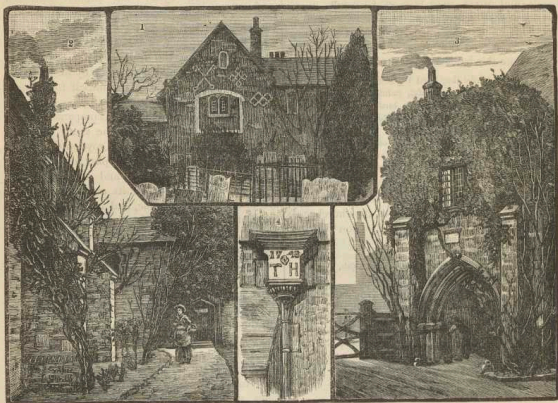


issued an order that parish registers should be kept throughout the kingdom. Croydon seems to have been a healthy place, for we find recorded the deaths of five centenarians, of whom one, Margaret Ford, reached the age of 105 years. Among the entries of burials we find the names of Whitgift, "Gelbert Sheldon," Dr. Wake, Dr. Potter, and Dr. Herring, Archbishops of Canterbury, and "My Lady Scudamore," the aunt of the poet Edmund Waller.

1612 (September 20th).—By Archbishop Abbott, assisted by John (King), Bishop of London; Richard (Neile), Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, and John (Buckeridge), Bishop of Rochester, Miles Smith, D.D., Bishop of Gloucester.

This church appears to have been singularly unfortunate in its career. In the year 1417 the sacred edifice was polluted by bloodshed—possibly accidental, or in some popular affray, for the country at that date was at peace. At all



BITS OF CROYDON PALACE.

1. West End of the Palace Chapel. 2. Buttresses of the North Side of the Chapel. 3. Porch to the Great Hall of the Palace, North Side. 4. From the South Side of Great Hall.

The following bishops were consecrated in Croydon Church :—

1534 (April 19th).—By Archbishop Cranmer, Thomas Goodrich, D.D., Bishop of Ely, and John Capon, *alias* Salcot, LL.D., late Abbot of Hide, Bishop of Bangor.

1541 (September 25th).—By the same archbishop: John Wakeman, last Abbot of Tewkesbury, and first Bishop of Gloucester.

1551 (August 30th).—By the same archbishop: John Scory, D.D., Bishop of Rochester, and Miles Coverdale, Bishop of Exeter.

1591 (August 29th).—By Archbishop Whitgift: Gervase Babington, D.D., Bishop of Llandaff.

events, we find Archbishop Chicheley, in the February of that year, issuing a commission to another ecclesiastic to "reconcile" the church and churchyard.

During the fanatical outbreak of the Great Rebellion, the notorious "Will Dowsing," the iconoclast of the Eastern Counties, found his counterpart at Croydon; for Aubrey tells us in his "Antiquities of Surrey,"* that "one Bleese was hired, for half-a-crown a day, to break the painted windows, which were formerly fine."

On the 25th of December, 1639, a violent storm

* Vol. II., p. 30.