

"With awful veneration shall they trace  
The steps which thou so long before hast trod,  
With reverend wonder view the solemn place  
From whence thy genius soar'd to Nature's God.

"Then some small gem, or moss, or shining ore,  
Departing each shall pilfer, in fond hope  
To please their friends on ev'ry distant shore,  
Boasting a relic from the cave of Pope."

It need scarcely be remarked that the above prophetic lines have been amply fulfilled.

It is said that the original mansion, as left by

Horace Walpole, however, viewed the alterations and enlargements made by Sir William Stanhope in a very different light, and criticised them somewhat severely in a letter which he wrote to his friend Sir Horace Mann, in 1760.

On the death of Sir William Stanhope, the property passed to his son-in-law, the Right Hon. Welbore Ellis (afterwards created Lord Mendip), who seems to have had a special veneration for the poet's memory, and to have guarded with reverence



"POPE'S VILLA." (See p. 110.)

Pope, was humble and confined, and that "veneration for his memory enlarged its dimensions." Upon his decease the estate was sold to Sir William Stanhope, brother of the Earl of Chesterfield. By him the house was enlarged by the addition of wings, and the gardens were also extended by the addition of a piece of ground on the opposite side of the lane, connected with the premises by a second subterraneous passage, over the entrance to which were placed the following lines, from the pen of Lord Clare:—

"The humble roof, the garden's scanty line,  
Ill suit the genius of the bard divine;  
But fancy now displays a fairer scope,  
And Stanhope's plans unfold the soul of Pope."

every memorial, and preserved the house, as far as possible, in its original condition.

Lord Mendip was a worshipper of the muses, and also well known in the political world; and during his occupancy of Pope's Villa the place became celebrated for its fine statuary, marbles, and Oriental vases.

A view of Pope's house (still so called) is given in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1807. It is a tall and spacious mansion, and very different to the humble dwelling of the poet; and the dwelling represents the building as consisting of a centre and wings, whilst a large double flight of stone steps leads up to the centre of the river front. The willow which was planted by Pope figures in the foreground.