

died, and his wife took one Leoffun to husband, who (overliving her) retained the lande as his owne. . . . Hereupon complaint came to one Wulsie, for that time the shyeman, or judge, of the countie (as the same booke interpreteth it), before whom both Dunstane the archbishop, the parties themselves, sundrie other bishops, and a great multitude of the lay people appeared, all by appointment, at Eareth, and there, in the presence of the whole assembly, Dunstane (taking a cross in his hand) made a corporall oath upon the booke of

stands by the river-side, on the edge of the marshes, and was formerly covered with ivy, presenting a most picturesque appearance; but having within the last few years been thoroughly restored, and a north aisle added, it now exhibits a very modern aspect: in fact, almost as modern as the railway-station close by. A figure of the Saviour with extended arms stands above the chancel arch, within the oval of a vesica. In the south aisle will be seen the tomb of Elizabeth, Countess of Shrewsbury, who died in 1568, having been lady of the



ERITH, FROM THE RIVER.

the ecclesiasticall lawes unto the shyeman (which then took it to the king's use, because Leoffun himselfe refused to receive it), and affirmed that the right of these landes was to Christes and to Saint Andrewes. For ratification and credite of which his oath, a thousand other persons (chosen out of East and West Kent, Eastsex, Middlesex, and Sussex) took their oathes also upon the crosse after him. And thus, by this manner of judgement, Christes Church and Saint Andrewes were brought into possession, and Leoffun utterly rejected for ever."

The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is an old stone building in the Later Decorated style, containing nave, aisles, and chancel, and having a short tower and spire, with six bells. It

manor for twenty-four years; while near it is the grave of Colonel Wheatley, another owner. On the south wall of the chancel is a small sun-dial, dated 1643, and bearing the motto, "Redibo tu nunquam."

Elizabeth, Countess of Shrewsbury, we are told, was the mother-in-law of William, Earl of Pembroke, one of Queen Elizabeth's many favourites. He seems, however, to have been rather remiss in his attentions to his royal mistress, for in a letter written by Rowland White to the earl's uncle, Sir Philip Sidney, he is blamed for his "cold and weak manner of pursuing her majesty's favour, having had so good steps to lead him unto it." Perhaps his coldness may be explained by the fact that a pair of brighter eyes had beamed on him at court