

the same century, Brighton became a place of fashionable resort, Sutton was lively with traffic. Within the memory of many of the older inhabitants now living, more than twenty coaches were to be seen going up or down in a day, besides the heavier traffic of carriers' waggons, many of which carried loads of mackerel in season to the metropolis. But with the advent, in the year stated, of railway communications, those elements of traffic and activity were substituted for others of a more important character. Enterprise received a new impulse. Mr. Alcock recognised the altered conditions. He immediately laid out a large portion of the parish with good roads, and re-sold parcels of land to the National Freehold, the Perpetual, the Government Clerks, and other land and investment societies, under whose operation private individuals were enabled to become the owners of freeholds in their own rights." Mr. Alcock not only thus materially contributed to give to Sutton its modern reputation as a suburban place of residence, but subscribed largely towards the cost of rebuilding the parish church, and was at the expense of building and endowing a church and schools in the adjacent district of Benhlilton. Before his death, which occurred in 1865, the whole of Mr. Alcock's Sutton estate had been disposed of for building purposes.

It may be mentioned here that a canal joining the Wey and the Arun passes through Sutton, but its traffic has much declined since the introduction of railways.

The parish church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, was rebuilt in 1864, at a cost of about £6,000. Its predecessor, a much smaller building, is described by Brayley, in 1800, as "a small structure, consisting of a nave and chancel, only 60 feet in length and 36½ feet in breadth." "The chancel," he adds, "is raised three steps. A wooden tower at the west end was taken down many years ago, and its place supplied with a square embattled one of brick, in which are two bells."

When Hone visited Sutton, in 1831, he saw the old church standing in all its unrestored charm, and on entering, found it "upholden in wondrous good repair," for that period at least, "and not barren of remarkables." Amongst these, the first object that arrested his attention was "Dame Dorothy Brownlow's gorgeous marble monument beside the altar." "She is represented," he continues, "in a recumbent posture, with three sorrowing infants about her and four cherubs above, in a sort of dish of hasty pudding, garnished with slices of gilt gingerbread." He mentions that on the north wall there was formerly an inscription, soliciting the prayers of the faithful for the repose of the

soul of William Foul, and Alice, his mother; but, alas! it had already gone the way of all monuments. Lysons, in his account of the church (1792), gives the inscription thus:—

"PRI. PUR. WILLELM. FOUL. ALICIE. MAT. . . . ILLIS,"

which he takes to mean, "Pray for William Foul, and Alice, his mother," though there is great doubt as to the fourth word. There is now no trace of this inscription; and Brayley and Britton state that the window referred to had been removed some years ago, and a larger one fixed in its place.

The present church, which was built from the designs of Mr. Edwin Nash, is about double the size of its predecessor, and in the Gothic style, with the exception of the spire, which is scarcely in harmony with the other parts of the structure. The walls are of flint, with stone dressings, and at the west end is a square tower, surmounted by a shingled spire, the high-pitched red-tiled roofs contrasting prettily with the dark flint walls and white stone dressings. The building consists of a nave, aisles, and chancel, the latter being separated from the nave by a semi-screen of light and ornamental iron-work, partially painted and gilded, between pillars of polished Cornish marble. The reredos, of alabaster and stone, is carved with a design taken from the vision of the Apocalypse. The church contains some handsome monuments, especially to the Talbot family, who resided in this neighbourhood and that of Dorking. There is also a handsome monument to Lady Dorothy Brownlowe, "wife of Sir William Brownlowe, of Belton, in the county of Lincoln, Bart., eldest daughter and co-heiress of Sir Richard Mason, knight, and Clerk Controller of the Green Cloth to King Charles and James II., and of Dame Ann, his wife," who died in 1699-70. The monument of William, Earl Talbot, son of the Lord Chancellor, and High Steward of the Household, who died in 1782, consists of a pyramid of black marble, with the armorial bearings of the Talbot family in white, together with the motto, "Humani nihil alienum." Isaac Littlebury, the translator of Herodotus, was buried here in 1710, and is commemorated by a tablet. He was a "son of Mr. Thomas Littlebury, the famous bookseller of Little Britain." In the north aisle is a tablet to the memory of Thomas Newte, the author of a work entitled, "Prospects and Observations on a Tour in England and Scotland." In the south-west corner of the churchyard is a monument to James Gibson, a citizen of London. It is an enormous rude mass of Portland stone, with rustic work at the corners and an urn at the top.