

BYGONE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

BY

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NOTTINGHAM :

FRANK MURRAY.

LONDON :

SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, HAMILTON, KENT, & CO., LTD.

HULL :

WILLIAM ANDREWS & CO., THE HULL PRESS.

1893.

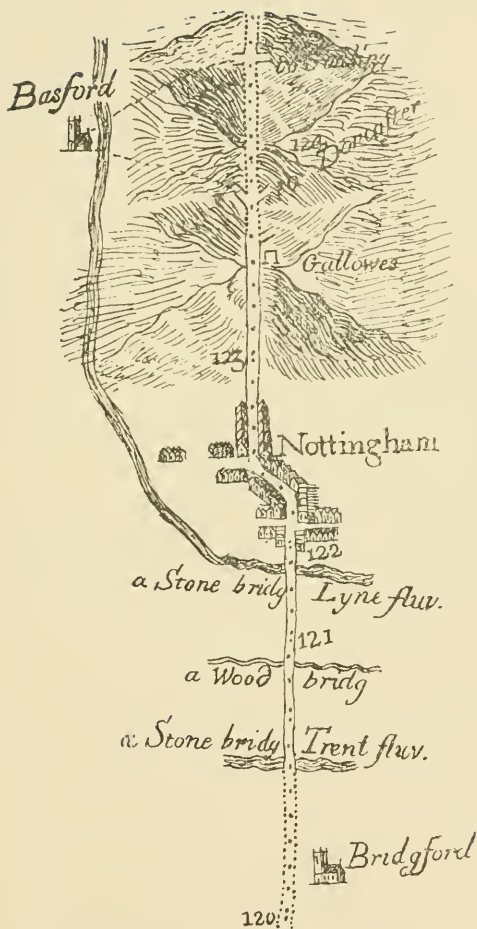
village situate on a little stream called the Smite, two-and-a-half miles east of Bingham. In Norman times it was a manor of the Cranmers, a family which is reported to have come in with the Conqueror. Dr. Thomas Cranmer, the Martyr-Archbishop of Canterbury, the first Protestant occupant of the throne of St. Augustine, was born here in 1489.

The site of the manor, the birthplace of this historic archbishop, is now occupied as a farm residence. Near it may still be traced sundry moats, islands, and other remains of the pleasure grounds, and at a short distance is a raised walk which leads to Orston, called "Cranmer's Walk." A short mile distant to the south-east is Whatton, the mausoleum church of the ancient Cranmers, and here lies buried Thomas Cranmer, the father of the archbishop, who died at Aslacton Manor on May 27th, 1501.

(32.) WILFORD HILL, two miles south of the bridge of Trent on the ancient north road from Leicester, *via* Nottingham, Bawtry, and Doncaster, to York. The south and highest portion of this eminence is figured in the Ordnance survey charts as Mickleborough Hill. The primitive meaning of this would be "the

great hill," but the ordinary meaning, contemporary with the nomenclature of the county, is "the great burh or fort." This is accepted as the site of the burh on the south side of the Trent, constructed by Edward the Elder, in 924, to guard the crossing of the Trent on the south bank, as the burh of Nottingham, "inhabited by Danish as well as English people," did that of the northern bank, the special occasion being the building of a bridge at this important ford or crossing. This ancient road is cut or worn deeply into the high land, from which cause it has fallen into disuse, and is now a green lane o'ershaded by a group of tall but picturesque firs. The modern road is a diversion to the west, constructed to avoid this narrow way climbing over the hills.

(33.) GOTHAM, near which lingers the local name of Ruscliff, or Rusheliff, from whence the Wapentake is named. Geologically this is an interesting district, as it furnishes abundance of gypsum, or sulphate of lime. It is the source from whence the material was furnished for the plaster floors and ceilings of old Nottingham and neighbourhood; the east part of the county being supplied by Newark, and the north



NOTTINGHAM, FROM OGILVIE'S "BOOK OF ROADS."