

innocence and pleasure, and the life of husbandry and cities came after the fall with guilt and labour."

The house was called Temple Grove, after its former occupier, Sir William Temple. It was for some years the favourite residence of the first Lord and Lady Palmerston, who here kept much company and had many fashionable and distinguished visitors, among the latter being Count Rumford. More recently it was converted into a school, kept formerly by Dr. Pinckney, and now by Mr. O. Waterfield.

Dr. Pinckney's school is probably intended by Disraeli in the first chapter of "Coningsby" as the "fashionable preparatory school to Eton," where that young gentleman "found about two hundred youths of noble families and their connections lodged in a magnificent villa, that had once been the retreat of a Minister of State."

Old Lady Brownlow, in her "Reminiscences of a Septuagenarian," records that Lord and Lady Castlereagh occupied, in 1805, a villa at East Sheen. Lord Grey was living here a little later, in November, 1831, as we learn from the "Life of Lord Macaulay," who spent a day or two with him, talking over with him, doubtless, the prospects of Parliamentary Reform.

In 1813 Sir Archibald Macdonald, Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer, was created a baronet, being styled in the patent of baronetcy as "of East Sheen, Surrey," where he resided for many years. Sir Archibald was the youngest son of Sir Alexander Macdonald, Baronet of Slate, county Antrim, and brother of the first Lord Macdonald. Being bred to the Bar, and having attained eminence in his profession, he was successively Solicitor-General and Attorney-General, and was raised to the Bench in 1793.

At Palewell Lodge, East Sheen, lived and died, in 1843, at an advanced age, Mr. W. S. Gilpin, the celebrated gardener, and the author of various works on the picturesque. At whatever price the

world esteemed his horticultural taste, it would seem that he valued it still more highly himself; at all events, his biographer in the *Gentleman's Magazine* tells us that "when, in the course of a conversation upon the crowded state of all the professions, it was casually remarked to Mr. Gilpin that at all events members of his profession were not numerous, he quietly remarked, 'No; there is but one.' He afterwards, however, admitted that there was one other, a gardener in Derbyshire, named Pontet." Had he lived a little later, he might perhaps have admitted the existence of yet another, Sir Joseph Paxton.



DR. JOHN DEE.

But by far the most celebrated inhabitant of Mortlake was the quack alchemist and astrologer of the sixteenth century, John Dee, who died here in 1608, at the age of eighty. In conjunction with one Kelly, he employed himself for many years in searching after the "Elixir Vitæ" and the "Philosopher's Stone," and pretended to hold intercourse with the angelic and spiritual world. He contrived to make himself acceptable to the vanity of Queen Elizabeth, who, on one occasion, condescended to pay him a visit at his house here, to view his museum of curiosities,

and when he was ill, sent her own Court physician to prescribe for him. He claimed, *inter alia*, to have found the true "Elixir Vitæ" among the ruins of Glastonbury Abbey. A full account of this impostor will be found in Dr. C. Mackay's "Memoirs of Extraordinary Popular Delusions."

But it may be well to tell the story of this arch-impostor more in detail, if it be only to show how foolish are the wisest of monarchs at times.

This Dr. Dee, a disciple and follower of Lilly the astrologer, "the cunning man high Sidrophel" of Hudibras, was a Welshman, and educated at Oxford, where, we are told, "he commenced doctor, and afterwards travelled into foreign parts in quest of chemistry." Lilly tells us that he was Queen Elizabeth's "intelligencer," and that he had for his maintenance a salary from the Secretary of State; that he was the most ambitious man alive, and