

ton are the almshouses founded by Mr. William Cleave, an alderman of London, who died in 1667, and who bequeathed certain property in this parish for the maintenance for ever of six poor men and six poor women "of honest life and reputation." The almshouses originally consisted of twelve distinct dwellings, but from the accumulation of funds belonging to the charity, it was decided by the trustees, in 1880, to erect additional houses for four more inmates, two men and two women. Each house consists of an upper and a lower room under one roof, and in the centre of the row is a common hall, over the doorway of which are the founder's arms, with an inscription recording the erection of the building in 1668. The arms of the founder, engraven on a plate of silver, are worn on the sleeve by each inmate.

Though it lies so low, yet Kingston would seem to be a very healthy place. The soil generally is of a gravelly nature, and the wild thyme which grows abundantly around is a sure and certain proof of the excellence of its atmosphere. In December, 1883, an old woman in one of the almshouses died a centenarian—not the first centenarian of Kingston, as we have seen already.

Kingston-on-Thames is the terminus of Jonas Hanway's tour from Portsmouth, Southampton, &c., as recorded in his "Journal of an Eight Days' Journey," which he published in 1757, along with his celebrated "Essay on—or rather, in dispraise of—Tea," an essay which Dr. Johnson attacked with all the sledge-hammer force of an inveterate tea-drinker in a review in the *Literary Magazine* of that year.

The station on the South-Western line at Surbiton is the nearest railway approach on the south side of the town; but close to the north end of the town is the "New Kingston Station," on what is called the New Kingston line, which adjoins at Twickenham the Windsor branch of the London and South-Western Railway, and is worked in connection with the North London Railway. This line is carried on a high embankment through the lower part of the town to New Malden, where it joins the main line. The approach to Kingston by the North London line is through Richmond and Hampton Wick. By these several lines there is rapid and easy railway communication with almost all parts of London, from Waterloo terminus on the south side of the Thames, to Ludgate Hill and Moorgate Street stations on the north. Another line is in course of formation to connect Putney with Kingston and Surbiton, and to be continued to Cobham, and thence to Guildford.

The modern town of New Kingston rose into

being, mushroom-like, immediately on the opening of the railway-station here. At first the building speculations were not successful; but since the extension of the South-Western Railway to Cannon Street it has been brought into such proximity to the City that it has become a favourite resort for merchants, whose charming residences add to the attractiveness of the place and neighbourhood. Indeed, within the last thirty years great and important improvements have taken place both in the town and its immediate neighbourhood. The green fields and lanes of Norbiton and Surbiton have given way to innumerable villas, streets, and thoroughfares, while the general aspect of the town has undergone a marked alteration through the removal of many antiquated buildings, and the substitution of handsome and substantial erections more in accordance with the modern idea of architectural arrangement.

The cemetery, on the north side of the town, is about fourteen acres in extent, and is tastefully laid out, and well planted with trees and shrubs. The two chapels are connected by an archway surmounted by a spire, which, owing to the elevated situation of the ground, is visible at a considerable distance. Sir William Bovill, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, who died in 1873, is buried here.

On the north side of the London road, to the east of the town, are the ruins of an old chapel, called St. Mary's, which for many years formed part of the grammar-school. In 1878 the school was removed to a new site on the other side of the road.

In this chapel were formerly to be seen the portraits of the Saxon kings who were crowned here, and also one of King John, from whom the town received its first charter of privileges as a body corporate. The windows and doors had long been boarded up, and the entire structure shored up to prevent it from falling, when, in 1882, it was decided to restore the building and once more utilise it as a chapel for the new school.

It is said, and traditionally received, that Dunstan placed the crown of England on the weak head of the youthful Ethelred, in A.D. 979, within the walls of St. Mary's Chapel. In the "Pictorial History of England"\* is a view of St. Mary's Chapel as it must have appeared early in the present century; but it is clearly a Norman, not a Saxon structure, and could not, therefore, have been the building whose walls witnessed that ceremony.

After standing for eight centuries, part of the

\* Vol. I., p. 175.