

tinguished owners. It was purchased by Lord Clive, and presented by him to Sir Alexander Wedderburn, afterwards Lord Loughborough and Earl of Rosslyn, in recompense for his defence of that illustrious general and statesman in the House of Commons. Lord Loughborough sold it in 1789 to Mr. Henry Hoare, the banker, of Fleet Street, and he disposed of it to Sir John W. Lubbock. More recently the house was the residence of Mr. John H. Stanton. A new mansion, the property

During the Non-juring Schism this place would seem to have been a rallying point for those who refused to give in their allegiance to the Hanoverian succession. At all events, Robert Nelson writes in 1702-3 that he finds none of "our clergy" placed nearer to his friend Samuel Pepys of Clapham than Mitcham, "where lives a Mr. Higden, who married a sister of Lord Stawell."

In this parish, not far from Tooting Junction station, and nearly opposite to "Figge's" Marsh, is



MITCHAM GROVE IN 1796. (From an old Print.)

of Mr. W. P. Bidder, has been erected near the site of the old house.

According to Lysons, Lord Chancellor More must have had a house here, although it is uncertain that he lived in it, as one Thomas Elrington, by his will dated in 1523, bequeathed to Alice, his wife, "his chief house at Mitcham, which was given to him by Thomas More."

Brayley says that "an object of some interest to the antiquary is an ancient house in this parish, formerly the property of Mrs. Sarah Chandler. This house, in which are the remains of a chapel, is conjectured to have been, at a very early period, the property of Henry Strete, 'who had a license for an oratory in his house at Mitcham, in 1348. It is held under the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, and its proprietors claim a right to the north aisle of the church."

a house, on the front gate of which is an inscription in old English characters, to the effect that "Defoe lived here in 1688." Defoe had a Presbyterian chapel in Tooting, and the minister of that chapel and many of the neighbours believe in the tradition, which is probably true, though it cannot be said to be universally accepted. The house in question is now inhabited by Mr. Bumpus, bookseller, of Holborn.

Another noted inhabitant of Mitcham was Moses Mendez, a poet of the last century, who at the time of his death, in 1758, was reported to be worth £100,000. He was the author of four little dramatic pieces—"The Chaplet," "The Shepherd's Lottery," "Robin Hood," and "The Double Disappointment," besides a poem called "Henry and Blanche," &c. Some of his productions are to be found in Dodsley's Collection.