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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 I.

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LONDON:  
PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR, CHARLES-STREET,  
ST. JAMES'S-SQUARE; AND  
WILLIAM FADEN, CHARING-CROSS.  
M.DCC.XCII,

Faint, illegible text at the top of the page, possibly a title or header.



TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS  
GEORGE PRINCE OF WALES,  
*Ec. Ec.*

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SIR,

YOUR Royal Highness having graciously condescended to permit me to inscribe the following work to you, I cannot present it to the public, without testifying how deeply sensible I am of being thus privileged to throw it under your royal protection.



## DEDICATION.

I am perfectly aware, that no merit of the performance can possibly give it pretensions to so exalted a patronage; yet I flatter myself to escape the imputation of vanity, if I am permitted to ask, to whom could this publication be with more propriety addressed, than to him who is born to be the *hereditary defender* and *governor* of that country; the Topography, and Picturesque Beauties of which, it is the principal design of the following pages to illustrate?

That your Royal Highness may long live to be the ornament of so-

DEDICATION.

ciety, the delight and boast of our  
nation, and of your august Parents,  
is the earnest prayer of,

SIR,

your Royal Highness's

most grateful,

most dutiful,

and most devoted servant,

ARCH<sup>D</sup>. ROBERTSON.

*Charles-street, St. James's-square,  
Jan. 1, 1792.*



## INTRODUCTION.

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THOUGH many ingenious and useful publications, as Itineraries to this country, have answered their intended purposes ; yet serving only as guides to the post courier on the high roads, it must be allowed more is wanting, and more is desired by the curious and inquisitive traveller.

The difficulty of obtaining any satisfactory information in travelling is so generally felt and acknowledged, as to require no proof ; to obviate that difficulty is the chief aim of the present publication.

The author makes no pretensions to literary merit ; it is out of his sphere. His intentions are to give a work in its composition simple ; in its information useful ; and in some degree entertaining.

In the descriptive parts, he wishes to convey similar ideas to those by which he was impressed at the moment he made his observations. — To give decided judgment, lavishly to praise, or severely to censure, he equally avoids; and leaves it to the judicious traveller to form opinions for himself; towards which he hopes some assistance will be found, in the perusal of these pages.

The prints which serve to illustrate this work, are not ideal but *Real Views*, accurately taken on the spot by the author for the purpose; and the plates were all engraved by himself: he therefore presumes he may with some degree of confidence, present them to the public as just representations.

In describing the various subjects in a tour of this extent, similar ideas must recur, and similar expressions unavoidably be made use of; he hopes the indulgent reader will impute such repetitions to their real cause;



which he doubts not will be rendered less exceptionable by the consideration, that each separate sketch is a whole, and unconnected with any other.

This being a first essay, and the only work of the kind carried into execution ; it must be supposed liable to omissions and some incorrectness : the Author can only say, if any gentleman will kindly condescend to point out such defects, and an Appendix should be found necessary, he will not fail to pay every possible attention to his communications.



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## TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY,

*Ec.*

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## SECT. I.

THE county of Middlesex extends, nearly twenty-four miles in length; eighteen in breadth; and ninety-five in circumference. It is bounded, on the north by Hertfordshire; on the south by the river Thames, which divides it from Surrey; on the west by the river Colne, which separates it from Buckinghamshire; and on the east by the river Lee, which parts it from Essex.

The two very opulent cities of London and Westminster, although distinct in their

government and jurisdiction, are actually united, and go under the appellation of the Metropolis:—they stand in the south-east quarter of this county, which is the most populous and wealthy of any in Great Britain. Middlesex contains seventy-three parishes, and five market-towns; exclusive of the metropolis, collectively denominated London. A gravelly soil prevails over great part of this county; which contributes to the salubrity of the air, and healthiness of its inhabitants.

## LONDON.

London, the metropolis of Great Britain, justly esteemed the first city in Europe, for wealth, commerce, and extent; is nobly situated upon a declivity on the banks of the river Thames: the influx and reflux of which regularly washing the lower parts of it.—An elevated and gravelly situation; the manner of paving, lighting, and cleaning the streets; with the very surprising me-

thod by which the whole city and its suburbs are amply supplied with water,—leave it unrivalled by any other in the universe. Here, health, comfort, convenience, and the luxuries of life, are to be found in a very superior degree.

Over the Thames, are three magnificent stone bridges, viz. London, Blackfriars, and Westminster.

The former of these, is of great antiquity ; and is said to have been built, in its original form, about the year 1209: having had a row of houses on each side, forming a narrow street ; which being found inconvenient and dangerous, was removed ; since which period the bridge has undergone many alterations and repairs, and has been widened and modernized. It extends nine hundred and fifteen feet in length, and forms a spacious road of communication between the city of London and borough of Southwark.

Blackfriars bridge, was begun in 1760, and completed in 1769. It consists of nine

elliptical arches, and extends near a thousand feet in length. Over each pier is a recess, supported by two Ionic columns, and two pilasters, which stand on a semicircular projection of the pier. Its width is forty-four feet, and the height of the balustrade, on the inside, is four feet two inches. This elegant and costly structure was built, at the expence of the city of London, from a design, and under the direction of Robert Milne, Esq.—and, to the astonishment and dismay of our enemies, was undertaken in the midst of an expensive war.

Westminster bridge, is allowed to be one of the first in Europe for elegant simplicity and grandeur; extending twelve hundred feet in length, and about forty-six in breadth: it has fifteen semicircular arches, with a semi-octagon recess over each pier; twelve of which are covered with half domes. It was completed in 1747, about twelve years after its foundation was laid;—was built, at the public expence, and is computed to have cost £.390,000; and forms

the communication between the city of Westminster and the Surrey shore.

These three magnificent bridges, besides being the greatest ornament to the noble river on which they stand; form approaches to the cities of London and Westminster, in a style of elegance and grandeur not to be met with elsewhere: and being well paved and lighted must, at first view, whether by day or night, impress the minds of foreigners and natives with a just idea of the consequence and splendour of the wealthy metropolis to which they belong.

The parks, at the west end of the town, where the public have at all times liberty to resort, for air and recreation, are worthy of observation.

Saint James's Park, in which the very ancient and royal palace of that name stands, is of considerable extent, and is nearly divided by a canal in the center. On the south and north sides, are avenues of stately trees, which afford an agreeable shade in the summer, and shelter in the winter sea-



son. The walks are spacious, well gravelled, and kept in excellent order; and are much resorted to, by all ranks and degrees of people, particularly in the spring and summer months.

At the west end of Saint James's Park, stands the Queen's Palace; which, though it might be esteemed an elegant house for a subject, is by no means possessed of that magnificence which ought to adorn the mansions of royalty. This building went formerly by the name of Buckingham House; having been the property of and built by Sheffield Duke of Buckingham. It is now the town residence of their Majesties and royal family. The apartments of this palace are elegantly furnished: It contains a valuable collection of pictures by the first masters; and the library is magnificent

It is with regret, Saint James's Palace must be passed over in silence: to describe it, would only bring to our remembrance, how much it is to be lamented, that the sovereign of Great Britain, has not a palace

*View of the Queen's Palace from the Green Park.*







in his metropolis, equal in magnificence to those of other monarchs ; and more becoming the dignity of the wealthy and powerful realms, over which he so happily reigns.

The Green Park, is situated on the north side of Saint James's Park ; running parallel to the street which leads to the great western road : and though of less extent than the latter, has greatly the advantage of situation. From the high ground on the north side, where there is a reservoir of water surrounded by a gravel walk, looking southward, is a most delightful view terminated by the Surrey hills. From hence proceeding west, we descend a small valley through a delightful grove, on the right of which stands the deputy-ranger's house (now inhabited by Lord William Gordon), which being of a picturesque form, and the grounds around it, though in miniature, being laid out in great taste by the possessor, present a most pleasing and beautiful scene. The herds of

cattle feeding around ; the great number of fashionable company frequently to be seen here ; together with the pleasantness of the prospects—conspire to render this spot as uncommon as it is charming.

Hyde Park, is situated at the western extremity of London ; extending south and north from the great western road to Oxford road, and west from the obelisk at Hyde Park Corner (whence the measurement of the great western road is taken) to Kensington ; being near two miles. The ground here is much varied and beautiful, affording many delightful scenes. This park is divided by a noble piece of water, called the Serpentine River ;—supplied by a constant running clear stream, which rises near Bays-water, and falls into the Thames at Westminster. Over this water is a bridge and road where it enters Kensington gardens ; beyond the bridge it continues its serpentine course through part of the gardens, and imperceptibly vanishes among its pleasant groves. Hyde Park abounds with



*View of the Lodge in the Green Park.*





many venerable and stately elms, and a great variety of other trees ; which are finely grouped, and afford much picturesque beauty. This being the only park open to all who may choose to take the air in carriages or on horseback, is much resorted to ; and, by the example of an amiable young prince, has of late become the fashionable ride and promenade ; which at particular times exhibits an assemblage of elegance, beauty, and fashion, together with such an incredible number of sumptuous and costly equipages, as are not to be paralleled in any other part of the globe : and, while it proves to what degree of luxury this country is arrived, it holds out to our view the immense wealth of the inhabitants of the magnificent city to which this is an appendage.

*KENSINGTON.*

Kensington is a considerable village, near two miles from Hyde Park Corner; has many good houses, a handsome square, and a good church, which is a modern building.

As we enter Kensington, a royal palace stands on the right, towards the western part of the gardens. This spot was formerly the seat of Albert de Vere, ancestor of the Veres, Earls of Oxford, to whom it was given by William the Conqueror. It was likewise the seat of the Lord Finch, high chancellor of England, afterwards Earl of Nottingham; was purchased by King William III. who built a royal palace here, and made extensive gardens in the style of those times. Kensington Palace is by no means large; nor are the apartments magnificent. The gardens have been, at successive periods, improved: lately they have been much altered and modernized; and

they are open for the recreation and amusement of the public, under some restrictions. This palace has been the temporary residence of successive kings and queens of England, from the time of William III. to his late Majesty George II. who died here. In early times, Kensington gave the title of Baron to the Earl of Warwick and Holland.

A little beyond Kensington, on the right, is Camden House, once a noble retreat, but now converted into a boarding school for young ladies.

Adjoining to this, at the summit of a spacious lawn, which gently rises from the road, stands Holland House; a venerable and stately Gothic structure: it is said to have been built by Henry Rich, Earl of Holland, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; was the seat of the late Lord Holland; and is now the property of the present Lord of that name, a minor. It is pleasantly situated; commanding views over the Surrey hills to the south; and is well screened by wood from the north.

*CHELSEA.*

Chelsea is a large and populous village ; situated on the banks of the Thames, about a mile west from Saint James's Park. Here stands a magnificent College (which is seen from the western road) founded by Charles II. and completed by King James II. and William III. for sick and wounded soldiers, or those who have served in the army twenty years. The number of ordinary pensioners is above 400, besides officers of the College, and near 9000 out-pensioners. The army pays poundage ; and every officer and soldier gives one day's pay in the year to this fund. The College was built by Sir Christopher Wren ; and it affords every convenience for so laudable and benevolent an institution. A bronze statue of King Charles II. stands opposite the center of the building, next the river.

Near this formerly stood an elegant seat, the property and residence of the late Earl



of Ranelagh ; the greatest part of the gardens belonging to which have been parcelled out, and sold in lots ; and is now occupied by buildings. The house has been converted into a place of elegant summer amusement ; where a band of vocal and instrumental performers attend in the evening for the entertainment of the company. The Rotunda, which stands in the gardens, is a superb room, 150 feet in diameter ; is elegantly lighted, and is much resorted to by the most fashionable company in the kingdom.

A little more than a mile from Kensington, we pass through Hammersmith ; a long and scattered village ; on the left of which at a small distance from the road, is the seat of the late Lord Melcomb.

A little further, by the river, stands the village of Chiswick ; near to which is a small but handsome house built by the late Lord Burlington ; quite in the style, and much resembling an Italian villa. The house is greatly admired, and esteemed a

perfect piece of architecture. Rows of noble cedars grace the approach to it; and the gardens are laid out with taste; having been altered and improved by the late ingenious Mr. Kent. This elegant little villa belongs to his Grace the Duke of Devonshire; and contains a collection of valuable pictures.

Near the road, on the left, at Turnham-Green, is a small seat which was the residence of the late Lieutenant-General Lord Heathfield: whose well known military services gained him the esteem of his king and country; and particularly his gallant defence of the important fortress of Gibraltar, against the combined forces of France and Spain in the late war. This little villa is now the property of the present Lord Heathfield; and in the time of the late noble possessor was altered and improved (as far as any thing on so small a scale would admit) with taste and judgment, under the direction of Mr. William Aiton, jun.

A little beyond Turnham-Green on an eminence in sight from the road, on the right, stands Gunnersbury House, which was built by Mr. Webb, son-in-law to the justly celebrated architect Inigo Jones. It is a stately building, and has an elegant portico to the back front; is well sheltered with wood, and its gardens are laid out in a good style. This seat was the property and residence of her late Royal Highness the Princess Amelia, aunt to his present Majesty.









*New Bridge from the Ferry at Brentford.*

## SECT II.

A LITTLE beyond the six-mile stone, the road to Kew and Richmond branches off to the left. Here lately stood a wooden bridge over the Thames, which was taken down, and is rebuilt of stone, from a design by Mr. Paine. This new structure, though of considerable dimensions, by no means claims our admiration for its proportions, so much as several others on the same river; its width being much too contracted for its length and height; which disproportion never fails to lessen the dignity of the object, on our approach to it.

There is a handsome balustrade on each side; but no pavement for foot passengers, nor recesses for shelter in case of danger: It is, however, an elegant struc-

ture, a great ornament to the river, and becomes a picturesque object, when viewed from many parts of the neighbourhood.—Being private property, a toll is levied from passengers of every description, which produces a considerable revenue.

### *COUNTY OF SURREY.*

Kew bridge leads to the county of Surrey ; which is bounded by the Thames on the north, by Sussex on the south, on the east by Kent, and on the west by Berkshire and Hampshire : It is about thirty-four miles in length, twenty in breadth, and one hundred and twelve in circumference ; contains one hundred and forty parishes, thirteen market-towns, four hundred and fifty villages ; and lies in the province of Canterbury, and diocess of Winchester.—Its chief produce is corn, box and walnut-tree ; and its rivers are the Thames, the Mole, the Wey, and the Wandle, abounding with a variety of excellent fish.



The Mole rises near Oakley, and running eastward for several miles along the skirts of Sussex, takes a north-west direction; and at the bottom of Box-hill, near Darking, disappears at a place called the Swallow, and forces a passage under ground, for more than two miles, to Leatherhead;—where it again springs up, and continues its course northward, and falls into the Thames nearly opposite to Hampton Court.

In the northern part of this county, near the Thames, and towards the borders of Kent, the soil is rich and productive, particularly in corn and hay; many other parts of it are sandy, and consist of barren heaths. The air is reckoned mild and healthy, in the most cultivated parts, but more bleak and harsh in its waste and barren tracts.

Kew is situated on the Thames, opposite to Brentford; is an unconnected village, surrounding a level spot called Kew Green, and is composed of many handsome houses and small villas.—At its western extremity, on the left, is a royal palace, which shall

hereafter be particularly mentioned ; and nearly opposite to this, on the right, close to the river, stands an ancient edifice belonging to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

On the Green, is a small but neat church, which was a chapel of ease to Kingston upon Thames, but now is a distinct vicarage ; it was built upon ground given by Queen Ann, at the expence of the nobility and gentry of the neighbourhood of Kew.

### *ROYAL GARDENS OF KEW.*

The pleasure gardens of Kew were begun by his Royal Highness the late Prince of Wales, father to his present Majesty ; were much improved by the late Princess Dowager of Wales ; and were completed under the direction of his present Majesty. These gardens contain nearly one hundred and twenty acres ; and though originally a dead flat, being forced by art, at a very considerable expence, now exhibit a great

variety of beautiful scenery. The palace stands on the north side of the gardens ; it is a low neat building, and though not magnificent, serves as a temporary retirement for their Majesties, and the royal family.

Beyond a spacious lawn, on the south front, in view from this mansion, is a handsome piece of water ; the banks of which are ornamented by shrubberies and other woody scenery. These gardens are between two and three miles in circumference ; are adorned by a variety of temples and other buildings, chiefly in the Chinese and Turkish style of architecture, after the designs of Sir William Chambers, and some others :— the most conspicuous of these is the Pagoda, which stands on a delightful spot near the south side of the gardens, and is intended to imitate a Chinese Taa.— This edifice is built on a regular octagon base, forty-nine feet in diameter : the superstructure is of the same form, ten stories high, regularly diminishing in height and breadth, each

having a projecting roof, round which is a gallery inclosed by a rail ; the whole making one hundred and sixty-three feet in height : the stairs which lead to the different stories are in the center of the building.

The botanic gardens at Kew, were first formed by her Royal Highness the late Princess Dowager of Wales, in 1760 ; chiefly under the direction of the Earl of Bute : and, in a short space of time, a very considerable progress was made in collecting and propagating plants. After the death of her Royal Highness, descending to their present Majesties, they have, under their auspices, been brought to a degree of perfection far exceeding any other of the kind in the universe.

Kew gardens, are supposed to contain above five thousand different species of plants (among which are many of the most rare from every part of the known world); a number which nothing but the most unremitting assiduity, combined with the most unbounded liberality, could produce in so short a

period. They are kept in the most perfect order ; have been conducted, from their first formation, under the sole management of Mr. William Aiton, botanic gardener to his Majesty ; to whom, as a professional man, they do infinite credit ; as may be seen by a catalogue of the plants cultivated in Kew gardens, in three volumes large octavo, entitled *Hortus Kewensis*, lately published by him.

### RICHMOND.

About two miles from Kew, and eight from the metropolis, is the village of Richmond : it is built on the declivity of a hill of considerable height ; extends southward to the gates of Richmond park, and is more than a mile in length.—The great number of excellent houses, with a variety of elegant villas, of which it is composed ; the various and extensive views it commands, over a rich and highly cultivated surrounding country, adorned in a very superior degree



by nature and art, give it a claim to superiority over most others in this country.

From hence we view the beautiful Thames, which washes the base of the hill on which this village stands, gliding in meanders through verdant meadows in the valley beneath. Sometimes it is only to be seen, in imperfect glances, through the rich scenery of the grounds which overhang its banks; at others more distinctly, assuming various appearances, as the situation from whence it is viewed is changed.—And though there can be nothing in nature more beautiful or elegant than the lines formed by the course of a noble river; yet when partially screened from the eye by a variety of intervening objects, they appear to greater advantage, and new graces are added to those which seemed to want no artificial assistance. The opposite shore of the river is richly adorned with beautiful lawns, delightful villages, and elegant seats; and whether we view this charming spot from the banks of the river, or, remaining



*View from Richmond Hill looking down the River.*





on it, survey the surrounding country, the eye is equally enchanted, though with landscapes of very different composition.

At Richmond, in early times, there stood a royal palace, which was long the favourite seat of the British monarchs.—Here died Edward III. and Ann, the queen of Richard II. after whose death it was by him deserted. It was afterwards repaired by Henry V. but during the destructive wars between the houses of York and Lancaster, it was much neglected, and was afterwards consumed by fire, in the year 1497. It was rebuilt by Henry VII. who changed the name of the village from Shene to Richmond, having borne the title of Duke of Richmond before his accession to the crown. This monarch, and his grand-daughter Queen Elizabeth, also died here. In Richmond part of the walls, and some other vestiges of this ancient palace, are still to be seen.

King William III. having granted some lands to the Duke of Ormond, as a recompense for his military services, a palace was

by him built, near the royal gardens ; which reverted to the crown, after that nobleman's attainder, in the beginning of the reign of King George II.--It then became the summer residence of that monarch and Queen Caroline, by whom it was greatly improved. Here his present Majesty also lived ; and after the death of his mother, the late Princess Dowager of Wales, he removed to Kew Palace, and ordered that of Richmond to be demolished, with the intention of erecting a new one on the same site ; the foundation was laid, but the idea of completing it seems, for the present, to be abandoned.

### *RICHMOND GARDENS.*

The Royal gardens of Richmond are separated from Kew gardens by a wall ; formerly they were parted by a road, which has been removed. The public road also, by the river side, was taken away ; in lieu of which a spacious one, in a more direct line from Kew bridge to Richmond,

has been substituted; which, though perhaps not so pleasant as the former, is certainly considerably shorter, and more convenient.

These gardens are about four miles in circumference, extending from Kew, southward, along the Thames, towards the village of Richmond; and, since their first formation, have undergone many changes.—By his present Majesty they have been totally altered, and much improved (though not completed) under the direction of the late ingenious Mr. Launcelot Brown; one of the first who ventured to cast away the fetters which had been so long rivetted on the genius of the artist, by the vitiated taste and unnatural formalities of ancient gardening, and boldly and judiciously made choice of nature for his model: and no where is this superiority of better judgment more conspicuously to be seen, than by the late alterations made in the gardens of Richmond.

Instead of regular avenues, dressed hedges, smooth parterres, and straight embank-

ments, we now see irregular groups of trees, adorning beautiful swelling lawns, interspersed with shrubberies, broken clumps, and more solemn woods; through the recesses of which are walks that lead to various parts of these delicious gardens, laid out with elegance and taste, as if Nature herself had been the directress.—The banks, along the margin of the Thames, are judiciously varied, forming a noble terrace, which extends the whole length of the gardens.

In the south-east quarter of these enchanting grounds, a road leads to a lonely and sequestered spot, where stands a cottage, in which nothing but elegant simplicity is to be found.—Here is a collection of foreign and domestic animals of great curiosity, and also a number of exotic and other rare birds; and being a favourite retreat of her Majesty, it is kept in the utmost order and neatness.

On the south, towards Richmond, is a small park, in which stands an elegant observatory; it was formerly under the direc-



tion of the late ingenious Doctor Demainbry, and is now under the care of that gentleman's son, and contains a complete collection of instruments for astronomical observation, and other mathematical studies.

Kew gardens, are open for the inspection of the curious, every Monday from Midsummer till the latter end of Autumn, as are also those of Richmond, every Sunday during the same period.

Richmond park is about eleven miles in circumference ; is situated between Richmond and Kingston ; was made in the reign of King Charles II. and is inclosed by a brick wall. The woods it contains are extensive, and abound with many stately forest trees. It is well stocked with numerous herds of fine deer, and a variety of other game ; the grounds are unequal, and in many parts picturesquely rude, affording rich pasturage and shelter, for its wild inhabitants.—From the skirts of the woods, in the high ground, on the northern side of the park, the views

are as various as they are pleasant. Here are several handsome lodges, particularly one built by Sir Robert Walpole, afterwards Earl of Orford.—The Earl of Bute is the present ranger, and the Honourable James Stuart, son to that nobleman, is deputy ranger, and resides in the park.

From the gates of Richmond park, we descend a steep hill, through an avenue of stately trees, towards Petersham; at the bottom of which, on the left, close to the road, stands a house which formerly belonged to the Earl of Harrington, and was built for his lordship from a design of the late Earl of Burlington; which, though simple, is elegant and regular, and the front towards the gardens is particularly admired. A high hill finely clothed with wood, being a continuation of that ridge, on the declivity of which the village of Richmond stands, stretches for a considerable distance to the south-west; overlooks the house and gardens, forming a noble back ground when viewed from the opposite side of the river.

—This house stands on the site of an elegant mansion, built by the Earl of Rochester, lord high treasurer in the reign of James II. and was consumed by fire in 1720, by which accident the fine collection of paintings, the curious library, and the inestimable manuscripts of Lord Clarendon, author of the History of the Rebellion in 1646, were unfortunately destroyed.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence having lately purchased this seat from Lord Camelford, intends it for his future residence, and it is now fitting up for his reception.

Close to this is the village of Petersham, which contains many handsome houses. It is said to be of great antiquity, and formerly to have enjoyed great and peculiar privileges; and gives the title of Viscount to the Earl of Harrington.

A little farther, near Ham, is an ancient house belonging to the Earl of Dysart, which was formerly the residence of the Duke of Lauderdale, and contains a collection of va-

luable portraits by Vandyke, Sir Peter Lilly, and other masters.

From Richmond, the road to Twickenham turns to the right, over a bridge of stone composed of five arches; which has recesses supported by projecting piers, with a handsome pavement on each side, guarded by a balustrade. This commodious and elegant bridge gives an additional grace to the river, is a beautiful object from every quarter whence it is seen, and was built from a design of the late Mr. Paine. A toll is likewise levied here from passengers of all denominations.

Near Richmond bridge, on the left, is the seat of Owen Cambridge, Esq. the house is ancient; contains some valuable pictures; and the grounds and lawns are laid out with that gentleman's usual taste and judgment.

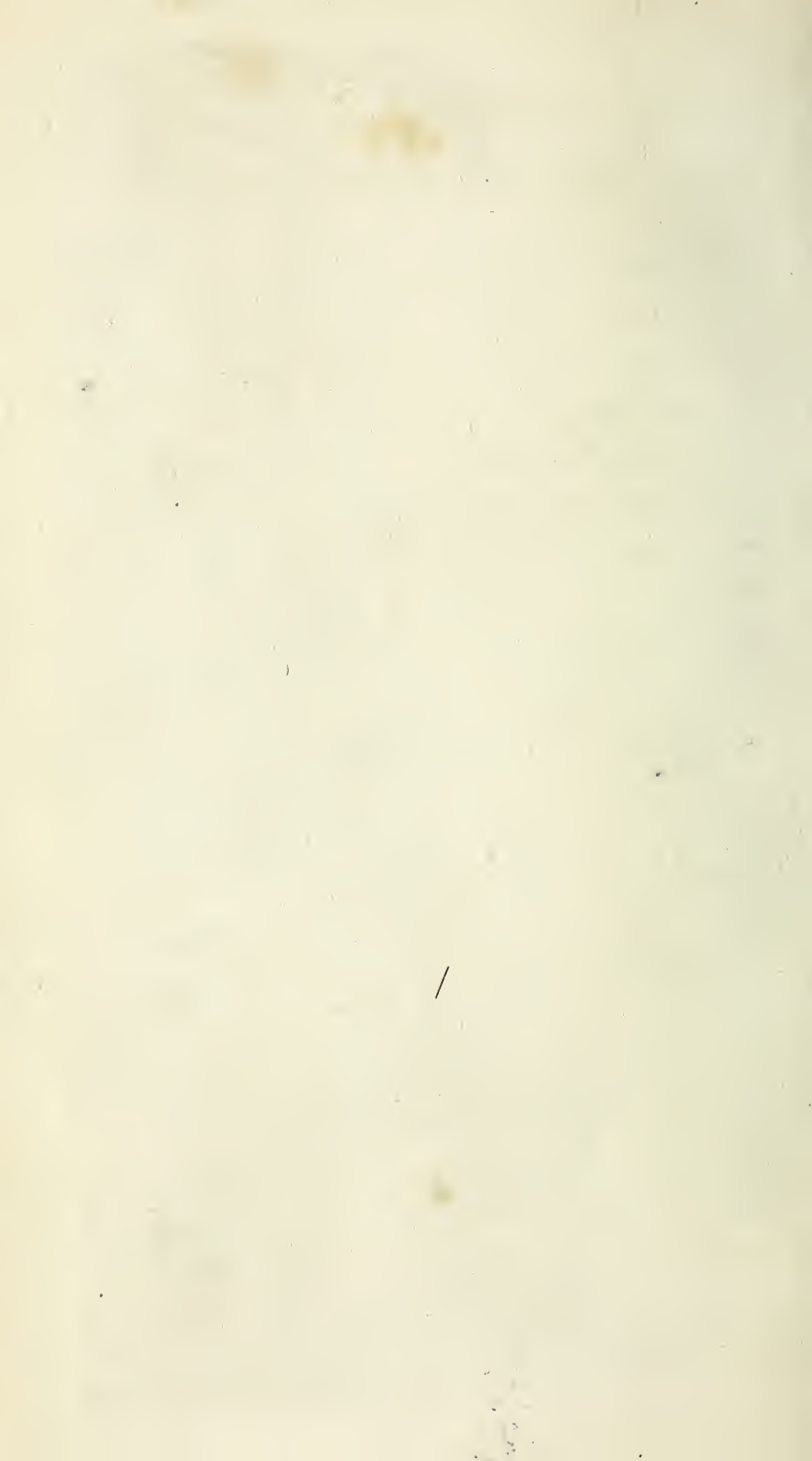
A little beyond this, stands Marble-hill, a seat of the Earl of Buckinghamshire. The house is elegant, delightfully situated, and was built by the Countess of Suffolk, from a design of the late Earl of Pembroke.





*View of Richmond Bridge looking Southward.*





Near this, by the river, is a small but neat house, the residence of Lady Diana Beauclerk; some of the apartments in which are decorated with beautiful paintings by her own hand, in a style that would do honour to the pencil of the most eminent artist. This pleasant retreat is also the property of the Earl of Buckinghamshire.

On the opposite banks of the river, fronting Marble Hill, is a house which was a favourite retreat, and the property of the late Duke of Montague; since whose death it has devolved to the family of the Duke of Buccleugh, that nobleman's son-in-law.

Twickenham, is a village on the Thames, between Isleworth and Tuddington, composed of many handsome houses, and villas, too numerous here to be particularly described; among the most remarkable, are, the house of Sir George Pocock, built by Secretary Johnson; and that which was the residence and property of the celebrated Mr. Pope, enlarged and improved by Sir William Stanhope; now belonging

to W. Ellis, Esq. The church is a handsome Doric structure, and contributes to the beauty of the village.

### STRAWBERRY HILL.

Near Twickenham, close by the river, is Strawberry Hill, the seat of the Honourable Horace Walpole; which from its singularity is worthy of particular notice. The house is of Gothic architecture, and in its appearance resembles an ancient priory: the same idea prevails within, the apartments being arranged and fitted up in the style of a religious house. This seat may be considered as a model, and it assimilates two ideas of Milton, "*'tis bosomed high in tufted trees,*" and by its construction, "*light is taught to counterfeit a gloom.*" Though it is not built in a manner to resist the force of time; yet its form and contents will be preserved in the libraries of the curious, by a descriptive catalogue, illustrated with prints, written by the honourable possessor, and printed

at his own press.—The last circumstance will commemorate this habitation when no part of it remains.

Among the variety of curiosities which this house contains, we shall only notice the following:—A valuable collection of portraits and cabinet pictures in oil, besides a great number of capital miniatures; a large museum of antiquities; some valuable sculpture; and other extraordinary pieces of art. The library is composed of rare and valuable books, in different languages.--Among a large collection of prints, is a fine set of the works of Faithorne, chiefly portraits; some of which, though little known, may be ranked among the best productions of the art of engraving at that period; also, seventeen volumes folio of portraits, two of them entirely of artists, properly arranged, and enriched with notes.

Returning from hence, and repassing Richmond bridge, on the left, close to the Thames, stands a spacious house belonging to the Duke of Queensberry, where his

Grace often resides: the building is low, but the front is of great extent, and makes a handsome appearance. A little farther is an elegant little villa, built by Sir Charles Asgill, from a design of the late Sir Robert Taylor, now in the possession of Mr. Keane. The house is a beautiful piece of architecture; and the gardens are neat, and planted with taste.

Nearly opposite to this, on the north shore of the river, in a retired situation, is Twickenham Park, the late residence of the Earl of Montrath; now in the possession of Lord Frederick Cavendish. The mansion is large, nearly surrounded by wood; and the grounds are pleasant, extending along the Thames to the village of Isleworth.



## S E C T. III.

WE now return to the high road, and proceed to Brentford, which has little to boast of besides its situation. It stands on the north shore of the Thames, and is chiefly composed of one street of great length: the houses in general are irregular, small, and ill built; and, whether viewed from the river, or other parts of the neighbourhood, appear to no great advantage. — From hence a considerable trade in corn, malt, and other commodities, is carried on, by means of the Thames, to the capital.—At Brentford are two churches, one of which is a chapel of ease to Great Ealing; and the election of knights of the shire for Middlesex is held here.

In 1642, Charles I. after defeating the rebels at Edge-hill, marched his army to

Brentford, attacked the parliament forces which defended it, and gained a victory over them; their commander being killed, and five hundred prisoners were taken. In recompense for the gallant behaviour of Ruthen Earl of Forth in this battle, he was made general of the king's forces, and was afterwards advanced to the dignity of Earl of Brentford; which title became extinct at his death in 1651.

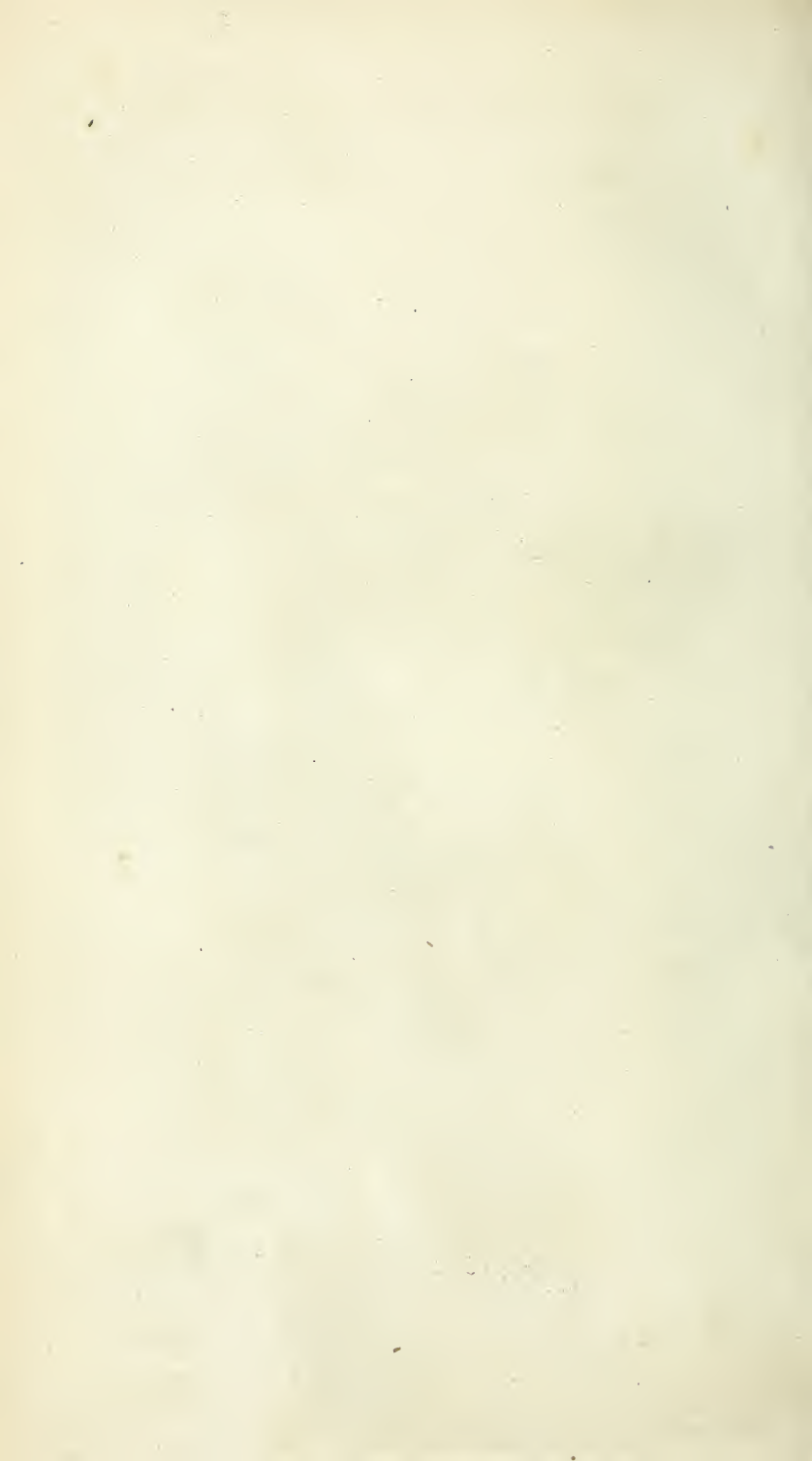
### *SION HOUSE.*

A little beyond Brentford, on the left, stands Sion House, one of the seats of the Duke of Northumberland; the approach to which, from the high road, is ornamented by a beautiful arch, with an open colonade, and a handsome lodge on each side, forming an elegant and picturesque piece of architecture.

Sion House takes its name from a monastery, founded here by Henry V. in 1414. In a succeeding reign (that of Edward



*Stone Lodge.*





VI.) it was given by the king to his uncle the protector, who, about 1547, began to build this magnificent structure, the walls of which now remain, with some alterations. After the attainder and execution of this nobleman, Sion was confiscated; and was afterwards given to the Duke of Northumberland, on whose condemnation and execution in 1553, it again reverted to the crown. King James II. in consideration of the eminent services of Henry Earl of Northumberland, gave Sion to him and his heirs for ever. The two noble families of Somerset and Northumberland, afterwards uniting by marriage; Sion with other considerable estates, descended to their representative, the present Duke of Northumberland.

This seat is situated between Brentford and Isleworth, in a spacious lawn on the banks of the Thames, diversified by a pleasing variety of woody scenery. The house is a magnificent structure of white stone, built in the form of a hollow square; having at each angle, a square tower, consi-



derably higher than the intermediate parts of the building : The roof is flat, surrounded by embattled turrets ; and the east front, towards the river and royal gardens of Richmond, is supported on arches, forming a noble piazza.

In the year 1762, the late Duke of Northumberland began to make considerable alterations and improvements at Sion House, and employed Robert Adam, Esq. as architect. The apartments, which are spacious, are fitted up and decorated in the antique style, and are worthy the notice of the curious. The great hall at the entrance, is two stories high ; and contains several antique marble figures, standing on pedestals. Adjoining the hall is an anti-chamber, where are twelve columns of verd antique marble, which support twelve statues ; and the pannels are adorned with trophies.

Next to the anti-room is the great dining room, finished in stucco, with circular recesses at each end, decorated with screens of columns, and marble statues in niches,

by the best modern statuaries. Adjoining the eating room is the drawing room; the ceiling of which is coved and painted in compartments; and the mouldings, being all gilt, have a rich and elegant appearance: this gives access to an old gallery, finished in the style of a museum, which affords great variety of amusement. The grounds, round this magnificent seat, were also altered by the late noble possessor, in his usual liberal manner. Many other improvements have been proposed, but are not yet carried into execution.

On the south, near Sion House, is the cheerful village of Isleworth, on the banks of the Thames: in its neighbourhood are many handsome houses, and some seats.—The church is a handsome modern building, and a venerable tower covered with ivy, which belonged to the former church, is preserved.

Opposite Sion Lodge, a road turns to the right, and leads to Sion Hill; an elegant little villa belonging to the Duke of Marlbo-

rough. The house is a handsome building, and serves as a pleasant retreat for his Grace, and his noble family. The grounds are rather contracted, but pleasant and well wooded; were laid out under the direction of the late Mr. Brown; and extend to the great road.

At a little distance is the seat of John Robinson, Esq. a neat building, with extensive offices, which stands pleasantly in a small paddock. The land here is rich and valuable; and though of small extent, gives the superiority of a manor to the proprietor.

### *OSTERLY PARK.*

About a mile farther we approach Osterly Park, and enter it by a gate; on each side of which is a handsome lodge. This park is about six miles in circumference; abounds with wood; and its grounds are more varied than most others in this part of the country. The house is a magnificent structure, of a square form, having a tower

at each outward angle. The ascent to the east front, is by a grand flight of steps, to an open saloon, or portico, that leads to the principal door of the hall; which is much admired for simplicity of decoration, and a pleasing form.

The apartments are spacious, and were fitted up and improved by the late proprietor, Robert Child, Esq. in the most sumptuous and costly manner. The dining room, drawing room, and bed chambers, are finished and furnished in the first style of elegance and grandeur; and the Etruscan room is particularly worthy of notice.—In the drawing room are some pictures of Titian, Rembrandt, and others, which are fine productions of genius; and the grand gallery contains a number of paintings by different masters, that would not disgrace the collection of any prince in Europe. The ornaments of the eating room are in stucco; in the great pannels are introduced some fine paintings by Signor Zucchi; and over the doors are pictures representing the four

quarters of the globe by the same master. Among other things that attract attention here, is a bed of green velvet, embroidered with flowers in natural colours; the carpets, glass frames, and other parts of the furniture corresponding, contribute much to that harmony and agreement of parts, for which this house is so particularly celebrated.—The whole of these decorations were from the designs, and executed under the immediate direction of Robert Adam, Esq. to whose taste and judgment they do infinite honour.

From the lodges at the entrance of the park we descend a spacious road, between two pieces of water, which being on different levels, may be termed the upper and lower.—The former of these is opposite the east front, and in view from the house; and though not large, gives beauty and variety to this part of the park.—The lower water is of much greater extent, partly inclosed by woods, through which it makes a noble sweep; and its banks having a variety of



scenery in pleasing confusion, give it the appearance of a natural lake.

On a beautiful sloping bank beneath a wood, on the north shore of the lake, stands an elegant menagerie, containing a large collection of exotic and curious birds; and the surrounding woods resound the echoing and plaintive notes of a variety of beautiful water fowl, constantly skimming the surface of the water.—On the north there is a rookery, the numerous tribes of which seem to have been in a superior degree directed by instinct, to make choice of this, as an asylum, and secure place of abode, as it is for the rest of the feathered creation; and through their hoarse sounding throats, proclaim the happiness and liberty they enjoy, in common with the other more beautiful inhabitants of this protected spot.—Here the lake bends to the north-west, over which at some distance is a bridge of stone; beyond this it contracts, and is lost to the eye.

Towards the right, near the nine mile stone, on the edge of a common, is Spring

Grove, a neat house, the summer residence of Sir Joseph Banks, President of the Royal Society; celebrated for his great knowledge in botany, to whom the lovers of that science, and the world in general, will be infinitely indebted, when the most voluminous and expensive work ever attempted in any country, now preparing by that gentleman on this subject, will be given to the public.

Whitton Place, situated about ten miles from London, on the left of the road, near Hounslow, was built by the late Archibald Duke of Argyle, on ground granted him by the crown; part of which was taken from Hounslow Heath.—The gardens were laid out with elegance and taste by the noble possessor, agreeable to the style of that period, abounding with cedars, and a variety of other ever-greens, some of which are arrived to a high degree of perfection. Here were conservatories for exotic and other plants, forming a grand collection.

Since the death of the Duke of Argyle, Whitton Place has passed through the hands of several proprietors ; was much neglected until it came into the possession of George Gostling, Esq. who converted the great conservatory into a stately mansion, and divided the grounds ; annexing one part to the former house, which was purchased by Sir William Chambers, and retaining the remainder, formed them into two distinct villas.

Whitton House has been much improved since it became the property of Sir William Chambers ; and the gardens emulate those of an Italian villa, having temples, statues, ruins, and other decorations coinciding with that idea. In commemoration of the happy recovery of his Majesty in 1788, the temple of Æsculapius has been erected, and in letters of gold over the door, is the following inscription :

ÆSCVLAPIO SALV. AVG. RESTITVIT.  
SACR. MDCCLXXXIX.

The house is a handsome regular building, contains some fine pictures, original

drawings, and an excellent library, in which are many valuable books on ancient and modern architecture.

The village of Hounslow, is a principal stage on the western road, near ten miles from London, on the skirts of Hounslow Heath; it belongs to two parishes; to Heston on the north, and to Isleworth on the south: has many good inns, and is chiefly supported by the road.

On the north-east of the Heath, towards King's Arbor, are the traces of a small Roman camp, ninety paces by one hundred and thirty-two, and another about a mile distant from it: One of these Stukley gives to Cæsar, and mentions his having had another, where the church of Kingsbury now stands; and traces his march from Coway Stakes to *Cassibellan's Oppidum* at Watford and Rickmansworth. In Sion House is an ancient map of Isleworth hundred, in which are marked two royal camps, by the name of *Shakesbury Hills*, on this heath, near Cranford.

## SECT IV.

*Retrospect of the Country from London to  
Hounslow.*

THE road from London to Hounslow, runs nearly on a level ; the country on the left, imperceptibly declining to the Thames. The grounds, on each side, are chiefly occupied by gardens, nurseries, and orchards, with almost a continued chain of buildings, of various dimensions and appearances, extending for more than eight miles from the metropolis. West of Kensington, on the right, are gentle-rising grounds ; with houses, inclosures, and some wood intermixed : And beyond Brentford, towards

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Hounslow, the country is diversified by cultivation, ornamented villas, and woody scenery.

The banks of the Thames, from Westminster bridge to Putney and Fulham, display no remarkable features ; they are however rendered pleasant by a great number of cheerful villages, with a variety of other buildings, clustered on the shores.

Lambeth, a village in Surrey, is situated on the Thames, near Westminster bridge ; in which stands an ancient palace, the residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury. This structure was originally built by Baldwin, archbishop of that see, about the year 1188. In 1250, Bishop Boniface, having by his arrogance rendered himself obnoxious to the citizens of London, retired hither as a place of safety ; and finding it in a ruinous condition, rebuilt the north front, and made many other improvements.

From that period, Lambeth Palace became the habitation of some of the greatest characters at the head of the church ; and was by

its successive possessors, enlarged by many additional buildings; to which circumstance that want of uniformity, so conspicuous in it, is to be attributed. It stands close to the river, is well sheltered from the north by trees, and has a stately and picturesque appearance when viewed from the opposite shore; and particularly from Westminster bridge.

This palace contains a valuable library; which is annexed to the archiepiscopal see of Canterbury, and is said to consist of near fifteen thousand volumes of printed books, and above six hundred volumes of manuscripts.

A little higher on the Surrey shore is Vauxhall, once the seat of Sir Thomas Morland; now a fashionable place for amusements on summer evenings. The gardens are spacious, abounding with wood, and have a variety of gravel walks which are kept in perfect order. Near the entrance stands a building, in the form of a temple, having a fine organ, and an ele-

gant orchestra ; where a select band of vocal and instrumental performers attends in the season. Contiguous is a rotunda, with a saloon and other rooms of large dimensions, decorated with paintings ; well adapted for musical performances, and entertainments peculiar to the place ; and are frequently made use of for these purposes.

Chelsea College (before taken notice of) has a noble and stately appearance from the river ; and adds dignity to the village in which it stands. From the southern extremity of Chelsea, a handsome wooden bridge stretches across the Thames ; and leads to Battersea, which is situated a little higher on the Surrey shore ; consisting of good houses, with a handsome modern church.

Battersea gives the title of Baron to the Lord Viscount Bolingbroke ; to whose ancestors the manor of that name, together with that of Wandsworth, were granted by King Charles I.

About a mile farther, on opposite shores

of the river, are the two large and populous villages of Putney and Fulham, which are joined by a bridge of great length, built of timber.—From hence the views are pleasingly picturesque; the banks of the Thames being unequal, diversified with wood and buildings.

Fulham stands in Middlesex; and in the Conqueror's time it was held of the king, by the canons of St. Paul's. Here is an ancient mansion, belonging to the see of London, which has been the residence of its successive bishops for many years.

Proceeding higher, and leaving Chiswick on the right, a continuation of the same kind of scenery leads to Richmond; on our approach to which the country becomes more characteristic.

Here, the Thames stretches in a noble sweep towards the south, at the foot of Richmond Hill; then bending to the west, retires beneath its shade, and is lost to the sight. The northern shores of the river being low; composed of beautiful lawns

and meadows, form a pleasing contrast to the higher grounds of the southern.

Richmond Hill is adorned by handsome houses, elegant villas, and interspersed with woody scenery, from its summit to the margin of the Thames. In the center of the landscape a handsome bridge presents itself; beyond this, at some distance, a high hill finely hung with wood rises stately on the south, forming a noble back-ground to the whole; which may be deemed a picturesque and elegant composition.

The Thames, being the grand channel of communication from the interior parts of England lying west from the capital, an immense trade in corn, timber, and other merchandize is constantly carried on by its means; in which great numbers of craft of various burthens are constantly employed.

The variety of pleasure boats, and other small vessels, constantly to be seen navigating this river; the incredible numbers of shipping, from every quarter of the globe, trading to the metropolis; together with





*Richmond Hill looking Southward.*



the scenery described—unite in constituting the Thames the most beautiful, most wealthy, and most consequential river in the universe.

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A little beyond Hounslow, the Bath road branches off the great western road, in a north-west direction, along the skirts of Hounslow Heath. This waste is a dead flat, of great extent, and having little variety, the weary traveller wishes to hasten speedily from it. The scene is indeed a little changed, by the intervention of some wood and cultivated land, taken from the common near Cranford bridge; beyond which it again assumes its dreary aspect, extending to the fourteen mile stone.

About twelve miles and a half from London, the river Crane (which may be here termed a rivulet) crosses the Bath road. Here is a commodious bridge, built of brick; near which, on the north, lies the village of Cranford.

Cranford Park, the seat of the Earl of Berkley, is at a little distance. The park is a perfect flat, abounding with wood, and well watered by the Crane. The house is ancient, and is situated in an angle of the park near the church: though it commands no variety of prospects, yet from the distribution of the woods, and other accompaniments, it may be deemed a pleasant retirement. Cranford, notwithstanding its vicinity to the metropolis, is celebrated for game, particularly pheasants; which are to be seen here, in great numbers; considerable pains being taken by the noble proprietor for their preservation.

The road beyond Cranford bridge still continues level. On the right near Drayton, is Dawley, formerly the seat of Lord Viscount Bolingbroke; by whom it was purchased from the Earl of Tankerville, and now belongs to Edmund Stephenson, Esq.

Passing through the pretty village of Longford towards the town of Colnbrook, the road becomes more pleasant. Acciden-





*View at Longford.*





tal glances of the stately towers of Windsor Castle are obtained, and though not distinctly seen, they contribute to cheer the mind after the dreary scene that has been described.

Near the Roman Way, which runs from Brentford to Staines, on a branch of the road from Hounslow to Colnbrook, lies the village of Arlington, or Harlington; which, with Dawley, was formerly the seat of the Bennets, and gave the title of baron to that family in 1663: which title is handed down to the Duke of Grafton, who is descended, by the female line, from the only daughter of John Bennet, Baron Arlington.

Colnbrook, is about seventeen miles from London, situated on several channels of the river Coln, over each of which there is a small bridge. A part of this town is in Middlesex, but the greater part is in Buckinghamshire. It contains many good inns, which, together with the market, are its chief support. Here a charity school

and a chapel, said to be founded by Edward III. are still remaining.

Gale, Burton, Baxter, and Stukley, agree with Camden, in fixing *Pontes* at Colnbrook; however Leland inclines to Reading.

### COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM.

At Colnbrook the traveller enters Buckinghamshire. This county is about thirty-nine miles in length, eighteen in breadth, and one hundred and thirty-eight in circumference. It contains eight hundreds, one hundred and eighty-five parishes, eleven market towns, and sixteen hundred villages.

It is bounded, on the south by the Thames, which separates it from Berkshire; on the west by Oxfordshire; by Northamptonshire on the north; and by Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, and Middlesex on the east.

Its chief rivers are, the Thames, the Ouse, and the Coln. The soil is in general fruitful, producing much corn and timber; par-

ticularly beech; and in many parts it abounds with rich pasturage. The air of Buckinghamshire is esteemed healthy, a chalky soil prevailing over a great part of it. It lies in the province of Canterbury, and diocess of Lincoln.

Notwithstanding the ample manner by which London and its suburbs are supplied with water, from the river Lea, and the Thames; a scheme was some time ago in contemplation, to convey a part of the river Coln, to the western division of the metropolis. A survey was made, and the intended plan found practicable. From the astonishing increase of London and Westminster, and their present rapid progress, it is not improbable, that there may be a necessity, for an additional supply of water; and it is fortunate these cities are so situated, that so noble a scheme may be adopted, should it be found requisite.

Near Colnbrook, on the right, is Percy Lodge, a seat of the Earl of Tankerville; celebrated for having been the residence of

Frances Countess of Hertford, afterwards Dutchess of Somerset. In a collection of letters published by Mr. Hall, in two volumes, are included eleven letters from the pen of this lady, of which Mr. Shenstone has given the following character.

“ That there are discernable in them, a  
 “ perfect rectitude of heart, delicacy of sen-  
 “ timent, and a truly classic ease and ele-  
 “ gance of style.”

These letters are also to be found in a late publication, entitled *Elegant Epistles*, printed for Charles Dilly.

Near the village of Langley, stands Langley Park, the seat of Sir Robert Bateson Hervey. The house is a handsome stone building, situated in the centre of a pleasant park, which abounds with a variety of fine timber. A piece of water runs along the south front of this mansion, at the foot of a sloping lawn; on which are scattered some beautiful clumps of stately trees, and other woody scenery.

A rising ground, on the western ex-



tremity of this park, leads to an inclosure, called the Black Park; which being singular, is worthy of notice.

It is of considerable extent, is covered by fir woods, (through which roads are cut) excepting the centre, which is occupied by a lake of deep and clear water. The approach to it rather surprizes; having more the character of alpine scenery, than any thing we are led to expect near Langley: and when on the banks of the lake, totally sequestered from the surrounding cheerful country, by gloomy woods of deep-tinted firs, this idea is still more forcibly impressed on the mind.

This spot is certainly capable of great improvement, and might be laid out to advantage:—Taste and judgment would convert it into a very uncommon and pleasing retirement; and add variety to the other appendages of this estate.—Langley Park belonged to the Duke of Marlborough, of whom it was purchased by the present possessor.

On the left of the road, near the village of Datchet, is Ditton Park. The house is ancient and venerable, surrounded by a moat of water; it stands pleasantly in a fine park, which is well supplied with wood. This mansion is said to have been built by Sir Ralph Winwood, secretary of state to King James I. Coming into the possession of the Montagues, it descended to the Dutchess of Manchester, eldest daughter and joint heiress to that noble family.

Lord Beaulieu being afterwards married to this lady, Ditton Park came into his possession; by him it has been much improved, and is now generally known by the name of Beaulieu Park. Here is a gallery, containing a collection of good pictures; the apartments are elegant and well furnished.

After we pass Colnbrook, the road exhibits a little more variety;—on the right lies a well cultivated country, rendered cheerful by villages and houses, interspersed with woods, and the lofty towers of Windsor





Windsor. Castle from the left of Slough



Castle, are often caught by the eye through the scenery on the opposite side.

Approaching Slough, it becomes more pleasant, the eye having a little more space to range in; but still the views on the left, are too much broken and interrupted, by a tiresome continuation of scattered trees.

From the fields below, (where the intervention of such objects can be avoided) the Castle appears to advantage; having the town and college of Eton in the valley on the right, and the distance closed by the royal forests on the south; forming a pleasing and picturesque scene.

Slough is a large village, in the road, about a mile and a half distant from Windsor, composed chiefly of one street; the houses are tolerably built, and it contains some good inns.

Near this village, on the left of the road to Eton and Windsor, stands the house of the celebrated Doctor Herschell; by whose extraordinary improvements in the construction of telescopes, many discoveries



have been lately made in the noble and useful science of astronomy. The apparatus, which gives motion to his grand telescope, is seen from the high road.

The establishment of Doctor Herschell, is at the expence of his Majesty ; and is one of the numerous instances in which the king displays a love of genius and science, and a disposition to patronize them.

## SECT. V.

WINDSOR CASTLE has been a royal residence, with some interruption, from the Conquest to the present reign; and whether regarded as a fortress or royal palace, equally commands our admiration.

It stands conspicuously on a high hill, the base of which is washed by the most beautiful river in this or any other country. It commands extensive prospects to the north, to the west, and towards the capital; on the south, the views are bounded by noble forests, with a variety of other scenery.

This venerable and majestic edifice, is about one mile in circumference, and is divided into two spacious courts, called the

upper and lower wards. The center, being the highest ground, is occupied by a stately round tower; the magnitude of which, adds dignity to the whole.

From the surrounding country, Windsor Castle is seen to great advantage; its grandeur and magnitude attract the eye from every quarter. Its solemn and majestic appearance impresses the mind of the beholder with awe and veneration; and its situation seems to have been pointed out by nature for the seat of monarchs.

At Windsor, William the Conqueror first built a palace, which was afterwards fortified by Henry I. Edward III. enlarged it, destroyed the ancient fortifications, and erected the present stately Castle; surrounding it with ramparts and ditches. The whole of these alterations were made under the direction of William of Wickham, afterwards Bishop of Winchester.

In the reign of the last-mentioned prince, the Kings of France and Scotland were at the same time prisoners in Windsor





*Windsor from St. Leonards Hill.*





Castle ; and the most noble order of the garter was instituted here by him. Several additions and alterations, were made in the successive reigns : St. George's chapel was rebuilt by Henry IV. in a magnificent style ; and the grand terrace on the north and east sides of the Castle, was added by Queen Elizabeth.

This fortress having suffered much during the times of civil commotion, by plunder and rapine, King Charles II. after his restoration, had it repaired with more than its former splendour, and made many improvements in it.

The state apartments are magnificent, and are superbly fitted up. The furniture is rich ; many of the ceilings are finely painted ; and a great number of pictures by the most eminent masters, adorn the different chambers ; among which are the celebrated Cartoons by Raphael, removed from Hampton Court.

Of the many improvements made by their present Majesties in Windsor Castle, those

in the audience chamber claim our particular notice. In this room are eight pictures from the pencil of B. West, Esq. historical painter to his Majesty ; which include about fifteen years, the most brilliant period, of the reign of Edward III. This illustrious sovereign, his queen, and his son the Black Prince, are distinguished characters in these paintings.—The subjects are as follow :

Edward crossing the Somme, being his first entrance into France with his army.

Edward embracing his son the Black Prince in the field, after the battle of Cressy.

The defeat of David King of Scots, by Queen Philippa, at Nevil's-cross, where that monarch was taken prisoner.

Queen Philippa's intercession in behalf of St. Pierre, and the brave burghers of Calais, on the surrender of that place.

The institution of the noble order of the garter.

Edward crowning Rubimont at Calais.

Edward the Black Prince receiving the

King of France his prisoner, after the battle of Poitiers.

St. George, introduced as the tutelar saint of England, and patron of the most noble order of the garter, rescuing the damsel from the dragon.

These glorious subjects, selected from the history of the brilliant reign of Edward III. being in themselves deserving of the conspicuous situation they occupy, are rendered more worthy of it, by the judicious manner in which they have been treated, by so able a master of historical composition. Besides their other merits, they are valuable to the English nation, as registers of many of the illustrious families of this country, who had their origin at, or prior to the periods whence these historical facts were taken; and may be known by their armorial bearings, on their shields, sur-coats, banners, and crests.

We have authority to say, a set of prints are to be engraved from these paintings, some of which are already begun.

In this room, a superb throne has been erected, which is worthy of particular notice. The part which first engages the attention, is the body or space above the chair of state: its principal feature consists of a form composed in the style of an altar; which has on its base the arms of Great Britain, with the proper supporters. Round the shaft of the altar is twined the oak branch, bound up to the column by the garter belonging to the noble order of that name. In the middle of the capital, the star of the order; and upon the capital, a large vase, on the front of which is the figure of Britannia; and over this is the collar of the order, with the George pendant.

Festoons of flowers hang from the vase; in the base, on the side of the lion, is a basket of flowers; and on that of the unicorn is another, filled with roses and thistles, painted by Miss Mozer.

On the plinth is a medallion, on which are painted two figures representing Justice and Fortitude: and from each end rise

two pilasters ; that on the right has on its lower part the figure of Neptune, and over that, a Triton with marine attributes. A medallion occupies the center, and contains a picture representing the woollen staple of England ; and from thence upwards, are the attributes of commerce, with Mercury presiding. The pilaster on the left, has on the base the figure of the Earth ; over this are various animals, in the midst of which is seen the white horse. On the frieze, above the pilasters, is a large medallion, containing the portraits of their Majesties in profile, supported by two figures representing Virtue and Religion. These embellishments are painted in colours, on a gold ground, by Rebecca.

Round the canopy hang elegant festoons of flowers ; the whole of which, as well as those on the throne, were executed in needle-work, by and under the direction of Mrs. Pawsey (niece to the late Mrs. Wright), who presides over her Majesty's benevolent institution for the support of the daugh-



ters of decayed clergymen and officers. The general form, the decorations, and the chair of state, are by Mr. Campbell ; the whole from the designs of Mr. West.

St. George's chapel has undergone the following alterations and repairs, by order of his Majesty.

The monument of Edward the Black Prince, was repaired and cleaned. A new organ loft of artificial stone has been erected ; and a magnificent organ by Mr. Green. Four new stalls, for knights companions of the most noble order of the garter, have been made ; and an elegant window in painted glass by Mr. Jarvis, after a picture of the resurrection by Mr. West, adorns the chapel. The closet, where their Majesties sit to hear divine service, has been beautified, and the chapel has been paved with stone, found in the choir. One new window has been added : the whole of the old casements were taken away, and are replaced with elegant sashes of Eldorado metal.

The town of Windsor, in Berkshire, is

twenty-two miles from London ; situated on the declivity of the hill on which the Castle stands, rising from the Thames to the walls of that fortress. It was granted by Edward the Confessor to Wesminster Abbey, but the abbot exchanged it with William the Conqueror for Battersea and Wandsworth in Surrey, and other lands in Essex. It is of considerable extent, and of great antiquity ; having been constituted a borough by Edward I. with great privileges, such as exemption from all tolls of bridges, markets, and fairs. It sent members to parliament, from the thirteenth of his reign, to the fourteenth of Edward III. when it was intermitted, till the twenty-fifth of Henry VI. but has sent them ever since. They are elected by the inhabitants, the mayor being the returning officer. In the high street is a handsome town hall, supported by columns ; it was built in the time of Charles I. and the church is a building of large dimensions.

Windsor had charters from K. James I,

and II. by which the corporation was to consist of a mayor, high steward, and deputy ; a town clerk, two bailiffs, and twenty-eight burgesses, chosen from the principal inhabitants, thirteen of whom are denominated fellows of the guildhall ; ten of those are called aldermen ; out of which are to be chosen the mayor and bailiffs.

The manor of Windsor, which was granted, or rather leased, to the corporation, by James I. on paying a quit-rent of about four pounds a year, has jurisdiction over many lordships.

Old Windsor has little left to boast of besides its antiquity. It was formerly the seat of several of the Saxon kings, and formed a strong pass. From the period in which the Conqueror fixed his residence on the adjoining hill, it gradually went to decay ; a new town having sprung up under the protection of the fortress constructed by that monarch.

The Little Park occupies the north and east sides, under the terrace of the Castle.

It is about four miles in circumference ; its grounds are composed of a pleasing inequality, diversified by groups of stately trees, and other woody scenery, extending to the village of Datchet, and declining towards the Thames.

Windsor Great Park lies close to the south side of the town ; an avenue of near three miles in length, leads to the summit of a hill, beyond which the ranger's house delightfully stands ; this was the residence of the late Duke of Cumberland, as ranger.

This Park is about fourteen miles in circumference ; and displays a variety of scenery, in a style more sublime and beautiful than is often to be found. The country it occupies, consists of great and bold inequalities ; and its forests are picturesquely rude, affording inexhaustible subjects for the pencil of the able artist in rural landscape.

Towards its southern quarter is a noble and extensive piece of water, over which, near the western extremity, is an elegant



bridge of stone, built after a design by T. Sandby, Esq. under whose direction the water has been enlarged, and the grounds have been laid out with great taste.

The royal forests, according to Roque, make a circuit of fifty-six miles: they abound with fine deer, and a variety of other game; and are possessed of every requisite for elegant rural recreation, or the more manly exercises of the chace; the favourite amusement of many successive kings of England, as it is of his present Majesty.

In this neighbourhood stands Cranbourne Lodge, belonging to the Duke of Gloucester, as ranger of Cranbourne Chace. This was formerly in the possession of William Duke of Cumberland, who caused the military dresses of the different corps of the armies of Europe to be represented in painting, and regularly arranged on the panels of a spacious room;—and by military people they are esteemed curious.

Near this is St. Leonard's Hill, beautifully cloathed with venerable oaks, and





*Windsor Castle looking Eastward.*



stately beeches. On its eastern declivity stands the handsome house of L. Ainscombe, Esq. and its summit is adorned by a capital mansion, the residence of General Harcourt.

The inviting skirts of these extensive forests are rendered peculiarly pleasing, by the variety of cheerful villages, and elegant houses scattered on them; the whole coinciding with the magnificence of the royal seat, to which they form appendages.

In Windsor forest, on the heath, five miles from Sunning Hill, near Easthamstead Park, are the traces of a very large irregular camp, double trenched, called Cæsar's camp; and near the race ground, a mile from Sunning Hill Wells, on Ascot Heath, are four barrows, which lie on the south side, and near the turnpike road to Oakingham. The trenches round the larger, are about twelve feet wide, and two deep. From the middle of the trenches to the centers of the tops, is about forty-seven feet; and from the outside of the trenches, to the bottoms of the

lesser hillocks, about forty-five feet; and those which have no trenches round them, are quite flat at the top; not above three feet high, and forty feet over.

About two miles south-west from these barrows is Tower Hill. It is small and irregular; very steep on every side, except the north-east. Here is the entrance to the entrenchment, that runs round the summit of the whole, following its irregularities. This hill is about three miles from Cæsar's camp; a quarter of a mile from which are Wickham Bushes; and a little south from them is a raised road, ninety feet wide, with a trench on each side, running east and west; vulgarly termed the Devil's Highway.

From Windsor, a bridge over the Thames leads to Eton; which is situated in a pleasant valley, on the banks of that river, and is celebrated for its college and public school.

Eton College was founded by Henry VI. some part of its endowment was taken

away by Edward VI. but being particularly exempted in the act of dissolution, it has continued in a flourishing state to the present time.

The foundation consists of a provost and seven fellows, one of which is vice-provost. Here are seventy boys, who are called king's scholars; those when qualified are elected, on the first Tuesday in August, to King's College, Cambridge; are called according to seniority; and after having been three years there, are entitled to a fellowship.

Eton school may be esteemed among the first for reputation in any country. It is divided into the lower and upper; and each into three classes, consisting of one master, and four assistants. The number of scholars, including those of the foundation, may amount to above four hundred.

The library is large and valuable, having been at different periods augmented by donations bequeathed by learned characters; among which are included a collection of books left by Dr. Waddington, Bishop of



Chester, valued at two thousand pounds :—and Lord Chief Justice Reeves presented to this library, the collection left him by Richard Topham, Esq. keeper of the records of the Tower.

The chapel is a stately Gothic structure ; the school and other buildings are of modern architecture. In the great court, is a statue of the founder, which was executed at the expence of the late Dr. Godolphin, Dean of St. Paul's, their provost.

The village of Eton is large and populous ; its public buildings render it consequential, and stamp it with a characteristic appearance. The approach to it from Slough, is over a small bridge, extending across a rivulet, which falls into the Thames a little way from it.—From hence we again return into the high road.

## SECT VI.

A LITTLE beyond Slough, on the right, near the high road, is a handsome villa, the temporary residence of the Earl of Chesterfield. The house is a neat modern building, the grounds round it are pleasant, and the approach to it is by an avenue of stately firs.

From hence a road leads to the village of Stoke, which formerly went under the denomination of Stoke-Pogies; having been originally the inheritance of the Lords of Pogies, from whom it passed to the family of Hastings. Edward, Baron Hastings, founded an hospital here, for the support and maintenance of indigent persons of both sexes; and his brother adorned this

spot by building an elegant seat. This seat came afterwards into the possession of the Lady Cobham ; of whom it was purchased by Mr. Penn, one of the proprietors and governor of Pennsylvania ; now belonging to his representative, John Penn, Esq.

Since Stoke Park became the property of this gentleman, it has undergone great alterations. The ancient edifice which stood in an angle of the Park, close to the village, has been taken down, and a stately mansion has been erected in a more elevated situation towards the center, but is not yet completed. A small piece of water in a serpentine form runs along the south front ; which being much sunk, is little seen from a distance. The Park is well supplied with wood, but has few trees of venerable aspect.

The east end of Stoke church-yard is rendered interesting to the traveller, by being the burying-place of the celebrated Mr. Gray.

Fernham, or Farnham Royal, is near this place ; it was formerly held by its different

possessors, on condition of finding the king a glove for his right hand, on his coronation day, and supporting his right arm, while he held the royal sceptre. When the ancestors of the present Earl of Shrewsbury exchanged this with Henry VIII. they reserved the privilege to themselves and their posterity.

Burnham is a village noted only for an Augustine nunnery, founded by Richard King of the Romans, in 1265; and for giving name to the hundred in which it stands. Close to this, in a pleasant situation, is a house, the summer residence of Lady Ravensworth, in view from the Bath road.

We next arrive at Salt Hill; a principal stage on the road, and noted for an elegant inn.

Beyond this, as we approach Maidenhead bridge, the country changes its appearance; becomes more characteristic and picturesque, and the woody hills of Taploe present themselves to view.

Taploe is a handsome village, elevated above the north shore of the Thames ; consisting of many good houses, and, from the pleasantness of its situation, many persons of fortune have been induced to fix their residence in it, and in its vicinity.

On the summit of the hill, close to the village, embosomed in wood, is Taploe House, an ancient and venerable edifice, belonging to the Earl of Inchiquin ; which, together with many other handsome houses to be seen upon its eastern declivity, have an agreeable appearance.

From hence a high ridge, forming a chain of hills, finely hung with wood, extends in a western direction to Hedsor, the estate of Lord Boston.

### *CLIEFDEN HOUSE.*

Near the center of the ridge of hills above-mentioned, stands Cliefden House ; built by Villiers Duke of Buckingham, in the reign of Charles II. It was purchased by the first





*View of Steyden House looking Northwest.*



Earl of Orkney; and by marriage descended to the present Earl of Inchiquin.

This is a regular stately mansion, having a terrace in front, supported by arches. Its situation is lofty and conspicuous, and it is surrounded by noble and extensive woods. The pleasure gardens are spacious; by nature finely formed into sloping lawns, hills, and vallies; assisted by art with much taste.

The upper grounds, near the house, command most extensive prospects, over the surrounding country: and though views of this description, where too great an extent of horizon is seen, may not be the most pleasing to the eye of a painter; yet when beheld through the vistas of these gardens, partially screened by groups of stately trees, and other objects, it must be allowed they contribute to the variety, and add to the beauty of the composition.

The southern declivity towards the Thames, is finely hung with natural woods, forming a different, but not less pleasing

kind of scenery; being a contrast to the upper and more polished grounds.

From the sides of precipices, formed by the falling of the mouldering chalk, (of which these hills are composed) and from lofty banks overhung by venerable and stately trees, we see the Thames pursuing its serpentine course, through beautiful meadows enlivened by numerous herds of cattle, with their rustic attendants; and the neighbourhood adorned with clusters of cheerful villages, and some more lonely retreats, forming together the most pleasant kind of rural landscape.

When viewed from the opposite shore, Cliefden, with its lofty woody hills, shelving banks, and other mixture of scenery, form a picture in a nobler style of composition; the Thames occupying a principal station near the fore-ground.

Cliefden House was sometime in the possession of Frederick, late Prince of Wales; and the Countess of Orkney intends it soon to be her future residence.







No. 171 P. 1. 1.

This mansion contains tapestry hangings of the Duke of Marlborough's battles, finely executed by order of the Earl of Orkney, who served as an officer of superior rank in these glorious campaigns.

### *HEDSOR LODGE.*

Adjoining Cliefden is Hedsor Lodge, the seat of Lord Boston; formerly belonging to Rowland Hynde, Esq. The house is an elegant modern building, loftily situated; the grounds are by nature formed into high sloping hills and deep vallies, with a variety of wood well distributed. The declivities of the hills are steep, particularly towards the west; and on the south near the Thames, is a chalky precipice, whence the ground rises boldly to the summit, on which the mansion conspicuously stands.

From hence the views are extensive; the eye ranges over a large tract, enriched by villages, seats, and a variety of other scenery; fertile meadows, through which the

river glides, occupy the space between, and the hills on the west gradually diminishing, vanish into the horizon.

From the lower grounds (particularly beyond the Thames) Hedsor is seen to advantage. Its elevated situation commands admiration ; and its bold inequalities give variety ; which, with other favourable traits collectively considered, conspire powerfully to arrest the attention of the traveller, conversant in composition of this kind.

From the steep sides of the hills below Hedsor, looking eastward, Sir George Young's house is seen in the valley. It is a handsome house, lately built ; its situation is low on the south shore, close to the Thames. The towering woods of Cliefden protect it on the north ; it is encompassed by fertile meadows, with some tufted woody scenery, on the east and south ; and is peculiarly adapted for a summer retirement.













## SECT. VII.

AT Maidenhead bridge, the traveller enters Berkshire.—The most probable conjecture, in regard to the name of this county, is that which derives it from the Saxon word *berroc*, signifying the wood of the box tree; for in former times great quantities grew in it. A colony of the *Attrebates*, as mentioned by Cæsar in his Commentaries, who inhabited a part of Gaul, are supposed to give the name of *Attrebatii* to this people. They were a considerable part of the powerful kingdom of the West Saxons, who were rendered famous for the share they had in that signal victory obtained over the Danes at Englefield.

This county is about thirty-nine miles in

length ; twenty-nine broad ; and one hundred and twenty in circumference. It is bounded, on the north by the Thames, which divides it from Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire ; on the east by Middlesex and Surrey ; on the south by Hampshire ; and on the West by Wiltshire and Gloucestershire.

It contains four parliamentary boroughs ; twenty hundreds ; twelve market towns ; one hundred and forty parishes ; and six hundred and seventy-one villages : the whole lying in the province of Canterbury, and diocess of Salisbury.

Its rivers are the Thames, the Kennet, the Lodden, the Ocke, and the Lambourne Stream. The two former, washing the opposite sides of the county, add to its fertility, and contribute to its wealth. When united, they form a grand channel of communication, by which the various commodities of the counties they pass through, are conveyed to the metropolis, and to other parts.







Approach to Maidenhead Bridge.

The air of Berkshire is healthy ; and the country is pleasant, being diversified by a variety of woody hills ; the banks of its several rivers afford excellent and rich pasture. It produces in plenty, corn, cattle, and timber ; particularly oak, elm, and beech. Its manufactures are woollen and sail-cloth ; some of silk and cotton ; and great quantities of meal and malt.

Berkshire gives the title of Baron to a branch of the Howard family ; and sends two representatives to parliament.

Maidenhead bridge is built of stone, consisting of seven principal, and six smaller arches. The approach to it is spacious and grand ; produced by a noble curve outwards, towards each end. A broad pavement runs along each side, fenced by a handsome ballustrade ; its general proportions being good, and the design simple, it may be considered an elegant handsome structure. It was constructed after a design of the late Sir R. Taylor, about thirteen years ago.

From hence the beautiful scenery of Cliefden and its neighbourhood present a picturesque landscape, terminated on the west by the woody hills of Buckinghamshire. Looking down the river towards the east, the country is flat, but not unpleasant. Houses and villages are seen scattered among pleasant meadows; the scene is closed in the horizon by a very distant country; Windsor Castle and the royal forests, appearing on the left; but rather indistinctly.

At each end of Maidenhead bridge stands an excellent inn, where travellers are well accommodated; and parties often resort hither, for the amusement of fishing, and other recreations in the summer months.

Maidenhead (which Leland calls South Ailington, and Stow, Sudlington) is a town of some consequence, pleasantly situated on the declivity of a hill, on the Bath road. It is of great antiquity; having been constituted a borough in the reign of Edward III. by the name of Guild, or fraternity of the brothers and sisters of Maidenhead;





*Maidenhead Bridge.*





after the reformation, by that of Warden and Burgesses ; and it was incorporated by James II. under the denomination of High Steward, Mayor, and Aldermen.

The town stands in the parishes of Bray and Cookham, but has a chapel peculiar to the corporation ; the minister being chosen by the inhabitants, and not obliged to attend the visitation of the bishop. The mayor, his predecessor, and the steward, are justices of the peace ; and the former is also clerk of the market, coroner, and judge of the court, which he is obliged to hold once in every three weeks. The houses are tolerably built, and a handsome modern chapel stands near the entrance of the town ; the bridge belongs to the corporation, and must produce a considerable revenue.

Adjoining Maidenhead, on the south, is the seat of P. Powney, Esq. the house is ancient, a new park has lately been inclosed, but the grounds are not yet arranged.

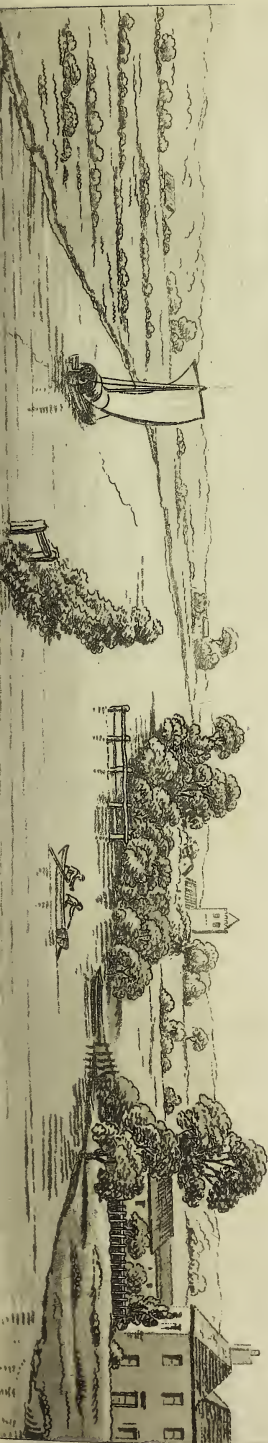
From Maidenhead, a hollow way leads to the summit of a hill, whence, looking

northward, the beautiful woods of Taploe, Cliefden, and Hedsor Lodge, again present themselves ; embosomed in which these three elegant seats appear.

Beyond this, the country on each side consists of cultivated districts, woody hills and vallies. At the twenty-eight mile stone we enter the race ground, which is of great extent, adjoining Maidenhead Thicket. On the right, near the edge of the common, is a house, the residence of Charles Ambler, Esq. which stands pleasantly, and is screened by plantations. Towards the south, on the left, stand two handsome houses ; the larger possessed by Miss Lownds, and the smaller by Mr. Lee.

Here a road branches off to the west, which leads to Hall Place, the seat of Sir William Este, Bart. a little more than a mile distant. The house is a neat building, pleasantly situated in a small park, well furnished with wood, surrounded by woody hills, interspersed with cultivated grounds.

From some parts of the race ground, the





eye ranges over a large tract of distant country, towards the east, in which some seats are to be seen ; those of — Sayer, and John Grant, Esqrs. are the most conspicuous.

A rising ground beyond the heath, leads to a beautiful woodland country, pleasingly diversified by farms, cottages, and some elegant houses ; the road running along pleasant hills and vallies, for several miles ; and though enchanting to the sight, the land here is by no means so valuable or productive as in many other parts, the soil being sandy and poor ; narrow wastes tufted with furze, and other barren spots frequently appearing.

On the left, about two miles distant, is the village of Shottersbrook, where may be seen the remains of a small religious house, of the Benedictine order, dedicated to St. John the Baptist ; founded by Sir William Trussell, a Staffordshire gentleman ; now converted to a farm house. Here also the very learned Mr. Henry Dodwell, passed



the evening of his days, and he is buried in the church. This extraordinary man, it is recorded, travelled over most parts of Europe on foot, reading as he walked; and carried with him books fitted to his pockets.

Near this village is *Lawrence Waltham*; where, in a field, called Weycock, which signifies a high road, stood a considerable Roman fort; and there is still a spot called Castle-hill, where Roman coins are often turned up when the land is ploughed.

Near Shottersbrook is a seat belonging to Arthur Vansittart, Esq. It is a stately mansion; stands in a pleasant park, well wooded, and its grounds are peculiarly pleasing.

Beyond the thirty-one mile stone, on a woody hill to the right, the house of Mrs. Phillips is pleasantly situated. It is a handsome building, well sheltered from the north; commanding extensive views towards the east and south. Nearly adjoining, an elegant modern house with wings,

the residence of Mr. Ximenes, stands delightfully, in a pleasant woodland country. A ridge of high hills screens it on the north; a pleasing variety of inequalities, tufted with woods, compose its grounds; and it is built in an elevated situation, having open and extensive views towards the south and east.

Opposite, near the road, on a sloping lawn, stands a neat house, the seat of J. Lee Parrot, Esq.—A woody valley occupies the grounds in the east and south, and its plantations are agreeably arranged; the whole forming a pleasant residence.

A little farther is Hare Hatch, a small scattered village, in which are several good houses; in particular, that of Mr. Young on the right, and Mr. Girdler's, a handsome building upon a rising ground, towards the left.

At the thirty-two mile stone, we leave the woodland, and descend into an open cultivated country;—about a mile hence, on a hill to the left, stands the village of Ruscombe; close to which is an elegant

modern house, the residence of Sir James Eyre, Lord Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer. A little beyond this we arrive at the village of Twyford.

From Twyford a road leads to Wargrave, pleasantly situated on the Thames. This village is a mile and half distant from Twyford, and was in early times a market-town. Queen Emma gave it to the Bishop of Winchester; and in that see it remained till Dr. Poynt gave it to Edward VI. who granted it to Henry Nevill.—Queen Mary resumed the grant, and gave it to Dr. White, Poynt's successor; but Queen Elizabeth restored it to Henry Nevill, and it descended to his posterity, the Nevills of Billingsbear.

At Wargrave the Earl of Barrymore has a temporary residence; adjoining the house an elegant theatre has lately been erected, in which dramatic performances are often exhibited by his Lordship and other performers, for the amusement of their friends.

Near this, on an elevated situation, stands

a handsome modern house, the property of Mr. Hill, commanding pleasant views along the Thames ; towards Reading on the west, and Henley on the north.

Two miles beyond Wargrave, we approach the elegant seat of General Conway.









General View of Park Place, looking Northward.

## SECT. VIII.

*PARK PLACE.*

**P**ARK PLACE, the seat of General Conway, was purchased of Lord Archibald Hamilton, by the late Frederick Prince of Wales; after whose death it was by his Majesty transferred to the present possessor.

This seat is situated near Henley upon Thames, and displays more characteristic boldness of composition than any on the banks of that river.—The grounds are high; formed into several grand projections, with deep vallies between. The woods are extensive; judiciously arranged; and the steep sides of the hills, with their chalky precipices, are overhung with a variety of woody scenery, extending to the margin of the river, which glides below.

The higher grounds are adorned by woods, and groups of stately trees, interspersed with many tufted clumps of beautiful evergreens. The house is pleasantly situated, on a dry hill; and though near three hundred feet above the level of the water, is so sheltered by its woods and plantations, as to feel no inconvenience from its great elevation.

The projecting lawns of these extensive grounds, are formed in a style corresponding with the grandeur of their other component parts; and become striking features in the landscape, from various points.

Near the house, to the east, is a large shrubbery in clumps, intermixed with flowers, from whence you pass over a small ornamented lawn, to an inclosed flower garden, elegantly laid out in the French taste; and not far from this, to a menagerie, formed in a peculiar style of beauty; well stocked with birds of various kinds, particularly pheasants, both English and foreign.

From hence, entering a wood on the







*The Great Arch at Park-Museum.*

summit of the hill lying east, we pass through a subterraneous passage above eight hundred feet in length, which leads to a beautiful valley, planted on each side with tall cypress and other trees.

Here stands a large ruin, in the Grecian style of architecture, the only one I recollect to have seen in this manner; designed and executed in a taste far exceeding most attempts of the kind.—Descending this valley towards the Thames, we pass under a large arch curiously constructed; and built of natural stones of vast dimensions; brought at a considerable expence from various parts of the country.

This structure, from its singularity, becomes an interesting object, whenever it is seen; and is particularly picturesque when viewed from the water, or the opposite shore of the river.—The high road from Henley to Twyford passes through these grounds, and over the arch; and being totally excluded from the sight, by plantations and shrubberies, no inconvenience,

or unpleasant circumstance attends it: on the contrary, by the judicious management of the whole, the place has been considerably ornamented by it.

On a hill, contiguous to the arch, stands a cottage tufted high in wood; and commanding several pleasant views: the church of Henley appears through a glade to the north, where the woody hills of Oxfordshire form the back ground.—Towards the east, the meanders of the river are indistinctly caught, through the rich woody scenery which adorns the steep on which it stands; and on the west, the Thames glides in full stream, washing the skirts of the woods, to the whole extent of the grounds.

Opposite the east front of the cottage, in a low situation, is a chalk cavern of large dimensions; in the formation of which, use and ornament have been equally considered. From the banks of the river we approach it by a narrow pass, overhung with trees; in front, a perpendicular precipice of





*The Cottage from the Chalk-Cavern at Park Place.*









great height presents itself; on the left is seen the elegant cottage, and on the right the gloomy and solemn entrance of the cavern.

Proceeding southward, we enter a solitary willow-walk on the river bank; here, in an angle close to the Thames, is an elegant tomb of white marble, in the Roman style, perfectly characteristic, and well suited to the solemnity of the lonely and sequestered spot in which it stands.

Whilst we contemplate these scenes, and reflect upon the amiable character of the right honourable possessor, the following detached beautiful lines of a celebrated poet, come to our recollection.

“ How blest is he who crowns, in shades like these,  
 “ A youth of labour with an age of ease;—  
 “ And all his prospects bright’ning to the last,  
 “ His heaven commences ere the world is past!”

GOLDSMITH.

Advancing farther, and turning towards the right, the Thames appears through a beautiful arch, constructed of natural stones,



of rude forms; the upper part of which is composed of one entire piece. The variety of the scenery which decorates the rugged sides of this romantic arch; the site in which it is so judiciously placed, with its other accompaniments, command our admiration.

Along the high grounds on the north, towards Henley, on two different prominences, runs a noble terrace of great length; from whence a complete bird's-eye view of the river, the town, and the surrounding country is obtained. A little beyond this, still farther northward, is a pleasant valley planted with lavender, and separated by a line of shrubs from a steep and rugged ravine, (through which the high road formerly passed) exhibiting a variety of rude and pleasing scenery.—Towards the bottom stands a small stone house, much admired for its elegant simplicity, and justness of proportion; the whole forming a landscape very different from any before described.







*The Druid Temple at Park Place, looking Westward.*

*DESCRIPTION OF A DRUID TEMPLE.*

On the summit of a hill, near the southern quarter of the ornamented grounds, stands a Druid temple, of great and undoubted antiquity, which was presented by the inhabitants of the Island of Jersey to General Conway, their governor; accompanied by an elegant inscription; a copy of which follows.

Cet ancien Temple des Druides,  
 decouvert le 12<sup>me</sup> Août, 1785,  
 sur la montagne de St. Helier,  
 dans l'Isle de Jersey;  
 a été présenté par les habitans  
 à son Excellence le General Conway,  
 leur Gouverneur.

Pour des siècles caché, aux regards des mortels,  
 Cet ancien monument, ces pierres, ces autels,  
 Où le sang des humains offert en sacrifice,  
 Ruissela, pour des Dieux qu'enfantoit le caprice.  
 Ce monument, sans prix par son antiquité,  
 Temoignera pour nous à la postérité,  
 Que dans tous les dangers Cesarée eut un père,  
 Attentif, et vaillant, genereux, et prospere:  
 Et redira, Conway, aux siècles à venir,  
 Qu'en vertu du respect dû à ce souvenir,  
 Elle te fit ce don, acquis à ta vaillance,  
 Comme un juste tribut de sa reconnoissance.

This altar, or temple, was a few years ago discovered on the summit of a high hill, near the town of St. Helier, in the Island of Jersey.—It is sixty feet in circumference; composed of forty-five large stones, measuring in general about seven feet in height, from four to six in breadth, one to three in thickness; and contains six perfect lodges, or cells. The supposed entrance, or passage, faces the east, and measures fifteen feet in length, above four feet in breadth, in height about four feet; and the covering of rude stones, from eighteen inches to two feet thick.

Two medals were found in the temple; one of the Emperor Claudius, and the other so worn by time, as to render it unintelligible.

By the very imperfect accounts we have of the history and antiquities of that island, there is reason to think it has been particularly the seat of the Druids, and of their worship.

Mr. Poindextre, who wrote some tracts

on the affairs of Jersey, and died in the year 1691, says there were existing in that small island, no less than fifty Druid temples, or altars in his time; of which the greater part were demolished when Falle published his history of that island, early in the present century.—He mentions a single altar of large dimensions, then standing on the same hill of St. Helier, the top stone of which was fourteen feet long, seven and a half broad, and three in thickness; and near it a circle of other stones, of which there remained but one when he wrote.

From the above account it is plain, this complete structure was not known at that time, though there was another large altar or temple, and another circle of stones, seen on the same hill.—The present temple remained entirely covered with earth until the summer of 1785, having the appearance of a large barrow or tumulus. It then happened that the colonel of the St. Helier militia, wanting to level the ground for the exercise of his corps, the workmen soon



struck on the stones, and the temple was discovered.

There is no trace of the time when it was covered up ; not improbably in that of the Romans, by the Druids themselves, to preserve it, as their most sacred temple, from the violence and profanation of that people, who frequently persecuted them ; and who certainly had possession of the island, as appears from its Latin name *Cæsarea*, and from several other names, and some small vestiges remaining ; as well as from the coins often found in different parts of the island.

### OXFORDSHIRE.

By Henley bridge we pass into Oxfordshire. This county is bounded on the east by Buckinghamshire ; on the west by Gloucestershire ; on the north by Northamptonshire and Warwickshire ; and on the south by Berkshire.—It is about forty-two miles in length, twenty-six in breadth, and one



hundred and thirteen in circumference. It contains one city, fifteen market-towns, two hundred and eighty parishes, and fourteen hundreds.

The air of Oxfordshire is esteemed healthy; the soil is naturally dry, and free from fens and stagnant waters, though plentifully supplied by a variety of running streams.—The productions of this county are cattle, fruit, free-stone, and several sorts of earth used in medicine, dying, and scouring; but as it does not abound in wood, fuel is consequently dear.

The principal rivers are the Thames or Isis, the Evenlode, the Windrush, the Tame, and the Charwell.—This county lies in the province of Canterbury, and diocess of Oxford, and sends two representatives to parliament.

### *HENLEY UPON THAMES.*

Henley is a considerable town, pleasantly situated on the banks of the Thames,

in the bottom of a valley surrounded by woody hills.—Its corporation consists of a warden, burgesses, and other officers.—The town is chiefly composed of one street; a mixture of ancient and modern houses. The church is a stately building, standing conspicuously, near the end of the bridge; and has lately been repaired.

From hence a considerable trade in malt, meal, and corn, is carried on by means of the Thames, to various parts of the country, and to the metropolis.

Dr. Plot takes Henley to be the most ancient town in the county, and supposes it might have been the capital of the *An-calites*.—Dr. Gale makes it the *Calleva*, or *Galleva Attrebatum* of Antoninus, and the *Caleba* of Ravannas; on account of the Roman road running directly from Spine hither, and the Roman coins found hereabout.—He supposes the *Attrebates* of Ptolemy and Antoninus were the same with the *An-calte* of Cæsar, and the situation assigned them by Camden to be right.





New York Bridge

1840

Here is a free-school founded by James I. and an alms-house by Longland Bishop of Lincoln.

Henley bridge is built of a beautiful white stone ; consists of five arches ; and for justness of proportion, agreement of parts, and the ease of its general lines, surpasses any that adorns the Thames. Its arches are neither elliptical or semicircular ; but are described from three centers, forming a compound curve very pleasing to the eye.

A neat pavement runs along each side, guarded by a low balustrade ; and both fronts are enriched by pilasters, supported on semicircular projections of the piers.—The heads of the Tame and the Isis, which adorn the center arch, are executed by the Hon. Mrs. Damer ; whose general knowledge of science, and excellence in the difficult art of sculpture, are so universally acknowledged, as to render it unnecessary here to enlarge on them.

The country surrounding Henley is beautifully diversified by lofty woody hills, and



other scenery, the lower grounds declining to the Thames. Looking towards the north, the woods and plantations on the grounds of Mr. Freeman adorn the western shore of the river ; on the east, a high woody ridge stretches towards the north ; the Thames gently gliding occupies the center ; and the distance is terminated by the Oxfordshire hills.

The steep face of Henley hill appears on the east ; through the chalky sides of which, a new road has been lately cut :—a most noble and laudable work ; it contributes equally to the advantage of the country, and to the pleasure and safety of the traveller.

At the foot of this hill stands some houses and cottages intermixed with woody scenery ; and on the south, Park Place, with all its variety of nobler decoration, is seen.

At Henley bridge we repass the Thames ; and again join the high road at Twyford.

Twyford is a small town, situated near the conflux of the Thames and the Lod-

don ; the latter running at the west end of it in several separate channels, over each of which is a small bridge.

From hence towards the north the eye ranges over a large district of well cultivated country, diversified by farms, woody hills, and some villages. Beyond Twyford the country, on both sides of the road, is occupied by rich meadows, watered by several streams from the Loddon ; which empties itself into the Thames a little below the town, on the north.

Beyond this the road still continues on a level for some distance ; then ascending, runs on an unequal ridge, through an inclosed woody country, to the thirty-seven mile stone : it then descends towards the town of Reading, the spires of which present themselves to view in the west ; and Caversham Park is seen distinctly on the right beyond the Thames.

*CAVERSHAM PARK.*

This seat stands nobly, on an elevated situation, about two miles from Reading, upon the north side of the Thames, near the road from that town to Henley. The house is a stately regular mansion, situated in a fine park, well sheltered by woods on the north.

The grounds are much varied and unequal; they were lately adorned by a variety of majestic and venerable trees; many of which it is much to be regretted are no longer to be seen.

The use of the axe, at all times, ought to be sparingly and with the utmost caution applied: it ought ever to be remembered, that more can be destroyed by this fatal instrument, in one day, than can be restored by the utmost art of man in a succeeding century.

This place in early times was the residence of the Marshalls, Earls of Pembroke. It was likewise in the possession of the Lord

Knowles in the time of James I. and here Anne of Denmark, queen to that monarch, was splendidly entertained in her journey to Bath, in the year 1613.

Sir Jacob Astley of Melton Constable, Norfolk, was, in recompence for his services to Charles I. created Lord Astley of Reading ; which title became extinct at the death of his grandson Jacob. William Cadogan, who had signalized himself under the Duke of Marlborough, and in suppressing the rebellion in 1715, was created Lord Cadogan, Baron of Reading, in 1716 ; and two years afterwards, Baron Oakley, Viscount Caversham, and Earl Cadogan. All these titles expired with this nobleman ; except that of Baron Oakley, which devolved to his brother Charles, who died in 1776, and was succeeded by his son Charles Sloane, the present Lord Cadogan.

Caversham House was built, by the Earl of Cadogan, in the reign of George I.—By the late Lord it was much reduced ; and

has been altered by Mr. Marsac, the present proprietor.

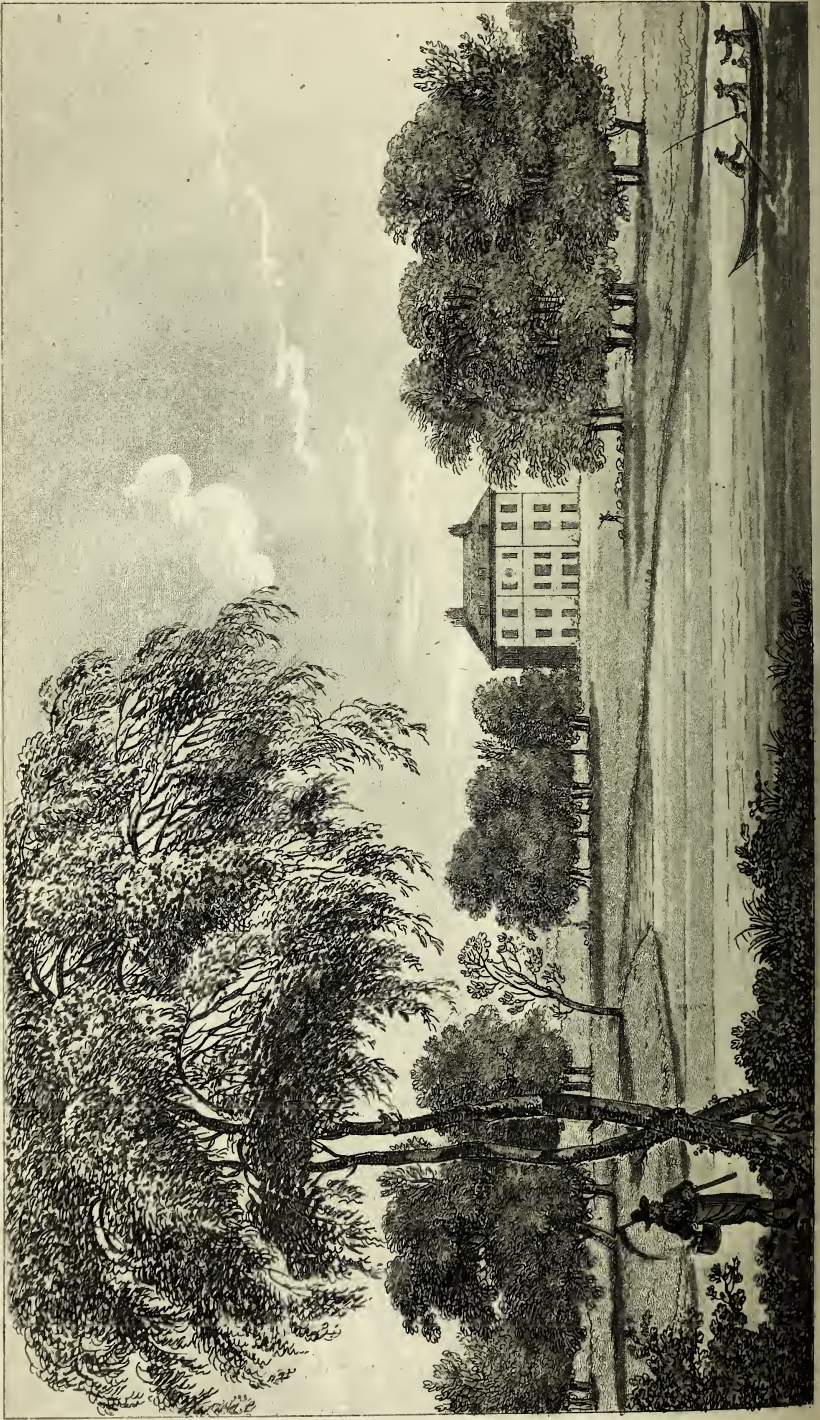
About two miles from Reading, and one from the Bath road, on the south shore of the river, the village of Sunning is pleasantly situated.

Here formerly stood a monastery and park, at the quarter of the village next to Reading. And Leland says, at the end of the church there stood a chapel, formerly much resorted to in pilgrimage for the cure of madness; and that nine bishops sat at Sunning, till Hermanus, the last of them, translated the see to Sarum; whose bishops are lords, and had a manor house here before the conquest.

About two miles before we arrive at Reading, a road on the left leads to White Knights; lately the seat of Sir Henry Inglefield, Bart. but now of Mr. Neville.—The house is a stately building, situated in a pleasant park, well supplied with wood. Opposite the north front of the mansion is







*White Knight.*

a handsome piece of water, of an irregular easy form; the lawns which compose the banks of the lake are well laid out, and are adorned by groups of stately trees, and other woody scenery.

White Knights was one of the first examples of the *Ferme Ornée*;—was remarkable for the neatness and great order in which the grounds were kept; and is situated in a rich well cultivated country.

A little beyond this on the left, close to the road, stands Early Court, the seat of J. Bagnal, Esq. It is a neat white mansion, situated at the top of a sloping lawn, which extends to the road. The grounds are pleasingly unequal, and well clothed with wood of various kinds.—A little more than a mile beyond this, we arrive at the town of Reading.

Before we pass this town, it may be necessary to mention, that a spacious new road was, by permission, made from Windsor to Reading, being eighteen miles; passing over Cranbourne Chace, through Wind-

sor forest ; by the pleasant villages of Winkfield, Warfield, and Binfield.

From the number of elegant houses and seats to be seen from this road, with the rich and beautiful scenery of the noble forests through which it passes, it may be justly considered one of the most delightful rides, of that extent, in any country.







*View of Reading looking Southward.*

## SECT. IX.

READING is a very large and populous town, thirty-nine miles from the metropolis; situated upon an easy declivity, on the southern shore of the Thames. The streets are spacious and well paved; the buildings in general are good, and some elegant houses adorn the different quarters of it. The river Kennet runs through the town in two separate streams, and falls into the Thames about a mile below it.—The surrounding country is finely diversified by gentlemen's seats, woody hills, and cultivated land; and the Thames gliding through beautiful meadows, encompasses the northern part of the town.

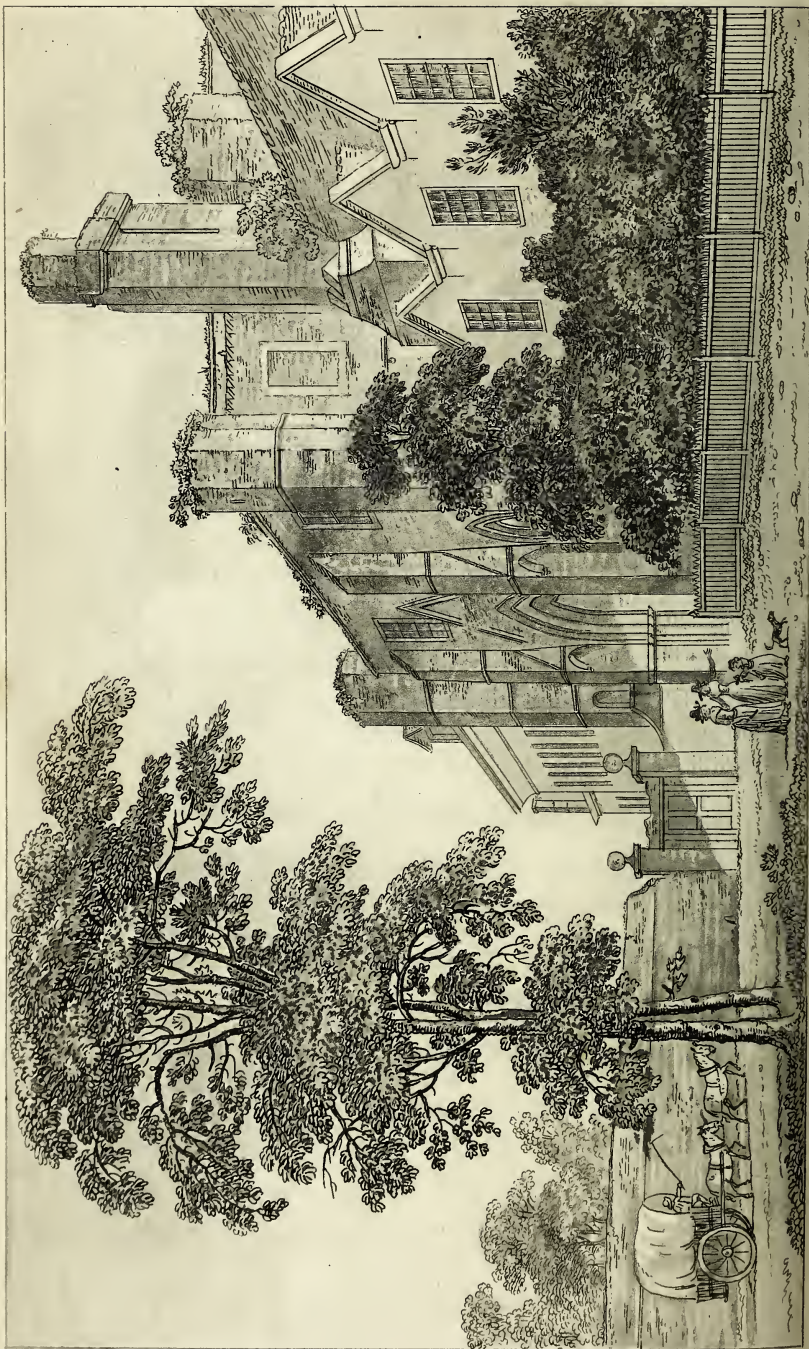
Reading is the county town; is governed

by a mayor, twelve aldermen, twelve burgesses and other officers, and sends two representatives to parliament. This town claims great antiquity, was of note before the Danish irruptions, and is said to have been a borough soon after the conquest.— Here are three parish churches, St. Mary, St. Giles, and St. Lawrence; the former of which is the most ancient.

It does not appear from any traces now to be found, that Reading was surrounded by a wall, though it had a castle of considerable note, the exact situation of which is not known. It is probable that the abbey stood on its site; and part of it was built out of its ruins. It is said to have been in the possession of the Danes, who made a ditch between the Thames and the Kennet; and that they retreated thither after they had been routed by the Saxon King Ethelwolf. In 827, the Danes surrendered the town to the Saxons, by whom it was plundered; a calamity which it again experienced about 1006.







*Albany Gate at Reading.*



A magnificent abbey was founded here by Henry I. about the year 1124, which stood between the two rivers before mentioned. It was endowed with great privileges, enjoying the patronage of all the churches and chapels, together with all pleas and suits of courts within the borough of Reading, with many other ample immunities. The bodies of Henry I. his Queen, and (as some say) of his daughter Maud, the Empress, were buried here.

This venerable and stately edifice was long the greatest ornament of the town; parliaments were held in the chamber of the refectory within the abbey; and in the reign of Henry VI. some laws were enacted in it. Dr. Stukeley mentions his having seen the shell of a room, eighty-four feet by forty-six, having three narrow windows on the east, and three doors and windows to the west; which he supposes to have been the chapel. The gate-house is still standing, and is a picturesque ruin; the other remains are massy blocks of flint walls,

eight feet thick, and seem to have been cased with stone.

At its dissolution this superb building was most shamefully abused, part of it having been converted into stables, and other similar uses; and by the fanatic and mistaken zeal of that period, the ashes of its illustrious founder were, through contempt, scattered in the air.

Reading stood a siege in the reign of Charles I. and made a gallant defence against the Parliament army, consisting of sixteen thousand foot, and three thousand horse, commanded by the Earl of Essex.—The garrison made an honourable capitulation; afterwards joined the King's army in the neighbourhood, and marched with it to Oxford.

This town was formerly renowned for its extensive manufactories in woollen cloth, but has little of that commerce remaining. Its chief trade now consists of malt, meal, corn, timber, and sail cloth.—Manufactories of silk and lawns have lately been estab-

lished, and from the encouragement they have already received, promise a source of wealth to the town.

Reading has to boast of having given birth to two distinguished characters; Lord Chief Justice Holt, and the pious Archbishop Laud.—The latter was the son of a wealthy clothier in the town; founded an hospital in it, and liberally endowed it.

On the right of the town, a bridge extending across the Thames to the village of Caversham, leads to the Henley road; which runs along the north side of the beautiful vale through which the Thames glides, affording a variety of rural landscape, intermixed with farms, villages, and seats.

On Catsgrove hill, near Reading, a stratum or bed of oyster shells was discovered, of five or six acres in extent.—It is particularly mentioned by John Lowthorp, M. A. in his second volume of the Abridgement of the Philosophical Transactions, page 427, 428, communicated to the Royal Society by Dr. James Brewer; and is wor-

thy the notice of the curious in natural history.

From a rising ground, at the western extremity of Reading, the road runs along a ridge for two miles, through a well cultivated country, with extensive prospects towards the south. Here, upon a hill on the north, stands a neat house, the residence of Edward Bower, Esq. embosomed in wood, and by its elevated situation commands charming views ; having the town of Reading on the east, a large tract of distant country on the south, and encompassed by woody hills and cultivated grounds on the north and west.

On the opposite side of the road, in a wood, is an ancient house, lately the residence of Mr. Belgrave. Its situation is low, but being well screened by woods from every quarter, is rendered a comfortable retreat.

Hence the road winds through a beautiful woodland country, composed of easy hills and sloping vallies. Near the forty-

two mile stone, on the right, is the seat of J. Belgrave, Esq.—It is a handsome regular structure, with wings, situated in a pleasant park, well supplied with wood. The grounds are composed of a variety of shelving lawns well formed; and rendered agreeable by groups and clumps of trees, judiciously scattered on them. The house is well screened on the north, by thick woods; and a small common of rural appearance, through which the road passes, lies on the south.

Beyond this is a continuation of the same kind of woody country, highly enriched by cultivation; and through the scenery on the left, glances of the Kennet, which glides in a beautiful valley on the south, are obtained: the road now descends, and we approach Theal.

Theal is a neat village; on the south it is skirted by fertile meadows, watered by the Kennet, beyond which, a chain of woody hills close the view in the horizon; on the north, the country becomes more



level, and is occupied by inclosures, farms, and cottages, interspersed with wood.

### *ENGLEFIELD HOUSE.*

About a mile to the northwest of Theal is Englefield House, the seat of Richard Benyon, Esq. Englefield originally gave name to a very ancient family, who long resided at it. This seat was built in a magnificent manner by one of the Paulets, Marquises of Winchester; but was reduced and modernized by the late proprietor, Paulet Wright, Esq. who was lineally descended from that noble family.

It is at this time a stately mansion, well situated in the east quarter of the park, near the village.

A range of woods, on a rising ground, extends along the north; from the south the grounds decline towards the center, which is occupied by a piece of water, of an irregular serpentine form; the banks

are rendered pleasant by a variety of woody scenery, and the park is adorned by many venerable and stately trees. The second and last Marquis of Winchester, who defended Basing House, is buried in the church at Englefield.

In the meads, on the north side of the Kennet, is a square entrenchment, probably thrown up when Earl Ethelwolf fought and routed the Danes here in the year 871.

Two miles north of Englefield is the village of Bradfield, where a monastery was founded by King Ina, before the year 699. All that now remain are vestiges of the walls, and part of a gate leading to the church, built of flint ; and the Rector takes tythes of abbey lands, which are free elsewhere.

From the high grounds above this village, to the south, is an extensive and distant view of the Hampshire and Berkshire hills. A steep descent down a chalky cliff opens to a valley, composed of woody and cultivated hills, through which the Thames

glides. In the bottom lies the village of Pangbourn, and on the upper grounds stands Baselden; from the hill above which is the most extensive view in this country,—in clear weather the spires of Oxford, twenty-five miles distant, are discernible.

Near this is Baselden Park, formerly the seat of the Lord Viscount Fane; now of Sir F. Sykes, Bart. The park is large, and inclosed by a wall of flint stones.

Four miles south-by-west of Englefield is Padworth. This seat was formerly in possession of the Forsters; lately of Christopher Griffith, Esq. and is now the property and residence of Mrs. Griffith. It is a noble mansion, delightfully situated on the north side of the vale, through which the Kennet runs. Standing on elevated ground, it commands prospects towards Woolhampton, Theal, and Caversham, on the opposite side; and extensive views along the river towards Newbury on the west, and Reading on the east. The house is well sheltered by wood, and the grounds have

an easy slope to the meadows in the valley. Near this place, the Earl of Essex passed the Kennet to attack King Charles I. at Newbury.

Near Padworth, on the east, stands Ufton Court, the seat of Mr. Perkins, delightfully situated.

West of Padworth, is the village of Aldermanston, near which stands an ancient mansion, formerly the seat of Sir Humphry Forster; whose ancestor was sheriff of Berkshire in 1475. It came by marriage to William, the third Lord Stawell, and devolved to his posterity.

About three miles eastward from Aldermanston, stood Silchester, a Roman city of great note; and according to some of our antiquarians, the Vindonium of that people, built by Constantine the Great, in the year 337. The space this ancient town occupied is about eighty acres, now divided into rich cultivated fields; and when Stukeley wrote, there remained but one solitary house, with the church. The vestiges of

the walls and the gates of the town are still to be seen, and may be considered as the most perfect remains of Roman grandeur in this island.

On the north-east side, are still the traces of an amphitheatre; now converted into the ignoble use of a straw-yard and watering-pond for cattle.

Many were the Roman ways that centered near this place, few of which are now remaining. The chief of these run from the south gate of the town, to the north gate of Winchester:—another from the south gate by Andover, to the camps at Eastbury and Quarley; crossing the river at Port-town, in a direct line to the east gate of Old Sarum. In the neighbourhood are many tumuli, and the traces of some camps; particularly one at a place called the Soak, about a mile and a half from Silchester.

Not far from hence lies Mortimer Heath, a black dreary tract of barren soil, across which ran a Roman way to Silchester; but is not now traceable so far. There are se-



veral barrows on its north side, and many considerable ones in its neighbourhood.

Returning from Silchester, and repassing the Kennet, we proceed from Theal over a flat, skirted by pleasant meadows on the south. Beyond this, the country on the right assumes a bolder appearance; a chain of hills finely tufted with wood present themselves; gradually increasing as we approach Woolhampton.

Woolhampton is a neat village, composed of good houses, pleasantly situated, beneath the south side of the ridge of hills, which forms the north side of the vale that leads to Newbury.

At the end of the village we ascend by a road to the seat of Mrs. Crew, standing on an elevated situation, about half a mile on the right.

The house is a good mansion, well screened by woods. From many parts of the grounds belonging to this seat, and from the high hill above the village, a great

variety of pleasing rural scenery is presented to view.

The sides of the hills are composed of steep and bold irregularities, shelving into deep and solemn vallies; beautifully adorned by a variety of woody scenery, intermixed with farms and cottages; and varied by extensive prospects towards the south and east.

Beyond Woolhampton, a large tract of beautiful meadow land occupies the valley on the left; and the same chain of woody hills, constantly changing their features, continues on the right. Advancing farther, the road ascends, and is more inclosed as we approach Thatcham.

Before we enter Thatcham, Dunsted Park, the seat of Sir A. Crofts, appears on the right. The house is a stately regular mansion, well situated on the south side of a woody ridge, which screens it on the north.

The grounds are pleasingly varied, and

well furnished with wood ; commanding views of the town, the opposite side of the valley ; and extensive prospects towards the east.

Thatcham is a small neat town, chiefly composed of one street ; having some good houses, and a small church. It was formerly a manor of the Winchcombs, from whom it passed by marriage to Henry Viscount Bolingbroke ; now in the possession of Sir A. Crofts.

Opposite to this, on the south side of the valley, the seat of Mr. Mount stands conspicuously ; the house is a handsome building, and its grounds are well adorned with wood.

From Thatcham the road runs along unequal ground, till within two miles of Newbury ; it then becomes more level, and inclosed, and the country, on both sides of the river, is composed of woody hills, interspersed with farms, declining towards the vale.

Near Newbury, in a retired situation on the right, is Shaw, the seat of Sir Joseph Andrews, formerly in the possession of the Dolemans. This is a very ancient mansion, much inclosed in wood; and is rendered of note for having been the place in which Sir George Lisle was posted at the second battle of Newbury, in 1644.

## SECT. X.

*NEWBURY.*

NEWBURY is a large and populous town, fifty-six miles from the metropolis, situated in a fertile plain, watered by the Kennet ;—it rose out of the ruins of Speen, and part of it still goes under the denomination of Spinham Land.

The streets are spacious and well paved : it contains many good houses, a large church ; and the market-house, over which is the guildhall, is a noble building. It is in the hundred of Faircross ; a vicarage in the gift of the crown, and is governed by a mayor, high steward, and burgesses : but sends no representatives to parliament.

Newbury was once noted for its extensive manufactories in woollen cloth ; little of



which now remain, this commerce having been carried to the more western parts of the kingdom. The loss is in some measure supplied, by the Kennet having been made navigable to the town ; by means of which a considerable trade is carried on to the eastern part of the kingdom.

The surrounding country is diversified by woody hills, interspersed with farms, cottages, and some handsome houses ; the valley, which is watered by the Kennet, affording luxuriant pasture for numerous herds of cattle constantly seen grazing in it.

Newbury is remarkable for having been the scene of action in two succeeding years, between King Charles I. and the Parliament army ; his Majesty commanding at both in person : the former was fought at the Barrows, on the Wash, two miles south-east of the town.

Before the battle, the royal army was in good condition in the town, well supplied with provisions, and having several garrisons in the neighbourhood, could be



The Bridge at Newbery.





at no loss for succour. On the other hand, the Rebel troops, from the time they had been attacked, the preceding day, by Prince Rupert, stood on their arms in the field, without any supply of provisions, or refreshment whatever ; which gave the King's army an evident advantage over them. Sensible of this, on the preceding evening his Majesty came to the resolution, not to hazard a battle, unless on such grounds as should give an assurance of victory.

On the morn of the eighteenth of September, 1643, the Earl of Essex with excellent conduct drew up his army in order of battle, on Bigg's-hill, less than a mile from the town ; and posted his men in all quarters to the best advantage. By the precipitate courage of some young officers, who had commands in the royal army, and who too often unhappily undervalued the courage of the enemy, strong parties became so far engaged, that the King, contrary to his former resolution, was compelled to put the whole to the hazard of a battle.

It was disputed on both sides with equal intrepidity, and with various success ; and night at length parting them, each had time to revolve the oversights of the day.

The Rebels finding themselves in no worse situation than they had reason to expect ; and being under the absolute necessity of gaining some place where they might rest, and be supplied with provisions, they early in the morning put themselves in the order of marching. The King's army, more cautious than on the preceding day, chose rather to take advantage of the enemy's motion, than to charge them again upon the former ground.

The Earl of Essex finding his way open, marched towards Reading. Prince Rupert observing this, suffered him without interruption to pass, till his whole army was entered into the narrow lanes ; then, with a strong party of horse, and one thousand musqueteers, followed the rear with so good effect, that they were thrown into great



disorder, having many killed and taken prisoners.

After this disaster, the Earl with the greatest part of his army, and all his cannon, got safe to Reading ; and after a few nights spent there in refreshing the troops, he moved in a slow and orderly march to London, leaving Reading to the King's forces, which was presently possessed by Sir Jacob Astley, and made a garrison for his Majesty.

On the King's side in this battle fell those distinguished characters, the Earl of Sunderland, Earl of Carnarvon, and the Lord Viscount Falkland ; an irreparable loss to his Majesty in his future operations.

### *SECOND BATTLE AT NEWBURY.*

In the succeeding year, another battle was fought at Newbury. The King with his army was quartered in the town, having strong posts at Shaw, Speen, and on other

advantageous grounds ; and being very inferior in numbers, resolved to act upon the defensive.

On Sunday morning, the twenty-seventh of October 1644, by break of day, a part of the Earl of Manchester's army, came down the hill and passed the river by Shaw ; and undiscovered forced that guard, which should have kept the pass near the house ; but were repulsed by Sir Bernard Astley, who was entrenched near it, with great loss.

The Rebel army having almost encompassed that of the King, constant fighting continued, though with much more loss to them than to him ; till about three in the afternoon, Waller with his own, and the forces which had been under the Earl of Essex, fell upon the quarter at Speen, and passed the river ; he then marched with great bodies of foot, winged with horse, towards the heath ; from whence the horse stationed there, being overpowered, were obliged to retire.

By these means the enemy possessed themselves of the ordnance, which had been placed there, and of the village of Speen. Several other desperate assaults were made by the enemy on Shaw, and other posts, but were repulsed with great slaughter.—Skirmishes with various success continued the whole day, and night coming on, ended the fight; a seasonable relief to both parties.

The King finding himself destitute of part of his artillery, accompanied by the Prince, those lords who had been with him all the day, and his regiment of guards, retired under the cannon of Donnington Castle. Perceiving the great superiority of numbers against him; and sensible of the danger of being surrounded by the enemy, if he remained in this situation, he ordered all the carriages and great ordnance to be drawn to the same place, where the rest of the army joined him; and hearing that Prince Rupert was arrived at Bath, his Majesty with the Prince of Wales made haste.

thither, and finding Prince Rupert, proceeded with expedition to Oxford.

After this the King's army was not in so bad a condition as was conceived; the troops posted in the field near Speen, kept their ground resolutely, and though it was a fair moon-light night, the enemy, who were very near, and much superior in numbers, thought not fit to disturb them.

That party of the enemy which had been so roughly handled at Shaw, having been reinforced by a strong body of horse, resolved once more to make an attempt on that post, but were again repulsed with loss.

This was the last action between the armies; for about ten at night, all the horse, foot, and artillery, drew forth their several guards to the heath above Donnington Castle, in which they left most of their wounded, with all their ordnance, ammunition, and carriages. Prince Maurice then marched in good order to Wallingford, committing the rear to Sir Humphrey Ben-







*View in High Clero Park, looking Southward.*

net ; who, with his brigade of horse, marched behind, and received not the least interruption from the enemy.

Many questioned which party had the advantage of the day ; and neither was satisfied with its success : but there can be no doubt that there were many more killed of the Rebels than of the King's army.

### *HIGH CLERE PARK.*

On the south, about five miles from Newbury, is High Clere, the seat of Lord Portchester. The park is extensive, and well furnished with wood of various kinds, kept in perfect order.—It is partly divided by a piece of water of serpentine forms, which runs along a vale in a south and north direction ; over which are two bridges ; and its banks are decorated by well adapted woody scenery. At the northern extremity, the water expands, assuming the appearance of a lake.

From a noble lawn not far from the en-

trance to the park, a delightful landscape presents itself.—A hill finely hung with wood, sloping to the lake, forms a screen on the right : on the left, stately groups of trees stand on the foreground, which is composed of a variety of shelving banks ; the water, finely broken by tufted wood, occupies the center, and a rich country retiring from the woody banks of the lake, closes the distance in the horizon.

The house stands well in the south-west quarter of the park, near which a very high hill rises boldly on the south, giving a characteristic appearance to the place ; and it becomes a distinguished object, as well as a conspicuous landmark, from many parts of the surrounding country.

High Clere Park stands in Hampshire ; and for extent, boldness of feature, softened by a mixture of easy swelling lawns, shelving into pleasant vallies, diversified by wood and water, claims the admiration of the traveller, and may be considered as one of the most elegant seats in this country.



From Newbury we proceed to Speen, the ancient Roman *Spinæ*, mentioned by Antoninus; formerly of renown, now reduced to an unconnected village. It is situated on the Kennet, a little more than a mile west of Newbury, and in the Bath road; is in the hundred of Faircross, and deanery of Newbury; contains some good houses, and a small church.

It was the opinion of Dr. Stukeley, that the *Ikening Street*, coming from the Thames at Goring, and another Roman way, running hence through this place to Hungerford, crossed the river Kennet on the north part of Newbury.—Mr. Willis of Andover, and some other of our antiquarians, think differently; and suppose, that the Roman road in Hampshire, called *Chute Casway*, crossed the Kennet east of Marlborough; divided into a Vicinal way, from Bradbury camp, near Wanborough, and ran from thence to White Horse Hill, by Wantage and Goring to Royston. It has been traced from Marlborough by

Escourt, to the north gate of Winchester, after having crossed the Portway at Easton Town farm, not far from Andover.

### *DONNINGTON GROVE.*

Opposite Speen, in a valley on the right, in view from the road, is Donnington Grove, the seat of William Brummell, Esq. The house is a handsome building, and though modern, the architecture is a species of Gothic; it was built by J. Pettit Andrews Esq. of whom it was purchased by the present possessor.

It is pleasantly situated on a sloping lawn, under a ridge of woody hills, screening it from the north; on which appear the venerable ruined towers of Donnington Castle.—In the vale, in front of the house, runs the Lamborne stream, enlarged and made into a handsome piece of water of an agreeable form, above a mile in length; in which are several islands covered with wood, affording protection to the feathered inhabi-











tants of the lake, which are numerous ; and its banks are decorated by clumps of trees, and other woody scenery.

Near the lower extremity, a handsome wooden bridge of one arch extends across it ; here it contracts, and is lost in plantations. Towards the upper end the water gradually diminishes, and imperceptibly vanishes among solemn groves of stately trees.

The grounds are well furnished with wood, have been lately altered and much improved. By the present possessor, the water has been enlarged, many plantations have been made ; and other improvements are in contemplation.

The Lamborne river abounds with fish of various kinds ; and, as well as the Kennet, is noted for its trout and cray fish.— This river gives name to a village through which it runs ; and a singularity attends it, contrary to the nature of all others ; it is always highest in summer, gradually decreasing as the winter approaches.



*DONNINGTON CASTLE.*

At a small distance from Donnington Grove, upon a hill on the north-east, stands Donnington Castle; rearing its ruined head above the remains of the venerable oaks that formerly surrounded it.—Its situation is lofty, commanding the western road, and it was a post of great consequence, during the civil wars, in the time of Charles I. It withstood a siege of three weeks against the Rebel army, commanded by the Earl of Manchester; during which time a thousand great shot were spent upon its walls, and three of its towers were beaten down. The governor notwithstanding, refused either to give or accept quarter, on any terms whatever; and bravely defended his ruined fortress till relieved by the King's army: in recompence for which gallant behaviour, he was knighted by his Majesty at Newbury.

The day after the second battle of Newbury, Donnington Castle was again be-

sieged ; the governor was summoned to surrender it, with a threat, that unless he immediately complied, one stone should not be left upon another. To which he made no other reply, than that he was not bound to repair it, and that he was determined to keep the ground afterwards.

All possible means were then made use of, to induce the governor to give the place up ; he even had leave to march away, with arms, cannon, ammunition, and every thing else that belonged to the garrison. To these propositions he only answered, the Rebels might be assured, that he would not go out of the castle, till he had the King's orders so to do.

After this it was attempted by assault ; but being warmly received, and their commanding officer killed, they retreated with great confusion ; made no farther attempts upon it, and in a few days the King with his army came to its relief.

Donnington Castle is likewise rendered of note, for having been the residence of the

immortal Chaucer.—Alice, daughter of Sir Thomas Chaucer, son to the poet, married William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk. On his attainder, it came to the crown; afterwards by grant of Henry VII. to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk.—In the reign of King James I. it belonged to the Packers, whose heiress married Dr. Hartley, ancestor to Mr. Hartley, the present proprietor.

### *BENHAM HOUSE.*

A rising ground leads from the village of Speen to Benham House, a seat of Ld. Craven.—From the high road we enter the park by a gate, with a handsome lodge on each side; and descend by a spacious road through a wood, to the open grounds; on entering which a variety of views are presented.

On the south, beyond the vale through which the Kennet runs, Hampstead Marshall Park, well adorned with wood, is seen. On this side the valley the grounds are much varied and unequal; are decorated



*Benham House.*







by clumps of stately trees, interspersed with water, and a variety of woody scenery. On the west beyond the valley, higher grounds appear, crowned with extensive woods, joined to tracts of downs in bold projections; and toward the east, we view a large district of well cultivated woody country, with a flat composed of meadow land between.

The house is a regular mansion of the Ionic order, having an elegant portico on the south front. It is built on a sloping bank, embosomed in a deep and solemn grove, composed of trees of various kinds.

On the south lies a piece of water, supplied by the Kennet; over which is a handsome wooden bridge, in the Chinese taste. The north side of the grounds is ornamented by woods, round which the high road makes a sweep, running along to the western gate.—Through the vale on the south the Kennet glides; but being much sunk, is not discernible from hence.

On the opposite side of the vale is Hampstead Marshal, another seat belonging to, and formerly the residence of this noble family. It is a fine park of great extent ; its grounds are high, much varied, and well furnished with wood.

This place had its name from the Marshal of England, whose property and residence it was.—The house mentioned by Mr. Camden, having been burnt down ; was begun to be rebuilt by William Lord Craven, who died in 1697, and was completed in a magnificent style by his successor. This house unfortunately having been also consumed by fire, it induced the present Lord Craven to build the seat before described, on the opposite side of the river, now his residence.

END OF THE FIRST PART.

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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LONDON:  
PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR, CHARLES-STREET,  
ST. JAMES'S SQUARE;  
AND R. FAULDER, BOND-STREET.  
D.DCC.XCII.



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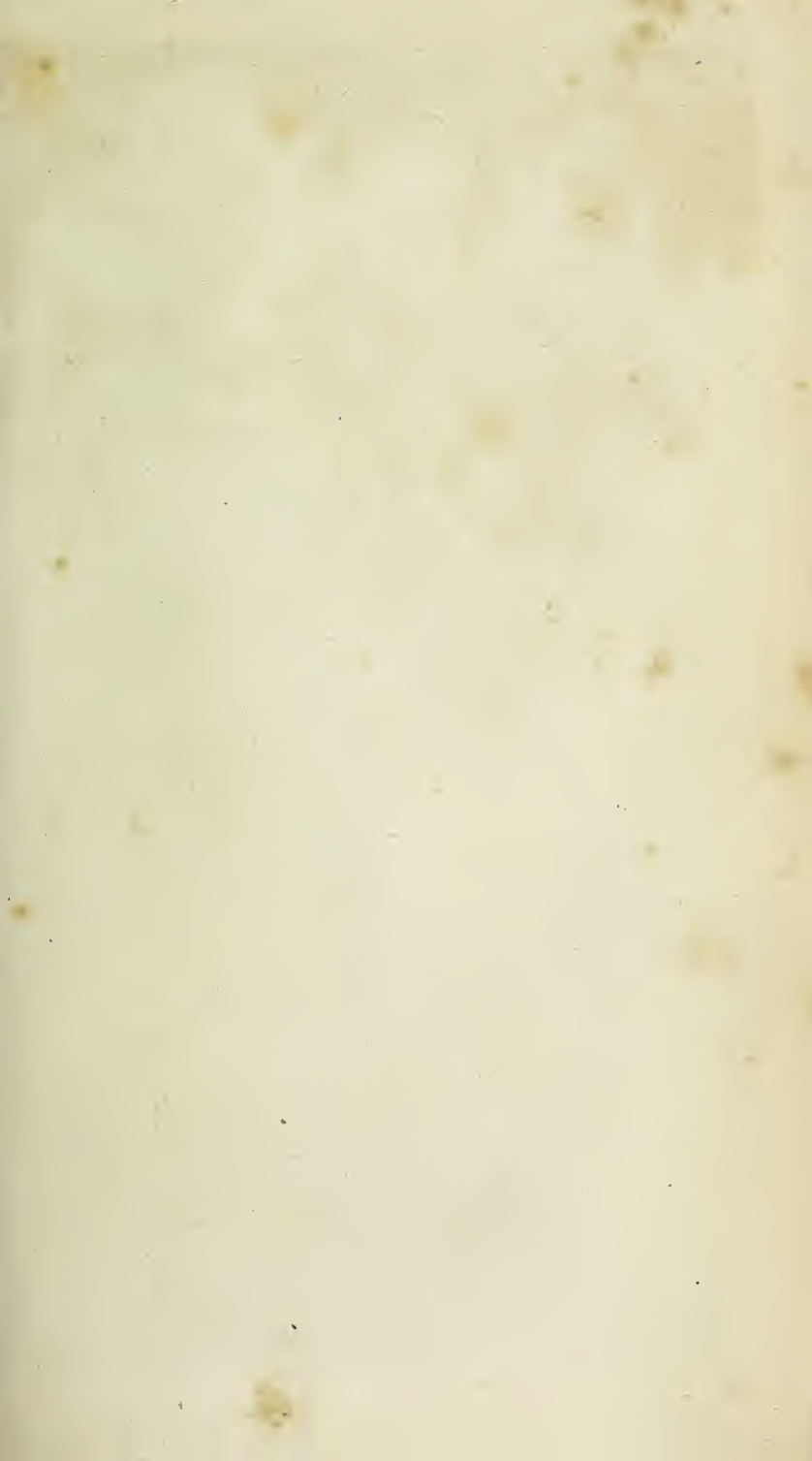
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A

# 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-









W. H. B. 1850

1850

W. H. B. 1850

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-





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 clothed.

“ 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.









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-







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









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.







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

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.



*Singular effect of a fog on Beckhampton Downs.*



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.”







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 Cumberford 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 Cumberford, 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





*Bowood.*





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 Beckhamp-ton.

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 havoc 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; Roundaway 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.

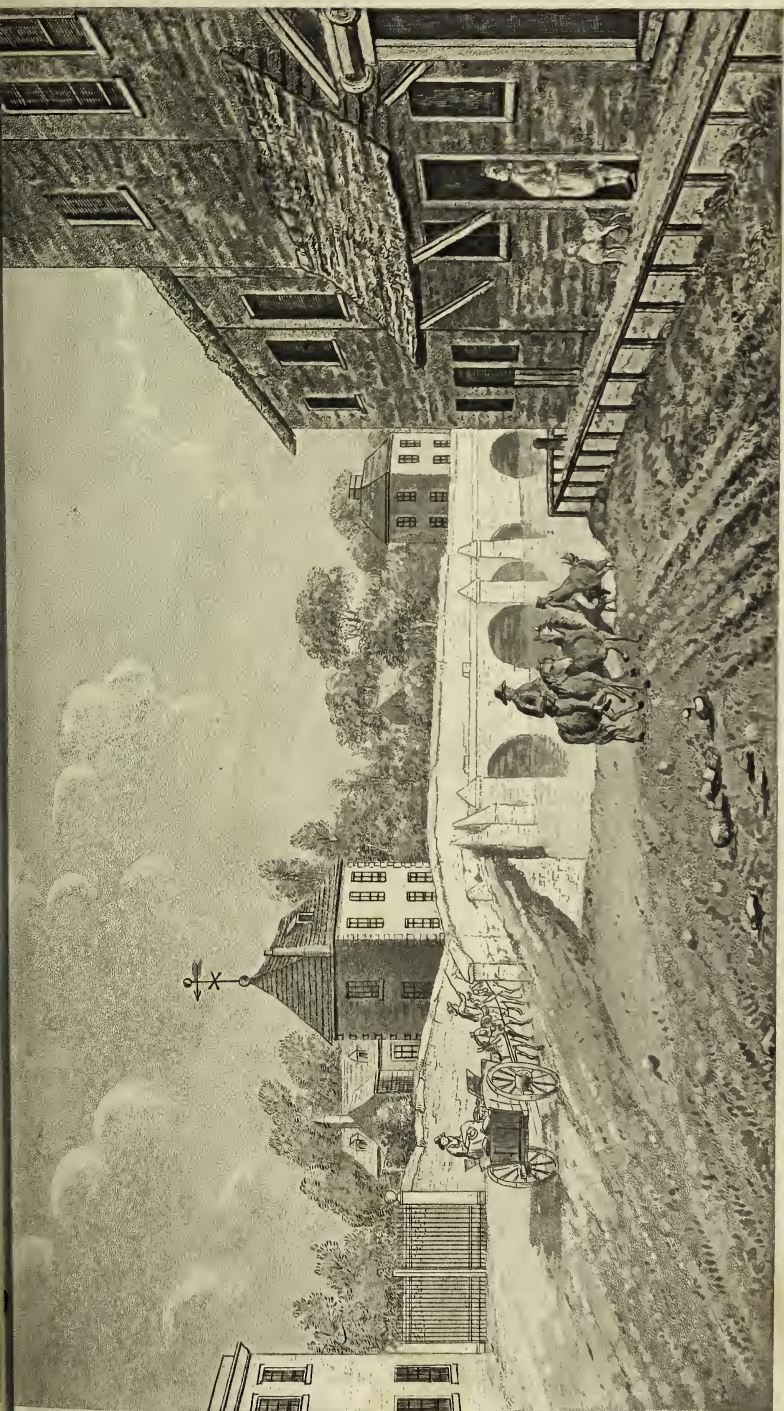
*CHIPPENHAM.*

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 Chippenham.*









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



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-



*Crisham 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.”



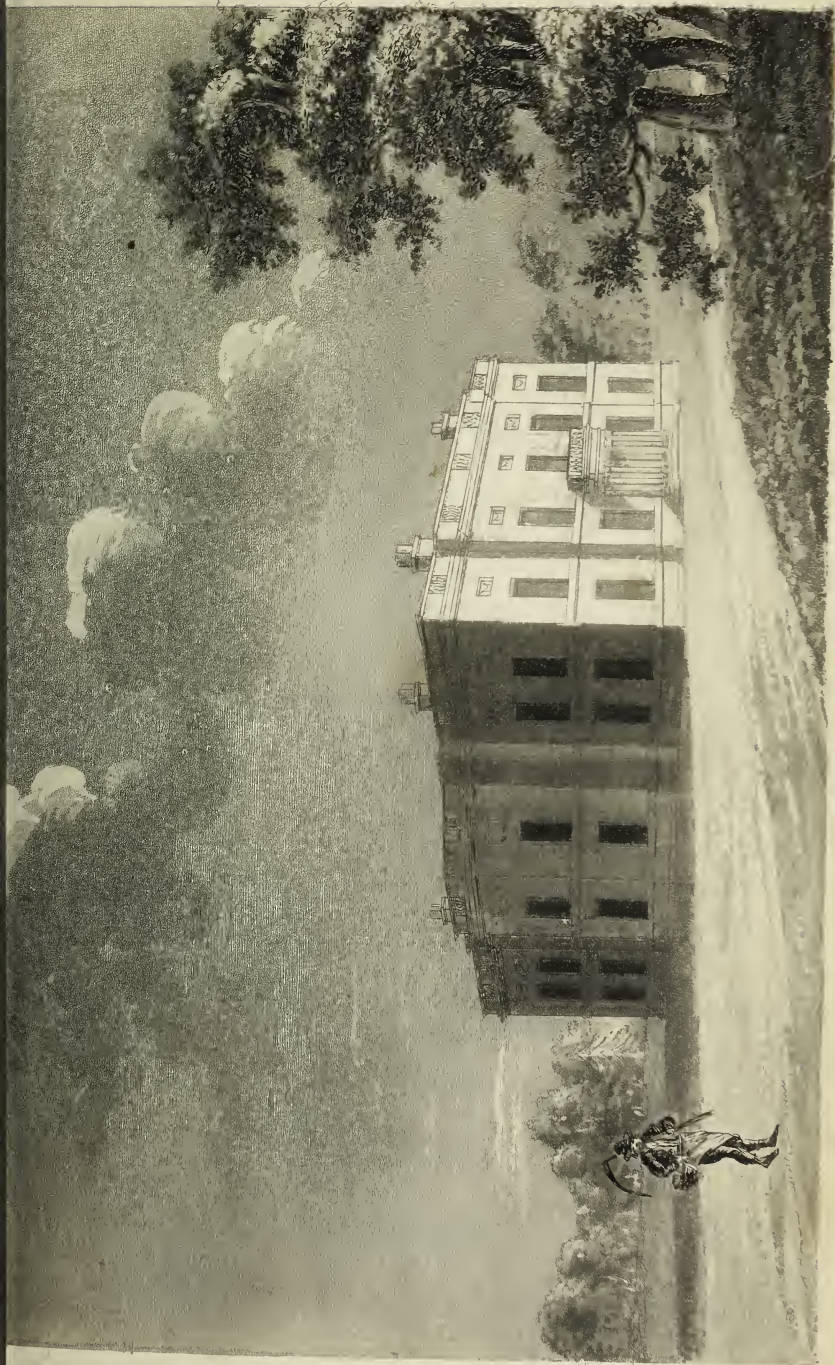
Having again returned from Corsham, and proceeding on our journey, before we arrive at Pickwick the road separates; one branch of it passes through that village, the other along a descent, a little to the right.

### *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-



5. Hartman 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 ...



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 New 3.*





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 De-  
vizes, Mr. Aubrey places a grand treble  
work, and mentions also a camp at Ry-  
bury, 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.

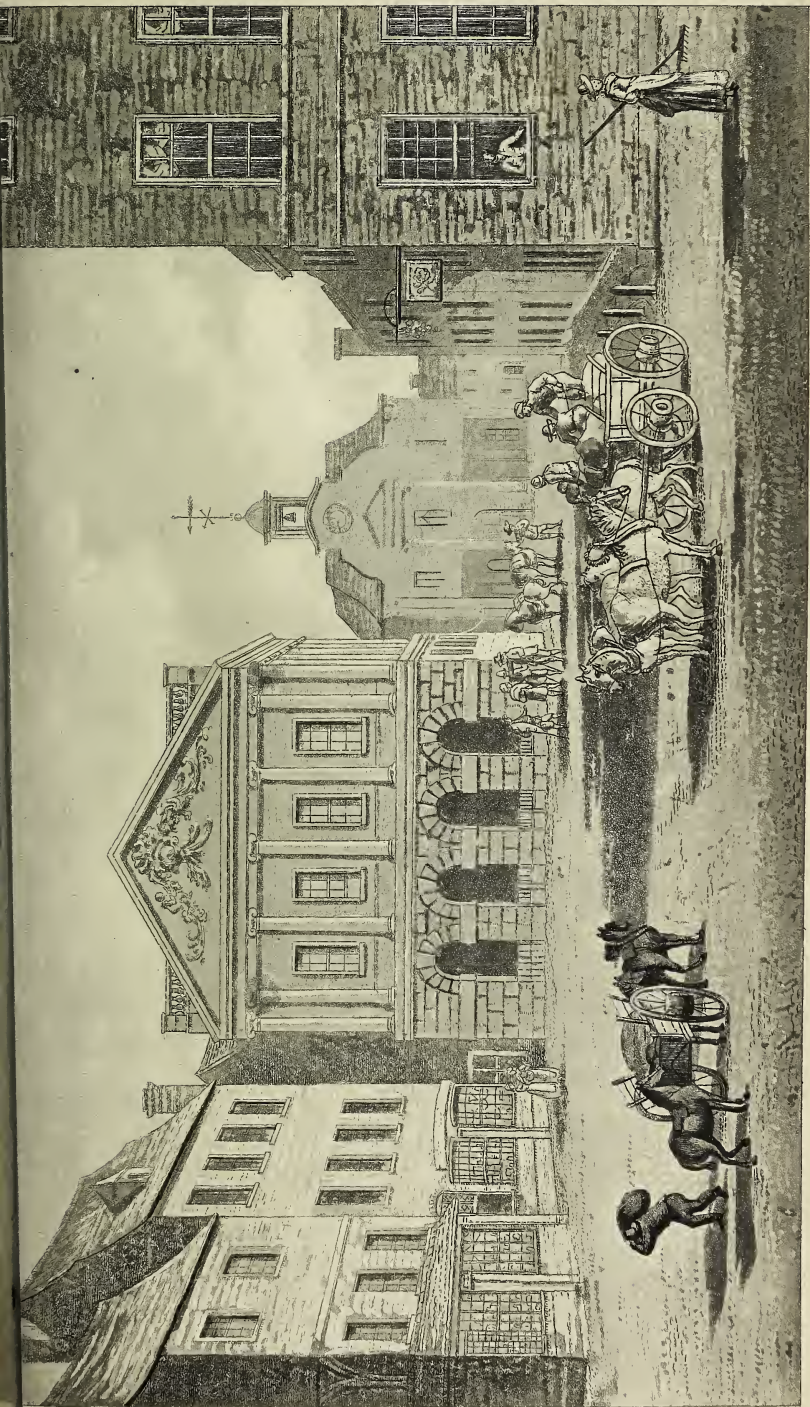
### DEVIZES.

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 Devises.*





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 Lake & House.*





Stoke Park, the seat of Joshua Smith, Esq. late of Mr. Delme. It stands in the district of Edingdon, 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.

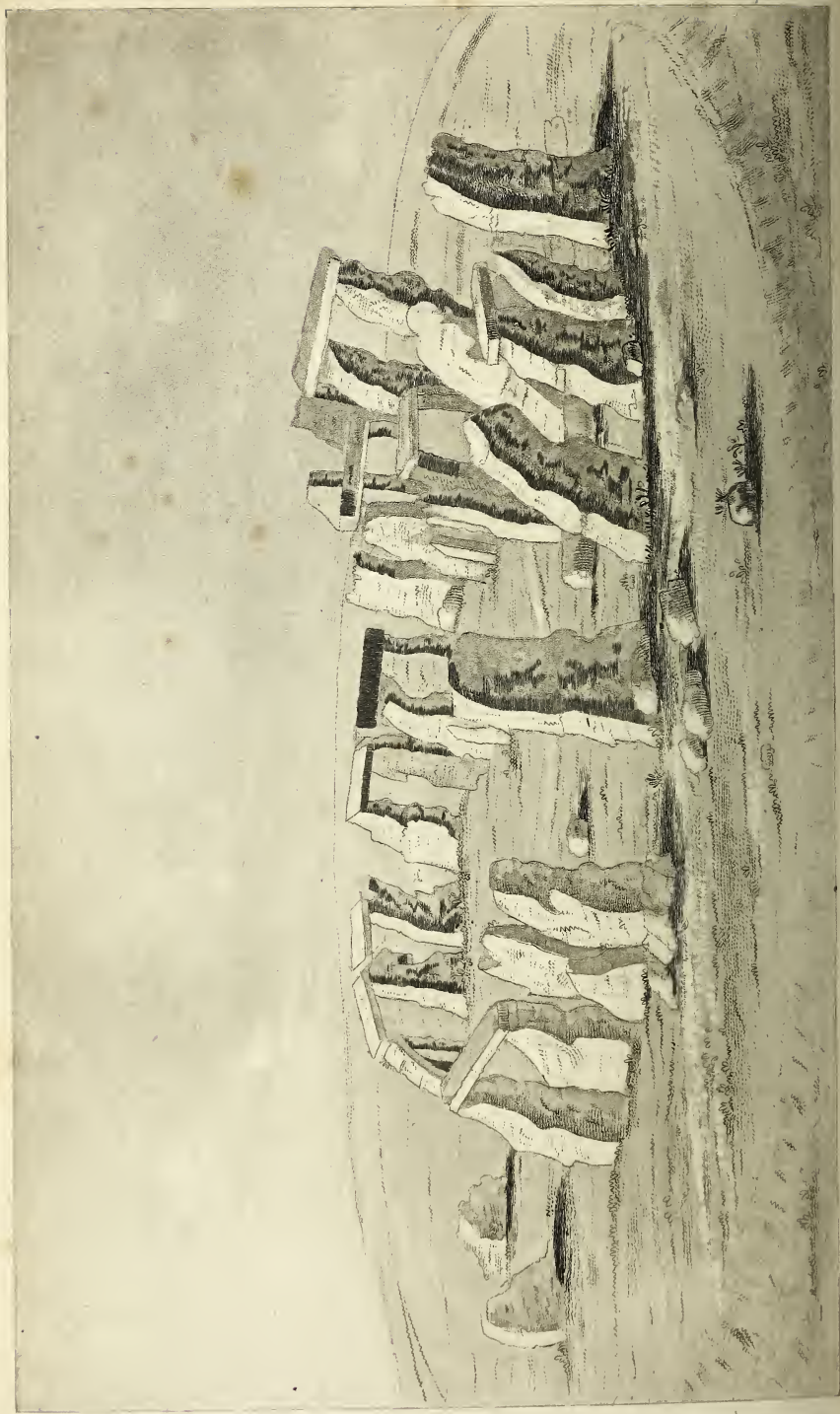
Being now on the verge of Salisbury Plain, the most extensive and extraordinary spot of the kind in England, which has so much attracted the observation of the curious, I cannot here pass it unnoticed, though it rather goes beyond my prescribed limits.

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 *Stonebenge* 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 relick :

—————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, conceited it to be a Tuscan temple of Coelum, 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.*

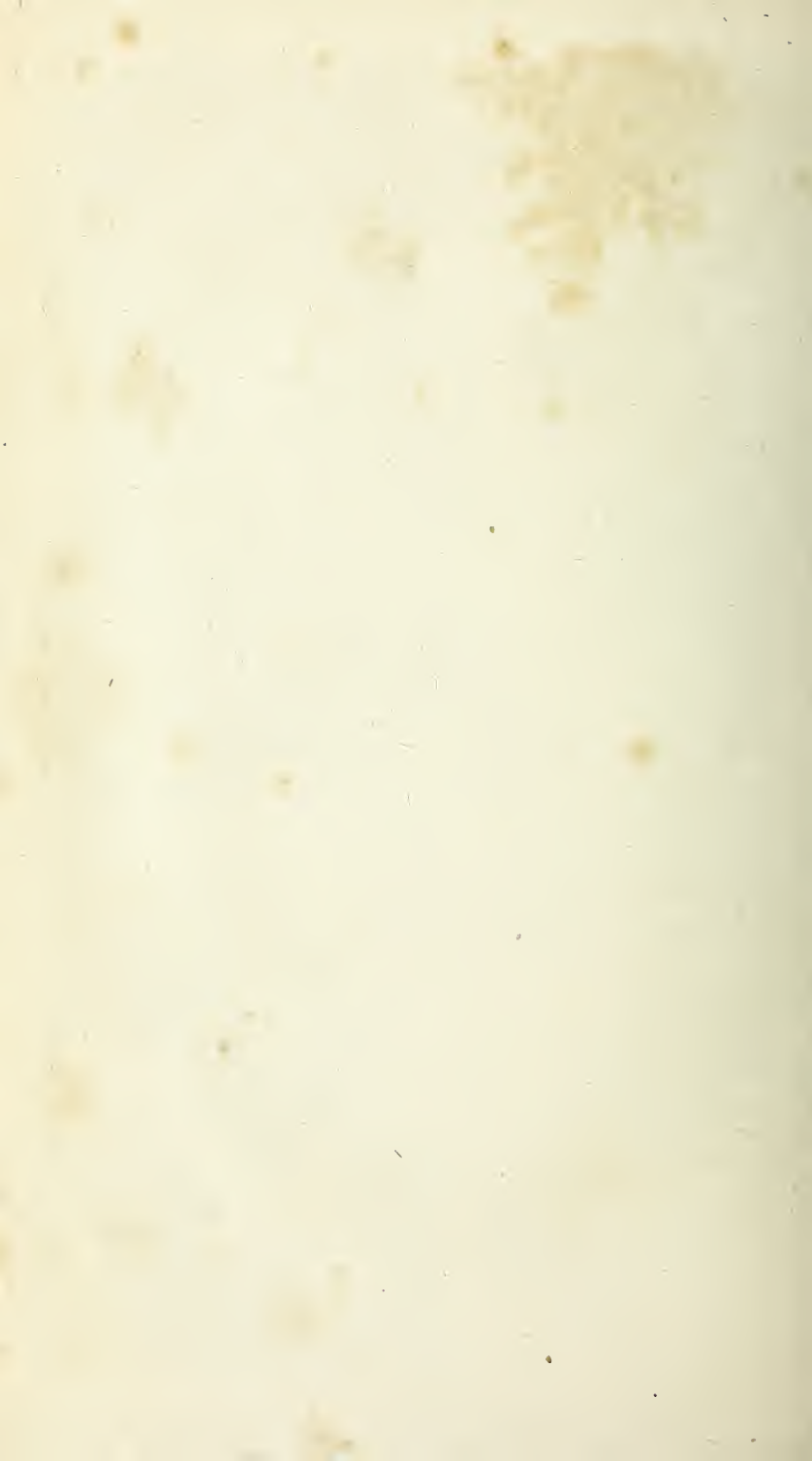
**B**ATH is one hundred and seven miles distant from London, and thirteen from the city of Bristol: it is pleasantly situated in a fertile vale, on the banks of the river Avon, and surrounded by hills of considerable magnitude; from the bowels of which the beautiful free-stone made use of in building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

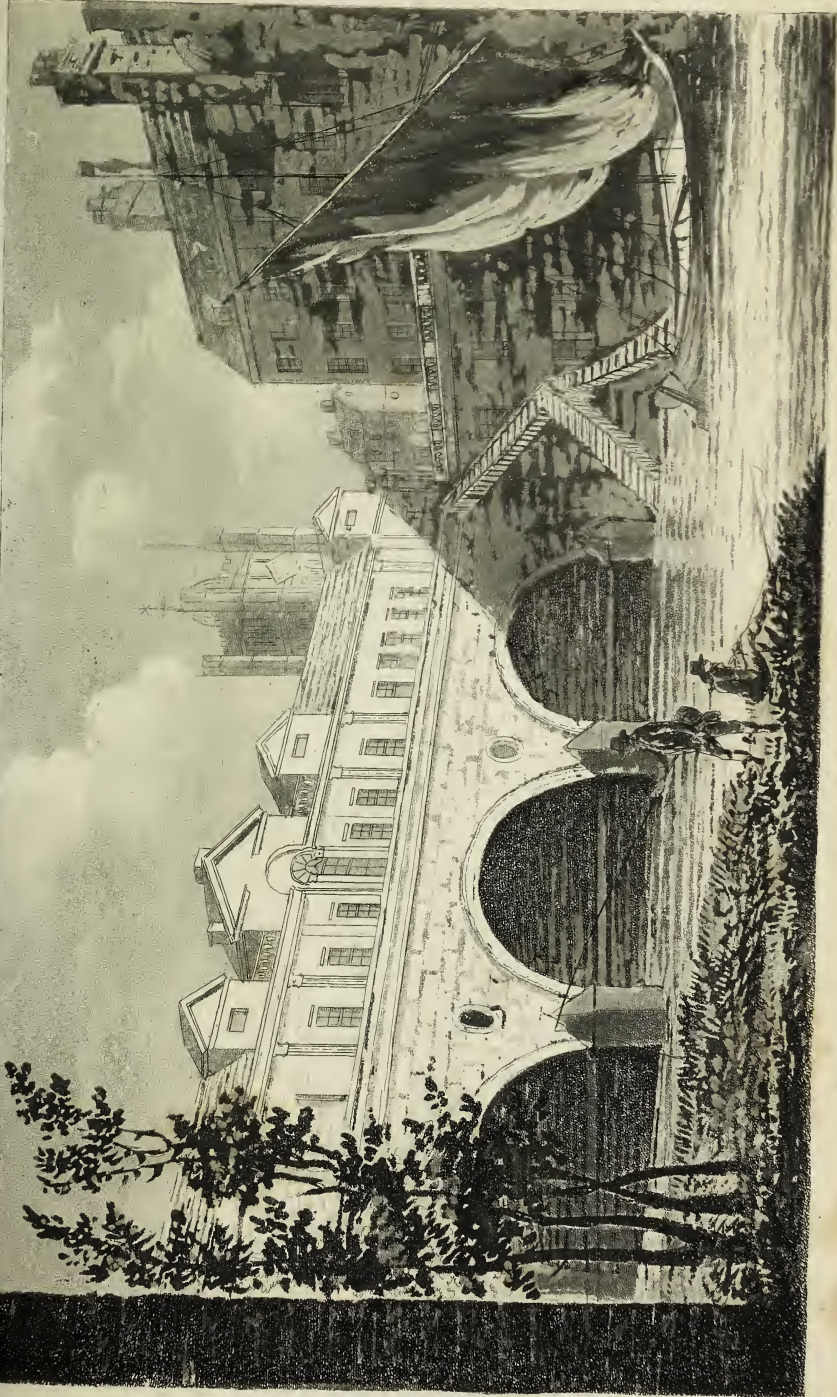
The increase of the city of Bath, within the last sixty years, has been rapid: from being a small contracted town, surrounding the hot springs, it has extended itself into its suburbs, expanding into open streets and squares, with many other elegant buildings, in various forms; the whole making a city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





*New Bridge at Bath.*





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-





*Lanstoun 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



*The South Parade.*





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 counties.

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



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,



*Turley Castle.*





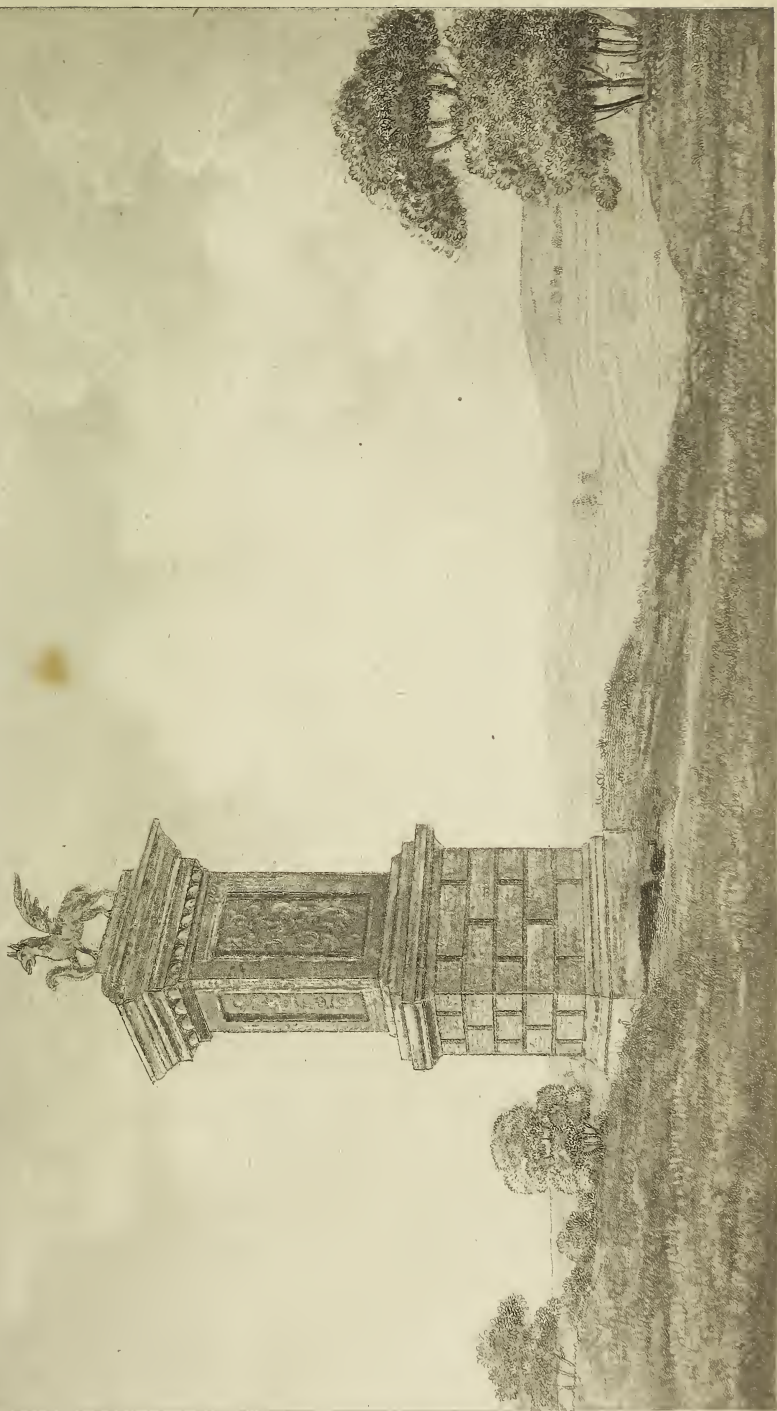
“ wrapt up in lead, like mummies, some  
 “ coffins, and an urn ; and several monu-  
 “ ments of this family are in a chapel on  
 “ the north side.” Camden brings the Clu-  
 niac Monastery hither, from *Monkton Far-*  
*leigh*, in Wilts.

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

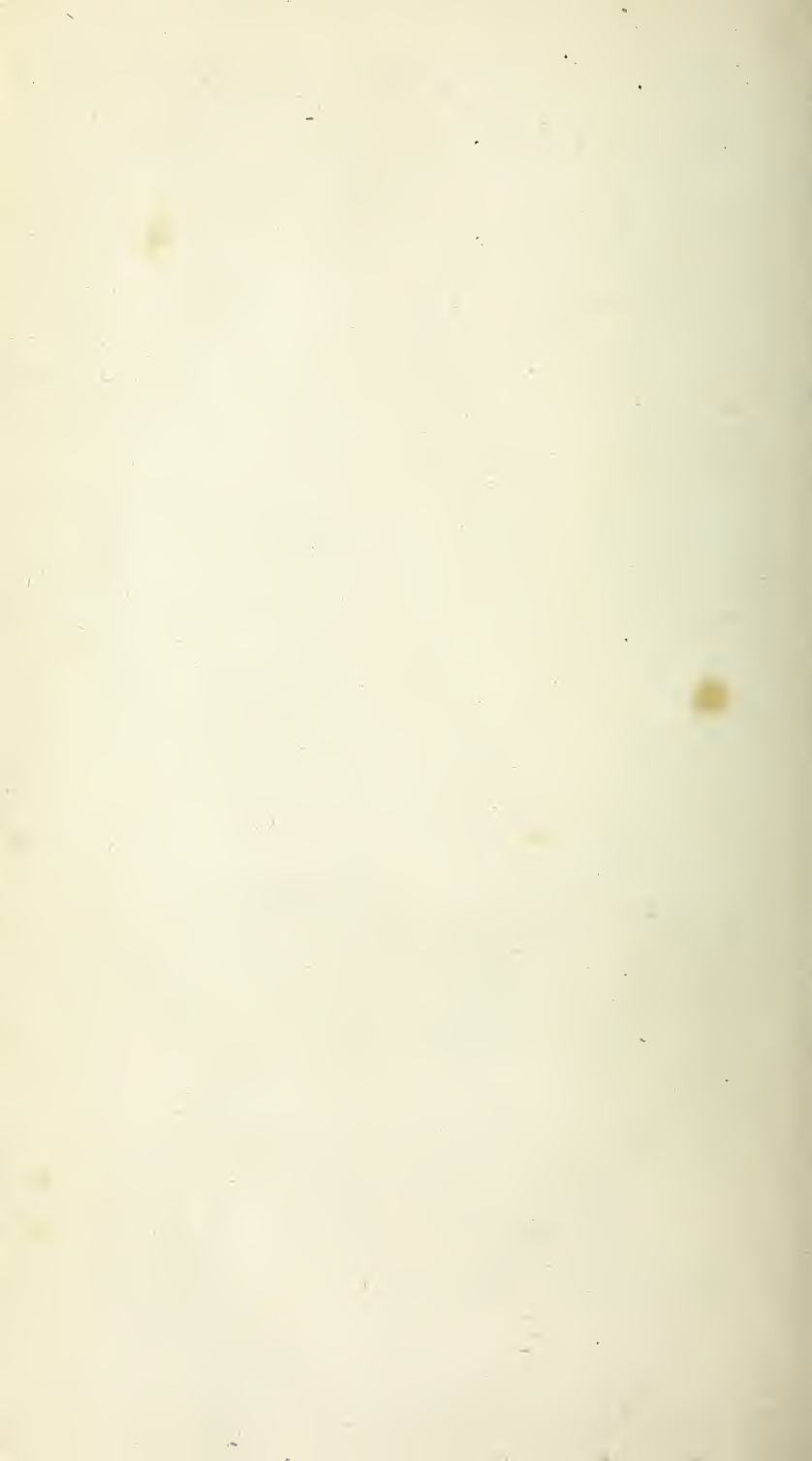


heirs of Sir Bevil's second son, Bernard ; of whom George, an elegant writer of this century, was created Lord Lansdown by Queen Anne, in the year 1711 ; but dying in 1734, without male issue, the title became extinct.—William Earl of Bath, Camden's cotemporary, died in 1623 ; and from his eldest son, 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 Lake. Sir Cosmo Mackenzie.*





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 anywhere 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 rebuildder 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 ybuylden the castle, beeyng the goodelyeste of syve ybuylden 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 defended 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 Wye.—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 From, 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 From 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-

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 degrees; 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-

111  
1718  
1807  
111









*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 Avon, looking towards the Severn 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 Seammill 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*.

















