

and death, and contains this memorable passage :—

'RESPECT HER GRAVE, FOR SHE MINISTERED TO THE POOR.'

It is in the churchyard ; a cypress flourishes at the head of the grave. Not long after the death of her mother Anna Maria was laid by her side. . . . While at Esher the sisters were in the wane of life, but having good health, and still occasionally writing, enjoying honourable repose, having obtained a large amount of fame, and being in easy and comfortable circumstances. Anna Maria, although the youngest, died first, Jane surviving her sister several years."

The old church, dedicated to St. George, has been left standing chiefly on account of the monuments which it contains. It is situated at the back of the "Bear" Inn, on the east side of the main street. It is small, consisting of a nave and chancel, with a projection on the south side, built by the Duke of Newcastle to contain the private sittings of the owners of Clarendon and Esher Place. Among the monuments preserved here is one, by Flaxman, to the Hon. Mrs. Ellis, of Clarendon, who died in 1803. Over the altar is a picture of the Saviour, which was painted by Sir R. Ker Porter, brother of the sisters Jane and Anna Maria mentioned above, the tomb of whose mother, "Jane Porter, a Christian widow," is in the churchyard. According to Mr. M. F. Tupper, the old church possesses a bell brought from San Domingo by Sir Francis Drake.

The new church, called Christ Church, stands by the Green, on the opposite side of the street. It was erected in 1853 by Mr. Benjamin Ferrey, F.S.A., and is large and cruciform, in the Early English style, the south transept serving the purpose of a private pew for the royal owners of Clarendon. The windows of the chancel are filled with stained glass, and there is a handsome stone reredos, carved with a representation of the Resurrection, given by Mr. Robert Few, in memory of his wife, who died in 1878. At the west end of the church is a marble monument to Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, the first King of the Belgians, who formerly resided at Clarendon ; this monument was removed hither from St. George's Chapel, Windsor, where it had been first erected by her Majesty Queen Victoria. Here also is a marble figure, in a kneeling posture, erected by Sir Francis Drake in memory of his father, Richard Drake, sometime equerry to Queen Elizabeth, who died in 1609. This was removed from the old church by Sir William Drake. The tower at the west end is surmounted by a tall spire. In the churchyard lies

buried Mr. Samuel Warren, Q.C., many years M.P. for Midhurst and Recorder of Hull, and afterwards a Master in Lunacy. He was the author of "Ten Thousand a Year," "Now and Then," and other works. His son is now rector here.

On the high road, at the Green, is a handsome granite drinking-fountain, which was presented by the queen to the village to take the place of a disused pump given by the Comte de Paris ; it bears the inscription :—"Presented to the Parish of Esher by her Majesty Queen Victoria, 1877."

The grounds of Esher Place extend from the village down to the banks of the Mole. Here, about a mile from Esher station, and in the rear of Sandown Park, stands a curious Gothic building, a castellated gateway, which is always styled in the neighbourhood "Wolsey's Tower." Though it was not built by that statesman, it was once tenanted by him, shortly before his fall from the king's good graces, and when he had begun to have reason to cry aloud—

"Farewell, a long farewell, to all my greatness."

And doubtless here he often walked at eventide ; and on the grassy banks of the Mole, which flowed deep and full beneath his windows, mused upon the transitory nature of royal favour.

This gateway is all that remains of a house which, from a survey of the manor of Esher taken early in the reign of Edward VI., appears to have been "sumptuously built, with divers offices, and an orchard and gardens." There was also, we are told, a park adjoining, three miles in circuit, well stocked with deer.

In the early part of the last century the mansion of Esher Place—as its successor is still called—consisted of little more than the old tower, or gatehouse, above mentioned ; but Mr. Henry Pelham, brother of the Duke of Newcastle, and then owner of the property, made considerable additions to the building, in a style supposed to correspond with the original, but it must be owned rather in the gingerbread Gothic fashion of Strawberry Hill. The additions, consisting of wings and offices, were designed by Kent, the architect of the eastern front of Kensington Palace ; but they were inferior to the central part of the edifice, and, as Walpole himself remarks, "were proofs how little he conceived either the principles or graces of the Gothic architecture."

The name of Kent, however, whom Walpole styles "the inventor of an art that realises painting," has been inseparably connected by the poet with

"Esher's peaceful grove,
Where Kent and Nature vie for Pelham's love."