



THE  
ENGLISH VILLAGE COMMUNITY.

CHAPTER I.

*THE ENGLISH OPEN FIELD SYSTEM EXAMINED  
IN ITS MODERN REMAINS.*

I. THE DISTINCTIVE MARKS OF THE OPEN FIELD SYSTEM.

THE distinctive marks of the open or common field system once prevalent in England will be most easily learned by the study of an example.

CHAP. I.

The township of Hitchin, in Hertfordshire, will answer the purpose. From the time of Edward the Confessor—and probably from much earlier times—with intervals of private ownership, it has been a royal manor.<sup>1</sup> And the Queen being still the lady of the manor, the remains of its open fields have never been swept away by the ruthless broom of an Enclosure Act.

Open fields  
of Hitchin  
Manor.

Annexed is a reduced tracing of a map of the

<sup>1</sup> The lesser manors included in | for the present purpose do not de-  
it are clearly only *sub*-manors, and | stroy its original unity.