

is somewhat peculiar in construction, having more the appearance of sedilia. The upper part is embattled, and ornamented with sculptured flowers, quatrefoils, &c., in the cornice and fascia, but the lower part is divided into two by low pointed arched recesses. Each of the recesses affords room for a human figure, from which circumstance, and from a small aperture being left in the separating wall, observes Brayley, it has been supposed that this monument was used in the Catholic times as a confessional. In one of the recesses is a large brass plate, engraved with a representation of a man in armour and his wife, each of whom is kneeling before a small altar whereon is an open book. In the centre is a coat-of-arms, with helmet, crest, and motto. On one side is Forde, with six sons, and on the other his wife, with eleven daughters. Erasmus Forde was treasurer to King Edward VI., and died in the year 1553, and his wife, Julyan, died six years later.

In the chancel are two or three other interesting brasses, notably one to William Notte and his wife, who died in 1576 and 1587 respectively, with their nineteen children—fourteen sons and five daughters. Their quiver also was full to overflowing.

Another brass is engraved with the small whole-length figures of a woman standing between two men in gowns, with their respective children, and underneath an inscription, stating that "Here within do rest the Bodyes" of Cuthbert Blakeden, serjeant of the confectionery to Henry VIII., John Boothe, one of the gentlemen ushers to Henry VIII. and Edward VI., and Juliana, "some time the wyf of the said Cuthbert and John," and who died in the year 1586.

On the south side of the chancel is a brass plate to the memory of Mr. Charles J. Corbett, of Imber Court, who died in 1882. A monument, with bust, commemorates Colonel Sidney Godolphin, Governor of the Scilly Isles, "who, after quitting the army, sat in Parliament for nearly fifty years as member for different constituencies in Cornwall, and who died, "the Father of the House of Commons," in 1732. There is also a memorial of Admiral Lambert, who died in 1836; and another, with medallion, to Vice-Admiral Rowley Lambert, C.B., who died in 1880.

Near the church are some well-built schools, and there are also almshouses for twelve poor persons. Six of the houses were founded early in the last century by Mr. Henry Bridges, of Imber Court.

William and Mary Howitt, the authors of "The Ruined Abbeys and Castles of Great Britain," the "Literature and Romance of Modern Europe," and of several works on country life, &c., lived for

some time in this village. They have been mentioned at greater length in OLD AND NEW LONDON, under "Highgate."*

In the *Archæological Journal*, Vol. XIX. (1862), p. 364, are figured a long iron spear-head and some bronze weapons, in good preservation, which were found in the bed of the river at Thames Ditton, and which were presented to the British Museum by Lord Lovelace.

Boyle Farm was the residence of Lord De Ros, and afterwards of Lord St. Leonards, who retired hither when weary of his duties as Lord Chancellor. Here he sowed and planted; here he entertained his legal and political friends, the chief of whom was Mr. Samuel Warren, Q.C., the author of "Ten Thousand a Year." The house is a large brick building, mostly covered with stucco, and, with its gables and battlements, has a picturesque appearance, particularly the older part, which fronts the river. The grounds, which descend to the water-side, are extensive, and well planted with trees, among them being some remarkably fine cedars.

Mr. Tupper speaks of Boyle Farm with almost a sneer, as "a place of some note, especially to aristocratical haymakers." We shall see presently why he does so.

The house was at one time occupied by Lord Henry Fitzgerald, brother to the Lord Edward Fitzgerald so deeply implicated in the Irish rebellion of 1798. Lord Henry married, in 1792, Charlotte, Baroness de Ros, to whose family the property belonged.

Horace Walpole, in a letter to the Earl of Stratford, dated from Strawberry Hill, July 28, 1787, writes:—"Mrs. Walsingham is making her house at Ditton (now baptized Boyle Farm) very orthodox. Her daughter, Miss Boyle, who has real genius, has carved three tablets in marble with boys, designed by herself. These sculptures are for a chimney-piece; and she is painting panels in grotesque for the library, with pilasters of glass in black and gold." The Miss Boyle above referred to became in her own right Baroness de Ros, and married, as stated above, Lord Henry Fitzgerald.

In 1827 Boyle Farm became celebrated for a very gorgeous fête, somewhat after the style of that which took place at The Oaks, near Epsom.† It was given by five young men of fashion, one of whom was the son of Lady de Ros.

In the "Life and Correspondence of Thomas Slingsby Duncombe," edited by his son, in the chapter devoted to "Dinner-givers and Diners-out,"

* See "Old and New London," Vol. V., p. 412. † See *ante*, p. 239.