

come our *crook* and *crooked*. This term accurately describes the locality. It is a *crooked*, or *winding valley*, a reference to the valley which runs in an oblique and serpentine course from Godstone to Croydon. The Anglo-Saxon *g* is equivalent to our *y*; and thus the name was pronounced in 962 exactly as it is now, with the substitution only in the final syllable of the letter *o* for the diphthong *æ*, a very common and venial corruption. In any question relating to the meaning of names, the most ancient form of spelling them ought to have great weight.

dunes, that surrounded it, the first syllable points to *croix*, a cross, as lying at its origin. It was the town of the cross—the town where the Christian faith was known, professed, and preached; it is to be hoped was practised also. It was not a military station; not a seat of trade or commerce; but a seat of religion. As such it could not fail to attract to it such converts as were made in the pagan districts that surrounded it; and so in very early days became populous. Mr. M. F. Tupper and Mr. Thorne suggest a more prosaic derivation



OLD CROYDON CHURCH, 1785. (See page 153.)

In the entry in "Domesday Book" relative to the manor, the Normans spelt its name *Croindene*; hence, Garrow supposed that the term originated in the union of two Saxon words—*crone*, "sheep," and *dene*, "a valley"—sheep-valley. Ducarel considered that the name Croydon was derived from the old Norman-French word *cray*, or *craine*, "chalk," and the Saxon *dun*, "a hill," meaning a town near the chalk-hill; but this surmise is open to the objection that long ere the Norman language could have so prevailed the place was known, as we have seen, almost by its present name."

Croydon is a religious town, for, whether the final syllable be only "town" in disguise, or whether it be derived from the *denes*, *dennes*, or

of the name, viz., *croie*, chalk. As was generally the case with old ecclesiastical towns, the parish is most extensive, being, as we have already seen, no less than thirty-six miles in circuit.

A curious discovery of remains of the old Saxon rule was made at Croydon in June, 1862. In the course of constructing the railway from West Croydon to Balham, the excavators found, at about two feet below the surface, what they called a stone coffin, without a lid. On attempting to unearth their "find" it crumbled to pieces, but among the *débris* was discovered a bag, full of something, which eventually turned out to be a mass of discoloured, but very perfectly preserved, silver coins of the Saxon period. Among them were coins of Ælthelred and