

On this gentle pastoral scenery of the still-flowing Ouse, with its many windings, its pollards, and its moated granges—the soft-rounded hills, the lovely vales, the stately parks and mansions, the quaint farmsteads and granges, the red-tiled or straw-thatched cottages, the ivy-grown churches, the fields cultivated like a garden, and the hawthorn hedges in full bloom—his eyes have often gazed; and from the soft green sward he may have taken his description of “Bypath Meadow.” Strange spell of genius,



OLD NORMAN TOWER, ELSTOW CHURCH.

which makes the name of the Bedford tinker a household word in every land. No writer of the English language has won so world-wide a fame, and no book has been printed in so many foreign languages.

The principal materials for a sketch of Bunyan's life are drawn largely from his own autobiographical work, “Grace abounding to the Chief of Sinners.” He was born at Elstow, near Bedford, in 1628, and was brought up like his father before him, “a mender of pots and kettles, vulgarly called a tinker.” He lived in the most stormy period of English history—the turbulent