

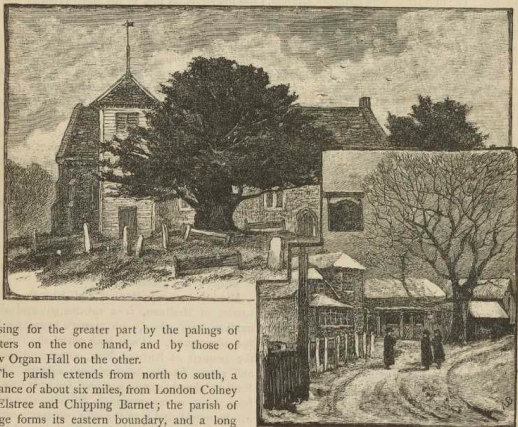
CHAPTER XXXI.

SHENLEY, COLNEY, RIDGE, AND SOUTH MIMMS.

"Per amica silentia campi."—*Lucretius*.

Extent and Population of Shenley—Descent of the Manor—Shenley Hall, or Salisbury—Newberries—Old Organ Hall—Porters—Holmes, otherwise High Caines—The Village of Shenley—The Chapel-of-Ease—The Parish Church—Colney House—London Colney—Tittenhanger—Colney Heath—Ridge—The Parish Church—South Mimms—Census Returns—General Appearance of the Village—The Old North Road—The Manor of South Mimms—The Church—Almshouses—Potter's Bar—Dyham Park—Wrotham Park—Destruction of the Mansion by Fire—Hadley Common—Christ Church.

The village of Shenley lies about two miles east-north-east from Radlett Station on the Midland Railway; the road thither, tortuous, but pleasant, gave "Scenlea" to the above-mentioned monastery, "in perpetual alms;" "but," as Mr. Cussans infers in his "History of Hertfordshire," "as in a charter



SHENLEY CHURCH AND VILLAGE.

passing for the greater part by the palings of Porters on the one hand, and by those of New Organ Hall on the other.

The parish extends from north to south, a distance of about six miles, from London Colney to Elstree and Chipping Barnet; the parish of Ridge forms its eastern boundary, and a long detached strip, belonging to the same parish, occupies the greater portion of its western side.

The number of houses in Shenley parish in 1871 was 301, the population at the same time amounting to 1,380. Of this number, 382 belonged to the ecclesiastical district of Colney St. Peter. During the next decade the number of the inhabitants had slightly diminished.

From an ancient Chartulary, formerly belonging to the Abbey of St. Albans, but now preserved in the British Museum, it appears that before the time of the Conquest one Thurefleda, a pious lady,

of Edward IV. to the abbey (in which the confirmations of grants by previous kings are all recited at length) there is no mention of Shenley, it is probable that the manor, which in Domesday Book is said to have belonged to St. Albans, was the same manor which was afterwards known as Ridge. This supposition is strengthened by the fact that Ridge is not mentioned in Domesday, and that the abbot's manor of Shenley is there described as being in Albaneston Hundred (the Hundred of Cashio), and the other two within the