same time as the pioneer of cultivation and civilisation. It lies between two lines of railways, and far away from any railway station, considering that as we walk across it we are within fifteen miles of Charing Cross, and are approaching one of the assize towns of Surrey. In fact, it may be doubtless whether one in ten of our readers has heard of Chessington, or Talworth, or even Long Ditton. For between two and three miles this desert-like stretch of open country is traversed by an arm or feeder of the Hog's-mill or Ewell River, which, as we have stated in a previous chapter, unites with the Thames at Kingston.

Chessington, or, as it used to be called, Chesingdon, lies between Malden and Epsom, about three miles north-west from the latter town, and is a perpetual curacy, held along with the living of Malden, and therefore in the patronage of Merton College, Oxford. It lies so remote from railways and from the populous haunts of men, that its name is probably unknown to many of those who live at Croydon, Epsom, and Kingston-on-Thames. It is a quiet little village, extremely secluded, if not exactly the proverbial "five miles from anywhere." It consists of a church, the rectory adjoining it, and four or five small houses. From the churchyard is gained a lovely view of hill, vale, and down, with here and there a house peeping from sheltering trees. Few particulars of its church are given in either Manning's or in Brayley's "History of Surrey." The latter merely records the fact that "it originally consisted of a nave and chancel, and a small south transept, with a square wooden turret rising from the roof." In 1854 the fabric was "restored," and at the cost of nearly £2,000, Early English arches and windows being inserted in the place of square, wooden-framed windows which formerly gave light, and the building was lengthened. In the south wall of the chancel is an old piscina, and "in one of the chancel pews," writes Brayley, "is a small piece of oaken lattice-work, probably the remains of a confessional." The edifice consists of a nave, side aisle, and chancel. It is in the pointed Gothic style, with one of the insignificant spires so frequent in this part of Surrey. There are one or two small stained glass windows and an American organ. On the north wall is a tablet to the memory of Samuel Crisp, of Chiswick, with the following panegyric composed by C. Burney :—

"Reader, this cold and humble spot contains
The much lamented, much revered, remains
Of one whose wisdom, learning, taste, and sense,
Good-humoured wit and wide benevolence,
Cheered and enlightened all this hamlet round
Whenever genius, worth, or want was found.
To few it is that courteous Heaven imparts
Such depth of knowledge and such taste in arts,
Such penetration and enchanting pow'rs
Of bright'ning social and convivial hours.
Had he through life been blest by nature kind
With health robust of body as of mind,
With skill to serve and charm mankind so great
In arts, in science, letters, Church or State,
His name the nation's annals had enrolled,
And virtues to remotest ages told."

On each side of the east window is a beautiful fresco painting, the subjects being "The Annunciation" and "The Adoration of the Magi." Beneath the window is an elegantly-carved reredos.

In the vestry is another tablet, which records a benefactor to the parish: Henry Smith, Alderman of London, who died in the year 1621, and who in his lifetime gave to trustees a large portion of his real and personal estate for charitable uses here and elsewhere in Surrey.

From the estates of Worth and Balcomb, in the county of Sussex, the churchwardens receive annually certain moneys, to be distributed in meat, bread, or clothing among such poor persons as have resided in the parish for five years and bear a good moral character.

Near a small stream to the south of the church is an eminence which is evidently artificial, and which, with some four or five acres adjoining, is still called the Castle Hill, though all traces of a castle have long been effaced. It would seem, however, that Chessington was occupied by the Romans; at all events, a large brass coin of the Empire was found there some years since.

There were here two manors, the one of which belonged to Richard de Tonbridge, and is thus described in "Domesday Book":—"Robert de Wateville holds of Richard Cisendone what was held by Erding of King Edward. It was then assessed at five hides; now at only half a hide. The arable land consists of two carucates. There are three 'villains' (*villani*) and one bordar, with one carucate. There is half a mill, valued at two shillings. The wood feeds thirty swine. In the time of King Edward the manor was estimated at £4, afterwards at 40s., and now at 70s." Apparently another manor of the same name existed here as well, for we read in "Domesday Book" that "Milo Crispin himself holds Cisedune, which Magno Swert held in the time of King Edward. It was then assessed at five hides; now at one hide. Wigot had not possession of it when King William came into England. The arable land amounts to three carucates. The land lay in Bedinton; it was in the tenure of villains. Now there is one carucate in demesne, and six villains, with two caru-