

SECOND EDITION.

MARK & MOODY'S

PENNY GUIDE TO



HAGLEY

—AND—

CLENT.

With
Illustra-
tions and
Map.

Stourbridge:—Printed and Published by Mark & Moody, "County Express" Offices.

THE LYTTETTON ARMS HOTEL,
HAGLEY.



Proprietress

MRS. HARDY.

Private and Workmen's Parties Catered for. Dining Room to seat 120.

Private Apartments. Bowling. Tennis. Posting.

* Uniform with this—The Penny Guide to Kinver and Enville.
**



E. CARTWRIGHT, CLOTHING MANUFACTURER, LYE.

Branches: 135, High St., Brierley Hill, also Halesowen Road, Netherton.

ESTABLISHED 1815.



ESTABLISHED 1815.

W. R. SELLECK, Proprietary Articles
at Low Cash Prices.
Pharmaceutical Chemist,
for Accurate Dispensing & Pure Drugs.

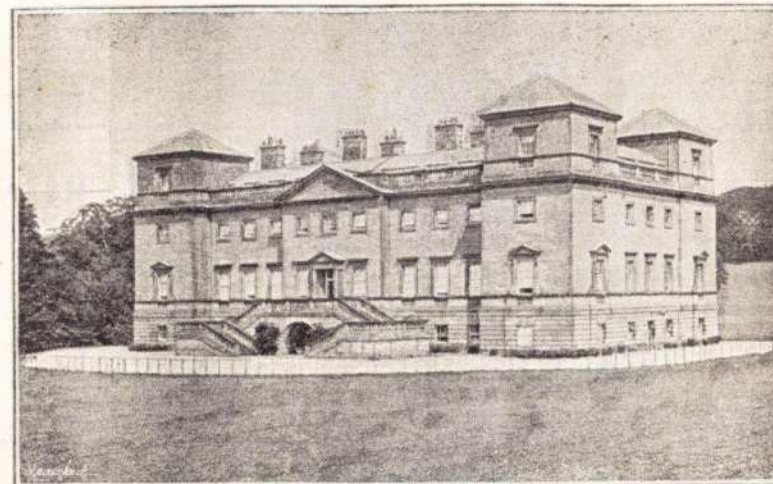
SELLECK'S CREAM SOAP, THE BEST FOR THE SKIN,
TABLETS, 4d.; BOXES, 1s. & 2s.

Photographic Goods of all descriptions.

The High Street Pharmacy, Stourbridge, Next Door to the
Talbot Hotel.

SECOND EDITION.

A GUIDE TO HAGLEY AND CLENT.



HAGLEY HALL.

MARK & MOODY,

"County Express" Offices, STOURBRIDGE.

1902.

J. C. PURCHASE,

TAILOR AND OUTFITTER.

138, HIGH STREET (Next door to the Talbot Hotel).

STOURBRIDGE.

For NEWEST STYLES and LATEST FASHIONS
in SUITINGS, TROUSERINGS, FANCY VEST-
INGS, COYERT COATS, CYCLING SUITS,
OVERCOATS, made to measure.

SPECIALITY.
A good all-wool and thoroughly shrunk Trousers, suitable
for Best and Business wear.
10s. 6d. per pair; two pairs for 20s.



The Order Department is replete with materials for all
seasons' wear.
Mourning Orders promptly executed.
Hunting Breeches. Ladies' Jackets. Liveries.

A Splendid Selection of Goods in
Ready-mades & General Outfitting, Men's
and Youths' Suits, Trousers,
Overcoats, etc., Boys' Suits in all Shapes and
Materials, Mechanics', Butchers'
and Grocers' Clothing, Hats and Caps in all fashionable
Shapes, Ties, Collars, Cuffs in all New
Shapes and Styles, White and Coloured Shirts, Hosiery
for all seasons' wear,
Gloves, Braces, Portmanteaus, Waterproofs.



HAGLEY AND CLENT.

HAGLEY.

"In all the various descriptions of Hagley which I have yet seen, however elaborate and well-written, I have found such a want of leading outlines, that I could never form a distinct conception of the place as a whole. The writer introduced me to shaded walks and open lawns, swelling eminences and sequestered hollows, wooded recesses with their monumental urns, and green hill-tops with their crowning obelisks; but though the details were picturesquely given, I have always missed distinct lines of circumvallation to separate and characterize from the surrounding country the definite locality in which it is included." So said the late Hugh Miller who, probably, when writing the above had more in his mind than a mere geographical description of the spot mentioned, but before giving a description of the place as it now is, it may be interesting to our readers to know the state in which it was at the time of the Norman Conquest.

"The same William (Fitz-Ansculf, which means the son of Ansculf) holds Hageleia, and Roger holds it of him. Godric, a Thane of King Edward held it. There are 5½ hides. In demesne is one plough and a priest, five villeins, and ten bordars, with five ploughs, and there is still room for eight ploughs more. There are two serfs. Wood half-a-mile long, and three furlongs wide. In the time of King Edward it was worth 60s., its present value is 50s."

Hagley, or *Hageleia*, as it was written, is supposed to be derived from *haga*, a house, and *leag*, or *lega*, a place; meaning that "it was the chief residence of a great Saxon lord," and styled by way of eminence "the manor place." Or perhaps it was so called from its being the first spot enclosed in the neighbourhood; *haga* also signifying a *hedge*, or enclosure, as well as a house.

Altogether Hagley, in the midst of those wild old forests, with their "multitude of hogs," and its "manor place," inhabited by a great Saxon lord, must have been a strange savage place. A

• Domesday Book.

priest is mentioned as one of the inhabitants, and no doubt a church had existed hard by the manor house from the first settlement of the country, or conversion of the inhabitants. To this time, we may remark, belong those strange-looking stones which we see still preserved under the eaves of the east side of the church porch, and which architects tell us are of Norman date.

On the decease of Fitz-Ansculf without male children the Paganel and Somerys, barons of Dudley, became lords paramount of Hagley, and the township and advowson passed through various hands till Sir John Lyttelton of Frankley purchased it in 1564, since which time this family have held the manor up to the present time.

For the information of our readers, it may be well to state that the village is situated in the North part of the county of Worcester, about eleven miles from Birmingham, and two-and-a-half miles from Stourbridge, and as Hagley is accommodated with a railway station at Lower Hagley visitors will find easy access to it. The station is about a mile to the West of the village, and the walk from it a pleasant one.

HAGLEY PARK.

The principal entrance to the Park is close by the "Hall," the residence of Lord Cobham. On a board near the gate will be seen the regulations as to admission to the Park. We will suppose a visitor to have secured a guide, and to have entered the Park. He will find the Hall immediately at the right hand, the shrubbery on the left, and before him a landscape which has few equals in the county.

On arriving at the Church the visitor is recommended to follow the walk on the left hand, leaving the Church on the right. As he advances he will notice, on an eminence at his left, a pillar surmounted by a statue to the memory of Frederick, Prince of Wales, son of George the Second.

The next object worthy of notice is the Palladian bridge at the foot of the first large pool, one of a series produced by damming the rivulet which descends through the valley from the hills above. The view up the valley from the middle of this bridge is very picturesque, and is terminated by a temple called the Rotunda.

On advancing up the hill towards the Rectory, a deep hollow will be observed on the left; this is the remains of the old Birmingham Road. It can be traced as far as the stone quarry near the Rectory, and must have passed through what are now the Rectory grounds and so on through the fields into the present road. The visitor has been walking, perhaps unconsciously, over much of the site of the old road all the way up from the "Lyttelton Arms" to the spot he is now observing. The road used to pass between the Church and the old Hall, which stood on the site of the present cricket ground.

Our visitor is now supposed to have reached the spot on which stands a rustic building called "Thomson's seat." Thomson is known to have been a frequent visitor to Hagley, and is said to have spent much of his time in contemplation and to have composed parts of some of his Poems on this eminence. "I looked with no little interest on the scenery that had satisfied so great a master of landscape; and thought, though it might be but fancy, that I succeeded in detecting the secret of his admiration, and that the specialities of his taste in the case rested, as they not unfrequently do in such cases, on a substratum of personal character. The green hill spreads out its mossy arms around, like the arms of a well-padded easy-chair of enormous proportions, imparting, from the complete seclusion and shelter which it affords, luxurious ideas of personal security and ease; while the open front permits the eye to expatiate on an expansive and lovely landscape. We see the ground immediately in front occupied by an uneven sea of tree-tops, chiefly oaks of noble size, that rise at various levels, on the lower slopes of the park. The clear sunshine of this day imparted to them exquisite variegations of fleecy light and shadow. They formed a billowy ocean of green, that seemed as if wrought in floss silk. Far beyond—for the nearer fields of the level country are hidden by the oaks—lies a blue labyrinth of hedge-rows, stuck over with trees, and so crowded together in the distance, that they present as has been already said, a forest-like appearance; while still further beyond there stretches along the horizon a continuous purple screen, composed of the distant highlands of Cambria. Such is the landscape which Thomson loved. And here he used to saunter, the laziest and best-natured of mortal men."*

The original structure was erected by the first Lord Lyttelton in a style, which may be called Italian, or Palladian, corresponding with the other ornamental buildings placed by him about the park, and contained a suitable inscription. In a gale of wind, some years since, the top of a large elm, the lower part of which still stands hard by, fell on it and damaged it to such an extent as to cause it to be removed. The present "Seat" was substituted for it and contains the following inscription:—

INGENIO IMMORTALI
JACOBI THOMSON,
ÆDICULAM
HOC IN SECESSU QUEM AMABAT VIVUS
DICAVERAT
GEORGIUS LYTTTELTON:
ILLAPSA ARBORE SEMIRUTAM
AMOVIT
ET MODESTIOREM HANC SEDEM
REPOSUIT
GEORGIUS ALTER
MDCCCLIII.

THE FOLLOWING IS A TRANSLATION.

"A Temple, dedicated by George Lyttelton to the immortal genius of James Thomson, in this retreat, which in life he used to love, having been half destroyed by the fall of a tree, was removed, and this more modest seat substituted for it by George, the second of his name. 1853."

*Hugh Miller.

The next object to be noticed is "Jacob's Well," a spring opposite the Rectory, that has for many years supplied the Hall with water. It is now surmounted with stone work, designed by G. E. Street, R.A., which contains a quotation from that noble Hymn, the Benedicite, "O ye wells, bless ye the Lord."

Passing from Thomson's seat, we reach a depression in the hill side, associated with the memory of Shenstone; and see at the head of a solitary ravine a white pedestal, bearing an urn. The trees droop their branches so thickly around it, that, when the eye first detects it in the shade, it seems a retreating figure, wrapped up in a winding sheet. The inscription is eulogistic of the poet's character and genius. "In his verses," it tells us, with a quiet elegance, in which we at once recognize the hand of Lyttelton, "were all the natural graces, and in his manners all the amiable simplicity, of pastoral poetry, with the sweet tenderness of the elegiac." This secluded ravine seems scarce less characteristic of the author of the "Ode to Rural Elegance," and the "Pastoral Ballad," than the retreat of the poet of the "Seasons."

From any one of the paths not marked "Private," Milton's hill can be easily reached. Near the top will be found a seat inscribed with the following lines from the Morning Hymn in "Paradise Lost."

"These are Thy glorious works, Parent of good,
Almighty! Thine this universal frame,
Thus wondrous fair: Thyself how wondrous then,
Unspeakable! Who sitt'st above these heavens
To us invisible, or dimly seen
In these thy lowest works; yet these declare
Thy goodness beyond thought, and power divine."

The landscape from this point,—by far too fine to have escaped the eye of Thomson,—is described in the "Seasons"; and the hill which overlooks it represented as terminating one of the walks of Lyttelton and his lady—that Lucy Lady Lyttelton, whose early death formed, but a few years after, the subject of the monody so well-known and so much admired in the days of our great grandmothers:—

"The beauteous bride,
To whose fair memory flowed the tenderest tear
That ever trembled o'er the female bier."

"The entire prospect,—one of the finest in England, and eminently characteristic of what is best in English scenery.—enabled me to understand what I had used to deem a peculiarity,—in some measure a defect,—in the landscapes of the poet Thomson. The prospect from the hill at Hagley, measured along the horizon, must on the lowest estimate, be at least fifty miles in longitudinal extent; measured laterally, from the spectator forwards, at least twenty. Some of the Welsh mountains which it includes are nearly thrice that distance; but then they are mere remote peaks, and the area at their bases not included in the prospect. The real area, however, must rather exceed than fall short of a thousand square miles; the fields into which it is laid

out are but small, scarcely averaging a square furlong in superficies, so that each square mile must contain about forty, and the entire landscape about forty-thousand. With these are commixed innumerable cottages, manor-houses, villages and towns. Here the surface is dimpled by unreckoned hollows; there fretted by uncounted mounds; all is amazing, overpowering multiplicity,—a multiplicity which neither the pen nor the pencil can adequately express; and so description, in even the hands of a master, sinks into mere enumeration."

Proceeding onwards from this seat, and descending the south side of the hill we come to a deep well-wooded valley, followed in a westerly direction, by a noble avenue of beech trees. This valley contains another series of pools, and by the upper one will be found a very fine specimen of the Cedar of Lebanon. If time does not permit the visitor to take this route he can ascend at once from Milton's seat by the higher ground to an object called the "Castle," a "masterly deception," erected by the same Lord Lyttelton to whom the general ornamentation of the park is due. The situation chosen for it is such that a harmonious effect is produced by its introduction here. It was built as a residence for the park-keeper and is now occupied by the wood-ward. Although a modern building it contains a point of interest for the archæologist, as some of the carved stones and window tracery of the "ruin" originally belonged to the once famous Manor Abbey near Halesowen.

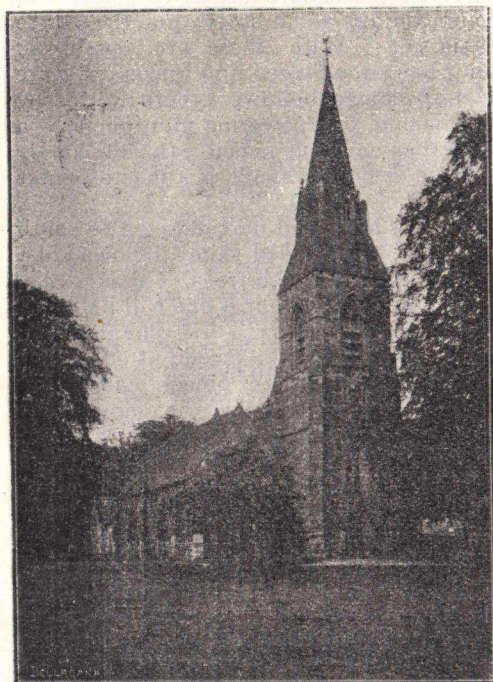
HAGLEY CHURCH.

Before passing from the park to the Clent Hills adjacent, it would be advisable to see Hagley Church.

Nash says "No doubt a church existed here in Saxon times;" . . . "With regard to the present structure its appearance bespeaks no very high antiquity. It was probably re-built about the time of Henry III. perhaps by one of the Somerys, baron of Dudley, at that time lord paramount of Hagley." The nave and south aisle constituted the whole church at the first. Mr. Noake says "In the south aisle is a decorated piscina; and here was originally an altar, the aisle or chapel being dedicated to the Virgin, and lands being given for the celebration of masses there. A field called the Aspes, or Lamplands, was likewise given for the maintenance of a lamp in the church to burn continually before the host."

There is no date to shew when the east wall of the nave was first broken through and a chancel built, but Nash says, "The chancel was re-built from the foundation in 1754 by George Lord Lyttelton." The cornice of the chancel ceiling was ornamented with shields of arms, in their proper colours, by Dr. C. Lyttelton, Dean of Exeter, being the bearings and quarterings of the Lyttelton family from the time of Henry III. The east window was of Dutch stained glass, subjects—the Lord's supper, the Crucifixion, the Adoration of the Shepherds, with other Scripture pieces, and a portrait of Lord Keeper Lyttelton, 1641. This window and the cornice were removed in 1857.

*Hugh Miller.



In 1827 the church was enlarged by the addition of a north aisle.

The original north wall contained, under a depressed arch, or a recessed canopy, with crockets and finial, a stone tomb, on the lid of which is a floriated cross. At the time of its removal to its present position in the new north wall, it was opened, and found to contain only a small quantity of dust, and a very thin gold plain finger ring. There is no inscription to shew to whom these remains belong, but some indication of the probable period in which the tomb was erected and to whose memory, is

given in the following extract, which we are kindly allowed to make from the private Diary of the Lord Lyttelton of 1827. His Lordship says:—

“Mr. Blore (the eminent architect) explained at once the carved work on the top of the stone coffin in Hagley church, saying it represented the cross with which St. Michael in the Legend is said to transfix the Dragon or Serpent. He differed from Mr. Hamper of Birmingham, who was here a little while before, and who gave the same explanation of that work, as to the date of it;—Hamper saying that the flourished form of the cross indicated a period later than Henry III.—that of Edward III, probably. Blore (whose authority I believe to be much better) assigning it to Henry III's. time; and upon the whole, (taking Nash's conjecture that the tomb is that of the rector of the parish, who was a great benefactor to the church at its re-building in Henry III's. reign), a good one.”

In 1856 a subscription list was opened for re-building and enlargement of the church, as a testimonial to the late Lord Lyttelton for his public services to the diocese of Worcester, and the building, which had been restored by G. E. Street, R.A., was re-opened for Divine service in April, 1858.

A tower to complete the building could not be added at the time; a new fund was however subsequently raised, and a tower added in 1865. The East window by C. E. Kempe, Esq., in memory of Mary Lady Lyttelton, was given by some members of the Lyttelton family in 1901, replacing one put in in 1858.

Prior to the re-building, the chancel contained some monuments to the memory of different members of the Lyttelton family, but as they stood in the way of desired improvements they were removed, and the inscription tablets only preserved by being placed on the walls at the western end of the present building, along with other mural monuments which were removed at the same time from various parts of the church. Rector, the Rev. Wm. C. Gibbs.

THE LYTTELTONS.

The family of Lyttelton has been traced back nearly to the time of the Conquest, the name being taken from South Littleton in the Vale of Evesham. In the early part of the thirteenth century, Thomas de Lyttelton married the heiress of Frankley, a place distant about five miles from Hagley, and the residence of the family was at Frankley for many centuries.

The most distinguished member of the family was Judge Lyttelton, author of the “English Tenures.” He lived in the reign of Edward IV. and died in 1481.

In 1564 Sir John Lyttelton purchased, from Sir John St. Ledger the lordship and advowson of Hagley, together with Old Swinford, Cradley and Clent.

John Lyttelton, in the reign of Elizabeth, had his estates forfeited to the Crown, “in consequence of his unhappy engagement with the Earl of Essex.” “It seems,” says Mr. Nash, “that John Lyttelton was a zealous papist, but that he was condemned, and his estates forfeited on very slight ground.”

Muriel, or Meriel, the wife of the said John Lyttelton, may be called the second founder of the family, as she succeeded in getting back from James I. the estates which had been forfeited in the preceding reign. This excellent lady brought up her children in the Protestant religion, and commanded in her will that her body should be buried in the churchyard among the poor, which was accordingly done. Her great-great grandson, Charles Lord Bishop of Carlisle, dedicated by will a monument to “her most respectable memory,” A.D. 1769. The inscription of this monument is still preserved at the western end of the present church.

The same writer, who has been quoted several times before,* says “One straggling ray of sunshine fell on a small oblong tablet, the plainest and least considerable in the building, in its naked unadornedness, ‘at the particular desire of the Right Honourable George Lord Lyttelton, who died August 22, 1773, aged sixty-four.’ This inscription commemorates the death of the author of the ‘Monody,’ the poet ‘who was not more conspicuous for his genius than his virtues.’ He had willed that his ‘Epitaph should

*Hugh Miller.

be his name alone." Near this plain slab may still be seen all that remains of a marble of great elegance,—the monument of Lucy, wife of the above. It shows that she pre-deceased her husband nearly thirty years,—dying at the early age of twenty-nine. Her epitaph, like the monody, must be familiar to some of our readers, but for the benefit of those who may be unacquainted with it we give it as transcribed from the marble.

"Made to engage all hearts and charm all eyes,
Though meek, magnanimous,—though witty wise;
Polite as she in courts had ever been,
Yet good as she the world had ever seen;
The noble fire of an exalted mind,
With gentlest female tenderness combined;
Her speech was the melodious voice of love,
Her song the warbling of the vernal grove;
Her eloquence was sweeter than her song,
Soft as her heart, and as her reason strong;
Her form each beauty of the mind expressed;
Her mind was virtue by the Graces dressed."

Much more might be said on other members of this family, did our space allow.

The present representative of the family, Viscount Cobham, succeeded his father, the late Lord Lyttelton, in 1876, and in 1889 assumed the title of Cobham, upon the death of the last Duke of Buckingham.

HAGLEY HALL.

The building was erected by George, the first Lord Lyttelton, in the middle of the last century, before he was raised to the peerage.

The house, a plain solid looking building, in the Italian style, is chiefly remarkable for the just proportion of its spacious apartments; for the elegance and appropriateness of the decorations; for the beauty of some of the pictures; and for the air of comfort which it at once presents to the eye.

CLENT HILLS.

The Clent Hills, and the other hills visible from their summit, are eastern outliers of the mountain region of Great Britain. Scarcely anything that deserves the name of a hill—certainly nothing that can be called a mountain—exists east of this in England. The late Dr. Arnold, of Rugby, who was a great lover of mountain scenery, but condemned by circumstances to live among the flat plains that surround that town, used to say that the next hills to him toward the east were the Ural Mountains, to the East of Russia! And so it happens that the Clent Hills stand on the borderland between the two great physical divisions of Great Britain. Westward they look towards the mountain-district, eastward over the great-eastern and south-eastern plain, which extends almost unbroken to the German Ocean, and the British Channel. The Clent Hills are also part of the *watershed* of England,

some streams that descend from them (or the Lickey Hills adjoining) running westward to the Severn, and so into the Bristol Channel and the Atlantic Ocean, and some eastward to the Trent and into the North Sea. In other respects also the small patch of the great Map of the World visible from these hill-tops happens to be one of very singularly comprehensive and many-sided interests.

A spectator, then, looking down from thence, southward and northward, sees represented in the scene before him, in a remarkably complete manner, the chief sources of the great importance of our little island of Great Britain among the countries of the Earth. Those great clouds of smoke that darken the whole northern and eastern heavens, and which, during the prevalence of winds from those quarters, blacken the north and east sides of the trees on Clent Hill, and the wool of all our sheep,—(for one never sees here a milk-white sheep as in more rural districts) tell of that mineral wealth of England, its coal and iron, on which its world-wide commerce and its mechanical pre-eminence has mainly depended: while to the south and west, is the beautiful vale of the Severn, representing its pastoral and agricultural wealth. Even the races of human beings who have peopled England in various ages, and whose variety has done so much—as has also the variety of its rocks in another way,—to endue it with its manifold versatility of power, are here represented. Those far distant mountains that on a clear day may be seen over the shoulders of Abberley, marking with faint blue line the western horizon, belong to Wales; and have been the dwelling place of the oldest races who have peopled these British Isles. These fortresses of nature, these

"Mountains that like giants stand,
To sentinel enchanted land,"

were the refuge of the ancient Britons, when driven westward by the invaders from other parts of the world,—such as the Saxons, Danes, Normans.

Far away again to the south-west, the eye can just discern hills which overhang the Bristol Channel and the estuary of the Severn,—telling of the wide ocean crossed by multitudinous English ships to all the corners of the earth.

The group of which Clent Hill forms a part, includes Wychbury, Walton, Calcot, Romsley, Waseley, Stork and Beacon Hills.

The two principal eminences, Clent and Walton Hills, upwards of 1,000 feet above the level of the sea, are deservedly celebrated for the views which may be obtained from their summits. Although Walton Hill is a few feet higher than Clent Hill, the latter is by far the most visited, and from its highest points the remarks on the scene viewed from "Milton's seat," will apply with more force as seen from this spot.

The four stones near the summit of Clent Hill are said to have been placed there by George, Lord Lyttelton, at the time when Wychbury Monument, the Temple of Theseus, the Castle, and other buildings were erected.

The following is intended to convey to the reader some idea of the extent and variety of the views.

NORTH TO NORTH-EAST.

Directing our observation from Clent Hill northwards, in the middle distance is Brierley Hill, the church of which, with its square tower, shews itself conspicuously in the landscape. The observer will not fail to notice the numerous buildings, chimneys, and ironworks of this locality. In the rear of Brierley Hill is Brockmoor; this is backed again by Holbeach and the higher parts of Himley and Wrottesley Parks.

On the horizon, we perceive the heights of Sedgley and the pointed spire of its church. Rueton windmill and other objects in the vicinity of Gornal also appear to view, and the churches of Wolverhampton are sometimes visible, although not frequently so, on account of the smoke from the surrounding works. The next object which takes the attention is the great Silurian limestone hill, called the "Wren's Nest," from its supposed resemblance to an inverted bird's nest. The populous town of Dudley, with the lofty spire of its principal church, and its antique castle, appear very distinctly, a little to the right of the Wren's Nest.

A mile or so nearer than Dudley, Netherton Church, standing on a considerable eminence, forms a prominent object in the landscape. On the left of Netherton Hill is Pensnett Spa.

The scenery in the foreground is remarkably picturesque, Wassel Grove and Hagley Wood giving it additional beauty. At the back of Wassel Grove is the populous district of Lye, the buildings of which are in the valley.

NORTH-EAST TO EAST.

On taking a view of this portion of the landscape, the visitor will not fail to notice in the foreground the extensive wood of Offmoor. A few centuries ago this, with the neighbouring woods and Pensnett Chace, formed one vast forest, extending and filling up the intermediate space between Clent and Dudley, so that the castle at Dudley was styled "The Castle of the Woods."

The middle distance is extremely fine, the extensive range of hills extending from Dudley to Oldbury, called the Rowley Hills, forming a pleasing picture. On the extreme left is seen Kate's Hill, crowned with a church; then follows Cawney Hill, and on the right of the range the village of Rowley. Beyond this again, the high ridge of Cannock Chase is visible.

On the right we perceive the town of Halesowen; the spire and tower of the church, peeping above the trees, form a picturesque object.

In the valley on the right of the Rowley Hills are situated the manufacturing districts of Oldbury and Smethwick, backed by West Bromwich, and on a level with the latter place Sandwell Park. The next range of hills in the distance comprises the heights near Darlaston and Walsall; but on account of the

vast ironworks which intervene at Tipton and its locality, objects on this range can rarely be distinguished. On the extreme left of our view, Aston Church, situated in a clearer atmosphere, shows itself conspicuously.

In the distance, that lofty eminence, Bar Beacon, with its beautiful grove, may be plainly seen; and in clear weather Sutton Park, King's Standing, the neighbourhood of Lichfield and other distant parts of Staffordshire, and, possibly, the high hills of Derbyshire may also be distinguished.

EAST TO SOUTH-EAST.

Woodland scenery now presents itself. At the foot of the hill stands the chapel of the murdered Kenelm, Prince of Mercia, with the extensive Offmoor groves of oak, backed again by the sylvan scenery of the Leasowes, the white mansion of which strongly contrasts with the dark green foliage of the trees. Beyond the Leasowes is Quinton Church, and to the right in the valley the eye sweeping round the woody scene, will rest upon the Manor Abbey's "ivy-crested walls."

In the middle distance on the right of the Leasowes is Birmingham. On the left the monument at Edgbaston forms a prominent object. The notable and massive Town Hall will be distinguished between Christ Church and St. Phillip's; the spire of St. Martin's, with the churches of St. Thomas and Trinity, also appear very distinctly. The intervening space is filled up with the numerous buildings at Edgbaston and Harborne. Far beyond Birmingham, Bardon Hill, in Leicestershire, was supposed to be visible, but it is doubtful whether the smoke ever admits of this in these days.

Carrying the eye southward, the chimney of the chemical works near Northfield, 365 feet high, forms an excellent landmark in the rear of Frankley Beeches; beyond which are seen King's Norton Church, Coleshill, and the country about Shustoke and Tamworth.

SOUTH-EAST TO SOUTH.

In the foreground appear the wooded hill of Romsley, Great Farley Wood, and the adjoining hill of Calcot. In the rear is Rubery Hill and the Lickey, on the summit of which, raising its head above the level of the trees is seen the Plymouth Monument. Beyond Rubery Hill lies the central portion of Warwickshire, backed by the distant Shuckburgh Hills and the higher eminences near Daventry, in Northamptonshire. But this view is best seen from Walton Hill. In the middle distance, on the right of the Lickey Hill, the eye is attracted to the spire of Tardebigg Church, the town of Redditch, and other objects in that vicinity; while in the far distance stretches the long range of the Cotteswolds.

SOUTH TO SOUTH-EAST.

This part opens to our view a scene of considerable beauty. The market town of Bromsgrove, with the beautiful spire of its

church, stands out boldly in the landscape. A little to the right the lofty chimney at Stoke Prior salt works is conspicuous, near to which are Hanbury Church and Forest.

In the foreground the village and church of Belbroughton are prominent, backed by the spire of the church of Chaddesley Corbett. In the middle distance is the neighbourhood of Droitwich, and also Westwood Park, upon whose glassy lake the reflection of the sun not unfrequently sparkles with the lustre of a diamond.

In the blue distance, the venerable cathedral of Worcester rears its bold, square, and massive tower, which, in clear weather is distinctly visible to the naked eye.

The south and west open to our view a vast expanse. Although the country appears diversified and undulating, no rival is presented to the Clent Hills till the magnificent heights of Malvern appear to our view.

In the far distance are the hills of Broadway, Cruckburrow Camp, "huge Bredon's stony summit," and in fainter lines, the Cotteswold Hills, bordering on the fertile vales of Evesham and Gloucestershire, and May Hill, on the border of Monmouthshire, just clear of the southern shoulder of Malvern.

SOUTH-WEST TO NORTH-WEST.

In a westerly direction from the Malverns, we perceive Old Storridge. Then succeed other eminences in the Suckley range, Ankerdine Hill, Berrow Hill, the site of an old camp in the parish of Martley, and the heights of Clifton-upon-Teme.

In the rear of these hills, faintly marked, appear Bromyard Down and Much Marcle Hill; and, when the atmosphere is remarkably clear, many other eminences are distinctly seen; these are the Skyrrid, the hills near Abergavenny, viz., the Bloreng, and the Sugar Loaf, and also immediately over Woodbury and Abberley Hills, the Black Mountains on the borders of Brecknockshire, more than 50 miles distant.

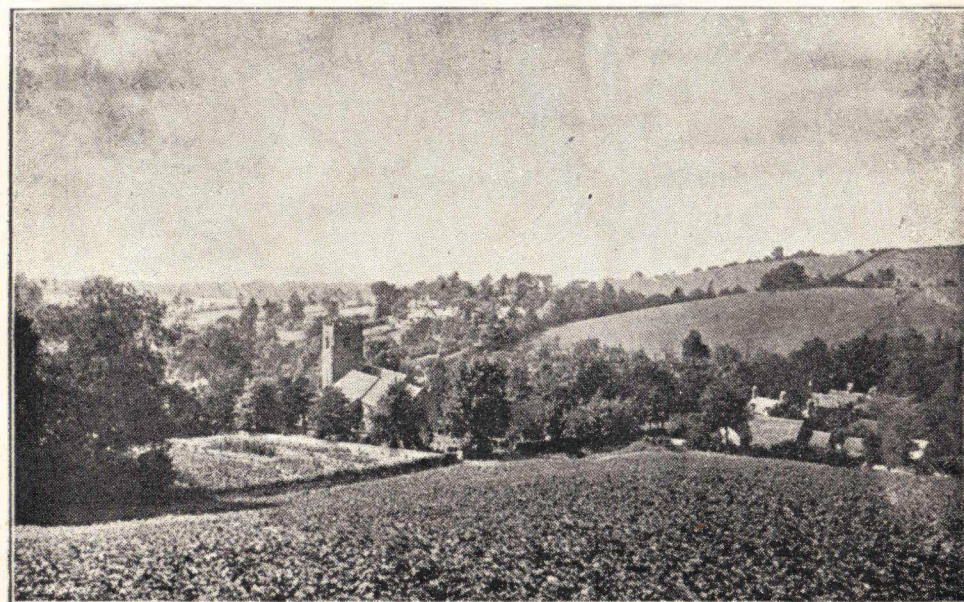
Next, looking over Hagley, with its noble mansion, we see in the middle distance Barnet Hill, Harberrow Down, Churchill, Blakedown, and the towns of Kidderminster, Stourport, and Bewdley. The finely wooded heights of Stagbury, Warshall, Kinlet, and Mawley, with the orchards and pastures on the banks of the Severn, present to us a picture on which the eye may long repose with pleasure.

Woodbury Hill stands out boldly in the picture. On the side of it is Witley Court, the residence of the Earl of Dudley, but only its gilt cupola is visible, through a telescope.

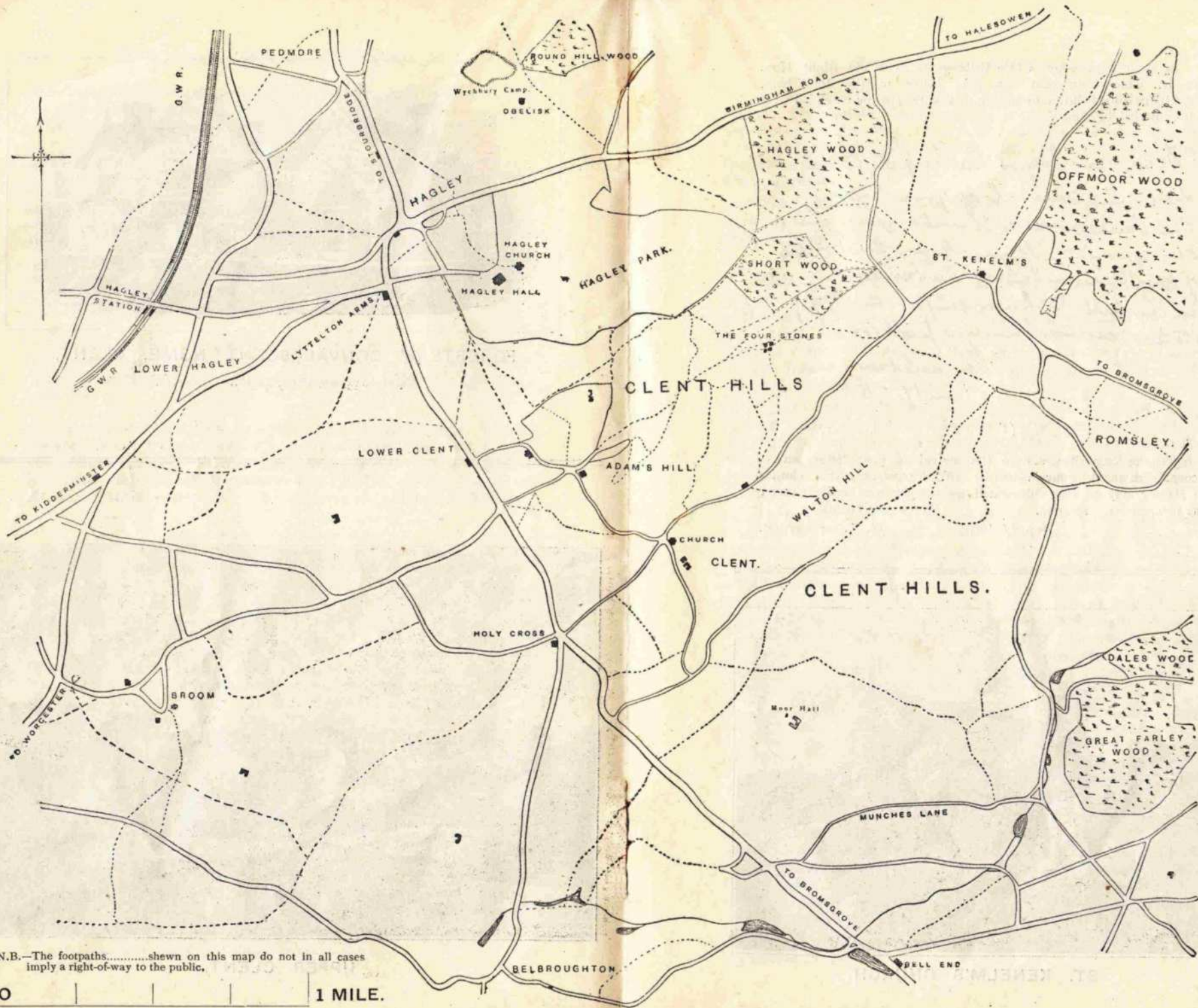


FORESTERS' CONVALESCENT HOME, CLENT,

Opened May 15th, 1894. *Page 18.*



UPPER CLENT.



N.B.—The footpaths.....shewn on this map do not in all cases
imply a right-of-way to the public.

0

1 MILE.

In accepting a copy of this little guide book the Right Hon. W. E. GLADSTONE sent the note below to the Publishers. Mr. GLADSTONE'S intimate association with Hagley extended over a long period of time.

*Dear Sirs I regret the long silence
since the arrival of your letter,
and I accept with thanks your interesting
gift. I trust that the beauties
of Hagley may be long illustrated by
the conduct & character (as many)
its possessors. Yrs very faithfully
W. E. Gladstone
Aug. 17. '96*

(Transcript).

Dear Sirs,

I regret the long silence since the arrival of your letter, and I accept with thanks your interesting gift. I trust that the beauties of Hagley may be long illustrated by the conduct and character (as now) of its possessors. Yours very faithfully,

Aug. 17, '96.

W. E. GLADSTONE.



ST. KENELM'S CHURCH.

Abberley Hill is the next eminence belonging to the same range. Then follows the Shropshire eminences of Titterstone, and four miles distant from Titterstone is the Brown Clee Hill, which has two eminences, called Abdon Burf and Clee Burf. Just to the left of the Titterstone Clee are the High Vinnalls and the hills about Ludlow.

The high ridge in the far distance seen between Abberley and the Clee Hills is Radnor Forest with its conical eminence, Wimble Hill, or Radnor Tump.

NORTH-WEST TO NORTH.

Although the distant prospect, as seen from Clent Hill, is in some measure obstructed by the Wychbury Hill, still the beauty of the scenery in the foreground amply compensates for its loss. This finely wooded eminence, which forms a portion of Hagley Park, is crowned with a stately obelisk; on its side is an ornamental building, erected after a model of the porch of the celebrated Temple of Theseus.

In the middle distance are the numerous ridges of Trimpey, Kinver Edge, Envile, and Ashwood, stretching north and south. To these succeed the rocky borders of Morfe, with the magnificent terrace of Apley. Then follow in the rear Wenlock Edge, composed of numerous heights of limestone rock, with the ridges of Acton Burnell, Froddesley, &c.

In the far distance we perceive that interesting mountain Cæer Caradoc, considered as the final scene of conflict between Caractacus and the Roman general, Ostorius Scapula, A.D. 53. This mountain, and its neighbours, Lawley and Hope Bowdler, would be more conspicuous were they not backed by the long and lofty ridge of the Longmynd stretching away from the North shoulder of the Brown Clee. Between the Longmynd and the Wrekin on the furthest horizon may be occasionally seen the broken outline of the Breidden Hills in Montgomeryshire, and still further off, between them and the Wrekin, the summits of a few of the Berwyn Mountains in Denbighshire.

On the right of Hagley Monument, situate in the valley, we have a view of Stourbridge and Wordsley, where the numerous glass works of the locality will not fail to attract attention. Several extensive woodlands may be seen; those of Envile and Himley covering a considerable space.

From the summit of Clent Hill, therefore, no less than twelve counties can certainly be seen, viz.: Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Denbighshire, Montgomeryshire, Radnorshire, Herefordshire, Brecknockshire, Monmouthshire, Gloucestershire, Warwickshire and Northamptonshire. Perhaps to this list Oxfordshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire may be added. It would be interesting if this very doubtful point could be cleared up.

Clent Hill is now under the control of a Board of Conservators, who have power to levy tolls and make bye-laws for the regulation of the common.