

It ffor reprasyon* of Kroyys howse to John lave'der ... ..	vi <sup>s</sup> tyle iij <sup>s</sup>
It <sup>e</sup> to john kredy for mendyng of same howse iij <sup>d</sup> and for ty'byr ... ..	iii <sup>d</sup>
It <sup>e</sup> tor John of Kowschepyn for iij lodes thorne ...	iiij <sup>s</sup> vi <sup>d</sup>
It <sup>e</sup> for lviii fote of hevys bord to the same howse	xviii <sup>d</sup>
It <sup>e</sup> for xliiij lathys to y <sup>e</sup> same howsse ... ..	iii <sup>d</sup>
It <sup>e</sup> for nayle to y <sup>e</sup> same howsse ... ..	iiij <sup>d</sup> ob
It <sup>e</sup> to john tyler for mevyng of y <sup>e</sup> plasse thorow ...	iiij <sup>s</sup>
It <sup>e</sup> for lyme to thomas chapma' & tyle pyn ...	vi <sup>d</sup>
It <sup>e</sup> for bryngyng of xv & tyle fram glasyarys to john cotyswold ... ..	viii <sup>d</sup>
It <sup>e</sup> for y <sup>e</sup> trendyl & y <sup>e</sup> ester taper ... ..	iiij <sup>s</sup> vi <sup>d</sup>
S'm supvis compoti v <sup>ll</sup> xix <sup>s</sup> ix <sup>d</sup> ob.	

*(To be continued.)*

## A Tour Through Buckinghamshire.

*By A. J. Foster, M.A., Vicar of Wootton,  
Bedfordshire.*

*(Continued from page 82, Vol. 9.)*

Two miles W. is WESTON UNDERWOOD. Here Cowper lived from 1766 when he left Olney until he took his last journey into Norfolk in 1795. The house, Weston Lodge, which he and Mrs. Unwin occupied, is in the middle of the village.

Here was the shrubbery which the poet has described, and in the garden he ordered a summer-house to be built.

*“Beware of building! I intended  
Rough logs and thatch, and thus it ended.”*

These were the lines which the poet threatened to place on the erection, in the creation of which his man Sam and the village carpenter had far exceeded his requirements.

\* Reprasyon—repairing.

In the shrubbery were also a bust of Hermes and a sun-dial, both given to him by Dr. Johnson, a kinsman, who was a clergyman in Norfolk. Both of these are now in the grounds of Weston House.

In the Lodge itself are the words written by Cowper on a window shutter, just before leaving on his last journey.

*"Farewell, dear scenes, for ever closed to me ;*

*Oh ! for what sorrows must I now exchange ye !"*

The Church (St. Lawrence, register 1681) stands at the W. end of the village. It contains monuments of the Throckmortons of Weston House, a notable Roman Catholic family who had to do with public affairs in Tudor times. Sir Nicholas Throckmorton was implicated in Wyatt's conspiracy. The family came from Warwickshire, and in 1446 Sir Thomas Throckmorton married Margaret the heiress of Sir Robert d'Olney, whose family had been at Weston for some time before.

There are brasses with effigies to Elizabeth widow of Sir Walter Hungerford, whose second husband was Sir Robert Throckmorton, 1571 ; and to John Olney, 1450.

Weston Park is N. of the village. The house stood near the road. Nothing is now left of it but the entrance gates, and a part of the stables. It was pulled down in 1827. It is described as a fine mansion possessing secret chambers, which were occupied by priests when it was penal to say Mass. One of these chambers was found to contain, when the house was taken down, a rough bed, candlestick, remains of food, and a breviary. When Cowper lived at Weston, the Throckmortons were still residing here. The site of the house is now occupied by a Roman Catholic School and Presbytery.

There is a shrubbery behind the house called "The Wilderness," which is still adorned with busts and urns. Favourite dogs were also buried here, and Cowper's epitaphs over Sir John Throckmorton's pointer, and Lady Throckmorton's pet spaniel may still be read. The grounds were laid out by "Capability Brown."

Further North is the Lime Tree Walk, and in the extreme corner of the park, on a hill which commands a view of the Ouse Valley, is the "prosed Alcove," a wooden summer-house, much injured—

*"By rural carvers, who with knives deface*

*The panels, leaving an obscure rude name."*

The park is bounded on the E. by the Hoo Brook, near the source of which is the "Peasant's Nest," now a trim, newly built farm-house. A brick arch has moreover taken the place of the

“rustic bridge,” but the foot-path still descends the “sudden steep,” through an avenue of chestnut trees.

The Cowper student will have “The Sofa” in his hand anywhere around Olney.

Further N. and on the other side of the railway, are Cowper’s Oak and “Kilwrik’s Echoing Wood,” where Cowper found the hounds cub-hunting one autumn morning, and the wood is an out-lying part of the famous hunting-ground Yardley Chase, which is however in Northamptonshire.

One mile E., and N. of the railway, is *Olney Court*, a farm which by its name still keeps up the remembrance of the ancient dwelling of the family of Olney.

*Olney Park*, a little to the N., was emparked by Ralph, Lord Bassett, 1374. It was formerly extra parochial, and the property of the Duchy of Lancaster. It is now only a farm.

N. of Olney, at *Ash Furlong*, between the Lavendon and Warrington roads, large finds of Roman remains have been made, which included pottery, coins from the time of Neron to that of Constantine, and a bronze figure of Mercury.

One mile E. of Olney, but on the other side of the river and on a high hill, is CLIFTON REYNES, which may be reached by a foot-bridge and by a foot-path which crosses the meadows, though it is a long way round by the road.

The parish takes its second name from the family of Reynes, who were here in the XIV. century, and sold the Manor to Serjeant Maynard in the XVII. century.

The Church (St. Mary, register 1653) is decorated, and is interesting for the unique monuments which it contains, oak effigies on altar tombs. In the N. Chapel an effigy of a Knight in XIII. century armour, and a Lady in costume of the same period, on a low altar tomb beneath a canopy with good hanging tracery. They are supposed to be those of Simon de Borard and Margaret his wife who died in 1260. Under the E. arch of the arcade, between the Chapel and the chancel, is an altar tomb with effigies of a Knight in chain and plate armour, and of a Lady in reticulated head-dress, a veil and long flowing robe. They are, as the Knight’s jupon is emblazoned with the arms of Reynes, most likely those of Sir John Reynes and Katherine his wife. Under the W. arch a third altar tomb has effigies supposed to be those of Ralph de Reynes, d.c., 1310, and Amabel his wife, the daughter of Sir Richard Chamberlain, of Petsoc, as the arms of Chamberlain are on the panels of

the tomb. These effigies appear to have been finished with an idea of their being afterwards cased in brass.

There is also a brass to Sir John Reynes d. 1428, and to a man and his wife without date. The font is octagonal, and there are figures of saints on the sides.

There are marble tablets to the Small family, who were here in the last century.

In the time of Cowper the Rectory was occupied by Mr. Jones the Curate-in-charge and his wife, and a frequent visitor was his wife's sister, Lady Austen, a name well known to all Cowper students.

It was in the summer of 1781 that the Poet saw two unknown Ladies enter a shop in Olney. They were Lady Austen and her sister, and Cowper asked Mrs. Unwin to invite them to tea. A close intimacy was soon formed between the sensitive Poet and Lady Austen, which threatened to overthrow the older friendship with "My Mary," Mrs. Uuwin, and they became "Brother William" and "Sister Ann" to one another. The Lady had much to do with the line of the Poet's work, told him the story of John Gilpin, and "Set the Task," giving as the first subject "The Sofa."

Cowper paid frequent visits to Clifton Rectory until floods and mud made the path across the meadows impassable, and once thought of moving to Clifton Hall, a house which has now disappeared. Lady Austen however, frightened by an attack made on the "Castle," as Cowper called the Rectory, by robbers, during the absence of Mr. Jones, moved down to Olney and took up her abode for a time at Orchard Side, and then rented the Vicarage.

A little further down the river, on the N. bank is the site of the poplar trees whose destruction the Poet lamented in the lines beginning:—

*"The poplars are felled, farewell to the shade."*

Two miles further is NEWTON BLOSSOMVILLE, situated between the railway and the river. The Church (St. Laurence, register 1730) has a brass to Jane, daughter of John Bodington, Clerke and Bridget his wife, 1663, and another to Bridget Bodington, 1673. These brasses are now under the organ platform.

The Chancel is Early English, and there is a Saxon window on the S. side of the Nave. There is a Perpendicular N. Chapel with very scanty remains of frescoes.

Opposite, on the N. bank, is COLD BRAYFIELD. The Blossomville family, from whom the adjacent parish had its name, possessed

the manor here also. The Mordaunts who were the owners of Turvey, just across the border in Bedfordshire, had the manor afterwards, but sold it just before the time of the famous Charles Mordaunt, E. of Peterborough.

The Church (St. Mary, register 1693. Restored 1881) has Norman N. door-way and chancel arch. The chancel and N. windows of Nave are Early English.

Brayfield House which stands in a pretty park by the side of the river has been much altered and added to.

Cold Brayfield is a Chapelry of LAVENDON which lies one mile N. and where there was a monastery of Norbertines, or Premonstratentians, or White Canons as they were commonly called. It was founded in the time of Henry II. by John de Bidun. Nothing now remains of the house, but depressions in the ground mark the spots occupied by fish-ponds. The site is now occupied by *Lavendon Grange* which was built by Robert Eccleston. Eccleston's successors sold it to Mr. Newton the father of Dr. Newton, founder of Hertford College, Oxford. Isaac Newton was a frequent visitor here.

The Grange is about one mile W. of the village. The monastery appears to have fallen into ruin before its dissolution.

The Church (St. Mary, register 1574) has a Saxon tower with herringbone work. The Nave arcades are transitional Norman. The S. door-way is Early English, with a Perpendicular porch and a parvise, the floor of which has been removed. There are mural tablets to two Rectors 1654 and 1670 respectively. There are also tablets to Katherine, wife of Thomas Newton, 1680; and to James, eldest son of Thomas Newton, a barrister, 1690.

Lavendon Castle is half-mile N. of the village. It was perhaps built by the Bidun family, the founders of the Monastery, before 1232, as it recorded that in that year the Bishop of Lincoln in his visitation ordered the Abbot of Lavendon to find a Chaplain to serve the Chapel of St. Mary in the Castle. It afterwards became the property of the Peyvres and Zouches, and then that of the Mordaunts. Some give Roger Peyvre, Bishop of Salisbury and Chancellor of England in the time of Henry I., as the builder. There are considerable remains of earthworks together with those of the walls or other buildings. More is left of this than of any other castle in the county.

SECTION XI.—RAILWAY.—WOLVERTON TO  
CASTLETHORPE.

Starting again from Wolverton Junction N. by the main line, we reach  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles CASTLETHORPE.

The railway runs through the site of the *Castle* which stands not far from the banks of the Tove. It was built probably by the family of Manduit, but Robert Lord Manduit having joined the rebel barons in the time of King John, it was taken and destroyed by John's favourite, Fulke de Breauté, in 1215.

Lord Manduit, however, was allowed to empark Castlethorpe in the next reign, and the property changed hands several times until in 1663 it was granted to Sir Thomas Tyrrell, Justice of the Common Pleas. Some portions of Tyrrell's house remain.

The Church (St. Simon and St. Jude, register 1530) was formerly a chapelry of Hanslope. There is a large monument to Sir Thomas Tyrrell, erected by his widow, d. 1671. The Norman font with figures at the corners is worth notice.

HANSLOPE is two miles N. The Church (St. James, register 1570) has a tower and spire 186 feet in height. The spire has been re-built. The original spire, which was 14 feet higher, had been struck by lightning, 1804. It had been built by Thomas Knight, the Rector in 1409. It resembles those in Northamptonshire in character.

In the chancel is a Norman N. doorway with zigzag ornaments. The chancel arch is also Norman.

In the Troughton chapel are monuments of that family, a brass to the parents of Richard Troughton ; and a brass to Maria daughter of Thomas Birchmore, 1602.

Hanslope was formerly a market town.

