

At all events, it has its public hall, which is made to do duty as a Nonconformist chapel on Sundays.

A railway station on the London and Brighton line was opened here in 1868. When excavations were made for the railway through the hill on the road to Sutton, a number of relics of ancient weapons were found. They were, however, unfortunately disposed of at once by the workmen to strangers.

Stone Court, used as a rectory, north of the church, is an old mansion, shut in from the road by red-brick walls and an outer porch. The river runs through its lawn. The original mansion was pulled down about 1800; but the outer buildings, with porter's lodge, are still standing, and are occupied as a rectory. The estate appears to have belonged to Bartholomew, Lord Berghershe, who in the reign of Edward III. obtained a grant of the right of free-warren for "the whole of his demesne lands in Kersalton." It afterwards belonged to the Gaynesfords of Crowhurst, and from them was called Gaynesfords' Place. "Nicholas Gaynesford, Sheriff of Surrey in 38 Henry VI.," writes Brayley, "was a partisan of the house of York, and was appointed an Esquire of the Body to Edward IV. on his accession to the throne; but having incurred suspicion of treason against the new king, a writ was issued for the seizure of his Manor of Burghershe, alias Kersalton, and also that of Shalford Clifford, which Edward had bestowed on him. He recovered possession of the former estate, though not of the latter; and he repeatedly held the office of Sheriff of Surrey in the reigns of Edward IV. and Richard III. After the accession of Henry VII., he acquired the favour of that prince, who made him one of the Esquires of his body; and he was one of the principal attendants on the queen in her procession from the Tower to Westminster, previously to her coronation. Henry Gaynesford, who held this estate in 38 Henry VIII., alienated about 300 acres to Sir Roger Coply; he also demised the site of the Manor of Stone Court to Walter Lambard for ninety-nine years, reserving a rent of twelve pence. Lambard erected a handsome house here, which had been the property of Sir Henry Burton, and afterwards of Joseph Cator, who in 1729 sold it to Thomas Scawen, Esq.; and the trustees of his son, James Scawen, transferred it by sale to William Andrews, Esq., in 1781." The house retained the name of Gaynesfords' Place till it was pulled down as above stated.

Carshalton Park, belonging to a family named Walker, is a large white house standing in exclusive grounds, surrounded by a wall of red brick, enclosing a deer-park, which is said to be nearly two

miles round. Aubrey writes of it in 1718:—"Near the church stands a handsome old house belonging to Sir William Scawen, and behind it a fine garden, adorned with fish-ponds and reservoirs of water, also a long and pleasant walk of orange and lime trees, and a wilderness." Carshalton House, with which the name of Dr. Radcliffe is associated, "follows suit," though its area is smaller; and half a dozen of the other middle-sized mansions have aped their prouder neighbours. The village therefore wears an air of seclusion and respectability.

Carshalton House occupies the site of a residence built by the celebrated Dr. Radcliffe, the founder of the Radcliffe Library at Oxford, and it stands at the south-west end of the village, on the road towards Sutton. It is not, however, the same house which the Court physician inhabited, for that was pulled down shortly after his death by his successor in the estate, Sir James Fellowes, Bart., a man who had made money as a director of the South Sea scheme in 1724, and whose stately marble monument blocks up the east window of the north aisle of the church.

The house is a tall red-brick mansion of the Dutch type, not unlike the most ornamental parts of Kensington Palace, and three storeys high. It stands in its own grounds. When first built, after the prevailing fashion of the time, his house was much frequented by "the quality," who flocked to its owner's garden fêtes, and admired its square formal gardens and trim parterres, which they paraded "in hoops of monstrous size." It requires but a slight effort of fancy to conjure up again, in this reign of Victoria, the picture of the "garden parties" of the reign of George III.

The house has seen some changes since that day. It was the favourite suburban residence of the great Lord Hardwicke while he sat on the woolsack; here he entertained his learned brethren of the law, Lords Somers, Macclesfield, and Talbot, and most of the celebrities of his time. Lord Hardwicke held the seals from 1737 to 1756. He was the son of an attorney at Dover, and rose to the highest legal post by his own industry and merits. He was a man of unflinching integrity in a corrupt age, and scarcely any name stands higher than his as a legal authority. It is said that scarcely one of his judicial decisions was reversed on appeal.

Mr. Thorne, in his "Environs of London," draws attention to "the lofty and peculiar summer-house—like the mansion, of red brick—by the eastern wall as a relique of South Sea garden architecture;" but it scarcely differs from those in the river-side mansions about Twickenham and