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Drentham and its Gardens.

With Ten Illustrations on Wood,

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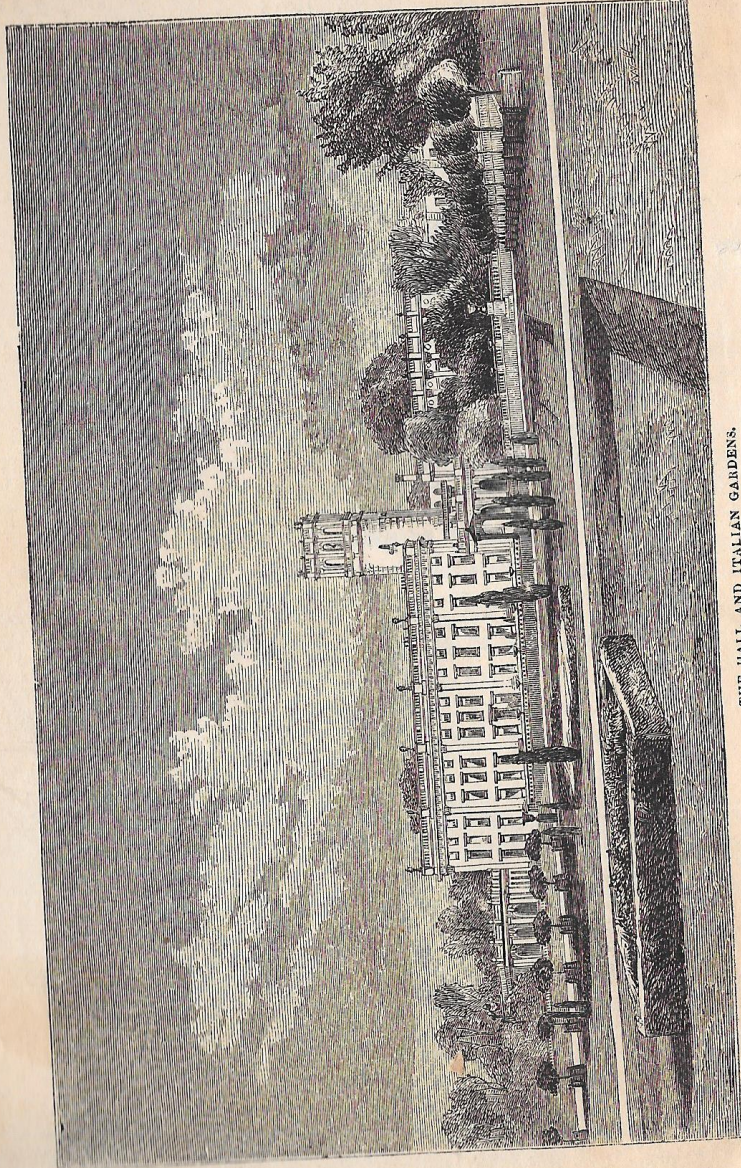
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Author -
William Holmeux
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THE HALL AND ITALIAN GARDENS.

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TO THE PUBLIC,

THIS, the first descriptive work of a place distinguished alike for the conspicuous beauty and diversity of its natural scenery; for the elegance and harmony of its artistic arrangements; and for the hospitality, generosity, and position of its noble owners, is respectfully offered by

THE AUTHOR.

TRENTHAM, *Aug. 1st*, 1857.

To prevent misconception, the Author begs to remark that the work is not offered as a *Guide* to the several places described, which term might lead to the supposition that the whole is thrown open to the Public. By the kind permission of his Grace, unrestricted access to the *Park* is permitted, but to view the *Hall* and *Gardens* is an especial favour.

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Trentham and its Gardens.

CHAPTER I.

Ancient History.

THE History of Trentham up to a certain date is, unfortunately, involved in much obscurity; but it is interesting as being the site of one of the oldest ecclesiastical institutions in the ancient kingdom of Mercia. During a range of nearly nine centuries we do not find it to have been, with one exception, actually invested by an invading or hostile force; and in no instance does it appear to have been permanently occupied as a military station by any of the contending races that overrun this part of the country during that long and eventful period. The neighbourhood, however, was no doubt the scene of some of those terrible encounters that our earliest historians have but faintly alluded to, and of which more definite traces exist in the etymology of local names, and the mounds of earth, called Lows. It is also singularly interesting as owing its origin to the daughter of one of the fiercest enemies to Christianity that held the position of king during the Saxon rule, and at a time when by his own example the greater part of the inhabitants of his kingdom were daily practising the rites of Paganism and idolatry.

The valley immediately surrounding Trentham presents no traces of having been inhabited previous to the seventh century; and the only instance of a contrary opinion is mentioned by Plot, who states that the Rev. Dr. Fulk supposes Trentham to be the site of the Roman Bremetonacis.* Whether that antiquary was possessed of

* Plot's Staffordshire, chap. x. 17.

any warrantable data for such an opinion is uncertain, there is nothing at the present day analogous to it that we are aware of; and Plot does not appear to place any reliance on the statement. However, according to the various tests of history, Staffordshire, as part of the Saxon kingdom of Mercia, was governed about the year A.D. 670, by Wulphere, a Pagan, who had at Berry-Bank a castle or palace called Wulpherecester. Extensive forests and moor-lands stretched for miles around, abounding in game and animals of the chase, many varieties of which are now extinct in England, and where the greater part of the time he resided at this castle was spent in hunting. He had two sons, Wulfold and Rufin, who, by the preaching of a celebrated hermit named St. Chad, or Ceadda, afterwards Bishop of Lichfield, became converts to Christianity, but this being in opposition to the desire of their father, he killed them both with his own hands.¹ In the course of time, Wulphere was struck with remorse for his crime, and, renouncing Paganism, endeavoured to atone for his past errors by erecting and endowing monasteries in different parts of his dominions, and otherwise practising the doctrines of the religion he had previously condemned and persecuted.² He had another son, Ethelred, a good and pious prince, who succeeded him, and a daughter named Werburgh. This princess was of a remarkably devout and charitable disposition, and early in life professed as a nun under her aunt, St. Ethelreda, who was abbess of the monastery at Ely in Cambridgeshire.³ About the year, A.D. 680, Werburgh erected or became abbess of a nunnery at this place, to which was given the name of Tricingham.* She also built or had the direction of three other monastical institutions,—Weedon,⁴ in Northamptonshire; Repton,⁵ in Derbyshire; and Hanbury,⁶ in this county. There is

* This word, freely translated, signifies a home or habitation (home of nuns?) in a meadow at the confluence of three streams. The three streams are the Park brook, the river Trent, and the Mill brook, which meet within a range of about one hundred yards. Bishop Tanner says,—“Here (Trentham) was an ancient nunnery, whereof St. Werburgh was by her brother, King Ethelred, appointed abbess.”—Dug. Mon., vol. vi., p. 396.

also an allusion made as to her being connected with the monastery at Chester,⁷ dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, and supposed by some to have been erected by her father and his wife, Erminelde, about the year 670; by others, however, this account is regarded as not much better than fiction. We next find that after a life devoted to the most fervent practises of religion, caring little for earthly wealth, except as a means to relieve the necessities of her fellow-mortals, she died at the little nunnery at Tricingham about the year A.D. 683, and on the third day of February.⁸ Her remains were taken to Hanbury for interment; and shortly afterwards, in consequence of her many virtues and undeviating faith, she was canonized; and the name of *St. Werburgh* from thenceforth became a favourite among the saints of the Saxon calendar. Like other tombs of sanctified personages, numerous miracles were reported to its credit and celebrity.

Nearly two hundred years afterwards (A.D. 875), the Danes having advanced to and destroyed Repton, the nuns attached to the monastery at Hanbury fled to Chester, taking with them the bones of “that holy and most religious virgin, St. Werburgh,” which they deposited for better security in the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul.⁹ On the site of this sacred edifice afterwards rose the Abbey of St. Werburgh, which was succeeded by the present magnificent work, Chester Cathedral; and in the choir, opposite to the pulpit, is the stone case which formerly surrounded the beautiful shrine of St. Werburgh, now shortened and used as the bishop’s throne. “It exhibits a rich specimen of Gothic architecture, in the style of the early part of the fourteenth century.”

After the death of St. Werburgh, five centuries of desolation shroud the memory of the little nunnery at Tricingham. Tradition points to the Danes as the destroyers of the sacred edifice; but it gives no information respecting the probable date, or any other connecting link in its history. The royal abbess gave it a name, and an association of holy contemplation: both have been carefully preserved through the various revolutions of almost twelve hundred

years; but with her almost all other realities of a Saxon period have died. Still there are relics remaining—relics that seem to be of sturdy Saxon growth—and at the proper place we will endeavour to prove them so. But who succeeded St. Werburgh as abbess; or whose were the voices that chaunted so sweetly and so well, “Ave Maria!” when the deepening twilight stole through the aisles of the little nunnery, and awakened in the wild heart of the Saxon pagan, as he listened, a good, deep, and beautifully enthusiastic feeling, is no longer known here!

It is most likely that the erection of the nunnery attracted to the spot a few of the converted peasantry, who, to be near a place of Divine worship, built such houses as they required, and thus originated the hamlet on the banks of the river Trent, called Trentham.

In Alfred's time—a time when, excepting almost alone that brilliant monarch, the whole nation appeared sunk into a fearful state of ignorance¹⁰—the place would, no doubt, be the most important of the seven comprising the parish¹¹ to which it gave name; but whether that distinction was awarded in consideration of its origin, or from strictly local advantages, is not clear. We do not find any further allusion to it whatever till after the Conquest, when its name, and the lands held by the king, appear in *Doomsday*. The document is important, as showing that “Rex Trenham”—the King's lands at Trentham—were then crown property, and no doubt had been from the earliest times of the Saxons. The next historical mention of the place would seem to be in the latter part of the reign of Henry I., when Ranulf, second Earl of Chester of that name, restored the religious foundation as a Priory for Canons of the Order of St. Augustine, and dedicated it to the Blessed Virgin Mary and all saints.¹² This celebrated nobleman is supposed to have erected the New Castle¹³—now Newcastle-under-Lyme, near to Chesterton—about the year A.D. 1180, the *old* castle at the latter place then being in a ruinous and uninhabitable state. Both the old castle and the new alike share the world-wide fate of the works of man; but little of either now

remains to boast of the magnitude of Saxon hospitality, or the strong, ambitious power of Norman feudalism. The Earl of Chester endowed the Priory with an annual rental of 100 shillings. Henry the Second confirmed this grant, endowed it with a similar amount, and conferred upon it various other immunities of a liberal order.

Time passed on—the Plantagenets gave place to the Tudors—and a new era in thought, action, and general intelligence was fast superseding the weary way of monastic credulity. The invention of printing astonished, but raised mankind to a more uniform level; and the darkness that had paralyzed human energies and endowments so long, began to move slowly, but surely, away. But in the midst of all this mighty awakening, the monks of Trentham Priory are scarcely recognized. They wandered along the banks of the Trent, familiar with its beauties, but not caring to enlighten posterity with its history or traditions. From the solitude and quiet of their cells issued no “Chronicle” or illuminated “Life” to save their name from oblivion, their memory from perishing. Prior succeeded prior, as day succeeds day, without effort, without revolution, and as their life was peaceful, so, we trust, was their death—but their deeds died with them!

At the Dissolution, the Priory shared the general fate. According to the return demanded by the royal warrant, it then contained but seven religious, and a total annual revenue of £106 3s. 9d.¹⁴—In the year 1539 the site was granted to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, and afterwards purchased, with the lands attached to it, of that nobleman by one of the Levesons, a celebrated family of ancient standing and influence in the county, and by whose descendants the property has subsequently been held.

The extent of the old Priory, judging from the number and income of its inmates, could not have been very great; but its actual dimensions are not correctly known. There is no doubt the present fine edifice occupies the whole of its site, with the exception of the chapel, and far exceeds in compass the original walls. The building, however, must have been tolerably commodious, as,

without any improbability, it was converted into a residence by the Levesons, and occupied by them till the Hall, we see engraved in Plot, was erected, and which, it is supposed, was the first original mansion that succeeded the demolition of the Priory. In the 3rd Elizabeth, John Leveson, Esquire, of Trentham Priory, was sheriff for the county; and, in the 27th and 33rd of the same year, Walter and Thomas Leveson, Esquires, enjoyed successively the same distinction. It is therefore evident no *Hall* existed at either of the above dates.

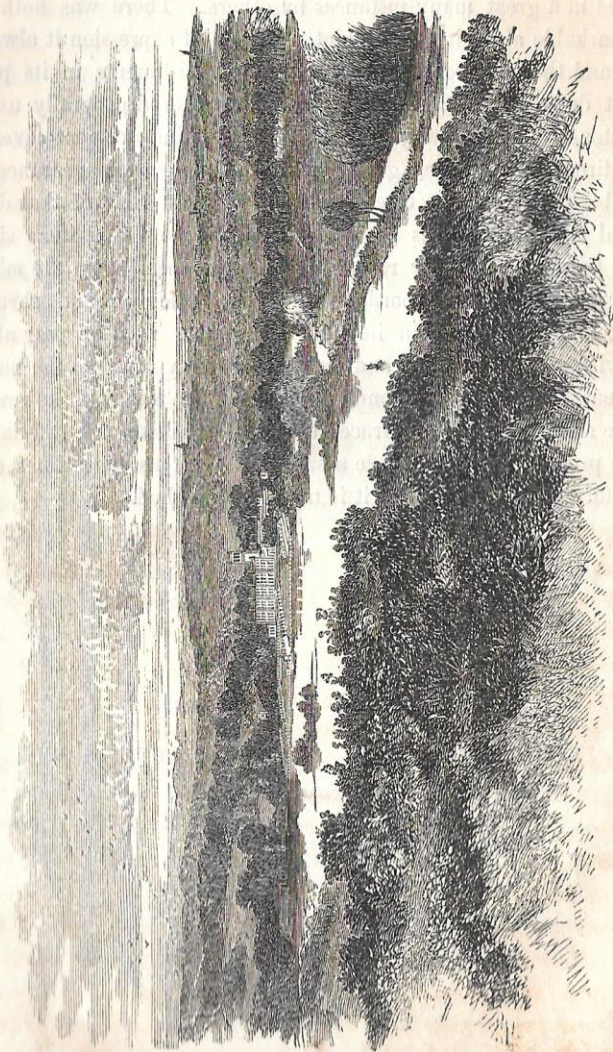
In the year 1633, the old Hall, the engraving of which is dedicated by Plot to the Lady Jane Leveson Gower, was built by Sir Richard Leveson. It was in the Elizabethan style of architecture—then generally adopted in the new or restored edifices of the nobility and wealthy commoners as a relief to the dark, massive, military buildings and castles of a former age. It, however, was not deficient in strength or the means of defence, having two court-yards, and was also surrounded by a moat, with the usual drawbridge and guarded entrance. There was a small oblong garden, or “court,” as Plot has it, in the west front, with parallel walls, surmounted by balustrades, quaintly formed of Latin characters, which, in the form of an unfinished inscription, ran down each wall thus:—

“Balnei ædes hasce hic fieri volui
Carolo Britanniae rege Richardus.”

Singular enough, the only foliage introduced in the sketch is that of two or three small shrubs, although the large elms and other trees, now surrounding it, must have been standing at the time. The old tower of the Church, with the usual grotesque gargoyles projecting from its battlements, rises above the roof and turrets of the Hall, and, by its square, solid-looking masonry, contrasts strongly with the pointed gables and clustering chimneys of the then modern building.

This mansion stood through the eventful period of the great Civil War, till about one hundred and sixty years ago, when it gave place to another of quite a different character. The style was

taken from Buckingham House, London, and appears to have been adopted in a great many instances by others. There was nothing so remarkable about it as the quiet, easy sort of expression it always wore, and the absence of architectural embellishments in its prominent details. Brick was the building material generally used, with stone copings by way of contrast. Sometimes cement covered the entire surface, which gave it from a distance the appearance of being built with stone. Such was the Trentham Hall of that day. Several years afterwards a wing was added to the eastern side, and a large conservatory raised its dome-like head from the midst of an additional lawn, bordered by choice flowers and shrubs. This commencement of an improving principle went on year after year with renewed vigour, and its effects rapidly invested the name of Trentham with corresponding interest. It was not, however, till the succession of his Grace, the present Duke of Sutherland, to the property, that the place assumed the extensive outlines and beautiful character for which it is now distinguished.



THE HALL, FROM THE MONUMENT HILL.

CHAPTER II.

The Hall.

TRENTHAM Hall of the present day is a very fine and elaborate specimen of Italian architecture. It occupies an extensive area, and appears, from any of the surrounding hills, a conspicuous and commanding object. Numerous trees, of various form and foliage cluster about its walls and courts, and mingle their picturesque beauties with the elegant contributions of art. In the year 1834, the transformation of the old structure was commenced, from designs, which occupied nearly fourteen years in completing. The body of the hall is the only original part remaining; all the others were pulled down, and rebuilt on a more extensive and uniform scale, and with a corresponding regard to architectural embellishment. From the centre rises a fine, handsome belvedere tower, square, and richly decorated with Corinthian capitals and mouldings. It is upwards of one hundred feet in height, and surmounted by balustrades, lined with numerous vases. The centre of the hall is decorated with Corinthian pilasters, which stretch from the base to the modillions, directly beneath the parapet. A balustrade runs round its summit, on which are placed several vases of a uniform shape. From the centre, facing south, two corresponding ground-floor buildings—the dining room to the east, and the private conservatory to the west—project about thirty feet, and are connected by a terrace-garden. The west front appears generally to have been the principal carriage entrance, and the doorway is the same as before the alterations were commenced, but used as such no longer. The main body is here similarly treated to the south front, and forms the base of a very handsome corridor. The corridor is semicircular in shape, richly decorated in the interior with mouldings and Corinthian capitals, and further ornamented by some elegantly designed iron doors, coloured blue and gold; the

exterior walls between each window are supported by engaged columns; balustrades and vases also line its summit. From its centre stands out the carriage porch, over which rises a square tower of wrought stone, decorated in a similar manner to the other parts, and having on three of its sides the family arms, carved in bold relief. The approach to this front from the park is between two small lodges of Derbyshire limestone, on the summit of which stand bronze figures of deer, the royal stag of the wild and extensive highland forests, and the fallow deer of the sunny glades and noble parks of "Merrie England." The centre of the large gravel circle is occupied by a bronze statue of Diana, the goddess of hunting.

The private apartments attached to the east side of the dining room are two stories in height. Between each window of the first floor is a range of engaged columns with Ionic capitals. These are divided from the second floor by a rich line of mouldings; and placed vertically above them, in corresponding order, are similar columns with Corinthian capitals, which in turn are divided from the parapet, by mouldings of the same design as the others. The usual balustrade follows, and vases crown the line of each column. This wing is bounded by a gallery, which projects beyond the line of the other buildings, and then retreating about sixty feet, forms an angle to a beautiful arcade, ninety feet in length, and terminating in a small characteristic open tower. The first floor of the whole of the façade, from the extreme western angle to this tower, with the exception of the central building, is a long and effective range of engaged columns and pilasters, with Ionic capitals, surmounted by elegantly-designed mouldings, and crowned by ornamental balustrades and vases. There is much beauty and harmony in this extent of architectural embellishment: no part appears crowded or out of character, nor is the effect produced by any laborious effort; in fact, there reigns about it a dignified and elegant expression, illustrative of a refined and comprehensive genius.

Over the length of the arcade extends a balcony, and at the rear the upper portion of a private orangery, on the summit of which

runs a line of the crowns of well imitated pine-apples. A flight of semicircular steps leads into the tower and orangery, and directly into a long sculpture gallery, from the centre of which rises a lofty Italian clock-tower, surmounted by a colossal bronze figure, emblematical of intellectual progress. The base of this tower forms the entrance to the dairy, over the door of which, leading to the river, is the Latin inscription, "*Lac non deficit;*" i.e., "Here milk is ever plentiful." In a niche of this tower, facing the court-yard, is a cast of the brass statue of Admiral Sir Richard Leveson, who was



ADMIRAL SIR RICHARD LEVESON.

a distinguished naval commander in the time of Queen Elizabeth. He is considered by some to be the subject of that fine old plaintive ballad, "The Spanish Lady's Love," which relates the woes of a captive maid, "by birth and parentage of high degree," at being about to be separated for ever from her detainer.

" Full woe is me,
O let me still sustain this kind captivity!
* * * * *
My heart in prison still remains with thee!"

For he accompanied the Earl of Nottingham, in 1596, to Cadiz, when he was twenty-seven years of age. He was married to the daughter of this famous Earl, who was Lord High Admiral and Commander-in-Chief of the English fleet which defeated the so-called "invincible" Spanish Armada. Sir Richard Leveson, who was in this engagement, as well as many others, in 1601, was made Vice-Admiral, and died early in life in 1605. In the Collegiate Church at Wolverhampton, a noble brass statue, richly gilt, supported by a stately monument in black marble, was erected to his memory; by which were two brass plates, the one inscribed with the chief events of his life, registered at length in Latin, terminating in these words—" *E vita pie discessit sine prole, sed non sine magno multorum luctu, lauro dignus, ære contentus;*" and the other in English. He was succeeded by Sir Richard Leveson of Trentham, Knight of the Bath, who erected this splendid memorial to the Admiral's fame. It was executed by Le Sueur for £300, and the original contract in French is still preserved at Trentham. During the contest between Royalty and the Parliament, this effigy was ordered by the Committee of Sequestrations at Stafford to be taken away and cast into cannon; but by the timely interposition of Lady Leveson, the admiral's widow, it was redeemed for a sum of money, and deposited in Lilleshall Church till the strife was over. The marble monument being destroyed, it now occupies a niche in the church at Wolverhampton.

The above Sir Richard Leveson, Knight of the Bath, was Member

of Parliament for the county of Salop, and afterwards for Newcastle-under-Lyme, and was devoted to the cause of Charles I. He made his residence at Trentham "being accounted one of the best house-keepers and landlords in the county." In consequence of his adherence to the royal cause, his property was sequestered, for which he compounded by the payment of more than £6000, the largest composition obtained. There remains a letter from him to the Governor of Shrewsbury, which strikingly indicates the distresses sustained by persons of distinction, even during those troubled times:—

S^r,—Since the unhappy surprise of Stafford by the rebelles, the place where I am is not safe, either for myself or my goodes, and therefore I have sent 2 wagons loaded with some household stuffe, which I desire, with your dispensa'on, may bee received into your towne of Shrewsbury, into a roome which I have longe reserved in myne owne handes for this purpose against a tyme of neede; and that to this effecte you will please to give order unto your watch for free passage to and fro, whereby you will oblige mee more and more to remayne.

Yor ever affectionate frende,
R. LEVESON.*

Lilleshall Lodge¹⁵ 16 May, 1643.

To my muche respected frende,

S^r Francis Oteley, Kt.,

Governour of Shrewsburye. Haste these.

This Sir Richard Leveson built the Trentham Hall alluded to at page 6.

The court-yard is extensive, oblong in shape, and in the centre stands a large square building consisting principally of stabling, coach-houses, and other offices connected with the establishment. Most of the other ranges of building are also of that character. The entrance to the eastern wing, beneath a carriage porch, faces north; from which the continuation of the main building is angular in form, and connected with the Porter's Lodge by a long, dead wall, alluded to in the description of the church. From the base of this wall spring a line of large chesnut trees, the finest one towering over the ex-

* Baronial Halls.

tremity of the Hall, bordered by recent plantings of rhododendron and well-kept turf. There are seven now standing in this line, but "rude Boreas" has laid several of them low within the last half century. About six yards from the end of the wall nearest to the main building is a curious relic of domestic life—probably that of the early part of last century. The inscription, which follows, is cut on a block of sandstone, and from the nature of the material the characters are unfortunately almost illegible; they were much more distinct two years ago when we copied them.

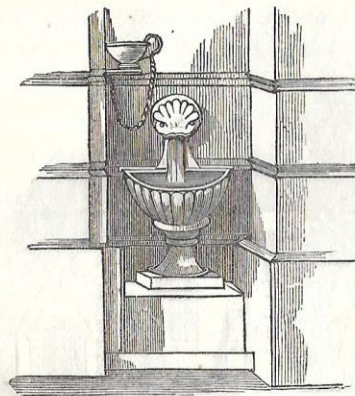
"Here Pullo is laid
On purpose 'tis said
To wait on fat Dick if he's able,
When to Cellar he has been
And filed up to y^e brim
He'd wait on him to y^e Coach stable." 15

Opposite the Porter's Lodge is the principal office of this extensive establishment, and where a savings' bank has long afforded to the surrounding population a safe and convenient source of investment for—

"The pound so slowly gathered, and proudly, too, by toil."

Immediately by the entrance gates is the little dolphin-headed fountain, with its chained cup, and shell-grooved basin, which ever gushes on in a sparkling stream, failing not, and wearying not. It has a song, too, of its own—a song of murmuring extacy, that charms the ears of an eager and untold audience, and throws its mimic spray over their faces as they imbibe, in the midst of fun and frolic, its cooling nectar. And how many a "poor traveller," wayworn and weary, covered with the hot dust of the long, long miles that cling to his lagging footsteps, or driven on by the thin, keen winds and the pitiless snow, approach the adjoining window with a face that hope alone cheers, and leave it with a visage considerably altered, to drown, in a long, deep draught from the fountain, his disappointment of a more courageous beverage: many a one, indeed, and often; but it is not always thus—the

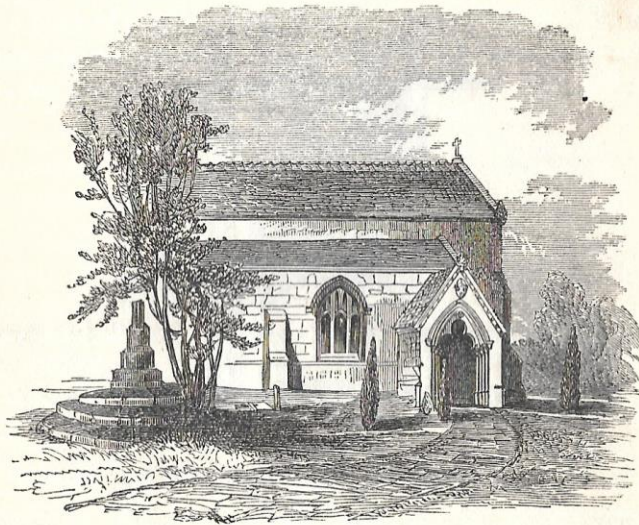
hospitable "bread and beer,"¹⁷ shared by so many thousands, have given hope to the sinking heart, and vigour to the aching limb, ere they left the welcome seat in the alcove, erected for their use; and long may this good old custom of "hospitalitie" scatter the memory of Trentham over the world.



THE FOUNTAIN.

CHAPTER III.

The Church.



THE CHURCH.

THE church still retains its original dedication to St. Mary. It is also the private chapel, the Rev. E. J. Edwards being incumbent and chaplain to the Duke of Sutherland. It is attached to the north side of the Hall, and no doubt occupies the ancient site of St. Werburgh's Chapel; but it is hardly probable, from the fact of its destruction, that many traces of that edifice exist at the present day. In the year 1844 the church was restored at the entire cost of the present Duke of Sutherland, and the chancel and gallery at the west end added to it. The original extent is to be seen by the tall Norman piers (the pointed arches are of a later date), which were undoubtedly erected at the restoration of the religious site by the Earl of Chester, nearly seven hundred years

ago. When they were taken down in 1844 great care was observed to preserve their exact order, and every stone cleaned and rebuilt according to their previous position. The capitals are quaint; and although of the same order, the design of each is different. The roof was also then raised, which admitted more light and improved its appearance. The ceiling is of stained wood, panelled, and embossed with mouldings. The south wall is, correctly speaking, the most ancient part of the whole edifice, scarcely a stone being removed in its restoration. The old church had a tower at the west end which contained a fine peal of bells, but many years since they were removed to Wolstanton. One is still called the Blacksmith, and bears the impression of an anvil, having been presented to the church by one of that fraternity. The main entrance to the church was at one time beneath this tower, a sketch of which appears in *Plot*, as referred to at page 6. But it was built up many years previous to 1844—in fact the tower itself had been removed long before that time.

In pulling down the walls many traces of colouring were discovered, which had been defaced by a coating of plaster, probably during the destructive ascendancy of the Puritans. These colourings were of various designs, copies of which we have seen with other relics of a similar period then brought to light. The niche in the north side of the aisle was also covered with plaster, and otherwise hidden by the wainscoting of the old high pews, then used in the church. This recess was undoubtedly occupied before the Reformation by the reclining effigy of some warrior connected with the locality—probably that of a crusader. We have seen a similar Gothic niche in Swinnerton Church, in which is the recumbent figure of a crusader.

The church is not crowded with the relics of former ages; but there is one, not only important in itself, but associated with times the most terrible that England has known since she became a distinct nation. This is a painting on panelled oak of the arms of the unfortunate Charles I, and bearing date 1634. It is about seven feet by five in size, and formerly occupied the centre of the

arch above the beautifully-carved and well-preserved oak screen that divides the chancel from the nave. It is now hung over the northern door. The colouring is good, and the quarterings very distinct. It bears the name of the artist, Samuel Kyrk, Lichfield, *fecit*. A very interesting circumstance connected with it is, that there is completely through one of its quarterings—lions *passant*—a bullet-hole; and in another an indentation by a similar weapon. It is believed that the church, during the great civil war, was occupied for a few days by a troop of Cromwell's horse, and it would appear that these pistol-shots were then fired; but whether the result of mere wantonness, or of a more serious conflict, is uncertain. The prevailing spirit of the Roundheads would point to the former, independent of any other reason. Specimens of the arms of Charles I are very uncommon in churches in England, and what gives a greater amount of interest to this example is, the fact that in two other churches on the Duke of Sutherland's estate similar relics of Charles I are still to be seen: one at Blurton, near Trentham, which bears date 1629; and another at Lilleshall, in Shropshire, the date of which we have not been able to learn. It was customary, during the reign of Charles I, to place in all churches, either built or restored, a copy of the royal arms; and the circumstance of these three having survived the wreck of those times is very important and interesting.

The screen alluded to divides both the nave and the aisles from the chancel. Each division is surrounded by framework, the apex being composed of a goat's head, and the centre containing a shield on which are carved and gilt the three laurel leaves of the Levesons, by whom it was no doubt erected at the time the Hall of 1633 was built; and which, agreeing with the date on the royal arms, would lead to the conclusion that the entire residence and church—then the old priory and chapel attached to it—underwent a transformation similar in character to that of 1834-44, exactly two hundred years previous to the latter date. It is a somewhat singular coincidence.

The oldest inscription in the church, and one of affecting interest, is on an alabaster monument in the recess of a small chapel formed

by the screen in the south aisle. The monument itself does not appear so ancient as the inscription, which is an old black letter one, on brass, beneath the kneeling figures of those it refers to. It is as follows:—

Here lyeth the body of the Lady Mary Leveson, Wyfe of S^r Richard Leveson of Lylleshull in Coy Salop, Knight, daughter to S^r Edward Myton of Galsworthe, Knight, having issue, Walter, Mary, and Ané. Walter was S^r Walter Leveson who married Ané y^e daughter of S^r Andrew Corbet, Knight, and Mary married George Curzon of Croxall, Esq. Ané dyed in infancy: this Lady Leveson became a wyddow at the age of 30 years in September, 1559, and continued so all the days of her life, spendinge the most part of her time here at Trentham in good hospitalitie, for poore and riche, justly commended to all posterity for vertue, woorship, wysdome modesty, and sobrietie even to the verie day of her deathe, beinge the 27 of July 1591, at Battersee in y^e countie of Surrey: and by her executors and friends, accordinge to her owne testament her reverend corps was conveyed to this place and was here interred the 26 of August 1591.

On the left side of this monument is a marble shield containing the following inscription.

Near this place lyeth interred y^e body
of William the third son of Will
iam Leveson-Gower of Trent
ham in the county of Stafford Esq^{re}
(who was y^e youngest son of Sir
Thomas Gower of Stitnam in y^e
county of Yorke Knight and Baronet)
by y^e Right Honorable y^e Lady Jane
his wife the eldest daughter of y^e
Right Honorable John Granville
Earle of Bathe
He was Born y^e 24 of Septemb^r 1680
and dyed y^e 13th of Septemb^r 1686.

Immediately beneath this are two separate inscriptions on brass, let into a stone tablet: the one,—

Here lyeth the body of
S^r Wm. Leveson Gower,
Baronet.

The other, underneath,—

Jane, the relict of
S^r William Leveson Gower, Bart.
Mother to John Lord Gower,
Eldest daughter of John
Granville, Earl of Bath,
was buried here March 30,
1696.

On the right side of the alabaster monument is another marble shield tablet of a somewhat similar form to the other, bearing this inscription:—

M. S.

Neare this place is interred S^r William
Leveson Gower Bart Son of S^r Thomas
Gower of Stittenham in the County of Yorke
Kn^t and Bar^t by Dame Francis Daughter of
S^r John Leveson Kn^t. (Elder Brother of S^r
Richard late of this place)
He was 2nd son of S^r Thomas but by y^e death
of his Elder Brother and Nephew became heire
to the Paternal Estate and title.
He died Dec. 21, 1691, in the 44th year of his age ha
ving had issue by his only wife y^e Lady Jane
Eldest daughter of John Granville Earle of Bath.

2 daughters { Catherine married to S^r Edward Wyndham
of Orchard Wyndham in Somersetshire Bart
and Jane married to the Lord Hide Eldest son
of Lawrence Earle of Rochester.

3 sons { S^r John Leveson Gower now living.
Richard who was born Sep^r 28, 1676,
Died Dec. 2nd 1689 and lies by his Brother
William who is buried on y^e other side of the
Altar.

These are the whole of the inscriptions to the memory of the distinguished family of the Leveson-Gowers, who are interred in the family vault beneath. But on the south wall adjoining,

painted in gold letters on an oak panel, is the record of a charity, remarkable for its benevolent and providential character. Lady Catherine Leveson, daughter of Francis, Countess of Dudley, was the wife of Sir Richard Leveson, who built Trentham Hall in 1633, as alluded to, and survived him several years. She died at Trentham, but was buried by his side in Lilleshall Church.

Given by y^e Lady Catherine, y^e
Relict of S^r Rich. Leveson, a
rich embroidered Cloath for
y^e Communion table, and a large
Silver Flagon,* to be used at y^e
Administration of y^e Lord's Supper.
In her last will she bequeathed 4
hundred Pounds toward y^e maintenance
of a Schoolmaster, & an hundred
Pounds for y^e beautifying of &
buying ornaments for y^e Church:
And thirty Pounds yearly for ever for
y^e maintenance of 3 Poor Widdowes,
& twenty Pounds for y^e putting
forth yearly 2 Poor Boyes Apprentices.

A worthy companion to this is attached to the wall close to the principal doorway. It is headed:

MEMORABLE ACTS OF PIETY AND CHARITY.

Given by Mary, y^e Relict of S^r Rich. Leveson, of Lilleshall, Knight,
y^e summe of ten pounds for y^e use of this Church.

Given to y^e Church by S^r Rich Leveson, Knight of y^e Bath, a Pulpit
Cloath, Cushion, and a Cloath for y^e Communion table, one cup & one
plate of silver for y^e Lord's table. In his last will he left twenty Pounds
to bee distributed among y^e poor of y^e Parish, and five Pounds to bee
levied yearly for ever out of y^e Rents of a certain piece of Land, near
Blurton, and divided amongst y^e Poor according to the discretion of his
Heir.

* This silver flagon is still used at the service of the Holy Communion.

Adjoining this are also the particulars of several charitable bequests:—

Left to ye Poor of Trentham Parish, by ye late Mr. Brerehurst, of Hanford, xx shillings a year in bread, to be given yearly upon Ash Wednesday.

Left by Mrs. Astbury, of Checkley, Cheshire, to ye Churchwardens of ye Parish of Trentham, xx Pounds, to be set out at interest, and ye yearly interest thereof to be distributed on St. John's day in Christmas to vi poor widows, or xii poor people in ye Parish for ever, at ye discretion of ye Churchwardens.

Left by Mr. Tuer, serv^t to the late R^t Honble. Lord Gower, five Pounds, the interest thereof to be given yearly to the Poor of this Parish.

Left by John Mare, Bailiff to ye late R^t Honble. Lord Gower, v shillings a year in bread, to be given yearly to the poor of this Parish.

Left by Mr. John White, of Cherington, xxx Pounds, the interest thereof to be given yearly to the poor of this parish. Left by Mr. James Preston, £x pounds, the interest thereof to be given at Christmas to the poor of Trentham in bread. 1745.

Engraved on a brass tablet attached to the column near the previous inscriptions is—

ELLIOT'S GIFT.

1837. Thomas Elliot bequeathed to the Rev. E. J. G. G. Edwards, £30 to be Distributed as he should think fit, in clothing Children of Trentham and Ash Green.

1852. Liddle Elliot, son of the above-named Thomas, As a memorial of his affection for his father's memory, transferred to the Duke of Sutherland Sixteen Shares in the Staffordshire Potteries Water Works Company, Numbered from 4994 to 5009 inclusive, upon trust, to apply the Dividends at Easter towards the clothing of Children, the inhabitants of Trentham, in the manner declared by a Deed-Poll under His Grace's Hand and Seal, dated 28th day of January, 1852, which is deposited in the Parish Chest.

Directly beneath this is a strong oak box, with an opening in the lid for the reception of alms, bearing the following legend:—

Remember
the Poore
P H
16 M 98.

In the private gallery, attached to the south side, is the following affecting and eloquent record:—

In Memory of
FREDERICK G. S. LEVESON GOWER,
Second son of George and Harriet
Duke and Duchess of Sutherland,
Born, November 11, 1832,
Died on the waters of Sebastopol,
6 October, 1854,
on board the Bellerophon,
where the kindness of its Captain,
Lord George Paulet,
caused him to be moved,
in the extremity of weakness
from fatal fever.
This record of his blameless life,
of a heart full of affection,
of hardship encountered with patience,
of suffering borne without murmur,
of death met with resignation
in the path appointed,
is placed here by his parents.
His body was consigned to the deep.

Love follows him—
Peace be with him.

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord.

The tablet is of Caen stone, and the design, though simple, is remarkable for its chaste and characteristic outlines. In the north aisle there is a fine memorial window of stained glass, with scrolls containing passages of Scripture running over a buff-coloured

ground, diapered with the initial letters J. B. At the base is the following inscription:—

Thomas Butt, born October 20, 1776. He was Minister of this Church from the year of our Lord, 1805, until his death, June 14, 1841.

It was erected by his wife, Mrs. Butt, who is still living. He rests in the churchyard beneath the shadow of the hawthorn tree that springs from the foundation of the old cross. A plain, flat stone, with a cross in relief at its head, bears his epitaph. There is also, next to this, another window of stained glass, facing the east, erected to the memory of Jane Edwards, sister to the present minister, who was born January 19th, 1813, and died on S.S. Simon and Jude, 1851. Adjoining the former window is a mural tablet of white marble on a dark ground, the upper part bearing the family arms, and a scroll containing the motto, "*Avancez et archez bien.*" The centre bears the following inscription:—

In the vault near this place
are deposited the remains of
THOMAS SWINNERTON, Esquire,
of Butterton Hall,
who died on the 9th of May, 1836,
Aged 82 years.

This testimonial of gratitude and respect,
to the memory of a most kind parent,
was erected by his affectionate daughter,
Mary,

The wife of Sir William Pilkington, Baronet.

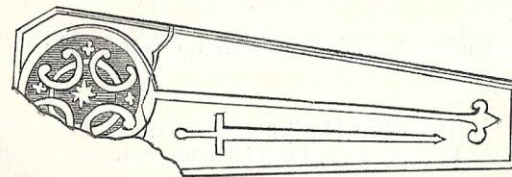
This gentleman was lord of the neighbouring manor of Butterton, an estate held by the family for many generations. He was the last male heir of his line; and by the marriage of his daughter to Sir William Pilkington, of Chevet Hall, county of York, the property was carried to that family, by whom it is now held. The Swinnertons had a seat on the north side of this church, and a family vault beneath the tablet. A new church was erected at Butterton in the year 1845. The old Hall at Butterton is built

of red sandstone, and although now in a rather dilapidated state, was at one time a strong, serviceable residence, of the early part of James I. Recently a fine mansion, of a mixed style of architecture, has been erected near the old Hall, and where the family now reside.

The font, of Caen stone, is an elegant architectural specimen, octagon in shape, with a well-carved letter of the word "Trentham" on each division. The lectern used in this church is a very fine one, of brass, and the column surmounted by an eagle, whose half-spread wings form the book-rest.

Over the altar is a fine painting of the Entombment of our Saviour; but from the bad light in which it hangs, it is difficult to be seen effectively. There is a full choir, entirely vocal. Messrs. Minton & Co.'s Encaustic Tiles are laid down in each avenue, and in the chancel. The effect of these ornamental accessories is good, and appears to be very satisfactory.

During the winter the church at evening service is lighted with gas, gratuitously supplied from the works on the estate; and also heated, by means of pipes, throughout the winter, whenever Divine service is performed, which is each Wednesday morning and Friday evening, independently of prayers on saints' days. The sittings are entirely free, of a commodious size, and open; and the floor beneath covered with matting.



The stone slab in the porch is very interesting. It was discovered a few years ago, forming the cover of a drain that emptied itself into the Trent, near the keeper's house, and would appear from its style to belong to the latter part of the twelfth century, or very early that of the thirteenth. It has been damaged, and some parts are missing, but enough remains to prove that it originally formed the

lid of a coffin, and, from the cross and sword traced upon it, no doubt that of an ecclesiastical warrior. Whether it at any time covered the remains of one of Trentham's priors is uncertain, but highly probable; and also that it must have been removed from the church at the time of its restoration, in the year 1634. The doorway of the porch is a beautiful specimen of the trefoil pointed arch, with clustered columns. The arch is original, but the columns are from a recent design, and the shield bearing the three laurel leaves was copied from the screen.

The greatest piece of undoubted antiquity in the churchyard is the old stone cross. It appears to have been a praying or penitential cross, and might have been erected on the spot in honour of, and where the body of St. Werburgh rested previous to its removal to Hanbury. The steps are much worn, and from that circumstance it is likely a market has been some time or other held here, in the centre of which it would be situated. The base of the column, which is of an octagon shape, and has been much higher, rests on a circular stone of a more modern construction. It is a very interesting relic, but whether in reality Saxon is not known; however, from the simpleness of its construction, the absence of all ornament, and the worn state of the steps, we conclude it to have been in existence a long time previous to the Conquest, and not unlikely that it originated from the circumstance alluded to.

The most ancient tombstone bears the date 1666; and records that—

Herein John Moulton layes, a servant just,
Friend to all, and faithful to his trust.

The oldest inhabitant appears to have been:—

1718.
JOHN BELL, Gent.,
Servt to y^e Hon^{ble} family
of the Gowers.
Aged 101.

There are several others to the memory of servants long attached to the family; but near the church is a stone, modern itself, but bearing the following interesting inscription:—

To the
Memory of the Boulds,
from the Year of our Lord
1558.

Connected with this family is the following extract from the "Parish Register":—

A Description or Register in three Ptes of all Christenings, Weddinges, and Burialls happened in the prshe of Trentham, since the xvijth daie of November A Dni 1558, being the daie of the coronation of our most soveraigne ladie Elizabeth the Queenes Majestie that now is: as following.

The first entry is—

1558. The iijth of December was baptized
Margerie Bould the daughter of Thomas Bould.

No funerals take place in the churchyard now. Attached to the mausoleum is the burial-ground of the parish, kindly given by the late Duke of Sutherland, who was then Marquis of Stafford, in the year 1808.* The mausoleum is a massive structure, erected at the above date, from a design by the celebrated architect, J. H. Tatham, Esq. It is built of blocks of Hollington stone; and the solemn air of the surrounding trees give it a very imposing and appropriate character. The interior is devoted to the members of the family, and each side has three tiers of vaults or niches, faced with polished stone, for the reception of the coffins. The late Duke of Sutherland was interred in the church at Dornoch, in Sutherland, where a long line of the Earls of Sutherland, the most ancient of the Scottish peerage, rest from their labours. Three members of the family are interred here, one above the other, the mouth of each vault being closed

* Over the doorway in the interior, beneath a stone copy of the family arms, is the following:—

"Extruxit: G. G. Mar. 11 Stafford MDCCCVIII."

with a solid block of white marble, containing the following inscriptions :—

ALEXANDRINA.

February iii MDCCCXLVIII.

June xxi MDCCCXLIX.

VICTORIA.

May xvi MDCCCXXXVIII.

June xix MDCCCXXXIX.

BLANCHE JULIA.

June xxvi MDCCCXXX.

February xxiv MDCCCXXXII.

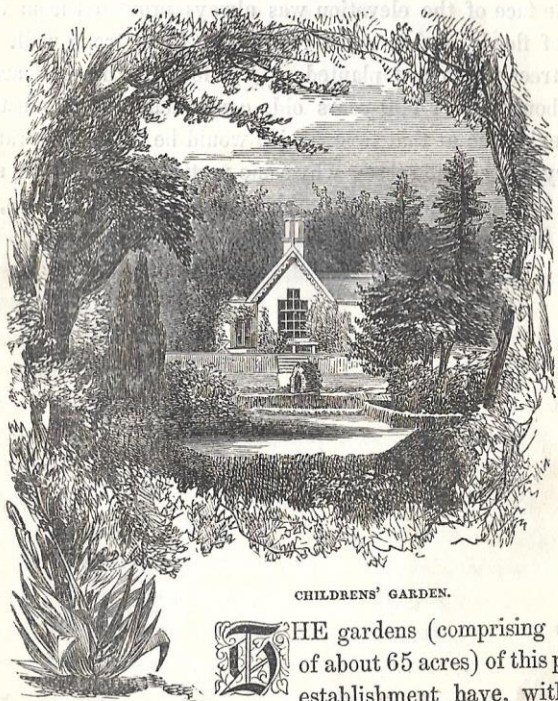
The entrance to the churchyard was formerly on the spot now occupied by the "Poor Traveller's" house, and beneath an old Saxon Lych-gate, which was of oak with an open roof. It was removed to give room to a resting-place for the living—the dead no longer entered there.

We have alluded to the old wall that divides the churchyard from the hall court: the lower part, about seven or eight feet from the ground, is substantially built of various sorts of sandstone, but bearing evidence of having at various times been repaired. The upper line is on a level with the surface of the churchyard, and the continuation of the wall from this point is of modern brickwork about six feet high: from the court-yard, therefore, the wall presents a face upwards of thirteen feet in height. In the churchyard, ten feet from it, the trunk of a yew tree, large and hollow, with several branches still showing the unconquered vigour of its wonderful nature, stands in its lonely kingdom, probably little different in extent to what it was many generations ago. This tree, possibly enough, was planted with many others when St. Werburgh was abbess nearly twelve hundred years since, but of all the cherished and the familiar, it alone remains. The site of the ancient nunnery appears to have been entirely artificial ground, raised many feet above the natural level, and of an oblong, or irregular form; the eastern side would be defended by the waters of the

Trent and a morass reaching to the base of the wall; the north almost equally so by the park brook, rendered more secure by deepening its channel; the south would be an impassable swamp, under water the greater part of the year, and the western side crossed by a considerable fosse or moat supplied by the park brook, and completely isolating the little nunnery from terra firma. The churchyard is still seven or eight feet above the surrounding soil; and there is no doubt the face of the elevation was always protected from the influence of floods, and a moist foundation, by a strong wall. The chesnut trees which are planted at the foot of this wall are evidently about 600 or 700 years old, consequently as it must have been in existence at that time, which would be at the restoration of the priory, we see no reason why some portion now standing should not have been erected at the same time as the original nunnery, about the year 680.

CHAPTER IV.

The Gardens.



CHILDRENS' GARDEN.

THE gardens (comprising an area of about 65 acres) of this princely establishment have, within the recollection of men still living, undergone a complete change, and especially so within the last twenty years. Before that time they do not appear to have excelled in any particular manner the gardens of other large estates, or to have attracted more attention than is usually bestowed upon such establishments by occasional visitors.

What they were in *Plot's* time it is difficult to say; but a large

and conspicuous fountain attracted his attention, and to which he refers in his "History of Staffordshire," as follows:—"In the curious garden south of Trentham Hall there is another (fountain) that sends up a large column of water, falling into a bason of ten yards in diameter, which from the parlour (the folding doores opening just against it) yields a pleasant prospect; but much better would it be, were it made to toss a golden ball (as easily it might), and the designed vista were cut through the adjoining wood, which, lying upon a rising ground, and taking up a mile in length, must necessarily give it a great advantage."* We presume this "curious garden, south of Trentham Hall," to have been laid out in the Dutch style, then becoming fashionable, and of which traces were visible about 100 years ago in the part of the ground alluded to. These consisted of numerous yew trees, clipped with the greatest care and method into representations of various birds, such as peacocks, turkeys, &c. The fountain, with its large column of water, and the anticipated "golden ball," would agree with that style, and certainly impart a little animation to the quaint and imperturbable dark masses of geometrically cut yew trees.

This south garden would appear to have occupied the whole of the site of the present Parterre and Terrace Garden; it is hardly probable to have extended further in a southerly direction, because where the Italian Gardens now stand was, up to within a comparatively recent period, a sheep walk, by no means free from water at all times. The "curious" garden, that is, the principle features of it, would no doubt disappear with the Elizabethan mansion, and the modern one of red brick accompanied a style of gardening more suited to its character.

We have seen a rough drawing of the south front of the Hall, taken probably very early in the present century. The site of the Italian Gardens is open ground, studded with a few trees, and only divided from the park, which runs quite up the western entrance door, by a scarcely visible fence. To the right, bordering the river, over which appears a rustic bridge in the place now occupied

* *Plot's* "History of Staffordshire," chap. ix. 13.

by the iron span bridge close to the conservatory, a cluster of trees are faced by a small temple; but we look in vain for those masses of shrubbery that give to a mansion an air of comfort as well as importance. The old boat-house on the borders of the lake appears in the drawing. The years 1839-40 witnessed the commencement of the eradication of the old style, and its memory is now almost obliterated by the introduction of a scene that is nowhere surpassed, according to its character, for general beauty, arrangement, and picturesque effect.

Undoubtedly, the most perfect view connected with any part of the gardens in that opening from the terrace in the south front of the Hall. There is a richness in the combination of art with nature that sets at naught all ordinary powers of description. And yet it is not grand, it is not startling; but it is beautiful, and in that expression is hidden a charm that clings to the mind like that of a happy dream long after the sleep that produced it has passed away. "From the parterre, sad and poetical, in irregular height, rise groups of the pyramidal cypress shading with dark green lines the rich and vivid masses of geranium and calceolaria. To the right, bordering the balustrade, a dense line of evergreens, mingled with native flowering plants, stretches on to the wood, interspersed here and there with grassy glades and vistas opening on some fine old tree or group in the park. Adjoining the parterre, in verdant tranquillity, relieved by the richness of artistic treatment, are the Italian gardens. At their extremity the bright and silvery lake seems dreaming away into the foliage of the woods, with green islands darkling on its bosom, and noble swans nestling on its surface, watching the life-like shadows that look up to them from the face of the blue sky below. On its margin the sturdy branches of the oak bend over, and their leaves kiss, as it were, the murmuring ripples as they beat faintly on its pebbly shore; while, grouped here and there, so coy and yet so beautiful, the lily sleeps and awakes with the sun through the whole summer-time of its existence. Gradually rising from the lake, the ground assumes a bolder character, and forms a distinct ridge clothed entirely by a fine old

wood, called the King's Wood, whose wave-like and diversified foliage seems to roll in the sun like the slumbering swell of the ocean. About half-way along it a flowing bend points out the situation of the "spring valley," which, with its delicious spring of water, contains many fine specimens of ferns. At the extremity of the wood, rises a conical hill, crowned by a colossal statue of the late Duke of Sutherland, which forms a conspicuous feature in the landscape. To the left the ground is a little more open, and bounded by rising ground and trees. It thus forms an amphitheatre, of a purely sylvan character, and of a most beautiful and interesting description.*

The Terrace Garden is composed of several raised beds of wrought stone, of various form and treatment. The centre of each of the largest is occupied by large marble vases, and the smaller ones by bronze statues, surrounded by alternate lines of the flower-of-the-day, golden chain, and other geraniums, verbenas, lobelia, &c. The elegant humea also contributes its graceful outlines to the general effect. In each window of the lower story of the Hall is a China-covered box with a variety of geraniums. The pavement is composed of slate bordered by flag-stones; and a balustrade divides it from the parterre. This garden contains a selection of bronze statuary, consisting of The Wounded Fawn, Mercury, Venus, Atalanta and Hippomenes, &c. Such objects contribute a fine effect to gardens of this description, and with vases, urns, and other works of a classic order, relieve and enrich the general features of picturesque landscape.

The Private Conservatory opens to this garden. The walls are covered with trellis-work, over which cluster masses of cobaea scandens and passion flower, which, descending from the roof in long lines, have a very pretty effect. The borders are also covered with camelias, fuchsias, &c., and the ventilation is regulated by ornamental baskets with trailing plants. There are several orange trees in tubs, and a fine specimen of the seaforthia elegans. This

* Gardens of England.

house, with the corridors connected with it, contains numerous specimens of lichen and ferns. Of the latter the collection is rare, consisting of *pteris tremula*, *aspidium molle*, *aspidium patens*, *polypodium aureum*, *davillia decompositum*, *blechnum occidentale*, *blechnum corcovodense*, *adiantum formosum*, &c. There is a small garden between the corridor and the main wall, laid out in raised beds with geranium, *calceolaria*, &c.

The Parterre is about two feet below the level of the Terrace Garden, and the steps leading from it flanked by bronze figures and antique urns. It is about eighty yards square, and divided by broad gravel walks, with stone borders, into large compartments. The inner one is a circle, laid out in small cypher beds, with gravel-paths and lines of turf converging to a circular basin containing a fountain—the three graces. This series of beds are arranged and planted with flowers, to represent a peacock's tail. They are surrounded by a small band of verbenas, of different varieties, and the basin is bordered by groups of the *humea*; the effect of the sparkling water falling in this floral circle is, by comparison, very beautiful. There are four large compartments, laid out in numerous beds, the centre being a fine and graceful scroll; and each division is, in its entire arrangement, a counterpart of the other. The flowers used in their decoration consist principally of geraniums, Trentham rosy-scarlet, flower-of-the-day, golden chain and other varieties, verbenas, *lobelia*, roses (Chinese), *calceolaria*, *saponaria calabrica*, forget-me-not, *petunias*, &c. Each plot is further ornamented with cypress and Irish yew, and in the centre of each, on a granite pedestal, stands a fine antique white marble vase. The divisions between the beds were formerly composed of gravel, but a much more effective and refreshing contrast has lately been ensured, by laying them down with turf. The outer borders are of a chain-pattern, formed of box edgings laid down with variegated gravel. The small beds, from which rise, at regular intervals, a cypress, are planted with flowers of a similar character to the other parts of the garden. The east and west sides are bounded by a low wall, the north and south by balustrades, and in the four

angles are the Conservatory, Dining-room, and two Italian temples containing mythological statues. The whole of the balustrades are ornamented by lines of vases, with flowers, chiefly geraniums. Wherever a recess, or a point favourable for floral display, or the introduction of objects of art, presents itself, it is not neglected; but there is no wholesale grouping, no gaudy pretension, to be seen. If the eye rests upon any individual object, or ranges over the whole area, it is struck with nothing repulsive to good taste; everywhere it is harmonious, glowing, and beautiful. In the winter time some of the beds are planted with dwarf evergreens, such as *rhododendrons*, *ericas*, *menziesias*, &c.; and when the first genial beams of a spring morning fall across it—sometimes even through a thick crust of snow—every bed welcomes its hopeful ray with the first pure offerings of the floral world—the snowdrop and crocus.

Between the Parterre and the Park are masses of shrubbery, consisting of holly, various of the conifera family, *rhododendrons* of several colours, *azalea*, thorns, &c.; and the hollies and thorns, with others, are in many instances covered with honeysuckle, wild roses, and clematis, which impart a very fine and pretty effect to the different groups. Numerous grassy glades run here and there, and form a succession of very interesting walks, the borders being planted with heaths, and enlivened by a great variety of native flowers. The terrace fronting the private apartments is reached by some ranges of steps, on which stand several ornamental baskets with flowers, and it is further embellished by two large antique bronze vases. In front of the orangery, ornamented by an iron gilt railing, is another garden, with a Cupid fountain in the centre, and planted in a simple, but very effective manner. Stretching towards the lake are some beautiful glades beneath large trees, in some instances crossed by a serpentine border of forget-me-not, intended to represent a rivulet. This happy idea—so simple, yet so natural-looking—is due to the Duchess of Sutherland, and was first realized some years ago at Lilleshall, in Shropshire. The surface of these glades is broken here and there by gentle undula-

tions, and intersected by beds of the simple periwinkle, from which rise some fine specimens of the *araucaria imbricata*. There is also a beautiful tree, the *magnolia tripetala*, and some thorns decked in the borrowed plumes of wild roses. Some ancient forest trees contribute to the interest of the scene.

The steps leading from the Parterre to the Italian Gardens are very fine; "their form is bow-like, the edge of stone, and the space between each, which gradually descends and is composed of gravel, varies from five to seven feet. They are six in number, and have a stately appearance." The Italian Gardens are universally admired for their descriptive beauty, and the excellent arrangement of the materials of which they are composed. They occupy about ten acres, and are divided into large compartments by broad gravel walks. The central one is about 250 yards long, and 14 wide; and down its entire length and the parallel walks on each side of it range well-kept lines of Portugal laurel in large tubs, and trained so as to represent orange trees. There are also in the centre of each of the six compartments fountains of a simple character, the large ones throwing a single jet of water upwards of twenty-five feet. The excavations are well kept, the turf being of a mossy and rich character.

The borders of each of the beds, which are planted with the greatest regard to harmony both in height and colour, are formed of yew, barberry, dwarf oak, &c. The walks are kept free from weeds, and made solid and clear-looking by being well dressed each spring with boiling water and salt—a machine invented by Mr. Fleming being used for that purpose. The whole of the turf, where it is possible to be got at, is kept in order by a mowing-machine drawn by one horse, which cuts and collects the grass at the same time. It is a capital instrument, and of the greatest utility where there is such a large surface of turf to be mown. The east and west sides of the gardens are raised into a terrace, on which stand several Maltese vases and polished granite seats. Down the trellis-walk on the east are placed on terms allegorical busts of the four seasons; and between them a range of ornamented baskets

surmounted by a zinc band painted green, which forms a capital contrast to the white baskets and the foliage of the flower-of-the-day geranium with which they are decorated, and is further serviceable by allowing more soil to the roots. The beds running the entire length of the trellis-walk, are planted with gay, flowering plants of the usual order, and present a glowing and rich appearance against the foliage of the climbers that rise from amongst them.

The trellis-walk was erected in the year 1843. "It is composed of iron 140 yards long and about 15 feet high, over which clusters of roses, woodbine, clematis, ivy, the fine foliage of the *aristolochia siphon*, and numerous other flowering plants and creepers luxuriate. Standing at the southern end, the view from it is most charming, and well adapted for artistic treatment, embracing portions of the park, wood, lake, and islands, with the bay and its groups of beech and horse-chesnut. Each end of the walk contains three entrances, and is raised much higher than the other part; and down each side are oval windows.

"At the extremity of the central walk of the Italian Gardens, abutting on the lake, and on a stone pedestal surrounded by four smaller ones at present unoccupied, stands a remarkably fine colossal bronze cast of Perseus and Medusa.* This is the only bronze copy of the original extant, and as a work of art its value is great. The work displays great power and truthfulness of expression. Perseus, flushed with triumph, is represented holding the head of Medusa by its snaky locks the moment after decapitation, and surveying in his shield the reflection of that fatal face on which he dare not rest his naked eye."†

A balustrade divides the lake from these gardens; and at the eastern end there is a boat-house for the reception of a large

* This imposing piece of statuary is a cast from the work of the celebrated sculptor, Benvenuto Cellini, and bears the date MDLIII. The original is at Florence.

† Gardens of England.

handsome-looking boat, which, when required by the family, is manned by a crew selected for the purpose, and dressed in a suitable manner. The lake itself is a fine sheet of water, about eighty-five acres in extent, and diversified by two large islands planted with a variety of trees and shrubs. How long it has spread there like a mirror, or by whose directions it became a lake, is equally unknown; but there is no doubt that the site was previously a low, swampy marsh, covered with water the greater part of the year, and almost impassable at other times. The course of the river was at one time beneath the wood; it was then changed to the opposite side, and lastly, in the year 1853, diverted altogether from its influence. It is now fed by the Spring Valley rivulet, and it is only in the time of heavy floods that their waters mix to any extent. The bed of the lake is very irregular, some parts being shallow, and others very deep. It contains pike, perch, eels, tench, carp, and other fish common to English rivers, but no trout, although there are some in the brooks that flow into it. The common wild duck breeds here, and in the winter it is frequented by thousands of migratory water fowl, such as the mallard, widgeon, teal, dun-duck, pouchard; and occasionally by the northern diver, and others of a rarer description. The ancient grey herons make it their haunt, and we have seen nearly a score of these noble birds rising from its waters at one time. There is no heronry here, strictly speaking—they generally rear their young elsewhere—but occasionally they have been known to build their singular nests in the wood close by. The old fisherman one day related to us a curious anecdote of one of these birds, which occurred several years ago, and of which he was the witness. Pulling quietly down the lake one morning in a boat with one of his sons to look at the trimmers he had set over-night, he was struck by the unusual circumstance of seeing a heron rise from the water, reach a certain height, and then suddenly fall to the water again; this was repeated two or three times before they reached the spot, and accompanied by much struggling, and the cries peculiar to the bird. When they came to the place, they found that the heron was hooked, and

that a fine pike, of about five or six pounds weight, lay on the surface of the water at the head of the trimmer. Taking hold of the line they began to haul the bird in, but the nearer it came the greater its struggles and cries; and at last it attacked the son, striking him on the side of the head with its long beak, and drawing blood. However, it was in time secured, and brought away alive. It appears that the heron had struck the fish after it had taken the bait, and in eating it had extricated the bait to which the hook was fixed and swallowed both together. Rising on the wing to escape, it could reach no further than the length of the line, and was consequently forced back again.

The following singular case of voracity occurred many years since on the river opposite the poultry-yard; a swan was observed in the same position for several hours; on going to it, its head was found fast wedged in the mouth of a very large pike, and both were dead. The swan, while searching for food beneath the surface of the water, had been struck by the pike, and as its head, in consequence of the peculiar formation of the pike's teeth, could not be disgorged, the one had suffocated the other.

The lake is now occupied by a very inveterate enemy,—the anacharis alsinastrum, or American weed. It is remarkable for its propagating qualities and density. It first made its appearance here about three years ago, and in that short time has spread entirely over the lake, and the greater part of the river. It seems to have been imported from America somehow or other about the year 1842 or 1848; and, after almost choking up many of the canals in various parts of England, has already become formidable in many rivers and sheets of ornamental water in any way connected with them. It is singularly tenacious, and where its roots once fasten, there seems scarcely any hope of its eradication.

On the margin of the lake grow the handsome flowering rush (*butomus umbellatus*), the yellow flag (*iris pseudacorus*), and the purple loosestrife (*lythrum salicaria*). In the water is seen at certain seasons the showy persicaria (*polygornum amphibium*), the

aquatic species of ranunculus, and several lilies. Mr. Fleming has also this year introduced on its banks some specimens of the New Zealand flax (*phormium tenax*) which has been found to do very well in Ireland. When fully established it will present an imposing and unique appearance.

Across the lake, a little to the left, is an artificially formed promontory. The background gradually rising to the water is planted in a tasteful manner with shrubs and trees; and the rockwork is very effectively arranged.

The most contracted part of the narrow strip of land between the river and lake was the point where, previous to 1853, those waters joined. In that year, Mr. Fleming in a very short time, and at a trifling cost effectually changed its course, and by a careful selection of the most favourable points about its margin has made the locality both interesting and ornamental. Beside a small grotto on the opposite side are specimens of the common bulrush, iris, and other aquatic plants; and the entire length of the river from this point to the long bridge presents a double line of water-lilies; the mid-channel only being clear. A rustic bridge connects this narrow tongue of land with the American and other characteristic gardens, the site of which, a few years ago, was little better than a quagmire of ten or twelve acres in extent; but, by effective draining and perseverance, is now made one of the most ornamental spots in the gardens. The turf is in beautiful order, and the whole locality presents a most healthy and interesting appearance. The beds in which it is laid out are generally large, and irregular in shape; and planted with *aracauria imbricata*, *rhododendrons*; purple, white, and scarlet, *pinus douglasii*, *kalmias*, masses of *mahonia aquifolium*, &c., and bordered by *pernettia mucronata*, *gaultheria shallon*, *Daphnes*, heaths of various sorts, &c. There is, also, supported by a beautiful collection of hollyhocks, a small but choice rosary, of the best specimens, in circular beds with ivy borders; and the letter S, formed of iron, trained with roses and honeysuckle stretches across the velvety turf. Approaching the larger trees, numerous varieties of

thorn fringe a line of arbutus and yew, relieved by masses of furze and heath; and standing here and there, diversifying and enriching the scene, are thorns and hollies covered with honeysuckle and wild roses. Throughout these gardens the chief aim has been to arrive at the highest point of natural perfection by the application of natural means. Looking towards the wood the eye crosses an astonishing variety of plants, shrubs, and trees—the effect is singularly beautiful and harmonious—but it is produced by materials whose character is not strained or divided by anything foreign to their nature. Plants and flowers familiar to our childhood, and associated with the glowing dreams of our youth, here seem as much at home as in the sunny glades of the bird-singing wood, the cottage garden, or the ripening corn-fields. Ferns, white and yellow broom, furze, blue-bells, foxgloves, large Scotch thistles, poppies, peonies, and a host of others, contribute to the general effect. Italy, too, has a place in this Arboretum, being represented by several species of *quercus*, the stone pine, *pinus maritima*, &c. Mexico, that wonderful land of gold and mystery, gives her *cupressus thurifera*, and others. Before the river ran through these grounds, a beautiful Hibernian collection stood adjoining the lake; and its site may still be seen by a very fine specimen of *taxus baccata fastigiata*, flanked by two smaller ones, which stands boldly on the cone of a large bed, containing a variety of other plants and flowers, that slopes to the margin of the river. A short distance from this bed, standing alone on the verdant glade, is an excellent specimen of the *spiraea arisa folia*.

The Nursery is a large plot of ground, laid out in a succession of circles, divided by gravel-paths, with borders of trained oak and ivy. It contains an endless variety of fruits, plants, and flowers. At the upper end a very great improvement has lately been carried out, by the introduction of a long, straight gravel-walk, about one hundred yards in extent, which comes out beneath some large beech trees, and runs down to the edge of the Ley. Specimens of the *taxus baccata*, *taxodium sempervivolum*, relieved by *juniperus recurva*, *thuja orientalis*, and *juniperus virginiana*, rise from small circular

beds between it and the nursery; and at the lower end the borders of some large beds are composed entirely of lavender. This part is beautifully diversified. Rising from a gentle knoll at the edge of the bowling-green is an ancient ash, of large girth; and a little above it, a very interesting specimen of the smooth and richly-tinted *arbutus proscela*. Dividing these gardens from the long walk are some very fine beech and Scotch fir trees, with a dense mass of yew, hollies, and other shrubs.

The long walk is upwards of 200 yards in length, and about 20 broad. It is divided into two borders—one 12, and the other 10 feet wide—and a range of circular and square-raised beds, with evergreen borders. Visitors designate it the "Rainbow Walk," from the brilliancy and beauty of its floral decoration. Mr. Fleming, in the "Florist" for May of the present year, page 153, makes us acquainted with the means by which so marked a success is obtained. He says:—

"The arrangement of the ribbon borders here varies every year, but I shall give you a list of the plants composing the lines of colour which, in my opinion, are the most effective. They are, too, as readily obtained as any we have tried, as there are some of the sorts hardy, others nearly so, while those which are tender are now so cheap that most people have them.

"The principal border is twelve feet wide, and slopes slightly to the south, which assists to give effect, as there is something pleasing in gradation of height, when well carried out.

- 1st Row, towards the walk—*Saponaria calabrica* and *mysotis* mixed (pink and blue).
- 2nd ,, *Geranium Baron de Hugel* (dwarf scarlet).
- 3rd ,, Double row of golden chain geranium.
- 4th ,, *Lobelia speciosa* (blue).
- 5th ,, Double line of *calceolaria kayi* (dwarf yellow), and brilliant geranium every third or fourth plant in each line.
- 6th ,, *Petunia Shrubland rose* and dark orange *calceolaria*, alternately.
- 7th ,, *Geranium Trentham rose* and *pyrethrum album*, alternately.
- 8th ,, *Mignonette* and *nemophila*, mixed.

"The border is edged with a strong box edging, which is the first line, as it enters into the composition when viewed from either end, and makes a very good part of the whole, being green—then the blue and bright pink mingle charmingly—then the golden band harmonizes well with the former, and also with the blue behind it—the yellow, although always striking at first, becomes too violent, if I may so term it, after a time, and so I throw in a dash of bright scarlet into this line of colour, which is made broader purposely, to admit of a better blending of the scarlet with the yellow;—the rose petunia is the next, and this is improved by having some plants of the dark orange *calceolaria* with it. The Trentham rosy scarlet geranium is perhaps the best line of all, as the fine massive trusses of this soft rosy scarlet are so much admired. The *pyrethrum album* is planted alternately with this, as it flowers early, making a distinct line of pure white for a month or five weeks before the geranium masters it, and when the geranium flowers begin to mingle with the white the effect is very good, being a 'strawberry.' The *mignonette* and *nemophila* are to fill up behind the geranium, and complete the back of the border by filling in between the stems of the geranium and the box edging; this last line is not seen from the front, being low, but it is necessary, as there is a small gravel-path behind the border.

"It will be seen that my aim has been to produce harmony of colour rather than violent contrast, although perfection in this with flowers is not easily attained.

"The arrangement of another border, only ten feet wide, with a walk on each side of it, and consequently sloping from the centre to each walk, is as follows:—

- 1st Row.—*Forget-me-not* and common musk, alternately.
- 2nd ,, *Mangles' geranium* and scarlet *verbena*, alternately.
- 3rd ,, Brown *calceolaria* and Trentham rosy scarlet geranium (the last-named only every third or fourth plant). This must form a broad line, as it is the centre of the border; the other side to be the same as above.

"I may add that the effect of this border is very bold and good, and much better than when more lines of colour are used.

"For a narrow border of four to five feet, a pretty arrangement may be made with the following:—

- | | | |
|------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Variegated alyssum. | | 3. Golden chain geranium. |
| 2. Blue lobelia. | | 4. Baron de Hugel ditto. |

"For a circular, triangular, or square bed, the following arrangement is effective, and particularly rich:—

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Blue lobelia. | | 3. Orange calceolaria, 2 rows. |
| 2. Golden chain geranium, 2 rows. | | 4. Flower-of-the-day geranium, 2 do. |

"The middle of the bed should be filled up with purple nosegay geraniums, having the taller plants towards the centre.

"This arrangement has been much admired here."

The Trentham Wall case, which bounds the "rainbow walk" the entire length, is a fine instance of the ingenuity of man to combat the effects of a damp and uncongenial atmosphere. They occupy a range of about 400 yards, and are the main insurance of an average crop of well-conditioned, hardy fruit annually. Mr. M'Intosh, in his "Book of the Garden," p. 353, under the article "Peach-houses," thus refers to them:—"The accompanying diagrams, figs. 478 to 492, show the details of a range of glass recently erected in the splendid gardens of the Duke of Sutherland, at Trentham. The conception of this novel and ingenious design, as well as the execution of the same, is entirely due to Mr. Fleming, who has so long and so creditably superintended the horticultural department at this princely establishment. It is difficult to determine under what denomination these elegant structures should be classed—whether they should be called hothouses, glass-corridors, &c. Their object, however, is to secure abundant crops of peaches, cherries, plums, apricots, and grapes, or similar fruits, at a much less cost than the huge and expensive glass houses in general use. They possess, besides utility, other merits, of which elegance in appearance is not the least."

He thus concludes a full description of these cases, illustrated by

diagrams. "From this it will be seen that by the movement in the centre of the house, top ventilation is given or taken away; while that of the front is given, reduced, or totally shut off, by a turn or two of the handle of the rack and pinion placed opposite. As an economical and efficient mode of ventilation, we consider this the very best we have seen; while the structure, for simplicity, efficiency, and economy, meets our fullest approbation." They were first commenced about seven years ago; but the range beginning at the conservatory end of the south wall were begun in 1853; and they now form a delightful promenade, amidst fruit and flowers, round to Mr. Fleming's house. It is only in two or three instances that he has laid them down with piping for forcing purposes; the main object being to protect the hardy wall-fruit in the early part of the season from the influence of sudden changes, or the severity of the weather—a matter certainly very effectually and economically done.

The Conservatory alluded to is what is generally known as the Orangery, and devoted to plants and flowers of a mixed character, rather than to those of any particular order. It was erected in the year 1843 on the site of an old-fashioned house, from designs by Mr. Fleming, and is generally acknowledged to be of an original and highly-finished character, and one of the best houses known for the growth of plants. "The outline is a parallelogram, being eighty-nine feet long, and sixty feet wide, and the height fourteen feet. To keep the whole roof at this height, and which was of course desirable for the health of the plants, hollow columns, in five lines, eight in each line, were used to support nine ridges of glass, the gutters resting on the columns, and the rain-water being conveyed through these columns to underground-drains immediately beneath them. These columns are forty in number, and fourteen inches in circumference. The gutters are sufficiently wide to allow workmen to walk along them, and in the heaviest thunder-storm have always been found adequate to the emergency.

To obtain a thorough ventilation in so extended and level a roof was a point which most required study; and as nothing of the kind

then existed, that Mr. Fleming was aware of, to give any idea to work upon, his genius soon supplied the desideratum. It occurred to him, that by having the gutters nine inches wide, as many of the sashes as might be found desirable could be made to slide down so far; and, to balance them methodically, ornamental baskets suspended by ornamental chains, brought over pulleys fixed under the ridge-piece were used. These arranged in longitudinal lines on each side of the paths, have a very graceful effect, being mostly filled with trailing plants, which blend well with the surrounding foliage. These baskets have now been in use at Trentham upwards of ten years; and their introduction into the Sydenham Palace adds very considerably to the picturesque effect of the internal arrangements of the plant department of that important building.*

The floral decoration of this house varies according to the season. The beautiful creepers of permanent growth are the Tacsonia, passion-flower, pistaria, sinensis, &c. The brugmansia also clusters here in great perfection. Numerous specimens of acacia add a rich diversity to the scene; and camellias, Chinese azalias, in gorgeous pyramids of bloom, with a very fine collection of ericas, and hosts of other plants and flowers, contribute in turn to the splendid appearance of the interior. The tea-plant (thea bohea) is also an inhabitant of this house, as well as the American aloe.

In front of the Orangery, sloping to the river, are the following inscriptions, composed of box, and surrounded by the appropriate flower, Forget-me-not:—

Elizabeth Lorn.
Evelyn Blantyre.
Caroline Kildare.
Constance Grosvenor.
Viret Memoria.†

These ladies are the daughters of the Duke and Duchess of Suther-

* "Cottage Gardener," No. 316, page 36.

† Viret Memoria, *i. e.* "Green be their Memory."

land, and married to the noblemen whose names they bear. The first named is now Duchess of Argyll.

At this point an iron bridge of a single span of ninety feet is thrown over the Trent; and on the opposite side, near its foot, is a fine specimen of the tulip-tree. Some elegant iron gates, coloured blue and gold, and connected with the Orangery, divide this part from the Kitchen Garden. Standing by them a fine range of trellis walks, covered with fruit trees well-trained, stretches completely to the upper side of the Garden. The borders on each side are planted with the iris and dwarf dahlia, which make it a pleasant and enlivening view.

The Kitchen Garden is an old one modernized, and constantly becoming more perfect in utility and convenience. "For such an immense establishment it is extremely limited, not exceeding five acres within the walls, and a portion of this is covered with forcing-houses and pine-pits. It has therefore become imperative to resort to every expedient to economise to the utmost every inch of ground; and with a view to that effect, Mr. Fleming has adopted a system of throwing over some of the principal walks an arched trellis, upon which are trained all the best kinds of pears and apples. These walks are delightfully cool and shady, and the gravel being remarkably hard and well set, can be used in all sorts of weather without the slightest injury. The borders of some of the walks which are not arched over have pears trained to bell-shaped iron trellises, which look very handsome. The best sorts of apples are also trained in the form of a cylinder, four feet wide, and four feet high; and under such command are these, and all other fruit trees, that seldom or ever do the crops suffer from high winds, or from many other causes of failure. The wetness of the subsoil, and the proverbial moisture of the locality, have compelled Mr. Fleming to adopt every means that could possibly be suggested to keep all the trees of a fruit-bearing kind as limited in their growth as possible, consistently with the production of a crop. They never suffer from drought. As soon as the peaches and apricots against the walls have their fruit gathered, their roots are

examined, and shortened back. The gooseberry bushes and currants are all trained as standards, having stems three and four feet high, with round, bushy heads. Some years ago the asparagus in this garden was never fit for use; it was better calculated for flower stakes than for table; but, by a judicious use of salt, that fine vegetable is now produced in great perfection.

"The extensive line of iron fencing throughout the whole of these grounds would prove a serious expense to be kept in order, by the usual application of paint. To obviate this, Mr. Fleming uses a composition, by which, miles of such fencing are kept completely free from rust; in fact, the rustier the iron is the better, before the composition is laid on. The following is the system pursued. To every third of Stockholm tar, add two-thirds of gas-tar—to be laid on while quite hot with a brush, and spread as thickly as possible. This, when applied to iron fencing (common ox-hurdles), costs about three-eighths of a penny per square yard, and will last nine years."*

Under all the principal walks of the kitchen garden are large drains about six feet deep. Smaller ones intersect the working paths, and the accumulation of each is carried into the Trent. The main paths are bordered by ivy, trained in a half-circular shape, about six inches high, with inner borders of forget-me-not, and common musk, and occasional lines of other flowers. This arrangement is deservedly admired. The other paths are bordered with thrift. In numerous places throughout the kitchen garden, are lines of remarkably fine hollyhocks, with clusters of sweet pea, which give it a very animated appearance.

There are numerous houses for the cultivation of fruit, such as pines, grapes, peaches, nectrines, cherries, figs and others; in the exhibition of which Mr. Fleming is so remarkably successful. But to give an analysis of this department, the extent of the houses, and the system adopted in bringing it to its present state of perfection would increase this work to double the size we contemplate.

* Extract from "Gardener's Chronicle" of October 21st, 28th, 1848.

Mr. Fleming's house stands at the head of the principal walk. It is a pretty cottage, overrun with clusters of creepers and flowers, and one of the most elegant and finished gardener's cottages we have seen. The range of buildings extending from it towards the river consists of the office, fruit-room, vegetable-house, and "bothies" *i.e.*, the rooms of the young men attached to the different departments of the gardens. By the kind consideration of the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland a well arranged bath-room has lately been fitted up for their use. The south side of this



range consists of peach-houses and vineries. In front of Mr. Fleming's cottage are some lines of a beautiful new variety of delphinium, which mingle well with some fine specimens of white peony. Several circular, raised beds, with ivy borders, stand on the adjoining gravel space, planted with humea, geranium, calceolaria, branching larkspur, verbena, &c.

A rustic bridge across the mill-stream, a tributary of the Trent, fringed by masses of evergreens, leads to a series of flower beds in front of the aquatic house. Those beneath the azalea house are circular, and similarly treated to those noticed above. The others

represent a plan, and are filled with varieties of bedding plants more or less striking. The azalea house is about ninety feet long, and filled with some of the most beautiful specimens of green-house plants. The azalea is here brought to the greatest perfection, and from the number of plants required the collection is a very extensive one. They are generally trained in a pyramidal form, and with the greatest care. This system is also extended to a remarkably fine collection of camellias, by which nearly every bloom shows itself. There are also numerous specimens of other flowers in this house, of almost every known variety in general use; and at whatever time of the year it is seen, no decay, no disorder, or barrenness of floral beauty is visible. The aquatic house is the central one of three—one being for geraniums of the choicest sorts, and the other, a "succession" house.

The specimens in the Aquatic are both rare and beautiful, and disposed so as to produce by the massing of foliage an effect as rich and striking as that hitherto confined to flowers. They consist of the *cyssus discolor*, *dracæna terminalis*, *caladium pictum*, varieties of the *maranta*, &c. There are, also, some good specimens of *nymphææ*; and some pretty creepers—allamanda *cathartica*, *ipomæa leari*, and *stephanotis floribunda*. The background is composed of rock-work, to which cling some beautiful mosses and ferns. Towering over all is the *musa*, and several other plants which complete a picture of more than ordinary interest and beauty.

At the back of these buildings is a range of propagating sheds, and a very excellent heath-pit, filled with numerous specimens of that order in fine condition, and some choice plants of other varieties. This is followed by the Children's Garden, an illustration of which heads this section of the work. The large bed in the centre is in the form of a basket, the handle being composed of trained ivy. It is generally filled with Chinese roses. The beds surrounding it are decorated with the usual bedding plants; and taking the Swiss Cottage, the large trees closing around it, the varieties of shrubs, and flowers, such as hollyhocks, dahlias

(dwarf), and others of a rich character that complete the whole, it is one of the prettiest "scenes" imaginable. The cottage is furnished with everything necessary for juvenile fêtes, and also contains preserved specimens of birds, fish, and other objects of natural history.

The site of this garden, or rather a little nearer to the road, was once occupied by the parsonage. At that time the coach-road ran through these gardens, and its course may still be traced from the old bridge by a line of beech trees. It crossed the brook and came out at the point now occupied by the garden lodge. The garden wall was not then built, and the only protection to the grounds was a low, broken hedge. A large oak tree that stands between this lodge and the mausoleum is still known as the "Parson's Oak," from the circumstance that, at that time, the entrance gate to the parsonage stood beneath it.

We have gone through the gardens hurriedly and informally enough; but were we to attempt a description such as they deserve, a work of a much greater extent would be necessary. What they are in reality is well known, and not likely to be forgotten by those to whom the privilege of seeing them is granted.

CHAPTER V.

The Park.



THE PARK.

ABOUT 160 years ago the deer park appears to have been enclosed; some portions of it, both previously and since, being under cultivation, of which traces are still visible. It contains about 400 acres, and is a most striking specimen of the beautiful diversity and noble character of an English deer park. Centuries ago, the whole range of hills formed part of an extensive forest, in which the kings and nobles of Mercia enjoyed the sports of the chase. Some of the trees, which still cling to the soil, would almost seem to be the relics, not only of this, but of a Druidical age, so ancient and venerable is their appearance. A few in the avenue, at the foot of the fern hills, are of this character;

and three of a coeval age stand in a little valley leading to the Hanchurch farm. One of the latter presents the curious and rare spectacle of having its hollow trunk occupied by a thriving mountain ash, which, taking root in the soil, grows completely through it, and coming out at the top of the trunk, mingles its branches with those of its protector, and forms literally a tree within a tree. The seed was no doubt dropped there by some bird, and thus sheltered and nourished, it grew to be what it is—a natural curiosity. Nearly all the trees in the open wood are offshoots of old stools, and this circumstance alone proves the antiquity of the forest, the trees representing two distinct generations, that stretch centuries back into the history of the locality. Plot, as already alluded to at page 31, mentions the wood and its intended “vista,” which no doubt is the glade that divides the open from the close, or King’s Wood. There are also two other glades, or drives, which cross each other in the open wood; but, unless pointed out, they might be overlooked. Such openings would appear to have been made for the purpose of allowing spectators to witness the progress of the chase, and to give the hunters a better opportunity to secure the object of it in times when the other parts of the wood were covered with dense brushwood. There is something interesting in the name of “King’s Wood,” by which the locality is known, that leads us back almost to ages dark with superstition and idolatry. To which “king” does the legend refer? If not to the Conqueror, it undoubtedly does to some of the Saxon kings; and as the wood extends to the end of the lake, where there are undoubted relics of that race, it is but natural to associate the one with the other.

The neighbourhood of Strongford Mills, which adjoins the wood, is very interesting, from the suggestive character of the names connected with it. Strongford would indicate a more important stream than the little and almost stagnant brook known as the river Trent at that spot. Still this contraction is in consequence of the supply of water necessary for the working of the mills, which is carried down another channel, and since the river no longer passes through

the lake, the "fall" at its extremity has ceased to be the principal outlet. There is also no doubt that the river is not so well supplied with water as formerly, by the tapping of springs in railway excavations in the country above. Tag's Meadow is evidently a corruption of stag's meadow; and it might have been a favourite spot for those noble animals to come for water. This meadow was, not a great many years ago, little better than a swamp, and appears likely to have been, before the formation of the lake, partly covered with water. We imagine this from the apparent outlines of an old shore visible in the meadow; the indentations and projections of the land, natural in such cases, being quite distinct. There are also some fields in the occupation of Mr. Tennant that appear of an ancient origin. One is called Offasdene, which signifies Offa's dale or meadow. Offa, a powerful king of Mercia, reigned from the year 755 to 794, and the connection of his name with the place, leads one to suppose that the meadow was the scene of some extraordinary occurrence, in which he was concerned. It is still locally called "King's Meadow." Several meadows jointly constitute Dusty Low, and a field possesses the ominous title of Gallows-tree Field. This last might be the scene of those criminal executions which were more generally dispensed in the Saxon times than fortunately is the case in our own; and Dusty Low was probably where the bodies were interred.

At the time of the erection of the bridge at the entrance to the park a celt was discovered by some workmen. It was one of a most ancient description, about three inches in length, of an oval form, and composed of stone. This we believe to be the only relic of antiquity found here of which any account remains. It was presented to the Museum at Newcastle-under-lyme, by Mr. Thomas Kirkby.

Geologically speaking, the district belongs to the red sandstone formation, with accumulations of drift, or beds of gravel, in which may be found specimens of a great variety of ancient rocks, with rolled fossils of the mountain limestone, such as encrinites, favosites,

&c. There is likewise to be seen on the crown of a hill between the park and the Hanchurch plantations, on the Stableford road, a rather narrow trap dyke, which is the only one yet discovered in the neighbourhood; and in the cutting on the road, leading to Whitmore, fossils of the coal formation are plentiful. A tooth of an elephant described by Phillips and Conybeare was found in a more recent deposit; and many years ago, during the progress of some excavations in the Park near to the Hall, one of the workmen came upon a large bone which he cut in two with his spade; but it being considered of a somewhat extraordinary size the pieces were joined, and it has hung in the servants' hall ever since. It proves to be the rib of a mammal, probably the mastodon giganteum, and measures from point to point sixty five inches; in circumference at the sternal end, thirteen inches; and at the spinal point, ten inches and a half. This relic has evidently been much water-worn; the compact tissue which forms the external surface of all bones like the ribs having disappeared in many places, especially at the extremities. It thus happens that the external surface of the fossil is composed of the canceled structure of the interior of the rib. It is of a dark brown colour, and appears not to be loaded with any foreign earthy matter. We are not aware of any other remains of mammoth quadrupeds being found in the diluvium of the Trent, or any other river in this part of England, with the exception of the elephant's tooth referred to; but fossils of smaller animals, such as the boar and others, are not so rare.

The lover of natural history in its various branches may find much to interest him in so varied a scene, abounding in wood, champaign, water, hill and heath. Animals introduced by human agency are the small black, or dark-coloured Highland oxen, half wild, but more formidable in appearance, with their long shaggy coats, than in reality. The species of deer in the home Park is the fallow deer (*cervus dama*), nowhere seen in greater perfection. Amongst wild creatures, the nimble squirrel, and the pretty dormouse may be noticed in the woods, and sometimes the badger

(*ursus meles*) has been shot or trapped. Many years ago the otter (*lutra vulgaris*) was numerous in the lake and river, and often hunted by a pack of otter hounds. A favourite spot for them was beneath some large oak trees of the wood that skirts the lake; and last spring traces of them were seen a short distance down the river. Many large pike have been taken in its waters—one weighing thirty-five, and another twenty-seven pounds, being amongst the most remarkable.

The nightingale has sometimes, but rarely, been heard at Trentham; but the mock-nightingale, or black-cap warbler (*carrucea atricapilla*), inferior to it alone in sweetness of song, may be heard in early summer. We have also noticed the chiff-chaff, the creeper, and the golden-crested wren, all amongst the most diminutive of the feathered tribe.

The botanist too may meet with many rare or interesting productions of Flora to reward his curious research. In the woods springs the curious helleborine, or serapion (*epipactis latifolia*), the pretty bitter-vetch (*orobus tuberosus*), and the rare leopard's-bane (*doronicum*), contrasting beautifully, with its bright yellow starry flowers with the purple fox-glove; nor must we forget the rich carpeting of the wild hyacinth, occasionally found here, with white flowers. *Geranium pratense* and *campanula latifolia*, both amongst the handsomest of our wild plants, may also be found in damp, shady spots. In the park, over the brow of the hill, are some fine ancient specimens of the wild service-tree (*pyrus torminalis*). In the gravel-pits may be picked the minute bird's-foot trefoil (*ornithopus perpusillus*), and a pretty, bright crimson-flowered vetch (*vicia angustifolia*). We may also mention that the rare and beautiful polypodium *dryopteris* grows in the spring valley. *Asplenium ruta-muraria* is common on the walls about, and many species of *aspidium*, or shield-fern, abound in the woods. The spring in the beautiful dell just mentioned is worthy of notice; it is very copious, clear as crystal, and at its source is always of the temperature of 48 Fahrenheit, winter and summer. In its purling stream, which divides the parish of Trentham from Stone, may be found

specimens of *hypnum ruscifolium*, and the beautiful *drapernaldia*; and on the stones abound specimens of the pretty little fresh-water limpet (*ancylus fluviatilis*)*. Many years ago an avenue of very fine lime-trees extended from the west front to the then extremity of the park—a cluster of trees near the deer barn. A few still remain to point out the original line; and when perfect, it must have been an imposing and noble approach, being upwards of half a mile in length. There is no doubt they were planted soon after the erection of the Priory. The lime was a favourite tree with ecclesiastics, and many monasteries were ornamented with similar avenues. The wood is much used by wood engravers in their profession. Bewick, the restorer of that fine art, used it in the production of some of his most beautiful specimens. Its bark is used in many countries in mat making. Independent of its fine proportions, the lime is of a peculiar, fragrant order, being covered in July with blossoms of a yellow-white colour, which impregnate the air for some distance around, and form the extensive working fields of innumerable bees every hour of the day.

The cricket ground, from which our illustration is taken, is a level piece of ground near the front of the hall, where, by the kind permission of the Duke of Sutherland, the members of the "Trentham Park Cricket Club" practice that fine old English and manly game. Several matches are played annually.

On the summit of the hill just above the fern valleys, to the west of a group of English fir and birch trees, the remnant of several clusters which once crowned the hill, the most beautiful and extensive view of the immediate and distant locality is to be obtained; and in the calm, clear summer's eve, when the sleek fallow deer rise from among the tall waving fern and foxglove, which completely cover the surrounding surface, to their evening meal, and the dreamy buzzing of the humming bee floats on the air, there is not a brighter

* The author is indebted to the kindness of Robert Garner, Esq., F.L.S., author of "The Natural History of Staffordshire," for the principal part of the above interesting remarks on the zoological, botanical, and geological specimens of the neighbourhood.

or a more pleasant spot to gather some of the happier impulses of life than this.

On the south side of the hill, at its base, is a large sheet of water, called the Toft-Pool. A remarkably fine open wood of beech runs to the rear, and forms a beautiful piece of scenery. The name is from the Danish, *tofte*, signifying a grove of trees. The pool is fed by springs, and great quantities of wild fowl frequent it during the winter. The noble proprietor of the park, his Grace the Duke of Sutherland, with a regard to the amusement and recreation of the enormous population in the immediate neighbourhood, upon no occasion closes its gates to those who wish to enjoy its beauties; and whether the number is great or small; whether reckoned by hundreds or thousands, the privilege is in no way curtailed. The day so widely known as the "Trentham Day" of the Stoke Wakes Week is an important instance of this, and well remembered by every one there. From early dawn vehicles of every description line the roads, and trains pour every half hour their giant loads to the scene—and what a scene it is—at once picturesque, grand, and startling! We will not attempt to describe it; the imagination alone can work it out.

The bridge, of four arches, that crosses the River Trent is very ancient, especially the south side of it. We have carefully examined it, and find that on three distinct occasions it has been widened. It was originally scarcely wide enough for two horses to pass over abreast; and could not have been used for the passage of any sort of vehicle. To render it fit for such a mode of conveyance, the bridge was altered to the necessary size; but it was still so narrow that recesses were introduced over the buttresses, in which foot passengers might escape the otherwise dangerous wheels of the carriage. About twelve years ago, it was altered to its present dimensions. Years previously, the parapet was very low, and the part now built of brick, without any protection from the water. But some fatal accidents occurring in consequence, the parapet was raised, and the brick wall erected, to prevent the repetition of so lamentable a circumstance. The site of the bridge by the lodge-

gates was also at one time occupied by a narrow drawbridge—over which but one horse could pass at a time. The stone used in its erection was similar to that of which both the long bridge and the old wall in the court-yard is principally built; being of a friable



THE BRIDGE.

sort of red sandstone, intermixed with gravel, and appears to have been obtained from some old quarries at Beech Cliff, now unworked. The village near the quarries is situated in a very romantic dell, and contains some curious houses and excavations in the rock, where the process of weaving was at one time carried on.

The site of the poultry yard, which is well seen from the bridge,

has undergone many important changes within the last twenty years. Part of it has been recovered from the river, and other portions were occupied by workshops and cottages. It occupies about two acres, and the buildings are of an Italian order, from which numerous villas near Stoke-upon-Trent were copied. They are very picturesque, and fitted up with the greatest care and finish in regard to the purpose for which they are designed. The centre of the principal yard is occupied by a fine fountain, and a large circular basin; and the surrounding surface is laid down with turf, divided by broad gravel-walks. Borders of evergreen and trellis—divided compartments for the use of fancy poultry, occupy its margin, and shelter it from the severity of the weather. The number of poultry kept is very great, and embraces specimens of the most celebrated varieties. The view down the river, diversified by two very fine cedars of Lebanon, is rich, and by moonlight particularly striking. The range of buildings facing the poultry-yard comprises the residence of the Duke of Sutherland's agent, W. Steward, Esq.; several offices connected with the establishment; the home farm; and an extensive cluster of mechanics' workshops—with gas-house and other buildings—devoted to the use of the estate. A little further up the road stands the "Girls' School" of the village, the members being clothed and educated gratuitously by the benevolence of her grace the Duchess of Sutherland. There is a similar institution at Hanchurch.

CHAPTER VI.

Hanchurch.

THE term *han* is Saxon, and signifies high. Hanchurch, therefore, would be explained as a high church, or a church on a hill. The origin of the word appears plain enough, but we look in vain for its present illustration—there is no church, nor any positive record of the existence of such an edifice to be found there at the present day. But from those collateral evidences that come from remote ages in the shape of traditions, and the more steady glimmerings of local indication, there seems no doubt whatever that the site under consideration is that of an ecclesiastical institution.

There is, on the northern verge of the village, which stands about a mile and a half from Trentham, a singular and very interesting plot of ground, almost square in form, being about sixty-six yards in length, and sixty-four in breadth, and surrounded by about twenty venerable yew trees. These trees, and there are several others scattered about the locality, are the historians of the place, and excite in the mind of the observer a strong feeling of curiosity respecting their origin and the character of the spot they occupy. They are remarkably fine specimens, and bear their pretensions to antiquity with a freshness and extent of verdure truly conspicuous. The plot of ground at one time was open to the fields, but in consequence of the death of many cattle from eating branches of the yew trees it is now fenced from them. It slopes gently to the south, and was several years ago used as a garden, but no attempt seems to have been made to examine the ground on antiquarian principles; therefore it does not appear to have, as yet, furnished any further clue to what undoubtedly concerns it most, with the exception that a few square

stones, evidently used in the foundation of a building, were dug up some time since by some men while lowering the surface of the farm-yard adjoining. They were of red sandstone, and easily distinguished from the natural formation, which consists of white sandrock and gravel. In the neighbourhood, at no distant date, grew great quantities of wormwood, in conformity with the ancient notion that it had the effect of banishing entirely from its locality serpents and reptiles of every description. This superstition is peculiarly monkish; but as its effects were no longer necessary, attention was directed to a more profitable use of the ground, and that plant was eradicated. The place altogether has vastly improved of late, especially the roads—the old ones being very narrow and badly made.

From the southern corner of the square plot of ground, down as far as the road leading to Hanchurch farm, we found what appears to be the remains of a fosse. It is about one hundred yards long, running north and south, and about eight yards wide. The outlines are very perfect, and it must have been at one time an extensive and strong fortification. On the bank of the orchard, which it bounds, previous to 1839, stood a yew tree of very fine proportions, and covering a space of ground upwards of sixty yards in diameter; but during the terrible hurricane in January of that year, it was blown down. A spring of water at one time opened into the fosse, and escaped by the side of the old road leading to the farm from the brook at the foot of the hill.

In the lower part of the walls of the farm-house are several blocks of red sandstone, which have evidently been used in a structure of a different kind to the one they assist in strengthening. The house itself is certainly old—one of the half-timbered houses of the early part of the seventeenth century—but it bears no date, nor any traces of carving, such as we have seen in half-timbered houses in many parts of this neighbourhood. In the orchard, and parallel to the old fosse, are found traces of other buildings, of the character of which no records exist. They are of an oblong form, and about sixty feet in length. The foundations of

the walls are well defined, and the interior surface is quite level. The whole locality is of a very interesting character; and it is easy to surmise that at one time, and probably when the Saxons held dominion over this part of the country, a monastery existed here, and may have done for generations; but with the exception of the yew trees—which appear to be about one thousand years old (but not of such undoubted antiquity as the solitary relic in Trentham Church-yard)—and the square plot of ground, and it might be some of those “squarid” blocks of stone, there is nothing left to satisfy our cravings, or assist our researches into its origin, subsequent history, or final destruction.

CHAPTER VIII.

Tittensor.¹⁸

HERE is no doubt the range of hills that constitute the old extent of Tittensor Common are associated with a much greater amount of antiquarian interest than is usually attributed to them. Within the circle of a mile there are numerous spots calculated to excite legendary inquiry, but which have hitherto found no curious explorer of their secrets. The first of these, or rather the one most known in history, is Bury Bank. The legend respecting the builder of this ancient fortress has been already told, and it only remains for us to glance at its present appearance. The entrenchments are of an oval form, running in a southerly direction, with a vallum about two hundred yards in length. Over the surface, in irregular groups, are spread a quantity of dwarfish oaks, and the sides of the hill, at one time entirely open, have been within the last twenty years planted with masses of spruce, birch, oak, and other trees. It appears in some places to have been guarded by a double fosse, and at the western side are traces of a gateway; that on the east is not so distinct. At the southern end is a distinctly-raised plot of ground, with a ditch, about twenty yards square, on which grow a few ancient English firs and several small elms, with scattered underwood. From the north side of this square piece of ground gradually rises a conical hill, or low, almost perfect in form, and, till recently, the burrow of great numbers of rabbits. This is probably the grave of one of the Mercian kings: it might be of Wulphere himself; but whether so, or what in reality may have been its origin, is merely conjectural. We are not aware of its having been opened by any one interested in such matters. There are no

traces of building materials to be seen; not a stone is left to attest its former importance; but curiously enough, there are accounts referring to it as being of a very different description to what it now is. Leland says: "Not veri far from Stone Priori appeareth the place where King Woulpher's Castel, or Maner Place was. This Byri hill stode on a rok by a broke side. Ther appere great dikes and squarid stones." Just below the hill, on the south side is a quarry of red sandstone, from which it is likely the stone used in building the castle was obtained. There is a legend that the old farm house, which occupied the site of the one called Bury-bank farm, was built with the materials of the old castle, many of the beams being of roughly-hewn, massive oak, and bearing convincing proofs of having been used in some previous edifice. A great quantity of large "squarid" stones were also found in the walls and foundations at the time it was pulled down for the erection of the present building.

Dividing Bury Bank from where Tittensor Common now commences, is a narrow valley called Mere Dale, which, at the head, expands into a large basin, called the Lower Lesser Field. It is arable land, and from the circumstance of several of these "squarid" stones being turned up by the plough, a tradition exists that the walls of the old castle extended thus far. From the formation of the ground, this is scarcely probable; it is more likely the stones rolled there from the hill, and gradually sunk beneath the surface. The field between this and the plantation on the side of the hill is called the Rookery; and not many years ago several huge stumps of oak trees existed in different parts of it, which no doubt at one time afforded shelter to a colony of those noisy birds, but of which the name alone remains.

A short distance from the farm house, on the Swinnerton road, are two conical hills, one called the Round Low, and the other Blakelow, or Blacklow. They are both cultivated, and the latter gives the name to the farm adjoining, and is evidently quite a natural formation. Round Low is more interesting, and at one time was more conical in shape, and only cultivated round its base.

Its summit appeared to be composed of vast quantities of stone and masses of rock, which interfered with the use of the plough. The late tenant of Bury-bank farm, Mr. Simpkin, to obviate this difficulty, made some excavations, which resulted in the discovery of a regularly-formed pyre of stone (chiefly boulders), containing the remains of a human skull. The pyre rested on a strata of red sandstone, and was surrounded by the natural diluvial formation. It contained no other relic.

The view from the summit of Bury Bank is most extensive and varied, the windings of the silvery Trent through its picturesque vale, now lost in the shadow of some wood, now sparkling in the clear sunshine, forming one of the chief beauties in the landscape. The Wrekin is distinctly visible on a fine day, and the Weever hills show their blue outlines in the glory of the setting sun. The ancient town of Stone¹⁹ is near at hand, quietly sleeping in its legendary fame, and there the vesper bell still sends its solemn tone to the hearts of the veiled and the devoted. Immediately over Meaford Hall,* the seat of Viscount St. Vincent, and about a mile and a half distant, on a hill are visible the remains of some entrenchments, thrown up by the Duke of Cumberland's army when in pursuit of the Scotch, in 1745, shortly before the decisive battle of Culloden. And to the right, Darlaston Hall, the property of the Hon. Swynfen Jervis, stands boldly out from a fine park-like range of trees.

On the summit of the hill, adjoining Bury Bank, is Hill-top House, the homestead of a farm of that name, tenanted by Mr. Kendrick. This building is doubtless one of the oldest inhabited houses in the locality, and presents a tolerable specimen of a substantial yeoman's residence at a time when the yeomen of England were a battle-proved, as well as influential race. It is built of red sandstone, evidently quarried from Saxon's Low (noticed further on), and the walls are of a good thickness. There is no doubt it was

* The celebrated Earl St. Vincent was born at Meaford in the year 1734. The family mansion is at Stone, where he was interred.

more extensive at one time than at present, and fortified according to the general custom of the day. The walls, with the exception of the lower part, are now coated with a mixture of gravel with mortar. The interior is the most interesting, the old kitchen retaining its original extent and much of its appearance. Facing the fire-place, over which is a massive oak beam, roughly hewn, and the capacious chimney-corner of the "good old times," now usurped by the modern kitchen range, is a curious relic, consisting of rude representations of fruit and flowers, moulded in plaster, with a succession of semicircular arches, supported by small clustered columns. Above one of the arches are dimly traced the following letters, C. M. N.; and over the succeeding one, A. N. O. The date is, we imagine, merely connected with the erection of the ornamental part, and the legend that of the artist, as the house itself bears the traces of a somewhat greater antiquity. Immediately beneath, and exactly corresponding in length to this embellishment, is a massive oak table, black with age and the stains of many a midnight carousal, and where it has evidently stood since the time of its erection. There are some carved characters on the rail in a good state of preservation.

To the rear of this house, skirting a plantation, are two ancient oak trees, rather dwarfish in size and undoubtedly the remains of the hunting forest of the Mercian kings. Not many years ago the entire surface of Tittensor common was one vast range of gorse and scanty herbage, the grazing field of several flocks of sheep, and the retreat of innumerable quantities of rabbits and snipe, which afforded an inexhaustible source of sport to those entitled to its privileges. Not a tree obstructed the view, and the form of the various hills and valleys of which it is composed was distinctly visible. Since its enclosure, and the introduction of well-arranged plantings of forest trees, the conspicuous character of its former outlines is scarcely to be recognised at a distance, and it is only by a careful examination of each hill that any distinct knowledge of their formation can be obtained.

From Hill-top house extend in a northerly direction a cluster of

hills terminating in a piece of table-land, with an abrupt descent into a valley called Spring Vale. The entire surface is level, and the name by which they are known is the Burystone Hills. The name is suggestive, and appears worthy the notice of inquirers into Saxon antiquities. There are no traces of entrenchments, as at Bury-Bank, but close to its western base rises a monument of equal pretensions, the Saxon's Low.* The northern side is a natural formation of red sandstone, which appears to have furnished the materials for the building of Hill-top House, as the excavations on its side attest the quarryman's presence, and the projecting strata in some places agree in character to the stone visible in the foundation of the house. The Low itself is a very conspicuous object, and it is somewhat singular that none of the county, or other historians, have in any way alluded to it. Above the old quarry, on its side, the ground is evidently artificial, and as perfect in shape, but larger than the Low, or Bury Bank. We are not aware of the existence of any legend in connection with the origin of this Low; nor whether any relics have been discovered, which might give a clue to its history. It might be the sepulchre of men slain in one of those sanguinary battles between the Saxons and Danes, and of which it is the sole record.

To the west of the Burystone hills, and only divided from them by a deep valley, which might be partly artificial, is another piece of table-land called Cinder Hill. This name is evidently a corruption of another, probably that of Cenred, who was King of Mercia, and died at Rome about the year 709. If this is *Cenred's Hill*, and we see no reason why it should not be, it is certainly no stretch of the imagination to suppose the level piece of land, from Hill-top House to the verge of the Burystone hills, to be the site of a Saxon fortress, or town, destroyed by the Danes at the time they overrun the whole kingdom, and only made intelligible to succeeding generations by the local attachment of a name.

To the west of this locality, so interesting even in its doubtful

* Saxon's Low is locally called Hangman's Hill.

character, on the verge of the Common close to the Swinnerton road, and near to Combersome Wood, is another mound, evidently an artificial formation, and called *Toot's Hill*. In form it is oval, running east and west, about one hundred yards long, with a conical elevation at its eastern extremity. The name appears to be derived from Toten, or Theoten, which signifies Pagan, and the hill (Pagan's Hill) is probably where the Saxons performed their idolatrous rites before the introduction of Christianity in this part of the country.

Facing Cinder Hill a very picturesque and substantial residence is being erected for G. Loch, Esq., which, when finished, will be one of the most beautiful "retreats" imaginable. The entrance to it is up the Spring vale, from the Stone road. A rustic lodge stands immediately beneath some rocks of sandstone, the ledges of which are covered with trees, shrubs, and flowers. Before it is a small fountain, and down the centre of the vale, formed into miniature lakes, the bright, clear waters of the spring constantly flow to join the Trent hard by.

In the village of Tittensor, opposite the Chapel (the free gift of the late Duke of Sutherland) are the remains of the old Manor House. It was for many generations the residence of a family named Orme, and only became in a ruinous state about twenty-five years ago. It was a strong building, in the Elizabethan style, and dated probably as far back as the early part of the time of James I. Most of the rooms were wainscotted, and otherwise characteristic of that period; and it must have been altogether a fine old residence. There are a few traditions connected with its site, but none sufficiently intelligible to be introduced here.

The ornamental materials of the Manor House are now scattered about the locality, and we saw, mixed with other stones in a saw-pit, three of an oblong shape, and most carefully carved from a foliated design. The oak, iron-studded doors, that had resisted, no doubt, the entrance of many an importunate visitor, now "keep watch and ward" over the thin deal planks of the workshop; and it is likely in a few years hence that the relics, now so little

heeded, will become rare and traditional, and their history doom to many an hour of mysterious investigation some as yet unknown antiquary.

The interior of the Chapel contains the entire oak panelling and carved stone chimney piece of one of its rooms, which show good workmanship, and are in a capital state of preservation. On one of these panels we read in gold letters, the following and only inscription :—

Mr. James Robatham, left
one hundred pounds to
the poor of Tittensor,
which was invested in
the three per cent consols,
in the joint names of
Rev. John Ford, and Edward
Moore Taylor, Esq., of
Stone, and Mr. George Ford
of Barlaston.
June 4 1856.

There are a few old, half-timbered houses in the village, and the gable-ends of one inhabited by Mr. Wright, are rudely carved; the interior of one room is wainscotted with oak, of a simple design, and probably of a rather older date than the specimen in the chapel.

The old men of the village, many years ago, were in the habit of saying that a church formerly stood in the field adjoining the Manor House; and that several grave-stones had at various times been dug up there. No such remains are to be seen at the present day, but from various circumstances the statement is very interesting, and might, ere long, be more satisfactorily proved.

A few days ago we heard rather accidentally of some old beams in a straw-loft attached to the premises of Mr. Benbow, on which were traces of carving. The next morning we went, and from the manger in a stable managed to climb through a small square hole in the flooring to the loft, which was almost in total darkness. Struggling as well as we could through a sea of straw, we reached a small shutter, and throwing it open, a strong ray of

light revealed to us, in characters as distinct and bold, as if but a summer's sun had passed over them, the following inscription ;—

1667 ANNO CAROLI SECVNDI & C 19

It was traced in a horizontal line, in brackets, on a massive beam about twenty feet long, with lines of crenellated mouldings carved beneath the inscription, and on the lower edges. There were also the most conclusive proofs of its having been used in a far different edifice to the one it then occupied. When, and under what circumstances it was brought there did not seem to be known, but it was in a most excellent state of preservation. On the reverse side, and near the centre, were carved in large distinct figures, 1667. Intent upon further discovery, if any was to be made, we climbed over a brick-wall to another loft, larger and almost filled with straw. The opening of two shutters revealed the existence of two other beams exactly similiar in size and embellishment, but containing no date or inscription whatever. Our curiosity was now thoroughly roused; and to our astonishment we found that every beam, cross-beam, support, rafter, in fact, every piece of wood before our eyes was of oak, that it corresponded in age, and that the whole roof was a remarkable and interesting relic of some other and more extensive building. It had, no doubt, been removed to its present position, at one time, piece by piece, and the axe and the saw employed to shorten them to the desired length. This is evident from the rough manner in which they are put together. The original roof must have been more extended, the width being, as before mentioned, but about twenty feet, while in length, it is upwards of sixty-five feet.

CHAPTER IX.

The Monument Hill.

THE interesting locality of Tittensor may be said to terminate at the Monument Hill, and that of Trentham to commence; and from no adjoining elevation does its beautifully-diversified character appear so attractive. The view is extensive, and embraces the greater part of that vast field of ceramic art, the potteries of North Staffordshire. Most of the district is also remarkably rich in coal and iron; and some superior beds of clay have given rise to a great number of brick and tile manufactories. And in almost whatever direction the eye turns, hundreds of furnaces, sending forth huge volumes of fire and smoke, are busy in the preparation of the elegances and comforts of civilized life, and the progress of commercial enterprise.

Barlaston Hall, the seat of R. T. Adderley Esq., is a prominent object on the crown of the opposite hill, rising from the centre of a finely-timbered locality by the side of an old, grey church, and almost heading a beautiful avenue of lime trees. The country generally is head-wooded; beech trees especially attaining fine proportions. Longton, and further away, Leek follows, over which, in the far distance, stretches the blue outlines of the Roaches. Stoke-upon-Trent is but faintly seen; Hanley, Shelton, Penkhull, Hartshill, and Wolstanton continue the line of thriving towns on the chain of hills, that, hiding Newcastle and Apedale in sunny valleys, range away to Mow Cop, the highest point in the district, and on to Cheshire and Lancashire. A little to the left is the Audley monument, and other interesting objects. Coming nearer home, the picturesque Hall of Clayton, the seat of J. Wise, Esq., M.P. for the Borough of Stafford, nestles among groves of trees and verdant fields. Still nearer

comes the place with which we are all so familiar—the Park, with its fine old trees, and grassy glades stretching in undulating lines to the fern and oak-covered hills; the noble-looking Hall and its extensive and beautiful grounds; the lake calm and silvery, losing itself in the foliage of the wood, that seems to roll from its margin a grand leafy wave, broken into verdant ripples by a summer's wind. The wood at our feet is richly diversified by dark masses and lines of very fine larch and fir trees.

The hill on which we stand is crowned by a colossal bronze statue, fifteen feet in height, of the late Duke of Sutherland, after the original, by Sir Francis Chantry. The column on which it stands is very massive, and built of Hollington stone. The inscription on its base is the history of a life nobly spent, and gratefully remembered; and with it we complete our brief, and we trust it will be found interesting sketch of Trentham and its Gardens.

In lasting memorial of
GEORGE GRANVILLE,
 Duke of Sutherland, Marquis of Stafford, R.G.
 an upright and patriotic nobleman,
 a judicious, kind, and liberal landlord,
 who identified the improvement of his vast estates
 with the prosperity of all who cultivated them:
 a public, yet unostentatious benefactor,
 who, while he provided useful employment
 for the active labourer,
 opened wide his hand to the distresses
 of the widow, the sick, and the traveller:
 a mourning and grateful tenantry,
 uniting with the inhabitants of the neighbourhood,
 erected this pillar.
 A.D. MDCCCXXXIV.

NOTES.

¹ The legend is as follows:—St. Ceadda or Chad came into this part of the country from the North, and lived a hermetical life by a spring side, yet remaining by the church of Stow, near Lichfield. He there existed upon the milk of a doe, which, being hunted by Wlfere, son of Wlfere, king of Mercia, from 657 to 676, brought him to the cell of St. Ceadda, who first converted him to the Christian faith, and his brother Ruffine after. This place being too remote from Wlferecester, the seat of their father, the young princes prevailed upon St. Ceadda to remove to a secret place a little nearer them, for the purpose of receiving instruction and performing their devotions together with him. Here, under the pretence of hunting, they daily came to avoid their father's anger, who was yet a Pagan. They were one day observed by Werebod, a concubine of their father's, and accused of Christianity to him, who came from Wlferecester above-mentioned, and finding them at their devotions in this new oratory, in the midst of his wrath he slew them both; one at Stone, where a church being erected over the place of his martyrdom, gave both name and original to the town; and the other at Burston, where there was erected a chapel, which was standing in Erdeswick's time. St. Ceadda fled to his cell, near Lichfield, to avoid the fury of the bloody-minded king, but shortly afterwards was visited by the remorse-stricken monarch, whom he converted, and prevailed upon to banish from his dominions all idolatrous worship. Wlfere's queen, Ermenilda, advised him to seek St. Ceadda, and, upon the death of Jarumannus, which happened quickly after, A.D. 667, he was made Bishop of Lichfield.—Plot's Staffordshire, chap. x. 26.

² Amongst others he founded, or, according to some, assisted in the foundation of the monastery at Peterborough, then called Medeshamsted, which had been commenced by his brother Peda. He is also said to have intro-

duced Christianity to the inhabitants of the Isle of Wight.—Dug. Mon., vol. iii., p. 344.

³ From the Saxon Chronicle we learn that St. Etheldreda began building the monastery at Ely—which was then an island—in the year 673, and the year after was consecrated abbess of her own foundation. The sanctity of her life, and the discipline observed in her monastery induced persons of the noblest rank to devote themselves to religion under her government; among whom was her elder sister, Sexburga, Queen of Kent, Ermenilda, Queen of Mercia, and Werburgh, the daughter of Ermenilda, all of whom are stated to have been members of the monastery at Ely in the lifetime of Etheldreda, and to have succeeded her in their order as abbesses of Ely.—Dug. Mon., vol. i., p. 457.

⁴ St. Werburgh, about the year 680, turned the royal palace here (Wedon on the Street) into a monastery or nunnery, and probably for some time presided over the religious whom she placed in it. How long these nuns remained is not certain. Leland says she was a nun there, and, therefore, probably, governess, and that the nunnery was afterwards destroyed by the Danes.—Dug. Mon., vol. vi., p. 1621.

⁵ A monastery of religious men and women appears to have been erected at Repingdon in the Saxon times before the year A.D. 660, under the government of an abbess. The house was then called Rheapundun, and several of the royal line are said to have been there buried. The names of two abbesses of this early institution are recorded; viz.—Edburga, daughter of Adalph, king of the East Angles; and Alfritha, who occurs in the year A.D. 719. The first house was destroyed by the Danes. It was restored in 1172 by Maud, widow to Ranulph, second Earl of Chester.—Dug. Mon., vol. vi., p. 428.

⁶ The Saxon names of Hanbury, were Hehanburge and Heanbure, which was the site of an ancient benedictine monastery. For further particulars see following note.

⁷ William of Malmesbury makes St. Werburgh to have been a nun or abbess at Chester; but Capgrave and all other historians and writers of her life are silent in this particular, though they specify other places of her abode; viz., Ely, Wedon, and Trikingham, where she died, and Heanburge, where she was buried; from which last place, almost two hundred years after, her relics were translated to Chester. Tanner, after stating that the building of a cathedral at Chester in the time of King Lucius must be looked upon

as a fiction, adds—"Of not much better authority is the tradition concerning Wulphere (who was the first Christian King of Mercia) founding here, about the year 670, a nunnery for his daughter Werburgh, and other virgins disposed to lead monastic lives." Continuing his narrative, he says, "There was pretty early in the Saxon times a religious house here, probably a nunnery, and dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul; whither as to a place of safety the remains of St. Werburgh were brought from Heanburgh, A.D. 875. But this monastery was ruined by the wars, or injury of time, and, in the reign of King Ethelstan, re-edified for secular canons by the noble Elfleda, Countess of Mercia, and afterwards it was more amply endowed by the munificence of King Edmund, King Edgar, Earl Leofric, and other benefactors, in honour of the above-mentioned royal virgin St. Werburgh.—Dug. Mon., vol. ii., p. 340.

⁸ William of Malmesbury says, The death of St. Werburgh happened on February 3, A.D. 690. Bishop Tanner concludes, "here (Tricingham) she died in 683.—Dug. Mon., vol. vi., p. 396.

⁹ See note 7.

¹⁰ King Alfred says, "To so low a depth has learning fallen among the English nation, that there have been very few on this side of the Humber, who were able to understand the English of their service, or to turn an epistle out of Latin into English; and I know there were not many beyond the Humber who could do it. There were so few that I cannot think of one on the south side of the Thames when I first began to reign!"—K. Alfred's Works, vol. i.

¹¹ The parish of Trentham forms part of the hundred of Pirehill, in the northern division of the county of Stafford, and contains the townships and hamlets of Blurton, Hanchurch, Butterton, Handford, Clayton Griffith, and Trentham. It comprises an area of 7236 acres, with a population of about 2650 persons.

¹² Of this monastery nothing more occurs, from the time of the death of St. Werburgh till the restoration of it by Randal, second Earl of Chester, in the latter part of the reign of Henry I., for canons regular of the Order of St. Augustine. It was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and all Saints.—Dug. Mon., vol. vi., p. 396.

¹³ It is generally admitted that this Earl of Chester founded a monastery at Newcastle about the same time. Leland, vol. vii., p. 36, quaintly says, "Ther was an house of blak freres yn the south side of the town." The presumed site of this monastery is in Friar-street.

¹⁴ The sum of the revenues of this house as it stands in the valor of the 26 Hen. VIII. is—

Prioratus de Trentham,
Thomas Bradwell, Prior.

Summa totalis de claro tam spiritualium quam temporalium.

106*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*

4 sagittæ barbatae.

The site of this house was granted in the 30th Hen. VIII. to Charles, Duke of Suffolk.

At the time of the dissolution it contained but seven religious.

No register of Trentham is at present known; nor has any seal of this house been discovered.

PRIORS OF TRENTHAM.

Richard de Lavyn den became prior in the 25th Ed. I.

Nicholas de Mokeliston resigned, July 28th, 3 Hen. IV.

Thomas de Trentham was elected, August 20th, following.

John Clifton received the temporalities, September 4th, 9th Hen. V.

Thomas Madeley received the temporalities, December 10th, 9th Hen. V., upon his death.

William Roystyn ton, or Rossington, was confirmed, March 5th, 20th Hen. VI.

Stephen Brom received the royal assent, 3d May, 23 Hen. VI.

Alexander Greyhorse received the royal assent, 6th October, 21 Ed. IV.

Thomas Williams, 16th January, 2 Hen. VII.

Thomas Bradwell, 14th May, 22 Hen. VIII.

Dug. Mon., vol. vi., p. 396.

There are other documents of a very interesting nature relating to the priory and lands, in the counties of Stafford, Derby, Warwick, and Leicester, attached to it, and the amount at which they were valued; but any further extracts are scarcely necessary in a work of this description.

¹⁵ Lilleshall was for many years the principal residence of the family, Sir Thomas Leveson Gower, was the first that made Trentham the chief seat, a distinction it still retains. The following extract from Dug. Mon., vol. vi., p. 261, is interesting:—

“The abbey of Lilleshall, near Duninton, Shropshire, was founded about the year 1145, by some canons of the Order of St. Augustine, who came from Dorchester, and built an abbey to the honour of the Blessed Virgin upon one of the prebendal estates in the wood of Lilleshall. The total amount of the

annual revenue of the house in the 26 Hen. VIII., was £327 10*s.* The clear income £229 3*s.* 1½*d.* The site was granted in the 31 Hen. VIII. to James Leveson. The common seal of this abbey is a homely representation of the Blessed Virgin with the divine infant in her lap, having in her right hand a lily, on her left the word AVE. The legend runs thus:—Sigill. ecclesie. beate. Marie. de Lilleshall.” The derivation of the word, Lilleshall, would appear to be from *The Hill of Lilies*; that species of flower being most likely plentiful in the neighbourhood.

“Fat Dick” is presumed to be—

“Richard Beasley,
Coachman to y^e Rt. Hon^{ble}
Ld. Gower. Died Jan. 30th,
1722,
Aged 63.”

Who lies in the churchyard with the above epitaph on his tombstone. Pullo, the faithful, is believed to have been a member of the canine society, who, ever attentive to the wants of his master, was in the habit of “waiting” for him on the spot indicated by the inscription each time he went to the cellar.

¹⁷ During the time the family reside at Trentham, every “poor traveller” is relieved with a pint of excellent beer, and half a pound of bread. Some thousands annually from all countries experience the benefit of so noble a gift on the part of the Duke of Sutherland. The little fountain was also erected for the use of all; and the number who avail themselves of so welcome a provision is incalculable.

Opposite the lodge window stands part of an elm tree, the top of which was blown down about four years ago. It was planted about 160 years since by an ancestor of the Penson's, a family who have been established here as park rangers since the time of Queen Elizabeth.

¹⁸ Tittensoure was held 20 Conq. of Robert de Stafford, by one Stenulphus. Ivo, or Eudo, de Tittenshover, held the same by one knight's fee of the Barons of Stafford, in the beginning of Henry III.'s time, or before; and Roger de Tittensour was Lord thereof 9 Edwd. II.; but by what means Barlaston (which the Earl of Stafford was owner of, 47 Edwd. III.) or Tittensour came to the Lord Stafford from Holgate or Tittensor, I know not.—Eardswick, Ant. Staff., p. 26.

¹⁹ Wolphere, says Tanner, the first Christian king of Mercia, founded here (Stone) a college of secular canons, about A.D. 670, in honour of his two sons, Wolfanus and Rufinus, whom he had barbarously murdered with his own hands, at or near this place. He also adds that some ascribe the foun-

dation to his queen, Ermenilda, and say that she placed *nuns* here; and that after the Conquest, one Ensam, who had a grant of these lands, expelled or murdered the nuns, and brought in the regular canons from Kenilworth.—Dug. Mon., vol. vi., p. 225. Leland Collect., vol. ii., p. 59.

²⁰ Charles II., according to most authorities sanctioned by the crown, succeeded his unfortunate father January 30th, 1649. The restoration took place May 29th, 1660. The concluding part of the inscription, & C 19, would mean the 19th year of Charles II's reign.

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Beg to call the attention of their Patients, and those who may wish to consult them, that they can now supply ARTIFICIAL TEETH, WITH GUTTA PERCHA GUMS or LININGS, whereby all pressure on the remaining Teeth is avoided, and entirely superseding the use of *Wires* or *Ligatures* of every description. They are also the Patentees and Inventors of the New GUM-COLOURED COMPOSITION, which is added to the Teeth, and prevents the lodgment of food, so generally complained of, and which is the cause of Artificial Teeth becoming impure immediately after they have been worn, but which cannot take place by the adoption of this ingenious invention.

Every description of Artificial Teeth can be supplied, from one to a perfect set, on the above method.

Specimens of these beautiful and useful inventions may be seen, and every information given.

TRENTHAM INN TEA GARDENS.

MRS. SWIFT

Begs to inform Excursionists and Visitors to the far-famed beauties of Trentham Park, that the Tea Gardens attached to the Inn are now open for the season.

Parties visiting the Gardens can be accommodated with Tea and Refreshments therein on very reasonable terms,

Admission to the Grounds, Sixpence.

N.B.—A Quadrille Band can always be had on due notice being given.

TRENTHAM INN FAMILY HOTEL AND POSTING
ESTABLISHMENT.

MRS. SWIFT

In returning her sincere thanks for the liberal support she has hitherto received from the Nobility and Gentry residing in the immediate neighbourhood, and those visiting the locality, begs to assure them that she will always be happy to pay the greatest attention to the comfort and accommodation of those who may in future honour her with their patronage.

Wines of every description, of the best quality.

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Superior British Wines, Fine Fruits, and Spices of every description.
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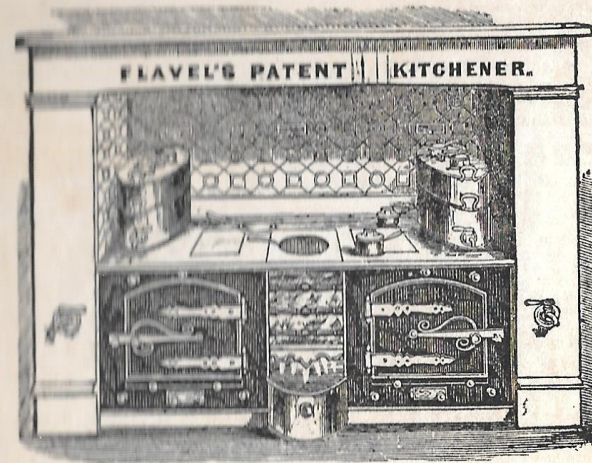
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