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# On Her Majesty's Service

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HUGHSON, D.

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1809.

LONDON

BEING AN ACCURATE

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

OF THE

BRITISH METROPOLIS

AND ITS

NEIGHBOURHOOD,

TO

THIRTY MILES EXTENT,

From an actual Perambulation.

By DAVID HUGHSON, LL.D.

VOL. VI.

Happy plains, remote from war's alarms,  
And all the ravages of hostile arms!  
And happy shepherds, who, secure from fear,  
On open downs preserve your fleecy care!  
Whose spacious barns grown with increasing store,  
And whirling flails disjoint the cracking floor!

Ye happy fields unknown to noise and strife,  
The kind rewarders of industrious life;  
Ye shady woods where once I us'd to rove,  
Alike indulgent to the Muse and Love;  
Ye murmuring streams that in incandescence roll,  
The sweet composes of the pensive soul;  
Farewell!—The City calls me from your bowers;

GAY.

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entrance and two ruined towers, exhibit grand specimens of the mode of brick building in the reign of Henry VIII.

Adjoining Roydon is the parish of NASING, in the road to Waltham Abbey: it is thus noticed by the poet of Amwell:

Delightful habitations! o'er the land  
Disper'd around, from Waltham's usier'd isles  
To where black Nasing's lonely tow'r o'erlooks  
Her verdant fields.

This village was anciently written Nasingen, and Nasinges, and was included among the seventeen lordships with which earl Harold endowed Waltham Abbey.

King Henry II. by his charter dated at Winchester, again confirmed their privileges to the abbot and canons regular, and particularly mentions, that of the lands at Nasing, *Proventus vestibis semendis assignati sunt, i. e.* The profits were assigned to them for mending their cloathing.

At the suppression of the monasteries by king Henry VIII. this manor remained in the crown, till it was granted in king Edward's VI.'s reign to lady Joan Denny, widow of Sir Anthony Denny. Here is the seat of William Palmer, Esq. facing the road; the house is plain but handsome, with a portico in the front, and contains several neat and convenient apartments. The grounds are finely laid out; and the greenhouse plants are curious. Adjoining to the house is a machine of immense power for raising water.

The advowson of this vicarage is in the crown. In the church is nothing worthy notice.

Mr. John Hopkins, vicar of this church, was one of those ministers in the archdeaconry of Essex, who was deprived for non-conformity, because he refused to subscribe the articles enjoined by John Whitgift, then lord archbishop of Canterbury, A. D. 1583.

#### WALTHAM ABBEY; OR HOLY CROSS.

This town is about twelve miles from London; and arose from a variety of circumstances. The following detail, however

however ridiculous, is so much connected with the remote legend concerning this place, that we think it proper to give the whole insertion, from Lambard's Topographical Dictionary :

“ It might have sufficed to derive the foundation of Waltham in Essex from kinge Harold, as *Polyd.* (followinge *Mat.* of Westminster) and others, have before done. But for as muche as not only thabby, but the towne also toke bothe their beginnunge and increase by a holy crosse that was muche renowned there, the whole discourse of the findinge wherof I have penned by a caason of Waltham some after the tyme of the Conquest, I feared I should do Waltham wronge, and defraude the reader, if I should not begyn at the roate. And yet to thend that I neyther wery the one, nor belye thother, I have thoughte good both for the length and shortnes sake, to abridge in so few woordes, as conveniently I may, that which myne auctor left writen in as many as him lysted. In the tyme (saythe he) that kinge Canut reigned in England, there lyved at a place called comonly Lutegaresbyry, in Franche Mountague, a simple man, by occupation a carpenter, and by office serten of his parishe, to whome on a night appeared a vision of Christe crucified, commaundinge him that as soon as day brake he should goe to the parishe preist, and will him, accompanied w<sup>th</sup> his parishioners in solemne procession, to goe up to the toppe of the hyll adjoyninge, and to digge, wheare (if they would beforehand make themselves by confession, fastinge, and prayer, worthy of suche a revelacion) they should finde a crosse, the verye signe of Christes passion. This plaine man, supposinge it a fantastical dreame, toke at the first no great heed therof, save that he imparted it with his wife, who also thoughte it but an illusion. Wherefore the image appeared againe, and so griped him by the haunde, that the dynt of the nayles remaind in his hand to be sene the daye followinge. Beinge thus pricked forward, on he gooth to the priest, and discloseth the hole matter: he arrayeth his parishe, displayeth his banners, putteth on copes and surplis, and setteth the carpenter foremost, as his captaine; they marche to the place, they digge awhile, and anone they finde a great marble, havinge in it of black flynt the image of the crucifixe, so artificially wrought, as if God himselfe (sayth myne auctor) had framed it. Under the ryght arme of this crucifixe there was a small image of the same forme, a litle belle also,

and

and a blacke booke conteyninge the text of the four Evangelists. At this they signified to Tovi le Prude, then lorde of the soyle, standard bearer to the kinge, and his cheif counsellor; who came to the place in great hast, and by thadvise of his gentis, lefte the smalle crosse in the churche theare, determininge to bestow the greater in suche place as God should appointe. Forthwith therfore he caused to be yoked 12 red oxen, and so many white kyne, and laveth the stone in a wayne, myndinge (if God so wille) to cary it to Canterbyrge; but the cattel could not by any force be compelled to drawe thitherwarde. When he saw that, he chaunged his mynde, and had them dryve toward his house at Readinge, whearin he had great delighte; but still the wayne stode immoveable, notwithstandinge that the oxen did their best. At the length he remembered a smalle house that he had begone to buyld at Waltham for his disporte, and comaunded them to make thitherward. Which wordes he had no soner spoken, but the wayne of itselfe moved: now in the way many weare healed of many mirrites amongst the which threscore sixe parsons vowed their labour towards the conveyance of this crosse, and weare the first founders of Waltham towne, wheare was no-thinge before but only a simple house for this Tovi to repose himselfe at when he came thither to hunt, notwithstandinge that he had thereby divers landes, as Enfield, Edelmetun, Cetrebant, Mym, and the hote baronie that Geoffrey of Maundvile, the first of that name, after had. Now when the crosse was broughte thither, Tovi commaunded it to be set up: and whiles one by chance perced it with a nagle, the blood issued out of the flint in great abundance: wherat Tovi beinge greatly amased, fel downe and woorshipped it, promisseth before it to manumitte his bondmen, to bestow possessions on such as should serve it, and there presently gave Waltham, Chenlerenden, Hicche, Lamhee, Lukeatun, and Alwareton, and offered the sworde whearwith he was gyrded when he was first dubbed knyght. His wife also, called Githa, bestowed on the head of this crucifixe a crowne of gold garnished with stone, and gave besides one jewel, for the which a by-hop of Winchester offered 100 marcs. This Tovi ceased [not] at his life to be beneficial to Waltham; after whose death Adeistan his son loste Waltham, which by meanes came to the handes of Edw. the Confessour; he bestowed it on Harold, son to the earl of Godwyn: Harold favouringe the foundation

of Tovi, added to the two clerkes which he had lefte there, 11 other, and one Ulwyne to deane; he buyded for them a faire temple, and invited to the dedication of the same, the kinge, byshope, and 20 nobles of the realme. This Harold was shortly after slaine in the field by William the Conquerour, whose corpa he frepdes by great intreatie (for that the Conquerour had purposed to have buried it in the churche which he vowed and buyded for suche as weare slaine in that fight) begged of kinge William, to thend that they myghte lay it at Waltham, as himself in his lyfe had appointed. Howbeit when they had longa soughte amongst the dead bodyes, and could not discerne his, they called for one Edithe, (for her beauty surnamed Sparheare, or Whitenecke) whom they kinge loved, and by her direction take and conveyed it to the ground at Waltham. Thus muche out of the stoarye of Waltham Abbay, which by many conjectures I take to have bene written even in that tyme, when kinge Hen. II. changed the secular and maryed preistes of Waltham, into regular or chast chanons. I shalle not nede to make any censure upon this hystorie, the lyinge is no less egregious then comon, in writers of this age and profession, and therefore I wille both cease to wonder and spare to dischyphre it, contentyng my selfe to convince them by themselves only; for some further helpe wherto, I will adde a pretye tale, that Mat. the monk of Westminster hathe of this holy crosse. When Harold (sayth he) should goe to the field against the Conquerour, he came to Waltham to doe his devotion before the cruxixe; which at his departure (in token of a final farewell) bowed it selfe towarde him, and from thenceforth contyued croked, even tyll his owne tyme. Now let us goe forward. William the Conquerour toke from this house the towne of Waltham, and gave it to Walter the byshop of Darham to repose himself at, when he should be called to counsell out of the north countrye. William Rufus, his son, spoyled Waltham of 666 poundes of money, besides Jewels and churche ornaementes, at which he transported to Cane in Normandie; howbeit afterward in part of amendes, he restored them the towne of Waltham, with all the landes thereto of old tyme appertayninge. This was the state of Waltham before the tyme of Hen. II. who, havinge vowed to make an abbay or religious house for expiation of the suspicion of Thomas Becket's death, wherwith he was charged, practized



practised with Hugh the pope's legate, that it might excuse him to make regular chanons of the secular preistes at Waltham, promising withal that he would endow the house with great possessions of his owne gyfte, which, Polydore sayeth, he never performed. The legate consented; the kinge therefore brought in his letters, made Ranlfo of Clocter their prior, and gave residence to Gyl that was the deane before: he bestowed on the house also the manors of Stanstede and Thele bridge. This kinge (saith Mat. Paris) loved Waltham entyerly, and lay many times thereat. A longest other thinges by him done there, he gave one thousand markes the maintenance of the warres against the infidels: 4000 markes in sylver, and 500 in gold. Kinge Rich. I. the son of this Henry, followinge his father's steppes in favour of this house, confirmed the gifte of Waltham, addinge thereto the wood, Harolds parke, the townes of Nesinges, Sywardston, the viages, Netleswel, Pasfield, Waldham, Windham, Aldwarton, Ecton, and Lamborne in Essex, besides sundry other thinges in other shyres. This house became shortly after an abbay, the Lande that in the tyme of Hen. III. the church was newly dedicate, and the head named Abbot."

At the Dissolution, this abbey was granted to Sir Anthony Denny, from one of whose descendants it came, by purchase, into the family of Sir William Wake, bart. who had on the site of it a modern-built seat, called the Abbey House. This he sold to James Barwick, Esq. who pulled it down in 1779, and let the site, and the grounds belonging to it, to a gardener.

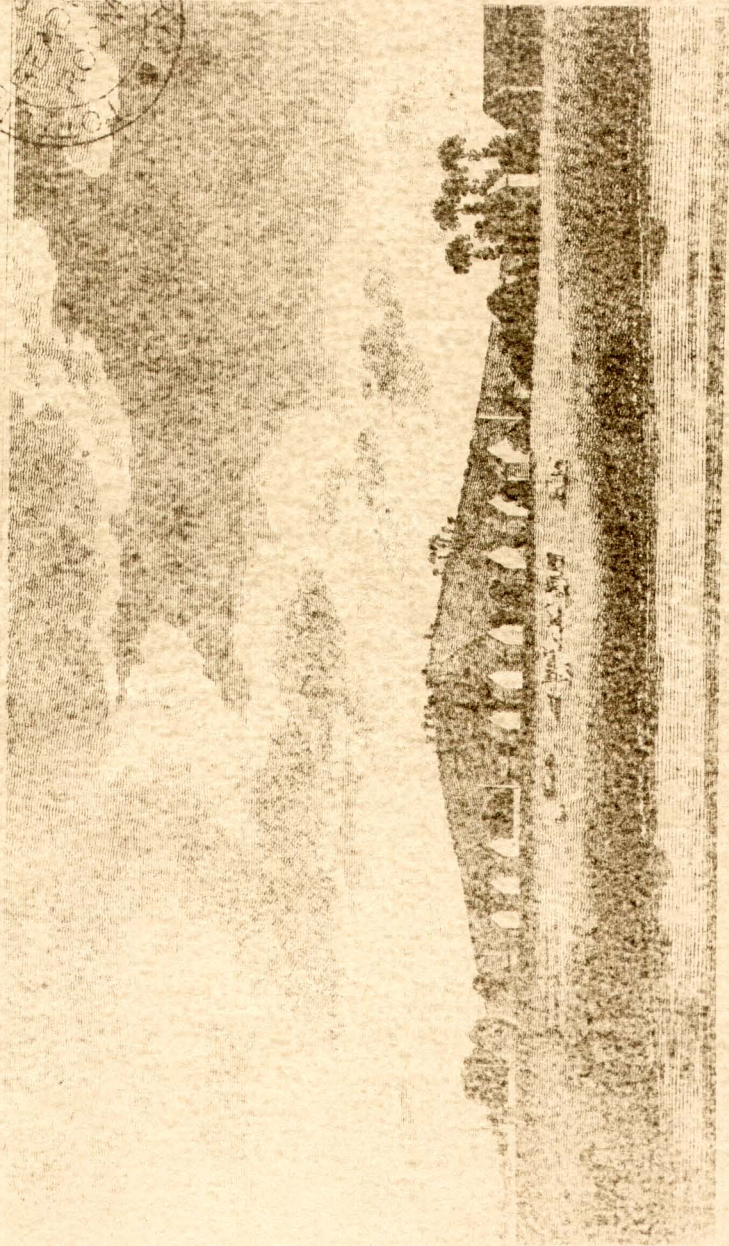
The tower of the church was built in the time of queen Mary, but the inside of the church is a beautiful specimen of Saxon architecture. This, however, is only the nave of the original church; the cross aisles having extended beyond what is now the chancel; and the old tower, which fell down after the dissolution, rose, in course, as the centre of a cross. A few beautiful fragments of the abbey still remain, of a style of architecture much later than that of the church; particularly a Gothic arch, which formed the entrance and terminated a noble vista of tall trees which no longer exist; and, adjoining to this gateway, is still standing the porter's lodge. Within the precinct of the

abbey is also a celebrated tulip tree, said to be one of the largest in England, being fourteen feet in circumference near the bottom.

King Harold and his two brothers, after the battle of Hastings, in which they were slain, were interred at the east end of the ancient church, at the distance of forty yards from the extent of the present structure. A plain stone is said to have been laid over him, with this expressive epitaph, "Harold infelix;" and a stone coffin, said to have been his, was discovered in the reign of queen Elizabeth, by the gardener of Sir Edward Denny: the bones, upon the touch, moldered into dust. About four years since another coffin was found nearly on the same spot, which contained an entire skeleton inclosed in lead. If this were not the skeleton of one of the Harold's brothers, it is in vain to form any other conjecture\*.

The town is at present large and irregular; many of the houses about the market place being very old erections of lath and plaister; but there are some good modern brick buildings in it; within a few years it has been much improved

\* An incident occurred in this town, which is memorable as having been one of the principal circumstances that led to the Reformation. It is related by several historians, and particularly by John Fox, who here compiled his celebrated Martyrology. This was the fortunate introduction of Dr. Thomas Cranmer, afterwards archbishop of Canterbury, to the notice of Henry VIII. The king, it seems, had a small house on Rome Land, (a parcel of land near the abbey, so called from having been granted by Henry II. to Pope Alexander,) to which he occasionally resorted for his private amusements; as may be inferred from Fuller, who says, "Waltham bells told no tales when the king came there." He took this place in his way, when he commenced a journey to dissipate the chagrin he felt from the obstructions to his divorce from queen Catherine: Stephen Gardiner, his secretary of state, and Richard Fox, his almoner, by whom he was accompanied, spent the evening at the house of Mr. Cressy, to whose sons Dr. Cranmer was preceptor. As the divorce became the subject of conversation, Cranmer observed, that the readiest way, either to quiet the king's conscience, or to extort the pope's consent, would be to consult the universities of Europe on this controverted point. If they approved of his marriage with Catherine, his remorse  
would



— FORTY-SEVEN HILLS, WALLINGTON, ENGLAND.

proved with regard to cleanliness and convenience, and is extremely full of inhabitants, owing to the various manufactures, &c. carried on here; most of which receive peculiar advantages from the copious streams of pure water with which it is so abundantly supplied. The corn mill, behind the Cock Inn, probably occupies the same site as that which was bestowed on the abbey by queen Maad, at the commencement of the twelfth century: the powder mills are at present in the hands of government. There are extensive manufactories for printed linens, and some newly created premises for the purpose of making pins, the process of which not being generally known, is here particularly described:

The first operation is that of winding it off from one wheel to another with great velocity, and causing it to pass between the two, through a circle in a piece of iron of smaller diameter; the wire being thus reduced to its proper dimension, is straightened by drawing between iron pins, fixed in a board in a zig-zag manner, but so as to leave a straight line between them; afterwards it is cut into lengths of three or four yards, and then into smaller ones, every length being sufficient to make six pins; each end of these is ground to a point, which is performed through out the manufactory by boys, who sit each with two small grinding stones before them, turned by a wheel. Taking up a handful, each boy applies the ends to the coarsest of the two stones, being careful at the same time to keep each piece moving round his fingers, so that the points may not become flat: he then gives them a smoother and sharper point, by applying them to the other stone, and by that means a lad of twelve or fourteen years of age is enabled to point about sixteen thousand pins in an hour. When the wire is thus pointed, a pin is taken off from each end, and this is repeated till it is cut into six pieces. The

would naturally cease, if they condemned it, the pope would find it difficult to resist the solicitations of so great a monarch, seconded by the opinion of all the learned men in Christendom. When the king was informed of this proposal, he was delighted with it; and, with more alacrity than delicacy, swore, that "Cranmer had got the right sow by the ear." He sent for that divine, adopted his opinion, and ever after entertained for him the highest regard. Mr. Cressy's house is not now to be found.

next operation is that of forming the heads, or, as they term it, head-spinning, which is done by means of a spinning wheel; one piece of wire being thus with astonishing rapidity wound round another, and the interior one being drawn out, leaves a hollow tube between the circumvolutions: it is then cut with sheers, every two circumvolutions, or turns of the wire, forming one head; these are softened by throwing them into iron pans, and placing them in a furnace till they are red hot. As soon as they are cold they are distributed to children, who set with anvils and hammers before them, which they work with their feet, by means of a lath, and taking up one of the lengths, they thrust the blunt end into a quantity of the heads which lie before them, and catching one at the extremity, they apply them immediately to the anvil and hammer, and by a motion or two of the foot, the point and the head are fixed together in much less time than can be described, and with a dexterity only to be acquired by practice, the spectator being in continual apprehension for the safety of their fingers end. The pin is now finished as to its form, but still it is merely brass; it is therefore thrown into a copper; containing a solution of tin and the lees of wine. Here it remains for some time, and when taken out assumes a white though dull appearance; in order therefore to give it a polish, it is thrown into a tub containing a quantity of bran, which is set in motion by turning a shaft that runs through its centre, and thus by means of friction it becomes perfectly bright. The pin being complete, nothing remains but to separate it from the bran, which is performed by a mode exactly similar to the winnowing of corn; the bran flying off, and leaving the pin fit for immediate sale. "I was the more pleased with this manufactory," says Mr. Ellis, "as it appeared to afford employment to a number of children of both sexes, who are thus not only prevented from acquiring the habits of idleness and vice, but are on the contrary initiated in their earlier years in those of a beneficial and virtuous industry."\*

Among the eminent persons connected with Waltham, we recount ROGER WALTHAM, canon of St. Paul's cathedral, who wrote *Compendium Morale*, and *Imagines Oratorum*, in the reign of Henry III. JOHN DE WALTHAM, bishop of

\* *Campagna of London.*

Salisbury, lord privy seal, and chancellor of England, in the reign of Richard II. who caused his body to be buried among the kings in Westminster Abbey, in testimony of his great regard for his worth. NICHOLAS, abbot of Waltham, was an eminent person during the same reign. The last abbot, ROBERT FULLER, wrote the History of the Abbey. Among the curates since the Reformation were JOSEPH HALL, S. T. P. afterwards bishop of Exeter, by whose persuasion Mr. Sutton erected his hospital of the Charter House; Dr. THOMAS FULLER, author of *The Church History of England*, *Pisgah Sight*, *The Holy War*, *Worthies*, &c.

After quitting Waltham Cross we enter the Forest, in which are many beautiful situations; and having passed Warlies Park, we arrive at COPPED HALL, the seat of John Conyers, Esq. in the parish of Epping, built by his father; it is a perfect model of convenience as well as of elegant architecture. The original house stood at the bottom of the hill, in the parish of Waltham Holy Cross; and here was a private chapel for the use of the family, which had belonged to the abbots of Waltham. This chapel was decorated by the beautiful painted window now in the church of St. Margaret, Westminster.

While the manor of Epping was in the possession of the abbey of Waltham, the abbots erected within its boundaries a mansion for pleasure and privacy, which in antient records was called COPPICE HALL, so named from the neighbouring woods. After the dissolution of the abbey, it became the seat of the Fitz Auchiers, who sold it to Sir Thomas Heneage soon after he became lord of the town. Sir Thomas much enlarged it, and built one of the most stately galleries in England, being fifty-six yards long, which by a strange hurricane was blown down November 1639, and the lord Coventry's picture carried away, without any damage to many others.

From Sir Thomas Heneage this manor and seat descended to Sir Moyle Finch, by marriage with Elizabeth, Sir Thomas's only daughter and heir, from whom it came to the Sackvilles

viles earls of Dorset, and Middlesex, who made it their seat; it was sold by Charles earl of Dorset, the great statesman, and patron of wit and learning, to Sir Thomas Webster, bart. from whom it passed by sale to the family of Conyers.

Near Copped Hall Park, on the south-east side, are traces of an antient camp, denominated AMBREYS, or AMBROSBURY BANKS, supposed to have been erected by the Britains.

#### EPPING,

was called in the Conqueror's Survey EPPINGES, and then found to be a manor, containing two hides and fifteen acres of land, worth 15*s.* *per annum.* King Henry II. A. D. 1177, upon the removing of the secular canons from the abbey of Waltham, and placing regulars in their room, granted to the said regulars this manor of Epping, with all its appurtenances, to which it continued annexed till the dissolution of the abbey, when it came to the crown; and afterwards granted by queen Elizabeth to Sir Thomas Heneage, then treasurer of the chamber, vice-chamberlain of the houshold, and chancellor of the dutchy of Lancaster, and Ann his wife, to be held of the crown, as of the dutchy of Lancaster, by military service.

Epping is sixteen miles from London. The markets, which are on Thursday for cattle, and on Friday for provisions, are kept in Epping Street, a hamlet about a mile and a half from the church. The butter made in this part of the county, and known in London by the name of Epping butter, is in particular esteem, and sells at a higher price than any other.

Here was formerly a considerable estate belonging to the lords North and Grey, which was sold to Edward Conyers, Esq. of Copped Hall, in the beginning of the eighteenth century.

The chapel in EPPING STREET, is supposed to have been originally a chantry or free chapel, belonging to the abbey of Waltham, and was bestowed by Edward VI. on the town, to be held as of the manor of East Greenwich.

Epping



*Drawn and Engraved by Ellis.*

POWDER MILLS, WALTHAM ABBEY.

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*See P. H. Henshaw's Description of London*



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*View of the church from the water*

VIEW OF THE CHURCH

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— POWNER HILLS, WALTHAM ABBEY.