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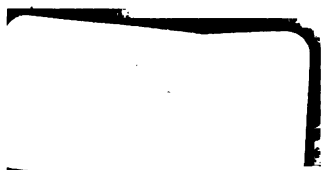
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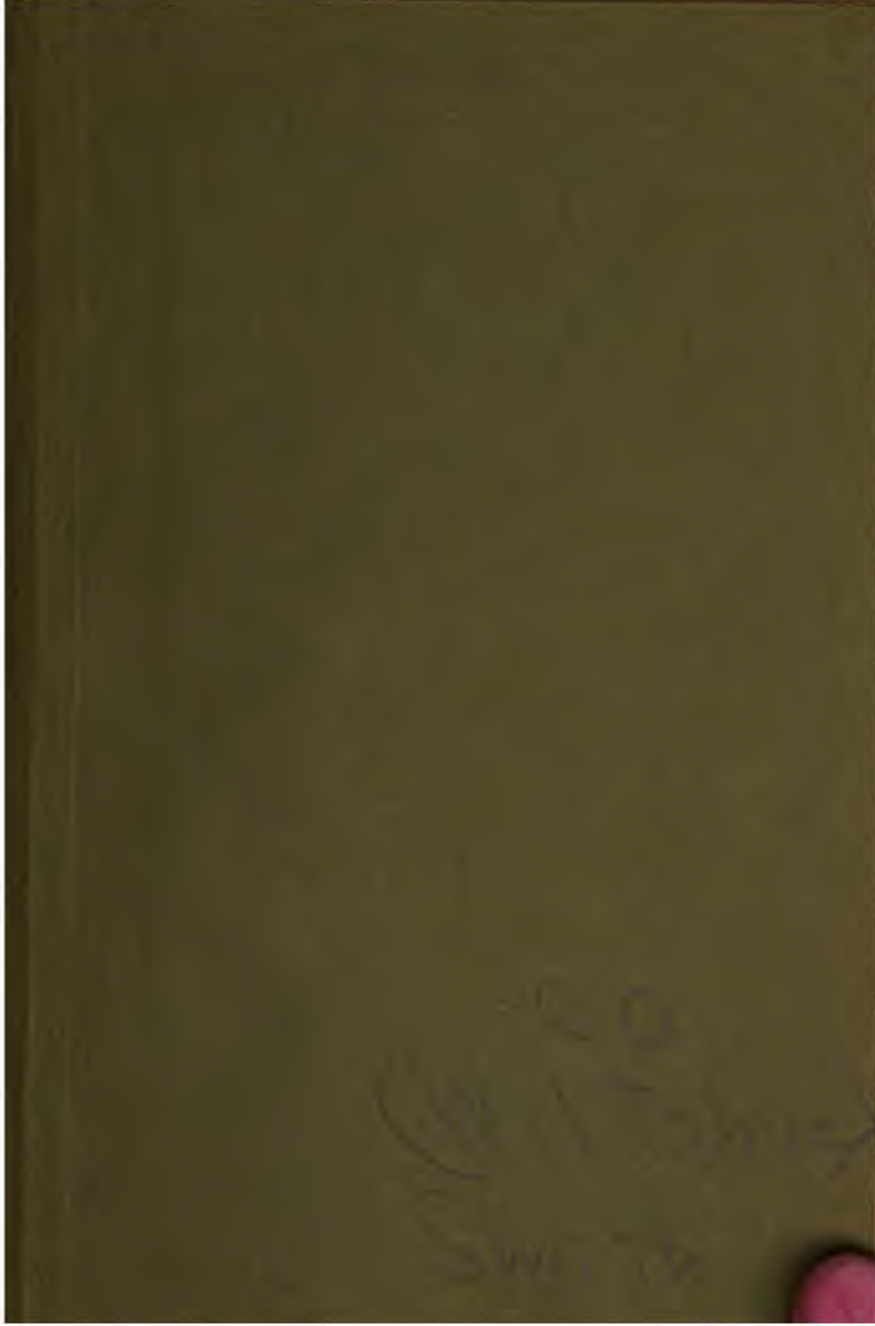
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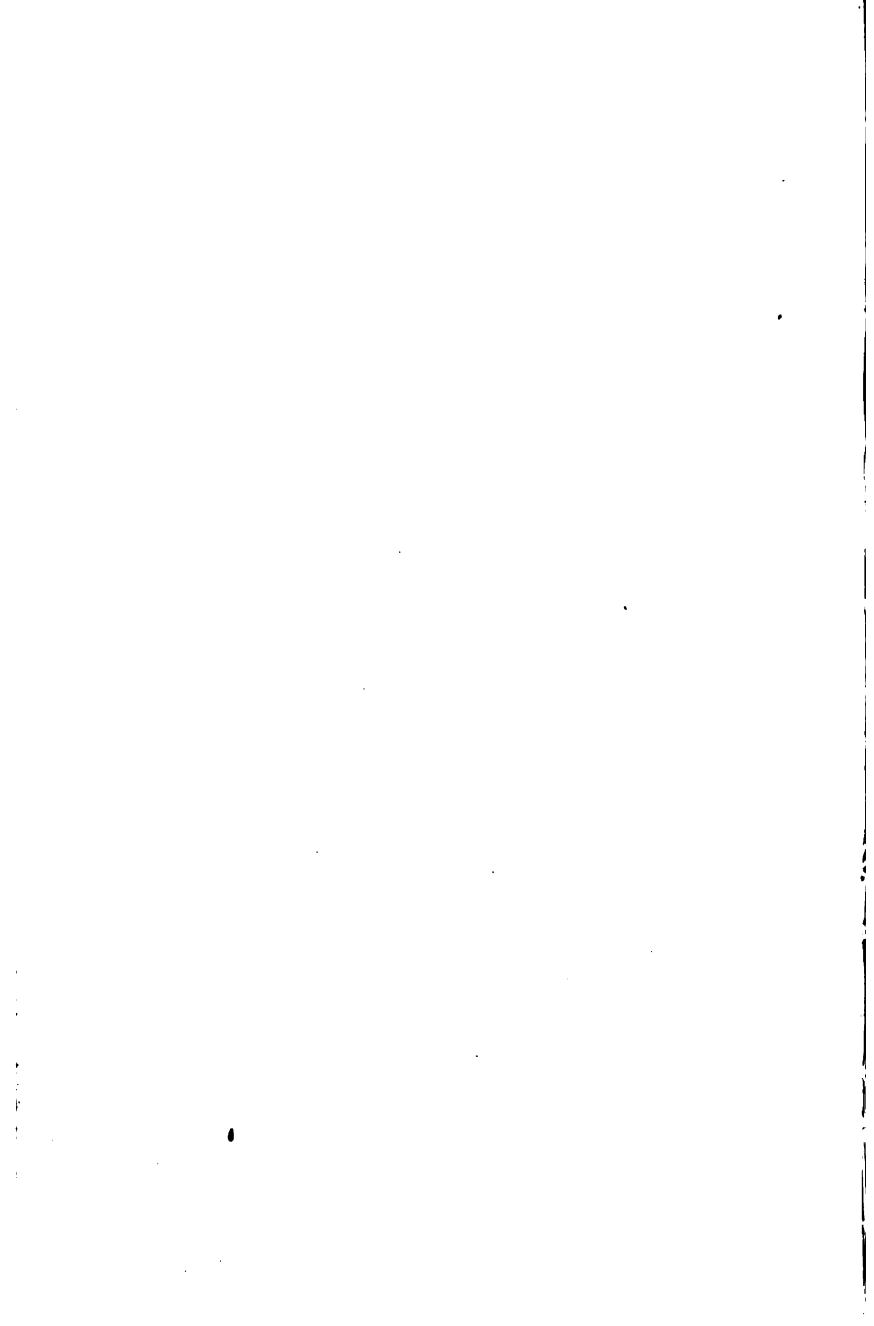
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**A SCHOOL HISTORY OF WILTSHIRE**



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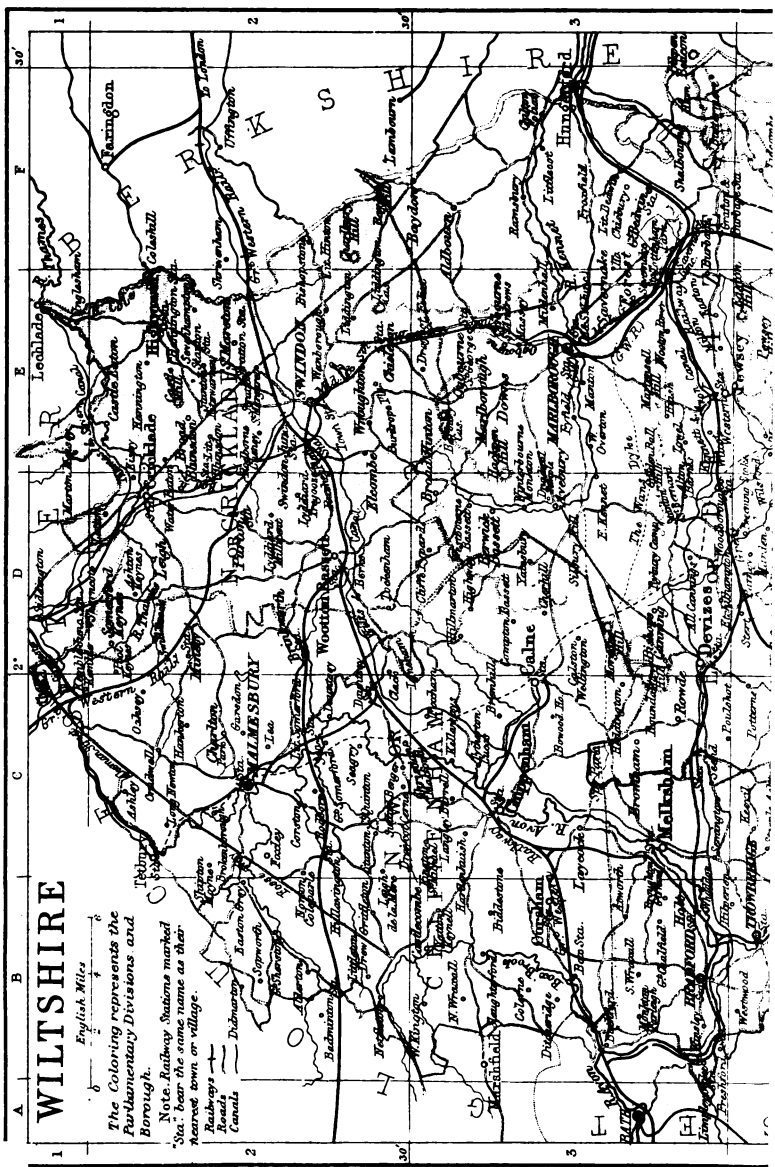
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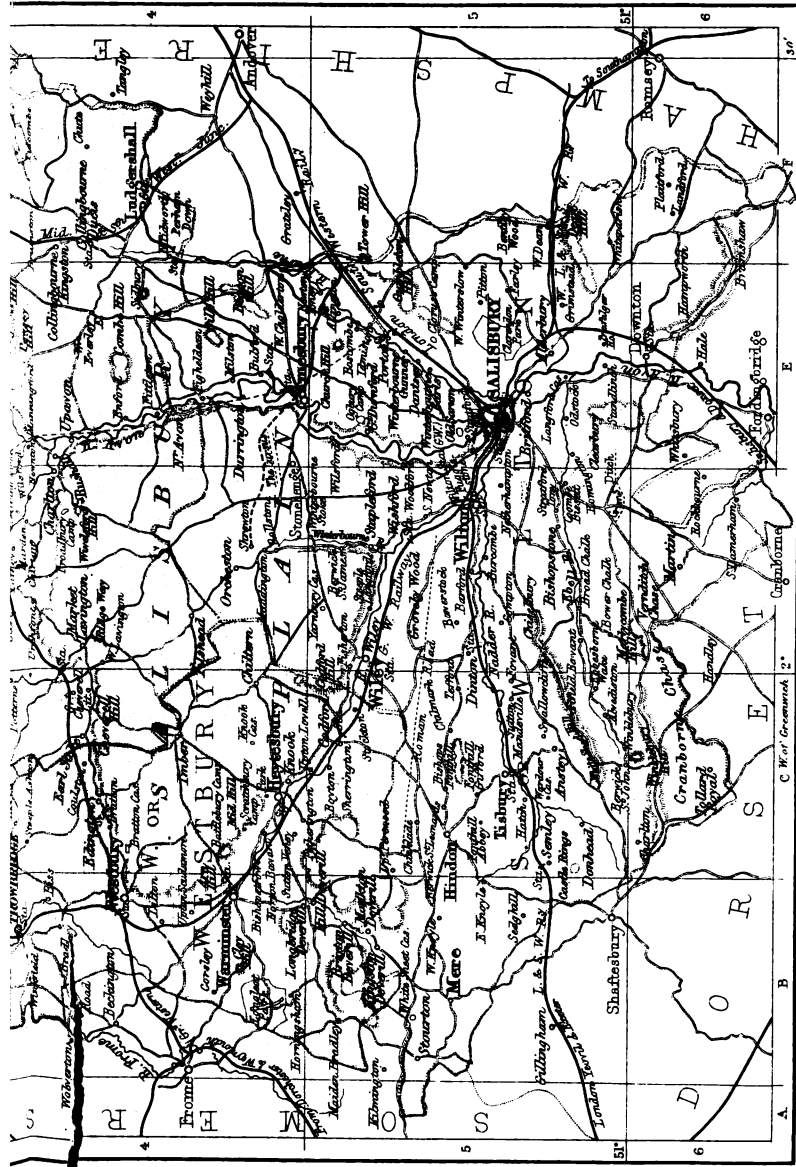
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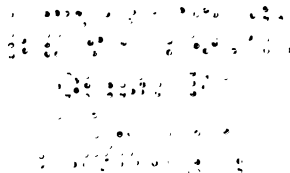
BY

W. FRANCIS SMITH, B.A.

HEADMASTER OF THE CALNE COUNTY SECONDARY SCHOOL

“In localities rich in historical associations, local history should be the basis of the instruction.”

*Suggestions of the Board of Education.*



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## PREFACE

WHEN I first came to live in Wiltshire, a few years ago, I was astonished to find that my pupils knew absolutely nothing of the history of their own county or neighbourhood. This was the more surprising since Wiltshire is of peculiar historical interest, and is so rich in memorials of the far-distant past.

Accordingly, I introduced Local History into my syllabus, and made it the basis of general historical instruction. The present book is an expansion of my teaching notes, and was called into existence by a statement of the Nature Study Sub-Committee of the Wilts General Education Committee that such local teaching was of great importance, and that for the purpose a suitable history was needed.

The book is adapted for use in Secondary Schools, Pupil-Teacher Centres and the Higher Classes in Elementary Schools, and it is intended that Part I. (The Geography and Antiquities of the County)

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J. Stevens



and Part II. (The General History of Wiltshire) should be read by all pupils. In Part III. concise notes on the history of the largest towns are given, so that the student may have a particular knowledge of the history of the town or towns with which he is brought most into contact.

Much important history has perforce been left untouched, and of the other shortcomings of the book, which is frankly a compilation, I am well aware, but it is, at all events, an attempt to interest young minds in that history which lies at their very doors, the teaching of which will convince children, as nothing else will, that history is a living thing, a record of the deeds and work of men who have actually lived and played their part.

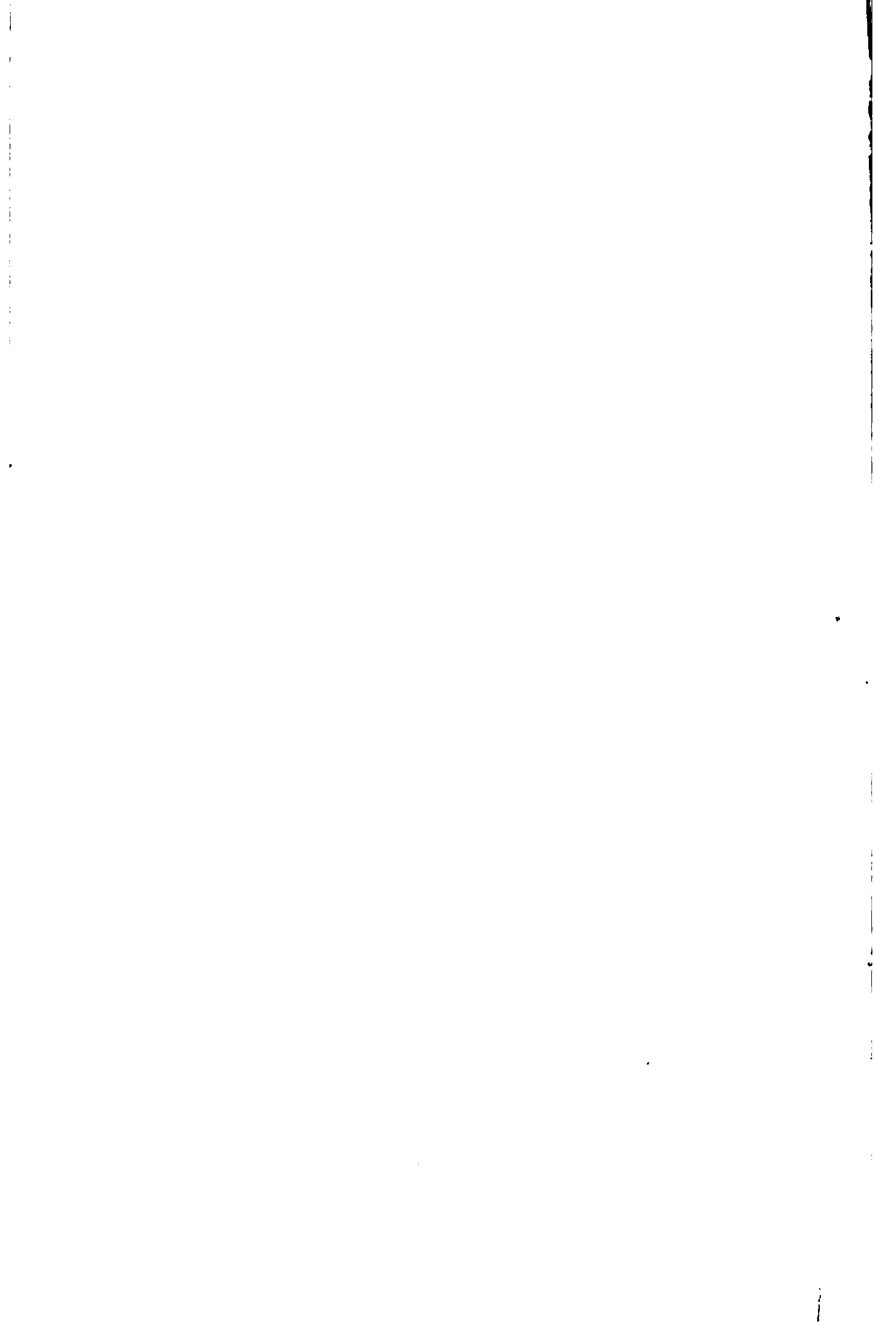
I am greatly indebted to Lord Fitzmaurice, to A. E. Withy, Esq., to W. Pullinger, Esq. (Director of Education), and to C. H. Corbett, Esq., for encouragement and advice. To R. F. Curry, Esq., H.M.I., I desire to express my thanks for the kindly interest taken in my work from the first, and for the many valuable hints which he gave to me. I take this opportunity also of thanking E. H. Henly, Esq., B. Spackman, Esq., C. Williams, Esq., and other friends for loans of books and for assistance.

Lastly, I wish to acknowledge the invaluable help which I received from the Rev. E. H.

Goddard of Clyffe Pypard. For his great kindness in reading through the whole of the MS., for his many important criticisms and corrections, I can only express my deepest thanks.

W. FRANCIS SMITH.

CALNE, *January*, 1907.



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## PART I

### GEOGRAPHY AND ANTIQUITIES OF WILTSHIRE

#### CHAPTER I

##### GENERAL GEOGRAPHY OF WILTSHIRE

THERE are many facts about the geography of Wiltshire which you may learn simply by glancing at the map of England. Let us see what information we can get in this way.

In the first place, we see that Wiltshire is one of the south-western counties of England. Then again, it has no coast line like Hampshire or Dorsetshire. It is entirely inland. What are the counties, then, that surround it? We notice that they are five in number. On the north and north-west there is Gloucestershire; on the north-east there is Berkshire; on the west, Somersetshire; on the south-east Hampshire; and on the south-west Dorsetshire.

The shape of the county is seen to be that of an oblong, with a fairly regular outline.

We spoke of Wiltshire as being one of the south-western counties. Let us look at our map again, and see *how far south* and *how far west*. In other words, let us get an idea of the latitude and longitude of our county.



Take the longitude (that is, the distance east or west of Greenwich) first. Wiltshire is certainly west of Greenwich, and if we follow the second meridian ( $2^{\circ}$  W.) which passes through Berwick-on-Tweed, we shall notice that the line passes through, or near, Pool Keynes, Clack, Calne, Devizes, West Lavington, Fisherton, Wiley and Fovant. Roughly, then, we may speak of Wiltshire as  $2^{\circ}$  west of Greenwich.

In the same way, the parallel of  $51^{\circ}$ , north latitude, passes through the extreme south of the county near Downton, Marlycombe Hill and Berwick St. John.

Next take a piece of cotton thread or twine and find from the map of Wilts the longest straight line which could be drawn in the county. Compare this line with the scale of miles at the foot of the map, and you will find it would represent about fifty-four miles. In the same way, the greatest breadth would be about thirty-seven miles. In other words, the length of Wiltshire is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times the breadth.

The area of Wiltshire is about 864,100 acres, which is about the same as that of Shropshire or Cornwall, and about four times less than that of Yorkshire, which, as you know, is our largest county. There are about 274,000 people, which is nearly eleven times less than the population of Lancashire.

*Relief.*—Nature has divided our county into two distinct portions. There is the lowland division in the north-west of Wiltshire, low-lying and fairly level, and the upland division which consists of a high platform of down-land in the south-east of the county. Of course, there are high ridges in the lowland division, and valleys in the south-eastern portion. If you travel down on the Great Western line from Paddington to Chippenham and West-

bury, you will find, on entering Wiltshire, that you have the Downs constantly to the left of you. The railway line follows, almost exactly, the boundary between the two great divisions we have just mentioned. To be more exact, the boundary line follows the chalk-hills from Bishopstone, parallel to the Great Western Railway, past Wanborough, Wroughton (leaving Swindon on the north), Cliff Pypard, Calne, south to Devizes, then towards Westbury and Maiden Bradley.

The south-eastern table-land is cut by three large valleys, the Vales of Pewsey, Warminster, and Wardour. You will readily see from the map that the Vale of Pewsey is the largest, and the Vale of Wardour next in size. These valleys lie in the direction east to west.

The two divisions differ, as we have said, in their height above the sea-level, and we may also contrast them in other ways.

The lowland division has wooded valleys, and much rich pasture-land. The surface of the upland division, on the other hand, is covered with short, springy turf, which is largely grazed by sheep. There is also corn-land.

From the lowland division, therefore, we get some butter, and thousands of gallons of milk are sent daily to London. In the south-east the valleys are under cultivation, large crops of wheat, barley, oats and roots are produced, and, as we have said, sheep are reared on the high ground.

To understand *why* this great difference should exist, we must understand something of the geology of the county.

## CHAPTER II

### THE GEOLOGY OF WILTSHIRE

IF you have ever travelled down the Great Western line, from Paddington to Wiltshire (or perhaps on to Bristol and South Wales), you may have noticed as you go west that different kinds of rocks and soil are to be seen in the various railway "cuttings" through which the train passes. You may perhaps, also, have taken a trip, in holiday time, to other parts of England, and you will have found that each part of the country seems to have its own particular soil, and rocks underlying the soil. It will be no news to you if you are told that one kind of soil yields good crops, that another kind of land gives poor crops, that certain sorts of grain grow well in one place, and other sorts in another place. Again, in some districts the ground is not fit for ploughing, but is good for pasture-land or for sheep-grazing.

Now the kind of soil (and consequently the kind of crop) depends to a very great extent on the sort of rock near the surface of the ground. For instance, if there is clay near the surface, the water cannot soak through it, and so the soil is very moist. On the other hand, if the rocks near the surface are porous (that is, will let the water quickly sink through them) then the upper surface is dry, and perhaps will only grow short herbage, fit for sheep.

The science which tells us about the rocks which form the crust of the globe on which we live is called Geology. From what we have said, you will have some idea of the great use and importance of this science.

Now it has been found that the different kinds of rock almost always occur in the same order, so that if we come across one sort of rock we can generally tell what other kinds will be found under or near it. The different beds of rock also differ in their age, some having been formed at a much earlier time in the world's history than others. On the journey which we spoke of at the beginning of the chapter, from Paddington to South Wales, we first pass over the newest kinds of rock, then over older beds, and by degrees we reach, in South Wales, the very oldest that we know about.

Now Wiltshire lies about half-way on the journey, so we shall expect to find neither the newest nor the oldest rocks, but those which stand about half-way up the list which geologists have drawn up for us.

We spoke in the first chapter about the two great divisions into which Nature has divided our county. The reason for the two great divisions being there, is that there are two great classes of rocks in Wiltshire.

In the first place, there is, forming the great southern table-land we spoke of, a great mass of chalk-rock. On the geologist's list, the group of rocks in which chalk comes are named after the chalk. The word used is "cretaceous," which simply means "chalk". Now water sinks into the chalk, so that in summer the land is dry on the surface, and is not good for crops or pasturage, so it is largely grazed by sheep. At three places the chalk has been worn away, and some other rocks of the "chalk group" are laid bare. These places are the Vales of Pewsey,



GEOLOGICAL MAP OF WILTSHIRE.

Wardour, and Warminster (also called the Vale of the Wiley). Here we may see the "Upper Greensand," as the bed of rocks is called, and the Gault.

The northern and north-western parts of Wiltshire are quite different, as to their rocks, from the southern chalk table-land. The beds of rocks are called the "Oolitic" rocks. They are not all porous like the chalk, and thus the land is kept moist in summer, and provides a soil which may be ploughed or else used for pasturing cattle.

The softer beds of the rocks in the north being more easily worn down and carried away by rains, etc., occupy the lower levels. These are the Oxford Clay and the Kimmeridge Clay. The harder beds, such as the Coral Rag, the Forest Marble, and the Limestone, form ridges or



LONDON CLAY.      CHALK.      GREENSANDS  
AND GAULT.      OOLITES.      LIAS.

small lines of hills, stretching from north-east to south-west across the north-western corner of the county. In the west of Wiltshire, especially at the bottom of the deep Box Valley, are to be found the "Lias Clays," as they are called. These are the oldest rocks in the county.

Before leaving the question of rocks, we must mention the "Sarsen Stones" or "Grey Wethers". These are huge masses of sandstone, mostly found on the Downs near Marlborough and Kennet. They were used in making the temples at Avebury and Stonehenge. It is thought that a bed of sand once overlay the chalk, and that these hard Sarsen stones, part of the bed, were left on the surface when the rest of the softer sand was swept away by the rivers, etc.

## CHAPTER III

### THE RIVERS AND CANALS OF WILTSHIRE

ON the whole, the water supply of Wiltshire is not good. The chalk country is often parched in the summer time. When the water has sunk into the chalk, which holds it like a sponge, it comes to the Upper Greensand and to the clay which is next beneath it. The water cannot sink through the clay, so it breaks out in springs at the places where the Greensand is laid bare, either in the valleys, or along the edge of the chalk table-land. It will be noticed, on looking at the map, that the villages in the Down Country are placed near these springs.

You will have learned, in your geography, about river-basins. Now Wiltshire is drained by three rivers, or their tributaries. These are the Thames, the Bristol Avon, and the Salisbury (or Christchurch) Avon. North-east Wiltshire belongs to the Thames Basin; North-west Wiltshire to the Bristol Avon Basin; and the centre and south to the Avon Basin. A small part of the county, near Mere, is drained by the upper waters of the Dorsetshire Stour.

The most important feeders of the Thames in Wiltshire are the Key, the Cole, and the Kennet. Many small brooks, such as the Swill, the Ray, the Ogbourn, and the Albourne, flow into these.

The chief Bristol Avon tributaries in the county are the Tetbury Brook, the Marden, and the Biss.



SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: WEST FRONT.

*Photo by Mell & Ridley, Bournemouth.*



Let us now trace the course of the Avon, our longest river. It flows through the county for about forty-one miles, entering Hampshire near Downton. Its source is near Bishops Cannings, and it at once flows in a south-easterly direction, past Wilsford and Charlton, till Upavon is reached, when a southerly course is taken. Fittleton, Nether Avon, Amesbury, Wilsford, and Great Durnford are then passed, and near Salisbury the Bourne joins it on the left bank, and the Wiley, from Kingston Deverill, joins it on the right bank. The Nadder is a tributary of the Wiley. After Salisbury, Britford is passed, and the Ebell flows in on the right bank. At last Downton is reached, and the Avon leaves Wiltshire.

Few of the Wiltshire rivers are navigable, and so canals have been made. These are three in number. (1) The Thames and Severn Canal which crosses the north of the county and joins the Thames and Severn. (2) The Kennet and Avon Canal. This divides Wiltshire into two fairly equal parts, and runs from the Avon past Bradford, Trowbridge, Devizes, Great Bedwin, and Hungerford into Berkshire. (3) The Wilts and Berks Canal, which goes from Calne, past Wootton Bassett and Swindon to the Thames near Abingdon.

The Great Western Railway carries goods so much quicker than they can possibly be taken by canal, that the three canals are either quite given up or very little used.

## CHAPTER IV

### WILTSHIRE INDUSTRIES

FROM the fourteenth to the eighteenth century the great industry in Wiltshire was the manufacture of West of England cloth. At Trowbridge, Bradford-on-Avon, Chippenham, Calne, and other towns, there were many cloth factories, and thousands of bales of wool were used each year. In 1790 there were sixty cloth factories at Chippenham alone. This trade has now almost died out, though it still lingers on at Trowbridge.

In the north-west of the county agriculture is carried on, and it is, indeed, the chief amongst Wiltshire industries. The pasture-land is rich, and so there is much milk, which is chiefly sent up to London to supply the needs of that great city. You may have noticed, in the early morning, hundreds of milk-cans on the platforms of the Great Western stations, waiting for the "milk trains". Wootton Bassett is the centre of the milk-producing district. Some milk is also sent to local factories.

You will now understand why butter-making in Wiltshire is not so flourishing as it used to be, and why the North Wilts cheeses are not made as formerly. The reason is simply this—the milk is sent out of the county.

Bacon-curing is carried on at Calne, Chippenham, and a few other places. "Wiltshire Bacon" is known all over



WOOTTON BASSETT.

Photo by J. Riddick.

the world, and Calne is the great centre. At the factories of Messrs. Charles and Thomas Harris & Co., from 2,000 to 3,000 pigs are killed each week, and it is nothing uncommon to see 20,000 sides of bacon being cured, besides a vast quantity of hams, etc. The bacon is, as we have said, sent to all parts of the world, from the Tropics to the Polar Seas.

At Swindon the Great Western Railway make their engines, carriages, and waggons; and this is the largest single industry in Wiltshire. New Swindon, as it is called, has grown up around these great works which were begun in 1842. In sixty years the population of Old and New Swindon has increased from 2,459 to 44,996. Altogether, 254 acres are covered by the works and yards, and of this space, 42 acres is roofed in. About 14,000 men are employed, and the company owns at the present time 2,902 locomotives, 7,518 carriages and vans, and 68,407 goods waggons.

There are other engineering works at Chippenham, Melksham, etc., and there are iron works at Westbury.

From the quarries of Box and Corsham comes the splendid building-stone known as Bath stone. Huge blocks are sent by rail to all parts of England.

Malting and brewing, which, about the year 1350, were the chief occupation of people in the country districts, are still carried on at Trowbridge, Devizes, Warminster, Marlborough, Bradford-on-Avon, Malmesbury, etc.

At Salisbury, boots and shoes are manufactured, tobacco and snuff are made at Devizes, and carpets are made at Wilton.



*Corner of a PACKING DEPARTMENT at Chas. & Thos. HERRIS & Co. Bacon Factory, Calne, Wiltshire*

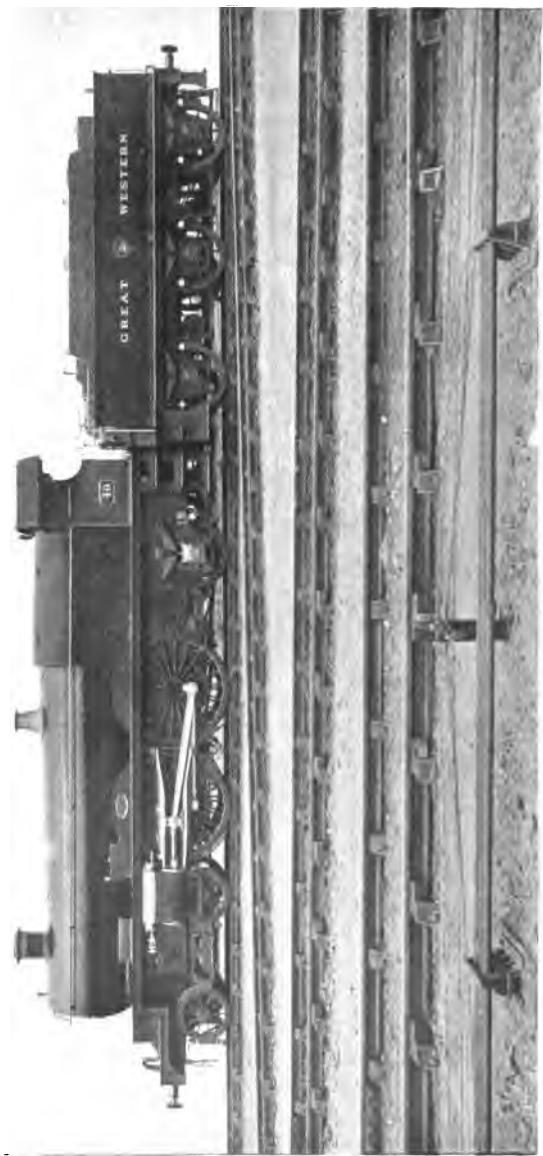
## CHAPTER V

### THE WILTSHIRE ROADS

As you go along the hard well-kept Wiltshire roads of to-day, it will be hard for you to imagine what the country was like when there were no roads at all. You will have read that in the Stone Age, when men were savages, the low-lying parts of Wiltshire were covered with thick forests or swampy marshes, and the tribes lived on the hills or the high Down-land.

The paths, known as Trackways, which these ancient Wiltshiremen used, wandered over the Downs or wound along the ridge of the hills. They were often no wider than a sheep-track, and were not drained or paved with stones, but were merely paths worn in the turf. Such a one is the Ridgeway in North Wiltshire. In after days these paths were much used by smugglers who wished to keep away from the high roads, and also by drovers who wished to avoid paying tolls at the turnpikes.

The Romans, who invaded Britain, and lived here for about 400 years, were skilful road-builders. They knew the advantage of being able to move their troops quickly from one part of the country to the other, and so they made good roads of stone. Wherever possible they made use of the Trackways. As you will read later on, there were many of these excellent roads in our county, with handsome villas, or country-houses, standing on them.



GREAT WESTERN EXPRESS ENGINE, 1906.

A Roman road, found about ten miles south-west of Bath, was formed as follows :—

1. A foundation of fine earth, hard beaten in.
2. The bed of the road, composed of large stones.
3. A layer of small stone well mixed with mortar.
4. A layer composed of a mixture of lime, chalk, and pounded brick ; or, gravel, sand, and lime mixed with clay.
5. The stones forming the surface of the road.

This will show you how carefully the Romans made their roads, and will also show you why the Roman roads lasted such a long time. You will read in another chapter about the direction of some of these roads.

You will read how the Britons in North-west Wiltshire were able for many years to defy the Saxon invaders. Why was this? It was because that part of the country had no roads, and was covered with dense woods. The Saxons were unable to follow their foes, or to come to blows with them.

In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries the old Roman roads were still used, and other cross-roads were made. The great landowners and their tenants were supposed to repair them ; but this work was almost entirely neglected. Ruts and deep holes abounded everywhere, and in the winter, brooks ran down the roads. In time of snow it was often impossible to get along at all, and in the churches, prayers were said for the unfortunate travellers.

Just as rich men build hospitals or almshouses at the present day, so in the fourteenth century they used to build bridges over the streams or rivers, as a pious act, well-pleasing to God. Sometimes they put a little chapel on the bridge, and wayfarers, when they crossed, would enter the chapel and pray for the soul of the man who had built the bridge. Such a chapel may be seen on the bridge





MELKSHAM.

at Bradford-on-Avon. These bridges were often neglected after they had once been put up, and it was a common thing for travellers to fall through holes into the water beneath.

You can readily imagine that the light carriages of the present day would have been useless on such paths as these. Solid rough carts were used, but most people rode on horse-back, the horses being strong animals something like our cart-horses. The journey from Wiltshire to London took about five days.

Robbers were numerous, and we get a hint what the roads over the Downs were like from the rhyme:—

“Salisbury Plain, Salisbury Plain,  
Never without a thief or twain.”

When we think of all these perils, we can understand why Wiltshiremen who were forced to go on a journey used to make their wills before starting, and bid good-bye to their friends.

In the year 1285 a law was made called the “Statute of Winchester,” which ordered that all brushwood should be cleared away for 200 feet on each side of the public highway, so that robbers might not spring out on the unwary traveller.

In Stuart times the roads were much improved, but they were still in a bad condition. Two main roads to the west, the Bath Road and the Exeter Road, ran through Wiltshire, one in the north of the county, and the other in the south. People at this time travelled in stage-coaches, drawn by four fast horses. These coaches in 1670 ran from London to Bath in three days, which was thought to be a reckless rate of speed. Travellers were lucky if they got away from the suburbs of London without being robbed by highwaymen.



TOWN HALL AND MARKET HOUSE, TROWBRIDGE.

The Bath coach went by Maidenhead to Reading, and then to Hungerford, on the borders of Wiltshire. From Hungerford the road ran to Marlborough, where horses were changed at the Castle Inn. Beckhampton Inn was soon reached, and from this place there were three roads to Bath. One went by Cherhill, Calne, and Chippenham ; another by Sandy Lane, Bowdon Hill, Lacock, and Corsham ; and a third by Devizes (stopping at the Bear Inn), Trowbridge, and Bradford.

The Exeter coach went through Salisbury, or else by Amesbury and Mere.

About the year 1820 a Scotsman named Macadam found out a new way of road-making. His idea was to break hard stone into small pieces and put it down in layers a few inches in depth. The weight of the carts, etc., would, he thought, crush the stones down and make a solid road. Government took the matter up, and he was made Surveyor-General of the Bristol roads.

At the present day our County Council, aided by Urban Councils or Rural District Councils, keeps our roads in repair, and it is no longer true to say, as Waller said in 1645, that the Wiltshire roads are "the worst of ways".

## CHAPTER VI

### THE WHITE HORSES OF WILTSHIRE

IF you live in the northern half of Wiltshire, you cannot fail to have noticed one or other of the large white horses which are cut out of the turf on the hillsides. One of these horses is supposed to have been made as far back as A.D. 878, but the others are quite modern (between A.D. 1780 and A.D. 1845).

Similar horses are to be seen in Berkshire and Dorsetshire. Perhaps the oldest of all is the White Horse at Uffington in Berkshire. It is said to have been cut out in A.D. 871, in memory of Alfred's victory over the Danes at Ashdown.

Now *why* should the Saxons have cut out horses on the hillsides? The reason is this. From the earliest times our ancestors looked upon the horse with great reverence, just as the Egyptians looked upon the cat as a sacred animal, and just as the Hindoos of to-day have their sacred bulls. We find from old records that the German tribes had their sacred horses, and the Norsemen and Danes offered horses in their sacrifices to the gods.

Hence it was quite natural that our heathen forefathers, in gratitude for their victories, should have cut out from the turf figures of their sacred horses, which, as they thought, were pleasing to the gods they worshipped.

The oldest Wiltshire horse is on Bratton Hill, near Westbury. An old story says that Alfred, after his victory over the Danes at Ethandune, cut out this figure at Easter, A.D. 878. Unfortunately, in 1778, a man named Gee, steward to Lord Abingdon, had so little love for ancient things that he remodelled the horse, which now faces in a different direction. It was again repaired and recut in



THE CHERHILL WHITE HORSE.

1853. It is about 175 feet long, 107 feet high, and the circumference of the eye is about 25 feet.

The Cherhill horse, near Aldbury Camp, and easily seen from Calne, was cut in 1780 by Dr. Christopher Allsop of Calne. He marked out the outline roughly with small stakes, bearing white flags. Then he stood on the top of "Labour-in-vain Hill," and, by means of a speaking-

trumpet, directed his men how to place the stakes so as to give a better shape to the animal. The turf was then cut out and the hollow filled with chalk. The length is 129 feet and the height 142 feet. The eye is 4 feet in diameter.

The Marlborough White Horse, on the hill behind Preshate, was made in 1804 by the boys of a school kept by Mr. Greasley.

In the Vale of Pewsey, in the parish of Alton Barnes, there is a horse which was cut out in 1812, at the expense of Mr. Robert Pile. A story is told about this. A man named John Thorne, known as "Jack the Painter," offered to cut it out for £20. The offer was accepted, and Thorne employed another man to do the work and then went off with the £20 without paying him. You can see the horse from Old Sarum, twenty miles away as the crow flies.

Other figures are to be seen at Winterbourne Bassett and at Broad Hinton near Wootton Bassett. Both these horses are modern, the former being made in 1835.

## CHAPTER VII

### AVEBURY AND SILBURY HILL

THE village of Avebury is near Beckhampton, and about five miles from Marlborough.

Within the boundaries of the village are the ruins of a wonderful stone circle which once stood there. Around the circle runs a "vallum" or rampart whose circumference is 4,442 feet, the area of land enclosed being  $28\frac{1}{2}$  acres. On the inside of the rampart is a ditch, and the height from the top of the rampart to the bottom of the ditch is in some places about 69 feet.

Just inside the ditch stood the great outer circle of stones. There were 100 of these stones, which were so large that some of them weighed 90 tons. They were placed about 27 feet apart and stood from 12 to 17 feet high. Only eighteen of these stones are now to be seen.

Inside the great circle stood two small double circles. The outer ring of each of these had thirty stones in it, and the inner had twelve.

It is thought that there used to be two great stone avenues leading to the circles. The avenues are known as "The Kennet Avenue" and "The Beckhampton Avenue," and probably consisted of about 200 stones in each.

The circles were much larger than those at Stonehenge,





STONES AT AVEBURY.

and the stones are rough and unhewn, thus showing that at the time when they were put up men had probably not fully learnt the use of their stone-hammers, mallets or chisels. It is agreed by all that the Avebury rings are much older than the Stonehenge rings, which consisted of hewn stones.

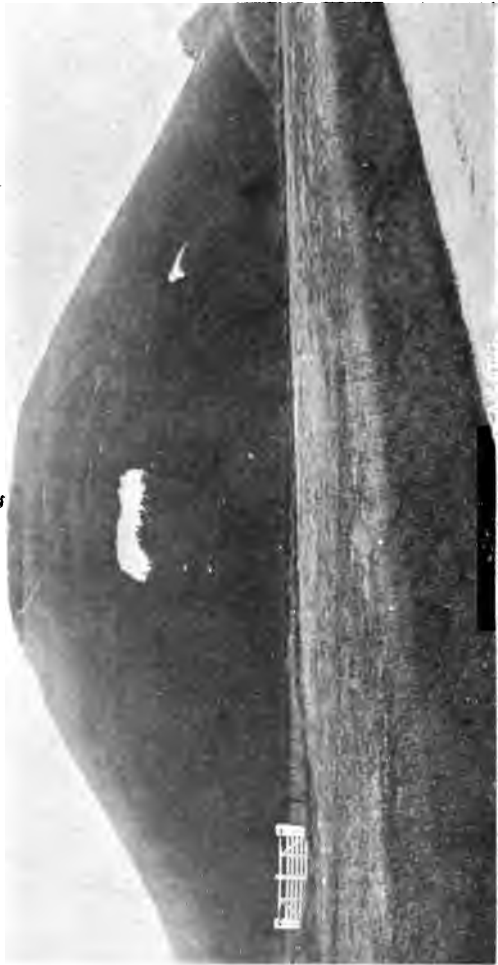
It is also fairly certain that the rings of stone which we have been describing formed a temple, but we cannot be certain as to what god was worshipped. Most people now believe that the men of that far-off time adored the Sun. It may be mentioned that some used to think that the serpent, which has always been looked upon as the wisest of created things, was here worshipped. One writer thought that the Kennet Avenue represented the head of a serpent, the Beckhampton Avenue the tail, while the temple itself was like the coiled-up body.

On the rampart the common people probably stood to watch the priests in solemn procession come down the sacred avenues, and carry out their acts of worship.

It must always be of the greatest interest to us to look at these huge stones, which were standing here long before the Druids worshipped in their groves, or before Cæsar's conquering legions landed on our shores. What tales they could tell us if only they could speak!

About half a mile south of the Temple stands Silbury Hill. It is a vast artificial hill, that is, a hill made by the hands of men, and is the largest of the kind in Europe. It is 1,657 feet round the base, 104 feet in diameter at the top, and has a perpendicular height of 130 feet.

We are again puzzled as to why this great hill was built. There are all sorts of tales told about it. One is that it was made in order to cover a life-sized gold figure of a man on horseback. Unfortunately for this idea two tunnels have



SILBURY HILL, NEAR CALNE.

*Photo by Heath, Calne.*

been dug in the hill, and no figure has been discovered. Another tale says that it was raised by magic in the time that it took for a pot of milk to boil on the fire.

We may mention four ideas about the purpose or use of Silbury Hill. One is that it formed a part of the great Avebury Temple, another that it was a meeting-place of the tribes, a third that it was a great altar for sacrifice, and a fourth that it was, like the barrows, the tomb of some great king. The last view is probably the right one.

## CHAPTER VIII

### STONEHENGE

WE have spoken of the remains of the wonderful circle of stones which used to stand at Avebury. More perfect, though probably not so old, are the stones at Stonehenge, about which an old writer tells the following story: "A wander-wit of Wiltshire, rambling to Rome to gaze at antiquities, and there screwing himself into the company of antiquarians, they entreated him to illustrate to them that famous monument in his country called Stonage. His answer was that he had never seen it, whereupon they kicked him out of doors, and bade him go home and see Stonage."

Stonehenge stands upon Salisbury Plain, about two miles from Amesbury, and seven miles from Salisbury.

The name is probably derived from two Saxon words meaning "the hanging-stones" or "stone-hanging places". This name was given, either on account of the upper cross-stones which were placed each on two upright stones, or because each group of three stones resembled a gallows.

In the great Temple (for such it was) as it stood at first, there was a large outer circle of thirty upright "Sarsen" stones fixed in the ground about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet apart and joined at the top by cross-stones. This circle was about 308 feet in circumference. Seventeen of the uprights are still standing.



STONEHENGE.

... & Bidley, Bournemouth.

To make them more secure, knobs or "tenons" were cut in the tops of the uprights, and these knobs fitted into holes in the cross-stones.

About nine feet inside the outer circle was a smaller circle of uprights only, made of what is called "bluestone" or "diabase".<sup>1</sup>

Inside this inner circle was a great ellipse made up of five very large trilithons or groups of three stones.

Lastly, within the ellipse was another ellipse consisting of nineteen uprights of bluestone, and also a large stone known as "the altar-stone".

Seeing the remains of this wonderful stone-circle, you will perhaps ask three questions: "When was it built?" "Who built it?" and "Why was it built?" The last question is easiest answered, for most people think that it was a temple for the worship of the Sun. Some think that the thirty uprights and the twenty-nine spaces between them refer to the long and short months of the ancients, which had thirty days or twenty-nine days in them. On the 21st of June, if you stand on the middle of the altar-stone the sun is seen to rise directly above the "hele-stone" or "Friar's heel," a large outlying stone.

Next, as to who built it. All sorts of guesses have been made on this point. The Druids, the Romans, the Saxons, and even the Danes, have each been said to be the builders. One old story tells us that Merlin, the enchanter, brought the huge stones by magic from Ireland, at the command of Ambrosius, an ancient King of Britain.

The only way in which the dispute can be settled is by carefully noticing the stones, and by digging in the ground round and under them.

<sup>1</sup>This is a hard kind of rock not found in Wiltshire at all. It probably was brought from a distance, whilst the Sarsen stones came from the Marlborough Downs.

In the first place, then, the stones are carefully hewn, showing them to be newer than those at Avebury. Again, on digging under one of the stones, the following flint and stone implements were found: axe-hammers, hammer-stones, mauls (or mallets), etc. You may see these at the Devizes Museum.

It is thus thought that Stonehenge is about 3,700 years old, and that it was built by men who had not yet properly learned the use of metals, but used stone tools instead. This period you will find described later on as "The New Stone Age," or "The Early Bronze Age".

Sir Norman Lockyer, the astronomer, from reasons connected with the position of the sun, also agrees with this date.



## CHAPTER IX

### THE DYKES AND CAMPS

AMONG the many interesting relics of the past which are found in our county, we must mention the dykes or earthen ramparts, which are still to be seen in several places.

It used to be thought that all these dykes were made by the ancient Britons, either as boundary lines or for defensive purposes. It has been lately proved, however, that the Romans (or those who came after them) built the larger and more important dykes. Still, it is probable that the Britons built the smaller dykes, and perhaps some portions of the others, and it is wonderful to us how they could have done it with such rough tools as they then used.

General Pitt-Rivers showed us how to find the age of these banks. He caused cuttings or sections to be made in the dyke he was examining. Coins, pottery, tools, etc., found near the top of the dyke proved nothing at all as to its age, for they might have become imbedded in the soil long after the dyke was built. But if such coins were found at the bottom, *on the old surface-line*, it proved that the dyke must have been built either at the time to which the coins belonged or later. In making a section of a rampart in a chalk soil, the old surface-line can easily be found, for it can be seen in a distinct line of dark mould beneath the rampart.

On the borders of Dorsetshire, near Martin and Damerham, is the Bokerly dyke. On cutting this dyke, coins were found beneath it which proved that it had been made either by the Romans just before they left England, or by the Britons just after that time. Traces of villages dating from this period were found at Woodcuts and Rotherley.

Other dykes in the neighbourhood are the Grimsdykes



THE WANSDYKE, HEDDINGTON, CALNE.

*Photo by Heath, Calne.*

(one north and one south of Salisbury) which probably date from the fifth century. There is also Combe Bank.

The Wansdyke, in North Wiltshire, is the most perfect and famous of the dykes. It can be traced from the bottom of Morgan's Hill, behind Calstone, to Tan Hill, and from thence to near Hungerford. Some think that at first it stretched from Andover north to Hungerford, and it is certain that it went from Hungerford across Wiltshire and Somerset to the Bristol Channel.

In some places it rises to a height of nearly 40 feet from the bottom of the ditch.

As we have said, there have been many ideas as to why the Wansdyke (called in Saxon times "Wodenesdic," *i.e.* "Woden's Dyke") was erected. It was said that the Belgae made it for a boundary between themselves and the Kelts. Another idea was that the West Saxons used it to divide their lands from those of the Mercians. General Pitt-Rivers, however, in 1889-91, cut "sections" or "slices" through the bank, and *on the old ground-line or surface-line* were found some fragments of part of a Roman sandal, an iron nail, Roman pottery, etc. He thus proved that the Wansdyke was made in Roman times, or later by the Britons after the Romans had left them, or by the Saxons. It may have been that Ostorius Scapula built it to protect "Britannia Prima," or "The First Province of Britain".

The early British Camps or "Castles" are found in many parts of Wiltshire. They are usually posted on some hill or spur of the Downs, so as to command the low-lying country beneath them. They are irregular in shape, and were usually defended by a bank and ditch. The camps were in view of one another, so that by beacon-fires an alarm might be quickly spread.

It has always been a puzzle to us how the dwellers in these camps got their water. Perhaps they used "Dew Ponds" such as are now made on dry high districts in the Downs.

In North Wiltshire camps are found at Oldbury (or Aldbury), Barbury, Rybury, Tyddington, Knap Hill, and Oliver's Camp, near Roundway.

In South Wilts we have Vespasian's Camp, Ogbury, Old Sarum, Chlorus's Camp, Castle Rings, Castle Ditches, Winkelbury, Battlesbury, Scratchbury, Yarnbury, etc.

In addition to these camps, there are often to be seen large enclosures on the slopes of hillsides. Along the line of the Wansdyke there are a great number of them. They were probably enclosures or "cattle-pens" used by the Britons.

## CHAPTER X

### WILTSHIRE PLACE-NAMES

IT has been truly said that there is much history to be learned from the names of places.

Suppose, for instance, that a man who knows nothing of the history of North America visits that country. He finds that white men occupy the country. But when he comes to notice the names of mountains, hills, rivers and lakes, he finds words like Alleghany, Missouri, Niagara, and so on. These are words not found in the language of any white men, so he sees that some other race must at one time have lived in the land, and that the white men who drove them out kept and used the place-names which we have mentioned.

So it is with other countries. In England, for example, we find amongst the geographical names, Keltic words, Roman words, Saxon and Danish words. We are thus sure that Kelts, Romans, Saxons and Danes have each lived and ruled in our island home.

Let us try, then, to see what traces of Keltic words are found in the place-names of our own county.

*Keltic Words.*—You will probably have noticed that many rivers in England are called by the name "Avon". This is a Keltic word, and means "stream" or "running water". In Wiltshire we find two Avons, the Upper and the

Lower. There are also two places of this name, one near Foxham on the Upper Avon, and one near Old Sarum on the Lower Avon. Again, we have Up-Avon and Nether Avon, two villages near each other on the Lower Avon. There is also Avening.

Another Keltic word with the same meaning is "esk," which also appears as "axe," "usk," "ash," "ox," "ouse," etc. You will remember seeing on the map of the British Isles the rivers Exe, Ouse, Usk, and Esk. The name "Oxford" thus means, not "the ford for oxen," but "the ford over the running water". In our own county we have Oxenleigh and Wishmead, each meaning "the water-meadow," and there are Wishford and Axford, each meaning "the river-ford".

From the Keltic word "dour" or "dur," meaning "water," we have Deverel ("the little stream"), Monkton Deverel, Durleigh ("the watered meadow"), Durnford ("the river-ford"), and Wardour.

From "funt," meaning "a spring or well," we have Fonthill, Teffont, and Erchfont.

The word "pen" is well known to you, occurring in the words Pennine and Ben (in Scotland). You will readily guess that the word means "hill" or "high ground". Thus in our own county we have Hackpen and High Penn, each meaning "the high hill," and also Penhill (or Pennel), which is a curious word. It means "hill hill," "pen" being a Keltic word, and "hill" being Saxon.

The word "coed," meaning "a wood," occurs in Cadenham ("the dwelling by the wood"), Cadley ("the meadow by the wood"), and Codford ("the ford by the wood").

*Roman Words.*—Next let us consider the Roman names in Wiltshire. These are very few in number, for the Romans built no strong fortified posts in the county.



LONGLEAT HOUSE.

*Photo by Houlton, Bros., near Tronchbridge.*

Since Roman roads, as we shall see later, crossed Wiltshire in all directions, it is quite natural that the Roman words we find should occur in the names of places near these great roads. Foss-Knoll is found in Easton Grey, a parish through which the Fosse Way passed. The word Stratton means a village by the "stratum," that is the public road or street. Thus we find Upper Stratton, Stratton St. Margaret, and Stratford sub Castle.

*Teutonic Words.*—The Saxons and Danes held control over England for more than fourteen centuries, so it is very likely that we shall find many traces of their occupation.

The following are the chief Saxon words found in Wiltshire place-names:—

- (a) *Tun* (or *ton*) = an enclosure or village.  
 Garston (the grass-enclosure).  
 Barton (the corn-enclosure).  
 Bratton (the broad village).  
 Wootton (the village by the wood). Thus Wootton Bassett is by Braden Forest, and Wootton Rivers by Savernake Forest.  
 Hinton (the high village).  
 Downton (the village near the hill or mound).
- (b) *Leah* (or *ley*, or *legh*) = the meadow.  
 Bradlegh (the broad meadow).  
 Henley (the high meadow).  
 Stanley (the meadow by the stones).
- (c) *Ham* = an assembly of dwellings, a home.  
 Chippenham (the market village).  
 Bromham (the village near the wild broom).
- (d) *Don* (or *dun*) = a hill.  
 Ashdown (hill of the ash-trees).  
 Garsdon (the grassy hill).



- (e) *Den* (or *dene*) = woodland pasture.  
 Braden (the broad woodland pasture).
- (f) *Ford* = a ford.  
 Bradford (the broad ford).  
 Woodford (the ford by the wood).
- (g) *Thorp* = a village.  
 Westrop (the western village).  
 Estrop (the eastern village).
- (h) *Stan* = a stone.  
 Stanley (the meadow by the stones).  
 Stanton (the village by the stones).  
 Standen (the stony woodland pasture).
- (i) *Maer* = a boundary.  
 Mere (a town near the boundary of Wilts).  
 Marston (the boundary-stone) near the north-west  
 boundary.  
 Margreen (the green by the boundary) near Burbage.  
 Marhill (the boundary hill).  
 Marton (or Martin) (the boundary village).

## PART II

### GENERAL HISTORY OF WILTSHIRE

#### CHAPTER XI

##### WILTSHIRE IN PRE-HISTORIC TIMES

WHAT do we mean by pre-historic times? We mean those early days of the world when men were not civilised, and when they had not learned the art of writing or the making of books of any sort.

Then how is it possible for us to know anything about the men who lived so long ago? It is quite easy for us by reading books, letters and newspapers written in the reign of Queen Anne, to get a good idea about the manners and customs of those who lived in that reign. It is not such a simple matter for us to learn about the Normans, for printing was not then invented, but still we have the writings of the monks and others. It is a more difficult matter still to know about the Britons who lived at the time when Cæsar invaded Britain, but yet we may get a good deal of information from the descriptions written for us by Cæsar and other civilised men who visited the island. Just in the same way Stanley the explorer told us of the natives of Central Africa.

The question once more arises: How are we to know anything of the inhabitants, say of Wiltshire, hundreds or

thousands of years before Cæsar's time, when all the people of the earth were savages, when the use of metals had not been discovered and when no written records were kept by anybody?

The very earliest signs of man's presence on the earth are the tools (or weapons) consisting of rudely chipped flints, and these we find in the gravels of Salisbury and Savernake Forest. They are almost the only remains we have of the time when this our country of England was joined to France, and when mammoths and other great beasts roamed through the land. This period in the world's history has been called "The Old Stone Age".

At a later time, which we call "The New Stone Age," men learned to make better tools, and to grind and polish them, but still they had no material but flint and stone of which to make them. We learn about these tools and the people who made them from the contents of their burial-places.

The first metal that was used in our country was Bronze, a mixture of copper and tin. Bronze axes, spearheads, and daggers were cast in stone moulds. The use of Bronze dates, probably, from about 1600 B.C. to 600 B.C. Until the latter date the use of iron, for making cutting tools and weapons, had not been discovered. This period has been called "The Bronze Age," and many remains have been found in the Wiltshire "barrows" or grassy "tombs of the mighty dead".

Thus, if we are to get an idea of Wiltshire in pre-historic days, we must inquire what these barrows are, how they are constructed, and what they have been found to contain. This is an easy task, for our county seems to have been thickly populated in the far-distant past, and it is richest of all counties in such interesting relics as we have mentioned.

## CHAPTER XII

### WILTSHIRE IN PRE-HISTORIC TIMES (*Continued*)

THE barrows or burial-places, which we have referred to, are of two kinds—"long barrows" and "round barrows".

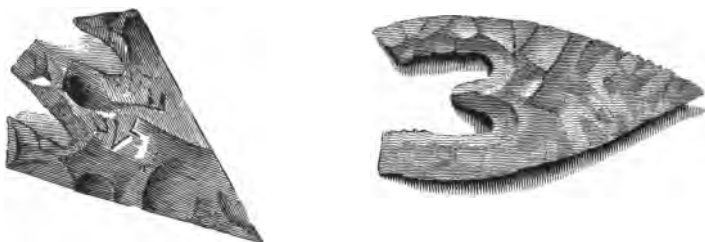
The long barrows, which are the burial-places of the people of the New Stone Age, are long grassy mounds, from 100 to 400 feet long, and from 30 to 50 feet wide, and we often find at one end a little room made of blocks of Sarsen stone. In this room the bodies of the dead were placed, with their flint axes, arrowheads, and implements of bone beside them. You may perhaps have read how the North American Indians, and many other savages, used to bury the most valuable weapons and implements of the warrior with him, so that he might use them in the next world. So it was with these men of the New Stone Age.

The little room is often approached by a gallery or passage. The idea seems to have been to make a house for the dead as like as possible to the houses of the living. The skeletons have been found in the position in which savages are said to sleep, that is, on the left side, with the knees drawn up, and the hands placed before the face.

These long barrows are not very common. A fine one may be seen at Winterbourne Stoke near Stonehenge, and there is one not far from Silbury Hill.

The round barrows, on the other hand, are very numerous, and are found all over the Downs both in the north and also in the south of the county, especially near Avebury and Stonehenge. These round barrows are the burial-places of the people of the Bronze Age. Sometimes skeletons have been found under the centre of the barrow, but as a rule the body was burnt, and the ashes were placed in an urn of rude pottery, many of which you can see in the museums of Devizes and Salisbury.

In the hands of some of the unburnt skeletons have been found "drinking-cups," of pottery, which probably



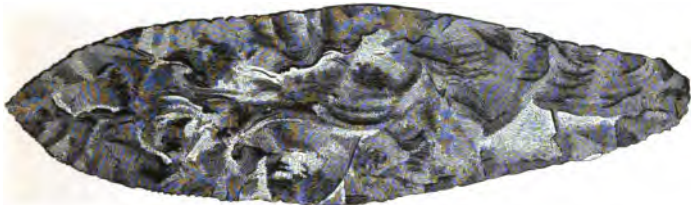
FLINT ARROWHEADS.

contained food for the use of the dead man's spirit. Several of these cups are also to be seen in the museums mentioned above.

Many bronze daggers, ornaments of amber and gold, as well as flint arrowheads, and beautifully made stone axes, have been found in the round barrows.

We know that the men buried in the round barrows were of a different race from those of the long barrows, for their skulls are of a different shape. The men of the long barrows were "long-headed," whilst those of the round barrows were "round-headed". One writer says: "Long barrows—long skulls. Round barrows—round skulls."

The "cromlech" was another kind of burial-place, and is formed of three or more great blocks of stone, standing upright, with a large slab covering the top. There are few of these cromlechs in Wiltshire. "The Devil's Den," near Marlborough, is a good example. Very likely the



FLINT DAGGER.

cromlechs were covered over with mounds of earth, like the rooms in the barrows.

We may here notice that it was only "the mighty dead" who were buried as we have described. Those who were not men of note in their tribe were buried in the earth, but



STONE AXE.

no barrow was raised over them. Their graves were mostly near their great stone temples, and in this respect the men of old resemble us.

But it must not be supposed that we get all our knowledge of the past from the barrows and cromlechs.

We have in Wiltshire the great temples of Avebury and Stonehenge. Ancient dwelling-pits are found near Stour-

ton, on Tan Hill, on Huish Hill, on the Downs above Calstone, and at Fisherton Ainger. There are also British trackways or paths, ditches and banks, "lynchets" (or



STONE HAMMER AXE.

terraces of cultivated land on the hillsides), and camps and enclosures for cattle, found on the hill-tops.

You will now have some idea of the materials from which we may make up a simple history of pre-historic Wiltshire.

## CHAPTER XIII

### WILTSHIRE IN PRE-HISTORIC TIMES (*Continued*)

FROM these signs and tokens of the past we can have some general idea of the various races of men who have at different times lived in Wiltshire, and whom we often call by the general name of Ancient Britons.

Of Wiltshire in the Old Stone Age we know very little. The inhabitants were probably stunted savages, who were a race of hunters, living on the animals which they killed. They used rough flint weapons. Amongst the animals alive at that time were the mammoth, the woolly rhinoceros, the wolf and the bear. This we know from the remains of these animals discovered in Wiltshire.

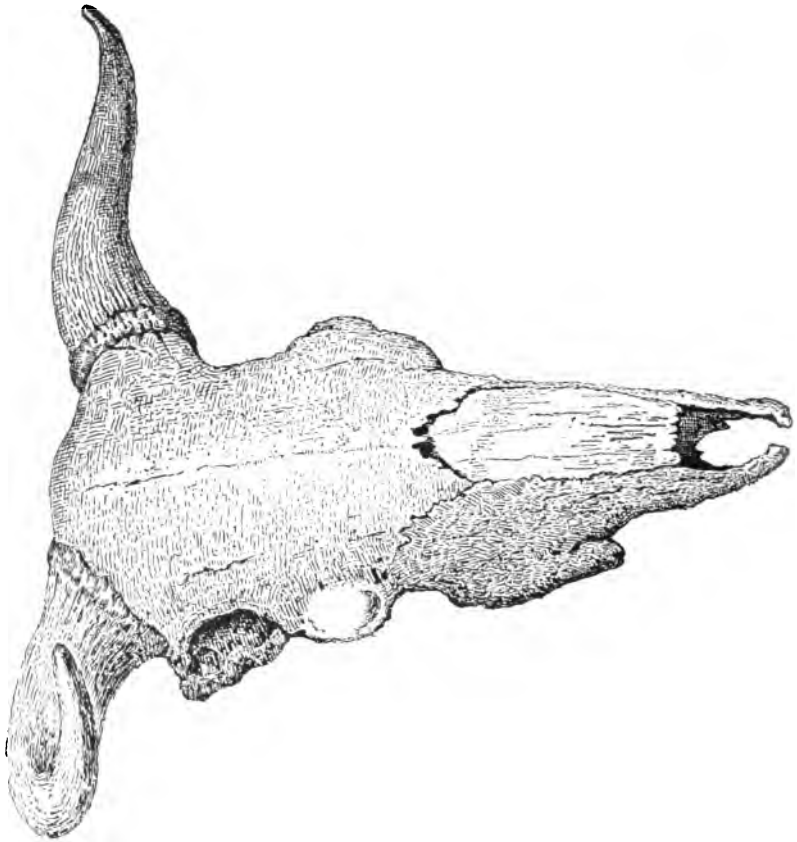
In the New Stone Age the surface of our county differed much from what it is now. There were no pleasant corn-fields, no rich pasture-land, no busy towns. The whole of the low-lying land was covered with marshes or dense forests, through which bears, wolves, elks, red deer, wild boars, and wild oxen with curious long foreheads roamed at will. In the streams the beaver was busy at work.

The climate, owing to the marshy condition of the land, and to the presence of such dense forests, was more damp and rainy than now.

The only habitable places were the crests of the hills and downs.



It would be very interesting if we could see a photograph of the Wiltshireman of that day, but, as need hardly be



HEAD OF BOS PRIM. (OR PRIMÆVAL OX).

said, this is impossible. Let us, instead, draw a word-picture of him as he comes down the hillside to hunt the wild animals.

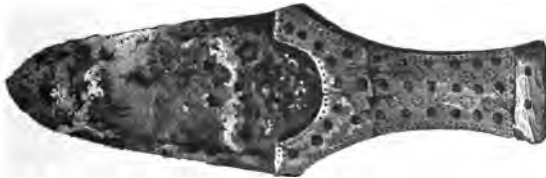
He is not tall, but is well-made. His head is long, with a square forehead, and beautiful white teeth.

He is clothed in the skins of animals, and carries as his weapons a bow, arrows tipped with flint points, a stout spear also provided with a flint point, and a polished "celt" or axe, set in a wooden handle. A couple of savage dogs run by his side.



BRONZE DAGGER.

When he returns from the chase he climbs the slope till he reaches the huts where he and his tribe live. They are circular in shape, roughly made of mud, and roofed-in by branches of trees, grass, etc. Strewed about the floor are the remains of former meals, the bones of the deer, goat,



BRONZE KNIFE DAGGER.

sheep, rabbit, etc. A fire blazes in the centre of the floor, the smoke escaping through a hole in the roof.

When evening comes he and his tribe worship the setting sun, to which they have built a temple of rough stones at Avebury.

The little clan is governed by the "father" of the tribe, an old man from whom the rest are descended.

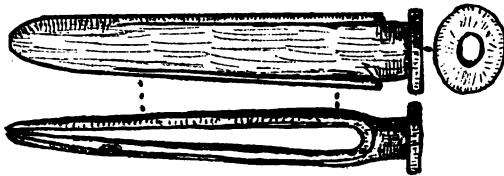
In time of danger the neighbouring tribes join together and take refuge in the camps, which are placed in commanding positions on the hill-tops, and are fortified by a bank and ditch. We may see such camps at Martinsell,



INCENSE CUP.

Oldbury, Barbury, Battlesbury, Sidbury, Vespasian's Camp, etc.

Towards the end of this period men began to keep flocks and herds, and they may have built the other great temple at Stonehenge.



BONE TWEEZERS.

At the beginning of the Bronze Period a new race of men probably arrived and settled in the country. These were the men of the round barrows. Their skulls were round. They used weapons and implements of bronze, bone and stone, and were hunters. They also cultivated the land, as proved by the "lynchets" or terraces on the hillsides, and they had herds of cattle.

After another invasion of our island by the Kymri, a people of whom we know little, the Belgae came over from



BURIAL URNS.

*Note.*—Found in Round Barrows.

Gaul. These were the men whom Cæsar found in the South of England. They were fair haired and blue eyed.

They were tall in stature, with broad chests and long arms, and were swift of foot. The soil was cultivated more thoroughly than before, and, strange to say, these Belgae had found out how to "rubble" the land, that is, manure it with chalky marl.

Their priests were the Druids, who had their characters blackened by the Romans because they stirred up the people to resistance. Doubtless many of the tales of human sacrifice with which we have been horrified are quite untrue.

## CHAPTER XIV

### THE ROMANS IN WILTSHIRE

IN the year B.C. 55 Julius Cæsar and his legions, who were then engaged in the conquest of Gaul (France), crossed the Channel to Britain. The Britons met him with a spirited resistance, both at his landing and afterwards, and though the Romans were generally victorious, we read that Cæsar "retired quickly, having effected nothing of consequence".

In the year A.D. 42 the first real attempt was made to conquer Britain. A chieftain named Bericus had fled from Gaul and had taken refuge with the Britons. This gave the Romans an excuse for invading the island.

Accordingly, we find that Aulus Plautius, a general who had been fighting in Germany, crossed over with 50,000 men or more.

The Isle of Wight was perhaps the first place to be subdued, and a road was then made from the coast to Winchester.

We do not find that any great military station was formed on this road, so we may consider that a peace was made with the Belgæ and the other tribes.

The inhabitants of Gloucestershire, however, fought against the Romans, and so the legions marched through Wiltshire to attack them.

Our county saw little or no fighting, and when the country was finally conquered, Wiltshire and the other counties south of the Thames were called "Britannia Prima," or "The First Province of Britain".

Unlike many other counties in England, Wiltshire has very few Roman remains. Only three "stations," or "towns," are mentioned by the Romans as having been founded in the county.

On the other hand, many roads with villas (or large country-houses) on them were constructed across Wiltshire. This shows us that the Romans lived long and peaceably in the district.



ROMAN BULLA.

Much care was taken in the making of these roads, which were chiefly for military purposes. Suitable "stations" were fixed upon, not more than twenty miles apart, and were then connected by a hard, firm road. The old British trackways were used whenever possible, and the road was usually raised to a considerable height above the ground. When it was possible the road ran in straight lines.

Having these roads the Romans could quickly move bodies of troops to any part of the country.

From the Roman "road-book" we find that there were three important roads in Wiltshire:—

1. A road which cut the north-east corner of the county, through Cricklade, Stratton St. Margaret, and Wanborough into Berkshire.

2. A road which crossed the northern half of the county. On this road Verlucio (near Bromham) and Cunetio (Mildenhall, near Marlborough) were built.

3. A road from Winchester which passed near West Winterslow to Old Sarum, and then on to Exeter.

There were also other roads, such as the Fosse Way, through the north-west corner of the county. This celebrated road ran from Bath to Lincoln, almost in a straight line.

“The Roman villas which we have alluded to were large country-houses, often built round three sides of a square, and containing a large number of rooms, almost all of them on the ground floor. There were special bath-rooms, with large baths which could be heated by a furnace and flues underneath them. In the same way several of the rooms were built with a hollow space under the floor, and flues running up the walls, so that when a fire was kept burning in the furnace connected with these flues, the whole room was kept warm, no matter how cold the weather might be. There were no open fires such as we use now.

“The most remarkable thing about these country-houses was the mosaic or ‘tessellated’ floors with which all the chief rooms were furnished. These floors were made of concrete, covered with a layer of small stones about half an inch square, of various colours (red, white, yellow, black, etc.) arranged in various patterns, so that the floor itself looked like a beautiful carpet. The floors often remain buried under the earth, fairly perfect, to the present day, even when all signs of the houses above them have dis-



appeared. Beautiful examples have been found at Pitmead, near Warminster, at Box, at Colerne, and at Littlecote, near Ramsbury" (Rev. E. H. Goddard).

A Roman villa such as we have mentioned was unearthed at North Wraxhall in 1859. It was an oblong building, about 180 feet by 36 feet, with sixteen or more rooms in it.

The walls of the building were from 2 feet to 3 feet thick, and it was roofed with stone tiles fastened to the rafters by iron nails. Each tile was about 12 inches by 18 inches and weighed about five pounds.

The villa stood within a walled enclosure, in one corner of which a private cemetery was discovered.

Several interesting articles were dug up, such as bronze writing-pencils, ivory and bone hair-pins, nails, knives and also a pair of boars' horns, mounted, as an ornament, in bronze.

Amongst other signs of the Romans in Wiltshire may be mentioned the remains of villas at Bromham, Monkton Farleigh, Okus, Castle Combe and Box, and an embankment at Cricklade.

## CHAPTER XV

### HOW THE WEST SAXONS CONQUERED WILTSHIRE

IN the year A.D. 495 five ships sailed up Southampton Water and landed their crews. These were the fair-haired West Saxons, the people of the "Seax," or axe-knife, as they were called.

Amongst the number was a youth named Cynric, who was soon to be at the head of the invaders from the Continent. It was not long before new swarms of fighting-men came over, attracted by the prospect of plunder, and anxious to possess the fertile English fields.

Fifty-seven years passed, and the West Saxons under Cynric had made themselves masters of Dorsetshire and the surrounding country. The thick forests of the West forbade further conquest in that direction, so the invading army determined to push north. They had already made their first settlements in Wiltshire on the banks of the Wiley near Wilton.

Meanwhile the Britons in their strong hill-fortresses of the chalk country prepared for a life or death struggle with their foes. The entrenchments at Old Sarum must first be stormed, and then there were other forts at Bury Hill, Quarley, and on the heights near Warminster. Farther north still were Sidbury, Ambresbury, Barbury, Oldbury, etc.



OLD SARUM.

Photo. by Miss G. D. ...

Accordingly, in the year A.D. 552, Cynric got help from his allies, and with his son Ceawlin as second in command, attacked Sarum in full force. The old chronicle tells us briefly that "the Bryts he put to flight".

The victorious Saxons now gazed northwards over the plain of Salisbury which lay before them, with the fertile Vale of Pewsey in the distance. This belt of land had to be conquered, and the task took Ceawlin four years to finish.

In the year A.D. 556 the Britons once more met the invaders near Beran Byrig (Barbury). Here vast numbers of the bravest British warriors were assembled in order to avenge the defeat at Old Sarum. They were evidently led by a skilled commander, who knew something about



ANGLO-SAXON SPEARHEAD.

Roman methods of fighting, for the troops were drawn up in nine battalions (three in the front, three in the centre, and three in the rear). The archers, slingers and cavalry were also posted in Roman fashion.

The Saxons attacked them in one solid mass, and fought with such fury that the standards were dashed down, the spears broken, and a mighty hand-to-hand conflict took place. The battle raged till nightfall, and neither side could claim much advantage.

Next day, however, the Britons retreated, so that the Saxons could fairly claim the victory, which gave Ceawlin the title of Bretwalda.

The Britons took refuge in the other hill-fortresses we have mentioned.

By the end of the sixth century, Southern and Central

Wiltshire had been conquered, but the north-west of the county was still free, thanks to its marshes and forests.

At Deorham, Ceawlin defeated the Britons so thoroughly that many of them fled to that part of the country which we have since called Wales.

Cirencester and Bath now fell before the conqueror, and the following towns were probably occupied about the same time: Marlborough, Highworth, Swindon, Cricklade, and perhaps Corsham, Chippenham, and Mere. Some think that the Britons still kept a wedge of land from Selwood Forest down the Biss and along the Avon to Malmesbury. If we suppose this to be the case, we can understand why Athelstan rewarded the free Welshmen (or Britons) of Malmesbury for helping him in his fighting.

In A.D. 591, at the battle of Wanborough, Ceawlin was defeated by his rebel subjects, was dethroned, and died two years afterwards.

Amongst the later battles between the Saxons and Britons in Wiltshire may be mentioned a battle at Bradford-on-Avon in A.D. 652, and at Pens in A.D. 658. In both of these the Saxon leader Cenwealh was victorious.

Many years later, when the conquest of the county was completed, Ine "the Lawgiver" defeated Ceolred at Wanborough (A.D. 717).

It is interesting to note that the boundaries of Wiltshire, as we know it at the present day, were probably fixed about this time.

## CHAPTER XVI

### HOW ALFRED FOUGHT THE VIKINGS

IN the reign of King Ethelbert, while Alfred was yet a boy of seventeen, the Vikings, or "Creek-men," from Denmark landed on the east coast of England.

Very soon afterwards the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle tells us that they marched westward and fought a battle with the Saxons at Chippenham, where Hubba, one of their leaders, was slain. A large mound of stones which has long since disappeared was put up to mark where he was buried.

Next year, in A.D. 867, the North of England fell into their hands, and when Alfred was nineteen he made his first campaign with his brother Ethelred, who marched to help the King of Mercia, which was the name given to the central portion of England. The Danes were attacked, but easily defeated the Saxons, and Ethelred and Alfred retreated to Wessex.

You may naturally ask *why* the invaders were victorious all over England. The reasons are very easy to understand.

In the first place, the Vikings were trained fighting-men, clad in armour, and using the best of weapons. The Saxons, on the other hand, were farmers taken from the plough. Only the Thanes and wealthy men wore armour,

and the ordinary warriors had simply spear and shield or axe.

Again, the Saxons suffered from want of union amongst themselves, and they had no fortified towns or strong war-fleet. Alfred, as we shall see, changed all this.

The Vikings next fortified a strong camp between the Kennet and the Thames, and from this they made raids in all directions. The Wessex men attacked them in their fastness, but "bursting out of the gate like wolves," the Danes drove them off in headlong flight.

At Ashdown, in Berkshire, Alfred attacked the enemy, who were posted on a hill. Alfred, we are told, "pushed up hill like a fierce wild boar," and, for the first time, won a battle.

Two months later, at Marton, near Bedwyn, the Saxons once more suffered defeat, and Ethelred was mortally wounded.

Alfred was now chosen as king, and never did king come to the throne at a stormier time. His beloved Wessex was in the hands of the heathen Vikings, who ravaged far and wide. It seemed in vain to struggle against them, for, as Asser, Alfred's friend, said: "Slay 30,000 of these heathen in one day, and on the next 60,000 will appear".

The victorious Danes now pressed deeper into Wiltshire, and ere Alfred had been a month on the throne they met him at Wilton. Having taken up a strong position on a hill, the Saxons repulsed them with great slaughter, but, carried away by the fury of the fight, the victors rashly left their post, just as Harold's men did at Senlac in 1066. The Danes rallied and won the battle. This was a very bad beginning for Alfred.

The Danes, however, had lost very heavily, and they agreed, on payment of money, to leave Wessex. For the

next four years there was rest in this part of England, but Alfred rested not at all. He trained his men, and prepared them for the great fight which must come sooner or later, for Alfred never believed that the peace would last long.

In the year A.D. 878 the main army of the Danes came quite unexpectedly from Mercia, and made a central camp at Chippenham. From this place they sent out plundering parties all over Wiltshire, Hampshire, and Somersetshire.

In such force did they come that Alfred and some of his bravest followers were obliged to retreat to the Isle of Athelney, in Somersetshire, where they built a stockade. We can imagine how angry Alfred felt at having to leave so many of his people to the tender mercies of the Danes, whose great delight was to burn, plunder and slay.

Messengers were sent out to bid the men of Wiltshire, Hampshire and Somersetshire be ready, and soon after Easter Alfred felt that the time had come for one last great fight with the invaders.

The Saxon army marched towards Chippenham, and when the Vikings heard of their approach they marched out confidently to meet them, feeling sure that they could beat the Saxons in the open.

There are many ideas as to the exact place where the battle took place, but perhaps we shall not be far wrong if we think that it was at Edington, near Westbury. "Ethandune" is the name given to the place by the Saxons.

It was a desperate fight, for the Saxons knew that they could not hope to gather another army if they were defeated, and the Danes knew that they must lose their hold on the South of England if they lost the day.



Alfred formed his men in one solid mass, and, fighting furiously, they drove the Danes back to Chippenham.

The place was not prepared for a siege, so in fourteen days it fell into Alfred's hands.

By the Peace of Wedmore, as it is often called, Guthrum, the Viking leader, and thirty of his officers were baptised into the Christian religion. They also did homage to Alfred, and agreed to withdraw from Wessex.

Alfred had now freed his kingdom from the Danes, but he knew how important it was "in time of peace to prepare for war". Accordingly, you may read in the history of England how he trained his army, increased the number of thanes (or professional soldiers), and fortified many of the towns, which could thus be no longer taken at the first rush. Alfred could soon march to the rescue of any place which was besieged, and put the invaders to flight.

## CHAPTER XVII

### THE CIVIL WAR BETWEEN STEPHEN AND MATILDA

You will have read in your history of England how Stephen and Matilda fought for the throne of England, and it is interesting to notice that many of their early fights took place in Wiltshire.

One reason for this was that Matilda's brother Robert, Earl of Gloucester, had built Bristol Castle, and had so strongly fortified it that it could not be taken. He also held several castles in Wiltshire and garrisoned them on the side of the Empress. The castles of Devizes, Trowbridge, Malmesbury and Marlborough, as we shall see, played an important part in the struggle.

Another reason was that Wiltshire possessed at this time an extraordinary number of rich towns and convents, which both sides longed to plunder.

As we have said, at the beginning of the struggle most of the Wiltshire towns and castles were on the side of Matilda, while London and the eastern counties supported Stephen.

At an early stage in the war Stephen imprisoned the Bishops of Salisbury and Lincoln, and took Salisbury Castle. The Bishop of Ely escaped to Devizes.

In 1139 Stephen appeared before Devizes Castle, in which were the Bishop of Ely and Matilda of Ramsbury.

In order to compel the latter to yield, Stephen brought the Bishop of Salisbury, the Bishop of Lincoln, and Roger Poor, the chancellor, under the castle walls, and threatened to hang Roger, son of Matilda and the Bishop of Salisbury, unless the castle were surrendered. The Bishop of Salisbury is said to have been shut up in a cowshed.

By this means he made himself master of the castle, but every priest in the land turned against him for thus ill-treating the bishop, and Stephen was forced to do penance.

Stephen next marched towards Trowbridge, taking Malmesbury on the way. When he reached Trowbridge Castle, which belonged to Humphrey de Bohun, he found it was so strong that it completely baffled all his efforts to take it. Powerful siege-engines were made, but all in vain, so, acting on the advice of his barons, he gave up the attempt and retired to London. He left, however, in Devizes Castle a picked body of soldiers, with orders to annoy the men of Trowbridge as much as they could. This order they faithfully obeyed, till the people of the district were heartily sick of their troublesome neighbours.

Robert Fitz-Hubert, who had been turned out of Malmesbury by Stephen, surprised and took Devizes Castle. This he did by using leather scaling-ladders, which enabled his men to get over the wall quite noiselessly at dead of night and surprise the drowsy guards. A few of the defenders kept up a resistance in a high turret, but were finally starved out.

At that time John Fitz-Gilbert held Marlborough for the King. FitzHubert sent messages to him, pretending that he wished to enter into a treaty of peace, but really wishing to seize the castle. In this case, however, "the biter was bit," for Fitz-Gilbert invited him to Marlborough Castle,



DEVIZES CASTLE.

*Photo by John Chivers, Devizes.*

and suddenly seized, imprisoned and tortured him. The Earl of Gloucester afterwards hanged him in sight of his own men before Devizes.

Hervey of Brittany, one of Stephen's friends, by a free use of bribes obtained possession of Devizes Castle. The people of the neighbourhood, however, were all for Matilda, and refused to supply the garrison with food. Hervey was forced to leave the castle and he then fled from the kingdom.

You will remember how Stephen was defeated by the Earl of Gloucester and imprisoned in Bristol. Matilda's overbearing ways soon afterwards set the Londoners against her, and she was forced to flee for her life.

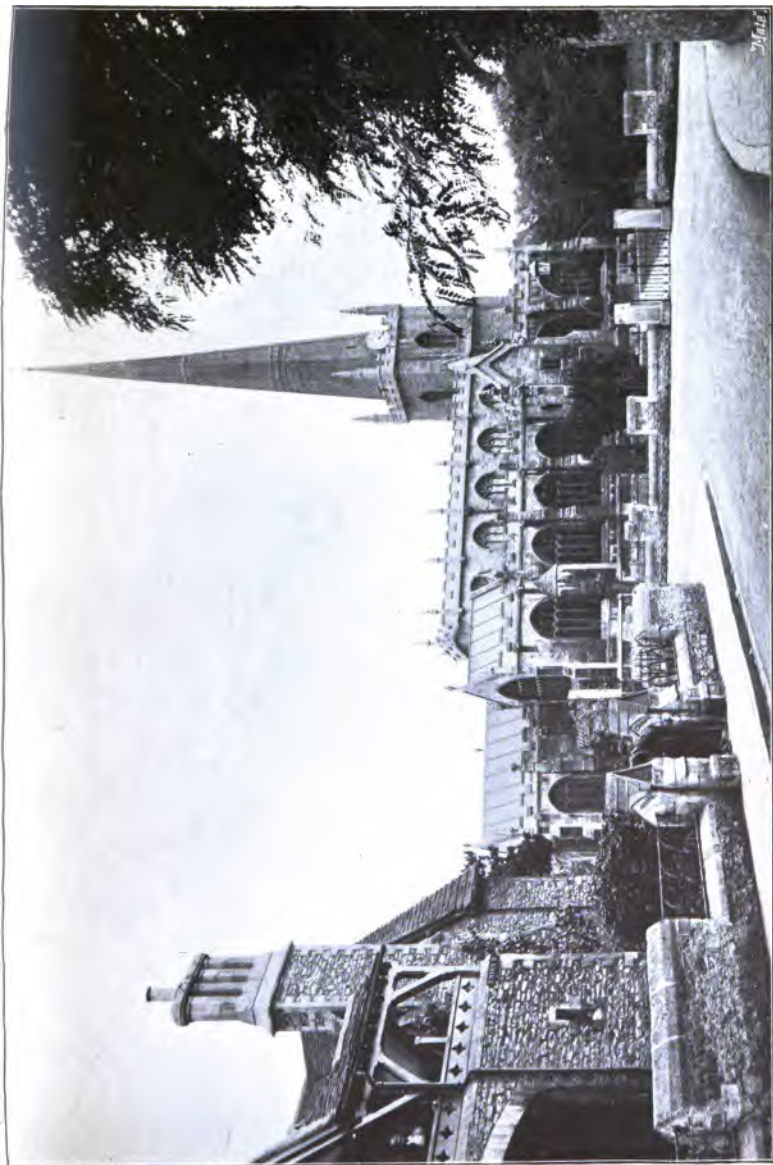
After leaving Winchester, she came to Devizes Castle in the disguise of a man. She was not allowed to rest here, and she fled once more. It is said that she had to be concealed in a coffin carried on a horse's back.

William of Dover, one of Matilda's chief generals, had erected at Cricklade "an inaccessible castle, surrounded on all sides by water and by marshes". From this castle he furiously attacked Stephen's followers for many miles around.

Stephen next besieged three forts which the Earl of Gloucester had built near Malmesbury. The Earls of Gloucester and Hereford, hearing of this, hastened to the rescue with some Welsh allies, and the King, leaving one of his officers named Walter in command at Malmesbury, had to retreat.

Walter was soon afterwards captured by William of Dover, and Matilda tried to get him to surrender the castle, but he refused and was thrown into prison.

In 1152 Henry of Anjou, Matilda's son, came over from Normandy. Malmesbury was the first place he attacked, and Jordan, who held the castle for Stephen, lost all



PARISH CHURCH, TROWBRIDGE.

*Photo by Houlton Bros.*

except the "keep," afterwards called "Jordan's Tower". Stephen came to the aid of the distressed garrison, and pitched his camp near to the town. The two rivals were now face to face, and the fate of England was to be settled.

Both parties drew out in battle array, their banners all glittering with gold. But between them ran the river, then swollen and in full flood. It was impossible to cross it. To make matters worse for Stephen's men, a tempest of rain beat in their faces and they could hardly hold their spears for the cold.

One writer says that the treaty which settled the dispute was at this very time signed under the walls of Malmesbury Castle.

Be that as it may, the civil strife was ended in 1154 by the treaty of Wallingford. By the terms of this treaty Stephen was to remain on the throne, and Henry (afterwards known as Henry II.), Matilda's son, was to succeed him.

## CHAPTER XVIII

### THE GREAT CIVIL WAR

#### OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES—QUARREL BETWEEN THE PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS

IN the year 1642 the quarrel between Charles I and his Parliament came to a head. Charles was determined to rule and to impose taxes without the consent of the Parliament, and they on their part were firmly resolved that the people of England should share in the government of the country.

Accordingly a war, called by the Royalists "The Great Rebellion," and by the Parliament "The Great Civil War" broke out. Many great battles were fought, Charles was dethroned and executed, and England for a time became a Commonwealth or Republic.

For the first two years of the war things went very badly for the Parliament. Their forces, badly trained and hastily levied, were easily defeated by the Royalists. In 1644 and 1645, however, the success of Cromwell and Fairfax at Marston Moor and Naseby made up for previous defeats, and everything went against the Cavaliers from that time.

The north and west of the country were, on the whole, in favour of Charles, but London and the eastern counties were on the side of the Parliament.



As Wiltshire lay on the high road between London and the West of England, it is not surprising to learn that much fighting took place in the county. Parties of Cavaliers or of Roundheads crossed it in all directions, and unfortified towns like Chippenham often changed hands two or three times in the same day. No very important battle took place in the county except the fight at Roundway Down in 1643.

When the war broke out the Wiltshire folk were mostly on the side of the Parliament. A large number of them were Nonconformists, and Lord Clarendon tells us in his history that the people of one town at least (Marlborough) were well known to be against the King.

All the armed power in the county was under the Parliament, who placed Sir Edward Baynton and Sir Edward Hungerford at the head of affairs. The militia were assembled at Devizes, and also at Marlborough.

Before the year 1642 was ended, however, the Parliamentary leaders suffered a severe blow in the loss of Marlborough. Lord Digby with some troops from Oxford first attacked it, but failed. Next month Lord Wilmot with 7,000 men and some guns took the town by assault, injured it to the extent of £50,000, and sent John Franklyn, member of Parliament for the town, with many other inhabitants, as prisoners to Oxford, where they endured many hardships.

In February, 1643, another detachment of Royalists, under Prince Rupert, took Cirencester. The Parliamentary troops in Malmesbury, hearing of this, feared to remain in the town, which was at once occupied by troops under Colonel Lunsford.

But even more fatal than these defeats was the quarrel which now arose between the Parliamentary leaders, Sir

E. Baynton and Sir E. Hungerford, both members of Parliament for Chippenham. Each accused the other of treachery, and each was in turn arrested and escaped.

It appears that Baynton had disbanded his forces when he heard of Prince Rupert's advance on Cirencester. The people of Cirencester then sent to Sir E. Hungerford for help.

Baynton now sent Lieutenant Ayre to Malmesbury, where Hungerford was, to arrest him. On the way back, however, a body of the Malmesbury Militia rescued Hungerford, and Baynton in his turn was arrested.

Parliament decided the dispute in favour of Hungerford, who now took up his post as leader at Devizes. The Royalists of that town, encouraged by the capture of Cirencester and Malmesbury, refused to support him, so he retired to Bath, leaving Devizes to Colonel Lunsford, who marched from Malmesbury and occupied it.

## CHAPTER XIX

### THE GREAT CIVIL WAR (*Continued*)

#### HOW WALLER TOOK MALMESBURY—THE SIEGE OF WARDOUR CASTLE

IN 1643 Sir William Waller, who had been chosen to lead the forces of the Parliament in the West, marched into Wiltshire and forcibly took money and goods from Salisbury.

He next determined to take Malmesbury. Colonel Lunsford, the Governor, sent out troops to attack him, but they were beaten back.

On reaching Malmesbury, Waller at once assaulted it in full force. On the outskirts of the town were a number of gardens surrounded by stone walls. Behind these walls the Royalists were posted, and they kept up a hot fire on Waller's men as they advanced. Finally he drove the defenders out, and entered the outer or lower town. The garrison, he found, had fortified the West Gate and placed a cannon there which commanded the street. So narrow was the passage that the Roundheads could only march four abreast, and the cannon worked great havoc in their ranks. As Waller said in a letter, "This business cost hot water".

Something had to be done, so Waller's musketeers took



MALMESBURY.

Printed by Wilkinson & Co., Truro, Cornwall.

some houses near, and fired from the windows on the defenders of the West Gate. Half an hour passed by, and it could now be seen that the assault had failed, and that Waller seemed no nearer to gaining the town.

After resting some time, the attack began again, but at the end of an hour had to cease, for the cart which was bringing ammunition broke down, and the besiegers were thus left helpless. Waller says that if the enemy had sallied out then, he could have done little to stop them; for he had scarcely any powder or bullets left.

The night passed away, and at two in the morning he ordered his drums to beat and the trumpets to sound the



LADY ARUNDEL'S SIGNATURE.

charge. This so alarmed the garrison that they sent to "crave a parley," and at about seven o'clock surrendered the town. It was indeed hard on them that they should thus, through ignorance, have given in to a foe who was almost beaten off.

Sir Edward Hungerford was left in charge of Malmesbury, but, some time after, "for reasons best known to himself," he quitted it.

Sir William Waller now hastened across the Severn, routed a force led by Lord Herbert, and took Tewkesbury, Gloucester, Chepstow and Monmouth.

Meanwhile Hungerford with 1,300 men laid siege to Wardour Castle.

Lady Arundel, who had been left by her husband in

charge of the castle, refused to surrender "as her lord had told her to keep it".

Next day the siege began, and cannon were brought up. The conflict was a very unequal one, for the little garrison consisted of only twenty-five men. Inspired by the spirit of their mistress, however, the little band fought like heroes.

The Roundheads pressed the siege with vigour, undermining the castle in two places, and exploding mines.

Quarter was now offered to the women of the garrison, but they bravely refused to surrender unless their comrades were spared.

So the siege went on, till the heroic defenders, tired out with continual watching by day and night, began to drop asleep at their posts. The maid-servants assisted in the defence by loading the muskets.

Lady Arundel was at last forced to surrender, and it was agreed that the garrison should be spared, and that the castle should not be plundered.

The besiegers, however, did not keep their promise. They first sent the ladies as prisoners to Shaftesbury, and then took clothes, furniture and goods as plunder. Beautiful carving and pictures were broken or destroyed. The out-houses were burned, and the palings of the deer-park were pulled down, thus letting the deer loose. Not content with this, the conquerors cut down and sold the trees of the park, plucked the fruit-trees up by the roots, and sold the fish from the fish-ponds.

Even this was not all. A writer says: "having left nothing in air or water, they dug under the earth". It appears that the Castle was supplied with water by a lead pipe which ran underground from a place two miles distant. This pipe was cut up and sold at sixpence a yard!

As a disgraceful end to a disgraceful business, Lady Arundel's children were separated from her. When Lord Arundel heard of this he wrote to the Parliament about it, but they refused to surrender them. After some time, however, they were exchanged for other prisoners.

Thus ended the first siege of Wardour Castle, which was now left in charge of Colonel Ludlow.

## CHAPTER XX

### THE GREAT CIVIL WAR (*Continued*)

#### THE FIGHT AT LANSDOWNE AND THE BATTLE OF ROUNDWAY DOWN

SIR WILLIAM WALLER now learned that his old comrade-in-arms, Sir Ralph Hopton, was advancing from Cornwall with a Royalist force, conquering as he came. It is interesting to note that in a letter which Waller wrote to Sir Ralph, he signs himself, "Your most affectionate friend and faithful servant, Wm. Waller".

The friends opposed one another on the slopes of Lansdowne, near Bath, on 5th July, 1643. A fierce combat took place, in which three Royalist leaders were killed, and Sir Ralph Hopton was seriously wounded by the explosion of a powder-cart.

Waller now fell back on Bath, and the Royal forces marched on through Wraxhall to Chippenham. Malmesbury was carefully avoided, for it was too strongly held by Colonel Devereux.

Hardly had the tired Cavaliers reached Chippenham, when messengers entered the town, riding at full speed, to tell them that Waller was hard upon their track. The Royal generals determined to face him, but Waller refused to fight until he could have suitable ground for his strong force of cavalry.



The two armies spent the night near each other, the Parliamentary troops on the outskirts of Chippenham, and the Royalists in the town. It was an anxious time for the latter, for their leader, Sir Ralph Hopton, who was borne in a litter, was blind, deaf, and unable to speak, owing to the explosion at Lansdowne.

Next morning, Sunday, 9th July, the Cavaliers left Chippenham, and the people of the town soon saw the stern faces of the Roundhead troopers as they pressed through in pursuit. Again and again the Cornish infantry were attacked, but they faced round fiercely on their pursuers and beat them off.

A running fight was kept up through Pewsham Forest, over Derry Hill, and along Sandy Lane.

One last desperate struggle took place at Bromham, and the Royalists, tired and dispirited, at last reached Devizes.

The watch-fires of Waller's force were seen that night at Rowde, and next day he posted his men between Devizes and Oxford, so as to prevent the enemy reaching the King, whose headquarters were at the latter town.

At night, however, there was a sudden alarm, and before the Roundheads knew what was wrong, the Royal cavalry burst through their lines, and rode hard all night to Oxford.

Waller knew well that help would soon be sent to the infantry in Devizes, so for the next three days he attacked the town with all his troops, but was unable to take it. On 13th July the Life Guards, under Lord Wilmot, arrived from Oxford. On the slopes of Roundway Down they put Waller's cavalry to flight, and his infantry, who fought well, soon had to retreat.

The Roundhead horsemen rode at full speed through Chippenham, and the infantry, now a panic-stricken mob of men, hastily followed them, pushing on to Bath and

Bristol. Waller, in describing his defeat to the Parliament, says: "It is the most heavy stroke of any that did befall me". The Parliament, however, did not condemn their beaten general, but nobly thanked and praised him as if he had gained a victory.

The Cornish army now occupied Malmesbury, and then proceeded to Bath. Sir Ralph was left at Devizes to recover from his wounds. All the West was now in the King's hands, except Plymouth, Lyme and one or two ports. Bristol surrendered to Rupert on 27th July.

For the rest of 1643 Wiltshire had a breathing-time, and rested from the struggle.

## CHAPTER XXI

### THE GREAT CIVIL WAR (*Continued*)

#### EVENTS IN 1644-45

IN December, 1643, Sir Francis Doddington besieged Wardour Castle, which thus underwent a second siege, lasting for three months. In March, 1644, Ludlow, the Governor, with seventy-five soldiers, surrendered.

All Wiltshire was now held by the Royalists, and things looked very gloomy for the Parliament here, as in other parts of England.

In May, 1644, Colonel Massey suddenly appeared before Malmesbury, and summoned it to surrender. Colonel Henry Howard, the Governor, replied "that he kept it for the King and Parliament assembled at Oxford, and without their consent he would never part with it". He then fired on the Parliamentary force.

Colonel Massey's infantry soon took the outskirts of the town, and then, so as to avoid loss of life, broke their way through the houses, thus keeping under cover, till they almost reached the fortified works. A high barricade was then made across the street, so as to conceal the movements of the attacking force, and to protect the artillery which was brought up. In the midst of this work, a sudden panic seized the besiegers, and, desperate fighters as they were, they fled in disorder and confusion, and left their guns behind them. The defenders, however, on account



of the high barricade, or "blind," as it was called, did not notice the flight, and so Colonel Massey was able to rally his troops.

In the morning he sent some of his bravest men with "grenadoes" (or "bombs" as we should call them) to the weakest spot in the defences. The grenadoes were flung in and exploded, and a determined rush gave the town into the hands of the Parliamentary forces.

It is most pleasing to contrast the taking of this town with the taking of Wardour Castle. In this case there was no plunder, for as Massey nobly said: "I cannot judge any part of England to be an enemy's country, nor an English town capable of devastation by English soldiers".

Massey was now left in charge of Malmesbury, and was also made commander of the Parliament's forces in Wiltshire and Gloucestershire.

Soon afterwards he made a raid on Calne, taking George Lowe, member of Parliament for the town, as a prisoner. He also raided Devizes, occupied Chippenham, and placed garrisons in the fortified houses of the district.

In December, 1644, some of his troops occupied Pinhill House, near Calne, but some Royalists from Devizes took it, destroyed the house, and drained the moat.

Colonel Jordan Boville and Sir James Long, with Royalist troops, next attacked and took Rowden House, near Chippenham.

The town of Salisbury saw some exciting events in the same year. Major Wansey, a local Parliamentary leader, surprised Colonel Cook and burned the city gates. Ludlow was placed in command, and he, in his turn, was surprised by the Cavaliers. Only thirty of his men remained firm, so he resolved on a daring stroke. Sending a cornet and ten men to charge the enemy in front, he himself caused



MARKET PLACE, SALISBURY.

*Photo by Miell & Ridley, Bourmemouth.*

a trumpet to be blown in the rear of the Royalists so as to make them think a large force was attacking them. His plan was quite successful, and the enemy broke and fled. While he was pursuing them, Sir Marmaduke Langdale entered the town, and Ludlow was forced to retreat towards Harnham.

The great Parliamentary leader, Cromwell, joined Waller



LACOCK ABBEY.

*Photo by Heath, Calne.*

in Wiltshire in the spring of 1645. They heard that Sir James Long was marching from Oxford to Bristol, and determined to attack him on his way back. The attack took place in a downpour of rain, and Waller takes the opportunity of telling us that the Wiltshire lanes were "the worst of ways I ever saw".

A running fight took place, but when Sir James Long reached Melksham he suddenly found himself in the midst

of an ambush, which Waller had sent on in advance. The Royalists were all killed or captured, and Sir James, with twenty other officers, was taken.

Soon after this event Waller entered Wiltshire for the third time. He marched to Calne, and quartered his troops in the church. He waited for reinforcements, but was summoned to assist Cromwell in Dorsetshire.

Sir James Long, who had been exchanged for Colonel Stephens, was now at liberty, so he seized the opportunity to make another raid. He captured Chippenham, and chased the garrison as far as Malmesbury.

The Parliament was now, however, gaining the upper hand in all parts of the kingdom. Bristol fell into their hands, and Cromwell after two days' hard fighting, took Devizes Castle.

Lacock was the last place in Wiltshire to hold out for the King, and it finally surrendered on 26th September, 1648.

The Parliament ordered a public thanksgiving for the taking of Devizes and Lacock House, and, with the exception of a raid by Sir James Long, the Civil War in Wiltshire was at an end for the time.



## CHAPTER XXII

### THE GREAT CIVIL WAR (*Continued*)

#### THE RISING IN 1655

IN the year 1649, four years after the fatal Battle of Naseby, Charles I. was condemned to death and was executed outside Whitehall Palace.

This was a great blow to the cause of the Royalists, but there were many of the country nobles and gentlemen who were still undaunted, and who wished to continue the struggle and place the king's son, Charles, on the throne.

At Dunbar and Worcester their hopes were dashed to the ground, for Cromwell and his Ironsides were victorious on each occasion.

The country was still in a state of unrest, and many were the plots that were formed against the Commonwealth. Secret agents were sent to all parts to find out who were loyal to the Stuart cause, and to prepare the way for a general rising. Richard Pyle was specially sent to Wiltshire for this purpose, and he found that there were still men willing to fight for the one whom they considered to be their king. Unfortunately, however, the Cavaliers could not agree as to when they ought to rise in arms, and there were some who doubted very much whether the attempt could possibly be successful.

At last Pyle reported that the time had come, and Sir

Joseph Wagstaffe was sent to the West as leader of the undertaking. On Sunday, the 11th of March, 1655, the Cavaliers mustered in Clarendon Park, about a hundred in number. Their officers were Sir Joseph Wagstaffe, Colonel Penruddocke of Compton Chamberlayne, and Mr. Hugh Grove of Chisenbury. The little force first marched to Blandford, their numbers increasing on the way, and then to Salisbury, which they entered, about two hundred strong. All the horses in the town were hastily seized, and the jail was broken open. The Judges and the High Sheriff of Wiltshire, Mr. John Dove, who had met at Salisbury to hold the assizes, were then captured. Sir John Wagstaffe at once ordered them to be hanged, but Colonel Penruddocke would not agree to such a blood-thirsty proceeding, so they were released, with the exception of the High Sheriff, who was kept as a hostage.

The Royalists hoped that the people of Salisbury would join them, but such was not the case.

They next attacked the Sheriff's house, but Major Wansey, who held it with thirty men, repulsed them.

Leaving Salisbury, the insurgents went by way of Downton to Blandford, where the town crier, who refused to proclaim Charles II. as king, was severely beaten. They then marched to Sherborne and Yeovil, intending to reach Cornwall. At South Molton, in Devonshire, Captain Crook, with a troop of cavalry from Exeter, attacked them, and they were forced to surrender, on receiving a promise that their lives should be spared.

Colonel Penruddocke, Hugh Grove, and about seventy others were lodged in Exeter Jail. Penruddocke and Grove were tried, found guilty, and condemned to be hanged, drawn and quartered, but the sentence was felt to be too severe, and on 16th May, 1655, the unfortu-



THE CLOSE GATE, HIGH STREET, SALISBURY.  
*Photo by Mteill & Ridley, Bournemouth.*

nate men were beheaded, dying "very stoutly and very desperately".

As Colonel Penruddocke was ascending the scaffold, he said: "This I hope will prove to be like Jacob's ladder ;



PORTRAIT OF COLONEL PENRUDDOCKE.

though the feet of it rest on earth, yet I doubt not but the top of it reacheth to Heaven".

Grove desired God to forgive Captain Crook for "denying his articles soe unworthily".

Colonel Penruddocke, on being sentenced, complained bitterly that they had received a promise from Captain Crook that their lives should be spared. Parliament, however, said that Captain Crook had not the right to make such a promise, and, as we have said, the execution took place.

Other risings took place at the same time in the North of England, in Nottinghamshire, and in Shropshire, but all were equally unsuccessful.

## CHAPTER XXIII

### WILTSHIRE FROM 1655 TO THE PRESENT DAY

YOU may perhaps have heard the saying, "Happy is the land which has no history," meaning by this that a country is fortunate which has no wars or disturbances, but is quiet and prosperous.

From Stuart times to the present day, Wiltshire can fairly lay claim to have but a scanty history. A couple of storms, a few riots, and the tale is told.

In 1688 it seemed at one time as if there was going to be a deadly conflict in Wiltshire between the troops of William of Orange and those of James II. The Earl of Feversham assembled the army of James at Salisbury, and the King joined him there. William advanced steadily towards Hungerford, and James, deserted by Churchill and others, fled to London.

Bishop Ken, whom you may remember as one of the Seven Bishops, went "with all his coach-horses, and as many of his saddle-horses as he could bring," to Poulshott Vicarage (near Seend). Here he took refuge with his nephew, the vicar (who was a son of the celebrated writer Izaak Walton), fearing that William's army would otherwise have seized his horses.

In 1703 the good Bishop was once more a visitor at Poulshott Vicarage, when, in the middle of the night, a



SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: NAVE, LOOKING EAST.

Photo by The Photochrom Co., Ltd., London.

great hurricane arose, which did a vast amount of damage all over England, and which Addison spoke of in one of his poems as "the storm which of late o'er pale Britannia passed". The great beam which supported the roof of Poulshott Vicarage was almost shaken out by the fury of the gale.

Towards the end of the eighteenth century machinery began to be used for the manufacture of woollen cloth. The work-people were greatly alarmed, thinking that they would nearly all be thrown out of work. A riot took place at Bradford-on-Avon, in which Mr. Phelps, a clothier, was forced to burn his machine on the Town Bridge.

In 1830 large mobs met in different parts of Wiltshire, and did much damage by plundering houses, burning ricks, destroying machinery, etc. The reasons for rioting in this way were: (1) that wages were very low; (2) that all the labourers were in great poverty and distress. The whole county was much alarmed, and all able-bodied men at Warminster, Chippenham and other places were "sworn in" as special constables. Finally, the rioters attacked a troop of Lancers at Hindon, and were soon put to flight, much to the relief of other towns.

In 1859 there was a sudden and most extraordinary storm in North Wiltshire. On the 30th December, about half-past one P.M., it began about a mile south of Calne, and went in almost an easterly direction for thirteen miles. Hundreds of great trees were snatched up by the roots, and tons of earth, still sticking to the roots, were upheaved with them. At Blacklands Park 148 trees were thus roughly treated. At Yatesbury a large cart-horse was hurled from one end of a farm-yard to the other, and a waggon weighing 22 cwt. was lifted over a high hedge. At Ogbourne St. George the storm seems to have ended,



and, strange to say, not a single life was lost during its wild course.

To close our brief history, we may note that in 1888 an Act of Parliament was passed which gave us during the following year our County Council, which you will find described in another chapter.

## CHAPTER XXIV

### CELEBRATED WILTSHIREMEN

“ Let us now praise famous men.”

EVERY Wiltshire boy and girl ought to know something of the great Wiltshiremen who have lived before them. Many are the lessons we may learn from noticing how they overcame difficulties, and how they used to the utmost the powers that God gave them. A well-known poet says that—

“ Lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime ”.

If we cannot rise to the height that they have reached, we shall at all events profit by climbing up towards them, and we certainly ought to be proud that our own county was their birthplace.

The lives and work of a few of the most noted Wiltshiremen are here given, and it is interesting to note that the greater part of them have been literary men, that is, men who have written books.

**Aldhelm.**—The first whom we shall mention is Aldhelm, the great Abbot of Malmesbury, and Bishop of Sherborne, who lived in Saxon times, and died in the year A.D. 709.

He was born at Malmesbury, it is said, and is supposed to have been connected by birth with the Royal Family of Wessex.

As a boy he was trained by the Irish scholar Maeldulf, the founder of Malmesbury. In time he himself became Abbot of Malmesbury, and created so good a school for boys and young men that people no longer went to Ireland for their education. He enlarged the little church which Maeldulf had built, and was, indeed, the real founder of the Abbey of Malmesbury, as it was afterwards known. He gave to this abbey an estate, so large that it would have taken a man the best part of a day to walk round it. He also built other churches in Wessex, such as the Saxon Church at Bradford-on-Avon.

He was a great scholar, and the fame of his learning spread even to France and Scotland. Though he composed some English poetry, most of his works were written in Latin, and he says that he was the first who introduced Latin poetry into England.

He was very earnest in religious matters, and an interesting story is told of the time when he was Abbot of Malmesbury. Noticing that the Wessex men left the church when the singing was over, and did not wait for the sermon, he waylaid them one Sunday on the bridge over the Avon. With a harp in his hand, he sang to them, as a minstrel, in their own tongue. By thus interesting them in his singing, he gained their attention, and persuaded them to sing the Psalms of David and to listen to his preaching.

In the year A.D. 705 he was made Bishop of Sherborne, which gave him the rule over the whole South-west of England. He died in Somersetshire, while visiting his diocese.

**Hobbes.**—The next “celebrated Wiltshireman” on our list is Thomas Hobbes, the great thinker, who was born in Malmesbury in 1588.

He was the son of a clergyman, and led a quiet simple life, living for some time on the Continent.

As we have said, he was a great thinker and writer, and his works are simply and clearly written. The best known of them is called *The Leviathan*. In it he argues that the King, as head of the government, ought to have supreme power, that nobody has the right to resist his will, and that the Parliament ought not to have supreme power in the country. These ideas, of course, are not such as English people now hold.

**The Earl of Clarendon.**—Edward Hyde, afterwards Earl of Clarendon, was born at Dinton, in 1608. He was a politician and historian.

In 1640 he was chosen as member of Parliament for Wootton Bassett, and was a faithful supporter of Charles I. In 1642 he left the House, and joined the King at York, where he was knighted.

Some time after the death of Charles, he accompanied the young prince to Jersey, and there he began his well-known book, *The History of the Great Rebellion*.

At the Restoration he was made Earl of Clarendon, but was afterwards forced to retire to France, where he died in 1674.

His *History* is not at all accurate, and he is not fair to the Parliament and their armies, but still the book is very well written, and gives us some excellent descriptions of men of the times.

**Sir Christopher Wren.**—In the year 1632 Christopher Wren, son of the Dean of Windsor, was born at East Knoyle.

He was a great astronomer, and was remarkably clever at mathematics, but it is as a great architect that he is always remembered.

The Great Fire of London, in which so many churches and buildings were destroyed, gave him his opportunity. He built St. Paul's Cathedral and fifty-three other churches in London alone. He also built Greenwich Hospital, Chelsea Hospital, large portions of Hampton Court and St. James's Palace, and a part of Westminster Abbey.

Over his grave in St. Paul's are some Latin words which mean, "If you search for his monument, look round about you!"

**Addison.**—Joseph Addison, son of the Dean of Lichfield, was born at Milston in 1672. He is chiefly remembered by the essays which he wrote in the *Tatler* and the *Spectator*, two papers which he and Richard Steele brought out.

It is interesting to observe that John Hughes, who also wrote in the *Spectator*, was born at Marlborough.

Addison was member of Parliament for Malmesbury, and was chosen as Secretary of State in 1717. He died in 1719.

Addison's essays are models of clear, beautiful writing, full of quiet humour. Perhaps the best are those in which he writes about Sir Roger de Coverley and his country home. Some day you must read for yourselves about Sir Roger's quaint sayings and doings.

**Richard Jefferies.**—Richard Jefferies was born in 1848, at a farmhouse called Coate, two and a half miles from Swindon, on the Marlborough Road.

He went to school at Sydenham and at Swindon, but it was his father who gave him his love for Nature, and taught him how to observe it.

He was very fond of reading, and when he left school he did some reporting and writing for local papers. He tried his hand at writing local history, and at novel-writing, but these attempts were failures.

In 1872, however, he wrote a long letter to the *Times*

CELEBRATED WILTSHIREMEN



on "The Wiltshire Labourer". This was the starting-point of his success, and he soon began to write about the beautiful works of Nature: the life of the fields, and the ways of the birds, insects and animals. He was a close observer, and he described, in a way which none have equalled, the things which he saw.

When you read his books, you can see the blue of the summer sky, you can hear the hum of the bees and the song of the lark high up in the heavens, and you can almost smell the wild flowers of which he writes.

Some of his most noted books are: *The Gamekeeper at Home*; *The Open Air*; *Wild Life in a Southern County*; and *The Life of the Fields*. In this last book there is an essay called "The Pageant of Summer" which is what may be called "Prose-poetry". You must read these works for yourselves.

During the latter part of his life he suffered from continual ill-health, and he died at Goring in 1887.

There are, of course, many other noted Wiltshiremen whom we have not mentioned, such as William of Malmesbury, the historian; Philip Massinger, the dramatist; Henry Lawes, the friend of Milton, who wrote music for "Comus"; Colonel Ludlow, the Parliamentary leader of whom we have spoken in another chapter; John Aubrey, the antiquary; and Henry Sacheverell, who made a great sensation by his sermons against Dissent.

## CHAPTER XXV

### HOW WILTSHIRE IS GOVERNED AT THE PRESENT DAY

ALL children should be acquainted with the government of their own county, so that when they grow up they may be able to vote intelligently, or to know *why* they pay rates and taxes.

In the first place, you all know, of course, that the King and Houses of Parliament make our great laws for us, and manage important matters of State. Do we in Wiltshire send any members to Parliament? The answer is: "Yes, but not so many as in former days". You will read in this history that several of the Wiltshire towns used each to elect two members of Parliament. In 1832 the Reform Bill altered this, and instead of sending two members, Chippenham, Calne and other towns each sent one member. In 1865 even the right to elect one member was taken away, and now the county is divided into the following districts:—

- North-west Wilts (or Chippenham Division).
- North Wilts (or Cricklade Division).
- West Wilts (or Westbury Division).
- East Wilts (or Devizes Division).
- South Wilts (or Wilton Division).
- Salisbury Town.



Each of these divisions returns one member, so you see that there are only six members for the whole county. On the map at the front of this book the divisions are clearly marked by the use of different colours.

Now there are many matters such as the care of the roads, the lighting of the streets, the drainage, and so on, which only concern our own county or neighbourhood, and Parliament has no time to deal with them.

Accordingly, we have in Wiltshire several small "parliaments" (if we may call them so), which deal with the local matters we have mentioned.

The largest and most important of these bodies is the *County Council*, which meets at Trowbridge. There are sixty councillors who are elected from all parts of Wiltshire, and they select twenty aldermen. The election of councillors, who retire in turns, takes place every three years.

Our County Council has charge of the main roads and highways, the bridges, the police, and the Lunatic Asylum. It sends inspectors round to see that the tradesmen supply us with pure food and drugs, and to test the weights and measures. It elects a General Education Committee which controls the Elementary and Secondary Schools throughout the county, and sees to the very important work of educating the Wiltshire children. There is also an Agricultural Education Committee, which helps and advises the farmers, and provides instruction in such subjects as bee-keeping, butter-making, farriery, etc. For the sum of half a crown, the farmer may learn from the county analyst whether he has bought a good quality of feeding-cake or artificial manure.

You will easily see from what has been said that the duties of the County Council are very important, and that



TOWN HALL, SWINDON.

*Photo by Protheroe & Simons, Swindon.*

when it asks us to pay rates we may be very sure that we shall get the full worth of our money.

To manage the affairs of towns, there are *Town Councils* (in boroughs), or *Urban District Councils*. The members are elected for three years, and a third of them retire each year in November. A Mayor is elected yearly by each Town Council, and there are also Aldermen elected for six years by the Council. These Councils see to the lighting, draining, and water-supply of the town, attend to the repair of the streets, deal with nuisances of various kinds, and see to the health and general welfare of the town.

*Rural District Councils* have charge of similar matters outside the towns.

In small country villages a *Parish Meeting* may be called, and all electors may attend. Should the village have more than three hundred people living in it, a *Parish Council* is elected, consisting of from five to fifteen members. This body has the care of local footpaths, manages parish property, may see to the lighting of the streets, may provide recreation grounds, and appoints the overseers of the poor.

For the relief of the poor, parishes are generally grouped together so as to form what is called a *Poor Law Union*. The business of each Union is managed by a *Board of Guardians*, who represent the various parishes, and are elected every three years. Each parish pays its own poor rate.

## CHAPTER XXVI

### HOW WILTSHIRE IS GOVERNED AT THE PRESENT DAY

(Continued)

WE must next see how justice is carried out in our county.

You will probably have heard of a *Coroner's Inquest*. When a person dies suddenly, without any known cause of death, or under suspicious circumstances, or in prison, the Coroner holds an inquest or "inquiry". A jury of twelve men is summoned, and witnesses are examined. The Coroner may "issue a writ" for the arrest of any accused person, who must appear for trial at the next assizes.

When a man has committed a theft, or is drunk and disorderly in the streets of your town or village, he is "brought before the magistrates," as we say. This court is called the *Court of Petty Sessions*, and tries small offences such as we have mentioned. Any serious or doubtful case is sent by the magistrates to the Court of Quarter Sessions, or to the Assizes.

*The Court of Quarter Sessions* meets in Wiltshire four times a year: in Marlborough at Michaelmas, in Devizes at the Epiphany, in Warminster at Midsummer, and in Salisbury at Easter. The Justices of the Peace meet together to form this court, and choose one of their number to be Chairman.



THE POULTRY CROSS, SALISBURY.

Photo by Miall & Bidleu. Bourne & Co. print.

Cases which have been sent up from the Petty Sessions, cases in which an appeal is made against the judgment of the Petty Sessions, and criminal cases which have not been before any other court, are heard at the Quarter Sessions.

*The Assizes* is a more important court than any we have mentioned, for it is presided over by judges. It is held three times a year, at Devizes and Salisbury.

The cases sent up from lower courts are tried at the Assizes, and appeals may be heard when any one is dissatisfied with the judgment of the lower courts. Every case before being tried is considered by a Grand Jury of magistrates, who decide whether it ought to be tried or not.

So far, we have spoken chiefly of criminal cases, but there is a court, called the *County Court*, where civil cases are tried, that is, such cases as debt, up to £100, damage to property, etc. The court is presided over by a special judge, who may have a jury in cases where more than £5 is in question.

## PART III

### NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF SOME WILTSHIRE TOWNS

#### CHAPTER XXVII

##### BRADFORD-ON-AVON

WE have no proof that there was such a town as Bradford-on-Avon in Keltic times.

It is probable that the Romans lived in that part of the town which is now called Badbury, as many Roman coins have been found there. None are, however, of very early date.

The word "Bradford" is a pure Saxon word, and means "the Broad Ford" (over the Avon). In Saxon times it was called "Bradanford". There are many other Saxon names in the district, such as—

Leigh (Anglo-Saxon for "meadow, flat pasture-land").

Ashley (Anglo-Saxon for "the meadow of the Ash-trees").

Holt ("the wood-land").

Tory (*tor* = a high hill).

In A.D. 652 a fight took place between Cenwealh, King of Wessex, and the Britons. The former was victorious.

Aldhelm founded a monastery here, and it is said to have been named after St. Laurence.

Bradford grew rapidly in importance, and within fifty years after the death of Alfred a meeting of the Witan (or Parliament of Wise Men) was held here, and by it Dunstan was made Bishop of Worcester.

In A.D. 1001 Ethelred gave the Monastery and Manor of Bradford to the Abbess of Shaftesbury. The charter by which he gave it is still to be seen at the British Museum. The monastery was given to the Abbess as a refuge for the nuns against the Danes, and as a hiding-place for the relics of the Saints. It was probably destroyed by Sweyn in A.D. 1003.

Domesday Book tells us that there was much arable or ploughed land in the parish. It has been thought that there were about 700 people in the town.

In the twelfth century the parish church was probably built.

King John visited Bradford, and signed various deeds while he was there.

Between the years A.D. 1300 and 1500 the town grew still more prosperous, the chief family being named Hall. In the earlier part of this period the Barton Barn was built.

Two chapels were now built; one on Tory, the other was named after St. Olave, and the street was called St. Olave's Street (afterwards shortened to Tooley Street). The chapel on the bridge, now used as an armoury, probably contained the image of the patron saint, and was intended for the passers-by. It is thought that it belonged to St. Elizabeth's Hospital, which was at the end of the bridge.

As to the trade of the town. An old writer says: "Al





BRADFORD-ON-AVON.

BRADFORD-ON-AVON.

the town of Bradford stonith by clothmaking". This was in the middle of the sixteenth century.

You will remember from your History of England how Edward III. invited the Flemings over to England, and how certain towns were established as "staples," or markets for wool. Bradford was one of these towns.

Up to the year 1659, however, a very coarse sort of cloth was made at Bradford, but in that year Paul Methuen, the leading clothier, brought some spinners over from Holland, in order that they might teach his men how to make fine cloth. The name of the place in which these men lived is still called the "Dutch Barton," at the west end of Church Street.

At the beginning of the eighteenth century many workmen came to the town to get work. Cottages were rapidly built, each having a loom, and in 1723 there were twenty-five cloth manufacturers in Bradford.

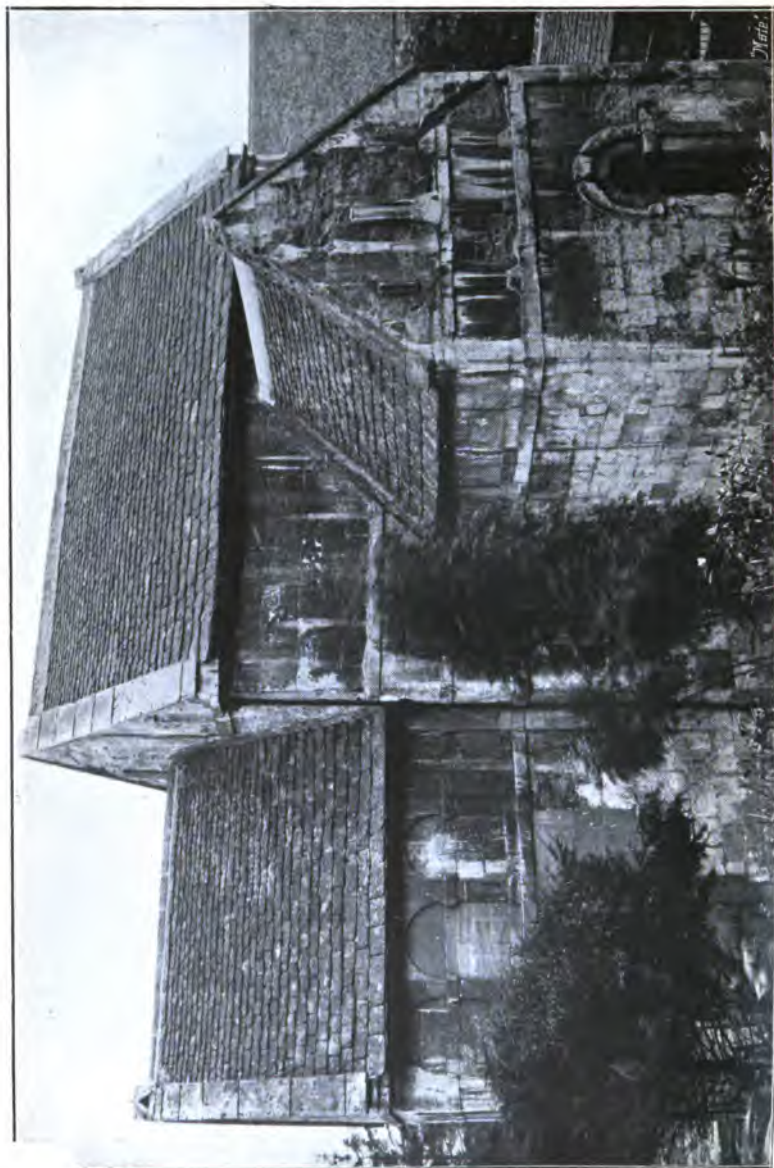
In 1791 Mr. Phelps, a clothier, began to use a machine for spinning. The workmen, as in other parts of England, did not like this, and there was a riot. Mr. Phelps fired on the crowd, but had to give up the machine, which was then burnt on the bridge.

Trouble came to the town in 1841, when a local bank failed, and several manufacturers failed also. Hundreds of men were thrown out of work, and in ten years the population lessened by twenty-five per cent.

The Town Hall was built in 1855.

There are two noted buildings in Bradford which must be mentioned.

The first is Kingston House, or the Hall. This was probably built in the reign of James I., for one of the Hall family. In 1711 it belonged to a Miss Baynton, who married and had a son who became Duke of Kingston.



St. Mary Church, Bradford-on-Avon

Hence the name of the house. From 1800 to 1848 the house ceased to be a residence, and part of it was used for manufacturing purposes. In 1848 the new owner had it restored.

The Saxon church is a still more remarkable building. It was probably built during the latter part of the tenth century. It was discovered in 1856 by Canon Jones. It appears that in 1715 the nave and porch were granted as a "Charity School House," and the chancel arch was walled up. In 1872 the chancel was bought from the owners, who had been using it as a gardener's cottage. Later on the whole church was obtained and restored, but not a single old stone was in any way moved or destroyed. The nave is 25 feet long by 13 feet 8 inches broad, and the chancel is 13 feet 4 inches long by 10 feet 2 inches broad. It is perhaps the most perfect Saxon church remaining in England.

## CHAPTER XXVIII

### CALNE

CALNE is first heard of in the will of King Edred, who died in A.D. 955. He gives the town to the Monastery of Winchester.

In the year A.D. 978 a meeting of the Witan was held here to settle an old dispute between the regular clergy (or monks) and the secular clergy (those who did not live in a monastery) as to whether the latter ought to be allowed to marry. Archbishop Dunstan, of whom we read so much in the History of England, strongly upheld the regular clergy. In ending his speech at this meeting of the Witan, he said: "As for our cause, it is the cause of Heaven, and to God we leave the decision". As he said these words, the floor of the upper room in which they were holding the meeting came to the ground. The beam on which Dunstan stood remained firm, and he was unhurt, but most of the other people were killed or wounded. This was looked upon as a sign that God had indeed decided the matter, and folk believed that Dunstan's cause was right. It is now thought that the affair was a pure accident.

Domesday Book tells us that Calne belonged to the Crown. It did not pay Danegeld (or taxes), but, like Chippenham, had to provide "one night's entertainment



HIGH STREET, CALNE.

Photo by Wilkinson & Co., Trowbridge.

for the King and his household". We are also told that even at this early time Calne was a borough.

In 1139 the Empress Matilda passed through the town on her way to Bristol.

King John visited Calne in 1215, and Henry III. in 1223.

In 1295 Calne returned two members to the Parliament summoned by Edward I. The names of these men were William the Scribe and William of Chilvester. From 1360 to 1832 two members were regularly returned to Parliament. In the latter year, one member was taken away from the borough, and in 1885 it lost the other member. It was then included (with Chippenham, etc.) in North-west Wilts, which now returns one member. Lord Fitzmaurice was the last member of Parliament for Calne. Other famous members who sat for the town are the great John Pym, Robert Lowe (Chancellor of the Exchequer), Lord Macaulay, General Williams (the defender of Kars), and Earl Shelburne.

During the Great Civil War Calne was very lucky, for only on one occasion did it see any fighting in its streets. This was because it did not lie on the main road, from Marlborough to Bath, which then ran to the south of Calne.

In 1644 Colonel Massey, after taking Malmesbury, made a sudden raid on Calne, and arrested Mr. Chivers George Lowe, member of Parliament for the borough.

In 1645 Sir William Waller's cavalry had a skirmish with some Royalist horsemen from Devizes, under Captain Jones. The Roundheads were defeated, chased into Calne, and some were taken prisoners in the streets. Waller, hearing of this, hastened to Calne, and began to assemble his forces, but was summoned to assist Cromwell in Dorsetshire.



THE HATCHES, CALNE.

*Photo by Wilkinson & Co., Tronbridge.*



The plague first slightly visited Calne in 1565, but many people died in the years 1569, 1606, 1636 and 1637. There were also outbreaks of small-pox in 1731, 1755 and 1769.

The cloth manufacture once flourished in the town, and there were twenty cloth factories.

The railway to Chippenham was opened in 1863.

Bentley's School was founded in 1663 by the trustees of John Bentley of Richmond. In 1833 the present Master's House and School were built. Bentley's School and the Technical Institute became one school in the year 1901. It is interesting to note that the school held, at one time, two Exhibitions to Queen's College, Oxford. These were given by Sir Francis Bridgeman in 1734, and were afterwards taken into the funds of Queen's College.

Amongst the noted men who are connected with Calne, we may mention Dr. Priestley, the discoverer of oxygen, who lived on the Green for some time, acting as Librarian to Earl Shelburne.

Another noted man was Edmund Rich, Vicar of Calne, who became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1234, and after his death was styled "St. Edmund of Canterbury".



*Natiz*

## CHAPTER XXIX

### CHIPPENHAM

THOUGH we find Roman remains at Studley, at Lacock, and at Box, none are found at Chippenham.

The name is pure Saxon, and means "the market-place" or "the market village". You will recognise the first part of the word in "Cheapside," "Cheap Street," and "Chipping Norton".

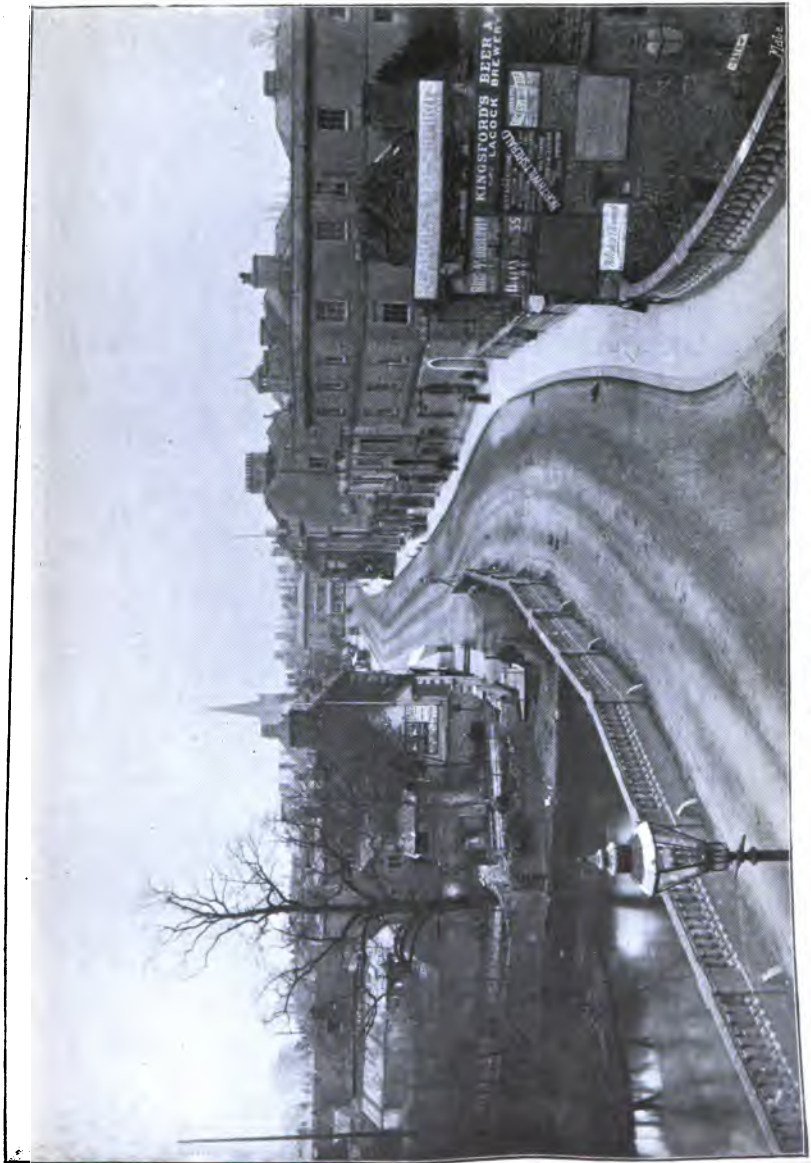
Chippenham is first heard of in the year A.D. 853. King Ethelwulf in that year came to the town to be present at the marriage of his daughter Ethelswitha with Buthred, King of Mercia. It is said (though we have no proof of this) that the King's House stood on the high ground above where the Angel Hotel now is.

Chippenham, like Calne, was a "Villa Regia," or Royal Residence.

In A.D. 866, in the reign of King Ethelbert, the Danes, who had landed on the east coast of England, marched past Reading to Chippenham, where a battle was fought. Hubba, a Danish leader, was killed, and a heap of stones was raised to mark his burial-place.

In A.D. 878 the Danes wintered in Chippenham, and Alfred fled to Athelney.

Next year the battle of Ethandune was fought and a



THE BRIDGE, CHIPPENHAM

treaty was signed, probably at Chippenham. The Danes then withdrew from Wessex.

King Alfred, in his will, left the Manor of Chippenham to Elfritha, his youngest daughter.

In Domesday Book we find that the town belonged to Edward the Confessor. As in the case of Calne, it paid no taxes, but provided "a night's entertainment" for the King whenever he travelled in that direction. The population at this time was between 600 and 700. It is curious to note that though there were only eighty-seven swineherds in Wiltshire, twenty-three of these belonged to the Chippenham Manor. There were twelve mills at work, which was a very large number.

Chippenham is not mentioned during the Civil War of Stephen and Matilda, because it had no castle or fortifications. There is no doubt, however, that it suffered from the plundering parties of both sides.

In 1554 we find that Queen Mary granted a charter to the town. This charter stated that the town-government must consist of a bailiff and twelve burgesses. It must be noted that Queen Mary did not create the borough, which dates back much further than this. Charles II. took away all the Charters of the borough, and James II. renewed them.

The markets and fairs of Chippenham were closed in the year 1608, because the plague was raging at Calne and Corsham, and it was feared that it might be brought to Chippenham. In the year 1611 the dreaded disease appeared, and raged in the town for five months. A hundred years later, there was a bad outbreak of small-pox.

It is said that Chippenham Bridge was repaired by Queen Elizabeth, who noticed that it was in a bad state.

Be this as it may, it is certain that it was properly restored in 1796. Arches were added, and the bridge was widened.

During the Great Civil War, Chippenham suffered greatly from the raiding parties of both sides. It changed hands many times. Cavaliers might hold it in the morning, and Roundheads at night. Lacock House and Rowden House were both besieged, and the former was the last place in Wiltshire to hold out for the King.

In the year 1630 Chippenham Forest was broken up into farms. The peasants did not like this, for their cattle had been used to graze freely amongst the trees, and now the land was enclosed. A rhyme which was made at the time says :—

When Chipnam stood  
In Pewsham's wood,  
Before it was destroyed,  
A cove might have gone  
For a Groat a year,  
But now it is denied.

The forest was four miles square.

When Edward I. summoned his Model Parliament in 1295, John de Burle and Robert Osgode were elected as members from Chippenham. Up to the year 1865 two members were regularly returned to Parliament. Amongst the most noted are Sir Edward Baynton and Sir Edward Hungerford, whom we read of in connection with the Great Civil War; and Sir Robert Peel, who was member of Parliament for the borough in 1812. The last member of Parliament for Chippenham was Sir G. Goldney. At the present day, Chippenham joins with Calne, Malmesbury and the rest of North-west Wiltshire in returning one member to Parliament.

From the reign of Elizabeth to the end of the eighteenth

century, woollen cloth, blankets and kerseymeres were the staple trade of the borough. In 1790 there were sixty cloth factories in or about the town.

It may be mentioned that the old Town Hall is over 400 years old, and that the present Town Hall was built in the year 1837.

## CHAPTER XXX

### DEVIZES

WE have no information as to the history of Devizes before the year A.D. 1110.

The town does not appear in Domesday Book, and probably did not exist then.

The name is of Latin origin, and first appears as "Divisae," or "Ad Divisas," or "Divisio"; the word means "that which divides," or, in other words, "a boundary line". The boundary line between the parishes of Rowde, Cannings, and Potterne met at one point, and here Roger Bishop of Salisbury built a castle "at the boundaries" about the year 1103.

A great amount of money was spent in building this castle, and one writer says, "there is not a more magnificent fortress in Europe". The outer defence of the castle is supposed to have passed under the present Corn Exchange.

In the year A.D. 1106 Robert Duke of Normandy was imprisoned here for some time.

At the outbreak of war between Stephen and Matilda Bishop Roger took the side of the former. Stephen, however, suspected him, had him seized at Oxford, and obtained possession of Devizes Castle (see chap. xvii.).

Robert Fitz-Hubert afterwards captured it, by the use





MARKET PLACE, DEVIZES.

of leather scaling-ladders, for Matilda, and he, in his turn, gave it up to Hervey the Breton.

Matilda afterwards took refuge here, and is said to have been forced to flee from Devizes bound in grave-clothes like a corpse, so as to outwit her pursuers.

In the reign of Henry III. Hubert de Burgh was imprisoned in the castle, under the charge of four earls and four knights. He persuaded two of his keepers to assist him in escaping, and, as he was loaded with chains, one of them carried him on his back to the high-altar in St. John's Church. From this sanctuary he was dragged back again, but the churchmen, angry at the sanctuary of their church being despised, regained possession of Hubert. The King, hearing of this, ordered the Sheriff of Wilts to surround the church. This he did, but Hubert's friends succeeded in carrying him off to the mountains of Wales.

Edward I. used to spend his Easter at Devizes Castle, which he gave to his queen as a wedding-gift.

Duke Humphrey inhabited the castle in 1447. The town, as we know it, no doubt gradually grew up around the castle.

After Waller's check at Lansdowne in 1643, he pursued the Cavaliers to Devizes, and tried to take the town. At Roundway Down, however, he was defeated by the Royal forces, and forced to retreat hastily to Bristol.

In 1645 Cromwell captured a small force under Sir James Long, near to Devizes. Later in the same year he besieged, captured, and destroyed the castle, which was held by Sir C. Lloyd.

It was not till the fourteenth century that we hear of any manufactures at Devizes. In the time of Edward III. we hear of the blankets of "The Vyze". A guild of merchants was formed in this reign. In the reign of

Henry VIII. "Vies" is said to have been chiefly occupied by clothiers. About the middle of the eighteenth century the cloth trade began to decline, and it died out about A.D. 1830. The manufacture of tobacco and snuff dates from about the middle of the eighteenth century.

There are two famous men whose names are closely connected with Devizes. One is Sir Thomas Lawrence, the celebrated portrait-painter, whose father was landlord of the Bear Inn in 1772. The other is Mr. Addington, member of Parliament for Devizes, who became Speaker of the House of Commons, and afterwards Prime Minister. He erected the Market Cross in 1814.

St. John's Church and St. Mary's Church, it is interesting to note, have some excellent Norman work of the twelfth century in their structure. This work is perhaps the best in the county.

## CHAPTER XXXI

### MALMESBURY

TRADITION tells us that Malmesbury was founded by Malmud, who was King of Britain more than five centuries before the Romans occupied the country. The town was then called "Malmeedsbury," or "Malmud's town".

The Saxons changed the name to Ingle-burne, and Burton Hill they called "Burghton".

It is more likely that the town was named after Mael-dulf, a missionary who came from Ireland. He founded a school here, and one of his pupils was the celebrated Aldhelm.

Ethelred was a good friend to the school and monastery, and added to its possessions.

Malmesbury Abbey in the year A.D. 700 had an organ, which was the first ever used in England. Aldhelm describes it as "a mighty instrument with innumerable tones, blown with bellows, and enclosed in a gilded case".

Athelstan, like Ethelred, did much for Malmesbury. He gave several estates to the monks, and also "King's Heath to the burgesses and their successors for ever". The reason for this was, in Athelstan's words, "for their aid given to me in my conflict with the Danes".

There still survives an interesting custom in connection with Athelstan's gift. On the 1st of January every year,



MALMESBURY ABBEY.

Photo by Wilkinson & Co., Trowbridge.

the steward of the Common Land takes those who wish for an allotment of land to the Common. When the allotment is reached, the new "Commoner" digs a hole and drops a shilling into it. The steward then strikes him with a hazel twig three times on the back, and says: "I give this land to thee as freely as King Athelstan gave to me, and I hope a loving brother thou wilt be". The shilling is then picked up by the steward, who proceeds to the other new allotments, where the same ceremony is gone through.

Athelstan was buried under the altar of the Abbey, and the historian William of Malmesbury tells us that he saw his body, three hundred years after his death, in the coffin.

Edwy bestowed the Manor of Brokenborough on the monks.

Elgiva, the wife of Sigeferth, a captive Danish chief, was imprisoned in the town, and Prince Edmund (afterwards known as Edmund Ironsides) is said to have secretly married her here.

William the Conqueror deposited many valuable relics in the Abbey, and selected three Norman Abbots to rule over it. The present Abbey Church is a grand specimen of late Norman work.

A castle was built by Roger Bishop of Sarum and the town was fortified by him. This castle was captured by Stephen early in the Civil War. Fitz-Hubert afterwards took it, and burned most of the houses in the town. Stephen turned him out, and we read that Milo of Gloucester re-took the castle for the Empress Matilda, and that Stephen once more captured it, and appointed Jordan as the governor. You will read elsewhere how Henry of Anjou attacked the town, and how Stephen en-

countered him outside the walls. The castle was pulled down in A.D. 1215.

Elizabeth Woodville, the beautiful queen of Edward IV., owned "the farm of the town of Malmesbury".

The monastery came to an end in the reign of Henry VIII., the last abbot being Robert Selwyn.

In the Great Civil War the town of Malmesbury is often mentioned. It stood on the main road between Bristol and Oxford, and the inhabitants must have had an uneasy time, for it was taken and re-taken seven times between 1642 and 1644. Waller captured it after his rout at Roundway Down, and Colonel Massey took it by storm in 1645. One writer states that Cromwell also captured it, but this is unlikely.

The borough is very ancient, for it dates back to the reign of Edward the Elder, about A.D. 916. King Athelstan granted its first charter. From the time of Edward I. it returned members to Parliament.

King Henry VII. encouraged the trade of the town, and cloth-making was carried on to a considerable extent.

Among the noted men born in Malmesbury we find the names of Aldhelm, William of Malmesbury, and Thomas Hobbes, the philosopher.

## CHAPTER XXXII

### MARLBOROUGH

THE position of Marlborough has always made it an important town. It is on the main road from London to Bristol, which used to be the second city in the kingdom; and it is in the midst of the great monuments of old, such as Avebury, the barrows, Silbury Hill, etc.

Of its early history we know very little. Mildenhall, a suburb of the town, was the Roman station of Cunetio, which took its name from the river Cunnet, or Kennet.

In the oldest writings Marlborough is known as "Merlberg" or "Mierleberg". The name is said by some to have been derived from "Merlin," the British seer, who lived at the end of the fifth century.

It is certain that at the Conquest there was a castle here, in which William the Conqueror imprisoned several Saxon Churchmen who disliked the Norman rule. We have several coins of William's reign with the name of Marlborough on them, so it is very likely that he had a mint here.

Henry I. held a court at Marlborough in the year A.D. 1110, so the castle evidently belonged to the King.

During the Civil War between Stephen and Matilda, John Fitz-Gilbert held the castle for Robert of Gloucester. William of Malmesbury called him "a firebrand



of wickedness," because he compelled the heads of the monasteries to pay him money.

King John, who received the castle from his father, seems to have been very much attached to the place, and he gave many charters to the townspeople.

Henry III. was also very fond of it, and often came to hunt in Savernake Forest or Aldbourn Chase.

Edward II. gave the castle to Hugh Despencer in 1308, but Queen Isabel afterwards regained it. Sir Walter Hungerford held it in the time of Henry V., and it then



MARLBOROUGH BUCKET.<sup>1</sup>

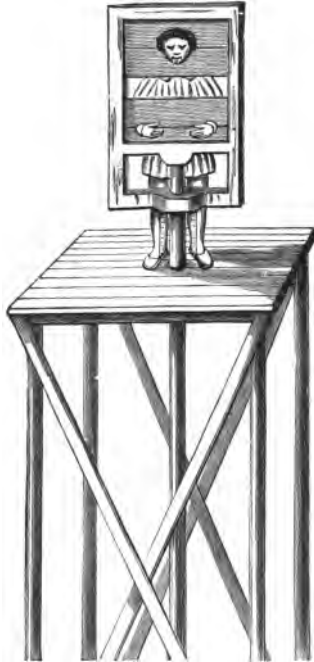
passed to Humphrey Duke of Gloucester, then to the Seymour family, and lastly to the Marquis of Ailesbury.

In the account of the Great Civil War you will have read how the town of Marlborough was taken by Lord Wilmot in 1642. Clarendon says that the people of Marlborough were well known to be against the King. They gave large sums of money to the Parliamentary cause, and many of them joined the militia which the Earl of Pembroke was raising.

<sup>1</sup> The Marlborough Bucket is an interesting relic, and is now in the Devizes Museum. It is a burial-vessel of late Keltic times, perhaps just previous to the Roman invasion.

Charles I. passed six nights with Lord Seymour at Marlborough in 1644, and Cromwell passed through on his way to Bristol and Ireland in 1649.

In 1653 the town was nearly destroyed by fire. A subscription was raised in all parts of England to help the



MARLBOROUGH PILLORY.

unfortunate inhabitants. They restored the town remarkably quickly, for Evelyn, a writer of the time, says that in 1654 he paid a visit to the re-built town.

At this time trade flourished, the chief articles produced being cutlery, cloths, serge, and cheese.

Cromwell granted a new charter to the borough.

In 1663 Charles II. was royally entertained by Lord Seymour. The Queen and the Duke of York were also of the party.

James II. took away the charter, but it was recovered in 1688.

The endowed Grammar School was founded by Edward VI. The following are some of its most noted pupils: Thomas Earl of Ailesbury, Sir James Long, Henry Sacheverell, Sir Michael Foster, Lieutenant-General Picton, Dr. Mapleton (late Chancellor of the Diocese of Hereford), and Sir Evelyn Wood.

Marlborough College was founded in 1843. The central portion of the existing College building is the old Castle Inn, at which all coaches on the Bath Road stopped.

## CHAPTER XXXIII

### OLD SARUM

OLD SARUM was at first a fortress of the Britons. When the Romans conquered the country they seized upon the fortress, and made it an important station for troops. Six Roman roads led out of it.

You will have read how the Britons made a desperate stand here against the Saxons, and how the latter were victorious. Years later, Alfred had the place re-fortified and strengthened.

In A.D. 1002 it is said that Old Sarum was burnt by the Danes, who came to avenge the massacre of St. Brice's Day.

In A.D. 1085 William the Conqueror gathered a national assembly to the place, and made them all take an oath of fealty to him. It is said that 60,000 people were present on the occasion.

Under Bishop Roger, Old Sarum grew rapidly in importance, and Henry I. held another great meeting here, for the purpose of appointing William, his son, as heir to the throne.

Stephen, as we have seen, threw Bishop Roger into prison, and took possession of the fortress.

Richard I. held a grand tournament between Sarum and Wilton.

The Cathedral was commenced by Herman, who was the first Bishop of Sarum. Bishop Osmond finished the building, but unluckily a mighty storm destroyed a great part of it a few days after it was consecrated. Old Sarum also suffered from lack of water.

During the reign of John his soldiers wrought great havoc and disturbance in all parts of England. They ransacked houses, churches and cemeteries, robbing and insulting everybody. Even the priests standing at the altars were seized, robbed and tortured. The soldiers who formed the garrison of the castle were rude and overbearing to the priests of the Cathedral at Old Sarum, so Peter de Blois said: "Let us in God's name descend into the plain. There are rich champaign fields and fertile valleys, abounding with the fruits of the earth, and watered by the living stream."

It was accordingly resolved to abandon the Cathedral, and commence a "New Sarum".

Bishop Richard obtained leave to remove, and from this time the importance of Old Sarum began to wane.

In 1832 it was found that though Old Sarum then consisted of a mound of earth, yet it was duly represented by two members of Parliament! The Reform Bill of 1832 put an end to this.

## CHAPTER XXXIV

### SALISBURY (NEW SARUM)

IN the year 1220 the foundation-stones (five in number) of the new Cathedral were laid. In 1225 service was held in the building for the first time, but a quarter of a century passed before the Cathedral was finished. It is the most perfect specimen of the Early English style of architecture, and has the highest spire in England.

In 1367 the people of the city which was growing round the Cathedral, gained permission to surround the city with a wall having turrets and battlements. No wall was built, but remnants of a rampart and ditch are to be found. One portion is in the grounds of the College of St. Edmund's.

There were many disputes in these early days between the Bishop on the one side and the Corporation on the other. On one occasion the Mayor and Councillors were summoned before the King to answer for their conduct.

Another quarrel arose in 1465 between Bishop Beauchamp and the citizens, who were led by the Mayor, John Halle. Both parties appealed to the King, and appeared before him. John Halle, it appears, lost his temper, and his language was so violent that he was put in prison. The King then told the Council to pick another Mayor, but they refused to do so.



SALISBURY CATHEDRAL, FROM THE PALACE GROUNDS.

John Halle is also mentioned as constantly quarrelling with William Swayne, one of the Council, who was his rival in trade.

The Bishop and citizens at length came to an agreement, but only for a time, and in 1593 the matter came before the King again.

Finally, in the reign of James I., the people obtained a charter which freed them from the power of the Bishops.

Turning back again in our history, we find that Mortimer called a Parliament at Salisbury in the reign of Edward II., with the intention of capturing some of his opponents.

Richard II. attended a Parliament held at the Bishop's Palace.

Richard III. caused the Duke of Buckingham to be executed on a scaffold in the courtyard of the Blue Boar Inn. This inn stood where the premises of Messrs. Style & Gerrish now stand. Richard then marched out of Salisbury with all his forces.

Campeggio (Bishop of Salisbury) was one of the Papal Legates appointed to inquire into the marriage of Catherine of Aragon and Henry VIII.

In 1556 John Maundrel, John Spencer, and William Coberly were burnt to death in Fisherton Fields for being Protestants. They were condemned to death by Capon, Bishop of Salisbury at that time.

Salisbury was visited by the plague in 1579, 1604 and 1627. In this last year the inhabitants fled panic-stricken from the city, and John Ivie, the Mayor, was the only magistrate who stayed in the place, and did his best to relieve suffering. Needless to say, there was much disorder in the city.





SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: CHOIR, LOOKING WEST.

Charles I. came to Salisbury soon after his coronation, and resided here for a time.

Sherfield, the Recorder of Salisbury, was fined £500 by Laud and the Star Chamber for breaking a stained-glass window in St. Edmund's Church.

In the early days of the city there were three main streets, Minster Street, High Street, and New Street. There was a Corn Market in Castle Street, and in 1627 there were fifty inns and eighty alehouses.

At one time streams of some width ran through the streets, and there were several bridges.

## CHAPTER XXXV

### SWINDON

A FEW Roman coins and remains have been found at and near Swindon, but nothing is known of its history in Roman or Saxon times, if it existed then.

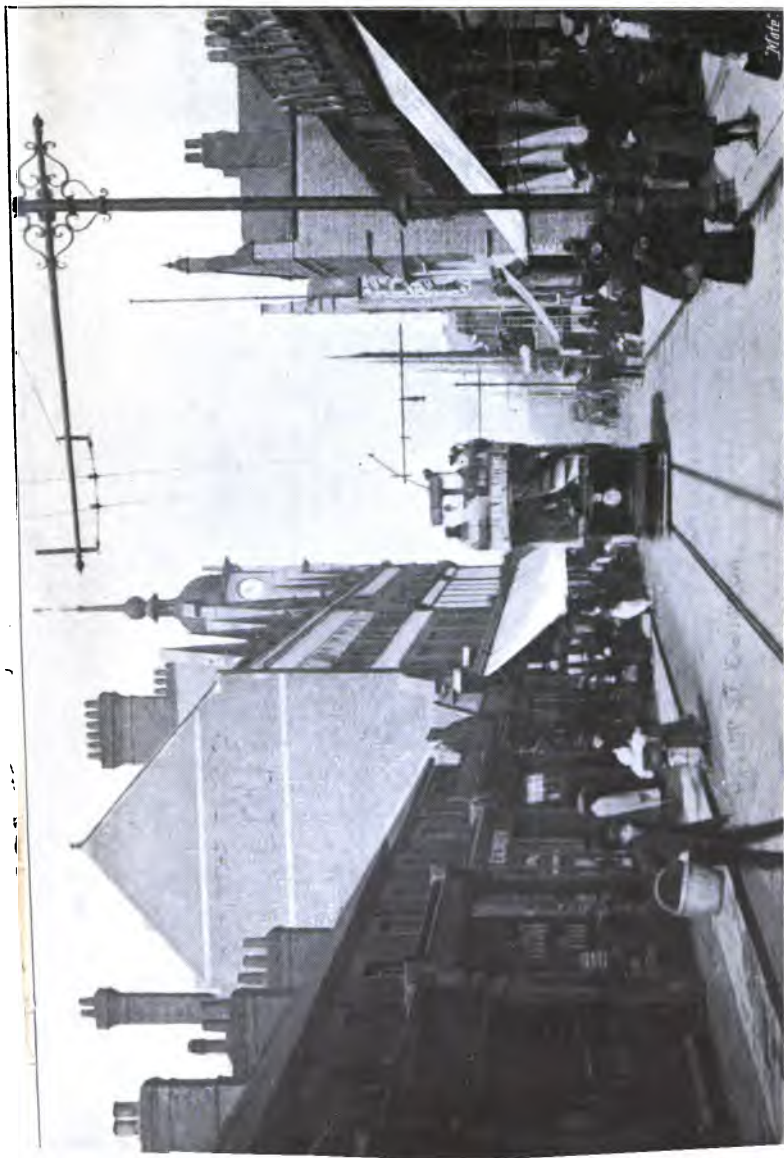
Domesday Book says that the manor was owned by five persons. Odin, who had been Chamberlain to William the Conqueror, was the largest owner, and next to him came Odo of Bayeux, the King's half-brother.

In the reign of Henry III. the manor of Swindon was given to William de Valence, Earl of Pembroke. We find that the people of Marlborough complained because William de Valence set up a market in Swindon which did serious injury to the Marlborough market. De Valence had the right to erect a gallows, to try offenders, and to execute them if he thought proper.

The Talbots, who were relatives of the De Valences, next held the manor, and about the year 1560 it was purchased by Thomas Goddard of Upham.

The storm of battle during the Great Civil War was but faintly heard at Swindon, which thus fared much better than the neighbouring towns of Malmesbury, Marlborough, Devizes, Chippenham, etc.

Lydiard Tregooze seems to have been the nearest place



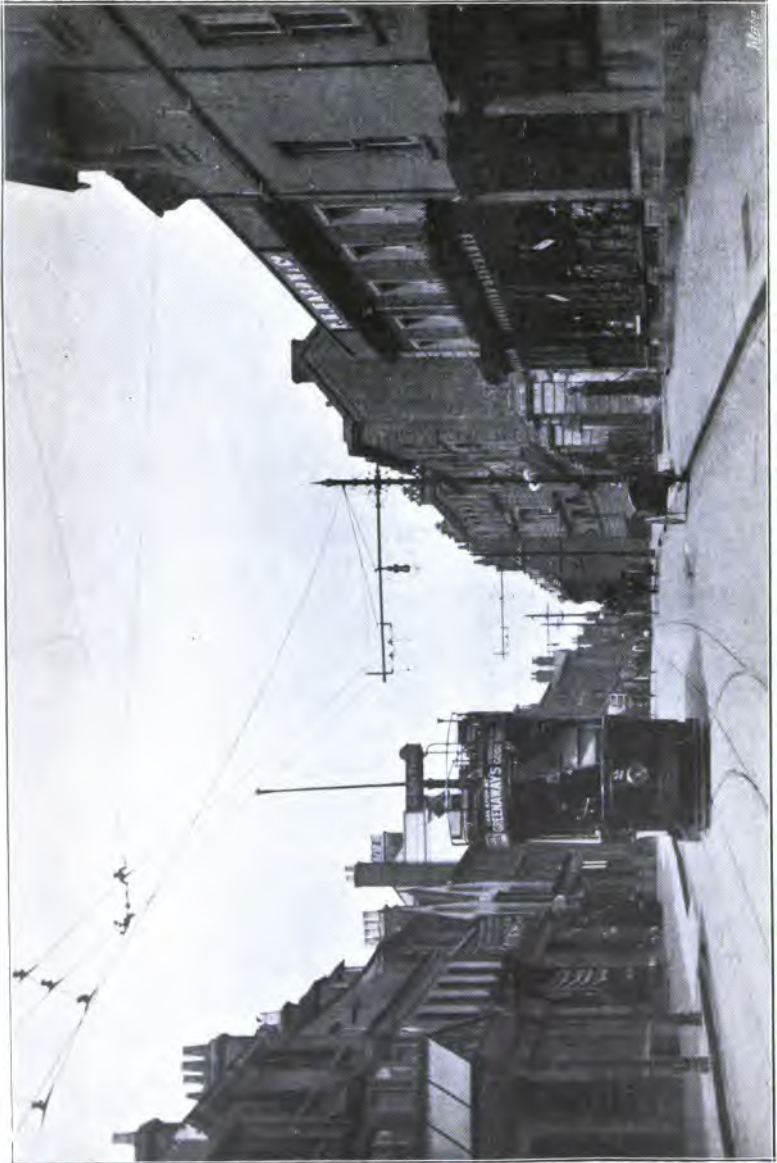
*Photo by Profliteroe & Simons. Swindon*

REGENT STREET, SWINDON.

occupied by a force in arms, Major Dowsett with a force of Royalists having marched thither.

Cromwell ordered the enclosure of Eastcott, in 1657.

Between 1646 and 1652 a cavalry regiment was raised in this division, and many Swindon men seem to have given horses.



HIGH STREET, SWINDON.

Photo. by Deedman & Co. Swindon

## CHAPTER XXXVI

### TROWBRIDGE

WE do not find any mention of Trowbridge in Roman or Saxon times.

In Domesday Book it is called "Straburg," and it belonged to Brictric, an English nobleman whose father held it in the time of Edward the Confessor. He also held Staverton and Trowle.

There is an interesting story told about Brictric. It appears that Edward the Confessor sent him to the court of Baldwin, Count of Flanders. Matilda, Baldwin's daughter, loved him, but he did not return the love. In after days the lady married William of Normandy, and when William became King of England, out of revenge she seized some of Brictric's property, and put him in prison.

In A.D. 1100 the manor of Trobregc (as it was then called) and Staverton belonged to Edward of Salisbury, who was Sheriff of Wiltshire.

It afterwards came into the possession of the Bohuns, through the marriage of Humphrey de Bohun with Matilda, daughter of Edward of Salisbury. Humphrey probably built the castle, which had seven great towers, and was immensely strong. Not one stone of it now remains.





In Stephen's reign Humphrey de Bohun, son of the nobleman we have just mentioned, took Stephen's side in the quarrel. Stephen tried in vain to capture the castle, so he at length gave up the idea and left soldiers at Devizes to annoy the Trowbridge garrison.

The site of the castle is now covered with factories, dwelling-houses, or shops. A modern writer gives the probable course of the castle moat. He says that it commenced from the river near what is now called "The Stone Factory". It then went in an eastward direction, slightly curved past "Little Hill," then across Castle Street, till at the corner of Silver Street it entered Fore Street. It followed the line of Fore Street down to Wicker Hill, and joined the river a little south of the present bridge.

The town grew up round the castle; the principal street thus forming a curve.

In 1187 it was an insignificant town, for no "aids" (forced loans) were levied by the King's justices, though Calne, Melksham, Bedwin, and other places are mentioned.

When Lacock Abbey was founded in 1229, "Sir Peter, Parson of Trowbridge," was one of those who acted as witnesses for the Charter. In A.D. 1288 the value of the living of Trowbridge was £8 (about £200 of our money). Other noted Rectors are: Matthew Hutton, who was made Archbishop of Canterbury in 1757, and George Crabbe, the poet, who lived here in 1814. Crabbe's poems mostly deal with the daily life, the sufferings and misery of the peasants.

During the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries the great wool trade of Trowbridge commenced. In A.D. 1331 Edward III. granted protection to John Kemp, a weaver of woollen cloths, who came from Flanders and settled in the town.



INTERIOR OF PARISH CHURCH, TROWBRIDGE.

## CHAPTER XXXVII.

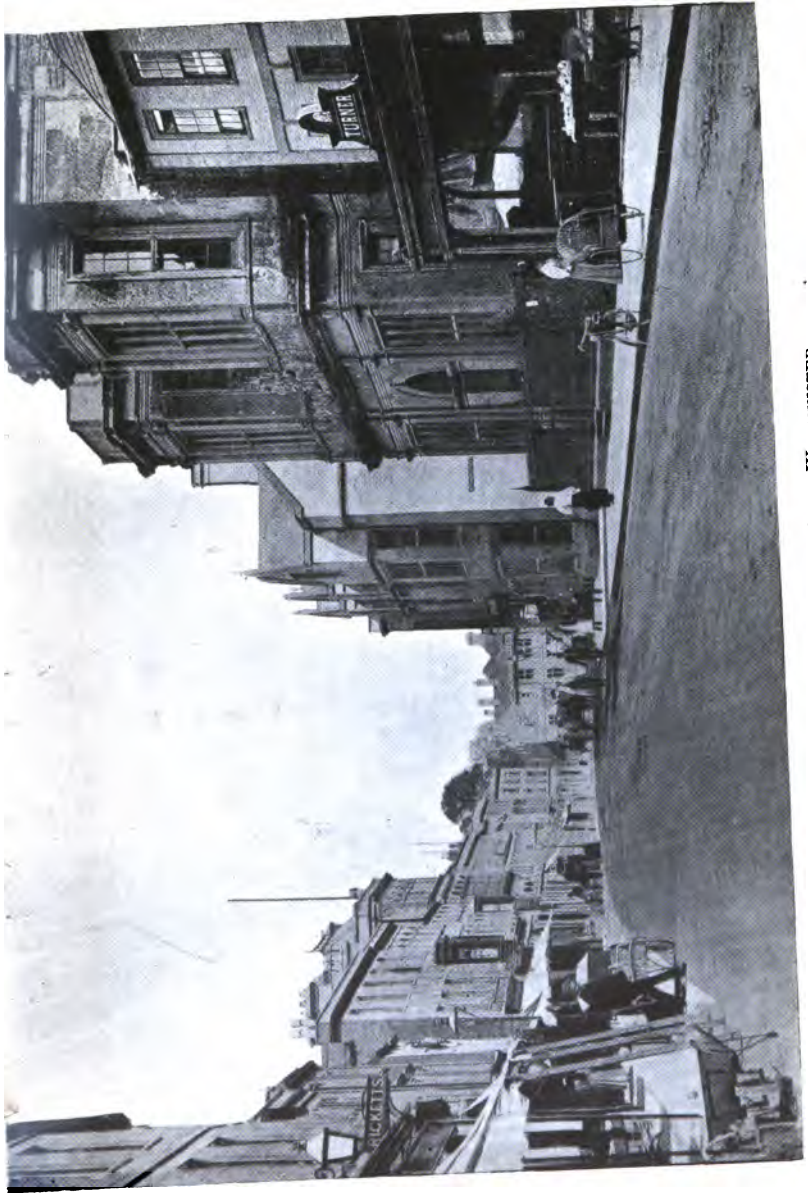
### WARMINSTER

THE town is mentioned first in the year A.D. 900, and the name is spelt "Worgemynster". In Domesday Book it appears as "Guerminstre". There were about six hundred people in the place at this time.

The Manor of Warminster belonged to the Crown until the reign of Henry II. During his reign it was granted to a Norman named Robert Mauduit. It afterwards passed to the Green family, then to the Mervyns, the Audleys, and to Sir Thomas Thynne.

There is little of interest in the history of Warminster till Queen Mary's time is reached. During this reign a great quarrel took place between Lord Stourton, whom Mary had appointed as Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Somersetshire and Hampshire, and Sir John Thynne, High Steward of Warminster. Sir John had received no notice of Lord Stourton's appointment, so he refused to allow a messenger named Kent to proclaim Queen Mary in the market-place. Much fighting took place, and the matter was taken to the Law Courts, where each accused the other of treason. How the quarrel ended is not certainly known, but we find that Lord Stourton, four years later, was hanged for murder at Salisbury.

When the Great Civil War began, Henry Wansey of Warminster was made Major, and he joined Edmund Ludlow on the side of the Parliament.



MARKET PLACE AND TOWN HALL, WARMINSTER.

*Photo by Coates, Warminster.*

Ludlow was driven out of the town by Sir Ralph Hopton in 1643, and was chased to Salisbury. Major Wansey was besieged at Woodhouses, and was forced to surrender.

In December, 1644, Wansey suddenly attacked the Royalists in Warminster, and drove them out. His standard bore the words, "For lawful laws and liberty". He afterwards deserted to the Cavaliers, and died from a fall from his horse.

Sir James Long took £1,000 from the town in his last desperate effort for Charles.

An old story says that Charles II., after the battle of Worcester, slept at Mr. Halliday's house in East Street.

Many Warminster men joined the standard of the Protestant Duke of Monmouth when he revolted in the reign of James II.

In 1688 James's army occupied the town. He intended to assemble his army here, but was prevented by illness. The people of the town suffered much from the troops. Their hay, corn, etc., were seized with a ruthless hand.

During the riots of 1830 there was a great stir in Warminster. All able-bodied men were enrolled as special constables, and the town prepared to do its best to quell the disorder which was raging all round it. Luckily for the inhabitants, the mob from Hindon was scattered by a force of lancers, and the riot was soon at an end.

There used to be a very large Corn Market in the town, and cloth was manufactured. In 1790 there were thirty cloth factories. The trade has now died down, as at Calne, Chippenham, and most of the other towns.

A free school was founded by Thomas, Viscount Weymouth, in 1707. Dr. Arnold of Rugby received his early education in this school, which is now called "Lord Weymouth's Grammar School".

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