

must take it as a part of the general growth of London, and, so viewed, it rises almost to the dignity of a natural law. All that we can ask is that some limits may be assigned to it—that some spots of ground here and there may be kept sacred from intrusion, and may be protected from the flood which is overwhelming all around them.”

Caterham Valley is just within the range of the Metropolitan Police area, and, therefore, within the limits assigned to this work. Here is Marden Park, the seat of Sir William R. Clayton. John Evelyn stayed here in 1700, being “received by his host and hostess with great civility.” He gives the history of the first beginnings of this seat in his “Diary,” under date July 13th, 1700:—“I went to Marden, which was originally a barren warren, bought by Sir Richard Clayton, who built there a pretty house, and made such alteration by planting not only an infinite store of the best fruit, but so chang’d the natural situation of the hill, valleys, and solitary mountains about it, that it rather represented some foreign country, which would produce spontaneously pines, firs, cypresses, yew, holly, and juniper. They were come to their perfect growth, with walks, mazes, &c., amongst them, and were preserv’d with the utmost care, so that I, who had seen it some years before in its naked and barren condition, was in admiration of it. The land was bought of Sir John Evelyn, of Godstone, and was thus improv’d for pleasure and retirement by the vast charge and industry of this opulent citizen.”

In Brayley’s “History of Surrey” is the following record of the early history of Caterham:—“In the reign of King John the Manor of Caterham, with the advowson of the church, was given by Everard de Gaist to the abbot and convent of Waltham, who, in 37 Henry III., obtained a grant of the right of free warren in Katerham, which was confirmed by charter of Richard II. in 1389. After the dissolution of the monastery,

this manor falling into the hands of the king, he conveyed it, by patent dated 1545, to William Savill, Esq., with the rectory, the advowson of the vicarage, and a farm at Chaldon which had belonged to the Abbot of Waltham. After numerous transfers, in 1780 the estate was purchased by a Mr. Hewetson. It appears from the *Inquisitiones post mortem* that in the reign of Edward I. Sir John Haunsard died seized of ‘a manor of Katerham, held of the honour of Banstead;’ and in the twenty-ninth of the same reign Hamo de Gatton and Margery, his wife, held a tenement and one carucate of land in Caterham. But whether either or both of these notices refer to this manor is uncertain.” The manor was afterwards held by the Bests, Richbells, and Jordans, and about the commencement of the last century it was purchased by Sir Isaac Shard, who held his first manorial court here in 1726. The monastery of Leeds, in Kent, had a grant of a fair in Caterham in the reign of Edward I.

There is not much of interest in the village of Caterham. The old parish church, dedicated to St. Lawrence, dates from the Early English period, but numerous repairs and alterations have so far altered its appearance that most of its architectural interest is lost. In the outskirts of the village are some fine quarries of stone for building purposes, and also many new mansions and villas, one of which has been for some time the residence of Lord Sherbrooke, better known by his former name as the Right Hon. Robert Lowe. Far away on the rising ground to the west of the village stands the Metropolitan District Imbecile Asylum, an extensive red brick structure, and erected on the pavilion system, half-a-dozen blocks being devoted to males on one side, and as many to females on the other, connected by covered corridors, the recreation hall and the various administrative offices occupying the central block.

CHAPTER XVII.

CROYDON—EARLY HISTORY, ETC.

“Indictum neque enim fas est taciturneque reliqui
Hanc, qui tot populi pervolat ora, locum.”—CLAUDIAN.

Situation and Early History—Etymology of Name—Discovery of Coins—Historical Associations—The Old and New Churches of St. John the Baptist—Destruction and Rebuilding—Monuments and Epitaphs—Mural Painting in the Church—Register—Dr. William Cleiver and the Highwayman.

HITHERTO, since we turned our backs on Waltham Abbey and Barking, and crossed the Thames, we have found no town or place of venerable antiquity to describe, but when we near Croydon, we feel

that, however modern its present appearance may be, we are approaching a place once famous as the dwelling of holy men of old, some of whom at all events have gained high places in the calendar of