

To come to more recent times, Barn Elms is connected with other names which the world would not willingly allow to die: for instance, with William Cobbett, who here cultivated his Indian corn, his American forest-trees, his pigs, poultry, and butcher's meat, all which he pronounced to be the best that were ever beheld. Cobbett, at the same time that he occupied the farm here, lived also at Kensington;\* but the aristocratic suburb, we are told, did not prove a congenial soil, and he quitted it a bankrupt.

and so bethought him of the high road to England, which, as Dr. Johnson sarcastically remarks, 'is of all prospects the most pleasing to a Scotchman.'

"With that 'canniness' which is attributed to us of the 'North Country,' Sir John availed himself of this supposed opening to preferment, and crossed the border in the train of his royal master, in search of a beautiful and well-endowed bride. Unfortunately for the poor Scottish gentleman, it



BARN ELMS.

After Barn Elms came into the hands of Sir Richard Hoare, as above stated, the mansion was modernised, and considerably enlarged by the addition of wings. In his time some fine old pictures graced the walls of the dining and drawing-rooms, amongst them being some fine examples of the works of Gaspar Poussin.

"The occupants of Barn Elms in the reign of King James I.," writes Miss Guthrie, in her interesting account of the place, † "were a Sir John and Lady Kennedy. Sir John, like many others of his countrymen, was a

'Penniless lad wi' a lang pedigree,'

befell him, as it did another brave gallant from beyond the Tweed—

'There was an English lady bright,  
The sun shines fair on Carlisle wall;  
And she fell in love with a Scottish knight,  
For love will still be lord of all.'

"The enamoured fair one on this occasion proved to be no less distinguished a person than Elizabeth Brydges, daughter of Giles, Lord Chandos, 'King of the Cotswolds,' whom the northern knight successfully wooed and won, to the no small delight of 'gentle Jamie' and his own gratification, at the same time that it enraged the new Lord Chandos, who hated the thoughts of his gay and lovely aunt wedding with a 'beggarly

\* See "Old and New London," Vol. V., p. 130.  
† "Barn Elms," by Miss E. Guthrie.