

levels. At two miles below Lewisham, the Ravensbourne becomes a tidal river, from its connection with the Thames. Instead of green fields and rich pastures and leafy glens, its waters, polluted by all kinds of filth, now flow past mills and sheds and dingy factories, till presently the waters lose themselves in those of the Thames. Rising on a healthy, breezy moorland, in the depths of the country, the Ravensbourne terminates its career in mud and filth, and amidst grimy wharfs and dingy factories. Yet the whole distance from its source to its termination is not more than about ten miles as the crow flies, and possibly not more than fifteen in all its meanderings. And yet few streams, considering their length, present greater attractions to the wandering artist."

To the right of the road through South End, and connected with it by South End Lane, lies Lower Sydenham, a district which may be said to have sprung into existence since the building of the Crystal Palace at Upper Sydenham.\* The place possesses the advantage of a railway-station on the Mid Kent line, but it is of too modern a growth to have a history. The parish of St. Michael and All Angels, in this district, was formed in 1879, out of the parishes of St. Bartholomew, Christ Church, Forest Hill, and Lewisham. The church, built of stone in the Perpendicular style, and consisting of a nave and chancel, was erected a few years previously. Mr. J. B. Buckstone, the comedian, lived for some time at Lower Sydenham, and died there in 1879. Mr. Buckstone was for many years lessee and manager of the Haymarket Theatre, where he was the life and soul of his company. He will not easily be forgotten for his performance of "Tony Lumpkin," "Bob Acres," &c.

In Cooke's "Topography of Kent" the following description of the Sydenham waters is given:—"The hamlet of Sydenham, about one mile north from Beckenham, has considerably increased in its population and prosperity, through the discovery of some medicinal purging waters in it, which, from their proximity to Dulwich, bear the name of Dulwich Wells, though there are some of the same kind in that parish of an inferior quality, and not so plentiful in quantity. These springs are at the foot of a hill, about twelve in number. The hole dug is about nine feet deep, and the water about half-a-yard deep when emptied every day. The bottom is a loam, as is the hill, and when the water issues in, is found the *lapis lutoso vitriolicus*, which glitters with vitriolic sparks, and is divided into parcels by the *trichitis*. This water purges

very quick; it is bitter, like the Epsom waters, and curdles with soap or milk."

Mr. John Scott Russell, the eminent civil engineer, of whom we have already spoken as the builder of the *Great Eastern* steamship,\* was for some time a resident here. He was one of the founders of the Institution of Naval Architects, and the author of a large and costly treatise on "The Modern System of Naval Architecture for Commerce and War;" and he was also one of the three original promoters of the Great Exhibition of 1851, who, under the direction of the late Prince Consort, planned and organised its preliminary arrangements. As a ship-builder, Mr. Scott Russell was led to investigate the laws by which water opposes resistance to the motion of floating bodies, and he established the existence of the "wave of translation," on which he founded his "wave system" of construction of ships, introduced into practice in 1835. It may be of interest to add that Mr. Scott Russell's daughters sat for the picture of the Departure of the Roman Legionaries from Britain, by J. E. Millais, R.A., which was exhibited in the Royal Academy about ten years ago.

Here, too, for many years lived Sir George Grove, the first Secretary of the Crystal Palace Company. Like Mr. Scott Russell, Sir George Grove commenced life as a civil engineer, and in that capacity superintended the carrying out of some works in Jamaica and Bermuda, and also in connection with the Chester and Holyhead Railway and the Britannia Bridge. In 1850 he succeeded Mr. Scott Russell as secretary of the Society of Arts. He received the honour of knighthood in 1883. Sir George Grove is a man of great and varied accomplishments, and the editor of a "Dictionary of Music and Musicians." He is also Director of the Royal College of Music.

Penge, which adjoins Lower Sydenham, and lies just over the boundary-line which separates Kent from Surrey, to the north-west of Beckenham, is, in reality, a detached hamlet of Battersea, but from which it has been separated into a distinct parish for ecclesiastical and poor-law purposes. Half a century ago there was scarcely a house in the locality; but such has been its growth since that time, and particularly during the last quarter of a century, that it can now boast of a population of more than 18,000 souls. The Crystal Palace at Sydenham lies really within this hamlet; but the history and associations of that place belong so essentially to London proper, that they will be

\* See "Old and New London," Vol VI., p. 305.

\* See Vol. I., p. 544.