

Lord Farnborough—better known, perhaps, by his former name of Sir Charles Long—was well known in the world of art, and one of the most accomplished and popular noblemen of his time. A native of Carshalton, he was born in 1761, and he was for many years in Parliament, as member successively for Rye, Midhurst, Wendover, and Haslemere. Under Mr. Pitt he held office as one of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, and he was later on appointed Secretary of State for Ireland, and subsequently nominated Paymaster-General, a post which he held for some years. He was raised to the peerage in 1826, and he was for many years chairman of the committee for the inspection of national monuments, and also a trustee of the British and Hunterian Museums and of the National Gallery. Lord Farnborough's gallery of pictures was one of the most celebrated in the country. Along with Sir Robert Peel, he was one of the founders of the National Gallery, to which institution he bequeathed fifteen of his paintings, comprising specimens of the Dutch, Flemish, and Italian schools. "Lord Farnborough," writes his biographer in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, "was a person of considerable taste and accomplishment, particularly in painting. Sir Benjamin Hobhouse, in some debate, called him the 'Vitruvius of the present age.' He printed a pamphlet, we believe for private circulation, on the projected improvements and alterations then proposed to be carried into effect in the metropolis. The title is 'Remarks on the Improvements in London, 1826.' He was also the author of a sketch of the character of Pitt, which he wrote for Gifford's *Life of that great statesman*. . . . In the drawing-room at Bromley Hill is one of the last marble busts that Canova ever executed, and a beautiful statue of Flora, by Westmacott, is in the entrance-hall. He was held in much esteem by George III., and with his successor he was in habits of more familiar intercourse, and was consulted by him on all subjects connected with the improvement of the royal palaces and their internal decorations, and the purchase of pictures, &c."

His beautiful domain at Bromley Hill, the creation of himself and his accomplished lady, was purchased by him towards the end of the last century, at which time it possessed nothing to distinguish it from the ordinary class of suburban villas, beyond the advantage of being in the close vicinity to the favourite retreat of Mr. Pitt, Holwood Hill, in the parish of Keston. For nearly forty years Lord Farnborough found a delightful recreation in adorning and heightening

its natural beauties. The little lodge on the Beckenham road is from a joint design of himself and Lady Farnborough. Lord Farnborough died in 1838, when his title became extinct. He lies buried at Wormley, Herts, by the side of his wife, who pre-deceased him about a twelvemonth. His property was divided among his nephews, the Bromley Hill estate falling to the lot of Colonel Long, of the Guards, who resided here till his death, in 1881. A portrait of Lord Farnborough, engraved by Picart from a drawing by H. Edridge, was published in 1810 in "Cadell's Contemporary Portraits."

Opposite Bromley Hill is a road leading to the suburb of Plaistow, which is pleasantly situated in the midst of green lanes and meadows. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is built of flint, with Bath stone dressings.

Plaistow Lodge and Park, the residence of Lord Kinnaird, lie close by the village. For several years the property was owned by the Boyd family, who did much towards its improvement by restoring the mansion and laying out the grounds. "During the latter part of the last century," writes the author of Unwin's "Guide to Bromley and its Neighbourhood," "this property belonged to a gentleman named Thellusson, who by his will ordered his trustees to purchase land with his fortune; and in the event of there being no male heir from his immediate descendants, after three generations the whole of the property was to be sold, and the proceeds devoted towards the liquidation of the National Debt. This, however, has not been acted upon yet, as the male representatives have always made good their claim." This extraordinary will was mooted before the House of Lords, and finally confirmed by that branch of the legislature in June, 1805; an Act of Parliament was, however, subsequently passed to interdict in future any accumulation of property so devised beyond the term of twenty-one years after the death of the testator.

On the east side of the hamlet of Plaistow, and to the north-east of Bromley, is Sundridge Park, the seat of Sir Edward Henry Scott. Sundridge is a manor, and was formerly the residence of a noted family named Blund, or Blount, anciently lords of Guisnes, in France. They came to England with the Conqueror, and from them the several families of Blount in this kingdom are descended. Of a younger branch was Peter le Blund, owner of this place in the reign of Henry III., in the thirty-ninth year of whose reign he was made Constable of the Tower of London. His descendant, Edward le Blund, was possessed of Sundridge in the twentieth