

"The Great Commoner," an appellation which, possibly with greater propriety, was afterwards retorted upon Pitt by Sir John Barnard, whose modesty led him by instinct to repudiate it.

When, by the death of Sir James Thompson, he came to stand first on the list of aldermen, he became "the Father of the City," and it was generally thought that the title was never better deserved. Sir John Barnard died in 1764. He is immortalised by Pope in the same couplet with the Man of Ross. It is mentioned as a proof of his modesty that he never could be induced to enter the Royal Exchange after his monument was set up there.

The first stone of the Catholic church of St. Mary Magdalen, which adjoins the Protestant churchyard on the south, was laid in 1851 by Cardinal Wiseman. It is a handsome church, and an ornament to the village. Portobello House, close to the railway-station, a mansion standing in large grounds, was occupied in succession by many Roman Catholic families, the Mostyns, Gerards, &c. Mass was said in a loft over its stables previous to the building of the Catholic church.

Christ Church was built in Sheen Lane, in the south-west part of the parish, in 1864, as a chapel-of-ease to the parish church. The Independent chapel close by dates from 1716, but has been since enlarged.

At Mortlake and in its immediate neighbourhood are several charitable institutions. Close to the railway-station is a handsome row of Gothic buildings, which form a hospital for the relief of decayed master-tradesmen, manufacturers, or agents, or their widows, in indigent circumstances. These almshouses belong to the Boot and Shoemakers' Benevolent Institution. They were built in 1836, and afford accommodation for fourteen inmates, each of whom receives £35 per annum. There are also other almshouses in the village, founded early in the seventeenth century by John Juxon, for four persons, who receive a small money allowance weekly. At the Limes, close to the river side, Dr. L. S. Winslow has opened a hospital for the cure of dipsomaniacs.

This parish was till lately famous for its beds of asparagus, but of late years the market-gardens have been forced here, as elsewhere, to give place to the onward march of suburban bricks and mortar. Aubrey, in his "Surrey" (Vol. I., p. 91), says that the sand taken from the bed of the Thames at this place makes an excellent cement with a small proportion of lime, and that it is found to bind stronger than any other.

Mortlake is not without its fashionable and its literary associations, though the latter are far less in number than those of Richmond or of Kew.

At the west end of the village there formerly stood a dull and substantial house, said to have been occupied by Oliver Cromwell, though there is but little ground, it is to be feared, for the tradition. It was more probably connected with Thomas, Lord Cromwell, with whom popular ignorance often confounds the Lord Protector. It had a small park before it and an avenue of limes, and in the rear a fine summer-house, overlooking the river.

The old house said to have been occupied by Cromwell was certainly the abode of Edward Colston, the Bristol philanthropist. It is described by Mr. Samuel G. Tovey, in his "Memorials of Colston," as an "isolated picturesque old building, visible from the lower London road to Richmond;" and he adds that "when he visited it, in 1852, it was a solitary, deserted, melancholy house, overshadowed by tall poplars, and divided from the road by a low wall, with an ornamental iron gateway between two square columns supporting globes, and each containing a stone seat under an arched niche." He continues:—"The paved court in front was grass-grown, and in the fine old garden bordering the Thames shrubs had grown into straggling thickets, and gravel paths were hardly distinguishable from grassy lawns. A half-ruined summer-house commanded a view of the church and village of Mortlake and Barnes railway-bridge to the east, and Hammersmith Church and Chiswick Conservatory to the north. The hall itself was an irregular building, plain, spacious, dark, and decayed, with a portico supported by four Doric columns on the north. A long, narrow, panelled room occupying the western wing was known as Cromwell's Council Chamber; and in the gable of the roof, up two or three steps, was a small room, called 'Old Noll's Hole,' from a tradition that it had been the Protector's favourite hiding-place, though why he should have wished to hide, or why, so wishing, he should have chosen such an accessible and apparent hiding-place, is hard to conjecture." The whole story of Cromwell having lived here is doubtless apocryphal, though he may have visited it, since the assessments show that Ireton and other friends of Cromwell had houses at Mortlake. The identification of this house with Colston, however, is no mere conjecture. At the time of Mr. Tovey's visit, the blue drawing-room, in which once hung the portraits of Colston and his father, bequeathed to the hospital at Bristol, retained its distinguishing colour after the lapse