

**THE DOVER ROAD:
ANNALS OF AN
ANCIENT TURNPIKE**

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The Dover road: annals of an ancient turnpike by Charles G. Harper

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CHARLES G. HARPER

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ANNALS OF AN
ANCIENT TURNPIKE**



MERCERY LANE, CANTERBURY.

The
DOVER ROAD

Annals of an Ancient Turnpike

By CHARLES G. HARPER

*Illustrated by the Author and from Old Prints
and Portraits*



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PREFACE

IT has been said, by whom I know not, that "prefaces to books are like signs to public-houses; they are intended to give one an idea of the kind of entertainment to be found within." But this preface is not to be like those; for it would require an essay in itself to give a comprehensive idea of the Dover Road, in all its implications. A road is not merely so many miles of highway, more or less well-maintained. It is not only something in the surveyor's way; but history as well. It is life, touched at every point.

The Dover Road—the highway between London and that most significant of approaches to the Continent of

PREFACE

Europe—would have been something much more in its mere name had it not been for the accident of London : one of the greatest accidents. It would have been considered a part of the great road to Chester and to Holyhead : the route diagonally across England, from sea to sea, which really in the first instance it was.

For the Dover Road is actually the initial limb of the Watling Street : that prehistoric British trackway adopted by the Romans and by them engineered into a road ; and it would seem that those Roman engineers, instructed by the Imperial authorities, considered rather the military and strategic needs of those times than those of LONDINIUM ; for London was not on the direct road they made ; and it was only at a later date, when it was grown commercially, they constructed an alternative route that served it.

It would be rash to declare that more history has been enacted on this road than on any other, although we may suspect it ; but certainly history is more spectacular along these miles. Those pageants and glittering processions are of the past : they ended in 1840, when railways were about to supplant the road ; when the last distinguished traveller along these miles, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg Gotha, came up by carriage to wed Queen Victoria.

CHARLES G. HARPER.

FEBRUARY, 1922.

THE ROAD TO DOVER

London Bridge (Surrey side) to—

	MILES
Borough (St. George's Church)	½
Kent Street	¾
Newington (" Bricklayers' Arms ")	1
New Cross	3¼
Deptford	4¼
Blackheath,	5
Shooter's Hill	8¼
Shoulder of Mutton Green	9¼
Belle Grove	9½
Welling	10½
Crook Log	10¾
Bexley Heath	11½
Crayford (Cross River Cray)	13¼
Dartford (Cross River Darent)	15
John's Hole	16¼
Horn's Cross	17
Greenhithe	18
Northfleet	20½
Gravesend (Jubilee Tower)	22
Milton	23
Chalk Street	23½
Gad's Hill (" Falstaff " Inn)	26¼
Strood (Cross River Medway)	28¼
Rochester (Guildhall)	29
Chatham (Town Pier)	30
Rainham	34

THE DOVER ROAD

London Bridge (Surrey Side) to—

	MILES
Moor Street	34½
Newington	36½
Key Street	38
Chalk Well	39
Sittingbourne (Parish Church)	40
Bapchild	41½
Radfield	41¾
Green Street	42½
Ospringe	45½
Preston	46½
Boughton-under-Blean	49
Boughton Hill	50
Dunkirk	51½
Harbledown	54
Canterbury (Cross River Stour)	55½
Gutteridge Gate	57
Bridge (Cross River Stour)	58½
Halfway House	62¾
Lydden	65¾
Temple Ewell	67½
Buckland	69
Dover	70½