

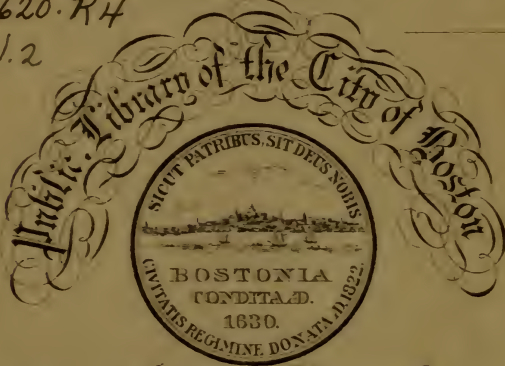


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*View in the Valley beyond Benham.*



A  
TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY  
OF THE  
*GREAT ROAD*  
FROM  
LONDON TO BATH AND BRISTOL.

WITH  
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNTS  
OF THE COUNTRY, TOWNS, VILLAGES, AND GENTLE-  
MEN'S SEATS ON AND ADJACENT TO IT;

ILLUSTRATED BY  
*PERSPECTIVE VIEWS*  
OF THE  
MOST SELECT AND PICTURESQUE SCENERY.

To which is added,  
A CORRECT MAP OF THE COUNTRY  
Three Miles on each Side of the Road; planned from a Scale of  
One Inch to a Mile.

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BY ARCHIBALD ROBERTSON.

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IN TWO PARTS.  
PART II.

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Joshua Bates Esq

(25856)

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## TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY,

*&c.*

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## SECT. I.

AFTER leaving the pleasant town of Newbury, and passing Benham, the road, winding in a western direction, gradually sinks into a bottom, following the course of the Kennet.

The grounds which form the north side of the valley through which that river flows, are composed of a range of woody hills, the declivities of which are in a high state of cultivation, extending to the great road; agreeably chequered with farm houses and cottages. On the south, are ridges of

downs, pleasantly diversified by woody hills, and cultivated land; sloping down to the river.

Here, the soil being of a cold and swampy nature, the meadows are by no means so beautiful, nor the herbage so delicate, or rich, as in many other parts along the banks of the Kennet. This deficiency is however in some degree compensated by the immense quantity of peat produced; serving the double purpose of manure for the land, and of fuel, which in this part of the country is scarce. A continuation of the same kind of scenery leads to the half-way House.

Hence, leaving the high road, and turning to the right, we ascend a rural avenue formed of stately oaks, and other kinds of trees, here abounding; then, passing through a tract of well-cultivated country, we arrive at Wickham Heath, a considerable waste, from the upper ridge of which, extensive prospects of the surrounding country are obtained. A sudden de-



Windsor, Nova Scotia.



scent on the northern side, leads to the village of Welford, situated in a low, narrow ravine, on the verge of the Common.

### *WELFORD, AND WELFORD PARK.*

Welford is a long scattered village, extending to the bottom of the vale, through which runs the river Lambourne. The houses are low, and indifferently built. At the further end is a small church, having a circular tower and spire, making a picturesque appearance.

Near this edifice stands Welford House, the seat of — Archer, Esq. an ancient brick mansion. The pleasure-grounds are neat, well laid out, and have the advantage of being watered by a branch of the Lambourne winding through them. On the north, the stream expands into a piece of water of a square form, well stored with excellent fish.

Welford Park lies on the south, and is separated from the house and gardens by a

public road: the grounds are agreeably varied, and well ornamented by wood, but of small extent. On the north, and westward, the country is more open, consisting of cultivated land, with farm houses, and some scattered wood.

About a mile farther south, is the village of Wickham, built on a declivity surrounded by woody hills, and on the highest ground stands a small neat chapel. Hence, returning to the high road, we pass through a woodland and well-cultivated tract of country.

Proceeding from the half-way House, the road winds along the bottom of a pleasant valley, in the highest state of cultivation; equally rich and fertile on both sides.

Near the sixty-two mile stone, stands Barton Court, the residence of Charles Dundas, Esq. The house is a good brick building, with wings, pleasantly situated on a branch of the Kennet; and protected on the north side, by rows of stately trees.

On the opposite side of the valley stands

the village of Kintbury, built on a declivity extending along the southern bank of that river;—a small church occupies the centre, surrounded by houses of a mean appearance, and indifferently built.—In digging a grave here, in the year 1762, a large quantity of Saxon coins, of Elfred, Edwy, and Edmund, were found under a skull.

### *HUNGERFORD.*

Sixty-four miles and a half from the metropolis, the traveller approaches Hungerford, by a small bridge. This is a market town, built in a marshy situation on the Kennet; and divided by two separate streams of that river.

It is composed of a mixture of ancient and modern buildings, chiefly comprehended in two parallel streets. Some of the houses now inhabited, are entirely covered with ivy, and have other distinguishing marks of antiquity.

The principal street is of considerable

length, extending from the river in a south and north direction, and nearly in the middle stands the market-house, a handsome modern building ; and the church, at the end of a pleasant avenue, in the western quarter of the town, appears conspicuous from the high road. In this church is an ancient brass plate of Robert de Hungerford, the first of that family in this county, His nephew, Sir Thomas, was the first Speaker of the House of Commons, 51, Edw. III.

Hungerford, anciently *Ingleford Charman-street*, gave name and title to the illustrious family of the Barons Hungerford. It was first built by Walter Hungerford, Steward of the Household to Henry V. who, for his valour and services, had the castle and barony of Homet in Normandy, conferred on him by that prince.

Sir Robert Hungerford, Lord Molins, a descendant of Walter Hungerford, was several years a prisoner in France, taken while he was attempting the relief of Chestillon,



in 31, Henry VI.—He paid more than twelve thousand marks for his liberty; after which, being faithful to the Lancastrian interest, he was attainted by parliament in the reign of Edward VI. was taken prisoner at the battle of Hexham, conveyed to Newcastle, and there beheaded. His corpse was carried to Salisbury, and interred in the north aisle of the cathedral.

The Constable, who is chosen annually, is Lord of the Manor, and holds it immediately of the crown.

They shew a horn here, holding about two quarts; which, from an inscription upon it, appears to have been given by John of Gaunt, who procured them a grant of the royal fishery in the Kennet; noted for its trout, eels, and crayfish.

*Ingleford Charman-street* is supposed to be a corruption of the Ford of the Angles, or *Herman-street*, a Roman road running to Marlborough.

South-east, a mile from this town, was Hungerford Park, now mostly converted

into cultivated land. On this spot stands a handsome, low house, the seat of Charles Dolbiac, Esq. which still retains the appellation of Hungerford Park. It is surrounded by neat pleasure-grounds, kept in perfect order. On the west and south, it is sheltered by woods; ridges of downs present themselves in the horizon on the east; and being more open to the north, rich and extensive views are obtained along the opposite side of the vale.

About two miles from Hungerford, to the right of the Salisbury road, stands a neat white house, the residence of Captain Percy; well protected by woods on the north; with downs appearing on the south-east, and a flat, cultivated country between.

### *CHILTON LODGE.*

On the right, a little beyond Hungerford, in 1791, stood Chilton Lodge, the seat of General Smith; a handsome modern house, boldly and conspicuously situ-

ated, about a mile and a half from the Bath road.

The estate has since been sold, and is now the property of William Morland, Esq. By this gentleman great alterations are making; the house has been pulled down, and another erected on the declivity of a hill, nearer the river.

This estate lies partly in Berkshire, and partly in Wiltshire; the former house stood in Wilts, the present is in Berkshire, and the boundary of these counties divides the park.

## SECT. II.

*WILTSHIRE.*

A LITTLE beyond Hungerford we enter Wiltshire, which is bounded on the north and north-west by Gloucestershire, on the west by Somersetshire, on the south by Dorsetshire, and on the south-east by Hampshire.—Its general form is nearly a regular oblong, extending in length upwards of fifty miles, and forty in breadth.

This county lies in the diocese of Salisbury; contains twenty-four market towns, one hundred and seven vicarages, three hundred and four parishes, nine hundred and fifty villages, and sends thirty-four members to parliament.—It is divided into twenty-nine hundreds, which are supposed to

contain above one hundred and seventy thousand inhabitants.

The land in this county is of various quality, but in general elevated and dry. The northern part, formerly overgrown with forests, at present only sprinkled with wood, is hilly, affording excellent pasture for cattle.

The height of this tract is proved, by the various rivers which have their source in it; the heads of the Thames, in Gloucestershire, are very near the border of this county, and several of its tributary rills rise in the north of Wiltshire. The Lower Avon, which flows to Bristol, springs out of this district, and winds through the north-west side of the county.

Near the middle, among some chalky hills, rises the Kennet, which, taking its course through Berkshire, falls into the Thames below Reading. A little southward, is the spring of the Upper Avon, which runs to Salisbury, then crosses a part

of Hampshire, and discharges itself into the English Channel. Thus, from the northern and middle parts of Wiltshire, streams are distributed to three different sides of the kingdom.

The chalk hills occupy, by their various ridges, a considerable part of the middle of this county; forming wide downs near Marlborough.—Below the middle, begins that extensive tract of open downs and heath, great part of which bears the name of *Salisbury Plain*; the most remarkable spot of the kind in England.

To the south of this vast plain, is a rich, well cultivated country, watered by the streams of the Willy, the Nadder, the Avon, and the Bourn, which unite in the neighbourhood of Salisbury.

The chief commodities of Wiltshire, are sheep, wool, wood, stone, and cheese, known by the name of North Wiltshire cheese; noted for its excellence. The manufactures chiefly consist of superfine broad-

*View in Stillwood Park.*







cloth, serges, and other thin cloths; with carpets, which are held in high estimation.

### *LITTLECOT PARK.*

A little beyond the sixty-sixth mile stone, a road branches off to the right. After passing through a gateway, we ascend a noble avenue, near two miles in length, dividing an extensive wood, chiefly consisting of oak.

Beyond this, we descend a spacious gravel-walk to Littlecot Park, the seat of Mrs. Popham, situated in a pleasant valley on the banks of the Kennet, about three miles from the Bath road.

This park is about four miles in circumference, elegantly adorned by groups of stately beech, and other kinds of trees.—A high hill, crowned with wood, rises boldly on the west, adding dignity to the scene, while it affords shelter to numerous herds

of fine deer, esteemed in this country to be of superior quality.

The house is large, and, like most other ancient buildings, stands in a bottom, on the south bank of the river, which washes the lower side of the park. On the north, the country is more open and cultivated, but badly furnished with wood, when compared with the opposite side of the vale.

Littlecot Park was noted for a pavement found there, in the year 1730, but destroyed in 1733; it is thus described by Professor Ward.

“ This pavement was forty-one feet by  
 “ thirty-three feet, and seemed to have  
 “ formed the floor of a temple. It con-  
 “ sisted of two parts, the templum and sa-  
 “ crarium, answering to the nave and chan-  
 “ cel of our churches. The outer part,  
 “ which was nearly square, had at bottom  
 “ a border, on the centre of which was a  
 “ large two-handled cup, supported by two  
 “ sea monsters with fishes tails, and behind

“ them two dolphins. At the other end  
“ was also a border, with a similar cup,  
“ supported by two tigers.

“ The floor of the sacrarium was a square  
“ inclosing a circle, and having semicircles,  
“ of various rich patterns, at three of its  
“ sides. In the centre, was Apollo playing  
“ on his harp; and in four surrounding  
“ compartments, four female figures, re-  
“ presenting the four seasons, mounted on  
“ four beasts. The first, holding a flower  
“ in her hand, and seated on a deer, might  
“ represent Spring; the second, on a pan-  
“ ther, and holding a swan, Summer; the  
“ third, resting on a branch, perhaps of a  
“ vine, rode on a bull, for Autumn; and the  
“ fourth, on a goat, held nothing in her  
“ hand, and represented Winter. The two  
“ first figures were naked to the waist; the  
“ two last cloathed.

“ This extraordinary pavement, the  
“ largest ever found in England, was dis-  
“ covered by Mr. William George, steward  
“ to Edward Popham, Esq. two feet under

“ ground. By him an exact drawing was  
 “ made from it, in its proper colours, and  
 “ afterwards engraved by Vertue, at the  
 “ expence of the Society of Antiquaries,  
 “ and Mr. Ward’s account of it annexed.”

*RAMESBURY, AND RAMESBURY  
 MANOR.*

From hence, following the course of the Kennet in a western direction, about three miles, we approach the village of Ramesbury; scattered along a declivity, on the north bank of the river.

Ramesbury has now little to recommend it beside the pleasantness of its situation. Formerly, it was noted for the see of the bishops whose diocese was this county; but, upon the union of this see with Shireburn, by Herman, the eighth bishop, and its removal to Salisbury, it carried off the consequence of this place, because at Ramesbury was neither a chapter of the clergy, nor maintenance for them.

About a mile further is Ramesbury Manor, the seat of Lady Jones, late of Sir William Jones. This is a handsome park, adorned by clumps of stately trees, with other wood, judiciously distributed.

The Kennet, which washes the southern quarter of it, is formed into a piece of water, exceedingly clear, and well supplied; the eastern extremity of it is terminated by a bridge of five arches, over which the high road passes; and the upper end is lost among plantations and groups of trees.

On the north, the grounds are high, and crowned with wood, extending in easy sloping lawns to the river. The house is a handsome building, with extensive offices, situate on the north border of the lake, partly screened from the sight by plantations: the whole forming a delightful residence.

Both sides of the vale, from Littlecot Park to Ramesbury, are fertile, and well supplied with wood; as is the district we

pass through, in returning from hence, to the great road.

### *FROXFIELD.*

Proceeding on our journey, we arrive at Froxfield, a long scattered village, on the Bath road, about two miles distant from Hungerford; remarkable for a noble almshouse, founded and endowed by Sarah Dutchess of Somerset; as appears from the following inscription, written on a marble tablet, over the gateway of the building.

#### INSCRIPTION.

Somerset Almshouse for twenty poor widows, founded and endowed by the right noble Sarah, late Dutchess of Somerset, deceased.

Built and settled, according to the will of the said Dutchess, by Sir William Gregory, Knight, one of the Justices of their Majesty's Court of King's Bench Compter, A. D. 1694, enlarged, for twenty more, in 1773, completing the will.



*Thaxfield?*





This edifice is of a quadrangular form, having a small chapel in the centre of the court: it contains separate, neat apartments, for all the pensioners. The yearly stipend to each was originally eight pounds, with clothing, an allowance for fire, and some advantage from the garden. By good management, that sum is now nearly doubled; which enables them to live in a very comfortable manner, and reflects infinite honour on those gentlemen to whose care the direction of this benevolent institution has been intrusted.—An example highly worthy of imitation.

A salary is allowed to a clergyman, who reads prayers every Wednesday and Friday, and preaches a sermon on the Sabbath.

Pursuing our journey from hence, high grounds, well cultivated, and sprinkled with wood, occupy both sides of the road for several miles.

*TOTTENHAM PARK, AND SE-  
VERNAKE FOREST.*

On the left, a little beyond the sixty-ninth mile stone, a noble avenue of oak diversified by clumps of stately beech, forming a magnificent approach, leads to Tottenham Park, a seat of the Earl of Aylesbury.

This estate was formerly the property of the Seymour family, from whom it came to Lord Bruce, by the marriage of Elizabeth Seymour, grand-daughter of William Duke of Somerset, with the Earl of Ailsbury, his grand uncle.

The beautiful genealogical table of this family, from the Conquest to the end of the last century, adorned with portraits and arms, is in the possession of the present proprietor; together with the horn mentioned by Camden, which hangs up in the library at Tottenham, and may be considered rather as a badge of office, than as an instrument of tenure.

Tottenham was anciently a manor of the Spencers; it was forfeited to the crown, and afterwards given by Edward III. to his son Edmund de Langley, whose son and grandson held it.

Adjoining to Tottenham is Severnake Forest, also the property of Lord Ailsbury; the only forest in this country in the possession of a subject, and can be equalled but by few of the royal domains, under that name.

This forest, with Tottenham Park, make a circuit of at least twelve miles. It is well supplied and beautifully decorated with wood, formed into noble avenues, eight of which meet in a spacious opening near the centre; a proper situation for an ornamental building.

It is abundantly stocked with fine deer, the numerous herds of which are to be seen without intermission, in every quarter of these extensive grounds, stamping this spot with a characteristic dignity not to be met with in a less magnificent territory.

The neighbouring farmers have a right

of pasturage on this forest ; whose various flocks, with their solitary shepherds, are frequently presented to view, wandering along its margins ; completing the rural scene.

Tottenham House is a regular, handsome structure, said to have been built under the direction of the late Earl of Burlington ; on the scite of one burnt by the parliament forces, during the civil wars.

Opposite to the north front, about two miles distant, stands a magnificent column ; on one side of the pedestal of which, is the following inscription :

This column was erected by Thomas Bruce, Earl of Ailesbury, as a testimony of gratitude to his ever-honoured uncle, Charles Earl of Ailsbury and Elgin, who left to him these estates, and procured for him the Barony of Tottenham :—And of loyalty to his most gracious Sovereign, George III. who, unsolicited, conferred on him the honour of Earldom.—But above all to Piety, to God, first, highest, best ; whose blessings conse-



St. Barbara's Fort.



crate every gift, and fixeth its true value.  
1781.

On the opposite side of the pedestal is written:

In commemoration of a signal instance, of Heaven's protecting providence over these kingdoms, in the year 1789, by restoring to perfect health, from a long and afflicting disorder, our excellent and beloved Sovereign, George III.

This tablet was inscribed by Thomas Bruce, Earl of Ailsbury.

The high road extends along the northern verge of this forest for several miles; a most delightful ride. After ascending a hill, and passing a handsome lodge at the extremity of it, we approach Marlborough, which suddenly presents itself to view, in descending a hollow way, cut through a chalk precipice.

## SECT. III.

*MARLBOROUGH.*

ABOUT sixty-five miles from the capital, stands this ancient town, extending along a declivity on the northern bank of the Kennet, surrounded by ridges of chalk hills; the spot where antiquaries place the *Cunetio* of *Antoninus*.—*Cunetio* was the original name of the Kennet; called by the Saxons *Ceyntan*.

The history, as well as the name, of this *Cunetio*, with every memorial of its antiquity, is lost, from the arrival of the Saxons, to the Normans. In the next century, John, surnamed Lackland, afterwards King of England, had a castle here, which, on his revolt from his brother Richard, was taken







*View of Marlborough.*

by storm, by Hubert, Archbishop of Canterbury; and in this castle a parliament was held, in the reign of Henry III.

This was a Roman station, and the scite of the old *Castrum*, extended afterwards by the Normans and Saxons, was by the Earl of Hertford converted into a house, which is now an elegant inn, at the western extremity of the town, and the keep is made use of as a mount for a summer-house. An angle of the fortifications is still visible near the garden wall, and Roman coins have been found near this spot.

Marlborough is a large town, principally comprised in one broad street. Its buildings are irregular; a mixture of the style and architecture of different centuries. Both sides of the street are chiefly occupied by shops, supported in front by columns forming piazzas, with a neat pavement underneath.

In the middle of the high-street is the market-house; an ancient building, of singular construction. Near to this, stands

St. Peter's Church, the square round of which, answers to the scite of a temple.

A little to the south, is the gate, and some other relicks, of a priory of white friars, founded in 1616. On the north, are some other remains of a religious house, supposed by Gough to be St. Margaret's Priory of Gilbertines, founded by King John.

Marlborough is an ancient borough by prescription; has two parish churches, St. Peter's, before mentioned, and St. Mary's, which stands near the west end of the town.

It is now governed by a mayor, two justices, twelve aldermen, two bailiffs, twenty-four burgesses, a town-clerk, and a serjeant at mace.

Anciently, the freemen, on their admission, presented to the mayor, two grey-hounds, two white capons, and a white bull; to which gift the arms of the corporation bear an allusion. A sum of money is now given in lieu thereof.

Market place Harborough.





There being little trade or manufactures carried on here, the town is chiefly supported by the advantage of being a great thoroughfare on the high western road, and by its market, which is well supplied with corn and cheese of excellent quality.

Marlborough gave title to James Ley, Lord High Treasurer of England, created 1, Charles I. He was succeeded by his son and grandson; which last was slain in a naval engagement against the Dutch in 1665, and leaving no issue, it then devolved to his uncle, William, who also died without issue.

In the year 1689, Lord John Churchill was advanced by King William and Queen Mary, to the dignity of Earl of Marlborough; and by Queen Anne, to that of Marquis of Blandford, and Duke of Marlborough. These titles were by act of parliament settled on the issue of the said Duke's daughters; and by the female line descended, in 1733, to Charles Spencer, the third son of the second daughter, Countess

of Sunderland; Charles was the first Duke of Marlborough of the Spencer family; from whom the title has lineally descended to the present noble Duke of that name.

Proceeding from Marlborough, and descending a hill, a short distance from the town, a great number of stones, in rude forms, vulgarly called the grey weathers, lie scattered irregularly, along the sides of a valley to the right of the road: they are exceedingly hard, and appear to be a species of granate. Beyond this, the road continues to sink towards the Kennet, leaving West Overton, a small village, on the left, beyond the river.

Before we arrive at the seventy-ninth mile stone, the road, by an ascent, enters the Downs, whose various chalky ridges occupy a considerable tract of country, on the south, the west, and the north. Here we pass between several clusters of huge stones, placed in semicircular forms, on each side of the road; such as are frequently to be met with in this neighbourhood.







*Albany Hill*

Hence, we descend, and pass through West Kennet, a small village, not far above which, the river of that name has its source. Proceeding a little farther, we approach Silbury Hill, a remarkable barrow, placed on the right, close to the high road.

### *SILBURY HILL.*

This is perhaps the largest monument of the kind in England. It is of a conical form, one hundred and seventy feet perpendicular, one hundred and five feet diameter at the top, and more than five hundred at its base; having a trench of considerable width round it, out of which the superstructure was dug.

In digging here in 1723, a human skeleton was found, bedded in chalk; which crumbled to pieces on touching. Near it, lay an old horse-bit, deers' horns, and an iron knife, with a bone handle.

Dr. Stukeley conjectures this to belong to some British King, probably named

Cunedha, or Conetodunus; who formed the magnificent Druidical temple at Abury.

Major Drax, in digging perpendicularly through this hill, in 1777, found only a rotten post, and a rusty knife.

There are many barrows of various kinds to be seen in different parts of these Downs, which Stukeley particularly describes, and, from their magnitude and shape, forms conjectures of the rank and dignity of the persons whose remains they cover, and to whose prowess they are raised as monuments.

Human bones have been found in many of these barrows; and skeletons, placed in rude coffins, formed of stones; with amber and glass beads, pieces of brass, spear heads, and bits of iron: sometimes urns, with ashes; brass trinkets, and weapons. Some skeletons, and burnt bones, without urns; and bones of horses, and other animals.—Near to this spot stands Abury, formerly a Druidical station; described in Gough's edition of Camden, as follows.

*ABURY, A MAGNIFICENT DRU-  
IDICAL TEMPLE.*

“ About a mile from Silbury Hill, is  
 “ Abury, a stupendous monument of Dru-  
 “ idism, first noticed by the inquisitive Mr.  
 “ Aubrey, and since accurately surveyed  
 “ and commented on by the indefatigable  
 “ Dr. Stukeley.

“ A village of that name being built  
 “ within its circuit, and out of its stones;  
 “ the gardens, orchards, and other in-  
 “ closures, have both disfigured and con-  
 “ cealed the great original plan.

“ The whole is environed with an im-  
 “ mense circular rampart, or terrace, of  
 “ earth, sixty feet broad; and a ditch with-  
 “ in it, of the same breadth.—The dia-  
 “ meter is one thousand four hundred feet,  
 “ the circumference four thousand eight  
 “ hundred feet, and the area inclosed twen-  
 “ ty-two acres; through the centre of which

“ runs the high road from Marlborough to  
“ Bath.

“ The first circle of stones within this  
“ area, is thirteen thousand feet diameter,  
“ and consists of one hundred stones, from  
“ fifteen to seventeen feet square, reduced  
“ 1722 to forty, of which only seventeen  
“ were standing; and about forty-three  
“ feet asunder, measuring from the centre  
“ of each stone.

“ Within this great circle, were two lesser,  
“ each consisting of two concentric circles,  
“ the outermost of thirty, the inner of  
“ twelve stones, of the same size, and at  
“ the same distance from each other as the  
“ others.

“ The southernmost of these circular  
“ temples, had a single stone in its centre,  
“ twenty-one feet high; the northernmost  
“ a cell or kebla, formed of three stones,  
“ placed with an obtuse angle, towards  
“ each opening to the north-east; before  
“ which lay the altar, as at Stonehenge.

“ Both these temples were almost entire

“ about the year 1716 : of the north temple  
 “ outer circle, only three stones remained  
 “ standing in 1723, and six down ; of the  
 “ south temple fourteen, half of them stand-  
 “ ing.

“ In the south end of the line connect-  
 “ ing the centres of these two temples, is  
 “ a middle-sized stone, with a hole in it ;  
 “ perhaps to fasten the victims to. Num-  
 “ bers of these stones have been broken by  
 “ burning, to build houses with ; and others  
 “ buried, to gain the ground they stood on,  
 “ for pasture.

“ The two original entrances to this stu-  
 “ pendous work, were from the south-east  
 “ and the west, and each had an avenue of  
 “ stones. The first of these, or Kennet  
 “ avenue, was a mile long, of one hundred  
 “ and ninety stones on a side, of which re-  
 “ mained seventy-two, in 1720, terminating  
 “ at Overton Hill, which overhangs the  
 “ town of West Kennet, and on which was  
 “ another double circle of forty, and eigh-  
 “ teen other stones.

“ This was called by the common people  
 “ the Sanctuary, and is described by Mr.  
 “ Aubrey, as a double circle of stones four  
 “ or five feet high; the diameter of the  
 “ outer circle forty yards, and of the inner  
 “ fifteen: many were fallen, and now there  
 “ is not one left.

“ He speaks of the walk leading to it, set  
 “ with large stones, of which he says one  
 “ side was nearly entire; the other side  
 “ wanted a great many.—He noticed only  
 “ one avenue from Abury to Overton Hill,  
 “ having no apprehension of the double  
 “ curve it makes; but he erred in saying  
 “ there was a circular ditch on Overton  
 “ Hill.

“ From the west side of Abury goes an-  
 “ other avenue to Beckhampton, of the  
 “ same length, and composed of the same  
 “ number of stones, of which scarce any  
 “ remain.

“ On the north of this avenue was *Long-*  
 “ *stones*; a cove of three stones, facing the  
 “ south-east; its back made of one of the



“ stones of the avenue. It stood on a little  
 “ eminence, and served as a chapel.

“ This stone, and another flat one, are  
 “ each sixteen feet high and broad, and three  
 “ and a half thick; the third carried off.  
 “ Aubrey calls these the *Devil's coits*.—  
 “ Not far from them is Longstone Long  
 “ Barrow.

“ Dr. Stukeley calculated the total num-  
 “ ber of stones, employed to form this stu-  
 “ pendous work of Druidism, with its ave-  
 “ nues, and Overton Temple, at six hun-  
 “ dred and fifty. He supposed that all toge-  
 “ ther, when entire, it represented the Deity  
 “ by a serpent and circle; the former re-  
 “ presented by the two avenues, Overton  
 “ Temple being its head; the latter, by the  
 “ great work within the Vallum at Abury.”

At present, there only remains a few  
 stones standing, of this once magnificent  
 and extraordinary monument of Druidical  
 architecture; so constructed, and of such  
 materials, as to warrant the supposition,  
 that neither the ravages of time, nor the

chance of incident, could so effectually have obliterated it, for many ages to come.

Windmill Hill, north of Abury, is encompassed with a circular trench, covered with barrows; in one of which Dr. Stukeley found an urn. The stones employed in all these works, from fifty to seventy tons weight, are the same as those at Stonehenge, brought from Marlborough Downs, where the country people call them *sarsens*, from a Phœnician word for a rock.

On the south side of the Kennet, and the east part of Martinsall Hill, on a precipice very steep on two sides, is a vast square stationary Roman camp, single trenched. A brass coin of Alex. Severus, rev. Jupiter Fulminans PM. TR. P. COS. and another of Constantine, have been found here. Not far from this, is a little round Danish camp. Full north from hence, upon Barbury Hill, which overlooks the north part of Wiltshire, we find another camp, called Barbury Castle, in the parish of Ogburn St. George; round, double trenched, the

inner ditch very deep, the ramparts high, the entrances, east and west, defended by half moons, the inner rampart at the west entrance retiring inwards a little, and the outer ditch at the east, turning round with a semicircular sweep.

This great fortification, the barrows in the adjoining plains, and the similitude of names, seem to point out this place, as the scene of the battle in which Cenric, King of the West Saxons, and his son Ceaulin, defeated the Britons, A. D. 556.

A little beyond Silbury, is Beckhampton, a scattered village: here the road to Bath, by the Devizes, branches off to the left; which shall hereafter be particularly noticed.

#### SINGULAR EFFECT OF A FOG.

At Beckhampton we again enter the Downs by a gradual ascent, along a ridge extending to near the eighty-fourth mile stone.

Passing this spot at an early hour in the morning, I was suddenly encompassed by a thick fog, which, for a considerable time, prevented my observations on the country; and I was left without any other amusement, than the confused, though agreeable bleatings of the numerous surrounding flocks, reverberated from the various ridges of these extensive Downs.

When the brightening rays of the sun began gradually to dispel the thick vapours which floated along the valleys, and hung upon the tops of the hills, a scene was on a sudden presented to view, that for a few seconds made me forget the spot I stood upon, and suppose myself transported to a different region.

The vapours now collected in the valleys, had the appearance of water, extending along the bases of the higher grounds. The shores were strongly defined; and I saw before me an exact representation of a sea coast, formed into bays and inlets.

At this time, the rays of the sun had not

*Singular effect of a fog on Buckingham Palace Downs.*





force enough to produce a brilliant effect in any part of the scene; a diffused tender light overspread the whole.—The surrounding ridges, though not high, being seen through a thick medium, were magnified into headlands and promontories; and the solitary shepherds, with their wandering flocks, seemed to descend from the sides of precipices in every quarter, completing the deception.

In a short space of time, the sun began to gild the tops of the hills, and brighten the face of the country; by degrees, the grandeur of the scene diminished, and every object assumed its real form. All the bays, promontories, and headlands, quickly disappeared, and I was again left on the barren waste of Beckhampton Downs.

The deception occasioned by vapour, can only be known to those who have had frequent opportunities of observing its various effects, and will hardly be credited by a person who has not had ocular demonstration.—I was impelled to make a sketch

of this fantastic scene, and have given a faithful representation of it in the annexed plate.

Proceeding on our journey, and passing the summit of the ridge along which the road winds, we descend into a flat, well cultivated country, leaving White Horse Hill, a little way from the road, on the left.

This hill has its name from the figure of a horse, in a walking attitude, hollowed out of the chalk, on its south-west face; asserted by Gough, to be an undoubted memorial of the signal victory obtained by Alfred over the Danes, near Eddington, in the year 878.

This figure is fifty-four feet from the toe to the chest, and to the tip of the ear, one hundred feet high, and from ear to tail, one hundred feet long, resembling that by which Alfred commemorated his victory over the Danes in Berkshire, eight years before; having then only acted as lieutenant to his brother Ethelred.



In the last battle, he was not only commander in chief, but King of England; his affairs were in a most critical situation, and the Danes masters of a great part of his kingdom.

This battle was fought near the village of Eddington, or Eddington, where the Danish army was encamped.—Alfred, with the utmost secrecy, concealed his intentions, and by rapid movements appeared in sight of their camp before they had any intelligence of his designs; immediately attacked them, and gained a complete victory.

The Danes however, defended themselves with great bravery; retreated to Bratton Castle, where they held out a siege of fourteen days, and obtained terms of capitulation, more favourable than they had reason to expect, in their reduced situation.

Gough supposes Bratton Castle to have been a fortification situate on the pinnacle of White Horse Hill, and describes it thus:

“ It is situate on the point of a high hill,

“ commanding all the country, and is double  
 “ ditched on the south and north sides, with  
 “ very deep trenches. It has two entrances  
 “ from the south-east to the plain, and  
 “ from the north-east to Eddington, both  
 “ guarded by a redoubt: on the west side  
 “ is a spring.

“ It is oval, three hundred and fifty paces  
 “ long, by near two hundred broad, and its  
 “ area twenty-three or twenty-four acres.  
 “ —Near the middle, is a large oblong bar-  
 “ row, sixty paces long; under which have  
 “ been found many human skulls, and bones,  
 “ mixed with stags’ horns, fragments of urns,  
 “ and pieces of iron weapons; and mill-  
 “ stones, like the modern Scotch quernes,  
 “ sixteen and eighteen inches diameter.

“ Under the south side, within the trenches,  
 “ is a circular mound of earth, made in the  
 “ last century, called the Table, with a kind  
 “ of horse-shoe in the centre. The soil of  
 “ this hill is chalk, abounding with pe-  
 “ trefactions, belemnites, spines of echini,  
 “ &c.”

*Compton House.*





Proceeding from the foot of the Downs, we leave the village of Cherhill to the right, built on a flat, surrounded by a rich cultivated country, well supplied with wood.

From hence, a road turns to the right, and leads to Compton House.

### *COMPTON HOUSE.*

This is a handsome white mansion, the seat of J. W. Henneage, Esq. situated about a mile and a half to the north-east of Calne. It stands pleasantly, on a sloping lawn, commanding a fine park, with extensive views towards the west; on the south, the town of Calne appears, Bowood forming the back-ground; and on the north, ridges of Downs rise to view.

The park is plentifully supplied with wood, and is adorned by groups of stately trees: it is surrounded by a rich and fertile country, producing corn in plenty, and excellent pasture for cattle.

A little beyond Cherhill, on the left of Cumerford Common, near the Bath road, stands Blacklands, the residence of — Maundrel, Esq. a handsome stone house, well sheltered with wood, and swelling downs form the back-ground on the south. Proceeding, we pass a small stream at the village of Cumerford, on which stand several cloth and corn mills; a little beyond which, we arrive at Calne.

## SECT. IV.

*CALNE.*

THIS is a neat, small town, situated on a stony hill, about eighty-seven miles from the metropolis. It is in general well built, and contains several handsome stone houses, particularly on the left, as we pass through it ; and on the right stands a handsome church, built of free-stone.

This town is remarkably well supplied with water, by the junction of two streams issuing from the foot of the Downs; the one at Cherhill, on the right hand of the London road ; the other, at a village called Calston, upon the left, where several streams may be seen gushing in a very beautiful manner from the side of the hill, and form-

ing a sufficient body of water to turn a corn mill, directly underneath: hence, taking the name of the river Marden, it supplies in its course to Calne, several cloth, corn, snuff, and paper mills.

At the entrance of the town stood lately, a number of very old shattered cottages, the appearance of which could not fail to impress the traveller with a more despicable idea of the place he was approaching, than it deserved.

By order of the Marquis of Lansdown, most of these miserable dwellings were pulled down, and small neat houses erected in their place; making most comfortable habitations for the poor.

Calne is a town of great antiquity; it was constituted a borough by Richard Earl of Cornwall, consisting of two stewards chosen yearly, and burgesses without limitation. It has sent members to parliament ever since the 26th Edward I.

This town probably arose out of the ruins of a Roman colony in the neighbour-



hood of Studley, where Roman coins have been frequently found. Here stood a palace of the Saxon kings. The name of Castle Field, given to the common field adjoining the town, and of Castle Street, leading thereto, prove that on this spot formerly was a castle, though no traces of it are now to be seen.

Upon the controversy between the monks and the priests, relating to the celibacy of the clergy, a grand council was held here, in the year 977. In the midst of the dispute, the floor of the council chamber, where the different orders were assembled, gave way, by which accident many were killed ; and only Dunstan, who presided at the council, and was on the side of the monks, escaped unhurt ; which miracle, as in that age it was accounted, is thought to have been the means of confirming the monkish law.

Calne contains nearly three thousand inhabitants; and considerable manufactures of broad-cloth, serges, and other thin woollen

cloths, are carried on in it; which furnish employment for the major part, and for a great number of children.

### *BOWOOD.*

About a quarter of a mile from Calne, upon this road, on the right hand, is seen the principal entrance to Bowood, from the London side.

After we pass the gate, advancing to the house, we leave upon the right hand Pinells, which was formerly an ancient seat of the family of the Blakes. It is now converted into a delightful farm, and may be said to make part of Bowood; having an uncommonly beautiful view from it, with the village and church of Bromhill, both very picturesque objects in front; the town of Calne upon the right; Chippenham, at the end of a rich valley, upon the left; and the river Marden in the bottom.

Bowood Park, properly so called, was formerly a royal park, and part of the

*Spencer*





jointure of Catharine Parr, widow of Henry VIII.—James the First, was said to have hunted there, at which time all the country on the left side of the turnpike from Bowood to Chippenham, was one actual forest, but was afterwards granted out in two equal divisions, one half to the ancestors of Lord Audley, and the other to the ancestors of Mr. Carey, an ancient Roman Catholic family in Devonshire; which last has been lately purchased by Mr. Montague of Lackham, about four miles distant.

Bowood was disparked in the time of Oliver Cromwell; and there is a tradition in the country, that the parliament commissioners being embarrassed how to convey the deer from Bowood to Spye Park, across Lookshill Heath, which separates them, the people of the country made two walls of broad cloth; which proves the manufacture to have been established in those parts, even in that early period.

It was finally granted for ever, to Sir

Orlando Bridgeman, Baronet, one of the favourites of Charles II. who employed Bridgeman, the fashionable gardener of that time, to lay it out for him; in whose plan may be traced some seeds of modern taste: but Sir Orlando dying insolvent, the late Earl of Shelburne bought it of his creditors.

The beauty of Bowood consists in its simplicity and extent; as the aim seems to have been to represent beautiful nature with nothing done to it. The prospect is terminated by a view of Marlborough Downs, which is a magnificent feature to the south, about four miles distant, and looks down upon the rich country of North Wiltshire.

These Downs are bounded on the right hand by Roundaway Hill; Oldbury Castle (before described) forms the boundary upon the left, with Calstone spring at the bottom, to which a very pleasant ride has been made by the Marquis of Lansdown, and from thence along the great Roman road, still distinctly visible, towards Beckhampton.

The house is more remarkable for its arrangement than its ornament. The late Lord added, at sixty feet distance, two long courts and offices, three hundred feet in front, to a house of eighty feet. The Marquis has joined the house and offices, and fronted and inclosed these courts with a colonnade, taken from a part of Dioclesian's palace at Spalatro, in Dalmatia.

The house within, with the additions from the offices, consists of three principal rooms, a large dining-parlour, drawing-room, and library; which last opens into a spacious green-house.

The rest is divided into a number of apartments; which are so contrived, as to leave the house itself entirely for the reception of company; the family apartments being quite separated, and having a private communication with a large kitchen garden, which by this means answers the purposes of retirement and shelter, when the weather is doubtful.

The pleasure-ground is interesting, on

account of the attempt made to unite the spaciousness of the old stile of gardening, with the variety of the new. Instead of narrow paths, and scanty openings, the walks are fifty or sixty feet wide, and the country naturally let in to a considerable extent. A mausoleum, where the remains of the late Earl of Shelburne are deposited, rising from the woods which skirt the grounds to the west; the steeple of Calne church, and a part of the town, the farmhouse of Pinnells, and the bold swell of the Downs, with the various Combs to the east, are the different objects which adorn and diversify the distant views.

Much attention is paid to the verdure, and keeping the walks in order, which are almost entirely laid out in grass, there being only a gravel path for the use of the ladies in wet weather. Care has been taken to avoid the modern practice of multiplying buildings in imitation of the antique; there being no seats, except what are absolutely necessary for shelter; and though these are



taken from the Herculaneum, yet they are without any kind of pretension. The only exception to this are, what we called the Rocks, which were designed by Mr. Hamilton of Painshill, from a picture of Nicholas Poussin, but were too formally executed: they are now, however, so covered with planting, that in a very few years they cannot fail of appearing very natural.—The inequality of the ground furnishes a great deal of variety; the park itself consisting of nine valleys, each of which has a character of its own, with more or less water running down it. One of these comes within the shrubbery, and two others bound it. In the largest of them, a piece of water has been made, which, from the variety of the ground, has the appearance of a river, and serves to unite and harmonize all the other parts, both of the park and pleasure-ground. In another of these valleys, where the menagerie now stands, there has been found a Roman pavement, with the remains of ancient baths, and other buildings;

of which no traces are to be met with in Camden, or other historians. A quantity of Roman coins have been found upon the opposite hill.

The park is laid out in rides, for the convenience of shelter against the different winds, as well as for prospect: and it may be curious to a planter to observe, that the mass of the wood has been planted since 1762; before which time there was nothing but coppice wood, with some standard-trees, chiefly pollards.

The road to Bath goes out at Derry Hill, where it is intended to erect a gateway, or some other large building, which the situation calls for, it being a knoll commanding a most extensive prospect, bounded by the Gloucestershire hills on the right hand, and the Somersetshire on the left.

If we take the turnpike road to Bath, the distance of that road through the park, is as nearly equal as possible. You pass through the town of Calne; at the further end of which a new turnpike branches off,

leading to Hillmarton, a manor belonging to the Dutchess of Beaufort; Lyneham, a manor of Mr. Heneage's; and Cricklads; from whence it divides on the right to Oxford, and on the left to Wooten Bassett.

Continuing the Bath road, we descend into a valley, leaving Pinnells on the left hand, and Bromhill upon the right, an extensive manor, belonging formerly to the ancient family of the Bayntuns, who made it their principal residence. It was sold to Mr. Stiles, and afterwards re-sold, with other large possessions in this country, in the Court of Chancery; where it was purchased by the family of Lord Lansdown, who has lately planted, and made some beautiful rides of several miles in extent about it.

### *SPYE PARK.*

Spye Park, the seat of Sir Edward Bayntun, Bart. is separated from the inclosures of Bowood by the old Bath road. It is about

eight miles in circumference; its situation is elevated, its grounds much varied, and most abundantly supplied with wood.

In descending a road which leads from the entrance near Bowood, we pass a deep and rugged ravine, lined with trees of various sorts; and by a winding road, cut through a wood, we approach the southern quarter of the park.

The wood which decorates this park, chiefly consists of oak and ash, with some elms; and among it are to be found more stately trees, of venerable aspect, than perhaps are to be seen in any other park in this part of the country; which, together with the appearance of its grounds, stamp this spot with the character of forest scenery; and so tenacious is the present proprietor of preserving his trees, that the axe is never laid to their roots, though many are fast decaying; and sapless, stag-headed trunks are to be seen in every quarter of this park.

The regard here shewn to these venerable tenants of the forest, though in this in-

stance perhaps carried to an extreme, is certainly laudable, and much more worthy of imitation, than the havock and devastation often committed by the injudicious application of that destructive instrument.

The house stands on the south-west verge of the park, overlooking an immense tract of country underneath. It is an ancient building; but the front next the park has been modernized, and is ornamented by a handsome portico.

From various parts of this park, extensive views are obtained towards the south, the south-east, and the south-west; Round-away Hill, with other ridges of downs, closing the horizon on the east.

On leaving Spye Park, we pass through an ancient stone lodge, which stands at its south-western extremity. Hence, proceeding towards Laycock, we descend a road, shaded by rows of stately beeches, on the right of which is a neat house, pleasantly situated, the residence of E. Dickenson, Esq. Beyond this, the road gradually sinks

into a flat, and crosses the Avon, near Laycock.

### LAYCOCK, OR LACOCK.

This is an ancient village, pleasantly situated in a flat, on the banks of the Avon. It was formerly a considerable place, particularly in the time of the Britons; and had a castle, built by Dunwallo, king of that people.

Close to this village, is Laycock Nunnery; described in Gough's edition of Camden, as follows:

“ Laycock Nunnery has one of the most  
 “ entire cloisters of any private religious  
 “ house in England. The infirmary, chap-  
 “ ter-house, treasury, a stone tower, with  
 “ its chapel and kitchen, were entire in the  
 “ year 1722. Its revenues were 108l. per  
 “ annum.

“ Mr. Talbot possessed the scite by in-  
 “ heritance from Sir Henry Sherington, to  
 “ whom it was granted by Henry VIII.

“ William Davenport, Esq. took the  
 “ name and arms of Talbot, 1778. The  
 “ foundress, widow of William Longspe,  
 “ Earl of Sarum, her second son, Canon of  
 “ Salisbury, and third son, Stephen, Earl of  
 “ Ulster, and Justice of Ireland, were buried  
 “ in the choir. Leland mentions a field by  
 “ Laycock, called Silverfield, where many  
 “ Roman coins have been found.”

This ancient building is now converted into a dwelling-house, the residence of the Countess Dowager of Shrewsbury, and I am informed contains a good collection of pictures. The north and east fronts, with the cloisters, tower, &c. mentioned by Gough, are still remaining. The southern front is modern, and built in a style corresponding with the other parts of the edifice.

Before I close this account of Laycock, for the sake of further elucidation respecting the possession of it in the Shrewsbury family, it may be proper to mention, that it is derived from the marriage of John Talbot, of Salwarp, in Worcestershire, Esq.

about the middle of the sixteenth century, with Olivia, daughter of Sir William Sherington, of this place.

From hence we again return to the Bath road.

As we proceed, leaving Bowood upon our left, we pass by an old house, about which grow some venerable trees, late the residence of Mr. Brown, an ancient gentleman-farmer, whose family has lately succeeded to the estate of Mr. Angel. The latter left his property to his nearest of kin, which, after some litigation, Mr. Brown proved himself to be, and changed his name in consequence.

We next come to a white gate, leading to where Studley House stood, the last residence of the great and ancient family of the Hungerfords in this country, who removed hither from a very ancient family seat at Cadenham, about four miles distant. It has been lately pulled down, and the grounds about it made a communication between Bowood and Bromhill.



About a quarter of a mile further, we leave Studley upon the right, the undoubted scite of a Roman colony ; a situation which, though now occupied by some very poor cottages, carries the appearance of health and cheerfulness.—About a mile beyond this, we leave upon our left hand, the entrance from Bath to Bowood, and descending Derry Hill, proceed to Chippenham ; about half way to which, at a little distance to the right, was Studley Abbey, formerly a monastery of Cistercian monks : it is now a farm-house, part of an estate extending to Chippenham, belonging to Sir Edward Bayntun, Baronet ; who removed the gateway of the abbey, which was given by Queen Mary, to Spye Park ; where it forms the entrance from Bath by the Sandy-Lane road.

## SECT. V.

*CHIPPENHAM.*

CHIPPENHAM is a large market-town, ninety-three miles from London, pleasantly situated on the banks of the Avon. It is populous and well built. The church is an elegant structure, said to have been erected by some of the Hungerford family, whose arms are to be seen on various parts thereof.

This was the seat of several of the Saxon kings, and bequeathed by Alfred to one of his daughters.

The Danes fled twice, from the victorious arms of Alfred, to this place, where they committed great ravages; but gave it up to him in the year 879. It was an ancient borough by prescription, and Queen Mary



View in Philadelphia



granted it a charter, constituting it a corporation, with a bailiff, and twelve burgesses.

The town is divided by the Avon, over which stands a low bridge of sixteen arches.—Here are some manufactures of woollen cloth; which, together with the market, are its chief support.—Dr. Scott, the author of that incomparable work, his *Christian Life*, was born here.

### *DRAICOT HOUSE.*

About three miles and a half from Chippenham, near to the Oxford road, is Draicot House, the seat of Sir J. T. Long, Baronet. It is a handsome building, pleasantly situated near the village of that name, on the bank of a piece of water, which is supplied by a clear running stream. It stands in the southern quarter of a fine park, most abundantly furnished with wood, and adorned with elegant groups of trees, consisting chiefly of venerable oaks, stately beeches, and elms.

A hill rises boldly on its northern side, crowned with wood, sloping to the centre of the park; and its other grounds are pleasantly varied, and well laid out. The parish church, a small neat building, stands close to the principal front of the house, and partly intercepts the view of it from the southern side of the park.

Dr. Buckeridge, Bishop of Rochester and Ely, who died in 1631, was born here.— Mr. Aubrey, in his distresses, found a particular friend in Lady Long; and was going to Draicot, when death overtook him at Oxford, about the year 1700; after having spent the earlier part of life in the illustration of British antiquities, and of those of this country in particular, of which he was a native.

After leaving Chippenham, we pass through a pleasant district of country, a mixture of cultivation and grass fields. Before we arrive at the ninety-fifth mile stone, the road ascends a hill, and winds along its northern side; beyond this, by an easy

*Portrait of House.*







ascent, we approach Corsham, leaving a beautiful grass vale, adorned with wood, on the right.

### *CORSHAM.*

Cosham, or Corsham is a small neat town, standing on a flat, in a dry, healthy situation, near the Bath road. It is of great antiquity. Ethelred, the Saxon king, had a palace here, and it was the seat of several of the Earls of Cornwall; one of whom, Earl Edmund, obtained a charter for its market, which, though long disused, is now attempted to be restored; and a neat market-house has been erected, at the expence of Paul Methuen, Esq. lord of the manor. The town of Corsham likewise enjoys many other privileges, derived by the inhabitants from the grants of Richard Earl of Cornwall, Earl Edmund's predecessor.—The houses are of stone, in general, well built, and a handsome church stands on its western side; adjoining to which is Corsham House.

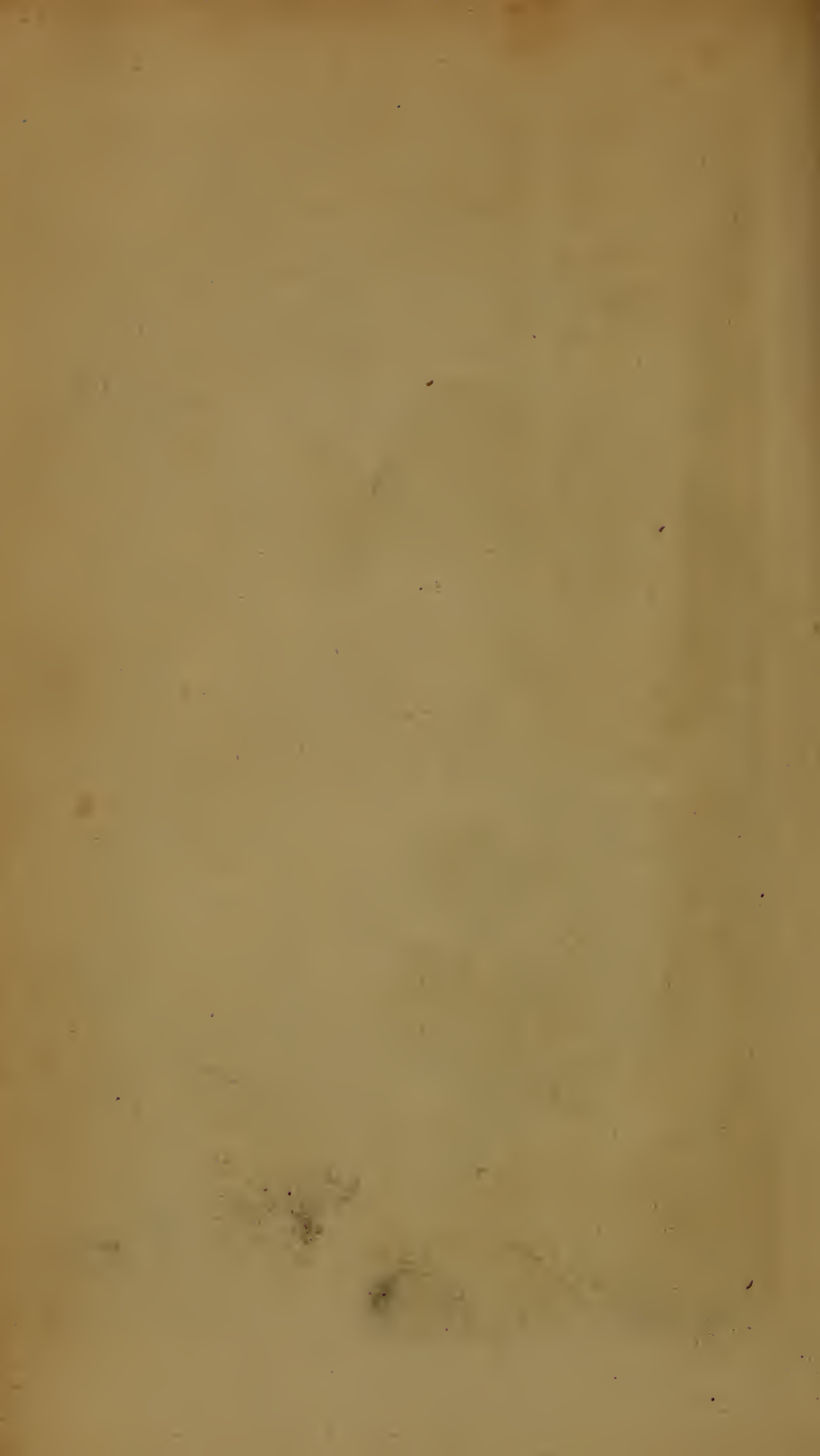
*CORSHAM HOUSE,*

The seat of Paul Methuen, Esq. is a stately, stone mansion. It stands in a fine park, close to the eastern side of the town, and seems to have been built at different periods, the southern and eastern fronts being the most modern parts of it: the views from the latter, are particularly pleasing. The pleasure-grounds were laid out by Mr. Brown; and the great-room, and drawing-room, to the east, were added about the same time.

This house is at present, the repository of the principal pictures of that well-known capital collection of the late Right Honourable Sir Paul Methuen, Knight of the Bath, and were removed from his house in Grosvenor Street, soon after they came into Mr. Methuen's possession. A small part of this invaluable collection of pictures still remains, as we have been in-

*Barham House.*





formed, in Mr. Methuen's house, in Grosvenor Street.

This place, as well as the adjoining town, is of great antiquity; and is thus mentioned in Gough's Camden, from the authority of Leland :

“ Cosham, a good uplandish town, where  
 “ the ruins of an old manor-place, and  
 “ thereby a park, wont to be the dower to  
 “ the Queens of England. Mr. Baynton,  
 “ in Queen Anne's days, pulled down by  
 “ licence, a piece of this house, somewhat  
 “ to help his buildings at Bromham. Old  
 “ Mr. Bonhomme told me, that Cosham  
 “ appertained to the Earldom of Cornwall,  
 “ and that Cosham was a mansion-place  
 “ belonging to it, where they sometimes  
 “ lay. All the men of this townlet were  
 “ bond, so that upon a time one of the  
 “ Earls of Cornwall hearing them secretly  
 “ lament their fate, manumitted them for  
 “ money, and gave them the lordship of  
 “ Cosham in copyhold, to pay a chief  
 “ rent.”

Having again returned from Corsham, and proceeding on our journey, before we arrive at Pickwick the road separates; one branch of it passes through that village, the other along a descent, a little to the right.

### *HARTHAM PARK.*

A little beyond the ninety-seventh mile stone, a road branches off to the right, which leads to Hartham Park, a seat of Lady James, conspicuously situated beyond a valley, about half a mile from the Bath road.

This estate, a very ancient residence of the ancestors of Edward Goddard, Esq. is now the property of Lady James, one of his co-heiresses, by whom great improvements are making. The house has been totally altered, and now assumes the appearance of a handsome modern structure.

From the eminence on which this mansion stands, the grounds in various decli-



*Washington Park*





vities slope to a rich vale beautifully adorned with wood, which in a noble sweep encircles its southern front, expanding as it stretches northward.

On the south, and to the east, the hills are decorated with wood, and agreeably diversified by farms and cottages.

The grounds around the house are laying out, and a new road judiciously designed, forming a pleasant approach to it, has been made through the park. An elegant green-house, and other additional buildings; with many other improvements, are in contemplation; and from the known liberality and distinguished taste of the proprietor, we may presume that in a short time, Hartham Park will be converted into a most desirable and elegant residence.

Having again returned to the high road, the country becomes more open and barren; a small part of it only is inclosed with walls of loose stones, heaped on one another, without mortar.

From the ninety-ninth mile stone, the

road winds along the ridge of a hill, and by a deep descent leads towards Box, leaving the village of Colerne on the right beyond the valley, which, from its very elevated situation, somewhat resembles an Italian village.

On descending along the declivity of a steep hill, as we approach Box, we command prospects down a rich and well-cultivated valley, through which a rivulet flows; the high ground on the left becomes more lofty, and in its face appear many quarries of beautiful white free-stone, of the same quality with that generally known by the name of Bath-stone.

### *BOX.*

This is a neat village, situated at the foot of a hill, part of that ridge of high grounds which form the south side of the vale we have mentioned. It stands about one hundred and one miles from London, and six

View of Br...





from Bath. The houses are well built, and a small neat church, with a spire, occupies a place on its northern side.

Beyond this village, a steep descent brings us lower into the valley; and upon an eminence on the right, about a mile from it, stands a handsome house, with wings, the residence of Mr. Wiltshire; who here enjoys, with his amiable family, the fruits of a long series of honest industry and perseverance; having raised himself to his present state of ease, affluence, and respectability, from one of the lowest situations in life,—from the driver, to being proprietor of the Bath and Bristol waggons.

Proceeding, we pass through a beautiful country, diversified by farms, cottages, cultivated land, and grass inclosures; and the declivities of the hills, on both sides, are richly decorated with wood.

From hence, the road gradually sinks into a bottom; where we cross the rivulet which a little beyond this spot falls into the Avon, at Bath Ford.

Having again approached the Avon, we pass along its northern bank through Bath-easton; which, together with Walcot, may be considered as the suburbs of Bath; being joined to it by one continued chain of buildings.

At Bath-easton, on the right, close to the road, stands a handsome mansion, with gardens, the property and temporary residence of Sir John Miller, Baronet.—The entrance to it is adorned by noble cedars, of extraordinary growth and beauty; and it is sheltered on the north by high grounds decorated with wood.

As we approach Bath, delightful prospects are presented to view. To the west we discern this elegant city, with its towering buildings; on the left, we see high ground crowned with wood, being part of that chain of hills which forms the south and south-western sides of the beautiful valley through which the Avon flows. On the east lies the rich valley we have passed through; and a high ridge, boldly stretch-

*Valley beyond (Bar?)*







ing towards the west, affords protection on the north.

Having already observed, that a road to Bath by the Devizes, branched off at Beckhampton, it will be proper, before I make any observations on the city of Bath, or the county in which it stands, to turn back, and describe the beauties of that road: they will be found in the following Section.

## SECT. VI.

*ROAD FROM BECKHAMPTON TO  
BATH, BY THE DEVIZES.*

FROM Beckhampton, the road winds along the eastern verge of that tract of downs, which separates it from the Chippenham road.

It runs on different levels, leaving wide downs on the right, and a large district of open cultivated country to the east.

A little beyond the eighty-fourth mile stone, the road to the Devizes turns off in a south-western direction, from the old Bath road. At this spot we cross Wansdike; and many knolls of earth, with visible marks of entrenchments, are to be found hereabout.

Near the eighty-sixth mile stone, we pass

Bishops Cannings, a neat village, standing on the left, at the foot of the downs, from whence, a large district of well-cultivated country extends southward. Here is a church, with a tower and high spire, which produces an agreeable effect, when viewed from the several declivities of these downs.—From hence we ascend, and proceed to the Devizes, leaving Roundaway Hill on the right.

*WANSDIKE ROMAN WAY, &c.*

Having before noticed, only in general terms, the Roman road which passes through Marlborough, by Beckhampton to Bath, we are now to observe, that near to it lies Wansdike, another stupendous monument of antiquity, which, together with many other ancient works, render this part of the country particularly interesting, and a more minute account of it necessary.

The Roman way from Marlborough passes along the north side of the Kennet,

in the lower grounds, to Overton, Silbury, and on the outside of Abury. It enters the Downs on the south of Beckhampton; and when it has gained the summit of the hill, leaves Oldbury Castle a little to the north. It then proceeds across another valley, and over Roundaway Hill; passes the Avon at Laycock, and extends southwards to Haselbury. It then descends for two miles, till it meets the *Fossway*, over against Bath Ford; then twines round the bend of the river by Walcot, to Bath.

Roundaway, or Runway Hill, is the most elevated and conspicuous ridge of these downs. From its summit, unlimited prospects are obtained on every quarter.—Looking towards Marlborough, we see Wansdike passing two miles south of that town, upon the northern verge of the great ridge of hills dividing North and South Wiltshire, till it descends St. Ann's Hill, making several right angles along the edges of the other hills, then mounts to the summit of the hill abovementioned, *on which we stand*;

on the north side whereof the Roman road winds in various curvatures, and unites with the Wansdike.

From hence, the Wansdike passes through Spye Park, by Ditch Bridge, to the Shire Stones, at the division between Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, and Somersetshire.

A notion once prevailed with some of our antiquaries, that the Wansdike was cast up by the Saxons, as a limit of the West Saxon and Mercian kingdoms; but Stukeley (from whose authority my account is given) is of opinion, that it was in being before the time of the Romans. The very name is British, and signifies the *Division Dike*, and was doubtless one of the boundaries of the Belgic kingdom.

### *BATTLE OF ROUNDWAY HILL.*

Roundaway Hill is rendered famous by a battle fought here, on the 13th of July, 1648, between the royal army, and the

parliament forces, commanded by Sir William Waller.

The town of Devizes, where the King's little army lay, was besieged, and the troops hemmed in on all quarters by a very superior force, so as to render it impracticable for them to retreat, or to join their friends near Oxford. It was therefore resolved, that the Marquis of Hertford and Prince Maurice should that night force their way through the enemy with all the horse, and join the King; and that Sir Ralph Hopton, with the Earl of Marlborough, who was general of the artillery, the Lord Mahone, and other distinguished officers, should remain there with the foot.—This resolution was immediately carried into execution, and the same night all the horse got safe into the King's quarters; and the Prince and the Marquis in the morning came to Oxford.

Sir William Waller at this time having intelligence that the Earl of Crawford was marching with a supply of powder, sent a

strong party of horse and foot to intercept him; and before the Earl knew of the alterations which had taken place, by the removal of the horse to Oxford, he was so far engaged with the enemy, that he with difficulty escaped, after losing his ammunition, and a troop or two of his horse.

Upon this success, Sir William Waller being confident of carrying the town, summoned it immediately to surrender, offering certain conditions. The besieged were not sorry for this overture: not that they thought of accepting any terms, but merely to gain time for a few hours rest, of which the whole garrison stood in the utmost need.

In the mean time, the importance of redeeming this small army was too well understood by the King, to omit any thing that could be done. To effect that purpose, his Majesty ordered all the horse, except his own guards and Prince Rupert's regiment, to march that very day, under the command of Lord Wilmot, Prince Mau-

rice returning with them as a volunteer ; and on the next day, about noon, they appeared on the plain, within two miles of the town.

The country being here level, the Lord Wilmot was in hopes, when the enemy should rise from before the town, that he could, in defiance of them, be able to join the foot. Sir William Waller, suspecting this design, drew off his forces from every part of the town, and formed them in order of battle on Roundaway Down, two miles from it ; over which the King's troops were necessarily obliged to march.

It is easy to be conceived with what alacrity the besieged marched forward to meet their friends ; but the post taken by the enemy rendered the intended junction impracticable. Being thus circumstanced, the Lord Wilmot was under the necessity of forming his little army to receive the charge of the enemy, who had advanced upon him to within a little more than musquet shot.

The parliament army was drawn up in



excellent order, with strong wings of horse, a body of reserve, and cannon well planted.—Sir William still apprehending a junction between the horse and foot from the town, and in contempt of the inferiority of the enemy, injudiciously marched with his whole body of cavalry away from the foot, to charge them; appointing Sir Arthur Haslerig, with his cuirassiers, apart, to make the first impression.—He was encountered by Sir John Byron; and, after a short conflict, that supposed impenetrable regiment was routed, and in confusion beat back upon the other horse. At this time, the Lord Wilmot charged them from division to division with such effect, that in half an hour the whole body of triumphant horse were so routed and dispersed, that there was not one of them to be seen on that spacious down.

The foot still stood firm, making a show of resistance; but the Lord Wilmot quickly seized their cannon, and turned them upon them. The Cornish foot from the town

having by this time joined them, the enemy were charged on all sides, and totally routed.

In this signal victory, six hundred of the enemy were killed on the spot, and nine hundred taken prisoners. All their cannon, camp equipage, arms, ammunition, and provisions, fell into the hands of Lord Wilmot's party. Their army consisted of full two thousand horse, five hundred dragoons, and near three thousand foot, with a fine train of artillery; that under the command of the Lord Wilmot mustered only fifteen hundred horse, and had but two small field-pieces. Sir William Waller, with a small party, fled to Bristol, and in melancholy mood brought the news of his own defeat.

Roundaway Castle, where Sir William Waller encamped on this occasion, by Mr. Aubrey's account of it, is one hundred and forty paces long on the south side, on the north one hundred and sixty, on the west thirty-seven, and on the east one hun-

dred and fifty. It has two entrances on the east, and one on the west; and the tumps at the angles are higher and bigger than the rest of the rampart.

Oldbury Castle, on Cherhill Down; a great, rude, square camp, with double works, seems to be its antagonist. Dr. Stukeley, who has engraved a plan of this great and strong Roman camp, as he styles it, says it was but slightly fortified on the north and west, where the steepness of the hill rendered it inaccessible; but on the other two sides it is double ditched, having but one entrance, which is to the east, and fortified with a return of the outer ditch and inner rampart.

On a hill at Stert Wood, near the Devizes, Mr. Aubrey places a grand treble work, and mentions also a camp at Rybury, on St. Ann's Hill, which lies north-east of that town, and a small Roman camp above Alton.

Edington, or Hedington, appears to have been a Roman station, by foundations of

houses dug up for a mile together, and many silver and copper imperial coins found there: some of which are in the Ashmolean museum, and others in that of the Royal Society.

### DEVIZES.

This is an ancient town, eighty-nine miles distant from London, and twenty-four from Salisbury; respecting the name and origin of which there have been various opinions.

It is called by Mathew of Westminster *Visæ*, by Leland the *Vies*, and supposed to have taken its name from the division of it between the King and the Bishop of Salisbury; or, as Dr. Stukeley fancies, from the last syllable of the Roman name *Punctuobice*.

Whether it was built by Dunwallo, or possessed by the Romans before his time, is uncertain: the camp on the edge of Roundaway Hill before described, the great

*Town House & Market Place at the Downs.*





number of coins, and other Roman antiquities, found in this neighbourhood, favour the latter supposition.

Here stood a strong castle, no remains of which are now to be seen.—Dr. Walker, in his notes on Spelman's *Life of Alfred*, on the authority of tradition, ascribes the castle of Devizes to him; but the earliest account we have of it from history is, that it was the work of Roger, Bishop of Sarum.

It was said to be the most splendid castle in Europe; and Robert Fitz-Hubert, who possessed himself of it in the war between Stephen and Maud, boasted that by its means he could be master of all the country between London and Winchester: but he was soon surprised and executed; the government of it was given successively to some of the first nobility; and here Hubert de Burgh was confined in the reign of Henry III.

Leland gives the following account of this castle:

“ That it stood on the south-west side of

“ the town, stately advanced on a high  
 “ ground, defended partly by nature, partly  
 “ by dikes. It was made by Bishop Ro-  
 “ ger; and such a piece of castle-work,  
 “ so costly and strongly, was never afore  
 “ nor since set up by any bishop of Eng-  
 “ land. The keep, or dungeon, on an  
 “ hill cast up by hand, is a piece of work  
 “ of incredible cost: there appeared on the  
 “ gate six or seven places for portcullises,  
 “ and much goodly building was in it.

“ It was then ruined; part of the front of  
 “ the towers of the gate of the keep and  
 “ chapel in it was carried, full unprofitably,  
 “ to build Mr. Baynton’s place, at Brom-  
 “ ham, scarce three miles off; and divers  
 “ goodly towers in the outer wall were  
 “ going to ruin; the principal, leading into  
 “ the town, was yet of great strength.”

The present town is large and popu-  
 lous; has two churches, one of which stands  
 on a pleasant green, on the right as we en-  
 ter it.

The corporation, by charter of Charles I.



consists of a mayor, recorder, eleven masters, and thirty-six common council. The inhabitants value themselves on being tenants to the king, and boast of having one of the best markets in England, for corn, wool, horses, and all kinds of cattle. The manufactures are, kerseymere, and other fancy works, druggets, and various kinds of woollen cloths. The buildings in general are ancient, and many of them constructed of wood. The principal street is spacious; and a handsome town-hall and market-house, distinct buildings, are situated near its centre.

About two miles on the east, Roundaway Down rises in a noble ridge, stretching north-westward, and seems to overhang the town; and on the other quarters lie cultivated land and grass inclosures, diversified with wood.

*NEW PARK.*

Scarce a mile from the Devizes is New Park, the seat of James Sutton, Esq. Here stands an elegant stone mansion, of the Ionic order, with wings, designed by, and built under the direction of Mr. James Wyatt, to whose taste it does great credit. This house stands on elevated ground, which gradually slopes towards the south-west, and on the north-west lies a deep valley, decorated with wood; beyond which rises Roundaway Down, forming a noble background. On the south, the towers of the Devizes appear; and to the south-west, more distant prospects are obtained. The grounds around the house are neat, but do not abound with wood; and what they possess is of late growth.

*STOKE PARK.*

About three miles to the south of the Bath road, near the village of Seend, lies

O. Foster & H. W. ...





Stoke Park, the seat of Joshua Smith, Esq. late of Mr. Delme. It stands in the district of Edington, and is about two miles distant from the village of that name.

By the present proprietor, the old house, which stood in a low, damp situation, was pulled down; and an elegant new mansion, of Grecian architecture, has been erected on a more elevated situation, near the southern verge of the park, from a design and under the direction of Mr. Stewart, of London.

This structure, with its offices, extends from east to west, three hundred and fifty-five feet. The southern front is a composition of different orders of architecture, and the entrance is by a neat Doric colonnade, between two recessed Venetian windows two stories high, composed of the Ionic and Corinthian orders.

The northern elevation, which fronts the park, is adorned by Ionic pilasters, with antique capitals; and the wings are of the Doric order.

The principal floor consists of a hall or saloon, forty feet by thirty-one, decorated by a screen of columns. On the right is the drawing-room, thirty feet by twenty-four; and a dining-room, thirty-six feet by twenty-four. On the north is a library, forty feet by twenty-six; and on the west a dressing-room, with circular ends, twenty-six feet by sixteen.

The bedchamber story contains eight bedchambers, and four dressing-rooms; the Attic story twelve bedchambers, encircling a neat gallery formed by two heights of columns, and receiving light from a sky-light in the centre.

This structure is just completed; and through the whole, there is a happy disposition of parts; and elegance is united with convenience.

The grounds which compose this park are bold, and from the southern side fall in steep shelving banks to the margin of a handsome piece of water, which encircles the northern and western sides of the house.

This is supplied by a clear stream, which rises under a hill on the south-west, and flows through a narrow ravine, with steep rugged banks, decorated with various kinds of wood, expanding as it extends northward; then bending to the east, it falls over a cascade into the lower water.

Stoke Park abounds with wood, and is ornamented by a profusion of stately trees. On the south-west, a hollow way leads to the village of Stoke, and separates the park from the high grounds on the opposite side of the vale, which form the boundary of Salisbury Plain.

From the lawn before the southern front of the house, a communication is formed with the opposite hill, by an arch thrown over a hollow way (which leads to the village of Stoke), so elevated as to admit carriages of any kind to pass freely under it.

The laying out of the grounds, forming the water, and other similar works, have been judiciously executed under the direc-

tion of Mr. Eams; and the house is amply supplied with water by a very small engine, constructed by the ingenious Messrs. Braithwaits, of London.

Being now on the verge of Salisbury Plain, the most extensive and extraordinary spot of the kind in England, which has so much attracted the observation of the curious, I cannot here pass it unnoticed, though it rather goes beyond my prescribed limits.

Over these wilds, stretching far beyond the reach of sight, wander vast flocks of sheep, with their solitary shepherds; the sole tenants of the plain, except the bustard, the wheatear, and a few other lovers of the desert.

The soil of this uncultivated waste is said to be good, producing wild burnet; and fine grasses, excellent for sheep. Its edges are fertilized by folding the flocks upon the land when ploughed, and yield abundant crops of rye, barley, and wheat.—Ruins of Roman, Saxon, and Danish monuments, lie scattered through these districts; among







which the famed *Stonehenge* rises the most distinguished.

Dyer, in his enumeration of the spots peculiarly adapted to sheep, gives a striking sketch of this plain, and its great relic:

—————Such the spacious plain  
Of Sarum, spread like ocean's boundless round;  
Where solitary Stonehenge, grey with moss,  
Ruin of ages, nods. FLEECE.

### STONEHENGE.

Stonehenge has exercised the conjectures of no less than eight writers, since Camden. By whom it was built, or for what purposes, our antiquaries widely differ in opinion.

In the Itinerary of Leland it is not mentioned. Inigo Jones, full of architectural ideas, conceived it to be a Tuscan temple of Cœlum, or Terminus, built by the Romans. His son-in-law, Charleton, contended for its being Danish.—Mr. Aubrey was the first who supposed it to be a

Druidical temple ; with this idea Mr. Toland concurred. Dr. Stukeley by accurate admeasurements confirmed it ; and Mr. Wood of Bath supported this opinion.

The following accurate description of this stupendous work, as given by Gough, I presume cannot fail of being gratifying to the reader.

“ Stonehenge stands in the middle of a  
“ fine flat area, near the summit of a hill,  
“ and is inclosed with a circular double  
“ bank and ditch, near thirty feet broad,  
“ the vallum inwards ; after crossing which,  
“ we ascend thirty yards before we reach  
“ the work.

“ The whole forms a circle of about one  
“ hundred and eight feet diameter, from  
“ out to out, consisting, when entire, of  
“ sixty stones, thirty upright, and thirty  
“ imposts ; of which remain only twenty-  
“ four upright, seventeen standing, and se-  
“ ven down, three feet and a half asunder,  
“ and eight imposts.

“ Eleven uprights have their five imposts

“ on them by the grand entrance. These  
“ stones are from thirteen to twenty feet  
“ high. The lesser circle is somewhat more  
“ than eight feet from the inside of the  
“ outer one, and consisted of forty lesser  
“ stones (the highest six feet), of which only  
“ nineteen remain, and only eleven stand-  
“ ing: the walk between these two circles  
“ is three hundred feet in circumference.  
“ The adytum or cell is an oval, formed of  
“ ten stones (from sixteen to twenty-two  
“ feet high), in pairs, with imposts, which  
“ Dr. Stukeley calls trilithons, and above  
“ thirty feet high, rising in height as they  
“ go round, and each pair separate, and not  
“ connected as the outer pair, the highest  
“ eight feet.—Within these are nineteen  
“ more smaller stones, of which only six  
“ are standing. At the upper end of the  
“ adytum is the altar, a large slab of blue  
“ coarse marble, twenty inches thick, six-  
“ teen feet long, and four broad; pressed  
“ down by the weight of the vast stones  
“ that have fallen upon it. The whole

“ number of stones, uprights, imposts, and  
 “ altar, is exactly one hundred and forty.

“ The stones are far from being arti-  
 “ ficial, but were most probably brought  
 “ from those called the Grey Weathers, on  
 “ Marlborough Downs, fifteen or sixteen  
 “ miles off; and if tried with a tool, they  
 “ appear of the same hardness, grain, and  
 “ colour, generally redish.—The heads of  
 “ oxen, deer, and other beasts, have been  
 “ found in digging in and about Stone-  
 “ henge; but the human bones our author  
 “ speaks of, only in the circumjacent bar-  
 “ rows.

“ Dr. Stukeley, in 1723, dug on the in-  
 “ side of the altar, to a bed of solid chalk,  
 “ mixed with flints.—In the reign of Henry  
 “ VIII. was found here, a plate of tin, in-  
 “ scribed with many letters, but in so strange  
 “ a character, that neither Sir Thomas El-  
 “ liot, a learned antiquary, nor Mr. Lilly,  
 “ master of St. Paul’s school, could make  
 “ them out. This plate, to the great loss  
 “ of the learned world, was soon after lost.

“ Two stone pillars appear at the foot of  
 “ the bank next the area in which the build-  
 “ ing stands ; and those are answered by two  
 “ spherical pits, at the foot of the said bank ;  
 “ one with a single bank of earth about it,  
 “ and the other with a double bank, sepa-  
 “ rated by a ditch.

“ There are three entrances from the  
 “ plain to the structure, the most consi-  
 “ derable of which is from the north-east ;  
 “ and at each of them were raised, on the  
 “ outside of the trench, two huge stones,  
 “ with two smaller within, parallel to them.

“ The avenue to Stonehenge was first ob-  
 “ served by Mr. Aubrey. Dr. Stukeley  
 “ found that it had extended more than one  
 “ thousand seven hundred feet down to  
 “ the bottom of the valley, and was raised  
 “ a little above the downs, between two  
 “ ditches.—At the bottom, it turns off to  
 “ the right, or east, with a circular sweep,  
 “ and then in a straight line goes up the hill  
 “ between two groups of seven barrows  
 “ each, called the Kings Graves. The other

“ branch points north-west, and enters the  
 “ Cursus.

“ This is half a mile north from Stone-  
 “ henge, ten thousand feet, or two miles  
 “ long, inclosed by two ditches, three hun-  
 “ dred and fifty feet asunder ; a bank, or  
 “ long barrow, for the judges’ seat at each  
 “ end: the west end curved, and two or  
 “ three obscure barrows, as if to run round.

“ In the road from Ambresbury to *Rad-*  
 “ *fin* (which last place the Doctor supposes  
 “ the seat of an Arch-Druid), are seven bar-  
 “ rows together, one great, and six little  
 “ ones ; probably a family burial-place.—  
 “ The disposition and the form of the bar-  
 “ rows on these downs, prove them the  
 “ single sepulchres of kings and great per-  
 “ sonages, buried during a considerable  
 “ space of time, and in peace ; and not the  
 “ tumultuary burials of the slain.

“ The Doctor, after wading through an  
 “ ocean of conjectures with his usual inge-  
 “ nuity fixes the date of the erection of Stone-  
 “ henge, four hundred and sixty years before



“ Christ ; and the enjoyment of it, by the  
 “ original inhabitants of these parts, to  
 “ about three hundred and sixty years ; in  
 “ which time, reckoning with Sir Isaac  
 “ Newton nineteen years to a reign, there  
 “ will have been nineteen kings in this  
 “ country ; and so many royal barrows the  
 “ Doctor fancied about this place.”

Having left the country just described, we proceed on our journey from the Devizes.—On descending a hill not far beyond that town, we have extensive prospects over a rich country, bounded by the Somerset and Gloucestershire hills. Before we arrive at Seend, the road separates, one branch of it passing through that village, the other, along the low grounds on the right, and soon afterwards unite : beyond this we arrive at Melksham.

Melksham is a small neat town, ninety-six miles from London, pleasantly situated on the banks of the lower Avon, on which stand several cloth and corn mills. The houses are in general good, partly built of

stone, and partly of brick ; and a handsome house and pleasure-ground, belonging to the Thresher family, is situated close to the town, on the left.

A little beyond Melksham, on the left hand, near the road, stands Shaw House, the residence of Mr. Arnold ; a handsome building, well protected with wood, and surrounded by grass inclosures.

From hence, passing over Atford Common, we arrive at a small village of that name, a principal stage on this road ; at a little more than three miles beyond which, we begin to ascend the eastern declivity of Kingsdown Hill.

From the summit of this hill most extensive prospects are presented. On the east, we see a great part of Wiltshire, with Roundaway Hill, and the other ridges, which form that tract of downs that lies between Marlborough and the more western part of this county ; on the west, we look over Somersetshire ; and on the north-west, view the county of Gloucester.

At half a mile beyond the hundred-and-third mile stone, we pass into Somersetshire, and descend to Bathford, before-mentioned. This was formerly the manor of the Lords Molins; afterwards, by marriage, of the Hungerfords.

Bathford is a neat village, built on the western descent of Kingsdown Hill. A small church stands on the left hand; and a handsome stone mansion, the property of Sir John Miller, Baronet, upon an elevated situation on the right, commanding delightful prospects.—The hill on which this pleasant residence stands is adorned with wood: at its foot, on the north, flows the rivulet which accompanies the road from Box hither; and on the west, it is washed by the beautiful stream of the Avon, in which the former is lost, a little below this village.

Before I take a final leave of the county of Wilts, I cannot avoid remarking how very extraordinary a circumstance it is, that no general history of it has ever been written.

From the earliest period of history and topography, many facts have been handed down to us, which strongly characterize, and render this portion of our country venerable.—The many stupendous relicks of Druidical superstition still existing, prove this county to have been peculiarly the seat of that people. The numerous remains of fortifications (the works of different nations) to be found scattered over the face of it, particularly in the district lying between Marlborough and this place, certify how much this part of the country was frequented by the early invaders of our island.

When Julius Cæsar invaded Britain, he found this district inhabited by a tribe of the Belgæ, and it was a part of the kingdom of the West Saxons; the most powerful people under the heptarchy, to whose dominion the whole monarchy of the realm was more than once subjected.

To enumerate more, would be going beyond the limits of this publication: if what I have said should in any degree draw the

attention of the curious in topographical and historical antiquity to a more minute investigation of them, it will fully answer the intention of this short retrospect.

## SECT. VII.

*SOMERSETSHIRE.*

THIS county is bounded by the British Channel on the north, to which its concave side is turned; on the north-west by part of Gloucestershire, separated from it in a great measure by the Avon; on the west by Devonshire; on the south by Dorsetshire; and on the east by Wiltshire. It is fifty-six miles in length from east to west, and twenty-eight in breadth.

Somersetshire is divided into forty-two hundreds, containing three cities, one hundred and thirty-two vicarages, thirty-five market-towns, three hundred and eighty-five parishes, above three hundred thousand

inhabitants, and sends eighteen members to parliament.

Few counties have a greater variety of soil or situation than this. Towards its centre, where the principal rivers unite, are fens and marshes of great extent. On the western side stretch the Quantock Hills, together with many ridges of downs and open heaths; and on the utmost north-western corner, lies the black sterile region of Exmoor.—The north-western quarter is in general stony, and possesses a lofty mineral tract, called the Mendip Hills. The southern part, towards Dorsetshire, is high, but well cultivated; and especially towards the south-western quarter of the county are many fertile vales, producing excellent corn and pasture.

The rivers of this county are numerous, but not large. The principal are the Parret, which, rising at the most southern part, on the Dorsetshire border, flows northward, and is joined by the Ivel from the east, then by the Thone from the west, uniting most

of the rivulets of that part; and afterwards by other streams, with which it empties itself into the British Channel at Bridgewater Bay. Into this bay also falls the Brae, or Brent, which springs at Selwood Forest, on the edge of Wiltshire, and receives several rivulets, particularly one coming from Shepton-Mallet and Wells; and further on the south, the small river Ax mixes with the sea, after passing Ax Bridge.

On the north-east several small streams run into the Avon; which, after passing Bath, flows on, and becomes the limit between the counties of Gloucester and Somerset, dividing the city of Bristol, and at length terminating in the Bristol Channel.

The natural and artificial products of this county are various and important. The Mendip Hills afford in abundance, coal, lead, and calamine: the calamine is carried in great quantities to Bristol and other parts, to be used in making brass, and for exportation. Copper, manganese, bole, and red ochre, are also found in these hills.



A considerable quantity of cheese is made in the lower part of the county; and that of Cheddar, on the banks of the Ax, is much esteemed.—Many cattle, nearly equal in bulk to the Lincolnshire, are fed in the luxuriant meads about the head of the Parret.

This county has received great advantage from its woollen manufactures; which, though somewhat declined, on account of the rivalship of Yorkshire and other places, are still of great importance.—Taunton, a large and populous town on the Thone, possesses the principal manufactory of coarse woollen cloths, such as serges, duroys, druggets, &c.

In the last century, this town was the scene of many bloody executions, by the inhuman Kirk and Jefferies, after the battle of Sedgmore in this neighbourhood.

Frome, on the border of Wiltshire, may be reckoned the next considerable town for manufactures, consisting of second cloths, chiefly made of English wool.—The city

of Wells, situated under the Mendip Hills, together with Glastonbury, is the centre of a great manufactory of knit worsted stockings; and at Chard, Ilminster, Yeovil, and Crewkerne, large quantities of coarse linens, dowlas, and bed-ticking, are made.

### ANCIENT BATH.

This ancient city, long renowned for its mineral hot springs and baths, as tradition informs us, was, at a very early period, a place of great importance and extent.

The people who first built habitations immediately surrounding the hot springs of Bath, pretended that they were the descendants of a colony of the chief subjects of the Britannic island, who settled themselves near the hot fountains, to constitute the court of an illustrious prince, who by accident had discovered them.

In the year 1672, a book, under the title of the *Bathes* of *Bathes-Aide*, was published by Dr. Jones, wherein we are told, that

these waters had been known for two thousand four hundred and sixty years, which he afterwards brings down to the year eight hundred and ninety, before the incarnation of Christ; and most of our historians, antiquaries, and chronologers agree, that these baths were found eight hundred and sixty-three years before the commencement of the Christian æra.

This date has appeared from the remotest times, on the public inscriptions respecting the first discovery of the hot waters, and the antiquity of the city; but more particularly on an inscription written upon a large table of wood, formerly placed against the wall that forms the south side of the principal bath; setting forth by what accident the hot springs, and their healing qualities, were first discovered.

In the last century, this story appearing to some as a legendary tale, the inscription was abridged, and, in respect to time, brought down to the year 1672. Dr. Guidott translated it into Latin, and a few years after-

110 SURVEY OF THE GREAT ROAD FROM  
wards inserted it in his *De Thermis Britan-*  
*nicis*, printed in the year 1691.

The wooden table on which this abridged  
inscription was written decaying, the story  
was then engraved on a stone, which filled  
its place; the inscription running thus:

BLADUD  
SON TO LUD HUDIBRAS,  
EIGHTH KING OF THE BRITONS  
FROM BRUTE,  
A GREAT PHILOSOPHER AND MATHEMATICIAN  
BRED AT ATHENS,  
AND RECORDED  
THE FIRST DISCOVERER AND FOUNDER  
OF THESE BATHS,  
DCCCLXIII YEARS BEFORE CHRIST,  
THAT IS,  
MMDLXII YEARS, TO THE PRESENT YEAR,  
MDCXCIX.

The discovery of these invaluable waters  
having been attributed to Bladud, whose  
story, and that of his pigs, is gravely handed  
down to the present day, I cannot altoge-  
ther omit it; but shall leave the reader to

give it what degree of credit he may think it entitled to. The legendary tale, in substance, is as follows:

Bladud, son to Lud Hudibras, eighth King of the Britons, being sorely afflicted with the leprosy, was on that account banished his father's court; and in his exile assuming the character of a herdsman, in a short time was hired by a swineherd, who lived near the place where Cainsham now stands, and obtained from him the care of a drove of pigs, which were by him infected with the same disease. To conceal this disaster as long as possible from his master, he obtained permission to drive the pigs under his care to the woods on the other side of the Avon.

—The very next morning, proceeding with his pigs thither, the whole drove, as if seized with a frenzy, ran away; pursuing their course up the valley, till they arrived at the spot where the hot springs of Bath boil up; which being covered with scum, and having the appearance of a bog, they instantly plunged into, and wallowed in it, till by

repeating the same, they were in a short time perfectly cured of the disease.

Bladud, seeing this wonderful cure, concluded that the efficacy and healing qualities of these waters were of an extraordinary nature, and determined to bathe in them himself; which having done, and being thereby miraculously cured of his loathsome disorder, he returned to his father's court, where he was received with the utmost demonstrations of joy and surprise.

To the above tradition, the utmost degree of confidence was formerly given by the good citizens of Bath; their children were instructed in it, and it was celebrated in their songs: but soon after the restoration of Charles II. their zeal for Bladud began to abate; and the famous John Earl of Rochester coming to Bath, the story of that prince and his pigs became a subject for his satire, which proved the cause of striking it out of the inscription placed on one of the walls of the King's Bath.

Mr. Wood (author of the History of

Bath), forming his opinion upon the concurring testimony of history and tradition, is fully persuaded that the city of Bath had not its beginning like most ancient cities, in a small group of houses, which were afterwards gradually increased, as population and other circumstances necessarily required; but that it was originally founded for the capital seat of a great prince.

He is also of opinion, that this city consisted originally of three principal parts, whose centres were widely detached from one another. That the most material part lay immediately round the hot springs; the next in degree, stood eight computed miles westward from them, at a place now called *Stanton Drew*; and the third, lay ten computed miles south of the second, and fifteen southward of the hot fountains, at a place now bearing the name of Okey: so that the centres of the three principal parts of the city formed the angles of a triangle, whose base line extended fifteen computed miles in length; its shorter side

eight of the same miles, and its longer side ten.

By the same authority we are told, that the city of Bath, in its middle state, was of great extent, and of immense strength; as appears from no less than six large entrenchments, now visible about it, within the compass of six miles in length from east to west, and five miles in breadth from north to south; the highest demonstration of the grandeur and vast importance of Bath in the dark times of our history, as they are manifest proofs of the valour and eminence of the ancient Britons in the art of war.

This ancient city at different periods assumed different names, all of which bear an allusion to its hot springs and baths.— Upon the spot where the cathedral is built, a temple is said formerly to have stood, which was dedicated to Minerva, who was the tutelar deity of the spring; and from the assertion of Solinus, that Minerva or Pallas presided over these baths, this ap-



pears to be the city which the Britons called *Caer Palladur*; signifying the City of the Waters of Pallas. That author, speaking of these baths, says, “ In Britain  
 “ are warm springs, excellently contrived  
 “ for the use of man; over which springs  
 “ Minerva presides, and in her temple are  
 “ fires continually burning without pro-  
 “ ducing ashes; but when the fire goes out,  
 “ the fuel is turned into stone balls.”

It was afterwards called by the Saxons *Akemancester*, signifying the City of the Sick; by Ptolomy, *Thermæ Sudatæ*, *Aquæ Callidæ*; by Antoninus, *Aquæ Solis*; by Stephanus, *Badini*; in modern Latin, *Bathonia*; and in our language, *Bath*.

This extensive city is supposed first to have been reduced by the Romans, about the year of Christ 81; and next by King Alfred the Great, when that prince founded the English monarchy, and divided the whole kingdom into shires, the shires into hundreds, and the hundreds into tythings; for the more ready and better sup-

plying his army with men, and for the more speedy and effectual administration of public justice, in every part of his dominions.

By that great prince and legislator, all the villages which in his time comprized the detached parts of Bath, were separated from the body of the city, formed into distinct jurisdictions, and made subject to the laws and government prescribed for some larger division of the county.

Bath, in its reduced state, was surrounded by a strong wall and deep ditch; and the approaches to it were defended by four gates.

By some authors, these works have been ascribed to the Romans; but with greater probability they may be attributed to King Alfred. For in Rapin, Vol. I. b. iv. we are told, “ That it was a rarity to see a  
 “ house built with any other materials than  
 “ timber: it was King Alfred that intro-  
 “ duced into the kingdom, the custom of  
 “ building with stone, and he had always

“ about him the most noted architects and  
 “ workmen, whom he kept employed with  
 “ the sole view of improving their skill,  
 “ and appropriated the sixth part of his  
 “ estate, to pay them.”

The works therefore, performed in the reign of that prince, may be considered as the source from whence masonry took its rise in this country; for the walls of Bath were of such excellent workmanship, that they cannot with probability claim their original from any other than the hands of King Alfred's workmen; built with materials collected chiefly from the ruins of the ancient works of the city: we may then, conclude, with Leland; that the antiquities mentioned by Mr. Camden and other authors, which were formerly to be seen in different parts of the walls of Bath, were gathered out of these ruins, and placed on the walls of the city, in testimony of the antiquity of the place.

In the year 1727, a curious and valuable head of Apollo, in brass, was found sixteen

feet under the surface of the ground, in one of the public streets of the city.—This head represents that of a beardless young man, with long curled hair ; as the Grecian sculptors always represented Apollo.—It is carefully preserved in the Council Chamber of the Guildhall of the city ; and, by order of the Society of Antiquaries, a profile of it has been engraved.

The images of Hercules, the Laocoon, the figure of Medusa's head, with many other antiques, mentioned by Camden and Leland, have been lost or destroyed ; and it is to be regretted, that no drawings were made of them.

In taking down the Abbey House, in the year 1755, to build a new set of baths, called the Duke of Kingston's Baths, they found, at the depth of twenty feet below the ground, remains of very noble Roman baths and sudatories, whose springs and drains were made use of for the present baths ; an accurate plan and full description of which may be seen in Gough's Camden.

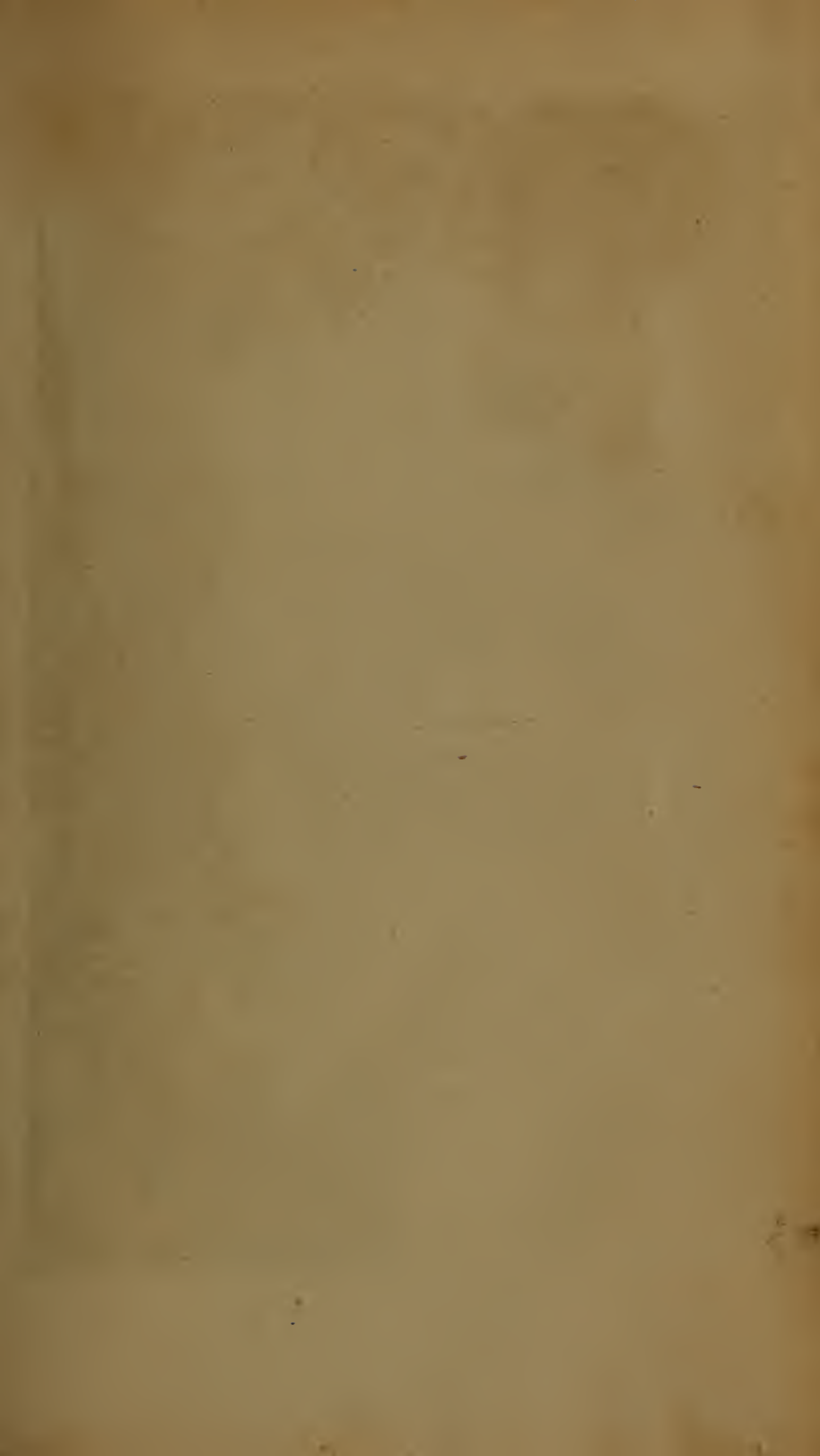
These baths extended above one hundred and fifty feet in length, and one hundred and twenty in breadth, inclosed with walls six or seven feet high, built of stone, and lined with firm, red cement. Within these walls were square, and circular baths, of various dimensions, with vapour-baths, and sudatories; the floors of which were supported with pillars of bricks, one inch and three quarters thick, and nine inches square, consolidated with strong mortar, about fourteen inches asunder.—The floor was composed of strong hard tiles, about two feet square, on which were layers of very firm cement, with brick tubes from sixteen to twenty inches in length, to heat the vapour-baths and sudatories. The warm baths had tessellated pavements, with dressing-rooms and antichambers; and there were drains to carry off the waters to the river.

## SECT. VIII.

*MODERN BATH.*

BATH is one hundred and seven miles distant from London, and thirteen from the city of Bristol: it is pleasantly situated in a fertile vale, on the banks of the river Avon, and surrounded by hills of considerable magnitude; from the bowels of which the beautiful free-stone made use of in building the city is dug.

A high ridge, in a crescent-like form, backed with swelling downs, rises on the south of the town, and in a curve stretching towards the east, increases in its altitude.—On the north-east, it sinks, and yields a passage to the Avon; beyond which





*Bath, from the Southern side, of the Valley.*



it again rises, forming a stupendous hill on the north.

The sides of those hills being broken into cliffs, dents, and combs, richly adorned and diversified with wood, have a beautiful appearance, when viewed from many parts of the vale beneath.

The increase of the city of Bath, within the last sixty years, has been rapid: from being a small contracted town, surrounding the hot springs, it has extended itself into its suburbs, expanding into open streets and squares, with many other elegant buildings, in various forms; the whole making a city of considerable magnitude.

The origin of the improvements, and progress of the buildings, at Bath, may in a great measure be ascribed to the late Mr. Wood, architect; whose zeal being equal to his ability, neglected nothing that in any degree tended to forward the plans he had in contemplation, to effect that purpose.

That gentleman turned his thoughts to this subject about the year 1728. His ideas were to have extended the town upon a regular plan, of which he made designs; and, as soon as they were completed, he laid them before the corporation of the city, with propositions for carrying them into execution: but this, like most other laudable undertakings of a public nature, was by the caprice of a few individuals frustrated, and by that body rejected as wild and chimerical; a circumstance ever to be regretted, as will hereafter be made appear.

But this disappointment did not in the least degree abate Mr. Wood's zeal for the improvement of the city; who, on the 27th of January, 1729, laid the foundation of that noble pile of buildings called Queen's Square. This square encloses a pleasure-ground, in the centre of which stands an obelisk, seventy feet high, bearing the following inscription:



IN MEMORY OF HONOUR BESTOWED,  
AND IN GRATITUDE FOR BENEFITS CON-  
FERRED IN THIS CITY  
BY HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS  
FREDERICK PRINCE OF WALES,  
AND HIS ROYAL CONSORT,  
IN THE YEAR 1738,  
THIS OBELISK IS ERECTED BY  
RICHARD NASH, ESQ.

In March 1739, the north and south parades, Pierpont Street, and Duke Street, were begun, which Mr. Wood lived to see completed. Some time before his death, which happened in 1754, he laid out the plan for erecting the King's Circus; a magnificent structure.—This pile is composed of three orders; the Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian, judiciously decorated with the proper enrichments of each order, and a perfect regularity and symmetry is observed throughout the whole. In the centre of this circle is a covered reservoir of water, which supplies a great part of the neigh-

bourhood, and is replenished from clear springs.

A little to the north-east of this Circus, stands the Royal Crescent, another pile of elegant buildings; the communication between which and the Circus is formed by Brock Street.—The Royal Crescent is built in an elliptical form, having one order of Ionic pillars, which support the upper cornice. The houses which compose this pile are perfectly regular, and from the elevated and open situation they stand on, command charming prospects over the lower part of the city, and along the surrounding vale.

While Mr. Wood was employed in his improvements, which consisted of many more objects than I have recited, others, profiting by his example, were raising streets, and different detached works, in various parts of the city: from which time, to the present day, the ardour for building has not in the smallest degree abated; but, on the con-





*Lansdown Place,*

trary, there seems to be a greater rage for it at the present moment, than ever.

Bath, by gradual steps, has ascended almost to the summit of the hills around it ; particularly on the northern side of the vale, under Lansdown : for, besides several new streets, and other groups of buildings, known by various names, raised in that quarter, a second crescent, a handsome structure, called Lansdown Place, has sprung up on the left of the road leading to Lansdown ; and on the opposite side of that road, a third crescent, called Camden Place, has lately appeared ; both of which, from the very elevated situations they stand on, command birds-eye views of the city and surrounding country, and become distinguished objects from many parts of the vale.—The avenues leading to these buildings, and the Downs above them, having been improved, are rendered more easy, and are now perfectly safe, both for carriages, and those who take the air on horseback.

Directly fronting the Royal Crescent, a



large plot of ground is engaged for a new pile ; a square, a circus, or perchance a fourth crescent ; for such is the attachment of the builders of Bath to this figure, that we might reasonably suppose *DIANA*, by the symbol, to be its *Bona Dea*, or patroness.

The eastern quarter, towards the London road, has been for some time occupied by streets, chiefly composed of regular buildings ; and houses are seen springing up every day beyond the Avon, on the south.

The south-eastern quarter, beyond the New Bridge, seemed hitherto neglected ; but lately a plan has been formed by Mr. Baldwin, the city architect, for erecting, in a style of great elegance, several streets, a square, a circus, and crescent, in Bathwick Meadows, the property of William Pulteney, Esq. some parts of which are now carrying into execution.

To make observations on all the works now going forward in this city, with those that are in contemplation, would swell this





*New Bridge at Bath.*

account beyond its due limits ; but what I have enumerated I presume will satisfactorily prove my assertion, of the incredible and rapid enlargement of Bath, within a certain given period.

Yet Bath, with all its elegant buildings, its enlargement and improvements, will remain much indebted to the beautiful materials of which it is constructed, for any favourable appearance it may hereafter make, benefiting nothing from judicious *ichnography*, nor owing much to architectural skill or taste. And when its additions and improvements are completed, still Bath will not have the form or regularity of a city ; it will have no uniformity ; it will not make a perfect whole ; but which, by restriction to a well-composed plan, might easily have been produced, so as to have rendered this well known and much frequented city, the most beautiful metropolis in the world.

By these observations, I do not mean to throw blame any where ; it is a too well

known truth, that where various interests are immediately concerned, the many difficulties attending the carrying into execution any scheme of a public nature (in particular that of the enlargement of a city), are almost insurmountable ; and more especially if any body of men, in whom the supreme power is invested, should not be open to conviction, on self-evident principles, or be made to comprehend the indispensable necessity of such well-studied arrangements ; in such cases, the exertions of a few individuals, independent of their assistance and protection, can avail but little, be their abilities and taste ever so distinguished.

Returning to the lower town, near the centre of which the justly celebrated hot mineral waters rise, the following short account of them, it is presumed, will be acceptable to the reader.

The baths erected over these springs are four in number ; viz. the King's Bath, the Queen's, the Cross Bath, and the Hot Bath ;

exclusive of those built by the late Duke of Kingston, now bearing his name.

The waters of the King's Bath rise about one hundred and fifty feet west of the Abbey church. The dimensions of this bath are sixty-five feet ten inches, by forty feet ten inches; and it contains about three hundred and forty-six tons of water. In the centre of the bath is erected a handsome stone building, having seats and recesses for the accommodation of ladies and gentlemen who bathe; and over it is built a covering, supported by a handsome colonnade of the Doric order. Adjoining to this bath are two rooms, one for the ladies, the other for gentlemen, in which are proper pumps for applying the waters to any part of the body affected; often found more efficacious than bathing.

In this bath is a statue of King Bladud, under which, on a copper-plate, is the inscription before given, alluding to that prince's having been the discoverer of these invaluable waters.

The Queen's Bath, having no spring of its own, is supplied from the King's Bath by means of an arched open passage. The water in this bath is more temperate than that in the King's, and its dimensions are smaller; being only forty-two feet four inches, by twenty-four feet two inches.

The Cross Bath is so called from having formerly had a cross erected in its centre, which has been taken away.—The waters of this bath spring up about one hundred yards south-west from the King's Bath. Contiguous to this, a small pump-room has been built, with other improvements, made from a design of Mr. Baldwin, architect.

The Hot Bath is so termed from its being the hottest of all the baths. Here is a neat pump-room; near to which are private baths, a commodious open bath, dry pump-rooms, and sudatories, continually kept warm by the fires of the adjoining dressing-rooms, there being a communication between them for that purpose. These buildings are fifty-six feet square.

The heat of the waters of the several baths described, taken by Fahrenheit's thermometer, is as follows:

The water of the King's Bath, in its coolest part, raises the mercury to one hundred degrees; and in its hottest part, to one hundred and three.

The heat of the water in the Hot Bath exceeds that of the King's Bath, some degrees.

The degrees of heat in the Cross Bath, are ninety-three and ninety-four; and in the Queen's Bath, ninety-eight and ninety-nine degrees.

The spring and autumn are the seasons of resort to these celebrated baths; and the usual time for bathing, and drinking the waters, is six weeks.

The waters are found to contain vitriol and ochre, a calcareous and marly earth, a marine salt, some calcareous nitre, a little bitumen, and a very small quantity of sulphur.—They are found useful in all diseases



of the head, nerves, and skin, scorbutic rheumatism, &c. But above all, the Bath waters are celebrated for their efficacy in all gouty complaints: they serve to bring the paroxysms of the disorder to a crisis, by fixing them in the extremities of the body, and thus relieving the head, stomach, and vital parts. By taking them inwardly, in this disorder, they are found eminently efficacious, as well as in certain stages of it when applied outwardly, particularly in a decline of the fit. These waters are likewise beneficial in all paralytic complaints, convulsions, contractions, and lameness.

A particular account of their efficacy in those disorders, and many other cases, will be found in Dr. Chandler's three treatises on the Bath waters. And in his chymical analysis of the same waters, he endeavours to point out the causes whence they derive their heat, which he conjectures to be elementary fire; but as other authors differ widely in opinion from this gentleman, and

support their conjectures with equal probability, I will leave the decision of this subject to those who are better qualified for the task.

On the north side of the King's Bath stands the Pump-Room, where ladies and gentlemen assemble every morning from seven till ten o'clock, to drink the waters.

This room was erected in the year 1704, but much enlarged in 1751, and in 1786 a handsome portico was erected adjoining to it, for the reception of sedan chairs. At the east end of the Pump-Room is a marble statue of the late much respected Richard Nash, Esq. executed by the late Mr. P. Hoare, at the expence of the city chamber; and the following inscription, and elegant address, written by Christopher Ansty, Esq. is placed on the pump, by order of the governors of the General Hospital.

THE  
HOSPITAL  
IN THIS CITY,  
OPEN TO THE SICK AND POOR OF EVERY  
PART OF THE WORLD,  
TO WHOSE CASES THESE WATERS ARE  
APPLICABLE,  
*(THE POOR OF BATH ONLY EXCEPTED)*  
WAS FIRST ESTABLISHED, AND IS STILL  
SUPPORTED,  
BY THE CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE  
LIBERAL AND HUMANE.

Oh! pause a while, whoe'er thou art  
That drink'st this healing stream :  
If e'er compassion o'er thy heart  
Diffus'd its heavenly beam,  
Think on the wretch, whose distant lot  
This friendly aid denies ;  
Think how, in some poor lonely cot,  
He unregarded lies !  
Hither the helpless stranger bring ;  
Relieve his heart-felt woe ;  
And let thy bounty, like this spring,  
In genial currents flow :

So may thy years from grief, and pain,  
 And pining want be free ;  
 And thou from Heav'n that mercy gain  
 The poor receive from thee.

Several other ornamental buildings are now carrying on, connected with those baths : but convenience and utility should ever be the primary object in all works of a public nature.—On the spot where we now see costly buildings erecting, and the swelling column rise, there is scarce room to lay the necessary materials of which the superstructure is to be completed, without choaking up the way, and rendering it unsafe. And when finished, what purpose can they serve? Such edifices surely must appear to stand in situations they never were intended to fill, and be thrust into corners where they can neither be seen or admired.

The city of Bath has long been much resorted to by people of the first rank and consequence in this country, and by distin-

guished personages from every part of Europe ; nay, I may add, from every quarter of the globe ; which in a great measure may be attributed to the fame of its salutary mineral waters. How much, therefore, is it to be wished, that some plan might be formed to render this favourite city more deserving of that universal protection it has so long experienced.

Erecting a pile of buildings in the lower town, in which all the baths might be centered, forming a magnificent fabric, equally calculated for use and ornament, with spacious streets leading thereto, would not only be the greatest improvement to that part of the town, but would render this spot more worthy of the invaluable treasures it possesses, and the city of Bath more respectable in the eyes of all Europe. Much might be said on this subject, but a hint may here be sufficient ; and however obscure the authority it comes from may be, it is presumed it is not unworthy the consideration of those in whom the government

of the city is invested: by adopting such a measure, those gentlemen would render Bath a most essential service; they would receive the thanks of their country, and hand their names down to posterity with honour and applause.

But notwithstanding what has been advanced, Bath will ever be the gay, the fashionable, and the favourite city of England; and could we for a moment divest ourselves of the idea of the high degree of grandeur and magnificence this city might have been brought to, with the very superior advantages it possesses, we should look up to it, with all its faults, as the first and most elegant city in this country; and such I may venture to affirm is the general opinion.

The amusements of this gay city are various, rational, and well conducted. They consist chiefly of assemblies, balls, concerts, card parties, and public breakfasts, besides the theatre.

There are two sets of assembly rooms,

termed the Upper and Lower, where the amusements are alternately held: the former of those stand on the walks leading from the Grove to the Parade; and the latter, on the east side of the Circus.

The upper are a magnificent and commodious suite of apartments, judiciously arranged. The only exceptionable part of them is the additional card-room; much inferior in space and style to the other apartments; and which, from its distant situation, is inconvenient of access; and the whole building becomes a common passage.

Instead of constructing this long, narrow card-room, had the octagon room been lengthened to the extent now occupied by this gallery, it would have formed a beautiful oblong of seventy-five feet by forty-eight: and the three rooms then properly connected, would have composed a suite of apartments for public amusements, which, for easiness of access, space, dignity, correspondence in style, and every requisite accom-

modation, perhaps could not have been equalled in Europe.

A new theatre is very much wanted at Bath ; for besides that the present one is at the extremity of the town, it is situated in the most confined, dirtiest, and most intricate part of it ; difficult of access either in coach, or chair.—The entries to the different parts of the house are very inconvenient ; and it is by no means so extensive or elegant as the Bath Theatre ought to be.—Yet although so small, and so inconveniently situated, this theatre has become of late years, much more than ever, a place of resort for persons of the first fashion : and there is no doubt, but that if a more spacious theatre, elegantly decorated, was erected in a central situation, it would become a place of favourite and fashionable amusement ; and would, on the Saturday nights particularly, be the constant resort of distinguished personages, as much as the Opera-house in London.

The Bath Theatre has for many years



proved a nursery for the royal theatres in the metropolis. Its performers at all times meet with encouragement from an indulgent and liberal public; their respective benefits are well attended; and the connections they form at Bath serve as the basis of that extraordinary success which has attended those who have removed to London.

At Bath are two benevolent institutions, called the GENERAL HOSPITAL, and the PAUPER CHARITY.—The former of these was instituted with a view of extending the benefit of the Bath waters to all the sick poor of Great Britain and Ireland (those of the city of Bath excepted), whose narrow circumstances and situation in life might totally exclude them from access to those salutary springs.

This hospital was opened for the reception of patients in the year 1742, is supported by voluntary contributions; and by the liberal and generous benefactions, and donations received, the governors have been enabled, in general, to admit as many patients as the hospital can contain, which

amounts to one hundred and thirteen persons; a self-evident proof that the benevolent intention of this institution has been fully answered. The poor of the city of Bath were excluded, on the idea that they might enjoy all the benefits of the waters at a very easy expence, and be accommodated at their own houses.

The Pauper Charity was instituted in the year 1747, for the purpose of affording relief for the sick poor residing in the city of Bath, and extends to persons labouring under every species of disease, excepting servants in place, or persons who receive relief from their respective parishes; and between two and three thousand patients have been annually relieved by this laudable charity. This hospital is also supported by subscription and voluntary contributions.

There are four churches at Bath, viz. the cathedral of St. Peter and Paul, commonly called the Abbey church, St. James's, St. Michael's, and the parish church of Walcot, which stands in the liberties of the city.

The first of these is a noble fabric, of Gothic architecture, built in the form of a cross. It was founded in the year 676, by King Osric, together with the Abbey-house; but after having undergone many alterations and repairs, it was pulled down, and the present noble edifice was begun in the year 1495, by Oliver King, in consequence of a dream or vision of his (as related by Sir John Harrington), which had such an effect on his mind, as instantly determined the bishop to rebuild this church; and he caused his vision to be represented on the west front of it, under the title of *De Sursum est*,—It is from on high.

The pious bishop was prevented from completing this work by death; and upon the dissolution, this church coming into the king's hands, and the town refusing to buy it of his commissioners, for only five hundred marks, it was entirely stripped, and left with only bare walls standing, in which condition it remained for upwards of one hundred years. About the year 1666 it

was restored to its present state by the pious benefactions of Dr. James Montague, then bishop of this diocese, and the generous donations of other well-disposed persons.

The length of this magnificent structure, from east to west, is about two hundred and twenty-five feet ; and from north to south, one hundred and twenty-six. It has seven doors, and fifty-two windows ; and while the doors point out the days of the week, the windows become emblematical of the weeks of the year. The tower is one hundred and sixty-two feet high, and contains a peal of ten bells.—The monuments erected in this church, together with the armorial bearings of the several benefactors to the building, with other objects here to be found, are well worthy the notice of the inquisitive stranger. This church was formerly termed, the Lantern of England.

The church of St. James is a handsome free-stone building. It was rebuilt in the year 1768-9, under the direction of Mr. Palmer, architect.

The church dedicated to St. Michael was begun to be rebuilt in the year 1734, and was finished in 1742. It is an elegant structure of the Doric order, with a dome.

The parish church of Walcot was rebuilt in the year 1780; but has since been enlarged on account of the great increase of the inhabitants, and now assumes the appearance of a handsome, modern edifice.

Besides those churches, there are twelve other places of divine worship; some belonging to the established church, others to the different sectaries of this town. Here is also a public grammar-school, founded and endowed by King Edward VI. with part of the land belonging to the religious houses that were dissolved; and the master of the school has an annual salary from the corporation. There is also a charity-school in Bath, for the education of the children of poor citizens.

In 1785, a subscription was set on foot by Henry Southby, Esq. and other worthy inhabitants of Bath, for establishing Sunday

schools for the children of the poor, who have no other means of being educated; and the contributions towards this laudable institution have been such, that these schools now consist of upwards of seven hundred children; from which those of the school of industry are selected; and the charity is in so flourishing a state, that the labour of the children, in knitting, spinning, and sewing, is nearly sufficient for their maintenance; and the praise-worthy conduct of the committee of directors has served as a model for similar institutions in this, and other countries.

The Guildhall of this city next claims our attention. The former edifice bearing that name, was constructed after a design of Inigo Jones, and stood in the High Street; which situation being found inconvenient, and the building too small, it was judiciously removed.—The present Guildhall stands on the east side of that street, and is an elegant ornamental building, possessing every accommodation for the purposes it was in-

tended. This structure was designed by Mr. Baldwin, architect, and erected under his direction.

There are two bridges over the Avon, at Bath. The New Bridge, before mentioned, leading to Bathwick ; and the Bridge of St. Laurence, at the end of Horse Street, at the southern extremity of the town.

The former of these is an elegant, level stone bridge, of three arches, built by Mr. Pulteney, from a design of the late Mr. Robert Adam. The superstructure is composed of a range of regular buildings on each side, converted into shops, like the Rialto, at Venice ; and, as we approach it, has the appearance of a handsome street.

The other bridge consists of five semi-circular arches ; and though of a handsome appearance, is by no means of sufficient consequence to form a principal entrance into the city of Bath : but the streets to which it immediately leads, and others adjoining thereto, being in themselves contracted and mean, may in some degree apologize for



*Bridge of St. Lawrence.*





the want of space and magnificence in this structure.

Bath is governed by a mayor, recorder, aldermen, twenty common-council, and a town-clerk; sends two members to parliament; and is the see of a bishop, in conjunction with Wells. The number of aldermen, out of which the mayor and two justices are chosen, is not to exceed ten, or be less than four: and out of the common-council are yearly elected two bailiffs, or sheriffs, and two constables. The senior of the common-council is always the chamberlain.

A court of record is held at the Town-hall every Monday, which has cognizance of all personal actions within the city, or its limits, in case the debt or damages exceed or amount to forty shillings.—There is also a court of requests, for the more easy and speedy recovery of small debts, under forty shillings.

The principal markets are held on Wednesdays and Fridays, and are most plentifully supplied with excellent provisions of every

kind, at reasonable rates.—The fish markets are on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and are allowed to exceed those of any inland town in England; particularly for sea fish, which are brought hither in great quantities, and are esteemed of the first quality.

Before I close this long detail, I cannot, with any degree of propriety omit paying a tribute to the memory of the late justly celebrated, and much respected Richard Nash, Esq. to whom the city of Bath is in a great measure indebted, for the very superior degree of elegance and splendor it is arrived at, and for the high estimation in which it is held in the fashionable world.

That gentleman presided over the public amusements of this city more than fifty years; and under his government it arose from an obscure, ill-frequented town, nearly to the degree of consequence in which it now appears.

His amiable manners, polite deportment, and great goodness of heart, ingratiated him

with his fellow-citizens, and rendered him respected by strangers. His laws and regulations were equally wise as just; and no man ever governed, in any situation, for such a length of time, with greater sway, or with so little opposition to his measures. He was usually styled King of Bath.

Mr. Nash having arrived at an advanced period of life, a decay of nature became visible; and on the 3d of February, 1761, at the age of eighty-seven, he breathed his last, much lamented, and universally regretted.—In a few days afterwards his body was interred in the Abbey church, with public solemnity.

## SECT. IX.

THE country in the vicinity of Bath is richly adorned with villas, stately mansions, and elegant private houses; the most distinguished of which is Prior Park, the seat of the late Ralph Allen, Esq. This gentleman being the chief proprietor of the stone quarries near Bath, and meeting with opposition in the introduction of this beautiful material for general use, determined, as an example and proof of its superior quality in ornamental building, to erect a magnificent mansion, decorated and enriched in the highest degree with the various ornaments of the different orders of architecture, for which designs were made by the late Mr. Wood; but the warmth of this resolution abating, a more simple, though



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magnificent structure, was by that gentleman designed and executed. A particular account of the original intention, with plans and elevations in copper-plate prints, of the present mansion, will be found in his History of Bath.

This elegant seat stands conspicuously upon the declivity of a stupendous hill, which rises on the south of Bath, and slopes in beautiful inequalities to the Avon.—From the house, most charming prospects are obtained over the vale of Bath, that city forming the principal object in the centre, overtopped by the swelling summit of Lansdown; a magnificent feature.

About six miles from Bath is Farley Castle, in our way to which we pass over Claverton Down; a much frequented and delightful ride.—This castle, though little noticed in history, seems, from the remains of it now to be seen, to have been a considerable place, and of great strength. Part of a gateway, and three towers, covered with ivy, still rear their ruined heads.



The earliest account of this place is of no later date than the sixteenth of Edward III. at which time Farley appears to have been the property of Lord Burgherst. It was sold by his grand-daughter, the sole heiress, with other possessions, to Robert Lord Hungerford. Gough's account of it runs thus :

“ Only the ruined gateway, and a few  
 “ ruined towers, remain. The Burgherstes  
 “ sold this castle to the Hungerfords about  
 “ the time of Richard II. when Walter,  
 “ father of Sir Thomas Hungerford, for-  
 “ tified it. Richard III. gave it to John  
 “ Duke of Norfolk: but, by the date of mo-  
 “ numents there, it belonged to the Hun-  
 “ gerfords in 1613; and is now the property  
 “ of Mr. Framton.—Here was born Mar-  
 “ garet Countess of Salisbury, daughter of  
 “ George Duke of Clarence, brother of Ed-  
 “ ward IV. beheaded by Henry VIII. The  
 “ chapel, on whose roofless ceiling is a good  
 “ painting of the resurrection, contains in  
 “ its vaults six bodies of the Hungerfords,

“ wrapt up in lead, like mummies, some  
 “ coffins, and an urn ; and several monu-  
 “ ments of this family are in a chapel on  
 “ the north side.” Camden brings the Clu-  
 niac Monastery hither, from *Monkton Far-*  
*leigh*, in Wilts.

Lansdown overhangs Batheaston, and the city of Bath. It anciently was known by the name *Bannesdown*, supposed *Mons Badonicus* ; rendered memorable in the history of the civil war, by the battle between the king’s forces, under the command of the Marquis of Hertford, and those of the parliament, under Sir William Waller, on July 5th, 1643 ; wherein the former were victorious, but with the loss of the brave Sir Bevil Grenville. Sir Bevil’s son, John, was created Viscount Lansdown, and Earl of Bath, and died in the year 1710. As his son Charles was attending his father’s funeral, one of his pistols went off, and shot him dead : he was buried at the same time, and was succeeded by his son William Henry ; who dying a minor, the barony passed to the

heirs of Sir Bevil's second son, Bernard ; of whom George, an elegant writer of this century, was created Lord Lansdown by Queen Anne, in the year 1711 ; but dying in 1734, without male issue, the title became extinct.—William Earl of Bath, Camden's cotemporary, died in 1623 ; and from his eldest son, Edward, the title passed, in the year 1636, to Henry, heir of the second earl ; and on his decease, in 1654, it was conferred on Sir John Grenville, as above.—It was revived, in the year 1742, in William Pulteney, Esq. who died in 1764 ; and his son John dying a year before him, the title became again extinct : and in the year 1789, the title of Marquis of Bath was conferred on Thomas Thyne, Viscount Weymouth, who now possesses it.

Lansdown is supposed to derive its name from a monument erected upon it by George Lord Lansdown, in commemoration of the abovementioned victory. The western side of this monument is adorned with military trophies ; on the eastern, are the king's



*Monument on Sandown.*



arms, and those of the Grenville family; and upon a tablet on its north side, are verses descriptive of the battle, and in praise of the valour of Sir Bevil Grenville; as also the following inscription:

TO THE IMMORTAL MEMORY  
OF HIS RENOWNED GRANDFATHER,  
AND VALIANT CORNISH FRIENDS,  
WHO CONQUERED,  
DYING IN THE ROYAL CAUSE, JULY 5, 1643,  
THIS COLUMN WAS DEDICATED  
BY THE HONOURABLE GEORGE GRENVILLE,  
LORD LANSDOWN,  
1720.  
DULCE EST PRO PATRIA  
“ MORI.”

On the south tablet is the following inscription:

“ In this battle, on the King’s part, were  
“ more officers and gentlemen of quality  
“ slain than private men; but that which  
“ would have clouded any victory, and made  
“ the loss of others less spoken of, was the  
“ death of Sir Bevil Grenville. He was in-

“ deed an excellent person ; whose activity,  
 “ interest, and reputation, were the founda-  
 “ tion of what had been done in Cornwall ;  
 “ and his temper and affection so pacific,  
 “ that no accident which happened could  
 “ make any impression in him ; and his  
 “ example kept others from taking any  
 “ thing ill, or at least seeming to do so : in  
 “ a word, a brighter courage, and gentler  
 “ disposition, were never married together,  
 “ to make the most innocent and cheerful  
 “ conversation.”—*See Clarendon's Hist. of  
 the Rebellion.*

Proceeding from Bath, there are two roads  
 which lead to the city of Bristol, termed the  
 Upper and Lower. The former of these  
 runs from the western part of the town,  
 along the northern side of the Avon, and  
 through a part of Gloucestershire ; and the  
 latter (the most frequented), from St. Lau-  
 rence's Bridge, winds along the southern  
 bank of that river : and a communication  
 between these roads is formed by a hand-  
 some stone bridge, of one arch, over the

same river, about two miles and a half below the town.

The river Avon has been made navigable from Bath to Bristol: which has been attended with the greatest advantage to both cities; and the intercourse between them is very considerable.

The principal vale of Bath, called by the Britons *Nant Baden*, appears by the writings of the learned author of the *Britannia*, to have extended to such a considerable length, as to comprehend *Caer Oder*, now the city of Bristol; so that the Britons describing that city to be in *Nant Baden*, has led some authors to conjecture, that the antiquity of Bath is greater than that of Bristol, or that the former was a more considerable town than the latter in ancient times.

Proceeding by the lower road, we pass through the village of Twiverton, and a little beyond the third mile stone, arrive at Newton, a small town, scattered along the side of a hill, chiefly on the left side of the



road; near to which, on the south, lies Newton Park, the seat of J. Gore Langton, Esq. at which such improvements are now making, as will render it a pleasant and desirable residence.

Beyond the river, on the opposite side of the vale, stands a handsome mansion, nobly situated on a high ridge crowned with wood, with the Avon gliding at its foot. This was the seat of the late Sir Cæsar Hawkins; now belonging to his family.

To describe the several beauties of the vale of Bath would be tedious; I shall therefore only say, that the part of it we have already noticed, is possessed of hill and dale, wood and water, with every other requisite for constituting rural English landscape, by nature elegantly arranged; as is the more western part, which lies between this spot and the city of Bristol.

Advancing from Newton, and leaving the small village of Corston on the left, we next pass through Saltford; upon the right of which, on the side of the Avon, stand

*House of the late. Fr. Coar. Hankins.*





several paper, and brass mills. From hence, the road ascends a hill, leaving a deep ravine on the right hand, and woody hills on the south. We then proceed through a well cultivated inclosed country towards Keynsham; before we arrive at which, a handsome house, the residence of Edward Lyne, Esq. appears on the north.

Keynsham is a small market town, standing upon two hills, on the northern bank of the Avon; and its western side is washed by the lesser stream of the river Chew, over which is a small bridge; and a communication between the counties of Somerset and Gloucester is formed by a larger bridge, over the former of these rivers, below the town. Here the Chew is lost in the Avon.

Keynsham church is a stately Gothic structure, with a square tower, and the houses in general are tolerably built.—The banks of the Avon, on the north, below the town, are formed of rich meadows, bounded by high grounds, tufted with wood; which,

being arranged in an amphitheatrical form, have a beautiful appearance.

Beyond the town, we ascend a hill, from which appears Hannam, the residence of Mr. Creswick, with several other handsome houses in Gloucestershire; and some villages are seen scattered on both sides of the river.

A few miles from Keynsham, at Stanton Drew, on the river Chew, are the remains of a Druidical temple, vulgarly called the Wedding, from a tradition that a bride and her attendants were changed into those stones; and they have the same tradition of the danger of drawing or numbering of them, as they have of Stonehenge. This temple consisted of three circles of stones; and, in Mr. Wood's opinion, formed a perfect model of the Pythagorean system of the planetary world, which he has taken much pains to prove, as will appear from a very particular description, and copper-plate prints, representing the exact rela-

tive situation of these circles to each other, to be seen in his History of Bath.

From hence, we descend into an inclosed woodland, and cultivated district, beyond which the road again rises; and from the summit of the high ground, about three miles from Bristol, we command extensive prospects; and on the east, the town of Keynsham appears to advantage.

Beyond this, the road sinks; when, in passing the village of Brislington, and on our approach to Bristol, a great number of handsome houses and villas lie scattered on both sides of the road; a circumstance always to be met with in the environs of great cities.

Beyond this village, we descend an avenue formed by stately trees, leaving a beautiful sloping valley, composed of grass inclosures, decorated with wood on the left, with a more cultivated country on the right; and again, passing several handsome villas, and winding round the declivity of a hill, the towering buildings of the city of Bristol

appear in full view, backed with lofty hills, swelling downs, and a variety of more distant country. Beyond this the road descends, and leads to that extensive and opulent city.

## SECT. X.

*CITY OF BRISTOL.*

MINUTELY to describe a city of the magnitude and importance of Bristol, with its public buildings, commerce, and manufactures, would be going far beyond the intention and limits of this publication; it is therefore hoped that a concise account of it will be deemed sufficiently satisfactory, more especially as a history of that city (an ingenious and elaborate work) has been published by Mr. Barret, so lately as the year 1789.

The city of Bristol is one hundred and twenty miles distant from London. It stands partly in Somersetshire, and partly in Gloucestershire; and is divided by the



river Avon, which forms the boundaries between these counties.

There are various opinions respecting the antiquity of this city. Our celebrated historian Camden, though he acknowledged the British name *Caer Brito*, says, it arose in the declension of the Saxon government, and that it was not any where taken notice of before the year 1063, when Harold (as Florence of Worcester has it) set sail from Bristol to invade Wales: but Mr. Barret, in his History of Bristol, points out, that Gildas, about the year 580, gave a very particular account of twenty-eight cities that adorned this nation; and Nannius, about the year 620, gives us the catalogue of them, mentioning *Caer Brito* as one of the twenty-eight famous in ancient times. Whence Mr. Barret concludes, that Bristol was a city of eminence at a much earlier period than our historians in general admit of.

So early as the year 1347, Bristol had consequence enough to obtain a charter

from Edward III. for constituting it a county within itself; as will appear from the words of that great prince, running thus:

“ That in consideration of the good services, by their shipping and otherwise, done to us in times past, we have granted it to be, and be for ever called the county of Bristol.” And in the 34th of Henry VIII. Bristol was made a bishop’s see, and constituted a city by the royal letters patent, though it had enjoyed the title of a city before; it was now legally, and by authority so denominated.

Bristol also confers the title of Earl; created the 20th of James I. in John Lord Digby, of Sherborn; extinct in 1692, on the death of John Digby, his grandson; and revived again in John Hervey, ancestor to the present Earl of Bristol, Baron of Ickworth, in the year 1714. It is remarkable, that the present Earl, being a younger son, was bred up for the church, as is usual in noble families; and succeeding to the title,

by the demise of his elder brother, is actually Earl of Bristol, Bishop of Derry, a peer of England and Ireland, and bears arms accordingly.

In ancient times, Bristol was a place of great strength, having been first fortified by an embattled wall, and afterwards by a strong castle, concerning the antiquity of which Antiquaries differ in opinion.—Leland, out of a book of the antiquities of the Monastery of Tewkesbury, which he met with in Latin, quotes, “ That Robert “ Consul of Gloucester built the castle of “ Bristolle;” and in another place, “ He “ builded the castelle of Bristowe, or the “ most part of it. Every man sayith that “ he builded the great square stone dun- “ geon, and that the stones thereof came “ out of Caen in Normandie.”

But Mr. Barret is of opinion, that we must look back to earlier times for the origin of this castle: that Robert of Gloucester was only a repairer of it, and rebuilder of some part of it: and that one of the Saxon

kings, or Earls of Gloucester, most probably Edward senr. was the builder of it; and quotes Turgot thus, p. 32. “ In the year 915, “ Edward senr. havynge made alteratyon of “ the walles of Bryghtstowe, newly ybuyl- “ den the castle, beeyng the goodelyeste of “ syve ybuyliden on Abone bankes, and it “ was a grete checke to the Danes.”

Mr. Barret’s account of Bristol castle is as follows:

“ This castle was pleasantly situated on “ a rising ground, at the east part of the “ town, which was a great advantage to it “ as a fortress. It was bounded on the “ north by the river From, on the south “ by the river Avon, moating it with water “ on that side; on the west part, it was de- “ fended by a deep trench or ditch, from “ Newgate across the Avon, near St. Peter’s “ church, over the middle of which was a “ draw-bridge leading from the castle-gate “ to the town, where was what I find “ called the *Barbacana Castri*, near the east “ part of St. Peter’s church. It was for-

“ tified within with very strong walls em-  
 “ battled at the top, and had a sally-port,  
 “ still so called, leading into the present  
 “ Queen Street, built on an arch which  
 “ the river From flows through. Its out-  
 “ works were very large, extending to Law-  
 “ ford’s Gate, which still retains its ancient  
 “ Saxon name, *Hlaford’s Gate*, or the Lord’s  
 “ Gate, so called from the lords or governors  
 “ of the castle.”

At the beginning of the rebellion against King Charles I. the fortifications and castle of Bristol were repaired, and some additional works were erected by the corporation, to be held as a garrison for the king, but in a short time after, they were prevailed upon to deliver it up to the parliament forces, by whom great depredations were committed in the city.—Several chapels and other religious houses having been demolished; on the 17th of July, 1643, the governor gave orders to destroy the churches of St. Peter and St. Philip; but on the 22d of that month this was happily prevented by Prince Ru-

pert appearing before the city with twenty thousand men, which he immediately attacked on every quarter, and it capitulated to him on the 27th of the same month.— Prince Rupert being now in possession of the city and castle of Bristol, his Majesty, Prince Charles, and the Duke of York, came thither on the 2d of August following, where they remained for some time.

The rebels afterwards having gained some advantages in the west, determined to lay siege to Bristol, which they immediately invested, and it was carried by storm, the 10th of September, by the army under the command of General Fairfax and Lieutenant-General Cromwell.

After this, the citizens of Bristol were treated with the utmost cruelty; the clergy had their benefices sequestered, the churches were pillaged and ransacked, and the monuments wantonly defaced by the rebel forces; and soon after Cromwell was proclaimed Protector, the castle of Bristol was by his order demolished.

There are hardly any vestiges of this once famous castle now remaining ; only on the south side are to be seen parts of the wall, with some Gothic windows ; and on the east side are two Saxon arches, and a room with an arched roof, having the appearance of a chapel, now converted into a house and shop for a cooper.

The city of Bristol, in its present state, may be reckoned the second in the British dominions for wealth and extent. As a commercial city, it possesses advantages superior to most others, its situation being equally convenient for foreign as inland trade.

By the river Avon stately ships of great burden are from hence floated to the sea, where, unbending their sails, they proceed to every quarter of the globe, richly laden with the various commodities and manufactures of Britain ; and almost every returning tide wafts back into this port vessels, both foreign and British, freighted with commodities the produce of different parts of the world.

From the Severn sea, into which the Avon falls, channels of communication are formed with South Wales and the northern part of England, by means of the rivers Severn and Weye.—In return for the merchandise of Bristol, great quantities of excellent provisions of all kinds, and many other articles, the produce of those countries, are constantly brought to that city.

By an annual perambulation, made for the better ascertaining and determining the boundaries and limits of the town, the circumference of Bristol is now found to exceed seven miles.—The centre of the city still occupies the hilly ground on which the whole of the old town, or *Ville of Brighstow* stood, and contains many very old houses of singular construction. The plain around it was first built on, and the district of St. James has extended itself in handsome streets and elegant buildings, to the very summit of King Down: within its limits are three handsome modern squares; viz. St.



James's Square, King's Square, and Brunswick Square; and the increase of its inhabitants has been such, that in 1787 an act of parliament was obtained for dividing this extensive parish, and erecting a new church, to be called St. Paul's, now nearly completed; and an elegant new square, forming a line of buildings two hundred and eighty feet every way, with other new works, are carrying on.

By degrees, the buildings of Bristol have ascended the steep sides of the hill of St. Michael, and its summit is adorned with elegant houses.—On the western side, formerly the Marsh of Bristol, or Avon Marsh, are several handsome streets, and a spacious square (extending above one hundred and seventy yards on each side), called Queen's Square, completed about the year 1726.—In the centre of this square, on a high pedestal, inclosed with iron pallisadoes, stands an equestrian statue, in brass, of King William III. executed by the late ingenious

Mr. Rysbrack; an exquisite performance, were the horse less incumbered with trappings.

Bristol is adorned by nineteen churches, several of which are stately and magnificent structures. The cathedral is conspicuously situated upon a hill on the Gloucestershire side of the Avon. This was a noble edifice; but, from its present mutilated state, and having undergone many alterations at different periods, it remains uncertain whether it was ever completed, or whether part of it has been taken away.

The church of St. Mary Redclift best claims the attention of the curious, and is esteemed one of the most beautiful structures of the kind in the kingdom. Though of great dimensions, it appears light and airy; sufficiently ornamented, but not crowded with small parts, or mean decorations. Its roof, a solid arch of free-stone, is lofty and grand,—an excellent piece of workmanship; and over it is a wooden roof, which supports the leaden covering.—A

very particular description of this church, with that of the several other churches and public buildings of Bristol, will be found in Barret's History of that city, with copper-plate prints of many of them annexed.

Near the centre of the city is the Exchange; where merchants meet to transact business, as in the Royal Exchange of London. It is a stately building, of Grecian architecture, well adapted for the purpose.

The Quays of Bristol are extensive and convenient; and by means of the rivers Avon and Frome, on whose banks they stand, ships of various burdens are floated into the centre of the city, where they load and discharge their cargoes with the greatest ease and expedition.

Over the river Avon is a handsome stone bridge of three arches, which unites the Gloucestershire and Somersetshire parts of the town; and over the Frome is a draw-bridge, forming a communication between those parts of the town which stand on the

different sides of that river.—Here are also wet and dry docks, for the building, repairing, and refitting of ships; rope works, sail manufactories, foundries, with every other requisite for an extensive and flourishing commercial sea-port, encouraged and supported by the merchants of this opulent city; who, for respectability, liberality, and enterprize, are not to be surpassed by any other set of men.

Bristol is governed by a mayor, recorder, twelve aldermen, two sheriffs, and forty-two common-council: it sends two members to parliament.—The city is divided into twelve wards, by the citizens of which, the aldermen are chosen; the recorder being always the senior, who is to be well skilled in the laws of the land, and must have been a barrister for the space of five years, at least. They are to be sworn before the mayor, and are appointed conservators and justices of the peace, with the same authority and powers as those of London; and any three or more of them,

of whom the mayor and recorder are to be two, may hold a court of general gaol delivery, &c. and inquire into the damages of the crown.

## SECT. XI.

*GLOUCESTERSHIRE.*

THIS county is bounded on the south by Wiltshire, and part of Somersetshire, on the north by Worcestershire, on the east by Warwickshire and Oxfordshire, on the west by the counties of Monmouth and Hereford; and is divided into two unequal parts by the Severn, which enters Gloucestershire, a little below Tewkesbury.—In length it stretches from north-east to south-west the extent of more than sixty miles; but does not exceed twenty-six in breadth. The lower part of its western boundary is formed by the Wye, which reaching this county a little below Ross, in Herefordshire, separates it, in the rest of its progress,

from the county of Monmouth; and a variety of picturesque and romantic scenery is displayed along its banks.

Its southern extremity is divided from Somersetshire by the lower Avon, which runs between romantic banks, and forces its passage to the sea, through the stupendous rocks of St. Vincent, below Bristol. The tides from St. George's Channel, meeting with the more powerful tides of the Atlantic, enter the mouth of the Severn with a rapid influx, rolling on with a lofty head; which may be seen at a considerable distance, and from our earliest historians received the name of the *Hygra*. The rivers Wye and Severn abound with excellent salmon, by which the cities of Bath and Bristol, with many other parts of the country, are plentifully supplied.

Gloucestershire is by nature divided into three longitudinal districts, differing materially from each other. The eastern district, called the *Coteswold*, is by much the widest, consisting of a large tract of high

ground; though not fertile, in many parts affording a fine short grass, excellent for sheep.

“ High Coteswold also ’mong the shepherd swains

“ Is oft remember’d, though the greedy plough

“ Preys on its carpet.”

FLEECE.

The middle district comprehends the spacious and extensive vale bordering on the Severn, whose luxuriant and fertile pastures furnish the kingdom with that cheese for which the county of Gloucester is so justly famous.—The western, which is by much the shortest district, was chiefly occupied by the forest of Deane, once reckoned the chief support of the English navy, and which it is said the Spanish Armada was expressly commissioned to destroy. It is now thinned by frequency of felling, and narrowed by increase of cultivation, though a few solitary deer still run wild in its recesses.

The staple commodities of this county are its woollen cloth and its cheese: besides which, the forests of *Deane* and *Kings-*



*wood* abound in mines of iron and coal ; the coal is principally expended in the internal consumption of this and the neighbouring counties, and the iron is hammered out in numerous forges, from whence many capital iron manufactories are supplied with that useful material.—The vale and forest of Deane also abound in orchards, which produce great plenty of cyder ; and the *Styre*, a kind in great esteem, is almost peculiar to the western banks of the Severn.

### CLIFTON.

This village stands in Gloucestershire, about a mile west of the city of Bristol, delightfully situated upon the southern declivity of a high hill extending to the river Avon. From the pleasantness of its situation, and the salubrity of the air, many persons of fortune have been induced to fix their general residence in it. Of late years, Clifton has been much enlarged ; it has gradually crept up to, and extended it-





Atwood to the Hotel House

self beyond the summit of the high ground at the foot of which it originally stood, now forming a village of considerable extent.—The top and sides of these grounds being adorned by elegant houses, built with free-stone, make a handsome appearance, though at present too unconnected and scattered to form a perfect whole.

On the downs beyond Clifton, a large plot of ground has been laid out for building, and, as I am informed, several streets are to be erected there, in an elegant style.

In the lower town is a parade, a square, and other handsome buildings, which, together with many elegant houses on the higher ground, are genteely fitted up for the accommodation of strangers resorting hither, either for pleasure or for health.

There are two public assembly-rooms at Clifton, styled the Upper and Lower, where assemblies and balls are held, and public breakfasts, &c. are given, in imitation of those of Bath, but on a smaller scale.

At the western extremity of Clifton, near

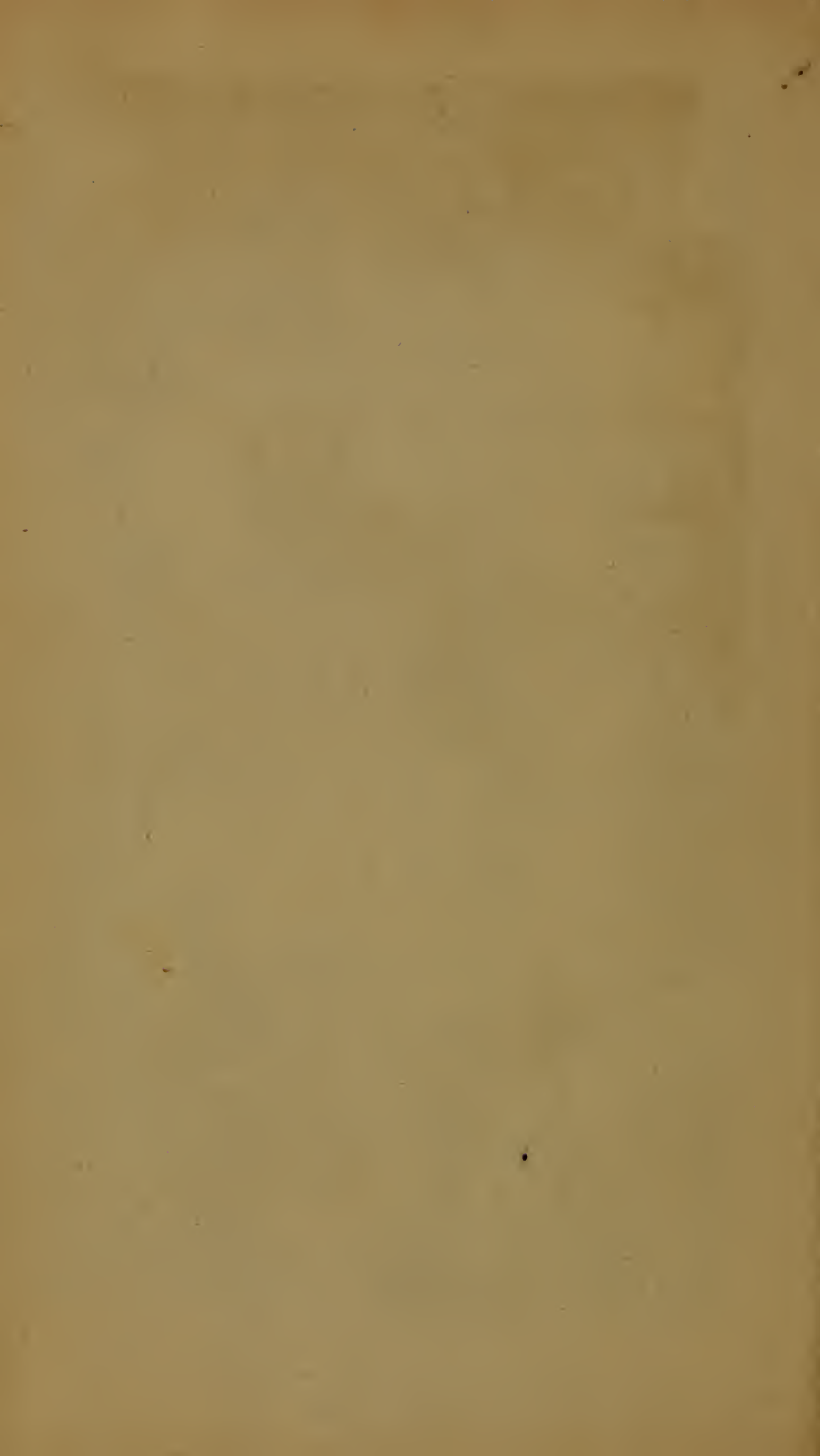
the stupendous rock of St. Vincent, rises the celebrated hot mineral spring, denominated the Bristol Hotwell.—The heat of the water, when immediately taken from the spring, raises Fahrenheit's thermometer to seventy-six degrés; which having been analyzed by the ingenious Dr. Higgins, of London, a Winchester gallon is found to contain,

	dwts.	grs.
Of calcareous earth, combined with vitriolic acid, in the form of se- lenite           -   -   -   -	0	$8\frac{1}{2}$
Of calcareous earth, combined with acidulous gas           -   -	1	$12\frac{3}{4}$
Of marine salt of magnesia           -	0	$5\frac{1}{4}$
Of sea salt           -   -   -   -	0	$6\frac{1}{2}$
	2	9

It also contains eight ounce measures of acidulous gas, beyond the quantity retained by the calcareous earth in the heat of boiling water, and two ounce measures of air, equal, if not superior to atmospheric air in purity.



*Saint Vincent's Rocks.*



It has no animal, vegetable, or sulphureous particles; so that being void of the seeds of corruption, it receives no taint through length of time, or alteration of climate.

The water of the Hotwell is perfectly pellucid, and abounding with air-bubbles, which are continually rising from the bottom to the surface, as if in a state of fermentation.—This water is found extremely efficacious in consumptions, weakness of the lungs, and all cases attended with hectic fever and heat, and exceeds all other remedies in the cure of the diabetes, as well as in many other disorders, as will appear from the several treatises written by Dr. Randolph, Dr. Keir, and other authors, on the virtues of the Bristol water. The former of these gentlemen attributes its first reputation, to its efficacy in the stone and gravel.

Close to the Hotwell House rises the stupendous rock of St. Vincent, overhanging the Avon in tremendous cliffs of prodigious height; and on the opposite side of



the river, the grounds are equally bold, and covered with wood from their summits to the water's edge, forming a beautiful contrast to the rugged and barren rock.

Formerly, in the face of this rock was a hermitage, and a chapel dedicated to St. Vincent, whence it took its name.—From the works of William of Worcester it appears, that the Bristol hot spring was in repute when he wrote; and, after describing the spring, the chapel, and hermitage, he says, the chapel of the hermitage was twenty fathoms from the firm ground, as measured by himself, in the year 1480, or one hundred and twenty-four steps, or there about, and situated about the middle of the rock, as you ascend to the high ground.

The rock of St. Vincent is composed of a hard marble, or lime-stone, of a peculiar kind; in colour, from a dusky red to a light grey, and when polished is beautifully variegated.

The various forms the several cliffs of this tremendous rock assume, in heavy rug-





*View of St. Vincent's, Rock Sc. taken from beyond the River.*

ged masses, as if pendant from the clouds, the beautiful verdure of the woods overhanging the opposite shore, with the Avon flowing between; altogether display a variety of sublime romantic scenery, rarely to be met with.—At Clifton, the width of the Avon is but inconsiderable, when compared with most other navigable rivers; and its steep banks being constantly washed by the tide, the influx and reflux of which is exceedingly rapid, renders its water always muddy, and at low tide the river has an unpleasant and dirty appearance; but notwithstanding this unfavourable circumstance, every returning tide in some degree removes those unpleasant appearances, and brings to our view numbers of stately vessels proudly gliding along its surface, with a variety of smaller craft, which, while they animate and enliven the picture, conspire to render it as uncommon as it is charming; and whether we behold these romantic scenes from the summit of the stupendous surrounding rocks, or view them from the

banks of the river, they are equally awful in their appearance, and striking in their effects.

The rides around Bristol and the Hotwell are rendered most delightful by the romantic scenery, and the agreeable variety of elegant seats and villas every where interspersed. From the summits of the surrounding hills, the views are various and extensive: on the west, we command a prospect of the river Avon and the Severn sea, bounded in the horizon by the lofty mountains of Wales; we look down upon the city of Bristol on the east; on the north, over Gloucestershire; and on the south, the eye ranges over the fertile county of Somerset.

In this neighbourhood are many vestiges of Roman antiquity, which, singular as it may appear, have been passed unnoticed by Camden, Gale, and other writers.—Ostorius, about the year 50, extended his victorious arms upon the banks of the rivers Severn and Avon, commanding the

*View on the shore looking towards the South Sea.*





navigation of them by a chain of forts; the first and most important of which seems to have been the camp on Clifton Down, and two others directly fronting it, called Bower Walls, and Stokeleigh Camp, at Rownham Hill, on the Somersetshire side of the Avon. —The tremendous height of the rocks on the summit of which these camps were formed, the strong and high walls, treble ditches and fences with which they were defended, together with the inaccessible precipices on the sides next the river, rendered them as impregnable as they were important. The *aggera* and double ditches of these two last-mentioned camps are still to be seen, though now overgrown with wood. —From them a *prætentura*, or fence, against any attack upon the lines is to be traced, the ranges of stones appearing still for some miles, joining in one at the top of the comb which divides the camps, proceeding in a nearly straight line towards Fayland.

At every opening towards the vales, and at every eminence where a distant prospect



of the country around, and of the river, afforded an opportunity of descrying an approaching enemy, circular watch-towers were erected ; and there the ruins of walls, crossing the fence, still appear. This fence may be traced all the way westward, by the broad high stony bank, for many miles, skirting the hill fronting the south, and extending towards Clevedon and Walton, where are now to be seen traces of camps near the Severn.

A little down the river seems to have been placed the *Castra Hyberna*, being the Roman winter station ; abundance of coin having been dug up there, in making Seamill Dock, in the year 1712. The workmen also discovered there a fine arched gateway under ground, and remains of old foundations have been traced up the adjoining hilly ground next the river side ; where great quantities of coins of Vespasian, Constantine, Constance, Galienus, Nero, &c. have also been found.

Besides these camps, there are to be found

many other strong military works in the vicinity of Bristol, viz. at Cadbury, on Blaze-hill, near Henbury, at Naish, Aldmondsbury, Oldbury, Elberton, and Old Abbey, on the Gloucestershire side; and lower down, in Somersetshire, at Dobery, at Worle-hill, East Brent; and towards the lower part of the Avon, particularly at St. George's and Portbury, where, on a rising ground, are evident traces of fortifications.

These camps at Blaze-hill and Aldmondsbury look directly towards the greater works of Clifton and Rownham Hills, and form one great chain, with the Severn in its front.—Blaze-hill commands a full prospect of the rivers Avon and Severn, also, a distant view of all the Roman stations near at hand, and was by nature the most defensible post, next to that of Clifton and Rownham Hills, in this part of the country, that Ostorius and the Romans were possessed of.—In Barrett's History of Bristol, from which the substance of this account is chiefly collected, will be found a more circumstantial

detail of these antiquities, with many ingenious conjectures respecting the different stations of the Romans, and the manner of forming the connection with their posts beyond the Severn, and other more distant parts.

END OF THE SECOND PART.

## ERRATA.

Vol. I. page 72, line 8, for *Edward the Black Prince*, read  
*Edward IV.*

Vol. II. page 6, line 16, for *first built*, read *rebuilt*.

—— page 164, line 1, for *boundaries*, read *boundary*.















