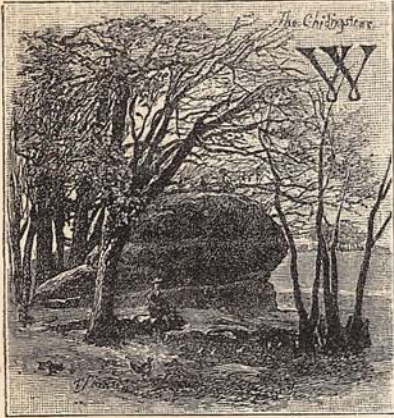


## A HOLIDAY RAMBLE THROUGH HEVER AND CHIDINGSTONE.



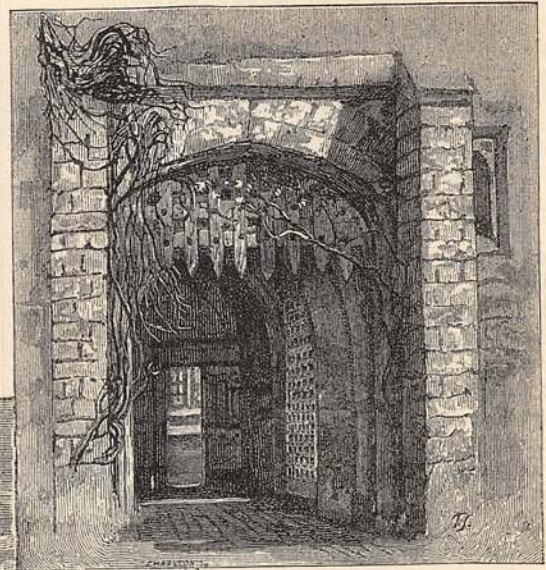
WITHIN an easy drive of Sevenoaks, in the district of the Weald, lies the little village of Hever. It is almost concealed in an ambush of trees, and has little to recommend it for a dwelling ;

but, nevertheless, it can boast of a fine church, and also of a castle which is famous for being the birth-place of one queen and the last residence of another.

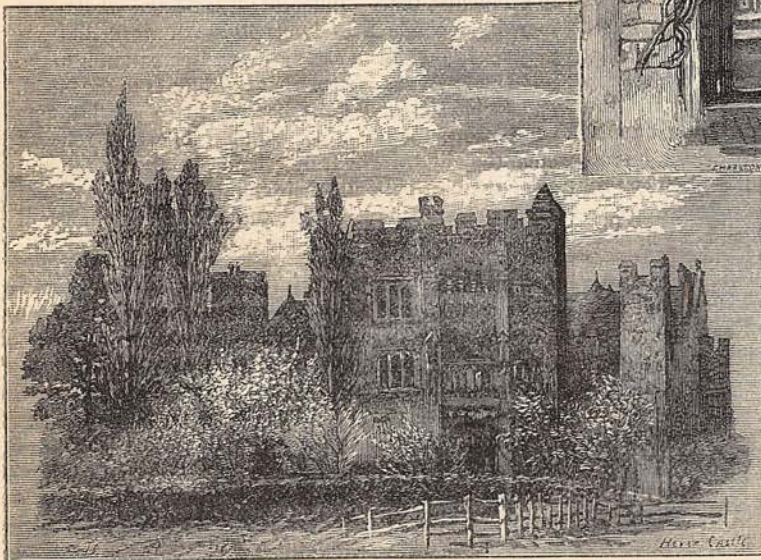
The village had its name from a family called Heure, who lived at Hever, near Northfleet ; but which of the members first possessed the manor does not appear to be known. In the reign of Edward I. it was divided between Sir William de Heure, Sir Ralph de Heure, and his son Ralph. The portion of the latter seems to have been claimed or coveted by the Abbot of St. Austin's, near Canterbury, for the archives of the abbey record several disputes about the property between them. The quarrel, however, was at last settled in 1276, Ralph consenting to hold his land under the abbot by the service of the fourth part of a knight's fee, and on this condition the ecclesiastic granted it to him and his heirs for ever. But Ralph evidently became tired of his bargain, for his relative, Sir William de Heure, was in posses-

sion of the whole fee of the manor in the reign of Edward III.

The chief architecture of Hever Castle is of this date, for the king gave Sir William licence to rebuild and embattle his mansion house of Hever. The superintendence of these new buildings must have been a pleasant office to the old knight in times of peace. Though neither the rooms nor the courtyard of the castle are so spacious as those at Ightham Moat, they are equally perfect in all their details. The building is in the usual quadrangular form, surrounded by a moat which is fed from the river Eden, which flows through the eastern part of the parish. The imposing gate-house is of stone, in a remarkable state of preservation. Its lofty tower is pierced with loopholes for the launching of missiles, and a triple portcullis protects the entrance. For such a portico the courtyard appears absurdly small, but the size is redeemed by the interest of its character. It was painted by Calderon as a background for his picture, "Home after Victory," exhibited in the Royal Academy in 1867.



THE PORTCULLIS.



Sir William de Heure did not live long after the completion of his moated mansion, and on his decease the manor of Hever was divided between his two daughters, Joan and Margaret. Joan, the elder, was married to Reginald Cobham, a younger son of the Cobhams of Cobham, and thenceforward her portion was known by the name of Hever





The Village of Chidingstone.

Cobham. After her death Reginald, Lord Cobham, inherited the estate, and from him it passed to his son Reginald, Lord Cobham, of Sterborough Castle, in Surrey.

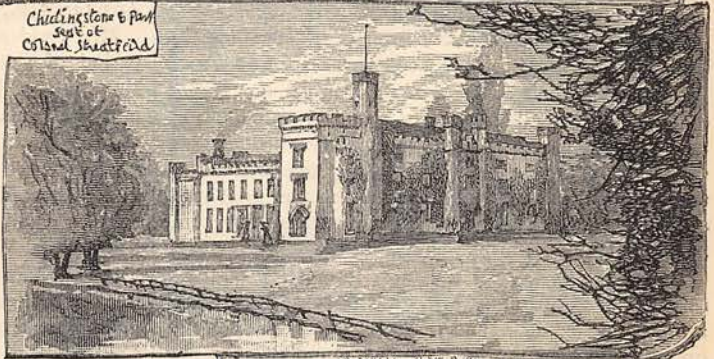
Margaret's portion was also distinguished by the name of her husband, Sir Oliver Brocas. It was called Hever Brocas; but the necessity for these surnames soon disappeared. On the death of Margaret, Lord Cobham of Sterborough purchased her moiety of the manor, and the two parts were thus reunited.

Lord Cobham died in 1404; and some years later, in the reign of King Henry VI., his grandson, Sir Thomas Cobham, knight, sold the property at Hever to Sir Geoffrey Bulleyn, a wealthy mercer of the City of London, who was Lord Mayor in 1459.

Sir Geoffrey belonged to an ancient and honourable family, originally of French extraction, who had settled in Norfolk. His wife was the eldest sister of Lord Hoo and Hastings, and by her he had one son, Sir William, who resided at Bleckling, in Norfolk.

Sir William Bulleyn was the grandfather of Queen Anne Bulleyn, who was the daughter of his son Thomas.

Sir Thomas went to reside at Hever soon after his marriage with Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk, and there his three children were born. The improvements commenced by Sir

Chidingstone & part  
seat of  
Colonel ShaftesburyOld oak  
in the park

Geoffrey were carried on by him, and, when they were finished he dignified his moated mansion by calling it a castle. Sir Thomas was happy in his marriage, and prosperous in his fortunes. The peace of Hever remained unbroken till the death of the lady Elizabeth, which unfortunately took place during her husband's absence. This was the first dark cloud which gathered over the little castle. The orphans could ill spare their mother when she was taken from them. Sir



Thomas scarcely knew what was best for their welfare. He kept Mary with him to order his house, provided Rochford with a tutor, and committed Anne to the charge of the king's sister, who had just been married to Louis XII. The queen took her to France, and when she became a widow, removed her into the service of Queen Claudia, the wife of Francis I. After the death of this princess, Anne went to attend the Duchess of Alençon, with whom she remained until her return to England. She found many alterations in her old home: a stepmother superintending the household, her sister Mary was removed by her marriage to Carey, and her brother Rochford was absent at Oxford. She, however, seems to have found amusement in her books, her embroidery, and the garden at Hever, where Henry VIII. is said to have seen her first. The king, we are told, went back to Westminster, and informed Wolsey that he had been discussing with a young lady who had the wit of an angel, and was worthy of a crown. She left Hever to become a maid of honour to the unfortunate Queen Catherine of Arragon, and while in this situation her art and address brought about the divorce of her royal mistress. Anne evidently retired to Hever during the progress of the suit, and there the king made her frequent visits. It is related that he and his attendants often stuck in the mud on the way thither, and were obliged to sound a horn to summon the inhabitants of the castle to their assistance.

Hever Castle is probably little changed since the days when Henry VIII. went there to woo Anne Bulleyn; the main features of its outward appearance and the surrounding scenery are the same. The stables, with sleeping chambers above them, and a curious long gallery running along the front, and several of the principal apartments, are unaltered, although they are emptied of their antique furniture, and much defaced by the hand of time.

The Long Gallery is the most interesting of these rooms. It is very long, low, and narrow. The sides are of panelled oak, and the ceiling was evidently at one time ornamented in a similar manner. On one side is a recess, probably designed for the occupation of minstrels, or perhaps used for a chair of state when the king was present. It now contains an ancient bedstead, adorned with heavy, faded, yellow hangings, called the bed of Anne Bulleyn. It formerly stood in a small chamber said to have been used by her, which has some roughly-carved panels over the mantel-shelf. At the end nearest to the recess is a large bay window, especially associated by tradition with Anne and her royal lover, nor is it difficult to imagine their conversation there in the twilight, or to fancy the Beauty of Hever watching his approach through the diamond panes, or waving him an adieu.

At the opposite extremity of the Ball-room is a trap-door in the well-worn oaken flooring, which on being lifted reveals a dark hole or passage, probably leading to a hiding-place for use in time of danger. It is now called a dungeon.

There is another show apartment besides the Ball-room, which is partly covered by a fine gallery. It is

well lighted, and has a small room opening from it, which may have been either a pantry or an oratory.

Anne Bulleyn was privately married to the king on the 14th of November, 1532, and declared queen on Easter Eve in the following year. After this event it is likely she never saw Hever again; but how often she must have wished herself back in its seclusion! Scarcely had she become used to the dignity she had coveted before the charms of Jane Seymour eclipsed her own, and a reason was found for her removal. Better to have remained for ever in the obscurity of Hever, than to have lived in royal state for three short years, and perished upon a scaffold.

Lord Rochford, the heir of Hever, suffered with his unfortunate sister; and two years later their unhappy father, Sir Thomas Bulleyn, who had been created Earl of Wiltshire, was also laid in the grave, his death doubtlessly hastened by his bereavements.

The tomb of Sir Thomas Bulleyn in Hever Church was scarcely closed before his sometime son-in-law, the royal tyrant, seized upon his estates, and ultimately appropriated his family residence as a suitable retirement for another of his ill-fated queens.

The manors of Hever, Seale, and Kemsing, with the castle and park of the former, were made over to Queen Anne of Cleves in the thirty-second year of her husband's reign. She had them for the term of her natural life, but was subject to a yearly rent of £93 13s. 3½d., payable at the Court of Augmentation.

Her residence at the castle, which extended to a period of sixteen years, was undisturbed, unless by memories of her predecessor, whose more mournful fate she must have been thankful to have escaped. On her death in 1557 Hever reverted to the crown, but Mary, the then reigning sovereign, had no interest in its possession, and it was very shortly afterwards sold by commissioners authorised for the purpose to Sir Edward Waldegrave.

The Waldegraves were a Northamptonshire family; but the branch from which Sir Edward was descended resided at Borely, in Essex. As an officer in the household of Queen Mary while she was a princess, Sir Edward Waldegrave had obtained her patronage and esteem. His sufferings in her interests had also strengthened the relationship between them, for his known attachment to her cause had incurred the displeasure of Edward VI., or rather of his advisers, and, as a consequence, procured his confinement in the Tower. On the accession of Queen Mary he was released, and loaded with honours. In the first year of her reign he was made one of her Privy Council, and appointed Master of the Great Wardrobe. Soon afterwards he became Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and Comptroller of the Queen's Household. His royal mistress also employed him in many commissions of trust and importance, and gave him grants of land on easy terms. Hever was probably more of a gift than a purchase. But on the death of Queen Mary there came another dark cloud over his horizon. Queen Elizabeth had no love for the friends of her sister, and those who had enjoyed the chief favours of the late queen soon found they were to receive the



least grace from the new one. Sir Edward Waldegrave was quickly deprived of his honours and his offices, and sent to take up his old quarters in the Tower, where he died after a captivity of three years.

It was fortunate for his family that Queen Elizabeth did not take the estates as well as the liberty of Sir Edward Waldegrave. His eldest son Charles inherited his father's property without dispute, and passed it in his turn to his son Edward.

Sir Edward Waldegrave appears to have distinguished himself in some way, for he was knighted at Greenwich in 1607. At seventy years of age he took arms in defence of Charles I., and behaved with such courage at the head of the regiment which he commanded, that he was made a baronet by letters patent in 1643. He paid dearly, however, for his allegiance to royalty, for two of his sons fell by his side in the battles which were fought, and he lost £50,000 value in his estates.

Hever Castle is now occupied as a farm-house. Only two rooms are shown to visitors, those we have described, as the farmer naturally refuses to see visitors, finding it impossible to receive them and attend to his business. He, however, made an exception in our case, and told us all that he knew. If a man pays rent for a building as his dwelling-house, he cannot be expected to have it open all day and be subject to the intrusion of every curious stranger. The grievance appears to be a very old one, and came to a climax about fifty years ago. In 1828 two visitors made their way to Hever Castle. They had provided themselves with what they reckoned a due reward for the *cicerone*, but on their ringing at the gate they found there posted an announcement that, the family being greatly inconvenienced by visitors, a charge of 2s. 6d. was to be made for each person. The visitors declined to yield to what they called this exorbitant demand, and one of them wrote a letter to the *Gentleman's Magazine*, September, 1828, complaining of the conduct of the inconvenienced family. He concluded contemptuously with saying that "there was really nothing to be seen except two or three armour coats in one of the windows, and a very indifferently executed painting christened Anne Boleyn."

Hever Church is built in a fine open situation at a short distance from the castle. It is dedicated to St. Peter, and is adorned with a handsome tower and spire which would have done honour to a larger building. In the reign of King Edward I. it was valued at fifteen marks, and in 1650 it was described as a parsonage with a house and twelve acres of glebe land, which with the tithes were worth £77 per annum. John Petter was then incumbent, and Francis Lord Dacre was the patron.

Hever Church has no books earlier than the time of Charles I. The first entry was made in 1632, and signed by John Petter, rector. The second entry is the burial of Mr. Balaam, who is described as rector of some place; the name is not legible, but it is probably Hever. In this case we may infer that John Petter was inducted in 1632. He held this living during the civil wars and the Commonwealth, but he

refused to conform under the new restrictions of 1662. There is unfortunately no record of his history. Calamy merely mentions his name among the ejected ministers of Kent; but it is the lives of such men as Petter which would throw most light on the religious history of that age. He had not come into the place of any Royalist clergyman, he did not require re-ordination, he had conformed many years before the Presbyterians, as they were called, had the supremacy, yet in 1662 he would not conform. There is every sign of his having been both an able and an ardent man. The books are kept with a carefulness which is rarely equalled in any of the registers of Cromwell's time. There is a sermon extant on the death of his wife, who seems to have been a very estimable woman; and he wrote a preface to a Commentary on St. Mark's Gospel, written by his brother, George Petter, minister of the Gospel in Bread, in Sussex. In this preface he compares the four Evangelists to four stately white horses drawing the triumphant chariot of the Gospel, whereon the Lord Jesus rides gloriously in this imperial seat throughout the world. After quoting what had been said of St. Mark and his Gospel by the Fathers and old writers, he gives an account of his brother, from which we infer something of the writer's own character. George was born in the parish of Sandhurst, near Newenden, and so he was a native of Kent. In the twenty-fourth year of his age he was presented to the Rectory of Bread, which he held for forty-four years. "He was," says the brother, "notably instrumental in effecting a great change in the hearts and lives of the inhabitants." It is added that he was "exercised with sundry trials and afflictions," so that he "withdrew himself from the affairs of the world, and conversed much with dead men in his study, delighting much in that learned prison." The commentary consists of two very large closely-printed quarto volumes. It is described as the largest of all the commentaries which had yet appeared in any language on any of the Evangelists. The author died before its publication, so that the care of it fell to his brother, who commends "these pious and holy labours to the dews of Zion," and dates "from my study in Hever, in the county of Kent, September 3rd, 1661."

On leaving Hever Church we drove to Chidingstone, which was about two miles distant. Chidingstone is one of the smallest villages in Kent, but it is so quaint and picturesque that it is one of the most remarkable. It consists of a short row of irregular houses facing the church, all of which must have been built in the sixteenth century, and each one has some characteristic of its own—a gable, a window, or a door—that would make in itself a study for an artist. About the centre is a building with an important entrance, and a fine carved mantel-piece in its little best room, which was probably the dwelling of the priest or the squire in Tudor times. At the right end is also a house of larger dimensions than the others, which is now used as an inn; and so appropriate does it seem for the purpose, that we cannot help thinking that it has always afforded refreshment and accommodation to travellers. Mine host gave us



an excellent tea, and civilly showed us the curious Chiding-stone in his yard, from which the village takes its name.

The great Chiding-stone is large enough to fill a good-sized room. Nothing is known of its history, nor does it seem to have been noticed as in any way remarkable until attention was called to it in the last century by the antiquary Grose. He supposed that it was of the same kind as the consecrated rocks in Cornwall where the Druids worshipped. He also records the tradition of this place, that here the priests used to hear confession and *chide* the people for their misdoings; but this tradition has evidently originated from the attempt to get a meaning for the name. The stone apparently is a natural formation; but if it ever were hewn, or bore any inscriptions, all such traces are now effaced. Grose describes it as standing in a farm-yard.

The manor of Chidingstone was formerly divided into two, which were respectively called after their owners—Chidingstone Cobham, and Chidingstone Burghersh. The former was part of the property of the Cobhams, of Sterborough Castle, and remained with them until the middle of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Then their descendant, Thomas, Lord Burgh, was compelled to sell it and other estates to Richard Streatfeild, a gentleman residing in the parish, in consequence of the expenses which he had incurred

in the queen's service. The family of Streatfeild had resided at Chidingstone since the time of Henry VII. Chidingstone Burghersh also passed into possession of the Streatfeilds about the year 1700, and thus the two manors were once more reunited under one owner.

Burghersh—vulgarly called Burwash—was the name of an eminent family who possessed this part of Chidingstone in the fourteenth century. Robert de Burghersh was Constable of Dover Castle during the reign of Edward I., and Bartholomew held the same honourable office under Edward II. and Edward III. The latter prince seems to have shown him much favour, for he was frequently employed by him in embassies of importance, and was with him at the famous battle of Crecy. A short time before his death he was also made Constable of the Tower of London, whither he must have gone with strange emotions, since he was confined there for some time in his youth for taking the part of the Despencers. Bartholomew, his son and heir, was also in high esteem with the king for his courage and military skill, and on the institution of the Order of the Garter he was made one of the Knights Companions.

The church is a handsome building, with a good tower; but, having been recently restored, has little antiquarian interest. There are a few old slabs, chiefly recording the names of Streatfeilds, but no monuments of importance.

## GARDENING IN JULY.



any ordinary mortal, save the haymaker or the well-bronzed devotee of our delightful craft, there is something overpowering in the very idea of "gardening in July." It sounds about as inviting as the notion of iced

Seltzer-water on Christmas Day.

But, on the other hand, we must recollect that we gardeners are not ordinary mortals. We do not like to sit

with our hands before us, for if ever it held true that if any man work not, neither shall he eat, it holds true with the garden, the orchard, and the field. Now, when the

height of the summer has been reached, we so often hear it said *apropos* of any proposal for a paper on gardening at this season of the year, "What possible suggestions can there be to offer now that everything is planted out, and bedded out, and when all our flowers, our fruit, and vegetables are in full display and luxuriance?" All this no doubt sounds very plausible, the idea probably being that, having sown, it now only remains to sit down, gaze at the flowers, and eat the fruit. But certainly a garden that from the 1st to the 31st of July was only looked at would have a very wonderful appearance by the end of that time. Only imagine leaving all our hedgerows to take care

of themselves! The "Local Board" is very properly empowered to come down upon us if we allow our hedges to straggle across the path that probably divides our garden from the high road. Soon after Midsummer, then, have the hedges all round neatly and evenly trimmed with your shears. It is a hard, a dusty, and a hot piece of work, and as a rule we contrive to go through it only once in the course of the year. If, then, this tedious process is gone through in the middle of May, you will find it necessary to repeat it in the middle of July. It is for these heavy operations, when the borders of our gardens are strewn all round with the thorny boughs and branches of the hedges—and which, by the way, we can only burn afterwards—that our gardener generally asks for a little extra assistance, so that as all this entails additional expense, which perhaps not a few of us can ill afford, we prefer so to contrive that our hedge-cutting comes as Christmas does, "only once a year."

This gay month of July, then, finds us perhaps watching with some degree of interest the progress that our picotees and carnations are making towards blooming. Nothing is more handsome and effective than a fine show of these clove-scented and elegant flowers. But in order to bring them to anything like perfection, they, unlike some of our hardier plants, want a good deal of care and attention. And first, from the very nature of their growth, it is evident that