

CONCLUSION

AND this is the end of the story of Nether Hall.

If you go to Dedham in Essex to-day, and walk from the foot of the Gun Hill to "Free-man's Corner," you will come to the place where tall trees overhang the road. Here upon the left, a large field drops down from the road to the river bank, in which if it is summer time, the corn will rustle in the breeze.

This field was once the site of Nether Hall; but now, nothing remains: the stately trees that once adorned the garden have long since fallen under the axe; the gravel pathways and the open lawns have been cut time and again by the plough, and the wheat grows and ripens where Sir Michael Packe and his old time friends, with their lace ruffles and powdered hair, had once been wont to walk.

To say that Sir Michael never felt the loss, were to set down that which is very far from the truth, but he was a rich man for those days, a