

died in 1858. He had been one of Nelson's captains.

Downshire House and Dover House, both named after noble lords who formerly owned them, are now the seats of merchant princes. In the earlier part of the present century, when occupied by Lord Dover, the latter house was famous for its social and literary gatherings. Charles Greville tells us in his "Memoirs" that he spent two or three "uncommonly agreeable" days here in the company of Tommy Moore, Sir James Mackintosh, Sir William Grant, Master of the Rolls, and other pleasant acquaintances.

Roehampton Gate, the entrance to Richmond Park on the east, has long been closed to the public. The question of the purchase of its approach, by the Crown or otherwise, in order to secure it for the use of the public, has been brought forward in Parliament, it being admitted that this gate would be the easiest way of access to the park for the inhabitants of the metropolis; but up to the present time nothing definite has been decided upon. In April, 1884, on the question being sub-

mitted by Mr. Alderman Lawrence to the First Commissioner of Works, the latter replied that he thought it would be a great advantage to the public if Roehampton Gate were open. "The difficulty was," he added,

"that the approach to that gate was private property. It belonged to a lady who was willing to sell it under certain circumstances, but he could not hold out any hope that the Treasury would advance the money for its purchase. Neither did he see that the Metropolitan Board of Works or any other body were ready to advance that money. He did not think that that was a matter which ought to fall upon the public Exchequer, and he could not hold out any prospect of a vote being proposed to the House for such a purchase." Probably what is required is some

"village Hampden" to rise up and assert his right to enter the park by that particular gate, in the same manner that the Richmond brewer, Mr. John Lewis, did some century ago, as described in a previous chapter of this work. By that means the difficulty might be got over without a parliamentary grant.



SIR J. KNIGHT-BRUCE.

CHAPTER XLIX.

WIMBLEDON.

"Let the great world spin for ever
Down the ringing grooves of change."

Situation and Boundaries of the Parish—Its Etymology—Early History of the Manor—Burstow Park—The Cromwell Family—The Cecilis—Queen Elizabeth at Wimbledon—Visit of James I. to the Earl of Exeter at Wimbledon—Queen Victoria at the Manor House—The Viscountcy of Wimbledon—The Manor bought by Queen Henrietta Maria—It is afterwards owned by General Lambert, but again reverts to Queen Henrietta Maria—Thomas Osborne, Earl of Danby, afterwards Marquis of Carnarthen and Duke of Leeds—The Manor House rebuilt by Sir Theodore Janssen—The Park formed by Lord Spencer—The present Manor House—An Artesian Well—Description of the original Manor House.

WIMBLEDON is a very extensive and scattered parish, and one that is not devoid of historical interest. From Barnes and Roehampton, and Putney and Wandsworth, on the north, it stretches away to Merton and Cheam on the south; Kingston adjoins it on the west; and the river Wandle,

which forms one of its eastern boundaries, separates it from Mitcham and Wandsworth. The living was formerly a "peculiar," in the gift of the Archbishop of Canterbury, together with the adjacent parishes of Putney and Mortlake. Wimbledon, in fact, was anciently a portion of the manor