

"What's this for?" inquired the astonished collector, eyeing alternately the mutilated bit of paste-board and the bullet-headed young man, who certainly did his best to look child-like and innocent.

"For meself and me little boy," said the old lady, amiably.

"Ah! how old is he?"

"Tin," replied she, coolly. But perceiving that the dreadful falsehood was not likely to pass

without question, she continued, in explanation, 'Its thrue he looks oulder, collector dear, but that's his misfortshun: sure an' he's outgrewed his stringth.'

"Despite such occasional interruption, in the course of an hour the ragged two thousand had paid their fares, and, ere I left the railway-station, the engine had whistled its consent to bear them into the midst of the pleasant hop-gardens of Kent."

## CHAPTER IX.

### CHISLEHURST.

"One poor moment can suffice  
To equalise the lofty and the low.  
We sail the sea of life—a calm one finds,  
And one a tempest; and, the voyage o'er,  
Death is the quiet haven of us all."

Situation of the Parish, and Derivation of its Name—Its Population—History of the Manor—An Ancient Cock-pit—The Parish Church—St. Mary's Roman Catholic Chapel—Christ Church—Church of the Annunciation—Wesleyan Chapel—St. Mary's Hall—St. Michael's Orphanage—Governesses' Benevolent Institution—Camden Place—William Camden, the Antiquary—Charles Pratt, Lord Camden—The Murder of Mr. and Mrs. Bonar—The ex-Imperial Family of France take up their abode at Camden Place—Death of Napoleon III. and the Prince Imperial—Scadbury—The Family of the Walsinghams—Sir Nicholas Bacon—Frognal—The Seat of the Farringtons.

THE parish of Chislehurst—or Chaslehurst, as the name has been sometimes spelled—adjoins St. Paul's Cray and St. Mary Cray on the west, and stretches away towards Bickley and Bromley; the districts of Sidcup and part of Foot's Cray, which lie to the north-east, are included within its limits. The name is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *Cosil*, or *cessil*, a "pebble," and *hyrst*, a "wood," as appears by the charters in the "Textus Roffensis," and is expressive of its situation among the woods. Mr. James Thorne, in his "Environs of London," observes that "very noticeable beds of water-worn pebbles may be seen by the railway and elsewhere, whilst there are still left woods of some extent on all sides of the village.

The village is situated about half a mile from the Chislehurst Station of the South-Eastern Railway (Tonbridge line), and, with the church and parsonage, stands on the south side of an extensive common, which is nearly in the centre of the parish. In 1821 there were 260 dwellings in the parish, and at the same period a population of about 1,600 souls, a number which has more than doubled itself since then. Chislehurst is generally considered one of the most pleasant and healthiest parishes in the environs of London, and the walks in the neighbourhood are full of beauty. Eastward of the village lies Place Green, and, beyond, Scadbury and the mansion of Frognal, while at the northern extremity is Town Place.

The parish towards the west and north is much covered by coppice-wood, and the soil in general is thin and gravelly.

Chislehurst is bounded by a kind of natural rampart, consisting of a hill beautifully wooded, which may almost be said to separate the suburban from the rural districts. As soon as the train has passed through the tunnel which pierces this hill a scene of the greatest natural beauty bursts at once on the view, so rurally lovely is it that, to use a hackneyed phrase "one might be a hundred miles from London." Beyond beautiful villas look down on the valley of Lower Camden, from which, by a somewhat steep ascent from the railway station, Gummer Hill is reached, where a quaint edifice spans the highway, known as the Water Arch, and originally intended as a communication with a reservoir. On passing through this archway, we find on the right the cricket-field, made in 1823. On the common are many posts composed of whalebone, placed there by a Chislehurst resident who was concerned in the whale fishery. The next object of interest is the entrance to the avenue leading to Camden Place, so intimately connected with the imperial family of France.

The Heath, on the whole, is open and breezy, and though more of table-land and less abrupt in its sides, yet here and there it reminds one of Hampstead Heath. In places encroached seats have been made upon it for the erection of