



Rambles in South Wilts

Codford

Rambles in South Wilts

By the Author of "Sketches of Hampshire" Etc.

No. 14

[Written expressly for the Hampshire Advertiser and Salisbury Guardian]

The cottage homes of England,
By thousands on her plains,
They are smiling o'er the silvery brooks,
And round the hamlet fanes.
Through glowing orchards forth they peep,
Each from its nook of leaves;
And fearless there the lowly sleep
As the birds beneath their eaves.

Mrs Hemans.

THE BOURN OF THE WILY – We return to the main stream of the Wily, and in ascending its margin from Stapleford arrive first at the parish of Little Langford, so called to distinguish it from the adjoining parish of Steple, otherwise Great Langford.....

Proceeding up the river we have the two parishes of St. Mary and St. Peter. The manor is mentioned in the Domesday Book, and was then divided between William de Ow, Waleran (the huntsman), and Osbourn de Giffard, and was then valued at £18.

The parish of Codford St. Mary comprises about 2000 acres, and contains 338 inhabitants. The church is a very ancient structure, supposed to have been built anterior to the Conquest, and has a Norman arch surmounting one of a plainer character, supposed to be Saxon. The living is a rectory, in the patronage of St. John's College, Oxford, the tithes of which have been commuted for a rent-charge of £345, in addition to which there is a glebe, containing ninety-five acres.

The parish of St. Peter Codford is separated from the last mentioned by a small stream, which arises in the parish of Imber, and here joins the Wily. The parish comprises 1614 acres and contains, with the township of Ashton Gifford (which probably derives its name in part from one of the proprietors mentioned in the Norman survey), a population of 394. The living is a rectory, of the returned value of £380, in the patronage of the Master and Fellows of Pembroke College, Oxford.

.....

(Hampshire Advertiser – Saturday 26 August, 1848)
