

of a fine wooded range of hills on the right-hand side of the way. The Crossness Works are perfectly wonderful in their magnitude and comprehensiveness, and are well worth the trouble of visiting; indeed, nearly all noted foreigners who visit England inspect them. They were constructed for the purpose of pumping up the sewage of South London, including all the parishes between Crossness and Putney, an area of sixty-nine square miles. The main sewer at its Richmond end is four feet in diameter, while at Crossness it is eleven feet six inches, and it maintains this size as far as the Deptford pumping-station. It has been said that a heavy mounted dragon could easily ride in it for the entire length of seven-and-a-half miles. Fifty million gallons of sewage daily pass through it. There are three principal branches which discharge at Crossness—namely, the high-level sewer, which brings the sewage of high-standing places like Norwood, Clapham, Tooting, &c.; the Effra branch, from the neighbourhood of the Crystal Palace; and the low-level branch, from the low-lying districts beside the Thames. The whole combined runs down to Crossness, taking up on its way the drainage of Greenwich, Eltham, Lewisham, Charlton, Woolwich, and Plumstead. On its arrival at Crossness the whole is pumped from a depth of twenty-one feet below the marsh into a large brick-covered reservoir, whose inside area is six-and-a-half acres, capable of containing about half-a-day's dry-weather supply of sewage, or 24,000,000 gallons. Night and day this pumping goes on, gangs of men relieving each other at intervals. In the reservoir the sewage awaits the turn of the tide. Then the gates of the reservoir are opened, and the sewage discharged under three hours.

Four engines are employed, each of 125 nominal horse-power, but they are worked up to double that power. The works were formally opened by the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh on April 4th, 1865. The benefits which have resulted from their establishment may be inferred from the fact that the mortality in London now averages from twenty to twenty-two per thousand, while before the works were constructed the death-rate was often double.

East Wickham, about a mile or so inland, and upland too, from Plumstead, is an unimportant hamlet rather than a village. The name of Wickham is derived from its situation by what was at one time the high road to Dover, *wic* signifying a road, or way, and *ham* a dwelling; the prefix East distinguishes it from West Wickham, of which we shall speak in a future chapter. The present Dover road, in its continuation over Shooter's Hill, passes

nearly a mile to the south of the village. Beyond the church, which stands on a little hillock on the east side of the lane from Plumstead, there is nothing in East Wickham to interest or detain the stranger. The land all around is pleasantly diversified with hill and dale, and is mostly under cultivation.

From the "Beauties of England and Wales" we glean the following account of this parish:—"East Wickham formed part of the estates of the ancient family of the Burnells of Shropshire, and Robert Burnell, Bishop of Bath and Wells, who died seized of three-parts of this manor in 1292, had liberty of free warren here. From him it descended by the female line to the families of Handloe and Lovell, of whom was Francis, Viscount Lovell, the zealous adherent of Richard III. He was slain in the battle of Stoke, near Newark, in the third of Henry VII., when this manor, by virtue of an entail made by John de Handloe and Maud Burnell, his wife, in the reign of Edward III., descended to Henry Lovell, Lord Morley, who dying without issue two years afterwards, it escheated to the Crown. Henry VIII. granted it in 1512 to Sir John Petche for sixty years, and in 1514 he gave the reversion to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, whose great-grandson alienated it to John Olyffe, Esq., whose daughter and heiress married John Leigh, Esq., of Addington, in Surrey. . . . The estates being divided in 1767, this manor was allotted to the Bennett family.

"The old manor-house, which had been the residence of the Leighs, and was of the age of Elizabeth, has been pulled down.

"The church is a small ancient building of flint and stone, consisting of a nave and chancel, with a shingled turret rising from the west end of the roof. On a broken slab in the pavement of the chancel is inlaid in brass a cross fleury, containing small busts of a male and female in very ancient French dresses, and on the stem this imperfect inscription in Gothic letters: 'Zohan de Bladigdone et Maud S—'. On another slab, now covered by a pew, are brasses of a man and his three wives, and beneath them an inscription in black letters, from which it appears that the former was a 'Youman of the Garde,' named William Payn, who died in 1568. He is represented in his uniform—a small ruff, short jacket, and trunk hose; at his left side a sword, and on his breast a rose surmounted by a crown."

A curious fresco painting, discovered on the walls of the church, was made the subject of remarks by learned divines and grave antiquarians at a congress of the British Archeological Association at Canterbury some years ago, but the drawing was too far gone to be revived.