

chief who had been slain by townsmen of Kingston, and the football sport at the same time."

The spacious Fairfield, where cricket, football, &c., are almost daily played, is about twenty acres in extent. The lower portion—about thirteen acres—is held on lease from various proprietors by the Corporation, and devoted to the purpose of recreation. The upper portion of the field is used for the cattle fair in the month of November, and is cultivated in small plots at other times.

Kingston has long been attractive to anglers—pike, barbel, roach, perch, chub, dace, and gudgeon, being abundant at this point in the Thames. Bream are also occasionally met with, and trout of a fair size are sufficiently plentiful. At a charge of ten shillings a day experienced fishermen with their punts will always be found who will supply every requisite, and thus save the angler coming from a distance the necessity of bringing with him a heavy burden, which, on a hot summer's day, is no small advantage. The river in this locality is strictly preserved by the Thames Angling Preservation Society, being under the immediate supervision of its officers, who are careful to prevent any infringement of the regulations.

Angling from the river bank is, of course, a favourite amusement, especially with the working classes. It may be mentioned as a singular incident that on a recent occasion a trout weighing no less than 7 lbs. jumped voluntarily into a boat in which a boy happened to be sitting.

A curious contest, which at one time threatened to be serious, took place on a recent occasion between the officers of the Thames Conservancy and some members of the Kingston Corporation. The Conservancy desired to move the floating swimming baths, at present moored just above the "Anglers" Inn, to a site opposite the tan-yard; the Corporation, on the other hand, considered the site objectionable, and desired that the bath should remain where it is now fixed. An official, acting presumably on instructions from the Thames Conservancy, in command of the steam-tug *Queen*, attempted forcibly to remove it, and a scuffle ensued, in which an alderman received a severe thrust with a hitcher. After a *fracas* which lasted about an hour and a half the officers of the Thames Conservancy decided to give up the attempt, and withdrew their forces on board the tug, which steamed away amid the jeers of a large crowd attracted to the river-side by the extraordinary incident.

Surbiton (originally the South Barton), which stands on the high ground to the south of the town, is an extensive and somewhat fashionable

suburb of Kingston, reaching westwards as far as Thames Ditton, southward to Long Ditton, and eastwards nearly as far as New Maldon. It was separated from Kingston by a private Act of Parliament, "The Surbiton Improvement Act," in 1855. It is scarcely old enough to have a history, and it is not even mentioned in Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary," as being originally only a hamlet in the parish of Kingston.

About the year 1845 a large plot of ground near the railway station was taken up by a speculative builder, who covered the greater part with houses, the name of Kingston New Town being given to the newly-formed district. The buildings, as fast as they were erected, were mortgaged, in order to obtain means for carrying out the designs; but the scheme not proving successful, the mortgagees took possession of the entire property. The unfinished houses were completed, others raised, a large space fronting the crescent was planted with trees, and a spacious church, St. Mark's, was erected on Surbiton Hill, near the bridge over the railway; and it was then decided that this increasing neighbourhood should in future be called Surbiton, it being wholly in that district.

The view from the top of the hill is one of great beauty. Looking eastward are to be seen Norwood and the Crystal Palace districts; descending the hill and looking northward over the town of Kingston, through the trees which form a beautiful margin to the landscape, the Hampstead and Highgate hills complete a very pleasing view.

There is a station here on the main line of the London and South-Western Railway, whence diverges a branch line for Hampton Court, with an intermediate station at Thames Ditton.

Surbiton is composed almost wholly of villas of the modern type, mostly standing in their own grounds; and the district is intersected by shady paths in every direction, and is peculiarly rich in woodland shrubs and wild flowers.

On the slope of the hill leading down to Kingston is an old wayside hostelry, a relic of other days, with the sign of the "Waggon and Horses," which has been a house of call for carriers for a couple of centuries or more.

The main street of Surbiton is composed of detached residences, and a few shops on each side of the high road. The first noticeable building is a fine red-brick Wesleyan chapel, which prominently shows the strength of the Dissenting element in the town; indeed, there are new churches and chapels in abundance.

St. Mark's Church, mentioned above, was built in 1845, on a site given by Lady Burdett-Coutts.