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ON ENFIELDE.

Enfelde, little old Enfelde, with its quaint old wooden shops and houses, is fast disappearing, and in its stead a smart, new, brilliant, but not nearly so charming Enfield, is growing up. It is a far more modern Enfield and a far more hygienic Enfield, no doubt; yet with all its virtues I cannot love it as I love the old Enfelde. It is new and business-like. It has no history. It is simply made of bricks and mortar, and a good deal of it is not even as old as I am. I respect the old church tower, because it is so ancient, and has stood there for centuries, and I love the old Palace, for did not Good Queen Bess live there? But how can I care about smart "Electric Light Offices" built within the last two years, and, what is worse, in the garden of a fine old house which once stood there. But these new monsters have not quite destroyed our old Enfelde, and happily that which remains has interesting and pleasant stories attached to it.

The very centre of our town is one of its oldest parts, for it is round here that most of the old buildings stand. The market-place dates back to 1619, when a charter was granted to the town of Enfelde authorising the inhabitants to hold a market each week. Yet some kind of market-place or public meeting place must have existed there before then, for King Edward I erected one of the crosses in memory of his wife, Eleanor, in Enfield Town, in 1290.

This cross became unsafe, and was removed, but in 1902 a market-house was erected to commemorate the coronation of King Edward VII.

Behind the market-place, surrounded by an old and pretty churchyard, stands the Parish Church. The base of the tower dates from the 12th century, but an old monastery probably stood there long before then. The church is full of ancient monuments, and in the churchyard one can still read the stones placed there in 1600. The church itself has been altered and enlarged many times, and was so thoroughly repaired by the enthusiastic Enfielders about a hundred years ago that they actually went to the length of smearing over the fine flints of which it is built with a dirty mud-coloured cement. This presumably was to make it look the same all over, and so—more beautiful. The cement is now being removed at great expense.

Beside the church stands the Grammar School, the oldest part of which dates back to 1557. At various times new wings have been added to it, but the old part still remains. A grant was made to the Enfelde Grammar School of £6 13s. 4d. to "gyve and paye yearlie to the schole master to teache within the sayde towne of Enfelde the children of poor inhabitants to knowe and read their alphabet letters and to read their Laten and Englyshe and to understand grammar and to wright their Lateines according to the trade and use of grammar scholes." It was Dr. Uvedale, a master of Enfelde Grammar Schole, who, in 1670, planted the famous cedar in the garden of the palace opposite Enfelde market-place. This tree is now the largest in England, and almost as big as the largest in Lebanon.

The Palace is one of the most interesting of Enfelde's old buildings. It was built by Edward VI for his sister, the Princess Elizabeth, who was very fond of Enfelde. The house has some beautiful apartments in it, and a very celebrated chimney-piece in the large hall. The Palace was for some time used as a royal house, but later part of it was destroyed, and houses built on the grounds. Before the new Post Office was built the Palace was used as a post office. It is now used as a Conservative Club.

Enfelde was a favourite place of Elizabeth. The Princess was escorted from Hatfield Hall by 12 ladies in white satin on ambling

palfries and 20 yeomen in green. She was met by 50 archers with gilded bows, who were dressed in yellow caps and scarlet boots. Each one presented her with an arrow tipped with silver and winged with a peacock feather. The Princess ended the sport by cutting the throat of a buck. This account shows that the "Princess" was evidently fond of ceremony as well as sport. James I often hunted in Enfield Chase, and was so fond of this pastime that he exchanged his house at Hatfield for Theobald's Park in order to be nearer the Chase. The Chase was divided up by Cromwell and sold, and the only part which now remains is the woods near Clay Hill.

Chase Side, however, is interesting, for it contains the houses in which Charles Lamb lived when he wrote the "Last Essays of Elia." "The Poplars," formerly called "The Manse," was for two years his house, but later he moved into the house next door, which was, to use his own words, "42 inches nearer town." He lived here till 1833, when he moved to Edmonton, for he did not love Enfield, and called it "a little teasing image of a town with shops two yards square and a library whither the fame of the last ten Scotch novels has not yet travelled."

Charles Lamb is not the only man celebrated in literature who has lived in Enfield. John Keats lived in Enfield for some years of his life, and was educated here. The fine old house, said to have been designed by Sir Christopher Wren, which once stood on the spot where Enfield Town Station now stands, was kept at one time as a school by John Clark, and it was to this school from 1803 to 1818 that Keats went. The same house was probably the one in which Benjamin Disraeli lived.

These are only some of Enfield's old buildings, of which there are many. They all have long and interesting histories, which it is a pleasant pastime to study, and it will be found helpful in studying the general history of England if some of the history of Enfield is known; for by remembering local history one can often recall the events which were happening in the other parts of England at the same time.

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