

At one time there was in front of the mansion a long and straight canal, after the formal fashion of the day, but this has long been filled up and levelled, and the Wandle flows through the park after its own sweet will, though, to say the truth, not quite so winding and doubling as formerly, for its bed was dammed up and altered by Mr. Bridges, and it now flows, like the river in Horace, *doctus iter melius*, or at least *rectius*.

But before proceeding with a detailed account of the house and its illustrious owners, it will be as well to say a few words concerning the early history of the place. Beddington, then, appears to have been a Roman station, and, according to Kemble, to have derived its name from being the "Town of the Beddingas." A writer in the *Penny Magazine*, however, remarks that if any reliance is to be placed on the etymology of the word, it signifies "the first lodging-place or stage out of London; Bedding, in Saxon, signifying a bed or lodging."

In Domesday Book the name of this parish is written *Bedentone*, and it is described as containing two manors, which appear to correspond with those afterwards called Home-Beddington, or West Court, and Huscarle's Manor. Within this parish, also, are the Manor of Wallington, which gave name to the hundred, and the reputed Manors of Bandon, or Foresters, Freres, and the Archbishop of Nazareth's. Brayley, in his "History of Surrey," says that in the reign of Edward III. the Archbishop of Nazareth demised his "Manor of Beddington" to John Burgeys, citizen of London, for thirteen years; but Manning, with much probability, considers that this was nothing more than a house belonging to the Archbishop, "the houses of the religious (ecclesiastics) being at that time frequently called manors."

Within this parish, and especially at Woodcote, numerous vestiges of Roman occupation, in the shape of urns and other relics, have been at different times discovered—the Roman Stane Street is thought to have passed through Beddington; but if so, no traces of it are now left. Some antiquaries believe that it passed from Ockley, through Woodcote, to Streatham.

Here, in 1871, the foundations of a Roman villa were laid bare by workmen who were forming an irrigation canal. Evidences of Celtic occupation, too, have presented themselves, in the shape of flint implements, which have been at different times turned up. Not only Celts and Romans have left their traces behind them, but Anglo-Saxon coins, urns, and implements, have also been dug up here.

Talbot, the commentator on the "Itinerary" of Antoninus, supposes Beddington to have been the

site of the station called *Noviomagus*, and Camden and other learned antiquarians have advanced the same opinion; but this, after all, is at best problematical, and, indeed, highly improbable.

The Manor of Home-Beddington, as we learn from Brayley's "Surrey," was held, prior to the Conquest, by the family of De Wateville, of Richard de Tonbridge. The manor is described in Domesday Book as containing "a church; five bondmen, and two mills at 40s., and 24 acres of meadow." Subsequently the De Watevilles, by purchase or otherwise, obtained full possession of the manor, and held it immediately of the Crown by the service of "rendering annually a wooden crossbow." Towards the end of the twelfth century the property had fallen into the hands of the king, but was afterwards held by the respective families of De Fontibus and De Ess. Henry III., in 1245, granted to Raimond de Laik, or Lucas, and his heirs, "all the lands in Beddington formerly held by the family of Eys, or Ess, to hold by the service of presenting a wooden bow at Pentecost." Later on some irregularities took place in the transfer of the manor—first to Thomas de Brayton, clerk, and secondly to Richard de Wyloghby, or Willoughby, senior; and in 1345 the king granted his pardon for an alienation without licence, on the payment of a fine of 100s. Sir Richard de Willoughby had an only daughter, Lucy, who was married first to Sir Thomas Huscarle, and secondly to Nicholas Carreu, to the latter of whom, and his heirs, the fee-simple of this manor was alienated by his wife's father about the year 1360, it being then of the annual value of 100 shillings. Shortly afterwards Carreu purchased the other manor, called Huscarles; thenceforth both manors became consolidated, and, with a short interval, they were held by the Carreu family down to a very recent period.

The parish of Beddington is situated on the south bank of the Wandle, which here flows due west. It bears the reputation of being very healthy, and has produced more than one centenarian: the register records the death of one William Stuart, or "Old Scott," as he was called, who had seen his 110th birthday, when he was buried early in 1705, so that he had lived in three centuries. In the churchyard, too, is the tomb of an old huntsman of the Carews, who died in the service of that family—which he entered in his boyhood—at the age of 105. In spite of its healthiness, however, Beddington did not escape the plague of 1665, when eleven of its parishioners died.

The village, which contains but scattered houses, and can scarcely boast of a main street, lies about