whose family it came by marriage. Here stood originally a Benedictine Nunnery, founded in the reign of Stephen by Roger de Toni, for a prioress and ten nuns. This, in common with the other religious establishments throughout the island, bent before the powerful and despotic arm of Henry VIII. at the period of the Dissolution, when its revenues were estimated, according to Speed, who differs a little from Dugdale, at the annual amount of 46l. 16s. 1d. Many curious and valuable manuscripts relating to this institution, are carefully preserved by the present lord of the manor. The manor house of BEECHWOOD, is handsome, and well contrived for comfort, as well as elegance, in its internal arrangements; the park in which it stands is richly and beautifully wooded, especially with beech; the greatest care is paid to its preservation in good order by the present proprietor.

Upon the turnpike-road, a little to the south-east of Beechwood is the village of FLAMSTED, distant about 27 miles and a half from London. The church is a commodious structure consisting of a nave, chancel, and aisles; its western extremity is a tower with a ring of bells. Here are several monuments, mostly of a recent date; of the three remarkable antient ones described by Weever, but one at present remains, situated between the nave and the aisle, upon the north side of the church. Upon this monument, which is a plain altar tomb of about four feet in height, are sculptured in deme-relief two figures, one male and one female, having at their feet two dogs, of which that upon the left holds a label in his mouth, but the inscription is defaced. Over these figures is placed an angular canopy, formed with quatrefoil arches, which are richly loaded with foliage. A profusion of foliage has been bestowed upon the capitals of the pillars of the nave, which is divided from the chancel by an elegantly carved screen of considerable height. Two stalls of considerable antiquity formed with pointed arches occupy part of the south side of the chancel, and adjoining to them is a Pisuna. The village of Flamstead is situated along the sides of the great road, but close to it upon a cross road, the river Vere washes its northern extremity; from this circumstance, according to Chauncy, its name, which was originally *Verlamstedt* is derived.

Somewhat about two miles from Flamstead we pass through the village of REDBURN, which is built along the sides of the road, for the extent of nearly half a mile. A little to the west of the village is the church, which in the reign of Henry VI. was rebuilt by the Abbot Whethampsted; at this village existed, previous to the Dissolution, a Benedictine Priory, subject to the controul of the abbey at St. Alban's; it was consecrated to St. Amphibalus, and his martyred companions, whose bones, as old Mat-  
th ew



thew Paris informs us, were dug up on Redbourn Green in the year 1178, and with much pomp and solemn parade translated to a magnificent shrine, which was prepared for their reception at St. Alban's, which, it is further added, derived no small celebrity from the many miracles which these holy relics were the supposed or pretended means of performing.

About two miles north-east of Redburn upon the great road leading from *Luton* in Bedfordshire to St. Alban's, is the village of HARDEN, or as it is with greater propriety termed HARFENDEN, the houses of which are not arranged with any particular regard to regularity, yet being neatly built and agreeably situated, render this an agreeable place of residence; its population is 1112, and the number of houses 230. The church is an antient fabric of the Norman architecture, dedicated to St. Nicholas. The form of this building is that of a cross, having the tower at the west end in place of the intersection of the cross; it consists of a nave, chancel, and transept; the internal decorations of the church are neat and appropriate; and it contains several good monuments.

A little to the right of the road, about two miles west of the ancient and venerable town of St. Alban's, is GORHAMBURY, the beautiful residence of Lord Grimstone. The present stately mansion is of stone, and of the Corinthian order, the wings are however of brick covered with stucco to resemble stone, and to correspond with the center; in the grand front is the principal entrance, ornamented by an elegant portico, with a flight of steps leading to the door; the pillars which compose the portico are well proportioned, and support a handsome pediment; a balustrade and cornice complete the decorations of the centre.

The interior of the house is at once calculated for convenience and splendour, the principal apart-

ments are large and commodious, and well furnished with valuable portraits, painted chiefly in the age of Elizabeth. The portraits most deserving of notice are those of Lord Chancellor Bacon at full length, by Vansomer.

A three-quarter length of Abbot, archbishop of Canterbury, in his pontificals, by Vandyke.

A three-quarter length of the Earl of Clarendon, by Sir Peter Lely.

A three-quarter length of Queen Elizabeth by Hilliard; presented to Lord Bacon, as some conjecture, by the Queen herself.

A three-quarter length of Lodowick Stewart, who was the first Duke of Richmond, dressed in his parliamentary robes.

A three-quarter length of James, the second Duke of Richmond, by Geldorp.

A portrait of George Calvert, Lord Baltimore, dressed in black, and with his hair cropped, by Vandyke.

Ditto of Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex; Queen Elizabeth's unfortunate favourite.

Ditto of Richard Weston, Earl of Portland, dressed in black, by Vandyke.

These portraits are in the library, which contains in addition, busts of Sir Nicholas Bacon, his second wife, and second son, afterwards Lord Bacon.

In the dining room, a spacious and elegant apartment sumptuously furnished are the following remarkable portraits.

A three-quarter length of Lord Bacon; the artist unknown, but the execution admirable.

A portrait of Thomas Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton, by Vandyke.

A full length of George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, in a white dress, with his hat and feather upon an adjacent table, by Mytens.

A copy, by Sir Godfrey Kneller, of Sir Peter Lely's

Lely's portrait of George Monk 'Duke of Albe-marle.

An excellent painting of Sir Nathaniel Bacon, who was Knight of the most noble order of the Bath, and half-brother to Lord Bacon, by Sir Nathaniel Bacon himself.

A portrait of Edward Somerset, Earl of Worcester, who in the reigns of Elizabeth and James I. filled the office of master of the horse. This portrait of his lordship, taken in the decline of life, represents him dressed in a white jacket and ruff, his age is marked by the whiteness of his beard, and baldness of his head. Sir Robert Naunton speaks of this nobleman in the following terms :

“ In his youth, part whereof he spent before he came to reside at court, he was a very fine gentleman, and the best horseman and tilter of the times (qualities that recommended him to Elizabeth), which were then the manlike and noble recreations of the court, and such as took up the applause of men, as well as the praise and commendation of the ladies; and when years had abated these exercises of honour, he grew to be a faithful and profound counsellor, and as I have placed him last, so was he the last liver of all the servants of her favour; and had the honour to see his renowned mistress, and all of them, laid in the places of their rests.”

A portrait of Philip Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, and Montgomery, by Vandyke.

A full length of Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Cleveland, painted in the year 1636 by Vandyke, the earl being then in his 44th year. This noble man, a zealous and firm adherent to the fallen fortunes of Charles I. and the more successful ones of Charles II. in the Guards belonging to both of whom he served many years in the capacity of captain, is represented as dressed in black, his hair

hair is yellow, and he wears a red ribbon and turn-over.

A portrait of Sir Thomas Meutys, Lord Bacon's secretary, and successor in the manor of Gorhambury.

Besides these portraits, there is in this room a large painting, by Sir Nathaniel Bacon, representing a cookmaid, with dead game, which she has just received from an old gamekeeper, who appears in the back ground. The cookmaid, we are informed, is a striking likeness of the painter's mother, Dame Jane Bacon.

The following are the portraits contained in the Drawing room and Hall.

A three-quarter length of Sir Harbottle Grimstone, dressed in his official robe as master of the rolls, painted by Sir Peter Lely. The manor of Gorhambury came into the possession of this gentleman, in consequence of his marriage with Sir Nathaniel Bacon's daughter and heiress.

A portrait of Sir Harbottle's first wife, who was the daughter of Sir George Croke.

Ditto of Lady Elizabeth Grimstone, Sir Samuel's first wife, and daughter of Henage Finch, Earl of Nottingham; painted by Sir Peter Lely.

Ditto of Sir Samuel's second wife, Lady Anne Grimstone Tufton, the Earl of Thanet's daughter.

Ditto of Sir Edward Grimstone, at the age of 50, by Holbein. Sir Edward was comptroller of Calais.

Ditto of Sir Nicholas, father to the painter Sir Nathaniel Bacon. The following relation of his death is handed down to us by Mallet, in his life of the Lord Chancellor Bacon:

‘He was under the hands of his barber, and the weather being sultry, had ordered a window before him to be thrown open. As he was very corpulent he presently fell asleep, in the current of  
fresh.

fresh air that was blowing in upon him, and awaked after some time, distempered all over. "Why" (said he to his servant) "did you suffer me to sleep thus exposed?" The fellow replied that he durst not presume to disturb him.—"Then" (said the lord-keeper) "by your civility I lose my life," and so removed into his bed-chamber, where he died a few days after.'

A small half length of Sir Nicholas's first wife Dame Jane Bacon, painted by her son Sir Nathaniel.

A long painting representing Algernon, Earl of Northumberland, dressed in black, his lady attired in blue, and seated, and her child near her. This painting is by Vandyke.

A portrait of Charles Howard, Earl of Nottingham; by Sir Peter Lely. This nobleman was in the reign of Elizabeth lord high admiral, and acted as commander in chief of the fleets opposed to the invincible armada of Spain, which at that period threatened annihilation to our nation, but was prevented from the fulfillment of its horrid designs by the interposing arm of that Almighty Providence which has been so repeatedly stretched out for our preservation, notwithstanding our little merit. In the back ground of this painting is represented, as commemorative of so fortunate an occurrence, the Armada labouring in the storm which proved so fatal and subversive of the plans of our foes.

Upon a pannel in the Drawing Room is a singular antique half length of one of the Grimstone family, dressed in a green jacket, the sleeves of which are loose, and his head covered with a large bonnet, from which a long train of silk hangs down.

A full length of James I. by Holbein. This monarch is represented as dressed in black and gold armour.

A portrait of James II. by Sir Godfrey Kneller.

Ditto

Ditto of Charles I. by Henry Stone.

Ditto of Henry Rich, first Earl of Hertford; who was beheaded in the year 1649. He is represented as wearing a striped dress, richly ornamented, a blue ribbon crosses his breast, and he holds in his hand a hat having a red feather.

A full length of Thomas Howard, the third Duke of Norfolk, in the 66th year of his age; by Holbein.

A portrait of Catharine, Charles the Second's Queen, in the character of St. Catharine; admirably painted by Huysman.

A whole length of Catherine Howard, Countess of Suffolk, dressed in white and wearing a large ruff; her bosom also in a considerable degree exposed. This lady was the daughter of Sir Henry Knevit, Knt. of Charlton in the county of Wilts. Her venality during the four years in which her husband held the office of treasurer to James I. was notorious, insomuch that Weldon scruples not to charge her avarice with the beneficial peace which Spain obtained, at the expence of much of the interest of this country; this writer thus expresses his undisguised sentiments, "in truth Audley End, that famous and great structure, had its foundation in Spanish gold."

A portrait of Edward Carew, Earl of Totness; his beard white, and hair short, dressed in a white flowered jacket, and resting his hand upon his sword.

Ditto of Sir Edward Sackville, the fourth Earl of Dorset; a nobleman renowned for his accomplishments and wit; he killed Lord Bruce, a Scotch peer, in a desperate duel which they fought at Antwerp.

Besides portraits, there are also a few Scripture paintings by the first masters, in the Drawing room, which we have forborne to notice among the portraits. They are as follow:

A paint-

A painting, by Tintoretto, of St. John preaching in the wilderness.

Ditto of the Adoration of the Shepherds by Luca Giordano.

Ditto of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin, by Annibal Caracci.

Ditto of our Blessed Saviour curing the cripple at the Pool of Bethesda ; by Bassano.

Having thus noticed the principal decorations of the interior of this mansion, which derives a brilliant though borrowed lustre from its celebrated possessor the great Lord Bacon, we shall give a brief sketch of the history of the manor, which formerly belonged to the Abbey of St. Albans', and derives its present name from that of Robert de Gorham, a Norman, who was the 18th abbot of St. Alban's.—At the Dissolution this manor was granted by Henry VIII. to Sir Ralph Rowlett, by whom it was sold to Sir Nicholas Bacon, the lord-keeper ; who, about the year 1571, built a noble edifice here and left it to his son Anthony Bacon, by whom it was bequeathed to his brother Francis, Baron Verulam.—At the fall of this illustrious man, he made a grant of the estate to Sir Thomas Meautys, who was his secretary, nephew, and heir ; and marrying Anne, daughter of Sir Nathaniel Bacon, knight of the Bath, of Culford in Suffolk, left the estate of Gorhambury to his widow during her life ; she afterwards marrying Sir Harbottle Grimstone, he purchased the reversion of the estate from the next heir Hercules Meautys. This Sir Harbottle Grimstone is the direct ancestor of the Viscount Grimstone of Ireland, in whose family it still continues.

In the month of June, 1790, the title of Baron was revived in the person of the present possessor, who is called Baron Verulam of Gorhambury. Soon after the present baron came into possession of this estate by the death of his father, he took down the ancient mansion, and erected another not far from

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the site of the former, of which few remains at present exist. The new house was constructed after the plans of Sir Robert Taylor.

Gorhambury Park is of considerable extent, containing about 600 acres, which are well laid out, and beautifully diversified with hill and dale, wood and water; the scenery is in many places highly picturesque, and the deer which abound in it considerably heighten the effect.

Adjoining to the park is the village and wood known by the name of Preewood; in this village was formerly a leper-house for nuns.

KINGSBURY, situated close to the western entrance to St. Alban's, derives its name from having been formerly the residence of the Saxon monarchs, who used frequently to keep their court here.

#### ST. ALBAN'S

Crossing the river *Ver* or *Meuse*, by a bridge called after Saint Michael, we enter the ancient and venerable town of SAINT ALBAN'S, situated, as we learn from history, upon the site of a wood, which was formerly called *Holm Hurst*. This town is indebted for its progressive grandeur to the decline and final destruction of *Verulam* or *Verulamium*, which at the period of the Roman invasion, was an ancient and populous city; the residence, as we have already observed in a former part of this volume, of Cassivelaunus, sovereign of the Cassii. Its antiquity is by many supposed to be far beyond that of London; and even among the Romans it retained its consequence, being constituted one of their chief stations, with the privileges of a *municipium*, by which its inhabitants possessed the same rights as those of citizens born in Rome. Under the government of the Romans this city rapidly increased in wealth and respectability, and contributed much to the success of the Roman expeditions for the purpose of subjugating the still refractory portions of the island. To this zeal for a people, whom the rest  
of



of the inhabitants of the island could not but regard as the enemies of their country and usurpers of their rights, was Verulam indebted for the signal vengeance which it experienced from the incensed Boadicea and her momentarily victorious army; flushed with the successes recently gained over the scattered parties of the Roman soldiery, who fell in their way, elated by the subversion of *Camalodunum* and *Londinum*, or *Augusta*, as it was sometimes called, and greedy for the acquirement of the riches with which this place was supposed to abound, they hurried on, as we learn from Tacitus, (one of the most faithful, as well as concisely elegant narrators of the transactions of his countrymen) regardless of places of less importance, to plunder this: "Omissis castellis, præsidisque militum, quod uberrimum spoliant, et defensoribus intutum; sæti prædâ, et aliorum segnes petebant." Tacit. Ann. xiv. cap. 33.

The conquests of Boadicea enjoyed, however, but a transient existence, as she was very shortly after overpowered by the superior skill and generalship of Suetonius, who, at this crisis so pregnant with danger to the Roman authority, hastily collected his forces from the various parts of the island in which they had been dispersed, and aided by the arrival of fresh troops from the continent, met the half-savage armies of Boadicea, and defeating them in a pitched battle, rescued his comrades in arms from the destruction which awaited them, and secured to Rome the peaceable possession of her British territories. Verulam rose like a phoenix from its ashes, and soon regained all its former splendour and dignity.

The martyrdom of Albanus or Alban, during the persecution of the Christians under the Emperor Dioclesian, is amongst the most remarkable occurrences which distinguish the latter periods of the history of Verulam. This saint was born here towards the close of the third century; and while yet

a youth, accompanied Amphibalus, a monk of Caerleon, in South Wales, upon an expedition to Rome, where he continued in the service of Dioclesian, as a soldier, during seven years. Upon his return home, he chose the place of his nativity for his residence, and convinced by the doctrines and example of his fellow traveller the monk, he renounced the errors of paganism, and embraced the pure doctrines of christianity, which had not yet been received by the inhabitants of the town, who were pertinaciously wedded to their old tenets, and particularly inveterate against the innovations, as they deemed them, of the new doctrine. The circumstances of St. Albanus's death, are handed down to us by the venerable Bede, whose relation is pretty nearly as follows:

Albanus having, upon his return, brought Amphibalus with him, entertained him at his house; his own conversion to christianity being still unknown to his townsmen. Intelligence being given to the Roman governor, that Amphibalus was with him, he dispatched a party of soldiers with orders to apprehend the monk: Albanus, however, dressing himself in the habit of his guest, suffered himself to be arrested in his stead and brought before the governor, who questioned him as to his family; upon which he replied, "To what purpose do you enquire of my family? if you would know my religion, I am a Christian." The governor next demanded his name, "My name," he replied, "is Albanus; and I worship the only true and living God, who created all things." In answer to this, the governor told him, that if he would enjoy the happiness of eternal life, he should not delay sacrificing to the great gods; upon which Albanus said: "The sacrifices which you offer are made to devils, who can neither aid the distressed, nor grant the requests of petitioners." Upon which the governor, enraged at his audacity, ordered him to be instantly beheaded.—

As they were leading this proto-martyr to inflict upon him the sentence pronounced by the irritated governor, they were stopped by a river, the bridge over which was so crowded with spectators, as to preclude the possibility of a passage, upon which the saint raised up his eyes to heaven, and instantly the stream was miraculously divided, so as to enable the procession to pass. Such was the impression produced by this wonderful event upon the mind of the executioner, that it occasioned his immediate conversion; throwing away the sword with which he had designed to behead Albanus, he threw himself at his feet, and requested to be allowed the honour of dying with him. This producing a delay in the execution, left the saint, as we are further informed, leisure for the performance of another yet more wonderful miracle; for feeling himself thirsty, he walked up to a neighbouring hill, and there prayed for water to slake his thirst, when straightway a fountain sprung up at his feet. Such is the narrative of the venerable Bede, whose faith we can easily suppose equal to the accrediting of the prodigies he narrates, which, however modern sceptics may question their authenticity, constituted the principal articles of religion in those days of monkish obnublation.

Repentant, however, for the atrocious deed they had perpetrated, and convinced at length of the magnitude of their former errors, the inhabitants of Verulam, as both Bede and Gildas concur in declaring, within a few years after the termination of the persecution, embraced the doctrines of Christianity, removed from their walls the disgraceful representation of the martyrdom of Albanus, and erecting a church, consecrated it to his memory.

The next remarkable occurrence in the history of this place, is the holding of a synod here in the year 429, for the purpose of checking the Pelagian heresy; to accomplish which end Germanus, bishop of Aux-

erre, and Lupus, bishop of Troyes, came to England, and assisted at the synod of which we have just made mention. The persuasive eloquence of the former of these bishops had the most astonishing success, as well in checking the further progress of error, as in bringing back to the true faith many of those who had been led astray. To perpetuate the memory of the obligations due to this pious prelate for his exertions, the grateful citizens of Verulam, shortly after his return to the continent, founded a chapel to his honour, upon the spot whence he had so often and so effectually addressed himself to thousands of admiring auditors, and which was situated immediately without the walls. The remains of this chapel were in existence at the commencement of the last century, and gave name to a considerable portion of land, thence called St. German's Farm, by which denomination a very considerable part of the site of ancient Verulam is known to this day.

The destructive contests which followed upon the invasion of the Saxons proved subversive of the prosperity of Verulam, the decline of which may be dated from this period; since during the lapse of not less than two centuries we find no mention whatever made of it in history; its final ruin, we have, however, strong reasons for presuming, was not accomplished before the rise of the present town of St. Alban's.

The etymology of its name may in some degree be traced to the river Ver, upon whose banks it was situated. Its extent, while under the jurisdiction of the British, appears to have been considerable; but upon its becoming subject to the Romans its boundaries appear to have been greatly extended; and, contrary to the usual custom of that people, they adapted their plans to the situation of their ground, and gave this city the unusual form of an ellipse — Notwithstanding its long subjection to the iron despotism

potism of the plough, the streets contained within its area may to this day be in many places traced, and appear to have intersected at right angles, as was customary in towns built by the Romans. Of the walls which surrounded the city considerable portions still remain, exhibiting astonishing proofs of the massive solidity and strength of the Roman masonry; they appear, from these surviving fragments, to have been constructed of strata of flints, imbedded in a strong cement of amazing hardness, emulating in this respect many natural stones; the thickness of the walls was about 12 feet, and at intervals of about a yard of our measure, they were further strengthened by rows of large tiles, of about 16 or 18 inches long, and 11 or 12 broad, and of a close texture; two or three of these formed a row. The city was situated upon the western side of a hill, which gradually descended to the edge of the river; the dimensions of its area, within the walls, have been estimated by the careful measurements of the accurate and laborious Dr. Stukely, to whose antiquarian researches we are much indebted, at 1730 yards in length from north to south, and 1000 yards in breadth from east to west. The principal remaining fragment of the walls is that which stands at the place where the road to Gorhambury branches off near St. Michael's Bridge, and appears to have formed part of one of the entrance gateways to the city.

An immense profusion of coins and other antiquities have been found in digging up the site of this city, but the most singular curiosity was a number of books, of which one was in a state of the most perfect preservation, but in a character so obsolete, that had it not been for one old and infirm priest who possessed a vast stock of erudition, it never could have been decyphered.

Having thus noticed Verulam, whose decline gave birth to the town of St. Alban's, we must resume our

account of this latter. Offa, the sanguinary and rapacious monarch of the Mercians, feeling at length considerable remorse for his numberless atrocities, and more especially for his treacherous murder of Ethelred, king of the East Angles, whose dominions he had been desirous of annexing to his own, resolved, according to the superstition of his day, to expiate his crimes, and tranquillize his conscience, by erecting an abbey and monastery to the memory of Albanus, the proto-martyr of England, whose miraculous suffering we have already detailed ; and accordingly, by the direction of a light from heaven, as we are gravely informed by the historians of these times, a church was founded upon the very spot where the saint had been beheaded, and a monastery endowed for 100 monks of the Benedictine order. Buildings soon multiplied in the vicinity of the abbey, from which the town in process of time obtained the name of St. Alban's.

St. Alban's is situated at the distance of 21 miles north-west of London, 12 west of Hertford, and half a mile east of the site of the ancient Verulam ; it obtained its first charter of incorporation about the year 1553 from Edward VI. and its government vested in the hands of a mayor and burgesses ; the government was afterwards changed by Charles II. and vested in the hands of a mayor, high-steward, recorder, 12 aldermen, and 24 assistants. The privileges granted by this last charter were very great, rendering the mayor, who was chief magistrate, little if at all inferior to a petty prince both in pomp and power ; much, however, of the spirit of this charter has at present fallen into disuse.

This town sends two representatives to parliament ; the right of election belonging to the freemen and inhabitants who pay scot and lot : the number of electors commonly exceeds 600 ; the mayor is the returning officer. To this borough is annexed a district or liberty, including the parishes of Barnet, Sandridge,

Sandridge, Bedburn, Cudicot, Shepehele, Bushey, Ellstree, Langley Abbot, Sarret, Ridge Walden Abbots, Hoxton, Norton, Rickmansworth, and Watford; the jurisdiction of this district, not only in civil but also ecclesiastical affairs, is peculiar to itself. At St. Alban's is a gaol for this liberty, and a gaol-delivery for it is held in that town four times in the year, upon the Thursday after the quarter session at Hertford.

St. Alban's is divided into four wards, to each of which belong a constable and two church-wardens. By its charter it is intitled to two weekly-markets; of late, however, one of these has been discontinued. It has two fairs, one for toys and clothing, which is in general well attended, upon the 25th of March, and another for the same articles, at Old Michaelmas. The horse-fair, which used to be held upon St. Alban's day, has been discontinued: and owing to the lateness of the season at which it occurs, the statute, usually held upon New Michaelmas day, is seldom well attended, as most of the statutes held in the vicinity occur prior to it.

In this town there is a very respectable body of dissenters; and there are four meeting-houses for Independents, Quakers, Anabaptists, and Presbyterians, by the last of whom a school for the education and clothing of 30 boys and 10 girls has been established; another school for 30 boys, of the established religion, is supported by the corporation, aided by the contributions of the benevolent. A school of industry, at which a certain number of poor girls are clothed and educated, was founded and supported by the Dowager Lady Spencer: and in addition to these there is a sunday-school, which affords instruction to a large portion of those children who cannot be received by the other schools.

Of the many Alms-houses in this town, none attracts more the attention of the stranger, than that situated



situated at the border of the town, upon the road leading to Hertford; it is generally known to the people of the neighbourhood, by the name of the Buildings, and is formed by nine distinct almshouses, built and endowed by Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, widow of the great Duke of Marlborough. Each of these houses is internally divided into four apartments, and has a small garden annexed to its rear, with a neat grass-plot, separated from the road by an handsome railing, in front of it. These houses form three sides of a parallelogram, and are designed for the relief of 36 old decayed tradesmen and women. The upper apartments command in general an agreeable prospect. Each of the poor people belonging to these almshouses has an annual pension of 12l. and the superintendence of the charity is vested in the lord of the manor of Sandridge.

In St. Peter's Street are situated, adjoining to each other, the Town Hall and Market-house; in the former of these are held the quarter sessions for the liberty of St. Alban's, and those for the borough: here are also held the court of requests, for the recovery of small debts; the meetings of the commissioners of the land tax, &c.; the monthly court of the mayor and aldermen, and a petit sessions every Saturday. The town-hall is occasionally fitted up for public balls; and grand entertainments are frequently given in it by the corporation, especially upon St. Matthew's day, when the mayor for the ensuing year is elected.

Originally this building belonged to the abbey, and was known by the name of the Chancel-house, by which appellation it was granted to the mayor and burgesses upon their first incorporation. Its lower part is employed as a gaol for the borough, with apartments for the residence of the jailor, and an engine-house.

The Market-house which, as we have just said,  
stands



stands contiguous to the Town Hall, is a plain building, resting upon wooden pillars. About 50 or 60 years since this was accounted the first corn market in the county; and the charter for holding it was obtained, as we learn from history, through the influence of Ulsinus, the sixth abbot. Besides corn, this market, which is held upon Saturday, is well supplied with eggs, poultry, butter, &c. the prices of which are in general moderate. Upon the spot which was formerly occupied by one of those beautiful stone crosses which Edward I. erected to the honour of his beloved Queen Eleanor about the year 1290, now stands the market cross, which is constructed of wood, and of an octagonal form.

Since the middle of the last century, St. Alban's has received very considerable improvements. An act of parliament was obtained in the session of 1794 to enable the corporation to make a new road through the south-east part of the town; in consequence of which part of the Cross Keys Inn and Key-field were purchased, by which means a direct and spacious road, free from the dangerous turnings which occurred before, has been made through the town, which has been further improved since the year 1806, in consequence of a new act obtained in the spring 1804, for pitching, paving, and lighting the streets.

The situation of St. Alban's is healthy and agreeable; its streets, since the late improvements, are in general well built and spacious. Its situation upon the great north-west road to Liverpool, Chester, Holyhead, &c. &c. gives constant and profitable employment to many victuallers who live here, and the breweries, cotton manufactory, silk manufactory, and oil mill, furnish a large proportion of the poorer inhabitants with employment. The Vere or Meuse, which passes this town, in its way to unite its waters with those of the Colne, turns in its course several corn and other mills, both above  
and

and below St. Alban's. The population of this borough, as ascertained by the returns of 1801, amounts to 3038 persons, and the number of houses to 527.

As the history and description of the Abbey must necessarily occupy a considerable number of pages; we have deemed it advisable to defer our account of it, and the other churches, till we had previously given a succinct account of the town itself.

In whatever direction the stranger approaches St. Alban's his attention is immediately arrested by the venerable appearance of the Abbey, which is perhaps not only the most antient, but also the most perfect building, if we consider the number of centuries it has lasted, to be found in the island. This edifice, as we have already remarked, was founded during the Saxon heptarchy, by Offa, king of Mercia, by way of atonement for his numberless atrocities. This account of its origin is disputed by several; but it is not our province to enter into the lists of controversy, and occupy the time of our readers with fruitless researches into the authenticity of all the idle tales which monkish superstition has handed down to our days. It is enough that we adhere to the accounts generally received, at least till the *authenticity* of other accounts is *fully* established.

Offa having founded this church, and removed the remains of the proto-martyr Albanus to it, with all due ceremony, encircling his skull with a golden coronet, inscribed with his name and title, and enclosing his body in a magnificent shrine, covered with gold and silver plates, consecrated the building to the memory of, and called it after the saint, and afterwards, desirous of obtaining the pope's sanction to his proceedings, and the necessary immunities and privileges for the abbey which he had resolved upon founding, he undertook a journey, which proved unsuccessful, to Rome, by the advice

of his counsellors. The only result of this expedition was the burthening of this country with the shameful tax of Peter-Pence, which was, during a long succession of years, levied throughout the island.

Having thus returned without accomplishing the object of his mission, Offa called a council of his nobles and prelates at Verulam, to take into consideration the founding of an abbey, with endowments the most ample. The plans being at length finally arranged, he laid with his own hand the first stone of the new structure, the ceremony being performed with all the requisite solemnity; St. Alban being solemnly invoked as the patron and protector of the new institution; imprecations denounced against all who should injure it, and blessings promised to all its benefactors.

The abbey being thus founded, Offa collected from houses of the most rigid discipline, a convent of monks, over whom he placed Willegod, a near relative of his own, as first abbot; and granting the most extensive privileges to the foundation, endowed it with the utmost liberality for the perpetual support of 100 Benedictine monks, who were required to open their gates, and hospitably entertain all travellers who should pass that way and require their assistance.

Such an interest did Offa take in the prosperity of his new establishment, that, as tradition informs us, he abandoned his schemes of ambition, and reforming his life hitherto stained with numberless murders, robberies, and other atrocities, devoted almost the entire of his remaining days in watching over the abbey with all the fondness of a parent, and actively superintending and directing the completion of the several buildings. Having thus endeavoured by repentance and devotion to make his peace with Heaven, and atone for the vices of his youth, this prince having witnessed the completion  
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of his works, and the prosperous commencement of his establishment, retired to his palace at Offley, near Hatching, in the north-west corner of the county, and there terminated the career of his chequered life, in the year 796; his remains were deposited in a chapel founded on the banks of the Ouse in Bedfordshire, not far from the town of Bedford; the structure and tomb are however reported to have been shortly after carried away and destroyed by a flood.

About two months after Offa's death, his relative Willegod, the abbot of St. Alban's, died, as some say through grief at being refused permission to inhumate the remains of Offa in the monastery of which he had been the liberal founder.

Willegod was succeeded in his office by a succession of abbots, of extremely various and opposite characters. The third, whose name was Vulsig or Ulsin, was too much addicted to hunting and intemperance of every sort, to attend to the austere discipline of the establishment, which under him was shamefully relaxed, and numberless abuses resulted from his scandalous practices and example. To undo these was, at the commencement of his abbotship, the chief object of his successor Vulnoth's exertions; soon however the contagion of vice insnared him also, and the progress of reformation was suspended for some years, till, struck with compunction for this dereliction of his duty, Vulnoth roused himself from the intoxication of pleasure, applied himself with the most successful assiduity to the reformation not only of the vices of his brethren, but also his own, and having brought back the establishment to its original purity, and led for many years a life of the most exemplary and rigid sanctity, died at an advanced age, universally admired and regretted. The abbotship of his successor opened with a repetition of the licentious festivities of Vulsig; till conscience being aroused from  
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her torpor, Aedrig resigned his office, and passed the remainder of his days in religious retirement.

Ulsinus, who was appointed upon Aedrig's resignation, distinguished himself chiefly by his liberality to the inhabitants of the town, for whose accommodation he founded no less than three churches, viz. St. Peter's, St. Michael's, and St. Stephens.

Aelfric, the seventh abbot, is celebrated for his piety and learning. He purchased from Edgar the great fish-pool, formed by an expansion of the waters of the river Vere, and which had been a source of much disturbance to the abbey, from the crowds of visitors that frequented it for the purpose of witnessing the entertainments frequently given here by the Saxon Monarchs, who had, as we have already noticed, a palace hard by called Kingsbury. Aelfric having purchased the pool, opened a deeper channel for the river, and cut away the embankments, which had been constructed for the confinement of the water, leaving only a small pool for the convenience of the abbey.

Aelfric's successor, Ealdred, who was the eighth abbot, was the first who took measures for the rebuilding of the abbey church, with which view he collected building materials, most of which he procured from among the ruins of ancient Verulam, discovering at the same time a multitude of antiquities. Death however interrupted the execution of his designs.

His successor Eadmer continued the task of collecting materials, and exploring antiquities; it was in the progress of his researches that the history of St. Alban's in the ancient British language, of which we have elsewhere taken notice, was found, as also various other curious antiquities, and among the rest a large collection of coins, which the mistaken zeal of the prelate consigned to total destruction.

The treasures that had been reserved, and the materials which had been collected by the two last abbots, were expended by their successor Leofric,

who was son to the Earl of Kent, in relieving the miseries of the poor during a dreadful famine which happened in his time. This worthy man was promoted in 993 to the archiepiscopal see of Canterbury, and succeeded in the abbey his younger brother Aelfric, the second abbot of that name, in whose time the Danes committed shocking depredations in this vicinity. Upon his death Leofstan, confessor to Edward, and his Queen Edith, was appointed to succeed him. In his government the abbey received many advantages; and the manor of Flamstead was granted by him to Thurnoth, a valiant knight, and his two fellow soldiers, Waldeof and Thurman, upon condition that they would guard the roads in the vicinity of the Chiltern Hills, which were rendered dangerous for travelling by the ferocity of the wild beasts, and depredations of the robbers, who found shelter in the forests and woodlands which abounded hereabouts: these knights were also bound to fight in defence of the abbey, whenever it stood in need of their assistance.

Frederic, a divine of royal blood, and nearly related to the celebrated Canute, was installed abbot of St. Alban's in the year 1066. This prelate was among the most effectual opposers of William the Conqueror's progress through this island, impeding his march by trees felled and laid across the roads in the vicinity of Berkhempestead; and even after the submission of the country to the successful arms of the Norman, Frederic still endeavoured to preserve his independence, but was at last obliged to seek for refuge from the resentment of the king in the monastery of Ely, where grief soon brought his years to an end.

Upon Frederic's flight and subsequent death, William meditated wreaking his vengeance upon the abbey, which, with its possessions, he seized and would have totally destroyed, but for the solicitations of Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury, through

through whose interposition Paul, a Norman, was appointed to the vacant abbacy.

Under his government the rudification of the abbey church, so favourite a design with many of his predecessors, was commenced, and most of the old buildings belonging to the monastery were rebuilt with the vast mass of materials already collected for that purpose. Towards this pious work, Lanfranc contributed the sum of 1000 marks; and Ansylm, his successor in the see of Canterbury, contributed further towards the completion of the undertaking, which Paul accomplished in the space of about 16 years, completely rebuilding the church, as Matthew Paris informs us, "*totam ecclesiam Sancti Albani, cum multis aliis ædificiis, (Paulus) opere construxit lateritio.*" Under the abbotship of Paul, the abbey was much enriched, not only by the benefactions of the devout, and the restitution of several of the possessions which had been alienated from it, but also by the gifts of Paul himself, who besides instituted several new ordinances, and made many valuable regulations; he died in 1095.

Upon the vacancy occasioned by Paul's death, William Rufus for some time kept the abbey vacant, and appropriated its possessions to his own use.—Richard de Albany was, however, at last appointed, and by him the church, which had been completed by his predecessor, was consecrated, in the presence of a large concourse of nobles, foreign as well as English, with Henry I. and his consort, upon the Christmas of 1115.

Geoffrey de Gorham, a Norman, succeeded Richard, who died in the year 1119; and this abbot directed his attention chiefly to the splendid embellishment of the abbey, and the erection of a superb shrine for the relics of St. Albanus, which were, upon the completion of the work, removed into it with all due ceremony. Geoffrey made considerable additions to the monastic buildings, and also founded



the nunnery at Sopurl, and an hospital for lepers in the vicinity of St. Alban's.

Upon Geoffrey's death, about the year 1147, Ralph was appointed, but was soon obliged, from the infirm state of his health, to resign the office when he was succeeded by Robert de Gorham, the 18th abbot, who, by his influence with Pope Adrian IV. (a native of Abbots Langley in this county, and the only Englishman who ever sat in the chair of St. Peter, as pontiff), obtained many valuable privileges and exemptions for this monastery; and among others the right of precedency for its abbots, and exemption from all ecclesiastical jurisdiction whatever, the papal alone excepted.

Hence arose great contention between him and the bishop of Lincoln, who, prior to this period, had exercised episcopal authority over this abbey, and matters proceeded to such lengths as to require the royal interposition. After a turbulent government, in which, however, he generally rose superior to opposition, Robert died in 1166, and left the abbacy at the disposal of Henry II. who, engaged in continual opposition to the usurpations of the Papal dominion, by which bulls were in vain fulminated, and sentences of excommunication pronounced against him, kept the abbey vacant for many months; till at length the persuasions of Gilbert Foliot, bishop of London, prevailed with him to appoint Prior Simon, who was accordingly installed in the June of 1167, and gained great reputation for his literary acquirements, and added considerably to the library founded by his predecessor.

His death, which happened in 1183, was followed by the appointment of Warren, a native of Cambridge, a man of overbearing and insolent manners, remarkable chiefly for his successful opposition to the renewed claim of episcopal jurisdiction, made by the bishop of Lincoln. This abbot died, lamented by none, in the year 1194, and bequeathed the sum  
of



of 100 marks to be expended by his successor John of the Cell, in rebuilding the west front of the abbey church.

This abbot, celebrated for the extent and profundity of his learning, soon after his appointment began the application of the bequest, but adopting too extensive a plan soon expended the 100 marks; and after having contributed to the work large sums from his own private purse, died without seeing it far advanced.

The turbulent times which followed his decease prevented his successor, William de Trumpington, from proceeding in the work for many years; peace being at length, however, restored, he resumed the undertaking, which he completed, and also effected a thorough repair of the whole building.

His successor, John of Hertford, added not a little to the buildings of the monastery, erecting a magnificent hall and other apartments for strangers, and also adding chimnies, which had hitherto been wanting. While he continued abbot, this place was honoured with frequent visits from Henry III. who upon these occasions always made some present to the church. This prince, in the spring of 1248, granted to the abbot and his successors the liberty of free-warren in all their estates, authorising their infliction of a penalty of 10l. upon any persons who, unlicensed by them, should dare to hunt upon their manors. The charter conveying this right, is dated at Woodstock, in the month of May, 1248. During this abbotship an alarming earthquake was felt here, but we are not informed whether any injury resulted from it: this fell out in the year 1250, about 10 years before abbot John's death, which happened in the year which followed the death of that excellent historian, Mathew Paris, to whose labours we are not a little indebted.

In the succeeding abbotship of Roger de Norton, owing to the ravages resulting from the wars be-

tween the king and the barons, St. Alban's was surrounded with strong fortifications. This abbot died in 1301; but of the government of his successor John Maryns, we know nothing further than that he terminated his abbotship and life in 1308, and was succeeded by Hugo de Eversden.

This abbot was involved in continued litigations with the inhabitants of the town, which were finally terminated by his being obliged to make the most ample and indeed disgraceful concessions. This turbulent abbot died in 1326, and was followed by Richard de Wallingford, a blacksmith's son, distinguished for his talents and learning; he constructed an ingenious piece of mechanism, called Albion, of which Leland gives an interesting description, which we shall transcribe for the gratification of our readers:

“Willing” says the historian, “to give a miraculous proof of his genius, of his learning, and of his manual operations, with great labour, greater expence, and very great art, he formed such a fabric of a clock, that all Europe, in my opinion, cannot shew one even second to it; whether you note the course of the sun, and moon, or the fixed stars; and whether you consider again the increase, or decrease of the sea, or the lines with the figures and demonstrations, almost infinitely diversified: and when he had completed a work truly worthy of immortality, he wrote and published in a book, as he was the very first of all the mathematicians of his time, a set of canons, lest so fine a piece of mechanism should be lowered in the erroneous opinion of the monks, or should be stopped in its movements from their ignorance of the order of its structure.”

Richard contended with success for the claims of the abbey, and obtained from the townspeople a formal surrender of all the privileges which they had extorted from his predecessor; and, having thus benefitted the establishment, died much respected and lamented in 1335.

Michael

Michael de Mentmore succeeded him. This abbot introduced several new regulations, and repaired the roof and south part of the transept: he was cut off by the plague in the year 1349; and was succeeded by Thomas de la Mare, in whose time the abbey was brought into great danger, by the celebrated insurrection under Jack Straw and Wat Tyler. The prudence of the abbot, however, by making timely and reasonable concessions averted the danger; and shortly after, upon the suppression of the tumults and execution of the principal rioters, regained by royal proclamation all that had been extorted from him.

Dela Mare expended considerable sums in repairing and beautifying the abbey and its church, which never enjoyed more splendour than under his government. He died in 1396, and John de la Moote succeeded him. Under this abbot many new privileges were obtained from the Pope, and various additions made to the buildings of the abbey. John died of a pleurisy upon the 11th of November, 1400. His successor William de Heyworth, retained the abbotship till the year 1421, when he was advanced to the bishopric of Litchfield.

John of Whethampstead was appointed to succeed him. Under this abbot the abbey church underwent many necessary and considerable repairs.—Apprehensive of being involved in the political troubles which he foresaw were approaching, and the reverse of fortune which he observed to threaten his best friend Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, Whethampsted, contrary to the earnest solicitations of his brethren, who were sincerely attached to him, resigned his office in the year 1440.

The abbotship of his successor John Stoke is undistinguished in the annals of history; his feeble administration terminated with his life in the year 1451, when Whethampstead was re-appointed to the office, which he held till the period of his death in

1462; his second government was remarkable for the two sanguinary battles which were fought in the vicinity of St. Alban's, between the adherents of the houses of York and Lancaster.

Of the particulars of the government of William Alban, Whethampstead's successor, we know nothing; that of William Wallingford, who next followed, is remarkable for the introduction of the art of printing into the monastery; a small volume, intitled "*Rhetorica nova Fratris Laur. Gul. de Saona, ord. Minorum. Imp. ap, Villam St. Albani,*" being the first typographic essay of the monks.

This abbot died in the August of 1484, and after a considerable time was elapsed, Henry VII. appointed Thomas Ramryge Abbot, whose death is supposed to have taken place about the year 1523. When Cardinal Wolsey, resigning his bishopric, took this abbey in commendam.

Upon Wolsey's death in September, 1530, Robert Catton was appointed his successor, who, upon several charges of mal-administration being preferred against him, was removed, and his place supplied by Richard de Stevenaghe, in whose time the abbey was surrendered to the crown, and its possessions dispersed among the fawning sycophants of the court. Sir Richard Lee having obtained a grant of the site of the abbey, commenced its demolition almost immediately. Fortunately the abbey church was retained somewhat longer by the crown, and thus preserved from sacrilegious destruction. In 1553 it was purchased from Edward VI. by the inhabitants of the town, and converted into the parochial church of the borough.

Having thus given a succinct sketch of the history of this church from its foundation by Offa to the period at which it became parochial, we shall now proceed to an equally concise description of it.

The form of the building is that of a cross, from the intersection of whose arms a large square tower, supported

supported by four large semicircular arches, springs. As will be seen from our abridged account, this church, as it at present stands, was the work of different periods, the parts in the centre being those of the most remote date, while the eastern and western fronts are much more recent: from this circumstance arises also a dissimilarity in the architecture which strikes the eye immediately.

Yet, notwithstanding these disadvantages, the abbey church presents on every side a venerable and imposing aspect when beheld from some distance; a nearer approach deprives it, however, of much of that dignity which distance lends it.

“Tis distance lends enchantment to the view,” as Campbell beautifully expresses himself.

The tower is the least dilapidated part of the structure; its lowermost and most ancient part is divided into three stories, the uppermost of which is terminated by battlements and a spire, both of which are of more modern erection.

A narrow range of pointed arches, seemingly altered from round ones, and which were formerly windows, extend to the transept along the upper part of the north and south walls of the nave.—There are strong and substantial buttresses along all the eastern part of the church, which is also furnished with battlements. Some beautiful architectural remains may be still found in the chapel of the Blessed Virgin, which is now converted into a grammar-school. Octagonal embattled turrets, of which a few are of the Norman æra, rise above the roof, terminating the east end of the choir, and the extremities of the transept.

At the west end is the grand entrance through a projecting porch, richly ornamented. Upon entering the church at this door, the attention is immediately arrested by the singular effect resulting from the diversities of the style of architecture. The appearance of the columns and arches of the nave,  
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notwithstanding the dissimilarity so strikingly evident between many of them, is very grand ; and the coup d'oeil very imposing.

From its antiquity many persons would be led to expect that this church contained many curious and costly monuments ; but in this expectation the antiquarian will find himself sadly disappointed. Of the brass monumental plates which formerly abounded in this church, but one has been permitted to remain, the remainder having been for the most part taken away by Cromwell's soldiers. This surviving plate is of large dimensions, measuring 10 feet by four, and is commemorative of Thomas de la Mare, the 30th abbot, of whom we have already taken notice. The figure of the abbot appears engraved on this plate, dressed in his canonicals, with his crosier and mitre. Upon an ornamented border, which surrounds the plate, is engraved his name, age, &c. The workmanship of this plate furnishes us with a good specimen of the abilities of the artists of that age ; and of the splendour which formerly attended the interment of persons of distinction.

Opposite to the south door is the richly sculptured monument of Humphrey (surnamed the Good,) Duke of Gloucester, brother to Henry V. In front is placed an iron railing, for the preservation of the figures from mutilation. The vault is beneath the chancel, and was accidentally discovered early in the last century ; when first opened the body was found in perfect preservation, floating in strong pickle, which however soon evaporated, leaving the body to decay ; the skeleton has since that time been almost entirely carried away by the curious, who regard such thefts in general as no way criminal. At the foot of the corpse was painted on the wall a crucifix with a chalice, upon each side of the head, another at the middle, and another at the feet, to receive the blood trickling from the wounds ;

wounds; time has nearly effaced this painting. Not far from the duke's monument, in the south aisle, is an inscription to his memory, from the pen, as Sandford, author of a genealogical history, informs us, of Dr. Westerman, rector of Sandridge and Bushey. It is in Latin as follows:

Piæ Memorix, V. Opt.

Sacrum,

Serotinum,

Hic jacet HUMPHREDUS, Dux ille GLOCESTRIUS olim,  
HENRICI Sexti Protector, fraudis ineptæ

Detector, dum ficta notat miracula cæci :

Lumen erat Patriæ, Columnen venerabili regno,

Pacis amans, Musisq. favens melioribus, unde

Gratum opus *Oxonio*, quæ nunc Schola sacra refulgit,

Invida sed mulier Regno, Regi, sibi, nequam

Abstulit hunc humili, via hoc dignata sepulchro

Invidia rumpente tamen, post Funera vivat.

DEO GLORIA.

In the choir, which comprehends all that portion of the church intercepted between the altar, or, as it is more frequently called, Wallingford's screen, and the western arch of the tower (which with the other three arches, springs from pillars of uncommonly massive strength,) contains two superb monuments, erected the one to the memory of Abbot Ramryge and the other to that of Abbot Whethampstead. Of these monuments the first or Ramryge's occupies the lower part of a large pointed arch, originally opening into the north aisle, and handsomely finished with fluted and groined mouldings.

The sculpture of Ramryge's monument is exquisitely beautiful, and in the highest preservation; the roof is carved in a fan-like manner, with pendants and circles of quatrefoils. Three large niches, covered with canopies, carved in the same manner as the roof, are placed at each extremity, the intermediate spaces are occupied by several  
lesser



lesser niches, and over the canopies are towers carved in relief. A cornice of foliage, terminated at the angles by human heads and those of other animals, one of the former of which has the stem of a vine tendril in its mouth, runs immediately below the niches. Underneath this are placed at each end three armorial shields, supported by rams, sculptured in alto-relievo, and ornamented with collars, charged with the letters RYCE, upon their necks. A double row of narrow arches, with cinquefoil heads, runs along each side of the monument; and upon the square extremities of an embattled cornice below are beautiful though minute ornaments, sculptured in relief, and remarkably sharp and well defined. Various small sculptures, representing a shield charged with the arms of the abbey, a lion, &c. occupy the space over the door, opening from the choir into the monument: a representation of the martyrdom of Amphibalus, Albanus' *compagnon de voyage* upon his expedition to Rome, may be still traced upon the spandril of the arch of this door; time has however considerably injured the carving. Various shields and other devices are to be seen upon other parts. A double range of richly canopied niches, which terminate pyramidically over the interposed arches, occupy part of the south side also. The following inscription is graven round the upper part of the monument:

*Sancti spiritus assit nobis gratia; veni Sancto Spiritus  
repte tuorum corda fidelium et tui amoris in eis  
ignem accende. Amen.*

Opposite to Ramryge's monumental chapel is situated, beneath one of the great arches of the choir, a simple but highly elegant monumental chapel, erected to the memory of the Abbot Whithampstead, and consisting in the lower part of a canopy, the roof of which is fretted, and into which an obtuse



obtuse arch opens, beneath this canopy is a slab of blue stone upon which was formerly a large brass plate, sculptured, with the effigy of the abbot, dressed in his canonicals, but this has long shared the fate of the other plates, which abounded in this church. Above the canopy is a rich cornice containing three ears of wheat, which constituted the abbot's arms, frequently repeated. A range of square compartments, each charged with a different device, beautifully carved, runs above the cornice, and the words VALLES HABUNDABUNT are carved in relief upon each side of the monument. The following inscription is placed upon the wall above the monument.

JOHANNES

De loro frumentario.

Quis jacet hic? Pater ille JOHANNES, nomina magna

Cui WHETHAMSTEDIO parvula villa dedit

Triticæ in tumulo signant quoque nomen aristæ

Vitam res claræ, non Monumenta notant.

The choir, in which the above monuments are situated, is divided, as we have already noticed, from the presbytery by a most beautiful screen, commonly called Wallingford's, though, with more correctness, the Altar Screen. This is universally allowed to be one of the best specimens of the highly improved state of architectural ornament in England, at the period of its erection, which was during the reign of Edward IV. The elegance and symmetry of its proportions may be equalled, but cannot be exceeded, and notwithstanding the inferior workmanship of the centre part of the western side, which is vastly more modern, the general appearance of the screen is gracefully elegant. To prevent the confusion which would otherwise be almost unavoidable in our description, we shall divide the front of the screen into three grand compartments, consisting of a centre and two wings.

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Commencing

Commencing therefore with the centre, we observe in its lower part a double range of small niches richly canopied, above which are several rows of square compartments variously ornamented. The space between the uppermost row of these compartments, and the rich cornice and open work, which constitute the summit of the screen, is occupied by five elegant canopies. The wings consist of three divisions each, of which that in the centre contains in its lowermost part a pointed doorway, the sides of which are ornamented with ranges of quatrefoils circularly disposed, having above them oak leaves and shields charged with the arms of England and France quarterly upon the south side of the arch, and those of Whethamsted upon the north. Above the arched doorway are two richly canopied niches of considerable size. The lateral divisions correspond with each other in their decorations, which consist of three large and highly finished niches with tower pedestals, and exquisitely sculptured canopies. The decorations of the wings also correspond; and the angles interposed between the divisions are each furnished with six small niches, which rise to the summit of the screen.—Canopied niches and corresponding pinnacles ornament the space, intervening between the screen and the arches, against which it rests upon each side. Its eastern side is far from being decorated with the profusion of ornament which has been bestowed upon that to the west. Its central division consists of a flat blank arch, containing quatrefoils circularly arranged, and trefoil-headed arches. The abbey arms, having angels for their supporters, are placed in a shield over this arch, and above them is a canopied niche. The arms of Abbot Whethamstead are placed over the door ways in the wings, with canopied niches above them, and higher up plain narrow arches, having trefoil heads, and small buttresses with pinnacles interposed between them, the whole being

being surmounted with an exceeding richly sculptured cornice, over which is a crest of ornamental open work.

A flag in the centre of the pavement of the presbytery, which occupies nearly all the space east of the screen, bears the following inscription :

S : ALBANUS  
VEROLAMENSIS  
ANGLORUM  
PROTOMARTYR  
XVII JUNII  
CCXCVII.

This inscription is in point of date at variance with the traditional account we have given elsewhere ; but controversy is not our province.

The pavement of the choir, and many other parts of the church, contains the impressions of numberless brasses which have been at different times stolen. The tower of the church contains a good ring of bells, and a set of chimes. Upon public occasions the mayor and aldermen go in procession to this church, in which are seats appropriated to them. The extent of the building is in its greatest length about 550 feet, and its greatest breadth 217 : from the top of the tower the prospect is beautiful and extensive.

Of the monastic buildings formerly belonging to the abbey, and which appear to have stood upon the south and south-west sides of the church, no vestiges now remain, except the Great Gate House, and a few cottages, said to have constituted part of the king's stable. The dilapidated arches, of which traces can still be observed along the walls of the church, clearly point out the situation of the principal cloisters.

Upon the same side as that on which the Gate-house stands are two arched passages, opening into the fields, and called by the adjoining inhabitants

the *Monk's Holes* : their mouths are nearly choked up with rubbish of various kinds. The principal of these passages has been explored for the length of about 248 feet, where a bar was put to all further progress by the falling in of part of the arch, and consequently of the superincumbent stratum of earth ; the direction it took was northerly, which, from a small opening upon the left, it appears to preserve throughout its whole length.

Much pains and labour seem to have been bestowed upon the construction of this passage, the bottom of which consists of massy blocks of free stone, and its sides are formed, to the height of between twelve and fourteen inches, by semicircular blocks, but of much smaller dimensions, above which, as high as the spring of the arch, they are composed of several courses of hewn flint ; the arch is semicircular, and constructed of Roman tiles set edgeways. The floor of this passage gradually ascends towards the north, the direction towards which it tends.

The second passage closely resembles that just described, in its construction ; its mouth is more obstructed with rubbish, and it is in a much more ruinous condition ; the use of both seems to have been the same, and this we are inclined to imagine was to carry off the foul water, &c. from the abbey.

The remaining churches belonging to Saint Alban's are those of St. Michael, and St. Peter ; of these the first is situated at the west entrance into the town, within the walls of Verulam, in size it is inferior to St. Peter's, and appears to have been founded towards the middle of the 10th century by Abbot Ulsinus. Its architecture is indisputably Saxon, as its massy columns and plain semicircular arches fully testify. It has been subjected to many modern alterations ; but the greater part of the structure still wears the venerable garb of antiquity. In the tower is a good ring of six bells. The living

is a vicarage in the gift of Lord Grimstone, whose family vault is under the chancel.

Upon the north side of the chancel, in a niche in the wall, is an alabaster effigy of the famous Francis Bacon, Lord Verulam; he is represented as sitting in an ebony chair, in the attitude of profound study. Underneath is inscribed the following epitaph, from the classic pen of Sir Henry Wotton.

FRANCISC. BACON, BARO. DE VERULAM, STI. ALBANI  
VIE. MES

Seu notioribus titulis,  
Scientiorum lumen, Facundiæ Lex,  
Sic sedibat.

Qui postquam omnia naturalis sapientiæ  
Et civilis arcana evolvisset  
Naturæ decretum explevit  
Composita Solvantur.  
Ano. Dni. M.DC.XXVI.  
Aetat. LXVI.

Tanti viri  
Mem.  
THOMAS MEAUTYS,  
Superstitis cultor  
Defuncti admirator  
H. P.

This has been translated as follows :

FRANCIS BACON,  
Baron of Verulam, Viscount St. Alban's,  
or, by more conspicuous titles,  
Of Science the Light, of Eloquence the Law,  
Sat thus :

Who, after all natural Wisdom,  
 And Secrets of civil life, he had unfolded,  
     Nature's law fulfilled  
 Let Compounds be dissolved !  
 In the year of our Lord 1626 ; of his age 66.

Of such a man that the memory might remain,  
     THOMAS MEAUTYS,  
 Living, his attendant ; dead, his admirer,  
     Placed this monument.

Lord Bacon, the illustrious subject of the foregoing inscription, was the son of Sir Nicholas Bacon, lord keeper of the great seal under Elizabeth, who was married to Anne, daughter of Sir Anthony Cooke, a lady of the most profound erudition, and brilliant talents. Francis, the illustrious son of such distinguished parents, was born in the year 1560, and even in his infancy gave indications of the most uncommon abilities, united with the greatest and most unwearied assiduity in the pursuit of knowledge and investigation of truth ; his cleverness gained him even in his earliest youth the admiration of Elizabeth. At Cambridge where he completed his education, his talents gained universal applause. While prosecuting his studies at the university he detected the fallacies of the then customary mode of philosophizing, which at a more mature age he published to the world, and laid down those laws which opened the way to all the brilliant and surprising discoveries of modern days. His university education being completed, he commenced his travels, from which the unexpected death of his father suddenly recalled him ; upon which he applied himself to the study of the common law at Gray's Inn, and soon elevated himself to the highest dignities of his profession. But his character was not without a blemish—*Humanum est errare* ;  
 and

and even the illustrious Bacon fell from the giddy height he had so proudly attained. After his disgrace he applied himself wholly to literary and philosophical pursuits, enriching the world with his discoveries, and enlightening it by his reasonings. His love for philosophy was the immediate cause of his death, of which the following narrative is given by Aubrey, in his MSS. which are now deposited in the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford.

“The cause of his lordship’s death, was trying an experiment as he was taking the aire in the coach with Dr. Witherborne, a Scotchman, physitian to the King, towards Highgate: snow lay upon the ground; and it came into my Lord’s thoughts, why flesh might not be preserved in snow, as in salt. They were resolved they would try the experiment presently: they alighted out of the coach, and went into a poor woman’s house at the bottome of Highgate-hill, and bought a hen, and made the woman exenterate it, and then stuffed the bodie with snow; and my Lord did help to do it, himself. The snow so chilled him he immediately fell so ill, that he could not return to his lodgings (I suppose then at Gray’s Inn), but went to the Earl of Arundell’s house at Highgate, where they put him into a good bed, warmed with a panne; but it was a damp bed, that had not been lain for about a yeare before, which gave him such a cold, that in two or three days, as I remember he told me, he died of suffocation.”

St. Peter’s, the other parish church, is situated upon an eminence to the north-east of the town upon the road to Luton in Bedfordshire. Though founded about the same time with that of St. Michael’s, this church appears, from the style of its architecture, to have been rebuilt during the reign of Henry III. It has been frequently repaired since that period, and for the purpose of keeping it in good condition, trustees have been recently appointed, by act of parliament, with a power of levy-  
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ing a rate upon the parishioners, whenever the state of the church requires it.

The appearance of the interior of this church is light and elegant ; it consists of a nave, separated by a double tier of lofty arches, which rest upon well-proportioned clustered pillars, from the aisles upon either side. Previous to its last repairs, this church contained many curious antient monuments and inscriptions upon brasses. Among the modern monuments we notice a neat tablet, erected against the west wall at the end of the nave, and inscribed to the memory of Robert Clavering, M. B. one of the scholars of Christ Church College, Oxford, who died at the early age of 29 years, in the June of 1747. His many virtues are set forth at length in a Latin epigraph, beneath which are the following beautiful lines from the pen of Dr. Cotton :

“ Oh ! come who know the childless parent’s sigh,  
The bleeding bosom, and the streaming eye ;  
Who feel the wounds a dying friend imparts  
When the last pang divides two social hearts :  
This weeping marble claims the generous tear :  
Here lies the friend, the son, and all that’s dear.  
He fell full blossom’d in the pride of youth,  
The nobler pride of science, worth, and truth.  
Firm and serene he view’d his mould’ring clay,  
Nor fear’d to go, nor fondly wish’d to stay ;  
And when the king of terrors he descry’d,  
Kiss’d the stern mandate, bow’d his head, and dy’d.”

HOLYWELL HOUSE, the delightful mansion of the Dowager Countess Spencer, is agreeably situated at the bottom of *Holy-well hill*, upon the north-eastern banks of the Vere, and close to the road leading to Watford. This house was originally founded by Sarah, the Dowager Duchess of the great Duke of Marlborough, whom we have mentioned in our account of St. Alban’s, as foundress of the extensive  
Alms-



Almshouses, situated upon the road leading hence to the town of Hertford. The principal front of this house, is decorated with an handsome pediment, the tympanum of which is charged with a number of military trophies, commemorative of the victories of her illustrious spouse. The apartments contain a few good portraits, some of which are by masters of eminence. The demesne annexed to the house, though of but small extent, is agreeably and judiciously laid out, evincing no small degree of taste in the proprietor. This place takes its name from a well which springs in that part of the lawn which is adjacent to the garden front, and was much frequented by the nuns of Sopwell, previous to the dissolution of their house.

The ruins of SOPWELL NUNNERY cover a large space of ground at the distance of about half a mile south-east of St. Alban's, and consist chiefly of large fragments of wall, constructed of an admixture of brick and flint. The gardens belonging to the nunnery are now converted into orchards. Upon a square tablet, placed in the wall, above the door leading into the principal garden, is still visible a dexter hand and arm elevated and bearing a broken sword; the label which contained the motto was carved above, but is now mutilated.

The origin of the name of this Nunnery is ascribed to an anecdote recorded of two of the first nuns of the establishment steeping their crusts in the waters of the adjoining well. We should be inclined to call such etymologies puerile, were it not that the age and apparent gravity of those whose delight it is to sport in these barren fields of research forbid us.

About one mile south-west of St. Alban's, upon the Watford road, is situated the antient church of St. Stephen, founded about the same period as St. Michael's and St. Peter's, by Abbot Ulsinus. This church, notwithstanding the numberless alterations

it has undergone at different periods, still presents a venerable appearance : it contains several interesting monuments.

About six miles south-west of St. Alban's, at a short distance to the west of the great road, is the village of ABBOTS LANGLEY, so denominated from having belonged formerly to the abbey at St. Alban's. The church is dedicated to St. Lawrence and is a spacious and handsome building, with a chapel connected to it. Here are some curious antique monuments

This parish has the reputation of having given birth to Adrian the Fourth, the only Englishman who ever attained to the pontifical dignity. Previous to his elevation he bore the name of Nicholas Breakspear. In his youth he exhibited no marks of that genius which finally raised him to so exalted a station. As a pontiff he was haughty and overbearing in the last degree, having refused to invest the Emperor Frederick with the imperial diadem till he had previously prostrated himself before him, and held the stirrup of his horse while he mounted. He enjoyed his dignity scarcely four years, dying in the year 1159, as many conjecture in consequence of being poisoned.

Returning to the turnpike road, we reach, at the distance of six miles and a half from St. Alban's, the large, populous, and bustling town of WATFORD. Brick is in general the article employed in the construction of the houses here, many of which are highly elegant, and are chiefly built along the side of the road.

This town is situated on a hill, whose elevation is about 80 or 90 feet. Part of the town extends beyond the foot of the hill, and through this part the river Colne runs, making a reach after it passes the houses, so as to pass by two sides of it.

The Church stands near the middle of the town, and is a large stone edifice, with a square tower of  
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about 90 feet high, surmounted by an hexagonal spire of about 20 feet, upon the summit of which is fixed a flying dragon, to shew the point from which the wind blows. In the tower there is a good ring of bells, as also a clock with chimes. The interior of the church is spacious, consisting of a nave, chancel, and aisles: there are two galleries for the accommodation of the congregation, and an organ-loft fronting the altar, and having, upon either side, galleries for the children of the charity-school. The cemetery, or burial place, of the Essex family, is situated upon the left side of the chancel: in it are several monuments, of which two, inscribed to the memory of two illustrious members of the Morison family, merit particular attention on account of the excellence of their workmanship, which was executed by Nicholas Stone. The first of these is commemorative of Sir Charles Morison, Knt. and consists of a pediment and canopy, which are supported by elegant pillars of the Corinthian order; beneath the canopy is placed the effigy of the knight, who is represented in armour, and recumbent, his beard such as we observe in most of Vandyke's portraits, with whiskers; he wears a large ruff about his neck; one hand rests upon the pommel of his sword, and a cushion supports his elbow. This figure is executed in white marble: upon two little tablets affixed to the south wall, is the following Latin inscription, in gilt characters:

Virtuti, Honori, et æternæ Memoræ  
 Clarissimi, et ornatissimi Viri Dni. CAROLI MORISONI  
 Equitis, aurati istius: Ecclesiæ Patrom hæreditarii  
 Et hujus Sacelli fundatoris,  
 Patris optimi et longe Marissimi,  
 CAROLUS MORISONUS  
 Equis Auratus, ac Baronettus  
 Pientissimus Filius  
 Hanc aram sepulchralem

(Supremum

(Supremum amoris et pietatis officium Pareni bene  
merenti Evolvendo)

In spem certissimam

Gloriosæ et Beatæ Resurrectionis

Pienter et officiose

Consecravit.

Opposite this is another monument, erected against the north wall, to the memory of Sir Charles Morison, Bart. son of the former Sir Charles. The execution of this, which is also Stone's workmanship, is very fine; upon a tomb, placed beneath a rich canopy, resting upon black Corinthian columns, enriched with wreaths of flowers, incircling them below their capitals, are the effigies of the baronet and his consort, well cut out of white marble. The baronet is represented in armour, reclining upon his right side, with a cushion under his right elbow, and his hand resting upon a skull; his beard is peaked, and he wears whiskers; his countenance is thoughtful. By his side is the effigy of his lady, in a recumbent posture, her head supported by a double pillow, her veil is thrown back, and she has a large ruff round her neck; with one hand she holds a robe fastened to her boddice by a diamond-headed pin. At the left end is the figure of a young lady kneeling upon a cushion; the drapery of this last is flowing, and is fastened over her left breast, with a diamond broach; she has a ruff round her neck; upon the opposite side are the figures of a youth and a boy, also kneeling upon cushions, with ruffs round their necks, and the youth wears an outer cloak and a sword. A large tablet of black marble bears a long Latin inscription in gilt characters, which our limits do not admit of our inserting. Upon the base of the monument is another Latin inscription, specifying that Sir Charles was born upon the 18th of April, 1587, and died upon the 20th of August, 1628.

Two large monuments, of the form of a parallelopiped, each supporting the figure of a woman in full dress, occupy the centre of the cemetery. — The following is inscribed upon the east end of one of them :

“ The monument of the Ladye Breget, Countesse Dowager of Bedford. A woman of singular sincerity in religion, in civill conversatione and integritie of life unspotted, in hospitalitie bountifull and provident, in all her actions discrete and honourable, in grete favour with her prince, and generally reputed one of the noblest matrons of England, for her wisdom and judgement. She was doghter of John, Lord Hassey, and she was thrise married, first to Sir Richard Morizon, Knt. then to Edward Manners, Earl of Rutland ; thirdly to Francys Russel, Earl of Bedford ; and she had issue only by her first husband, one sonne Sir Charles Morizon, Knt. and two doghters named Jana Sibilla, first married to Edward, Lord Russel, eldest sonne to her last husband the Earl of Bedford, afterwarde married to Lord Grey. The other doghter named Elizabeth, was first married to William Norreys, Esq. sonne and heir apparent to Lord Norreys, at whose charges this monument was hear erected, beinge herr soole executor and nephew, who hath married the Lady Briget Vere doghter to Edward, Earl of Oxford, afterward Elizabeth the second doghter, married Henry Clinton, Earl of Lincoln. This noble Countesse of Bedford livynge 75 yeares in most honourable reputation, died most quietly, answerably to her life in perfect sence and memorie, the 12th of Januarie, 1600, in the 43d yeare of our most gracious soveraine Queen Elizabeth.”

Upon the other monument also is a long inscription, declaratory of the many virtues of the Right Hon. Lady Dame Elizabeth Russel, to whose memory it was erected.

The nave aisles of the church also contain several monuments, which our limits do not permit us to notice.

In the church-yard is a large and handsome school house, built and endowed by Mrs. Elizabeth Fuller, widow, for 40 boys and 20 girls, who are also partly clothed. This school was built in the year 1764, during the life of its foundress, who had the satisfaction of witnessing the success of her labours previous to her death; since her time legacies have been let to the school by three charitable persons, the income is, however, still insufficient to clothe the children completely. The management is committed to nine trustees, elected from among the principal inhabitants of the town, such persons as are in any degree related to the family of the foundress being preferred.

A full length of Mrs. Fuller is placed in the school room, in which are also hung up, the regulations she established for the government of the school, which the master is required to read out publicly to the boys once every quarter. Lady Morrison gave 30*l.* a year for preaching a lecture in the church every Tuesday morning before the market bell rings.

There are eight alms houses here for the relief of a similar number of poor widows, whose weekly allowance consists of two shillings in cash; they have also 200 raggets, cloth for a gown, and new hats granted to them annually. The sum of 50*l.* per annum was also granted by Lady Dorothy Morrison, for annually apprenticing a number of poor children.

A little beyond the Church is situated the Market-house, a long structure, resting upon wooden pillars, and having its upper part rough cast. The market is held here every Tuesday for corn, cows, sheep, and hogs. There is a fair held here upon the Tuesday after Trinity Sunday; and a statute for hiring

hiring servants, upon the 9th of September; toys and pedlary ware are sold at both.

Watford not being a corporate town, its police is regulated by such magistrates belonging to the county as reside in it, or its vicinity. The poorer inhabitants derive employment in a considerable degree from the manufactories; three large silk mills having been erected upon the river Colne in the vicinity of the town.

Watford constituted, prior to the invasion of the Normans, a part of Cashior, along with which it was granted by Offa, upon his foundation of the monastery at St. Alban's, to the abbots of that establishment, who retained possession of it till the period of the Dissolution. Under the dominion of the abbots this manor obtained several privileges from the crown, Henry I. granting it a charter for holding a weekly market, and Edward IV. granting a similar charter, authorizing them to hold an annual fair and statute. The stewardship of this and of several contiguous manors was granted by Henry the Eighth, upon the Dissolution, to John, Lord Russel, of Chenies in the county of Bucks. This manor was afterwards granted by James I. to the Lord Chancellor Egerton, Baron of Ellesmere, in whose family it continued till the year 1760, when it was purchased by the Earl of Essex, whose descendants still possess it.

The population of the town, according to the last returns, is 3,530, and the number of its houses 691.

Quitting Watford, by the great road leading to London, we arrive, at the end of about one mile, at the village of BUSHEY, the Church of which is a small structure constructed with flint and rubble, having at its west end a tower, connected with the nave by a pointed arch. This edifice contains several monuments, none of which merit particular notice.



Leaving this village, a cross road which branches off at its southern extremity from the turnpike road, leads us to ELSIREE or IDLESTREE, a small village seated upon the confines of the county of Middlesex, and through which the turnpike road leading from London to St. Alban's, through Edgeware, passes.

The situation of this village is elevated, and not very remote from the site of an ancient Roman station called *Suttoniacæ*; the Roman road called Watling Street passes through it. The Church is a mean building, consisting of a nave, chancel, and one aisle upon the south side, connected with the nave by pointed arches springing from octagonal pillars. In the church-yard here, as we learn from the parish register, was interred, upon the 14th of April, 1779, Martha Ray, who fell an unfortunate victim, to the too violent but inauspicious attachment of her lover, the Rev. James Hackman, who upon the evening of the 7th of this month, shot her as she was getting into her carriage, after the play at Covent Garden Theatre, and immediately after made a similar attempt upon his own life, which, however, was prevented from taking effect by the interposition of the officers of police, who arrested him. The unhappy man, being soon after tried and sentenced at the Old Bailey, paid the penalty incurred by his crime on the fifth day after the burial of all that he held dear in this world, conducting himself to the last with the most perfect resignation and settled composure.

We here enter the county of Middlesex, at a short distance to the north of the 11th mile-stone from London, at the distance of 10 miles south south-east of St. Alban's by the most direct road, but by that which we have followed somewhat about thirteen miles.



*Journey from Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire to Harefield in Middlesex; through Drayton, Beauchamp, Tring, Berkhamsted, Watford, and Rickmansworth.*

Seven miles east of Aylesbury, a little beyond the eastern extremity of the little village of Drayton Beauchamp, we enter the county of Herts, and proceeding about one mile enter the small and irregularly-built town of TRING, the most westerly in this county, and not far distant from the course of the old Roman road, commonly known by the name of the Ikenield Way. It is eight miles east of Aylesbury, four miles east of Wendover, and 31 miles north-west of London.

During the Saxon heptarchy this town gave name to a hundred, of which it was the capital. The parish Church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is a spacious and well-proportioned structure, having a large square tower of considerable elevation at its west end, and its walls, which with the tower are embattled, strengthened by massive buttresses. The interior of the building is divided into a nave, aisles, and chancel. The nave and aisles are separated by six lofty pointed arches, springing from clustered columns of considerable height. The vestry occupies the lower part of the tower, which was originally connected with the nave by an acute arch. The timber frame-work of the roof rests at each side upon supporters, which are terminated by curious devices carved upon them, as a monkey holding a book and purse, Nebuchadnessar represented with a human face and long beard joined to a lion's body, and other emblems of this kind, productions of the artist's monstrous imagination — Within the church are several monumental tablets affixed to the walls, and the altar-piece is tolerably executed, representing Moses and Aaron, with the two tablets of the commandments.

Tring is distinguished for an atrocious occurrence which took place here in the year 1751. Some ignorant country people, alarmed at the mortality produced among their cattle by a contagious disorder then prevalent, attributed all the mischief to the witchcraft of John and Ruth Osborne, an old married couple of this town, and, assembling in a riotous manner, proclaimed their accusation to the public at the three neighbouring market-towns of Winstow, Leighton Buzzard, and Hemel Hempstead, upon their respective market days. The following was the form of the proclamation made at Hemel Hempstead.

“ This is to give notice, that on Monday next, a man and woman are to be publicly ducked at Tring in this county, for their crimes.”

According to this notice these bigotted and superstitious rioters seized the unfortunate victims of their persecutions, dragged them from the vestry of the church, to which, on account of its sanctity, they had fled as a place of refuge, and ducked them so severely, that the old woman, already weighed down almost to the grave by the pressure of years, affliction, and infirmities, expired upon the spot, and was followed in a very few days after by her aged husband. The coroner's verdict declaring that they were wilfully murdered, several of the ring-leaders in this barbarous transaction were brought to trial, and capitally convicted.

The Market House here is a sorry building, erected upon wooden pillars: the market is held weekly upon Friday for the sale of corn, straw plat, &c.; a pillory and cage are placed under the market-house. There is an annual fair held here upon the 29th of September. Here is a Charity-school for the education and clothing of twenty boys, and a Sunday-school has been founded within the last few years for the instruction of about 89 boys

boys and girls. The dissenters have four meeting-houses here.

The manufacture of straw plat constitutes the chief employment of the inhabitants, the number of whom amounts, according to the last returns, to 1621, and the number of houses to 328.

Adjoining to Tring, upon the south side of the road, is TRING PARK, the beautiful and extensive demesne of Sir Drummond Smith, who was raised to the rank of a baronet in the summer of 1804.—The dwelling-house is spacious, elegant, and commodious, pleasantly situated, and commanding, especially to the south, many rich and extensive prospects. The apartments are handsomely furnished, and in several of them there are some good paintings, among which we cannot avoid noticing a singular whole length of Queen Elizabeth, which hangs in the small drawing-room upon the right of the hall. This painting is not improbably a copy of that by Zuccherò, which hangs in the palace at Kensington. The queen's dress is extremely fanciful, and overloaded with ornaments; she rests her right hand upon the head of a stag, crowned with a chaplet of flowers; upon the trunk of a tree in the back ground is the following inscription :

*Injusta Justa Querela  
' Mea sic Mihi.  
Dolor est Medicina  
Dolori.*

At the foot of the tree upon a scroll are also inscribed the following stanzas; alluding to the swallows, who appear perched among the branches above :

“ The restless swallow fits my restless mind,  
In still renewing, still reviving wrongs ;  
Her just complaints of cruelty unkind,  
Is all the music that my life prolongs.

With

With pensive thoughts my weeping stag I crown,  
 Whose melancholy tears my cares express;  
 His tears in silence, and my griefs unknown,  
 Are all the physic that my harms redress.

My only hope was in this goodly tree,  
 Which I did plant in love, bring up in care;  
 But all in vain, for now too late I see  
 The shells be mine, the kernels others are:  
 My music may be plaints, my physic tears,  
 If this be all the fruits my love-tree bears."

The Ball-room, which is situated over the hall, is a handsome room, illuminated by a circular dome.

Tring Park contains about 350 acres of excellent land, beautifully diversified by hill and dale, richly wooded, and well stocked with deer.

Upon the opposite side of the road, close to the Braunston canal, is TRING GROVE, agreeably situated in a small park; this is at present the residence of Mr. Broadwood, brother to Lady Dashwood.

Further to the north-east of Tring, upon the banks of the river Gade, is situated the village of GADDES-DEN PARVA, so named from the little river which runs through it. The Church here is small, but contains several monuments. This parish is chiefly remarkable for being the birth-place of John de Gaddesden, a physician and writer of some eminence in the days of Chaucer.

To the south-east of the last-mentioned village, and deriving its name from the same river, upon whose banks it also stands, is the village of GADDES-DEN MAGNA, in the vicinity of which is GADDES-DEN PLACE, the elegant seat of——Halsey, Esq. built about 40 years since, by the late Thomas Halsey, Esq. In the church belonging to this parish are several monuments to the memory of persons of this family.

Returning

Returning to the turnpike road, we reach BERKHAMSTED, a small town, which consists chiefly of one street, extending for about half a mile along the road, from which a lesser one branches off near the church, towards the ruins of the castle; it is built of brick, without much attention having been paid to uniformity either in the height or in the architecture of the houses; some of which are extremely handsome, being the residence of families of respectability. This town is situated upon the great road leading from London to Aylesbury, and is distant about four miles south-east of Tring, four miles west of Hemel Hempsted, nine miles west of St. Alban's, eleven miles north-west of Watford, and twenty-six miles north-west of London. Antiquarians are not agreed as to its origin; some asserting it to have been a Roman station, and, grounding their opinion upon the discovery of some Roman coins found in its vicinity, these antiquaries would make it out to be the site of the *Durobrivæ* of the Itinerary. Others, on the contrary, and with no small appearance of reason, argue from its name that this was a town of the Saxons, who called it from its situation *Berghamstedt*, or the *town among the hills*. Upon the north side of the town are the remains of an old Castle, which was very large and strong, having been surrounded by a moat that covers above four acres. Notwithstanding the dilapidated condition of the ruins, which still weather out the assaults of time, enough remains to testify its former impregnability and importance. The area included within the moat contains about eleven acres, and is nearly of an elliptical form; the ramparts are bold, and the moat in most places still deep and wide, especially to the north and east. Like the other fortresses of that age this seems to have consisted of three principal parts, an outer *ballium*, separated from the ditch by strong and inaccessible ramparts and divided

ded from the inner *ballium* also by a deep ditch. In the inner *ballium* were the buildings designed for habitations, at present a mass of ruins; and in the centre of this, upon an artificial mount of considerable elevation, having its base defended by a deep fosse and its sides rendered steep and difficult of access, was the keep, which still remains, and appears to have been of a circular form. This castle was formerly a palace belonging to the kings of Mercia, and under its protection the town gradually encreased in size and importance, insomuch that upon William's invasion from Normandy, this place was selected for the meeting between the Conqueror and the leading men of the party confederated against him.

Shortly after the conquest, William, forgetful of the solemn covenants of the treaty which he had so lately concluded, and to which alone he was indebted for the peaceable submission of the nation to his authority, deprived the natives of their possessions, with which he enriched his Norman followers, and among others his own half-brother Robert Earl of Mortaigne, to whom he granted the castle and manor of Berkhamsted.

Upon coming into possession of this fortress Mortaigne enlarged it considerably, and strengthened it with additional fortifications; but shortly after his death its ramparts were demolished, and the whole structure, according to some writers, razed to the ground, in consequence of his son William's rebellion against Henry I. However, we find that in the reign of Henry II. this castle was again fitted up, and converted into a royal residence, being inhabited at different times by that monarch, from whom at these times the inhabitants of the honour of Wallingford and Berkhamsted St. Peter's obtained sundry important privileges. The Crown retained possession of this castle and honour until

til the year 1207, when, "with the knights fee thereunto belonging," they were granted by John to Jeoffrey Fitz-Piers, Earl of Essex, in fee-farm, at the annual rent of 100l. This nobleman died in the year 1217, and the history of the castle is involved in much obscurity from that period during the space of about three years, when, it having again come into the possession of the Crown, was besieged by the Dauphin of France, whose assistance had been solicited by the Barons in their contest with the tyrant John. The castle was for some time gallantly defended, and during the siege the garrison was successful in two sallies made upon the same day; though unsubdued, it was however at length obliged to surrender, upon receiving orders from the King to that effect.

In the year 1228 the honour and castle of Berkhamsted were granted, in conjunction with the earldom of Cornwall, by Henry III. to his younger brother Richard, who was afterwards King of the Romans, and who had been of great service to him at the siege of the Castle of *Riole* in France.

Capricious however in disposition, and despotic in his dealings, Henry shortly after, upon some trifling quarrel with Richard, resumed the possession of Berkhamsted: which was however regranted to his brother in a little time, at the interposition of the Earls of Pembroke and Chester. In 1245 Henry granted the Earl of Cornwall the privilege of holding an annual fair during the space of eight days upon this manor. The earl died at his castle upon the 10th day of April 1272, and was succeeded by Edmund his son by his third wife Senchia; by him was founded a college of *Bon-hommes* at Ashridge in the county of Bucks, where he breathed his last upon the first of October 1300.

Upon the decease of this earl, his possessions at Berkhamsted and his earldom of Cornwall came once more into the possession of the crown, and were  
granted



granted by Edward I. to Piers Gaveston, who did not long however enjoy his dignities and possessions, having through his insolence brought himself to an early grave. From this time it passed through a variety of owners, and was held by various tenures, among which that by which Sir Edward Cary held it in the reign of Elizabeth, being the annual tribute of a red rose, was not perhaps the least remarkable. The recapitulation of its various masters would however be both tedious and unprofitable; suffice it therefore to say, in addition, that this manor at present belongs to the Prince of Wales, under whom it is held by John Roper, Esq. of Berkhamsted Place.

The parish Church of St. Peter's is a handsome gothic structure, built in the form of a cross; internally it is divided into a nave, chapel, and aisles; the nave and aisles are connected by six plain arches upon each side, springing from five whole and two half columns. From the intersection towards the west end the tower rises, being supported below by strong pointed arches. At its south-east corner is a projecting staircase, terminated by a turret. Upon the side of the tower next to the street is the representation of an angel, supporting a shield charged with the arms of England and France quartered together. In this church are several curious monuments. The living of Berkhamsted is in the gift of the King, and is estimated at 200l. per annum.

The Free-school here is a strong brick edifice, situated at the bottom of the Church-yard; it was founded principally through the exertions of Dr. Incent, dean of St. Paul's during the reign of Henry VIII.; who granted, as an endowment to it, the possessions of the fraternity of St. John the Baptist. It received further endowments in the following reign, being incorporated as a Royal foundation by the title of "The master, chaplain, and usher, of the



the free-school and chantry of Dean Incent, of Berkhamsted." The master has a handsome salary, and apartments at one end of the school-house, the right of appointment belongs to the king; the centre of the building is occupied by the school-room, and the other end by the apartments belonging to the chaplain and usher; the number of boys admitted upon the foundation is 144, it being required that all such are lawfully subjects of the king, and not the children of aliens; the building of this school-house occupied 20 years.

Besides the school just mentioned there is another, supported by voluntary contributions among the parishioners.

There is an Alms-House endowed with 50*l.* per annum for the relief of six poor widows; this was further enriched by the bequest of John Sayer, Esq. in the year 1681.

The chief trade of Berkhamsted consists in the manufacture of wooden bowls, &c. a considerable quantity of frause-lace also is made here by the female inhabitants.

Once only, in the 14th year of the reign of Edward III. do we find this town represented in parliament. It was incorporated by a charter from James I. about the year 1620; but this was lost in the troubles which followed during the distracted reign of his son. Shortly after the Restoration, an ineffectual attempt was made to revive this charter, nor has the attempt been since hazarded.

The weekly market for corn, &c. is held upon Monday; three fairs upon Shrove Monday, Whit Monday, and St. James's Day, and a statute fair for hiring servants upon the day following Old Michaelmas day. The population of the parish of Berkhamsted amounts, according to the last returns, to 1690 inhabitants, and the number of houses to 338. The little river Bulbourne, accompanied by

the Grand Junction Canal, washes the walls of the town upon the North.

Upon an agreeable eminence, close to the town is BERKHAMSTED PLACE, an irregular structure, built at different periods ; at this house most of the children of James I. were nursed. It is at present the residence of John Roper, Esq. whom we have already noticed as holding the manor of Berkhamsted under the Prince of Wales.

About five miles east of Berkhamsted is HEMEL HEMPSTED, a respectable market town, agreeably situated among hills, upon the banks of the little river Gade. This town is situated about seven miles west of Saint Alban's, and 20 north-west of London. The Church has a handsome tower, containing a good ring of bells, and surmounted by a lofty spire terminating in a vane ; it stands upon the west side of the town, in an extensive church-yard ; and from the style of its architecture seems to have been originally erected shortly after the Norman Conquest : it has however at various times undergone considerable repairs and alterations. Its form is that of a cross, from the intersection of which the tower rises : its interior consists of a nave, chancel, aisles, and transept. The nave is connected with the aisles, by semicircular arches, the mouldings of which are plain, zigzag, and billeted ; the pillars upon which they rest are in the true Norman style of architecture, massive and with square capitals.

The entrance at the west end is not at present used ; it presents us with a richly-ornamented recessed arch, springing, at each side, from two columns and two half columns ; the mouldings are richly sculptured, and the capitals all dissimilar. The tower rests upon semicircular arches, springing from large clustered pillars, with square capitals, the sculpture of each of which is different. This church contains a few ancient monuments.

The

The market-house is constructed of wood, without any ornament, and adjoining to it are the shambles neatly built of brick. The weekly market is held upon Thursday, and a fair annually upon the Thursday after Trinity-Monday.

In the time of the Saxons this town was called *Henamsted* or *Hean Hempsted*, signifying *High Hempsted*. After the Conquest it obtained the name of *Hemelamsteole*, since altered to its present name. Henry VIII. granted it a charter of incorporation, vesting the government in the hands of a bailiff, &c. and empowering the corporation to use a common seal, and hold a pie-powder court during its markets and fair. The wheat market here is reckoned the first in the county; much advantage is derived to this town from its vicinity to the Grand Junction Canal. Its population is estimated at 2,722, and the number of houses at 497.

As the bottom of the town is a neat modern edifice, called **HEMSTED BURY**, or the **BURY HOUSE**; built partly upon the site of the old mansion in which the then owner of the manor, John Waterhouse, Esq. formerly entertained king Henry VIII.; some remains of this old building are yet to be seen upon one side of the garden belonging to the present house, which belongs to a gentleman of the name of Hilton, one of the antient and illustrious family of that name in the county of Durham. The estate of Bury House, though consisting but of about 24 acres and a half, includes the entire town of Hemel Hempsted.

Three miles south-east of Hemel Hempsted, upon the banks of the little river Bulbourne, is the small irregular village of **KING'S LANGLEY**, which, notwithstanding its present insignificance, was formerly a place of royal residence, having being able to boast of a palace erected here by Henry III. and in which Edmund of Langley, Edward the Third's fifth son, was born. Of this once magnificent

structure, however, but few vestiges can be now traced: a farm-house, of no very prepossessing aspect, occupies part of its site. The estate belonging to it is now the property of Mary, the daughter and heiress of Mr. Thomas King; and is held on lease under her by a respectable brewer, who lives in the village. Here was formerly a Dominican priory, founded in the beginning of the 13th century, and afterwards richly endowed, especially by the munificence of Edward I. who granted the manor of Langley to it. Its annual revenues at the period of the Dissolution amounted to 150*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* as Speed informs us. The parish Church is a neat structure upon the left, having at its western extremity a large embattled tower. This church consists of a nave, chancel, and aisles, and contains many ancient monuments.

About a mile east of Langley, not far from Hunton Bridge, is the neat mansion of **LANGLEY BURY**, agreeably seated upon an eminence gently sloping from the river Gade, which flows along the north-east side of the park. This house, at present the residence of Long Kinsman, Esq. was originally founded, about the time of Charles II. by Raymond, the lord chief justice of the King's Bench.

At a short distance hence, upon the eastern bank, is the beautiful seat and park called **RUSSELL FARM**, the property of the Earl of Essex. A little further, upon the opposite side of the road, is another agreeable seat called **GROVE**, at present the seat of the Earl of Clarendon: it had originally belonged to the family of Heydons, and passed through a variety of hands till at length it came into the possession of the ancestors of its present proprietor. Grove House is agreeably situated upon the western bank of the Gade, which here flows through the park; the structure is of brick and extremely irregular; in the principal rooms are many valuable portraits, which our limits forbid us to notice.

Adjoining

Adjoining to Lord Clarendon's Park is the beautiful and extensive one belonging to George Canel Coningsby, Earl of Essex. This park is called Cashiobury, and belonged, before the Dissolution, to the Abbey at St. Alban's. The Mansion-house is extremely large, and agreeably seated in an extensive richly wooded park, intersected naturally by a branch of the river Gade, and artificially by the Grand Junction Canal, which the Earl handsomely permitted to be carried through his grounds. The house was originally built by Richard Morison, Esq, in the reign of Henry VIII. and the design completed by his son, Sir Charles Morison. It has received many modern improvements, and contains a number of elegant apartments, in most of which are valuable paintings. The extent of the park is very considerable, its ambit being between three and four miles; it is laid out with great taste and judgment.

We now return to Watford, a town which we have already noticed in a former journey. Quitting Watford, by a road leading to the southward, we reach at the distance of about three miles the small and disagreeably situated market town of Rickmansworth, seated in a low marshy ground adjoining to the confluence of the Gade, the Colne, and another small stream which rises near Chesham in the adjoining county of Bucks.

The manor of Rickmansworth constituted before the reign of Offa a part of the antient estate of the Saxon monarchs; upon his establishment of the monastery at St. Alban's, Offa however alienated it from the crown, and conferred it upon the monks, to whom Offa's grant was confirmed by his successors. Henry III. granted the abbots of Saint Alban's a charter empowering them to hold a weekly market, and two annual fairs upon their manor at Rickmansworth. When, along with the other religious establishments throughout the island, the Abbey of St.

Alban's was suppressed by Henry VIII. the manor of Rickmansworth was conferred, by his successor, Edward VI. upon the pious and learned Ridley, bishop of London. The bigotted Mary, in her zeal for the extermination of what she called heresy, and her desire of rewarding the active atrocities of all her savage blood-hounds, bestowed this manor upon the intolerant Bonner, who persecuted heretics with the most inquisitorial severity and enjoyed no amusement so much as witnessing the expiring agonies of the wretched victims writhing amidst the flames in Smithfield. This was in Mary's eyes the chief recommendation of an *orthodox* bishop.

During the reign of Elizabeth the crown again obtained possession of this manor, and in the reign of Charles I. it was granted as a security for borrowed money to the six clerks in Chancery. This monarch, with the acquiescence of his creditors, sold the estate to Sir Thomas Fotherly, in whose family it continued till the year 1694, when the last of that family was, along with his only daughter, swallowed up by an earthquake in the island of Jamaica. The reversion of the estate was left by this gentleman's will to his nephew Temple Whitfield, Esq. in whose family it still continues.

The Church here is of considerable size, having at its western extremity an handsome and lofty embattled tower; it is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and consists internally of a nave, chancel, and aisles. It has been frequently repaired, and is now very commodious; it contains several curious monuments.

Upon the west side of the church-yard is the seat called the Bury, an irregular structure of brick, situated in a park of some extent, and the residence of Henry Fotherly Whitfield, Esq. a descendant of Temple Whitfield, Esq. whom we have already mentioned.

The market-house here is a mean structure of wood, erected upon wooden pillars, and open below.



low. Here was formerly a good corn market, which has of late however declined greatly, although exempted from toll. The inhabitants are chiefly employed in the manufacture of straw plat, of which large quantities are sent to London. Upon the streams which so profusely water the walls of this town, and contribute not a little to its prosperity, are erected several mills; two of which, a large cotton and flour mill, are situated upon the south side, and two more, viz. a flock mill and silk mill, have been lately erected upon the western side; several paper and other mills are erected along the course of the little tributary stream which we have already noticed as flowing from Chesham in Buckinghamshire. The population of the town of Rickmansworth amounts, according to the last returns, to 2975 persons; and the number of inhabited houses to 503.

In this parish is situated the manor called THE MOOR, which with the manor of Rickmansworth constituted, before the Suppression, a portion of the estates granted by Offa to the Abbey of St. Alban's. After various vicissitudes, this manor finally came into the possession of Robert Williams, Esq. a London banker of eminence, who is its present lord.

This manor, about 1431, was, with other contiguous manors, held under St. Alban's Abbey, by a tenant named Fleete, who had for several years refused either to pay the quit-rents, or to perform the covenanted services claimed by the abbot; among which was that of finding for his use, and that of his successors, 'one *nag horse*, to carry him to Tynemouth, whenever he, or they, should visit that cell;' the dispute was at length decided in favor of the abbot, by Sir William Babynton, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas; and Fleete was compelled to the observance of the accustomed homage and fealty.

Godwin also relates the following anecdote, as connected with the fall of the Archbishop, and as occurring within a short period after the defeat and death of his brother. "The Archbishop was hunting with the King at Windsor, when he made relation to him, of some extraordinary kind of game wherewith he was wont to solace himself, at a house which he had built and furnished sumptuously, called the Moore, in Hertfordshire. The King, seeming desirous to be a partaker of this sport, appointed a day when he would come hither and hunt, and make merry with him. Hereupon the Archbishop, taking his leave, got him home, and thinking to entertain the King in the best manner it was possible for him, he sent for much plate, that he had hid during the wars, and also borrowed much of his friends. The deer which the King hunted being thus brought into the toils, the day before his appointed time, he sent for the Archbishop, commanding him, all excuses set apart, to repair presently to him at Windsor. As soon as he came, he was arrested of treason; all his money, plate, and moveables, to the value of 20,000*l.* seized upon for the King, and himself, a long space after, was kept prisoner at Calais and Guisnes; during which time, the King took upon himself all the profits and temporalities of the Bishopric. Among other things then taken from him, he had a mitre of inestimable value, by reason of many rich stones wherewith it was adorned; that the King broke, and made thereof a crown for himself." Henry, in his *History of Great Britain*, Vol. IX. p. 203, records, that as Edward was dining one day with the Archbishop, he was privately informed, that he was that day to be put to death; on which he immediately rose, and departed to Windsor. This was probably a state trick to bring the Nevilles into disgrace.

In a beautiful and richly wooded park of considerable extent, situated to the east of Rickmansworth, and



and skirted upon the north by a branch of the Colne, is seated the magnificent mansion of MOOR PARK HOUSE, the residence of the gentleman we have just noticed. This house is of the Corinthian order and highly embellished, having two fronts, of which that looking to the south is the principal; in this front is a superb portico of four grand Corinthian columns, measuring, independently of their bases and capitals, 37 feet in height, the bases are six and the capitals four feet high, giving a total elevation of 47 feet. The pediment above is very elegant and has a handsome cornice. The parapet of the house is also enriched with a fine cornice, and terminated by a neat balustrade. The prospect from the south front is limited by the elevation of the ground on the borders of Middlesex; but that from the north front is rich and extensive, having been much improved, though at the enormous expence of 5000l. by reducing the elevation of a hill which interrupted the view.

Moor Park House was originally built of brick, at the expence, as is commonly imagined, of the Duke of Monmouth, the unfortunate son of Charles II. by Lucy Walters, who obtained the manor by purchase. Coming about the year 1720 into the possession of Benjamin Hoskins Styles, Esq. a gentleman who realized an immense fortune by his successful speculations in the infamous South Sea scheme, the house was by him entirely new cased with Portland stone; he also added the beautiful Corinthian portico to the south front, and had the hill to the north of the house cut down, as we have already observed; the wings containing the chapel upon one, and the offices upon the other side of the mansion, to which they were connected by an elegant colonnade of Tuscan pillars, was also among the many improvements made by this gentleman, upon whose death Lord Anson purchased the house and manor, towards the embellishments of which he  
also

also contributed. Being sold by Lord Anson's heir in the year 1765 to Sir Lawrence Dundas, Bart. this gentleman expended no less a sum than 10,000*l.* in decorating and furnishing the ball-room. Coming at length into the possession of Thomas Batts Rouse, Esq. who had been one of the East India directors, an office which he rather imprudently resigned, in the uncertain hope of being appointed to a seat at the Board of Controul, under the famous India bill brought into the House of Commons, by the late Right. Hon. Charles James Fox, he found his funds inadequate to the keeping up so extensive and superb a mansion, and in consequence of this took down the wings and colonnades, the materials of which he sold. The original mansion however still exhibits a noble specimen of architectural skill, and is among the most elegant in the county.

Upon entering the house the expectation of grandeur excited by its external magnificence is more than gratified by the splendour which pervades all the apartments. The hall is of large dimensions, the doorways opening into it are superbly finished with a composition most beautifully imitative of the rarest marbles. In four large compartments, below a gallery which surrounds part of the hall, are as many fine paintings, taken from the story of Io and Argus, in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. The same author has also furnished a variety of subjects for the decoration of the wall of the grand staircase, which is well painted.

The ceiling of the Saloon, a handsome and well-proportioned room, exhibits beautiful copies of Guido's four seasons, &c. painted in panels upon a grey ground by Sir James Thornhill, whose pencil contributed to the internal decoration of the Cathedral of St. Paul in London. This is one of that artist's finest productions, for which he received the remuneration of 3,500*l.*

The Ball room, upon which alone Sir Lawrence Dundas

Dundas expended so large a sum, is, as we might naturally be led to expect, very magnificently decorated, and the marble chimney piece merits our highest admiration.

The Park, in which this almost royally splendid mansion stands, is beautifully diversified, and abounds in picturesque scenery ; it contains much valuable timber, and was greatly improved by Lord Anson, who expended upon it the sum of 80,000l.—Its south-eastern angle reaches the borders of the County of Middlesex.

END OF TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION.

## AGRICULTURE.

*Soil.*

ON entering the county from Hockerill, at Sawbridgeworth, Gilston, and Widford, the soil is clay or strong loam ; but in the vales a drier loam on a gravelly bottom. Here is no chalk near the surface ; a little may be found at Stansted and at Little Hadham. Pits have been sunk, but the quality of the chalk is not good ; at Watton there is some, and also at Saccomb ; but the chalky soil properly begins at Welwyn, and continues beyond Buntingford.

In the angle of the country formed by Hockerill, Ware, and Buntingford, the vales and slopes descending to them every where contain good loam on gravel and chalk, but the tops of the hills consist invariably of strong loam, or of clay, partly wet, and partly drained.

At Little Hadham the soil is a strong loam, very wet, and not drained, upon a clay-marle-bottom, exactly like the Suffolk-loam. Chalk has been tried, but without any effect.

From Puckeridge to Buntingford the vale and the slopes adjoining are of considerable breadth, and the soil of a quality esteemed superior to any in the county :—they consist of a fine, rich, deep loam on chalk. These soils are excellent ; but as the fields here are chiefly enclosed, the quantity of fallow is very extensive.

The soil on the hills is a clay, or a strong and wet loam.

The land about Westmill and on the hills consist of a stiff tenacious clay.

The same heavy land continues as far as Walkern, with little variation ; but towards Aston, and to Broadwater, by Stevenage, the chalk appears, where the surface is broken ; and the fields are  
loam

loam, with a quantity of turnips as extensive as large tracts of open fields will permit.

Round Stevenage a watery gravel, mixed with a sterile clay abounds. Some tracts, however, of better land are to be found here. Hatfield, Hide, and North Mims, are specimens of the bad, abounding with blue pebbles.

Much loam and turnip land lies about Watton, and along the road to Hertford; where the loam district is very apparent.

There is a tract of good dry loam in the vicinity of Hertford; but going by Cole Green to Hatfield the land will be found much poorer.

About Astwick some good sandy loams are seen, which improve towards Sandridge, where, and near it, as far as St. Alban's, and round the town, deep flinty loams are found on a chalk basis, and are held to be very good land. At Sandridgebury, dry gravels are mixed with light sand, and are subject to cake with rain: this sand is found on the high lands, but the lower grounds consist of good friable loams, and of clayey loams mixed with flints.

There is a great similarity of soil from St. Alban's to Watford and Rickmansworth, and from Chesham to Berkhamsted; the whole country is under the turnip course. The loams are more or less flinty, on a chalk basis. Towards the latter place, is found a reddish clayey loam, full of flints, on the universal chalk basis; which sometimes is found at the depth of 20 feet under the surface.

About Hempstead and Beachwood the same soil continues.

The soil about Hitchin is all either chalk or gravel; but chalk is found at various depths under all the country. The chalk varies from the hard sort of the beautiful downs of Lilly Hoo, to what they call *marme* in the vales, resembling the white vale of Dunstable, but inferior.

About King's-Walden they have some sandy and  
N some

some strong loams, with many flints, on a chalk basis, these continue, with variations to Welwyn; thence to Wheathamstead and St. Alban's. At Wheathamstead the soil is called a gravelly clay, rather stony than flinty; but in Hertfordshire, the word *clay* is every where, except in the line of country to the south-west against Middlesex, to be taken with much latitude. The soil is of an excellent quality from St. Alban's to Redburn, and although it is superior to many named, it still partakes of the same quality. The vale to Watford, and about that place spreads more than common, and is also very good land: it contains turnip loams, with more or less flint, on chalk. The true Middlesex clay commences between Munden and Aldenham; this clay district is of a very small extent, not more than from one to three miles in breadth.

At Cheshunt the soil is a very rich pale reddish sand of an admirable texture, deep, moist, and friable, yet so adhesive as sometimes to bind. This vein of land continues to Hoddesdon and to the hills before Ware.

Between Ware and Puckeridge, at Nadesmill, a real strong clayey loam is found, without flints or stones; yet in the slopes of the hills, and the vales, chalk is every where discoverable.

At Rushden and Bradfield the soil is clay. At Weston chalk on the Baldock side, the rest is stiff land. Sandon is the same. Clay-hill, towards Baldock on chalk; the rest is a strong wet loam.—From Barkway to Royston the soil is poor.

All the soil about Royston is a chalk not good. The parish of Therfield is better, but is still chalk.

Mr. Young, in summing up his description of the great variety of soils in this country, observes,

“ At Albury, Pelhams, and about these places, the soil perfectly resembles the clays adjoining in Essex, and is managed nearly in the same manner; but in all the vales and slopes still the signs of the chalk basis

basis are seen. From Braughin to Barkway, the features change gradually as you advance, and this clay becomes some shades more white and *marmy*, indicating the approach decidedly of the pure chalk district on the northern borders of the county."

The soils of this county mix and run into each other in a very remarkable manner, so that they cannot be traced and named with any great certainty.

In a general description of the soils, the quantity of stone and flint does not determine land to be gravel.

*Mode of Management of Arable Land.*

At Sawbridgeworth the clays and loams have the following course of crops :

- |            |       |            |
|------------|-------|------------|
| 1. Fallow, | ALSO, | 1. Fallow, |
| 2. Barley, |       | 2. Barley, |
| 3. Clover, |       | 3. Pease,  |
| 4. Wheat,  |       | 4. Wheat.  |

There are some farmers who pursue the under-mentioned courses :

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| 1. Fallow, | 1. Fallow, |
| 2. Wheat,  | 2. Wheat,  |
| 3. Fallow, | 3. Fallow, |
| 4. Barley, | 4. Barley, |
|            | 5. Clover, |
|            | 6. Oats.   |

The turnip land is in general thus managed :

1. Turnips.
2. Barley.
3. Clover ; the first crop mown, the second fed ;
4. Wheat, and sometimes
5. Oats.

Upon strong heavy soils they generally crop their land :

- |            |     |                           |
|------------|-----|---------------------------|
| 1. Fallow, | OR, | 1. Fallow,                |
| 2. Wheat,  |     | 2. Wheat,                 |
| 3. Fallow, |     | 3. Clover,                |
| 4. Barley, |     | 4. Barley,                |
| 5. Clover, |     | 5. Fallow,                |
| 6. Oats,   |     | 6. Wheat,                 |
|            |     | 7. Oats, pease, or beans. |

About Watford there is a peculiar course of

1. Fallow,
2. Beans, on which they put all the dressing,
3. Wheat.

At Little Hadham there is a course of

1. Fallow, ploughed four times,
2. Wheat,
3. Fallow, four or five times ploughed,
4. Barley; the only variation adding sometimes
5. Clover,
6. Oats.

The common Hertfordshire course is

- |             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| 1. Turnips. | 4. Clover, |
| 2. Barley,  | 5. Oats.   |
| 3. Clover,  |            |

which continues about Watford, Rickmansworth, and all around Berkhamstead and Hempstead.

In every direction round Hitchin the old course of five shifts are continued.

The common turnip course continues about Welwyn, Wheathamstead, and Gorhambury.

At Cheshunt they sow

- |             |       |                           |
|-------------|-------|---------------------------|
| 1. Turnips, | ALSO, | 1. Fallow,                |
| 2. Wheat,   |       | 2. Wheat,                 |
| 3. Clover,  |       | 3. Oats, pease, or beans, |
| 4. Wheat.   |       |                           |

On the clays of Albury, Pelhams, &c.

- |            |            |            |
|------------|------------|------------|
| 1. Fallow, | 1. Fallow, | 1. Fallow, |
| 2. Wheat,  | 2. Barley, | 2. Wheat,  |
| 3. Oats.   | 3. Pease.  | 3. Fallow, |
|            |            | 4. Barley. |
|            |            | Clover     |



Clover is also added with wheat, and sometimes oats and barley.

In the open fields about Barkway, 1. Fallow; 2. Wheat; 3. Oats; 4. Fallow; 5. Barley; 6. Pease. The same in the open fields about Royston.

Around Baldock, generally, but with some exceptions, oats are taken after the wheat.

The Hertfordshire farmers have found, by experience, that the succession of clover, their best and most valuable meliorating green crop, has hitherto been too quick on one and the same field, where the rotation has been as follows, viz. wheat on clover lay; oats, turnips on a fallow of course; and barley with clover seeds; the clover cut twice, or the second crop fed off.

In the heavy land districts tares are very generally cultivated for soiling the teams.

Tares are universal at Rickmansworth and Watford; and many are fed off by sheep.

#### *Mode of Management of Grass Land.*

The quantity of grass land in the county is extremely small, compared with that of arable land: there is no grass district in it, except a very narrow margin in the south line in the vicinity of Barnet, which being near to London, is made artificially productive, by means of manures brought back by the hay-carts. Many of these fields let at 40s. 50s. and 3l. per acre.

There is a fine range of meadows on the Stort, which reach from Hockerill to Hertford; they are generally let at 3l. an acre; but some are at rents of favour, of 40s.

On the same river, from Hertford to Hatfield, there is also much meadow, but many of them in a most neglected condition.

#### *Orchards.*

There are many orchards in the south-west corner of the county, particularly in the parishes of Rick-

mansworth, Sarret, King's Langley, and Abbot's Langley, Flaunden, Bovington, and partly in Watford and Aldenham : their principal produce is apples and cherries. Orchards are generally found in farms of from 20 to 50 acres. Apples are said to be the most profitable ; but the poor are benefited by the cherries, in the quantity of employment they require in gathering the crop, for which they are paid from four-pence to eight-pence per dozen pounds. The cherry trees begin to bear in ten years after planting : each tree should have nine square perches of land. A full-grown tree will generally produce 50 dozen pounds in a good year ; and from 10 to 20 years six dozen. The favourite sorts are the caroon and small black. Apple trees produce from two to 25 bushels of fruit ; they are none of them used for cyder.

#### *Woods.*

In the country between Hockerill, Ware, and Buntingford, the woods are generally rented at about 12 shillings an acre, and cut at twelve years growth, when the produce is about nine pounds an acre.

To the south of Hertford, towards London, there are large tracts of woodland ; nearly 2000 acres together. When let to tenants they are generally cut at nine or ten years growth, that they may have the advantage of cutting them twice in a 21 years lease ; but they are mostly in the landlord's hands, and then cut at 12 years. They produce at 12 years from four to 12 pounds, except the sallow and willow, which make hurdles ; they are chiefly applied to the making of faggots.

#### *Wastes.*

In this county the quantity of waste land, compared with most other counties, is very inconsiderable. There are some small commons scattered about the county.

Before we conclude our account of the agriculture of this county, we shall extract from the General View of the Agriculture of Hertfordshire, by the Secretary to the Board, the following interesting article relative to converting deer into a profitable object of husbandry.

“ The Earl of Clarendon, justly considering that there is no more impropriety in converting one animal to profit than another, makes deer an object of husbandry. As soon as the rutting season is over, or usually about the 10th of November, his Lordship selects from the herd the weak ones, some of which would probably die in the winter, and keeps them in a small yard that has a shed on one side, and a net over the whole against pigeons, &c. ; the spot very warm, and well sheltered. Their horns are immediately sawn off, the place is well littered, and they are fed at a very small expence on pea-straw, hay, &c. warmth making up for the want of better food. At times, during the winter, they have clover-hay cut into chaff, and if they do not eat it well, a little salt is added. They have always plenty of water, and are kept perfectly clean: much attention should be paid by the keeper to make himself familiar with them, that he may enter the place without disturbing them. The first week in March he gives them oil-cake, about half a cake each a day with chaff, which fattens them so quickly, that all are gone in May. Before killing, they have some green meat given, to take away any ill flavour from the cake, supposing such to be the effect of the food; for it is certain that the venison is exceedingly good. As to weight, a haunch usually weighs about 24 pounds; a brace is sold for 15 guineas: the skin, worth 2l. 2s. is the keeper's perquisite; so that the value of a brace amounts to 17l. 17s. exclusive of some trifling articles. The purchaser sends for them.

“ His Lordship usually fattens nine brace: his whole  
winter

winter stock rises to 350 head in a park of 250 acres, but much of it is thickly covered with timber; 30 sheep and 10 cows also feed in it. The park consumption of hay amounts to 32 loads, being reduced to that quantity by the use of much browse; all ash, elm, and Scotch fir, being brought for that purpose before faggotting, which not only saves hay, but improves the flavour of the venison.

“I have, from various information, conceived, that breeding deer for sale was a very unprofitable business; but the circumstance stated in this account, of selecting such as would probably die, or be unprofitable to keep, places the estimate of advantage in quite a new light: thus considered, the speculation seems a profitable one. It is not uncommon to hear of great winter losses of deer in parks, for want of a system in which such can be applied to advantage; nothing of this sort can be well done, that is not in a regular course; but, by this practice, every deer which, from severity of season, or from accident, would be lost, is converted to a great profit; as in such cases the expence of fattening is a trifle, the greater burthen of bringing them to an age for sale not belonging to the account of this system.—Some have fattened well that have had their legs broken by accident. On the manure being mentioned, I made the common objection, that deer’s dung is good for nothing; but this Lord Clarendon conceives to be a great error: his Lordship had an experiment made to ascertain it; he manured for turnips, three lands; one with stable dung, one with deer’s dung, and one without manure; the two manured were nearly equal, if any difference, it was in favour of the deer; the other of course was much inferior. There are loop-holes in the fence, through which they are shot.”

A LIST OF  
THE PRINCIPAL WORKS  
That have been Published in Illustration of the  
*Topography and Antiquities*  
Of Hertfordshire.

The first essay towards a delineation of this county was attempted "by the travaile and vow" of John Norden, who in 1593 published "*Speculum Britannia: the first parte: an historicall and chorographically description of Middlesex and Hartfordshire, wherein are also alphabetically sett down the names of the cyties, townes, parishes, hamlets, houses of name, with directed spedellie to finde anie place desired in the mappe, and the distance betwene place and place without compasses, 4to.*" Illustrated with maps, and the arms of the principal persons interred in the county, engraved by Peter Vanden Keere. It was reprinted 1637, and again 1723, with the addition of "A preparative to this work intended (as) a Reconciliation of sundrie propositions by divers persons tenared, concerning by the said author." The map is among Dr. Rawlinson's plates at Oxford.

"The Historicall Antiquities of Hertfordshire, with the original of countries, hundreds, or weapentakes, boroughs, corporations, towns, parishes, villages, and hamlets, the foundations and origin of monasteries, churches, advowsons, tythes, rectories, impropriations, and vicarages, in general, describing those of this county in particular, as also the several honors, mannors, castles, seats, and parks of the nobility and gentry, and the succession of the lords of each mannor therein, also the characters of the abbots of St. Alban's, faithfully collected from public records, leiger books, ancient manuscripts, charters, evidences, and other select authorities; together with an exact transcript of Doomesday book, so far as concerns this shire, and the translation thereof in English, to which are added, the epitaphs and memorable inscriptions, in all the parishes; and likewise the blazon of the coats of arms of the several noblemen, and gentlemen, proprietors in the same. Illustrated with a large map of the county; a prospect of Hertford; the ichnography of St. Alban's and Hitchin; and many sculptures of the principal edifices and monumens." By Sir Henry Chauncy, Knt. Serjeant at Law. Lond. 1700, fol. it were to be wished more care had been taken in the engravings. The author had by him considerable additions and continuations, which came afterwards into the hands of Nathaniel Salmon, and were the chief foundation of his history of Hertfordshire;

fordshire; describing the county, and its ancient monuments, particularly the Roman with the character of those that have been the chief possessors of the lands; and account of the most remarkable occurrences. Lond. 1728. fol. Mr. Forester, of Bradfield in this county, father of Dr. Putter Forester, chancellor of Lincoln, and nearly related to Sir Henry Chauncy, had made great additions to Sir Henry's book; and which copy was in the hands of the late William Forester Esq. the elder brother, who died about 1767.

Mr. Cole has another copy, with many M. S. additions by the late Browne Willis; a third copy, with large M. S. additions by Peter Le Neve, is in the library of the Society of Antiquaries.

Paul Wright, B. D. formerly curate and lecturer of All-Saints Hertford, afterwards vicar of Oakley in Essex, having received some manuscript papers relating to Sir Henry Chauncy's History of Hertfordshire, proposes to publish an accurate edition of this elaborate work with continuations, from his own actual view of every parish, as well as from the communications of others.

"De incliti et gloriosi proto-martyris Anglie Albani: quem in Germania et Gallia Albinum vocant: conversione passiona, translatione, and miraculorum choruscatione. Colon. 1502." 4to. This scarce black-letter tract of twelve pages is dedicated to Henry VII. by the abbot and convent of St. Pantaleon at Cologne, asserting the body of St. Alban is in their custody, though the thighs, legs, and feet, still remain in the monastery of St. Alban's in England.

In No. 333 of the Philosophical Transactions p. 436, are the dimensions of some very large human bones, supposed to belong to a person eight feet high, found near an urn inscribed ANTONINUS in the Roman camp near St. Albans; communicated by Mr. William Cheselden, surgeon.

Among the curiosities collected by the late Ebenezer Mussel, Esq. sold at Langford's, in the spring 1765, was a beautiful little vase, in form of a cup, of whitish earth, full of coins of the lower emperors.

"The construction of the old wall at Verulum, the round brick compared with the modern, &c. in a letter to Bishop. Lyttleton by Mr. Webster." Archæol. II. 184."

"Observations on a particular kind of scarlet fever that lately prevailed in and about St. Albans. In a letter to Dr. Mead, by Nathaniel Cotton, M. D. London 1749." 4to.

In No. 229, p. 577, of the Philosophical Transactions, is Mr. Taylor's account of a hail-storm at *Hitchin*, 1697.

In No. 439. p. 19, are observations by Mr. Cope, on an ancient

tient date over a door-way at *Widgell Hall*, pulled down in 1733, when the house was on fire, and given to the Royal Society by Mr. Gulston; and in p. 120 are Mr. Ward's remarks on it; in p. 131 are Mr. Cope's considerations on the antiquity and use of the Indian characters; and Mr. Ward's remarks thereon. p. 142.

In No- 476, p. 349. is an attempt to explain some antiquities found 1743 in a chalk-pit near Rooky Wood in *Barkway* parish, by Mr. Ward; with a print of them.

Vol. XLIX. art. 26, contains Dr. Parsons's remark on a singular petrified echinus, found in Boringdon parish; transcribed, with the cut, in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for September 1756; and in p. 684 is an account of a remarkable agitation of waters at several places in this county, No. 1, 1755.

In Vol. LI. is an account of the effects of thunder and lightning at *Rickmansworth*, June 16, 1759.

The "Beauties of England and Wales," by John Britton and Edward Wedlake Brayley, Vol. VII. 1806, contains an elegant and correct Topographical and Historical Description of Hertfordshire.

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**TOPOGRAPHICAL**  
**AND**  
**STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION**  
**OF THE**  
**COUNTY OF ESSEX;**

*Containing an Account of its*

Situation,	Minerals,	Agriculture,
Extent,	Fisheries,	Markets,
Towns,	Manufactures,	Curiosities,
Roads,	Commerce,	Antiquities,
Rivers,	Fairs,	Natural History,
Civil and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, &c.		

*To which is prefixed,*  
**A COPIOUS TRAVELLING GUIDE,**  
 Exhibiting  
*The Direct and Principal Cross Roads,*  
*Inns and Distances of Stages, and*  
*Noblemen's and Gentlemen's Seats:*

Which form a  
**COMPLETE COUNTY ITINERARY:.**

With  
**A LIST OF THE FAIRS,**  
*And an Index Table,*

Shewing, at One View, the Distances of all the Towns from London, and of Towns from each other.

---

**BY G. A. COOKE, ESQ.**

---

Illustrated with a  
**MAP OF THE COUNTY.**

  
**London:**

*Printed, by Assignment from the Executors of the late C. Cooke,*  
**FOR**

**SHERWOOD, JONES, AND CO. PATERNOSTER-ROW;**  
**AND SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.**

---

J. G. BARNARD,  
57, Skinner Street, London.

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# LIST OF THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX.

Towns.	Distance from London.	Markets.	Inhabited Houses.	Inhabitants.	Post arrives.	Post departs.
Barking .....	7	Saturday	1199	6,374	7 Morn.	8 Aft.
Billerica .....	23	Tuesday	326	1,561	7 Morn.	7 Aft.
Braintree .....	40	Wednesday	621	2,983	10½ Aft.	5 Morn.
Brentwood .....	18	Friday	219	1,123	12 Night.	3½ Aft.
Chelmsford .....	29	Saturday	893	4,994		
Coggeshall .....	44	W. S.	517	2,896		
Colchester .....	51	Saturday	2631	14,016	8 Morn.	12½ Morn.
Dunmow .....	40	Friday	452	2,409	8½ Morn.	6½ Aft.
Epping .....	17	Thursday	387	2,146	10½ Aft.	4½ Morn.
Grays .....	25	Friday	142	712	10½ Morn.	4 Aft.
Halstead .....	46	Saturday	819	3,658	5½ Morn.	6 Aft.
Harlow .....	23	Tuesday	347	1,928	11 Aft.	4 Morn.
Harwich .....	72	Saturday	665	4,010	7½ Morn.	7 Aft.
Horndon .....	28	Saturday	70	420	11 Morn.	4 Aft.
Malden .....	38	Saturday	585	3,198	8 Morn.	8 Aft.
Manningtree .....	60	Tuesday	240	1,265	5½ Morn.	9½ Aft.
Ongar .....	21	Saturday	214	1,126	7½ Morn.	5 Aft.
Rochford .....	40	Thursday	263	1,352	10 Morn.	5 Aft.
Romford .....	12	Wednesday	675	3,777	9½ Aft.	5½ Morn.
Stanstead .....	33	Friday	191	1,514		
Thaxted .....	44	Friday	401	2,015	9½ Aft.	4½ Aft.
Waltham Abbey .....	12	Tuesday	738	3,982	11 Morn.	2½ Morn.
Witham .....	37	Tuesday	502	2,578		

The price of postage for a single Letter varies from 5d. to 8d. throughout the County.

# INDEX OF DISTANCES FROM TOWN TO TOWN IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX.

The Names of the respective Towns are on the top and side, and the square where both meet gives the Distance.

	Billericay	.....	Distant from London....	Miles,
Braintree .....	19	Braintree	.....	23
Brentwood ....	5	Brentwood	.....	40
Chelmsford ....	8	Chelmsford	.....	18
Coggeshall ....	22	Coggeshall	.....	29
Colchester .....	30	Colchester	.....	44
Dunmow .....	21	Dunmow	.....	51
Epping .....	16	Epping	.....	40
Gray's Thurnock	12	Gray's Thurnock	.....	17
Halstead .....	25	Halstead	.....	25
Harwich .....	50	Harwich	.....	46
Maldon .....	13	Malden	.....	72
Ongar .....	10	Ongar	.....	38
Romford .....	11	Romford	.....	21
Waltham .....	21	Waltham	.....	12
Witham .....	16	Witham	.....	12

# INSPECTION TABLE FOR THE COUNTY OF ESSEX.

Essex is comprised within the Diocese of London, and Province of Canterbury.

<i>Bounded by</i>	<i>Extent</i>	<i>Contains</i>	<i>Sends to Parliament</i>	<i>Produce and Manufactures.</i>
On the north by the counties of Suffolk and Cambridge.	In length from east to west about 60 miles.	20 parts, containing 14 hundreds,	8 Members, <i>viz.</i> 2 for the county,	Agricultural produce, consists of live-stock, chiefly calves; and co-riander, teazel, and carraway.  Silk Ribbon Manu- facture.
On the west by the counties of Hertford and Middlesex.	In breadth from north to south about 50 miles.	5 half-hundreds,	3 for Maldon,	
On the south by the river Thames.	In circumference about 126 miles.	400 parishes,	3 for Harwich,	
And on the east by the Sea.		25 Market-towns.	2 for Colchester.	
		49,978 houses, 289,424 inhabitants.		

Essex derives its present name from *East-Seaxa*, its name during the Saxon Heptarchy, when it formed a separate kingdom.

# AN ITINERARY

OF ALL THE  
DIRECT AND PRINCIPAL CROSS ROADS  
IN  
**ESSEX.**

In which are included the STAGES, INNS, and  
GENTLEMEN'S SEATS.

*N.B. The first Column contains the Names of Places passed through; the Figures that follow shew the Distances from Place to Place, Town to Town, and Stages; and in the last Column are the Names of Gentlemen's Seats and Inns. The right and left of the Roads are distinguished by the letters R and L. Turnpike Road, T. R. and Turnpike Gate, T. G.*

## LONDON TO CHELMSFORD.

White Chapel			
Church to			
Mile End, Mid-			
dlesex		I	
Bow	1½	2½	
Cross the Lea R,			
and enter Essex.			
Stratford (Essex)	1	3½	Stratford House, Lord He-
On La T. R. to			niker, L. One and a
Low Layton, and			half mile beyond Strat-
thence to Wal-			ford on R, Upton House,
thamstow, and			H. Pelley, esq.
near a ½ mile far-			
ther to Epping,			
on R. to West			
Ham, thence to			
East Ham, and			
thence to Bark-			
ing.			
Ilford	3¼	6¾	Ilford Place, R. W. Hall,
Cross the Rod-			esq. Wyefields, R. W.
ing river.			Hall, jun., esq.; and
			Valentines, the seat of
			Charles Welstead, esq.
			L, at a distance see

				Wanstead House, W. Pole Tylney Long Wellesley, esq.
				Inns—Angel, Red Lion.
Chadwell	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	9		Inn—The White Hart.
The Whalebone	1	10		Marks,—Peacock, esq. L.
Romford	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	11 $\frac{3}{4}$		Marshalls, Rowland Stephenson, esq. L.
On R, a T. R. to Greys Thurrock.				Inns — Dolphin, Golden Lion, White Hart.
Hare Street	1	12 $\frac{3}{4}$		Hare Street Cottage, Mrs. Repton; and beyond, Hare Hall, Benjamin Severn, esq. Near this is Hare Lodge, Thomas Jackson, esq. R.
				Inn—Unicorn.
Brook Street	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$		See Boyles, unoccupied; Ropers, Captain Hirst; Warley Place, General Banham; and beyond Brook Street, Kiln House, Dr. Kavanah, R. Near Brook Street, on L, are Weuld Hall, the residence of C. F. Tower, esq., and Rocketts, late Earl St. Vincent, L.
BRENTWOOD	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	18		Thorndon Hall, Lord Petre, R.
On R, a T. R. to Tilbury Fort.				Inns—Crown, White Hart.
Shenfield	1	19		Shenfield Place, L. 2 miles on R, Hutton Hall, — Forbes, esq.
On R, a T. R. to Billericay.				
Mountnessing Street	2	21		Before, see Fitz-Walters, vulgarly called the Round House, J. Hall, esq.; Thoby Priory, J. Grant, esq.; and far-

			<i>ther, Smith's Hall, R.A. Crickett, esq. L.</i>
Ingatestone	2	23	<i>Before, see Ingatestone Hall, — Coverdale, esq. Inns—Petre Arms, Spread Eagle.</i>
Margaretting Street On R a T. R. to Maldon.	2	25	<i>Copfold Hall, Richard Vachell, esq.; and near is Writtle Park, C. Porter, esq.</i>
Stisted	1½	26½	<i>Highlands, P. C. Labouchere, esq. L.</i>
Widford	1	27½	
Moulsham	3¼	28¼	
Cross the Can river.			
CHELMSFORD	¾	29	<i>Inns—Black Boy, Saracen's Head.</i>

## CHELMSFORD TO HARWICH,

THROUGH COLCHESTER, &amp;c.

CHELMSFORD to Springfield		1¼	<i>Beyond Springfield, on R, Lyons, R. Andrews, esq. Springfield Place, — Tuffnell, esq. L.</i>
Boreham Street	3	4¼	<i>Borcham House, Sir John Tyrrell, bart.; and near it the residence of R. C. Haselfoot, esq. R. Here is New Hall, a Nunnery, L.</i>
Hatfieldbury	1¼	6	<i>Crix, — Shean, esq. Hatfield Priory, P. L. Wright, esq. R. Two miles distant on L, Terling Place, J. H. Strutt, esq.</i>
Cross the Wi- tham river.			
WITHAM	2¼	8¾	<i>The Grove, Mrs. Du Cane;</i>



<i>A T.R. to Maldon, on L to Braintree.</i>			<i>Witham Place, Major General Bruce; Witham Lodge, W. W. Luard, esq., and Faulkbourne Hall, Major Bullock, L. Beyond Witham at Cheeping Hill, Rev. Archdeacon Jefferson, L.</i>
Riven Hall End	1½	10¼	Inn— <i>Blue Posts.</i> <i>One mile distant on R, Braxted Lodge, Peter Du Cane, esq. Near this is Fabiens, P. Du Cane, esq. The Rectory House, Rev. Shirley Western; and Kelvedon Hall, H. Bonham, esq. One and a half mile on L, is Riven Hall Place, Rev. T. Western.</i>
Kelvedon <i>On L a T. R. to Coggeshall.</i> <i>Cross the Blackwater river.</i>	1¾	12	<i>Felix Hall, C. C. Western, esq.; Kelvedon Parsonage, Rev. C. Dalton; and Bradwell Hall, Mrs. Carter, L.</i> Inn— <i>The Angel.</i>
Gore Pitt <i>On L a T. R. to Coggeshall.</i>	1	13	
Stanway	5¼	18¼	<i>Copford Hall, Major Harrison; and farther, Birch Hall, Charles Round, esq. At Great Birch is Stanway Hall, William Green, esq.</i>
Lexden <i>On L a T. R. to Halstead.</i>	1¾	20	<i>Lexden Parsonage, Rev. G. Preston; Villa Franca, F. Smythies, esq. L.</i>

			<i>Park House, J. Mills, jun., esq. Beverley Lodge, unoccupied, R.</i>
COLCHESTER	2	22	Inns—Cups, White Hart.
Ardleigh	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	26 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Wignell Street	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	29 $\frac{1}{4}$	<i>Lawford Hall, Rev. E. H. Green. Four miles distant, The Rookery, W. B. Goodrick, esq.; and the Grove, H. War- ran, esq.; beyond which is Langham Hall, Rev. Isaac R. Boggis, L.</i>
<i>On L, a T. R. to Manningtree, Mistley Thorn, and Harwich.</i>			
Mistley Thorn	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{3}{4}$	<i>Mistley Hall, Horace Beckford, esq. Inn—The Inn.</i>
Bradfield	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	34	
Ramsay Street	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	38 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Ramsay	$\frac{1}{2}$	39 $\frac{1}{4}$	<i>Michaelstow Hall, Nathaniel Garland, esq. L.</i>
Dover Court	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	
HARWICH	2	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	Inns—Three Cups, White Hart.

## GREAT CHESTERFORD TO LONDON.

GREAT CHESTER- FORD to Littlebury	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	<i>Between Littlebury and Newport, on the left is Audley End, Lord Braybrooke.</i>
<i>Two miles beyond Littlebury a T. R. on the left to Saffron Walden.</i>			
— — —			<i>Before we reach Newport on the left is Shortgrove Hall, — Smith, esq.</i>
Newport	3	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	<i>On the L of Newport is Debden Hall, Sir F. Vincent, bart.</i>

				Before we reach Quendon on the right is Quendon Flatts, J. P. Cranmer, esq.
Quendon	2½	8		One mile beyond, Orford House, S. Leighlenhouse, esq., and Oakley Hall, R. Partridge, esq. L.
Ugley	1½	9½		
Stanstead Mountfitchet	1¾	11¾		Inn—White Bear.
Hockerill	3	14¾		Inn—Red Lion.
At Hockerill on L, a T. R. to Dunmow.				On L of Bishop Stortford is Walbury, Joseph Grove, esq. Between Hockerill and Spelbrook on R is Thorley Hall, unoccupied.
Cross the Stort River.				
Thorley	1½	15¾		
Spelbrook	1	16¾		
Sawbridgeworth	2	18¾		On the L of Sawbridgeworth is Hyde Hall, Earl of Roden. Near Sawbridgeworth on the L is Pisthiobury, Mrs. Milles.
Cross the Stort River.				
Harlowe	2	20¾		Inn—Green Man. Near Harlowe is Durrington Hall, Mrs. Glynn, L, and Parndon House, W. Amherst, esq.
At Harlowe on R, a T. R. to Hoddesdon, on the L to Dunmow.				
Potter's Street	2½	23¾		On the left of Potter's Street is Marks Hall.
Just before we reach Epping on the L, a T. R. to Chelmsford.				
Epping	4½	27¾		About two miles on the R of Epping is Hill Hall,

				Sir William Smyth, bart.
—	—	—		About a mile beyond Ep- ping on the R is Cop- ped Hall, Mrs. Conyers, and near it Warleys, late William Aquehart, esq.
—	—	—		About a mile before we reach Loughton, is Gol- den Hill, William Ba- zaire, esq.
Loughton	—	5½	33	On the left of Loughton is Loughton Hall, Mrs. Whittaker.
Baldface Stag		1½	34½	
Woodford Wells		¾	35¼	At Woodford Wells, J.C. Jervis, esq.
Woodford		½	35¾	Inn—Castle. Before we reach the Castle Inn on the R is Prospect House, unoccupied.
				Near the Castle Inn on the R is Higham Hill House, Jeremiah Har- man, esq.
—	—	—		At Woodford on the L see Claybury Hall, Mrs. Patch; Woodford Hall, J. Maitland, esq.
—	—	—		Through Woodford, on the R, Gwynn House, H. Burmester, esq. and the Manor House, John Boot, esq. A little be- yond, Silvester Grove, esq.
Snaresbrook	2		37¼	Inn—Eagle. A mile on

## ROADS IN ESSEX.

13

*At Snaresbrook  
on L, a T. R. to  
London through  
Stratford.*

Whips Cross

1

38 $\frac{3}{4}$ 

Lea Bridge

2 $\frac{1}{4}$ 

41

*the L of Snaresbrook is  
Wanstead House, Right  
Hon. W. W. Pole.*

*On L of Whips Cross is  
Forest House, seat of  
Sam. Bosanquet, esq.*

DUNMOW TO LONDON,  
THROUGH CHIPPING ONGAR.

DUNMOW to  
Hatfield Broad  
Oak

8

8

*At Hatfield Broad Oak is  
Barrington Hall, Sir  
Fitzwilliam Barrington.*

Hatching End

5

13

Moreton End

2 $\frac{1}{2}$ 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ 

*Between More-  
ton End and Chip-  
ping Ongar is a  
T. R. on L, to  
Chelmsford, and  
on the R, to Ep-  
ping.*

CHIPPING ONGAR

3 $\frac{1}{2}$ 

19

*Near Chipping Ongar are  
Greenstead Hall, Cra-  
ven Orde, esq. and Blake  
Hall, Capel Cure, esq.*

*Between Chipping Ongar  
and Hare Street, on the  
L see Kelvedon Hall,  
Henry Bonham, esq.  
and Myles's, Mrs.  
Power, and on the R  
Marden Ash, Charles  
Walker, esq.*

Hare Street  
Cross the Roding  
River.

2 $\frac{1}{2}$ 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ 

*At Hare Street on the L,  
see Navestock Hall, —  
Renholds, esq.; on the*

R, *Boyces, Wm. Dalby, esq.*

Pissingford Bridge	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	23 $\frac{1}{4}$	On the L of Pissingford Bridge is <i>Albyns, J. Abdy, esq. and Suttons, Mrs. Smith</i> ; on R see <i>Hill Hall, Sir William Smythe, bart.</i>
Abridge	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	26 $\frac{1}{4}$	On the R of Abridge is <i>Theydon Mount, — Wilde, esq.</i> ; on the L is <i>Dewes Hall, William Lockwood, esq.</i>
Chigwell	3	29 $\frac{1}{4}$	Between Abridge and Chigwell, on the L, is <i>Rolls, Admiral Sir Eliab Harvey</i> ; and on the R is <i>Woolston Hall, Robert Bodle, esq.</i>
Cross the Roding River.			
Woodford Bridge	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{3}{4}$	On the R are <i>Ray House, — Purrier, esq.</i> and on the L, see <i>Claybury Hall, Mrs. Patch.</i>
Laytonstone	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{4}$	
At Laytonstone on R a T. R. to Epping.			
Salts Green	$\frac{3}{4}$	35	
Stratford	1	36	

## SUDBURY TO CHELMSFORD,

THROUGH HALSTEAD AND BRAINTREE.

SUDBURY to			
Cross the Stour River.			
— — —			
Bulmer Tye	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	A mile before we reach <i>Bulmer Tye, on the R,</i>

is Auberies, the seat of  
C. Greenwood, esq.

At Bulmer Tye  
on R a T. R. to  
Castle Heddingham

Cattley Cross 2 4 $\frac{1}{4}$   
Maplestead 1 5 $\frac{1}{4}$   
Halstead 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  8

Inn—Cock.

Inn—King's Arms. On  
the R of Halstead, seat  
of — Edwards, esq.

Leaving Halstead on the  
R, is Dynes Hall, John  
Sperling, esq.

At Halstead on  
the L a T. R. to  
Colchester, on R  
to Haverill.

Cross the Colne  
River.

High Garret 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  11 $\frac{3}{4}$   
Cross Blackwater  
River.

Bocking Street 2 13 $\frac{3}{4}$

Braintree 1 14 $\frac{3}{4}$

About a mile and a half  
before we reach High  
Garret is a distant view  
of Gosfield, the seat of  
the Marquis of Buck-  
ingham.

Inn—Horn.

At Braintree on  
L a T. R. to Wi-  
tham and Colches-  
ter.

Young's End 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  17 $\frac{1}{4}$

Much Lees 1 18 $\frac{1}{4}$

Blackwater  $\frac{3}{4}$  19

Cross the Chelmer  
River.

Little Waltham 3 22

At Little Wal-  
tham on R a T. R.  
to Dunmow.

Broomfield 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  23 $\frac{3}{4}$

On R a T. R.  
to Epping.

Chelmsford 2 $\frac{1}{4}$  26 $\frac{1}{4}$

Inn—Green Dragon.

Inn—St. Ann's Castle.

On the R of Little Wal-  
tham is Langleys, Jolliff  
Tufnell, esq.

Inn—Angel.

ITINERARY OF THE  
BISHOP'S STORTFORD TO  
COLCHESTER,

THROUGH DUNMOW AND BRAINTREE.

BISHOP'S STORT- FORD to Hockerill, <i>Herts</i>	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	Inn—Crown. <i>Between Hockerill and Takeley Street, on the R, is Hallingbury Place, A. Houblon, esq.</i>
Takeley Street, <i>Essex</i>	$3\frac{1}{2}$	4	
Bonington Green	1	5	
Little Canfield	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$	<i>On the L of Little Can- field is Easton Lodge, Lord Maynard.</i>
DUNMOW	$2\frac{1}{2}$	9	Inn—Saracen's Head. <i>On the L of Dunmow see Brick House, Rev. Chas. Powlett, and Newton Hall, Sir F. Henniker, bart.</i>
<i>At Dunmow on R a T. R. to Chelmsford.</i> Stebbingford	3	12	<i>Between Stebbingford and Raine on the L is Sail- ing Grove, Bartlett Goodriche, esq.</i>
Raine	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$15\frac{1}{2}$	
Braintree	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$17\frac{1}{4}$	Inn—Horn.
<i>At Braintree on L, a T. R. to Ha- verill and Hal- stead; on R to Chelmsford.</i> Blackwater	3	$20\frac{1}{2}$	<i>On the L of Blackwater at Stisted, Highlands, P.C. Labouchere, esq.</i>
<i>Cross the Black- water River.</i> Coggeshall	$2\frac{3}{4}$	23	<i>About a mile and quarter from Blackwater, on the L, is Oldfield Grange,</i>
Marks Tey	4	27	<i>Osgood Hanbury, esq.</i>



*On R a T. R.  
to Chelmsford.*

Stanway	2	29
Lexden	2	31½

*At Lexden on  
R a T.R. to Hal-  
stead.*

**COLCHESTER TO CAMBRIDGE,  
THROUGH HALSTEAD.**

COLCHESTER to Lexden	2	2
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*At Lexden on  
L a T. R. to  
Coggeshall and  
Witham.*

Eight Ash Green	1¼	3¼
Gallow Green	1¼	4½
Ford Street	½	5

*Cross the Colne  
River.*

The Wash	1	6
Botslye Green	1½	7½
Wake Colne	½	8
Colneford Hill	1	9

*Cross the Colne  
River.*

Earles Colne	1	10
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*On the R of Earles Colne  
is Colne Priory, Rev.  
Mr. Carwarden.*

*At Earles Colne, Colne  
Park, P. Hills, esq. R.*

*Cross the Colne  
River.*

Blue Bridge	2½	12½
HALSTEAD	1	13½

*Inn—King's Arms. Near  
Halstead, one mile dis-  
tant on R, Ashford  
Lodge, Firmin de Tas-  
tet, esq.*

*At Halstead on  
L a T.R. to Brain-  
tree; on R to Sud-  
bury.*

<i>Cross the Colne River.</i>			
<i>Near Halstead on L a T. R. to Braintree.</i>			
Brook Street	2	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	
<i>Before we enter Swan Street a T. R. on the L to Braintree.</i>			
Swan Street	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	17	
Sibble Heddingham	$\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{4}$	<i>On the R of Sibble Heddingham, is Castle Heddingham, Saville Halifax, esq.</i>
<i>At Sibble Heddingham on R a T. R. to Sudbury.</i>			
Crouch Green	$\frac{3}{4}$	18 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Great Yeldham	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Ridgewell	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	23	
<hr/>			<i>Before we reach Baythorne End, are Baythorne Park, George P. Key, esq. and Whitley, Thomas Walford, esq.</i>
Baythorne End	2	25	<i>On L of Baythorne End is Moins, George Gent, esq. and Bower Hall, G. A. Stevens, esq.</i>
<i>Over Walsoe Bridge.</i>			
Sturmer	2	27	<i>Sturmer Hall, R. P. Todd, esq.</i>
Zazard End	1	28	
Haverill	$\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Withersfield	2	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Horse Heath	5	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Linton	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	39	
<hr/>			<i>About a mile before we reach Abington on R, is Heldersham Hal', Col. Hamilton,</i>

Abington	3	42	<i>At Abington is a seat of Lord Maryborough.</i>
— — —			<i>About four miles from Abington on Gogmagog Hills is Gogmagog House, Lord Francis Godolphin Osborne.</i>
Cambridge	8	50	

**CAMBRIDGE TO ROCHFORD,  
THROUGH SAFFRON WALDEN, DUNMOW, AND  
CHELMSFORD.**

CAMBRIDGE to — — —			<i>About a mile before we reach Bournbridge on L, is Babraham, Col. Adeane, and one mile and a half further is Gogmagog House, Lord F. G. Osborne.</i>
Bourn Bridge <i>At Bourn Bridge on R a T. R. to Newmarket and R to London.</i> <i>Before we reach Chesterford, on R a T. R. by Sawston to Cambridge.</i>	7½	7½	<i>At Bourn Bridge on L, is Abington Hall, Earl of Chatham.</i>
Chesterford	4½	12	
Littlebury	2½	14½	
SAFFRON WALDEN	1½	16	
Thaxted	7¾	23¾	<i>Two miles distant, Hor-</i>
Monks Street	2¼	26	<i>ham Hall, Sir W. Smyth, bart.</i>
Great Easton	2	28	<i>On the R of Easton is Easton Lodge, Lord Viscount Maynard.</i>
— — —			<i>About a mile before we reach Dunmow on R is</i>

			<i>Newton Hall, Sir F. Henniker, bart.</i>
DUNMOW	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$30\frac{1}{2}$	<i>Near Dunmow is Brick House, Rev. Charles Powlett.</i>
<i>At Dunmow on R a T. R. to Bishop's Stortford.</i>			
Barnston	$2\frac{1}{4}$	$32\frac{3}{4}$	
Black Chapel	$1\frac{1}{4}$	34	
Great Waltham	$4\frac{1}{4}$	$38\frac{1}{4}$	<i>At Waltham on L is Langleys, Jolliff Tufnell, esq.</i>
<i>A mile before we reach Bromfield on L a T. R. to Braintree.</i>			
Bromfield	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$40\frac{1}{4}$	
<i>Before we reach Chelmsford on the R a T. R. to Epping.</i>			
Chelmsford	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$43\frac{1}{2}$	<i>Inns — Black-boy, Saracen's Head.</i>
<i>At Chelmsford on L a T. R. to Colchester, on R to Brentwood.</i>			
Great Baddow	$1\frac{1}{2}$	45	<i>Near is Thorndon Hall, Lord Petre.</i>
<i>At Great Baddow on L a T. R. to Malden, on R to Brentwood and London.</i>			
<i>Over Rettendon Common to</i>			
Rettendon	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$51\frac{1}{2}$	
Battle Bridge	1	$52\frac{1}{2}$	
Raureth	1	$53\frac{1}{2}$	
Hockley Common	$3\frac{1}{2}$	57	
Rochford	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$60\frac{1}{2}$	<i>Inn — New Ship.</i>

# ROCHFORD TO BRAINTREE, THROUGH MALDON AND WITHAM.

ROCHFORD to			
Ashington	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	
South Fambridge	1	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	
<i>Cross the Crouch River.</i>			
Fambridge Ferry	1	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	
North Fambridge	$\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Purleigh Wash	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	
MALDON	3	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	
<i>At Maldon on L a T. R. to London.</i>			
<i>Cross the Blackwater and Chelmer Rivers.</i>			
Heybridge	$\frac{3}{4}$	14	
Langford	1	15	<i>At Langford on Lis Langford Grove, Mrs. W. Westcombe, and Langford Parsonage, Rev. Wm. Westcombe.</i>
<i>Cross Blackwater River.</i>			
Wickham Mills	2	17	<i>Wickham Parsonage, Rev. T. Leigh.</i>
WITHAM	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	<i>Through Witham is Witham Grove, Mrs. Duncane.</i>
<i>At Witham on L a T. R. to London; on R to Colchester.</i>			
Cheping Hill	$\frac{1}{2}$	20	
Falkbourn	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	<i>At Falkbourn is Falkbourn Hall, Major Bullock.</i>
White Notley	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	23	
Black Notley	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Braintree	1	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	

# ROCHFORD TO BRAINTREE, THROUGH CHELMSFORD.

ROCHFORD to		
Hockley	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$

Hull Bridge	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Woodham Ferris	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Overshot Bridge	3	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Danbury	1	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	<i>At Danbury on L is Danbury Place, Sir W. Hillary, bart.</i>
<i>At Danbury on R a T. R. to Maldon.</i>			
Great Baddow	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	17	
<i>At Great Baddow on L a T. R. to London through Brentwood.</i>			
CHELMSFORD	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	Inns— <i>Black Boy, Saracen's Head.</i>
<i>At Chelmsford on L a T. R. to London; on R to Colchester.</i>			
<i>Near Chelmsford on L a T. R. to Epping.</i>			
Broomfield	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	21	
Little Waltham	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	22 $\frac{1}{4}$	<i>On the L of Little Waltham is Langleys, Jolliff Tufnell, esq.</i>
<i>At Little Waltham on L a T. R. to Dunmow.</i>			
<i>Cross the Chelmer River.</i>			
Blackwater St.			
Ann's	3	25 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Young's End	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	27 $\frac{1}{4}$	
BRAINTREE	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	29 $\frac{3}{4}$	Inn— <i>Horns.</i>

## CHELMSFORD TO EPPING.

CHELMSFORD to		
<i>Near Chelmsford on R a T. R. to Dunmow and Braintree.</i>		
Clip Elm	2	2

The Lordship	$\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	
Oxney Green	1	$3\frac{1}{2}$	
Cook's Mill Green	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$5\frac{1}{4}$	
Norton Heath	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{3}{4}$	At Norton Heath is Reddings, Thomas Jackson, esq.
High Ongar	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{1}{4}$	On the left of High Ongar is Forest Hall, Rev. J. B. Stane.
Cross the Roding River.			
Bobbingworth Mill	$2\frac{3}{4}$	13	Within a mile of Bobbingworth Mill on R is
Tyler's Green	1	14	Blake Hall, Capel Cure, esq.; beyond which is
Weald Gullet	1	15	Shelley Hall, Wm. Bullock, esq.
EPPING	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$17\frac{3}{4}$	Inn—Epping Place.

## TILBURY FORT TO CHELMSFORD.

TILBURY FORT to			
West Tilbury	2	2	
Handford Bridge	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$3\frac{1}{4}$	
Horndon on the Hill	$2\frac{3}{4}$	6	Inn—Bell.
Langdon Hills	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$8\frac{1}{2}$	
Nook Bridge	3	$11\frac{1}{2}$	
BILLERICAY	$2\frac{1}{2}$	14	Inn—The Crown.
At Billericay on La T. R. through Brentwood to London, on R to Rochford and Southend.			
Stock	3	17	
CHELMSFORD	6	23	

## TILBURY FORT TO BRENTWOOD.

TILBURY FORT to			
West Tilbury	2	2	
Horndon on the Hill	$3\frac{1}{4}$	$5\frac{1}{4}$	Inn—The Bell.

24 ITINERARY OF THE ROADS IN ESSEX.

Dunton Waylett	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	9 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Heron Gate	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Ingrave	$\frac{3}{4}$	13	<i>On the left of Ingrave is Thorndon Hall, Lord Petre.</i>
Brentwood	2	15	<i>Inn—White Hart.</i>

TILBURY FORT TO ROMFORD.

TILBURY FORT to GRAYS THURROCK	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Stifford	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	<i>Near Stifford are Ford Place, seat of Z. Button, esq. and Orsett Hall, R. Baker, esq.</i>
— — —			<i>Before we reach South Okendon is Bell House, Sir T. B. Leonard, and Stubbers, William Russel, esq.</i>
South Okendon	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Corbets Tey	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	12	<i>Near Corbets Tey on L are Great Gaines, Peter Esdaile, esq. and Hurwood Hall, Capt. B. Cox.</i>
— — —			<i>Before we reach Upminster is Cranham Hall, — Boyd, esq.; and at Upminster is New Place, Sir J. Esdaile, bart.</i>
Upminster	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Hornchurch	1	14 $\frac{3}{4}$	<i>A mile on the R of Hornchurch is Nelms, F. H. Newman, esq.</i>
— — —			
Romford	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{4}$	

WIVENHOE TO COLCHESTER.

WIVENHOE to Wivenhoe Cross	1	1	<i>At Wivenhoe in Wivenhoe Park, Major Gen. Sla-</i>
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			<i>ter, Wivenhoe Hall,</i>
			<i>Rev. N. Corsellis.</i>
Wivenhoe Heath	1	2	<i>Over Wivenhoe Heath is</i>
Greensted	1	3	<i>the seat of Slater</i>
Colchester	1	4	<i>Rebow, esq.</i>

## MALDON TO MARGARETTING STREET.

MALDON to			
Runsell	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Danbury	1	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	<i>At Danbury on the right</i>
Great Baddow	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	<i>is Danbury Place, Sir</i>
Gally Wood	} 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	10	<i>Wm. Hillary, bart.</i>
Common			
Margaretting St.	2	12	

## BRADWELL TO MALDON.

BRADWELL to			<i>Near Bradwell is Brad-</i>
			<i>well Lodge, Rev. Sir H.</i>
			<i>Bate Dudley.</i>
Steeple	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Snoreham	4	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Maldon	5	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	

## END OF THE ITINERARY.

## LIST OF BANKERS IN THE COUNTY.

Place of Residence.	Firm.	Upon whom they draw in London.
Braintree	Sparrow and Co.	{ Barclay and Co.
Chelmsford	Sparrow and Co.	{ Barclay and Co.
Chelmsford	Crickitt and Co.	{ Esdaile and Co.
Colchester	Crickitt and Co.	{ Esdaile and Co.
Colchester	Mills and Co.	{ Hankey and Co.
Epping	Joyner and Co.	{ Esdaile and Co.

Halsted	Sparrow and Co.	{ Barclay and Co.
Harwich	Cox and Nunn.	{ Frys and Chapman.
Maldon	Crickitt and Co.	{ Esdaile and Co.
Manningtree	Mills and Co.	{ Hankey and Co.
Manningtree } and Mistley }	Alexander and Co.	{ Frys and Chapman.
Romford }	Joyner, Surridge, and Co.	{ Esdaile and Co.
Saffron Walden,	Searle and Co.	{ Hoare, Barnetts, and Co.
Saffron Walden,	Mortlock and Co.	{ Esdaile and Co.
Witham	Sparrow and Co.	{ Barclay and Co.

## FAIRS.

- Abridge* — June 2, for horses, cattle, and toys.
- Althorne* — June 5, for toys.
- Audley End* — August 5, for cheese.
- Bardfield* — June 22, cattle and toys.
- Barking* — October 22, for horses.
- Basildon* — September 14, for toys.
- Belchamp* — St. Paul's, November 30, for cattle and toys.
- Bentley* — Monday after St. Swithin, July 15, toys.
- Billericay* — August 2, for horses, October 7, cattle and toys in general.
- Blackmore* — August 21, for cattle in general.
- Bradwell* — June 24, for toys.
- Braintree* — May 8, Oct. 2 and 3 for cattle, butter and cheese.
- Brentwood* — July 18, Oct. 15 and 16, for horses and horned cattle.
- Brightlingsea*, near Saint Osyth — June 5, Oct. 15, for horses.
- Bulmer Tye*, near Sudbury. — May 1, (if it is Holy Thursday, then

- the day before,) cattle, hops.
- Burnham* — April 25, September 21 and 22, toys.
- Canewdon* — June 24, toys.
- Canvey Island* — June 25, toys.
- Castle Hedingham*, near Halstead — May 14, Aug. 15, hops and cattle, and Oct. 25, ditto.
- Chelmsford* — May 12, Nov. 12, for cattle.
- Chesterford* — July 5, for horses.
- Chigwell* — September 30, for hiring servants.
- Great Clackton* — June 29, for toys.
- Little Clackton* — July 25, for toys.
- Coggeshall* — Whit Tuesday and Wednesday, for toys and horses.
- Colchester* — Easter Tuesday, wholesale tailors; July 5, horses; July 23, cattle and horses; Oct. 10, cattle, horses, butter, and toys.
- Colt*, near Saffron Walden — November 17.
- Danbury* — Shrove Tuesday, for toys.
- Dedham* — Easter Tuesday, for ditto.
- Dunmow* — May 6, Nov. 8, for cattle.
- Earles' Colne* — March 25, for cattle and toys.
- Elmstead* — May 4, for toys.
- Epping* — Whit Tuesday, October 11, statute; November 13, for horses, cows, and sheep.
- Fairlop* — First Friday in July, pleasure fair.
- Ford Street* — Easter Tuesday, November 1, for toys.
- Fingeringhoe* — Easter Monday, ditto.
- Foulness Island* — July 10, toys.
- Grays* — May 23, cattle and hardware.
- Great Hollingbury*, near Woodside Green — Whit Tuesday, for toys.
- Great Holland* — June 22, pedlary.
- Great Oakley* — April 25, toys.
- Great Tey* — Trinity Monday, ditto.
- Great Wakering* — Sep. 18, ditto.
- Goldanger* — May 14, ditto.
- Hadleigh* — June 24, ditto.

- Hadstock*—June 28, for horses.
- Halstead*—May 6, Oct. 29, for cattle
- Harlow*--Second Wednesday in July, wool; Sep. 9, Nov. 26, for horses and cattle.
- Harwich*—May 1, Oct. 18, for toys.
- Hatfield Broad Oak*—Aug. 5, for lambs.
- High Ongar*—September 19, pedlary.
- Horndon*—June 29, July 15, wool.
- Ingatestone*—Dec. 1, for cattle of all sorts.
- Kelvedon*—Easter Monday, for toys.
- Kerby*—July 26, toys.
- Luchinden*, near Maldon—August 27, great lamb fair.
- Leigh*—Second Tuesday in May, for toys.
- Maldon*—Second Saturday in July, wool; Sep. 14, toys and cattle.
- Manuden*—Easter Monday, for toys.
- Maningtree*—May 31, June 15, toys.
- Missing*—First Tuesday in July, toys.
- Ostend*—June 6.
- Ongar*—Easter Tuesday, and Oct. 11, for hiring servants.
- St. Osyth*—Ascension Day, for toys.
- Paverel*—Whit Tuesday, toys.
- Prittlewell*—July 15, toys.
- Purleigh*—Whit Tuesday, toys.
- Ramsey*—June 15, toys.
- Rayleigh*—Trinity Monday, for horses and toys.
- Rochford*—Easter Tuesday, toys; Wednesday after Sept. 29, wholesale tailors, glovers, and toys.
- Romford*—June 24, horned cattle and horses.
- Salcote*—Aug. 24, for toys.
- South Benfleet*—Aug. 24, for toys.
- South Minster*—Three days before Easter, nine days before Whit Sunday, St. Michael, Sept. 29, toys.
- Stanstead*—May 1, for horses and cattle.
- Stanaway*—April 23, for toys.
- Stebbing*—July 10, for fat lambs and other cattle.

<i>Steeple</i> —Wednesday in Whitsun week, Saturday after St. Michael, Sept. 29, for toys.	fore Mid-lent Sunday, for horses, Nov. 1, for cows.
<i>Tarling</i> —Whit Monday, for toys.	<i>Waltham Abbey</i> —May 14, Sept. 25 and 26, for horses, cows, and hogs, and hiring servants.
<i>Tendering</i> —Sept. 29, for toys.	<i>Walton</i> —June 2, for toys
<i>Thaxted</i> —Monday before Whit Monday, August 10, for horses.	<i>West Mersey</i> —Whit Tuesday, toys.
<i>Thorpe</i> —Monday before Whit Sunday, for toys.	<i>Wicks</i> —Aug. 31, Sept. 18, toys.
<i>Tillingham</i> —Whit Tuesday, Sept. 16, for horses.	<i>Witham</i> —Friday and Saturday in Whitsun week, Sept. 14, Nov. 8, for toys.
<i>Tiptree Place</i> —July 25, for horses and toys.	<i>Wivenhoe</i> —Sept. 4, toys.
<i>Tolesbury</i> —June 29, for toys.	<i>Woodham Ferries</i> —Michaelmas Day, Oct. 10, toys.
<i>Tolleshunt Darcy</i> —June 11, toys.	<i>Writtle</i> , near Chelmsford—Whit Monday.
<i>Walden</i> —Saturday be-	

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF

## THE COUNTY OF ESSEX.

## SITUATION, BOUNDARIES, AND EXTENT.

ESSEX, as one of the eastern maritime counties, is bounded on the east by the German Ocean ; on the west by the rivers Lea and Stort, with a part of Hertfordshire ; on the north by the river Stour and part of Cambridgeshire ; and on the south by the river Thames. Its extent, from east to west, is about 60 miles ; from north to south, 50 ; its outline or boundaries about 120 miles ; and containing

nearly one million and two hundred and forty thousand acres.

#### NAME AND EARLY HISTORY.

This county received its name from its situation, in contradistinction to the districts occupied by the west and south Saxons. At the time of the Roman invasion, it was inhabited by the people called Trinobantes. On the subdivision of this island under the Romans, this county formed part of the province named Flavia Cæsariensis. It appears from the itinerary of Antoninus, that they had five principal stations in this county, viz. Durolitum, Cæsaremagus, Canonium, Camelodunum, and Ad Ansam.

The history of this county, called East Seaxa by the Saxons, during the Heptarchy, is very obscure, being less noticed by historians than any other of their kingdoms. At the time of the Norman conquest, ninety landowners of this county were deprived of their estates, which were transferred to the Norman barons.

#### POPULATION.

This, according to the official returns taken in 1821, consisted of 137,389 males : females 136,059. Total 289,424. Inhabited houses 49,978.

#### CLIMATE AND SOIL.

In the common and popular sense of the word, the climate is mild ; still the northerly and easterly winds in the spring are pernicious both to the animal and vegetable creation, producing colds in the one, and blights in the other. Part of the coast for ten or twelve miles from the sea and river Thames is subject, during autumn, to thick and stinking fogs, the effects of which may be seen in the sallow sickly faces of the inhabitants, and in the prominent bellies of the children. These evils, however, have been considerably corrected by the draining of marshes, and the highly improved cultivation of the lands. Yet even the most elevated regions of

Essex, called the *Hundreds*, are not exempt from agues. The hills attract the vapours from the lower regions of the air, and the inhabitants are more plagued with what they call *cold chills*, than those living in the vales.

With regard to soil, every species of loam, from the most stubborn to the mildest, is to be found; nor is the county without a light portion of gravelly sand, or a good share of meadow and marsh ground, which, with proper management, is very productive. An eminent agriculturist makes the following distinction among soils:—The crop and fallow district of strong loam, including the Rodings. The maritime district of fertile loam. Three districts of strong loam not peculiar in management. The turnip land district, the chalk district, and that of miscellaneous loams.

#### SCENERY AND FACE OF THE COUNTRY.

The most beautiful part of Essex without the addition of a river, is in the liberty of Havering. From Romford to Brentwood is a fine country; but the more striking scenes are not within view of the road. From Dagenham to the Earl of St. Vincent's, who commands a portion of the fine park of Mr. Towers, the country is truly beautiful. From Thorndon, Lord Petre's, to Epping, is all nearly of this description, a perpetual variety of undulation thickly wooded with much fine timber. The fields generally offer a verdure refreshing to the eye; and gentlemen's houses, are thickly strewed in every direction.

Between Hockley and Raleigh there is a very beautiful view of a rich vale, bounded by distant higher grounds; the whole, a scene to the eye of rich cultivation, well wooded. Landon Hill commands the greatest and finest view in the county: the Thames is seen distinctly for many miles, and the distant hills of Kent terminate the view with an



interesting outline ; it exceeds the view from Danbury, though that also is a striking one. The high lands at Purfleet, formed by a chalk cliff, without the intervention of marsh, offer a scene not common on the Essex side of the Thames : it is full of business, shipping, and animation, always an agreeable prospect when mixed with rural features.

South End depends for beauty, as the scenes on tide rivers necessarily must, on the moment of view being high or low water. The river here is five miles wide ; the high lands of Sheppey and the coast of Kent are distinctly seen ; and opposite is the mouth of the Medway. The cliff on which the terrace at South End is built, is high enough to command the whole, and the broken woodland shore that sinks to the water's edge, gives to it an outline of foliage.

A finer country is no where to be seen than the banks of the river Stour from Shoebury to Harwich : the vale through which the river glides has great variety of breadth and features ; and the bounding hills in all directions offer rich scenes of cultivation ; towns, villages, steeples, farms, and woods, are intermixed, and form a succession of landscapes extremely pleasing. The animated as well as decorated scene at Mistley, is at high water singularly beautiful.

From the summit of Jarvis Hill, near Barking, a most delightful prospect is obtained over the river Thames, which is here seen to singular advantage, spreading its expansive bosom for many miles in extent, continually enlivened by the numerous vessels constantly navigating this important portion of the river, while the scene is rendered truly enchanting by the broken range of the coast of Kent, the whole undulating surface, clothed with the softest verdure and bespangled with flourishing villages, forms a sylvan background to the view.



The principal rivers that water this county are, the Colne, the Blackwater, or Pant, the Chelmer, the Crouch, the Ingerbourn, the Roding, and the Cam. In addition to these may be mentioned the Thames, the Lea, the Stort, and the Stour rivers, not properly belonging to the county, but which serve as natural boundaries, and irrigate and fertilize its lands.

The river *Colne* has its source in the parish of Ridgwell, on the northern side of the county. It pursues a south-easterly course to the sea, passing Castle Hedingham, Halstead, and Colchester, and is navigable from the sea to within two miles of the latter place.

The *Blackwater* or *Pant* rises near Debden, on the borders of Cambridgeshire, and with a winding course passing through Bocking and Coggeshall, at Witham receives another stream; from hence flowing in a south-east direction, it forms a junction with the waters of the Chelmer, a little below Maldon. It now meets the tide, and forms an extensive estuary, which frequently spreads its water over the adjacent country.

The river *Chelmer* rises near Thaxted, pursues a winding course, towards the town and priory of Dunmow, which it passes; at Chelmsford it takes a north-easterly direction, and joins the Blackwater near Maldon.

The *Crouch* and *Ingerbourn* are small rivers, which soon fall into the Thames. The *Roding* passes Ongar, Wanstead, Ilford, and Barking, and is navigable to Ilford Bridge.

The *Cam* rises at three springs near Newport, and passing Audley End, Chesterford, &c. takes a northerly course towards Cambridgeshire.

The *Lea* and *Stort* form the western boundary of the county, dividing it from Middlesex and Hertfordshire; the river *Stour* separating it from the county of Suffolk on the north.

Some of the estuaries and creeks are famous for their oysters, and fish are plentiful on the coast. To these we may add, that the Crouch, a very fine river, and laid down too narrow in all the maps, is from three-fourths of a mile to a mile wide, near Burnham, and has water enough for a ninety gun ship; a seventy-four might go up almost to Hull Bridge. The river is a very noble royalty belonging to Sir Henry Mildmay, a grant of Edward III.

#### CANALS.

These have necessarily been very little attended to in a county almost maritime, and besides, so well watered by rivers as Essex; however, some time since, the expediency was resolved upon in the Romford districts, of forming a canal from London to that town, in such a direction as to enable them to convey manure, &c. into the county, by which, in some cases, the farmers might double their crops within the year. A canal from London to Romford, it was observed, might be extended to Maldon, as an intermediate port between the metropolis and the North Seas, from whence both coal and fish are brought to the London market.

#### ROADS AND BRIDGES.

The roads in this county are, without exception, among the very best in any part of England, perhaps from its proximity to the metropolis, and the great number of the opulent possessors of villas, parks, &c. The bridges are every where kept in the best repair, and the number of them have left no ground of complaint of inconvenience on the part of the inhabitants.

#### FARMS AND FARM HOUSES.

Essex has long been famous for containing some of the largest in the kingdom; some of above 1000*l.* per annum, in the district of the *hundreds*; some 1,500*l.* and even 2,000*l.* and upwards. But these have been much lessened, and the number of very large occupiers become very inconsiderable;

the largest remained longest in the maritime parts. Four or five hundred acres have been considered lately, as making a very large farm; from one hundred to three a pretty general size of the better sort. The average of the whole county, at present, perhaps would not rise to 150.

## FARM HOUSES.

These are generally good and conveniently constructed, and the stables, barns, cow-houses, and other offices, more numerous than in most other counties; this is true of the larger houses, but those belonging to small farms, whether holden off hand, or inhabited by the farmers themselves, are so inferior as not to be equal to comfortable cottages. Howlett observes, that on many of the Essex farms, consisting of small ones thrown together, the farmer's own dwelling is frequently ill situated for his whole farm; many too are old mansions, frequently large and expensive. In the unenclosed part of the county the farm houses have been complained of as very awkwardly, and too distantly situated for the whole land belonging to them. The repairs are commonly kept up by the landlord; the tenants, however, finding, in some articles, the rough materials, as straw for thatching, and fetching the bricks, tiles, &c.

## RENT AND SIZE OF FARMS.

The rents in the county of Essex, have for many years past been regulated by the value and description of the soils. In many cases, during the late war, they have been nearly doubled; but since that period, they have at least been threatened with that decrease which has every where attended the decline of the agricultural interest.

## COTTAGES.

Essex, in this respect, Mr. Young observed, resembles the major part of the kingdom, where stone and slate are not the materials for building. The modern built cottages are much superior to the

old ones, being erected with brick, and covered with tile; and such as are of lath and plaster, are in a superior style; but the old cottages are generally of clay-daubing, in bad repair, and very imperfectly covered with thatch. At Gosfield the Marquis of Buckingham built fourteen new cottages, to every one of which a garden of a quarter of an acre was assigned; these have been let at a moderate rent. The Earl of Winchelsea, on reletting his farms in Foulness, annexed land to his cottages, and the industry of the occupiers gratified the wishes of their generous benefactor.

Mr. Joseph French, at East Horndon, also built many cottages, as the best means of remedying the evil of the high price of labour paid during the late war. At that time the Rev. Mr. Hand observed, that the want of cottages was a very great evil. At Dutton there were not houses to cover the inhabitants, in that miserably peopled place.

Since that period several land owners have assigned gardens to their cottages of half a rood; and to some more.

#### TITHES.

No general discussions have been entered into upon this subject in this county. In some places they are about one-fifth of the rent, or five shillings an acre round; in others 4s. 6d. arable; vicarial 3s. 6d.; meadow 1s. 2d.; turnips 1s. 4d.; both 5s. 8d. or 5s. 10d. Composition on the part of the clergy, &c. is generally moderate, though in the course of eleven years this was raised 1s. 3½d. in the pound,

#### TENURES AND LEASES.

The tenures of the landed proprietors are in almost all the diversities of freehold, leasehold, and copyhold. The freehold estates are supposed to be the most numerous, extensive, and valuable. Next to these are the copyhold, there being few parishes in any part of the county, especially in the quarter

of Dunmow, in which there are not one, two, three, or more manors; to the lords of which annual quit-rents are paid, besides fines, or heriots upon deaths, purchases, or other events, and contingencies; some certain and fixed, others variable and arbitrary. The leasehold estates are the fewest and least extensive: there are other estates in mortmain belonging to Guy's and Christ's Hospitals.

Copyhold estates, whether in the hands of proprietors or tenants, are altogether as well cultivated as the free, excepting only in the article of timber; the like may be said of leasehold estates, and even of those in mortmain.

With regard to the tenures by which the mere temporary occupiers hold their farms, they are extremely various; some upon leases, others upon no leases at all, agreeably to the taste and pleasure of the landlord; though by far the greater number, especially those belonging to the smaller proprietors, are let upon leases from eight to ten or twenty-one years.

With respect to leases, he that knows that the length of lease will justify all exertions, will make them freely; but he, on the contrary, who holds by no tenure, or by a short one, cannot and will not make exertions; and the minor advantage received must be proportioned to the deficiency; but leases should never be suffered to run out before the tenants know what is to be their fate.

IMPLEMENTS.

The ploughs used in Essex are the common wheel plough; the swing and foot plough; the common plough of Foulness Island; the common plough at South End; the plough by Duckett; Mr. Gilbie's plough at Grays; the one-horse plough; Mr. Western's single-horse; the go-alone plough; the skim-coulter; Mr. Pitman's improved; Mr. Western's road plough; Lord Somerville's double plough.

The extirpator, Mr. Tweed's. The horse-hoes in Essex are numerous, as Gilbie's, &c. Thrashing-mills are numerous.

The Flemish scythe is used in Foulness for cutting beans, and is there called a *bean-peck*. An ant-hill machine was used at Latchingdon, before the pastures were improved, and was of great service.

#### CATTLE.

The object which generally pervades Essex is the keeping cows for suckling calves; next grazing in the marshes; the dairy district is not considerable. In the islands of Wallasea, Foulness, &c. Lincoln, Leicester, South Down, and every breed of polled sheep are preferred to those of the horned kind; but in different parts of the county all kinds of crosses have been introduced. A moveable bridge is used in some parts for passing flocks over marshes, ditches, &c. The best hogs in the county are called the Essex half-black; the best sorts of which are reckoned inferior to none in the kingdom. They feed remarkably quick, grow fast, are thin in the skin, and light in the bone and offal, and are also an excellent meat. A description of the particular breeds of horses would only be interesting to agriculturists. The Suffolk breed of horses are the favourites in Essex; the best farmers are generally in the habit of keeping their horses in warm well-littered yards, with sheds for them to retire under. Into these they are turned at night, and at some other times when not worked.

Many oxen are here worked in the plough, &c. to great advantage.

#### DAIRIES.

The largest dairy farms are at, or in the neighbourhood of Epping, so deservedly famous for the richness of its cream and butter. The farmer even here confines himself to no particular sort of cows, but keeps up a stock of promiscuous cattle, bought



in as opportunities offer, though indeed the more provident of them say, where the land is particularly good, the Derby and Leicestershires have a preference. These in the summer are fed with the natural and artificial grasses, and in the winter with hay (which is in general of the best quality) and grains. The best dairies are built on the north side of the farm-houses, calculated to be always cool; and are furnished with square troughs, lined with lead, sufficient to hold nine or ten gallons of milk, which is seldom suffered to be more than five or six inches deep; this, in the winter, is skimmed four, and in the summer two or three times; and the cream, after being kept three or four days, is churned into butter, and the milk, after it will afford no more cream, is given to the hogs, which it fattens to most delicious pork. Nearer London, their grass land is mown twice, and, upon an average, will produce near three loads an acre, at 1800 weight a load, which is mowed, made, and stacked in four days, if the weather will permit; for, as soon as it is cut, the field is filled with women and children, who spread it, and turn it three or four times in the course of a day, which expeditious method is almost sure to make hay good.

## POTATOE CULTURE.

Near Ilford, are some very extensive potatoe grounds, which are cropped year after year with this root, and produce a very lucrative trade in Covent Garden: the practice is, in the spring of the year to select the very small potatoes of last year, or cut the large ones into pieces, leaving one, two, or three eyes in each, and plant them regularly; these will shoot at each eye; and unless some accident prevents it, produce a considerable increase by October, when they are taken up and housed, ready to be carried to market, as the demand is made for them. This species of husbandry cannot be carried on with success, except in light lands,

where the situation is such as to afford a constant supply of town, or other good manure, to keep the land in the best condition.

#### AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

An Agricultural Society has been established upwards of twenty years, which meets at Chelmsford. The time of its institution was when the produce of the country was growing more and more inadequate to its consumption, notwithstanding every motive which private interest could suggest for the increase and improvement of our cultivation. It was therefore expedient to try what a more general combination of human ingenuity could do towards furnishing new excitements and new advantages for the attainment of this necessary object.

#### WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

These are now tolerably uniform about the county. Some years ago, wheat was sold by weight or measure, according to the agreement of the buyer or seller. The measure was eight gallons and a half the bushel; the weight, what was usually called *peck weight*, being the medium of what eight and a half of good wheat would weigh. Before the statute regulated the sale of wheat to the Winchester bushel, all other grains were sold by measure; but measures of various kinds in different places, and for different sorts of corn. Most kinds of seeds, as clover, carrot, rape, &c. as also butter, cheese, hops, &c. are sold by troy weight. Medical drugs by apothecaries'. Various articles go by tale; some by the dozen, some by the score, and some by the hundred of six score, as hop poles, faggots, &c. Apples, turnips, potatoes, &c. are sold by the bushel.

#### WASTE LANDS.

Still the waste lands, including the forests, much exceed ten thousand acres. The adjacent forests of Epping and Hainault, are viewed as an intolerable nuisance, and are equally regarded as such at



Chigwell and Loughton, where the farmers uniformly declare that the commonage is by no means equal to one-tenth part of the losses they continually sustain from the deer, in breaking down their fences, trespassing upon their fields, and destroying their crops, white or green. These forests, so near the metropolis, are also well known to be the nursery and resort of the most idle and profligate of men, and especially about the seasons of Easter and Whitsuntide. The *thicks*, or what may be called forest lands in the county, are about 370 acres, exclusive of Hainault and Epping.

## ENCLOSURES, FENCES, AND EMBANKMENTS.

Essex has been for ages an enclosed county, so that there was no field here for the great parliamentary exertions which have been made in so many other counties. About 3500 acres at the two Chesterfords, were enclosed by act of parliament in 1803; and the rise of rent was from 10, 12, 14, to 20s. per acre. The Naseing Enclosure was a very extraordinary regulation of a most valuable common of 453 acres. By an utter neglect of the fences surrounding it, there was some danger of the bounds being lost, and that encroachments might gradually take in material parts of it; it was also stocked in a manner that deprived the poor of the benefit which they have reaped under a better arrangement, and which they undoubtedly enjoyed after the proposed alteration had been made. The circumstance in the regulation of this common most worthy of attention, was the effect of the assistance given to the poor to stock land, which was first afforded those about Naseing by Mr. Palmer. It was observed, that before this took place, "the people there were a sad lawless set." Afterwards it was remarked, "there were not more orderly people in the county." And what made them so? giving them property in live stock; and by advancing them money, all repaid in two years.

The Essex fences generally consist of hedge-rows, of various kinds of wood, hazel, maple, ash, oak, elm, black thorn, white thorn, bramble-bush, with timber and pollard trees, interspersed and growing in them at different distances. These hedges, especially in soils not perfectly dry, have commonly a ditch on one side, from one foot and a half to three, and even four feet deep, and about one-third wider at top than at the bottom.

The gates are infinitely diversified, according to the taste, genius, or fancy of the proprietor or his agents. Bridle, or spur-way gates are chiefly for the passage and use of persons on horseback; the stiles also in Essex, made merely for the convenience and passage of foot travellers, are as diversified in their forms as the gates.

The sweet briar and the elm are employed as hedge plants; the former is to be seen about Layer de la Haye, and nearly all the way thence to Mersey Island; it forms a very thick fence, but perhaps not very secure.

The whole coast of Essex to the Ocean and the Thames is embanked, with no exceptions, but at Harwich, South End, and Purfleet.

These embankments are mostly old, with several new ones of *saltings* contiguous to older *intakes*, proportionably to the degree in which the sea retires. The sea has lately gained on all the coast of Tendring hundred, and many able men think the embankments will be carried away, as they were about thirty years ago at Osyth. The greatest work of embanking was begun in April, 1801, on the Earl of Winchelsea's estate on Foulness Island; three hundred and thirty acres were taken in by two of his Lordship's tenants, who were to have it rent free for 21 years. They were excluded from ploughing it, but by making ditches they divided it into proper fields. There being no

fresh water on it, they drive the cattle to what are called the uplands.

## DECOYS.

One of the best, if not the most considerable decoy in the county, is in Mersey Island, and rented with a small farm of sixty acres, by Mr. Buxton of Layer de la Haye. "He was so obliging," says the author of the *Agricultural Survey of Essex*, "as to accompany me thence into Mersey, and to show me his decoy. Not having before viewed a decoy in the *taking* season, I had not remarked the practice of each person taking a piece of lighted turf stuck on a table fork in his hand, to approach the decoy; as the wild ducks, it is said, would certainly smell the person without this precaution, and immediately quit the pond. I found the expences of this decoy considerable; two men who attend it, who are paid above a hundred a year; repairs, nets, rent, &c. amount in all to about three hundred a year. Ducks are sometimes so low as 14s. a dozen.

"The contrivance for taking dun-birds was new to me. At the decoy for them near Ipswich, there are a series of high poles, to which the nets are attached, for taking them in their flight; and these poles are permanent. At this Mersey decoy, to which this bird resorts in large quantities as well as ducks, the net poles are suspended when not at work.

"Mr. Lee has a decoy at Goldhanger, in which he took at one haul one waggon load and two cart loads of dun birds; but the disturbance made, frightened such as escaped so much, that he took no more that season."

## TITLES CONFERRED BY THE COUNTY.

*Harwich* gives the title of Baron to the Hill family. *Maldon*, Viscount to the Capel Coningsbys, and the county itself that of Earl to the same family. *Rockford*, Earl to the Nassau de Zulestein. *Waldon*, Baron to the Ellises. *Easton*

*Parva*, Viscount to the Maynards. *Hoo*, baron to the Villierses. *Much Haddon*, the same to the Maynards. *Writtle*, the same to the Petres.

EMINENT CHARACTERS AND LEARNED MEN, &c.

This county is abundantly prolific in biography. Thomas Audley, Lord Chancellor of England under Henry VIII. was a zealous assistant to the king in seizing the monasteries. He died in 1544. Richard de Badow, the original founder of Clare Hall, Cambridge, born at Badow towards the close of the 13th century. Sir Thomas Bendish, Bart. ambassador to the Ottoman Porte, during the protectorship of Oliver Cromwell, born at Bower Hall, and died in 1674. Sir Anthony Cooke, tutor to Edward VI. died 1576. Samuel Harsnet, Archbishop of York, born at Colchester 1561. Sir William Dawes, a learned prelate, born near Braintree 1671, died 1724. Sir Walter Mildmay, founder of Emanuel College, Cambridge, born at Chelmsford, died 1589. Sir Harbottle Grimstone, a distinguished lawyer, born at Bradfield Hall near Manningtree, died 1683. Sir John Hawkwood, born at Hawkwood, near Sible Hedingham, died at Florence in Italy, 1394. John Ray, the celebrated Naturalist, born at Black Notley 1628, died 1705. John Suckling, poet and dramatic writer, born at Witham 1613, died 1641. Dr. Plume, Archdeacon of Rochester, born at Maldon 1630, died 1704. He founded the Plumian Professorship of Astronomy and experimental Philosophy at Cambridge.

Newspapers printed in this county : Chelmsford Chronicle, on Fridays ; Chelmsford Essex Herald, Tuesdays ; Colchester Gazette, Saturdays.

ASSIZES AND QUARTER SESSIONS.

The former of these for the County, called the Lent and Summer Assizes, are holden at Chelmsford, and the Quarter Sessions are holden here and at Colchester.

## CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS.

The county of Essex is divided into 20 parts, of which 14 are hundreds; five half hundreds; and one a Royal liberty. These are subdivided into about 400 parishes and townships, and 25 towns.

Essex is in the diocese of London, and contains three archdeaconries, and 15 deaneries: it returns eight members to Parliament, viz. two for the county, two for Maldon, two for Harwich, and two for Colchester: is in the Home Circuit, pays 24 parts of the land-tax, and provides 960 men for the militia.



## TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY OF ESSEX.

*Journey from Landguard Fort to Stratford-le-Bow, through Colchester, Chelmsford, Brentwood, and Rumford.—69½ miles.*

**P**ROCEEDING a short distance by boat up the estuary formed by the junction of the united streams of the Orwell and Stour with the sea, an estuary memorable for an action between the English and Danish fleets in the year 884, we enter the north-east extremity of Essex at HARWICH, a populous and flourishing market and sea-port town, seated upon a point of land washed upon the east by the German Ocean, and upon the north by the estuary just noticed.

This town, as its name *hæpetic*, derived from *Here* an army; and *Wick* a strong hold, implies, was originally a strong hold, garrisoned by the Saxons, for the purpose of repelling invasion; it afterwards became a Roman station, and one of no mean rank, if we may conjecture from the many Roman antiquities found in this vicinity.

Till after the Conquest, Harwich was not esteem-

ed a place of any note ; after that event, however, it gradually rose into celebrity upon the ruin of Orwell, a town said to have been seated on a shoal called the West-Rocks, situated at present five miles from the shore, having been overwhelmed by an inundation of the sea ; the ruins of this ancient town are still visible beneath the water. Harwich obtained a charter, constituting it a borough and market town, from Edward II. through the solicitation of his brother Thomas de Brotherton, lord of the manor ; the new and extensive charter which it possesses at present, was granted in the 12th year of the reign of James I. The government of the corporation is by this charter vested in the hands of a mayor, eight aldermen, 24 capital burgesses, a recorder, and other subordinate officers ; the right of sending two representatives to parliament, the exercise of which had been dormant from the reign of Edward III. was also restored by this deed, and the right of election granted to the corporate officers.

Harwich consists of three principal streets from which variously diverging lanes branch off ; it was originally fortified, and we find that, in the reign of Edward III. a toll was levied for the repair of the fortifications ; the ancient forts and walls are now completely demolished, and the sites of the block-houses are covered by the sea, which makes daily sure though slow inroads upon the land. Government has lately ordered some works to be thrown up on the land side of Harwich.

The Church, or rather Chapel, (Harwich being only a chapelry to Dover Court) is consecrated to St. Nicholas, and was founded, as we are informed, early in the 13th century, by Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk. Among several excellent monuments, which it contains, that to the memory of Sir William Clarke, Secretary of War to Charles II. merits observation ; this gentleman died of a wound he

received in the desperate engagement between the fleets under the command of the Duke of Albemarle, and De Ruyter, the famous Dutch admiral, in June 1666. Besides its church this town possesses also a neat town-hall, gaol, school house, and custom house. The school house was rebuilt about forty-four years since.

Ship building and other maritime employments furnish the majority of the inhabitants of this town with the means of support. The naval yard is very commodious, and furnished with all the necessary launches, store-houses, &c.; several third rates, besides merchantmen of considerable burden, have been built in it. The harbour is deep and extensive, with good anchorage, and is capable of containing an immense fleet; we are informed that, at one period upwards of 100 sail of first and second rates, besides frigates and sloops, with from 3 to 400 colliers, rode here together without danger or inconvenience. A light house to direct ships entering the harbour by night, has been erected upon a hill a little distant from the town.

The North Sea fishery gives employment to a large number of the smacks belonging to this place: their tonnage is averaged at upwards of 3000 tons, and the number of hands at about 500.

Besides the profits derived to the inhabitants from these employments, they possess another, and, in times of tranquillity, an extremely lucrative source of emolument, from the circumstance of this town being the station of the packets which sail between England, and Holland and Germany. Harwich has been indebted to this circumstance for the frequent visits of royal and distinguished personages. Her late Majesty, consort of George the third, landed here upon her first arrival from the continent.

From the amenity of its situation, and its happy convenience for sea-bathing, Harwich is, during



the proper season, much frequented by gay and fashionable visitors, for whose accommodation bathing machines, &c. are provided; the neatness and elegance of the private baths render the introduction of machines almost unnecessary, as they not only afford a greater degree of privacy, but are also infinitely more convenient, and are so situated as to have a fresh supply of sea-water every tide.—Of these baths two are hot; for the convenience of invalids, a vapour bath also has been fitted up.

Harwich as a watering place is not deficient in celebrity: till lately, private baths, covered over and filled by the influx of the tide, were in common use here; but since bathing machines have become so much in fashion, the preference has been given to them. There is a pleasant walk to a high spot of land opposite the mouth of the Orwell and Landguard Fort, and thence a commanding view of a vast expanse of ocean. During the late war, this town had a camp in its vicinity on the right of the road leading into Harwich, about half a mile from the town, on an elevated dry spot; the main ocean in front within twenty yards of the quarter guard tent. In the rear is an arm of the sea, that joins Manningtree and Ipswich rivers; on the left is the town of Harwich. Here are eight large wherries or passage boats, which sail daily with passengers and goods from Ipswich, distant twelve miles, and the same from Mistley and Manningtree, and return again at half flood. Here are also convenient ferry boats at any hour from Harwich across the harbour to Shotley and Walton in Suffolk, each place distant about two miles. Aquatic parties frequently make an excursion up the Orwell, the banks of which are studded with handsome villas and pleasure grounds. It is usual to sail up the Stour.

Harwich has been considerably improved within these last twenty years. A new road has been made leading to the town, of great advantage to



the entrance. New barracks have been erected, and a tower or fortress, which was many years building at a great expense, on an eminence on the side of the road is a striking object. This fortress is protected by works under ground bomb proof; and the whole is surrounded by a wide and deep ditch and a drawbridge. A new guard house, and an armoury, have also been erected; and two new light houses, lately built in the room of the old ones, are worthy the attention of travellers, as is also the new cement manufactory. The packets for the continent with the foreign mails sail on Wednesdays and Fridays from Harwich, which is  $71\frac{1}{2}$  miles from London.

Harwich Cliff, which divides Orwell Haven from the bay extending to Walton Ness, contains a vast profusion of animal exuviae, imbedded in a stratum of bluish clay, also the limestone which alternates with it, and more especially in the sandy strata, which compose no inconsiderable portion of the cliff. The various immense teeth and bones found in many of the fallen masses have been conjectured to be the remains of the elephants introduced here by Claudius in 43.

At a distance of one mile south-west from Harwich, we arrive at the small but neat village of DOVER COURT, famous in the days of monkish superstition for the possession of a miraculous cross or *rood*, which was placed in the church, and much resorted to by pilgrims and visitors; its reputation for sanctity and its miraculous powers received such implicit credit, that to adopt any measures for preventing its being stolen, was conceived by the vulgar to be impious, and that instant death would be the lot of those who dared to close the doors of the church upon it; in consequence, however, of this visionary security, four well-judging men, anxious to destroy the groundless illusions of papal bigotry, carried off the crucifix in the year 1532, and burned it, to prevent a further continuance of

the idolatrous adoration which was paid to it. Their courage was, however, fatal to three of the number, who were taken and condemned to death for what was termed felony and sacrilege: they were hung, as a dreadful example to others, in various parts of the country; but nevertheless the work of reformation advanced with rapidity, for as Fox the celebrated martyrologist well observes, "the spirit of God did more edify the people in godly learning, than all the sermons that had been preached there a long time before."

At a distance of about seven miles from Dover Court, and a little retired from the great London road, upon the left hand, is the village of WICKES, where was formerly a nunnery of Benedictines, founded during the reign of Henry I. and dedicated to the Holy Virgin. Cardinal Wolsey obtained from the Pope a bull for its suppression, and procured a grant of its revenues, amounting to 92l. 12s. 3d. per annum, for a college, which he had just founded at Oxford: the property of the nunnery fell, however, soon after to the College of Cardinals at Ipswich, and upon Wolsey's disgrace came to the crown. Henry VIII. made over a grant of the nunnery to Sir Adam Fortescue; it next came into the possession of Edward Gilbert, Esq. who had permission to alienate it to the Veseys; it has since that period passed through various hands, and the remains of the nunnery have been wholly destroyed.

About nine miles from Dover Court, and one south of Manningtree, we observe, upon an agreeable eminence, the pleasant seat of ——— Rigby, Esq. which is called Mistley Hall, and commands a most enchanting prospect of the Stour, from whose banks it is not far remote. At the period of making the Domesday Survey, this manor belonged to the wife of Henry de Ramis; after passing through a variety of families, it fell at length to the

crown, in the reign of Henry VIII. Sir John Rainsforth afterwards obtained a grant of it from Edward VI. ; it was sold by his heirs to Paul Viscount Baynery, whose grand-daughter Anne conveyed it by marriage to the last Earl of Oxford, from whom Edward Rigby, an ancestor of the present proprietor, purchased the reversion in 1680. The place has been much improved and embellished of late. At a little distance further on we arrive at MANNINGTREE, a small and irregularly built town, known at the time of the Domesday Survey, by the name of *Sciddinchou*. It stands upon the south bank of the Stour, and though but a chapelry, like Harwich, is nevertheless a market town. Early in the reign of Queen Anne, the Stour was, by an act of parliament, rendered navigable from hence to Sudbury in Suffolk. The inhabitants import principally deals, corn, coals, fish, and iron: it has nothing remarkable to boast of, except the sad decline of its greatness, having been called in the certificate of chantry lands, “a great towne, and also a haven towne, having in yt to the number of 700 houseling people.” Harwich at present contains 4010 inhabitants, and about 665 houses.

Proceeding about seven miles further we arrive at COLCHESTER, the principal town in Essex, situated chiefly upon the summit and northern aspect of a fine eminence rising from the Colne, which washes its north and east sides, and is navigable as far as New Hythe, at the eastern extremity of the town. The ancient history of this place has been the source of much litigation among Antiquarians, and we might almost say that, “*adhuc sub judice lis est.*” Of its extreme antiquity no doubts are entertained, and accurate investigation establishes the fact of its having been a British as well as a Roman city ; relics of Roman grandeur are every

day discovered, and the strength of those portions of its fortifications which have still weathered out the assaults of that foe to human labours *Tempus edax rerum*, convince the spectator of the vast importance of the place they were destined to defend.

That this town is the Camelodunum of the Roman historians is sufficiently demonstrated by the many gold, silver, and brass coins discovered here with the letters CVNO, or CVNOB, abbreviations of *Cunobiline*, upon one side, and CAM, or CAMV, intended to denote *Camalodunum* upon the other. Morant, in his History of Essex, notices a coin in his own possession which has the words CVNOB.. REX, upon the obverse; and a horse feeding, with ..MV below, upon the reverse.

Upon Cæsar's departure from Britain, it is conjectured that Mandubratius was sovereign of the Trinobantes, and that Camalodunum was his royal city. When upon his death the government was vacant, his brother Tenuant took possession of the throne, and his son Cunobiline, desirous of an acquaintance with the manners of the Romans, passed over to the continent, and having paid a visit to Augustus in his camp, returned with him to Rome, where he was publicly saluted as a friend to the commonwealth. Cunobiline is supposed, during his residence at this metropolis of the world, to have been diligent in acquiring a knowledge of the arts of his hosts, and afterwards, upon his return to Britain, and accession to the throne, endeavoured to improve and benefit his own subjects, by the diffusion of his own knowledge. Upon his death in 42, Guiderius his son mounted the throne, and during his reign ambassadors were dispatched to the emperor Claudius at Rome to demand the surrender of some British fugitives, whom he harboured; this was evaded, and upon pretence of negligence in paying the tribute imposed upon them,

the Romans declared war, and Guiderius was repeatedly defeated by the generalship of Plautius, a skilful Roman commander. Arviragus (otherwise called Caractacus), his brother, after the bloody engagement which cost Guiderius his life, saved the remnant of the army from destruction, and by his acquaintance with the country, and leading the too-eager army of Plautius into bogs and morasses, nearly effected its total discomfiture.

Undismayed by the death of Guiderius, the Britons, under their new, valiant, and skilful general, resolved upon exerting all their energies in accomplishing the extermination of Plautius and his forces, and this general, apprehensive of the danger, which he observed increasing and advancing from every side, informed Claudius of his alarming situation, and, securing the conquests he had already made, contentedly awaited the arrival of the emperor, who shortly landed with a large army, and a conjunction being effected between their forces, they passed the Thames, upon the opposite banks of which they experienced a dreadful opposition from the Britons, whom they, however, at length compelled to fly; pursuing the advantages he had gained, Claudius advanced with rapidity to Camalodunum, which he stormed, and colonized with Roman veterans from the 2d, 9th, and 14th legions, and gave it the name of Colonia, as a mark of its being the first Roman colony established in Britain.—It also appears from the money, which Camden tells us was struck by Claudius, with the inscription COL. CAMALODVN., to have also borne the name of *Colonia Camalodunum*. In another inscription, furnished by the same author, it is called from the veterans of the 14th legion, who from their gallantry were styled conquerors of Britain, *Colonia Victricensis*. The inscription is as follows:

CN. MVNATIVS. M. F. PAL.

AVRELIVS BASSVS.

PROC. AVG.

PRÆF. FABR. PRÆF. COH. III.

SAGITTARIORVM. PRÆF. COH. II.

ASTVRVM. CENSITOR CIVIUM.

ROMANORVM. COLONIÆ.

VICTRICENSIS

QVÆ. EST. IN. BRITANNIA.

CAMALODVNI.

CVRATOR. VIÆ. NOMENTANÆ.

PATRONVS. EIVSDEM. MVNICIPII.

FLAMEN. PEPETVVS. DVVMVIRALL.

POTESTATE. ÆDILIS. DEDI-

CATOR. III.

Claudius, having settled the colony at Camalodunum, and reduced the adjoining country, returned to Rome, where he was received with triumphal honours, Plautius being left as proprætor to keep the conquered inhabitants in subjection; he made Camalodunum the seat of government, and carried on the war against those who refused obedience to the Roman arms with the greatest vigour, till being recalled about the year 48, Ostorius Scapula succeeded him in the command. This general, finding upon his arrival that various incursions had been made into the Roman territories, took the field with all dispatch, and expelled the invaders with dreadful slaughter. The natives still, however, retained an unbroken spirit of independence; their exertions were checked, not crushed. Caractacus, the brave but unfortunate general and prince of the Britons, still harassed the tranquillity, and menaced the safety of the colonists; the superior skill and discipline of these latter however decided the fortune of war in their favour: the gallant Caractacus was compelled to bow to the victorious arms of his opponents, and the country of the Silures fell to the lot of the conquerors. This acces-



loss of territory to the Romans was fatal to the newly-founded colony, for Ostorius, anxious to secure his newly-acquired conquests, drew from it most of the veteran legions stationed there for its defence, and Camalodunum fell an easy sacrifice to the vengeance of an enraged and oppressed people. The cupidity of the Roman governors had been long tolerated with impatience, till at length the enterprising spirit of the valiant Boadicea, roused the nation to a sense of its rights, and laid the foundation of an insurrection which had nearly proved fatal to the Roman power in every part of the island. The destruction of Camalodunum was foretold, as Tacitus gravely assures us, by sundry and portentous prodigies. Roused by intelligence of the impending danger, Suetonius Paulinus hastened with all his forces from the island of Anglesea, in which he was stationed; the fury of the Britons frustrated however all his exertions at first, and he had the mortification of seeing London and Verulam fall before the resistless impetuosity of the enraged and heroic queen. Obtaining, however, at length, an advantageous position, Suetonius resolved to hazard the issue of a general engagement, and the Britons, secure, as they imagined, from their former success, of undoubted victory, by rushing on with imprudent rashness, afforded the disciplined veterans of Rome an easy conquest; and the Roman power was henceforward established upon firmer grounds than ever.

From the concurring testimonies of historians, and the discovery of Roman coins in this vicinity, it would appear that Camalodunum rose again, from its ashes, like the phoenix, with redoubled splendour, soon after this overthrow.

The remains of Roman splendour discovered in this vicinity are more numerous than those discovered in any other part of South Britain, and the many strong fortifications which are observed

stretching from north to south establish the fact of this place having been long a settlement of the conquerors.

The account of the birth of the great Constantine, the first Christian emperor, in this city, is of such doubtful authenticity, that we decline its narration: those who are curiously inclined will be gratified with the perusal of it in Morant's History of Colchester, and also in Britton and Brayley's elegant work, the Beauties of England and Wales.

While the Saxon power was predominant in this country, Colchester, then known by the name of *Colonceaster* or *Colneceaster*, lost much of its original importance, owing to the increasing wealth, consequence, and magnificence of its powerful neighbour London, the situation of which was much more favourable to the increase of commerce.

The treaty concluded between Alfred the Great and the Danish chieftain Guthrum, ceded Colchester, and its surrounding district, to the latter, in whose possession it remained till his death, which occurred in a few years, upon which Alfred became once more the nominal master of it; but was unable to exercise his authority till by obtaining a naval superiority he cut off the communication of the Danes with their own country, and thus compelled them to own him for their monarch; still, however, they retained Colchester, as their principal fortress.

When upon the death of Alfred, his son Edward, surnamed the Elder, succeeded to the throne, the Danes, headed by Ethelwald, nephew to the late and cousin to the present king, recommenced their customary depredations, and endeavoured to place their leader upon the throne; a large army of Danes and Normans coming to his assistance.—The death of Ethelwald, in an unsuccessful engagement with the adherents of Edward in the ensuing year, frustrated the hopes of the Danes, and induced them to return once more to their alle-



giance; so small, however, was the confidence to be reposed in their promises, that we find Edward reduced to the necessity of enforcing their submission, and restraining their incursions, by the establishment of strong fortifications at Witham and Maldon; and, in consequence of the repeated infractions of treaties by the Danes, he assembled a large army in the year 921, and laying siege to *Colneceaster*, took it by storm, putting to the sword all who were not so fortunate as to escape, by leaping over the walls, and seeking security among the East Angles.

The depopulated city is conjectured to have been repeopled by Edward, with a colony of West Saxons, and its fortifications to have been restored in the November of 922.

At the period of compiling the Domesday Survey, Colchester appears to have been a very considerable town, having no less than 276 burgesses.—The fee-farm of the town was let to the sheriff of Essex, for an annual sum, in the reign of Henry II. but in consequence of the rigorous exaction of the rents, Henry shortly after commuted this with the burgesses for the annual stipend of 42l. per annum.

Colchester was besieged during the commotions in the reign of John, by Saher de Quincy, Earl of Winchester, at the head of an army of foreigners, but was relieved by the approach of the barons, who were assembled in London, and from whom the earl retreated to Bury St. Edmunds. Saher, however, or some of his party, shortly after obtained possession of and plundered the town, leaving a garrison in the castle; but of this they were not long possessed, for being soon besieged by King John, they were forced to surrender. It was in the year 1218 that Colchester fell into the hands of the troops of Louis, son to Philip II. of France, who visited England with the professed intention of supporting

the demands of the barons ; but really, as it would seem from the conduct of the French, to make conquests for themselves. But the castle was not permitted to be long disgraced by the display of the French flag, for the submission of the barons to their new sovereign Henry III. enabled that prince to expel the faithless and treacherous Louis from the island.

The inhabitants of Colchester were much harassed during the reign of Edward III. by the daring aggressions of Lionel de Bradenham, who, enraged at being foiled in his endeavours at obtaining the exclusive fishery of the Colne, which belonged to the burgesses by a grant of Richard I. beset the approaches to the town for three months, with a band of daring villains, and proceeded even to an attempt at destroying the place by fire.

Colchester sided fervently with Mary at the period of the attempt being made to place the unfortunate Lady Jane Grey upon the throne, and in consequence of this attachment to her cause was honoured with a visit by Mary, shortly after her establishment upon the throne : Mary was received with all possible demonstrations of joy, and was at her departure presented with a silver cup, and 20*l.* in gold. Her gratitude for these attentions did not, however, emancipate Colchester from experiencing the effects of her cruel superstition. The torch of bigotry and the flames of persecution ceased to blaze, upon the accession of Elizabeth, and a colony of Flemings, fugitives from the persecutions of the merciless Alva, were admitted to settle here, and establish their manufactures. These unfortunate exiles received such encouragement upon their first settling at Colchester that their numbers greatly and rapidly increased. Their regularity and method, as well in civil as in religious matters, was an example to the natives of the place, and the internal regulations of their little community were so admirable, that their poor were never permitted

to become a burthen to their hosts. The manufacture of bays and serges, introduced by these people, brought no small increase of wealth and consequence to Colchester.

Charles, upon the commencement of his unfortunate contest with the Parliament, found, in the inhabitants of Colchester, steady friends, in consequence of which this city suffered severely, and was reduced to the greatest distress by a siege in the year 1648. About this time, projects were formed in various parts of the kingdom for curbing the undue exercise of the powers of the Parliament, and frequent conferences were held with a view of effecting this object and the restoration of the monarchy, by the nobility and gentry in various parts of the kingdom; nor were the loyalists of Essex deficient in their zeal and activity in support of the royal cause, and their exertions were not without success; for having seized the parliamentary committee, sitting at Chelmsford, and mustered a considerable force, they marched to Brentwood, under the command of Sir Charles Lucas; here they effected a junction with Lord Goring, their numbers being rapidly increased to 3,400 infantry and 600 cavalry; being however unequal to a contest with the Parliamentary general, Fairfax, who was sent against them, they determined to retreat to Colchester, where the inhabitants, unwilling to admit them, closed the gates and collected a troop of about 60 horse to defend the approaches to the town; but the approach of Sir Charles Lucas with some companies of horse, so far intimidated them, that he was put into peaceable possession of the town, upon condition of not injuring the inhabitants. Lord Goring arrived soon after with the main body, and put the fortifications immediately into the best state of defence; Fairfax, however, arriving with a strong force, summoned the governor, and upon receiving a refusal to capitulate, commanded

an assault, which the bravery of the royalists defeated. Upon this failure, Fairfax commenced a regular siege, which was continued during 11 weeks, when the town was obliged to capitulate, upon the hardest terms, quarter being granted to none but those under the rank of captain. Shortly after the surrender, the gallant, though unsuccessful, defenders of the cause of majesty, Sir Charles Lucas, Sir George Lisle, and Sir Bernard Gascoyne, were, by a council of war, held at the Moot Hall, condemned to death, for their long and obstinate defence of the city. During the siege, the inhabitants suffered severely from the want of provisions, and after the surrender of the town to the parliamentary forces, a fine of 14,000*l.* was imposed upon them, 2000*l.* of which was afterwards remitted, 2000*l.* granted to the relief of the poor, and the remaining 10,000*l.* distributed among the troops. Previous to Fairfax's departure he compelled the citizens to dismantle their fortifications, and the magistrates were obliged to provide the tools for this purpose. Before this period great attention was paid to the preservation of the walls, of which at present but few remains can be traced; these consist of stone and Roman brick strongly cemented, their thickness varies from seven to eight feet, and the area, which they formerly enclosed, contains somewhat above 108 acres; this area forms a parallelogram, whose longest sides are those upon the north and south; without the walls the suburbs are very irregularly disposed, and occupy principally the south and east sides. The principal streets within the walls run nearly east and west, containing many large shops and handsome dwelling houses, but the old market-house and other small buildings, which occupy part of the middle of the street, disfigured it a long time, and obstructed the passage. So early as 1473 we find the town partly paved, and by various acts

of parliament the repair of the pavement and its extension over the whole town provided for. The walls were rebuilt, after the defeat of the Danes in 921, by Edward the elder, and in the reign of Richard II. they were repaired by the burgesses, who were, in consideration of this, exempted from the charge of sending representatives to Parliament three several times; a similar indulgence for similar services was also granted under Henry IV. and Henry V., but since their demolition by Fairfax they have been wholly neglected; when perfect there were four gates to the town, with three posterns mostly destroyed at present; bastions were erected at proper intervals, and a small fort, known by the name of *Colkynges Castel*, defended the west side of the city.

The Castle stands upon an elevated spot to the north of the High street, and commands a magnificent view of the valley winding to the north and east; the outer walls are nearly perfect, and the importance of the place is evident from their thickness and strength: they are built of an admixture of siliceous and calcareous stones and Roman brick, but the latter are chiefly in large masses, fragments, as it were, of some more ancient building. By Norden the erection of this fortress is ascribed to Edward the elder; but the Saxon chronicle refers it to Eudo Dapifer, sewer or steward to William the Conqueror, and its testimony receives no small confirmation from the circumstance of its general structure being Norman; from the immense quantity of Roman bricks, and these not single but united into masses, as already noticed, it would appear that this building was erected upon the site of a more ancient fortress built by the Romans, and if tradition is to be believed, this was built by a Roman general of the name of Cœlius, which Mr. Gough conjectures to have been the name which the Britons corrupted into Coël. The

improbability, however, of such a conjecture being correct, is evident from our having no account of the occupation of so strong and extensive a fortress previous to the Conquest.

The form of the Castle is a parallelogram, measuring upon its east and west sides 140 feet, and upon the north and south 102 feet. There are projecting square towers to the north-east and north-west angles; at the south side on the west face there is another square tower; and a semicircular tower, having a radius of 20 feet, upon the east face. The thickness of the foundations is 30 feet; that of the lower part of the walls 12, and of the upper nearly 11 feet. The chief entrance is beneath a strong semicircular arch, with three-quarter columns, situated near the south-west tower; the capitals belonging to the columns of this gateway are of the Norman order of architecture. A portcullis formerly defended this entrance, within which, upon the right, the guard or janitor was stationed, in a niche appropriated to him: not far hence is a square room, having, at its further end, a flight of stairs leading to the vaults, of which that which is situated immediately at the foot of them measures 26 feet in length and 21 in breadth; the narrow passage at its extremity is bricked up, to prevent the accidents which might arise from the ruinous condition of the arch of the next vault into which it leads. Upon the right of this first vault, a passage has been broken through the wall into an adjacent one, from which the light is wholly excluded, and whose dimensions are similar: hence, through a chasm at its extremity, a passage leads to a third vault of the same breadth as at the others, but much longer. When first discovered, about 90 or 100 years since, these vaults were found full of sand, which was removed by an opening, at present closed up, made through the foundation wall near the north-east corner; the original descent to



them is still undiscovered, the present staircase breaking through the crown of the arch; hence, therefore, it seems probable that many others have yet escaped observation. Between the stairs and a window in the south wall, is a well now arched over, at the time of doing which, the workmen whose curiosity induced them to descend, discovered, about half way down, an arched passage leading to the south, which however was left unexplored.

Beyond the stairs is an entrance into a large area formerly roofed, and divided by a wall running north and south. Within this space, upon its different floors, were the principal apartments of the castle: and also a gallery that runs between the wall which crosses the area, and that which is demolished. At the south end of the gallery is a strong arched room, scantily illuminated by a small aperture in the south wall of the castle.—Here, tradition says, the gallant but unfortunate Sir Charles Lucas, and Sir George Lisle, were confined after their condemnation for so bravely defending Colchester.

At the extremity of a wall which separates this area from a second, is a door above and below, which led into the apartments which filled the space between the east wall of the castle and gallery. At the south end of this space, in the south-east tower, on the ground floor, is a strong arched room, with walls of an astonishing thickness. In the south-west tower is the grand staircase, which is circular, arched above, and built of stone; this leads to a modern room, used as a subscription library. An arcade of modern workmanship, which runs along the north wall of the library, leads to the ancient chapel, which is a venerable piece of architecture, the beauty of whose proportions strike the eye notwithstanding the massiveness of its construction. The roof is strongly arched, and the light is admitted through five windows, of which two have been:

enlarged, while the rest continue nearly in their original state. This building is 47 feet long, nearly 40 broad, and proportionably high. Prisoners are confined in the arched vault beneath it.

In the north-east and north-west towers, upon the same floor with the chapel, are various small rooms or recesses, and in the latter is also a staircase, which descends from the upper part of the tower, and terminates at the first floor. At the foot of the stairs, in the north wall of the castle, is a sally-port, now closed up, which opened upon an abutment of the north-west tower. This sally-port, (which is nine feet wide) and the great gateway in the south wall, are the only original entrances into the castle. From the principal staircase in the north-east tower, another flight of steps leads to what was the second floor; the walls of this story, of which but a very small part now remains, were nine feet thick. The dome which covers the staircase, the passage formed upon the west and north wall of the castle, and the small room upon the summit of the north-east tower, are all of modern construction. The great doorway in the north wall, and the small port in the east wall, are likewise modern, and have been formed with great labour, by the enlargement of a narrow window in each place. Several of the windows have also been, with no less labour, enlarged; in their original state, but a very scanty portion of light could have found entrance into the interior apartments. The peculiar construction of these windows, so entirely different from any in modern buildings, is worthy of observation. An arched niche, about three feet deep, formed the inner opening of the window; in the back of which niche, another of less dimensions, gradually decreasing in breadth, penetrated about seven feet further, at the extremity of which a narrow aperture, only eight inches wide, lined with hewn stone, was made through the remaining thickness of the wall. From



the floor of the rooms an ascent was made to the narrow aperture of the window by a flight of small steps.

The outside of the building is surrounded on every part with several horizontal bands or fillets of Roman brick, which are disposed in perpendicular and oblique layers. The castle was strengthened upon the north and east sides by a rampart, raised upon a more ancient wall, and also by a deep fosse, which is at present in a great measure filled up. The south and west sides were strengthened by a strong massive wall, in which there were two gates; but some years since this wall was removed, and a range of modern houses erected in its place. The castle, as also its precincts denominated Bailey, is extra-parochial, and not subject to the jurisdiction of the borough officers; indeed, previous to the reign of Elizabeth, when the burgesses purchased an immunity from all services, fines, &c. the town was feudatory to the castle.

The Crown became possessed of Colchester Castle at a very early period; it was granted by the Empress Maud to Alberic de Vere, ancestor of the Veres, Earls of Oxford; Alberic does not however appear ever to have had possession of it. Stephen Harengood next obtained a grant of it during pleasure. In 1256 it was given by Henry III. to Guido de la Rupe Ford, or Rochford, who was, however, in consequence of disgrace, deprived of this along with his other estates two years afterwards. From this period it has repeatedly changed masters, one of whom, of the name of Wheeley, made an impious attempt at dilapidating it in the year 1683; the solidity of the building, however, proved its security, as the expence attending the demolition of a very small part was so enormous as to deter its owner from proceeding further.

The number of parishes in the town and suburbs of Colchester is 12, of which eight are within and

four without the walls; several of the churches are, however, destroyed; among those that remain there are some handsome structures. The ruins of St. John's Abbey merit attention; this building was founded by Eudo Dapifer in 1097, and from its remains appears to have been a very magnificent structure. It was dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and occupies the site of a wooden church, dedicated to St. John the Evangelist, which was famous for miracles. When completed, Eudo procured two Benedictine monks from Rochester to reside here; becoming however discontented with the situation, two others came in their places, and these likewise objecting to the smallness of Eudo's endowment, soon returned to Rochester, upon which Stephen, the first Abbot of St. Mary's at York, being appointed to the charge of this foundation, a provost and 12 monks were placed in it by him; and the furtherance of the edifice being committed to a priest named William, who was nephew to Eudo, neither expence nor pains were spared in perfecting and beautifying the abbey, which being completed about the beginning of 1104, was in that year consecrated by Maurice, bishop of London; at which time also its endowment was liberally augmented by its original founder Eudo, and other pious persons; when one of the monks named Hugo was appointed its first abbot. The body of the founder, who expired at his castle of Precaux in Normandy, was, according to his wish, brought over and interred in this abbey in the month of February, 1120.

This foundation flourished extremely till the period of the Dissolution, its privileges being the same with those of the Abbey of St. Peter's, Westminster, and its abbot possessing a seat in parliament. Its revenues at the time of the Dissolution were, as Dugdale informs us, estimated at 523*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.* an income conceived to be far below the real one. Beche, the last abbot, was hung for refusing to ac-

knowledge the King's supremacy, upon the same gallows which his predecessors had permitted the burgesses to erect in the manor of Greenstead; his execution took place upon the 1st of December, 1539. After the Dissolution, Sir Thomas D'Arcy, knight, obtained from Henry VIII. a grant of the site of the monastery for 21 years; and the reversion was afterwards granted by Edward in the year 1547, to Dudley, Earl of Warwick; from him it came into the possession of John Lucas (town clerk of Colchester, and master of requests to the King), by whom it was converted into a family residence: a circumstance contributing more than any other to the dilapidation of the abbey, as John Lord Lucas his descendant, who was elder brother to Sir Charles, whose unfortunate fate we have already mentioned, having assisted his brother and the other royalists in their fruitless endeavours at defending the town against Fairfax, and having admitted a garrison into the abbey, which he and his family at that time inhabited, the Parliamentary forces stormed and effected a considerable breach in it, upon the 14th of July, 1648. At this period the fabric appears to have consisted of the entrance gateway, and two quadrangular piles of building, within which were enclosed courts. The gateway, which from the style of its architecture appears to be more modern than the other parts of the abbey, is built of hewn stone and flint; being very neatly executed, it still braves the devastation of time, as also the garden walls, which enclose an area of little less than 14 acres. The church belonging to the Abbey was, as we have been informed, a singular structure, having a central tower, with circular angles surmounted by small conical spires; there were circular turrets also upon the west side. This abbey formerly possessed the privilege of a sanctuary.

St. Giles's Church, of which only the chancel, which is employed for the celebration of divine

worship, is preserved from ruin, stands near the north-west corner of St. John's garden, and was the burying place of the Lucas family; here are interred the remains of the gallant Sir Charles Lucas, and his no less gallant though equally unfortunate fellow sufferer Sir George Lisle, whose melancholy fate is thus recorded upon their common tomb.

“ Under this marble lie the bodies  
of two most valiant Captains,  
SIR CHARLES LUCAS, and SIR GEORGE LISLE, Knts.  
who, for their eminent Loyalty  
to their Sovereign,  
were, on the 28th day of August 1648,  
by the command of Sir Thomas Fairfax,  
then general of the parliament army,  
in cold blood barbarously murdered.”

The foregoing description is very deeply engraved upon the marble, in consequence, as is said, of application for its erasure from George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, to Charles II. who asked Lord Lucas for his consent, which the latter readily promised, upon condition that the following should be deeply engraved in its room, viz. “ That Sir Charles Lucas and Sir George Lisle, were! barbarously murdered for their loyalty to Charles I. and that his son, Charles II. ordered this memorial of their loyalty to be erased.” This produced such an effect upon the thoughtless monarch that he instantly ordered the old inscription to be more deeply engraved.

Another example of the destructive effects of the siege of this town exhibits itself in the ruins of St. Botolph's Priory, which stands at a short distance north-east of St. John's. Its foundation is commonly, though not improbably without sufficient justice, ascribed to a monk of the name of Eyrnolph, or Ernulph, early in the 12th century: some of the ruins seem, however, to speak a much more remote

origin. Ernulph, we are informed, became the first prior, and established five regular canons of the Augustine order; the first of this order, as appears from a bull of Paschal the second, dated in August 1116, founded in England.

Ernulph, his brethren and successors, were, by this bull, allowed to regulate their society as they judged most expedient, having permission to found as many establishments of their own order as they pleased, and to exercise over all of them the most absolute jurisdiction. The same bull exempted them likewise from all civil and ecclesiastical subjection, and directed that the election of the prior, after the death of Ernulph, should be vested in the hands of the canons, and that he should be consecrated without fees. The revenues amounted at the period of the Dissolution to 134l. 13s. 4d. per annum: Henry granted the estate to Lord Chancellor Audley; these possessions have, however, since passed into various families.

Of the monastic buildings but few traces can be now discovered, the small remains that have been spared have been worked up in the walls of a brewhouse, which at present occupies their site. Previous to the siege, the priory church continued perfect; it was then however almost totally destroyed, each of the contending parties accusing the other of perpetrating the deed. From the curious specimens of brick ornaments and interlaced arches which they present, these ruins furnish the admirer of architectural relics with much interesting contemplation. As it stood originally the dimensions of this church were, within the walls, 108 feet long, and, including the nave and aisles, 44 feet broad. Its west front was richly ornamented, and contained the grand entrance, which still remains. The door-way is formed by a fine semicircular retiring arch, with various mouldings, formed with alternate rows of small thin brick, and hewn

stone; these mouldings are supported by and spring from three-quarter columns, the capitals of each of which were different, and ornamented with sculptured foliage, and representations of different animals. A double row of interlaced circular arches, constructed of Roman brick, and appearing to have extended to each extremity of the front, is placed over the door way; and higher still, near the centre, may be seen the remains of a circular opening, designed for the admission of light into the gallery, by which a communication was formed between two stately towers, which formerly stood at the corners of this end of the building. Rows of circular pillars, measuring  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet in diameter, and supporting semicircular arches, divided the nave from the aisles; of these pillars six are yet standing with their arches upon the north side, and two upon the south; Roman bricks seem to have been principally employed in the construction of these, and to have been afterwards coated over with a kind of stucco. From the pointed windows of the north aisle we may conclude that it underwent some alterations after the period at which the pointed arch began to be employed.

At some distance hence to the eastward, stands the hospital of St. Mary Magdalen, originally designed, by its founder Eudo Dapifer, for the reception of lepers: it was established in the reign of Henry the 1st; its endowment augmented by Stephen; and the liberty of holding a fair for two days granted to it by Richard I. In the reign of Edward I. Adam de Campes, abbot of St. John's, fraudulently withheld the tithes of that abbey and other revenues belonging to this hospital, and also obtained possession by stratagem of the seal and charter, and expelled the brethren, who were, however, soon after reinstated in all their rights by order of Parliament. Its possessions were again dissipated, and its chapel entirely demolished, at the

time of its suppression during the reign of Edward VI. but was refounded in 1610, under the name of the college or hospital of King James, for the support of a master, and five poor unmarried pensioners. A few old buildings to the north of Magdalen Church compose what is at present called the Hospital.

Further east, and near the river, is the church of St. Leonard, in which were formerly two chauntries, suppressed at the Dissolution.

In the parish of St. Mary's, upon the south-west side of the town, was formerly a monastery of *Crouched Friars*, established at the first arrival of that order in this country, about the year 1244. The fabric underwent many changes, and became in 1407 the seat of the wealthy Guild of St. Helen, along with whose possessions not less than four chauntries, founded here, and in the church of St. Nicholas, were incorporated. Its revenues came, soon after the Dissolution, into the hands of Lord Chancellor Sir Thomas Audley; and the building was in 1637 converted into a dwelling-house for the accommodation of Sir Harbottle Grimstone; along with a multitude of other edifices, this also felt the fatal effects of the siege; its ruined remains were for some time after employed as a workhouse, but are now totally destroyed and removed.

The principal church within the walls of Colchester is that of St. James; the others are All Saints, St. Nicholas, which is partly in ruins; the Chapel of St. Helen; Trinity Church, in which is a monument to the memory of Dr. William Gilbert, one of the earliest investigators of the properties of electricity, and author of a treatise upon magnetism; St. Runwald's, St. Martin's, St. Peter's and St. Mary's, none of which possess any thing worthy of a detailed account. The Moot Hall, for holding the court in, and transacting the public business, was founded by Eudo Dapifer, already so often mentioned: the Town Gaol adjoins, and is partly situated



under this building, and the Theatre is situated behind it. There are several charitable institutions here for the instruction as well as relief of the poor; and this town is one of those included in the gift of the late Sir Thomas Whichcote.

The first charter of incorporation obtained by the citizens of Colchester was granted by Richard I. in the year 1189, when many valuable privileges, especially the exclusive fishery of the Colne between the north bridge and west bridge, were conferred upon the burgesses. Their charter has received repeated confirmations, and their privileges additional extension, from succeeding monarchs; the last, by which at present the government of the corporation is regulated, having been granted by his late Majesty George III. in the year 1763.

The corporation consists of a mayor, recorder, town-clerk, 12 aldermen, 18 assistants, 18 common-councilmen, and inferior servants; it returns two members to parliament; the right of election being vested in the corporation and free burgesses who do not receive alms; the number of electors is estimated at 1400.

This borough has derived a distinguished character in the annals of controversy and corruption. The several contests have been productive of many curious anecdotes, the narration of which, if admissible within our narrow limits, would call a blush even into the cheeks of political profligacy. One anecdote, as reflecting no small honour upon some of the parties concerned, we shall however relate: Sir Thomas Webster, having sat for this borough in what was called *the pensioned Parliament* of Charles II. became so disgusted with the parliamentary depravity of that body as to resolve upon abandoning them, and the cause of the people in that house, where he saw no possibility of either opposing the despotism of the court, or succouring the liberties of his country. Accordingly, upon the



election of the first parliament of James II. which that prince met upon the 21st of March, 1685, he wrote to inform his constituents that he declined the representation of a people whose delegated legislature was converted into an engine of despotism, by the corrupt ministers of an arbitrary king; he therefore requested that they would choose another representative. Having written thus, he absented himself from the town and its connexions.

His former constituents, however, with a virtue and manliness of conduct peculiar to real independence, and which we have to regret was not taken as an example by their posterity, resolved, upon the day of the election, to return their old member, whose integrity they had experienced, and whose attachment to the cause of liberty they well knew could not be shaken. In consequence of this, Sir Thomas was again deputed the parliamentary champion of their rights, without solicitation, without expence, and even without his own concurrence. The court candidate, in whose favour every exertion of influence had been made without success, had recourse to the stratagem, so frequently practised before the establishment of the Grenville act, of petitioning Parliament, and procuring himself to be voted into his seat, by the strength of the minister in the house. The petition was accordingly brought to a hearing, and Sir Thomas Webster, who had been elected by a *considerable majority* without expence or solicitation, and *even without his knowledge or consent*, was voted *guilty of bribery and corruption*, and his courtly opponent voted into his seat.

From the list of members in Morant's history of this town, it appears to have enjoyed the privilege of sending burgesses to parliament ever since the 23d of Edward I. The mayor is the returning officer.

Colchester has enjoyed the privilege of being a market town from time immemorial; but the first

charter for this privilege was granted by Richard I. Including the suburbs, its population has been found to amount to 10,089. The manufacturing of baize furnishes employment to the greater part of the inhabitants, while the oyster fishery, for which it has been long famous, occupies most of those unemployed in the baize manufacture. The best oysters found here are those distinguished by the name of Pyefleet. The following is the method of managing them :

In May the oysters cast their spawn, which the dredgers call *spat* ; this resembles a drop of candle grease, and equals the size of a halfpenny ; it cleaves to stones, old oyster shells, &c. at the bottom of the sea, which they call *cultch*. It is conjectured, with some appearance of probability, that a shell begins to form upon the *spat* in 24 hours. In May the dredgers are permitted by the admiralty court to take oysters of every size. When they have taken them they raise the small breed from the *cultch* with a knife, and then throw in the *cultch* again to preserve the ground for the future, unless they be so newly *spat* that they cannot with safety be raised from the *cultch* : they are in such cases permitted to take the stone or shell, &c. upon which the spat is, one shell having frequently 20 spats. It is felony to carry away the *cultch* after May, and punishable to take any oysters of a size less than an half-crown piece, or of such a size as to admit of a shilling fairly rattling between the shells when closed.

Though commonly distinguished by the name of Colchester oysters, they are chiefly taken in a creek, extending from the mouth of the river to the Strode at the Mersey island ; they are also taken in the vicinity of Burham and Malden. This brood, and other oysters they carry to the creeks of the sea at Brickelsea, Mersea, Langenlio, Fihagrihugo, Wivenhoe, Folesbury, and Saltcot, where they throw

them into the channel to grow and fatten ; such oysters, as they wish to have of a green colour, are placed in pits of about three feet in depth, dug in the salt marshes, and overflowed only at the spring tides ; these pits have sluices by means of which they can let out the water till it is only one foot in depth. From the circumstance of being filled with fresh water only by the spring tides, during the neap tides a green scum forms upon the surface, and being daily taken in by the fish communicates to them its own colour. Though so highly prized elsewhere, the oysters thus changed in colour are rejected by the inhabitants of Colchester and its vicinity, from an idea of their being unwholesome. When the tide comes in the oysters lie with their hollow shell downwards, and, upon its receding, they turn upon the other side, but never move from their situation unless in very cold weather when they seek shelter in the ooze. Large penalties are inflicted by the admiralty court upon those who fish out of the grounds appointed by that court, that destroy the *cultch*, take oysters under size, or do not destroy a fish called a *five-finger*, which resembles the rowel of a spur, in appearance, and destroys the oysters by getting into their shells when they gape. The penalty is imposed upon the destruction of the *cultch*, because experience has taught them that its removal increases the quantity of *ooze*, in consequence of which mussels and cockles breed, and the oysters are destroyed, having nothing whereon to stick their spat. After having spat, the oysters are sick for some time, but begin to mend in June and July, and are perfectly recovered in August. The male oyster is *black sick*, having a *black* substance in the fin, and the female *white sick*, as they term it, from a *whitish milky* substance in the fin.—They are salt in the pits, salter in the layers, but saltest at sea.

Colchester enjoys the privilege of two markets

in the week, upon Wednesdays and Saturdays: here are likewise held four annual fairs, of which an account is given elsewhere. Tradition informs us that the castle in this town was the birth-place of Helena, mother of the virtuous Constantine, who was the first Christian emperor. The tradition, however, is too vague, and many of the occurrences too closely bordering upon the fabulous, to warrant our repetition of the story in this place. The river Colne, which flows through this town, encompasses it upon the north and east, and formerly, in time of war, furnished no small addition to the security of the city; it is crossed by three bridges, and is navigable for ships of large burthen, at the distance of three miles below the town, and its depth of water a little further is sufficient even for men of war. Hoys and small barks come with ease up to the hythe, which well deserves the appellation of the Colchester Wapping.

Among the late improvements here are a new theatre in Queen Street, capable of holding 150l. and a new market. The town too is now well supplied with excellent water, at a very moderate price. Queen Street and St. Botolph's Street are very much improved by the taking down of St. Botolph's gate. Barrack, or Magdalen Street has been paved; the old Butter market in the High Street taken down, and the ascent to East Hill lowered by several feet. To these may be added the erection of the new bridge over the Colne, called East Bridge, the levelling of St. John's Green, and widening the road by St. Giles's Church, by taking down the Abbey wall.

The Colchester Philosophical Society has recently purchased a building well adapted to its purposes. An apartment is appropriated to a depository for natural and artificial curiosities. A box of curiosities has been presented by Mr. Deck of Harwich. The box in which the specimens are en-

closed, is manufactured from part of the original roof of Harwich church, built by Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, in the year 1190; the wood which is English oak, is quite sound. The specimens themselves consist of adventitious fossil remains, and some original mineral substances discovered in the Cliff and shore of Harwich; and are peculiarly interesting from the beauty and rareness of some of the collection.

At a distance of about two miles north-east of Colchester, and pleasantly situated upon an acclivity, on the north side of the Colne, stands the populous and respectable village of WIVENHOE, which commands a beautiful prospect of the river as far as *Mersey Island*.

At the period of the Domesday survey, this manor was the property of Robert Gernon, and became part of his barony of *Stansted-Montfitchet*. It afterwards passed through several families, and is possessed at present by the descendants of Nicholas Corselles, Esq. by whom, about the period of the Restoration, it was purchased from the family of the Townsends. The manor-house, named *Wivenhoe Hall*, is agreeably situated at a little distance north-west of the village, and, while the property of the Earls of Oxford, was a large and elegant building, with a grand and lofty tower gateway, which served as a good sea-mark. Wivenhoe Park is inhabited by Major Gen. Slater Rebow. Wivenhoe Hall is the residence of the Rev. ——— Correllis. This place, as already noticed, is one of the seats of the oyster fishery. Its population is ascertained to amount, in the Borough and Liberty, to 14,016.

A few miles below Wivenhoe, at the confluence of the rivers Colne and Blackwater, is the island of MERSEY or MERSEA, insulated by a narrow channel called *Pyefleet*, famous for producing the best

flavoured oysters. The greatest length of the island is about five miles from north-east to south west, and its greatest breadth two miles; it is inaccessible upon the land side, except by a causeway, denominated the *Strode*, which crosses the creek, and is covered at high water. From being well wooded, and beautifully diversified with hill and dale, this island furnishes no inconsiderable portion of picturesque scenery. The coast towards the German Ocean is bold and commanding, while that upon the north-west and south is flat and shelving, having a skirting of salt-marches. In the more elevated parts of the island the soil consists of a dark coloured mould, which is friable, and rests upon a stratum of sandy or gravelly loam, with a deep hazel coloured strong earth, and a brown tender clay in alternate strata beneath. Chalk has been most advantageously employed upon the embanked marshes, and heavy high lands; the chalk has been laid on in the proportion of about eight loads to the acre. Thick hedge rows divide the farms, which are subdivided into very small fields. About 40 bushels of barley and oats, 32 of beans, and 28 of wheat, are the average products of these farms per acre; water, that most necessary article of animal as well as vegetable support, is abundantly supplied from various springs, and is of an excellent quality.

From the number of tessellated pavements and other antiquities discovered in this island, it is evident that the Romans were acquainted with it: a particular and accurate account of these remains is given by Dr. Cromwell Mortimer, secretary to the Royal Society. This writer conjectures that the villa of some Roman prætor stood here: the tessellated pavement found in the western parish of Mersey was extremely beautiful, and measured

21½ feet by 18½. This pavement, of which a drawing (since lost) was taken by Dr. Mortimer, who first examined it, was discovered about the year 1730, in making some alterations at West Mersey Hall, which adjoins the church, and consists of different-coloured tesserae, measuring from ½ to ¾ of an inch square. There were red and blue wreaths interwoven at the angles, and next to these, upon the north and south sides, were white squares bordered with black, each containing a rose shaded with white, red, and yellow. There were similar squares bordered with rich fret-work variously shaded, and containing each a wreath of ivy leaves, upon the east and west sides. A large square, enclosed within these, formed the middle of the pavement, which was bounded upon the south and east by rows of lozenges, 12 inches in diameter, and bordered with white, each of which contained a knot or wreath crossing it at right angles, and composed of black, blue, and white, and alternately red, yellow, and white tesserae. The spaces which were intermediate had a triangular form, and were subdivided still further into variously coloured triangles; different squares, containing various decorations, formed the central compartment. Several *tumuli* or *barrows* are observable in the island, and a hill in the road hence to Colchester still bears the name of the *Roman Hill*. It appears that this island was the landing place and retreat of the invaders of Britain; it at present produces much valuable oak; the growth of the trees upon the coast is however checked by the sea breezes, which renders them somewhat stunted, and makes them to grow one under another, on the slope of the hill. The sand upon the western beach in particular abounds in the remains of an organic world. Near the east end of West Mersey Church was a priory, which seems to have been founded previous to the Conquest, for *Ethelfreda* in 962 bequeathed lands



to St. Peter's Church (CYPCAN) at Mersey. The tower of the church belonged to the parish of East Mersey constitutes an admirable sea-mark, and formerly had a beacon upon its top.

At a short distance to the north-east of Mersey Island, upon the north side of the Colne, stands the little village of ST. OSYTH, formerly known by the name of *Cice* or *Chich*, which it exchanged for its appellation in honour of a saint of this name, daughter of *Redoald*, king of the *East Anglia*, and virgin wife of *Sighere*, a Christian king of the East Saxons. This lady was born at Quarendon, in the county of Bucks, and at an early age, according to the legendary narratives of the monks, made a vow of perpetual virginity: her father, however, compelled her to marry, but her assumption of the veil during her husband's absence prevented the consummation, and so enabled her to preserve her vow unbroken; having afterwards obtained her husband's ratification of her vow, she retired to this place, where she founded a church and nunnery, both of which were soon after plundered and destroyed by the Danes, under their leaders *Hengist* and *Hubba*, by whose command the royal foundress was herself decollated near an adjoining fountain. At first the corpse was interred before the door of her own church, but was shortly after removed to Aylesbury, where it obtained no small celebrity by its imputed miracles.

Canute granted *Chich St. Osyth* to Godwin, the celebrated earl of Kent, from whom it passed to Christ Church, Canterbury; at the period of the Domesday Survey, however, we find it to have belonged to the see of London. Upon the supposed scite of the nunnery erected by *St. Osyth*, was erected a priory for Austin Canons, by Richard de Belmeis, bishop of London, in the year 1118; this new foundation was dedicated to St. Osyth, in conjunction with St. Peter and St. Paul. Shortly



after the dissolution, the various estates belonging to this priory, with the ground upon which it stood, were granted to Thomas Lord Cromwell, in consequence of whose attainder, however, they once more reverted to the crown. *Chich St. Osyth* with other manors was regranted by Edward VI. to Thomas Lord D'Arcy ; from this family, by various matrimonial alliances, these possessions came into the hands of the Rochford family ; and the ancient remains of Bishop de Belmie's foundation now form the seat of F. Nassau, Esq. of the family of the late earl of Rochford. The entrance to the quadrangle, which is almost entire, is through an elegant gateway of hewen stone and flint, with a tower and postern upon each side. The antiquity of the stables and offices, which form the east and west sides of the quadrangle, is evident even to a superficial observer. Three towers, of which one exceeds the other two in height and diameter, are situated upon the east side, and commanded an extensive view of the surrounding country. Upon a pier, observable among the ivy-clad ruins in the garden, may be traced the following modern inscription, descriptive of the ancient splendour of the place :

Vetus Hæc  
 Quam cernis maceries  
 Conservata est  
 Ad Augustiani cænobii  
 Limites designandos.  
 Tu vero  
 Inter hujus loci amenitates  
 Gratulare  
 Ablegata jam ista superstitione  
 Quæ  
 Domicilium tam superbum  
 Segnitiei consecravit  
 et

Returning from this digression, we revisit Colchester, and proceeding westward we arrive at the village of LEXDEN, distant from the last-mentioned town about two miles. Upon the heath adjoining to this little town are certain stupendous irregular works, the utmost extent of which seems as yet unascertained. Gough, in his additions to Camden, conjectures them to have been Roman fortifications, and rests his opinion upon the name of *Grymes Dyche*, given to them in a perambulation of the town liberties, so late as the reign of Charles I. Dr. Stukeley, who engraved six plates of them, supposes them to have been a British circus, &c. and the pit at the south-west corner, which is called *King Coël's Kitchen*, to have been an amphitheatre; a conjecture, in some measure supported by the Dorchesters amphitheatre, and the disposition of the banks, which have the ditch sometimes within, and sometimes without, and, in some places, running triple in a parallel direction.

Upon the north side of the Colne, and a few miles north-north-west of LEXDEN, near the village of *Bergholt*, are the remains of a circular intrenchment, exactly corresponding with the account which Cæsar gives us of the British *oppida*, and which is supposed by Dr. Stukeley, to have been the palace of Cunobeline, whose tumulus he found east of the Circus, already noticed, on Lexden Heath.

These remains at Lexden, and Bergholt, are conjectured by Morant, to have been the Roman *castra* and *castella*, which Boadicea stormed and razed during the short-lived vigour of her opposition to these unwelcome and oppressive intruders.

Continuing our journey, we arrive at STANWAY, a small village, distant two miles south-west of

Lexden, and 47 north-east of London. The name of this place is taken from its situation, upon the *Stoneway* or *Military Road*, made by the Romans, and leading westward from Colchester, through Coggleshall, Braintree, and Dunmow. This manor was originally the property of Earl Harold, at which period it was the chief of a very extensive district, now subdivided into a number of small manors, possessed by various families. In this parish, upon the left side of the great turnpike road, leading to London, were found in the year 1764, a number of large bones, vertebræ, and tibiæ, with their joints, lying in one of those strata of sea sand and small shells, which occur occasionally in this county, and are so frequently found in the vicinity of Woodbridge in Suffolk, where, as well as in this place, they are employed as manure. This bed was about a yard thick, having above it a stratum of ooze or river mud, which was about three inches in thickness, and, superincumbent upon it, several veins of yellow sand, gravel, and mould, which formed a third stratum of no great thickness. The *tibiæ* were much corroded, but the other bones were perfectly well polished. These Gough conjectures to have been the remains of the same kind of animals as those already observed to have been found in the cliff near Harwich, and which, we have said, have been supposed to belong to some of the elephants introduced into this country by Claudius in the year 43.

About a mile beyond Stanway, the road sends off a branch leading to COGGESHALL and BRAINTREE, the former of which is a market town, distant about 47 miles north-east of London, by the road passing through Braintree, and is about nine west of Stanway. It stands partly upon the low ground upon the north side of the river Blackwater, and partly upon the slope of an agreeable hill, which rises upon the same side. It is indebted, according to

Morant, to an abbey, which was founded here, for its existence; other antiquarians ascribe its origin to the Romans, and Mr. Drake, who supports this last opinion, contends strenuously that this place is the *Canonium* of Antoninus, an opinion which he supports by observing, that its distance, exactly answers to the numbers of the itinerary, by which *Canonium* is placed between *Camalodunum* and *Cæsaromagus*, which last he conjectures to be Dunmow; through which, as we have just observed, a Roman military way, proceeds to Colchester, which we have strong reasons for believing to be the *Camalodunum* so much spoken of in the history of the Roman conquests and possessions in Britain. Mr. Drake further endeavours to strengthen his conjecture by mentioning several coins and other Roman antiquities found in this neighbourhood.—“Among the antiquities found here he mentions an arched brick vault, containing a burning lamp of glasse, covered with a Roman tyle, some 14 inches square, and one urn with ashes and bones; besides two sacrificing dishes of polished red earth, having the bottom of one of them with faire Roman letters, inscribed *Coccili*;” this mark, however, Gough conceives to be totally insufficient to prove any thing, as it was the ordinary mark of the potters, and is observable upon many other earthen vessels found in various places. Weever, in his funeral monuments, mentions that at Westfield, a place three-quarters of a mile distant from Coggleshall, and belonging to the abbey, a great brazen pot was found, in ploughing, the mouth of which was closed with a white substance resembling paste or clay, as hard as burned brick: when this covering was forcibly removed, another earthen pot, was found within, which latter also enclosed a lesser earthen pot, capable of containing about one gallon, covered with a substance resembling velvet, and fastened at the mouth with a

silk lace: this contained some whole bones, with many fragments of small bones, wrapped up in fine silk.

The evidence of these antiquities, though inadequate to the establishment of Mr. Drake's conjecture, is nevertheless sufficient to prove this place to have been the site of a Roman villa.

This manor was, in the reign of Edward the Confessor, the property of Cole, a Saxon; but we find it, at the period of the Domesday Survey, in the possession of Eustace, Earl of Boulogne, from whose family it passed to the crown in consequence of the marriage of Maud, heiress of the above-mentioned earl, with Stephen, Earl of Blois, and afterwards king of England. This monarch, conjointly with his wife, founded an abbey for Cistercian monks here, close to the river, and consecrating it to the Virgin Mary, endowed it with this and various other manors. The abbey, thus founded and endowed, received various additional grants, from succeeding sovereigns, especially one of a hogshead of red wine, to be annually delivered in London, by the king's gentleman of the wine cellar at Easter. Its revenues were at the Dissolution estimated at 298l. 8s. per annum. The manor was then granted to Sir Thomas Seymour, brother to Edward, Duke of Somerset, in the year 1538. It has repeatedly changed its masters since that period. But little of the abbey now remains; not far from its ruins stand the remains of a bridge of three arches, built originally by Stephen over a channel, which was cut for the purpose of bringing the river, nearer to the abbey.

This town was formerly noted for its woollen and clothing trade, and particularly for a superior kind of baize, distinguished by the name of Coggeshall Whites. This trade is now much diminished, though still carried on to a considerable extent. Except the church, which possesses nothing particularly

deserving of attention, this town has no remarkable public buildings; its population amounts to 2896 inhabitants, and the number of its houses is 519.

Upon the south side of the river, and not far distant from the place we have been describing, is situated **LITTLE COGGESHALL**, a small hamlet, which originally formed a distinct parish, with two churches, but which is now incorporated with Coggeshall. Two miles west of Coggeshall, at a short distance to the left of the turnpike road leading to Braintree, is the village of **BRADWELL**; here in the church, is an highly finished monument to the memory of Sir Anthony Maury and his lady, to whom this manor belonged in the time of Elizabeth. The cornice rests upon Corinthian pillars; on the left under an arch, are placed effigies of Sir Anthony and his lady, at their devotions; upon the right are placed the effigies of his son and daughter-in-law also kneeling.

Quitting Coggeshall, we are led by a cross road of a few miles in a north-easterly direction to **GREAT Tey**, a manor belonging in the 10th century to Alfgar, a Saxon nobleman, from whose family it passed by marriage to Duke Athelstan, upon whose death it was given to the monastery of Stoke near Nayland; we find, however the Earl of Boulogne its possessor at the period of the Domesday survey, and by the marriage of his daughter Maud, with Stephen afterwards king of England, it came into the hands of the crown. After various exchanges of masters it was finally sold to the late celebrated antiquarian Thomas Astle, Esq. The extent of the manor is considerable, and the lands, which are mostly arable, and have been for a length of time highly cultivated, are remarkably productive. The copyhold tenants are compelled by their tenure to labour for their landlord, and fence all his woods, for which purpose they were permitted to enter one rod within the woods to cut underwood, and were

allowed the surplus for themselves. The Marcheta Mulierum, was prevalent upon many of the estates upon this manor. Contrary to the generally received opinion of the nature of this right, we conceive it merely to have been a fine, paid by the tenant, *villain*, or *Sokeman* to his landlord, for a licence to marry his daughter.

A cross road of about one mile brings us back to the turnpike road upon the north side of which are the small hamlets of LITTLE TEY and MARKET TEY, both inconsiderable. A little beyond Market Tey, we reach the place, where as we have already observed, the road divides, one branch going to Coggeshall just described, the other that which we shall now take, and which leads to London. A little beyond the place, where the road divides, is MARK'S HALL, held, at the time of the Conquest, by Nigel, under Hugh de Montford; the family of Nigel afterwards obtained the entire lordship of the manor, which took its name of Mark's Hall, from Merkeshall, their place of residence. It now belongs to the Honeywood family, having been sold in 1605, to Robert Honeywood, Esq. of Charing in Kent, by whom the manor house was partly rebuilt, a new and handsome front being erected, and the quarterings of the family arms, placed over the porch. It receives further improvements from its present proprietor Filmer Honeywood, Esq.—This mansion is agreeably situated in a pleasant park, upon an eminence not far from the church. In the dining room is the portrait of Mrs. Mary Honeywood, mother of Robert, who first purchased this estate. This lady lived to the age of 90; she died in the year 1620, having seen no less than 267 of her own immediate posterity; viz. 16 children of her own, 114 grand-children, 228 great grand-children, and 9 great great grand children. Towards the close of her life, this lady was seized with the most melancholy despondence, which not all



the reasonings of the best divines, and among the number Fox, so famous for his Martyrology, could dissipate; it is further said that in an agony of despair, she exclaimed one day, while holding a Venetian glass in her hand, "I'm as surely damned as this glass is broken."—Upon which, she instantly dashed the glass violently upon the ground, when to the surprise of all, it rebounded and was taken up unbroken: it is still preserved in the family. A monument, which represents this lady in a kneeling posture, was erected to her memory in the adjoining church. Marks Hall is the residence of W. P. Honeywood, Esq.

Five miles further on the London road, we pass through KELVEDON, a small village, possessing nothing remarkable; in its vicinity is FELIX HALL, a neat modern house, pleasantly situated in a small park, at the distance of about one mile from the village; it is the seat and property of Charles Callis Western, Esq. one of the members for the borough of Maldon. At a little distance to the eastward of Kelvedon, is the church of Inworth, remarkable for its ancient southern porch, which is built of a mixture of flint and Roman bricks. A little further is BRAXTED LODGE, the seat of P. Ducane, Esq. a handsome mansion, delightfully situated upon a gentle eminence in the centre of a small park, and commanding several extremely beautiful prospects of the country. Not far hence is the site of an ancient priory of Black Canons, founded previous to the reign of Edward I. in whose reign the prior, received permission to enclose 60 acres of land for a park. It was suppressed in 1523, and its revenues, which were calculated at 22l. 16s. 4d. were granted to Cardinal Wolsey, for the endowment of the two colleges he founded at Oxford.

Further to the north-east is LAYER MARNEY HALL, formerly the residence of the noble family of Marney, long proprietors of this manor. This was



originally a very large and spacious mansion, built in the form of a quadrangle, within which was enclosed a capacious court, to which the chief entrance was under the tower gateway, which still braves the assaults of time ; it is built of brick, and consists of a lofty centre, in which are two stories, flanked at each angle by an octagonal tower, which is loftier than the building in the centre ; each of these towers consists of eight stories, all of which but those in the centre are lighted by small pointed windows, the centre stories have large square windows. The summit, chimnies, and the divisions between the windows, are curiously decorated with various patterns of sculptured mouldings.

Adjoining to this gateway, are considerable remains of the ancient fabric, which are at present converted into a farm-house and offices. The tower is situated upon high ground, and from the uppermost stories commands an extensive prospect.

The parish church extends at a distance of about 50 yards hence, and is an ancient brick building, in which William De Marney founded by licence a college for a warden and two chaplains in the year 1330.

Returning from this digression, we observe at the distance of about one mile from the turnpike road upon the right, the church and manor of RIVENHALL, which, antecedent to the Conquest, formed, as we learn, part of the possessions of Queen Editha. Coming afterwards into the possession of Eustace, Earl of Boulogne, it fell to the crown in consequence of the marriage of Maud his heiress with King Stephen. After various changes of masters it became at length the property of the Westerns of Foelix Hall, to whom it belongs.

We now arrive at WITHAM, a small town, distant 37 miles from London, eight from Chelmsford, six from Maldon, and six from Coggeshall.—Edward

the Elder is its reputed founder, but we should be rather inclined to imagine that it was only restored by him ; it is a neat built pleasant town, and well provided with comfortable accommodations for travellers ; this being the great thoroughfare between London and Harwich. Here was formerly a priory, built in 913. Here, at the south side of the church, upon Cheping Hill, are considerable remains of a circular camp, defended by a double vallum, almost levelled within upon the south side, but very plain upon the south-west, where the present road runs along the outer bank ; being defended by the river, upon the west, the works on that side are lower ; it is traversed by a road from north to south. The church, especially the tower, is in a great measure built of Roman bricks, and from these circumstances, Mr. Gough is inclined to suppose that this was the *CANONIUM* of the Romans, noticed in the Itinerary of Antoninus, and this opinion receives further confirmation from Morant's narrative of the finding two Roman coins of the emperors Valens and Gratian, by the workmen employed in levelling the fortifications.

This manor belonged formerly to Earl Harold ; it became afterwards the property of Eustace, Earl of Boulogne, who married Goda, sister to Edward the Confessor. Passing, by the marriage of Maud with Stephen, to the crown, it was by that monarch bestowed upon the Knights Templars ; it next came to the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, by whom it was retained till the Dissolution. It was called, in the time of the Earl of Boulogne, the Honour of Bonanda, being one of the four honours that existed in this kingdom.

Here is a mansion, once the seat of the Earl of Abercorn, which has frequently been honoured by the presence of George II. in his progress to and from his Hanoverian dominions ; it has also had the honour of entertaining many other personages

of distinction, particularly her late Majesty, Charlotte, consort of George III. who was received and entertained here upon her first arrival in England. The Editor of the present edition, when at Witham, in October 1817, was shown the room in which her Majesty slept, and which remains in precisely the same state as at that period. It is over the library, and called the *Queen's Bed Room*.

This house stands upon the left as we enter Witham from Colchester; and belongs at present to Mrs. Ducane.

Cheping Hill is so called from having been the place where the market was formerly held; it is hence evident that a market existed here so early as the days of the Saxons, contrary to the report of some who ascribe the grant of this privilege to Richard I. This monarch, in all probability, only confirmed the privilege, and permitted the removal of the market to another part of the town. From an inquiry made during the reign of Henry III. it appears that a person of the name of Geoffrey de Lyston held land here, by the service of carrying flour to make wafers upon the king's birth-day, whenever his majesty was in the kingdom.

Witham contains 520 houses and 2578 inhabitants.

Between one and two miles north-west of Witham is FAULKBOURNE HALL, the residence of Major Bullock. This is a stately and magnificent edifice, built at different periods of time; the tower gateway, which is much admired for its curious architecture, is supposed to have been erected about the time of Stephen, or Henry II. by the Earl of Gloucester. The place has been much improved by the present family, and several of the apartments contain valuable paintings; the pleasure grounds are beautiful and extensive, and well-watered by a number of fine springs. A cedar tree which grows here is accounted the largest in the kingdom, being,

at the distance of eight inches from the ground, 18 feet 9 inches in girth, and at 10 feet from the ground, 14 feet 9 inches ; and its height to the first branch 19 feet.

This place is the supposed site of a Roman villa, as a silver coin of Domitian is recorded by Bishop Gibson to have been found here, under the ruins of an old wall, constructed for the most part of Roman bricks.

Preceeding four miles south-west from Witham a cross-road brings us to TIRLING PLACE, once an appendage to the cathedral of Ely, but separated from it by William the Conqueror, by whom it was granted to Ranulph Peverel. In 1269 the Bishop of Norwich had a palace, park, and chapel, to which last was annexed the privilege of a sanctuary; he held these under the Bohuns, Earls of Hereford and Essex. Here also stood formerly a residence of Henry VIII. several of his acts being dated hence. This monarch gave it, in the year 1536, to Lord Chancellor Audley ; after passing through various families it at length, about the middle of the 18th century, came into the possession of the family of the Strutts, and is at present the seat and manor of J. H. Strutt, Esq.

Returning by another cross road, we regain the great turnpike road at the village of HATFIELD PEVERELL, which takes its additional name of Peverell, from the person we have just mentioned, as having obtained a grant of Tirling, from William I. This man was a Norman soldier, who accompanied the Conqueror, and received these with 32 other lordships, all in this county, as a reward for his services. He married the beautiful Ingelrica, daughter of a Saxon nobleman ; this lady having borne a son to William the Conqueror, previous to her marriage with Peverell, by way of atonement, founded, in the reign of William Rufus, a college for secular canons here, dedicating it to St. Mary

Magdalene. This college was afterwards changed by her legitimate son, William Peverell, into a Benedictine monastery, which he greatly enriched by additional endowments, and gave his own mansion as a place of residence for the monks. At the Dissolution the annual revenues were 83l. 19s. 7d.—Along with other demenses this was shortly after granted to Giles Leigh, Esq. from whose family it passed to that of the Alleyns, by the marriage of his two daughters and co-heiresses. In 1768 this estate was sold, by an order of Chancery, to Peter Wright, Esq. who pulled down the house adjoining to the church, and erected a more elegant mansion, upon an eminence at a short distance, and gave it the name of the Priory. It is now the residence of J. Luard Wright, Esq. The ancient church yet remains, and is used by the parishioners. Weever informs us that the ancient statue in one of the windows is designed for Ingelrica the foundress.

Between Hatfield Peverell and Maldon is the village of WICKHAM BISHOPS, which is so named from having formerly been a place of residence for the bishops of London, to which see it has been annexed from time immemorial. The park was enclosed by Bishop Courteney, in consequence of a licence granted for that purpose by Edward III. in the year 1375. The old manor-house has been long demolished, and the church is situated nearly a mile to the west of the village.

Hence to Langford the road follows pretty closely the course of the river Blackwater, which was formerly crossed by a ford, situated near the village of Langford, which took its name from this circumstance, Langford being a corruption of the original name of Longford. LONGFORD PLACE, in the vicinity of the village, is pleasantly situated in a finely-wooded park, and is distinguished as having been the property of that celebrated physician Dr.

William Harvey, from whose nephew it was purchased in the year 1680, by one of the ancestors of Nicholas Westcombe, Esq. Langford Grove is the seat of Mrs. Westcombe, Landford Parsonage, Rev. William Westcombe. The meadows adjoining to the river here are very fertile.

The neighbouring parish of GREAT TOTHAM, which is situated a little to the north of Langford, is remarkable for a number of defaced barrows or tumuli, which are known by the name of Borough Hills, a name corrupted, in all probability, from Barrow Hills. These seem to have been raised, without any distinction, over the bodies of the Danes and Saxons, who fell in the several engagements which were occasioned by the invasions of the Danes.

Continuing our route along the sedgy margin of the river, we next arrive at the pleasantly-situated village of HEYBRIDGE, so called, as some imagine, from an old five arched bridge, through which the principal branch of the river is said to have run, though it passes now at some distance through Fullbridge. The original name we learn to have been *Tidwoltidune*, by which appellation it was given by Athelstan, along with twelve other lordships, to the cathedral church of St. Paul's; it is still the property of the dean and chapter of that cathedral, to whom the ancient manor-house, called Heybridge Hall, also belongs.

We here cross the Blackwater river, and proceed along a raised causeway, of a date long prior to the time of Edward II. to the ancient and populous town of MALDON, which Camden, and Pennant after him, will have to be the *Camalodunum* of Antoninus. Under the head of Colchester we have already given the reasons which appear to us sufficiently urgent for assigning this name to the last-mentioned town. Maldon is situated upon the slope of an eminence, which rises to the south-west of the æstuary

formed by the Blackwater, a river known to the Romans by the name of *Idumanum*. The only antiquities we can learn to have been found here, are an entrenchment formed by the elder Edward, and two Roman coins: one of the reign of Vespasian, with the inscription **SALVS AVGVSTI**; the other which is of gold and in good preservation, is of the reign of Nero and Agrippina, bearing for its inscription, the following legend: **NERO CLAVD. DIVI. F. CÆS. AVG. GERM. IMP. TR. P. COS.** On the reverse are represented Nero and his Mother, seated in a car, drawn by elephants, and an ensign which Agrippina bears, is inscribed as follows: **AGRIP. AVG. DIVI. CLAVD. NERONIS. CÆS. MATER.**—Above **EX s. c.** Such is the veneration in which this coin is held, that it is always consigned, as Morant informs us, to the care of one of the bailiffs of Maldon for the time being.

The first historical notice we have of this town is in the year 913, when the elder Edward encamped here, while a fortification was constructing at Witham, to impede the progress of the Danish invaders. This prince encamped here a second time in the year 920; when, according to Marinus, he founded a castle; of this, however, no remains can be at present traced, from which circumstance it appears probable that this writer alludes to the entrenchment above-mentioned, and the situation of which is to the west of the town. This entrenchment enclosed a space apparently of about 24 acres; it seems to have been of an oblong form. We can still trace three sides of the rampart; the remaining side having been defaced by buildings. It appears to be of no inconsiderable strength, as it held out successfully against a large army of Danes in the year 921. In the year 923 it was, however, stormed, after a vigorous resistance, by the Danish forces under the command of Unlaff; Earl Byrhtnoth, who was on his march with troops for its re-



lief was also defeated, and he himself was slain. Maldon is called an half-hundred in the Domesday Survey, at which period it contained 181 houses, and an hall tenanted by burgesses of the King, who also had a house of his own here.

It is unknown at what period Maldon became a borough. Henry II. seems to have been the first to grant a charter to this place, which he did through the intercession of William de Mandeville, Earl of Essex. Among the privileges which the burgesses obtained by this charter, was an exemption from all foreign service, upon condition of occasionally fitting out a *single ship* for the King's use, during the space of 40 days, at their own expence. The borough was incorporated, and its government regulated by a second charter, which Queen Mary granted in the year 1553. By this charter the government of the corporation is vested in the hands of two bailiffs, who are to be annually elected to that office, eight aldermen, a steward, recorder, and 18 capital burgesses. It sends two members to parliament, the right of election being confined to those who obtain their freedom by birth, marriage or servitude. The number of electors is about 200; and the first election was in the year 1329; the two bailiffs are the returning officers.

Maldon consists of one principal street, which extends to the length of nearly one mile east and west. Another street of considerable length, with several lesser avenues and lanes cross this in various directions. From the upper part of the town the descent to the river is very steep. Many of the modern houses here are good. The harbour here is convenient for ships, the channel having draught of water at spring-tides sufficient for vessels of from one to 200 tons. The colliers, however, remain in the deep water below the town, and lighters are employed in carrying up their cargoes. The corn vessels bring from the chalk wharfs in Kent large quanti-



ties of chalk rubbish for manure. The two rivers, Blackwater and Chelmer, here discharge themselves into the sea, forming at their junction a considerable estuary.

This town consisted formerly of three parishes, *viz.* All Saints, St. Peter's, and St. Mary's; of these however, the two first have been long since consolidated, and St. Peter's Church converted into a school-room, with a public library over it for the use of the minister, and the clergy of the neighbouring parishes, who generally make this town their place of residence, on account of the unwholesomeness of the air in the vicinity of their churches. St. Peter's church-yard continues, however, still to be appropriated to the use of the parish.

All Saints is the principal church here, and is an ancient and spacious edifice, with a square tower, terminated by an equilateral triangular spire. In the south aisle were three chauntries, founded by Robert D'Arcy, Esq. of Danbury, in the reign of Henry VI. In this church are several curious monumental inscriptions. The Town Hall, an ancient brick edifice of considerable size, is situated at no great distance from this church.

In the lower part of the town stands the parish church of St. Mary, a spacious pile, with a massive tower, said to have been founded by Ingleric, a Saxon nobleman, before the year 1056. The tower and part of the church was rebuilt in the reign of Charles I.

A shopkeeper of this town of the name of Edward Bright, was so enormously fat, as to weigh at the time of his death about 616 lb.; he died at the age of 29, in the year 1750, and his waistcoat admitted of having seven men buttoned within it. He left a widow pregnant of her sixth child. Such was the enormous size of his coffin, that it was found necessary to cut an opening in the wall and stair case to

admit of its being let down into the shop ; it was carried to the grave upon a carriage.

The custom of *Borough English*, by which the youngest and *not* the eldest son succeeds to the burgage tenure of his father, is in force in this place.

There is a weekly market upon Saturday, at which corn is the chief commodity ; it is sold and bought by sample. Maldou is famous for salt, the grain of which is hard and large ; it also trades extensively in coals, deal, and iron. The town contains about 600 houses, and 1,643 inhabitants.

Twelve miles east of Maldon, at the mouth of the Blackwater, is the village of BRADWELL JUXTA MAR, in the vicinity of which is the elegant villa of BRADWELL LODGE, the seat of the Rev. Sir H. Bate Dudley. It was built between the years 1781 and 1786, by J. Johnson, Esq. under whose superintendence the Shire Hall at Chelmsford was erected. Upon the summit of the lodge is a beautiful observatory, ornamented with columns of the Ionic order, which have been ingeniously contrived to form the chimneys of the whole edifice. There are several decoys for wild fowl in this neighbourhood.

The 15th of October, 1810, was a day that will long be remembered in this ancient borough. This being appointed for bringing and proclaiming the Charter Patent of the borough of Maldon, the same was observed by the inhabitants at an early hour, by ringing of bells, flags flying, and every other demonstration of joy. About noon the Charter, renewing and granting to the borough all its former rights and privileges, to the fullest extent, together with its valuable and extensive fishery, arrived, preceded by a band of music. Mr. Gaskell, and the Members of the Charter Club, amidst, perhaps, the greatest concourse of spectators that ever entered the town upon any former occasion, proceeded through the principal streets of the town, round

Potman Marsh, and returned nearly to the top of the town, where a platform was erected for the purpose of proclaiming it ; which being done, the Mayor, in a short and neat speech, congratulated the burgesses on the restoration of their rights and privileges. The Body Corporate were then immediately sworn into their respective offices, when they adjourned to the Blue Boar Inn to dine, where the greatest conviviality and good order prevailed. A bullock was roasted whole on Potman Marsh upon the occasion, which was given to the populace together with several butts of porter.—The day passed with the greatest harmony and good order, and no accident happened to lessen the general pleasure which seemed to pervade every one.

By this new charter all the rights and privileges formerly enjoyed by the borough are to be fully and completely restored, together with its extensive and valuable fishery ; and, as will be seen by the following extract, the right to the freedom is confirmed in the same manner, and without any exception, as it was before the dissolution of the corporation, by the abrogation of the ancient Charter.

“ And further, we do by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, grant unto the said Mayor, Aldermen, Capital Burgesses, and Commonalty, that all and every person or persons who was or were duly admitted into the freedom of the said borough, before the said corporation had fallen into a state of dissolution and decay, and all and every person or persons, who by the usage and custom of the said borough would have been entitled by birth or servitude to his or their admission into the freedom of the same, and to have been of the commonalty thereof, in case the said corporation had not fallen into a state of dissolution and decay, so as to prevent their obtaining such admission ; and also all and every person who, if such last-mentioned persons had been admitted into the freedom of the said

borough, would by the said usage and custom have derived a title to the same freedom by birth or servitude, from, through, or under them, or any of them, in case the said corporation had not fallen into a state of dissolution and decay, shall and may at any time within six calendar months from and after the date of these presents, in case such person or persons shall be within the realm, and of the full age of twenty-one years, at the date of these presents ; but in case such person or persons shall be abroad in parts beyond the seas, or be under the age of twenty-one years at the date hereof, then within six calendar months next after such person or persons shall return to this kingdom, or shall attain the full age of twenty-one years, claim and have admission into the freedom of the same borough, and be of the commonalty thereof, upon taking an oath duly to execute such office, before the Mayor of the said borough, or his deputy, for the time being, which oath the said Mayor of the said borough, or his deputy, for the time being, is hereby authorized and required to administer to such persons, and shall thereupon be and become free of the same borough, and be of the commonalty thereof; and that all the children or apprentices of such persons, so admitted by virtue of these presents, shall have the same right, title, and claim to their freedom, and to the power of conferring the same hereafter, as if their respective parents or masters had been admitted to their freedom as soon as they would have been entitled thereto in case the same corporation had not fallen into a state of dissolution and decay. And further, we do by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, grant unto the said Mayor, Aldermen, Capital Burgesses, and Commonalty, that each and every daughter of every person who was heretofore admitted into the freedom of the said borough, or who shall be duly admitted into the same by these presents, or who being now deceased,

or in parts beyond the seas, would be entitled, under these presents, to be admitted into the same, if he were now living, or upon his return into this kingdom, shall have the same right to nominate and appoint her husband to be a freeman of the said borough, as the daughters of freemen possessed before the said corporation fell into a state of dissolution and decay ; and that in all cases in which a woman, being the daughter of any person who was duly admitted into the freedom of the said borough before the said corporation had fallen into a state of dissolution and decay, or any person who by the usage and custom of the said borough would have been entitled by birth or servitude to his admission into the freedom of the same, in case the said corporation had not so fallen into a state of dissolution and decay, hath been married and hath died before the granting of these our letters patent, leaving her husband and a child, or children, or any of them, behind her, or being now living and a widow, hath a child or children lawfully begotten, such husband, child, or children, shall respectively have, enjoy, and be entitled to the same right as he and they would have been entitled to if such woman had, upon her said marriage, conferred the freedom of the said borough upon her said husband, according to the usage of the said borough, and her said husband had been thereupon duly admitted thereto. Provided always, that where such women shall have married two husbands, the right shall be confined to her children by her first husband ; and that all the ancient customs and usages of the said borough, touching the right of admission to the freedom thereof, shall continue and be observed, except so far as they are altered by these presents ; and that all and every person or persons who shall hereafter be entitled to his or their admission into the freedom of the same borough, and to be of the commonalty thereof, shall hereafter take an oath duly to exe-

cute the same office before the Mayor of the said borough, or his deputy, for the time being, which oath the Mayor of the same borough, or his deputy for the time being, is hereby authorized and required to administer to such persons so entitled."

At nearly one mile west of Maldon are the remains of an ancient abbey, founded in 1180, for monks, of the Præmonstratensian order, by Robert de Mantell. The ruins of Bileigh Abbey are now connected with a small farm, and the chapel which is tolerably perfect, is employed as a pig-stye. This apartment, though small, was handsome; it measures 36 feet in length, and 18 in breadth. The roof is formed of very fine grained limestone, and has groined arches, supported by three slender pillars, made of Purbeck stone.

Quitting Maldon by the great turnpike road leading to London, we reach, at the distance of about five miles, the village of DANBURY or DANESBURY, founded, as its name indicates, by our fierce invaders from the shores of the Baltic. This village is agreeably situated, and occupies part of the area of an ancient encampment, the periphery of which is about 680 yards. The hill upon which this encampment stands was well chosen, being the highest elevation in the county, and commanding consequently a most extensive prospect of the surrounding country. The glaxis to the north is still nearly 30 feet in depth, and a very considerable portion of the lines is discoverable upon the other sides.

Under the Confessor, Danbury belonged to a Saxon of the name of Arling; but we find it at the period of the Domesday survey, to have been in the possession of Geoffry De Mandeville. From this family it passed to that of St. Clere, in whose hands it continued at least so long as the reign of Edward I. in whose time we find its possessor, William De St. Clere, sheriff of the county. After a variety of changes, it passed at length to Sir Walter Mildmay,

by whom the mansion known by the name of **DANBURY PLACE**, was built.

Upon the summit of the hill, and within the area of the encampment, is situated the church, which from its exposed situation, has frequently been damaged by the weather. The spire was set on fire by lightning, and consumed 20 feet below the top, in the month of February, 1750. Within the church are several ancient monuments and effigies, in commemoration of some of the old possessors of the manor. This church is, however, more remarkable for the discovery of an ancient leaden coffin, containing the remains of a body in good preservation; it was found at the depth of about 30 inches below the pavement, just beneath an arch in the north wall, as the workmen were digging a grave, in October, 1779. The following account of the opening of the coffin is extracted from the 59th vol. of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, to which the particulars were communicated by Mr. T. White, whose curiosity prompted his examination.

“ On raising the coffin there was discovered an elm coffin enclosed, about one quarter of an inch thick, very firm and entire. On removing the lid of this coffin it was found to enclose a shell of about three quarters of an inch thick, which was covered with a thick cement of a dark olive colour, and of a very resinous nature. The lid of this shell being carefully taken off, we were presented with a view of the body, lying in a liquor or pickle, somewhat resembling mushroom catchup, but paler, and of a thicker consistence. The taste was aromatic, though not very pungent, partaking of the flavour of catchup, and of the pickle of Spanish olives. The body was tolerably perfect, no part appearing decayed but the throat, and part of one arm: the flesh every where, except on the face and throat, appeared exceedingly white and firm. The face and throat were of a dark colour, approaching to black, the



throat was much lacerated. The body was covered with a kind of shirt of linen, not unlike Irish cloth, of superior fineness: a narrow, rude, antique lace was affixed to the bosom of the shirt; the stitches were very evident, and attached very strongly. The linen adhered rather closely to the body; but on raising it from the breast to examine the state of the skin more minutely, a considerable piece was torn off with part of the lace on it. The coffin not being half full of the pickle, the face, breast, and belly, were of course not covered with it. The inside of the body seemed filled with some hard substance, which rendered it very hard. There was no hair on the head; nor do I remember any in the liquor; though feathers, flowers, and herbs, in abundance, were floating; the leaves and stalks of which appeared quite perfect, but totally discoloured. The coffin was not placed in a position exactly horizontal, the feet being at least three inches lower than the head. The pillow which supported the head in process of time decayed, and the head fell back, lacerating the throat and neck, which with the face, appeared to have been discoloured from the decay of the cloth, or substance which covered them. The jaws, when the coffin was first opened, were closed, but, on being rudely touched, expanded, owing, as it was supposed, to the breaking of some bandage that bound them together. When the jaws were opened they exhibited a set of teeth perfectly white, which was likewise the colour of the palate, and all the inside of the mouth. The limbs were of excellent symmetry: the general appearance of the whole body conveyed the idea of hearty youth, not in the least emaciated by sickness. The length of the corps very little exceeded five feet, though the shell that enclosed it was five feet six inches within. When the parishioners and others had satisfied their curiosity, the shell and wooden coffin were fastened down; the



leaden coffin was again soldered; and the whole left, as nearly as circumstances would admit, in *statu quo*."

The corpse thus described by Mr. White is, by him, supposed to be that of a Knight Templar, an opinion from which Mr. Strutt totally dissents, saying, in his letter upon this subject, bearing date the sixth of August, 1789, that he is now convinced that the mode of burying in pickle is not so old as the time of the Knights Templars. "The body," says he, "found in pickle 10 years ago was nothing less than one of these old warriors; it lay at some distance from the wall, and was covered with a large flat stone, on which was a cross fleury; and formerly an inscription in brass, not unlikely the following, mentioned by Weever:—"Hic Jacet Geraldus quondam Filius et Heres Gerardi Braybroke Militis qui obiit xxix Marcii M.cccc.xxii." The body had every appearance of youth, and was little more than five feet high; but being probably the son and heir of the above knight, was buried in this expensive manner."

In the vicinity of Danbury grows a plant vulgarly known by the name of *Danes Blood*. In this and Woodham Farrers parish stood BICNACRE, a priory of Black Canons, founded by Maurice Jeffery, who was sheriff of this county in the time of Henry II. and annexed to St. Mary Spittle in London, by Henry VII. Some lofty arches, part of the ruins of this edifice, still remain; they are situated upon the west side of the road leading from the village of Danbury to Woodham Ferry.

One mile north of Danbury is the village of LITTLE BADDOW, the church of which contains a sumptuous monument to the memory of Sir Henry Mildmay, Knt. who died in the month of October, 1639. He is represented in a full suit of armour, reposing under a dome, which rests upon black marble pillars; two female figures kneel at his feet,

the one being elderly, and dressed in a scarf and hood ; while the other, who is young, is magnificently attired in the fashion of the times. The head of the knight is supported by a pillow. From a Latin inscription upon an oval tablet, affixed to the monument, we learn that Sir Henry, having served as a soldier in the Irish wars, was for his gallantry knighted in the field. The carved effigies of two female figures, said by tradition to have been sisters, and founders of this church, occupy recesses in the south wall of the centre aisle. Upon examining the two graves in which it was supposed the corpses of the persons whose figures stood in the niches were interred, in one of them were found three skeletons, and two in the other, but without the smallest vestige of wood, linen, coffin, or any other covering to the bodies. The beautiful seat and grounds of J. R. S. Phillips, Esq. are in this parish.

At a short distance west of Danbury the London road crosses SANDON BROOK, one of the tributary streams of the Chelmer, into which it falls somewhat to the west of Little Baddow : not far from the turnpike road, and upon its south side, is seated the small village of SANDON, so called from the sandy hill whereon it is built. This village was honoured by having Dr. Brian Walton, the celebrated editor of the Polyglott Bible, for its rector from 1635 to 1641, and again in 1660, when he was promoted to the see of Chester ; his first wife is interred in the church here, and her virtues are celebrated in an inscription, partly in English and partly in Latin, penned by her husband.

Three miles from Danbury, and about one from Sandon, is the extensive, populous, and genteel village of GREAT BADDOW, which, from its delightful situation, has become the residence of a large number of respectable families, forming an agreeable and select society. This manor was, previous to the

Conquest, part of the possessions of Algar, Earl of Mercia ; but in consequence of the rebellion of his son and successor, Earl Eadwine, who was slain in battle, this lordship, along with other valuable estates, was granted by William to the monastery of the Holy Trinity at Caen in Normandy. It reverted again to the crown in the reign of Henry I. about which period the Earls of Gloucester obtained possession of it ; since that time it has had a considerable variety of masters.

Proceeding north from the village of Great Baddow, a cross road brings us to the pleasant village of BOREHAM, which from its name Morant conjectures to have been a market town, under the Saxon dynasty. In the church here are inhumed the bodies of Robert Ratcliffe, Viscount Fitzwalter, Earl of Sussex, and his wife, with their sons Thomas and Henry ; the former of whom erected the chapel here, with a sumptuous monument, having his own effigies with that of his father and grandfather, whose bodies he removed hither. The estate being sold out of the family, this monument became neglected and ruinous, and the vault falling in, exposed 12 bodies, wrapt in lead like mummies. Upon the breast of one of these Gough informs us he saw in 1760, the following inscription in raised capitals.

Thomas Comis Sussex Vicecomes Fitzwalter,  
Dominus de Egremond and Burnell, &c.  
Obiit IX Junii anno. dni. 1583, Æt. o. 57.

A neat octagonal mausoleum belonging to the Waltham family, stands in the church-yard ; it is built of stone and white brick, with the following inscription on its front:

Mausoleum  
Gentis Walthemianæ  
M.DCC.LXIV.

We now return, from our long and desultory digression, to the Great London and Harwich road,

which we regain about three miles south of Hatfield Peverell, which has been already noticed. To the right of the road is situated **NEW HALL**, formerly part of the possessions of Waltham Abbey, but exchanged for five other manors in the county of Essex, with Sir John de Shardelowe, knight; it was again exchanged by his brother, Sir Thomas de Shardelowe, who succeeded him, with Sir Henry de Coggeshall. It underwent a great variety of changes of masters; the spacious building, of which considerable remains are yet extant, was only the east side of the house, enlarged and embellished, as the inscriptions acquaint us, by Henry VIII. and his daughter Elizabeth. Henry was so enchanted with the situation, that he erected this lordship into an *honour*, and called it *Beaulieu*. Along with some adjoining manors, this was given by Elizabeth, in the year 1573, to Thomas Ratcliffe, Earl of Suffolk, in return for the important services he did for her both in Ireland and Scotland. This estate passed by purchase to the Duke of Buckingham, whose son George, having sided with the Royalists, was attainted by the parliament, and his property sold, upon which the estate of New Hall was sold for the sum of five *shillings* to Oliver Cromwell, in the month of April 1651, at which time the rent-roll of the property amounted to 1309*l.* 12*s.* 3½*d.* Hampton Court suiting Cromwell's fancy better, he soon exchanged New Hall for it. Upon the Restoration it became the property of the Duke of Albemarle. It has since been the property of various families, and is now a convent, occupied by the English nuns whom the French revolution drove from their retreat at Liege. When at its acme of splendour, New Hall was one of the largest buildings in England; it consisted of two quadrangles, within which were enclosed large courts. A spacious and magnificent apartment, called the Great Hall, occupies part of the building which has withstood the devastations of time;

this room measures in length 96 feet, in breadth 50, and in height 40. The nuns employ it as a chapel.

Half way between this place and Chelmsford is the small village of SPRINGFIELD, only remarkable for the number of its springs, whence its name.

### CHELMSFORD,

The county town, is pleasantly situated near the centre of the county, at the confluence of the rivers Chelmer and Cam, and derives its name from the ancient ford over the former. Camden, with little authority besides its distance from the supposed site of the Roman station of Camalodunum, which he erroneously places at Malden, fixes *Canonium* here, though every circumstance, it is observed by Mr. Gough, "is against assigning such antiquity to this town; there was not even a road near it till Henry the First's time, when Maurice, Bishop of London, to whose see it always belonged till Bonner's time, built a bridge over the Chelmer." Maurice possessed the episcopal dignity about the year 1100, and to his bridge this town owes much of its importance, as it occasioned the great road, which before passed through Writtle, a village to the north-west, to be brought to Chelmsford, and from that time the town has continued to increase in buildings and population.

The weekly market, on Friday, was procured by William Sancta Maria, bishop of London, in the first year of King John, with other privileges, which were afterwards confirmed by Edward the First. Two fairs are held annually on the days mentioned in our list.

In the eleventh of Edward four representatives were sent from this town to a council held at Westminster.

The town principally consists of four respectable well-built streets, in the centre is the Shire Hall, which is an elegant, commodious, and well-designed structure, and erected at the expence of

the county, Mr. J. Johnson, architect, who having completed it at an expence considerably less than the original estimate, was presented at the quarter sessions in 1792, with an elegant silver cup. The front of the building is of white stone, with a rusticated basement, and ornamented with handsome columns, supporting a pediment. The Corn Exchange, apartments for the Courts of Assize and Sessions, and Assembly Room, and other convenient offices, are within the walls of this building. Contiguous to it is a neatly sculptured conduit, to which the water is brought from a spring about a quarter of a mile distant. When the original conduit was built is not known; the present was erected a few years ago, by the subscriptions of the inhabitants, to which the Sun and Royal Exchange Fire Offices contributed 100*l.* each.

The church is a spacious structure, dedicated to St. Mary. The body is modern, erected from the designs of the above-mentioned Mr. Johnson, in place of the more ancient part, which fell to the ground on the night of January 17th, 1800. At the west end is a square flint tower with pinnacles.

It is not certain when the original church was founded, but from an inscription which was placed on the south side of the middle aisle, it appears to have been repaired by subscription in the year 1424.

In this town there is a Free Grammar School, founded and liberally endowed in 1552 by Edward VI. on the petition of Sir William Petre, knight; Sir Walter Mildmay, knight, then one of the general supervisors of the court of augmentations; Sir Henry Tyrrel, knight, and Thomas Mildmay, Esq. The governors at the same time constituted a body corporate. The school-house was built in the year 1782, by R. Benyon, Esq. then acting governor, on the site of a more ancient one, erected by Sir John Tyrrel, Baronet.

There are likewise two Charity Schools, supported principally by voluntary subscriptions. One founded in 1715 for 50 boys, the other in 1714 for 20 girls. The school-house is situated at the north-east corner of the church-yard, adjoining to it are three alms-houses for decayed families.

The ancient bridge erected by Bishop Maurice over the Chelmer, having greatly decayed, it was rebuilt with one arch in 1787, from a design by Mr. Johnson. The hamlet of Moulsham and Chelmsford are united by this bridge; near which, on the Moulsham side, stands the County Gaol, a spacious and well-arranged stone building, which was first commenced in 1773, by an architect named Hiliard, but since greatly improved, and completed by Mr. Johnson. In the front is a commodious house occupied by the gaoler; from which westward extends a large paved yard, terminated by the hospital or ward for female criminals, and a very neat and convenient chapel. On the north side next the river is a double range of cells, and beyond, another large yard, secured by a wall and iron palisadoes, appropriated to the use of the convicts, who are employed in picking oakum and making ropes. On the south side extends a range of separate cells for condemned criminals; beyond which, on the opposite side of a paved yard, are apartments for debtors, conveniently disposed. Every yard is provided with excellent spring water, which, with the great attention which is paid to cleanliness, greatly contributes to the health of the prisoners.

According to the returns made under the population act in 1801, the number of inhabitants of Chelmsford was with Moulsham 4,418, and the houses 900.

The country surrounding Chelmsford is extremely pleasant and fertile; the soil consists principally of a deep rich loam, intermixed with veins of gravel. Several flourishing hop plantations are



established in the neighbourhood. During the late war several ranges of barracks, capable of containing more than 4,000 troops, were erected in this parish; the largest at the west end of the town, the other on the southern side. At a small distance west of the latter begins a line of embankment, for defending the approach to the metropolis, consisting of star batteries and parapets. It has been carried a considerable way in a south-east direction, but is not yet completed to the extent proposed.

Near Chelmsford is situated the village of MOULSHAM, with its manor-house, now the property of the Mildmay family. Previous to the Conquest this manor formed part of the possessions of the abbey church of St. Peter and Paul, Westminster. At the Dissolution, however, it was granted by Henry VIII. to Thomas Mildmay, Gent. one of the auditors of the court of augmentation. The present fabric, occupying the site of the original house, was built by Benjamin, Earl of Fitzwalter, after the designs, and under the superintendence of, Leonini, the celebrated Italian architect. This edifice is quadrangular, with a court in the centre; the grand front commands a view of Danbury Hill. The apartments of this building are arranged with much judgment upon the tympanum of the ornamental pediment; on the south side, are represented the arms of the Mildmay family in basso relievo.

Somewhat about two miles west of Moulsham stands the village of WRITTLE, which Morant, with a few other antiquaries, will have to be the *Cæsaromagus* of Antoninus; this, however, is mere unfounded conjecture, no evidence existing to prove it to have been at any time a Roman station. Not far from the village we observe a square plot of ground, within a deep moat, which we are informed is the remains of a palace, built here, according to Stowe, by king John, in the year 1211.

The Church here is an old and spacious building,



dedicated to All Saints, and containing some magnificent monuments and inscriptions, commemorative of the several eminent families belonging to this parish. Among these our attention was chiefly attracted by an elegant and well-executed sarcophagus, erected to the memory of Sir John Comyns, knight, who filled the office of chancellor of the exchequer, and was the founder of Highlands, a large mansion in the vicinity of Chelmsford, the residence of — Labouchiere, Esq. A bust of this honest and upright judge, attired in his robes of office, is placed upon the tomb; and the inscription illustrative of his character, upon a grey marble tablet, is concluded with the following beautiful citation, from one of Horace's odes :

——— Cui pudor et Justitiæ soror  
Incorrupta fides, nullaue veritas,  
Quando ullum invenient parum.

In the reign of the Confessor this extensive lordship was the property of Earl Harold; his defeat and death gave it to William the Conqueror. After this it passed through the hands of a great number of masters, till at length, in 1553, it was granted by Mary to Sir William Petre, in whose family it still continues. No less than nine manors have, at various times, been separated from this lordship. The parish of Writtle is accounted the largest in Essex, being estimated at 52 miles in circumference. Writtle Park is the residence of C. Porter, Esq.

This parish is distinguished as being the birth-place of John Bastwick, M.D. celebrated for his efforts at effecting a reformation both in religion and government: his spirited and dignified writings having given offence to that infamous and worse than inquisitorial court, the Star Chamber, this worthy and learned man was deprived of his ears in the pillory, and condemned to imprisonment for life, in St. Mary's Castle, upon one of the isles of

Scilly; he was released, however, by a parliamentary order, in the year 1640, and a grant of 5,000*l.* from the archbishop of Canterbury's estates given him as a compensation for his sufferings. Dr. Bastwick was born in the year 1593, studied at Emanuel College, Cambridge, but graduated in medicine at the university of Padua. He survived his release from confinement at St. Mary's, somewhat about ten years.

In the middle of a wood, known by the name of Highwood Quarter, in the parish of Writtle, and about four miles north-east of the church, formerly stood an Hermitage, founded in the reign of Stephen, who furthered the undertaking with benefactions, by a monk of the name of Robert. In the reign of Henry II. who added to its endowments, it was annexed to the abbey of St. John at Colchester. Shortly after the Dissolution, its estates became the property of the Petre family, in whose hands they still continue.

Three miles from Chelmsford, we pass through the small village of MARGARETTING STREET, near which upon the right is Coptfold Hall, the seat of R. C. Vachel, Esq. Beyond are Masonettes, — Hurlock, Esq., and the Hyde, John Disney, Esq.

Two miles from Margaretting Street we enter the small village of INGATESTONE, the name of which is by some conjectured to be a compound word, taken partly from a Roman mile-stone, supposed to have been situated near the Red Lion Inn, and in part from *Ing*, the Saxon name of a meadow. This village formerly possessed a good market, which is now, however, wholly decayed. The Church contains many costly monuments to the memory of different persons of the Petre family.

An Alms-house, founded and endowed in 1557, by Sir William Petre, for seven women and three men, stands at a little distance from the village. This township consists of 120 houses, and contains

645 inhabitants. In its vicinity is the ancient mansion of the Petre family, a venerable but irregular pile, placed in a low situation. The Petre family at present reside at their new and splendid mansion at West Thorndon. The grounds belonging to Ingatestone Hall abound in large and well stocked fish-ponds.

Previous to the Dissolution this manor belonged to the abbey of Barking, but was granted to its present proprietors, by Henry VIII. for the sum of 849l. 12s. 6d.

Nearly two miles beyond Ingatestone we pass Thoby Priory, the seat of John Grant, Esq. and soon after enter MOUNTNESSING STREET, a small village, near which, upon the right, is Fitzwalters, the mansion of J. Hall, Esq.

At SHENFIELD, another small village, distant a little more than two miles from the last, a branch of the turnpike road leads through Billericay to Rochford.

We shall here, therefore, digress again from our direct route, and following this branch, BILLERICAY is the first place of any note which occurs. This is a chapelry attached to Great Burghstead. Edward IV. granted it the privilege of holding a market, in the year 1476. It was, in Camden's time, a market-town of considerable note and opulence; but has fallen to decay of late years, in consequence of its trade being swallowed up by the Romford and Chelmsford markets. The chapel is conjectured to have been built in the reign of Edward III.

About one mile hence are some ancient fortifications, known by the name of BLUNT'S WALLS, and described by Morant in his History of Essex.—Theseremains consist of a ditch and rampart, inclosing a space of somewhat about four acres; part of this is inclosed in a farm yard; and the rampart is considerably higher than the surrounding fields.—Morant describes some barrows or artificial tumuli,

which had been situated within these ramparts, as nearly levelled; and further observes that several fragments of urns, pateræ, and other earthen vessels, had been found at a depth of about three feet below the surface of a high hill: in this vicinity are also several copper, and two silver, coins of the Romans; the two silver coins were of the reigns of Trajan and Adrian. From this circumstance our learned author conjectures that Billericay had been a Roman villa or station.

About two miles from Billericay, and a little to the right of the turnpike road, is the village of GREAT BURGHSTEAD. This manor originally formed part of the estate belonging to the abbey at Stratford Langthorne. A charter empowering the abbot and monks of that establishment to hold a market and fair here, was obtained in the reign of Henry III.; long, however, before the period at which Camden wrote, the market was discontinued.

This manor was granted at the Dissolution, to Sir Richard Rich, and was afterwards purchased from his descendants, in the year 1600, by an ancestor of its present proprietor, Lord Petre.

The elegant monuments of Fenton Neville, Esq. and Mr. Joseph Fishpoole, add not a little to the decoration of the Church, which is neatly finished and ornamented throughout.

At a short distance from Burghstead we cross the river Crouch, hence to RALEIGH, a distance of somewhat more than eight miles, we meet with nothing particularly interesting; the country is, in general, low and rather marshy, but upon the whole well cultivated. The now inconsiderable village of Raleigh, was once a market-town of no small importance, and head of the barony of Suene. At present it is only remarkable for the remains of a strongly-fortified castle, which it formerly possessed. The remains of this fortification consist of a mount, the base of which is elliptical, with a ditch surround-

ing it: besides this there is a second ditch with a rampart, &c. The mount is divided at its summit, the west part being circular, and 100 feet high, while the eastern is elliptical, and not quite so lofty; the width of the vallum is 50 feet. The works are much injured in many places, and the ditches filled up in a considerable degree.

The Church here contains a much mutilated, but as far as remains perfect, beautifully finished monument; the inscription, however, being effaced, renders it impossible to ascertain to whose memory it was erected.

We find this village entered in the Domesday Survey as possessing "a park and six arpeni of vineyard, yielding, in a good season, 20 modii of wine."

Five miles hence is ROCHFORD, an irregularly ill-built town, situated upon the river which it crosses here by two small bridges. Near the centre of the town stands the market-house, a mean, wooden, structure, erected, as appears from the date which it bears, in the year 1707. At a distance of nearly half a mile eastward is situated the Church, a plain building, with a lofty tower of brick, at the western extremity. Rochford contains about 1382 inhabitants, and 268 houses.

This place belonged, as we learn from the Domesday Survey, to Snene, the reputed founder of the fortifications, whose ruins we have just noticed at Raleigh. Being forfeited by Robert of Essex, grandson to Suene, this manor was granted to Guy Fitz-Eustace, by Henry II. This man afterwards assumed the title of De Rochford, from this place.—Henry III. granted to his grandson, Sir Guy de Rochford among other privileges, that of holding a market in this town. These privileges were ratified under Edward I. The present lord of the manor is the Right Hon. W. W. Pole.

ROCHFORD HALL is an ancient fabric of large

dimensions, but in a very ruinous condition, and is inhabited by a bailiff only. The only trade carried on here is in the retail, the neighbouring gentry and farmers being supplied by the shopkeepers.

The village of PRITTLEWELL is situated about three miles from Rochford; it is small but neatly built, and has a good church proportioned to the size of the parish.

SOUTHEND, a convenient watering place, situated in this parish, is become of late a place of much fashionable resort, during the sea-bathing months; its retired and delightful situation particularly attract visitors.

Southend first attracted notice as a watering-place about thirty years ago. It is eligibly situated on the slope of a well wooded, and a well cultivated hill, only forty-two miles from London, and three from Rochford, and lies at the mouth of the Thames, nearly opposite to Sheerness. The upper road passes through Romford, Billericay, and Raleigh; the lower, which is at once shorter and more beautiful, by Barking, Rainham, and Stamford-le-Hope.

The soil is sandy, and the shore flat, and so shallow, that at low water a stranger would suppose that the sea had totally abandoned the place; but at full tide the view is admirable. The air is esteemed very dry and salubrious, and the water, notwithstanding its mixture with the Thames, is clear and sufficiently salt. Besides the machines, which are neat and commodious, here are two warm baths.

The terrace, which is commonly called New Southend, being built on a considerable eminence, gives the whole range an elegant appearance, especially from the Thames. The houses run in a long continuous line, and are handsomely finished with pilasters and cornices of stone. They command a de-

lightful and extensive view of the sea, the Nore, the Medway, Sheerness, and of the shipping bound to and returning from the emporium of the world.

New Southend remained nearly stationary for a considerable time, owing to the failure of the first proprietors of the Terrace and adjacent buildings. In the year 1800, however, the property being sold by auction, passed into the hands of James Heygate and John Thomas Hope, Esquires. In addition to these gentlemen, the late Sir Thomas Wilson, Lady Langham, and other families, possess houses on the terrace, and reside at this village a considerable part of the year.

The assembly-room is handsomely finished, but is not regularly filled at any stated periods. Sometimes, however, the company is pretty numerous, and they are mostly of the superior ranks of society; the lower orders of the community not having as yet intruded themselves into Southend, as into many other places of this description.

A Theatre was erected here in 1804. It is well attended, the dramatic amusements being conducted in a respectable and satisfactory manner.

The Library is an elegant building, somewhat in the Gothic style, and is beautifully situated on the brow of the hill, between what are called the Old and New Town. There are taken in the London and provincial newspapers; the Monthly Magazine, the Reviews, and other periodical journals.

The Hotel, which is situated at the eastern extremity of the Terrace, is extremely spacious and convenient, being provided with an elegant assembly room, and coffee room, in which latter are the London Papers, the windows of the sitting room command a beautiful view of the sea, of the shipping sailing up and down the Thames, of Sheerness, the Nore, the Isle of Sheepy, Margate, &c.

The Ship Tavern affords adequate accommodations; having been lately improved by the addition



of warm and cold baths. The Hope Tavern is also very respectable.

There is a chapel for the use of dissenters, at this place.

The country round Southend is rich and populous, and agriculture is carried on with assiduity and success. The white fronted dwellings of the yeomanry and peasants, add considerably to the picturesque effect of the landscape. There is, in short, every appearance of comfort and content, even among the lowest classes, which cannot but afford a sweet sensation to every benevolent mind, so apt to be pained by sights of misery at places of fashionable resort.

Daily coaches set out for Southend from the Bull and the Blue Boar, Aldgate; and also a steam packet, which leaves Tower stairs every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

Not far from Southend a stone is placed to mark the jurisdiction of the Lord Mayor of London.

About three miles further is the village of SHOE-BURY, the ancient name of which was *Schoebirig* or *Scheobirig*. Here after their defeat at Bamfield by Alfred, the Danes, as we are informed, threw up considerable fortifications, of which several remains can still be traced, Here have been also found many urns apparently of Roman manufacture.

The eastern extremity of Rochford hundred is divided into a multitude of islands, the most considerable of which are FOULNESS and WALLASEA, of these the first is the most considerable, being above 20 miles in circumference, not including the *Saltings*, a tract yet unreclaimed from the sea. This island contains about 5,000 acres, and has near its centre a small church for the accommodation of the inhabitants, who would otherwise be, not unfrequently, prevented by the floods from attending upon divine worship.



Some curious historical facts relating to this island are mentioned by the Rev. Mr. Young. As drawbacks upon the rent paid to the Earl of Winchelsea he mentions the circumstance of a great want of fresh water for live stock ; the difficulty of getting to the island ; the immense price of labour, and the ravages of agues and autumnal fevers. The farmers here dig little reservoirs to receive the water from their fields for their cattle, which answer in a wet season ; but in a dry one they are greatly distressed. Mr. Young asked about thirty persons there if they had had agues, and they all answered in the affirmative, and in a tone and manner that sufficiently marked how common and universal they were. Only four farmers resided in the island ; all the rest living in more wholesome and sequestered situations, leaving their farms to the management of bailiffs, whom they call *lookers*. The agues here are thought to be owing to the muddy coast, wet and dry every day by the tide, and yet a larger extent flooded every spring-tide. The mud exposed to the sun, must yield pestilential exhalations ; and every field being fenced by a ditch half full of stinking mud, must also have the same effect in a dry season.

There is a tradition here signifying that the Dutch embanked and first cultivated this island ; there are many names here said to be Dutch ; as Lodick, Peroose, Mowbecker, and Crozier. The latter died 80 years old. His daughter, a Mrs. Douset, wife to a farmer on the island, with his grandfather and grandmother came from Holland, as she informed Mr. Young.

WALLASEA island is nearly four miles long, and one mile and a half broad ; both of these are divided into small farms, of which those nearest to the centre and consequently upon the highest part of the island are best adapted to agriculture, and those upon the shore to pasture.

Returning westward along the banks of the Thames, we arrive at LEIGH or LEE, a dirty, ill-built village, which has a port and custom house; in its vicinity is one of the best springs of water in the hundreds of Essex. The inhabitants of this village are mostly fishermen. The tower of the church here is prettily covered with ivy.

About three miles hence is HADLEIGH, a village remarkable for having in its vicinity the magnificent ruins of the castle built here by Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent, and from that circumstance were long distinguished by the name of *Hadlugh ad Castrum*. The ruins of the castle stand upon the brow of a steep hill, commanding an extensive prospect of the county of Kent.

This lordship appears to have belonged to the honour of Raleigh, and formed part of the estate which we find that Seune was possessed of at the period of the Domesday survey. It is now the property of the Barnard family.

A creek which runs up here between the main land and Canvey Island, has obtained the name of Hadleigh Ray. CANVEY ISLAND is supposed to be the same with Ptolemy's *Kewros*. Its extent is about five miles in length and two in breadth, it was formerly liable to inundations at every spring tide, but is at present well secured by embankments; it contains a chapel, and about 50 houses.

At the western extremity of Hadleigh Ray, stands SOUTH BEMFLETE, where Hastings, the celebrated Danish pirate, formerly erected a castle with deep and wide ditches, which was, however, stormed and razed in 849, by Alfred the Great, who took Hastings's wife and two sons prisoners.

To the westward of Bemflete the country rises into an agreeable eminence called LANGDON HILL, affording a very rich and extensive prospect.

Between Langdon Hill and the river, in a low situation, stands the village of CORRINGHAM. This

manor was held by the family of Bauds, under the bishop of London, so far back as the days of John. Sir William de Baud, who filled the office of sheriff for the counties of Essex and Hertford in 1375, obtained permission from the dean and canons of St. Paul's to inclose within his park 12 or 22 acres of land, upon condition of his annually presenting them with a fat buck and doe upon the days of the conversion and commemoration of St. Paul, on which days the offering was regularly made with much ceremony.

EAST and WEST TILBURY are situated within a short distance of the Thames, the banks of which are here extremely low and fenny. West Tilbury seems to have been an episcopal seat of Cedda, bishop of the East Saxons. This bishop was among the first to propagate the doctrines of Christianity, and was the founder of many churches, especially in a city called by the Saxons *Ythancestre*, a city conjectured to have been situated at the mouth of the Blackwater, but long since overwhelmed by the sea. In his days Tilbury appears to have been a town of some note, and was known by the name of *Tillaburgh*; but of whatever importance it might anciently have been, Tilbury is now dwindled into a small and inconsiderable village. In this parish was discovered in 1727, a medicinal spring, at the depth of about 12 feet below the surface of a small eminence which rises somewhat above the marshes. In this parish also, upon the bank of the river, exactly opposite to the battery at Gravesend, is TILBURY FORT, a strong and regular fortification, which entirely commands the navigation of the river; and upon the site of this fort formerly stood a kind of block-house, erected by Henry VIII. which, however Charles II. enlarged and strengthened, having been alarmed in 1667 by the sailing of the Dutch fleet up the river, when they burned three men of war at Chatham. In the parish of Tilbury East,

says Morant, was the ancient ferry over the Thames, supposed to have been the place where the Emperor Claudius crossed in pursuit of the Britons. Near West Tilbury, the four Roman proconsular ways crossed each other; and in the year 620 this was the see of the bishop Cedda, or St. Chad. It was situated near the marshes, which are rented by the farmers, and grazing butchers of London, who generally stock them with Lincolnshire and Leicestershire wethers, sent here in September and October, and fed till Christmas or Candlemas, and is what the butchers call "right marsh mutton." When the Spanish Armada was in the channel in 1588, Queen Elizabeth had a camp at West Tilbury, on the spot where the windmill lately stood: having here assembled her army, she addressed them in the following patriotic speech.

"My loving People,

"We have been persnaded by some that are careful of our safety, to take heed how we commit ourselves to armed multitudes, for fear of treachery; but I assure you I do not live to distrust my loving and faithful people. Let tyrants fear. I have always so behaved myself, that under God, I have placed my chiefest strength and safeguard in the loyal hearts and goodwill of my subjects. And therefore I am come amongst you, as you see at this time, not for any recreation or disport, but being resolved, in the midst and heat of the battle, to live or die amongst you all; to lay down for my God, and for my kingdom and my people, my honour and my blood even in the dust. I know I have the body but of a weak and feeble woman; but I have the heart and stomach of a king—and of a king of England too! and think foul scorn that Parma or Spain, or any Prince of Europe should dare to invade the borders of my realm; to which, rather than any dishonour shall grow by me, I myself will take up arms; I myself will be your

general, judge and recorder of every one of your virtues in the field. I know already for your forwardness you have deserved crowns; and we do assure you, on the word of a prince, they shall be duly paid you. In the mean time my Lieutenant General (Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester) shall be in my stead, than whom never prince commanded more noble or worthy subjects: not doubting but by your obedience to my General, by your concord in the camp, and your valour in the field, we shall shortly have a most famous victory over those enemies of my God, of my kingdoms and my people."

Tilbury Fort, in the parish of West Tilbury, opposite Gravesend, is a regular fortification, and may be termed the key to London. The plan was laid by Sir Martin Beckman, chief engineer to Charles II. It has a double moat, the innermost of which is one hundred and eighty feet broad; with a good counterscarp, a covered way, ravelins and tenailles. Its chief strength on the land side consists in its being able to lay the whole level under water. On the side next the river, is a strong curtain with a gate called the watergate, in the middle, and the ditch is pallisadoed. Before this curtain is a platform in the room of a counterscarp, with a hundred and six guns, from twenty-four to forty-six pounders each, besides smaller ones planted between them; and the bastions and curtains are also planted with guns. A new road has been recently made from London, by which the distance to West Tilbury and Tilbury Fort has been shortened about two miles and a half.

Close by West Tilbury are the villages of CHADWELL, and LITTLE THURROCK; here are singular caverns of various dimensions formed in the chalk; of these some are very artfully constructed of stone, and the entrance was by a narrow circular passage from the top to the bottom, which is divided into several apartments, all differing in dimensions and

structure. An horizontal passage, or level, as the miners term it, is said to lead from Cavefield at East Tilbury into one of these caverns

It is uncertain at what period or with what view these caverns were originally constructed. Tradition ascribes them to the Britons, and this opinion seems to be the most correct.

GREY'S THURROCK, so distinguished from having been the property of the noble family of Grey, for a space of upwards of three centuries, was granted by Richard I. to Sir Henry de Grey.—Grey's Thurrock consists chiefly of a single irregular street, built along a small creek from the Thames, which is navigable for lighters and other small craft. Corn is the chief article sold at the market, which is well attended.

The church is a good building, and is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. The number of houses in this village are 83, the population 677.

Adjoining to Grey's Thurrock is another village, consisting of one irregular row of houses, called WEST THURROCK. It possesses nothing particularly remarkable.

In this parish, at the western extremity of Longreach, is situated the populous hamlet of PURFLEET, in the vicinity of which government has within a few years erected a powder magazine, which is secured against fire or lightning. The powder is kept in small detached bomb-proof buildings, to provide against the danger of a large quantity exploding at once.

In the parish of Avely, at a short distance from Purfleet is BELL HOUSE, a large building, in an agreeable park of about three miles circumference, and full of fine timber; this is the seat of Sir Thomas Barrett Lennard. The house was originally built in the reign of Henry VIII. but was much improved by the late Lord Dacre. It takes its name from the Bellhus family, who long possessed



it. It is among the privileges annexed to this manor, that it can exclude any person, of however exalted rank, from entering it in search of game.

SOUTH OKENDON is a small village, which with its manor belonged at the period of the Doomsday survey, to Geoffry de Magnaville. The church contains a mural monument to the memory of Sir Richard Salstonhall, who died in 1601.

A little further north is NORTH OKENDON, an inconsiderable village, three miles from which is the pleasant village of UPMINSTER. So far back as the period of the Conquest, we find this manor in the possession of the Engains; at present, however, it belongs to the Esdailes. Dr. Derham, the distinguished author of the *Physico-Theology*, enjoyed the rectory of this parish from 1689 to 1735.

UPMINSTER HALL belonged formerly to the abbots of Waltham; they also had a chapel and cemetery here. The manor house is built of timber, and enjoys the advantage of extremely delightful prospects.

The manor of HORNCURCH, close adjoining that of Upminster, was granted by Henry II. to the great hospital of St. Bernard de Monte Jovis in Savoy. Here was an hospital or cell for a prior and poor brethren, which was founded by Henry, and rendered subordinate to an establishment in Savoy. The establishment in the Strand, of which we have given some account in our description of London, and which was founded by and named after Peter, Earl of Savoy, was granted by him to the brethren of this hospital. However, this along with the other alien priories, was suppressed, and its estates added to the endowment of New College, Oxford, to which establishment they still continue to be annexed.

Returning eastward from Hornchurch to Upminster, and crossing the country by several cross roads, we reach the village of EAST HORNDON, the

church of which is a small irregular structure of brick, built apparently at different times; at the western extremity is a square tower, strengthened by buttresses of large dimensions. The ceiling of the chancel is ornamented with sculpture, representing coats of arms, roses, &c. The chapels belonging to the Tyrell and Petre families occupy the south side.—A quaint inscription in Latin, upon a flat stone, in the chapel of the Tyrell family, perpetuates the memory of Sir John Tyrell, Knt. who during the civil commotions, suffered severely for his attachment to Charles.

There are two chapels also upon the north side, and one of them enriched with a profusion of ornaments; this chapel contains an extremely ancient monument, much mutilated and defaced by age; the date of 1400 is, however, still discernable upon the remains of a brazen rim, which has likewise been nearly consumed by the corroding tooth of time, “*edax rerum.*” This monument, it is conjectured, was erected in memory of some of the Tyrells, to whom the manor of Heron, in this parish, belonged. Another monument, dated 1422, and in better preservation, though somewhat mutilated, perpetuates the memory of Sir John Tyrell and his lady. The font which stands in this chapel is formed of a massy square stone, and is curiously sculptured with intersecting arches, &c.

The only remains of the ancient manor-house of HERON HALL (which had been the place of residence of the Tyrell family,) are two round towers; upon its site is now erected a commodious farmhouse.

Adjoining to East Thorndon, or Horndon, as it is frequently called, is the manor of WEST THORNDON, which we find, previous to 1442, in the possession of the family of Fitz-Lewes. The last male descendant of this celebrated family met with a melancholy fate upon the night of his wedding; being



burned, along with his amiable consort, in a fire which consumed the manor-house, and which originated, in all probability, in the negligence of the servants, produced by the festivity of the occasion—His sister Ela, heiress of his immense possessions, married Sir John Mordaunt. The estate is, at present, the property of the Petre family.

About two miles from Brentwood, on the left of our road, is THORNDON HALL, the seat of Lord Petre, situated on a fine eminence, and surrounded by an extensive park. The mansion is built with white brick, and consists of a centre and two wings, connected by corridors. On the north front is a stately portico, supported by six Corinthian columns. The hall is a noble room, 40 feet square.—The park and grounds are well stocked with wood, and many of the trees are of great rarity and value.

After our long and desultory digression, we return once more to the great turnpike road, leading from Harwich to London; this we regain at the village of BRENTWOOD, which is, in general meanly and irregularly built; though, from its being so great a thoroughfare, it contains several good inns for the accommodation of travellers; it was formerly a market-town, but the market has been long disused.—Morant, in his History of Essex, informs us that the assizes were formerly held here. The ruined remains of the Town Hall and Prison, which stand in the High Street, are at present tenanted by a farrier and others, upon condition of putting them into perfect repair in case of the assizes being at any time in future held here. The Grammar School which is here, was endowed in 1537, by Sir Anthony Brown. This is a chapelry belonging to the parish of South Weald, in which it is situated. The chapel was established about 1221, at the request of David, prior of St. Osyth, for the accommodation of the tenants of a manor which belonged to that monastery.

Camden is inclined to believe that this is the site of Antoninus's *Cæsaromagus*; but this opinion is unsupported by any other antiquaries. Salmon however informs us that pateræ, and other Roman relics, have been found on the military road which leads from Billericay towards Ongar; he further observes that in the vicinity of Shenfield, a village a little to the north of Brentwood, two Roman lares were dug up. In addition to all which, it may be remarked that traces of what is conjectured to have been a *Castrum Exploratorum* have been observed at South Weald, a small village, south-west of Brentwood, and on the verge of Weald Hall Park. The form of this camp was circular; it was surrounded by a single ditch, and occupied about seven acres.

WEALD HALL, which we have just noticed as being in the vicinity of this camp, is an elegant structure, the seat of Christopher F. Tower, Esq. It is beautifully situated in a large park, and forms a most agreeable residence. The embattled tower, which was built as an ornament to the grounds, commands a beautiful and extensive prospect. Within a mile is Rochetts, the seat and plantations of the late venerable Earl of St. Vincent.

BROOKE STREET, a hamlet belonging to South Weald, and situated upon the London road, at a distance of about one mile from Brentwood, formerly contained an Hospital, founded by the Bruyns of South Okendon, prior to 1300, for the reception of lepers. This was given as a free chapel to Sir Anthony Brown, but has been since parcelled out, and is possessed at present by several tenants.

The agreeable seat of DAGENHAM PARK, which is situated a little to the right of the turnpike road, is at present the residence of Sir Thoms Neave, Bart. This gentlemen, having obtained the manor by purchase, in 1772 pulled down the old mansion, and erected in its room the handsome one we see at present.

We now enter a district renowned in the annals of monkish legends, and denominated the liberty of **HAVERING-ATTE-BOWER**; which includes the three parishes of **Havering**, **Hornchurch**, and **Romford**, and constituted formerly part of the demesnes of the Saxon monarchs. Peculiar privileges, arising in part from prescriptive right and in part from a charter granted by **Henry IV.** and since that period frequently confirmed, belong to this district. In a most delightful situation, commanding the richest and most extensive prospects, are the dilapidated remains of an ancient palace, the foundation or repair of which is traditionally ascribed to the Confessor.

Three miles from **Brook Street** is the village of **HARE STREET**; here in a cottage upon the left hand resides the widow of the great modern improver of gardening, &c. **Humphrey Repton, Esq.** Upon the same side is **HARE HALL**, the elegant mansion of **John Severn, Esq.** This house, which is of **Portland-stone**, was built under the direction of **Mr. Payne**; it consists of a centre and two wings, and occupies the site of the ancient fabric; the interior of the building is well furnished, and handsomely fitted up; the pencil of the celebrated **Angeleca Kauffman** has contributed a small share towards the internal decoration of this mansion.

Upon the opposite side of the road is **GIDEA HALL**, a large square brick edifice, the residence of **A. Black, Esq.**

We now enter the populous town of **ROMFORD**, the etymology of which seems to be yet unsettled, "*adhuc sub judice lis est.*" The earliest notice we find of this manor is in a record dated 1299, at which period it belonged to **Adam de Cretinge**, of whom **Henry de Winchester**, a Jewish proselyte, held it. At present it is the property of the family of **Newman**.

This town principally consists of one long wide street, through which the turnpike road passes: the Market-house and Town Hall stand near the centre of the town; here are held the quarter sessions for the district of Havering-atte-Bower.

The chapel here is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin and Edward the Confessor, of the latter of whom there is a whole length in the east window of the chancel.

Between Romford and the river is the small village of DAGENHAM, which gives name to a considerable portion of the marshy banks of the Thames. Here, in the winter of 1707, a most destructive breach was made by the wind and tide, in consequence of which 100 acres and upwards of rich land in the adjoining levels were quickly laid under water, and nearly 120 washed entirely away.

After many fruitless efforts on the part of the landholders in the vicinity, the damage occasioned by the continuance of this breach to the navigation of the river, rendered the situation of the banks a fit subject for parliamentary consideration; in consequence of which an act was passed, and a small tax imposed upon shipping, for the completion of this arduous undertaking, which, after various unsuccessful attempts, was at length accomplished by the ingenious perseverance of Captain Perry. There is a considerable pool, covering from 40 to 50 acres, yet remaining within the embankment; and near it is erected a small circular building, roofed with thatch, and denominated Dagenham Breach House; it is supported by a number of gentlemen, who, at the proper season, form parties, and come here to fish. A large quantity of timber, of various species, as oak, yew, willow, &c. was found at a depth of about four feet below the surface of the marshes, in constructing this embankment. This stratum was of considerable extent, and about 10 feet thick, and had very little ad-

mixture of earth, consisting almost wholly of trees and underwood. Besides timber a large quantity of hazel nuts, and also several horns of deer were found.

The expence of the embankment was 40,472l. 18s. 8½d. Of this sum the original contract allowed only 25,000. Parliament afterwards granted 15,000l. so that after all his anxiety, care, and fatigue, during a space of five years, the spirited undertaker, and persevering completer, of this difficult and highly-important undertaking, was not only left without remuneration for his labours, but obliged himself to defray a portion of the expence.

One mile and three-quarters from Romford stands an immense Whalebone, said to have belonged to a whale caught in the river Thames, in the same year in which Oliver Cromwell died. The whale to which this bone belonged measured, it is said, 28 feet.

Hence to GREAT ILFORD is a distance of three miles and three quarters; this is a chapelry to the parish of Barking, which we shall shortly notice. In this village is an Hospital, which consists of a small quadrangle, three sides of which are occupied with the apartments of the pensioners, and the fourth by the chapel. This was originally founded in the reign of Stephen, for a prior, warden, master, two priests, and 13 lepers. By the code of statutes appointed by Ralph Stratford, Bishop of London, this establishment was made dependent upon the convent of Barking, and the lepers were, upon their admission, obliged to subscribe an obligation to that effect, and at the same time take an oath of celibacy. Its revenues were, at the dissolution, estimated at 16l. 1s. 6½d. per annum. Thomas Fanshaw, Esq. obtained a grant of the site and possession of this establishment, from Elizabeth, for himself, his heirs, &c. upon condition of appointing a master, and fitting up apartments for six pensioners, who

were to receive 2l. 5s. per annum. After several changes, this property, thus charged, came by purchase to the Gascoyne family, in 1739; it still continues in their hands.

Adjoining to Ilford is ALDERSBROOK, formerly the residence of Smart Lethieullier, Esq. the celebrated antiquarian.

At a distance of about two miles from Ilford, upon the banks of the Roding, a tributary stream to the Thames, and not far from its confluence with that river, stands the town of BARKING, once a place of some repute, and possessing a good market, though now of no consequence. In the vicinity of this town are still observable the remains of a considerable camp, whence the name is supposed to have been derived, *Burgh-ing* signifying in Saxon *the fortress in the meadow*.

From the extent of these entrenchments, Mr. Lethieullier has been inclined to imagine that this was the site of a Roman town; and accounts for the circumstance of no traces of buildings being found here, by conjecturing that the materials were employed in the construction, and subsequently in the repair, of the abbey; an opinion which receives some corroboration from the discovery which was made in 1750 of the foundations of some of the pillars being composed of Roman bricks. Among the ruins was also found a coin of Magnintius.

This entrenchment is somewhat of a square form, measuring, in its circumference, 1792 yards, and contains 48 acres, one rood, and 34 perches, within its inclosed area. A single trench defends it upon the north-east and south sides; while upon the west side, which is nearly parallel with the Roding, there is a double trench and bank; to the south there is a deep morass; the north-east sides are, however, perfectly dry, and the trench nearly obliterated from frequent ploughing. To the north-



west is a spring of excellent water, which was secured to the garrison by additional works.

The situation of these fortifications is in the fields near a farm, known by the name of Uphall, which is about a quarter of a mile north of the town.

Barking appears, in the latter ages, to have derived all its importance from the flourishing abbey, which was first founded here in 670, by St. Erkenwald, bishop of London, at the particular request of his sister Ethelburgh, who was appointed first abbess. This is reported to have been the first convent for females established in England.

The Abbess of the Benedictine Nuns at Barking, was one of the four baronesses in right of their station; for being possessed of 13 knights fees and a half, she hold her lands of the king by a barony; and though her sex prevented her from having a seat in parliament, yet she always furnished her quota of men. In her convent she lived in great state: her household consisted of chaplains, an esquire, gentlemen, gentlewomen, grooms, a clerk, a yeoman cook; a groom cook; a pudding wife, &c. In an ancient manuscript entitled, "The charge longynge to the office of cellaress of Barking;" is fully stated, the sums she was to collect, with the nature and quantity of the provisions she was to lay in, and the manner and proportion in which they were to be distributed. Among other things she was to bake with elys on Schere Thursday, (the Thursday after Lady Day); to provide a piece of whete and three gallons of milk for frimete on St. Ethelburg's day; three gallons of gude ale for besons; marrybones to make whyte wortys (puddings). Conies for the convent at Shroftide; twelve stubbe eles, and nine schaft eles, to bake on Schere Tuesday; and two gallons of red wyne for the convent; half a goose for each of the nunnes on the feast of assumption for every ladye, a livery of sowse at Martenmass; a whole hog's sowse, (con-

sisting of the face, feet, and groin,) to serve three ladies. She was to pay to every ladie in the convent 9d. a year for rushew silver (money to buy butter;) 2d. for her crum cakes at Shroftide: three halfpence a week for egg money, called eye silver, &c.

Several services were due from the inferior tenants to the abbess and convent. One of them was to gather a full measure of nuts; go a long journey on foot once a year to Colchester, Chelmsford, Ely or the like distances, carrying a pack and other short journeys, maintaining himself upon the road. It appears that he could not sell his ox killed by himself, without the abbess's consent; and some of the tenants were obliged to watch and guard thieves in the Abbey prisons. In the year 1452, after several disputes with the Vicar Sir John Greening, and Catharine de la Pole, an award was made to the following effect: that instead of a hog, a goose, a cheese, and a lamb, that he used to receive of the lady abbess, he and his successors should have three yards of good cloth, two ells broad; provision every day in the convent, for him and his servant, so long as he should not be of a litigious and contentious disposition; he sitting at the chaplain's table, and his servant with the domestics of the convent; but, if the said vicar should without licence of the lady abbess, or her deputy, have any familiarity or discourse with any one or two of the nuns, he should for the first offence (after proper admonition.) lose his diet for a week; after a second admonition forfeit a month's diet; and if he should offend a third time he should be excluded the convent, during life, unless restored by the lady abbess's special grace and favour. In all other respects he was to be satisfied with the profits of his vicarage, which were then valued at 27l. 5s. 2d. per annum. Upon the Dissolution Dorothy Barley, the last abbess, received a pension of 200 marks a year, and



the nuns were also provided with small pensions. The crown retained the manor of Barking till 1628, when it was sold by Charles II. to Sir Thomas Fanshaw, for 2000*l*. A fee-farm rent of 160*l*. per annum, which is now payable to the Earl of Sandwich, being reserved. It is now the property of Edward Hulse, Esq.

Very little of the remains of the extensive buildings formerly belonging to this abbey are now to be traced. Mr. Lethieullier employed workmen to clear the foundations, and thus ascertained the form and dimensions of the old cathedral. An ancient fibula, and a gold ring, which seem to have been the property of some of the nuns, were found among the ruins.

The entrance to the church-yard is through a very old embattled gateway, having upon each side octagonal embattled towers. The arch under which we enter is pointed, and has above a niche with pinnacles and a canopy. Over this archway is a small chapel, formerly denominated "The Chapel of the Holy rood, lofte atte gate, edified to the honour of Almighty God, and of the holy rood." An alto relievo representation of the holy rood, or crucifixion, is still visible on the wall. From having formerly contained a bell, supposed to be for the curfew, this building has been called the Fire Tower.

The parish Church is dedicated to St. Margaret: it contains among other monuments, one consisting of a marble slab, the inscription upon which is almost effaced, but which is conjectured to be in memory of Mauritius, who obtained the see of London in the year 1087: what follows is the whole of the inscription which remains:

... AURICII EPI LONDONENSIS ALFGIVE ABBE BE....

In 1787 a spacious Workhouse was erected here, pursuant to an act of parliament, obtained for this purpose in the preceding year.

Queen Elizabeth founded the Market-house,

which with the Market-place, was granted in 1616, by Charles I. to Samuel and John Jones, from whom it soon passed to Sir Thomas Fanshaw.

About one mile from Barking, in a south-east direction, is the village of EASTBURY, near which stands EASTBURY HOUSE, a singular brick structure, said to have been one of the places at which the conspirators engaged in the Gunpowder Plot held their meetings. It is now unoccupied.

Crossing the Roding, we reach, after travelling a little more than a mile, the small village of EASTHAM, the parish church of which is supposed, from its form, to be very ancient. It is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen. In the church-yard here are interred the remains of the celebrated antiquary Dr. Stukeley, undistinguished by any monument, and only covered, according to his own particular desire, with the turf laid smoothly over.

In the small hamlet of GREEN STREET is an old fabric, with a brick tower annexed to it; this is falsely reported to have been the place of Anne Boleyn's confinement: a report contradicted, however, by the appearance of the tower, which shews its origin to have been much more recent.

About one mile west of Green Street is the village of PLAISTOW, remarkable only for giving name to a considerable portion of marshy ground along the river, and known by the appellation of Plaistow Level.

At a short distance north of Plaistow is the large and agreeably situated village of WESTHAM; here formerly existed a market, the charter for which was obtained by Richard de Montfitchett in the year 1253. William de Montfitchett, an ancestor of Richard, was the founder of an abbey at STRATFORD LANGTHORN in this parish, about the year 1135. The endowment of this establishment consisted chiefly of the manor of Westham. In 1307 its abbot was summoned to attend parliament; its es-

tates were valued, upon the Dissolution, at 652l. 3s. 1½d.

The brick gateway, and an ornamented arch, which seems to have formed the entrance into the chapel, are the only relics of the buildings. The only antiquities found in the removal of the ruins and foundation of the convent was a small seal set in silver, and bearing the impression of a griffin, with the following legend: *Nuncio vobis gaudium et salutem.*

All Saints, the parochial church, is a spacious edifice, with a tower, 74 feet high, at its west end. In this church-yard rest the remains of George Edwards, Esq. F. R. S. celebrated for his intimate acquaintance with natural history.

Here is, among other charities, a school, established in 1723, for 10 boys. Various contributions, since that period, have however, enabled the governors to augment the number to 40 boys and 20 girls, who are clothed and educated by the charity, and are further presented with an apprentice-fee of 5l. each, upon completing the term of their schooling. The funds arise in part from the interest of the capital, and in part from voluntary contributions, and an annual charity sermon.

The sum of 3000l. was bequeathed in 1761, by a lady of the name of Bonnell, for the establishment of a School, for 40 poor girls, and her benevolent intentions have been fully accomplished.

Upon the river Lea are erected the West Ham Water Works, which supply the villages of Stratford, Bromley, and Bow, Stepney, Bethnal Green, and the lower part of Whitechapel, with that most necessary article. The water is raised by the assistance of steam.

Returning to the turnpike road, we pass through the village of STRATFORD LANGTHORNE, commonly, however, called only by the name of Stratford; of this we have already made some mention. At

somewhat above a mile hence we cross the river Lea, and enter the county of Middlesex, by the ancient and celebrated bridge known by the name of Bow Bridge; the first foundation of which is ascribed to Maud or Matilda, queen of Henry I. and its name is said to have arisen from its being the first arched bridge of stone built in this county. The following is Stowe's account of its erection:

“ Matilda, when she saw the forde to be dangerous for them that travelled by the old forde over the river of Lea, (for she herself had been well washed in the water), caused two stone bridges to be builded, of the which one was situated over Lue, at the head of the town of Stratford, now called Bow, because the bridge was arched like a bow; a rare piece of work; for before that time the like had never been seen in England.”

Matilda provided for keeping this and the other bridge in repair by giving certain manors to the Abbess of Barking, in consideration of her keeping them in proper condition.

From the period of its first erection this bridge has been so repeatedly repaired that little if any of the original structure remains; it consists at present of three arches, and its appearance is sufficiently indicative of its great antiquity.

At the west side of this bridge is the village of STRATFORD-LE-BOW in Middlesex, whence to London is a distance of two miles.

*Journey from Stratford, through Leytonstone, Wanstead, Woodford, Epping, Harlow, and Chesterford, to Cambridge.*

The straggling village of LEYTONSTONE contains the country residence of many of the commercial inhabitants of London; it is a chapelry to the parish of Leyton.

On the high ground near the river Lea, on the left of the road, is pleasantly situated the village

of LOW LEYTON, which is chiefly inhabited by genteel families, and is agreeably embosomed in trees. This parish has furnished a large variety of antiquities, whence some, and among this number Camden, have been inclined to imagine that here was the site of a Roman station. Camden calls it the *Durolitum* of Antoninus, but at the same time acknowledges that he cannot reconcile the difficulty occasioned by the non-agreement of the distances: *Durolitum* being placed at 15, while this village is not above six miles distant from London.

Gough in his additions to Mr. Camden's account of Essex, gives the following account of the antiquities found here.—“ In the year 1718, Mr. Gansell having occasion to enlarge his gardens, on digging up about two acres of ground, found under the whole very large and strong foundations; in one place all stone, with considerable arches, an arched door-way, with steps down to it, but filled up with gravel. In many of the foundations were a great quantity of Roman tiles and bricks, mixed with more modern materials, and several rough and broken pieces of hard stone, some part of which, when polished, proved to be Egyptian granite; two large deep wells covered over with stone; and in digging a pond, after the workmen had sunk through a bed of clay, about 10 feet, they met with a great quantity of oak timber, eight or ten inches square, mortized together like a floor, grown very hard and black; but uncertain how far it reached. Several Roman brass and silver coins, both consular and imperial, to the time of Julius Cæsar, were scattered about, as well as some silver coins, with Saxon characters. The ground where these discoveries were made adjoins the church-yard, where some time before, a large urn of coarse red earth was found.

In 1735 was further discovered, while the work-

men were digging holes, for an avenue of trees to the garden, a Roman pavement, extending about 20 feet from north to south, and about 16 from east to west.

The parish Church is constructed of brick, and contains the monuments of many eminent persons, and among this number that of John Strype, so renowned for his historic and antiquarian researches; though never inducted, he held this vicarage during the space of 68 years, by a special licence from the bishop of London.

Here is a Charity School, for 20 poor boys, natives of this or the adjoining parish of Walthamstow. There is besides a school of industry for 30 girls, besides four Sunday Schools supported by voluntary contributions.

About the year 1580, was born in this parish Sir Thomas Rowe, the first ambassador from this country to the East.

Some remains of an entrenchment, seated on a small eminence near the river, are to be found at the distance of about one mile south. A number of trees, obscure much of it, and grow over part of the area, which is inclosed within a circular embankment, contained within another which is square. The diameter of the former is about 33 yards, and a moat of about six yards in width surrounds it; the other exhibits traces of a double rampart divided by a ditch.

In this village is situated on the verge of the forest, the FOREST HOUSE, originally called GORING HOUSE, from its possessor Charles Goring, Earl of Norwich; it is now the property of Samuel Bosanquet, Esq.

On a branch of the Lea, about a mile from Low Leyton, are situated the TEMPLE MILLS, where were formerly brass works, which have more recently given place to a sheet lead manufactory. These mills are recorded to have been once the

property of the Knights Templars, whence their present name; and to have afterwards belonged to the knights of St. John of Jerusalem.

We now pass through WANSTEAD, the church of which is remarkable for its neatness and simplicity; the nave and two aisles are separated by elegant Corinthian columns, and the pavement, which is much and deservedly admired, consists of stone, brought from the vicinity of Painswick in Gloucestershire. The chancel is enriched with a magnificent painted window, the work of Eginton of Birmingham; it is a copy of the painting of our Saviour bearing his cross, which is preserved at the College of St. Mary Magdalene at Oxford. The monument in the chancel to the memory of Sir Josiah Child, Bart. naturally attracts attention by its beauty and magnificence. The population of the parish of Wanstead consists, according to the returns under the late act, of 918 persons.

WANSTEAD HOUSE, now, 1823, taking down, was the residence of the Right Hon. W. W. Pole, latterly a large and magnificent edifice, seated in an extensive park, is tastefully laid down.—The grand front measures 260 feet in length, having in its centre the principal entrance, under a noble Corinthian portico of six columns; upon these rests a handsome pediment, the tympanum of which is occupied by the admirably sculptured arms of the Tylney family; the ascent to the portico was by two flights of steps, one at either side. The front which looks into the garden is also furnished with a pediment, the tympanum of which is also enriched with a good bass-relief; the pediment is supported by six three-quarter columns.

The late Earl Tylney died in 1784, when this manor with other large estates came into the possession of his nephew Sir James Tylney Long, Bart. of Draycott in Wiltshire. His only son James succeeded to his title and inheritance; but



during his minority, Wanstead House was appropriated as the residence of the Prince of Conde and his suite for some time previous to the happy return of peace in 1814, which restored the king of France with the Princes of the blood to the possession of the throne of their ancestors. Some time after this event, Miss Tylney Long, the heiress of the estate becoming of age, was also the occupant of this august mansion. After her unfortunate marriage with Mr. Wellesley Pole, Wanstead House was the residence of that gentleman, an era rather strongly marked by an attempt made by him to shut up the public way through the park; but which was successfully resisted by a trial of its legality at Chelmsford assizes in the year 1813. Owing to the subsequent embarrassments of Mr. Wellesley Tylney Long Pole, this house, once a royal residence, was in the year 1822 stripped of its ornaments, completely dismantled, and now remains a melancholy instance of the mutability of all human grandeur.

The following were the principal pictures at Wanstead House, previously to the marriage of Mr. Wellesley Pole with Miss Tylney Long.

In the Hall were three historical subjects from the stories of Coriolanus, Porsenna, and Pompey, by *Casali*; and a portrait of Kent the painter and architect. In apartments to the left of the Hall, various Madonnas and family portraits; a St. Frances; Herodias; a ruin; a Magdelene, and several landscapes. In those to the right, Lord Chief Justice Glynn and his family; two views of ruins; three flower pieces by *Baptista*; Apollo and Narcissus; Satyrs; Cupids, and St. John and the infant Jesus.

In the Ball-room was a fine picture of *Portea*, by *Schalkehan*. In the chambers of the back front were *Venus and Psyche*; *Diana and Endymion*; *Venus sleeping*; *Adonis sleeping*; many



landscapes and ruins: Pandora by Nollekens, father of the sculptor; and four historical subjects by Casali.

One of the breakfast rooms was ornamented with a selection of fine prints by the most eminent masters, pasted on a straw-coloured paper, with engraved borders.

In 1735 some workmen, who were employed in digging holes for trees, discovered a tessellated pavement upon the south side of the park. The extent of the pavement was about 20 feet from north to south, and 16 from east to west. Among the remains of this pavement were found a small brass coin of Valens, and a silver coin.

To the right of Wanstead is the elegant seat of VALENTINES, the residence of C. Welstead, Esq. remarkable for an extraordinary vine, which produces annually from three to four cwt. of grapes. The mausoleum, which was built by Sir Charles Raymond, and which he originally designed for the interment of his family, is a conspicuous object from all the adjoining parts of the country.

To the left of Wanstead is WALTHAMSTOW, a village on the borders of Epping Forest, near which are many seats belonging to the citizens of London. The parish is very extensive, and consists of three manors, viz. the manor of the rectory, which before the dissolution belonged to the monastery of the Holy Trinity, near Aldgate in the city of London; Walthamstow-Frances, and Walthamstow-Tony.

The name Waltham is purely Saxon, and signifies a dwelling in a wood, and in the reign of Edward the Confessor this and all the neighbouring forest was part of the estate of Harold, the son of Earl Godwin, and King of England. From the architecture of the Church at Walthamstow it appears to have been first built soon after the monastery of the

Holy Trinity in 1112, and probably by the same foundress, who was Matilda, the wife of Henry I. However, if it were not built at that time, it was at least soon after; but it has had so many additional repairs since that time, that little remains of the ancient edifice are to be seen. It is a large gothic structure, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and consists of two aisles, besides the body, but the aisles are of a later date, the north one having been built about the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII. by George Monox, lord-mayor of London, who likewise built almshouses for thirteen poor people. The south aisle is called Thorn's, from one Thorn, a merchant-tailor in London, and built by him much about the same time as the other. It has a square tower, with a clock; and a new set of eight bells were hung in 1778.

The church in the inside is neat and well contrived for divine service; and two new galleries were added in the year 1807.

There are more monuments in this church than we remember to have seen in any one of its size near London. Some of them, particularly one to the memory of Dr. Pearce, bishop of Bath and Wells; and another to Sir Thomas Stanley, son of the Earl of Derby, are ancient. But the greatest number of the others have been put up in modern times.

Near the altar, on the south side, are two monuments with Latin inscriptions, curiously cut in marble, to the memory of some of the Conyers family, who were lords of the manor of Low-hall, or Walthamstow-Frances, in this parish; and, along the walls, both in the north and south aisles, are many pretty monuments to the memory both of the parishioners and such citizens of London as have been buried here at different times. But though many of these monuments are elegant, yet they are all eclipsed by one erected by Sigismund Trafford, Esq.

where both he and his lady are interred. This monument, which would do honour to Westminster-Abbey, is placed at the west end, and on the left hand going in near the porch; it is entirely of fine white marble, curiously cut and finely polished. On the pedestal are two figures in mournful attitudes, supporting a mausoleum, and above are angels in the shape of children. Before it is a fine rail, and the whole having been lately cleaned, it has a beautiful appearance.

The church is built on an eminence, and yet it sometimes happens that in opening vaults or digging graves, they are obliged to keep throwing out the water before the corpse can be interred. The whole of this parish and the adjoining ones, with all the borders of the forest, may be compared to what the ancients called a rural city. Country seats, farm-houses, and cottages are so blended together, and the rural paths encompassed with trees and hedges, are so delightful, that we are not surprised why so many people choose to reside on this healthy spot.

On the left of our road, near the western boundary of the parish of Walthamstow, and adjoining that of Woodford, is BELLEVUE HOUSE, the seat of the late Charles Cooke, Esq. The house is an elegant brick building, with stone dressings; the principal front has a semicircular portico of Portland-stone, supported by columns, twenty-two feet high, of the Ionic order. Mr. Edward Gyfford was the architect, who without exception is the first architectural draughtsman in this kingdom, his acknowledged merit having obtained him several premiums from the Royal Academy for his superior designs; his great taste and correct style is evidently conspicuous in this building.

The ground was laid out by Mr. Sandys, of Pownall Terrace, Lambeth, who practised under the late celebrated Mr. Emes. Mr. Sandys has in-

creased the beauty of this enchanting spot by a lake he has formed, which from the house has a delightful effect; nor are the extensive walks, which wind in easy and pleasant directions, less attractive; the shrubs, clumps, &c. are arranged with such infinite judgment, that they exhibit much practice and exquisite taste. The house stands on such an eminence that from the upper rooms may be seen the horizon over London. The west front commands a beautiful diversified prospect over the vale of the Lea, and into the counties of Middlesex and Hertfordshire; the south into Surry and Kent; the north and east into Epping Forest, and a great part of Essex. The ground comprises about 75 acres, principally woodland; which, with the irregularity of the surface, add much to the grandeur of the scene: in short, nature and art have done so much, that its collective beauties are not to be equalled within the circuit of ten miles of London.

About one mile farther is the village of **WOODFORD**, inhabited, like most of the other villages in the vicinity of the metropolis, by the families of merchants and citizens. In the Church-yard is a yew tree of uncommonly large dimensions, covering with its boughs a space of ground measuring about 180 feet in circumference.

To the left of **Woodford**, **HIGHAM HILLS**, the seat of **Jeremiah Harman, Esq.** commands the most beautiful, extensive, and diversified prospects; the house, which is a square brick edifice, with wings, stands upon an eminence sloping to the east and west, and overlooks much of the country. The park and gardens are tastefully laid out, and preserved in excellent order.

To the left of the road is **WOODFORD BRIDGE**, a place not worthy of notice; to the right of which, upon a rising ground, not far distant, is situated **CLAYBURY HALL**, the residence of **Mrs. Hatch**.

The house is modern and neatly finished, and the forest scenery of which it commands many prospects is extremely delightful. Not far from hence was Sir James Wright's Artificial Slate Manufactory, which was conducted upon a very extensive scale, under the protection of letters patent; but the slates not being durable they are now disused.

We now begin to travel along the eastern skirt of the extensive woodland tract called Epping Forest, which is subject to the jurisdiction of a lord warden and four verderers; the latter of which are elected by the county freeholders, and retain their office during life, while the former office is hereditary in Sir James Tylney Long's family.—Though so near to London this forest contains wild stags.

At the northern extremity of the forest, a turnpike road branches off to join the great Northern road, passing by COPPED HALL and Park, the property of Mrs. Conyers, a place much and deservedly admired for the irregularity of its grounds, which are highly improved and extremely picturesque.

To the south-east of this park are vestiges of an ancient camp, supposed to have been British, at present almost entirely overgrown with trees; it was formerly situated nearly in the centre of the forest, without any road near it. It is of an irregular figure, having its greatest length from east to west, and is situated upon a small eminence sloping gently to the south-east. A ditch and high bank, the latter much worn by age, surround the area, which consists of nearly 12 acres, and no vestiges of openings in the ditch have been observed. At present, however, it is crossed by a road connecting Epping with Debden Green.

At a distance of about four miles hence is the town of WALTHAM HOLY CROSS, which is irregularly built, in a low situation, upon the banks of

the river Lea. The additional name of *Holy Cross* is derived from a miraculous cross to which the Abbey was dedicated.

The Abbey for which this place was famous was originally founded by Tovy or Tovius, who was standard-bearer to Canute. It was afterwards re-founded by Earl Harold, who endowed it, constituting it a college, consisting of a dean, and 11 secular canons, belonging to the Augustine order.

In 1177, in consequence of the numberless abuses detected in this institution by the Archbishop of Canterbury, it was changed by a papal licence to an abbey of regular canons of the Augustine order; the number being increased to 24, and their income receiving a proportionable augmentation. Under the several monarchs this Abbey received considerable grants and privileges, but was dissolved in 1539, when its annual income amounted, as we are informed, to 1,079l. 12s. 1d.

Upon the dissolution of this abbey, a grant of its site for the term of 31 years was given to Sir Anthony Denny; whose widow, upon his death prior to the expiration of that term, purchased the reversion in fee from Edward the VIth, who received for it above 3,000l. After several changes it came at last into the possession of the family of Sir William Wake, who still continues its master.

The Abbey House has been long demolished; it was, as tradition informs us, an extensive building; upon its site was erected another spacious edifice, afterwards taken down by James Barwick, Esq. who let the site of the house, with the adjoining pleasure-grounds, &c. to a gardener. Here is said to be the largest tulip-tree in England.

The only remains of Waltham Abbey which have survived the shocks of time are the ruins of the gateway, which led into the abbey-yard; the bridge which leads to it; some dilapidated walls,

and the Church, the architecture of which bespeaks its origin to have been long antecedent to that of the rest. The form of this church corresponded with that of other edifices of the same nature, and its extent was far from being inconsiderable. In the tower, which rose above the intersection of the transept, had formerly been a ring of five well-toned bells.—Owing to the decay of part, the whole of this tower was destroyed, along with a large portion of the building, the west end alone remaining; this is now roofed in, and converted into a parish church.

Notwithstanding its mutilated and dilapidated condition, this once magnificent pile of building furnishes the architectural antiquarian with many beautiful and interesting specimens of the Norman style. The pillars, supporting the arches which divide the body from the side aisles, are extremely massive, like those of the nave and choir of the Cathedral of Durham. A heavy square tower, built, as would appear from the date, in the year 1558, stands at the western extremity. Upon the south side is the Chapel of our Lady, now converted into a school-room; beneath this is the charnel house, which was formerly a place of worship.

At the east-end of the Abbey Church stood the monument of Harold, its founder, remarkable for the brevity of its inscription:

“Harold infelix.”

EPHING is 17 miles from London; it belonged formerly to Waltham Abbey, and gives name to the extensive forest once known by the name of Waltham Forest; in which, according to Mr. Gough, a small earthen image of a child was found, and exhibited by Mr. Bird, to the Antiquarian Society, in the year 1721. The markets, which are held upon Thursday for cattle, and Friday for provisions, are kept at a small hamlet called EPPING STREET,



which is about one mile and a half distant from Epping. The neighbourhood of this town is remarkable for producing butter, which is highly esteemed, and sold in the metropolis at a greater price than the butter from other places. The Forest, to which this town gives name, is a royal chase, extending from Epping to within six miles of London; it formerly constituted a very extensive district, and, under the name of the Forest of Essex, included a very considerable portion of the county. Hainault Forest, which is situated to the south-east of this, is conjectured to have originally formed a part of it. This last is remarkable for an oak, long celebrated under the name of the Fairlop Oak.

This is about one mile from Barking, and the tradition of the county concerning it, traces it half way up the Christianæra. It is still a noble tree, though it has suffered greatly from the depredations of time. About a yard from the ground, where its rough fluted stem is about 36 feet in circumference, it divides into eleven vast arms; yet not in the horizontal manner of an oak, but rather in that of a beech. Beneath its shade, which overspread an area of 300 feet in circuit, an annual fair has been long held on the first Friday in July.

This celebrated tree was for some time fenced round with a close paling about five feet high.

Almost all the extremities of its branches have been sawed off, and Mr. Forsyth's composition applied to them to preserve them from decay. The trunk had also received considerable injury by the lighting of fires by stragglers, &c. On one of the branches a board was fixed with this inscription, "All good foresters are requested not to hurt this old tree, a plaster having been lately applied to its wounds." The annual meeting or fair here, rose out of the custom adopted by Mr. Daniel Day, a worthy but eccentric block-maker in Wapping,



who, nearly an hundred years ago, used to treat his journeymen, his neighbours, and others, with a dinner of beans and bacon, under the foliage of this venerable tree. Mr. Day died in the year 1767, being then 84 years of age. A few years before his death his favourite oak lost a large limb, out of which he caused a coffin to be made for his own interment, and kept by him for that purpose. His eccentricities were scarcely ended with his mortal career, for having conceived some great antipathy against a carriage, owing to some accident, he ordered his remains to be conveyed to Barking by water, accompanied by six journeymen block and pump-makers, to each of whom he bequeathed a new leathern apron and a guinea. Some of these were probably in the habit of attending him annually to Fairlop in a boat covered with an awning mounted on a coach carriage, and drawn by six horses, decorated with flags and streamers, and attended by a band of music. The last vessel made for the purpose of going to this spot since 1795, had three masts, was ship-rigged, and was capable of carrying thirty persons sitting at their ease.

Among the numerous and respectable societies formed since the late revival of archery, the Hainault foresters were not the least distinguished; as the principal ladies and gentlemen of the county belonged to this association, and at stated times marched in procession round this venerable father of the sylvan race. Their uniform was elegant, and they were attended by a band of music.

At a distance of about seven miles east of Epping is the village of ONGAR, or Cheping Ongar, as it is called, from its possessing a market. Here are the remains of an ancient castle, which seems to have been formed of some more ancient and extensive work. At this place have been found several anti-

quities ; the chief of which are, a coffin of hewn stone, with a ridged lid ; others composed of tiles resembling those of Boothambar, and of York ; also fragments of urns, and several skeletons. Hence it appears not improbable that, if this was not a Roman station, it was a strong hold of the Saxons, previous to the Norman invasion. Large works may be traced round the town, and many Roman bricks are discernible in the walls of the church.

One mile hence is GREENSTEAD, where stands an ancient church, of an uncommon construction, being entirely composed of wood : the walls are formed of the trunks of chesnut-trees, split in two, and let into a sill and plate ; they are perfectly smooth, and the inside flat. Upon the south side are 16 of these trunks, and two door-posts ; upon the north 21, and two vacancies filled up with plaster. At the west end is a boarded tower, and at the east end is a chancel built of brick. There is a wooden porch upon the south side, and brick buttresses are built for the purpose of strengthening the building upon both sides : the roof is more modern and tiled. This wooden church measures 29 feet by 14, and is five feet high. The tradition of the place is that a dead king rested in it. In a manuscript life of St. Edmund, we are informed that upon the Danish invasion in 1010, the corpse of that saint was removed from Bury St. Edmund's to London, and brought back again, three years after, by Abbot Ailwin. During its passage we learn, from the register of Bury Abbey, that "*Idem apud Aungre, (Ongar) hospitabatur, ubi in ejus memoria lignea capella permanet usque hodie.*" This fabric might have been erected as a kind of shrine for the reception of the martyr's body, and in process of time might, with proper additions, be converted into a parish church.

Three miles north of Cheping Ongar is the vil-

lage of FYFIELD, in the vicinity of which were found, in the year 1749, a great number of Celts, with a large quantity of metal for casting them. WIDNEY GREEN PARK, the seat of George Dorrien, Esq. is in this parish.

Returning to Epping, we resume our route along the great road to Bishop's Stortford, and at the distance of about six miles and a half from Epping, enter the small town of HARLOWE, where formerly a market was held, and a considerable woollen manufacture flourished; of late, however, the market has been disused and the manufacture removed; at present the inhabitants support themselves chiefly by spinning and agricultural employments. A fair, however, which is annually held here, under the name of Harlowe Bush Fair, enlivens and in some small degree enriches this town; it is held upon a common, at the distance of about two miles from the town, and is appropriated to the sale of horses, &c.

Harlowe Church, which is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin and All Saints, was, towards the commencement of the last century, destroyed by fire; the liberality, however, of the Rev. Mr. Taylor, who was then the incumbent, and that of the gentry in the vicinity, soon restored and beautified the building, which was decorated with a profusion of painted glass, producing the happiest effect, and an elegant cupola substituted in the place of the tower, which originally rose from the centre, the building having been in the form of a cathedral.

At a little distance to the south-east of Harlowe, in the parish of High Lane, is the Manor-house of the Palmer family, formerly the residence of the Masham family. The name of this seat is OATS. The church-yard here is remarkable as containing the remains of that accurate investigator, distinguished philosopher, and virtuous man John Locke, in honour of whom has been erected a plain marble

tomb, with an epitaph which he wrote, whilst he resided at Lady Masham's, inscribed upon it.

Upon a pleasing eminence, in an extensive park bordering upon the county of Herts, is seated **HALLINGBURY PLACE**, a large and elegant mansion, the property of J. A. Houblon, Esq. by whom the grounds have been greatly improved, and the whole laid out with the most accurate taste.

Not very distant from Hallingbury Place, is the straggling village of **HATFIELD REGIS**, or **HATFIELD BROAD OAK**, the former of these names being occasioned by its having formerly constituted a part of the king's demesne, and the latter originating in a traditional account of an immense oak, said to have existed here in the time of the Saxons. Formerly this was a considerable market town; its market and its consequence are at present, however, defunct together, and it is only left to its poor inhabitants to mourn over the wreck of their departed importance. The Church contains a mutilated wooden effigy of Robert De Vere, the third Earl of Oxford, interred here in 1221; to the east of the church stood formerly a priory of Benedictines, founded about 1135, by the father of the first Earl of Oxford. From the numerous benefactions to this establishment its possessions were very considerable, being estimated, upon the Dissolution, at 122l. 13s. 2d. per annum. The simple and unsuspecting manners of the period at which this convent was effeoffed by its founder, is strongly illustrated by the circumstance of a short black-hafted knife being appended, by a harp-string, to the grant in place of a seal. After the establishment was dissolved, its site and possessions were granted by Henry VIII. to Thomas Noke. The spot formerly occupied by the priory, is at present converted into gardens.

In the vicinity of Hatfield Broad Oak, commences the rich district, commonly known by the

name of the RODINGS; it comprehends eight adjoining parishes, through which the river Roding winds, irrigating and fertilizing the fields, which are not more distinguished for their abundant produce than the roads of this district are for their never being in repair; this last fault has, however, of late years been much amended.

Adjoining to the district just noticed, and intermediate between Leaden Roding and Great Waltham, is the village of PLESHEY; which, though at present obscure and unimportant, was formerly of no small consequence, as the high constables of England, from the first establishment of the office till nearly four centuries after the Norman invasion, made this their place of residence. Here still exists the keep of a strong fortress erected by the Normans, within the area of an intrenchment, which surrounds the village; by Gough and Morant conjectured to have been of Roman origin. The following description of the grand and imposing magnificence of this venerable relic, is taken from the introduction to the History and Antiquities of Pleshey, and is so beautifully just that we could not resist the desire we felt of introducing it.

—————“No massy door

Grates on harsh hinges o'er the ruin'd floor;  
No pointed arch, with dread portcullis hung,  
Bids horror stalk the timid hinds among;  
No deep dark dungeon strikes their souls with fear,  
Nor swelling towers their threat'ning turrets rear.  
Yet still remains, and marks the ancient bound,  
The bold abutment of the outer mound;  
Still with a slow, and pausing step we tread  
High o'er the lofty arch, and hence are led  
To mount the keep, whose hard access of yore  
A moat defended—but defends no more;  
For where of old did guardian waters flow,  
Now spreading ash and humbler alders grow.”  
In the vicinity of the intrenchment, have been

found several Roman bricks and other relics, strongly corroborative of the supposition that the castle was erected by the Romans; the keep is however indisputably of Norman origin, and its erection is, with some appearance of probability, ascribed to William, second son of Geoffrey de Magnaville, who procured a licence for fortifying his castle at Pleshey from Henry II. and was here married to Hawise daughter and heiress of the Earl of Albemarle, in the year 1180.

Of the intrenchments, Gough, in his additions to Camden, observes, that the earth-works may defy the injuries of time and cultivation, but of the buildings which once adorned them, remains only the bridge, leading across the moat to the keep. This bridge is of brick, of one pointed arch, strongly cramped together with iron, 18 feet high, and 18 wide, and remarkable for the singular circumstance of contracting, as it approaches the basis. Foundations of brick run from the end of this bridge to the left round the keep, and on each side of the way to it are the foundations of large rooms and angles of stone buildings. The site of the castle has been a warren; and four ragged yews occupy the keep, in planting which some foundations were laid open. The keep is somewhat elliptical in its form, measuring upwards of 890 feet in its ambit.

Here formerly stood a College, founded by Thomas of Woodstock, with an endowment for a master, warden, eight chaplains, two clerks, and two choristers; it stood to the south of the church, but not a vestige of its buildings points out its site, which has long submitted itself to the dominion of the plough, and preserves the memory of its former services only in its name, being still honoured with the appellation of the COLLEGE FIELD.

Of the former importance of this village the only trace which remains is the election of a mayor,



annually chosen from among the freemen upon the court day held for the manor. This manor is now the property of Jolliffe Tuffnel, Esq. whose seat, called **LANGLEYS**, is situated close by Great Waltham, at a short distance from Pleshey; it is a handsome modern structure, erected by the late Samuel Tuffnell, Esq. and is seated upon an agreeable eminence, in a beautiful park, which is washed by the waters of the Chelmer upon the north and north-east, and those of a small subsidiary rivulet to the south-west and south. This park is laid out with the greatest taste; it was formerly known by the name of **MARSHALLS**, from having been the property of an ancient family of that name, who continued its masters till the reign of Edward III. when it came into the possession of the Langleys, ancestors of the present proprietor, and from whom it obtained the name by which it is still distinguished.

The turnpike road which passes from Chelmsford, through the town of Great Waltham, and passes along the skirts of the Park of Langleys, brings us to the town of **GREAT DUNMOW**, which is agreeably situated upon a pleasing eminence, near the Chelmer, which flows to the east and north-east. This has by some antiquarians been conjectured to have been the site of a Roman station, and the *Cæsaromagus* of Antoninus; this supposition is considerably strengthened by the number of Roman coins of various emperors which have been found here.

The manor belongs at present to Charles Viscount Maynard. The town consists chiefly of two streets; it is governed by a bailiff and 12 burgesses, and received a grant for holding a market in the reign of Henry III. The population is 1828 inhabitants, of whom the poorer are employed in the manufacture of baizes and blankets. The church is a large building, of considerable antiquity,

with an embattled tower at its western extremity ; over the entrance into the tower are the arms of several noble families carved in stone.

In the year 1760, a number of Roman antiquities, consisting of urns, copper coins of Trajan and Antoninus, &c. &c. were discovered among earth and rubbish, in a gravel-pit at a place called *Merkes Hill* in this parish.

About a mile to the east of Great Dunmow is the parish of **LITTLE DUNMOW**, famous for the remarkable custom of giving away a gammon or flitch of bacon, to any married persons who would, kneeling upon two sharp stones in the church-yard, after the usual preliminary rites had been gone through, take the following oath.

“ You shall swear by custom of confession,  
That you ne’er made nuptial transgression ;  
Nor since you were married man and wife,  
By household broils, or contentious strife,  
Or, otherwise at bed or board,  
Offended each other in deed or in word ;  
Or, since the parish clerk said AMEN,  
Wished yourselves unmarried again ;  
Or once within a twelvemonth and a day  
Repented not in thought any way ;  
But continued true in thought and desire,  
As when you joined hands in holy quire.  
If to these conditions, without all fear,  
Of your own accord you will freely swear,  
A *whole* GAMMON OF BACON you shall receive,  
And bear it hence with love and good leave ;  
For this our custom at Dunmow well known,  
Though the pleasure be our’s, the BACON’s your  
own.”

The first account which we have of the flitch of bacon having been claimed and granted is in the 23d year of the reign of Henry VI. when we learn that a person of the name of Richard Wright, of Bradbourn in Norfolk, was the fortunate suitor.



Previous to the Dissolution, we learn from the chartulary of the Priory, which is preserved in the British Museum, that the FLITCH OF BACON was *thrice* obtained, and a similar number of times since that period, in which cases the ceremonies were gone through at a court-baron held by the steward for the manor ; at present, from the want of claimants, the custom has of late years been in disuse. Its origin is involved in considerable obscurity, being ascribed by some to the family of Fitzwalter, while others contend for its being Norman or Saxon.

The Priory Church appears from its remains to have been a large and stately edifice ; that part of it which still braves the assaults of time is at present employed as a parish church by the inhabitants of the vicinity. Here are several ancient and curious monuments.

At a little distance to the west of Great Dunmow is EASTON LODGE, the venerable mansion of Charles Viscount Maynard ; which from the style of its architecture, bespeaks the reign of Elizabeth as the period at which it was erected. It stands upon an agreeable eminence, in a large park, and has at its eastern end a neat chapel, the east window of which exhibits, in different compartments, the leading features of our Saviour's life. The village church contains many monuments of the Maynard family, who have possessed the manor of Little Easton since the reign of Elizabeth, by whom it was first granted to Henry Maynard, Esq. secretary to Lord Burleigh, and afterwards sheriff of the county.

At GREAT CONFIELD are the remains of an ancient castle, conjectured to have been erected by some of the first Earls of Oxford, to whom it belonged. The keep is the only part which has withstood the assaults of age : it is built upon an area of about two acres, which is surrounded by a deep moat, in some places filled up by the gradual fall-

ing in of the banks. This village, which is situated a little to the S.W. of Great Dunmow, is conjectured, but with little probability, to have been the ancient *Canonium*.

Returning from our digression, we again enter the parish of GREAT HALLINGBURY; in which, upon a steep hill, is situated an irregular oval camp, of about 30 acres, enclosed by a bold double bank, and having upon the brow of the hill to the north some additional fortifications. Upon the west the river Stort flows within a few fields of it, and furnishes it with a barrier upon that side, where there is a breach in the inner vallum, and the ditch also filled up, while the outer bank is steep and of difficult access. Upon the east side a road enters, but does not cross the camp, as does that which enters at the north and goes out at the south side. Immediately within the west bank is a farm-house, of which the south part, especially the cellar, is built of rough but strongly-compacted work, in which are some sharp gothic arches.

Upon a hill in the extensive parish of Stanstead Mountfitchet is seated STANSTEAD HALL, a large building of brick, the residence of W. Heath, Esq. The house commands an extensive and beautiful prospect to the north, and the grounds are agreeably planted and laid out.

The parish of STANSTEAD MOUNTFITCHET is accounted the largest in this county, containing nearly forty miles in its ambit. The name of Stanstead, or Stone Street, is attributed to a Roman vicinal way, which, branching off from the great Roman road, connecting Bishop's Stortford in Herts with Colchester, passed through this parish towards Chesterford. The additional name of Mountfitchet was given to distinguish it from a place of the name of Stanstead in Hertfordshire, and was probably derived from the castle built

here by William Gernon, who was surnamed Mountfitchet, and of which the artificial mound upon which the keep stood yet remains.

Digressing again to the eastward, we arrive by cross roads, at **TILTEY**, where stood formerly an abbey of Cistercian monks, beautifully situated in a well wooded vale, through which the river Chelmer winds previous to its visiting Great Dunmow. This abbey was founded in 1193 by Maurice Fitz Geffery, who was also founder of the priory at Bychnacre, in the vicinity of Maldon. By him it was endowed with the whole manor. The only part of the conventual buildings which yet remains is a portion of the cloisters and a small building, employed now as a parish church; this is said by tradition to have been the chapel which stood at the abbey gate, for the use of strangers. At the Suppression the revenues of this abbey amounted, according to Dugdale, to 172l. 2s. 6d. At present the manor belongs to the Maynard family.

At the distance of about two miles north of Tilty, washed by the waters of the Chelmer, is the ancient town of **THAXTED**, the date of whose foundation is, with some appearance of probability, placed as far back as the days of the Saxons. This town received its first charter of incorporation from Philip and Mary, which was afterwards confirmed by Elizabeth; by this charter the government of the town was placed in the hands of a mayor, bailiffs, and chief burgesses. In the despotic but short-lived reign of James II. the officers of this corporation, being served with a writ of *Quo Warranto*, influenced either by fear or poverty, silently retired from their offices.

The Church is a large and beautiful building, erected at different times during the 14th century. It is embattled on the top, and supported by massy buttresses, over which are canopied niches, with singular pinnacles; beneath each niche a grotesque

head projects over the buttress, having a spout issuing from its mouth, for the purpose of carrying off the water from the roof; upon the cornice over the north porch, which is richly decorated with sculpture, are two escutcheons, one of which contains the arms of England and France quartered together, the other those of the house of York; over these escutcheons are two windows, each of which contains in its arch a representation of a crown supported by a hand; and between these windows is a neatly finished niche. An embattled tower rises at the west end of the building, and is terminated by a handsome octagonal spire, the total elevation of which is 181 feet. The church is internally 183 feet long, and 87 broad; it was erected principally at the cost of the noble families of Clare and Mortimer, who received some trifling assistance from Edward IV.

The town of Thaxted had the honour of giving birth to Samuel Purchase, B.D. in the year 1677; a man, as Granger informs us, of very general information and great industry.

To the north-west of Thaxted is DEBDEN HALL, the handsome seat of Mrs. Chiswell, widow of the late Richard Muilman Trench Chiswell, Esq. Not far from the mansion stands the parish church, a neat structure, in which is an elegant font, decorated with statues, and made of artificial stone by Coade, who presented it, as a specimen of his excellent manufacture, to this parish. Near Thaxted is HOREHAM HALL, Sir William Smyth, Bart.

Returning once more to the turnpike road, from whence we have so often digressed, we reach the long and straggling village of NEWPORT, formerly a market town, and of some little repute; the Church here is a large building, with embattled turrets, and a tower of considerable elevation at its western extremity. It belonged, previous to the year 1353, to the collegiate church of St. Martin.

le-Grand, London, along with which it was conferred by Henry VII. upon the monastery at Westminster. Here Richard de Newcroft, in the reign of John, founded an hospital for a master and two chaplains, the revenues of which, as Dugdale informs us, were at the dissolution estimated at 23l. 10s. 8d. per annum. In 1588, a free grammar school was founded and endowed here, by the will of Joyce Frankland, of Stanstead Abbot in Hertfordshire.—This charity has of late years been shamefully abused and neglected; the active benevolence of the respectable inhabitants of Newport and its vicinity is however busily employed in inquiring into and remedying them.

Near Newport, upon the right side of the road, is **SHORT GROVE**, the park and seat of Mr. Smith. The house, a handsome edifice with wings, is agreeably seated upon an eminence, sloping gently down to the Granta, which flows at the foot of the lawn; the pleasure grounds, which are laid out with the greatest taste, contain several pieces of water, which are kept constantly supplied, by means of an engine constructed according to the plan of Dr. Desaguliers, from the river.

About two miles north of Short Grove, is the magnificent park and mansion of Lord Braybrooke. This seat having belonged originally to the Audley family, still retains the name of **AUDLEY END**, or Audley House. The Mansion House is a large and splendid edifice, delightfully situated in a beautifully wooded park. The original structure was built according to the mistaken ideas of the period at which it was erected, when comfort and convenience were lost in colossal immensity and comfortless parade, and the pile of building resembled accordingly an extensive manufactory rather than a private seat. The model alone, which was brought from Italy, cost 500l. and 190,000l. barely completed this stupendous edifice. In its perfect state,

previous to the many modern curtailments it has since been subjected to, this structure consisted of various ranges of building enclosing two quadrangular areas. The western square was of large dimensions, and had a magnificent entrance between two quadrangular towers; corridors resting upon alabaster columns occupied the north and south sides; the entrance to the grand hall was upon the east. From this quadrangle was a passage to the other, which was of smaller dimensions; of this the three sides which have been still permitted to stand form the present mansion. An estimate of the magnitude of the building may be formed from the dimensions of the principal gallery, which measured two hundred and twenty-six feet in length, thirty-two in width, and twenty-four in height.

The grand entrance to the present building is from the west, and has two corresponding porches which project upon each side and are ornamented with handsome pillars. The rooms are elegantly and sumptuously furnished, and the saloon and gallery contain a large collection of valuable paintings; the library contains a judicious selection of books, and also some portraits, among which are those of the late Lord Howard, and his two wives, by West.

On a pannel in the saloon above-mentioned is the following inscription;

“ Henry VIII. A. D. 1539, granted the Monastery of Walden, on the site of which this House now stands, to Lord Chancellor Audeley. Elizabeth, A. D. 1597, by Special Writ, summoned to Parliament Thomas Lord Howard de Walden, in the next Reign created Earl of Suffolk. He built this House A. D. 1616. After many reductions, it descended, A. D. 1762, to Sir John Griffin Griffin, K. B. confirmed Lord Howard de Walden, Geo. III. A. D. 1784. He, among other additions and alterations, refitted (the



ceiling excepted) this Saloon, to commemorate the noble Families through whom, with gratitude, he holds these possessions."

The above-mentioned Thomas Howard (the first proprietor of this noble mansion) was the son of the Duke of Norfolk, in the reign of James I. by whom he was advanced to the office of lord high treasurer of England. That monarch taking a liking to the house, had some thoughts of purchasing it, but hearing what an immense sum it had cost, he said, in his vulgar manner, "By my troth, man, it is too much for a king, but it may do for a lord high treasurer."

It was purchased by Charles the Second, who allowed the Earl of Suffolk 1000*l.* annually for keeping it in repair.

The family chapel stands at the north-west corner of the house; it is fitted up in the most elegant style of English architecture, and is a miniature resemblance of a cathedral. The painted windows are the work of Pickett of York, after the designs of Braggio Rebecca. The gallery appropriated to the family occupies one end, and has its roof ornamented with the family arms.

The park is of considerable extent, and possesses great variety of ground, richly diversified with wood and lawn; in front of the house the Granta, hastening to enjoy the treasures of classic and scientific lore at Cambridge, expands its waters into a wide, clear, and beautiful canal, over which an elegant bridge of three arches has been erected under the superintendence of the late excellent architect Mr. Adam.

To the west of the house, upon the summit of an eminence, known by the name of Ring Hill, is a circular temple, which stands upon the site of an ancient tower, conjectured by Salmon to have been the Canonium of Antoninus, but in this he is not supported by the opinion of any other antiquarian.

Dr. Stukeley, in his Itinerary, has given an engraving of it. An intrenchment of nearly a circular form encloses the summit of the hill, forming an area of about 15 acres.

About one mile east of Audley End is the large and irregular town of SAFFRON WALDEN, singularly and beautifully situated upon a narrow tongue of land, which projects somewhat like a promontory into a delicious valley of a shape resembling a horse-shoe, and beautifully embosomed with hills. The ruins of a castle are situated on the extreme point of this tongue, while the Church, a spacious and elegant pile, occupies the other extremity; round these, upon the acclivity and summit of the hill, are ranged the houses which constitute the town.

The Castle appears from its ruins to have been of uncommon strength, its walls consisting of small flints, compacted by an excessively hard and tenacious cement; it was founded soon after the Conquest by Geoffrey de Magnaville, one of William's bravest Norman followers. His grandson, in reward of bravery and services, obtained many privileges for this place from the Empress Maud, and among others permission to remove the market from Newport to Walden.

This town received its first charter of incorporation from Edward VI. in 1549, and according to this was governed, previous to the reign of William III. by 20 persons, from which number a treasurer and two chamberlains were annually chosen. William, by the charter he granted them, changed these officers into a mayor, 12 aldermen, recorder, &c. by whom at present the town is governed.

The Church is, according to the opinion of Walpole, the lightest and most beautiful in England, and underwent a thorough repair a very few years since, at the expence of 8000*l.* to which the late Lord Howard contributed with the greatest libe-



rality. In the south aisle is the monument erected to the memory of Lord Chancellor Audley; the remaining monuments possess little to recommend them to notice.

The Alms Houses, founded during the reign of Edward VI. stand at the western extremity of the town; and adjoining to them the Free-School, the foundation of which is very ancient, but which was much benefited by Edward VI. through the interest of his secretary Sir Thomas Smith, who was born in this town, and received from this school the groundwork of his education.

A singular specimen of ancient workmanship, consisting of a large beam of oak, measuring eight feet six inches in length, and at its centre one foot three inches in breadth, is to be seen at an old house here. The sculpture upon this beam exhibits the representation of a *ton*, between the syllables *Myd* and *Dyl*, which being placed before the hieroglyphic, composes the word *Myddylton*, the name, in all probability, of a former possessor of the house.

The Maze, a singular work, supposed by Dr. Stukeley to have been a British cursus, or place for exercising the soldiers, is situated upon the green behind the castle, and consists of several concentric circles with four outworks.

An ancient encampment lies between Walden and Audley End, at the distance of about half a mile; its form is oblong, and its south bank 730 feet long, 20 feet in height, and 50 feet in breadth; at its base, the breadth is between six and eight feet. The bank upon the west measures 588 feet, and both are in the most perfect preservation.

The junction of the Thames and Ouse rivers, it is supposed, will be of great use to Walden. The old market cross and gaol have been taken down, and a new prison erected near the workhouse. The market cross had also been long considered as a

nuisance. The maze, or cursus, on the common, has been recent and turfed with grass. The raised embankment that surrounds it, is an excellent improvement.

The principal manufacture here is silk crape, furnishing employment for a great number of women. Malting is also carried on upon an extensive scale, there being about thirty malting houses in the place, and the malt is among the best in the London market.

Walden derives its name from the Saxon *Weald* and *Den*, which express its situation upon a woody hill, and the distinguishing name of *Saffron* is derived from the large quantities of that article which were formerly cultivated here.

One mile north of Audley End, at the village of LITTLEBURY, could formerly have been traced the remains of an ancient encampment, the area of which is now, however, occupied by the parish church; the remains of another fortification, consisting of a circular earth-work, surrounded by a ditch of five or six feet in depth, with four mounts raised upon its brink, are still to be found in the north-west corner of the park of Christ Hall, which is situated about five miles west of Littlebury.

To the north of Littlebury is situated, upon the confines of Cambridgeshire, the small but ancient village of CHESTERFORD MAGNA, washed upon the west by the waters of the Granta, which here form the boundary of the two counties of Essex and Cambridge. That this was once a Roman station is evident from the many antiquities which have been repeatedly found here. Its ancient name is, however, still a matter of dispute among antiquarians. Hence to the town of Cambridge is a distance of about 12 miles.

*Journey from Haverill to Chelmsford; through  
Halstead and Braintree.*

Entering the county of Essex, at the south-

eastern extremity of the town of Haverill, we enter, at the distance of about a mile, the obscure village of STURMERE, originally, as tradition informs us, of considerable extent and importance, having the now thriving town of Haverill for its dependent hamlet: the village derives its name from a Mere, formed in its vicinity by the Stour.

In the parish of ASDON, a few miles west of this place, are a number of barrows, in several of which were found stone coffins, containing human bones; the real occasion for which these were raised is involved in obscurity.

The road between Sturmere and Birdbroke seems for a considerable length to have been formed upon a Roman road. Human skeletons, a few urns, and other antiquities, have been at different periods found upon both sides of this road; among the skeletons found in this vicinity, two found in Oxley field, belonging to Chadwell farm, merit notice from the singular manner in which they lay, being arm in arm, and both clasping the same urn; the second urn, which was found along with them, was placed between their hips, and the right leg of one rested upon the left of the other.

A Roman camp has been found a little to the north-west of Witsor Bridge; a considerable portion of the vallum upon the west side still remains; here have been dug up the foundations of many buildings, with urns, skeletons, and coins.

Close to the village of STEEPLE BUMSTEAD is BOWER HALL, the elegant mansion of the family of Andersons, into whose possession it came upon the death of Sir Henry Bendish, Bart. who was the last male heir.

Close to Ridgewell is BAYTHORNE HALL, an ancient building, which has been modernized and considerably improved; it is pleasantly situated in a large park, and is the property and residence of the Rev. G. Pyke.

A little to the south-east of Baythorne Hall is **BELCHAMP HALL**: it is a substantial and commodious edifice, seated in a pleasant lawn, gently declining towards a small river, which is about 200 yards distant from the house.

Continuing our route from Ridgewell by the turnpike road, we reach the village of **HEDINGHAM**, upon an eminence in the vicinity of which, is situated the Castle, of which the keep, from the massive solidity of its walls, has hitherto defied the encroachments of time; this is in the purest style of the Anglo-Norman architecture, and it is conjectured to have been erected about the year 1120. The walls at their base are between 11 and 13 feet in thickness, and at their summit between 9 and 10 feet.—The wall upon the east side is nearly a foot thicker than the others, with a view, as it would seem, of enabling it better to withstand the injuries of the weather. The form of the keep is almost square, and it is somewhat above 100 feet in height. It was originally entered by a flight of stairs, upon the west side, reaching to the principal door in the first story, about five feet from which is a circular staircase, of which part descends to the ground floor and part ascends to the upper stories.

Every possible attention has been paid to strength and security in the construction of this edifice, the walls being thickest at the bottom, admitting only a scanty portion of light through small loop-holes, the windows increasing, however, progressively in size as they approached the top of the building, and receded from the danger. The Hall of Audience, which occupies great part of the second story, is a grand apartment, well proportioned and richly embellished. Here the feudal barons were accustomed to receive the homage of their vassals, and here was displayed all the ostentatious hospitality of the times.

Following the course of the Colne, we next come

to HALSTEAD, a large and populous town, seated upon the slope of a gravelly eminence, at the foot of which the river runs, and is crossed by a bridge at the southern side of the town. The name of Halstead is Saxon, and denotes a *healthy place*. Here is a good market which appears to have been established so early as the time of the Saxons, having for many centuries subsequent to the Conquest, been held upon a hill at the upper extremity of the town, which still retains the Saxon name of Cheping Hill.

At this place, in the reign of Edward III. a college was founded for a provost and eight priests, by Robert Bouchier, lord chancellor of England, which remained till the dissolution of religious houses. This village has a weekly market on Fridays, and is distant from London 46 miles.

The church is an ancient edifice, and has its tower surmounted by a wooden spire, which is the third that has been raised upon it: the second was at the expence of an apothecary of the name of Firk, in 1717; upon which occasion Prior wrote the following lines:

“ View not this spire by measure giv’n  
To buildings rais’d by common hands ;  
That fabric rises high as Heav’n  
Whose basis on devotion stands.  
While yet we draw this vital breath,  
We can our hope and faith declare ;  
But charity beyond our death  
Will ever in our works appear.  
Blest be he call’d among good men,  
Who to his God this column rais’d ;  
Tho’ lightning shake this spire again,  
The man who built it shall be prais’d.  
Yet spires and towers in dust shall lie,  
The weak efforts of human pains ;  
And Faith and Hope themselves shall die,  
While deathless Charity remains.”

This spire, as Prior poetically foretold, shared the fate of its predecessor, and was destroyed by lightning. The church contains several curious monuments.

The population of this town is 3,380 inhabitants ; the number of houses 784.

At a short distance to the west is the village of GOSFIELD, near which is GOSFIELD HALL, the elegant seat of the Duke of Buckingham. Though much altered from its original form, by modern improvements, this mansion still furnishes the admirers of ancient architecture with an interesting specimen of the style of building which was generally prevalent in the houses of the nobility in the reign of Henry VII. by whom the ancient prerogative of the crown, respecting the erecting of fortresses by his subjects, was strictly enforced. The present mansion is one of those which was so constructed as to evade the royal mandate, as it possessed all the impregnability, without exhibiting in any degree the external appearance of a castle. It was a large brick edifice, within which was enclosed a quadrangular court, into which all the windows of the lower floors opened, the ground floor having none which opened towards the outside, and those of the higher stories being strongly barricadoed, so that the difficulty of forcing an entrance into the house was arduous in the extreme, if not wholly impossible, without effecting a breach in the walls, which were of astonishing strength and thickness. The west side of the quadrangle has undergone little alteration, but the remaining fronts have been rebuilt by John Knight, Esq. to whom the estate belonged at the commencement of the last century. Lord Nugent made further alterations, and the improvements of the House and Park under the noble Duke to whom the manor at present belongs, have been very considerable. In its original form the house

had but one room in depth, which prevented any entrance from an outside lobby to the rooms which opened into one another; this is the plan of the west side, which continues, as we have just observed, nearly unaltered; the first floor of this side consists of a gallery of 106 feet long and 12 wide, which has been denominated Queen Elizabeth's, that monarch having twice visited the Lady Ryche here.

Most of the valuable paintings which belonged to this place have been removed to the Duke's seat at Stowe in Buckinghamshire; some good ones however still remain.

The Park is extensive, well wooded, and contains a noble sheet of water of 102 acres, which adds much to its picturesque effect.

A little to the east of the Hall is the village Church, a small neat chapel, adjoining to which is another small private one, containing a large marble monument to the memory of John Knight, Esq. whom we have already mentioned as the re-builder of three sides of the quadrangle: this monument was executed by Scheemaker, according to directions of Pope, by whom the following epitaph was written for the occasion.

“O fairest pattern to a falling age,  
Whose public virtue knew no party rage;  
Whose private name all titles recommend,  
The pious son, fond husband, faithful friend.  
In manners plain, in sense alone refin'd:  
Good without show, and without weakness kind.  
To reason's equal dictates ever true;  
Calm to resolve, and constant to pursue;  
In *life* with *every social* grace adorn'd,  
In *death*, by *friendship, honour, virtue* mourn'd.”

The Parsonage, a neat commodious dwelling, is situated close to the church: the Rev. J. Thurlow is the present incumbent.

Upon a rising ground, at the distance of about



four miles from Gosfield, is the large but irregularly built and straggling town of BRAINTREE, which we enter through the village of Barking, which is united to Braintree, and ranks among the most considerable villages in this county. Before the Reformation, the Bishop of London had a palace in this town, but it is now demolished. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, the protestants who fled from the cruel persecution of the Duke d'Alva, came for refuge to England, and many of them settled here, where they carried on a considerable trade in the manufacturing of baize, and other sorts of woollen cloth, by which the place became rich and flourishing. Five or six waggons laden with those goods used to be sent to London every week, but of late years it has greatly decreased.

Upon the south side of the town stands the Church, a spacious edifice, built upon an elevated site, which appears to have been once occupied by a camp: the church consists internally of a nave, chancel, and side aisles. At the west end is a tower, crowned with a lofty spire, cased with slate. This building was founded in the reign of Edward III. but has been much enlarged and improved at various times since that period; the expences of these alterations, previous to the Reformation, having been chiefly defrayed by the produce of three religious plays which were performed in it.

The town is governed by a select vestry or committee of 24 parishioners, known so early as the year 1584 by the name of the governors of the town and the town magistrates.

Many of the inhabitants of this town and its neighbourhood are protestant dissenters, and one Henry Smith, a member of their communion, left for them the sum of 2,800*l.*, to be laid out in land, for the use of the poor of that denomination. The weekly market is on Wednesday.

The bay and say manufactory introduced into this town by the Flemings in Queen Elizabeth's time is still carried on here.

The streets have latterly been much improved; and the town, which abounds with dissenters of various denominations, possesses several charitable institutions.

The village of **BOCKING**, which forms the northern suburb, consists chiefly of a single street of considerable length, extending along the road, and having many excellent houses, which are inhabited by several wealthy and respectable inhabitants; the lower order is supported by the baize manufacture. The parish of Bocking is a peculiar annexed to the archbishopric of Canterbury, and the principal among the four peculiars in this and the three in the County of Suffolk, belonging to the see of Canterbury. Bocking is only subject to the archbishop's jurisdiction, or that of his commissary, who is called the Dean of Bocking. The Church, which is a spacious building, stands upon an eminence at the distance of between one and two miles north-west of the village, and is supposed to have been founded about the reign of Edward III.

Braintree contains 621 houses, and 2,983 inhabitants.

Bocking contains 588 houses, and 2,766 inhabitants.

At the distance of about one mile south-east of Braintree, upon the road leading to Witham, is situated the village of **BLACK NOTLEY**, distinguished as the birth-place of two learned and eminent men: Dr. William Bedell, bishop of Kilmore in Ireland, and Mr. John Ray, distinguished as a naturalist. Of these the first was educated at Emanuel College, Cambridge, where, at the early age of 23, he was elected a fellow. In 1604 he accompanied Sir Henry Wotton, in the capacity of chaplain, on his embassy to Vienna, where he formed an intimate

acquaintance with Antonio de Dominis, the celebrated archbishop of Spalatro, and Father Paul Sarpi, the no less renowned author of the History of the Council of Trent; who presented him with a M.S. copy of it. In 1627 he was appointed provost of Trinity College, Dublin, and in the course of two years promoted to the sees of Kilmore and Armagh, the latter of which, from motives of conscience, he resigned. His labours, as a divine and a pastor, were unremitting; he lived virtuous and beloved, and died honoured and lamented, in the melancholy year of the Irish Rebellion, in 1641, and was interred at Kilmore.

Ray's father was a blacksmith, who, notwithstanding his humble situation, was induced, from observing considerable marks of genius in his son, to give him a good school education at Braintree, and afterwards send him to Cambridge, where he soon distinguished himself by his proficiency in the various branches of natural history, and especially botany, which was his favourite pursuit, and one which he prosecuted with the most unremitting perseverance through the remainder of his life; towards the latter part of which he removed from Cambridge and returned to Notley, where he died at the advanced age of 73, in the year 1705. He was buried in the church-yard here, and had a neat pedestal monument, inscribed with an elegant epitaph in Latin, erected to his memory by Henry Compton, D. D. bishop of London.

From Braintree to Chelmsford is a distance of about ten miles, through an agreeable and richly-cultivated country, watered by many beautiful rivulets, and for the last four miles the River Chelmer runs nearly parallel and close to the road, adding much to the beauty of the fields through which it winds.

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