

carriage and vivacity of mind. She was no admirer of Scottish manners. One habit she particularly detested—the custom of eating off the end of a knife, which is still too prevalent in this ‘nation of gentlemen.’ When people dined with her, and began to lift their food in this manner, she used to scream out, and beseech them not to cut their throats; and then she would horrify the offending persons by sending them a silver spoon or fork upon a salver. When in Scotland, she always dressed herself in the garb of a peasant girl. This she seems to have done in order to ridicule and put out of countenance the stately dresses and demeanour of the Scottish gentlewomen who visited her. One evening some country ladies paid her a visit, dressed in their best brocades. She proposed a walk, and they were, of course, under the disagreeable necessity of trooping off in all the splendour of full dress, to the utter discomfiture of their starched-up frills and flounces. Her Grace, at last pretending to be tired, sat down upon the dirtiest dunghill she could find at the end of a farmhouse, and invited the poor draggled ladies to seat themselves around her. They stood so much in awe of her that they durst not refuse. She had the exquisite satisfaction of spoiling all their silks. Let womankind conceive (as only womankind can) the rage and spite that must have possessed their bosoms, and the battery of female tongues that must have opened upon her Grace as soon as they were free from the restraint of her presence!

“When she went out to an evening entertainment, and found a tea-equipage paraded which she thought too fine for the rank of the owner, she would contrive to overset the table and break the china. The forced politeness of her hosts on such occasions, and the assurances which they made to her that no harm was done, delighted her exceedingly.

“Her custom of dressing like a *paysanne* once occasioned her Grace a disagreeable adventure at a review. On her attempting to approach the duke, the guard, not knowing her rank or relation to him, pushed her rudely back. This put her into such a passion, that she could not be appeased till he assured her that the men had been all flogged for their insolence.” The story, if literally true, does not speak much for the tenderness of her heart.

“An anecdote scarcely less laughable is told of her Grace, as occurring at Court, where she carried to the same extreme her attachment to plain dealing and plain dressing. An edict had, it seems, been issued, forbidding the ladies to appear at the drawing-room in aprons. This was disregarded by the duchess, whose rustic costume would have been

by no means complete without that piece of dress. The lord-in-waiting stopped her when she approached the door, and told her that he could not admit her in that guise, when she, without a moment’s hesitation, stripped off her apron, threw it in his lordship’s face, and walked on, in her brown gown and petticoat, into the brilliant circle!”

William, the third earl of Harrington, who succeeded to the property in 1779, shortly after sold it to Thomas Pitt, first Lord Camelford, from whom it subsequently passed by sale to the Duke of Clarence, afterwards William IV., who occasionally resided here. The estate was afterwards sold to Lord Huntingtower, the eldest son of Lady Dysart, who died in 1833. In the following year his executors sold the property to the Commissioners of Woods and Forests. All the buildings have since been pulled down, and the grounds have been annexed to Richmond Park.

Sudbrooke, close by, is mentioned as a hamlet of Petersham in a MS. of the thirteenth century preserved in the British Museum, but for nearly three centuries it has been reduced to a single building. In the time of George I. it was the property and seat of John, Duke of Argyll, from whom it descended to his eldest daughter and heiress, Lady Catherine Campbell, created Baroness of Greenwich in 1767, on whose death, in 1794, the estate was inherited by Henry, third Duke of Buccleuch, her son by her first husband, Francis, Earl of Dalkeith. Later on the mansion became the property of Sir Robert Wilmot Horton, formerly Governor of Ceylon, who made it his residence. The property was afterwards purchased by the Crown, and the greater part of the grounds annexed to Richmond Park. Sudbrooke House itself, a large three-storeyed building, has long been converted into a hydropathic establishment.

Bute House, near the village, was formerly the seat of Lord Bute, and is now a boarding-school. In the avenue leading to Ham House is Douglas House, at one time the residence of Lord Kerry, the eldest son of the third Lord Lansdowne. Here lived Gregory Cole, mentioned by John Evelyn as his “near kinsman,” and whose monument is described among those in the church. This family are recorded as residents here in the old histories of Surrey. Here, too, Charles Dickens, flushed with the first success of “Nicholas Nickleby,” enjoyed the quiet and repose of a rural cottage in the summer of 1839, where, to use the expression of Mr. John Forster, “the extensive garden-grounds admitted of much athletic competition.” Here “bar-leaping, bowling, and quoits were . . . carried on with the greatest ardour; and in sus-