

connecting the private apartments. These are mostly low, and many of them have their thick walls pierced with the original Tudor-shaped windows. In one of the windows is some painted glass, probably of the fifteenth or sixteenth century, with the old arms of the University of Oxford. The drawing-room, on the first floor, is adorned with tapestry of a Japanese pattern, said to have been brought from Eltham Palace. The gardens attached to the house are laid out after the antique style,

Mayfield Place, a seat on the west side of the village, occupies the site of the small manor of Little Orpington, otherwise Mayfield. "The name of Mayfield, or Mayvil," observes Ireland, in his "History of Kent," "being its most ancient and proper designation, was acquired from a family which formerly held it. Philip de Malevill, or Mayvil, held this manor, in the 13th of King John, of Richard de Rokesley, who held it of the archbishop as the fourth part of a knight's fee; Mal-



FOOT'S CRAY CHURCH.

and appear to be just the place for peacocks to strut about in.

Crofton, a small secluded hamlet about a mile westward of the village, was, according to tradition, a parish of itself in former times, together with a goodly village, which is said to have been destroyed by fire. Crofton Court, the seat of Captain Aylwood, is situated here. No traces of the church, if ever one stood there, now remain.

The private printing-presses of Horace Walpole, at Strawberry Hill, and of Mr. Egerton Brydges, at Lee Priory, were famous in their day; and possibly the time may come when Orpington will be equally celebrated in literary history as the place at which Mr. Ruskin has become his own publisher.

gerius de Rokesle, ancestor of Richard, held it of the archbishop by knight's service in the reign of the Conqueror; and in the general survey of Domesday it was entered under the title of lands held of the archbishop." The property was held by the Rokesleys in the reign of Edward III., and later on by the Peches and Harts, and the knightly family of Tench.

In this neighbourhood—almost alone of all the suburban districts—we come upon those hop-fields—or rather, hop gardens—for which Kent is so famous, and which add so much beauty to the face of nature in the summer and early autumn. A brief account of these, therefore, will not be out of place as a conclusion to the present chapter.