

into the vale of Keston, I resolved to give notice, on a fit occasion, in the House of Commons of my intention to bring forward the abolition of the slave-trade." The seat, with the inscription, was erected by Lord Stanhope in 1862. What advances has the great cause of humanity made in the matter of foreign slavery since Wilberforce gave notice of his memorable motion!

This famous tree, which has long been known as "Pitt's Oak" and the "Wilberforce Oak," and has latterly acquired the name of the "Emancipation Oak," was visited by Bishop Wilberforce in 1862. The following extract from his "Diary" records the fact:—"Examined the Wilberforce Oak. Saw Mr. Pitt's old carter-boy, now eighty-two, and clear in his remembrance. 'Mr. Pitt,' he said, 'took in from the farm the ground sloping below the oak; he planted all except the old oaks. He used to get the trees from Brompton; I used to go in the cart for them. He was very particular about the planting. He was a very nice sort of man, and would do what any one asked him in one way or another.'"

Holwood House stands high, and is approached by a long straight drive between ferns and bracken, whilst on either side—

"The beeches cast
A deeper, browner shade."

The hall and the sitting-rooms are lofty and spacious, and thoroughly comfortable; and Lord Derby, who has purchased the place recently, doubtless finds it less oppressively grand and far more home-like than his northern palace at Knowsley. All that remains indoors to tell the visitor that Pitt lived here is an old-fashioned writing-table of mahogany, with a black leather top, which was formerly used by the "heaven-born" minister, and at which probably many State papers were written by him. It is by no means an article of taste, but decidedly meant for use; and it is allowed to remain as Pitt left it. Two mahogany doors, in different rooms of the house, are said to be survivors from Pitt's old house here. The view from the windows is delightful, reaching to Cudham and Downe, where we shall presently find the houses of Sir John Lubbock and Charles Darwin. There is a view of Holwood as it was in Pitt's time in the *European Magazine* for the year 1800.

Mr. T. Raikes, in his amusing "Diary," mentions having often been a visitor, as a boy, along with his father, at Holwood, and describes Pitt's library with the low deep arm-chair in which the great statesman used to sit, when he came back from London harassed and weary, and the shelf

of well-thumbed classics—Pitt's favourite companions—that hung over it.

In Hone's "Table Book" we find the following notes respecting Pitt's residence at Holwood:—"While Holwood was in the possession of Mr. Pitt, he there seemed to enjoy the short cessations he could obtain from official duty. His chief delight in these spare hours was planting, which, as he pursued it only as opportunity enabled him, was without system of purchase or order of arrangement, and consequently very expensive."

The following account of Holwood is extracted from the "Patrician":—"The present mansion occupies the place of the old house, which was pulled down in 1823. The latter was a small, old, plastered brick building, but had long been tenanted by various gentlemen who delighted in fox-hunting, at a time when the Duke of Grafton kept a pack of hounds in this neighbourhood. It afterwards came into the hands of the late Mr. Calcraft, and served as a house of rendezvous for the heads of one of the parties which at that time divided the House of Commons. From Mr. Calcraft it passed into the possession of the Burrell family; by them it was sold to Captain Ross, and purchased of him by Mr. Burrow, nephew of the late Sir James Burrow, who succeeded the house, added greatly to the grounds by various purchases, grubbed and converted considerable woods into beautiful pasture and pieces of water, and planted those ornamental shrubberies which rendered it so justly admired. An eminent shipbuilder, named Randall, purchased it of Mr. Burrow, and he afterwards disposed of it to the Right Hon. William Pitt, who was a native of the adjoining parish, and under whose own personal superintendence most of the oriental plantations were made which rendered the park so justly admired. As to the interior, the house underwent no other alteration than the addition of a small drawing-room covered with pantiles, and facing the whole with a curious new invented stucco. Mr. Decimus Burton has preserved a sketch of this old house, such as it was when taken down to make room for the new mansion, and which, as connected with the history of this great statesman, may hereafter be an object of interest. The history and structure of the modern building may be thus described:—It was erected in the year 1825, from the designs and under the personal superintendence of Decimus Burton, Esq, architect. The exterior presents a uniform architectural elevation in the Grecian style; the walls faced with the light-coloured bricks from Southampton; the columns, pilasters, entablatures, window-dressings, and the plinth of solid Portland stone.