



LOWER WESTON.

Weskon-under-Pengard

as its name indicates, the town built on the west side of the Roman settlement Ariconium, and beneath the wooded slopes of Penyard Chase. On the summit of the latter are traces of a camp of observation, and not far from it the ruins of a Castle, which belonged to the Talbots as early as the thirteenth century (see page 181). It was occupied by Sir Lewis Talbot, youngest son of the great Earl of Shrewsbury, circa 1500, and devolved, with the rest of the Talbot estates, to Elizabeth, Countess of Kent, at the death of whose descendant, in 1740, it was sold. The present possessor is the Rev. H. Usborne, who purchased it of John Partridge of Bishop's Wood. The latter gentleman is still the owner of Lower Weston House, one of the most perfect examples of Elizabethan architecture in the county. The porch and bay windows, on either side, are especially well-designed, and the interior has undergone so little alteration that there is no difficulty in realising what was the domestic economy of a Tudor 'Squire. The house, built of local sand-stone, was erected by Walter Nourse, who is described as a younger son of Richard Nourse of Woodeaton, co. Oxon. His descendants * intermarried with several county families, and retained Weston until the death of John Nourse (commonly called Colonel Nourse) in 1808, s.p. It then passed to his unmarried sister, Mary Nourse,† and since, by sale, to Mr. Partridge. BOLLITREE is more interesting as being the site of a Roman town than for its pseudo-ancient house, which sometime belonged to the Meyrick family, and then, by bequest, to Philip Palmer of Pencoyd, grandfather of the present occupant. The family of Hardwick appears to have been settled here at an early date, although none of its members have risen above the rank of lesser gentry.

The Church has lately been restored. In it was a chantry dedicated to the B.V.M., and endowed with lands in the parish which were granted by Edward VI., to Sir John Thynne, Knt., and Christian his wife. (Blount.)

^{*} Walter Nourse died in 1609, leaving, by his wife, Christian Wall, 2 sons and 2 daughters—of the latter, Elinor mar. Grimbald Pauncefort of Newent, and the other.. Powell of Gloucster. The elder son, John Nourse, mar. Joane, eld. d. of Sir John Kyrle of M. Marcle, and had several sons, his heir being John Nourse, who (by Lettice Jones of Treewen, co. Monm.) had John Nourse, father of another John Nourse, who d., 1751, leaving (by Eliza., d. of Jas. Gregory of Woolhope) a son, John, who mar. Eliz., d. of Will. Gregory of How Caple. His two sons were John, Fell. of All Soul's, Oxf., o.s.p., 1753, and William Nourse, father of the late owner.

[†] Her sister, Susan, mar. Thos. Griffiths of Overross, and d., 1825, leaving a dau., Susan, wife of Thomas Harvey, whose son, Edw. Nourse Harvey, now represents the Nourse family.