



ON MONDAY, July 10, 1826, readers of the 'Cheltenham Journal' were treated to a scandal: a handsome young architect had eloped with the only daughter of a wealthy gentleman recently returned from the East Indies! Two weeks later the Journal reported the marriage in London of Edward Jenkins and Charlotte Balfour. Here, surely, is material for a Cheltenham romantic novel.

The architect, Jenkins, had been commissioned to design the church in Suffolk Square but his work was criticised by the authorities who feared structural weakness and, consequently, the more famous J. B. Papworth was called in to complete St. James's. The young lady lived nearby, her father having bought his building plot from James Fisher, developer of much of the Suffolk Square area. Indeed, it is likely Walter Balfour asked Jenkins to design his new house.

That house, from which doubtless the elopement started, still stands. Like Charlotte, it has changed its name, from Southwood to Burlington. The road, too, has changed, for originally it was part of Painswick Road and the row of houses was known as Suffolk Lawn. Today it is familiar as Lypiatt Road. During the first world war the house served as a soldiers' hospital, treating some 1,368 cases, so it is appropriate that its present use is as offices of the Health Authority.