

preserve unimpaired all its rural characteristics, it is yet close enough to suit the requirements of those who have to transact business in the great city. Indeed, as a suburban residence, it is admittedly one of the most agreeable and convenient in the neighbourhood of London. The surrounding country is very attractive. The eye of the true lover of Nature delights to dwell on a landscape in which hill and dale, wood and water, are picturesquely diversified, and his satisfaction is not lessened by any gruesome reflection that beneath this mask of beauty lie hidden, in occult and treacherous concealment, the insidious germs of disease and death. On the contrary, Sutton enjoys the inestimable advantage of being unusually salubrious. Its pure air, at once soft and bracing, is eminently promotive of health, and the soil is equally favourable to excellent hygienic conditions."

Sutton has little or no literary history. The earliest mention of the place is stated to be in connection with Chertsey Abbey, of which the abbot and convent held the manor before the Conquest. The "Domesday Book" record of the same is as follows:—"The Abbey holds *Sudtone*. In the time of King Edward it was assessed at 30 hides; now at 8½ hides. The arable land amounts to 15 carucates. There are 2 carucates in the demesne, twenty-one villians, and four cottars, with 13 carucates. There are two churches and two bondmen, and 2 acres of meadow. The wood yields ten swine. In the time of King Edward it was valued at £20; now at £15." Thus, then, it would appear that in those far-off days the value of the manor was rather on the decrease than improving; and in spite of its scanty population there were "two churches and two bondmen." "This reference to two churches," it has been observed, "has much puzzled chroniclers. Some have suggested that Sutton and Cheam may originally have formed one parish, but this cannot have been the case *then*, since the same 'Domesday Book' gives a full account of Cheam Manor and Church, the former belonging to the Archbishop of Canterbury. No traces of any other than the present are now to be found, nor does Brayley, or Manning, or Lysons, speak of any."

The Manor of Sutton, sometimes called Sutton Abbot, continued for many years in the hands of its monastic proprietors, who, we are told, as "lords of the fee," had a right to erect "a gallows, a pillory, and a cucking-stool." In 1538 the Manors of Sutton, Epsom, Coulsdon, and Horley, were "purchased" of the Abbot of

Chertsey by Henry VIII., who, in the same year, granted them to one of his courtiers, Sir Nicholas Carew, of Beddington. As to whether the terms of the "purchase" were such as to satisfy the worthy abbot, or whether the disposal of his right in the manor was altogether a voluntary act on his part, history is silent; but in view of the ordinary procedure of the "royal tyrant" as regards religious houses, "it is not improbable that the abbot, making a merit of necessity, was content to accept a slender consideration to avoid the more disagreeable alternative of absolute confiscation." The manor appears to have remained in the hands of the Carew family only a short time, for on the attainder of Sir Nicholas it escheated to the Crown. It was, however, subsequently granted to that noble family, and was given by Sir Francis Carew to his grand-nephew, Sir Robert D'Arcy, who died in 1625. John Evelyn records in October, 1632, a visit which he paid to Lady D'Arcy at Sutton, on his way between Beddington and his brother's home at Wootton. Lady D'Arcy was the mother of the gentleman who married Evelyn's sister.

The manor must have again reverted to the Crown, for in 1663 Charles II. granted it, together with the advowson of the church, to Jerome Weston, Earl of Portland, whose brother and ultimate successor, Thomas, in 1669, sold Sutton to Sir Robert Long, from whom it was shortly after purchased by Sir Richard Mason. He died in 1685, leaving two daughters his co-heiresses, one of whom by marriage conveyed the property to the family of Brownlowe; and in 1716 Sir John Brownlowe sold it to Captain Henry Cliffe, of the East India Company's service. His second son, Henry, who had inherited the manorial property on the death of his elder brother, left at his decease, in 1761, an only daughter and heiress, Margaretta Eleyнора, who conveyed it in marriage to Mr. Thomas Hatch, of New Windsor. That gentleman died in the year 1822, and was succeeded by his son, the Rev. Thomas Hatch, some time Rector of Walton-on-Thames, the late lord, and also the patron of the church, the advowson having generally gone with the manor.

In 1845 (the same year in which the railway was opened), as we learn from the local guide above quoted, "the manor was acquired by Thomas Alcock, Esq., and from that date a great change in the prospects of Sutton began to be apparent. At the commencement of the eighteenth century Epsom rose to its greatest fame for its medicinal waters, and became the resort of Queen Anne and the nobility; and when, at the close of