

"Nobody permitted to land here. Offenders prosecuted with the utmost rigour of the law." But the comedians resolved to disembark; so taking the fishing-rod as a surveyor's line, Hook, pencil and book in hand, and Mathews as clerk, with the cord and walking-stick, landed, and began to pace the lawn in front of a beautiful villa. The dining-room window was thrown up, and forth came an irritated gentleman from his dinner, inquiring how the trespassers dare invade his territory. Their

about to take their departure, as they "had engagements in town," when Hook burst into extempore song, and explained the whole in this verse:—

"And we greatly approve of your fare,
Your cellar's as prime as your cook;
And this clerk here is Mathews the player,
And my name, sir, is Theodore Hook."

At Barnes lived Henry Fielding, the novelist. "He resided," observes Lysons, in his "Environs of London," "in a house which is now (1810) the



BARNES CHURCH.

reply was cool and business-like. They by degrees communicated to the indignant old gentleman the pleasant intelligence that they had come to settle where a new canal company were to cut across his pleasant retreat. He grew alarmed, and the intruding officials were "never more pained than with such a duty." "Would they walk in and talk the matter over?" This they reluctantly did. An excellent dinner was on the table; they were unnecessarily pressed to stay and partake of it. They sat down, and enjoyed the repast and its accompaniments, and over half-a-dozen of claret they discussed the line of canal. The wine warmed the host's gratitude—"One bottle more, dear gentlemen"—and it was getting dark, and they were

property of Mrs. Stanton, widow of the late Admiral Stanton." The fact, too, receives a certain confirmation from a reference in "Tom Jones" (book iv., chap. ii.) to the "Toasts" of the *Kit-cat* Club.

Manning distinguishes the house as being a very old one on Barnes Green, and adds that it was called Milbourne House from a family of the name, of whom William Milbourne, Esq., was buried in the chancel of Barnes Church in 1415, and represented by an incised brass in plate armour.

Monk Lewis, the author, was for some time a resident here. It is said also that Handel, the composer, should be added to the list of the celebrities who have lived at Barnes.

To the north of Barnes, on the road leading