

*Benj. Jess. House*

Downshay.

12th Aug. '99.

(Pronounced Dunsai) The farm occupies a delightful situation in a valley between the Purbeck Hills and Nine Barrow Downs, four miles from Corfe Castle. Leaving the Kingston road the house is reached by a rough and rutted road through the fields, with many steep descents. It is not seen at first, indeed we did not look for it as our whole attention was centred on the superb outlook; to the left in the setting sun the ruins of Corfe Castle, guarding the gateway to the Isle of Purbeck, - to the right the town of Swanage with its fine blue bay and far off on the horizon the white cliffs of the Isle of Wight (the Needles) while across the valley rose the fine sweep of the Nine Barrow Downs. Encircled by trees and in a depression we did not see the house until we reached the barn-yard where we were cordially greeted by a jolly-looking dairyman who had just driven out one herd and was preparing to finish the evening milking. The entrance to the garden was through a fine old stone gateway by the side of which was the usual stepping for mounting. The house was of the type common on the Island - of two storeys and very well built, looking very fresh and clean after two hundred and fifty years. The date was carved on one side of the house.