

But from amongst his numerous works, "Robinson Crusoe" stands out the greatest of them all. Von desolate island, where the rough-capped exile lived year after year in solitude; the goats, with their large lustrous eyes, glaring wildly through the thicket; and the parrot crying out unexpectedly, "Poor Robinson Crusoe!" beguile old, young, learned, and unlearned. From the time that "Robinson Crusoe" first saw the light it has not been possible to conceive that it would ever lose its charms. But great as Defoe was as an author, he was far greater as a man. He dared to do his own thinking in an age when independence of thought was a rare thing. For the sake of civil and religious liberty he went from his drawing-room to the prison cell, from his carriage to the pillory, and if it had been necessary, would have gone to the stake.

Nearly opposite the Defoe Chapel is a granite building forming three sides of a quadrangle, and apparently designed for almshouses. Its timbers are of solid oak, and the roof looks as if it had been designed for one of the farm-houses in Surrey or Sussex.

Close by the cemetery is Summers Town, which was made an ecclesiastical parish in 1845. The church is in the Pointed style, and consists of a chancel, nave, south aisle, and a small bell-turret. This district is really part of Wandsworth, but has been separated from it only for ecclesiastical purposes, in the same way as the Holy Trinity district, on the high ground to the east of Tooting, and has now come to be vulgarly called Upper Tooting. It has, in fact, nothing whatever to do with Tooting proper. It is simply the western side of the parish of Streatham, and still forms part and parcel of that parish for all but ecclesiastical purposes. It was formed into an ecclesiastical district in 1855. It is an extensive and rapidly increasing locality, built mostly on the hill sloping up from the Broadway, Tooting, towards Balham, and skirting the north-western side of Tooting Common, to which there is a pleasant roadway leading up from the north side of Tooting Church.

The Church of St. Mary Magdalene, in the Trinity Road, was temporarily built in 1870 as a chapel-of-ease to St. Anne's, Wandsworth. Besides this, there are chapels for different denominations of Nonconformists. The Westminster Union In-

dustrial School, in the St. James's Road, is an attractive red-brick building, standing in extensive grounds. It was opened in 1852, and affords accommodation for 200 children, boys and girls. In Burntwood Lane, just on the border of Wandsworth Common, stands the Surrey County Lunatic Asylum. It is a large building in the Elizabethan style, and was erected in 1840, from the designs of Mr. W. Moseley. The asylum has since been enlarged, and will now hold 1,100 inmates.

Upper Tooting, like the rest of this locality, contains a large number of residences of retired merchants and tradesmen, many of which stand in their own well-wooded grounds, some of the cedars which grace them being particularly fine. Here at one time lived Mr. Richard Baggallay, father of Sir Richard Baggallay, one of the Lords Justices of the Court of Appeal; the son, however, was born in the parish of Stockwell. Hill House, formerly the seat of Mr. Alderman Venables, is one of the most conspicuous mansions in the neighbourhood. It is surrounded by extensive grounds on the rising ground above Tooting Church.

Tooting Common, some sixty-three acres in extent, forms the eastern extremity of the parish, and is hemmed in on either side by portions of the parish of Streatham. It is still a delightful piece of sylvan scenery, intersected by roads and footpaths, with fine avenues and groves of elms. In some parts the surface of ground has been broken up in the process of digging for sand and gravel; in other parts it is level, but it is well overgrown with gorse and heather, and is altogether one of the most pleasant spots in the neighbourhood; but considering how great was the struggle to secure this common, it is doubtful whether the boon has been fully appreciated. Tooting Common is separated by merely a roadway from Tooting-Bec Common, which comprises about 150 acres, and the whole is now maintained as an "open space" by the Metropolitan Board of Works, the "rights" having been bought from the lord of the manor in 1875 for several thousand pounds, after an agitation extending over many months. Around the common are several good houses, both old and new, standing in well-wooded grounds; and a great portion of the land on either hand is cut up for building purposes.