

Dean Hook tells us that throughout his career the hospitality of Warham was conducted on a scale of almost royal magnificence; 200 bishops, dukes, earls, and gentlemen of lower degree, occasionally feasted in his hall. He spent no less than £30,000 in repairing and beautifying the different episcopal homes of the see, and at the time of his death left but £30 in his coffers—"satis viatici ad caelum," as he reverently remarked. He was a great friend of Erasmus, and a funny story is told about a horse which that prelate presented to him. "Erasmus," says Hook, "forgetful of the proverb not to look a gift-horse in the mouth, thus writes to acknowledge the gift: 'I have received a horse from you not so handsome as virtuous; he is free from all the mortal sins save gluttony and incorrigible laziness; he has all the virtues of a good confessor, pious, prudent, humbly modest, sober, and quiet; he bites nobody, he never kicks. I expect there has been some roguery, and another horse sent to what you intended. I have given no directions to my groom, only if a handsomer and better one comes he may change the saddle and bridle.'" Warham's career was for a time overshadowed by the ambitious insolence of Cardinal Wolsey, but he asserted successfully the pre-eminence of the see of Canterbury over York, which was at one time threatened.

To him succeeded Cramer, the first Protestant archbishop, the last who burnt heretics, and the first and last who was burnt alive, and the first married one since the Conquest. His wife was a German, smuggled into England, so says report, in a large box full of holes.

Queen Elizabeth, many years after, looked with little favour upon the marriage of an archbishop, and affronted Matthew Parker's wife after dining at her table. Archbishop Parker entertained Queen Elizabeth at Croydon Palace for seven days in 1573, and it is probable that she visited him again in the following year. Miss Agnes Strickland writes, in her "Lives of the Queens of England":—"The learned Primate, his comptroller, secretaries, and chamberers, were at their wits' ends where and how to find sleeping accommodation for her Majesty, and her numerous train of ladies and officers of State on this occasion. There is a pitiful letter, signed J. Bowyer, appended to a list of these illustrious guests, for whom suitable dormitories could not be assigned, in which he says, 'For the Queen's waiters I cannot find any convenient rooms to place them in, but I will do the best I can to place them elsewhere, if it will please you, sir, that I do remove them; the grooms of the privy chamber, nor Mr. Drury, have no other way

to their chambers but to pass through that where my Lady Oxford should come. I cannot then tell where to place Mr. Hatton; and for my Lady Carewe there is no place with a chimney for her, but that she must lay abroad by Mrs. A. Parry and the rest of the privy chamber. For Mrs. Skelton there are no rooms with a chimney; I shall stay one chamber without for her. Here is as much as I am able to do in this house. From Croydon."

Not long after the execution of Mary Queen of Scots Elizabeth sent for the French ambassador to dine with her at Croydon Palace, when she introduced him playfully to her ministers, saying, "Here is the man who wanted to get me murdered!" at the same time acquitting both him and the French king of any real complicity in the plot.

Parker's successor in the Archbishopric was Whitgift, a name closely associated with Croydon, and the founder of its hospital, of which we shall come to speak presently. It is to be hoped that the tomb of this great benefactor to the town is not always to remain in its present neglected condition. After him came Bancroft, 1604-10, and then Abbot, a native of Guildford, and founder of the hospital there still known by his name. He was the last of the sportsmen among the primates; his accidental killing of a keeper with his cross-bow while deer-stalking at Bramshill, in Hampshire, was atoned for by a monthly fast and a handsome provision for the man's family. His successor was Laud, who was frequently here, both when Bishop of London and afterwards, when Archbishop of Canterbury. Croydon is often mentioned in his "Diary;" and from his "house at Croydon," the archbishop, as Chancellor, addresses many of his letters regulating the internal arrangements of the University of Oxford. Laud was beheaded in 1645, after which the see of Canterbury was vacant for fifteen years, and was conferred at the Restoration upon Juxon, who had attended Charles I. on the scaffold. Gilbert Sheldon is known by the noble theatre at Oxford which bears his name. He was Chancellor of the University from 1667 to 1669, an office which Laud had held before him, but no Churchman has held since. Sancroft, deprived in 1691, and Tillotson, who filled his place, were both promoted from the deanery of St. Paul's. Archbishop Tenison, appointed in 1694, lived throughout Queen Anne's reign. Herring and Hutton were both translated from York, as were Grindal in former and Longley in later times. In 1754 we find Archbishop Herring writing as follows with reference to Croydon Palace:—"I love this old house, and am desirous of amusing myself with the history of its