

Thomas Scott the commentator as his first charge after his ordination in 1772. He served Gayhurst as well, the then Rector being sub-dean of Lincoln Cathedral, and non-resident. He also acted as tutor to young Wrighte at the Mansion, and was married to Jane Kell, Mrs. Wrighte's Maid, in Gayhurst Church in 1774.

Two miles E. of the Northampton road is RAVENSTONE. Here was a Priory of Black Canons, founded by Henry III. 1255. It was suppressed in 1525 and no remains of it exist.

The family of Finch lived at Ravenstone. Lord Chancellor Heneage Finch, Earl of Nottingham, 1621—1682, the Amri of Dryden's "Absolom and Achitophal," owned the manor, and is buried in the Church (All Saints, register 1568). There is a fine monument representing the Chancellor in his robes, erected by his son. The church itself has Norman work. On the E. side of the church-yard is buried Thomas Seaton, Fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge, who founded the Seatonian prize poem. In the village are alm-houses founded by the Earl of Nottingham.

Virginia Water.

By R. E. Hodder.

Completely surrounded by picturesque scenery, and away from the busy haunts of man, its origin but little known, its sylvan charms unrecorded, except by a single line in Murray, this altogether lovely calm retreat, at once the monarch's and the muse's seat, Virginia Water

"still bears the name the hapless Virgin bore,
and bathes the forest where she ranged before."

The name of this place is somewhat difficult to determine. The probability is that it received its name from the Virgin Queen having some concern there, and was so named to honour her memory.

The natural basin which now forms Virginia Water seems to have been a large swamp of several acres in extent with ponds interspersed.

In 1746 William, Duke of Cumberland, Ranger of Windsor

Forest, conceived the idea of making it an artificial lake. The supernumerary troops raised at the time of the Scotch rebellion, 1745, were quartered and drilled here and much of the work was done by them.

In 1790 the 2nd Duke of Cumberland, the then Ranger, enlarged it to its present boundaries, diverting the old coach road and demolishing the original "Wheatsheaf Inn," which stood about midway between the Ruins and Botney Bay, the foundations of which can be seen when the water is low.

The Dukes of Cumberland were guided by the taste and skill of Paul Sandby, a celebrated landscape and water-colour painter. His works were numerous and fetched high prices at the time; some of them are now in the South Kensington Museum. He was the first English artist who infused nature into topographical drawing, and won great popularity thereby. He died in 1809. This Paul had a brother named Thomas (both of Nottingham), who was the first to give intelligence of the landing of Prince Charles Edward, the last of the Stuarts in the male line, and as a reward the Duke of Cumberland made him Deputy-Ranger of Windsor Forest, so that to these two brothers we are indebted for the picturesque arrangements of the place.

The lake ranks next to Blenheim in extent; it covers 150 acres and is over two miles in length. It stands in three parishes, viz., Old Windsor, Egham and Sunningdale, the boundary line of Berks and Surrey passes across the centre.

The Ruins which were brought from Tripoli, in North Africa, under the direction of Sir Frederick Ponsonby, when he was governor of Malta, at the request of George IV. (1825), were deposited in the vaults of the British Museum, and in 1827 were placed in their present position by Sir J. Wyattville. They are of Roman origin belonging to the Corinthian order of architecture. Tripoli was the seat of literature, art and commerce long before the Romans dreamed of African conquest, being one of the 300 cities which sprung from Carthage, and acknowledged Rome's supremacy, and Carthage herself (a Phœnician colony), we are told, was founded B.C. 850.

There is reason for supposing that some portion of these ruins may have belonged to Punic times.

Until lately there were four inscriptions among the ruins. One fragment has been removed to the British Museum, with a Phœnician inscription, translated "The dominion of the Empire of the Rome remains to eternity," also in Latin letters, *A.U.G.S.U.F.E.*, i.e.,

Augustus Sufe, referring to the chief magistrate of Carthage. This in itself shows whence these ruins came. There is also a marble altar with a Greek inscription translated as follows: "Publius Aurelius, servant of Jupiter, dedicated this altar to Jupiter, the great Serapis, and to other gods worshipped in the same temple."

Another inscribed gravestone has the following Latin inscription *Dominæ Rogæ quæ vixit in Annis XXIII. M. Julius Carthaginiensis.* Translation:—Marcus Julius, the Carthaginian, erected this to his most beloved wife Roga, who lived 23 years.

The statuary which was placed amid the ruins at the time of their erection was captured on board a French vessel during the war with Napoleon I., and having been brought to England was deposited in the Wolsey (now the Albert Memorial) Chapel and remained for some years. Upon the gates of Virginia Water being thrown upon to the public by William IV., these Grecian statues, of Venus, Ceres, Fawns, Satyrs, etc., were so shamefully abused and mutilated that it was found necessary to remove them to a more secluded spot in the Park, leaving time to complete the destruction of these works of art, which once inspired such respect—the heads severed, the arms and legs broken off, their beauty effaced, the very fragments stained, moss-grown, forsaken, forgotten. *Sic transit gloria mundi.*

The cascade is formed of large sarsen sandstone, brought from Bagshot Heath, and said to have been stones of an ancient cromlech. Some of them are of many tons weight. Their scattered positions when found has been attributed to glacial action, but geologists of the present day consider they were formed where they now are, and that the loose sand of which they are composed has been denuded away leaving them upon the solid strata of chalk or other rock. When found in the gravel drift they are called sarsen stones, but when found on the surface they are described as grey wethers; they are also, when of large dimensions, such as those at Stonehenge, Amesbury, etc., called Druid Stones. South of the cascade runs a Roman Road (the devil's highway.) The present Wheatsheaf Inn stands upon it. The route of the road was from London through Staines to Silchester and Old Sarum. This road is not mentioned in the Itineraries of Antonine, A.D. 320. Probably it was one of the last roads made during the Roman occupation.