

panels—notably one opposite to the “Bell” Inn, now occupied by Dr. Beeby, whose name is not unknown as an antiquarian, since he wrote an account of the parish church.

In the High Street was formerly the house occupied by Dr. Hawkesworth. It stood in its own grounds inside heavy gates, the side posts of which were surmounted by globes of stone—possibly in allusion to his world-wide travels. They now adorn the first-floor windows of a corn-chandler's shop. At this house Dr. Johnson must have been a

studied, was yet concisely and appropriately eloquent.” He died in 1773, and was buried at Bromley, a monument being erected to him in the church where he had ministered so often.

The old market-place was a quaint and simple structure, open below, and surmounted by a square roof which rose to a high pitch. To this market-place nearly all the streets of the town, including the two halves of the High Street, converge as a centre, showing that the grant of a market already mentioned is of ancient date.



BICKLEY, FROM THE DISTANCE.

frequent visitor; and it was probably his personal attachment to the traveller that led Dr. Johnson to bury his wife at Bromley—unless, perhaps, it was that he did not wish to have her too near Mrs. Thrale, at Streatham.

Dr. Hawkesworth was born about 1715. He is best known as the editor of the *Advertiser*, but he also contributed largely to the *Gentleman's Magazine*, published some tales, edited the works of Swift, translated “Telemachus,” and wrote an account of Captain Cook's voyages. In his boyhood he was one of the few pupils who attended Johnson's school. Dr. Drake, in his “Essays,” delivers the following judgment upon his literary merits:—“His imagination was fertile and brilliant, his diction pure, elegant, and unaffected . . . his manners were polished and affable, and his conversation has been described as uncommonly fascinating—as combining instruction and entertainment with a flow of words, which, though un-

The present Town Hall was erected at the expense of Mr. Coles Child, the lord of the manor, in 1865, upon the site of the old market-house. It is a somewhat showy red brick building, of modern Gothic or Elizabethan design: it stands in the centre of the Market Square, and contains—besides a large room for public meetings, concerts, &c.—offices occupied by the London and County Bank, the Literary Institution, and the police-station.

A charter was granted by John Lowe, Bishop of Rochester, in 1447, for the holding of a market here once a week, and although several attempts have been made to do away with it, the rights and privileges of the charter have been stoutly and suc-