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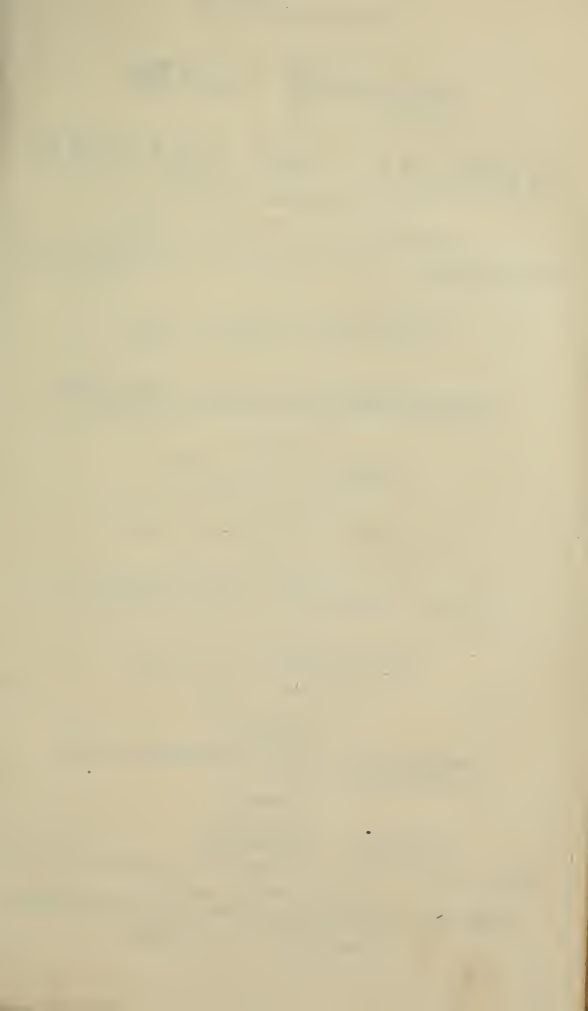


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TOPOGRAPHY
OF
Great Britain,
OR,
BRITISH TRAVELLER'S
POCKET DIRECTORY;
BEING AN ACCURATE AND COMPREHENSIVE
TOPOGRAPHICAL AND STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION
OF
ALL THE COUNTIES
IN
England, Scotland, and Wales,
WITH THE
ADJACENT ISLANDS:
ILLUSTRATED WITH
MAPS OF THE COUNTIES,
WHICH FORM
A COMPLETE BRITISH ATLAS.

BY G. A. COOKE, ESQ.

VOL. XIX.
CONTAINING
STAFFORDSHIRE AND CHESHIRE.

London: 1820

Printed, by Assignment from the Executors of the late C. Cooke,

FOR

SHERWOOD, NEELY, AND JONES, PATERNOSTER-RROW ;

AND SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.

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A
TOPOGRAPHICAL
AND
STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION
OF THE
COUNTY OF STAFFORD:

Containing an Account of its

Situation,	Minerals,	Agriculture,
Extent,	Fisheries,	Curiosities,
Towns,	Manufactures,	Antiquities,
Roads,	Trade	Natural
Rivers,	Commerce,	History,
Civil and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, &c.		

TO WHICH ARE PREFIXED,

*The Direct and Principal Cross Roads;
Distances of Stages, Inns, and
Noblemen and Gentlemen's Seats.*

ALSO

A LIST OF THE MARKETS AND FAIRS,

And an Index Table,

Exhibiting at one View, the Distances of all the Towns from London
and of Towns from each other:]

The whole forming

A COMPLETE COUNTY ITINERARY.

BY G. A. COOKE, ESQ.

Illustrated with a

MAP OF THE COUNTY.

London:

Printed, by Assignment from the Executors of the late G. Cooke,

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SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.

G. SIDNEY, Printer,
Northumberland-street, Strand.

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A TABLE

OF THE

PRINCIPAL TOWNS IN THE COUNTY,

Their distance from London, Markets, Number of Houses and Inhabitants, with the time of the arrival and departure of the Post.

Towns.	Dis.	Mark.	Hos.	Inhab	Post arrives	Post depts.
Abbots Bromley	129	Tues.	305	1533		
Barton-under-Needwood... }	129	...	242	1287	9 Af.	5 Af.
Brewood	129	Friday	538	2762		
Burslem	151	Satur.	1952	10176	8 Af.	10 Af.
Burton-on-Trent	128	Thurs.	833	4114	5½ Af.	6 M.
Cannoch	133	Tues.	529	2780		
Cheadle	145	Satur.	746	3862	7 Af.	5 M.
Eccleshall	148	Friday	763	4227	6¼ Af.	5¼ M.
Leek	159	Wed.	773	4292	4¾ Af.	6¾ M.
Litchfield	119	Friday	1121	7075	2 Af.	10¾ M.
Longnor	152	Wed.	101	460		
Newcastle	149	Mon.	1399	7031	6¼ Af.	5¾ M.
Pattingham	135	...	179	985		
Penkridge	129	Tues.	470	2641		
Rugeley	131	Tues.	494	2677	3¾ Af.	9½ M.
Stafford	141	Satur.	991	5759	5 Af.	7 M.
Stone	140	Tues.	1328	7251	4¾ Af.	7½ M.
Tamworth	114	Tues.	332	1677	1 Af.	10½ M.
Tutbury	134	Tues.	266	1444		
Uttoxeter	135	Wed.	926	4658	6 Af.	6 M.
Walsall	115	Tues.	1145	5504	2 Af.	12 N.
Wednesbury	124	Satur.	1194	6471	1 Af.	1¾ Af.
Wolverhampton	123	Wed.	6718	36838	1¾ M.	12¾ M.
Yoxall	120	...	300	1756		

The price of postage of a single letter varies from 8d. to 9d. throughout the county.

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INSPECTION TABLE FOR THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD.

<i>Bounded by</i>	<i>Extent.</i>	<i>Contains</i>	<i>Sends to Parliament</i>	<i>Produce and Manufactures.</i>
<p>Cheshire and Derbyshire on the north.</p> <p>On the east by Leicestershire.</p> <p>On the west by Shropshire.</p> <p>And on the south by Warwickshire and Worcestershire.</p>	<p>In length 60 miles.</p> <p>In breadth 38 miles.</p> <p>About 150 miles in circumference.</p>	<p>5 Hundreds.</p> <p>1 City.</p> <p>3 Boroughs.</p> <p>16 Market-Towns.</p> <p>341,040 Inhabitants.</p> <p>780,000 acres of land.</p> <p>63,319 Houses.</p>	<p>10 Members, viz.</p> <p>2 for the county</p> <p>2 for Litchfield</p> <p>2 for Stafford</p> <p>2 for Tamworth</p> <p>And 2 for Newcastle-under-Lyne</p>	<p>The county abounds with iron ore, owing to which, and a great plenty of coal, large manufactures of hardware are carried on. It is likewise noted for its potteries.</p>

This County is included in the Oxford Circuit, the Province of Canterbury, and Diocese of Litchfield and Coventry.

AN ITINERARY
OF ALL THE
DIRECT AND PRINCIPAL CROSS ROADS
IN
STAFFORDSHIRE.

In which are included the STAGES, INNS, and
GENTLEMEN'S SEATS.

N.B. The first Column contains the Names of Places passed through; the Figures that follow show the Distances from Place to Place, Town to Town, and Stages: and in the last Column are the names of Gentlemen's Seats, and Inns. The right and left of the Roads are distinguished by the letters R and L.

LONDON TO STAFFORD.

From Hicks's Hall to Islington Ch. <i>About half a mile before Holloway Turnpike, a T. R. on R. by High- bury, Crouchend, Muswell-hill, and Colney Hatch, and falls into this road again at Whetstone</i>		1 $\frac{1}{4}$		<i>Near Holloway Turnpike, at Highbury, Highbury House, E. Knight, Esq. Highbury Hill, — Wil- son, Esq.; and Highbury Lodge, — Haslope, Esq.</i>
Holloway turnpike Junction of the Kentish Town Road — —	1	2 $\frac{1}{4}$		<i>Archway, J. Hunter, Esq. R.</i>
<i>On L. a T. R to Kentish Town</i>	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{4}$		
Highgate Archway	$\frac{1}{4}$	4		<i>Fitzroy Farm, A. Robarts, Esq.; and Caen Wood, Earl of Mansfield, L.</i>
Green Man	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	6 $\frac{1}{4}$		<i>Beyond, on L. Elm Place, A. Murray, and Moss Hall, T. H. Andrew, esq.</i>

				<i>half a mile on R. Wood House, Sir N. Conant, Bart.</i>
Whetstone	—	$2\frac{1}{4}$	9	<i>On L. at Totteridge, E. Arrowsmith, Esq.; and the Priory, F. Holbrook, Esq.</i>
Green Hill Cross		1	10	<i>Underhill, Keane Fitzgerald, Esq. L. Green Hill Grove, R. Nichol, Esq.; Lion's Down, A. Reid, Esq.</i>
BARNET,	<i>Herts</i>	1	11	<i>Through, at Hadley, Col. Stapleton; and Hadley House, Mrs. Vere, R.</i>
The Obelisk, <i>Middlesex</i>		$\frac{3}{4}$	$11\frac{1}{4}$	
<i>On R. a T.R. to Hatfield and Hertford, on L. to Kitts End</i>				
Kitt's End	—	$\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{4}$	<i>Derem Park, J. Trotter, Esq.; L. New Lodge, Mrs. Baronneau; and Wrotham Park, George Byng, Esq. R.</i>
South Mims		$2\frac{1}{2}$	$14\frac{3}{4}$	<i>Before, see Laurel Lodge, Capt. Ellis; L. entrance of South Mims, Bridgefoot, E. Vincent, Esq. R.</i>
Ridge Hill, <i>Herts</i>		$1\frac{3}{4}$	16	<i>Near, on R. Potterells, Sir William Weller Pepys, Bart. 1 mile distant, on L. Shenley Parsonage, Rev. Thos. Newcome; L. at 17 m. Tittenhanger Park, Earl of Hardwick, R.</i>

London Colney Cross the Colne River	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	17 $\frac{3}{4}$	Beyond, Colney House, P. Haddow, Esq.
ST. ALBANS On R. a T. R. to Flatfield and Luton, on L. to Watford	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	21	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ mile before New Barns, J. Timperton, Esq.; at St. Albans, Holywell House, J. Reid, Esq.; and at 23 miles, Gorchambury, Earl Verulam, L. 2 miles beyond St. Albans, in the Road to Luton, Childwick House, J. Lomax, Esq.
Redburn — — At the 26 milestone a T. R. on L. to Hemel Hempstead	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	25 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 mile distant, on R. Rothamstead, J. B. Lawes, Esq. opposite the 27 m.s. on L. Flamstead House, J. Lambert, Esq.
Market-street	4	29 $\frac{1}{4}$	Near on R. Market Cell, late J. Howell, Esq. 1 mile distant, on L. Beechwood Park, Sir John Sebright, Bart.
DUNSTABLE On L. a T. R. to Berkhamstead, by the Earl of Bridgewater's new Road	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	Beyond, on L. see Houghton House, H. Brandreth, Esq.
Hockliffe — — On L. a T. R. to Leighton Buzzard	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{4}$	Hockliffe Grange, R. Gilpin, Esq. L.; beyond, Battlesden Park, Sir Gregory Osborne Page Turner, Bart.
WOBURN — — On R. a T. R. to Ampthill	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	Woburn Abbey, Duke of Bedford, R.
Wavendon, Bucks	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	45	Wavendon Hall, H. H. Hoare, Esq. R.
Broughton —	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	

<i>Cross the Ouse River</i>			
NEWPORT PAGNELL	$2\frac{1}{2}$	50	<i>Half a mile beyond, on L. Lathbury, Col. Mansfield</i>
<i>On R. a T. R. to Olney, thence to Wellingborough, half mile before Stoke Goldington on R. to Olney</i>			
Stoke Goldington	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$54\frac{1}{2}$	<i>2 miles distant, Hanslope Park, — Watts, Esq. L.</i>
Horton Inn, Northampton	4	$58\frac{1}{2}$	<i>Horton House, Sir G. W. Gunning, Bart. R. about 3 miles beyond Horton Inn, Castle Ashby, Marquis of Northampton</i>
Hackleton	—	$1\frac{1}{2}$ 60	<i>Beyond, at Preston, L. Christie, Esq.</i>
Queen's Cross	4	64	$\frac{1}{2}$ <i>mile before, on L. Courteen Hall, Sir William Wake, Bart. At Delapre Abbey, E. Bouverie, Esq. R.</i>
<i>On L. a T. R. to Stoney Stratford</i>			
NORTHAMPTON		2 66	
<i>On L. a T. R. to Daventry, on R. to Wellingborough</i>			
Kingsthorpe	—	$1\frac{1}{2}$ $67\frac{1}{2}$	<i>Near, see Althorpe Park, Earl Spencer, L.</i>
<i>On R. a T. R. to Market Harboro', on L. to</i>			
Chapel Brampton	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$70\frac{1}{2}$	
Creton	—	$3\frac{1}{2}$ $73\frac{3}{4}$	<i>Near is Teeton House, — Langton, Esq.; 1 mile beyond, Holywell, W. Lucas, Esq. L.; at 75 mile stone on R. Cottes-</i>

			<i>brooke House, Sir James Langham, Bart.</i>
Thurnby	— 3½	77¼	<i>Thurnby Hall, Th. Bishop, Esq. Two miles beyond is Naseby, supposed the highest ground in the Kingdom.</i>
Welford	— 3¼	80½	<i>1 mile before, Sulby Abbey, John Paine, Esq. R.</i>
<i>On R. a T. R. to Leicester, Cross the Avon R. on R. a T. R. to Market Harboro</i>			
North Kilworth			
<i>Leicestershire</i>			
Walcote	— 3¼	87	<i>Beyond, at Misterton, Misterton Hall, — Franks, Esq. R.</i>
LUTTERWORTH	2	89	
<i>On R. a T. R. to Leicester, on L. to Rugby and Coventry</i>			
Bitteswell	— 1	90	
Claybrook	— 3	93	<i>Frolesworth Hall, — Boulton, Esq. L.</i>
High Cross	2	95	<i>Newnham Paddock, Earl of Denbigh, L.</i>
<i>On R. a T. R. to Leicester</i>			
Smockington	1	96	
Burbage	— 2½	98½	
<i>Near Hinckley, on R. a T. R. to Leicester</i>			
HINCKLEY	— 1	99½	<i>2 m. beyond, on L. Weddington Hall, — Place, esq.</i>
<i>On R. a T. R. to Ashby - de - la - Zouch, and to Market Bosworth, on L. to Nuneaton</i>			
			<i>4 m. beyond, see Lindley Hall, Rev. — Hemings, R.</i>

<p>Witheyley — 7 <i>Cross the Anker R. On L. a T. R. to Nuncaton</i></p>	<p>106½ 2</p>	<p><i>m. before, Ansley House, J. Newdigate Ludford, esq. L. ; at, see Wither- ley Hall, S. Owen, esq. and Oldbury, R. Oke- over, esq. L.</i></p>
<p>ATHERSTONE War- wickshire 1 <i>On R. a T.R. to Bur- ton - upon - Trent, and to Tamworth by Grendon, on L. to Coleshill</i></p>	<p>107½</p>	<p><i>Beyond, on L. is Merevale Court, Stafford Dug- dale, esq. ; and about 2 miles farther, Baxterley Hall, J. Boulton, esq.</i></p>
<p>Hall End — — 4 Wilnecote — — 1½</p>	<p>111½ 113</p>	
<p><i>On L. a T.R. to Co- ventry, through the Whitacres. Here you may go forward, across the river Tame and canal to Fazeley, 1½ mile, then turn on R. to Tamworth, in all 2¼ miles ; or leave Fazeley on L. and turn on R. to</i></p>		<p><i>At Fazeley see Drayton Manor House, Sir Ro- bert Peel, Bart. ; and Bonehill House, Edm. Peel, esq. L.</i></p>
<p>TAMWORTH, Staff. 2½ <i>On R. a T.R. to Ash- by - de - la - Zouch, and to Burton- upon - Trent ; on L. to Coleshill and to Sutton Coldfield ; cross the Tame River, and Grand Junc- tion Canal</i></p>	<p>115½</p>	<p><i>Tamworth Castle, Lord Charles Townsend ; 1 mile distant, Bonehill Cottage, W. Peel, esq. L. ; ½ mile distant from Tamworth, on R. see Millfield, Rev. F. Blick ; beyond which is Wig- gington Lodge, Mrs. Clarke.</i></p>

Hopwas	—	—	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	117 $\frac{3}{4}$	Before Hopwas see Comberford Hall, William Tongue, esq.; 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ mile beyond Hopwas, Packington Hall, Rev. T. Levet, R. 2 m. beyond, on L. at Swinsen, Swinsen Hall, J. Swinsen, esq.
LITCHFIELD			5 $\frac{3}{4}$	123 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 miles before, Freeford Hall, R. Dyott, esq.; 1 mile before Lichfield, Berry Hill Cottage, — Stanley, esq.; beyond it Knowle House, — Holland, esq.; and in the Road to Walsall, Aldershaw, — Hill, esq. L. Through the town of Litchfield, on R. the Palace, Sir C. Oakley, bart. 1 m. beyond Lichfield, at a distance from the road, Elmhurst Hall, J. Smith, esq. 3 m. beyond Lichfield, Liswiss Hall, Mrs. Tyson, and near it, Haunch Hall, Gen. Dyott.
On R. a T. R. to Ashborn and to Abbots Bromley, on L. to Birmingham and to Walsall					
Longdon Green			8 $\frac{1}{4}$	126 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 mile before, at Gamton, Gorton Lodge, and,
Longdon	—		4	127 $\frac{1}{2}$	At Longdon, Beaudesert Park, Marquis of Anglesea, L.
Brereton	—	—	2	129 $\frac{1}{2}$	Before, Armitage Park, T. Lister, esq.; and Lea Hall, J. Webb, esq. At Brereton, Miss Sneyd, and near it, Ravenhill, Col. Madan, R.

RUGELEY	—	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	131	Hagley Park, Hon. R. Curzon, L.
Wolseley Bridge		2 $\frac{1}{4}$	133	Before, Wolseley Hall, Sir Charles Wolseley, bart. and 1 m. distant, across the Trent, R. at Colton, Colton Hall, — Burt, esq. R.; at Wolseley Bridge, on L. Park House, T. Mackenzie, esq.; beyond Wolseley bridge, on R. Bishton Hall, J. Sparrow, esq.; and 1 mile farther, at Colwich, Mount Pleasant, Wm. Bagot, esq. 2 miles from Wolseley-bridge, Shugborough, Lord Anson, R.
Milford	—	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	137	Before, see Tixal Hall, Sir T. Constable, bart. and, Ingestrie Hall, Earl Talbot; at Milford, Milford Cottage, Rev. R. Levett, R.
Weeping Cross		1 $\frac{3}{4}$	138 $\frac{3}{4}$	2 m. before Milford, on L. see a triumphal arch, and beyond it the Obelisk. At the entrance of Milton, Brocton Hall, Sir George Chetwynd, bart. Brocton Lodge, G. Chetwynd, esq.; and Milford Hall, R. Levett, esq.
On L. a T. R. to Walsall, cross the Stafford and Worcester canal, and the Penk R. near Stafford, on L. a T. R. to Penkridge, cross the Sow River.				
STAFFORD		2	140 $\frac{3}{4}$	

FROM BASSET'S POOL TO TALK-ON-
THE HILL,

THROUGH LICHFIELD AND STONE.

Bassett's Pool to On R. a T. R. to Tamworth, on L. to Sutton.			
Weeford	3	3	
Swinfen	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	Swinfen House, J. Swinfen, esq. R. and a little far- ther, Freeford Hall, R. Dyott, esq.
On R. a T. R. to Atherstone; and a mile farther on R. to Tamworth, and to Burton-upon- Trent.			
LICHFIELD.	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	7	Inns—George, Swan. Liswiss Hall, Mrs. Tyson, and about a mile further on L. Beaudesert Park, Mar- quis of Anglesea.
On R. a T. R. to Derby, Ashborn, and Abbot's Bromley; on L. to Birmingham. and Walsall.			
Longdon Green	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Longdon	$\frac{3}{4}$	11	
Brereton, or Bruer- on	2	13	Armitage Park, T. Lister. esq.
RUGELEY	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hagley, Hon. R. Curzon, L.
Wolseley Bridge	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	16 $\frac{3}{4}$	Wolseley Hall, Sir Charles Wolseley, bart. and oppo- site to it, on L. Park House, T. Mackenzie, esq. a little farther on R. Bishton Hall, John Sparrow, esq. and one mile distant, across the Trent, at Colton, Colton Hall, — Burt, esq.
On L. a T. R. to Stafford.			
Cross the River Trent and Mersey Canal.			
Colwich	$\frac{3}{4}$	17 $\frac{3}{4}$	Mount Pleasant, W. Bagot, esq. R.
Great Haywood	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	19	Shugborough, Lord Anson, L. At Tixall, Sir T. Constable, bart. R.
— — —			

Shirleywich	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$21\frac{1}{2}$	On L. at Ingestry, Ingestry Hall, Earl of Talbot.
Weston	$\frac{3}{4}$	$22\frac{1}{4}$	
Sandon	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$24\frac{3}{4}$	Sandon Hall, Lord Harrowby, R.; and about four miles to the R. ruins of Chartley Castle, Earl of Ferrers.
On L. a T. R. to Stafford, and a little farther on R. to Leek.			
Stoke	$3\frac{3}{4}$	28	Ashton Hall, Rev. T. Grafton, L.
STONE	1	29	Inn—Crown.
On R. a T. R. to Leek; on L. to Stafford and Eccleshall.			
Cross the Grand Trunk Canal, and the river Trent to Darlaston			
On L. a T. R. to Chester.	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$30\frac{1}{2}$	Meaford Hall, E. J. Ricketts, esq. R.; and on L. near the one mile stone, Darlaston Hall, Capt. Trelawney. Beyond Darlaston, about two miles to the L. at Swinnerton, Swinnerton Hall, T. Fitzherbert, esq.
Titton, Mill	2	$32\frac{1}{2}$	On R. Barlaston Hall, unoccupied.
On R. a T. R. to Cheadle			
Cross the River Trent.			
Trentham	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$34\frac{1}{4}$	Trentham Hall, Marquis of Stafford, L.
On R. a T. R. to Cheadle; on L. to Drayton			
Handford	$\frac{3}{4}$	35	
Cross the Handford Canal and the river Trent.			
Black Lion Inn.	$\frac{3}{4}$	$35\frac{3}{4}$	One mile distant, on R. at Great Fenton, Fenton Hall, Thos. Allen, esq.
On R. a T. R. to Stoke upon Trent.			
NEWCASTLE - UNDER-LINE.	$2\frac{1}{4}$	38	Inns—Crown, Roebuck.

On R. a T. R. to Leek, Cheadle, and Uttoxeter; on L. to Drayton, Whitechurch, and Namptwich. Cross the New Canal			About two miles on R. Etruria, the celebrated Pottery and house of Josiah Wedgwood, &c. One mile distant, the Clouas, the Rev. B. Bassnett; beyond which is Keil Hall, Col. Sneyd.
Dimsdale T. G.	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	39 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Chesterton On L. a T. R. to Namptwich.	1	40 $\frac{1}{4}$	Broadwall Hall, William Sneyd, esq.
Talk-on-the-Hill A little beyond on L. a T. R. to Knutsford. Cross the Grand Trunk Canal and enter Cheshire.	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{3}{4}$	

LITCHFIELD TO LONGNOR.

THROUGH ABBOTS BROMLEY AND CHEADLE.

LICHFIELD to About two miles beyond Lichfield on R. a T. R. to Ashborn.			A mile and a half from Lichfield, on R. Elmhurst, J. Smith, esq.
Hansacre - Cross the Grand Trunk Canal and the river Trent.	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Hill Ridware	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	
Blythbory Cross the Blythe river.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	
ABBOTS BROMLEY	3	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	On L. at Blythfield, Lord Bagot. Chartley Castle, an ancient seat of the Earl of Ferrers, and Loxley Hall, T. Sneyd Kinnersley, esq. L.
— — —			
UTTOXETER	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	17 $\frac{1}{4}$	Inn—White Hart.

On R. a T. R. to Derby.			Two miles to the R. at Dove-bridge, Lord Waterpark.
Stramshall	1½	18¾	
On R. a T. R. to Ashborn			
Beamhurst	2¼	21	
Checkley	2¼	23¼	
Lower Tean	1	24¼	
Upper Tean	¾	25	Heath House, John Phillips, esq. R.
On L. a T. R. to Newcastle; and to Burslem; on R. to — — —			Huntley Hall, Capt. Sneyd.
CHEADLE	3	28	About two miles to the L. at Dilhorn, F. B. Yarde Butler, esq. About four miles to R. Cotton Hall, Geo. Wheel- don, esq. and Fairley Hall, John Bill, esq.
On L. a T. R. to Stone; on R. to Ash- born.			Hales Hall, unoccupied, near Alton see Alton Abbey, Earl of Shrewsbury.
— — —			
Holt	1¾	29¾	
Churnet river	1½	30¼	
On L. a T. R. to Newcastle.			
Cross the Churnet river.			
On R. a T. R. to Ashborn.			
Ipstones	2½	32¾	Belmont, Rev. W. Carlisle.
Bottom House, the Archer	2	34¾	
On L. a T. R. to Leek; on R. to Ash- born.			
Onecote	1½	36¼	
Three miles beyond on R. a T. R. to Winster.			
Broadham Oak	5½	41¾	
LONGNOR	2	43¾	
On R. a T. R. to Bakewell; on L. to			

Leek ; forward to
Buxton, Derbyshire. | | |

CHEADLE TO LEEK,
THROUGH CHEDDLETON.

CHEADLE to Kingsey Lane On R. a T. R. to Ashborn. One mile farther on L. a T. R. to Newcastle - under- Line.	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	
Wetley Rock On L. a T. R. to Newcastle.	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$5\frac{1}{4}$	Before Consall Hall, John Leigh, esq. R. One mile beyond Wetley Rock, Ashcombe Hall, Wm. Sneyd, esq. R.
Cheddleton Cross the Canal, and the Churnet Ri- ver.	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{3}{4}$	Belmont, Rev. W. Carlisle, R. and Basford Hall, William Sneyd, esq.
Cornhill LEEK.	$2\frac{1}{4}$	10	
	$4\frac{3}{4}$	$10\frac{3}{4}$	Inn—George.

SANDON TO WETLEY ROCK,
THROUGH WESTON COYNEY.

Sandon to On L. a T. R. to Stone			Sandon Hall, Earl of Hurrowby, R.
Hilderston On R. a T. R. to Draycot. Four miles further on L. to Stone ; on R. to Cheadle ; and one mile farther on R. to Uttoxeter ; on L. to Newcastle.	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	
Weston Coyney On L. a T. R. to Bucknall	6	$9\frac{1}{2}$	W. H. Coyney, esq. : on R. Caverswall Castle, at present a nunnery.

Cellar Head	2½	12	On L. Park Hall, T. Parker, esq.
On L. a T. R. to Newcastle; on R. to Cheadle.			
Wetley Rock.	1	13	

TAMWORTH TO BROUGHTON,

THROUGH LITCHFIELD AND STAFFORD.

Tamworth to			One mile distant, on R. Millfield, F Blick, esq.
On R. a T. R. to Ashby de la Zouch, on L. to Coleshill.			Inns—Castle, King's Arms.
Cross the Tame river, and Grand Junction Canal.			
Hoppas	2¼	2¼	Before Comberford Hall, Wm. Tongue, esq. R.
LITCHFIELD	5¼	8	One mile before the city, on L. Berry Hill Cottage, — Stanley, esq. Leaving the city, Beacon Place, Mrs. Hand, L. On an eminence. on L. a mile from the city, Maple Hays, J. Atkinson, esq. Three miles from Litchfield, on R. Liswiss Hall, Mrs. Tyson.
On R. a T. R. to Ashborn; on L. to Birmingham.			
Longdon Green	3¼	11¼	
Longdon	¾	12	
Bruerton, or Brereton	2	14	Before Lea Hall, T. Webb, esq. R. on L. at a distance, Beaudesart Park, Marquis of Anglesea.
RUGELEY	1½	15½	Hagley, Hon. R. Curzon, L. Wolseley Hall, Sir Charles Wolseley, bart. and opposite to it, Park House, T. Mackenzie, esq. Beyond on L. Milford Hall, R. Levett, esq.; farther on R. Shugborough, Lord Anson; and opposite, Mount Pleasant, Wm. Bagot, esq.
Wolseley Bridge	2¼	17¾	
On R. a T. R. to Stone; on L. to Milford			
Weeping Cross	3¼	21½	
On L. a T. R. to Walsall.	1¾	23¼	
Cross the Canal and the Penk river.			

Near Stafford on L. a T. R. to Penk- Ridge; on R. Cross the Sow River to			
STAFFORD	2	25 $\frac{1}{4}$	Two miles from Stafford, on L. Creswell Hall, Rev. T. Whitby.
On R. a T. R. to Stone; on L. to New- port.			
Great Bridgeford	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Cross the Sow river On L. a T. R. to Newport.			
Walton	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	
ECCLESHALL	2	32 $\frac{1}{4}$	Inn—Royal Oak. Beyond on R. the Castle, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry. Two miles from Eccleshall, on L. Sugnal Hall, C. Rolands, esq.
On R. a T. R. to Stone, on L. to New- port			
Broughton	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	Broughton Hall, Rev. H. Delvas Broughton.

TAMWORTH TO BURTON-UPON-TRENT,

THROUGH ELFORD.

TAMWORTH to			
Elford	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Elford Hall, Hon. Grenville Howard, L. One mile beyond Elford, on R. Croxall, Rev. S. Holdwor- thy.
Cross the Tame river. Four miles beyond Elford on L. a T. R. to Lichfield.			
Wichnor, Bridge Inn	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	9	Wichnor Lodge, — Levett, esq. L. on R. Catton Hall, E. Horton, esq.
Cross the Trent river			
Branston, T. G.	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	12 $\frac{3}{4}$	Across the Trent, Drakelow, Sir Roger Gresley, bart. R. and Edward Millar Mundy, esq.
Cross the Burton Canal.			

BURTON-UPON-
TRENT.2 $\frac{1}{4}$ 15Inns—George, Queen's.
Stapenhill, — Daniel, esq. R.

MILL GREEN TO PURNEY CORNER,

THROUGH NORTON.

Mill Green to			
Stonal	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	On L. at Aldridge, Aldridge Farm, Major Daniel.
A mile beyond Stonal, on R. a T. R. to Lichfield; on L. to Wallsall.			
Cross the Wyrley and Essington canal.			
Norton	5	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	Near on L. at Little Wyrley, Wyrley Grove, P. Hussey, esq.; and about two miles farther, on R. Leacroft, Richard Gildart, esq.
One mile and a half beyond, on L. a T. R. to Walsall, on R. to Cannock.			
Street-way	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	
On R. a T. R. to Cannock; on L. to Wolverhampton.			
Four Crosses Inn	1	9 $\frac{3}{4}$	
On L. a T. R. to Breewood.			
Spread Eagle	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	On R. at Stretton, Somersford, Honourable Edward Monckton.
On L. a T. R. to Wolverhampton; on R. to Penkridge.			
Ivetsey Bank	5	17 $\frac{1}{4}$	Two miles on R. is little Onn Hall, H. Crockett, esq.
On L. a T. R. to Wolverhampton.			
Weston under Lizard	2	19 $\frac{1}{4}$	Weston Park, Earl of Bradford. L.
On L. a T. R. to Oaken Gates.			
Parney Corner.	2	21 $\frac{1}{4}$	

ITINERARY OF THE
SOHO TO THE WERG,
THROUGH WOLVERHAMPTON.

Soho to			
New Inn	1	1	
Sandwell Green	1	2	<i>Sandwell Park, Earl of Dartmouth, R.</i>
Bromwich Heath	1	3	
<i>A mile beyond on</i>			
<i>L. a T. R. to Bilston ; on R. to</i>			
WEDNESBURY.	3	6	
<i>On R. a T. R. to</i>			
<i>Walsall.</i>			
<i>Cross the Birmingham canal.</i>			
Bilston	3	9	
<i>On R. a T. R. to</i>			
<i>Walsall</i>			
<i>Cross the Birmingham canal.</i>			
WOLVERHAMPTON.	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	11 $\frac{3}{4}$	<i>Inns—Lion, Swan.</i>
<i>On R. a T. R. to</i>			
<i>Stafford, on L. to</i>			
<i>Dudley.</i>			
New Bridge	2	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	
<i>Cross the canal.</i>			
Tettenhall	$\frac{1}{4}$	14	<i>F. Holyoke, esq. L.</i>
<i>On R. a T. R. to</i>			
<i>Ivetsey bank</i>			
The Werg	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	<i>A mile and a half beyond, on R. Wrottesley Hall, Sir John Wrottesley, bart.</i>

HANGING BRIDGE TO HOG BRIDGE.

THROUGH LEEK.

Hanging Bridge		
to		
<i>On L. a T. R. to</i>		
<i>Uttoxeter.</i>		
Red Lion	3	3

On R. a T. R. to Bakewell, on L. to Cheadle.			
Winkhill Bridge	$4\frac{1}{4}$	$7\frac{1}{4}$	
Bottom House	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$8\frac{3}{4}$	Between the Bottom House and Leek, Ashenhurst Hall, J. Leigh, esq. R.
On. R a T. R. to Buxton; on L. to Cheadle.			
LEEK	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$13\frac{3}{4}$	Ball Hay, Dr. Hulme, L.
On R. a T. R. to Bakewell; on L. to Cheadle.			
Poolend	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$14\frac{3}{4}$	
Rushton Marsh	$3\frac{1}{4}$	18	
On L. a T. R. to Congleton.			
Hog Bridge	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$19\frac{1}{4}$	
Cross the Dane river, and enter Cheshire.			

UTTOXETER TO BURSLEM,

THROUGH LANE DELPH.

UTTOXETER to On L. a T. R. to Abbot's Bromley Near Stramshall on R. to Ashborn.			
Stramshall	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	
Beamhurst	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$3\frac{1}{4}$	
Checkley	$2\frac{1}{4}$	$5\frac{1}{2}$	
Lower Team	1	$6\frac{1}{2}$	Heath House, John Phillets, esq. R.
Upper Team	$\frac{3}{4}$	$7\frac{1}{4}$	
On R. a T. R. to Cheadle			
Draycot	$1\frac{3}{4}$	9	
On L. a T. R. to Stafford			
Blithe Bridge	2	11	Carerswall Castle, a nunnery, R.
Cross the Blithe river.			
A little farther			

on R. a T. R. to Cheadle; on L. to Stone.			
Meer	1½	12½	Park Hall, — Parker, esq.
Lane End	1½	14	R.; and on L. Longton Hall, Sir John Heathcote, bart.
On L. a T. R. to Stone.			
LANE DELPH	1	15	
Cross the Trent and Mersey canal.			
— — —			Little Fenton, P. Broad, esq.
Stoke upon Trent	2¼	17¼	L. beyond Stoke, the Mount, J. Spode, esq. and Cliff Vil- la, J. Tomlinson, esq.
On L. a T. R. to Newcastle under Line.			
Cross the Caldron and Grand Trunk Canals.			
Vale Pleasant —	1¼	18½	
A little farther on L. a T. R. to Newcas- tle.			
Cowbridge, T. G.	¾	19¼	
Cowbridge Pottery	¾	19½	Etruria, the house and celebra- ted pottery of the late Josiah Wedgwood, esq. L.
Hot Lane	½	20	
On R. a T. R. to Leek			
BURSLEM	½	20½	

LONGNOR TO GREAT MADLEY,

THROUGH NEWCASTLE UNDER LINE.

Longnor to			
On R. a R. to Buxton; on L. to Cheadle.			
Harding's Booth	1¼	1½	
Division of the Road	2½	4	
On R. to Buxton: on L. to			
Upper Holme	2½	6½	
— — —			Hare Gate, Taft Chorley, esq.
LEEK	3½	10	R.; and Ball Hay, Dr. Hulme.
On L. a R. to			

<i>Cheadle; on R. to Macclesfield</i>			
Endon —	$4\frac{1}{4}$	$14\frac{1}{4}$	<i>At Endon, S. Debank, esq.</i>
Norton —	3	$17\frac{1}{4}$	<i>and two miles beyond, on R. Ford Green, — Ford, esq.</i>
BURSLEM	2	$19\frac{1}{4}$	<i>Etruria, Josiah Wedgwood, esq. L.</i>
- <i>Cross the Canal</i>			
Woolstan	$\frac{3}{4}$	20	
NEWCASTLE UN- DER LINE	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$21\frac{1}{4}$	<i>Basford Hall, Mathew Mare, esq. R. through, on L. Clough Hall, T. Kinnersley, esq. and farther, Keele Hall, Walter Sneyd, esq.</i>
On R. a R. to Congleton; on L. to Cheadle.			
Keele	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$23\frac{3}{4}$	
Little Madeley	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$25\frac{1}{2}$	
On R. a R. to Nantwich; on L. to Great Madeley			<i>On L. Madely Park, — Hal- maresk, esq.</i>

ASHLEY HEATH TO UPPER HOLME,

THROUGH LEEK.

Ashley Heath to On R. a R. to Ec- cleshall; on L. to Woore.			
Balding Gate	$4\frac{1}{4}$	$4\frac{1}{4}$	
On L. a R. to Woore; on R. to Stone.			
— — —			<i>Madeley Park, — Halmaresk, esq. L.</i>
Whitemore	$1\frac{3}{4}$	6	<i>Whitemore Hall, Edward</i>
Acton	1	7	<i>Mainwaring, esq. L.</i>
— — —			<i>Butterton Hall, Thomas Swin- nerton, esq. R. Keele Hall, W. Sneyd, esq. L. Trentham Park, Marquis of Stafford, R.</i>
NEWCASTLE UN- DER LINE	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$	
LEEK	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$11\frac{1}{2}$	
Upper Holme	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$14\frac{3}{4}$	

ITINERARY OF THE
HANGING BRIDGE TO STONE,
THROUGH CHEADLE.

Hanging Bridge to On L. a R. to Uttoxeter.			
Red Lion Forward to Leek; on L. to	3	3	Between the Red Lion and Blazing Star, on L. Colton Hall, — Burt, esq.
The Blazing Star Oakmoor	$3\frac{3}{4}$	$6\frac{3}{4}$	
Cross the Churnet river.	$1\frac{1}{4}$	8	Farley Hall, John Bill, esq. L.
— — —			Hales Hall, unoccupied. R.
CHEADLE On R. a R. to Leek; on L. to Uttoxeter.	$3\frac{1}{4}$	$11\frac{1}{4}$	
— — —			On R. at Dilkorn, Dilhorn Hall, Mrs. Holliday, and lady Buller.
Fosbrook Blithe Bridge	3	$14\frac{1}{4}$	Caverswall Castle, a nunnery.
Cross the Blithe river.	$\frac{1}{2}$	$14\frac{3}{4}$	
On L. a R. to Uttoxeter; on R. to Meer.			
Rough Chase	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$17\frac{1}{2}$	
Hobber Gate	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$19\frac{1}{4}$	
STONE	$2\frac{1}{4}$	$21\frac{1}{2}$	

UTTOXETER TO FORTON,
THROUGH STONE.

UTTOXETER to On R. a R. to Ashborn; on L. to Abbots Bromley.			
Bramshall	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	Loxley Hall, C. Kinnersley, esq. L.
The Blithe River	$2\frac{1}{4}$	$4\frac{3}{4}$	
Cross the Blithe river.			
— — —			Churtley Park, Earl Ferrers, L.
Coton	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$	

Milwich On L. a R. to Staf- ford.	$\frac{3}{4}$	$8\frac{1}{4}$	Hilderston Hall, Ralph Bourne, esq. R.
Division of the Road On R. to Hilder- ston; on L. to Staf- ford.	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$9\frac{3}{4}$	
Cross Hardwich Common to Hollywood Gate On L. a R. to Ruge- ley; on R. to Stoke	$\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{1}{4}$	
STONE On R. a R. to Cheadle.	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$11\frac{1}{2}$	On L. on the opposite bank of the Trent, Aston Hall, Rev. T. Grafton.
Cross the Trent river.	1	$12\frac{1}{2}$	
Walton On L. a R. to Staf- ford.	$\frac{1}{2}$	13	
— — —			The Palace of the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, R. Hilcot Hall, Mrs. Johnson.
ECCLESHALL On L. a R. to Staf- ford; on R. to Dray- ton.	$5\frac{1}{2}$	$18\frac{1}{2}$	
— — —			Johnson Hall, T. M. Crockett, esq.
Wooton About two miles farther on L. to Staf- ford.	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$19\frac{3}{4}$	
— — —			Leynton Hall, Rev. S. B. Hig- gins, R. Beyond, Aqualate Hall, Sir John Fletcher Fen- ton Boughey, Bart, L.
Sutton Forton Cross the Skrine river, and enter Shrop- shire.	$5\frac{1}{4}$	25	
	1	26	

STAFFORD TO FORTON,
THROUGH SUTTON.

STAFFORD to Great Bridgford Cross the Sow river	$3\frac{1}{4}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$
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On R. a R. to Ec-		
cleshall; on L. to		
Lawn Head	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	7
Division of the road	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
On R. a R. to Ec-		
cleshall; on L. to		
Sutton	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
Forton	1	12 $\frac{3}{4}$

WOOD-END TO DRAYCOT,
THROUGH LICHFIELD.

Wood End, T. G. to		
Shenstone	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Cross the river		
Bourne, and the Wol-		
verhampton Canal.		
LICHFIELD	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{3}{4}$
On R. a R. to		
Coleshill; on L. to		
Walsall.		
King's Bromley	5	9 $\frac{3}{4}$ Bromley Hall, J. Lane, esq.
Yoxall Bridge	1	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
Cross the Blithe		
river.		
Yoxall	1	11 $\frac{3}{4}$ Wichnor Park, T. Levett, esq.
Over Needwood Fo-		R.; Yoxall Lodge, Rev.
rest to		Thomas Gisborne.
Draycott	7	18 $\frac{3}{4}$

WOLVERHAMPTON TO TALK-ON-THE-HILL,
THROUGH PENKRIDGE.

Wolverhampton to		
Cross the Canal		
Gosbrook Mill	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ford Houses	2	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ L. Clutterbuck, esq. R.
Cross the Canal		
three times.		
Staniforth	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	6
Spread Eagle	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
On R. a R. to Co-		
ventry; on L. to Ivct-		
sey Bank.		

PENKRIDGE	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{1}{4}$	Inn—King's Arms.
<i>Cross the river Penk</i>			
Dunston	$2\frac{1}{4}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	
Rowley T. G.	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$15\frac{1}{4}$	Beyond, across the Penk, R. Teddesley Hall, E. J. Littleton, esq. Rowley House, Wm. Keen
<i>Near Stafford, on R. a R. to Lichfield; on L. to Newport</i>			
<i>Cross the Sow river</i>			
STAFFORD	1	$16\frac{1}{4}$	2 miles in the road to Eccleshall, Cresswell, Rev. Tho. Whitby.
<i>Through Stafford, on R. a R. to Sandon; on L. to Eccleshall.</i>			
Yarley	4	$20\frac{1}{4}$	
Walton	$2\frac{3}{4}$	23	
<i>Cross the Grand Trunk Canal, and the river Trent.</i>			
STONE	$\frac{1}{2}$	$23\frac{1}{2}$	
<i>On R. a R. to Cheadle.</i>			
<i>Cross the Grand Trunk Canal, and $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles farther cross the river Trent.</i>			
Darlaston	$1\frac{1}{2}$	25	Meaford Hall, E. J. Ricketts, esq. R.; Darlaston Hall, capt. Trelawney, L.
Talk-on-the-Hill	$12\frac{1}{4}$	$37\frac{1}{4}$	

WHITTINGTON TO THE WERG,

THROUGH WOLVERHAMPTON.

Whittington to			
Stewponey	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	
Prestwood	$\frac{1}{2}$	2	
— — —			Ashwood House, Edward Dixon, esq. R.
Seven Stars	3	5	
<i>On R. a R. to</i>			
<i>Stourbridge.</i>			
Himley	$\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{1}{2}$	Himley Hall, Viscount Dudley and Ward, R.
— — —			Lloyd House, Mrs. Marsh.
Upper Pen	$3\frac{1}{2}$	9	
WOLVERHAMPTON	2	11	

On R. a R. to Walsall, on L. to Bridgnorth.

Cross the Stafford and Worcester Canals.

Tattenhall

The Werg

2 $\frac{1}{4}$	13 $\frac{1}{4}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{3}{4}$

END OF THE ITINERARY.

LIST OF FAIRS IN STAFFORDSHIRE.

Abbots Bromley.—Tuesday before Midlent Sunday; May 22, September 4, for horses and horned cattle.

Barton Underwood.—May 3, for cattle and sheep; November 28; if Sunday, Saturday before, for cows.

Bentley.—July 31, and Whit-Wednesday.

Brewwood.—September 19, for horses and cattle.

Burslem.—March 22, June 28, and October 13, cattle and horses.

Burton-on-Trent.—February 5, April 5, for horned cattle and horses; Holy Thursday, for horned cattle; July 16, of no note; October 29, considerable, for horses and horned cattle.

Cannock.—May 8, horses and pedlary; October 18, for horses, cattle, and sheep.

Cheadle.—March 25, Holy Thursday, for horned cattle; August 21, October 18, for horses and horned cattle.

Eccleshall.—Thursday before Midlent-Thursday; Holy-Thursday, August 16; first Friday in November, for cattle, sheep, and saddle horses.

Fazeley, near Tamworth.—March 21, for cattle; Monday after October 10, for cattle and sheep; second Monday in February; last Monday in June, for wool, &c. and second Monday in December.

Hayward Heath.—November 17, pedlary and sheep.

Holy Cross.—Second Wednesday in April and September, cheese, linen-cloth, and cattle.

Leck.—Easter-Wednesday, May 18, Whit-Wednes-

- day, July 3, July 28; Wednesday after October 10, for cattle of all sorts, and pedlar's ware; Wednesday before Candlemas, old stile; November 18, cattle and pedlar's ware.
- Lichfield*—Ash-Wednesday, for cattle, sheep, bacon, cheese, and iron; May 12, for sheep and other cattle; first Tuesday in November, for geese and cheese.
- Longnor*.—Tuesday before Old Candlemas; Easter-Tuesday, May 4 and 17; Whit-Tuesday, for cattle and pedlary; August 5, for lambs, cattle, and pedlary; Tuesday before Old Michaelmas, cattle and pedlary; November 12, sheep, cattle, and pedlary.
- Newcastle*.—Shrove-Monday, Easter-Monday, Whit-Monday, Monday before July 15, Monday after September 11, November 6, for cattle.
- Pattingham*.—An annual meeting on the last Tuesday in April, for cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, &c.
- Penkridge*.—April 30, for cattle; first Monday in September, for saddle horses and colts.
- Rugeley*.—June 6, October 21, for horses, sheep, and cattle.
- Sandon*.—November 14.
- Stafford*.—Tuesday before Shrove-Tuesday; May 14, for horses and cattle; Saturday before St. Peter; June 29; July 10, wool; September 16, 17, and 18, for cattle and horses; October 2, for colts; December 4, for cattle and swine.
- Stone*.—Tuesday after Midlent, Shrove-Tuesday, Whit-Tuesday, May 29, August 5, for cattle.
- Tamworth*.—May 4, for cattle and sheep; July 26, for cattle and wool; October 24 for all sorts of cattle; first Monday in September, and Monday before St. Paul's day in January.
- Tean*.—April 10, November 12, for pedlary.
- Tutbury*.—February 14, August 15, December 1 some few horned cattle.
- Uttoxeter*—May 6, July 5, for horned cattle and sheep; September 1, November 27, for black colts and horned cattle.

Walsall.—February 24, Whit-Tuesday, for horses and horned cattle. Tuesday before New Michaelmas-day, for horses, cattle, cheese, and onions.

Wednesbury.—May 6, and August 4, for pedlary.

Wolverhampton.—July 10, all sorts of goods.

Yoxall, near *Abbot's Bromley*.—September 1.

LIST

OF

BANKERS IN STAFFORDSHIRE.

<i>Residence.</i>	<i>Name of the Firm.</i>	<i>Upon whom they draw in London.</i>
Burslem and Pottery	} John Wood & Co.	Fry and Chapman
Burton		Clay & Co.
Burton-upon-Trent	} Blurton and Co.	{ Smith, Payne, & Co.
Lichfield		
Newcastle-under-Line	} Sparrow & Co.	Glyn & Co.
Newcastle and Staffordshire		{ T. Kinnersley and Sons
Stafford	{ Stevenson, Webb, & Co.	} Stevenson & Salt
Stafford	{ Birch, Moore, and Yates	
Uttoxeter	Thomas Hart	Williams & Co.
Uttoxeter	James Bell	Jones, Lloyd, & Co.
Walsall	Barber & Co.	Spooner & Co.
Wednesbury	S. and W. Addison	Lubbock & Co.
Wolverhampton	Hordern & Co.	Sansom & Co.
Wolverhampton	{ Sir J. Wrottesley & Co.	} Hanburys & Co.

QUARTER SESSIONS.

The Quarter Sessions for the County of Stafford are holden at Stafford at the county Hall, as are also the Quarter Session. Quarter Sessions are likewise held at Lichfield which is a city and county of itself.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

OF THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD.

SITUATION, BOUNDARIES, AND EXTENT.

STAFFORDSHIRE is an inland county, situated near the centre of the kingdom. It is bounded on the north by Cheshire and Derbyshire; on the east by Leicestershire; on the west by Shropshire; and on the south, by Warwickshire and Worcester-shire.

The greatest length of Staffordshire, from the north part of Ax-Edge-Common, to the south part of Woods Eaves, south of the Severn, from north to south south-west, is sixty miles; and the greatest breadth from the junction of the Trent and Dove, near Newton Solney, to the west point of Terbey-heath, near Drayton, nearly from east to west, is thirty-eight miles. It contains 1220 square miles, and 780,000 statute acres.

CLIMATE AND SOIL.

The air of this county is sharp, and the cold perceptibly to the senses greater than in many other counties. The climate too may be termed inclining to wet; this in the northern parts of the county most probably arises from a ridge of mountainous land lying to the west, which attracts the clouds in passing. The annual rains are calculated, supposing them to stagnate without waste or evaporation, at upwards of 36 inches, an excess of nearly 16 inches above the computed rains in the metropolis. The quantity of snow which falls in the Moorlands, during winter, is very great, a circumstance which no doubt contributes much to the piercing coldness of that district. The aspect of the county is various. The north part rises gently in small hills, which, beginning here, runs through the heart of England, like the Appennines in Italy, in a continued ridge, rising gradually higher and higher into Scotland, under

different names: here called Moorlands, then Peak, then Black-stone-Edge, then Craven, then Stanmore; and then, parting into two horns, are called Cheviots. The Moorlands were till lately a rough dreary cold tract, the snow lying on it. The middle and south parts of the county are generally level, or with only gentle eminences: to this however there are some exceptions; as the limestone hills of Dudley and Sedgeley, which furnish an inexhaustible supply of that material, and great part of it is of excellent quality. The quartzose, or ragstone hills of Rowley, furnish an excellent material for roads and pavements. The hills of Clent and Barbeacon, besides many others of less elevation, as the high grounds on Cannock-heath, the hills of Bushbury and Essington, formed chiefly of or at least contain great quantities of gravel; Kinfare Edge, Tethen-hall-wood, and some situations near Enville, also command extensive prospects. The lowest points of land in the county are, probably, the Severn at Over Areley: and the Trent where it receives the Dove below Burton.

NAME AND ANCIENT HISTORY.

The name of this county is derived from its principal town, Stafford. The county was a part of the ancient Cornavii. Under the Saxon Heptarchy, it belonged to the kingdom of Mercia; and Bede, the historian, calls the inhabitants of Staffordshire *Angli Mediterranei*, or the Midland English, from the situation of the county.

Watling-street and Ikenild-street, two of the four military ways of the Romans in Britain, run through this county. Watling-street crosses the river Tame out of Warwickshire into Staffordshire, at Falkesley-bridge, near Tamworth, and running westward, passes into Shropshire near Brewood. Ikenild-street enters Staffordshire at Strecton, neat Tutbury, and, running south-west, crosses Watling-street, about a mile south of Lichfield, and passes into Warwickshire, at Handsworth, near Birmingham. Upon

these two ancient roads in this county considerable remains of Roman antiquities have been discovered.

POPULATION.

This, according to the census taken in 1821, consisted of 171,668 males, and 169,972 females, making a total of 341,040 persons.

The number of inhabited houses were returned 63,319.

RIVERS AND CANALS.

The principal rivers of this county are the Trent, the Dove, the Tame, and the Sow.

The Trent, esteemed the third river in England, prevades some of the most fertile districts in the kingdom, its proper rise being in the hills beyond Newcastle-under-Line in this country. Its course at first is nearly south-east, making a sudden turn by the east to the north, between Wolsley bridge, Burton, and Swarkeston, from whence it divides Leicestershire from Derbyshire, penetrating also through the centre of Nottinghamshire, in a north-east direction, which inclines gradually more and more to the north, with various windings as this river separates Nottinghamshire from Lincolnshire. At length, reaching the borders of Yorkshire, some miles above Gainsborough, it joins with the estuary of the Northern Ouse to form the Humber.

The river Trent is generally a full transparent stream, gliding in silver beauty between rich meadows, and through populous districts, but it no where (except when increased by floods) resembles the torrents of the north, whose origin is mountainous. Its early course, from the busy town of Newcastle, and the surrounding hills, covered with potteries, (among which Mr. Wedgwood established his Etruria), is graced by the highly-ornamented domain of Trentham, where art has judiciously s velled it into a lake, so as almost entirely to fill the level part of the park, beneath a high spreading hill, covered with oaks from its summit to the very margin of the water, and bounding the rich

lawn on which the stately mansion of the place is situated. Soon afterwards, the Trent meets the numerous canals which abound in the neighbouring districts, and frequently follow a course parallel with it, through the pleasant valley it forms, by Stone, to the charming spot where the little bridge of Wolsley crosses it beneath the spiral eminences of its wild park, connected with those of the adjoining chase of Cannock. Making it sweep to the north, the Trent forms a larger vale, intersected by Sir Nigel Gresley's grounds at Drakelow, to the old bridge at the extremity of the long town of Burton, and afterwards beneath the extensive plantations of Foremark, and the wooded park and terrace of Castle Donnington, to Cavendish and Sawley bridges. Having received the Blythe, the Tame, the Soar, the Dove, the Derwent, and the Erwash, most of which influence its changes of direction, the Trent becomes a very considerable river, as it advances through a range of flowery meadows, bounded by high tufted hills, and chequered with villages, to the spreading rock on which the opulent town of Nottingham presents its bold semicircle to the south. It flows afterwards through a rich vale, with the hills of the forest of Sherwood on the left; the Trent then divides itself into two channels, before it reaches the handsome town of Newark: one of these washes the walls of that place, the other passing by Kelham, at the end of a long connecting causeway, over which the north road is carried. A broad plain now extends itself round the Trent, abundant in population and villages, but gradually declining in beauty, as it becomes more level, in which the two branches unite, but the surrounding flat seldom allows the Trent to be distinguished. Vessels of some size, with the assistance of the tide, navigate it to Gainsborough, where it is crossed by a magnificent stone bridge, smaller craft having floated down its stream, from its early junction with the canals of this county. It then divides a range of fens, without any distin-

gushing feature, till it makes a bold junction with the Ouse of Yorkshire, combining to form the grand estuary of the Humber, and adding much thereto by its extensive trade and its large concourse of tributary waters.

The auxiliary streams which contribute to increase the Trent are numerous, and their characters differ much from each other.

The Dove is a river which approaches nearly in quality and appearance to those rivers of North and South Wales, which derive their sources from a mountainous origin of which it may properly be said to present a miniature. In the early part of its course it forms the beautifully romantic dell of Dove Dale, winding between almost perpendicular hills fringed with wood, and abounding in bold projecting rocks, which often turn the torrent from its course. The Dove, emerging from the hollows under the pyramidal mountain of Thorpe Cloud, soon receives the Manyfold, issuing from the subterraneous caves it forms in the garden of Ham.— Much increased by this accession, the river is crossed by a long picturesque bridge, in a most romantic spot, within a mile of the town of Ashbourn. After this the Dove forms a narrow valley, in its winding course adorned with some of the most pleasing points of rural and pastoral attraction, intermixed with various handsome seats and villages, in the course of which it is joined by the Charnet, from below Leek and the borders of Cheshire. This vale expands considerably at Uttoxeter, and from thence to Sudbury, where the river flows pleasantly between the wild wooded hills of Needwood forest.— A wider plain succeeds, distinguished by the bold hill on which the memorable ruin of Tutbury Castle displays itself with striking effect; beneath which the Dove flows, hastening to join the Trent near Burton, being first crossed by the Staffordshire Canal.

The Tame rises in two branches, not far from

Coleshill, in Warwickshire, flowing northward to its junction with the Trent, some miles above Burton ; its course is short, and it has nothing but the castle of Tamworth, on a steep rock above its town, to distinguish it. The city of Lichfield, with its rich Gothic cathedral, lies a few miles westward of the junction.

The Sow rises near Newcastle under Line, and running south-east, falls into the Trent a little below Stafford.

CANALS.

The Grand Trunk Navigation, uniting the ports of Bristol, Liverpool, and Hull, intersects a part of this county. Proceeding from the Mersey, it joins the Duke of Bridgewater's Canal, and passing by Preston Brook, it is carried near Northwich to Harecastle, where it runs for above a mile under ground. From Harecastle it is continued by Newcastle, Stone, Weston, and many other intermediate places, into the Trent at Wilden, in Derbyshire. The other part of this grand work proceeds from Haywood, at the confluence of the river Sow with the Trent, by Penkridge, Wolverhampton, &c. and passing near Stourbridge and Kidderminster falls into the Severn a little below Bewdley. From Great Haywood it is called the Wolverhampton Canal. The whole navigation is 139 miles and a half; and the fall of water is 1068 feet.

It is impossible to enumerate the advantages derived from the communication between the sea-ports and manufacturing towns. The natural productions of those countries through which this canal passes, as iron-stone, lead, copper, calamine, marble, limestone, &c. &c. many of which have lain undisturbed in consequence of the heavy expense of land carriage, now find their value to a degree far beyond all expectation. Not only the salt-works at Northwich, and the manufactures of Nottingham, Leicester, and Derby, must reap considerable benefit from this navigation; but corn, timber, wool, hides, and

all the various commodities both of import and export, find an easy and cheap conveyance. By this junction goods are also carried from near Northwich to Manchester, at a trifling expense, in ten hours, and the merchants of all that trading country have a water-carriage from their own doors, as it were, to three of the principal sea-ports in the kingdom; advantages hardly to be conceived, even from this important undertaking.

The Coventry and Oxford Canal is ninety-two miles in extent, and proceeds out of the Grand Trunk at Fradley Heath to Fazeley, where there is a cut to Birmingham, and the collieries in the neighbourhood of Wednesbury. From Fazeley it is carried to Atherstone, with eighty-seven feet rise, and passing by Coventry and Hill Morton on a level, is continued to Marston Doles, with a rise of seventy-six feet; whence it proceeds to Oxford, having, in the last thirty-six miles, a fall of one hundred and eighty feet. The length of the canal from Birmingham to Fazeley is fifteen miles, having an aqueduct across the river Tame, near Birmingham, and a fall of two hundred and forty-eight feet, to which there is a collateral cut to Digbeth in Birmingham. The length of the canal from the Grand Trunk at Stoke, near Newcastle, to Froghall and Caldon coal-pits, and lime-stone quarries, is nineteen miles, three furlongs, eighteen chains, with a rise of seventy-five feet in the first six miles and three quarters to Stanley Moss; and a fall of sixty feet ten inches the remainder of the way to the coal-pits and lime, quarries.

The Birmingham Canal begins at Birmingham, and proceeds to Winson Green and Smethwick, West Bromwich, Oldbury, over Puppy Green, by Church Lane, Tipton, and Bilston; the skirts of the town of Wolverhampton, by Gosbrook Mill, near Atherley into the Staffordshire Canal, which unites the Grand Trunk with the Severn; being a course of twenty-two miles, with a rise from Birmingham to Smeth-

wick of eighteen feet; from Smethwick to Wolverhampton is a level; and from thence to Autherley there is a fall of one hundred and fourteen feet in the short space of one mile and three quarters. Out of this canal, at West Bromwich, there is a cut or branch, which passes over Rider's Green to the collieries of Wednesbury; being four miles and three quarters with a fall of forty-six feet. And from thence to the Town of Walsall. A canal commences about a mile from the town of Dudley, near the engines which are next Netherton Hall, and proceeds across Knowle Brook, and along Dudley Wood side, through Urchill Coppice and Brierly-hill Coppice to Blackdelft; and taking a large circuit round Brierly-hill church, across Brittle Lane, between the fire-engine and Seaton's engine, falls into a canal on the left of Brockmore Green, which comes from the right from Bromley Fens and Pensnett Chace, where there is a large reservoir of water, for a head to the navigation, of near twelve acres. It thence proceeds almost in a straight line to Wordsley, across the high road from Stourbridge to Hampton, along Wordsley-field and across the river Stour, which runs up to Stourbridge, and runs on the left by Bell's Mill, through Affcot Meadows, into the Grand Trunk, at thirty-four miles from the Trent Navigation, and twelve miles from the Severn. At the elbow and confluence of the river Stour with the river Smestall, very near Stourton, a branch goes off to the left by Wordsley-field, along Addenham bank, by Woollaston, Holloway Head, round Sot's Hole, into the river Stour, at the extremity of the town of Stourbridge. The distances, &c. are as follow:

From the junction of the Wolverhampton Canal to that of the Dudley Canal, five miles, and the rise one hundred and ninety-one feet three inches; the branches to Stourbridge and to Pensnett reservoir, are two miles one furlong, and level; from the Wolverhampton Canal to the reservoir on Pensnett

Chase, the distance is six miles one furlong, and the rise is one hundred and ninety-one feet three inches; from Stourbridge to the branch of the reservoir, one mile and a quarter, and level.

The proprietors of this canal are empowered to make such new cuts as may be necessary for the uses of the colliers, &c.

Sir Nigel Gresley's Canal.—In the year 1775, an act was granted to enable Sir Nigel Gresley, Bart. and Nigel Bowyer Gresley, Esq. his son, to make a navigable canal from certain coal-mines in Apedale to Newcastle-under-Line, in this county. The proprietors have engaged to deliver coals from their coal-mines, at the town of Newcastle-under-Line, at the price of five shillings for each ton of twenty hundred weight, of six score pounds avoirdupois weight, for a term of twenty-one years; and for five shillings and sixpence per ton for a farther term of twenty-one years, after the expiration of the said first-mentioned term, and so in proportion for any greater or smaller quantity than a ton. And they have also obliged themselves to keep a stock at their wharf, at or near the said town of Newcastle, for sufficient consumption of the town and its inhabitants, under a penalty of forty pounds; and if any of the inhabitants want a less quantity than a ton, they are to be delivered to them at three-pence halfpenny per hundred weight of six score.

Wyrley and Essington Canal.—This canal commences at a place called Wyrley Bark, passes through the Old field, over Essington Wood and the Snead Commons, across the road from Wednesfield to Bloxwich; from thence, on the south side of Bloxwich, in a direct line to Birchill. From Snead Common the canal goes through Lane Head, near Perry Hall; from thence to Lapley Hayes, near the Moat House, to Wednesfield, by Wednesfield Heath; and there joins the Birmingham Canal. The branches are, one from near Wolverhampton to Stow Heath, another from the canal at Poole Hayes into Ashmore

Park, with another from Lapley Hayes into another part of Ashmore Park.

An act has been obtained for extending the canal so as to join the Coventry Canal at Huddlesford, near Lichfield, respecting which, in addition to the former account, we have to add, that from Birchill, near Walsall, the Extension Canal takes an east course, passing through Pelsall Wood, by Brown Hills, over Cannock Heath, on the south side of Lichfield, and joins the Coventry Canal, opposite Huddlesford. On the west side of Cannock Heath, a branch goes to the south by Walsall Wood to the lime-works at Hay Head. The total length of this canal and branches is thirty-four miles and a half, with two hundred and sixty-four feet fall from Cannock Heath to the Coventry Canal.

The Dudley Extension Canal.—This canal joins the Dudley Canal, near Netherton, and making a bend to the south-west, round the high ground, comes to Windmill End, and taking a course south-east, passes through Combes Wood, by Hales Owen, and at the foot of that enchanting spot the Leasowes; soon after which it enters a very long tunnel, and proceeds by Weoley Castle to Selley Oak, where it joins the canal from Birmingham to Worcester, making a course of ten miles and five furlongs, and all level. There is a short tunnel near Combes Wood, of seventeen chains; but the tunnel beyond Hales Owen is nearly two miles long. There are two collateral cuts from the canal at Windmill End, towards the town of Dudley, with a fall of sixty-four feet.

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

The roads in this county have been generally improved within the last half century by the introduction of toll gates, iron rail-ways, &c. The private roads remained the longest in a state of indifference. The bridges which have never been inferior to those of any other county, have been considerably increased by the recent introduction of iron, and the

proximity of the county to the mines in which it is produced.

RENT AND SIZE OF FARMS.

The farms of this county are of all sizes, from twenty acres to five hundred; though the consolidation of small farms has not been uncommon, a circumstance about the propriety of which opinions vary.—Rents, here, are generally paid in money: something like personal services are, however, kept up; for it is very common to bind the tenant to do one day's team work in the year for his landlord, and to keep him a dog.

LEASES AND TITHES.

Leases are often granted; those for twenty-one years have not been uncommon, and some for a shorter term exist. In most covenants, fallowing is considered as necessary. Meadow land is secured from the plough. Many gentlemen who have large estates round their seats, or in the neighbourhood, do not grant leases. As to Tithes, the largest proportion of the land remains chargeable with them, though a considerable portion of them have been alienated to the land-holders.

FARM HOUSES AND COTTAGES.

Those of the most ancient date, in this county, appear often to have been built merely by chance, without design or contrivance; whilst those of modern construction are, of course, more comfortable and convenient, being built with brick, and covered with tile or slate.—All the offices have been in like manner improved.

These remarks upon the farm-houses are equally applicable to the cottages. The interest of the community at large in providing cottages for the industrious poor, has been acknowledged by many of the landholders, &c. of this county, as well as several others; and among other results, promises the reduction of poor rates.

IMPLEMENTS AND CARRIAGES.

Those used for draught, are waggons and carts:—

for tillage, double and single ploughs, with and without wheels; drill-ploughs, harrows, and rollers. For other purposes, winnowing machines, straw engines, &c. The waggons are either with six inch wheels, or narrower; the former are drawn double by six horses; the latter by four or five.—The ploughs, harrows, &c. &c. vary according to the taste and ingenuity of the owners.

CATTLE.

The horned, are generally those of the long-horned breed, varying in value and quality, in proportion to the attention of the breeder, and his resources for keeping. Fine, large, and good cows, are to be found in the possession of many farmers, all over the county.—The Staffordshire Bull and Cow have deservedly enjoyed their celebrity. There are several distinct native breeds of sheep in the county, viz. the grey-faced, without horns, and the black-faced horned, with fine wool: the white-faced without horns, with long, or combing wool; the mixed common, or waste-land breeds; and the pasture sheep of different breeds and crosses.

The breed of hogs most esteemed here is not the large slouch-eared breed, but a cross between them and a smaller dwarf breed. Some have been fattened here from six hundred to eight hundred pounds weight exclusive of the entrails.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

A considerable period elapsed before there were any of these in the county; but about 1804, two were formed, the one at Newcastle, including the Pottery; and the other at Lichfield. These have been patronized and supported by the principal landed gentlemen and farmers in their respective neighbourhoods.—Many premiums have been adjudged, from time to time, to various individuals, as well by the Newcastle and Pottery Society, as by the Lichfield and Shiffnal Society.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Those of this county differ from the regular mea-

sure, and from each other: the custom of Wolverhampton market, is 18 ounces to the pound of butter; 120lb. to the hundred of cheese; nine gallons and a half to the bushel of barley, oats, beans, and pease; and 72lb. to the bushel of wheat. Malt has been generally sold through the County by the Winchester bushel of eight gallons; and wheat flour by the stone of 14lb., a practice which has its abettors and its opponents.

WASTES.

Cannock-heath is the most extensive in the county, being estimated at about 40 square miles, or upwards of 25,000 acres. Sutton Coldfield is also a very extensive waste, of little use excepting for sheep walks, or for rabbit warrens; this contains about 6500 acres. The additional waste land between Lichfield and Birmingham, including Bromwich-heath, Aldridge Common, Walsall wood, Whittington heath, and Weeford hills, is of considerable extent. The other principal wastes in the county are those of Swindon, Wombourn, and near Stewponey, in the south: Morredge, Wetley-moor, Stanton-moor, Hollington-heath, Caverswell common, in the north. In other parts of the county are Calf-heath, Essington wood, Snead Common, Wyrley and Pelsal Commons; Tirley, Ashley, and Maer-heaths: Swinnerton, Tittensor, and Shelton-heaths; Houlton, Milwich, Hardwick, and Fradswell Commons. There is also King's Bromley common, and another adjoining Fradley and Alrewas.

Needwood forest has been enclosed, as have also a part of Sutton Coldfield, and several others, which have reduced the waste lands in the county to about 70,000 acres.

Needwood forest was a most interesting spot, containing nearly 10,000 acres of the finest soils in a state of nature, wild and romantic, were beautiful in the eye of the fox hunter and the sportsman. Here the warblers of the wood chanted forth their mellifluous notes, and herds of deer ranged at will

over the plain, or through the thicket. The fox and the badger burrowed on the declivity of the deep glen, the rabbit on the sandy hill, and the hare hid itself in the thicket. The snipe, the woodcock, the pheasant, and the partridge abounded. The natural disposition of this extensive forest comprehended a great and beautiful variety of aspect; gradual eminences and easy vales, with meandering hills, and now and then a bolder and more abrupt swell, form the general feature. In the northern part, particularly within Marchington wood-lands, the aspect is bolder. Here the forest is composed of deep glens, surrounded by abrupt precipices; and on a level with their summit is a broad upland surface.

Cannock chase, or Cannock wood, near the ancient village of Cannock, was doubtless a celebrated forest during the Saxon reigns, and the favourite chase of the Mercian Kings. It was then, and for many succeeding centuries, covered with a profusion of oaks. Several centuries, however, have passed away since it was wholly stripped of its foliage, and converted into a bleak and dreary waste. This sad change is well described by Drayton in his *Polyolbion*; but much more beautifully by Mr. Masters, in his *Iter Boreale* of 1675. This poetical effusion has been thus translated by the Rev. Richard Williams, of Fron, Flintshire.

A vast a naked plain, confines the view,
 Where trees unnumbered in past ages grew;
 The green retreat of wood nymphs once the boast,
 The pride the guardians of their native coast.
 Alas how changed! each venerable oak
 Long once has yielded to the woodman's stroke;
 Where'er the cheerless prospect meets the eye,
 No shrub, no plant except the heath is nigh;
 The solitary heath alone is there,
 And wafts its sweetness on the desert air,
 So sweet its scent, so bright its purple hue,
 We half forget that here a forest grew.

The Mines of this county are valuable and extensive, and in some articles may fairly be pronounced inexhaustible. The coal land of Staffordshire, which has been proved such, and where the existence of that mineral, near enough the surface to be easily raised, has been ascertained, contains a space of about 50,000 acres; of this space the quantity exhausted by consumption, from the earliest times, to the present day, does not exceed a tenth of the whole. In the south of the county, the coal country extends in length from Cannock-heath (including a part of that waste) to near Stourbridge, and in breadth from Wolverhampton to Walsall. In the north of the county, the neighbourhood of Newcastle, and the Potteries, Lane-end, Hollybush, and again in the neighbourhood of Cheadle and Dilhorne. The country producing limestone is still more extensive; at Sedgeley, and Dudley Castle Hills, Rushall and Hayhead, but above all, on the north-east moorlands and banks of the upper parts of the Dove, where the greatest consumption or length of time could scarce apparently lessen the immense quantity. In this latter district are some veins of alabaster, which is also dug between Needwood Forest and Tutbury. Of free-stone here are very good and extensive quarries. Bilston affords a free-stone of very fine grit, fit either for mouldings, buildings, or grindstones of the finer sort, for which last purpose it is excellently adapted. Gornal, near Sedgeley, has also plentiful quarries of a coarser and cheaper freestone, used for the same purposes as that of Bilston. Tixall produces an excellent and durable building freestone, which is easily raised in blocks of almost any dimension; and the same article is again found at Wrottesley, Breewood-park, Pendeford, and a great many other places in the county.

The strata of iron ore in the neighbourhood of Wednesbury, Tipton, Bilston, part of the parish of Sedge-

ley, and other parts of the coal country, are very extensive. These strata generally lay under a stratum of coal, and have occasioned some very considerable iron-works to be lately established on the banks of the Birmingham Canal, where the iron trade is very much increasing; and it is to be hoped that the capital spirit of enterprise, and exertion of our iron-masters, will in time produce this necessary article in sufficient quantity to preclude the necessity of an importation from abroad; or at least to lessen the quantity of such importation, the balance of trade in which is very much against this country.

In these mines of coal, lime, and iron, and in the founderies, blast-furnaces, slitting-mills, and other branches of the iron trade, great numbers of workmen are employed, and the extension of the iron trade in particular is of great consequence to the interests of this kingdom. The extent of the iron trade, in all its varieties, wrought and unwrought, for agricultural and other internal purposes, and for home consumption and exportation, under its innumerable shapes and forms, is now so very great, as to rival even that of the great staple, wool, and to make the superiority of the latter somewhat questionable; and from the abundance of iron ore and fuel, with which this country abounds, the trade, particularly so far as relates to the production of the metal, is capable of being much extended; and there can be little doubt of the possibility that this country may wholly supply itself with that article.

The other minerals of the county, are principally those of copper and lead, of both which considerable quantities are raised at Ecton, near Warslow, upon the estate of the Duke of Devonshire. A copper mine has been also worked at Mixon, within a few miles of Leek, and a lead mine near Stanton moor: and there are several smelting and brass works in this part of the county, particularly at Whiston, Oak-moor, and in the neighbourhood of Cheadle; and

at Shirleywich, near Ingestre, is a considerable salt-work.

MANUFACTURES, &c.

These consist of hardware, glass, toys, japanned goods, potters' ware, cotton, silk, leather, woollen, linen; the making of brass from copper by lapis calaminaris, the dipping of iron plates to make what is called tin. The hardware manufacture is carried on to a great extent; and Wolverhampton and its neighbourhood produce locks of every kind, and of the best quality. The steel toys, watch-chains, edge tools, files, augers, and japanned goods of this town are unrivalled in their quality. Saddlers' iron-wares are manufactured in great quantities at Walsall. The nail making is also considerable, particularly at Sedgeley, Rowley, West Bromwich, Smethwick, Relsal, the Foreign of Walsall, and many other places. Plated, lackered, japanned, and even enamelled goods, are made at Bilston. Muskets are made at Wednesbury. Tobacco and snuff boxes of iron and steel, finished in various ways, are got up at Darlaston, Willenhall, &c. Shoes, boots, and cutlery, both for home and foreign consumption, and the tanning, and other different branches of the leather trade, and also the manufacture of hats, are carried on upon a very large scale at Stafford and other towns. Leek does a great deal of business in the silk and mohair way; the manufactured goods from which are sewing silks, twist-buttons, silk ribbons, silk ferrets, shawls, and handkerchiefs.

At some cotton mills near Leek, *west* is spun for the Manchester market. Much tape is manufactured at Cheadle: cotton is spun in large quantities at Rocceter, Fazeley, and Tamworth; as also at Burton and Tutbury; excepting hardware, the pottery manufacture is most celebrated in this county, principally in the north. Hence the name of Wedgwood has been celebrated throughout Europe. The potteries consist of a number of scattered vil-

lages, occupying an extent of ten miles, and may consist of 22,000 inhabitants. The late wars have had a lamentable effect on this trade.

EMINENT CHARACTERS, LEARNED MEN, &c.

REGINALD POLE, a celebrated character in the English history during the reformation, was descended from the blood-royal of England, being the son of Richard Pole, lord Montague, and was born at Stourton Castle, in this county, in the year 1500.—His parents designed him for the church, not doubting but that his powerful connexions would soon advance him to the highest ecclesiastical dignities. He was instructed in grammar learning by a private tutor, and sent to Magdalen College, Oxford. During his stay at the University, in order to support his dignity, Henry the VIII. his near kinsman, gave him several benefices to hold in commendam, long before he obtained orders. Having made great progress in learning at home, he was sent abroad to finish his studies, in the most reputable universities, both in France and Italy. In the year 1525 he returned to England, improved in all the learning that could at that time be had in the schools. The king received him with great marks of friendship; but soon after, having seen the lady Anne Boleyn, the divorce was thought on, which Pole opposed with such strength of argument, as incensed the king against him, so that he was obliged to seek shelter in Italy.

A divorce being obtained, and the papal supremacy abjured, Pole wrote a book called *De Unitate Ecclesiastica*: this book was dispersed all over Europe, and the king having summoned a parliament, an act of attainder was passed against Pole; he was also stript of all his livings; but the court of Rome made up his loss, by promoting him to some benefices in Italy, and raised him to the dignity of a cardinal. He was twice elected pope, but declined that honour from a truly commendable delicacy, because he thought that the first election was too hasty, and the second done in the night.

The attainder against him being repealed in the reign of Queen Mary, his arrival in England was very solemn, and the first act he performed was to absolve the kingdom from the papal interdict. He was advanced to the archbishopric of Canterbury; but so great were his scruples, that he would not enter upon that office till he heard that the venerable Cranmer was no more.

The Almighty, who shortened the life of the Queen, did not suffer the cardinal to remain but a few hours after her, for he died on the same day, November 17, 1558, and was buried in the cathedral church of Canterbury.

ELIAS ASHMOLE, a celebrated English philosopher and antiquary, and founder of the Ashmolean museum at Oxford, was born at Lichfield in this county, on the 23d of May, 1617. His mother's sister being married to James Paget, Esq. puisne baron of the Exchequer, he was taken, at the age of sixteen, into the baron's family, and in the year 1634 he lost his father. He continued for some years after in his dependence on the Paget family, during which time he made considerable progress in the law. In the year 1638 he married Eleanor, daughter of Mr. Peter Mainwaring, of Smallwood, in the county of Chester, and in Michaelmas term in the same year, he became a solicitor in chancery; in February, 1641, he was sworn an attorney in the court of Common Pleas; and the same year his wife died suddenly.

The troubles coming on, he, being a zealous loyalist, retired from London, and, in the year 1645, became one of the gentlemen of the ordnance in the garrison at Oxford; from whence he removed to Worcester, where he was commissioner, receiver, and register of the excise: he was soon after captain in Lord Ashley's regiment, and comptroller of the ordnance.

In the midst of all this business, he was far from

neglecting his studies; having entered himself in Brazen-nose College, Oxford, he applied himself closely to the sciences. In the year 1646, he was elected into the society of Free and Accepted Masons, which he looked upon as a very distinguished honour, and has therefore given us a very illustrious character of the lodge established at Warrington, in Lancashire.

Mr. Ashmole (the King's affairs being now grown desperate) after the surrender of the garrison of Worcester, withdrew into Cheshire, from whence he came to London, and became acquainted with Mr. afterwards Sir Jonas Moore, William Lilly, and John Booker, who were esteemed by some as very great philosophers, by whom he was caressed, and received into their fraternity. In the year 1647, he retired to Englefield, in Berkshire, where, he remarks, he enjoyed in privacy the sweetest moments of his life.

On the 16th of November, 1649, he married lady Manwaring, widow of Sir Thomas Manwaring, recorder of Reading, and one of the masters in Chancery; and, settling in London, his house became the receptacle of the most remarkable and ingenious men that flourished at that time. He applied himself with the utmost assiduity to the study of chemistry; and, in 1652, he published his *Theatrum chemicum Britannicum*. In 1658, he applied himself to the collecting of materials for his History of the Order of the Garter.

Upon the restoration of King Charles II. he was introduced, and graciously received by the King, who bestowed upon him the place of Windsor Herald; and the same year he was made a commissioner of excise. In 1661 he was admitted a fellow of the Royal Society; and in February following the King signed a warrant for constituting him secretary for Surinam, in the West Indies. On the 27th of June the White office was opened, of which he was appointed commissioner. In June, 1668, he was ap-

pointed accomptant-general, and country-accomptant, in the excise; and in the same year, his wife dying, he married the daughter of his friend Sir William Dugdale, garter king at arms. On the eighth of May, 1672, he presented his laborious work on the Most Noble order of the Garter, to king Charles II. who, as a mark of his approbation, granted him a privy-seal for 400*l.* out of the custom of paper. In 1675 he resigned his office of Windsor Herald, which was bestowed on his brother Dugdale. In 1677, Sir. Edward Walker, garter king at arms, dying, a controversy arose between the King and the Duke of Norfolk, as earl marshal, about the right of disposing of his place; on which Mr. Ashmole was consulted, who declared in favour of the King. He afterwards refused this office, when it was conferred on his father-in-law, Sir William Dugdale.

In January, 1679, a fire broke out in the Middle-Temple, next to his chambers, by which he lost a noble library, with a collection of 9000 coins, ancient and modern, and a vast repository of seals, charters, and other antiquities and curiosities; but his manuscripts, and his most valuable gold medals, were fortunately at his house at South Lambeth.

In the year 1683, the University of Oxford having finished a magnificent repository, near the Theatre, Mr. Ashmole sent thither his curious collection of rarities; and this benefaction was considerably augmented by the addition of his manuscripts and library at his death, which happened at South Lambeth, on the 18th of May, 1692. He was interred in the church of Great Lambeth, in Surry, on the 26th of May, 1692.

THOMAS ALLEN was born at Uttoxeter, in this county, in the year 1542. His parents sent him to a grammar-school at Litchfield, and from thence to Trinity college, Oxford, where he became one of the greatest mathematicians in his time. This gentleman, for some time, met the fate of the great Ro-

ger Bacon, for having made great progress in the study of geometry, and invented some new instruments, the people, who saw their operations, without knowing their powers, concluded that he was a conjurer. Nay, they even went so far in their ridiculous stories, as to believe that the Earl of Leicester made use of him to convey dispatches through the air to the generals of the army in the Low Countries.

He entered into holy orders, and was offered a bishopric, but nothing could divert him from his studies; so that he chose to remain in his college, till his death, which happened in the month of September, 1632, at the great age of ninety. In the Bodleian library is a curious collection of his instruments and manuscripts.

SAMUEL JOHNSON, A. M. was born in this county, in the year 1649; but his parents having removed to London, he was instructed in grammar learning at St. Paul's school, and finished his studies in Trinity college, Cambridge. Whilst young, he entered into holy orders, and was presented to a living in Essex; after which he became chaplain to the unfortunate lord Russell, who employed him to write a defence of the Exclusion Bill. Upon that occasion, Johnson wrote his life of Julian, which was considered as levelled at the Duke of York. It is not surprising, that pieces wrote with such spirit of freedom, should be very galling to such courtiers as stood condemned by their own conscience; but, as is usual on these occasions, they did not seek to confute the author, but ordered the attorney-general to file an information against him in the court of King's-bench.

A jury was packed, and, under the sacred colour of law, Mr. Johnson was condemned to pay a fine of 500 marks, and lie in prison till it should be discharged; he was not, however, left destitute of friends; for having procured his liberty, he continued to preach with great fervency; and when the king (James II.) encamped his forces on Hounslow-

Heath, Mr. Johnson wrote a treatise, addressed to the army, cautioning the soldiers not to bear arms against the interests of their country. This provoked the king to such a degree, that he was resolved to wreak all his vengeance upon him. He was condemned to stand three times in the pillory, to pay a fine of five hundred marks, and to be whipped from Newgate to Tyburn; all which was executed on him, with circumstances of barbarity too shocking to be repeated, and which were a disgrace to human nature. The same undaunted courage which had formerly supported him did not forsake him on this melancholy occasion; he submitted to his sufferings with a cheerfulness that would have done honour to one of the primitive martyrs; and when the revolution took place, he had a pension settled on him of three hundred pounds a year, for three lives, besides a present of one thousand pounds in money.

He afterwards wrote in defence of the new government with so much strength of argument that a plot was formed to assassinate him; it, however, failed, for we find that he died a natural death, in the year 1703.

WILLIAM WOOLASTON was born in this county, in the year 1659, and received his education at the free-school at Lichfield, from whence he was sent to Sydney college, in Oxford, where he finished his studies. He was descended from a good family, though greatly reduced, so that he was obliged to leave the university under peculiar circumstances of poverty, and became usher to the free grammar school at Birmingham; about which time, being in deacon's orders, he procured a small living, a few miles distant, where he performed divine service every Sunday; and soon after was appointed second master of the school, which obliged him to relinquish his living. As a schoolmaster, he behaved with great prudence, and having a distant relation possessed of a great fortune in Leicestershire, that gen-

tleman appointed him his sole heir; after which he came up to London, married and settled in Charterhouse Square, where he lived till the year 1724, when he died, and was buried at one of his estates in Suffolk.

He was a great philosopher, and his celebrated book, entitled, "The Religion of Nature Delineated," is one of the best works in confutation of speculative atheism. His arguments are convincing, even upon mathematical principles; his reasoning carries conviction along with it; the language is nervous, and the sentiments of virtue that run through every page, give the most endearing idea of the worthy and learned author.

GEORGE SMALLBRIDGE, D. D. was born in the city of Lichfield, in the year 1663, and was sent to Westminster School while very young, where he acquired a perfect knowledge of Latin and Greek; and from thence he was removed to Christ's Church, Oxford, where he finished his studies, and took his highest degrees. He distinguished himself while at the University for his fine taste in the classic authors, and his strenuous defence of the Protestant religion.

His first preferment in the ecclesiastical character, was to preach in a chapel near Tothill-fields, Westminster: but he was soon after appointed one of the prebends of Lichfield. In that station he continued to enjoy some other church livings, till he was promoted to the bishopric of Bristol, and made almoner to her majesty, Queen Anne. At the peace of Utrecht, he became a stickler for the measures of government: but his unaccountable conduct, in refusing to sign a declaration against the rebellion, that broke out in the year 1715, incensed George I. so much, that he turned him out of the place of almoner. He was, notwithstanding these mistaken notions, a man of great piety, and the princess, afterwards Queen Caroline, had such great respect for him, that upon his death, which happened in the

year 1719, she procured a pension of 300*l.* a year for his widow, and a living of considerable value for his son. His sermons are contained in a folio volume.

ELIJAH FENTON, a pleasing, but not popular poet, was born in the year 1682, at Newcastle-under-Line, in this county, and received the first rudiments of his education at a private school, from whence he was sent to finish his studies in Jesus college, Cambridge, where he acquired a perfect knowledge of all the beauties of the Latin and Greek classic authors.

In the beginning of the reign of Queen Anne, he went as secretary to the Earl of Orrery, into Flanders, and upon his return to England, was appointed head master of the free grammar-school, at Seven Oaks, in Kent, an employment too laborious for his weak constitution, which obliged him to resign it at the earnest solicitations of his noble friend, the lord Bolingbroke. It seems that his lordship had promised to provide for Fenton; but, like most ministers, forgot his promise.

Fenton, being thus deceived by court promises, had reduced himself to great poverty, which obliged him to publish a volume of poems, by subscription, the profits of which supported him, till he was taken into the family of Secretary Craggs, who had been much neglected in his education, and Mr. Fenton was employed to instruct him. He was now in the high road to preferment; but his amiable patron having been taken off by the small pox, poor Fenton was left in the same deplorable circumstances as before. He had no reserve now left, but from his poetical abilities; he therefore wrote a play called *Mariamne*, which was acted with great applause. With the profits arising from this play, he paid his debts, and lady Trumball having taken him into her family, as a tutor to her son, he remained in that situation till his death, which happened in the year 1730. He published the poetical works of Milton

and Waller: and the following epitaph, written on him by Mr. Pope, by whom he was much esteemed, fully displays his character:

“This modest stone, what few vain marbles can,
 May truly say, here lies an honest man.
 A poet, bless'd beyond a poet's fate,
 Whom Heav'n kept sacred from the proud and
 great;
 Foe to loud praise, and friend to learned ease,
 Content with science in the vale of peace,
 Calmly he look'd on either life, and here
 Saw nothing to regret, or there to fear:
 From Nature's temperate feast rose satisfied,
 'Thank'd Heav'n that he had liv'd and that he died.’”

WILLIAM VERNON was born at Wolverhampton, but in what year is uncertain. He received only a common education, and was put apprentice to a buckle-maker in that town; but his genius rose superior to a mechanical employment; he thought proper to frisk under the shades of Pindus, and to quit the sooty caves of Vulcan, for the exalted mountain of Parnassus. Being greatly blamed by his relations, who looked upon it for certain that a liberal mind must wear an unlined pocket, he satirized the notion in an epistle to a friend.

He continued to write, and published many pleasing pieces in the Gentleman's Magazines, but seemed, upon all occasions, to lament his want of a regular education. Of this he gives a particular instance in the following lines to a neighbour's daughter, of whom he became enamoured:

“An humble youth, to vulgar labours bred,
 Unskill'd in verse, in classic books unread,
 In rural shades his artless numbers tries,
 And on a rural theme his muse employs;
 Nor fit for nobler tasks; but if thro' time,
 Her note refines, and rises more sublime,
 Thou, dear Lucinda, shalt my lays engage,
 And charm, as now, in all succeeding age.”

His relations, however, from their continued en-

deavours to persuade him to return to his mechanical employment, rendered his life very miserable, till what they called prudent advice, became perplexing persecution, and they forced him into the very evils they seemed to caution him against: for the upbraidings of such as called themselves his friends became at length so irksome, that he quitted the place, and sought refuge in the army, from those who were allied to him by blood. He entered as a private soldier into the buff regiment, and while stationed in the Isle of Wight, previous to an expedition to the coast of France, contracted an intimacy with Mr. Sharp, jun. of that place. This gentleman, since known in the political world, did him many favours, which awakening in his breast a most sensible degree of gratitude, when the troops were ordered to embark he wrote a most beautiful poem on a drum-head, as a farewell to his friends.

After various actions on the French coast, when the troops returned to England, he was solicitous of obtaining a discharge, and at length succeeded by means of Lord Townsend, to whom he addressed an ode imitated from Horace, in which he thus complimented the master-general of the ordnance :

Whene'er your country calls to war,
 You draw the sword devoid of care,
 Intrepid, yet serene ;
 Not vainly rais'd amidst success,
 Nor meanly drooping with distress
 You keep the golden mean.

He afterwards obtained the friendship of the late Christopher Smart, by whose recommendation he became corrector of the press, at a large printing office, which place he enjoyed some years with great reputation, and then retired into his own country, where he died.

DR. SAMUEL JOHNSON was born at Lichfield, in the year 1709, where his father was a reputable bookseller. He was entered at Pembroke College, Oxford, on the 31st of October, 1728, but left the

University, without taking any degree. In March, 1737, he came to London, where he appears to have met with disappointments, which disgusted him with the town; for in August, we find him desirous of returning again into his native country, to take upon himself the office of master of a charity school in Shropshire, then vacant, the salary of which was sixty pounds a year. But the statutes of the school requiring the person who should be elected to be a master of arts, this attempt seems to have been frustrated.

In the year 1740, he began to write the "Debates in the Senate of Lilliput," printed in the Gentleman's Magazine; and after producing some poems, translations, and biographical works, which met with a good reception (particularly, "London," the "Vanity of Human Wishes," and "The Life of Savage") he brought forth "Irene," a tragedy, in 1749. This not meeting with the success he expected, he set about his "Dictionary:" the execution of this plan cost him the labour of many years; but he was amply repaid by the fame he acquired. During the recess of this stupendous labour, he published his "Rambles." The reputation of these works gained him the honorary degree of doctor of laws, in the University of Dublin, which was soon after followed by the same degree from Oxford. To this succeeded his "Idlers." His next publication was that of the "Prince of Abyssinia," a beautiful little novel, in the eastern style, abounding with the most useful and moral maxims, suited to the several conditions of life.

Of his political works, which followed at distant intervals, the public are more divided about the merits; it is, however, but fair to presume, that they were his candid opinions upon the subjects, and as such deserving of no censure from the judgment of impartiality. His last undertaking, "The Lives of the British Poets," would alone have been sufficient to immortalize his name, among his countrymen, as

it by far excels any thing executed upon a similar plan by foreigners; and though the critical remarks in a few instances incorporate a little too much with political opinions, their general excellence must always give them a deserved celebrity.

It is said that Dr. Johnson was executing a second part of "The Prince of Abyssinia," and that he was in hopes to have finished it before his death, which event happened on the 13th of December, 1784.

The editor of the "Biographia Dramatica" after bestowing many just encomiums on the genius of Dr. Johnson says, "it would be the highest injustice were I not to observe, that nothing but that genius can possibly exceed the extent of his erudition; and it would be adding a greater injury to his still more valuable qualities, were we to stop here; since, together with the ablest head, he seems possessed of the very best heart at present existing. Every line, every sentiment that issues from his pen, tends to the great centre of all his views, the promotion of virtue, religion, and humanity; nor are his actions less pointed toward the same great end. Benvolence, charity, and piety, are the most striking features of his character; and while his writings point out to us what a good man ought to be, his own conduct sets us an example of what he is."

A statue to Dr. Johnson's memory is erected in St. Paul's Cathedral.

DAVID GARRICK. Lichfield was honoured with the long residence of David Garrick, the early friend and companion of the celebrated Dr. Samuel Johnson. That immortal and inimitable actor, whose ability to represent was only equalled by the genius of Shakspeare to create, all the variable characters of the drama, and who also possessed no inconsiderable portion of poetic excellence, was born on the 20th February, 1716, in the city of Hereford; where his father, Captain Peter Garrick, who usually resided at Lichfield, happened then to be with a recruiting party.

He was early admired as a most sprightly entertaining boy; engaging the attention of all who knew him, by his singular questions, smart repartees, and frolicsome actions. At the age of about ten years, he was sent to Lichfield grammar school; where, though remarkable for declining puerile diversions, he did not apply himself with any assiduity to his books. His passion for theatrical representation, in the mean time, soon discovered itself; for, before he had reached his twelfth year, he contrived to get up the Recruiting Officer, and performed the part of Serjeant Kite with astonishing spirit and vivacity. Not long after, he went to his uncle, a wine merchant at Lisbon; where the English merchant with whom he often dined, usually placed him on the table, after dinner, to recite speeches from plays. On his return from Portugal, being intended for the bar, he again went to Lichfield school; and in 1736, became a pupil of the celebrated Dr. Johnson, who was little more inclined to teaching than Garrick to be taught. When some exercise or theme was expected to be finished, he produced several scenes of a new comedy which had occupied his attention: being as he said his third attempt at dramatic poetry; and Johnson himself having wrote the Tragedy of Irene, both of them, finally, the pupil perhaps, in this instance becoming the preceptor, agreed to visit the metropolis.

It was not however till the summer of 1741 that Garrick, having lost both his parents, hitherto restrained by nothing but tenderness for so dear a relation as a mother," resolved fairly to try his fortune, under the name of Lydshall, on the Ipswich stage.

Such and so rapid was his celebrity, that on the 19th October, in the same year, he appeared before a London audience, at the Theatre in Goodman's-fields, when his wonderful excellence made such an impression on the public, that the carriages of the nobility and gentry are said to have often filled up the space from Temple bar to Whitechapel. In 1742,

he was engaged by Mr. Fleetwood, patentee of Drury lane Theatre; from whom, in 1747, he and Mr. Lacy purchased the patent of that Theatre, which opened with Dr. Johnson's famous prologue written for that occasion. About two years after he married Mademoiselle Valetti, with whom, from 1763 to 1765, he travelled in France and Italy. In 1769, he conducted the memorable Shakspeare Jubilee at Stratford-upon-Avon; but Mr. Lacy dying, he disposed of his share of the patent, in 1776, to Mr. Sheridan, Mr. Linley, and Dr. Ford, and, after gratifying his admirers, by appearing in many favourite characters, took a most affectionate and affecting leave of the public.

To enumerate the talents of Mr. Garrick would require a volume. He was, to speak generally, the most chaste actor, both in tragedy and comedy, that ever trod the stage; and there are no less than 37 dramatic pieces, most of them the stock list, which he either wrote, translated, or judiciously altered, and adapted to the taste of modern times. For assistance of the latter description, even Shakspeare himself stands indebted to him. Mr. Garrick died the 20th of January, 1779, and his funeral was attended by many of the nobility, and persons of distinguished talents. who saw his remains deposited in Westminster Abbey beneath the monument of his adored Shakspeare: an honour which no person ever better merited.

DR. DARWIN. This eccentric poet and physician, though born at Elton, in Nottinghamshire, had adopted Staffordshire as his county. He was of St. John's College, Cambridge, and continued there till he took his Bachelor's degree in medicine. Having obtained that of doctor, he began his practice at Lichfield. Here he married Miss Howard, the daughter of a respectable inhabitant; by this lady he had three sons, who lived to the age of manhood. In 1781, having married a second wife, he removed to Derby, where he continued to reside till the period of his death, in 1802, in the seventieth year of his age. His second lady, with six children, were left to lament his loss.

To his greatest praise one of his biographers observes, "The Doctor was not famous for holding religious subjects in veneration; but, however sceptical he might have been in his belief, he exhibited in his conduct, what is more beneficial to the world, than the tenacious adherence to any speculative opinions—firm integrity and a benevolent heart." Professional generosity distinguished his medical practice. Diligently did he attend the health of the poor at Lichfield and Derby, supplied their necessities by food and every kind of charitable assistance. In each of these places his was the cheerful board of almost open-housed hospitality, without extravagance or parade. Miss Seward gives him the credit of introducing habits of sobriety among the trading part of Lichfield: he retained his faculties to the last.

His Botanic garden, in which he celebrates the Loves of the Plants, published in 1781, was the first of his poems to which he put his name. This poem, enriched with copious and valuable notes, was for some years extremely popular: these contained the natural history and property of plants.

In 1798, Dr. Darwin published his *second* volume of Zoonomia, or the Laws of Organic Life, and in 1796, from some eccentric motive, the *first*. In 1804, he published Phytologia, or the Philosophy of Agriculture and Gardening. In his Zoonomia, he undertook to reform the whole system of medicine, and to account for the physical constitution of man, animals, and vegetables.

MISS ANNE SEWARD was a native of Lichfield: her father was rector of Eyam, in Derbyshire, and prebendary of Lichfield: this lady was distinguished in various works of literature, and discovered a very early taste for poetry. Becoming acquainted with lady Miller, of Bath Easton, she was a frequent and successful candidate for the myrtle wreath of the poetic institution of that villa. Her first regular publication, was a beautiful Elegy on Captain Cook, which, together with an Ode to the Sun, a Bath

Easton prize poem, was published in a quarto pamphlet, in 1780. The following year she produced a Monody on her gallant and amiable friend Major André. Her subsequent productions were a poem to the memory of Lady Miller: Louisa, a poetical novel: an Ode on General Elliot's return from Gibraltar: Llangollen Vale, with other poems: Sonnets and Horation Odes, and a life of Dr. Darwin. She died in April, 1809, aged 66.—Three volumes of her letters have been published since her decease, edited by Sir Walter Scott.

NEWSPAPERS.

The Stafford Advertiser, weekly, on Friday; Lichfield Mercury, the same; Wolverhampton Chronicle, weekly, on Wednesday.

TITLES CONFERRED BY THE COUNTY.

The city of Lichfield, with that of Coventry, is the See of a Bishop. Stafford gives the title of Marquis to the Gower family; Newcastle-under-Line, that of Duke to the Clintons; Tamworth, that of Viscount to the Ferrers; Uttoxeter, that of Baron to the Gardners: Trentham, the same to the Gowers; and Beaudesert, the same to the Pagets. Meeford, the titles of Viscount and Baron to the Jervis family; Ingestrie, the title of Viscount to the Talbots; Heleigh, that of Baron to the Thicknesse Touchet family; Stouston Castle, the same to the Stouston family; Dudley Castle, the same to the Wards, and Fisherwick, the same to the Chichesters.

CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS.

Staffordshire is divided into five hundreds, viz. Totmonslow to the north, Pyrehill to the north-west, Cuddleston to the south-west, Oflow to the east, and Seesdon to the south; containing one city, Lichfield; three boroughs, Stafford, Newcastle, and Tamworth, and sixteen market-towns, viz. Abbot's Bromley, Brewood, Burton, Burslem, Cheadle, Leek, Eccleshall, Longnor, Penkridge, Rudgeley, Stone, Tutbury, Uttoxeter, Walsall, Wednesbury and Wolverhampton; and one hundred and eighty one

parishes. Staffordshire is comprised within the diocese of Litchfield and Coventry, in the province of Canterbury, and is included in the Oxford Circuit.

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD.

Journey from Longnor to Lichfield, through Cheadle, Uttoxeter, and Abbot's Bromley.

LONGNOR is a small market-town near the source of the river Manifold; it has a weekly market on Tuesday, which, though well attended, is remarkable for the short space of time allotted for the sale of its various articles; about four in the afternoon the stalls begin to be erected, and the bustle of the market is over and the stalls cleared away, and the people retired to their different homes before the hour of six. This place is supposed to have lain waste at the conquest, being in so wild a part of the country, and not inhabited for a considerable time afterwards. It is neither mentioned in Domesday book, nor in the record called *Nomine Villarum*, taken in the time of Edw. II.

On leaving Longnor, our journey lies in a southerly direction; and at a distance of about five miles and a half, we pass through the village of Onecote; near which is Narrow Dale, a place surrounded by lofty rocks, that in rainy weather may be seen above the clouds. The village is so narrow that the inhabitants never see the sun during the quarter of the year when it is nearest the tropic of Capricorn; and when it does begin to appear, it is not visible till about one o'clock, which is here called "Narrow Dale noon," and is used proverbially for any thing done late. The traveller fond of the beauties of diversified and romantic scenery may find a rich treat in ascending some of these eminences, finely contrasted by the sublime and awful appearance of the rocks themselves. Three miles to the east of this is Ecton Hill, remarkable for a fine copper mine, which was known before Dr. Plot's time, who says it had been worked several years by Lord Devonshire himself.

The hill itself is situated near the banks of the river Dove, and when a person takes a view of the hill from the stupendous rocks, it fills his mind with wonder and admiration. Near the base of the hill is an opening, which is a walk, about 400 yards in a direct line, the passage in many places being not above four feet high.

The manner of procuring the metal is thus:—The ore, when dug from the cavities of the rock, is let fall into a centre, or opening, in the middle of the passage, from whence it is carried to a machine, and conveyed to the place where it is to be refined. It is first broken into small pieces, by men employed for that purpose, and sorted into three different parcels, according to its value. After this it goes through a variety of different processes, in which many hands are employed, till at last it is brought to the smelting-mills, and being properly stamped by the assay-master, it is sold to the dealers in copper.

Great numbers of poor people (women and children, as well as men) are employed in these mines, and in preparing the metal after it is dug up, before it can be made of proper use to the artists. On the opposite side of the hill has been discovered a lead-mine, which is likely to turn out to great advantage.

About one mile and a half to the south-east of Onecote is the village of Grindon, a place formerly celebrated for its marble; one mile to the south of this is Waterfall, a village which takes its name from the river Hans, which, after a course of seven or eight miles from its source, here falls into the ground, and continues its course under ground for near three miles, when it joins the Manifold.

About three miles to the south-east of Waterfall is Okeover, the seat of Lady Sitwell. The present edifice occupies the site of a more ancient structure; it consists of a centre attached to two very handsome wings, and has a finely-wooded hill in front with a noble park extending on each side. The hall is a

very handsome apartment; but the dining-room is by far the most elegant in the mansion, and is wainscotted with mahogany; very beautiful prospects are enjoyed over the surrounding meadows. In this house are several valuable paintings, among which is a very famous picture of the Holy family, by Raphael, for which fifteen hundred guineas have been refused; and what is remarkable it was found among some old lumber, hid, as supposed, during the civil wars. It is wonderfully fine; there is such a diffusion, grace, ease, and elegance over the whole piece, that it strikes the spectator the moment he enters the room. The grouping of the Virgin and two children is as happy as imagination can conceive, and the attitudes are surprizingly caught. The turn of the Virgin's head is grace itself. The expression of the boys, particularly Christ, is full of animation, and though not natural to the age, yet is consistent with the artist, and uncommonly pleasing. The warmth and tenderness of the colourings cannot be exceeded; the mellow tints of the flesh are an animated representation of life, and the general harmony of the whole piece admirable.

A little to the north of the last-mentioned place is Ilam, the gardens of which are as romantic as most in England. They consist of a small vale, bounded by high, or rather steep hills, totally covered with wood, and forming a complete amphitheatre. A rapid stream washes the bottom of them on one side, and on the other is a walk, from whence you command the whole sweep: a noble range of wood, hanging almost perpendicular, can no where be seen. The walk at the entrance of the valley winds up a rocky cliff, from which you look down on the river in some places, and in others only hear the roar of it over broken rocks. At the end of the vale, on the side of the water, is a bench which commands the whole, and looks full on the entrance of the grounds, which seems quite blocked up by a distant mountain, called Thorpe Cloud, of a very regular coned

shape, blunt at top. This part of the country is full of romantic and uncommon views.

Mr. Clive's pleasure grounds here have been highly spoken of: in the garden two rivers rise from under the lime-stone rock. In a limestone grotto are exhibited specimens, supposed to be those of petrified fish.

Resuming our journey, at the distance of seven miles from Onecote, after passing through the villages of Ipstones and Kingsley, we arrive at CHEADLE, a market town, pleasantly situated on the side of a hill facing the south, and in the most fertile part of the moorlands. The houses are poorly built. The church is an ancient structure, dedicated to St. Giles.

This town is surrounded with coal of exceeding good quality, which, from its abundance and cheapness, has caused several works to be erected: for besides copper works, there are very extensive brass works, tin works, &c.

The market is on Friday, which is well supplied with all kinds of provisions. The town is situated 146 miles from London, and contains, according to the late population act, 746 houses and 3862 inhabitants.

At the back of the town rises very high ground, called Cheadle Park, much frequented by the inhabitants, being a very pleasant walk, from which there is an extensive prospect all round, Litchfield Minster being to be seen, although at the distance of 27 miles.

One mile to the north-east of Cheadle is Haleshall, late the seat of N. Kirkman, Esq.; it was built by the grand daughter of the great Sir Matthew Hale, and named in honour of him, but is now unoccupied.

About three miles to the west of Cheadle is Caverswall, a very ancient stone building, surrounded by a moat, with a draw-bridge and turrets, close to the water, for its defence. It was the principal seat

of the noble and ancient family of the Vanes for many generations, but which family is now extinct. It is at present used as a nunnery.

The following account of Carswell Castle is transcribed from the *Magna Britannia*, in quarto.

“Careswall or Caverswall was, 20 Conquest, held of Robert de Stafford, by Ernulfus de Hesding, but hath long been the lordship of a family of that name, ancient and gentile, descended probably from him; for, in the reign of Richard the I. one Thomas de Careswall, knight, whose grandson, William de Careswall, erected a goodly castle in this place; the pools, dams, and houses of office, being all masonry. His posterity enjoyed it till the 19th of Edward the III; when, by the heir-general, it passed from the Careswalls to the Montgomeries, and from them, by the Giffords and Ports, to the family of Hastings, earls of Huntingdon, who were owners of it in the last century. The castle, in the beginning of that century, was in reasonable good repair; but was suffered to run into decay (if not ruined on purpose) by one Brown, the farmer of the lands about it, lest his lord should be at any time in the mind to live there, and take the demesne from him. It hath been since sold to Matthew Cradock, Esq. in whose posterity it was in 1655, but is since come to Captain Packer.” In the church of this place, is a monument for William de Careswall above-mentioned, the builder of the castle, with this inscription about it:

“Willielmus de Carswellis.” At the head.

And then about it is this distich:

“Castri structor eram, domibus, fossisq; cemento.

“Vivis dans, operam, nunc claudor in hoc monumento.”

In English thus:

“I built this castle, with its rampiers round,

“For the use of th’living, who am under ground.”

Erdswich says that the following lines were since written under this monument:

“ William of Careswell, here lye I

“ That built this castle, and pools hereby.

“ William of Careswell here thou mayest lye;

“ But thy castle is down, and thy pools are dry.”

The first part was an imperfect translation of his epitaph; the second, a sort of jeering answer, occasioned by the state of the castle; written, perhaps, to excite the owner to an inquiry into the misbehaviour of his tenant Brown before-mentioned.

About three miles east of Cheadle is the pleasant village of Alton, where is a castle now in ruins, formerly a seat of the Bertram de Verdon family, for many generations, and said to have been destroyed by Cromwell. It appears, from its advantageous situation, to have been a place of great strength.

Here is Alton Abbey, the elegant seat of the Earl of Shrewsbury.

Resuming our journey, at the distance of two miles, we pass through the village of Tean, where there is an extensive tape manufactory; two miles and a half to the west of which is the village of Draycott, in the church-yard of which is to be seen one of the pyramidal stones, with which the Danes are said to have marked the graves of their great men.

Three miles to the east of Tean is Croxden Abbey, founded by Bertram de Verdon, in 1176 (the 22d of Henry the II.) who plentifully endowed it for Cistercian monks. It is now in ruins, though several of the old walls and gateways are yet standing; the chancel is at present made use of as a milking yard to a farm-house. From the remaining ruins it appears to have been a very extensive building; and it is said to have been destroyed by Cromwell: of late years several coffins have been found by digging, but without any inscription.

About two miles to the east of Croxden is the village of Rocceter, where was an abbey of Black Canons, founded by Richard Bacon, in the year 1146; granted to R. Trentham. In the church are some monuments of the Staffords.

Continuing our journey, at the distance of about two miles, we pass through the village of Checkley, in the church-yard of which are three stones set up in the form of a pyramid, in commemoration of some battles fought here between the English and Danes. According to tradition among the inhabitants, a battle was fought between two armies, one armed and the other not, in which three bishops were killed.

On leaving Checkley we proceed easterly, and at the distance of about four miles and a half we arrive at UTTOXETER, a place of great antiquity, and most pleasantly situated on a hill of easy ascent, on the side of the river Dove, over which is a good stone bridge into Derbyshire. The town formerly suffered much by fire, but is now large and well built, with three streets branching from the market-place, which is neat and commodious. The church has a lofty steeple, with six bells, and a clock and chimes.

This town is surrounded with iron forges, and several considerable iron-mongers carry on a great trade here in that manufacture; and by the late inland navigation it has communication with the rivers Mersey, Dee, Ribble, Ouse, Trent, Derwent, Severn, Humber, Thames, Avon, &c. The market, which is on Wednesday, is reckoned one of the greatest in these parts for cattle, sheep, butter, cheese, corn, &c. The town is situated 135 miles from London, and contains according to the late population act, 926 houses and 4658 inhabitants.

Uttoxeter is remarkable for the longevity of its inhabitants. Sir Simon Degge, who was born here, and died at the age of ninety-two, in a letter dated August 27, 1726, writes: "In the three weeks I have been at Uttoxeter there have been buried four men and two women, one woman aged 94, and the other 83: one man 91, another 87, and another 82, and one young man of 68. Yesterday I talked with a man of 90, who has all his senses, and walks without

a staff; about a month since he had a fever and was speechless two days; his daughter is 60; and about six months since he buried his wife, who had lived 63 years with him, and was aged 85. In this town are now living three men and their wives, who have had 53 children, and each hath the same wife by which he had his children, now alive. 'They are all young men, the oldest not being above 60. I will only tell you that in 1702 there died here three women, their years as follow: one 103, the second 126, the third 87.' Sir Simon says, that he had seven brothers and sisters, all living together, not long since, and the youngest 60 years of age.

Uttoxeter was the birth place of the late Admiral Gardner, who opposed Mr. Horne Tooke as a candidate to serve in parliament for Westminster, and succeeded, though the Admiral is said to have been more alarmed at his wit, satire, and eloquence, than at a shower of cannon balls from an enemy's fleet.

Continuing our journey, at the distance of about five miles, we arrive at ABBOT'S BROMLEY, so called from a abbey that stood near it, of which, however there is not now the least vestige; for it was originally called Bromley Bagots, from the noble family of that name, who were lords of the manor. It was once a place of great privileges; but at present it consists chiefly of one street, about the middle of which is the town-hall, wherein are annually held the court-leet and court-baron of the lord of the manor and patron of the church. The houses are neat and built in general of bricks. The church is large, with a tower, steeple, and five excellent bells.

Here is a good free-grammar school, founded in the year 1603, by Mr. Richard Clark; also a good alms-house was endowed by Lambert Bagot, Esq. in the year 1703, for six poor old men: and several other charities, to a considerable amount.

There is no manufactory carried on here, the bulk of the land in and near the town being occupied chiefly by farmers, and there being no river of consequence near it. The market-day is on Tuesday, and the town, which is situated 129 miles from London, consists, according to the late population act, of 305 houses, and 1583 inhabitants.

There was at Abbot's Bromley, a remarkable custom, within memory of Dr. Plot's time, on Christmas, New Year's, and Twelfth day, called the Hobby-horse dance. "A person carried between his legs the figure of a horse, made of thin boards, and in his hand a bow and arrow, which passing through a hole in the bow, and stopping on a shoulder in it, made a snapping noise as he drew it to and fro, keeping time with the music. With this man danced five or six others, carrying on their shoulders as many rein deer's heads, three of them painted white, and three red, with the arms of the chief families, Paget, Bagot, and Welles, to whom the chief revenues of the town belonged, painted on the palms of them, with which they danced the hays and other country dances. To this hobby-horse dance there also belonged a pot, which was kept by turns by four or five of the chief of the town, whom they called *Reeves*, who provided cakes and ale to put into this pot: all people who had and kindness for the good intent of the institution of the sport giving pence apiece for themselves and families, and so did foreigners, who came to see it, with which money, after defraying the charge of the cakes and ale, they not only repaired their church, but kept their poor too: which charges are not now so cheerfully borne." Hobbyhorse-money is mentioned in the old parish books of Stafford and Leighford. This custom was continued till the civil war, and Sir Simon Degge saw it often practised. He says they had something of the kind to get money to repair the church at Stafford, every common-council collecting money of his friends, and he that could bring in most money to the hobby-

horse was looked on as a man of best credit, so that they strove who should most improve his interest, and, as he remembered, it was accounted for at Christmas.

Two miles from Abbot's Bromley is Blithfield, the seat of the Bagots, which came into that family by marriage of Sir Ralph with Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Richard Blithfield, in the time of Edward II. before that they were situated at the neighbouring village of Bagot's Bromley. From a younger branch of this family descended the ancient barons of Stafford, afterwards dukes of Buckingham: Millisent, heiress of Robert Lord Stafford, having married Henry Bagot, Sir William Bagot was created Lord Bagot of Bagot's Bromley in the year 1780. The house is built round a court. The park, at some distance from the house, abounds with large oaks, and in the church are the family monuments, and displays a variety of beautiful scenery. It is the seat of Lord Bagot.

Continuing our journey, at the distance of about two miles and a half, we pass through the village of Blithbury, where there was a small Benedictine monastery, afterwards a nunnery, founded in the 12th century, by Hugh Malveysin, suppressed by Wolsey.

About two miles beyond Blithbury we pass Mavesyn Ridwäre, the property of the Mavesyns, from the reign of Edward I. to that of Henry IV. when Sir Robert Mavesyn and Sir William Handsacre meeting, with their followers, near their respective estates, in the opposite causes of the houses of York and Lancaster, the latter was slain, and the daughter and co-heiress of the former married his heir, and carried his estate into that family. The monument of Sir Robert has this inscription :

“ Hic jacet dominus Robertus de Mauvesine miles dominus de Mauvesine Ridwäre, qui occubuit juxta Salopiam 1403, stans cum rege dimicans ex parte sua usque ad mortem : cujus aiæ propitieter Deus ”

Near the church is the gateway of the ancient mansion of the Mauvesins, and on the other side the Trent, beyond High Bridge, is a moated fragment of the rival house of Hansacre.

King's Bromley, situated about two miles to the east of Mavesyn Ridvare, formerly belonged to the earl of Chester. The abbot of Burton-upon-Trent, gave two palfreys to have a market and fair here, till King Henry III. came to-age. It once had a bridge over the Trent.

Pursuing our journey, at the distance of about five miles and a half from Mavesyn Ridvare, we arrive at LICHFIELD, a city divided from the Trent by a little river that runs into it, over which are two causeways with sluices.

The name of this city, according to some authors, is a corruption of Licidfeld, the ancient Saxon name, which signifies a field of carcases, a great slaughter of Christians having been made here in the persecution under the Emperor Dioclesian; but Dr. Stukely affirms that it received its name from the marshy bog which surrounds the church, the word Loche signifying a watery place. This place arose from the ruins of a Roman town named Etocetum, about a mile distant, where the Ikening and Watling-street cross each other, and is now called Chesterfield-wall, from some remains of its fortifications. It was made a metropolitan see by King Offa. About the year 789, King Offa, by favour of Pope Adrian, constituted it an archiepiscopal see; but Lichfield, about ten years after, lost this honour, and its church and diocese were again rendered subject to the metropolitan see of Canterbury. In the year 1075, this see was translated to Chester, and from thence, in 1102, to Coventry: but soon after the bishops settled here again.

The city was incorporated by Edward the Second, with the name of bailiffs and burgesses, and is both a town and county, governed by two bailiffs, chosen

yearly out of 24 burgesses, a recorder a sheriff, a steward, and other officers.

The south side, which is much the greater, is called the City, and the other the Close. The county of the city is ten or twelve miles in compass, which the sheriff rides yearly on the 8th of September, and then feast the corporation and neighbouring gentry. The Close is enclosed in a wall, and a deep dry ditch on all sides, except towards the city, where it is defended by a great lake, or marsh, formed by its brook.

The Cathedral, which stands in the Close, was first built in the year 300. It was rebuilt and enlarged by Offo, king of Mercia, in 776: it was again rebuilt in 1148, and much enlarged in 1296. At the reformation, Coventry was divided from it. In the civil wars it was several times taken and retaken, and thereby suffered much; but was so repaired after the Restoration, at the expense of 20,000*l*. (an immense sum in those days), that it was one of the fairest and noblest structures of the kind in England. When the civil war broke out, the nobility and gentry garrisoned the Close, and defended it against the parliament army, under Lord Brooke and Sir John Gell; the former, a virulent fanatic and enemy to cathedrals, raised a battery in the street called Dam-street, and early in the siege, standing under a porch, giving directions to the bombardiers, he was discovered from the battlements of the Lady-choir, by a deaf and dumb gentleman named Dyott, a family still much esteemed in the neighbourhood, who, levelling his musket at him, the ball glanced on the lintel of the porch and plunged into his eye. The spot where he stood, in Dam-street, is still distinguished by a pavement of white pebbles; and the lintel, through which the ball passed, is preserved among the curiosities in Mr. Greene's valuable museum. But, notwithstanding the loss of the general, and unskillfulness of the besiegers, who attacked the strongest instead of

the weakest part of the fortifications, Sir John Gell continued the siege, battered down the central, large, and beautiful spire, and in a month's time the garrison submitted. As this seems to have been the first cathedral that was seized, after an obstinate resistance, the rage of civil war was let loose; the roof was stripped of the lead; the carved work, monuments, and statues, were destroyed with axes and hammers; the vaulted roof only escaping, either from the difficulty of demolishing it; or from the use they put it to; making it a stable for their troop horses.

In the course of the war Prince Rupert besieged the Close again; and, the art of war being better understood, he raised his batteries in Gay-field, a rising hill, north of the church, and which overlooked the whole Close, and made the garrison submit on the second day of the siege. It is said that during the siege, the cross over the west window was frequently shot at by the rude soldiers, but that they could not shoot it down.

After the Restoration, the cathedral was thoroughly repaired, particularly by Bishop Hackett, who was, at the beginning of the civil war, rector of St. Andrew's, Holborn, London: and when the parliament, as the Commons alone called themselves, had voted down the liturgy of the Church of England, and forbade the use of it, under the severest penalties, Dr. Hackett continued to read, as before, the daily service; and though a serjeant with a troop rushed into the church, commanding him with threats to desist, he with a steady voice and intrepid countenance continued; on which the murderous bigot thrust his pistol at his head, threatening him with instant death. The undaunted priest calmly replied, "Soldier, I am doing my duty; do you do your's;" and with still more exalted voice read on. The soldier, abashed, left the church. After the restoration, no wonder that such a protestant champion was made bishop of Lichfield; and with the same zeal

with which he defended its rites and ceremonies, he set about the restoration of his cathedral. In the morning after his arrival at Lichfield, he roused all his servants by break of day, and with his coach-horses and hired labourers, began the great work of cleansing the augean stable into which the enemy had reduced it. By his large contributions, and by assiduously applying to and entreating every gentleman in the diocese, and almost every stranger that visited it, he is said to have raised the then large sum of 20,000*l.* as above-mentioned, for the reparation of it. As he found the episcopal palace in ruins, he procured two prebendal houses and the present register's office, which he built as a banquetting house to the other. He finished the church and this hall about the same time, and consecrated the former with great pomp, formed a service on purpose, and gave three magnificent entertainments; the one for the dean and chapter, and all the members of the cathedral and clergy of the diocese: one for the gentry; and one for the bailiffs, aldermen, and corporation. It is walled in like a castle, and stands so high as to be seen ten miles round. Its length from the west to the east is 411 feet, the breadth of the body 153 feet, side-aisles 66 feet; the two west spires about the same height, and the great spire 256 feet. Its portico is hardly to be paralleled in England; there are 26 statues of the prophets, apostles, kings of Judah, and some kings of this land, in a row above it, as large as life, which have been, till lately, in a state of dilapidation, but are now restored; and on the top, at each corner of the portico, is a stately spire, besides a fine high steeple on the middle of the church. The choir is paved in great part with alabaster and channel-coal, in imitation of black and white marble. In 1789 it underwent a general repair, when the massive groined arch between the west end of the church and the transept, which had

forced the side walls out of perpendicular, was removed.

There are several painted glass windows; one, the benefaction of Dr. Adenbrook, was set up in the year 1789, and since then, some fine specimens of ancient excellence in this art have been added; they were purchased on the continent, by Sir — Boulton, and now the windows of the postern, and of the choir, being all painted glass, have a most beautiful effect.

The prebendaries' stalls, which are thought to be the best in England, were most of them re-erected at the charge of the country gentlemen, whose names and arms are painted at the top of the stalls. The north door is extremely rich in sculpture, but much injured by time. The body, which is supported by pillars formed of numbers of slender columns, has lately had its decayed leaden roof replaced by a neat slated covering. The choir merits attention on account of the elegant sculpture about the windows, and the embattled gallery that runs beneath them, to which the altar-piece, of Grecian architecture, but ill corresponds; behind which is St. Mary's chapel, divided from it by a most elegant stone screen, of beautiful workmanship.

An appropriated sum, of considerable amount, being annually expended in the repairing and restoration of this cathedral, it will, in the course of a few years, be quite restored to its ancient grandeur. The front is already done, and, on your entrance into the Close, has a striking effect.—Indeed, this cathedral is allowed altogether to be one of the most beautiful and interesting edifices of its kind in the kingdom. Here are several fine pieces of sculpture, particularly one, which was allowed by Canova, when in England, to be the masterpiece of modern Europe; it is by J. Chantrey, esq. R.A., and is to the memory of the present Dean's two grand-daughters, who met with premature deaths; it represents the two little girls lying on a couch in each others

arms, asleep. There is an exquisite feeling of life in the figures, equal to the finest productions of the ancient masters of the art; and the indentions on the pillows of the couch, are elasticity itself. In a late critique on this ornament to our country, it is truly said to be "the beauty of pure nature viewed by the eye, and transferred to marble by the hand of refined art." Here are two fine busts of Johnson and Garrick, and a monument to the memory of Miss Seward, and part of her family, with an inscription written by Sir Walter Scott, with other monuments of equal interest.

The Monasticon makes mention of a shrine being given to this cathedral, dedicated to St. Chad, or St. Cedda, which cost 200,000*l.* a gift as incredible as the miracles of St. Chad himself, it being then equal to two millions of our present money. This saint, formerly bishop of this church, is said to have lived an hermetical life, in a little hovel or cell, adjoining to St. Chad's church, which was standing about seventy years ago; and here is the well which supplied him with water.

There have been for several hundred years past, and still continue founded in this cathedral, a bishop, dean, precentor, chancellor, treasurer, four archdeacons of Coventry, Stafford, Shropshire, and Derby, and 27 prebendaries, besides five priest-vicars, seven lay-clerks or singing men, eight choristers, or other officers and servants. In the reign of Henry the Eighth there were twelve priest-vicars and seven lay-vicars. The choristers also, who in the same reign were twelve, had distinct estates.

Here are three other churches in this city, one of which, St. Michael's, has a church-yard of six or seven acres.

Here was a castle in which the unfortunate Richard was confined in his way to Berkeley castle. Several ancient camps have been discovered in the neighbourhood. The castle is supposed to have

stood near the handsome gate of the Close now taken down, on the site of alms-houses, lately erected for the benefit of the widows of clergymen, called Newton College, from the name of the founder, Andrew Newton, Esq.

In the south-west part of the town was a house of Grey Friars, founded by Alexander, bishop of the see, about the year 1229, which was burnt down in the year 1291, but being rebuilt, it continued till the general suppression, when it was granted to R. Crumblithorn. At the south-east is a college priory, or hospital of St. John Baptist, which continues to this time, for a master and poor brethren; but it is uncertain by whom it was founded. An hospital, or alms-house, was founded by bishop Hayworth, about the year 1424. There is also a good free-school.

The city has power of life and death within their jurisdiction, a court of record, and a piepowder court; and here is a gaol both for debtors and felons.

It returns two members to the British senate, having sent to parliament 33d of Edward I.; 4, 5, 6, 7, 20 Edward II.; and 1, 14, 27 Edward III.; it intermitted sending till the reign of Edward VI. who restored it. The right of election is in the bailiff, magistrates, freeholders of forty shillings per annum, and all that hold by burgage tenure, and in such freemen only of the said city as are enrolled, paying scot and lot there: the electors are about 600 in number: returning officers the sheriffs and bailiffs. This city gives the title of earl to the family of Lee. The market days are on Tuesdays and Fridays; and the town consists, according to the late population act, of 1121 houses, and 7075 inhabitants.

By the late inland navigation, Lichfield has communication with the rivers Mersey, Dee, Ribble, Ouse, Trent, Derwent, Severn, Humber, Thames, Avon, &c. which navigation, including its windings, extends above 500 miles in the counties of Lincoln,

Nottingham, York, Lancaster, Westmoreland, Chester, Warwick, Leicester, Oxford, Worcester, &c.

About two miles to the south of Lichfield are the villages of Wall and Chesterfield, of the neighbourhood of which Stukely gives the following account:—“A little west of where the Rigning crosses the Watling-street, south-west of Lichfield, stands a little village called Wall; south of that, a quarter of a mile is Chesterfield. This is said by the inhabitants to be the oldest city in England; and the Watling-street the oldest road. The Itinerary of Antoninus sufficiently evinces the place to be *Etocetum*. Part of the Rigning way northward hence is very fair, with a high straight bank; part very miry and bad. The country is sandy, clayey, and full of round coggles, of which the road was composed. The Watling-street eastward, hence about half a mile, is enclosed in fields; but westward it appears very straight and broad. They call the Rigning the Hickling street at this place, and likewise Port Lane; it goes to Burton-upon-Trent. Many Roman coins are found here, both great and small; Mr. Quintin living here has many. He owns the field called the Butts, where I saw great ruins of walls, equidistant 12 foot and 12 high, like square cellars. I saw there bits of pavement, Irish slate, and Roman bricks. The walls are a yard thick, of strong mortar, rubble stone, &c. The Watling-street parts the two villages, Chesterfield south, and Wall north. By the side of a road going northward from thence to Pipe Hill, I immediately espied the Roman walls, notorious by the manner of their structure of ragstone; a course laid sloping this way, a course that way, with very strong and white mortar. This lies under a hedge, and the roots of old oak trees, for the length of an hundred yards, till intercepted by a dwelling-house. They say the building in Butts Close was a temple; and probably they are not mistaken. The Watling-street, at this old city, goes precisely from east to

west. Some mile stones have been found by the brook running west of the city; a pretty spring there runs upon digging all the fields round. The brook has a broad marsh along it westward. A little below the temple we saw the crown of a subterraneous arch in the hedge. They shewed me where the Rigning way went through a corn-field south of the castle, and passed the river west of Shenstone. It is a field-way still south, and an open road north. The castle stood in the north-west angle, between the Watling and another road going to Lichfield, upon a gentle southern declivity. The old walls are founded upon a solid rock, and much more of them was left within memory; now they pull them down to build withall. There is a gate crosses the Watling Street, at the castle-end, by the side of the road. That called the Temple is upon the western declivity, much lower in elevation than the castle, which is upon the highest ground in the neighbourhood, and somewhat raised above the common level by heaps of rubbish and foundations, which I could discern above ground in the orchard. The place of this old city is an elevation, and has a good prospect, especially southwards. Olbury castle and Manchester are in view. William Milner, at the Swan, is an antiquary, and knows the old name of the place. He shewed me a Roman wall in his cellar, and says it goes far backward by the garden. No doubt there were houses all the way on both sides the road from the castle to the brook, which is a sweet descent westward. There was a Roman coin of gold found near Hales Owen: many flower-pots and other antiquities found on the south side of Watling Street, in the ploughed fields called *Chesterfield Crofts*; and a very fine red earthen-ware, with figures of bucks upon them. The circumference of the castle is hardly to be found; the ground has not been dug in the yards hereabouts. The Rigning-way goes by Lyn Lane, and so passes the river west of Shenstone, at Shenstone Nether town.

This country lies upon a rock, here and there interspersed, but not a good stone; but there is a quarry of good free-stone, of a brown colour, by Swinfen. I saw a Nero of Corinthian brass, and some square Roman pavements, found there. The Rigning runs on the east side of an eminence called Mawcop hill, as it passes northward hence. The building in Butts Close is level at top with the pasture, except towards the declivity, where they have dug away the earth, and the great wall that ran along it. Two miles beyond Etocetum, on the top of a hill, is Knaves castle, on the south side of Watling Street; a small tumulus enclosed within three ditches; an entrance on the south side. It has been hollowed on the top. This is in a vast moor or common, full of heath, as the nature of the soil is all the way."

*Journey from Tutbury to Fazeley; through
Burton-upon-Trent and Tamworth.*

TUTBURY is situated near the river Dove, a little before it falls into the Trent: it was formerly a market-town, and has a stone bridge with nine arches.

It had a castle, which was very large, and stood on an hill, and was demolished by Henry the Third; but there are several of the towers, and a small part of the walls still remaining, excessively thick. John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster, afterwards built the gatehouse and walls about it. It is at this time a good old house, walled all round, except on the side of the hill, where it is so steep that it needs no fortification; and yet there it is inclosed with a strong pale. It has a prospect to the east over the Dove and Trent, as far as Nottingham; on the north-west and north to Uttoxeter, Rowcester, Ashburn, and Derby; on the south-east towards Burton, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, &c. and on the south and south-east are woodlands, in which are many parks, which belong for the most part to the castle and honour of Tutbury. The castle was given by William the

Conqueror to Henry Ferrers, and was supposed to have been then a member of Burton.

Near the castle was a priory of Benedictines, founded by Henry de Ferrers, about the year 1080, as a cell to the abbey of St. Peter super Divam, in Normandy. It was afterwards made denizen, and at the general suppression was granted to Sir William Cavendish.

Certain manners here were held of the Duke of Lancaster, by service of carving for him when he kept his Christmas here, and hunting his geese or wild swine, in August. Here was likewise an extraordinary ceremony of electing a king of the minstrels. This arose from a custom of the earls and dukes of Lancaster inviting great numbers of itinerant musicians to this castle, who went about the country in the same manner as the Welsh harpers, and were called minstrels; but at last, being extremely numerous, and having by frequent quarrels abused the indulgence shewn to them, it was found necessary to prescribe rules for their conduct, which were the following. "One of themselves was appointed the governor, and honoured with the title of king, having under him several officers, whose business it was to keep the peace, and punish such as behaved disorderly."

In the reign of Richard II. John of Gaunt, incorporated them by a charter in his usual laconic manner; and in the reign of Henry VI. the prior of Tutbury gave them the privilege of taking a bull every year from his lands on the opposite side of the Dove: the bull being soaped and made as mad as possible, was to be pursued by the minstrels, and when taken within the county, and before sun-set, was to be brought to the market cross, and there baited. By this bull, as a tenure, the duke of Devonshire holds the priory, but of late years has commuted for it, and gives the minstrels four marks, whether they get the bull or not: the king of music and the bailiff have also of late compounded; the

bailiff giving the king five nobles in lieu of his right to the bull; and then sends him to the earl of Devon's manor, at Hardwick, to be fed and given to the poor at Christmas.

The church of Tutbury has a square tower and five bells, with a clock. Here is a large cotton manufactory, which employs a number of men, women, and children; and there is a house and school, endowed in the year 1730, by Richard Wakefield, for thirty poor children, which was re-built in the year 1789. Tutbury contains 266 houses, and 1444 inhabitants.

Commencing our journey, we proceed south-easterly, and, at the distance of about four miles, we arrive at BURTON-UPON-TRENT, a borough and market town, situated in a pleasant and fertile valley, on the western bank of the river Trent, which divides this county from Derbyshire.

Burton is no doubt a place of great antiquity, and was in all probability of some consequence several centuries ago. At the south-end of the town, on the banks of the Trent, now stand the venerable remains of an abbey, founded in the year 1004, by Ulfric Spot; to which he gave his whole property, amounting to seven hundred pounds. In the same year, Ulfgetus was appointed abbot, who was afterwards succeeded in that high dignity by many others, who enjoyed great power and property, until the dissolution of religious houses, in the 31st year of Henry VIII. and in the year 1540; when all the lands and possessions belonging to them were seized on by the king, and disposed of in such a manner as he thought proper. The appendages to this abbey, from the ancient appearance of many thick stone walls and other buildings adjacent to it, appear to have been very extensive.

Not far from the abbey, a little northward, stood the parish church, dedicated to St. Modwena, a venerable and spacious structure, ornamented with two lofty spires. This church had formerly a communication with the abbey, as appears from the

walls (similar to cloisters), standing in a piece of ground between the church-yard and the abbey, now used as a bowling-green. It would have endured the blasts of many succeeding years, but was taken down, and the present one erected in its place, by subscriptions and parish rates, on a much smaller scale, about the year 1722.

The present church is of modern architecture, and much admired for its neatness and convenience, having spacious galleries on the north, south, and west; in the latter of which is placed an elegant and well-toned organ, erected by subscription, in the year 1771, by the celebrated Mr. Snetzler. The tower contains eight musical bells, on which is a set of excellent chimes, erected in the year 1735, by the late Mr. John Whitehurst, of Derby (afterwards of London), and were the last chimes fabricated by that celebrated man. This church is a perpetual curacy, except from episcopal jurisdiction, and in the appointment of the Earl of Uxbridge; who is also impropriator of the parochial tithes to a very considerable amount. Another is erecting here by the commissioners for building churches out of the grant by government.

The remains of the abbey (now called the manor house), with its appendages, are the property of the Marquis of Anglesea; it has of late been much modernized and improved. The Marquis of Anglesea is likewise lord of the manor of Burton and its hamlets, in which he enjoys a considerable estate. His Lordship holds two courts-leet annually at this place, under the management of the perpetual bailiff and coroner, of whom he has the appointment; and also two probate courts, for proving wills, &c. under his official and surrogate. At the courts-leet are chosen the constables and other officers of the borough. It is supposed by some that this borough had anciently the privilege of trying its own criminals, and even of executing such as were capital; and his supposition seems to arise from the circumstance of

a piece of ground near the town being called the Gallows-flat, and a lane being now called Gallows-lane, but no person can remember a gallows standing near them; and therefore many writers, as well as itinerants, are inclined to think that these places received their names from some other cause: it is however certain that the inhabitants of this town (from some exemption or other) are never impanelled on county juries. A court of requests for the recovery of small debts, which had been long discontinued, is now re-established.

In the market-place formerly stood an ancient building used as a market-house. This building was taken down in the year 1772, and the present town-hall, a neat and spacious building, was then erected at the expense of the earl of Uxbridge. In this hall are held the courts-leet, and in it also all other public business is transacted; it also serves as a concert and assembly-room.

The free-school for the education of boys in classics, reading, writing, and arithmetic, stands in the church-yard. In the year 1787, the laudable institution of Sunday schools, for the religious instruction of poor children, was established in this town, under the patronage of the earl and countess of Uxbridge, who are liberal subscribers to the institution. These schools, which are eleven in number, being also supported by voluntary subscriptions and benefactions from many of the inhabitants, continue in an increasing and flourishing state.

Two alms-houses appear in this town; one on the east side of High-street, endowed in the year 1634, by Mrs. Ellen Parker, for the maintenance of six poor women; the other on the west side of the market-place, endowed in the year 1593, by Lady Paulet, for five poor women.

The bridge, which is erected over the Trent, at the north-east corner of the town, is uncommonly extensive, consisting of thirty-six arches. At what period it was erected seems uncertain. Some parts

of it are very ancient, and have the appearance of Saxon architecture. It has, however, at various times, undergone many considerable repairs and improvements, at the expense of the lord of the manor. About the central part of it terminate the counties of Stafford and Derby. At the west end formerly stood an ancient building, probably a chapel, some years since taken down: this end of the bridge unites with the town. In the year 1322, during the civil commotions of Henry II. the earl of Lancaster, having joined his forces against the king, with those of the earl of Hereford, posted himself at Burton-upon-Trent (probably at this bridge), where he endeavoured to defend the passages of the river.

This town has long been famous for its very considerable manufactory of malt and ale; great quantities of the latter being annually sent to Russia, Holland, and other distant places; also to London, Manchester, and other parts of the kingdom, for home consumption; but its export trade is now much reduced by prohibitory duties abroad. The manufactory of hats is also very considerable here, with which the army and navy are largely supplied. Considerable quantities of screws, spades, and other iron utensils, are also manufactured in this place; as are also tammies and woollen cloths. Three extensive cotton manufactories, erected near this town, have afforded employment to some hundreds of persons; and about half a mile below the town, on an island, surrounded by the river Trent, stands a forge of considerable extent for converting bloom and scrap iron into bars.

From the opulence and respectability of this neighbourhood, the markets here are well attended; they are also well supplied with corn, butcher's meat, poultry, &c. The market is on Thursday; and the town consists, according to the late population act, of 833 inhabited houses, and 4114 inhabitants.

From Scalpcliff hill, a prodigious eminence within

half a mile east of the town, and within three hundred yards east of the river, is a beautiful prospect of the town, the river, and the adjacent country; and from this hill are seen the cathedral at Lichfield, twelve miles distant, including a large extent of country beyond that place; the seat of the earl of Uxbridge, at Beaudesert, sixteen miles distant; Tutbury-castle, five miles distant; the Peak hills in Derbyshire, upwards of thirty miles distant; and many other beautiful and romantic objects, forming, on the whole, one of the most pleasing and delightful views in this country.

Besides the hamlet of Burton-Extra, in which were two spacious cotton-mills, on the banks of the Trent, there are, in the parish of Burton, five other hamlets: Branstone, about two miles south-west of the town; Horninglow, about a mile north-west; and Stretton, about three miles north-west, all in this county; Winshill, about a mile north-east; and part of Stapenhill, about a mile south-east, in Derbyshire: in these hamlets are various opulent and respectable farmers.

In the liberty of Branstone, about a mile west of Burton, is Sinai Park; a rough hilly piece of ground: it was anciently the property of the abbots of Burton, one of whom, we are informed, called it Sinai, from the resemblance it bears to that rough wilderness of Sinai, where, in a mount, the Deity appeared to Moses: this name is still retained, and the hill is now called Sinai Park. The house standing on it was formerly the residence of Lord Paget' (now earl of Uxbridge) stewards.

In the hamlet of Stretton is an extensive iron manufactory, for spades and other utensils; and a little to the north-east of this manufactory, the Grand Trunk passes over the river Dove, by means of an aqueduct of twelve arches.

The hamlets above mentioned, in the parish of Burton, have annually the choice of their own church-wardens and parish clerk; so that, besides

the four church-wardens, there is the inconvenience of two parish clerks officiating in the same church.

A little to the south of Sinai Park is the village of Tatenhill, which had formerly a monastery, but of which there are no vestiges remaining, and about two miles farther south, is Barton-under-Needwood, a pleasant and respectable village; and, although in the parish of Tatenhill, has a neat church of Gothic architecture, erected in the reign of Henry VIII.—Not far from this place is Needwood Forest, which is celebrated for the fineness of its turf, and by which the name of this village is distinguished.

About two miles to the north-west of Barton is the village of Yoxall, formerly a market-town, and had a fair. At this place, in levelling a piece of ground, were found near forty vessels of coarse brown soft earth, almost full of the ashes and fragments of human bones.

Resuming our journey, on leaving Burton, we proceed south-westerly, and, at the distance of five miles, pass, on our right, WICKNOR, Wicknorr, or Whichenor, a village, remarkable for the tenure whereby it was held by Sir Philip de Somerville, in the time of Edward the III, with other manors in this county, of the Earl of Lancaster, lord of the manor of Tutbury, to pay but half a knight's fee, and half the escuage usually assessed; but to find a fitch of bacon at all times of the year, except Lent, for every man or woman, after the first year of their marriage, and for every religious of every rank after the first year of their profession, on the party making oath, and two of his neighbours answering for him, that he has not once in that time repented of his marriage. The party being a freeman was to have, besides the fitch, half a quarter of rye.—The oath extends only to married persons, omitting religious; but the prize does not appear to have been often claimed by either. The Somervilles held the manor from the conquest, till it fell by mar-

riage to the Griffiths, and is now the property of Theo. Levett, Esq., who has a seat a little to the west of the village, near which is Orgreave Hall, unoccupied.

At the distance of four miles to the west of the last-mentioned place, we pass, on our right, the village of Elford, near which is a tumulus, supposed to be Roman. Here is Elford Hall, the seat of the Hon. Greville Howard. The church at Elford is a handsome old structure in the Norman style, and contains several ancient monuments, and some good paintings on glass, in a damaged state.

Fisherwick is, alas! no more: it has been pulled down, and all the materials sold, in consequence, it is said, of the embarrassments of the family.—Its fine portico now ornaments the front of the George Hotel, Walsall.—So much for this “ornament of our Island.”

The church of Clifton-Camville, a village about four miles to the east, and on the left of our road, has an elegant spire, and a monument for Sir John Vernon, of Harleston, and his lady, dated 1545. This village took its name from the Camvilles, who held it from the year 1200 to 1315.

Continuing our journey, at the distance of about three miles from Elton, we arrive at TAMWORTH, a borough and market-town, situated at the conflux of the Anker with the Tame, and so equally divided by the latter river that one half stands in this county, and the other in Warwickshire, each choosing a member of parliament.

It is the oldest town in these parts, and was the seat of the Mercian kings. A large trench remains, but in part filled up, called the King's-Dyke, where bones of men and horses, and spear-heads, have been dug up. It was destroyed by the Danes, and rebuilt by Queen Ethelfleda, who added a strong tower to it, which stood below that which is the present castle, which, till the last century, had been the seat of its lords. The apartments are numerous, but inconve-

nient and irregular, except a dining room and drawing room, from whence there is a beautiful view of the town and adjacent country.

The town was made a corporation by Queen Elizabeth, of two bailiffs, one for each county, with twenty-four principal burgesses, one of whom is a town-clerk, who, with the bailiffs, have a power to call courts, choose serjeants-at-mace, justices of the peace in the borough, keep a three-weeks' court of record, and have a gaol, market, fairs, and a court-leet, twice a year, with a high steward, recorder, and under steward, and other inferior officers, and a common seal, &c. &c. This borough was the joint property of the Marquis Townshend and the Marquis of Bath; but the latter sold his share to Mr. Peel, now Sir Robert Peel, Bart, father to the Right Honourable Robert Peel, Secretary of State for the Home Department, who established a considerable manufactory here. The freeholders had formerly votes in common with the inhabitant householders; but they lost that privilege by a resolution of the House of Commons, in the year 1722; the right of election is therefore now in the inhabitants being householders, paying scot and lot, and not receiving alms; they are in number about 250. The two bailiffs are the returning officers.

The church here was collegiate, and stands where once was a nunnery, in the Staffordshire part of the town. This church is large and built at distant periods: near the chancel are two great Saxon arches of zigzag mouldings. It has several ancient monuments, and is rich in the various peculiarities of architectural styles that prevailed at several distinct periods. Here is a massive tower, to which there is a double staircase, the roof of the one being the floor of the other, and each having a separate entrance and exit.

Tamworth Castle, the property of Lord Charles Townshend, is an ancient and interesting pile, standing on an artificial mount. It has rather a

sombre appearance, but from its elevated situation, diffuses an air of considerable grandeur around, and commands some highly picturesque prospects. The apartments contain a number of coats of arms of the Ferres family, and in the drawing room is a very richly sculptured chimney-piece.

Here is a grammar school, founded in the Staffordshire part of the town, by Queen Elizabeth; and a fine charity of that eminent bookseller, Mr. Guy, who founded the noble hospital in Southwark.

There were considerable cotton manufactories carried on by the Peels, which have lately been removed to the village of Faysley; it is said in consequence of the Peels being defeated in an attempt at one of the elections to exclude the Townshend interest.

The market is held on Saturday, and the Staffordshire part of the town consisted, according to the late population act, of 332 houses, and 7185 inhabitants;

In Calford Meadow, near this town, there are frequent horse-races.

Continuing our journey, at the distance of about one mile and a half from Tamworth, we arrive at the village of Fazely, where there is an extensive manufacture of printed cottons, a little to the south of which, is Drayton Park, the seat of Sir Robert Peele, Bart.

Journey from Wallsall to Soho; through Wednesbury.

WALLSALL is pleasantly situated on an eminence, both rural and healthy, nine miles to the south of Lichfield, and has been esteemed the second market town in the county; it is a place of great antiquity, and is now a large populous town. It has a spacious old church, built on an eminence above the market-place, from which to the church-yard is a large flight of steps. The church itself is an ancient structure, built in the form of a cross, with a neat octagon spire; it has lately had a large sum laid out in the repairing and beautifying of the edifice, and in addition to its original number of seats, 1000 kneeling are

now appropriated to the use of the poorer classes of inhabitants of this large and fully-peopled parish. There are also several meeting-houses for the different denominations of dissenters.

Wallsall is a town corporate, consisting of a mayor, recorder, twenty-four aldermen, or capital burgesses, and a town-clerk, two serjeants-at-mace, and a beadle, but sends no members to parliament. The late mayor and the mayor-elect, are generally in the commission of the peace for the borough and foreign of Bloxwich, and decide on petit larceny and other small offenses, at the quarter-sessions.—Dr. Plot says; that every year, on the eve of Epiphany, a dole of one penny is distributed to all persons residing in the town or borough, and all the villages thereto belonging, and not only to the inhabitants, but to all strangers that then happen to be there.

Here is a good free grammar-school, founded either by queen Elizabeth or her successor.

The small river called Wallsall-water runs through the town into the Tame. There are annual races held here in September, which are well attended by the nobility and gentry, and immense shoals of pedestrians from the neighbourhood. The race-course is close to the town. The market is on Tuesday, which is well supplied with all kinds of provisions. The town, including the foreign, consisted, according to the late population act, of 1145 houses, and 5504 inhabitants. The manufacturing population of Wallsall are employed almost exclusively in the saddlers' ironmongery line, it being the principal seat of that trade in Great Britain, and where every description of hardware used in the saddlery business is made; small branchess of the leather trade are carried on here, particularly making bridles.

Dr. Plot says, that the best sort of iron stone, called Mush, that contains a sweet cool liquor, which the workmen are very fond of, is found in the mines in this neighbourhood.

One mile to the west of Wallsall is Bentley Hall, now used as a farm-house, the ancient seat of Col. Lane, remarkable for entertaining King Charles II. after the battle of Worcester; from whence Mrs. Bridget Lane, conveyed him to a house near Bristol, where he took shipping for France.

The family still enjoy a pension from government, for this eminent service.

Commencing our journey, on leaving Wallsall, our road lies in a southerly direction, and at the distance of three miles we arrive at WEDNESBURY, or Wedgebury, in the Saxon tongue Weadbipig; a market-town, situated one hundred and twenty-four miles from London.

From a variety of circumstances this town appears to be not only very ancient but to have undergone great vicissitudes. At the conquest it was an ancient demesne of the crown. Adelfleda, governess of the Mercians, strongly fortified the castle, which then stood upon the hill, now called the Church, which very beautifully adorns its summit; but now nothing of the castle remains except a few traces of its foundation. The church is a very fine old Gothic structure, and from probable conjecture was built in the year 711, by Dud or Dudo, lord of Dudley, at which time he was lord of the manor of Wednesbury. There are also meeting-houses for presbyterians, quakers, and methodists. This place gave birth to the Pagets, ancestors to the present Marquis of Anglesea, who has a seat about ten miles from hence. A very old publication, met with some years ago, calls Birmingham "a small village near Wedgebury."

About sixty years ago, the walls on the inside of the church were ornamented with paintings, by some masterly pencil; and which might have continued many years to come, had not the sacrilegious hand of a common mason, with a white-washing brush, put a final end to their beauty. In the chancel there are several prebendal stalls, the carvings

of which are of the most exquisite workmanship—Near to these are the monuments of several eminent families; under one lie the ashes of the ancestors of the present Lord Viscount Dudley and Ward, who has a beautiful seat at Himley, about six miles from hence; and under another, upon which is a very elegant Latin inscription, are the remains of Walter Harcourt, of the family of Lord Harcourt, of Nuneham, Oxfordshire, who died in the year 1686, as he was passing through Wednesbury.

This place is rendered famous for its coal, the best in the kingdom for smith's work, on account of its extreme heat. It runs from three to fourteen yards in thickness, which makes it very valuable to its respective owners, some of whom clear immense sums from the sales of that article. It lies in different veins or stratas, each of which is particularized by the miners with the greatest accuracy: the following are the names of sixteen of the said stratas, viz. Dun-Dicks, Roof-floor, Top-slipper, Lambs, Jays, Kitt's, Benches, the Kernel, Bottom-slipper, Slip-Bat, Skips, Stone-Coal, Great-Patch, Springs, Slippers, and the Humphrys.

This place also produces that sort of iron ore, called Blond metal, used to make nails and horse-shoes, and all sorts of heavy tools, as hammers, axes, &c. There are vessels of divers sorts made here, which are painted with a reddish sort of earth dug hereabouts, which they call slip.

The market is on Wednesday, and the town consisted, according to the late returns, of 1325 houses and 6471 inhabitants. Its principal manufactories are guns, coach-springs, coach-harness, iron axle-trees, saws, trowels, edge-tools, bridle-bits, stirrups, nails, hinges, wood-screws, and cast iron goods. Enamel paintings are also done here in the highest perfection and beauty. Here are several iron forges.

One of the collateral branches of the Birmingham Canal enters this parish, about half a mile, to some

coal-mines and iron works. About two miles from the town are the very extensive iron-works of John Wilkinson, Esq. of Bradley Moor; and about the same distance, at Tipton, are the tar works of Lord Dundonald, and several other iron-works, forges, lime works, collieries, &c.

About two miles south of Wednesbury, is the village of West Bromwich, a large straggling place containing a great population, principally employed in the manufacturing nails and heavy iron goods, and noted for the birth of Walter Parsous, porter to James the I. whose picture was hung up in the guard-room at Whitehall; a man so tall and strong, that he would take up two of the tallest yeomen of the guard under his arms, and carry them where he pleased, let them make whatever resistance they could.

Dudley Castle, situated about three miles to the south-west of Wednesbury, is said to have been built by Dud or Dodo, who built Wednesbury church. At the conquest it was, as appears from Domesday Book, given to William Fitz-Ausculph, who possessed twenty-five manors in this county.

In the reign of King Stephen, when the Empress Maud contended with that king for the crown, this castle was in the possession of Gervase Pagnel, who then fortified it, and held it for the empress.

In the reign of Henry the II^d, Pagnel resided here; and upon the assessment for the marriage of the king's daughter, he certified his knights fees *de veteri feoffmento*, to be in number 50; and *de novo*, six and a third part. Afterwards taking part with Prince Henry, in an insurrection against his father, the king dismantled his castle at Dudley,

The heiress of the Pagnels marrying John de Somery, brought this estate into that family. In the 17th of Henry the III^d, when it was styled an honour, it was seized by the king; its owner, Roger de Somery, having neglected or refused to appear

when summoned to receive the honour of knight-hood. The writ is preserved in Madox's History of the Exchequer; and in English runs thus: "Because Roger de Somery, at the feast of Pentecost last past, has not appeared before the king, to be girded with the military girdle, the sheriff of Worcestershire is hereby commanded to seize on the honour of Dudley, and all the other lands of the said Roger, within his jurisdiction, for the king's use; and to keep them, with all the cattle found upon them, so that nothing may be moved off, without the king's permission. Witness the king at Wenlock," &c.

In the 48th of this king, Somery obtained the royal license to castellate his mansion at Dudley, which probably had remained unfortified ever since it was dismantled, in the reign of Henry II. This castle and estate continued in the Somery family, till the 15th of Edward II. when the male issue having failed, Margaret, one of the heirs-general, transferred it to the Suttons, by marrying one of that family, named John. A manuscript in the possession of Thomas Astle, Esq. calls the person who married the heiress of the Somerys "Sir Richard Sutton." The Suttons were a respectable family in Nottinghamshire; and, on account of their owning Dudley Castle, one of them, in the time of Henry VI., was, as Lord Dudley, summoned to parliament. In the possession of their descendant it continued till parted with by John Lord Dudley (said to have been a very weak and necessitous man) to John Dudley, duke of Northumberland, son of that instrument of extortion used by King Henry VII. to plunder his subjects.

This duke affected to be thought of the Sutton family. Erdeswick, in his history of this county, says, there was a story current in the country, which made him the grandson of an itinerant carpenter, born at Dudley, who being employed in the abbey

of Lewes, in Sussex, was (according to the custom of the monks, who usually added the Christian name to that of the birth-place) there called John of Dudley; which name he afterwards assumed. This carpenter marrying, had a son named Edmund, who was educated by the abbot, and first sent to one of the universities, afterwards placed at an inn of court, and made solicitor to the monastery; and in process of time, becoming famous for his abilities, he was employed, with Empson, by King Henry the VIIth.

The duke, whilst in possession of this castle, according to the last-cited authority, made great repairs and additions to the building; but, opposing Queen Mary's accession to the crown, forfeited his estates. The castle was shortly after granted by that Queen to Sir Edward Sutton, son and heir of that Lord Dudley from whom he had obtained it with divers others of his father's lands.—These, Ann, the heiress of his grandson Sir Ferdinando Sutton, carried in marriage to Humble Ward, Esq. son and heir of William Ward, Esq. a wealthy goldsmith and jeweller to King Charles the 1st. On the 23d of March, 1643, Humble Ward was created a baron, by the title of Lord Ward, of Birmingham, in Warwickshire.

In the civil wars, Dudley Castle was a royal garrison; and in the year 1644, it stood a siege of three weeks, and was relieved on the 11th of June, by a detachment of the king's forces from Worcester; who, with small loss of themselves, slew an hundred men of the parliamentary army, and took several prisoners and standards; but on the 13th of May, 1646, it was surrendered to Sir William Brereton by Colonel Levison, governor for the king. Probably the part taken by Lord Ward in these matters rendered him liable to some inconveniences from the victorious party; as, among Mr. Astle's manuscript collections for this county, there is a certificate to the Lord Protector, from his privy council,

certifying the truth of a petition presented by Humble Ward, which petition the Protector had referred to them. They therein likewise add, that they conceive the said Mr. Ward to be an object of his highness's grace and favour, held forth in his highness's declaration. This paper is dated July 16, 1656, and signed by ten of the members.

According to several writers, the Lords Ward seem afterwards for a while to have resided here; but at length they abandoned it; probably on account of the ruinous state it was in from the damage received in the siege. Tradition relates, that some years ago it served for a retreat to a set of coiners, who set fire to the buildings; whether by accident or on purpose is not said, neither does the story ascertain the date when this happened.

At present it belongs to the Lord Ward, whose predecessor was, by George II. April 21, in the year 1763, created, Viscount Dudley and Ward, of Dudley.

This castle stands on the summit of a rocky hill, whose sides are beautifully wooded. From its windows it commanded a most extensive prospect over five counties, and into part of Wales. It is situated near the east end of the town of Dudley, which is in the county of Worcester.

The mansion consisted of a variety of buildings, encompassing a court, surrounded by an exterior wall flanked with towers.

The keep, which stands in the south-west angle, shews manifest marks of antiquity. Most of the other buildings do not seem older than the time of Henry VIII. or Elizabeth.

In the kitchen, which stands on the east side, are two monstrous chimneys, the fire-place in one of them measuring four yards and a half in width. A considerable area of land is enclosed with these walls.

In the great hall here was an oak table, seventeen yards long, and one yard broad, all of one entire

plank, which originally measured twenty-five yards; but being too long for the intended place, the superfluous part of it was cut off, and made a table for the hall of a neighbouring gentleman; the thickness of this plank is not mentioned. The tree from which it was taken is said to have contained upwards of one hundred tons of timber.

The greatest part of this castle is in ruins, and the walks are kept in complete repair, and open for the accommodation of the public.

On the north-east of the Castle Hill are some large excavations of some old lime-works, in which are often picked up curious specimens of fossil shells, &c. called antediluvian remains.

Pursuing our journey, at the distance of five miles, we arrive at the parish of Handsworth, which is a most extensive one, and contains a great population; it has an ancient church, which has lately been repaired and enlarged, and also a national school. It is, indeed, now almost one town from Birmingham to Hampton. On the left of the road, from West Beaminster, is Sandwell, the seat of the earl of Dartmouth, and on the right, Soho, the seat of perhaps the first manufactory in Europe, and includes a greater variety of articles than almost any other can boast of.

The building, which forms so conspicuous a part of these environs, is situated at the foot of a hill; it consists of four squares, with connecting ranges, or rather streets, of warehouses, &c. capable of employing above a thousand workmen within its walls. It was raised, with vast labour and difficulty, upon a marshy piece of ground, the adjoining parts of which are now converted into useful earth and pleasant streams of water. It is enriched on the south with agreeable gardens, which give an uncommon cheerfulness to the situation, and exhibit proofs of the masterly skill and taste of the projector, who could draw forth such beauties from so wild a state of nature.

The productions of this opulent manufactory were in its infant state, nothing more than what was common to the surrounding artists, such as buttons, buckles, watch-chains, trinkets, &c. The founders, however, of this manufactory, afterwards engaged in an extensive trade of large plated wares, comprehending candlesticks, coffee-pots, tea-urns, bottle-stands, and many other minute articles. These solid and more useful branches being well established, works of grandeur and elegance were introduced in stone, bronze, and or moulu. This novel manufacture consisted of all kinds of vases, candelabra, clock-cases, watch-stands, ice-pails, and many other particulars equally valuable, and received on its introduction the sanction and encouragement of his Majesty, and of the principal nobility in the kingdom, while its spirit and reputation were effectually maintained by sound taste and masterly execution.

These costly superfluities, by their rapid circulation and acknowledged elegance, greatly diminished the importation from France of a similar species of manufacture, eclipsed that reputation it had obtained in the fashionable world, and became an article of commerce with the most polite cities of Europe, reaching even the distant court and empire of Russia, and receiving distinguished marks of that sovereign's liberality and munificence.

The additional ability in point of ingenious workmen, and in the abridgement of labour, which the proprietors had acquired from their success in the undertaking just spoken of, induced them to embark in another, closely allied with the former, almost of equal novelty in this part of England, but by far more important. This was the manufacturing wrought plate. Previously, however, to the establishment of this branch in any extent, it was necessary that the neighbouring town of Birmingham should have an office of its own to assay and regulate the purity of the metal without enhancing the price of the mer-

chandize, and to prevent tedious delays, by carriage to and from London, or elsewhere. This object, though violently opposed by the whole body of artists in the metropolis, in the same line, was, however, attained; chiefly by the vigilance and influence of one of these proprietors. Since that time wrought plate has made a very conspicuous figure among the productions of this manufactory.

There is a considerable manufactory of steel goods, such as fire-irons and steal trays of various descriptions. Combs, buttons, &c. which being studded, and ground by machinery, become far more beautiful than any other metal; for example, the buttons worn on the court dresses by some of the Foreign Ambassadors, &c. are mostly manufactured here.

Here is also a mint for the coining of money, most of the copper money of George III. was coined here, also the Bank-tokens; it is now employed in coining money for the East India Company. Boulton and Watt has lately contracted to erect a mint.

While these branches of elegant decorations, as well as those for more subordinate purposes, were making very extensive and successful advances, the mechanical genius of this place gave existence to an improvement in the construction of the common steam-engine, which promised to exceed, in private benefit and public utility, every other part of the trade in which the proprietors hereof were engaged.

This improvement consisted in raising an equal quantity of water in the same space of time; but with a materially less weight of coal than was consumed by a common engine of the same dimensions. The importance of this discovery, and its practical application, appears in a number of new engines, which have been raised on the ruins of those before used; and in the still greater number always in execution and demand.

The manufactory of Soho may justly be considered the first of its kind in Europe, both in respect to the value of its productions and the extent of the build-

ings in which it is carried on. In the early stages of the establishment, the chief wares were similar to those usually made in this part of the county, such as buckles, buttons, watch-chains, &c; but under the able management of Messrs. Boulton and Watt, it was soon extended to plated goods produced here in the greatest perfection. These were succeeded by elegant fancy articles, manufactured in stone, bronze, or-moulu, &c. all of which gave such universal satisfaction that the proprietors were induced to bring forward an article of more novelty and importance than any of the foregoing; this was plate wrought by means of machinery, the great beauty of which, and its excellent workmanship, gave the invention the most brilliant success. Lastly, that *beautiful*, and according to the opinions of many, that *destructive* machine, *the steam-engine*, to which the most extraordinary powers have been applied by the proprietors. This is not only used at Soho, but forms in its turn an article of manufacture there; having been exported hence in great numbers. The buildings in which this extensive concern has been carried on, stand near the base of a considerable elevation, and consist of four squares, connected by long ranges or rather streets of warehouses, which will accommodate more than 1000 workmen. On the south side there are a number of agreeable gardens.

The elegant mansion of Soho is situated at a short distance from the manufactures, and is surrounded by delightful pleasure grounds.

Upon the whole the credit and reputation which this manufactory has acquired in the commercial and polite world totally preclude those observations which we might otherwise be induced to make on its extensive benefits and national importance.

Journey from Leek to King's Swinford; through Stafford, Penkridge, and Wolverhampton.

LEEK is a market-town, situated 154 miles from London, on the river Churnet, and formerly belonged to the earls of Chester.

The church has a square tower, and six bells, with chimes, and a clock. In its church-yard, at the south-east corner of the chancel, are the remains of a Danish cross, now upright, and ten feet high from the ground, beneath which are three steps.

Here are eight almshouses, endowed in the year 1696 by Elizabeth Ash, widow, eldest daughter of William Jolliffe, for eight widows; who are allowed two shillings per week, and seven shillings and five-pence three farthings twice a year for coals, and a new gown once in two years.

The manufactures carried on in this town are for ribbons, silk-twist, and buttons. The market is on Wednesday; and the town consists, according to the late returns, of 773 houses, and 4292 inhabitants.

At Leek is Ball Hay, Dr. Hulme. The improvements in agriculture in the vicinity of this seat have latterly been very considerable, so that the term *Moorlands*, from the extensive plantations by the Earl of Macclesfield, Dr. Hulme, and Thomas Mills, Esq. may now with propriety be changed to that of *Woodlands*. Within these few years there has been a large reservoir of water formed betwixt the townships of Budgard and Horton for the benefit of the Caldon canal. This reservoir covers upwards of 200 acres of land; it is well wooded on each side. The mechanism by which the water is discharged is very curious.

What were properly called the Moorlands in the north of Staffordshire, were considered as a line drawn from Uttoxeter to Newcastle-under-Line. The first market down from Uttoxeter is Cheadle. A little north of Oakmoor, the lime-stone country. The Weaver hills are of considerable extent.

The plantations at Okeover are flourishing with a due proportion of oak. The house and offices are neat, pleasantly situated in a paddock of fine turf, well stocked with deer, and commanding a view of the Dove and its banks, with a neat Gothic church at the door. At Ham is a pleasant seat, and the romantic

situation of this place suggests the idea of a glen in the Alps. Here two considerable rivers, the Hamps and the Manyfold, burst from under the lime-stone hills, in separate streams, after a subterraneous passage of several miles. The precipices which surround the valley in which Ham stands are wonderfully diversified, and resemble shelves, one almost perpendicular above another; by the side of which, Nature, without any assistance from art, has furnished a profusion of flowers. In a lime-stone grotto, and elsewhere, there are several specimens of petrified fish; some apparently on the spot rivetted by nature. In a grotto here, Congreve is said to have composed some of his plays. From these pleasure grounds we view a very bold and romantic prospect of two hills, called Thorp, Clond and Bunster, on either side of the Dove; the latter, in Staffordshire, is an immense heap of limestone, well stocked with rabbits. Between these two hills the Dove falls in abrupt cascades.

Mill Dale, near Astonfield, is a long narrow vale or glen of great depth; the sides, consisting of overhanging precipices of limestone, are from 100 to 150 yards of perpendicular elevation, and are so steep that they can be clambered up but in very few places. The width of this glen or dale scarce exceeds the depth of its sides, which seem to have been formed by the bursting or breaking of the hill.

The vale of Manifold is situated between Wellon and Butterton. Thyrsis's cavern here is a considerable excavation, pretty high up the side of a lofty precipice, and has somewhat of the appearance of the inside of a Gothic church, but appears to have been the work of art.

Thorshouse cavern are very lofty rocks, and the thunder is frequently tremendous here. The part of the country north-east of Mole Cop is the worst part of the Moorlands and of Staffordshire.

The summits of some of the hills in this county terminate in huge tremendous cliffs, particularly those called Leek rocks, or Roches, and Ipstones

sharp cliffs, piled rock on rock in a most tremendous manner, astonishing and almost terrifying the passing traveller with their majestic frown. Here, single blocks, the size of church steeples, may be seen overhanging the precipice, and threatening destruction to all approachers; and some of prodigious bulk have absolutely rolled down and been broken to pieces.

Oat bread is eaten very generally in the Moorlands, and none other is kept in country houses, though, in the time of dearth, both oatmeal and wheat flour are nearly the same price. In remote country villages it is often baked thick, and with sour leaven, and a proportion of oat husks, and, even when mouldy, is said to be eaten by the natives without murmuring.

South of Mole Cop the country alters, and can no longer be termed Moorlands, as a regularly inclosed scene commences with all the beauties of shelter and shade.

In the blue hills, near Leek, are coal mines; a salt stream running from the former, tinges the stone with a rusty colour, and, with the infusion of galls, turns as black as ink. Here are rocks of a most surprising height, without any turf or mould upon them; they, however, afford some of the most romantic prospects that can be imagined:

“Fields, lawns, hills, vallies, pastures, all appear
Clad in the varied beauties of the year.

Meandering waters, waving woods are seen,

And cattle scatter'd in each distant green.

Here curling smoke from cottages ascends,

There tow'rs the hill, and there the valley bends.”

Dieulacres Abbey, near Leek, was founded for Cisterians, in the year 1214, by Randolph the Third, surnamed de Blundeville, earl of Chester, who translated the monks of Pulton, in Cheshire, hither by order, it is said, of the ghost of his grandfather.— Upon relating the vision to his wife, she said, *Dieu l'excres*, “God increase it,” which became the name

of the place, now corrupted to Dieulacres. It was valued at 227l. 5s. per annum.

Commencing our journey, we proceed southerly, and, at the distance of about fourteen miles from Leek, after passing through the village of Chiddleton, we arrive at Sandon, a village; to the left of which is Sandon Hall, the seat of the Earl of Harrowby. A law-suit about this estate occasioned the duel between the Duke of Hamilton and Lord Mohun, in the year 1712, in which both noblemen lost their lives.

Pursuing our journey, at the distance of three miles from Sandon, we arrive at STAFFORD, situated on the river Sow, over which is a bridge. It had formerly four gates, and was in part surrounded by a wall.

Ethelfleda the Mercian built a castle here, whereof nothing now remains: a little church stands near the site, called the Castle Church. The castle on the hill, a mile from the town, was built long after, by Ranulph, first earl of Stafford. Ederswicke, indeed, from a certain deed dated from the castle near Stafford, long before his time, concluded he only rebuilt it. Dr. Plot thinks the castle there mentioned stood rather within the intrenchment at Billington, which may be only the remains of it, the lands wherein these works are being near to and still remaining part of the demesne land of the barony of Stafford. Mr. Pennant pronounces this a British Post. Sir Simon Degge's MS. note on Plot says, there was a castle within the town, near the broad Eye, and, in his time, a bank called the Castle Bank. This may be the same noticed in Speed's map, now called Bull y hill.

The Conqueror built a castle here, making Robert de Tony governor of it, who thence took the name of Stafford, and the descendants of his great granddaughter became barons and earls of Stafford. The barony had sixty knights fees, and was dissolved by the death of Henry Stafford, last Duke of Bucking-

ham. The moated site of this mansion-house remains before the castle.

The church is mentioned as given to the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, as early as the reign of King Stephen, in the same manner as Wolverhampton and Penkridge, being all free chapels, royal and collegiate. This was an exempt jurisdiction, and had a dean and thirteen prebendaries. It was granted by Queen Elizabeth to the burgesses of the town.

A priory of black canons was founded by Richard Peche, bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, about the year 1180, granted by Henry the Eighth, to Rowland Lee.

In the north part of the town was a house of Grey friars, who settled here in the reign of Edward the First; the site of which was given to James Leveson.

In the year 1344, Ralph Lord Stafford gave to the Augustine friars eremites a piece of ground upon the green, in the south suburb, or fauxbourg, to build a house; and on the suppression of the priory of Stone, all the monuments of the family of Stafford were removed to the conventual church, where, however, they were not preserved. The site was granted to Thomas Nieve and Giles Isham.

Near the river, on the green, was the free-chapel, or hospital of St. John, for a master and brethren.— Here was also a free-chapel dedicated to St. Leonard.

Stafford contains two churches, though only one parish. St. Mary's church has an octagon tower, with eight bells and chimes; also an organ: the font is a singular piece of antiquity. The Dean's house is now converted to a school.

St. Chad's church is an old structure, with only one bell, though it formerly had five, the rest being sold to repair the church.

The town is in general well built, and the houses covered with slate; and the old custom of Borough English is still kept up here. It has a new town-hall, an hospital, a free-school, twelve alms houses for

women, and a spacious market-place; the market is on Saturday.

Near the town, in a most desirable situation, is the County Gaol; it is a new building, and is certainly one of the best constructed and regulated in the Kingdom. It has a great area within the outer walls, which contains the governor's house and garden, the under gaoler's and turnkeys' houses, and compartments for the reception of the different prisoners, who are classed according to their crimes, ages, sex, &c. they are all kept in employ; there is a treading-mill, one of the first erected in this county; it grinds corn, &c. and a short distance from the gaol is a large brick building, erected about four years since, called the Staffordshire General Lunatic Asylum, which was paid for, partly, out of the county rate, and partly by benefactions, donations, &c. and is now in a flourishing state.

On the outside the town is a county infirmary, which was finished in the year 1772, and is supported by subscriptions.

This town is noted for its manufactory of shoes, which is carried on here to a great extent, indeed, London and most of the large towns in Great Britain, have these ready-made Stafford shoe-shops; a great many are also sold for exportation.

In Domesday Book Stafford is termed a city; but though it is more commodious for transacting the business of the county, it is much inferior to Lichfield; yet it is greatly increased of late, both in people and wealth, by their manufacture of cloth. It is the county town, first incorporated by King John, and again by Edward the Sixth, under whose charter it is governed by a mayor, recorder, and twelve aldermen, twenty common council-men, a town-clerk, and two serjeants-at-mace. It is an ancient borough, and sends two members to parliament; the number of voters are about four hundred: returning officer, the mayor.

By the late inland navigation this town has com-

munication with the rivers Mersey, Dee, Ribble, Ouse, Trent, Derwent, Severn, Humber, Thames, Avon, &c. which navigation, including its windings, extends above five hundred miles, in the counties of Lincoln, Nottingham, York, Lancaster, Westmoreland, Chester, Warwick, Leicester, Oxford, Worcester, &c.

Two miles and a half north from Stafford is Hopton Heath, where was a skirmish between the soldiers of Charles the First, under the Earl of Northampton, and those of the Parliament, under Sir William Brereton and Sir John Gill, in which the former had the advantage; but, from too great eagerness, suffered their commander to be slain.

Tixall, which stands about three miles to the east of Stafford, was held at the Conquest by Roger earl of Montgomery, and Henry de Ferrers under him. It was in the Lyttletons in the reign of Edward the Fourth and Henry the Sixth, a daughter of whom brought it in marriage to Sir John Aston, of Haywood, knight, whose eldest son, Edward, was sheriff of this county, in the years 1528, 1540, and 1556, and built the mansion-house here, on the sill of the windows there being this inscription:

“ William Yates made this house, MDLV.”

It was a handsome building, the first story of stone, the rest of timber and plaster. It was taken down, and another mansion built near it, which is still remaining. Sir Walter Aston, sheriff, in the years 1569 and 1574, built the gate-house, and died in the year 1590. It much resembled the mansion, and is of that style of architecture which then began to be adopted, being a medley of Grecian and Gothic. It is entirely of stone, and is well finished.

Sir Walter Aston, the patron of Michael Drayton, married Gertrude, sister of Mr. Sadler, of Standon, in the county of Herts, and was made knight of the Bath, at the coronation of James I. baronet 1611, and for his services in the Spanish match, created baron Forfar. His second son, Walter, second Lord Aston,

married Mary, daughter of Richard Weston, earl of Portland, lord treasurer, and defended Lichfield for the king, and was succeeded by his son, and grandson, both of his name, and a great grandson, James, who died in the year 1755, leaving a son, Walter, and two co-heiresses, of whom the younger married the Hon. Thomas Clifford, and the eldest, Mary, Sir Walter Blount, of Lodington, in the county of Worcester. Among the family pictures, &c. removed hither from Standon, on the death of the last lord, is the marriage of Prince Arthur, in tapestry, mentioned by Mr. Walpole. It is now the residence of Sir T. Constable, Bart.

On Tixall heath are two barrows, called the King's and Queen's Low.

Near Tixall is Shugborough, the seat of Lord Anson, who keeps a very crack pack of fox-hounds, and hunts in this part of the country. The house stands near the Trent, and contains some very fine apartments, which are furnished in a very splendid manner, with pictures, statues, &c. but the gardens claim particular attention, the choragic monument of Lysicrates, the tower of Andronicus Cyrrhestes, and the arch of Adrian at Athens, being imitated here among other ancient and modern monuments of equal taste. Some remains of the old mansion are behind the present. By the road side is a sarcophagus, placed upon a wall, to the memory of the late Lord Anson; and at the bottom of the garden, in the public road, is a standing water, which in winter, and after great rains, is impassible: over it is a stone-bridge of thirty-nine arches, for horse and foot passengers.

Not far from Tixal, is Ingestre, a respectable mansion of the Elizabethan age, the body brick and the bows stone, the ancient seat of the Chetwynds, of whom the last male owner was Walter Chetwynd, Esq. who died without issue in the year 1698; he was a gentleman not more eminent for his ancient family and great hospitality, than for his skill in antiquities,

and for his encouragement of Erdeswicke's researches. He rebuilt his parish church in a handsome manner, in 1677; and gave up a portion of tythes, worth 50% a year, to it. This estate lately belonged to John Chetwynd Talbot, in right of his mother, the heir of John Viscount Chetwynd. Ingestre Hall is the seat of Earl Talbot.

Two miles east from Stafford, is Beacon Hill, a large parcel of rocks on an eminence, covered with grass, having a steep ascent every way like a camp. Upon St. Amor heath, under this hill, a battle was fought in the civil wars.

About five miles south-west from Stafford, is the village of Groshall, where the church was invested with peculiar privileges, as early as the reign of King Henry I. and, with its prebends, given, by King Stephen, to the church of Lichfield. It afterwards became a royal free chapel, and was enjoyed by secular canons, in the reign of Henry VIII. The Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield was counted titular dean without any emolument, and there were four prebends in his disposal.

Pursuing our journey, at the distance of three miles from Stafford, we pass through the village of Dunston, noted for an echo, in a field west of its chapel, which distinctly returns seven or eight syllables.

At the distance of two miles from the last-mentioned place we arrive at PENKRIDGE, a small market town, situated 129 miles from London, on the river Penk, from which it derives its name, and over which is a stone bridge. It is an ancient town, vulgarly called Pankrage, and supposed to be the Pennocrucium of the Romans.

The church was given to the bishop and churches of Coventry and Lichfield, in the same manner as Wolverhampton and Stafford, which were royal free chapels: the advowson of the church and the manor were given, by one Hugh Huose, to the archbishop of Dublin, and his successors, which gift was cou-

firmed by King John; and in process of time the archbishop was always dean of the church, and had the collation of all the prebendaries, which were thirteen in number. At the dissolution it was granted to William Riggs and William Buckbird. The great tythes now belong to Sir Edward Littleton, bart. whose seat is at Tedlesly, a mile from the town. The church has a square tower, with five bells, and a clock.

Here is a charity-school for twelve boys and eight girls.

There is no material trade carried on here. The market is on Tuesday, and the town contained, according to the late population act, 470 houses, and 2641 inhabitants.

Cank or Cannock, with its large forest and chase, is on the south side of the Trent, near Penkridge. It is the domain of the Marquis of Anglesea. Here is an iron ore, called Cannock Stone; the workmen call it yellow share, which, if worked into iron bars, will, when used to make any thing, run off into dirt, and is good for nothing.

At Radmore, in a solitary place, within the forest of Cannock, a society of religious was formed about the year 1140, and obtained the grant of an hermitage, where they fixed themselves, and of some adjoining lands from the Empress Matilda and King Stephen, towards founding a monastery. It was at first only a priory, but at the instigation of the Empress they became Cistercian monks, and the place was erected into an abbey; but being found inconvenient, in the year 1154 the monks removed to Stonely in Warwickshire. Some large single stones fixed here have frequently been the subject of antiquarian enquiry. The design of their erection, notwithstanding, still remains undetermined.

Pursuing our journey, at the distance of three miles, we pass on our right the town of BREWOOD, a market town, pleasantly situated on the Penk, and in it are many good houses, with an excellent free-school.

A convent, in the reign of Richard the First, was founded at this place for Cistercian nuns, which remained till the general dissolution.

On the 24th of November, 1678, about eleven o'clock at night, a dreadful earthquake happened at this town, which did considerable damage, and the next evening it was felt a second time, though not with equal severity.

Brewood is situated 129 miles from London; the weekly market is on Friday, and the town consists, according to the late population act, of 538 houses, and 2762 inhabitants.

Near Brewood, but in the parish of Penkridge, is Stretton, a seat belonging to Mr. Monckton, purchased by him of the Right. Hon. Thomas Conolly, of Ireland, it originally belonged to the family of Congreve, of which family the poet of that name was descended. Near this place was found, some time since, a remarkable piece of antiquity, viz. the brass head of the bolt of a capulta. Stretton Hall is now the seat of Lady Ross.

At Lapiey, a village a little to the north of Stretton, was a priory of black monks, given by Aylmer, Earl of Chester and Mercia, to the abbey at Rheims in the reign of Edward the confessor. Henry the Fifth seized it as an alien priory, and gave it to the college of Tong, in Shropshire, and with that college it came to Sir Richard Manners, in the reign of Edward the Fourth.

Shareshill is a small village near Cannock, on the left of our road, belonging to the deanery of Penkridge. At the north and south entrance of this place are seen two square entrenchments, the area of the largest, about one rood; they are generally supposed to have been Roman encampments, which their proximity to the Watling-street road seems to favour. The body of the church was rebuilt about fifty years since; only the tower and a few monuments were preserved from the old church,

which are of very old date, and on them are several curious inscriptions.

Continuing our journey, at the distance of about eight miles from Penkridge, we arrive at **WOLVERHAMPTON**, an ancient and populous, though not a corporate town, situated on a rising ground, on the navigable canal, which has a communication with all the great rivers in the kingdom. The trade is deemed greater, and the inhabitants more opulent, than those of any other place in the county. Its name is derived from the words *Wolver* and *Hampton*; the first being the corruption of the name of a Saxon lady called *Wulfruna*, and the latter signifying *free*,

“ A thriving town for arts Vulcanian fam'd,

“ And from its foundress good *Wulfruna* nam'd.”

The above-mentioned lady founded or amply, endowed, a monastery at this place, in the year 996, which, at the conquest, was in possession of secular canons. William Rufus gave this church to Sampson, bishop of Worcester, who settled it on the prior and convent of his own cathedral, and they held it till the reign of King Stephen, when it was taken from them by Roger, bishop of Salisbury. Shortly after, it was given to the King by the bishop of Chester, and the church of Lichfield; and it was again in the hands of secular canons, till the famous Petrus Blesensio, who was dean, resigned it into the hands of Hubert, archbishop of Canterbury, that he might build an abbey for monks of the Cistercian order; which, however, seems never to have been done, for the secular canons were in possession not long after, and continued so.

This church was accounted one of the King's free chapels, and with the collation of prebendaries was annexed to the deanery of Windsor. In the reign of Edward the Sixth the college and prebends were granted to the Duke of Northumberland; but these coming again to the crown, by the duke's attainder, the deanery and prebends were re-founded by Mary,

and farther confirmed by James the First, who made the celebrated Marcus Antonius de Dominis, archbishop of Spalatro, and dean of Windsor, prebendary and Dean of Wolverhampton; and presented seven other clergymen, among whom were Joseph Hall, Gabriel Goodman, and Dr. Thomas Goad, to the other seven prebends, Hatherton, Willnall, Fetherstone, Halton, Monmore, Stonewall, or Kinewaston, and Wobestan.

There are at present two churches in this town: St. Peter's, which is collegiate, has a lofty square tower, eight bells, with chimes, and an organ: in it are several old monuments, and a brass statue of Sir Richard Leveson, who engaged the Spaniards under Sir Francis Drake: the pulpit is old, and is of stone; and in the church-yard is a very old stone cross. It has lately been repaired.

In the year 1755, an act of parliament was obtained, and a large subscription made, to build a new chapel in this town, which has since been completed in a plain and handsome manner, though, from the subscription being exhausted, no steeple was erected till the year 1776; it is dedicated to St. John, and is fitted up in the modern style of the London churches, and has in it an exceeding good organ, and a handsome altar-piece.

In the year 1394, Clement Lusen and William Waterfall, obtained the king's license to build an hospital for a priest and six poor men; and in the year 1668 a charity school was built here, and endowed by Stephen Jennings, a native of this town, and Lord Mayor of London. There are also two other charity schools, one for fifty boys, and the other for forty girls.

An act of Parliament was obtained in June 1777, for lighting, paving, and otherwise improving this flourishing town. The parish is nearly thirty miles in compass, and contains, according to Sir William Dugdale, seventeen great villages, wherein are but three small chapels of ease, not capable of contain-

ing a tenth part of the inhabitants, who are computed to be near thirty thousand souls, and of these seven or eight thousand are thought of age to communicate. Within the jurisdiction are nine leets, whereof eight belong to the church. The dean is lord-borough of Wolverhampton, Codsall, Hather-ton, and Petshall, and of Ludley in Worcestershire; and hath all manner of privileges belonging to the view of frank-pledge, goods, deodands, escheats, marriage of wards, and clerks of the markets, which is rated at 156*l.* a year, as the whole is at near 300*l.* a year. Each of the portionaries have a several leet.

Wolverhampton is a populous, well built, and healthy town, notwithstanding the adjacent coal-mines, which is ascribed to its high situation: and it is said that the plague was hardly ever known here: but it is observed, that this town does not increase in buildings like Birmingham, as it is for the most part church land, and consequently the tenure not sufficient to encourage people to lay out their money upon it. Some alterations have been lately made in the centre of the town, by taking down some houses near the market place, to make a more direct line through the place for the Holyhead road.

The markets are on Wednesday, and a small one on Saturday. In the centre of the market-place has lately been erected a lofty column of stone, at the top of which is an immense glass lantern lighted by gas; it is supposed it was intended to light the street, but, alas, it is placed too high for any other purpose than to serve as a beacon to any poor benighted traveller who may be lost a few miles from the town. And the town consisted, according to the late population act, of 6718 houses and 36,838 inhabitants.

Here are the most ingenious locksmiths in England: their locks are made in brass or iron boxes curiously polished. When they make six, eight, or more, in a suit, as they are bespoke, they will order the keys so, that neither of them shall open each

other's lock, but one master key shall open them all. By this means, when the locks are set on, and the inferior keys kept by distinct servants, neither of them can come at each other's charge, yet the master can come at them all. Besides, the master turning his key in any of the servants' locks but once extraordinary, the servants themselves cannot come at their charge; and if they attempt it, the key will only run round and hurt nothing.

About one mile to the north-west of Wolverhampton is the village of Tettenhall, where was a collegiate church, or royal free-chapel, before the conquest, granted by Edward the Sixth to Walter Wrottesley. Near this place is Tettenhall Regis, where King Edward the Elder routed the Northumbrians, in the beginning of the 10th century.

In the road to Shrewsbury, about four miles to the west of Wolverhampton, is Wrottesley Hall, the seat of Sir John Wrottesley. The village of Wrottesley is eminent for the remains of some British or other antiquities; but it is supposed to have been a city in ancient times, because of the several partitions, like streets, running divers ways, which are within the limits of it; as also the large hinges which have been found here, and some of the stones squared. The whole contains in circuit about four miles, and stones of a vast size have been found thereabouts. It is remarkable that one of these made 100 loads; another, after 10 loads had been hewn off, required 36 yoke of oxen to draw it, and made a great cistern in a malt-house at Wrottesley; which, though left very thick both at the bottom and sides, wets 37 strikes of barley at a time.

Two miles to the north-east of Wolverhampton is the village of Wednesfield, where king Edward the Elder obtained a signal victory over the Danes, when two of their kings were killed, and both the Danish and Saxon nobles therein slain were buried in the fields here, called North-Low and South Low.

In a field at Leaton, not far from Wolverhampton

ton, lead ore is dug in a yellowish stone, with cawk and spar, which the workmen distinguish into round ore, small ore, and smithum and which is sold to the potters at Burslem.

About five miles to the west of Wolverhampton, on the borders of Shropshire, is the village of Patingham, where, in the year 1700, was found a large torques of fine gold, two feet long, three pounds two ounces in weight, in shape of the bow of a kettle, and so flexible, that it could be wrapped round the arm, and be easily extended again to its own form. These torqueses were worn by the ancient Britons as well as the Romans.

Two miles to the south-east of Wolverhampton is BILSTON, one of the largest villages in England, being more than a mile and a quarter in length, and containing near 1000 houses. It is situated on a rising ground, upon the great road from London to Holyhead, which, till lately, ran through the whole length of the town, but it now leaves what is called the Old Town, on the left, and only passes by the S.W. end of it, and at the distance of 121 miles from the former place. The road from Birmingham to Manchester and Liverpool runs through it. The navigable canal from Birmingham to the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canals, likewise passes close to it. In consequence of these circumstances it has a constant and very active communication with the capital, the western ports, and the large numerous towns betwixt them, so justly distinguished for their manufactures. Here are very considerable mines of coal, iron stone, quarry stone, and clay. The quantity of coal got in this township may be conjectured from this circumstance, that the works of the late John Wilkinson, Esq. alone consumed 800 tons per week. Furnaces for smelting iron ore, forges, and slitting-mills, which are worked by steam-engines, abound here.

Its manufactures consist chiefly of japanned goods and tin wares, and the remains of the enamelled

trade is still kept on here, which was once an article of considerable manufacture in this part of the country. A great many buckle chapes were formerly made here, when buckles were in common use.

Here is a deep orange-coloured sand, which is sent for by the artists far and near, to be used as a spaud to cast metals in; and it is also noted for a quarry of remarkable stones, lying horizontally one under another, in 12 beds deep, every bed thicker the lower they go; so that the lowermost is about a yard thick. The inhabitants make cisterns, troughs, &c. of the stone; some of which is curiously streaked with black.

The township of Bilston is in the parish of Wolverhampton, but is a distinct township for all parochial purposes. The chapel is a modern building, covered with slate. The chapelry is within the exempt jurisdiction of the dean of Wolverhampton, and is a perpetual curacy; the right of nomination and presentation to which is in the inhabitants at large, and its endowment is about 200*l.* per annum. Here are also several dissenting meeting-houses, and likewise a charity-school.

At Bradley, in this township, is a remarkable phenomenon:—A fire in the earth has been burning upwards of forty years, and, notwithstanding various attempts have been made to extinguish it, it still continues, and has reduced upwards of five acres of land to a mere calx. The inhabitants call it a wild-fire, but modern philosophers term it a pseudo-volcano, and it is treated of by Dr. Thompson in the Philosophical Transactions. It is in fact a bed of coal, which is burning, about four feet thick, and about eight or ten yards deep, to which the air has free access by reason of the thick or main coal having been dug from under it. The calcined earth, occasioned by the fire, affords a very useful material for the repair of the roads, and the workmen, in getting this material, frequently find large quantities of alum, of a very good quality. It is

also remarkable, that the surface, for many yards, is, at times, covered with sulphur, in such quantities, as to be capable of being collected.

Pursuing our journey, at the distance of two miles, we pass through the village of Over Penn; about one mile to the south-east of which is **SEDFELEY**, where a vast trade is carried on in working plough cart and tire irons, horse shoes and nails, particularly in the latter article. In this parish is a fat shining coal, which some prefer before canal-coal; it burns with a silent bright flame into white ashes; and there are mines of it that lie 14 yards deep.

Near Seadon, a village to the west of Sedfeley, on the edge of Shropshire, is Abbots or Apewood castle, an ancient fortification, on a lofty round promontory, with a steep ridge for a mile together, with hollows cut in the ground, supposed for tents. The hills at each end, like bastions, make it probable that it was once all one fortification, whether Roman or British uncertain. The lows on *Womborn* heath probably belong to it.

Resuming our journey at the distance of about four miles from Over Penn, we arrive at **KING'S SWINFORD**, a very pretty village, respectably inhabited, remarkable for the extraordinary death of a young man of twenty-two years of age, in the year 1677, who, after a vicious course of life, and imprecating God's vengeance on himself, and that his hands might rot off, if he had committed a theft with which he was charged, died in the course of four months in a state of perfect mortification.

On Ashwood-heath, in this parish, is a large Roman camp, 140 paces over, commonly called *Wolverhampton* Church-yard.

About three miles and a half to the south-west of King's Swinford is the village of Enville, where is the elegant mansion of the Earl of Stamford. It is a handsome white structure, which, although for the

greatest part modern, carries with it the air of respectable antiquity, happily corresponding with the venerable aspect of the surrounding woods. The centre, which recedes from the wings, has the windows formed with pointed Gothic arches, and is flanked with two octangular towers; from these the wings extend, appearing as modern additions, and round the top of the whole runs an embattlement: this abundantly conceals the roof, which so disgustingly presents itself to view in many even modern buildings. On the left a considerable addition is built, which being judiciously planted out of view, as well as the brick offices on the other hand, the whole strikes us with an air of pleasing uniformity. From the house stretches forward a sloping lawn, that rises boldly on the left, while the intervening sheet of water, skirted by the shrubbery and building we have left, gives to the whole a most pleasing effect. The gardens are capacious, and handsomely laid out. It should also be remarked, that the park of Enville has the peculiar advantage of rendering its beauties accessible to the visit of the invalid, as its noble owner has, with the greatest liberality, disposed a carriage-way through the whole.

To the south of Enville, at the extremest western point of the county, is the village of Over-Arley, which Leland styles "a good uplandish town *in læva ripa Sabrinae*, about five miles above Bewdley." Its warm situation, in a rich clay and loam, produced great quantities of cider apples, particularly the Jennet moyle in Dr. Plott's time, but neglected since. A vein of good pit-coal has been discovered here, but lying very deep, and near the Severn, cannot be worked without too great expense.

At Hexton, in this parish, are dug excellent grindstones. On the eastern limits we meet with the vicinal way, called the *Portway*, which probably led from *Brenogenium* (Worcester) to *Uriconium* (Wrochester), and is still the post road from Worcester to Shrewsbury. In Arley Wood is a large Roman

camp, nearly square, double, and on one side treble trenched; perhaps one of Ostoria's camps along Severn. Castlefield, within this manor, on the west side of the river, may be a Roman work.

Wulfruna gave Arley, by the name of East Arlie, or Earnlege, to her collegiate church at Wolverhampton, from which it was alienated before the Conquest, and in the reign of Henry II. was in the family of Port. Adam de Port being outlawed, for appearing against Henry II. it fell to the crown, and was, by Henry III. given to Hubert de Burgh, earl of Kent. His son alienated it to Robert Burnell, bishop of Bath and Wells, who alienated it to Edward I. who gave it to his servant, Letard de Henyn, and he sold it to the Mortimers, a daughter of whom conveyed it to Hugh de Aldithley; but on her death it reverted to her family, with whom it remained, till sold to William Boorerley, in the year 1450, whose daughter married Thomas Lyttleton, in whose family it still remains, and several of their monuments are in its church.

At the utmost south border of the county lies the village of **CLENT**, formerly within the county of Worcester, and giving name to one of its hundreds, though now reckoned within this county; it is famous for the martyrdom of St. Kenelm, king of Mercia, slain at seven years old, by the contrivance of his sister, Quendrida, in the year 819. His body was discovered by a cow, and buried at Winchelcomb abbey. Cowbach, a pasture ground, half a mile off, at Hales-Owen, in the county of Salop, is still called from her, and in it, or rather at the east end of the yard of St. Kenelm's chapel, an ancient Saxon building, is a fine spring of water, said to have gushed out on the discovery of the royal infant's body, and much restored to, both before and since the Reformation, for the cure of diseases of the eyes, and other maladies.

Half a mile north north-east of Clent church is a list of grass, called St. Kenelm's Furrow, from cer-

tan oxen that, ploughing on his festival, are said to have run away for ever

Clent manor was granted by King John to the Someries; and, after passing through the hands of the Buttetourts, Burnells, Beauchamps, Butlers, Staffords, and Wrottesleys, came into the Lyttleton family, whose heirs enjoy it. Cloth fairs are held in the parish, and the inhabitants enjoy exemption from toll in markets, and other petty immunities.

On Clent heath are three lows or barrows, raised after some battle hereabouts, when the fortifications of Whichbury hill adjoining, in Worcestershire, were raised. The constant tradition of the inhabitants ascribe them to the Romans; and bishop Lyttleton opening one, found a considerable quantity of burnt wood and ashes, at the depth of fourteen feet. Two others have been since opened; in one of which, exactly in the centre, at about the depth of two feet, was found an urn, of coarse ill-burnt clay, with small human bones, very white, to the quantity of two quarts. Two feet lower, on the west side of the tumulus, was a pretty large quantity of bones, ashes, and burnt wood, lying promiscuously together. The last that was opened contained no urn; but at two yards deep, in the centre, was a cavity, a foot diameter and depth, filled wholly with human bones and burnt wood. The Bishop supposed that the urn contained the remains of the Roman general; and that the bones of his officers lay by him, but those of the soldiers in the other lows. Tradition mentions a battle between the Romans and the Britons here, the former being encamped on Wichbury, the latter on Clent hill. Harbarrow, an adjoining farm, carries something military in its name; and Herestone, a neighbouring brook, might be denominated from some stone, or rude pillar of victory, erected by the Britons, as Dr. Plot imagined of Baston, in Kinfare parish. The Roman road, passing through Hagley parish, now called the King's head-land, was probably the Portway, mentioned in a court-roll in the

time of Elizabeth; and, at a considerable depth in a rag-stone quarry, in Haglay park, was found, in the year 1752, a very rude stone term. Several coins of the lower empire have been found in the fields adjoining to Wichbury, and an earthen pot full of them was taken out of a pool, on the south edge of the hill, not many years since. In the year 1738, a farmer stubbing up an old tree, discovered an old iron chain, almost consumed by rust, in which hung a large round stone as big as a man's head, having a groove in it to receive the chain.

Not far from hence is Kinfare, where is an old fortification of an oblong square, about three hundred yards by two hundred, with a deep ditch on two sides, the others defended by the hill; ascribed to the Danes. Here is also a barrow, and a large squarish stone, two yards high, and near four yards about, with two notches at the top, like the Devil's arrows in Yorkshire, and called *Batson*, *Battlestone*, or *Bolstone*. On the heath between Kinfare and the Comptons are several lows.

A little to the north of Clent is the delightful park of Hagley, one part of which is situated in this county, and the other in Worcestershire. This favoured spot, once the retreat of the accomplished Lord Littleton, as well as from being so frequently visited and sung by Pope, Thomson, Hammond, &c. may be considered as truly classical ground, and is now the seat of the Hon. R. Curzon. The mansion is situated on a gentle rise, in the midst of an extensive lawn: the composition, a white free-stone; the entrance, at the principal front, is by a double flight of steps, with an elegant balustrade; at the corners rise small square turrets, no fluted column or sculptured capital appear, but plainness and solidity reign throughout; while every embellishment which genius could contrive, taste select, or the pencils of the most capital masters bestow, are found within. From the garden front the prospect is beauty itself; directly opposite, but by the dis-

tance so contrived as to enhance its beauty, a light column erects itself, which, having its base fixed on the brow of a hill, and being sheltered behind by a stately grove, that descends on each side in semi-circular form, gives us a perfect rural amphitheatre, and forms a scene truly picturesque. A little to the right, towards which the nodding grove seems to direct the eye, the church is situate; not only defended, but completely enveloped, by venerable trees.

From hence we behold a spacious lawn, skirted here and there with ivied oaks, &c. gradually swelling and rising to a wood, which marks the boundaries of the park, and over its lofty summit the bold tops of the Clent hills, breaking, as it were, the immeasurable limits of the horizon, finish the picture.

Re-conducting our eye to the former prospect of the column, we view, on the left, a descent, down which winds a stately grove. This may truly be said to arise from the taste and genius of the noble director, who has lopped off the exuberances of nature, and by means of kindred art, given it the most pleasing form. Beyond the top of the hill, another grove of smaller size opens, and presents us with a clump of Scotch firs; after which the sweeping lawn takes the appearance of a pleasing vale, rising, by slow degrees, till it appears to reach the towering hills of Wichberry. To the left of this beauteous hill, deeply embosomed in firs, the temple of Theseus presents itself; beyond it, on an eminence, rises, with peculiar dignity, an obelisk, behind which extends a venerable grove of oaks, "whose trunks, mossed o'er with age," terminate this beauteous prospect.

The parish church, a small building of Gothic structure, secluded amid encircling trees, next demands our observation: the finished inside bespeaks the artist; the chancel windows are of beautifully stained glass, which, although modern, yields nei-

ther for colouring or brightness to any of ancient production. Amongst several elegant monuments, that erected by Lord George Lyttleton, to the memory of his beloved Lucinda, is of superior execution. From the church we may take the path leading to the garden, which is elegantly laid out, where we find an alcove, with a room behind it; and, on one side, a very beautiful undedicated urn.

Passing on, close to the garden pales, in a narrow walk, well shaded by overhanging trees, we have a bold rising lawn, where the eye is attracted by an airy alcove; to the right of which is a stately obelisk, both within his lordship's grounds, but out of the limits of the park. Pursuing this track, which verges on the left hand of the park, we are brought to Thomson's seat, an octangular temple, erected as much to testify his lordship's esteem, as to commemorate the merit of this admired bard. The sloping lawn from hence sinks gradually into the bottom of a fine grove, over the top of which, on a bold rising hill, peers a corresponding grove, seated on so lofty an eminence that its trunks appear above the heads of the trees beneath; through an opening of which, Pope's building rises to great advantage, while the well-known hills of Malvern terminate the prospect.

Not far from hence is the vicarage-house, with Gothic windows, which, though a little out of the bounds of the park, gives an agreeable variety.—Following the winding path we come to the rotunda, an elegant structure of eight Doric columns, supporting a handsome dome, and seated on the eminence of a fine sloping lawn. From a bench behind this dome, looking down the lawn, we perceive some beauteous reservoirs of the most lucid water, deeply shaded with large trees, and thick set shrubs, the whole forming the most agreeable vista in nature, terminated by a delightful view of the Palladian Bridge. Our walk continues to an opening, from whence we have a distant view of the house, which appears as if seated in a wilderness, and shows itself

with additional lustre, while the snowy-headed mountains of Wales, rearing their high tops amongst the dusky clouds, terminate the prospect.

From hence we proceed, up a steep ascent, to the hermitage: this secluded cell, apparently reared with the simplest materials of nature, blasted stumps and unhewn trunks of trees, whose fissures, stopped up with earth and moss, of various hues, give it every appearance of a work of necessity; such as we might imagine the hand of Selkirk reared in Juan Fernandez. The inside of this wild mass is precisely similar to its exterior, and is surrounded by a rude wooden bench: the light has admittance only by the door, the floor is paved, and the moss-clad walls have no other relief from furniture than what is afforded by the humble bench which extends the length of the apartment. Formerly there was an inner apartment, which contained a pallet and mat, but through decay removed, and a fir tree is planted on its site. From the hermitage the path descends, winding under the shade into the hollow, and continuing that to the right, which leads up by the environ of the park, we come to a rough concave recess, with a semi-circular seat, over which, rudely indented in the mortar wall, are the words—*omnia vanitas*—all is vanity. From this recess, continuing our walk above the glen, we gradually mount in a winding direction, to a seat, behind which a gate lets us out of the park to one of the loftiest of the Clent hills.

Returning to the park, we are immediately struck with a view of the ruin, encompassed by venerable trees; upon a nearer view, we are confirmed in every idea of decayed magnificence which is distantly inspired. Here antiquity seems to have laid his heavy hand with added weight. The massy stones tumbled from its mouldering walls, the tottering loose o'erbending towers, and the thick-rooted ivy, with which it is nearly covered, aid our first belief. One of the towers, being left entire, has a most

happy effect, by allowing scope to the imagination, to suppose what the noble pile might once have been, from contemplating its present state. Within the tower, which is left complete, a winding staircase conducts to the top, which affords an opportunity of surveying a prospect, that, for grandeur, variety, and extent, is no where rivalled.

The next place that attracts attention is the grotto. On this delightful retirement the noble designer appears to have lavished every decoration which taste could bestow, to heighten its original beauties. Nature, indeed, laid the ground-work, but Art enlivened the colouring; yet so justly are they blended, that they defy even the eye of criticism to separate them. We now strike across the lawn, to the column which supports an elegant statue of Frederick, the late Prince of Wales, his late Majesty's father. From this spot we may proceed to the alcove, from whence a path leads to the house, a description of which, with its paintings and embellishments, would, to do justice to it, fill a volume.

Journey from Burslem to Litchfield; through Newcastle under Lyne, Stone, and Rudgeley.

BURSLEM, a market town, famous for its potteries, is situated on a hill, in the northern part of the county; it has a church, with a square tower and five bells; it has also a methodist meeting-house. Here is a neat market-house, with a clock on the top; the market days are Mondays and Saturdays; and the town is situated 158 miles from London, and consisted, according to the late population act, of 1952 houses, and 10,176 inhabitants.

In the parish of Biddulph, to the north-west of Burslem, and almost at the extremity of the county, on a rising ground, in the break or opening between the Cloud and Woolf Lowe, which are two of the chain of hills that run through the counties of Stafford, Chester, Derby, and York, into Scotland, are

the Bridestones, a semicircle of six upright free-stones, from three to six feet broad, of various height, about six feet asunder, and two more within them, where the earth is very black, mixed with ashes and oak charcoal. It is supposed that the circle was originally complete, and twenty-seven feet in diameter, for there is the appearance of holes where stones have formerly stood, and also of two single stones, one standing above five or six yards from the circle, and the other at the same distance from that. On the west side are two rough square tapering stones, four feet two inches broad, and two feet thick. One on the north side is broken off, as part of the other. West of these is the pavement of a kind of artificial cave, composed of broken pieces of stone, about two inches and a half thick, and laid on pounded white stones, about six inches deep: two inches of the upper part, tinged with black, supposed from the ashes falling through the pavement, which was covered with oak charcoal about two inches thick. Several small bits of bone were also found. The sides of this cave, or cell, were composed of two unhewn free stones, about eighteen feet long, six feet high, and eighteen inches thick, each broken in two. It was divided by a stone, about five feet and a half high, and six inches thick, having a circular hole cut through it, about nineteen inches and a half in diameter. The whole was covered with long unhewn flat free stones, since taken away. The height from the pavement to this covering was five feet ten inches. The entrance was filled up with stones and earth

About fifty-five yards from hence was another place of the same construction, but smaller and without any inward partition, two yards and a half long, two feet and a half broad, and three feet and a half high. Also part of a third. A large heap of stones covered the whole, one hundred and twenty yards long, and twelve broad. These stones have been taken away, from time to time, by masons, and

other people for various purposes, and in the year 1764, several hundred loads were carried away to make a turnpike road near this place, which laid it open for examination.

Commencing our journey, on leaving Burslem, we proceed southerly, and, at the distance of about two miles, pass through **NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYNE**, a borough and market town, situated on a branch of the Trent. Its name is supposed to have been derived from an old castle, which stood near it, at Chesterton-under-Lyne, where Camden saw many walls of a half-ruined castle, which at first was given by King John to Ralph earl of Chester, and afterwards by Henry III. to the earl of Lancaster, who built or repaired it.

This town had formerly four churches, but suffering considerably during the barons' wars, they were destroyed, one only now remaining, having a square tower, with eight bells and chimes.

Here are twenty alms-houses, endowed by the Marquis of Stafford and Lord Grenville, for twenty women.

The streets are broad and well-paved, but most of the buildings are low and ancient; at the south end of the town was formerly a monastery of black friars.

There is a greater quantity of stone-ware made near this place than in any other part of England, one hundred thousand pounds worth having been sometimes exported in a year. Dr. Plot, as an instance of the growth of stones, mentions, that near the town was found a stone with a man's skull, teeth and all, enclosed in it. The clothing trade flourishes here; but its chief manufactory is hats, here being an incorporated company of felt-makers.

Here is an excellent device for the taming of shrews: they put a bridle into the scold's mouth, which deprives her of the power of speech, by which she is led about the town, and exposed to public shame till she promises amendment.

The town was incorporated by Henry I. and afterwards by Queen Elizabeth and Charles II. and is governed by a mayor, two justices, two bailiffs, and twenty-four common councilmen. The corporation has the power of holding a court for the recovery of debts under forty pounds.

It has sent two members to parliament ever since the twenty-seventh of Edward III. The right of election has been three times the subject of parliamentary investigation; viz. in 1624, 1705, and lastly in 1792; the first determination was in favour of ancient custom, which was, that of the freemen residents who did not forfeit their claim till a year and a day after they have left the town; the second and last, have been confined to the question of residence for the year and a day that they had actually ceased to reside, which in both cases was decided against their claim.—In the trial of the last petition, which was that of Thomas Fletcher, Esq. and Clement Kynnersley, Esq. against Sir Archibald Macdonald and the Hon. Leveson Gower, the sitting members, it appeared in evidence, that a great part of this borough was the property of the Marquis of Stafford, whose influence directs the choice of the electors; and that it is very customary for the burgesses, who are the electors, to live ten, fifteen, and twenty years, in their houses without paying any rent, and that the then members were the brother and son-in-law of that nobleman! Upon trial of the above petition, the counsel for the petitioners stated the right of election to be in the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses or freemen, whose place of residence, at the time of giving their votes, was in the said borough; or who, at such time, have no place of residence elsewhere, and who have never been absent from the borough for the space of a year and a day, without interruption, since they were admitted to the freedom thereof, or whose families (if they were masters of families) have not been absent for the space of time aforesaid, without interruption, after

the time of the admission of such burgesses or freemen, having families, to the freedom of the said borough.—The council for the sitting members stated the right of election to be in the freemen residing in the borough of Newcastle, and not receiving alms or church-bread; and that persons living a year and a day out of the borough lost their freedom.

The committee determined, that neither of the statements delivered in by the petitioners, or sitting members, were the specific right of voting for this borough; but that the right was, "In the freemen residing in the borough of Newcastle under-Lyne." The number of voters is about 660, and the returning officer the mayor.

In the neighbourhood of the town are frequent horse races, though it is in a manner surrounded with coal-pits; the coal of which is softer than the canal coal, and is cut out in slices, but consumes so fast that it is only fit for forges.

The market-day is on Monday, and there is also a great beast market every Monday fortnight; and the town consisted, according to the late population act, of 1899 houses, and 7031 inhabitants.

The principal potteries in the neighbourhood of Newcastle, are Golden Hill, Lane End, Etruria, Cowbridge, Handley, Smithfield, Newfield, Burslem, Long Port, Lane Delph, Lower Lane, Vale Pleasant, Sheldon, and Stoke.

At Golden Hill, about four miles to the north-west of Newcastle, the pottery commences, and continues to Lane-End, to the termination of which is nearly eight miles, and may be looked upon as one continued town, the whole of which is surprisingly populous; the staple, and almost only manufacture, from one end to the other, is earthen-ware.

Lane-End is a market town, and owing to some circumstance has two market-houses. The market day is on Saturday. Here is a new church, built with brick, much after the plan of that of Handley,

There are also places of worship for methodists and dissenters.

Etruria, situated on a rising hill, about one mile to the north-east of Newcastle, is the elegant seat of the late Josiah Wedgewood, Esq. who by a fortunate accident purchased a spot of ground here, and under the direction of his inventive genius, furnished an astonishing profusion of the most elegant vases of every use and form; and it thus deserves the name of Etruria, given to it by its ingenious proprietor. To this gentleman's indefatigable labours, England is indebted for the establishment of a manufacture that opened a new scene of extensive commerce, before unknown to this or any other country. What has been commonly called his ware, has been carried to a degree of perfection, both in the line of utility and ornament, that leaves all works, ancient or modern, far behind. His many discoveries of new species of earthenwares and porcelains, his studied forms and chaste style of decoration, and the correctness and judgment with which all his works were executed, under his own eye, and by artists for the most part of his own forming, turned the current of this branch of business, for before his time England imported the finer earthenwares. He died in January, 1795, but long before that period his works were exported to a very great amount. These were formed from the earth, and the industry of the inhabitants, and besides benefitting them, raised our reputation in foreign countries. Neither was Mr. Wedgewood unknown in the walks of Philosophy. His invention of a thermometer for measuring the higher degrees of heat employed in the various arts, has been of the highest importance, and have added celebrity to his name.

Cowbridge is situated near Burslem, and has a school, which was erected by the benefaction of the potters of that neighbourhood, in the year 1766. Here is also a Roman-catholic chapel.

Handley is a market town, situated about one

mile to the north-east of Etruria. In it is an elegant church, built with brick, with a square tower one hundred feet high, eight bells, and an organ; it was began in the year 1788, and cost about five thousand pounds. Here are also methodist and dissenting meeting-houses. The market day is on Saturday.

Smithfield is delightfully situated, and the prospects from it are extensive and very pleasing, one of which includes nearly all the towns and villages of the pottery, so populous a view being rarely met with. Mr. Smith the proprietor, has a pleasant and modern built seat here; and this place is also an excellent situation for the manufacturing of earthenware, having several strata of coal in it, as well as coarse clay, which the potters use much of.

At Longport there is a public wharf, belonging to the Staffordshire canal company, their canal passing this way.

At Stoke, a new market-house was erected, in order to render it a market town. Its church is an old Gothic structure, with a square tower, six bells, and a clock.

Three miles north-east of Newcastle is Hilton, where was an abbey of Cistercian monks, founded by Henry de Audley, in the year 1233; and granted, at the suppression, to Sir Edward Aston.

Pursuing our journey, at the distance of three miles from Newcastle, we pass through the village of Trentham, where was a convent of nuns, founded by Ethelred, king of Mercia, of which St. Werburgh was abbess, and died in the year 688. It was probably destroyed by the Danes, and re-founded by Randal, second earl of Chester, who placed in it Augustine canons. In the reign of Henry I. the site was granted to the Duke of Suffolk.

This little town, (which gives title to the Marquis of Stafford) derives its name from the river Trent, which rises here.

At this place is the noble seat of Earl Gower,

which is esteemed the finest place in this county; the house is modern, and built on the plan of the Queen's Palace in St. James's Park. It is situated close to the church, which renders the entrance to the house very inconvenient, the church and church-yard being just in front. The park is very beautiful, has two large pieces of water in it; and the hills, which rise immediately from the water, are finely covered with wood, which has a noble effect as you pass the road. The park is walled round, and from the high ground in it, is an extensive view of the country every way.

Pursuing our journey, at the distance of about three miles from Trentham, we pass through the village of Darlaston, where, on the top of a hill, are the ruins of a large castle, fortified with a double vallum and entrenchments, about two hundred and fifty yards diameter. This, according to tradition, was the seat of Wulpher, king of Mercia. There is a barrow near the castle, said to be his tomb.

A little to the south-west of Darlaston, is Swinner-ton, the estate of a family of that name, from the Conquest to the reign of Henry VIII. when it passed to the Fitz-Herberts of Norbury, in Derbyshire, by marriage with the heiress of Swinnerton; it was anciently a royal seat, and had a market, now disused.

The number of houses at Darlaston are 1080 and 5585 inhabitants.

At the distance of one mile from Darlaston, we arrive at STONE, a market town said to owe its name to a heap of stones thrown up here, according to the customs of the Saxons, to commemorate the spot where Wulpher, the Pagan King of Mercia, murdered his sons, Walford and Rupinus, for embracing Christianity; but Wulpher himself being afterwards converted to the faith, founded a college of secular canons, after the year 670, in honour of the sons whom he had put to death. These canons being driven away by the Danes, about the time of the Conquest, some nuns had got possession of the

house, but by the means of Robert de Stafford, they were changed for regular canons from Kenilworth, in the reign of Henry I. to which house this priory was a cell till the year 1260, when another Robert de Stafford, got it made independent, save only the right of patronage and a yearly pension. At the suppression, the site was granted to George Harper.

The church is a noble structure, with a square tower, six bells, and a clock. The town stands on the river Trent, 140 miles from London, and has a park, a small charity-school, and a free grammar-school. By the late inland navigation, it has communication with the rivers Mersey, Dee, Ribble, Ouse, Derwent, Severn, Humber, Thames, Avon, &c.

The market-day is on Tuesday, and the town consists, according to the late population act, of 1328 houses, and 7251 inhabitants; there is a large manufactory of shoes carried on,—one of the most considerable in the kingdom, principally for the London market.

About one mile to the south-west of Stone, is a large house, called Aston, anciently the property of a branch of the Heveninghams of Suffolk. Walter, the last of the line, left two daughters, of whom the second conveyed the estate by marriage to Sir James Simeon, of Brightwell, in the county of Oxford, bart. in the time of Charles II. who rebuilt the house, and likewise a mausoleum in the garden, in which it is said he is interred.

At Burston, two miles and a half from Stone, in our road, was a chapel, erected on the spot where Rufin, second son of Wulpher, was supposed to have been murdered.

About four miles to the west of Burston, is Chatley Park, belonging to the Ferrars' family, who are here as old as the Conquest, and were barons Chartley from the year 1298. Their greatest property was in Derbyshire, for in this county they had only Chartley and Tutbury. Their heiress, Anne, brought

the barony by marriage to the Devereuxes. Robert D'Eureux son of Robert, last earl of Essex and Lord Ferrars of that name, dying without issue, Charles II, declared Sir Robert Shirley, his heir-general, Lord Ferrars of Chartley, who was afterwards advanced by Queen Anne to the title of Viscount Tamworth and Earl Ferrars. The barony of Ferrars of Chartley devolved, in the year 1754, to Charlotte, wife of George Viscount Townshend (daughter and heir of James Compton, Earl of Northampton, by Elizabeth Shirley his wife) by whom she had issue, George, who became, on her death, in the year 1770, baron de Ferrars of Chartley, and was elected president of the Society of Antiquaries, on St George's day, April 23, 1784, on the death of Jeremiah Milles, dean of Exeter, and the same year advanced to the ancient title of earl of Leicester. Queen Elizabeth was at Chartley, in the year 1575, in her progress to Stafford. This venerable pile, built great part of wood, round a court, was adorned with the arms and devices of the several proprietors, the initials of the builder, Walter Devereux, and a bed wrought by the Queen of Scots, who was confined here: it was destroyed by fire in the year 1781. At a small distance, on a knoll, are the remains of the castle by Ralph, Earl of Chester, from whom it passed to the Ferrars and Devereuxes, earls of Essex. In Stow church, adjoining, is a monument for Walter Devereux, first Viscount Hereford, grandson of the first Lord Ferrars, and founder of the house of Chartley, who died in the year 1558, with his own figure, and those of his two wives.

Pursuing our journey, at the distance of six miles from Burston, we pass through the village of Colwich, the burying place of the Ansons; and here is a monument of Sir William Wolsley, who was drowned in his chariot, by the blowing up of a mill-dam, in a thunder-storm.

At the distance of three miles from Colwich we arrive at RUDGELEY, a market-town, situated near the

grand inland navigation, which forms so extensive a communication between the principal rivers of the kingdom. It is a handsome well-built town, governed by two constables, with a large manufactory of hats and felts. The church is a little north of the town, which is 131 miles from London; the market is on Tuesday, and the town contained, according to the population act, 494 houses and 2677 inhabitants.

A new church has lately been erected, and it is said the old one is to be taken down, the timber being decayed.

On the west of Rudgeley is Cannock chace, belonging to the Most Noble the Marquis of Anglesea, upon which there is a great number of deer kept.

Between the town and the river Trent is the Grand Trunk canal, where there is a large warehouse for the stowage of goods; a mile from this is the aqueduct, where the canal is carried over the river Trent.

Close to the town is Hagley Hall, the seat of the Hon. R. Curzon; and at the distance of two miles is Wolsley Hall, the seat of Sir Charles Wolseley, near to which is Bellarmour Lodge, the seat of William B. Count, Esq.

Upon a brook which runs through the middle of the town, in the compass of one mile, are two iron forges, one slitting mill, two corn-mills, and one colour-mill. About two miles from hence is a cold bath, upon Cannock Chace, which springs from under the hill, and is of great note; and one mile farther are the coal works belonging to the Marquis of Anglesea. From a hill near the town, called Stilecop Hill, the following counties may be seen: Cheshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, and Shropshire; and within three miles are Hednesford Hills, one of the most noted training grounds for race horses in the kingdom.

Pursuing our journey, at the distance of two miles beyond Rudgeley, we pass through the village of **LONDON**, about one mile to the west of which is

Beaudesert, the seat of the Marquis of Anglesea. It was formerly a castle, and stood on a very high hill, commanding a view of nine counties. It was wrested, with six other manors, from the see of Lichfield, in the reign of Edward VI. when bishop Sampson accepted it in exchange from Sir William Paget, baron Beaudesert, certain impropriations of the value of 1831 a year, now reduced to poor vicarages or curacies, annexed to the see. The house was rebuilt by Thomas, Lord Paget, in the reign of Elizabeth, and has been much improved by the present owner. In the drawing-room is a fine portrait, by Holbein, of the first lord Paget: his monument in Lichfield Cathedral was destroyed in the civil wars. He was, as may be collected from his epitaph, secretary and privy counsellor to Henry VIII. and constituted by his will, counsellor and adjutant to Edward VI. during his minority, to whom he was also chancellor to the duchy of Lancaster, Comptroller of the household, and by him created baron and knight of the garter, and by Queen Mary, lord privy seal. His grandson, William, was fourth baron Paget. In the park is a large fortification, called Castle-hill, double trenched, and almost circular, except on the south east side, having two entrances, and before the eastern one several advanced works. It probably was made by Canute, the Danish King, when he ravaged these parts; though Mr. Pennant refers it to the Britons. Coal is dug in this park, which will bear carving. The choir of Lichfield Cathedral is floored with this coal and alabaster in alternate squares.

At the distance of two miles from Longdon, and one mile previous to our arrival at Lichfield, is the village of Fairwell, where was a house of canons regular, afterwards of Benedictine nuns, founded by Roger Clinton, bishop of Lichfield, about the year 1140, suppressed by Wolsey, and annexed to Lichfield for the choristers.

Journey from Muckleston to Eccleshall.

Muckleston is a small village, situated on a rising ground, from whose church Margaret of Anjou, the faithful and spirited consort of Henry VI. saw the fatal battle of Blore-heath, near this place, where her husband's troops were defeated.

Blore-heath was once a large common, but much of it is now inclosed. The account historians give of this battle is, that, on the 37th of Henry VI. James Touchet, second lord Audley of that house, was sent to encounter Richard Nevill, earl of Salisbury, who had assembled forces to support the house of York, in their pretensions to the crown. Lord Audley, having raised about 10,000 men, approached near to the earl, in a plain called Blore-heath, in order to prevent his march to London: whereupon the earl, finding it impossible to avoid an engagement, encouraged his men, and encamped on the side of a deep brook, the night before the day of St. Thecle, when the battle was fought. The lord Audley, with the vanguard of his army, passed the water; but the earl and his men, being desperate, behaved with such valour, that, after a sharp encounter, the lord Audley, with most of his men, were slain before the rest of the forces could come to his or the vanguard's assistance. It appears, from a view of the place, that the earl was encamped on the north-east of the brook, and lord Audley on the south-west; and as the brook is very shallow, the defeat was more probably occasioned by the difficulty of ascending the hill, than by the rear of the Lancastrian army not being able to pass the water to support their vanguard. The neighbouring inhabitants have a tradition that during and after the battle the brook ran with blood. A cross of wood was erected on the field of battle, which being thrown down some years since by a cow rubbing against it, the lord of the manor ordered a stone pedestal to be placed there, and the old cross fixed upon it. The height of the pedestal and the cross is

about three yards. On the east front of the pedestal is this inscription.

“ On this spot was fought
the battle of Blore Heath, in 1459:

Lord Audley,

Who commanded for the side of Lancaster,

Was defeated and slain.

To perpetuate the memory
Of the action and the place,

This ancient monument

Was repaired in

1765,

At the charge of the lord of the manor,

Charles Boothby Skrymsher.

The Earl of Salisbury enjoyed his victory but a short time, being made a prisoner by the Lancastrians, at Wakefield, in the year 1460, and there beheaded after the battle. Of his three sons, the second son, Sir Thomas Neville, was slain in the same battle; the eldest, Richard, earl of Salisbury and Warwick, and the third, John Marquis Montacute were killed at the battle of Barnet, in the year 1470.

Commencing our journey, on leaving Muckleston, we proceed south-easterly, and, at the distance of about three miles, we pass, on our left, Broughton Hall, the seat of the Rev. Sir Thomas Broughton; and about two miles farther, on our right, Sugnall Hall, the seat of John Turton, Esq. One mile and a half beyond which we arrive at ECCLESHALL, a market-town, pleasantly situated on the river Sow. The houses in the town are neat, and it has a good church and charity-school.

Eccleshall is a large manor, called sometimes a barony, and belonged to the Bishop of Lichfield at the conquest. Bishop Durdent obtained a market and fair for it before the year 1161, and about 1200, Bishop Muschamp had a license from King John to make a park here, and embattle the castle, which was rebuilt by Bishop Langton, in the year 1310.—The value of this estate, in 1534, was including the

castle and manor, 57l. 7s. per annum. The bishops having other palaces in the county, at Heywood, Brewood, Beaudesert, &c. besides Lichfield House, in the Strand, London, do not appear to have resided much here.

In the civil war the castle was held for the king, and taken by the parliament before the year 1646, when it was so damaged that the bishop could not reside in it at the restoration. The manor was sold in the year 1650 for 14,224l. Bishop Lloyd, about 1695, rebuilt of brick all the south front of the palace, which constitutes the best part of the house, and connected it with what before served only for a farm-house. Since his time it has been the residence of the bishops. Bishop Hough planted the grove, now converted into an elegant shrubbery; and the present bishop, Dr. James Cornwallis, by draining the grounds about the castle, has rendered the situation perfectly healthy.

In the church of this place Queen Margaret was sheltered after the battle of Blore Heath, by Bishop Hales.

Eccleshall is situated 148 miles from London; the market is on Fridays, and the town consisted, according to the late population act, of 594 houses, and 3487 inhabitants; viz. 1737 males, and 1750 females; of which number 2657 were returned as being employed in agriculture, and 830 in various trades and manufactures.

About a mile to the north of Eccleshall is Wotton, where is a high paved way, which Dr. Plot took for a *via vicinalis*; and one mile to the east is Chebsey, in the church-yard of which is a pyramidal, stone either the shaft of a cross, or, like the three in Checkley church-yard, a funeral monument, perhaps Danish.

We may now be allowed to make a few additions to the rich and interesting biography of this County. One of the last and not the least remarkable subjects

is the late Anne Moor, of Tutbury, commonly called "The Fasting Woman."

Dr. Henderson, in the summer of 1812, visited Tutbury, on a tour to the Lakes, in company with Mr. Lawrence, assistant surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and another gentleman, whose name is not mentioned. Previous to their visit they had endeavoured to collect the opinions of the neighbourhood, concerning this case of alleged extraordinary abstinence. Of the medical gentlemen to whom they addressed themselves, the majority seemed sceptical on the subject, and pointed out to them many equivocal circumstances in the conduct of the patient, though it did not appear that any very decisive means had been used by these medical gentlemen to prove the fact of imposture. Among the common people there was the most implicit belief in the truth of her assertions; and whenever Dr. Henderson and his companions ventured to express any doubts, they were invariably referred to the *watching* to which she had been subjected, as a full and satisfactory answer to their suspicions.

These gentlemen were accompanied to the dwelling of Ann Moor by a medical gentleman of the place, who told them that he saw no reason to question her veracity, or to discredit the fact of her abstinence. They found this singular woman sitting up in a bed so constructed as scarcely to admit of her using the recumbent posture, her back being partly supported by a pillow. A large bible lay before her. She did not seem in the least discomposed by their abrupt entrance; though, on reaching the house, some bustle was heard in the upper story, as if preparations had been making for their reception. From the appearance of her countenance, which was natural, and even healthy, and from that of her upper limbs, abdomen, and back, which Dr. Henderson examined very carefully, she might be called rather thin; but many persons of her age, in perfect health, are much thinner. The abdomen was *not* contracted,

nor did it present any peculiar appearance; nor was the pulsation of the aorta more distinctly perceptible than it is in the generality of persons. The lower extremities, however, seemed, to a certain extent, wasted and paralytic; the pulse was ninety-four, firm and regular: the heat natural; both the hands and feet were moist; her mouth, as far as they were permitted to examine it, shewed no deficiency of saliva; and, on holding a mirror before her face, it was immediately covered with copious moisture. She spoke in a distinct and tolerably strong voice, and moved her arms and fingers with considerable force. There was an offensive urinous smell about the bed.

In answer to the questions that were put to her, she said, that on the 31st of October, she would be just fifty-one years old; that she had tasted no solid food for upwards of five years, and no drink for nearly four years, and had no desire for either; that she never even wetted her lips, except when she washed her face, which happened about once a week; that she had voided no urine since the week before Easter three years, and no fæces since that day, (August 3,) five years; that she had not slept, or lain down in bed, for more than three years; that she sometimes dozed, with her head reclining on the pillow, but never so as to forget herself: that she had frequently blisters applied to the back of her neck, on account of a giddiness in her head, and that they rose and discharged plentifully; but that in general, she did not experience much uneasiness, or feel pain, except on pressure of the left hypochondrium; that when she took snuff, which she did habitually, it produced a flow of mucus from the nostrils; that her hands were generally moist; that she perspired freely over the whole surface of the body, when she had fits. The nature of these fits she did not explain. Her mouth, according to her own declaration, she was unable to open, because it occasioned severe pain behind the jaws; but the lower jaw acted freely enough within the sphere in

which she chose to move it in the presence of Dr. Henderson and his friends, to show that there was nothing defective in the articulation; the masseter and temporal muscles were soft, and could not, therefore, resist its descent: because it was evident, when she spoke, that she could separate her teeth to some extent, and that without giving any indications of uneasiness. Of all the fingers of the left hand, except the index, she said she had lost the use; the middle finger, indeed, she admitted, could be moved by external force, though not by volition. But while Mr. Lawrence was examining the spot where she complained of pain on opening her mouth, she was observed to use the finger in question without any difficulty. On attempting to raise the two remaining fingers, which were bent, she made some resistance, and complained of being hurt. The left hand, she affirmed, was hotter than the other. In her lower extremities she declared, that she had no feeling whatsoever.

This was the extent of Dr. Henderson's enquiries; and both himself and his friends left her fully satisfied that the history of her long fasting, and inability to eat and drink was a mere fabrication, which she had contrived with a view to excite wonder and compassion, and which she had been enabled to support by the collusion of those about her person. To support this conclusion, Dr. Henderson, who is a gentleman of considerable learning and clearness of judgment, adduces several arguments, chiefly grounded on the observations which he made at this examination. He observes, 1. That the natural and healthy appearance of the face affords a presumption, that no serious disease can exist in the digestive organs. 2. That the strength of the pulse, and muscles, and voice, contradicts the assertion of protracted abstinence. 3. That the moisture of the mouth, nostrils, eyes, and whole surface of the skin, shews that her whole body is constantly sustaining a certain loss, to repair which we know of no other channel, than the

alimentary canal. 4. That the soundness of her intellectual faculties proves, at least, that her condition differs from that of those fasters whose history may be regarded as authentic. To illustrate this position, Dr. Henderson mentions several cases, from Tulpinus, Dr. Currie, Dr. Willan, and from a MS. in the British Museum. 5. That the dissolute conduct of Ann Moor in the former part of her life, and her confession that she once, through imposition, passed for a religious person, merely for the sake of worldly interest, are circumstances by no means calculated to inspire confidence in her statements. The fact of her former dissoluteness and hypocrisy is given on the authority of one of her historians, who is a zealous believer, both in her *faith* and *fasting*.

But, observes Dr. Henderson, "this has been the way with all such imposters, from the Holy Maid of Kent, down to her present imitator." Dr. Henderson also remarks, on "the pomp and circumstance, with which Ann Moore displays her pretensions to superior sanctity," and adds, "that the mask is not always so impenetrable as her abettors imagine, will be evident from the following short anecdote: A gentleman from Derby, knowing her previous history, contrived to engage her in free conversation, into which she entered very readily, and which she seemed to relish very much: but upon another visitor being announced, she instantly resumed a serious air; abandoning it only when the intruder on her gaiety had withdrawn."

Dr. Henderson's sixth argument is, that the interest which she and her attendants have in supporting the deception is sufficiently obvious. Before this fasting business commenced, it appears that she had been "labouring under the greatest distresses," and "had not even sufficient clothes to cover her bed; but since the watching, she is said to have been very comfortable, and all necessary attendants have been provided for her." This is all very right: but Dr. Henderson informs us, on the report of the gentleman, who it will be remarked is a believer in her fast-

ing, that "she has turned the exhibitions of her person to such account, as to be able, in the course of the last summer, to place the sum of 400l. in the public funds!" This is really too much for a disinterested religious faster! A few more such summers must render all further fasting quite unnecessary. The seventh argument is drawn from the declaration, "That she thinks a time may come when God will restore her appetite." As we are now pretty strongly convinced, that this business is a downright imposition, we have less hesitation in expressing our belief, that the appetite will be restored, after a few more summer harvests.

8. The gradual concealment of the evacuation of urine, is another suspicious circumstance in her proceedings. This, however, is a trifle. She did, however, it seems, pass about a pint of urine in every two days, during the sixteen days and nights, in which she was "watched." So that this woman, who only swallowed, in the course of the first three days of the investigation, about an ounce and a half of water, and that with extreme misery of deglutition, actually voided, in sixteen days and nights not less than an entire gallon of urine, besides the ordinary evacuations arising from insensible perspiration, in which it does not appear there has been any material defect; to say nothing of the "plentiful discharge" from blisters before mentioned!

9. The proof afforded by the *watching* of Ann Moor is not satisfactory to Dr. Henderson, who makes many sensible observations on the number and character of the watchers; and on the manner in which they were chosen and appointed. But particularly on the *time* allotted to this important investigation: "sixteen days and nights, a period of time during which it is certainly not impossible, that she may have endured the privation;"—but this does not prove, says this sensible physician, "that she has lived five whole years, and odd months, without any nutriment whatsoever." Instances are adduced, of a much longer protracted abstinence

than Ann Moor's "trial," as it has been termed, occupied.

Dr. Henderson's tenth argument refers to her dread of a repetition of the watching; but this, as will shortly appear, is now rendered nugatory; as she as consented to another "trial for her life," as her nurse calls it. 11. Her dread of all experiments whatever tells much against her. On one occasion she refused to allow Dr. Darwin to hold a mirror before her face, in order to examine her respiration; exclaiming, "No more experiments for me! I have suffered enough already from experiments." This, however, is natural in an ignorant and illiterate person like her; and it seems she did not refuse the same "experiment" to Dr. Henderson. 12. It appears, that she varies and contradicts herself in her several statements. This certainly is "sufficient to throw discredit on every thing she says." 13. Her actions also, are often very inconsistent with her statements. Though, according to Mr. Taylor's account, an attempt to eat and drink caused her great "misery of deglutition," yet she did attempt it, though she had, as she says, "lost all desire of food so early as November, 1806." Her deceit respecting the contraction of the middle finger has been already noticed. To Mr. Thompson she affected such weakness as made it great labour, and even pain, for her to attempt to move; but, upon his threatening her with a repetition of the watching, "she so completely forgot her situation," says Mr. T. "that she raised herself upright in bed; a position in which, we had *previously* learned, she had not been in for more than a year, griped her fists, threw her arms and head about with as much strength and ease as the most healthy woman of an equal age could possibly do, and talked at the same time most loudly and incessantly, from the effect of violent passion." Besides, how does this agree with the religious serenity of her mind, spoken of by the author of *The Account, &c.*

14th. The acknowledged fact, that she is now in the same, or nearly the same, condition of body as when she commenced her supposed fast, appear of all the proofs of her falsehood the most conclusive and incontrovertible. Nay it seems that she is now rather increased in bulk than otherwise! The abdomen is not so sunk, as former descriptions of it represent; nor are the other marks of extreme emaciation so visible as they once were. "Now, it has been shewn, that a considerable evaporation is constantly taking place, from her lungs and skin: nothing, therefore, short of an actual miracle, can solve the problem of her increased size of body under these circumstances."

In further confirmation and illustration of these fourteen arguments against the probability of Ann Moor's fasting, Dr. Henderson mentions several other cases of real and pretended abstinence; and what seems conclusive against this Tutbury faster, is the two following considerations: First. That between her and other pretended fasters, there is a marked resemblance of character and conduct: They have all grown rather plumper during their fictitious abstinence. The cases of persons in whose abstinence nothing miraculous was pretended, and no fraud could be suspected, differed materially both from Ann Moor's and all the other impostors, the patients grew thinner, weaker, and delirious, after a certain period; and, long before their abstinence had been protracted to the extent of this case of Ann Moor's, death put a period to their sufferings.

A second watching, notwithstanding the patient's reluctance, was instituted, under circumstances more favourable to the discovery of the truth, than the one which has already been tried upon her. The following account was given the public of the arrangements made for this new investigation: "On Wednesday se'nnight, about two o'clock in the afternoon, pursuant to the regulations adopted by

the committee, the watch commenced on Ann Moor, of Tutbury. The room was examined with the most scrupulous accuracy by the committee, and the three gentlemen (Sir Oswald Mosley, Dr. Garlike, and the Rev. Leigh Richmond), who undertook the first watch, to their entire satisfaction, that no kind of food, either solid or liquid, was, or could be secreted in any part thereof. A new bedstead was provided, a new bed filled in their presence, and every article of the bedding searched with the utmost minuteness. The removal of her person from one bed to another was closely watched in every circumstance by all the gentlemen; after which, at her own request, her person was examined, and every possible satisfaction afforded, that no collusion could have taken place in any part of the transaction. Not a single article of any kind or description remained unexplored; and, when the business of search and removal was concluded, no doubt was left upon the minds of the parties present, that she was entirely deprived of possession of, or the means of access to, any kind of food whatsoever. A barrier is placed across the room, within which the watchers alone occupy their station, and prevent all access to the woman, which would implicate her in the smallest share of suspicion. Various regulations have been made, and are rigidly adhered to, in order to conduct this watch in such a manner, as shall satisfy the public mind, through the medium of the committee and the watchers, as to the truth or falsehood of the case. Her bedstead is placed upon a Merlin's weighing machine, constructed with peculiar accuracy, in order to ascertain the variations of weight during the period of the watch. A number of gentlemen, who undertook to watch her, have signed their names to a report, attesting the minute examination, which they made, and their positive conviction, that no aliment of any kind had or could be conveyed to her. The watch had been uninter-

ruptedly continued from the 21st to the 27th of April." This watch seems certainly to bid fair to bring this mysterious matter to an issue, which, we doubt not, will be the detection of this long-standing imposture.

Accordingly, a short time after, the public prints announced, on good authority, that this infamous woman "*gave in*," on Friday morning the 30th of April, being the ninth day of this second watch, after having become reduced to a state of extreme debility and emaciation. Doubtless she had persuaded herself, that she had by habit acquired sufficient strength to support the real abstinence to which she subjected herself during the period allotted for the complete confirmation of her veracity; but she fought against nature and truth; and lost the combat. Her case has been the most extraordinary one that ever before exercised the credulity of mankind; and her sufferings in the experiment (for certainly her abstemiousness, though not absolute, has been beyond example great,) must have been severe. This consideration, though it will do nothing in extenuation of her base and dishonest hypocrisy, will at least soften the rigour of indignation, and perhaps avert the punishment her deception so richly merited. She has since this made a public confession of her guilt and her deception; and that she contrived to drink tea, and eat apples.

The unfortunate EDMUND DUDLEY, a distinguished lawyer and statesman, in the time of Henry the VIIIth, was born in the year 1462. He was the son of Sir John Dudley, second son of John Dudley, baron of Dudley, and knight of the garter. At the age of sixteen he entered the university of Oxford; and having studied the usual time there, removed to Gray's Inn, in London, with the intention of following the profession of the bar. His diligence in prosecuting his studies could not be exceeded; and, as the reward of his industry, no sooner did he commence

practice, than business increased upon him with the utmost rapidity. Polydore and Virgil asserts that he was so much remarked for his singular prudence and fidelity, that the king appointed him one of his privy council in the twenty-third year of his age. In 1492, having accompanied his sovereign to France, he was one of the great men who were chiefly instrumental in bringing about the peace of Bologna. Two years subsequent to this he obtained the wardship and marriage of Elizabeth, the daughter of Edward Grey, Viscount L'Isle, sister and coheirress of John Viscount L'Isle, her brother. Dudley was chosen speaker of the House of Commons, in the Parliament held in 1504; and, in consideration of his great services in this station, the king granted him the stewardship of the rape of Hastings, in the county of Sussex. This was among the last favours conferred upon him by his master. That monarch dying in 1509, both Dudley and Empson were sent to the tower, in consequence of the clamour of the people against them, on account of their unjust and illegal oppressions. In July the same year, the former of these gentlemen was arraigned and condemned for high treason, before commissioners assembled in Guildhall; Empson was likewise tried the following year, and convicted. These convictions were followed by an act of attainder, passed in Parliament against both, but the king was still unwilling to execute them; and Stowe informs us, that it was believed queen Catherine had interposed to save Dudley. The clamour of the people, however, continuing to increase, partly on account of the rigorous treatment of their adherents, while they themselves escaped, his majesty found himself ultimately compelled to sign their death warrant; and accordingly they were both beheaded on Tower-hill, on the 18th of August, 1510.

Concerning the propriety of this execution, in as far as regarded the king, some doubts may justly be

entertained. Dudley had unquestionably been guilty of crimes deserving the punishment he met with, but these crimes were perpetrated to gratify the passions of the late monarch, and should therefore have been passed over by his son and successor. The virulence and fury of the mob was but a shallow plea; for men in power ought never to yield to any suggestions but those of justice and equity. During his confinement in prison, Dudley wrote a very extraordinary treatise addressed to the king, and entituled "The Tree of the Commonwealth, by Edmund Dudley, Esq. late counsellor to king Henry VII. the same Edmund being at the compiling thereof prisoner in the Tower, in 1st Henry VIII. The effect of this treatise consisteth in three especial points:

"First, Remembrance of God, and the Faithful of his Holy Church, in the which every Christian prince had need to begin.

"Second, Of some conditions and demeanors necessary in every prince, both for his honour and assuerty of his continuance.

"Thirdly, Of the tree of Commonwealth, which toucheth people of every degree, of the conditions and demeanors they should be of."

This book, which was probably written with a view to his own pardon and liberation, never reached the king's hands, and therefore could not be instrumental in obtaining the object intended. It is somewhat strange, that though many copies of it were handed about in manuscript, it was never published.

Many years after the death of the author, the MS. was discovered by Stowe, who transcribed it, for the satisfaction of the then earl of Warwick, who was grandson to Dudley. For this labour and favour, Warwick loaded honest John with—*many thanks and good wishes*. Long after the death of Stowe, the MS. was purchased by Sir Symonds D'Ewes. It afterwards fell into the hands of that *bibliomaniac*, the earl of Oxford. What is now become of it is

not exactly known : probably it is still in the same collection. Several copies are to be met with in other libraries.

ISAAC HAWKINS BROWNE, Esq. Fellow of the Royal Society, and a very ingenious and elegant poet of the last century, was born at Burton upon Trent, on the 21st of January, 1705-6; and was the son of the Rev. William Browne, minister of that parish. Mr. William Browne, besides holding the living of Burton, was vicar of Winge, in Buckinghamshire, and a prebendary of Lichfield, which last preferment was given him by the excellent bishop Hough. He was possessed, also, of a small paternal inheritance, which he greatly increased by his marriage with Anne, daughter of Isaac Hawkins, Esq. all whose estates came to his only grandson and heir at law, the subject of this article. Our author received his grammatical education, first at Lichfield, and then at Westminster, where he was distinguished for the brilliancy of his parts, and the steadiness of his application. The uncommon rapidity with which he passed through the several forms or classes of Westminster School, attracted the notice, and soon brought him under the direction of the head master, Dr. Friend, with whom he was a peculiar favourite. Mr. Browne staid above a year in the sixth or head form, with a view of confirming and improving his taste for classical learning and composition, under so polite a scholar. When he was little more than sixteen years of age, he was removed to Trinity College, Cambridge, of which college his father had been fellow. He remained at the University till he had taken his degree of master of arts; and though, during his residence there, he continued his taste for classical literature, which, through his whole life, was his principal object and pursuit, he nevertheless did not omit the peculiar studies of the place, but applied himself, with vigour and success, to all the branches of mathematical science, and the prin-

ciples of the Newtonian philosophy. When, in May 1724, king George the First established, at both the universities, a foundation for the study of modern history and languages, with the design of qualifying young men for employments at court and foreign embassies, Mr. Browne was among the earliest of those who were selected to be scholars upon this foundation.

On the death of that prince, he wrote an university copy of verses, which was the first of his poems that has been printed; and for which he received a very handsome compliment from the Professor of poetry at Cambridge. About the year 1727, Mr. Browne, who had always been intended for the bar, settled at Lincoln's Inn. Here he prosecuted, for several years, with great attention, the study of the law, and acquired in it a considerable degree of professional knowledge, though he never arrived to any eminence in the practice of it, and entirely gave it up long before his death. He was the less solicitous about the practice of his profession, and it was of the less consequence to him, as he was of a fortune adequate to his desires; which, by the happy mean between extravagance and avarice, he neither diminished nor increased. Mr. Browne's application to the law, did not prevent his occasionally indulging himself in the exercise of his poetical talents. It was not long after his settlement at Lincoln's Inn, that he wrote his poem on Design and Beauty, addressed to Mr. Highmore the painter, for whom he had a great friendship and esteem. In this, which is one of the longest of his poems, he shews a true taste, and extensive knowledge of the Platonic philosophy; and pursues through the whole the idea of beauty advanced by that philosophy.

By design is meant, in a large and extensive sense, that power of genius which enables the real artist to collect together his scattered ideas, to range them in proper order, and to form a regular plan, before he

attempts to exhibit any work in architecture, painting, or poetry. Several other poetical pieces were written by Mr. Browne, during the interval between his fixing at Lincoln's Inn and his marriage; but one of the most pleasing and popular of his performances, is his "Pipe of Tobacco," which is an imitation of Cibber, Ambrose Philips, Thomson, Young, Pope, and Swift, who were then all living. We need not say that the peculiar manner of these several writers, is admirably hit off by our author, and that he hath shewn himself to have possessed an excellent imitative genius. Indeed, nothing but a nice spirit of discrimination, and a happy talent at various compositions, could have enabled him to have succeeded so well as he hath done in the "Pipe of Tobacco." The imitation of Ambrose Philips was not written by our poet, but by an ingenious friend, the late worthy Dr. John Hoadley, chancellor of the diocese of Winchester, and second son of the bishop. Dr. Hoadley, however, acknowledged, that his little imitation was altered so much for the better by Mr. Browne, that he fairly made it his own.

On the 10th February, 1734-5, Mr. Browne married Jane, daughter of the Rev. Dr. David Trimmell, archdeacon of Leicester, and precentor of Lincoln, and niece to the Right Rev. Dr. Charles Trimmell, bishop of Winchester. Mr. Browne was singularly happy in his union with this lady, who was a woman of great merit, and of a very amiable temper, and who always shewed him the truest attention and regard. He was chosen twice to serve in parliament; first upon a vacancy in December, 1744, and then at the general election in 1748; both times for the borough of Wenlock, in Shropshire, near to which was his own estate. His being brought into the House of Commons was principally owing to the interest of William Forrester, Esq. a gentleman of great fortune and ancient family in Shropshire. Mr. Forester recommended Mr. Browne to the electors, from no

other motive than the opinion he entertained of his abilities, and the confidence he had in his integrity and principles.

As Mr. Browne had obtained his seat in Parliament without opposition or expense, and without laying himself under obligations to any party, he never made use of it to interested or ambitious purposes. The principles, indeed, in which he had been educated, and which were confirmed by reading and experience, and the good opinion he had conceived of Mr. Pelham's administration, led him usually to support the measures of government; but he never received any favour, nor desired any employment. He saw with great concern the dangers arising from Parliamentary influence, and was determined that no personal consideration should bias his public conduct. The love of his country, and an ardent zeal for its constitution and liberties, formed a distinguishing part of his character. In private conversation Mr. Browne possessed so uncommon a degree of eloquence, that he was the admiration and delight of all who knew him. It must, therefore, have been expected that he would have shone in the House of Commons as a public speaker. But he had a modesty and delicacy about him, accompanied with a kind of nervous timidity, which prevented him from appearing in that line. His case, in this respect, was similar to that of the third earl of Shaftesbury, Mr. Addison, and other ingenious men. A niceness of classical taste, and a high sense of the accuracy, purity, and elegance of language, are not always favourable to the exertion of oratorical talents.

The man who wishes to distinguish himself, in popular assemblies, ought to lay aside the fear of offending in the little proprieties of style, and should hazard his sentiments with a noble, though perhaps an irregular, boldness. In the year 1754, Mr. Browne published what may be called his great work, his Latin poem, "De Animi Immortalitate," in two books.

The reception which his poem met with, was such as its merit deserved. It immediately excited the applause of the most polite scholars, and the author was complimented upon it, by some of the most eminent and ingenious men of the age. Its popularity was so great, that several English translations of it appeared in a little time. The first was by Mr. Hay, author of an Essay on Deformity; and other pieces, and the second in blank verse, by Dr. Richard Grey, a learned clergyman in Northamptonshire, well known by his *Memoria Technica*, and his publication on *Scripture Criticisms*. A third translation was published, without a name, together with a laboured preface, containing some quotations from Sir John Davies's "*Nosce Teipsum*," which were supposed to be analogous to certain passages in Mr. Browne.

All these versions made their appearance in the course of a few months; and there was afterwards printed by an unknown hand, a translation of the first book. Some years after Mr. Browne's death, the "*De Animi Immortalitate*" was again translated by the Rev. Mr. Crawley, a clergyman in Huntingdonshire. A close and literal version of it in prose, was inserted in a publication, which appeared in 1766, intituled "*Essays, Moral, Religious, and Miscellaneous*." But the best translation of all is that by Soame Jenyns, Esq. printed in his *Miscellanies*, and since published in Mr. Browne's poems. These testimonies and attentions paid to our author's principal production, are striking evidences of the high sense which was entertained of its merit; and that it deserved these instances of approbation, a perusal of it will oblige us to acknowledge. For not to mention the usefulness and importance of the subject, every man of taste must feel that the poem is admirable for its perspicuity, precision, and order; and that it unites the philosophical learning and elegance of Cicero, with the numbers and much of the poetry of Lucretius and Virgil.

Mr. Browne's public character did not equal his private virtues; but whether in public or private, he was honest and good. He sat several years in Parliament, and we very often find his name among the committees for private bills, especially in cases where the interests of literature are concerned. Among his numerous friends, whose acquaintance must have conferred credit on the character of any man, was the late Mr. Byrom, of Manchester. The incomparable system of Short Hand, invented and taught by him, it gave great pleasure to Mr. Browne to promote on all occasions. He was one of the many distinguished gentlemen who attended the lectures and private instructions of that ingenious and worthy person. But the gentleman with whom he was most intimate, and his talents for wit and conversation, caused his company to be earnestly sought by many, was Paul Feilde, of *Stansted Bury*, Esq. This was a long and a close friendship.

Having laboured for a considerable time, under a weak and infirm state of health, he died, at his house in Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury Square; London, on the 4th of February, 1760, in the fifty-fifth year of his age. His son published an elegant edition of his father's poems, in 1768, upon which occasion he received numerous testimonies to their merit, from several bishops, and other learned men of the time.

The amiable and truly ingenious ISAAC WALTON, was born at *Stafford*, in August, 1593. He settled in London as a shopkeeper, and had his shop in the *Royal Bourse*, or *Exchange*, Cornhill. In this place, which was much too confined for his business, he continued many years; and then removed to the north side of Fleet Street, to a house two doors west of the end of Chancery-Lane, and abutting on a messuage, known by the sign of the Harrow:" by which sign the old timber-house, at the south-west corner of Chancery Lane, in Fleet Street, till lately was known. He married probably about 1632; for in that year he lived in a house in Chancery Lane, a

few doors higher up on the left hand than the former, and described by the occupation of a sempster or milliner. His wife was Anne, the daughter of Mr. Thomas Ken, of Furnival's Inn, and sister of Thomas, afterwards Dr. Ken, bishop of Bath and Wells. In the year 1643, he retired from London, and from business, on a small but competent fortune.

Whilst Mr. Walton resided in London, his favourite recreation was angling; in which art he is said to have excelled almost all men living. Langbaine calls him the "common father of anglers." His most frequented river for this primitive amusement seems to have been the *Lea*, which has its source above *Ware*, in *Hertfordshire*. In 1662 he lost his wife, who lies buried in the Cathedral church of Worcester.

While Mr. Walton lived in the neighbourhood of *St. Dunstan's in the West*, he had frequent opportunities of attending the ministry of Dr. John Donne, who was vicar of that church. To this prelate's sentiments he became, as he himself expresses it, a convert; and upon the doctor's decease, in 1631, Sir H. Wotton requested Walton to collect materials for his *Life*, which Sir Henry had undertaken to write. Sir Henry died before he had completed his work, and Walton undertook it himself; and, in 1640, finished and published it, with a collection of the doctor's sermons, in folio.

On the death of Sir Henry, which took place in 1639, Walton was importuned by the king to write his *Life* also; and it was, accordingly, finished about 1644. In 1655, he published that most pleasing and highly interesting book, for which he will be ever remembered by all the lovers of art, it is designed to recommend, "*The Complete Angler; or, Contemplative Man's Recreation*," in duodecimo, adorned with some very excellent cuts of most of the fish mentioned in it. It is not known exactly, who was the artist on this occasion; but it is generally believed to have been Lombart, who is

mentioned by Mr. Evelyn in the "*Sculptura*," and also that the plates were of steel. The friendship which Walton had with Cotton, and also the connexion which the latter had with the subsequent editions of the Complete Angler, are well known. Walton had not the advantage of a classical education; yet he frequently cites Latin and many learned authors, as Camden, Aldrovandus, Rondeletius, and even Albertus Magnus. He of course had made use of such translations as he could meet with; yet some of the authors whom he quotes, we believe, have never been translated.

There has not been a writer who has had occasion to make mention of the art of Angling since Walton's time, that has not referred to The Complete Angler, as of undoubted authority on the subject; and it has been read, even as a parlour companion, by men of taste, both at home and abroad.

About two years after the Restoration, Walton wrote the Life of Mr. Richard Hooker, long known by the honourable and in many respects deserved, appellation of "*Judicious*." This life of Hooker appears to have been written with great care and faithfulness. It is the life of one of the most learned and excellent men of his age; the author of a book which has placed a large portion of what are usually called religious people, in such a situation as to render it almost criminal in them, to dissent from the church establishment of this country, till they have carefully read it through, and seriously weighed its reasonings.

In 1670, he published The Life of Mr. George Herbert, brother to the celebrated lord Herbert of *Cherbury*, in Shropshire. That part of "*The Complete Angler*," which treats of *fly-fishing*, was chiefly communicated by Mr. Thomas Barker, an ingenious and highly facetious person, and a very expert angler.

In his eighty-third year, a period when, to use his

own words, he might have claimed "*a writ of ease*," he undertook the life of Bishop Sanderson. The concluding paragraph of this book has been particularly noticed by Dr. Johnson, as a specimen of nervous sentiment and pious simplicity. This paragraph informs us, that Walton was then in the eighty-fifth year of his age. Besides these books, for which the memory of Walton will be ever venerated and esteemed, he was somewhat of a poet; but in this department of literature he did not excel. He collected materials for some other lives, but did not live to finish them; yet in his *ninetieth* year he published "*Thealma and Clearchus, a pastoral history, written long since by John Chalkhil, Esq. an acquaintance and friend of Edmund Spenser.*" To this he wrote a preface, containing a character of the author. He lived but a short time after this. He died on the 15th of December, 1683, during the great frost, at Winchester, and was interred in the cathedral church, of which a large flat marble stone, with a miserable poetic epitaph, marks the place of his interment. Such was the life of this excellent man; and such the useful nature of his studies and labours. As a biographer he will always be respected, and as an angler will never cease to be consulted and referred to. To one of the most pleasing and useful branches of literature, and one of the most primitive recreations, he devoted a long and valuable life.

The year 1602 gave birth to Dr. JOHN LIGHTFOOT, a learned and industrious divine of the church of England. At an early period of his life he entered of Christ's College, Cambridge, and soon became one of the best orators of the under-graduates in that university. When he had taken his degree of B. A. he removed into Derbyshire, and became an assistant in the famous school at *Repton* in that county. Two years after this he took orders, and became curate of *Norton* under *Hales*, in Shropshire. At this place he acquired, chiefly through the persua-

sions of one of his hearers, Sir Rowland Cotton, a knowledge of the Hebrew language, which study he had before too much neglected. From this period he devoted himself, with surprising industry and success, to the pursuit of rabbinnical learning, for which he afterwards became so eminent.

His patron, Sir Rowland Cotton, removing to London, Lightfoot went along with him; but did not stay long there. He afterwards settled at Stone, in this county. In 1628, he married the daughter of William Crompton, of Stone Park, esq. His restless thirst after rabbinnical learning induced him again to remove to London, that he might have the advantage of the public libraries there. He settled with his family at Hornsey, from which place he soon published his first work, intituled "*Erubim; or Miscellaneous Christian and Judaical.*"

At this time he was only twenty-seven years of age. His patron, to whom these first fruits of his studies were dedicated, presented him to the rectory of Ashley, in his native county. He now began to consider himself settled for life; but the great and mischievous change which soon took place in the affairs of the church and state called him once more to London; for he was nominated a member of the celebrated assembly of divines, for settling a new form of ecclesiastical polity. He had a favourable opinion of Presbyterianism; hence this appointment very well accorded with his views and inclinations. He had not long been in London, before he was chosen minister of St. Bartholomew's, behind the Royal Exchange. The divines met in 1643: Lightfoot regularly attended, and made a very conspicuous figure in their debates; but he was too learned and sober a man, as well as too liberal in some of his views, not to oppose some of the irrational and dangerous tenets, which those sapient divines were labouring to establish. The parliament tryers having in the profundity of their judgment, and by virtue of their inquisitorial powers, ejected Dr. Spur-

stow from the mastership of Catharine Hall, Cambridge, Lightfoot was put in his place. In this year, 1653, he was presented to the living of Much Munden, in Hertfordshire. He also preached, in his turn, before the House of Commons. In these discourses he warmly recommended his favourite Presbyterianism; but he was quite as well employed during the whole of this bustling time, in preparing his "Harmony:" yet the abhorrence, and almost dread of erudition, which prevailed in those pseudo-saintly times, threw many obstacles in his way. In 1653, he was elected vice-chancellor of Cambridge University, having taken the degree of D. D. in 1652. In this office he was faithful and useful. He now engaged with others, in perfecting the Polyglott Bible, which Cromwell took it into his head to patronize.

At the restoration, he had the honour and justice to make a tender of resignation of the mastership of Catharine Hall to Dr. Spurstow. The ejected doctor, however, refused the offer, and it was given to some one else.

At this season of humiliation, Dr. Lightfoot did not much suffer; for, considering that he had before acted rather from the spirit of the times, than from any party or factious motives, he met with numerous friends. Gilbert Sheldon, the archbishop of Canterbury, in particular, readily and heartily engaged to serve him, though personally unknown to him. He was afterwards appointed one of the assistants at the conference upon the liturgy, held in 1661; but it does not appear that he took any very active part in those violent proceedings. He still continued his labours in perfecting the "Harmony," though the expense and difficulty of publishing it put him to great inconvenience. The booksellers did not readily enter into our author's views; though since that time some of them have acquired no trifling profit from the sale of his works; and even before his death, they found it their interest to apply to him to collect and methodize them, in order to re-print the

whole. This he engaged to do; but the execution was prevented by his death, which took place Dec. 6, 1675.

That Dr. Lightfoot was profound in rabbinnical learning there can be no doubt; but this did not prevent him from entertaining some whimsical notions, particularly that "the smallest points in the Hebrew text were of Divine institution." His works have often been reprinted; both in detached pieces and in a collective form. They make three volumes in folio.

WILLIAM MOUNTFORT, a distinguished actor, and author of a few dramatic pieces, was born in this county, in the year 1659. Very early in life he took to the stage, and acquired considerable celebrity as a mimic. He was dishonoured by the notice of the infamous judge Jefferies, in whose house he resided some time; and by whom he was employed, on some occasions, to throw ridicule on the profession which judge Jefferies disgraced. At one time, in particular, in the year 1685, at an entertainment which the chancellor gave to the lord mayor and court of aldermen, Mountfort was employed to amuse the company, by aping the actions, gestures, and tone of voice, of the principal lawyers of that day; at the same time not only throwing ridicule on some of the most respectable characters, but abusing and scandalizing the law itself; and that at the instigation of the lord-chancellor, whose duty it was to protect a profession at which he himself was the head.

But the most remarkable transaction in the life of Mr. Mountfort was that which procured his untimely and cruel death. The narrative is briefly this: A Captain Hill, a person of wicked and debauched life, having formed a design against the honour of Mrs. Bracegirdle, an actress of considerable note, communicated his base purpose to his friend and companion in vice, lord Mohun; and they formed a plan for carrying her off, as she had positively refused to listen to Hill's dishonourable overtures. To ac-

comply with their object they went together to the theatre; but that evening Mrs. Bracegirdle happened not to perform. They learnt, however, where she was engaged to sup. To this place they immediately resorted; and having engaged a considerable force, and a coach, they waited till she came out of the house, upon which they immediately seized her; but her mother, and the gentleman out of whose house she came, rescued and saved her.

Enraged at this disappointment, these ruffians immediately vowed revenge against Mr. Mountfort, whom they suspected of being a bar to Hill's diabolical designs. This revenge they openly and loudly expressed in the hearing of Mrs. Bracegirdle and a gentleman, who immediately sent a messenger to inform Mrs. Mountfort of her husband's danger, with their opinion that she should apprise her husband of it, and advise him to return home that night. Unfortunately the messenger could not find Mr. Mountfort. In the mean time lord Mohun and the Captain proceeded through the streets with their drawn swords, till, about midnight, they met with the object of their cruel and unjust revenge. While Mohun accosted him in an apparently friendly manner, and engaged him in conversation, the assassin Hill struck him behind the head with his left hand, and before Mr. Mountfort could recover himself so as to stand upon his defence, he was run through the body with the sword which Hill held in his right hand. This was stated by the unfortunate man to Mr. Bancroft the surgeon, a little before his death. Hill immediately fled; but lord Mohun was seized, and stood his trial. Because it could not be proved that this wretch of a lord had actually lifted his hand against the man, though he had clearly assisted another to murder him, he was acquitted by his peers. This temporary acquittal, however, did not ultimately screen him from the Divine justice of that law which has declared that, "whosoever sheddeth man's blood by man shall his blood be shed;" for he afterwards lost

his life in a duel with duke Hamilton; and there was some ground for suspicion that he fell by some such kind of treachery as he himself had acted towards poor Mr. Mountfort.

This unfortunate actor lost his life in Norfolk Street, in the Strand, in the winter of 1692; and he lies interred in the church-yard of St. Clement Danes. The six dramatic pieces which he left behind him, though possessing merit, are not now much known.

Dr. ROBERT JAMES, so long and so well known for his preparation called "Fever Powder," was born at Kinverston, in the year 1703. His father was a major in the army, his mother a sister of Sir Robert Clarke. He received his education at St. John's College, Oxford, where he took the degree of A. B. and afterwards became a licentiate in the Royal College of Physicians.

In 1748 he published the "Medicinal Dictionary," in three volumes folio; and shortly afterwards a translation, with a supplement by himself, of "Razzani de morbis artificum," to which also he prefixed a piece by Frederick Hoffman, upon "Endemical Distempers." In 1746 appeared "The Practice of Physic," in two volumes 8vo.; in 1760, the treatise "On Canine Madness," 8vo., and in 1764 the "Dispensatory," also in 8vo. On the 25th of June, 1755, while the king was at Cambridge, James was admitted by Mandamus, to the doctorship of Physic. Three years after this were published "A Dissertation upon Fevers;" "A Vindication of the Fever Powder," and "A Short Treatise on the Disorders of Children," with a good print of the author. This was the eighth edition of the "Dissertation;" the first having been published in 1751. The "Vindication" was, in fact, a posthumous publication, the author dying before it was completed, in 1776, while he was employed upon it.

Dr. Johnson, in his Life of Smith, makes an affectionate mention of Dr. James, for whom he had a

great regard. It appears also that Johnson acquired from Dr. James some knowledge of physic. "My knowledge of physic," says he, "I learnt from Dr. James, whom I helped in writing the proposals for his Dictionary, and also a little in the Dictionary itself." Boswell adds, "I have in vain endeavoured to find out what part Johnson wrote for Dr. James. Perhaps medical men may.

Speaking of Dr. James, Johnson on one occasion said, "No man brings more mind to his profession than James." This character, from such a judge of mind, must ever stamp the memory of Dr. James with respect.

Dr. James was somewhat rough and unpolished in his manners, and not a little addicted to the pleasures of the bottle; a failing, at one time, by no means uncommon among physicians. Some whimsical stories are told of him; particularly of his evening prescriptions. He is said at one time to have mistaken his own pulse for that of his patient's, and that at a time when he was in a state not very capable of discerning the difference; but, finding on comparing the two, that one was quickened by intemperance, he roundly accused the sick person of being in liquor! Possibly this acute physician might sometimes adopt the sagacious plan of the late Dr. Hunter, who is said to have purposely contrived to become infected with the virus of a certain well-known poison, in order that he might be better able to observe the symptoms and progress of the mischievous disease which that poison superinduces in others: However this might be, and whatever might be Dr. James's failings, there can be no doubt of his having been a skilful and experienced physician,

For a long time his *Fever Powder* was violently opposed by the Faculty; an opposition which all secret nostrums ought to experience; but, in this instance, it subsequently appeared unmerited. Dr. Pearson took great pains in analyzing it, and concluded that by "calcining bone ashes, that is, phospho-

rated lime, with antimony in a certain proportion, and afterwards exposing the mixture to a white heat, a compound may be formed containing the same ingredients, in the same proportion, and containing the same chemical properties." The London Pharmacopœia now contains a prescription under the title of *Pulvis Antimonialis*, which is intended to answer the same purposes. "It is well known," says Dr. Pearson, "that this powder cannot be prepared by following the directions in the specification in the court of chancery."

It has long been doubtful whether Dr. James was really the inventor of this powder. Dr. Pearson remarks, that "the calcination of antimony and bone ashes produces a powder called Lile's and Schawanberg's fever powder; a preparation described by Schroeder and other chemists 150 years ago,"—"According to the receipt in the possession of Mr. Bromfield, by which this powder was prepared forty five years ago, and before any medicine was known by the name of James's powder, two pounds of harts-horn-shavings must be boiled, to dissolve all the mucilage, and then, being dried, be calcined with one pound of crude antimony, till the smell of sulphur ceases, and a light grey powder is produced. The same preparation was given to Mr. Willis, above forty years ago, by Dr. John Eaton, of the College of Physicians, with the material addition, however, of ordering the calcined mixture to be exposed to a given heat in a close vessel, to render it white." "Schroeder prescribes equal weights of antimony and calcined hartshorn; and Poterius and Michaelis, as quoted by Frederic Hoffman, merely order the calcination of these two substances together, (assigning no proportion) in a reverberatory fire for several days. It has been alleged, that Dr. James obtained the receipt for this powder of a German baron, named Schawanberg, or one Baker, to whom Schawanberg had sold it.

However all this might be, it is certain that Dr.

James gave a credit and currency to this valuable powder, which it otherwise would probably never have obtained. It is to this day prescribed by the faculty; and is almost the only secret medicine, or medicine bearing the name of an inventor, which our cautious physicians have introduced into their own practice. It has proved a noble fortune, says the editors of the General Biographical Dictionary, to Dr. James's family.

In the spring of 1762, was born, at or near Stone, the Rev. STEBBING SHAW, the amiable historian of this county. We regret exceedingly that it is not in our power to give that extended memoir of Mr. Shaw, which his excellent character and peculiar connection with this county naturally claim. The principal facts which our limits allow us to detail, are taken from the Gentleman's Magazine, a publication which Mr. Shaw had no contemptible share in enriching.

He was educated at the school of Repton, near Hartshorn, first under the Rev. Dr. Prior, and latterly under his successor, the Rev. William Bagshaw Stevens, a very ingenious poet and scholar, who died in 1800. From this accomplished man, for whom he retained an unabated friendship, till his premature death, he early imbibed a warm love of literature. At the close of October, 1780, he became a resident member of Queen's College, Cambridge. At this period, his first literary predilections were fixed on English poetry, of which he had caught an enthusiastic fondness from his last master. But even this partiality yielded to his propensity for music, in which his performance on the violin occupied a large portion of his time, and had already attained considerable excellence.

In due time Mr. Shaw took his degree of B. A. was elected to a fellowship, and went into orders. In this progress few were the impediments that occurred to retard it. His unimpeachable morals, his good temper, his freedom from all envy, malice, intrigue, and guile; his philanthropy and fondness for

society, were qualities not likely to raise enemies, or clog his way with opposition.

At what period Mr. Shaw left college we are not informed; but we learn, that within two or three years after that event, he was engaged as tutor to the present celebrated Sir Francis Burdett, with whom, in the summer of 1787, he made a tour to the Highlands of Scotland. The diary which he kept during this tour furnished him with notes for his first topographical work, which, fortunately for his literary credit, he published anonymously.

In 1788, he made a tour to the west of England, and published an account of it, with his name. His admission to the Reading-room of the British Museum gave him so much knowledge of topography and genealogy; and the vast stores of materials of this kind there deposited, led him, in conjunction with an intelligent friend, to commence a valuable periodical publication, which they intituled *The Topographer*. This was in the spring of 1789. We are informed that the hasty and undigested plan and arrangement of this work, should not be laid to the charge of Mr. Shaw, but to the "inconsiderate and impetuous" mind of his coadjutor, whom a domestic affliction had induced to seek for something to engage his attention, and who "did not give himself time to anticipate the languor and avocations which followed." It is more than probable that this coadjutor of Mr. Shaw's, is the same person who communicates the information. It is, however, more frank and modest than just. *The Topographer*, with all its faults is a publication, of great value and merit. It has collected a mass of original materials, relating to the topography, history, and antiquities of various parts of this county, which, but for it, had never seen the light. Such an engagement was well calculated to divert the gloom of melancholy, from the mind of Mr. Shaw's coadjutor. The modesty of his remarks, on the merit due to his labours, and the

apology which he makes for the cause of their defects, every generous reader will duly appreciate.

The Topographer extended to four handsome octavo volumes, and then ceased, probably for want of encouragement. In the summer of 1791, Mr. Shaw retired to his father's house at Hartshorn. Here, still amusing himself with Topographical researches, he soon afterwards, during his frequent visits into Staffordshire, conceived the idea of undertaking the History of the County. This was a bold scheme; but he persisted in it; and his mild and inoffensive manners, his known industry and integrity, shortly procured him a large and valuable mass of materials. Instead of confining himself merely to the dry investigation of antiquarian lore, he took into the wide scope of his plan, whatever subjects the title of his work could comprehend. Natural history, agriculture, scenery, manufactories, and arts, all excited his curiosity, and flattered the various tastes and views of those, by whom the acquisition of his materials was facilitated.

His scheme, however, had probably fallen to the ground, had he not by his enquiries, "discovered and obtained the vast treasure of MSS. written and collected by Dr. Wilkes for a similar undertaking." These collections it was thought had been long lost or destroyed; and we are informed, that some malicious attempts were made, by the assertion of wilful falsehoods, to stifle Mr. Shaw's pursuits of them. He was, however, convinced that they still existed, and succeeded to his wishes in the pursuit.

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TOPOGRAPHICAL
AND
STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION
OF THE
COUNTY OF CHESTER.

Containing an Account of its

Situation,	Minerals,	Markets,
Extent,	Fisheries,	Curiosities,
Towns,	Manufactures,	Antiquities,
Roads,	Com merce,	Biography,
Rivers,	Agriculture,	Natural History,

Civil and Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions, &c.

To which is prefixed,

A COPIOUS TRAVELLING GUIDE :

Exhibiting,

The Direct and principal Cross Roads,

Inns and Distance of Stages,

Noblemen's and Gentlemen's Seats.

Forming a

COMPLETE COUNTY ITINERARY.

Also,

A LIST OF THE FAIRS;

And an Index Table,

Shewing, at One View, the Distances of the Towns from
London, and from each other.

BY GEORGE ALEXANDER COOKE,

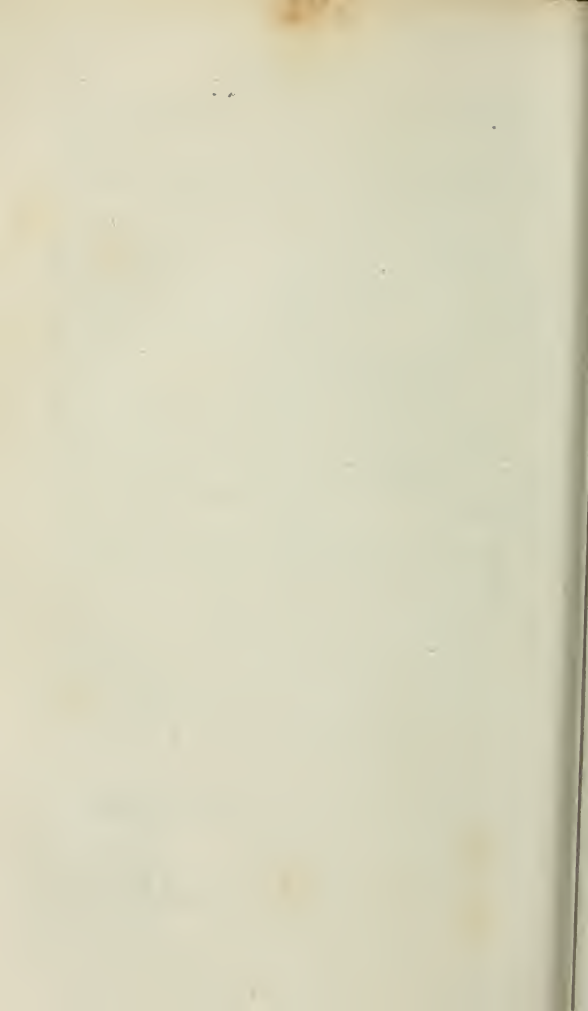
Editor of the Universal System of Geography.

Illustrated with

A MAP OF THE COUNTY.

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the United Kingdom.



INSPECTION TABLE FOR THE COUNTY OF CHESTER.

The County of Chester is contained within the Diocese of the same name, and belongs to the Province of York.

<i>Bounded by</i>	<i>Extent</i>	<i>Contains</i>	<i>Sends to Parliament</i>	<i>Produce and Manufactures.</i>
Lancashire and Yorkshire on the north.	In length 58 miles. In breadth 30 miles.	1 City. 7 Hundreds.	4 Members, <i>viz.</i>	Salt, corn, iron, mill-stones, alum, hops, timber, cheese, &c.
On the east by Derbyshire and Staffordshire.	In circumference about 112 miles.	11 Market-Towns.	2 for the City of Chester.	Manufactures: silk, cotton, buttons, stockings, hats, and brass.
On the south by Shropshire.		191,751 Inhabitants.	2 for the Shire.	
And on the west by Denbighshire, Flintshire, and the Irish sea.		About 676,000 acres of land.		

The present name of the County is derived from the Saxon appellation *Cestresyre*, and it is commonly called the County Palatine of Chester.

AN ITINERARY

of all the

DIRECT AND PRINCIPAL CROSS ROADS

IN

CHESHIRE.

In which are included the STAGES, INNS, and GENTLEMEN'S SEATS.

N. B. The first Column contains the Names of Places passed through; the Figures that follow shew the Distances from Place to Place, Town to Town, and Stages; and in the last Column are the names of Gentlemen's Seats and Inns. The right and left of the Roads are distinguished by the letters R and L.

JOURNEY FROM CHESTER TO PARKGATE, THROUGH MOLLINGTON.

CHESTER to Mollington	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mollington Hall, J. Fielder, esq. R.
— — —	—	—	Little Mollington, T. Gale, esq. R.
The Yatch	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	Copenhurst Hall, Richard Richardson, esq. R.
— — —	—	—	Enderton
Enderton	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{3}{4}$	Inn—Golden Lion.
Great Neston	1	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	Puddington Hall, J. Powell, esq. L.
— — —	—	—	Parkgate
Parkgate	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	12	Inns—George, Golden Tal- bot.

JOURNEY FROM CHESTER TO GRINDLEY BROOK, THROUGH HANDLEY.

CHESTER to — — —	—	—	At Christleton, Rev. Mr. Mostyn.
Hatton Heath	5	5	
Goulbourn Bridge	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Handley	1	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	Alderley Hall, Rev. Mr. Alderley, R.
— — —	—	—	

ITINERARY OF THE

				Boulesworth Castle, T. Tarleton, esq.
Broxton	3½	11¼		Broxton Hall, Rev. Mr. Hunter, R.
No Man's Heath	4	15¼		Iscoed, William Congreve, esq. R.
Grindley Brook	2¾	18		

JOURNEY FROM STOCKPORT TO
MACCLESFIELD,

THROUGH TITHERINGTON.

Stockport to Bullock's Smithy	2½	2½	Inn—Sun.
Poynton	2¼	4¾	At Poynton, Sir G. Warren, bart. L.
— — —			Seat of Matthew Pickford, esq. R.
Hope Green	¾	5½	Inn—Roebuck.
— — —			Addlington Hall, Mrs. Rowlls Leigh, R.
— — —			Boneshall Hall, Rev. Mr. Watson, R.
Flash	4	9½	
Titherington	1½	11	Byram's House, M. Daintry, esq. R.
— — —			Seat of J. Stonehewer, esq. L.
— — —			Sutton Hall, late seat of the Earl of Fauconberg, L.
— — —			Seat of Brion Hodson, esq. L. and Mrs. Brooksbank, R.
MACCLESFIELD	¾	11¾	Inn—Old Angel.

JOURNEY FROM CHESTER TO NANTWICH,

THROUGH TARVIN.

CHESTER to Little Broughton	¾	¾	Seats of J. Ince, esq. J. Clave- ley, esq. and the Rev. Mr. Mostyn.
— — —			
Vicars Cross	1¼	2	
Stamford Bridge	1¾	3¾	
Home Street	¾	4½	

Tarvin	1	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ashton Keys,
Duddon	2	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	H. A. Leicester, esq. L.
Clotton	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	Inn—George.
Tarporley	2	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	Inn—Swan.
—	—	—	<i>Between seven and eight miles to the left of Tarporley are Vale Royal, Thomas Cholmondeley, esq. ; Delamere Lodge, George Wilbraham, esq. ; Rulcoe, J. S. Barry, esq. ; and Norley Bank, Mrs. Croxton.</i>
The Lane Ends	1	11 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Highway Side	2	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Barbridge	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Wardle	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	15	
Stoke	1	16	
Holston	1	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Acton	1	18 $\frac{3}{4}$	
<i>Cross the Weaver river.</i>			
NANTWICH	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	20	Inn—Crown.
			<i>Near Nantwich seat of the late Sir Briant Broughton, Delves ; Dorfold Hall, H. Tomkinson, esq. ; Wrenbury Hall, T. Starkey, esq.</i>
			<i>Between six and seven miles from Nantwich, on the Whitchurch road, is Combermere, Sir R. Cotton, bart. Six miles from Nantwich, on the Malpas road, is Cholmondeley Hall, Earl Cholmondeley.</i>

JOURNEY FROM CHESTER TO LOWER WALTON,

THROUGH FRODSHAM.

CHESTER to			
Flootebrook	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	
Hoole	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	<i>Hoole Hall, John Oliver, esq.</i>
Mickle Trafford	$\frac{1}{2}$	3	R.
— — —			<i>Trafford Hall, Major Scott</i>
Dunham-on-the-			<i>Waring</i>
Hill	3	6	
Helsby	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$8\frac{1}{2}$	
Netherton	1	$9\frac{1}{2}$	
Frodsham	$\frac{1}{2}$	11	<i>Imu—Bear's Pass.</i>
<i>Cross the Weaver</i>			
<i>river.</i>			
Sutton Marsh			
Gate	$1\frac{1}{3}$	$12\frac{1}{4}$	
Sutton	$\frac{3}{4}$	13	<i>Aston Hall, Hon. Mrs.</i>
<i>Cross the Canal</i>			<i>Aston.</i>
<i>Nav.</i>			
Preston-on-the-			
Hill	2	15	
— — —			<i>Hall Wood, Henry Worth-</i>
			<i>ington, esq., and Norton</i>
			<i>Priory, T. Brooke, esq. L.</i>
Daresbury	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$16\frac{1}{2}$	<i>Daresbury Hall, Rev. George</i>
<i>Cross the Canal.</i>			<i>Heron, R.</i>
Higher Walton	2	$18\frac{1}{2}$	
Lower Walton	$\frac{1}{2}$	19	
<i>Cross the Mer-</i>			
<i>sey river, and en-</i>			
<i>ter Lancashire.</i>			

JOURNEY FROM CHESTER TO CROSS STREET,

THROUGH NORTHWICH.

CHESTER to		
Stamford Bridge	$3\frac{3}{4}$	$3\frac{3}{4}$
Home Street	1	$4\frac{3}{4}$

Tarvin	$\frac{1}{4}$	5	
Kelsall	3	8	
Sandyway Head	7	15	
— — —			<i>Vale Royal, Thomas Cholmondley, esq. R.</i>
— — —			<i>Delamere Lodge,</i> <i>George Wilbraham, esq. L.</i>
— — —			<i>Norley Bank, Mrs. Croxton,</i> <i>L.</i>
Hollowway Head	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$16\frac{3}{4}$	
NORTHWICH	$1\frac{1}{4}$	18	<i>Inn—Crown.</i>
— — —			<i>Tabley Hall, Sir John</i> <i>Leicester, bart. R.</i>
Mere Town	7	25	
Buckley Hill	1	26	
— — —			<i>Dunham Park, Earl of Stam-</i> <i>ford and Warrington.</i>
<i>Cross the Bollin</i> <i>river.</i>			
Altringham	5	31	<i>Inns—Bowling Green and</i> <i>Unicorn.</i>
			<i>In the environs of Altrinc-</i> <i>ham, are the following</i> <i>seats, viz.—Ashley Hall,</i> <i>John Arden, esq. Withen-</i> <i>shaw Hall, William Tat-</i> <i>ton, esq. Oldfield Hall,</i> <i>William Rigby, esq. Tin-</i> <i>furley Hall, Thomas Ri-</i> <i>chardson, esq. Sale Hall,</i> <i>Charles White, esq. Wood-</i> <i>heys, W. Godley, esq. Ba-</i> <i>guley Hall, Miss Hough-</i> <i>ton; and Ashton-upon-</i> <i>Mersey, Rev. Mr. John-</i> <i>son.</i>
Cross Street	3	34	
<i>Cross the Mer-</i> <i>sey river, and en-</i> <i>ter Lancashire.</i>			

JOURNEY FROM CHEADLE TO CONGLETON,
THROUGH NETHER ALDERLEY.

CHEADLE to Cross the <i>Bollin</i> river.			<i>At Cheadle, James Harrison,</i> <i>esq.</i>
Wilmslow	5	5	Inn— <i>Swan.</i> <i>Hawthorn Hall,</i> <i>Thomas Page, esq. L.</i> <i>Fullshaw Hall,</i> <i>Samuel Tynney, esq. L.</i>
Street Lane End Nether Alderley	$2\frac{1}{4}$ 1	$7\frac{1}{4}$ $8\frac{1}{4}$	<i>Alderley Hall, Sir John</i> <i>Thomas Stanley, bart. L.</i>
Monks Heath	$1\frac{3}{4}$	10	<i>Thornycroft Hall,</i> <i>Edward Thornycroft, esq. L.</i> <i>Davenport Hall,</i> <i>Davis Davenport, esq. R.</i>
Siddington Marton	$2\frac{1}{4}$ $1\frac{3}{4}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$ 14	<i>Marton Hall.</i> <i>Sir Thomas Fleetwood, bart.</i> <i>Eaton Hall,</i> <i>Eaton Lee, esq.</i>
CONGLETON	$3\frac{1}{4}$	$17\frac{1}{4}$	Inns— <i>Black Lion, Swan.</i>

JOURNEY FROM LATCHFORD TO
MOSS HOUSE,

THROUGH MACCLESFIELD AND KNUTSFORD.

Latchford to Kirkman's Green, T. G.	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$4\frac{3}{4}$	
High Leigh	$\frac{3}{4}$	$5\frac{1}{2}$	<i>High Leigh Hall,</i> <i>George Leigh, esq. L.</i> <i>Tatton Park,</i> <i>W. Egerton, esq. L.</i>
Mere	$2\frac{1}{4}$	$7\frac{3}{4}$	<i>Mere Hall, Thomas Lang-</i> <i>ford Brookes, esq. L.</i>

KNUTSFORD	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Inns— <i>Angel, George.</i> <i>Booth Hall,</i> <i>Peter Leigh, esq. L.</i>
— — —			
Ollerton Gates	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Chelford	3	13 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Monks Heath	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Birtles	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	<i>Birtles Hall,</i>
— — —			<i>R. Hibbert, esq. L.</i>
Pepper Street	$\frac{3}{4}$	18 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Long Moss	$\frac{3}{4}$	19	
Macclesfield	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	20 $\frac{1}{4}$	Inns— <i>New Angel, and Old</i>
Walkers Barn	3	23 $\frac{1}{4}$	<i>Angel.</i>
New Inn	2	25 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Moss House	3	28 $\frac{1}{4}$	

JOURNEY FROM NORTHWICH TO
BELL O' THE HILL,

THROUGH TARPORLEY.

Northwich to			
Hollow-way Head	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Sandyway Head	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	3	<i>Delamere Lodge, George</i> <i>Wilbraham, esq. L.</i>
— — —			<i>Vale Royal, Thomas Chol-</i> <i>mondeley, esq. R.</i>
— — —			<i>Oulton Hall,</i> <i>John Egerton, esq. L.</i>
TARPORLEY	7	10	Inn— <i>Swan.</i>
Peckforton	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Hampton Post	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	20	
No Man's Heath	1	21	
Bell o' the Hill	2	23	

JOURNEY FROM LATCHFORD TO STOCKPORT,

THROUGH ALTRINGHAM AND CHEADLE.

Latchford to Thelwall <i>Cross the Duke of Bridgewater's Canal.</i>	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$	<i>At Thelwall, the Rev. Tho- mas Blackburn, R. — Stanton, esq. L.</i>
Booth's Lane Lymm	$\frac{2}{4}$	$3\frac{1}{4}$	<i>At Lymm, Thomas Taylor, esq. R. — Wilson, esq. R — Wilde, esq. L.</i>
— — —			<i>Oughterington Hall,</i>
Bollington Dunham	4	8	<i>John Leigh, esq.</i>
	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$9\frac{1}{4}$	<i>Dunham Hall, Earl of Stamford, R.</i>
ALTRINGHAM	$1\frac{3}{4}$	11	<i>Inns—Bowling Green, and Unicorn.</i>
Timperley	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{2}$	<i>Timperley Hall, T. Richardson, esq.</i>
— — —			<i>Withenshaw Hall,</i>
Sharson Galley Green	$2\frac{1}{2}$	15	<i>William Egerton, esq. L.</i>
CHEADLE	1	16	
	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$17\frac{1}{4}$	<i>Seats of John Dale, esq. R. and James Harrison, esq. L.</i>
STOCKPORT	$2\frac{3}{4}$	20	<i>Inns—Crozen and Anchor, Horse-shoe, White Lion.</i>

END OF ITINERARY.

A
CORRECT LIST OF ALL THE FAIRS
IN
CHESHIRE.

- Altringham*.—April 22, August 5, November 22, cattle and drapery.
- Buckworth*.—February 13, April 5, October 2, cows, horses, swine, hats, and pedlary.
- Caeleton*.—Thursday before Shrovetide, May 12, July 13, December 3, cattle and pedlars' ware.
- Cluster*.—Last Thursday in February, cattle; July 5, October 10, cattle, Irish linens, cloths, hardware, hops, drapery, and Manchester wares.
- Fredsham*.—May 15, August 21, cattle and pedlary.
- Helton*.—Old Lady-day, April 5.
- Knut-ford*.—Whit-Tuesday, July 10, November 8, cattle and drapery.
- Macclesfield*.—May 6, June 22, July 11, October 4, November 11, cattle, wool, and cloth.
- Malpas*.—April 5, July 25, St. James's, December 3, cattle, linnen, woollen cloths, hardware, and pedlary.
- Middwich*.—St. James, July 25, Holy Thursday, cattle.
- Nantwich*.—March 15, September 4, December 16, cattle, horses, cloaths, flannels, hardware, pewter, and bedding.
- Northwich*.—August 2, December 6, cattle, drapery-goods, and bedding.
- Over*.—May 15, September 25, horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, onions, and pedlary ware.
- Sandbach*.—Easter Tuesday, first Thursday after September 10, cattle and horses.
- Stockport*.—March 4, March 25, May 1, October 25, cattle and pedlars' ware.
- Tomperley*.—May 1, Monday after St. Bartholomew, August 24, December 10, cattle and pedlars' ware.
- Winsford*.—May 8, November 25, horses, cattle, sheep, pigs; hats, cloth, and other merchandize.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF
THE COUNTY OF CHESTER.

SITUATION, BOUNDARIES, EXTENT, AND FACE
OF THE COUNTY.

C HESHIRE is bounded by Lancashire on the whole northern side, except a small point to the north-east, where it touches Yorkshire; on the east by Derbyshire and Staffordshire, on the south by Shropshire, and a detached part of Flintshire, and by Denbighshire and the rest of Flintshire on the west, touching also upon the Irish Sea at its north-west extremity.

The form of the county is distinguished by two horns or projections, running east and west from its northern side; one of which is made by the hundred of Wirral, lying between the estuaries of the Mersey and the Dee; the other by a part of Macclesfield hundred, pushing out between Derbyshire and Yorkshire. A line drawn from the extremities of these projections is found to measure 58 miles; but the extent of the county from east to west, across its middle, does not exceed 40 miles. Its greatest extent from north to south is about 30 miles. In circumference it is about 112 miles, and, according to the agricultural survey of the county, published by the Board of Agriculture, it contains about 676,000 acres.

The general appearance of Cheshire is that of an extended plain, and is for the most part a flat country, whence it has obtained the name of the *Vale Royal of England*, though this name properly refers to its central part, in which was situated the abbey of Vale Royal, founded by King Edward the First.

On the eastern side of the county there is a range of hilly or rather mountainous country, connected
with

with the Derbyshire and Yorkshire hills, of about 25 miles in length, and five in breadth, extending from near Congleton to the north-eastern extremity of the county. From Macclesfield, in a north-western direction, the surface is irregular and hilly; but continues of that description no further than Alderley, about five or six miles from Macclesfield: on the Shropshire side the surface is likewise broken and irregular. Approaching the western side of the county, at the distance of about ten miles east from Chester, there is another range of irregular hills, between the rivers Dee and Mersey; these hills are in a direction almost north and south, and extend about 25 miles from Malpas, on the south side of the county, to Frodsham, on the opposite of it. About a mile to the south of Altringham, rises an elevated tract of ground, called Bowden Downs, which extends a considerable distance from east to west. Its western extremity is covered with the wood of Dunham Park. Bowden church is situated on the summit of this tract, from whence there is a most extensive view of a large part of Cheshire and the southern part of Lancashire. The remaining part of the county, amounting to nearly four-fifths of the whole, is probably not more on a medium than from 100 to 200 feet above the level of the sea.

ANCIENT HISTORY.

Cheshire is one of those six counties Staffordshire, Flintshire, Shropshire, Warwickshire, and Leicestershire, inhabited previous to the arrival of the Romans by the Cornavii, Carnabii, or Corinavii. The learned Mr. Whitaker conjectures that the Cornavii of Cheshire derive their name from the situation and nature of their coast, and in particular from the peculiar form of the long promontory between the estuaries of the Dee and the Mersey above-mentioned. Mr. Owen, however, objects to this etymology,

mology, and argues that the small head-land between the rivers Dee and Mersey is too inconsiderable to have given name to this extensive nation, and prefers the etymon *Corain*, circling or winding, and *air*, streams. Then "the people would be called *Coranivi*, *Coreineiviaid*, *Coreineivion*, *Coreineivwyr*, and *Coreineivwys*, or the inhabitants of the banks of winding rivers; names very applicable with respect to the two great rivers, the Severn and the Dee, on which their county chiefly lay."

Camden professes himself ignorant whence the name is derived. The *Cangi*, or *Clangi*, are thought by him to have dwelt among the *Cornavii*, and particularly to have been seated in this county, as he conjectures from several pieces of lead found in the shore adjoining, with this inscription :

IMP. DOMIT. AUG. GER. DE. CEANG.

IMP. VESP. VII. T. IMP, V. COSS.

Which he supposes to have been memorials of the victory obtained over the *Ceangi*, who lived in these parts. Dr. Leigh endeavours to confirm this opinion from the names of several towns, which seem to retain some traces of their ancient inhabitants, as *Conghill* in *Broughton*, and *Congleton* in *Nantwich* hundred. The name of the *Cornavii* continued until the decline of the Roman empire; for some troops of the *Cornavii* settled under the latter emperors, as may be seen in the *Notitia Provinciarum*; and very probably they were a martial people, because the Romans always kept strong garrisons in their territories to restrain or keep them in subjugation.

Cheshire was included by the Romans in the division they name *Flavia Cæsariensis*, and on the final departure from the Island, it reverted again to the Britons, who continued its possessors till about the year 607, when it was conquered by *Ethelfrith*, the
Saxon

Saxon king of Bernicia, who defeated the army of Brochmael Yscithroc, king of Powys, assembled to oppose him near Chester. On this occasion Ethelfrith is said to have slain 1,200 defenceless monks, whom Brochmael had called from the neighbouring monastery of Bangor, and stationed on a hill, that they might assist him with their prayers.

It was afterwards conquered by the Mercians, and continued a part of their kingdom about 200 years, when it fell into the hands of the Danes, who kept it but a few years; for King Alfred, A. D. 877, carrying his arms against those invaders, conquered them, and making Cheshire a province to the kingdom of the West Saxons, constituted Etheldred, one of the race of the kings of Mercia, duke or governor of the county. After the family of Etheldred had possessed this dignity for six generations, they were at length deprived of it by Canute the Dane, who committed this part of Mercia to the government of the Earls of Chester; of these only Leofric, the son of Leofwid; Algar, the son of Leofric; and Edwin, the son of Edgar, enjoyed this dignity, previous to the Norman conquest; for, in the time of the last earl, Wilham the Conqueror, and his Normans, got possession of the English throne, and thus the Saxon nobility ended.

William, upon his settlement in England, gave this province to Gherbod, a valiant Fleming, who had undergone many hardships for him, both in acquiring and settling his kingdom. This earl, after some time, had occasion to return to Flanders, where he was made prisoner, and obliged, from a long captivity, to resign his newly-acquired honours and possessions to another.

The Conqueror in his stead appointed Hugh de Aurenge, better known by the name of Hugh Lupus. To him he delegated extraordinary power; making this a county palatine, and gave it such a sovereign jurisdiction, that the ancient earls kept their

own parliament, and had their own courts of law, in which any offence against the dignity of the sword of Chester was as cognizable as the like offence would have been at Westminster against the dignity of the royal crown; for William allowed Lupus to hold this county "*tam liberé ad gladium, sicut ipsa Rex tenebat Angliam tenebat ad coronam.*" The sword with which he was invested is still to be seen in the British Museum, inscribed, "*HUGO COMES CESTRE.*" The office of sword-bearer, at the times of the coronation, was also held by this weapon.

When Lupus was established in his government he formed his parliament by the creation of eight barons, viz. Nigel, Baron of Halton; Robert, of Monthalt; William Malbeding, of Nantwich; Vernon, of Shipbrooke; Fitz Hugh, of Malpas; Hamon de Massie, of Dunham; Venables, of Kinderton; and Nicholas, of Stockport. They were obliged to pay him attendance, and to repair to his court to give it the greater dignity. They were also bound, in time of war with Wales, to find for every knight's fee, a horse, with caparison and furniture, or two without furniture, in the division of Cheshire. Their knights and freeholders were to have corselets and habergions, and were to defend their lands with their own bodies. Every baron had also four esquires, every esquire one gentleman, and every gentleman one valet. Each of these barons had also their free courts of all pleas and suits, and sued all plaints except what belonged to the Earl's sword. They had besides power of life and death; the last instance of the exertion of which was in the person of Hugh Stringer, who was tried for murder in the baron of Kinderton's Court, and executed in the year 1597.

This species of government continued from the Conquest till the reign of Henry the Third, a period of 171 years; when, in the year 1237, on the death of John Scot, the seventh earl of the Norman

man line, without male issue, Henry took the earldom into his own hands, and gave the daughters of the late earl other lands in lieu; unwilling, as he said, that so great an inheritance should be *parcelled out among distaffs*. The king bestowed the county on his son Edward, who did not assume the title, but afterwards conferred it on his son Edward, of Caernarvon; since that time the eldest sons of the kings of England have always been earls of Chester as well as princes of Wales. The palatinate was governed by the Earls of Chester as fully and independently, for nearly three centuries after this period, as it had ever been by the Norman earls; but Henry the Eighth, by authority of parliament, made it subordinate to the crown of England. Yet, notwithstanding this restraint, all pleas of lands and tenements, and all contracts within the county, are to be heard and determined within it; and all determinations out of it are deemed void 'et coram non judici,' except in cases of error, foreign plea, and foreign voucher; and for no crime but treason can an inhabitant of this county be tried out of it."

The county of Chester, being solely under the jurisdiction of its own earls, sent no representatives to the national parliament for the city, nor shire, till the year 1549, the 3d of Edward the Sixth, when, upon the petition of the inhabitants, two members were summoned from each.

RIVERS.

The principal rivers of this county are the Mersey, and the Dee, which receive and carry into the sea all the smaller rivers and rivulets, viz. the Weaver, the Dane, the Whirlock, the Goyt, the Bolling, &c.

The river Mersey divides Cheshire from Lancashire, for a course of nearly 60 miles, and is navigable about 35 miles from Liverpool to the mouth of the Irwell, for vessels of nearly 100 tons burthen. This river derives its source from a conflux of small streams,

streams, near the junction of Cheshire with Derbyshire and Yorkshire. It pursues a very winding course, and receives continued accessions, of which the principal are the river Inwell, out of Lancashire, and the Bollin from Cheshire. Below the town of Warrington the Mersey increases in breadth, having a large shallow channel, full at high tide, but exhibiting little, except the bare sand, at low-water. Opposite Runcorn a tongue of land running from Lancashire, suddenly contracts its dimensions, forming what is called Runcorn Gap. After its junction with the Weaver from the heart of Cheshire, it swells into a broad estuary; and, taking a north-western course, soon falls into the Irish channel.

The Goyt rises near the place where the road from Macclesfield to Buxton crosses the boundaries of the county, and it divides Cheshire from Derbyshire, till it meets the Ethrow river, near Chadkirk.

The Bollin rises among the hilly moors to the south of Macclesfield; and, passing that town, takes a north-west course through Prestbury and Willowslow, and joins the Mersey below Warburton.

The Dane rises near the junction of Derbyshire and Staffordshire with Cheshire, and, forming for some distance the boundary between the two last counties, pursues a westerly course by Congleton and Holmes Chapel to Middlewich, where it receives the Whirlock from the south. It then, turning northerly, passes Davenham in its course to Northwich, where it falls into the Weaver.

The Whirlock rises near Lawton, on the borders of Staffordshire, flows a little to the south of Sandback in its course to join the Dane at Middlewich.

The river Dee was held in great veneration by our British ancestors; by them it was called *Dufyrdwoy*, because it springs from two fountains in Merionethshire: it was also called *Dea*, *Devi*, or *Divana*, because the Britons and Romans accounted the

the waters of it divine, as the Thessalians esteemed *Peneus*, the Scythians *Ister*, and the Germans the *Rhine*. Nay, the Christian Britons retained the same superstition; for it is said, that when they were first drawn up in battle against the Saxons, and ready to engage, they kissed the earth, and then drank of the waters of their beloved stream.

The *Dee*, coming from Denbighshire, reaches the borders of Cheshire in the south-west, to which it forms a boundary from Worthenbury to Aldford; it then passes into Chester, between Holt and Farn-don. From Chester it takes a westward course, and, after flowing through an artificial channel, formed at an immense expence by a united body of gentlemen, called the *River Dee Company*, at length spreads into a broad estuary, between the county of Flint and the hundred of Wirral, and empties itself into the Irish Sea, about fourteen miles from Chester.

The *Weaver* derives its source from Ridley Pool, close to Cholmondeley Hall, and passes Nantwich, Minshall, Weaver, Winsford, and Northwich, where it is joined by the *Dane*; from hence it turns westerly, and, in a very winding course, flows to Frodsham bridge, below which it falls into the *Mersey*. It receives several tributary streams in its course, and has been made navigable by means of various locks and weirs. The plan upon which this was effected deserves to be noticed. The gentlemen of this county, observing the vast expence of land carriage from the salt towns to Liverpool, and other maritime places, determined to make the *Weaver* navigable, and accordingly, in 1720, an act of parliament was obtained, which empowered them to raise a subscription of 49,000*l.* to defray the necessary expences. The subscribers were to receive five per cent on the principal, and one per cent on the risk, and also certain installments arising from the tonnage of vessels on the river, till the money advanced

was

was reimbursed; but afterwards the whole amount of tonnage, when the charges of necessary repairs and management had been deducted, was to be employed, from time to time, for and towards amending and repairing public bridges within the county, and such other public charges, and in such manner as the magistrates shall yearly direct. All vessels navigating upon this river pay one shilling per ton, whether they pass the whole length of the navigable part, or any shorter distance, and the receipt has amounted in some years to upwards of 8,000*l*. The original debt has been paid off some time, and, exclusive of other county expences defrayed by this lucrative revenue, the principal costs of erecting the extensive canal at Chester were derived from this source. The length of this navigation is 20 miles, in which course it has a fall of 45 feet, ten inches, divided by ten locks. About 150 vessels, from 20 to 100 tons burthen, are constantly employed in carrying rock-salt downwards, and coals and corn upwards.

CANALS.

The Bridgewater Canal, for 14-foot boats, from Runcorn to Manchester, runs at no great distance from the Mersey, about twenty miles through this county, before it crosses to the Lancashire side of that river.

The Staffordshire, or Grand Trunk Canal, joins the Bridgewater Canal at Preston Brook, about five miles from Runcorn, and passes in a south-eastern direction through nearly the centre of the county. The Chester Canal extends from Chester to Nantwich, easterly, about twenty miles.

The Ellesmere Canal, which unites with the rivers Mersey, Dee, and Severn, is for 14-foot boats, commences about 10 miles above Liverpool, at Pool Wharf, in Wirral, and, proceeding from thence to Chester, about eight miles and a half from Chester,
it

it passes for about seven miles along the Chester Canal, and then turns off towards Ellesmere, in Shropshire, terminating at Shrewsbury, which is on the whole nearly a course of sixty miles, exclusive of the branches.

There are various small lakes or meres in Cheshire, of which the principal are Budworth Mere, Rosthern Mere, Mew Mere, and Tutton Mere, all in Bucklow hundred, some meres in Delamere Forest, Comber Mere, in Namptwich hundred, and Bar Mere, not far from Malpas. Several of these are of considerable depth, and abundantly stocked with fish.

Salmon swim a great way up the Mersey, and their young, called Brood, run up the rivulets among the moors to a considerable height, and are easily caught in shallow water by the inhabitants. Trout is also plentiful in these streams, and is occasionally sold at sixpence per pound; they are generally caught with a rod and line. These and a few eels are the only fish in this part of the Mersey.

CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS.

Cheshire is divided into seven hundreds, exclusive of the city of Chester, which is a county of itself. Each hundred has two sub-divisions, for each of which there are two high constables. It contains one city and eleven market-towns, and sends four members to parliament. The following are the names of the hundreds :

Macclesfield Hundred,	Eddisburg Hundred,
Bucklow Hundred,	Namptwich Hundred,
Northwich Hundred,	Broxton Hundred,
and Wirrall Hundred.	

The county of Chester is comprised within the diocese of the same name, which was erected into a bishopric by Henry the Eighth, in the year 1541, and belongs to the province of York. It contains
two

two archdeaconries, those of Chester and Richmond. Cheshire is entirely within the former; it is subdivided into the following deaneries, viz. the deaneries of Chester, Frodsham, Macclesfield, Maldenwich, alias Namptwich, Malpas, Bangor, Middlewich, and Wirrall, containing together 86 parishes, and 35,621 houses, inhabited by 191,751 persons, viz. 92,759 males, and 98,992 females; of whom 38,823 were returned by the late population act as being employed in agriculture, and 67,447 in trade and manufactures.

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE
COUNTY OF CHESTER.

*Journey from Chester to Parkgate; through
Mollington.*

THE ancient name of this city, it is said, was Neomagus, so called from Magus, son of Samothis, son of Japhet, its founder, 240 years after the flood; an assertion which is fully authenticated, and places it on a line of antiquity with any other city in the universe. Its second name, was Caerlleon, so called from Leon Vawr, or Gawr, who, as some writers say, was a giant in Albion, and one of its restorers; this conjecture, it is probable, may in some measure have originated from the circumstance of a human skeleton of prodigious size (some say nine feet in length) being dug up in Pepper-street.

Upon the settlement of the Britons here it was next called Caerleil, and afterwards Caerleir, because these two British kings were enlargers and beautifiers of it, according to Stone and others. Before the Romans arrived here, it is probable this city was called Genuina or Gunia, as appeared from an inscription, on a votive altar, dug up here, and dedicated to Jupiter Taran, i. e. in the British language, the Thunderer; which language it is likely the Romans might make use of in this inscription, to convey to posterity an idea of their conquests over the Britons.

After the Romans had fixed here the conquering legion, Valens or Valens Victrix, it was then stiled Caerlhon, Caerlegion, or, as it is otherwise called, Ardourdwy, and Caer, by way of excellence, as Camden observes, to distinguish it from the other Caerleon, or Caerusk, in South Wales. The Latin historians stile it Cestria, from a camp which the Romans had fixed there. In latter ages it was stiled Legan Chester, and Lege Chester; but in these days West Chester, or Chester. By Ptolemy it is

sometimes called Oxcellum, Uxcellum, Plegimundam, and Leogria, or Locrinus land, of which the three first denote no more, as Hollingshed observes, than a rock, or place of strong defence; and which historians observe, was the boundary of King Locrinus's kingdom, westward: this was the chief city of the Ordovices, before the coming in of the Romans, as is affirmed by most of our ancient historians, which people were the inhabitants of North Wales.

The antiquity of this city is still more conspicuous from the stately remains of its ruins, which, Dr. Leigh says, were discovered at the commencement of the present century: these he describes as subterraneous vaults in cellars, through free-stone rock; the entrances into which were raised into several angles, and, from the description of the catacombs in Italy, it may reasonably be concluded they were made for the same purpose. They sufficiently demonstrate the greatness of the Roman power at Chester, signifying that they were resolved not only to keep incorporated while living, but also to preserve their very ashes together.

In these passages have been found many Roman coins, which more fully prove these vaults to have been the habitations of heathens, as has been observed in various other monasteries. From a coin of Geta, that was found, having the inscription of

“ COL. DIVANA 20 VICT.”

it appears Chester was made a Roman colony, by Geta, when the southern parts of Britain were under his care, at the time his father, the emperor Severus, and his brother Caracalla, were advancing into Caledonia.

Before the end of the seventh century Chester was the see of a bishop, whose pastoral care extended over a part of the Mercian dominions. In the days of Arthur, grammar, philosophy, and the learned languages,

languages, were taught here. Coldway and Cadwan, two British kings, having defeated the Saxons, were crowned here; and a parliament was held in this city by the former.

Ethelwolf had the ceremony of his coronation performed here. It is likewise said, that Henry the Fourth, emperor of Germany, who married Maud, grand-daughter of William the Conqueror, and had imprisoned his father, the pope, and the cardinals, withdrew himself from the world, and lived a hermit, unknown as to his real character, at Chester, ten years; but death approaching, he discovered himself, and lies buried here.

When the great survey was taken by William the First, the earls, who had all the city, except what belonged to the bishop, paid gelt, or tribute, for 50 hides of land, 40 houses, and seven mint masters.

That it was a place of considerable importance in the time of the Romans cannot be denied; as, from them, it is confessed, originated an art, which has for ages distinguished the county of Chester from all others, that of making cheese, distinguished by the name of Cheshire cheese.

This ancient and pleasant city stands upon the borders of the river Dee, on the west side of the county, distant 20 miles south-east from the main sea; about 20 miles east from Denbigh; 40 north from Shrewsbury; 46 north-west from Stafford; 76 north-west from Derby; and 75 south from Lancaster. Its lat. 53 deg. 15 min. north; and long. 3 deg. 2 min. west from London: its distance from the latter city being 182 miles.

The inhabitants of Chester may be said to enjoy advantages which no other place of equal magnitude can boast of. Peculiarly favoured by Providence, the situation is as pleasing as the air is salubrious; as a proof of the latter the yearly bills of mortality furnish us with numberless instances of longevity. This, however, will be better elucidated

by the insertion of the following comparative statement of the number of inhabitants that die annually in the under-mentioned places :

	<i>one in</i>		<i>one in</i>
Vienna - -	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	Breslau - -	25
London - -	20 $\frac{3}{4}$	Berlin - -	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
Edinburgh -	20	Shrewshury -	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
Leeds - -	21	Northampton -	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dublin - -	22	Liverpool -	27 $\frac{1}{2}$
Rome - - -	23	Manchester -	28
Amsterdam - -	24	Chester - -	40

The population in Chester is said to be about 15,000 souls, and yet is increasing: a stranger, on his first entrance into the city, might suppose that it is but thinly inhabited, the enveloped situation of the shops, which are mostly covered by rows, tending to hide a considerable portion of the people from the eye. Its foundation is chiefly on a dry sandy stone rock; a circumstance which may also contribute to its salubrity, and the longevity of its inhabitants.

Mr. Pennant, whose respectability as a tourist, and eminence as an author, are of the first rank, very concisely describes it in the following words; "The city is of a square form, which evinces the origin to have been Roman, being in the figure of their camps, with four gates forming the four points, four principal streets, and a variety of lesser, crossing the others at right angles, dividing the whole into lesser squares. The walls are built on a soft free stone rock, high above the circumjacent country," and are said to have been built by the Mercian lady Ethelfleda. The structure of the four principal streets is without a parallel; they run direct from east to west, and north to south, and were excavated out of the earth, and sunk many feet beneath the surface. The carriages are driven far below the level of the kitchens, on a line with ranges

of

of shops, over which passengers walk in galleries, which the inhabitants call the rows, secure from wet or heat. In the rows are likewise ranges of shops, and steps to descend into the street.

Such is the antiquity of Chester that the stranger who can pass through, without bestowing on it some little share of attention, must have an incurious eye indeed. The exploring hand of time has at different periods presented to the antiquarian some valuable treasures; among these is a Roman altar, now in the possession of Mr. Dyson, erected by Flavius Longus, tribune of the victorious 20th legion, and his son Longinus, in honour of the emperors Dioclesian and Maximinian; another, discovered in 1633, (now at Oxford) inscribed to Jupiter; also a statue of Mithras, in the possession of the late Mr. Prescott, was discovered here; and a beautiful altar, with other Roman antiquities, were found in the year 1779. The coins of Vespasian, Constantius, Trajan, Hadrian, &c. have at different times been found; and there is little doubt but Chester is still rich in records of antiquity, which the researches of posterity may possibly discover.

In the 24th year of the last century, the remains of the illustrious Hugh Lupus, (first earl of Chester) were discovered in the chapter-house of the Cathedral, incased with stone, where the body has lain, in undisturbed security, upwards of 600 years; it was wrapped in leather, under which was the remnant of a shroud; at the head of the coffin was a stone, in the form of a Roman T, with the head of a wolf, in allusion to his name, cut thereon. His sword of dignity is now in the Museum, and if we may measure the prowess of the earl by the length of his sword, he must have been invincible indeed, the blade being little less than four feet long, and so very ponderous as to require more than a moderate share of strength even to brandish it. This great personage's court was princely; his parliament consisted

sisted of eight barons, who attended his person ; every baron had four esquires, every esquire one gentleman, and every gentleman one valet. Such were the links in his chain of dignity. In the hands of the barons was reposed the power of life and death.

Hugh Lupus was succeeded by his son Richard, who, after governing 19 years, met a watery grave in his passage from Normandy ; Richard's successor was Ranulph, his cousin, who died at Chester, in the year 1129, and was succeeded by the heroic Ranulph the Second, who, after a government of 25 years, fell a sacrifice to poison, in 1153. His remains were interred at Chester, and Hugh, his son, took the reins of government after him, which he held 28 years. After him the earldom was possessed by his son Ranulph, whose benevolence acquired him the title of Ranulph the Good. The cloud of superstition, which darkened the horizon of those times, overshadowed the native goodness of this earl's heart, and he entered the field with all that fury and fervour, which fanaticism alone can inspire ; hence the holy wars proclaimed alike his prowess and his folly. Beeston Castle was erected by this earl.

At the demise of this earl, which happened in the year 1232, John, surnamed Scott, mounted the chair of state ; he married Helen, daughter of Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, prince of North Wales, from which alliance no issue arising, at his death, (which is said to have been prematurely effected by poison) an extinction happened in the line of succession, and Henry the Third annexed the earldom to the crown, in the year 1237. From his hands it was transferred, by gift, to his son Edward, afterwards king Edward the First. The chance of war next gave it to Simon de Montford, who took both Henry and his son prisoners at the battle of Lewes, in the year 1264 ; their liberations were purchased by the
resignation

resignation of the earldom of Montford, whose brow was adorned with this laurel of conquest but a very short period, as he resigned his honours with his life, at the battle of Evesham, not twelve months after. It next devolved to Edward of Caernarvon, son of Edward the First, who enjoyed it 19 years, when his son, Edward of Windsor, succeeded. A period of 11 years had barely elapsed, when Edward the Black Prince, took the reins of government, From him it devolved to his son, Richard of Bourdeaux, who, in the 21st year of his reign, erected Chester into a principality; an honour which was cancelled in the first year of Henry the Fourth.

His son, afterwards the great Henry the Fifth, (who was the scourge of France) next succeeded; and after him Henry the Sixth, whose life was cruelly violated and taken, after the battle of Tewkesbury.

In the year 1471, Edward the Fifth, (eldest son of Edward the Fourth), was created earl of Chester; but he with his brother Richard (duke of York) fell by that ambitious monster, Richard the Third; whose only offspring, Edward, was next created earl in the year 1483; the subsequent year, however, putting a period to his life, Arthur (son of king Henry the Seventh) was next created, who was succeeded by his brother Henry, in the year 1504.

A long period was suffered to elapse ere the next earldom took place, which was in the person of Henry Frederic Stuart, son of James the First, in 1610; he dying without issue, Charles, his brother, succeeded, in 1616, afterwards Charles the First, who, 14 years after, transferred the earldom to his son Charles, afterwards Charles the Second.

A period of more than 80 years elapsed, ere the next earldom was created; which was not till the present illustrious House of Hanover ascended the throne of the kingdom; when, in 1714, George,

son of George the First, succeeded; and after him in 1728, Frederic, our second George's eldest son; in his hands it remained till the year 1750, when his present majesty succeeded to it; and in 1762, it was translated to George Augustus Frederick, prince of Wales, his eldest son, the present earl.

After this account of the earls, we shall revert to the history of this ancient city; which has, at different periods, been the seat of many remarkable events.

Here it was that the Caledonian king, Malcolm the Fourth, in 1159, ceded to our second Henry all the lands that the fortune of war had wrested from the crown of England.

In the year 1255 Chester experienced all the horrors of warfare: Llewelyn ap Gryffydd, prince of Wales, invaded it with an arm of desolation, carrying fire and sword to its very gates; and such is the revolution of things, this city was selected by Edward the First, as the place for Llewelyn to do him homage; that prince, however, consistent with the native ambition of his mind, spurned at the command; but the refusal ended with his own ruin, and the loss of his principality; for in 1300, Edward of Caernarvon received here the final acknowledgement of the Welsh to the sovereignty of the English crown.

Chester was the favourite city of Richard the Second, who honoured it with his presence in 1397; and two years afterwards he was lodged close prisoner in the castle, which had been seized into the hands of our fourth Henry, who cancelled the lives of several of Richard's adherents and favourites.

Chester has, at several periods, been honoured with the presence of royalty; in the year 1459, Henry the Sixth, with Queen Margaret, and her son Edward, paid a visit here; and, as a small, but grateful, tribute of respect, to those gentlemen of
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the county, who were attached to her cause, she presented them with small silver swans.

In the year 1493, Henry the Seventh and his queen, graced the city with their presence. In 1617, Henry Button, esq. mayor, had the honour of presenting James the First with a cup, beautifully gilt, and in it 100 jacobins of gold, as a rich mark of the city's attachment to his crown and person.

No memorable incident occurred from this period till the reign of Charles the First, when, in consequence of the loyalty of its inhabitants to that monarch, Chester was besieged by the parliament forces; and such were the distresses of the unfortunate citizens, that they were driven to the sad alternative of eating the flesh of horses, dogs, and cats: nor did they surrender, notwithstanding this shocking necessity, till they had procured terms from their besiegers that did honour to the spirit and valour of the citizens. This surrender happened on the third of February, 1645-6. Forty-five years after, in the year 1690, King William visited Chester; and, during the reign of this monarch, it was remarkable for having a coinage of silver currency; at which time Chester was selected as one of the six cities in the kingdom, for the residence of an assay-master.

The stranger who has never seen the city-walls can entertain but a very faint idea of the convenience and pleasure which they afford: their circumference is one mile, three quarters, and 101 yards. For the excellent state of preservation in which they are kept we are indebted to the trading opulence and mercantile spirit of the gentlemen in the linen branch, belonging to our sister kingdom; a kind of murage duty, of twopence on every hundred yards of linen imported, being paid for the purpose. They were evidently intended as fortifications; time however razed its towers, so that only one remains, known by the name of Phoenix Tower, a situation

a situation remarkable for being the place where King Charles I. retired to see the battle of Rowton-moor, where his army, under Sir Marmaduke Langdale, was defeated by General Pointz. The views which the walls command are various and extensive, enriched with enlivening scenes, variegated landscapes, and delightful prospects. In short, no walk can be better calculated either for health or pleasure.

Three very handsome and spacious arches, at the east, west, and south entrances, have been all finished within these few years, and nothing remains but the erection of a similar arch at the north, to complete an uniformity much wanted. At the north gate stands the city goal.

The keeping of the gates was once reckoned so honourable an office that it was claimed by several noble families; as East-gate, by the Earl of Oxford; Bridge-gate, by the Earl of Shrewsbury; Water-gate, by the Earl of Derby; North-gate, by the mayor the city. On the east side of the city is a postern, which was shut up by one of its mayors, because his daughter, who had been at stool-ball with some maidens in Pepper-street, was stolen and conveyed away through this gate; this has occasioned a proverb here, "When the daughter is stolen, shut the Pepper-gate." The city is well supplied with water from the river Dee by mills, and the water-tower, which is one of the gates of the bridge. The centre of the city, where the four streets meet facing the cardinal points, is called the Pentice, from whence there is a pleasant prospect of all four at once.

Edward the Black Prince was the person who prescribed the boundaries of the city; which extend, westward, from a spot called Iron-bridge, (on the Eaton road) across the Wrexham turnpike-road, down to the Leach; then crossing Saltney-marsh, near the second mile-stone, and the river, lead up
to

to Blacon-point; and along the course of the old river, turning up to stone bridge, and along the brook side, cross the Parkgate road, and lead up to Beach-pool; and by the side of the brook, lead to Flooker's-brook; then crossing the canal, and the two turnpike roads to London, lead down to the river side, opposite to Iron-bridge; making, in the whole, about eight miles. The limits of the port of Chester are the end of Wirral; to which place the official duty of the city coroner extends.

In the centre of the city, near the junction of the four principal streets, is the cross, where St. Peter's Church stands, supposed to be situated on the scite of the Roman Prætorium: this cross is famous for being the annual scene of the exhibition of bull-baiting. It is no great length of time since the mayor and corporation used to attend in their official habiliments, at the Pentice (the seat of magistracy, and where the town office is kept), not only to countenance the diversions of the ring, but to participate in a sight of its enjoyments. A proclamation was also made by the crier of the court, the composition of which ran thus: "Oyez! oyez! oyez! If any man stand within twenty yards of the bull-ring, let him take—what comes." After which followed the usual public ejaculation, for "the safety of the king and the mayor of the city;" when the scene commenced, and the dogs immediately fell to. The late Dr. Cowper is said to have had the merit, when mayor, of putting a stop to the attendance of the corporate body on those days; and Mr. Alderman Brodhurst, in his mayoralty, made a laudable but ineffectual effort to suppress this relic of barbarism.

The four principal streets are East-gate-street, Water-gate-street, Bridge-street, and North-gate-street. The first is large and spacious; the second rather narrow and contracted; the third, wide and airy; and the latter, in some parts, equally so. Such is the venerable

nerable appearance of many ranges of dwellings, that they may be said to present to the eye, as it were a model of every thing antique in the universe.—Where, in some places, new built houses are intermixed with old ones, the appearance is motley and grotesque: to see a modern mansion, just finished, standing between two gothic structures, the youngest probably no less than 200 years old, gives the beholder an idea (if the allusion may be allowed) of the picture of a fine gentlemen of the present day, placed between the portraits of a brace of beaus of the days of Queen Elizabeth.

Passing through the East-gate, you enter Foregate-street, which is about 572 yards in length; and, in general, 18 in breadth. From this street issue Cow-lane and Queen-street on the left, and John's-street and Love-lane on the right. Queen-street has not been built many years, its situation is pleasant and airy; in it is a large well-built chapel, the place of worship of a sect of independents; also a reputable academy, for the education of youth.

Love-lane is celebrated for a manufacture of tobacco pipes. A little below Love-lane, not a great many years past, stood a strong postern-gate, called the Bars, dividing Foregate-street from Boughton; not far from which stands the Octagon, a chapel for Dissenters:

Boughton is a large and wide street, on the London road. A little beyond are Barrel-well, and the Cherry-gardens; the former containing an excellent cold bath, and the latter a delightful rural promenade, during the summer season.

At the opposite point of the city to the above is Watergate-street, which leads into Goss-lane, Crook's-lane, Trinity-lane, Weaver's-lane, Lower-lane, and Nicholas-street. Crook's-lane contains a Presbyterian chapel, erected in the time of the late Rev. Matthew Henry, of pious memory, early in the present century. Nearly opposite to Nicholas-street is his Majesty's

Majesty's custom house ; and a little lower down is the New Linen-hall, erected by the Irish merchants, in the year 1778, containing 111 shops, inclosing a pleasant and spacious area. Near this place, on the opposite side of the way, was a religious house of Grey Friars, the date of which is in the reign of Henry the Eighth.

About twenty years ago, in a field contiguous to the Water-gate, where a range of well-built houses now stands, some labourers discovered, very little below the surface, the remains of a Roman hypocaust and sudatory, or sweating-bath, with a beautiful Roman altar, inscribed to Æsculapius. But the whole was unfortunately destroyed by the rude hand of ignorance before a drawing of them could be taken.

Immediately on passing through the Water-gate, you enter Crane street, the right side of which consists of new uniformly-arranged houses ; on the left are some genteel dwellings, denominated, in allusion to their pleasant situation, Paradise-row.

Opposite to these is that beautiful piece of ground called the Roodee, where the races are annually run the first week in May ; a diversion for which this spot is perhaps better calculated than any other in the kingdom, not a single yard of the view being lost by the spectator in any situation. The Roodee is remarkable for being the place of interment of an image of the Virgin Mary, with a very large cross, in the year 946. The place of the residence of this pious lady was in a Christian temple at Harwarden, in Flintshire, where, in those days of superstition, they used to offer up their orisons to this idol. To her they applied for relief in all their affliction ; till at last it happened, while they were on their knees invoking her, that she fell upon the head of the governor of the castle's wife, Lady Trawst, and killed her. For this offence the goddess was banished the place, and thrown on the sands of the river ; whence

she was carried away by the tide, and next day found near the place called Roodee; on which the idol was interred, with all due pomp, by the inhabitants of Chester, and a large stone erected over the grave, a memento of the ignorance of those days.

On the west side of the Roodee stands the Asylum for age and indigence, the House of Industry, which seldom contains less than 200 persons.

Nearly adjoining is the New River (cut through a large space of white sands, in 1735-6), which is navigable for vessels of 350 tons burthen. Here are excellent conveniences for ship-building, in which the artizans of Chester particularly excel. From the quays are exported large cargoes of that excellent cheese for which this country is so famous.

Northgate-street is about 440 yards long, the entrance into which was, till within some years ago, much incommôded by a projection of shops, which have, by voluntary subscription, been removed.— On the right of this stands the theatre-royal. No circumstance can evince the strange mutations to which things are liable more than this place, which was originally a chapel, dedicated to St. Nicholas, and devoted to religion; afterwards a common-hall, devoted to justice; next a warehouse, devoted to trade; and now a play-house, devoted to amusement.

The regular market for fish and vegetables is in the square opposite to the Exchange, where the supply, in general, is plentiful and tolerably reasonable. In that useful article, salmon, no market in the kingdom did some years ago excel it; indeed, such was the profusion of this valuable fish, that masters were often restricted, by a clause in the indenture, from giving it more than twice a week to their apprentices. The market is kept on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The Exchange is a large handsome pile, supported by five columns in the centre. It is 126 feet long
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and 46 broad ; and has a row of shops on the west side. It was erected in the year 1698, during the mayoralty of Colonel Robert Whitley. The quarter sessions, and the annual election of city officers, are held here in a large commodious common-hall. The Exchange also contains a mansion-house, for the occasional entertainment of the corporate body, in which the winter assemblies for the tradespeople are held ; here is also a well-chosen subscription library.

A little beyond the Exchange stands the three flesh-shambles, for the reception of country butchers, which occupy a considerable part of the street ; upon the centre one is placed a cistern or reservoir of water (conveyed by pipes from the water-works at the bridge), which supplies the dwellings in the Abbey-court, and the adjacent ones in that part of the city.

On the west side of the Shambles is Parsons-lane, or Princes-street, leading to a pleasant and airy range of building, called St. Martin's-in-the-Fields ; opposite to which, adjoining to the walls, stands, in a most delightful and salubrious situation, the Infirmary, a very spacious and elegant building, erected in the year 1761, the comfortable retreat of disease and penury, from every part of the county, the city, and North Wales.

On the east of the shambles is the entrance into the Abbey-court ; over the gateway of which is the register-office, where wills are deposited. The Abbey-court is a neat and pleasant square, with an obelisk in the centre, surrounded by a large circle of iron pallisadoes ; the houses regularly and handsomely built ; on the south side is the bishop's palace, a large stone pile, erected in the year 1753. The Gothic structure of St. Thomas's Chapel has been very judiciously taken down, and, on the scite thereof, a spacious mansion is erected. The Abbey-street leads to the walls, and to the kale-yards : in

former times this ground was the kitchen garden of the church.

Immediately on passing through the North gate, on the left, as you enter Further North-gate-street, stands the Blue-coat school; adjoining to which is the chapel, dedicated to St. John the Baptist. This seminary which receives a certain number of poor boys, furnishing them with education, board, and apparel, besides a small sum as an apprentice-fee, is a most exemplary institution, and as such meets with liberal support. There is also a Blue-School for girls, and a Green-cap-school for boys; which, in addition to the Sunday-schools, are all supported by voluntary subscription. Behind the Blue-coat school, are six alms-houses, each of which contains one old woman. On the opposite side of the street, stands the Bridewell, or house of correction.

Bridge-street is open and spacious; its length from the cross to the bridge is 553 yards. On the west side is Common-hall-lane, so called from being the place where the common-hall of the city once stood. Near the Plume of Feathers inn, in the above street, is a Roman bath, but the only part observable is the hypocaust, the form of which is rectangular, supported by 32 pillars, two feet, ten inches, and a half high, and about 18 inches distant from each other. Upon each is a tile, 18 inches square, and over them a perforated tile, two feet square; which appears over all the pillars, standing on a mortar floor spread over the rock. The smoke issued through a vent on the south side. Here is an anti-chamber, where the slaves attended to heat the place. The persons who used to participate in this warm enjoyment sat in an apartment above, called the sweating-chamber.

Lower down is White-Friars-lane, so called from a convent of Carmelites, or white friars, in St. Martin's parish. On the opposite side of the way, a little lower down, is Pepper-street, which leads on
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the left to Newgate-street, and on the right to Nine-houses, and to Duke-street. On the right of Lower Bridge-street, is Cuppin's-lane, a name derived from a cupping-house or bagnio being formerly therein. This leads to Martin's-ash, also through Bunce-lane, to Glover-stone and the Castle.

In St. Martin's parish was a convent of Benedictine nuns, dedicated to St. Mary; which fell in the general devastation of religious houses, in the year 1537.

Glover-stone is remarkable for separating the castle from the city, and is a part of the county, where non-freeman may exercise their trades in undisturbed security. Here the bodies of unfortunate convicts are delivered into the custody of the city-sheriffs for execution: a custom accounted for only by tradition, that when the city, by Henry the Seventh's charter, was made a county of itself, the citizens, to prevent any infraction of their territories, voluntarily took upon themselves this sad and melancholy office, rather than the county officers should exercise the least authority within their jurisdiction. Another tradition says, that a culprit was once rescued from the jaws of death, on his way to the fatal tree, by the citizens, for which this disagreeable task has been since inflicted upon their successors, by way of punishment.

The Castle consists of two wards, upper and lower; the entrance into each of which is strongly guarded by ponderous gates, having round bastions on each side; time having undermined the battlements of the upper ward, fronting the walls, they have been rebuilt. Here are convenient apartments and lodging rooms for the judges of the circuit, furnished at the expence of the city sheriffs. The Shire-hall (which was the state apartments of Hugh Lupus before-mentioned) is lofty and spacious, consistent with the hospitality and dignity of the first

Norman earl. A considerable part of this hall is taken down.

Below the entrance of Castle-street is an ancient mansion, which is rendered memorable for being the residence of Charles the First, during the siege of the city.

Opposite to Castle-street is Clare-lane. On passing through the arch at the bottom of Bridge-street, you go over a bridge of seven arches, inconveniently narrow and contracted, when you enter a hand-bridge, stiled by the Welsh, Tre Boeth, or Burnt Town; which leads on the right to Wrexham and Northop, and on the left to Eaton-doat.

In a field contiguous to Handbridge is a rock, on the front of which is cut, *Dea Armigera*, Minerva, with her bird and altar. This is said to be the spot where the palace of the ambitious Edgar stood, though not a vestige remains to confirm the assertion. From this part of the river the above monarch (in the year 973) had the singular felicity of being rowed, by eight subordinate and tributary kings, to the monastery of St. John the Baptist.

The cathedral stands on the east side of the Northgate-street; the reigns of Henry the Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth, are mentioned as the periods in which the greater part of this sacred edifice (now remaining) was erected.

Simon Ripley, chosen abbot in the year 1485, built the broad aisle. The abbey which gave birth to this see was of such antiquity as to have been a nunnery, more than 1100 years ago, founded by Wulpherus, king of the Mercians, for his daughter St. Werburgh; who took the veil, after living three years with her husband, Ceoliedus, in a state of vestal purity.

The buildings were next restored by Ethelfleda, of pious memory, and the nuns supplanted by a set of canons. These pieces of holy ordnance were, in their turn, discharged by Hugh Lupus; who placed
here

here a body of Benedictines, who were dissolved at the reformation by Henry the Eighth.

The neatness of the choir, and the Gothic appearance of the tabernacle work, have a pleasing effect on the eye. The bishop's throne, which is superbly ornamented, is said to have been the ancient shrine of St. Werburg; it is encircled by a beautiful group of small images, intended to represent saints and kings of Mercia. Some of these, having been much defaced, were repaired some years ago, but in a most bungling manner.

Here are several elegant monuments, particularly one to the memory of Sir William Mainwaring, a young officer, who fell in defence of the city, during the siege. The broad aisle has of late been much enriched by the erection of a few monuments; among which is one to the memory of the late dean Smith; another to the memory of Mr. Ogden, surgeon; a third to the memory of Mr. Philips, an American loyalist; and a fourth, to the memory of the late Chancellor Peploe.

In the year 1787, the remains of Thomas Birchel-seg, otherwise Lythellis, chaplain to King Edward the First, and abbot of this cathedral in 1291, were taken up in a lead coffin, near the altar in the choir, after having been in the earth 465 years! The appearance of the body evinced; that some endeavours had been used to preserve it from putrefaction, which partially succeeded, the legs, arms, head, and even the features of the face, appearing in an astonishing state of preservation.

Behind the choir is St. Mary's chapel, where prayers are read at the hour of six every morning. Adjoining the entrance into this chapel stands a tomb, said to contain the remains of Henry the Fourth, emperor of Germany. The north transept is very spacious, and is the parish church of St. Oswald: a chapel of ease to this church stands more than four miles from Chester. On the north side of
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the broad aisle are the cloisters; in which is that beautiful and well finished edifice the chapter-house, where the bones of several earls and abbots lay in peaceful obscurity. It is 50 feet in length, 26 in width, and 35 in height. The supposition is, that it was erected by Randal Meschines, earl of Chester, who died in the year 1128. In the cloister is a flight of steps, which led to the dormitory, kitchen, and cellars, of the venerable monks.

Here is an excellent free-school for 24 boys, founded by King Henry the Eighth.

There are in this see, two archdeaconries, Chester and Richmond; it is a suffragan to York; and the diocese includes Cheshire and Lancashire, a part of Cumberland, Westmoreland, Flintshire, and Denbighshire. It contains 256 parishes, 101 of which are impropriate. The bishopric is valued in the king's books at 420l. 1s. 8d. and the tenths of the clergy amount to 435l. 12s. per annum. The first bishop of Chester was John Bird, in the year 1541.

The church of St. John Baptist stands without the walls, in a most delightful situation, on the east side of the city; it was once collegiate, and was founded by King Æthelred, in 689, in consequence of a visionary admonition to build it on the spot where he should find a white hind. The west side of the steeple now presents an imperfect figure of this legend. The church is a magnificent pile, and evidently of Saxon origin; there are no remains of the north and south transepts, and a great part of the east end is demolished by the fall of the centre tower. The chapel above the old choir (now the parish church) present melancholy pictures of the ravages of time; to the eye of the antiquary these ruins are a rich feast. Here is an anchorite's cell, where Harold, after the defeat of Hastings, is said to have closed his eyes.

St. Peter's church is in the centre of the city, and had, some time ago, a lofty spire steeple; the

want of which, at present, makes a very naked appearance.

Trinity church stands in Watergate-street; the inside has been some years since enlarged, which has added much to its convenience and beauty. It has a handsome spire steeple.

St. Bridget's, though small, is neat and convenient, having undergone at different times, several considerable improvements. It is situated on the west side of Bridge-street.

St. Michael's is situated exactly opposite St. Bridget's; a circumstance which gives them the appellation of the two churches. It is also neat and convenient, and some years ago was beautified and improved.

St. Mary's church stands on the south-west part of the city; the inside is ornamented with some beautiful monuments of the Gamul and Troutbeck families.

St. Olave's stands in the lower part of Bridge-street, opposite Castle-street.

St. Martin's stands at a place called the Ash, in the south-west part of the city; it has also been much improved.

Exclusive of the above-mentioned places of worship, there are no less than six conventicles for dissenters of different denominations. There is also a chapel for Roman-catholics.

In addition to the charities already noticed, there is an excellent foundation for 30 decayed freemen, to each of whom is allowed the sum of 4*l.* annually, and a gown every third year; every candidate must be beyond his 60th year.

The late Mr. Owen Jones, butcher, (one of the donors to this charity), bequeathed the annual profits of an estate in Denbighshire, to the poor of the several city companies, in rotation; which bequest, though only a few pounds at first, now, from the singular discovery of a lead-mine thereon, produces little less than 400*l.* per annum.

There

There are 30 almshouses in Chester, exclusive of six behind the Blue-coat school; namely, ten in St. Michael's parish; four in St. John's; six in Commonhall-lane; six in St. Olave's parish; and four in Trinity.

In the year 1772, a horrid explosion happened at Chester, on the anniversary night of the gunpowder-plot, when a large stone building, up an entry in Water-gate-street, occupied by George Williams, a puppet-shew man was blown up, and out of 140 people assembled 31 were killed, most of them upon the spot. It was occasioned by several barrels of powder having been lodged under the building. The shock was felt several miles round the city.

The existence of a corporation in Chester is very ancient: according to King's Vale Royal, the first mayor was Sir Walter Lymur, Knight, in 1242, who enjoyed the office several years; his successor was William Clark, Esq. who continued in the chair eight years; the third was John Arnway, who enjoyed it five years; a period of time, which altogether nearly comprehended the reign of Henry the Third. Since which time the city has continued to be governed by a mayor, recorder, two sheriffs, twenty-four aldermen, and forty common-council men; to which are annexed a sword-bearer, mace-bearer, yeoman, crier, four sergeants-at-mace, and a porter.

The first recorder is said to have been elected by the charter of Henry the Seventh, dated the 21st of April, 1505, when Ralph Birkenhead, Esq. was chosen. This office was till lately filled by the late R. Townshend, Esq. who enjoyed it more than 30 years; on his resignation, the late Thomas Cowper, of Overlegh, Esq. was chosen.

The year 1543, in the reign of Henry the Eighth, is recorded as the origin of representation for this city and county; when a summons was received to send two knights for the county, and two citizens for the city, to parliament.

From

From the earliest accounts of the constitution of Chester, it was mercatory guild, or corporation of merchants and artificers; and that it was the most important among its contemporaries, may be inferred from its being well known as the western emporium of commerce in the island; and its two great annual fairs, granted by the first earls, are an existing evidence of its ancient commercial consequence. Its trade, in the time of Edward the First, was so considerable, that it paid a fee-farm rent to the crown of 100l. but, the harbour being choaked with sand, the trade was necessarily transferred to Liverpool, as the nearest and most convenient port.

The corporation, or guild, consisted of 24 companies; over each presided an alderman, who, according to the ancient customs, was annually elected. There were two officers called keepers of the guild, who admitted freemen, received customs, rents, and fees, and who, we may suppose, were the primitive leave-lookers. These, with the sheriffs, who derived their authority from the earl and the murengers, probably existed before there was a mayor. It does not appear when the latter chief magistrate was introduced into the corporation; for a charter of Henry the Third mentions him as then being, and not as then created. It is however evident that all the above offices existed before the charter of Henry the Seventh, dated April 6, 1506: for this granted no new offices or privileges: it confirmed the ancient customs of the place, and gave a sacred and inviolable sanction to the original right every citizen had to chuse all the principal officers of the corporation; but the official power and authority was, by the united efforts of intrigue and violence, rendered perpetual in this city, as well as in every other in the kingdom. To this may be attributed the office of alderman, that was originally but annual, being now, in this and every other corporation, held for life. Ambition thus availed
itself

itself of the natural prejudices, and the most grateful affections of mankind, to subject them to their oppression, by seducing them to resign their independence. When an alderman had, by good behaviour, excited the gratitude and rivetted the attachment of his elective citizens, he was frequently retained in his office, when the safety of municipal privilege should have obliged him to resign. In this manner the best of moral actions were the destruction of the most valuable privileges. Those who were thus allowed to continue in office longer than the time prescribed by custom and constitution, assumed the temporary sufferance of their electors as an indefeasible right for life. Knowing they should have no chance of being chosen chief magistrate while they were liable to be removed from their aldermanship by annual election, they chose rather to violate the rights of their fellow citizens than lose an opportunity of gratifying their lust for power and vanity for eminence. This infringement of privilege arose from the mayor not being chosen among those who had been aldermen, as well as those who were, and this defect in the municipal policy may be assigned as the cause of aldermen holding now their offices for life who before held them only for a year.

In the year 1554 it appears that the mayor appointed the common-council men. In 1574, the confirmation which Elizabeth gave, in the sixth year of her reign, to the charter of Henry the Seventh, was, by the *immaculate* corporation, surrendered for one that was more favourable to the encroachments they had made, on the privileges of their fellow citizens. In 1604, James the First gave a confirmation of the charter; this seemed to have less sincerity than compliment. His majesty attempting, the year following, to nominate a recorder, is an evidence of that royal interference in the affairs of corporations which began in this reign, and was carried

carried to such a dangerous excess by succeeding kings as almost to threaten an entire subversion of the few privileges charters had restored to the people.

In the year 1662, Lord Biereton, Sir Peter Leicester, Sir Richard Grosvenor, and Sir Geoffry Shackerby, acting as commissioners, for regulating the corporation, endeavoured to remove several aldermen and common councilmen, who appeared too much attached to the interests of their fellow citizens to be the avowed tools of governments.

To this origin may be traced those divisions and animosities, which have frequently risen to such an alarming height in this city, and which can scarcely be said to have subsided. To such a degree was popular discord carried, that, at a parliamentary election in 1672, the Recorder, Mr. William Williams, and Colonel Warden, who had been gentlemen of the bed-chamber to the Duke of York, afterwards James the Second, being opponent candidates, eight men were killed in the crowd, at the foot of the stairs of the common-hall; and the poll was in consequence adjourned to the Roodee. This is one of those unfortunate and disgraceful casualties that too frequently attend those times when the people are called together to exercise their elective privileges at a period; when the voters of this kingdom should be suffered to chuse their representatives, with that peace, order, and decency, which ought to characterise the constitution of a parliament, discords are fomented and outrage abetted. The people are at first intoxicated, and afterwards bullied out of their reason: the very instant in which they are assembled to preserve their lives, rights, and properties, privilege is banished, rapine, encouraged, and murder committed. These are the blessings we have enjoyed ever since a seat in parliament has been more advantageous to the representative than the constituents. To countenance

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such

such proceedings, encroachments were made on this and all other corporations. In this general abridgment of independence, the charter of Chester was altered; for, in 1676, a new charter was made, which, although it left the right of election, as prescribed in that of Henry the Seventh, unaltered; it introduced several innovations, with respect to the election of all the corporate offices, so as to render their possessors more immediately dependent on the sovereign.

The opposite parties, being nearly equal in strength and affluence, agreed for a time to divide the representation.

The great subject of dispute between Charles the Second and his parliament, was the excluding his brother, the Duke of York, a professed papist, from succeeding to the crown. No sooner had the King called them together, for the purpose of obtaining supplies, than a bill of exclusion was agitated, and made the *sine qua non* of every pecuniary grant; and such were the apprehensions of the consequences of the duke's accession to the crown that even that part of the nation who were zealously attached to the king's person, and the more sensible and moderate, supported the measure of exclusion. Every election consequently produced new advocates for it in the House of Commons, in defiance of all the strenuous efforts of court influence. As money could not be had without parliaments, nothing remained but for the crown to attempt the acquisition of such a decided sway in the choice of members, as to render all opposition too feeble to counteract their designs; it was therefore imagined, and not without reason, that this might be effected, by assuming the power of nominating the officers of corporations into the hands of the king; and this was only to be effected by the demolition of a charter. A plan was formed for this purpose of avowed tyranny. Some boroughs were terrified, and others ca-
joled,

joled, into a surrender of their charters ; and against those that were obstinate, informations, in the nature of a *quo warranto*, were filed. These violent proceedings soon evinced that the court were determined to establish their arbitrary designs. With these views, there were not wanting in Chester men who were ready to adopt any measure, however despotic, provided they were permitted to share the unconstitutional authority. To this end, a voluntary surrender of their old charter was attempted ; but the measure, being too despotic, proved abortive. It was therefore necessary to have recourse to compulsion. An information was filed, and the result was that judgment was given that the liberties of Chester should be seized into the King's hands, until the court should further order, which was accordingly executed, by a writ of seizure. A rule of final judgment being given next term, and the corporation shewing no cause against it, a farther rule for entry of that judgment was made, which, however, from some neglect, was omitted. The Tories availed themselves of these circumstances to obtain a new charter, have their own mayor, and to fill the corporation entirely with their own creatures. Regardless of the reproaches and execrations of their fellow citizens, whom they had thus despoiled of those rights restored to them by charter, they triumphed in the smiles and sunshine of court-favour ; and, as if tyranny had completely vanquished the patriotism of Chester, a tablet was placed over the pentice-door, with an inscription importing " that the new charter was acceptable to all good men."

So venal and dependent the corporation became afterwards, that, when James the Second visited this city, the recorder, Leving, at the head of the corporation, thus addressed him : " The corporation is your majesty's creature, and depends merely on the will of its creator ; and the sole intimation

of your majesty's pleasure shall ever have with us the force of a fundamental law."

When James made an alteration in most of the charters in the kingdom, the like attempt was made on the city of Chester; but the independent citizens, conceiving, that this offer was only made to seduce them into a resignation of their religious liberty, unanimously refused its acceptance, and desired to have their ancient charter of Henry the Seventh restored. Thus, through the dismissal of the corporation created by Charles's charter, and the non-acceptance of that of James, the city was destitute, nearly three months, of magistrates, and the election-day passed, without any officers being chosen. The king, indeed, was at that time busily employed, in endeavouring to repair the wrong steps which were effecting his ruin, particularly by replacing all the corporations on their former footing; the greatest care was taken that no force might be wanting to restore the ancient franchises to Chester.

On the 18th of November, after the Prince of Orange had landed on the 4th, the corporation re-assumed its ancient privileges. In 1692 it was acknowledged by all that the charter of restitution had, to every intent and purpose, revived the ancient franchises; among which that of electing aldermen and common-councilmen, by the citizens at large, was as expressly granted as any other; and, as it presented a probable remedy against the incroachments of aristocratic power, it was resolved that it should be adopted.

In October 1692, Colonel Whitely was chosen mayor, and so pure and patriotic was his conduct that he continued in the mayoralty four years successively. Being obliged to retire from the fatigue of his office, he convened, a few days before this event, the corporation, and presented them a set of regulations for their future choice of aldermen and
common-

common-councilmen. These were so excellent that they were unanimously received, and deserved the approbation of every honest and sensible mind. This worthy citizen being succeeded by one of opposite principles, the freedom of the corporation was again subverted, by causing the elections of the city-officers to be made by a select body. This was opposed by the citizens at large, in a petition, signed by Roger Whitely, and ten others; which, however, after great struggles, proved ineffectual.

In the year 1698 the citizens were convened, and, by some artful means, persuaded to elect the whole body, and then to vote that they should continue in their offices, according to ancient custom. Thus was entirely destroyed the ancient privilege of annual elections in the corporation.

A general election approaching in 1734, both parties began to muster their forces. This proved to be one of the severest contests which the city had ever experienced. Their passions already inflamed, and conscious of the enormous weight of influence against them, the Whigs were driven into excesses, which would have been inexcusable on any other occasion.

It was apprehended that the corporation, having the power of making freemen in their own hands, might procure as many votes as they wanted. Some of the aldermen, having assembled together in the Pentice, at a late hour, on the Tuesday night preceding the election, suspicion arose that the whole night was to be employed in admitting to the freedom of the city as many of their party as they could conveniently introduce. A mob presently assembled about the Pentice, where they broke open the door, assaulted and drove out the aldermen, and damaged considerably the windows and furniture.

Their adversaries, feeling their inferiority in this kind of contest, resolved to call in foreign assistance:

the following day, therefore, a large body of colliers, and other countrymen, were brought from the neighbourhood of Wrexham, by the direction and under the influence of Mr. W. W. Wynne. The citizens hearing of their approach, retired into the castle, and there armed themselves with old swords, helmets, and breast-pieces; and, thus formidably accoutered, sallied forth to meet their foes. A bloody encounter ensued in Bridge-street; and the Welshmen, after several of them were dangerously wounded, were soon routed and put to flight. It was now agreed that hostilities should cease, and some plan be settled for conducting the election in a peaceable and regular manner. The poll continued from Friday to Monday; and both parties so exerted themselves as to bring votes from the most distant parts of the kingdom, and even from Ireland, in direct contradiction to the charter, which limits these elections to be made commorant citizens. The majority, as might be expected, was in favour of the corporation member; but no sooner were the books closed, and the mayor and his attendants retired from the hustings, than they were obliged to retreat into the Exchange Coffee-house. They were, however, not here secure, for the mob broke in, seized the sword and mace, and, chairing their favourite candidate, bore him to his house in triumph.

As the corporation still exercised their overbearing influence, recourse was had to the only remedy against exorbitant power, which is that of recurring to its original and constitutional source, the people. Informations were accordingly brought against the mayor, 10 aldermen, and 18 common-council, for usurping the privilege of electing aldermen, exclusive of the commonalty. After a considerable contest, the Tories prevailed; and the Whigs, from disappointment and exhausted finances, seemed to have been for that time entirely dispirited and disunited.

In the year 1747 an attempt was made to bully
them,

them, under auspices which seemed to insure success. It appeared that at the election of 1734, the right of non-resident freemen to vote had been questioned; and it was now resolved to try the issue. The minister, to whom the Grosvenor family was inimical, encouraged Baron Mainwaring to oppose administration. They were probably induced to this from the hope that if the question concerning non-residents should be agitated, his support would not be wanting. The election was carried on with all the heat and violence of former times; and the Tory party, counting the non-residents, had the majority.

A petition was presented, and the enquiry commenced, which clearly tended to establish the right of election in resident freemen only. And now Sir Robert Grosvenor found himself in a very disagreeable dilemma: he considered that his interest in Westminster must be devoted to the minister, or he should be obliged to resign one representation for his hereditary borough, to which he could by no means consent. But as it was no novelty in his family to change principles, for the purpose of preserving the superiority in Chester, a compromise was made the evening before the final issue of the petition; and, notwithstanding the resolutions of the preceding day, the counsel for the petitioners were instructed to say, "that they would give the house no farther trouble." Thus was the baron made the victim of ministerial duplicity. We may therefore rejoice at the day that Mr. Grenville's act placed the issue of contested elections in more impartial hands than those of an influenced majority of the House of Commons.

From the above and other succeeding circumstances respecting the conduct of the corporation and their opponents, it is evident that the former have always endeavoured to preserve their power by abridging and extinguishing the liberties of the
people

people as much as they possibly could, while the latter have always endeavoured to found their pride and distinction on the defence of the rights and privileges of their fellow citizens.

This city being the capital of a county palatine did not send members to the national parliament before they were granted the privilege by charter, given in the 34th year of Henry VIII. The right of election was determined, December 2, in the year 1690, to be in the freemen.

Chester is situated 182 miles from London, and contains, according to the late returns, 3,194 houses, inhabited by 3,427 families, which consist of 15,052 persons, *viz.* 6,492 males, and 8,560 females, of whom 2,149 were returned as being employed in manufacture, and 402 in agriculture.

On leaving Chester, we proceed in a north-westerly direction, and at the distance of two miles and a half pass the village of MOLLINGTON; on the right of which is Mollington Hall, a spacious brick edifice, for many years the property and residence of the ancient and respectable family of the Hunts; but has lately been purchasen by John Fielder, Esq. of Blackburn, in Lancashire, who has much improved the estate. The grounds, which are pleasant, are well wooded.

At the distance of eight miles beyond Mollington, we pass through GREAT NESTON, a populous market town, situate on the western side of the peninsula, and commanding some pleasant views of the river Dee, and the opposite coasts of Wales.

About three miles south from Neston is the village of Burton; two miles beyond which is SHOTWICK, a small village, situated on the river Dee, where was formerly a royal palace, now in ruins. On this estate lived, about the year 1600, Mary Davis, who, at the age of 28, had a wen-like excrescence appear above the ear on the right side of her head, and after 22 years continuance grew into two horns, which remained

mained for five years, and were then shed. These were succeeded by two new ones, which about four years from their first appearance, were also cast, and their places occupied by two others. Several portraits were made of her when upwards of 70 years of age, one of which is now in the British and another in the Ashmolean museums: in the latter collection one of her horns is preserved. In the year 1679, when more than 80 years of age, she was exhibited in London.

Returning from this digression, at the distance of one mile and a quarter from Great Neston, we arrive at PARK-GATE, which has of late years become a convenient and fashionable bathing-place. It is likewise celebrated as the station for some of the packets for Ireland, which generally sail for that country four times a week. The houses of Park-Gate are chiefly disposed in one long range on the banks of the Dee, and are mostly neat modern buildings of brick. The inhabitants, who are pretty numerous, derive their principal support from the expenditure of the many visitants that reside here during the bathing season.

Journey from Stockport to Church Lawton; through Macclesfield and Congleton.

Stockport was one of the eight baronies of the county palatine of Chester, but it is not certain when this honour was conferred; and the opinions of antiquaries are various on the subject. The late Rev. John Watson has observed upon this question, in his memoirs of the Earls of Warren and Surrey, that if the general reason can be discovered why the Earls of Chester created barons at all, or rather if it can be found out why Stockport in particular was made a barony, then possibly it may be known whether it ought to be recorded among the ancient baronies or not. In pursuing this enquiry the ingenious writer has continued, in nearly the following words,

words, which, as they illustrate the antiquity of this place, we shall extract without farther preface.

“After William the Conqueror thought himself firmly established on his throne, he bestowed many provinces and counties of this realm on the barons who assisted him. These strengthened the counties respectively allotted to them, in the mode that seemed best adapted to secure their possessions from the incursions of their neighbours. The counties palatine (as they have since been called) were judged to be in greater danger than the others, and greater attention was therefore paid to their defence. Thus, in the adjoining county palatine of Lancaster, Roger Pictavensis, the Earl, caused the whole jurisdiction to be surrounded with a chain of forts; some of which I shall mention, as their situations are immediately connected with the illustration of my subject.

“One of these forts was at Widnes, where a baron was stationed to protect that part of Lancashire from the incursions of the Cheshire people; and as their jealousy was mutual, opposite to this on the Cheshire side, was Haulton Castle; and Nigel, or rather William, son of Nigel, was fixed there with some title, and stationed in such a manner, as to guard the country from any surprise, either from Warrington, another Lancashire barony, or Runcorn Ferry. The next barony on the Lancashire side, above Warrington, was Newton, erected as well to strengthen the former, as to oppose any passage out of Cheshire, over the river Mersey, at Hallingreen Ferry; and lest from this station, and over this ferry, damage should be done to the inhabitants of Cheshire, the Earl of Chester made Ham de Masci another of his barons, and placed him opposite to the above at Dunham. Another barony of the Lancashire palatinate was Manchester, erected as a guard, on one side, against any incur-
sion

sion from Stretford, and on the other, against the military station which appears to have been in very early times at Stockport. Now as all the above Lancashire barons were made in the reign of the Conqueror, by Roger Pictavensis, it seems to follow, that the barony of Stockport is as old as the rest within the county of Chester; for why should every other Lancashire barony be guarded against, which lay opposite to Chester, and not that at Manchester? If such an opening into the county was permitted to remain unguarded, the other establishments must have been useless.

“When the castle at Stockport was first erected, is uncertain; but the site on which it stood has the name of Castle-yard to this day. That there are no records to determine its origin is a proof of its antiquity. If the hints given by Mr. Whitaker are well founded, it is antique indeed. “The town of Stockport,” says this gentleman, “appears evidently the one common centre to three or four very variously directed roads of the Romans. The high street advances to it from Manchester; and the Pepper-street hastens to it from Handford; and in the parish of Asheton, and near the foot of Staley bridge, is a third road, commonly denominated Staley-street, for a mile together, the main line of which lies pointing clearly from Castle-shaw to Stockport. These are sure signatures of a Roman station; this must have been fixed upon the site of the castle, and was the area of the castle-hill at Stockport. This is exactly such a site as the Romans must have instantly selected for such a station; that is a small area, detached from the level ground of the market-place, and connected with it only by an isthmus. The area must have been the actual site of the castle in the earliest period of the Saxon residence among us; as the castle must have originally communicated its name to the town, and as
both

both were denominated Stockport, because the former was a port or castle in a wood. The area is about half a statute acre in extent; the site is still incomparably strong in itself, and the position is happily fitted for the ford. The station must have had a steep of 100 or 120 yards, upon three sides of it; and must have been guarded by a foss, across the isthmus. The Roman road from East Cheshire must have been effectually commanded by it; being obliged, by the circling current of the Mersey, to approach very near to the castle; and being evinced, by the remaining steepness of the neighbouring banks, to have actually ascended the brow in a hollow, immediately below the eastern side of it."

"More might be urged, in proof of there being a castrum in Stockport in the time of the Romans, if the point was not already sufficiently established; and that a fortress was maintained here in the Saxon times the very name of the place demonstrates: and, besides its signification, as given by Mr. Whitaker, Stoc, or Stoke-port, may likewise signify a wooden castle: Stoke castle in Norfolk, being interpreted, in Spelman's *Icenia*, by *Capella Lignea*; or Stoke may also mean a place or settlement in general, as Stoke-Curey, where the Curries lived; Woodstock, the Woody-place: so also Stoke-port, the place of the castle. But which ever of these derivations is correct, it plainly has a reference to the Saxon times, and is confirmed by the very current tradition that the Danes were repulsed here, and great numbers of them slain. This Nichols has thus expressed in his book, "*De litteris inventis.*"

*"Fama refert, Danos ubi nunc Stopporta locatur,
Affectos olim clade fuisse gravi:
Inde urbi nomen, prædonum incursibus obex,
Quod datus, hic Anglis sit quoque parta salus."*

“ In ages past, the place where *Stoppport* stands
 Mark'd the repulse of hostile Danish bands ;
 And thence, according to the voice of Fame,
 The Angles safety gain'd, the town its name.”

“ This etymology is wrong, because the name was *not* very anciently written *Stoppport* ; but the tradition is probably right ; for the field below the castle, called the park, is fuller of human bones, to a larger extent than would be necessary for the burial ground of the garrison. *Stoppport* was probably a corruption from *Stokeport*, as some centuries ago it was almost uniformly written. In the year 1173, the castle was possessed by Geoffry de Constantine ; but whether he held it in his own right, or of the baron of *Stockport*, or even against him, by order of the Earl of Chester, is unknown

“ In a manuscript written by the late Dr. Williamson, the barony of *Stockport* is supposed to have belonged originally to Ranulph the Dapifer, whose name is conjectured to have been Spencer (anciently *Le Despencer*), and whose family growing into great wealth and favour with the kings of England, sold it to Robert de *Stockport*, about the reign of Henry the Third, before whose time there is little or no mention of this family. Now, if our author's suppositions are right, this barony is as ancient as the rest, for Ranulph was Dapifer, in the time of Hugh Lupus ; and if it was true that the barony was purchased of him, by Robert de *Stockport*, it must have been very near this period ; though the particular time of this family's obtaining the honour, is not to be determined.” Sir Robert de *Stockport*, Knt. bestowed a charter upon this town, constituting it a free borough ; this charter was certainly not granted till the reign of Henry the Third ; a deed, printed in the *Monasticon*, renders it, however, evident that Robert de *Stockport* was in power in the latter end of the reign of Richard the First.

The spot on which the town of Stockport stands is very irregular ground; the parish church, and market place, being on the summit of a hill, affording a level of considerable extent. Part of the northern side of this hill is perpendicular for a height equal to that of the houses which encircle its base, and conceal the hill from the view of the passengers. Some of these houses have apartments hollowed out of the rock of soft free-stone which forms the substratum of the hill, and the appearance of the whole is remarkably singular. The market-place is also encircled by an upper row of houses, ranging completely round it. From this central part of the town, the streets stretch away in various directions, and to a considerable extent.

Stockport contains two churches; St. Mary's, and St. Peter's: St. Mary's is a spacious structure, consisting of a nave, chancel, and side aisles: this is the most ancient, but neither the date of the building nor the founders are known. From the style of some part of the architecture it appears to have been erected about the fourteenth century. It was built with a soft red freestone, which has become so worn, that it has been found necessary to carry up an additional row of stone, to support the steeple, which was rebuilt between the years 1612 and 1616. The whole length of the church is 160 feet. On the north side of this church there is a small chapel, or oratory, belonging to the Leghs of Lyme; and another on the opposite side, which belongs jointly to the *Ardens* of Stockport, (who formerly resided at Hardon Hall) and the Davenports of Bramhall. In a small building, called Marple chapel, adjoining the south side of the chancel, is an ancient tomb, placed near Richard de Vernon, rector of Stockport in the reign of King Edward the Second. It had the following inscription remaining in 1779:

ICI GISE RICHARD VERNON
PERSONNE CEST COLISE.

St. Mary's

St. Mary's Church has under it four chapels of ease, and the value of the living, in consequence of the great increase of the town in buildings and inhabitants, is generally reputed to be worth at least 1500l. per annum.

St. Peter's church was erected in the year 1768, at the charge of William Wright, Esq. The annual value of the endowment, including the rent of the pews, is 300l. per annum. Both churches are furnished with organs.

There are six Almshouses on the east side of the church-yard, erected about the year 1685, by an ancestor of the late Sir George Wanent, for six poor men, inhabitants of Stöckport, who receive annually twenty shillings, and three horseloads of coal each person. Humphry Warren, who died about the middle of the last century, increased the yearly allowance by an additional five shillings to each man.

In the year 1487, a free-school was founded in this town, in pursuance of the will of Edmund Shaw, citizen and alderman of London, who endowed it with 10l. per annum, for a master's salary, which has been since increased to 35l. The following clause of the will in which this institution originates is singular:

“ And I will that the other honest priest, be a discret man, and cunning in grammer, and be of cunning to teach grammer; and will that he sing mass, and say his other divine service in the parish church of Stockport, in the county of Chester, at such an altar there as shall be thought convenient for him, and to pray specially for my soule. That the same cunning priest teach grammer continually in the same town of Stockport, as long as he shall continue in the same service. And that he freely, without any vages or salary taking of any person, except only my salary hereafter specified, shall teach all manner of persons, children, and others,

that will come to him to learn, as well of the said town of Stockport as of other towns thereabout, *the sciyanee of grammer*, as free as lyeth in him to do, after their capabilities that God will give them, &c.”

The removal of articles of traffic has been much facilitated by a new navigable canal from this town to Manchester, which, uniting with the Duke of Bridgewater's Canal at the latter place, communicates with the Mersey, Dee, Ouse, Derwent, Trent, Severn, Humber, Avon, Thames, and many other rivers.

Dr. Aikin, has thus delineated the progress of the trade of this town. “ In Stockport were erected some of the first mills for winding and throwing silk, on a plan procured from Italy. The persons concerned in the silk factories were reckoned the principal people in the place ; but, on the decline of this trade, the machinery was applied to cotton spinning, and the different branches of the cotton manufacture are now the chief staple of the town. The people of Stockport first engaged in the spinning of reeled west, then in weaving checks, and lastly fustians ; and they were so ingenious as to attempt muslins, which were introduced at the time of the invention of the machines called the mills, whereby the thread was drawn fine, and spun softer than that of the west. The manufactories have, with this advantage, produced a species of flowered muslin, with borders for aprons and handkerchiefs, by casting a coarse shoot for the figures, and neatly trimming of the float, before bleaching, with scissars, so that the figure was a good imitation of needle-work. The cotton trade of Stockport is now so considerable that besides a large number of cotton-spinning shops, here are twenty three spacious cotton factories, some of them worked by steam-engines. The making of hats is likewise a considerable branch of employment. Weaving fustians has extended from
hence

hence over Cheadle, Galey, and Northendon, where a few checks or furniture had been woven before."

The privilege of holding a market at Stockport was granted, in the year 1260, by Edward, Earl of Chester, son of Henry the Third. Great quantities of corn, oatmeal, and cheese, are sold at it; for the latter article, it is considered the best market in the county.

In Stockport and its vicinity are several bridges: the most ancient, called the Lancashire bridge, crosses the Mersey on the Manchester road, and stands very high above the water, having each end built upon a rock. The Mersey, in the upper parts of its course, is particularly subject to sudden and violent swells, by one of which, on the 28th of August, 1798, the noble structure called the New Bridge, was carried away. This bridge consisted of a single arch, 210 feet in width, and about 32 feet in height. Between Stockport and the foundation of the new bridge, a very extensive cotton factory has been erected, the water for which is conveyed from the Mersey, by means of a subterraneous tunnel.

In this town is a monument erected, at the expense of the Stockport volunteer corps, to perpetuate the remembrance of a remarkable accident, which befel one of the privates of this corps, named Enoch Hill, who was killed on the exercise-ground, by the bursting of his rear-rank man's musket, a splinter of which penetrated his heart. The following lines are inscribed on this monument:

"Beneath are interred the remains of Enoch Hill, a private in the Stockport Volunteers; who, on the 21st February, 1799, and in the 36th year of his age, was killed in the ranks, by the bursting of a musket,

If, crowned with glory, on the hostile plain
Sinks the brave hero, for his country slain,

On this plain grave let honouring tears be shed,
 For know, its tenant for his country bled ;
 Yet not in lands remote, nor with the foe
 Contending, felt he Death's resistless blow ;
 But, from the hope of victory far apart,
 At home a shatter'd musket pierc'd his heart."

The police of this town is conducted by two resident magistrates ; two constables ; four church-wardens, who, by virtue of certain privileges granted by the Barons of Stockport, are always the owners of Lyme Hall, Harden Hall, Bramhall Hall, and Portwood Hall estates ; and three overseers of the poor.

Stockport is situated 176 miles from London ; its number of inhabitants, including those of the village of Heaton-Norris, in Lancashire, and Portwood, within Brinnington, in Cheshire, which in common acceptation are always considered as parts of the town, being only separated from it by the river Mersey, is 19,488 ; a total considerably greater than returned from any other part of the county. The population of Stockport only is stated in the late returns at 14,830, viz. 6,983 males, and 7,847 females, of whom 14,580 were returned as being employed in trade and manufacture, and 111 in agriculture. The number of houses was calculated at 2,698, which were occupied by 2,965 families.

On leaving Stockport our road lies in a southerly direction, and at the distance of four miles and a half we pass through the village of Poynton, to the left of which is the elegant seat of the Warren family. The mansion is built in the Ionic order of architecture ; and the pleasure grounds are beautiful, and are decorated with a handsome sheet of water. The park, which is very extensive, having been augmented within a few years, is judiciously disposed, and in one part commands a delightful prospect, including Stockport, Manchester, and the more remote divisions

sions of Lancashire. It contains various plantations, and considerable quantities of timber; but its subterranean riches, consisting of thick veins of coal, are infinitely more valuable, being probably exhaustless. The occasion of their discovery is thus reported by a modern writer. An old tenant of one of the farms, who was obliged to procure his water from some distance, frequently petitioned the late Sir George Warren to have a well sunk; but, seeing no probability of the attainment of his suit, though he had been repeatedly assured it should be complied with, he gave notice that he would quit the premises, unless the well was immediately executed. Being unwilling to lose a respectable tenant, Sir George resolved to conform to his wishes, and the work was began. The spring lay at a considerable depth; and before they came to the water, the workmen were surprised by the appearance of one of the finest veins of coal in that country; this discovery has greatly enhanced the value of the estate, a colliery having been immediately established, and ever since worked with considerable success.

About three miles eastward from Poynton is Lyme Hall, the seat of the principal family of the Leghs; it is built in an elevated situation, and the park is very extensive, but the surrounding country is bleak, moorish, and unfruitful. The plan of the building is quadrangular, but composed of very incongruous parts; the north and east angles being of the age of Elizabeth, or James the First; the south and west sides are more modern, and erected from the designs of Leoni, in the regular Ionic order. Three sides of the inclosed court are surrounded with a piazza, which gives an air of grandeur to the whole edifice. The park is well stocked with deer, and the venison is of a very superior flavour. This manor was given, by Edward the Black Prince, to Perkin a Legh, an ancestor of the present family
for

for his bravery in recovering a standard at the battle of Cressy.

Returning to our road, at the distance of three miles from the village of Poynton, we pass, on our right, Adlington Hall and Park, the residence of Mrs. Rowlls Leigh; three miles and a half beyond which, after passing through the village of Titherington, we arrive at

MACCLESFIELD, a considerable town, situated on a rising ground, near the river Jordan or Bollin, in the hundred to which it gives name. A branch of the river runs through the lower part of the town, and is generally called the Waters. The inhabitants are also supplied with water from the fountain upon the common to the east of the town, for which every housekeeper pays a small yearly sum to the mayor.

Macclesfield was first incorporated by charter, granted in the year 1261, by Prince Edward, son of Henry the Third, then Earl of Chester. By this charter, it obtained the privileges of a merchant's guild, free from toll throughout the county, and the burgesses were obliged to grind and bake at the King's mill and oven, as was usual, and to pay one shilling for each burgage. This charter was confirmed by various succeeding monarchs, and the corporation invested with additional privileges.

The corporation at present consists of twenty-four aldermen, four of whom are in the commission of the peace, and one of them is mayor and justice of the quorum, who has for his assistants a town-clerk, who is always coroner for the borough, two serjeants-at-mace, four javelin bearers, and a constable or town-crier. The mayor is always lord of the manor, the revenues of which amount to 200*l.* per annum, arising from the tolls and water-money. He also possesses the right of appointing the minister of the parochial church. In the town-chest is preserved a copy or counterpart of a petition sent

to King Henry the Eighth, soon after the battle of Floddon Field, setting forth that having lost so many of the principal inhabitants of the town in that battle, they were unable to fill up the number of aldermen, as required by the charter, on which account they petitioned the king, that their charter might not be broken or lost, as their inhabitants had lost their lives in his majesty's service.

Macclesfield is in the parish of Prestbury; its two churches are therefore to be considered only as chapels of ease to that parish. The old church, dedicated to St. Michael, is a large Gothic structure, founded by Edward the First and Eleanor his queen, in the year 1279. Since that time it has undergone various alterations, and in 1740 was nearly rebuilt. It was at the same time considerably enlarged. Adjoining to this church, which formerly belonged to the Earl Rivers, but through intermarriage it now belongs to the family of Earl Cholmondeley, and is still used as the family vault. The *heart* of Thomas Savage, who was archbishop of York, was interred here in the year 1508, with a Greek inscription over it. On the wall of this chapel is a brass plate, representing a real pardon, granted by the Pope of Rome, to a woman, and her seven children; it is inscribed:

“The pardon for saying V paternosters, and V aves, and a crede, is XXVI thousand years, and XXVI days of pardon.”

Here is also an elegant effigy of Earl Rivers, leaning upon his pillow, supporting his head with his right hand, full dressed, and the curtains undrawn, neatly cut in marble, and many others of the same family, in the dresses and ornaments of the times in which they were executed. There is also a small chapel, belonging to the family of Legh, the lords of Lyme, which has a brass-plate on the wall, thus inscribed:

“Here

“ Here lyeth the body of PERKIN A LEGH,
 That for King Richard the death did dye,
 Betray'd for Righteousness :
 And the bones of Sir Peers his sonne,
 That for King Henry the Vth did wonne
 At Paris.

This Perkin served King Edward the Third, and the Black Prince, his son, in all their wars in France, and was at the battle of Cressie, and had Lyme given him for that service : and after their deaths, served King Richard the Second, and left him not in his troubles, but was taken with him, and beheaded at Chester by King Henry the Fourth. And the said Sir Peers his son, served King Henry the Fifth, and was slain at the battle of Agincourt. In their memory Sir Peter Legh, of Lyme, Knt. descended from them, finding the said old verses, written upon a stone in this chapel, did re-edify this place, A. D. 1626.”

The tower of this church is 24 yards high, and contains eight bells.

The new church, called Christchurch, was built in the year 1775, by the late Charles Roe, Esq. whose bust, finely executed in white and black marble, by Bacon, is placed above the altar, with an emblematical figure of Genius, weeping over him, with a cog-wheel in her hand ; there is also an inscription to his memory. It is a very regular and elegant pile of building, 33 yards long, 22 wide, and ten and a half high, besides the tower and chancel ; the tower is 42 yards high, six yards square within, and has ten bells. The church has a handsome organ, and a mahogany pulpit. In the church-yard which is open and spacious, over the family vault of Rowe, is a handsome monument, in the form of a pyramid. This church was begun the 22d March, 1775, and opened the 19th of October, in the same year.

The

The Free Grammar school is an elegant and spacious building, with a handsome dwelling-house for the head-master, and has an open yard and an adjoining field for the boys to exercise themselves in. This school was endowed by King Edward the Sixth, with houses and lands to the amount of 25l. per annum; but so great and rapid has been the improvement of the town, that the same houses and land now produce nearly 500l. per annum; and on the falling in of some of the leases granted on certain lives will be increased to nearly 800l. The head master, besides his dwelling-house, has a salary of 100l. per annum, and the second master 60l. A writing-school for girls was established by the governors of this institution a few years since, for the accommodation of Macclesfield and its neighbourhood.

In Back-street there are three Almshouses, erected and endowed in the year 1703, by Mrs. Elizabeth Stanley, widow relict of Mr. James Stanley, of the family of Alderley, daughter and heiress of John Byram, alderman of this borough, for the maintenance of three poor widows, who have their settlement in this town, with one penny a day to each for ever.

There are two weekly markets held respectively on Monday and Saturday, and there are four fairs, on the days mentioned in our list.

The regular trade of the town is that of wrought buttons, in silk, mohair, and twist; it is nearly 200 years since this article was first used. They were at one time curiously wrought with the needle, and used in the decoration of full-trimmed suits. Macclesfield was always considered as the centre of this trade, and for many years mills have been erected, both at this place and at Stockport, for winding silk, and making twist and trimming suitable to the buttons.

The following curious particulars relative to this trade,

trade, and to the manners of some of the inhabitants of this neighbourhood, are recorded in Dr. Aikin's description of the country round Manchester.

“ In the wild country between Broxton, Leek, and Macclesfield, called the Flash, from a chapel of that name, lived a set of pedestrian chapmen, who hawked about these buttons, together with ribbons and ferretting, made at Leek; and handkerchiefs, with small wares, from Manchester. These pedlars were known on the roads they travelled by the appellation of Flashmen, and frequented farm-houses and fairs, using a sort of slang or cant dialect. At first they paid ready money for their goods till they acquired credit, which they were sure to extend till there was no more to be had, when they dropped their connections without paying, and formed new ones. They long went on thus, inclosing the common where they dwelt, for a trifling payment, and building cottages, till they began to have farms, which they improved from the gains of their credit, without troubling themselves about payment, since no bailiff for a long time attempted to send a writ there. At length a resolute officer, a native of the district, ventured to arrest several of them; whence, their credit being destroyed, they changed the wandering life of pedlars for the settled care of their farms; but as these were held by no leases, they were left at the mercy of the lords of the soil, the Harpur family, who made them pay for their imposition on others. Another set of pedestrians were called the *Broken Cross Gang*, from a place of that name between Macclesfield and Congleton. These associated with the Flashmen at fairs, playing with thimbles and buttons, like jugglers with cups and balls, and enticing people to lose their money by gambling; they at length took to the kindred trades of robbing and picking pockets, till at last the gang was broken up by the hands of justice. The character of Autolycus, in Shakespear's *Winter's Tale*, seems

to have been a correct model of this worthy brotherhood.

Besides many cotton manufactories, Macclesfield has a considerable manufactory for making fustians, linen cloth, &c. thirty mills for the throwing of silk for weavers, and making sewing silk; and also a very extensive work for smelting and working copper, and making brass.

The increase of the population of this town has been astonishingly rapid, the number of inhabitants having been more than doubled within the last 30 years; the buildings have also been proportionably augmented, and the length of the town is now nearly one mile and a half. This enlargement has arisen from the numerous manufactories which have been established here, originating in a certain degree from the quantities of coal and other minerals that may be readily procured in its neighbourhood.

On Macclesfield common are about 40 brick-kilns, and the mountains, which are seen on the left hand, produce all kinds of stone for the supply of the town, such as slate, flag, and grave stones; some of which have been found 21 feet long. At the bottom of these hills, upon a flat nearer, are four different seams of coal, one below another, which are now working to supply the town and the brick-kilns. A large quantity is also consumed at the copper-works. On the said common there is also a large building, with an open counter-yard in the middle, of about 30 yards square, called the smelting-house, where they first melt down the copper ore, and make large quantities of shot or pellets; they also make large white bricks, of which they build their ovens, and deep large pots in the form of garden-pots, but much larger, to melt the copper ore in. Between this and the brass houses stands a large windmill for grinding the ore; next is the Balamy houses, a large range of buildings, one story high, where they wash and filter the ore, several times over, in running
G' water;

water ; next are the brass-houses, being a number of lofty buildings where they make the copper into sheets, for ships, pan bottoms, and brass wire : they also make large quantities of brass nails. Before these houses are three large reservoirs of water for the supply of the works, and the range of dwelling-houses for the workmen. At some distance from the copper-works is a large brewery, which is supplied with water from the top of a hill much higher than the roof of the buildings, in the front of which runs the river Jordan, or Bollin, which takes its rise about a mile and three quarters from this place.

The hundred of Macclesfield is the most extensive of any in Cheshire, comprising the whole of its north-eastern side, and partaking of the wild and hilly character of the neighbouring parts of Derbyshire and Yorkshire. A considerable portion of Macclesfield hundred was anciently a forest, and an extensive district still retains the name of Macclesfield forest, though at present nothing more than a naked and dreary tract.

On leaving the town of Macclesfield, we proceed in a southerly direction, for five miles, when we take a westerly course, and at the distance of the same number of miles pass through CONGLETON, a small corporate town, situated on the upper part of the river Dane, in the hundred of Northwich, near the borders of Staffordshire. The corporation consists of a mayor and six aldermen, in whom the municipal government of the town is vested.

There are two churches in Congleton ; one in the town, and one at the bridge-end across the river, both which are subject to the mother church of Astbury, a village two miles distant. The silk and cotton manufactories at this place afford employment to a great number of the inhabitants. Congleton was formerly famous for making of tagged leather laces, called Congleton points. According to the returns made to parliament, under the population act, in
1801,

1801, Congleton then contained 855 houses, and 3,861 inhabitants; viz. 1,713 males, and 2,148 females, of whom 2,210 were returned as being employed in trade and manufacture, and 141 in agriculture.

About one mile and a half beyond Congleton, we pass through the village of ASIBURY, which is extensive, and contains several gentlemen's seats. The parish church is a handsome structure, with a lofty spire steeple. In the church-yard are two ancient stone monuments, ornamented with the insignia of knighthood; but the families whose memories they were intended to record are now unknown.

At the distance of about four miles from the last-mentioned place, we arrive at CHURCH-LAWTON, a village, containing 79 houses, and 445 inhabitants; and situated 156 miles from London.

Journey from Mottram to Chester; through Stockport and Altringham,

MOTTRAM is situated near the north-eastern extremity of the county, on an eminence, one mile to the west of the Mersey, from which river the ground begins to rise, half the way being so steep as to render it difficult of access. The houses have considerably increased of late years; they are principally disposed into one long street, well paved, both in the town, and to some distance on the roads. The houses in general are built of a thick flag-stone, and covered with a heavy slate of nearly the same quality, no other covering being deemed strong enough to resist the impetuous gusts of wind, which occasionally occur. Most of the houses are inhabited by shopkeepers of various descriptions, the town forming a kind of perpetual market to the numerous manufacturers in the neighbourhood; there being 12 large cotton machines worked by water, and many smaller ones turned by horses, within a very small part of the surrounding district.

The church, which stands on a hill above the town, from which there is a steep and difficult ascent by a flight of 90 stone steps, is a large and stately building of immemorial antiquity: both the body and tower are embattled and supported by buttresses; and, from their general appearance, convey the idea of the whole structure having been erected at the period when Saxon solidity *first* began to give place to Gothic elegance. It is built of a coarse grey stone, full of small pebbles or flints, of a most durable quality, every stone being still as perfect as when originally laid: the stone is supposed to have been obtained from a rock in the neighbourhood, called Tinsell-Norr, which is of a similar quality, and though it can be easily cut in the quarry, becomes nearly as hard as flint on being exposed to the atmosphere.

Adjoining the church-yard, is an ancient free-school, with a small house for the master; the endowments were bestowed in the years 1610 and 1618, by Robert Garsett, alderman of Norwich, and Sir Richard Wilbraham, lord of the manor of Mottram; each of whom contributed 100*l.* with which sums 23 Cheshire acres of land were purchased at Haughton, near Nantwich, and the rent settled on the school. The present income (including some other benefactions) is about 45*l.* annually.

The inhabitants of this town are supplied with water from springs; on the very top of the hill is a fine well, and on its sides are two others; indeed most of the hills in this vicinity have springs either issuing from their sides or summits, all which are of soft water.

The population, as appears from the parish register, has more than doubled since the middle of the last century, and is still augmenting. The present number of inhabitants is about 1,000, and of houses, according to the late return, 220.

The scenery in the neighbourhood of this town is peculiarly

peculiarly grand; the rugged and steep rocks, which are occasionally relieved by bold and swelling eminences, declining into vallies, clothed with verdure, constitute some very picturesque and romantic prospects. The Car Tor, which is a perpendicular precipice upwards of 80 feet from the plain beneath, is overhung with vast rocks at the top, on which and on the sides are oak trees growing, which threaten destruction to every thing beneath. Its face consists of various strata of stone, coal, or slaty substance, and free stone at bottom, all laid as regularly as by the hand of the mason. The summit of Mottram Hill, above that of Car Tor, is 450 feet in height.

The most distinguished natives of this town were Mr. Lee, who was formerly an eminent stock-broker, under the Royal Exchange, who by persevering industry, raised himself to considerable affluence; and Lawrence Earnshaw, who was more favoured by the endowments of the mind than the gifts of fortune, which were but very moderately dispensed to him. The cottage where this extraordinary man was born stands in the high road to Wednescough Green, and is regarded by the neighbouring inhabitants with nearly as much veneration as the admirers of Sir Isaac Newton express for the place of his nativity. He was apprenticed when a boy to a taylor, and afterwards to a clothier; but neither of these employments suiting his genius, after serving both for eleven years, he placed himself for a short time to a clock-maker at Stockport. By the force of native abilities, with the very little instruction such an education could give him; he became one of the most universal mechanics and artists ever heard of. He could have taken wool from the sheeps' backs, manufactured it into cloth, made that cloth into cloaths, and made every instrument necessary for clipping, carding, spinning, reeling, weaving, fulling, and dressing, and making it up for wear,

with his own hands. He was an engraver, painter, and gilder, he could stain glass and foil mirrors; was a blacksmith, whitesmith, coppersmith, gunsmith, bell-founder, and coffin maker; made and erected sun-dials, mended fiddles, repaired, tuned, played upon, and taught, the harpsichord and virginal; made and repaired organs, and optical instruments; read and understood Euclid, and, in short, had a taste for all sorts of mechanics, and most of the fine arts. Clock-making and repairing was a very favourite employ with him; and he carried so far his theory and practice of clock-work, as to be the inventor of a very curious astronomical and geographical machine, containing a celestial and terrestrial globe, to which different movements were given, representing the diurnal and annual motions of the earth; the position of the moon and stars; the sun's place in the ecliptic, &c. all with the greatest correctness. One of these machines, curiously ornamented, was sold to the Earl of Bute, for 150*l*. All the complicated calculations as well as the execution of this great work, were performed by himself. He likewise, about the year 1753, invented a machine to spin and reel cotton, at one operation, which he shewed to his neighbours, and then destroyed, through the generous but mistaken apprehension that it might deprive the poor of a livelihood. This was previous to all the late inventions of machinery, by which the cotton manufactory has been so much promoted. He also improved a simple and ingenious piece of mechanism for raising water from a coal-mine. He was acquainted with that equally self-taught genius, the celebrated Brindley, and when they occasionally met, they did not part soon. Earnshaw was possessed of an extraordinary degree of sobriety, never drinking a gill of ale for years after he was grown to manhood; his mien and countenance were far, at first view, from betokening quick parts, but rather announced stupidity;

stupidity ; but when animated by conversation, they at once brightened up. He had a good flow of words, and clearly explained his subject in the provincial phrase and dialect of his country. He had a sick wife and expensive family, so that, notwithstanding all his trades and ingenuity, he lived and died poor. He died about the year 1764.

About three miles to the north-west of Mottram, is Duckinfield Lodge, a modern building, beautifully situate on an eminence above the river Tame, surrounded with woods, and commanding a fine prospect. The apartments are small but elegant, and contain many good paintings, executed by John Astly, Esq. the late owner, who was a painter by profession.

The township and barony of Duckinfield, called by the Anglo-Saxons Dockenveldt, were portions of the inheritance of the family of that name, who resided here from the time of the Conquest until the whole estate became the property of Mr. Astley above-mentioned, by his marriage with Lady Duckinfield. This gentleman made considerable improvements in the neighbourhood : he repaired the roads, built two stone bridges over the Tame for the accommodation of the village, and a handsome circus of brick houses, divided into two half circles by the road. He also erected an iron foundery upon the estate, which, from the many workmen employed, greatly increased the population ; but, after expending considerable time in the establishment of it, was at length relinquished, and a cotton factory constructed in its place.

Upon an eminence above Duckinfield Lodge, there is a very ancient dissenters' chapel, built with stone, and surrounded by a burial ground planted with firs. Between this building and the lodge there is a neat Moravian chapel, adjoining to an extensive range of buildings, formerly inhabited by the Moravians, who here exercised a variety of trades
and

and manufactures. "These buildings," says Dr. Aikin, "were erected at a great expence, by the community, under the promise of a renewal of the leases when they should drop, which, in consequence of the estate going out of the Duckenfield family, became null. Many negotiations were carried on with Mr. Astley, for the purpose of accommodating the business upon equitable terms; but, after waiting some years without effect, the society determined upon a removal, and accordingly erected their present fine building at Fairfield, in Lancashire. Their former settlement at Duckenfield now looks like a deserted village. The chapel is still their property, held by the life of one old man, and service is performed in it by a resident, maintained in the place."

Returning to our road, at the distance of three miles from Mottram, we pass through the village of HYDE CHAPEL, or, as it is now generally denominated, Gee Cross; it obtained its primary name from a chapel for dissenters, which, with a solitary house, were the only structures here within these 40 years. This village now resembles a small town, and the houses range along each side of the road for nearly a mile.

Near Hyde Chapel, in a romantic situation, on the banks of a small river, is Hyde Hall, the seat of George Hyde Clark, Esq. a branch of the Clarendon family. The house, which is an ancient brick edifice, repaired with a plain front, is surrounded with bold swelling eminences, which gradually slope to the water's edge.

A short distance from the last-mentioned place is Harden Hall, formerly the residence of the Arden family, but at present occupied as a farm-house. This edifice, which is surrounded with a mote, consists of a centre and two wings, built in the form of the letter H; it is situated on the brow of a steep hill, and is reported to have been once occupied by
the

the famous John of Gaunt, though the date 1558, which appears on the building, invalidates this report. This house contains a great number of paintings, many of which were brought here from Utlington Hall, near Delamere Forest; their general merit does not amount to mediocrity. The following, however, appear to be the most worthy of notice:—Democritus and Heraclitus, the Wise Men's Offering, Queen Eleanor and Fair Rosamond, the Grecian Daughter, Pluto and Cerberus, and the burning of Troy; amongst the portraits are Lord Chancellor Egerton, Sir Thomas More, Sir Kenelm Digby, Sir John and Lady Done, the Lord Keeper Coventry, copied from Johnson, by Lupo; Judge Clynch, in his robes, by Ravenscroft; Duke Hamilton, the Earl of Warwick, Oliver Cromwell, James the Second, Charles the Second, and Mrs. Lane, with the motto, "*Sic, sic juvat ire sub umbra.*" This lady, after the battle of Worcester, by her address with which she managed the escape of Charles II. through the midland counties to the sea; may be considered as the principal means of the escape of that monarch; and appears to have made a considerable impression on his gratitude, as the following letter written by him will testify, the original of which is in the possession of a gentleman at Manchester.

"MRS. LANE, I have hitherto deferred writing to you, in hope to be able to send you somewhat els besides a letter; and I believe it troubles me more that I cannot yett doe it, than it does you; though I doe not take you to be in a good condition longe to expect it. The truth is, my necessities are greater than can be imagined; but I am promised they will be shortly supplied: if they are, you shall be sure to receive a share; for it is impossible I can ever forgett the great debte I owe you, which I hope I shall live to pay, in a degree that is worthy of me. In the mean time, I am sure all
who

who love me will be kind to you, else I shall never think them so to your affectionate friend

CHARLES REX."

"Paris, Nov. 23, 1652."

Returning from this digression, at the distance of nine miles from Hyde Chapel, after passing through the town of Stockport, and the village of Cheadle, we arrive at ALTRINGHAM, a small, neat, market town, situated near the course of the Bridgewater Canal, about eight miles from Manchester.

According to the returns made to parliament, under the population act, in 1801, Altringham then contained 343 houses, and 1692 inhabitants.

This town formerly received much benefit from the worsted trade; and the spinning of combed wool was general throughout the district, the wool being delivered out at Manchester, to the people who attended the market, and the worsted yarn was sold to the small-ware manufacturers. This business, however, has been almost ruined by the introduction of Irish worsted. Some stuffs for home wear are still made in small quantities from the wool spun by the cottagers in this parish.

The government of the town is vested in a mayor, and it has a guild mercatory for free traffic, granted by the charter of Hamon de Massie, Lord of Dunham Massey, about the year 1290; its trade, however, is but inconsiderable. It has been observed as a singularity, that this town has neither church nor chapel; its residents being obliged to go to the neighbouring church, belonging to the village of Bowden, which is situated about one mile south from Altringham.

At the distance of one mile west from the last-mentioned place, is Dunham Massey, the seat of the Earl of Stamford, and one of the most beautiful residences in the county. The mansion, which is spacious, and of a quadrangular form, with a court

in

in the centre, is composed of brick. The park in which it is situated, is very extensive, and full of fine timber, some of the oaks being of extraordinary magnitude, and on their tops is a heronry, where many herons associate, and build in society like rooks. The grounds near the house are disposed into shrubberies, flower beds, and various other specimens of ornamental gardening. In the park several remains of antiquity have at different times been discovered.

About six miles from Altringham, we pass through LYMM, a pleasant village, containing several good houses. At this place the Duke of Bridgewater's Canal is carried to a great height, over a stream forming a mill dam, and turning a mill for slitting of iron, and flattening it into hoops for the cooper's use. At Lymm is an ancient cross, ornamented with niches and tracery.

At the distance of two miles and a half beyond Lymm, after crossing the Duke of Bridgewater's Canal, we pass through Thelwall, anciently a considerable town, founded by Edward the Elder, in the year 920, but now an obscure and small village.

Pursuing our road, about seven miles from the last-mentioned place, we pass through the village of Daresbury, about two miles to the west of which is HALTON, or Haulton, formerly a considerable town, with fairs and markets; but it cannot now be deemed more than a large village.

The name is derived from its situation on a high hill; it was part of the barony of Nigel, to whom it was given by Hugh Lupus, his relation and commander, to be held by the service of leading the Cheshire army into Wales, whenever it should be necessary. Nigel was also made the earl's marshal, and constable of Cheshire. From the posterity of Nigel it came to the crown, and now constitutes a considerable member of the duchy of Lancaster, having round it a large jurisdiction, called the honour

nour of Halton. In this manor was a custom that if, in driving cattle over the common, the driver suffered them to graze or take a thistle, he should pay a halfpenny per head to the lord of the fee, which was called *thistletake*.

The manor of Halton had considerable privileges bestowed upon it, and the town was constituted a borough and market town; the castle was a favourite residence of John of Gaunt.

This castle was entirely demolished during the civil wars in the reign of Charles the First, and has ever since remained in ruins. There is however a more modern building, used as an inn, containing a court house, and called a prison, though now never used as such. The Earl of Cholmondeley is proprietor, under the crown.

The prospects from Halton Castle are highly interesting, and it is for them that the place chiefly deserves visiting. Northwards, the river Mersey winding through a fertile plain, may be distinctly traced from the neighbourhood of Warrington, where its breadth is little more than 100 yards, to its expansion into a wide channel, contracting at Runcorn Gap, and again dilating into the estuary which extends to the sea. Beyond this river the county of Lancaster appears like a vast forest, from the numerous hedge-rows of its inclosures. To the west the view comprehends a large circuit of Cheshire, bounded by the Welsh mountains, and broken at intermediate distances by scattered hamlets and cultivated grounds.

The castle was situated at the west end of the town, and was sometime called Maurice Castle, and latterly was the seat of the Savages, Earls of Rivers; it was burnt down in the year 1652, at the time John Earl Rivers lay dead in the house. In consequence of the fire they removed to Clifton, afterwards called Rock Savage, a mile and a half south-west from Halton.

Rock Savage is now a magnificent pile of ruins, embosomed in wood, and seated on a rising ground above the river Weever. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth this mansion was the seat of Sir John Savage, by whom it was erected; but by the marriage of Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Richard Savage, Earl Rivers, with James Earl of Barrymore, it was conveyed, together with the estate, into that family. It is now the property of Earl Cholmondeley, who inherited it from his uncle General Cholmondeley, who obtained it in marriage with Lady Penelope Barry, daughter of the above Earl James. After this marriage the place was neglected, and fell so rapidly into decay that a gentleman, who was born in the house, is recorded to have followed a pack of hounds through it in pursuit of game. Some portion of its stately front, consisting of a fine gateway, with lofty turrets on each side, is still standing, as well as part of one of its sides. The residue of the ruins consists only of foundation walls, broken vaults, and heaps of rubbish, overgrown with weeds. The whole surrounded with inclosures of dilapidated walls."—*Aikin's Country round Manchester.*

The following beautiful lines of Dyer, descriptive of a ruined mansion, apply with peculiar force to these remains :

" 'Tis now the raven's bleak abode,
 'Tis now the apartment of the toad :
 And there the fox securely feeds,
 And there the pois'nous adder breeds }
 Conceal'd in ruins, moss, and weeds, }
 While ever and anon there falls
 Huge heaps of hoary moulder'd walls "

Grongar Hill.

WESTON is a beautiful village, in a very retired situation, a short distance from Rock Savage, and nearly opposite the junction of the Weever and the Mersey. Some of the most luxuriant scenery in the

county is to be found in the vicinity of Weston, though its secluded situation, at a distance from the regular post roads, has prevented its beauties from being so well known to the public. There is a most magnificent water-prospect, from the brow of the hill, overhanging the point of land where the rivers form their junction; from hence is seen, at full tide, the broadest part of the estuary of the Mersey, extending many miles before the eye, till it is completely land-locked by a turn in the channel; having the appearance of an immense lake, bordered on the Cheshire and Lancashire side by every variety of ground, arable, meadow, pasture, and woodland.

About two miles to the north of Weston, is RUNCORN, a small town, situated on the banks of the river Mersey, which is here contracted from a considerable breadth to a very narrow channel, by a point of land projecting from the Lancashire side.

The town was originally built by Ethelfieda, queen of the Mercians, in the year 916, she also erected a castle just opposite the gap, as the before-mentioned narrow channel is denominated, for the defence of this extremity of her extensive domain. There are no vestiges of this castle at present to be seen; but its site is distinguished by the name of the Castle, given to a triangular piece of ground, surrounded by a mound of earth, jutting out into the river, defended on the water-side by a ledge of rocks and broken precipices, and separated from the land by a ditch of about six yards in width.

Previous to the completion of the Duke of Bridgewater's Navigation, which here communicates with the Mersey, Runcorn was but an obscure village. It has since been considerably increased, by the erection of many dwelling-houses, inns, shops, &c. for the accommodation of the great conflux of workmen, and other persons, attending the vast basins, or reservoirs of water, which supply the canal. An
immense

immense warehouse has likewise been erected upon a new plan, and various wharfs built for the general accommodation of trade.

In addition to the advantages it derives from the navigation, Runcorn has lately become a fashionable place of resort for salt-water bathing; the fine air, the pleasantness of the neighbourhood, and the exhilarating effects of the busy scene upon the river, constituting useful auxiliaries to the effects of the bath in the recovery or consolidating of health.

The parish church is situated above the Castle Rock, and was most probably founded at the same time with the town and castle. It was certainly in existence previous to the Norman conquest, since Nigel, baron of Halton, bestowed it on his brother Wilfrith, a priest, in the time of William the Conqueror. It afterwards became the property of Norton Abbey, and on the dissolution of that monastery was given to Christchurch College, Oxford.

In the year 1133, William, the son of Nigel, above-mentioned, founded an abbey of canons regular at Runcorn, which was afterwards removed by his son William, constable of Chester, to Norton.

Free-stone, in considerable quantities, is procured in the quarries in this parish, so contiguous to the canal as to be very easily conveyed to it in blocks of great magnitude, which are used in the works, about the navigation, or carried to various places in its course. At Manchester this stone is sold at eight-pence and ten-pence the square foot.

The shore from this village to Weston Point is protected by a low ridge of rock, rising almost perpendicularly from the beach. The botanist may find a pleasing variety of plants, both maritime and inland, in the vicinity of Runcorn.

Returning to our road, at the distance of about five miles from Daresbury, after crossing the Weaver river, we pass through FRODSHAM, a small town, situate on an eminence, beneath the hills,

which form the northern extremity of Delamere Forest, and but a short distance from the confluence of the Weever and the Mersey. The town principally consists of one spacious street, crossed by another at right angles. According to the returns under the population act in 1801, Frodsham then contained 180 houses, and 1250 inhabitants, the lower classes of whom are employed in the salt trade and cotton manufacture, which has been introduced here within these few years. The weekly market is on Thursday, and the fairs on the days mentioned in our list.

The parish church is situated upon a very elevated spot, considerably above the town, in a part very properly called Overton. The church register records two remarkable instances of longevity: on March 13, 1592, was buried Thomas Hough, aged 141, and on the next day Randle Wale, aged 103.

Near the church is the Free School, with a good house for the master. On Beacon Hill, behind the school, is cut a pleasant walk, commanding a fine view of the estuary of the Dee, and the more distant parts of Lancashire. At the foot of the hill are shooting butts for the practice of archery.

There was formerly a castle at Frodsham, which, together with the town, was granted by Edward the First to David, who was at that time at variance with his brother Llewellyn, the last sovereign prince of Wales. This David afterwards broke his alliance with Edward, and having surprised the castle of Harwarden, put the garrison to the sword, and made Roger de Clifford, justiciary of Chester, prisoner. For this conduct he was punished most severely, being the first person who was executed as a traitor, according to the mode now in use. He was condemned to be drawn by a horse to the place of execution, and hanged for the murder of the knights he had massacred in Hawarden Castle; his
bowels

bowels were then to be taken out and burnt, and his body quartered and exposed in different parts of the kingdom.

At the west end of the town is an excellent cold bath, which discharges 1700 gallons of water in a minute. The town is well supplied with many excellent springs of good water; one in particular called Pearl of Wigan, which distils from the face of a rock in drops from every vein, resembling the purest gems.

About two miles to the east of Frodsham is Peel Hall, formerly the seat of Colonel Roger Whiteley, and thought to be one of the most magnificent of all the old mansions in Cheshire. It is now occupied as a farm-house, and is the property of the Earl of Plymouth. Colonel Whiteley was mayor of Chester for four succeeding years, about the conclusion of the seventeenth century, and during his residence here, was honoured with a visit from King James the Second.

Returning to our road, at the distance of about nine miles from Frodsham, after crossing the Weever river, and passing through the villages of Nether-ton and Helsby, we arrive at Chester.

Journey from Northwich to Sandbach; through Middlewich.

NORTHWICH is a large ancient market town, situate near the conflux of the river Dane with the Weever. The streets are irregular, and badly paved, and several of the houses are of great antiquity. The church, which is spacious, is remarkable for the singularity of its choir, which is semicircular, and the roof of the nave is ornamented with numerous figures of wicker baskets of a similar shape to those used in salt making.

Here is a well-endowed free grammar school, founded by Mr. John Dayns, of London. Here is a large cotton manufactory, where several hundred

lands are employed: but its principal trade is in salt, which is manufactured on an extensive scale at several places in this county; but the principal part of the trade is now concentrated in the neighbourhood of this town. Here the salt is made from brine springs, as also from the natural rock. The vast importance of this invaluable antiseptic in the preservation of animal food, &c. must render the following particulars interesting; they are chiefly taken from Aikin's Country round Manchester:—

“The rock-salt is found from 28 to 48 yards beneath the surface of the earth. The first stratum, or mine, is from 15 to 21 yards in thickness, in appearance extremely resembling brown sugar-candy, perfectly solid, and so hard as to be broke with great difficulty, by iron picks and wedges. Latterly the workmen have been accustomed to blast it with gunpowder, by which expedient they loosen and remove many tons together. Beneath this stratum is a bed of hard stone, consisting of large veins of flag, intermixed with some rock-salt, the whole from 25 to 35 yards in thickness. Under this bed is a second stratum or mine of salt, from five to six yards thick; many parts of it perfectly white, and clear as chrystal; others browner, but all purer than the upper stratum, yet reckoned not quite so strong. Above the whole mass of salt lies a bed of whitish clay, which has been used in the Liverpool earthenware; and in the same situation is found a gypsum.

“Rock-salt pits are sunk at great expence, and are very uncertain in their duration, being frequently destroyed by the brine springs bursting into them, and dissolving the pillars that support the roof, through which the whole work falls in, leaving vast chasms in the surface of the earth. In forming a pit a shaft or eye is sunk, similar to that of a coal-pit, but more extensive. When the workmen have penetrated to the salt-rock, and made a proper cavity, they leave a sufficient substance of the rock (generally

rally about seven yards in thickness) to form a solid roof; and, as they proceed, they hew pillars out of the rock to sustain the roof, and then employ gunpowder to separate what they mean to raise. This is conveyed to the surface in huge craggy lumps, drawn up in capacious baskets made for the purpose.

“The largest rock-salt pit now worked is in the township of Witton. This has been excavated in a circular form, 108 yards in diameter; its roof is supported by 25 pillars, each three yards wide at the front, four at the back, and its sides extending six yards. Each pillar contains 294 solid yards of rock-salt, and the whole area of the pit, which is 14 yards hollow, includes 9,160 superficial yards, being little less than two acres of land.” From 50,000 to 60,000 tons of rock-salt are annually delivered from the pits in the neighbourhood of Northwich, scarcely more than one-fourth of which is refined in England, the remainder being exported to various parts of the continent. The salt is conveyed down the Mersey in vessels, from 50 to 80 tons burthen, to Liverpool, from whence it is re-shipped for foreign countries, or kept for refining.

Besides the great quantity of salt obtained from the rock, an immense weight is procured from the brine pits, not less than 45,000 tons being manufactured at this town annually. The depth of the springs is usually from 20 to 40 yards; these springs are situated on a hill at some distance. The briny stream is raised by a steam-engine, and conveyed through very long troughs to the brine pits. The method of extracting the salt is accomplished by heating the liquor in iron pans of 20 or 30 feet square, and about 15 inches deep: when it boils a light scum rises to the top, which is taken off, and the liquor reduced to a lower degree of heat; the steam which rises is made to evaporate as quickly as possible, and the salt, collecting into chrystals, forms a crust

on the surface, and afterwards sinks to the bottom of the pans, whence it is removed once or twice every 24 hours.

“The revenue arising from salt is thought of so much consequence, that a particular board is appointed for its collection and management, having a department quite independent of the excise and customs. Not a peck of salt can go from the works without a permit, under the risk of forfeiture and high penalties; and officers are stationed on the roads to demand a sight of permits, and re-weigh on suspicion of fraud.”

Returning from this digression, on leaving Northwich, our journey lies in a southerly direction, and, at the distance of one mile, we pass through the village of Davenham; two miles to the west of which, on the opposite side of the Weever river, is Vale Royal Abbey, the seat of Thomas Cholmondeley, Esq.—The original building was founded by Prince Edward, son of Henry the Third, as a monastery for Cistercian monks, 100 of whom he had placed in his mansion-house, at Dunhall, about the year 1266, in pursuance of a vow he had made upon narrowly escaping from shipwreck. In 1277, upon the petition of the monks, because, as the king observes, “the latter place was not, *forsooth*, lightsome enough for their fat worships,” he began to erect a stately abbey in the more cheerful and pleasant situation of Vale Royal, an appellation given by the king himself to this district. This abbey was not completed till the year 1330, when the expence of the building was found to have amounted to the immense sum of 32,000*l*.

At the dissolution of religious houses the revenues of Vale Royal Abbey were estimated at 51*l*. 19*s*. 8*d*. per annum, and the site was then granted to Sir Thomas Holcroft, of Holcroft, in the county of Lancaster, from whose grandson, Sir Thomas Holcroft, the whole demesne was purchased by Dame Mary, daughter

daughter of Christopher Holtord, of Holtord, in this county, and widow of Sir Hugh Cholmondeley, knight, who was member of parliament for Cheshire in the year 1585. Dame Mary was stiled the 'Bold Ladie of Cheshire,' by King James the First, who honoured her with a visit at Vale Royal, in the year 1617; she died on the 15th of August, 1625, and was buried with her husband in Malpas church, where a magnificent monument is erected to their memory. The present Earl Cholmondeley is descended from Hugh, their third son. The estate of Vale Royal was inherited by Thomas, the fourth son, whose great-grandson is the present owner.

During the civil wars, in the reign of Charles the First, Vale Royal was plundered by a detachment from General Lambert's army, which was then engaged in besieging Beeston Castle, garrisoned for the king.

The parliamentary troops, after siezing every valuable article, whether of decoration or furniture, set fire to one of the wings, which appeared to have been the refectory of the abbey, from the marks of the bare walls, which were standing some few years back. There is a curious tradition that, during the time the troops above-mentioned were in possession of Vale Royal, the family were supported wholly by the milk of a white cow, which had found means to escape from the soldiers, who were conveying her away with other cattle. Whatever truth there may be in this tradition, it is certain that the posterity of the white cow has been gratefully preserved in a breed, which is white with red ears, still kept at Vale Royal.

The hall of the present mansion was erected about 250 years ago, and is a very spacious room, being nearly 70 feet in length; the wings were rebuilt about 10 years since.

The apartments contain a great number of family and other portraits, some of them remarkably fine pictures.

pictures. Among these are particularly to be noticed the portraits of Charles the First and James the First, by Sir Peter Lely; the great Duke of Somerset, by Rubens; the Earl of Londonderry and his sister, Mrs. Cholmondeley; Governor Pitt, Sir Lionel and Lady Tollemache; Lady Salisbury, his mother, and the last Sir Hugh Cholmondeley: the latter is a full length in green armour, painted on board, and placed at the end of the gallery called Sir Hugh's. Here is also a curious painting on wood of King Charles the First, putting on his cap previous to his being beheaded; this was painted by Deniers, in 1649. Another painting represents Mr. John Thomasine, the celebrated writing-master of Tarvin.—The library contains an extensive collection of curious and valuable works. Among its choicest rarities are writings called the Prophecies of Nixon, the famous Cheshire prophet; these are preserved with particular care, and no stranger is permitted to see them.

In a pamphlet published at Chester, purporting to contain the original predictions of Nixon, it is said that he was born at a farm called Bridge House, in the parish of Over, near Newchurch, and not far from Vale Royal, in the year 1467; but, in the account of his life, written by John Oldmixon, Esq. it appears that he lived in the reign of James the First. His infancy and boyhood were only remarkable for expressing a heavy and sluggish apprehension, which bordered on stupidity, and so feeble was his intellect that even the most common employments of husbandry could not be taught him without considerable difficulty. As he grew older he became distinguished for stubbornness of disposition and sullen taciturnity. Previous to the utterance of his prophecies he generally fell into a trance, and whatever means were employed to awaken him he remained fixed and insensible till the bodily paroxysm had abated,

abated, of the nature or even of the presence of which he seemed to have had knowledge.

Some mystical expressions which he uttered on recovering from one of these fits, and of which the whole neighbourhood rang with the fulfilment, occasioned him to be noticed by Thomas Cholmondeley, Esq. the owner of Vale Royal. This gentleman took him into his house, and intended to have had him educated, but it was found impossible to remove his natural ignorance, and he was suffered to pursue the occupation of a plough-driver, to which his capacity seemed only equal. During his stay in this family he is said to have foretold many things that were soon afterwards actually fulfilled, and others that were not to be accomplished till after the expiration of many years. Among the latter events were the the Civil Wars, the death of Charles the First, the Restoration, and the Revolution.

His fame having at length reached the court of James the First, he was sent for by that monarch, who wished to converse with the man who possessed such extraordinary powers. Nixon was unwilling to attend, declaring that his reason for his reluctance was the certainty of being starved, should he be obliged to comply with the monarch's command; he was, however, forced to visit the palace, where the king, to prevent the possibility of his suffering the fate he so much dreaded, assigned him a place in the royal kitchen. It, notwithstanding, happened that the king, having departed suddenly for Hampton Court, at a time when Nixon, for some mischievous prank, was locked up in a closet, he was entirely forgotten for three days, at the expiration of which he was found lifeless, being literally starved to death.

Resuming our road, at the distance of about four miles from Davenham, we pass through MIDDLEWICH, a town of considerable antiquity, situated near the confluence of the rivers Dane and Croke;

its name is derived from its being the middlemost of the wiches, or salt-towns, and its origin is supposed to be at least as remote as the time of the Romans. The town is tolerably well-built, and has a very respectable and agreeable appearance. According to the returns in the population act of the year 1801, it then contained 268 houses, and 1,190 inhabitants, the lower classes of whom are chiefly employed in the manufacture of salt, and in a cotton manufactory established here some years ago.

The municipal government of the town is vested in a certain number of burgesses, and its privileges are nearly the same as those enjoyed by the other salt-towns.

The church is a large and handsome structure, and the vicarage comprehends several townships.— A small chapel within the church was the burial place of the ancient family of the Venables.

The market is on Tuesday, and the fairs on the days inserted in our list.

The salt manufactured at Middlewich is from brine springs well saturated; it is not at present made in any large quantities, but it might readily be increased to answer any demand, the salt-water springs here being said to produce more salt in proportion to the brine than any other place.

Near the town is KINDERTON, which, according to Mr. Whitaker, the historian of Manchester, appears to have been the *Condate* of the Romans. Upon seeking for the road, from Mancunium, or Manchester, towards *Condate*, he discovered its elevated and well-gravelled surface in many places.

Kinderton gave title to one of the ancient barons who were created by Earl Lupus; this was the family of Venables, now represented by Lord Vernon, of Kinderton, the only lineal descendant of the eight Cheshire barons now remaining.

At the distance of about four miles beyond Middlewich, we arrive at the small town of SANDBACH,
pleasantly

pleasantly situate on an eminence, near the little river Wheelock; it was made a market-town in the seventeenth century by its lord, Sir John Radcliff, of Ordsall, in Lancashire, whose ancestors had long possessed the manor.

There are two square crosses in the market-place, ornamented with various images, and a carved representation of the Crucifixion.

Sandbach was formerly noted for its fine ale, and a considerable quantity of woollen yarn and coarse stuffs were manufactured by the inhabitants; but of late years the business of the place has very much decreased.

Brereton Hall, near Sandbach, the seat of ——— Bracebridge, Esq. was formerly the seat of the family of Brereton, one of whom, Sir William Brereton, knight, erected a magnificent edifice here, about the middle of the sixteenth century. Near this estate is Bagmere, a noted pool, in which, according to the tradition of the neighbourhood, trunks of trees were observed to rise and float for several days previous to the death of an heir of the Breretons.

About four miles to the south-west of Sandbach is Crewe Hall, the seat of John Crewe, Esq; it was erected in the reign of James the First, by Sir Randle Crewe, who is said to have introduced the first model of good building into this county. The mansion is a very fine structure, and was erected from a design given by Inigo Jones; but it was repaired after the Civil Wars, during which it sustained two assaults, having been occupied both by the troops of the Parliament and those of the King. The gardens, which are judiciously laid out, are enriched with plantations.

*Journey from Turvin to Nantwich; through
Turporley.*

TARVIN is a small market-town, situated on the border of Delamere Forest; it derives its name from

the British word *Tarfyn*, which signifies the boundary. Its market was granted to Sir John Savage, the lord of the manor, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; the manor previously belonged to the bishopric of Litchfield, and the rectory is still attached to that see, and is a prebend of Litchfield cathedral.

In the church there is a monument recording the memory and abilities of Mr. John Thomasine, who was master of the grammar-school here 36 years, and particularly remarkable for his extraordinary skill in the art of penmanship. "Specimens of his ingenuity are treasured up, not only in the cabinets of the curious, but in public libraries throughout the kingdom; he had the honour to transcribe for her majesty Queen Anne, the Icon Basilike of her royal grandfather. Invaluable copies also of Pindar, Anacreon, Theocritus, Epictetus, Hippocrates' Aphorisms, and that finished piece, the Shield of Achilles, are among the productions of his celebrated pen." There are two pens crossed delineated on his tomb.

Between Tarvin and Northwich, in the Forest of Delamere, it is said there was formerly a town called Eadesburgh, or Happy Town, built by Lady Ethelfleda, but which has long lost its name, and become a heap of ruins, now called the Chamber in the Forest. Camden mentions the ruins of another town, called Tinborow, two miles from the former.

On leaving Tarvin our road lies south-easterly, and, at the distance of five miles, we pass through **TARPORLEY**, a small market-town, in the hundred of Edisbury, chiefly noted as being the place where many of the principal gentlemen of the county assemble at an annual hunt, the neighbouring heaths of Delamere Forest affording very favourable ground for the diversion.

The manor and rectory of Tarporley is divided into six shares, four of which belong to the Arden family, one to the dean and chapter of Chester, and one to John Egerton, Esq. of Oulton.

About

About two miles to the south of this town rises an immense insulated rock, called Beeston; it is composed of sand-stone, and is nearly perpendicular on one side, but on the other it gradually slopes to the general level of the country adjacent; its height, measuring from Beeston Bridge to the summit, is 366 feet. On the summit of the rock are the stately ruins of the celebrated Beeston Castle, the impregnable strength of which was once almost proverbial. It was erected, in 1220, by Randle Blundiville, Earl of Chester; it consisted of an outer and inner area. The outer came about half-way down the slope, and was defended by a great gateway and a strong wall, fortified with round towers, which ranged across the slope, from one edge of the precipice to the other; some parts of this wall, and about five or six rounders, still remain. The area enclosed is four or five acres. The castle, on one side of this area, was defended by a vast ditch cut out of the solid rock, on the other by the abrupt precipice which overhangs the vale of Cheshire. The entrance is through a noble gateway, guarded on each side by a strong round tower, with walls of prodigious thickness; within the walls are to be seen the remains of a rectangular building, which was formerly the chapel.—The draw-well was of immense depth, being sunk to the level of Beeston Brook, which flows at the foot of the rock; there was another well in the outer area. “The perpendicular side of Beeston has a tremendous appearance; it is haunted by a kind of hawk which builds in its clefts, and “wings the midway air.”

The particulars reported of the history of this castle are not well authenticated; it is, however, certain that from the Earls of Chester it devolved to the crown, and that, after undergoing many vicissitudes, it fell into ruins, and in this state it was seen by Leland, in the reign of Henry the Eighth. It was afterwards repaired, and, in the beginning of the civil

war in the reign of Charles the First, was seized by the Parliament, and garrisoned by a detachment of soldiers under the command of Captain Steel. On the 12th of December, 1643, it was surprised and taken by that famous partizan of royalty, Captain Sandford. It appears that the garrison made little or no defence, for (Rushworth says) the governor was afterwards tried and executed for a coward.—The parliamentary forces afterwards attempted to retake it, and it was unsuccessfully besieged for 17 weeks, being bravely defended by Captain Valet. On the approach of Prince Rupert the enemy abandoned it, on the 18th of March, 1644. In the year 1645 it was again attacked, and on the 16th of November it surrendered on honourable conditions, after 18 weeks continual siege, in which the garrison were reduced to the necessity of eating cats, &c. The governor, Colonel Ballard, in compassion to his soldiers, assembled to beat a parley, and thereupon a treaty followed, and, having obtained very honourable terms (even beyond expectation in such extremity), viz. to march out the governor and officers with horses and arms, and their own proper goods (which loaded two trains), the common soldiers with their arms, colours flying, drums beating, matches alight, and a proportion of powder and ball, and a convoy to guard them to Flint Castle, he did, on Sunday the 16th of November, surrender the castle, the garrison being reduced to not above sixty men, who were marched away according to the conditions. Many traces of military operations, such as ditches, trenches, &c. are still discernable about the rock. The site and ruins of the castle at present belong to Sir Thomas Mostyn, of Mostyn in the county of Flint, Bart.

About two miles south from Beestin is BUNBURY, a small village with a parish church, that was formerly collegiate. It belonged to a college, founded here by Sir Hugh Calveley, who at the battle of Auray,
in

in the year 1364, when the great Du Guesilin was taken prisoner, served under Lord Chandos, and turned the fortune of the day by his gallant conduct. He afterwards joined the Black Prince, in support of the tyrant Peter the Cruel, whom he reinstated on the throne by the great victory of Najara; and on the recal of the prince, he was left commander in chief. He is said to have married the Queen of Arragon, and afterwards the heiress of Mortram, lord of Mortram. He was living in the reign of Henry the Fourth.

Upon the dissolution of monasteries, the revenues of this house were valued at only 48l. 2s. 8d. The foundation, at that time, consisted of a dean, five vicars, and two choristers, who were to pray for the souls of the King, Sir Hugh, their progenitors, and those of all the faithful.

The church is dedicated to St. Boniface, and is a handsome building, embattled and the tower ornamented with pinnacles. It contains several ancient monuments, among which that of the founder, Sir Hugh, is the most distinguished. On a magnificent tomb is a recumbent figure, the effigies in white marble of this "Arthur of Cheshire, the glory of the county." He is armed according to the fashion of the times in which he lived; and is represented by the sculptor of extraordinary dimensions, the effigies being seven feet and a half in length. His head rests on a helmet, with a *calf's head* for a crest, in allusion to his name; from this circumstance arose the ridiculous traditionary story that he could devour a calf at a meal. The tomb is kept very neat, by a benefaction of Dame Mary Calvely, of Lee; who in the year 1705, left the interest of 100l. to the poor of Bunbury parish, if they attended divine service, and kept this monument clean.

In the chancel is the effigies of Sir George Bees-
 low, who died in 1600. It was placed here by his

son, Sir Hugh Beeston, the last male heir of this ancient family.

Returning to our road, at the distance of about seven miles from Tarporley, we pass through the village of ACTON, which was a considerable place in the time of the Saxons, and the residence of Mōrcar, brother of the last Earl of Mercia. The church is a new and neat building, containing some monuments of the Mainwaring and Wilbraham families. The old church was used as a temporary prison, after the battle of Nantwich. The chief employment of the inhabitants is shoe-making. Many of the houses are very old and irregular, though others are large and convenient.

About one mile and a half beyond Acton, we arrive at NAMPTWICH, or Nantwich, situated near the borders of Staffordshire and Shropshire, in a fertile vale, on the banks of the river Weever. In some ancient deeds this town is called *Wicks Malbanns*, that is Wick Malbane, because it was given by the first Earl of Chester, to one of his barons named William Malbans, and so became a barony, which continued in his posterity for a considerable time; but has been since divided into parcels. At present the Earl Cholmondeley is the principal owner, and takes tolls of all cattle, roots, and fruits, that are sold here at fairs, &c.

This town is the capital of the hundred of the same name, and was formerly reckoned the second town in the county; it has however been outstript by several others, which have derived some benefit from the settlement of the manufactures within them. According to the returns under the population act in 1801, Nantwich then contained 824 houses, and 3,463 inhabitants. The houses are in general well built, and disposed in several streets, which are regular and tolerably spacious.

The municipal government of the town was anciently exercised by the lord of the manor or his steward,

ward, who resigned the jurisdiction to a bailiff, but the election of that officer being suspended, the town is now governed by con-tables.

The market is on Saturday, which is plentifully supplied with all sorts of provisions.

The chief trade of Namptwich is in shoes, which are manufactured here for the dealers in London. Here is also a small manufactory of gloves.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and James the First, the tanning business was a source of much wealth to the town; but that, as well as the manufactory of bone lace and stockings is nearly lost.

The inhabitants carry on a considerable trade in cheese, of which the finest is made in the immediate neighbourhood of the town. A remarkable large one was manufactured by Mr. Thomas Heath, of Namptwich, farmer, on the 28th of May, 1792; the weight of which was thirteen scope and ten pounds; it was twelve inches thick, and two feet four inches over. It was intended as a present to his Majesty.

The cotton manufacture has also made some progress in this town.

Namptwich is one of the four salt towns, commonly called the *Wiches*, and was formerly considered as the principal of them. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, there were 216 salt-works. It is probable that these salt-works, are as ancient as the time of the Romans in Britain, and that they received an impost or tax from them; the Saxons in their time appear to have procured salt from the brine pits here, and various laws and customs have prevailed from old times respecting the working of them. At present there are but two saltworks, of five large pans; the decrease in the salt business of this town is owing to its being less conveniently situated for commerce than the other salt towns, which besides abound almost to excess in that commodity.

The church is a handsome and spacious Gothic structure,

structure, built in form of a cross, with an octangular tower in the middle. The east and west windows are of considerable size, and filled with elegant tracery. The chancel has a carved stone roof, and neat stalls, brought from the abbey of Vale Royal, after the dissolution of that monastery, in the reign of Henry the Eighth; there is also part of a tessellated pavement. The living is a small vicarage.

Among the charitable institutions in this town, there is a free school, founded by John and Thomas Thrush, natives of Namptwich, who acquired a fortune, in the trade of woolpackers, in London. There is another school, founded chiefly by the family of Wilbraham, aided by the liberality of the Crewe family; at this school forty boys, called the Blue-caps, are clothed and taught English.

Here are seven almshouses, endowed by John Crewe, Esq. of Crewe; in pursuance of the wills of Sir Thomas Crewe, and Sir John Crewe, knights. They are for men and women, who are allowed six pounds a year. Six other almshouses, endowed by Sir Edward Wright, for men and women, who are allowed four pounds per annum each, and one shirt, one pair of stockings, and one pair of shoes; and six almshouses, endowed by Mrs. Wilbraham, for men and women, who are allowed ten shillings each, per quarter, and a new gown every two years, value 1l. 4s.

In 1780, a large and commodious workhouse was erected in that part of the township called Beam Heath, in consequence of a grant from Earl Cholmondeley for that purpose.

Namptwich has twice suffered severely by fire, and once by the plague. The latter commenced on the 12th of June, 1604, and continued till the 2nd of May following; during this period between four and 500 persons were swept away by the destructive malady; of the former, the first which occurred was in
July,

July, 1438, and the second in December, 1583, when nearly the whole town was consumed. It was rebuilt by means of a collection made by John Maister-son, Sir Hugh Cholmondeley, and others, and increased and considerably beautified by Queen Elizabeth.

During the civil wars in the reign of Charles I. this town uniformly adhered to the Parliament. In 1643 it was besieged by the royal forces, under the command of Lord Byron, and though only surrounded by mud walls, it was defended with great courage, and the assailants were repulsed with great slaughter. The besieging forces were at length totally defeated by Sir Thomas Fairfax, and the town relieved.

The widow of Milton, our great poet, resided during the latter part of her life, in this town, where she died at a very advanced age, in March, 1726. She was the daughter of Mr. Minshall, of Stoke, in this neighbourhood.

About five miles to the south-east of Namptwich is Doddington Hall, the ancient seat of the family of that name, where are preserved the statues of Lord Audley and his four squires, Delves, Dutton, Foulhurst, and Hawkester, all Cheshire men, who distinguished themselves so eminently at the battle of Poitiers.

Combermere Abbey is situated about five miles to the south-west of Namptwich, near the banks of the deep water called Combermere: it was founded by Hugo Malbane, in the 35th year of Henry I. 1134, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary and St. Michael. He endowed it with lands and possessions of considerable value; and, among other things, with a fourth part of the town of Namptwich, and the tythes of the salt and the boileries there. These grants were confirmed by Ralph, Earl of Chester, the chief lord, who also added several other privileges and immunities. At the dissolution it was valued

at 225l. 9s. 7d. per annum, and the site was granted by Henry VIII. to William Cotton, Esq. whose descendants still possess the estate. The present mansion was built with the remains of the ancient abbey, and is at present the residence of Sir Robert Salisbury Cotton, Bart.

*Journey from Knutsford to Macclesfield;
through Chelford.*

KNUTSFORD is a small market town, situated near the river Mersey. It is said to derive its name from the circumstance of the Danish King Canute passing a ford after a victory gained by his army in the adjacent fields. Knutsford is divided as it were into two towns, by a rivulet called Birkin, which soon after runs into the Dane; these are called the upper and lower towns, with a parish church in the former, and a chapel of ease in the latter.

The manor of Knutsford became, after the Norman Conquest, part of the barony of Halton. It is at present the property of the representative of the late Duke of Bridgewater.

The church is a handsome modern structure, furnished with a fine organ.

The weekly market is on Saturday, and there are three annual fairs on the days inserted in our list. The sessions for the county are holden twice a year at this place. The annual race-meeting at Knutsford is remarkable for being honoured with a more brilliant assembly of nobility and gentry than any other in the county, not excepting even Chester.

According to the returns under the population act in 1801, Knutsford then contained 481 houses, and 2,372 inhabitants.

The principal employment of the lower classes of the inhabitants is in the cotton factories, and in making thread. The flax used in the manufacture of the latter article is chiefly brought from Russia, Ireland, and Hamburgh, though a small portion of it is
grown

grown in Yorkshire. About 20 year ago it was usually spun at Knutsford, from the raw material, but it is now principally spun abroad, and brought to this place in the state of yarn, the flax spinners having engaged in the more lucrative and increasing business of cotton weaving. There is also a silk-mill, built in imitation of those at Stockport, in this county. Shag velvets are also manufactured at Knutsford.

On the marriage of any of the inhabitants of Knutsford, the friends and acquaintance of the parties practice the very singular custom of strewing their doorways with brown sand, and on this they figure various fanciful and emblematical devices, with diamond squares, scallops, &c. in white sand, and over the whole are occasionally strewed the flowers of the season.

The expenditure of the numerous families of gentry that reside in the immediate vicinity of Knutsford considerably contributes to its prosperity and the support of its trade.

About one mile and a half to the north of Knutsford is Tatton Hall, the seat of W. Egerton, Esq. The mansion, which is a new building, is situated in the midst of a park, containing nearly 2,500 acres of arable and pasture land. It stands on an elevated spot of ground, from which a lawn gradually declines to the level of Tatton-mere, a fine piece of water, about half a mile from the house. The view beyond the mere, after including a variety of intermediate objects, is terminated by the distant hills, which divide Cheshire from the neighbouring counties. The designs for the house were given by Mr. Wyatt, and are conceived in a style of elegant simplicity. The gardens are extensive, and the pinery is remarkably spacious and well constructed.

A short distance to the south-west of Tatton Park, is Tabley, the ancient seat of the Leicester family. The present possessor is Sir J. F. Leicester, whose
father

father employed Mr. Carr, the architect, to erect the present mansion, which is a large and handsome edifice, of the Doric order, composed of brick and stone. The columns which sustain the portico are of very large proportions, each consisting of only a single block. The interior of the house contains some good pictures, by ancient and modern masters, particularly the portraits of Lord and Lady Byron, by Vandyck. The stables, which are very neat and convenient, are disposed in a quadrangular form, leaving a spacious riding-house in the centre, and suitable offices.

Pursuing our journey, at the distance of five miles, we pass through the village of CHELFORD; about two miles to the north-east of which is Alderley Park, the ancient inheritance of the Stanley family, to whom the contiguous townships of Over and Nether Alderley principally belong. The ancient manor-house was burnt down about 30 years ago. The present residence is situated at the southern extremity of the park, and was formerly denominated the Park House. The ground rises rapidly from the park to the northward, and forms the range of high hills, called Alderley Edge, the highest point of which is about 300 feet above the church, and the view from it is extremely magnificent.

Returning to our road, at the distance of about six miles from Chelford, we arrive at Macclesfield, a description of which has been already given in a former part of this work.

Journey from Malpas to Farndon.

MALPAS is a small market-town in Broxton hundred, chiefly consisting of three streets, situated at the south-western corner of the county, near the detached part of Flintshire. It is said to derive its name from the narrow, steep, and rugged way to it. The Romans called it Malo Passus, and the Normans Malpas. This was one of the eight baronies of

of Hugh Lupus, who bestowed it on Robert Fitz-hugh. In the reign of Henry II. it was held by William Fitz-Patrick. It now belongs to the present Earl Cholmondeley, whose second title is Viscount Malpas.

The church is situated on the highest part of the town, it is a very handsome structure, and endowed with an ample revenue, which maintains two rectors and two curates. In this church is the family vault belonging to Earl Cholmondeley, in which many of his illustrious ancestors lie entombed.

There was formerly a castle in this town, of which there are at present no remains.

According to the returns under the population act in 1801, there were then in Malpas 194 houses, and 906 inhabitants.

The market is held on Monday, and there are three fairs on the days inserted in our list.

Sir Randle Brereton founded and endowed a free grammar-school here, and an hospital for poor persons.

John Speed, well known for his celebrated Chronicle of England, was born near Malpas, in the year 1552. He was brought up to the trade of a taylor; but, not liking a mechanical employment, he spent his leisure hours in reading such books particularly as related to the history of England.

He was soon taken notice of by Sir Fulk Greville, who generously allowed him a yearly salary, that he might be able to prosecute his studies without interruption. He was also assisted by many manuscripts, which he purchased for a trifle, from some persons who had assisted in plundering the monasteries. Furnished with these materials he began his history of England, which, although not at present much read, yet is still useful to be consulted. He also wrote a scripture genealogy; but it is not now held in much estimation.

There is one particular wherein Speed always dif-

fers from Sir William Dugdale, namely, in the valuation of the monasteries: his account making their revenues greater than that of Sir William's. Speed's veracity as a writer has never been called in question; and, when it is considered that he lived nearer the times when the monasteries were standing than Sir William, his account of those structures ought to be the more depended upon.

He died in London, in the year 1629, and was interred in St. Giles's church, near Cripplegate.

About four miles to the north-east of Malpas is Cholmondeley Hall, the seat of the Earl Cholmondeley; it is a venerable structure, surrounded with a moat, and situated in a low and damp spot, which renders this mansion an unpleasant residence. An elegant modern house, on a more elevated and pleasant site, is however now building by the present noble possessor of the estate.

At the distance of five miles from Malpas, in our road, is Barn Hill; a little to the north of which is Bolesworth Castle, an appellation given to a spacious fabric, built in the Gothic style, by J. Tilson, Esq. The gardens and pleasure grounds are laid out in a very judicious manner, and possess considerable beauty; and the prospect of the adjacent country is very extensive.

On leaving Barn Hill, we take a westerly direction, and at the distance of four miles arrive at FARN, or Farndon, a small village, called in the Domesday book Forenden. Its church was rebuilt soon after the conclusion of the Civil Wars, the former one having been burnt by the Parliamentary forces during the siege of Holt Castle, in the year 1645. An ancient bridge of ten arches connects this place with Holt in Denbighshire, which is only separated by the river Dee.

Three miles northward from Farndon is Eaton Hall, the seat of Earl Grosvenor. The mansion is a spacious handsome brick building, erected about the
conclusion

conclusion of the seventeenth century, by Sir John Vanbrugh, who likewise laid out the gardens, which are in the old formal style, with straight walks and leaden statues; they are however ornamented with several fine gates; and the park is well stored with deer. Eaton became the property of the Grosvenor family, through the marriage of Ralph Grosvenor, in the reign of Henry the Sixth, with Joan, daughter of John Eaton, then owner of this estate. The Grosvenor family came into England with the Conqueror; they derived their name from the office of chief huntsmen, which they held in the Norman court; and, "when chivalry was the passion of the times," says Mr. Pennant, "few families shone in so distinguished a manner: none shewed equal spirit in vindicating their rights to their honours. Witness the famous cause between Robert le Grosvenor and Sir Richard le Scrope, about a coat of arms, *azure one bend, or*; tried before the High Constable and High Marshall of England, in the reign of Richard the Second, and lasted three years. Kings, princes of the blood, and most of the nobility, bore witness in this important affair. The sentence was conciliating; that both parties should bear the same arms; but the *Grosvenours avec une bordure d'argent*. Sir Robert resents it, and appeals to the King. The judgment is confirmed; but the choice is left to the defendant, either to use the *bordure*, or bear the arms of their relations, the ancient earls of Chester, *azure a gerb d'or*. He rejected the mortifying distinction, and chose a *gerb*: which is the family coat to this day."

AGRICULTURE.

ACCORDING to the general view of the agriculture of this county, as drawn up by Mr. Werdge, the proportion of the cultivated parts, and those which lie either waste or in a state of little profit, are nearly as follows :

	<i>Acres.</i>
Arable, meadow, pasture, &c. about	615,000
Waste lands, heaths, commons, greens, } but few woods of any extent, }	50,000
Peat bogs and mosses - - - -	20,000
Common fields probably not so much as	1,000
Sea sands within the estuary of the Dee. } exclusive of what may lie on the } shores of the river Mersey, }	10,000
	<hr/> 676,000

Soil.—There are a great variety of soils in Cheshire; clay, sand, blackmoor, or peat, marl, and gravel, in various intermixed proportions, abound in different parts of the county. The three first however are the chief prevailing soils, and of these the largest proportion is a cold stiff clay. The under soil is generally clay, marl, sand, gravel, or red rock, but most commonly are of the two former, viz. clay or marl. The numerous mosses, marshes, meadows, and peat-bogs, which abound in different parts of the county, seem sufficiently to prove that either clay, marl, or some other earth of the same kind, is very generally at no great depth from the surface, a large proportion of the county being not more than from one to 200 feet above the level of the sea, as before observed; the climate is on the whole more temperate and mild than the generality of other counties lying under the same latitude, owing to the flatness of its surface, (abounding as it does with much hedge-row timber) and to its lying within the influence of the sea air.

There

There are in Cheshire many very considerable estates possessed by gentlemen who reside in the county. The number of proprietors of land possessing from 500 to 1000*l.* per annum, are also many. But the race of yeomanry, for which this county was formerly so celebrated, is supposed to be diminished. Another species of freeholders, however, has increased in those parts bordering on Lancashire and Yorkshire, where a number of small farms have been purchased by the manufacturers of cotton, &c.

The tenure is almost universally freehold; there are some copyholds, or what may be called customary freeholds, paying fines and rent certain in Macclesfield, Halton, and two other manors.

The land is occupied in farms of various extent; some may contain 500 acres and upwards. There are few however of more than 300 acres, though the practice of laying farms together seems to be increasing; on the whole, it is probable that there is at least one farmer to every eighty statute acres. In a parish, which is nearly in the centre of the county, the following is a statement of the occupation of the farms.

	<i>L.</i>	<i>L.</i>		<i>Tenants.</i>
From 300 to 150			per annum there are	6
150 to 100		-	-	11
100 to 50		-	-	18
30 to 15		-	-	3
15 to 8		-	-	28

MODE OF MANAGEMENT.

The dairy being the principal object of the husbandman in this county, it appears that three fourths of the land is pastured or mown, and the other fourth ploughed. The usual course for stiff clayey land is to plough four years; first, oats; second, fallow for wheat; third, wheat; fourth, oats; and then laid down with clover or grass seeds, and pastured five or six years before it is again broken up and con-

verted into tillage. Sandy land is ploughed only three years, and frequently bears a crop every year. This county was formerly noted for its wheat.—Strabo and Pliny assert that the Romans introduced cheese-making into this county, but this is improbable from various circumstances. The quality and flavour of Cheshire cheese is almost universally known: our readers will not be displeased to have some account of the manner in which it is made.

A dairy farm of 100 acres is generally divided into the following proportions: from ten to fourteen acres of oats, from six to eight acres of fallow wheat, and the like quantity of summer fallow; the remainder consists of meadow and pasture, the former occupying about twelve acres. The good dairy farmer attends more to the size, form, and produce of the udder of his cow than to any fancied beauty of shape. This consideration induces him to be particular in the breeding and rearing his calves, and in the management of his cows during the winter and summer seasons. The annual quantity of cheese made from each cow varies from 50 to 500lbs. and upwards, the produce depending on the goodness of the land, the quality of the pasture, the seasons, and the manner in which the stock are wintered. On the whole, the average produce may be estimated at 300lb. from each animal. The quantity of milk yielded daily by each cow, according to this estimate, will be about eight quarts, which it is calculated will produce one pound of cheese. The Cheshire cheese is generally made with two meals' milk, and that in dairies where two cheeses are made in a day; towards the latter end of the season, which continues nearly 22 weeks, they take four, five, or six meals; for, as the cheeses are usually made very large, it is necessary to have a sufficient quantity of milk to make one at a time. The most common size is 60 pounds. They commonly preserve the evening's milk till the next morning,

morning, when it is skimmed and made warm; it is then incorporated with the new milk. After being mixed in a large tub together with the greatest part of the cream, the dairy woman puts in a proper quantity of rennet and colouring, and then leaves it for about one hour and a half to coagulate and curdle. The colouring is Spanish annotta. After the cheese is come, or when the milk is properly coagulated, the dairymaid breaks the curd into very small particles, which are then left to subside, and the whey poured off. This process is repeated until the whole of the whey is nearly expelled, when the curd is put into a vat, and occasionally sprinkled with salt. The vat is filled as full as possible, and the whey repeatedly squeezed out before it is placed in the press. The cheese is usually taken twice or thrice out of the vat to place fresh cloths, pare off the edges, and trim it, and sometimes it is immersed in hot whey, for the purpose of hardening the coat. After remaining in the press two or three days, it is next conveyed to the salting house, where it is placed in a salting tunnel or tub, in which it continues about three days more, and is next placed on benches for about eight days, being well salted all over, and turned every day. After this process it is turned twice daily for six or seven days, and then washed in warm water, and wiped dry with a cloth; when dry it is smeared over with whey butter, and placed in the warmest part of the cheese-room, there to remain until it has attained its proper age and consistence.

On the dairy farms one woman-servant is generally kept to every ten cows, who is employed in winter in spinning, and other household business, but in milking is assisted by all the other servants of the farm.

The cheese is chiefly sold in London, being exported from Chester, Frodsham-bridge, and Warrington. A large quantity goes to Liverpool and Bristol,

Bristol, some more is disposed of to the Yorkshire dealers, and some goes into Scotland.

The proper season for calving is reckoned to be from the beginning of March to the beginning of May; and during these months there is more veal fed in Cheshire than in any other county in the kingdom, though generally killed to spare the milk.

Live Stock, Horses, Sheep, and Saine.—The horses employed in this county for the purposes of agriculture are generally of the strong black kind, the best of which are purchased in Derbyshire. Those bred in the county are not remarkable, but they have of late years been much improved by mixtures with the Leicestershire kinds.

There is no species of cattle peculiar to this county. The long-horned Lancashire, the Yorkshire short-horned or Holderness, the Derbyshire, the Shropshire, the Staffordshire, the Welch, Irish, Scotch, and the true Leicestershire cattle, have at different times been introduced into different parts of the county, and the present stock of dairy cows is a mixture of all these breeds. It is impossible to say which of the intermixed breeds are the most approved of as milkers, milk being the general object: some persons prefer half-bred cattle from the Lancashire and present Cheshire, others a breed between the Cheshire and the Welch, while a cross between the Lancashire and Holderness, and one between the Lancashire and Welch have also their advocates. On the more valuable pastures a breed partaking of the short-horned Holderness, or the long-horned Lancashire, seems to be the most prevalent.

Sheep.—There are very few sheep kept in the farms in this county; what are kept the farmers are supplied with chiefly from the Welch and Scotch markets, and from the neighbouring counties of Salop, Derby, &c. In general no more sheep are kept on the farms than can be supported by running in the stubbles and picking the fallows. The com-

mous and wastes maintain a few; and on Delamere forest great numbers are kept of a small and fine woolled kind. This breed has been improved by crosses with the Herefordshire.

The common breed of hogs kept in this county is a mixture between the long and short eared.

Woods and Timber.—There is a considerable quantity of wood growing in this county, and it is owing to this circumstance, and the facility of procuring hides in large quantities from the manufacturing towns in Lancashire, that so many tanners have settled in Cheshire. Besides the hides of cattle slaughtered at home, great numbers are imported from Ireland.

In Lord Stamford's Park at Dunham, as before observed, are some of the largest oaks in the kingdom. There are single trees elsewhere larger perhaps than any here, but no where so many large trees grow together. In the spring of the year 1793, there was a remarkable one felled at Morley, near Welmslow. The principal trunk rose above six yards from the ground, and there gave off four branches, at nearly equal distances, each being a large tree.

In the parish of Frodsham great quantities of potatoes are raised. It is calculated that not less than 120,000 bushels of 90lb. weight each, have annually for some years past been grown in it. They meet with a ready sale in Lancashire, and are easily conveyed by the river Mersey, to Liverpool, and by the Bridgewater canal, to Manchester.

The land in the neighbourhood of Mottram is chiefly meadow and pasturage. Some wheat and oats are grown, and potatoes are cultivated. The soil is generally of a loamy or clayey nature, and marl is found in several places. The farms are commonly small, from 10l. to 30l. per annum, few exceed 50l. The smaller ones are let high, nor would the tenant pay such prices; but for the industry

dustry of himself and family, who are in general manufacturers, either weavers, hatters, or cotton-spinners, and sometimes all in the same house. The chief article of the farm is a roomy house, and their two or three cows produce milk and butter for the use of the family, with a little to spare to send to market.

The climate in this parish is cold and inclement, owing to the currents of wind from the hills and the vast quantity of rain which falls, keeping the low ground for a great part of the year nearly under water; the roads are seldom dry, except in July and August.

MINES AND MINERALS.

The principal mineral productions of this county are salt and coal. It is more remarkable for the former, which is found in inexhaustible quantities. Coals are got in considerable quantity on the eastern side of the county, and some is obtained from the hundred of Wirral. The principal salt-works are at Namptwich, Middlewich, Winsford, and Northwich.

The salt springs (an account of which has already been given in our topographical description of Namptwich), are about 30 miles from the sea, and generally lie all along the river Weaver. There is indeed an appearance of the same vein at Middlewich, nearer the river Dane; and all lie near brooks and in meadows.

The average quantity of salt, made from the Cheshire brine-springs, which are inexhaustible in quantity, and many of them fully saturated, is supposed to be nearly

	<i>Tons.</i>			<i>Tons.</i>
At Northwich	45,000		Lawton	1,500
Winsford	15,000		Namptwich	60
Middlewich	4 000			

If to these numbers be added for refined rock salt, as

Northwich	5000		Frodsham	4,000
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The

The whole quantity of salt made in Cheshire will appear, viz. about 74,560 tons."—*Dr. Aikin.*

The township of Duckinfield abounds in mines and quarries that yield a considerable revenue. The coal-pits are from sixty to an hundred yards in depth, according to the bearing of the strata. Iron ore is found in great abundance, and the smelting of iron was carried on here at a very remote period; for in a field called the Bron Yerth, (a provincial pronunciation of Burnt Earth), the scorix of iron have been met with in considerable quantity; also the ore in one of the mines has been found wanting, while the other strata remained in their original position. The borders of several of the old pits are planted with fir-trees, which thrive remarkably well, and soon form small woods, that give to the adjacent country a pleasing appearance.

At Kenridge, on the hills near Macclesfield, slate and flags are got in great abundance. Excellent stone for building is procured from the eastern hills, also at Millington near Bucklowhill, at Highcliff near Werrington, at Hesswell near Parkgate, and in many other places.

Mill-stones are got at Mole-cop, and sent to various parts of the country.

Large quantities of lime-stone are dug at Newbold Astbury, about three miles from Congleton, at the edge of Molecop. It is principally used for manure, being in general preferred by the farmers, to the Buxton lime. It is longer in breaking down, swells more, and is thought to be more durable; it burns to a grey ash colour.

On Alderly Edge, about five miles to the north-west of Macclesfield, both copper and lead ore have been found, the former in pretty considerable quantity. The ore lies very near the surface, but is of too poor a quality to pay the expence of getting and smelting.

The vast rock at Tinsell Moor, in the parish of Mottram, in this county, consists of solid blocks of a coarse grey stone, full of small pebbles or flints, of a most durable quality. It can be easily cut in the quarry, but becomes as hard as flint when exposed to the air. It is well calculated for use in which beauty is not the object, as ordinary building, kerb stones, and posts.

Under Butland Edge, in the same parish, is a quarry of flag-stone, which is got six feet in length, and proportionably broad. Near the top of the hill is a good stone for building, softer and of better quality than any in the neighbourhood.

A mineral spring was discovered in the year 1805, in the small Island of Hilbury, at the western extremity of this county, possessing the powerful efficacy of curing the rheumatism, &c. The property of the spring was accidentally discovered by a respectable Welsh farmer, who went to the island for the benefit, of his health, and happening to wash his hands much swollen from rheumatic affection, in its waters, found immediate relief.

In the year 1805, in sinking a well for water, near Penbedw House, the seat of Watkin Williams, Esq. at the depth of eight yards below the surface, a plentiful bed of manganese has been discovered, a circumstance which promises to be of great advantage to the neighbourhood.

In the morasses or mosses, whence the country people cut their turf or peat for fuel, there are marine shells in great plenty, some cones, nuts, and shells, trunks of fir-trees and fir-apples, with many other exotic substances. The morasses in which these substances are found are frequently upon the summit of high mountains; and the learned have been greatly divided in their opinion how they came there. The general opinion, however, is that they were brought thither by the Deluge, not merely from their situation, but because seven or eight trees
are

are frequently found much closer to each other, than it was possible for them to grow, and under these trees are frequently found the exuvia of animals, as shells and bones of fishes; and particularly the head of a Hippopotamus was dug up in one of these moors, and shewn to Dr. Leigh, the author of the natural history of this county.

There are however substances of a much later date than the general deluge found among these trees and exuvia, particularly a brass kettle, a small stone, and some amber beads, which were given to the doctor soon after they were found.—The fir-trees are dug up by the peasants, and are so full of turpentine that they are cut into slips, and used instead of candles.

Dr. Leigh also mentions a kind of sheep in this county which differed from all other sheep in the kingdom; he supposes them to be natives of this county, and says they are larger than most other sheep, and covered rather with hair than wool; and that all of them had four horns, the two horns nearest the neck standing out like those of goats, but larger, while the two next the forehead are curved like those of other sheep. The flesh of these sheep was different from that of other mutton, and had some resemblance in taste and colour to the flesh of goats,

BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

OF THIS COUNTY.

IN addition to our biographical sketches, introduced into the body of the work, the following concise particulars relative to the most distinguished characters of this county, will not, we trust be deemed uninteresting.

SAMUEL MOLYNLUX was born in the city of Chester, about the year 1689; his father was the celebrated William Molyneux, the companion and friend of Locke. The plan of education recommended by this celebrated author was pursued in the tuition of Samuel Molyneux, and attended with success. His early attainments were marked by manly intelligence, and proportionate wisdom accompanied the increase of his years. When arrived at manhood, he had the fame of being one of the most accomplished characters of his age.

He was chosen secretary to his late Majesty, when Prince of Wales, and had a residence at Kew, where his place being only a sinecure, he, in concert with Mr. Bradley, had an opportunity of prosecuting his favourite study, astronomy, and the improvement of the glasses of telescopes. He also invented an accurate instrument, for determining the annual parallax of the fixed stars. He was soon after appointed a commissioner of the Admiralty, and was constrained by the pressure of national business, to relinquish his accustomed pursuits.

He applied himself with unwearied diligence to the duties of his office, and became distinguished for his great abilities, especially in affairs relating to the navy.

The change of his studies neither suited his inclinations nor his genius, and his death which happened on the 3rd of January, 1730, shortly followed his promotion. His papers were published by Dr. Smith in his "*Treatise of Optics*."

THOMAS EGERTON, son of Richard Egerton, of Ridgely, was born in the year 1540, and was admitted commoner of Brazen-nose College, Oxford, in the 17th year of his age. After staying there three years, he removed to Lincoln's Inn, and became a counsellor of great practice.

In the year 1581, Queen Elizabeth constituted him her solicitor-general. In 1592 he was made attorney-general, and knighted soon after. In 1594 he was appointed master of the rolls; and in 1596, was made lord-keeper of the great seal of England, and sworn one of her Majesty's privy-council, and was allowed to hold the mastership of the rolls till May, 1603, when King James the First conferred it on Edward Bruce. The Earl of Essex upon his disgrace, was committed to the custody of the lord-keeper, who endeavoured to keep him from those courses which afterwards proved his ruin. In 1602 the lord-keeper was in a special commission for putting the law in execution against jesuits and seminary priests.

In 1603, King James caused the great seal to be broken, and put a new one into the hands of the lord-keeper Egerton, created him baron of Ellesmere, and constituted him lord high chancellor of England; and 1610 he was elected chancellor of the University of Oxford.

His health declining very much, in the year 1615 Sir Francis Bacon, made great interest for his office of lord high chancellor; and about the same time Sir Edward Coke, lord chief justice, sued him in premunire, which caused him a great deal of uneasiness. In Wilson's life of King James the First, an account of the affair may be seen. But recovering from his indisposition, he was, on the 12th of May, 1616, constituted lord high steward for the trial of Robert earl of Somerset, and Francis his wife, and had the honesty to refuse to affix the great seal to the pardon afterwards granted them by King

James I. But his infirmities increasing upon him, he begged of the king to be discharged from his office. His Majesty parted with his faithful servant with much tenderness, and created him viscount Brackley, Nov. 7, 1616. As a mark of his favour, he let him keep the seal till the beginning of Hilary term following, and then sent Secretary Winwood for it, with this message, "That himself would be his under keeper, and not dispose of it while he lived to bear the title of chancellor," which was accordingly done. In 1616-17, he voluntarily resigned the office of chancellor of the university of Oxford.

He died at York-house in the Strand, March 15, 1616-17, in a good old age, and was buried privately at Dodleston in Cheshire.

He was a man of quick apprehension, solid judgment, and ready utterance: he was a good lawyer, just, and honest. He wrote a few things, among which was a speech in the Exchequer chamber, touching the *post nati*, published in London 1609, 4to, in 16 sheets; and certain observations concerning the office of the lord chancellor, 1651, 8vo. He also left behind him four manuscripts of choice collections. 1. The Prerogative Royal. 2. Privileges of Parliament. 3. Proceedings in Chancery. 4. The Power of the Star Chamber.

RAPHAEL HOLLINGSHEAD, the celebrated author of the Chronicles of England, was born in the reign of Henry the Eighth, but it is not known in what year, no more than to what profession he was brought up, though his having had a liberal education cannot be doubted. From a variety of circumstances it appears that he begun to write his history soon after the accession of Queen Elizabeth; and that he was assisted in the execution of it by several others.—Considering the distance of time in which he lived, it is written in a very agreeable stile, and though it has gone through several editions, yet it is exceedingly scarce at present.

The time of the death of our historian is no more known with certainty than that of his birth: but it appears from his will, which is prefixed to an edition of Camden's Annals, that it happened between the years 1578 and 1582.

SIR JOHN VANBRUGH (a celebrated dramatic writer and architect) was descended from an ancient family in Cheshire, who came originally from France, though from the name he appears to be from Dutch extraction. The year of his birth is not certainly known; but from a variety of circumstances it appears to have been about the reign of King Charles the Second.

He received his education from a private tutor, and from his natural genius, even when very young, became eminent both as a poet and an architect.

The first comedy he wrote, called "The Relapse, or Virtue in Danger," was acted with great applause in the year 1697, which encouraged him afterwards to write others to the number of eleven, and several of them are still held in very high estimation.

The great credit he gained by his dramatic performances was attended with more beneficial advantages than usually arise from the profits of writing for the stage. He was first appointed to the office of Clarendieux king at arms; which, after holding for some time, he disposed of. In the month of August, 1716, he was appointed surveyor of the works at Greenwich Hospital. He was likewise made comptroller-general of his Majesty's works, and surveyor of the gardens.

It is reasonable, however, to suppose that these emoluments were conferred on him, not for his abilities as a dramatic writer, but for his great skill in architecture; for his ingenuity in that science was so conspicuous, that several noble structures were erected under his direction, particularly Blenheim House in Oxfordshire, and Claremont in Surrey.

He likewise built the Opera House in the Hay-market;

market; to defray the expence of which he raised a subscription, from thirty persons of quality, of 100*l.* each; in consideration whereof each subscriber, for his own life, was to be admitted to every representation without farther expence. When the first stone of this structure was laid, it was inscribed with these words: "The little Whig," as a compliment to a lady of extraordinary beauty, the celebrated toast and pride of that party, namely, the Countess of Sunderland, second daughter of the great Duke of Marlborough.

Sir John, in some part of his life (for the time when cannot be certainly ascertained) went over to France, in order, as is supposed, to improve himself in the knowledge of architecture. During his stay there he took views of several distinguished fortifications, in doing of which, being one day observed by an engineer, he was, by his information, taken into custody, and after an examination before an officer of the police, was committed prisoner to the Bastile.

The Earl of Stair was at that time the English ambassador at Paris, and being informed of Sir John's confinement, he went to the Duke of Orleans, the then regent, and procured his liberty, otherwise he might have spent the remainder of his days in confinement, or have ended them on a scaffold.

On his return to England he took a genteel house near Whitehall, and continued to pursue his beloved studies of poetry and architecture till his death, which happened on the 26th of March, 1726.

He was the contemporary and friend of Mr. Congreve, whose genius was likewise formed for dramatic productions; and these two comic writers gave new life to the stage, which before was greatly on the decline.

One of Sir John's comedies, however, when first acted and printed, bordered too near upon profanity and lasciviousness, for which he was chastised,
with

with a becoming severity, by Mr. Collier; and though he answered this gentleman rather in a satirical than a judicious manner, yet, in his advanced years, he was convinced of his error; and, about a year before his death, when he heard that a great person had ordered the "Provoked Wife" should be acted, he substituted a new scene, instead of one which was justly reprehensible.

SIR JOHN BIRKENHEAD was son of Randel Birkenhead, of Northwich, in this county, saddler. He became a servitor of Oriel College, under the tuition of Humphry Lloyd, afterwards bishop of Bangor. He continued in the college till he was made bachelor of arts, and then became amanuensis to Dr. Laud, afterwards archbishop of Canterbury, who admired him so much for his ingenuity, that in the year 1639, by his diploma, he made him master of arts, and by his letters commendatory thereupon, he was elected probationer fellow of All Soul's college, in the following year. After the rebellion broke out, and the king set up his court at Oxford, our author was appointed to write the *Mercurii Aulici*, which being much approved of by the royal party, his majesty recommended him to the electors, that they would chuse him moral philosophy reader, which being accordingly done, he continued in that office, with little profit from it, till the year 1648, at which time he was not only turned out thence, but likewise from his fellowship, by the presbyterian visitors — Afterwards, in this destitute situation, Wood observes, that he retired to London, and made shift to live upon his wits; having some reputation in poetry, he was often applied to by young people in love, to write epistles for them, and songs and sonnets on their mistresses: he was also employed in translating and writing other little things, so as to procure a tolerable livelihood. Having in this manner supported the gloomy period of confusion, he was at his majesty's restoration, by virtue of his letters,
sent

sent to the University, created doctor of the civil law, and in the year 1661, he was selected a burges of Wilton, to serve in that parliament which began at Westminster, on the eighth of May in the same year.

On the 14th of November, 1662, he received the honour of knighthood, and, in January, 1663, he was constituted one of the Masters of Request, in the room of Sir Richard Fanshaw, when he went ambassador into Spain; he being then also master of the faculties, and a member of the Royal Society. His works are *Mercurius Aulicus*, communicating the intelligence and affairs of the court at Oxford to the rest of the kingdom. The first of these was published on the 1st of June, 1642, and were carried on till about the end of 1645; after which they were published but now and then. They were printed weekly in one sheet, and sometimes in more, in 4to. and contain (says Wood) a great deal of wit and buffoonery;—*News from Pembroke and Montgomery, or Oxford Manchestered*, &c. printed 1648, in one sheet, 4to; it is a feigned speech, as spoken by Philip, Earl of Pembroke, in the Convocation House at Oxford, April 12, 1648, when he came to visit and und: the University, as Edward, Earl of Manchester, had done that of Cambridge, while he was chancellor thereof; it is exceeding waggish, and much imitating his lordship's way of speaking;—*Paul's Church-yard; Libri theologica, politici, historici, mundanis paulinis (una cum templo) protestant venales*, &c. printed in three sheets, 4to. 1649. These pamphlets contain feigned titles of books, and acts of parliament, and several questions all reflecting on the reformers, and men in those times;—*The four-legged Quaker, a ballad*, to the tune of *The Dog and Elder's Mail*, London, 1649;—*A new Ballad of a famous German Prince*, without date;—*The Assembly Man*, written 1647. The copy of it was taken from the author by those that said they could not rob, because

cause all was theirs; at length, after it had slept several years, the author published it to avoid false copies; it is also printed in a book entitled, *Wit and Loyalty Revived, in a collection of some smart Satires in verse and prose, on the late times*, London, 1682, said to be written by Cowley, our author, and the famous Butler. He has also scattered copies of verses and translations extant, to which are vocal compositions, set by Henry Lawes, such as Anacreon's ode, called *The Lute*, an anniversary on the nuptials of John, Earl of Bridgewater. He has also written a poem on his staying in London after the act of banishment for cavaliers, and another called *The Jolt*, made upon Cromwell's being thrown off the coach-box of his own coach, which he would drive through Hyde Park, drawn by six German horses, sent him as a present by the court of Oldenburgh, while his secretary, John Thurloe, sat in the coach, July, 1654. He died near Whitehall, in the year 1679, and was buried in the church-yard of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields. (*Bibliotheca Biographica.*)

SIR THOMAS ASTON (well known for his bravery during the civil wars in the last century) was born at his father's seat in this county, in the year 1610; he received his education at the free school of Macclesfield, from whence he was removed to Brazen-nose College, Oxford. He did not, however, remain long in that learned seminary, for his father dying he was sent for home, and being zealously attached to the court, he was soon after created a baronet.

On the meeting of the Long Parliament he wrote several pieces, full of great severity against the Presbyterians, which tended rather to inflame than heal the divisions.

When the king set up his standard at Nottingham, Sir Thomas Aston not only persuaded many of the gentlemen in Cheshire to accompany him, but likewise, at his own expence, raised a troop of horse for the service of the royal cause; but they
were

were defeated by a small party under the command of Lord Fairfax, and Sir Thomas Aston was wounded.

He still, however, continued to raise men for the king; but, being soon after taken in a skirmish, he was carried prisoner to Stafford, from whence, endeavouring to make his escape, he received a severe blow on the head from one of the soldiers. This, with the wound he had before received, brought on a mortification and fever, of which he died, on the 24th of March, 1645.

THOMAS WILSON, the venerable bishop of Sodor and Man, was born at Burton, a small village, near Great Neston, on the 20th December, 1663, as he himself relates, in his manuscript diary, 'of honest parents, fearing God.' His education was strictly attended to, and, when his attainments had sufficiently qualified him for the University, he was removed to Trinity College, Dublin, whither, at that period, most of the youthful gentry of Cheshire and Lancashire were sent to pursue their studies. Here his attention was first engaged by the science of medicine; he, however, relinquished this, by the advice of Archbishop Hewitson, for divinity; and, having made considerable progress in academical learning, he was ordained in June, 1686; towards the conclusion of which year he quitted the University, and was licensed to be curate of New Church in Lancashire, of which his maternal uncle, Dr. Sherlock, was rector. In the year 1692 he became domestic chaplain to the Earl of Derby, and preceptor to his son, Lord Strange, with a salary of 30*l.* per annum; this, with a similar sum derived from his curacy, and 20*l.* which he received annually, as master of the almshouse at Latham, constituted his entire income; yet even this exceeded his wishes, any farther than as it enabled him to appropriate a greater sum to the relief of the necessitous. Soon afterwards a valuable rectory in Yorkshire was offered him,

him, but which he refused from the conscientious motive of not being able to reside among those to whom he might have been appointed pastor. In the year 1697 the Earl of Derby would have promoted him to the bishopric of Sodor and Man, but this dignity he declined from principles of humility and lowliness, till, after the expiration of several months, when, to use his own words, he was *forced into it*.— In April, 1698, he took possession of his see, and by the goodness of his life, and his mild, dignified, and apostolic manners, very eminently contributed to the spreading of Christianity among the inhabitants; for, previous to his arrival in the Isle of Man, the natives, speaking generally, were extremely ignorant; and the duties of religion and morality were very little known, and less practised. But the pious labours of the bishop, and his fervent endeavours to enlighten and improve their minds, proved extremely successful; and his memory is respected and revered by every class of the Manks inhabitants. This esteemed and worthy prelate died on the 7th of March, 1755, in the 93rd year of his age, having held the bishopric no less than 58 years.

TABLE OF THE POPULATION OF CHESHIRE,

According to the Returns under the Act of Parliament, in the year 1801.

<i>Hundreds.</i>	<i>Inhabited Houses.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Employed in Agriculture.</i>	<i>Ditto in trade or manufacture</i>	<i>Total of Persons.</i>
Broxton,	2358	6321	6743	4505	909	13064
Bucklow,	4953	14178	14590	8570	4782	28768
Eddisbury,	2896	8837	9014	4137	1357	17851
Macclesfield,	1067	27796	28731	6997	42769	56437
Nantwich,	3218	8653	8924	6038	2303	17637
Northwich,	4425	11454	12001	4286	3728	23455
Wirral,	2025	5139	5605	3870	941	10744
Chester,	3109	6492	8560	402	2149	15052
<i>Town.</i>						
Macclesfield,	1426	3979	4764	220	8509	8743
Total	34432	92759	98992	38823	67447	191751

RARE PLANTS,

FOUND IN CHESHIRE.

Acorus Calamus. Sweet-smelling Flag or Calamus; in rivers with a muddy bottom.

Asplenium Scolopendrium, var. Jagged or fingered Hart's-tongue; on Beeston Castle walls.

Bidens cernua B. A variety of whole-leaved water-hemped Agrimony; about Tarporley and elsewhere.

Brassica muralis. Wild Rocket; on the walls of Chester.

Comarum palustre. Purple Cow-wheat; on a hill at Horseley-bath near Beeston Castle.

Myrica Gale. Sweet Willow, Goule, Gale, or Dutch Myrtle; near Whitchurch, so plentifully that the place where it grows is called Gale Moor.

Narcissus poeticus. Common pale Daffodil or Primrose Peerless; in some closes at Bellow hill, near Whitchurch.

Osmunda Regalis. Water Fern, Flowering Fern, or Osmund Royal; on Gale moor, near Whitchurch, plentifully.

Pinguicula vulgaris. Butter-wort or Yorkshire Sannicle; on Willow Moor Common, near Whitchurch, plentifully.

Polypodium marginale. Marginal Polypody; this plant is said to grow commonly in this county.

Prunus Cerasus B. The least Wild Heart Cherry-tree, or Merry-tree; near Stockport, and elsewhere.

Saxifraga autumnalis. Small Yellow Mountain Sengreen, or Autumnal Sengreen; on Beeston castle, and on a high hill in Wirswall town, near Malpas.

Saxifraga hirculus. Marsh Saxifrage; on Knutsford Moor.

Silene Armeria. Broad-leaved Catch-fly; on the banks of the river below Chester.

Sorbus Aucuparia. The Wild Ash, Quicken-tree, or Mountain Ash; in the mountainous meadows near Bellow-hill, near Whitchurch.

Tenacetum Vulgare. Common Tansey; in the meadows near Whitchurch.

Vaccinium Oxycoccus. Cranberries, Marsh Whortleberries, Moss-berries, or Moor-berries; on Gale moor near Whitchurch, and several other places near Bellow hill.

Vaccinium Vitis Idæa.—Red Whorts, or Whortleberries; on the moors, common.

A LIST OF
THE PRINCIPAL WORKS

That have been Published in Illustration of the
Topography, Antiquities, &c.
Of Cheshire.

“ *The Vale-Royal of England* ; or the County Palatine of Chester illustrated : whercin is contained a geographical and historical description of that famous county, with all its Hundreds, and Seats of the Nobility, Gentry, and Freeholders ; its Rivers, Towns, Castles, and Buildings, Ancient and Modern,” with Maps, Views, and Coats of Arms of “ every individual Family” in the county. This was published by Mr. D. King, from the papers of William Smith, Rouge Dragon Pursuivant, and those of William Web, clerk of the Mayor’s court at Chester. Annexed is “ an exact Chronology of all its rulers and governors” &c. and also “ An excellent discourse of the Isle of Man ;” folio, 1656, London. The confused arrangement of this work occasioned Dr. Gower to call it the *Tower of Babel* of Cheshire. The principal part of this work has been reprinted, with all its faults, in “ *The History of Cheshire* ; containing King’s Vale-Royal, entire ; together with considerable extracts from Sir Peter Leycester’s *Antiquities*, and the observations of later writers, particularly Pennant, Grose, &c.” 2 Vols. 8vo. 1773, Chester.

A work was published by Sir Peter Leycester in 1673, under the title of “ *Historical Antiquities*, in two books : the first treating in general of Great Britain and Ireland ; the second containing particular remarks concerning Chester,” &c. folio, London. In this work some assertions are made respecting the legitimacy of Amicia, daughter of Hugh Cyvelock, Earl of Chester, occasioned a long contest between Sir Peter and his cousin Sir Thomas Mainwaring. No less than twelve pamphlets were published by the zealous di-putants in support of their respective affirmations.

The contest was even carried to a court of law, and the judges decided in favour of Sir Thomas, that "Amicia was no bastard." But even this did not end the dispute, which was only terminated by the death of Sir Peter.

"*Sketch of the Materials for a new History of Cheshire*, with short accounts of the genius and manners of its inhabitants, and of some local customs, peculiar to that distinguished county," by Dr. Gower, of Chelmsford, 4to. 1771. A Second Edition was published in 1773, with the titles somewhat altered, a new preface, and some account of further materials. In this the author, after enumerating the vast collections relative to this county made by preceding antiquaries, solicits the assistance of his countrymen in erecting a lasting monument to their honors, "on a plan entirely different from any other provincial history."

Some particulars concerning the Earldom of Chester, are contained in Sir John Dodderidge's "History of the Ancient and Modern estate of the Principality of Wales;" 4to. 1630, 1714; London.

"*The holy Life and History of Saynt Werburge*," the patroness of St. Werburgh's Abbey at Chester, was compiled by Henry Bradshaw, a monk on the foundation, and printed by Richard Pynson in the year 1521, small 4to.

"*The Death of the Rood of West Chester*," 8vo. 1565, is mentioned by Ames, in his history of printing.

"*A Summary of the Life of St. Werburgh*, with an Historical account of the images upon her Shrine (now the Episcopal throne) in the choir of Chester Cathedral;" by Dr. William Cowper; 4to. Chester.

"*An Historical Account of the Town and Parish of Nantwich*, with a particular relation of the remarkable siege it sustained in the grand Rebellion in 1643," 8vo. 1774, was printed at Shrewsbury. Another work relating to this siege, entitled "*Magnalia Dei*; a relation of some of the many remarkable passages in Cheshire, before the Siege of Nantwich, during the continuance of it, and at the happy raising thereof,"

thereof," &c. appeared in a letter to a member of parliament, 4to. 1674, London.

Particulars of the *City and Cathedral of Chester*, are to be found in Pennant's *Tour in Wales*, and from Chester to London; with views of the Chapter House, North Gate, &c. The latter work contains considerable information concerning other places in this county, particularly Beeston Castle, Banbury, Acton, and Nantwich; with views of Beeston castle and Nantwich church.

Aikin's *Description of the Country round Manchester*, contains an account of many places in Cheshire, particularly *Chester, Nantwich, Runcorn, Northwich, Macclesfield, Stockport, Dukinfield, and Mottram*; and is ornamented with a plan of Chester, &c. and views of Tatten Hall, Booth's Hall, Dunham Massey, Macclesfield, Lyme Hall, Poynton Stockport, Harden Hall, Dukinfield Hall, Bridge, and Lodge, Mottram church, Mottram, and Carr-Torr, from drawings by E. Dayes, large vol. 4to.

"*A brief Narrative of a Strange and Wonderful Old Woman who hath a pair of horns growing upon her head,*" &c. 4to. 1679; London. This was reprinted in Morgan's *Phoenix Britannicus*, 1732. A print of her is in Leigh's *Natural History of Lancashire and Cheshire*;" folio.

"*The Life of Nixon, the Cheshire prophet,*" and copies of his *Prophecies*, have been several times printed in small pamphlets, both at Chester and in London.

In the *Philosophical Transactions*, Nos. 53 and 54, are Dr. Jackson's answers to queries about the salt springs and works at Nantwich. In No. 222, is a letter from Dr. Halley, with an account of the *Roman Altar* found at Chester, and described in this volume, page 200. In No. 156 are some remarks on the *Salt Springs* of Worcestershire, Staffordshire, and this county, by Dr. Lister; and in Vol. XLVII. is Mr. Thomas Perceval's account of the *Roman Stations* in Cheshire and Lancashire. The first volume of the *Archæologia* contains some observations, by the same gentleman, on the
course

course of the Ermine Street, through this county and Lancashire. Some particulars of Chester Castle are inserted in Grose's Antiquities.

A small map of this county was engraved by Hollar in 1670. Another was published by Emanuel Bowen; and in 1777 appeared "a Survey of Cheshire," in four sheets, by P. P. Burdett. The latest is in Smith's English Atlas 1801. In "Braunii Civitates Orbis" is a plan of Chester, supposed to be the most ancient one now extant.

Views of Chester, S. W. Chester Castle, N. W. Beeston Castle, S. Combermere Abbey, W. Birkenhead Priory, S. W. Halton Castle, &c. have been engraved by Buck. Another of Beeston Castle was executed by Pouncy. A view in Lyme Park was engraved by Vivaries, from a painting by Smith; and another of Crewe Hall, by Toms, from a drawing by W. Yoxall. A distant view of Chester in the Copper-plate Magazine, engraved by Walker, from a drawing by Turner.

END OF THE LIST OF WORKS.

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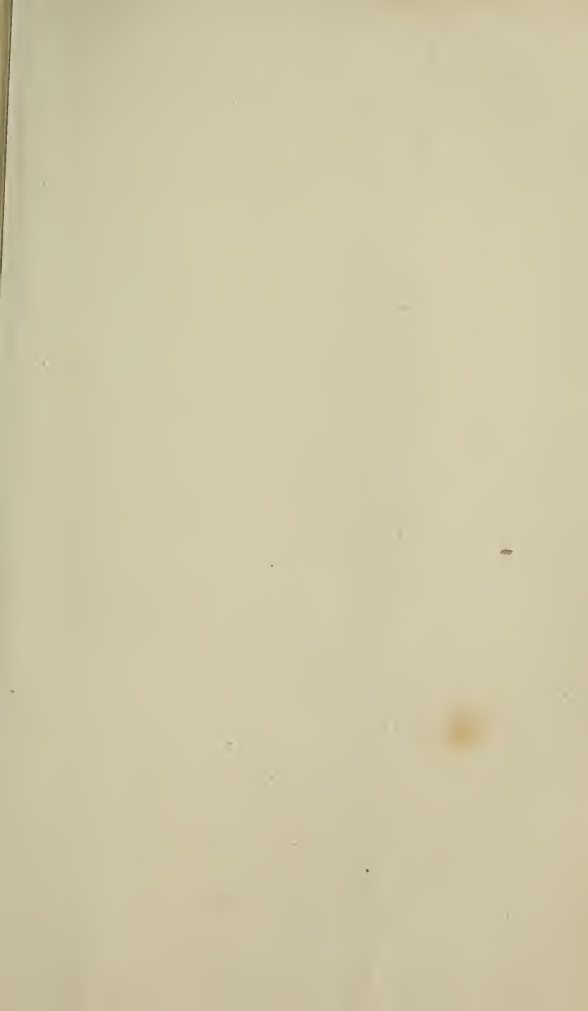
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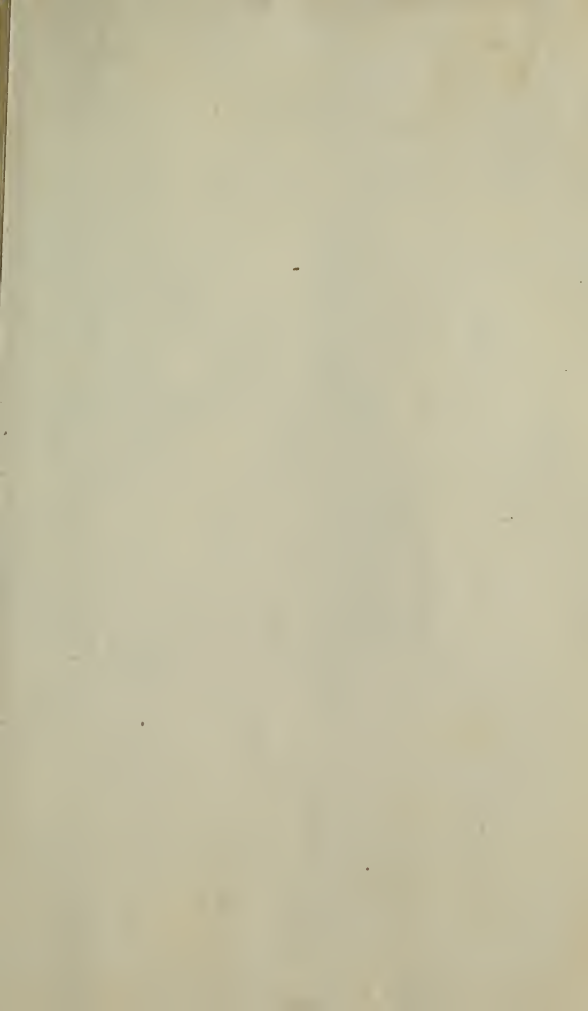
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