On Her Majesty's Service

Quidon Hill Football
Newspaper cutting
Scrapbook
& Touchpaper
article

My Cider Book

THE QUINTON HILL FOOTPATH.

From the WALTHAM ABBEY TELEGRAPH, *May 27th*, 1887.

"A Special Meeting of the Waltham Holy Cross Local Board of Health was held on Tuesday afternoon. Mr. CARR presided, and there were also present—Messrs. PELLING, MELLES, CHAMPNESS, ORAM, BECK, WEBSTER, MILLS, RODDICK and C. CHAPMAN, with Mr. H. GOUGH, Clerk. —The report of the Committee relative to the closing of the Quinton Hill Footpath was further considered.—The Chairman moved and Mr. C. WEBSTER seconded the adoption of the report.—Mr. W. MELLES moved the following amendment:—"That this Board does not accept the report of the Committee that the path be closed, but that the matter be referred back to the Committee to consult with Colonel NOBLE as to making some arrangement by which the path may be diverted from the point where it enters Quinton Hill Farm from Mr. MILL's Farm, in such a manner as to suit the convenience of the authorities, and at the same time to retain to the public the advantage of being able to reach Waltham from Sewardstone, and *vice versa*, by a path across the fields, and to report at an adjourned meeting of this Board." Mr. MELLES said that before the Board gave their sanction to the closing of a right of way which had existed from time immemorial, they should not only consider the advantages to be gained by those parties who wish the right of way closed, but they must at the same time consider the rights of the public at large, whose guardians in matters of the kind the Board were. He did not speak with any feelings of hostility to the works being erected nearer to his house than they are at present, nor did he desire to prevent the employment of more *labor* in the district; as in proportion as more labour is employed so is more money spent in the town and district. No one could contend that the path is so little used as to be of no advantage to the public. On the contrary it is much used during a considerable portion of the year as a pleasant outlet from the town to the country, and it is constantly used by people from Sewardstone and district attending the weekly markets, and on Sundays it is a much more pleasant walk than the dusty road for those coming into the town to attend the various places of public worship. From the point where the path enters the fields at Sewardstone the distance to the Market or to the Abbey is considerably less than the distance by road. There was a middle course between keeping the right of way as it is at present, and preventing the erection of the works and consequent loss to the town. Quinton Hill Farm is not a narrow strip of land, and it is hardly within the bounds of possibility the whole of it will be covered with buildings, hence it is that I propose the Committee be requested to see Colonel NOBLE; and I have no doubt he will see his way so to divert the path as to secure the safety of the proposed buildings and magazines, and to retain for the people a pleasant but perhaps more circuitous walk across the fields. Mr. RODDICK seconded the amendment. On being put to the vote, however, the amendment was lost. The Meeting then terminated."

At a Meeting of the Local Board of Health held on the 7th June, Mr. MELLES moved to rescind the resolution of the Board of the 24th May:—

Mr. Chairman,

As it is not usual to ask this Board to rescind a resolution which it has deliberately passed by a large majority, I think it due to you to state some of the reasons which induce me to take this course on the present occasion. First of all, I do not think you have sufficiently considered the gravity of the issues raised by the discussion which has taken place on this subject. The question raised is not a mere matter of administration on which members may differ in opinion without special danger to public interests; but it is a question affecting the rights of property, and common privileges of which this Board should be the sacred guardian. How does the case stand? I maintain that the foot path which you intend to close is as much the property of the public as any private estate owned by some member of the board; and it is as flagrant a breach of justice to deprive the inhabitants of the district of this right of way as if you were to rob a private individual of some acres of the land to which he had an inviolable right. For this reason I ask you to pause. I would fain save you from an act of spoliation which you might afterwards regret. I may add that it is customary in this country, when a man's property is required for public improvements to allow him ample compensation. But you are aware that the intention of compensating the public in the present instance has not been once breathed. In fact such barefaced confiscation has scarcely, in these days, ever been heard of.

You virtually deprive the public of several acres of land to which they have a title from immemorial usage, and bestow them on other proprietors, who have no more right to them than they have to the highway, which is common to the whole parish. I regret that the application to deprive the public of this path and give the ground to private owners has come from the representative of Government. The Government should set an example to others of defending public interests instead of invading them. and I do hope that this Board will not persevere in imitating them in this line of conduct.

In the second place I beg you to observe, that the resolution which I ask you to adopt this evening, is different from the amendment which I proposed at our last meeting. If you pass this resolution it will give further time for the consideration of the subject; and I venture to say it is of sufficient importance to warrant us in looking at it on all sides.

But I plead for this delay chiefly in the interests of justice. It is the public who are injured by your former decision. Have you given them a chance to speak for themselves? Even in a criminal case we allow the accused the liberty of stating why sentence should not be passed upon him. But in this instance the public will be victimized without the chance even of crying out, unless you repeal to night your former resolution. That they do not relish the operation I am assured from many quarters. I have not solicited information on the subject, but many

people, of their own accord, have expressed their own approval of my opposition to the recommendation of your Committee at the last meeting, and I have reason to believe that the feeling entertained against the Board is spreading very fast.

Now I ask if it is wise for the Board to place itself in antagonism to the rate-payer? I say decidedly that we should not. We are their representatives, and in a matter of this kind we should not only be in accord with them but become their defenders.

Should it be said that I am mistaken in regard to public opinion, I beg you nevertheless to pass the motion which I have tabled.

A little delay will show who is right and who is wrong. I do not claim a monopoly of sagacity in these affairs, and I promise you if the people acquiesce in the shutting up of the path in question, I shall acknowledge that I was foolish in defending their rights, and may ultimately support the original motion that it may be carried unanimously.

[illegible] accord, have expressed their [illegible] approval of my opposition to the recommitting [illegible] committee at the last meeting, and I have reason to believe that the feeling [illegible] Board is spreading very [illegible]

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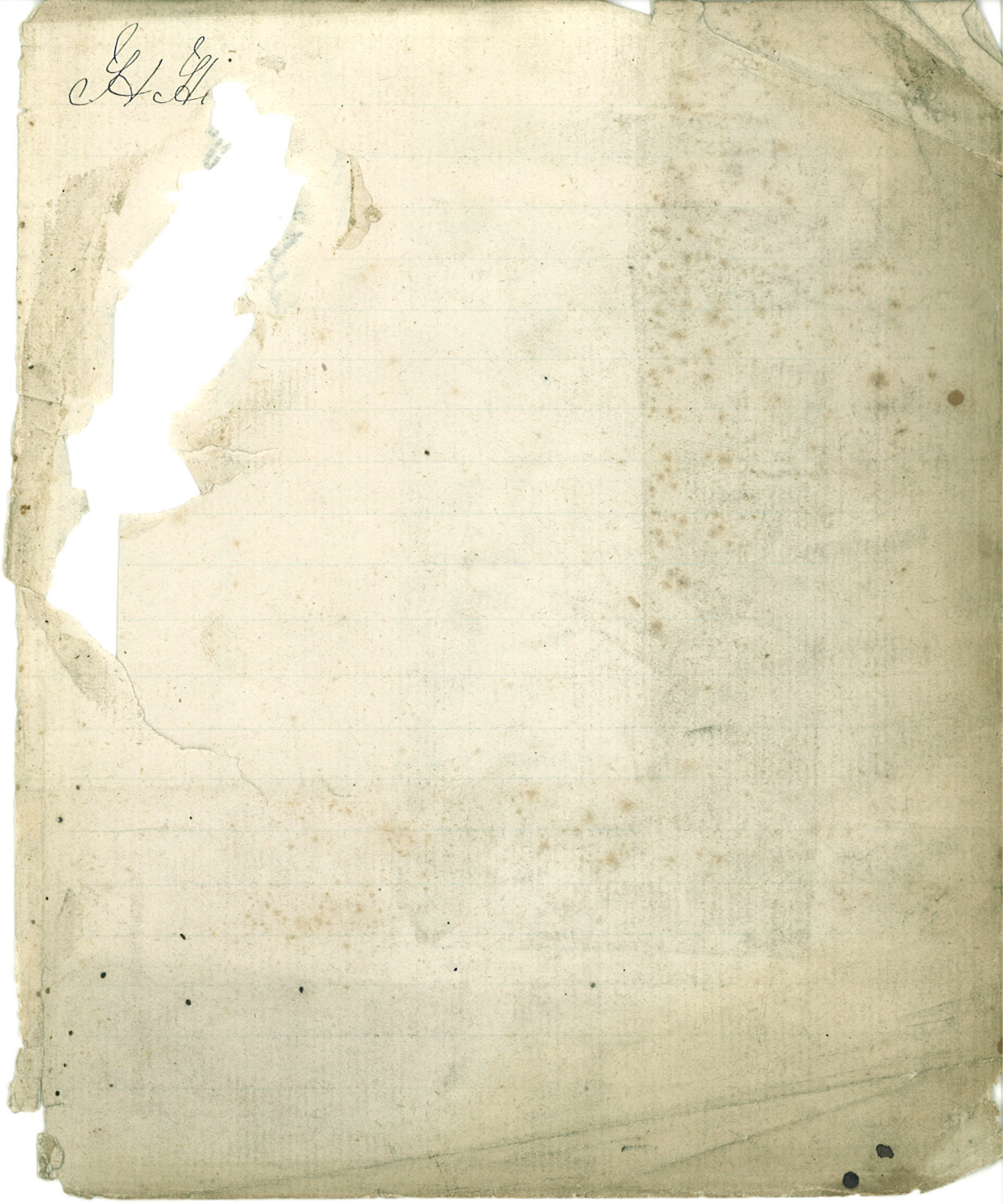
[illegible] be said that I am mistaken in [illegible] to public opinion, I beg you nevertheless to [illegible] which I have tabled.

[illegible] delay will show who is right and who is wrong. I do not claim a monopoly of [illegible] and I promise you if the people acquiesce in the shutting up of the path in question I shall acknowledge that I was foolish in defending their rights, and may affirmatively support the original motion that it may be carried unanimously.

[illegible] Pat. [illegible]

[illegible] 465



FRIDAY, SEPT. 16, 1887.

DEATH.

MELLES.—On the 8th instant, at Benbuie Lodge, Lochbuie, Isle of Mull, of pleurisy, followed by peritonitis, Margaret Coulter, the wife of William Melles, Esq., J.P., of Sewardstone Lodge, Sewardstone, Essex.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,

THAT on the EIGHTEENTH day of OCTOBER next, APPLICATION will be made to Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace assembled at Quarter Sessions in and for the County of Essex, at Chelmsford, for an ORDER for STOPPING UP entirely a certain PUBLIC HIGHWAY, situate in the PARISH of WALTHAM HOLY CROSS, in the said County, the Public Highway so proposed to be stopped up being so much of the Public Footway leading from Sewardstone-street in the said Parish into the Public Road or Carriage-way from Waltham Abbey to Chingford, near Sewardstone Pound, as lies between the Southern end of the Footbridge by which the said Public Footway is carried over the Cobbin Brook and a point on the said Public Footway, ten feet to the North of the Footbridge by which the said Public Footway is carried over the Black Ditch.

AND NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN, that the Certificates of two Justices that they have viewed the said Public Highway proposed to be stopped up, and stating the reason why it is unnecessary with the plan of the same laid before them, will be lodged with the Clerk of the Peace for the said County on the 19th day of September next.

Dated the Twenty-fifth day of August, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-seven.

HUBERT GOUGH,
Clerk to the Local Board of Health for the District of Waltham Holy Cross, being the Surveyor of Highways of the Parish of Waltham Holy Cross.

This a copy of what was one
the Posts in the field
against the Pound Park. Chingford

To the Editor of the Weekly Telegraph.

Dear Sir.

I had hoped that someone would contradict ~~the~~ in your last issue, the statement made by the Chairman of the Local Board; I presume he refers to the Ratepayers Protection Association when in reference to the new footpath made by the War Office Authorities, he says

"The War Department did all they had been asked to do, by the Ratepayer's Association . . . . I understood they applied for something and got it".

This is wrong. To my knowledge the Ratepayer's Protection Association took no part in the opposition to the closing of the Quinton Hill footpath & certainly did not ask for something and get it.

Perhaps the Chairman of the Local Board for the benefit of your readers generally will inform us to whom the Ratepayers Association applied, & what that something was they got.

The association formed for opposing the closing of the path was in no way connected with the Ratepayers Protection Association. They certainly applied for something "a fair compensation for the loss of the path" but they found that the Local Board was the only party who could make any claim, & that party allowed

every opportunity to slip so that they did not get it. However, they got one thing – the opinion of the Chairman of the Select Committee at the House of Commons; here it is, "Surely the Local Board is the proper authority whose duty it is to watch & protect the interests of the inhabitants concerned". That is exactly what the inhabitants think.

The Local Board was, "satisfied with the terms expressed in Col. ~~Noble~~ Noble's letter to the Board, namely that the Quinton Hill footpath be open to the public on the same conditions as the Long Walk"

Speaking plainly the Local Board gave the path away and the disappointed & disgusted inhabitants had to make the best of it

But they, ~~with~~ always did, and always will, consider that the Board ought to have bestirred themselves in the matter, and protected the public property entrusted to their keeping

But after making the War Office a present of the path let us hope for their own credit's sake, they will not try to obtain compensation now after allowing two years to slip by without making any movement.

Yours Truly
Chas Saville

Sewardstone
October 2nd 1889.

"Ashes or Ashphalte"

Sir,

Will you kindly allow me a small space in your valuable paper in which to reply to "Justitia's" letter on this subject. If the Government authorities promised an ashphalte path they will I doubt not honorably fulfil that promise.

With reference to the surplus of the money contributed to defray the expenses of appealing against the closing of the Lucinton Hill Footpath allow me to say that in November

188 of this was £4 : 10 : 0 (vide Weekly Telegraph) Mr James (who ~~was~~ acted as treasurer and Chairman of the Committee, Mr W. A. Alps and myself were appointed Trustees. Since the date mentioned no accounts have been produced and for aught I know the treasurer still ~~holds the~~ retains possession of the money

Personally, I think it should have been made use of long before this time but as an individual member of the Committee I have not felt inclined to press the matter as I have been hoping that Mr James would

have made some suggestion as to its disposal especially as I understand the matter has been mentioned to him by several other members of the committee.

I am Sir
Yours Truly
Charles Neville

Paper Dated Oct 4. 1887

QUINTON HILL FOOTPATH.—Notices of appeal against the closing of the Quinton Hill footpath have been served on Mr H. Gough, clerk to the Waltham Abbey Local Board of Health. One notice was given by Mr Frederic Johnson, of Chingford, and another by Messrs. Saville, Salmon and Cockburn, of Sewardstone. —On Tuesday evening a meeting was held in the school-room attached to the Ebenezer Baptist Chapel, Waltham Abbey, when some preliminary arrangements were made.

CAMPANOLOGY—AN INTERESTING ME

Date of Paper Oct 4. 1887

THE QUINTON HILL FOOTPATH.

To the Editor of the Weekly Telegraph.

SIR,—"Notetaker's" remarks in your publication of the 7th inst. seem to call for the statement of a few facts from me. Referring to the notices of appeal against the closing of the Quinton Hill footpath, "Notetaker" says:—"Most people will be glad to learn that those notices are given by private individuals, and not by the unanimous voice of the parishioners." Notetaker must have been ignorant of the fact that when those notices of appeal were given we held, and now hold, a petition signed by over seven hundred inhabitants, among them gentlemen of repute. What authority has "Notetaker" for talking about us making a collection to defray cost of appealing? Those few Sewardstone gentlemen had long ago decided to go to Chelmsford and bear the expense themselves; but, many thanks to "Notetaker," the suggestion is a very good one, and we must endeavour to profit by it. Those few Sewardstone gentlemen and a dozen or so of Waltham Abbey have formed themselves into a committee, and, at the request of interested parties who have promised their assistance, we have agreed to employ counsel, and to receive any donations that those who agree with us may be pleased to give. "Notetaker" also says, "The footpath, however, is to be retained as at present under certain conditions, every day and until a certain hour at night." If that is correct, why do not the War Office authorities alter the notice boards in the fields, on which I read—"Application will be made, etc., for stopping up entirely a certain public highway," etc.—Yours faithfully,

CHARLES SAVILLE.

Gilwell Iron Works, Sewardstone,
October 12th, 1887.

winter is, I fear, before us.

* * *

It will be a good thing for this immediate neighbourhood when the War Office authorities decide upon having a new and complete rifle for the army, for I am told that there is not much doing just now at the Royal Small Arms Factory at Enfield Lock. I have not the least doubt in my own mind but something substantial is to follow the appointment of Mr Rigby, the noted gunmaker of Dublin, and other appointments recently made by the Government.

* * *

It would be a good thing, too, if those new works to be erected on Quinton Hill were commenced, though some of my readers do not seem to think so. Of course there are some people who cannot see that anything can possibly be of any good to the town of Waltham Abbey or to the district at large. They cannot see, for instance, that the expenditure of some sixty or seventy thousand pounds in the erection of buildings will be of any good to the town, or that the work to follow the erection of these new buildings will be of the least advantage.

* * *

I believe that the necessary notices of appeal against the closing of the Quinton Hill footpath have been given. Most people will be glad to learn that those notices are given by private individuals and not by the unanimous voice of the parishioners; and it is to be hoped that those few Sewardstone gentlemen will bear the necessary cost of appealing themselves, and that the general body of ratepayers will not be troubled in the matter. It is when the trifling little business of making a collection to defray costs comes on that public opinion in Waltham Abbey is best tested.

* * *

The Quinton Hill footpath question now stands thus: Instead of the whole of the footpath to be closed, as was the intention of the War Office authorities at first, that portion of it over Quinton Hill only is to be closed. Coming from Sewardstone, for instance, the pedestrian, after crossing Mr Mills' field, will turn to the right along a good asphalt path until he comes to the roadway, and re-enter the fields again on the Waltham Abbey side of the hill. The present footpath, however, is to be retained as at present, under certain conditions, every day and until a certain hour at night. Surely nothing more is required, and when necessity requires the paths on the hill to be wholly closed, there is only a difference of two or three hundred yards to go by the diverted path. The appellants may win the day at Quarter Sessions, but I am of a decided opinion that a higher court will decide on the deviation of the path. It will be more satisfactory to both parties I daresay that the matter be settled before one of the London courts of justice, only a great deal of time will thus be wasted.

* *

was said about the marshwardens and the way they do their duty.

Oct. 21st 1887

* * *

Some folk at times get into a frenzy before they know what they are about; and I may say that there is nothing worse for persons of nervous temperament than to worry about every little trifling matter that comes before them. That is a little piece of "medical advice," which I give my readers gratis; but for which a doctor would probably charge a good deal.

* * *

It appears that in order to carry out their work, the contractors had to divert this ditch for the time being; but before they did so they got permission of the marshwardens, and have agreed to pay all damages which the marshwardens may claim; the damage, of course, to be estimated by a competent valuer. Nothing can be fairer than that, but it is a wonder to some people that we have not had another Chelmsford job over it!

* * *

The marshwardens do their duty in a very unassuming manner at Waltham Abbey, and they have done it so far well. People should always make sure of facts before they speak about them to their neighbours or to their friends, or complain about persons in responsible positions. Now please do remember that it is very naughty to be always finding faults, interfering with other people's business, or offending people. I have often tried not to hurt other people's feelings myself, but I find I cannot help it. The last person I offended is Mr Saville, of Sewardstone.

* * *

I didn't mean to offend Mr Saville or anybody else over the Quinton Hill Footpath business. I only expressed my own regret at any opposition being made to the closing of the path; and of course my regrets are nothing. If Mr Saville only asks those dozen Waltham Abbey gentlemen and the five Sewardstone gentlemen they will tell him that "Notetaker" is the most accountable person in existence.

* * *

PUBLIC RIGHTS' PRESERVATION COMMITTEE.—On Wednesday evening a meeting of the committee who took steps for appealing against the closing of the Quinton Hill Footpath was held in the Ebenezer Baptist Chapel Sunday Schoolroom. Mr H. I. James presided. It was reported that after the payment of all expenses—including solicitor's and counsel's fees—the committee had a balance in hand of £4 10s, and it was agreed to call a meeting of the subscribers to decide what shall be done with this balance. It was suggested at the meeting that the money should be held as a nucleus for the protection of public rights against the Local Board of Health.

PUBLIC RIGHTS PROTECTION COMMITTEE.—A meeting of this committee was held in the Ebenezer Baptist Chapel Schoolroom, on Wednesday evening, Mr H. I. James presiding. The meeting was called for the purpose of considering what should be done with the surplus money, after paying all expenses connected with the appeal against the closing of the Quinton Hill footpath. After a little discussion, it was agreed to deposit the money in the Post Office Savings Bank, and the trustees appointed were Messrs. Saville, Sewardstone, the chairman and W. A. Alps.

Nov 1887

QUINTON HILL FOOTPATH.

CONTRIBUTIONS towards the COST of OPPOSING the CLOSING of this PATH will be thankfully received by the following:—

J. M. GRIFFITHS,
Market-place, Secretary;

H. I. JAMES,
Market-place;

T. BLOUNT,
Sun-street, Waltham Abbey.

W. SALMON,
Sewardstone.

THE QUINTON HILL FOOTPATH.

In consequence of some remarks which appeared in these columns a fortnight since, in reference to the proposed closing of the public footpath over Quinton Hill, we have received the following letter from Mr Charles Saville, of Sewardstone:—

SIR,—My attention has been drawn to some remarks in your publication of last week, and I cannot say how very sorry I was that "Note Taker" was hurt because he had offended me; but as I see it hinted in another column that there will be a high wall or fence placed along the footpath over Quinton Hill I begin to recover my feelings. One good thing, the path is still existing. I think if the fence or wall is put up I shall not be offended again. I think that the only fault to be found with the Quinton Hill footpath is that there is nothing to keep the bull off the path, and I know that many ladies, and sometimes gentlemen, do not always enjoy their walk in the fields when "Mr Bull" sends forth his very musical sounds, and looks as though he would like to be master of the field. I would advise my friends to have a fence high enough, as I remember when I was a boy in one of my "nursery rhymes" the words occurred "The cow jumped over the moon." I would also suggest that it be made of *iron*.—Yours truly,

C. SAVILLE.

Gillwell Ironworks, Sewardstone, Oct. 27th, 1887.

Mr Saville is probably one of the most interested persons in this matter, and very naturally has taken an active part in opposition to the projected closing of the path, which he has a most perfect right to do, and we readily, as we have done before, give publicity to his letter. As to his slight reference to "Note Taker," we leave "Note Taker" to answer; but as to his remarks in reference to some comments of our own, we think it only just to explain that we really did not assert that a high wall or fence would be erected on the side of the path. We have no authority whatever for saying such will be the case, and in the remarks we made we merely drew what we conceived, under the circumstances, to be a very natural inference. However, if a high fence should ever be erected by the side of the footpath, we join Mr Saville in his expressed hope that it will be made of *iron*. But we even go further than that, for if such should be the case, we shall be greatly pleased to have to record that Mr Saville has been employed to do the work.

THE QUINTON HILL FOOTPATH.

The controversy which for some time past has been carried on between a number of the inhabitants of Waltham Abbey and Sewardstone on the one side, and the War Department of the Government on the other, respecting the closing or diversion of the footpath over Quinton Hill, has resulted in a sudden and unexpected collapse. As our readers will remember, application was to have been made by the Government authorities to the Essex Quarter Sessions, on Wednesday, for power to divert the path in question from passing over the hill, and also that notice had been given by persons resident in the parish to the effect that they would oppose the application. The question having caused a considerable amount of excitement among the inhabitants for some months, the result of the anticipated proceedings at Quarter Sessions was looked forward to with much interest; but on Monday the appended letter was received by those who had given notice to oppose the application of the War Department:—

"Sir,—A copy of your notice of appeal was delivered to Colonel Noble, as directed by the Highway Act, and I am now authorised to inform you that the certificate of two justices, dated the 19th day of September, 1887, therein referred to, was lodged with the clerk of the peace as part of an arrangement resulting from representations made to Colonel Noble, on behalf of the inhabitants. One of the conditions on which Colonel Noble entered into that arrangement was that the confirmation of the certificate in question should not be opposed at quarter sessions. This condition having been disregarded, his previous liberty of action is restored. Colonel Noble will not, therefore, seek to obtain any order of sessions founded on the certificate of justices of the 19th day of September, 1887, against which your notice of appeal is directed, and there will be no necessity for you further to prosecute such appeal.—I am, Sir, yours obediently, HUBERT GOUGH."

The appellant's case had previously been prepared, and Mr Wedderburn, we believe, engaged to conduct the opposition at the Quarter Sessions, and on Tuesday a further communication was made to the solicitor for the opposing parties to the effect that the legal costs that had been incurred by them would be paid by the War Department. The intended proceedings at Quarter Sessions were therefore withdrawn, and the matter now remains as it was before the closing of the path was mooted. This unexpected result was a great surprise, not only to the appellants and all who think with them, but also to the inhabitants of the parish generally, and

and varied are the prognostications

IN PARLIAMENT.—SESSION 1888.

QUINTON HILL FARM.

(Guncotton and Gunpowder Experiments and Manufacture; Stopping up of Footpaths, etc.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that APPLICATION is intended to be MADE to PARLIAMENT in the NEXT SESSION for an ACT to STOP UP and DISCONTINUE all or any FOOTPATHS and to ABOLISH all RIGHTS OF WAY upon, across or over all or any portion of the QUINTON HILL FARM, situate near the Royal Gunpowder Factory, in the Parish of Waltham Holy Cross, in the County of Essex, and now held and used by the Secretary of State for War for the purpose of conducting experiments connected with the Manufacture of Guncotton and Gunpowder, and to authorise the removal of any person or persons who may come or remain thereon, and to subject all such persons to a fine or other punishment, and to confer such further powers as may be necessary upon the said Secretary of State and any Officer or persons acting under him or by his authority.

Dated the 18th day of November, 1887.

By order,

HENRY LOVETT CAMERON,
7, Great George-street,
Westminster, S.W.

OUR FOOTPATH AGAIN IN DANGER.

To the Editor of the Weekly Telegraph.

SIR,—I am sorry to see by your paper that we are again in danger of losing the Quinton Hill footpath. Who would believe that in this civilised country, supposed, as it is, to be ahead of any other, that we are in danger of having our rights taken from us. And is there any doubt of the said path belonging to us? I have used it constantly for the last twenty-five years, and no one has disputed my right to do so. A few months ago notice was given that application would be made at Chelmsford for an order for entirely closing this path. We could not understand that those who suffered from its loss would be in any way compensated, therefore others and myself, who believe it to be our right, determined to protest against that order being granted, being quite willing to have it proved at a court of justice whether it was ours or not; but when the case was withdrawn we were more than ever confirmed in our opinion that it was our necessary right. Now, I suppose, seeing we were in a position to meet them at Chelmsford, the War Office authorities intend to take it to Parliament, where they think it is out of our reach to protect our rights, and so overcome right by might. What good are our laws if such strong bodies as the War Office take what they think proper because the rightful owners are not in a position to protect their right? Are we to be put to an oppressing expense every few months in order to retain this footpath, so that at last some may think we have fairly lost it. Why are we not dealt with in a business-like manner. When a person wants property that belongs to others he can only obtain it by paying the full value of it. I hope the inhabitants of, not only Waltham Abbey, but the country at large, will see this path to be their right, and stick by it unless it is sold at a valuation.—Yours truly,

Gillwell Iron Works, C. SAVILLE.
Sewardstone, January 10th, 1888.

No a

Weekly

What do my Waltham Abbey readers think of the Quinton Hill footpath now. I am afraid that the recent opposition has not mended matters; but made them rather worse. I feared such would be the case. However, we shall see "by-and-bye." I hear it stated that there will be no lack of funds for carrying on the war for keeping the path open.

COFFEES SUG

THE QUINTON HILL FOOTPATH.

To the Editor of the Weekly Telegraph.

SIR,—There appears again to be some alarm felt for the safety of Quinton Hill footpath. Some people say the path is in Parliament; others, that it is going in. Well, it may be. I believe that even there it will meet with honest gentlemen who appreciate a path in the open fields, and who will deal with it in an honest manner. I believe this path is fully considered to be the public's right, and I do not think the inhabitants of Waltham Abbey and districts could fully estimate its worth. I might say it is worth so many pounds a year to me. I am often told "You have lost it now it's in Parliament." Some folks look upon the Houses of Parliament with a different view to that which I hold. I take that place to be a place constructed for the gathering together of gentlemen who are placed at the head of affairs to do justice. We were quite prepared to stand our ground at Chelmsford. As you are aware, the matter was to have been brought on at the Chelmsford Quarter Sessions last October. For my part I should have felt more satisfied if it had, even if we had lost our case, because I should have felt that we had the chance of publicly protesting against the path being taken from us. Now, if Parliament is a place set up where persons who hold high positions can take matters (such as this about the Quinton Hill Footpath) where they think the owners of the right cannot hold their own, and ever afterwards take that right from them because they are too weak to follow it in Parliament, I do not think the whole concern is worth enough to pay for the bricks and mortar with which the place is built. I have heard of individuals being compelled to sell their property for public improvements. I hear nothing about buying this path; but I do hear it will be taken from us because it's in Parliament. Well, if my right of going to Waltham Abbey is stopped because it's in Parliament, I say may the Parliament House doors be thrown open that we may fetch the path out again. Some say we have no money. Perhaps not. Should it cost us more than we have to maintain our right? If we have not all the money, we have a committee of gentlemen who are interested in the matter, and I believe there are friends apart from that. I hope next summer the inhabitants who have for many years had the benefit of this path will still enjoy that privilege, and have no cause to regret we have a Parliament House at Westminster.—Yours truly,

THOS. COCKBURN.

Sewardstone, Jan. 11th, 1888.

THE QUINTON HILL FOOTPATH.

To the Editor of the Weekly Telegraph.

SIR,—I am pleased to see Mr Cockburn's and Mr Saville's letters in your paper about the Quinton Hill Footpath. I am sorry we are in danger of losing it because it's a great benefit to me and a lot of other people besides; and if it is stopped it will injure my business very much, because in the summer time many people come across those fields when they would not come along the dusty roads, and I know myself it is much better to go to Waltham that way than by the roads with the dust blowing fit to choke you, besides being much nearer. I quite agree that it is not right for the Government to have it for nothing; but I do not know how it can be valued, because it is such a benefit to those living in Waltham for them and their children to get out in the fresh air; and I do not see where else they can go without going on the marsh with the bulls and horses. I don't suppose the path will be kept open just for us Sewardstone people, but if the path is once taken from us it is gone for ever, because I do not see there is the least hope of geting it again, even if for some reason the powder mills are taken away. I hope, if they are, they will not be taken to Parliament, or we may have them returned to their old home where they have grown.—Yours truly,

JOHN SMITH.

Plough Inn, Sewardstone, January 18th.

* * *

The Local Board is just now, I am informed, considering an Act of Parliament—think of that, ye ratepayers! A public Bill is to be brought into Parliament for the entire closing of the Quinton Hill Footpath, and the Local Board is going to make "certain recommendations!" I don't mind myself whether the path is closed or not, and I have no hesitation in saying that an extension of the works at Waltham Abbey would be a boon to the town. Why, I should like to know, should the Board desire to make any "secret" recommendations? I have been very creditably informed that there are only two members of the Board who wish everything done above board, so that the parishioners may know what recommendations the Board are going to make. I think I must add, in justice to those two members, that the names of Messrs. Roddick and Pelling have been given me as the two who have no wish for "secret conclaves." If that be so, I venture to say—"Bravo, Roddick and Pelling."

* * *

A Whitehall correspondent writes and asks me whether the Local Board of Waltham Abbey has placed a weighing machine in the Waltham Abbey Market, in accordance with the Act of Parliament that came into opera[illegible] on the 1st inst. My answer is, that so far as I am aware, no provision of the kind has yet been made. I may just be allowed to remind the Board that they are liable to a penalty for non-compliance.

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It is said, but with what truth I cannot ascertain, that the Local Government Board is to be petitioned on the question of the water supply of Waltham Abbey.

* * *

The Post Office people seem bent on a suicidal system of trying to do too much. It is their ambition to make all the clerks "all round

Jany 24, 1888

QUINTON HILL FOOTPATH.

To the Editor of the Weekly Telegraph.

SIR,—I have just looked through a file of your papers at the British Museum, and notice the letters of Messieurs Cockburn and Savill, following on the parliamentary agent's notice to the Waltham Holy Cross Local Board. I applied to Cameron's the other day for a print of the Bill, but was told it would not be printed until after the meeting of Parliament. I fancy it will be one of those private Bills which are treated like public Bills—at any rate it can be opposed or blocked. I had a conversation with the Commons Preservation Society's clerk, and find they are going in seriously for foothpaths as well as commons. More power to their elbows! It is getting time to ask Sir H. S. Ibbetson if he is prepared to lead his constituents in their opposition to these high handed war office proceedings, which are to them of much more importance than what is taking place at the other end of Austria or the other side of Ireland.—Yours faithfully,

FREDERICK JOHNSON.

86, Gravel-lane, Southwark, S.E.

To the Editor of the Weekly Telegraph.

SIR,—If the Government and their officers thought that by the parade of their intentions to get Parliamentary decisions on the Quinton Hill path that they would entirely crush those who had gained a temporary reprieve for the right of way, I fear that their joy is premature; at any time it would be ill placed. But I have yet to learn that governments have any monopoly over rights. They may have faithful supporters, as, indeed, money and interest can always command adherents; but the rights of a town or the privileges of any part of our country are so dear to Englishmen, that even the supporters of a Government will consider, yea, even give the veto to any scheme which would affect a right of centuries. This controversy was so fully dealt with in your columns last year, that it will be unnecessary to recapitulate the features of the case for the path. Then the Government had a slight compunction of conscience and offered an alternative route. Now, having been subjected to the audacious opposition of a few men, whose great fault was that they dared to think and act for themselves, they have invoked the Jovian powers of Parliament, and relentlessly determine crush the inhabitants altogether. This may be sport to some; others, with their large residences, pleasant grounds, and with a plethora of pursuits, may view the question with apathy; but there are the children, the poor, those whose rights are given by a hand stronger than those of a Government. These are the persons for whom it is our duty to protest, and to whom we owe it as our right to lose no opportunity, to neglect no precautions, and to move the feelings of all true and right men, that the path sacred to the parish dedicated by the forefathers of the town, and hallowed by the inspiring touch of antiquity, may still remain undisputed and unmolested. The case is not lost; Parliament has refused Bills, and will do so again; and when it is more fully known that a grasping, unjust, confiscating project is hidden in the proposed Bill, something more than the mere parrot cry of "Government works" will be required to support this infamous measure. Are the Government desirous of imitating the frog in Æsop? If so let them not forget the application of the fable. Sir, let me ask the inhabitants of this town not to give up to any persons rights which they cannot restore, and which it is their duty to defend with all the power they have at their command.—I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

A LOVER OF NATURE.

Waltham Abbey, February 1st, 1888.

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To the Editor of the Weekly Telegraph.

SIR,—First, the benefit of the footpath to the parishioners is this: The path is situated between two of our largest manufactories for the production of arms and ammunition, to defend our country and colonies from invasion. The workmen engaged in those establishments are inhaling the dust for six days. After they leave those workshops and have had their evening meal, they take their wives and children across those fields to get a breath of pure air, which they cannot get upon the dusty road in summer time; and during the year there is a certain amount of sickness in the town as well as at Sewardstone, and those men, women and children when recovering from that sickness, to retrieve their strength they seek it in those pleasant fields. If the footpath is taken away, they will have to retrieve their strength midst dust and dirt upon the high road. Second, it is a better, nearer and pleasanter way to market. Fancy setting a basket of goods down for a rest by the side of the dusty road, and a gust of wind coming and filling the basket up with dust, among butter, cheese and everything else there is in the basket; when we have to prevent that a beautiful footpath, straight to and from the market, free from the dust and dirt. Third, on Sundays we workmen have to walk to church. If the path is taken from us, there will be nothing left for us but the dusty road to walk over. When we get to church by the road, our best clothes will be spoiled, the savings from our labour for twelve months, and we shall appear like millers in their working clothes. We have no other church to go to in Sewardstone. To deprive us of our morning's walk across the fields to church will be cruel in the extreme. Fourth, I think the gentlemen of our Local Board should be as ready to protect our public rights, which our forefathers gave to us centuries ago, as ready as we were to give them our votes to return them as members of the Board.—Yours very truly,

JOHN SMITH.

The Plough, Sewardstone, February 7th, 1888.

E.

THE QUINTON HILL FOOTPATH.

To the Editor of the Weekly Telegraph.

SIR,—I was much pleased to see by your valuable paper that there are gentlemen who have taken into consideration the matter of our footpath. I feel persuaded that "Lover of nature" has only spoken out what a vast majority of the inhabitants of Waltham Abbey feel. I can quite account for the silence of a great many of them on the matter; but I feel convinced that there are many individuals who will yet show a bold front. Looking back to the past, how many Englishmen, aye, and Englishwomen too, have stood up in defence of a right at a peril of losing their liberty and all they possessed. I am of opinion that there are still those who will see it to be their duty to defend this path, not merely for their own sakes, but for the sake of generations to come. What do we owe to our ancestors for the interest they have shown for those who would follow them. What will our children think of us if we give up all public benefits without making any efforts to retain them. If the law is made void in this case, why should not every landowner who has a public path through his estate close that path, and so greatly increase the value of his property. Did not Her Majesty the Queen present herself some years ago, to protect the rights of her subjects, which were being taken from them, and declare Epping Forest open for ever. I do not believe in the parrot cry that "Government will have the path if they want it; if they don't get it one way they will another." I cannot persuade myself that those who rule the affairs of the nation will take the path by force, and rob us of a pleasant and refreshing walk over Quinton Hill. I hope that "Lover of Nature's" excellent letter will be read and weighed over by not only lovers of nature, but by lovers of justice also. I think it is more probable that the inhabitants of Waltham Abbey will become rich enough to keep the clock illuminated than that they will become rich enough to buy the path back if it is once given up, however much many may desire it. I know that in time of illness many persons look forward to the time when they will be able to take a pleasant walk over those fields. However, after all is done and said, I do not think there is much to be feared because the matter is in Parliament, if we can get enough money for a "ticket of admission;" but if we lose our path because we cannot, we shall feel that we have been unjustly deprived of it.—

Yours truly, C. SAVILLE.

Gillwell Ironworks, Sewardstone,
February 8th, 1888.

To the Editor of the Weekly Telegraph.

SIR,—I am glad to see there are others as much interested in the Quinton Hill footpath as I am, and I hope the "recommendations" "Notetaker" mentions in your publication of January 27th, which are to be made by the Local Board, will be in accordance with right, and then I think no one (not even the Board) can wish them to be made in secret. I also hope that the gentlemen elected to manage matters will be worthy of their office, and stand up as well for the rights of those they represent as they would for their own personal property. But I must say I thought it was very much unlike "right" when most of the members of the Board gave their sanction for the Government to have the path, without even testing the feeling of the ratepayers beforehand, or asking them if they required compensation. Now the matter is to be taken to Parliament I know some of my friends think it will cost an enormous amount of money for us to do anything in the matter; but surely it will be a light amount compared to the boon the path is to the inhabitants. I hope that gentlemen who have the means will not see the working class lose one of their few pleasures without making an effort to protect their right for them.—Yours respectfully, THOMAS COCKBURN.

Sewardstone, February 10th, 1888.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END.

To the Editor of the Weekly Telegraph.

SIR,—The numerous and varied letters that have appeared in your valuable paper on the Quinton Hill Footpath, show that there is an unmistakable determination that the Government Bill shall not be allowed to become law without the challenge of those whom it would disturb. There is something ominous in the silence of the supporters of the Government. It would be futile now to appeal to local heads for their help to reject the Bill that aims at the stoppage of this route. There was a time when an exhibition of compliance might have moved the local authorities to consider the rights of the people; now such a thought would be discarded as one unworthy of townsmen standing up for their rights. No! The time of parley has gone. Those who would have discussed the question and have tried to make an amicable arrangement have now discovered that the only force that can meet Government is that of stern legality. The number of signatures, the meeting of townsmen, the agitation in the Press, the wishes of the people on the subject have all been slighted by the Government, but now that the legislative body of England will have to consider the question we may and we do expect some consideration. We shall have for the first time a careful hearing, and shall receive that which it would be idle to expect from the War Office, a fair trial and not improbably the verdict of continued immunity for the path. Now that the hope of a respite from local sources has gone, we appeal to the people to support the opposition that will be shown to the Bill when it comes before Parliament. Personally I feel sure that this appeal will not be in vain, for the inhabitants of Waltham Abbey were never yet slow to oppose any Act that infringed on their privileges, and I do not imagine that they will hold their tongues because their opponents may have the sacred seal of office on their deeds.—I am, Sir, yours obediently, A LOVER OF NATURE.

Waltham Abbey, February 21st, 1888.

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QUINTON HILL FOOTPATH.—The following letter on the Quinton Hill footpath appeared in the *Daily Chronicle* of Tuesday:—"Sir,—In April, 1887, the superintendent of the Royal Gunpowder Factory addressed a letter to the clerk of the Local Board of Waltham Abbey, stating that the War Department had taken steps to acquire Quinton Hill Farm in the parish, and asking the Board to co-operate in an attempt to close the public footpath which crosses the farm. The Local Board having given their consent, carried by a bare majority—three of the members being in direct business relationship with the War Office—under the 5 and 6 William IV., c. 50, Colonel Noble proceeded to obtain the certificate of two justices, and the notice was published of intention to go to the October Quarter Sessions at Chelmsford to get the certificate confirmed. Under these circumstances the inhabitants felt that they would have to take care of themselves; a committee was formed, subscriptions collected, and notice of appeal given. Solicitor and counsel were instructed, and everything was in train, when, on October 15th, notice was received by the appellants that Colonel Noble would not seek to obtain any order of sessions, and he paid the costs of the appellants. But in November came a notice by advertisement of the introduction of a Private Bill, by the Secretary of State for War, to stop up and discontinue this the best footpath in the parish. These are very high-handed proceedings, not tending to increase the popularity of the Government in the West of Essex.—Yours obediently, (signed) FREDERIC JOHNSON."

QUINTON HILL FOOTPATH.

At the Waltham Abbey Local Board meeting on Tuesday evening, the following letter was read:—

"Bridge House, Waltham Abbey, Essex, 14th February, 1888.—To the Chairman and Members of the Waltham Holy Cross Local Board of Health.—Gentlemen,—*Quinton Hill Footpath.*—In reference to the Bill which is proposed to be laid before Parliament by the War Department for the closing of this public path, I have been waiting to see whether any steps would be taken for lodging a petition against the measure, in order that the inhabitants of the town and district of Waltham should be in a position to make terms with the Department for depriving them of this right of way. As the reports of the meetings of your Board give scarcely any information on the subject, and the efforts made by a few of the people of Sewardstone do not seem to meet with much response, I think someone should step forward and urge that the time for useful action should not be allowed quietly to slip by. Probably the Board may have the matter now before them; if so, then my remarks are unnecessary. There is little doubt that in this matter the Board have the responsibility of an important public duty towards their constituents; if the present opportunity be lost, it is lost for ever. The case is very clear. For public purposes it is expedient that the War Department should close this path. The proposed substituted path would be no equivalent, and the permission to the public to pass along the old path at given times and under certain necessary restrictions would entirely destroy the freedom at present enjoyed. It is said the enlarged works will benefit the town. Granted; but it is also a benefit and convenience to the Department to have this land and to close the path. They bought this land with the knowledge that this right of way existed, and that compensation in some form or another would have to be made for it. This path is worth a great deal to the town, and they ought to get a full *quid pro quo*. [On the question of footpaths, I might note that one of the prettiest walks out of the town, namely, along the Abbey Fields, is practically impassable for females during the summer and autumn evenings, owing to the bathers, who undress and dress right on the path.] If a private owner of this estate were to try and stop the path, he would have to pay up to the hilt; but I doubt whether any authority would grant him the power. As a rule, when railway companies or other public bodies do this sort of thing, they are compelled to make ample compensation, and the Department should do the same in this case. I notice that at Loughton they have a good town hall, built out of the money obtained as compensation for loss of certain lopping rights in Epping Forest; but they would not have got this had they not looked sharply after their interests, appeared before the arbitrator, and made good their case. I trust the Board will not think that I am dictating to them in any way, for I am sure there are those amongst the Board and their advisers who are more competent than I am to discuss this matter. To lodge a petition and appear before a Parliamentary committee would not be such a very expensive matter. There would be no costly scientific witnesses; it would be confined to local evidence, and it would probably only last one day, as there could hardly be any opposition but this one. If the opposition is to be left to private individuals, the whole sting will be taken out of it, for the committee will be sure to ask, 'But if the local authority [illegible] h represents the inhabitants, does not th[illegible] ent import-

THE DOOMED PATHWAY.

(Contributed.)

Ah, now no more I string my lute
  On Quinton's fairy hill;
Beside the bridge no more I'll list
  To Quinton's murmuring rill.

And white haired custom, and olden claim,
  Will stand as nought no more;
And in their place we'll have an Act
  From the Secretary for War.

Ah! Venus bright and your Cupid boy,
  You, too, must say adieu,
To that lovely path, where Mars bestrides,
  But once was dear to you.

Ah! why could not his martial heel
  Have trod the country round;
Why should he claim that narrow strip
  Of consecrated ground?

And now when from the roadway
  On that dear path I'll gaze,
My eyes will fill with memory's tears,
  And my thoughts of other days.

Oh! how often; oh! how often!
  I have climbed thy grassy side,
Of all the paths around us
  The glory and the pride.

Though Might be Right in our time,
  I would that thou wer't spared;
Ah! we shall miss in summer-time
  Thy soft and grassy sward.

And the spirits of our sires, as they sigh o'er the wind
  Near the path that their childhood so ardently loved,
Will lament the decadence of their children behind,
  Who to the rights that were holy have recreant proved.

Ah! no; on this lute that now hangs by my side
  (A pledge that to poets most sacred must be)
Let us swear on it, brothers, whatever betide,
  That our homes and our pathway must ever be free.

OUR CORNER SHOP.

Feby 10th 1888

Original Correspondence

All communications intended for insertion in this journal MUST, *to ensure consideration, be sent to the* PUBLISHING OFFICE AT WALTHAM ABBEY, *addressed to the Editor. We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our correspondents.*

THE QUINTON HILL FOOTPATH.

To the Editor of the Weekly Telegraph.

SIR,—I am sometimes perplexed to know how to answer the questions put to me by various persons in the parish respecting the Quinton Hill Footpath, although it appears to be very satisfactorily settled that we are to have the use of the path as we have done, but with certain restrictions. I hear from one that we are to be protected by the police; and from another, that only respectable people will be allowed to pass through; while other of my friends are anxiously asking how and by whom the line of distinction will be drawn? For my part I am afraid there will soon be someone complaining because he was refused permission to pass through, and then the War Office authorities will say, "Oh, we will close the path entirely;" for I understand it will not be a legal right of the parishioners if the proposed Bill is passed. Some ask me if the Bill is withdrawn, since Colonel Nolan has made such favourable promises. For my part I cannot foresee how the two will work together. I am quite sure that the gallant [illegible] gentleman who will not break his word; but what proof have we that his successor will feel himself bound by the present superintendant's promise when he has the power in his hands to close the path. Perhaps some of my neighbours will disagree with me if I go as far as to say I predict that the right of way over Quinton Hill will be entirely closed if the proposed Bill is passed; but I hope that in years to come people will be able to laugh at me and tell me I was wrong. I have heard that path spoken of as though it is of no use except to a few Sewardstone people; I do not agree to that. I believe it is more necessary for the townspeople than for those living in the hamlets, because we do have the pure air over here. I fear, however, that a very short time will prove what a scanty price was put upon it by the Local Board. I consider it is given away for a promise that it shall be lent when the owners do not want it!—Yours respectfully,

C. SAVILLE.

Sewardstone, April 30th, 1888.

Daily Telegraph May 7th 1888

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS.

Some minor Government bills are to be advanced a stage in the House of Peers this evening, and Lord Lamington proposes to call attention to the new buildings now in progress at Albert Gate, and to ask when the improvements in Parliament-street will be carried out, and what decision has been come to in regard to the new War and Admiralty offices.

At to-day's sitting of the House of Commons the principal business will be the further consideration, in committee, of the bill providing for the registration of voters under the new local government scheme. Among the amendments to be proposed is one by Mr. Stansfeld to the effect that all persons entitled to vote at an election of district councillors shall be also entitled to vote at an election of poor-law guardians, and that at such elections no voter shall be entitled to have more than one vote.

The other Government orders on the paper for to-night include the third reading of the Glebe Lands Bill, the committee stage of the Criminal Evidence Bill, and the second reading of the Lunacy Acts Amendment Bill. Notice has been given of no fewer than seventy-nine questions, embracing a variety of topics, to be addressed to Ministers. Mr. Brodrick, Financial Secretary to the War Office, will introduce a bill to exclude unauthorised persons from certain lands to be used for the purposes of the Royal Gunpowder Factory at Waltham Abbey, to stop up a certain footpath thereon, and for other purposes.

Meetings will be held to-day of the Select Committee of the House of Lords on Poor Law

"WALTHAM ABBEY GUNPOWDER FACTORY ACT, 1888."

The Cleak read a letter from the solicitors to the Treasury, forwarding a copy of the "Waltham Abbey Gunpowder Factory Act, 1888," and inviting the opinion of the Board thereon.

The Bill was based mainly on the same terms as the letters which passed between Colonel Noble, R.A., superintendent of the Royal Gunpowder Factory, and the Board, and which have been published from time to time in the *Weekly Telegraph*.

Mr Roddick said that it only meant the stoppage of the path entirely.

Mr Webster reminded the Board that they had it on the authority of Colonel Noble that the path would not be entirely closed; but that it would be open to the public on the same conditions as the Long-walk in the Powder Mills.

The Clerk remarked that the official correspondence upon this subject with the authorities of the Royal Gunpowder Factory was entered on the minutes of the Board, and that it would be a breach of faith if the path was closed entirely against the public. He did not believe himself that it would be so.

On the motion of Mr Beck, seconded by Mr Oram, it was agreed to write to the Solicitor for the Treasury acknowledging receipt of the copy of the Bill and plans, and that the Board was satisfied with the terms expressed in Colonel Noble's letter to the Board, namely, that the Quinton Hill footpath be open to the public on the same conditions as the Long Walk.

THE QUINTON HILL FOOTPATH.

To the Editor of the Weekly Telegraph.

SIR,—I thought when I last wrote on this subject I would abstain from further remarks, as the public appear to be quite indifferent about it; but while walking that way lately, the thought came to my mind that it would soon be a benefit of the past, yet as I thought over the matter I saw many whom it would affect more than myself—those who are just growing up in life and who may live in the parish for many years, and who will probably remember with feelings of regret the pleasant path over which they used to roam at will. I cannot understand why the inhabitants of Waltham Abbey are so content to give away such a boon. The only thing that I can understand is that it has been given. I have been enabled to answer the question—Is the Bill withdrawn since I last wrote, for in the *Daily Telegraph* of May 7th, there was a paragraph which stated that Mr Broderic would introduce a Bill to exclude unauthorised persons from certain lands in Waltham Abbey. If that Bill is passed what hope have we of having that path left for our use? I would just ask the inhabitants of Waltham parish to take a view of that path and see for themselves if it is not too priceless a boon to give away. Consider it for our own sake and for the sake of the coming generation. It seems to me hardly possible that the path our forefathers defended years ago is given for a mere promise, although many think we shall still keep it. I know that no man will give up all rights of ownership of his house for a verbal promise from the receivers that they will not deprive him of his home. Now, can it be that this affair is to be taken straight to Parliament, lest our county justices might consider that the path is not sufficiently required to be taken from us. They might probably say that if there is an iron or steel fence put up on each side of the path to protect the works there would be plenty of room for all who wish to pass, as well as for the manufacture of gun cotton.—

Yours truly, C. SAVILLE.

Sewardstone, M , 6th, 1888.

THE QUINTON HILL FOOTPATH.

To the Editor of the Weekly Telegraph.

SIR,—It will be evident now to the most sanguine that the hopes they had fixed on the Local Board as the guardians of the rights of this parish are entirely thrown over. From the account of the last meeting of that Board it is only too certain that they are willing to sacrifice the Quinton Hill Footpath, despite the feelings of the ratepayers and regardless of the interests of the large number of working-class voters. It is useless now to argue or remonstrate with them. Doubtless the vote of next year will be influenced by their action on this subject, for when appeals and petitions are slighted the plebiscite is the only power that can reach men who seem dead to the demands of those they represent. The implicit faith that may be placed in the "letters entered in the minutes" may be a sign of benevolence in the members of the Board; but what are these letters when an Act of Parliament is passed entirely closing the path? Surely it must be evident to the legal adviser of the Board that the letters of a temporary officer have no weight and no power when an Imperial Act is law. It is very pleasant to be able to credit the statements of those with whom we have to do business, but a question fraught with such momentous import as the one I have alluded to is too serious to be determined by mere beliefs and confidences. The Local Board are bound, as the recognised custodians of the rights of ways in the parish, to watch with great alacrity any action that threatens their charge, and to see that the path in question is kept to the parish by something stronger than letters, and bound to us by something more than that of honour. It is plain that the intention of the Government is that the path is to be open under similar restrictions as the Long Walk. The two places are by no means analagous, yet the Board have shown no discrimination. It would appear that not one voice, save Mr Roddick's, was raised against the proposition that signified the consent of the Board to the Government proposals. The Long Walk is a truly beautiful spot; but how is it beautiful? With trees that have the marks of fifty summers and winters on them. It is beautiful with wooden buildings, with quaint mill-wheels, such as your modern officer rejects as antiquated. Yet again, the Long Walk (by the way, the very name is a misnomer, for the Government have shortened it under pretext of safety) is amid the walks that are not the myths or probabilities of the future; but the dread realities of the present. But the Quinton Hill path cannot be made as is the Long Walk. We do not want the saplings to obstruct a view of scarcely paralleled beauty; neither do we require artificial cuttings to replace the windings of the silvery Lea that flows in the vale below. Art may do much, but it cannot reproduce nature in a twelvemonth or in a decade. The path o'er the hill is sacred to Waltham Abbey by the consecrating dews of a hundred summers. I regard it as a sacred trust to the living, for the generations yet to come. The oath that made it ours was witnessed by the great orb that has never ceased to shine on it, e'en when clouds of smoke have obscured the rays from those below. And shall it be yielded up as naught for naught? Have we the right? Dare we give up that which we only hold in trust, that which was received as a sacred legacy of the generations past and gone? Sir, I have tried to find a redeeming point in this procedure, but I have failed to do so; and though the path be threatened it may live long, and so long as it remains, so long I hope to have the privilege of endeavouring to maintain it inviolate to this town. Legally, it is Waltham's; morally, it is the town's; actually, it may be the Government's; but though they bought the fields they cannot buy the path. I would that I had the eloquence that could stir up the indignation that has been suppressed by a degree of fear, and through credulity. For the latter there is no excuse; but for the former, nothing but regret. I trust that even now it will be made apparent to Parliament that the path is not actually required, and that for years it may be spared to the hundreds who prize it, among whom is, yours sincerely,

A FREQUENTER OF THE PATH.

Waltham Abbey, May 23rd, 1888.

THE QUINTON HILL PATH.

Ye happy bygone rambles,
How sweet your memory still,
From early childhood's gambols
On grassy Quinton Hill.

Whene'er alone I wander
On thy familiar brow,
I view thy slopes and ponder
Upon thy past, and now

A change has come upon thee,
Thy former peaceful scene
Is linked with warfare's factory,
Escutcheon, "V.R." Queen.

The solemn, peaceful acre,
Where lie our kindred dead,
Has for its new twin feature
The force for cannons' lead.

The gentler side of nature
We feel has bid adieu,
Coercion's harder statute
Comes forward to the view.

However veiled or hidden
The War Department's gaze,
We feel that we are bidden
To walk beneath its ways.

To pass along unheeding,
'Tis few who really can,
From nature's aspect reading,
Turn suddenly to man.

* * * * *

When swords and spears have vanished,
And cannon's boomings cease,
Then, then will war be banished—
Then, then we shall have peace.

JOSEPH S. UPTON.

Folkestone, 12th June, 1888.

THE QUINTON HILL FOOTPATH.—We are informed that Mr Conybeare has given notice, that he will ask the Secretary of State for War:—"By what evidence has it been proved that a certain footway across Quinton Hill Farm, in the parish of Waltham Holy Cross, is (as alleged in the preamble of the Waltham Abbey Gunpowder Factory Bill) unnecessary; whether the inhabitants of Waltham have already successfully opposed the attempt made at Quarter Sessions to deprive them of the use of this footway; and whether the War Office was represented, and by whom, at the enquiry before the Quarter Sessions?"

THE QUINTON HILL FOOTPATH.

To the Editor of the Weekly Telegraph.

SIR,—I would warn the inhabitants of Waltham Abbey, and all lovers of a pleasant walk in the fields, that our footpath is not yet out of danger, notwithstanding the fact that, according to the *Pall Mall Gazette* of July 9th, the Bill in Parliament is blocked for the time being, which means, I suppose, that if not opposed when next brought on it will be passed, and our footpath closed for ever, notwithstanding the promise that the path is to be left open on the same conditions as the so-called Long Walk, and that "it would be a breach of faith if the path was closed entirely against the public." I am not so old as some of my friends, but I have known of such a thing as a "breach of faith" in my time; probably many others have also. No; the path is too much to give for a mere promise, and too much prized to depend upon whether breaches of faith cannot be made. Besides, if the path is to be left open, what need is there of an Act of Parliament to close it? I must confess I am afraid that that promise will not be worth much in the face of an Act of Parliament. I am frequently asked by passers-by whether they are allowed to go by the fields to Waltham. It seems a very prevalent idea that the path is already closed. I take this opportunity of saying that all are at liberty to go that way at resent and until further notice, provided they behave themselves; but I hope if the policeman finds anyone trespassing, the War Office authorities will have an iron fence put up at once, which I am sure would be a great improvement, and the only one needed.—Yours faithfully,

CHARLES SAVILLE.

Gillwell Iron and Steel Works, Sewardstone, Essex, July 24th, 1888.

BROXBOURNE.

BROXBOURNE LAWN TENNIS TOURNAMENT—During the last fortnight [illegible]

Original Correspondence.

All communications intended for insertion in this journal MUST, *to ensure consideration, be sent to the* PUBLISHING OFFICE AT WALTHAM ABBEY, *addressed to the Editor. We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our correspondents*

THE QUINTON HILL FOOPATH.

To the Editor of the Weekly Telegraph.

SIR,—Through the medium of your columns I desire to inform the readers of your paper that the Quinton Hill Footpath is still open, and will continue so for at least two months. Personally, I think that it will remain open much longer; in my most sanguine hours I have pictured it preserved to the town for ever. However, the path is not closed yet, and let me ask the people of Waltham Abbey to hie to the hill and thence survey the prospect, and ask themselves whether they will give up the path without a murmur. It will interest the numerous petitioners against the Bill to know that the Committee of Defence are not idle, nor have they lost heart. The Hampdens and the Pyms of the Commonwealth are with us, and they know no fear, confident in the justice of their cause. I feel it would not be too much to expect a strong expression of local feeling on this matter. Doubtless public meetings will be held, and once the inhabitants are aroused, it will be sure of victory.—I am, Sir, yours obediently,

A FREQUENTER OF THE PATH.

Waltham Abbey, August 29th, 1885.

QUINTON HILL FOOTPATH.—Replying to a vote of thanks at the termination of the Liberal meeting held at Waltham Abbey last week, Mr Pickersgill, M.P., referred to the Quinton Hill Footpath. He said he knew nothing whatever about this path, but having observed that the "go-by" had been given to the means provided for stopping the footpath, and application having been made to Parliament, he became jealous, and thought he was quite justified in blocking the Bill. (Loud cries of "Bravo, Pickersgill," were here given.) The Government was anxious, he said, to pass the Waltham Abbey Gunpowder Factory Bill, and communicated upon several occasions with him on this matter. He then consented to having the matter considered by a select committee—(bravo)—and a committee of seven members of the House was appointed for that purpose and to receive evidence. When the session resumed he hoped this question would be dealt with, and he advised those desirous of doing so to attend before the committee and give evidence. If they did not think it worth while to go to the House of Commons the path would undoubtedly be closed. For some time after the meeting Mr Pickersgill was beseiged by persons willing to give him information, and he took copious notes of their statements respecting Quinton Hill.

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THE QUINTON HILL FOOTPATH.—Notice has been given that the Bill introduced into Parliament last session seeking power to stop up the footpath on Quinton Hill Farm, as amended and passed by the select committee of the House of Commons, under the title of the "Waltham Abbey Gunpowder Factory Bill," will be re-introduced in the forthcoming session. The customary Parliamentary notice will be found in our advertising columns.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN

parrot cry [illegible] they want it. [illegible] will another." I know some of [illegible] thought it strange that I should hold such an opinion of Parliament, although they acknowledged that the members of Parliament are there to represent the public and are placed there by it. I did not contradict my friends when they told me that if the Government lost the day at Chelmsford they would take the matter to Parliament. I was, however, much surprised to hear them express their opinion that the very gentlemen who are elected by the public to carry on the affairs of the country will not consider what is right, but give away an ancient right of way to the Government simply because they are a strong body, and not allow us to protest against it. I may say, however, that the gentlemen gave us a careful hearing, and justice has been done, as I understand the Waltham Abbey Gunpowder Factory Bill is withdrawn. I have therefore a better opinion of Parliament than some of the higher class, who I consider ought to have been there to represent us, instead of leaving it to a few working people. I hope I shall never again hear in our county that a thing will be taken to Parliament, and that the Government will have it whether it is right or not. I have never heard our right to this footpath disputed. I never said that the path would not be closed, but I maintained that if it was closed we ought to hav compensation. By the way, it has been mentioned that the new works in the neighbourhood will compensate for the loss of the path. If it were likely that the ironworks at Sewardstone would be made more extensive, should I be allowed to take a public right on the plea that the works would be an advantage in the future? I question whether I should not be told I was working for my own advantage, and not for the sake of the public. What do the members of the Local Board think? No one would more like to see the officials of the Guncotton Factory, the Local Board, and the public in general working harmoniously together than myself, but I say let us have right.—Yours truly,

CHARLES SAVILLE.

Ironworks, Sewardstone, Jan. 9th, 1889.

for the advantage of the grower and consumer, and for the better utilisation of agricultural land. With this object the company propose to establish a fund of not less than £5,000 (towards which they are willing to contribute £500), from the income whereof they intend annually to offer prizes for the best managed fruit farms, plantations, or orchards."

WALTHAM HOLY CROSS LOCAL BOARD.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Waltham Holy Cross Local Board of Health was held on Tuesday evening, Mr James Carr, chairman of the Board, presiding. There were also present—Messrs. W. Beck, T. Carter, T. Chapman, E. Champness, P. Mills, and G. M. Pelling; with Mr F. C. E. Jessopp, assistant clerk; Mr C. W. Wiggs, surveyor; Dr. Priest, medical officer of [illegible]alth; and Mr G. Eversfield, collector.

THE MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Board were read and confirmed.

FINANCE.

The balance in hand per last report was £2 17s 1d, and the subsequent payments £231 11s 7d. The amount drawn out of bank [illegible]ince last report was £65, leaving an available [illegible] of £166 11s 7d.

[illegible] ties during the time Mr Wiggs [illegible] holidays.

Mr P. [illegible]ved that a vote of thanks be passed t[illegible]am for doing the surveyor's work.

Mr Chapman seconded, and this was agreed to.

NO FURTHER CONCESSION.

Mr Mills asked whether there would be any possibility of the War Office authorities giving the Board a piece of ground in return for the new footpath and the road, so as to widen the roadway opposite Mr Roddick's.

The Chairman said that the Board had a letter in their possession intimating that the War Department could make no further concessions.

Mr Mills: I don't see any use in that new path anyway.

The Chairman: The War Department did all they had been asked to do by the Ratepayers' Association.

Mr Pelling: By whom?

The Chairman: The Ratepayers' Association. (Laughter.) I understood they applied for something and they got it.

THE SHORTEST MEETING ON RECORD.

The Clerk had no correspondence to lay before the Board; the surveyor had no report to make; and the business of the meeting was finished in thirty-five minutes.

EPPING.

SESSION.—There were no charges

...ications as to ...ppen next. All the opinions, how-..., that have been expressed on the subject may be taken as mere conjecture; but, without seeming to take either side in the matter, there is one important point in reference to the closing of the path which we think has been entirely overlooked. It is this. It is well-known that wherever there are footpaths through fields, that many boys and men who pass over them are given to straying off the paths, and such being the case, owing to the dangerous explosive gun-cotton which the government intend to manufacture at Quinton-hill, it is only reasonable to suppose that, alike for the protection of their works and also that of the persons using the path, the War Department will find it necessary to effectually enclose their manufactory from encroachments or trespass of any kind. Should it therefore be desirable to enclose their works by a high fence or wall on either side of the path, the *right of way only* will remain to the inhabitants, for the path would thus be entirely stripped of its rural character, and the charm of the pleasant and varied views from the hill be entirely lost. If such is at all likely to be the case, it would certainly be to the advantage of the inhabitants of the parish to come to some such arrangement as that which has already been proposed by the War Department, than to have left only such a path between Waltham Abbey and Sewardstone as may become even a nuisance and dangerous, and render the way by the high road by far the most pleasant. Whether such will ever be the case, time alone will show. We think, however, that the point is well worthy of ...onsideration.

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WOOD.—On the 19th inst., at Fairl
Hill, Essex, Thomas Fuller Wood, on
birthday.

EDMONTON UNION.

WANTED immediately, at the Chase Farm Schools at Enfield, a YOUNG WOMAN between the ages of 18 and 25 years, as a Scrubber for the Infirmary; she must be strong, active, and willing. Wages £14 per annum, with board, lodging, and washing, but no beer or uniform.

Candidates to apply to and obtain particulars from the Superintendent at the Schools.

By order. FRANCIS SHELTON,
Solicitor and Clerk.

Lower Tottenham, January 17th, 1890.

TO TAILORS.

HE GUARDIANS of the EDMONTON desire to APPRENTICE a crippled of TAILOR

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"Please let me know how to make a really good thick creamy dressing for tomato salad," writes "Fanny S." Take two eggs, beat them well up together, then add a teaspoonful of sugar, a quarter of a teaspoonful each of salt and mustard, one tablespoonful of sweet cream, or, if you have not got cream, condensed milk will answer nicely; add three teaspoonfuls of vinegar. Place the bowl in a basin of boiling water, and stir the dressing until it becomes the thickness of cream.

I am requested by "Waldegrave" to give a recipe for a Russian salad. In salted water, with a small piece of butter in it, boil a few turnips and carrots, not over much. Let them get cold. Then, with a vegetable scoop, cut out of them a good number of pieces about the size of an olive; in the same manner cut olive-shaped pieces out of boiled beetroot, and some also out of truffles. Take a cupful each of the above, and the same measure of fresh haricot beans that have been cooked and cooked asparagus points; to these add two tablespoonfuls each of capers and pickled gherkins cut into the shape of capers, and anchovies chopped up into small pieces, two dozen stoned olives, one tablespoonful of tarragon, and chervil minced fine, and half a tablespoonful of minced up chives. Mix these lightly together into a sauce made with raw yolks of eggs, oil, vinegar, pepper, and salt well worked together; ornament with hard boiled eggs, caviare, olives, pickles, &c. Let the salad be made for at least half an hour before it is garnished and served.

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