

different times variously spelt—as Hesa, Hease, Heisey, Hays, Heasse, Hesse, and Hese.

The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a small building, constructed of hammered flint and stone, and consisting of a chancel and nave, with an embattled tower, surmounted by an octagonal shingled spire at the west end. The architecture is of the late Early English period, but some of the windows are new, and filled with painted glass. The floor of the church is laid throughout with encaustic tiles, and the roof is of plain timber. It was restored and entirely renovated by the late Sir Gilbert Scott in 1861-2. Here were long preserved the banners and hatchments borne at the public funeral of the Earl of Chatham, till they fell to pieces half a century ago. William Pitt the younger, the "heaven-born" minister of George III., was baptised in Hayes Church, and Bruce, the African traveller, was married there. Among the memorials here are half-length brasses of three former rectors: John Osteler, Sir John Andrew, and Sir John Heygese (1523). There are also several monuments to members of the family of Scotts, baronets, afterwards of Cheshunt. There is also a monument to Sir Stephen Scott, Gentleman Pensioner to Charles I., and a mural tablet to Sir Vicary Gibbs, Chief Baron of the Exchequer and Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, who died in 1820.

On a brass plate fixed in a stone was the following whimsical inscription, which is preserved in Thorpe's "Registrum Roffense":—

"Who faine would lyve, he must not feare to dye; death is  
the waie  
That leads to lief, and glorious joyes that tryumphes over  
chaie;  
Come, poore, bewalle this want; come, friends, lament and  
saie with me  
This man did dye to lyve, and lyves, though dead his body  
be.  
Full xviii yeares a rector heere he was, and then John Hoare,  
Unweild, deceast one thousand yeeres fyve hundred eightie  
fower,  
The xi daie of Februarie  
When he had lyv'd iv score and three."

Hayes is a rectory in the diocese of Canterbury, and in the rural deanery of West Dartford. The patronage formerly vested in the rectors of Orpington, but is now in the gift of the Archbishop. The register dates from 1539.

On the site now covered by the church was formerly a Roman structure, possibly a temple in the wood—a mute memorial of the occupation of the victorious eagles of one of the Caesars. When the church was restored, in 1861-2, several stones, undoubtedly of Roman make, were discovered.

Hayes has always possessed many excellent

charities, various bequests having been made from time to time by well-to-do residents to the poor of the parish. We may instance the following, recorded by Lysons, in his "Environs of London," as an example—quaint record as it is of a Protestant's practical gratitude for deliverance from "Papisty":—"Sir Samuel Lennard, Knt., in 1617, gave forty shillings per annum to be distributed on the anniversary of the Popish plot, among such forty poor persons as should be present at a sermon to be preached on that occasion at West Wickham Church, ten of the said poor persons to be of the parish of Hayes."

At the "George" Inn, near the church, is a signboard, said to have been executed by Millais in his early days, and to have represented St. George and the Dragon. However that may have been once, the sign can no longer be deciphered. It may have been painted for a freak, or possibly in payment for a score.

Hayes Place, close by the church, was the favourite residence and "retreat" of the great Lord Chatham, and although much altered and disguised by modern improvements, which have made it one of the most comfortable and pleasant of Italian mansions, it still retains much identity with the Hayes of a century ago. It stands near the middle of the village, in large grounds sloping towards Bromley, and is screened from the road by a long brick wall. The trees in the grounds are very fine, especially the ilex. It is said that one of these trees was planted by Nelson; but this tradition is transparently abroad, as Lord Chatham died when Nelson was a boy. Many of the trees were planted by the elder Pitt's own hand, and all of them under his eye; for it is on record that whenever he could steal away from London and the Court or Council Board, he would betake himself to Hayes, and begin planting at almost any season of the year. Lord Stanhope tells us that he would carry on his labour after sundown by torch-light, as his impatient temper could brook no delay, even in the lesser matters of every-day life. In his "Anecdote Biography," John Timbs, the patient and plodding antiquarian, writes:—"His favourite residence was Hayes Place, a small villa and park in a picturesque district of Kent, where a succession of woodland scenery and rural landscape never fails to remind the tourist that he is in one of the most beautiful portions of England."

Hasted, the Kentish historian, tells us but little of the early history of the place. He merely says that it was "formerly a seat of the Scotts, and that it was purchased from the Harrisons by Mr. Pitt." He gives the date of the purchase as 1757; but