

A Topographical Dictionary of England (1831) **by Samuel Lewis**

BROMPTON-REGIS, a parish (formerly a market town) in the hundred of Williton and Freemanners, county of Somerset, $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles (N. E.) from Dulverton, containing 771 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Taunton, and diocese of Bath and Wells, rated in the king's books at £12. 5. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ p, and in the patronage of the Master and Fellows of Emanuel College, Cambridge. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, has a curiously carved screen separating the nave from the chancel. This parish anciently constituted a hundred; the river Exe winds through it; it contains an abundance of stone used for building. A weekly market on Tuesday, and two fairs annually, each for four days, were granted to Sir Thomas de Besilles, Knt., lord of the manor; the market has long since fallen into disuse, but the fairs are held in May and October, for the sale of cattle and sheep. About two miles south of the church stands a private mansion, formed out of the remains of Barlinch priory, which was founded by William de Say, in the reign of Henry II., for Black canons, and dedicated to St. Nicholas, the revenue of which, in 1534, was valued at £98. 14. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ p; in the burial-ground several stone coffins containing human skeletons have been found. Three Roman tumuli are visible on an adjacent eminence; and at a mount, called Hadborough, near the western extremity of Haddon hill, Roman coins have been found. Until lately a subscription hunt existed here, for the purpose of chasing the wild red deer found in the neighbouring woods; this once popular amusement; however, has been discontinued.