

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 reign of the first Charles—with the long intestine war and its memorable battles of Edgehill, Naseby, and Marston Moor. Then followed the glorious years of the Protectorate of Cromwell, when the name and fame of England made the Pope



OLD NORMAN DOOR, ELSTOW CHURCH.

tremble in his fortress-palace of the seven-hilled city. Then came the shameful reaction of the Restoration, with its persecution of the saints and reign of wickedness in high places. Amid such world-agitating events was this great soul born and nurtured; and of its varied scenes he has left us striking pictures in his immortal works.

"Like many of the Lord's heroes," says Dr. Punshon, in his admirable monograph on Bunyan, "he was of obscure parentage,