

of the barony of Saye, and was held of the Castle of Dover. Through a succession of owners it passed, *temp.* Richard III., to one William Boys of Bonnington, whose descendant, Major Boys, fought under the standard of Charles I., and was punished by the sequestration of his estates, so that his two eldest sons, John and Nicholas, "finding that there was no further abode at Fredville, to which they had become entitled, departed each from thence with a favourite hawk in hand, and became pensioners at the Charter-house in London"—(*Hasted*).

ST. ALBAN'S COURT (W. Hammond, Esq.) lies beyond the village, on low sloping ground. It has been in the Hammond family, with the exception of a brief interval, since the 30th Henry VIII. There are some good pictures here, especially a portrait, painted by Jansen during his residence at Bridge, of a certain Lady Bowyer, a woman of surpassing beauty, whom Walpole speaks of as "the Star of the East" (of Kent?).

Regaining the main Canterbury road, we pass, on our left, pleasant KINGSTONE (population, 310), and leave dull barren hills and breezy heaths for smiling fields and balmy glades; for a country-side,

"Where we may trace each streamlet through the meadow,
Where we can follow every fitful shadow,—
Where we can watch the winds among the corn,
And see the waves along the forest borne"—

where Nature puts on her gentlest aspect, and beams and blooms upon us like a sylvan beauty. To look down from the Canterbury road upon the lowlands beneath, is to gaze upon a truly English picture, one of those fair leafy landscapes familiar to us in the canvas of Inskipp and Creswick. Even the downs have lost their ruggedness, and rear above us their verdurous sides all dappled with flocks of sheep, like ships upon a distant sea. It is here that the Canterbury races are held; and the view from the Course is one which the tourist will enjoy. Roaming over these pleasant heights he will find himself treading in the footprints of the men of legendary England, and many an ancient earthwork and grass-grown tumulus will remind him that he follows in the track of those invincible legionaries who, led by "the great Julius," first flaunted before the eyes of the Celts the dreaded Eagle of Rome.

One of these Roman camps occupies the slope of the hill opposite Kingstone Church, and thence to the westward continues a line of similar military posts, while another line branches to the eastward from Denne Hill. The tumuli in this vicinity were opened by Bryan Fausset, and their contents are included in the collection known by the name of that persevering archaeologist.

KINGSTONE CHURCH has a chancel, a nave, a square western tower, and is dedicated to St. Giles. A monument in the chancel commemorates *John Nethersole*, d. 1546, and there are also memorials to *Robert Deune*, d. 1594, and *John Haslyn*, d. 1600.

The advowson of the rectory, valued at £500 yearly, is in the gift of Sir Brook Bridges.

Crossing through GORSLEY (Gorse-leaf) Wood, we may reach, after a four miles' walk, UPPER HARDRES (population, 303). It gave name to a family settled here soon after the Conquest, which resided at Hardres Court until the death of Sir William Hardres in 1764. The manorial house is now a lonely farmstead. Thomas Hardres was with Henry VIII. at the siege of Boulogne, and was permitted to bear home to Hardres Court the city gates in commemoration of his doughty deed. The king honoured him, on his return, with a visit, and, as a mark of special favour, presented him with his own dagger, which, as well as the Boulogne trophy, was long exhibited here.

The Church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is partly Early English, and has a nave, aisle, transept, chancel, and low flat south tower. It contains numerous memorials of the Hardres, and some painted glass. The rectory, valued at £589, is in the patronage of the numerous representatives of Lady Hardres, widow of Sir William Hardres. With it is associated the curacy of

STELLING (population, 333), a parish adjoining Upper Hardres in the south, and Barham on the west. The villages are about 2 miles apart, across a heath, partly enclosed, known as Stelling Minnis. STELLING CHURCH, dedicated to St. Mary, has a nave, aisle, chancel, and low square tower.

About 3 miles north is LOWER HARDRES (population, 265), on the ancient Stone Street, which may still be traced almost as far as Hythe. The Church, dedicated to St. Mary, is mainly Early English, with a nave, transept, chancel, south aisle, and low-pointed steeple. The font is of Bethersden marble. The rectory, valued at £317, is in the patronage of the Lord Chancellor.

Eleven miles from Dover, and 4 miles from Canterbury, on the banks of the Stour, and in the heart of the pleasant meadows which that "gentle river" enriches and enlivens, is the "hal-
lowed ground" of

BISHOPSBOURNE (population, 341), associated with the honoured memory of the great, erudite, and virtuous Hooker, on whom the living was conferred by Archbishop Whitgift in 1595. In this delightful valley he resided until his death in 1600, and

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so much repute did "his books, and the innocency and sanctity of his life" obtain, that "many turned out of the road, and others, scholars especially, went purposely to see the man." Here he wrote the 5th book of his "Ecclesiastical Polity," which was published in 1597; and finished three others, which were not given to the world until after his death. Previous to this event (November 1600) his house was broken into and robbed. When he was apprised of the occurrence he eagerly inquired whether his books and papers were safe, and being answered in the affirmative, exclaimed, "Then it matters not, for no other loss can trouble me."

The RECTORY has been much modernised since Hooker's time, but a dining-room, with an antique roof of oaken rafters, and a small study adjoining, were probably made use of by him. There is a fine yew hedge in the garden, in whose shade he may often have walked, and, altogether, the "quiet parsonage" is one where a contented solitary, like Hooker, might enjoy to see "God's blessings spring out of his mother-earth, and eat his own bread in peace and privacy."

The CHURCH, dedicated to St. Mary, is a large Perpendicular building, restored about 20 years ago, and containing a nave, north and south aisle, north and south transepts, chancel, and tower-steeple. The east window, of five lights, is blazoned with the arms of Hooker, Canterbury, and Rochester—the latter in commemoration of Bishop Warham, who was rector here from 1619-38. In the chancel is Hooker's monument, presenting his painted bust, with a square cap, ruff, and black gown, surmounted by two angels holding a wreath. It was erected in 1632, by Sir William Cooper, a faithful adherent to Charles I., who was accustomed to speak of Hooker as his "spiritual father"—(*Walton*).

A brass commemorates *John Gibbon*, d. 1617. In the south wall of the nave a recess, above the capital of the pillar opposite the pulpit, formerly contained an image of the Virgin Mary, to whom the Church is dedicated. William Hawte, by his will, in 1462, bequeathed, among other relics, "a piece of the stone on which the archangel Gabriel descended when he saluted her," for the image to rest its feet upon—(*Hasted*).

In the Parish Register are numerous entries in the handwriting both of Hooker and Bishop Warner.

The rectory, valued at £700, is in the patronage of the see of Canterbury, to which, up to the time of Henry VIII., the

manor belonged. Hence the name of the parish . . . BISHOP'S BOURNE (or, stream).

The tourist will find it a pleasant stroll, or drive, through the green glades of BOURNE PARK (M. Bell, Esq.), following the course of the Lesser Stour. Some Saxon *tumuli* were opened, in 1844, on the uplands which rise, with a gentle swell, from among the leafy masses of its groves. To the east lies CHARLTON (F. Curtis, Esq.), at the foot of the hills, well-wooded and plentifully shaded.

Our next point of delay is also in the fair rich valley of the Stour, where the road from Chillham crosses the fantastic "nail-bourne" at the leafy village of

BRIDGE (population, 864), and joins the "Via Alba," or Canterbury road. The view from the surrounding hills over leas, and coppices, over brown cornfields and shadowy hollows, over the fertile lands of Eastern Kent, may safely be commended to the tourist's admiration. BRIDGE PLACE is a handsome seat. BRIDGE CHURCH, dedicated to St. Peter, formerly belonged, as well as the manor of Bridge, to the monks of St. Augustine's, Canterbury, who held so many fat portions of bonny Kent, and supplied so many of its churches. It has some Norman portions, but the building is mainly Early English. It contains a nave, north and south aisles, chancel, transept, and spire steeple. Under an elegant arch, in the north wall of the chancel, lies the recumbent effigy of a man in robes, whose long loose sleeves are furred at the wrists. The hair is long and straight, and a small badge, or clasp, adorns the left breast. Above are two rows of emblematical figures: God the Father, with angels—the Temptation, the Expulsion, and the Murder of Abel. It may commemorate, perhaps, some official attached to the Abbey of St. Augustine. On the opposite wall, east of the south window, is a niche for a lamp or figure, and a scarcely legible inscription in memory of *Jacobus Kasey*, 31 years vicar of Patricxbourne, who d. M.V.C.XXII. West of the south window, notice the sculpture of a skull, with a snake writhing through the hollow eyes, and a hand with outstretched finger pointing towards it, "as if it had been the cause of the person's death." Observe, too, the memorials of *Jane Harfete*, d. 1635; *Elizabeth* (second daughter of Sir Budley Diggs), d. 1645; and *Robert Bargrave*, d. 1649. There is also a monument to the *Baron de Montesquieu*, d. 1823, grandson of the great author of

the "Esprit des Lois." The doorway, on the south side of the chancel, is Norman.

Bridge Vicarage is attached to that of Patrixbourne. United, they are worth £350, and are in the patronage of the Dowager Marchioness of Conyngham. PATRIXBOURNE (population, 264) is easily reached from Bridge. Crossing the high road, and following a pleasant tree-shadowed by-lane that turns off to the right, we gain the village—which clusters upon the north bank of the Lesser Stour—after a few minutes' walk. Here we find ourselves among hop gardens and corn fields, in a fertile and well-cultivated district. The Norman CHURCH, dedicated to St. Mary, is the only object of interest. It is divided into a nave, north and south aisles, transept, and chancel, with a spire-steeple of ordinary height. At the east end of the chancel, observe the three circular-headed windows, surmounted by a rose or Catherine-wheel-window, resembling that at Barfriston. Over the chancel door is a small stone figure, crowned and in armour—intended, perhaps, for St. Michael. The south door of the nave is remarkable. It is richly shrouded in ivy, which has also cast its glittering garniture about the tower, and is ornamented with sculpture of unusual excellence. In the tympanum is a figure of Christ, crowned with a glory of triple rays: underneath his feet lie dragons and a dog. Remark the finish and sharpness of the Caen stone mouldings. As the manor was bestowed by John de Pratis, about 1200, upon his priory of Beaulieu, or De Belle Loco, in Normandy, the Church may have been built by its monks, but we should rather ascribe to it a greater antiquity. The columns and arches in the interior (recently restored under the direction of Mr. G. G. Scott) are certainly Early Norman. The windows are partly filled with Flemish stained glass (mediaeval), and partly with modern.

The Vicarage, a pleasant building, bears the Conyngham crest, carved in stone, over the doorway. The advowson of the living, and the manor, belong to the Conyngham family. The Marchioness's stately mansion, BIFRONS, so called from its double front, is close to the church. It was built about 1775 by the Rev. Edward Taylor, who, "in commendation of his wife, placed this motto on the fore front—*Diruta aedificat uxor bona, aedificata diruit mala*" (a good wife rebuilds that which has been destroyed, a bad wife destroys that which has been builded up).

Crossing the willow-shaded stream, we reach, at $\frac{1}{2}$ mile distant, the little village of BEKESBOURNE (population, 352), which acquired its name from its early Norman lords, the Bekes, who held it of the crown on the tenure of finding one ship for the king, when he passed the seas, and a present to him of three marks. It afterwards belonged to the Priory of Christ Church, Canterbury, and Prior Gulston, *temp.* Henry VII., erected some considerable buildings here, which were purchased, at the epoch of the Dissolution, by Cranmer, and converted into an Archbishopal Palace. To this calm retreat, when persecuted and disgraced, he retired; and apprehending further injuries, concealed his will (it is supposed) behind the wainscot of the gallery, where it was discovered by the Roundheads, who pillaged and partly demolished the palace, at the time of the Civil Wars. Cranmer was removed from hence to Ford. His successor, Archbishop Parker, "who took great delight in its situation," frequently resided here, and "intended further to enlarge it," but died before he could execute his purpose. The ruins now extant are inconsiderable;—the gatehouse and adjacent offices, which survived the violence of the Roundheads, having been converted into a modern building. A stone is preserved, with the following inscription:—"t.c. 1552: Nosce Teipsum et Deum."

BEKESBOURNE CHURCH, dedicated to St. Peter, stands on rising ground; is chiefly Early English, but has some Norman windows. The east windows have only two lights. There are a nave, a chancel, a transept, and low-roofed tower. In the chancel is the effigy of an armed knight, commemorating Sir *Henry Palmer*, d. 1611; and *Nicholas Batteley*, the antiquarian, who held this vicarage from 1685 to 1704, is interred in the nave.

The vicarage, in the patronage of the Archbishop, is valued at £211.

Returning into the Canterbury Road, *via* Patrixbourne, we see on our left, but nearly 2 miles distant, the old settlement of the Natingas, now called

NACKINGTON (population, 140), situated on the highway to Hythe, in the centre of richly-blossomed hop gardens. To the north-west lies HEPINGTON, formerly the residence of a distinguished archæologist, the Rev. Bryan Faussett, d. 1776, whose admirable collection of Saxon relics is now the property of Henry Meyer, Esq., of Liverpool. In this direction ran the ancient