

A Chat About Barnet and its History

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A Chat about Barnet and its History.

S. H. WIDDICOMBE,
Vestry Clerk of Chipping Barnet.

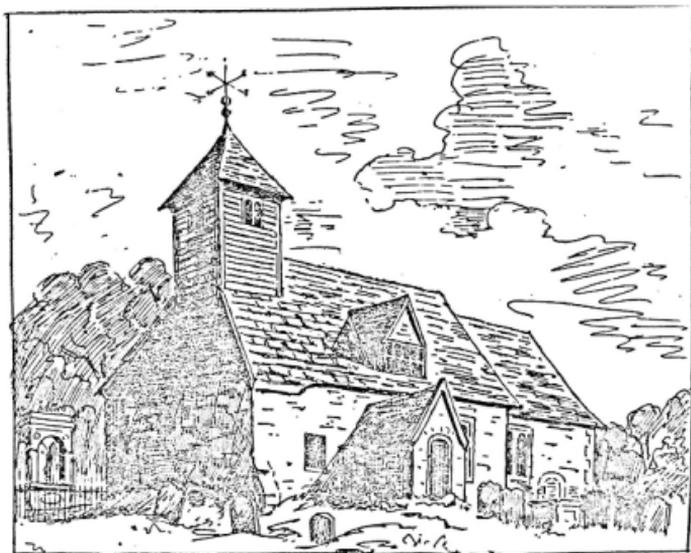
Barnet :
PRINTED BY E. COWING & SON, "PRESS" OFFICE,
1912.



BARNET HIGH STREET BEFORE THE DEMOLITION
OF "MIDDLE ROW."

A FORE WORD.

The history of the place in which we live must ever be interesting, and though no historical record can be entirely complete or in the nature of the last word possible about the things recorded, the author of this brochure has been at pains to cover the most interesting points in local history, and to verify facts by reference to such ancient documents as are available. Some day, perhaps, he may make the present work the foundation of a more comprehensive survey of local history; meanwhile he asks the kind indulgence of readers for any errors into which he has unwittingly fallen, and hopes that what he has written may deepen our interest in all that appertains to Barnet and its neighbourhood.



East Barnet Church circa 1787

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DOORWAY OF ANCIENT HALL, QUEEN ELIZABETH'S
GRAMMAR SCHOOL, BARNET.



A Chat about Barnet and its History.

AS is often customary in describing a town and speaking about its history, I shall ask you to accompany me on an imaginary journey round the district, and for that purpose to assemble at East Barnet Church. While you are in imagination traversing the roads between your homes and our rendezvous I will speak of the meaning and derivation of the words "Barnet in Hertfordshire"; words which we all speak so glibly, and without a thought of the long forgotten past into which a hunt for their true meaning carries us.

The popularly accepted derivation of the word "Hertford" is that of a hart crossing a ford; and this derivation has been accepted by many local authorities in the county when adopting coats of arms, crests, etc., slavishly following the crest of the County Town. But to my mind this derivation savours too much of the modern tendency to accept the most plausible explanation of a thing without troubling to investigate whether it is a likely or probable one.

Of course it is quite possible that the Anglo-Saxons, to whom we owe the name, may have been struck by the fact that the Red Deer of the country, which were then plentiful, were in the habit of leaving the moors and

barren hillsides which they frequent and visiting a woody district for the purpose of crossing this particular ford; but personally I don't think it likely. I prefer to think that the County Town which adopted the hart crossing the ford as its coat of arms in Elizabeth's reign did so, not because the authorities sought to portray the derivation of the word, but because they fell victims to the craze for the punning rebus or play upon names which was so fashionable in Elizabethan times.

A more likely derivation is that given by the Anglo-Saxon historian, the Venerable Bede, who identifies the name with "He-rud-ford," or "The Red Ford," so named from the red gravel there. This is supported by the belief that the town of Hertford corresponds with the British stronghold "Durocobziva," which also signifies "red ford." But if this were the derivation I think the definite article "he" would in the course of time have been dropped, and the name would have become "Retford," as it has in the Nottinghamshire town of that name.

The most probable derivation is that it is a corruption of the word "Hereford," meaning "Army Ford," and, indeed, it is spelt this way by some of the Saxon writers. The whole history of the shire tends to support this theory. It is a history of battles and armies. The first we hear of the district is that previous to the Roman invasion its Celtic inhabitants were subdued by the Belgæ. In 54 B.C., Cassivelaunus was defeated by Cæsar in what is now Hertfordshire. It was the scene of the struggle with Caractacus in A.D. 44, and it was the area affected by Boadicea's rising. It was the scene of frequent contests between the Saxons and the Danes, and when Hertford itself was besieged by

the latter, Alfred the Great compelled them to retire by dividing the stream through which the ford passes into three channels, and so stranding their vessels.

Is it not therefore likely that many an army has passed over this particular ford, and that the shire takes its name from that and not from a stag?

Then as to the derivation of the word "Barnet." One suggestion is that the name is of Jewish origin. This is founded on the fact that the name Barnet is often found among the Jews; that the town of Barnet-in-the-Wolds, in Lincolnshire, is admittedly of Jewish origin—a Jewish colony have settled there—and that the first syllable "Bar" is a Hebrew prefix. Others say, and perhaps with more reason, that the name is derived from the words "Berg" "net," meaning "a little hill." Professor Skeats, Professor of Anglo-Saxon at Cambridge, however, says that the combination of the German word "berg" with the English diminutive "net" is an impossible one. In his opinion the true derivation of the name is from the Anglo-Saxon "baernet," meaning "a burning," "a conflagration." In support of this derivation, in all the older records the name of the town always has the prefix "le" or "the."

We may therefore picture the ancient town on the hill as the scene of a devastating conflagration which lighted up the surrounding hills, and attracted the attention of the scanty population for miles around; a conflagration so vast that it was ever afterwards spoken of as *the fire*, and the town which sprang up on its ashes was known as the place of the fire, or Barnet.

In these days, when the wolf still prowled round the homesteads of the north, and the wild boar and wild ox dwelt in the woods of Hertford and Middlesex, the Saxon Kings confirmed Huzeseg wood to the Abbey of St. Albans. Huzeseg—now become Osidge, the estate of Sir Thomas Lipton—formed part of the great forest which at one time enveloped Barnet. On the one side the forest of St. Albans stretched from that city to Barnet—the part nearest Barnet being called Southaw Forest—and on the other side Enfield Chace reached from Enfield to Barnet, and from Potters Bar to Tottenham. Osidge was the most southern portion of the Abbatial Lands, and the adjoining estate is still known by the name of Monken Frith, *i.e.*, Monks' hedge.

At Osidge and Monken Frith the monks of St. Albans formed a colony of woodmen and swineherds, for whose use about the year 1100, when Henry I. was King, they built the little Church in the valley, dedicated to St. Mary ye Virgin. This, the Parish Church of East Barnet, is undoubtedly one of the oldest structures in Hertfordshire.

It is a good specimen of Norman architecture, and contains many interesting tombs. The tall Gothic Cross in the corner of the churchyard was erected in memory of Sir Simon Houghton Clark, of Oak Hill (who died 1832), and it is said that all the intervening trees were cut down to enable his widow to see the tomb from the windows of the house.

Sir Simon Clark purchased Oak Hill Park in 1810. This estate forms part of the 160 acres round Monken Frith which were granted by royal license in 1660 to

Sir Edward Alston, President of the Royal College of Physicians. It was occupied in 1771 by Chief Justice De Grey, who afterwards (1780) became Lord Walsingham. Lord Eldon writes of him: "He was a most accomplished lawyer and of the most extraordinary power of memory. I have seen him come into Court with both hands wrapped up in flannel from gout. He could not take a note, and had no one to do so for him. I have known him try a cause which lasted nine or ten hours, and then from memory sum up all the evidence with the greatest correctness".¹ In 1837, Oak Hill was tenanted by Chevalier (afterwards Baron) Bunsen, Prussian Ambassador, statesman, theologian, archæologist, historian, and philologist.² By immemorial custom a pew in East Barnet Church is an appurtenance to this house.

The three altar tombs covered with ivy at the east end of the Church are those of the Hadley family. In 1652, George Hadley, citizen and grocer of London, preceded Sir Robert Berkeley at Osidge, and his family remained there for nearly a hundred years. His will³ recites that: "Nicholas Waynewright hath assigned unto me (as security for a loan) a lease of the keepinge of the preaching place in the Church yarde of the Cathedrall Churche of Sainte Paule in London granted unto him by William late Bishoppe of London." This is an interesting allusion to Paul's Cross, which was destroyed by the Puritans some ten years before the will was proved, so it is to be hoped that the loan had been repaid before the security became valueless. By his will, proved in December, 1905, Mr. H. C. Richards, K.C., M.P.,

1 Foss' Judges. 2 Cass. 3 P.C.C., Aug., 1654.

bequeathed £5,000 "for the rebuilding and sustentation of Paul's Cross in memory of Ann Richards, my grandmother, and Fred Field Richards, my brother, the former buried in St. Paul's Churchyard, 1829-1830," and under this bequest a suitable memorial has been erected on the old site.

George Hadley the younger was made High Sheriff of Hertfordshire in 1691; he was the first Barnet man to attain that honour since the Conquest.

John Hadley, his son, became Vice-President of the Royal Society, and was the inventor of the sea quadrant, which still bears his name. To him we owe reflecting telescopes on Sir Isaac Newton's theory. He died in 1743, and was buried in East Barnet Churchyard. Their house was demolished soon afterwards and the existing mansion built early in the 19th century by Mr. Kingston, of Oak Hill.

The tomb with the canopied urn by the side of the Vestry is that of the Sharpe family, who came to Little-grove, Cat Hill, in 1734. It bears the names of John Duprie, August, 1734; his sister, Esther Fuller, July, 1754; and her daughter, Millicent Matthews, May, 1771.

Esther Fuller bequeathed £8 a year to the Rector and Churchwardens for the use of the poor for ever provided they gave notice when the tomb required repairs.¹ This bequest was claimed in 1794, but declared void under the Statute of Mortmain.

Millicent Matthews was the wife of Admiral Thomas Matthews, who was defeated by the Spanish in the Mediterranean, 1744-5, and cashiered; a milder punish-

¹ P.C.C., 4th July, 1754.

ment than was meted out to Admiral Byng for the same offence a few years later. Horace Walpole's Letters contain an allusion to this defeat.

The Vestry at the west end of the Church was built in 1816, and the Tower—a perfect specimen of early 19th century ugliness, now happily covered with ivy—in 1823, and about the same period the walls were raised some 10 or 12 feet, and the old steep oak roof of the nave was covered with a flat slated deal roof, and possibly at the same time the painted ceiling—which it is thought was an irregular arrangement of troops of angels—was covered with white-wash. In 1868 the South Aisle was added, and the ancient wall pierced (not rebuilt) with two arches, and in 1880 the Chancel was rebuilt and carried 12 feet eastward, and the Organ Chamber added.

The Gallery dates from 1619, and bears the names, carved in inattentive moments, of villagers who have lain in the adjoining churchyard for a hundred years. The old church is still lighted by candles, and it requires no very vivid imagination to picture there the old parish clerk in all his glory. It was here that that worthy announced "On the Sunday next following the service will commence at 3 o'clock and continue until further notice."¹

The Parish Clerk always conducted the singing, which must have been somewhat monotonous, as the 95th and 100th Psalms (old version) were invariably sung. And it must have been a very pathetic scene in the church at East Barnet, which few of those present could have witnessed without emotion, when the Clerk, a man of advanced age, after several vain attempts to begin the

¹ "Chamber's Journal," Sept., 1854.

accustomed melody, sadly exclaimed, "Well, my friends, it's no use; I'm too old. I can't sing any more."¹

The old piscina or credence table in the north wall was discovered behind the wainscotting in 1849. It was probably connected with one of the three altars to which Joan Dudman, wife of Thomas Dudman (of whom we shall hear later), bequeathed torches and altar cloths in 1541.² The removal of the wainscotting also disclosed the old Norman doorway in the north wall. The hinges of the door and the sockets for a bar still remain. The slabs in front of the altar are those of Dame Mary Ingram, dd. 1661; Richard Baldwin, dd. 1677; Isabell Conyers, dd. 1644; William Greene, dd. 1645, and his wife, Grace Greene, dd. 1685; Elizabeth Wickham, dd. 1659; and Jane Thwaites, dd. 1650. On the north of the altar is James Rawlins, dd. 1715, and on the south Rev. Robert Taylor, dd. 1718.

Down the nave are Francis Noble, dd. 1789, and his wife, Betty, dd. 1787; Thomas Plukenett, dd. 1772, and various members of his family; (III. illegible); Thomas Boehm, dd. 1770; and Admiral Warre, dd. 1826.

Dame Mary Ingram's will³ contains the direction: "I will be buried in that Parish when it shall please God to call me. I will not be opened; embalmed with seare clothes in a coffin with locks and keys, the keys putt into the grave with mee, and a faire large stone laide over me." The inscription runs:—

" Here under lyes the Cabinet of Clay,
Waytinge th' Archangels voyce at the last day,
The iewells set in glory,

¹ Ditchfield's "Parish Clerk." ² Archdeaconry St. Albans (Ewer 63).
³ P.C.C., July, 1661.

Another Mary (of this world bereft)
 Only the perfume of her workes are left
 And wee to tell her story.
 And if our Tongues speake not her lowdest prayse
 The Loynes o' the poor her worthy fame shall raise."

Isabell Conyers was the relict of Thomas Conyers, of whom we shall hear later.

In memorie of
 the religiows and vertvows
 Mrs. Isabell Conyers, widowe,
 who, after more than seaventy
 and five yeres in this mortall life
 Departed to an immortall
 Vpon y^e foureteenth day of March,
 1644.

The inscription to Jane Thwaites is now illegible, but it ran :—¹

"Here lieth the body of Jane, the dearly beloved wife of Matthew Thwaites, gent., who was married unto her said husband 41 years and 6 months. Aged 63 years and 3 months, and was buried Nov. 26, 1650.

"A Virtuous Pattern, of a pious Mind,
 To Heaven is gone, her Body here behind
 Is left intomb'd to follow her most sure ;
 Her spotless Body of a Soul most pure
 Through Christ in this for ever to endure."

—
 The body of William Greene, Esq.,
 Is here interred. For above 13 yeres
 Together before his death he lived
 In this parish, religiously,

¹ Chauncy's "Historical Antiquities of Herts," pub. 1700.

Conscientiously, lovingly,
 And forward in all pious works,
 Here also he dyed quietly and
 Christianly, the 6 day of June, 1645
 & in the sixtye eight yere of his age,
 Lamented by his widow, and three
 Daughters, and missed by all who
 Conversed with him, spetially
 by his poore neighbours.

Here is also interred the body of Mrs. Grace Greene
 wife of the above named Willi Greene, Esq. ;
 She lived beloved and dyed bewailed of all
 That knew her especially the poore and
 on the 4th day of ianvary 1685 departed
 This life in the 87th years of her age
 & the 41th of her widowhoode.

Here lyeth the body
 of Elizabeth Wickham ¹
 late wife of Henry
 Wickham, Dr. of Divinity
 Aprill 21.

The tombs of Rawlins and Tayler were originally in
 the churchyard, but were enclosed when the Chancel was
 enlarged. Rawlins,² in his will, expressed the desire to
 be buried "as near to the Chancell as may be."

Robert Tayler was Rector of East Barnet from 1681
 to his death. He also held the living of Monken Hadley,
 to which he succeeded in 1673.

¹ P.C.C., 1659. ² P.C.C., 8 March, 1719-20.

"Here lies the body of Robert Taylor, late Rector of East Barnet and Prebendary of Lincoln, whose solid and useful Learning, judicious and ready zeal for the Doctrine and Discipline of the Church of England had render'd him valuable to all sincere lovers thereof. After he had for the space of above 40 years Recommended true Christian Piety by his preaching and example, he left by his Will that excellent Book entitled "The Whole Duty of Man" to every Family in his Parishes, as an Instance of his dying care and concern for their souls.

Obt. Feb. 18th, 1718, aetat 72.

The reputed authoress of the "Whole Duty of Man" was Dame Dorothy Pakenham, sister of the Right Honourable Henry Coventry, of West Lodge, Ranger of Enfield Chace.

The first Rector of East Barnet of whom we hear is "Sir" William Asshurst, whose will was proved in 1428¹—Henry VI's reign. In 1453, another Rector, "Sir" John Bell, witnesses the will of John Beauchamp, of Barnet, (thought to have shared with Abbot de la Moote the honour of founding Chipping Barnet Church). In 1455 we get Thomas Norton, bearing like all Rectors at this time the courtesy title of "Sir." And in 1466, we find "Sir" Richard Benet, to whose own estate administration was granted in 1487.² He was followed, it is thought, by "Sir" Robert Robynson (1522), "Sir" John Hatleye (1553), "Sir" Anthony Mason (1558), and Anthony Blage (1559).

¹ Archdeaconry St. Albans (Stoneham 14). ² P.O.C., June, 1487.

In 1567, Edward Underne became Rector, and from him onwards a complete list has been compiled :—¹

- 1567 Edward Underne.
- 1591 Edward Grant.
- 1601 Edward Munns (also Vicar of Stepney, where he lived).
- 1603 Matthias Milward (one of the chaplains to the Prince of Wales).
- 1639 John Goodwin.

The ministers during the Sequestration were :—

East Barnet :

- Ecles
- John Giles
- Henry Owen.

Chipping Barnet :

- Matthew Hassard
- Balstrode
- Samuel Shaw
- 1678 John Goodwin (son of the John Goodwin above).
- 1681 Robert Tayler.
- 1719 Gilbert Burnet.
- 1726 William Days.
- 1730-1 Richard Bundy.
- 1738-9 Daniel Beaufort.
- 1743 Samuel Grove.
- 1769 Benjamin Underwood.
- 1815 David William Garrow.
- 1827 Thomas Henry Elwin.

On the death of Mr. Elwin in 1866, the parish of Chipping Barnet was severed from that of East Barnet ;

the Rev. Charles Edward Hadow was appointed to the latter, and the Rev. Robert Rossiter Hutton, who had formerly been curate of East Barnet, and, as such, Curate-in-charge of Chipping Barnet, became the first Rector of Chipping Barnet.

Mr. Hadow was born in 1828. He was curate of Crayford in Kent from 1852 to 1854. He then served as chaplain to the forces in the Crimean War. On his return to England in 1856 he was appointed curate to St. George's, Hanover Square. In 1857, he was appointed a chaplain in the Hon. East Indian Company's services, in which capacity he witnessed many of the horrors of the Indian Mutiny. He retired from the rectorship of East Barnet after 43 years' service, and was succeeded in June, 1909, by the present Rector, the Rev. George Trentham Maw.

Edward Underne, the first Rector of whom we have any authentic information, was one of the original Governors of the Grammar School, and it was entirely owing to his efforts that the funds for erecting that building were raised. He was succeeded by Edward Grant, D.D., the most noted Latinist and Grecian of his time, who, before coming to Barnet, was Head Master of Westminster School. On his death in 1601 he was buried in Westminster Abbey.

The most interesting person connected with this Church was John Goodwin, who was the Rector during the troubled times of the Great Civil War. He was deprived of his living in 1643 by the Parliamentarians, but gave so much trouble that three other ministers followed him in the space of two years, and he was back again in 1650¹. He has recorded in his own hand-

¹ *Herts during the Great Civil War.*

writing in a note in the Parish Register: "After which time several ministers took the sequester, and about the year 1650 Dr. Slaater, now minister at St. John's, Clerkenwell, was sworn Registrar of East and Chipping Barnet, and until the King's return all was neglected—christenings, marryages, and buryalls. I have collected what I could."

Truly a word picture of the confusion existing at that time.

The Dr. Slater mentioned was an inhabitant of Barnet, and had a very chequered career. He was first a Royalist soldier, and after the King's execution was arrested and barely escaped execution. Afterwards he became one of the Commissioners appointed by Parliament to choose the ministers to take the place of the sequestered clergy.¹ Next we find him master of the Grammar School, and finally, after the Restoration, he took holy orders and became Rector of Hadley in 1662. Four years later he was licensed to St. James' (not St. John's as Goodwin states), Clerkenwell, where he remained till his death in 1690.

To the Rev. Benjamin Underwood we owe some thanks for some interesting notes on his predecessors. He writes of Beaufort: "He was dismissed by the King from the Prussian service on account of his diminutive stature and mean appearance"; and of Samuel Grove: "He was no better steward than Beaufort though he possessed this preferment 26 years and an ample private fortune; he was shamefully inattentive not only to common necessary repairs, but even common decency throughout both the house and premises."

¹ Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School.

² Herts during the Great Civil War.

Of Underwood himself, the *Cambridge Chronicle*, of 19th August, 1780, says: "The Right Reverend Bishop of Ely has been pleased to collate the Rev. B. Underwood to a Prebend Stall in his Cathedral. He is nephew to the Bishop, who seemed so to disregard him that he has disposed of 8 or 9 Stalls before he gave him this; and when the Stall was vacant that was given to Cooke he was so disappointed by the others having got it that he cried like a child at it. He seems to me to be a poor creature."

The ancient Manor House is thought to have stood near the Church, and possibly was the building mentioned in a Lay Subsidy List of 1558 as being in the occupation of Thomas Rolfe. The Manor belonged to the Abbots of St. Albans, but on the dissolution of the monastery in 1539 it fell into the hands of the Crown. Nothing more is known of it until 1552, when it was sold to John Goodwyn and John Maynard "except nevertheless to us (the King) our heirs and successors wholly reserved 380 oaks growing in the woods called Oswage Wood and Monks Frythe, and being of the age of 40 and 60 years."

Goodwyn and Maynard sold it the following year (the first of Queen Mary) to Anthony Butler, from whose family Sir John Weld purchased it in 1620.

Succeeding Lords of the Manor were :—

- 1695 Sir Thomas Cooke.
- 1720 James (1st) Duke of Chandos.
- 1747 John Thomlinson.
- 1771 Mary Thomlinson (who married Long).
- 1818 Edward Beeston Long.
- 1825 Henry Lawes Long.
- 1834 Sir William Henry Richardson, Knt.

1848	William Henry Richardson	} brothers.
1906	Charles Garner Richardson	
1909	Caroline Seaborne Richardson (relict of C.G.R.)	

The Manor is now worth about £1,000.

Adjoining the Church is the Boys' Farm Home, occupying the original site of Church Hill House (now Trevor Hall), built by Thomas Conyers in 1598. This house connects East Barnet with an episode in English History—the romantic marriage of Lady Arabella Stuart.

Lady Arabella Stuart fell in love with a Commoner, William Seymour. After vainly trying to obtain the King's consent to their union they contracted a secret marriage. For this heinous offence—"his contempt in marrying a lady of the Royal family without the King's leave"—Seymour was committed to the Tower; his wife however retaining her position at the Court of King James I. One day a letter written by Lady Arabella to her husband fell into the King's hands, who ordered her to be sent to Durham, which in those days of slow travelling would render communication between the lovers impossible. But, before starting, she and Seymour contrived to arrange a plan of escape, in accordance with which she pretended to be taken ill on the journey at the "Crown" at Barnet, whence she was taken to Thomas Conyers' house at East Barnet. From here, on Monday, 3rd June, 1611, she effected her escape in disguise and made her way to the coast. Her disguise is thus described in a contemporary print: "She drew a pair of large French fashioned hose or trousers over her petticoats, put on a man's doublet or coat, a peruke such as men wore,

whose long locks covered her own ringlets, a black hat, ruggat boots with red tops, and a rapier by her side."

Thus accoutred, the Lady Arabella stole out with a gentleman about three o'clock in the afternoon. She had proceeded only a mile-and-a-half when they stopped at a poor inn where one of her confederates was waiting with horses, yet she was so sick and faint that the ostler who held her stirrup observed that "the gentleman would hardly hold out to London." She recruited her spirits by riding, the blood mantled in her face, and at six o'clock our sick lover reached Blackwall, where a boat and servants were waiting. Seymour escaped the same night, and got safely to the Continent, but Lady Arabella was captured on the high seas, and spent the remaining years of her life in prison, "never seeing her husband and lover again."¹

The "poor inn" was Betstile—now a part of New Southgate, near the Clockmakers' Asylum—a place so called because Queen Elizabeth had a hunting box there.

The sister of this Thomas Conyers was the first wife of the patriot John Pym's father; and his daughter married Sir Robert Berkeley, of whom we shall hear later. He died in 1614-5, and is buried at East Barnet. The Isabel Conyers whose memorial stone is in the Chancel there was his wife.

In 1690 Church Hill House came into the possession of Thomas Trevor, and its name was changed to Trevor Park. Trevor, having been successively Solicitor-General, Attorney-General, and Chief Justice of Common Pleas, was raised to the Peerage by Queen Anne in 1711 with the

¹ Disraeli's "Curiosities of Literature."

title of Baron Trevor, being one of the twelve Tory Peers created for the purpose of swamping the Whig majority in the House of Lords. This resulted in the dismissal of the Duke of Marlborough, and secured a majority for the proposed peace.

This house was pulled down about 1820, and the present house (now Trevor Hall) built somewhat to the west of the old one by Colonel Gillum.

About 1619 Sir Robert Berkeley acquired Osidge, by marriage with Thomas Conyers' daughter. He was one of the twelve Justices of the King's Bench who tried Hampden in 1637, and was one of the four who gave an opinion in favour of the legality of ship-money. For this he was afterwards seized on the Bench, committed to the Tower, and fined £20,000; he was finally liberated on payment of half this amount.

He rebuilt the chancel of the Church, and erected the gallery, part of which remains to this day. In 1631 he gave an old Elizabethan cottage for a Rectory subject to a rent charge of £1 6s. 8d. for the use of the poor. This was added to at various times, and was used by the Rectors up to the beginning of 1910, when it was pulled down and the present building erected on its site.

On the lawn of the Rectory could up to quite recently be seen traces of an old house which was originally the abode of the Mawson family, whose memorial stones still stand to the east of the Parish Church. This is the house referred to in the grant made by James II. to Richard Allibone of lands forfeited at East Barnet by the attainder of Sir Robert Peyton, and his outlawry for high treason in

1685. The preamble to Peyton's will runs :—"Whereas I was in the year 1685 seized in fee simple of divers estates in the Counties of Yorke, Suffolk, Surrey, Middlesex, Hertfordshire, and in London; and did then fall under the displeasure of his late Ma^{ty} King James, and did flye into Holland for Refuge from the severe prosecutions that were then afoote against me."

Sir Richard Allibone, to whom his Hertfordshire estate was granted, became Judge of the King's Bench in 1687, and did his utmost to secure the condemnation of the seven Bishops in 1688. He died the same year, probably thus escaping attainder upon the accession of William and Mary for his conduct on the Bench. Evelyn, who about this time was a frequent visitor at Mountpleasant, calls him "a papist."

This house was purchased by John Thomlinson in 1744, and on his becoming Lord of the Manor six years later became generally recognised as the Manor House, which title it erroneously bore until it was demolished between 1820 and 1830.

Previous to Thomlinson's occupation it was the residence from 1724 to 1727 of Charles Lord Binning and Byres, who had for his son's tutor the poet James Thomson, author of "The Seasons." The poem "Winter" was written while he was living here. *

The Thomlinson family were succeeded in 1779 by Miss Julia Yonge, authoress of "Essays and Letters on the most important and interesting subjects" (1783), and "Practical and Explanatory Commentary on the Holy Bible."

(1) P.C.C., May, 1689.

(2) "Lives of Poets."

Standing well back from the road opposite Chapel Road are the cottages which once formed the "Poor House" for East Barnet. The inscription over the doorway was Proverbs xiv. 23: "In all labour there is profit; but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury."

The house now called "The Grange" was built in 1800 by Rear-Admiral Henry Warre, who called it Granada Cottage in honour of his victory over the French off the coast of Granada in South America in 1795.

Cat Hill, so named after the little hostelry at its foot, is still known to the older inhabitants of the district as Doggett's Hill. This name carries us back to Edward I's reign, when we find in a Subsidy List—those invaluable guides to the inhabitants of a locality—of 1291 and 1292 the name of John Doget of Est Barnet. The bridge over Pymm's brook on Cat Hill is mentioned in the will of John Rolfe (1514) by the name of Dane Brygge; Dane or Dene meaning a valley or dell.

The Clock House was built in Henry VIII's reign by Thomas Dudman, whose will was proved in March, 1522.¹ It is perhaps worth transcribing here, as it is a good type of the wills of that period and enables us to picture the pastoral pursuits of the smaller landholders of that day.

"In the name of God, Amen, the yere of o^r lord god MLDXXIJ. I Thomas Dudman of the parysh of Estbarnett wⁱn the libtie of Saint Albans and in the countie of hertf of goode mynde and hole memorye make this my will in man and forme folowynng first I bequethe my soule to almyghty god to o^r blessid lady Sant Mary

¹ P.C.C. March, 1522.

and to all the saints in hevyn my body to be buried in the churchyard of Estbarnett. Itm I bequethe to the high awter of Estbarnett IIIj^d. Itm I bequethe to Saint Albons shryne IIIj^d. Itm I bequethe to have V. masses of the V. wounds of or lord XX^d. Itm I bequethe to Joane Dudman my wyfe all my howsys and londs lying in the pish of Estbarnett for the time of her lyfe. And after her deceste I will that John Dudman my son shall have it to hym and his heires. Itm I bequethe to Agnes Dudman my daughter X^{li} in money and catell or in household stuff for her marige. Itm I bequethe to John Wayghte my suvant a calf of a yere old. Itm I bequethe to Joone Sawer, my suant, a cowe. Itm I bequethe to Thomas Sharpe a coote at my wyffe assigning. Itm I bequethe to John Colman, my suant, a bullok. The residue of all my goods both movable and unmovable not bequest I yeve holy to Joone Dudman my wffe, whom I make my sole executrice. Witnes hereof Sr. Robert Robynson, Curate of Estbarnett, and Henry Caroylle w^{ch} other. Written the vijth day of March, in the yere abovesaid."

In 1619 Ralph Gill, the keeper of the lions in the Tower, was living at Dudmans. He was succeeded in 1632 by his son-in-law, William Greene, who, together with his wife, is buried in East Barnet Church; their many virtues are recorded by the memorial slab previously quoted.*

Thomas Plukenett, who, together with various members of his family, is buried in the nave of East Barnet Church, dwelt here towards the end of the 18th century,

* Pages 9 and 10.

and in 1821 the old name of "Dudmans" disappeared, and the house was re-christened the "Clock House."

It is said that "Happy is the nation which has no history." If this applies to towns as well as to nations the district known as New Barnet should be a very happy place, for its history has yet to be made. It owes its origin to the old-fashioned conservatism of Barnet, a town situated on the Great North Road, whose inhabitants were dependent for their livelihood on the coaches which passed through—it being the first stage out of London. The advent of the railway which was opened in 1852 was vigorously opposed, and consequently it was not taken as near the old town as it might have been. New Barnet has sprung up since the railway was opened.

The only places of interest are Lyonsdown, Willenhall, and Greenhill Park.

Lyonsdown House, pulled down in 1862, stood very near where Holy Trinity Church now stands. The name is first mentioned as "fields and grounds called Turris the Lyon downes" in an agreement made in the first year of Queen Mary, defining the boundaries of East and Chipping Barnet. In 1610 it was in the occupation of Matthew Thwaites, whose wife is buried in the Chancel of East Barnet Church. It was acquired in 1810 by Mr. Andrew Reid, formerly of Pricklers, who became High Sheriff of Hertfordshire in 1815, and died at Lyonsdown in 1841.

Willenhall was built in 1782 by John Benedic Durade, a relation of General Prevost, and then called Belle Vue. In 1820 it was acquired by Thomas Wyatt, by whom it was rebuilt and re-named Willenhall House, after his native place, Willenhall, in Warwickshire. He died in 1834, and was buried at East Barnet. From 1862 to 1866

it was occupied by Sir John Peter Grant, formerly Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and afterwards Governor of Jamaica. The house was pulled down about 1890 and the estate cut up for building purposes.

Greenhill Park was at one time known as "Prittles," or "Pricklers," for the origin of which name we must go back to a Subsidy List of Edward II. (1317), which contains the name of one Gilbto Pritel.

We next hear of it in 1558, when it was sold by the Crown—at that time busy in converting the old monastic lands into money—to John Marshe, one of the original Governors of the Grammar School, from whom it came by descent and marriage to Sir John Wolfe, who died in 1703.

In 1782, being then known as Greenhill Grove, it was occupied by Major-General Augustin Prevost. He was a native of Geneva, who served with great distinction in the British Army at the defence of Savannah, in Georgia (1779), against the French and Americans under Count d'Estaigne. He died in 1786, and is buried in East Barnet Churchyard. The inscription, which is beginning to show signs of effacement, runs:—"Here lies the body of Augustine Prevost Major General His Majesty's Army Colonel 60th battalion of Foot, etc., etc. By birth a native and citizen of Geneva, he entered the service of Great Britain in 1756 in the rank of major and uniformly distinguished himself with the zeal and honour of a tried soldier. He merited and on repeated occasions received the thanks both publick and private of the General under whom he served. He finished his more active carreer with the memorable defence of Savanna in Georgia in 1779 where he commanded and in a post entrenched merely on

the spur of the occasion sustained a formal siege against the combin'd armies french and american commanded by the Count d'Estaing of above three times his own numbers, a general and well maintained and finally compelled them to raise the siege 33 days from his being closely invested 26 of open trenches and 15 of open batteries. As a man he was mild unassuming and modest, perhaps approaching to a fault, as a soldier manly firm determined possessing himself equally in the hour of danger as in that of calmed retirement; his solicitude as on every occasion of public import was solely directed to the honourable discharge of his duty to the King and country he had chosen for his. A kind husband a sincere friend a humane man he was also eminent in all the virtues and in all the duties of private life. This monument is erected by the companion of some of his most trying scenes—now his afflicted widow—in pious and affectionate testimony of her gratitude to him who was the best of husbands and the best of friends." His son, Lieutenant-General Sir George Prevost, Bart., Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces in North America, is also buried there. There is a memorial tablet to his memory inside the Church, and on a monument erected to him in Winchester Cathedral it is recorded that "by his wise and energetic measures and with a very inferior force he preserved the Canadas to the British Crown."

The old name "Pricklers" still survives in that part of the North Road known as Pricklers Hill. This, however, is a modern Pricklers Hill, it being part of Telford's new road to the north constructed some 80 or 90 years ago. The Session Rolls of 1688 record the presentment of

“John Person, of the Cocke on Prickles Hill, in the Parish of East Barnet, at the request of the Vestry on the behalf of the whole parish, for keeping a disorderly house and entertaining of vagrants.”

Holy Trinity Church was built about 1864, the ecclesiastical parish of Lyonsdown being carved out of those of East and Chipping Barnet. The first incumbent was the Rev. George Yeats, who was succeeded in 1885 by the present Vicar, the Rev. G. E. Gardner.

St. James' Church was built in 1911, the parish being formed from parts of Lyonsdown and East Barnet, and the Rev. W. G. Carpenter is the first incumbent.

St. Mark's Church was built in 1884, and the ecclesiastical parish of Barnet Vale formed in 1898; the first Incumbent was the Rev. C. A. Lane. He was followed by the present Vicar, the Rev. C. W. McLaughlin, in 1901.

That the good people of Barnet repented their opposition to the railway is shown by their welcoming the opening of the Barnet Branch in 1871, even though it put an end to their race-meetings—the railroad being constructed on part of the race-course. This race-course stretched for about two miles along the southern slope of the hill towards Barnet Gate, parallel with Mays Lane. For some time past, however, the race-meetings had been gradually dwindling. At the last meeting, which was held in 1870, there were only three events, two of which were “walks over,” while in the other three or four horses ran. One bolted, and of the other two the favourite won by a distance. George IV., when Prince of Wales, was a frequent visitor

to Barnet races. The following is taken from the "Sporting Magazine," of August, 1794:—

BARNET RACES.

To the Editor of the "Sporting Magazine."

Gentlemen,—Notwithstanding the Racing Calendar has amply described the manner in which the different horses arrive at the goal, and the names of their respective proprietors; yet there is one thing you have not yet obliged your readers with, and which I cannot but think would be entertaining to many of them—I mean the description of a race, with the different characters who frequent it portrayed. It would have been a much greater satisfaction to me if the subject had been handled by some more able pen; but such as it is you are welcome to.

Barnet races being nearest to the metropolis, it is at that place I have made my first essay, and should you think it will amuse your friends you will doubtless do me the honour of inserting it in your next number.

Yours, etc., J. J. B.

BARNET RACE JOURNAL;

OR

SPORTING GAZETTE EXTRAORDINARY.

Barnet, Monday, August 11th, 1794.

I shall not attempt to describe the variety of busy scenes that presented themselves as I passed through the villages of Islington, Highgate, Finchley, etc., previous to my arrival at this place; be assured they were many; but as they may not, in all probability, be deemed by you of sufficient importance for relation, I shall proceed with my journal.

Arrived here this evening: Captain Rookwood, Lord Finesse, Sir David Dupe, Count Cogdie, Sir George Groom, Mr. Catwell, Mr. Fleeca'em, Sam Scamper, Harry Handicap, etc.

Tuesday morning, 7 o'clock.

Carpenters were busy in erecting the booths, stands, etc., and other conveniences for the accommodation of customers; while the fond mothers in the town had washed and dressed their children in new caps, sashes, and other tawdry ornaments for the gaping multitude to admire; and by 8 o'clock the breakfast tables were spread for their friends and relations. Jackasses loaded with fruit, oysters, and pickled salmon, had come down by nine, and links of raw sausages were hung upon sticks, to invite the hungry strangers; and about ten the charcoal and pans went to work. The savoury smell spread itself around, and "walk into my parlour" became the general cry. A squad of barrow girls took possession of an eligible spot of ground with their tubs of oysters; some of the fattest were opened to make the mouth water, and "And all fat good, oh!" was bawled by lungs of leather. There was plenty of shrimps, crabs, and periwinkles at every muggin booth, in addition to their larders of ham, cold beef, etc.

11 a.m.

The sport began here. Harry Headlong, having drunk all night, when he went to bed would make a bet that he jumped out of the chamber window; it was said "Done!" to at once. Away he went, and broke his neck by the fall. However, his widow came in for the money.

Noon.

The pedestrians on the road were almost suffocated by the dust raised by the numerous train of coaches, landaus,

phaetons, carriages, chaises, and buggies, bringing down publicans, bailiffs, bullies, gamblers, butchers, horse dealers, bawds, and their white-legged chickens.

Barnet Course, 2 o'clock.

The signal was given for the race to begin.

Now from the goal the manag'd coursers play
 On bended reins, as yet the skilful youth
 Repress their foamy pride ; but every breath
 The race grows warmer, and the temper swells
 Till all the fiery mettle has its way,
 And the thick thunder hurries o'er the plain.

The Hunter Sweepstakes was won 'easily by Mr. Goldham's bay gelding, beating two others. Mr. Goldham rode his own horse, was much admired for his skill in horsemanship, as he has often been before for agility at the game of cricket.

Afterwards the Sweepstakes of £50 was won by Mr. Corrie's brown colt, Bandalore. Here some of the done first dealers were thrown over the bridge, as the favourite, who was laid on thick, was distanced.

Wednesday morning.

The town appeared very dull ; most of the race comers lounged about the market or up and down the High-street, staring with vacant eyes into every private house. Some people were at the inn doors in the doing-nothing state of lolling against an upright of the gateway, cross-legged, and looked like emblems of innocence who did not know what to think about. Others were astride the rails, playing with their whips, fancying themselves on horseback, and whistling at the same time to put memory off ; while others, sitting upon the benches of the publichouses, were

picking up pebbles as they sat, and tossing them up into the air, only for the pleasure of seeing them tumble down again—till cocking began.

11 o'clock.

The bellman proclaimed through the town that a day's play of cocks was to be fought at the Harrow between the gentlemen of Barnet and Hatfield, for two guineas a battle, and twenty the odd; and in less than half-an-hour the pit was filled; some mute as so many mourners; in other parts were groups of main and bye battle feeders, delivering eloquent lectures upon blood, bone, and feather, till the first pair were pitted, when there were great shouts of different tones of "Come, that bag for twenty. I'll take 6 to 4. I hold 6 to 5 the pyle. I'll lay 13 to 6 the yellow." "Done! Done!" then was alternately chorused round the pit, while so fierce was the rage of the two animals, with an unaccountable inveteracy they were cutting and stabbing each other to pieces, to the amazing entertainment of the spectators, who honour the surviving cock with shouts of victory.

Just before the races began several of the family men were put into a prodigious panic on account of a number of horsemen appearing at the inn door where they dined; but they were discovered to be only a party of friends escorting a favourite horse, and not any of the Bow Street runners, as was at first reported.

Jack Buskin galloped up Barnet town with his hands tied behind him for a bet of six bottles. His horse, taking fright, dashed his head against the Mitre signpost, and he was taken up dead. The coroner's inquest has since brought in their verdict—lunacy.

It is remarkable that there never was before in the memory of the oldest inhabitant of Barnet such a number of rooks and pigeons as have appeared there, and on the course, this meeting.

The E.O. tables had abundance of company, most of whom lost their money, but had the consolation to hear it was only owing to their having N.O. luck.

2 o'clock.

The Pony Sweepstakes was run for, and won by the Hon. T. Bowes' ch. m. Peggy, who was high in estimation at the betting post.

4 o'clock.

Seven horses started for the £50, which was won by Mr. O'Kelley's bay horse Cardock, though Mr. Goodison's Dalham was the favourite, and bets 5 to 1 against Cardock.

During the race one of the jockeys was dismounted by Mr. Gilpin, a staymaker's horse, running away with his master, who was taken up speechless with fright; and on examining him it was discovered that his boots were bloody, occasioned by a bodkin he carried in his breeches pocket running through his diachylon plaister.

Evening.

The nobility hastened off the course, and, through the quantity of liquor the heat and dust had obliged them to swallow, was very clamorous and troublesome, pushing and crowding for the benefit of the pickpockets, who made a good harvest.

Several battles were fought on the return of the company to their respective abodes; one in particular, by a hedge courtesan and an itinerant shrimp lady; the latter had two of her teeth sent into her stomach, which obliged her to give up the contest.

Two or three horses expired in the course of the day through heat, overloading, and severe riding. Many wrecks of single horse chaises, etc., were lying on the road, and several of each sex, too much done by the fatigues of the day, lay snoring in the fields.

To "J. J. B's" story may be added the official return of the races which appeared in the "Calendar" at the time, and is a corroboration of all he writes, except the Hunter Sweepstakes, omitted from the official return.

BARNET.

On Tuesday, August 12 :—£50 for three-year-olds, 6st. 7lb.; four-year-olds, 7st. 10lb.; five-year-olds, 8st. 7lb.; six-year-olds, 9st.; and aged, 9st. 2lb. Those that have won a plate, 5lb. extra; mares and geldings allowed 2lb.; four mile heats. With this condition, that the winner was to be sold for £150 if demanded.

Mr. Corrie's br c Bandalore, by Dungannon, 4yrs. ...	1	1
Mr. O'Hare's b c Holt, 3 yrs. ...	2	2
Mr. Twitney's b m Molly, 5yrs. ...	3	3
Mr. Faywell's b h Lucifer, 5yrs. ...	4	4
Mr. Gibbon's ch c Young Punch, 4yrs. (fell lame) ...	5	dr
Mr. Hughes' b g Stratagem, aged (t. plate) ...	6	dr

On Wednesday, the 13th, £50 free for any horse, four mile heats. The winner to be sold for £150 if demanded, etc.

Mr. O'Kelly's b h Cardock, by Jupiter, aged, 9st. ...	1	2	1
Mr. Godison's br c Dalham, 4yrs., 7st. 13lb. (bolted the last heat and was stopped by the crowd) ...	6	1	2
Mr. Dyson's br c Ostrich, aged 9st. ...	7	3	dis
Mr. Abbey's b c Tom, 4yrs., 7st. 10lb. (fell) ...	2	dis	

Mr. Sharman's b h	Triumvir, 5yrs., 8st. 8lb. ...	3	dis
Mr. O'Hare's b c	Holt, 3yrs., 6st. ...	4	dis
Mr. Moore's b c	Young Rockingham, 4yrs.,		
7st. 10lb.	5	dr

Young Rockingham was intended to be drawn, but not being ready in time the horses were started without him.

There can be little doubt that the party of horsemen who arrived on the second day included the celebrated Mr. O'Kelly, the owner of the famous race-horse Eclipse, and so closely associated with the racing career of George IV., while Cardock was no doubt the racehorse referred to by "J. J. B." in his most interesting 1794 story.

Just past the railway bridge is the old Red Lion. This is the Red Lion so often visited by Pepys when he came to Barnet to drink the waters at the Physic Well. In his Diary under date "August 16th, 1664 (Lord's Day)," is the entry—"It raining we set out, and about 9 o'clock got to Hatfield in church time, and I 'light and saw my simple Lord Salisbury sit there in his gallery. Staid not in the church, but then mounted again and to Barnett by the end of the sermon, and there dined at the Red Lyon. Thence home by 4 o'clock, weary, but very well." And again on August 11th, 1667, he records a visit to "the Red Lion, where we 'light, and went up in the great room, and there drank, and ate some of the best cheese cakes that ever I ate in my life."

Close to the Old Red Lion are Underhill Cottages. At the commencement of the 19th century these were an Infant Poor House for the united parishes of St. Andrew, Holborn-

above-Bars, and St. George the Martyr, and in turpiket days the end one nearest Mays Lane was a toll-house.

From Underhill Cottages to the Hill is a footpath crossing the Fair Field. Barnet has, or rather had, three fairs; one on April 8th, 9th and 10th, one on September 4th, 5th, and 6th, and one on November 21st; but the April and November fairs have practically dwindled away.

The September Fair was founded by Charter in Henry II.'s reign (1154-1189), confirmed by a grant from Queen Elizabeth, and has existed in a more or less flourishing condition from that time to this.

In 1758 the Lord of the Manor (John Thomlinson) altered "the Market Day of Chipping Barnet from Mondays to Wednesdays, and the two great fairs and pie powder courts from the eve, day, and morrow of St. John the Baptist (June 23rd, 24th, 25th), and the eve, day, and morrow of St. Luke the Evangelist (Oct. 17th, 18th, 19th), to April 8th, 9th, and 10th, and Sept. 4th, 5th, and 6th respectively."¹

It is perhaps interesting to note that the Magistrates, who continued their meetings on Mondays up to within the last few years, changed their day for sitting to Wednesdays because that day was market day.

In 1888 the Lord of the Manor petitioned the Home Secretary to abolish the fair, but was successfully opposed by the townsmen on the ground that "great injury to the prosperity of the town would be done, as about 50,000 head of cattle changed hands at the fair, and a sum of

money representing nearly £5,000 was brought into the town." ; Prior to this date barriers used to be erected at the entrances to the town, and the Lord of the Manor exacted a fee for each animal that passed through.

Barnet Hill was built by the "Whetstone and Highgate Turnpike Trust." This body was formed about the year 1800, and the 8 miles of highway under their control soon became as good as any in the kingdom. It then became possible, for the first time in its history, for the Barnet stage to leave for London and to reach its destination without the necessity of stopping on the way. Its previous condition can be guessed at from a petition presented in 1797 of the inhabitants of Chipping Barnet to the Justices of the Peace, shewing "that by an Act of Parliament 3 Geo. III. it is enacted that from and after the 25th day of March, 1763, that part of the Great North Road from London (lying in the Parish of Chipping Barnet) beginning at Barnet Clockhouse and ending at the Bear Inn, Hadley (*hodie*—Boundary House), shall be repaired, widened and enlarged, etc., as the trustees appointed by the said Act shall judge necessary; that the inhabitants paid £120 to the said Trustees; that now the Trustees refuse to repair, they pray the Justices of the Peace to appoint one or more fit persons to survey and view the said road."¹

In 1823 the Trustees received under the new Act for the improvement of the line of road from London to Holyhead a demand for the reconstruction of the highway between Pricklers Hill and Barnet in order to reduce the gradient. Telford and Macadam supplied rival plans, and

¹ Vestry Minutes. 2 Sessions Rolls.]

both foreshadowed heavy expense. Telford's idea was to slice off the top of Barnet Hill, and to run the road through a more or less deep cutting through the street, a plan which, if adopted, would have left the houses and the footpaths in the position of buildings overhanging a cliff. Macadam's plan was, however, adopted, and Barnet Hill as it now appears constructed at a cost of £17,000 and after four years' work. The old road passed by the Old Red Lion and Underhill Cottages and up the south slope of the hill, entering the town at Victoria Lane by the side of the Woolpack. The reconstruction of the hill became necessary as it would form part of Telford's new road from London to Holyhead, which was to be as straight and flat as engineering science could contrive. Some 100 miles of this road had been completed before it was abandoned owing to the advent of railways. Railways dealt the death blow to the "Whetstone and Highgate Turnpike Trust," whose takings at Whetstone Gate on the opening of the London and Birmingham Railway in 1838 fell from £7,530 to £1,300. (The tolls at Whetstone Gate in Elizabeth's reign were farmed for £40, and in 1794 for £150.) It lingered on, however, for some years, but expired on November 1st, 1863, exactly eight months before all turnpikes within 50 miles of London were abolished. The town of Whetstone is said to take its name from the battered old stone imbedded in the ground by the signpost of the "Griffin" Inn. On it the men-at-arms are said to have whetted their swords and spears before the Battle of Barnet. An alternative legend dates this stone to 1745, when King George's army marched down to meet Prince Charles and his Highlanders.

¹ Harper, Great North Road.

On reaching the top of Barnet Hill, let us pause for a few moments outside the Cottage Hospital (opened in 1888 to commemorate the Jubilee of Queen Victoria), and, whilst gazing at the extensive view, think about the history of the town.

First as to the name—Barnet, Chipping Barnet, or High Barnet. It was called "Chipping" with reference to its market and fairs and the bargaining or *cheapening* which went on there. The word is derived from the Anglo-Saxon "ceap" (a bargain); a word we find in another form in the well-known street in London—Cheapside.

High Barnet, the popular name, was brought into prominence by the Great Northern Railway Company, which would not transfer the name "Barnet" from the main line station when the branch to Barnet was opened; the most they would do was to call the one "High" Barnet and the other "New" Barnet. I have heard it said that this was the origin of the term "High," but, apart from it being occasionally found in early writers, there are three documents among the parish records in which the word is used, one dated January, 1697, another October, 1704, and the third July, 1797, so the railway cannot claim to have invented the term. In a map of the county of "Hartford," 1577, and in one of "Hartfordshire," by Peter Kærnes, 1627, the town is called "High Bernet."

Barnet is no mushroom growth of yesterday. Its history shows that it is built on the site of a Roman encampment, and by a very slight stretch of imagination we might even claim that Cæsar himself founded the town. It is known that he crossed the Thames at Kingston or

Brentford, and marched to Verulamium, the seat of Cassivellaunus, and then called Verlam, now St. Albans, and although it is true that a straight line drawn between these places would pass a few miles to the west of Barnet, yet the country was densely wooded in those days, and a general would, if possible, follow a natural waterway. Such a waterway existed in the Brent. If he followed the Brent he would have arrived in the valley between Barnet and Totteridge, and being there, what more natural than that he should have occupied the hill of Barnet and founded the encampment known as Sulloniaea ?

In substantiation of this theory it is interesting to note that when the Cottage Hospital was enlarged the builders came upon 15 or 16 courses of footings of ancient brickwork at a considerable distance below ground, which had probably been the foundation of a tower or some such edifice. The bricks were thin, but not so thin as the recognised Roman tile, while they were built in a cement so hard that it turned the point of ordinary picks, and special wedges had to be used to break it up.

However, let us leave the hypothetical history and turn to the recorded. The first mention of Barnet in the Chronicles of St. Albans Abbey is in connection with the trial of William Attepen, of Barnet, for forgery in 1344. "In this Abbot's (Michael Mentmore) time another fraud was committed by one William Attepen, of Barnet, who had forged writings for himself and for many others, pretending that the lands and tenements held by them at Barnet had been made free by some former Abbot. But on inspection of these deeds they were all found so much alike in the writing, and to have been smoked in the chimney

to give them an air of antiquity, and in this very trick to resemble each other so exactly that a suspicion arose of their falsehood; and this was confirmed when it appeared that in the Register of Acts and Deeds no such transaction as an enfranchisement had been allowed." ¹

In 1381 the inhabitants of Barnet joined Wat Tyler's insurrection, but, instead of marching to London, they, like the shrewd, sharp men of business they have always been, used the movement for their own particular ends, going to St. Albans and endeavouring to extort privileges of pasturage from the Abbot.

The extract from the Chronicles on this point is as follows, the plague alluded to being the Black Death in 1348:—

"The tenants of Barnet thought they had not asked enough, and demanded of the Abbot the book containing the Court Rolls, and exhibiting the fines and description of every house granted to the tenant. They required in high language that this book should be burnt, and to appease them the Abbot promised—which was assured by Henry Frowye—to comply in three months. These tenants had forged deeds and admissions more to their purpose, and pretended that they were framed in the time of the plague when there was no Seneschal or Cellerer or officer to inspect these matters. But they could gain no compliance, and the Abbot refused them even the sight of the Rolls." Their leader, Gryncobbe, was afterwards hanged.¹

I don't know whether there is something in the air of Barnet which conduces to the forging of leases, or whether

¹ Newcome's History of St. Albans.

it is only coincidence that the notorious Redgrave's crime in 1902 was a repetition of what happened over 500 years ago.

Barnet being an old coaching town, necessarily many of its prominent landmarks are its inns. Most of the larger ones are gone, but many remain, one of the most important being the large white building on the left-hand side, known as the Red Lion, part of which was pulled down when Fitzjohn's Avenue was made. This was formerly the Antelope, and was included in the parcel of the manorial lands sold by Goodwyn and Maynard in 1553 to Elianore Palmer, of whom we shall hear later. Up to 1901 this inn was the meeting place of the "Amicables," a private club of gentlemen, whose records show that the club has met once a week since it was founded in 1780. I mention this society, which now meets at the Old Salisbury Arms, because I think it can fairly claim to be ranked as the oldest existing institution in Barnet.

The post office was once part of the Red Lion, and it is with this house that the following incident is connected :—

The mail coach from London passed very late at night, or rather very early in the morning, and it was the post-master's custom to rise in the night and throw out the mail bag from the window as the coach went by. One night he overslept himself, and was awakened by the rumbling of the approaching vehicle. He jumped from his bed, threw open the window, and hastily flung out a parcel, which the guard just succeeded in catching. We can picture his consternation in the morning when he found that instead of the mail bag he had thrown out his only pair of leather breeches.

In their palmy days the Red Lion and Green Man (higher up the town) were the rival posting houses, and also rivals in politics; the first was the Tory house, the latter the Whig. The Green Man was the larger establishment, keeping 26 pairs of horses and 11 postboys, against 18 pairs and 8 postboys of the rival house. The postboys of the Green Man wore blue jackets and white hats; those of the Red Lion yellow jackets and white hats. The keenness of the competition among postmasters in the last few years of the coaching age is scarcely credible. The landlord of the Red Lion thought nothing of forcibly taking out the post horses from any private carriage passing his house and putting in a pair of his own to do the next stage to St. Albans. This, too, free of charge, in order to prevent the business going to the Green Man. The landlord of the Green Man drew custom by giving a glass of sherry and a sandwich gratis to the travellers changing there. But things did not end there. The landlord of the Red Lion, finding that the sherry and sandwich at the Green Man was more attractive than his own method, engaged a gang of bruisers to pounce upon passing chaises, and even to haul them out of his rival's yard. After several contests of this kind the authorities interfered, the combatants were bound over to keep the peace, and people travelling down the road were actually allowed to decide for themselves which house they would patronise.¹

The Red Lion possessed a queer character in the person of its ostler, James Ripley, who in 1817 published a little book of "Select Letters on various subjects." On the title page he states that he was then, and had been

¹ Harper, Great North Road.

"for thirty years past," ostler, and in his dedication to "the Hon. Colonel Blaithwate and the rest of the Officers of the Royal Regiment of Horse Guards Blue," after saying that his dedication is a "grateful acknowledgment for the generous treatment always received for his unmerited services in the stable," proceeds to grovel in the most abject manner. "I shall always esteem it an honour," he says, "to rub down your horses' heels, so long as I am able to stoop to my feet."

This remarkable person, if we may judge from the curious frontispiece to his "Select Letters," appears to have doubled the parts of ostler at the Red Lion and Postmaster of Barnet; while he would also seem to have embarked in the newspaper trade, according to the little heap of papers seen in the pigeon-holes in the background, labeled "Whitehall Evening Post," "Craftsman," and "Gazetteer." Here we perceive him, apparently inditing his letters; a man with a decidedly Johnsonian cast of features, and clad in what looks more like a cast-off suit of an old Tower of London headsman than an ostler's everyday clothes. He is evidently at a loss for a word, or is perhaps (and rightly) surprised at the gigantic size of his quill, plucked from an ostrich at the very least of it. A sieve, a currycomb, and other articles of stable equipment lie beside him, or are more or less artistically displayed in the foreground. If it were not for the title, we might almost suppose this to be a representation of some notorious criminal writing his last dying speech and confession in the condemned hold at Newgate. The picture appears to have been drawn from several points of view at once, productive of results more curious than pleasing to professors of perspective drawing.