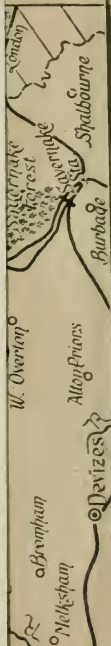
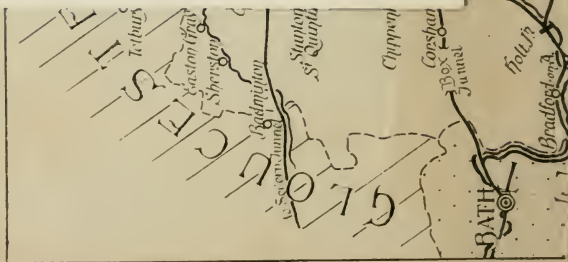


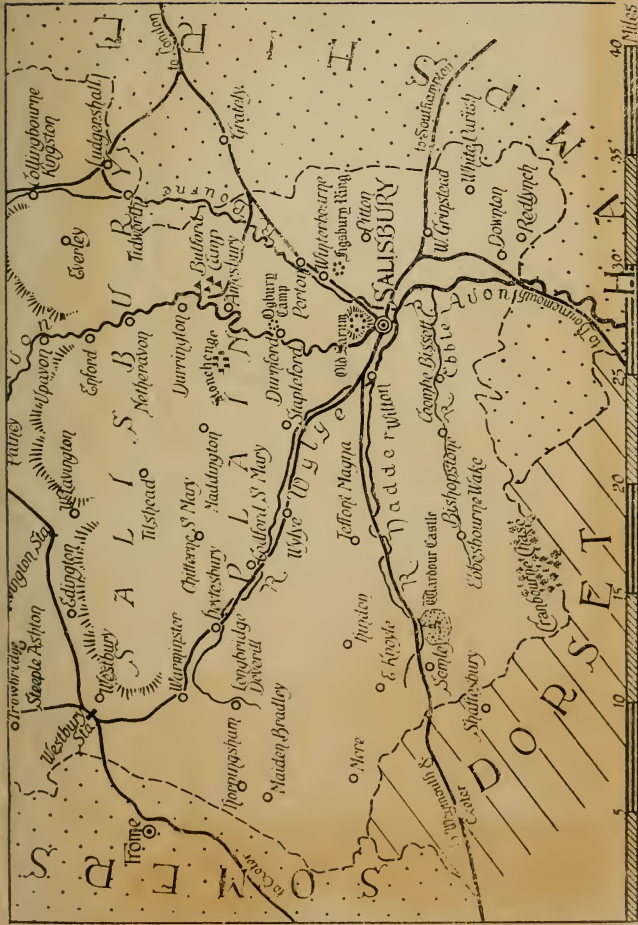


RAILWAYS OF WILTSHIRE



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George F. Hill

WILTSHIRE

## THE LITTLE GUIDES

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COLLEGES

OXFORD AND ITS COLLEGES

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THE TEMPLE

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

THE ENGLISH LAKES

THE MALVERN COUNTRY

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THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

NORTH WALES

SOUTH WALES

KERRY

BRITTANY

NORMANDY

ROME

SICILY





SALISBURY CATHEDRAL



# WILTSHIRE

*By*

FRANK R. HEATH

*With Thirty-two Illustrations  
Two Maps and Two Plans*

---

“ Here sheep the pasture hide, there harvests bend,  
See Sarum’s steeple o’er yon hill ascend ;

Who can forsake thy walls and not admire  
The proud cathedral and the lofty spire ? ”

GAY

---

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INSCRIBED BY THE WRITER TO HIS  
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1876

1876

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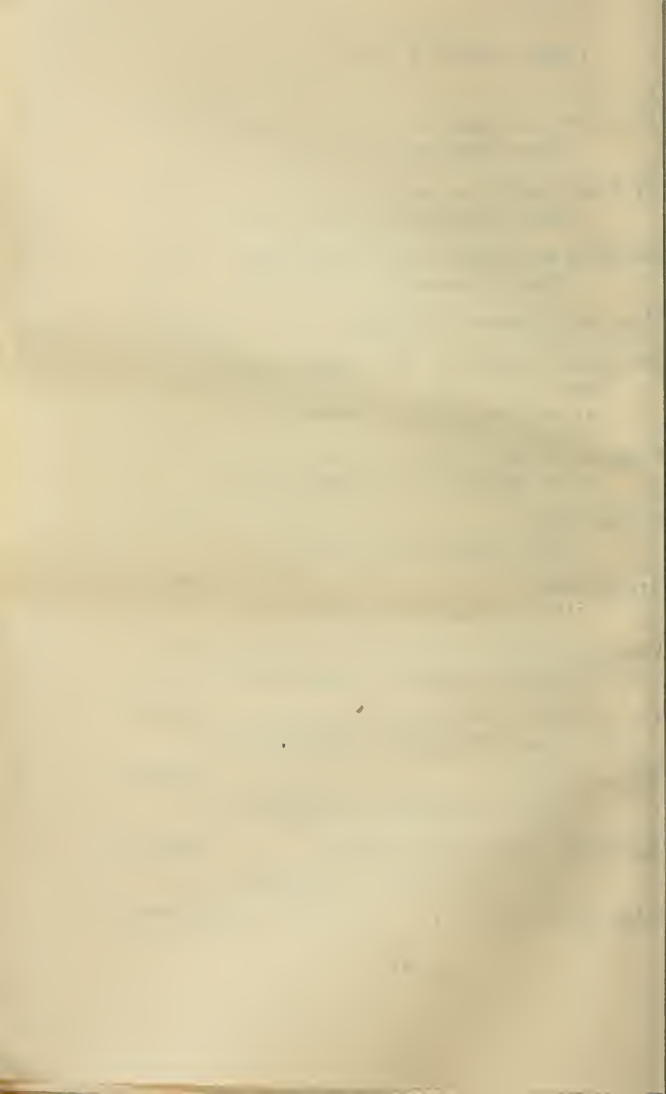
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# WILTSHIRE

## INTRODUCTION

### SITUATION, EXTENT, AND BOUNDARIES

**W**ILTSHIRE is one of the south-western counties of England. It is entirely an inland county, bounded on the north and north-west by Gloucestershire; on the north-east by Berkshire; on the east by Hampshire; on the south by Hampshire and Dorset, and on the west by Somerset. In shape it is a parallelogram, oblong in form, with the northern corners somewhat attenuated and the centre slightly expanded. Its greatest length, from north to south, is 52 m., and its greatest breadth, from east to west, 36 m.; the average length being 50 m. and the average breadth 30 m. Its extreme points are:

N. long.  $1^{\circ} 52'$  (W.), lat.  $51^{\circ} 42'$  (N.), in the parish of Marston Maisey, 5 m. north-east of Cricklade.

E. long.  $1^{\circ} 31'$  (W.), lat.  $51^{\circ} 20'$  (N.), in the parish of Buttermere, close to Inkpen Beacon and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m. south from Hungerford.

W. long.  $2^{\circ} 22'$  (W.), lat.  $51^{\circ} 7'$  (N.), in the parish of Stourton, 4 m. south of Witham Station.

## WILTSHIRE

S. long.  $2^{\circ} 3'$  (W.), lat.  $50^{\circ} 56'$  (N.), in the parish of Tollard Royal.

Its area in sq. m. is 1350; in acres 864,105. Of the forty English counties it ranks fifteenth in size.

### II. GENERAL PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SCENERY

Wiltshire may certainly claim, among English counties, to be *sui generis*.

It is mainly indebted for its unique character to the huge block of upland which is known as Salisbury Plain and Marlborough Downs, and which, in the one case, rises in gentle undulations from the alluvial flat of the Hampshire lowlands and the New Forest to the lines of escarpment which guard the Pewsey Vale, and in the other mounts abruptly from the northern bound of that wedge-like valley and extends to the basin of the upper Thames. This immense chalk plateau, which occupies three-fifths of the whole area of the county, may not unfitly be termed the mother of mountains, or if not of mountains, of such hills as serve for such in our southern and eastern counties. From its eastern side, from Inkpen Beacon, the highest chalk down in England, 1011 ft. above sea-level, where Wilts., Berks., and Hants. meet a few miles' south of Hungerford, proceed three ranges of Chalk hills; the first passing from the Marlborough Downs by the Berkshire Downs, the Chilterns and the East Anglian heights to the north of Norfolk and the German Ocean; the second, continuing by Salisbury Plain into the neighbouring county of Dorset, where it bifurcates

## GENERAL PHYSICAL FEATURES

into the North and South Downs of that county ; and the third proceeding through Central Hampshire, and diverging to form the North Downs of Surrey and Kent and the South Downs of Sussex.

The dominating influence of the chalk uplands, the vast and almost unbroken, unrelieved stretch of downland, especially in the case of Salisbury Plain, have given rise to a mistaken impression that the whole of the county is a sort of upraised desert or Chalk Sahara. There is the "chalk" indeed, but there is also the "cheese." If a line were drawn from Swindon, in the north-east, to Westbury in the south-west, all the land to the west and north of it is mainly Oxford Clay and Cornbrash. It forms a great, fertile, well-wooded plain, or plains, generally level or very slightly undulating, and includes in the north the country drained by the Thames, and its affluent, the Cole, and in the west that drained by the Bristol Avon. The Pewsey Valley, 3 to 4 m. wide, which stretches across the middle of the county, roughly speaking, from Devizes to Hungerford, divides the two great chalk plateaux, the "Plain" and Marlborough Downs, and is another fertile district.

Salisbury Plain, as usually understood, is a vast undulating tableland stretching from Urchfont and the Lavingtons, to the neighbourhood of Salisbury, in a north and south direction, and from Westbury to Ludgershall west to east. It measures some 20 m. from north to south, and averages about 23 m. from west to east. The down country south of the Nadder, with its line of chalk hills running from Shaftesbury to Wilton, as well as the great expanse of downs in the Mere, Hindon and

## WILTSHIRE

Chilmark country north of that river, also, strictly speaking, form part of the great central plateau. The Long Knoll, a little to the north of Kilmington, and 950 ft. above sea-level, marks at once its extreme west point and its greatest elevation, which, in its centre seldom exceeds 400 ft., although the Pewsey Hills, on its northern boundary, reach nearly to 800 ft., and Westbury Hill to 750, while the same height is attained a little to the north of Mere and west of Whitesheet Hill. The Warminster district has some striking elevations, notably Cley Hill, between Warminster and Longleat, which attains the height of 900 ft. ; and Arn Hill and Warminster Down 700 ft. South of the Nadder, and approaching the south-west boundary of the county, Whitesheet Hill is 700 ft. high, and Chiselbury Camp approaches the same elevation. In the military zone of the Plain occupying the north-eastern and eastern district, the general elevation is from 350 to 450 ft., less in the immediate proximity of the Avon, where most of the villages are situated, but rising to 670 ft. at Beacon Hill, near Bulford Camp, and to 650 at Cholderton Hill. The advent of the military is one of the things that have materially changed the aspect of portions of the Plain in recent years, the others being the large tracts that have been brought under cultivation, the increasing tendency on the part of farmers to fence in their pastures, and, lastly, the clumps of trees on most of the hill-tops, planted probably with some reference to the game.

The troops usually stationed on the Plain are comprised in the Southern Command and the

## GENERAL PHYSICAL FEATURES

headquarters are at North Tidworth. The Hampshire boundary is very near, and the barracks and most of the military offices are actually in that county. Bulford Camp is a large and important one, and is connected by a branch line running through Amesbury with the L. and S.W. railway system. The villages and hamlets of this portion of the Plain have suffered some little transformation since Cobbett wrote of them in his "Rural Rides," but his description of the country still holds good. "The *shape of the thing is this* :— on each side downs, very lofty and steep in some places, and sloping miles back in other places ; but the *out-sides* of the valley are downs. From the edge of the downs begin capital *arable fields*, generally of very great dimensions, and in some places running a mile or two back into little *cross valleys* formed by hills of downs. After the corn-fields come meadows on each side, down to the brook or river. The farm-houses, villages, and hamlets are generally in that part of the arable which comes nearest to the meadows. I never before saw anything to please me like this valley of the Avon. . . ." The Avon commences its piercing of the great plateau at Upavon, and pursues its way through a fault in the chalk to Old Sarum and Salisbury. The villages and hamlets of the Plain lie almost entirely in this and the similar valleys of the Bourne, a little farther to the east, and the Wylde and the Nadder in the south. They are fairly close together, and Cobbett stoutly maintains that their populations in old times must have very greatly exceeded what they were in his day. After visiting the richest and

## WILTSHIRE

most beautiful parts of England he considers the Bishopstrow district "the brightest, most beautiful and of its extent the best of all. Smooth and verdant downs, hills and valleys of endless variety as to height and depth and shape ; rich cornlands unencumbered by fences ; meadows in due proportion, and those watered at pleasure ; and, lastly, the homesteads and villages, sheltered in winter and shaded in summer by lofty and beautiful trees ; to which may be added, roads never dirty and a stream never dry."

The Nadder Valley is somewhat shorter than that of the Wylye, and extends from Winscombe Park, near Shaftesbury, to the neighbourhood of Salisbury. Its general characteristics are largely those of the other valleys traversed by the chalk streams which pierce the plateaux and have such a marked effect on the scenery of the Plain in their neighbourhood. The Ebele is the last of these, and waters a chalk valley stretching from Cranborne Chase to Alderbury, south-east of Salisbury.

The Plain, however, does not everywhere command the views over its valleys, although even away from them it is not invariably bleak and barren. The two roads from Devizes to Salisbury both pass almost through the middle of it. The one enters the Plain about 1 m. from West Lavington at "St John a Gore's Cross" where a chantry chapel once stood. It crosses the Ridgeway, and after traversing the somewhat bleak and exposed Tilshead or Lavington Down, proceeds by way of the Plain villages, Tilshead, Orcheston, Winterborne Stoke, and Berwick St James, to Wishford and Wilton. The other road which passes near Stert, and then



## GENERAL PHYSICAL FEATURES

enters the Plain, takes us through some portions of it which very fairly maintain its traditional reputation as sung by Canon Barham in the "Ingoldsby Legends" :—

"Not a shrub, nor a tree,  
Not a bush can we see,  
No hedges, no ditches, no gates, no stiles,  
Much less a house or a cottage for miles."

A very bleak and desolate open country follows, over Black Heath and Orcheston Down to the Bustard, or Bustard Inn. The "Inn" till lately seemed to be as dead as the Bustard, but it has quite recently been restored to its original use, and visitors taking this route to Stonehenge will doubtless welcome the revival. This is the shortest route from Devizes to Stonehenge, to reach which the cross-road to the left must be taken about 1 m. beyond the Bustard. The neighbourhood is famous for prehistoric earthworks. The detour to Stonehenge is not a very serious matter, being under 2 m. The remainder of the way to Salisbury, however, is not at all interesting, and a better route from Stonehenge will be found *viâ* Amesbury.

The turf of the chalk downs which is of fine quality and of special value affords excellent sustenance for gigantic flocks of sheep, and the "Shepherd of Salisbury Plain" of tradition, although threatened by the growing tendency to fence the pastures, is by no means extinct. Lady Tennant pictures him for us with his long black cloak falling from neck to heels, and round felt hat like Hermes' cap without the wings to it, and sometimes a

## WILTSHIRE

bunch of blue milk-wort or a yellow hawk-weed in the brim. "And he leads his sheep, for he does not always drive them. He goes with his plume-tailed dog in front, and the sheep follow, as you may see it in the East."

The Marlborough Downs, which stretch from the northern side of the Pewsey Vale to the country immediately south of Swindon, and from Calne to Hungerford in a west to east direction, cover only about half the area of the Plain, to which they have a general resemblance. Their bold escarpments on each side, however, particularly in the south, where their precipitous sides hang like a lofty wall, and their striking eminences, give a distinction to their beauty which is greatly aided by the quiet charm and dignity and majesty of line. The scenery too is varied. We have hills, like Martensell and St Anne's, elevated points, the former a sheer bluff with an almost perpendicular face, and a height of some 900 ft. ; the latter, the highest point of the Marlborough Downs and some 60 ft. higher, known locally as Tan Hill, and the scene of a great fair renowned over at least three counties. We have also gentler downland, with long unbroken undulations, and passages through fertile hollows like that of Aldbourne Chase, with grass and root crops, and wheat and clusters of beech. Prehistoric camps are numerous, and so are other earthworks ; and the dykes, chief among them the Wansdyke, the lynchets or terraces, "shepherd steps," showing signs of intensive cultivation at some remote period, together with Avebury and Silbury Hill indicate sufficiently the attractions for the archæologist. Within no

## GENERAL PHYSICAL FEATURES

similar space in the kingdom perhaps are the traces of the past so numerous and important. It is indeed a "visibly ancient land," full of charm and mystery, the delightful sense of space being enhanced by the glorious vision of rolling ridge and hollowed flank. We must not part company with it, however, without some mention of Savernake Forest, which occupies an area of some 20 sq. m. in its south-east corner. It occupies a large undulating plateau just north of Savernake, and south of Marlborough, and is claimed, and not without good cause, as the most beautiful forest in England.

The remaining two-fifths of the county are occupied mainly by the rich northern valley beyond Wootton Bassett and Swindon, which forms part of the basin of the Upper Thames; and the great vale of the Bristol Avon, which may almost be said to sweep from the Cotswolds to the Mendips. The former is the most fertile district of the entire county, and is a great wheat-producing, cheese-producing country; the latter is a great meadow country, its fields in many parts divided by beautiful rows of elms, and its main product—milk. The scenery in the northern portion of the Avon valley is not very striking, although in some districts, the neighbourhood of Lacock, for instance, the wooded heights form a charming contrast with the prevailing chalk slopes; but as the neighbourhood of Bath is approached, the deep and winding valleys with the hanging woods that clothe the slopes of the downs are exceedingly attractive, while the glorious panoramic views from rich elevations like that of Monkton Farleigh, make the district a particularly attractive one.

## WILTSHIRE

The RIVERS of the county need not detain us long. The Salisbury Avon, with its tributaries, the Wylye, the Nadder, the Ebele, and the Bourne, has already been mentioned in connection with the Plain. It has one source, near Savernake, and another near Devizes, which unites with the Savernake stream. At Upavon undisputed Avon commences, and runs through a "fault" in the chalk of the Plain to Salisbury, where it receives the united waters of the Wylye and the Nadder, and a little farther on, those of the Ebele. The Bourne, on the left bank, has already joined at Salisbury.

The Wylye rises near Warminster, and piercing the Chalk, receives the Deverell and other minor streams at various points, and a much more important one, the Nadder, at Wilton. It has a length of 27 m. The Nadder, which rises at Semley on the extreme south-west border, receives the Don near Wardour Castle and Fonthill Abbey. Its course is about 18 m. The Bourne rises a little to the north of Ludgershall and is about 23 m. in length. It is mostly a winter bourne, rising and flowing between November and February, and seldom continuing after May.

The *Thames* has its more generally accepted source at Trewsbury Mead, about 3 m. south-west of Cirencester, and within a few hundred yards of the Wiltshire boundary. Although it has but a brief course through the county, it is, with its affluents, notably the Kennet, responsible for the drainage of one-sixth of the county area. Receiving several brooks and streams on its way (the basin here is only separated from that of the Bristol Avon by a watershed of Oxford Clay, less than 300

## GENERAL PHYSICAL FEATURES

ft. above sea-level, which diverts the streams east and west), it is joined by the Churn near Cricklade, and later by the Ray. From Castle Eaton it forms the county boundary as far as Lechlade, where it enters Berks. It is Thame-Isis, theorists notwithstanding, the true Thames. An old local historian remarks, "The common people call it Thames, but scholars call it Isis." William Morris, whose Kelmscott home was close at hand, called it the "Uppermost Thames," and sang of it :—

"By this sweet stream that knows not of the sea,  
That guesses not the city's misery,  
This little stream, whose hamlets scarce have names,  
This far-off lonely mother of the Thames."

The *Kennet*, which flows for some 20 m. through the county, rises at Broad Hinton, and flows southward to Avebury and then westward through Marlborough and Ramsbury to Hungerford. The axial watershed between Swindon and Calne, or rather that near the centre of the county, and in the neighbourhood of St Ann's Hill, is remarkable for the fact that the waters on the different sides flow respectively to the Bristol Channel (the Bristol Avon), the German Ocean (*viâ* the Kennet and the Thames) and the English Channel (the Salisbury Avon). Aubrey, who seldom missed anything of importance, notes the three streams here taking their "three sevrall waies" to their varied destinations. The Kennet is essentially a chalk stream, and its water of great clearness and purity. At Marlborough it receives the Ogbourne, and near Ramsbury the Aldbourne.

The *Bristol Avon* rises in the Oolitic hills of the

## WILTSHIRE

Lower Cotswolds, above Sherston, and about 6 m. west of Malmesbury, not very far from Thames head. It soon pursues a winding course southward to Chippenham, above which it receives an important affluent in the Marden which flows in from the Marlborough Downs.

From Chippenham it winds through the rich and picturesque district of Lacock Abbey, Bowood and Spye Park, and Bowden Hill, with their glorious views over the vale to the west and south. At Melksham the river turns westward, and a little farther on receives the Semington brook and other streams which drain the Downs and the country between Devizes and Westbury. Bradford passed, the river winds through the beautiful upper part of the "Nightingale Valley," past Freshford and Limpley Stoke, and so on to Bath. Its length is 62 m., by far the greater part being in Wiltshire, of which it drains the entire north-west portion.

### III. GEOLOGY

Its geology is the determining factor in the division of the county into two portions, which differ widely in appearance, in products and in people. The first of these, the great north-west valley, includes nearly one-third of the county area. It has, generally speaking, a slightly undulating surface, sloping gently to the south-east. It belongs to the Oolitic system, and limestones and clays are everywhere dominant. The steep chalk escarpment of the Downs and Plain marks it off from the great chalk plateaux, the *Upper Cretaceous*

## GEOLOGY

formation, which mainly accounts for the remaining two-thirds of the county. There is a small development of the *Eocene* or lower tertiary strata ; a narrow band of the Reading Beds being found a little to the south-east of Salisbury, with the London Clay above at Bentley Wood, and the Bagshot Sands forming the Hamptworth and Landford Commons on the south-east border, near Bramshaw. Tertiary sands and gravels overlie the chalk in large patches at Savernake Forest, and are to be found occasionally on the higher part of the chalk downs. The Sarsen Stones, "Grey Wethers," or Druid Stones, which are to be found thickly strewn on the chalk of the hollows of the Downs principally between Marlborough and East Kennet, are startling reminders of the marvellous aqueous action whose denuding force has been so active hereabouts. They vary in size, but are for the most part huge boulders of hard greysiliceous sandstone, frequently covered with lichen. The circle of Stonehenge, 15 m. away to the south, is built with them, although they are not to be found on the Plain proper. Their use at Avebury, close at hand, is readily understood. They have, however, been largely destined to less noble uses, and their speedy extinction was threatened, but the County Archæological Society took action and raised funds for the purchase of twenty-two acres in Piggie Dene and Lockeridge Dene, where most of them are situated, and the property has been handed over to the National Trust. The "Devil's Den," a cromlech in the immediate neighbourhood, is being carefully preserved by the owner, Mr Alexander Taylor, of

## WILTSHIRE

Manton House. The stones are probably the remains of denuded beds of sandstone in the Bagshot series, the softer portions of which have been washed away, leaving the harder nodules stranded on the chalk surface.

To return to the Secondary group with which the county is mainly concerned we commence with THE LOWER OOLITES—(1) *The Midford Sands*. These connecting beds are found resting upon the Lias in the valley of the Box Brook near Colerne. (2) *The Inferior Oolite*. This occurs at Elmhurst just outside the county, near Box, and also runs up the sides of the Box valley as well as in the direction of Bradford. (3) *The Fuller's Earth*. This is also found in the Box valley, with its characteristic fossil, the *Ostrea Acuminata*; but more important is the *Great Oolite* which yields those splendid blocks of freestone known as Bath Stone. At Box and Corsham are the most famous quarries; at the latter are the large underground workings where the stone is extracted from beneath the higher strata of Forest Marble. At Box Hill the finest quality of stone is found, the absence of fossils rendering it more amenable to the saw and the chisel. Its chief fossils are the *Nerinoea Voltzii*, the *Purperoidea Morrisii*, *Trigonia Costata* and *Tancredia brevis*. (4) *The Forest Marble* and the *Bradford Clay*, of which latter thick beds occur locally between the great Oolitic limestone beds in the Bradford district. It is about 40 ft. thick and contains a fossil called the Pear Encrinite (*Apiocrinus rotundus*). The Crinoids or lily-like animals are attached to long stalks, which in their turn are attached to the rock. *The Forest Marble*



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extends from Bradford northwards to Tetbury, and then turns to the north-east. Its beds are quarried for roofing tiles, and for certain building purposes.

(6) *The Cornbrash*, which is found between Trowbridge and Seend, also runs from Corsham to Chippenham, then northwards to Malmesbury, and finally in a north-east direction to Charlton and Poole Keynes. Its numerous fossils include the *Ammonites Herveyi* and the *Avicula echinata*.

II. MIDDLE OOLITES.—Of these (1) *The Oxford Clay* extends in a broad band from 4 to 8 m. in width over the valley of the Bristol Avon, from Melksham to Christian Malford, and then northward to Minety, with diversions to Wootton Bassett and Malmesbury. It contains a large number of fossils, ammonites and belemnites, and the *Gryphæa dilatata*, an oyster-like shell, and some special forms of cephalopods. The *Kellaways Rock*, a bed of calcareous limestone, is found well developed below it near Chippenham. (2) *The Coral Rag* is a bed of corally, oolitic limestone about 20 ft. thick, which lies between the *Upper* and *Lower Calcareous Grit*. It may be observed at Westbury—where a bed of iron-ore near the railway station, from 11 to 14 ft. in thickness, has been largely worked from time to time. The Corallian strata continue by Steeple Ashton, where the *Thecosmilia annularis*, and other corals are found, through Calne, and then by way of Purton to Highworth, where the beds are 100 ft. thick.

III. UPPER OOLITES. — (1) *The Kimmeridge Clay*. The elevation of the *Corallian* country which rises above the plain of *Oxford Clay* is continued by this clay which runs parallel to it

## WILTSHIRE

from Westbury to Rowde, by Bulkington and Seend. Beyond Rowde the *Lower Greensand* overlaps, but it emerges again a little to the south of Calne, and continues northward to Swindon. *Ammonites biplex* and *Ostrea detoidea* are common, the former in the overlying strata of sandstone. The Kimmeridge clay is also found in the south-west between Semley and Mere, a bed over 60 ft. thick resting on the *Corallian*. (2) *The Portland Beds*. The Portland Oolite is quarried at Tisbury and Chilmark (whence came the stone for Salisbury Cathedral), in the south-west, and appears also near Potterne and at Swindon. (3) *The Purbeck Beds*. These occur at Chilmark and Teffont Evias, in the Nadder valley, and are quarried for the manufacture of tiles, and at Swindon, where a small section, about 10 ft. thick, is also quarried.

THE LOWER CRETACEOUS.—(1) *The Wealden Beds*. A small outcrop appears near Dinton, in the Nadder valley. (2) *The Lower Greensand*. At Poulshot beds are found nearly 30 ft. thick, and at Seend and Bromham, where some fine chalcedonized casts of ammonites are found. Aubrey writes: "Underneath this land I discovered the richest iron-ore that I ever saw or heard of. . . . The forest of Melksham did extend itself to the foot of this hill. It was full of goodly oaks."

THE UPPER CRETACEOUS.—This formation is, of course, the predominant one, and occupies the surface of more than half the county. (1) *The Gault*. This, varying in thickness, is found at the base of the chalk escarpment near Westbury, on

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the northern border of the Marlborough Downs, and in the Nadder valley. From Westbury it extends in a north-east direction to Wanborough. It is also found in the south in the Nadder valley, at Dinton and Donhead. (2) *The Upper Greensand*. This, like the *Gault*, occurs in thick beds averaging over 100 ft. It occupies the whole of the Pewsey valley, where fine sections of it are to be seen in the railway cutting east of Devizes; and a large portion of the Nadder valley, where it passes by Berwick St John, and then on to Barford St Martin. A broad section runs by Maiden Bradley to Stourton, and at Stourhead (King Alfred's Tower) reaches the elevation of 800 ft. Sea-urchins are found in the neighbourhood of Warminster, where the prominent chalk outlier, Cley Hill, is almost islanded by the Greensand. (3) *The White Chalk*, which occupies the South Downs, the Nadder Valley, south of the Wardour vale, and the Ebele valley from Tollard Royal and Cranborne Chase to Salisbury, and then the great stretch of Salisbury Plain to the Pewsey Vale, on the other side of which it resumes in a north-east direction over the Marlborough Downs, where its total thickness is over 1000 ft. Its surface area exceeds that of all the other strata combined. The lower beds are of *Chloritic Marl*; above this comes the *Chalk Marl* containing some clay, and then great beds of grey and white chalk, the three forming the *Lower Chalk*. Resting upon this is the *Middle Chalk*, hard and without flints, some 120 ft. thick, and then the *Upper Chalk*, a calcareous mass, 800 ft. in thickness with conspicuous layers of flint. A band of hard, nodular chalk, cream-

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coloured, is found in places at the base of the Upper Chalk, and also near the base of the Middle Chalk. The unequal denudation of the hard and soft chalk accounts for the bold and striking outline of the Marlborough Downs in the north and north-west. Among the chalk fossils are sharks' teeth, *Ammonites Varians*, and the sea-urchins, *Holaster sub-globosus*, found in the *Lower Chalk*, and various sponges, corallines, rounded sea-urchins. "Microscopical examination shows chalk to be composed of the minute shells of animals called Foraminifera ; it was formed by their slow deposition on the bed of a deep ocean" (W. Jerome Harrison, F.G.S.).

The chalk is quarried in certain places for conversion into lime, and in the neighbourhood of Warminster and Heytesbury great blocks of calcareous limestone are quarried and converted into chimney-pieces, etc.

### IV. CLIMATE

The fact that the area of the county is proportionately more elevated than that of any other English county has of course a considerable influence on its climate, and when to this consideration are added the facts that a Down country is usually characterised by a dry soil, and is also greatly exposed, we are faced with somewhat abnormal conditions. We have, in fact, in Wiltshire, not one climate but two, inasmuch as something like one-third of the area consists of fairly wooded and sheltered vales, while the other two-thirds are high, bleak, bare and exposed downs and plain. Taking

## CLIMATE

the Marlborough district as typical of the Down country we find from the observations of twenty years that the mean temperature during the first quarter of the year was lower than elsewhere in England and Ireland, and only slightly higher than that of the northern part of Scotland; in the second quarter it is higher than that of Scotland, in the third higher also than that of the north of Ireland, and in the fourth only higher than that of the north and east of Scotland; the mean for the year only exceeding that of the north of Scotland and the north-east of England. The mean monthly maximum is only a little over  $70^{\circ}$  in the hottest month, July, and the mean monthly minimum is never so low as freezing point. During a period of twenty years the temperature only once reached  $90^{\circ}$ , and in several years it was never so high as  $80^{\circ}$ . The minimum temperature in the air was occasionally over  $60^{\circ}$  in July and August, and once at least as low as  $30\cdot6$  in June, occasional frosts occurring in all the months except July, August and September. On nearly sixty occasions the thermometer fell below  $20^{\circ}$ . The *duration* of the heat and sunshine has to be taken into account as furnishing accumulated temperature, and from this we deduce the fact that while the Down district is colder than the rest of the south of England, except from January to May, it is, as regards the rest of England, generally warmer. On the other hand the accumulated temperature below  $42^{\circ}$  discloses the astonishing fact that in the cold weather Marlborough is about the coldest place in the kingdom.

As regards *Sunshine*, this Down country is the

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sunnier place in England, with the notable exceptions of the eastern counties, the south of England (its own district) and the south-west.

In the matter of *Rainfall* the difference between the Down country and the vales is generally in favour of the former. The mean rainfall of the county is about 30 in. yearly, and, together with the number of days on which rain falls, corresponds with the average mean of Great Britain. The average for the Down district, including Salisbury Plain, is some 3 in. less than this. In the basins of the Thames and Bristol Avon, the fall is about the average. It increases in the neighbourhood of Salisbury to 32·18, and towards Dorset in the south-west to 34·47. Generally speaking, the rainfall lessens as we proceed from south-west to north-east, while the temperature of the vale country is warmer than that of the Down districts, and the extremes are considerably less marked.

### V. FLORA AND FAUNA

The outstanding feature of the Wiltshire flora is to be found in its exceeding variety, due largely to the many kinds of soil, and to the presence of the Downs, with their distinctive plants. The greensand, the oolitic clays and rocks, and the chalks, each make their contribution to what is a decidedly rich and varied flora, and the intermixture of pasture, arable, woodland and downs, is a very helpful factor in the matter.

In the Salisbury district, particularly in the delightful woods of Clarendon Park, we have a great number of characteristic English plants.

## FLORA AND FAUNA

Among them are the common henbane or hogbean, which flourishes in the gravelly soil at Alderbury and Stratford; ladies' traces or tresses (*Spiral Ophrys*), found on Laverstock Down and in the Downton and Charlton district; the common sow thistle or milkweed; the round-leaved bellflower (*Campanula rotundifolia*), found on the commons and in dry hilly places on the Laverstock Downs; the clustered bellflower which favours calcareous soil, and is found on the chalky banks of the Devizes road and on Laverstock Down; the round-leaved, or bastard snapdragon; the purple dead-nettle; the grass vetchling (*Lathyrus Nissolia*), often overlooked by reason of its leaves so closely resembling grass, and found on the chalky loam bordering the cornfields, and in the Clarendon woods, and sometimes on the clay; corn salad, or lamb's lettuce (*Valeriana Locusta*), found in the Alderbury district, and in plenty in some of the cornfields; the stinking hellebore or bear's foot (*Helliborus Fœtidus*), plentiful in the Clarendon woods, where also the green hellebore is found, but in less abundance; the nailwort (*Draba Verna*), whose flowers in early spring beautify the tops of walls, the dry banks, and the cottage roofs, and many others.

On the downs and in the hollows and troughs, which are a feature of them, in the north-east we find harebell, rock rose, scabious and trefoil blossoms; on Hackpen Hill harebell, silverweed, eyebright, and bartsia, the track to Avebury being over turf "blue with sheep's bit, or rosy with rest harrow." The beautiful meadow crane's-bill and pink and white yarrow flowers are to be found on

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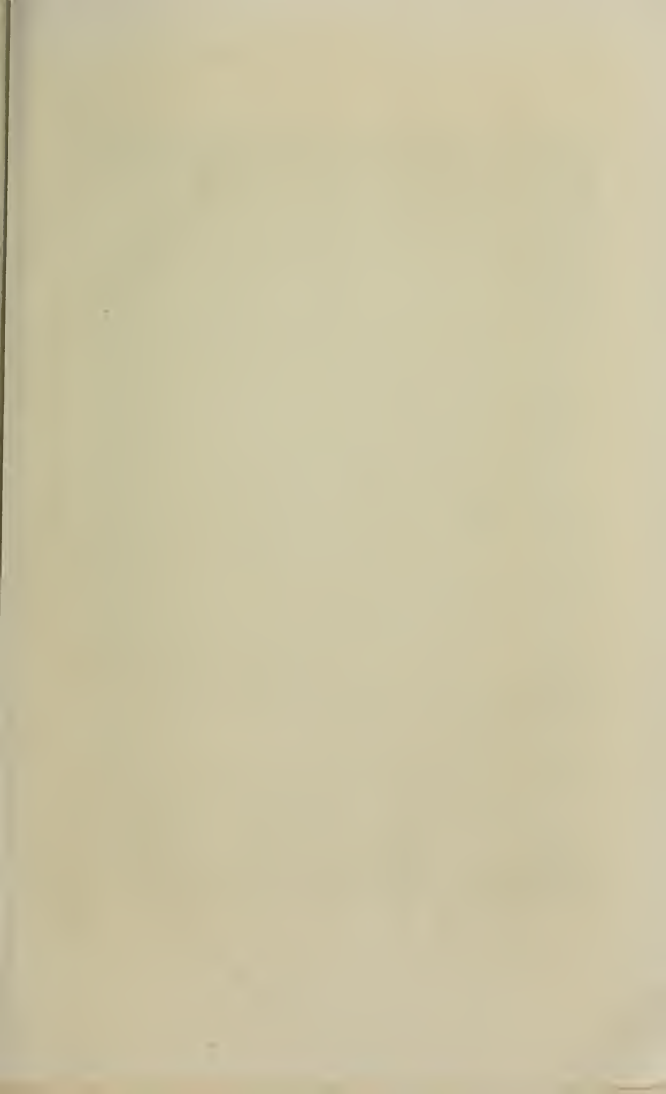
many of the Down roads and add to the attractive charm of the down plants.

The ranunculaceæ calls for a word or two. Travellers' joy is pretty general, and in many places very abundant. Meadow rue is found in wet places, on the banks of the canal and Avon at Bradford, and in the water meadows and rivulets of the Kennet and Salisbury Avon. Wood anemones are general and abundant. The purple variety occurs near Marlborough. Adonis, pheasant's eye, is found on the cornfields that abut on the Plain, and at Salisbury, Fonthill and Downton. Mouse tail in the fields in a moist soil, somewhat rare at Bradford, Roundway Down, the top of Martinsell, and on the greensand about Pewsey.

The lizard (*Orchis bircina*) has been found in two places; and at Boyton, near Heytesbury, Mr Bourke Lambert discovered two plants new to the British flora—*Carduus tuberosus* and *Centaurea nigrescens*. The bee orchis is found in the dry, lumpy ground above Box tunnel. Birds-nest and twayblade, the spider orchis, the *Ophrys muscifera* or fly orchis, the broad and narrow leaved Helleborine, the large white and marsh Helleborine, the *Orchis pyramidalis*, *ustulata*, the marsh orchis, the *incarnata*, the *maculatæ*, the early purple, the green-winged, the musk, fragrant, frog, and great and small butterfly are all found in the county.

Among ferns are the common polypody, the beech, oak, marsh, male, crested, and buckler, as well as black splenwort, white maiden-hair, wall splenwort, and the common prickly, prickly shield, bladder, toothed bladder, and lady ferns. Scaly splenwort, hartstongue, hard fern, brake and royal







SAVERNAKE FOREST

## FLORA AND FAUNA

ferns, moonwort and adder's-tongue help to furnish a fairly comprehensive list.

*The Distribution of Trees.*—The elm is the characteristic tree of the county, and makes a frequent and always welcome appearance, not only in glorious avenues like the one between Edington and Tinhead, but in the hedgerows of the pastured vales and in the valleys of the chalk streams. The county, however, is the happy possessor of the famous Savernake Forest with its grand avenue of beeches looking like the roof of a Gothic cathedral, and piercing its centre for some five miles, and its numerous other great beech avenues, planted by man, it is true, but with the growth of two centuries behind them. In addition there is primitive woodland forest, with many rugged oaks of marvellous age, with ash and birch and thorn. Collingbourn Wood is a relic of the old Chute Forest.

At Bowood, where one can walk or drive through two miles of luxuriant woods, at Spye Park adjoining, and Lacock near at hand; at Draycot Cerne, 4 m. north of Chippenham, the fine park of which is richly studded with ancient oaks; at Lydiard Trogoze, where more wild oaks are a notable feature, and in many other parts of the county we encounter remains of the old Wiltshire forest. The fine wood of yews at Grim's Ditch on the boundary south of Salisbury should not go unmentioned, nor the magnificent cedars of Bowood, of Wilton Park, of Longleat, where we have also a mile of ancient elms, and woods covering over 2000 acres, and of Corsham, where, among many magnificent trees, the cedars and the fine Oriental planes are remarkable. The cedars at Wilton

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were among the earliest brought to this country. The third Earl of Devonshire sent out collectors to the Holy Land, who returned from Lebanon in 1640, with the cedars now at Wilton. The Weymouth pine, introduced by the first Lord Weymouth from North America, was first planted at Badminton, and afterwards at Longleat.

Of the *Fauna* there is not a great deal to say. Among animals the hare takes easily first place. Nothing in his "Rural Rides" delighted Cobbett more than a day's coursing, to which Mr Hicks Beach treated him at Netheravon. Everleigh, quite close at hand, is still the headquarters of this sport. Foxes must be unusually numerous, inasmuch as the county supports no less than five packs of hounds, and the herds of deer in Savernake Forest may perhaps be mentioned. Many famous birds were once denizens of the Plain that have now vanished for ever. Chief among these was the bustard, which has not been seen since 1871. Mr Chafin, writing some sixty years ago, tells of putting up no less than twenty-five of them at once. The dotterel, which was also once a regular breeder on the Downs, is rapidly becoming extinct, and the wheatear visits them in rapidly diminishing numbers. The extension of the military zone has, perhaps something to do with the change. Artillery practice, with or without live shell, can hardly be particularly conducive to the peaceful amenities of bird life. Richard Jefferies tells us that his father shot the last bittern at Coate, and speaks of his brother shooting a brace of crested grebes at the same place. For a great lover of nature he himself would seem to

## POPULATION

have been far too handy with the gun. "The sandpiper, the coot, and the moor-hen haunt the Coate reservoir, and the heron overhangs it." There are heronries in various parts of the county, and the peregrine falcon still survives. Hawking has been revived as a sport, and is regularly practised on the Plain. In the valley of the "Upperest" Thames the dabchick, the waterhen and the sandpiper are found, and the grey heron also. The kingfisher too is still to be met with, and plovers seem to be pretty abundant in the Salisbury neighbourhood where the nightingale also flourishes. The double hedgerows and the abundant wych elms, together with the vast woods and plantations, are eminently favourable to the ordinary bird life, and the reed warbler, the hawfinch and most of the more familiar birds are numerous and well distributed.

## VI. POPULATION

With so large a part of its area occupied by barren plain and swelling downs one can scarcely expect much in the way of numbers. The population, which shows but little indication to increase, is about 287,000, being about 212 to the square mile. It must be borne in mind that there are no large towns or cities except Swindon (53,000), Salisbury itself numbering only 22,000, while the population is, broadly speaking, that of only some two-fifths of the county area. The average of England and Wales is 560 to the square mile, but it would be perfectly fair to say of Wiltshire that,

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in its *inhabited* portion it has a population of 520 to the square mile, which is not so bad considering the very small demand for labour that modern agriculture makes, and the almost complete absence of other industries. The birth rate is given by the Registrar General as 23·3; the death rate 13·1 and the marriage rate 13·6 per 1000 of the estimated population on the eve of the last census-taking, fairly satisfactory figures as things go.

### VII. COMMUNICATIONS

1. *Roads*.—These, generally speaking, are good throughout the county, although the heavy traffic in the neighbourhood of the camps and the military zone causes the roads there to be a good deal cut up, and dusty to a degree unapproachable elsewhere. The harmless, necessary motor becomes quite a welcome figure after the heavy “goods traffic” that one encounters in that particular district, and the pedestrian and the cyclist suffer accordingly.

The great Bath Road enters the county at Hungerford, and ascending through the northern part of Savernake Forest, drops into Marlborough. It proceeds thence to Calne, skirting the famous mound, Silbury Hill, and passing close to Avebury, and from Calne by way of Chippenham, Corsham, and Box, to Bath. A better route, although a little longer one, is afforded by turning south at Beckhampton, 7 m. beyond Marlborough, and continuing through Devizes, and Melksham to Box. From Devizes roads branch off in all

## COMMUNICATIONS

directions, to Swindon in the north, Stonehenge and Salisbury in the south, and Ludgershall in the east. A fair road quits this last near Upavon and traverses the Avon valley portion of the Plain through Amesbury (close to Stonehenge), to Salisbury. From the last named excellent roads radiate in all directions.

2. *Railways.*—Wiltshire is on the whole very well served by the two great systems running west, the main line of the one traversing the north, and of the other, the south portion of the county. The former, the Great Western, enters the county about 6 m. east of Swindon, and continues through Chippenham (branch to Calne) and Box to Bath. A branch to Malmesbury joins at Dauntsey, and one to Highworth at Swindon. A more important branch is that which leaves at Wootton Bassett, and proceeds by way of Badminton and the Severn Tunnel to Newport and Cardiff and the South Wales district generally, forming the direct route, thence to London. The shortest route to Exeter and Plymouth is afforded by the line which, leaving the old route at Reading, comes by Newbury to Westbury, and then by Castle Cary, through Langport to Taunton. A line which quits the Newbury-Westbury line at Patney goes through Devizes and joins a line that runs from Chippenham at Holt Junction, immediately south of which a branch goes off through Bradford-on-Avon to Bath and Bristol. Another important line connects Westbury with Salisbury, and is a most useful link in the connection of Portsmouth and Southampton with Bristol and South Wales. Marlborough is connected with the Great Western main line by a

short line from Savernake, and the Midland and South-Western Junction line runs from Cheltenham to Andover Junction, entering the county at Cricklade and continuing through Swindon Town, Marlborough and Savernake, to Ludgershall.

The London and South-Western System enters the county about 9 m. north-east of Salisbury near Grateley, whence a short branch line goes to Amesbury and Bulford Camp. At Salisbury two branch lines come in, the one coming up from Portsmouth and Southampton, the other coming from Wimborne and Poole and connecting with Bournemouth and Weymouth. The main line leaves the county at Semley, near Shaftesbury.

The Great Western Railway run several motor rail services on their system and their "halte" are a great convenience. A service of motor omnibuses runs three times daily in each direction (probably more frequently in summer) between Marlborough and Calne by way of West Kennet and Avebury. A motor bus also runs in connection with the Bath tramways by way of Box and Melksham to Devizes, and another from Salisbury to Amesbury and Bulford Camp.

3. *Canals.*—Enterprise in this direction has certainly not been lacking, at any rate so far as North Wilts. is concerned. The Thames and Severn Canal accompanies the infant Thames for some little distance along the northern boundary, and the quaint old round house at Inglesham marks its junction with the river. This is the undertaking of which Pope wrote so enthusiastically to Mr Digby and Lord Bathurst, speaking of "the meeting of the Thames and Severn which



## INDUSTRIES

are to be led into each others' embraces through secret caverns."

The Kennet and Avon Canal is the principal canal of the county. It comes into the county at Hungerford, and passes by Savernake and Pewsey through the Pewsey Vale to All Cannings and Devizes, and then on to Bradford-on-Avon and Bath. The traffic is not very great, although sufficient to keep the canal navigable. Some pretty glimpses of it can be obtained by the railway traveller between Patney and Hungerford, and in these days of dusty roads the pedestrian will often find the towing-path a very welcome alternative to the road, particularly in the daytime when the midges and gnats are not inordinately active. A boating tour on this canal would give excellent opportunities of seeing some of the most characteristic parts of the county.

The Wilts. and Berks. Canal is practically a thing of the past. "Its stiffened and weedy waters are stirred only by the moor-hen who walks, more than she swims across them." It comes in from the Thames Dorchester, and passes by Wantage and Uffington to Swindon.

### VIII. INDUSTRIES

*Agriculture* is the dominating occupation in Wiltshire. The term must be taken as including not only the cultivation of the soil, but sheep farming on an enormous scale, milk production on one even greater, and the raising of cattle and pigs in great quantities. Butter factories and

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bacon factories are necessary adjuncts. "We supply all London with milk" was the remark of a large dairy farmer, and it contained a measure of truth, for a very large proportion of the milk consumed in the metropolis is sent from here. The wonderfully fertile vale of the north-east and the great valley of the Bristol Avon are the chief milk producing districts. Butter-making on a large scale is carried on in various places, notably at the Wilts. United Dairies at Trowbridge, and large quantities of cheese are made in the Swindon district, the eccentric terminology which cheese appears to share with carpets, causing it to masquerade as "double Gloucester." The principal bacon factories are at Calne, Chippenham, and Devizes, and Wiltshire bacon has an enviable reputation among food products. The shorthorn is the most popular breed among the cattle, although there are some fine herds of Jerseys on the Chalk Downs. The "Hampshire Downs" is the favourite breed of sheep, the "Oxford Down" being more general in the vales. Some of the great breeders obtain remarkable prices for their prize animals. One reads of a ram lamb fetching 170 guineas, and others 100 and often 120 guineas. There is a good deal of mixed farming in the river valleys, where the water meadows lead up to capital arable land, much of which however is now let down for grass for the rearing and raising of young cattle, stock raising having in recent years experienced considerable development. Great sheep fairs are held periodically at Marlborough, Britford, Salisbury, Tan Hill or St Anne's Hill, on the Marlborough

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Downs, and other places, when enormous numbers change hands, a single auctioneer announcing entries of some 16,000. The number of sheep in the county approaches half a million, while there are some 130,000 cattle, and over 50,000 pigs.

Large quantities of hay are grown, and although corn crops are not so prevalent as formerly, 54,000 acres are devoted to wheat, 49,000 to oats, and 26,000 to barley, while 46,000 furnish root crops. Wiltshire stands tenth among the counties for wheat production, fifteenth for oats, and eighteenth for barley—excellent figures considering its size and its milk, mutton, and wool. Too much credit cannot be given to the County Council and its Agricultural Committee for the fostering care devoted to the county's leading industry. There are itinerary instructors in dairying, sheep-shearing, farriery, bee-culture, poultry-keeping, veterinary ailments, and various other matters. The butter schools are remarkably successful, more than one-fourth of the students at the various centres taking first-class certificates. The Dauntsey Agricultural School at West Lavington is exceedingly well organised, and does valuable work, while nature study and matters likely to be of practical use in after life are by no means neglected in the curriculum of the excellent Secondary and Technical Schools to be found at Devizes, Calne, Bradford, and various other places. The Wiltshire farms are, as a rule, well let, and there are generally two or three applicants for every farm falling vacant. At the great sale of the Meux domain in North Wilts. it was stated that there was not a single farm to let on the

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whole estate, and it is gratifying to record that a majority of the farms were bought by the tenants.

The breeding and training of race-horses is a great business on the Downs, the pure air and the splendid stretches of turf particularly favouring the enterprise. The Beckhampton, the Manton, and other "stables" are famous throughout the racing world.

Of other industries the great engineering works of the Great Western Railway Company at Swindon easily take first place. Locomotives, rails, carriages and wagons, are extensively produced, and employment is given in the works, which cover over 200 acres, to upwards of 14,000 men. The cloth manufacture was once a great industry in Wiltshire, but the business has greatly fallen away, and now survives chiefly at Trowbridge. Bradford-on-Avon has now closed its last cloth mill, and given itself over to the production of tyres and other india-rubber goods, which are also manufactured at Melksham. The latter place has, in addition, looms for hair-cloth weaving; and a large engineering and machinery foundry, Messrs Spencers, which gives employment to 1000 people. There are stone quarries at Box, Swindon, Chilmark, and various other places; some brewing and malting at Box, Devizes, Malmesbury, and at West Kennet, famous for its ales; and a large carpet factory at Wilton.

### IX. HISTORY

The county takes its name from Wilton, the chief town of the Wilsaetas, West-Saxon settlers in

## HISTORY

the valley of the Wylye, and it is mentioned as Wiltunscire as early as the time of King Alfred's accession. Its boundaries have experienced little alteration from Saxon times to the present day.

In the pre-Roman days, and for a considerable time afterwards, when England was "an isle of blowing woodland," the great natural clearings of the uplands were eagerly seized upon for human settlement, and were the seat of a vast population. Before the coming of the Romans the dominating people were probably immigrant Belgæ, who had reduced a darker race, possibly of Iberian extraction, to subjection. Of the Roman occupation the signs are numerous and important. The district was probably conquered by Vespasian, and Roman stations were established at Cunetio (Mildenhall, near Marlborough) and Sorbiodunum (Old Sarum) from which Roman roads radiate in various directions. The retirement of the Romans was quickly followed by a protracted struggle with the Saxons, the tribe of the Gewissas coming up Southampton water and boldly invading the country. In the A.-S. Chronicle under the year 508 we read:—"Now Cerdic and Cynric slew a British king whose name was Natan Leod, and 5000 men with him. Then after the land was called Natan-leaga as far as Cerdic's ford." A later victory at Charford, the Cerdicesford of the Chronicle, broke the Celtic power in 519, and the kingdom of the West Saxons came into existence with Cerdic as king. Cynric, his successor, defeated a hostile force of the old inhabitants at Old Sarum in 552, and captured the great fortress there, and with another great victory at Barbury Hill, four

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years later, Wiltshire was subdued and became part and parcel of the Kingdom of Wessex, Mere significantly marking the border line in the south-west, and Wanborough or Wodensbarrow in the north-east. At this last-named point, the Britons or Welsh joined with the Hwiccas under Ceolric and defeated the Bretwalda, Ceawlin, in 591, a new stage being now marked in the struggle, which was maintained intermittently until the great victory of Cenwealh at Bradford-on-Avon in 652. Britons and Saxons, or Welsh and English, now settled down together in peace, the latter greatly predominating, and the coming of Christianity and the wise and able government of Ine consolidated the new order of things.

The Danish invasion was severely felt here. Alfred, at the beginning of his reign, found the Danes in force at Wilton, and was compelled to buy them off. Reappearing a little later at Chippenham they overran the country and forced Alfred to retire to the Isle of Athelney, whence he summoned the Somerset thegns to his assistance, and defeated his foe after a great battle and a siege of fourteen days at Ethandune, placed by some excellent authorities at Edington, near Westbury, and by others in Somersetshire near Wedmore. The peace of Wedmore followed, the Danish leader Guthrum was baptized and something like tranquillity followed for some fifteen years. Sweyn's invasion in 1003 caused much devastation, Old Sarum and Wilton being sacked. Later the ascendancy of Cnut was checked for a time by his defeat at the hands of Eadmund Ironside at Penselwood, in 1016, but nothing further of im-

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portance occurs until, in 1070, William the Conqueror reviewed his forces in the plains where Salisbury now stands, and in 1086 held his court at Old Sarum, where, at a great Gemote he received "all the landowning men there were all over England, whosoever men they were, and all bowed down before him, and became his men and swore oaths of fealty to him."

The contest between Stephen and the Empress Maud was partly fought out in the county. Roger, Bishop of Salisbury, a notable example of the Church Militant, garrisoned Malmesbury, Sarum, and Devizes for the Empress, while Stephen fortified the abbey at Wilton. In the next reign a court was held at Clarendon, near Salisbury, where the famous "Constitutions of Clarendon" were drawn up (1164). The system of the Conqueror was re-enacted, but new legislation respecting ecclesiastical jurisdiction was introduced. During Jack Cade's rebellion in 1450, a minor insurrection broke out in Wiltshire, and Ayscough, Bishop of Salisbury was seized at Edington, dragged from the church, and stoned on the neighbouring hill.

The county played a fairly conspicuous part during the great Civil War. Wardour Castle was besieged by Sir Edward Hungerford in 1643, and bravely defended by Lady Arundell. It was retaken by her son shortly afterwards, but not before he had himself bombarded it almost beyond recognition. Shortly before this, Waller, falling back from Lansdowne Hill, cooped up the Royalist foot in Devizes but was defeated with great loss on Roundway Down, by a relieving force

## WILTSHIRE

under Lord Wilmot. The besieged had been in great straits, and dreadfully short of match, to replenish which, Clarendon says, all the bed-cords were collected, beaten and boiled. It was a cavalry action, Wilmot having 1500 horse and no more. Waller seems to have committed the fatal blunder of underrating his opponents. Waller was forced to fly to Bristol, which soon afterwards surrendered to the king. Later on Cromwell and the New Model put a different face upon things, and after various local conflicts the castle of Devizes was stormed and captured and afterwards "sighted." Penruddock's gallant but abortive "forlorn hope" in 1655 should be mentioned, and the brief stay of Charles II. at Heale after the battle of Worcester. In Macaulay's vivid account of the Revolution of 1688 we read of the gathering of the army of James at Salisbury, of the dramatic incident at Warminster when Churchill and Cornbury deserted, and of the stay of "the Deliverer" at Littlecote and the abortive negotiations there.

### X. ANTIQUITIES

Wiltshire easily takes first place among the counties for the number and importance of its memorials of the past. The great camps and earthworks, the remains of the hut circles and the pit villages, and the banks and ditches which connected them, the old trackways and ridgeways, the barrows and mounds, the signs of ancient cultivation in the lynchets or terraces, natural, artificial, or both, and the great megalithic monu-



## ANTIQUITIES

ments, Avebury and Stonehenge, all testify to a great population dwelling on the Downs in prehistoric times, and some of them to the mighty tasks of which it was capable. Here we can do little more than merely enumerate, the more notable of these wonderfully interesting relics being dealt with separately.

1. *Prehistoric*.—Avebury is said, by a most competent authority, to be to archæologists the most interesting spot in England. It is the greatest megalithic monument in the world, and is only approached in importance by the Stone Avenues at Carnac, in Brittany. Stonehenge occupies perhaps a greater place in the popular imagination, and standing as it does in imposing solitude on the Plain, it is more dignified and impressive. It is, however, a smaller and more recent work. Both are stone circles surrounded by a vallum and fosse, at Avebury the fosse being inside, and at Stonehenge outside the vallum. Avebury has suffered terribly at the hands of various depredators since the days when Aubrey, who may in a sense claim to have discovered it, declared that it as far surpassed Stonehenge as a cathedral does a parish church, and as Sir B. Windle remarks, "it requires a plan and some imagination to form any sort of an idea of what it must originally have looked like." Smaller stone circles are found at Winterbourne Bassett and Hackpen Hill. There are the remains of a cromlech comparatively recently broken up at Temple Bottom, in the neighbourhood of the last named, and other cromlechs are found near Marlborough (the Devil's Den, a notable cyst or sepulchre), in the vicinity of

## WILTSHIRE

Castle Combe and Littleton Drew (Lugbury, a tumulus 180 ft. by 90 ft. containing stone cysts with skeletons, the cromlech having a table stone 12 ft. by 6 ft. leaning against two uprights); at Lanhill, near Chippenham (traditionally associated with the Danish leader, Hubba, but doubtless pre-historic); at Luckington and in various other places.

The barrows are exceedingly numerous, and of great interest and importance. The long barrows in the neighbourhood of Avebury and Stonehenge are doubtless pre-Roman. They vary considerably in form, generally standing east and west, with the wider end at the east, where the skeletons were usually found. There are some sixty of these long barrows, the Long Barrow near West Kennet being a very notable example. The tumulus is 336 ft. long, with an average breadth of 60 ft., and when opened the stone chamber was found to contain four skeletons, two in a sitting posture, and two placed horizontally. The round barrows are said to number over 2000, and a great number of both varieties were opened by Sir R. C. Hoare, the great Wiltshire antiquarian and historian, who gives a very interesting account of the contents, and whose collections are preserved in the Museum at Devizes.

Among the ancient earthworks and entrenchments, first mention may be made of Silbury Hill. Its claim to be pre-Roman can scarcely be disputed, inasmuch as the Roman road from "Cunetio," or Marlborough, to "Aquæ Solis," or Bath, was evidently deflected to avoid it. Of the other gigantic earthwork, Old Sarum, rendered doubly imposing by its situation, we are not so sure.

## ANTIQUITIES

Recent excavations, however, distinctly favour the ancient British fortification theory, as against that of the Roman stronghold, although, as J. R. Green observes, doubtless "both Celt and Roman had seen the military value of the height . . . and admirable as the position was in itself, it had been strengthened at a vast cost of labour." Many of the camps and entrenchments on the higher downs are held to be pre-Roman, among them Badbury, or Liddington Castle, and Barbury, the one just south-east, and the other 5 m. south of Swindon. Casterley Camp, on the Plain, near Upavon, was considered by Sir R. C. Hoare to be "one of the most original and unaltered works of the British era which the county can produce." Winkelbury, in the extreme south, close to Cranborne Chase, was believed by General Pitt-Rivers to be a prehistoric camp, and Knock Castle, Scratchbury, and Battlesbury, in the neighbourhood of Heytesbury, come in the same category. At the latter the lynchets or cultivation terraces are very much in evidence. The King Barrow in this neighbourhood is an unusually large one, and was found when opened to contain in addition to two human skeletons, the bones of a horse, tusks of boars, and stag horns. The ancient Ridgeway runs across the crest of the hill, near the entrenchments on the north of Salisbury Plain known as Broadbury Banks, whence a British trackway may be traced over the Pewsey Vale past Alton Priors, Knap Hill, with its ancient earthwork, Silbury Hill, and on to Hackpen Hill, and Barbury and Liddington Castles.

2. *Roman*.—The principal Roman stations were

## WILTSHIRE

Cunetio (Mildenhall, close to Marlborough); Verlucio (which is generally placed close to Spye Park, near Calne); and Sorbiodunum (Old Sarum). A Roman road led from Bath (Aquæ Solis) through Verlucio to Cunetio, where it was diverted, the Ermine way going in a northern direction to Cirencester, and southward through Savernake Forest to Winchester. To the latter place a road also went from Old Sarum, from which also roads proceeded to Ad Axium (near Weston-super-Mare) and to Silchester.

The Wansdyke or Woden's dyke, which runs in its eastern portion south of the Roman road, and which may best be seen between Savernake Forest, the north-west corner of which it crosses, and Wan's House (Spye Park), traverses the Marlborough Downs, and was long considered to be a Celtic or rather a prehistoric work, and the Bokerley Dyke or Ditch, a very much smaller trench on the Dorset boundary south-east of Salisbury, was similarly classed. The excavations of General Pitt-Rivers, however, tend to show that both are Roman or part Roman. The Wansdyke was a formidable work, some 60 m. in length, proceeding from the Bristol Channel by way of Bath beyond Savernake, and seems to have been designed for actual defence, inasmuch as it was strengthened at intervals by forts along its line. It has a general resemblance to the Border Wall and the Firth Wall, as well as to the *Limes Germanicus*. Roman remains of various kinds—coins, tesseræ and pottery, etc.—have been found in numerous places, at Mildenhall (Cunetio); at Castlehill, near Great Bedwyn; at Boreham,

## ANTIQUITIES

near to Warminster, and the ancient camps of Battlesbury and Scratchbury; at Pitmead, in the same district, where tessellated pavements and other evidences of Roman habitation were found; at Littlecote, where, in the 18th cent., a huge Roman pavement was discovered and unfortunately destroyed, and in the neighbourhood of North Wraxall and Castle Combe, where the remains of a Roman villa with baths and hypocaust, and a place of interment were discovered. The recent excavations of Mr and Mrs Howard Cunnington may here be mentioned. At Knap Hill, near Alton Priors, they discovered some special and unsuspected features in the construction of the ancient camp—viz. certain gaps in the ramparts, apparently a part of the original design, possibly intended to aid the defence by serving as platforms whence the ditch could be enfiladed. Flint flakes and rude pottery have been found, and the camp has been assigned to the bronze or even the late neolithic period. A great quantity of Roman-British pottery was discovered, and a Roman occupation, not necessarily of a military type, was abundantly indicated. A Saxon sword was one of the relics unearthed. Some important excavations made about 4 m. north-east of Devizes, under the Wansdyke, near Shepherd's Shore, are fully described in an able paper contributed by Mrs Cunnington to *Man*. Recent excavations at Old Sarum are giving good results, not only as regards the old Norman castle, considerable remains of which have been revealed, but of the various strongholds and fortifications, Saxon, Roman, prehistoric, that may have preceded it.

## WILTSHIRE

*Saxon.*—The most notable relic of Saxon times is the Church of St Lawrence at Bradford-on-Avon; “probably,” says Freeman, “the most ancient unaltered church in England.” The “Moot Hill,” at Downton, is also a reminder of West-Saxon times, being the spot at which the great District Council was held. There is some pre-Norman work in the old churches at Britford and at North Burcombe, near Wilton. Some very interesting Saxon remains were recently found during the repairs of the church at Amesbury—viz. a circular head, called a wheel-cross, the ornamentation being simple in detail and in accordance with the interlacing patterns on cross-heads in the north of England.

### XI. ARCHITECTURE

I. *Military.*—The old fortified castles of the county, which played their part in the struggle between Stephen and Maud, and in the great Rebellion, have for the most part vanished. Old Sarum had gone to decay in Leland’s time (Henry VIII.) although he writes: “Much notable ruinous building of the castell yet ther remaynith.” The fragments now left are not very notable, and at Devizes the Parliamentary “slight” has left only slight vestiges of the walls, and the ditch and mound of the keep, to represent the strong castle of Bishop Roger. Another castle built by the great bishop, that of Marlborough, was dismantled, probably in the latter period of the Wars of the Roses, but enough was left to enable it to play a part in the Civil War. Ludgers-

## ARCHITECTURE

hall, another royal castle, can show nothing but a fragment of the keep and some earthworks ; and the Norm. Castle at Castle Combe, and the one at Trowbridge have both disappeared.

2. *Ecclesiastical*.—Of the *monastic* foundations we have only remains, and they are few. At Malmesbury is a precious fragment of the original Abbey Church, comprising the six eastern bays of the nave, with the remaining three bays of the south aisle, and the south porch, the west and north arches of the central tower, and the west wall of the south transept. At Lacock are three walls of the cloister, and the sacristy, chapter-house, slype and day-room of the nuns, three vaulted chambers, probably once the guest-house, the “outer parlour” and the chaplain’s day-room, all these last 13th-cent. work. Of the Monastery at Edington only some of the old offices remain, and the monastic fishponds. At Bradenstoke or Clack Abbey are some good 14th-cent. remains. At Monkton Farleigh was once a Cluniac priory, but the remains are very scant, and of Stanley Abbey (Bowood), and other old foundations, there is scarcely a trace.

The *Churches* are a notable feature. In the stone districts, the north and south-west, spacious and handsome buildings are numerous. The flints so largely used in the chalk districts are not so effective, and the churches there too are naturally smaller. Of Norm. work and Trans. Norm. we have excellent examples at Malmesbury, and there is good Norm. work at the churches of St John and St Mary, Devizes, at Preshute (Marlborough), at Corsham and at Avebury. Trans.

## WILTSHIRE

is found at Ogbourne St George, and Great and Little Bedwyn, and the south porch at Devizes St Mary's. Of E.E. Salisbury Cathedral is a magnificent example, the finest in existence, and other excellent specimens are Potterne and Bishops Cannings, two of the noblest and most interesting churches in the county. Amesbury, Salisbury St Martin, the east bays and transepts at Downton, the nave at Cricklade St Sampson's, and the chancel at Great Bedwyn should also be mentioned. Dec. work also is well represented at Cricklade, especially in the chancel and the north aisle, and also in the transepts at Great Bedwyn and the nave arcade at Lacock. Perp. work is seen at Devizes St Mary's (the nave and tower), at Lacock (the south chapel), and at Cricklade St Sampson's, Devizes St John's (the north and south Chapels), Marlborough St Peter's, Mere, Trowbridge, Bradford-on-Avon, and many other places. The fine church at Edington with its beautiful interior is a splendid example of the transition from Dec. to Perp.

3. *Domestic*.—For domestic architecture Wiltshire is almost unrivalled, the 15th-cent. specimens being exceedingly fine. The more important ones are dealt with elsewhere, and a brief list must suffice here.

*Fourteenth Century*.—Wardour Castle (of which the chief characteristics are still to be perceived); Woodland; Mere (adjoining the "hall"); Sheldons (a fine 14th-cent. porch); Place House, Tisbury (placed later by some authorities), and Barton Farm, the great 14th-cent. Barn at Bradford-on-Avon.



## CELEBRATED MEN

*Fifteenth Century.*—S. Wraxall, Potterne, Great Chalfield, Salisbury (the Hall of John Halle), Crane House (now a church house), the Bishop's Palace (gateway, tower, and hall, and several houses in the close), Norrington, and the 15th-cent. houses in the village of Lacock.

*Sixteenth Century* and later.—Corsham Court (the south front), The Hall, Bradford-on-Avon, often styled the Duke's or Kingston House (early 17th cent.), Charlton, much modernised, Longleat, Longford Castle, greatly modernized, Littlecote, a fine 16th-cent. manor-house almost unaltered, Wilton (the central portion of the east front is early 17th cent.), Keevil manor-house, Lake House, near Amesbury, Yatton Keynell.

The fine modern mansions of Bowood, Stourhead, Wardour, Grittleton, Trafalgar, are interesting architecturally and otherwise, and, like the houses previously mentioned, several of them are famous for their pictures and other valuable art collections.

## XII. CELEBRATED MEN

The list of these, Wiltshire born or notably associated with the county, is a very numerous one. Commencing with *Divines*, we get a fugitive glimpse of St Augustine meeting the bishops or doctors of the Britons at "the northern end of the bridge at Cricklade." (St Aldhelm, prelate, scholar, and poet, was the first abbot of Malmesbury. Roger, Bishop of Sarum was great alike as prelate, statesman, and church and castle builder. Bishop Poore laid the foundation of Salisbury Cathedral ;

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Bishop Jewel preached his last sermon at Lacock, and died at Monkton Farleigh; Ken, one of the immortal "Seven" and a non-juror, enjoyed the hospitality of the first Viscount Weymouth at Longleat for the last twenty years of his life; Gilbert Burnet, the historian, was an excellent Bishop of Salisbury considering his very pronounced political antecedents; Dr Sacheverell, the apostle of non-resistance, was born at Marlborough; Dr Arnold received his earliest education at Warminster grammar school; Joseph Alleine, the eminent Nonconformist minister, was born (1633) at Devizes, and the Rev. William Jay ("Jay of Bath") at Tisbury. Of divines who were also poets, we have quite a formidable array. George Herbert was rector of Bemerton, as was also another poet-parson, John Norris. Crabbe was for eighteen years rector of Trowbridge; Bowles was vicar of Bremhill; Dr Crowe was for some time at Alton Barnes; and Dr Watts, the great Nonconformist hymn-writer, used to visit Lady Hertford at Marlborough.

Poets, not divines, are Sir Philip Sidney, who wrote part of the "Arcadia" at Wilton; Spenser, who visited Wilton, where Shakespeare is said to have performed before James I. in 1603; Sir John Davies, born at Tisbury; Samuel Daniel; and Philip Massinger, who was born at Salisbury, a notable company of Elizabethans. Dryden was at Charlton during the plague and fire of London, and there composed his "Annus Mirabilis"; Addison was born at Milston; Gay found comfortable quarters with the Duke of Queensberry at Amesbury, and there composed *The Beggar's*

## CELEBRATED MEN

*Opera* ; Thomson was a guest of Lady Hertford at Marlborough ; Thomas Moore spent the latter part of his life at Bromham ; Coleridge was for two or three years at Calne.

Among prose writers are William of Malmesbury, the old historian ; Clarendon, historian and statesman ; Hobbes of the "Leviathan" ; Henry St John, Viscount Bolingbroke, and Baron St John of Lydiard Tregoz ; Richard Hooker, who wrote part of his "Ecclesiastical Polity" at East Boscombe, where he was for four years rector ; Fielding, who lived for some time at Salisbury ; William Beckford, the author of "Vathek" ; Aubrey, John Britton and Cunnington, a trio of distinguished antiquaries ; Sir R. C Hoare, the county historian ; Sydney Smith, who was once curate of Netheravon ; Hazlitt, who spent much of his time at Winterslow ; and Richard Jefferies, the prose poet of the Downs.

Other persons of note are Sir Christopher Wren, born at East Knoyle ; Ludlow, the Parliamentary general and "irreconcilable," born at Maiden Bradley ; Dr Priestley, who was at Calne for ten years with the Earl of Shelburne ; Robert Lowe, the first Lord Sherbrooke, who found a seat at Calne under the ægis of Lord Lansdowne after some rough experience at Kidderminster ; Sidney Herbert, the first Lord Herbert of Lea, a prominent statesman of Peel and Palmerston times ; Henry Fawcett, the political economist, the blind Postmaster-General of one of Mr Gladstone's administrations ; Sir Thomas Lawrence ; Henry Lawes, the musician and friend of Milton, and his brother William ; the great Lord Chatham, whose

## WILTSHIRE

manor-house was at Stratford-sub-Castle; and Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, whose father's seat was at West Dean, near Salisbury. Bowood has from time to time received a vast number of distinguished visitors, and among them may be mentioned Talleyrand and Madame de Staël, who were the guests of the second marquis, "the splendid noble, the patron of arts and letters," as Lord Rosebery styles him, and Mirabeau, who visited his father, the Earl of Shelburne, George III.'s prime minister, and Chatham's right hand.

## DESCRIPTION OF PLACES IN WILTSHIRE ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY

NOTE.—The following abbreviations are used in describing the architectural styles:—

Norm. = Norman (latter half 12th cent.).

E.E. = Early English (roughly, 13th cent.).

Dec. = Decorated (14th cent. and a little earlier).

Perp. = Perpendicular (15th cent. and latter part of 14th).

ALDBOURNE (4 m. E. of Ogbourne Station, Midland & S. W. junction line) is very pleasantly placed on the Swindon and Hungerford road. For a country village, even a large one, it has quite a note of dignity and distinction that blends well with the beauty of its situation. The church is a fine old stone building, mostly Perp., with a large and beautiful tower, pinnaced and buttressed, a Norm. south doorway, a Trans.-Norm. arcade of pointed arches, with plain and decorated mouldings, and a handsome oak roof and finely carved oak pulpit. The Tudor monuments in the south aisle (1597) are to members of a famous Wiltshire family, the Goddards, of Upham. The Walronds have a tomb (1617) in the chapel on the north side to two brothers aged respectively ninety-six and eighty-four, who are represented in stone, kneeling, in plate armour, an inscription in three languages

## WILTSHIRE

testifying to their various merits. There is also an alabaster tomb to the memory of John Stone, a former vicar, dated 1501, and some old brasses in an excellent state of preservation. There was some willow-plaiting and straw-plaiting done here until quite recently, and the villagers have earned much fame beyond local bounds by their rendering of Mr M'Evoy's play, *The Village Wedding*.

*Aldbourne Chase* was a favourite hunting-ground of King John, and at the ancient little manor-house of Upper Upham, the *fabric* of which is said to be of 14th-cent. date, John of Gaunt is credibly reported to have been a frequent visitor. The house, till lately a farmer's dwelling, is a striking building of stone and flint standing alone high in the hills, with gabled and mullioned windows, and a lofty two-storeyed porch. It commands a noble view of the Downs and the country towards the Cotswold and Malvern Hills. The Chase is a long, verdant, elevated trough, running south-east from below Liddington to Aldbourne, and is one of the finest hollows in the Downs. There is a capital walk from here over the Downs to Marlborough by Stock Close; and Liddington Castle, Badbury, Burdrop Park, and Coate are within easy reach.

*Aldbury* is a junction station on the L. & S. W. 3 m. S.E. of Salisbury. The church, in Dec. style, consists of chancel, nave of five bays, north aisle, transepts, and a tower with spire, and was rebuilt in 1857-1858. *Aldbury House* was built with materials from the belfry of Salisbury Cathedral, demolished by Wyatt. At Ivy Church, near by, are some remains of the Augustinian

## ALDBOURNE CHASE—ALLINGTON

priory founded by Henry II. One of the old fire-places, cut from a block of Portland stone, is to be seen in the village inn, Mark Tapley's Green Dragon, where, a less veritable, if more modern relic, is the bedroom associated by the landlord with Martin Chuzzlewit.

*Alderton* (3 m. N.E. from Badminton Station) has a stone church, E.E. in style, with chancel, nave, south aisle, north transept, north porch, and spire, the register dating from 1603. It was restored in 1845.

*All Cannings* (1½ m. N. from Patney Station) is in the Pewsey Vale about 5 m. east of Devizes. It has a good cruciform church, with a square Perp. central tower, and some piers of Norman date, with other fragments of Norm. and E.E., relics of an older church. The nave and aisles have been much modernized. The south chantry chapel has a battlement bearing the arms of Beauchamp and St Amand. The chancel was rebuilt in 1867 from the designs of T. H. Wyatt, by the rector, Mr Methuen, and his sons, as a memorial to the Rev. T. P. Methuen, and a testimony to a happy home. There is a reredos of carved alabaster with a well-executed representation of the Lord's Supper. The stone font has a finely carved oak cover, and the memorial windows and the mural monuments to the Ernles, the piscina in the south transept, and the sedilia in the chancel, may also be noted. The manor-house, now a farm-house, and much modernized, has some 14th-cent. woodwork. Coleridge visited the Mr Methuen of his day here in 1817.

*Allington* (1 m. S. from Newton Tony Station).

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The small church, which was rebuilt in 1851, nestles comfortably in a little recess in the Chalk Hills. There is a stained east window, but no special feature of importance. The Roman road from Old Sarum to Silchester passes near by, and follows the line of the railway to Andover.

*Allington* (2 m. N.W. from Chippenham) is a small hamlet notable for the tumulus known as Lanhill Barrow or Hubba's Low, associated by tradition with the Danish leader, but more authoritatively classed as prehistoric.

*Allington*, a small tithing ( $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N. of All Cannings), must also be mentioned to avoid confusion. There are many barrows in the neighbourhood, and the ancient Rybury Camp is on a hill  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. to the north-east.

*Alton Barnes* or *Berners* (2 m. N. from Woodborough Station, G. W.). This is one of the many interesting villages nestling under the Marlborough Downs in the Pewsey Vale. The church is a small old stone building, notable as having been served as rector by Dr Crowe, afterwards public orator at Oxford, whose poem "Lewesdon Hill" was greatly admired by Samuel Rogers, and by Augustus Hare. The old manor was bestowed by William of Wykeham on his New College foundation. On the side of the Downs one of the many Wiltshire white horses was cut in 1812. Its proportions are gigantic:—height 180 ft., length 165 ft., and area nearly 700 yds. It is a conspicuous object in the landscape, and is visible from so great a distance as Old Sarum, 22 m. to the south over Salisbury Plain.

*Alton Priors* adjoins the former parish, and has



## ALLINGTON—AMESBURY

an old stone church with an embattled western tower. There is a stained east window, and a marble tomb in the chancel, with brass, dated 1590, to William Button, an ancestor of the Meux family; and another brass in the nave, with a figure in conventual costume, to Agnes Button, dated 1528.

*Alvediston* (4 m. S.E. from Tisbury Station) lies in a hollow at the foot of the South Downs in the Ebele Valley, flanked by the great White Sheet Hill. The church is cruciform, with an embattled tower at the west end, and contains an altar-tomb in the south transept, on which reposes an effigy, in full armour, representing a member of the Gawen family who occupied the adjacent 15th-cent. manor-house for nearly 300 years, the Wyndhams taking possession in 1658. Norrington, as the manor-house is styled, was probably built in the time of Richard II., and there are imposing remains of the old terraces and gardens, as well as of the mansion itself, the hall and porch of which are perfect. "The hall windows are good Perp. and the doorway of the porch has a fine set of mouldings with shafts and deep hollows" (Parker). The remainder is mostly Elizabethan. A splendid view may be obtained by ascending the new road cut to Crockerton Firs, an elevation of 700 ft.

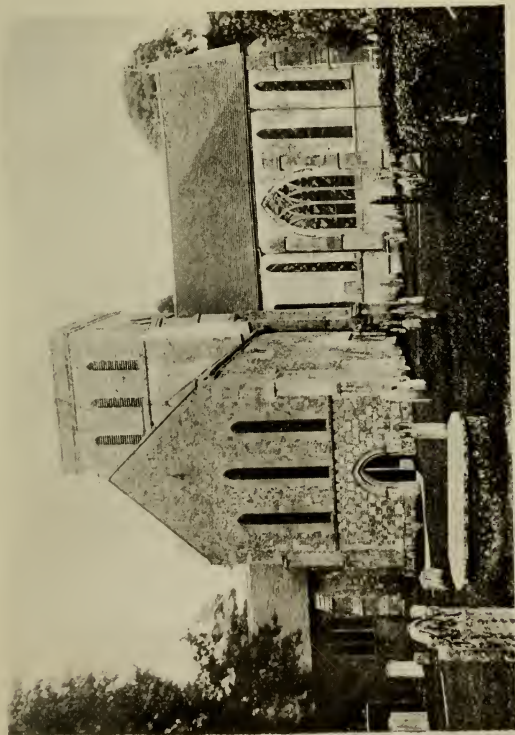
AMESBURY, or *Ambresbury*, has a station on the branch line to Bulford Camp, and is also connected with Salisbury by a service of motor omnibuses. It is admirably situated in the Avon Valley,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  m. from Stonehenge, which lies a little to the east, and 8 m. north of Salisbury. It probably derives

## WILTSHIRE

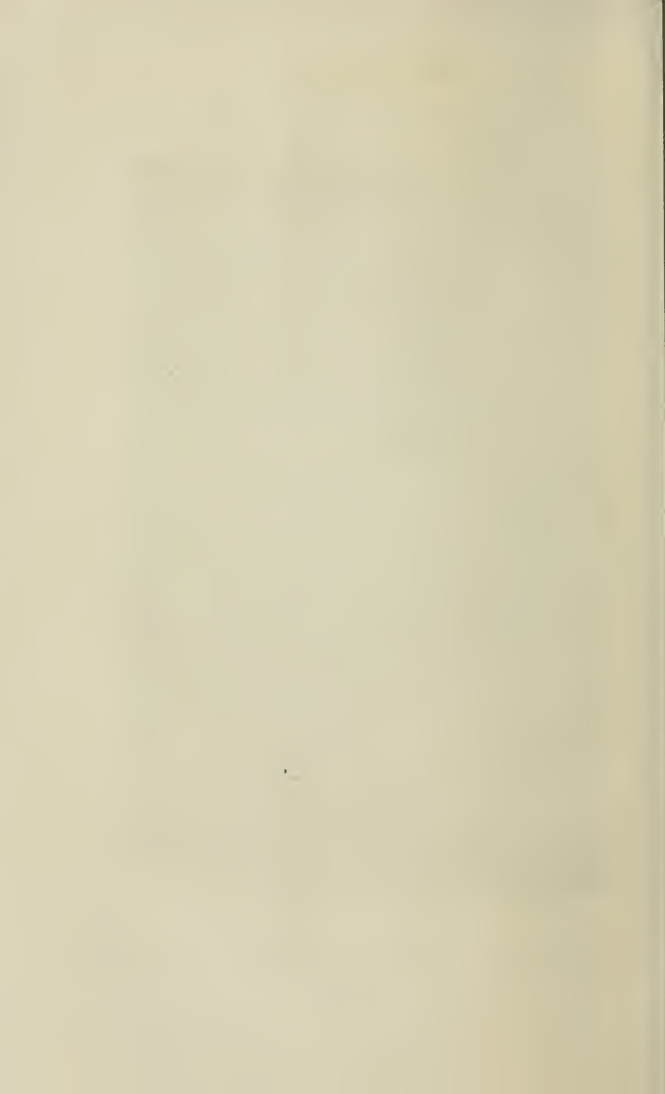
its name from the Anglo-Saxon, *Ambres-burh*, the burgh or town of Aurelius Ambrosius, a British king of the 6th cent., identified by Dr Guest with Natan-leod, the "Prince of the Sanctuary." "The choir or sanctuary of Ambrosius," Dr Guest says, "was probably *the* monastery of Britain, the centre from which flowed the blessings of Christianity and civilization." Readers of the "Idylls of the King" will remember it as the place of Guinivere's retirement.

"Queen Guinivere had fled the court and sat  
There in the holy house at Almesbury  
Weeping, none with her save a little maid,  
A novice."

Tradition says that Sir Lancelot conveyed her body hence to Glastonbury for burial. Towards the close of the 10th cent., a Benedictine nunnery was founded here by Elfrida to expiate the murder of her stepson, Edward the Martyr. The nuns were expelled by Henry II., and the nunnery, annexed to that of Fontevrault, in Anjou, became a priory, with a prioress and twenty-four nuns, mostly ladies of royal or noble birth. Among them at various times were Eleanor of Brittany, a sister of the murdered Prince Arthur; Mary, daughter of Edward I., and her sister Leonora, and Eleanor, widow of Henry III. Catherine of Aragon was here in 1501, when affianced to Prince Arthur. The penultimate abbess, Florence Bormewe, stoutly resisted Thomas Cromwell's overtures for surrender at the Dissolution. "If the king's highness command me to go from this house I will gladly go, though I beg my bread,



AMESBURY CHURCH



## AMESBURY

and as for pension, I care for none." The property ultimately passed to the Lord Protector Somerset, who converted the monastery (it had become a "double" house) into a residence for his son. The house was built from designs of Inigo Jones, or his son-in-law Webb, for the Protector's nephew, but has experienced great alterations, and has largely been rebuilt. The Queensberry family were its possessors for some time, and here Gay, who certainly took a placid delight in the creature comforts, was well looked after by the Duchess, Prior's

"Kitty beautiful and young  
And wild as colt untamed,"

the Duke bestowing personal supervision over his finances. A cave, or stone room, artificially constructed in the centre of a bank overlooking the Avon, and known as "the Diamond," is said to have been the study in which the poet wrote the book of the famous *Beggar's Opera*.

The church is a large cruciform building, of Norm. and E.E. character, with chancel, transepts, nave, and south aisle, and a massive but low central tower. It probably accommodated both monastery and parish, the nave serving for the lay inhabitants, as at Sherborne. The chancel has some Dec. windows, and a recess in the north wall, probably an Easter Sepulchre. At the east end of the north transept is a chapel with double piscina, used as a vestry, and above it a parvise, or priest's room. The church was partially restored in the middle of the last century, and the nave and tower some few years since. In the rear, the

## WILTSHIRE

well-timbered Abbey demesne forms an appropriate background, the Avon, here a most delectable trout stream, flowing through the lovely grounds of Sir Cosmo Antrobus, whose family came into possession of the manor some eighty-five years since.

The great military camps have brought additional importance to the little town which at times is a very busy place indeed. In old days it shared with Broseley, in Shropshire, the distinction of turning out the best tobacco pipes in England. They were marked with a gauntlet, the maker bearing that name, and specimens are to be seen in the Salisbury museum. The "Ramparts," which surmount the wooded hill facing the abbey and form lines of defence enclosing some forty acres, were christened by Stukeley "Vespasian's Camp," but are probably prehistoric.

*Anstey* (2 m. S.E. from Tisbury Station). The small church is cruciform, in E.E. style, and was restored in 1842 and 1878. It is close to the old castle ruins, and at the back of the churchyard are some old buildings said to have belonged at one time to the abbey of Shaftesbury.

*Ashley* ( $1\frac{1}{4}$  m. from Culkerton Station). It has a small Norm. church with some old memorials to members of the Gorges family, and some stained windows.

*Ashton Keynes* has a railway station some little distance from the village, through which the infant Thames runs, crossed by a number of little bridges, many in front of the houses, "the peculiar, the perennial delight" of the place. The church, which has a west tower and a fine Norm. chancel arch, has also a Norm. font, and some old glass in

## ANSTEY—AVEBURY

the east window, and in a window on the south side of the chancel. There are some remains of a monastery adjoining the churchyard, surrounded by a moat, but now converted into a farm-house, and remains of four ancient village stone crosses are to be seen in the village.

*Atworth* (3 m. S. of Corsham Station) is in the centre of a very fascinating district, but does not in itself call for much in the way of comment. The church, rebuilt in 1852, consists of nave only, the old square tower formerly attached to the old church standing in dignified isolation to the north of the new one. There is a quite creditable Jubilee clock tower, erected in 1897, and in the neighbourhood are a number of quarries from which capital building stone is extracted.

AVEBURY (6½ m. from Marlborough Station), is about 8 m. from Calne, and 9 from Devizes. The visitor from Marlborough would do well to make the pilgrimage in one direction, preferably going, on foot, by way of Manton, Clatford Bottom (which is entered through a gate opposite Clatford Farm) and the great cromlech, the "Devil's Den." Continuing up the vale and bearing to the left among the somewhat formidable and bewildering "Grey Wethers," as the wonderful sarsen stones are called, Overton Hill is ascended, and the goal is in sight, as well as a good deal that is interesting and beautiful.

First impressions of Avebury, or Abury, as it is generally called, are somewhat bewildering. The growth of a village within the area enclosed by the circular earth bank, "like some beautiful parasite, grown up at the expense, and in the midst of the

ancient temple," as Lord Avebury puts it, the stone circles having furnished the building material for the intruder, makes an adequate comprehension of the mighty work difficult of attainment, and the difficulty is by no means lessened by the havoc and ruin and *change*, inevitably accompanying the destructive quarrying which has caused hundreds of the stones to disappear. Originally they numbered about six hundred, but now only about twenty are standing, though there are a few buried in the ground. One has to reconstruct the place, as it were, as well as to blot out the village and the houses, and to very carefully study the whole position from the top of the rampart or one of the neighbouring hills, with plans in hand, say the old one made by Aubrey in 1660, the oldest known plan; the "conjectural" one of Stukeley; and the one made after a survey by Sir R. C. Hoare in 1812, in which the houses and roads are left out, to realize at all adequately that we are in the presence of the greatest megalithic monument in the world, "the supposed parent of Stonehenge, the wonder of Britain, and the most ancient, as well as the most interesting relic which our island can produce" (Sir R. C. Hoare). Aubrey's "Cathedral" and "parish church" comparison gradually begins to be understood, and one can only bemoan the too tardy arrival on the archæological scene of the fence, the fee, the policeman, and the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Monuments. The great circular rampart and fosse form the most striking feature of the Temple as now existing. The circular earth bank is some three-quarters of a mile in circumference; it is about 12 ft. broad,





AVEBURY, "DRUID STONES."



## AVEBURY

and some 15 ft. in height, taking an average, above the ordinary level of the land. The ditch or fosse within the bank was formerly of a depth of 30 ft. (now about 15 ft.), which gave a height of 45 ft. from the bottom of the ditch to the top of the bank. Sir B. Windle, in his "Remains of the Prehistoric Age in England," points out that "being inside the rampart, it is evident that its purpose was not defensive," and the general basin-like situation of the earthwork strengthens this view. Rampart and fosse enclose a level grassy area of close on twenty-nine acres, with intersecting roads from the points of the compass dividing it into four very irregular portions on which the village is built with the spoils from the Temple, which have also been laid under contribution for road-making. A Tom Robinson, who flourished in the 18th cent., is said to have been the chief Vandal, but his unenviable notoriety is challenged by one Farmer Green, mentioned by Stukeley as removing the stones from a long barrow near that at West Kennet "to make mere-stones withal," "mere stones," of course being boundary stones. "This wretch," writes Sir B. Windle, in a burst of righteous indignation, "was the great destroyer of the Avebury avenues and circles, and probably removed the peristalith which originally encircled the West Kennet barrow." Between the earthen bank and the rear of the houses are eighteen immense stones, the principal groups being those in a field on the road by which one enters the village from the south, and some of remarkable dimensions in a farmyard near the Red Lion. The weight of the largest is estimated at over sixty tons, and some of the missing

## WILTSHIRE

stones are said to have been considerably heavier. There was formerly a circle of one hundred upright stones, unhewn, which proclaimed them of an anterior period to Stonehenge, placed round the edge of the enclosed plateau about 27 ft. apart. Of the eighteen remaining, eight are now recumbent. In 1722 Stukeley says there were forty-four standing out of the one hundred of which the sites were traceable. Some of the missing ones may have been removed when Lord Scrope, a quarter of a century earlier, interfered with the bank and ditches where the four roads came through, and destroyed a portion of the rampart, on which occasion a large number of burnt bones and horns of animals were discovered.

Stukeley tells us that within the great circle were two separate circles consisting of thirty stones, and within each of these a smaller circle of twelve stones. In the centre of the southern of these rings was a great circular stone, 27 ft. in height, and  $8\frac{1}{2}$  ft. in diameter. The northern ring had three large stones in the centre, measuring 21 ft. long; the middle stone was 16 ft. broad, and 10 ft. above ground. "Tom Robinson" and "Farmer Green," and their like are responsible for their total disappearance. The same antiquary describes *two* avenues of stones, radiating from the south of the Temple, the one in a south-east direction to Overton Hill and West Kennet, the other going south-west to Beckhampton, past the "Devil's Quoits," or Long Stones (probably part of a circle), and on to the barrows on West Down to the south of the Bath Road. The line of the former almost coincides with the road to West Kennet, and in

## AVEBURY

a field on the south of the avenue, nine stones remain in position, while some half-dozen more have been left scattered about on the roadside. The other avenue is more difficult to trace, and as Aubrey, who certainly knew the place well, and who was a particularly shrewd observer, only mentions *one* avenue, the probability is that Dr Stukeley had been indulging his fancy. Certainly there are the two "Long Stones" or "Devil's Quoits" in the field north of the road near Bockhampton, and although they are of bigger dimensions than those of the West Kennet avenue (which is rather against his theory also) they are not enough of themselves to justify the hypothesis of a second avenue, necessary to sustain a fanciful "serpent" theory which Stukeley advanced, the stone avenues ending at its head and tail, and the whole guarding the grave of some mighty chief or king.

The portentous question of course arises—what does it all mean? The Temple, it is pretty generally conceded, was a place of a sacred character in which religious ceremonies of some kind were held, and it is also in all probability associated, as were many of the ancient temples, with something in the nature of a tomb. Like other old temples and tombs, it is, Lord Avebury points out, constructed on the model of a dwelling. The tomb was the house constructed for the dead, and in many cases was the actual dwelling occupied by the owner when living. For protection against the winter cold, northern races built their dwellings more or less underground, communications with the open air being effected by means of long

passages. Earth was piled on the roof for warmth and dryness, and a circle of stones placed round it to keep it in place. "The roof was supported on pillars, and to mark the place in times of deep snow a pillar was placed on the top." Such was the character of stone age tombs, and the tumuli, or barrows, the menhirs, or standing stones, the dolmens, or stone chambers, and the stone circles and avenues were parts of one common plan, the central idea being that of a dwelling. We may regard a perfect megalithic interment as having consisted of a stone chamber communicating with the outside by a passage, covered with a mound of earth, surrounded and supported at the circumference by a circle of stones, and in some cases surmounted by a stone pillar or menhir. The celebrated stone avenues of Carnac, and the stone roads of Avebury, may have been developed specimens of the entrance passage. The hill tribes in India still continue to erect menhirs, cromlechs and gigantic stones often placed in rows, and sometimes in circles, and provide food and offerings for the dead, whose aid is besought, and whose protection is invoked, the tomb gradually becoming a temple as here, where it is not unreasonable to suppose some great chief was buried, and a monument so gigantic raised that its completion by a covering mound had to be dispensed with.

The very interesting old church is just outside the rampart. It has suffered at the hands of the restorer, but it still retains many extremely interesting features. It was originally an aisleless building, dating from before the Conquest, and it

## AVEBURY

is mentioned in Domesday Book. Norm. aisles were added early in the 12th cent. It has a fine Perp. tower, and the chancel, rebuilt in 1879, preserves the 13th-cent. chancel arch. In 1880 two of the old windows of the Saxon church were discovered in the walls of the nave, having rebates for shutters without glazing, flush with the outside walls. The Norm. arcade was removed in 1811 to make room for a Classical one copied from some work of Inigo Jones at Calne. The Norm. shafts, however, remain, and the porch, the large hagioscopes, the south Norm. doorway with zigzag mouldings, and the curious old tub-font, Saxon in character, with later ornamentation (a bishop is represented on one side holding a book in one hand and piercing the head of a dragon with his crozier held in the other), all merit attention. The Rev. Bryan King, so well known in the sixties of last century in connexion with the Ritualistic riots at St George's-in-the-East, was vicar here for over thirty years, and discovered many pre-Norm. remains during the rebuilding of the chancel.

*Avebury House*, the Elizabethan manor-house, occupies the site of an old monastery founded in 1110. At the Dissolution it was given to Sir John Sherrington, who was afterwards deprived of it on being convicted of clipping the coinage at the Bristol mint, of which he was master. The manor then passed to one of the Dunches, who built the present house in 1556, the south front being added in 1601. It is a beautiful old house, well situated among the hills, and surrounded by fine trees and shrubs, and is quite unspoiled, the fine gabled front being specially attractive, while

the old circular dovecot should not pass unnoticed.

*Barbury Camp* (3 m. N.W. from Ogbourne Station) may be readily reached by a pleasant walk over the open downs of the Hackpen Hill range. It is set on a commanding elevation where the escarpment of the Chalk Downs looks across the Vale of White Horse, and it is well marked out by its beech clump visible for many miles round. The camp, some  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. round, is encircled by a double ditch and rampart, the latter of great strength, enclosing over twelve acres. The east entrance is defended by a barbican. Various relics have been dug up here, torques, coins, arrow heads, etc., and many are preserved in the Marlborough Museum. The ancient Ridgeway climbs the hill almost to the Castle or Camp, "paving itself with harebell, silverweed, eyebright, and bartsia." This was one of Richard Jefferies' favourite haunts, and was easily reached from his home at Coate. Barbury has strong claims to be considered that *Beran Byrig* where the Britons were defeated in a decisive battle by the West Saxons under Cynric and Ceawlin in 556.

*Barford St Martin* (3 m. W. from Wilton Station) is on the Nadder. The church, an old stone building, is E.E. and Perp., with chancel, nave, transepts, and central tower, no aisles. Under an arch near the altar is a quaint old effigy in a winding sheet. To the north rises Grovely Wood. Here are Hamshill ditches, remains of prehistoric villages, and the whole district is full of rings, castles and various earthworks, entrenchments and camps, the old Roman road from Old Sarum



## BARBURY CAMP—BEDWYN (GREAT)

passing through the centre of it. About a mile to the south-west is Hurdcott House, a Jacobean house erected in 1630, and much restored and enlarged at the beginning of the 19th cent. From the terrace there is a fine view of the Nadder, which flows through the extensive and well-wooded grounds.

*Baverstock* ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.E. from Dinton Station). The church, in the Dec. style, was well restored by the late Mr Butterfield in 1883.

*Baydon* (7 m. N.E. from Ogbourne Station) possesses an old stone church, twice restored in the 19th cent., partly Norm., with a Perp. embattled west tower.

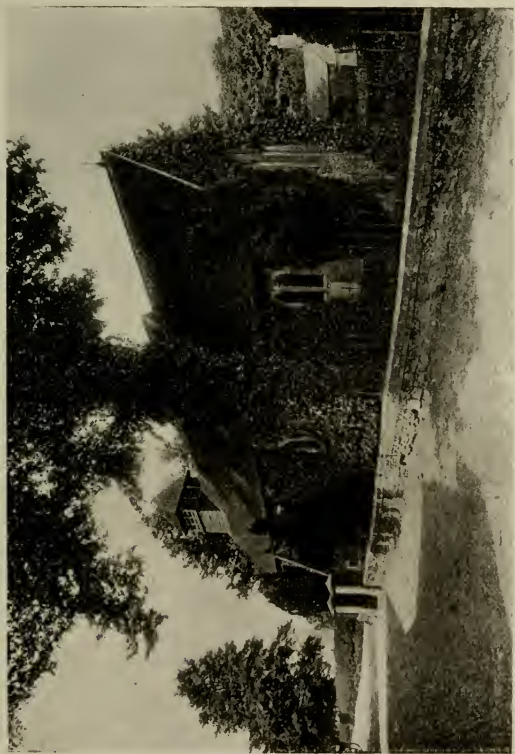
**BEDWYN (GREAT)**, about 5 m. S.W. from Hungerford, has a railway station of its own. Of considerable importance in remote times, when it was the residence of Cissa, the earldorman of the district, and the scene of a struggle in 675, when Wulfhere was establishing the Mercian domination, it was, in Leland's time, "but a poore thing to syght," and apart from its fine cruciform church it has not much to show for its former importance. The old Town Hall mentioned by Cobbett ("Fuimus," the motto of the Bruce family, was the appropriate description on its front) has gone, and also the two members of Parliament; but it is still a market town, and some fairs and markets of importance are held here. The church is well placed just outside the village, with fine trees around. It is a very interesting one, flint built, restored in 1857, cruciform, with a low, massive central tower, a fine E.E. chancel, transepts Dec., with rich windows, and nave

arcade Trans.-Norm., finely moulded, the capitals carved with designs all varying. There are some fine Dec. piscinas in the chancel and south transept, and in the latter, in an arched recess, is a cross-legged effigy in chain mail of Sir Adam de Stokke (*ob.* 1312), and in another recess a slab of Purbeck marble, with a cross incised, to Sir Roger de Stokke. In the chancel is a fine altar-tomb, with a recumbent effigy in full armour to Sir John Seymour, of Wulfall (*ob.* 1536), the father of Jane Seymour and of Somerset, the Lord Protector; a brass with effigy to John Seymour, brother of these; a monument to Frances, daughter of Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, and some good stained-glass memorial windows. Selden, the antiquary, was once M.P. for Bedwyn, and Willis, one of the little group in Caroline times whose labours led to the foundation of the Royal Society, was born here in 1621.

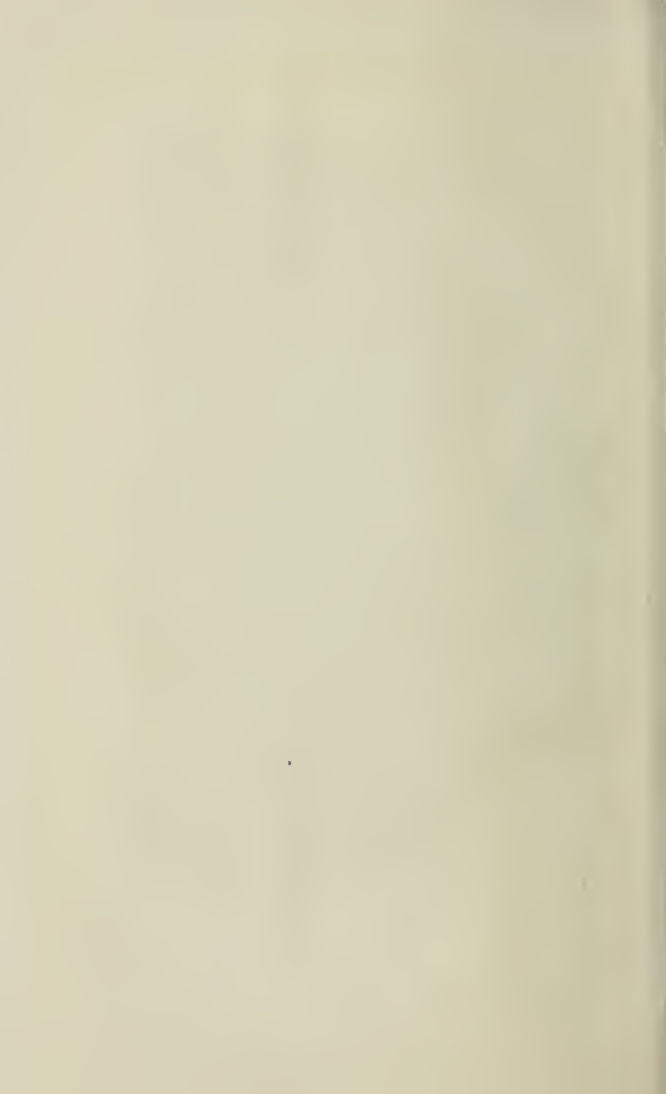
*Bedwyn (Little)* is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.E. from the above. The church is an old stone building, Trans.-Norm. as regards the nave, with round and pointed arches, with the remainder Perp., including a fine western tower with stone spire, well proportioned.

*Beechingstoke* (2 m. W. from Patney Station) has a small Dec. church, with a chancel containing a credence, a stone pulpit with marble shafts, and some good memorial windows (modern). In the neighbourhood, to the south, is an entrenchment enclosing some thirty acres, the site of a British village.

BEMERTON ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. W. from Salisbury) is specially interesting from its connexion with George Herbert, who was rector here, 1630-1632, and



BEVERTON CHURCH



## BEDWYN—BEMERTON

died at the parsonage, "the good and more pleasant than healthful parsonage," as Izaak Walton describes it, in the latter year, at the early age of forty-two. The place is mentioned in Domesday Book. The old rustic church of St Andrew, with its bell-cote tower, which Herbert restored, and within the altar-rail of which he lies buried, is used now for week-day services. It was built in the 14th cent., and consists of chancel, nave and a small wooden turret, and the bells in the little belfry are the same as those rung by the poet on his (Herbert's) institution. A small unpretentious tablet in the chancel, modestly inscribed "G. H. 1633," marks the resting-place of "the sweetest singer that ever sang God's praise." The south and west windows are Dec., the font E.E., and the pulpit canopy and the doorway of Herbert's own period. The outside of the pleasant and roomy flint-built parsonage, which is on the other side of the road, and the garden of which slopes to the placid stream of the Nadder, has the following inscription :—

" If thou chance for to find  
A new house to thy mind,  
And built without thy cost,  
Be good to the poor  
As God gives thee store  
And then my labour's not lost."

The lines, written by the poet, were, it is stated, engraved above the chimney in the hall after some repairs, but in the many subsequent alterations they have vanished thence, although the massive chimney mantel remains, and they are now reproduced, carved in stone, and inserted in the

## WILTSHIRE

outside wall. In the delightful garden is an aged medlar-tree, still green, that Herbert planted, and against the rectory wall a fig-tree, which tradition also associates with him. The new church, St John's, a stone building with a graceful spire not far from the old one, was built in 1860, at a cost of £5000, as a memorial to the poet—poet and scholar, too—indeed, a fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and public orator for eight years. The village lies away from the road on the left, among the trees near the river and hidden away, but it may also be approached from Salisbury through the meadows, a more delectable way, with river and trees and thatched cottages. Herbert, who was born at Montgomery Castle, and educated at Westminster, was a brother of the statesman and writer, Lord Herbert of Cherbury, and a Shropshire Herbert. Other notable rectors of Bemerton were Norris, poet and mystical divine, and Coxe, the traveller and historian.

*Berwick* or *Berwick Bassett* (8 m. S.E. from Wootton Bassett Station). The small church has a good E.E. font, and a carved oak rood-screen and rood-beam Perp. In the chancel is a small brass, with effigy and inscription in Latin, dated 1427, to William Bayly, a priest, who left a small endowment.

*Berwick St James* (3 m. N. from Wishford Station) has a cruciform church of flint and stone with a Norm. north porch and tower, and Norm. front, clerestoried nave, and stone pulpit. The east window is stained, and above it is an ancient fresco, and there is a piscina in the south chapel. Sir Christopher, first Lord Furness, of shipbuilding

## BERWICK—BERWICK ST JOHN

fame, was lord of the manor and resided at the manor-house here.

The church formerly boasted a very interesting 13th-cent. chalice, a unique example of so ancient a piece of church plate kept in continuous use until the last few years. It has, however, after much consideration, been deposited in the British Museum, together with a mediæval paten of about 1500. The chalice, which is parcel-gilt, is  $5\frac{7}{8}$  in. high, and the diameters of the tip of the bowl and the base are each  $4\frac{7}{8}$  in. The paten is much worn.

*Berwick St John* ( $6\frac{1}{2}$  m. S. from Tisbury Station) nestles under a lofty ridge on which is the Winkelbury (A.-S. "Wincelbeorh," the fort at the corner) entrenchment of 12 acres, surrounded by a ditch and a rampart 40 ft. high, from which magnificent views are obtained over Hampshire and the Solent, over Cranborne Chase, and a large portion of Dorset, and over the beautiful chalk valley. General Pitt-Rivers held the work to be originally pre-Roman. He, however, discovered an Anglo-Saxon cemetery here, from which some thirty skeletons were exhumed. The church is an E.E. cruciform building of chancel, nave, and transepts, with a fine low Perp. tower. There are monuments to the Grove and other families, and mail-clad effigies of Sir John Hussey and Sir Robert Lucie. A stone coffin was discovered during one of the restorations. On the ceiling are found the Tudor rose and the arms of the Warwickshire family of Willoughby de Broke, one of whom was rector here in Henry VII.'s reign. A thoughtful rector, the Rev. John Gane, provided by his will in 1735

## WILTSHIRE

for the nightly ringing of the great bell every night for a quarter of an hour during the winter months at eight o'clock, to guide any benighted travellers who might find themselves at that hour on the adjacent downs.

*Berwick St Leonard* (4 m. N.W. from Tisbury Station) is in the Fonthill country, and contains the remains of an old manor-house, once the seat of the Howes, in which William of Orange slept on his way to Salisbury.

*Biddestone* ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. N. from Corsham Station) was formerly in two parishes, St Peter and St Nicholas, now amalgamated. The church of the former has been destroyed, but a relic of it is preserved in the gardens at Castle Combe in the shape of the old bell-turret. St Nicholas, the remaining church, retains its ancient and picturesque Norm. bell-turret over the chancel arch, and the south doorway and font are also Norm. The chancel was restored and a new roof added in 1900 by the authorities of Winchester College, who hold the right of presentation. Some old houses round the village green are worthy of attention, and the tithe-barn near the manor-house also.

BISHOP'S CANNINGS (3 m. N.E. from Devizes Station). The turn leading to the village leaves the Marlborough road about 2 m. out of Devizes, but a pleasant alternative route is that by the canal to the bridge and inn at Horton. The place is mentioned in Domesday Book as "Kainingham," or Canning's Farm, and was evidently a village of great importance. The episcopal prefix comes from the large holding of the Bishop of Salisbury, for Domesday adds:



## BISHOP'S CANNINGS

“The Bishop’s demesne is worth 60 pounds, and what the others hold is only worth 35 pounds.” The beautiful cruciform church, in which the late Trans.-Norm. is dominated by the E.E., is a splendid edifice, impressive and interesting both inside and out. It was probably begun towards the end of the 12th cent. by Bishop Jocelyn, Roger’s successor, and not finally completed till well on in the next century. The central tower has two storeys and a stone spire. The long chancel is vaulted, and the four lantern tower arches and the great piers and arches of the nave are Perp. additions of much beauty. The east and west and the transept windows are E.E. triplets and in the chancel is an E.E. piscina. The south porch has a groined stone roof with a Dec. doorway, and within the porch are traces of a stoup, another being found in the outer wall of the north aisle. In the wall of the south transept is another piscina with stone shelf. In the north transept is a very curious old chair, made of oak, with a seat and desk, but movable. On the back panel an outstretched hand is delineated, and a number of moral maxims are inscribed in Latin on the palm and fingers. Called a “confessional chair,” it was more probably a “carrel” or chair for study and meditation, although it has been suggested as a thoughtful provision for the “feretarius,” or shrine-keeper during his keeping of watch and ward. At the north-east angle of the chancel is a little sacristy, with priests’ room over, having a groined stone roof and two deeply splayed lancet windows. It is the oldest part of the church, and once had a bell-

## WILTSHIRE

turret. The Ernle chantry chapel, east of the south transept, originally dedicated to "Our Lady of the Bower," was conveyed in 1563 to John Ernle, and contains some Ernle monuments and an ancient helmet with the family crest. The organ, erected a century ago, was furnished with an endowment by William Bayley, a native of the village, who sailed with Captain Cook on some of his famous voyages, and who left £600, a quite respectable nucleus, for an "organ fund." The church was carefully restored in 1884 under the direction of Mr Ponting of Marlborough. Four of the church bells, of which there is an excellent peal, date from 1602. Ferraby, the musical vicar, entertained James I. and his queen here with a rustic masque, the vicar representing an old bard, and his scholars, dressed in shepherds' weeds, singing some of his compositions.

*Bishopstone* (4 m. S. from Wilton Station) has a notable cruciform church, placed among some fine beeches. It consists of chancel, nave, transepts and an embattled central tower. The chancel and south transept are excellent late Dec., with vaulted roofs and rich windows. The east window, with its drip moulding, the long side windows, the south chancel door, with crocketed canopy and vaulted recess, and the outside cloister in the wall of the south transept are all notable, as are also the arch leading into the north transept, the rich tomb in the north wall of the latter and the sedilia in the chancel. The altar service of church plate was made at Cologne, and was presented by Bishop Earle, the author of "Microcosmography," in 1663.

## BISHOPSTONE—BOSCOMBE

*Bishopstone* ( $2\frac{3}{4}$  m. S.W. from Shrivenham Station) has an old stone church, late Norm., with considerable Perp. additions. The church was restored in 1883, but a fire in the tower in 1891, which consumed the belfry, necessitated a further restoration, including new bells and clock.

*Bishopstrow* ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.E. from Warminster Station) is charmingly placed in the Wylye valley, the river flowing through the parish. The great camps of Scratchbury and Battlesbury, the latter reached by a remarkable series of parallel terraces or lynchets, probably cultivation terraces, which pervade the valley slope, lie close at hand, on the other side of river and railway. The church was rebuilt in 1757, with the exception of the western tower with its stone spire, and has some good modern stained windows.

*Blunsdon St Andrew* ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.W. from Stratton Station on the Highworth branch of the Great Western). The stone church, E.E. with Dec. and Perp. additions, contains a monument to Lady Susanna Ernle (1669), a brass with figure of an armoured knight, and a tablet to members of the Potenger family. There is a piscina in the chantry chapel, and the base of the shaft of the old village cross is now in the churchyard and serves as a sundial. At Little Blunsdon is another E.E. church, appropriately smaller, and restored in 1869.

*Boscombe* (2 m. N. from Porton Station) has a small old church built of flint and stone, to which Richard Hooker was presented by Archbishop Whitgift in 1591. A part of the rectory house,

## WILTSHIRE

in which the first four books of "Ecclesiastical Polity" were written, is still in existence.

*Bowden Hill* (4 m. N. from Melksham Station) is a parish in the neighbourhood of Lacock Abbey. The road from Calne divides Bowden Park from Spye Park, and there are some fine views in the neighbourhood. The church is modern.

*Bower Chalk* (7 m. S. from Dinton Station) is sometimes known as Burgh Chalk. It nestles under the downs towards Cranborne Chase, and has a small cruciform church, E.E., with tower to the south. The chancel was restored by Lady Herbert of Lea in 1866.

**BOWOOD** (2 m. S.W. from Calne Station) is the famous seat of the Marquis of Lansdowne, situated in a beautiful park, once part of the royal forest of Pewsey, with gardens, pleasure grounds, woods and plantations, extending over an area of 1000 acres. The natural undulations of the ground, the many hills and vales with green roads intersecting them, the noble trees—oak, pines, cedar of Lebanon, cork—and a fine lake of some thirty acres, with an island and heronry, and an outlet over a mass of rock and mossy stones forming a beautiful cascade embowered in trees, combine to make this noble demesne one of the most charming and beautiful in the kingdom. Although art has been called in, and has worked marvels in the beautiful gardens, terraces and pleasure grounds, there is much that is left almost unchanged from the days when a survey of 1653 described it as "late parcel of the possessions of Charles Stewart late King of England," and a wild but beautiful expanse has still much of the charm of the old mediæval days.



BOWWOOD



## BOWDEN HILL—BOWOOD

To visit the gardens and park an order should be obtained from the estate agent; the house is only shown by a special order from Lord Lansdowne. The principal entrance is at the Golden Gates, 3 m. from Chippenham, by an arched gateway, a beautiful drive of about 2 m. through charming woodland, with occasional glimpses of the White Horse and the Lansdowne Column, leading to the front of the mansion, which is ornamented by a grand Doric portico supported by columns, the family arms standing out in high relief on the pediment. If approached in the other direction, from Calne and the east, the Bath road should be taken for some  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. out, and then a turn to the left, passing outside the low wall enclosing the Bowood gardens, which are in full view, and then rejoining the road, from which admittance to the park is soon obtained through a gate in the iron fence.

The mansion is in the Italian style, and was built by the Earl of Shelburne (George III.'s minister) from designs by the Brothers Adam. Various additions render its architecture somewhat irregular; a low wing, 300 ft. long, having been a special annexe, built after the model of a wing of Diocletian's palace at Spalatro, and forming the south side of two courts, containing the library, chapel and conservatory, which last opens on the beautiful terraced gardens. The view from the front here is a very fine one, extending over woods, lake, park and forest to the elevations of the distant downs.

The collection of pictures includes specimens of the best masters of the Italian, Flemish, Spanish, French and English Schools, arranged upon walls of crimson silk. They are too numerous for more

than the barest enumeration. In the drawing-room we now miss Rembrandt's landscape, the famous Mill at sunset; but two portraits by Salvator Rosa, one of himself; L. Carracci, "The Virgin and Child"; A. Carracci, a landscape; other landscapes by Domenichino, P. Wouvermans, and Berghem; several works by Sir Joshua Reynolds, including "Puck in the Sulks," an imaginary "Dr Johnson in Infancy"; a fine sea-piece, by J. Ruysdael; a beautiful head, by J. F. Navarete; a "Virgin and Child," by Titian; a portrait of Peg Woffington, by Hogarth; a sea-view, by Claude; and "A Capuchin Monk," by Wilkie, are still here.

In the library are a famous Raphael, "John the Baptist preaching in the Wilderness," the youth in the green cap being, Waagen says, evidently the portrait of Raphael himself; a Domenichino of renown, "Abraham and Isaac on the Way to Mount Moriah"; a monk and skull, by S. del Piombo; and a Giorgione, in which the artist himself appears as a shepherd.

In the cabinet are two Wilkies, "The Jew's Harp," "Grandmamma's Cap"; a landscape with cattle, by A. Cuyp; a frieze, "A Girl watching a Cat and Ball"; C. Steen, "Doctor and Patient"; Velazquez, two cavaliers, and another, a lady sitting with attendant figures; a landscape by J. Ruysdael, and works by N. Maas, L. Backhuysen, and W. Van der Velde.

In the corridor are a Landseer; a sea-piece by Van der Capella; a landscape by Rembrandt; a Teniers; and various works by Jan Both, Etty, A. Calcott (the Thames with shipping), Goodall, Cope, and other famous artists.



## BOWOOD—BOX

In the dining-room are six landscapes by Clarkson Stansfield, chiefly Venetian and other Italian scenes; and a work by Sir Charles Eastlake, "Pilgrims approaching Rome."

Westmacott's "Hagar in the Desert" is the most notable feature of the sculptures, among which is the bust of the far-famed Mæcenas, who, like the first marquis, its founder, made Bowood and its hospitalities so universally known, and so widely esteemed. We have already mentioned the visits of Mirabeau (to the founder), Talleyrand and Madame de Staël (see Introduction—Celebrated Men), and Talleyrand speaks of meeting there Hastings, Price, Priestley, Romilly and Jeremy Bentham, who found a second home there. Tom Moore said Wiltshire without Bowood was a *mare mortuum*, and he and Crabbe and Bowles of Bremhill frequently represented the Muses there. Within the shades of the woods, and about 1 m. from the house, on Home Hill, is the family mausoleum, built in 1764 from designs by one of the Brothers Adam and dedicated to the first Earl of Shelburne, who died in 1761.

*Box* has a station on the Great Western line, and is 6 m. N.E. from Bath. The church is a 13th-cent. building, with late additions, having both E.E. and Dec. work, with a Perp. tower and spire and a stained E. window. It was restored in 1713, and later in 1897. A Roman pavement was discovered near the garden of the vicarage, where the tall poplars now stand. The stone quarries here are extensively worked, and furnish great quantities of the famous Bath stone. The great tunnel, whose fame has been eclipsed by more

## WILTSHIRE

recent works of the kind, is  $1\frac{3}{4}$  m. long and in places is 300 ft. below the surface. The various strata are displayed in regular succession—the Great Oolite or Bath Oolite, which furnishes the famous building stone; the Fuller's Earth; the Inferior Oolite; and the blue marl, and limestone masses resting upon the Lias.

*Boyton* ( $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S. from Codford Station) is on the Wylye, near Heytesbury. The church is a flint and stone building and a good example of E.E and early Dec. In the Lambert Chapel are some fine windows of the latter period, and two altar-tombs, one with a cross-legged effigy, in chain armour, of Sir Alexander Giffard, who was associated with William Longespée in the Wars of the Crusades. In the south chancel the discovery was made of a decapitated skeleton under a marble slab, and it is thought to be that of a Giffard who was beheaded in the time of Edward II. for his participation in the struggle between the baronage and the king, which ended at Boroughbridge. The church is held to have been built by Bishop Giffard, and was restored by the late Prebendary Fane. The fine E.E doorway of the tower should be noticed, and the sedilia and piscinæ in the chancel and south chapel. The manor-house was built by Thomas Lambert in 1618, and was for some time the residence of the late Duke of Albany.

BRADENSTOKE-CUM-CLACK ( $\frac{3}{4}$  m. S. from Dauntsey Station) is on the edge of the hills which once bounded the old forest of Braden. The remains of the ancient priory, better known as *Clack Abbey*, are now converted into a farmhouse, but portions

## BOYTON—BRADFORD-ON-AVON

of the old building still remain, and are very interesting. The refectory, on the north side of the cloisters; the prior's house at the east and the offices to the west, with the vaulted undercroft with octagonal piers, are excellent early 14th-cent. work. The great hall has some beautiful windows, the buttresses in which they are set being connected with round-headed arches. The interior is divided, and the carved oak roof, with the Dec. ball-flower showing in the beams, must be seen from the upper rooms. The abbey was founded by Walter Devereux in 1142 for Augustine canons, and now belongs to Sir Gabriel Goldney, who built the modern church. Within the grounds is a pilgrim's well, and in the village is an ancient cross, 10ft. in height. The earthwork, with high banks and ditch known as *Clack Hill*, is quite close at hand.

BRADFORD-ON-AVON is on the branch of the Great Western Railway connecting Bath with Trowbridge and Westbury. It is an ancient town, deriving its name from the "broad ford" over the river. It was for a long time the great centre of the manufacture of the famous West of England broadcloth. It is a picturesque old town, built within a delightful recess, and the gable-fronted houses, built of grey stone, and often roofed with the same, mount in pretty confusion in terrace after terrace, up the steep slopes commanding the river valley, with trees here and there at the sides and more at the summit, to add to the beauty and give a welcome touch of relief to the colour scheme. From the hill top the views are lovely in their variety and scope—the town, the river, the old tithe-barn, the Avon Valley and the

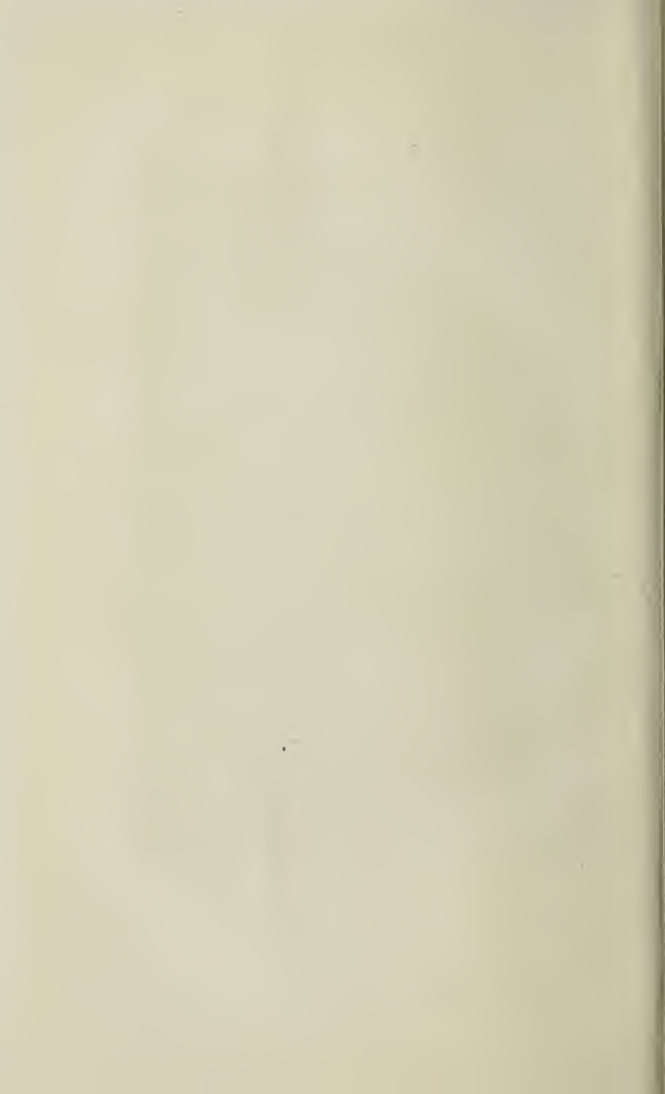
distant downs all coming into the delightful picture. From the river Bradford itself greatly attracts. Italy is strongly suggested.

Its history has been incidentally referred to in the Introduction. A small monastery, with its *ecclesiola*, was founded here by Aldhelm at the commencement of the 8th cent., and in 957 the Witanagemote was held here, and Dunstan, recalled from exile, was made Bishop of Worcester. In 1001 the manor was given to the Abbess of Shaftesbury as a place of refuge for the nuns, and of custody for the relics of Edward the Martyr during the Danish raids. The erection of a large parish church in the 12th cent. is evidence of the growth and prosperity of the town, which, in 1259, was, as a "Burgus," represented by two members in Parliament. The woollen manufacture began to take root in the time of Edward I. and in the reign of Edward III., who encouraged Flemings from the Low Countries to settle here. The Methuens were among the great clothiers of Bradford, and one of them in the 17th cent. greatly improved the output by a fresh importation of Flemish weavers, who formed a little colony by themselves known as "Dutch Barton." Paul Methuen, in 1659, covenanting that they should never be chargeable to the parish.

The old Saxon Church of St Lawrence, which stands by the north-east end of the parish church, is perhaps the greatest of Bradford's many attractions to the antiquarian. It is indeed of general interest; the only complete church of Saxon architecture in England. Freeman speaks of it as "the most ancient unaltered church in England,



SAXON CHURCH, BRADFORD ON AVON



## BRADFORD-ON-AVON

showing the singular analogy between the earlier and later imitations of Roman architecture." It existed for long without its identity being in the least suspected, hemmed in on all sides by various buildings and quite obscured from general view. The chancel had been separated from the rest of the edifice by walling up the chancel arch and inserting flues. It was described as "a building adjoining the churchyard, commonly called the Skull house," and goodness knows what gruesome use it may not have been put to. Early in the 18th cent. Anthony Methuen gave the use of the nave and porch for a parish schoolhouse, and in 1856 the late Canon Jones, standing at the highest point of the town, was struck with what seemed to be the outline of an old ecclesiastical building, with nave, chancel and north porch, almost hopelessly intermixed with the other buildings. Investigations followed, and later on the chancel, used as a gardener's cottage, was purchased, the charity school removed, and the church, vested in trustees, was very carefully restored by Mr Charles Adye. It is generally conceded that this is the *ecclesiola* founded by St Aldhelm, who died in 709, and mentioned by William of Malmesbury. It was a cruciform building, and originally had a south porch corresponding with the one on the north side. Its height is one of its most remarkable features, in the chancel being considerably, and in the nave slightly, greater than the length. There are two sculptured angels over the chancel arch, very early examples of church carving, not later than 10th cent., similar figures being found in the Benedictional of St Æthelwold (970-975).

## WILTSHIRE

Indeed this latter date has been given, by exceedingly competent authorities, as that of the building itself, the double-splayed windows and the nature of the external arcading being adduced as strong evidence of the later date, in which case St Aldhelm's church was its predecessor, and was possibly a wooden structure.

The parish church was well restored in 1865-1866, in Canon Jones's time, and is a spacious building with Norm., Dec. and Perp. work, Fragments of an earlier church, once on this site, are to be seen in the porch of the Saxon church. The western portion of the chancel, which was lengthened early in the 14th cent., and the nave are Norm., and one of the old windows is to be seen in the nave and two of the large Norm. windows have been reopened in the chancel. The east window is Dec., and the tower, with low spire, was added early in the 16th cent. A mortuary chapel on the south side, now used as an organ chamber, was added later. The two recessed tombs, inserted one on the north and the other on the south of the later portion of the chancel, are those of Agnes Hall (*ob.* 1270) and a cross-legged knight, possibly a Crusader, the effigies being under canopies. The north aisle was built in two portions; the western, once a Chantry Chapel of St Nicholas—the reredos remaining as part of the wall—and the eastern a Chapel of the Blessed Virgin, built fifty years later by a wealthy clothier, to whom is to be seen a 16th-cent. brass recording the fact. Gainsborough, who was a frequent visitor here, painted his "Parish Clerk," with Edward Orpin, the veritable



## BRADFORD-ON-AVON

clerk here, for his model. The picture is now in the National Gallery.

The Hermitage, or Tory Chapel, stands at the top of Well-Path Hill, on a sort of terrace—"Tory"—at the very top of the town, of which it commands an excellent view. It is mentioned by Leland, and Aubrey writes of it: "On the top of the north hill, above Mr Methwyn's, is the finest hermitage I have seen in England, several rooms and a very neat chapel of freestone." It is a small Perp. building that had fallen into sad decay. It was restored in 1870. It was a "hospitium," with a chapel, in which the wayfarer could pray, a refectory, in which he might eat and a room in which he could sleep.

The old Hospital of St Margaret, mentioned by Leland, has completely vanished. The "Chantry House," Barton orchard, now occupied by Captain Tothill, R.N., is near the north door of the church. It was built by Thomas Horton de Iford early in the 16th cent. and is spoken of by Leland as "Horton's House." Inigo Jones added two rooms. Leland also mentions the "Church House," reached by passing down Church Street and past Druce Hill. It is a 15th-cent. building, in which the parish business was transacted and in which the parish festivities, Church-Ales, Whitsun-Ales, etc., were indulged in. The Old Priory, reached by a steep hill from the market place, was chiefly built in the 15th cent., although commenced in the reign of Henry VI. and was for more than one hundred years the residence of the Methuens, one of whom negotiated the famous Methuen treaty with Portugal in the reign of Queen Anne which

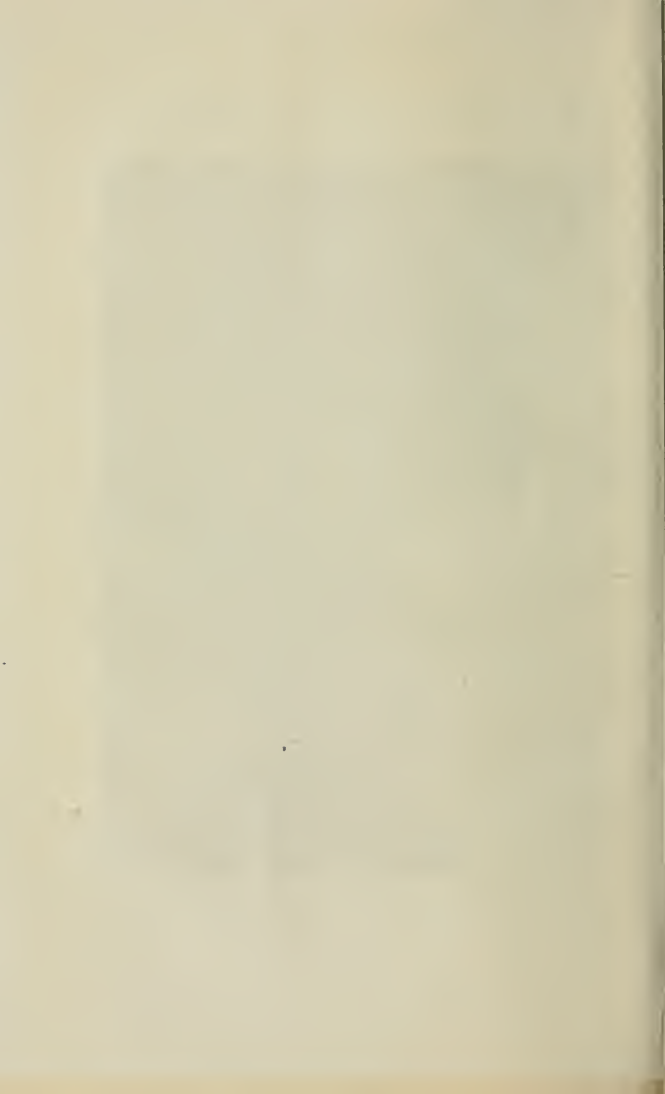
brought port wine into fashion in England, while it doubtless increased the market for broadcloth and other English manufactures in the Peninsula. The house never had any connexion with any ecclesiastical establishment.

The town bridge, with the interesting chapel on its eastern side, is a prominent feature of the town. It was originally used only for pack-horses and foot-passengers, the heavy conveyances passing by the broad and shallow ford, but it has been both lengthened and widened. Aubrey described it as "a strong handsome bridge with a chapel for masse." The lower portion of the chapel, with the fine corbelling and well-designed pier-shaft, specially built for its support, probably belonged to the Hospital of St Margaret, and in evil times it was used as a Blind House, as the lock-up was termed. These chapels on bridges are not very numerous. There is one at Bâle and there was one on Old London Bridge, a large one dedicated to St Thomas à Becket, and others at Wakefield, Rotherham and Bath.

THE HALL, sometimes termed the Duke's or Kingston House, is the most notable of the many fine houses in the neighbourhood, "built upon wool-packs," to name one of their foundations. It is a beautiful specimen of domestic architecture. Jacobean in general style. Canon Jones describes it as "transition between old Tudor or Perp. and the new or Palladian style." It was built at the end of the 16th and beginning of the 17th cent., Giovanni of Padua having been concerned in its erection, and commenced by John Hall, a member of a famous family of cloth workers. By marriage



THE BRIDGE, BRADFORD ON AVON



## BRADFORD-ON-AVON

it passed through a Baynton to the Pierreponts, Dukes of Kingston, and the notorious duchess sometimes resided here. The windows are excessive, even for the style of the period, and the ornamentation heavy and somewhat un-English, but the south front, two-storeyed, with attics in the gables and large bay windows with thick stone mullions, their summits surmounted with open parapets, is exceedingly fine, the large sculptured doorway to the porch, and the terrace, with steps and parapet, contributing to the generally imposing effect.

The BARTON FARM is one of the famous places in this mine of archæological and architectural treasure, and that chiefly on account of the great Tithe-Barn, an interesting account of which appeared in *The Antiquary* in July 1903, from the pen of Mr F. B. Andrews, A.R.I.B.A. It was formerly the property of the Abbey of Shaftesbury, and has been continuously used as a barn from the time of its erection, early in the 14th cent., to the present day. It has experienced but little change, the fine oak timbers of the roof, with curved principals let into the massive stone walls to minimize the lateral thrust, being a notable testimony to the ingenuity as well as the skill of the original builders. The barn is 168 ft. in length, built of and roofed with stone; the width is 33 ft.; the side walls are 2 ft. 6 in. thick and the end walls, 4 ft. thick, rise 39 ft. to their apices. It has been compared to a long nave with double transepts, and has two arched entrances on the north, 20 ft. in width, with chamfered mouldings and buttressed angles, and a small door at the side of each, the south wall having two smaller porches. An old

## WILTSHIRE

room attached to the farmhouse is called the "Hall" and is the solar of a chamber of the same date as the barn, with its original window, the whole being in an excellent state of preservation.

The men's almshouses, built in 1700 by John Hall, and the women's almshouses, a pre-Reformation foundation, have both been restored and rebuilt. "The Shambles," a narrow thoroughfare named after a former meat-market, has two Tudor gabled houses with fine timber fronts with strawberry-leaf carving round the barge-board of the gables.

*Bradley (North)* (2 m. S. from Trowbridge Station) has a stone Perp. church with two stained windows, and some 15th.-cent. monuments to the Stafford family, one being to John Stafford, Archbishop of Canterbury (1443-1452), who had a residence at Southwick manor near by. It is now a farmhouse, but retains the moat and some of the chapel ruins. The church has also various memorials to the Long family.

BRATTON (1½ m. W. from Edington Station) is about 3 m. from Westbury. It is prettily placed under the shelter of the downs on the edge of the Pewsey Vale and is famous for its camp or castle and its White Horse. The church is E.E. and Perp., restored in 1860. It nestles literally against the down and is approached from the upper part of the village by curious but easy stone steps and a sort of causeway, the whole giving one the idea of a small viaduct. There is a small brass to one Seeton Bromwich, who purchased the "Gravnge and Farme" and who "departed this transitorie lyfe" in 1607. The camp is at

## BRADLEY (NORTH)—BREMHILL

the top of one of the high hills which mark the northern limits of Salisbury Plain, and is 750 ft. above sea-level. Some 23 acres are comprised in the irregular enclosure, the ramparts being double in places, and sometimes as high as 35 ft. It is one of the family that mark the line of the chalk escarpment both of the plain and Marlborough Downs, strongholds, places of defence, places of refuge. Camden and other antiquarians, including Sir R. C. Hoare, think it probable that Guthrum retired here after his defeat by Alfred at the battle of Ethandune in 878, the said battle, in their opinion and that of many others, having been fought in or near the neighbouring village of Edington, about a mile away. The great White Horse cut on the slope of the down below the camp is supposed to commemorate Alfred's victory. It is at anyrate the most ancient of the White Horses of Wiltshire and its dimensions alone entitle it to respect: 180 ft. from head to tail; 107 ft. high at the shoulder, and with an eye 25ft round. It has been remodelled more than once, notably towards the close of the 18th cent. It was cleansed and restored in 1873, when the "spirited" figure of the horse was "rectified."

BREMHILL (2 m. N.W. from Calne Station) has an interesting church and a prettily situated parsonage, both intimately associated with the poet Bowles, who held the living here, and of whom his friend and brother poet, Tom Moore, writes anent the parsonage: "He has frittered away its beauty with grottoes, hermitages and Shenstonian inscriptions: when company is coming he cries, 'Here, John, run with the crucifix and

## WILTSHIRE

missal to the hermitage, and set the fountain going.' His sheep-bells are tuned in thirds and fifths, but he is an excellent fellow notwithstanding." He had many distinguished visitors, and was himself *persona grata* at Bowood. A writer in *The Athenæum* recently alluded to him as "this natural and tender poet," and spoke of the obligations of both Coleridge and Wordsworth to him, mentioning particularly "their verbal borrowings from him which were more in number than is generally supposed." There is some work in an angle of the tower of the church usually held to be Saxon, but the building generally is Trans.-Norm. with Perp. additions. The chancel and the arcade of the nave have been rebuilt with the old material. The font is late 12th-cent. work. There is a Perp. western tower, and a stone groined south porch of the same style, with a room above, and a sanctus bell-cot on the roof of the nave. There is a monument in the chancel to the last Hungerford of Cadenham, who died in 1698.

*Brinkworth* has a station on the Great Western Railway, and is about 4 m. N. of Dauntsey. It is pleasantly placed on the extremity of a grassy ridge. The church is Perp., with chancel, which has been restored, nave, aisles, south porch and western tower. The old pews and gallery are retained and there are hagioscopes north and south of the chancel, an ancient communion-table and a Jacobean pulpit and sounding-board, as well as some remains of old fresco paintings. Some of the Penns once resided in the neighbourhood, at Penn Lodge.



## BRINKWORTH—BROAD CHALK

BRITFORD or *Burford* is 2 m. S.E. of Salisbury. The church is a cruciform building, with a large embattled central tower and low spire. It is of the Dec. period, and was restored under the supervision of Mr Street in 1873. A special feature, and one of considerable interest, are the three semi-circular arches in the nave, two at the east end, and one at the west. They have been opened out and may be minutely examined. The best authorities claim them as A.S. work of the 9th cent., although they have been held to be Roman arches *in situ*. They appear to have led into aisles. The mausoleum or tomb to the Bouverie family is to the north of the chancel. The altar-tomb in the chancel, sculptured with figures of saints, was connected for some time with the Duke of Buckingham executed by Richard III., but its identity is by no means established. In the chancel is a dwarf effigy of a male figure holding a cup. The parsonage is a fine specimen of brick-work.

*Brixton-Deverill* ( $4\frac{1}{2}$  m. south from Warminster Station) is one of five contiguous villages named in part after the Deverel stream which runs through the parish. It is claimed by Hoare as the Petra *Ægbryhti*, or *Ægbryht's Stone*, where Alfred stayed on his march to encounter the Danes. The fact that Domesday mentions Brictric as its lord, however, is rather damaging to Hoare's derivation of the prefix. The church is an old stone building, restored in 1862 but retaining the Trans. chancel arch. The old manor-house adjoins the east end of the church.

*Broad Chalk* (8 m. S.W. from Salisbury) is in

## WILTSHIRE

the heart of the Vale of Chalk or Ebele Valley. The church is a large cruciform building, chiefly 13th cent. with Perp. additions, the chancel and north transept being E.E. and the nave and tower 15th cent. There is an aumbry in the north transept and E.E. sedilia in the chancel. The Rev. Rowland Williams, whose name was once well known in connexion with the "Essays and Reviews" controversy, was for some time vicar here. The lych-gate was erected to his memory by his widow. Aubrey, although born at the other end of the county, resided here for some years and greatly delighted in the beautiful, open country.

*Broad Hinton* (4 m. S.E. from Wootton Bassett Station) lies in the chalk ledge below Hackpen Hill. It has an interesting church, E.E. with Perp. tower, dedicated to St Peter ad Vincula. It was restored in 1880. The oak roof of the nave (1634), with combined hammer and tie beam work, is noteworthy, as are also the various monuments; one, a very elaborate one, to Sir Thomas and Lady Wroughton and eight kneeling children, dated 1597, and another, with life-size alabaster figure to Colonel F. Glanville, killed at Bridgewater, 1645. There is also a memorial to the great Duke of Wellington, who was lord of the manor at his death, and a tablet to Sir John Glanville, the great lawyer, who was Speaker of the Short Parliament of 1640. Evelyn tells us that he burned his "very fair dwelling" to prevent its being garrisoned by the rebels, and took up his abode in the gate-house.

*Broad Town* is a civil parish between Cliffe

## BROAD HINTON—BROMHAM

Pypard and the above. It has a small wooden church but does not call for any particular comment.

*Brokenborough* ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.W. from Malmesbury Station) is on the Gloucestershire border. It has a small stone church in E.E. style.

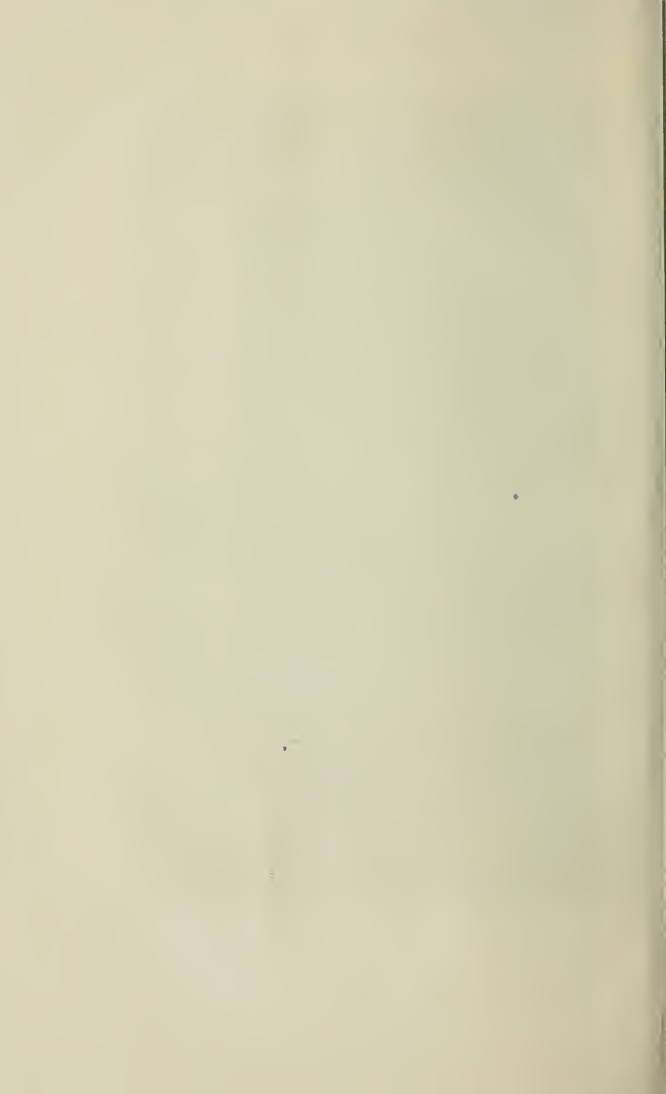
BROMHAM (3 m. N.E. from Seend Station) is a little over 4 m. N.W. from Devizes. Leaving that town by the Bath road, take the right fork at Dunkirk Hill, a little way out, and proceed through Rowde, or the pedestrian may take to the towing path at the town bridge and proceed the length of the wonderful locks, when a short walk by a cross-road will lead him quickly to Rowde also. About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the old village, and a little beyond the inn, a field path on the left soon leads to Bromham church, a fine Perp. building, with nave, chancel and south aisle, and central tower with octagonal spire, 110 ft. in height. The nave was Norm. and there are traces of small windows of the period, in the north wall. The chancel was rebuilt in 1865 in its original E.E. style. It retains a hagioscope and a credence with trefoil-headed arch. The exceedingly interesting chancel aisle, the Bayntun or Beauchamp Chapel, was built by Richard Beauchamp, second Baron St Amand, who died in 1508. He founded therein a chantry, dedicated to Our Lady of St Nicholas, much ornamented both inside and out, the flat panelled ceiling being divided into compartments, gilt and highly decorated, while the exterior has an embattled parapet with pinnacles and panelling. In the centre of the east wall above the roof is a canopied niche, and inside is

another against the same wall. In the centre of the chapel is an altar-tomb of Purbeck marble, with a well-preserved recumbent effigy, in full armour, of Sir Roger Tocotes or Touchet (*ob.* 1457). There is a canopied tomb to his wife Elizabeth, and a brass effigy of a kneeling figure in the costume of the time. On the floor is a brass effigy of John Bayntun (1516), and against the south wall is a canopied tomb to Sir Edward Bayntun (*ob.* 1578), with brass effigies of his two wives and children, represented kneeling. There are various other tombs and memorials of the Beauchamp, Bayntun and Starky families. Two lofty Perp. arches communicate with the chancel, and another with the south aisle, which has a flat stone groined roof with a large central pendant. The stained west window, representing the Last Judgment, was put up in memory of Thomas Moore, who resided during a great part of his life at Sloperton Cottage and is buried in the north side of the churchyard, where a fine Celtic cross was erected to his memory in 1906. A field path leads from the lower end of the ancient village, with its picturesque old houses planted irregularly near the church, and the ancient almshouses founded by a Bayntun in 1612, to Sloperton, which is about 1 m. away.

Old Bromham House was once a very famous mansion, built in Henry VIII.'s time, partly, according to Leland, with the spoils of Devizes Castle and Corsham Manor-House. It was "nearly as large as Whitehall and fit to entertain a king"; a use it was more than once put to in the reign of James I. It was destroyed in 1645 during the Great Rebellion, only a part of one wing, which



TOM'S MOORE'S COTTAGE, SLOFERTON



## BROMHAM—BULFORD

is incorporated in Bromhan Home Farm, remaining. In its turn it partly went to enrich another demesne, Spye Park, the fine embattled gateway of which was constructed largely from its ruins. In the time of Edward the Confessor the lordship of Bromham was confided to Earl Harold.

*Broughton Giffard* (2 m. W. from Melksham Station) has an old stone church, partly E.E. but principally Perp. It was restored in 1878 and contains a curious old brass to Robert Long. The old house at the cross-roads was built by Sir John Horton in 1629 and Monkton Farmhouse, a large old building, is said to owe its erection to a son of Lord Protector Somerset. There is another old house, The Common, built in 1700, that should be mentioned.

BULFORD is connected by rail and motor bus with Salisbury, and by the former with Andover Junction and the main line. The place is now given over to the military authorities, who have acquired manorial and various other rights, and have made here a great permanent military camp—a town of corrugated iron, supplemented in the district by a vast number of camps and barracks. The neighbourhood is wonderfully healthy, and has been compared to the rolling prairies of the Canadian north-west by that most competent of authorities on both, Mr A. G. Bradley, who proclaims a very strong physical affinity between the two. A resemblance is also found to the South African veldt, and Bulford, nestling in the hollow of the downs, has been credited with a remarkable likeness to Ladysmith. The pretty church is an old stone building in E.E. style, much restored.

## WILTSHIRE

The Soldiers' Homes and Institutes, notably the one associated with Miss Perks, are admirably planned and equipped. The fine view from Beacon Hill should on no account be missed.

*Bulkington* (3 m. S. from Seend Station) has a small stone church, modern, and the remains of an old market cross.

*Burbage* (1 m. S.W. of Savernake Station) is a pretty village with an interesting church, sheltered by large sycamores. It was rebuilt in 1854 with the exception of the Perp. tower. Among the numerous stained windows is one to Bishop Denison.

*Burcombe* (2 m. W. from Wilton Station) has a small stone church of considerable antiquity, formerly attached to the Hospital of St John at Ditchampton. It is Dec. in style, and there are traces of late Anglo-Saxon work at the east end of the chancel, which is doubtless a portion of an older edifice.

*Buttermere* (5½ m. S. from Hungerford) is on the Berkshire boundary, in the immediate neighbourhood of Inkpen Hill, the highest chalk down in England, 1011 ft. above sea-level. Buttermere is on an eminence of considerable elevation. The small E.E. church, with nave and chancel and central tower with spire, was restored in 1852.

CALNE is connected with Chippenham and the Great Western system by a short branch line. It is an ancient town, a borough by prescription, pleasantly placed, interesting in itself, and in the middle of a very interesting district, whose attractions have a fascinating variety. It is connected



## BULKINGTON—CALNE

with Marlborough by a motor bus service which passes through Cherhill and West Kennet, and which affords a ready means of visiting Silbury Hill and Avebury. Attractions of another kind are found at Bowood and Spye Park, at Lacock Abbey and Bromham and at Compton Bassett. Its story is that of so many of the Wiltshire and West of England towns in material matters. It long "stood by cloth making alone," and when the staple industry went away to the north the prosperity of Calne to a large extent went with it. Not altogether, however, for Calne has become the great centre for the production of that famous "Wiltshire bacon" which is as familiar in our mouths, or so we imagine, as household words. The Messrs Harris have two large bacon-curing establishments here, which deal with some 100,000 pigs per annum, and Calne sets the prices for pigs for the county, if not for the country. Some large works for the manufacture of agricultural machinery supplement the bacon industry.

Historically the town has no very great importance, but one episode that occurred here in pre-Norm. times is both interesting and amusing. A witan or council, adjourned from Winchester, met here in 978 to settle a matter of ecclesiastical discipline, the question at issue pertaining to the celibacy of the clergy. The old British Church had always, since pre-Augustinian times, shown a tendency opposed to celibacy, and here, where East and West meet, the old church and the new assembled to settle this important question. St Dunstan was the celibate champion, and at the height of the discussion the floor of the building

## WILTSHIRE

gave way and the anti-celibates found themselves among the ruins with St Dunstan and his friends calmly surveying their discomfiture. This was claimed as an omen which should be accepted as settling the matter, but there were not wanting those then, as always, who protested that the miraculous happening was neither more nor less than a "put-up job," the celibates being charged with secret interference with the structure of the building. There is nothing left of the castle except the name, which is preserved in Castle House, a private mansion.

The church is a very good one, with an attractive exterior, approached by yew avenues and in portions prettily ivy-clad. It is a large and important building, chiefly Trans.-Norm. and E.É., with Perp. and later additions, and has double aisles to the nave, chancel with chantry chapels, north and south porches and a tower rising over the north transept. The old central tower fell in 1628. The pillars of the nave and the arches between the nave and aisle are massive Trans. Norm. The north-west arches are plain but others have the billet and dog-tooth moulding. There is an ancient piscina in the chapel of the south aisle, which aisle is dedicated to St Edmund of Abingdon, and which, for some peculiar and quite unknown reason, was long known as the "Horse Market." The chancel was damaged at the time the tower fell and was rebuilt with fairly good effect. The oak roof should be mentioned and the Perp. west window of five lights. The reredos was designed by the late Mr Pearson, R.A., who superintended a restoration in 1882, when

## CALNE

a new screen was erected at the entrance of St Edmund's Chapel, and a new porch built. The reredos is of Corsham stone and brilliant with gold and colour, the Adoration of the Magi, the Crucifixion and the Ascension being represented. A prior restoration in 1864 was superintended by Mr Slater. The ancient parish chest remains, and there are several memorial windows. Next to various worthies in the churchyard, "but in nought allied," lies Inverto Boswell, "King of the Gypsies."

Calne is distinguished for its public spirit, wisely fostered by its leading townsmen and their distinguished neighbours. The old Town Hall was taken down nearly thirty years ago, and the site, given by the Marquis of Lansdowne, was laid out as a garden by Mr Thomas Harris. The new Town Hall has replaced the old Town Hall, and is a good stone building in Tudor style that serves a variety of purposes—Council Chamber, Corn Exchange, Assembly Rooms, and Police Station—and over two-thirds of its cost was raised by voluntary contributions. There is an excellent Free Library and Newsroom, and quite a model Secondary School which incorporates some old charities, and is administered by a composite body of governors presided over by Lord Lansdowne.

Calne has associations with many distinguished men. S. T. Coleridge was here for some time (1814-1816), the guest of a kind-hearted Mr Morgan. Hartley Coleridge says the people were good, comfortable, and unintellectual, and adds, "I always thought S. T. Coleridge more than

usually pleasant here." Dr Priestley was here between 1770 and 1780 and was much at Bowood, where he was librarian and literary companion to the Earl of Shelburne. Speaker Abercromby, Macaulay, and Robert Lowe, are among its former distinguished representatives in Parliament, the Lansdowne family having exercised a very commendable discretion in what was for some time not very far removed from a pocket borough.

CASTLE COMBE (3 m. S. of Badminton Station) is a famous beauty spot romantically placed near the Somerset border. It has an ancient history associated with its earthworks, ditches and ramparts, enclosing some nine acres, on a site where a Norman castle was subsequently built. The Fosse-way from Bath to Cirencester passes near, and a Roman villa and cemetery were discovered about 1 m. to the west. The place originally belonged to the Dunstanvilles—*i.e.* in early Norman days, and passed to the Scropes towards the end of the 14th cent., remaining in their family for 500 years. The church was restored and largely rebuilt in 1851. The pinnacled Perp. western tower, under which is the chief entrance, with fine fan traceried roof, was built early in the 15th cent., the wealthy clothiers contributing liberally towards the expense. There is an east window, with four E.E. lancets, and some good stained glass merits attention. A window in the Lady Chapel has the arms of the various lords of the manor. There are figures of canopied saints upon pedestals sculptured in full relief on the chancel arch, and there is an altar-tomb, with



CASTLE COMBE



## CASTLE COMBE—CHALFIELD

effigy in chain armour, to one of the Dunstanvilles who died in 1270.

The manor-house on the old road to the castle is not far from the church, and, with its pleasant park, is beautifully placed in a little valley that pierces the hills, whose steep slopes, with their hanging woods, make a very delightful picture. It has a fine front, and the terrace garden adds to the effect. The *Dowry House*, at the end of the High Street, is also an interesting 17th-cent. house, standing among the many old buildings with gabled fronts and mullioned windows. The old Market Cross consists of a square stone pedestal upon two steps, ornamented with shields and roses on panels. A stone pier, some 6 ft. high, supports a high-peaked tiled roof of pyramid shape and pinnacle top.

*Castle Eaton* (4 m. N. E. from Cricklade Station) is prettily placed in the meadows through which the swift stream of the infant Thames flows. The quaint church stands just above the stream. It is a strong stone building, Norm. and E.E., with Perp. additions. The octagonal stone turret for the sanctus bell, the shape that of the more familiar wooden ones, is a special feature. There is a painting of the Virgin and Child on the north wall, and a marble monument to Walter Parker (*ob.* 1664) in the tower.

CHALFIELD (GREAT) ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.W. from Holt junction Station) is especially interesting by reason of its fine 15th-cent. manor-house. It is unfortunately incomplete, having been terribly mauled some century ago, and the interior has been much modernized, but enough remains to enable us to realize very fairly the days when,

## WILTSHIRE

as a modern writer well puts it, from the decay of the old feudal time with its structural expression of fortified castle, moat and battlement, emerged the English country gentleman, "and hand in hand with him, reflecting his mien and aspect, hospitable and homely, with its wide-spreading Tudor arches and broad, comfortable mullions, there appears his architectural counterpart, the manor." Great Chalfield was built by Thomas Tropnell, who died in 1490. The north front is its most impressive feature, and the gable end that remains preserves the general effect of the original plan, although the guest-chamber behind the eastern oriel has been pulled down. The farm-buildings, of Elizabethan date, notably the fine 16th-cent. domestic barn, occupy the first court, and an arched gateway leads to the forecourt. The hall is in the centre of the building with the two-storeyed porch on the right, and on the left another projection contains the window lighting the daïs. The two side gables each contain a beautiful oriel window, the one to the left being an exceedingly fine example. Walker's "Domestic Architecture of the Middle Ages," and Pugin's "Examples of Gothic Architecture" give good engravings of the place in its former state, with the stone masks still preserved, but not now in their places, by which the hall could be viewed from the upper chambers. The groined roof of the porch and the carved bosses, the groining of the windows in the bays on each side of the daïs, the ceiling, nearly flat, with finely moulded beams, carved bosses, and shields, are notable features of the interior. The whole group of buildings, and the



## CHALFIELD (GREAT)—CHARLTON

little church that adjoins, are surrounded by a moat, but there are no other signs of defensive preparation than two small bastions, and they seem to be additions of a later date, when the house, like so many others, had perforce to do what military service it could at the time of the Great Rebellion. The pretty little church has suffered, like the house, but retains some very interesting features. It is E.E. with Perp. additions, notably the bell-turret with spire, and the west porch. A fine stone screen separates the chancel from the nave, and was, with the south chapel, erected by the Thomas Tropnell, who built the manor-house, his arms and his motto, "Le joug tira belement," being displayed. A well-conceived and considerable restoration of the house has lately been undertaken by the owner, Mr Fuller, of Neston Park.

*Chalfield (Little)*, farther west, calls for no special comment.

CHARLTON (2½ m. N.E. from Malmesbury Station) has a stone church, E.E. in style, with chancel, nave, south chapel, south porch, and a central tower. In the south chapel is the vault of the Earls of Suffolk, and in the chancel a canopied tomb with two recumbent figures. There are some modern stained windows, chiefly to members of the Suffolk and Berkshire family, to whom pertains *Charlton Park* and its beautiful Jacobean mansion, now much modernized, but the older portion of which was built by Sir Thomas Knyvet in the reign of James I. The east front is an 18th-cent. addition; the beautiful west front is attributed to Inigo Jones. The centre court has been

## WILTSHIRE

furnished with a roof. The long oak-panelled gallery retains its original ceiling with pendants, and contains a large number of family and other portraits and various works of famous artists, the old masters being well represented. There is a Murillo, the Assumption; two Vandyck portraits, a portrait of Catherine Howard by Holbein; others by Mytens and Mark Gerrard and Cornelius Jansen; a St Cecilia by Domenichino, and a full-length portrait by the same of the widow of Cosmo II. of Tuscany; landscapes by Ann Carracci (with the Flight into Egypt); by Claude and by Jaspar Poussin; several portraits by Lely, and many other examples of well-known artists. John Dryden, who married Lady Elizabeth Howard in 1663, was here during the time of the Great Plague and Fire, and wrote the "Annus Mirabilis" here in 1666. The park is beautiful and well wooded, and covers some 600 acres.

*Charlton* ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. S. from Woodborough Station) is in the south part of the Pewsey Vale, on the fringe of Salisbury Plain where the Avon turns westward. The church, of flint and stone, is of E.E. style and contains two good screens and a mural brass to William Chancery (*ob.* 1424). Stephen Duck, the "thresher poet," was born here but is more familiarly associated with Marlborough, where he was one of the muses of the grotto, fashioned "like Mr Pope's at Twickenham." Swift writes:—

"The Thresher Duck could o'er the Queen prevail,  
The proverb says, 'no fence against a flail,'  
From threshing corn he turns to thresh his brains,  
For which her Majesty allows him gains;

## CHARLTON—CHERHILL

Tho' 'tis confessed that those who ever saw  
His poems think them all not worth a straw.  
Thrice happy Duck ! employed in threshing stubble  
Thy toil is lessened, and thy profits double."

Queen Caroline gave him a pension and made him a Yeoman of the Guard, but he afterwards entered holy orders, and became rector of Byfleet. He drowned himself in a fit of madness in 1750. An annual dinner for threshers and labourers held at the "Charlton Cat" keeps his memory green, the funds coming from the rent of a field given by the Lord Palmerston of his day.

*Charlton*, near Downton, and a little to the south of Salisbury, is, like the preceding village, on the Salisbury Avon, in a beautiful district, with fine views over the Avon Valley and part of the New Forest.

*Cherhill* (3 m. E. from Calne Station) is on the motor bus route to Marlborough. The old stone church, of 14th-cent. date, was restored in 1863. The Cherhill "White Horse," very well executed, was cut on a slope of the Chalk Down in 1780, by Dr Alsop, of Calne, and being on very high ground it is visible 30 m. away in clear weather. From head to tail it measures nearly 160 ft. The Lansdowne Column, which crowns the steep hill, is another very prominent feature here. It is 125 ft. high, and was built to commemorate the birth of King Edward VII. The old timber-built barn must be mentioned. It is 111 ft. long, and 38 ft. wide, and dates from the 15th cent. Like the great tithe barns at Abbotsbury and elsewhere, its design is semi-ecclesiastical, with nave and aisles, and suggestions

## WILTSHIRE

of transepts. The old-fashioned thatched cottages and other ancient buildings add to the charm of this delightful little village.

*Cheverell (Great)* ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Lavington Station) has an ancient E.E. church with Perp. turreted western tower. There is an old piscina in the chancel, and a marble monument in the north transept to James Townsend (*ob.* 1750) and his wife. The fine old south door should be noticed. A tablet in the nave to the memory of Sir James Stonehouse, the "Mr Johnson" of Hannah More's "Shepherd of Salisbury Plain," recalls the fact that the "Shepherd" himself, Saunders by name, was also a resident here, and his cottage is still pointed out to visitors. The manor-house is an old building, excellently preserved, with a court-house and cells in juxtaposition. There is a beautiful view over the valley towards Devizes, and the fine hedgerow elms greatly enhance it.

*Cheverell (Little)* has a church rebuilt in 1850 with the exception of the tower.

*Chicklade* (6 m. N.W. from Tisbury Station) calls for no special comment. The small stone church was rebuilt in 1832.

*Chilmark* (3 m. N.W. from Dinton Station) is in the Nadder Valley, and is famous for its great quarries of freestone (Portland beds), which has been abundantly employed in many of the Wiltshire churches and at Salisbury Cathedral. The church is an ancient building, cruciform, with a fine, imposing tower with spire at the intersection. The old Norm. doorway at the entrance to the north aisle, and the piscina in the chancel wall

## CHEVERELL (GREAT)-CHIPPENHAM

and transept are noticeable and also the east window, and some other good stained glass.

*Chilton Foliat* (2 m. N.W. from Hungerford Station) has an E.E. church of flint and stone. There is a cross-legged effigy of an armoured knight to the north of the chancel, and various monuments of the Popham family.

*Chilton House* is a fine brick mansion, and the surroundings are exceedingly attractive.

CHIPPENHAM has a junction station on the Great Western Railway. It is an important borough and market town of considerable antiquity, and much historical interest, and derives its name from the A.-S. "Ceapan," to buy, which is suspiciously near the more familiar "cheapen." It was a market town in Saxon times, and has intimate associations with King Alfred, who resided here, and hunted in the large royal forest of Melksham or Chippenham. His sister, Ethelwitha, was married here to Burhead, the King of Mercia. The Danes, arriving in force in 878, forced Alfred to retire to Athelney. After his victory at Ethandune and the Peace of Wedmore he was fully occupied here in consolidating the Wessex kingdom and organizing its defence. Chippenham was bequeathed to his daughter, but reverted to the Crown, and was one of the manors permanently held by Edward the Confessor. It was a borough by prescription, and sent representatives to the Parliament of Edward I. A charter of incorporation was granted by Queen Mary, and renewed and supplemented in later reigns.

The parish church is an ancient building, with Norm., E.E., Dec. and Perp. work, enlarged and

## WILTSHIRE

restored at considerable cost in 1878, a vestry being added more recently. The tower, the lower part of which is E.E., and which bears the arms of the Lord Hungerford of Henry VI.'s time, was rebuilt in 1633, but has experienced further rebuilding and restoring. The old chancel, early 12th cent., has been the subject of alterations, the Norm. chancel arch and an early window having been removed from their first positions, and replaced elsewhere in the church, the latter in the north side of the chancel. There is a hagioscope, Dec., a Perp. south chapel with the Hungerford arms very much in evidence, and a two-storeyed chapel, with an arch leading into the church, dedicated to St Catherine and used as a baptistery. There is also a monument to Sir Gilbert Prynne (1627) and his family in the south aisle. Dr John Scott, author of "The Christian Life," was born here in 1688, and Ludovick Muggleton, the founder of the Muggletonian Sect in 1607.

The late Mr Joseph Neeld, of Grittleton, for some years member for the borough, was one of its greatest benefactors. It owes to his generosity the Town Hall and Exchange Rooms in the High Street, and to a large extent the fine covered cheese market, with its stone frontage, in the same thoroughfare. The old Town Hall is near the market-place, where also is a fountain erected by public subscription. There is a Literary Institute housed in a good stone building, and a notable Working Men's Club built in 1902, at a cost of £2000.

The manufacture of broadcloth has not altogether deserted this famous Wiltshire town, and

## CHIPPENHAM—CHISLEDON

other local industries are the making of cheese and of condensed milk, and bacon-curing on a large scale.

There are also large engineering works, where railway signals are manufactured, a tannery, waggon works, and a gun and cartridge manufactory. The various markets — corn, cheese, and cattle — are important ones, and there is a large annual wool market in the summer, and a cattle show in the winter. Maud Heath's Causeway and its story are separately dealt with.

*Chirton* (1 m. from Patney Station) is in the Pewsey Vale near the Plain. The beautiful Trans.-Norm. stone church, with chancel, nave, aisles, south porch, and western tower, is well worth a visit. It was restored in 1850. The zigzag mouldings of the arch at the southern entrance, the piscinæ and sedilia in the chancel and south aisle, the fine font, with representations of the Apostles, and the stained-glass windows, all merit attention. In the north aisle is a monument to the Warriner family, the former owners of the manor-house at Conock hard by.

*Chisledon* (4 m. S.E. from Swindon) has a station on the Midland & S.W. junction line. The church has a stained east window, and various monuments and other records of the Mellish and Calley families, and is a good, plain building, well placed, and containing chancel, nave of four bays, aisles, south porch, and embattled, pinnacled tower. It was restored and enlarged in 1893-1894. The village is a pretty one, set in picturesque fashion where down meets plain, and the straggling, irregular old buildings add to its undoubted charm.

## WILTSHIRE

*Chitterne* (4 m. N.W. from Codford Station) embraces the two ecclesiastical parishes of Chitterne All Saints and Chitterne St Mary, and is situated in the south-west portion of Salisbury Plain. The church of All Saints is modern, a good commodious building, erected in 1861. The chancel of St Mary's, its only remaining portion, is used as a mortuary chapel. Some good corn crops—wheat, oats, and barley—are grown in this oasis, there being some large farms in the parish, well cultivated and productive. There are barrows and earthworks in the Plain in the neighbourhood, and traces of the Old Ditch that traverses the Plain north of the Wylve Valley from Westbury Leigh to Durnford, a prehistoric work in which traces of British villages and hut circles have been discovered.

*Chittoe* ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.W. from Calne Station) is just outside Spye Park on the Bromham side, and about midway on the road from Calne to Melksham. Sloperton Cottage, where Thomas Moore spent a large portion of his later life, and where he died in 1852, is in this parish. There are traces of the Wansdyke here, and the name survives in Wans House. It is occasionally merged in the Roman road from Bath to Marlborough, which passes through Spye Park here.

*Cholderton (West)* (2 m. W. from Newton Tony Station on the Amesbury branch line). A small new church, erected in 1850, replaces an older edifice, the font of which is in the churchyard. The attempt to fit in an ancient timber roof with a tower and spire caused some perplexity to Mr Mozley, who was vicar here at the time,



## CHITTERNE—CLARENDON

and who tells of his troubles in his "Reminiscences of the Oxford Movement." The 17th-cent. manor-house belonged to the Foyle family. Beacon Hill, with its fine view, is close by on the west.

*Christian Malford* (3 m. S.W. from Dauntsey Station). The church is interesting; an old stone edifice, E.E., Dec. and Perp., with ancient oak screens dividing nave and south aisle from the chancel and Lady Chapel; a Norm. font placed in baptistery at the west end of the aisle, and some old glass in the east window. The south aisle is a good specimen of Dec. work. The church was restored in 1881.

*Chute* (4 m. N.E. from Ludgershall Station) is near the Hampshire border. The church was rebuilt in 1871, but the piscina and the old Norm. font are preserved.

*Chute Forest* is a separate parish a little to the south of the above. The church was rebuilt in 1875. The forest was a royal one, and extended from the neighbourhood of Savernake well into Hants. In its earlier days it was well stocked with red deer, but only fallow deer are named in 15th-cent. records. In the reign of Henry III. red deer were frequently sent to royal favourites, or to furnish forth the royal table, and the oaks were put under contribution for the service of certain abbeys and priories and of the Countess of Pembroke.

*Clarendon* is about 2 m. E.S.E. from Salisbury, in a very charming country. The meeting here of the great Council which promulgated the famous "Constitutions of Clarendon," in 1164, has already been noticed (Introduction—History). The royal palace was a favourite residence of the early

## WILTSHIRE

Plantagenet kings. King John for a time gave his name to it. After the battle of Poitiers four monarchs, Edward III., John, the captive French king, Philip of Navarre, and David of Scotland, took part together in a royal hunt here. It seems almost like the "parterre of monarchs" Napoleon offered to Talma. The ancient forest of Clarendon was of great extent, and was doubtless the chief attraction. The boundary was at Peter's Finger (corruption of St Peter ad Vincula), where were certain Lammas lands. In the 14th cent. the domain was granted by the Crown to one of the ancient Earls of Pembroke, but apparently for a term only. Charles I. leased or mortgaged it to the Hydes. Charles II., who did not exactly love his chancellor, granted it to Monk. A fragment of the palace remains at "Kings Manor," where an inscription on a piece of the gable end propped up by buttresses recalls the great part the place has played in the past.

*Cliffe Pypard* (4 m. S. from Wootton Bassett Station) is beautifully situated on the slope of the greensward ridge that runs to Highway. The hanging beech woods above, and the ash and chestnut trees of the village, with the elm country spreading out below the thatched cottages; the church, the manor-house, and the rectory, make a very picturesque scene. A footpath from Highway that passes through Broad Town and Elcombe to Swindon is sometimes associated with the old Pilgrim's Way, that led past the Holy Cross at Swindon on to the shrine of St Anne at Bridlington, in Somerset. The church is Perp., with fine pinnacled western tower. The chancel,

## CLIFFE PYPARD—COATE

originally E.E., has been restored in that style from its Perp. transformation, and is separated from the nave by a good oak screen, finely painted. The east ends of the aisles have other interesting screens. There are windows and other memorials to the Goddard family, including an oak monument dated 1585, and in the north chapel is a brass of late 14th-cent. date with a knight's effigy representing probably a member of the Quintin family. The Cobhams were the former holders of the manor, Edward I. having granted it in 1305 to Roger de Cobham, and one of them is thought to be represented by the recumbent figure under a canopied tomb in the north aisle. It passed to the Goddards in 1525. There is a Jacobean pulpit, well carved, and in the south aisle is a marble monument to Thomas Spackman, a beneficent native of the parish. The manor-house has some 17th-cent. work, and stands in some beautiful grounds, in which, however, some half-century ago, tremendous havoc was caused by a whirlwind which destroyed several hundred trees. One cannot quit this lovely spot without noting that the Goddard family is most worthily represented here by the vicar, the Rev. E. H. Goddard, whose services to the county, and more especially to the Archæological Society, deserve the most cordial recognition.

*Coate* is a hamlet 2 m. S.E. from Swindon, and is mainly notable as the birthplace of Richard Jefferies. The farmhouse in which he was born and brought up is distinguished by a tablet on the gate duly recording the connexion. The house is screened from the road by a high wall, and a row of pollard limes. "Stripped of its

thatch," writes Edward Thomas, most sympathetic of biographers, "its ha-ha gone, its orchard neglected, it is the ghost of the fragrant home described so often in 'Wild Life,' in 'Amaryllis at the Fair,' etc., etc." A byroad, just past the thatched outbuildings, leads to Day House Farm, where Jefferies' wife was born. Burderop Park and wood and mansion are close at hand, and so are the Coate reservoir and Hodson hamlet, which with them furnish the chief scene of "The Amateur Poacher" and "The Gamekeeper at Home." "Burderop Park—its beech and oak and ash and fir, its clouds of purple loosestrife, its avenues of limes and wych elms, its grassy spaces strewn with sarsens, stately and undisturbed, its large, dull, sufficient-looking homely house, suggested the 'Okebourne Chase' of 'Round about a great Estate.'" The downs, however, were Jefferies' true home. "Moving up the sweet short turf, at every step my heart seemed to obtain a wider horizon of feeling; with every inhalation of rich, pure air, a deeper desire. The very light of the sun was whiter and more brilliant here."

*Codford St Mary* is fairly close to the Codford Station on the Great Western Railway. The church has been much restored and partly rebuilt. There are a Norm. chancel arch, and Norm. font, the former being finely carved. The chancel is Trans.-Norm., and the tower 16th cent. The pre-Reformation chalice is a good example of mediæval church plate. There is a monumental tomb, with effigies, of Sir Richard Mompesson in the chancel aisle. The communion-table is a relic of the old pulpit of St Mary's, Oxford.

## COATE—COLLINGBOURNE

*Codford St Peter*, where the railway station actually is, has a church restored and largely rebuilt in 1864, when the Norm. chancel arch was replaced by the present pointed arch, and a north aisle was added. The chancel has been rebuilt in E.E. style, and retains the three ancient sedilia. There is a Norm. font, finely carved; and some carved stone-work in the chancel, which was discovered during the alterations, is of very early Norm., or possibly, as some contend, of Saxon date.

*Colerne* (2 m. N. from Box Station). The beautiful church, restored in 1875, is a fine, imposing stone building, Trans.-Norm., with important E.E., Dec. and Perp. additions. The nave of four bays is late Norm., the chancel E.E., and the north chancel aisle Dec., the north aisle and the fine western tower, embattled and pinnacled, being Perp. The 14th-cent. sedilia with canopies are noteworthy, and mention should be made of some remarkable fragments of Anglo-Saxon crosses, with fine lacertine ornamentation, preserved in the chancel. A Roman villa discovered here was re-covered.

*Collingbourne Ducis* has a station on the Midland & S.W. Junction Railway and is connected with *Collingbourne Kingston* by yet another Collingbourne, with Sutton as affix this time, the whole in this last case being abridged to Sunton. The "Ducis" is accounted for by its connexion with the Duchy of Lancaster, and it was granted by Henry VIII. to Somerset, and by Elizabeth to the Earl of Hertford, to whose son there is a curious brass. The church, E.E. with Perp. tower, was restored

## WILTSHIRE

in 1877. *Collingbourne Wood* was probably a portion of the great Chute forest.

The church at Collingbourne Kingston, E.E. and Perp., contains an old brass, dated 1495, to Constantine Darell, and in the chancel is a fine canopied monument to Sir Gabriel Pile and his wife (1626). The judicious blending of red brick and flint has been productive of good ornamental effect in some of the village cottages which border the little winter bourn the place is named from. John Norris, who has been mentioned in connexion with Bemerton, was born here in 1657.

*Compton Bassett* (4. N.E. from Calne) is more easily to be reached by pedestrians by a field-path. The church is Trans.-Norm, with Perp. additions. There is a remarkable stone rood-screen, double, of Tudor date, with figures representing the Apostles. The chancel was restored in 1866. The pulpit retains an hour-glass. *Compton House* is a stone mansion, built in 1674 by Sir John Weld, beautifully placed on a wooded slope, with extensive park and grounds.

*Compton Chamberlayne* (3 m. S.E. from Dinton Station). *Compton Park* has been the seat of the Penruddocke family for the past 300 years. It is well known historically in connexion with the "forlorn hope" led by Colonel John Penruddocke at the time of the Commonwealth, when, in 1655, the Colonel, with Sir Joseph Wagstaff, and some 200 horsemen, rode into Salisbury, seized the guards, released the prisoners from the gaol, and apprehended Chief Justice Rolle and Baron Nicholas, the judges of Assize, at the same time

## COMPTON CHAMBERLAYNE

proclaiming King Charles II. The people failed to respond, however, and the zealous little band deemed it prudent to retire into Dorset, and then into Devon, where they were dispersed, and most of them made prisoners. Among these was Penruddocke, who was taken to London and lodged in the Tower. He was more than once examined at Whitehall, and we are told that his interviews with the Lord Protector led to something like mutual respect. He was ultimately sent to the scaffold, where he met his fate with fortitude and resignation. The scaffold steps he compared to Jacob's ladder, the feet on earth, but the top reaching to heaven, and putting off his "dublett," he said:—"I am putting off these old rags of mine, to be clad with the new robes of the righteousness of Jesus Christ." His farewell letters to his wife are beautiful and tender counterparts to those sweet and sadly tender ones he received from his "dear heart." The rising was, like Malet's conspiracy in Napoleon days, a bolt from the blue, and incidentally led to the division of the kingdom into military districts, administered by major-generals.

Part of the house at Compton Park is of Henry VII.'s time, and in an old oaken room is the Colonel's portrait, and other family likenesses, some by Lely and Vandyck, and there is some carving by Grinling Gibbons here and in the dining-room. The lace cap Penruddocke wore on the scaffold, marred by the axe and blood-stained, his sword, and the original letters that passed between him and his wife are carefully preserved. The church is not far from the house, and has some Norm.

## WILTSHIRE

and E.E. work, although it is mostly late Dec.

*Coombe Bissett* (3 m. S.W. from Salisbury) is on the Ebele, at the commencement of the "Vale of Chalk." The village is prettily placed in the hollow, and the cruciform church, set on a green eminence, overlooks it. The church is Trans.-Norm. with later additions, E.E. and Perp. Two of the nave arches are Norm. and there is some of the old work in the rood-screen. The font is E.E.

CORSHAM has a station on the G.W. line, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. from the little town, which has some historic interest as a former residence of the Wessex kings, and the scene of the gathering of a great A.-S. army, early in the 11th cent., to resist a Danish invasion. The fine church, well situated, was restored in 1878 by G. E. Street, and its cruciform aspect changed, the central tower being removed, and a new southern tower, with pinnacles and spire, erected. The arches of the nave are Norm., as is also the porch, and the chancel is Perp. In the north chapel (associated with the Tropnell family), which is separated from the chancel by a beautifully carved stone screen with fan-vaulted canopy, are two altar-tombs, the one a very formidable one, to the Tropnell who built Great Chalfield in Henry VI.'s days. The chapel is still maintained by the present owners of the former Tropnell estates at Neston, in the next parish. Another chapel was erected in 1879 by Lord Methuen for himself and his household. Some of the Jacobean and other monuments are not very attractive, but a modern work by J. G. Lough, a small figure of a child, is beautiful.

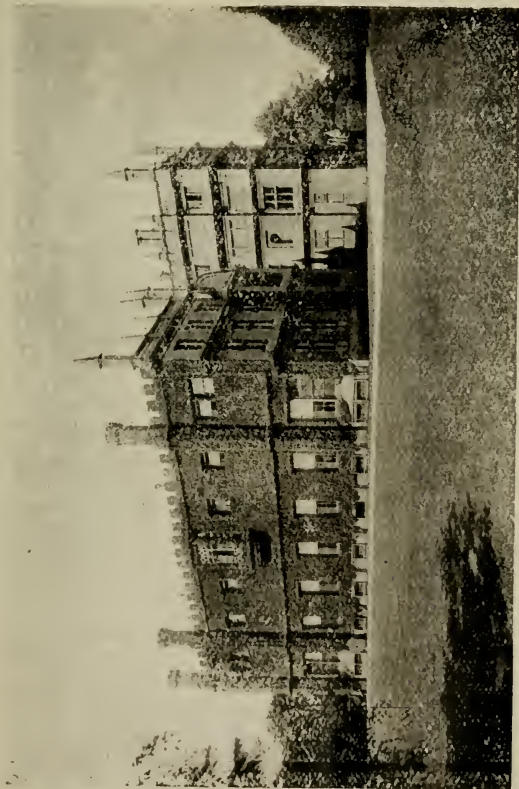


## COOMBE BISSETT—CORSHAM

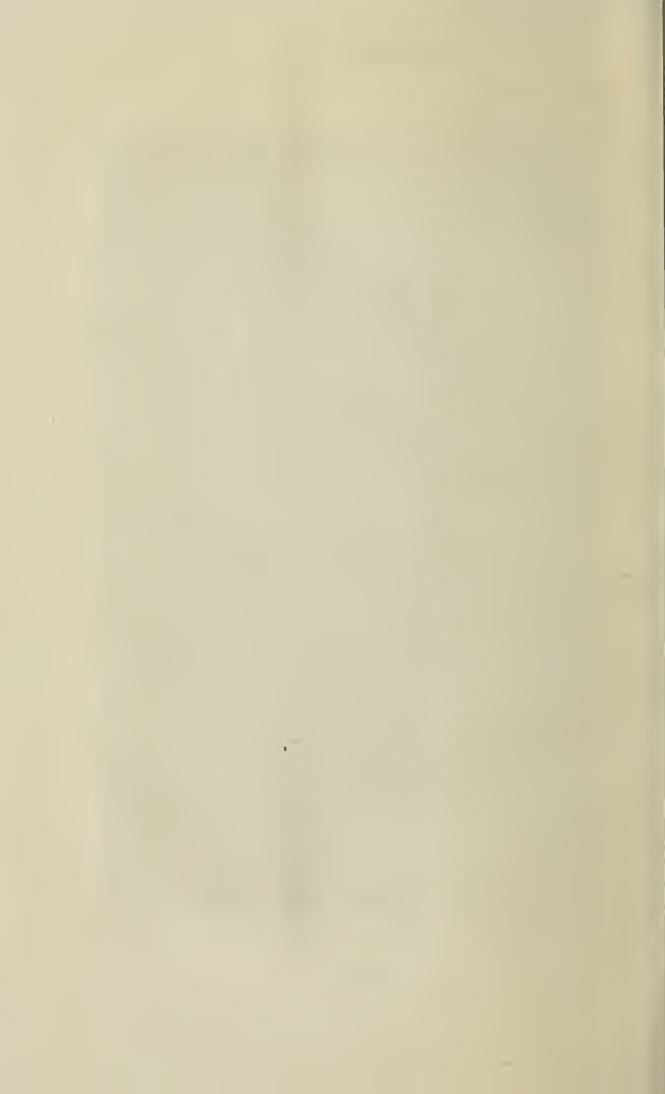
Corsham Court was built by a gentleman whom Aubrey familiarly calls "Customer Smythe," who "farmed" the customs duties. It has undergone many alterations since its erection in 1582, but the middle part of the south front has been carefully preserved, and is a good example of Elizabethan architecture. The north front was reconstructed by Bellamy in the Italian style. Early in the 17th cent. it was purchased by the Hungerfords, one of whom, Sir Edward, made the place a sort of headquarters for the Parliamentary forces. The park is a very beautiful one, covering four hundred acres, and a fine lake adds to its attractions, among which the splendid trees, native and exotic, are a special feature. The latter include some magnificent cedars and some of the finest Oriental planes in the country. Lord Methuen is lord of the "Royal" manor, the bailiff of which is selected by the tenants, and a Court Leet is held yearly. Sir J. T. Goldney, a member of a family most of whom seem to be associated with civic or shrieval office, is the lay rector and lord of the manor. The "Court" is famous for the pictures which adorn the fine gallery specially built to accommodate them by "Capability Brown." Sir Paul Methuen, the Ambassador to Madrid, who died in 1757, eleven years after he had bought Corsham, was responsible for both the gallery and the fine collection of pictures with which it was inaugurated. He must not be confounded with another Methuen, also a diplomat and a relative, John, who was Chancellor of Ireland and Ambassador to Portugal, and who negotiated the Methuen treaty. The

latter died at Lisbon in 1706, and left his picture collection, a very fine one, to Sir Paul, his relative, who greatly added to it. He was a member of a Perthshire family. There are family and other portraits by Vandyck, Kneller, Lely, Reynolds, Gainsborough and Romney, and over two hundred other notable works, including examples of Van Eyck, Rubens, A. Elyheimer, Bourguignon, Vandyck (including a full length of Charles I. on horseback), Zuccherò, Andrea del Sarto, Tintoretto, Fra Bartolommeo, Domenichino; landscapes by Claude, N. Poussin, S. Rosa, and others, and a number of works of great interest and merit by other famous painters. The collection was strengthened in recent times by an addition from the gallery of Mr Sanford, Lady Methuen's father, a clergyman who resided in Florence, and there gathered together a number of fine works of art. The pictures may all be seen on Tuesdays and Fridays, but application must be made beforehand to the housekeeper. The Court was the scene of a tragic event in 1594, when Henry Long was shot dead sitting at the dinner-table beside his brother, Sir Walter, by two members of the Danvers family. The occurrence remained enveloped in mystery, and the perpetrators of the crime were never brought to justice, ultimately meeting with very unequal fates, the one being beheaded in 1600 for complicity in Essex's plot, and the other, Sir Henry, becoming Lord, and afterwards Eárl, Danby and dying more than forty years later.

There are famous underground quarries of Bathstone here, as at Box, which afford considerable employment. The Almshouses (1663), six houses



CORSHAM COURT



## CORSHAM—CRANBORNE CHASE

with cloister, master's house and, until recently, a Free School, endowed by Lady Hungerford, adjoin the park and retain some good wood-work of the period, and in the immediate neighbourhood the 17th-cent. manor-house and old barn at *Pickwick*, and *Jaggards*, another 17th-cent. house with good staircase and a panelled room, should be noticed. At *Easton*, 1 m. east, is a small manor-house of 15th-cent. building.

*Corsley* (3 m. E. from Frome Station). The church has been much rebuilt and restored. A good specimen of mediæval paten of about 1500 is still in use. The Elizabethan manor-house of brick is now a farmhouse. The widow of one of the Thynnes, who resided here, married a brother of Sir Walter Raleigh.

*Corston* (2 m. S. from Malmesbury Station) contains no special feature of interest.

*Coulston (East)* (2 m. E. from Edington Station). The church has been restored and rebuilt, and the little building only retains a south doorway to tell of its Norm. past.

CRANBORNE CHASE may be approached from Broad Chalk and Bower Chalk, in the Vale of Chalk, or from Ebbesbourne or Alvediston by a climb over the Winkelbury Downs. It is greatly shorn of its former glory, for the axe of the woodman has been heard in the land, and Cranborne's oaks have paid toll to various exigencies since the days of the Spanish Armada. A considerable portion of the Chase is in the adjoining county of Dorset, and it formerly spread into Hampshire also, with a circuit of some 90 m. or more, and a number of townships and hamlets,

## WILTSHIRE

and no less than seventy parishes within its orbit. It was once a royal "forest," although prior to that it had been a "chase" in the hands of the Earls of Gloucester, the difference of terminology being determined by the regal rank or otherwise of the possessor, which also decided the question of jurisdiction for forest offences. It came to King John through his wife, an heiress of the house of Gloucester, to which, however, it reverted on his death, coming to the Crown again in Edward IV.'s time, and remaining in royal hands until James I. granted it to William Cecil, Earl of Salisbury. The old area was 700,000 acres, and within the greater bounds, or "out-bounds" was an inner circle of some 30 m., specially reserved for the deer, which as late as 1830, when the disafforestation took place, numbered about 12,000. Here were the walks, each under the care of a gentleman ranger, and each walk was subdivided into ridings and well planted that the deer should not lack browse or "vert." The highway from Salisbury to Exeter then passed through the chase; otherwise there were only tracks and bridle paths, the "shire-track" dividing Wilts. from Dorset. The Common fallow deer, the *Cervus dama* of Linnæus, was the favoured denizen; the red deer, although introduced, never having become acclimatized. Poaching and deer-stealing naturally were very prevalent, and bitter disputes constantly arose in connexion with the "under game," as the hares and pheasants were termed. The deer-killing was originally undertaken for "sport" by the "bloods" of the district, and Hutchins, the Dorset historian, describes this

## CRANBORNE CHASE

“kind of knight-errantry amusement of the most substantial gentlemen of the neighbourhood.” The “hunters” assembled at night in parties of from four to twenty, dressed in cap, jack, and quarter staff, and having made certain arrangements in case of interruption, they set nets at the places where the deer were most likely to run, let slip their dogs trained to the duty, who drove the deer into the nets, at the end of each of which a man was posted to strangle the deer as soon as entangled. They sometimes got six or eight deer, good or bad, such as fell into the net, but generally of the latter sort, which was a matter of little importance to these gentleman hunters, who required the sport, not the venison. Frequent desperate bloody battles took place; and instances have unfortunately happened, where sometimes keepers, at other times hunters, have been killed. A portrait of one of these sporting gentry has been preserved by Hutchins. He is rather a short, aristocratic-looking person, with a keen eye and good features, in a canvas jack, quilted with wool, and a beehive sort of cap formed of straw wreaths bound with split bramble-stalks. We are told he was great in Milton, and a student of Samuel Butler, and he had the saving grace never to go after the deer on the Sabbath day until his religious duties had been properly discharged. The “sport,” such as it was, degenerated, and as the pursuers descended in the social scale, its votaries, Hutchins says, “ceased to be called deer-hunters, and were known as deer-stealers.” In 1780, a serious encounter took place between keepers and deer-stealers on Chettle Common, some dragoons being

## WILTSHIRE

among the latter. The dragoon sergeant, who was a native of the district, retired soon afterwards from the army, and set up a game-factor's shop in London, where he once encountered the well-known Mr Chafin, the famous ranger of the Chase, and to the latter's intense indignation remarked that "if I would deal with him he would treat me well, for he had in times past had many hares and pheasants of mine; and had the assurance to ask me if I did not think it a good breeding season for game." The worthy ranger's name must have inspired him. The demoralization of the Chase, to which smugglers and outlaws and vagabonds of all kinds resorted towards the close of the 18th cent., culminated in a collision between deer-stealers and keepers in 1791, in which a man was killed, and the neighbouring landowners began to move seriously in the matter. It was quite time, as whole parishes were described as nests of deer-stealers, and the Chase itself as "a nursery for, and a temptation to all kinds of vice, profligacy and immorality." The end, however, was not yet, but in 1830, Lord Rivers, into whose family the rights had passed, came to terms, and the Chase was disafforested and disfranchised, a compensation of £1800 per annum being secured by a charge on the neighbouring estates. The wish of Mr Chafin's brother, who was a clergyman, that the chase "would remain in a flourishing state until the general dissolution of all things," was destined to remain unfulfilled.

CRICKLADE has a station on the Midland & S. W. junction line, and is an ancient town on the banks of William Morris's "Upperest Thames,"



## CRICKLADE

which at one time was navigable up to this point. Its name is derived from the Celtic "cerrig-lád," or stone-ford, and in an old Anglo-Saxon charter it is mentioned as "creccagelad" or "creg-lad." Drayton, in the "Polyolbion," gives it a fanciful Hellenic origin :—

"Greeklade, whose great name yet vaunts that learned  
tongue,

Where to Great Britain first the sacred muses sung."

The Bishop of Bristol tells us that here, at the northern end of the bridge or ford, St Augustine met the bishops and doctors of the British Church. The forest of Braden used to extend almost to the banks of the stream, and the hospital of Cricklade was permitted way-leave through it with horses and carts to procure fuel for the brethren and poor. In 905 the town was pillaged by the Danes, and it was taken and plundered by Cnut a century later, but since that time its history has been uneventful. The Church of St Sampson is the glory of Cricklade, and its fine tower dominates the scene. St Sampson's is cruciform in shape, and the tower in the middle is a fine piece of Perp. work. The lantern is decorated on the inside with armorial shields, among which is the bear and ragged staff associated with the Earls of Warwick. The nave is E.E. and the west window has plate tracery. The chancel is Dec., and there is a Dec. window in the north aisle. The chapel formerly associated with the Hungerford family is now used as a vestry. In the churchyard is a good stone cross, with canopied niches, which was removed from the main street when the old Town Hall was taken down.

## WILTSHIRE

The Church of St Mary, near the Thames bridge, is of early 12th-cent. date, with later additions. It has a beautiful, ivy-covered south porch, and a semicircular 12th-cent. arch, with chevron ornament, between the nave and chancel, the aisles being Perp. In the churchyard is a sculptured cross in a good state of preservation, and within the parish are the remains of an ancient priory, now converted into a private mansion. Among many charities and endowments is one arising from the disafforestation of Braden forest in the reign of Charles II., and consisting of one hundred acres of land, a portion of the income from which is devoted to the apprenticing of children. Cricklade is in a great hunting district, and one of the V.W.H. packs has its kennels here.

*Crudwell* (4 m. S. from Kenble Station). The little stream that rises in its vicinity is one of the sources of the Thames. It is called Credewell in Domesday Book, probably from an old well near the church, and it belonged to Malmesbury Abbey until the Dissolution, when it was purchased by the "Count" of Oxford. The old Fosse-way to Cirencester passes near. The church, Norm. and E.E., with Perp. additions, has been much restored, but possesses many interesting features, notably a three-light window in the north wall of the nave, with some old glass, the risen Christ being depicted in the centre, and the Catholic sacraments around. There are some good carved bench-ends, hagioscopes in the chancel, and a piscina and lancet windows in the south chapel.

*Dauntsey* is nearly 2 m. from the station that

## CRUDWELL—DEAN (WEST)

bears its name. The church, an old E.E. building, contains some old brasses, including one to Sir John Danvers (*ob.* 1514) and another to his wife, who was a daughter of Sir John Dauntsey. There is also a white marble monument to the Danvers who became Earl Danby, and who was concerned in the killing of Henry Long at Corsham. George Herbert used to resort here for the "choice air," and here first met his wife, who was a Danvers of Baynton. He wrote the monumental epitaph to his wife's kinsman. The estates were forfeited at the Restoration, the Danvers in possession having been one of Charles I.'s judges, and ultimately were granted by Queen Anne to the brilliant but erratic Earl of Peterborough. The manor-house, which adjoins the church, belongs to Mr Gerald Guinness. The dispersal of the great estates pertaining to the Meux domain was quite an event in North Wilts. history in recent days, the Dauntsey and Christian Malford estate alone having had a rent-roll of close upon ten thousand pounds a year.

*Dean (West)* has a station, Dean, on the branch line from Salisbury to Southampton. The old church, now a mortuary chapel, has some very interesting memorials of the Evelyn and Pierrepont families, among them kneeling effigies of John Evelyn and his wife, dated 1625, in the dress of the period, and a curious marble pile to R. Pierrepont, dated 1669. The new church, rebuilt in 1866, is a good brick and flint building. *West Dean House* was the old seat of the Evelyns, and afterwards of the Duke of Kingston, the

## WILTSHIRE

father of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu. The latter gives a characteristic description of the men and manners of the locality. "This part of the world is so different from Nottinghamshire that I can hardly persuade myself it is in the same kingdom. The men here are all Sylvias, no Myrtillos . . . insensible of other pleasures than hunting and drinking. The consequence of which is, the poor female part of their family being seldom permitted a coach, or at best but a couple of starved jades to drag a dirty chariot, their lords and masters having no occasion for such a machine, as their mornings are spent among hounds, and the nights with as beastly companions, with what liquor they can get in this country, which is not very famous for good drink." One's thoughts fly irresistibly to the famous creation of her kinsman, to the "Squire Western" of Henry Fielding's great novel. The house has been pulled down, and must not be confounded with the well-known West Dean mansion, near Chichester, so frequently visited by the late King.

*Derry Hill* (3 m. S.E. from Chippenham Station) is opposite the gates of Bowood Park, and is a pretty village with a number of modern half-timbered houses, and a modern church with western tower and lofty spire.

DEVIZES may fairly be considered the capital of North Wilts., since it shares with Salisbury the dignity of receiving the visits of his Majesty's judges, while it is a municipal borough, an important market town, headquarters of a regimental district, the site of the county prison and lunatic asylum, as well

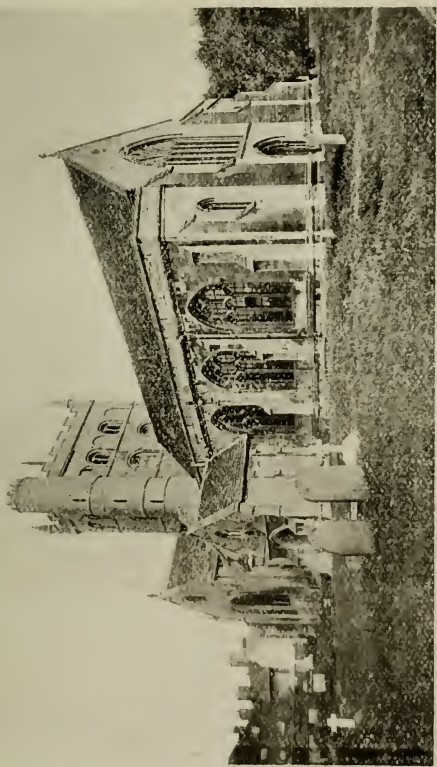
## DERRY HILL—DEVIZES

as the centre of a beautiful and exceedingly interesting district.

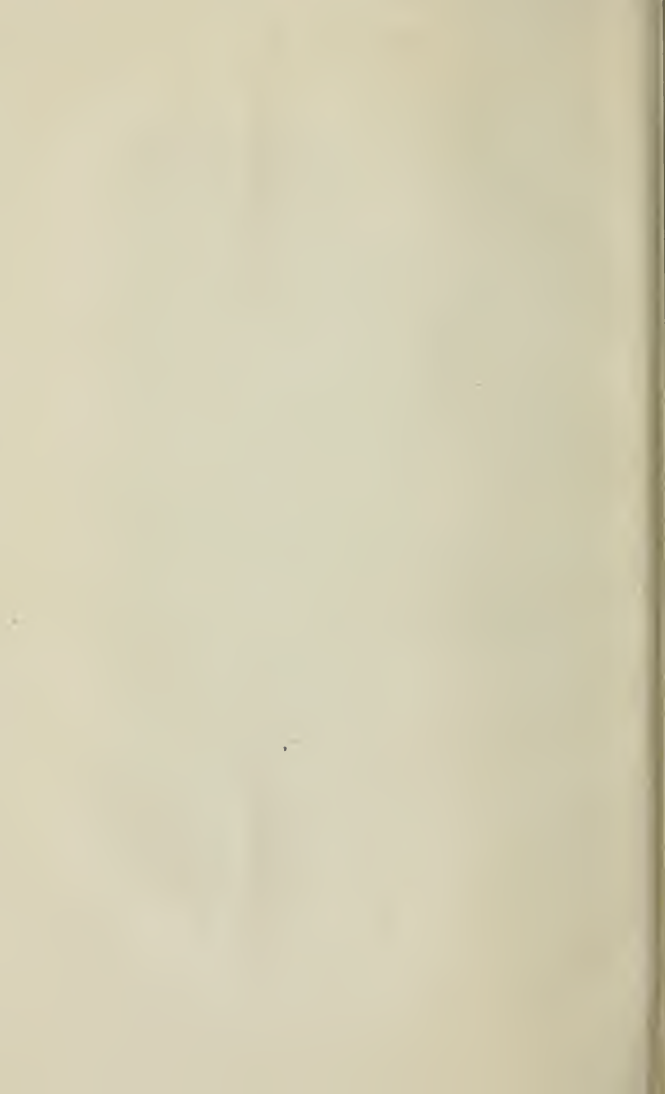
The town is well placed on a spur of the Marlborough Downs. It is 425 ft. above sea-level, and although exposed to the cold winds, its climate is dry, bracing and invigorating. It has an ancient history, inseparably associated with its Norman castle, now a thing of the past, and prior to the erection of which we have no mention of it. The castle was one of four built by the redoubtable Bishop Roger, and the town grew up around it. The name has caused some speculation, but it probably originated from the junction of the three manors of Potterne, Cannings, and Rowde, at the precise point where the castle was erected, "ad Divisas." "The Devizes," Clarendon always writes, never by any chance omitting the article, and the corruption, "the Vies," still lingers. Duke Robert, the eldest son of the Conqueror, was imprisoned here, and in the struggle between Stephen and the Empress Maud, Bishop Roger, after temporizing, held the castle for the latter. It fell into the hands of Stephen, however, who imprisoned Roger in a cowshed; and severing its connexion with the episcopal see, made it a royal fortress. King John was frequently here, and his successor, Henry III., made it a great sporting centre. Hubert de Burgh, his famous justiciary, was imprisoned here, but escaped and sought sanctuary at St John's Church, where he was seized and dragged from the altar to the castle again. The threat of excommunication secured his quasi release, and he was soon afterwards spirited into Wales by the

Earl of Pembroke. The great-nephews of the King of France were here as hostages in Edward III.'s time, and Anne Boleyn was a visitor in 1530, the castle having formed a portion of her dowry. It had fallen into considerable decay when the Great Rebellion occurred, but was repaired and refortified, and the Royalist forces, or a considerable portion of them, retired here after the battle of Lansdowne. They were besieged by Waller, and the siege raised by the latter's defeat on Roundway Down, as already related (Introduction—History). Two years later, Cromwell was here, and the castle, defended by Sir Charles Lloyd, was captured and "sighted." Scarce a fragment of the walls remain, although the inner moat and the mound of the keep, and a pit dungeon are still to be seen.

St John's Church is close to the castle, and was for the most part the work of Bishop Roger. It is an exceedingly interesting building. The original Norm. edifice was cruciform, with a central tower, which, however, has received a parapet and pinnacles of later date. Originally it consisted of chancel, nave, transepts, and tower, and Mr Bodington tells us that to picture the church as it was originally, "one must imagine the Hungerford and Lamb chapels (east of the transepts), and the aisles north and south of the nave, taken away, and the whole church lighted by a row of small semicircular-headed windows enriched with Norm. mouldings similar to the present (restored) east windows, and to the now lengthened north window of the chancel." The nave was rebuilt about the middle of the 15th



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, DEVIZES





## DEVIZES

cent., when the aisles were added, while the late Perp. or Tudor chapels to the chancel further materially altered the character of the building. The chancel was restored in 1844. It retains its Norm. vaulting, and the Norm. north window has been lengthened. The carved capitals from which springs the Perp. arch dividing the two bays, and cutting through the Norm. wall, are noticeable. The intersecting arcade of beautiful Trans.-Norm. work which ornaments two sides of the walls is best seen from the tower, and was formerly lighted by windows now filled with later masonry. The tower is a massive and most impressive specimen of Norm. work, oblong in form, resting on two semicircular and two pointed arches which were ornamented with the Norm. chevron. The description of William of Malmesbury still holds good: "The courses of stone were so correctly laid that the lines of juncture escape the eye, and lead one to imagine that the whole wall is composed of a single block." The transepts are mostly unspoiled. Traces of the old Norm. windows are to be seen both outside and in the interior, and in the north wall of the north transept is a small Norm. window. There are hagioscopes in the east wall of the transept, and in the north transept are traces of the doorway to the rood-loft, and some Norm. work in the walls. The south chapel, fine late Perp. work, restored in 1902, was founded by Richard Beauchamp of Bromham, Lord St Amand, in Henry VII.'s reign. The embattled parapet is ornamented with Tudor roses. Both this and the north chapel have good oak ceilings with

## WILTSHIRE

beautiful pierced work, and square panels with quatrefoils and canopied niches. The latter is used as a vestry, and in the moulding of the east window has the inscription: "Orate p. bono. statu. Ricardi Lamb," but the particular Lamb in question is still a matter of conjecture. The chapels are of about the same date, 1480-1485, and the aisles are a little earlier. The latter with the nave (rebuilt 1450) were extended in 1863, when the waggon roof was replaced by a new one with a higher pitch, and the original west front was somewhat spoiled. The church is beautifully placed, although a little hemmed in on the town side, and there are some interesting old houses in the immediate neighbourhood.

St Mary's Church may be reached by passing through the Brittox, a street that derives its name probably from the old "embattled way" to the castle gates, "Bretesque" being the designation of the drawbridge towers, and the outer defences of the castle. A turn to the left soon brings us to the other famous Norm. church of Devizes. St Mary's, like St John's was probably the work of the famous Bishop Roger. It is hemmed in a good deal by the adjacent inn and its outbuildings, which almost seem to have been planted bodily in the churchyard. The chancel retains some of the old Norm. work, with stone groining and transverse arch, but the cutting away of the intersecting arcade which ran round the inner walls on the north and south side, to make way for large Perp. windows, has somewhat spoiled it. The original stones have been used in the restoration of the east-end Norm. window. The

## DEVIZES

chancel arch, which is late Perp., is cut through the Norm. wall. It is panelled, with a canopied niche on either side, and hagioscopes beneath. The nave, aisles and tower were entirely rebuilt by William Smyth, who died in 1436, an inscription on the finely carved roof of the nave, running: "Orate pro aia Willi Smyth, qui ista eccliam fieri fecit, qui obiit primo die mensis junii anno dni millo ccccmoxxxvi." Mr Bodington points out that he must have begun the work some time before his death, for the pillars of the nave are more of the Trans.-Dec. than of the Perp. style, which is that of the rest of the work. The lofty clerestory and the fine corbels of the oak roof should be mentioned, and the doorway to a former rood-screen, and the stair-turret to the rood-loft. The south porch is in its lower portion a good specimen of Trans.-Norm., and the outer doorway also. The upper part was rebuilt in 1612. The Dec. window above should be noticed. The tower is stately and imposing, and the 17th-cent. bells have some quaint inscriptions. The registers outdo them, however, for one entry records the burning of incense after a visit from Cromwell's troopers "to remove all traces of their *esprit de corps*." Outside, the east gable of the nave has, like the Beauchamp Chapel at St John's, a lofty niche, but here in addition is a beautiful statue of the Blessed Virgin and Child, a somewhat remarkable feature for an exterior.

St James's Church is certainly free from any complaint of being "hemmed in," its position, a quarter of a mile off on the London road, being unusually open and spacious. It was rebuilt in

## WILTSHIRE

1832, except the fine pinnacled tower, late Perp., which bears evidence of Waller's bombardment in 1643. St Peter's Church, on the Bath Road, is a modern building.

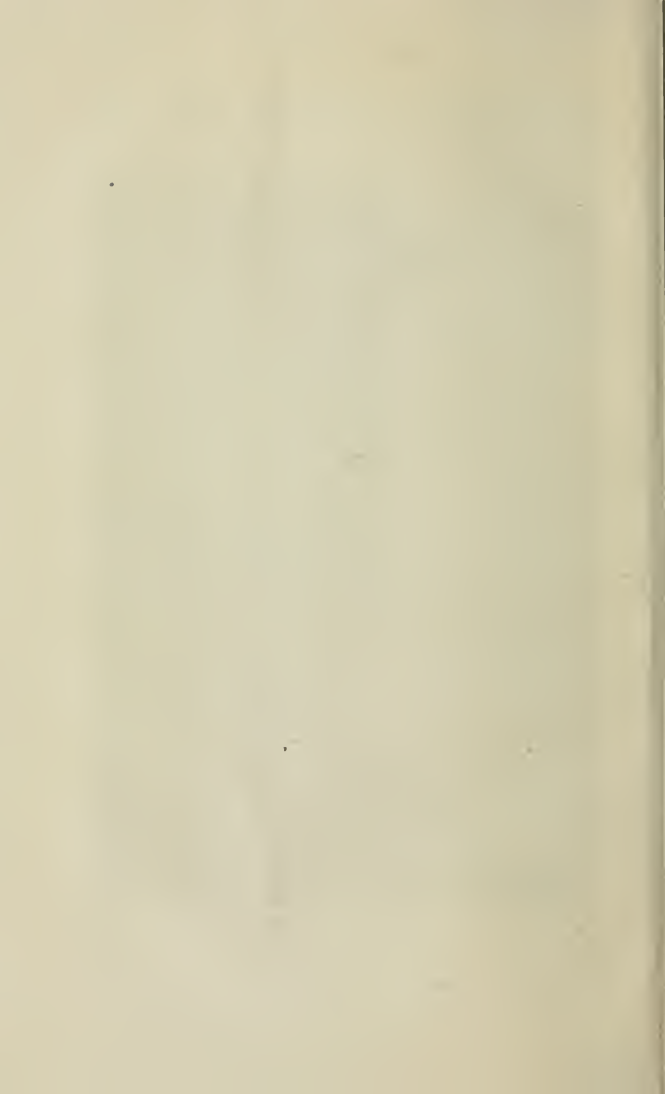
The *Market Place* is one of the most characteristic features of this spacious and interesting country town. It is in itself extremely ample in its proportions, and not without its story. The Market Cross was presented to the town in 1814 by Viscount Sidmouth, the Mr Addington of the "Peace of Amiens" time, when some wag disparagingly sang :

"Pitt is to Addington  
What London is to Paddington."

This one-time Speaker and Premier was recorder of the borough for thirty years, and its M.P. for the same period. On one side of the monument is inscribed the following interesting record : "On Thursday, the 25th of January, 1753, Ruth Pierce, of Potterne, in this county, agreed, with three other women, to buy a sack of wheat in the market, each paying her due proportion towards the same. One of these women, in collecting the several quotas of money, discovered a deficiency, and demanded of Ruth Pierce the sum which was wanting to make good the amount. Ruth Pierce protested that she had paid her share, and said 'She wished she might drop down dead if she had not.' She rashly repeated this awful wish, when, to the consternation and terror of the surrounding multitude, she instantly fell down and expired, having the money concealed in her hand." The incident was recorded by the authorities on a tablet in the Market House, now in the Devizes



THE MARKET PLACE DEVIZES



## DEVIZES

Museum where also are a record of the inquisition and inquest, and an inscribed stone narrating the event removed from the old premises of the "Bear." Bearing in mind the reiterated complaints of county court judges, another use for replicas of the inscription seems to suggest itself.

The Corn Exchange is a worthy and appropriate edifice for a town whose corn market is one of the most important in the kingdom. It has standing-room for nearly three thousand people, and the ornamental façade has a statue of Ceres, recently restored—and very well restored. The famous "Bear Inn" is in its immediate vicinity. This was once kept by the father of Sir Thomas Lawrence, a man of unusual character, enterprise and forethought, seeing that he set up poles 12 ft. high,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. apart, to guide travellers over a certain portion of Salisbury Plain, gave them warm rooms and soft beds, and was, in addition, a reader of Milton. Fanny Burney was here in 1780 with Mrs Thrale, and both were much pleased with their hostess, "who seemed something above her station in her inn." She was indeed a clergyman's daughter, and the fair diarist was to be still further astonished. In the next room, on a piano, was being played, "very decently," the overture to "Buona Figliuola," not quite new to Dr Charles Burney's daughter, who listened and then returned to the "bridge" of the period. "Dont I begin to talk in an old-cattish manner of cards?" writes the diarist. A tap at the door and acquaintance was made with two youthful but beautiful daughters of the house, "extremely pretty" and "sweetly pleasing." "But the wonder of the family was yet to

## WILTSHIRE

be produced. This was their brother, a most lovely boy of ten, who seems not merely the wonder of their family, but of the times, for his astonishing skill in drawing. They protest he has never had any instruction, yet showed us some of his productions that were really beautiful. Those that were copies were delightful—those of his own composition amazing, though far inferior. I was equally struck with the boy and his works. . . . Sir Joshua Reynolds had pronounced him, the mother said, the most promising genius he had ever met with. Mr Hoare . . . intends sending him to Italy with his own son.” This plan was not carried out. The Lawrences moved to Oxford and Weymouth, and ultimately to London. The *Town Hall*, with its Ionic portico, is on the site of the old Guildhall, and contains some old charters, including one of Henry III. (1228). The corporation plate is noticeable too, and includes a loving-cup of 1620, and two maces (1660-1661), with the initials C. R. The Council Chamber, certain borough offices, an assembly-room, and an armoury all find room here. In St John Street, at the top or town end, opposite the entrance to the Castle, is the Old Wool Hall, now occupied by Messrs Cunnington, and once the house of the Clothiers of the Guild of Merchants. A visit should be paid to some old houses in St John’s Alley or St John’s Court, off St John’s Street, which require a little skill to discover. They are in a corner immediately on the left on entering the little square in front of the Town Hall, turning sharp round by Rendell’s Sanitary Depot, before passing down to the church. The houses are 15th



## DEVIZES

cent., and unspoiled by the "restorer." General Wolfe stayed in this neighbourhood (probably at the "Lamb") just before his expedition to North America.

The Museum of the Wiltshire Archæological and Natural History Society is in Long Street, well housed in a convenient building that has recently been extended and improved. It is both admirably arranged and well cared for. Here is the magnificent Stourhead collection of antiquities, urns, celts, cups, and other articles, found in barrows and elsewhere by Sir R. C. Hoare and Mr William Cunnington, and a fine collection of British birds (the "Warrener" collection), including several bustards. The late John Britton's Celtic cabinet is also here, with models of Stonehenge and Avebury, and a number of his original drawings, and in addition are a collection of Roman and pre-Roman relics from Westbury, a collection of Wiltshire tokens, and of birds' eggs, moths and butterflies, some drinking-cups and a special collection of grape-cups; a fine geological collection, arranged in an excellent fashion, and specially illustrative of the county; a very fine herbarium, in which again Wiltshire is particularly well represented; an exceptionally interesting collection of fossils formed by Mr William Cunnington, and an exceedingly valuable collection of books, mostly, of course, having reference to the county, many of them very rare, and access to which is very freely and very courteously accorded.

A special relic of the late Celtic age, known as the "Marlborough Bucket," now housed in the Museum, must by no means be overlooked. It

## WILTSHIRE

was found by Sir R. C. Hoare at St Margaret's Head, Marlborough, and contained burnt human bones. "Classed by its finder as Roman, and by Wright as Saxon," writes Sir B. Windle, "it appears to belong to the same class as the situla at Aylesford, and, thinks Sir A. Evans, may be recognized as an article of Armoric fabric imported into South-West Britain."

The neighbourhood of Devizes is extremely interesting. In the immediate vicinity a visit should be paid to Roundway Down, easily reached by motor or cycle by taking the Marlborough road, and turning left just before the barracks. To walk is much better, however, for then acquaintance is made with the wholly delectable "Quaker's Walk," one of the most charming and beautiful avenues to be found in or out of England in close proximity to a good-sized town. It is very readily reached by taking the path by the side of St Mary's Church, and turning first to the left and then to the right. It is flanked by the beautiful Roundway Park. At the end of the avenue a field-path straight in front must be taken, and then the foot-path to the left. Oliver's Camp or Castle is away still to the left, and the site of the 1643 combat, with which Oliver had nothing to do, is a little to the right of it. The camp, marked by a few stunted and wind-worried trees, is a Late Celtic one, occupied doubtless in their turn by the Romans and others, and the terraces or lynchets on the slope, where hill cultivation was once pursued, are still visible. The views from the down are admirable. There are some extensive works in Devizes, where agricultural machinery, portable

## DEVIZES—DONHEAD ST MARY

engines, etc., are produced, and the Wilts. United Dairies' Company carry on a very large business in dairy products. In addition there is the famous old tobacco and snuff manufactory of Messrs Anstie, as well as breweries, bacon factories, and brick and tile works.

*Dinton* has a station on the L. and S. W. Railway. The church is a good one, well restored by Butterfield in 1876. Clarendon's exact birth place is disputed. Some point to a school on the site of the old rectory-house and some to a farmhouse. Milton's friend, Henry Lawes, was also born here.

*Ditcheridge* or *Ditteridge* ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. N. from Box Station) has a very interesting little church, with Norm. nave and south door, 13th-cent. chancel arch, narrow and double-recessed, and a bell turret, piscina and shelf, and Norm. font.

*Chapel Plaster*, a small desecrated chapel or cell of 15th-cent. date, is attached to the interesting old mansion known as *Alcombe*, occupied by Miss Nimmo. It was a halting-place in connexion with the pilgrimages to the abbey of Glastonbury. The term "Plaster" is said to be derived from the A.-S. "pley-stow" or play-place—the chapel on the village green.

*Donhead St Andrew* (3 m. S.E. from Semley Station). The church, placed in a deep hollow, is an old Perp. structure, restored, none too happily, in 1838. A sculptured capital, with a shield emblematic of the Crucifixion and supported by angels, is a notable and curious feature.

*Donhead St Mary* adjoins the above. Its church, in notable contrast to its neighbour, stands on the elevated ground above the stream, known

## WILTSHIRE

as Church Hill. It is Norm. and E.E. with Perp. and late Perp. additions. Of the Norm. work part of the walls and the circular font remain. The E.E. work in the nave is evidently of two periods—early 13th cent. the south side of the nave, and the north side some fifty years later. A century later saw the tower arch, south stone porch, and side chapels added, the tower and chancel coming still later. There is a slab to one Antonio Guillemot, who, with some other Carthusian monks, sought an asylum during the French Revolution in the adjacent manor of Coombe, where an old farmhouse is still known as the “Priory.” *Donhead Hall* was built by the famous painter, Sir Godfrey Kneller, who once resided here. “Kneller and Pope were better friends than Pope and Addison” is the “moral” to one of Lessing’s fables, which illustrates the old adage that two of a trade seldom agree. *Coombe House*, Mr Beaufoy’s seat, is a fine mansion built of the local greenstone. The visitor should not fail to ascend Ticklepath or Sticklepath Hill, where he will not only find Castle Rings, an ancient encampment of some fifteen acres enclosed by ditch and rampart, but will also be delighted by some glorious views over a great stretch of exceedingly beautiful country. In Chilver Combe Bottom the members of the Society of Friends have a burial ground, first used in 1678.

DOWNTON has a station on the branch line from Salisbury to Dorchester. It is both interesting and attractive; a bright, picturesque little place with venerable traditions and associations. The church is a fine, large cruciform building of flint

## DONHEAD ST MARY—DOWNTON

and stone, with an imposing embattled central tower. The nave is Trans.-Norm. and E.E. ; the E.E. transepts have received Perp. additions. The Dec. chancel, however, is the outstanding feature of the church, the east and side windows being particularly noticeable. The tower arches, the Norm. bowl of the font and the sedilia (restored) should be mentioned. At the end of the village, carefully preserved in the grounds of Mrs Squarey, is the Moot, a mound or earthwork, possibly of prehistoric origin, but used in Saxon times for the folk mote or people's meeting-place. Possibly the Shire-mote, the County Council of the day, met here. The Bishops of Winchester held Downton after the Conquest, and had their palace at Old Court across the river. Until the time of the Reform Bill Downton sent two members to Parliament, among whom were a brother of Sir Walter Raleigh, Pratt, afterwards Lord Chancellor Camden, and W. Scott, Lord Stowell, the brother of the Earl of Eldon, and the gentleman who could drink any "given" quantity of port wine. The poet Southey was elected in 1826, but declined the seat, as he afterwards did a baronetcy. The old manor-house of the Raleighs was, we believe, for some time the rectory, but is now a private residence. Sir Roger Curtis, who served at the siege of Gibraltar, was born here. On the other side of the Avon, and a little to the north-west, a clump of firs on the crest of a high hill marks Clearbury Ring, an entrenched oblong enclosure of about five acres, with a single ditch, and a rampart 40 ft. in height. It is associated with Cerdic and the West Saxons, and their notable

victory over the Britons at Cerdicesford, or Charford.

*Draycot Cerne* (3 m. N. from Chippenham Station). The small stone church is E.E., with a Perp. tower. The chancel, which is lower than the nave, is credited with having been the original church, and the monumental tomb of a knight in chain armour is presumed to be that of the founder, probably one of the Cernes. There is a good brass to Sir Edward Cerne and his lady (c. 1393), and there are various memorials to the Long family, including an altar-tomb to Sir Thomas Long. *Draycot House* is beautifully situated in a very fine park, rich in venerable oaks, and stocked with deer, and from its elevated position it commands some magnificent views. It is the property of Earl Cowley, whose father succeeded by the gift of another Wellesley, the last Earl of Mornington, but it is tenanted by Princess de Hatzfeldt-Wildenburg. The mansion is a fine stone building, and contains some interesting pictures and some valuable china and curiosities.

*Durnford* (2½ m. S. from Amesbury Station) is some 6 m. north of Salisbury. Great Durnford church is chiefly Norm. and E.E. The north and south doorways and the chancel arch and font are the older portions. There are two aumbries and a 16th-cent. brass to Edward Young and his wife and fourteen children. In the chancel, chained to a very old reading-desk, is a copy of Bishop Jewell's "Defense of the Apologie of the Church of Englande," dated 1571. There is a good Jacobean pulpit, and some old glass in the nave. The Hungerfords once had a seat here, and

## DRAYCOT CERNE—EASTON

John Evelyn, their kinsman, mentions the place in his famous diary as "Darneford Magna," and describes it as "situate in a valley under the plaine, most sweetly watered, abounding in troutes." He was nephew to the Hungerford of that day, and was also connected with the owners of West Dean, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu's paternal grandmother having been daughter and heiress of Sir John Evelyn of West Dean. The author of "Sylva" mentions her and her "prodigious memory" in the "Diary." There are traces of a Roman settlement here, and the entrenched earthwork known as Ogbury Camp gives indications of even earlier occupation.

*Durrington* (1 m. N. W. from Bulford Station) is 4 m. north of the above. The church is of flint and stone, with a Norm. south aisle. It was largely rebuilt in 1851, but retains the Perp. tower and a Norm. arcade. There is some interesting old carved oak—pulpit, benches and choir stalls—a canopied double piscina in the chancel, a piscina in the south aisle, and some good stained memorial windows. The "Walls" to the south are held to be evidence of a prehistoric settlement of some importance, and the numerous barrows, including Knighton Long Barrow, in the immediate vicinity, would seem to confirm this. Stonehenge, too, is close at hand, as the Stonehenge Inn prosaically reminds us.

*Easterton* (2 m. E. of Lavington Station) is a village and ecclesiastical parish on the northern border of Salisbury Plain and near the ancient Ridgeway. The church is modern.

*Easton* (3 m. S.W. from Savernake Junction).

## WILTSHIRE

The church was built by the Earl of Hertford towards the close of the 16th cent., and has been frequently restored and repaired. A marble slab records the heroism of the son of a late vicar, David Llewellyn, who went down with the *Alabama* when she was sunk by the *Kearsage* off Cherbourg. There are some slight traces of the foundations of a priory of White Canons, dissolved at the Reformation, when the spoil went to the Seymours.

*Easton Grey* ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. W. from Malmesbury Station) is on the Gloucestershire boundary. The small stone church was rebuilt in 1836. There are various traces of the Roman occupation in the neighbourhood, including the station of Mutuantonis, or "White Walls."

*Easton Piers* (3 m. N. of Chippenham), now usually called Easton Piercy, was the birthplace of John Aubrey, the famous Wiltshire antiquary and delightful old gossip. The house he was born in, in 1626, is now a farmhouse. His character has been variously described. Anthony à Wood calls him "a shiftless person, roving and maggoty-headed." He was born a "picker up of unconsidered trifles," although not quite in the Autolycus mode. One of his "trifles" was Avebury, which he may be said to have discovered. He was author, however, as well as antiquarian, and, like Cobbett, he had an intimate knowledge of the land that gives point and value to many of his observations. A more recent and more kindly critic than Wood speaks of the interest of his themes, and the "artless simplicity" of their treatment, in which we have "the transparent revelation of the amiable.



## EASTON GREY—EDINGTON

if not dignified character of one who might have stood to Addison for Will Wimble." He himself says of his work: "Methinks it shows a kind of gratitude and good nature to revive the memories and memorials of the pious and charitable benefactors long since dead and gone"; and referring to having seen Venetia Digby's bust at a brazier's stall at Golden Cross, he exclaims: "How these curiosities would be quite forgot did not such idle fellows as I am put them down"; and indeed we owe him a very great debt for his rescue from oblivion of many curious and interesting facts, and for the collection of old stories and traditions of apparitions and various matters now generally classed as "occult," as well as for his antiquarian and other notes on his native county. He resided for some time at Broad Chalk, at the southern end of the county, where his patrimony was situated, and he greatly loved the beautiful country in the Vale of Chalk, which he always speaks of as part of the "Plain."

*Ebbesborne Wake* (5 m. S.E. from Tisbury Station). The Wakes were the former owners of the manor, and their arms are displayed on the fine western tower of the church, a stone building restored in 1877. The church plate includes a pre-Reformation example, a mediæval chalice of about 1520. The village is dumped down as it were in a hollow of the downs, *White Sheet Hill* and its lofty downs guarding it in the rear, while in front an elevated ridge conceals the near proximity of Cranborne Chase.

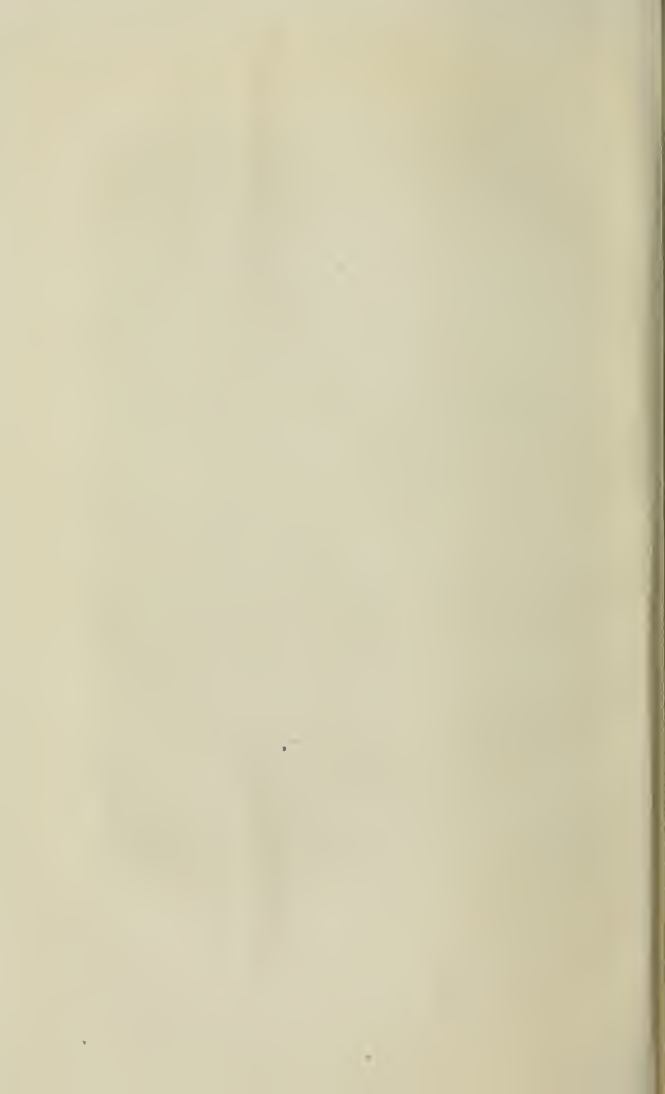
EDINGTON has a station on the Great Western Railway, and is rather less than 4 m. from Westbury.

It has some strikingly interesting historical and other associations, but it should be visited above all for its exceedingly beautiful church, one of the most attractive in many ways that the country boasts. This was built by William of Edyngdon, the predecessor of William of Wykeham as Bishop of Winchester, who was a native of Edington and who was educated at Oxford. He was chancellor and treasurer to Edward III. Domesday tells us that the Church of St Mary at Romsey held "Edendone," and it seems at an early date to have formed a prebend of Romsey Abbey. After his accession to the episcopate William founded here a college or chantry, in connexion with the church, for secular priests, governed by a warden or dean, and by royal licence the prebendal revenues were given to it and other endowment secured. Edward the Black Prince, however, favoured the Augustine monks known as Bonhommes or "Bonihomies," and at his request two of these were sent for from Ashridge in Bucks., their only settlement in this country, and a monastery of the order was established at Edington. One of these newcomers, John Aislbury, became the first rector.

Leland gives the date of the foundation as 1352. Six years later the monastery was fully launched, and in 1361 the Conventual Church was dedicated. The monastery was well endowed, and during the Lollard troubles in the next century Sir John Rous of Imber allotted Baynton Manor to it. During Jack Cade's rebellion, 1449-1450, Ayscough, Bishop of Salisbury, took refuge here from a local rising, but was dragged from the altar of the church, where he was celebrating mass, to the top



EDINGTON CHURCH



## EDINGTON

of a neighbouring hill, and there stoned to death. His offences as alleged were his continual absence with the king, whose confessor he was, and the absence of any hospitality in his diocese. His remains were interred at the monastery, and Leland speaks of a chapel and hermitage marking the place of his murder as late as 1540. Thomas Cromwell appointed a rector in 1538, but ultimately the monastery and its possessions passed into the hands of that Lord Seymour of Sudeley who married Catherine Parr. At his execution they passed to the Pauletts, who erected a fine mansion on the site of the buildings, but this subsequently fell into decay and much of the material was transported to Erlestoke. Some of the offices were merged in a farmhouse, and the Paulett arms may still be seen outside at the top of a leaden pipe, while the interior has some carved panelling closely resembling that at the church.

The church formerly served both monks and parishioners. Its beautiful outline and grand proportions suggest a cathedral. It illustrates on a worthy scale, and in a remarkably effective manner, the transition from the Dec. to the Perp. style. It is a cruciform building, with a central tower rising from the intersection on four fine arches, and in the tracery of the tower windows is marked a beautiful cross flory, and in the west windows of the aisles a cross saltier flory connected with the Pavely family and Bishop Edington. The south porch, which is lofty and finely groined, has a double parvise, or priests' room above. In the pavement of the south aisle an incised stone with the Winchester arms is re-

## WILTSHIRE

miniscent of the founder, and in the aisle itself are some of the original benches of carved oak. The nave is 75 ft. long, with six fine, lofty arches. Under one of these on the south side is an altar-tomb under a rich stone canopy, with a recess for the use of the priest. The two brass effigies are missing, but from the Cheney and Pavely arms it would seem to be a memorial of Sir Ralph Cheney, who died in 1400. In the south transept is another altar-tomb under a richly coloured canopy with the stone effigy of an Augustine canon, the feet resting on a barrel, with the initials I. B. on one end, and a triangle at the other. The devise, or rebus, of the tun or barrel with a sprig issuing from it, which is repeated in the carvings, is attributed to John Bayntun. On the south side of the chancel, within the altar rail, is a very fine monument of marble and alabaster to Sir Edward Lewys (1630), gentleman of the Privy Council to Prince Henry, and afterwards to Charles I., and his wife. It is beautifully carved, and around the plinth are the kneeling effigies of their daughter and four sons. Against the north wall is a fine monumental group in white marble by Chantrey, a memorial of Sir Simon Taylor.

The nave and chancel are divided by the ancient rood with loft over it, much restored. The rood carving, which forms the altar-piece, is Jacobean. In the east window of the north transept is some fine old glass, and beneath, the piscina and a small niche are still in the wall, although somewhat dilapidated. With the credence-table they give evidence of a chapel. The tracery of the east window

## EDINGTON—ENFORD

of the chancel gives an excellent illustration of the merging of the flowing lines and fine tracery of the Dec. period into the stiffer and more formal Perp. style. The conventual buildings were on the north side of the church, and a doorway in the north aisle communicated with the cloister. The massive stone walls of the abbey gardens, particularly the buttressed wall of the orchard, and the site of the old monastic fishponds, are almost the sole vestiges left of them. Before leaving the church, the consecration crosses, which marked the sprinkling by the bishop with chrism at the dedication, should be mentioned. They are found on the exterior of the north aisle, and in the east wall inside and outside. The magnificent yew-tree in the churchyard, over 20 ft. in circumference, and an ancient conduit to the south-west, which possibly originated with the monks, are noticeable, as well as the beautiful avenue of elms that leads to the hamlet of Tinhead.

*Enford* (6 m. S. from Woodborough Station). Avonford was its original designation. The Norm. church, with its massive tower and lofty spire, once one of the most notable in this county of remarkable churches, was struck by lightning in 1817, and largely destroyed. The old piers and arches, however, still survive. Rebuilt in 1823-1830, it was restored in 1892. The military zone extends as far as here, and the farmers are mostly Crown tenants under special covenants. In the Priory grounds some earthworks are known as the "Gladiator's Walk." Chisenbury Camp, a small earthwork, is about a mile to the north-east.

## WILTSHIRE

*Erlestoke* ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. W. from Lavington Station) is an exceedingly pretty village, a little to the east of Edington. Its natural charms are greatly increased by the beautiful deer park, the seat of the Watson-Taylors. The present church was rebuilt in 1880 by G. E. Street, R.A. The old church stood on lower ground, and the old mansion, the residence at one time of Matthew Fitzherbert, one of Henry III.'s judges, also. The present house commands some glorious views: beautiful woodland scenery, and the great vale of the Bristol Avon away to the north and west, and the mass of Salisbury Plain immediately to the south. Cobbett writes in very appreciative style of the village: "The houses stand at a few yards from each other on the two sides of the road; every house is white, and the front of every one is covered with some sort of clematis, or with rose-trees or jasmines."

*Etchilhampton* ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. N. from Patney Station) is usually called *Ashelton*. The church, though small, is an interesting Dec. building of the middle of the 14th cent., consisting of chancel, nave and south porch. In the chancel is a beautiful old altar-tomb with recumbent effigies of a knight in armour and his lady (c. 1400) possibly of the Malwyn family. The font is Trans.-Norm., but the stem and base are modern. A figure of the angel Gabriel, found in making a vault in 1833, is preserved in the church.

*Everleigh* or *Everley* ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Collingbourne Ducis Station) is in the north-east corner of the Plain, on the old turf road from Marlborough to Salisbury, and the more modern one from Devizes



## ERLESTOKE—FARLEY

to Andover. It is divided into East and West Everleigh, and the former is said to have been the residence of King Ine, who had a hunting lodge farther to the south at Sidbury Camp. It was once a market town and a place of some little importance, but its principal fame to-day is associated with coursing. After Ine's time, *longo intervallo*, we find Henry VIII. granting the lordship to Sir Ralph Sadleir, afterwards falconer to Queen Elizabeth, who got into trouble with his royal mistress when guarding Mary Queen of Scots for allowing his charge to join him, not indeed in coursing, but in his favourite sport of hawking. The church was rebuilt in 1813, but the Trans.-Norm. font is preserved. There are numerous monuments to the Astleys, whose fine old mansion, now occupied by Mrs Alexander, contains some good pictures, and whose old-fashioned gardens are interesting and attractive.

*Farley* (4 m. N. from West Dean Station) is chiefly to be noted as the birthplace of that Sir Stephen Fox, the paymaster and politician of William III.'s time, who founded the families of Fox and Fox-Strangways, and the noble houses of Holland and Ilchester. He built the brick church in 1688 to replace "an ancient ruined chapel" on another site, and in it are monuments to himself and members of his family, including a marble tablet to Charles James Fox, his famous grandson, and a monument in the nave by the younger Westmacott. The almshouse, or hospital, for three poor men and three poor women, was founded by Sir Stephen in 1682, and contains his portrait.

## WILTSHIRE

*Fifield Bavant* (5 m. S. from Dinton Station) gets its first name from five fields or hides of land, and its second from the Bavants, their Norman owners. Its little church is one of the smallest in England. It is in the Vale of Chalk, in the hundred of Chalke, in the rural deanery of Chalke (Chalke portion) and the Chalk stream waters it.

*Figheledean* (4½ m. N. from Bulford Station) is on the upper portion of the Salisbury Avon, among ancient elms and orchards, and flourishing farms. The War Office is chief landowner and holder of the manorial rights. The church is prettily situated, and is an interesting old building, Norm. and E.E. with some stained windows, some cross-legged effigies in the porch which were discovered in a field at Milston, and which possibly are connected with the Hussey family; some monuments in the chancel to the Poole family, a piscina and credence, and, in the north aisle, a part of the stairway to the rood-loft.

*Fisherton Anger.* (See *Salisbury.*)

*Fisherton Delamere* (1½ m. N.W. from Wylye Station) is called after the Delameres of Somerset, some of whom once resided here, where Fisherton Delamere House stands. The Wylye Valley is almost at its best here. The slopes of the plain with its elevations and the camps surmounting them, the white chalk roads, the fertile vale beautifully wooded here and there, and stretching away, never very wide, for miles, with the clear water of the river fed here and there by sustaining streams, make up a very delightful picture. The church, originally Trans.-Norm., was rebuilt, with the exception of the tower, in 1833. The

## FIFIELD BAVANT—FONTHILL

Trans. font remains. A chancel in E.E. style was added in 1862.

*Fittleton* ( $4\frac{1}{2}$  m. N. from Bulford Station). The church, although not large, is an interesting building, E.E. and Dec., with a western tower with spire. The font is Norm. There are some monuments to the Hicks Beach family, and an altar-tomb, with brass containing a curious punning inscription to Roger Kay, dated 1612.

*Fonthill Bishop* (3 m. N. from Tisbury Station). The old cruciform church was restored in 1879, the chancel having previously been rebuilt in 1871.

*Fonthill Gifford* is 1 m. nearer to Tisbury Station. It is a pretty little village, and the church, which was built in 1866 by the late Marquis of Westminster, is in E.E. fashion, and has a fine exterior. It replaced a Classical building of Beckford. The beautiful pulpit is sculptured with the heads of the Four Evangelists, and was, with the font, the gift of the late Mr Alfred Morrison.

FONTHILL. Another Fonthill now claims attention, the Fonthill of William Beckford, the author of "Vathek." It is situated mainly in the parish last named, and was long known as Fonthill Abbey, from the building that was to be "a convent, partly in ruins and partly perfect," that Wyatt built from the most extraordinary commission that ever architect was entrusted with. Fonthill has been a baronial seat from the time of the Conquest, when it became the property of the Giffards, and passing through the hands of Maundevilles, Molyns, Hungerfords, and others, was bought by Alderman Beckford, the wealthiest

## WILTSHIRE

merchant in England, once the ally of Wilkes, and afterwards Pitt's right-hand man in the city of London, from the Cottingtons. There had always, however, been something uncanny and unlucky about its mansions. Twice they were burned to the ground, the Alderman's purchase perishing in this way, and when "Fonthill Splendens," or old Fonthill House, with which he replaced it, was erected at a cost of a quarter of a million, it proved to have been placed on a damp site (it was close to the lake at the foot of the hill), was neglected, fell into a dilapidated state, and was sold by William Beckford for £9000. The latter was born at Fonthill in 1759, and when he came of age he inherited a million of money, and £100,000 a year. The West Indies was the chief source of this immense wealth, and Beckford had the benefit of a long minority, his father having died in 1770. His godfather was his father's friend, William Pitt. He was fond of foreign travel, but returned to Fonthill in 1781 for his coming of age, which was celebrated by a series of fêtes and entertainments on a scale of lavish hospitality and magnificence, fully commensurate with the millions of the heir. Beckford himself writes of the "magnificent celebration," and says that the scenes which preceded and followed it—"the Egyptian halls and vaulted chambers of Fonthill, peopled with the prototypes of Gulchurry and Norronhas, solely visible for three consecutive days and nights by the glow of lamps and fires—suggested my first ideas of the Palace of Eblis."

Beckford was married in 1783 to Lady

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Margaret Gordon. In the year of his marriage he printed a series of letters entitled "Dreams, Waking Thoughts, etc., etc.," but his friends advised him to suppress it on the ground that the display of his hatred of "sport" might prejudice him in the House of Commons. The "House" of that day must have been as sensitive as that which John Bright once horrified by speaking of the "Pytchley" with a pronunciation of the word that savoured of the material that defiles. Beckford continued to reside mainly abroad for ten years after the death of his wife, settling down at Fonthill at last in 1796. In the meantime, "Vathek" had appeared in 1786, *in English*, being published anonymously by S. Henley, who translated from Beckford's MS.; and *in French*, in which it was written, at Paris. His travels were extended to Spain and Portugal and Italy, and in one at least of these, he sojourned for a considerable time and indulged his weakness for palace building, for Byron, in "Childe Harold," refers to his Portuguese home at Cintra :

" —ruined splendour still is lingering there,  
And yonder towers the Prince's palace fair ;  
There thou too, Vathek ! England's wealthiest son,  
Once form'd thy Paradise, as not aware  
When wanton wealth her mightiest deeds hath done,  
Meek Peace voluptuous lures was ever wont to shun."

In a note the great poet pays a high tribute to "Vathek." "For correctness of costume, beauty of description, and power of imagination, it far surpasses all European imitations, and bears such marks of originality that those who have visited

## WILTSHIRE

the East will find some difficulty in believing it to be more than a translation. As an Eastern tale even 'Rasselas' must bow before it."

One of Beckford's peculiarities was a love of solitude, and when he settled at Fonthill he made a sort of hermitage of the place, shutting himself up with a physician, a major-domo, a musician, and a French abbé. He disliked "large companies," which checked his thought and confused his ideas, and he was utterly unfitted for a country life as usually lived by Englishmen. He loved animals, and would suffer none to be killed except through necessity. "I consider we have no right to murder animals for sport. The birds in the plantations of Fonthill seemed to know me. They continued their songs as I rode close to them; the very hares grew bold. It was exactly what I wished." A formidable wall, seven miles round, was constructed to keep out poachers and trespassers of all sorts. It was 12 ft. high, with a *chevaux de frise* on the top, and was finished in twelve months. A tale is told that an inquisitive bagman, who had penetrated the sacred precincts, encountered the eccentric proprietor, who, after entertaining him in generous fashion, dismissed him at bedtime with the injunction to "mind the blood-hounds" when finding his way through the park. The sequestered life, however, was anything but good for this favourite of fortune. A sort of atrophy was the not unnatural result. This was relieved by what appears to be a wild debauchery of building and construction. The old mansion was rebuilt, then pulled down and sold, and another, the "Abbey," raised on a new

## FONTHILL

site. Its progress was watched with a curiosity almost national, and people are said to have disguised themselves as workmen that they might gaze their fill at the spectacle. The work went on by night as well as day, and Beckford, who must have had a very strong dash of the theatrical in his disposition, "used to watch the high and giddy dancing of the lights, the strange effects produced upon the architecture and woods below from one of the eminences . . . feasting his sense with this display of almost superhuman power." The plan of the abbey was that of a cross, the arms of fairly equal length, a tall octagonal tower springing from the centre. "An orgy of reckless Gothic," one writer calls it, and another says it was "replete with errors and omissions, defects in style, mouldings and ornament." The Abbey, begun in 1796, was still unfinished, when at Christmas, 1800, it was visited by Nelson, accompanied by Sir William and Lady Hamilton. Five hundred workmen were employed to make ready for the visit and its accompanying festivities, and the visitors rode up in postchaises, their way illuminated by flambeaux and thousands of lamps hung on the trees, to enter through a Gothic archway, into a groined Gothic hall, lined with soldiers, and thence proceed to the great salon, the "Cardinals' Parlour," with curtains of rich purple cloth and antique furniture "strictly in monastic taste." The dishes were "in the massy style and fashion of the ancient abbeys," and the contents "unmingled with any of the refinements of the modern culinary art." How far the latter was an advantage we are not told, but in the library, "all in

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monastic taste," invisible music was "laid on," and the evening closed with one of Lady Hamilton's "famous plastic performances," which also, let us hope, was in strict monastic taste.

Beckford's immense expenditure, for he was a great collector as well as constructor; the depreciation of his West Indian property, and lawsuits and other unprofitable matters, induced him to part with the Fonthill property in 1822 and 1823, when the estate and the mansion, with the larger part of its contents, were sold to Mr John Farquhar for £330,000. Beckford removed to Lansdowne Crescent, Bath, with his library (it was said he would never sell a book) and his choicest pictures, and with a considerable remnant of his vast fortune went on collecting and building on a much diminished scale, enjoying good health, and living to a lusty old age, dying in 1844, at the age of eighty-five, and being buried under one of his own many towers, the one on Lansdowne Hill. When his collections were resold in 1823, the year after he parted with them, the sale occupied thirty-seven days, and excited enormous interest.

Much of the furniture of the "old" house was sold in 1801, and more in 1807, when its "dilapidation" followed. Its sole surviving wing is the nucleus of Fonthill House, the mansion of Mrs Alfred Morrison. After the sale of Fonthill and the Abbey, Mr Farquhar was warned that the tower was insecure, but was "quite satisfied it would last his time." True to Fonthill traditions, however, it fell in 1825 into the marble court, and Beckford remarked that it had been more civil to its owner of one year than to him, to



## FONTHILL—FOSBURY

whom it had never even bowed or curtseyed in twenty-seven. The Marquis of Westminster built a new Fonthill Abbey about half-a-mile from it in 1859, in Scotch baronial style, near the lake. The approach to it is through the iron gates of the stone lodge near the inn, the Beckford Arms, at Fonthill Gifford ; but visitors should be furnished with a pass from Lady Octavia Shaw-Stewart's agent at Tisbury. The drive is lined with silver-firs of great beauty, and the grounds and the lake are very attractive. On a hill a little to the north-west is the sole relic of the former abbey, a tower which has been converted into a residence for its custodian. There is an excellent view from the top of it, over the Dorset downs as well as the Nadder Vale and the Wardour woods, while the Abbey woods themselves with their miles of drives and their striking elevations furnish a beautiful foreground. *Fonthill House* is best approached from Hindon or from Fonthill Bishop. From the former a walk of  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. leads to a tunnel which passes under the beautiful terrace walks, and a good plan is to mount to the top of the tunnel and take the highest terrace walk, which runs into Mrs Morrison's grounds, to near Fonthill Bishop, where a fine archway and an imposing massive wall indicate the entrance to the beautiful park, with its magnificent expanse and varied scenery, the long lake with wooded hills for a background, and the beautiful mansion, Italian in style, with a lofty tower, but retaining a wing of Alderman Beckford's "Fonthill Splendens," combining to form an altogether delightful scene.

*Fosbury* (5 m. S. from Bedwyn Station). An

## WILTSHIRE

ancient entrenchment, Fosbury Camp, on Haydon Hill a little to the south, is the only feature of interest.

*Fovant* (2 m. S.W. from Dinton Station). The church, restored in 1863, is an old Norm. edifice, and the ancient priest's door remains. The tower was added in 1495, and a small brass records its building and gives a representation of the Annunciation, with the inscription: "O blessed moder of pite pray to the Sone for me." The E. window is a memorial to Lord Herbert of Lea.

*Foxley* (3 m. S.W. from Malmesbury Station) is close to the old Roman Fosse-way. The small stone church calls for no special comment.

*Froxfield* (2½ m. W. from Hungerford Station) is a little to the south of Littlecote Park. The small church, an old 12th-cent. building, is on a hill to the west of the village. The chancel has a low tiled roof. The interesting church cup has been in use since 1619. The almshouses known as the "Somerset Hospital" were founded here in 1686 by Sarah, Dowager Duchess of Somerset, for the maintenance of thirty widows (now sixteen). They are each allowed £26 per annum. The building is a quadrangle of oblong form, with a small chapel.

*Fyfield* (3 m. W. from Marlborough Station). The church is an ancient Trans.-Norm. building with a pinnacled western tower, and is beautifully situated in a churchyard surrounded by tall elms, with a lych-gate opening from it to the road. The church font is Norm. The cromlech known as the "Devil's Den" is on the downs immediately

## FOVANT—GRITTLETON

to the north. A very famous training ground and the headquarters of the racing stable associated with Alec Taylor's name are situated in this immediate neighbourhood. Manton House and Fyfield Down are a mile or so to the north of the Bath road, and the great trainer is lord of the manor and principal landowner.

*Garsdon* (2½ m. E. from Malmesbury Station) is in the old Braden forest district, and Braden pond, a sheet of water a little to the east, is a reminder of the fact. The church, picturesquely placed on a hill, is in E.E. style, with western pinnacled tower, and contains a monument to Sir Lawrence Washington (1643) restored in 1906 by Bishop Potter and some of his countrymen. Sir Lawrence became possessed of the manor in 1640, and resided in the 16th-cent. manor-house, now a farmhouse. Five members of the Washington family are buried here. George Washington was a descendant of the Northamptonshire branch.

*Grafton* has a station on the Midland & South Western Railway. The church is modern.

*Grimstead (West)* (3½ m. W. from Dean Station) has a small ancient church with no particular feature of interest.

GRITTLETON (3 m. S.E. from Badminton Station) has an old church, Norm. and E.E., with Perp. additions. It was restored by the late Sir John Neeld in 1865. *Grittleton House* is a fine modern mansion, famous for its art collection, paintings, sculpture, bronzes, etc. In our limited space we can only briefly indicate a few of the artists represented—viz. Rubens, Titian, Guido, Holbein, Velasquez, Frans Hals, Teniers, Rembrandt, Van

der Helst, Andrea del Sarto, L. Sabbatini, J. Ostade, Gainsborough, Reynolds, Opie, Zoffany, Morland, Constable (whose Vale of Dedham is here), Etty, and many others. Baily, E. Papworth, Wyatt, Raffaele Monti, Chantry and Gibson (the original Venus Victrix) are among the sculptors represented, and Flaxman's Shield of Achilles and other works figure among the bronzes.

*Ham* (4 m. S. of Hungerford Station) is in an outlying portion of the county almost islanded by Berkshire and Hants., and very near to Inkpen Beacon, the latter over 1000 ft. high, and the highest of the Chalk Downs. From it some fine views can be had. The old stone church calls for no special comment.

*Hankerton* (4 m. W. from Minety Station). The church is an old E.E. building with a good western tower.

*Hannington* has a station on the short branch line from Swindon to Highworth. The Thames divides the northern portion of the parish (Hannington Wick) from Gloucestershire. The village is built in the form of a  $\gamma$ , and is not devoid of charm. The church is mostly E.E. and Perp., but there is a Norm. south doorway. It contains monuments to the Freke and Hussey-Freke families. The hall is a beautiful mansion, Elizabethan in style, well placed, and commanding some fine views over the surrounding country.

*Hardenhuish* ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. N. of Chippenham) is usually abbreviated to "Harnish." The church was built in 1779 by Wood of Bath. In the burial ground is a monument to David Ricardo, the political and social economist, and one to

## HAM—HARNHAM (WEST)

John Thorpe, the antiquary and editor of the "Registrum."

*Harnham (East)* is a suburb of Salisbury. It is an ancient place, and was "a pretty village ere Salisbury was builded," says an old chronicle. The church, in the Dec. style, built of flint and stone relieved with Bath stone dressings, is on Harnham Hill, and was built in 1854 as a memorial to Dean Lear. It is a beautiful building, and the interior contains some handsome carving and some good modern glass.

*Harnham (West)* (1 m. S.W. from Salisbury Station). The church is Trans.-Norm., with some E.E. and Dec. additions. It was restored in 1872-1873. There is a Norm. north door and a Norm. window in the chancel and in the north of the nave. The chancel is approached by a fine late E.E. arch, and the corbels and piscina should be noted, as well as an early font with E.E. bowl and a chantry hagioscope. There is a piscina in the south chapel, and splayed side window, and a Jacobean altar-table. There are traces in the nave of an older building, and of an alleged ancient stone altar. There are some quaint old inscriptions in the south porch, and the register, which dates from 1567, has some interesting records. The old mill, part of which dates from early Tudor days, is worth seeing. The ancient bridge over the Nadder was built by Bishop Bingham in 1244, and the central pier supports what was once an E.E. chapel, but which is now part of a dwelling-house. There are three lancets at the east end, and four at each side, and in the interior is a piscina.

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*Heale House.* (See *Woodford.*)

*Heddington* (3 m. S. from Calne Station). The Perp. church, with register dating from 1538, does not call for special comment. A moiety of the manor formed part of the endowment of Lacock Abbey by the Countess Ela. The Roman station, Verlucio, is supposed to have been here, or very near by, and Aubrey tells us of some old Roman dwellings being unearthed here, and of the discovery of a great number of Roman coins.

HEYTESBURY has a station on the line connecting Westbury (G.W.) with Salisbury (L. & S.W). It was once a Parliamentary borough, but it was disfranchised in 1832. It is a long, straggling, but attractive little country town, consisting chiefly of the one main street, and is on the banks of the Wylde, the valley of which here widens out considerably, and in the immediate neighbourhood of Salisbury Plain, the escarpments of which are crowned with some famous camps. It is a place of considerable antiquity: the old A.-S. *Hegeredesbyri* which reappears in Domesday Book as *Hestrebe*. The manor was divided and belonged to various families, the Dunstanvilles, Montforts, Burghersh and others, until Richard II.'s reign, when all portions were held by the Hungerfords until in the reign of Henry VIII. they were forfeited on the attainder of Walter Hungerford, "Lord Hungerford of Heytesbury."

The church was carefully restored by the late Mr Butterfield in 1866, and is a fine cruciform building, chiefly E.E., with the exception of the clerestoried nave with four bays and aisles, which is Perp., probably built by the Hungerfords at the

## HEALE HOUSE—HEYTESBURY

beginning of the 15th cent. The arch dividing it from the north transept, which was thrown open to the church during the restoration, has a stone screen displaying the Hungerford arms and badges. The church was made collegiate by Jocelyn, Bishop of Sarum, in the 12th cent. and had a dean and four prebendaries. The E.E. arches in the walls of the chancel aisles have been opened and rebuilt, and the pitch of the roof restored. In the south transept is a tablet to the memory of William Cunnington (1754-1810), the famous Wiltshire antiquary, a great portion of whose antiquarian research is embodied in Sir R. C. Hoare's "Ancient History of North and South Wiltshire." *Heytesbury Hospital* is an old house of alms, originally founded by the Hungerford who was Lord Treasurer in the 15th cent., and completed by Robert, the second baron, and his wife Margaret, about 1472. It provides for twelve poor men, one woman, and a *custos* who acts as chaplain. It is a red-brick building occupying three sides of a square. The Hungerford Arms, with sickles interlocked, are over the entrance. *Heytesbury House* is a fine square stone mansion in a beautiful park, well wooded, with some fine cedars and beeches, at the base of Cotley Hill, fir plantations clothing the ascending slopes. At the entrenchment on the top, nearly 500 ft. in diameter, some magnificent views are obtainable. *Knook Castle*, originally prehistoric, and giving ample evidence of subsequent Roman occupation, is about 2 m. to the north-east, and farther north is the *Old Ditch*, which goes across the plain in the direction of Tilshead, and along which various vestiges of pre-

## WILTSHIRE

historic dwellings have been traced. The pictures at Heytesbury are very fine, the Spanish school being exceptionally well represented. Murillo, Ribera, Zurbaran, Luca Giordano, Paul Veronese, Raphael, Domenichino, Teniers, Albano, Guercino, J. Juannes, G. and N. Poussin, S. Rosa, and Claude are some of the artists of whose works there are some notable examples. *Tytherington*, a hamlet 1 m. south, formerly a prebend of the collegiate church, is now included in Heytesbury, and has a small stone church about 20 ft. wide and 50 ft. long, with a stone roof and a little bell-cot.

*Heywood* (1 m. N.E. from Westbury Station) has a small modern church built and endowed by the late Mr Ludlow. *Heywood House* was built in the reign of James I., but has been rebuilt in recent times.

*Highway* (5 m. S. from Wootton Bassett Station). The church was rebuilt by the late Mr Butterfield in 1867. The old stone rood-screen and rood-beam, and early Norm. door, and the font have been preserved.

HIGHWORTH is connected with Swindon by a short branch of the Great Western Railway. It is a very old town, a town set on a hill that cannot be hid, and from it the eye wanders over three counties. It belonged at the time of the Domesday Survey to the Crown. The church is Perp. chiefly, with a fine, pinnacled western tower. A memorial to Flight Sub-Lieutenant Warneford, V.C., who destroyed the Zeppelin at Ghent in 1915 is about to be placed in the Warneford Chapel. Highworth saw some trouble during the Civil Wars, when the church was held for



## HEYWOOD—HILLMARTON

Charles, but was captured by Fairfax on his way westward after the battle of Naseby, when his followers "had good booty in the church, taking 70 prisoners and 80 arms." Among the church plate is a very fine, silver-gilt pre-Reformation chalice, in very good preservation, dated 1534. Mr Nightingale says it corresponds nearly with the examples preserved at Trinity College, Oxford, and at Wylve, and adds: "The engraved subject and inscriptions vary from any previously noticed, and are of some interest, as they seem to indicate a change in the religious feeling of the time (1534). In place of the usual Crucifixion engraved on the base of the chalice is found the figure of Our Lord as the Man of Sorrows. The paten too, which at this period was usually covered with decoration, is almost plain." The paten is dated 1534. The cattle fairs and markets held here are of some importance.

*Hill Deverill* ( $3\frac{1}{4}$  m. S. from Warminster Station). The church was rebuilt in 1843, and contains a monumental tomb of ancient date to some member of the Ludlow family, who held the manor here. The old manor-house, now a farmhouse, is to the east of the church, and attached to it are considerable remains of a 15th-cent. tithe-barn.

*Hillmarton* (3 m. N. from Calne). The church, restored in 1880 by the late G. E. Street, has some E.E. columns between nave and aisle, but the stone chancel screen dividing from the nave, the timber roof, and most of the windows are Perp. The tower was partly rebuilt in 1840. There are monuments to the Calley and Quinton

## WILTSHIRE

families. The old chained Bible, the 1611 edition, with its wooden binding and original chain, is in the chancel arch. The Poynder almshouses for five inmates are a modern charity. Lord Islington, recently Governor of New Zealand, is lord of the manor.

*Hilperton* ( $1\frac{3}{4}$  m. N.E. from Trowbridge Station). The church was rebuilt in 1854 as regards the chancel and nave. The old western tower with spire and the ancient Norm. font are noticeable.

*Hindon* ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.W. from Tisbury Station) was of great importance in its day, when it was a market town and a Parliamentary borough, returning two members. It degenerated into a "pocket borough." "If the squire had zent his gret dog we should have chosen him all one as if it were you, zur," was the not very complimentary reply a free and independent elector once made to a newly-elected and would-be grateful member. Monk Lewis and Henry Fox, afterwards Lord Holland, represented it in the House of Commons, and it was contested by Disraeli without success during his early career. It is mostly contained in one long, broad, straight street, the trees on each side of which were planted by Sir Robert Shaw Stewart at the time of the late king's marriage in 1863. The church was built in 1871 by the late Marquis of Westminster. It is on the site of an older edifice which was built early in Queen Mary's reign, and is in the French Gothic style with a tower and spire. The downs in the neighbourhood are full of interesting vestiges of the past—ancient earthworks, sites of prehistoric

## HILPERTON—HORNINGSHAM

villages, and the like ; and a little to the north, where the downs attain a height of 700 ft., a Roman road runs through the great Ridge Wood.

*Hinton (Little)* (3 m. S. from Shrivenham Station). The church is a stone building with a Norm. nave and Dec. chancel, the remainder being Perp. The font is curiously carved.

*Holt* has a junction station on the Great Western Railway. The church was rebuilt in 1891 under the careful supervision of Mr C. E. Ponting, of Marlborough. The old Norm. font is preserved. There is a leather and glove manufactory, and bedding and mattress works, and the railway facilities will probably induce further enterprise in this direction.

*Homington* (3 m. S. from Salisbury). The church was restored in 1860. Grim's Ditch (there are several of them, *grime* or devil is given as one derivation, while Dr Guest prefers *gruma*, a boundary) is up the hill to the south, and here are the *Great Yews*, a wood of these trees, some of them of unusual dimensions.

*Horningsham* ( $4\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.W. from Warminster Station) is immediately to the south of Longleat Park, and is beautifully situated in a very picturesque neighbourhood. The church was rebuilt by the Marchioness of Bath in 1844, with the exception of the western pinnacled tower. It was a favourite resort of Bishop Ken when enjoying his dignified retreat at Longleat. The Arundells had a house here near the church, and in the upper room is a large chimney-piece, probably removed here after the storming of Woodhouse, and bearing their arms. The Congregational

## WILTSHIRE

Chapel, which has some three hundred sittings, was founded in 1566, and claims to be the oldest Dissenting place of worship in the kingdom. *Bidcombe Hill* (876 ft.), a little to the south-east, commands some very beautiful and extensive views.

*Huish* (3 m. N. of Pewsey Station) is on the Marlborough Downs. The stone church was restored in 1879. *Huish Hill* is notable for the well-defined vestiges of a prehistoric village. Traces of dewponds and lynchets or terraces, "Shepherd's Steps," as they are locally called, are numerous, and camps and earthworks abound in all directions. The Wansdyke passes a little to the north.

*Hullavington* has a station on the Severn tunnel route *viâ* Badminton. The church was rebuilt in 1880, but some Trans.-Norm. work was preserved in the porch, etc., and some E.E. windows in the north aisle, as well as a little old glass. A chasuble is preserved at the vicarage, of brown satin, embroidered in gold and silver, with a representation of the Crucifixion, dating from the end of the 15th cent. The old manor-house of *Bradfield*, with pointed windows and 15th-cent. hall, and a 16th-cent. addition at the rear, was once owned by William Collingbourne, who wrote the famous couplet on Richard III. and Catesby, Lovel and Ratcliffe—

"The Cat, the Rat, and Lovel the dog,  
Rule all England under the Hog."

and lost his head for his pains.

*Idmiston* (1 m. N. from Porton Station). The church, restored in 1867, is an old flint building with stone relief, and a western tower and

## HUIISH—INGLESHAM

spire. The chancel is E.E., with triple lancet window, and the nave and aisles and the fine roof Perp. There is a monument to one of the Rowbachs, dated 1633, and some tablets to the Bowle family, one member of which, a former vicar and Spanish scholar who died in 1788, edited an edition of "Don Quixote." Part of the rood-staircase remains, and there is a piscina in the chancel and in each of the aisles.

*Imber* (4 m. S.E. from Edington Station) is on Salisbury Plain, buried almost in the Chalk Downs. The road which winds from Edington to Tilshead and passes through is little more than a trackway, and in the winter snows and storms the place is difficult of access. "Imber on the down, four miles from any town" the local couplet runs, and the "four" is an exceedingly modest estimate. The small stone church is Dec. and Perp., with a Norm. font of early date that has some herring-bone work round the top. There is a piscina in the south aisle and a stoup in the porch. There are two cross-legged effigies in the church, one in the arched recess in the south aisle, and they are supposed to be connected with the Rous family.

*Inglesham* (3 m. N. from Highworth Station). The quaint old round house marks the junction of the Thames and Severn Canal with the river, which is here joined by the Cole coming in from the south. "A lovely little building, like Kelmscott in style and size, but handsomer, and with more things left in it," is William Morris's description of the old stone church, and Mr Hutton declares that "there is hardly such another church perhaps

left in the land. It looks as if it had not been touched since Queen Anne sat on the throne." It is Trans.-Norm. and E.E., with the addition of some 15th-cent. windows. There is a fine timber roof to the chancel, plain trussed rafters, and in the eastern portion a boarded ceiling with light transverse ribs. There are some signs of a large fresco, and on the south wall a sculpture of the Saviour and the Blessed Virgin. There are floor tablets to Robert Babb and his wife (1699), and a black marble slab from which a life-size brass has been removed. The old village cross, in good preservation, stands in the churchyard, an octagonal base, approached by three steps, supporting a stone shaft 7 ft. in height.

*Keevil* (5 m. S. from Melksham, and the same E. from Trowbridge). The church is a plain stone building containing monuments to Harris, a London alderman (1657), and to the Blayden, Beach, and other families, as well as some 17th-cent. and later brasses. The fine old Jacobean manor-house is square in plan, with many picturesque gables. It has some good panelling of the period, and a painted frieze. A fine Gothic half-timbered house in the village has suffered somewhat at the hands of the restorer.

*Kellaways* (3 m. N.E. from Chippenham Station). The church is modern, and the place is chiefly notable as giving its name to the "Kellaways rock," a great bed of calcareous limestone, almost entirely composed of fossil shells, which underlies the blue Oxford clay.

*Kennet (East)* (5 m. W. from Marlborough Station) is on the river whose name it bears, and

## KEEVIL—KINGTON LANGLEY

is a little to the south of the Bath road. The church was restored in 1864.

*Kennet (West)*, a little to the N.W. of the above, is in the parish of Avebury and is on the Bath road. It is famous for its ales, which are brewed here in considerable quantities. The famous *Long Barrow* is a little to the south-east.

*Kilminster* (4 m. S.E. from Witham Station) is on the Somerset border. The Wylde rises in this neighbourhood, and the district is a very pleasing one, Long Knoll, an outlying eminence of Salisbury Plain, 950 ft. high, being about 1 m. to the north, and Stourhead a little farther to the south. The manor at one time belonged to the Crown, but was granted by Edward I. to the Le Port family, and afterwards passed to the Hartgills, associated with the murder by Lord Stourton in 1556. The chancel of the church has been rebuilt, and the church was restored in 1869.

*Kingston Deverill* (6½ m. S. from Warminster Station) is the last of a series of five Deverills lying to the south of that town. The little river which gives them their name emerges here after a long burrowing underground on its way from Kilminster, and is said, although without any great probability, to get its name from Diverill on account of its exploit. The church was rebuilt in 1847, with the exception of the 15th-cent. tower, and is in early Dec. style. There is some old glass in the west window and an old male effigy.

*Kington Langley* (2½ m. N. from Chippenham) is a pretty little village at the top of Fitzurse Hill, and the ancient family associated with this elevation

gives its name to one of the farms which belonged at a later date to Sir Ralph Hopton. The Fitzurses held it under Glastonbury Abbey, and one of their name will be remembered in connexion with the murder of Thomas Becket. A large 17th-cent. farmhouse on the green should be noticed. The old church or chapel was converted into a private house in 1670. It was dedicated to St Peter, and his festival was, according to Aubrey, "one of the eminentest feasts in these parts."

*Kington St Michael* (3 m. N. from Chippenham Station) is a mile to the west of the above. The church, restored in 1857, has some good early work, including a fine Trans.-Norm. chancel arch and a northern arcade, E.E. The tower is a lofty one, but was badly restored in 1725 after having been blown down in a storm. The register records the beginning and end of the plague in 1582. There is a memorial window to two great Wiltshire antiquaries, John Aubrey and John Britton, the former born at Easton Piercy, within the parish, in 1626, and the latter, whose father was a baker and small farmer, at Kington St Michael in 1771. On the Priory farm are some remains of the cloister of the Benedictine nunnery, and stone coffins have been 'dug up in the garden. Aubrey tells us how the young maids were brought up there, "not as at Hakney, Sarum Schools etc., to learn pride and wantonness," but with "examples of piety and humility." They learned "needlework, the art of confectionery, surgery, physic, writing, drawing, etc." He adds "the gentlewomen did cure their poor neighbours: their hands are



## KINGTON (WEST)—KNOYLE (EAST)

now too fine." The Lyte almshouses, six, of two rooms each, date from 1672.

*Kington (West)* ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. S. from Badminton Station) was the rectory of Bishop Latimer, (1530-1535) and in the walk at the parsonage was, in Aubrey's time, the little scrubbed oak where he used to sit. Latimer Farm, a small 17th-cent. house, helps to preserve the connexion, while the carved oak pulpit in the church is said to be the one from which he preached. The old cruciform church, Norm. and E.E., has been restored, but some of the older portions remain, and a long subterranean passage is somewhat remarkable. Latimer used to watch the pilgrims passing along the Fosse-way "to many images, but chiefly to the blood of Hailes"—Hales Abbey, that is, in the adjoining county.

*Knook* (1 m. E. from Heytesbury Station) has an old stone church restored in 1882. The capitals of the chancel arch are Norm. Knook or Knock Castle has been mentioned under Heytesbury.

*Knogle (East)* ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. N. from Semley Station) was the birthplace of Sir Christopher Wren (1632), who was the son of its rector. The church is a cruciform building, admirably situated, E.E. and Perp. in style, having a tower with turret at the west end. It was restored by the late rector, Mr Milford, in memory of Bishop Sumner of Winchester. *Knogle House*, Miss Seymour's seat, has been greatly enlarged and improved. It contains a good collection of pictures, including excellent examples of A. and W. Van der Velde, of Luis de Morales, of J. Vernet, J. Van der

## WILTSHIRE

Heyden and others, and portraits of the Seymour family. *Clouds House* is in this parish.

*Knoyle (West)* is a little to the N.W. of the above. The church, with the exception of the Perp. tower, was rebuilt in 1878. It contains some tablets and other memorials to the Willoughby family who formerly resided here. The old parish stocks still stand near the church entrance.

LACOCK (3 m. N. from Melksham, and 3 m. S. from Chippenham Station) has a "halt" on the Great Western Railway. The village is a wonderful little old-world place, gathered about the grounds of the famous Abbey on the banks of the sluggish Avon, and its few streets are made unusually beautiful by a number of picturesque old 15th-cent. houses, quaint old timbered buildings, with projecting eaves and sharp gables, while the number of old stone houses is remarkable. To fill up the measure there is quite a good 14th-cent. barn, which will be found just opposite to the Red Lion Inn; an ancient village cross restored by Mr C. H. Talbot; a 16th-cent. building at the lodge gates of the Abbey; and a church, Dec. and Perp., of an exceedingly interesting kind, all of which add to the interest and charm which are free from any note of modernity. The church is a cruciform building dedicated to St Cyriac. The transepts and lower part of the west tower are Dec., the nave and spire Perp. South of the chancel is the Lady Chapel, 15th cent., and its fan tracery, elaborate ornamentation, and rich colouring, are noticeable. There is a fine canopied tomb here to Sir W. Sharington (*ob.* 1553), and a marble monument to Sir John Talbot



LA COCK



## KNOYLE (WEST)—LACOCK ABBEY

(*ob.* 1713), after whose family the chapel is generally called. There are canopied niches in the north wall of the chapel, and at the apex of the gables. The fine mediæval cup and cover used as a chalice is probably 15th cent. It was probably originally designed for secular use, and is a rare example. In the south transept is a brass to one of the Baynards and his wife, dated 1501.

LACOCK ABBEY. Admission is obtained by payment of a shilling, the receipts being allocated to a restoration fund. The Abbey was founded for Augustinian canonesses in 1232 by Ela, Countess of Salisbury, who took Lacock and other manors in dower when married to William Longespee, the natural son of Henry II. and Fair Rosamund. There are traditions that in earlier times the place was a "castella" founded by the British king, Dynwal Moelmyd. Ela's mother was a noble lady of Brittany, and in the "Book of Lacock," a 14th-cent. compilation which is now in the British Museum, a story is told of the child when left an orphan being concealed in France and rescued thence by one William Talebot, a pilgrim who, disguised as a troubadour, effected her rescue and brought her to England. The pretty romance not only lacks "finish" but is quite unsupported. Ela was associated with her husband in much great and good work, notably the founding of Salisbury Cathedral. Guided, it is said, by a supernatural vision, she chose the meadow called "Snaylesmede" for the site of her new foundation, and in 1238 she took the habit, being made the first Abbess of the house in 1240. She died in 1261, and was buried in the choir of

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\* 2-6 p.m. Closed on Fridays.  
? Sundays

the old Abbey Church, now no more. Near the time of the Dissolution when Lacock came under the Suppression Act, it was exempted on payment of a fine, and the "visitors" were forced to give it a very good name. There were "no notable comperts" or abuses, writes John ap Rice, who specially calls attention to the fact that the ladies had their rules, institutes, etc., written in the French tongue "which they understand well and are very perfect in the same." Although, however, "of vertuous lvyng and all desiring to continue religious," the nuns were dispersed in 1539, the abbess and prioress and sisters receiving pensions ranging from £40 to £2, and the site, buildings, etc., were granted to Sir William Sharington for a trifle over £780. He pulled down the Abbey Church, the site of which is now a terrace walk, and of which only the north wall remains to form the south wall of the present house, and determined to convert the remaining buildings into a personal residence, a decision on which we are to be congratulated, inasmuch as it secured us the survival of such an admirable example of conventual buildings.

From the traces of the foundations that remain the Abbey Church was a building nearly 150 ft. long by 27 in width, E.E. and stone vaulted. A wooden-roofed Lady Chapel contained the tomb of Sir John Bluet, and was added in 1315. Entering from the village street through the great gates, the old outer court, in which were various outbuildings, is first encountered. On the west side is the front hall, a large pseudo-Gothic addition of 1754, when some not par-

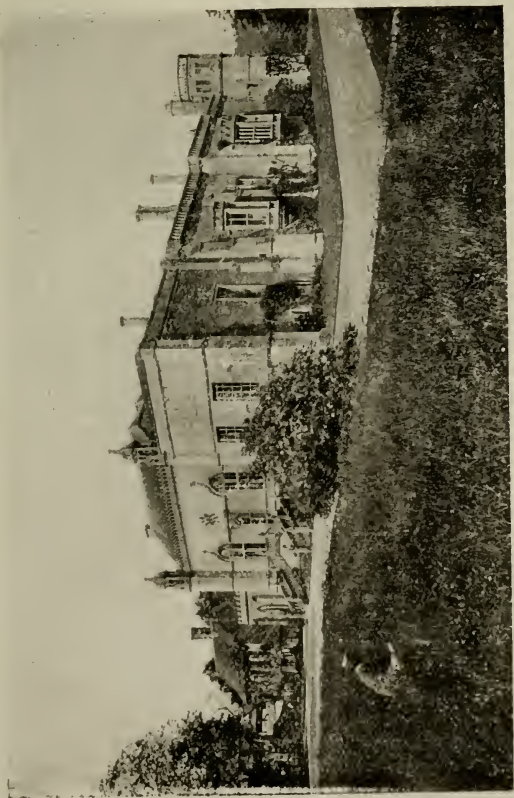
## LACOCK ABBEY

ticularly happy reconstruction took place. Round it to the south is the site of the church, and from here the cloisters may be entered, and the cloister ambulatories, east, north and south, surrounding three sides of the court, admired for their beautiful Perp. work, the vaulted roof with fine bosses being particularly good. On the south side, the late Dec. period is well shown in the groining of the two bays (1450-1470). An E.E. doorway of the old church which led to the nuns' choir, was found in this south walk, and in the east walk the E.E. doorway of the dormitory staircase, and an old restored two-light E.E. window. The west front of the chapter-house has been brought to light, and the E.E. entrance arch and side windows, and the slype or passage, E.E., leading to the now vanished infirmary, should be noticed. The chapter-house was used by Sharington as a living-room. In the east wall, between the passage and the north buildings, are recesses for books, etc. The crossing of the Perp. work of the cloister and this E.E. work are noticeable. The remains of the Renaissance doorway, an addition by Sharington, are no longer to be traced, although there are traces of what was once a very fine fireplace of the same period. The sacristy, like the chapter-house, has E.E. vaulting on a row of central pillars, forming two aisles of three bays each. Arches have been cut in the walls, and they can be entered from the east terrace. The mouldings of the piers and arches, both of the chambers and the entrances of sacristy and chapter-house, are interesting and beautiful. A little farther northward, formerly

## WILTSHIRE

entered from the "frater" or refectory, is the warming-house or calefactory, vaulted, and succeeded by two farther rooms. The upper storey over these buildings along the whole eastern side of the cloisters was the "dortor" or dormitory, 138 ft. by 26 ft., with a fine late Dec. timbered roof. The refectory ran along the whole length of the north side and was originally entered from the cloisters. It has a well-moulded Perp. roof, and after the dissolution, it, as well as the dormitory, was divided by floors at the springing of the roof and smaller rooms formed, entered, in the case of the dormitory, from a long stone gallery containing a very fine chimney-piece of the Renaissance period. This gallery was an addition of Sir William Sharington, and contains some 16th-cent. oak chairs, while various antiquities and curiosities are to be found. The library is a little to the south. Queen Elizabeth was here in 1574, when she knighted her host. At the south-east angle near the library Sharington built the fine octagonal tower, a splendid example of Renaissance work, from which the eastern terrace, near to which the river flows, leads to the garden and fishpond, where, on a pedestal, is the "Nuns' Cauldron," a huge bronze vessel cast at Mechlin, in 1500, and estimated to hold 67 gallons. In the tower, which has three rooms in as many storeys, two with fine vaulted ceilings, are preserved various records, including a great charter of Henry III. and the cartulary of the Abbey. The present kitchen occupies the position of its predecessor at the west end of the refectory. The Abbess' lodging in the south-west angle is the only





LACOCK ABBEY



## LACOCK ABBEY

survival of the old buildings on the western side, the various rooms having been laid under contribution to furnish the 18th-cent. early Gothic hall already referred to, and the Palladian dining-room, both in such marked contrast to it, and additions by Mr Ivory Talbot in 1754. There are some admirable pictures here, Holbein, Antonio More, and Vandyck being represented. One of the family portraits is that of Sir Gilbert Talbot, a staunch old Cavalier who was concerned, like Samuel Pepys, in the formation of the Royal Society, and was one of the first fellows. From him one would suppose the late Mr W. H. Fox Talbot must have inherited his scientific tastes and his literary genius. A twelfth wrangler who also carried off the Porson prize for Greek verse, as this gentleman did in 1820-1821, is not to be despised as regards scholarship. After a short spell at Parliamentary duties Mr Talbot turned his great abilities to scientific study, especially in relation to photography, and his discoveries and inventions in this direction were extremely valuable. Some of them are still in use in connexion with photo-engraving. The present owner, Mr C. H. Talbot, is devoting himself to the careful restoration and preservation of this most interesting old place, in connexion with which mention should have been made of its being put into a state of defence at the outbreak of the Civil War, and of its surrender to Fairfax's forces in 1645, after the fall of Devizes. It had the wonderfully good fortune to escape a Parliamentary "sighting," and thus successfully survived the attentions of both Cromwells.

## WILTSHIRE

*Landford* (6 m. E. from Downton, and about the same S. from Dean Station). The church was rebuilt in 1858 from designs by Butterfield. In the woods to the left is an earth entrenchment, a rampart and ditch known as Castle Hill. To the south on the border is "No Man's Land," and over the border towards Castle Malwood and Manstead, in the New Forest, is the Royal Oak and Rufus's Stone. Landford House, formerly the seat of the Davenants, is the property of the lord of the manor, Mr Douglas Eyre.

*Little Langford* ( $2\frac{1}{4}$  m. N.W. from Wishford Station) is in the Wylye Valley, and the little church, beautifully shaded by elms, is a small cruciform building, carefully restored by Lady Herbert in 1864. There is a Norm. south door.

*Langley Burrell Without* is a parish just to the north of Chippenham, Langley Burrell Within being included in that borough. The Burrells held the manor in the 13th cent. The church is a stone edifice, E.E., with Dec. south tower and some Perp. additions. It was carefully restored in 1898 under the efficient supervision of Mr Harold Brakspear. The Delameres and Cobhams have held the manor, and the arms of the latter appear in the nave. Maud Heath, of the famous "Causey" or Causeway, was born here.

*Latton-cum-Eisey* ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.W. from Cricklade). The church contains memorials to the Habgood family. Various Roman relics have been discovered in the neighbourhood.

*Laverstock* (1 m. N.E. from Salisbury Station). The church was rebuilt near the old site in 1844.

## LANDFORD—LAVINGTON (WEST)

In the churchyard is one of the buttresses of the old church.

*Market Lavington*, or *East Lavington* (2 m. E. from Lavington Station), is tucked away at the base of the not very lofty chalk hills that form the north boundary of Salisbury Plain. It is one of the old market towns that has failed to keep its place. The church, which stands on high ground a little to the west, is an old stone edifice, Dec. and Perp., of some interest. A chantry chapel at the end of the north aisle was founded by Robert de la Mere in 1349 and the piscina remains. A spiral stone staircase formerly led hence to the rood-loft. The string course in the south porch has some Norm. work that was found in the wall of the nave and chancel arch in 1862. Under a piscina niche in the vestry is an ancient stoup, and in the chancel are a credence-table and a squint. Dr Tanner, the Bishop of St Asaph and author of the "Notitia Monastica," was born here in 1674. Good building clay is found in the district and worked for bricks, tiles, and pottery.

*Lavington (West)* is nearer to the station. The church, Trans.-Norm. and E.E., is a good stone building. There is a piscina in the chancel and a good one in the south chapel. In the south transept, or "Lords' Aisle" are two altar-tombs, one a fine monument with recumbent effigy to Henry Danvers. There is some good glass in the east and other windows, and a venerable old oak chest. The "Dauntsey" almshouses, and the "Dauntsey" Agricultural School here, are associated with the family of that name. The school is one of the most notable of Wiltshire institutions,

## WILTSHIRE

and a healthful sign of the intelligent interest in scientific agriculture displayed in various forms and in many directions. It does not pretend to be an agricultural college like that at Cirencester over the county border, but as a secondary school at which all subjects relating to agriculture are taught it is a valuable asset to this pre-eminently agricultural county. It was opened in 1895. The "Dauntsey" foundation, so called from Alderman Dauntsey, born here in the 15th cent., and a great local benefactor, was drawn upon to the tune of £10,000, and the Mercers' Company came forward with an endowment of £2000 a year, which was supplemented by the County Council. The school is admirably equipped and administered and is doing excellent work. In a house here Captain Henry Penruddocke was brutally murdered while sleeping in his chair by some of Ludlow's troopers, and the event is recorded by an inscription in the church.

*Lea* (2 m. S.E. from Malmesbury Station) is prettily situated in the clay country of North Wilts. The old stone church was restored in 1881.

*Leigh* (2 m. N.E. from Minety Station) is near the Thames and is included in the parish of Ashton Keynes. The old stone church is a small E.E. building, with some Perp. additions, and has some good carving in the woodwork of the interior.

*Leigh Delamere* (2½ m. S.W. from Hullavington Station) is near Grittleton. The church was rebuilt in 1846 by the late Mr Joseph Neeld. The ancient bell-turret was preserved and re-

## LEA—LIMPLEY STOKE

erected on the tiny schoolhouse at Sevington, built, we are told, for some twenty children and boasting an average attendance of three !

*Liddington* (4 m. S.E. from Swindon Station) has a nearer station at Chisledon (Midland & South-Western Junction). The village is a very pretty one, with some delightful thatched cottages with dainty little gardens, and the church is an ancient building, E.E., restored and improved comparatively recently, and containing some venerable tombs in the north aisle, one it is said of an Abbess of Shaftesbury connected with its foundation. *Liddington Castle* is about 1 m. to the south, and is finely placed strategically, while it commands some magnificent views over a great expanse of country—Berkshire, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, all coming into the wonderful pictures unfolded. The camp is a good specimen of the prehistoric fortresses of the chalk escarpments. The single fosse is a deep one, and the encircling rampart is 40 ft. high, the area enclosed being about  $7\frac{3}{4}$  acres. The old Ridgeway comes down from Hackpen Hill and Barbury Castle, with its beech clump, which, by the way, is away to the south-west and over 4 m. distant, and which must not be confounded in any way with the pretty little hamlet of Badbury, close to Liddington and erroneously associated sometimes with the victory of Badbury Rings.

*Limpley Stoke* is very beautifully situated in that delectable bit of country that marks the last few miles of the course of the Bath Avon within the county. It has a station on the branch of the Great Western Railway which connects Bath

## WILTSHIRE

and Bristol with Westbury. The county makes a curious little jutting here into Somersetshire. The village is delightful, with hanging woods and attractive gardens, and houses picturesquely dotting the side of the hill, and looking down into the lovely Avon Valley. A fine three-arched bridge crosses the river, and higher up the Kennet and Avon Canal is carried over both river and railway. There is a well-known hydropathic establishment here. The church is a small stone building with a Norm. south door and a Perp. stone pulpit. The tower has a conical spire and there is a bell-turret over the chancel arch. In the churchyard are a number of 12th and 13th cent. tombs. In Stoke Wood, beyond Chatleigh House, is Shingle Bell Well, an ancient holy well. The church plate should have a word of mention, the chalice and paten being dated 1577.

LITTLECOTE, the fine early 16th-cent. manor-house well placed in Littlecote Park, through which the Kennet flows, is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Hungerford Station. It is extremely interesting in itself and in its associations. It is a splendid specimen of the great mansion of its period, the fine hall being particularly attractive. It is hung with old armour and weapons, and the equipment of the Ironsides—buff jerkins and steel caps, is very much in evidence, a former owner, a Popham, having commanded a regiment for the Parliament in the Civil War. The house, however, which fortunately has been spared much alteration and has only had to endure additions, has some more tragic associations than these. It was built by the Darells, and was sold by the last of them, "Wild Dayrell," to that Sir



## LITTLECOTE

John Popham, who was concerned as "manager" in the final proceedings against Mary Queen of Scots that led up to the grim tragedy in the castle hall at Fotheringay. Littlecote's own tragedy concerns this "Wild Dayrell." Macaulay, who writes of Littlecote as "renowned not more on account of its venerable architecture and furniture than on account of a horrible and mysterious crime which was perpetrated there in the days of the Tudors," refers, in a footnote, to the story which is told in a note to the fifth canto of Sir Walter Scott's "Rokeby" Briefly, the tale is this: A midwife was brought on horseback in great secrecy from the neighbouring county of Berks., blindfolded, and arriving at her destination, accomplished her task, and before her eyes were again bound saw a ferocious-looking man seize the new-born infant, and throw it on a blazing fire where it was destroyed. She was quickly blindfolded again and removed, with threats, promises, and bribes, doubtless, but the horrible crime preyed on her mind and she revealed it to a magistrate. She had counted the stairs to the room and had brought away a bit of the curtain from the bedside and thought she would be able to recognize the place. Suspicion fell on "Wild Dayrell," and he was tried at Salisbury and apparently found guilty, but the good offices of Sir John Popham resulted in a miscarriage of justice, a *nolle prosequi* being entered. The story was afterwards discredited, possibly in the interest of the Pophams, who came into the estate at Darell's death, but investigations in recent years resulted in the discovery of the deposition of the midwife,

## WILTSHIRE

taken on her deathbed, which although not precise as to Littlecote and Darell, clearly establishes the fact of the dreadful crime, while a letter dated in 1578, discovered in recent times by Canon Jackson at Longleat, referring to the sister of a Mr Bonham, a lady whose relations with Darell were notorious, asks for inquiries to be made "touching her usage at William Darell's, the birth of her children, how many there were, and what became of them, for that the report of the murder of one of them was increasing foully, and would touch William Darell to the quick." There can be little doubt that Darell "bought himself off," and that the reversion of Littlecote was connected with the purchase money. Aubrey tells the tale with great detail, although with some inaccuracies. The stile where Darell broke his neck when hunting still bears his name, and for generations has been associated with a judgment of Heaven, while of course the room in which the crime took place is haunted, and the spectre of Darell and his hounds occasionally visits the park.

During the progress of the Revolution of 1688, William of Orange, on his way from Salisbury, retired to Littlecote, while the noblemen and gentlemen whom he had summoned to his council deliberated at Hungerford concerning the propositions that James had forwarded by a body of commissioners, with Halifax at their head. On Sunday, December 9th, the commissioners dined with William and his friends at Littlecote. "The old hall, hung with coats of mail which had seen the Wars of the Roses, and with portraits of gallants who had adorned the court of Philip

## LITTLECOTE—LITTLETON DREW

and Mary, was now crowded with peers and generals." The picture gallery is upwards of 100 ft. long and contains some fine portraits by eminent artists.

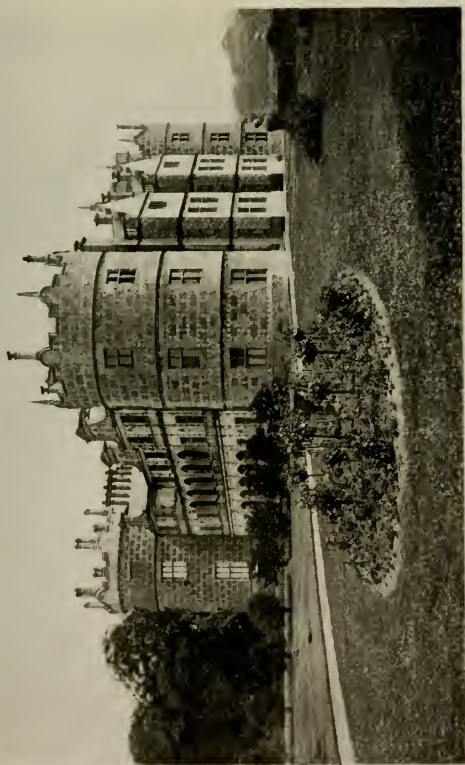
*Littleton Drew* (2 m. S. from Badminton Station) is on the Gloucestershire border. The Fosse-way from Bath to Cirencester passes near. The small stone church is Dec. and Perp. with central embattled tower, and contains an altar-tomb with recumbent female effigy. There are two fine sculptured stones here, one capable of fitting on the top of the other, and forming the shaft of a cross. The ornamentation is mainly of vegetable fashion, but there is interlacing ornament on one large panel, and some remarkable remains of an inscription. The stones are associated with the resting-places of the funeral procession bearing St Aldhelm's body from Doulting in Somerset to the Abbey at Malmesbury. They stand on either side of the churchyard wall. In a long barrow found here four cists or cells were discovered, which Sir B. Windle tells us were probably never intended to be entered when once closed, the only approach being through the roof by the removal of the top stone.

*Longbridge Deverell* (3 m. S. from Warminster Station). The church, which was restored in 1852, has a Norm. arcade on the north side of the nave and a Dec. south arcade. The north aisle, west windows and embattled western tower are Perp. The church was formerly associated with the Abbey at Glastonbury, and the abbots are credited with having built a long bridge from which its name was derived. The old altar slab,

## WILTSHIRE

a stained window, and the monuments in the Bath chapel to the Thynnes, one of whom, Sir John, who died in 1580, founded Longleat, are noticeable. *Crockerton* is a chapel in this parish. The interesting almshouses were founded in 1655 by one of the Thynnes. There was once a priory of black canons here.

**LONGFORD CASTLE**, the famous seat of the Earl of Radnor, is in Britford parish, a little more than a mile south of the village, and about 3 m. south-east from Salisbury. It is situated in a beautiful park of some 250 acres near the banks of the Avon. The site is associated with the old manor-house of the Walerans, which afterwards passed to the Cervingtons, who sold it in 1573 to Sir Thomas Gorges. He built the older portion of the present castle. Its history is a trifle romantic. In the first place Sir Thomas was somewhat of a *nouveau riche*, and the spendthrift Cervington who sold was never tired of reminding him of the fact. In the second place he married a Danish lady, the widow of Lord Northampton, and she nearly ruined him by persuading him to rebuild the house on the model of the castle of Uranienberg, designed by Tycho Brahe, on a foundation of piles. Thirdly, when all their available funds appeared engulfed, a Spanish galleon considerably got itself wrecked at the time of the Armada within Sir Thomas's jurisdiction as governor of Hurst Castle, and his lady begged, not the whole, but the hull of the wreck, and in it found "bars of silver and such a vast treasure as served to complete their pile at Longford." The work was completed in 1591. It was Sir Philip



LONGFORD CASTLE



## LONGFORD CASTLE

Sidney's "Castle of Amphialeus," in the "Arcadia," and was the work of John Thorpe, the architect of Holland House. Thorpe had some original ideas of planning, and here he selected a triangle, with an interior triangular court with round towers at the angles, a moat surrounding the whole. Just before the commencement of the Great Rebellion it passed to Lord Coleraine, and was by him handed to the Crown to form a garrison for cavalry in 1644. It surrendered to Cromwell in 1645, but was spared destruction, and was sold in 1717 to the Bouveries, in whose possession it has since remained. It has been modernized, altered and added to, with so much pulling down and building up that not a very great deal of Sir Thomas Gorges' edifice remains, but the two round towers on the garden side are part of the old building, and the façade has been preserved with but little alteration. The triangular court has been roofed over, and the interior and other features much modernized. The old triangular design can still be detected on the front and garden sides.

Longford is specially famous for its magnificent collection of paintings, one of the most important in the country. As regards Holbein it is the first in England, comprising his great portrait of Erasmus, brought to England by the painter with an introductory letter to Sir Thomas More, and other famous portraits. Velazquez (a portrait of his Moorish servant, Juan de Parega), Quintin Matsys (portrait of Ægidius), Tintoret, Murillo, Rubens, Nicolas Poussin, Michael Angelo and Seb. del Piombo ("St Sebastian's Martyrdom"),

## WILTSHIRE

Correggio, Teniers, Vandyck, Franz Hals, Gainsborough, and Sir Joshua Reynolds are among some of the great painters represented, the two latter chiefly in family portraits. Two of the Guidos should be specially noted, the famous "Europa and the Bull," and the head of a Magdalen; and the "Morning" and "Evening" of Claude, emblematic of the Rise and Fall of Rome. The "Imperial Steel Chair" in the long gallery is a most interesting curiosity, and a marvellous specimen of elaborate and intricate metal-work. It was bought by the second Earl of Radnor towards the close of the 18th cent. from a Swedish gentleman, and was part of the loot secured at the sacking of Prague. It was made by Thomas Ruker in 1574, and presented by the city of Augsburg to the Emperor Rudolph II. It is divided into some 130 compartments, in each of which a group of figures, carved in relief, sets forth some notable event in the history of Rome and of the Holy Roman Empire.

LONGLEAT, the famous seat of the Marquis of Bath, is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  m. distant from Warminster Station. The house is shown on Mondays and Saturdays between 11 and 4, and in the summer on Thursdays also. After pursuing the main road (from Warminster) for some  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m., the park gates are reached at the point where the Horningsham road mounts away through the delightful woods. We ascend the wooded slopes more or less gradually, until we are almost at the elevation of Cley Hill, a singular, isolated sentinel of the Plain that stands a very short distance away to the right, and on top of which a beacon blazed at the time



## LONGLEAT

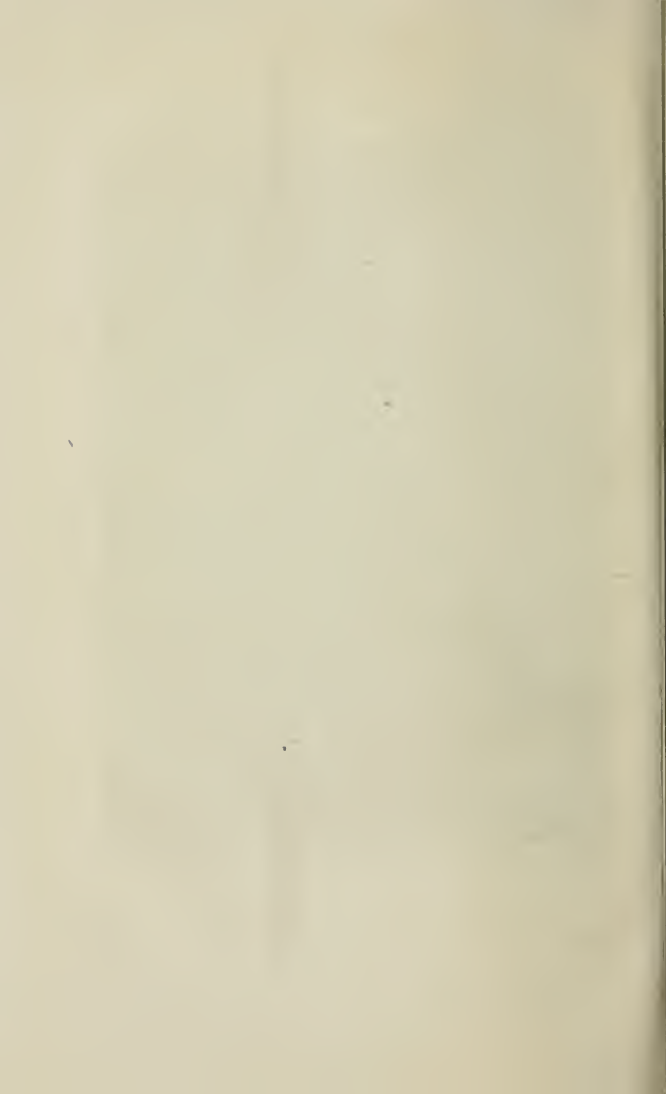
of the Spanish Armada, which must have been the "fiery herald," that lit up "Longleat's towers," and sent the message on to "Cranbourne's oaks." From here we enter the Home Park, and very soon away on the left a drive leads to *Heaven's Gate*, interesting as the favourite resort of Bishop Ken during his twenty years' sojourn here, and said to be the spot on which he wrote his famous "Morning Hymn." Here a noble view is outspread, a fine, wide landscape with the house in the foreground, lying at the lowest part of the expanding valley some 400 ft. below us, and the wood and water, hill and dale, and distant country making a very delightful picture. The fine domain is some 16 m. in girth, and the lofty, wooded hills that approach within a mile almost of the mansion, add much to its dignity and distinction. A sheet of water to the N. of the house divides the beautiful flower gardens from the sloping glades of the deer park, whose antlered tenants add to the charm of the scene. The woods and pleasure-grounds are on a magnificent scale, 2 m. or so from N. to S., and 4 m. E. to W. The gardens proper and the grounds were to a great extent the work of the third Viscount Weymouth, the first Marquis of Bath, who, with the aid of the famous Capability Brown, transformed what gardens were there already from the trim and severe Dutch style introduced by William III., into something a little more varied and ornamental. Before quitting the exterior mention should be made of the beautiful approach from Horningsham on the S. Mounting the hill from the village past the prettily-placed inn, the

avenue is reached by a turn to the right, and passing through a fine arched gateway, a drive, somewhere about a mile in length, with pleasant turf on either side for some distance, and rows of glorious elms beyond that, and a succession of small lakes on the one side, and of timbered pleasure-grounds on the other, bring one to the stately mansion, which looks almost worthy of its glorious setting.

Longleat gets its name from the *longa leta*, the long leat or stream of water which comes down from Horningsham and has been artificially widened to form fishponds and lakes at sundry places in its course. Originally a small Augustinian priory, founded by Sir John Vernon about 1270, stood on the site of the mansion. The establishment seems to have fallen into decay ten years before the Dissolution, when it was granted to Cardinal Campeggio, Wolsey's colleague in the great divorce business and Cardinal Bishop of Sarum, and Peter Stanter of Horningsham. It was dissolved and its revenues added to the Abbey of Hinton Charterhouse in 1529, and when Hinton in its turn suffered dissolution, it passed to Sir John Horsey, of Clifton Maubank, who at once sold it to Sir John Thynne ("John o' th' Ynne"). The latter was a *protégé* of Lord Protector Somerset, and shared his patron's imprisonment in the Tower. Marrying a lady who bore one of the most honoured of city names, Miss Gresham, the daughter of a London merchant prince, he added to the 100 acres he originally acquired with Longleat a very considerable portion of the present estate. In Mary's reign



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he was made Comptroller of the Household to the Princess Elizabeth, but he seems to have spent much of his time at Longleat, where he proceeded to convert the priory into a dwelling-house. His first effort was probably largely the work of local masons, and was begun in 1547. A room was to be built over the old chapel, and a new "Lodging" of many bedrooms erected, with gables ornamented at the apex, by a clever mason named John Chapman, who was much in demand at this time, and who did some excellent work in the Italian style at Lacock. English artificers at this time occasionally travelled in Italy to study architecture, stone carving and internal decoration, and we find one at least with this Continental experience applying for employment at Longleat. In 1554 another new "lodging" was undertaken, and a "cunning playsterer" of such skill employed that Sir William Cavendish solicited the loan of his services at Hardwick. In 1559 additions and alterations on a grand scale were commenced. Columns 17 ft. high were to form the chimneys, and give a Classic or Italian appearance. The hall was to be 30 ft. wide, and there was to be a gallery 120 ft. long. In 1567 a great fire put a temporary end to the operations, and damaged and destroyed part of what had been achieved; but work was recommenced early in the following year, and, continuing until 1578, resulted in the splendid edifice, the shell of which, at any rate, remains to the present day. Robert Smithson, a mason of repute who afterwards built Wollaton, near Nottingham, came from "Master Vice-Chamberlaine's" to superintend operations and re-

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mained for some years in spite of somewhat shabby treatment, and a number of Scottish workmen, to whom a piece of land near by on which to erect a chapel was granted, were engaged on the work. In later years Sir Christopher Wren was employed here, so additions and alterations must have continued, and ultimately the interior was completely modernized by Sir Jeffrey Wyatville, to whom the N. front also is due. In the *Vitruvius Britannicus* Colin Campbell speaks of it as "the most regular building in the kingdom" and, as Mr Gotch has pointed out, Longleat is specially interesting as a fine example of the early employment of "regular" architecture in this country. The hall and the external façades on the S. and E. may be specially noted as preserving their original character. Freeman speaks of it as "the earliest house of this kind, still cinquecento, but by no means fully-developed revived Italian." It is a fine, handsome, rectangular building, stately and imposing, with its four fronts softened by lichen, adorned with classical pilasters and cornices, relieved by grand mullioned windows, and surmounted by balustrades, while the turrets of the roof and the great statues on the S. and E. sides materially enhance the general effect. In 1670 the property came to Thomas Thynne, "Tom of Ten Thousand," the "Wise" Issachar of Dryden's *Absalom and Achitophel*, who was shot in Pall Mall at the instigation of Count Koningsmark, and who is buried in the S. aisle of Westminster Abbey. His cousin and successor became the first Viscount Weymouth and was the nobleman who extended a gracious hospitality to his old college friend, the

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non-juring Bishop Ken, who was his guest for twenty years. A small portion only of Ken's library is here, most of it having been bequeathed to his relatives. The third Viscount Weymouth was made Marquis of Bath in 1789, when he received George III. and Queen Charlotte here, and 30,000 people assembled in the park to greet them.

The remodelled interior is interesting both in the matter of the noble rooms and corridors and in that of their contents. The corridor running round the ground floor introduces us to the interesting portraits of celebrated men, which are not least among the attractions of Longleat. Here are portraits of Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden, and of Robert Devereux, second Earl of Essex, as well as family portraits by Kneller, Lely, Dobson and Mytens. In the ante-library the Italian painted ceiling and the inlaid Florentine work of the doors and windows are notable. In the S. library are several Holbeins, notably one of the Lord Protector, Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset, and another of Lord Seymour of Sudeley, his brother, whom he sent to the scaffold, and who married the widowed Katharine Parr., and also one of Henry VIII. Other exceedingly interesting portraits are those of Thomas Wriothesley, the last of the Southampton Earls, the famous Cavalier and the father of that noble and saintly lady, Rachel, who married the Lord William Russel who was done to death by James II. ; Lucius Cary, the second Viscount Falkland (both of these being by Vandyck) ; and two by Lely, one of Bishop Ken, the other of that nobleman whom he termed "a noble and faithful friend,

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even like a brother born for adversity." The portrait of Henry Rich, the first Earl of Holland, is by Cornelius Janssen, and is said to be his first portrait. The artist at one time almost lived at Longleat, where a studio was set up for him. The magnificent staircase and the upper corridors are the work of Wyatville. Fine paintings of the Italian school are in the drawing-room, and include the Head of St Michael by Raphael. The walls are hung with magnificent Genoese velvet removed from an Italian palace; and the beautiful frieze illustrating the story of Circe, the finely coffered ceiling, and the massive gilded panelling, complete its rich adornment. In the magnificent long saloon the walls are hung with valuable old tapestry illustrating the life of Cyrus. The massive white marble chimney-piece was copied by Italian sculptors from one in the Doge's Palace at Venice. A Florentine cabinet of coral with a clock, a Louis XIV. time-piece, and a writing-table which belonged to Talleyrand are here. In the billiard-room are portraits of Frances, Duchess of Richmond, by Vandyck, and one of the late Marchioness of Bath by G. F. Watts. In the red library is a fine portrait of Lord Chancellor Thurlow by Sir Joshua Reynolds. Ascending the staircase a "Lion Hunt" after Rubens, two hunting scenes by Snyders, and various portraits of notable people, Sir Walter Raleigh by Zuccherò, Henry Sidney, George Villiers, second Duke of Buckingham, Lady Arabella Stuart, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester (Zuccherò), the Earl of Arundell (Holbein), Catherine of Braganza (Lely), and many others call for attention. In the drawing-



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room, the walls of which are covered with embossed Cordova leather, are more portraits, mostly family ones, including Sir John Thynne (*ob.* 1580), the founder of Longleat; Thomas Thynne, who was shot in Pall Mall by a Pole, one of Koenigsmark's bravoës, in 1682; the Henry Coventry and Sir John Coventry of Pepys' Diary times; the Lord Keeper Coventry; the first Viscount Weymouth and the first Marquis of Bath. The carved ebony sideboard, the paintings of the ceiling and the gilded coffered panelling are other interesting features. Returning through the upper corridor, where are more portraits of famous people by Lely and others, including the Lord Keeper Nottingham, Charles I., Henrietta Maria, the Earl of Strafford, Bishop Juxon and Archbishop Laud, a descent is made by the grand staircase to the noble hall, with its splendid wooden roof, and screen supporting a lofty minstrel gallery, with the arms of the Lord Protector Somerset, of William Cecil, Lord Burghley, and many other notable people. The walls are adorned with antlered heads, including those of two enormous elk dug out of the peat-bogs in Ireland. Old cross-bows and other weapons, ancient armour, etc., and five large paintings by Wootton, depicting hunting scenes in which the second Lord Weymouth and his friends took part, are prominent features, and the old panelled wainscoting and the beautifully carved chimney-piece which belong to the pre-Wyatville house also call for mention. The family chapel contains some good German glass. A castellated mansion of the Vernons, Woodhouse, now a farm, once

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stood just beyond the High Wood, a little to the S.W. of the mansion, and underwent a siege in the Civil War. Tradition says that Lady Arundell of Wardour, who defended it, escaped in a coffin on finding surrender imperative.

*Longbridge Deverell* (3 m. S. from Warminster Station). The church has been much restored. There is a Norm. arcade N. of the nave. The N. aisle, W. window and tower are Perp., the S. arcade of Dec. style. There are various monuments to the Thynne family, including one to the Sir John Thynne (*ob.* 1580) who founded Longleat. Shearwater Lake, which covers nearly 40 acres, is a little to the N. W. in the Longleat domain, and may easily be reached by way of Crockerton.

*Luckington* (3 m. N.E. from Badminton Station) has an old stone church of 12th-cent. date, restored, and the chancel rebuilt in 1872. The Bristol Avon rises in the parish, and a spring, known as "Hancock's Well," is said to possess valuable curative properties.

LUDGERSHALL is on the Midland & South-Western junction line, and sends a short branch out to Tidworth, chiefly in connexion with the military, with which branch of the king's service its own connexion is very intimate. It is a place of hoary antiquity—and iniquity, it having been prominent in the formidable list of rotten boroughs for which the county held a remarkable pre-eminence. We are here on the eastern fringe of the Plain, and Perham Down and many others in the district are busy enough for a great part of the year with the manœuvres and exercises of the various troops that are stationed here, some more

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or less permanently, and others who come in great numbers for a temporary sojourn. In summer it is quite a canvas country, and camps seem to be everywhere.

The place takes its name from one Lutegar, a Saxon thane, who presumably had his hall here. We find the Empress Maud here in 1141, while her firm supporter, the Earl of Gloucester, once held the castle. Another governor was that Fitzspiers who was Chief Justice in John's reign, and who was one of the most turbulent of his barons. Edward IV. granted it to "false, perjured, fleeting Clarence," and it was afterwards the property of the Brydges, ancestors of the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos. A Duke of Chandos formerly resided at Biddesden House, on the border, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. to the E., although the present mansion was built by General Webb, well known in connexion with Marlborough's campaigns and not unfamiliar to readers of "Henry Esmond." Little now remains of the old Norman castle once held by the Crown, and that little is to be found at the N. end, where some remains of the keep are incorporated in the wall of the farm, and traces of rampart and fosses are to be seen. The thatched cottages, built largely of red brick and flint, a by no means unpleasing combination, and the old market cross, 12 ft. high, with representations of the "Crucifixion," the "Ascension," the "Three Maries" and the "Command to St Peter," together with the ancient flint and stone church, chiefly Norm. and E.E., lend a note of distinction to this pleasant old place. In a window in the chancel of the church are the arms of Henry Chicheley, Archbishop of

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Canterbury in the first half of the 15th cent., and in an archway near the S. porch is a tomb, with recumbent effigies of Sir Richard Brydges and his lady (1558). The ornamental fence which encircles the village cross is a creditable example of local hammered work, the design having been supplied by Mr A. H. Huth, and carried out by the village blacksmiths.

*Lydiard Millicent* (2 m. S. from Purton Station) is a little to the W. of Swindon, and is chiefly interesting by reason of its church, chiefly early Dec., the nave, however, being later, and the aisle a still later addition. A Norm. font and stoup and traces of lancet windows, and the old stone cross in the churchyard are noticeable.

*Lydiard Tregoze* (3 m. E.N.E. from Wootton Bassett Station) is a little to the S.E. of the above, and possesses an even more interesting church, and some exceedingly interesting associations. It gets its name from the Tregoz or Tregooze family, but it has from the time of Henry VII. been the seat of the St Johns, Viscounts Bolingbroke from the time of that Henry St John, the friend of Swift, the statesman of Queen Anne's day, and the author of the "Patriot King." The park is between the two Lydiards and contains some fine old oaks, of venerable antiquity, and some ancient elms, and a lake covering 12 acres. The house is a good plain stone building, without any particular architectural pretension. The church is rich in good glass and in memorials of the St Johns. The windows of the chancel are specially noticeable for their mediæval glass. The Caroline E. window has in

## LYDIARD TREGOZE

its centre a figure of Oliver St John with an olive-tree, after the punning, rebus-like, old-time fashion, said to be by Van Eyck. From the branches of the tree are suspended the shields of the various ladies whose fortunes swelled those of the St Johns from time to time, and St John the Baptist and the Four Evangelists also appear, though, let us hope, without any presumptive claim to part or lot in the semi-genealogical tree. The family, in any case, seems to have had a tolerably fair conceit of themselves, for in the chancel is a finely illuminated pedigree, a triptych of unusual size with St John portraits inside, in which their Norman blood is satisfactorily established, and their share in the Conquest also. It is the work of a lady of the family. Over the chancel door is a monument to Katherine, daughter of Sir John St John, who was married to Sir Giles Mompesson, said to have been the original of Sir Giles Overreach in the well-known play of the Wiltshire dramatist, Philip Massinger, *A New Way to Pay Old Debts*. The chancel also contains some imposing monuments to various St Johns; one, dated 1589, has painted figures of Nicholas and Elizabeth St John, kneeling under a Corinthian canopy; and another, to Sir John St John, his wives and their families, is near the altar. Edward, who died in 1645, is represented in gilt armour, and a scene of his military exploits is carved on the pedestal. During the restoration of the church in 1902 some wall-paintings were disclosed in an excellent state of preservation, and the fine old timber-work of the roof was opened up. The gilt Renaissance work of the altar rails should

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be noticed, and the carved figures of Christ and the Virgin Mary at the N. door.

*Lyneham* (2 m. S.E. from Dauntsey Station) is a picturesque little place in the old Braden forest country. The old stone church, Perp., has a monument to the Heneage family.

*Maddington* (6 m. N. from Wishford Station) is in the heart of the Plain. Quite a number of the Plain roads and tracks converge here or in the immediate vicinity. Shrewton is just the other side of the road to the N., and one vicar serves the two parishes. The church is E.E., with Perp. additions, restored in 1846, and the chancel rebuilt a little later.

MAIDEN BRADLEY (6 m. S. from Frome Station) is beautifully situated on high ground a little to the S. of the Longleat domain, and the heights of Long Knoll (945 ft.), Bradley Park or Little Knoll (830 ft.), which lie immediately to the S. and Bidcombe (876 ft.), Brimsdon (933 ft.), and Cold Kitchen (844 ft.), hills which are immediately to the E. towards the Wylye, add much to the beauty and impressiveness of the scenery. The views from these bold eminences, from Long Knoll particularly, are delightful as well as extensive. The church, built on the site of an earlier one, is Dec., with a western tower, and has been much restored. There is an interesting Norm. font. of Purbeck marble, and a stained window in the chancel, the gift of the twelfth Duke of Somerset. The Seymours became possessed of Maiden Bradley in the reign of Henry VIII., and here is the tomb of the Sir Edward Seymour who was Speaker of the House

## LYNEHAM—MAIDEN BRADLEY

of Commons in Charles II.'s reign. At the Priory Farm in the valley, a little to the N.E., are some remains of the leper hospital, or lazar house, founded towards the end of the 12th cent. by one of the heiresses of Mauser Bissett, "dapifer" of Henry II. The story is that she herself was a leper, and Leland has it so, while Camden writes: "She, being herselfe a maiden infected with the leprosie, founded an house heere for maidens that were lepers and endowed the Same with her own Patrimonie and Livetide." Against this alleged personal taint we have the recorded fact that Margaret Bissett, presumably the lady in question, obtained permission in 1237 to visit Eleanor of Brittany, the King's cousin, and a Patent Roll entry of 1242 states that "at the petition of Margery Byset the King has granted to the house of St Matthew, Bradeleg, and infirm sisters thereof, for ever, five marks yearly . . . which he had before granted to the said Margery for life." A contemporary deed among the Sarum documents sets forth how Margaret Bissett, desiring to lead a celibate and contemplative life, left her lands to the leper hospital of Maiden Bradley on condition that she herself was maintained there. There was a prior assisted by secular priests, and afterwards a monastery of Augustine monks. The leprosy could scarcely have been the very serious malady usually so termed if the statement that the leprous women and their prior used to hold a weekly market and an annual fair is to be taken as literally correct, and the fact that a favourite spot commanding a beautiful view, and called Kate's Bench or Gate Bench, is said to have been a place

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of resort for the "leprous maidens," seems to support this idea. An adjacent farmhouse, New Mead, is the birthplace of Edmund Ludlow, the famous Parliamentary general, and one of Charles I.'s judges. He was the son of a Wiltshire knight who owned the adjacent manor of Yarnfield, and early in the Civil War he distinguished himself by his defence of Wardour Castle. He was returned to Parliament as member for Wilts., was a member of the Council of State, was sent to Ireland as second in command to Ireton in 1651, and, a Republican to the very marrow, was bitterly opposed to Cromwell's Protectorate. On his return to England in 1655 he was imprisoned in Beaumaris Castle. He protested in the Convention Parliament against the Restoration, and then took refuge at Vevey in Switzerland, where he lived until 1692, and where he composed his "Memoirs." He is buried there in St Martin's Church in the congenial company of Broughton, who read the sentence of death pronounced on the King, and his house now forms part of the Hotel du Lac. His military skill and bravery, and his consistent political career, with its sturdy, fearless honesty, which earned for him the title of Cato of the Commonwealth, as well as the literary and historic value of his "Memoirs," which are specially valuable and trustworthy when dealing with men and matters that came within his immediate ken, give him a distinct place among Wiltshire notables. He came back to England after the Revolution of 1688, but the feeling against the Regicides was too strong to admit of his remaining



## MAIDEN BRADLEY—MALMESBURY

in safety, and returning to his Swiss home he carved over his door :

“*Omne solum forti patria quia Patris.*”

MALMESBURY is connected with the main line of the Great Western Railway by a short branch line which runs from Dauntsey junction. It is an ancient place, sadly fallen into decay, ruined abbey and ruined industries keeping each other in somewhat dismal countenance, but it has its compensations, and they are mighty ones. Nature does its part well, for picturesquely placed on the steep, hilly, peninsular-like ridge, the twin streams that go to form the Avon wash its sides, and a fringe, at any rate, of the old Braden forest gives the sylvan note that an English landscape always seems to call for. It no doubt largely owed its existence to the natural strength of the position, and one is not greatly surprised to learn that a castle existed here before the 7th cent. Leland writes of it : “The toune of Malmsburie stondeth on the very toppe of a great slaty rock and ys wonderfully defended by nature, for Newton water cometh 2 miles from N. to the town, and Avon water cometh by W. to the town and meets about a bridge at S.E.” In British days the place was called *Caer Bladon*, and when the West Saxons came it was styled *Ingelburne*. Here, in those days, when Britons were Welsh and Irish were Scots, came one of the latter, *Maeldulbh* or *Maidulph*, a missionary, who built a small monastery early in the 7th cent., and who gained so great a reputation for learning, as well as for piety and zeal, that *Aldhelm*, or *Ealdhelm*, after-

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wards the famous first Bishop of Sherborne, and the nephew of the great King Ine, was sent to sit at his feet, to acquire knowledge, and to be trained for ecclesiastical work. Aldhelm's is a wonderful figure in these early days, standing out clear and distinct where so much is dim and obscure. At Malmesbury, as at Sherborne, he seems to be almost the presiding genius, great churchman, monk, abbot, bishop; and great scholar—the first Anglo-Saxon who wrote in Latin. As a learned man, a great classical scholar, he was the first native of this land to gain a "European reputation." Bede writes of him almost enthusiastically, and tells us he was a man "most learned in all respects for he had a clear style and was wonderful for ecclesiastical and liberal erudition." Dean Milman, probably quoting from the A.-S. Chronicle, tells us that "seeing with sorrow the little effect the services of religion had on the peasants . . . he placed himself on the bridge over the Avon, which they had to cross on their way home, in the garb of a minstrel, and when he had arrested the crowd and fully enthralled their attention by the sweetness of his song, he gradually introduced into his popular lay some of the solemn truths of religion and thus won many hearts to the faith." He went from Malmesbury to complete his studies under Hadrian the African and Theodore of Tarsus at Canterbury, and returned to Maidulfesburgh, as the place now began to be termed, to become the first abbot. Aldhelm was from the earliest days held in veneration as the real founder of the abbey, and at his death in 709 its selection as the place of his sepulture, in

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preference to Sherborne, the seat of his bishopric, is some indication of the closeness of the association. He had enlarged the basilica, and built a new chapel in honour of the Blessed Virgin, and another dedicated to St Michael, and in the latter he was buried, the remains, however, being afterwards placed near the high altar. William the Conqueror founded a four days' feast in his honour, which was observed for centuries, and which, according to Leland, drew such crowds in his day that soldiers were required to keep order.

Another early abbot in Alfred's time, another great classical scholar, too, and writer on such subjects as "The Division of Nature," John the Scot, was "slayne of his own disciples thrusting and striking hym with their table pointelles." The valiant defence offered by the burghers of this natural stronghold to the Danes elicited very substantial tokens of gratitude from the noble King Æthelstan. In or about the year 930 he granted to the burgesses a large estate near his manor of Norton, with important commoners' rights which are held to this day. His charter is still in force, and only the son of a commoner, or the husband of a commoner's daughter, may himself be a commoner, and commoners may only live within the walls of the town. Mr Hutton tells us of a bed-ridden old man who would not go into the "house" for fear of losing his "common" share. "King Ahthelstane hath kept I all my life; King Ahthelstane shall keep I till I die." The monastery also was not forgotten by this good king, who endowed it with additional lands as well as various holy relics—the bones of St

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Sampson and portions of the true cross and the crown of thorns. How far he enlarged or rebuilt it seems uncertain, but at his death in 941 he was buried here in front of the altar of St Mary. "Athelstan's Day" is still observed on the second Tuesday after Trinity. St Dunstan, out of love for St Aldhelm, presented the abbey with an organ, "with metal pipes," and Eadgar, in a charter of 974, refers to "that most famous monastery which the Angles call by the two-fold name of Maldelmsburh." Some seven years later the church and monastic buildings were largely rebuilt by Abbot Ælfric, and his "spacious structure," according to William of Malmesbury, "in size and beauty exceeding any other religious edifice in England," was still existing in 1143.

The Normans indeed found here much to respect and reverence, and contented themselves with deposing the Saxon abbot, and appointing a Norman, Thorold of Fescamp, in his stead. Roger, the powerful Bishop of Sarum, and Henry I.'s favourite and chancellor, "magnus in sæcularibus," sounded a discordant note by seizing the abbey, and building a castle right over against it, "to the great indignation of the monks," whom, as well as the burgesses, he was determined to overawe. His castle, Mr Brakspear thinks, was to the E. of the present church. At Roger's death, in 1139, things righted themselves, and soon afterwards the great ecclesiastical building, of which the present Abbey Church is only a fragment, was commenced. Opinion seems to be divided, however, as to whether Roger should not be credited with the idea of the great edifice. Mr Parker

## MALMESBURY

holds this view, and gives the date of the building as between 1115 and 1139, but William of Malmesbury's evidence decidedly favours a later date, although the project was doubtless "in the air" at the period named, and some portion probably commenced. Stephen held the castle and town during the greater part of his turbulent reign, and it is fairly certain that during his time work on the abbey was either commenced or continued, to be completed, as the highly developed Norman work of the nave, genuine Trans.-Norm., with the pointed arches merging almost into E.E. shows, in the second half of the 12th cent. and in the time of Henry II.

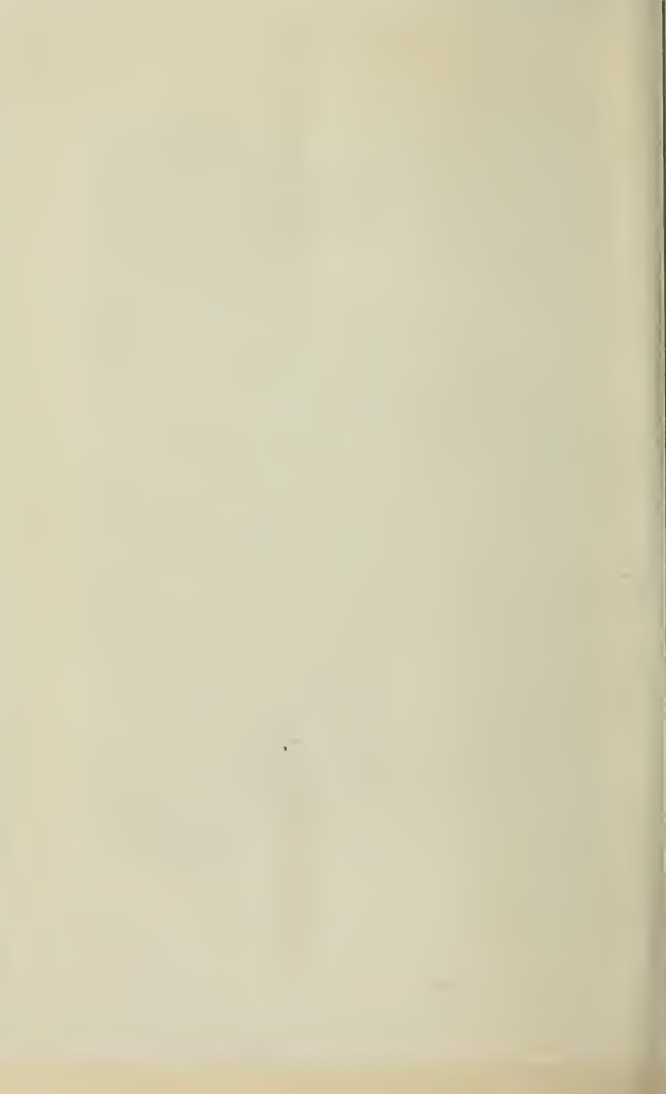
The abbey was nobly planned, on full cathedral scale, a "right magnificent Abbey," that in its day must, from the beauty of its situation, the splendour and distinction of its architecture, and the majestic dignity of its aspect, have outshone many a cathedral. It was cruciform, with a central and a western tower, the latter being a late Perp. addition. Both are gone; the one, crowned with a lofty spire, "a marke to al the countrie about," fell about the year 1500, a little before Leland's day, and the other, "a greate square toure at the west end of the church," a little after his time, the fall of the latter doing great damage in the nave. They were not "re-edified," to use Leland's phrase, but the piers and arches of the central tower were left standing, and two of the arches still remain. The whole of this church, which replaced Aldhelm's Saxon basilica, consisted of a presbytery, and aisles of six bays and apsidal end; N. and S. transepts, with an apsidal chapel

to each, a rich S. porch, a nave of nine bays, with aisles, and a central lantern tower. In the 14th cent. a large Lady Chapel was added at the E. end, the tower was raised, and a spire added, and new clerestory windows and vaulting were introduced in the nave and transepts. The square tower over the two western bays of the nave was added in late Perp. days, as at Christchurch Priory and many other places. The dimensions have been given as follows:—the church with choir 278 by  $68\frac{1}{2}$  ft., the Lady Chapel  $48\frac{3}{4}$  by  $22\frac{3}{4}$  ft; the width of the nave between the aisles  $35\frac{3}{4}$  ft., and the cloister 104 ft. each way. The conventual buildings, afterwards quarried for stone and otherwise put to base uses, were on the N. side of the church. The Abbey House, the beautiful 16th or very early 17th cent. building, incorporates part of an ancient vault beneath the old monks' cloister, and Mr Harold Brakspear, the architect to whose tender and reverent care the abbey has for some time been confided, thinks that Ye Olde Belle Inn, at the W. end of the church, which has some ancient walls and a three-light 13th-cent. window in one of them, was one of the guest-houses, but the rest has vanished completely.

Soon after the suppression of the monastery in 1539, the presbytery and transepts were demolished. The central tower was already down. The monastery had been valued at £803, 17s. 7d. annually, a very considerable sum for those days, and the abbot, Robert Frampton, and twenty-one monks were duly pensioned. They were Benedictines, Pope Innocent, in 1248, when confirm-



MALMESBURY ABBEY





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ing the various grants, having ordained that the rules of St Benedict should always be observed here. In Edward III.'s day the abbot had been summoned to the House of Peers, and in that of his successor he received a mitre. Master Stumpe, "an exceeding rich clothiar," now appears on the scene as the purchaser of abbey, church monastery, and all for the very respectable sum of £1117, 15s. 11d. What a part these rich clothiers have played in Wiltshire history! Master Stumpe has been bitterly abused, and of course he was an outrageous vandal, for he was not content with setting up his looms in the various monastic buildings, but placed them in the "little Church joining to the South side of the Transeptum, where some say Joannes Scottus the Great Clerk was slain," while "the fair Square Tour in the West End was kept for a Dwelling house." Almost worse was the making of "a stret or 2 for Clothiers in the back vacant ground of the Abbey that is within the Toune Waulles," and greatest crime of all was the absolutely irreparable loss of the huge library, the collection and production of which, for the compiling and writing, as well as the illumination and binding of these priceless works, were the accumulated labours of the monks for four centuries, was largely the work of the abbey itself. "Imperial Cæsar, dead and turned to clay" could better have been spared for the filling of the bung-holes of barrels than the priceless manuscripts that were abandoned to that and to similar vile uses; but with all our wrath and indignation must be mingled a pretty considerable share of gratitude, inasmuch as if fate had ordained

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that this glorious abbey was not to be preserved, and continue as an Anglican cathedral, it is to him that we owe it that the precious fragment still preserved did not go the way of so much else. "This Stumpe was the chef Causer and Contributor to have the abbay Chirch made a Paroch Chirch," writes Leland, who visited Malmesbury in 1541. The old Church of St Paul close by was in a ruinous and dilapidated condition, and its use was now discontinued, the eastern portion being, with a complacent tolerance somewhat characteristic of the troublous times, "converted *in aulam civicam*," and serving as a town hall. Its tower and broach spire of 14th-cent date, detached, form a campanile for the present Abbey Church. The S. wall of the chancel, which retains two 15th-cent. windows, is incorporated in the back of some houses, and the rest, with the remains of the nave, was pulled down about 1850. Archbishop Cranmer in 1541 granted his licence, and the Abbey Church entered on its new career. The great western tower, however, collapsed shortly afterwards, and destroyed in its fall the last three bays of the nave and N. aisle, and ruined two bays of the S. aisle. The present church, therefore, only comprises the six eastern out of the nine bays of the nave, with the remaining three bays of the S. aisle and the S. porch, the W. and N. lantern arches originally supporting the central tower, and part of the W. wall of the S. transept. A substantial stone curtain wall shuts off the ruined bays with the remains of the W. front, which was of fine Norm. work, with large angular turrets at the ends, and a richly panelled screen wall marking

## MALMESBURY

the aisle, with a large Perp. window in the centre, and to the E., two of the semicircular lantern arches that supported the central tower, a fragment of the first stage of which remains over the N. arch, while remains of the presbytery and transepts are attached to the N.E. pier of the crossing. The main walls of the nave are divided into three storeys, the first formed by the arcade of obtusely-pointed arches on cylindrical piers, with billet mouldings and grotesque heads carved at the terminals; the second by the triforium semicircular arches in each bay, each embracing four smaller ones on round columns, and the third by the clerestory, a Dec. work of great height and beauty, added or remodelled early in the 14th cent., and with the splendid pinnacles and flying buttresses adding to the dignity and impressiveness of the fine external elevation. The vault is a fine piece of 14th-cent. work. From the piers the vaulting shafts spread into a beautiful groined roof, richly bossed. "The whole elevation," writes Freeman, "must have been one of the very grandest in England. It has all the solemn majesty of a Romanesque building, combined with somewhat of Gothic aspiration. The bays are tall and narrow, the triforium large, the clerestory still larger." The aisles have their Norm. vaulting, and in each bay a round-headed window above the wall arcades. In one of the bays of the N. aisle a large three-light Dec. window has been inserted, and a Dec. vault substituted for the Norm. vaulting cell, probably to light one of the chapels of the nave altar. In the E. bay are remains of the old doorway leading to the cloisters. Two

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curious large Dec. windows in the S. aisle lighted the retro-quire. The drop tracery in the centre light is noticeable. The curious stone watching chamber, which may have been used for other purposes, and which projects from a bay of the S. triforium, is of Perp. date, when the square tower over the western bays was added. Of the latter the springer of the arch of the W. front remains, with one of a series of flying buttresses. "The triforium under the tower," Mr Brakspear tells us, "was built up solid, a flying arch put across the 3rd bay and the arcade arch below was strengthened." A great window was inserted in the W. wall at the same time. To this period also belongs the altar-tomb with the crowned effigy, traditionally that of Athelstan, now in the first arch on the S. side. The eastern screen of the gallery which separated the choir from the nave bears the badge of Henry VI., with the royal arms over the choir door. Portions of the western screen, which is lacking in the nave, are found at the S. end of either aisle, and their beautiful Dec. tracery should be noticed. Over the S. aisle, a long room with a flat roof formed the library.

The S. porch is one of the grandest and most beautiful pieces of Norm. work in the country, design and execution being alike admirable. In a sense it may be said to link the splendid nave to the old Saxon basilica. The carving is rich in the extreme, and profusely decorative, the wealth of ornamentation being indeed remarkable. The outer arch has, in the place of shafts and capitals, eight richly carved orders, three divided into panels with striking sculptured figures depicted

## MALMESBURY

enacting various Biblical scenes, with emblematic figures in the jambs, and the other five carved with beautiful interlaced patterns of foliage. Inside the porch are wall arcades, and above, in semicircular panels, are figures of the twelve apostles, sheltered by the wings of a flying angel bearing a scroll. The inner doorway has only three boustrophedons, but the carving is equally rich and beautiful, the tympanum depicting Our Lord in Glory, with an angel on either side. The whole was re-cased when the 14th-cent. additions and alterations were made, and when, among other things, the clerestory was re-modelled, and traceried three-light windows were inserted in each bay and the S. walls of the nave and aisle were given a traceried parapet. The cloister was rebuilt and stone vaulted in the 15th cent. Recent excavations have unearthed a large piece of tile flooring of the E. and W. alleys, with small patches of the N. alley floor. A quantity of fragments of the vaulted ceiling have been found, showing that the cloister alleys were similar to those at Gloucester. Fragments of the lower parts of the inner walls have been discovered at the N.W. and N.E. angles, and a fine piece near the S.E. corner of a field on the N. side of the abbey known as the "Doveyard," and a fragment of the W. wall of the cloister and the footings of a side wall of the chapter-house, which was usually the burial place of the abbots, unearthed. Steps are being taken to complete the rebuilding of the W. end of the abbey and to adequately restore the original front, and some land necessary for the purpose has been acquired.

Malmesbury returned two members to the

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House of Commons until 1832. Its incorporation dates from Athelstan's day. For a long time it was governed by a high steward, an alderman and twelve capital burgesses, but it was newly incorporated in 1885. Malmesbury Common, or King's Heath, Athelstan's gift, is a little to the S.W. of the town. Every freeman is entitled to one allotment, and every capital burgess to a plot of from 8 to 15 acres. The classical "three acres" must hide its diminished head in the presence of figures like these. Near the entrance to the abbey at the head of the High Street, in the old market-place, is an ancient and very beautiful monument in the shape of the Market Cross, one of the very best works of the kind in the country. It is octagonal in form, and of Perp. architecture. Leland, who calls it a "right faire piece of work," tells us it was raised "in hominum memoriâ." It was built in Henry VII.'s reign, and is over 40 ft. in height. It has a fine central shaft and open sides, and the flying buttresses and pinnacles are surmounted by an octagonal canopied pinnacle, richly sculptured and decorated with statues, which include St Lawrence and an unknown mitred bishop. Within is a groined roof. The thorough repair and restoration of the Cross has been recently accomplished, thanks largely to the efforts of Alderman Moore and the burgesses, aided by their neighbour, Lord Suffolk. Just behind the Cross in the venerable "Green Dragon" inn, an ogee-headed 14th-cent. window may be seen. The town hall is a plain building, but the municipal insignia—maces and seals—are well worth seeing. William of Malmesbury, the

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historian, was librarian and precentor of the abbey, and refused the office of abbot. He died about the year 1143. Oliver of Malmesbury, one of the monks who flourished here a few years before the Norman Conquest, was an astrologer with a penchant for aviation, whether as an aid to star-gazing or no is not related. His appliances, however, were scarcely up to the modern standard, for Fuller relates that after fastening wings to his hands and feet he attempted a flight from one of the abbey towers, but fell and broke his legs. Thomas Hobbes, the famous philosopher and author of the "Leviathan" was born in 1538 in the suburb of Westport where his father was vicar of the church, in the windows of which is some good glass. The old font is preserved in the present church. Pillow lace is still made in Malmesbury, and the industry, or art, if we may so term it, has been revived and encouraged by the Countess of Suffolk's lace school at Charlton.

*Manningford Abbots*, *Manningford Bruce*, and *Manningford Bohun* are parishes which lie immediately to the S.W. of Pewsey Station. The small church of the first named was rebuilt in 1864. It contains some memorial tablets to the Astleys, and a piscina in the chancel. The fine mediæval chalice belongs to the period just before and immediately after 1500, and is a good example of a pre-Reformation cup. The Avon flows on to Manningford Bruce, which takes its affix from the old Braose family, and here is a pretty and interesting old church of flint and rubble, of early Norm., or possibly of late Saxon date, with an apsidal chancel, and a very interesting mural tablet

to Mary, wife of Edward Nicholas, lord of the manor here, and daughter of Thomas Lane of Bentley, Staffordshire, "a family as venerable for its antiquity as renowned for its loyalty of which ye wonderful preservation of King Charles the Second, after the defeat of Worcester, is an instance never to be forgotten." The inscription goes on to state that Mary herself bore a very considerable part in this "glorious action," in which her sister Jane, Mrs or Mistress Lane, as she is usually styled, was even more prominent, and that "the family was dignified with the addition of the signal badge of honour—the Armes of England in a Canton"—to perpetuate the memory of their service. Manningford Bohun calls for no comment.

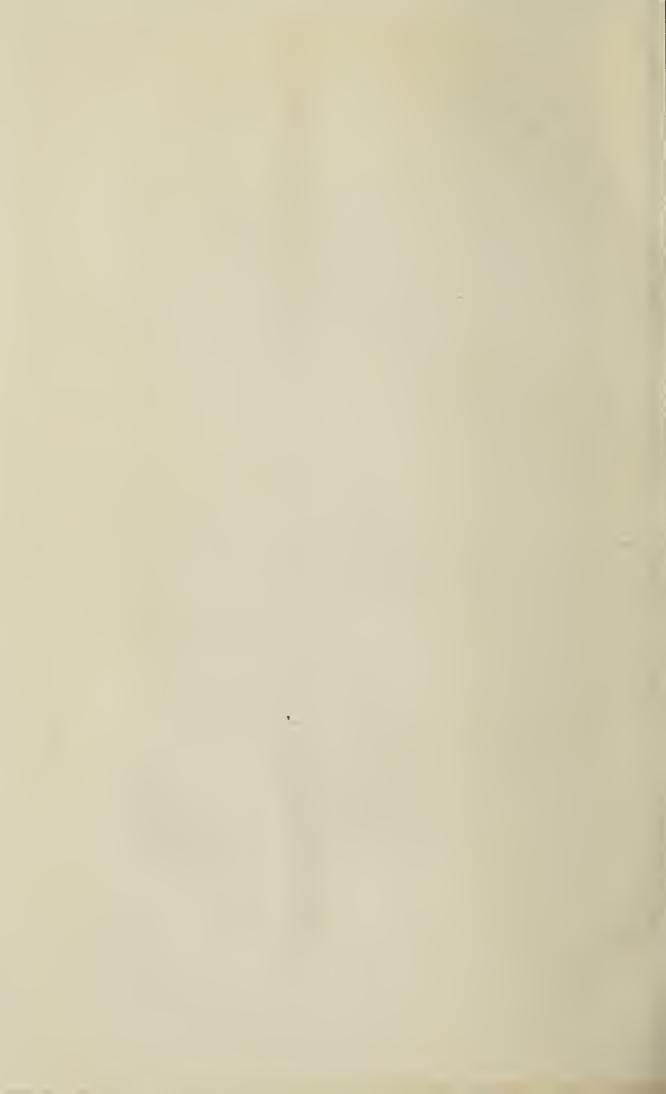
*Marden* (2 m. S.W. from Woodborough Station) is to the W. of the above trio of Manningfords. The church has some fine Norm. work in the chancel arch and S. door, with good beaded moulding. The 15th-cent. Perp. tower, lowered 7 ft. in 1617, was rebuilt in 1885 and restored to its original height.

MARLBOROUGH has a branch line to Saver-nake, where it connects with the Great Western Railway, and a station on the Midland & South-Western junction line from Cheltenham to Andover. It is a municipal borough and a market town and agricultural centre of considerable importance, its markets and its fairs being celebrated even in a county of markets and fairs. It is pleasantly situated on the banks of the Kennet and on the Great Bath Road, the last-mentioned fact being no unimportant factor in the matter of its ancient prosperity, inasmuch as over forty





HIGH STREET, MARLBOROUGH



## MARDEN—MARLBOROUGH

coaches used to pass through it daily and its Castle Inn was famous throughout the land. The opening of the railways seemed to doom it to a fate of stagnation and possible decay, a destiny that was happily averted by the opening of a great public school and a subsequent linking up with the newly-established system of locomotion. It is a quaint, old-fashioned, picturesque old town, not very flattering in its first impressions if one arrives by rail, but fascinating enough so soon as its glorious High Street is reached, one of the widest—if not the widest of the many notable High Streets in England—while in its half-mile or so of length more than half the town is comprised. The large and well-built houses speak eloquently of the old prosperous days, and although the town has suffered terribly from fires, there are some very attractive old houses on the N. side, with picturesque gables and good timber-work, that managed to survive the terrible conflagrations the place has experienced. The Kennet runs parallel with the High Street, and many a pleasant and shady garden extends to its bank. The fire of 1653 threatened to make an end of the town. It was looked upon as quite a national calamity. "The most furious fire that ever mortal creature saw," it broke out in a tanner's yard, and quickly reduced both sides of the High Street and the town hall, some say "to dust," others "to ashes." Both the churches suffered, St Mary's being gutted. Some 250 houses were destroyed, 300 families were rendered homeless, and £70,000 worth of property was swept away. It is difficult to realize how utter the ruin and how dire the

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calamity must have been in those pre-insurance days. Numbers of honest and flourishing tradesmen were reduced to beggary, and Cromwell's Council at Whitehall ordered collections in relief to be made all over the kingdom. The town hall was rebuilt, and the town also gradually, but in its poverty it begged to be spared the cost of the assizes, and it never fully regained its old importance. It again suffered severely from fires in 1679 and 1690, after which last thatched roofs were explicitly condemned by a special Act of Parliament. Pepys was here in 1668, and writes of it as "a pretty fair town for a street or two, on one side the great houses supported with pillars which make a fair work." The colonnade still exists, and is a characteristic feature of the N. side of the street.

The history of the place takes us back to pre-historic times. The Castle Mound is much like its great neighbour, Silbury Hill, and is associated with the age that produced Avebury and Stonehenge. "Merlebergh" is the ancient name, and Merlin is supposed to be buried beneath the mound. The motto of the borough arms runs—"Tibi nunc sapientis ossa Merlini," but Mr A. C. Champneys and other authorities prefer to find the derivation in the more prosaic rendering of the A.-S. "Máer-léah, "cattle boundary," the máer being the same word we meet again at Mere. The Roman Station, *Cunetio*, was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. E. of Mildenhall ("Minall" locally), and occupied the hill now known as Folly Farm, where Roman and pre-Roman relics of various kinds are constantly being unearthed. Here the "Marlborough

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Bucket," preserved in the museum at Devizes, was found. Further to the S. on the other side of the Kennet was another Roman station, sometimes styled *Lower Cunetio*.

Normans, favourites of Edward the Confessor, were here before the Conqueror's day. William the Conqueror had a castle of sorts here, and confined the Bishop of Sussex and other Saxon ecclesiastics in it. He also established a mint, so the place must have already been of some importance. Henry I. was here in 1110, and in his reign the existing stronghold was greatly strengthened, probably rebuilt, by the ubiquitous and enterprising Bishop Roger. It was held for the Empress Maud, albeit in a very independent and freebooter style, by one Fitz-Gilbert, who defied all authority and ravaged, burnt and plundered churchmen and laymen alike, so that William of Malmesbury is forced to term him "the root of all evil, a very firebrand of hell." John was much attached to Marlborough, and was married here in 1180 to Isabella, the heiress of the Earl of Gloucester. Henry III., too, was here and the castle underwent various additions and improvements for the royal accommodation. The hunting in Savernake Forest and Aldbourn Chase was doubtless very attractive to the Norman and Plantagenet kings. In 1267 Henry held his last Parliament here, and the "Statutes of Marlborough," which embodied certain of the demands of Simon de Montfort, were enacted. It continued its existence, sometimes in royal hands, occasionally granted to a subject, until the period of the Wars of the Roses, when we find Edward IV. resorting here

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at a critical time, but how, when and why the castle was dismantled seems somewhat of a mystery. It was a ruin in Leland's day, and the few remains that Camden found, less than a century later, quickly vanished. It passed to the Seymours in Edward VI.'s time by a grant to the Lord Protector Somerset, which may possibly have confirmed an earlier grant in the previous reign, and some sort of a residential mansion seems to have been established amid the ancient ruins. At the time of the great Rebellion this was put into a state of defence, and was held by Francis, Lord Seymour, for Charles. The town, one of Clarendon's many "notoriously disaffected" places, sided with the Parliament, and was fortified and garrisoned. The tower of St Mary's bears evidence to the Royalist attack headed by Lord Digby and Wilmot, towards the close of 1642, when the town was stormed and captured and partly destroyed. It was the first garrison captured on either side, and much booty and some 120 prisoners were despatched to Oxford, the loss to the townspeople being estimated at £50,000. A relief force sent too late by Essex recaptured it, but at once retired, and subsequently Charles and his retinue were at the castle on two or three occasions. Fairfax occupied the town in 1645, and later on Cromwell marched through at the head of his army on his way to embark for Ireland. The Great Fire was a far greater calamity, however, than any caused by the war, and we press on to the Restoration, when Charles II. and his consort were entertained here by that stalwart cavalier already mentioned, Francis, Lord Seymour, who built the mansion which afterwards had such a

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curious career as the Castle Inn, and then experienced another uncommon metamorphosis by becoming the nucleus of a great public school. Webb, a son-in-law to Inigo Jones, is said to have been the architect, and here, later on, ruled Frances, Countess of Hertford, a lady with many claims to our remembrance, one being her warm championship of the unfortunate Richard Savage.

It was the day of sham romanticism and what Bishop Cotton calls "the spurious picturesque and bombastic pastoral," and artificial cascades, "ruins" carefully stage-managed, spiral walks twisting about the mound, and a grotto similar to that of Mr Pope at Twickenham, came into being. Of course such an environment needed something in the way of a menagerie, and the poet Thomson, who had a weakness for patrons, was for some time the leading lion. "Spring" was dedicated to his fair hostess, the season, he wrote, "when nature is blooming and benevolent, like thee!" A weakness for port and the society of her husband cut short his stay, and he doubtless found himself much more at home at Eastbury, with Bubb Dodington, and the congenial company of Young and Christopher Pitt and the flow of "Burgundy and wit." Elizabeth Rowe was a more favoured visitor, and she is said to have sought and found inspiration in the grotto. Isaac Watts, too, was a much-esteemed visitor, and was consulted by her ladyship in the matter of her son's education.

"Thresher Duck," the poet, was among Lady Hertford's *protégés* and was by her introduced to Queen Caroline. The castle soon afterwards

passed to the Northumberland family by marriage, and they took to it in such indifferent fashion that about the middle of the 18th cent. it became an inn—a famous inn, and a fashionable inn without doubt, but a hostelry for travellers all the same—and such it remained, one of the best of its kind, for nearly a century. An admirable picture of it, and the visit of the famous Lord Chatham in 1767, when that great man made it his headquarters for some time, is to be found in Mr Stanley Weyman's fine romance, "The Castle Inn." The advent of the railways ruined the inn, which closed its doors, to reopen then on 26th August 1843 as a school inaugurated by a number of enterprising and philanthropic gentlemen, at the instigation of the Rev. Charles Plater, to give all the advantages of a public-school education at a much less expense than was then current, the sons of clergymen receiving special advantages. The first headmaster was Dr Wilkinson, afterwards Vicar of Melksham, and the first head boy was the late Mr Hawkins, Rector of St Bride's, Fleet Street, and father of "Anthony Hope." The school had its troubles, and at times they were grave ones, but the late Bishop Cotton, then a house master at Rugby, assumed the command when things were about as bad as they could be, and after a grave financial crisis had been weathered things righted themselves, and with many additions, including a very beautiful chapel erected in 1886 to take the place of an old one built nearly forty years earlier, the school has had a career of brilliant and uninterrupted success, and has been the model on



## MARLBOROUGH

which several similar undertakings have been based. "In the panelled halls that echoed the steps of Dutch William and Duke Chandos," writes Mr Weyman, "through the noble rooms that a Seymour built that a Seymour might be born and die under their frescoed ceilings the voices of boys and tutors now sound. . . . Nor on the outside is all changed at the Castle Inn. Those who in this quiet lap of the Wiltshire Downs are busy moulding the life of the future are reverent of the past. The old house stands stately, high-roofed, almost unaltered, its great pillared portico before it; hard by are the Druids' Mound and Preshute Church in the lap of trees; . . . the bridge that was of wood is now of brick, but there it is and the Kennet still flows under it, watering the lawns and flowering shrubs that Lady Hertford loved. Still can we trace in fancy the sweetbriar hedge and the border of pinks which she planted by the trim canal, and, a bowshot from the great school, can lose all knowledge of the present in the crowding memories which the Duelling Green and the Bowling Alley, trodden by the men and women of a past generation, awaken in the mind."

The college has had some famous headmasters. Among Bishop Cotton's successors have been Dr Bradley, afterwards Dean of Westminster, Dean Farrar of Canterbury, and Canon Bell; and many of its masters have gone on to greater things. The present writer's brief experience of the school buildings is that they call sadly for "more light," daylight, of course, but this is no doubt remedied in the newer buildings. The really excellent

Natural History Society and Museum, connected with the college, calls for very hearty recognition and congratulation, and so does the Adderley Library, containing nearly 9000 volumes, founded by the late Mr M'Geachy, a near relative and close friend of Mr C. B. Adderley, the first Lord Norton. The ancient Grammar School of King Edward VI. must not go unmentioned. It is at the opposite end of the town, and was rebuilt in 1905. It was within an ace of being merged in the college, and one cannot but feel some regret that the time-honoured foundation was not launched on a new career of dignity and importance, as well as of usefulness. The latter, indeed, it has secured, being now a secondary day school for boys and girls, under a board of seventeen governors, with a share in certain exhibitions at Oxford and Cambridge. Among its distinguished pupils were Dr Sacheverell, who was a native of Marlborough, and General Picton, and Tom Moore sent his two sons here from Sloperton.

A word or two must suffice for the churches. St Peter's, at the western or college extremity of the High Street, is a Perp. stone building with, at the W. of the S. aisle, a bold and lofty tower, 120 ft. high, late Perp., where the curfew bell still rings each evening. There is a marble monument in the chancel to Sir Nicholas Hyde, dated 1626. Cardinal Wolsey is said to have been ordained priest here in 1498. Dr Sacheverell's father was rector here in 1674. The stone groining of the porch and chancel is noteworthy, and the arcades and window tracery. St Mary's Church suffered greatly in the 1653 fire, and was partly

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rebuilt and restored in debased Perp. style. The chancel, designed by G. E. Street, was built in 1874. The Norm. doorway at the W. end and the Perp. windows in S. aisle call for special mention. Comparatively recently a curious Roman relic was found in the old Norm. foundation, a stone figure, carved in relief and representing the goddess Fortune, and Mr J. W. Brooke, a highly competent local antiquary, attributes it to the time of Diocletian, A.D. 310.

Some remains of St Margaret's Priory of White Canons are incorporated in cottages on the way from the station to the town. The *White Horse*, seen on the chalky slope beyond the college entrance on the Bath Road, was the work of some schoolboys, pupils of a Mr Greasly, who had a school here a century ago. *Preshute* is separately dealt with.

*Marston Maisey* (3 m. N.E. from Cricklade Station). The church has been rebuilt and calls for no special comment. The fine trees and the old houses are attractive features of this Upper Thames district.

*Marston (South)* (2 m. E. from Stratton Station on the Highworth branch line) is in the N.E. corner of the county on the Berks. border. The old church, Trans.-Norm., has been well restored by Mr Belcher.

MAUD HEATH'S CAUSEWAY should perhaps have been dealt with under Chippenham. It goes from Chippenham Cliff in an E.N.E. direction through the parishes of Langley Burrell, Kellaways and Tytherton, to the top of Wick Hill in Bremhill parish, a  $4\frac{1}{2}$  m. route traversing some heavy clay in a low district frequently flooded.

The causeway is a stone pitched path, raised in certain places, as at Kellaways, where, resting upon some sixty arches, it enabled the Avon to be negotiated safely even in times of flood, and was constructed about the year 1474 by the lady whose name it bears, a market-woman, according to tradition, who, having herself experienced the perils and dangers of the road she was compelled to travel on her way to and from Chippenham Market, was most magnanimously and considerately anxious that it should be made safer and easier for others. She not only made it, paying the cost from her savings, but she endowed it with a sum sufficient to keep it in repair, and won for herself the gratitude of generations, and for her name a well-merited immortality. An iron bridge, provided, if we mistake not, from the funds of her trust, crosses the Avon at Kellaways, and performs the office of the old arched path which, one is glad to state, has most properly been preserved, while upright stones suitably inscribed mark the course of the causeway at certain stages. At the Chippenham end, by St Paul's Church, a couplet inscribed on the stone runs :

"Hither extended Maud Heath's gift  
For where I stand is Chippenham clift."

At Kellaways bridge is a stone shaft and sundial erected in 1698 by the feofees, "To the memory of the worthy Maud Heath, of Langley Burrell, widow," and some particulars of the bequest follow with obtrusive Latinity by the poet Bowles. At the Wick Hill end are the lines :

## MELKSHAM

“From this Wick hill begins the praise  
Of Maud Heath’s gift to these highways,”

and a monumental column on the ridge of the hill, with a somewhat primitive representation of the brave and generous donor of the causeway, was erected in 1838 by Lord Lansdowne and Mr Bowles. The hill commands some delightful and very extensive views in all directions and will well repay a visit.

MELKSHAM has a station on the Great Western Railway, and the motor omnibuses that run in the summer months from Bath to Devizes pass through it. It is a clean, unpretentious old market-town, about a mile in length, mainly situated on the Bath road. The Bristol Avon is crossed by a well-designed bridge of four arches. The cloth manufacture has died out, but other industrial enterprises have taken its place with such success as to justify hopes of a considerable revival as regards the town’s commercial importance. Messrs Spencer’s large iron foundry, which produces steam engines and agricultural machinery, gives employment to over 1000 people; motor tyres and other indiarubber goods are manufactured on a large scale by the Avon Company; mattings, rope and twine are also made here, and there is a large and important corn mill on the roller system. The place was of some note in very ancient days. In Domesday times it was a royal domain and was surrounded by a great forest, a royal forest too, called sometimes after Melksham, sometimes Chippenham Forest. The early Plantagenet monarchs hunted here, and Edward I. seems specially to have favoured it.

## WILTSHIRE

The church is a fine freestone building, originally Norm. and cruciform, and indications of the former are found in the buttresses and billet mouldings at the E. end. and in the mouldings of the aisles. The central tower was removed when the church was restored by Wyatt in 1840, and rebuilt at the W. end, retaining its old summit. At a further restoration in 1891 the oaken roof was opened and a carved-oak screen was added. There is a fine S. chapel, Perp., and the early Dec. nave arcade is interesting. The district still known as Melksham Forest, although without much present justification, is served by the pretty little St Andrew's Chapel, built in E.E. style by the late G. E. Street at the expense of the late Rev. E. L. Bamwell. The town hall, a white freestone building in the Italian style, was built by a company, a rather unusual procedure, in 1847. The old tithe-barn is used as a schoolroom and is situated a little to the W. of the church. The Melksham district is an exceedingly attractive one, Spye Park, Bromham, Bowood, Lacock Abbey, Great Chalfield and South Wraxall, all being within an easy distance.

MERE (4 m. N. from Gillingham Station) is in the S.W. corner of the county, where it meets Somerset and Dorset, and the name indicates an ancient boundary. The town still has a population of nearly 2000, but the weekly market and the fairs have both disappeared, and the place would seem to have suffered by the rise of the neighbouring Dorset town of Gillingham, which has the good fortune to be served by the railway. The church is an exceptionally interesting one.

## MERE—MILDENHALL

There are traces of late Saxon or early Norm. work, and a little E.E., but Perp. predominates, with the exception of the S. chapel, which is Late Dec. The finely carved oak ceiling and the rood and various other screens, as well as the parvises over the porches, are noteworthy. The clerestoried nave of five bays is separated from the chancel by a beautifully carved screen. Over both N. and S. porches is a parvise. In the S. chapel the fine brass to John Betteshorne (*ob.* 1398) commemorates the dominical letter of the year. The chantry house near the church is part 15th-cent. work and was once used as a school by William Barnes, the Dorset poet. Another mediæval building, now used as a barn, is found on the road N. of the churchyard and yet another, Perp., used as a shop, stands in the main street. The clock tower was erected on the site of the old market-house in 1866 by the then Prince of Wales, his late Majesty King Edward VII., Mere forming part of the Duchy of Cornwall. Castle Hill is the sole survival of the castle built in 1253 by Richard, Earl of Cornwall. The remains of the ancient manor-house of the Doddingtons known as Woodlands are incorporated in a farmhouse about 1 m. S. The two-storeyed 14th-cent. wing is specially interesting. The upper room was the chapel. A piscina remains and a good Dec. window with flowing tracery. The E. window is a little later, with Perp. tracery, and at the W end is a Jacobean fireplace.

*Mildenhall* ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.E. from Marlborough Station) has a small, ancient church on the banks of the Kennet, encased, as regards the interior,

with polished oak and with some good oak carving of pulpit and gallery. Folly Farm marks the site of the ancient Cunetio, the Roman station already mentioned under Marlborough.

*Milston* ( $1\frac{1}{4}$  m. N. from Bulford Station) is on the Avon and is in the heart of the military zone. The village is a pretty one, and the small church is interesting from the fact that the father of Joseph Addison was rector here. The old rectory, in which the poet was born, has been pulled down. The neighbouring plain was doubtless not without its influence on Addison's muse, and his famous hymns "The Lord my pasture shall prepare" and "The spacious firmament on high" seem to savour not a little of his youthful environment. He would doubtless rejoice that his hero, whose "Campaign" and his own were the making of his fortune and who could "ride the whirlwind and direct the storm," took his title from Wiltshire Marlborough, which, largely as the result of that choice, has given its name to a host of things, ranging from palaces to puddings.

*Milton Lilbourne* ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. E. from Pewsey Station) is sometimes spelled "Milston" and is apt occasionally to be confused with the above. It is on the northern edge of the Plain in the Pewsey Vale. The church is an old stone building restored in 1875, when the founder's tomb was discovered in the N. aisle. On *Milton Hill*, a little to the S., are two rows of barrows of an unusually pointed form, and traces of a prehistoric village are to be seen.

*Minety* has a railway station on the line between Gloucester and Swindon. The church is late E.E.



## MILSTON—MONKTON FARLEIGH

with some Perp. additions and the pulpit and the oak seats are finely carved. In the N. aisle is a brass to Nicholas Powlett (1620), a nephew of the Sir Amyas to whom Queen Elizabeth entrusted the care of Mary Queen of Scots. There are fragments of a handsome shaft with stiff foliaginous ornament here. The Penn family, who held the office of hereditary stewards to Malmesbury Abbey, to which this parish belonged, resided here, and here Pepys' Sir William Pen was born.

*Monckton Deverill* (6 m. S. from Warminster Station). The small church, which was restored in 1852 and rebuilt with the exception of the tower, has a plain Norm. font. The carved panels of the pulpit representing Old Testament scenes are noticeable.

*Monkton Farleigh* ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. S. from Box Station) is on the Somerset border near Bath. It is beautifully situated above the Avon Valley and commands some exceedingly fine views. A Cluniac Priory founded in 1125, as cell of Lewes, by Maud, daughter of Edward of Salisbury, was endowed by her with an estate called the "Buries" at Bishopstrow, and her son, the third Humphrey de Bohun, further endowed and enlarged it. Sir Charles Hobhouse's manor-house now occupies the site, and in some of the outbuildings at the rear are some lancet windows and remains of the refectory and dormitories, with some excellent carved stonework and an old oak door with Latin and Greek inscriptions. Recent excavations in the supposed site of the chapel have led to the discovery of a turret with narrow stair and traces of the high altar, and some stone slabs carved with

## WILTSHIRE

Maltese crosses have been found, one of them 7 ft. long. There is a cross-legged effigy of one of the Dunstanvilles and other stone effigies. A small, stone-roofed, 13th-cent. building,  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. N.W., is known as the "Monks' Conduit" and covered the spring supplying the water. It has a finely groined roof. Bishop Jewell died here in 1571, a few days after preaching his last sermon in Lacock church. The church has been restored, but retains the old W. tower, a Norm. door and the Elizabethan pulpit. The famous quarries of Bath stone are close at hand here. A beautiful avenue of beech-trees,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. long, leads to Upper Wraxall and the justly famous S. Wraxall manor-house.

*Neston* (2 m. S. from Corsham Station). The parish comprises a number of little hamlets and embraces several large farms. Neston Park is the seat of Mr G. P. Fuller. The old Roman road passes through it. The church is modern.

*Netheravon* ( $4\frac{1}{2}$  m. N. from Bulford Station) is the place where Cobbett once saw his "acre of hares," the Mr Hicks Beach of that day having given him a day's coursing. His successor, Lord St Aldwyn, sold the manor to the Crown, and the military now rule here, the Cavalry School being a prominent institution. The church, Norm. and E.E., with a western and pinnacled tower, retains some excellent Norm. work in the W. doorway and in the chancel and belfry arches. There are piscinas in the chancel and N. aisle and an aumbry in the chancel. A brass to John Samwell is dated 1669. There was a priest's room in the tower here. Sydney Smith, the witty canon of St Paul's,

## NESTON—NEWTON WITHOUT

spent two years as curate here, and Lady Holland tells us he could only obtain meat once a week, when a butcher's cart came from Salisbury, and was often forced to dine on a mess of potatoes seasoned with a little ketchup, while his only companion was the squire and his only relaxation long walks over the lonely plain. Somewhat of a contrast all this to his later life and the breakfasts at Samuel Rogers's.

*Netherhampton* (2 m. S.E. from Wilton Station) is in the Nadder Valley near Salisbury, and the Salisbury races are held here. The small church of flint and stone was restored, with the exception of the tower, in 1877.

*Nettleton* (1½ m. S. from Badminton Station) is on the old Fosse-way and close to the Gloucester border. The hamlet of Burton forms the most important portion of the parish and contains the church, which is an old stone building in Norm. style with Perp. additions. The reredos has a representation of the Last Supper in stone and terracotta. Near by is the tumulus known as Lugbury, measuring 180 ft. by 90 ft., containing a cromlech with a table stone 12 ft. by 6 ft. and stone crypts with skeletons.

*Newnton (Long)* (1½ m. S.E. from Tetbury Station), has a stone church, E.E., with Perp. western tower restored in 1870.

*Newnton (North)* (2 m. S.E. from Woodborough Station), is in the Pewsey Vale. The small stone church calls for no special comment,

*Newton Without (South)* (1½ m. S.E. from Wishford Station), is only a little further from Wilton, in which borough part of the old parish is incor-

## WILTSHIRE

porated. The old flint and stone church was restored and partly rebuilt by Lady Herbert of Lea in 1862. Some of the old Norm. arches and windows remain.

*Newton Tony* has a station on the branch line to Amesbury. The church was rebuilt in 1844 and contains an old Norm. font and a brass to one of the Benson family (1721). A predecessor of this worthy, who is variously styled "Auditor Benson" and "Counsellor Benson," built Wilbury House here in James I.'s reign, in a fine park of some 400 acres. It was one of the first buildings of the Italian style to be erected in England. It was for some time in the possession of the Malet family, but is now occupied by Mr T. Gibson Bowles. The E. wing was originally a chapel.

*No Man's Land* (7 m. S.E. from Downton Station) is the curious name of an isolated parish lying to the S. of Hamptworth and near the New Forest. There is no church, and service is held in the schoolroom.

*Norton* (2 m. N. from Hallington Station) has a small church calling for no special remark and a 17th-cent. manor-house, much modernized.

*Norton Bavant* ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. W. from Heytesbury Station) is very pleasantly situated in Wylve Valley. The small church has experienced a good deal of restoring and rebuilding.

*Nunton with Bodenham* (3 m. S. from Salisbury Station) is near Longford Castle. The Ebebe flows into the Avon here after its journey through the Vale of Chalk. The small church was restored and largely rebuilt in 1855 by T. H. Wyatt.

*Oaksey* ( $2\frac{1}{4}$  m. S. from Kemble Station). The

## NEWTON TONY—ODSTOCK

church, E.E. and Perp., has an embattled western tower and a stained E. window and some good glass in two of the windows of the nave. The S. porch has been enclosed and is used as a baptistery. The N. porch has an ogee arch and a figure of the Virgin and Child over the inside doorway, and there is some good carved work in the oak-screen and choir-stalls. The name of the place is attributed to the abundance of oak-trees in the neighbourhood, but another derivation is from "wuxi," a wattled sheepfold, and as it appears as "Wochisie" in Domesday this origin is not improbable. The Bohuns once had a castle or castellated mansion here, and James I. a hunting lodge.

*Oare* (2 m. N. from Pewsey Station) lies in that district of hill forts, camps and earthworks traversed by the Wansdyke between the Kennet and the Vale of Pewsey. The church, of plain red brick, a somewhat unusual material here, is modern. The hanging woods of Ramscombe Park prettily embosom the secluded village. Martinsell Hill and Camp, the former a fine eminence nearly 1000 ft. high, are a little to the N.E. The ditch and rampart enclose an area of 30 acres at the summit, whence wide-reaching views may be had.

*Odstock* (3 m. S. from Salisbury). The church has a good E.E. chancel and an imposing western tower. In a niche in the S. wall is a tomb supposed to be that of the founder. The old French inscription is largely obliterated, but "Dieu de sa alme ent merci, A," is still to be clearly discerned. The old oak pulpit, bearing the date 1580, has

## WILTSHIRE

some excellent carving and a couplet which runs :

“ God bless and save our royal queen,  
The lyke on earth was never seen,”

a compliment being doubtless intended in a statement not likely to be disputed. One Joseph Scamp, who was executed here for a crime to which he pleaded guilty, but which had really been committed by another Scamp, his son-in-law, is buried in the churchyard. Clearbury Ring may be distinguished by its clump of trees a little to the S., crowning a hill on the downs and commanding a magnificent view. The camp, doubtless prehistoric, is oblong in shape, some  $5\frac{1}{4}$  acres being enclosed by a ditch and rampart, the latter 40 ft. high.

*Ogbourne St Andrew* ( $1\frac{3}{4}$  m. S.W. from Ogbourne Station) is a pretty little place, nestling under the downs, its thatched cottages scattered here and there, and its old Trans.-Norm. church peacefully dominating them. There are monuments to the Seymour and Goddard families in the church, the chancel of which has been rebuilt. Rockley House, a little to the W., was once the seat of the Baskerville family and the Temple Farm marks the site of an old seat of the Knights Templars.

*Ogbourne St George* has a station on the Midland & South-Western line. It was the seat of an alien priory founded in 1149 by Maud of Wallingford as a cell to Bec in Normandy. The church is a stone E.E. building with S. porch and a fine western tower with some curious gargoyles.

## OGBOURNE—PEWSEY

In the N. chantry is a brass to Thomas Goddard dated 1517.

*Orcheston St George* and *Orcheston St Mary* are almost in the centre of the Plain about 7 m. N. from Wishford Station. The Plain is here cultivated and excellent crops are produced, a winter bourne which runs down to the Wylve supplying the needful irrigation. Wheat, barley, and oats, and great crops of what are known as Orcheston grasses are grown. The churches call for no special mention, except that the last-named possesses among its church plate a good specimen of the mediæval paten of the well-known pre-Reformation type of about 1500.

*Overton (West)* (4 m. W. from Marlborough Station). The motor omnibus between Calne and Marlborough passes close to the village. The church, perched on an eminence, was rebuilt in 1878, some of the old windows and the chancel arch being retained.

*Patney* has a station on the Great Western Railway. Paeten-eyot or Peaty Isle is given as its derivation, the Avon islanding it and the peat being actually there. The church was restored in 1877. The wooden belfry has a spire, and in the chancel are a piscina and sedilia.

*Pertwood* (6 m. N. from Semley Station) is a small parish, high up on the downs that lie to the S. and S.E. of the Deverill villages. The whole of the parish, an ecclesiastical one only, is comprised in one farm belonging to Wyndham of Clouds. The little stone church is Norm. in style.

PEWSEY has a railway station on the Great

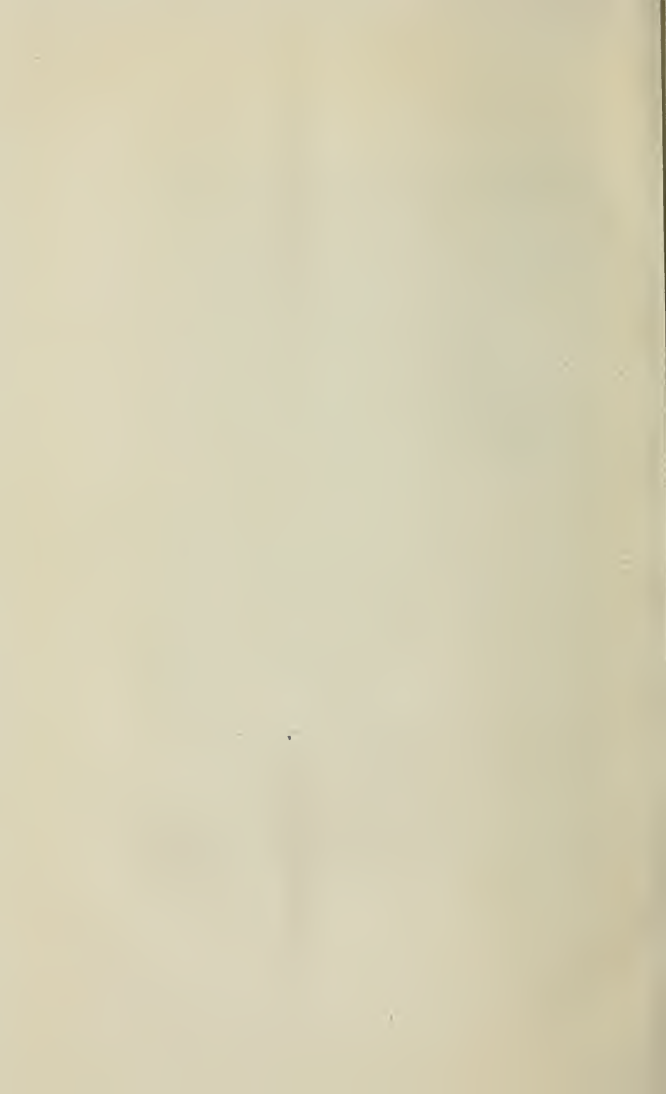
Western Railway, and is a thriving little agricultural town, agreeably situated on the Avon, in the vale to which it gives its name, and which divides the Marlborough Downs from Salisbury Plain. The church is a very interesting one, Trans.-Norm. and E.E. with an oblong Perp. tower groined in the interior. The square piers and unmoulded arches should be noticed, and the piscina and sedilia in the S. wall and the squint and piscina in the S. aisle, as well as the aumbry and font. The communion rails were carved by the late rector, Canon Pleydell-Bouverie, from the timbers of the *San Josef* captured by Nelson off Cape St Vincent in 1797, and the same skilful hand has been employed on the reredos, a memorial to the fourth Earl of Radnor. The stalls, lectern and pulpit, all of oak, were designed by the late G. E. Street. More interesting even than the material of the altar rails is that of the roof timbers of the organ chamber and vestry, which formed part of the refectory roof of the Augustinian Priory, founded by Henry II. at Ivychurch, near Alderbury, which once lodged Thomas Becket.

POTTERNE (2 m. S. from Devizes Station). It is mentioned in Domesday Book, and was a manor of the Bishops of Salisbury in 1338. The church is a beautiful cruciform building, a splendid example of E.E. at its purest, simplest and best. It is excellently placed on rising ground, dominating with dignity the somewhat tortuous little village, and was probably erected contemporaneously with Salisbury Cathedral, certain similarities of detail indicating the same builder, while it is





POTTERNE



## POTTERNE

quite likely the founder was the same also, Bishop Poore. It was a new edifice on a new site, the "old churchyard" indicating where its predecessor stood. The chancel, transept and nave are 13th-cent. work, and exceedingly well preserved and unspoiled, ornamentation being lacking, and carving too for the most part, while the moulding is by no means conspicuous, but the fine proportion and the noble dignity of line amply atone. The S. porch is somewhat later. The fine, stately, square central tower is early 14th cent., the middle portion being early Dec. with some fine Perp. lattice work in the beautiful windows. The battlements are later and early Perp., and the whole, mellowed by age and blending harmoniously, is both majestic and impressive. The ancient oak pulpit, hexagonal in form, displays some good 15th-cent. carving, and the oak door to the N. porch is the original one, which had gone astray. The font in use was probably introduced when the Perp. additions were made, but when the church was restored in 1872, by Mr Christian, a great, plain, round tub-shaped bowl was found buried beneath it. This is now placed against the W. wall, and round its rim is inscribed in very early characters: SICVT· CERVVS· DESIDERAT· AD· FONTES· AQVARVM· ITA· DESIDERAT· ANIMA· MEA· AD· TE· DS· AMEN.

The quotation is the well-known one from Psalm xlii. 1:—"As the hart panteth," etc., but the Latin is not from the Vulgate but from an alternative reading, found, so Mr Bodington, the late vicar, tells us, in a version of St Jerome, and used in the Saxon baptismal offices. The characters

## WILTSHIRE

resemble those of a copy known as St Cuthbert's Gospels, now in the British Museum, of probably the 8th cent. and the font probably belonged to an old Saxon church that stood in the "old" or lower churchyard. There are a large number of stained windows, and a number of brasses and tablets, including a brass to Hugh Rook, 1686. A dole-table stands in the churchyard near the N. door. The Porch House, a 15th-cent. half-timbered house, is supposed by some to have been originally a church house and by others is identified with a former inn known as the "Pack Horse." It may have been both at one time, since the church "Ales" played no inconspicuous part in the "Veasts" and festivals for which the district is noted. It had the good fortune to fall into the hands of the late George Richmond, R.A., in 1872, and by him it was carefully restored. It has a lofty dining-hall with an oriel, and a tracery look-out from the chamber of dais is reminiscent of the stone mask at Great Chalfield through which a view of the hall was gained from the upper chambers. There are some good 15th-cent. cottages, half timbered, with projecting upper storeys, that with the Porch House give a very attractive appearance to the village.

*Poulshot* ( $2\frac{3}{4}$  m. S.W. from Devizes Station) is a quaint little village scattered about a large common or green through the centre of which the road passes. The church is nearly a mile away, and not particularly easy to discover. It is a very old stone building, with low-side windows, and has a Perp. addition in the shape of the S. porch, which contains a stoup. The pulpit is Jacobean.

## POULSHOT—PURTON

Izaak Walton's son was rector here in 1688 and his uncle, Bishop Ken, sought a refuge at the rectory when William of Orange began his march to London. Paul's Holt was the ancient name. The Parish Feast is still kept on the Sunday after Old Lammas Day.

*Preshute Without* is a name rather loosely given to a number of little places forming a parish adjoining Marlborough. *Preshute Within* is, as the name indicates, a part of the Marlborough municipality. The church was the parish church of the castle and has been largely rebuilt, but some of the old Norm. work remains in the Norm. pillars, and there is a great curiosity here in the shape of the black font of basaltic marble, round, and of unusual dimensions (some  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ft. in diameter), almost, like that at Potterne, suggesting total immersion. It is attributed to the early part of the 12th cent., and Camden records the tradition that King John, who granted the first charter to Marlborough, was baptized in it. It was probably removed here from the Chapel of St Nicholas in Marlborough Castle.

*Purton* has a station on the Great Western Railway 4 m. N.W. from Swindon. It is an abbreviated form of Periton, which one authority gives as "Pear Tree Enclosure," but which one inclines, without doing any great violence to that derivation, to ascribe rather to Perrytown or ton, pears and perry being somewhat intimately associated. The village is beautifully situated to the S. of the station on an elevation which commands some fine views. The cruciform church has two steeples, one a central tower with spire

## WILTSHIRE

at the intersection, the other a pinnacled tower at the W. end. In this it resembles Wanborough, which also is in the Swindon district. It is chiefly Perp. with some earlier work in the nave arcades and some Dec. windows. The groining under the central tower and some old glass and remains of wall frescoes are noticeable. Purton belonged to Malmesbury Abbey, and at the Dissolution part of it passed to the Hydes. Their house is still standing, and is known as the Church Farm. Clarendon came here for his health when a youth, and in 1629, "calling home all straggling and wandering appetites," he was married here. There are monuments in the church to the Ashley-Cooper (Shaftesbury), Sadler and Maskelyne families, the last the ancestors of the Astronomer Royal bearing the name, who was buried here in 1811, and of the Story-Maskelynes. Ringsbury camp, a good oval earthwork with a double ditch, is about 3 m. S.W.

RAMSBURY (5 m. N.W. from Hungerford Station) is very prettily placed on the banks of the Kennet. It is mostly contained in one long street, the long stretch of old houses, thatched or tiled most of them, being relieved by the large church which stands a little aloof among some old trees. The place is one of great antiquity and of considerable historical and antiquarian interest. It is the old Ravensburg (A.-S. "Hraefensbyrig"), and was one of the seats of the Wiltshire bishopric in the 10th cent. It was united to Sherborne by Bishop Herman in 1058 and with it was transferred to Old Sarum in 1075. Three of its bishops became Archbishops of Canterbury—Odo,

## RAMSBURY

Siric and Ælfric, the Cerne Abbas monk who wrote the "Homilies." During recent restorations the foundations of a pre-Norman church have been unearthed, parallel to and two or three feet outside the existing edifice. Some fine sculptured stones were found in excellent preservation, two being body stones and the others shafts of the accompanying crosses. The interlacing patterns are well done, and on one of the shafts there is lacertine or dragonsque ornamentation. The stones are now in the church, the portions of the shafts being set up one above the other and the body stones placed in front, the fine design on one of the latter suggesting foreign influence. The church is mainly E.E., the S. porch, however, being quite modern. The Darell Chapel, adjoining the N. end of the chancel, is now used as a vestry and contains a tomb in Purbeck marble to William Darell, a state officer of Richard II.'s time, and other tombs to members of the same family. The nave has a good oak roof, and in the chancel is a fine canopied tomb to William de St John with an inscription in Norman French on a stone slab. Other monuments include one of Sir William Jones, Charles II.'s Attorney-General. The low western tower is heavily buttressed and the nave and aisles are unusually wide. There is a good font, with figures of Scriptural characters and some carving of fishes inside the bowl, and a piscina in the long chancel and the stoups at the N. and S. doors are noticeable. The manor-house stands in a beautiful park of 100 acres with some fine fir-trees at the S.E. end. The Kennet flows through it and is here

## WILTSHIRE

expanded into a broad lake with a great reputation for its trout. Sir Francis Burdett, the well-known politician, is buried here. The mansion was designed by Webb, Inigo Jones's son-in-law. It contains some good oak-panelled rooms and has a fine collection of old armour, while among the pictures is an excellent full-length of Charles II.

*Redlynch* ( $2\frac{1}{4}$  m. S.E. from Downton Station) is close to the New Forest and the Hants. boundary. The church calls for no comment. *New House*, a fine old Elizabethan mansion, approached by a beautiful avenue of oaks half-a-mile long, is in this parish. It dates from 1619, and was enlarged by Chief Justice Eyre in 1689. It is the seat of Mr G. H. Eyre-Matcham.

*Roadhill* (4 m. S. from Trowbridge Station). The church was erected in 1824 by Archdeacon Daubeny. The village gained an unenviable notoriety in connexion with the Constance Kent tragedy.

*Rodborne Cheney* (1 m. N. of Swindon Station) has a stone E.E. church well placed on an elevation. There are two piscinas, one double. The church was restored and largely rebuilt in 1848. A wheel cross or, as some assert, the tympanum of a door is built into the exterior. Half of the head is preserved, and the ornamentation is of an extremely rare character, a conventional tree trunk running from centre to circumference in each key of the cross with branches, ending in a fruit, curving out from each side of the trunk. Elsewhere in the wall is part of the shaft of a cross with an interlaced pattern sculptured.



## REDLYNCH—SALISBURY

*Rollestone* ( $5\frac{1}{2}$  m. W. from Amesbury) is in that cultivated portion of the centre of the Plain where Shrewton and the Orchestons cluster, and is watered by the winter bourne. The church stands on a hill, and is a small, ancient E.E. building of flint and stone.

*Rood Ashton* is in *West Ashton* parish, and is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.E. from Trowbridge. The church was built by Mr Walter Long in 1846. The prefix is derived from a famous holy rood or crucifix that stood here. The manor is an ancient one, and was given in 959 together with Edington to Romsey Abbey by King Edgar. At the Dissolution it passed to Thomas Seymour. The mansion is a very fine one, beautifully situated in a magnificent park of 700 acres. It is the seat of the Right Hon. Walter Long, a name intimately connected with Wiltshire history.

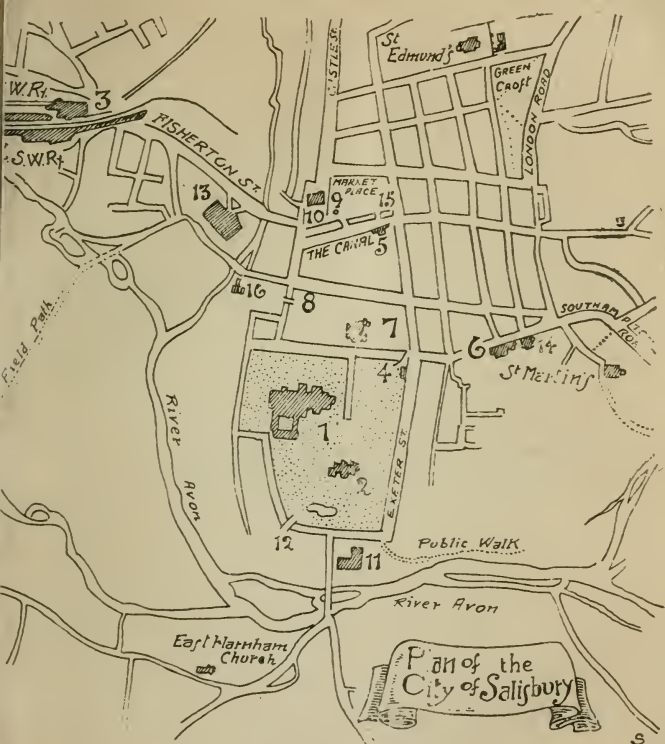
*Rowde* (2 m. N.W. from Devizes Station) is on the old road to Chippenham that passes through the Bromham and Spye Park district. It is a quaint old place at the foot of Roundway Down, with some interesting cottages and an exceedingly old-fashioned inn. The Perp. church was rebuilt in 1833, except the tower and chancel. The latter, restored in 1892, has a hagioscope. The font was designed by Sir Digby Wyatt, who was a native of the village.

*Rushall* ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. S. from Woodborough Station) is on the Salisbury Avon at the N. edge of the Plain. The small church, restored in 1904, preserves some Norm. work, including the tower.

SALISBURY, the famous cathedral city and county town, is served by both the London &

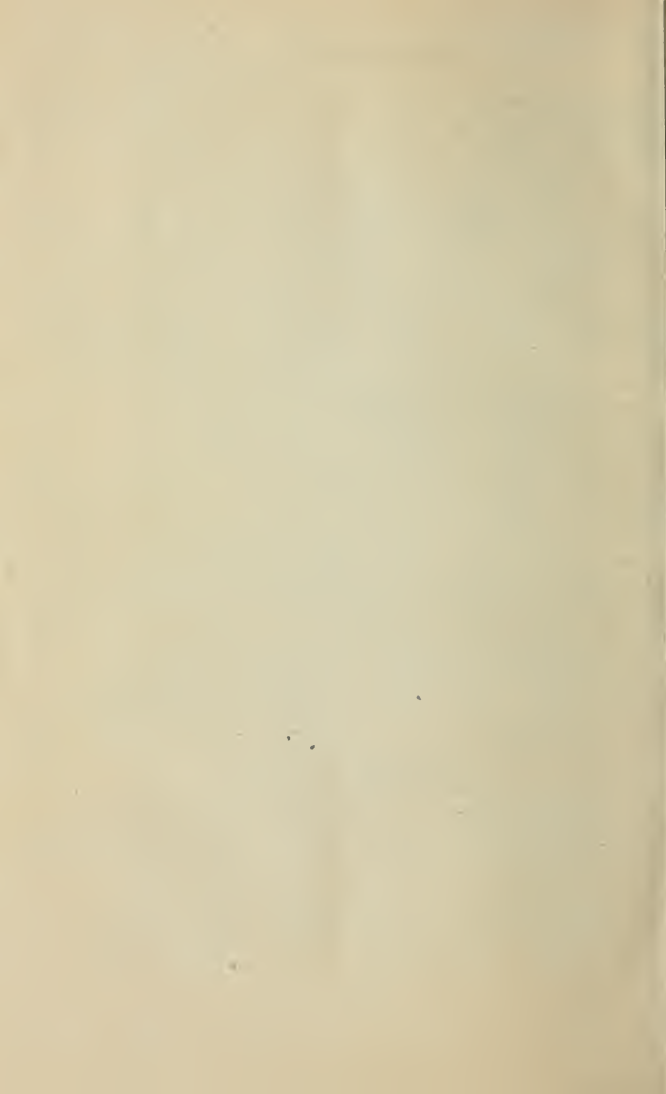
South-Western and the Great Western Railways. The railway stations are fortunately contiguous, and transit from one to the other not very difficult.

The city is placed on rather low ground at the spot where the Avon, the Wylye, the Bourne, and the Nadder unite to form the Christchurch Avon. In former days smaller streams used to invade certain streets, and some rubbish was written about the "English Venice," while the term "Canal," still applied to one of the leading streets, keeps them in remembrance. A better memento of them is the splendid system of drainage carried out some twenty-five years since, and improved from time to time. With an exceptionally pure water supply it has converted Salisbury into an exceptionally clean and healthy city, and discounted any disadvantages that the low level of its site might seem to portend. The fact that this was one of the earliest of the few places in the kingdom that have had the advantage of some kind of town planning has led to a kind of irregular regularity that has been distinctly advantageous, without involving formality and stiffness; and the "chequers" or rectangular blocks, with their interior courts and gardens and the excellent street plan, give that airiness and ventilation English towns so often badly lack. "New Sarum" came into existence when the episcopal authorities determined, for various reasons, to remove the see from Old Sarum (*q.v.*) near by, or, if that is too sweeping a statement, it first assumed importance then, for Fisherton was already a growing village, with its house of Black Friars, and the fertile, well-watered meads of the



## Reference

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The Cathedral       | 9. The Poultry Cross.    |
| 2. The Palace.         | 10. St Thomas's Church   |
| 3. Railway Stations.   | 11. St Nicholas Hospital |
| 4. St Anne's Gate.     | 12. Hamham Gate.         |
| 5. Hall of John Halle. | 13. Infirmary.           |
| 6. The Museum.         | 14. Joiners' Hall.       |
| 7. Theological College | 15. Council Chamber.     |
| 8. High Street Gate.   | 16. Church House.        |



## SALISBURY

valley were doubtless beginning to attract a population. Too much wind and too little water were some of the afflictions of Old Sarum, and on the fall of Bishop Roger, when the castle was transferred from clerical to lay control, and a garrison introduced, the filling up of the cup was accomplished. It overflowed when, after a solemn procession, the ecclesiastics were barred out and compelled to spend a winter's night without shelter. "What has the house of the Lord to do with Castles?" asked Peter of Blois. "Let us, in God's name, descend unto the level. There are rich cham-paigns and fertile valleys, abounding in the fruits of the earth and profusely watered by living streams. There is a seat for the Virgin patroness of our Church to which the whole world cannot produce a parallel." A licence was obtained from the Pope, Honorius III., and Bishop Poore commenced the building of the new cathedral in the reign of Henry III., the foundation stones being laid by the bishop, 28th April 1220, on episcopal land, and three altars were consecrated five years later. The site, tradition says, was determined by an arrow shot from Old Sarum, another story being that it was revealed to the bishop by the Virgin Mary in a dream. Neither pretext, however, is needed, for in the Merryfield, the Maer, mere or boundary field where three hundreds met, every need was supplied. The work was completed by Bishop Giles in 1258 and "new hallowed" by Archbishop Boniface in 1260, Henry III. and his queen, with a brilliant retinue, assisting at the re-consecration. The cloisters and chapter-house were commenced by Bishop Walter de la Wyle

## WILTSHIRE

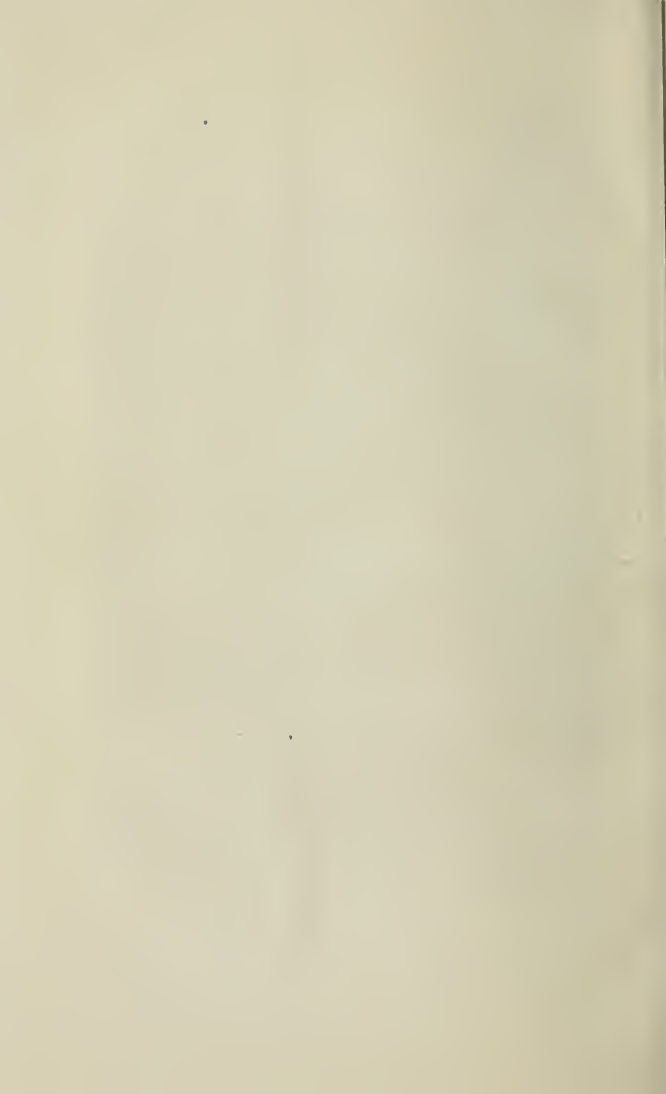
in 1264 and completed some twelve or fourteen years later, when the E.E. style was merging into early Dec., and the spire and the upper part of the tower were added in the early part of the 14th cent., when Dec. predominated. Fortunately an ample supply of material was available in the Portland oolite found in the Chilmark quarries, only 12 m. away, while the Purbeck marble quarried in the next county was procured for the pillars and other similar work of the interior. The cost of the building has been estimated at 40,000 marks, or £27,000, an immense sum for the times, and one wonders how it was procured. "Built upon woolpacks," the legend runs, and no doubt the leading industry of the county, the production of wool and the weaving of cloth, contributed its quota, but a systematic collection all over the kingdom, superintended by prebendaries, furnished the bulk, while liberal grants from private benefactors, of whom Alicia de Bruere, who furnished a twelve years' supply of stone, was one of the most generous, and special contributions by nobles and clergy who participated in the stone-laying, which, like bazaar-opening, involved some outlay, did a good deal of the rest. Some lines attributed to a local worthy, one Daniel Rogers, sum up some curious coincidences :

" As many days as in one year there be  
So many windows in this church you see.  
As many marble pillars here appear  
As there are hours through the fleeting year  
As many gates as moons one here does view,  
Strange tale to tell, yet not more strange than true! "

Much of the old glass is said to have been re-



HIGH STREET GATE, NORTH FRONT, SALISBURY





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moved by Bishop Jewell at the Reformation, and in Charles II.'s time the spire was strengthened on the recommendation of Sir Christopher Wren, "the best piece of smith's work and the most excellent mechanism of anything in Europe of its age." Wren also renewed the stalls and screens, afterwards replaced and renewed by Bishop Hume (1766-1782) and superintended the marble flooring of the choir. The spire is still some 23 inches out of the perpendicular.

In Bishop Barrington's time (1782-1791) the alterations and repairs were most unfortunately entrusted to James Wyatt, with results that can only be termed disastrous. He demolished the Beauchamp and Hungerford Chapels, two fine chantries, on the plea that they were past repair, swept away screens and porches, and disfigured and mutilated the Lady Chapel, levelled the bell-tower on the N. side of the churchyard which was contemporary with the cathedral itself, destroyed ancient tombs of eminent nobles and churchmen, carted loads of painted glass to the city ditch, and, senseless as were the instructions given by the Chapter, he exceeded them in most disastrous fashion. The taste at the time, that Georgian epoch when Ruskin says the devil inspired the builders of the churches, pronounced his work "tasteful, effective, and judicious." Such restoration as is possible has indeed been undertaken, and under Sir G. Gilbert Scott has accomplished a good deal, but even this, by the just perceptible note of modernity, disturbs to some little degree the full harmony and impressiveness of the interior.

## WILTSHIRE

To return for a moment to the city. With the rising of the cathedral Old Sarum quickly emigrated to New. The lack of water, added to "intimidation by the insolence of the garrison," caused the lay inhabitants to follow the priests and in 1227, two years after the first three altars were consecrated, Henry III. granted a charter making the new town a "free city," with various market rights and special immunities and privileges hitherto restricted to the city of Winchester. To help matters along Bishop Bingham, with notable astuteness, diverted the ancient Icknield Street, the Great Western Road, which originally came over the hill from Old Sarum and proceeded southwest by way of Bemerton, and brought it to the new city, building the bridge at Harnham over the Avon. Bishop Giles founded the College and House of St Nicholas de Vaux in 1260. In 1278 Edward I. confirmed the city charter and the office of mayor was revived. In 1295 two members were sent to Parliament and in 1297 an assembly of barons only was held in the city, mainly, it would seem, in connexion with the proposed expedition to France. In 1310 the defences of the city were strengthened by a rampart and deep fosse on the N. and N.E., and a little later permission was obtained to surround the close with an embattled wall. A parliament was held here in 1384, when an accusation against the Duke of Lancaster of plotting against the life of Richard II. was made by a Carmelite friar, who was found murdered on the eve of the day fixed for the trial. The city must have grown at a good pace, for new churches now began to be

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erected and the old one to be enlarged. Henry VI. was here three or four times, and on one of his later visits all householders were ordered to array themselves with "a good gown of blood-colour and a red hood." Jack Cade's rebellion had its sympathetic outbreak here, as shown by the murder of Bishop Aiscough at Edington, and one of his quarters was therefore exposed here, upon a pole, "pour encourager les autres." In 1484 Richard III. was here, and Buckingham was summarily executed in the market-place. "Off with his head, so much for Buckingham," is of course pure Colley Cibber. Shakespeare more correctly makes Richard receive the news of the capture in London, and his remark thereon is :

"Away towards Salisbury, while we roam here  
A royal battle might be won and lost.  
Someone take order Buckingham be brought  
To Salisbury; the rest march on with me."

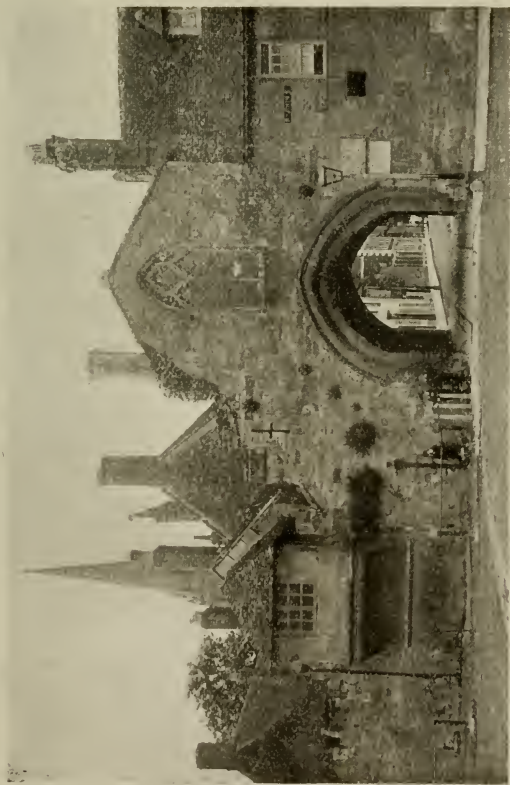
The execution traditionally took place in the yard of the "Blue Boar," now the Saracen's Head, a "new scaffold" being provided. What was supposed to be his skeleton, on the strength of the head being missing, was dug out below the kitchen in 1838. The Tudor monarchs were frequent visitors, and in Mary's reign there was some burning of heretics. Elizabeth, calling on her way to Bristol in 1574, was presented with a gold cup and £20 in gold, and, no doubt, *post hoc, propter hoc*, was "both merry and pleasant." James I., whose favourite hunting quarters were here, invariably stayed at the palace. Raleigh

## WILTSHIRE

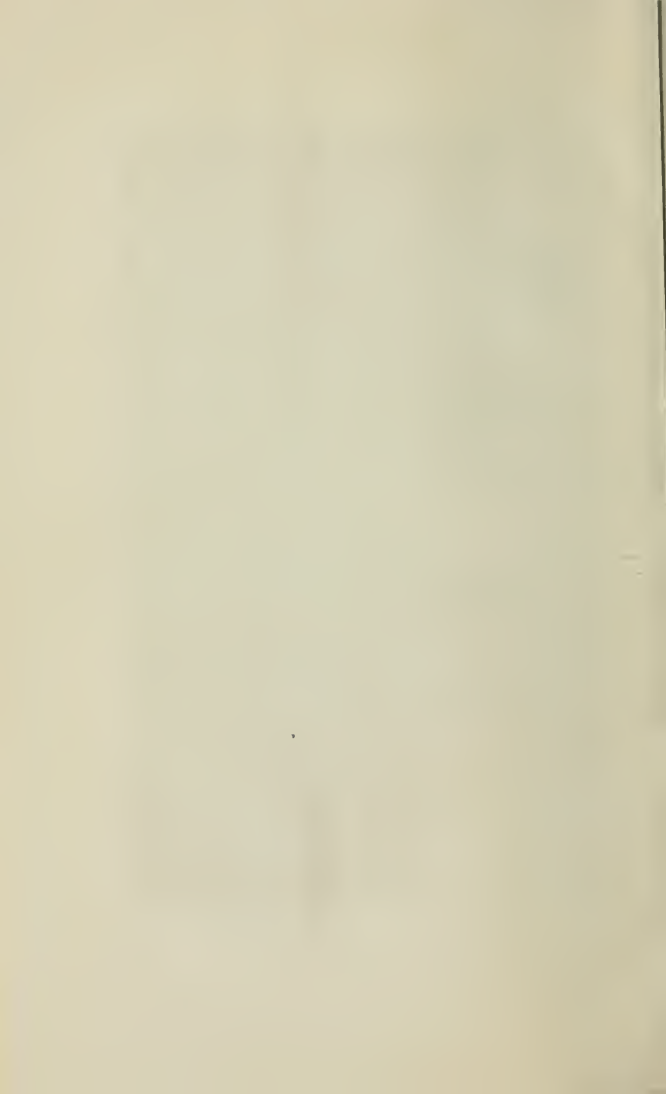
passed through on his last sad journey to London, and feigning leprosy and mental disease wrote his "Apology for the Voyage to Guiana" here in 1618. During the Great Rebellion Salisbury was held by the opposing parties in turn. In 1644 Charles held a council of war here. In the following year Ludlow maintained a gallant and unequal fight with Sir Marmaduke Langdale, holding the close with a few horsemen and giving a good account of himself in the market-place and the streets adjoining. In 1655 Penruddocke's Rising disturbed a brief tranquillity, and after the Restoration we find Mistress Nell Gwynn visiting the famous cutlery manufactory here and giving a hundred guineas for a pair of scissors.

Charles II. took refuge from the Plague here in 1665. Pepys was here a year or two later. In 1688 the Royal Army assembled here under Feversham, to oppose the advance of William of Orange, and James took up his quarters in the palace. A week or two later William was occupying the episcopal residence in his turn, and Burnet, the future bishop, was pouring forth a triumphant oration in the cathedral.

The CATHEDRAL now claims attention. It is difficult to write of it without a profusion of superlatives. Of its history we have already said something. The site has helped it, the comparative flatness of the surrounding country giving that sense of spaciousness and atmosphere that seem necessary for such a building to "live" in, and to enable one to adequately seize it. The Close, a fine, spacious greensward, half-a-mile in area, with beautiful trees, elms, limes and one or two



ST. ANNE'S GATE, SALISBURY



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cedars, adds inexpressibly to the charm, and forms no inconsiderable part of the open and picturesque setting. It is perhaps best approached by way of Catherine and St John's Streets, and then through St Anne's Gate and the North Walk, and nothing can exceed the magnificence and beauty of the outline that is quickly revealed. This is said, on excellent authority, to be "the best general view of a cathedral to be had in England." "The bold breaking of the outline by the two transepts, instead of cutting it up by buttresses and pinnacles," writes Fergusson, "is a master-stroke of art; and the noble central tower, which, though erected at a later age, was evidently intended from the first, crowns the whole composition with singular beauty." The N. porch, admirably restored by G. E. Street, contributes its full quota to this wonderful *coup d'œil*. After a little one begins to realize one at least of the striking features of the noble building—the wonderful unity of design. If we except the early Dec. work of the upper storeys of the tower and the spire, which for that matter harmonize beautifully with the rest of the building, we have a perfect and wonderfully complete and unalloyed example of E.E. architecture, in which a great plan is carried out with almost logical completeness, and a noble conception is embodied in a beautiful harmony and perfection that give it a unique place among the world's churches.

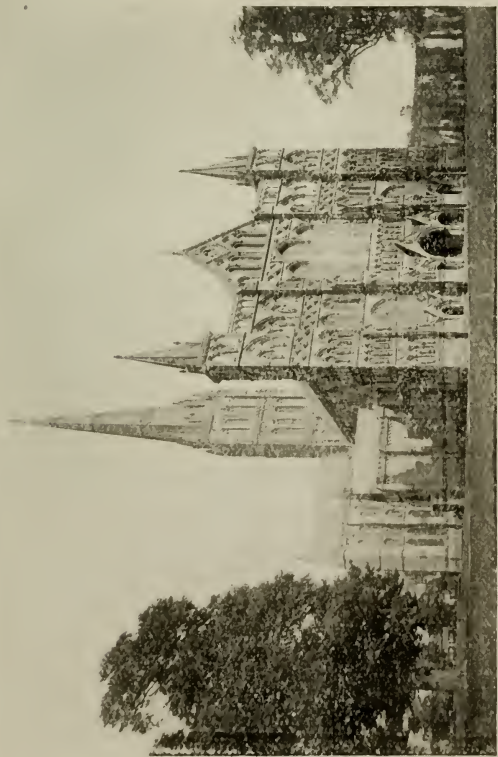
Leland writes: "the tower of stone and the high pyramid of stone on it is a noble and memorable piece of work." It is indeed, and one of unsurpassable grace. It is generally con-

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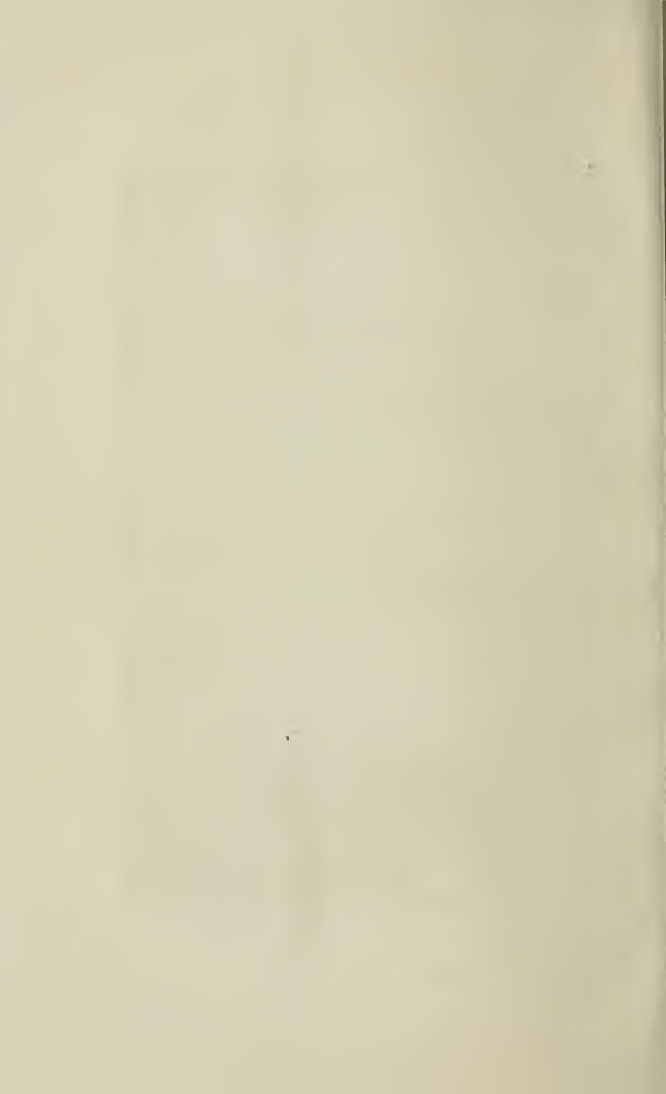
ceded that the spire, the highest in England (404 ft.), is the most beautiful in the world. The tower, supported to some extent by flying buttresses, rises in two storeys from the original E.E. lower portion, which terminates about 8 ft. above the roof. These storeys have canopied arcades running round them, and at each angle is an octagonal turret with crocketed spire. The great spire, also octagonal, springs from the midst of four richly decorated finials, the walls being 2 ft. thick for the first 20 ft. and then only 9 in. Tower and spire blend and merge the one into the other with a marvellous grace, the naturalness and ease of the achievement being indeed a triumph of successful design. Some timberwork, which served as a scaffold in the building, remains inside the spire, and probably adds to its strength. The cathedral is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and a relic attributed to the patron saint was discovered, carefully enclosed in two boxes, one leaden and one wooden, in 1762, by some workmen, the idea being that it was deposited to guard the spire from danger.

The west front was, judging by the use of the ball-flower moulding characteristic of early Dec. work, the last portion of the original design to be completed. Its façade has been condemned, as not only failing to emphasize the construction of the nave and aisles, and as hiding them by a screen, but because the screen itself poses as an integral part of the building. It is nevertheless a fine and striking composition, consisting of a central compartment, rising to an acute gable, a representation of Our Lord in Majesty filling the





SALISBURY CATHEDRAL, THE WEST FRONT



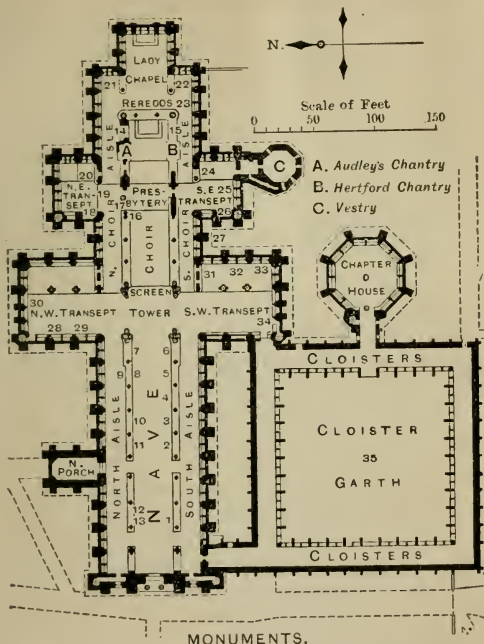
## SALISBURY

apex. It is flanked by a screen wall supported by buttress towers, spire capped. This central bay is lighted by the W. window of three lights, and below are three pedimented porches, deeply recessed in five mouldings, each with a niche in its gable. Above are canopied, trefoiled arches. The side bays each have a triple porch, and a two-lighted window with quatrefoil head and another above it. The front is divided into five storeys by its mouldings, and the canopies of the arcades cover niches which, if Hollar's sketch, made early in the 17th cent., is a faithful and literal transcript, were once completely filled. This, however, is doubtful, as is also the explanatory statement that Ludlow's troopers destroyed them. In 1863 only eight held figures, and they were mutilated. Some may have perished in Edward VI.'s reign, when some iconoclastic proceedings were ordered, but that, if Hollar's sketch is accepted as literally correct, involves a subsequent replacement of which there is no trace. The present figures are the work of Redfern, and follow the five sections indicated in the *Te Deum Laudamus*—(1) Angels; (2) Old Testament Patriarchs and Prophets; (3) Apostles and Evangelists; (4) Doctors of the Church, Virgins and Martyrs and (5) princes, bishops, martyrs and various individuals connected with the see. There are many Consecration Crosses of beautiful design marking the places sprinkled with oil at the dedication. The N. porch, already referred to, is two-storeyed, the upper portion serving as a muniment-room. It serves as the usual entrance to the cathedral, and its fine pro-

portions and crocketed gable are wonderfully impressive.

The exterior of the nave is noticeable for the triple lancets of the clerestory, which occur between flying buttresses, and the two-light windows below them, in the aisles, with lesser buttresses terminating in gables. The main transepts have dividing buttresses, and the free use of the floriated circle and the quatrefoil almost ushers in the early Dec. In the choir transept there is a triple lancet in the lower stage; a group of three two-light windows in the storey above, and an arcade of four lancets in the upper one. The gable is lighted by a triplet window, flanked with a blind panelling.

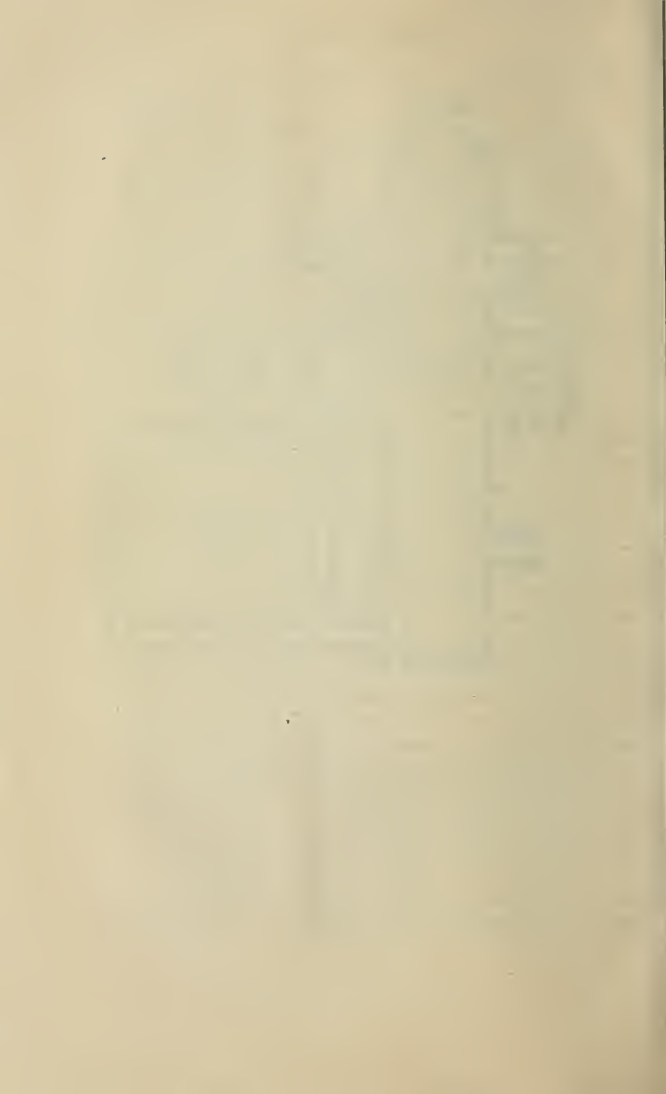
Entering the nave by the N. porch, the same impression of beautiful harmony produced by the exterior again seizes one. The height is 81 ft., the width 82 ft., and the length 229 ft. 6 in. It is divided into ten bays by clustered columns of Purbeck marble, with smaller detached shafts of polished marble supporting, on either side, the ten great arches of the first storey. Above these last runs the triforium, very beautiful in its simplicity, with flat-pointed arches, subdivided into pairs, which in their turn enclose smaller ones. The plate tracery is characteristic E.E. The clerestory windows are triplets of lancets, the central rising above the side ones, placed each in a bay of the vaulting, which is plain and rises from Purbeck marble shafts. Some of the old stained glass that remains is to be seen in the W. triplet and in the W. window of each of the nave aisles. The first named dates from E.E. to cinquecento, the former comprising the remains of a Jesse window in the



MONUMENTS.

NAVE	CHOIR	N.(main)TRANSEPT
1 Bp. Jocelin	14 Bp. Poore or Bingham	28 Earl of Malmesbury
2 Bp. Beauchamp	15 Bp. Hamilton	29 John Britton
3 Ld. Rob. Hungerford	16-17 Fasting Men	30 Sir Richd. Colt Hoare
4 Ld. Chas. Stourton	18 Bp. Wyvill	S.(main)TRANSEPT
5 Bp. de la Wyle	19 Bp. Gheast	31 Bp. Mitford
6 Wm. Longespée 1st.	20 Bp. Jewell	32 J. H. Jacob
7 Sir Jno. Cheyney	21 Sir Thos. Gorges	— Ld. Hyde
8 Wtr. Ld. Hungerford	22 Earl of Hertford	33 Bp. Fisher
9 & Wife	23 Bp. Moberley	34 Edw. & Rachel Poore
10 Sir Jn. de Montacute	24 Bp. Bridport	CLOISTER GARTH
11 Chanc. Geoffrey	25 Bp. Burgess	35 Bp. Denison
12 Wm. Longespée 2nd.	26 Bp. Seth Ward	
13 Boy Bishop	27 Sir Rd. Mompesson	

PLAN OF SALISBURY CATHEDRAL



## SALISBURY

central light, and below some medallions removed from the chapter-house about 1270.

The arrangement of the monuments in the nave is Wyatt's work, and although it is not without certain advantages, they have been rather dearly purchased by the jumbling method, or lack of one, that he pursued. They are placed in rows on the long plinth that connects the bases of the pillars on each side. Entering by the great W. door, the first is a monument to Thomas, Lord Wyndham, 1745. The next, and probably the oldest, is a flat, coffin-shaped stone, said to have been brought from Old Sarum, and to have covered the remains of Bishop Herman (*ob.* 1078), but this is uncertain. No. (1) is also said to come from Old Sarum, and the low-relief figures, very early examples, are supposed to be those of Bishop Jocelin and Bishop Roger. Opinion differs as to which is which. The next is not identified, and (2) is an altar-tomb to Bishop Beauchamp (d. 1481), whose chapel was destroyed by Wyatt and his tomb "mis-laid" by the same, a scandal that seems to have affected even the thick hides of the Philistines of his day. The next (3) is an effigy of Lord Robert Hungerford, in full plate armour with collar of S.S. round his neck. He served in France under Bedford in the various campaigns, in some of which Joan of Arc figured. (4) is Lord Charles Stourton's monument, and for a murderer is a very fine one. The three holes on each side represent the sources of the Stour at Stourhead, and figure in the family armorial bearings. Lord Charles was hanged in a silken cord instead of a hempen one, the execution

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taking place in Salisbury market-place in 1556. His crime was the murder of the family agents, two Hartgills, father and son, who had influenced his mother in declining to execute a bond not to remarry. His four agents were hanged with him, and as late as 1775 a wire twisted to resemble a halter hung over the tomb as a sinister reminder of his crime. (6) is William Longespée (d. 1226), the first Earl of Salisbury and the son of Henry II. by Fair Rosamund. He is in chain armour and three of the beautiful ornaments in gold and colour remain. The wooden base is encircled by trefoiled arches. Crossing the nave we came to (7), the fine alabaster monument of Sir John Cheyney (d. 1509), killed at Bosworth Field. He was a man of immense proportions and the vandal Wyatt found his thigh bone to measure 21 in. Walter, Lord Hungerford, and his wife (8 and 9). Their tombs, lacking brasses, have been transferred from the iron chapel and removed to the choir by the Earl of Radnor in 1769. Next is the site to which the altar-tomb of Bishop Osmund, the patron saint of Salisbury, was moved by Wyatt from its place in the Lady Chapel which it occupied when brought from Old Sarum and to which it has now been restored. An effigy of Sir John de Montacute (10), who took part in the battle of Crécy, has some highly ornamented gauntlets. The cross-legged effigy (12) is another William Longespée and another Earl of Salisbury, son of the first. He fought in two or three Crusades and fell fighting the Saracens near Cairo. His remains were interred in the Church of the Holy Cross near Acre. The chain armour has elbow



## SALISBURY

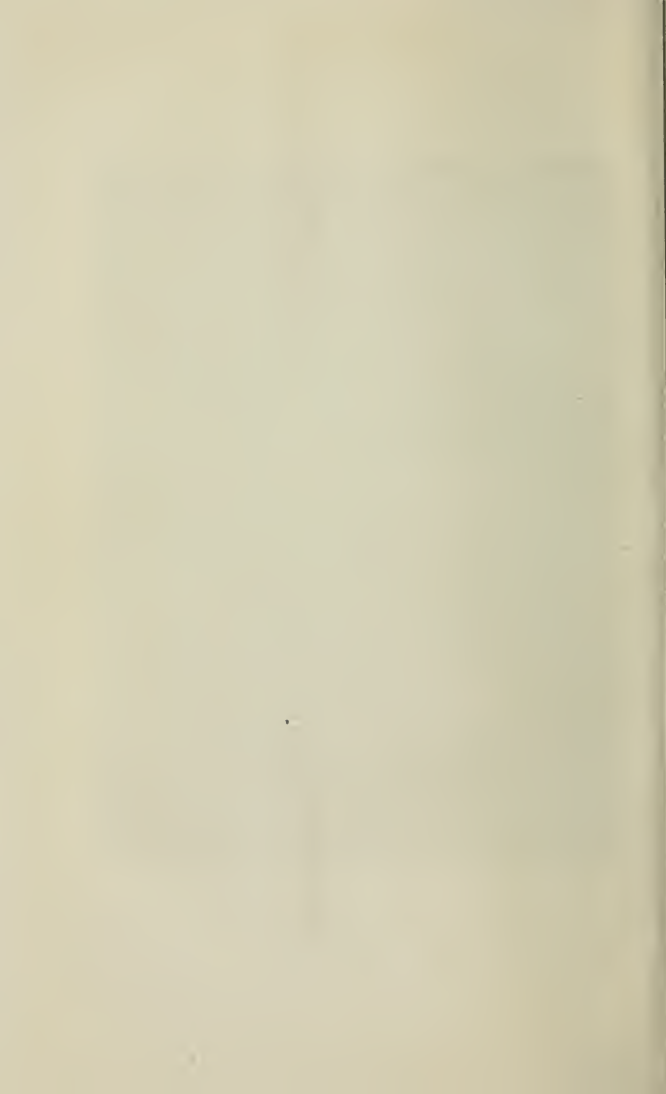
plates and small plates at the knees. The "Boy Bishop" (13), a curious monument in E.E. style, has been the subject of much interest and speculation. It was placed here in 1680, having formerly been buried under the seating near the pulpit. Fuller writes of the "curiosity of critics being best entertained with this monument of a little boy, habited all in episcopal robes, a mitre upon his head, a crozier in his hand and the rest accordingly. Many justly admired that either a bishop could be so small in person, or a child so great in clothes." It was a pre-Reformation custom, especially at Salisbury, for the choristers to elect a "bishop" from their number on St Nicholas Day (6th Dec.), who remained in office until Innocents' Day (28th Dec.). If he died during his mock episcopate, tradition asserts he was buried in episcopal robes with all episcopal honours. The custom was condemned by Henry VIII. and abolished by Elizabeth. It is objected that if intended to represent a boy it would probably have been life-size, and Stothard and others think it was a miniature representation of a real bishop, similar small effigies, undoubtedly those of real bishops, being found elsewhere, whilst others contend that inasmuch as in the 12th and 13th cent. the custom prevailed of burying different parts of the body in different places, this may have been a heart shrine. The Boy-Bishop theory has, however (and in all probability quite justifiably), captured the popular imagination, and a wooden box being found insufficient to check the public curiosity, it has been protected by an iron grating.

The N. transept is entered under a wide Perp.

arch inserted to withstand the lateral thrust of the central tower. The central piers show that it was needed, and the same feature on a large scale is found at Canterbury and Wells and at St Mary's, Edinburgh. The triforium and clerestory are continued from the nave. The screens enclosing chapels in the bays of the E. aisle were destroyed by Wyatt. The monuments here to be noticed are three by Flaxman, two in the N.E. arm to Walter and William Long and one, in the N.W. corner, to William Benson Earle, a figure, typical of Benevolence, lifting the veil from a bas-relief of the Good Samaritan. The monument to James Harris, the author of "Hermes," and Fanny Burney's friend, is by Bacon (an ominous conjunction of names in Wiltshire), and the full length (28) to his son, the first Earl of Malmesbury, is by Chantrey. An exceedingly interesting brass (29) to the memory of John Britton (d. 1857), "historian of this edifice and author of the noble series of works on the Cathedral and Mediæval Antiquities of England," was erected by the Royal Institute of British Architects, and is gratifying proof that a prophet is not always without honour in his own country. Sir R. C. Hoare, another great Wiltshire historian (30), is the excellent work of Lucas, a local sculptor. The altar-tomb with canopy, partly in the N. choir aisle, is assigned to Bishop Woodville. In the S. transept, in a similar position, is the fine altar-tomb (31) of Bishop Mitford (d. 1407), with noble recumbent effigy of white marble. On the cornice of the canopy birds bear scrolls inscribed "Honor Deo et gloria." The elaborate tomb



SALISBURY CATHEDRAL — THE NAVE, LOOKING EAST



## SALISBURY

(32) to Major Jacob, of the Wilts. Rifles, was designed by Street. The fine Jacobean monument with bust, on the W. wall, is to Chief Justice Hyde, Lord Clarendon's cousin. On the E. wall is a modern altar-tomb (33) to Bishop Fisher (d. 1845) and in the S. wall a canopied altar-tomb to Edward Poore and his wife (d. 1780 and 1771). He was a descendant of the founder. A small tablet to Henry Fawcett, the blind Postmaster General, is in the S. aisle of the nave.

Before passing into the choir the Perp. vaulting of the tower roof, with its excellent groined work, should be noticed, and the inverted arches above the main arch. The choir, restored as a memorial to the late Bishop Hamilton, was reopened in 1876. The architecture resembles that of the nave, piers, triforium and clerestory. The paintings of the roof, 13th-cent. work, defaced by Wyatt, have been well restored by Clayton and Bell. The series shows twenty-four Prophets and Saints, with a figure of Christ and the Four Evangelists in the centre. To the E. are panels with twelve medallions typical of the Twelve Months. Wyatt was demoniacally active here. He removed the high altar hence to the extreme E. end of the Lady Chapel, sacrificing both chantries and tombs to do so. The altar, however, has been restored to its old position, and a fine wooden reredos, designed by Sir Gilbert Scott, erected by Earl Beauchamp in memory of Bishop Beauchamp, who died in 1482 and whose chantry Wyatt destroyed. The design is adapted from the choir screen now in the Lady Chapel and formed of fragments from the Hungerford and Beauchamp

## WILTSHIRE

chapels, which Wyatt substituted for the beautiful original screen, portions of which are in the N. transept near the W. wall. The present screen, given as a memorial of her husband by Mrs Sidney Lear, is of good wrought open metalwork by Skidmore. The organ given by George III., a "Berkshire gentleman" as he styled himself, Berks. then being contained in the diocese, was replaced in 1883 by the present one, which cost £3500, and was the gift of Miss Chafyn Grove. The oak case was designed by Mr Street. The choir-stalls retain some early work in some of the seats and elbows, and some of the heads of the benches are of Tudor date. Wren added to them, and later Wyatt added canopies, since removed. The new oak stalls and bishop's throne were designed by Sir G. G. Scott. On the N. side, in the second bay from the E., is Bishop Audley's Chantry (1520), a fine example of late Perp., with the arms and initials of the founder on the shields of the cornice, and some of the bright colouring on the fan tracery. Opposite, on the S. side, is the Hungerford Chantry (1429), removed from the nave in 1778 by the Earl of Radnor and converted into a family pew. The upper part is an excellent example of early iron-work. The arms of its founder and his two wives are on the base, and on the ceiling and elsewhere are various armorial bearings, etc., of the Hungerfords. The effigy on the N. side of the altar is attributed to Bishop Poore. On the S. side, under a canopy, is a white marble effigy of Bishop Hamilton, modelled by Prebendary Pleydell-Bouverie.

The N.E. or choir transept has some beautiful

## SALISBURY

E.E. screen-work, the sculptured heads and foliage being exquisitely designed and executed. The early Perp. canopied lavatory upon the E. wall was removed from the sacristy. The fine brass (18) of Bishop Wyville (d. 1375) in the pavement of the transept just within the entrance, represents not only the bishop but his champion, who was ready to undergo the Trial by Battle in a dispute as to the ownership of Sherborne Castle, which, with keep and portcullis, forms a suitable setting to the figures. Near are the tombs (20 and 19) of Bishop Jewell (d. 1571) and Bishop Gheast (d. 1576). At the E. end of the N. choir aisle is (21) the Gorges Monument, the effigies representing Sir Thomas Gorges and his wife, once a maid of honour to Queen Elizabeth, and the monumental slab of Bishop Osmund (d. 1099), removed from the nave, is near by. At the corresponding end of the S. aisle is the gorgeous monument of the Earl of Hertford (d. 1621), a son of Protector Somerset, imprisoned by Elizabeth for marrying a sister of Lady Jane Grey, who predeceased him by some sixty years, but who is tenderly recalled by the epitaph: "Quo desiderio veteres revocavit amores." Here also is John, Duke of Somerset (d. 1675), and Lady Elizabeth Seymour, the heiress of the Percys. The tomb is brilliantly ornamented in gold and colours, and was restored by the late Duke of Northumberland. Close by is the recumbent figure of Bishop Moberly (d. 1885). In the S. wall is an altar-tomb to Chancellor William Wilton (1506-1523), the shields on the cornice bearing the device of Henry VIII. (a rose) and that of Catherine of Aragon (a pomegranate)

## WILTSHIRE

as well as the arms of Bishop Audley and of the Abbey at Abingdon. Other shields have the old-fashioned rebus WIL on a label and a Tun. Just W. of the Hungerford iron chapel is a tomb, lacking its brass, somewhat doubtfully ascribed to Bishop William of York (d. 1297). The canopy, with crocketed arch and elaborate finial, indicates a later date. Two windows in this S. choir aisle, "Angeli Ministrantes" and "Angeli Laudantes" were designed by Burne-Jones and executed by William Morris.

Between the S. choir aisle and the S.E. transept is the beautiful monument, to which a chantry was once attached, to Bishop Giles de Bridport (d. 1262), in whose time the cathedral was finished and dedicated. The gabled roof is carried by two finely moulded arches on either side. The interesting carving of the spandrels has been interpreted as illustrating various phases of the prelate's career, his birth, confirmation and so on. At the head of the recumbent effigy are small figures of censing angels. The whole of the sculpture is very remarkable for its time, and the artists concerned, both here and in the chapter-house, are held to have been contemporary with Niccola Pisano (d. 1276). A canopied monument to Bishop Burges (25), who died in 1837, and one (26) of Bishop Seth Ward (d. 1689), with bust, will be noticed in the S.E. transept, and a tablet and bust to Richard Jefferies is a fitting recognition of that latter-day Wiltshire worthy. A tablet to the poet Canon Bowles (d. 1850) is an appropriate supplement to the two smaller ones erected by



## SALISBURY

him to the "judicious" Hooker and the great preacher, Chillingworth, both former prebendaries.

The Lady Chapel is divided into a nave and side aisles by very slender, single and clustered shafts of Purbeck marble, which assist in carrying the heavily groined roof. The triple lancet at the E. end is filled with modern glass in memory of Dean Lear. The painting of the vaulted roof has been restored by Clayton and Bell. The modern altar-piece is a triptych designed by Sir Arthur Blomfield, who also is responsible for the seven-branched candlesticks in black wood and silver. The altar frontal was designed by Mr S. Gambier Parry, and worked by Mrs Weigall. Below the windows is a very interesting composite altar-piece, the three central niches having been the original altar-piece of the Beauchamp Chapel (1481), while those on either side were taken from the entrances to that and the Hungerford Chapels. The finely sculptured frieze above the five canopies should not be missed. The supposed tomb of St Osmund, taken by Wyatt to the nave from the Beauchamp Chantry, is now replaced between the Lady Chapel and the southern aisle. The magnificent shrine has entirely disappeared, and the connexion of the existing slab with the great saint has been disputed, but the balance of probability is in favour of the asserted connexion. On the N. side of the altar are interred six earls and four countesses of Pembroke, but no memorials or tombs are visible. The famous Countess of Pembroke of the "Arcadia" and of Browne's famous epitaph, "Sidney's sister, Pembroke's mother," lies here,

## WILTSHIRE

although the first line of the composition, "Underneath this marble hearse," is deprived of literal application.

The muniment-room is approached from the S. choir transept. Here is deposited a contemporary copy of Magna Charta, committed to the custody of William Longespée, one of the witnesses to it. There are many ancient chests and presses and a vast quantity of registers and interesting MSS., the statutes and ordinances of the cathedral covering over six centuries. A fine cope chest of very ancient woodwork has been removed from the vestry to the N. choir aisle. The heavy lid was formerly lifted by a rope and windlass. An ancient chalice and paten, a fine cope, and a 13th-cent. pastoral staff are among the treasures preserved here.

In the S. choir aisle the monument, of white marble with black Corinthian pillars, to Bishop Davenant (d. 1641), should be noticed, and the altar-tomb of Bishop Salcot or Capon (d. 1557); also the fine monument to Sir Richard Mompesson and his wife, the knight in armour, the lady in black robe, and grapes and vine leaves in green and gold clustering round black Corinthian pillars. The library is a long room built by Bishop Jewell above the E. wall of the cloisters. The number of printed books is 5000; the manuscripts fill 187 volumes and are of immense interest, having mostly been here for 400 years, while they date from the 9th to the 14th cents.

The cloisters are worthy of the cathedral. They are of later date (late 13th cent.) and the windows are of beautiful and striking design, six-

## SALISBURY

foiled circles in the head and double arches with quatrefoils below. Fragments of the old stained glass are discernible in the upper parts of the tracery. The original Purbeck shafts were replaced by stone in 1854. The cloisters were restored by Bishop Denison, who died in that year and is buried in the central enclosure. The length on each side is 181 ft.

The chapter-house is a fine octagonal building with an internal diameter of 60 ft., dating probably from the commencement of Edward III.'s reign. It is entered from the centre of the E. walk of the cloisters. A lack of boldness has sometimes been urged against the structure, but it has also been claimed as the most beautiful piece of architecture in England. The vaulting ribs of the roof groining spring from a central pillar in beautiful lines. A raised stone plinth supports forty-nine niches of a canopied arcade for the cathedral dignitaries. The large four-light windows at each side have traceried heads, and the series of bas-reliefs below and over the canopies of the seats, are, with the sculptures in the fourteen small niches filling the vousoirs of the arch of the doorway, very remarkable and valuable examples of early Gothic art. The Episcopal palace can be seen through a door in the cloisters. It is a rambling and irregular but picturesque pile, entered now through the late Perp. dining-hall. The gardens are very charming and command beautiful views of the chapter-house and the cathedral. The King's House, the picturesque gabled mansion which faces the W. front, is a well-proportioned late 14th-cent. building in which Richard III. is said to have stayed

## WILTSHIRE

just before Bosworth fight. It is now a training college for schoolmistresses. The Deanery, an irregular pile, is close by, and north of it is the Wardrobe House, a beautiful 15th-cent. gabled house. Near it is the Leden Hall, built by Elias de Derham, one of King John's clerks, and traditionally the "architect" of the cathedral. The Theological College, more to the N., is a very beautiful and spacious building, the work of the late Mr Butterworth. The High Street gate, the chief entrance, is an embattled two-storeyed structure built with material from the Norman castle at Old Sarum. To the left is the picturesque red-brick Matrons' College, founded by Bishop Ward in 1685. St Anne's Gate is a long two-storeyed building in the E. wall of the close. A house near the S. side is said to have been occupied by Fielding, who subsequently occupied another in St Anne's Street and then another at Milford Hill. Fielding's grandfather was a canon of the cathedral. His maternal grandmother, Lady Gould, took a house in "New Sarum" when her son-in-law contracted a second marriage with "a person of the Roman Catholic profession . . . who kept an eating-house in London," in order to superintend the bringing up of the children of her favourite daughter. By a Chancery order Fielding was allowed to go to his grandmother's during the Eton vacations. Later on he there met the beautiful Miss Cradock, the original of "Sophia Western" and of "Amelia," who was his first wife. After leaving East Stower Fielding certainly bought a house at Salisbury, but "Tom Jones" was doubtless written in many places, and no doubt mostly

## SALISBURY

at Tiverton, near Prior Park, and in London. To the N. of St Anne's Gate lived James Harris, the author of "Hermes," a connecting link between Fielding and Fanny Burney. Harris writes of his friend Fielding, after nine years' hard labour at dramatic construction, "pleasantly, though perhaps rather freely damning the man who invented fifth acts." Harnham Gate is only a fragment. Between it and Harnham Bridge is the Hospital of St Nicholas founded by Ela, widow of William Longespée, in 1227. The buildings form three sides of a quadrangle and the rooms on the N., for twelve inmates, are part of the original structure of fine E.E. work.

The Church House, known also as Audley House and Crane House, is well situated by Crane Bridge. It is late Perp., and was built by a wealthy wool-stapler. The Church of St Thomas of Canterbury was founded by Bishop Bingham in 1240, and rebuilt in the 15th cent. It is a picturesque specimen of rich Perp. work, appropriately placed in a square of old houses in the centre of the city. St Edmunds in the N.E., part of the city was originally a collegiate church, and was founded by Bishop de la Wyle in 1268. It has been very well restored, and is a beautifully roomy and spacious building. The College of St Edmund, the red-brick building to the E., stands on the site of the old conventual college, and in the grounds is the old N. transept porch removed by Wyatt from the cathedral. St Martin's is the oldest church in the city, and has an interesting 13th-cent. font and some lancet windows in the E.E. chancel. Here also is a noble alms-dish with the hallmark of

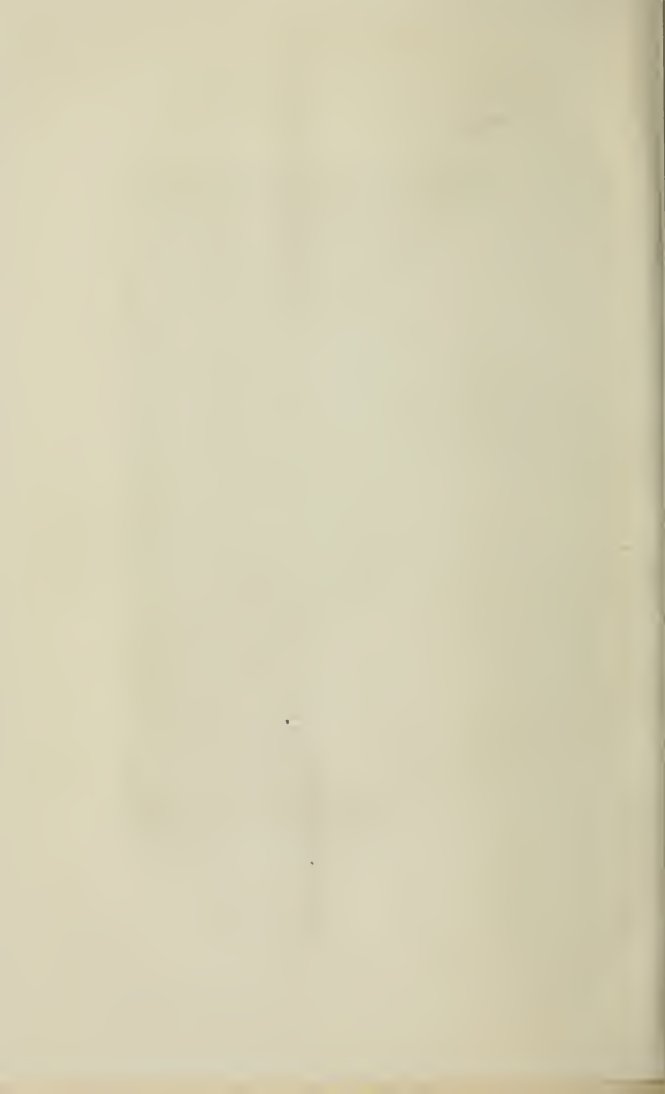
1662. The Poultry Cross stands near the market-place. An open hexagon is formed by the six arches heavily buttressed by six piers. The central pillar square at the bottom becomes hexagonal towards the top, round which demi-angels hold shields. The square pillar, with sun-dial and ball, has been replaced by a canopy and cross. There are some interesting old buildings in the immediate neighbourhood; one, adjoining the cross itself, with carved gables. The hall of John Halle, a fine banqueting room, was built about 1470. Its lofty roof of dark wood relieved by fan ornamentation of plaster is exceedingly effective, and the carving of the large oak screen at the S. end, and the massive stone fireplace should be noted.

The George Inn, now restored to its old use and a private hotel, is mentioned as far back as 1406 in the city Domesday. In 1623 it was decreed that "all players from henceforth, shall make their plays at the George Inn." A beautiful and interesting roof-tree, the existence of which was unsuspected, was recently unmasked. Pepys was here in 1668—"Came to the George Inne, where lay in a silk bed and very good diet," but he was "mad" at the charges. At the Joiners' Hall the carved timber front is interesting. In front of the Council House is a bronze statue by Marochetti to the Right Hon. Sidney Herbert, first Lord Herbert of Lea, the Peelite Minister of Crimean War times. The statue of Henry Fawcett is near his birthplace in Queen Street.

The Blackmore Museum and the Salisbury and S. Wilts. Museum are in St Anne's Street. The



POULTRY CROSS, SALISBURY





## SARUM (OLD)

former, founded by the late Mr William Blackmore, has a wonderful collection illustrating prehistoric archæology, with an exceptionally fine series of flint implements, largely obtained from the gravel valleys of the neighbourhood. In addition to these Palæolithic remains are a great variety of stone hatchets, arrow-heads and various other implements of the Neolithic series. The Bronze group is also both varied and well selected.

SARUM (OLD) (2 m. N. of Salisbury), is a large conical mound in three terraces, presenting a very imposing feature in its open situation. It is a place of great antiquity, doubtless fortified in prehistoric times. As a Roman station it was called Sorbiodunum and its Saxon name was Sarobyrig. According to William of Malmesbury "the town was more like a castle than a city, being environed with a high wall." The summit of the steep hill is enclosed by a great earthen rampart and a ditch, the latter banked by a lower work on the outside, the total height being over 100 ft. The area enclosed is about 27 acres and within is a second vallum and fosse, of similar height, and within this was the citadel, fenced round by a flint wall on the top of the earthwork 12 ft. thick. The entrances to the outer earthwork were in the W. and E. sides, and strong outworks guarded the approaches. The horn-work of the western one still remains. Its history, like that of most similar camps, has been much disputed. The recent excavation carried on by the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries under Colonel Hawley seems to indicate pretty clearly that Old Sarum was undoubtedly an ancient British

## WILTSHIRE

fortification, and that its use by the Romans as a stronghold was, at the most, but slight. Scarcely anything Roman has been discovered. Cynric captured it by a victory over the Britons in 552, and in 960 Edgar held a council here. Sweyn and the Danes pillaged and burnt it in 1003 and Canute is said to have died here in 1035. In Edward the Confessor's time a Convent of Nuns of St Mary was established here by his queen, Editha, and in 1072 the episcopal see was transferred here by Bishop Herman from Sherborne.

William the Conqueror reviewed his army in the plain below, where New Sarum was to stand, and gave the "castellanship" of Sarum to his kinsman Osmund, who took orders and subsequently succeeded to the bishopric. Osmund took fifteen years to build his cathedral, which was finished in 1092, when he established the new ritual, "ad usum Sarum." A few days after its consecration it was badly injured by a thunderstorm. The disaster is mentioned in Robert of Gloucester's Chronicle. "Bishop Roger made anew the church of Sarum," restored it in fact, and no doubt strengthened the castle at the same time. Soon, however, "the souldirs of the castell and chanons of 'Old Sarum fell et ods, inasmuch that often after brawles they fell at last to Sadde blowes." The military interfered with the clerical processions and "stations," and the "cleargie feared any more to gang their boundes. Hereupon the people missing their belly-chere, for they were wont to have banketing at every station, a thing practised by the religious in old tyme, they conceived forthwith a deadly hatred

## SARUM (OLD)—SAVERNAKE

against the Castellans . . . that it was not long ere the chanons began a church upon a piece of their own ground. . . . And thus became Old Sarum in a few years utterly desolate."

The cathedral was taken down in 1331 and the materials transported for use in the construction of the new one. Decay quickly followed, the inhabitants largely emigrating to the new town and the castle falling into ruin. In Henry VIII.'s reign Leland writes: "There is not one house, neither within or without Old Saresbyri inhabited. Much notable ruinus building of the castell yet ther remaynith. The diche that envirined the old town was a very deepe and strong thyng." Recent excavations have unearthed some very interesting remains of the old church. Some walls remained until 1608 and were quarried for building material. Pepys passed here and was frightened at the great enclosure and the forbidding ditch and mounds. "I saw a great fortification, and there light, and to it, and in it and find it prodigious, so as to frighten one to be in it all alone at that time of night." The place most astoundingly retained the right to return two members to Parliament until the passing of the Reform Bill in 1832 and with Gatton, in Surrey, it furnished the shocking examples of the preceding agitation. The elections were held near the base of the hill on Election Acre near Stratford sub Castle, under an elm-tree which almost perished in a storm, very appropriately, soon after the passing of the Act.

SAVERNAKE has a station on the Great Western Railway and one on the Midland & South-Western

## WILTSHIRE

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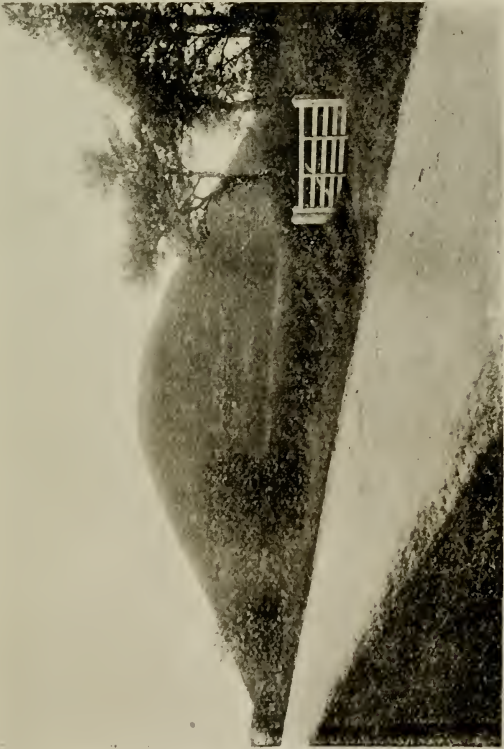
## WILTSHIRE

The original dedication of the church in 1553 was a curious one—viz. to SS. Cosmos and Damian, two Eastern saints. It is a small stone building, partly E.E. and early Dec. A little to the W. of the church is a mound with moat, on the top of which stood a castle belonging to the Giffards.

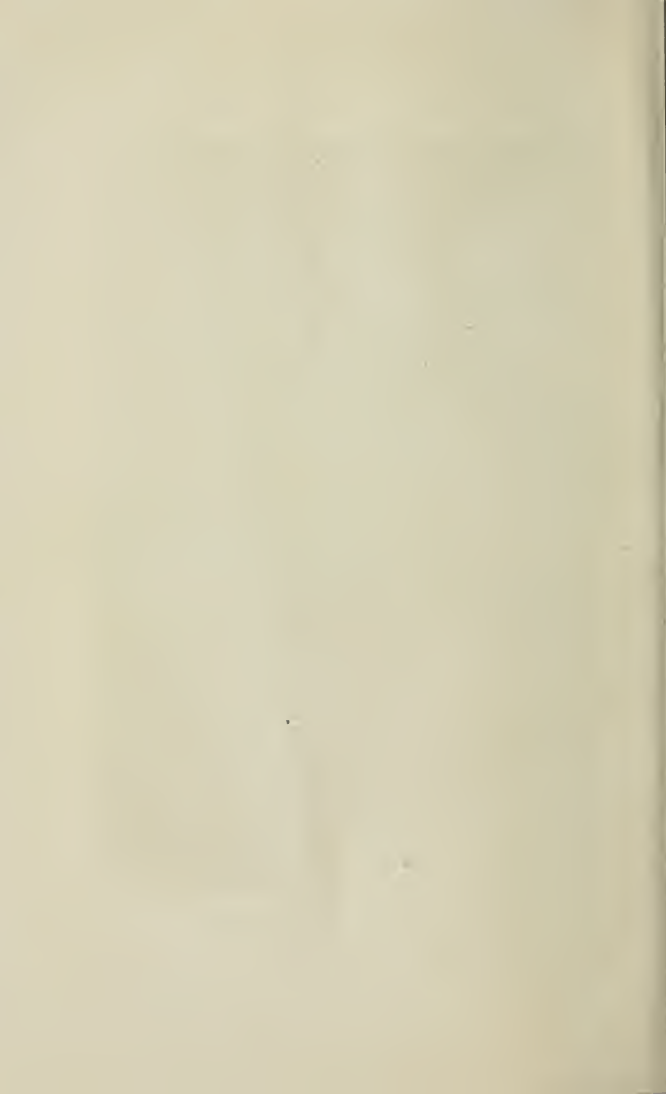
*Sherston*, or *Great Sherston* ( $4\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.E. from Badminton Station), has been identified with the *Sceorstan* of Henry of Huntingdon, the scene of a battle between Canute and Edmund Ironside in 1016. The old church is Trans.-Norm. The central tower has been embattled. The village is a very pretty one on the banks of the Avon, and was built within a stony earthwork which may be noticed W. of the church. More to the N.E. are other remains of an ancient earthwork. The old 15th-cent. parsonage house should be mentioned.

*Shrewton* (6 m. N. from Wishford Station) is in the heart of the Plain, in the military manœuvring country. The church, Norm. and E.E., was rebuilt in 1855. Both chancel and N. aisle have a canopied piscina.

SILBURY HILL has already been alluded to under Avebury. The gigantic mound rises from the Vale of the Kennet about 1 m. S.S.E. of Avebury church. It is probably the largest artificial mound in Europe. In shape it resembles a truncated cone. Its circumference at the base is 1660 ft., the diameter there being about 550 ft. and the area occupied more than 5 acres. The sarsen stones once forming a circle at the base have now almost entirely disappeared. The



SILBURY HILL.





## SHERSTON—SPYE PARK

height is 130 ft. and the diameter of the round summit a little over 100 ft. The sides taper with fair regularity, the slope being at an angle of about 30°. Charles II. with his brother James visited the mound in 1663 under the guidance of Aubrey. That the hill is a pre-Roman work is deemed to be adequately attested by the fact that the Roman road here makes a slight detour to avoid it, the exact line of that road having been ascertained by excavation in 1867. The name is possibly derived from the A.-S. "sel-burh" equivalent to "noble stronghold." Some have unearthed, but not from the hill, a certain King Seale, said to have been buried beneath it, and Pepys writes: "The mount cast hard by is called Selbury, from one King Seall, buried there, as tradition says." Various excavations and considerable tunnelling have led to no appreciable results and no adequate clue to its mystery is, as yet, forthcoming.

*Slaughterford* (5 m. W. from Chippenham Station). The small stone E.E. church was rebuilt in 1823, and further restored sixty years later. There are paper mills and a brewery here.

*Somerford (Great)* has a railway station on the Malmesbury branch line. The church is Perp. and was restored in 1867.

*Somerford (Little)* has a station on the main line to the Severn Tunnel. The old E.E. church calls for no special notice.

*Sopworth* (4 m. N. from Badminton Station) is on the N.W. boundary of the county. There is a small 13th-cent. stone church but no other feature of interest.

*Spye Park* (2 m. from Lacock Station). The

fine embattled gate-house was brought from Old Bromham House when the Baynton family came to reside here after the destruction of Bromham House in the early years of the Great Rebellion. The situation is a delightful one, the wooded slope from ground already high commanding some beautiful views. The old house was visited by Evelyn, who writes of it in his diary, "a place capable of being made a noble seat; but the humorous old knight has built a long single house of two low stories on the precipice of an incomparable prospect." The present mansion was built near the site of the old one by Mr Spicer in 1870. The beautiful park is finely timbered and extends over 600 acres. Four lakes fed by the Chittoe brook, and a beautiful deer park add to the attractions. Bromham may be reached by a pleasant field path. The Wansdyke and Roman roads, which here blend, cross the centre of the park.

*Standlynch* (2 m. N. from Downton Station) has a little stone Trans.-Norm. church dating from the 12th cent. Standlynch House was bought by trustees in 1814 and renamed Trafalgar House, and is separately dealt with under that title.

*Stanton Fitzwarren* has a station on the Highworth branch of the Great Western Railway. Its pretty church, embowered in trees and greenery, is Trans.-Norm. There is a Norm. arch in the chancel and a piscina and credence. There are brasses to members of the Hippisley family, one dated 1691, the other 1706.

*Stanton St Bernard* (3 m. N.W. from Woodborough Station) has a small church, rebuilt, with

## STANDLYNCH—STEEPLE ASHTON

the exception of the Perp. tower, in 1833. An old Norm. font is preserved.

*Stanton St Quentin* and *Lower Stanton* (2 m. S.E. from Hullavington Station) form one parish. The church is Trans.-Norm. with the exception of the chancel, which is later. The Norm. arches and the font are noticeable, and the doorway, and on the exterior a carved group over the E. window representing the Crucifixion. The interesting old manor-house of the St Quentins has disappeared.

*Stapleford* (2 m. N. from Wishford Station). The cruciform church, restored in 1862, is a good one, with a fine N. door and some good Norm. arches, and piscina and sedilia.

*Staverton* (2 m. N. from Trowbridge Station) has a "halt" on the Great Western Railway. The church calls for no comment, and the imposing feature of the place is the Nestle and Anglo-Swiss milk factory.

*Steeple Ashton* (4 m. E. from Trowbridge Station). The stone church, Perp., is a very interesting one, with fine clerestory and some good groining in the chancel and aisles, and some old glass in some of the windows. The chancel was rebuilt in 1853. The roomy S. porch has a parvise, and is also well groined. The wood vaulting of the nave springs from stone shafts. The arcading is also a notable feature. The wealthy and generous clothiers have distinguished themselves here as well as in so many other places, one of them, Robert Long, being responsible for the N. aisle, and another, Walter Lucas, for the S. aisle. There are various memorials to the Long

and Beach families, and 17th-cent. and other brasses to the Longs and Crookes. The 14th-cent. hall and porch at the vicarage must not pass unnoticed. "Steeple" Ashton gets its prefix from the staple, or market, dating from 1387, when market rights were granted by charter. The market cross, in the middle of the village street, was erected in 1066 and has been restored at various times.

*Steeple Langford* (2 m. E. from Wylve Station). The church was restored in 1875. It contains an altar-tomb to the Mompesson family, and we are initiated into the troubles of the Rev. J. Collier, the rector in Charles I.'s day, who was ejected as "ignorant, scandalous and inefficient" by the Puritans, and turned out homeless, with wife and eleven children, in the wintry weather and deep snow. The chancel arch has a hagioscope.

*Stert* ( $2\frac{1}{4}$  m. S.E. from Devizes). The church, E.E., was rebuilt in 1846.

*Stockton* ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.W. from Wylve Station) has a very interesting old manor-house, commenced by John Topp in Elizabeth's time, and completed by him early in the reign of her successor. The ornamental ceilings and panellings, the chimney-pieces, the fine oak carving, and other notable features are preserved in many of the rooms, the drawing-room on the first floor being particularly good. The manor is a very ancient one, traceable in Alfred's time to one Wulfhere, who forfeited it for misconduct. It was afterwards granted by the Crown to the Convent of St Swithin, Winchester. The church is Trans.-Norm., with E.E. chancel divided from the nave by a thick wall

## STEEPLE LANGFORD—STONEHENGE

pierced only with a small low doorway and two squints. On one side of the doorway is a stone corbel which may have carried a rood-loft. The clerestory and tower are Perp. The roof of the N. aisle is of carved cedarwood. Here is a canopied tomb to John Topp (d. 1640), with effigies of himself and his wife and family. In the S. aisle is an altar-tomb to Jerome Poticary, who, in spite of his name, was, like Topp, a wealthy and benevolent clothier who built another manor-house here, now a farmhouse. The old barn deserves mention, and the Topp almshouses, founded in 1641, housing eight aged people in a picturesque group of buildings. A chancel screen has recently been erected in the church by the Bishop of Worcester, who is lord of the manor, in memory of his late wife, Lady Barbara Yeatman-Biggs, and his brother, General Yeatman-Biggs.

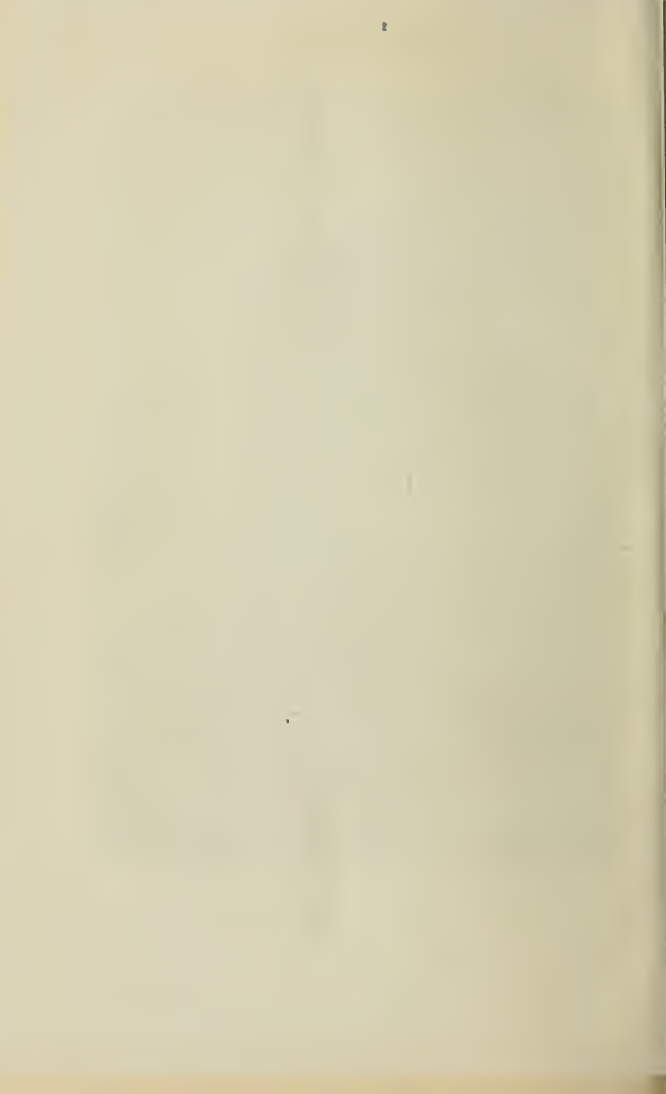
STONEHENGE is about  $1\frac{3}{4}$  m. W. of Amesbury, which may be reached by rail from Salisbury in a little over half-an-hour, or by motor omnibus, the distance by road being 10 m. The road route should, if possible, be taken in at least one direction, in which case Old Sarum can be included. Its remote situation, almost in the heart of the Plain, in a district that, at any rate prior to the recent advent of the military element and the almost equally modern encroachments of tillage, was one of solitude and isolation, is doubtless the cause that it has come down to us, not perfect by any means, but in a good state of preservation, and although the vast expanse of the Plain tends to dwarf and belittle everything on it, one soon

realizes the dignity and impressiveness of this mysterious circle. "Stonage" was its ancient name. In Langtoft's Chronicle we read: "A wander wit of Wiltshire rambling to Rome to gaze at antiquities and there skrewing himself into the Company of antiquarians, they entreated him to illustrate unto them that famous monument in his country called Stonage. His answer was that he had never seen, scarce ever heard of it, whereupon they kicked him out of doors and bad him goe home and see Stonage. And I wish that all such Episcopale cocks as slight these admired stones, and scrape for barley cornes of vanity out of foreigne dung hills, might be handled, or rather footed, as he was." Henry of Huntingdon calls it the second wonder of England, and speaks of it as "Stanenges," and Geoffrey of Monmouth attempts to get the "hang" of the thing by suggesting that it was a monument erected about 460 to commemorate a victory over the Britons by Hengist, Hengist's Stones reversed being not very far from Stone-Henge. Stan-henge or stone hanging place is probably a more correct derivation.

The area, enclosed by bank and ditch, is circular, and has a diameter of 700 ft. The inner circle, which contains all the stones but four, is about 100 ft. in diameter. An avenue, flanked by a ditch and bank, and crossed by the road from Amesbury to Heytesbury, leads up to it from the N.E. The shape of the whole is not unlike that of a frying-pan. Half way up this Via Sacra is the leaning stone, nearly 17 ft. high, called the "Friar's Heel." Popular tradition, here as else-



STONEHENGE





## STONEHENGE

where, has associated the devil with things abnormal, and when his Satanic majesty was building Stonehenge he incautiously boasted that no one would be able to discover his *modus operandi*. A lurking friar ejaculated "That's more than thee can tell" and took to his heels, one of which suffered somewhat from the stone at once hurled at it, and which remains *in situ* to attest the truth of the story; 40 or 50 yards beyond it are the indications, right and left, of shallow ditch and bank marking the large outer circle, and just as we enter this we encounter a large prostrate stone, 20 ft. long. On the margin of the outer ring, 50 yards away on the left and considerably more on the right, are smaller unhewn stones. The main circle, which is quickly reached, may, following Sir B. Windle ("Remains of the Prehistoric Age in England"), be described as follows:—

- (1) A ring of hewn local sarsen stones, with imposts mortised to them.
- (2) A ring of less perfectly hewn, diabase pillars.
- (3) An ellipse of hewn sarsen trilithons, with mortise and tenon connexions.
- (4) An ellipse of less perfectly hewn diabase pillars.
- (5) A simple recumbent rock of different character from the rest.

A fall of some of the stones at the end of December 1899 and the general condition of the others led to active measures being taken for the raising of the largest monolith and others, and the general preservation of the remains, which had suffered very considerably. In October 1918

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Stonehenge was sold to Sir C. H. Chubb, of Bemerton Lodge, and together with thirty acres of the land surrounding it was presented by that gentleman to the nation. A sunken fence is to be provided as a necessary protection. Professor Gowland, who had been entrusted with the restoration, accomplished his task with remarkable success, his incidental excavations having furnished some valuable results. The presence of the sarsen stones is easily accounted for, the "grey wethers" of the Marlborough Downs having been plentiful enough, but the presence of the igneous, or "blue" stones was not so readily to be explained. Professor Judd, as the result of recent investigation, no longer favours the opinion that they were transported here from a distance, but thinks they are ice-borne boulders, the relics of a former drift deposit, and that perhaps an accidental abundance at or near Stonehenge may have led to its selection as the site of the circle. As to the sarsens it was found that metal tools had not been employed in the dressing, as was thought hitherto. "Their tabular structure, and their great inequality of hardness makes very little working necessary. They seem to have been broken to shape by alternate heating and chilling and by the use of the heavy mauls, but their preliminary dressing took place at a distance, and all that can be seen at Stonehenge are the grooves pounded out by the mauls, and the traces of the sideward blows by which the intervening ridges were obliterated. The 'blue' stones show no grooves but also no such careful shaping as the 'sarsens.' The surface tooling was effected by hammer stones" (Gowland).

## STONEHENGE

Among the tools found during the excavations were: (1) haches, longer or shorter; (2) an intermediate type much chipped and blunted; (3) hammer axes; (4) intermediate types of hammer stones with traces of an edge. All these were of flint and unhefted, and only suitable for working the softer kinds of material. Then came (5) regular hammer stones of quartzite from 1 to 6 lbs. in weight; (6) quartzite mauls, with well-defined faces and traces of a waist, as if to hold a rope; weighing from 37 to 64 lbs. and resembling the great stone mauls used in Japan. The stones of the outermost circle, 30 in number when the circle was perfect, are each 16 feet in height. Mr Gowland, writing of the setting up, remarks: "It differed in different cases, for the 'recumbent stones,' 25 ft. long, went only 4 ft. into the ground; while the 'leaning stone,' 29 ft. long, went 8 ft. down." The reason is obvious, for the two stones were set up as a pair to carry a lintel in the most important part of the whole structure. The shorter stone, being less deep, had a more elaborate base, and, to gain base, was only dressed on the parts which showed above ground. The leaning stone was erected by (1) excavating a pit with three vertical walls and one sloping rim on the side next the stone; (2) raising the head end of the stone by levers and timber-packing till its foot slid down the sloping rim into the pit; (3) hoisting it from about 50 degrees into an erect position by ropes; (4) securing it to its place by the smaller sarsens which support its oblique lower surface. Similar leverage is employed in Japan with trunks of

trees and many rope ends. The "recumbent" stone, on the other hand, was supported at its foot end on a low wall of small sarsens; then tipped upright, as above, against two large sarsens placed in front; then packed tight, as above, with disused marls. A stain of copper oxide found on one of the stones seems to indicate that that metal was known although not employed. "From what we know of the date of the commencement of the Bronze Age in this country the date of the circle may be set down at somewhere between 2000-1800 B.C." (Windle). Mr Lewis, holding that the circle was a temple for sun-worship, points out that out of twenty-one circles in S. Britain, nineteen have a special reference to N.E. and nine to the S.E. To the N.E. of Stonehenge is the detached stone known as the "Friar's Heel." Lockyer and Penrose, working on these lines, obtained a date of 1680 B.C. with a possible error in either direction of 200 years.

Lord Avebury, regarding tumuli, menhirs, dolmens, stone circles and stone rows or avenues as parts of one common plan, considers the majority were tombs, and Sir A. Evans thinks the stone circles were amplifications of the simplest sepulchral forms: Dr H. Colley March holds that Stonehenge indicates, in all probability, the latest and the highest evolution of that ritual of the dead that concerned the exposure of the body prior to its interment. Sir Norman Lockyer believes that Stonehenge and other stone circles were erected for astronomical uses similar to those of certain Egyptian temples. "It was absolutely essential," he writes, "for early man to know

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something about the proper time for performing agricultural operations. We now go into a shop, and for a penny buy our almanack, which gives us everything we want to know about the year, the month, the day. But these poor people, unless they found out the times of year for themselves, or got someone to tell them—and their priests were the men who knew, and were priests *because* they knew—had no means of determining when their various agricultural operations should take place, so that we find all over the world temples erected in the very first flush of civilization.”

Sir Norman holds that we have in Stonehenge a solstitial temple—*i.e.* a temple to make observations of the length of the year by observing the rise of the sun on the longest day of the year. In other parts of England were temples observing the sun early in May and early in August, both beginnings of “farmers’ years.” He continues: “Acting on a very old tradition, some people from Salisbury and other surrounding places go to observe the sunrise on the longest day of the year at Stonehenge. We therefore are perfectly justified in assuming that it was a solar temple used for observation in the height of midsummer, At dawn here at midsummer the stars are seldom visible; stars therefore were not in question, so that some other principle had to be adopted, and that was to point the temple directly to the position on the horizon at which the sun rose on that particular day of the year and no other.” As long ago as 1771 a writer, in a work entitled “Choir Gawr,” called Stonehenge a temple for observing the motions of the heavenly bodies, and

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held that the stone called the "Friar's Heel" was the index that disclosed the uses of the structure. Halley, who visited Stonehenge in 1720, probably with Stukeley, estimated it as at least 3000 years old.

STOURTON (6 m. S.E. from Witham Station) is about the same distance N. of Gillingham. The village is a very pretty one, romantically situated in a little woody dell. The church was restored in 1878, and contains various memorials of the Stourton family, including a 14th-cent. female effigy, and the effigies of Edward, the fifth baron (d. 1536), and his lady. In the S. aisle are the Hoare monuments and a marble tomb to the great Wiltshire historian and archæologist, Sir Richard Colt Hoare. The pleasure grounds of the beautiful domain of Stourhead, which may be entered by crossing the green opposite to the church, are open to the public every week-day except Tuesday and Friday, and as Wednesday (and that only in the summer) is the sole day on which the house can be seen that day should be selected if possible for the visit. The grounds are exceedingly attractive, and should not be missed by anyone visiting this altogether delightful neighbourhood. In front of the entrance gate is the old High Cross of Bristol, a very interesting piece of elaborate stonework, originally erected on the site of an older cross in 1373, where the four principal Bristol streets intersect each other. It originally consisted of two stages, the upper one containing canopied statues of King John and three of his successors, but it was enlarged in 1633 and four

## STOURTON

other kings introduced. It was temporarily taken down in 1733 and set up again on College Green, whence it was finally removed in 1763 when Dean Barton presented it to Mr Henry Hoare. The winding walks by the lake extend for about a mile and are exceedingly beautiful. Classic temples are dotted here and there, and a reproduction of the portico of the Pantheon at Rome is enriched with an antique marble of Livia Augusta as Ceres, and statues of Hercules and Flora by Rysbrack. Before reaching this we cross an arm of the lake where the path drops down to the grotto. Here the Stour, which has been conveyed from St Peter's Pump, a hexagonal building, another bit of Bristol plunder which covers the six sources of the stream, gushes forth into the lake from the mouth of the river-god. In a recess a marble nymph reclines by a bath, and inscribed on the rock are some rather commonplace lines by Pope :

“Nymph of the grot, these sacred springs I keep,  
And to the murmur of these waters sleep  
Ah! spare my slumbers, gently tread the cave,  
And drink in silence, or in silence lave.”

The Temple of the Sun, designed after that at Baalbec, is at the foot of the wood encountered on the return journey, and gives a fine view of lake and grounds.

The mansion was rebuilt in 1720 by Mr Henry Hoare. Two wings were added later. The embattled gatehouse, with round towers covered with ivy, makes an extremely effective approach. The picture gallery contains a fine

## WILTSHIRE

collection of works of art, the English and Italian schools predominating. *Alfred's Tower* is about  $2\frac{3}{4}$  m. away to the N.W., and stands in a field encompassed by a wood, at the top of Kingsettle Hill. It was erected in 1766 by Mr Hoare, and marks the spot where Alfred the Great is said to have raised his standard in 879. The key may be obtained from the lodge at the E. end of the field, and as the tower is 150 ft. high, and the hill on which it stands is itself over 800 ft. above sea-level, the views from the top are of great extent and beauty. It is just over the Somerset border, but the visitor to Stourhead should by no means miss it.

*Stratford-sub-Castle* (2 m. N.N.W. from Salisbury). One of the six old Roman roads from Sorbionum (Old Sarum), under which the village lies, here crossed the river by a strete-ford on its way to Dorchester. The elder Pitt, the famous Earl of Chatham, once resided at the manor-house and first sat in Parliament as member for the adjacent rotten borough. Governor Pitt, of "Diamond" fame, bought the manor some fifty years previously in 1690. John Horne Tooke was "put in" for Old Sarum in 1801 by Lord Camelford, the then lord of Stratford manor, but was challenged as being in holy orders. The church, E.E. and Perp., contains a 16th-cent. hourglass stand and on the tower an inscription to Thomas Pitt dated 1711. A pleasant avenue of lime-trees connects the church with the pretty gabled parsonage, over the entrance to which is carved: "Parva sed apta domino, 1675."

*Stratford Toney* (4 m. S.W. from Salisbury) takes its affix from the Norman squire of that



## STRATFORD-SUB-CASTLE—SWINDON

name who attended William the Conqueror as standard-bearer at the battle of Hastings. The small church calls for no comment.

*Stratton St Margaret* is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.E. of Swindon, and has a railway station on the Highworth branch. It takes its name from the old Roman *strete* or road and an alien Benedictine priory that once stood here. The old stone church is mainly E.E., with the exception of the porch and W. tower (Perp.). There are some 17th-cent. memorials to the Hedges family, and a Norm. door in the N. aisle should be mentioned.

*Sutton Benger* (4 m. N. from Chippenham Station) has an old stone 14th-cent. church with Perp. additions.

*Sutton Mandeville* ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.W. from Dinton Station). The old Norm. church, much restored, has the not uncommon Perp. additions. In the churchyard is a very fine yew-tree, and beneath it rests a stone with a sculptured representation of the Virgin and Child.

*Sutton Veny* ( $1\frac{3}{4}$  m. W. from Heytesbury Station). Only the chancel of the old E.E. church remains in decent preservation, the remainder being in ruins. A very good new church, built by the Everett family from designs by J. L. Pearson, now serves the parish. There is some interesting 14th-cent. work embodied in the old parsonage house.

*Swallowcliffe* ( $1\frac{3}{4}$  m. S.E. from Tisbury Station) has a modern church with a memorial window to Lord Herbert of Lea (d. 1861).

SWINDON, with an estimated population of 53,000, is by far the most populous town in the

## WILTSHIRE

county. It owes its numbers and importance mainly to the fact that the Great Western Railway Co. established here, at an important junction on their system, their great engineering and carriage works, which were quickly surrounded by a town that came to be known as New Swindon, or Swindon New Town, a mushroom growth that suddenly covered fields and quagmires, looked down upon by the venerable old market-town.

The two Swindons, Old and New, for some time kept their separate governments, but were incorporated into one borough in 1900, and a trolley system of tramways, covering nearly 4 m., was established four years later.

The parish church of the well-placed and rather picturesque old town was rebuilt on a new site in 1851 from designs by Sir Gilbert Scott. It is a very handsome building, with accommodation for nearly 1000 people, and with its western tower and lofty spire, and its ample and well-designed proportions, almost reconciles us to the loss of the older edifice, of which the chancel, containing some venerable monuments, is still standing. The church has been greatly embellished by various additions made by members of the Goddard family in memory of the late Colonel Goddard, which include a fine reredos and a new altar.

The old town was for generations famous for its markets and fairs, and these have by no means diminished in importance with the new order of things that the railway and almost all its works have brought. Its corn and cattle markets and its great sales, as well as its four great fairs, two of them held under a charter of Charles I., while

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two are statute fairs, or "mops" for hiring servants, give it a very considerable importance in the agricultural world. The Corn Exchange in the Market Square will seat 1000 people, and from its clock tower a very remarkable view of the great chalk ridge of the downs is to be obtained, many of the most famous entrenchments and camps and "Castles" of the northern portion of the county coming clearly into the picture, as well as the Berkshire Downs and the Vale of White Horse. On the Liddington road, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. away, is the hamlet of Coate, with its fine reservoir of ninety acres, and its farmhouse, the birthplace of Richard Jefferies, who had very close journalistic and other associations with Swindon itself.

The Church of St Mark was built in 1845 to meet the new condition of things, and it has since been supplemented by various other churches and chapels-of-ease, while the Dissenting places of worship are numerous and well equipped. St Mark's is a stone building in Dec. style, designed by Sir Gilbert Scott, and will, like the parish church, accommodate nearly 1000 people.

The town hall and municipal buildings form an imposing block of buildings, well designed, with a clock tower nearly 100 ft. in height. Another instance of the well-directed efforts of the Wilts. Education Committee is to be found at Swindon in the Technical Schools, specially equipped and adapted for the needs of the place. The large evening classes, with some 1400 students, are a specially notable feature, and there is a good secondary school and a school of art. Swindon has electric light as well as electric tramways, and

## WILTSHIRE

there is an excellent theatre well equipped with all modern requirements and seating 1600 people. A very admirable institution calling for special note is the Great Western Railway's Mechanics' Institution, which occupies a fine block of buildings in Emlyn Square. Membership is not confined to employés of the railway company, although the latter enjoy slightly preferential treatment. A few facts connected with it will speak more eloquently than any comment. There are nearly 10,000 members ; the lending library contains 28,000 volumes, the reference library has 6000 volumes, and includes a special Wiltshire collection and useful technical books and patent specifications. The central reading-room is well supplied with newspapers, trade journals, magazines, reviews and scientific publications of all kinds. In the smoking-room are additional copies of the newspapers and periodicals. The billiard-room is equipped with three tables. There is a large hall, seating 850, with a fully equipped stage and dressing-room, and a smaller lecture hall seating 200. The ladies' reading-room is available not only for ladies who are members but for the wives and daughters of male members. There are chess clubs and draughts clubs, choral and orchestral societies, amateur theatrical, literary and debating, engineering and various other organizations, and the Oxford University Extension Lecturers give a winter course here. There are three branch institutes in various parts of the town, and the whole institution is admirably organized and splendidly administered, a credit to Swindon and to the county.

## SWINDON—TEFFONT EVIAS

The railway works are on a very extensive scale, and occupy, when things are busy, from 13,000 to 14,000 people, including the clerks and officials of various kinds. The weekly wage bill exceeds £15,000. The area occupied by the locomotive, carriage and waggon works and the rail mills and other accessories is nearly 220 acres, nearly a fifth of which is occupied by the buildings. The Great Western Railway Medical Fund Society must not go unnoticed. It occupies a fine block of buildings, and is most catholic in its provision, which includes two good swimming baths, one of which forms a very capacious concert-room in winter; a smaller bath for ladies and children; a fine range of private baths and washhouses added a few years since at the cost of £5000; and Russian and Turkish baths. These taken *en masse* seem to drown the well-equipped dispensary, with its numerous consulting-rooms and surgeries and an accident hospital attached, but the same note of completeness and efficiency pervades this leading feature. Combined with the Mechanics' Institution the whole is a fine instance of what intelligent co-operation can achieve.

*Teffont Evias* (1 m. W. from Dinton Station) is called after the Ewyas, its ancient lords. It is beautifully situated in the Nadder Valley. The church, late Dec. and Perp., has a fine western tower with rich pinnacles and a lofty spire. The church plate comprises three Elizabethan tankards not originally intended for church use. An oak screen separates the church proper from the old manor chapel in which are monuments to members of the Ley family; Henry Ley (d. 1574) and his

## WILTSHIRE

sons being presumably represented by three recumbent effigies. Over the E. window are mural mosaics by Baron de Triquetri representing the Angelic Choir. The stone quarries here, which have been extensively worked for generations, form great subterranean caverns, and from the number of Roman coins discovered were probably worked long before they furnished material for Salisbury Cathedral. The rectory has been rebuilt from designs by Sir Gilbert Scott, and at Teffont Manor, an old Tudor mansion, are some valuable pictures, including some by Le Febre formerly belonging to Napoleon I.

*Teffont Magna* adjoins the above. The old stone church has an E.E. S. porch and an oak screen dividing nave from chancel. Among the church plate is a Mediæval paten, without hall-mark, plain and much worn.

*Tidcombe* (4 m. S. from Great Bedwyn Station) has a small and very ancient church, restored in 1880.

*Tidworth (North)* is connected with Ludgershall by railway and is on the Hampshire boundary. It is important as the headquarters of the Southern Military Command, but most of the barracks and other military buildings are at S. Tidworth, just out of the county. The church is mostly late Perp., with some earlier work, late Dec., in the tower. There is a memorial brass to Thomas Pierce, afterwards Dean of Salisbury, who was deprived of his fellowship at Magdalen by the Parliament in 1648. Tidworth Park, just out of the county, is famous as the seat of the late Mr Assheton Smith, whose hunting exploits are so

## TEFFONT MAGNA—TISBURY

famous and who hunted the Tidworth country for over thirty years.

*Tilshead* (8 m. N.N.E. from Codsford Station) is in the heart of the Plain. The church is Norm., with chancel of fine size and clerestoried nave, and central tower with small spire. The font is Norm. and there is a piscina, Dec., in the S. aisle. In the neighbourhood of the "Old Ditch," a well-known earthen embankment, are some interesting barrows, one of them, White Barrow, is 255 ft. long, 156 ft. wide and 8 ft. high. It is interesting to note that the National Trust for Places of Historical Interest, etc., have recently secured it from misuse or destruction, the first occasion on which it has interested itself in a property of purely anthropological importance.

TISBURY has a railway station on the London & South-Western main line. It is a small town rather than a village, placed on the slope of a hill that rises abruptly from the Nadder. It was the birthplace of Sir John Davies, the Elizabethan poet. The manor was granted by Athelstan to Shaftesbury Abbey in 984. The church is a large and very interesting old building, built at the hill foot. The piers of the central tower and some of the porches suggest an older building of Trans.-Norm. date, the church itself being E.E. with Dec. and Perp. additions. The chancel is more recent, the richly plastered roof bearing the date 1616. There is a parvise on the two-storeyed N. porch. The nave has a plastered roof, like the chancel, but the N. aisle and one of the transepts have fine oak ceilings of mid-16th-cent. date. Many of the Arundells of Wardour

## WILTSHIRE

are buried here, including Lady Margaret, Sister of Catherine Howard, Lady Blanche, the heroic defender of Wardour Castle, and Thomas, first Lord Arundell, who captured a standard from the Turks at the siege of Gran in Hungary, (1595), and whose helmet, presumably the one in which he accomplished the feat, is affixed to the wall. A brass to Lawrence Hyde, father of Lord Clarendon, and his wife should be mentioned. In the churchyard is a great yew-tree, 36 ft. in circumference and considerably over 1000 years old. The Rev. William Jay, the famous Congregational minister of Bath, was a native of Tisbury. There is some capital building stone quarried in the neighbourhood. At *Place House* at the end of the village we have a 15th-cent. manor-house, once a grange of Shaftesbury Abbey. The outer gatehouse is in good preservation, and its fine buttresses give an air of dignified importance. The outer court connects by a gatehouse with an inner court. The hall is in the centre of the parallelogram, the shape the house assumes. Behind it is the kitchen, the best-preserved part of the building, the fine louvre chimney being particularly noticeable. The fine 15th-cent. monastic tithe-barn is on the right of the entrance court, occupying the E. end. The entrance to the central threshing floor has a pointed archway surmounted by a gable. The roof has upper and lower collar beams, and bears a general resemblance to that at Bradford-on-Avon. The length of the barn is 188 ft., the breadth 32 ft. and the roof area is 1450 sq. yds. The stables opposite are excellent Perp. work in very good preservation.



## TOCKENHAM—TOLLARD ROYAL

*Tockenham* (3 m. S.W. from Wootton Bassett Station). The little church, of great antiquity, was restored in 1876. The fine old manor-house, built by a Danvers in the early part of the 17th cent., has been restored and much enlarged.

*Tollard Royal* (10 m. S.E. from Semley Station) is at the S.W. corner of the county on the confines of Cranborne Chase. The church is dedicated to St Peter ad Vincula. In the nave is a 14th-cent. cross-legged effigy, believed to be that of Sir William Payne, remarkable as one of the few examples in which banded mail is represented. There is a marble monument to the late General Pitt-Rivers, the famous archæologist and ethnologist. Rushmore Lodge, his well-known seat, was the chief "lodge" of Cranborne Chase in the days when it was divided into six "walks." King John's House gets its appellation from the fact that that monarch held a knight's fee here in right of his wife Isabella. His hunting-box was on the site afterwards occupied by a 13th-cent. manor-house, that was transformed and added to in Elizabethan days, and later suffered the common fate of farmhouse tenancy until rescued by the General in 1889. It contains some rare antique furniture and a series of pictures illustrating, on a modest scale, the history of painting from very early times. A few works of importance figure among them, Quintin Matsys, Tintoretto, and George Morland being represented. The "Larmer Grounds," so admirably laid out as public pleasure grounds by their late generous proprietor, take their name from the "Larmer

Tree," an old wych-elm under which, tradition says, King John used to meet his huntsmen. Laver-mere or Laefer-mere, equivalent to the bulrush boundary, is said to be the derivation of the name, Rush-mere being less difficult of recognition. The Tollard Court Leet used to be held under the tree, and Pitt-Rivers had a woodman who distinctly remembered such sessions. In the grounds is a bronze statue by Boehm, representing an ancient British hunter. The portrait of Elias Bailey, the last of the chase keepers, is here, and near the "Temple of Vesta" is a bronze statue of Augustus Cæsar, a reproduction of the one in the museum of the Vatican. Visitors to Tollard Royal and Rushmore should by no means miss Farnham, which is only some  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. away. The Pitt-Rivers Museum, which is open on week-days and Sundays alike, will well repay a visit, being for its size one of the best, as it is certainly one of the best arranged, in the country. The models illustrating the excavations in the Chase are particularly ingenious and interesting, everything being done to scale and with great exactitude. Another valuable series illustrates the history of pottery and the manufacture of glass.

*Trafalgar House* is the name given to the mansion of Standlynch, which, with the estate, was bought by trustees in 1814, and bestowed on the first Earl Nelson, brother of the Admiral, as an endowment of the earldom. It is a large brick building erected towards the middle of the 18th cent., the two wings and the portico being added afterwards. There is some good stone-carving in the hall, and some of the rooms have

## TRAFALGAR HOUSE—TROWBRIDGE

wall paintings by Cipriani. The well-wooded park, with its fine beeches, is watered by the Avon, and commands some beautiful views over a very delightful district.

TROWBRIDGE has a railway station on the Great Western Railway Weymouth branch and near here the Bradford-on-Avon and Bath connexion comes in. It is one of the few Wiltshire towns that preserves something of its ancient commercial and manufacturing prosperity, and it has an alert, brisk and wideawake air that betokens the fact. Its importance is enhanced by the fact that it is the seat, to a considerable extent, of the county government. Devolution has been practised in Wiltshire to a remarkable extent, and here at Trowbridge, which is easy of access from most parts of the county, we have the headquarters of the County Council and the offices of the county officials.

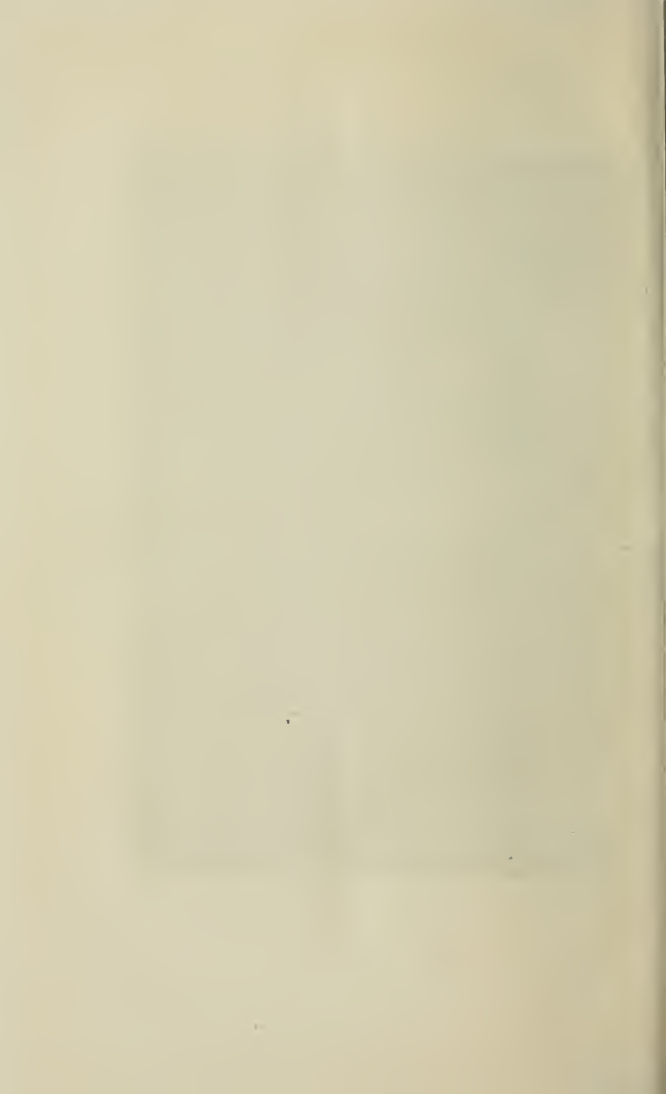
The town, well situated on the little Avon tributary, the Biss, has an ancient and interesting history. It is mentioned in Domesday as "Straburg," and if we eliminate the first letter we soon get to Traburg, and Trowburg and Trobrege. In 1100 it was a manor of Edward of Salisbury, whose daughter married the second Humphrey de Bohun, who was probably the builder of the castle, around which the town began to grow. In Stephen's reign it was held for the Empress Maud and suffered an ineffectual siege, a garrison, however, being left at Devizes to keep it in check. It suffered greatly from the anarchy of those days, when, as an old writer put it, "there was a King, but impotent, and every man did what was wrong

in his own eyes." In the reign of Edward III. John of Gaunt was here, and when his son became Henry IV. it became Crown property. It was granted by Henry VIII. to Edward Seymour. Leland writes of the town, "it flourishith by drapery," and of the "Castelle" he says, that in his day (c. 1540) it was "clene down." Nothing indeed is left of it now. The ditch and ramparts were visible as late as 1814, and probably furnished the curved outline that characterizes Fore Street, the drawbridge and main entrance having been at the junction of that thoroughfare with Castle Street.

The fine old parish church undoubtedly occupies the site of an older edifice. It was long known as the "New Church," and in a deed of the founder it is specially alluded to in those terms. It is a fine example of almost pure Perp., unalloyed, unless the spire is resented, and free from debasement, and was erected about 1475. A deed dated January 1483, and still preserved, informs us that the usual "rich clothier," in this case one James Terumber, was responsible for a considerable portion of the cost, while the same worthy seems to have endowed it in very generous fashion. It was carefully restored in 1848. The pinnacled western tower carries a lofty and graceful stone spire to a height of 160 ft. The excellent stone groining of tower interior and porches is noteworthy, the fan tracery being very well executed, and the open roof of the nave is another pleasing and conspicuous feature. The font has some carvings typifying the Crucifixion, and the Wyke Chapel, with a stone "waggon" roof, should be mentioned.



GEORGE CRABBE'S RECTORY, TROWBRIDGE



## TROWBRIDGE

George Crabbe was rector here for the last eighteen years of his life, dying here in 1832. He is buried in the chancel, and a monument by Baily marks the place of interment. He lived in the delightful rectory, a charming old gabled mansion, an ideal home for a poet. Here he wrote the "Tales of the Hall," and, possibly influenced by his environment, he writes not of villagers, noble or ignoble, but of "people of superior classes, though not the most elevated." The prevailing flavour, however, is rather Aldeburgh than Trowbridge. He was able to indulge his geological tastes in this district, and we hear of him rambling about the quarries, hammer in hand, in quest of specimens. He was greatly respected, although at the first his outspoken and fearless utterances rather startled his congregation. On the death of George IV. he took for his text "The sting of death is sin"; and doubtless pointed his moral in pretty clear terms. Once at an election, when party feeling ran unusually high, he was besieged by the mob, who threatened to tear him to pieces if he attempted to go to the poll; but he calmly assured them that they might kill him if they liked, but whilst alive nothing short of that should prevent him giving his vote. "Vull a man," a brother poet and kindred spirit, William Barnes, would have termed him, and the wrath of the mob quickly vanished in the presence of such courage and simplicity.

Flemings were imported here from time to time to develop, if not to establish, the cloth industry, and some trace of them is perhaps to be found in some of the street architecture. Edward III.

## WILTSHIRE

imported some in the 14th cent. and the manufacture of the famous West of England broadcloth has been a flourishing industry here ever since, the Trowbridge mark or stamp being world famous. The grave riots that attended the introduction of machinery may possibly have assisted the development of Bradford and other Yorkshire towns at the expense of the West of England, but the business still done in Trowbridge is very considerable, and one is glad to note that a town with a considerable share of manufacturing industry can retain a clean and attractive appearance. Breweries, engineering and other foundries, brick and tile works, bacon factories, and the manufacture of brushes and bedding usefully supplement the cloth industry. The fine town hall and council buildings, the large and handsome market-house, the People's Park, the county cricket ground, all call for a word, and again credit must be given to the county authorities for another admirable Secondary School and Technical Institute, and a County Textile School. An excellent High School, formerly under the auspices of the Wesleyan body, is now a County School.

*Tytherton* (2 m. E. from Chippenham Station). The most notable feature of the ancient little church is the fine Norm. font. At East Tytherton is a Moravian settlement established in 1745.

*Upavon* (3½ m. S. from Woodborough Station) is well within the military zone. It once belonged to Hugh Despencer, Edward II.'s favourite, and was a place of some importance in olden times. The church is chiefly E.E., with square Norm. tower, and Trans.-Norm. work, with dog's tooth



## TYTHERTON—UPTON SCUDAMORE

moulding in the chancel. The Norm. font has some curious carving. "Orator Hunt" was born in the parish and was a yeoman farmer, nowadays he might have been termed gentleman farmer, of considerable means. He was originally a strong church and king man and his patriotism absolutely fervid, but slights and injudicious snubs, as well as some ill-treatment, soured him, and he became a fierce demagogue. He presided over the immense assembly in Manchester that led to the "Peterloo" massacre, and in later days fought his battles o'er again when presiding at an ordinary in Devizes.

*Upton Lovel* is within a mile of Codford Station and two of Heytesbury. Its affix refers to the Lords Lovel that formerly possessed Castle Cary, one of whom doubtless figures in the ancient ballad, while another, maybe the same, was the "Lovel the dog" who figures in the couplet. He was concerned in the Lambert Simnel treason, and, escaping to his house here, was somehow starved to death in one of the cellars in which he had hidden, and in which his skeleton was afterwards found seated at a table with pen and paper and a book. The church has some Trans.-Norm. work and some E.E. in the chancel. The old 12th-cent. circular font was unearthed during some comparatively recent restoration, together with a piscina and an aumbry with dog's tooth work. An old altar-tomb with an effigy in full armour and a 15th-cent. brass are noticeable.

*Upton Scudamore* (2 m. N. from Warminster Station) is the old seat of the Scudamores, who were here in Plantagenet days. The E.E. church has a Norm. font and a porch, finely sculptured,

## WILTSHIRE

of Trans.-Norm. period. There are also some mutilated effigies of Scudamores.

*Urchfont* (4 m. S.W. from Patney Station) has a very good cruciform church, E.E. and Dec., with a Perp. western tower with belfry turret and pinnacles. The groining of the stone roof of the chancel and S. porch, and the exterior stone roof of the latter, are noticeable features. There is a piscina in the chancel and another in the S. transept. There is a monument in Purbeck marble in the chancel to Robert Tothill (d. 1753), Clerk of the Privy Seal to George II. There is a spring in the parish that never runs dry, and the derivation of its name, "Arche-fount," or, as in Domesday, "Jerchesfont," has its probable source in the same.

*Wanborough* (5 m. S.E. from Swindon Station). The name is a corruption of Woden's *burh*, or fortified place, and itself bespeaks its antiquity. Its natural position on an escarpment of the downs was a very strong one and of great strategical importance. The A.-S. Chronicle tells us of a great fight here in 591 when Ceawlin was defeated. In 714 King Ine encountered the Mercians here. The church is remarkable for having a small stone spire with dormers on the E. gable of the nave, as well as a later Perp. square tower added in 1435 by Thomas Polton and his wife. The arrangement in this respect resembles that at Purton. The old tradition is that two sisters, disagreeing as to whether the church should have tower or spire, settled the matter by giving it both.

WARDOUR CASTLE (2½ m. S.W. from

## URCHFONTS—WARDOUR CASTLE

Tisbury Station). There are two castles, Old and New Wardour, the one a remarkably picturesque, ivy-clad ruin, built by John, Lord Lovel in 1392, by special authority from Richard II. ; the other, a large stone mansion, imposing and effective rather than beautiful, built by the eighth Lord Arundell of Wardour in 1770-1775, on a site about a mile distant from the first one. The latter is famous for its art treasures even among the many art palaces of this exceptionally well-endowed county.

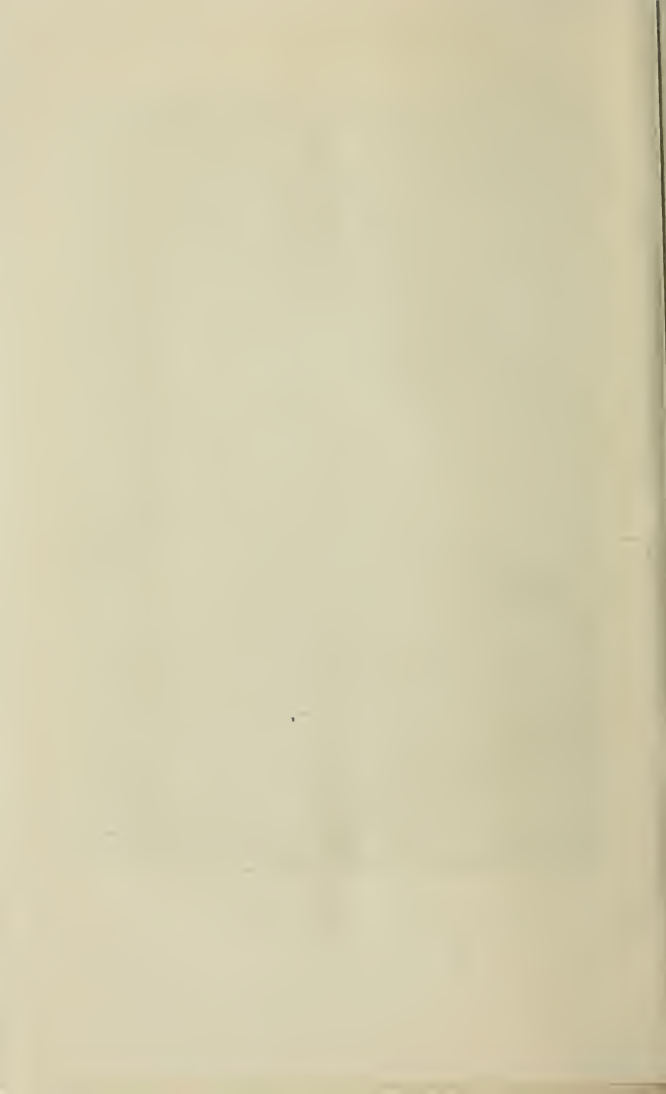
The manor is mentioned in Domesday as held by Waleran, venator. In early Plantagenet times it was the seat of the St Martin family. It passed from them to the Lovels of Tichmarsh, one of whom built the castle. During the Wars of the Roses it was seized by the Crown, and granted by Edward IV. to John Touchet, Lord Audley, whose successor was executed in 1497. The Butlers, Earls of Osmund and of Wiltshire, seem to have succeeded, one of them disposing of the castle to Lord Willoughby de Broke in 1499. The granddaughter of the last-named, Elizabeth, wife of Sir Fulke Greville, sold castle and estate to Sir John Arundell, of Lanherne, Cornwall, who had some family connexions with the place, and who gave it to his second son, Sir Thomas, who married Catherine Howard's sister. Sir Thomas was executed in 1552, although we read that it was with great difficulty that the ruling party could get a verdict against him. Some Latin elegiacs over the old castle porch commemorate both the alleged guiltless suffering of Sir Thomas and the royal grace of Queen Mary, who restored

the domain, not, it is said, without a "consideration," to his son Matthew, who was knighted by Elizabeth in 1574. His son, Sir Thomas, captured the Turkish flag at Gran, and was made a Count of the Sacred Roman Empire. Elizabeth would have none of this, though. "She, for her part, did not care her sheep should bear a stranger's mark, nor dance after the whistle of every foreigner," and Sir Thomas was thrown into prison, and his new title ignored. James I. made amends by creating him Lord Arundell of Wardour, and James II. gave the third peer the old title of Count of the Empire in a special licence granting certain indulgences to the Catholic gentry.

During the Great Rebellion Wardour Castle played a somewhat conspicuous part. In 1643 it was besieged by a strong force under Sir Edward Hungerford, Sir Thomas being, at the time, away with the king. His heroic wife, Blanche—a granddaughter be it noted of that great Plantagenet lady, Margaret, Countess of Salisbury—although over sixty years of age, resolved to make the best defence she could, and with a little band of 25 fighting men, and about the same number of serving men, she withstood a force of 1300 armed men, and sustained a five days' bombardment. The women loaded the muskets and the men valiantly handled them, and it was only when the place was threatened with destruction by mines and fireballs, and petards were employed, that Lady Blanche consented to an honourable surrender on terms, which, to the lasting disgrace of the besiegers, were not fully complied



GRAND STAIR, WARDOUR CASTLE



## WARDOUR CASTLE

with, the place being despoiled and plundered and much wanton damage done in despite of the terms of capitulation. The castle was garrisoned by the Parliament and entrusted to Edmund Ludlow. Lord Arundell died about the same time from wounds received at the battle of Lansdowne, and with quite dramatic effect his son and heir appeared before the walls and summoned Ludlow to surrender. His griefs were great, "his father dead, his mother captured and his children imprisoned," and joining forces with Sir Francis Doddington, he commenced a vigorous siege. The resistance, as might have been expected from Ludlow, was most determined and stubborn, and Lord Arundell, in despair, resolved to blow the castle to pieces rather than leave it in the hands of his hated foe. This he proceeded to do in no half-hearted fashion, for, resorting to the very means that brought about Lady Blanche's surrender, he fired mines with such success that the walls and western towers were hopelessly shattered, and the provisions so damaged and destroyed as to leave only four days' rations. Ludlow was forced to capitulate, but the castle was ruined, and although afterwards made temporarily habitable it was never rebuilt. Lady Blanche, released from captivity, retired to Winchester and spent her few remaining years in works of piety and charity. Her heroic figure is a fitting pendant to that of Lady Bankes at Corfe Castle.

The ruins are beautiful as such, and their situation altogether delectable. The leading features of the old castle can readily be discerned, the shell being in excellent preservation. The lofty walls

## WILTSHIRE

and the tall windows are conspicuous in what is an excellent specimen of early 15th-cent. work. The plan is hexagonal with an open court. The entrance gateway, approached by a beautiful terrace walk, is between two lofty square towers on the E. side. Over it is a niche in which is a head of Our Saviour, with the inscription: *SUB NUMINE TUO STET GENUS ET DOMUS*, and beneath it the tablet and Latin inscription referring to Sir Thomas and his son Matthew. Above are the large windows of the banqueting hall and traces of the kitchen on the same level, with vaults below. The staircase from the courtyard, with ribbed vaulting, remains. The beautiful greensward, with cedars, cypresses and a curious ironwood-tree growing in a cluster of stems and combining various genera, adds, with the rhododendrons and other fine shrubs, to the wonderful picture afforded by these glorious ruins, set most picturesquely, with a hilly amphitheatre almost surrounding them and the beautiful valley outspread below.

The modern castle is entered by a crescent-shaped N. front, and not by the Corinthian portico on the S. front, which was evidently originally intended for the principal entrance. The Rotunda Staircase, a peristyle of Corinthian columns supporting a decorated cupola, leads to the principal suite of rooms and their varied art treasures—the drawing-rooms, large and small, the saloon, music-room, dining-room, boudoir, billiard-room, etc. The principal artists represented are, Rembrandt, Hobbema, Rubens, Murillo, G. Poussin, Teniers, Titian, Michael Angelo, Velazquez, N.



## WARDOUR CASTLE—WARMINSTER

Poussin, Correggio, Andrea del Sarto, Salvator Rosa, Albert Dürer, Spagnoletto, Gerard Dow (the largest example known), and portraits by Holbein, Van Dyck, Lely, Sir Joshua Reynolds and Kneller. A copy by Angelica Kauffmann of a portrait of the Lady Blanche who defended the castle is specially interesting. An ivory crucifix, attributed to Michael Angelo, and the Glastonbury Cup, an old loving cup or wassail bowl, 300 years old, possibly older, being alleged to have been carved from the wood of the Glastonbury thorn, must be mentioned. The latter is an oak tankard of half-a-gallon content capacity, once divided by pegs with half-pint compartments, which doubtless ensured a fair division of the liquor. It rests on three lions couchant, and there is carving in relief of the Twelve Apostles round the bowl, the Crucifixion being represented on the lid. The beautiful chapel is in the right wing, and has a magnificent high altar of agate and marble resting on a fine sarcophagus and carrying a solid silver crucifix. The Westminster chasuble, with the beautifully embroidered badges of Henry VIII., and Catherine of Aragon is here. The finely wooded park and beautiful grounds add to the many attractions of this fine domain, to which the natural beauty of the situation is no slight contributor.

WARMINSTER has a station on the Great Western Railway Salisbury branch. It is a place of considerable antiquity and is situated in a very beautiful district at the head of the upper Wylde Valley, under the shadow of the Plain, on which fine eminences rising to 600 or 700 ft. form an impos-

## WILTSHIRE

ing background, while the curious outlier, Cley Hills, forms a striking feature in the landscape in another direction. The name is by some derived from the Were, the little stream that runs into the Wylye, the "Minster" being still the name usually given to the Church of St Denys. At the Conquest the manor was held by the Crown, and was termed "Guermistre." One of the conditions later attaching to it was that of providing a night's lodging and provision for the king and his suite when in the neighbourhood, and this has been claimed on more than one occasion. At the revolution of 1688 Kirke and Trelawney had their regiments here, and Churchill, with whom they were plotting, and who was with James at Salisbury, tried to persuade the monarch to visit and inspect them, but a violent bleeding of the nose prevented James's departure, and Churchill himself narrowly escaped arrest by a speedy desertion, rumours of the plot beginning to get about.

The town consists mainly of one clean, well-paved street, about a mile in length. Its admirable situation, 400 ft. above sea-level, and its proximity to the downs (where, by the way, is an admirable golf course), as well as its general climatic conditions, seem to promise it some vogue as a health resort. It certainly, however, apart from its situation, has no great claim to be termed beautiful.

Cobbett, however, considered it a very nice town, and said everything belonging to it was "solid and good." He speaks of its corn market being the prettiest in this part of England, and adds: "There are no villainous gingerbread

## WARMINSTER

houses running up and no nasty, shabby-genteel people; no women trapesing about with showy gowns and dirty necks, no Jew-looking fellows with dandy coats, dirty shirts and half heels to their shoes."

The church is cruciform and dates from the early part of the 14th cent. The S. chapel was added in Henry VII.'s time. It was badly restored in 1722 and almost entirely rebuilt in 1888 by Sir Arthur Blomfield. The Chapel of St Lawrence, on the S. side of the main street near the town hall, was a chantry founded in Edward I.'s day by two ladies of the Hewitt family. It passed to the town at the Reformation. It has been rebuilt, but retains its original early Perp. tower with spirelet. The grammar school was founded by Thomas Thynne, Lord Weymouth, in 1707. Dr Arnold was here at the age of eight and Dean Stanley tells us he long had a grateful remembrance of the books in the school library. Dr Hampden, whose appointment to the bishopric of Hereford made such a stir in early Victorian days, received his early education here also, although not, we fancy, at the school. The Missionary College of St Boniface, which celebrated its jubilee in the summer of 1910, is a highly flourishing institution that during its fifty years of existence has sent out 270 missionaries. Its new and enlarged buildings will doubtless add considerably to its usefulness. The town hall, in which the county sessions are held annually, is a good stone building in Jacobean style erected by the then Marquis of Bath in 1830. The savings bank is housed in another good building, while there is an Athenæum, with

## WILTSHIRE

Technical Schools, etc., administered by the town authorities and a commodious hall in connexion with it where concerts and dramatic performances are given. Camps and barrows abound in the neighbourhood, and in a meadow at Pitmead, on the Wylye bank 2 m. E., the tesseræ of some Roman villas have been found.

WESTBURY is a railway junction and rapidly increasing in importance as such. Although the iron industry, which has been of a somewhat intermittent character, would appear to have finally flickered out, the prosperity of the place seems assured by these important railway developments. It is a very old town, and doubtless played a big part in Saxon times, the immense White Horse, which has been noticed in connexion with Bratton, being claimed as a memorial of a victory of King Alfred in 890. It is mentioned in Domesday, and was once held by Editha, wife of Edward the Confessor. Cobbett calls it a place of great ancient grandeur and insists that it was once ten or twenty times its present size, which is absurd. Doubtless, however, it was an important place when it had a not inconsiderable share in the flourishing cloth industry. It was incorporated by Royal Charter in Henry IV.'s reign, and an old borough seal of Elizabeth's time, silver, with an ivory handle and the borough arms, is still preserved. It formerly returned two members to Parliament and Sir William Blackstone was once its representative.

The church, placed amid some noble chestnut-trees, is a fine stone building, cruciform, with its central tower embattled and Perp. in style. Other

## WESTBURY—WESTWOOD

portions have also been transformed from their original Norm. and Trans.-Norm. character. The groining of the W. porch, the fine E. and W. windows filled with very good modern glass, the spacious nave and the groining of the roof of the chapel at the junction of nave and N. transept are features of interest, as is also a chained black-letter copy of Erasmus's New Testament paraphrase. In the S. transept is a fine monument with effigies of Sir James Ley, referred to by Milton as "that good earl" (he was created Earl of Marlborough by Charles I.), and his wife. The Willoughby de Broke Chapel, 15th cent., is to the S. of the chancel and that of the Mauduits to the N. *Brook House*, 2 m. to the N.W., was the seat of the Paveleys, and Robert Willoughby, one of their descendants, took his title from it when made a peer by Henry VII., being the first Lord Willoughby de Broke. Westbury still has a share in the cloth industry, some 350 or 400 people being employed therein, and glove making and brick and tile works also afford a certain amount of employment.

*Westbury Leigh* is a good-sized hamlet, a little to the S.W., and the *Palace Garden*, with its moat, is traditionally associated with the old Wessex kings.

*Westwood* (2 m. S.W. from Bradford-on-Avon) has an interesting church and a charming old manor-house, both associated with the name of Thomas Hungerford, a wealthy yeoman this time. The church tower is of a rather unusual type, at any rate in some of its details. It is of the usual pinnacled Perp. pattern, but at one corner is a

## WILTSHIRE

turret with dome-shaped cap, and the belfry windows have perforated stone-work. The lancets of the small chancel and the old 15th-cent. glass, and the finely carved ceiling of the N. aisle, as well as the Jacobean pulpit, should be mentioned. The manor-house, late 15th cent., is L-shaped, and suggests a missing wing. The ceilings are later, with some very good plaster-work, and, in the upper storeys, some good oak roof-trees. A staircase turret in an angle adds to the picturesque effect of a very pleasing old mansion.

*Whaddon* (3 m. N. from Trowbridge Station) has a small but very ancient church, restored in 1879. Many members of the Long family are buried here, and there is a monument by Westmacott to a lady of the family and a brass to Henry Long (d. 1612).

*Whiteparish* (2 m. S. from Dean Station) is near the Hants. border. The church, which is fairly capacious, has a little wooden belfry at the W. end, but no particular architectural distinction. There are various monuments to the St Barbe family, and one to Giles Eyre, who was imprisoned in 1640 for resisting the forced loans and benevolences of Charles I. W. of the church is the old manor-house of the Lynches, *temp.* James I., and the ancient farmhouse near at hand, known as *Whelpley*, is a very interesting type of the house of the old well-to-do yeoman-farmer.

*Wilcot* (2 m. N. from Pewsey Station) is a charming little village in the Pewsey Vale. The church, chiefly Perp., calls for no special comment.

*Wilsford* (2 m. S. from Woodborough Station) is also in the Pewsey Vale, and near to the northern

## WHADDON—WILTON

edge of the Plain. The old Ridgeway runs along Wilsford Hill, a little to the S., and the earthworks known as Broadbury Banks are quite near. The old stone church is Norm. and E.E.

*Wilsford* ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.W. from Amesbury Station) is a pretty village on the Salisbury Avon. The church was rebuilt in 1858, with the exception of the old Norm. tower. The manor-house, Lord Glenconner's beautiful seat, is modern, but *Lake House*, a little farther down the Avon, is a fine Elizabethan mansion, with chequers of flint and stone admirably employed, and a remarkably good specimen of an early 17th-cent. house. It has been carefully preserved and restored, and is square in form, with projecting chimneys and battlements, bay windows and porch. The staircase has some good panelling; there are some fine mantelpieces; and oak roof-trees to the upper rooms.

WILTON has a railway station on the main South Western line, and another on the Great Western Salisbury branch, and is situated at the confluence of the Wylve with the Nadder. Its name of course is derived from the first-named stream, and being in West Saxon days the chief seat of the *Wil-saetas*, the county was called after it when the shearing took place. Spenser, in the "Faery Queen," writes of it in a style that calls up his contemporary, Michael Drayton, and the "Polyolbion."

"Next him went Wylebourne with passage sly,  
That of his wyliness his name doth take,  
And of himself doth name the shire thereby."

Egbert, the Wessex king, had his palace here, and in the great contest with Mercia defeated

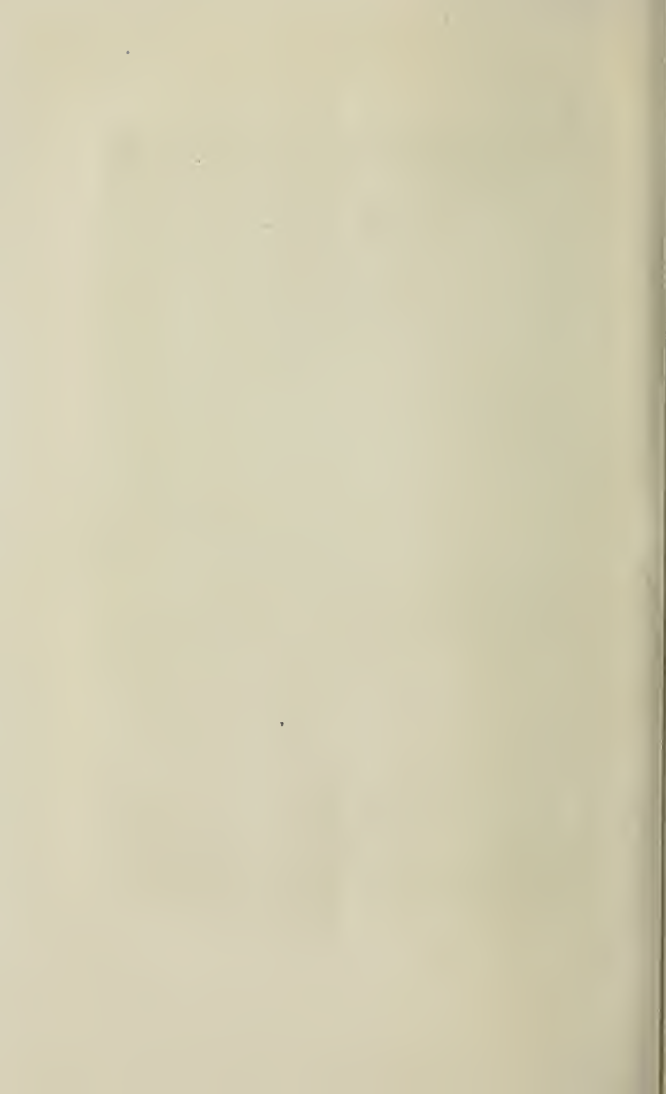
## WILTSHIRE

Beornwulf at Ellendune in 821, the site of the battle being variously placed here and in the neighbourhood of Amesbury. Fifty years later Alfred defeated the Danes here. More than a century later Sweyn pillaged and destroyed the place. In the interval the great monastery grew up. There was a religious house for seculars here as early as 773, but the chantry was extended by Wulstan, and in 830 his widow became the head of a priory of Benedictine nuns. This was enlarged by Alfred and endowed by him with the royal manor of Wilton. A touch of romance comes in with the Abbess Wulftrude, sometime King Eadgar's mistress, who declined to share the monarch's throne at his wife's death and embraced religion. Their daughter, St Ædyth of Wilton, is said to have become abbess at a very early age. There are some very curious and interesting stories connected with the abbey. In Edward I.'s reign, one Osborn de Giffard, a relative of the abbess, carried off two of the nuns, and was sentenced for his offence to be whipped naked in the churches of Wilton and Shaftesbury and to serve three years in Palestine. Anne Boleyn wished to give the post of abbess to a friend, but Henry VIII. had scruples, the proposed abbess not having the best of reputations. Bluff King Hal was nothing if not a stern moralist, and he writes: "I wolde not, for all the gold in the world, clog your conscience nor mine to make her a ruler of a house which is of so ungodly a demeanour, nor I trust you would not that neither for brother nor sister I should so destain mine honour or conscience." There were thirty-





WILTON HOUSE



## WILTON

two nuns here at the Dissolution, and they retired with the abess to Fovant.

The bishopric of Wilton was one of the entire county. Under Bishop Herman the see was united to that of Sherborne and removed in 1075 to Old Sarum.

We find the Empress Maud here in 1141 amid the usual vicissitudes of that stormy and turbulent time. A year or two afterwards Stephen was in possession and began to put the abbey in a state of defence. Meanwhile Old Sarum struggled for supremacy in the district, and was easily being worsted by Wilton. The city of Salisbury sprang up to prove a much more formidable rival. The *coup de grâce* came with the very artful diversion of the great western road, the old Icknield Street, which was brought through the new city, the Avon being newly bridged at Harnham. This was the work of Bishop Bingham in 1244 and Leland quaintly relates how the other chief places of the county were side-tracked. "The chaunging of this way was the total cause of the ruine of Old Saresbyri and Wiltown, for afore Wiltown had 12 paroches churches or more, and was the hedde town of Wileshir." King Edward VI. was frequently here and in the neighbourhood, brought probably by the Seymours for his health, and Queen Elizabeth, on one of her progresses, displayed a demeanour "both merrie and pleasante."

St Giles's Hospital was founded by Adela, second wife of Henry I., as a leper hospital, tradition insisting that the royal lady was herself a leper. The local legend, Miss Rotha Clay tells us in her "Mediæval Hospitals," was formerly to

## WILTSHIRE

be seen on the chapel door, and ran: "This hospitall of St Giles was re-edified (1624) by John Towgood, maior of Wilton, and his brethren, adopted patrons thereof, by the gift of Queen Adelicia, wife unto King Henry the First. This Adelicia was a leper. She had a window and dore from her lodgeing into the chancell of the chapel, whence she heard prayer. She lieth buried under a marble gravestone." Against this is the fact that, after the king's death, Adeliza took William d'Alburi *en secondes nocés*, and died in Flanders. One of her ladies probably was the sufferer whose affliction led to the royal foundation of the hospital. The Hospital of St John, in the Ditchampton portion of the parish, was founded by Hubert, Bishop of Sarum, in 1189. Its charitable work saved it at the Dissolution. Of the chapel, which still remains, and serves as a chapel-of-ease of the old parish church, only some picturesque fragments remain. The old town cross leans against the S. side of the churchyard wall in its original position. A magnificent new church in the Lombardic style was erected in 1844 by the Rt. Hon. Sidney Herbert, the first Lord Herbert of Lea. It is from the design of T. H. Wyatt, and is a very beautiful and exceedingly impressive building. A small charge is made for admission and the keys may be got at a house opposite. It is raised on a terrace, fronting the road, and approached by a very wide flight of steps, with three recessed porches, the central one beautifully ornamented, with its pillars resting on lions sculptured in stone. The bell-tower, which rises to a height of 105 ft., is a campanile

## WILTON

detached from the church but connected with it by a cloister, with double columns beautifully worked, which gives the customary access to the interior. Here the wealth of material and its beautiful adaptation are almost overpowering, and perhaps even more than with the outside one has the impression of something exotic, but it is very beautiful and vastly impressive all the same. The agate and marble of the floor, replaced by fine Italian mosaics near the pulpit and by special modern tesserae in the chancel; the beautiful stained windows, one filled with rich Flemish glass; the magnificent pulpit of Caen stone supported by columns of black marble, with the small marble columns with bands of mosaic forming part of a 13th-cent. shrine from Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome, and other portions of which are to be found in the chancel, are a few of the wonderful features of this wonderful church. The 13th-cent. glass in the windows of the main apse is particularly interesting, and the modern altar-tombs, including two of alabaster with marble effigies, one to the founder and the other to his mother, are excellent examples of modern monuments.

*Wilton House* is particularly interesting, its associations and its art treasures each lending it a special note of distinction. The house, which occupies the site of the old monastery, and which, by the way, is shown on Wednesdays, is the well-known seat of the Herberts, Earls of Pembroke and Montgomery, an ancient family, but not to be confounded with the famous Earl Pembroke of Magna Charta days, William Marshal. Their

## WILTSHIRE

old-time progenitors were Thomases, Herberts and Fitzherberts of Welsh origin, who acquired some fame and more land under the early Tudor kings. Henry VIII. greatly esteemed the William Herbert of his day, and created him Earl of Pembroke. The second earl married the sister of Sir Philip Sidney, the lady immortalized in the famous epitaph written by William Browne, of the "Pastorals." Literature and art always found in the Herberts generous and discerning encouragement. Ben Jonson was a frequent visitor at Wilton; Philip Massinger, the son of a retainer of the house, was brought up here; Edmund Spenser was here, and, as we have seen, had his little poetical jest anent the Wylde, and according to a very credible tradition Shakespeare was here in 1603, either with Burbage's company, in which he had a share, or in a more or less scratch company of Southampton's, or possibly of his host's, and played in *As You Like It* (in which he was wont to be cast for Adam) before James I. His intimacy with Southampton and with the third Earl of Pembroke is well established, and some critics have even ventured to identify the latter as the mysterious "W. H." the "onlie begetter" of the Sonnets. George Herbert, a kinsman of the family, was a visitor a little later, and so was Izaak Walton. Queen Elizabeth was here in 1573 and stayed here three days, during which time she presented Sir Philip Sidney with a "locke of her owne hair." It was discovered recently in a copy of the "Arcadia" in the library, and with it a copy of some very indifferent verse with which the royal gift was rewarded. Charles I.

## WILTON

was a constant visitor. Aubrey says he came every summer, and that it was he who suggested the building of the garden front of the house in the Italian style. Sir Philip Sidney wrote much of his "Arcadia" at Wilton. "Wilton," Aubrey says, "did no doubt conduce to the hightening of Sir Philip Sidney's phansie." Samuel Daniel flourished also in the Wilton air, in which he was encouraged and "framed to Rhime." One gets the idea of a forcing house for young poets.

The mansion is a fine example of English domestic architecture. In it, as Mr Gotch very aptly puts it, "we witness the triumph of architectural rules over the unfettered fancy of the earlier designers, and the expression in lasting materials of the refined taste and elegant fancies of a cultured line of noblemen." The original structure is said to have been partly designed by Holbein, and a porch, which now serves as a garden pavilion, is pointed out as a possible survival of his work. The central portion of the E. front is 17th-cent. work in mullioned style, from designs by one Solomon de Caux, recommended by Inigo Jones; but Jones himself, and his son-in-law Webb, curiously enough abandoned the Jacobean style, and gave an Italian façade to the S. front when it was rebuilt a little later. Here is the great room, or double cube, the length being double the height and width. In it are the famous portraits of Vandyck, the special glory of the Wilton treasure house, and contents and room alike are not readily to be matched. James Wyatt had a hand in the rebuilding of the N. and W. fronts at the beginning of the 19th cent., but

## WILTSHIRE

more recent restorations have done away with some of the more questionable results of his efforts. The beautiful deer park with some fine cedars of Lebanon, and the gardens and grounds are exceedingly attractive, and special mention is, of course, called for by the covered Palladian bridge over the Nadder, built by Earl Henry from designs by J. Morris. It is a very beautiful work, although it seems a trifle large in scale for the modest office it has to serve.

The entrance archway is distinguished by a copy of the famous equestrian statue of Marcus Aurelius, a very suitable *genius loci*. In the hall is a magnificent collection of armour, some of it doubly interesting as being trophies of the battle of St Quentin, in which Earl William took part, in 1557. Both the ancient armour and collection of weapons of war, and the marbles, are special features of Wilton, although the ancient reputation of some of the latter has, in these Didymus days, been somewhat blown upon. The glorious pictures, however, have not yet, so far as we are aware, been greatly challenged, although an excellent authority puts a note of interrogation after "The Descent from the Cross" attributed to Albert Dürer. The Vandycks we have already alluded to. There are a number of them, including a fine family group of ten, among them Earl Philip and his countess, and several other family portraits, Charles I., Henrietta Maria, their children, Court beauties and so on. Other artists represented in the Wilton collection are Holbein ("Sir Thomas More's Father"), Andrea del Sarto, Rubens, Titian, N. Poussin, Guido, Lucas van



## WILTON—WINKFIELD

Leyden, Spagnoletti, Parmegiano, Mabuse, Honthorst (a fine portrait of Prince Rupert), Andrea Mantegna, and our own Sir Joshua, who is represented by a portrait of Henry, the tenth earl.

Carpet making in England was first commenced here. The name of a Mr Moody is associated with the early days of the industry, but local authorities trace it at least to 17th-cent days, when persecution drove French and Flemish weavers here, and with an ample supply of wool and water a flourishing trade quickly resulted. A very few years ago things looked very black, and it seemed as if carpet making was to follow "cloth-making" but Lord Pembroke, Lord Radnor and others took the matter in hand, and "Wilton Pile," "Real Axminster," "Saxony Pile," and genuine "Brussels" continue to be turned out in a highly satisfactory manner. Other arts and crafts too have received well-directed encouragement, with exceedingly satisfactory results. Wilton has a great reputation too for its fairs for horses, cattle and sheep. One reads of 100,000 of the last-named being penned at the September fair. "Single Speech Hamilton" was once one of Wilton's M.P.'s. Fanny Burney writes that he got his nickname "from having made one remarkable speech in the House of Commons and received some *douceur* to be silent ever afterwards." She calls him "intelligent, dry, sarcastic and clever," but adds that she was prejudiced against him by hearing that he was "infinitely artful, double and crafty." Poor, double, single-speech Hamilton!

*Winkfield* (2 m. W. from Trowbridge Station) has a small Perp. church, enlarged in 1860. The

## WILTSHIRE

manor-house, Midway, was the residence of General Shrapnel, of "shell" fame, and on the park gates are carved the names of various battles in which the deadly explosive played a conspicuous part.

*Winsleigh-cum-Turley* is on the Somerset border 2 m. W. from Bradford-on-Avon. The church was rebuilt in 1840 but the old tower, isolated, is still preserved. "Danes-bottom," near the church, is said to have been the scene of a battle between Alfred and his foes.

*Winterbourne.* With this as a prefix we have a number of villages and parishes on streams which dry up in summer. *Winterbourne Bassett* (6 m. S. from Wootton Bassett) is just to the W. of the Marlborough Downs and Hackpen Hill. It has an old Dec. church, with Perp. tower and an E.E. font, and some monuments to the Baskervilles. *Winterbourne Monkton* is farther to the S., between the village just named and Avebury, and has a good Trans.-Norm. church, restored by the late Mr Butterfield. The Norm. font and a piscina and indications of former side-altars are to be noticed. *Winterbourne Dauntsey—Earls* and—*Gunner* are on that Bourne that comes down from Pewsey Vale and the Collingbournes. The villages are pretty close together, a little to the S.W. of Porton Station. "Gunner" is a corruption of Gunnora, wife of a Delamere who was here in early Plantagenet days. *Winterbourne Stoke* is on the Plain, 4 m. N. from Wishford Station. It has a cruciform church, Trans.-Norm. and E.E., with some early Dec. work, and has a central embattled tower. The doorways of the nave are Norm.

## WINSLEIGH—WOLFHALL

The piscina and aumbry in the chancel and the Jacobean pulpit are noteworthy.

WINTERSLOW (4 m. S.E. from Porton Station) is a somewhat scattered parish. The ancient manor belonged to John de Roches in early Plantagenet days, and was held on a curious tenure of service which involved making a "pitcher of claret" whenever the king was at the neighbouring palace of Clarendon. Roche Court, at East Winterslow, keeps green the memory of the ancient lords. Sir Benjamin Brodie was born here in 1783. The mansion was burned down in 1774, when the infant Lord Holland had a very narrow escape. *Winterslow Hut*, as the *Pheasant Inn* is still frequently called, is a little to the N. on the old road to Andover. Mr Bradley is wrong in placing it over the Hampshire border, inasmuch as it is a good mile on the Wilts. side. It is interesting from its association with Hazlitt, who spent much of his time at Winterslow, first at a cottage belonging to his wife, who had property here, and later at the inn. Here he was visited by Charles and Mary Lamb, and here he wrote the "Winterslow Essays."

*Wishford (Great)* has a railway station (Wishford). In the church is a monument to Sir Thomas Bonham in pilgrim's garb (1473), and his wife and children, seven of whom, a curious but incredible local tradition says, were born at one birth; and another to Sir Richard Grobham (d. 1629).

WOLFHALL or *Wulfall*, as it is more correctly designated, is in the parish of Grafton. It was the Ulfela of Domesday and came to the Seymours by marriage in Henry VI.'s reign. Sir John Seymour,

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the father of Henry VIII.'s queen, lived here. The wedding, which followed so closely on the execution of Anne Boleyn that the funeral baked meats, if there were any, might easily have furnished forth the marriage table, was said by tradition to have taken place here, but the marriage undoubtedly took place at Hampton Court. Doubtless a great feast in the barn here to celebrate it gave birth to the legend. An entry in some old ledgers dated 1539 speaks of payments to one Cornish the "paynter" "for dyvers colours for making certeyn fretts and antiques on canvas for my Lord's Barn and House at Wulfhaull against the King's coming thether." Aubrey writes of "a very long barne . . . and 3 porches of timber and thacht," and adds: "In this barne, then, 1536, hung with tapistry, was the wedding kept for Queen Jane," which admits of either interpretation. The barn is 172 ft. long by 26 wide. The mansion was partly destroyed at the outbreak of the Great Rebellion, and a considerable portion of the barn, the material going to help in the construction of Tottenham House at Savernake.

*Woodborough* has a station on the Great Western Railway. It is in the Pewsey Vale just S. of the Kennet and Avon Canal, on the banks of which are timber and saw mills and a large manufactory of chemical manures.

*Woodford* is a parish consisting of three villages—Upper, Middle and Lower Woodford. The middle one is 3 m. E. from Wishford Station. The old Norm. church was rebuilt in 1845, with the exception of the tower. *Heale House*, now entirely rebuilt, was one of the places in which

## WOODBORO'—WOOTTON BASSETT

Charles II. hid on his way to the coast after Worcester fight. It belonged to Serjeant Hyde, afterwards Chief Justice, and the priest's hole in which his wife concealed the royal fugitive is still shown. Charles was met at Stonehenge, where, to wile away the time while waiting for his rescuers, he told the stones again and again, and found that, like many of his subjects who had essayed the same task, he could never bring them twice in succession to the same number.

WOOTTON BASSETT is in the N. of the county, some 6 m. W. from Swindon. It has a railway station of its own, and is an old-fashioned, interesting little town, perched on a hill top, in a fine fertile country. It was the wood-town, or town in the wood, belonging to the Bassetts. It is mainly composed of one street, half-a-mile long. It returned two members to Parliament from the middle of the 15th cent. until the passing of the Reform Bill, and Edward Hyde, Lord Clarendon, represented it. The church was restored and greatly enlarged by G. E. Street in 1870, at the instance of the Meux trustees, and the addition of a N. aisle changed the curious original plan of the two aisles with one roof and without a chancel, the old church now serving as a S. aisle. The old panelled roof remains and the staircase to the rood-loft. There is a priest's chamber in the S. porch, the groining also being noteworthy. The town hall was erected in 1700 by Laurence Hyde, Lord Rochester, and restored in 1889. It was presented to the town in 1907 by Lady Meux. It is half-timbered, supported by stone pillars and approached by an oak staircase. The upper room

## WILTSHIRE

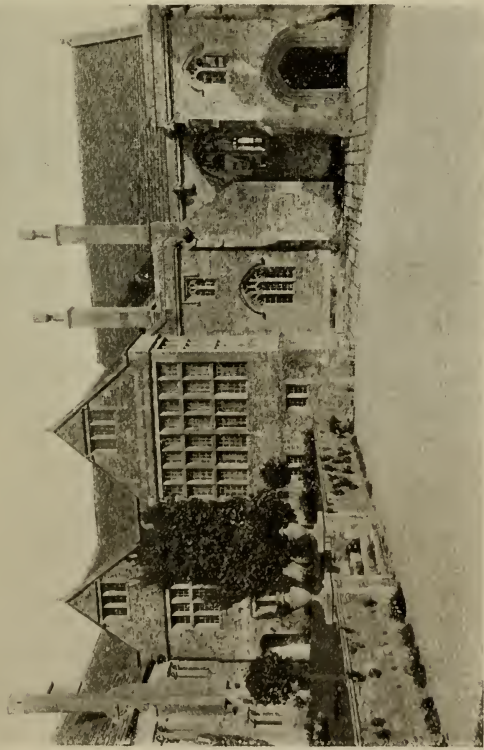
is used as a public library and museum, and is capacious enough to serve for meetings of various kinds.

*Wootton Rivers* ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. W. from Savernake Station) has a small 15th-cent church, restored in 1861 by Mr Street. The sedilia and piscinae in the chancel are noticeable.

*Worton and Marston* is a parish 4 m. S.S.W. from Devizes, but calls for no special comment.

*Wraxall (North)* (5 m. S. from Badminton Station) is near the Gloucester border. The ancient church has some good Norm. work, including the S. porch. The chancel is E.E. and the tower has a saddleback roof. A mortuary of the Methuen family, with various monuments, is here. The remains of an old 15th-cent. house, with an interesting chimney, should be noticed. The church at *Ford* is an excellent modern building designed by Mr C. C. Ponting. The organ was formerly in the chapel of St Mary's Hall, Oxford.

*Wraxall (South)* (3 m. N. from Bradford-on-Avon Station) has an old stone church, early Perp., much debased. The tower has a packsaddle roof, and there are various memorials of the Longs. The glory of the parish, however, is the famous old manor-house, one of the most beautiful and interesting mansions of the kind in the kingdom. It was built by the Longs, the earliest portions—the gate-house on the S. side of the forecourt, with the beautiful oriel window over the entrance, and the little doorway at the side, and the hall with its two-storeyed porch and bays—having probably been erected by Robert Long, who repre-



SOUTH WRAXALL MANOR HOUSE





## WOOTTON RIVERS—WRAXALL

sented the county in Parliament during part of the first half of the 15th cent. Some authorities give an earlier date, but most likely it is the not uncommon case of an older mansion being rebuilt and restored. The beautifully carved-oak screen in the hall and the chimney-piece are of later date (1598). The buildings cover three sides of the court. A covered way leads from the hall to the kitchen, and at the daïs end of the hall were two recesses with windows, one of the latter being now replaced by a doorway. A staircase leads to the great chamber or drawing-room, an enlargement of the original design accomplished by Sir Walter Long very early in the 17th cent. ; it is an exceedingly spacious and beautiful room. The profusely decorated plaster ceiling, covered and ornamented with great pendants, the three-sided stone pier supporting the roof, the upper part cleverly panelled, with niched recesses which form seats, the magnificent stone sculptured fireplace with figures symbolizing Prudence, Justice, Arithmetic and Geometry, a somewhat curious quartet with Pan occupying the centre pedestal, are the striking features of this noble apartment. A short flight of steps formerly led to another room with another fine Jacobean mantelpiece of quaint design. Standing on some stone pillars of early 16th-cent. date, which form a kind of garden cloister, is another beautiful room with yet another fine fireplace. A similar cloister is found in the servants' quarters, and the rooms above have some excellent panelling, including some of linen-fold pattern. Sir Walter Raleigh and Sir Walter Long are said to have been the

## WILTSHIRE

first smokers of tobacco in England, and tradition avers that here, in the guest-chamber, they lit a light which has never since been extinguished.

In 1900 Mr E. Richardson Cox obtained a long lease of this much-neglected manor-house from Mr Long, and at once began a thoroughly conservative treatment of the whole building. The work of restoration, carried out by Mr Martin, a London architect, under Mr Cox's constant supervision, extended over several years; the whole is now habitable and suitably furnished, without the sacrifice of a single feature of value or historic interest. Much attention has also been bestowed upon the old-time gardens and grounds. The house has been worthily described and finely illustrated in *Country Life* (26th March 1904, and 14th January 1905). The interesting remains of an old 14th-cent. hospice, for the lodging of poor travellers, stands near the mansion; it now serves as a farmhouse.

*Wroughton* (3 m. S. from Swindon Station). The old stone church has some memorials to the Benet family. There is a splendid old yew-tree in the churchyard.

*Wylye* has a station on the branch line from Westbury to Salisbury. The old church, mostly Perp., was restored in 1844. There is an interesting E. window, an E.E. triplet. The pinnacled western tower has among its equipment a 16th-cent. bell, inscribed "1587. Give Thanks to God," while another, presumably older, has a cross with "Ave Maria." The old Jacobean pulpit was formerly in the church at Wilton, and was presented to Wylye by Lord Herbert

when he built the new church there. The pre-Reformation chalice preserved among the church plate must not be overlooked. It is hall-marked 1525 and corresponds closely with the examples at Highworth and at Trinity College, Oxford.

*Yarnbury Camp* is on the Plain about 3 m. N.E. from Wylye. It was evidently one of a strong line of fortresses, built not only for the defence of the immediate environment, but to take its part in a general defensive scheme, with Battlesbury, Scratchbury, Knook and other strongholds of the South Plain. It is a great work, circular in form, with triple ditches and double ramparts, the inner ditch being 50 ft. deep. Some of the entrances, notably that towards the S., are in excellent preservation, and the complicated and confusing approaches, with cunning, maze-like intercommunication, are somewhat reminiscent of Maiden Castle.

*Yatesbury* (5 m. E. from Calne) is about 3 m. N.W. from Avebury, over 500 ft. high on the Marlborough Downs. The church, well built of local stone, is Trans.-Norm. with important Perp. additions, including the fine western tower. There is a good Norm. font, some E.E. glass in the nave and a good staircase.

*Yatton Keynell* (4 m. N.W. from Chippenham Station) has a 15th-cent. church, in which the old sculptured rood-screen is a notable feature. Near it a small but very picturesque old manor-house of the 17th cent. claims attention. The porch is well designed, and the curved gables, the pointed arch form used in connexion with the

## WILTSHIRE

window above, and the double string-courses with plain space between are noticeable, and the old staircase of the interior.

*Zeals* (4 m. N. from Gillingham Station) is on the S.W. boundary. *Zeals House*, between the village and *Mere*, is an old seat of the *Chafyns* and *Chafyn Groves*, and has an interesting carved roof. The church is modern.

Colonel E. G. *Troyte-Bullock* is the principal landowner and lord of the manor. The *Zeals* herd of *Herefords* attained a great reputation in the hands of the late Mr *John White*, and cattle therefrom have been exported freely to *Africa*, *America* and the *Antipodes*.

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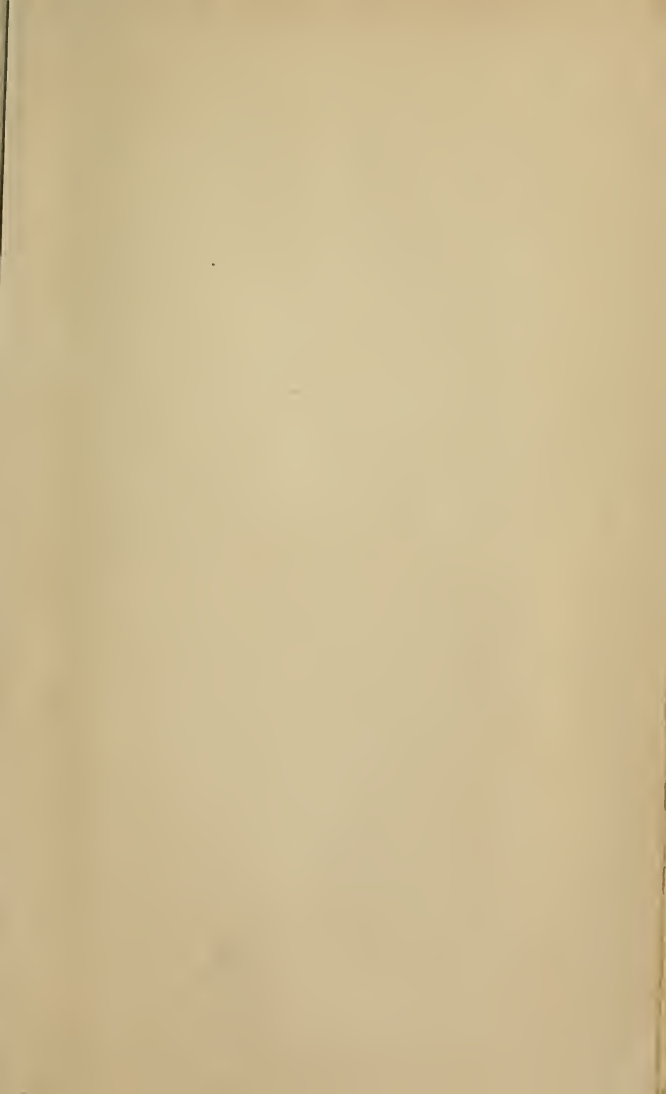
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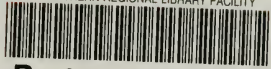
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