



BITS ABOUT SUNDRIDGE. (See p. 146.)

1. TOMB OF BEILBY PORTEUS, BISHOP OF LONDON. 2. OLD COTTAGES ON THE WAYSIDE LEADING FROM THE CHURCH.
 3. SUNDRIDGE CHURCH. 4. LYCH-GATE. 5. PRESENT RESIDENCE OF MR. SPOTTISWOODE.

A HOLIDAY VISIT TO SUNDRIDGE.



OUR visit to Sundridge was made in the beginning of May, at that beautiful season when everything is full of promise.

"The penetrative sun
His force departing to the
dark retreat
Of vegetation"—

had brought forth new life from every

buried seed and root. Innumerable varieties of tender herbage covered the hills and dales, and on the recently bare branches of the trees trembled a complicated network of fresh young foliage, through which the blue sky was pleasantly visible.

Sundridge ought to be spelt Sundrish. In the Domesday Book it is written Sondresse, and in the *Textus Roffensis*, Sundersee. The vulgar tongue, however, has probably found the "drish" difficult of pronunciation, and the corruption of the concluding syllable is now universally adopted.

Like many other parishes in the See of Canterbury, Sundridge was a subject of dispute at a very early period in its history. We are told that the great Earl Godwin unjustly withheld it from the archbishop in the reign of Edward the Confessor; and after the Conquest, Odo, the powerful Bishop of Bayeux, half-brother to the Conqueror, took possession of it with other places. But when he was disgraced for his ambition, Lanfranc, the Lombard monk who had been raised to the archbishopric on the deposit of Stigand, recovered it again in a solemn assembly which was held by the king's command on Pinenden Heath in the year 1076.

The survey for Domesday being taken after this event, it was there entered as the property of the archbishop, and was taxed at one suling and a half. In demesne there was at that time "three carucates and 27 villeins, with nine borderers having eight carucates;" there were also "eight servants and three mills and an half of 13 shillings and an half; eight acres of meadow, wood for the pannage of 60 hogs, and a church." The surveyor adds: "In the whole, in the time of King Edward the Confessor, it was worth 12 pounds; when he (the archbishop) received it, 16 pounds; and now 18 pounds; yet it pays 23 pounds and one knight in the service of the archbishop."

In the reign of Henry III., the manor of Sundridge was let to the family of Apulderfield by the Archbishop

of Canterbury, probably to Sir Henry de Apulderfield, who was with the king in Gascony in 1230. Later on, in 1254-5, his son Henry appears as plaintiff in a trial against another Henry de Appulderfeld, who with Letitia, his wife, seems to have laid claim to a third part of the manor of Sundridge with its appurtenances, which claim, however, does not seem to have had a very certain foundation, since they lost the issue.

In the twentieth year of the reign of Edward III., Sir Ralph de Frenyngham, knight, appears to be the possessor of the manor of Sundridge, and we are told that he paid aid for it, one knight's fee, at the making of the Black Prince a knight. Sir Ralph was lord of the manor of Frenyngham, or as it is now called, Farningham, and he resided in that place. Twelve years after he became the owner of Sundridge he was made sheriff of the county, but he did not enjoy that high station long, for he died the following year. The same honour was bestowed upon his son John by Richard II., in the seventeenth year of his reign. John died possessed of the manor of Sundridge in the thirteenth year of King Henry IV., and as he had no issue, he bequeathed it to his kinsman, Roger Isley. William, eldest son of this Roger, seems to have paid an annual rent of £22 12s. to the archbishop in addition to the fee of one knight's service when he came into his inheritance. He was sheriff of the county in the twenty-fifth year of Henry VI., and died three years after the accession of Edward IV. As he left no children, an inquisition of his property was taken at St. Mary's Cray in the following year, and John, a son of his brother John, deceased, then twenty-two years of age, was declared to be the heir.

In the fourteenth year of King Edward IV., this John Isley became justice of the peace and sheriff of Kent. He died in the year 1483, and was buried in Sundridge Church. Thomas Philpott, who wrote a survey of Kent about the middle of the seventeenth century, informs us that the inscription on his tomb was legible at that time, but it is now destroyed.

John Isley left an only son, Thomas, who was married to Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Richard Guldeford, Knight Banneret of the Garter, and Comptroller of the Household to King Henry VIII. He died in the eleventh year of the reign of this monarch, leaving ten sons to maintain the honour of his name, and three daughters.

Henry, eldest son and heir of Thomas Isley, was also a sheriff of the county in the thirty-fourth year of King Henry VIII., and the fifth year of King Edward VI., but being concerned in the rebellion raised by Sir Thomas Wyatt a year after the accession of Queen Mary, he was attainted and executed at Maidstone or Sevenoaks. His lands, as a matter of course, were confiscated to the Crown; but on the payment of £1,000 by his eldest son William, the manor of Sundridge, with all other lands, tenements, &c., forfeited by reason of the attainder, was restored to the family by Queen Mary. William Isley, however,

was not able to keep the heritage he had redeemed at such a costly price. We are told that he soon afterwards became greatly indebted to the Crown, and was obliged to convey his manor of Sundridge to the queen, her heirs and successors, in payment of his dues; and it seems to have remained the property of the Crown until the reign of James I. That king, by letters patent dated at Nonsuch in the twenty-second year of his reign, granted it to Nicholas Street and George Fouch at the yearly rent of £42 12s. This "fee farm" next passed into the possession of William Saville, Marquis of Halifax, on whose death it became the property of his daughters and co-heirs, and on the division of his estates among them it was allotted to Richard, Earl of Burlington, in right of his wife Dorothy, one of the co-heirs.

Shortly afterwards the estate of Sundridge appears to have been regarded as two manors. At the latter end of the reign of King Charles I. a person named Brooker conveyed it, under the titles of Sundrish Upland and Sundrish Weald, to Mr. John Hyde, second son of Bernard Hyde, one of the Commissioners of Customs to that unfortunate king. Mr. Hyde resided at Sundridge Place, where he died in 1677, and was buried in Sundridge Church. His son Saville inherited the estate, but resided at Quarendon in the county of Leicester. In a note Hasted remarks: "He" (Mr. Saville Hyde) "has lately pulled down the ancient mansion of Sundrish Place, and erected a farm-house in its stead." "On the east side of the church is a fine old romantic spot of ground, which was formerly the warren belonging to the old castle (or mansion), and still retains that name; and a little further to the east are several large ponds, which supplied the manor-house with fish. In the warren is a fine spring of water, and some very deep dells, now overgrown with trees and shrubs, from whence probably was dug the stone that built the castle and the church."

Henden, or Hethenden, as it is written in ancient records, is the chief manor in the parish of Sundridge. It lies on the southern side, in a beautiful part of the Weald below Ide Hill.

This estate was formerly part of the possessions of Bartholomew de Burghersh, who died in the twenty-ninth year of the reign of King Henry III. His eldest son Bartholomew, who inherited the property, was a man of great military reputation. At a very early age his courage in the French wars attracted the attention of King Edward III., and on the institution of the Order of the Garter he was made a Knight Companion as a reward for his merit, although he was then only twenty-four years of age. On his death Henden and his other estates passed into the possession of his only daughter Elizabeth, who was married to Edward le Despencer, a grandson of Hugh le Despencer, the younger favourite of the unfortunate Edward II., whose pernicious counsels with those of his father cost that unfortunate monarch his kingdom and his life. He attended the Black Prince into France, and was present at the famous battle of Poitiers. In the thirty-first year of the reign of King Edward III. he was summoned to Parliament, and died eighteen

years afterwards at his Castle of Kaerdiff. His only son Thomas, commonly called Lord Despencer of Glamorgan and Morgans, inherited Henden and his other estates. He was advanced to great titles of honour in the reign of Richard II., and created Earl of Gloucester. On the deposition of that monarch he forgot all the benefits which he had received from the unfortunate king, and ranged himself on the side of his enemies. But this perfidious behaviour met with a just punishment. The very first year after the accession of King Henry IV. he was degraded from his rank of earl for the part which he had taken in the death of Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, and compelled to flight from a fear of further proceedings. He was, however, taken at Bristol, carried to the market-place by the rabble, and there beheaded. The following year he was adjudged a traitor, and all the lands which he had in fee upon the 5th of January, in the first year of King Henry IV., with his goods and chattels, became forfeit to the Crown. The residue of his property, including the manor of Henden, descended to his son Richard, and on his death without issue, to his daughter Isabel, who was married to Richard Beauchamp, Lord Bergavenny, afterwards Earl of Worcester. Isabel survived her husband, and married his namesake Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, one of the most considerable persons of his time. At the coronation of King Henry IV. this Earl was made a Knight of the Bath, though only nineteen years old. Five years later his bravery against Owen Glendower won him universal commendation, for he took the standard of the rebel in open battle. He also gained great honour in the battle of Shrewsbury fought against the Percys. At the coronation of Henry V. he was made Lord High Steward "for his own wisdom and indefatigable industry in the king's service." In 1415 he became Captain of Calais and Governor of the Marches in Picardy. In 1417 he was created Earl of Aumarle, or Albermale, in reward for his bravery in France, and in 1420 he was elected a Knight of the Garter. Upon the death of Henry V. he was appointed governor to the young King Henry VI., and afterwards, on the death of the Duke of Bedford, he was made Regent of France, and Lieutenant-General of the King's Forces in that realm and in Normandy. He died at the Castle of Roan, April 30th, 1439; and his wife Isabel did not long survive him, for she died on the 24th day of the following month of June.

The Earl and Countess of Warwick left an only son, Henry, who inherited the estate at Sundridge from his mother. He was little more than fourteen at the time of her death, but was such a favourite with Henry VI. that the highest honours were thought insufficient to express the king's affection toward him. He was created Premier Earl of England, and was licensed to wear a golden coronet even in the royal presence. A few days afterwards he was created *Duke of Warwick*, with precedence next after the Duke of Norfolk. A grant was made to him of the islands of Guernsey and Jersey, together with several castles, lands, and manors, and ultimately he was crowned King of the Isle of

Wight. But he did not live long under this weight of honours. He died at the age of twenty-two, on the 11th of June, 1445, and his body was taken to Tewkesbury, where it lies interred in the middle of the choir. Though so young at the time of his decease, Henry, Duke of Warwick, had been married twelve years to Cicely—daughter to Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury, who was his brother-in-law—by whom he had one child, a daughter, who was two years old when her father died. The young heiress only lived another four years, and then her aunt, Ann, Countess of Salisbury, sister to the deceased duke, became the inheritress of the earldom and her brother's effects. Richard Neville, Earl of Salisbury, by reason of his marriage and some special service he had rendered the king, was allowed to assume the dignity and title of Earl of Warwick, but he is better known in English history by the style of King-maker.

Ann, Countess of Warwick, lived in great distress after the fall of her husband at the battle of Barnet, for the vast estates of the Warwick family were taken from her by Act of Parliament and given to her two daughters. But after their decease, on the accession of Henry VII., she was recalled from her retirement in the North and restored to the possession of her inheritance; the restitution, however, was of little benefit to the countess, for she was immediately afterwards compelled to transfer the whole to the king.

From this time until the reign of Henry VIII. the manor of Henden seems to have remained the property of the Crown. That monarch, by an indenture dated May 12th in the ninth year of his reign, exchanged his manor, lordship, and park of Henden for the manor of Newhall and other lands in Essex, then the property of Sir Thomas Bulleyn, whose daughter Anne afterwards became his queen.

Combe Bank is a seat in the parish of Sundridge now occupied by Mr. Spottiswoode, who is well known in the world of science, and now President of the Royal Society. It is so called from the circumstance of a Roman camp having been made in its vicinity. Urns of an antique shape have also been found while digging near it, which indicate that there was a Roman burial-ground probably for soldiers in the neighbourhood.

Combe Bank has been greatly improved by its present owner. The room in which Lady Frederick Campbell met her tragic fate has been rebuilt, and the great saloon has been beautified by the taste and brush of Mr. Walter Crane. Subjects appropriate to the presence of the President of the Royal Society, and suggestive of hospitality to his guests, decorate it on all sides. On the ceiling are emblematical figures representing the chief luminaries of the heavens with their various symbols, the Four Seasons, and the flight of Time. The frieze is ornamented with antique Italian paintings from Modena, purchased by Mr. Spottiswoode, which, he says, "represent a few glimpses of the Masque of Life, seen at intervals in the procession of the Hours. They show play and pageant, sport and merriment, music and the arts, and other occupations appropriate to a room which is intended for

converse with our friends when the serious work of the day is done."

This estate was formerly in possession of the Isleys, and they sold it to a family named Ash about the latter end of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. By them it was transferred to Colonel John Campbell, who on the death of Archibald, Duke of Argyle, in 1761, succeeded to that title. He was the son of the Hon. John Campbell, of Mammore, and his wife was a daughter of Lord Elphinston. Before his succession to the peerage Combe Bank was his chief residence, but afterwards he gave it in his lifetime to his son the Right Hon. Lord Frederick Campbell, who was a Privy Councillor; Lord Frederick was also Lord Registrar of Scotland, and member of Parliament for the borough of Rutherglen, &c. John, Duke of Argyle, while Marquis of Lorne was on the 20th of December, 1766, created a peer of England by the title of Baron Sundridge, of Combe Bank, in the County of Kent.

The wife of Lord Frederick Campbell was the youngest daughter of Amos Meredith, Esq., son and heir of Sir William Meredith, Baronet, of Henbury, and the widow of Lawrence, Earl Ferrers. Mary Meredith was married to her first husband on the 16th of September, 1752, but his cruel treatment and irrational conduct soon obliged her to seek a separation, although she was of a mild and enduring disposition. Shortly after this event Earl Ferrers deliberately shot his steward, probably for the part which he took in the matter of the divorce, and was condemned to the gallows on May 5th, 1760. He endured his sentence with fortitude, but showed his eccentricity by wearing a light suit embroidered with silver, said to have been his wedding garment. He is also said to have prophesied a more terrible death for his widow. This prediction was unhappily fulfilled at Combe Bank on the 25th of July, 1807, when Lady Frederick Campbell was burnt to death in one of the towers. It is supposed that her ladyship became drowsy while reading over her dressing-room fire, and so falling forward ignited her own garments and the furniture of the apartment in which she was sitting. On a search among the débris after the accident, only one bone was discovered, which was buried in a coffin in Sundridge Church.

The Rectory of Sundridge is in the gift of the Archbishop of Canterbury. In 1650 it was returned by the Parliamentary Commission as possessing a parsonage with a house and barns, twelve acres of land, and tithes worth £100 per annum. Its present value is about £700. In the days of pluralities in the Church of England, Sundridge was generally held with the rich living of Lambeth, which was also in the archbishop's patronage. Hasted inserts among the Rectors of Sundridge the name of William Barlow (afterwards bishop), on the ground of a letter from Anne Bulleyn to the king, recommending him to that rectory, which was then vacant. The registers of the parish date from the year 1562. Bishop Porteus resided in this parish, and endowed the (now) vicarage of Ide Hill, and built a church and parsonage house, both of which have since been replaced by more substantial buildings.