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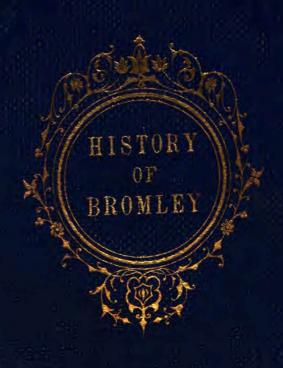
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# BOUGHT FROM GIFTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF ENGLISH HISTORY AND LITERATURE

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, A

# HISTORY OF BROMLEY

IN KENT,

AND THE

SURROUNDING NEIGHBOURHOOD,

TOGETHER WITH AN

### ACCOUNT OF THE COLLEGES,

Their Founders, Benefactors, &c.,

COMPILED FROM THE MOST RELIABLE SOURCES.

BROMLEY, KENT.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY EDWARD STRONG, 1858,

Br 5168, 254, 2,3

MAY 15 1917 SUBSCRIPTION OF 1916

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#### PREFACE.

The object of the compiler of the following pages is to furnish a brief History of Bromley from the earliest records down to the present time; believing that, next to the history of our country, a history of the place in which we reside is most desirable. If it is a delightful employment to review the exploits of our ancestors and the various changes that have transpired in a whole nation, it must enhance that enjoyment to be able, by the aid of local histories, to trace those changes, and be led to the sites of such places and things as have in their time acquired celebrity.

Histories of this kind frequently lose much of their interest through being written by inexperienced persons—authors of high standing not condescending to employ their time and talents in so confined a sphere, and should the reader be disappointed in his expectation of finding historical facts adorned with literary embellishment, the writer would remind him that this is his first attempt at authorship; his principal reasons for issuing this little volume being that a book of this kind has been frequently inquired for, and he has been induced to undertake the task of compiling it in the hope of usefully employing his time and his type.

An application to Mr Charles Freeman, author of a former History of Bromley, to take part in the editorship of this having been courteously declined, other engagements occupying his leisure hours, he kindly permittd the present writer the use of his edition; which favour is hereby thankfully acknowledged, and will be made available, to a considerable extent, in the production of the following history.

The peculiar circumstances under which the work of compiling and printing has been accomplished, having rendered a regular arrangement of the matter next to impossible, the reader will find it necessary to refer to the contents to find any particular part.

### BROMLEY.

This well known Town is situated 10 miles (S. E.) from London, and is supposed to have derived its name from the Saxon words *Bromleag*, it is also found written *Bromleah*, in Latin *Bramlega* signifying a field or heath where Broom grows; sufficient quantity of that plant still exists on the few remaining waste places near the town to corroborate this etymology.

Bromley is a market town and parish, lying in the hundred of Bromley and Beckenham, lathe of Sutton at Hone, County of Kent, and situated on the road to Sevenoaks, Tunbridge, and Hastings. It is described in Ireland's History of Kent, as "a populous and well built town, the Buildings continually increasing, its situation pleasant and healthy."

The Parish is bounded by Beckenham, West Wickham, Hayes, Keston, Farnboro' Orpington, Chislehurst, Lee, Eltham and Lewisham.

It contains about 4668 acres of land, of which about 300 are wood, the remainder arable and meadow, but principally the former. About 250 acres of common land have been taken into cultivation within the last 30 years.

The Town of Bromley may be termed old-fashioned; a fair specimen of a small town in the old coaching days, but wanting the coaches and every fourth man you meet to be an ostler, to complete the picture; a few plate-glass shop fronts have been introduced of late, which look out of place, and rather spoil than improve the general effect, to the eye of the antiquary.

It is pleasantly situated on an eminence, said to be on a level with the Dome of St. Paul's. It was formerly well accommodated with conveyance; Coaches passed through almost every hour in the day, but the Railways having absorbed nearly all traffic, has rendered this Town of late years, one of the worst to get to or from, of any at the same distance from London: this state of things will shortly be altered, and Bromley will soon be provided with excellent Railway accommodation.

Bromley consists principally of one street extending about three-quarters of a mile in length, taking the College and Bromley Lodge as the north and south extremities,—There are some rows of neat residences, and an Inn, called "The Laurel," about a quarter of a mile beyond the College, opposite the Nursery Gar-

dens.

In May, 1830, an act was passed to make a new street from Alexander's corner near the Bell at one end, and to near the White Hart at the other, this alteration was carried out in due course, and the circuitous route by the

Market place thereby avoided.

The "Stick and Lantern" after sunset is no longer required by the Inhabitants, and may be put away with the old Tinderbox; as the foot-ways in the town are now well paved, and the street well lighted with Gas, the latter improvement took place in 1837, before which a glimmering oil lamp here and there, only served to render darkness visible. The Foot-paths leading out of the Town in several places are very convenient, and form a pleasing variety; no person need go the same way out twice in one week, and when pleasure or health is the object desired, such changes are by no means unimportant. There is one thing in connexion with these foot-paths that requires improvement, and that is neat wicket gates, substituted for the very awkward Stiles that obstruct the way on some of them; if the only excuse for allowing such stiles to disgrace the town, be the want of funds,\* that fact should

<sup>\*</sup> Several gates were put up, some years ago, within the range of the usual perambulations of the College Ladies, the expense of which was defrayed by the proceeds of the sale of some verses, penned for the occasion, by the Rev. Thos. Scott, a late Chaplain of Bromley College.

be known, and no doubt a sufficient sum would be raised in a week, to erect convenient gates

in their places.

The SCENERY, although limited in extent, generally, is nevertheless of a pleasing variety; here and there an extensive view is obtained, bounded by distant hills, the intermediate space forming a picture of no ordinary beauty, but the most striking prospect, and one that every one who visits this Town, should endeavour to see, presents itself from Martin's Hill,\* west of the church; from this spot may be seen, the whole front of the Crystal Palace, its Terraces, Fountains, and Gardens, and persons with moderately good sight may see the company there, on a fine day; and with a good glass may be able to reconize a neighbour, the distance between, being about three miles in a straight line. On the extreme left, is seen the Village of Keston; near the two Windmills which attract the visitor's eye in this direction. is the source of the River Ravensbourn, celebrated according to tradition, as being of great service to Cæsar's army, on his invasion of this

<sup>\*</sup> The people of Bromley will do well to secure this piece of land from being built upon; very few towns are favoured, by nature, with a promenade so healthy, and beautiful, and so conveniently situated, and surely if the hand of Enclosure can be filled, before it has included every acre of waste land within its grasp, it ought to spare that Hill to the Inhabitants, who, without it, would have no place for recreation, but the dusty roads.

country, and was discovered by them on observing Ravens, flying repeatedly to and from these Ponds: it is from this circumstance the river taking its rise there, derives the name of Ravensbourn.

The Railway now nearly made from Beckenham to Bromley, will, when finished, and in work, form an additional attraction, and add life to the now more than usually pleasant views, seen from this hill. A few patches of Broom, once so plentiful about here, and from which the town derives its name, are to be seen growing on this hill.

The LAND hereabout is in general good, as may be seen by the crops it produces, as well

as by the fine trees that grow on it.

WATER, that great essential, is obtained here, as pure and as plentiful, as the most zealous Total-abstainer could wish,—Springs flow in copious streams from the hill sides, during good part of the year, one in particular, about half a mile south west of the church under the opposite hill, deserves especial notice, from its apparently unabated supply through the unusually dry summer of 1857; no Town at the same altitude can boast of a more plentiful supply of good water.

The TRADE of Bromley was formerly in a flourishing condition; failures in business were misfortunes of so rare occurence, that it is said had not happened here more than twice in thirty years: those prosperous times are among the

things that are past\*, and common consent has long since pronounced that business here cannot be worse; the principal cause of trade falling off here of late years may be attributed to the traffic which previously came through the town being engrossed by the neighbouring railways.

The conveyance to and from London became more difficult as the coaches, one after another, were taken off the road; and the large schools which had long flourished in and near the town, found more convenient localities, though per-

haps less healthy situations.

The Bishop whose name is associated with the prosperous times of the town, was about that time removed to a See in Essex, and the Manor for a second time during a period of more than a 1100 years, was sold and became lay property.

A true picture of the despair that pervaded the town, at the time it was first known that the Bishop of Rochester was about to leave the Palace, could only be painted by the author of

the "Deserted Village."

<sup>\*</sup> The town of Bromley is principally inhabited by respectable tradesmen; and there is considerable business carried on, chiefly occasioned by the gentry of the neighbourhood; perhaps, at no one period of time, was it in so great a state of affluence, as when James Scott, Esq. pursued his justly celebrated professional avocation in this town; for, on account of the vast number of Gentry who had placed themselves under the care of this gentleman here, Bromley carried an appearance which, unfortunately, is no longer to be seen. Vide. Freeman's, Hist. p. 17.

It appears that the last Bishop took a fatherly interest in the temporal as well as spiritual welfare of the people of Bromley, and was a liberal supporter of the Schools and every Benevolent Institution in the town; and the numerous Visitors at the palace knowing they could do nothing more pleasing to their venerable host than to patronize the tradespeople here, almost invariably, made some purchase, or encouraged the trade of the town in some way

It was naturally supposed that this pleasant state of things would be reversed by the change, and the Inhabitants generally, and Tradesmen in particular, looked hopelessly on the future; many left the town, and some retired to the outskirts, on their little savings, rather than risk business longer in a place that appeared to be doomed.

A reference to the following statistical extract will show the above to be no exaggeration.

	POPULATION OF BROMLEY.	
Date.	Population.	
1811.	2965	-
1821	3147increase18	32
	4197 decrease 10	

But it appears that the danger which looked so great in the distance, diminished on a near approach to it; and those who had courage to abide the result, found the new Lord of the Manor disposed to employ the Inhabitants, and not unmindful of the charities and benevolent institutions of the town. The Bishop having been described as Father, it may be allowed to continue the homely simile, and without disparaging his successor, compare that gentleman to a step-father, and as such, he no doubt experienced some difficulty at first, in pleasing the large family who had been so petted by their former indulgent parent: the generous disposition and pleasing urbanity of the new Lord of the manor becoming known, could not fail to dispel the groundless fears and prejudices of the Inhabitants. He resides on his estate the greater part of the year, and is constantly improving the land by drainage, or adding to the buildings, by which means a greater amount of labour is provided than could have been in the time of many of the Bishops.

### THE MARKET.

The Market was granted to the Bishop of Rochester in the 26th year of the reign of Henry VI., to be held weekly within his manor. This market was held on Thursdays, and was no doubt formerly resorted to for all kinds of provisions, but of late years has been entirely deserted as a market, and the market house which is built of wood, has long been used as an upholsterer's warehouse by the late Sarah Dunn, and now used as such by her successors; it forms so sorry a spectacle that even the Antiquary would loose all reverence for it.



. . • The Lord of the manor to whom the Market house belongs has publicly signified his wish to pull it down, and is only waiting the expiration of the lease to do so, and build a Townhall on its site.

### THE FAIRS.

There are two annual fairs, one on the 14th of February, and the other on the 5th of August, each is well supplied with cattle.\* These Fairs granted by Henry VI. were originally held on the feast of St. James the Apostle, and the day of St. Blaize, but have been held on the days first-mentioned, since the alteration of the Calendar.

### BOARDING SCHOOLS.

This town once so famous for Boa: ; Schools, now contains only two,† one is conducted by Mr. Morley, and the other by Miss Lamb, the latter for young ladies only, and is situate on the left hand near the north end of the town, Mr. Morley's Academy is adjoining the savings' bank.

 An attempt was made some years ago, to establish a monthly market for cattle, but did not succeed.

<sup>†</sup> In 1815, there were seven, Mr. Rawes, Rev. J. Baker, Mr. Hibbert, Rev. J. Pieters, Mrs. James, Mrs. Brown, and Mrs. Chalklin, were the respective conductors; Mr. Rawes's establishment had existed for more than a century, and a monthly Magazine of no common merit was conducted by his Pupils, in 1845.

### PHILANTHROPIC SOCIETY.

This Society was established January 6th, 1841, by Tradesmen and Inhabitants of the Town and Neighbourhood, for the purpose of giving temporary relief to the necessitous poor residents in the Parish. The Members meet at the Duke's Head every Wednesday evening in the winter, and every alternate Wednesday in the summer. The manner of bestowing the gifts is a guarantee against imposition, inasmuch as every case proposed for relief must have been enquired into by the proposer, and be considered by the Members present on a meeting night, when if not objected to, relief is given, either in food or coals, according to the requirements of the case.

It is enrolled under the "Friendly Society's Act." The present Officers are Mr. S. P. Acton, Mr. J. Innous, and Mr. J. White, Trustees; Mr. J. S. Carpenter, Treasurer, Mr. G. Leach, Secretary, Mr. J. B. Shillcock, Auditor: either of whom will be happy to receive subscriptions in behalf of the Society.

A Legacy of £400 left by John Lascoe, was secured to this Society in August 1855: after much difficulty, (on account of some legal impediment), and invested in the names of the then Trustees; the following is a copy of the Chancery order:—

14th August, 1855, In the matter of the Trust, &c. JOHN LASCOE.

"I do hereby certify, that purst to an order dated the 7th July, 1855, and to the certificate of Mr. C. Monro, Esqre, one of the Registrars of this Court, I have this day transft the sum of Three hundred and Eighty pounds, Nineteen shillings and Eight pence, Bank £3 per cent anns from my account in trust in this matter, To Samuel Poole Acton, John Innous, and James White, according to the Dirons of the said Order."

W. Russell, A.G.

The amount annually distributed in charity by this Society has averaged nearly £40, as shown by the balance sheets of the last five years.

### THE LITERARY INSTITUTE.

Was Established in the year 1846, and contains about 2000 carefully selected volumes; the leading daily papers and periodicals are taken in for the use of the Members, the hours for reading are from Four till Ten o'clock, P.M. no books are lent out or received at any other time; the payment of 10s. annually or 2s. 6d. quarterly, constitutes membership. A Choral Society has been originated in connexion with the Institute, and several public Concerts have been held by the Singing Class, at the White Hart Assembly Room; Lectures are also oc-

casionally held there, for want of sufficient space in the Institute, nearly all the Gentry in the town and neighbourhood are found among its supporters.

# FEMALE BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

An Institution was established in 1821 in this place, bearing the name of "The Female Friendly Society." It is under the sole management of four Trustees and a Committee of eight ladies, (to be elected by a majority of the members,) who, from benevolent motives, and without view to profit or advantage, voluntarily undertake to superintend it: the following extract from the articles of the Society will give an outline of its principle features and may be the means of extending its usefulness.

Their object is "to impress the higher classes of society with the propriety and policy of patronising this institution, and to convince those for whose benefit it has been more especially instituted, that when they become members of the "Bromley Female Friendly Society," they will, at a very trivial expense, and without any real sacrifice, provide for themselves certain relief and consolation during sickness and infirmity, and a comfortable provision in old age, and be enabled to pass through life without becoming a burden to their friends, and without that degradation

which is generally attendant on receiving parochial relief."

### MEETING HOUSES.

A small meeting house formerly stood on the northern side of the Market Place, held under lease from Mr. Isard; Preachers for it, were supplied by the London Itinerant Society.

A larger place was erected in the year 1835, in Widmore Lane, called Bromley Chapel, Mr. Verrall has been the Minister many years, the

chapel is a neat well built structure.

Bethel Chapel is an offshoot from the above and was erected in 1837, they have no fixed preacher, the chapel being small and consequently close, they hold their meetings on Martin's Hill when the weather permits, during the Summer months.

A Wesleyan Chapel erected in 1825 stands on the south side of the main street a little

distance from the Saving's Bank.

### POST OFFICE.

The Mail leaves Bromley for London four times a day, which is a great improvement on the system as it existed when the previous history of Bromley was published; it is there stated, "the Mail goes every day to and from London (Saturdays excepted), the Post Master, John Acton." His son, Samuel P. Acton

succeeded to the office in 1839, and continued to fill it till 1857, when he resigned it, and Joseph B. Shillcock, was appointed in his stead.

The Letter Box closes at 9.0 1.0 3.45 and 7.15.; Letters posted between 3.45 and 7.15 are not delivered in London till the following morning. Letters are received fifteen minutes later than the above times except, at 7.15, by

the payment of one penny extra.

The Delivery of Letters commences in the town at 7.0 9.30 2.0 and 6.0. Letters to or from Chelsfield, Chislehurst, Cudham, Down, Farnborough, Foot's Cray, Hayes, Keston, Orpington, St. Mary Cray, St. Paul's Cray, and West Wickham, are forwarded through the Bromley Post Office, and may be posted as late as 10.0 p.m. to be delivered at the above places by the first post the next morning.

#### THE SAVING'S BANK

was established the 25th day of March, 1816, for the Inhabitants of the 17 Parishes, comprising the division of Bromley; viz. Beckenham, Bexley, Bromley, Chelsfield, Chislehurst, Cudham, Down, Farnborough. Foot's Cray, Hayes, Keston, Knockholt, North Cray, Orpington, St. Mary Cray, St. Paul's Cray, and West Wickham; and for any person resident either in the County of Kent, or in any neighbouring parish in the County of Surrey.

It is under the immediate direction of a President, Vice-President, any number of Trustees

not exceeding twenty, and a Managing Committee.

This Bank is open every Monday from 12 to half-past 1 o'clock, to receive Deposits, and from half-past 1 to 2 o'clock, to make payments to Depositors,—The rate of annual Interest allowed to the Depositors £2. 18s. 10d. per

cent; it was formerly £3. 6s. 8d.

In 1856, great alarm was created amongst the Depositors, on account of the sudden disappearance of the Actuary of the Bank, with nearly £1000; the deficiency as soon as its extent could be ascertained, was covered by voluntary contributions by the Gentry and Inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood, and all claims honorably met, although many of the Depositors had no legal claim on the Bank, having entrusted their books to the late Actuary, and making payments without seeing them duly entered.

### MANUFACTURES.

The only Manufacture which Bromley may be said to excel in, is that of Bricks, Tiles, Drain Pipes, &c.; excellent brick-earth is found in the neighbourhood: the trade of brickmaking will no doubt be a flourishing one for some time to come, as it is now pretty generally admitted, that a good brick building has a much more comfortable appearance than the whitewashed dwelling: future builders will no doubt take warning by the houses which have been built after the late prevailing fashion in the out-skirts of the town, which certainly look cold and comfortless in the winter, and the glare of light reflected from them in the summer, is anything but pleasing to the sight.

### INNS.

The WHITE HART HOTEL, is described in a former history of Bromley, as one of the neatest buildings of the kind on the road from London to Hastings, and an ornament to the town; its interior fitted up in an elegant manner; a description that holds good at the present day.

It was rebuilt about 30 years ago, when the front which formerly stood close to the road was set back 28 feet; both sides of the house being circular a good carriage drive is formed, and the obstructions previously experienced

entirely removed.

The bustle occasioned by the arrival and departure of Stage Coaches being now transferred to Railway Stations, this house has become both in outward appearance and internal arrangement as quiet as a Country Mansion, and is a favorite resort of private Families during the summer months, from which source it derives its principal support.

The present landlord and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Lownds, appear to make it their especial

study to deserve the patronage of that class of visitors.

A spacious Assembly Room adjoins the Hotel in which the County Court is held, and in which the neighbouring Gentry hold their Balls, generally about Easter, Midsummer, Michaelmas, and Christmas; Concerts and other Entertainments of a respectable character are also held in this room, which is the largest in the town; the interior has been very much improved of late, at considerable cost to the Landlord, in new Paper, Gas fittings, &c.

A Market Room in the house is still attended, and business transacted by the Farmers of the surrounding neighbourhood, every Thurs-

day evening.

The house is well provided with Stable accommodation; in the palmy days of coaching, upwards of 100 horses used to stand here.

The Posting Business is conducted by Mr.

William Pawley.

The Bell, is a large commercial Inn and Posting house, situate about the centre of the town; it seems to have been built with a view of affording more extensive accommodation than has been required of late: the Magistrates hold their sittings there. The house is mostly supported by the respectable Tradesmen of the town; it is kept by Mr. Sutton, who has been the much respected Landlord many years.

The Swan and MITRE INN, kept by Mr. Harradine, stands next in point of accommoda-

tion: the other houses may be named in Alphabetical order; the Duke's Head, Mr. Giles,-Greyhound, Mr. Gould,-Laurel, (Bromley Hill), Mr. Budding,—Rising Sun, Mr. Porter. -Rose and Crown, Mr. Davison,-Star and Garter, Mrs. Osmar, -Three Compasses. Mrs. Clayton,—Three Horse Shoes, (Mason's Hill), Mr. Davies.—Tiger's Head, (ditto) Messrs. Fox & Sons, -Two Brewers, (Gravel Pits), Mr. Ósmar.

### GAS.

Gas was introduced into the town 1837, by Mr. HUTCHINSON, who disposed of the works. pipes, &c., to a Company entitled the Gas Consumers' Company, in 1854-5 The first pipes laid down being found much too small for the supply required, were taken up in the summer of 1857, and much larger ones laid down from the works, through the town as far as the milestone on Bromley Common; new pipes have also been laid down leading to the Bromlev new town and other outlying localities.

An additional Tank and Gas-holder was erected in the above year. The Gas factory is about a quarter of a mile north of the town a little to the right of the London road, and

adjoining the village of Farwig.

### OUT-DOOR SPORTS & PASTIMES.

FISHING is confined to those Gentry who may happen to possess the luxury of fishponds; the stream that passes near the town being too shallow and rapid, to admit of any recreation

for the disciples of Isaac Walton here.

Stag and Fox hunting is encouraged, and furnishes healthful exercise for the Gentry in the hunting season, and as they often come through the town in full hunting costume, and the Huntsman's Bugle indicating the chase is near is frequently heard, an enlivening change is produced, which is heightened occasionally by the stag with its stentorian pursuers paying a flying visit through the town; not unattended however with some alarm to the maternal parent whose juvenile scapegrace happens to be ont of her sight at that moment.

CRICKET, this truly English game has been neglected here since the enclosure and education schemes engrossed the attention of the public; the grandfathers of the present generation having caught the prevailing impression of

<sup>•</sup> In 1763 a vestry called at the request of William Scott, Esq., lessee of the half-yearly land in the parish, under the bishop of Rochester, for an application to parliament for enclosing the same the whole year, and extinguishing the inhabitants' and others' right of common thereon; and what the parish will take as an equivalent. At a subsequent vestry, the parish agreed to accept £40 per annum rent on the said land, which terms were accepted by Mr. Scott.

their day, that book learning was the one thing needful, and that play in any shape was to be discouraged, disposed of the playgrounds that had been the scenes of their youthful delights and of their ancestors, from time immemorial, thereby depriving future generations of the opportunity of enjoying the exercise so necessary to the full development of the human frame.

They probably lost sight of the fact that the well-being of Society cannot be preserved without due culture of the physical organization: the faculties must be trained together, otherwise we produce a distorted image of what

might have been a man.

This subject is likely to occupy a larger share of public attention than it has hitherto done; it is beginning to be understood that the question is one of great importance for that nation which strains its powers to occupy the foremost rank.

A fact worth noting, is, that Lunatic Asylums have increased throughout the country, in proportion to the decrease of the old rural games.

The old plays and robust exercises which might be regarded as the physical education of past times have to a great extent disappeared from common use here, the Maypole is neglected; Easter and Whitsuntide are no better than other days; and the game of Cricket has been known for many years, only as the recreation of former days. In 1856 the Tradesmen in the town revived the game and tried their skill

in a friendly contest, the upper end against the lower end of the town,\* the result was, every one on leaving the field, had a higher opinion of his neighbour than before, and resolved to seek the first occasion to have a similar day's amusement, this led to steps being taken to collect subscriptions to rent a field, and establish a Cricket Club, which was done in 1857.

The tide of public opinion having turned in favour of combining Physical with Mental education, a Gentleman may now set apart a few acres, or erect a Gymnasium for the recreation of the youth of his parish, without incurring public odium, and such generosity would no doubt confer as much benefit on Society as the same value would if given for the purpose of book learning.

### MEDICINAL SPRINGS.

Many of the springs about here are impregnated with Iron to a considerable extent, St. Blaise being the principal one; about half way up the opposite hill by the road side from Bromley to Beckenham, may be seen a small spring in the bank on the left hand

<sup>•</sup> The down-town players having contrary to all expectations, won the game on that occasion, this note is inserted to record the fact, and will no doubt be taken in good part by their opponents, who will excuse them for making the most of an event that may not occur again.

which was formerly held in high estimation, and much resorted to by persons affected with complaints of the eye.

### CHARTERS, &c.,

Relating to Bromley, from the "Codex Diplomaticus Ovi Anglo Saxonica."

Number of Charter.

CCLXXXVII. Ethelbert of Wessex Anno. 862, he gives X ploughlands (arahorum) in the place which is called "Brom-

leag."

CCCCXCII. Will of Beorhtric and Elfswyth no

date "Bromleah."

DXVIII. Edgar, Ao. 966, he gives X sulings

at "Bromleage."

DCLVII. Ethelred, A. 987, X Arahorum in the place which by the husband-

men is called "Bromleg."

land at "Bromleage." Ethelred. A. 998, DCC.

MCCXCVIII. Will of Wrilfric Anno. 1002, land at "Stræton,', (Gt. Streatham) and "Bromleage," and Bedinhure.

In the 25th and 26th of Henry VI., the Bishop had confirmed to him all former charters and liberties, besides the additional grant of a weekly market on a Thursday, in his manor of Bromley, and one fair in the village on the feast of St. James the Apostle, and another within his manor on the day of St. Blaize.

# FROM THE PATENT ROLLS IN THE TOWER OF LONDON.

Licence to Crenellate, granted by King Edward the Second.

1310 A.D., 4 ANNO. REGNI.—Willielmus de Bliburg, clericus,

Mansum saum, Bromle, Kanc.

### TOKENS ISSUED IN THE 17TH. CENTURY.

It is stated in Mr. Bayne's work lately published under the above title, there were five of Bromley, Kent, viz;—

- 1.—Thomas Ghost at the "Hart" in Bromley in Kent,—His Half-penny.
- 2.—Robert King in Bromley, Kent, with the letters R. M. K. and Two Keys Crossed.
- 3.—Michael Lee J, White, "Hart" in Bromley, 1664, M.E.L.
- 4.—John Percival of 1667, Bromley,—His Half-penny, devise—a Roll of Tobacco. J. E. P.
- 5.—William Weldron, of Bromley, in Kent, His Half-penny, J.E.P.

### THE MANOR.

Previous histories of Bromley copied from Hasted's Kent,\* state that Ethelbert, King of Kent gave to Bishop Eardolph and the church of Rochester, six sulings of land in Bromley.

Early English history throws some doubt on the above statement, as King Ethelbert and Bishop Eardolph were not contemporaries

as King and Bishop.†

Lysons states that the manor of Bromley was given to the Bishop and Church of Rochester in the eighth century, by Ethelbert, King of Kent.

† Ethelbert I. the first christian King in this country was contemporary with the first Bishop of Rochester, and was Baptized on the feast of Penticost, in Kent, the Anniversary of that event was celebrated at St. Blaizes Well, till the time of the Reformation, all which circumstances lead to the supposition, that these lands were origin-

<sup>•</sup> The authority cited by Hasted, vol I. p. 89, that Ethelbert, King of Kent, gave to Bishop Eardolph, and the Church of Rochester land in Bromley containing 6 sulings, is "Apograph Dering Library," but as Eardolph was Bishop of Rochester, from 764 to 775, and the four Kings named Ethelbert, reigned as follows:—the first from 761 to 617, the second from 749 to 760, the third from 794 to 797, and the fourth from 860 to 865, neither of them could have been contemporary with Eardolph during his episcopate.

It is supposed that these lands or portions of them were seized by some of the monarchs, in the wars of the succeeding period, and that they were so retained till the ninth year of the reign of King Edgar, who on Bishop Alfstan's paying to the Prefect 80 marks of the finest gold, granted to the Church of Rochester and St. Andrew, certain lands, containing 10 hides, at the place then commonly known by name Æt Bromleage, with all Rights, Profits, Liberties, and Emoluments whatever, except the repelling invasions, and repairing bridges, &c.

King Ethelred, the son of Edgar, caused the lands belonging to the See to be laid waste, in consequence of a difference of opinion with the Bishop of Rochester; and Ethelsine, the

ally given to the Church by him; his son and successor abjured christianity and probably took away whatever had been given to the church. The subjoined extract from an old history of Rochester will be read with interest as re-

lating to the first Bishop.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Justus, who had been sent from Rome A.D. 601, to assist Augustine in the arduous employment of preaching to our ancestors the important truths of the gospel, was constituted the first bishop of Rochester, A. D. 604. He was a person eminent for the holiness and integrity of his life The success which attended his first pious endeavours was no less extraordinary than the diligence he had exerted; and he was afterwards as zealous for the preservation as he had been for the propagation of christianity. But on the death of King ETHELBERT, which happened in 617, there was a great change in ecclesiastical affairs. Edbald who succeeded his father in the kingdom of Kent, abjured

King's Minister, received a part of the same at the King's hands. Ethelred also, by the advice of his Minister, took several estates from the See; but afterwards repenting of the great injury the Church had sustained from what he had done, declared, with much contrition, in the year 998, in the presence of the Convent of Rochester and the principal nobility, that what he had done was through the advice of his Minister, and then restored to the use of the

christianity which occasioned a general defection among his subjects. JUSTUS unable to stem this torrent, abdicated his see, and retired to France: but in the next year EDBALD was reclaimed from his apostacy by LAURENCE archbishop of Canterbury. On this happy change JUSTUS returned again to Rochester, and exercised his pastoral office until the year 624, when he was translated to the see of Canter-

burv."

In the lives of the Bishops of Rochester, it is stated that "the church of Rochester seems to have recovered from its past misfortunes, by the countenance and assistance of several princes during the time of Eardolph; there appears, however great confusion of the grants said to have been made to the church at this period. Offia king of Mercia invaded Kent, and disposed of things at his pleasure. He and Sigered king of Kent, A. D. 764, gave Frindsbury and Wickham to the church of Rochester; and Bromley was soon after added, (I think it should have been written restored.) Sigered also, A. D. 762, gave land to the church, that was north of the monastery, and near the north wall of the city."

All accounts agree that the Manor was granted to the Bishop and Church of Rochester in the 8th century, but whether it was an original gift or only a restoration of a

former one will probably never be known.

Church six plough lands here, together with the benefit of the woods in the Weald.\*

A Saxon nobleman of the name of Birtrick, and his wife, who resided at Meopham in Kent, bequeathed by their will, made in the time of Alfstan, Bishop of Rochester, who died AD.984, all their lands at Bromley, after the life of Birtrick, to the Priory of St. Andrew at Rochester.

The King's half-brother, Odo, the Bishop of Bayeux, subsequent to the conquest seized the Possessions of the Church of Rochester at Bromley, besides various other estates and premises belonging to the same.

The detention of these however, in his hands,

<sup>\*</sup> An uninhabited Waste called in Saxon Weald, signifies a woody country: by the Britons it was denominated Coti andred, from its immense extent, whence the Saxons gave it the second title of Andred coleaz; in Latin Saltus andred, or the great chase or forest.

Opinions widely differ respecting the eriginal limits of this woody district: some historians conceiving that it commenced at one place, and other writers at another, which uncertainty originates in the Wealth having from time to time been diminished through the efforts of industry, so that at the present day it is wholly peopled, and covered by towns, villages, &c.; and on that account, says Mr. Hasted, it may more reasonably be maintained that there exists no Weald at all, than where it ought to begin or end. Notwithstanding the immense period that has elapsed since the Weald existed, there are certain privileges still connected with the lands, stated as having constituted part of the same, which induce the proprietors to contend strenuously for their being within its limits. Among such privileges are the non-payment of tithes for wood to the parson; the not being amenable to the statute of woods; neither has the lord waste within the Weald, the timber growing thereon belonging to the tenant, which exclusion of the lord from the waste is called land peerage.

The supposition is, that the Weald formerly extended much farther than it is said to do in the present day, and that it originally commenced at Winchelsea, in Sussex, and occupied 120 miles in extent and 30 in breadth: it is however, at present, restricted to far more circumscribes limits. Falsad, vol. 4, p. 746 and 747.

was but of short duration, for in solemn assembly of the whole County, held A. D, 1076, by the King's command, at Penenden Heath, Archbishop Lanfranc recovered them again. He afterwards restored them to Bishop Gundulph and the Church of St. Andrew at Rochester: accordingly this estate was entered under the general title of the Bishop of Rochester's Lands, in the survey in Doomsday Book, in the year 1080, and the above donation was ratified by several succeeding Archbishops.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor, Bromley continued to be estimated at six sulings: it is not clear that the whole of them were received by the Bishop of Bayeux, but it is pretty clearly ascertained that only three were returned to the Church of Rochester, on the above adjudication.\*

#### Translation.

In Bronlie hundred. The same Bp. holds Bronlie, was taxed at 6 sulings T. R. E. and now at three. The arable land is 13 carucates; in demesne are 2 carucates and 30 villains, with 26 borderers having 11 carucates; there is one mill of 4s. and 2 acres of meadow, wood for the panage of 100 hogs T. R. E. and afterwards was worth £12 10s. now £18 and yet it yields £21 all but 2s.

<sup>•</sup> At the time of the survey, Bromley was entered in Doomsday Book as follows, under the article

TERRA EPI ROVCESTRE.

Isde' eps' ten' Bronlei IN BRONLEI HUND. p. vi. solins se defd T. R. E. & mo. p. III. Tra'e XIII, car.' In duo sunt II. car & XXX uilli. cu' XXVI bord hat XI car Ibi i mold de IV sold & XII ac'pti Silua coper T. R. E. & postu aluit XII lib & X sol. modo XVIII lib. & tam' reddit XXI bib. II solid minus.

On a taxation of the Bishop of Rochester's manors in 1205, a Jury returned on oath, that Bromley, as then let to farm, was worth £23. per annum: that the buildings could not be sustained but from the rent, because the arable lands did not repay the necessary expences laid out annually upon them; and further, that the buildings required the expence of sixty shilings yearly. And again, at the latter end of the reign of Henry III., Thomas de Mapeham, Sacrist of the Church of Rochester, and others. being sworn and afterwards examined before the master of Stroud Hospital, commissioned for that purpose by the Pope's legate, concerning the value of the Bishop's manors, affirmed that the manor of Bromley, was worth in annual rent as well in money as in hens, eggs and ploughshares, the sum of £24. 16s,; that the manor had two ploughs, though there were not in reality two plough lands, that they were not, together with the pasture ground, worth more than 60s. 10d per annum, on account of the sterility of the land; and that there was one mill, from which were received 2 marks per annum: sum total £29. 3s. 6d. In a valuation which took place some time subsequent to the above, the manor of Bromley was estimated at 50 marks.

It appeared on a taxation of the manors belonging to the Bishop of Rochester, made in the 20th year of the reign of King Edward I., A. D. 1291, that at Bromley the Bishop had £23 10s. in rents of assize; 8s, in ploughshares;

in hens 12s. 6d.; and that there were two mills worth 40s. per annum; and two carucates of land worth 60s. per annum; and in the profits of herds and live stock 13s. 4d.; in reliefs, heriots, and other perquisites of court, 20s.; in pannage 5s.; in eggs 1s.; in the sale of wood 20s.; and from a carucate of land let to farm 1s. 4d.

An ancient M.S. in the Cottonian Library contains the following statement of what ought to be left on the Manor, on the death or trans-

lation of every Bishop.

"There ought to remain at Bromleghe, on the Bishop's manor, 1 cart-horse, value 13s. 4d.; 16 oxen; 4 stallions; 8 cows; 1 bull; 100 ewe sheep; 5 rams; 5 sows; 2 boars; 25 hogs of one year old; that seed for the land ought to be found, or paid for out of the assets of the deceased; also that one carter and one harrower ought to be maintained out of the said assets; that there ought to remain sundry utensils and household furniture, such as tables, casks. pots. &c.

<sup>•</sup> One of these mills at the period of Doomsday was used for grinding corn; it was some time afterwards converted to a paper mill, and used as such for a considerable time; afterwards, its machinery was used for polishing mirrors; at this time these premises were in the occupation of Messrs. Fentham, Glass Manufacturers, of the Strand, London. The mill has long since been pulled down, and all that now remains to indicate its former whereabout, is the mill-pond. The premises are now in the possession of E. Bilke, Esq., who occupies the house which is a very neat residence situate a little to the left of the bottom of Martin's Hill.

In the 21st King Edward I., Thomas de Woldham, Bishop of Rochester, claimed certain liberties, viz. the return of the King's writs, assize of bread and ale, view of frank-pledge, and pleas of Withernam,\* in his manor of Bromley, as well of his own tenants as those of the parson of the parish; and he complained that the Minister of Bromley, Abel de Saint Martin, caused, in like manner, amerciaments to be levied upon the tenants of his Church, when it happened they were amerced at the Bishops' view of Bromley, for breaking the said assize: notwithstanding which, the Bishop causing the same to be levied by his bailiffs too, the tenants were twice punished for the same Whereupon, the jury found upon oath, that the Bishop had a right to the said liberties, and that he found his Church seized of them upon his coming to it: upon which, the Parson submitted, and was fined half a mark. The same year the Bishop was summoned to answer the King, in a plea of quo warranto, t why he claimed the above privileges,

 <sup>&</sup>quot;Placito de vitito namio," or Withernam, is the taking or driving a Distress to a hold, or out of the County, so that the Sheriff cannot upon replevin make delivery thereof to the party distrained.

<sup>†</sup> Quo Warranto is a writ against a person or corporation that usurps any franchise or liberty against the King, as to have a fair, market, or the like, in order to oblige the usurper to show by what right or title he holds or claims such franchise.

&c. As to the return of writs, he answered that the manor was within the precincts of the Archbishops, and that the bailiffs of the Bishop received such return by the hands of the Archbishop's bailiff; therefore he prayed judgment, &c. As to the other liberties, the Bishop replied that his predecessors, beyond all memory, had these liberties in the said manor, and had enjoyed them without interruption; on which the Jurors, after consideration, found a verdict for the Bishop: and the record of these pleas, at the request of John de Shepney, Bishop of Rochester, was exemplified by inspeximus under the Great Seal, July 10th, 30th King Edward III., A. D. 1355.

In 1320, 14th Edward II., Bishop Homo de Heth was necessitated to sell the woods of Elmstead, in Bromley, for 200 marks, to pay the debts which his Church had incurred in soliciting its affairs at the Church at Rome.

During the great Rebellion in 1646, on the abolition of Archbishops and Bishops, when their lands and possessions were vested in trustees to satisfy the debts due from the State, the manor of Bromley, as part of the possessions of the Bishoprick of Rochester, was sold in 1648, to Augustine Skinner, for the sum of £5665 11s. 11d., in which situation it remained till the restoration of Charles II in 1660, when it reverted back with the palace, to its lawful owner, in the person of Dr. John Warner, Bishop of Rochester; and in his succes-

sors it continued, until the year 1845, when it was sold under the power of the Act of Parliament, for an exchange between the Sees of London and Rochester, and was purchased by Coles Child. Esq., the present owner.

## THE PALACE.

Archbishop Lanfranc,\* as before observed, restored the possessions of the Church of Rochester, at Bromley, to Bishop Gundulph, after the Assembly on Penenden Heath in 1076, and the origin of the mansion or palace is generally ascribed to this Bishop, who is reported to have been the greatest architect in existence in the days of the Conqueror. The erection of the palace most probably commenced soon after the restoration by Archbishop Lanfranc, but it appears to have been but a very inconvenient habitation, and in 1184 became so ruinous, that Bishop Gilbert de Glanville, successor to Bishop Walleran, found it

<sup>\* &</sup>quot;Primate Lanfranc was originally a professor of law in the university of Pavia; then a schoolmaster at Avranches, where he lectured the clergy on the disadvantages of ignorance; next a recluse in the poor and lonely abbey of Bec; and afterwards, Abbot of St. Stephens at Caen: it was with no small difficulty the Conqueror had induced him to come to England, and assume the archiepiscopal office. He did not know the language, he said proudly,

absolutely necessary to rebuild the same, which he did in a more commodious manner.

Roger Forde, Abbot of Glastonbury, a man of great learning and eloquence, was killed at this palace in the time of Bishop Lawrence de St. Martin, on a journey which he undertook to defend the rights of his Church, A. D. 1266

The Bishops having constantly resided at this palace since the Reformation, it has consequently received many additions and alterations, effected at different periods. Bishop Sprat, in the year 1669, by license for that purpose from the Archbishop of Canterbury, pulled down and rebuilt the old Chapel besides engaging in and completing several other very considerable repairs. While this Bishop resided at the palace, a parchment was found in

he was quite unacquainted with the manners of the barbarians. He came, notwithstanding; and made them less barbarous. He dispossessed ignorant priests, and placed in their pulpits men of learning. He brought over a bishop, who founded, in even this rude age, a noble library at Salisbury. A prior of Winchester, celebrated by the historian of literature as an elegant Latin epigrammatist, who wrote, with the ease and smartness of Martial, was his pupil and friend. The teacher of Dunstable school who composed a Play of St. Catherine, which his scholars acted in copes borrowed from the neighbouring Abbey of St. Albans, owed to him his appointment. He was celebrated also for his own gigantic acquirements \* \* \* He founded many Saxon

a flower-pot, forged by a conspiracy, of which Bishop Sprat printed an account in a pamphlet, entitled "A relation of the wicked contrivance of Stephen Blackhead and Robert Young, against the Lives of several persons, by forging an Association under their hands."

Bishop Atterbury expended considerable sums of money on this edifice, but one of the greatest benefactors to it was Bishop Wilcox, whose reparation of the buildings, and improvement of the premises, was executed in a very elegant manner; after which, it remained, with little alteration, till Dr. Thomas, on his promotion to the See in 1774, finding the house much dilapidated, pulled the whole of it down, and erected a neat brick edifice on the site of the eld palace, which now forms the residence

schools; and when a question arose between Norman and Saxon, was for the most part found in opposition to the Norman; and stood up for the ancient institutions of the land. In a Saxon shire-mote held on Pennenden heath, he wrested by solemn decision and legal trial from the gripe of Odo, twenty-five manors belonging to the see of Canterbury; whose cathedral he rebuilt, and enriched with wealthy The Church, in her later and more hospitals. powerful days, had reason to remember Lanfranc. If he laid her on strong foundations, it was because he did not discard from among her supports the respect and affection of the Saxon people. He died early in the reign of Rufus, nigh a hundred years old."

of the present proprietor. The mansion is most pleasantly situated about a quarter of a mile from the town, on the eastern side, enclosed in a small but neat park, in which are several trees of great ornamental beauty.

The subjoined epistle from Erasmus to Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, Date 1524, will be read with interest, not only as a relic of two of the greatest scholars of that time, but as showing when and why the Bishops of Rochester gave the preference to the Palace at Bromley.

"Erasmus, of Rottendam, to John Bishop of Rochester, greeting.

## " Reverend PRELATE.

"It was with the utmost concern I read that " part of your letter, wherein you express your " wish, of ever living to see my book arrive. My " concern was still heightened, by the account your " servant gave of the ill state of your health. In-" deed, you do not pay sufficient attention to that " tender constitution. I shrewdly suspect that the " state of your health principally depends upon "your situation. Give me leave then to act the " part of a Physician. The near approach of the " tide, as well as the mud which is left exposed at " every reflux of the water, renders the climate " severe and unwholesome. Your library too is " composed of thin walls, which let in through the " crevices a subtile, and, as the physicians term it " strained air, which is highly prejudicial to weak " and tender constitutions. Nor am I unacquaint-" ed how much time you spend in your library,

"which is to you a very paradise. As to my own part, I could not live in such a place three hours without being sick. I would rather choose a chamber, that was well floored with wood, and wainscoted, for the exhalations which arise from a brick pavement must needs be very pernicious I am well aware, that death itself is no way terrible to the virtuous. Yet considering the scarcity of good men, the church in general cannot but be greatly interested in the life of so worthy a Prelate. It is by no means a matter of equal moment, whether Erassmus is in health or not." &c.

"This unfortunate Cardinal was the last prelate who, as far as I can discover, resided much in Rochester, but ever since the Reformation, not only that house, but those at Trottercliffe and Halling, have been forsaken for the Palace of Bromley, nor can we be surprised at the preference given to this last Mansion, when we consider the delightful spot on which it is fixed, and as convenient a situation, upon the whole, for the Clergy as any of the other places of abode." Vide History of Rochester.

Among the improvements and additions to the buildings, made by the present proprietor may be noticed a Model Farmstead provided with every modern improvement adapted to Agricultural purposes; also a Lodge and Gateway at the entrance to the park, erected in 1857-8, and built in the Elizabethan style, and an Oak Fence along the road side has been substituted in place of a worse-for-age hedge which had previously formed the boundary.

In the grounds belonging and near to the palace is a spring called St. Blaise's Well, which had anciently great resort, on account of its medicinal virtues, and an oratory annexed, dedicated to the above mentioned saint. It was particularly frequented at Whitsuntide, on account of a remission of forty days' enjoined penance, to such as should visit the chapel, and offer up their orisons in the three holy days of Pentecost.\*

"This oratory falling to ruin at the Reformation, the well too became disused, and the site of both in process of time was forgotten, and continued so till the well was discovered again in the year 1754, by means of a yellow ochrey sediment remaining in the track of a small current leading from the spring to the corner of the moat, with the waters of which it used to mix. In digging round the well there were found the remains of the old steps leading down to it, made of oak plank, which appeared to have lain under ground many years. water of this spring is chalybeate, and rises at the foot of a declivity, at a small distance eastward from the Bishop's palace. through which it passes is gravel, and it issues immediately from a bed of pure white sand. The course of the spring seems to be about

<sup>•</sup> On the feast of Penticost, in the year 597, Ethelbert, King of Kent, professed himself a Christian, and received the sacrament of Baptism, vide Ling. vol. I. p. 54.

north-north-east and south-south-west from its aperture; its opening is towards the latter, and as Shooter's Hill bears about north-north-east from its aperture it probably comes from thence. The water being thus found to be a good chaly-beate, was by the Bishop's orders, immediately secured from the intermixture of other waters, and enclosed. Since this, numbers of people, especially of the middling and poorer sort, have been remarkably relieved by it, from various infirmities of body and diseases."—Hasted.

Mr. Thomas Reynolds, formerly of this town, surgeon, analyzed the water of this well, and described its qualities as similar to those of

Tonbridge Wells.

The well is now enclosed in the Palace Garden: report says that it had become neglected, and almost deserted, except by ill-behaved little boys, who it is said occasionally amused themselves there, and by so doing had destroyed the popularity if not the properties of the water, previous to its being enclosed; several other chalybeate springs exist in the vicinity of St. Blaise's well, the water rising to the surface.

There is another well on these grounds, the water of which is said to be exceedingly pure; during the progress of the repairs to this well, about six years ago, it was found that the water entered by a drain, which being followed for 25 feet, led to the discovery of the source of the spring, and which was enclosed in a covered reservoir, constructed of brickwork,

and evidently of very ancient date; the inference is, that this spring was considered to be of great value, and formed the principal supply of the moat which formerly surrounded the Palace.

Historians are not agreed as to which of these wells the veritable title of "St. Blaise\*" belongs: Wilson says "the well dedicated to St. Blasius is about 200 yards north-west of the mineral spring, in a field near the road, with seven oak trees in a cluster, on an elevated spot of ground adjoining;†" there appears small

As to the name of St. Blaise or Blaze, there is no certainty about the orthography of ancient names of persons or places, and if the saint could have written his own name, it is doubtful if he would have written it twice alike. as down to a very late period, certainly after Queen Elizabeth's reign people seem to have had no fixed way of spelling their names: Hasted calls him St. Blaze, and so does Lysons. In the Calendar prefixed to our modern prayer book, it is latinized to Blasius, and in an old bible of 1595, it is the His day was the 3rd of February, and an interesting account of him may be found in the "Clavis Calendaria," by Brady, (Vol. 1, p. 190,) Brady calls him St. Blase, Blaize, Blasus, or Blassius, and says he appears to have been Bp. of Sebasta or Sebask, in Cappadocia. He was a learned and good man, and a supporter of the Xtus, under Diocletian and suffered Martyrdom by decapitation in A.D. 289.

<sup>†</sup> I have been informed that the present bishop is of the same opinion; though to me this Well appears to have been originally designed to supply the adjoining moat. Besides, I conceive an additional argument in favour of the mineral well may be drawn from the ignorance of the age, as the clergy would not fail to ascribe any benefit derived from this water to the special interference of the saint. Dunkin's History of Bromley.

reason for supposing Wilson to be correct, beyond the reputed purity of the water of that well, unless by the presence of seven oak trees we may be allowed to fix the origin of its sacred use as far back as the time of the Druids, who had a particular veneration for the oak, and performed their religious ceremonies in the midst of oak groves; their drink

is said to have been principally water.

General opinion of late years has conferred the title on the mineral Well. It is probable that whichever was the ancient centre of attraction, the annual indulgence to all who should partake of the water, and perform their devotions there, on the anniversary of King Ethelbert's public profession of christianity, was granted to commemorate that auspicious event. The Lord of the Manor, Coles Child, Esq., (to whom the writer is indebted for much of the information now furnished), has permitted him to state, that no one will be refused, who may think the water worth fetching, and that it may be had by applying at the House.

It may here be observed that the supply is small, and that there was no overflow during

three months of the summer of 1857.

The ancient drawbridge, consisting of a rude mass of masonry, and composed of flint, chalk, and kentish rag-stone, was discovered a few years ago, on the lawn immediately in front of the Mansion and which probably belonged to the first residence of the Bishop, nearly eleven centuries ago.

## THE PARISH CHURCH.

This ancient and venerable structure, stands on the west side of the Town, and being on a hill can be seen at a distance of many miles; there seems some doubt as to which of the saints this Church was originally dedicated, but it appears that St. Peter and St. Paul have been its reputed Patron Saints for the last 700 years.

The Church 'underwent considerable alterations and repairs in 1830, the cost of which amounted to the sum of 4367l. 17s. 6\frac{1}{4}d.

Mr. Freeman in his History Antiquities, &c. of Bromley, published 1632, says, "the alterations and improvements that have so recently taken place in this venerable structure, which is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul," are of

<sup>\*</sup> Wilson, in his description of Bromley, published in 1797, gives the following paragraph, "I have met with a very old account which says this church was originally dedicated to St. Blaze, but for the last 700 years it has been considered, and certainly is, that of St. Peter and St. Paul." "It is much to be regretted." says Dunkin. "that Mr. W. has not given his authority, as no such account is to be found in any author I have had an opportunity of consulting. Nor have I been able to meet with any information to countenance this opinion. I have been informed that the late Bishop Dampier always maintained that the church was dedicated to St. James, from the circumstance of one of the fairs being held on that day; an opinion evidently grounded on the idea of this fair originating in a meeting of the people to celebrate the dedication of the church, according to an old

an extensive nature: the whole body of the church has been taken down, and rebuilt in a neat manner and on a more commodious scale. Many additional sittings\* have been obtained in consequence of the alterations; besides which there was an absolute necessity for numerous repairs, as the roof and walls were fast mouldering to decay. The Tower has been altered, though its square embattlements remain nearly

custom; and that the charter was only a confirmation of a more ancient fair, as appeared in many other instances. I understand the Bishop's opinion was adopted by several persons, and the bills of mortality made out accordingly. But I consider the mode of arguing very inconclusive, for the same reasoning equally applies to St. Blaise; and if any 'very old account' is in favour of the latter saint; the Bishop's argument is completely overturned; at any rate the opinion of the 'last 700 years' is entitled to the most serious consideration."

We have, however, the consolation to see the church still exist; and so I am not at all disposed to argue on this difference of opinion, as to which of the above saints this church was dedicated. I shall merely observe that the fact, if known, would be but of sittle consequence.

\* On a stone affixed at the Western extremity of the church, is the following inscription: "This church was enlarged in the year 1830, by which means 487 additional sittings were obtained; and, in consequence of a grant from the Incorporated Society for promoting the Enlargement, Building, and Repairing of Churches and Chapels, 287 of that number are hereby declared to be free and unappropriated for ever, in addition to 70 formerly provided.

JAMES EDWARD NEWELL, A. M. Minister.
JOHN WALTER,
THOMAS C. PALMER,

Churchwardens"

as before; the cupola is taken down, but a turret erected in its stead; and additions which materially improve the external appearance of the church effected.

Of the interior of the church little more need be said than that it is very commodious. At the entrance by the Western door, the painted glass,\* at the top of the large Eastern window, is peculiarly striking: this glass was the gift of Lord Farnborough.

The Bishop's chair is very neatly constructed, and is close adjoining the communion table on

the Northern side.

The galleries of this church are much larger than those which stood with the old building; indeed, from the declaration of the Minister and Churchwardens, in the inscription before quoted, it will be seen how much more commodious the building now is.

These galleries are parted by Gothic arches, nearly in the same manner as the side windows are constructed, which, together with the large varnished beams which support the roof, look

truly grand.

There are now a reading desk and neat pulpit, and so placed that they may be seen from most parts of the edifice. The stove, previously to the alterations taking place, was fixed at the Western end of the church, it is

<sup>\*</sup> On which are the following Latin words: "Laus Deo Soli Deo Gloria,"

now, however, removed to the North-east corner; the heat from which is conveyed in pipes to the centre of the church, where it circulates by means of a ventilator. On account of this alteration, great inconvenience which was formerly experienced is now entirely removed.

The vestry-room\* is, perhaps, as well adapted for its purpose as it possibly could be, having one great advantage that of being commodious; it is erected at the Eastern end of the church.

Previous to this edifice undergoing these numerous alterations, there was nothing of any consequence to gratify the curiosity, except the door that stood on the Southern side, which appeared to be very ancient. The square font had plain circular arches, which countenance the supposition that it was once decorated with brass engravings: this font was evidently of Norman architecture.

The old gallery over the South aisle was erected in 1765, and in the same year three Gothic windows of that aisle, which had previously retained their original form, were altered to the mode in which the new ones were constructed, and as they appeared before the recent alterations took place: in which year

<sup>\*</sup> The vestry-room, together with the circular-headed windows, are two improvements which were not included in the original contract for repairs.

(1765), an additional window, to correspond with the improvements that were then made, was fixed. The tower of this church appears to have received little or no alteration since its erection, previous to the late improvements: it contained, until the year 1773, only five bells, which were of heavy metal, but in that year they were taken down, re-cast, and three others added.\*

To show when Bromley Church first became possessed of an organ and stove, it may be necessary to quote the following inscription on a board at the western end.

'The organ and stove were placed in this church, by voluntary contributions of the inhabitants, in the year 1825.'

WALEER KING, A.M., Minister.

JAMES P. DAVIS,
JAMES KNOWLES,
Churchwardens.

## The following is an extract from the Ringers Book.

\* The first peal on the eight bells of Bromley Church was performed on the 14th day of September 1774, which consisted of 5040 Changes of Bob Major, and was completed in 3 hours and 14 minutes.

Names of the Ringers.

JOHN COWDERY, HENRY SALE,
JOHN CHAPMAN, JUN., THOMAS KELLY,
JOHN DAY, WILLIAM CHAPMAN,
JOHN HEATH, WILLIAM COOK.

Weever says it was reported, in his days, that in the wall of this church once lay the portraiture in stone of Richard de Wendover,\* some time Parson of this parish, and afterwads Bishop of Rochester, who died in 1250, and was buried, by the King's express command at Westminster.

In 1360, was buried in the South aisle, Walter de Henche.† once Rector of this Parish,‡ and afterwards Bishop of Rochester, and the following French inscription was placed on his tomb:

Icy gist Master Walter de Henche, Qi fu Persone de Bromleghe, 1360.

Anciently, on the North side of the nave, was a confessional, probably destroyed soon after the Reformation, but the door-way and steps leading to it remained till the building of the North Aisle.

Among the more recent improvements and additions made in this Church must be mentioned, the repairing and reconstruction of the ORGAN.

The following particulars, descriptive of the Organ and its various alterations, may be interesting to those who have assisted with their con-

<sup>↑</sup> Lysons, vol. iv, p. 317.

<sup>7</sup> Vide List of Rectors and Curates.

<sup>§</sup> Translation. Here lies Master Walter de Henche, Who was a person of Bromley, 1360.

<sup>|</sup> The building of which took place in the year 1793.

tributions to bring it to its present perfection.

This Instrument was originally built by Flight and Robson, in 1825, at the cost of £450, which was raised by voluntary subscriptions; it stands in the west gallery, in a handsome oak case; it originally contained the following stops:—

Great Organ.

Swell Organ.

Compass GG to F.
Open Diapason
Stopped Diapason
Principal
Twelfth
Fifteenth
Sesquialtera
Trumpet

Compass Fiddle G to F. Open Diapason Stopped Diapason Principal Trumpet

In 1844, the Instrument was thoroughly cleaned and repaired; an octave and half of pedals were added, from GG to C: part of the Trumpet in the Great Organ was taken away, and replaced by a Dulciana: the Trumpet in the Swell was replaced by a Hautboy. Total cost £38.

In 1854, Mr. Joseph Smith, who had honorably filled the post of Organist since 1825. resigned; whereupon an election took place, and Mr. W. C. Filby, (the present Organist) was unanimously appointed his successor. Some trifling alterations in the Organ took place in the same year, and in this state it remained until September, 1856, when the Instrument was taken down and thoroughly re-constructed by Mr. Robson: the old GG compass was turned into CC; 21 octaves of (16 ft, tone,) pedal pipes were added also; an entire new swell, to-

gether with new Key-boards, Draw-stops, Sounding boards, Rollers, &c., and several choice solo stops.

# The Organ now contains the following stops:-

•	-
Great Organ.	Swell Organ.
CC to F.	Tenor C to F.
1. Unison Open (large scale) 2. Unison Open (small scale) 3. Unison Closed (treble) 4. Unison Closed (bass) 5. Wald Flute 6. Octave 7. Super Octave 8. Mixture	<ol> <li>Double Open</li> <li>Unison Open</li> <li>Unison Closed</li> <li>Octave</li> <li>Flageolet</li> <li>Cornopean</li> <li>Oboe</li> <li>Bourdon CC to C</li> </ol>
9. Krum Horn	

The Instrument was re-opened December 6, 1856, by Dr. Gauntlett and Mr. Filby,\* who both expressed their high approval of the alterations.

The cost of these alterations amounted to the sum of £138. 13s. 6d., which was defrayed by voluntary contributions.

Another improvement which had been long contemplated was now commenced, and subscriptions sufficient to defray the expense of a new Stained Glass Window were speedily raised.

<sup>#</sup> Mr. FORT has since succeeded Mr. FILBY as Organist.

#### THE BASTERN WINDOW.

The new Eastern window was designed and executed by Mr. Willement, London, who has successfully arranged the colouring so as to harmonize with the stained glass previously inserted in the top compartments, the design is also well adapted, and corresponds admirably with the early English style of the Building.

The Church being dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, those two Saints, occupy the most prominent positions, with the picture of the Ascension, in the centre between them: the four Evanglists are represented by their heraldic devices, which being in the forms of unknown birds and quadrupeds with white wings, would be unintelligable to many, but for the inscription on each. The minor details are not less interesting than the more conspicuous; in the side borders may be traced the trefoil, the emblem of truth; also the lily, emblem of purity, while in the ground work may be seen the vine leaf, having reference to many passages of scripture: and if the close observer should discover an oak leaf and acorn in the corners, he will readily perceive that they are emblematical of the county of Kent.

The old window was taken out and the new one put in its place in five days; the glass having been fitted together in London, and marked, previous to its being brought down; it was commenced on the 14th, and finished

on the 18th September, 1857.

# MONUMENTS AND TABLETS

. IN THE CHURCH.

GALLERY, -- NORTH SIDE.

(ON A MARBLE MONUMENT.)

# Sacred to the memory of MARY LYNDON,

youngest daughter of RICHARD ASHE, Esq., late of Ashfield in the County of Meath, in Ireland, an upright member of the parliament of that kingdom. To her many exalted advantages, was added a sweetness of countenance that engaged the liking of every one who saw her, and was the Index of a mind fraught with those exalted virtues which she practised in their sublimest excellence; but which to the world can never be completely known until that awful day,

When in the sight of man and angels, They will be proclaimed and rewarded.

Her soul was transferred, by God's mercy, to eternal happiness, on the 27th day of June, 1780, In grateful and affectionate sense of the blessings he enjoyed in so virtuous and amiable a wife, so faithful a friend, and so pleasing a companion, this monument is here placed by her disconsolate husband, WILLIAM LYNDON, Esq.

In a vault near this church are deposited the remains of Sophia Maria, the wife of Thomas Raires, of Berkeley Square, who departed this life, after a short illness, on Thursday, the 5th of April, 1810, in the 27th year of her age, leaving an afflicted husband, and four infant children, to lament her irreparable loss.

The following beautiful lines also appear; believed to have been written by her bereaved husband who must have severely felt so sudden a decease of one to whom it appears he was so fondly attached.

Oh! blest with feelings, person, manner, mind, Too dearly lov'd to be so soon resign'd; Forgive the selfish grief which weeps below, And mourns thy passage from a world of woe, What though a husband's anguish bid thee stay, Though friends with sighs and tears obstruct thy way; Rise, dear Sophia! seek the realms of rest, And be the angel which thy form exprest.

## Juxta hoc marmor sepultus est

### THOMAS RAIKES,

unus e banci anglici rectoribus cui annis, 1797, et 1798. Anxia republica et laborante solicite prudenterque prefuit civis optimus mercator fide, industria mentis que dotibus, insignis qui, etiam cum in omne re cœlum respiceret. Handquaquam orbus aut confectus annis sed Ætate ac liberis florens opes honestissime conquisitas utiquique aut religionis, incrementum aut hominum postularet miseria prompte ac largiter impendebat. Obiit 29° Decembris, annus salutis 1814°, Ætatis 73°.\*

<sup>\*</sup> Translation. Near this monument is interred Thomas RAIRES, who was one of the Governors of the Bank of England in the years 1797 and 1798. During a perturbed state of the community, by his indefatigable, zealous, and prudent endeavours for the public weal, he proved himself a most excellent citizen. Eminent for the energy of his mind, and the extent af his wealth, yet regarding in every event a divine providence: he was a faithful merchant. Not being bereft of his offspring, nor worn down by his numerous years, he was seen flourishing in a good old age, blessed in the endearments of his family. Abounding in riches honorably acquired, he was always at hand, promptly and liberally to bestow his sid; wherever the interests of religion, and the wretchedness of mankind, demanded his munificance and succour. Died 29th Becomber, 1814, aged 73.

On a marble tablet on the south side gallery, is the following inscription.

Sacred to the memory of
WALTER BOYD,
of Plaistow Lodge, in this parish, Esq.,
Born November 18, 1753, Died September 16, 1837;

also to the memory of
HARRIOT ANNA GODDARD,
His Wife,
who predeceased him January 10th, 1833,
Aged 72 years.

On the north side is a marble tablet bearing the following inscription.

Sacred to the memory of
GEORGE NORMAN ESQ.,
of Bromley Common in this parish,
eldest surviving son of James Norman, Esq., likewise
of Bromley Common;

Born June 24th, 1756, Died 24th January, 1840.

Also to the memory of Charlotte his Wife,

Daughter of the Rev. Edward Beadon, of North Stoneham, Hampshire;

Born 1st January, 1766, Died 28th February, 1853.

A tribute of fillial affection to parents most honoured and beloved.

"The memory of the just is blessed."

# The following is well deserving notice. To the memory of JOHN HAWKESWORTH, L.L.D.

who died the 17th of November, 1773, aged 57 years. That he lived ornamental and useful to society, in an eminent degree, was among the boasted felicities of the present age; that he laboured for the benefit of posterity, let his own pathetic admonition at once record and realize.

## From the Adventurer. No. 140.

The hour approaches in which whatever praise I have acquired by these compositions will be remembered with indifference, and the tenour of them alone will afford me comfort. Time, who is impatient to date my last paper, will shortly moulder the hand that is now writing it in the dust, and still the heart that now throbs at the reflection. let not this be read as something that relates only to another; a few years only can devide the eye that is reading, from the hand that has written this However obvious, and however awful truth. reiterated, it is frequently forgotton; for surely if we did not lose our remembrance, or at least our sensibility, that alone would always predominate in our lives, which alone can afford us comfort when we die.

Brombey in Kent, March 8, 1754.

On the same monument is inscribed the following.

Also to the memory of Mr. Benjamin Brown,

of this parish, who died 22nd of October, 1777, aged 60 years. If no shining qualities adorned his life, cheerful integrity and diligent good-will render-

ed it always desirable to others, and comfortable to himself. This monument is inscribed by their

sorrowing relict and sister. M. H.

The foregoing, together with the monument of Thomas Newnham, Esq., many years a Magistrate for this County, and resident at Southborough; and that of John Scott, M. D., a decendant of the noble family of Buccleugh, are those affixed in this part of the church.

GALLERY, -SOUTH SIDE.

On a large square marble monument is this inscription.

Sacred to the memory of

JOHN GIFFORD, Esq.,

who died March 6th, 1818, aged 60. A man whose active services, in various departments of public life. were uniformly animated by a high and commanding sense of public duty. Stedfast in the faith, and resolute in the practice of christianity, attached from conviction to the established church, he supported its cause by his exertions, and adorned it by his virtues. As a Magistrate, in the arduous and responsible situation of a public office, by his activity, vigilance, and skill, he ministered, in no small degree to the security and peace of the Metropolis, and to the detection and prevention of crime. In the Writings, whether as a Politician, Historian, or Critic, he dedicated the powers of a vigorous mind and effective style to the maintenance and protection of the morals, the laws, and the constitution of his country; venerating the talents, and attached to the principles, of that illustrious Statesman, who in the days of turbulence and faction, was the guide and the guardian of the State. He dedicated his latter years to record the life of so true a patriot, and has transmitted his name to posterity as the Historian

and Biographer of William Pitt. That no testimony of their admiration might be wanting to the character and the virtues of such a man, the Members of the Pitt Club have caused this monument to be erected, as a memorial of affectionate regard to their Honorary Secretary and Friend.

Near to the above is a tablet with the following inscription.

Sacred to the memory of Thomas Chase, Esq.,

formerly of this parish, born in the city of Lisbon, the 1st of November, 1729, and buried under the ruins of the same house where he first saw the light, in the ever memorable and terrible earthquake which befell that city on the 1st of November, 1755, when, after a most wonderful escape, he, by degrees, recovered from a very deplorable condition, lived till the 20th of November, 1788, aged 59 years.

Adjoining the last is the monument of Thomas Chase, Esq. and Sarah his Wife, the Father and Mother of the above Gentlemen, who caused this monument (which is very handsome) to be erected

from filial respect.

On this side is the monument of Harrington Bagshaw, Curate of Bromley, Rector of Woolwich, and 40 years Chaplain of Warner's College, 1759. Also of Thomas Bagshaw, A. M., Curate of Bromley, Rector of Southfleet, and 54 years Chaplain of Warner's College, 1787.

At the Eastern end of the church is a handsome marble monument with this inscription

In the South isle lyeth the body of ZACHARY PRARCE, D.D.,

who was made Rector of St. Bartholmew's, behind the Royal Exchange, London, March 10th, 1720: Vicar of St. Martin's in the Fields, Westminster, January 10th, 1724; Dean of Winchester, August 4th, 1739; Prolocutor of the Lower House of Convocation, December 7th, 1744; Bishop of Bangor, February 21st, 1748; Dean of Westminster, May 4th, 1756; and Bishop of Rochester, June 24th, 1756. He resigned the Deanery of Westminster, June 24th. 1768, and died in a comfortable hope of (what was the chief aim of all his labours upon earth) the being promoted to a happier place in Heaven. He was born September 8th, 1690, and died June 29th, 1774, aged 84 years.

In the same vault is interred Mrs. MARY PEARCE, wife of the above. Died October 23rd, 1773, aged

70 years.

Near to which is a neat tablet of the family of the Kings; also the following.

To the memory of SIR CLAUDE SCOTT.

of South Lychet, in the County of Dorset, Baronet, formerly of Sundridge Park, in this Parish; who Died, March 27th, 1830, in the 88th year of his age. Also of Dame Martha, his relict, who Died February the 22nd, 1831, aged 82 years. Their remains are deposited in a vault under this Church.

In memory of

SIR SAMUEL SCOTT, Bart.,

of Sundridge Park, in this Parish, who Died on the 30th of September, 1849, in the 77th year of his age. and of Ann.

[Daughter of Edward Ommanney, Esq.,] his relict, deceased on the 29th December, 1849, aged 82.

Their remains are intered in the Church yard.

On a Marble Tablet surmounted by a Female Figure Weeping.

Sacred to the memory of John Scott, Esq.,

late of New Broad Street, in the City of London, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and a member of the Council; Surgeon to the London Hospital, and senior Surgeon to the Royal London Opthalmic Hospital; only son of James Scorr, Esqre., of Clay Hill, Beckenham, he was born at Bromley, February 20th 1779, and departed this life at Brighton, April 11th, 1846.

For by Grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. Not of words, lest any may should boast.

Ephesians, chap. ii, ver. 8, and 9.

To the beloved memory of MATTHEW THOMPSON, Esq.,

of Maningham Lodge, Yorkshire; a justice of the peace and deputy Lieutenant for the west riding, of that County, born at Castleford, February 12th, 1781, and buried in this Church yard, September 28th, 1847, Aged 66 years.

In a vault in the Church yard lie the remains of,

JAMES SCOTT, Esq.,

many years resident in this parish, He was born on the 8th day of January, 1770, and died on the 3rd day of December, 1848, deeply lamented by many whom he had benefitted by his consummate skill as a Surgeon, and to whom by his kind and amiable qualities he was endeared as a friend.

#### MARY HIS WIFE.

not less beloved or less lamented, is interred in the same vault, She was born on the 29th day of March, 1771, and died on the 11th day of May, 1842.

#### NORTH AISLE.

## On the wall is the following inscription.

JOHN THOMAS, D. C. L. Bishop of Rochester, gave, in the year 1792, towards the erecting of this part of the church £500.

THOMAS SOAN,
BOOTH HIBBERT,

Churchwardens.

Also a tablet with the following inscription.

In a vault, near the Western door, are deposited the remains of

## JOHN BAKER, A. M.

of Lincoln College, Oxford, many years Lecturer of this parish. Multis ille bonis flebilis occidit Aprilis 17, A. D. 1824, Ætatis 58.

In the same aisle is a tablet placed to the memory of Henry Smith, D. D., 42 years Rector of this parish, and 18 years Rector of Headley, Hants, Died 22nd July, 1818.

#### SOUTH AISLE.

On the wall of this aisle are the monuments of PEREGRINA, wife of LEWIS BUSSY MANSEL, 1721, and MARY, the wife of the Rev THOMAS WINTER-BOTTOM. Rector of Ashurst, and Vicar of Birling, Kent. 1720.

At the East end of this aisle is a wooden tablet with the arms and quarterings of STYLE, and an inscription which denotes that the pews beneath were solely appropriated to the use of the STYLES',

formerly owners of Simpson's Place, and were then (1727) the property of the Lady Elwill.

Near which is the following, inscribed on a small plain stone.

Here lyeth buried Te Bodye of John Mannsall, som tym of Chichely, In Te County of Buckingham, Esquier. He had Issue two Sonnes, John and Thomas, and departed this life the 19th day of Octtober, Ano. Dom, 1625, Beinge above the age of 50 years.

With the two following curious lines, rendered, on account of there being no separation in the

words, not very easy to decipher.

Shortwashislifeyetdieshenever, Deathhashisdueyetlivesheever.

Close to the above is the following, inscribed (but abbreviated) on a small brass tablet

Hic jacet Isabella quondam uxor Ricardi Lacer, nuper majoris Londini, quæ obiit quarto kalendarum Augusti, A. D. MCCCLVI. Cujus anima propitietur Deus. Amen.

On the floor, among others, are the tombs of Anthony Calthorpe, Esq., 1594; John Younge, Bishop of Rochester, 1605; Richard Thornhill, Esq., 1600; John Travel, Esq., of London, 1652; Catilina, Relict of Thomas Needham, late Rector of Stocke Dalbourn, 1676; Robert Pynsent, Gentleman, 1679; Mariabella, Wife of John Whelly, of Freeland House, Merchant, 1701; and Willam Wilson, Esq., 1776. Also stones to the memory of Edward Brewster, Apothecary, 1674; James Gosling, Esq., 1765; the Rev. John Derby, Rector of Southfleet, 1788; Henry Savage, Esq., 1785; Mary, Wife of Charles Gore, Esq., 1785; and Mrs. Mary

Dimes, 1788. In the nave, with others, are the tombs of John King, of London, Draper 1603; Jane, Daughter of John Brewton, Gent., Wife of Henry Bodenham, Esq., of Folston, Wilts, 1625; Owen Gethin, Gent., 1654; Thomas Woodstock, 1694; Edward Wyat, Esq., 1758; William Everest, Gent., 1777; John Wagginton, 1784; and Elizabeth, Wife of Dr. Samuel Johnson.

An ancient Door which was removed at the time of the alteration in 1830, is still preserved in the south porch, its appearance indicates great antiquity.

### THE CHURCH YARD.

The principle entrance to the church yard is worthy of notice, from the well-built Lich Gate. This gate was erected in 1855 at a cost of about £70, which was paid out of the church-rate. It is built with heart-of-oak, and fastened together with wooden bolts, and we are told that there was not a nail used in its construction. The church yard, which was enlarged in 1845, abounds in tombs and monumental inscriptions, but to notice all would swell this volume far beyond its intended limit, while a selection might perhaps be ascribed to caprice; nevertheless a few may be noticed as meriting attention here.

The epitaph which perhaps deserves the most attention, is placed at the East end of the church erected to the memory of Elizabeth Monk, who died 1753, aged 101, written by Dr. Hawkes-worth:—

# Near this place lies the body of ELIZABETH MONE,

who departed this life on the 27th day of August, 1753, aged 101. She was the widow of John MONK, late of this parish, blacksmith, her second husband, to whom she had been a wife near fifty years, by whom she had no children, and of the issue of the first marriage none lived to the second. But virtue would not suffer her to be childless: an infant, to whom and to whose father she had been nurse, (such is the uncertainty of temporal prosperity), became dependent upon strangers for the necessaries of life: to him she afforded the protection of a mother. This parental charity was returned with filial affection; and she was supported, in the feebleness of age, by him whom she had cherished in the helplessness of infancy. Let it be remembered that there is no station in which industry will not obtain power to be liberal, nor any character on which liberality will not confer honor. She had been long prepared by a simple and unaffected piety for that awful moment, which however delayed, universally sure. How few are allowed an equal time to probation? How many by their lives appear to presume upon more? To preserve the memory of this person, and yet more to perpetuate the lesson of her life, this stone was erected by voluntary contributions.

#### A tomb on the south side has the following inscription-

## Here under lye the remains of Mrs. Avis Hiddesly.

widow of the late Mark Hiddesly, Rector of Marston and Vicar of Sittingbourne, in this county, afterwards Rector of Witton, in the county of Huntingdon, who died in 1726, who had sixteen children born alive and baptized, five of them in one year and three days. She died in Bromley College, 25th November, 1743, aged 71.

This stone is now much broken and the inscription nearly obliterated.

The following inscription on a plain white stone, is quoted on account of the remarkable circumstances it contains.

# Here lyeth interred the body of MARTINE FRENCH.

of this parish, with four of his wives and two daughters. He departed this life ye 12th of January, 1661, being aged 61, and his last wife departed ye 13th of the same moneth, leaving behind him one sonne, Martine, and three daughters, Jane, Sarah, and Mary.

On the south side of the church yard, is the handsome monument inclosed in an iron railing of Stewart Erskine, Esq., with the following inscription.

Sacred to the memory of STEWART ERSKINE,

of Bromley Lodge, in the County of Kent, Esq., a lineal descendant of the noble family of Erskine, Earls of Kellie. He departed this life on the 31st day of July, 1826, aged 74 years.

The other principle tombs are those of Mr. Martin,

Mr. Menish, Mrs. Tayrton, and others.

A curious relation is given by a writer in the Gentleman's Magazine, 1747: he says "In 1733, as the Parish Clerk was digging a grave in the church-yard, close to the East end of the chancel wall, he dug up a funeral garland or crown. artificially wrought in fillagree work, with gold and silver wire, in resemblance of myrtle; its leaves were fastened to hoops of larger wire of iron, which were something corroded with rust, but both the gold and silver remained very little different from its original splendour: the inside was also lined with cloth of silver."

A part of this curious garland, together with a piece of the cloth of silver, the writer of the above account states that he kept by him as a choice relic of antiquity; he further adds that these garlands were anciently carried solemnly before the corpse by two maids, and hung upon some conspicuous place within the church, in memory of the deceased. Growing out of repute about forty years ago, and being thought by many as very unbecoming decorations for so sacred a place, they were ordered to be taken down, and the inhabitants were strictly forbidden to hang up any more for the future: yet several people, unwilling to forsake an ancient and delightful custom, continued still to make them, and they were carried at the funeral as before; but instead of being left in the church, they were taken to the ground and put upon the coffin over the face of the dead.

This, he adds, he had seen done in many places; and from the circumstance of this garland being found in the church-yard, the custom seems to have been known at Bromley.

On a grave stone, the south side of the Church.

Sacred to the memory of

#### Ann.

only Daughter of Mr. George and Mrs. Hannah Bushby, wife and widow of Mr. Jarvis Bexhill, and Mother of his Ceildren, who died the 16th day of August 1845, aged 79 years.

The same Ann, by a second marriage the 19th of April, 1819, took the name of Baxter, and has given to her Executors sufficient for them to purchase on, hundred pounds Stock, in the 3 per cent. Consoldated Annuities at the Bank of England, upon trust from time for ever thereafter, to pay the Interest and dividends of the said stock or annuities to be purchased as aforesaid; unto the overseers and sexton for the time being, of the Parish of Bromley in Kent. and which she has directed, may from time to time for ever thereafter to be laid out and applied by them, in keeping in good repair, and condition, the stone work over this grave and to paint the same every three years in a workmanlike manner, and also to turf over the graves of her late Mother, and her two children, whose remains lie adjoining to or near this brick grave.

#### **ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION**

The most ancient intimation relative to this church is that it paid ninepence chrism to the mother church of the Diocese. It has before been stated that Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, half brother to the king, after the conquest seized on the possessions of the church, and that they were again recovered by Archbishop Lanfranc, in the solemn Assembly of the County, at Penenden Heath, as appendages of the manor; these were confirmed to the Bishop and church of St. Andrew at Rochester, by Anselm, in 1101, and afterwards by several of his successors in the See of Canterbury.

Richard Fryson, Parson of the church of Bromley, sued one Harry Ferrour, in Bromleigh, for the recovery of a messuage which he claimed to belong to the church in free alms, and he recovered seizin of the same by view of the jurors

empannelled thereon, 35th Henry VI.

This church was a rectory in 1534, and valued at £39 12s. but was soon after appropriated to the Bishop of Rochester; the church being supplied by a Curate appointed by the Bishop. It is not in charge in the King's books

It is not in charge in the King's books.

On the abolition of episcopacy this parsonage was valued as a part of the possessions of the Bishop of Rochester, Dec. 16, 1650. The return states that the rectory of Bromley had a manor belonging to it, a good mansion house, with a gate house, a large barn of eleven bayes,

two small barns, with other building appurtenances, and the glebe land, was worth £50 per annum, and the quit rents 8s. 9d. yearly, that the tithes were worth £130 yearly, and a small tenement £2 yearly and upwards: all which (the tenants in the manor here having common of pasture in the glebe land, and common mead, which last contained about ten acres, from Lammas-day to Michaelmas-day) were let by John, Bishop of Rochester, from the 10th of February. 1639, for 21 years, at the yearly rent of £61 per annum, and forty quarters of oats; and it was returned that the same, tithes and all, were worth, to be let by the tenant, £183 per annum.

Since the appropriation of the rectory to the Bishopric of Rochester, it appears to have been usual to grant leases of it; and accordingly we learn from Lysons, that John Younge was lessee in 1646. In 1706 the lease was in the possession of William Emmet, Esq., whose grand-daughter brought it to Mr. John Innocent, and it was subsequently carried to George Norman, Esq., by his father's marriage with Mr. Inno-

cent's daughter.

It is now in the possession of Trustees, under the will of the late Bishop of Rochester; the yearly value is stated to be about £1200. The Rectory with its emoluments will we are informed revert to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners at the expiration of three lives, and Bromley may then obtain services equivalent to the amount paid.

#### THE RECTORY HOUSE.

At a short distance from the church to the south-west is situate the Rectory House, which having been of late years greatly enlarged and beautified, forms a most delightful residence,\* and being on the summit of a steep declivity, it commands extremely picturesque scenery; to the foreground of which, its own lawn, shrubberies, and fish ponds add no little charm. This Mansion is now inhabited by Mrs. John Scott, so well and deservedly esteemed from her extensive views of christian charity, as to make it the universal wish of the neighbourhood that she may be spared to make another instance of the longevity, to which so many of the inhabitants of this highly favoured town have arrived.

The common saying that "It is an ill wind indeed that blows nobody good," was well exemplified a few years ago on this spot, for while a fire stripped the entrance to the premises of the old tithe barn and seriously burnt its then possessor in endeavouring to save his property, it at the same time opened the way for improvements, which was turned to the best account, and in the place of two dilapidated Cottages and a Farm-yard with its unsightly

<sup>\*</sup> In pulling down some of the wall at the south side of the building some years since, it was found that the materials with which it was composed, were of the same nature as those with which the church appears to have been built; this countenances the supposition that the Rectory House, or at least part of it, is coveal with the parish church.

appendages, there is now seen the work of a skilled architect in the elegant lodge with entrance gate, &c., well harmonizing with the mansion and the sacred pile adjoining, with its recently constructed Lich gate.\*

#### LIST OF RECTORS AND CURATES.

Presented by the Bishop of Rochester. Patron.†

Richard de Wendover or Vendene, 1226 and 1238

John Sudbury, in the reign of Henry III.
Abel de Sancto Martino, 1292.
John de Friendsburie, deprived 1329
Hugh de Penebregge, collated 1329
Walter de Henche, died 1360.
William Frysten, 1456
—Wymando, 1465

CURATES.

Jemes Deyer, 1604. Stephen Constantine, 1607 John Preston, 1608. Jasper Greene William Wells, buried September 29th, 1624. John Hodges, A.B., 1627.

<sup>•</sup> The Lich Gate from the Anglo-Saxon lich a corpse, is a shed-covering over the entrance to a Church yard, beneath which the bearers rested when bringing a corpse for burial.

<sup>†</sup> This list is a copy of that in the 8vo. edition of Hasted with some slight additions.

Noah Webb, 1628. Robert Rainsford, 1630. Richard Rathbone, 1634. Thomas Smith, buried September 22nd, 1639. Robert Autrobus, 1640. Joseph Jackson, 1647, Henry Arnold, 1626, ejected 1662. Thomas Pike, 1666 David Barton, 1667. Edmund Lees, 1670. S. Grascombes, 1681. George Wilson, 1682. Thomas Johnson, 1684. Edward Roman, 1686. Henry Maundrell, B.D., 1689.\* Samuel Bowles, 1695. Harrington Bagshaw, 1698. Joseph Simms, A.M., June, 1739. Thos. Bagshaw, 1744, buried Nov. 27, 1787.

• This gentleman wrote the celebrated book of "Travels from Aleppo to Jerusalem."

† The following lines written at the time of that Gentleman's decease, reflect great credit on the writer, and are no doubt, the effusions of a mind fully impressed with the excellence of the man whose character they so pathetically pourtray.

Peace ye foreboding thoughts, what means yon bell: Its mournful sound says something is not well: Heaven guard my friend, his precious health restore, But, ah! he's gone, and Bagshaw is no more! What tears now flow, what heavy sighs arise. What melancholy thoughts, what weeping eyes! Deep is the wound when on the heart imprest, A silent pensive gloom can show it best.

Henry Smith, D.D., 1787. Afternoon Lecturer,
John Baker, A.M.
Rev. James King, A.M.
Rev. J. E. Newell, A.M., the present Curate.

To the Curacy is added, at the discretion of the Bishop of Rochester, £38., out of the interest of £2000., left by Bishop Warner to augment poor Benefices within his Diocese.

The Curate also receives £20 out of the Great Tithes.†

See Consolation mournful droops her head, And Friendship sighs o'er generous Bagshaw dead. How mourn his friends? Hark! the widow's groan, The indigent and orphan join their moan, Relatives, friends, the rich, the poor, the great, United grieve for worthy Bagshaw's fate. Bagshaw is dead! that great and much lov'd name, Let charity unbounded speak thy fame: Whilst thy great actions will for ever save Thy much lov'd memory above the grave: Since, in reflection, grateful they arise, Rever'd for ever by the good and wise. Then cease to mourn. let sighs give place to joy, Bagshaw yet lives in happier climes on high. Him, ripe for bliss, kind heav'n with boundless love, Snatch'd from this earth to dwell in joys above. Thrice happy they whose character shall shine, Lamented Bagshaw, good and long as thine.

† Lysons, p. 317.

#### CHARITIES.

Affixed to the wall, at the Western end of the church is the following list of benefactions to the

parish.

JOHN BUCKRIDGE, Bishop of Ely, by will, bequeathed the sum of £20, to be employed in some yearly benefit for the poor of the parish; with which, and the addition of some little money besides, a purchase was made of a house in Nicol Lane,\* rented at 40s. per annum, which sum, necessary repairs being deducted, was to be distributed every Good Friday, or near that time, among the most necessitous inhabitants.

REV. G. WILSON, late Rector of Chislehurst, at his death, left by will, £200, to be laid out in a purchase, the annual income of which he directed to be appropriated to the benefit of the Charity School in this parish for ever: to which

was added £200 by L. Tolson.

JASPER GREEN, Vicar of Woodnesborough, by will, 1660, gave 20s. yearly to the poor of the parish.

DR. JOHN WARNER, Bishop of Rochester, bequeathed £20 in money, for the use of the

poor in this parish.

HENRY KEIGHTLY, of Bromley, gave by will, 29th May, 1520, out of his estate at Pope St. Eltham, 12 pence yearly towards mending the highways in this parish.

<sup>\*</sup> Nichol Lane is situate in the village of Plaist ....

of London, gave the large silver chalice and

patine for the communion service.

1705. The Rt. Rev. THOMAS SPRAT, Bishop of Rochester, gave a cushion and cloth of black velvet and gold tabby for the communion table, also the tipe pulpit and cushion for the same.

1715. Mrs. HELEN SPRAT, relict of the said Bishop, gave a silver gilt chased chalice and

cover for the communion service.

1734. Mr. THOMAS MORE left a lagacy of

£50 to the Charity School.

1739 Mrs. ELEANOR EMMETT gave to the Charity School £100, and caused 40s. to be annually charged on eight houses adjoining the College, to be given to the poor of the parish by the Churchwardens, on St. Andrew's day.

1796. MR. R. BOOTH gave £100, to the Charity School, to be added to the stock in the

hands of the Trustees.

1808. Mrs. REBECCA BOOTH, widow of the above, gave to the Charity School £100, 3 per cent. reduced Bank annuities, to apply the interest in bread, to be distributed on the second Sunday in the months of January, February, March, October, November, and December, for ever, after morning service, in 20 loaves of the value of 6d. each, to such poor families who receive no alms, as the Trustees think proper.

Mrs. MARTHA PIPPET, late of this parish, by her will, dated 19th June 1834, gave out of the rent of a freehold house, lately occupied by her, situate near the White Hart Inn, in this town. £5 to be paid to the Minister of this parish for ever, every Christmas, to be given in Bread or Coals.

John Lascoe's Decayed Tradesman's Charity Fund.

The Bequest of Mr John Lascoe, late of this parish, Saddler, consists of £2280 consols, (which stands in the names of the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds under the Charitable Trusts' Act, 1853,) the Dividends whereof are are to be paid and applied by four Trustees, Inhabitants of Bromley to be selected by such Trustees, according to certain Rules approved by such Charity Commissioners. Copies whereof and of the Accounts of the Charity, are to be from time to time deposited in the Parish Chest. ELIZABETH LASCOE'S TRADESMEN'S WIDOW'S

CHARITY FUND.

The Bequest of MISS ELIZABETH LASCOE, late of this parish, Spinster, consists of £194 11s. 11d. Consols, (standing in the names of the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds, under the Charitable Trustees Act, 1853,) the Dividends whereof are to be divided by the Trustees for the time being, of JOHN LASCOE'S Decayed Tradesmen's Charity Fund in this parish, amongst 4 Widows of Master Tradesmen, of Bromley, to be selected by such Trustees according to certain Rules approved by the Charity Commissioners; Copies whereof, and of the Accounts of the Charity, are to be from time to time deposited in the parish Chest.

#### CHARITY SCHOOL.

The establishment of a charity school in this place was effected in the year 1716,\* its

\* The following is an extract from the book belonging to the charity, 11th November, 1716. Whereas profaneness and immorality are in a great measure owing to a gross ignorance of the christian religion, especially among the poorer sort of people, and nothing is more likely to promote the practise of christianity and virtue, than an early and pious education of youth. We, whose names are under written, do hereby agree to pay yearly, at four quarterly payments, during pleasure, the several sums of money over and against our names respectively, subscribed for the setting up a charity school in the Parish of Bromley, in the County of Kent, for teaching poor children to read and write, and for instructing them in the knowledge and practice of the christian religion, as professed and taught by the Church of England, and such other things as are useful and suitable to their condition and canacity.

and suitable to their condition and capacity.			
For these purposes	s.	d.	
I, Francis, Bishop of Rochester, subscribe ten pounds			
per ann. if forty pounds more be subscribed by the			
inhabitants, or if not, a fifth part of whatever shall			
be subscribed10	0	0	
I, Thomas Blomer, subscribe forty shillings 2	0	0	
I, Harrington Bagshaw subscribe forty shillings			
per ann 2	0	0	
I, Thomas Washer, subscribe forty shillings per do. 2	0	0	
I, Launcelot Tolson, subscribe three pounds per do. 3	0	0	
I, William Emmett, subscribe three pounds per do. 3	0	0	
I, Richard Graham, subscribe forty shillings per do. 2	0	0	
I, Elizabeth Hawgood, subscribe forty shillings			
per ann 2	0	0	
I, Antho. Ball, subscribe forty shillings per do 2	Ŏ	Õ	
I, Edwd. Wall, subscribe ten shillings per do 0	10	Ŏ	
-, trans, tarrette ton minings per der ter		•	

purposes were those of educating and clothing a limited number of poor children, whose parents were in necessitous circumstances.

	_		-
	£	s.	d.
I, Henry Bagshaw, subscribe more for a friend,			
one pound	1	0	0
I, Anthony Johnson, subscribe one pound per do.	1	0	0
I, Richard Innocent, subscribe one pound per do.	1	0	0
I, William Waldron, subscribe ten shillings per do.	0	10	0
I, Samuel Oxenbridge, subscribe ten shillings per			
ann.	0	10	0
I, John Whitney, subscribe ten shillings per ann.	0	10	0
I, John Cobb, subscribe ten shillings per ann	0	10	0
I, Charles Buck, subscribe ten shillings per do	0	10	0
I, Dan. French, subscribe one pound per do	1	0	0
I, John Hayell, subscribe ten shillings per ann	0	10	0
I, John Lawson, subscribe one pound per do	1	0	0
I, William Fuller, subscribe four shillings per do.	0	4	0
I, John Duny, subscribe ten shillings per do	0	10	0
I, Thomas Done, subscribe forty shillings per do.	2	0	0
I, William Shotten, subscribe ten shillings per do.	0	10	0
I, James Shott, subscribe one pound per ann	1	0	0
I, William King, subscribe one pound per ann	1	0	0
I, Henry Staple, subscribe ten shillings per do	0	10	0
I, John Giles, subscribe ten shillings per do	0	10	0
I, Edwd. Say, subscribe ten shillings per do	0	10	0
I, Martin Woodhams, subscribe ten shills. per do.	0	10	0
I, Thos. Lascoe, subscribe ten shillings per do	0	10	0
I, Rowland Watson, subscribe five shillings per do.	0	5	0
I, William Frederick, subscribe ten shills. per do.	0	10	0
I, Edwd. Giles, subscribe ten shillings per ann	0	10	0
I, John Hulls, subscribe one pound per do	1	0	0
I, Joseph Potter, subscribe ten shillings per do	0	10	0
A person yt. desirous his name may be concealed			
yet subscribes forty shillings	2	0	0
I, John Waldron, subscribe ten shillings per ann.	0	10	0
I, John Weller, subscribe ten shillings per do	0	10	0
I, William Kichley, subscribe ten shillings per do.	0	10	0

It was formerly supported by the interest of £1000 3 per cents., an annual subscription, and

			d.
I, Roger Peak, subscribe forty shillings per do	2	0	0
I, Aaron Gibbs, subscribe one ponnd per ann	1	0	0

Total Sum £53 9 0

To the above subscriptions is subjoined a list of orders for the better regulation of the said school, all which, together with the long train of subscribers, sufficiently prove the interest that was manifested for the instruction of poor children not only in reading & writing, but also in the cause and practice of christianity. So much would not have been said about this school, nor would the above extract have been transcribed, were it not gratifying to look back on upwards of a hundred years and find such a spirit of benevolence existing: this circumstance, together with the acknowledged usefulness of so excellent an institution, would alone, it is hoped, make it appear desirable to show when the same commenced.

In 1729, in consequence of the death of George Wilson, Esq., then late of Chislehurst, in whose will this charity was interested, and in consequence also of the death of some of the original subscribers, a meeting took place on the 29th of September, at which it was reported that through the death or removal of several subscribers, the charity school could not be maintained and carried on without the aid of a new subscription; and, at which meeting, subscriptions to the amount of £32 3s. were raised, to be continued annually during pleasure. At a further meeting, held on the 12th October, 1730, it appeared that all monies received by William Emmett, Esq., and John Freelove, Trustees of the charity school of Bromley, in Kent, from Michaelmas, 1729, to Michaelmas, 1730, amounted to the sum of £49 2s. 9d. and the total amount of monies paid between those periods was £38 16s. 4d., leaving in the hands of the Trustees a balance of £10 6s. 5d.

by an appeal to the benevolence of the public from the pulpit. The number of children first admitted into this school was twenty, ten of whom were boys, and the remaining ten girls,\*

In the year 1814 the above school was discontinued, and one upon the plan introduced by Dr. Bell was shortly after established.

This school, as established in 1814, was supported by voluntary subscriptions and an annual charity sermon. The number of children educated consisted of about one hundred boys, and eighty girls. † Mr. Campling was many years master of the boys, and the education of the girls was entrusted to Mrs. Campling.

The above school was situate in the gravel pits the left hand side of the road, between Bromley and Mason's Hill; the residence of the Schoolmaster was adjoining the school.

<sup>\*</sup> In Lysons' Appendix to his "Environs," we learn that there was a school in the workhouse, entirely supported by private benefactions, for 40 children, who were taught reading and the church catechism: also that the Bishop of Rochester and a few of the principal inhabitants supported a Sunday school for 25 girls, who were partly clothed and educated.

<sup>+</sup>The great advantage derived from the National schools in preparing children for confirmation is so apparent, that those who have already enjoyed the benefit of such a christian education, in a good National school, are found by their examiners much better prepared at the age of thirteen, than most of the acults who have not received the same instruction.

The Rev. Thos. Scott, Note to Lecture 1, p. 13.

Several years ago, the dilapidated state of the old School Buildings was submitted to the consideration of large meetings of the friends of education in the parish, who, almost with one voice, expressed their disapprobation of every suggested plan of repair, and their strong wish for the erection of new Schools on a better site.

A Subscription was at once commenced and steps taken to procure a more eligible situation which difficulty was overcome by the Bishop of Rochester giving an acre of Land in a healthy and more convenient situation, in a field eastward of the College, the Rev. James King and his Trustees having liberally surrendered their interest, in favour of the pro-

posed new schools.

The cost of erecting these Schools including the oak palings and all sundries, amounted to about £2700; towards which the sum of £1125 17s. 3d. was raised by Subscriptions and Donations, by the surrounding Gentry, and a grant of £1100 from the Committee of Council of Education, and the remainder was made up from the sale of the old School Buildings, Ground, &c.. at the Gravel Pits: they are built of substantial brick work comprising three rooms for the separate instruction of Boys, Girls, and Infants; a residence at each end for the Master and Mistress with Gardens and play grounds for the children; the Boys and Girls Schools are fitted up with tiers of parallel

desks, and are otherwise well supplied with Books and general apparatus, the boys School in addition, is lighted with Gas, for the convenience of instructing the members of the Evening School during the winter months.

These Schools were opened on the 6th of July, 1855.—The present total numbers of scholars on the books are, 123 Boys, 111 Girls, and 125 Infants: Mr. Baker, is Master of the Boys School, Miss Husband, Mistress of the Girls, and Miss Prigg, Mistress of the Infants.

#### SUBSCRIBERS AND SUMS SUBSCRIBED.

						£	5.	d.
Archbishop of Can	terbury		•			10	0	0
Mr. Acton .	•			•	•	2	2	0
Mr. Alexander	•		•	•	•	2	2	0
Amicus			•	•	•	2	2	0
Miss Bacon .	•		•		•	5	0	0
Mr. Bath .	•		•			0	10	0
Mr. W. Baxter	•		•	•	•	2	2	0
Mr. T. Baxter	•		•	•	•	1	0	0
Mr. Beckley .	•		•		•	1	1	0
Mr. Bell .	•	•	•	•		10	0	0
Mr. E. Bilke .	•		•		•	20	0	0
Mr. J. Bilke .	•	•	•		•	20	0	0
Mr. Bird .			•	•		5	0	0
Mrs. Blaxland	•			•	•	1	0	0
Mrs. Bowen .	•		•	•	•	0	10	0
Mr. Boyd .	•		•		•	20	0	0
Mr. Child .	•				•	10	0	0
Misses Cooper			•		•	2	0	0
Mr. Cooper, Corn	Factor		•		•	0	10	0
Miss Cristal .	•		•	•	•	2	0	O,
Mr. Dent .	•		•		•	50	0	O,
Mr. Devas .	•	•	•	•	•	5	0	G.
Miss Sarah Dunn						1	0	a

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Mr. Edimann					10 0 0
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Sir Charles F. Farnaby	. Bart.		•		IO O O
Miss Faulder				•	1 1 0
Mr. Frewen		-			5 0 0
Mr. Gurney					2 2 0
Archdeacon Harrison					5 0 0
Mr. Heaysman .					1 0 0
Mrs. Hebbert					10 0 0
Mr. James Ilott .	•	•	•	•	2 10 0
Miss Ilott .	Ĭ			•	2 10 0
Mr. Ingles	•	•	•	•	0 10 0
Mr. Innous	·	•	•	:	0 10 0
Mr. G. Johnson .	•	•	•	•	5 0 0
Mr. Kershaw	•	•	•	:	3 3 0
Rev. Mr. Landon .	•	•	•	:	5 0 0
Mr. Robert B. Latter	•	•	•	•	5 0 0
Mr. Robinson Latter	•	•	•	•	5 0 0
Mr. Long	•	•	•	•	25 0 0
Mr. Mallett	•	•	•	:	1 1 0
Mr. C. Muffett	•	•	•	-	1 1 0
Mr. Musson	•	•	•	•	1 0 0
Messrs. Nash and Luke	•	•	•	•	2 2 0
Mr. B. Nash	•	•	•	•	2 2 0
Mr. Nettlefold	•	•	•	•	0 10 0
Rev. Mr. Newell	•	•	•	•	30 0 0
Miss Newell	•	•	•	•	1 1 0
Rev. Mr. Nisbet	•	•	•	٠	10 0 0
Mr. Noad	•	•	•	•	5 0 0
Mr. Norman	•	•	•	•	25 0 0
	•	•	•	•	10 0 0
Mrs. Ogle	•	•	•	•	2 2 0
Mrs. Palmer	•	•	•	•	50 0 0
Mr. Peerless	•	•	•	•	1 0 0
Mr. Porter	•	•	•	•	
Mr. Pott	•	•	•	•	1 1 0 25 0 0
Mr. William Pott	•	•	•	•	
Miss Potter	•	•	•	•	
Miss Fotter	•	•	•	•	5 O O

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						£	8.	ď	
Mr. Rawlinson		•			,	1	0	0	
Mrs, Roberts .					•	15	0	0	
Miss Robinson						1	1	0	
Mr. Scott, (Sundrie	dge P	ark)				100	0	0	
Mrs. Scott, (Churc	h Ho	use)				100	0	Ö	
For Work by Mrs.	Scot	t.				5 1		ŏ	
Mr. J. M. Smith		٠.		-		5		ŏ	
Mr. Sparks .	:	-	•	•	•	25		Ŏ	
Mrs Spinks	•	•	•	•	•	ĩ	ŏ	ŏ	
Mr. Starling .	•	•	•	•	•	10	-	ŏ	
Mr. Sutton .	•	•	•	•	•	ž	2	ŏ	
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The Misses Telford		•	•	•	٠	100	ō	ŏ	
Friend, by Miss T	alford	•	•	•	•	0 1		ŏ	
Work by Miss To	ford Ford	•	•	•	•	0 1		ŏ	
Work by Miss Tel	nora	•	•	•	•	100		ö	
Mr. Henry Telford Mr. Charles Telfor		•	•	•	•	20		ě	
	a	•	•	•	•				
Colonel Tweedy	•	•	•	•	٠	20	-	0	
Mr. Uridge .	•	•	•	•	•		10	θ	
Miss Waller .	•	•	•	•	٠	50		0	
Mr. Walter .	•	•	•	•	•	1		0	
Mr. Weeks .	•	•	•	•	•	Q	5	Ø	
Mr. J. J. Wells	. • .	•		•	•	5		0	
Mr. White (New I	arm)	•	•	•	•	10		0	
Mr. Wilkinson	•	•	•	•	•	20		0	
Mr. Williams .				•		10	0	0	
A Friend, by Mrs	. Sco	tt				20	0	0	
Sale of Work by	Mrs.	Scott	•			5	0	0	
Z. A. by Mrs. No	ewell	•				5		0	
M. H. by Mrs. N	ewell		_	_		5	O	n	

### CHARITY SERMONS AT BROMLEY. KENT.

The first sermon of which we have an explicit account as to date, &c., in aid of the Bromley charity school, is that preached by the Rev. Dr. Bateman. The following extract commences in 1739, and finishes in the year 1857.

No sermon was preached after the year 1803 until the year 1811; nor in any instance where the date is omitted.

Date.	By whom preached.			A	mou	nt.
•				£	8.	d.
Sept. 16, 1739,	Rev. Dr. Bateman .			14	0	6
Aug. 17, 1740,	Rev. Mr. Knisman .			16	4	3
Sept. 13, 1741,	Rev. Mr. Dowding .	•		14	11	101
Aug. 22, 1742,	Rev. Mr. Harwood .			12	9	0
Oct. 16, 1743,	Rev. Mr. Townley .			14	19	5
July 19, 1744,	Rt. Rev. Joseph, Ld.	Bp.	of			
• . ,	Rochester			18	1	5
Sept. 29, 1745,	Rev. Mr. Clarke			16	9	1
Sept. 28, 1746,	Rev. Mr. Swindon .			18	15	10
Sept. 13, 1747.	Rev. Mr. Harvey .			14	19	0
Sept 25, 1748,	Archbishop of Canterb			28	5	0
Oct. 15, 1749,	Rev. Mr. Pennell .			19	6	9
1750,	Rev. Mr. A. King .			21	5	5
Sept. 29, 1751,	Rev. Mr. Anguish .			15	16	71
Sept. 29, 1752,	Rev. Mr. Lawry .			16	15	74
Sept. 30, 1753,	Rev. Mr. Willis			16	18	2
Sept. 29, 1754,	Rev. Mr. Busby			16	14	8
Sept. 14, 1755,	Rev. Mr. Bate			17	_	5
1756,	Rev. Dr. More				0	91
Sept. 11, 1757,	Ld. Bp. of Rochester		:	24		0
Oct. 8, 1758,		:	•	19	_	6
o, 1100,	20011 2121 7 040	•	•	-0	•	•

Date.	By whom preached.		mou	nt.
		£	8.	d.
Sept. 30, 1759,	Rev. Mr. Anguish	15	9	8
Sept. 14, 1760,	Rev. Mr. Clement	19	0	6
Sept. 27. 1761,	Rev. Mr. Fawkes	14	12	3
Sept. 26, 1762,	Rev. Mr. Acton	17	4	1
Sept. 25. 1763,	Rev. Mr. Bashen	21	9	104
Sept. 30, 1764,	Rev. Mr. Nicholas	19	11	61
Sept. 22, 1765,	Rev. Mr. Lloyd	18	11	6
Sept. 28, 1766,	Rev. Mr. Moore, North Cray	18	6	9
Sept. 27, 1767,	Rev. Mr. Strong	21		4
Sept. 18, 1768,	Rev. Mr. Wilgus	19	14	3
Sept. 24, 1769,	Rev. Mr. Derby	19		9
Sept. 16, 1770,	Rev. Mr. Forster	20	18	71
Sept. 22, 1771,	Rev. Mr. Woolaston	27		7
Sept. 27, 1772,		20		8
Sept. 19, 1773,		21	_	10
Sept. 11, 1774,		22		3
Oct. 8, 1775,	Rev. Mr. Williams	21		.3
Sept. 29, 1776,	Ld. Bp, of Rochester, Thomas			6
Sept. 21, 1777,		24		6
Sept. 27, 1778,		28		ŏ
Sept. 26, 1779,	Rev. Dr. Apelthorp, of Croy-	-0		٠
осри 20, 1170,	don	25	8	0
Sept. 17, 1780,	don			•
	pington	23	10	0
Sept. 16, 1781,	pington			•
oop,,	Foot's Cray	24	10	6
Sept. 22, 1782,	Rev. Mr. Fletcher, Curate of			•
ocp. 22, 1, 02,		26	8	6
1783,	Beckenham	30	16	ŏ
Sept. 12, 1784,	Rev, Mr. Wiseman, of Dart-			•
50pm 12, 1101,		29	12	82
Oct. 9, 1785,	Rev. Mr. Grove, of the Tower	30	ō	0
Oct. 8, 1786,	Rev. Mr. Mason, Lecturer of	•	. •	v
0, 1,00,		21	6	0
Sept. 30, 1787,	Bermondsey		•	٠
D.P. 00, 2101,	Beckenham	40	14	0
Sept. 30, 1788,	Dr. Thomas, Lord Bishop of	10	4.1	U
11chr. 20, 1100,		42	0	0
	1000110001	14	v	v

Date.	By whom preached.	_	mour	-
G 07 1700	Dan Mu Dantailan Visan of	£	· 8.	$d_{\bullet}$
Sept. 27, 1789	Rev. Mr. Partridge, Vicar of Boston	37	5	6
1790	, Rev. John Simons, of St.	0#		•
1791	Paul's Cray	37	16	6
	Westminster School	44	17	4
1793			13	4
1794				
	Rochester	37	14	6
Sept. 26, 1795		28	15	8
Sept. 11, 1796,		33		3
Sept. 10, 1797,		37	Ó	0
Sept. 23, 1798				_
20p,	ham	38	14	6
Oct. 20, 1799	, Dr. Ashe, of Eltham	26	9	8
Aug. 31, 1800,			-	
		41	9	0
Oct. 10, 1802	dalen		•	•
	ter	50	12	7
Oct. 9, 1803	ter			•
0, 1000	ter	42	4	7
Oct. 20, 1811	, Rev. Mr. Fraser, of Woolwich	55	ō	Ö
Nov. 8, 1812				4
Feb. 1814			18	ō
May 29, 1815,				_
,,	Windsor	69	2	0
Dec. 8, 1816	Rev. Mr. White, of the Asylun		2	31
Apr. 12, 1818,			8	o ~
Nov. 21, 1819,			13	6
Feb. 1821,		67	4	0
Feb. 10. 1822,				
	hurst	76	7	6
Feb. 23, 1823,	Rev. Archdeacon Pott	60	7	3
Dec. 21, 1823,				
	ter	53	13	1
July 1824,	Rev. Sir C. F. Farnaby, Bart.,			
,	Wickham	70	0	0
July 1825,	Rev. C. Girdlestone, M.A	<b>72</b>	6	0

Date.	By whom preached.		mou	
<b>.</b>		€.		d.
July 30. 1826,	Rev. Charles Cator		13	0
1827,	Rev. J. Dunn, A.M		10	
1828,			10	6
1830,	Dean of Carlisle		4	6
1831,	Bishop of Rochester	84		1
1832,	Rev. Thomas Ainger	67	2	0
1833,	Rev. Mr. Lindsay	70	8	3
1834,		56	2	6
1835,	Rev. Sir C. Farnaby, Bert	65	1	2
1836,	Rev. Mr. Hutchings	58	15	0
1837,	Rev. John Calthorpe	58	1	0
1838,	Rev. Thomas Dale	66	6	6
1839,	Hon. Rev. H. Courtenay .	56	15	0
1840,	Rev. T. Fuller	51	14	2
1841,	Rev. F. Grant	<b>52</b>	11	2
1842 <i>.</i>	Rev. W. Cureton	41	1	101
1843,	Rev. S. E. Forster	53	5	9
	Rev. R. B. Bourne	48	1	11
1845,	Rev. S. Crooke	46	6	2
1846,	Rev. S. E. Forster	41	18	10
1847,		44	10	0
1848,	Rev. A. Brandram	46	19	9
1849,	Archbishop of Canterbury and			
·	Rev. J. Coldridge	40	19	10
1850,	Archbishop of Canterbury .	54	0	0
1851.	Rev. W. C. Topham	33	11	9
1852,	Rev. J. Macdonald, and Rev.			
•	J. M. Nisbet	47	18	6
1853,	Rev. Alfred Pott	42	4	2
1855,	Rev. T. B. Landon, and Rev.			
	F. Chalmers	49	2	0
1857,	Rev. J. Fenn, and Rev. A. S.			
,	Pott	44	13	6

#### THE COLLEGE.

Browley College was the first of the many Institutions established in this country for the relief and support of the Widows of Clergymen, and it still continues to be the largest and most important of them.\*

It was founded† by WARNER, Bishop of Rochester, who died in the year 1666, in the 86th year of his age. Among other munificent bequests, he directed that his executors; should cause to be built a Hospital or College, for the reception of Twenty Widows of loval and orthodox Clergymen; for the support of whom he charged his manor of Swayton with the annual payment of £450. Each widow was to

DRO ET ECCLESIA THIS COLLEGE FOR TWENTY FOORE WIDOWRS (OF OBTHOBOXE & LOYALL CLEEGYMEN) & A CHAPLIN WAS GIVEN BY JOHN WARNER LATE LD BISHOF OF BOCHESTER 1666

<sup>\*</sup> Over the main entrance of the College is the following inscription surmounted by a mitre and shield bearing the arms of the Diocese of Rochester.

<sup>†</sup> The Building was commenced in 1666, the year of the Great Fire of London, and tradition says that much of the material used in its erection, was carted from the ruins of old London.

<sup>†</sup> The Bishop's Executors were Sir Orlando Bridgman, Lord Keeper; Sir Philip Warwick, Knight; Dr. Thomas Pearce, and Dr. John Lee.

receive £20 yearly; the remaining £50 being intended for the Stipend of the Chaplain, who by a special proviso of the Will, was always to be appointed from Magdalen College, Oxford; of which foundation the Bishop himself had been a Fellow.

At the time of the foundation of Bromley College, £20 was probably a sufficient income for the maintenance of a Gentlewoman; being equivalent to about £60 according to the present value of money. But the cost of living becoming gradually higher, and the money payment remaining the same, it was found in process of time to be inadequate to the purpose for which it was designed.\* Additional benefactions were made during the eighteenth and the early part of the present century, partly to increase the income of the widows, partly to extend their number. For the former purpose about £15,000 was bequeathed; for the latter, £22,000. Other bequests for augmenting the salary of the Chaplain, and for keeping up the necessary repairs of the College, were from time to time made during the last century. But of late years this noble charity seems to have been comparatively

<sup>\*</sup> The wages of a labouring Man in the reign of Charles II. appear to have averaged 4s. a week, they are now estimated to average 12s. a week; it may be considered therefore, that the cost of living is now three times as great as it was then: hence in order to carry out the intention of the Founder, the incomes of the Ladies ought to amount to £60 a year, whereas they receive but £38.

forgotten.\* The only considerable legacy which has been bestowed upon it since 1824, has been that of Mrs. Sheppard in 1840; which, though munificent, and benevolent in the extreme, did not meet the main want of the Institution; viz. an increase of the income of the present pensioners, which would render it equivalent to that originally assigned to them by Bishop Warner.

The College consists of two Quadrangles, built of brick, in the prevailing style of Architecture of Charles II., which style has been imitated in

<sup>\*</sup> The names of the various benefactors are inscribed on four large tablets affixed to the walls of the Chapel, and on some of the panels beneath them.

ON THE FIRST TABLET.			
	Ł	8.	d.
Mrs. Swift, of Bromley, by her will,			
gave for repairs	10	0	0
	500	0	0
	200	0	0
Dr. THOMAS SECKER, Archbishop of			
Canterbury, by his will, for ditto	500	0	0
The Countess Downger Gower, Exx. to			
	500	0	0
		-	-
	2000	0	0
Sea Annuities	5000	0	0
	Mrs. Swift, of Bromley, by her will, gave for repairs  Mrs. Wolfe, of Blackheath, by her will, for ditto  The Rev. Mr. Alexander Jephson, Rector of Crake, in the Diocese of Durham, by his will, gave for ditto  Dr. Thomas Secker, Archbishop of Canterbury, by his will, for ditto  The Countess Dowager Gower, Exx. to her Father, the late Earl of Thanet  The Rev. Mr. W. Hetherington, of North Cray, in his life-time, gave for the benefit of the widows, in Old South Sea Annuities.  Dr. Pearce, Bishop of Rochester gave for augmenting the yearly salaries of the widows and chaplain in Old South	Mrs. Swift, of Bromley, by her will, gave for repairs	Mrs. Swift, of Bromley, by her will, gave for repairs

the modern erections, so that the whole presents a uniform appearance. The houses are forty in number, and each contains a comfortably sized sitting-room and bedroom above, together with a smaller bedroom, kitchen, cellars and entrance passage; several of the houses have an additional bedroom, and in some of them attics have been constructed, thereby greatly enhancing the comfort of the occupants. If the Funds of the College permitted, it would be advisable to add these to all the houses, not only on the ground of increased accommodation, but as a security against fire.

	ON THE SECOND TABLET.	£	<b>8.</b>	d.
1666.	Dr. JOHN WARNER, Bishop of Rochester, founded it, and paid by his Execu-			
	tors for the building	8500	0	0
	the chaplain and widows the yearly sum of	450	0	٥
	His Heir gave for repairs the yearly			^
	The Lord Keeper, Sir Orlando	5	0	U
	BRIDGEMAN, gave for ditto the yearly sum of	10	0	0
1704.	Dr. Thomas Plume, Archdeacon of Rochester, by his will, gave for ditto	100	0	9
1716.	Dr. Thomas Tennison, Archbishop of Canterbury, by his will, gave for			
1797	ditto Mr. Clark, Archdeacon of Norwich,	<b>52</b>	10	0
	gave for ditto	5	5	0
1757.	-Wilcocks, Esq., for building the East wall of the meadow	112	0	0

The Chapel is a small consecrated building 37 feet long by 18 wide, in the same style of architecture as the older quadrangle of the College, of which it formed part. When there were but twenty houses, and the widows performed their own household work, it doubtless afforded ample accommodation; but at the present day when the number of the houses has been increased to 45, and the practice of keeping servants has become general, it is found wholly inade-

	ON THE THIRD TABLET.		
1782	Mr. WILLIAM PEARCE, Brother of	8.	a.
2,04.	Bishop Pearce, left after the decease of		
	his great niece (without issue)12000	0	0
	For building and endowing 10 new		
	houses, and per annum of the interest	_	_
		0	
		0	U
1787.	The Rev. Mr. BAGSHAW left in the		
	3 per cents. to increase the Salary of	_	_
		0	U
1788.	Mrs. Helen Bettenson, by will, for		_
	building and endowing 10 new houses 10000	0	0
1793.	Dr. John Thomas, late Bishop of		_
•	Rochester, left 100	0	0
	to be divided among the widows of the		
	old foundation then resident, and £300		
	to be funded, and the interest applied		
	for repairs.		
	ON THE FOURTH TABLET.		
1821.	Mrs. Goodwin, of Huddlesdon, by will 500	0	0
	Miss JANE BROOKE, of Norwich, for		
	the chapel and supplying the College		
	with water 230	0	•
	with water 230	0	•

quate to the requirements of the inmates. Many of these are prevented from attending for want of room; and those for whom sittings are provided are too numerous for the size of the building, which becomes in hot weather insupportably close, notwithstanding every effort to ventilate it. But for the want of funds already mentioned, it, would be most desirable to enlarge or rebuild the Chapel, providing sufficient space not only for the present occupants, but allowing for their probable increase at some future day.

		£	8.	ď
1822.	Mrs. CARPENTER, for bible and prayer			
	book	10	0	0
1823.	Dr. WALKER KING, Bp. of Rochester,			
	gave £3000 in 3 per cent. Consols,			
	that the interest might pay 3 widows,			
	out-pensioners, £30 a year each	3000	0	0
1824.	Mrs. Rose, (formerly a widow of this		•	•
	College,) by her will, to the widows of			
	Bromley College	8000	0	0
1827	Magdalen College, Oxford, for the	0000	٠	•
1027.	College grove	20	0	Λ
1829.	George Norman, Esq. (late Treasur-	20	٠	٠
	or of the College 22 years) gave in			
	er of the College 32 years) gave in	***	^	_
	his life	500	U	U

On the Panels; 1838, Rt. Hon. Lord Farnborough, £500. 1840, Mrs. Sheppard, £1250, and £6400 for building and endowing a College for the Daughters of the Widows who have resided with their Mothers in Bromley College, 1842, £2000 a further gift to the same and 1843, £2000 for founding outpensions, 1844, £100 annually, half for corporation of the Sons of the Clergy and half for Cholmondely charities, for payment of the Medical officers, 1854, £126 for erecting a Turret and Clock, collected by the late chaplain, Rev. J.T.B. Landon.

On the north eastern corner of the grounds stands the Sheppard Institution already referred to. It consists of five houses built nearly after the plan of those in the adjoining Foundation, and affording the same amount of accommodation. They are allotted to five Maiden Ladies, daughters of clergymen; who have previously resided with their Mothers in the Widows' College. They receive £44 annually, together with gratuitous medical attendance. Mrs Sheppard, the founder of this Charity was the widow of the Rev. Dr. Sheppard, Fellow of Magdalen College, and sister of the late venerable President of that Society.\* A Latin inscription from the pen of the latter, over the central house of the College, records the name of the benefactress, and the purpose for which her Institution is designed.

The entire College occupies about four acres of ground, laid down with turf and planted with trees, affording pleasant walks and a place of tranquil retirement; which accords well with the motive and temper of its benevolent

<sup>\*</sup> The Reverend Martin Joseph Ronth, the greatest Theologian and one of the most learned Scholars of his day, died A. D. 1854, in the hundredth year of his age.

<sup>†</sup> In Dei gloriam. Anno Christi MDCCCXL. Hæc domicilia in usum virginum orbarum, quarum matres in viduarum Collegium vicinum olim adsumtæ fuerant, extrui jussit vidua Thomæ Sheppard, S.T.P. Soc. quondam apud oxom. Magdalenensis. Insuper easdem annuis pensionibus donavit.

Founder. It is most refreshing on a summer day, to turn aside from the dusty road, with its noisy and incessant traffic, into the cool freshness of these retreats, in which every thing seems impressed with the quiet and peace, which most fitly accompany the closing years of life.

The funds of the Institution were originally, and still are, vested in twelve Trustees; seven of whom are official, and five elective. The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishops of London and Rochester, the Dean of St. Pauls, the Judge of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, the Archdeacon of Rochester, and the Chancellor of the Diocese of Rochester are the ex-officio Trustees. The others are usually elected from the Noblemen and Gentlemen whose estates are situate in the neighbourhood of the College. The present Treasurer is the Bishop of Rochester. The Chaplain is the Rev. H. C. Adams, M.A. late Fellow of Magdalen College Oxford. The Medical Attendant, E. A. Williams, Esq.

The Trustees have by Act of Parliament, power to make such orders and rules for the government of the College, as the majority of them shall approve. They also elect the Chaplain and the Widows. It was until recently, usual to fill up all the vacancies among the latter, as soon as three had fallen; but of late years it has been found necessary to keep two of the pensions in abeyance, as the only means of maintaining the fabric of the College in a due state of

repair: another evil arising from the want of funds, which all who have any regard for the Institution would most gladly see remedied.

By an Act of Parliament passed in the 30th year of George the Second, the College is ex-

empted from the payment of taxes.

In the year 1830, the Trustees of this College purchased of Mr. William Makepeace, a messuage and garden adjoining the College grounds, now in the occupation of Mr William Stidolph. This plot of ground was at that time in danger of being built upon; to prevent which, the Rev. Mr. Scott, John Wells, Esq., the then Treasurer, and others unwilling to see the comfort of the inmates invaded, and their beautiful prospect eastward intercepted, raised a sum to purchase it, principally by voluntary contributions; and promptly took such steps as afterwards caused a completion of the sale to the Trustees, who continued Mr. Stidolph in the possession of the premises.

These grounds (about two acres) occupy the whole length of the east wall of the College garden, and are cultivated as nursery gardens.

A large Mulberry tree planted by the grandfather of the present occupier, forms a pleasing feature in these gardens, especially to the rising generation, when its fruit is ripe, as well as a shady retreat for those more advanced in years.

#### INSCRIPTION ON SHEPPARD'S COLLEGE.

TO THE GLORY OF GOD ERECTED AND ENDOWED IN THE YEAR OF CHRIST 1840

FOR THE RECEPTION OF
DESERVING UNMARRIED DAUGHTERS
UPON LEAVING
THE ADJOINING COLLEGE AT THE
DEATH OF THEIR MOTHERS,
BY THE WIDOW OF
THOMAS SHEPPARD, D.D.,
SOME YEARS FELLOW
OF MAGDALEN COLLEGE, OXFORD,
AT THE BEQUEST OF
THE PIOUS AND MUNIFICENT

THE FIRST STONE WAS LAID, AND THE DIVINE BLESSING IMPLORED UPON THIS INSTITUTION BY THE

FOUNDRESS.

RIGHT REV. GEORGE MURRAY, D.D.,
LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER,
AND A TRUSTEE OF THIS CHARITY,
ON THE FIRST DAY OF OCTOBER
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD,
1840.

HIS GRACE WILLIAM HOWLEY, D.D., ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, TRUSTEE.

JOHN WELLS, Esq., TRUSTEE AND TREASURER.
THOMAS SCOTT, B.D., CHAPLAIN OF BROMLEY COLLEGE.

#### A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF

#### THE LIFE OF BISHOP WARNER.

Dr. John Warner, Bishop of Rochester, and Founder of Bromley College, was the son of Herman Warner, citizen of London, and was born in the parish of St. Clement Danes, Strand, about 1585. He was sent to Oxford in 1598; took his degree of B.A. in 1602, and commenced M.A. in June, 1605. in which year he was elected to a fellowship: this he resigned in 1610. He was appointed governor of Sion College, London, and was made Chaplain to Charles I. In 1633, he attended the King on his coronation in Scotland, and the same year was collated by him to the deanery of Lichfield. In 1637, the King advanced him to the bishopric of Rochester, and notwithstanding the small revenue attached to this see, Dr. Warner resigned his deanery and his prebend, besides a donative of £200. per annum, in Kent, probably Barham, or Bishop's Bourne, of which, it is said, he was parson. In 1640, he assisted the King with £1,500, on the Scotch invaion of England, and gave his attendance, when there was only one prelate besides himself, in the council at York. The same year he had the courage to oppose the præmunire in the house of Peers, and asserted the rights of the bishops sitting in Parliament. With equal zeal he joined in the declaration made by the clergy in 1641. All this opposition to the changes then proposed soon appeared to be fruitless, and in August of the same year he was impeached, with twelve other bishops, for acting in the convocation of 1640, making their canons and constitutions, and

granting his Majesty a benevolence. After the death of Charles I., having refused to pay any tax or loan to the Parliament, his estates, ecclesiastical and temporal, were sequestered; his books seized; and all bonds due to him from any person whatever were released. He would probably also have been imprisoned, had he not escaped into Wales, where he led a wandering and insecure life for three years. After his Majesty's garrisons were given up, he was forced to compound for his temporal estate, now four years sequestered, at the rate of the tenth part real and personal; and having, after a heavy deduction, saved a considerable part of his estate, he devoted it to the assistance of his suffering brethren. and was a great support to such of the sequestered clergy and their families as were reduced to absolute poverty. He sent £100. to Charles II. in his exile, designing to continue remitting money as he could afford it, but he was betrayed by his servant, who discovered the matter to Cromwell, and he would have suffered for it, had he not prevailed on the treacherous informer by money to go into Ireland.

On the restoration, Bishop Warner was replaced in the see of Rochester, and enjoyed it till his decease, on the 11th of October, 1666. He was interred in Rochester Cathedral, where a handsome monument was soon after erected to his memory, in a small chapel at the east end of the north aisle, according to his desire, with the following inscrip-

" Hic jacet cadaver Johannis Warneri totos annos XXIX. Episcopi Roffensis, in spem Resurrectionis ad vitam Æternam."

He married the widow of Dr. Robert Abbot, Bishop of Salisbury, and had issue by her one daughter, his heiress, who by her hasband, Thomas Lee, of London, had a son, John, to whom, and his sons,

Bishop Warner bequeathed so considerable an estate as surprised those who knew the extent of his charities, and the small income arising from his bishopric. He expended or bequeathed to the following objects nearly £20,000:—to the Demies of Magdalen College, Oxford, in eleven years, £1,100; repairing St. Paul's, London, £1,050; the redemption of captives, &c., £2,500; Library of Magdalen College, £1,200; Cathedral of Canterbury, for fonts and library, £1,200; Rochester, towards a library, £500; repairs of that Cathedral, and by his will, £1,000; for augmenting poor vicarages in the diocese of Rochester, £2,000; paid by his executors for the building of Bromley College, £8,500; for repairs of the palace, £800; total, £19,850.

Another or Bishop Warner's foundations was that of four scholarships in Baliol College, Oxford, for four young men of Scotland, to be chosen from time to time by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Bishop of Rochester. Each was to have £20 yearly until M.A., when they were to return to their own

country in holy orders.

Bishop Warner is said to have been an accurate logician and philosopher, and well versed in the Fathers and Schoolmen. He was a man of a decided character, equally cheerful and undaunted. In his manner he had less of the courtier than of the kind friend, always performing more than he professed. Of his religious principles, the only evidence we have is in a letter addressed to Bishop Jeremy Taylor.

The decendants of the excellent bishop are the highly respectable and estimable family of Lee Warner, of Tiberton Court, Hereford, and Walsingham Abby, Norfolk. *Bromley Magazine*, p.p. 209, 210.

# BROMLEY HILL.

The mansion called by that name stands about a half-a-mile north of Bromley, the Park extends about a mile from near the Laurel, along the left side of the London road. Two lodge gates with comfortable cottages form the entrances on that side of the park. There is another lodge of antique appearance in Beckennam lane, the aged occupant of which, although bent with age, appears to enjoy the blessing of

good health.

The following description is gived by Cum-BERLAND of this beautiful residence and grounds, the property of Colonel Long and which we have taken the liberty to extract:-"If in this sketch of Bromley Hill it shall be admitted that I have drawn my pictures from grounds inimitably disposed, both as regarding fitness and elegance, it will be allowed that I have selected a perfect model; and in it a point to rest upon, to prove that it is not without reason our nation is justly celebrated for the judgment displayed in disposing the ornaments of some of the many villas which surround the British Metropolis. From this antique terrace the view commands, at times, St. Paul's Church, its dome and turret towers, appearing as if banded with white; and beyond extend the Highgate and Hampstead Hills, forming a broad line of background, but that which renders the scene more remarkably interesting is, that you see nothing of London except its spires, and the great church seems to arise like a vision from the edge of a wooded hill; -Shooter's Hill, Blackheath, and best of all Sydenham Common, makes 'a noble distance." Referring to the works of art to be found in the mansion, that gentleman observes,-" The pictures are well chosen, a Reynolds, a Gainsborough, a Mola, a Teniers, a Poussin, and above all, a landscape by Rubens, that cannot be matched for excellence, and although not one of his largest, is one of his very best. One only thing we have to regret, that we can there find so few of Mrs. Long's incomparable views, who certainly is admitted to be in many instances on a footing with the most studious artist of the present day, and whose landscapes exhibited at the Royal Academy have not often been excelled, even when put in competition with practical professors, a talent falsely said to be rarely carried to perfection without the strong motive power of interest, and entirely contradictory to the assertion of one of our Northern Reviewers, who not long ago maintained rather stoutly, that without the stimulous of want, art could never be advanced onward to perfec-

"But now let us proceed to the grounds,— Taking your view from the first handsome ash on the margin of the stream, whose trout-runs cross and re-cross you with a rapidity that affords continual music; you next pass under a very elegant little sexagon temple of rustic work, with circular roof of heath, of a fan-like form, and paved with sections of small trees. driven into the earth and sawed off to a complete level; where is an ample bench or two; and one of its sides opens to a picturesque bend of the brook, of the current of which you acquire from this point two views, while the margin is elegantly ornamented by trees of very tasteful forms, and happily diversified in the direction of their stems, which enhance the charms of this rural seat, whose lining is ivv branches naturally disposed, and over which the vegetation of the living plant is rapidly advancing; a little emerald islet, to which a green alley leads and rude rail, (the kingfisher's perch.) terminates the perspective of this pretty fore-ground. A little farther on, where the water accompanies the path, you take in from a bench a long line of brook both ways, the haunt of trouts; and a carp-stew, concealed in the wood is near at hand. Frequently also in this walk breeding pheasants rise up from the sedges, alarmed at the tread of feet or sound of voices. A murmuring note next attracts our attention, which we soon find to proceed from a broad cascade, that falling continually from a head of water, meets and augments the querulous and digressive stream.; the side scenes are

well calculated to show it to advantage, being magnificently clad with round-leaved water-docks in groups. This fall is about two yards in height and ten in breadth, and pellucidly transparent at the head, exhibiting its spotted and spangled bottom, broken with aquatic plants into masses of varied tints.

"The path now enters the meadow, and winds along the side of a sheet of water, on which moor-hens, dab-chicks, and even bitterns are often in winter seen; a little further the aquatic features of this varied spot, introduces us to three of the most transparent springs on earth, of from eight to twenty yards apart, edged with wild flowers, and so extremely clear that every coloured pebble is as distinctly seen at bottom, though pretty deep, as if they were in the hand, broken also with two or three sorts of green weeds and water-plants, that art cannot imitate. Finer water cannot be drunk.

"This delicious resting place—a garden among streams, and clear springs trickling over bright gravel and sand, is best contemplated from a rustic temple of six ample sides paved with coarse slabs, and whose centre exhibits a circular and deep basin, from whence the principal spring issues from beneath rocky caverus of aggregate stone, composed of pebbles, black flints, rounded by attrition, intermixed with shells of oysters. A low parapet of the same materials surround the spring, in the middle this parapet is opened to form a lip,

to discharge the continual overflow of the living water, which falling over a few stones, yields a lulling sound, that fascinates and enchants us to the spot, flowing away in a constant current, meandering among flower-beds and grasses till out of sight. The interior of the building is supported by an inner circle of pillars of rude stems, with a rail all round to lean on, to enable us to contemplate the bottom with security; a precious vase this is indeed, that might satisfy man—if he could ever be satisfied!

"A dark and close alder leads from these spring-heads by a wicket-gate, and from hence a short winding excursion may be made to the left of the spring; following the brook meandering through low woods, and leading to a couple of benches, the first of which gives a pleasing view up the stream, the second is two springs bubbling up in basins, that deliver their waters with small rippling falls, and are over-hung with poble clusters of water-docks."

The book from which we have taken the above lengthy quotation, was published in 1816, since which time art has not been idle in and about this mansion, exquisite taste is displayed in the whole arrangement, but no written description can give the reader more than a faint idea of the charms that await the visitor at every nook and corner of the grounds.

A wind-mill formerly stood on the high ground on the south-side of the park, but has

long since disappeared.

# SUNDRIDGE.

This beautiful Mansion is situate about a mile from Bromley to the left of the foot path leading to Chislehurst. The owner evidently wishing others to enjoy the beauties of nature which present themselves from this spot, has placed seats here and there under the trees, on the high ground of the Park, overlooking the Mansion. The House stands on a gentle slope well sheltered from the north winds by a thick wood at the back. A small rivulet winds its way down the valley a little distance from the house during the greater part of the year, which empties itself into the Ravensbourne.

Sundridge is a manor and seat, situate towards the north-east of this parish, among the woods, formerly the residence of a noted family of the name of Blund or Blound, anciently lords of the Guisnes, in France; one of them had three sons who came to England with the Conqueror: and of these one returned to France. and the other two, Sir Robert and Sir William. remained in England: the former settling in Suffolk, and the latter in Lincolnshire. these the several families of Blount in this kingdom are decended: of a younger branch was Peter le Blund, owner of this place in the reign of Henry III., in the 39th year of which Prince, he was made constable of the Tower of London. His descendant Edward le Blund,

was possessed of Sundridge, 20th EdwardIII., 1345, as appeared by the Book of Aids, for levving 40s. on every knights' fee throughout the kingdom, for making the Black Prince a knight, in which Edward le Blund was assessed for one fourth of a knight's fee, which John le Blund held in Bromley of the Bishop of Rochester; soon after which the family ended in a female heir, who carried this seat in marriage to the Willoughby's; from which name, after some years, it passed, by purchase, to Booth, whose decendant, William Booth, was found by inquisition to die seized of the manor\* of Sundridge, in the 1st Henry VII., held of the Bishop of Rochester by knight's service, and by the service of making suit at the court of the palace aforesaid, and that Robert Booth was his son and heir: in whose descendants Sundridge continued till Sith Booth, Esq., dying without male issue, one of his daughters and co-heirs carried it in marriage to Thomas Bettenham, of Shurland in Pluckey, Esq., whose great grandson, Stephen Bettenham, gent., gave it in marriage with his daughter Anne, to Robert Pynsent, third son of John Pynsent, of Chudleigh,

<sup>\*</sup> A manor consists of a grant of land previous to the reign of Edward I., either from the king, or the lord of the adjoining manor, to which is annexed a certain degree of jurisdiction as court Baron, &c. In the case of Sundridge and Simpsons, the lands were granted by the Bishop of Rochester, to whom the lords owed suit and service, and were consequently bound to attend in courts.

Devon, and Prothonotary of the Common Pleas; he died at Sundridge Dec 30th, 1679. Ætat 74, without issue, and was buried in the chancel of the church. This gentleman was succeeded in the estate and seat by Thomas Washer, of Lincoln's Inn, Esq., and Barrister at Law, who dying in 1749 without male issue, Mary, his only daughter and heiress, carried it in marriage to William Wilson, Esq, High Sheriff of the County in 1766, who died possessed of it in August, 1776. In 1792, the manor was sold by his grandson, William Wilson. Esq. to Edward G. Lind, Esq.; and in 1796, was purchased by Sir Claude Scott, Bart., who pulled down the old house, and erected near its site a handsome mansion for his own residence. At his decease, in the year 1830, the estate came into the possession of the late Sir Samuel Scott; a monument to whose memory has been erected in Bromley Church: and records of Lady Scott's benevolence will long exist in the grateful hearts of many poor families in the neighbourhood.

Samuel Scott, Esq, the present proprietor, became possessed of this estate at the decease of his Father, in 1849. He also possesses the generous disposition of his ancestors, and the esteem of all who know him; he holds the office of Treasurer to the Bromley Savings' Bank.

The architecture of this building is superb; and it is, perhaps, one of the most magnificent structures in the county of Kent. The grounds have been laid out with admirable taste, and are kept in the best possible condition, the Park is spacious and decorated with all the variety of nature. In this park near the Lodge, on the right hand, is a Chalk pit, now disused, supposed to have formerly led into subterraneous passages in the Hill; the entrance this way has not been used for many years and is now stopped up: a staircase on the side of the Hill leads down into them.\*

On the rising ground to the left hand may be seen a Rock Pit, the rock here is composed of oyster shells in a perfect state, intermixed with pebbles, small irregular stones, sand, &c.

Underneath this Rock which forms the upper strata at this point, and which is being used for building purposes, are several layers of various kinds of pebbles, gravel, &c.

There are now to be seen as well in the heaths, near Crayford, as in the fields and woods hereabout. many artificial caves, or holes in the earth, some of which are ten, some fifteen, and others twenty tathoms deep; at the mouth, and thence downwards, they are narrow, like the tunnel or passage of a well, but at the bottom they are large and of great compass, insomuch that some of them have several rooms or partitions one within another, strongly vaulted and supported with pillars of chalk, Mr. Hasted supposes them to have been excavated by the Saxons; but others, and among them the learned Edward King, Esq., have conceived them to be the works of the Britons, because Diodorus Siculus expressly tells that the Britons did lay up their corn in subterraneous repositories. Cook's description of Kent.

Then follows a layer of rock about a foot thick, formed entirely of Oyster Shells, which projects in some places several feet, and would appear to be strong enough to bear a great weight at its extremity; underneath that is a bed of smaller shells of a different kind which crumble to dust as soon as touched, the whole rests on a bed of fine white sand. The surprise created at first sight of such masses of shells, may lead the visitor to suppose he is near the residence of some bygone oyster-loving Ogre, of fabulous gastronomic propensities, or that the clearing of Billingsgate had formerly been carted here; but before he has settled the point in his own mind, he will probably be told that it is a common thing to find the same kind of rock at various depths below the surface, in digging wells in many parts of Kent: the same kind may be seen in the cuttings made for the Railroad between Bromley and Beckenham; similar fossils are also common in some of the cuttings on the Dover Railway.

At what period of the world's history these deposits occured, the fair fields of Kent covered by the liquid element, and the Fisherman's boat gliding over our hills, must be left to the interesting science of Geology to discover; the Moralist will find ample food for reflection in a blade of grass or withered leaf; to him the formation of a Flower is equally interesting with that of a Fossil.

In the year 1823, the path which previously led into this park, was, by an order of Magis-

trates, stopped up, and one more convenient to

the public granted.

In following this Foot-path beyond the park proceeding towards Chislehurst, the first thing that attracts notice after crossing the Elmstead Road, is an antiquated stump of a tree of unusual dimensions, in the last stage of decay; close by, and in dangerous proximity to the path on the right, is a large and deep Pit, which possibly had some connexion with the subterranean passages in the hill at some time; after getting safely through the small copse in which the above are situate, and crossing a small rivulet, you come into another large Park belonging to Camden Place. You now look about you in vain for a house; a little further and you will see some sign of human habitation: some timber lying about, and carpenters probably at work; as you go up that hill you will be likely to be walking over men at work some 40 feet below, digging the chalk for making lime. The Geologist and Antiquarian will be fully repaid the trouble of a short walk to the chalk pits at this place—to the latter it may not be amiss to inform him that within the last year has been exposed one of those early British Caves whose contents have thrown so much light upon the customs and manners of our forefathers. That this cavern has been brought to light, is due to the antiquarian zeal of our townsmen, Mr. James Ilott. Mr. Latter, Mr. R. Latter, and Mr. Woolryche; the latter

Gentleman in searching for fossils, had his attention called to a cavity in the chalk, filled with dark earth, in which had been found some bones; on removing a quantity of the earth, he came upon several large bones, and a skull of a horse; after this, he, with the above Gentlemen removed the whole of the earth from the cave, which was found to be 11ft. 8in. at its base, and 17ft. high, and of the decanter shape, common to the early British caves. In removing the earth they found numbers of bones of the horse, ox, wolf, deer, and horns; and what gives a date to the cave, early British pottery; without entering into any theory as to its early use, it may be as well to state that the bones are perfect, and from the situation of the cave, some 30 feet below the surface, and cut out of the chalk rock, it is improbable that it was intended for their reception: diligent search was made for human bones and implements of war but none were found; it is still under investigation and there is reason to suppose that there are other caves to be explored.

Chislehurst is a short mile from this spot; it is a rather scattered but very pleasant Village, it contains about 2000 Inhabitants, and boasts of having one of the best cricket grounds in

England.

The Spire of the Church was destroyed by fire in 1857, and other parts of the Church

much injured.

# SIMPSONS PLACE.

SIMPSONS is an estate in this parish, formerly of much greater account than at present; it was anciently owned by the families of the Bankwell, who resided at Lee, in the neighbourhood. In the 31st of Edward I., 1302, John de Banquel, was possessed of this estate, and William de Banquel died possessed of it in the 20th of Edward III., and Thomas his heir; he died in the 35th year of the same reign holding a great quantity of land in the neighbourhood, and left three sons, John, William, and Robert Bankwell, who became his heirs in gavelkind,\* and on a division of their inheritance, William, the second son, became entitled to his father's estate in Bromley. On the extinction of that family, the property passed to that of the Clarkes, one of whom, in the reign of Henry V., erected a strong but small building of stone, with an embattled wall, and encircled it with a deep moat. In the reign of Henry VI. it was possessed by John Simpson, who purchased it, and resided here, and having much improved the mansion it acquired his name, by which it has ever since been called.

<sup>\*</sup> By gavelkind is meant an equal distribution of landed property among all the sons of a family.

Gavelkind, and an absolute exemption from vassalage, were the two principal laws and usages retained by the Normans at the Conquest.

In the 11th of Edward IV., Robert Simpson died possessed of this seat, and his descendant Nicholas, alienated Simpsons to Alexander Bassett, who, in the reign of Henry VIII. conveyed it by sale to Sir Humphery Style, of Langley, this estate being then held in socage.\*

His descendant, Humphrey, dying without male issue, his only daughter and heiress carried this estate in marriage to Sir John Elwill, Bart., who dying in 1727 without issue, Edward, his brother, succeeded him, and in 1732 conveyed Simpsons to Hugh Raymond, of great Suling, in Essex. He settled it on his only son Jones Raymond, Esq., in tail general, with remainder to his daughter Amy, married to Peter Burrell, Esq., and her issue male. On the death of Jones Raymond in 1738, without issue, Peter Burrell, Esq., of Beckenham, in right of his wife, possessed it; after the death of whose widow it descended to her grandson, Sir Peter Burrell, Kt., afterwards Lord Gwydir.

A lease of the estate was granted to Samuel Rickets, Esq., who sold it to Colonel Jackson, about the year 1803. This estate was sold with other estates, by Lord Gwydir, in 1830, to Robert Veitch, Esq., whose gardener occupied the house; which had been the farm resi-

Socage is an ancient tenure by which lands were held on condition of ploughing the lord's land, and doing the operations of husbandry without charge.

dence of Jeremiah Ringer, upwards of fifty years preceding; It is now the property of Colonel Tweedy, of Bromley House. Broken walls, covered in some places by ivy and elder, are all that remain of that once stately mansion, and the Gardener may be seen propagating cabbages and other culinary plants on the spot that was once sacred to the cook and her confederates.

The present ruins, formed of brick and timber, appears to have been erected on a part of the foundation of an ancient structure; pro-

bably about the sixteenth century.

There is no doubt that the deep most extended close to the walls of the ancient castellated building on the North, East, and South sides, and that the angles were secured by a strong buttress projecting into the most- The whole extent of foundation of the eastern wall. together with the two buttresses which still remain, are supposed to be about thirty-three or thirty-four yards in length, and the breadth of the building about thirteen or fourteen yards. These foundations are built of large flints intermixed with stone, and cemented with strong lime mortar. It is highly probable that the building was square, and entered by a drawbridge on the Western side, and from the circumstance of the wall not extending to the verge of the most had a small terrace on the East.

The apartments inhabited by the Lord of

the domain probably either lined the outer wall, and were lighted from a small court in the centre, or consisted of an isolated building within the walls, as was frequently the case in castellated mansions, and perhaps the best plan that could be adopted for the purpose of defence.

The ancient road leading to Simpsons, lay through a part of what is now the pleasure

grounds of Colonel Tweedy.

There is a path, leading from the high road on the right, near the seat of C. F. Devas, Esq.,

to Pickhurst Green and Hayes.

Tradition claims for Simpsons, the honor of having been the temporary residence of more than one Sovereign; Henry VIII. is said to have occupied it, but I have not been able to trace any circumstance in support of it except that Fisher, bishop of Rochester, had assisted him in writing his book against Martin Luther, which book procured the King from the Pope, the title of "Defensor fidei," The Bishop afterwards offended his royal patron by refusing to sign in favour of his marriage with Ann Boleyn, and still more, by refusing to acknowledge the king's supremacy, for which offence he was beheaded.

Charles II. is also said to have made it his occasional residence, which is not improbable, as Bishop Warner, (well known as founder of the College,) had assisted him by remittances of money during his exile, and advocated the

royal cause so zealously, that his estates both temporal and ecclesiastical, were sequestered, and he was obliged to fly for safety into Wales, where he led a wandering and insecure life for three years.

There can be no doubt that both these Kings were on terms of personal intimacy with the Bishops of Rochester, who had been of great assistance to them, the former in a literary, and the latter in a pecuniary point; but the fact of those Kings having occupied Simpsons, cannot

be established by these circumstances.

The curious in such matters are informed that Simpsons like most other old Castles and Ruins, has had its share of imaginary spectral visitors; the descendants of the last occupiers, relate tales of strange noises with other alarming et ceteras, to be seen and heard there at night, and the writer is credibly informed that few of the lower class would be easily induced to pay a lonely visit to the ruins in the small hours of the night.\* The march of intellect together with that of the Railway Engine will no doubt soon disturb the grisly Ghost and frighten all such Phantoms from that locality.

<sup>• &</sup>quot;This time-stricken mansion offers a favourable opportunity for any daring ghost to play his vagaries; and it does not seem to have been neglected: for I was solemnly assured that noises had been often heard in and about the house, sometimes as if the furniture fell down and broke to pieces; and that once a lady appeared dressed in white, with a lighted torch in her hand, accompanied by a gentle-

#### FARWIG PLACE.

Farwig Place, deriving its name from this gentleman who first built upon this spot, is deserving notice on account of its improvement to the parish. It is situate on the Northern side of the college, between that building and Plaistow. and is chiefly the residence of respectable mechanics. The ground on which the row of houses is erected, on the right hand side immediately leading out of the college field, was formerly a garden in the possession of an inhabitant of the town, and continued as such till the purchase of the premises by Mr. Farwig. The whole of the buildings at this place have been erected within the last thirty-one years. It has been much enlarged within the last few years, the dwellings are mostly small cottages with gardens attached, the gas works in the neighbourhood gives employment to some of the inhabitants, and many who are employed elsewhere reside there, as rents are not so high there as in Bromley. The "Farwig Arms" is

man in dark clothes, with a high-crowned broad-brimmed hat which flapped over the sides of his face !!!—After this very curious occurrence I presume my reader is prepared to hear any other wonder; and therefore I take the opportunity of informing him there is a tradition, that Bromley old Church was attempted to be built at Wigmore, but what was built by the men by day was carried away by night, and the stones placed were it now stands, so that the architect was at length obliged to acquiesce, and then the building regularly proceeded!!! Vide Dunkin.

the most conspicuous and neatest looking building in the place, having lately undergone considerable alteration and improvements, and is the only inn there at present.

## PLAISTOW.

Plaistow is part of the parish of Bromley, and noted as the residence of many respectable inhabitants. It is situate on the Northern side of Bromley, about three quarters of a mile from the town.

Plaistow Lodge, the seat of Robert Boyd, Esq., at the Western extremity of this hamlet, is its principal ornament, and which, from the tasteful grounds and numerous improvements since it has been in the possession of the present family, is rendered one of the most elegant seats in the county. There is an exceedingly neat lodge to these premises, situate on the top of Bromley Hill on the London Road.

This mansion was some years ago the residence of Peter Isaac Thelluson, Esq., a gentleman of extensive property, who died in the year 1797, and who by will, vested the whole of his immense fortune in the hands of trustees, with directions to apply the accumulating interest to the purchase of land, the whole of which, in case of failure of male issue from his immediate descendants, after three generations, he directed to be sold, and the produce of the sale to be applied, under

the direction of Parliament, to enable the sinking fund to liquidate the national debt.

In 1810 this seat was occupied by Thomas Maltby, Esq., under a lease from the Trustees to Mr. Thelluson's will; and in 1812 purchased by the Honourable Hugh Lindsay; the brother of Lord Balcarras and Lady Hardwick; Walter Boyd Esq., was its next owner; it is now the property of his son Robert Boyd, Esq.

# FREELANDS.

Freelands is the property of Samuel Scott, Esq., and the residence of Charles Pott, Esq. The front of this mansion is extremely neat, and commands an extensive view over the neighbourhood of Bromley and other parishes; it is situate on the Eastern extremity of the parish between Plaistow and Widmore. About the year 1700, it was the property of John Whalley, Esq.; afterwards it came into the possession of Robert Nettleton, Esq., Governor of the Russia Company. The lease which was granted to the latter gentleman, passed through the hands of Mr. Wells and Mr. Adair, into those of Thomas Raikes, Esq., once Governor of the Bank. In 1810 it was in the possession of Charles Browne. Esq., who, upon the death of Mrs. Browne, left it: and previous to its being occupied by the present tenant, Mr. Pott, was the residence of Mrs. Moore, widow of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

#### WIDMORE.

WIDMORE\* is a village in the parish of Bromley, situate about one mile Eastward from the town, and contains about forty houses.

At this place there are many very pleasant residences, among which Bickley may be reckoned the most elegant. This structure occupies a noble eminence, and was erected in 1780, by John Wells, Esq.; material alterations and additions were afterwards made by his son and successor, William Wells, Esq., who rendered the whole a most commodious residence. estate subsequently descended to his Son John Wells Esq., who most indefatigably discharged the arduous duties of Magistrate in the division of Bromley, for nearly 30 years: during whose possession, in 1825, the old road from Bromley to Chislehurst, which directed its course through what now forms part of the land belonging to Bickley, was, by an order of Justices, stopped up, and a new road, saving a considerable distance to travellers, opened.

This improvement deserves notice, though perhaps only those persons who frequently had occasion to travel on the old road can sufficiently appreciate the great advantage the public derive from the alteration.

<sup>\*</sup> Supposed to take its name from some former owner, it is sometimes written Wigmore.

The park, though not extensive, derives considerable beauties from the inequalities and extent of view, the sight of which, from the top of Chislehurst Hill, is truly picturesque. It adjoins the grounds of Camden Place, once the

residence of Prince Esterhazy.

Two handsome mansions in the Elizabethan style of architecture have lately been erected here, the one on the right hand side of the road leading to Southborough, being the residence of Charles Telford, Esq., and the other on the left a little further on, is the residence of Henry Telford, Esq., and his two excellent Sisters, so well known in the neighbourhood, as actively exerting themselves in every benevolent scheme. Their former residence, which stood nearly opposite the Bird-in-Hand, was destroyed by fire in the year 1855.

Shawfield Lodge is a handsome seat, built about seventy years ago, by John Harrison, Esq. At his death, in 1814, it became the property of his brother, Andrew Harrison, Esq., afterwards it was occupied by the Rev. William Kindleside; and is now the residence of David

Noad, Esq.

Two Cottages were built in 1856, on a piece of waste land, the gardens of which are bounded

by a road every way.

An ancient gateway in this place attracts the attention and excites the admiration of every passer by, it bears the initials A.B. and the date 1599; an ivy tree overhanging this gateway has

formed itself into a canopy of extraordinary beauty, and being of unusual size, renders this

spot particularly interesting.

The House, which stands a little back, and which is attached to the gateway is of ancient date. Some suppose, and it is probable, that at some former period it was the chief mansion in this part of the parish; but no tradition of the name of the family by whom it was built or originally occupied can now be traced.

On the green is a small chapel belonging to the Methodists, erected about eighty years ago: the congregation is but small, and the public worship is chiefly conducted by the local preachers. There are two extensive brick-fields in the vicinity, belonging to Coles Child, Esq., and Mr. W. Pascal, which gives employment

to many of the inhabitants.

#### SOUTHBOROUGH.

SOUTHBOROUGH is a small village containing about sixteen houses situated about two miles south east from Bromley, and is principally remarkable for the tradition of its having anciently been the court of a baron, who possessed and exercised the power of judging capital as well as minor offences.

Mr. Freeman relates that the aged inhabitants reported, that there was formerly a gatehouse, the windows of which were strongly grated with iron bars, and that it had been used as a prison; and further affirmed that, at a more remote period, there stood a courthouse on the premises, and that executions occasionally took place on a spot not far distant.

Some of the premises here, from their appearance, would indicate their erection to have taken place many years ago. Among the pleasant seats to be found in the neighbourhood are those of the late Mrs. General Brown, the Rev. J. E. Newell, and J. J. Wells, Esq.

George III is reported to have frequently visited Southborough; a table now at the White Hart, Bromley, is prized as being one he used to enjoy a social meal at with his old friend

Governor Cameron, at Southborough.

The antiquarian may find relics of olden times in the small road-side inn, called the 'Chequers,' the sign-board swinging in a tree, will direct his attention to a little house close by, in which he will find the worthy host or his better half, ready to attend to his commands: he may not be able to see them at first, if it should be a dull day, but a few moments will restore his power of seeing sufficiently to perceive a table of very antique construction, made, one would suppose from its massive construction, when timber was of little value. The old-fashioned chimney covers nearly one third of the room, two or three persons could go up it at one time with ladders. The fire-place of this really oldfashioned house has been disfigured by placing a kitchen range in the centre instead of the old highly polished steel dogs, which used to grace the hearth. The inhabitants have gloomy forbodings of the effect of the railway, they observe their woods disappearing, and believe the day is not far distant, when a green tree will be a refreshing sight, and a Christmas log, the future generation will know nothing of, except from books, or as having heard their fathers speak of it.

#### MASON'S HILL

is a small hamlet in the parish of Bromley, situate on the Hlll, leading out of the town towards Sevenoaks; an ancient looking building bearing the date 1660 stands on the right, commanding a very pleasant prospect from the south to north west, formerly occupied by the Rev. J. M. Nisbet, now in the possession of E. Soames, Esq.

Several pleasant residences have lately been

built on the left side of the road.

A roadside Inn, named the "Tiger's Head," stands on the hill on the right hand side; the old Inn was taken down a few years ago and the present house erected on the site.

## BROMLEY COMMON.

It appears that in the 4th year of the reign of George III., an act was passed, intituled "An Act for extinguishing the right of common in, over, and upon certain commonable lands and grounds within the manor and parish of Bromley, in the county of Kent;" probably that act included part of Bromley Common, although it was not carried into effect till many years after. Mr. Freeman in his history states that one of the principal improvements made of late in this neighbourhood, was the enclosure of this Common, which took place in the year 1822. From the Plough Inn, for a considerable distance along the road, there was scarcely a house to be seen to cheer the benighted traveller; there were, it is true, at the extremity of the common a few scattered cottages, these may have served as a relief to the eye of the stranger while viewing so extensive a space of unproductive soil

In the year 1823, the road, which formerly branched off by the seat of the late Major Rhode, now in the possession of H. Norman, Esq., was, by an order of the Justices, diverted and turned, the land stopped up, and has since been enclosed with a wooden fence. The course of the new road here is rather winding, but the old road was not only dreary, but afforded every facility for the commission of

robberies.\*

Near the extremity of the Common, on the road to Sevenoaks, there were made, since the enclosure, two other roads, one of which, on

Near this spot, some years ago, there stood a tree of immence circumference, commonly called 'Beggar's Bush,' probably from the fact of its being a place of secrecy for highwaymen and footpads.

the right hand side, branches off for Keston Mark, and the other to some cottages on the South-east side of the Common.

Oakley, near to which is the old road above mentioned, was formerly the property of Mr. Brotherson, and afterwards of Capt. Milford, it was subsequently occupied by Mr. Potts, and afterwards sold by Admiral Cornwallis to Major Rhode, by whom it was occupied for a considerable time; it is now in the occupation of H. Norman, Esq.

Adjoining these premises is the mansion of George Warde Norman, Esq. This edifice underwent many judicious alterations after it came into the hands of this gentleman, by whom it was considerably enlarged and

improved.\*

The pleasure grounds of this seat are extremely tasteful, and, with the addition of a handsome sheet of water, which passes through the grounds at the back part of the house, together with the excellent arrangement of the plantations, cannot fail to excite that just degree of gratification, which such a scene is competent to afford.

Near this was the excellent establishment for a select number of young ladies, under the direction of Miss Shepherd, now in the occupa-

George Norman, Esq., the father of the present possessor, was a Magistrate, in the Division of Bromley, for upwards of thirty years.

tion of C. Barrey, Esq. This house was formerly the residence of Thomas Chase, Esq., a gentleman who narrowly escaped with life, amidst the ruins of Lisbon, in which city he resided at the memorable earthquake of 1755. About the year 1746, this house was in the possession of Mr. Bull, and some years subsequent in the occupation of F. T. Martin, Esq. The grounds attached to this building are not extensive but well arranged, and the premises are particularly neat.

On that part of Bromley Common which was formerly called Shooting Common, there have been erected numerous houses of genteel structure and appearance, those of Belle Vue Place, Fairlawn Villas, and others immediately

adjoining, claiming the pre-eminence.

The population have much increased within the last twenty years, and many houses have been built on the site of the dreary waste before described. A handsome church has also been raised, and a national school established; the church, which was consecrated March 31st, 1842, and its back ground of woodland scenery, forms a pleasing view from the road leading to it. The inhabitants may be stated in round numbers at about 1000.

We have been favoured by a friend with the following lines, written by the late Rev. Thos. Scott, the sale of which produced a considerable sum which was appropriated by the committee in execting a tower to the church.

Contribution of Thomas Scott, B.D., Bromley College, Kent, cast into the treasury of the New Church, Bromley Common.

Where lately grazed, at will, the ox and ass,
And straggling geese close cropp'd the Common's
grass;

Where frequent wander'd half-fed ragged sheep; And where the vagrant gipsies used to sleep, Dozing by day beneath their blanket tent, On fortune-telling and on plunder bent; And where by stealth the poacher set his snares To catch, in wiry noose, night-feeding hares; And where the smuggler cover'd up his kegs; Or idly loiter'd there the man who begs:-Behold the change! The waste our laws enclose. And scarce the traveller the Common knows. Corn fields are seen where furzes grew before, And dwellings now he numbers several score, With gardens trim before them and behind, And shops of all sorts soon their inmates find. The body's wants the trades of men supply, And sellers will be found where men can buy; Still there was wanting 'midst the houses there, The best of houses—God's own House of prayer; For low the state of morals in that place Which is deficient in God's means of grace. The laws, alas! that sanction closing land Condition not that churches near should stand, Although without a Church the Common still Better might grazing beasts its wild waste fill. Without a Church how could we hope God's grace Would ever prosper this new dwelling place: Blest, therefore, be the hearts of them that rear, For Christian souls this House of holy prayer.

"He lov'd their nation," in God's Word we're told, Who, though a heathen born, in Rome of old A synagogue yet built for pious Jews! Nor did our Lord for him their prayer refuse, But fever from his servant bade depart, And fill'd with joy this good centurion's heart, And may He bless those pious hearts who raise This Church, wherein their brethren God may praise: No profit seek they but the gain of souls This flock by adding to Christ's other folds. A Town without a church is ill begun,— As well might want the world th' enlightening sun. E'en in the Wilderness, where'er they went, The seed of Abraham pitch'd their sacred Tent. Their Tabernacle rais'd by God's command, By willing gifts from each man's pious hand: Silver and gold their rich men did not spare. To ornament their moving Tent of prayer.-Nor do our rich men in our christian land, Give to the Church of Christ with grudging hand. God loves a plenteous giver: as men sow He will a plenteous harvest, pleas'd, bestow ! But poorer givers God will not despise: The heart alone is valued in God's eves. Splendid and rich the Temple of the Jews. But smallest gifts God to commend did choose. And, in its treasury cast, the widow's mite Was not despised in her Saviour's sight! Let not the poorest be ashamed to give Of that small pittance upon which they live. Remembering Christ himself commended more Than rich men's gifts the mites of widows poor: And in the blessings of this House of prayer The rich and poor may equal portions share. And, with their sovereign, in a happy land.

Rest safe beneath th' Almighty's guardian hand. The Church's bell now calls Christ's flock around Where once was only heard the sheep-bell's sound, And shortly here, we trust, that pious zeal A tower will build, from whence the merry peal Sweet sabbaths will proclaim, and festal days, And public joy on glad occasions raise. Long may blest spirits from the seats of bliss Behold on earth a work of love like this: And its endowment pastors help to keep, To watch the fold of Christ and feed the sheep: That what by men to this new Church is giv'n May many guide to follow them to heav'n. Not men alone, but women too, we know Have pious hearts with warmest zeal which glow; For Britain's Helena—the empress—built A church where Christ his precious blood had spilt! And many ladies since the church has found In christian countries, for their zeal renown'd! Nor did good women whilst Christ dwelt on earth, Prove slow to manifest their pious worth; But from Christ's birth until his Easterday. These holy women did their love display. Her Saviour's feet one washed with her tears. And dried them with her own soft flowing hairs; One pour'd the precious ointment on His head; They bought sweet spices for their Saviour dead: And to a woman first himself Christ shows His glorious body, after He arose! Daughters of Judah still are passing fair. Famed for their brilliant eyes and beauteous hair, While Judah's sons with them do not keep pace, But seem another and less favour'd race: For this a christian writer reason shows, And tells us whence the difference arose;—

The Jewish men cried "crucify" their Lord, From women's lips came forth no cruel word. Throughout the gospel everywhere we read Of women's kindness both in word and deed: And when the priests with murd'rous anger burn'd, The women smote their breasts, and sad return'd From Calvary, when Christ had bowed his head; Nor did His tomb forsake when He was dead! "They loved much:" and christian women still In pious acts a place conspicuous fill. Not only kings we "nursing fathers" find, But queens, courageous, "nursing mothers" kind! Elizabeth the power of popes defied;— Anne shines with fifty churches by her side ;-Long may Victoria rule her realm in peace, And, with her people, churches see increase! Your queens and countesses and ladies fair, Have made the Muse's seats their choicest care,-Oxford and Cambridge gratefully can show To their munificence how much they owe! Sheppard and Partis, ladies living still, Need not to prove their bounty by their will. The Church Christ's bishop consecrates this day, In many pious minds much wish'd-for lay, And for God's blessing on it all now pray, That pure it be from pharisaic leaven. And by God's Grace be found the gate to heav'n Thankful to God for all the gifts He sends. Who in the church's need provides her friends: Whose power directs the issues of all wills. And at His pleasure all his ends fulfils. And may God grant (His gracious power can Make ev'ry rood of land maintain its man). Grant grateful England, when her sons enclose. May pay to God that tribute which she owes.

That with men's mansions God's may also rise, And church's sacred steeples pierce the skies!

HAVING been favoured with a copy of the lines alluded to in page 3, no apology is necessary for inserting them here.

# THE PLEASURES OF THE PEDESTRIAN PROMOTED.

"And witness, dear companion of my walks,
Whose arm this twentieth winter I perceive
Fast locked in mine, with pleasure such as love
Confirmed by long experience of thy worth
And well-tried virtues could alone inspire—
Witness a joy that thou hast doubled long:
Thou know'st my praise of Nature most sincere,
And that my raptures are not conjured up
To serve occasions of poetic pomp,
But genuine, and art partner of them all."
Cowper's Address to Mrs. Unwin in "The Task."

HE who the sofa sung in strains so sweet. Knew how a walk endeared the sofa's seat; Who does not love, with him, the country walk, And with some dear companion wish to talk. The stiles near Ouse the Poet leaped with ease, But Cowper never crossed such stiles as these Which we complain of near the Ravensbourne, From which daar Unwin would with horror turn. And could we but invoke kind Cowper's muse, Our Bromley ladies she would not refuse, But would entreat, and might amend erewhile The long complained of and terrific stile! When they behold the stile in Beck'nham-lane, And of the steepness of the hill complain, The birds they envy, who, on Bromley church

No stiles encounter, and there make their perch; They have a bird's-eye view the country round, And pity men who only walk the ground! They long for all the waving corn beneath, And gaze with freedom on the purple heath, And watch the golden grain near Chatham's Hayes, And on the Holwood trees they fondly gaze, Where Chatham's patriot Son and statesman dwelt. Pitt, who his country's cause so keenly felt, That he survived not long enough to view The glorious victory of Waterloo; Andnow at Holwood dwells good wealthy Ward, Whom all the poor with gratitude regard! But what avail these seats and prospects fair, Few ladies now can in these pleasures share, The stile forbids and sharp ascending hill, Although their bosoms beat with right goodwill. Men who, like Cowper would not walk alone, Will means devise to stop the ladies' moan: Each one will give some portion of his pelf. To please a lady dearer than himself, And show he prizes much a free pathway. And unobstructed through the fields to stray. Even the wealthy, who in coaches ride. Love country walks, companions by their side; Their wives and children the same pleasure take, And pluck wild flowers from hedgerow or from brake: Pleasant the prospect from our Martin's Hill. But who to reach it, though desirous will. And thanks to him who now at Freelands\* dwells-His praise the pleased pedestrian justly tells: For passing to his house no stiles dismay.

• Charles Pott, Esq., who has put up, at considerable cost, rational gates from Freelands through all the fields in the way to the church.

Nothing impedes the walker on his way.

May then the muse others as liberal find
And nature's beauties open to mankind;
May her old servant prove a pioneer,
And from our footpaths every hindrance clear,
That in our Bromley walks both rich and poor,
May pleasant paths and views enjoy much more,
That he, a school-boy here in days of yore,\*
May grateful tread the selfsame paths now quite
fourscore:

Lady-day, 1845.

THOMAS SCOTT, B.D., Chaplain of Bromley College.

\* In the year 1772.

# RESIDENCES OF THE PRINCIPAL GENTRY IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

To identify the situation of Bromley, and more particularly for the information of strangers, the following seats are enumerated, those printed in Italics are within the parish. The Palace, Coles Child, Esq. Bickley, the seat of Wm. Dent, Esq. Sundridge, the seat of Samuel Scott, Esq. Plaistow Lodge, the seat of Robert Boyd. Esq. Bromley Hill, the seat of Colonel Long The Seat of George Warde Norman, Esq. The seat of Col. Cator, Hayes. The seat of Mrs. Strong, Ditto. Wickham Court the seat of the Rev. Sir C. F. Farnaby, Bart. Wickham Rectory, the seat of the Rev. J. T Austen.

Holwood, the seat of Lord Cranworth.
Hollydale, the seat of A. Dobson, Esq.
Hayes Place, the seat of Miss Traill.
The seat of Fredk. Moysey, Esq., Hayes.
Baston, the seat of L. T. Fry, Esq.
Bromley Lodge, the seat of C. F. Devas, Esq.
Langley, the seat of Jas. Caird, Esq. M.P.
Beckenham Place, the seat of H. Holland Esq.
The seat of Mrs. Ogle, Clay Hill.
The seat of W. A. Wilkinson, Esq., Shortlands
The seat of F. Fortescue, Esq., Beckenham
Freelands House, the seat of C. Pott, Esq.
Southborough Lodge, the seat of J. J. Wells,
Esq.

Shawfield Lodge, the seat of David Noad, Esq. Bromley House, the seat of Col. Tweedy. Rectory House, the seat of Mrs. John Scott. Beechfield, the seat of T Dalton, Esq. Pixfield, the seat of R. B. Latter, Esq. Vale Cottage, the seat of R. Malins, Esq. The Seat of E. Bilke, Esq. The Seat of Miss Waller. Oakley, the seat of H. Norman, Esq. The seat of the Rev. J. E. Newell. The seat of P. Bell, Esq., Elmstead, The seat of N. Strode Esq., Ditto The seat of G. Bascombe, Esq., Chislehurst. The seat of Charles Telford, Esq., Widmore. The seat of Henry Telford, Esq., Ditto. The seat of F. Moysey, Esq., Pickhurst. The seat of H. Bowden, Esq., Chislehurst.

# POPULATION.

Lysons states that the register of baptisms commences in the year 1558, that of marriages

in 1575, and that of burials in 1578.

This parish was noted by Wilson for the longevity of many of its inhabitants, some of whom he describes to have died, during his residence at Bromley, between 80 and 100

years old.

In corroboration of this account, Lysons says that Mary White, widow, died at 100 years of age, and was buried January 9th, 1800; that two persons of 99 years were buried since 1795; and, since that period, three of 92, two of 93, one of 95, one of 96, and one of 98 years of age.

The population taken in the year 1811. pursuant to Act of Parliament, gives the

following return.

Familes 634, employed in the following manner:—207 in agriculture; 213 in trade and manufactures; and the remaining 214 not comprised in the preceding classes: of which 1534 are females, 1431 males, making a total of 2965 persons. Houses 472.

The following is the return of the population in the year 1821;—Females 1651, males 1496, making a total of 3147 persons. Total num-

ber of houses 505.

In 1831 the return gives: Females 2120, males 1882, total number 4002. Houses 669.

In 1841, females 2257, males 2068, total 4325. In 1851, total 4127; shewing a decrease in

the ten years of 198.

Thus it will be seen that by comparing the total number of persons in the parish of Bromley in the year 1811 with that of 1851 (the latest parliamentary return), there is an increase of 1162 inhabitants.

## ROYAL VISITS.

George III, George IV. and William IV, occasionally honored Bromley with their presence, but royal visits have not been fre-

quent here of late years.

Loyalty being a virtue now happily so common, the bare mention of it here would be superfluous, but for the purpose of noticing the fact that Bishop Warner, made it a condition of admission to the College, that the Husbands of the applicants shall have been loval as well as orthodox Clergymen; another instance of loyalty, combined with a curious though perhaps not the most commendable way of showing it, is, that " on the proclamation of James II. in the market place, by the Sheriff of Kent, the Commander of the Kentish Troops, two of the Kings Trumpeters, and other Officers, they drank the king's health in a flint glass of a yard long." Vide. Evelyn's Diary, Feb. 10, 1685.

## THE RIVER.

The river Ravensbourn, which runs close by this town, rises at Holwood Hill in Keston, a parish well known to the lovers of antiquity, from the remains of a Roman camp, still to be traced to it. The source of the river is not far from this fortification, and flows from thence by Hayes to Bromley, where, on the east side, it takes in a small brook, as it does, on the same side, a second, about half-way between Bromley and Lewisham. It receives a third little stream, at the north end of Lewisham; and from thence, passing under Deptford-bridge, soon discharges itself into the Thames.

#### THE RAILWAY.

Complaints of want of travelling accommodation have appeared in previous pages of this work, and the badness of trade here has been ascribed to that cause; whether well founded or not will now be tested, as no town out of London has a better means of getting to or from any part of the kingdom or the continent than the town of Bromley.—The West End and Crystal Palace line opened to Shortlands, on Monday, May 3rd, 1858, and the Mid-Kent, Bromley and St. Mary Cray line opened to the Southborough Road Station, on Monday, July 5th, in the same year; the latter had been open to Beckenham from January 1857.

In the autumn of that year part of the Railway (near Catford Bridge) was washed away, and the traffic stopped for several days, by a flood caused by a storm, which did much

damage in the neighbourhood.

During the last sessions of Parliament, an act was passed giving the East Kent Company power to bring a line from Strood to St. Mary Cray, which is expected to be completed in 1860, when there will be a nearer route to Dover through Bromley, than by the South-Eastern line.

The Bromley Station with its approaches, when completed, will present a great improvement in that locality.—The Bromley Charity Schools formerly stood on part of the ground now occupied by the Station.

## THE RECORD.

It may not be out of place to mention the starting a small monthly publication in June, 1858, called the "Bromley Record," demy 8vo, which has hitherto succeeded beyond the expectations of the proprietor; having been patronized by all classes. It first made its appearance as 8 pages and encreased to 16 with the third number: giving a summary of local news of the month, also the times of starting of Trains, Omnibuses, &c., notices of sales and other advertisements principally from tradesmen in the town and neighbourhood.

#### EXTRACTS FROM THE VESTRY BOOK.

The first vestry book is partly composed of papers relative to the assessment of the inhabitants, and the relief of the poor, which seems to have been bound with some fresh paper. The earliest date is 1688.

1688. In this year the assessment was at ls. in the pound

amounting to 6611. 2s.

1703. Oct. 14. Ordered that John Doodny the beadle have a newe blew coate bought him and a paire of stockins betweene this and Christmas.

Dec. 19. Ordered that an inventory be taken of every ones goods who shall become standing pensioners to this

parish.

1704. March 18. Forty shillings allowed to Mr. Bagshaw for repairing the church yard fonts. [probably and

font.]

In this year it seems to have been customary for the poor relieved by the parish to wear a badge, and in consequence it was ordered that the allowance bo taken off the Widow Meridith for refusing to wear the badge, and as a further punishment an order was made for the conveyance of her house and appurtaness to the Overseers.'

1705. Oct. 14. Ordered that all seated in pews by the churchwardens be registered, and have keys to their pews, and all the pews in the church be numbered, and the pews

in gallery to be lettered.

The altar being very ruinous, a new one was erected, painted, and gilded as it now stands, the footplace paved with black and white marble, and the whole inclosed with rails and banisters by subscription of the Inhabitants. At the same time the body of the church was paved, and locks placed on the paws. By the subsequent bills and receipts it appears the whole expence of the alter was 5211. 7s. 8d.

1707. Dec. 26. Ordered that a rate of 6d, in the pound upon full rente be levied upon all landholders and other inhabitants of Bromley, for and towards the repairs of the

church, only 3d. being levied before.

1716. May 20. The churchwardens are allowed to expend upon the minister and parishioners such money as they in their discretion think proper, when they go on perambulation on the 23rd.

1736. Whereas our poors' rate has increased of late years more and more, so as to become almost impossible to be raised, by reason of the great number of the poor; it is therefore agreed upon erecting a workhouse, and the overseers are directed to seek a convenient spot for this purpose, and deliver in an estimate of the expence. Afterwards estimated at 400% and raised on a life annuity.

1732-3. At a public vestry it was agreed to request and choose William Emmet, Esq., and John Righton to treat and agree with the parishioners of Beckenham, upon the joining and settling the poor of each parish jointly together in the

workhouse of Bromley

1791. Resolved, that it is the opinion of this vestry that Dr. Hawkesworth is eligible to serve parish officers, not-withstanding his degree of doctor in the civil law, and therefore the list appointed to be returned to the next bench of justices, by order of vestry, for their choice of overseers, Mr. Edward Bromdon immediately following Dr. Hawkesworth.

1763. Ordered that no pew in the church be hereafter

disposed of without a fine levied by a vestry.

A vestry called at the request of William Scott, Esq., lesses of the half-yearly land in the parish, under the bishop of Rochester, for an application to parliament for enclosing the same the whole year, and extinguishing the inhabitants' and others' right of common thereon; and what the parish will take as an equivalent. At a subsequent vestry, the parish agreed to accept 40t. per annum rent on the said land, which terms were accepted by Mr. Scott.

1764. April 16. Motion made and carried for the erec-

tion of a gallery in the church.

1765, Jan. 20. 2804. borrowed for this purpose on a life annuity of 84. per cent, on the respective lives of B. Brown and Susanna Rogers, for the above purpose.

1769, Aug. 2. An apartment ordered to be built at the farther end of the workhouse, for receiving distressed families, which had hitherto been put in the watch-house.

1770. Two men appointed to traverse the town, to im-

pseund swine found wandering in the streets: for each of which so impounded, the overseers are directed to pay these men 3d. And that the inhabitants may know these men are on duty, one of them is ordered to carry a bell, and ring it twice a day, opposite the College-gate, the Bell, the White Hart, and the Three Compasses.

1771, Oct. 20. Ordered that a vestry be held concerning the intention of erecting a new gallery over the old one. On that day the plan agreed on. A subsequent estimate by

H. Staples states the expence at 821. 10s.

1772. The bells ordered to be recast, and 2501. borrowed for that purpose on an annuity.

On the 20th day of July, 1795, the Parishioners of Bromley adopted the following singular and philanthropic arrangement.

We, whose names are hereunto subscribed at a public meeting, held the 20th July, 1795, at the White Hart Inn, in this town, to consider the most effectual means to be used to reduce the price of wheaten bread, and to relieve the distress of the industrious poor during the presentscarcity, Do promise to each other upon our Honor, that from this time to the first of October next, we will use no finer sort of Bread in our families than that, which, in an Act of Parliament passed in the 13th year of His present Majesty is called by the name of "Standard Wheaten Bread," and is directed by the said act, to be made of the flour of wheat. which flour shall be the whole produce of the Grain. the bran or hull thereof only excepted, and shall weigh three-fourths of the weight of the wheat, whereof it shall be made, and that we will not suffer the consumption of the finer Flour in our families in any shape whatever.

And upon the Representation of the principal Bakers of this place, that they cannot afford to sell the 'Standard Wheaten Bread' at a lower price than 11d. for the quartern loaf, we agree that the poor of this parish shall be supplied to a certain extent (to be settled by a Committee appointed by us) at the price of 9d. for the quartern loaf, and that the difference to the Bakers be made up out of a fund to be raised for the purpose, by our voluntary subscrip-

tion.

And whereas it is our intention to abolish, as far as our influence extends the use of the fine Wheaten Flour, we do declare that we will withdraw our custom from any Baker in this neighbourhood, who shall sell any finer than the 'Standard Wheaten Bread' after the expiration of ten Days from the date hereof.

S. ROCHESTER, PETER THELLUSON. REV. G. BATTER, R. BOOTH, SAML. RICKARDS, W. WELLS, ANDW. HARRISON, ELY. LIND, GEORGE NORMAN, R. RAWES, JOHN SCOTT, ED. BURROW, THOS. RAIKES, JOHN HARRISON.

No place has presented itself in these pages to notice prominently all those persons, whose benevolence has tended to ameliorate the condition of their poorer neighbours, and it would be difficult to furnish a list that would do justice to all. I may however be permitted to mention in addition to those to be found elsewhere, as christian examples worthy of imitation, the late Mrs. General Brown, of Southborough, whose benevolence although private, was widely extended; Miss Marsh, of Beckenham, whose "Memoirs of Captain Hedley Vicars," "Light for the Line," and several other works, have gained for her, well merited literary fame; the profits of her works combined with her public Lectures and personal teaching of the poorer classes, especially the Navvies, during the time the Railway was in progress, spread spiritual consolation as well as temporal comforts. almost unprecedented in extent, arising as they did from the exertions of a private individual. So much was that Lady respected by those hard working men, that in deference to her wishes they abjured their old habits of drunkenness and disorderly conduct, so alarmingly prevalent amongst them in many parts of the country, and the majority of them lost no opportunity of attending her lectures, which were frequently held in Bromley: it may be added that before leaving the works they presented her with a handsome Bible richly ornamented, as a token of their esteem.

Miss Waller, although standing last in alphabetical order, should rank amongst the first as a benefactress of Bromley. Many other names may be added, of Ladies, whose benevolence may not be less than that of those above mentioned, when measured by the means at their disposal, but it is hoped they will excuse the omission, and be pleased to see the names of their leaders recorded in the history of the town.

Lists of the supporters of the Schools and various Institutions in the Town, (if published) would show that many Gentlemen as well as Ladies, have been active in promoting the improvements which have taken place of late, amongst the most active of whom may be named, Messrs. Acton, Ilott, and R. B. Latter, through whose exertions mainly, the beautifully painted Eastern Window has been added to the Church, and the Organ brought into its present efficient condition.

#### CONCLUSION.

The compiler of the foregoing pages having endeavoured to fulfil his task in an impartial manner, and to the best of his humble abilities, ventures to hope for the kind consideration of the public in respect to any errors that may have been overlooked in the course of the work, and would remind his readers that the labour altogether has been performed under numerous difficulties.

Without, however, entering further into the technicalities of printing, it is due to the subscribers to apologise for having failed to perform his promise to publish much earlier; and he can only do so by assuring them that the task he undertook has been much greater, and the leisure he contemplated devoting to its completion much less, than he then anticipated; he trusts, however, though still imperfect, some improvements to the work have resulted from the unavoidable delay.

The writer begs, in conclusion, to express his warmest thanks to those ladies and gentlemen who have kindly furnished him with information, without which his efforts would have been fruitless; observing also, that any suggestions or facts of interest will be thankfully received, with a view to their being made available in a future edition, should such be required.

Having thus traced the outlines of the history of the parish as far as public records and some private documents will admit, it may not be amiss to state for the information of those who have the means and the desire to enjoy the luxury of pure air and pleasant scenery, that the immediate neighbourhood of Bromley affords as many beautiful prospects of the surrounding country as can be found within many miles of London; and that it is one of the healthiest spots in the kingdom has been acknowledged for centuries, and is clearly indicated by the number of noble old family mansions which stud the vicinity.

The plentiful supply of excellent water in Bromley must always form an attractive feature, and will no doubt have its influence on health seeking citizens, who will, as sanitary science becomes more fully developed, give a preference to high and healthy situations, with the advantage of the great essential of life drawn pure from the rocks.

THE END.

Printed by E. Strong, Bromley, Kent.

#### ADDENDA AND ERRATA.

The following errors have been observed since the work was printed. Where words are merely misspelt we leave their correction to the intelligent reader; but as some are

important inaccuracies, a notice is necessary :-

In page, 11, line five from top, for "Mr. C. Monro, Esq.," read "M. C. Monro, Esq." Page 12: the "Female Benevolent Institution " has ceased to exist; the "Bromley Benevolent Society" has superseded it; it is under the management of Mrs. Newell, Miss Pott, Miss Telford, Miss M. A. Telford, and Miss S. Telford, assisted by other ladies of the town and neighbourhood in visiting, &c. Page 18: the new gas tank was not used till Nov. 6, 1858; owing to its imperfect construction it could not be made to hold water. Page 47, second line from bettom: for "person of Bromley, 1360," read "parson o;" &c. Page 49, note: for "Mr. Hart," read "Mr. Ford." Page 53, nine lines from bottom: for "1840" read "1850. Page 58, line eleven from top: for "1779" read "1799," and, three lines lower, for "words" read "works." Page 65, eight lines from top: for "Harriot" read "Hannah," and, six lines lower, for "on" read "one." Page 74, line twelve, after the word "trustes" add "unto and equally amongst four decayed tradesmen." Page 101: the pictures referred to were bequeahed by the late Lord Farnborough to the National Gallery. Page 113: date of purchase (1830) of "Simpson's," by R. Veitch, Esq., not certain. Page 121 line thiteen, is a mistake made by our informant which we vey much regret: in place of "two" it should be "three sisters, whose names appear above. Page 125, lines one and two: the Act of George III. did not include Bromley Common. Page 126, line six from top: fc "Capt. Milford " read " Mitford."

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EUL JUN 5 1919



