

Kenulph, King of the West Saxons, which happened in the year 784, and a battle between the Danes and the Saxons in 871. Lambarde, in his "Topographical Dictionary," however, doubts whether either of these events took place at Merton, in Surrey, and Lysons, in his "Environs of London," seems inclined to be equally incredulous on these points. Camden assigns the death of Kenulph to this Merton; yet, according to Brayley, the more probable supposition is that Meretune, or

institution which in after years became famous as a home of learning and piety. The principal manor, which belonged to the Crown, was given by Henry I. to this abbey, and it continued to belong to that religious body until the reign of Henry VIII., when the monastic estates were surrendered to the king.

On June 8th, 1215, King John came to Merton, where he gave safe conduct to the Barons, who went in arms against him on their way to Runnymede, where they met a few days later.



“MERTON ABBEY.”

Morden, in Wiltshire, a few miles south-eastward of Deves, was the scene of both transactions.

“Merton,” writes Mr. Martin F. Tupper, “is historically known by the murder there of King Kenulph and a battle royal between the Danes and Saxons. . . . The statutes of Merton were concocted in A.D. 1236 within the few remaining fragments of old walls which now enclose the premises of a silk-factor, a cotton-printer, and a leather-dresser.” This is terse and epigrammatic, even if not literally true.

The manor of Merton, before the Conquest, was the property of Earl Harold, and was afterwards held by the king in demesne. Early in the twelfth century, Gilbert Norman, Sheriff of Surrey, founded here a convent of Augustinian canons, an

In the last year of Queen Mary (1558) the Carthusian monastery of Sheen was re-founded, and three days before her death the queen, by her letters patent, granted this manor, “with all its rights, members, and appurtenances,” to that establishment. On the final suppression of religious houses shortly after, under her sister Elizabeth, the whole reverted to the Crown. In consideration of the payment of £828 8s. 9d., James I., in March, 1609-10, transferred the manor and its appurtenances to one Thomas Hunt, and his wife Joyce (with several remainders), to be held as of the manor of East Greenwich, “in free and common socage, by fealty only, and not in chief or by knight’s service.” The estate subsequently changed hands on several occasions, by sale or otherwise,