

following curious mock epistle in a book of sporting anecdotes, printed at the end of last century, may be of interest to sporting readers even in the present day :—

"AN EPISTLE FROM ECLIPSE TO KING FERGUS.

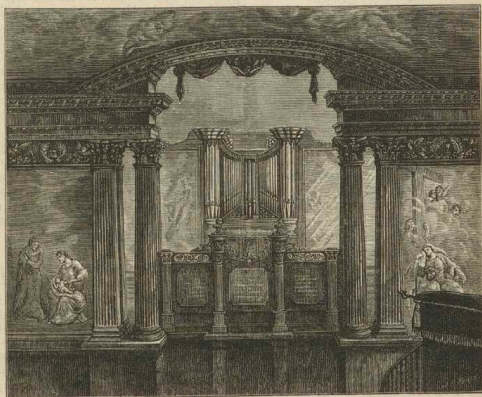
"DEAR SON,—I set out last week from Epsom, and am safe arrived in my new stables at this place. My situation may serve as a lesson to man : I was once the fleetest horse in the world,

the rest of my progeny, will do honour to the name of their grandsire,  
ECLIPSE.

"*Canons, Middlesex.*

"P.S. Myself, Dungannon, Volunteer, and Vertumnus, are all here.—Compliments to the Yorkshire horses."

This noble animal, who performed the feat of galloping a mile in a minute, is said to have been stuffed and kept in the hall. One of his hoofs, set in



WHITCHURCH CHURCH: THE EAST END.

but old age has come upon me, and wonder not, King Fergus, when I tell thee I was drawn in a carriage from Epsom to Canons, being unable to walk even so short a journey. Every horse, as well as every dog, has his day; and I have had mine. I have outlived two worthy masters: the late Duke of Cumberland, that bred me, and the Colonel with whom I have spent my best days, but I must not repine; I am now caressed, not so much for what I can do, but for what I have done, and with the satisfaction of knowing that my present master will never abandon me to the fate of the *high-mettled racer!*

"I am glad to hear, my grandson, Honest Tom, performs so well in Ireland, and trust that he, and

gold, is the property of the Jockey Club, and constitutes a prize annually contended for at Ascot Races, the owner of the winning horse retaining the relic in his possession for a year. The remains of the above famous racehorse are interred in the park of Canons.

The estate was subsequently sold by the nephew of Captain O'Kelly to Sir Thomas Plumer, who was some time Vice-Chancellor of England, and afterwards Master of the Rolls; and the property, after the death of Sir Thomas, remained in the possession of Lady Plumer till her decease. It was next held by Mr. Thomas Hall Plumer, the eldest son of Sir Thomas, and more recently by Mr. David Begg, M.D., since whose death, in 1868, Canons has been owned by his widow.