

must have done before the Reformation. The fabric is partly of the Early English and partly of the Decorated period, and has many points of interest. The pillars in the nave are round and massive, and might well pass for Norman work; and the windows present some very beautiful examples of geometric and flowing tracery. They are nearly all filled with modern painted glass. In the chancel, within the altar-rails, are two rather good brasses, recording various members of the family of Manning; and on the floor is another, almost unique, on account of its late date, to a merchant named Benjamin Greenwood and his wife. The latter died in

1720, and the former in 1770; the figures upon it are represented in the costume of the period. The chantry, at the east end of the north aisle, is called the Mount Chapel, from having belonged to a family who resided at the Mount, near the present vicarage. It contains a fine piscina and a curious aumbry. The chancel, restored by a member of the Berens family many years ago, contains a fine sedilia and piscina. Another feature of the church is its fine screen-work, which has been carefully restored upon the old lines. The walls of the interior are stencilled

with floriated patterns. There is a hagioscope in the south transept, through which worshippers could see the high altar at the consecration of the host in the old Roman Catholic times.

Until the restoration of the church, about twenty years ago, there was on the south side a wooden porch, with a timbered room over it, forming a curious specimen of a parvise. It was doubtless once used as a dwelling by the resident priest, as it had in it an aperture commanding a view of the interior of the church. The aperture still remains, but the room itself, with its quaint dark timbering, is amongst the things that were.

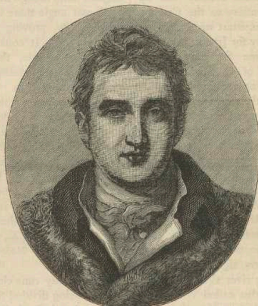
The lych-gate at the entrance to the churchyard is a copy from the old lych-gate at Beckenham. On the north side of the church is a fine old yew-tree.

The manor of St. Mary Cray was formerly in

the possession of the Stanhopes, Earls of Chesterfield, who are said to have lived at The Mount. No traces of the old house are to be found, except the very scanty remains of an outer wall.

Kevington is the name of a subordinate manor in this parish. It belongs to Mr. R. Berens.

St. Mary Cray was formerly included in the Manor of Orpington. The "privilege of a market" was claimed from the authorities by the Prior of Christ Church, Canterbury (to whose monastery the manor then belonged), and for a long period was held each Wednesday in the village; a market-house existing there till blown down in the "great storm" November 26th, 1703, when "in London alone two million pounds sterling of damage was done, and along the coasts over 8,000 seamen were drowned. Twelve warships were sunk, with their crews, and the county of Kent was strewn with thousands of uprooted trees. The Bishop of Bath and Wells was killed in his bed; and amongst other tragic incidents of the storm was the destruction of the Eddystone Lighthouse, with Winstanley, its builder, who, over-confident in the stability of his handiwork, had determined to live or perish with it."



LORD CASTLEREAGH.
(After Sir T. Lawrence, P.R.A.)

Orpington, which adjoins St. Mary Cray on the south, and extends eastward to Swanley, retires gracefully amid richly cultivated scenery, hop-gardens and fruit plantations forming its characteristic features. The village consists chiefly of one long street, which reaches southwards in the direction of the Crays, and might be called "straight" if it were not varied by slight curves, showing that it is only an old bridle-path amplified. On either side are plenty of old-fashioned, substantial houses about the size of common cottages, mostly standing each in its own plot of ground, showing that when they were built space was not so valuable as it is now. Maltings and shops are mixed up in picturesque confusion with the ordinary dwellings; and about the centre of the village is an old manor-house, with red-brick chimneys, tall windows, and heavy roofs, like a French