

At Catford Bridge is a mill and a small public, "The Ravensbourne"; above the name is the sign of a magpie. The bar and adjoining parlour are worth inspection on account of some curious prints and rude paintings on the wall panels, apparently descriptive of the events in the campaign against Napoleon in Egypt under Sir Ralph Abercrombie.

In Catford was a manor belonging to the Abels of Erith. The Abels were succeeded by the Lords Montacute, from whom it passed by marriage to the Nevills, whose arms, we are told in the Villare Cantianun, were to be seen painted in glass on the houses hereabouts. The manor appears in later times to have been vested in the Palsteds, Annesleys, Harveys, and Wildgooses.



OLD TIMBER HOUSE AT BECKENHAM.

## CHAPTER XI.

### BECKENHAM AND THE RIVER RAVENSBOURNE.

Beckenham—The Ravensbourne—Old Houses—Early History—The Church and its Monuments—Shortlands—Langley Park—Lord Auckland—Eden Farm.

LEAVING behind us the pleasant green meadows of Catford, and following the windings of the Ravensbourne in a southerly direction for a mile or two, as it flows almost side by side with the high road, we now make our way towards Beckenham, passing *en route* through the hamlet of South End, whence a roadway branching off to the right leads direct to Beckenham. At South End, the above-mentioned stream forms a pretty little lake, flowing round an

island popularly called Jack Cade's Island, "from a tradition that the celebrated rebel of that name used to find shelter in its cover." This, by the way, is the origin of the sign of the "Jack" Inn and tea gardens at Brockley—still a quaint riverside tavern.

Between South End and Bromley is a small almshouse with chapel attached.

The property about here belongs to Major