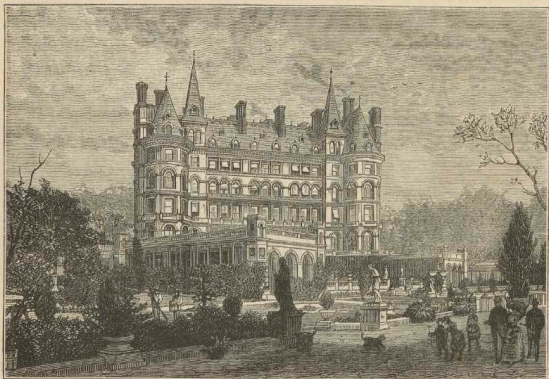


Early in the eighteenth century a portion of Petersham Common was leased to John Christopher by the Earl of Dysart, lord of the manor; and it was on this ground, the rental of which was forty shillings a year, that the original "Star and Garter" was built, in 1738. It had a common wooden pent-house, as it is termed, for the entrance doorway, and a sign-post, with a large sign attached to it, standing in front of the inn, which sign-post and board were plainly visible from any part of Cholmondeley Walk by the river-side, so perfectly

hotel. In course of time the house was rebuilt in a substantial manner, and we find that in 1780 it possessed two storeys, with a porticoed entrance, while next door, on the west side, was a house which was afterwards added to the hotel.

In 1803 a large piece of ground, on which a part of the hotel was long afterwards built, was leased to Richard Brewer by the Earl of Dysart, at a rental of sixty shillings a year, on condition that the view from Sir Lionel Darell's house opposite, or from the lodge at the new Park gate, should not



THE "STAR AND GARTER."

destitute of trees was all that part of Richmond commencing from the present bridge and walk in the direction of the Duke of Buccleuch's to its summit at the entrance of the park; and it is recorded that so limited was the accommodation at the old "Star and Garter" that at no time could a visitor stay the night there, for the simple reason that not the slightest accommodation in that way was ever attempted by the proprietor!

The fact that the house was well known, and constituted a landmark of the time, is attested by the circumstance that an important view of Richmond, dated 1794, is officially described as "taken from the sign of the 'Star and Garter' on the hill." A drawing, by Hearne, of the original comparatively insignificant building is still kept, and shown at the

be impeded. No legal agreement, however, was made to this effect, and the condition was found not to be obligatory. Crisp, in his work on Richmond, remarks that this evasion must be deplored by every inhabitant; but, as a local enthusiast, he can scarcely be trusted to represent the views of the visitors. The sharp practice of Brewer, however, seems to have brought its retaliation in due course, for we find that he was shortly obliged to close the hotel, and that it remained shut up for five years.

In Miss Berry's "Diary," under date "Sunday, June 12th, 1808," is the following entry:—

"The door of the 'Star and Garter' (now shut up as an hotel) being open, we walked in, and a civil quondam servant of the house showed us the rooms.