

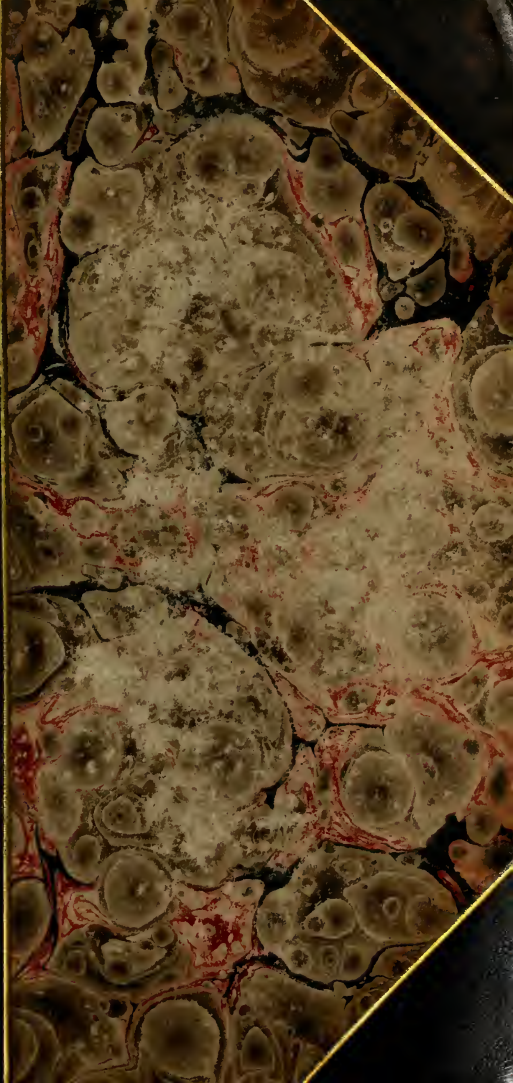
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TOPOGRAPHY
OF
Great Britain,
OR,
BRITISH TRAVELLER'S
POCKET DIRECTORY;
BEING AN ACCURATE AND COMPREHENSIVE
TOPOGRAPHICAL AND STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION
OF
ALL THE COUNTIES
IN
England, Scotland, and Wales,
WITH THE
ADJACENT ISLANDS:
ILLUSTRATED WITH
MAPS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

BY *G. A. COOKE, ESQ.*

VOL. XVI.
CONTAINING
WORCESTERSHIRE AND WARWICKSHIRE.


London:

Printed, by Assignment from the Executors of the late C. Cooke,
FOR
SHERWOOD, NEELY, AND JONES, PATERNOSTER-ROW :
AND SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.

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A
TOPOGRAPHICAL
AND
STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION
OF THE
COUNTY OF WORCESTER;

Containing an Account of its

Situation,	Mines,	Agriculture,
Extent,	Fisheries,	Curiosities,
Towns,	Manufactures,	Antiquities,
Rivers,	Trade,	Natural
Lakes,	Commerce,	History,

Civil and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, &c.

TO WHICH ARE PREFIXED,

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

ALSO,

A LIST OF THE MARKETS AND FAIRS,

And an Index Table,


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

The whole forming

A COMPLETE COUNTY ITINERARY.

BY G. A. COOKE, ESQ.

Illustrated with a
MAP OF THE COUNTY.



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A TABLE

OF THE

PRINCIPAL TOWNS

IN THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER,

Their Distance from London, Number of Houses and Inhabitants, and the Time of the Arrival and Departure of the Post, with the Price of Postage throughout the County.

Towns.	Dist.	Markets.	Houses.	Inhabitants.	Post arrives.	Departs.
Alvechurch	117		245	1344		
Belbroughton ..	117		274	1318		
Bewdley.....	120	Sat.	632	3454	6 aft.	8 morn.
Blockley	90		219	1011		
Bromsgrove....	116	Tues.	1318	6232	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ aft.	6 morn.
Droitwich.....	118	Frid.	423	2079	7 $\frac{1}{4}$ aft.	5 $\frac{1}{4}$ morn.
Dudley	130	Sat.	2621	13925	2 aft.	11 morn.
Evesham	96	Mon.	672	3068	10 morn.	5 aft.
Feckingham....	112		378	2135		
Kidderminster..	126	Thurs.	1546	8038	5 aft.	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ morn.
King's Norton..	116		574	3068		
Malvern, Great.	117		60		3 aft.	9 morn.
Pershore	103	Tues.	408	1910	10 $\frac{3}{4}$ morn.	4 aft.
Shipston.....	83	Frid.	284	1377	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ morn.	7 $\frac{1}{4}$ aft.
Stourbridge....	123	Frid.	321	4072	4 aft.	9 morn.
Stourport	120	Wed.	250	3000		
Tenbury	134	Tues.	297	1562	4 $\frac{3}{4}$ aft.	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ morn.
Upton.....	109		383	2023	3 aft.	9 morn.
Worcester.....	114	W.F.S.	2425	13814	12 noon.	3 aft.

The price of Postage for a single Letter varies from 8d. to 9d. throughout the County.

555573

INDEX OF DISTANCES FROM TOWN TO TOWN

Within the County of Worcester.

The names of the respective Towns are to be found on the top and side, and the intersection of the lines gives the distance.

Alvebarch.....	Distance from London.....	Miles, ..
Belbroughton		117
Bewdley.....		117
Blockley.....		120
Bromsgrove.....		90
Droitwich.....		116
Dudley.....		118
Evesham.....		130
Feckingham.....		96
Kidderminster..		112
King's Norton..		126
Malvern.....		116
Pershore.....		117
Shipston.....		103
Stourbridge.....		83
Stourport.....		123
Tenbury.....		120
Upton.....		134
Worcester.....		109
		114

INSPECTION TABLE FOR THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER.

Bounded by	Extent.	Contains	Sends to Parliament	Produce and Manufactures.
Salop and Stafford on the north.	Greatest length about 44 miles north-east and south-west.	5 Hundreds, viz. Blakenhurst, Doddington, Halfshire, Oswaldslow, Persnore, 152 Parishes, 500 Villages, 11 Market-towns, 4 Boroughs, 1 City, An area of about 614 square statute miles, 613,240 acres.	10 Members, viz. 2 for the county. 2 for the city of Worcester. 2 for Evesham. 2 for Droitwich. 2 for Bewdley.	Corn, cattle, fine wool, hops, cyder, perry, and salt, &c. <i>Manufactures.</i> Porcelain, glass, pottery, iron, carpets, gloves, hosiery, stuffs, &c. The agriculture of this county employs 38,685 persons; trade and manufactures 30,230. The average mortality during ten years is 1 in 46. The amount of property, according to the returns under the property tax act was 1,309,122 <i>l</i> .
Warwickshire on the east.	Greatest breadth about 29 miles east and west.	Number of houses, 30,206. Inhabitants, 160,546 persons; male 78,033; female 82,513.		
Glocestershire south and south-east.	Circumference, including the projecting parts, about 250 miles.			
Hereford west.	Exclusive of them, about 124 miles.			

WORCESTERSHIRE is situated in the province of Canterbury and diocese of Worcester; it pays nine parts of the land tax, and contributed towards the maintenance of its poor in the year 1801 the sum of 87,367*l*.

AN ITINERARY

of all the

DIRECT AND PRINCIPAL CROSS ROADS

IN

WORCESTERSHIRE.

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

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

FROM LONDON TO WORCESTER.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE			
On L a T. R. to			
Fulham		$\frac{1}{4}$	
Kensington	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{3}{4}$	On R the Palace; through
			on R, see Holland
			House, Lord Holland.
Hammersmith	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	On L the Margravine
			of Anspach, and on
			R R. Ricardo, Esq.
			Inn—The Windsor Castle.
Turnham Green	$1\frac{1}{2}$	5	On L Sutton Court—Side-
On L a T. R. to			bottom, Esq; and Little
Chiswick			Sutton, Mrs. Pratt; on
			R Fairlawn House,
			—Thomson, Esq.
			Inn—Old Pack Horse.
London Stile	1	6	
On L a T. R. to			
Kew			
BRENTFORD	1	7	Entering, on L see Kew
Cross the Brent			Bridge, and from the
and the Grand			town the new Palace,
Junction Canal			built by his late Majes-

				<i>ty; through on L Sion House, Duke of Northumberland; on R Sion Hill, Duke of Marlborough; opposite Sion Lodge, Miss Batten; and about one mile on R. Osterley Park, Earl of Jersey.</i>
Smallberry Green	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	8 $\frac{1}{4}$		<i>On R is Spring Grove, Right Hon. Sir Joseph Banks, Bart.</i>
				<i>Inns—The George and King's Head.</i>
HOUNSLOW	1	9 $\frac{1}{4}$		<i>About one mile from on L is Whitton Place, G. Gostling, Esq. and see Whitton Park, celebrated for its fine cedars of Lebanon, Sir Benjamin Hobhouse, and Samuel Prime, Esq; and near is Whitton Dean, James Campbell, Esq.</i>
<i>Through the Town on L the great T. R. to the Land's End, cross Hounslow Heath</i>				<i>Inn—The George.</i>
Cranford Bridge	3	12 $\frac{1}{4}$		<i>On R Cranford Park, Countess of Berkley.</i>
				<i>Inn—The White Hart.</i>
Sipson Green	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$		<i>Inn—The Magpies.</i>
Longford	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	15		<i>Inn—The King's Head.</i>
<i>Cross the old and new Rivers, at a small distance cross 2 branches of the River Colne, and at about one mile again cross the Colne: enter Bucks</i>				<i>At a distance from the road on L Stanwell House, Sir E. F. Stanhope, Bart.; and Stanwell Place, Sir J. Gibbons, Bart. About two miles from Longford, on R at West Drayton, Fysh De Burgh, Esq.</i>

COLNBROOK <i>Beyond Colnbrook on L a T. R. to Windsor</i>	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	16 $\frac{3}{4}$	Near on R Riching's Park, Right Hon. John Sullivan; one mile on L Horton House. Inns—The George and White Hart.
Langley Broom	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{4}$	On L Ditton Park, Lord Montague; on R Lang- ley Park, Sir R. Bate- son Harvey, Bart.
Tetsworth Water SLOUGH <i>On L a T. R. to Windsor</i>	1	19 $\frac{1}{4}$	Between Slough and Salt Hill, on R, see Baylis, a red House, Marchion- ness of Thomond; on L Windsor Castle; Eton College, Cran- bourn Lodge, Clewer Spire; Sophia Farm, —Dawson, Esq; and St. Leonard's Hill, Earl Harcourt. Inn—The Crown.
Salt Hill	34	21 $\frac{1}{4}$	See from the Castle Inn, Stoke Spire; and the seat of J. Penn, Esq. Farnham Royal, Church; Britwell House, Hon. George Irby; Dropmore Hill, Lord Grenville; and Burnham Church and Village; and from the Castle Inn gardens, a grand view of Windsor Castle, Eton College, &c.; from Salt Hill, on R see Huntercombe, John T. Atkyns, Esq. between Bray and

Maidenhead Brid. 4
 Cross the Thames
 R. and enter
 Berkshire

25½

Windsor, the Willows,
 late H. T. Ward, Esq.
 Inns—Castle and Wind-
 mill.
 Near on R at Taplow,
 Lord Riversdale; a
 white house, P. Gren-
 fell, Esq.; near to it is
 Lady Courtenay; on
 the top of the hill,
 Countess of Orkney;
 at a little distance from
 it Taplow Lodge, P. C.
 Bruce, Esq.; nearly op-
 posite, Water Oakley,
 — Harford, Esq.;
 Filbert, Charles Fuller,
 Esq.; and the Retreat,
 late Lady Bowyer; and
 see one mile on R Chief-
 den, and the beautiful
 woods belonging to the
 Countess of Orkney;
 at a distance, Hedsor,
 Lord Boston; one mile
 on L Dorney Court, Sir
 C. H. Palmer, Bart.;
 and see Braywick
 Lodge, Sir John Wa-
 ther Waller, Bart.; and
 Cannon Hill, C. S.
 Murray, Esq.

MAIDENHEAD
 On R a T. R. to
 Great Marlow

3¼

26

Inn—King's Arms.
 On L Ives House, —
 Wilson, Esq.; and on
 R Hall Place, Sir
 W. East, Bart.; and
 Bisham Abbey, G. Van-
 sittart, Esq.
 Inn—The Sun.

The Folly	$3\frac{3}{4}$	26 $\frac{3}{4}$	
On L a T. R. to Reading			
On R through the thicket to Hurley Botton	$3\frac{3}{4}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hurley Place, — Trough- ton, Esq. R.
Cross the Thames			
HENLEY UPON THAMES, Oxon	$4\frac{1}{2}$	35	Before on L Park Place, — Spurling, Esq. with beautiful pleasure grounds, and shewn on application on Wednes- days; one mile on L Bolney Court, — Hodges, Esq; and Harpsden Court, T. Hall, Esq. Inn—The Bell.
On L a T. R. to Reading; fur- ther on R to Marlow			
Assington Cross	$1\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	Fawley, Rev. Mr. Powis, one mile on R.
Bixgibwen	1	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Nettlebed	$2\frac{1}{4}$	39 $\frac{3}{4}$	Joyce Grove, T. Toovey, Esq. L; and further, Highmore Hall, Rev. T. Leigh Bennett.
Nuffield Heath	$1\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	
On L a T. R. to Wallingford			
Beggar's Bush	$2\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{3}{4}$	Between Nuffield Heath and Beggar's Bush, Gould's Heath, George Davies, Esq.
Bensington	$2\frac{1}{4}$	46	Inns—The Castle and White Hart.
Shillingford	$1\frac{1}{2}$	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	
On L a T. R. to Reading, on R to Aylesbury.			
DORCHESTER	$1\frac{1}{2}$	49	Inn—White Hart.

On L a T. R. to <i>Abingdon</i> Nuneham Courte- nay	3½	52½	On R Baldon House, late <i>Sir Christ. Wm. Wil-</i> <i>loughby, Bart.</i> ; a little further on R Chisel- hampton Lodge, Rob. Pears, Esq.; on L Nuneham Courtenay Park, Earl Harcourt; the grounds, &c. are very beautiful.
Sandford	2	54½	
Littlemore	¾	55¼	
OXFORD	2¾	58	Inns— <i>The Angel, King's</i> <i>Arms, Roe Buck, and</i> <i>Star.</i>
One mile from on R a T. R. to <i>Bicester and</i> <i>Deddington</i>			
Woolvercot	2½	60½	
Cross the Oxford Canal			
Yarnton	1½	62	
Begbrooke	1½	63½	
One mile on L a T. R. to <i>Witney</i>			
WOODSTOCK	2½	66	Adjoining on L is <i>Blen-</i> <i>heim House and Park,</i> <i>the Duke of Marlbo-</i> <i>rough</i> ; shewn on appli- cation. Inns— <i>Bear and Marlbo-</i> <i>rough Arms.</i>
Kiddington	4	70	<i>Glympton Park, Lloyd</i> <i>Wheate, Esq. R</i> ; one mile on L, <i>Ditchley</i> <i>House, Earl of Nor-</i> <i>manton.</i>
On R a T. R. to <i>Wheatley</i>			

12	ITINERARY OF THE	
Enstone	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	72 $\frac{1}{2}$ On R see the curious Water-works.
2 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles on R a T. R to Chapel House		Inns--Talbot and Lichfield Arms.
CHIPPING NOR- TON	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 Inn--The White Hart.
On L a T. R. to Burford and Cirencester; on R to Banbury		
Salford	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	79 $\frac{1}{4}$ Sansden House, J. Langston, Esq. L
Salford Hill	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$ Inn--The Hands.
On L a T. R. to Stow		
Little Compton	1	81 $\frac{1}{2}$
Four Shire Stone Gloucester Shire	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	83 $\frac{3}{4}$
MORTON IN THE MARSH	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{4}$ Inns--The White Hart and Unicorn.
On R a T. R. to Warwick; on L to Stow		
Bourton on the Hill	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	87 Near on R Batsford Park, Lord Redesdale; on L Season Cote, Sir Charles Cockerell, Bart.
One mile and half forward on L a T. R. to Stow		Inn--The White Hart.
Broadway Worcestershire	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	93 $\frac{3}{4}$ On Broadway Hill, on L Spring Hill, the Hon. John Coventry; and Middle Hill, Thomas Phillips, Esq.; on R Farmcote, Mrs. Porter.
		Inn--The White Hart.
Wickhamford Bridge	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	97
Over a branch of the Avon River		

Bengeworth	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	98 $\frac{3}{4}$	
On R a T. R. to Avesham and Alcester; and a little further on L to Tewkes- bury			
Hampton Parva Cross the Avon R.	$\frac{3}{4}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Two miles from on L is Elmley Castle, and on R R. Bourne Charlotte, Esq.; and within about 1 mile from Pershore, Wickhouse, R. Hudson, Esq.; and two other seats of the Hudson family.
Pershore	6	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	Near is Fladbury Hill, commanding a fine view of the Vale of Evesham.
On L a T. R. to Tewkesbury			Inn—The Angel.
Stoughton	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	109 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Whittington	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	112 $\frac{1}{4}$	Inn—The Swan.
Through on R a T. R. to Strat- ford on Avon. At the entrance of Worcester on L to Tewkes- bury cross the Worcester and Birmingham Canal			
WORCESTER	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	114 $\frac{3}{4}$	Inns—The Angel, Crown, Hop Pole, Star and Garter, and Unicorn.

ALCESTER TO DROITWICH.

ALCESTER to				L To Worcester 15 miles.
— — —	1	1		R To Bromesgrove 18 miles, to Birmingham 20 miles.
Boundaries of the County.	2	3		Enter Worcester.
Tukenham	3	6		
Bradley	1	7		
— — —	1	8		R Tukenham Lodge.
Hanbury	1	9		
Mur Green	1	10		R Hanbury Hall, Earl of Exeter.
— — —	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	12 $\frac{1}{4}$		L Broughton House.
— — —				L Hadson House, Rev. Reginald Pindar.
DROITWICH	$\frac{1}{4}$	13		Inns—George, Crown.
				R to Bromesgrove 6 miles ; L to Worcester 7 miles ; L to Grafton Flyford 7 miles ; R to Ombersley 5 miles.

ALCESTER TO TEWKESBURY, THROUGH EVESHAM.

ALCESTER to				R to Worcester 15 miles.
Arrow	1	1		
— — —				L Ragley. The Marquis of Hertford.
Dunnington	2	3		
Rushford	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$		
New Inn	$\frac{1}{2}$	5		
Boundary of the County.	$\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{4}$		
Norton	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	7		
— — —	1	8		R to Worcester 15 miles.
EVESHAM	2	10		Inn—Crown. Cross the river Avon.
Bengworth	$\frac{1}{4}$	10 $\frac{1}{4}$		R to Pershore 6 miles ; L to Moreton-in-the-Marsh 14 miles.

<i>Boundary of</i>				
<i>Worcestershire</i>	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$		
— — —	3	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	<i>Re-enter Worcestershire.</i>	
Sedgebarrow,				
<i>Worcestershire</i>	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	15		
Beckford, <i>Glou-</i>	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	<i>R Overbury, James Mar-</i>	
<i>cestershire</i>			<i>tin, esq.</i>	
Northway	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	21	<i>L to Stow-on-the-Wold,</i>	
			16 miles.	
Ash Church	2	23		
TEWKESBURY	2	25	<i>Inns—Hop Pole, Star and</i>	
			<i>Garter, Swan, Crown.</i>	

ALCESTER TO WORCESTER.

Alcester to				
Arrow	1	1	<i>L to Evesham 9 miles.</i>	
— — —			<i>L Ragley. The Marquis</i>	
			<i>of Hertford.</i>	
<i>Boundary of the</i>	2	3	<i>Enter Worcestershire.</i>	
<i>County.</i>				
Stoney Moreton	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Radford	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	6		
Flyford	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	7 $\frac{1}{4}$		
— — —	1	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	<i>Cross the River Piddle.</i>	
Little Piddle	$\frac{1}{4}$	8 $\frac{3}{4}$		
Upton Snodsbury	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{4}$		
Churchill	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$		
— — —	$\frac{1}{2}$	12	<i>L to Evesham 11 miles.</i>	
— — —	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	<i>Spetchley—Berkeley, esq.</i>	
WORCESTER	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	15	<i>Inns—Star and Garter,</i>	
			<i>Hop Pole, Crown, King's</i>	
			<i>head.</i>	

BIRMINGHAM TO ALCESTER.

BIRMINGHAM,	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	<i>Enter Worcestershire.</i>	
<i>to the Bounda-</i>				
<i>ries of the County</i>				
Moxley	$\frac{1}{2}$	2		
Milpole Hill	4	6	<i>Cross the Stratford-on-</i>	
			<i>Avon Canal.</i>	

—	—	—	2	8	R to Dudley, 13 miles.
Boundary of			$\frac{1}{2}$	$8\frac{1}{2}$	
Warwickshire					
Ashley Heath			$2\frac{1}{2}$	11	
—	—	—	1	12	L to Henley in Arden 5 miles.
Ipsley			3	15	
Maple Borrow			1	16	
Green					
—	—	—	1	17	L Studley Castle, P. Lytleton, esq.
Studley			$\frac{1}{2}$	$17\frac{1}{2}$	
—	—	—	1	$18\frac{1}{2}$	R to Bromesgrove 9 miles.
Coughton			1	$19\frac{1}{2}$	
ALCESTER			$1\frac{1}{2}$	21	Inn—Angel.

BIRMINGHAM TO TENBURY,

THROUGH HALES OWEN, KIDDERMINSTER, AND
BEWDLEY.

BIRMINGHAM to					
Boundary of the					
County			4	4	
—	—	—	2	6	R a road to Dudley 5 miles.
—	—	—	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$	L The Leasowes, formerly
Enter Shropshire			$\frac{1}{4}$	$7\frac{3}{4}$	the property of the Poet
					Shenstone, who expended all his fortune in beautifying them; now the seat of C. Hartop, esq.
Hales Owen			$\frac{1}{4}$	8	At Hales Owen, to the R to Dudley 5 miles, L to Bromesgrove 6 miles and a quarter.
Re-enter Worces-			1	$9\frac{1}{2}$	
tershire					

—	—	—	$\frac{1}{2}$	10	L Hagley Park, Lord Lyttleton.
Hagley		2		12	Near this village is the seat of W. Waldren, esq.; here is a turn to the R to Stourbridge 2 miles and a half. L to Bromesgrove 7 miles and a quarter. Near this is Clee Hall, the seat of Miss Liells.
KIDDERMINSTER		5		17	Inn—The Lion. Cross the Staffordshire canal and the river Stour. Here on the R to Bridgenorth, Shropshire, 13 miles. L to Bromesgrove 9 miles, to Worcester 14, and to Stourport 4.
—	—	—			A little beyond Kidderminster to the R is Brokefield House, — Scawen, esq.
Bewdley		3		20	Inn—The George. In the vicinity of Bewdley, to the L are Spring Grove, S. Iley, esq. and Sandourn, J. Sobry, esq. At Bewdley, upon the R to Bridgenorth, Shropshire, 13 miles. L to Stourport 3 miles.
Mopson's Cross		$2\frac{1}{2}$		$22\frac{1}{2}$	Cross the River Severn.
—	—	—	$\frac{1}{2}$	23	R to Cleobury Mortimer, 5 miles and a half.
Buckridge		$\frac{1}{4}$		$23\frac{1}{2}$	
—	—	—	$5\frac{1}{2}$	29	R Sodington, formerly the

			<i>seat of the Blounts, now in ruins.</i>
Mamble	1	30	
Newnham	3	33	R to Worcester 18 miles.
Enter Shropshire	1	34	
<i>Cross the Teme</i>			
<i>and enter Tenbury,</i>			
Worcestershire	3	37	Inn—Swan.

**BIRMINGHAM TO TEWKESBURY,
THROUGH BROMESGROVE, DROITWICH, AND
WORCESTER.**

BIRMINGHAM to Bourne Bridge	3	3	<i>Cross the Bourne Brook, and enter Worcester- shire.</i>
Silly Oak	$\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	<i>Cross the Stratford-on- Avon Canal.</i>
Northfield	$2\frac{1}{2}$	5	L J. C. Jervoise, esq.
Lickey Hill	3	8	L R. Biddulph, esq.
— — —	3	11	R to Ha's Owen 6 miles.
BROMESGROVE	2	13	Inns — Crown, Golden Cross. R Lady Moys- ton. Just before you enter Bromesgrove, R to Stourbridge 10 miles. L to Alcester 14.
— — —	1	14	R Grafton Hall, Earl of Shrewsbury.
Upton Warren	1	16	L near Ashwood Green,
Ashwood Green	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$17\frac{1}{2}$	Hanbury Hall.
Droitwich	$2\frac{1}{2}$	20	Inn—The George. R to Bewdley 15 miles. Upon this road two miles from Droitwich to the R is Westwood Park, Sir J. Packington, bart. and

				<i>Henlip House; L to Al-</i>
				<i>cester 13 miles; L to</i>
				<i>Grafton Flyford, six</i>
Tunbill Green	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$23\frac{1}{2}$		<i>miles.</i>
— — —	$\frac{1}{2}$	24	L	<i>Perdiswell House, Hen-</i>
				<i>ry Wallisman, esq.; R</i>
				<i>Claims, Richard Yeo-</i>
				<i>man, esq.</i>
Worcester	2	26	Inns—	<i>Hop. Pole, George,</i>
— — —				<i>Star and Garter, Crown.</i>
				<i>Just before you enter</i>
				<i>Worcester, on the R to</i>
				<i>Bewdley 14 miles. R to</i>
				<i>Kidderminster 14 miles.</i>
				<i>L south of Worcester</i>
				<i>to Pershore 9 miles.</i>
— — —	1	27	R	<i>Barbourne House, G.</i>
				<i>Cooke, esq.</i>
— — —	$\frac{1}{2}$	$27\frac{1}{2}$	L	<i>Blankets, — Spratt,</i>
				<i>esq.</i>
Kemsey	$2\frac{1}{2}$	30		<i>Just before Kemsey, on</i>
				<i>the L J. J. Elles, esq.</i>
				<i>At Kemsey, R Rev.</i>
				<i>George Boulton, and</i>
				<i>John Fortescue, esq.</i>
Clifton	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$31\frac{3}{4}$	R	<i>Ridd Hill, Captain</i>
				<i>Rodney.</i>
Severn Stoke	$1\frac{1}{4}$	33	L	<i>Rev. John St. John.</i>
Earls Crome	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$34\frac{1}{2}$		
— — —	$\frac{1}{2}$	35	L	<i>to Pershore 6 miles and</i>
				<i>a half. R to Upton</i>
				<i>one mile and a half.</i>
				<i>Upon the road to Per-</i>
				<i>shore, to the L Crome</i>
				<i>Park, the Earl of Co-</i>
				<i>ventry.</i>
Naunton	$\frac{1}{2}$	$35\frac{1}{2}$		
Stratford Bridge	$1\frac{1}{2}$	37	R	<i>Ham Court, John Mar-</i>
				<i>tin, esq. Cross the Avon,</i>

ITINERARY OF THE

				<i>and enter Gloucestershire.</i>
Twining	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	39 $\frac{1}{2}$		Twining House, Mrs. Maxwell.
— — —	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{3}{4}$	L —	Jackson, esq. R John Wakeman, esq.
— — —	$\frac{1}{2}$	41	L	Mitche Hill, William Buckle, esq.
TEWKESBURY	1	42	Inns—	Hop Pole, Star and Garter, Crown.

BROMEYARD TO WORCESTER.

BROMEYARD to <i>The Boundaries of Worcestershire at Knightwick</i>	5	5		<i>Enter Worcestershire.</i>
— — —			L	Whitborn Court, R. Chambers, esq.
<i>Cross the River Teme</i>				<i>Near this there is a fine waterfall.</i>
Dodenham	1	6		
Broadwas	1	7		
Cotheridge	2	9	R	R. Brokeby, esq. also Leigh upon the south bank of the Teme; this manor formerly belonged to Lord Viscount Hereford
St. John's Worcester	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{1}{4}$	12 $\frac{3}{4}$ 13		<i>Cross the Severn.</i> Inns—Star and Garter, Hop Pole, Crown, George, Angel, Unicorn.

DUDLEY TO ALCESTER,

THROUGH HALES OWEN, AND BROMESGROVE.

DUDLEY to				
— — —	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	R	to Stourbridge 5 miles and a half.

—	—	—			R 2 miles from Dudley, to Hales Owen 4 miles.
The Borders of	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 $\frac{1}{4}$			
Staffordshire					
Cross the Strat-	$\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{3}{4}$			
ford on Avon Canal					
Boundary of Wor-	$\frac{1}{4}$	3			Enter the County of Wor-
cestershire					cester.
Gorsty Hill					
—	—	—	1	4	R to Hales Owen 2 miles; on this road is the Lea-
					sowes, C Harlop, esq.;
					L to Birmingham 6
					miles.
Webbs Green	1	5			
Cross the Strat	$\frac{1}{4}$	5 $\frac{1}{4}$			
ford on Avon Canal					
Darby Green	1	6 $\frac{1}{2}$			
Northfield	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	8			R to Bromesgrove 7 miles; L to Birmingham 6
					miles.
Cross the New					
Canal, between					
Worcester and	2	10			
Birmingham					
West Heath	$\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$			
—	—	—	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	13	L to Birmingham 8 miles. The road now takes the direction of the old Ro-
					man road, called the
					Watling Street.
Boundary of	$\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$			Enter Warwickshire, and
Warwickshire					continue along its bor-
					ders.
Ashley Heath	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	16			
—	—	—	1	17	R to Alcester 10 miles.
Crowley	2	19			

—	—	—	$\frac{1}{2}$	2	L to the Leasowes 3 miles.
—	—	—	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	Enter Staffordshire.
—	—	—	1	$3\frac{1}{2}$	Re-enter Worcestershire
—	—	—	$\frac{1}{2}$	4	Enter Shropshire.
Hales Owen		1		5	R Stourbridge 5 miles.
					L to Birmingham 8 miles. Half a mile to the left of Hales Owen is the Leasowes, now the residence of C. Hartop, esq. formerly of Shenstone, the Poet.
—	—	—	$\frac{1}{4}$	$5\frac{1}{4}$	R to Hagley Park, the seat of Lord Lyttleton, 2 miles.
—	—	—	$3\frac{1}{4}$	$8\frac{1}{2}$	Re-enter the County of Worcester.
Bromesgrove			$3\frac{1}{2}$	12	
Lickey					
Bromesgrove		2		14	Inns—Hop Pole, Crown.
—	—	—	2	16	Enter Warwickshire.
Tardeback		1		17	L Howel Grange, Earl of Plymouth. About 4 miles further to the L is Cofton Hall, R. Bidulph, esq.
—	—	—	$\frac{1}{4}$	$16\frac{1}{4}$	Re-enter Worcestershire.
Headless Cross			$3\frac{1}{4}$	$19\frac{1}{4}$	
Crabs Cross		1		20	Enter Warwickshire.
Loughton, War-			$3\frac{1}{2}$	24	
wickshire					
—	—	—	1	25	R to Droitwich 12 miles. Coughton Hall, Sir John Throckmorton, bart. L
Alcester		1		26	Inn—Angel.

DUDLEY TO HENLEY IN ARDEN.

DUDLEY to			R one mile from Dudley to Stourbridge 5 miles.
-----------	--	--	--

—	—	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	21 $\frac{3}{4}$	R to Stratford upon Avon 7 miles and a quarter.
HENLEY IN ARDEN	—	$\frac{1}{4}$	22	Inn—The Swan. L Barrell's House, Robert Knight, esq.

DUDLEY TO KIDDERMINSTER,

THROUGH STOURBRIDGE.

DUDLEY to	—	—	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	Cross the Canal.
—	—	—	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	Enter Staffordshire.
Brierley	—	2	—	4	—
—	—	—	$\frac{1}{4}$	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	Cross the Canal.
—	—	—	$\frac{3}{4}$	5	R to Wolverhampton 10 miles. Cross the river Stour.
Stourbridge	—	1	—	6	Inns—Crown, Talbot.
Worcestershire	—	—	—	—	—
Churchill	—	4	—	10	R to Stourbridge 4 miles.
—	—	—	1	11	R to Wolverhampton 14 miles; L to Bromes- grove 10 miles.
KIDDERMINSTER	—	2	—	13	Inn—Lion.

KIDDERMINSTER TO BROMESGROVE.

KIDDERMINSTER	—	—	—	—	—
to	—	—	—	—	—
Stone	—	2	—	2	—
—	—	—	$\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	L Harrington Hall.
Chaddesley	—	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	4	—
Corbet	—	—	—	—	—
Halfway House	—	3	—	7	—
—	—	—	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	R Whiteford Lodge.
Bromesgrove	—	—	$\frac{1}{2}$	9	Inns—Hop Pole, Crown, George.

ITINERARY OF THE
KIDDERMINSTER TO WORCESTER,
THROUGH HOLT AND HALLOW.

KIDDERMINSTER to Stourport	4	4	<i>Arley, Rev. G. Hulme, R; and Arley House, Rev. R. Pyndar. R to Fewdley 3 miles. Cross the Severn.</i>
— — —	1	5	<i>R to Bewdley 3 miles. R to Tenbury 15 miles.</i>
Nowtard's Green	3	8	
Holt Heath	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$	<i>R to Tenbury 15 miles.</i>
— — —	$\frac{1}{2}$	11	<i>Holi Castle, Henry Chel- lingworth, esq. L</i>
— — —	1	12	<i>L Rev. Mr. Foley.</i>
— — —	1	13	<i>Thorn Grove, late the re- sidence of Lucien Buona- parte.</i>
Hallow	1	14	<i>R to Clifton 10 miles.</i>
St. John's	2	16	<i>R to Bromyard 13 miles; R to Upton 10.</i>
Worcester	$\frac{1}{4}$	$16\frac{1}{4}$	<i>Cross the Severn.</i>

KIDDERMINSTER TO WORCESTER,
THROUGH STOURPORT AND OMBERSLEY.

KIDDERMINSTER to Stourport	4	4	<i>At Stourport the Stafford- shire Canal falls into the Severn. Upon the opposite side of the Se- vern is Anley Hall, John Zachary, esq. A little to the left of Stour- port, Hartlebury Castle, belonging to the Bishop of Worcester.</i>
Lincomb	2	6	
Northampton	2	6	

Ombersley	1	9	Ombersley Park, R Dow- ager Marchioness of Downshire. L on the road to Droitwich, Westwood Park, Sir J. Packington, bart.
— — —	1	10	L a short distance from the road is the village of Salwarpe.
— — —	$\frac{3}{4}$	$10\frac{3}{4}$	Cross the river Salwarpe
— — —	$\frac{1}{4}$	11	Cross the Droitwich Canal.
— — —	$\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{1}{2}$	L Claines, Richard Yeo- man, esq.
Worcester	$2\frac{1}{2}$	14	Inns—Star and Garter, Hop Pole, George, and Crown. L to Droit- wich 7 miles.

PERSHORE TO TEWKESBURY.

PERSHORE to			
— — —	$2\frac{1}{4}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	R to Upton $5\frac{3}{4}$ miles.
Birlingham	1	$3\frac{1}{4}$	Rev. Mr. Bradstock, Gen. Amherst.
— — —	$\frac{1}{4}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	Cross the river Avon.
Eckington	$\frac{1}{2}$	4	Near Eckington, Wooler Hill, C. Handforth, esq.
Norton	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{1}{2}$	
Brudon	2	$7\frac{1}{2}$	R John Drake, esq.
Hardwick	$1\frac{1}{2}$	9	
TEWKESBURY	1	10	Inns—Hop Pole, Star and Garter, Swan, Crown.

STOURBRIDGE TO BROMESGROVE.

STOURBRIDGE to			
Old Swinford	1	1	
Pedmore	$\frac{3}{4}$	$1\frac{3}{4}$	
Hagley	$1\frac{1}{4}$	3	L Hagley Park, Lord

			<i>Lyttleton; also the seat of W. Waldren, esq.; L to Hales Owen 4 miles. R to Kidderminster 5 miles.</i>
<i>Enter part of</i>			
<i>Staffordshire</i>	$\frac{1}{4}$	$3\frac{1}{4}$	
Holy Cross	$\frac{1}{4}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	R <i>Buddhall.</i>
<i>Re-enter Wor-</i>	$\frac{1}{2}$	4	
<i>cestershire</i>			
Bell Inn	1	5	
Ferfield Green	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$	
Little Barnsley	1	$7\frac{1}{2}$	
Bromesgrove	$2\frac{1}{2}$	10	Inns— <i>Hop Pole, Crown.</i>

TENBURY TO WORCESTER.

TENBURY to	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	<i>Cross the Teme and enter</i>
Newnham			<i>Shropshire.</i>
			<i>Inn—Talbot.</i>
			<i>L to Bewdley $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles.</i>
			<i>Enter Worcestershire.</i>
Eastham	1	$4\frac{1}{2}$	R <i>Rev C. Whitehead.</i>
Lyndridge	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$5\frac{3}{4}$	L <i>Rev. the Dean of Wor-</i>
			<i>cester.</i>
Earlston	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$	
Stockton	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$10\frac{1}{4}$	<i>Cross the Teme.</i>
Hundred House	$\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{3}{4}$	L <i>to Kidderminster 9</i>
Inn			<i>miles; R to Brome-</i>
			<i>yard 12 miles.</i>
Great Witley	$\frac{1}{4}$	11	R <i>Witley Court, Lord</i>
			<i>Foley.</i>
Little Witley	1	12	
— — —	1	$13\frac{1}{2}$	L <i>Bewdley 8 miles.</i>
Holt Heath	$\frac{1}{2}$	$13\frac{1}{2}$	<i>At a short distance to the</i>
			<i>L Holt Castle, H. Chil-</i>
			<i>lingworth, esq.</i>
Hallow	$3\frac{1}{2}$	17	<i>Thorn Grove R.</i>
— — —	1	18	R <i>to Tenbury, through</i>
			<i>Clifton, &c.</i>

St. John's	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$19\frac{3}{4}$	Inns— <i>Star and Garter,</i> <i>Hop Pole, Crown, &c.</i>
Worcester	$\frac{1}{4}$	20	

UPTON TO PERSHORE.

UPTON to			
Holly Green	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	<i>Cross the Severn.</i>
— — —	$\frac{1}{4}$	1	<i>R to Tewkesbury 7 miles.</i> <i>L to Worcester 9 miles.</i>
— — —	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	<i>L Crome Park, Earl of</i> <i>Coventry.</i>
Difford	$2\frac{1}{2}$	5	
— — —	$\frac{3}{4}$	$5\frac{3}{4}$	<i>R to Tewkesbury 7$\frac{3}{4}$ miles.</i>
Pershore	$2\frac{1}{4}$	8	<i>Inn—Angel.</i>

WORCESTER TO EVESHAM,

THROUGH SPETCHLEY AND WYRE PIDDLE.

WORCESTER to			
— — —	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{2}$	<i>R to Pershore 7$\frac{1}{2}$ miles.</i>
Spetchley	1	$2\frac{1}{2}$	<i>— Bartlett, esq.</i>
— — —	$\frac{1}{2}$	3	<i>L to Alcester 12 miles.</i>
— — —	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$	<i>At a little distance on the</i> <i>L is White, Lady Aston.</i>
Wyre Piddle	$4\frac{1}{2}$	9	<i>Cross the little river Pid-</i> <i>dle.</i>
Woferidge	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$10\frac{3}{4}$	
Turnpike Gate	$3\frac{1}{4}$	14	<i>L to Alcester 9 miles.</i>
EVESHAM	1	15	<i>Inn—Crown.</i>

WORCESTER TO MORETON-IN-THE-MARSH,

THROUGH PERSHORE AND EVESHAM.

WORCESTER to			
— — —	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$1\frac{3}{4}$	<i>L to Alcester, 15 miles.</i>
Whittington	$\frac{1}{4}$	2	
Stoughton	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$	
Luffrel Bridge	$1\frac{1}{2}$	6	
PERSHORE	3	9	<i>Cross the river Avon.</i>
Wyck	1	10	<i>A little to the north of</i>

			<i>Wyckis Fladbury Hill, from which there is a beautiful and extensive view of the vale of Evesham.</i>
Bergeworth	5	15	L to Evesham and Alcester.
Wickamford	1½	16½	R to Tewkesbury, 13 miles.
Bridge			
Broadway	3¼	19¾	On the top of Broadway Hill, R Northwick, Lord Northwick: L Iping Hill, the Earl of Coventry and Lady Coventry's Tower; Spring Hill, Earl of Coventry, R.
<i>Cross a narrow portion of Gloucestershire and re-enter Worcester-shire.</i>			
	1¼	21	
Enter Gloucester-shire.	2	23	R to Stow-on-the-Wold.
Bourton on the Hill	4¼	27½	
MORETON-IN-THE MARSH	1¾	29¼	Inns.—Unicorn, White Hart.

WORCESTER TO UPTON,

THROUGH GREAT AND LITTLE MALVERN.

WORCESTER to St. John's	¼	¼	<i>Cross the Severn.</i>
			R to Bromyard 12¾ miles; R to Tenbury by Hallow 20 miles; by Clifton 20½ miles.
— — —	½	¾	R to Hereford 27¼ miles.
<i>Cross the river Teme</i>	1	1¾	

Powick	$\frac{1}{4}$	2	<i>This village gave birth to that eminent Physician, John Wall, M. D. L to Upton eight miles.</i>
Newland's Green	3	5	<i>L at the distance of about a mile, Maddresfield, Earl Beauchamp.</i>
Great Malvern	2	7	<i>The Church here contains some curious painted or stained glass windows. Inn—The Hotel. R a long chain of hills called the Malvern hills, and commanding a most extensive and beautiful prospect.</i>
Malvern Wells	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$9\frac{1}{2}$	<i>These wells are much frequented by fashionable company in the summer, who are induced to visit them not more for the salubrity of their situation, than the romantic and highly picturesque scenery they afford.</i>
Little Malvern	$1\frac{1}{2}$	11	<i>R to Ledbury, Herefordshire. 5 miles and a half.</i>
— — —	2	13	<i>L to Malvern Wells 2 mil.</i>
Welland	1	14	
— — —	2	16	<i>R to Gloucester 15 miles.</i>
UPTON	1	17	<i>Inn—White Lion.</i>

WORCESTER TO UPTON,

THROUGH POWICK AND HANLEY CASTLE.

WORCESTER to			<i>Cross the river Severn.</i>
St. John's	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	<i>R to Tenbury by Hallow 20 miles; by Clifton 20 miles and a half; to</i>

					<i>Bromeyard 12 miles and three quarters.</i>
—	—	—	$\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{3}{4}$	R to <i>Hereford 27 miles and a quarter.</i>
—	—	—	1	$1\frac{3}{4}$	Cross the river <i>Teme.</i>
Powick			$\frac{1}{4}$	2	R to <i>Great Malvern 5 miles.</i>
Beauchamp			1	3	
Callow End Green			$\frac{1}{4}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	
—	—	—	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{3}{4}$	R <i>Dripsell, Sir Charles Withers.</i>
—	—	—	$\frac{1}{4}$	7	L <i>Drake's Place.</i>
—	—	—	$\frac{3}{4}$	$7\frac{3}{4}$	L <i>Severn End, Henry Lechmere, esq.</i>
Hanley Green			$\frac{1}{4}$	8	R <i>Hanley Castle.</i>
Upton-upon- Severn.			2	10	Inn— <i>White Lion.</i>

END OF THE ITINERARY.

CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS.

This county is divided into five hundreds, and limits, containing 152 parishes, 1 city, (Worcester) and 11 market-towns, and is, with a part of Warwickshire, in the Diocese of Worcester.

QUARTER SESSIONS.

These are holden at Worcester, &c. on January 11, April 11, July 11, and Oct. 17.

AN ALPHABETICAL LIST

OF

THE FAIRS IN WORCESTERSHIRE.

- Alvechurch*.—May 3, August 10, all sorts of cattle, sheep and lambs.
- Belbroughton*. — First Monday in April, Monday before St. Luke, October 18; horned cattle, horses, and cheese.
- Bewdley*.—April 23, horned cattle, horses, cheese, linen & woollen cloth; Monday before July 26, cattle, cheese and all other merchandise; December 10, hogs only; December 11, horned cattle, horses, cheese, linen and woollen cloth.
- Blockley*.—Tuesday after Easter week, cattle; October 10, for hiring servants.
- Bromesgrove*.—June 24, October 1, linen cloth, cheese, and horses.
- Droitwich*. — Friday in Easter week, June 18, September 24, December 18, cattle, cheese, wool, and other merchandise; September 23 for hiring servants.
- Dudley*.—May 8, cattle, wool, cheese; August 5, sheep, lambs, cattle; October 2, horses, cattle, wool and cheese.
- Eversham*.—Candlemas-day, February 2, Monday after Easter week, Whit-monday, September 21, cattle and horses.
- Feckenham*.—March 26, September 30, cattle.
- Kidderminster*. — Palm-Monday, cattle, sheep, and pedlary; Holy Thursday, June 20, September 4, horned cattle, horses, cheese, linen and woollen cloth.
- King's Norton*. — April 25, September 5, cattle of all sorts.
- Pershore* — Easter Tuesday, June 26, Tuesday before All Saints, Nov. 1, cattle and horses.
- Redditch*.—First Monday in August, cattle of all sorts.
- Shipston*. — Third Tuesday in April, cattle and horses.
- Shipton*.—June 22, Tuesday after October 10, horses, cows, sheep.
- Stourbridge*.—January 8,

March 29, horses and other cattle ; September 8, cattle of all sorts and sheep.

Stourport, near Bewdley.—Easter Monday, a meeting for horned cattle, hops, &c. September 13, an annual meeting for cattle, hops, &c. Also a meeting every Thursday for hops, from September till Christmas.

Tenbury.—April 23, July 18, Sept. 26, horned cattle, horses, and sheep.

Upton.—First Thursday after Midlent, Thursday in Whitsun week,

horses, cattle, and sheep ; July 10. Thursday before St. Matthew, September 21, horses, cattle, sheep and leather.

Worcester. — Saturday before Palm Sunday, Saturday in Easter week, cattle, horses, and linen cloth ; August 15, September 19, first Monday in December, cattle, horses, cheese, lambs, hops and linen cloth ; second Monday in February, first Monday in May, June, July, and November, cattle, &c. The five last are toll-free.

END OF THE LIST OF FAIRS.

TITLES CONFERRED BY THE COUNTY.

Worcester gives the title of Marquis, Earl, and Viscount to the family of Somerset ; Kidderminster, that of Baron to the Foley family ; Evesham, the same to the family of Cocks ; Dudley, that of Viscount to the Ward's family ; and Ombersley, the same to that of Hill ; the Frankleys are Barons of Littleton ; and the Lygons are Barons of Powycke.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF
THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER.

SITUATION, BOUNDARIES, AND EXTENT.

WORCESTERSHIRE is reckoned among the Midland counties of England, and is bounded upon the west by Hereford, from which it is separated in part by the Malvern Hills, a small portion of the river Teme, and further north by the little rivulet, called Cadmore Brook, which empties itself into the Teme, at a short distance to the west of Tenbury. At the junction of the Cadmore Brook with the Teme, this latter again becomes, for a short part of its course, a boundary separating this county from Shropshire, which is situated to the north-west. Worcestershire is further separated from this county by a small portion of the Red river (which flows in a southerly direction to meet the Teme near Rochford) and two other small rivulets, which fall into the Severn, where that river enters this county from Shropshire. Upon the north is Staffordshire, from which it is separated in part by the river Stour. To the north-east and east this county is bounded by Warwickshire, and upon the south-east and south by Gloucestershire.

The shape of this county is extremely irregular, having upon every side small portions detached and insulated by the adjoining counties, as Dudley and its vicinity upon the north, which is surrounded upon all sides by Staffordshire; a narrow stretch of country, extending from about a mile and a half south of Shipstone-upon-Stour, and seven miles and a half north of it, and not exceeding two miles and a half, in its most extreme breadth, is insulated upon the east, by Warwickshire and Gloucestershire. Elmload is another insulated portion, to the south-east, in Gloucester-

shire, in which county is also another detached portion called Cuddesden; Edwin Loch upon the west is insulated by the county of Hereford. Besides these portions, which are wholly insulated, the boundaries of the county form numberless indentures with the adjoining counties, resembling bays, promontories, and peninsulas. Measured from its most south-western boundary, formed in the neighbourhood of the village of Stanton by the river Ledden, to its most extreme north-eastern boundary, about two miles north-east of Yardly, on the confines of Warwickshire, the extent of this county is about 44 miles; but measured in a direct line, north and south along the course of the river Severn, from its entrance into the county a little beyond Bewdley, to its junction with the Avon, near Tewkesbury, where it leaves the county, its greatest length is about 24 miles, so that the mean length north and south is 34 miles. Its extreme breadth, as measured from its eastern boundary, which projects a little beyond Oldborough into the county of Warwick, to its most western boundary, formed by the junction of the Cadmore Brook with the Teme, about two miles west of Tenbury, is 34 miles. The shortest line, taken across the county from Atch Lench in the east, to Malvern in the west, is about 18 miles: so that we may compute the mean breadth at 26 miles. The circumference of the county, if we omit the irregular indentures it makes with those adjoining to it, does not much exceed 124 miles; but including them, it will amount to nearly 250 miles. The superficial contents of the area included within the boundaries, are, according to the most accurate surveys, 599 040 acres, to which if we add about 19,200 acres for the detached portions, we shall have 618,240 acres for the superficial contents, from which we must, however, deduct about 5000 acres for portions of the counties of War-

wick, Salop, and Hereford, insulated by this county, leaving a remainder of 613,240 acres for the contents of Worcestershire.

NAME AND ANCIENT HISTORY.

The county evidently takes its name from its principal city Worcester, the etymology of which is deduced from *Wirecester*, by changing a vowel. The name *Wigornia*, occurs in Florence of Worcester, who died about 60 years before Joseph of Exeter wrote. Abingdon derives the Saxon name from the *wears* on the river. The inhabitants, with those of the adjoining parts, were in Bede's time, prior to the division of the island into counties, called *Wiccii*, a name derived, as we may reasonably conjecture, from the salt pits which it contains, the old English name of which is *Witches*.

This county formerly constituted the second part of the country of the *Cornavii*. In the time of the Romans it was swampy, overgrown with wood, and consequently but little known to that cautious and warlike people; neither Ptolemy nor Antoninus take any notice of it whatever; and of the four great Roman roads, which cross the kingdom, but one, viz. the Ikniel-street, approaches its borders; the Ikniel Way however crosses a small portion of the county, entering it near Broby, and passing on to Edgebaston in Warwickshire, leaves the town of Birmingham a little to the west.

The principal stations or camps, in this county, are on Wassal and Whitchbury Hill, near the banks of the Severn, in the neighbourhood of Kempsey, Little Malvern, and upon Woodbury Hill.

Worcestershire constituted under the Saxon heptarchy a part of the kingdom of Mercia, and was the frequent scene of sanguinary contests between the Saxons and the Danes.

This county was, according to Mr. Camden, the second part of the country of the *Cornavii*. Its inhabitants, with those of the adjoining districts, were, previous to the division of the island into counties, known by the general appellation of *Wiccii*, derived, either from the winding river whose banks they inhabit (*Wick*, in the old Saxon, signifying a creek or reach of a river) or from the salt pits, which are called in the old English language, *Witchis*.

After the Britons were expelled by the Saxons from the low lands, they retired beyond the Severn among the almost inaccessible mountains of Wales, and defended their new territories against the encroaching conquerors; so that this, with the other counties, through which this river flows, after leaving the wildernesses of Wales, was for a long time the frontier between the two people, and, as Mr. Twyne observes, most of the great cities upon the east side of the Severn and the Dee, were built by the Romans or Saxons, or by both, to check the inroads of the Britons.

The *Wiccii* seem to have inhabited all that tract of country which anciently acknowledged the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Worcester, namely, all the portion of Gloucestershire which stretches along the eastern bank of the Severn, all the present county of Worcester, with the exception of 16 parishes in the north-west angle of the county beyond Aberley hills and the river Teme, and nearly the entire of the southern half of Warwickshire, including the town of Warwick, the capital of the county. For, as under the Saxon heptarchy, each kingdom had but one bishop, whose diocese comprehended the whole of that district, so, upon the subdivision of the kingdom of Mercia, five bishopricks were made in the year 679, and of these the bishoprick of Worcester was the prin-

cipal, according to the account given us by Florence of Worcester.

The bishop undoubtedly had the whole province under his command, and was actually styled Bishop of the Wiccians, not Bishop of Worcester. The probability of this will appear more forcible, from what Florence further adds, that Oshere, Bishop of the Wiccians, persuaded Ethelred, King of Mercia, to make this division, from a wish that Wiccia, the province which he governed with viceroyal authority, might have the honour of a bishop of its own. His see was thus at Worcester, the metropolis of the province, which, according to the venerable Bede, bordered upon Wilts and Somerset, parts of the province of the West Saxons. The Coteswold Hills were included within the district of the Wiccians, being called in Edgar's charter to Oswald the Mons Wiccisca. SCEORSTAR, or the Shire-stone, is said by Florence to be in Wiccia.

In the time of the Normans this county had for its first sheriff Urfo de Abetot, or d'Abtot, to whom and his heirs William gave land with that title. He was succeeded in his honours and estates by his son Roger, who, having, as William of Malmesbury informs us, incurred the displeasure of Henry I. by ordering one of his servants to be slain, was dispossessed by that prince; the sheriffdom passed, however, with his sister Emelina to the Beauchamp family, she marrying Walter de Beauchamp, whom Stephen, after turning out Milo of Gloucester, made Constable of England. Some years after, Stephen created Walleran, Earl of Mellent, brother to Robert Bossu, Earl of Leicesters, first Earl of Worcester, granting him the city of Worcester. He afterwards turned monk, and died at Preaux, in Normandy. His son Robert, who had married the daughter of Reginald, Earl of Cornwall, and set up the standard of rebellion

against Henry II. and his grandson, Peter, who rebelled, and revolted to France, used only the title of *Mellent*, and not of Worcester.

From this period till the reign of Richard II. the title of Earl of Worcester seems to have lain dormant. That monarch conferred it upon Thomas Percy, who being slain in the civil war by Henry IV. Richard de Beauchamp, descended from the Abetots, received this honour from Henry V. This nobleman dying without issue, John Tiptoft, deputy of Ireland, was created Earl of Worcester by Henry VI.; but he immediately taking part with Edward IV. and preposterously submitting to be the executioner of all Edward's sentences, was himself beheaded by the executioner, upon the restoration of Henry VI.

Edward recovering the crown again, completely restored his son, who, dying without issue, and the estate being divided among the sisters of John Tiptoft, whom we have already noticed as Earl of Worcester, Charles Somerset, natural son of Henry, Duke of Somerset, was honoured with the title by Henry VIII. Edward Somerset, a descendant of this earl, enjoyed the title of Earl of Worcester, and his son Henry was created Marquis of Worcester by Charles I. Edward his son succeeded him, and dying in 1667, left his titles and possessions to his son Henry, whom Charles II. created Duke of Beaufort, the title of Marquis of Worcester being granted by courtesy to his eldest son. The titles continue in the same family, Henry Charles Somerset being the present Duke of Beaufort, and his eldest son the Marquis of Worcester.

CLIMATE AND SOIL.

The air of this county is mild, warm, and healthy, there being but few lakes, and very little swampy ground; the inhabitants of the Malvern hills enjoy a most salubrious and temperate climate, a circumstance which, conjointly with the beautiful,

rich, and picturesque scenery which they furnish, contributes not a little to induce multitudes of fashionable loungers to make the villages of Great and Little Malvern, which are situated upon the eastern side of these hills, the temporary theatres of their æstival gaieties.

The climate, particularly in the middle, south, and west of the county, is remarkably mild, soft, healthy, and salubrious. The vale of the Severn, but little elevated above the level of the sea, and the vallies of the Avon and Teme, upon nearly the same level, with the contiguous uplands, rising to 50, 100, or 150 feet above their level, have, at this low elevation, a warmth and softness, that ripens the grain and brings to perfection the fruits of the earth, from a fortnight to a month earlier than in more elevated counties, even though the soil and surface were similar. To the north-east of Bromsgrove, arises a ridge of hills termed the *Lickey*, which continues in a chain to Hagley, and diverges easterly in various directions, rising in some peaks to 800 or 900 feet. This district, from its height, exposure, and inclement atmosphere, may be considered, in point of climate, as three or four degrees more north than the fertile parts of the county. The other elevated grounds are the Malvern hills, that extend upon a base about six miles in length, and from one to two in breadth; the ridge formed by them divides this county from Herefordshire. Abberley hills, in the north-west, are of considerable magnitude, extending over the parish of this name, and rising 800 or 900 feet perpendicularly above the Severn.

The soil, though various, is generally rich and fertile; producing grain and fruit in the greatest profusion, and abundant pasturage.

RIVERS.

The principal rivers of this county are the Severn, the Avon, the Teme, and the Stour.

The SEVERN, the principal river of this county, and the second in rank after the Thames, whether we regard the length of its course, the majesty of its stream, or the extensive advantages which the commerce of the county derives from it, takes its name from the British word *Sabi* or *Sabrin*, which denote sandy, and allude to the extreme muddiness of its waters, which is particularly remarkable after rain, when a phænomenon almost peculiar to this river, and expressively denominated by the tenants of its banks the Boar, presents itself: this phænomenon shall be further noticed elsewhere. Adapting the British name to their own orthography, the Romans latinised the name of this river, by giving it a feminine termination, and calling it *Sabrina*, whence, with a trifling alteration, may be easily traced the SEVERN of the moderns. The name by which the Welch still designate this river fully expresses their sense of its importance, HA AU RIAN in their language signifying the Queen of rivers.

The Severn is a free river for whoever chooses to embark upon it, without toll or tonnage. The barges against the stream, when not favoured by the wind, though they hoist mast and sail, are hauled chiefly by men, ten, twelve, or more, sometimes at a barge; but lately, horses have been introduced to assist the men. Several attempts have been made to remove the shoals, but if this is effected upon one of them, another forms in its place. The middle of the channel being kept as regular and uniform as possible, whatever interruption may take place, when the autumnal rains fall, the navigation is restored.

The source of the Severn is to be found among the cliffs of Plynllymmon, which has the honour of giving birth to three remarkable rivers, which, rising within a short distance of each other, pursue different courses, but at last pour their tribu-

tary waters into the same sea. Besides the Severn, the Wye, famous for its romantic beauties, and itself finally a tributary to the Severn, and the Dee, which washing the savage cliffs of Montgomeryshire, and winding through the luxuriant vales of Abbe Crucis and Llangollen, hastens by the walls of the ancient city of Chester, to meet the waters of the Irish sea, have their fountains among the quartose precipices of the cloud-capped Plynlimmon.

The Severn, having washed the fortifications of the venerable capital of the county of Salop, enters the county of Worcester, between Kidderminster and Bewdley, and pursuing a southerly course, nearly through the centre of the county, receives at the little commercial town of Stourport, about 10 miles north of the city of Worcester, the tributary stream of the Stour, and the commerce of the northern and inland counties, poured in by the Staffordshire canal. Continuing its course through rich meadows and beautiful pasturages, it receives, at the distance of about seven miles further, the waters of the Salwarp, which rising upon Bromsgrove Lickey, and washing the walls of Droitwich, hastens to terminate its course in the bosom of the Severn, accompanied, during the latter part of its course, by a canal leading from Droitwich.

Somewhat lower down, the stream of the Severn is further augmented by the waters of the Beverbourne, or Otter river, which derives its name from the multitude of otters which frequented it.

It next washes the walls of the rich and beautiful city of Worcester, and about three miles south of that city, has its stream increased by the tributary waters of the Teme; from this place, during the remainder of its course through this county, it receives no river of importance, till it reaches the southern confines at Tewkesbury, where it is

honoured by admixture with the celebrated waters of the classic Avon. Thus having wound its course for the space of about 50 miles through this county, fortifying and draining the lands upon either side of it, and enriching the inhabitants, by the extensive inland commerce which is carried on through the assistance of its waters, this majestic river hastens through the rich vales of Gloucestershire, to receive the richly-laden ships, which come down the Avon, from Bristol, and convey them down the channel to the vast Atlantic.

Having thus cursorily noticed the track pursued by this noble river, which has the honour of washing no less than three of our most respectable and ancient provincial capitals, it remains for us with equal brevity to notice its productions.

The Severn is particularly noticed for affording three sorts of fish, namely the salmon, the shad, and the lamprey or lampern, two species of the same genus. Such was the abundance of salmon formerly taken in this river, that when children were bound as apprentices, or servants engaged for hire, an especial contract was entered into that they should not be obliged to eat of that fish more than twice in each week. The shad was not caught in so great an abundance.

The lamprey, taken in this river, is the same with that which Linnæus denominates the *PETROMYZON MARINUS*; this fish, usually an inhabitant of the ocean, annually visits the Severn for the purpose of depositing its spawn, early in the spring. This fish is easily distinguished by its superior size, from the fresh-water species, which we shall immediately mention; it often attains to the weight of from three to four pounds, and is much esteemed by those who are accustomed to revel in the luxuries of epicurism: eaten in excess this fish is unwholesome, as the death of Henry I. evinces.

The fresh-water lamprey, or lampern, as it is commonly called, which Linnæus distinguishes by the name of *PETROMYZON FLUVIATILIS*, is more abundant, but smaller and cheaper than the preceding. These fish resemble eels in their form and slimness; their colour is blackish upon the back, and blue upon their bellies, and upon each side of their throat they have seven parallel holes, which serve them in the place of gills. They are found in the greatest perfection in spring; but being more abundant than the sea-lamprey, are held in less estimation.

The Severn is remarkable for a phænomenon called the Boar, which is merely a swelling of its waters by the inundations of the mountain torrents, which it receives in its course through Wales. The name is derived from the noise, which at a distance this accumulated mass of water rising many feet perpendicular above the customary level of the stream, makes in its devastating progress; those who happen to be overtaken by it upon its banks are involved in inevitable destruction.

The Severn is navigable for trows of 110 tons, as high as Gloucester, for those of 80 tons to Tewkesbury, for those of 70 tons to Worcester, and of 60 to Stourport and Bewdley. Trows of 40 tons can proceed as high as Shrewsbury.

The Avon, a river which derives an adscititious celebrity from the circumstance of its washing the walls of the town which had the honour of giving birth to the inimitable Shakspeare, rises in the county of Northampton, in the neighbourhood of Wellford, not far from the confines of that county, which it, for a short part of its course, divides from Leicestershire, and pursuing a course slightly inclining to the southward of west, it enters the county of Warwick, crossing the old Roman road

called *Watling Street*, at the point where the three counties of Warwick, Leicester, and Northampton meet. After entering Warwickshire, it continues, with innumerable sinuosities, still to preserve, with little deviation, the same line of direction which it had when dividing the counties of Leicester and Northampton. Crossing the turnpike road at the distance of about three miles south of Coventry, it takes a more southerly direction, and passing close under the walls of the ancient city of Warwick, hastens to lave the classic walls of Stratford-upon-Avon, immortalized as the birth-place of the illustrious Shakspeare. Proceeding hence, it enters, after a sinuous course of a few miles, the county of Worcester, in the vicinity of the little village of Salford, upon the confines of the two counties; continuing its south-western course, across the northern extremity of the fertile and beautiful vale of Evesham (or Ecsham, as it is commonly pronounced) it winds round the southern side of the town, from which the vale is named; here it makes a reach to the northward, and flowing in a curvilinear direction, passes the town of Pershore, and continuing thence a more southerly course, it finally blends its waters with those of the majestic Severn, at a very short distance to the northward of Tewkesbury, having first received the Carren Brook, which rising in the neighbourhood of Overbury, constitutes, for the greater part of its course, a portion of the boundary between this county and that of Gloucester. We have been thus minute in tracing the course of the Avon, or the East Avon, as it is frequently called, in contradistinction to the western Avon, which rising in Wiltshire, and washing in its course the walls of Bath and of Bristol, also falls into the Severn, on account of the celebrity it has long possessed, from its passing through

the town of Shakspeare's nativity; an excuse this, which we trust our readers will accept for the tedious minuteness of our description.

The **TEME** is the next river of importance in this county, which it enters at the north-western extremity, not quite three miles west of Tenbury. This river, for part of its course, rather bounds than flows through the county, which however it fairly enters, about two miles east of Tenbury, and hence, pursuing a somewhat arched course to the southward, it again becomes, for a few miles of its course, a boundary of the county; quitting the borders a little to the north of the village of Knightwick, it assumes a south-eastern direction, and flowing through a rich and fertile country, falls into the Severn about three miles to the southward of the city of Worcester.

The **STOUR** rises in Staffordshire, and forming a line of separation between that county and Worcester, for some part of its course, enters the latter county in the vicinity of Stourbridge, and flowing through the town of Kidderminster, disembogues itself into the Severn near Stourport, having for the latter part of its course been accompanied by the new navigable canal, which we have already noticed as connecting the waters of the Severn and the Mersey, opening a facility of inland navigation highly beneficial to the interests of commerce.

Many streams of little note, but no inconsiderable utility to the farmer, water this county, of which, however, they do not form sufficiently striking features to merit or demand particular description.

CANALS.

Besides the facility of inland navigation, furnished to the inhabitants of this county by the many considerable rivers which flow through it, a water communication with some of the most distant

counties is further procured, by the artificial aid of canals: of these the following are the principal.

First, the Droitwich Canal, which commencing at the town from whence it takes its name, proceeds by Bryer's mill and over Falsham-pill Brook, to the village of Salwarp; thence, over Martin Brook, by Hill End, through Lady Wood; over Atterburn Brook, by Jacob's Ladder, and Hawfordrough, to Hill Top, and across the road from Kidderminster to Worcester, by Hawford house into the Severn, near the junction of that river with the Salwarp.—The length of this canal is five miles and five furlongs, having a fall of about 56 feet six inches during this course.

Second, the Worcester and Birmingham Canal, which commences at the latter town, and passing through the parishes of Edgebaston, Northfield, King's Norton, Aberchurch, Tardebig, Stoke Prior, Dodderhill, Handbury, Hadsor, Hembleton, Oddingby, Tibberton, Hinling, Warndon, Claines, and St. Martin's, falls into the Severn, at a place called Diglis, on the south side of the city of Worcester, having completed a course of 31 miles and a half, of which the first 16 are upon a level, while the remaining 15 and a half have a fall of 448 feet. This canal opens a valuable communication between these two great manufacturing towns, as also between the several towns situated upon the banks of the Severn below Worcester, and the great sea-port and manufacturing towns in the North.

Third, Dudley Extension Canal, which joining the Dudley Canal near Netherton, and making a bend to the south-west round the high ground, comes to Windmill End, and taking a south-eastern course passes through Combeswood, by Hales Owen, at the foot of that enchanting spot, the Leasowes; it afterwards enters a very long tunnel, and passing Wroley Castle, falls into the Birming-

ham and Worcester Canal, near Silly Oak, having completed a course of 10 miles and five furlongs, without once deviating from a level. At Combeswood it passes through a short tunnel of only 17 chains, but the tunnel beyond Hales Owen is nearly two miles. From Windmill End two collateral cuts, having a fall of about 64 feet, proceed to the town of Dudley.

The Worcester and Birmingham Canal Company have agreed that as soon as any reduction of the rates for navigating the Worcester and Birmingham Canal takes place, a similar reduction shall be made and continued upon all goods, &c. passing from this canal, except such as are navigated towards Birmingham.

The Dudley Canal runs through so small a portion of the county of Worcester, as scarcely to merit even this cursory mention.

From the Birmingham and Worcester Canal a branch strikes off at the village of King's Norton, and soon after entering the county of Warwick, proceeds to Stratford, where it falls into the Avon.

The Staffordshire Canal entering this county in the vicinity of the little village of Kniver, a short distance to the west of Stourbridge, and pursuing a course nearly parallel to the little river Stour, falls into the Severn, at the busy town of Stourport, about four miles south of Bewdley and Kidderminster.

ROADS.

The principal roads from town to town being supported by toll gates, are generally kept in good repair; though the latter are neither numerous nor extravagant. Some of the cross roads in the clayey districts are very bad, where little attention is paid to plashing hedges, opening ditches, or other modes of mending. The establishment of a Road Club in the Vale of Evesham, has given a new face to that part of the county, having been

established ever since 1792. The materials here for making of roads, as limestone and gravel, are very good, and when judiciously laid, last a considerable time without wanting much repair.

BRIDGES.

The principal in this county are those over the Severn, of which that of Worcester is a very handsome modern structure. There is another at Upton, and a third at Bewdley; but the most extraordinary is that at Stourport, consisting of a single iron arch over the main channel of the river, of 150 feet span, and above 50 feet perpendicular rise over low water. The avenues to this main arch consist of a number of brick arches covering the flood water way; the former bridge was of stone, and after standing a few years from its erection, was swept away by a great flood, and immense shoals of ice, brought down in consequence of a sudden thaw. The present iron arch is so roomy, that no obstruction can possibly arise to the course of the river under any circumstances.

BUILDINGS AND FARM HOUSES.

This county contains a great number of magnificent residences of the nobility and gentry; but most of the farm houses have been erected at different, and many of them in remote times, before elegance, or even comfort and convenience were thought of. The situations of these were mostly ill chosen, being placed off the farm in villages. As to out-offices, very few instances of particular convenience are to be found in their construction, so that the farmer has been obliged to make shift as well as he could. It was formerly a general custom to build farm houses in very low situations, for the convenience of water, and most of the old buildings continue in such places.

COTTAGES.

These, analogous to the farm buildings, are of

different ages of construction; those in different parts of the county, occupied by farming labourers, have in general nothing to recommend them; in the ancient villages and common field parishes, they often consist of timber and plaster walls, covered with thatch, and are merely a shelter from the weather, with the addition of a garden for potatoes and other vegetables. The most comfortable cottages are in the parish of Bromsgrove, particularly near the Lickey, having each an allotment of land. Upon Bourn Heath also, about twenty cottagers had their land enfranchised upon its enclosure. Here they live on their own premises, with well cultivated gardens, potatoes, and pigs, but no cows. Many of these cottages are built with brick and tile, and are partly inhabited by farm labourers. In some of the older cottages in the same parish, the occupiers are owners, and besides potatoe grounds and gardens, have the addition of fruit trees, which adds considerably to their comforts. Several of them are very properly built near a perennial stream of clear water, an object of considerable consequence.

RENTS AND SIZE OF FARMS.

Rents are universally paid in money, though slight personal services are sometimes required, as team work, keeping a game dog for the landlord, &c. Common field farms, with enclosures, near the homestead, are generally 20s. the acre; enclosed farms of inferior land, about the same; but those of better land rise to 30s. per acre, and in some few instances have risen even to 50s. per acre all round; but these were of superior staple, and contained a good proportion of pasture or meadow land.

The farms, says Mr. Pomeroy, are small, from 40l. or 50l. to 300l. or 400l. a year; but some larger. The number of gentlemen who occupy

land, has increased considerably of late years, and some of them hold out very laudable examples of improvement. The estates are in general held by tenants at will, with no other restrictions than what custom has introduced; but there are some instances of old leases for long terms, and these farms being low rented, has set landlords generally against granting leases; when granted lately, they have been generally running leases for twenty-one years conditionally, but determinable every seven years. The land is divided between pasturage and cultivation.

The landed property of this county, like that of all other commercial parts of the empire, is diffused among the various classes, from the privileged peer, the titled commoner, the opulent esquire, the merchant, thriving manufacturer or tradesman, to the independent, but less opulent freeholder and yeoman. Land being often upon sale, becomes the property of those who have saved money to purchase it, either by hereditary property, by trade, or agriculture. The county has a good many resident families of considerable opulence.

TENURES AND LEASES.

Here, as in other parts, they are either freehold, held by a prescriptive right; copyhold, held under a superior lord, by a copy roll in perpetuity, but subject to payment of fines upon death of the owner, by his successor, or upon transfer or alienation; or, thirdly, leasehold under the church or public bodies, for three lives; when a life drops, the lessor may or may not, at his pleasure, put in another; but having only a life interest he generally does so upon payment of a suitable fine by the lessee; the reserved rents in these cases being generally very small in proportion to the present value. The leases commonly granted are for

twenty-one years; but many according to circumstances and the opinion of the proprietors.

TITHES.

The ancient enclosures here are generally titheable; but in the modern ones, the tithe has been sometimes commuted for by an allotment of land to the rector or other tithe owner, though in some instances the latter has refused his consent to such exoneration; but every person of a sound mind and a good disposition, must prefer solid property in land to tithes. Many clergymen are practical farmers beyond their glebe, and some are even stewards to noblemen. The Rev. Dr. Nash thought the getting rid of tithes a thing much to be wished by all, generally advantageous to the occupier, and, though not always profitable to the rector, yet certainly conducive to his ease and happiness. The tithe of hops in this county is complained of, and deemed a greater hardship than even that of grain, as being an article raised at more expence and with greater labour.

ENCLOSURES.

The greater part of Worcestershire is ancient enclosure, the fences being often full of timber trees, especially elm, of which is produced here the finest in England: hence the fence is often composed of smooth wood, elm, willow and hazel, as well as of crab-tree and hawthorn. In the middle, south, and west of the county, fruit trees are often interspersed in the hedge rows; and thus a useful and valuable article is obtained without loss of premises. Modern enclosures are formed of post and rail, and sometimes two rows with mounds, and a quickset fence planted between them. The modern quicksets are the white hawthorn, without any mixture but of crab-tree and holly. The ancient fences are renewed by moulding up and plashing. The latest enclosures have been partly from waste and part common

fields. The greatest is that from Bromsgrove Lickey, which has consisted of some thousand acres, formerly covered with heath, furze, and fern; but now with good crops of turnips, clover, potatoes, and various kinds of grain. Part of the vale of Evesham, and some other rich common fields, are of modern enclosure.

CATTLE.

The horses are generally of the strong black breed, though other sorts and colours are occasionally met with; but the breed leaves room for great improvement. Mules in this county are used for agriculture; and Mr. Carpenter, near Bromsgrove, has employed a strong gelding ass, with panniers, which set an example to others. Worcestershire has no particular breed of cattle; the bullocks are furnished from Herefordshire and the other adjoining counties. The same observation is partly applicable to the sheep, though there is a breed peculiar to the Coteswold Hills, a part of which is in this county; these are without horns, long-wooled, and of large size, having broad loins and full thighs, but rather light in their fore-quarters. The large slouched-eared sort of hogs are the most common to be seen.

IMPLEMENTS.

In the north-east parts of the county, the same kind of ploughs are used as in Staffordshire, being a two-wheel single furrow, drawn by three horses, and requiring no holder. The two-wheel furrow plough, upon the same principles, one man can manage both as holder and driver. In the vale of Evesham, &c. the turf plough is used for breaking up of turf land; this plough has two shares, one before and above the other. The ploughs in the vale are of wood, except the coulter; very long intails, throck and shelve board. The harrows are of the usual construction; the waggon and carts remarkably heavy. The sickle now used

for cutting wheat was introduced about the year 1750. Scufflers, and also the common and spiked roller, are occasionally used in Worcestershire, and drill machines are pretty much in use. The four-wheeled trolly is common all over Severn; this is, in fact, a waggon in miniature: a similar carriage, on low cast iron wheels, is much used in the city of Worcester for carrying coals, hops, &c. An implement rather peculiar to this county, called a kerf, is used in the hop grounds for moulding up the young plants; it is a strong and heavy hoe, the size and weight nearly equal to the bit of a common spade.

WASTES AND FORESTS.

Worcestershire in early times was completely covered with trees; but about the time of the Norman conquest it had but five forests, Feckenham, Ombersley, Horewell, Malvern, and Wyre. Feckenham was very extensive, but being disafforested in 1629, it has now almost ceased to exist, through the continual demands of fuel for the salt-works at Droitwich. Ombersley forest began at the north gate of Worcester, and extended along the banks of the Severn. Horewell forest on the south, run along the eastern road to Spetchley, thence to Thurgarton and across the Avon, including all the country between the two principal rivers. Neither of these forests have existed as such, since the reign of Henry the Third. Malvern forest extended in length from the river Teme, in the north, towards Gloucestershire in the south, and from the Severn to the top of the Malvern Hills. Wyre forest occupied the south-western part of the county, extending into Shropshire and Staffordshire. Besides such parts of these forests as are still in existence, there are many tracts of woodland, consisting chiefly of oak and ash, and some beech of a most excellent quality; and in the hedge-rows there

are great quantities of elm; but the great demand for hop poles, and the great price paid for trees and underwood, for the purpose of making charcoal for the iron works in the neighbouring counties, have occasioned an uncommon degree of consumption.

MANUFACTURES.

The principal in Worcester city is that of gloves, which has employed 4000 persons there and in the environs. Here are also two more manufactures of porcelain or China ware. Messrs. Flight and Barr's had the honour of his late Majesty's patronage upon his visit to this city some years ago. Some good articles got up here in the cabinet and furniture way, are sold to distant places; but the principal manufacture of Stourbridge, is that of glass, which has long flourished here and at Dudley. Many sheep skins are also manufactured into leather. Bromsgrove has been employed in the wool combing and spinning way, from long wool; the yarn going to the stocking weavers of Leicestershire. The other manufactures are linen for wear, table linen, and sheets finished and whitened; needles, small nails, tacks, tenter-hooks, &c. Most of the towns contain tanner's yards. Dudley and its vicinity is famous for nails, needles, and fish-hooks. Glass utensils are also manufactured here in great perfection. Kidderminster has a manufacture of carpets, also of stuffs of worsted and of silk and worsted. Each of these trades have fluctuated more or less since the peace of 1814. Pig iron, from the Staffordshire and Shropshire founderies, is rendered malleable at the iron-works on the Stour and its collateral streams, being there worked into bars, rods, sheet iron, &c.

LEARNED MEN AND LITERATURE.

John de Feckenham, or Howman; he was the last Abbot of Westminster, and died in 1595.

Camden calls him a learned and benevolent man. William Habington, an historian and poet, born 1605; died 1654. Lord George Lyttelton, an elegant historian, poet, and miscellaneous writer; born at Hagley, 1709; died 1773. Cardinal Reginald Pole, an eminent statesman, and Archbishop of Canterbury, in the reign of Queen Mary; born at Slaverton Castle, 1500; died 1558. Lord John Somers, Chancellor of England, a most incorrupt lawyer, and honest statesman, a masterly orator, a genius of the finest taste, and a patriot of the noblest and most extensive views: a man who dispensed blessings by his life, and planned them for posterity; born at Worcester, 1652; died 1716. William Walsh, a critic and poet; born at Abberley, 1663; died 1708.

Mr. Baskerville, one of the first printers in the world, was born at Wolverley, near Kidderminster, in 1706. After his death in 1775, as no purchasers could be found in England for his elegant types, his executors sold them to a literary society in Paris, for 3,700*l*. Mr. Baskerville was buried in his own grounds at Birmingham, owing to his dislike of the ceremony of consecrating ground for the purpose of interment. Mr. Baskerville was a disbeliever in Christianity; but always treated those from whom he differed in opinion with modesty and deference.

Worcester produces two weekly Newspapers, the Worcester Journal, and the Worcester Herald.

POPULATION.

This county, according to the census of 1811, contained 78,033 males, and 82,513 females, making a total of 160,546 persons.

CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS.

Worcestershire contains five hundreds and limits, with 152 parishes, 1 city, and 11 market towns. It returns nine members to Parliament, viz. two for the county, two for the city, two

for each of the boroughs of Droitwich and Evesham, and one for Bewdley. It is included in the Oxford circuit, and belongs to the province of Canterbury.

LIST OF BANKERS.

At Bewdley, Skey and Sons draw upon Lubbock and Co. London. Old Bank, Roberts, Baker, and Co. upon the same. Bewdley Bank, Pardoe and Co. upon Hoare, Barnet, and Co. London. At Bromsgrove, Rufford and Co. draw upon Fry and Chapman, London. At Evesham, Oldaker and Co., and Messrs. Hartlands, draw upon Barclay and Co. London. At Kidderminster, Wakeman and Co. upon Curtis and Co. London. At Dudley, Dixon and Co. upon Masterman and Co. London. Hordern and Co. upon Sansom and Co. London. At Stourbridge, Rufford and Co. upon Spooner and Co. London. At Worcester, Berwick and Co. upon Curtis and Co. London; and Farley and Co. upon Curtis and Co.

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER.

Journey from Ludlow to Stow-on-the-Wold in Gloucestershire; through Tenbury, Worcester, Pershore, and Evesham.

FOLLOWING the course of the Teme or Tend, we enter the county of Worcester, at the distance of eight miles east-south-east of Ludlow, where a good stone bridge of six arches, thrown across the river Teme, connects the two counties of Saiop and Worcester. Immediately upon crossing this bridge we enter the neat built town of

TENBURY,

Which is distant 134 miles north-west of London, 20 north-west of Worcester, and 36 west and by south of Birmingham. This is a market town, and

contains about 297 houses, and 1562 inhabitants; the weekly market is held upon Tuesday, and there are three fairs annually held upon the 25th of April, 18th of July, and 26th of September. The church is a plain, yet not inelegant, structure of stone, with a square tower, containing six bells, besides a good set of chimes at the west end. This building was much damaged in the year 1770, by a dreadful flooding of the river upon the 17th of November, which threw down the south and middle aisles, damaged the organ, and otherwise materially injured the church.

Tenbury, or, as it is more correctly called, Temebury, is agreeably seated upon the right bank of the river from which it takes its name, and which here divides the county of Worcester from Shropshire. The extent of the parish is about three miles and a half long, and three miles and a quarter broad.

Tenbury, with most of the lands between Teme and Herefordshire, was held by Robert Fitz Richard, Lord of Richard's Castle, whose son Hugh marrying Enstathia de Say, a great heiress, their issue assumed the name of Say. These lands, by Margaret, an heir female, came in the reign of John to Robert Mortimer, and the issue male of his family failing, in the time of Edward I. they were divided between two daughters, of whom the elder married Geoffry de Cornwall, whose descendants still retain possession of that part of the estate, which this alliance gave to their family. The younger sister's portion has frequently changed its masters.

The banks of the Teme in this neighbourhood produce annually a great abundance of excellent cider and hops.

About three miles south of Tenbury is a large farm of 600 acres, called SUTTON PARK. The

greater part of the land is tithe-free. The church here is a chapel of ease to Tenbury, and contains several ancient monuments.

Adjoining to Sutton Park is the parish of KYRE WYRE, remarkable for producing large quantities of wild saffron.

Quitting Tenbury and its vicinity, we proceed along the turnpike road to Worcester, and at the distance of about seven miles from Tenbury, observe upon our left ABBERLEY LODGE, the elegant seat of R. Bromley, Esq. This is an agreeable mansion, delightfully seated upon a very lofty hill, which commands an extremely rich and beautifully diversified prospect. This place formerly belonged to that excellent critic and worthy man William Walsh, Esq. thrice representative of this county in parliament, and celebrated by Pope, part of whose description we insert :

“ Such late was Walsh, the Muse’s judge and friend,
Who justly knew to blame and to commend;
To failings mild, but zealous for desert,
The clearest head, and the sincerest heart.”

The apartments at Abberley Lodge are commodious and elegantly furnished; there are also some good paintings by the first masters.

Nearly opposite to this seat is WOODBURY HILL, rising agreeably from the banks of the Teme, which flows along its western side. This hill is remarkable for having upon its summit the vestiges of an ancient camp, attributed by popular tradition to the brave Owen Glendwyr, but bearing strong marks of an earlier date. This camp is single trenched, and possesses an area of about 27 acres. Monstrelet in his history gives the following account of the route of Owen Glendwyr and his French auxiliaries. “ The French,” says this writer, “ landed at *Hareford* (Haverford) marched to *Toury* (Tenby) and through the *Pais de Linor-*

guie (perhaps the district of Lacharne, or rather Glamorganshire). The King (Henry IV.) lay on Abberley Hill, about a mile off Woodbury."

Under the west side of Woodbury Hill is the village of SHELSEY BEAUCHAMP, so called from its former possessors, the Beauchamps of Holt. Over against Shelsey Beauchamp, but upon the opposite side of the river Teme, is SHELSEY WALSH, also denominated from a former possessor, Sir Richard Walsh, who happening to be sheriff of this county at the time of the memorable Gunpowder Plot, distinguished himself by his activity in apprehending the conspirators, whom he pursued into Staffordshire.

From the eastern side of Woodbury Hill runs an elevated ridge almost to the Severn, which appears to have bounded the province inhabited by the Wiccii. At the foot of this hill, about nine miles north-west of Worcester, is GREAT WITLEY, in the magnificent park adjoining to which, is the noble mansion of Lord Foley, whose ancestors obtained it by purchase from the Russels, to whom it came in the reign of Henry VII. by marriage with one of the coheirs of Cassy, who had married the heir-general of the Cokesseys, its more ancient lords.

The house was much improved by the founder of that truly valuable institution the Hospital at Stourbridge, Thomas Foley, Esq. Its situation is eminently judicious, and the apartments in general magnificent, those especially which occupy the south front of the house; we could not, however, avoid regretting that from the want of a sufficient loftiness the apartments for the most part lost much of their grandeur, and that the profusion of gilding, which many of them display, borders rather upon the tawdry than the magnificent: this latter defect, as being of easy remedy, will, we

trust, be speedily removed by the refined taste of the present noble proprietor.

The Park, in which this house is seated, abounds in picturesque scenery, and it was not without strong emotions of sorrow, that we witnessed the neglect of improvement, which forces itself upon the attention; most sincerely do we hope to witness a greater attention to these particulars, and once more to find Great Witley the favoured residence of its ancient lords.

The parish church of Great Witley is connected with the manor house by a private staircase which leads to the picture gallery, and was begun by the first Lord Foley, and completed by his widow Lady Mary, by whom no expence was spared in its decoration, and such has been the success of their wishes that this church ranks among the most beautiful in the kingdom. The painting of the windows, which has been much admired, was the work of Price in the year 1719; but the ceiling has deservedly obtained the highest commendation; it was painted by Verrio, and originally designed for the chapel at Canons, the Duke of Chandos' magnificent seat; but upon the change of that nobleman's fortunes, it was purchased from the painter by the second Lord Foley, and applied to the decoration of this church.

The situation of Witley Church, amidst the monuments of mortality, has given offence to many squeamish people, who were in other respects pleased with the building, and its situation; this circumstance occasioning Mr. Sullivan to remark the prejudice excited by it in some persons to the old Cicerone of the house and place, she shrewdly observed to him in reply, that "if people are shocked at the sight of mortality, it is very easy for them to shut the windows."

The Foley family, to whom this noble seat be-

longs, were originally engaged in extensive commercial transactions, which they conducted with the most upright probity and singular success, having amassed in this manner an immense fortune, nobility crowned their desires, and accomplished their hopes. A superb monument erected, at no inconsiderable expence, upon the south side of the altar in the parish church, perpetuates the memory and displays the virtues of its founders, the first Lord Foley, and his wife Dame Lady Mary, who survived him a few years.

LITTLE WITLEY is situated at the distance of about one mile east of the village of Great Witley; and about four miles further in the same direction, upon the left side of the road, is HOLT CASTLE, the remains of which bespeak its former strength. Its foundation is ascribed, but with doubtful justice, to one of the family of D'Abetots; the castle obtained its name from the thick woods amongst which it was situated, *holt* being formerly synonymous with wood. A handsome mansion-house has been erected in the vicinity of the castle. Previous to the reign of Elizabeth this seat was the residence of the Beauchamps, who had been long lords of the manor. In this queen's time it was purchased by Sir Thomas Bromley, Lord Chancellor of England, and is mentioned by Leland as the scene of several of the grand tournaments of Richard II. It is now the residence of Henry Chillingworth, Esq.

Holt Church presents a most beautiful and perfect specimen of the Saxon architecture, and cannot be exceeded in this respect by another Saxon church in England. The testimonials of its extreme antiquity are visible in its outward door, as also the arch of the chancel with their low massive pillars, and variously sculptured capitals; indeed, its architecture is of the purest Saxon style, wholly unmixed with the Norman, and

hence it is evident that its date is prior to the Conquest.

A little beyond Holt Castle, upon the right side of the road, is a neat House, the residence of the Rev. Mr Foley; and about one mile further upon the same side is THORNGROVE, the agreeable seat of William Cross, Esq.

The village of HALLOW is situated one mile nearer to Worcester, and adjoining to it is the delightful seat of the same name, situated upon a beautiful eminence, which rises gradually from the banks of the Severn, and is finely wooded; the house commands a rich and extensive prospect over the vale of Severn, which Dyer so well describes in his poem of the Fleece:

“ The vale of Severn, Nature’s garden wide,
By the blue steep of distant Malvern wall’d,
Solemnly vast. The trees of various shade,
Scene behind scene, with fair delusive pomp,
Enrich the prospect.”

The prospect towards the south is equally rich and beautiful, enlivened like the former with a view of the Severn, flowing in silent pomp through the richest meadows towards the ancient city of Worcester, whose spires appear in the distance overtopping the rich woods which are interposed between, while the blue range of the distant Coteswold and Bredon Hills, rising to the south-east, forms a pleasing boundary to the scene. The grounds of Hallow boast, in addition to all the other numerous advantages which they possess, the further one of a purgative chalybeate spring, generally reputed to approach in its virtues to some of the springs of Cheltenham, which it closely resembles in taste; of its chemical analysis we cannot but regret that the want of a proper opportunity prevents us from speaking. We should, however, from the superficial observations we were able to make, be inclined to suppose that

Epsom salt (sulphate of magnesia) and sulphate of iron were its active constituents; with these is not improbably intermixed a small quantity of the sulphate of soda (Glauber's salt) also muriate of soda (common salt for culinary purposes).

Adjoining to the western suburbs of the city of Worcester is the neat and healthy village of St. JOHN'S, consisting principally of a single street, in which are many very respectable and well-built houses. The situation of this village, upon an eminence of some height, is peculiarly delightful, and the salubrity of its air joined to the beauty of the views which it presents upon every side, contributes not a little to make it the favourite country residence of many of the wealthy citizens of Worcester, to whom, from the multiplicity of their mercantile avocations, its contiguity to the city is an additional, and not improbably a primary recommendation. An annual fair is held here upon the Friday preceding Palm Sunday, and upon this day only does the mayor of Worcester, accompanied by the aldermen, and attended by the customary officers, walk in procession through the village, over which, however, notwithstanding this parade, they possess no authority, it being situated without the limits of the jurisdiction of the corporation. This custom is of a remote origin, commencing with the reign of Edward IV.

Part of this parish is called the township of Wyck, so denominated from the Saxon word Wick, or creek, in consequence of its proximity to the Teme, which terminates its winding course in the Severn, at no great distance hence. This township is situated in the south-western part of St. John's parish, and possesses several well-built houses.

This parish is memorable for having given birth to the distinguished Reginald Bray, who,

on account of his great services to the state in counteracting and defeating the ambition of the detestable tyrant Richard III. and in promoting the union of the long-contending houses of York and Lancaster, was elevated by Henry VII. to the exalted station of Lord Treasurer of England. Reginald contributed largely to the endowment of the chapel of St. John's, and of the priory church of Great Malvern.

Somewhat above four miles west of St. John's upon the road leading to Bromeyard, is the small village of COTHERIDGE, in the vicinity of which is the ancient and hospitable mansion of the late Rowland Berkeley, Esq. agreeably seated upon the left side of the road, at the remote extremity of an old-fashioned avenue of noble trees, extending to nearly a mile in length. The mansion is of modern construction, and its front extremely light and airy; it commands an extremely picturesque view of the rich vale through which, and at no great distance, the Teme winds its course. Fastidious observers, attached only to novelty, and disgusted with every thing which the caprice of fashion has thought proper to reject, dislike the antiquated appearance of these grounds, which are, in a variety of directions, intersected with rectilineal avenues of tall trees; which, however they may detract from the picturesque, certainly contribute not a little to heighten the venerable grandeur of the scene. We are too apt in this age of unthinking frivolity to mistake tinsel for gold, and exchange the substantial advantages, which our forefathers so highly prized, and so religiously preserved, for the unprofitable efforts of a tasteless improver. Notwithstanding the antiquated regularity of the Cotheridge plantations, the *toute ensemble* has an agreeable effect, contributing in no small degree to diversify the general appearance of the country.

In the reign of Elizabeth this estate belonged to the family of the Braces, from whom it passed to William Berkeley, Esq. of Spetchley. This gentleman's only son Thomas going in the suite of Sir Daniel Harvey, to the court of Constantinople, died at Megree, in Greece, in consequence of which Mr. Berkeley left this, along with other estates, to his second daughter.

Upon the opposite side of the river is the manor of Leigh, which formerly belonged to Lord Viscount Hereford.

Returning to St. John's we enter by a new road the ancient and memorable city of

WORCESTER,

Which is certainly one of the best built and most agreeably situated cities in England. For population and extent there are but five that are considered superior to it, and perhaps none surpass it for agreeableness of situation; for though not very lofty, yet the principal part occupies very elevated ground along the river Severn, from which it rises gradually, whilst the general spaciousness of its streets, which are both well paved and well lighted, and the neat appearance of its well built brick houses give them a great resemblance of those of the metropolis. Its air and climate are also remarkably healthy, aided much by the regularity of its buildings, and from the circumstance of its walls being washed by the river. Considerable improvements have also been made to clear and enlarge the Severn, and to supply the city with a sufficiency of water from it, by raising some works above bridge at an expence of 10,000*l*. These improvements it is hoped will do away the accusation of its being an unhealthy place; but still it must be confessed that unless cleanliness and comfort are preserved in the narrow alleys between the cathedral and the river, even epidemic diseases may become

formidable. The circumference of this city is about four miles, and it is screened from the eastern blasts by a hill covered by some fine woods, whilst being open from north to south in the direction of the river, a brisk current of air generally prevails, bringing health upon its wings.

From ancient history we learn that Worcester has been long famed for its elegance and its manufactures. This city is noticed, as Camden says, by Antoninus and Ptolemy, the former calling it *Branonium*, the latter *Branogenium*; and by the Britons it was called *Caer Wrangon*. Joseph of Exeter, a most excellent poet for the age in which he lived, is among those who have called this city by the Latin name of *Wigornia*. He writes as follows to Archbishop Baldwin:

“In numerum jam crescit honor, te tertia poscit
Insula, jam meminit *Wigornia*, Cantia discit,
Romanus meditatur apia, et naufraga Petri
Ductorem in mediis expectat cymba procellis.”

“Successive honours thicken round thee now,
And a third mitre waits thy sacred brow:
Worcester and Kent record thy gentle sway,
The Roman mitre’s thine without delay;
And Peter’s shatter’d vessel asks thy hand,
To steer her safe thro’ raging storms to land.”

We find Worcester noticed by the appellation of *Wigornia* in the remains of Florence of Worcester, a writer of a much earlier date than Joseph of Exeter, who did not write till 60 years after the other’s death.

An inspection of the map formed upon Antoninus’s Itinerary, shews pretty plainly that the Romans knew little if any thing of this county, and that consequently Camden and others, who suppose the *Branonium* of Antoninus, or the *Brano-genium* of Ptolemy, to be the capital of Worcestershire, are evidently mistaken. Camden is of

course necessarily wrong in his conjectures with respect to the origin of Worcester, which he ascribes, but without any good grounds whatever, to the Romans, who were in the habit of erecting strong fortresses upon the frontiers of their provinces, to secure them from invasion.

In the darkness of antiquity, which involves the origin of the city of Worcester, who shall decide upon the various merits of the conjectures of antiquarians? That it was founded at an extremely remote period is admitted by most, and we have already seen the improbability of its having at any period been a Roman station. From its situation upon the frontiers of Wales, into the intricate recesses of which mountainous country the Aborigines of this island had been compelled by the superior skill and numbers of their invaders to retreat, it is evident that Worcester must have suffered severely and repeatedly in the unceasing conflicts between them and our Saxon ancestors.

In the sanguinary periods which ensued upon the invasion of this country by the Danes, we learn that Worcester was eminently a sufferer, having been plundered and laid in ashes by those relentless conquerors. When, however, the memorable victory gained by Alfred and his victorious troops, over these foreign tyrants, rescued the nation from their grasp, Ethelred, viceroy of the Wiccians, and his wife Ethelfreda, daughter of the Great Alfred, invited the inhabitants to return and rebuild their ancient habitations, which they were further induced to do by the establishment of a bishop's see here.

So completely had the security of a few years effaced from the recollection of the inhabitants of Worcester the heavy misfortunes which befel them under the Danish yoke, that, at the time when the safety of the nation required the most

vigorous exertions to prevent a recurrence of the horrors which had been so recently witnessed, and the imposition of a tax called, from its object, the *Danegelt*, was no longer an act merely of prudence, but of necessity, we find the citizens of this unfortunate town amongst the foremost to oppose it, and proceeding even to assault and murder the persons who were commissioned by Hardicanute to collect the tax.

Enraged at the account of this proceeding, the King immediately resolved upon taking a signal vengeance, and, having put all these rebellious subjects to the sword, to raze their city to the ground.

Apprized, however, in time, the inhabitants, after having in vain endeavoured, by giving up the ringleaders, to conciliate once more their angry monarch and avert the threatened destruction, retired for safety to the island of *Bevere* in the river Severn, situated about two miles north of Worcester, which they left to the pillage of the army sent against them, well knowing how untenable it was. Having thus secured their retreat, they assiduously fortified themselves in this little island, and, resolved either upon selling their lives as dearly as possible, or extorting from the incensed Hardicanute more moderate terms, they awaited with trembling anxiety the arrival of the troops sent to chastise their rebellion.

The soldiers finding upon their arrival that the city was deserted, halted for some days to secure the plunder which the inhabitants in the precipitancy of their flight had not been able to conceal; and having completed their pillage and laid the town in ashes, they marched, confident of success, and little expecting resistance, against their victims who were entrenched in *Bevere*. Disappointed in their hopes of an easy conquest, baffled

in their various assaults, and terrified by the symptoms of disaffection, which seemed to spring up in every direction, the commanders of the royal army having fruitlessly consumed much time in their attempts at subjecting the rebels, offered them the most advantageous terms, which were gladly accepted, and the people, upon the soldiers being withdrawn, returned to the ashes of their former residence, and a new city soon occupied the site of the ruins.

Worcester seems to have recovered rapidly from the effects of these disasters, and risen to no small degree of wealth and consequence, having at the period of the Domesday survey (about 40 years subsequent to its destruction by the soldiers of Hardicanute) possessed a mint; in the Domesday Book we find it taxed at 15 hides; and when any money was coined here, every coiner paid to William 20s. for his dies.

As if to compensate for their rebellious practices in the reign of Hardicanute, the inhabitants of Worcester were distinguished for their loyalty under William and his son Rufus, in the reign of the latter of whom, aided by the advice and encouraged by the exhortations of Wulstan their bishop, who defended the castle, they took up arms, upon the invasion of this part of the country by Bernard de Newmark and other powerful barons of the marches, and sallying out, engaged and totally defeated these predatory invaders.

The reign of Henry I. was unattended with any remarkable occurrence in the history of Worcester. His successor Stephen, conscious of the weakness of his own pretensions to the crown, and afraid of losing it through the exertions of the Empress Maud, expelled William de Beauchamp, who was lord of the city and castle, from his situation, substituting Walleran, Earl of Mellent,

whom he regarded as less attached to the empress. Disappointed, however, in his expectations of the perfect submission of this new governor, Stephen resolved to dispossess him of his authority, and confer it upon some person more devoted to his interests, and more submissive to his commands. In the attempt to accomplish this Stephen met a resistance he little expected, from the nobles who espoused the cause of Walleran. Incensed at this opposition, Stephen in the 15th year of his reign marched against the devoted city of Worcester, and after a successful assault reduced it to ashes.

Not equally easy did he find the reduction of the castle, the siege of which, after numberless fruitless efforts, he was obliged to abandon, leaving the forts he erected upon Henwick Hill to the north-west of the city, and upon part of the Red Hill near Digley, to the south-east of which traces still remain as monuments of his visit.

When the tyranny of John called forth the dormant energies of the nation in vindication of those rights which it was his endeavour to subvert, Worcester was not backward in displaying its zeal in the cause of liberty; and when, in the year 1214, that monarch held his chief synod at this city, he was beset with petitions against the numberless existing grievances, and the barons at the same time putting in their claims, and demanding redress with no small urgency, he was shortly after obliged to subscribe his name to that memorable charter which is the ground-work of the present stupendous superstructure of our constitution, and is proudly and justly denominated the Charter of British Liberty.

John's acquiescence in this demand of the nation was, however, insufficient to pacify the turbulence of the barons, whose licentious arrogance seemed only to receive a fresh accession of viru-

lence from this success, and shortly after produced a war with their sovereign, in the course of which Lewis, son to Philip the King of France, was solicited to accept of the crown. Shortly after the commencement of these disastrous contests, the city of Worcester was, through the power of William de Beauchamp, Lord of Worcester, the Earl of Mellent, and others who sided with the barons, placed in the hands of Lewis.

A long interval of tranquillity succeeded to these turbulent periods, and we do not find that the city of Worcester took any active part in the bloody contests which disgraced the ambitious struggles between the adherents of the white and red rose; Worcester seems to have enjoyed profound peace, even while the din of civil discord rung around her. The arbitrary proceedings of the silly and misguided Charles however once more raking up the embers of contention, and plunging the nation anew into the horrors of civil war, involved Worcester in the most calamitous sufferings, and rescued her citizens from the inglorious though happy oblivion in which they had been so long permitted to repose. Worcester became in succession the refuge of the contending parties, and her inhabitants, even at the present remote period, shudder with horror at the recollection of the sufferings of their ancestors. The royalists, unable to retain possession of the city, were compelled to abandon it to the pillage of the parliamentary force, and to this day the vestiges of their barbarous impiety are visible in the many mutilated monuments in the cathedral. During the remainder of the contest Worcester experienced a variety of changes, each attended with a repetition of injury. During the protectorship of Cromwell, it appears again to have enjoyed a temporary suspension of misfortunes, during the space of five years, when the flag of defiance was once more unfurled

against the measures of the parliament, and Charles stood forward in assertion of his own claims to the crown.

Charles at the head of the forces whom he had assembled in Scotland, and accompanied by such of the nobility, as, faithful in their allegiance, still adhered to the fallen fortunes of their sovereign, presented himself before the gates of Worcester, and though disappointed in the assistance which he had expected to receive during his march from the North, had the satisfaction of being cordially received by the inhabitants of Worcester, firm in their allegiance, and sick of the anarchy which every where distracted the nation. From this city Charles published a manifesto declaratory of his pretensions, and calling upon all his liege subjects for their support. But the enemy with whom Charles had to contend did not leave time for the nation to declare in his favour; abandoning the siege of St. Johnstone's in which he was engaged at the time of his receiving the intelligence of the royal banner flying once more upon the Castle of Worcester, he hastened to check the further progress of his royal competitor, and establishing his head-quarters at Spetchley, prepared, as he himself declared, *to chill the flower of pride before it could arrive at a blossom*. The day of his arrival was marked by the most vigorous commencement of hostilities, and the activity of his operations soon ensured their success; the memorable battle of Worcester seemed to bring the fortunes of the royalists to a final ruin, and Charles, reduced to the condition of a fugitive, sought in various disguises security against the vigilance of his opponents. Worcester once more encountered the horrors of a stormed city, and the victorious troops of Cromwell at once satiated their avarice and gratified their revenge. The vandalism of those puritanical days, when bigotry assumed the

mask of religion, and hypocrisy veiled the basest deeds, will ever be regretted by the admirer of antiquity, who beholds the barbarous mutilation of the most admirable decorations of our churches.

Since the period of the Restoration, Worcester, blessed with the possession of the most unbroken tranquillity, has progressively increased in splendour and importance; her porcelain manufactory in particular procures her celebrity, and she is rising with rapidity to an elevated rank among the commercial cities of this island.

Its environs are extremely beautiful and fertile, and the various outlets are eminently pleasing. The woods which rise to the east shelter the town from the severity of the winds from that quarter, and form an agreeable termination to the view, while on the opposite side the rugged outline of the blue hills of Malvern out-top the intervening woods, and terminate the horizon.

A strong wall, in which were six handsome gates, formerly secured the inhabitants from surprise at those unhappy periods when confusion, rapine, and dismay distracted the nation. The return and permanency of peace rendering these protections superfluous, they have been removed, to admit of the improvement of the city, the avenues of which have been of late much widened and beautified; the streets are in generally broad, airy, and well paved and lighted, and their whole appearance is strongly expressive of the taste and opulence of the inhabitants. The following are the just and sensible observations of the learned Dr. Nash, the laborious and accurate historiographer of this county.

“ Let us admire the beauties and advantages of this town, which indeed are many and great; the streets are broad, handsome, well built, and very well paved, having excellent flag pavement for foot passengers, and no projecting signs. The

markets are well supplied with all kinds of provisions, and as cheap as in any town in England, fish only excepted, which, from its inland situation, it cannot have in such plenty as many other places. Indeed the great concourse of polite strangers that come here to reside from every quarter, shews the superior excellence of this town and neighbourhood."

The government is vested in the mayor, recorder, eight aldermen and justices, twelve aldermen by courtesy (having served the office of mayor), and forty-eight common-councilmen; besides these there are two chamberlains, a town-clerk, and other subordinate officers. The first charter was granted by Henry I. and renewed by Henry III. who lodged the government of the city, which had hitherto been intrusted to a constable, in the hands of two bailiffs. The various confirmations of this charter by succeeding monarchs produced no change in the form of government, till James I. in the 19th year of his reign, transferred the supreme power from the bailiffs to the mayor. The city was for a few years deprived of its charter by Charles II. in whose cause it had so severely suffered; but that monarch shortly restored it to all its ancient rights by public proclamation.

It returns two members to parliament; who are elected by freemen not receiving alms; the number of electors is about 2,400; the mayor for the time being is the returning officer. Among the public buildings we shall notice the most remarkable.

Entering the city from the west, we cross the Severn by an extremely elegant stone bridge of five semicircular arches, built under the direction of the late Mr. Gwynn, and exhibiting an exquisite specimen of his architectural taste and skill. The first stone was laid by the Earl of Coventry upon the 25th of July, 1771, and it was complet-

ed in 1780, at the expense of about 30,000*l.* of which sum 3000*l.* was contributed by the two representatives in parliament for the city, H. C. Boulton and J. Walsh, Esqrs.

Taking our course hence in an easterly direction up the spacious street we have just noticed, among the improvements made at the same time with the bridge, the first building we meet is the parish church of All Saints, a handsome modern edifice, situated upon the right hand, in the open space formed at the junction of Bridge Street and Broad Street. The parish to which this church belongs is the most populous within the precincts of the city, and is a rectory in the gift of the crown. The interior of the church is spacious and elegant, well adapted to the accommodation of its numerous congregation.

Hence taking a southerly direction down Pump Street, we leave upon our left a Methodist Meeting-house, and continuing our route, reach the old but much admired parish church of St. Andrew's, supposed to have been founded about the 11th century. The beautiful and lofty spire of this structure has attracted much attention, and obtained much commendation, being accounted the most perfect in its form and ingenious in its construction of any in the kingdom. This beautiful piece of architecture is a specimen of the untutored abilities of a native of Worcester of the name of Nathaniel Wilkinson, who followed the occupation of a common stone mason. The chief beauty of this spire consists in the accuracy of its proportions, by which it diminishes almost insensibly from its base, and at its summit appears to the observer from below to terminate in the finest point, unlike other much celebrated spires, as, for example, that of Salisbury, which when examined with attention, presents an abrupt

termination. The following are the dimensions, as furnished by the builder himself.

The height of the tower, which is	<i>Feet.</i>	<i>In.</i>
part of the old fabric.....	90	0
The height of the spire	155	6
Total elevation of the tower and spire		245 6
The diameter of the base of the spire is	20	0
The diameter of the top of the spire		
under the cap	0	6

St. Andrew's is a vicarage in the gift of the dean and chapter of Worcester, and though an old church, as we have already observed, exhibits at present a neat and handsome appearance, from the many modern improvements that have been made.

In Palace Row, somewhat to the south of St. Andrew's Church, is situated the Royal China Manufactory, conducted by Messrs. Flight and Barr. —This was originally established in 1751, and continued in a number of proprietors under the firm of the Worcester Porcelain Company till the year 1783, when the whole was purchased by Thomas Flight, Esq. of Hackney, Middlesex, from whom it was conveyed to Messrs. Joseph Flight and Martin Barr, the present proprietors and conductors. This manufactory was honoured, during the visit of the royal family to Worcester in the year 1788, by the King's personal examination and approbation.

By application at the retail shop, No. 45, High Street, tickets of admission to view the manufactory are easily obtained. The following is the process which is followed:—The silicious and other hard substances which enter into the composition of the porcelain, are first pulverized by an iron roller, which weighs upwards of two tons, and revolves in a groove not unlike that of a cider-mill; after this they are calcined, and then

ground at the water-mill, where by a late improvement they are levigated sufficiently fine to filter through sieves, made expressly for this purpose, and through which no particle of greater dimensions than the 57,000th part of an inch can pass. The composition then, in its liquid state, is dried upon the slip kilns till it becomes of the consistency of clay, when it is taken to the throwing-room, where the ware is first formed, and from thence to the stove-room, in which it is placed to dry gradually, thus preparing it for turning and pressing. The articles being applied to the latter are diminished in thickness about one half; after this operation the ware is put into the first set of kilns called Biscuit Kilns, in which it is burned nearly 60 hours. Having passed through these kilns, such pieces as have been warped by too great heat in them, are reburned in the second. After this the articles are prepared for receiving their glazing, which accomplished they are a third time committed to the fire, and when the glaze is sufficiently vitrified, they are taken out, and when cool, receive their final embellishment in the painting-room; they are then a fourth time condemned to the furnace, for the purpose of incorporating the gilding and colours with the glaze, after which they undergo the final process of burnishing, which perfects them for the market.

Much has been said respecting the superiority of the porcelain manufactured here; but we must with no small regret withhold our unqualified assent to the following extravagant panegyric which has been passed upon it.

“The body of the Worcester ware far exceeds every other in fineness and whiteness, in which it almost if not altogether, equals even the finest porcelain of China itself, and is found to be *much harder*, and *more durable* than the body of any other porcelain whatever. The glazing of it

never nips, breaks off, or parts from the body, except by extreme violence, and then it discovers no brownness, such as is often seen in the ordinary Chinese, and almost always, after wear, in the other kinds of porcelain: it is also perfectly clear and transparent, which is a quality that almost peculiarly distinguishes it from the others of European manufacture."

Porcelain is a kind of enamel obtained by the combination of materials of different fusibility; the substances employed by the Chinese are denominated the Petunse and the Kablin; and the researches of mineralogists have ascertained the existence of substances possessing similar properties in various parts of this island; a decomposed quartz closely resembling it in its appearance and chemical properties, has been abundantly found upon the summit and acclivities of the Pentland range of hills, at a short distance south of Edinburgh; it has also been procured in large quantities from Cornwall, and an admixture of this with the fine white silicious sand from the Isle of Wight, and calcined bones, forms, in most cases, the composition of our porcelain. The pencils of the first artists have been employed in the decoration of the Worcester porcelain, many sets of which furnish a variety of beautifully-executed views of English scenery, and reflect honour upon the proprietors as well as the country at large.

Besides the manufactory of Messrs. Flight and Barr, two others of equal reputation have been established; one by Chamberlain and Co. and another by Granger and Co., who seem determined not to yield the palm of competition to any of their rivals; the productions here are equally famed for their taste and elegance.

At a short distance south of Flight and Barr's manufactory is the Bishop's Palace, an ancient yet commodious structure, delightfully situated

upon a gentle eminence, sloping with the most gradual inclination towards the Severn, which forms the western boundary of the gardens. The east front of this building is neat and regular; while the west, which overlooks the river, presents a motley, yet not disagreeable admixture of modern repairs with the ancient gothic. The interior, though the work of various ages, is divided into many commodious apartments, and was much improved in the year 1778, at which time the royal family visited the city of Worcester, and made this palace their place of residence.

Giffard, while Bishop of Worcester, surrounded the palace with embattled walls, and Bishop Stillingfleet added a new front. The gardens are laid out with judgment, and command a rich and beautiful prospect.

Not very remote from the palace is the cathedral, a noble structure, and of an imposing appearance, notwithstanding the diversities of style exhibited in its architecture, which was the work of various, and frequently very remote periods. Its general plan is that of a double cross, a mode generally used in the erection of cathedrals, and in which both the strength and grandeur of the gothic taste are eminently conspicuous.

The earliest mention made of Worcester Cathedral is in the charter of Ethelred, in the year 743; no further account is preserved till the period of its destruction by the forces of Hardicanute, shortly after which it was rebuilt; such, however, was its ruinous condition that Bishop Wulstan, in the year 1084, found it necessary to rebuild it entirely. After the Conquest several of our kings passed the Christmas holidays at Worcester, and regularly attended divine worship in the cathedral. In the year 1158 Henry II. kept his Christmas here, and held a great assembly of the nation, being attended in the cathedral with

all the dignity and splendour of royalty : he sat during the time of divine service with the crown upon his head, as kings were at that time accustomed to do at solemn feasts, but upon the conclusion of the ceremony, he took off his crown, and, as a sign of his humility, placed it upon the altar, declaring at the same time, that " God alone was worthy of the crown," nor did he ever afterwards wear this ensign of royalty.

The piety of Bishop Giffard, and after him of many other persons, contributed greatly to the decoration of this church, but the furious zeal of the Puritans, when, during the civil wars, they obtained possession by storm of the city of Worcester, mutilated the monuments, disfigured the decorations, broke the beautiful windows, and destroyed the noble organ belonging to the cathedral; nor did the vandalism and impiety of these tasteless plunderers rest satisfied with these injuries; they converted the temple of that Deity whose cause they pretended to espouse, into the theatre of their enormities, bringing their horses into the body of the church, keeping fires and courts of guard in it, plundering the library, tearing in pieces the bible and service books of the choir, and riding about the streets clad in the sacred vestments, out of derision to the priests.

Worcester Cathedral is said to have been constructed upon the model of the collegiate church at Brussels. The stalls of the choir are of Irish oak, beautifully carved, and were made in the year 1397. The pulpit, which is octagonal, is constructed of stone, carved after the Gothic fashion, with the four evangelic hieroglyphics, and a curious representation of the New Jerusalem, according to the description given in the Revelations. The altarpiece, which is of plain oak, with Corinthian pilasters, has in its centre pannel a beautiful painting of the Descent from

the Cross, which was, in the year 1792, presented to the dean and chapter, by Valentine Green, Esq. F.A.S. The bishop's throne is very ancient; on the top is the symbol of ecclesiastical jurisdiction, accompanied by the olive branch and other emblems of peace. The organ consists of nine stops, of which the trumpet-stop is allowed to be the finest in the kingdom: the last repairs of this noble instrument cost 300*l.* which was obtained by a subscription among the neighbouring nobility. The cloister containing the library was built in 1373; in the cloister is also the college-hall, in which the oratorios are performed at the triennial meetings of the three choirs, for the benefit of the widows and orphans of the clergy. Of Worcester Cathedral it is observed, though strangers generally admire it, they are sometimes puzzled to tell the reason why, as its outside is extremely plain and devoid of ornaments! In Skrine's Welsh Tours is perhaps given the best definition of this almost undefinable beauty, when he says that its characteristic excellence consists in its height, space, and the lightness of its architecture, to which the lofty pinnacles rising from every termination of the buildings as well as from the tower, contribute not a little; neither should the peculiar neatness which prevails within be disregarded. It is indeed in all respects a noble specimen of the pure gothic; nor is that simplicity at all affected by the diversities of architectural style, naturally arising from its being executed by different hands at different periods. Being rebuilt in 1202, it had an entire new front in 1301; after all the damages it has suffered, this memorable cathedral is still an object of great interest to the man of taste. Its form is that of a double cross, displaying the grand features of the gothic style, which consists in extent and strength; to which are added the

solemnity of the high pointed arch and the beauty of diminutive ornament.

The proportions of the exterior are upon a grand scale; it is in length 514 feet, in breadth 78, and in height 68, and the tower which rises from the centre of the cross aisle to the altitude of 200 feet, is ornamented at the corners by four lofty pinnacles and elegant battlements of light open work; much curious work may be seen on the various sides of the tower, as well as some ancient statues. The whole of the interior of this cathedral is highly interesting, from the numerous monuments erected to the memory of various persons of consequence in their day.

The principal monument in this cathedral is that of King John. It is situated at the upper end of the choir near the altar; upon it is a representation of that monarch, wearing his crown, with the inscription *JOHANNES REX ANGLIÆ*, at present much defaced; he holds a sceptre in his right hand, and in his left, which is stretched along his side, is a sword, the point of which enters the mouth of a lion which lies at his feet. Small statues of the Bishops Oswald and Wulstan, are placed recumbent upon each side. Doubts were entertained as to this tomb being more than an empty sarcophagus, and that the remains of John were still interred in the spot where they had at first been deposited, namely, in the Lady's Chapel of the cathedral, between the sepulchres of St. Oswald and St. Wulstan, in front of the altar of the Blessed Virgin; it being conjectured that when this monument was erected in the choir at the time of the Reformation, the effigy alone of the monarch had been removed.

It was accordingly resolved at the next general repair of the cathedral to solve these doubts, and in case of their conjectures being realized to re-

move the effigy back again to its original place. Accordingly upon Monday, the 17th of July, 1797, they proceeded to open the tomb, first removing the effigy, and stone slab on which it rested; when by this means the interior of the monument was laid open they observed two brick partition walls, raised to assist in supporting the superincumbent covering and figure of the king. The spaces between these walls and the ends of the tomb are filled with rubbish. Upon removing the end and one of the pannels at each side, when they had removed the rubbish, they discovered two strong elm boards, originally joined by a batten nailed to each end, but which dropping off had left the boards loose. Under these boards was found a stone coffin, containing the royal corpse, which was observed to be placed in the coffin exactly as the figure upon the top of the tomb represented. The skull, instead of being placed as usual, had the foramen magnum turned upwards; the interior part of the *os frontis* was much decayed; the *ossa masillaria superiora* were wholly detached from the other bones of the face, and found near the elbow of the right arm, they contained four teeth in sound condition; the lower jaw bones were also separated, but contained no teeth; some grey hairs were observed near the upper part of the cranium, in the vicinity of the sagittal suture; the ulna of the left arm, which had been folded across the body, was found lying on the breast; the ulna of the right arm was nearly in its proper position; but neither of the radii nor any of the bones of the hand could be found: the *ossa femorum*, *tibiæ*, *fibulæ*, and other bones of the inferior extremities were very perfect, and upon some of the bones of the toes belonging to the right foot were even found vestiges of the nails. Some large pieces of mortar were found on and below the abdomen,

from which there could be no doubt of the body having been removed from the original place of its interment. The dress of the corpse seems to have corresponded with that of the effigy, excepting the gloves on its hands, and the crown on its head, which on the skull in the coffin was found to be the celebrated monk's cowl in which, as a passport through the regions of purgatory, he is recorded to have been buried. This sacred envelope appeared to have fitted the head very closely, and had been tied or buckled under the chin by straps, part of which remained. The body was covered with a robe reaching from the neck nearly to the feet, some of its embroidery was still visible near its right knee; it appeared to have been made of strong crimson damask, but the injuries of time rendered it difficult to ascertain this exactly; the cuff of the left hand remained: fragments of the sword and its scabbard, which had been placed in the left hand, still remained: the scabbard was more perfect than the sword. On the legs there had been an ornamental covering tied at the ancles and extending over the feet, where the toes were visible through its decayed parts. The coffin is of the stone from Higley in this county, and wholly unlike that of which the tomb is constructed; a very considerable fracture runs obliquely through it, one foot six inches from the left, and two feet nine inches from the right shoulder. The coffin is laid upon the pavement of the choir without being let into it. Its original covering is the stone upon which the effigy is cut, which exactly corresponds with it in shape and dimensions. The confusion occasioned by the crowds who impatiently came to see the unexpectedly discovered remains of the king, rendered it necessary to shut up the object of their curiosity, which was accordingly done upon the evening of the second day. The tomb was then restored to its former condition.

In Prince Arthur's chapel, upon the left side of the communion table, is the tomb of the prince to whom the chapel is consecrated, and who was elder brother to Henry VIII. This is the most curious and elaborate piece of ancient grandeur in the cathedral. The decorations consist of five orders of images, namely, virgins, bishops, kings, confessors, and angels, with the arms of England, and other symbols of royalty. The top is terminated in an arched roof, curiously fretted, in whose centre is a pendant, on the boss of which are the arms of the Prince of Wales, carved in stone. Beneath this is his tomb of fine marble; having round its uppermost verge the following inscription :

“ Here lyeth buried PRINCE ARTHUR, the first begotten sonne of the right renowned King Henry the Seaventh, which noble prince departed out of this transitory life att the castle of Ludlow, the seaventeenthe yeare of his father's reign, and of our Lord God, one thousande five hundred and two.”

In our Lady's Chapel are the tombs of St. Oswald and Wulstan, with many others. In the north transept is a superb monument, to the memory of Dr. Hough, bishop of this diocese, and head of Magdalen College, Oxford. He is represented sitting in a reclined posture, his right elbow resting on some books, his hands clasped and raised in an attitude of devotion corresponding with the expression of his countenance. The drapery is most admirably executed. On the left is a figure of Religion, holding a book in one hand, and with the other lifting up the flowing edge of his robe, to display another miniature representation of the bishop, who appears here standing before the high commission court, which ejected him from the government of Magdalen College. Three tools of tyranny are seated on a

bench, a secretary minuting their proceedings, and the doctor at the head of the fellows, making his defence.—This masterly specimen of sculpture is the production of Roubilliac, upon whose taste and skill both the design and execution reflect no small degree of credit.

In the south transept, a little to the left of Bishop Johnson's, is a magnificent monument to the memory of that venerable and pious prelate, Bishop Maddox. On the front of the monument is represented, in basso-relievo, the parable of the Samaritan; above is a figure of Conjugal Fidelity leaning in a melancholy posture, with one hand resting upon an inverted hymeneal torch; this figure is as large as life.

The monuments being viewed in the following order, it is supposed will shew the whole to the best advantage. The first is a mural one in memory of the family of Moore, having the figures of three men and three women in ancient dresses, on their knees. Another monument expresses that Richard Solly, Esq. of York Place, Portman Square, London, died at Malvern on a tour of pleasure, of an inflammation in the abdomen. Upon this monument is represented a beautiful female seated, her arm and head flung upon a sarcophagus in distracted sorrow. An infant daughter is supported upon her lap by the other arm, attended by another standing, and a son kneeling with their hands joined. The next is that of Judge Littleton, who died in 1481. Near this is the monument of Sir Thomas Littleton, representative for the county in five successive parliaments. On the other side, left of the door, is a handsome monument to the memory of Dr. William Thomas, Bishop of this see. The curious ancient tomb of Robert Wylde, Esq. and his lady, is raised, and exhibits their cumbent figures habited in long gowns. The next claiming atten-

tion is that of Sir John Beauchamp, of Holt, Baron of Kidderminster, and said to have been the first peer created by patent. The figure of the knight, and that of his lady, exhibits a complete specimen of the dress of former times. In the great cross aisle is a superb monument to the memory of Bishop Maddox, a venerable and pious prelate. The figure of his lady is truly exquisite in form and expression; she was deposited in the same vault with her husband, and died in the 89th year of her age. In the north transept, is the monument of Dr. John Hough, Bishop of this see, and head of Magdalen College, Oxford, justly considered the finest the cathedral can boast of. This is a most superb piece of sculpture, exciting the greatest admiration in every beholder, and for ever stamping the fame of the artist Roubilliac. The prelate is represented on it, the size of life, habited in his robes, and seated in an easy dignified attitude on a sarcophagus of black marble. A number of other figures are exhibited, which, though only eight inches high, hold their proportions and places in the most orderly and correct manner. In the same transept are monuments to the memory of the late Dean, Dr. Andrew St. John, and another to the memory of Sir Thomas Street, Knt., who, as one of the judges displaced by King James II., is justly entitled to the various ornaments, such as the insignia of justice, the cap of liberty, &c. Within the enclosure of the altar, lies William, Duke of Hamilton, slain at the battle of Worcester, 1651. In the great cross aisle is a monument to Bishop Johnson, an excellent bust by Nollekens. The bishop died in 1774, aged 70. Under the second window in the middle aisle, is the cumbent statue of a priest vested for the altar, with a large tonsure, said by some to be the tomb of Friar Baskerville, who wrote a treatise on tenures.

On the left of the north aisle under an arch in the wall of the choir, an episcopal tomb, supposed to be that of Walter de Cantelupe; but it is too much defaced to make out any thing with certainty. Under the second window of this aisle lies the stone coffin of a lady; her figure is of a more than ordinary size; on her head is a coronet or wreath; on her chin she has a wimplet or muffler; her right hand lying on her breast is bare, her left has a glove, and in this she holds the other laid across her body, which form, according to the ritual of marriage, signifies a maiden designed for the nuptial state.

Entering the Lady's Chapel, on the right are two tombs, supposed to be those of St. Oswald and Wulstan, whose sepulchral images are also in the choir on each side of King John's tomb. At the east end is the Consistory Court; and in the north aisle of this chapel an exquisite specimen of monumental sculpture formed of various coloured marble, and ornamented with an oval tablet, having a bust in profile of the amiable and elegant Mrs. M. Rae, who died in the bloom of life, in 1770.

It is impossible not to notice the very praiseworthy manner in which the Sunday service is performed in the choir; not as a task to be run over, as is too often seen, but with a decorum worthy of the place, and accompanied with a suitable sermon. For here is not a choir with a few stalls which forbid entrance to all but those who choose to pay; but there are many pews below, as well as galleries, which are always well filled; whilst with a due regard to the accommodation of the humblest worshippers of their Maker, there are comfortable seats arranged in the centre, which always contain a respectable and attentive auditory.

Under the choir is a very extensive vault,

which also runs under the side aisles, supported by several rows of fine stone pillars; the whole is eleven feet high, and sixty long.

The cloisters are 125 feet by 120, and 16 feet in width. The vaulted roof is adorned with a variety of sculptures. In the north side on the key-stone of the centre arch, there is in good preservation, a well-wrought figure of the Virgin, with the infant Christ in her lap; but the heads of both were probably demolished by the parliamentary army, who made it a rule to decapitate all saints. In the southern cloister, is a royal genealogy of Judah and Israel, beginning with Jesse, to whom succeeds David, playing on his harp. In the south-west corner may be seen the ancient lavatory, or cistern for washing, being a small reservoir of water placed near the door of the refectory, in which the monks were obliged to wash their hands when going in and coming out from their meals. It resembles a manger, and was supplied by a spring from Hilnwick. The refectory is in the south cloister, and is now called the College Hall, a very spacious and lofty apartment; here the triennial meeting of the three choirs of Worcester, Hereford, and Gloucester, is held. This has also been appropriated to the use of the King's School, founded by Henry VIII. for forty scholars, conducted on a liberal plan, affording a regular preparation for the University, as well as instructions in music, drawing, and the modern languages, with the lighter fashionable accomplishments. Close to this is the entrance to the Chapter House, which is of a circular, or rather decagonal form, in diameter fifty-eight feet, and forty-five in height, with its curious roof, supported by a single pillar. This being not only the council chamber, but also the library, is now, though without destroying its gothic effect, a warm, comfortable room,

ornamented with a copy of Rubens's famous Antwerp picture, the "Descent from the Cross," and several portraits. Here are a number of MSS., the property of the ancient monastery; also a curious book, printed by Nicholas de Frampton, in 1478. The Audit Hall was formerly called the "Guest Hall," a name allusive to its general purposes of hospitality. It was built by Wulstan and Braunsford in 1320, purposely for the reception of strangers. The noble entertainments still furnished here at the annual *audits* do honour to one of the most eminent capitular bodies established by one of the greatest of our kings. In the College Yard, Dr. Thomas informs us, there used to be a stone cross, the usual preaching place, like that of St. Paul's, London. The College Green, on the south of the cathedral, is an open, airy place, enclosed by the church, and some ranges of good houses; but the most striking object of attention is King Edgar's Tower. It has on its front, statues of King Edgar and his Queens: on the opposite side is a remarkable bust, prominent from the building, and not inelegantly finished, representing a monk leaning forward in a position almost horizontal, supporting himself by his left hand, and holding something of an oval shape in his right. On the west front is a very well executed bust of George the Second, erected at the expense of the Dean and Chapter. This tower was the principal entrance to the castle; but it is proved that the numeral inscription upon it, supposed to have been 975, is a mistake, and that King John, who was a great benefactor to the church of Worcester, did really build this stately gate-house, which served for the priory, as it now serves for the college; in the front whereof, in one of the Habington Manuscripts, it is said, under the statues of our Saviour, with his mother, is a king armed, with his legs

crossed, which may represent King John, who, in the year 1215, in St. Paul's Church Yard, London, took upon him to bear the sign of the cross, for the Holy Voyage.

The Bishop's Palace stands near the cathedral, in a most commanding situation on the bank of the Severn, which flows at the bottom of the garden. Modern improvements have made considerable alterations in its appearance. Originally it was surrounded with embattled walls by Bishop Giffard; but its present modern front is the work of Bishop Stillingfleet. The eastern front is of plain white stone; but the western side still retains much of the ancient style, grotesquely mixed with modern additions. Upon the whole, the structure is commodious, and the different parts of the ancient building in the interior, have been arranged so as to unite comfort with elegance. The most modern renovation was in 1788, when it was prepared for his late majesty, who, with the queen, and several branches of the family, made it their residence during their visit to Worcester. The king was so well pleased with the hospitality of his treatment, that he did this episcopal residence the honour of presenting two very elegant whole lengths of himself and consort; the one in the Windsor uniform of blue and gold, the latter in lilac, fringed with gold, which occupy a distinguished place in the drawing-room, with a white marble tablet between them, on which is the following inscription in letters of gold:—

“ Hospes

Imagines quas contemplaris,

Augustorum Principium

Georgii III. et Charlotte Conjugis,

Rex ipse

Richardo Episcopo Vigorniensis,

Donavit,

MDCCXC.”

The gardens have a fine prospect on the river.

The first church after leaving the cathedral is St. Michael's the Archangel, or Bedwardine, a very ancient specimen of ecclesiastical architecture. Its inside has been fitted up in a manner which renders it dry and comfortable for the congregation. To the right-hand, on the London road, is St. Peter's Church, founded as early as 1280, being then parcel of the Abbey of Pershore. It has of late years been put into a thorough state of repair. St. Helen's Church was, by Leland, counted the most ancient of the eight parish churches in the town. Notwithstanding the ravages of time, it still possesses great respectability in addition to its venerable appearance. The monuments are worth examining; the body is divided into three aisles by two rows of pillars. St. Alban's Church stands at the back of St. Helen's, towards the river, at the corner of Fish-street, but contains nothing remarkable beyond its style of architecture. St. Clement's Church is universally admired for its beautiful spire, considered not only as an ornament to the city, but one of the most perfect in form and construction of any in the kingdom. The ingenious architect was a common stone-mason, a native of Worcester, his name Nathaniel Wilkinson. It is considered by good judges, that he has improved upon the boasted spire of Salisbury Cathedral, as his spire rises from its base, according to the most correct gradual diminution, terminating in the finest point, whilst the former is brought abruptly to its apex, as if the builder was afraid to carry it to the height required by its proportions. The admeasurement of the various parts is as follow: height of the ancient tower, 90 feet; spire, 155 feet 6 inches; diameter of its base, 20 feet; under the cap, 6 inches $\frac{5}{8}$; the whole terminated by a Corinthian capital, surmounted by a gilt weathercock.

All Saints Church, on the left-hand from Broad-street to the bridge, was rebuilt in 1742, and is now a handsome, spacious edifice in the modern style. Here are the effigies of Edward Hurdman and his wife, he was the first mayor of Worcester. The tower contains a musical set of ten bells. St. Martin's Church is a modern brick building, with a stone foundation, rustic corners, &c. The brick tower is crowned with balustrades and pinnacles of light airy structure; it stands 70 feet high. St. Swithin's Church is in the same neighbourhood, and was rebuilt in 1736, on a very neat yet handsome scale. With the exception of the cathedral, this is the only church in Worcester possessed of an organ and chimes. St. Nicholas' Church, standing near the hop market, has a front of the Doric order, with six pilasters, the lower part rusticated, and the roof adorned with balustrades. The tower is square at the base, but has double breaks at the corners; the dial is in the front, while the other sides are filled with windows, which give it an air of great lightness. Over these is a plain cornice, from which it is again set off square, with windows and rounded arches, from whence capped with another plain cornice, it is set off to an octagon. Above this it is cylindrical, surmounted with a cupola, supported by eight Tusculan columns, the top pyramidal, and terminated by a gilt ball and weathercock. The interior of this church is handsomely ornamented.

Though here are so many churches in proportion to the population, there is no want of dissenting places of worship, besides a Catholic chapel, and a Quakers' meeting-house.

Upon the dissolution, Henry VIII. granted the revenues and manors which had belonged to the ancient priory of Worcester, to the dean and chapter of this cathedral, whose foundation charter is dated 24th January, 1541, for the endow-

ment of a dean, 10 prebendaries, 10 minor canons, 10 lay clerks, 10 choristers, two school-masters, 40 king's scholars, &c. Of the ten prebends, nine are in the gift of the crown, and one annexed by act of parliament to the Margaret professorship of divinity in the University of Oxford.

The bishopric of Worcester includes the entire of the county of Worcester, and extends into Warwickshire, contains 241 parishes, and was founded in 680, by Ethelred, King of Mercia, who appointed Tadfrith to be the first bishop.

To the south of the cathedral is an open place called the College Green, and a little further south is the City Gaol; a little to the west of which is the site of the ancient Castle, which was formerly a large and magnificent structure, of which, however, but few traces at present remain, and those little indicative of its pristine importance. Part of the fortifications still remain, and the course of the outer ditch towards Edgar's Tower may be easily traced. Edgar's Tower, which still braves the assaults of time, constituted the principal entrance to the castle, and is the finest remnant of antiquity in the whole city; it was built, as appears from an inscription upon it, in the year 970. In front are the statues of Edgar and his two queens, much defaced by time. The situation of this castle was admirably selected both for health and strength. The mount upon which the keep originally stood is now occupied by an agreeable garden.

At the south-eastern extremity of the city is the small but neat parochial Church of St. Peter's, the whole of which, and especially the tower, has been lately repaired and beautified. This church was founded about the year 1280, and belonged, prior to the Dissolution, to the Abbey of Pershore. This living is in the gift of the chapter of Worcester.

St. Helen's is said to be the most ancient church

in Worcester, and Leland in his Itinerary further adds, "That it was a prebend, before King Edgar's days, to the diocese of Worcester;" it stands upon the west side of the High Street, between the Guildhall and the Cathedral, and has an ancient and venerable appearance. The tower contains a good ring of eight bells, remarkable for being inscribed with notices of the principal victories obtained during the reign of Queen Anne. This rectory is in the gift of the bishop.

In a street leading to the east from the High Street, a little beyond St. Helen's, is a Meeting-house, belonging to the Methodists.

* In Angel Street, which branches off to the west from Foregate Street, a little beyond the Cross, is situated the Theatre, a neat commodious structure, erected by a kind of Tontine subscription. Plays are represented here four times a week during the season, under the superintendence of Messrs. Crisp.

The Library is a modern establishment, conducted by a librarian with an adequate salary, and the collection of books is annually increased by the select purchases of the library committee.

Among the public buildings the first is the Guildhall, standing on the west side of the High Street, nearly opposite to the Market place. This handsome structure was finished in 1723, and executed from a design of Mr. Whyte, pupil of Sir Christopher Wren, and a native of this city. Standing some little distance from the line of houses, it presents a noble front of brick ornamented with stone quoins, with mouldings and tablets to the windows of the same material. Over the line of front is a coved cornice, beneath which are fluted pilasters, supporting an arched pediment, with the arms of the British empire supported by two angels, the whole arranged as an antique classical trophy. The principal entrance, after ascending some semicircular steps, is ornamented with columns of the composite

order, highly enriched and crowned with an indented cornice and open pediment, in which are the City Arms. On each side of the principal entrance are the statues of the two Kings Charles, in niches; and over it a statue of Queen Anne. The whole of the front is very appropriately surmounted with five statues, consisting of Justice, Peace, Plenty, Industry, and Chastisement; each designated by their usual emblems; and the *tout ensemble* presents a most elegant appearance. The stranger on entering the hall is much pleased with the *coup d'œil* of a large light and handsome apartment, whose spaciousness is considerably broken by its various ornaments, without destroying any of its effects. Its length is 110 feet six inches, breadth 25 feet six inches, and height 21 feet. The portraits here deserve attention: they represent Charles I, Queen Anne, Sir John Pakyn-ton, &c.

The first stone of Worcester New Bridge, as before observed, was laid by the late Earl of Coventry, and under the inspection of the late Mr. John Gwynn. The diameter of the centre arch is 41 feet, whilst the four others decline in a small proportion, to assimilate with the necessary sweep of the segment of that arc, which forms the general outline. The chord of this arc from bank to bank, is nearly 270 feet, with archways to the towing-paths; and the clear width of the whole is 25 feet, including a flagged pavement of 4 feet on each side; which is not only convenient for general use, but forms a very handsome promenade in a summer evening. The archways for the towing-paths are thus constructed to prevent all interruption to the passengers over the bridge, and they are also separated from the general thoroughfare, by balustraded returns, which are a continuation of the parapet of the bridge, and are each in length 72 feet, with a flagged pavement between them and the river, forming

the towing paths of about twelve feet in width. The toll houses at the extremities are very elegant domes, and the embellishments of the centre arch, are the head of Sabrina, forming the northern key-stone. To make the approaches to the city correspond with the modern elegance of this structure, the avenues on each side have been laid open to a very commodious extent: the quays have been made extremely spacious and easy of access, whilst a very handsome street (Bridge Street) forms an opening to Broad Street, instead of the narrow lane that formerly existed, and brings the traveller at once into all the bustle of the city.

The Market Place in the High Street, with a thoroughfare into a street in the rear, as a modern addition to the comforts of the city, deserves commendation. The building is not only convenient, but highly ornamental. The quantity of fruit sold here is astonishing. When there has been what is called a *great hit*, the tonnage paid on that article alone, on the Trent and Severn canal, has amounted to 2000l. All other commodities are equally plentiful and good, except fish. The markets are held on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday; but the latter is always the most considerable. The hop market stands at the junction of the High and Foregate Streets. The trade is so considerable, as sometimes to amount to 46,228 pockets. The rents of the spacious warehouses in which the surplus quantities are deposited, instead of swelling corporation coffers, are applied by the guardians of the several parishes of the city, to the laudable purpose of supporting the House of Industry. The corn market requires no particular illustration, but the fair of the 19th September is considered as the great annual one, at which a large quantity of corn is always offered for sale, to a number of

dealers and speculators from all parts of the kingdom.

The inns are not only capacious, but numerous. To speak of their comforts and conveniences is needless, as strangers are as well accommodated here as at any on the road, and several of them are peculiarly arranged for the reception of a very numerous and respectable class of society, the *Commercial Travellers*. The advantages resulting from this mode of doing business are so great, that the number of houses in Worcester fitted up for the same establishment, increased considerably during the late war.

Among the charitable institutions the House of Industry stands first. This was erected on the eastern side of the city, on a small eminence, called Tallow Hill, and cannot fail striking the stranger by the elegance of its appearance as a public edifice. It is calculated to hold 150 persons, who are to be of the eight parishes of the city, and was first opened in 1794.

The Infirmary is situated in an airy position, overlooking the race ground, the river, and the whole north-western district of the city. It stands at the extreme northern limit on the western side of the Foregate, and forms a very handsome object, its elevation being extremely ornamental. The apartments are lofty and well arranged. Its receipts from voluntary benevolence have exceeded its expenditure, having been as high as 1700*l.* per annum.

Berkeley's Hospital was established by Judge Berkeley, for the reception of 12 poor men, and stands at the lower end of the Foregate, near the hop market. Its centre forms a neat chapel, with a statue of the founder over the entrance. The whole, though low, has the air of antiquity and comfort. St. Oswald's Hospital is a very old establishment. It is calculated to maintain 16 poor men, and 12 poor women. Moore's Hospi-

tal educates and maintains 10 blue-coat boys, of St. Martin's parish. It was established in the time of Queen Elizabeth, but has been since rebuilt. To describe all the various charitable endowments in this city, would far exceed our limits; we shall only add Wyalt's Hospital in Friar's Street, for 6 poor men. Nash's, in New-Street, for 8 men and 2 women. Trinity Hospital, for 29 poor females, and Shewring's, in the Tything, for 6 more. Inglethorpe's, in Foregate, supports 8 men and 1 woman. Several others, on a smaller scale, are in the different parishes. A Lying-in-Charity has also been established, and a Free School upon Mr. Lancaster's plan.

The City Gaol is an ancient building, in a very crowded situation, on the east side of Friar's Street. The whole having been the residence of Franciscan friars is very antique, and contains many curious carvings. The court in the centre is curious. Mr. Howard found room for censure upon its management, but great improvement has since taken place. The Gaol in the Castle-yard is spacious, and every attention has been paid to the comfort of the prisoners since Mr. Howard visited it. But the New Gaol, lately built upon an eminence, at the north end of the Foregate Street, is completely on the plan proposed by that great philanthropist, having a central house for the gaoler, with four wings spreading from it, yet detached and airy. The wards are warmed by flues, and the whole is surrounded by a wall high enough for security, yet not injurious to a free circulation of the air.

Besides the Cathedral and other churches, there are seven more churches of the establishment, viz. St. Peter's, St. Swithin's, St. Alban's, St. Michael's, St. Martin's, St. Nicholas's, and St. Clement's: and in addition to these the Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, Quakers, Anabaptists, Me-

thodists, Independants, and the frequenters of Lady Huntingdon's Chapels, have their respective places of worship.

Worcester had the honour of giving birth to several of our most eminent characters, in general no less distinguished for their learning than their virtues; among the more ancient we observe the names of William of Worcester, author of the Itinerary. Hemingus, a monk, the accurate and industrious collector of materials for the illustration of the remote history of the see of Worcester; Senatus Bravonius, author of an account of the Lives of St. Oswald and St. Wulstan, as also various other works; Florence of Worcester, the faithful epitomiser of Marianus Scotus.

Among the more modern, we may notice the learned and ingenious Earl of Worcester, famed for his philosophical speculations, and for the publication of his *Century of Inventions*; Lord Somers, distinguished for his political talents; and still more recently Mr. T. Whyte, the architect, under whose auspices the New Guildhall was erected, and whose talents were otherwise employed in the decoration of his native city.

The city of Worcester has long ranked high among the manufacturing towns of this island; Leland, a writer of the time of Henry VIII. remarks upon this subject, "The wealthe of Worcester standeth most by draperynge, and no towne of England att the presente tyme maketh so much cloth yearly as this towne doth."

The manufacturers of broad cloth received their first charter of incorporation in the second year of Henry the Eighth's reign, and till the conclusion of the last century their trade was very flourishing; since that period, however, the frequently-detected cheats of the manufacturers, co-operated with other causes in ruining the trade.

The glove manufactory here is very extensive, furnishing employment for a very considerable

portion of the poorer classes, and bringing no small influx of wealth into the city. The gloves manufactured at Worcester and in its vicinity are highly prized, and eagerly sought, not only at home, but also by foreigners. The number of persons employed by this trade in the city only has been estimated at 6000.

The hop trade is highly beneficial to Worcester; the market in which this article is exposed for sale, is a large and regular building enclosing a spacious quadrangle, and situated nearly in the centre of the city; it is surrounded by commodious warehouses, the rents of which, under the direction of the guardians of the respective parishes in the city, are applied to the support of the workhouse. The hop trade is conducted upon an extensive scale, and the average annual sale is about 23,000 pockets.

The distillery is conducted in a tolerably extensive manner, the weekly duty amounting to upwards of 700*l.* in general; it is well managed, and promises to improve.

Worcester could formerly boast of a carpet manufacture; but in this, as in the broad cloth manufacture, her rivals have obtained the superiority, and this branch of trade no longer exists.

This city possesses the singular advantage of having a number of highly agreeable walks in its vicinity, all of which abound in picturesque scenery. From their beautiful situation adjoining to the river, they have been called the Portobello Gardens; the view of Worcester from hence is extremely pleasing.

The walks in the environs of Worcester are numerous; as the Sansome Fields, Perry Wood, Rainbow Hill, and the Moors, near Pitchcroft. The Foregate Street being broad, well paved, and airy, is resorted to as a fashionable promenade. During the summer months the gardens on the west side of the Severn answer the same purpose.

This river is navigable for vessels of 110 tons to Gloucester; 90 to Tewkesbury; 80 to Worcester; 60 to Stourport and Bewdley; 40 to Shrewsbury, and of 30 to Pool Quay; though during the rainy season it is capable of bearing vessels of more considerable burthen. On the road to Malvern, at Powick ford, is an iron foundery upon the banks of the Teme, now navigable to its junction with the Severn, about a mile distant. Here the road intersects a most beautiful meadow, stretching to the extent of 100 acres, as smooth and as level as a bowling green. Three miles from Worcester is Powick, anciently the seat of John Beauchamp, advanced to the dignity of baron by Henry VI. The estate passed by females to the Willoughbies of Broke, the Reeds and Lygons. Two miles further is Newland; the chapel is dedicated to St. Leonard. This was formerly a grange or farm belonging to the priory of Great Malvern; it belonged afterwards to the Walwyns and the Dickins. This place forms an assemblage of rural villas. After an easy ascent of about a quarter of a mile, an agreeable prospect of the vale of Evesham presents itself, and the traveller reaches Malvern.

Worcester has three weekly markets, upon Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday: the markets are toll-free, viz. the second Monday in February, first Monday in May, first Monday in June, first Monday in July, and first Monday in November. There are also five annual fairs, held as follows: upon the Saturday preceding Palm Sunday, Saturday in Easter week, 15th of August, 19th of September, and the first Monday in December. The hop-market is governed by guardians, elected from among the inhabitants of the several parishes.

CROOKBARROW HILL is situated to the south-east of the city of Worcester; here was a small manor-house surrounded by a moat; immediately behind which is the Hill, which takes its name

from the Welch *Crug*, which signifies a hill, and *Barrow*, and signifies the hill with a barrow, or place of burial. It is of an elliptic form, and contains about six acres; its elevation is considerable.

Not far hence towards the north-east is a similar eminence called **ROUND HILL**, having a small but neat dwelling-house upon its summit, commanding a rich and extensive prospect.

Two miles from Worcester we pass through the neat and pleasantly situated village of **WHITTINGTON**, a little to the south-east of which, somewhat removed from the turnpike-road, is the village of **ASTON WHITE LADY**, the manor of which coming, by the unfortunate death of Mr. Symonds, in the year 1708, into the possession of Bishop Lloyd, he employed it in founding and endowing a charity-school in Worcester for boys and girls, called Bishop Lloyd's Charity School. At Aston White Lady there formerly existed a nunnery.

Three miles beyond Whittington is the village of **STOUGHTON**, which had the honour of giving birth, in the year 1657, to that eminent divine and celebrated philosopher, Dr. William Derham, author of two elaborate and deservedly admired works, entitled *Physico-Theology*, and *Astro-Theology*, books admirably calculated by a minute investigation of the phænomena of nature to excite our highest admiration of the Deity, and our deepest abhorrence of the impious doctrines of the Atheist. Dr. Derham, having completed his studies at the University of Oxford, entered into holy orders; he was afterwards elected a fellow of the Royal Society, appointed chaplain to the king, and towards the close of his life obtained the rank of canon of Windsor. His whole life was passed in illustrating the wisdom and goodness of the Deity, as exemplified in the wonderful works of the creation, and the still more wonderful and

gracious works of the redemption. Truly did this pious man follow the advice so well given by the poet in the following lines:

“ Submit thy fate to Heav’n’s indulgent care,
 Tho’ all seem lost, *’tis impious* to despair;
 The tracks of Providence, like rivers wind,
 Those run before us, these retreat behind:
 And, tho’ immerg’d in earth from human eyes,
 Again break forth, and more conspicuous rise.”

Having attained to his 79th year, Derham, with true Christian fortitude, resigned his breath in the year 1725.

Four miles from Stoughton, and nine from Worcester, we enter the ancient and respectable market town of

PERSHORE,

Which is pleasantly situated upon the right bank of the Avon, near its junction with the Bow. Pershore is said to derive its name from the abundance of pear trees which grow in its vicinity; it is a great thoroughfare, being situated upon the lower road from Worcester to London, from which latter place it is 102 miles distant. The parish is of great extent, and gives name to the hundred in which it is situated. At present there are only two churches in this town, Holy Cross, and All Saints, the former of these is part of the remains of a religious house which was founded here in the year 604, and originally occupied upwards of ten acres; the church belonging to this abbey measured 250 feet in length, and 120 in breadth.

All Saints is a small but neat church, with a good ring of six bells in the tower, which is square. Pershore consists chiefly of one principal street, extending about three quarters of a mile along the London road. Its chief trade is in stockings, of which large quantities are manufactured here. The weekly market is held upon Thursday.—There are four fairs, viz. upon Easter Tuesday,

26th of June, first Monday in August, and the last Tuesday in the same month.

The number of houses is 408, inhabitants 1,910.

To the south-west of Pershore, at the foot of the Bredon Hill, is the neat village of the same name, formerly the seat of a monastery founded by Eanwulf, grandfather to Offa, King of the Mercians, who added considerably to his grandfather's original endowment, and is also conjectured to have built the porch and west end of the parish church. On the hills which rise above this village is an ancient camp, surrounded by a double ditch: this is one of the numerous fortifications constructed during the bloody contests between the Saxons and Danes; the prospect from this camp is one of the finest in the county, overlooking a large portion of Worcestershire to the north and west, with the city of Worcester to the north-east, and a great extent of the county of Gloucester, with the town of Cheltenham, to the south and south-west, in which latter direction the town of Tewkesbury may also be seen from some points.

Towards the eastern extremity of these hills is ELMLEY, formerly a castle of *Urfo d'Abetot*; it afterwards came into the possession of the Beauchamp family.

We now return from this digression to Pershore, where the road to Evesham crosses the celebrated waters of Shakspeare's Avon.

About two miles from Pershore, upon the north side of the Avon, is the village of FLADBURY, where, as Leland informs us, there was formerly an abbey, founded about the year 691, by Ostfore, Bishop of Worcester: at ABBERTON, near this, is a mineral spring, containing a large quantity of the sulphate of magnesia, or bitter purging salt in solution.

On the opposite side of the river, situated be-

tween two reaches of the Avon, is CHARLTON, a hamlet belonging to Cropthorn, a village adjoining to it. This place takes its name from the family of Charltons, to whom it belonged prior to the reign of Richard II when it passed by marriage with the heiress to the family of Dineley, who sold it, after the murder of Sir John Dineley Goodyere, Bart.

Three miles hence we come to the ancient market and borough town of

EVESHAM,

Or, as it is commonly though improperly called, *Ecsham*, which stands agreeably upon a gentle eminence near the river Avon, over which there is a good stone bridge of seven arches. Evesham is a borough by prescription, and was governed by bailiffs till the reign of James I. who, at the request of his son, Prince Henry, granted it a charter of incorporation by the style of the mayor and corporation of Evesham. The government is vested in the mayor, recorder, seven aldermen, twelve common-councilmen, and twenty-four assistants, with a chamberlain, town clerk, &c. Their privileges are very extensive; the mayor and four of the aldermen being justices of the peace, justices of Oyer and Terminer, and gaol-delivery, with the power of punishing all manner of crimes committed within their liberties, high treason alone excepted. The first return by this borough was made in the 23d year of Edward I. after which we hear of no more returns till the commencement of the reign of James I. It at present returns two members to parliament; the right of election belongs to the common burgesses, and the mayor is the returning officer.

This town was formerly famous for its stately abbey, the abbot of which sat in parliament as a spiritual lord, and exercised an episcopal jurisdiction over his clergy. This abbey was founded in

709 by Egwin, a prince of the blood-royal, who having been elected Bishop of Worcester, was unjustly deprived of it by the Pope, after which he retired to this place, and founded the monastery. The revenues of this house amounted at the Dissolution to 1,183l. 12s. 9d. Its site was granted to Philip Hobby, Esq. The principal part of the remains of the monastic buildings is a large elliptic gateway, measuring 17 feet from the ground to the key stone; the arch is divided by three sets of mouldings into three ranges of niches, each filled with well-sculptured figures, eight in each range, now much defaced.

Evesham is memorable on account of the battle fought in its vicinity upon the 4th of August, 1265, between Simon Montford, Earl of Leicester, and Prince, afterwards King Edward I. In this decisive engagement, Leicester, with almost all the barons who had taken up arms against the king, fell, leaving the gallant Edward the honour of restoring his father Henry III. to the throne of his ancestors.

The tower at this place is a beautiful regular structure, measuring about twenty-two feet square, and one hundred and seventeen high; it is perhaps the last popish building erected in this country; it still serves the purpose of a belfry and clock tower.

There are three parish churches within this borough, of which two are situated in Evesham, properly so called, and the other in that division called Bengeworth, at the foot of the bridge; these are handsome buildings, with towers at their western extremities. The charitable establishments are, a well-endowed free grammar-school, a charity-school for 30 boys, and a few alms-houses. Of the castle which formerly stood here there are no remains. The prospect from hence along the beautiful vale of Evesham, through which the

Avon winds, is remarkably fine, and has deservedly obtained much admiration; near the bridge there is a convenient harbour for barges.

A new road is now open from Evesham to Bromsgrove, which turns to the left three miles from Alcester, and goes round the remains of Ragley. It runs over a high ridge of hills which divides Warwickshire from this county, and is extremely beautiful.

Gardening is the chief employment of the poor here, who supply the markets of Birmingham, Cheltenham, Tewkesbury, and Worcester, and during the asparagus season, send large quantities of that vegetable to the cities of Bath and Bristol.

The weekly market is held upon Monday; there are also four fairs, viz. on the second of February, the next Monday after Easter Monday, Whit Monday, and the twenty-first of September.

Crossing the Avon we enter the suburb of Evesham, called Bengeworth, and at the distance of about five miles reach the village of BROADWAY, to the south of which rises a hill of the same name, and of considerable elevation. Spring Hill is seated upon its southern declivity.

Quitting the county of Worcester, at the village of Broadway, we cross an insulating strait of Gloucestershire, and enter one of those isolated portions of the county of Worcester, of which we have already made mention. In this part is situated the village of BLOCKLEY, where, previous to the Reformation, stood a palace belonging to the Bishops of Worcester, at which they frequently resided. The house is totally demolished; but a hill opposite to the vicarage still retains the name of the *Parks*. The fosse-way runs out of Gloucestershire through the village of *Dorn* in this parish. According to tradition, this village was formerly a city of some consequence, and the many old foundations and Roman and British coins

found in this neighbourhood seem to countenance the probable truth of the report. At present, however, Dorn can only boast the possession of a few farm-houses.

On the top of Broadway Hill, is a very high tower, built to command the extensive prospect, by the late Lady Coventry.

A little to the north of Dorn, is another insulated part of Worcestershire, near the southern extremity of which is the neat little market town of

SHIPSTON-UPON-STOUR,

Which is situated 85 miles from London, in the parish of Tredington, to which it is a chapelry. Here was formerly a shag manufactory, established by a gentleman of the name of Hart; it has long however fallen to decay. The river Stour, from which this town derives its distinguishing name, flows to the east, and for some miles forms the eastern boundary of this long and narrow insulated portion of Worcestershire. Shipston has a large weekly market upon Friday; and two annual fairs upon the 22d of June, and the Tuesday which occurs next after the 10th of October.

The parish of Tredington is of considerable extent, and very rich, being ten miles in compass; it is bounded on the east by Warwickshire, on the west by Gloucestershire.

Journey from Tenbury to Birmingham, through Bewdley, Kidderminster, and Stourbridge.

About six miles east of Tenbury is the parish of LINDRIDGE, in which formerly stood Lowe, the seat of an ancient family of the same name in the reign of Henry III. who, after losing all their other possessions, continued to enjoy this their original estate.

A little further upon the left is the site of Sou-

DINGTON, the ancient seat of the Blounts; it was originally moated round, and of some strength.

Sixteen miles east north-east of Tenbury, we enter the thriving and populous market and borough town of

BEWDLEY,

Of which Leland speaks in the following terms: "Bewdley, a market and sanctuary towne, hath hard by it the king's maner of *Tikile* standing on a hill. The towne itself of Bewdley, is sett on the side of a hille so comeley, that a man cannot wish to see a towne better. It riseth from Severne bank by east, upon the hill by west, so that a man standing on the hill *trans pontem* by east, may discern almost every house in the towne, and att the rising of the sunne from east, the whole towne glittereth, being all of new building, as it were of gold. By the distance of the paroch church, I gather that Bewdley is but a very newe towne, and that of old time there was but some poor hamlett, and that upon the building of a bridge there upon the Severne, and resort of people to it, and commodity of the pleasant site, men began to inhabit there, and because that the plot of it seemed fayer to the lookers, it took a French name *Beaudley*, quase *Bellus Locus*. I asked a merchant there of the antientnesse of the towne, and he answered me that it was but a new towne, adding that they had liberties granted by King Edward. There is a fayre manor place west of the towne, standynge in a goodly parke well-wooded, on the very knappe of an hille that the towne standeth on. This place is called Ticken Hill. Whether there were an ancient house in tymes past or noe I am not assured: but this that now is there something new, and as I heard was in a manner wholly erected by King Henry VII. for Prince Arthur. It was repayred for the Lady

Marye. Since I heard that Richard, Earl of Marche, and Duke of York, builded there. It was Mortimer's, Earl of Marche's land. There was a privilege of sanctuary given to this towne, that is now wholly abrogated."

The ancient name of the whole town was *Tunhill*, which signifies *Goats-hill*; this name is at present however confined to the spot where the palace stood, till destroyed with the park in the Civil War.

Before the reign of Edward I. the manor of Bewdley belonged to the Beauchamp family, by whom, in the reign of Edward IV. it was sold to the Sheldons. During the unfortunate contests between Charles I. and his people, the manor-house here shared the same fate as the palace.

From the first notice we have of the inhabitants of Bewdley, we find them attentive to the navigation of the fine river which washes the walls of their town: they have long borne away the palm as barge or trow men, and of their superiority in this way we have the concurrent testimony of the burgesses both of Bristol and of Gloucester, as delivered to the parliament. Besides the employment derived from the navigation of the river, the inhabitants of this town are occupied as cornesers, or cordwainers; as cappers; the period of the introduction of this trade is uncertain; these caps evidently appear to have been worn in the reign of Elizabeth; and we may observe the endeavours made by the legislature to keep up the use of them; for in 1571, an act was passed, requiring "that all above the age of six years, except some of a certain state and condition, shall wear upon the sabbath and holydays, upon their heads, one cap of wool knit, thicked and dressed in England, upon the forfeiture of three shillings and four-pence." 13th Elizabeth, chap. 19. The introduction of hats first injured this trade; still

however it is carried on, though to a less extent than formerly. The tanning business formerly furnished employment for a large number of the inhabitants, and the extent of the trade may be estimated from the remaining tan yards, as also from the many acts of their public munificence which stand upon record. The first attempt at establishing a free grammar-school here was made by a tanner; besides this the benefactions of many others of the same trade are recorded; the number of tan yards at present employed is three. The working of horn seems to have long constituted an occupation of many persons here. From the numerous malthouses, of which traces are still perceptible, it appears that this town formerly drove a very extensive and lucrative trade in that article, the decay of which is not improbably ascribed to the opening of a communication by an excellent turnpike road between the parts of Shropshire bordering upon Tenbury and Ludlow, which were formerly the chief vents for malt, with the city of Worcester. An extensive and highly beneficial trade in groceries has been for a great length of time a source of no inconsiderable wealth to the burgesses of Bewdley, who purchase these articles wholesale, and supply the inland shops of the adjacent country, at the retail prices, with such things as they cannot procure at Bristol; the opening of the Staffordshire Canal seems however to have diminished this trade considerably.

Here is a free Grammar-school, founded towards the close of Elizabeth's reign, and supported by the voluntary contributions of the benevolent, whose names are recorded on a tablet hung up in the school-room. Besides the free-school, another charitable school has been established, and is supported by the annual subscriptions of the burgesses and other inhabitants; besides their educa-

tion, which is wisely adapted to their situation in life, the boys and girls are annually clothed, and regularly attend upon divine service.

With a view to furnishing the poor with employment, a fund has been established, by voluntary subscription, for setting on foot an extensive flannel manufactory, whereby numbers who were before without employment are enabled to support themselves without the disgrace of coming upon the parish in their old age; this establishment resembles one at Shrewsbury, except that this is unaided by parliament. Besides the foregoing charitable institutions, there are several comfortable alms-houses here which are well endowed.

The bridge over the Severn was, we believe, erected by Edward IV. whose predecessor Henry VI. in the 38th year of his reign, contributed all the stone requisite for its construction. Upon the middle pair is situated a wooden gate-house, the north end of which serves as a dwelling-house for the toll-gatherer, while the corporation use the other for a prison, which is commonly called the Bridge-house. Of the tolls taken at the gate here, that for a mill stone, amounting to six shillings and sixpence, is most enormous.

Bewdley is situated in the parish of Bibbesworth, to which the church here is a chapel of ease. Previous to the reign of Edward VI. there were chauntries annexed to the chapel here, which was constructed of timber; these chauntries, however, with the rest in various parts of the kingdom, were suppressed by stat. 1, of that monarch, and their estates vested in the crown; but the chapel remained unaltered. Philip and Mary, by their letters patent, granted to this chapel an annual stipend of 8l. per annum. At the west end of the old chapel just above the south door, there was a strong tower, with an inscription on its front towards the Town Hall, mentioning the builder,

and the date of its erection; both which were taken down in 1745, in order to be rebuilt; William Bowles, Esq. who at that time was member for this borough, contributed largely towards the repairs of the chapel; the Rev. Thomas Knight, who then was rector of the parish of Ribbesford, took down the steeple, and rebuilt it, as far as the old materials went, at his own expense: besides these there were other contributors to the work. The new chapel, which is a neat edifice, situated nearly in the centre of the town, was finished, and divine service performed in it, for the first time, upon the 25th day of March 1748.

At no great distance below the chapel, were the old shambles on the walk, as commonly called, being a long range of timber building open on both sides, which upon the building of the new shambles in 1783, were taken down.

The first charter of incorporation was that granted to them by Edward IV. by which they obtained many valuable privileges by land and by sea; in this charter they are styled "the Burgesses of Bewdley and the precincts thereof." Henry VIII. twice confirmed these immunities. The charter of James I. is that under which the corporation is at present governed; the corporation consists of a bailiff, twelve aldermen, and burgesses, who are empowered to enact such regulations as may seem to them necessary for the government of the borough, the free school, &c.

Bewdley at present returns but one member to parliament; the electors are the bailiff, twelve capital burgesses, and such of the minor burgesses as they elect. This town was formerly built, like most of our other ancient towns, of timber, but most of the wooden structures have latterly given place to more secure and permanent habitations of brick. The number of houses is 632, and the inhabitants 3,454.

Besides members of the established religion, there are several sectaries, as Presbyterians, Anabaptists, and Quakers, resident here; each of these sects has a meeting-house for persons belonging to it.

Formerly there were two weekly markets, and four annual fairs held here; the markets being on Wednesday and Saturday, and the fairs upon the feast of St. Agatha, the 5th of February; upon the feast of St. George, 23d of April; upon the feast of St. Ann, 26th of July; and upon St. Andrew's day, 30th of November. The market on Saturday, with the three last mentioned fairs, were confirmed to the bailiff and burgesses by the charter of James I. But the fair upon the 5th of February, and the market upon Wednesday, have been long disused. The trade of Bewdley is almost entirely ruined by the Staffordshire Canal, which has caused the prosperity of the town of Stourport.

Near Bewdley is the seat of Sir E. Winnington, beautifully situated on the banks of the Severn; and not far from the town is BLUCKSTONE HILL, where there is an hermitage curiously cut out of a rock, and consisting of several apartments besides a chapel. Upon the edge of the river in its vicinity, is a picturesquely wooded rock, which is interesting to the botanist, on account of the many rare plants it produces. In the parish of Roch, not far from hence, is an oak conjectured by several to be the same with the famous Augustine's oak, whose true situation has been the source of so much contention among the learned, and is still undetermined. Camden says "there is a place whose situation is not exactly known in this county, called *Augustine's Oak*, where Augustine the Apostle of the English, and the British bishops met, and after some squabbling about the observance of Easter, the preaching of the gospel, and administration of Baptism according to

the ritual of the Romish church, separated with as little agreement as before." Spelman imagines the vicinity of Aufric, a village on the confines of Herefordshire, to have been the site of this tree; but it is no less remote from our inclination, than it is from our province to enter into the lists of controversy.

Tickenhill is now vested in the crown, and leased, with the manor of Bewdley, to Sir Edward Winnington, who built a seat in the vicinity called Winterdyne, now the residence of W. M. Moseley, Esq. Spring Grove is the seat of S. Skey, Esq. and Sandbourn, that of J. Soley, Esq. Part of the antient forest of Wire, formerly celebrated for the excellence and abundance of its timber, is situated near this; a gold coin of the Emperor Tiberius was found, in a state of uncommon preservation, in this forest about the year 1770. The court for the marches of Winterdyne, was kept alternately here, and at Ludlow castle, Prince Henry's physicians being of opinion that the situation of Tickenhill was healthier than that of Ludlow, in consequence of which, he ordered the house to be repaired and fitted up for him; but he did not live to visit it.

Crossing the Severn, we digress a little to the left of the road to visit WASSEL HILL, which is situated about half a mile from the banks of the river, and has upon its summit the remains of a small camp, about four or five miles to the east of which, on Kniver Edge, is another of greater extent, with which it appears to have been intended to form a line of fortification, extending across this part of the county, as at about an equal distance to the east of Kniver Edge camp, is another upon Whitenbury hill. Gough conjectures these to have been the posts of Henry IV. when he blocked up Owen Glendour after the burning of Worcester in the year 1405.

Three miles east of Bewdley, upon the banks of the river Stour, over which there is a bridge, is the busy and populous town of

KIDDERMINSTER,

Called in the Doomsday survey CHIDEMINSTRE. It is situated at the distance of 124 miles from London, and carries on a very extensive and lucrative trade in the glass and iron manufactures. Formerly the broad cloth manufactory here was in a flourishing condition, but it latterly declined, and was succeeded by the manufacture of linsey-woolseys, poplins, crapes, bombazines, &c. with which the London and other markets were well supplied. The Scotch and flat carpet trade was introduced here about the year 1735, and shortly after the manufacture of the cut carpets was also introduced. All these have been greatly improved, by the ingenuity and emulation of the various manufacturers, in the variety and elegance of the patterns, as well as the permanency and brilliancy of the dyes.

No country justice can exercise any judicial authority in this town, the government of which is regulated by a recorder, and two magistrates, called the bailiff and justices; the bailiff, who always belongs to the quorum, is annually elected by the 12 aldermen, with the concurrence of 25 common council-men, who, collectively, are authorized by a charter, bearing date the 12th of Charles I. to make by-laws for the government of the body corporate, and the trade of the town. Formerly this borough was represented in parliament.

The Staffordshire canal, which, in its progress to Stourport, where it falls into the Severn, passes through Kidderminster, opens an inland navigation with Liverpool, Manchester, &c. which, including its windings, extends to upwards of five hundred miles.

By several charters from Henry II. Richard I. Henry VI. and Henry VIII. the inhabitants of this town are exempted from toll, pontage, and murage throughout the kingdom; a confirmation of these privileges was obtained by a charter from Queen Elizabeth. A court-leet for the manor is occasionally held here by a person deputed for that purpose by the lord of the manor. A court of requests for the recovering of small debts is also held. The church is a large and venerable gothic structure, with a lofty tower, and a good ring of eight bells. The vicarage, which is always united to the chapelry of Milton, is valued at 500*l.* per annum; it is in the gift of the Foleys. The parish is properly called the *Foreign*, and its inhabitants are required to bear one half of the expences incurred by the churchwardens in the execution of their office. At the east end of the choir of the church is the Grammar School, to which all the inhabitants, both of the town and *Foreign*, are entitled to send such of their children as they are desirous of having classically educated, free of expence. The school is conducted by a head and second master who are elected by certain feoffees, with the concurrence of the bishop of the diocese.

The Town Hall is a respectable building, chiefly of brick, of which a portion of the lower part is let to the neighbouring inhabitants, and the remainder employed as a prison. The butchers'-stalls occupy the ground floor; the council-room for transacting public business, and giving public entertainments, is situated over these; latterly however public entertainments have been given at the Lion inn.

The streets here are well paved and kept clean, and great regard is had to every thing which can contribute to the salubrity of the town.

Here are three very respectable reading so-

cieties. There are eight charity schools for boys and girls, besides several Sunday schools. There are 12 almshouses, which, with the numerous other charities, and not less than 25 friendly societies, render the parish rates in this town very moderate: for the further relief of the necessitous, a dispensary has been established by the subscription of the wealthy.

The weekly market for grain, &c. is held upon Thursday, and the annual fairs, which are for all sorts of merchandise, are four in number, and held as follows: upon the Monday in the week next before Easter; upon Ascension day; upon the 20th of June, and 4th of September.

The river Stour, which rises in the celebrated groves of Shenstone's classic Leasowes, in the vicinity of Hales Owen, enters Kidderminster upon the north, and after making nearly two equal divisions of it, passes on to Milton, and thence to Stourmouth, a little below Stourport, where it mixes its waters with those of the Severn. The Staffordshire canal, already noticed, entering the town at no great distance from the Stour, crosses it within about 100 yards of the market place, at the foot of the eminence on which the church is seated; at this place there is a good wharf with commodious warehouses.

Exclusive of its numberless and extensive manufactories, shops, and warehouses, Kidderminster contains 1,546 houses and 8,038 inhabitants. Besides the descendants of Richard Baxter's pupils, many of whom are believers in witchcraft, there is a Society of Unitarian Dissenters in the town, which comprises some of its most opulent and respectable inhabitants.

Kidderminster is three miles east of Bewdley, 14 south of Bridgenorth, 7 south-west of Stourbridge, 10 south-west of Dudley, 18 south-west of Birmingham, 16 south-south-west of Wolver-

hampton, 9 north-west of Bromsgrove, and 14 north of Worcester: between it and these towns there are excellent turnpike roads.

The soil in the vicinity is in general light and sandy, better adapted to the growth of barley and other grain than wheat, of which last, however, with the assistance of lime and good management, it is made to produce annually abundant crops. The meadow land is highly productive, and perhaps little inferior to any in the island.

Except to the south, where the blue hills of Malvern, at the distance of upwards of 20 miles, skirt the horizon, Kidderminster cannot boast of any thing approaching to an extensive prospect; confined however as the views are, they possess many beauties, and the country is agreeably diversified by gentle eminences.

A pleasant walk along the banks of the canal, or through the meadows bordering on the river, leads to a place called ROUND HILL, where there is a chalybeate spring, much resorted to by the inhabitants of the town, from the centre of which it is but half a mile distant. Several other places in this vicinity furnish chalybeate springs, of which that of Sandburn is the strongest. Round Hill was the property of Matthew Jefferys, Esq.

Seven miles north-east of Kidderminster, close to the borders of the county, is the pleasant town of

STOURBRIDGE,

Situated in the parish of Old Swineford: this town takes its name from the river Stour, upon which it is seated. A chapel was erected here by subscription in the year 1742, and constituted, by an act of parliament, parochial, and independent of Old Swineford. Besides this church belonging to the establishment, there are several meeting houses for various denominations of Protestant dissenters. The government of the town is vested

in the hands of a bailiff, &c. The Free-school here was founded by Edward VI.; it is handsomely endowed, and has a good library, formed by the occasional contributions of the governors, and such gentlemen as are educated here: there are eight governors, who are always chosen from among the gentlemen resident in the parish. The Blue Coat Hospital at Old Swineford was founded and endowed in the year 1667 by Thomas Foley, Esq. of Witley Court, and is under the direction of 19 feoffees; by this charity 60 poor boys are clothed, instructed, and at the age of 14 years apprenticed to different trades; two suits of clothes and four pounds apprentice-fee being given to them at that time.

Glass, iron, cloth, and bricks, constitute the chief articles of manufacture here; of these the glass manufacture is the most considerable, producing to government duties to the amount of 20,000*l.* per annum. The number of glass-houses amounts to about 10, and the articles principally made are drinking glasses, bottles, and window glass.

The clay found in the vicinity of Stourbridge is also an article of trade, large quantities being employed in various parts of the united empire, in coating the sides and bottoms of the pots at the several glass-houses. This clay is also exported in the form of fine stone pots and crucibles, which are manufactured here, and are held in high estimation. Coal and iron-stone are also abundant in this vicinity.

Stourbridge is 126 miles north-west of London, 12 west of Birmingham, 10 east of Bridgenorth, 10 south of Wolverhampton, 10 north of Bromsgrove, and 22 north-north-east of Worcester. It has a good weekly market upon Friday, and three fairs annually, upon the 29th of March for horses, on the 8th of September for horses and cattle, and

upon the 8th of January. The number of houses is 821, and the inhabitants 4,072. In the parish of Himley, adjoining to Stourbridge, there is a blade mill, at which scythes, reaping hooks, &c. are ground to a fine edge.

Besides the library at the Free School, a very valuable public library was established about the year 1788, by the industry and zeal of Mr. Samuel Parkes, the author of several well known chemical works, then an inhabitant of this town. This society at the time of its formation had the honour of enrolling the Earl of Stamford, Viscount Dudley and Ward, the late Lord Lyttleton, and most of the clergy and gentlemen in the list of its members, and continues to the present time in a very flourishing and prosperous state.

About two miles south of Stourbridge, upon the left side of the road leading to Bromsgrove, is the magnificent and deservedly-admired park of
HAGLEY,

Once the favourite retreat of the eminent Lord Lyttleton, and deriving an additional lustre and celebrity from the visits and the muse of Pope, as well as of the many other literary luminaries that in those days of classic sunshine shed a lasting lustre upon the country which possessed and the nation which could appreciate their worth.

The Mansion House of Hagley is situated on a gentle rise in the midst of an extensive lawn. It is built of a white calcareous freestone; the entrance at the principal front is a double flight of steps, with an elegant balustrade; small square turrets rise at the corners. Simple unadorned elegance has been most happily studied and attained in the exterior of the house, which is imposing in its appearance, maugre the absence of fluted columns and sculptured capitals. The interior however possesses every embellishment

which the most refined taste could devise, and the ablest ingenuity execute. The prospect from the front which overlooks the gardens is exquisitely beautiful. In the distance, seated upon the brow of a gentle eminence which is partially concealed by the rich groves which intervene, a light and graceful column appears, out-topping the luxuriant foliage of the trees, and adding not a little to the picturesque effect of the scene; a little to the right, embosomed in wood, is the church, of which a casual glimpse may be caught at times. From hence we behold a spacious park, skirted here and there with wide oaks, whose appearance sufficiently bespeaks their antiquity, and beyond these appears the swelling wood which marks the boundary of the park, and over which the Clent hills, proudly raising their bold summits to the skies, and breaking, as it were, the immeasurable limits of the horizon, finish the picture.

Directing our attention again to the column, from which our route commenced, we observe a descent sloping towards the left, with a beautiful grove winding through it. Beyond the top of the hill another lesser grove presents itself, exhibiting a handsome clump of Scotch firs, after which the lawn, assuming the form of a beautiful sweeping vale, rises by almost imperceptible degrees till it appears to reach the towering hills of Whitchbury. Further to the left, deeply embosomed in firs, is a Temple of Theseus, upon an eminence; beyond which appears a noble obelisk, rising in front of a venerable grove of oaks, whose trunks mossed over with age terminate this delightful landscape.

The parish Church, a small neat gothic structure, secluded amidst encircling trees, next merits our attention; the finished interior bespeaks the execution of a master. The windows of the chancel are enriched with the most brilliantly

vivid stained glass, which, though of modern production, would have added to the reputation of the first among the ancient cultivators of the art in Italy. The monument erected by George Lord Lyttleton to the memory of his beloved and deeply-lamented wife Lucinda, immortalized by the monody of her husband, particularly merits attention.

From the church we may take the path leading to the Garden, which is elegantly laid out; here we meet a beautiful undedicated urn upon one side of an alcove, with a room behind it. Passing on, close to the garden pales, in a narrow walk, well shaded by over-hanging trees, we have a bold rising lawn, where the eye is attracted by an airy alcove, to the right of which is a stately obelisk, both of which, though without the precincts of the park, are within the domain. Pursuing the path which runs along the left side of the park, we arrive at Thomson's seat, an octangular temple, erected as well in testimony of Lord Lyttleton's veneration for the bard, as in commemoration of Thomson's merit. From hence the sloping lawn gradually sinks into the bottom of a fine grove, over the top of which, on a bold rising hill, appears a corresponding grove, seated upon an eminence of such elevation that its trunks appear above the summits of the trees beneath, through an opening of which Pope's building is seen to great advantage, while the irregular outline of the distant hills of Malvern terminates the prospect.

Not far hence is the Vicarage, a neat gothic building, which, though not included within the limits of the park, appears to belong to it, and agreeably diversifies the view. Still pursuing the winding path, we arrive at the Rotunda, an elegant structure, of eight Doric columns sustaining a handsome dome, and seated on the eminence of

a fine sloping lawn. From a bench behind the dome, looking down the lawn, we are gratified with seeing some beautiful reservoirs of the most pellucid water, deeply shaded with large trees, and thick-set shrubs, the whole forming the most agreeable vista in nature, terminated by a delightful view of the Palladian bridge.

Our walk continues to an opening, from whence we have a distant view of the house, which appears as if seated in a wilderness, and shews itself with additional lustre, while the snow-capped mountains of Cambria, piercing, as it were, the very heavens with their pointed summits, bound the prospect. Hence a steep ascent leads us to the Hermitage: this secluded cell, apparently formed of the rudest materials, blasted stumps, and unhewn trunks of trees, whose fissures, stopped up with earth and moss of various hues, give it every appearance of being a work of necessity, such as one might expect Selkirk's hut to be in the island of Juan Fernandez. In its furniture and fitting up the interior corresponds most accurately with the plain simplicity of the external appearance; a wooden bench offers repose to the weary, who must not here expect the beds of down which the palace affords. The light is admitted only by the door; the floor is paved, and the moss-clad walls have no other relief from furniture than what is afforded by the humble bench which occupies the entire length of the apartment. Formerly there was an inner apartment, which contained a pallet and a mat; this however falling to decay was removed, and a fir tree has been substituted in its place. From this building the path descends, winding under the shade into the hollow, and taking a path which leads to the right along the skirts of the park, we reach a rough concave recess, with a semicircular seat, over which is

rudely sculptured, on a mortar wall, the true adage
OMNIA VANITAS.

Hence continuing our walk above the glen, we gradually mount, in a winding direction, to a seat, behind which a gate lets us out of the park, upon one of the highest of the Clent hills.

Returning to the park, we are struck with a view of the Ruin, encompassed by venerable trees; a nearer view increases instead of diminishing the expectations of decayed magnificence, which its appearance, while yet at a distance, raised. Here the destructive hand of Time seems to have exerted its utmost power. The massy stones tumbled from its dilapidated walls, the tottering, loose, over-burdened towers, and thick-rooted ivy, with which it is nearly covered, seem so many corroborative testimonies of this ruin being extremely ancient. One of the towers being left entire, has a most happy effect, by allowing scope to the imagination, to amuse itself with conjectures as to the splendour and hospitality which in former days were the distinguishing characteristics of Baronial magnificence. Within the tower, a winding staircase conducts to the top, which presents a prospect unequalled in grandeur, extent, and variety.

The Grotto next merits our observation. On this delightful retirement, the noble designer appears to have lavished every decoration which taste could bestow, to heighten its natural beauties. The ground-work is indeed Nature's, but the tasteful superstructure which Art has raised, gives life and animation to the scene. Quitting the grotto, we proceed across the lawn to the column which supports an elegant statue of Frederick, the late Prince of Wales, and father to his late Majesty; hence the path leads back again to the alcove, and thence to the house.

But we have already trespassed too far upon our

limits to be able to attempt a description of the numberless paintings and embellishments of this delightful mansion, and must reluctantly bring our account to a conclusion.

A pleasant ride of about four miles brings us to the neat town of HALES OWEN, situated in the north-eastern extremity of a circular insulated portion of Shropshire. About one mile north of Hales Owen, we re-enter Worcestershire, which we soon after quit for Stafford, a narrow strip of which intervenes between the county of Worcester and a small isolated tract annexed to it, upon the north boundary of which is situated the market town of

DUDLEY,

120 miles north-west of London, 10 west of Birmingham, 14 east of Bewdley, 28 north-east of Worcester, and 18 north of Bromsgrove. The Castle is situated in Staffordshire; previous to the Conquest it and the town belonged to Edwin of Mercia. This castle was, during the civil wars, in the possession of the King's forces, and being besieged by the Parliamentary army, was relieved in 1642 by the royalists. The ruins are very extensive. Formerly Dudley was a borough town, and sent members to parliament in the 23d of Edward I. There are two churches, St. Edmund's and St. Thomas's, situated at each end of a long street. There are also three Charity-schools, besides seven Sunday-schools. Not far from the town are the remains of a Priory.

This Priory was founded by Gervase Paganel, lord of the manor, in 1161. In 1190, Pope Lucius by his bull, granted, that in case of a general interdiction of the kingdom, the monks of that Priory might privately, their doors being shut, and without sound of bell, perform divine service in a low voice, all interdicted or excommunicated persons being first put forth. At present the only

remains that have withstood the ravages of time and the destroying hand of man, are those of the conventual church, whose rich gothic window, at the east end of the building, and some beautiful mouldings in the other parts, faintly portray its original splendour. The west end is built with a coarser and redder stone than that used in the other parts of the building; and all the arches appear to have been pointed. Erdeswick says, that in his time there were in this church several good monuments of the Someries and other families, one cross-legged and very old. Both to the east and west of the ruins there are large pools of water, apparently the remains of a moat which once encompassed the whole Priory; and a little to the north are traces of several large fish-ponds. The shattered walls of some of the offices were some years ago patched up into a dwelling-house and conveniences for a tanner, and have since been occupied by a manufacturer of thread, and by other professions.

The manufacture of *nails* is one of the staple trades of the town and neighbourhood. In this trade the iron is furnished by persons called nail factors, and the workmen form it into nails in their own cottages. In 1817 the venerable old church was taken down, in order that a new one should be erected on its site.

The population is 13,925, the houses 2,621 in number.

Leaving Dudley, by the same road which brought us to it, we branch off about two miles from the town, by a road leading towards the much-admired seat of the poet Shenstone, called the

LEASOWES;

Where, though much has been effected by the hand of Art, guided by the most glowing imagination and refined taste, yet the claims of Nature are too strong to permit of our withholding from

her the praise to which she is justly entitled for the rich and diversified scenery which she has so profusely lavished upon this favoured spot. We approach this place by a declining hollow way, rendered rather gloomy by the over-hanging trees; a gate arched over with rude stones, at the end of this, admits us to the Priory Walk, whose unbroken solitude and impressive gloom are admirably calculated to awaken in the mind religious awe and silent admiration; from which, however, it is suddenly awakened, upon approaching the first seat, by the harsh clamour of a cascade tumbling impetuously over rocks and irregular breakers, while a steep stony hill on the opposite side, implanted thickly with trees, and beset with bushes, gives it an awful grace, and every appearance of being perfectly natural. One side of this varied recess is richly covered with trees, bushes, and green sward, decorated with numerous flowers planted and cherished by the hand of Nature alone, while here and there the bending trunk of a tree, or the expanding root of a rising oak, stretches across, and interrupts the path, thus adding to the rugged wildness of the scene. The other side of the dell is from top to bottom covered with thick bushy tufts, through whose clustering sprays, the current winding from the fall of the cascade mingles with the unruffled lake beneath. Here the serene beauties of the scene are particularly striking after the romantic wildness of that we have left behind. Advancing to the edge of the crystal lake, the view expands more, embracing the steeple of Hales Owen Church, and the distant shady shelving sides of the Clent Hills.

The Woodhouse next attracts our attention; it stands in a fine grove, chiefly of chesnuts and larches: from the entrance of this rustic building one of the most singularly romantic scenes ever formed by the joint labours of art and nature, presents

itself. This spot was originally inscribed to the Earl of Stamford; but, with the utmost propriety, this place has been, by the present owner, consecrated to the memory of him whose vivid imagination and active talents enabled him almost to embody ideas. From a considerable height a cascade rushes rapidly down over breakers of various sorts, the dashing fall of the water from so stupendous a rock, the irregular plantation of interwoven shrubs intermingled with ashes, yews, &c. other trees of a bolder growth, the overhanging circling branches of which spread a gloomy horror over the issuing head of the foaming surge, and conjointly with the broken precipitous sides of the cliff, and the roots of the large trees which have been left exposed by the fury of the torrent, form a scene most strikingly awful and impressive. A seat placed behind an aged and venerable oak affords us the best view of this romantic waterfall.

As we advance the prospect gradually expands, the rich woods receding, and leaving a beautifully verdant lawn. A clump of oaks, on the skirts of this lawn, contains a circular bench, upon which is a complimentary inscription to the memory of Dodsley, the celebrated bookseller of Shenstone's classic age. Immediately behind this seat, and surrounded by a similar grove, roughly fringed with coppice and furze, is a finely-sculptured statue of Faunus, who is represented as playing upon his pipe; this figure harmonizes admirably with the surrounding scenery, and cannot fail of attracting the attention of the man of science as well as of taste.

Quitting the statue of this woodland divinity, the path conducts, by a sinuous course, through the dale, shaded by trees of the most luxuriant growth, to another seat, which is placed at the summit of a steep ascent, and commands a pleasing view of a sequestered vale, at the extremity

of which was formerly placed an urn, commemorative of the poet's brother. Somewhat removed from this seat is a third, presenting a beautiful view of the Priory, situated upon the verge of a grove of consecrated trees, and exciting from the contemplation of its mouldering arches, and dilapidated remains, an idea of one of those majestic piles which the devastating hand of Vandalism has left to commemorate its ravages. Ruinous, uncomfortable, however, as this picturesque structure appears, its interior contradicts the supposition of its inaptitude for a comfortable habitation, which its external aspect is so well calculated to excite; as the apparent ruins serve only to conceal a comfortable cottage, which the amiable Shenstone benevolently designed to be the asylum of age and indigence, and which is still appropriated to this object by its no less humane, though less distinguished owner at present.

From the seat we have already mentioned, the Priory is seen to the utmost advantage; adding, by the semblance of its ruined arches to the mouldering aisles of a gothic church, not a little to the solemnity of its lonely situation.

The path leads us hence, through a wicket, to the summit of a mount, which commands one of the most extensive prospects throughout our ramble, overlooking a large portion of the farm, tastefully divided into fallows, corn-fields, gay enamelled meads, and beautiful pasture lands: on the boldest eminence of all is a gothic alcove seated in a small grove, the view from which is not a little enlivened by the prospect of a serpentine river, which winds its flexuous course through the lawns and coombs below us. Following the path in its descent along a thickly-shaded steep, we get a view of the steeple of Hales Owen Church, peering above the woods and hills we have already described. Continuing our descent, the path conducts us gently down by the side of an hedge, and

leads us through a wicket to the romantic solitary gloom of the Lover's Walk, where is a seat, having in its front a beautifully irregular piece of water, the banks of which are richly fringed with waving trees, whose branches stoop in acknowledgment of their submission to its silver streams.

Hence a path, which follows the course of the stream which empties itself below, leads us to the top of a gently-rising hillock, upon which formerly stood a gilt urn, erected to the memory of Miss Dolman, passing which the walk winds on till it introduces us to the opening of a long and beautiful vista. Here a seat placed upon a small eminence presents us with an opening through the woods, exhibiting a richly diversified prospect over a well-planted glade of the distant country.

Directing our steps hence, we arrive at a simple and rustic building, called the temple of Pan; at a little distance from which is a wicket, which admits us to a grove consecrated to the Muse of Virgil, where opens a scene "Sweet as the rural strains himself had sung."

Further on, opposite to a dashing fall of water, is a romantic seat, inscribed to the memory of that admirable painter of the Seasons, the poet Thomson. From this sweet spot every object which presents itself combines its force to delight the eye, and bewilder the imagination. On our left is the distant prospect of the foaming cascade, which falls in sheets seemingly of liquid silver, over the craggy rocks, till gaining the bottom it once more pursues its course in a smoothly-flowing stream, and meeting with an interruption divides into two smaller streams, forming a beautiful little island. Uniting again, and continuing a devious course, the smiling current, once more interrupted, precipitates itself down a rugged steep, and conceals itself under the arch of a bridge of the simplest construction.

To the right, on the opposite side, we are no less

pleased with a dropping fountain, creeping through the mossy veins of a wild stony moss, and stealing down the shelving wands into the opaque glens, charmingly interwoven with stately trees and brushing underwood.

We now return nearly to Virgil's Obelisk, and descending thence across a wooden bridge, and proceed along a path which winds to the left, through a romantic coomb directly up to the cascade, which, bursting at once upon the view, suddenly engrosses our whole attention. A small stream, saturated with mineral particles, takes its course a little to the left of the waterfall. On the right, a path branches off through a wicket to the lawn which surrounds the house; at present, however, this path is appropriated solely to the use of the family.

Descending by the cascade, we follow the path which winds along the left bank of the stream, and notwithstanding our having already feasted upon most of the scenes which it furnishes, we are still enraptured with the new points of view in which they are occasionally presented, and further enchanted with a number of perfectly novel and romantic landscapes, which almost every step opens to our view: the rapid rivulet varies its course, and strays with artless beauty through the flowing dell, frequently concealed from our view by the intervening branches of the overshadowing trees; we now discover the termination of our ramble.

Re-entering the domain of the Leasowes by the same gate as that by which we were at first admitted, we may add a little to our perambulation by taking a path which we neglected before, and which winding through some luxuriant meadows, brings us to the summit of a fine swell, commanding an agreeable prospect of the house, the front of which directly faces us. In the construction of this building, which is the work of the present

proprietor, every regard has been had to elegance of effect; the simplicity of the design harmonizing admirably with the surrounding scenery, while the interior is fitted up with all the magnificence which is worthy of the lord of so noble an estate.

The congeniality of the taste of Mr. Shenstone's successor with that of the first improver of these romantic grounds, has been singularly fortunate, as to it many of the improvements of the poet are indebted for their completion, and those which he finished have received in many instances no small degree of heightening from the judicious alterations of the possessor.

Shenstone's remains are entombed within the church-yard at Hales Owen, and a pillar has been erected to his memory within the church. His works will, however, more effectually secure his fame, and his memory can never fail of being dear to all the admirers of Nature.

On the Pillar to the Memory of Shenstone, in the Chancel of Hales Owen Church, is the following Inscription.

Whoe'er thou art, with reverence tread
 These sacred mansions of the dead.
 Not that the monumental bust,
 Or sumptuous tomb here guards the dust;
 Of rich or great (let wealth, rank, birth,
 Sleep undistinguished in the earth,)
 This simple urn records a name
 That shines with more exalted fame.
 Reader! if genius, taste refin'd,
 A native elegance of mind;
 If virtue, science, manly sense,
 If wit that never gave offence;
 The clearest head, the tend'rest heart,
 In thy esteem e'er claim'd a part;
 Ah! smite thy breast, and drop a tear,
 For know thy Shenstone's dust lies here.

R. G. & J. HODGETS,

A. O. P.

The Leasowes are now in the possession of Matthias Atwood, Esq. and these delightful walks, although their beauties have been curtailed in a considerable degree by conveying the Netherton canal across the valley close by them, are still highly deserving the attention of all persons who take delight in rural scenery; and for the accommodation of those who are inclined to meditate and contemplate, numerous seats are fixed up in different directions. Such scenes as these walks afford are very seldom to be met with in any part of England; therefore, those who are in pursuit of amusement will not regret if they even devote one day to view them; and as they consist of hill and dale, it will of course cause some fatigue, which may with ease be alleviated, there being close at hand a neat and comfortable house of entertainment kept by Betty Taylor. The source of the river Stour is in these grounds.

Two miles hence we reach the boundary of the county, whence to Birmingham is a distance of five miles.

Journey from Birmingham to Tewkesbury, through Bromesgrove, Droitwich, Kempsey, and Severn Stoke.

About three miles from Birmingham we reach the boundary of the county, which is here formed by the Bourne Brook, and crossing Bourne Bridge we enter the county of Worcester, and soon after cross the Stratford-on-Avon canal at a little village called Selley Oak, and at the distance of about four miles and a half further we arrive at the foot of a long and disagreeable hill, called the Lickey, surmounting which, and what is called the Bromsgrove Lickey, we reach the ancient and respectable market town of

BROMSGROVE,

Which consists principally of a single street of nearly a mile in length. This town is situated

exactly midway between Birmingham and Worcester, being 13 miles distant from each. The river Salwarpe rises in its vicinity. It is 114 miles from London; in the reign of Edward I. it returned two members to parliament, but this franchise is not at present granted. The Grammar-school was founded by Edward VI. and its endowment enlarged by Sir Thomas Cooks. The church is a noble, ancient building, situated upon the summit of a hill, which you climb by 50 steps. The tower and spire have been much admired; their elevation is 189 feet; in the church are some curious painted windows.

The inhabitants carry on extensive dealings in worsted, of which there is a manufactory here, also in the manufacture of linen cloths, fish hooks, needles, nails, and linseys. Formerly there were manufactories of cotton, and broad and narrow superfine cloths; but these have been discontinued for many years.

The rivulets in the vicinity furnish trout, eels, and lamperns of the best quality, and in the greatest profusion. This town and manor formerly constituted part of the estates of John Scot, Earl of Chester, Huntingdon, &c. Upon his death Henry III. took possession of it, giving an equivalent to his three co-heiresses.

The parish of Bromsgrove contains 12 manors; a court baron for the recovery of small debts is held every three weeks in the town-hall, by the lord of the manor, or his deputy. There is a fine chalybeate at Barnet Green in this parish, but its virtues are little known, and less appreciated, except by the poor in its vicinity. In the neighbourhood of Hollywood, is a singular petrifying spring. The weekly market is held here upon Tuesday, and two annual fairs upon the 24th June, and the 1st of October.

Redditch, in this county, is the seat of the great needle manufactory, employing some hundred

persons.—(See Rees's Cyclopaedia, article NEEDLE, Vol. xxiv.)—An amusing account of the manner in which the manufacture of pins and needles was introduced into Great Britain, will be found in Mr. Parkes's Chemical Essays.

About a mile from Bromsgrove, upon the right, is Grafton Hall, the seat of Robert Gordon, Esq. The old mansion was destroyed, with the exception of the doorway and hall, in 1710, by fire; the new house is well adapted for the residence of an ancient and honourable family. About a mile from Bromsgrove is also the seat of Lady Mostyn, and near to Grafton Hall, Fininstall House, — Brittle, Esq.

About six miles from Bromsgrove, we reach the thriving and populous town of

DROITWICH,

Situated upon the banks of the little river Salwarp, at the distance of 95 miles from London, 7 from Worcester, 19 from Birmingham, 10 from Kidderminster, and 12 from Alcester. It is a corporate bailiwick, and returns two members to parliament. The government is vested in the hands of the recorder, town-clerk, &c. the right of election belongs to the two bailiffs, the recorder, and 11 burgesses, who are entitled the Corporation of the Salt Springs of Droitwich. The salt works are the chief support of this town, employing a very large number of the poor inhabitants. The antiquity of this manufacture is very great: its existence has been ascertained to be prior to the Norman Conquest. The Domesday Survey records that the salt works here paid every week during the season of weating, a tax of 16 bullions; at this time five salt springs were worked. The earliest mention of these works prior to the Conquest is in the reign of Athelstan.

The brine pits here are surprisingly productive, and almost inexhaustible, constantly overflowing

from the greatness of the springs which fill them; the brine is generally believed to be stronger than that of any other spring ever met with, holding in solution one-fourth part of salt, while the strongest in any other part of England contains only one-ninth, and indeed we do not believe that any wells have been yet discovered which contain so large a proportion as one-fifth of salt. In Germany, where salt is very scarce, they are in the habit of evaporating brine holding little more than three 40ths of salt in solution. Besides the salt appropriated to culinary purposes, and which is properly termed the Muriate of Soda (*Natron Muriatum* of the Lond. Nomenclature), it may not be amiss to remark that all natural salt waters likewise hold a number of other saline substances in solution, all of which are, in the language of chemistry, known by the name of Salts; of this kind are the Sulphate of Soda (Glauber's Purgin Salts, *Natrum Vitriolatum*), Sulphate of Magnesia (Epsom, or Bitter Purgin Salts, *Magnesia Vitriolata*), Muriate of Lime, &c. &c., it is the last of these, which we have enumerated, that mixes with the culinary salt when carelessly prepared, and occasions that deliquescence of which house-keepers so often complain. The pure Muriate of Soda rather effloresces than deliquesces, which latter never happens, unless when it is adulterated with some earthly muriate. To purify the salt from these foreign admixtures is the business of the manufacturer, and is accomplished by repeated solutions and crystallizations.

In 1773, as Dr. Nash informs us, Joseph Priddy of Droitwich had sunk several pits, and generally found that the talc was at the depth of about 150 feet below the surface; the thickness of this stratum of talc was 150 feet, beneath which a salt stream, of 22 inches in depth, was found running over a hard rock of salt. When the perforation

was completed through the talc, the brine rushed out with inconceivable rapidity.

The same person sunk another pit in the following year, when he found the stratum superincumbent upon the talc to be 53 feet thick, the layer of talc 102 feet, and beneath it a river of brine of the same depth as before, and also running over a rock of salt, into which he bored to the depth of two feet and a half, but found the rock perfectly homogeneous.

The antiquity of Droitwich is extreme: under the Saxon monarchs it gave name to the whole county. In the reign of William it was still populous; an accidental fire in 1290 reduced St. Andrew's Church, and much of the town to ashes; it soon, however, recovered from this misfortune, and obtained a number of privileges and immunities from many of our kings, especially John and Henry III. The bailiff is a justice of quorum, and a justice of the peace during the year succeeding to the termination of his office: the recorder is also a justice. There is an hospital here, which was founded in the year 1688. The weekly market is held upon Friday, and the annual fairs, upon the 13th of April, 16th of June, 22d and 24th of September, and 21st of December. The Market House was built in 1628.

A canal, communicating with the Severn, at a place called Hawford, within three miles of Worcester, opens a useful channel for the trade of this town; by it the greatest part of the salt manufactured here is conveyed to the Severn, and from thence dispersed by the various canals which communicate with that river, to different parts of the kingdom: by means of it, also, the town is supplied with coal, chiefly from the vicinity of Dudley, at a reasonable rate; the canal is of sufficient depth for vessels of 60 and 63 tons; its

length is about 7 miles, and the expence of its construction was about 25,000*l*.

Upon the road leading from Droitwich to Ombersley, is the venerable mansion of Westwood House, agreeably situated in an extensive and beautiful park, exhibiting a fine specimen of the ancient architecture, having undergone no material alterations or additions since the period of its first foundation in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

It consists of a square building, with projecting wings, of a parallelogrammic form at each angle; it is turreted after the plan of the CHATEAU DE MADRID, near Paris, or HOLLAND HOUSE, near Kensington, Middlesex. It stands upon an eminence in the park, which is richly wooded, and enlivened by a lake of nearly 100 acres, and affords a vast profusion of picturesque scenes.

At Westwood Park was formerly a Benedictine Nunnery, subordinate to the Monastery of Fontevraud. At the Dissolution, this house with its estates was granted by Henry VIII. to Sir John Packington, whose descendants still possess it. Westwood Park is also deserving of notice, as having afforded a secure asylum to Dr. Hammond, Bishops Morley, Fell, Gunning, and many others during the various troubles which distracted the kingdom. The apartments at Westwood House possess the same antique grandeur as its exterior does; they are decorated with some valuable paintings, chiefly family portraits.

A little to the south of Westwood Park, upon the banks of a little river of the same name, is the village of SALWARP, neatly built, and pleasantly situated between the river Salwarp and the Droitwich canal. The church is a small but neat structure, and contains a few monuments: upon an eminence, not very remote from the village, is HIGH PARK, the seat of Philip Gressley, Esq. an

elegant modern edifice, commanding a beautiful prospect, and presenting a handsome appearance.

A little to the left of the road leading from Droitwich to Worcester is HINLIP, an ancient mansion situated upon a rising ground. It was erected about the year 1572, by John Habingdon, Queen Elizabeth's cofferer. Its original construction was singular, and strikingly illustrative of the insecurity of the period at which it was built, being full of secret passages and retreats, calculated for the concealment of the family and property in cases of surprise. The ingenuity displayed in the contrivance of these is surprising, the access to some being through the chimnies, while others communicated by means of trap doors, with the back staircases, and presented externally the appearance of chimnies. The house is however greatly altered, and is at present occupied as a boarding-school for young ladies. Among the paintings which may be seen here is a curious portrait of the founder, John Habingdon, with the inscription, *ACADEX VA CHI TROPO ALTO SALE*, upon one side.

Not far from Hinlip, and situated between it and Worcester, is ROSE PLACE, commanding many beautiful prospects.

In the same neighbourhood is PERDISWELL, the elegant seat of H. Wakeman, Esq. agreeably situated at a convenient distance from the turnpike-road, and surrounded with many luxuriant plantations; the house is a modern building of freestone, and exhibits a handsome appearance from the road. Upon either side of the entrance to the avenue, is a carved figure, that upon the right being designed to represent Plenty, the other Commerce. The seat called the Blankets, in this neighbourhood, took its name from an old possessor of the name of Agnes Blanket; it is a strong commodious building of brick. Hence the

road leads us once more to the city of Worcester, already noticed: leaving which, by the great road to Bristol, we reach, at the distance of three miles, the village of KEMPSEY, pleasantly situated at an easy distance from the Severn; it is in general neatly built, and from being so great a thoroughfare is gradually increasing in wealth: among the gentlemen's houses those of Gen. Ellis, and J. Baker, Esq. chiefly merited and obtained our attention.

Long before the Conquest, the Bishops of Worcester had a palace here, remarkable for its elegance and magnificence. When the unfortunate issue of the battle of Lewes in Sussex, left Henry III. a captive in the hands of the barons, this palace was chosen as the place of his imprisonment; so completely, however, has it been demolished, that scarcely a vestige remains to fix its site.

The church here is a neat edifice, built in the form of a cross; it has no pretensions to antiquity, and contains but few monuments of any interest. Prior to the dissolution there was a college of secular priests, which falling to the crown upon the suppression, it was given in exchange to the dean and chapter of Worcester. Not far hence are some traces of a camp or fortification, erroneously ascribed by some to the Romans; its importance may be inferred from the strength which is yet evident in its ruins: the period of the Danish and Saxon contests was most probably the era of its foundation.

About a mile hence, upon the right of the road, is a little hamlet, called CLIFTON, and about two miles further is the village of SEVERN STOKES, pleasantly situated along the road. Here is the seat of the Rev. J. St. John, Prebendary of Worcester, who occasionally resides here. In the church is a monument, erected by the illustrious Lord Somers, baron of Evesham, to the memory of his parents.

Two miles hence is the village of EARL'S CROME,

a little beyond which are two branches from the road : that to the right leading across the Severn to Upton, distant about one mile; that to the left leading to Pershore, distant about seven miles. Upon the right of this last road is CROME COURT, the elegant seat of the Earl of Coventry. From having formerly been the property of Urfo d' Abetot this place was long known by the name of Cromb or Crome Abetot. The park and manor were purchased in the year 1535, by Sir Thomas Coventry, an ancestor of the present earl. who was justice of the court of Common Pleas. His son Thomas was distinguished as an able statesman, and was promoted to the woolsack by Charles I. to whom he ever continued a zealous adherent. In 1697, Thomas, then Baron Coventry, was advanced to the dignity of Earl of Coventry and Lord Viscount Deerhurst.

Brown, who planned the present mansion, has exhibited no small display of skill in the disposition of the apartments, and their adaptation to part of an old building which is preserved. In the Vitruvius Britannicus, those who are curious in these matters, will find an excellent ground-plan and elevation of this house.

The grounds are laid out with considerable taste; we could not, however, avoid regretting the too great regularity every where observable in the artificial river. We shall conclude our account by a description from the pen of an ingenious modern tourist: "The grounds are excellent, and kept in the finest order. On leaving the house you turn through a shrubbery, filled with a choice assemblage of plants, to a small building, on an eminence, called the *Rotunda*, whence is a prospect of hill, wood, and dale, and of every beauty that can give richness to the scene. Nature has, in this view, poured out a profusion of her bounties. Still continuing through the shrubbery,

which affords a pleasant variety, you arrive at a neat modern-built church, in the Gothic style. Here the scene diversifies, and opens a somewhat more extensive prospect. No situation could have afforded more conveniency for the mansion, nor could the eye have wished for a more commanding view. Leaving the church you enter a shrubbery, which is much inferior to the preceding, but at the end is adorned with green-houses, amply stored with a variety of exotics. From the green-house you pass through a nursery of young trees of all denominations, and come at length to a machine, which, by the labour of a single horse, supplies the canal with water in the summer season.

“ Quitting this, you descend on one side of the church into another shrubbery, in the same degree of order, but superior in beauty to that which commences near the house; and about the centre of it come to another green-house, considerably larger than the former, and serving the purpose of a lively apartment, upon the removal of the plants into the open air.

“ Thence proceeding you pass under the high-road, and enter upon a highly delightful and picturesque walk along the borders of the river. Here, indeed, Mr. Brown has exerted his judgment and taste with the greatest success; for, instead of a marshy piece of ground, as he found it, it is now worked into a beautiful sheet of water, with several little islands interspersed.

“ To one of these little islands, where a small pavilion is erected, there are two bridges, over both of which we passed, and thence for a considerable way, tracing the confines of the water, and encountering fresh beauties at every step we advanced, we at length arrived at a small boat, which worked by the aid of pulleys carried us across the water, and landed us within a few paces

of our carriage. Much pains have evidently been taken in laying out these grounds, and the whole is kept in the most proper order."

Besides the applause thus bestowed upon the taste and elegance displayed in this princely park and mansion, the earl receives no small commendation from the accurate author of the *Agricultural View of Worcestershire*, for the encouragement which he gives to agricultural enterprise, and for the good example he himself furnishes in the management of his own farms. Not less than 1400 acres of land in the vicinity of Crome House are cultivated under his lordship's own immediate inspection, and exhibit an admirable specimen of farming, well deserving the imitation of most of the agriculturists of the kingdom.

The public spirit of the noble earl has not exhausted itself upon mere agricultural improvement; he has taken an interest in every thing which could contribute to the prosperity of the country, and it was a common observation of the late Judge Perrot, that Lord Coventry had brought a *million* of money into Worcestershire, by his skilful exertions in making roads through the county.

Returning to the Tewkesbury road, we pass through the little hamlet of Naunton, and at the distance of one mile and a half further reach STRATFORD, a little to the left of which, at some distance from the road, is the little village of STRENSHAM, famous for having given birth to Butler, the illustrious but unfortunate author of the celebrated mock-heroic poem of *Hudibras*.

At Stratford we enter the county of Gloucester; hence through the village of Twinning to Tewkesbury, is a distance of about five miles and a half, through an agreeable country. Immediately before we enter this ancient and respectable town, we cross the classic waters of the Avon, which at

this place pours its tributary waters into the bosom of the majestic Severn: Tewkesbury has been long famous for its stocking manufactory: our description of it will be found in our account of the County of Gloucester.

Journey from Worcester to Upton, through Great and Little Malvern: continued back again to Worcester, through Hanley and Powick.

Crossing the Severn, we quit Worcester, and, at the distance of about two miles, reach the agreeable village of POWICK, memorable as having given birth to the illustrious Dr. Wall, who possessed a great versatility of talent, excelling not only in the professional sciences of Therapeutics and Chemistry, but cultivating the elegant accomplishment of painting with no small success.

From its agreeable situation, Powick is become the residence of many respectable families, whose houses are in general remarkable for their neatness, and from the elevation of their sites command extremely rich and beautiful prospects. Among the most elegant houses, that belonging to William Russel, Esq. is the most conspicuous.

In the year 1642, a battle, distinguished by the name of the Skirmish of Wickfield, was fought near this village, on a spot situated between Powick Bridge and the Cherry Orchard.

At Powick the road divides, that to the left going direct to Upton through Hanley. Taking that which branches off to the right, in a south-western direction, we reach the village of NEWLAND GREEN, distant about three miles from Powick. In the vicinity of this village, somewhat to the left of the road, is situated MADDERSFIELD, or Maddresfield, a venerable specimen of those ancient castles, which, amidst the tumultuous periods of feudal despotism, furnished the barons with retreats absolutely impregnable before the

discovery of gunpowder, and its introduction into military use. A deep moat surrounds the castle, which is entered by a bridge. The apartments have, however, been greatly divested of their gloomy grandeur, and present a cheerful appearance; the windows command a delightful prospect of the Malvern Hills, with the village of Great Malvern reposing at their base; the woodland scenery which intervenes is also extremely beautiful. The park is judiciously laid out, and is agreeably diversified by pieces of artificial water.

Maddersfield was once the residence of the ancient family of the Bracys. William Bracy was returned as an esquire into the Exchequer, during the reign of Henry IV. and required to attend the king's person with horse and arms into France. In the year 1421, Joane Bracy, heiress of this family, married Thomas Lygon, one of a family that came over with William from Normandy: by this marriage the name of Bracy was lost, and that of Lygon succeeded: the present possessor is Earl Beauchamp.

About two miles from Newland Green, seated at the foot of the long range of hills which take their name from it, is the village of GREAT MALVERN. The Malvern Hills rise immediately west of this village, and possess an elevation at their highest point of about 1313 feet above the surface of the Severn at Hanley; from their situation, however, in a country little diversified with hills, their height appears to a stranger much greater than it really is. These hills possess the advantage of a most salubrious air, and furnish innumerable picturesque and romantic scenes; their principal celebrity arises, however, from their wells, which have their source on the eastern side, at some distance from the village of Great Malvern. The water obtained from these wells is remarkable for

its purity, the solid contents of two quarts being little more than three grains, of which one is oxyde of iron, another muriate of lime, and the third a small portion of alumina: from the simplicity of its composition, and the great improbability of the ferruginous contents, when in so very minute a portion, producing any effect upon the constitution, we are inclined to attribute the surprising cures ascribed to the medicinal virtue of the waters, more to the salubrity of the air, the greater regularity of living, the hilarity of the scene, and the more than customary exercise in which the invalids indulge themselves, than to the problematical effect of the waters, taken in the small and divided portions usually prescribed. Exercise and temperance are, indeed, in most cases, the best and cheapest physicans. The water of these wells is very limpid.

In Mr. Pitt's survey of the county, he remarks, that the medical effects of Malvern Wells are much assisted by the pure air and delightful landscape from its elevated situation, which commands an uninterrupted view into Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire. The Cotswold Hills seem near at hand, though 25 or 30 miles distant; and the Bredon at half that distance almost under one's feet. The Vale of Severn, and the greatest part of the County of Worcester comes under the eye at one view; and here are good hotels, and comfortable lodging-houses.

Those who delight in contemplating the grand and romantic scenery of nature, will find at Malvern abundant gratification; the rambles over these delightful hills are at once grateful to the eye, and healthful to the body. Dr. Brookes, the author of the poem of Malvern, was an enthusiastic admirer of this romantic place, and in one part of it breaks out into the following extatic address.

“ Oh! ever could I wander o’er those lawns,
Beside thy stream, thou purest spring that flows!
Climb each bold eminence, and daily find
Some object new for wonder; the deep glades
Traverse, imbower’d by intertwining trees;
Drink at the rill that murmurs at my feet
And think it luxury; for ever gaze
On the wild scene around me, where conspire
Nature’s all generous offspring to exalt
And warm the soul.”

Dr. Nash, in his excellent description of the county of Worcester, says: “ It is beyond the power of an antiquary to describe the beautiful prospects from this hill (Malvern). If a distant view delights, here you may see the counties of Monmouth, Hereford, Radnor, Brecknock, Salop, Worcester, Gloucester, Stafford, Warwick, &c. and the three cathedrals of Worcester, Gloucester, and Hereford, together with many market towns. If you are pleased with a nearer view, the pear-trees of Worcestershire, when in blossom, furnish such a scene as the world besides cannot equal. On the western side the apple trees in Herefordshire, with their purple hue, make an agreeable diversity; add to this the varied ground, the beautiful little hills, and rich woods, which improve the Herefordshire prospect. If to the beauty of the situation, we add the salubrity and pureness of the air, we may venture to report, that, at least for the summer months, Malvern is as desirable a residence as any in England.”

The Malvern hills lie in the counties of Worcester, Gloucester, and Herefordshire, but mostly in the first county; they are nine miles in length, and from one to two broad. The oldest of the springs that rises from them is called “ The Holy Well;” this is two miles from Great and one from Little Malvern. St. Anne’s Well,

equally salutary and pure but less used, lies about a quarter of a mile above Great Malvern Church; and can only be approached on foot by a zigzag ascent. Great Malvern is eight miles from Worcester, and twenty-two from Cheltenham. The inns and hotels afford good accommodations; but it is remarked that the former charge threepence a mile for posting more than at other places in the neighbourhood. The environs of Malvern are highly diversified.

Two miles from the wells is Blackmore Park; and four miles distant from Worcester is Maddresfield, the delightful residence of the Lygon family, and a venerable specimen of those castles which in the feudal times served to render the barons secure against any force, scarcely excepting that of the monarchs of those times.

Relative to the virtues of the water of St. Anne's Well, the late Dr. Wall of Worcester says it does not contain any uncommon vitriolic acid, volatile alkali, or metallic salt; but is slightly impregnated with fixed air, some common air, and a little unneutralized calcareous earth. Hence the principal virtue must depend upon its extreme purity, assisted by the fixed air which it contains. The Dr. declared he had found it beneficial in scrofulous cases, cutaneous eruptions, and nephritic complaints; and remarked that the temperate warmth of the air, with the great purity of the water at Malvern, induced him to consider that place peculiarly favourable for patients afflicted with nervous disorders, or inclined to consumptions, especially in the summer and autumnal months.

From the great influx of company to this now highly-fashionable watering place, greater attention has of late been paid to the accommodation of visitors. A large house, called the Wells House,

has been built within these few years, immediately at the Wells. Many persons have been tempted by its delightful and healthy situation to make the villages of Great and Little Malvern, or their vicinity, their place of permanent residence.

The foundation stone of a new public Library and Music-room erected by the liberality of Edward Foley, Esq. was laid in the summer of 1819. It is conveniently situated between the two principal hotels adjoining the new walk, called Devereux Terrace.

At the village of Great Malvern formerly stood an abbey of Regular Monks, founded during the Saxon Heptarchy; at the Dissolution this, however, shared the common fate. Part of its ruins still remains; of these the fine gothic porch, and the church, now made parochial, merit most attention.

In the Link, in the parish of Great Malvern, was found, many feet under ground, a celt, weighing 10 ounces, about five inches and a half long, of a mixed metal, between brass and copper, with a beautiful patina upon it, and a small ring or loop. What was the use of celts is a point yet at issue among antiquarians, who are no less undecided as to their origin. Stukely, with his customary zeal for the credit of the ancient Druids, ascribes these instruments to them, and concludes these to have been the hooks which were employed in cutting the misletoe. From the frequency of their occurrence, however, in the vicinity of those camps whose origin was indisputably Roman, it appears more probable that they were used as warlike instruments either by the Romans, or their Gaulish auxiliaries.

About four miles from Great Malvern is the village of LITTLE MALVERN, situated in a romantic recess of the hills. Here, in the year 1171, Joceline and Edred, two brothers, founded a

Benedictine Priory, of which they were successively priors; this priory was augmented by Bishop Blois, and made a cell to Worcester. At the Dissolution its revenues were estimated at 98*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* per annum. It is now mostly in ruins; only part of the nave remaining, and on its windows considerable fragments of paintings, and several ancient monuments.

Upon the summit of the hill above Little Malvern is a camp, treble-ditched, which some foolishly conjecture to have been Roman, because of the *prætorium* or centre part, and the name of the parish in which it is situated, *Colwall*, which they say is derived from *Collis vallum*. But this supposition is overthrown by its shape; it is certainly prior to the trench before-mentioned, for part of which its outward trench serves.

Within a short distance of this camp a coronet, or bracelet of gold, set with precious stones, was found by a cottager of the name of Thomas Taylor, as he was digging round his habitation; ignorant of its real value, he sold it for the trifling sum of 37*l.* to a goldsmith in Gloucester of the name of Hall, by whom it was afterwards sold for 250*l.* to the London jewellers, who made 500*l.* of the jewels alone. This belonged, in all likelihood, to some unfortunate British, or Anglo-Saxon prince, to whom the camp we have just noticed belonged.

Along the brow of the Malvern hills may still be traced the enormous remains of the stupendous fosse, constructed originally by Gilbert de Clare to divide his possessions from those of the church of Worcester.

Little Malvern was a priory founded in 1171 by two brothers. Jocelyn and Edred, and it maintained a prior and seven monks till the Dissolution. The church is partly in ruins, and forms a very picturesque and interesting object, particu-

larly where the ruins of the cross aisle on each side, with their gothic windows and fine tracery, still remain. The outside of the body of the church as well as the ruinous parts are covered with mantling ivy, whose deep green in some places is well contrasted with the glow of some remnants of painted glass and armorial bearing. The inside of the building, however, is poor in the extreme, though formerly the windows, like those of Great Malvern church, were filled with storied ornaments. In the east window of the choir were likenesses of Edward IV., his Queen, and their children, now, with several other ornaments, nearly obliterated.

Leaving Little Malvern, we arrive, after a short ride of about six miles, at the market-town of

UPTON-UPON-SEVERN,

Which gives name to one of the hundreds of the county; at this place a harbour has been constructed for barges. The Church is a neat edifice, with a square tower at its western extremity; it was built in the year 1758; there is a clock, and also a good ring of bells in the tower. There is a Charity School for sixty girls. A stone bridge of sixteen arches crosses the Severn here. The weekly market is held upon Thursday, and the annual fairs upon the first Thursday after Mid-lent, the Thursday in Whitsun-week, the Thursday before St. Matthew's-day, and the second of September. The population of Upton amounts to upwards of 1800.

Upton gave birth to the learned but eccentric John Dee, who was remarkable for his vanity, credulity, and enthusiasm, being alternately a dupe and a cheat. Mr. Walpole got possession, on his death, of the black stone brought to him, as he pretended, by the angels. He died in extreme poverty at Mortlake, in the year 1608, having at-

tained the advanced age of 87. At Hanley Green is Hanley Castle, the seat of Thomas Hornvold, Esq.; and at Severn End, that of Edmund Lechmere Charlton, Esq.

Near to the Severn is the RHVD, an agreeable seat belonging to Sir Anthony Lechmere, Bart. and Drake's Place, John Allen, Esq. Near this place the banks of the river rise to a considerable height. There is a noble wood to the south of the house, stretching along the cliffs which overhang the river, and commanding numberless rich and extensive views, the towers and spires of the city of Worcester appearing in the distance to the north. form a pleasing termination to the prospect; much remains for the hand of art to contribute to the embellishment of this spot.

Severn End, the venerable mansion of Edmund Lechmere Charlton, Esq. should from its geographical position have obtained a priority of notice. The family to whom this ancient seat belongs, came originally from the Netherlands, and the head of it served under William the Conqueror, in return for which he was rewarded with a grant of lands in Hanley, which from this circumstance obtained the name of *Lechmere's Place*, and *Lechmere's Field*. In the year 1721, Nicholas Lechmere was raised to the dignity of baron of Evesham: he bore the character of being a good lawyer, and a quick and distinguished orator; he was much courted by the Whigs; and his temper was hot and violent. His impetuosity leading him once to speak in the house immediately upon taking the oaths, one of the members facetiously objected to him, on the plea of his not being a *sitting* member, he not having taken his seat in the house between the time of his taking the oaths, and addressing the chair.

At a house in this parish, known by the name of Bonner's Place, we are informed by Lord Lech-

mere, that the celebrated bishop of the same name was born, his parents being honest but poor; his lordship further adds that his grandfather was intimately acquainted with Bishop Bonner, from whom he received many favours, in return for kindnesses shewn by the Lechmeres to him in his childhood.

In this neighbourhood also, upon the opposite side of the road, not far from Hanley Green, was HANLEY CASTLE, of which Leland makes the following mention. "Hamley is from Upton a mile in dextra ripa Sabrinæ, a mile above Upton and a flint shotte from Severn. It is an uplandisch towne, the castelle standith in a parke at the west end of the towne. Sir John Savage, and his father and grauntfather, lay much about Hamley and Theokesburi, as keepers of Hamley. The arles of Glouster were owners of this castelle and lay much there. Mr. Cometon clene defaced it in his time, being keeper of it after Savage."

Hanley Castle stood at no great distance from the Severn, and was formerly the residence of the Dukes of Warwick, and afterwards of Lord De Spencer. It was a large quadrangular structure, with a tower at each angle, the keep was situated in the north-west angle, and a deep moat surrounded the whole; at present, however, not the smallest vestige of this strong and extensive fortification remains.

The manor of Hanley was granted in the reign of Elizabeth to the family of the Hornyolds, who are matrimonially allied to the Lygons, Russells, and most of the other great families in the neighbourhood; by the female line they are descended from the Butlers, a branch of the Duke of Ormond's family.

During the civil wars in the time of Charles I. the Hornyolds suffered severely: Thomas Hornyold raised a troop of horse at his own expense,

and joined the king's forces under the command of the Earl of Cleveland. When the fortune of war decided in favour of the parliamentary armies, Captain Hornyold was reduced to the necessity of flying from the kingdom, the Parliament having declared him guilty of treason, and directed the sequestration of his estates; in consequence of which a large quantity of timber was cut down and sold to reimburse the losses of an alderman of Worcester of the name of Elwins, who was an adherent of the republican party. The manor of Hanley continues, however, in the possession of the Hornyold family.

In the year 1787, a circular cavity was discovered by a shepherd's boy in a corn field in the parish of Upton; upon examination it was found to be the entrance to a cavern of considerable dimensions, sunk about ten feet below the surface, and extending in every direction about 20 feet. At about 30 or 40 feet is a body of water, of the estimated depth of about 140 feet. Various conjectures originated from this discovery, some attributing these excavations to a convulsion of nature, others to the hand of art; their origin cannot, however, be a matter of much importance to us, we shall therefore wave all further discussion of so barren a subject.

About one mile and three quarters beyond Hanley Green, on the left of the road, is DRIPSILL, the agreeable seat of Richard Chambers, Esq.; it is pleasantly situated under the brow of a richly-wooded hill, and exhibits a handsome appearance from the road. The house is an elegant structure, and we cannot but regret that the circumstance of the family being at home, joined to our inability to procure an introduction, precludes the possibility of our giving an account of the interior of the house, or the disposition of the grounds. We must not, however, repine at the exclusion of vi-

siters who come unrecommended by any introduction, as their promiscuous admission would be a most disagreeable incroachment upon the domestic privacy of the family, and would besides expose the improvements to the wanton depredations of the many idlers who would embrace the favourable opportunity of amusing themselves at the cost of the proprietor.

Three miles and a half hence, we reach the pleasing village of CALLOW END GREEN; in the vicinity of which is BEAUCHAMP'S COURT, formerly designed as a residence for the noble family of that name. The plan, however, was never completed, and the wing, which alone was finished, is at present occupied as a farm-house. One mile and a half further we re-enter Powick; a quarter of a mile beyond which we cross, by a stone bridge, the river Teme, near its confluence with the Severn. Hence to Worcester is a distance of about one mile and three quarters, which terminates this journey.

*Journey from Kidderminster to Worcester,
through Stourport and Ombersley.*

Four miles from Kidderminster we reach the small but thriving town of STOURPORT, seated at the junction of the Staffordshire canal with the Severn. This town presents a striking instance of the rapid benefits arising from industrious commerce: previous to the completion of this great national work, which opens a communication by water between the Severn and the Mersey, as well as the many ramifying canals which variously intersect the country and facilitate the conveyance of merchandise, the site of this town was almost totally a barren, sandy, and unprofitable heath, on which a few scattered cottages exhibited a picture of desolation, and too plainly bespoke the miserable poverty of their tenants. Since the opening of the canal, however, these hovels, for they were

indeed but little better, have vanished as it were by magic, and a neatly-built bustling mercantile town has succeeded them. With the fresh accessions of wealth, it receives an addition of comfortable and even elegant houses, and its wharfs, bason and commerce, present a lively representation of a little sea-port.

By means of the canal from hence an easy communication is opened with most of the principal towns in the north; by this channel the porcelain manufactured at Worcester is conveyed for exportation to Liverpool, Hull, &c. and coals are brought back in return from the pits in Staffordshire, &c. The bason at Stourport was opened in the year 1771, the sum of 105,000*l.* having been expended in its construction.

Upon the opposite side of the river, at a short distance from Stourport, is the fine old seat of the Mutchtors, which passed by marriage, in the year 1766, to the family of the Zacharys; a handsome modern house has been lately built near it, the design of which is elegant, but its situation is too low and confined. The rectory house belongs to the Rev. G. Hulme; and in a handsome house near it resides the Rev. Reginald Pyndar.

Contiguous to this is the neat village of ARLEY, whose handsome church, situated upon an eminence, and having the rectory adjoining it, presents a picturesque appearance. Contiguous to these is the pleasant village of GLASSHAMPTON, commonly called GLASSON, in which is the seat of Denham Cookes, Esq.

Returning to Stourport, we digress a little to the left of our course to visit the venerable seat of the Bishops of Worcester at HARTLEBURY CASTLE.—“The Castle of *Hertlebury*,” says the accurate Leland, “belongeth to the bishop of Worcester; by the act of several bishops ther is a parke and deere, a warren for coneys, and faire

pools, but the soil about the castelle is barren." Hartlebury was given to the see of Worcester by Burhed, king of Mercia. About the year 850, Bishop Cantelupe commenced the foundation of the castle; and Bishop Gifford obtained permission in the reign of Henry III. to embattle it. Bishop Carpenter added the gate house in the reign of Henry. In 1646, having been taken by the Parliamentary forces, it was sold for the sum of 3,133l. to Thomas Westrow, by whom it was taken down; but was soon after rebuilt with augmented splendour, and ranks at present among the most elegant episcopal palaces in the island: being deservedly admired for the excellence and regularity of its architecture, the magnificence of its apartments, and the grandeur of its *tout ensemble*.

When, upon the restoration of the profligate Charles to the throne of his ancestors, the harassed nation was indulged in the temporary repose of peace, the palace at Hartlebury received vast improvements and additions from that truly worthy prelate Dr. Hough, whose unassuming virtues and engaging manners justly endeared him to the inhabitants of his diocese during a space of nearly 44 years, in which he possessed the bishopric of Worcester.

The following anecdote is strongly illustrative of the natural benevolence and amenity of his temper, even at the advanced period of ninety, when age and infirmity render most men peevish and ill-tempered.

A nephew of Lord Digby having called about the hour of dinner to pay his respects to the bishop, the servant through some awkwardness, in placing a chair for him at the table, threw down a valuable barometer, which, as was well known, the bishop prized highly. The gentleman who was the remote cause of the misfortune began to excuse the servant, but was interrupted by the good-hu-

moured prelate, who begged him not to be under any concern at the accident ; “ for,” continued he, with a most benevolent smile, “ I am much beholden to you for it ; we have had a very dry season, and I now hope we shall have rain, as I never saw the glass so *low* in all my life.”

When Dr. Maddox was elevated to the see of Worcester, the chapel belonging to this palace was in a very dilapidated condition ; it was, however, repaired by the direction of that prelate, and the broken glass of the windows replaced by new panes, which were painted by Price, after the designs of Dr. Wall, of Worcester, whom we have already noticed. Bishop Maddox expended upon these repairs the sum of 1,200*l*.

The munificence of the late Dr. Hurd, Bishop of Worcester, who, in the year 1783, declined accepting of the primacy of England, has contributed a large and valuable library to the use of his successors in this bishopric. In this is included the splendid collection of books bequeathed by Bishop Warburton, to his friend Bishop Hurd. The principal part of the buildings, as they now stand, were the work of Bishop Hough, though much is owing to the munificence of Bishop Hurd. Being built of brick, comfort is its principal feature, though many of its windows being finished with plain gothic arches, and its roof lined with battlements, with some turrets and belfries, it has altogether an air of grandeur when seen through the breaks of the surrounding wood. Its situation is extremely pleasing ; placed on a rising hill or knoll, it has to the south a most extensive prospect over the vale of Severn, and it occupies a very extended space on the level of the park. The village of Hartlebury and its gothic church lie at the bottom.

A little to the south-east of Hartlebury Castle is situated WALESBY GREEN, belonging to the daughter of the late Mr. Baker, who is a minor, and

whose thriving plantations contribute not a little to enrich the scenery.

Returning from this digression to the recently established, but rapidly increasing town of Stourport, we were led to visit an ancient Hermitage, situated at a short distance from the road between this town and Bewdley: it is a curious vault, cut out of black-stone rock, and divided into a cell for the habitation of the hermit, and a chapel for his devotions; its contiguity to the Severn furnished him with a beautiful prospect, and the neighbouring woods contributed greatly to render this a most enchanting place of retirement. Dr. Stukeley, in his *Itinerarium Curiosum*, has presented us with a ground plan of this singular cavern. At present this is a storehouse for cheese, potatoes, and agricultural implements, belonging to Mr. Court, within whose grounds it stands.

Quitting Stourport, we cross the little river Stour, from whence the town derives its name, and passing through the little villages of LYNCOMB and NORTHAMPTON, reach that of OMBERSLEY, distant about five miles north of Worcester. The Church here is dedicated to Saint Andrew, and has a handsome spire; the interior is neatly pewed, and commodiously adapted to the accommodation of the parishioners. There is a Charity-school here, for the education of the children of those whose poverty renders them unable to send them to other schools. Edward III. granted the inhabitants of this village a charter for a fair and weekly market. The situation is healthy, and the surrounding country extremely beautiful; the Severn flows within a short distance to the west of this place, and the woods, which surround the ancient Castle of Holt upon the opposite bank, greatly enrich the prospect, which is further enlivened by the white sails of the trows and barges which are constantly plying upon the river.

The parish of Ombersley is a large one, containing 17 hamlets, and measuring 12 miles in circuit.

Adjoining to the village is OMBERSLEY COURT, the pleasant seat of the Marchioness of Downshire. This appears to have been a place of great antiquity? The Sandys', who at present are lords of the manor, came originally from the county of Cumberland, where they possessed considerable estates. The first person of this name, of whom we find any mention made, is a Dr. Sandys, whom Elizabeth created Bishop of Worcester, and elevated afterwards to the archbishopric of York; Samuel, the eldest son of this prelate, purchased the manor of Ombersley. George, brother to Samuel, the first Lord Sandys, distinguished himself as a poet and a traveller; he published an account of the state of society and manners in Turkey, Egypt, and Palestine, which he visited and examined with the most accurate attention: his observations upon these countries have been fully established by the concurring testimonies of later writers. Of the excellence of his poetic efforts no doubt can be entertained after the high encomiums passed upon them by the sagacious Dryden, who pronounces our author to have been the best versifier of his age.—Pope is said to have acquired his taste for poetry from the perusal of Sandys's elegant translation of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*.

Ombersley Court is a handsome building, pleasantly situated in a well-wooded park. It was built by the first Lord Sandys, shortly after his purchase of the estate; it is now the property of the Dowager Marchioness of Downshire, who has lately rebuilt it: the apartments are commodious, and contain a collection of good paintings, many of which belonged originally to the Earl of Orford.

The paintings of most merit are, a portrait of Charles Louis, Prince Elector, and brother to

Prince Rupert; this portrait is from the pencil of Vandyke; and an excellent picture by Dobson upon the subject of Colonel Russel, Lord Orford's father, having thrown up his commission in disgust. The picture represents the Colonel, with Prince Rupert and Colonel Murray, over a bottle: the Prince and Murray are endeavouring to persuade Russel to resume his commission; Russel's hand rests upon the flask, and his countenance exhibits a very maudlin appearance. Murray, with a sly look, short hair, Scotch complexion, and military countenance, is seen dipping a cockade into a glass of burgundy, thus intimating that he has trepanned Russel into a re-acceptance of his commission. Prince Rupert appears in the back ground somewhat fuddled.—The tout ensemble of the group is truly ridiculous; Lord Orford paid 400*l.* for this painting.

A road about four miles leads from Ombersley to Droitwich: upon the left of this road is Westwood Park, the seat of Sir John Packington, already noticed in our journey from Birmingham to Tewkesbury.

A little to the left of the road to Worcester is the little village of Salwarp, also noticed in that journey. The village of HAWFORD, in the vicinity of which the little river of Salwarp and the Droitwich Canal form their junction with the Severn, is agreeably situated, and commands beautiful views over the valley through which the canal and river wind. We here cross the streams of both by neat stone bridges, and soon after enter the village of CLAINES, which is about two miles north of Worcester, and contains many elegant houses.

Claines was originally only a chapelry to the parochial church of St. Helen's in the city of Worcester, it is now however erected into a distinct

parish of great extent; the parish church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist.

In this parish is situated the delightful hamlet of BEVERE, pleasantly seated upon the bank of the Severn, opposite to the little island of the same name, which has acquired such celebrity from having afforded a safe retreat to the rebellious inhabitants of Worcester in the reign of Hardicanute, of which a more detailed account has been already given in our ancient history of the city of Worcester.

The island of Bevere afforded an asylum a second time to the inhabitants of Worcester in the year 1637. when the plague devastated the city, and the adjoining country.

The air and situation of the village of Bevere are remarkably dry and salubrious, and the prospect it commands highly picturesque and beautiful. The proximity of the Severn is also very advantageous, at once enlivening the prospect, and affording the conveniency of cold bathing to those who are not deterred from this wholesome practice by the muddy appearance of the water. Among the many neat mansions which beautify this delightful hamlet, is the handsome seat of the learned author of the History of Worcestershire, the Rev. T. Nash, D. D.

Here are the water works which supply the citizens of Worcester with that important article: the reservoir is 100 feet in height, and is ornamented at top with cannon.

The road hence to Worcester is extremely pleasant, being kept constantly in the best repair, and having upon each side neat seats belonging to the different citizens of Worcester, who, in imitation of their brethren in the metropolis are equally desirous of breathing a little pure air, whenever the occasional relaxations of business will permit them.

Many of these houses are built with taste, and have neat shrubberies interposed between them and the road. At Worcester we terminate our journey.

Journey from Worcester to Alcester, through Spetchley, Churchill, Upton Snodsbury, Grafton Flyford, Flyford Flayell, and Rous Lench.

At about two miles from Worcester we reach the little village of SPETCHLEY, a place of very remote antiquity, which gave name to an ancient family called De Spetchley. Sir Thomas Lyttleton, with whose admirable works every barrister is acquainted, purchased this manor in the reign of Edward IV. It came afterwards into the possession of a family of the name of Silden, and from them passed to Rowland Berkeley, Esq. of the city of Worcester, for which city he at that time sat as a representative in parliament. This gentleman entailed the estate upon his second son, Sir Robert Berkeley, knight, who was a justice of the court of King's Bench.

The manor house was burnt by the royalists, a little before the battle of Worcester, notwithstanding the known attachment of its owner to the cause of the misguided Charles, which had brought down upon him the vengeance of the Parliament, by whom he had been fined in the sum of 20,000*l.* and confined for some time in the Tower of London. Sir Robert, after the destruction of his country-seat by the forces of the party which he espoused, and of his town by the troops of the enemy, is said to have fitted up his stables for a temporary place of residence, and to have lived in them with comfort, and even with splendour, bearing his losses with that fortitude which best bespeaks a great mind, ever superior to the vexations of this imperfect world.

Having confirmed the regard of his friends, and commanded the admiration of his enemies by

his manly dignity and inviolable integrity, this excellent man died in the year 1661, universally regretted: his descendants still possess the estate.

The Church of Spetchley is a neat building of stone, with a square tower at its western extremity: here are some good monuments, one to the memory of Rowland Berkeley, Esq. grandfather to Sir Robert, the justice of the King's Bench; and another to the memory of the Judge himself, who is represented as attired in his judicial robes, with a scroll of parchment in his right hand.

Not far from Spetchley is an eminence, with a small but neat house upon its summit, commanding a beautiful and widely-extended view over the rich vale of Worcester, and across the Severn, to where the distant hills of Malvern raise their blue summits to the skies, tinged with the rich purple of the setting sun. This eminence is distinguished, from its shape, by the name of Round Hill, and resembles the other barrows, or artificial mounds, which we so often observe in those places where sanguinary battles have been fought between the Danes and the Saxons.

To the north of Spetchley are the dilapidated ruins of HODINGTON, formerly the seat of the Winters, of whom Robert and his brother Thomas were concerned in the Gunpowder Plot; the mansion is entirely surrounded by a moat, which is, however, in many places nearly filled up with rubbish.

Spetchley is situated in the hundred of Oswaldslow, the name of which has long been a bone of contention among antiquarians, Spelman improperly translating it *Lex Oswaldi*, through his ignorance of the true meaning of the word *Low* or *Law*, which in the language of our Saxon ancestors was synonymous with our modern term *Hill*; an instance of this is observable upon the banks of the Firth of Forth, where, near the paltry

fishing village of North Berwick, in the county of East Lothian, a singularly formed isolated eminence is known by the appellation of North Berwick Law, or Low, which would but ill admit of Spelman's fanciful translation.

Oswaldslow hundred lies dispersed in different parts of the county, and consists of three divisions, which are distinguished by the names of Upper, Middle, and Lower; its name is derived from Oswald, Bishop of Worcester, who obtained a grant of it from Edgar. The following is the account of it as entered in the Domesday Survey: "The church of St. Mary at Worcester has the hundred called Oswaldslow, in which lie 300 hides, of which the bishop of this church, by ancient constitution, had all the revenues of the socs and other customs therein, belonging to the lord's maintenance, and the king's service, and his own, so that no sheriff can have any claim there, neither in any plea nor any other cause. This is attested by the whole county." The foregoing extensive immunities were confirmed to the bishop by the first and second Henries, and augmented by the third, in consequence of his father John having been interred at Worcester Cathedral. The bailiwick consisted of a three-weeks court; there were held besides seven court-leets, for the hundred, either on great commons, in fields, or on hills under trees. The bailiffs were, and still continue, in the election of the bishop, who generally appoints gentlemen of the county to that office; in consequence of the expence more than counterbalancing the profits of the court-leets, they are held but seldom, and with little regularity. Oswaldslow is the largest of the six hundreds into which this county is divided, and contains, incorporated with it, the hundreds of *Ulfens law* and *Cuthbury law*, of which mention is made in some old charters.

Two miles beyond Spetchley is the pleasing village of CHURCHILL, noted for its mineral spring, which some hold in equal estimation with the spa at Tunbridge. This spring was formerly much frequented by invalids; it is at present, however, neglected, though upon what grounds we have been unable to learn; we should, however, be inclined to ascribe this desertion to a discovery of the inefficacy of the water in removing those complaints for which, without sufficient investigation, it was celebrated. The folly of arguing respecting the medicinal effects of mineral waters, solely from their chemical analysis, has been plainly evinced in the case of the Bath and many other waters, whose fame has been long established upon a surer basis than vague conjecture or fashionable caprice. We cannot, therefore, pretend to draw an *a priori* conclusion from the small quantity of mineral ingredients found to enter into the composition of the water at Churchill, but from its total desertion we may very reasonably be permitted to conclude that if it possessed any virtues it was in a very trifling degree. Thomas Bird, Esq. has an extremely neat and agreeably situated villa in this neighbourhood, called NORTON LODGE.

Three miles beyond Churchill we reach the village of UPTON SNODSBURY, in which, upon the 7th of November, in the year 1707, a shocking murder was committed by a gang of desperate villains, upon a lady of the name of Palmer, and her maid-servant; what added to the atrocity of the crime was the circumstance of the party being headed by Mrs. Palmer's own son, and his brother-in-law, a Mr. Symonds; both of these possessed property, Palmer having an estate of 200*l.* per annum, besides 740*l.* in bonds, &c. Symonds was a descendant of the judge of the same name who was so strongly attached to Oliver

Cromwell, whom he entertained at his house upon the night preceding the memorable, and, for the loyalists, unfortunate battle of Worcester. Palmer and Symonds were brought to trial for this nefarious deed, and being found guilty were sentenced to be gibbeted, which was accordingly executed upon the eighth day of May, in the ensuing year.

Leaving Upton Snodsbury we cross, at the distance of about a mile and a half, a small brook called the Piddle, which flowing by the villages of North Piddle, Naunton, Beauchamp, and Penvin, falls into the Avon near Fladbury, a little to the north-east of Pershore. GRAFTON FLYFORD is a small village with a neat parish church; a good turnpike road branches off hence to the left towards Droitwich, which is distant about five miles.

About one mile further is the village of FLYFORD FLAYELL, having a good parochial church. At a small distance to the south-east of this village, is ABBERTON, where are wells, strongly impregnated with the sulphate of Magnesia, or bitter purging salt; these waters might frequently be substituted with advantage for those at Epsom, the ingredients of which are similar. It is however better perhaps to trust to the salts which are procured from the druggists, as we can be in almost every case certain of their not being adulterated by any poisonous admixture, while the natural springs must necessarily be exposed to the contamination of many foreign and often highly prejudicial substances; besides from the very dilute state of the natural saline solution, to produce the desired effect a quantity highly distressing to many stomachs is requisite to be taken. From Abberton a small stream runs into the Avon. Previous to the Dissolution, this belonged to the abbey of Pershore; Henry VIII. gave it to the

family of Sheldons, in whose possession it still continues.

ROUS LENCH is not very remote from Abberton, being a little to the right of the road from Worcester to Alcester; there was the seat of the Rous's family as ancient as the days of Edward II. During the turbulent period of the civil wars, this family sided with the Cromwelian party, which nearly occasioned their ruin. The manor house was a large building, at present however but little of it remains.

COKEHILL formerly had a nunnery, which was founded by Isabella, countess of Warwick, who became herself a nun, and chose her own nunnery for her residence. At the Dissolution, this establishment was valued at 35*l.* per annum. Very little of the remains of the religious buildings can be now discovered. At the Suppression, the site of this nunnery with its estates were granted by Henry VIII. to Richard Fortescue, Esq. whose descendants continue to possess it. We here exchange the county of Worcester for that of Warwick; the distance from hence to Alcester is about two miles.

Journey from Droitwich to Alcester, through Meer Green, Bradley, and Feckenham.

Between two and three miles distance from Droitwich, upon the left side of the road, is HANBURY HALL; this manor was granted by King Ethelwald in the year 675 to Peterborough, along with the manor of *Bredon*. This place has been the seat of the Vernon family ever since the middle of the 17th century. The present mansion was built, at the commencement of the last (18th) century, by Counsellor Vernon, whose heiress in the year 1780 married Henry Cecil, nephew to the Earl of Exeter. It is a handsome building, seated in a well-wooded park, from many parts of which the distant hills of Malvern

are seen, "whose sunbright summits mingle with the sky." The Coteswold Hills, seemingly a continuation of the Bredon Hills, are visible to the south, and immediately to the west the distant spires of Worcester are seen at times peering above the verdant foliage of the trees. The scene forcibly recalled to our recollection the beautiful opening of Campbell's exquisite poem of the Pleasures of Hope: the sun was just setting behind the hills of Malvern, the sky was unspotted by a cloud, and the whole of the prospect harmonized with the description of the poet. The impression was so strong that we cannot forbear transcribing the passage which contributed so much to heighten it.

"At summer's eve, when Heav'n's ærial bow
Spans with bright arch the glittering hills below,
Why to yon mountain turns the musing eye,
Whose sunbright summit mingles with the sky?
Why do those cliffs of shadowy tint appear
More sweet than all the landscape smiling near?
'Tis distance lends enchantment to the view,
And robes the mountain in its azure hue.
Thus with delight we linger to survey
The promis'd joys of life's unmeasur'd way;
Thus from afar each dim discover'd scene
More pleasing seems than all the past hath been;
And ev'ry form that fancy can repair
From dark oblivion, glows divinely there."

A little to the east of Hanbury Hall and Park is the parish Church, a neat but small building, well adapted to the size of the parish: it does not contain any monuments deserving of particular notice.

At MEER GREEN, upon the right of our road, a little beyond Hanbury, there is a small chapel. About two miles hence, upon the left side of the road, is FECKENHAM LODGE, situated in the parish of the same name. In the forest of Feckenham

was born John, the last abbot of Westminster, who was called after the place of his birth; he was chaplain to Bishop Bonner, but a more moderate champion in the tottering cause of Popery. He died at Wisbech Castle, in the year 1585.

In the reign of Henry II. the forest of Feckenham was very extensive, and was one of the places where the lords and justices held their courts to determine breaches of the forest laws, and had a prison for the confinement of delinquents in the village.

The Church here is a neat structure, dedicated to St. John the Baptist. The chief employment of the inhabitants of this village, is in the manufacture of needles, of which large quantities and of an excellent quality are made here. The forest has been much thinned by the quantity of fuel taken thence to supply the salt works at Droitwich. There is a Charity School here for the education of boys and girls, the endowment is 50*l.* per annum.

Two fairs are annually held at this village, upon the 26th of March, and 30th of September. From hence to the borders of the county is a distance of about three miles, and from thence to Alcester about three miles further.

Journey from Dudley to Alcester, through Hales Owen, Bromsgrove, Tardbeck, and Headless Cross.

An agreeable ride of five miles brings us to the neat town of Hales Owen, situated, as has been observed in a former journey, in an isolated part of Shropshire, and remarkable for having in its vicinity two of the most beautiful, classic, and celebrated seats which the county of Worcester can boast; those namely of Hagley and the Leasowes. Besides these, it has, a little further to the east, upon the confines of Staffordshire,

another equally remarkable place, **WROLEY CASTLE**, situated in the parish of Northfield. The extent of the ruins of this castle strongly bespeaks its former consequence, they occupy a space of not less than 17 acres, and are situated in a park of 1800 acres, the property of the late J. Clark Jervoise, Esq. who was the representative in parliament for the borough of Yarmouth in the isle of Wight.

The moats extend, for the most part, from half an acre to two acres, and are generally square, the breadth of the trenches varying from eight to 20 yards. The castle, which was inclosed within these moats, was of great size and strongly built. Its site is at present occupied by a garden, which is so laid out that the remains of the walls form the divisions between the beds, which are formed in their turn by the rooms of the building.

Adjoining to the parish of Northfield is that of **KING'S NORTON**, in which is situated **MOATS**, for a long time the residence of the ancient and respectable family of Field.

Continuing our course along the great road from Birmingham to Worcester, we reach the **Lickey Hill**, which is generally esteemed the highest land in the island. This hill contains about 2000 acres of waste land which affords a delicate pasturage for large herds of sheep: the sheep fed here are said to have remarkably fine wool. In this hill rise three small rivers: the **Arrow**, which flowing by **Alvechurch**, **Broley Park**, and **Bordesley Abbey**, enters the county of Warwick, near the village of **Ippesley**, and winding round the eastern side of **Alcester** falls into the **Avon** at **Stratford**; the **Salwarp**, which flowing by **Droitwich**, falls into the **Severn** at **Hawford**, also rises in the **Lickey Hill**; as does a third small river, which, pursuing an opposite course, falls into the **Trent**.

About five miles hence we enter the ancient town of Bromsgrove, which has been already noticed in our journey from Birmingham to Worcester and Tewkesbury. Proceeding hence we take the road branching off to the east, and crossing the new canal of communication between Worcester and Birmingham, enter the village of TARDBECK, where is a neat church, which was built in the year 1774, when the negligence of the workmen occasioned much damage to the Windsor monuments, as also to that of Sir Thomas Cooke, by whom Worcester College at Oxford was founded. This gentleman had been married to one of the Windsor family; by his own desire he was interred, upon his death, in the year 1772, with a gold chain and locket round his neck, and two diamond rings of little value upon his fingers; these ornaments were, however, taken from the corpse in the year 1780, by order of the heir.

HEWEL GRANGE, a seat belonging to the Earl of Plymouth, is agreeably situated in a pleasant park, diversified with hills, dales, and wood, and containing an extensive piece of water, which covers 30 acres. The house was built in the year 1712, and is close to the village of Tardbeck.

At some distance to the north of Tardbeck is the village of ALVECHURCH, through which the *Ikening Street* passes in its way from Alcester to Wall, near Litchfield. This street is mentioned as a boundary in the parish of Alvechurch in a deed dated in the 30th year of the reign of Henry VIII. In this village is an Almshouse, which was founded in the year 1580, by Nicholas Lewknor, Esq. of Hadzor, for 12 poor persons; the number has been reduced to nine, in consequence of disputes concerning the foundation in the time of Queen Elizabeth.

At a short distance to the east of Alvechurch, is the village of BROLEY, in the vicinity of which

is Broley Hall, the seat of the late Thomas Holmes, Esq.

Returning hence, towards the turnpike road, we pass BORDESLEY ABBEY, situated in the parish of Tardbeck; this abbey was founded for monks of the Cistercian order, by the Empress Maud; though, from the circumstance of Waleran de Beaumont, Earl of Mellent and Worcester, having laid the first stone of the foundation in the year 1138, some have been inclined to suppose that he was the founder.

From this abbey, in the year 1328, Edward the Third directed his writ of privy seal to restore the famous stone of Scone. At the Dissolution the revenues of this establishment were estimated, as the accurate Nash informs us, at 388l. 9s. 10d. Henry VIII. granted the site and estates of this abbey to Andrew Lord Windsor, in a forced exchange for the manor of Stanwell. The site and foundations of the abbey occupy about eight acres of ground; St. Stephen's Chapel is the only part of the monastic buildings which remains entire.

Leaving Bordesley Abbey we cross a little rivulet, which soon after falls into the river Arrow, and passing through the hamlet of Bedditch, regain the turnpike-road upon the borders of the county, which it traverses for a few miles, passing by Headless Cross to the village of Astwood, where it enters the county of Warwick, and brings us to Alcester, which is about seven miles south-south-east of Astwood.

Journey from Tenbury to Worcester, through Upper Sapey, Clifton, Martley, and St. John's.

At the distance of between eight and nine miles from Tenbury we reach STANFORD, the seat of Sir Edward Winnington, Bart. whose ancestor obtained it by marriage with the heiress of Salway. The house is delightfully situated in a very

extensive park, abounding in the most pleasing prospects, richly clothed with the most luxuriant woods, and further enlivened by the possession of two beautiful pieces of water. The gardens are laid out with no small taste and judgment, and contain a remarkably fine cedar of Lebanon, which was planted by Sir Edward Winnington.

An old Hermitage, commonly known by the name of the Stone House, is situated upon a steep eminence embosomed by great hills, at the distance of about one mile from Stanford: it consists of several apartments, of which some were devoted to religious, and others to domestic purposes, all hewn out of the solid rock. Upon the summit of the rock was a Chapel dedicated to St. John the Baptist, upon the anniversary of whose nativity there was a solemn offering in the chapel; which ceremony being concluded, the assembly repaired to a well in the vicinity, which was reputed to possess considerable medicinal virtues, of which some drank for the benefit of their health, but more for the gratification of their palate, the water being very agreeable. Sir Edward Winnington has in his possession a curious offertory dish, found near this chapel, the inscription of which has puzzled all the antiquarians who have ever attempted to decypher it.

The village of Stanford is a little to the east of Sir Edward Winnington's Park; the river Teme flows to the east of it; the old bridge which had been thrown across the river here by Humphrey Packington, Esq. having been much damaged, and rendered dangerous, was replaced by an iron bridge, resembling that at Colebrook Dale, but being, as is generally believed, constructed too slightly, it gave way, and fell upon the 25th of September, 1795. The parish Church is an elegant gothic structure, built of a handsome species of stone, taken from a quarry close to its site, which was discovered just at the time of its

foundation being laid in the year 1768. This building, conspicuously situated upon a commanding eminence in Stanford Park, is a fine object from all parts of the adjacent country.

Quitting Stanford, we proceed by Spelsey Walsh, famous for having been the residence of the spirited Sir William Walsh, of whom mention is made in another place. A little further is the village of CLIFTON-ON-TEME, which gives name to a beautiful parish, through which the river Teme winds, irrigating and fertilizing the rich meadows and hop plantations which are situated on its banks. The village of Clifton has a weekly market and two annual fairs.

In the parish of Clifton, and not very remote from the village, stood HAMME or HAM CASTLE, which for more than 200 years belonged to the ancient family of Jefferys, but at present is the property of Sir Edward Winnington of Stanford. Ham Castle was damaged by fire in the year 1605, and was completely destroyed during the Civil Wars. In the year 1649, Mr. Jefferys found a treasure in an iron chest, concealed in one of the vaults of this castle.

We here cross the river Teme, and enter the village of MARTLEY, which is about seven miles west of the city of Worcester. This village gives name to a rich and populous parish, which produces abundant crops of hops. The rectory of this parish is reckoned one of the best in the county, being estimated in a good hop year at 1200*l*. The village of Martley is in general well built, and contains some gentlemen's houses.— The parish Church is a neat building, dedicated to St. Peter. From Putford Banks, in this parish, the mountains of Wales may be easily discerned: the whole parish is agreeably diversified with hill and dale, is well cultivated, and furnishes abundance of beautiful and highly-picturesque prospects.

To the south of Martley, bordering upon the county of Hereford, and situated upon the direct road from Bromyard to Worcester, is the village of KNIGHTWICK, which formerly constituted part of the possessions of the priory of Great Malvern. The views on the hills in this parish are beautiful and extensive, especially those from Ankerdine Hill and Tinker's Coppice; from hence may be seen the country about Worcester, Pershore, and Cheltenham, with the Broadway, Bredon, and Coteswold Hills, as also several eminences in Leicestershire, and the Clent Hills near Bagley.

At a little distance to the south-east of Knightwick, is the village of ALFRIC or AUFRIC, situated near the borders of the county. Here Spelman imagined he had discovered Austin's Oak, which we have noticed in our description of the vicinity of Bewdley.

From Alfric we proceed by the turnpike road to Worcester, passing by the village of LEIGH, adjoining to which is a place called the Castle, though no traces of any building can be at present discovered. The parish of Leigh is very extensive, and contains a large quantity of rich meadow land; it stretches southward as far as the Malvern Hills, upon the acclivity of which is the mansion-house of Cowleigh, which separates the counties of Worcester and Hereford.—The Church of Leigh contains several ancient monuments.

Passing hence, we reach the village of BRANSFORD, where there is a snuff-mill, built on the banks of the Teme, which we cross here by a neat stone bridge. Hence to St. John's is a distance of about three miles, through a rich and pleasing country. Crossing the Severn we re-enter the city of Worcester, and terminate our last journey.

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TOPOGRAPHICAL
AND
STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION
OF THE
COUNTY OF WARWICK.

Containing an Account of its

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

Civil and Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions, &c.

To which is prefixed,

A COPIOUS TRAVELLING GUIDE;

Exhibiting

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

Which form a

COMPLETE COUNTY ITINERARY;

WITH

A LIST OF THE FAIRS,

And an Index Table,

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

BY G. A. COOKE, ESQ.

Illustrated with a

MAP OF THE COUNTY.

—◆—
London :

Printed by Assignment from the Executors of the late C. Cooke,
FOR
SHERWOOD, NEELY, AND JONES, PATERNOSTER-ROW;
AND SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.

A TABLE

OF THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS

IN THE

COUNTY OF WARWICK,

Their Distance from London, Markets, Number of Houses and Inhabitants, with the Time of the Arrival and Departure of the Post.

Towns.	Dist.	Markets	Houses	Inhabit.	Post arrives	Departs
Alcester - - -	103	Tues.	401	1,862	H. M. 11 m.	H. M. 3 a.
Atherstone - - -	107	Tues.	591	2,921	12 noon.	11 30 a.
Birmingham - - -	110	Thurs.	16,653	85,753	11 30 m.	3 a.
Coleshill - - -	104	Wed.	230	1,639	11 m.	12 45 a.
Coventry - - -	92	Frid.	3,448	17,923	8 45 m.	3 15 a.
Henley in Arden - - -	104	Tues.	242	1,055	9 m.	5 a.
Kenilworth - - -	100	Wed.	463	2,279		
Kineton - - -	84	Tues.	166	801		8 m.
Nuncaton - - -	99	Sat.	1,095	4,947	3 after.	3 a.
Rugby - - -	84	Sat.	319	1,805	8 m.	
Solihull - - -	108		518	2,581		
Southam - - -	83	Mon.	159	1,007	8 30 m.	3 a.
Stratford-on-Avon - - -	94	Thur.	548	2,842	7 45 m.	6 a.
Sutton-Colefield - - -	111	Mon.	598	2,959		
Warwick - - -	91	Sat.	1,251	6,497	11 m.	3 30 a.

The rate of postage is eight-pence for a single letter throughout the county.

INDEX OF COMPUTED DISTANCES FROM TOWN TO TOWN,

Within the County of Warwick.

The names of the respective towns are on the top and side, and the square where both meet gives the distance.

	Alcester	-	-	Distant from London	-	-	Miles
Atherstone	39	Atherstone	-	-	-	-	103
Birmingham	19	20	Birmingham	-	-	-	107
Coleshill	24	9	Coleshill	-	-	-	109
Coventry	27	14	12	Coventry	-	-	103
Henley in Arden	8	31	14	24	18	Henley in Arden	91
Kenilworth	22	18	18	13	5	14	101
Kineton	19	33	32	30	22	19	95
Nuncaton	34	5	21	12	8	26	83
Rugby	35	26	31	25	13	28	104
Solihull	17	21	7	10	14	10	83
Southam	24	27	30	25	13	20	108
Stratford-on-Avon	8	32	22	27	19	8	82
Sutton Colefield	25	15	8	10	20	22	93
Warwick	16	24	20	18	10	9	110
							90

*** INSPECTION TABLE FOR THE COUNTY OF WARWICK.**

Warwickshire is comprised in the Province of Canterbury and Dioceses of Lichfield, Coventry, and Worcester.

<i>Bounded by</i>	<i>Extent</i>	<i>Contains</i>	<i>Sends to Parliament</i>	<i>Produce and Manufactures.</i>
Leicestershire on the north-east.	About 50 miles in length, from north to south.	4 Hundreds. 1 City.	6 Members. <i>viz.</i>	The soil is rich, and produces excellent corn and cheese, the last of which is famous all over England; hence the chief commodities are corn, malt, wood, wool, and cheese. It also abounds in coals.
On the east by Northamptonshire.	And, where broadest, 35 miles, from east to west.	1 Borough. 11 Market-Towns.	2 for the county 2 for the city of Coventry.	
On the south-east by Oxfordshire.	In circumference about 150 miles	43,783 Houses.	2 for the town of Warwick.	Commerce and manufactures are carried on to a great extent; particularly the toy and hardware trade of Birmingham, and the ribbon and tammy trade of Coventry, and its neighbourhood.
On the south-west by Gloucestershire.		203,190 Inhabitants.		
On the west by Worcestershire.				
And on the north-west by Staffordshire.				

This County derives its name from the county-town, Warwick.

AN ITINERARY

OF ALL THE

DIRECT AND PRINCIPAL CROSS-ROADS

IN

WARWICKSHIRE.

IN WHICH ARE INCLUDED THE
STAGES, INNS, AND GENTLEMEN'S
SEATS.

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

FROM LONDON TO BIRMINGHAM, THROUGH WARWICK.

PADDINGTON		$\frac{1}{2}$	
On L. a T. R.			
to Harrow, on R.			
to Islington, cross			
the Regent's Ca-			
nal.			
Kilburn - - - -	$1\frac{1}{2}$	2	Belsize House, W. Everett,
Cricklewood - -	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$3\frac{3}{4}$	esq. R. through Kilburn, or
Brent Bridge - -	$1\frac{1}{4}$	5	R. are seats of the Earl of
Cross the Brent			Macclesfield and ———
river.			Montague, esq.; on L.
Silk Bridge - - -	$3\frac{1}{4}$	$5\frac{3}{4}$	Mapes, — White, esq.; and
Over a branch			Brands, Coutts, Trotter, esqs.
of the R. Brent.			
Hyde - - - - -	$\frac{1}{2}$	$6\frac{1}{4}$	Inn. — The King's Arms.
Edgware - - - -	$1\frac{3}{4}$	8	Cannon's Park, Sir T. Plumer
On R a T. R.			
to St. Albans, thro'			
Elstree.			

Stanmore - - -	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	Here are numerous seats, among others those of — Drummond, — Hervey, — Bartlett, and — Martin, esqrs. ; and at the top of the hill those of J. Lewis, — Learmouth, and — Lewis, esqrs.
Over Busheyheath to Bushey, Herts. One mile past Bushey, cross the Colne river.	3	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	At the entrance of Busheyheath is Bentley-priory, the beautiful residence of the Marquis of Abercorn, L. from the heath ; on R. see Wrotham Park, G. Byng, esq. ; and Porters, Marchioness of Sligo ; on L. is Hartshorn Manor Place, Sir T. B. Thompson, bart ; and beyond is Moor Park ; at Bushey, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. on L. see Oxhey-place, Hon. W. Bucknall, esq. ; through on R. Bushey-grove, D. Haliburton, esq. ; and Bushey-hall, — Capper, esq.
WATFORD - - - On R. a T. R. to St. Albans, on L. to Rickmansworth.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{3}{4}$	Wiggen-hall, — Deacon, esq. ; and further Cashio-bury Park, Earl of Essex, L. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Watford ; on R. is Russell's Farm, Lord Henley ; and L. Grove Park, Earl of Clarendon.

Hunton Bridge -	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$18\frac{1}{4}$	Langley Bury, Rev. Sir John Filmer, bart. L.
Cross the Gade R. and the Grand Junction Canal.			
King's Langley -	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$19\frac{3}{4}$	
Two Waters -	$2\frac{1}{4}$	22	Inn.— <i>The Bell</i> .
On R. a. T. R. to Hempstead.			
Boxmoor - - -	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$23\frac{1}{4}$	Boxmoor Hall, — Mead, esq.; L. and further West Brook Hey, Thomas Ryder, esq.
Bourn End - - -	1	$24\frac{1}{4}$	Huckster's End, J. Field, esq. Inn.— <i>The Horse</i> .
Broadway - - -	$\frac{3}{4}$	25	
BERKHEMP-STEAD	$\frac{1}{2}$	$26\frac{1}{2}$	New Lodge, T. Moore, esq.; Bartletts, A. Pechell, esq.; L. the Castle, J. Ford, esq.; Pilkington Manor House, Mrs. Kirkman; R. through the town, Ashlins Hall, J. Smith, and further, Haresfoot, — Doriens, esq. L. Inn.— <i>King's Arms</i> .
North Church -	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$27\frac{3}{4}$	Woodcock-hill, S. Langston, esq. L. Ashridge Park, Earl of Bridgewater, R.; 1 m. on R. is Northcote, W. Smart, esq.
TRING - - - -	$3\frac{3}{4}$	$31\frac{1}{2}$	The Grove, R. and Tring Park, Sir Drummond Smith, bart. 1 m. beyond Tring; on L. Terret House, — Cook, esq.
Aston Clinton, Bucks - - -	3	$34\frac{1}{2}$	Hartwell, Marquis of Buckingham, late the residence of the King of France, L.
Walton - - - -	$3\frac{3}{4}$	$38\frac{1}{4}$	
On L. a T. R. through Wendover, to London.			
AYLESBURY - -	$\frac{1}{2}$	$38\frac{1}{2}$	

*On L. a T. R. to
Thame and Bi-
cester, cross the
Thame.*

Hardwick - - - $3\frac{1}{2}$ 42 $\frac{1}{4}$

Whitchurch - - $1\frac{1}{4}$ 43 $\frac{1}{2}$ *Oving, T. Aubrey, esq. L.*

WINSLOW - - - $5\frac{3}{4}$ 49 $\frac{1}{4}$ *2 m. on L. Addington House,*

Padbury - - - $\frac{1}{2}$ 53 $\frac{1}{4}$ *J. Poulett, esq.*

Cross the Ouse.

BUCKINGHAM - - $2\frac{3}{4}$ 56 *Stowe, Marquis of Bucking-
ham, R.*

*On L. a T.
R. to Banbury,
through Aynhoe.*

Westbury - - - 5 61 *1 m. before, on R. Shalstone,
G. H. P. Jervois, esq.*

BRACKLEY,
Northampton - - $2\frac{1}{2}$ 63 $\frac{1}{2}$

*On R. a T. R.
to Towcester, on
L. to Oxford, near
Banbury, on R.
to Daventry.*

*Cross the Char-
well river and the
Oxford Canal.*

BANBURY, Oxon. $9\frac{1}{4}$ 72 $\frac{3}{4}$ *Colthorpe House, T. Cobb, esq.
R.*

*On R. to Da-
ventry, on L. to
Chipping Norton,
through Banbury,
on R. to Southam,
and further on R.
to Warwick.*

Drayton - - - 2 74 $\frac{3}{4}$

Wroxton - - - 1 75 $\frac{3}{4}$ *The Abbey, Earl of Guildford.*

Upton, Warwick. $4\frac{1}{4}$ 80 *The beautiful seat of E. M.
Gale, esq. L.*

*On L. a T. R.
to Stratford-on-
Avon.*

KINETON - - - -	5	85	Inn.— <i>The Swan.</i>
Compton Verney	2	87	<i>Seat and beautiful grounds of the Hon. H. Verney, R. Walton Hall, Sir C. Mor-daunt, bart. L.</i>
Wellesburne } Hasting - - - }	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	89 $\frac{1}{4}$	<i>Bernard Dewes, Esq.; and about 1 m. on R. Newbold Pacey, W. Little, Esq.</i>
Barford - - - -	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	93	<i>Barford House, J. White-head, esq.</i>
<i>Cross the Avon.</i> Longbridge - -	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	94 $\frac{1}{4}$	Inn.— <i>The George.</i>
<i>On L. a T. R.</i> <i>to Stratford-on-</i> <i>Avon.</i>			
WARWICK - - -	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{3}{4}$	<i>The Castle, Earl of War-wick; and the Priory, Rev. H. Wise.</i>
<i>Cross the War-</i> <i>wick and Bir-</i> <i>mingham Canal.</i> Wedgenock }	$\frac{3}{4}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Lane. - - - }			
Hatton - - - -	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	99	<i>Grove Park, Lord Dormer, L.</i>
<i>On L. a T. R.</i> <i>through Shirley-</i> <i>street, to Bir-</i> <i>mingham.</i>			
Haseley - - - -	$\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	
<i>Cross Sroley</i> <i>Common.</i>			
Wroxhall - - -	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	102	<i>Wroxhall House, C. Wren, esq. L.; The Abbey, now used as a religious house for females.</i>
Bedlam's End -	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	103 $\frac{3}{4}$	<i>Baddesley, Clinton Hall, F. Ferrers, esq.</i>
Enfield - - - -	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	105	
Rotten-row - -	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	105 $\frac{3}{4}$	
<i>Cross the War-</i>			

<i>wick and Birmingham Canal.</i>			
Knowl - - - -	1	106 $\frac{3}{4}$	<i>Springfield House, J. Boul- bee, Esq. R.</i>
<i>Beyond, on R. a T. R. to Kenil- worth.</i>			
Solihull - - - -	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	<i>Malvern Hall, G. H. Lewis, esq. L.</i>
World's End - -	1	110 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Oaken End - - -	$\frac{3}{4}$	111 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Adcock's Green -	$\frac{3}{4}$	112	
Flint Green - -	$\frac{3}{4}$	112 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Greet - - - - -	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	114 $\frac{1}{4}$	
$\frac{1}{2}$ mile before Spark Brook, on L. a T. R. to Henley in Arden.			
Spark Brook - -	1	115 $\frac{1}{4}$	<i>Spark Brook House,—Long- worth, esq. R.; and be- yond the Larches, T. At- wood, esq. L.</i>
<i>On L. a T. R. to Henley in Ar- den, near Bir- mingham; on R. to Coventry; on L. to Alcester.</i>			
BIRMINGHAM - -	$\frac{3}{4}$	116	

FROM WILLOUGHBY TO BASSET'S POLE ;
THROUGH COVENTRY.

Willoughby to		
Dunchurch - - -	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	3 $\frac{3}{4}$
<i>At Dunchurch on R. a T. R. to Rugby.</i>		
Dunsmore-heath		
Blue Boar - - -	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	6
<i>Cross the Foss- way.</i>		
Knightly Cross -	3	9

Ryton - - - -	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	Combe Abley, Earl of Craven, R.
Finford Bridge -	1	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	
<i>Cross the Avon river.</i>			
Willenhall - - -	1	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	At Baginton, Baginton Hall, Mrs. Price.
Whitley Bridge -	$\frac{3}{4}$	13	Whitley Hall, Viscount Hood.
<i>Cross the Sow river.</i>			
COVENTRY - - -	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Francis Parrot, — Hawksbury, esq.
<i>At Coventry on R. a T. R. to Lutterworth, on L. to Kenilworth.</i>			
Allesley, or Ausley - - - }	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	17 $\frac{1}{4}$	Allesley Park, — Beck, esq.; Allon House, J. Seymour, esq.
Meriden - - - -	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{3}{4}$	Wrottesley Digby, esq. L.
Stone Bridge - -	2	22 $\frac{3}{4}$	Packington Hall, Earl of Aylesford, R.
<i>At Stone Bridge on L. a T. R. to Birmingham; and a mile farther on L. a T. R. to Castle Bromwich, on R. to</i>			
COLESHILL - - -	4	26 $\frac{3}{4}$	Inns.—Angel, Swan. Blyth Hall, W. Dugdale, esq. R.
<i>At Coleshill on R. a T. R. to Atherstone, on L. to Birmingham.</i>			
Curdworth Bridge - - - }	2	28 $\frac{3}{4}$	Hams Hall, C. B. Addersley, esq. R.
<i>Cross the river Tame.</i>			
Wishaw - - - -	2	30 $\frac{3}{4}$	Just beyond the Green Man,

<i>At Wishaw on</i>			<i>near Wishaw, on R. Mox-</i>
<i>R. a T. R. to</i>			<i>hull Hall, Mrs. Hacket,</i>
<i>Tamworth; on L.</i>			<i>and about two miles far-</i>
<i>to</i>			<i>ther, on R. Middleton Hall,</i>
<i>Basset's Pole - -</i>	4	34 $\frac{3}{4}$	<i>Dowager Lady Middleton.</i>

MOLLINGTON TO ATHERSTONE, THROUGH COVENTRY.

<i>Mollington to</i>			<i>About a mile beyond Molling-</i>
<i>Cross the Ox-</i>			<i>ton, on L. Farnborough,</i>
<i>ford Canal, and</i>			<i>W. Holbeche, esq.</i>
<i>about three-quar-</i>			
<i>ters of a mile cross</i>			
<i>it again.</i>			
<i>Ladbroke - - -</i>	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	<i>Watergall House, C. F. Pal-</i>
			<i>mer, esq.</i>
<i>SOUTHAM - - -</i>	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	<i>Inn.—The Griffin.</i>
<i>At Southam on</i>			<i>Stoney Thorpe, Francis Fau-</i>
<i>R. a T. R. to Da-</i>			<i>quier, esq. L.</i>
<i>ventry, on L. to</i>			
<i>Warwick.</i>			
<i>Near Long It-</i>			
<i>chington, cross</i>			
<i>the Napton canal.</i>			
<i>Long Itchington</i>	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	
<i>Marton - - -</i>	2	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	<i>On R. at Lemington Has-</i>
<i>Cross the Leane</i>			<i>tings, the Rev. Sir Charles</i>
<i>river.</i>			<i>Wheeler, bart. ; and at Bir-</i>
<i>Prince thorp - -</i>	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	<i>dingbury, Sir T. Biddulph,</i>
<i>Near Finford-</i>			<i>bart. and beyond Marton,</i>
<i>bridge, on R. a</i>			<i>on L. at Eathorpe, Rev.</i>
<i>road to Daventry.</i>			<i>Dr. Vyner.</i>
<i>Finford-bridge -</i>	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{4}$	<i>Near Baginton Hall, Mrs.</i>
<i>Cross the Avon</i>			<i>Price.</i>
<i>river.</i>			
<i>Willenhall - - -</i>	1	15 $\frac{1}{4}$	

<i>Cross the Sow river.</i>					
Whitley-bridge -	$\frac{3}{4}$	16			<i>Whitley Hall, Viscount Hood.</i>
Coventry - - -	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$17\frac{1}{2}$			<i>Inns.—Craven Arms, and Castle.</i>
<i>Cross the Coventry canal.</i>					
Foleshill - - -	2	$19\frac{1}{2}$			
<i>Cross the Coventry canal.</i>					
Longford - - -	1	$20\frac{1}{2}$			
<i>Cross the Coventry canal.</i>					
Bedworth - - -	2	$22\frac{1}{2}$			
<i>Cross the Coventry canal.</i>					
Griff - - - - -	$1\frac{1}{2}$	24			<i>Arbury Hall, F. Newdigate, esq.</i>
<i>Cross the Coventry canal.</i>					
Chilvers Coton -	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$25\frac{3}{4}$			
NUNEATON - - -	$\frac{1}{2}$	$26\frac{1}{4}$			<i>Inn.—Bull.</i>
<i>At Nuneaton on R. a T. R. to Hinckley.</i>					
<i>Cross the Coventry canal.</i>					
Atherstone - - -	$5\frac{1}{2}$	$31\frac{3}{4}$			<i>Inns.—Bull's Head, George, Red Lion.</i>

**COVENTRY TO TAMWORTH,
THROUGH FILLONGLEY.**

Coventry to					
Radford - - - -	1	1			
Karesley-green -	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$2\frac{1}{4}$			
Corley - - - - -	$2\frac{1}{4}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$			
Corley Ash - - -	$\frac{3}{4}$	$5\frac{1}{4}$			
Fillongley- - - -	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$			<i>Beyond Fillongley, Brook Hall, J. Biddulph, esq. R.</i>
Near Upper					

<i>Whitacre on R. a T. R. to Nun-eaton.</i>			
Upper Whitacre	$3\frac{1}{2}$	10	<i>Rev. Mr. Sadler, and on L. at Shustoke, in the road to Coleshill, E. Croxall, esq.</i>
Lower Whitacre	$2\frac{1}{4}$	$12\frac{1}{4}$	<i>About a mile and a half on the L. across the Tame river, Hams Hall, C. B. Addersley, esq.; a mile beyond Lower Whitacre, and about two miles to the L. near the Birmingham canal, Dunston Hall, Mrs. Fox.</i>
Kingsbury - - -	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$14\frac{3}{4}$	<i>On the bank of the Tame, Dartshill House, W. Dickenson, esq. L.</i>
Division of the road.	$3\frac{1}{4}$	18	
<i>On R. a T. R. to Atherstone; on L. to Fazeley. Forward cross the Coventry canal, and the Anker river to</i>			
Tamworth - - -	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$10\frac{3}{4}$	

UPTON TO CASTLE BROMWICH,

THROUGH WARWICK AND KENILWORTH.

Upton to			<i>Earl of Westmoreland's, L.</i>
<i>On L. a T. R. to Stratford-on-Avon.</i>			
Edge Hill - - -	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	<i>Upton, Morant Gale, esq.; Radway, F. S. Miller, esq.</i>
			B 2

KINETON - - -	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	5	Inn.— <i>Red Lion.</i> <i>At Compton, Hon. H. Verney,</i> <i>R. and on L. Walton Hall,</i> <i>Sir C. Mordaunt, bart.</i>
Wellesbourne			
Hasting - -	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	<i>B. Dews, Esq. L. and about</i> <i>a mile to the R. at New-</i> <i>bold Pacey, William Lit-</i> <i>tle, esq.</i>
At Wellesbourne			
Hasting, on L. a			
T. R. to Strat-			
ford on Avon.			
Barford - - -	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	13	<i>Barford House, J. Whitehead,</i> <i>esq.</i>
Cross the Avon			
river.			
Longbridge - -	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	14 $\frac{1}{4}$	
At Longbridge			
on L. a T. R. to			
Stratford-on-			
Avon.			
WARWICK - - -	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	16	Inns.— <i>Black Swan, War-</i> <i>wick Arms.</i> <i>The Castle, Earl of Warwick,</i> <i>and the Priory, Rev. H.</i> <i>Wise,</i>
Cross the War-			
wick and Bir-			
mingham canal.			
Guy's Cliff - -	1	17	<i>At Guy's Cliff, Bertie Great-</i> <i>hed, esq.</i>
Leek Wootton -	2	19	
KENILWORTH -	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	21 $\frac{1}{4}$	
At Kenilworth			
on R. a T. R. to			
Coventry, on L. to			
Redsen La. T.G.	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{3}{4}$	
George in the			
Tree.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{4}$	
On L. a T. R.			
to Solihull.			
Moulding-bridge	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	29	<i>Berkeswell Hall,—Knightley,</i> <i>esq. R.</i>

*Cross the Tame
river.*

Stone-bridge - - 1 30

*On R. a T. R.
to Coventry; on L.
to Birmingham.*

Little Pack- }
ington - - - } 1 31

*At Little Pack-
ington on R. a T.
R. to Coleshill.*

Bacon's Inn - - 2½ 33½

Castle Bromwich 2½ 36

*Packington Hall, Earl of
Aylesford, R.*

*Berwood Hall, A. Blair, esq.
R. and two miles farther on
R. Pipe Hall, Rev. E. A.
Bagot.*

WARMINGTON TO SUTTON-COLEFIELD,

THROUGH WARWICK AND BIRMINGHAM.

Warmington to }
Gaydon Inn - - 5 5 *Alrescot, T. Biddulph, esq.
L.*

Harwood's-hous. 3¼ 8¼

*Near Warwick,
on R. a T. R. to
Southam.*

WARWICK - - - 5¾ 14

*Cross the War-
wick and Bir-
mingham canal.*

*The Castle, Earl of Warwick,
and the Priory, Rev. B.
Wise.*

Hatton - - - - 3 17

*Before is Grove Park, Lord
Dormer.*

*At Hatton on
L. a T. R. to Bir-
mingham, through
Hockley.*

Wroxall - - - - 3 20

*Wroxhall House, C. Wren,
esq.*

Near Knowle,

at Rotten-row,
cross the Warwick
and Birmingham
canal.

Knowle - - - - - $4\frac{3}{4}$ $24\frac{1}{4}$

A mile further
on R. a T. R. to
Kenilworth.

Springfield House, J. Boul-
bee, esq.

SOLIHULL - - - - - $2\frac{1}{2}$ $27\frac{1}{4}$

Spark Brook - - - - - 6 $33\frac{1}{4}$

Malvern Hall, H. Greswold
Lewis, esq. L.

On L. a T. R.
to Henley in Ar-
den, and a mile
farther on R. to
Coventry, on L. to
Alcester.

BIRMINGHAM - - - - - $1\frac{1}{2}$ $34\frac{3}{4}$

At Birming-
ham on R. a T. R.
to Stratford-on-
Avon: on L. to
Stourbridge.

Inns.—Castle, Hen and
Chickens, Hotel, Swan.

Aston Park - - - - - $1\frac{1}{2}$ $36\frac{1}{4}$

Cross the river
Tame.

W. Tenant, esq. L.

Erdington - - - - - $2\frac{1}{2}$ $38\frac{3}{4}$

A little beyond
Erdington, on R.
a T. R. to Coven-
try; on L. to New-
port.

Maney - - - - - $2\frac{1}{2}$ $41\frac{1}{4}$

SUTTON COLE-
FIELD - - - - - $\frac{3}{4}$ 42

Colefield Park and Woods, be-
longing to the Corporation
of Sutton; on L. Four Oaks
Hall, Sir E. C. Hartopp,
bart.

SHUCKBURGH TO WARWICK,

THROUGH SOUTHAM.

Shuckburgh to <i>Cross the War- wick and Napton canal.</i>			<i>Shuckburgh Park, the seat of Sir Francis Shuckburgh, bart.; and beyond Shuck- burgh, on L. at Napton, on the hill, Rev. Mr. Brom- field.</i>
SOUTHAM - - - -	$4\frac{3}{4}$	$4\frac{3}{4}$	Inn.—Griffin. <i>Stoney Thorpe,—Mrs. Fau- quier, R.</i>
<i>At Southam on R. a T. R. to Co- ventry; on L. to Banbury.</i>			
Ufton - - - - -	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$	
Radford - - - -	$2\frac{3}{4}$	10	<i>At Offchurch, T. W. Knight- ley, esq. R.</i>
<i>Cross the War- wick and Napton canal.</i>			
Lemington			
Priors - - - -	$1\frac{3}{4}$	$11\frac{3}{4}$	1 m. on R. Newbold, the seat of — Willes, esq.
<i>Cross the War- wick and Napton canal.</i>			
<i>Within a mile of Warwick on L. a T. R. to Ban- bury.</i>			
WARWICK - - - -	$2\frac{1}{4}$	14	

UPTON TO HACKLEY BROOK,

THROUGH STRATFORD-ON-AVON AND BIRMINGHAM.

Upton to			<i>At Upton, a seat of Lord Villiers.</i>
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Edge-hill - - -	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$	<i>Under Edge Hill, on R. Radway, F. Miller, esq; and on the hill a tower built by him.</i>
Pillerton - - -	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{1}{4}$	
Upper Easington	2	$7\frac{1}{4}$	<i>Hound's Hill,—Canning; esq.</i>
<i>At Upper Easington on R. a T. R. to Warwick; on L. to Shipston.</i>			
Goldicot - - -	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$8\frac{3}{4}$	<i>At Goldicot,—Smith, esq.</i>
Bridge Town - -	3	$11\frac{3}{4}$	
<i>At Bridge Town on R. a T. R. to Kington; on L. to Shipston.</i>			
<i>Cross the Avon river.</i>			
STRATFORD-ON-AVON - - - - -	$\frac{1}{2}$	$12\frac{1}{4}$	<i>Inn.—White Lion.</i>
<i>At Stratford-on-Avon, on R. a T. R. to Warwick, on L. to Alcester.</i>			
Stratford-on-Avon Canal - -	$5\frac{1}{4}$	$17\frac{1}{2}$	
Wotton Waven	$\frac{3}{4}$	$18\frac{1}{4}$	<i>Wotton Hall, Lady Smythe, R.</i>
HENLEY-IN-ARDEN - - - -	2	$20\frac{1}{4}$	<i>Inn.—Swan.</i>
<i>Cross the canal.</i>			
— — —			<i>Barrells House, Robert Knight, esq.</i>
Hockley Heath -	5	$25\frac{1}{4}$	<i>Umberslade, Miss Archer, L.</i>
<i>On R. a T. R. to Warwick.</i>			
Monkspath-str.	$1\frac{3}{4}$	27	
Shirley-street - -	3	30	

Three miles be-
yond Shirley-st.
on R. a T. R. to
Solihull.

Camphill - - - - $4\frac{1}{4}$ $34\frac{1}{4}$

A little farther
on R. a T. R. to
Coventry; on L.
to Alcester.

Cross the Rea
river.

BIRMINGHAM - - $1\frac{1}{4}$ $35\frac{1}{2}$

At Birming-
ham on R. a T. R.
to Coleshill; on L.
to Bromesgrove.

Hockley Brook - $1\frac{1}{2}$ 37

Packwood House, C. Feather-
stone, esq.

ATHERSTONE TO BIRMINGHAM, THROUGH COLESHILL.

ATHERSTONE to
Bentley Chapel - $3\frac{3}{4}$

$3\frac{3}{4}$

At Baxterley, Joseph Boulton, esq. R.

Upper Whitacre $2\frac{1}{2}$

$6\frac{1}{4}$

At Whitacre, Rev. Mr. Sadler.

At Upper Whit-
acre on R. a T. R.
to Tamworth, on
L. to Coventry.

Shustock - - - - $\frac{1}{2}$

$6\frac{3}{4}$

At Shustock, E. Croxall, esq.
Blithe Hall, R. Dugdale, esq.

COLESHILL - - - $3\frac{1}{4}$

10

R.; Maxtoke Castle, Mrs.
Dilke, L.

At Coleshill on
R. a T. R. to Co-
ventry; on L. to
Lichfield.

Bacon's Inn - - 2

12

<i>On R. a T. R.</i>			
<i>to Coventry.</i>			
Castle Bromwich	2½	14½	<i>Bromwich Hall, late Dowager Lady Lawley, R.</i>
<i>On R. a T. R.</i>			
<i>to Newport.</i>			
Saltley - - - - -	4	18½	<i>Duddeston Villa, Samuel Galton, Esq.</i>
<i>Cross the Rea river.</i>			
BIRMINGHAM - - -	2	20½	

BIRMINGHAM TO PAILTON;

THROUGH COVENTRY.

Birmingham to			
Wells Green - - -	4½	4½	
Bickenhill - - -	3½	8	
Stone Bridge - - -	1½	9½	
<i>At Stone Bridge</i>			
<i>on R. a T. R. to</i>			
<i>Warwick; on L.</i>			
<i>to Coleshill.</i>			
<i>Cross the Tame river.</i>			
— — —			<i>Packington Hall, Earl of Aylesford, L.</i>
Meriden - - - - -	2	11½	<i>Wrottesley Digby, esq. R.</i>
Allesley or Aus-			
ley - - - - -	3½	15	
COVENTRY - - - -	2¾	17¾	
<i>At Coventry on</i>			
<i>R. a T. R. to Ke-</i>			
<i>nilworth; on L.</i>			
<i>to Tamworth.</i>			
Nether Stoke - - -	1½	19¼	
Binley - - - - -	2½	21¾	
— — —			<i>Coombe Abbey, Lord Craven, L.</i>
Brinklow - - - -	4	25¾	

Cross the Oxford canal three times.

Stretton - - - -	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	27 $\frac{1}{4}$	<i>Newbold Park, Lady Skipwith, R.</i>
— — — —			<i>Newnham Paddox, Earl of</i>
Pailton - - - -	1	28 $\frac{1}{4}$	<i>Denbigh, L.</i>

STRATFORD-ON-AVON TO CRAB'S CROSS,
THROUGH ALCESTER.

Stratford-on-Avon to - -			
Stratford-on-Avon Canal -	3	3	
ALCESTER - - -	5	8	<i>Ragley, Marquis of Hertford, L.</i>
<i>At Alcester on L. a T.R. to Evesham; and a mile farther on L. to Droitwich.</i>			
Coughton - - - -	2	10	<i>At Coughton, Sir John Throckmorton, bart.</i>
<i>Between Coughton, and Crab's Cross, on R. a T. R. to Birmingham.</i>			
— — — —			<i>Studley Castle, the seat of P. Littleton, esq.</i>
Crab's Cross - -	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	

END OF THE ITINERARY.

FAIRS IN WARWICKSHIRE.

Atherstone.—April 7, for horses, cows, and sheep ; July 18, a holiday-fair only ; September 19, for horses, cows, and considerable for cheese ; December 4, for horses and fat cattle.

Alcester. Tuesday before April 5, May 18, October 17, for cheese and horses, 2d Tuesday in July.

Birmingham.—Thursday in Whitsun-week, September 29, for hardware, cattle, sheep, and horses.

Brailes.—Easter Tuesday, for horses, cows, and sheep.

Coleshill.—Shrove Monday, for horses ; May 6, for horses and cattle ; Wednesday after New Michaelmas all sorts of cattle.

Coventry.—Second Friday after Ash-Wednesday, for linen and woollen cloth ; May 2, for horses, cows, and sheep ; Friday in Trinity-week, for flannels, linen, and woollen, for eight days : first day representing Lady Godiva on horseback ; August 26, 27, and November 1, for linen, woollen, and horses.

Henley in Arden.—Lady-Day, March 25, Tuesday in Whitsun-week, for a week, for cattle ; October 29, horses, cattle, sheep, and hops.

Kenilworth.—April 30, September 30, cattle and pedlary.

Kineton, or Kington.—St. Paul, January 25, seed and corn ; St. Luke, October 18, cattle and cheese.

Nuneaton.—February 18, May 14, October 31, for horses, cows, and sheep ; if October 31 happens on a Sunday, then the day before.

Rugby.—Second Tuesday after January 6, February 17, March 31, May 15, July 7, August 21, November 22, Monday before St. Michael, September 29, horses, cows, sheep, and cheese ; December 10, cattle, &c.

Solihull.—May 10, October 10, cattle, sheep, and horses ; April 29, October 12, for cheese, hops, and cattle.

Southam.—Easter-Monday, Monday after Holy-Thursday, July 10, horses, cows, and sheep; First Monday in October, and first Monday in Lent, cattle and sheep.

Stratford-on-Avon.—Thursday after March 25, cattle, sheep, and pedlary; May 14, September 25, Thursday after September 25, for cloth, cheese, seed, wheat, hops, and all sorts of cattle. The day after the last is a statute for hiring servants.

Sutton Colefield.—Trinity-Monday, November 8, for sheep and cattle.

Warwick.—Third Monday in January, second Monday in February, Monday before April 5; First Saturday in Lent, May 12, first Monday in June, July 5, for horses, cows, and sheep; Second Monday in August, September 4, horses, cows, sheep, and cheese; October 12, statute; November 8, horses, cows, and sheep; Monday before St. Thomas, December 21, cattle, sheep, &c.

LIST OF BANKING-HOUSES IN THE COUNTY.

<i>Name & Place.</i>	<i>Firm.</i>	<i>On whom they draw.</i>
Atherstone -	Chapman and Co. -	Spooner and Co.
Do. Do.	J. Willday and Co.	Veres and Co.
Birmingham	Taylor's & Lloyd's	Hanburys & Co.
Do. Do.	Freer and Co. - -	Hanburys & Co.
Do. Do.	Woolley and Co. -	Lubbock and Co.
Do. Do.	{ Smith, Gibbons & } Co. - - - - - }	Esdaile and Co.
Do. Do.	Attwoods and Co.-	Spooner and Co.
Do. Bank -	Galtons and Co. -	Barclay and Co.
Coventry - -	{ Little, Woodcock, } and Son - - - - }	Smith, Payne & Co.
Do. Do.	Troughton and Co.	Veres and Co.
Do. & War- wickshire	{ Beck and Adams - }	Esdaile and Co.

Coventry and	{ Goodall, Willmot }	Pole, Thornton
Warwicksh.	{ and Co. - - - - }	and Co.
Do. Do.	Lant and Bunny -	Glyn and Co.
Kington - -	{ Davies, Cummar }	Lubbock and Co
	{ and Co. - - - - }	
Nuneaton -	W Craddock & Co.	Vere's and Co. :
Rugby - - -	A. Butlin and Son	Pares & Heygate
Stratford-on-	{ Whitehead, Wes- }	Glyn and Co.
Avon - - -	{ ton and Co. - - }	
Do. Do.	Oldaker and Co. -	Spooner and Co.
Warwick.	{ Tomes and Co. - - }	Ladbroke & Co.
Old Bank }		
Do. Do.	Whitehead and Co.	Glyn and Co.

TITLES CONFERRED BY THE COUNTY.

Coventry and Lichfield conjointly form the see of a bishop. The city of Coventry gives the title of Earl and Baron to the family of that name ; Warwick gives the first of these titles to the Greville family ; Tamworth gives the title of Baron to the Woods : Coleshill, that of Viscount to the Digbys ; Beauchamp-Court, that of Baron to the Grevilles ; Beauchamp, that of Viscount to the Conway Seymour family ; Middleton, that of Baron to the Willoughby family ; Newnham Padox, the titles of Viscount and Baron to the Fieldings ; Wormleighton, that of Baron to the Spencers ; Whitley, that of Viscount to the Hoods ; Compton, that of Earl to the family of that name ; and Arden, that of Baron to the Percival family.

THE QUARTER SESSIONS.

These are held at the Town-hall in Warwick, where the assizes for the county and the county-courts are holden.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY OF WARWICK.

SITUATION, BOUNDARIES, AND EXTENT.

WARWICKSHIRE is an inland county, situated near the centre of the kingdom, in a north-west direction from London. It is bounded on the south-east by Northamptonshire; on the north-east by Leicestershire and Oxfordshire; on the south and south-west by Gloucestershire; on the west by Worcestershire, and on the north and west by Staffordshire. The greatest length of the county is 51 miles and a quarter from Honey-hill in the north, to Kollwright-stones in the south; and the greatest breadth from the eastern extremity of the county, about half-a-mile above the Northampton road, to the western extremity at Headley-cross, is 36 miles. The county contains, by Mr. Carey's map, 597,477½ acres, at the calculation of 80 chains statute-measure to a mile. The city and county of Coventry lies in a north-east direction from Warwick, at the distance of about 10 miles; it is bounded on every side by Warwickshire; the greatest length from Bedworth, to a point near Baginton, is seven miles and a half, and the extreme breadth from Nettle-hill to Brownshill, in the direction of Karesley-green, is seven miles and a quarter. The district contains in all about 18,161 acres. It is remarkable that the freeholders of the county and city of Coventry, as *such*, never vote upon the return of any member to serve in parliament for the county of Warwick.

NAME AND ANCIENT HISTORY.

Warwickshire is evidently derived from the town of Warwick, which stands nearly in the centre of the county; the Saxons gave it the name of *Weringscire*; and, it is one of the five counties which, in the time of the Romans, were inhabited by the *Cornavie*; under the Saxon heptarchy, it formed a part of the kingdom of Mercia. Three of the Roman roads pass through

this county, Watling-street, Ikenild-street, and the Fosse-way ; upon each of these, which are still visible, several considerable remains of Roman antiquities have been discovered. Watling-street separates this county from Leicestershire ; Ikenild-street passes through it along the borders of Worcestershire, and the Fosse-way crosses Watling-street from Leicestershire at High-cross, formerly the Benones of the Romans.

CLIMATE AND SOIL.

It would require much time and very minute observation to describe exactly the climate and soil of this county ; in fact, it would be a task hardly possible to effect, as it varies so much in each district, that two or three different kinds of soil may often be seen in the same field. On the whole, almost every species of soil is to be met with, except what is incorporated with chalk and flint.

The climate, however, is generally esteemed mild and healthy, the inhabitants seem to be stout and robust ; and, in cases where the nature of their employment is injurious to health, live to an advanced age. The most general winds are from the south-west, and are usually accompanied with rain ; but, not unfrequently, the effects of an early variation are felt to the middle of May, when vegetation has suffered severely. Warwickshire, upon the whole, is not to be considered as subject to any particular excess of damp or frost.

RIVERS.

The principal rivers that water this county are the Avon, the Leam, and the Tame. The Avon enters this county at Bensford-bridge, and adding great beauty to the delightful territory of Warwick Castle, as it flows beneath the cliff on which those lofty towers, projecting before the town and church of Warwick, are situated, glides through a charming country to the celebrated spot of Stratford-on-Avon, the birth-place of our immortal bard, and the reposi-

tory of his bones. From thence it traverses the great level of Worcestershire by Evesham, having received the Lesser Stour at Stratford, and turning to the south at Perthshore, meets the Severn at the flourishing town of Tewkesbury. The Avon is navigable by barges to Stratford.

The LEAM rises on the eastern borders of the county, and with a winding course passes near several villages, till it falls into the Avon, at a small distance from Warwick.

The TAME flows out of Worcestershire, and enters this county near Birmingham; from whence it proceeds to Tainworth, where it passes into Staffordshire. In its way thither, like the Avon, it receives several rivulets, and particularly Shireburne, that rises to the west of Coventry, and falls into the Thanet near Coleshill.

The lesser streams that water this county are the Anker, the Arrow, the Alne, the Swift, and Stour. Great numbers of various kinds of fish are caught in all these rivers.

The woods near Lord Aylesford's, and at Corley, have been supposed to be higher than any other land in England; from this elevated ridge, the water runs on one side into the Avon, thence to the Bristol channel; but from the other side it runs into the Blythe, Tame, Trent, and the Humber, at Hull. There are no lakes in this county, but considerable sheets of water, particularly at Lord Willoughby de Broke's, at Compton Verney; at Coombe Abbey, Lord Craven's; at Great Pocklington, the Earl of Aylesford's; at Ragley Park, the Marquis of Hertford's, &c. &c.

CANALS.

The benefits of navigable communications are nowhere experienced in a greater degree than in this county:—

Birmingham Canal.—This canal begins at Birming-

ham, and proceeds to Wilsdon Green, and Smethwick, by Blue-gates, West Bromwich, Oldbury, over Puppy-green, by Church-lane, Tipton, and Bilston; by the skirts of the town of Wolverhampton, by Gosbrook Mill, near Aldersley, into the Staffordshire Canal, which unites the Grand Trunk with the Severn, being a course of 22 miles, with a rise from Birmingham to Smethwick of 18 feet; from Smethwick to Wolverhampton is a level; and from thence to Addersley there is a fall of 114 feet in the short space of one mile and three-quarters. Out of this canal, at West Bromwich, there is a cut or branch which passes over Ryder's-green, to the collieries at Wednesbury, being four miles and three-quarters, with a fall of forty-six feet. A canal commences about a mile from the town of Dudley, near the engines, which are next Netherton-hall, and proceeds across Knowle-brook, and along Dudley-wood side, through Urchill-coppice and Brierly-hill-coppice to Black-delft; and taking a large circuit round Brierly-hill church, and across Brittle-lane, between the fire engine and Seaton's engine, falls into a canal on the left of Brockmore-green, which comes from the right from Bromley-fens and Pensnett-chace, where there is a large reservoir of water, for a head to the navigation, of near 12 acres. It then proceeds in nearly a straight line to Wordsley, across the high-road from Stourbridge to Hampton, along Wordsley-field, and across the river Stour, which runs up to Stourbridge, and runs on the left by Bell's Mill, through Alfcott-meadows, into the Grand Trunk, at 34 miles from the Trent navigation, and 12 miles from the Severn. At the elbow and confluence of the river Stour with the river Smestall, very near Stourton, a branch goes off to the left by Wordsley-field, along Addenham bank, by Woollaston, Holloway-head, round Scot's-hole, into the river Stour, at the extremity of the town of Stourbridge. The distances, &c. are as follow:

From the junction of the Wolverhampton Canal to that of the Dudley Canal, five miles, and the rise 191 feet three inches; the branches to Stourbridge and to Pensnett reservoir are two miles one furlong, and level: from the Wolverhampton Canal to the reservoir on Pensnett-chace, the distance is six miles one furlong, and the rise 191 feet three inches: from Stourbridge to the branch of the reservoir, one mile and a quarter, and level.

The Coventry and Oxford Canal is 92 miles in extent, and proceeds out of the Grand Trunk at Fradley Heath to Fazeley, where there is a cut to Birmingham, and the collieries in the neighbourhood of Wednesbury. From Fazeley it is carried to Atherstone with 87 feet rise, and passing by Coventry and Hill Morton on a level, is continued to Marston Doles, with a rise of 76 feet; whence it proceeds to Oxford, having in the last 36 miles a fall of 180 feet. The length of the canal from Birmingham to Fazeley is sixteen miles and a half, having an aqueduct across the river Tame, near Birmingham, and a fall of 248 feet. This includes the collateral cut to Digbeth, in Birmingham. The length of the canal from the Grand Trunk at Stoke, near Newcastle, to Froghall and Caldon coal-pits and limestone-quarries, is 19 miles, three furlongs, 18 chains, with a rise of 75 feet in the first six miles, and three-quarters to Stanley Moss, and a fall of 60 feet 10 inches the remainder of the way to the coal-pits and lime-quarries. Another canal has also been cut from Rider's Green, near Birmingham, to Broad-water fire-engine coal-mines, being four miles and a half and six chains, with a fall of 46 feet.

Warwick and Birmingham Canal.—This canal commences on the western side of the town of Warwick, and passes Budbrook, Hatton, Rowington, Badesley, Clinton, Knowle, Solihull, Yardley, and joins the Digbeth branch of the Birmingham and Fazeley Ca-

nal on the eastern side of Birmingham, being a course of about 25 miles.

Ashby-de-la-Zouch Canal.—This canal joins the Coventry Canal at Marston-bridge, about two miles to the south of Nuneaton, and taking an easterly course passes Hinckley, from whence it takes a north course, and passes Stoke Golding, Dadlington, through Bosworth-field, and within a mile of Market Bosworth, after which it crosses the river Sence, and, passing to the east of Gopsal-park, arrives at Snareston, where is a small tunnel, from whence the canal winds along, and passes Measham, Okethorpe, and over Ashby Woulds, whence passing through Blackfordby, it reaches the north-west side of Ashby-de-la-Zouch; the canal is then continued about one mile and a half beyond the town, where passing a tunnel of near one mile, a branch bends to the west and goes to Ticknall; another branch goes to the east, and finishes at the lime-works at Clound-hill; on the Ticknall branch, near the commencement, is a short cut to the lime-works at Staunton: there is also a branch on the north edge of Ashby Woulds, which goes to the coal-works at Swadlincote. The total length of this canal, with the branches, is 50 miles, with 252 feet lockage.

Stratford-on-Avon Canal, as yet unfinished, joins the Worcester and Birmingham Canal at King's Norton, about six miles from Birmingham; from the junction, it takes an easterly course to Yardley Wood Common, whence it bends to the south, and passes Shirley-street, Monkford-street, Lapworth, Preston Bagot, where it crosses the river Alne, thence by Wootton to the north side of Stratford: there is a branch by Billesley, to the stone-quarries near Temple Grafton, and another to the quarries near Tamworth: the total length of the canal, exclusive of the branches, is 24 miles and a half, with 309 feet fall to Stratford. The branch to Tamworth is near two

miles and a half and level; that to Grafton-field is near four miles, with 20 feet rise in the last mile and a half.

Worcester and Birmingham Canal.—This canal commences at Birmingham, from whence it takes a course through the parishes of Edgbaston, Northfield, King's Norton, Alvechurch, Tardebig, Stoke-Prior, Dodderhill, Hanbury, Hadsor, Himbleton, Oddingley, Tibberton, Hinlip, Warndon, Clains, St. Martin's, and, at Diglis, adjoining the south side of Worcester, falls into the Severn. The length of this line is 31 miles and a half, of which the first 16 miles from Birmingham are upon a level; the remaining 15 miles and a half have a fall of 448 feet. This canal is not finished.

Warwick and Braunston Canal. This canal joins the Warwick and Birmingham Canal, in the parish of Budbrook, on the north-west side of the town of Warwick; and crossing the Avon, proceeds by Radford, Ollichurch, Long-Itchington, where it crosses the river Watergall, by Lemington-Hastings, Granborough, where it crosses the river Leame; and at Braunston joins the Oxford Canal. The length is about 20 miles.

ROADS.

The turnpike-roads in this county are in general good, and appear to have been pretty well formed at first; but the private roads are not so well attended to, from an improper application of the statute-labour. The materials here for making of roads, as limestone and gravel, are very good, and when judiciously laid, last a considerable time, without wanting much repair.

ENCLOSURES AND FENCES.

The extent of common and enclosed land in Warwickshire is much less than is to be met with in most counties in England. More than half a century past, the south-eastern part of the county was very much in common, but now all is enclosed and

subdivided; the common of the greatest extent in that county was Long Compton, till the act was obtained for enclosing it. The fences of white-thorn, where no trees have been planted in the bank, are generally very good; but the hedges have been allowed to remain too long without being cut. The numerous trees in the hedge-rows of the old enclosures destroy the hedges; gate-posts are generally made of oak, the head and back with oak or elm, with five bars and two cross-bars, hung on hinges, &c. and some with an iron catch. Light cast-iron gates, that might be furnished for two guineas each, have been strongly recommended.

WASTES.

The greatest part of the heaths and commons lies in the northern and western parts of the county, and here are those of the worst quality. The quantity has been greatly diminished within the last thirty years, Sutton Coldfield, and Sutton Park, being the only commons of any extent in the county. A general act of enclosure can alone effect the improvements of all the small commons and wastes; and, until that shall take place, it is observed, they must remain in their present miserable and unproductive state; a large tract of this county still bears the name of the Forest of Arden. The southern portion, formerly called the Feldon, is a tract of great fertility.

FARM-HOUSES AND OFFICES.

In Warwickshire, like most other counties in England, the farm-houses, it is said, are in general very injudiciously placed, being frequently at the extremity of the farm. The oldest are built of timber and mud or clay-walls, and thatched; or of stone-walls and thatched, and are generally ill-planned and ill-convenient. The new farm-houses, &c. are built of brick and covered with tile; but these, though very substantial, are not convenient. The barns, like those in the north, are small, the corn being generally built in stacks; few of the stables for the working

horses are divided into stalls, by which the cattle are liable to great injuries from the vicious and bad tempered; the want of open sheds for wintering, and feeding sheds for soiling, has also been much complained of, as well as the want of threshing-machines.

COTTAGES.

These in many parts are built of clay and thatched, and are poor miserable hovels, compared with those lately built. A few yards off the road, about a mile and a half west of Dunchurch, there is a long row of good and convenient cottages; few of these buildings are let with the farms, though, when they are, it must be of essential benefit to the farmer. The newly built cottages have three apartments in them, a large one where the family sit and dress their victuals, and two others for sleeping places, &c.; the rents of cottages vary from one pound ten shillings to three and four pounds a year.

RENT AND SIZE OF FARMS.

The size of farms in Warwickshire runs from 50 to 500 acres, and very few exceed that extent. In the eastern district the farms are large; in the west and north-west generally small. When the latter have fallen in, it has been a maxim among the landlords to increase them in size, by laying two or three of them together; though, on the Duke of Buccleugh's estate at Dunchurch, and on Lord Craven's at Coombe Abbey, the size of farms is understood to be more equal than any other properties in the county. Lord Craven's estate is supposed to contain between 7 and 8000 acres, let to 20 tenants.

Excepting that part of the county which lies in the immediate vicinity of Birmingham, Warwick, and other populous towns, the rents of this county are low, considering the excellent quality of the soil, &c. The best grass-land for pasture has let from 2*l.* to four guineas per acre; the arable from 18*s.* to 50*s.* and some at three guineas per acre; the meadow-land from 2*l.* to six guineas per acre, and garden-ground

as high as 10*l.* and 15*l.* per acre. The rents are in general paid in money through the whole of the county.

TITHES.

The farmers in Warwickshire, as well as those in other districts, complain of tithes, and wish they could be converted into a corn rent, or some fixed payment; but their complaints are more generally directed against the lay impropriators than the clergy; the former being more rigid in their exactions than the latter. Most of the old enclosures are tithed, and in many instances are compounded for from 6*s.* to 12*s.* per acre; enormous as this is, some are not satisfied with it, but collect their tithe in kind. The new enclosures are exonerated.

LEASES AND TENURES.

Many farms in this county are held by tenants at will, who are under agreement from one year to another. Where a renewal of a lease takes place, the term is generally seven or fourteen years; though these short terms must be injurious both to the landlord and the tenant; farmers that have cheap farms may farm well, but those that have dear farms must farm well, or their career will soon be at an end. The greater part of the county is freehold, though there are many copyholders of some extent; their tenures, as in all other counties, vary much, and some of them, the remnants of feudal times, are grossly absurd. A very considerable extent of land is held of the cathedrals of Worcester and Lichfield; about 500 acres on the south, adjoining the city of Coventry, the property of the Marquis of Hertford, is lammas or common, from August to February; the quantity of land in the jurisdiction of Coventry, subject to this right of pasturage, is estimated at 3000 acres; it is enjoyed only by the freemen of Coventry, and cannot be transferred.

IMPLEMENTS.

The ploughs in this county are generally the double and single improved Rotherham, with wheels. The

large swing-plough is in general use in that part of the county near Worcestershire, and this is drawn by five horses yoked one before another, a man holding, and another man or boy driving, takes a furrow from ten inches and a half to eleven inches in breadth, and five to six in depth. Small's swing-plough, drawn by two horses abreast, is capable of performing its work when well understood. The harrows are much the same as those used in other counties; the large break, or drag-harrow, is also of a similar description with those used in other places. The thrashing-machines, in different parts of the county, have been generally on a small scale. Mills of four-horse power are said to be found little enough to thrash, shake the straw, and winnow the grain; though one of these cannot be erected for less than 250*l.* with every appendage.

WAGGONS AND CARTS.

The carriages in use throughout the county are the large four-horse waggons, and two and three-horse turn-up carts, wheels six to nine-inch tire, and are remarkably strong; they are extremely heavy for the horses to draw. The price of four-horse waggons, is from 45 to 50*l.* and some as high as 60*l.*; the carts are from 18 to 25*l.*

CATTLE.

As most of the farmers in this county have given up keeping of dairies, the breeding of cattle is less followed than it used to be. Farmers and graziers buy whatever store-cattle will pay them best; hence the county abounds with different breeds. The long-horned cows are most esteemed for the dairy. The Holderness short-horned breed are esteemed good milkers, but for this quality the Hereford and Scotch are the most valuable, whilst the long-horned heifers are preferred by the graziers, as good feeders. The oxen bred in the county are mostly of the long-horned kind. A cross between long-horned cows and Yorkshire bulls has been found to answer very well. The

west highland stots soon get fat on the rich pastures of Warwickshire. Very few oxen are here used for draught. There are several sorts of sheep bred in the county, as the large-polled, or ancient Warwickshire; the new Leicesters; the Wiltshire, a small sort with black and grey faces, bred on the commons, &c. The South-down sheep was introduced by Lord Hood on his estate near Coventry; and the Spanish or Merino have been bred by Lord Aylesford, at Packington, and Mr. Thomas Jackson, at Alveston Pastures.

The horses generally used in the farms are heavy black cattle, much improved by the fine stallions sent from Leicestershire every year. Many riding, hunting, and coach-horses are also bred in the county. Among the different breeds of pigs, the large white one grows to the greatest size, weighing from twenty to forty score each. But since the decrease of the dairies, fewer pigs are kept than before.

MANUFACTURES.

At Birmingham all kinds of hardware are made, and in the vicinity every sort of plated goods, coinage for government, and steam-engines, not only for the whole empire, but for every part of the civilized world. The steam-engine first constructed by the late Mr. Watt, has proved superior to any other yet invented. A considerable nail manufactory has been carried on by Messrs. Whitehouse and Co. at Bromwich; and during the late war 6000 muskets were manufactured for government every week. At Coventry there are considerable manufactures in the silk and ribbon-weaving, tambouring, &c. and till the late peace, great numbers of watches were got up here. Horn combs of all descriptions are made at Kenilworth; and at Warwick, several hundreds of persons are employed in combing, and spinning long wool, &c. Calicoes and other cotton goods are also wove here of yarn spun at Manchester and in that neighbourhood. At Alcester several hundreds of persons are employed in making of needles; and at Berkswell,

Balsall, and Tamworth, there are considerable flax manufactures, and much linen-yarn spun.

MINERALS AND FOSSILS.

These are coal, lime-stone, free-stone, iron, blue flag-stone, marl and blue clay; also a clay, having some of the properties of soap, is found on the estate of the Earl of Warwick. Considerable quantities of coal are wrought at Bedworth, where the seam runs from three feet to three and three quarters, and in some places to four feet in thickness, and the quality is considered as the best in the county; at Griff-hollow, Chelverscoton, Nuneaton-Common, Hunt's-Hall, and Oldbury, there are also considerable quantities of coal; the coal at the latter place is only fit for burning lime-stone.

POPULATION.

According to the late returns, Warwickshire contains 44,940 inhabited houses, occupied by 49,066 families. There are 109,539 males, and 119,196 females, making a total of 228,735 persons. Warwickshire sends six members to parliament; two for the county, two for the city of Coventry, and two for Warwick.

LITERATURE AND LEARNED MEN.

Among the earliest of this description we find Michael Drayton, the poet, whose principal work is *Poly Olbion*, a chorographical description of the rivers, mountains, forests, castles, &c. in this island. He died in 1631, and was buried in Poets' Corner, in Westminster-Abbey. Sir William Dugdale, the celebrated historian and antiquary, was born near Coleshill, in 1605. His principal works are the *Monasticon Anglicanum*, the *Antiquities of Warwickshire Illustrated*, &c.; he died in 1686. Fulke Greville, Lord Brooke, was born at Beauchamp Court, in 1554. His lordship was an ingenious poet, and a liberal patron of learning and learned men. Francis Holyoake, a learned lexicographer, and author of an "*Etymological Dictionary of Latin Words*," was born at Nether Whitacre, about the year 1567. Sir Thomas Over-

bury, who was poisoned in the Tower in 1613, was born at Compton-Scorfen, in 1581: he was an elegant scholar, and wrote several pieces in prose and verse. Of Shakespeare, born at Stratford-upon-Avon, nothing more than his name need be mentioned here. Somerville, author of "The Chase," a poem, &c. was also a native of this county. At Newton, near Rugby, was born, in the year 1691, Edward Cave, the designer and original publisher of the Gentleman's Magazine. Young Cave was one of the most promising scholars of the Rugby institution, till disgusted with the treatment of some of them who had opulent parents, he quitted it in disgust, and was bound apprentice to a printer in London. By habits of care and industry he afterwards accumulated a sum sufficient to engage a small printing-office, and soon commenced "The Gentleman's Magazine," a periodical pamphlet, which, Johnson observes, is known wherever the English language is spoken. He died in the year 1754, aged 63. The newspapers printed in this county are;—at Coventry, the Coventry Journal; the Coventry Mercury; at Birmingham, Swinney's Birmingham Chronicle; the Birmingham Commercial Herald; Aris's Gazette; and the Argus.

CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS.

Warwickshire is divided into four hundreds, viz. Barlichway, Hemlingford, Kineton and Knightlow, besides the liberties of Coventry; containing one city, Coventry; one borough, Warwick; and eleven other market-towns, viz. Atherstone, Alcester, Birmingham, Coleshill, Henley, Kineton, Nuneaton, Rugby, Southam, Stratford-on-Avon, and Sutton-Colefield. Warwickshire is comprised in the province of Canterbury and dioceses of Lichfield, Coventry, and Worcester, and included in the Midland Circuit.

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY OF WARWICK.

*Journey from Tamworth to Coventry; through
Atherston and Nuneaton.*

TAMWORTH is situated at the conflux of the Anker with the Tame, and is so equally divided by the latter river that one half, viz. the west part, stands in Staffordshire, and the east in Warwickshire, and each chooses a member of parliament. It is the oldest town in these parts, and was the royal seat of the Mercian kings. A large trench remains, but in part filled up, called the King's Dyke, where bones of men and horses, and spear-heads, have been dug up. It was destroyed by the Danes, and rebuilt by Queen Ethelfleda, who added a strong tower to it, which stood below that which is the present castle, which till the present century had been the seat of its lords. The apartments are numerous, but inconvenient and irregular, except a dining-room and drawing-room, from whence there is a beautiful view of the town and adjacent country. Queen Elizabeth made it a corporation of two bailiffs, one for each county, with 24 principal burgesses, one of whom is a town-clerk, who, with the bailiffs, have a power to call courts, choose serjeants-at-mace, be justices of the peace in the borough, keep a three-weeks' court of record, and have a gaol, market, and fairs, and a court-leet twice a-year, with a high-steward, recorder, and under-steward, and other inferior officers, and a common seal, &c. &c. This borough was the joint property of the Marquis Townshend and the Marquis of Bath; but the latter sold his share to Sir R. Peel, who established considerable works for printing calicoes here. The freeholders had formerly votes, in common with the inhabitant householders; but they lost that privilege by a resolution of the house of commons, in the year 1722: the right of election is therefore now

in the inhabitants, being householders, paying scot and lot, and not receiving alms; they are in number 263. The two bailiffs are the returning officers.

The church here was collegiate, and stands where once was a nunnery, in the Staffordshire part of the town. This church is large, and built at distant periods. Near the chancel are two great Saxon arches, of zigzag mouldings. It has several antique monuments. Here is a grammar-school, founded, in the Staffordshire part of the town, by Queen Elizabeth; and a fine charity of that eminent bookseller, Mr. Guy, who founded that noble hospital in Southwark.

The market is on Saturday; and fairs on May 4, July 26, and October 24. In Calford meadow, near this town, there are frequent horse-races.

The village of SECKINGDON, about three miles and a half to the north-east of Tamworth, is famous in history for a battle fought near it between Cuthred, King of the West Saxons, and Ethelbald, King of the Mercians, the latter of whom was slain, and all his army killed or taken prisoners. There are also the remains of an ancient camp, fortified with ditches and entrenchments, near this village; and on the north side of it is a lofty turret, that appears to have been used as an exploratory tower. The people have a tradition, that there was formerly a castle here; but that is undoubtedly a vain conjecture, as no mention is made of any such place in our ancient records.

On leaving Tamworth, we proceed in a south-easterly direction, and at the distance of about three miles pass through the village of POLESWORTH, where a convent of nuns was founded by King Egbert, at the request of Modwena, an Irish lady of great sanctity, which was afterwards repaired by R. Marmian, a nobleman, who had a castle at Stippers-Hall, in the neighbourhood: the convent, at the dissolution, was granted to Sir Francis Goodwin, whose son-in-law Sir Francis Nethersol, public orator at Cambridge, founded a free-school at the desire of his lady, and rebuilt the vicarage-house.

Near this place, at Aucot or AVECOT, was a priory of Benedictine monks, cell to the abbey at Great Malvern, founded by William Burdell, in the year 1159, and granted to Lord Audley and Sir Thomas Pope.

At the distance of two miles from Polesworth, we pass through the village of GRENDON, where is a seat of the Right Hon. Lady Bertie; near which is Pasley Hall, the seat of Col. Finch; three miles from Polesworth is ATHERSTONE, a name said to be a corruption from Arden Town, it being situated at the northern extremity of the extensive and ancient forest of Arden. It is a hamlet in the parish of Manceister, the Manduessedum of the Romans; and consists chiefly of one street, three-quarters of a mile in length, and a neat square market-place, in the midst of which has (within these few years) been erected a very good market-house on pillars, over which is an elegant assembly-room, &c. The town stands on the old Roman road, called Watling-street; and here was formerly a monastery of mendicant friars, the only one they had in this county. It has a weekly market on Tuesday, and being situated between the fertile county of Leicester, and the populous town of Birmingham, its fairs are much resorted to for the mutual barter of their respective commodities; but more especially the one held on the 4th of December, when London dealers attend as purchasers. Of late years the adjacent roads have been greatly improved, by which means the communication between Coventry, Burton, Derby, Manchester, and the neighbouring parts of the county of York, has been facilitated; and the canal, which unites the Isis, the Trent, and the Mersey, crosses the county within one hundred yards of the town.

Atherstone is a constablewick, governed by a constable and two third-boroughs. There is an exceeding good grammar-school, with a good endowment, free for the boys of the town. It is remarkable in history, for being the place where the Earl of Richmond and

the nobles of his party held a council, the night before the battle of Bosworth Field, where he gained a complete victory over Richard the Third, who lost his life in the combat.

Nehemiah Grew, M. D. was born in this town about the beginning of the civil wars, and his father being an eminent minister among the Puritans, became a non-conformist, when the act of uniformity took place in 1662. This induced the father to send his son to the university of Leyden, where he finished his studies, and took his highest degrees in the physical line.

When he returned to England, he might have obtained high preferments; but the same scruples of conscience continued to operate on his mind, and although he was employed by many people of fashion as a physician, yet he could not enjoy any public benefit, because he would not take the sacramental test.

The Royal Society made him one of their fellows, and he was soon after elected into the college of physicians. His works are numerous; and although he devoted the greatest part of his time to the study of botany, yet it appears that he never lost sight of anatomy, or such other sciences as could be of any service to him in propagating the knowledge of nature. He lived to be an ornament to his country, and died at London, in the year 1711.

The town of Atherstone is very pleasantly situated, with a range of hills and woods on the back, and on the front a most delightful extensive prospect of a fine cultivated country, and bounded, at a great distance, by the hills in the counties of Derby and Leicester. The river Anker runs about a mile from the town, which divides the counties of Warwick and Leicester, and retains its name till it joins the Tame near Tamworth.

About one mile north-west of Atherstone is Merevale Hall, the seat of D. Stratford Dugdale, esq. a

most delightful spot, with a most extensive prospect; it is remarkable for having in the park some of the best oaks in the kingdom, and being the clearest from underwood, it being exceeding rare even to find the smallest bramble encircling the aged trunks. About two miles from the last-mentioned place is the village of BADGLEY, near which is a large colliery.

Pursuing our journey, at the distance of one mile from Atherstone, we pass through the village of MANCEISTER, situated on the Watling-street, which was the Manduessedum of the Romans; and here several Roman coins of brass and silver have been dug up. Near this place are the remains of an ancient fort, called Oldbury: it is of a quadrangular form, is inclosed with high ramparts, and contains about seven acres of ground. In the north part of this fortification have been found several flint-stones, each about four inches long, thought by Sir William Dugdale, who wrote an account of the antiquities of this county, to have been a sort of weapon used by the ancient Britons, before they possessed the art of making weapons of brass and iron.

At the distance of about one mile beyond Manceister, we pass on our right the pleasant village of Hartshill, the birth-place of Michael Drayton, the poet, who was born here in the year 1563. When but ten years of age, he appears to have been page to some person of honour, as we collect from his own words. It appears too that he was then anxious to know "what kind of strange creatures poets were?" and desired his tutor, of all things, that, if possible, "he would make him a poet." He took delight in, and was eminent for, his talent in this way, nine or ten years before the death of Queen Elizabeth, if not something sooner.—Drayton died in the year 1631, and was buried in Westminster-abbey, among the poets.

About one mile and a half to the east of Hartshill, and on the left of our road, is the village of Caldecote,

remarkable for a seat of the Purefoys, which stood a siege against a detachment of horse, under the command of the princes Rupert and Maurice, in the year 1641. A new house has been built by — Fisher, esq. without entirely destroying the old mansion.

Returning to our road at the distance of about four miles from Manccester, we arrive at NUNEATON, a market-town, said to have been originally called Eaton, a word that anciently signified the water-town, and was probably applied to this place from its situation on the river Anker; and afterwards had the epithet Nun prefixed to it, from a convent of nuns here, of the order of Fontevrault, in which, besides the prioress and nuns, there was a prior also, and perhaps monks; it was founded by Robert Earl of Leicester, in the reign of Henry the Second. A small part of the walls of this ancient building are now standing at the north-west end of the town, but the remains are so trifling that they are not sufficient to convey an idea of its original grandeur: the site was granted to Marmaduke Constable.

The town is rather large and well-built, and the church has a square tower, with six bells; also a clock and chimes; here is a manufacture for ribands; also a good free-school, founded by the inhabitants in the reign of Edward the Sixth, who gave to it three closes of ground, in the liberty of Coventry, to be held of the crown, as belonging to the manor of East Greenwich, in soccage.

Pursuing our journey, at the distance of about three miles from Nuncaton, we pass through the village of BEDWORTH, two miles to the north-west of which is Arbury Hall, the seat of F. Newdigate, esq. who has a coal-mine here, from whence a cut is made to the great canal.

At the distance of about five miles and a half from Bedworth, we arrive at COVENTRY, a city pleasantly seated on ground gently sloping on both sides; it is about three-quarters of a mile in length, exclusive of

the suburbs: the streets in general are narrow, and composed of very ancient buildings; and before the cathedral was taken down, Coventry possessed a matchless group of churches, all standing within one cemetery. St. Michael's at present is a specimen of the most beautiful steeple in Europe: a tower enriched with saintly figures on the sides, an octagon rising out of it, and that lengthened into a most beautiful spire. Every part of it is so finely proportioned, that Sir Christopher Wren spoke of it as a masterpiece of architecture.

This with the rest of the religious public edifices of Coventry, are truly worthy of attention. The churches are three in number; that of St. Michael is a beautiful specimen of the Gothic, or English style. The first building on this spot, dedicated to this saint, stood in the reign of King Stephen, when Ralph, earl of Chester, rendered it to the monks of Coventry, and it was then called the chapel of St. Michael. In the 44th of Henry III. the church here was regularly appropriated to the prior and monks. The most ancient part of this fine structure is the steeple, begun in 1373, and finished in 1395. It was built at the charge of William and Adam Botoner, several times mayors of Coventry. An elevation more delicate in symmetry, more chastely ornamented, or more striking in general character, was, perhaps, never designed by the greatest school of builders. It commences in a square tower, no portion of which remains blank, though no superfluous ornament can be perceived. The windows are well-proportioned, and the buttresses eminently light. The figures of saints are introduced in various niches, and each division is enriched with a bold, but not redundant spread of embroidery work and embossed carving. The tower is 136 feet three inches in height; and on it stands an octagonal prism, 32 feet six inches high, supported by eight springing arches of graceful and easy character. The octagon is surmounted by a battlement from within, which

proceeds to a spire 130 feet nine inches in height, adorned with fluting, and embossed so as to resemble pilasters. The beauties of this steeple are so evident to the common eye, that nothing else is wanting to impress them on the attention. It is therefore not astonishing that Sir Christopher Wren pronounced this structure a master-piece of building.

The body of St. Michael's church is supposed to have been erected in the time of Henry VI. and mostly in the early part of his reign: in his latter years he once attended religious service here. The interior consists of a body, and two side-aisles divided by lofty arches, with clustered pillars. The windows of the upper story, running along the whole of the sides, are ornamented with ancient painted glass, expressive of various religious subjects. The ceiling is of oak, ribbed and carved. On each side of the nave is a gallery; with a good organ, and a melodious peal of bells in the steeple, which being put up in 1429, it was thought proper, in 1794, to construct a frame-work within the tower; and, in 1807, the whole were hung afresh, upon an improved plan, at which time the tenor, weighing upwards of 32 hundred, was re-cast.

Trinity church being situated so near as it is to St. Michael's, loses much in estimation as a structure, from the comparison inevitably forced on the spectator's mind. This building approaches to the cruciform character; and from the centre rises a square tower, out of which a lofty spire directly issues. The original spire was blown down in the year 1664, and re-built in 1667. The entire height from the ground is 237 feet. The faces of the tower have been highly worked, though with much less delicacy than that of St. Michael's. The east end of Trinity church was taken down in 1786, and re-built as nearly as possible in its original manner. The following chantries were formerly appended to this church:—Percye's, founded in the 23d of Edward III.; the Chantry of the Holy Cross, founded in the 30th of the same reign; Lod-

ington's, founded in the 16th of Richard II. ; Corpus Christi, unknown ; Allesley's and Cellet's, founded in the reign of Edward I. The interior of Trinity church is marked by that studious cultivation of twilight gloom, so often found in the works of Gothie designers ; the monuments are few, but that upon Dr. Philemon Holland is one of the most remarkable. He was the translator-general, at a period when it was too much the fashion to lock up literary treasure in the languages of the schools.

His most valuable performance is a translation from the original latin of Camden's Britannia. He also took pride in writing a folio volume with one pen ; and composed the following lines on the occasion :—

“ With one sole pen I wrote this book,

“ Made of a grey goose-quill ;

“ A pen it was when I it took,

“ A pen I leave it still.”

Holland was a Doctor of Physic, born at Chelmsford, settled in Coventry at an early period of life, but attended more to literature than to medical affairs. Unfortunately his favourite pursuit did not screen his declining years from poverty and dependence : he died in 1636, in the 85th year of his age.

St. John's church is a respectable stone building, with a low heavy tower rising from the transept. In the buttresses of the south-side are four niches for saintly figures, now vacant ; and similar recesses, though of a smaller character, occur in other divisions. The interior is plain, and much encumbered by the four massy pillars that support the tower. The land on which this church stands was assigned by Isabel, the queen-mother of Edward III. for the building of Bablake Chapel, in honour of the Saviour, and St. John the Baptist, which was dedicated in May, 1350. A residence, for the seclusion of an anchorite, was anciently constructed in the vicinity of the chapel. After experiencing long neglect, the church of St.

John was made a rectory by act of parliament, in 1734, and settled on the master of the free-school in Coventry, the patronage being vested in the corporation. The building was at the same time repaired and new pewed, and underwent afresh the ceremony of consecration. Among the dissenting places of worship are a Quakers' Meeting, Roman Catholic Chapel, &c.

St. Mary's Hall has attracted the notice of many eminent antiquaries, and is well calculated to convey to the observer a just idea of the importance of Coventry, when the city was the resort of devotees and the favourite chamber of princes. Its foundation is connected with that of the ancient *guilds* of this city. It was raised in the early part of Henry VI. in the most prosperous days of Coventry, and is still used for the purposes of civic dignity and festivity by the mayor and corporation.

St. Mary's Hall stands at a short distance to the southward of St. Mary's church. A fine spacious window occupies the greatest part of the front. The masonry of the upper divisions is extremely good; and the spaces between the mullions of the lower half are filled with rich and well-finished niches. The building is entered by a porch with arched roofing. On the key-stone of the arch is a basso-relievo representing God on his heavenly throne, receiving St. Mary, who is sitting with her hands conjoined in the attitude of prayer. On the ribs and groins of the arch, is sculptured 'The Annunciation, which, though much decayed, still exhibits the figures of Mary and the angel, as also a flower-pot in the middle. The corresponding stone, in the opposite abutment, is wrought with the figures of grotesque animals, apparently without meaning. Beyond the porch of entrance is a court-yard, on the right of this the hall, and on the left a flight of stairs communicating with an open gallery that leads directly to the great room of entertainment. A door under the gallery opens to

the kitchen, a spacious room, replete with testimonials of the good cheer enjoyed by the associated guilds. On the north side are lofty arches, supported by octangular columns. At each extremity of a large arch, over the coppers, is an angel holding a shield, containing a mark or monogram, probably the builder's; the letters I. B. are quite distinct. On the sides, toward the east and south, are four chimneys with communicating arches; and the window over each is in a style of excellence equal to the more important parts of the structure. The basement story, or cellar of the hall, is likewise fertile in proofs of the zeal and ingenuity of the builders of the fifteenth century. The Great Hall is a noble room, 21 yards long, and 10 wide. On the north, a splendid window is divided into nine parts, and painted with figures of several monarchs, armorial bearings, and other ornaments.

The arms now left are those of Kings Henry VI., Edward III., the Emperor Constantine, King Ethelred, the Earl of Cornwall, the Duke of Normandy, the kingdom of the East Angles, the Kings of Man, the city of London, King Alfred, the Duke of Aquitaine, the city of York, and the Earl of Chester. Beneath are the figures of the following kings, which, like the arms, are much mutilated, William the Conqueror, the Emperor Constantine, King Arthur, Henry III., and Henry VI. Three of the west windows were formerly painted with the figures of Humphrey, Earl of Stafford; and one of the John Mowbrays, Dukes of Norfolk. The oriel window, on the same side, contained formerly, in each pane, various sorts of birds flying, pluming themselves, or picking insects, herbs, and grain: in the middle row, in rondeaux, was painted a man mowing, with the letters F. P.; another ploughing, and a third, felling a tree. These emblems of rural industry were, perhaps, intended for allusions to the sway of civic magistracy over contiguous agricultural parishes. The windows on the east and west sides, now much damaged, have been extremely fine;

the clusters of the columns on the piers are supported by religious and royal busts. In the two upper compartments are the effigies of Thomas Arundel, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1396; and Roger Walden, Bishop of London, 1404. The inscriptions beneath are quite perfect, and the figures nearly so; and the delicacy of the faces, mitres, crosiers, and the Gothic canopy, is striking. In the lower compartments are the portraits of William Beauchamp, who died in 1411, and Johanna, his wife, one of the daughters and co-heiress of Richard Fitz-Alan, Earl of Arundel, who died in 1435. Beneath are their arms with inscriptions, but somewhat mutilated.

In the upper compartment of the second window, is a figure in a red cowl and a yellow belt, representing Richard Beauchamp, fifth Earl of Warwick, of that name, and nephew to William before-mentioned, who died in 1439, with his arms and an inscription. The opposite compartment contains the remains of a figure, originally representing Isabella, his second wife, daughter and heiress of Thomas de Spenser, Duke of Gloucester; the upper part of the body is entirely gone; a bearded face is substituted, and the rest is mere patch-work. Below are two figures representing mayors of Coventry; one of them intended for William Whychurch, mayor in 1400. He is pictured with a forked beard, in a red cap and gown, the usual habiliments of the mayors. On a shield below him is a merchant's mark and a scroll, the letters on the latter entirely gone. In the first upper compartment of the third window, is the figure of John Burg-hill, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield in 1399, with a shield under him, and the scroll inverted. Opposite is the figure of Richard Scrope, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield in 1396, afterwards translated to York. In the lower compartments of the same window are the representations of two mayors of Coventry, and under one of them these words remain legible, "Robertus Schypley," mayor in 1402, and again in 1415. All the figures not arrayed in the usual garbs o

ecclesiastical or magisterial dignity, are dressed with the magnificence and luxury of the East, in long robes lined with ermine, and with large singular hoods. Beneath the north window is a spread of tapestry of the highest local interest, 30 feet in length and 10 in height, divided into two series of three compartments each. In the first, (beginning from the left hand,) appears Henry VI. with several of the nobility. Henry is upon his knees in an extacy of devotion, and his crown and a missal are lying on a table before him. Behind Henry is Cardinal Beaufort, in the same attitude. The rest of the personages are standing, and among them, the good Duke Humphrey. The dresses principally shew a vestment next the body, falling below the knees, and a robe with large sleeves worn over it. The shoes are long-quartered; the caps are small and flat, with their brims notched; the king's and some others had large jewels in them, and their necks were decorated with gold chains. Each figure has his neck bare, and just above the collar of the under garment something like linen appears. From Henry's crown, those bows with globe and cross diverge, which were first introduced in his reign. A very small number of this groupe appear without caps; for even in the religious ceremonies of those days, such coverings were unheeded and indifferent. In fact, it was not considered indecorous to have the head covered during church-service so lately as the reign of Elizabeth. In the back-ground of these hangings we are presented with a distant view of the country. In the compartment above, are several of the apostles, as St. John the Baptist; St. Simon with a saw; St. Andrew with a cross; St. Bartholomew with a dagger; St. Peter with keys; St. Paul with a long sword; St. Thomas with a lance; and St. John the Evangelist, with a lamb, flag, and a book. Two christian knights also bear the banner of the cross, and a sword and anvil; the latter are the emblems of courage and hardihood.

In the second compartment of the first tier is St. Mary in glory, surrounded by angels, with the moon under her feet, which is supported by an angel. On each side of St. Mary are the twelve apostles, in the attitudes of devotion. The back-ground displays an expanse of rural views. In the compartment above, the scene is continued where we see the heavens opened and filled with angels; round the eternal throne, four of them bear the instruments of the Passion, but the subject in the centre has been cut out by some over-zealous or curious person, and in its room we are presented with a woven figure of Justice. The steps and sides of the throne are still visible, with the characters of I. H. S. on the top of the work.

In the third compartment of the first tier, Queen Margaret is introduced with a train of ladies. This division, it is observed, will be viewed with much interest, as little is satisfactorily known concerning the features of this able and heroic Queen. Margaret is here shewn as a tall and commanding figure: the face is not conspicuous for beauty, but the expression is gracious and pleasing. A lady near the Queen has been traditionally termed the Duchess of Buckingham. The dresses of these ladies are, a robe tight on the body, with wide flowing sleeves, their necks bare; and on those of the Queen, the Duchess, and three others, are gold chains. The covering to their heads is peculiarly graceful; the Queen's more so, on account of the addition of her crown. Among the number are two nuns, in the full habit of their order. In the back-ground, by the side of the Queen, is a distant view of the country and a variety of buildings. The tier above shews many female saints; the colours of this curious piece of tapestry, though partly faded, are still various and beautiful, and the general effect is highly impressive. The interior of the hall was newly painted and ornamented in 1580; the sides are enriched by inscriptions and heraldic devices, and adorned by many portraits. On the east side are

complimentary inscriptions in Latin, accompanied by the arms of the Prince of Wales; those of Northumberland; and the Bear and Ragged Staff, the crest of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. There are also inscriptions in old English characters, accompanied by heraldic devices. An inscription at the lower end of the hall relates to the grant of some lands by the Duke of Northumberland for the benefit of such of the poor of Coventry as had no pasturage for their cattle; the said persons paying one penny weekly for every cow or heifer, and for every gelding two-pence. Beneath is a chair of state, rich in ornaments and tracery; among the former are St. Mary with the infant Jesus; on one side of the top are carved the arms of Coventry; opposite are two lions rampant, supporting a crown or coronet. This chair has evidently been double; the parts where the other half fitted in being very visible. At the same end of the hall is the gallery for minstrels, where several suits of armour are to be seen, formerly worn by the attendants of the mayor, when he went in state to proclaim the great fair. The portraits are those of Queen Elizabeth, James I., Charles I., Sir Thomas White, Charles II., and James II. in the habit of the Garter, by Sir Peter Lely; with Norton, Jesson, and Davenport, benefactors to the city. William and Mary, in their coronation robes, are copies; Anne, George I., George II., and Caroline; his present Majesty in the habit of the Garter, by Lawrence, presented in 1792, by Lord Eardly and J. Wilmot, Esq. In the timber-work of the roof are introduced whole-length carvings of angels playing on musical instruments, viz. the crewth, or fiddle, trumpet, cittern, harp, and a bass flute. From this whimsical selection it appears that our ancestors' minstrels were directed in their performances by parts in score.

Connected with this great hall are several smaller apartments, intended for business or recreation. One of these, the mayoress's parlour, has been repaired and

beautified with a cruel indifference to its former venerable character. Each circumstance of antique decoration is effaced by a finishing of lath and plaster, and a Venetian window has been inserted. The old Council-chamber has fortunately escaped innovation. Here is seen the mayor's throne-like seat, and many others, with stall embellishments. An elaborate carved entablature surrounds this apartment, and on the hangings are the arms of Queen Elizabeth. Among the carvings on the flat-pannelled ceiling are representations of the Almighty on his throne; St. Mary; St. John; St. George; St. Margaret; and the symbols of the four Evangelists. Adjoining to this room is the Treasury, in which the writings belonging to the corporation are deposited. Pennant observed, that in one of the drawing-rooms here, was to be seen an antique, equally delicate and curious, which Coventry alone had the happiness of possessing, known here by the name of the *Lady's Spoon*, doubtless nothing more than the *Scaphium* of the ancients.

The Mayor's Parlour is a place of official resort; it was partly taken down and rebuilt in 1775, at an expense of nearly 600*l*. To this parlour the corporation generally adjourn on the Friday subsequent to the time at which they hold the quarter-sessions, and this adjournment is continued to the last Friday in each month, till the ensuing general quarter-sessions.

The New County Hall, erected in 1785, is a structure well adapted to the purposes of public business. The front is of stone, and has a rustic basement, with a range of columns supporting a pediment in the centre.

The Draper's Hall, originally a dark and unpleasant edifice, was rebuilt in 1775, on a commodious and desirable plan. The front is a chaste elevation of stone, ornamented with Tuscan pilasters. This hall is 49 feet six inches in length, and 25 feet in width. The cross, the admiration of antiquaries and the ornament of the city, was taken down in 1771, at the expense of the inhabitants who resided

near it. In 1692, the city paid it such respect as to expend 323*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* in its repairs. See *Britton's Architectural Antiquities*, vol. 1.

The Barracks, that occupy the site of the Bull Inn, an ancient hostel, were erected in 1793. The face towards the High-street is composed of stone. A new gaol was erected in 1772, and is a building well calculated in size and disposal to its melancholy but necessary purpose.

The House of Industry combines parts of the ancient monastery of White Friars, which appear to have been extensive and well arranged. The marks of an original quadrangular construction seem quite evident, and the cloister that ranged along one side is in high preservation, and is now used as an eating-room for the poor. The ceiling is of wrought stone, and the ancient form of the Gothic openings, which have double frames of stone-work, is entirely retained, though the apertures are now filled with glass. The dormitory of the friars is also preserved and occupied with beds for the present inhabitants. The present building is now made three stories high; and is 93 feet in length and 22 in breadth. The regulations of this establishment reflect great credit on the city. The affairs of the house are superintended by eighteen directors, named by the adjoining parishes. They have a common seal, and hold weekly meetings for the dispatch of ordinary business, and stated general meetings for the dispatch of special affairs. Those of the adult who are able, work in the weaving of calicoes, and the younger are employed in the throwing of silk, or preparing it for the ribbon-weavers. Cleanliness and good order are conspicuous in every part of the habitation; and distinct from the places of usual residence, is a brick building, obscured by wooden screens, for the reception of such females as are admitted for the united purposes of childbed and reformation. There are also cells of solitary confinement for the last stages of vice and turbulence. The

young are instructed in the rudiments of useful learning, partly in the week and partly at the Sunday-school kept here; and a decent room is fitted up as a chapel for the aged, who may be too infirm to attend at a parish-church.

The remains of the church, belonging to the monastery that stood on this site, consists of a fine steeple, springing from an octagon. The site of other parts of the building, and the adjacent cemetery, were converted into garden-ground, and the lower part of the tower into a tool-house. This lofty and well-proportioned spire adds much to the imposing effect of the city in regard to public structures, and is an object of great and striking ornament.

Grey Friars' Hospital, being near the church formerly belonging to this fraternity, derived its name from this circumstance. This hospital was founded by Mr. William Ford, of Coventry, in 1529. It originally provided for the lodging and assistance of five men and one woman, each of whom received five-pence a-week. The increase of the value of property, &c. have since increased the number to 18 poor women, besides a nurse, and two aged men; each of these receive 2s. 6d. per week, a good quantity of coals, and a blue gown once in three years. The building is in the style that obtained towards the middle of the sixteenth century; a variety of ornaments appear in the front. The door of the principal entrance leads to a narrow court, lined on each side with habitations for the hospitallers.

The Free-School was founded by John Hales, whose advantageous purchases of monastic property from Henry VIII. were extremely productive. He had no family, and appears to have been anxious to confer benefits on the city of Coventry; but a feeling of animosity prevailed against him among the inhabitants of Coventry that has not been accounted for. It was his wish to institute a free-school in the city, and he commenced this establishment in the church

of the White Friars, attached to his newly-constructed mansion. But the sapient citizens found out that though he had bought the land formerly belonging to the Franciscans, the church was not included in the deed of conveyance. They therefore purchased the church themselves, and ejected the scholars! Mr. Hales, however, having purchased the buildings and possessions of St. John's Hospital, at the lower end of Cross Cheaping, removed his scholars to this place; and, on the front of the building, caused the following inscription to be placed:—

“Schola Regis Henrice octavi a Johannes Hales,
Armigero, fundata in que bonis literis imbuantur
Pueri, usque ad consummationem sæculi in
Christi gloriam et ecclesiæ ædificationem.”

The citizens, however, or most probably, the *Catholics*, still pursued him with rancour, and preferred complaints against him to Henry VIII. which, upon the investigation of the Secretary of State, proved unfounded. This disagreement between him and the citizens was the more to be regretted, as it is believed he had long entertained a wish to found a college in Coventry, similar to those of Westminster and Eton. But though he did not fulfil his purpose, he did not suffer his resentment to operate entirely to the prejudice of the innocent; but directed his executors to convey to the corporation of Coventry the site of St. John's Hospital, with the lands and messuages lately belonging to the dissolved priories, and of Kenilworth, and some other property; in order that out of the rents accruing, the sum of 20*l.* should be annually paid to a schoolmaster for teaching grammar; the sum of 10*l.* to an usher, and of 2*l.* 12*s.* to a music-master, who was three times a-week to instruct such scholars as were willing to learn to sing. For many years this school, being in a flourishing condition, produced some eminent men, and among them, Sir William Dugdale; but latterly, it is believed, that the sacri-

legious vortex which has swallowed up so much that has been left by our pious ancestors, for the most laudable purposes, has also affected this foundation. The present school-room is formed from a portion of the ancient chapel, and the school-forms were the seats in the choir of the White Friars church. The part towards the street was taken down in 1794, and a new front erected in the pointed style. On digging, the fragments of some building, evidently more ancient than the hospital, were discovered much beneath the surface, probably the relics of a structure destroyed during the ravages of the Danes. Some of the inhabitants caused the plinth, and part of the shaft of a pillar, to be preserved in a court-yard adjoining the school.

The Priory of Coventry was founded by Leofric, Earl of Mercia, in the reign of Edward the Confessor; and afterwards received much benefit from the patronage of the Earls of Chester. During the reign of Henry II. the Benedictine monks were partly expelled by force, by Hugh Novant, a Norman bishop, who filled the monastery with seculars; though these afterwards gave place to the former possessors. The last prior was Thomas Canwell, who surrendered the house in 1538, to commissioners appointed by Henry VIII.; and, in the 30th year of his reign, this noble pile was taken down by his order. It stood on the south side of the river Sherbourn, and the larger part of its site was converted into a garden-ground.

The Cathedral of Coventry occupied a place called Hill-Close; this was a splendid edifice, built on the model of the cathedral at Lichfield. With a wantonness of barbarity that cannot now be accounted for, Henry VIII. caused this to be levelled with the ground when he destroyed the neighbouring monastery; and this havoc was performed with such industry by Henry's agents, that only one small fragment, now worked into a dwelling, alone remains of this costly cathedral, as a large arch at the western entrance of

the close in which it stood, fell to the ground about a century back. When some of the ruins were cleared away, about the year 1649, great abundance of carved and gilt stones were discovered. In April, 1781, a stone coffin was found, containing two bodies, one lying on the right arm of the other. The episcopal palace stood at the north-east corner of St. Michael's church-yard.

Within the manor of Cheylesmore the Earls of Chester, at a very early period, built a castle on the south side of the city. A manor-house was built on its site in the reign of Henry III., some of the stonework of which, was a part of various mean tenements afterwards built here. Spon Hospital, on the western side of the city, was founded by Hugh, Earl of Chester, for lepers, in the reign of Henry II. The chapel and gateway has been converted into ordinary habitations.

The Cross, in Coventry, was a fabric of extensive celebrity, though not of a very ancient date. It stood near the centre of the present corn-market, or where the farmers assemble to sell by sample. The first cross on this spot was erected in the second year of Henry VI., or 1423; but a more costly pile was substituted in the 16th century. This was divided into three stories, was 57 feet high, having 18 niches, adorned with statues, some of which were brought from the White Friars. In 1669 it was thoroughly repaired, at a considerable expense. Having gradually fallen to ruin since that period, the last remains of it were wholly removed in 1771. The walls of the city were begun in 1355, by a license, granted by Edward III. 27 years before. These walls were three miles in circumference, and about nine feet thick; and, at different points, there were 32 towers and 12 gates, viz. New-Gate; Gosford; Bastill, or Mill-lane; Priory; Cook-street; Bishop; Well-street; Spon; Grey Friars; Cheylesmore; and Little Park-street. These walls were kept in good repair for

nearly three centuries; but the active hostility of the citizens of Coventry against the king, during the Cromwellian war, convinced Charles II. of the propriety of throwing open the town. Most of the gates were left untouched when the walls were levelled, and three of them remain, though they have suffered much from time.

Bablake Hospital is situate behind St. John's church, and nearly encompassed a small court. A portion of it is occupied by alms-houses, founded in 1506, by Thomas Bond, a wealthy trader of Coventry, who had been mayor. This institution was intended for 10 poor men and one woman, with a priest to pray for the souls of the founder, &c. The number of alms-men at present is 42, each of whom receives 4s. a-week, with a gown, a hat, and several other benefits. Another part of this hospital has been appropriated to the maintenance and instruction of poor boys ever since. Mr. Thomas Wheatley, an ironmonger and card-maker, of Coventry, was its founder. The number of boys at present is 24, they are clothed, maintained, and instructed, and, at a proper age, clothed and put out apprentice. Besides the charities before-mentioned, a large sum of money is distributed annually, in sums from 4*l.* to 5*s.* to freemen, and the widows of freemen; and one important article is, the loan of 50*l.* for nine years, of Sir Thomas White's charity, without any interest, to young tradesmen, being freemen. Here are likewise several gifts and Sunday-schools.

The principal manufactures of Coventry, at present, are in ribbons and watches; though both these branches have considerably declined since the peace of 1815. The Oxford and Coventry Canals, the head of which is near Bishop-street, affords great facilities to traffic. It passes the neighbouring collieries at Hawkesbury, extends to Brinklow, Hill-Morton, Braunston in Northamptonshire, returns to Warwickshire, and after passing by Banbury, terminates at

Oxford. By another branch, begun near Coventry, it passes by Atherstone and Tamworth, and unites with the great Staffordshire Canal, three miles from Lichfield.

Coventry is divided into 10 wards, and is internally governed by a mayor, 10 aldermen, and 20 common-council-men. The mayor and aldermen are justices of the peace for the city and county. In 1683, the city charter was renewed with various alterations. There are four annual fairs; the most important of these was granted by Henry III., and, according to the charter, is permitted to continue eight days. The procession connected with this fair is founded upon the fantastical story of Lady Godiva. Respecting the origin of this fair, it has been observed, "That there was a convent here in early times, appears from the testimony of John Rous, and of Leland, who says it was founded by King Canute; and that when the traitor Edric ravaged this county, in 1016, he burnt the nunnery in this city, of which a holy virgin, St. Osburgh, had been abbess. On its ruins, Leofric, fifth Earl of Mercia, and his Countess, Godiva, founded a monastery for an abbot and 24 Benedictine monks, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, St. Peter, and St. Osburgh. In 1095, Robert de Limesey obtained the custody of this abbey, and leave to remove his episcopal see hither; from which removal, this monastery became a cathedral priory, and the prior and convent formed one of the chapters to the bishop of this diocese, several of whom styled themselves bishops of Coventry only. After a few years, however, the see returned back to Lichfield, but on condition that the bishops should take their title from both places.

"But to return from this digression, Leofric and his lady both died about the latter end of the reign of Edward the Confessor, and were buried in the church of the abbey they had founded. The former seems to have been the first lord of this city, and the latter its

greatest benefactor; as will appear from the following tradition, which has given rise to the above-mentioned procession; and which is not only firmly believed at Coventry, but is recorded by many of our historians.

“The earl had granted the convent and city many valuable privileges; but the inhabitants having offended him, he imposed on them very heavy taxes; for the great lords, to whom the towns belonged under the Anglo-Saxons, had that privilege. The people complained grievously of the severity of the taxes, and applied to Godiva, the earl’s lady, a person of great piety and virtue, to intercede in their favour. She willingly complied with their request; but the earl remained inexorable. He, however, told his lady, that were she to ride naked through the streets of the city, he would remit the tax; meaning that no persuasion whatever should prevail with him; for it is not to be supposed that he could imagine that his lady, who was remarkable for her modesty, would condescend to expose herself in so singular and indecent a manner to the populace. The lady, however, sensibly touched by the distress of the city, generously resolved to relieve it, even on the terms proposed; and being happy in fine flowing locks, rode, decently covered to her very feet with her lovely tresses. The history was preserved in painted glass about the time of Richard the Second, in which were portrayed the earl and countess. He holds a charter in his hand, and thus addresses his lady:—

I Luriche (Leofric) for love of thee,
Do make Coventry toll free.

“Tradition says, that previous to the ride, all the inhabitants were ordered, on pain of death, to shut themselves up during the time; but that the curiosity of a certain taylor overcoming his fear, he took a single peep, and as a punishment for his violating the injunction of the noble lady, which had been published with so pious and benevolent a design, was struck

blind, and was ever after distinguished by the appellation of Peeping Tom. To this day the love of Lady Godiva to the city is annually commemorated by an elegant procession, consisting of the corporation in their formalities, the masters of the different companies with their followers and attendants; and a vallant fair still rides (not literally, like the good countess) but in fine linen, closely fitted to her limbs, and in colour resembling her complexion. The window through which the taylor is said to have gratified his curiosity is still shewn, with his effigy in it; which is always new dressed on the anniversary of the procession."

Mr. Pennant, however, observes, that the figure in the procession cannot be adduced in proof of the probable veracity of this strange tale, as it is believed the riding of a Lady Godiva was first used in the reign of Charles II. Previous to this licentious reign, the mayor was accustomed to go in procession to proclaim the fair, attended by a number of persons in armour. This show was a matter of annual occurrence till within the last few years, but it is now only occasionally exhibited. The mode of the ceremony is curious. The mayor and officers, after attending divine service at Trinity church, were thus accompanied:

Twelve Guards, two and two,
 St. George in Armour,
 Two Bugle Horns
 City Streamer,
 Two City Followers,
 City Streamer,
 Grand Band of Music,
 High Constable,
 Lady Godiva,
 City Cryer and Beadle on each side,
 Mayor's Cryer,
 City Bailiffs,
 City Maces,

Sword and Mace,
 The Right Worshipful the Mayor,
 Aldermen,
 Sheriff's Followers,
 Sheriff,
 Common-Council,
 Chamberlains and Followers,
 Wardens and Followers,
 Grand Band of Music,
Companies.

Mercers.—Streamer, Master and Followers,
 Drapers.—Streamer, Master and Followers,
 Clothiers.—Streamer, Master and Followers,
 Four Drums and Fifes,

Blacksmiths.—Streamer, Master and Followers,
 Tailors.—Streamer, Master and Followers,
 Cappers.—Streamer, Master and Followers,
 Butchers.—Streamer, Master and Followers,
 Grand Band of Music,

Fellmongers.—Streamer, Master and Followers,
 Carpenters.—Streamer, Master and Followers,
 Cordwainers.—Streamer, Master and Followers,
 Four Drums and Fifes,

Bakers.—Streamer, Master and Followers.

Shepherd and Shepherdess, with a Dog, Lamb, &c.

Jason, with a Golden Fleece and Drawn Sword,
 Five Wool-sorters,

Bishop Blaze and Wool-combers,
 Four Drums and Fifes.

The imaginary personage of Peeping Tom being almost of equal notoriety with the Lady Godiva, it may not be improper to remark the probability, that this auxiliary to the drama was introduced as a droll, by the wits in the reign of Charles II. Dugdale, though apparently fond of Lady Godiva's legend, and though he is very circumstantial in his detail, it is remarkable, makes no mention of this inquisitive person. And, "upon a minute examination of this figure," says the Coventry Collection, "it is found to be a very ancient full-length oak statue of a man in armour,

with a helmet on his head, greaves on his legs, and sandals on his feet." To favour the posture of his leaning out of window, the arms have been cut off at the elbows. From the attitude in which it was originally carved, there is reason to believe that it was intended for Mars, the fabulous god of war, or some other warlike chieftain. The long peruke and neck-cloth also indicate that the dress was first bestowed in the reign of Charles II.

In the neighbourhood of Coventry, on the south-east, stood a monastery belonging to the Carthusians, of which William, Lord Zouch, of Harringworth, was the founder; and, in 1385, Richard II. honoured it by becoming its titular founder. The remains of this structure are trifling, but a commodious dwelling-house has been raised on its site, which is called the Charter House. In the garden are many small doors, that were formerly entrances to the cells.

Two parliaments have been held in this city, in the great chamber of the priory. The first, in the year 1404, by Henry IV. was styled *Parliamentum Indoc-torum*, from its inveteracy against the clergy, whose revenues it was determined not to spare, whence also it was called the Laymen's Parliament. The other was held in the chapter-house of the priory, in the year 1459, by Henry VI., and was called *Parliamentum Diabolicum*, by reason of the number of attainders passed against Richard, Duke of York, and his adherents.

The city sends two members to parliament, who are chosen by the freemen: that is, persons who have served an apprenticeship of seven years, either absolutely, or constructively, in the city of Coventry. Of the latter are those who served their time to masters residing in London or Bristol, and carrying on the manufactory at the same time at Coventry. The admission and previous qualification of the freemen have been the subject of various resolutions of the House of Commons; and, in short, of infinite litigation in the

courts at Westminster; but now, by an act of the 21st of his present Majesty, the right is fixed and defined. The number of houses in this city, in 1811, was 3,448, and that of the inhabitants, 17,923.

Travellers in their walks through the city are sometimes shewn a chamber in Gosford-street, noted for the melancholy end of Mary Clues, in February, 1772, who was almost consumed by fire. In consequence of her excessive drinking, she had been confined to her bed a considerable time. The evening previous to the accident, she was left with a rushlight on the chair by the head of the bed. The next morning a great smoke was perceived in the room. On bursting the door open, some flames appeared that were easily extinguished. The remains of the woman lay on the floor, but the furniture of the room was only slightly damaged, the bed superficially burnt. Her body is supposed to have become as inflammable as a lamp, and that falling out of bed she took fire by the candle, as her bones appeared to be entirely calcined.

Journey from Coventry to Halford, through Warwick.

On leaving Coventry we proceed to KENILWORTH, a long straggling market-town, once famous for its castle, built in the reign of Henry II. by Geoffrey de Clinton, chamberlain and treasurer to Henry I. The sheriff of the county reckoned with the crown for the profits of the park, and in the 19th of the same reign it was possessed and garrisoned by the king, on account of the rebellion of his eldest son. In the beginning of the reign of King John, Henry de Clinton, grandson to the founder, released to the king all his rights in the castle, with the woods, pools, and whatever belonged thereto, excepting what he had in possession at the death of Henry II.; and towards the latter end of his reign that king caused the castle to be garrisoned, and placed therein, for safety, the prince, his son. In the time of Henry III. it was

sometimes used as a prison, and had twice justices appointed to attend the gaol-delivery. In this reign much money was laid out, and the castle underwent many considerable repairs and additions; particularly in the 24th year of that king, the chapel was ceiled, wainscotted, and adorned with paintings; handsome seats were made for the king and queen; the bell-tower repaired; the Queen's Chamber enlarged and beautified; and the walls on the south side next the pool entirely re-built. Henry afterwards granted this castle to Simon de Montford, Earl of Leicester, and Elinor his wife, during their lives. The earl, joining with the barons, was, with his eldest son, slain at the battle of Evesham; but the castle was six months held against the king by Henry de Hastings, appointed governor by Simon de Montford, son of the deceased earl, he being absent in France, whither he went to solicit assistance to raise the siege. During this attack the garrison defended themselves with great resolution, having engines which cast stones of an extraordinary size, and likewise making frequent and successful sallies. The king finding a stouter resistance than he expected, turned the siege into a blockade; during which time he assembled a parliament in this town, to mitigate the severity of the penalties enacted by that of Winchester, whereby the estates of all persons who had taken part with the barons were confiscated; this he rightly considered would make those who had rashly embraced that party become desperate. Here, therefore, was made that decree, called *Dictum de Kenilworth*; according to which every person whose estates were thus forfeited, Henry de Hastings, and some of the heads of the party excepted, might redeem their lands, on the payment of a pecuniary fine, not under two, nor exceeding five years rent. A pestilential disorder breaking out in the garrison, the castle was obliged to surrender, the besieged being permitted to go freely forth, with their horses, arms, and accoutrements; they

had also four days allowed them for the removal of their goods. Bishop Gibson, in his edition of Camden, says, "Near this castle they still found balls of stone 16 inches in diameter, supposed to have been thrown in slings in the time of the barons' wars." After the siege the king bestowed the estate on Edmund, his son, and heirs lawfully begotten; he likewise granted him free-chase and free-warren in all his demesne lands and woods belonging thereto, with a weekly market and annual fair. Here, in the time of Edward the First, was held a gallant assembly of 100 knights, and as many ladies, headed by Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, to which many repaired from foreign parts. The knights exercised themselves with tilting and other parts of chivalry, the ladies in dancing. It is recorded, seemingly as an extraordinary circumstance, that they were clad in silken mantles. Their diversions began on the eve of St. Matthew, and lasted till the morrow after Michaelmas-day. In the 15th of Edward the Second this castle escheated to the crown by the attainder of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, who was beheaded at Pontefract. The unfortunate Edward being deposed by his queen, was here kept close prisoner; and afterwards removed in the night by his brutal keepers, Sir John Maltravers and Sir Thomas Berkley, and in an open field, between this place and Warwick, set on the bare ground, and shaved with dirty water out of a neighbouring ditch. He was shortly after cruelly murdered at Berkley Castle. In the reign of Edward the Third the castle and estates were restored to the brother and heir of the Duke of Lancaster, who had been beheaded in the preceding reign, from whom it came by marriage with his daughter to John of Guant, by whom all the present buildings, except Cæsar's Tower, the outer walls and turrets towards the east end, were erected. By his son Henry the Fourth it came to the crown, and so continued till Queen Elizabeth granted it to her favourite

Robert Dudley, afterwards created **Earl of Leicester**, and his heirs. This nobleman extended the chace, and made so many improvements, that he expended upwards of 60,000*l*. When the whole was completed, the Queen spent here 17 days, and was entertained with great cost, and a variety of shows, which is thus described by Dugdale :—

“ Here, (says our author,) July, 1575, in the 17th of Elizabeth, having completed all things for her reception, did he entertain the Queen for the space of xvii days, with excessive cost, and variety of delightful shows, as may be seen at large in a special discourse there of then printed, and entitled, *The Princely Pleasures of Kenilworth Castle*.—Having at her first entrance a floating island upon the pool, bright blazing with torches ; upon which were clad, in silks, the Lady of the Lake, and two nymphs waiting on her, who made a speech to the Queen in metre, of the antiquity and owners of the castle, which was closed with cornets, and other loud music. Within the base court was there a very goodly bridge set up, xx foot wide, and lxx foot long, over which the Queen did pass ; on each side whereof were posts erected, with presents upon them to her by the gods, viz. a cage of wild fowl, by Sylvanus ; sundry sorts of rare fruits, by Pomona ; of corn, by Ceres ; of wine, by Bacchus ; of sea-fish, by Neptune ; of habiliments of war, by Mars : of musical instruments, by Phoebus. And for the several days of her stay, various and rare shows and sports were there exercised, viz. in the chase, a savage man, with satyrs ; bear-baitings, fire-works, Italian-tumblers, a country bride-ale, with running at the quintin, and morris-dancing ; and that there might be nothing wanting that these parts could afford, hither came the Coventry men, and acted the ancient play, long since used in that city, called *Hocks Tuesday*, setting forth the destruction of the Danes in King Ethelred’s time, with which the Queen was so

pleased that she gave them a brace of bucks, and five marks in money, to bear the charges of a feast."

As among these spectacles one occurs, called running at the quintin, neither much known in England, or often mentioned, it will be perhaps agreeable to some readers to have it explained.

Running at the quintin was a ludicrous kind of tilting at the ring, generally performed by peasants to divert their lords, and was thus done; a strong post was set upright in the ground, about the height of a man on horseback, having on the top a pivot, which ran through a long horizontal beam, unequally divided, and at the least stroke revolving freely about its centre, somewhat in the nature of a turnstile. On the upright post the head and body of the figure of an armed man was fixed. The horizontal beam represented his arms; the shortest had a target, nearly covering the whole body except a small spot on the breast, marked with a heart or ring; and at the end of the longest was a wooden sword, a cudgel, or a bag of wet sand. At this figure peasants, armed with poles for lances, and mounted on sorry jades of horses, ran full tilt, attempting to strike the heart or ring; their poles were of such a length, that if they struck the shield instead of the heart or ring, the short arm of the lever retiring, brought round that armed with the cudgel or sand-bag at such a distance, with such a velocity, as commonly to meet and dismount the awkward assailant.

This amusement, somewhat diversified, was not long ago practised in Flanders, at their wakes or festivals. In some, one arm presented a ring, whilst the other held the club or sand-bag; in others, the revolving arms were placed vertically, the lower shewing the ring, whilst the upper supported a vessel full of water; whereby the want of dexterity in the tilter was punished with a wetting.

“ Besides all this (continues Dugdale) he had upon a pool a triton riding on a mermaid, eighteen feet long; as also Arion, on a dolphin, with rare music; and, to honour this entertainment the more, there were knighted here Sir Thomas Cecil, son and heir to the lord-treasurer; Sir Henry Cobham, Sir Francis Stanhope, and Sir Thomas Tresham; the cost and expense whereof may be guessed at by the quantity of beer then drank, which amounted to 320 hogsheads of the ordinary sort, as I have credibly heard. Shortly after, viz. the next ensuing year, he obtained by the grants of the said Queen, a weekly mercate here upon the Wednesday, with a fair, yearly on the Midsummer-day.”

During the summer of 1817, a great part of the front of the west-side of Cæsar's Tower, at Kenilworth Castle, gave way; and in August, a few months after, some ladies, who had been sketching these beautiful remains, had a most providential escape; they had not left the spot where they had been seated a considerable time, half-an-hour, when 30 tons weight of the ruin came down upon the spot they had quitted.

The earl dying without issue, this castle was bequeathed to his brother Ambrose, Earl of Warwick, for life, and the inheritance to Sir Robert Dudley, who was thought to be his son, who endeavoured to prove his legitimacy. Prince Henry agreed to give Sir Robert 14,000*l.* for his title to the castle and appendages; only 3,000*l.* of this money was paid; but on the death of Prince Henry, it was claimed by his brother Charles, and given to Hyde, Earl of Rochester.

During the civil wars, the castle was demolished by persons who purchased it of the Parliament, with a design to make money of the materials. The whole area within the walls measured seven acres. The gate-house is now fitted up for a farm-house.— Vast quantities of the materials have been removed for the various purposes of building, repairing roads, &c.; and if the noble owner (Earl of Clarendon) had

not given strict orders, little would have been now left.

At a small distance from the castle was a priory, of Black Canons, of the order of St. Augustine, founded about the year 1122, by the same Geoffrey de Clinton who built the castle. The site of the monastery, at the dissolution, was granted to Sir Andrew Flamock, but at present is the property of Lord Hyde; of this monastery nothing remains but the gate, a small square building, now used as a stable, and two pieces of broken wall.

Kenilworth has an ancient church, with a steeple; its western door-way is curious; also two meeting-houses. Here is also a market-house, the market is on Wednesday; and there is a fair on Midsummer-day.

According to the late population-act the town consisted of 418 houses, and 1,968 inhabitants, viz. 970 males, and 998 females, of whom 169 were returned as being employed in trade and manufacture, and 167 in agriculture.

Continuing our journey, at the distance of about four miles, after passing through the village of Wootton Leek, we arrive at WARWICK, the county-town, situated on the north-side of the river Avon. All the ways leading to it, from the four cardinal points, are cut through a rock of free-stone, on which it stands. The Romans had a fort here, which the Picts and Scots demolished; and when repaired by Caractacus, at the head of the Silures, it was taken and garrisoned by Ostorius, after which it was again ruined; but Constantius, father of Uter Pendragon, re-built it. After this it suffered very much from the Saxons and Danes; but, in the year 911, Ethelfleda, the lady of the Mercians, restored it to the flourishing state in which it was found by the Normans. It is said to have taken its name from Warfemund, one of the ancestors of the Mercian kings, by whom it was re-built, between the times of its destruction by

the Saxons and Danes. That it was fortified with walls and a ditch is manifest.

It sent members to parliament *ab origine*, who are chosen by the inhabitants, paying scot and lot (who are above five hundred,) and returned by the mayor. In the reign of Philip and Mary it was incorporated by the name of bailiff and burgesses, with a perpetual succession, and twelve assistants to the bailiffs, called principal burgesses, who should have power to chuse the bailiff, recorder, serjeant-at-mace, and clerk of the markets, of whom the bailiff and recorder should be sole justices of the peace within the borough. To this charter King James the First added, by his letters-patent, that the two ancient burgesses for the time being should afterwards be justices of the peace within the precincts thereof, together with the bailiff and recorder; and that the said bailiff and one of the senior burgesses should always be of the quorum. It was re-incorporated by Charles the Second, and is now governed by a mayor, recorder, twelve brethren, or aldermen, and 24 burgesses or common council-men.

On the 5th of September, 1694, this town was almost burnt down by an accidental fire, to the damage of near 100,000*l*. but, by the assistance of an act of parliament, and a national contribution of 11,000*l*. and 1,000*l*. more afterwards by Queen Anne, was re-built with much more magnificence, and the free-stone for the superstructure was dug from the quarries of the rock on which it was founded. In its rock are also made its wells and cellars, and the descent from it every way always keeps it clean. Its streets, which are spacious and regular, all meet in the centre of the town, which is served with water by pipes from springs half-a-mile off.

Warwick has two churches, St. Nicholas's and St. Mary's. The tower is at the west-end of the former church, is erected on groin arches, supported by four

piers, between which is a free passage for coaches, &c. Its height, to the top of the battlements, is 130 feet. The following inscription (in Latin,) is on the north-west and south sides :—

“The collegiate church of St. Mary, first repaired by Roger Newburgh, Earl of Warwick, in the time of King Stephen ; afterwards wholly re-built by Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, in the year 1394. Being destroyed, 1694, by a dreadful fire, sparing neither temples nor houses, this new church, begun and carried on by the public, was finished by royal piety, under the joyful auspices of Anne, in the memorable year 1703.”

At the west-end of the church are three entrances, the principal of which is under the tower ; over which is a stately loft, and an excellent organ. Against the same wall in the church are two boxes to receive alms.

Entering the choir by three stone-steps, on either side there are two ranges of stalls, &c. in four directions. Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, founded the choir in the forty-third year of King Edward the Third, A. D. 1370 ; but dying in the same year, his son, Thomas Earl of Warwick, finished that building as it now stands, in the 15th year of Richard the Second, A. D. 1392. He also, from the death of his father, re-built the church as it stood before the fire of Warwick, and finished it in the seventh of Richard the Second, A. D. 1394. In the same year was finished Guy's Tower, (as it is vulgarly called,) belonging to the castle. Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, son of the next above Thomas, was founder by will of the noble chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary, which was begun the 21st of Henry the Sixth, A. D. 1443, and finished the third of Edward the Fourth, 1464 ; the cost of which, including the magnificent tomb, &c. amounted to the sum of 2,481*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.* (as per Dugdale) when wheat was 3*s.* 4*d.* per quarter : the pro-

portionate value of money, when corn is at the modern medium of 5s. per bushel, which is twelve times the sum, amounts to 29,774*l.* 15s.

Underneath the whole floor of the choir is a vault, commonly called the Bone-house, chiefly used as a burial-place for the mayors and body-corporate of this borough. North of the choir are three distinct rooms or buildings; the first, from the body of the church, is the lobby, now the fire-engine room; the farthestmost is a spacious library or vestry-room, under which was the friars' kitchen, now a mausoleum for the noble family of the Earl of Warwick; the middle is an octagon room, called the Chapter-house, which was converted to another use by the Right Hon. Fulke Lord Brook, who, in his life-time, erected here a very stately monument, for himself and family, of black and white marble. There are many fine brass monuments of the Earls of Warwick and others; also one of the Earl of Essex, Queen Elizabeth's unhappy favourite; and many chapels and confessionaries.

On entering the Lady's Chapel, you descend by a flight of twelve stone-steps; on each side are stalls, &c. as in the choir of the church. The floors, being three in number, of black and white marble, are at unequal distances, ascending by one step each towards the altar, which is a fine basso-relievo of the Salutation, under a Gothic canopy, the whole exceedingly well executed. Raised against the wall, on each side the altar, is a shrine of very delicate workmanship, particularly as they consist of only the sand-stone of the town, thus uncommonly modified; in which shrines (according to Dugdale,) were formerly repositied two images of pure gold, weighing twenty pounds each; there are several more shrines, and other cabinet curiosities, interspersed in the building.

In the verge, and in the two muntles or divisions of the east window, are 46 images and saints, very

curiously wrought in Warwick sand-stone; also in the same, and middle south-window, are sacred, historical, and family portraits, in glass. Behind the altar is the Library, built by the famous John Rous. To the north stand the confessional and gallery, of exquisite design; beyond which, rising by five steps, very much worn, is the confessional-seat, very obscure, yet very curious: where, through the partition-wall is an oblique square hole to the choir, through which confession was made.

In the middle of the chapel lieth, upon a tomb of marble, in full stature, the effigy of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, in armour, all made of fine latten brass, doubly gilt. At his head there is a swan, at his right foot a bear muzzled, at his left foot a griffin; over the said monument is a hearse of brass, gilt, made designedly to support a covering over the curious repository of the remains of this once great earl: round about his tomb stand fourteen images of brass, all gilt; and under the feet of each of them is a coat of arms. This chapel is fully described, and illustrated by engravings, in Britton's "*Architectural Antiquities of Great Britain.*"

Though populous, the town of Warwick has but two parish-churches; it had formerly six, and as many monasteries. The hospital of St. Michael's, founded by Roger, Earl of Warwick, the latter end of the reign of Henry the First, or beginning of that of Stephen, for lepers, still exists. In the north-east suburb was the Hospital of St. John the Baptist, founded by William, Earl of Warwick, in the reign of Henry the Second, chiefly for the entertainment of strangers and travellers.

Here is a handsome Town-hall, of free-stone, supported by pillars, in which are held the assizes and quarter-sessions; also three Charity-schools, an Hospital for twelve decayed gentlemen; another for eight poor women, and two others for unfortunate tradesmen.

A few years since, the late Earl of Warwick built, at his own expense, a stone-bridge over the Avon, with one arch, the span being 100 feet. He also built one in his park, nearly similar. The castle stands on the northern bank of the river Avon; the æra of its first erection is doubtful; neither are the founders better ascertained; some attributing it to the Romans, others to Kimbeline, the British king; and Dugdale, though he speaks but doubtfully, from the authority of Rous, ascribes it to Ethelstede or Ethelfleda, daughter of King Alfred, who, according to that monk, in the year 915 caused the dungeon to be made, which was a strong tower, raised on a high artificial mount of earth near the river. "It appears," (says the author of the *Memoirs of the House of Greville*,) "by Domesday-book, that the castle belonged to the crown in the time of King Edward the Confessor, as a special strong hold for the defence of the midland parts of the kingdom; and that Turkill was governor thereof for the king." Some remains of this ancient work were visible in Dugdale's time; the mount is still to be seen on the west-side of the present castle. At the conquest, William employed Turkill de Warwick, before named, to enlarge and fortify it; for which purpose, four (Rous says 26) houses, belonging to the monks of Coventry, were destroyed; but, on its completion, he entrusted it to the custody of Henry de Newburgh, his countryman, whom he created Earl of Warwick.

Towards the latter end of the reign of King Stephen, on the arrival of Henry the Second, when Duke of Normandy, Gundred, Countess of Warwick, delivered it up to that prince, turning out the soldiers of Stephen. In the 15th year of Henry the Second, that king, on account of the rebellion of Prince Henry, his son, caused it to be garrisoned; at which time Bertram de Verdon, sheriff of the shire, charged 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* for twenty quarters of bread-corn: 20*s.* for the same quantity of malt; 100*s.* for 50 oxen,

salted down; 30*s.* for 90 cheeses, and 20*s.* for salt; all expended for the victualling of this castle; and the ensuing year, the same sheriff accounted for 30*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* for the soldiers' pay, and 5*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.* for repairs. In the 20th of the same king, William de Newburgh, third Earl of Warwick, procured an addition of two knights to the usual guard, which before consisted of five knights and ten serjeants; the next year the sheriff charged 14*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.* for soldiers' wages. It does not appear it was any longer garrisoned in that king's reign.

In the seventh year of the reign of King John, Hugh de Chaucumbe, then sheriff, reckoned 25*l.* 6*s.* for the ward thereof; he was, in the same reign, ordered to deliver the custody of it to Thomas Basset of Heddington, in com. Oxford; after which it was successively in the possession of Hugh de Nevil, Henry Earl of Warwick, and the above-mentioned Basset.

This castle, in the time of Henry the Third, was deemed of such importance, that the king's precept was sent to the Archbishop of York, and William de Cantalupe, for requiring good security of Margery, sister and heir of Thomas, Earl of Warwick, that she should not take to husband any person whatsoever in whom the king could not repose trust as in his own self; the chief reason alleged was, the strength of this castle and its vicinity to the marshes.

In the 40th year of this reign, William Mauduit, the then earl, siding with the king against the barons, this place was surprised by John Giffard, Governor of Kenilworth Castle, who demolished the walls from tower to tower, and carried him and his countess prisoners to Kenilworth, where they were kept till ransomed, by the payment of 1900 marks.

In the 9th of Edward the Second, upon an extent of the lands of Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, taken after his death, the ditches and courts of this castle were valued at 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum; and

the garden adjoining, with another called the vineyard, at the same sum. In the 14th of the same king, on account of the minority of Thomas, son and heir to the deceased earl, the command of it was given to Thomas Sutton; to whom Walter de Beauchamp, then constable, was ordered to deliver it up. Sutton did not long hold this trust; the next year it was put into the custody of the sheriff; who being forcibly driven out by Thomas Blauncfort, the king directed his precept to him, ordering him to take with him John Peche, a leading man in the county, or any of his loyal subjects, to require the re-delivery thereof, and to commit these offenders to prison; which was accordingly performed, and Peche constituted governor. He was succeeded in the 20th of the same reign by Thomas le Blount.

In the time of Edward the Third, it was granted, during the minority of the earl, to Roger Mortimer of Wigmore; and in the 45th of that king, Thomas Earl of Warwick re-built the walls of the castle demolished in the time of Earl Mauduit, adding strong gates, and fortifying the gateways with embattled towers. This earl was famous for his gallant behaviour at the battles of Cressy and Poitiers.

Richard the Second, on taking the reins of government into his own hands, dismissed his privy-councillors, among whom was Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, who, retiring to his estate, amused himself with building; he erected the remarkable tower at the north-east corner of this castle, called Guy's Tower; the cost of which was 395*l.* 5*s.* 2*d.*, its walls are ten feet thick. He also completed the body of the collegiate church of our Lady of Warwick; both which were finished in the year 1394. This earl was afterwards seized by order of Richard, at a feast, to which he was invited by that king; in the 21st year of whose reign he was condemned by the parliament to lose his head, for having appeared in arms with the Duke of Gloucester; the sentence was remitted

at the solicitation of the Earl of Salisbury ; his estates were, however, forfeited, and the custody of the castle given to John de Clinton ; but that and the manor of Warwick, with many fair lordships of his inheritance, were soon after granted to Thomas Holland, Earl of Kent, and his heirs male. Beauchamp was sent to the Isle of Man, there to remain prisoner for life ; but the same year brought back to the Tower, where he continued till the revolution in favour of Henry the Fourth, which restored to him both his liberty and estate. This earl was a knight of the garter ; he left to his son Richard, by will, the sword and coat of mail said to belong to the celebrated Guy, Earl of Warwick ; he having received them as an heir-loom from his father.

George Plantagenet, created Earl of Warwick by his brother Edward the Fourth, resided here, and began to strengthen and beautify this castle, and proposed many magnificent improvements ; but being prevented by his imprisonment and death, it came to his son Edward, during whose minority John Hugford was appointed constable ; and in the second of Richard the Third, Humphrey Beaufort, his son-in-law, was joined with him in that charge.

From this time it continued long in the possession of the crown ; but Edward the Sixth, in the first year of his reign, advancing John Dudley to the earldom of Warwick, granted him this castle, with divers lands which had belonged to the former earls. All these on his attainder escheated to the crown were, by the favour of Queen Elizabeth, in the fourth year of her reign, granted, with the title, to Ambrose, his son ; he dying without issue, it reverted to the crown, and there rested till the second year of James the First, when that king granted it in fee to Sir Fulk Greville, Knt. whom he afterwards created a baron. The castle then in a very ruinous condition, the strongest part serving for the county-gaol, Sir Fulk expended 20,000*l.* in its reparation and embellish-

ment; from him it descended to Francis, created Earl Brooke, of Warwick Castle, in the 20th George the Second, and Earl of Warwick, on the 27th of November, 1759.

In the civil war it was made a garrison for the parliament by the Lord Brooke, and besieged by Lord Northampton, in 1642, who surprised the artillery and ammunition bringing down from London for its defence. It was then commanded by Sir Edward Peito; who, though he had only one small piece of ordnance, and a few muskets, defended it sixteen days, until it was relieved by Lord Brooke. The prisoners taken at Edge-hill were confined here. Robert, Lord Brooke, in the time of Charles the Second, much embellished the whole building, and particularly fitted up the state-apartments.

The rock on which this castle stands is 40 feet higher than the Avon; but on the north side it is even with the town. From the terrace there is a beautiful prospect. The rooms are adorned with many original paintings by Vandyke; and there is one apartment not inferior to any in the royal palaces. Across the river, near the Castle-bridge, is a stone-work dam, where the water falls over it as a cascade, under the castle walls.*

Speaking of this castle, Sir William Dugdale says, "Here is to be seen a large two-handed sword, with a helmet, and certain plate-armour for horse-service; which, as the tradition is, were part of the accoutrements some time belonging to the famous Guy, but I rather think they are of much later date; yet I find that, in the first of Henry the Eighth, the sword having that repute, the king granted the custody thereof to William Hoggesson, one of the yeomen of

* An account of *Warwick Castle*, with two views, and a history and description of *Beauchamp Castle*, at Warwick; with plan and other engravings; also a plan and views of *Kenilworth Castle*, are published in Britton's "*Architectural Antiquities of Great Britain*."

the buttery, or his sufficient deputy, with the fee of two-pence per diem for that service." This office was continued by Queen Elizabeth; the fee is set down in Peck's *Desiderata Curiosa*, at 5*l.* per annum. The horse-armour is no longer shewn; but, in recompense, the remaining curiosities have been reinforced by the accession of Guy's spear, buckler, bow, spurs, and porridge-pot; as likewise the slipper of the beautiful Phillis, the *dulcinea* for whose sake he performed all his wonderful achievements.

"Warwick Castle, (Mr. Charles Pye observes,) contains a most magnificent marble bacchanalian vase, of astonishing dimensions, it being seven feet in diameter and 21 in circumference, which is encircled on the outside with fruit-leaves and branches of the vine, the latter being entwined so as to form two massive handles, with grotesque masks at the end of each; the whole being in exact proportion to the magnitude of the vase. This unique specimen of ancient sculpture was discovered in the baths of the Emperor Adrian, and presented by the Queen of Naples to Sir Wm. Hamilton, the British ambassador at that court, by whom it was forwarded as a present to the late Earl of Warwick, who erected a splendid greenhouse for its reception. Mr. Thomason, of Birmingham, has formed another vase of the same magnitude in metal, upon the model of this, the ground of which is bronzed; and, by the means of two novel and distinct processes of oxydation, will endure for ages."

The history of Guy, though so much obscured by fable that it is difficult to ascertain its details, is nevertheless, in its outlines, so faithful a picture of an age of superstition and chivalry, that we present our readers with an abridgment of it in the words of an ingenious writer.

This distinguished warrior, (says he,) lived in the reign of King Athelstan, and being at first only a private knight, he fell in love with the daughter of the Earl of Warwick; he had an opportunity of behold-

ing her beauty, and admiring her accomplishments, at Warwick Castle, where he was entertained with the greatest cordiality and magnificence by her father.

But a man being in love in those days, even if his passion were approved, was nothing towards his obtaining the desired object.—No! he must serve an apprenticeship to danger, and, by signalizing himself in feats of arms, make it appear that he was worthy of her.

No inquiry was then made concerning fortune;—interest was out of the question. It was sufficient if the woman had beauty and virtue, and the man honour and courage.

To approve himself worthy of his mistress, Sir Guy was obliged to signalize his prowess; he therefore crossed into Germany, to be present at a tournament, that was to be held in the presence of the emperor's court. This he thought would be the fairest opportunity of evincing his skill and intrepidity. Upon this occasion he bore away the prize from every one, and performed such feats that the emperor was so much surprised and captivated by his valour, that he offered him his daughter in marriage; for in those days a champion, who was sole conqueror upon these occasions, was deemed worthy of the greatest monarch's daughter.

Sir Guy modestly rejected the imperial overture, on account of his passion for the Earl of Warwick's daughter. The emperor then presented him with a falcon and an hound, valuable presents at that period. These, with the trophies which he won at the tournament, he brought with him to England, and presented them, according to the customs of chivalry, to his mistress.

It is said of Sir Guy, that travelling through Germany, he heard a most hideous yelling and noise, when riding to the place he saw a lion and a dragon, engaged in a most furious combat; the lion, however,

beginning to faint, our knight slew the dragon. The lion, to shew his gratitude, run by the side of our knight's horse like a dog, till hunger obliged him again to retire to the woods. He likewise slew an amazing large boar, for which reason he is usually represented with a boar's head upon the point of his spear.

On his return to England he paid his respects to King Athelstan, who then held his court in the city of York. The king informed him of a prodigious large and furious dragon, who did great mischief in some parts of Northumberland; not only destroying men, women, and children, but doing great damage to the fruits of the earth. Guy undertook to rid the country of this monster, and procuring a guide, they repaired immediately to the dragon's cave. The monster issued out of his cave with eyes sparkling like fire, and upon Guy's attacking him bit his lance in two. Guy then drew his sword, and laid about him so manfully that the dragon fell; then cutting off his head, Guy returned to York, and presented it to the king.

This story probably took its rise from Guy's having killed some furious wild boar in the northern part of England, where those dreadful animals, as well as wolves, swarmed in those days. Perhaps the former story of the boar and this are but one and the same fact differently dressed. For every tale in that age was embellished with a variety of fictitious circumstances, and every wild animal who had done much mischief, or proved remarkable, was sure to be magnified into a dragon with flaming eyes and poisonous breath.

The Earl of Warwick's daughter being satisfied with the feats by which Sir Guy had signalized himself, and sufficiently convinced of his honour and courage, gave him her hand, and they were married with great splendour and ceremony, before King Athelstan and his whole court.

Soon after the lady's father dying, left Sir Guy his whole estate, and the king directly after created him Earl of Warwick.

While Guy resided in Warwick, his inactivity plunged him into a variety of contemplations, when thinking he had spent too much time in the pursuit of glory, and too little in the pursuit of grace, he determined to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

It is said, that in his way he killed a giant, who had fifteen young men in confinement, whom he released; they were all brothers, and he sent them all home to their disconsolate parents.

During his absence his wife clothed herself in mourning, made a vow of chastity till his return, and passed her time in meditation and prayer. Nay, she parted with her jewels to raise money, with which she relieved the distresses of the poor, and was very bountiful and courteous to all travellers, not knowing what need of benevolence her absent husband might stand in.

Guy, Earl of Warwick, returned to England at the time the nation was greatly distressed by the ravages of the Danes. King Athelstan himself was compelled to take refuge in the city of Winchester, at that time one of the strongest places in the kingdom, whither Guy, Earl of Warwick, repaired. The Danes drew all their forces that way, and laid siege to Winchester. At length it was agreed by the Danish commander and King Athelstan, that their dispute should be decided by single combat.

A prodigious giant then came from the Danish camp, and went to Men Hill, near the walls of Winchester, where he made use of many menacing expressions, and brandished his sword in defiance of the English. This so much exasperated the Earl of Warwick, that he entreated the king to let him go and encounter this Danish champion. The king giving his approbation, said, "noble pilgrim, go and prosper." Guy leaving the city by the north gate, ad-

vanced towards Colbrand, or Colborn, the Danish giant, who no sooner saw him than he said, in a jeering manner, "What, art thou the best champion England can afford!" The Earl of Warwick answered him with his sword, and a most desperate combat ensued; but at length fortune declared in favour of the Earl of Warwick. The giant was slain, and the Danes, according to the previous agreement, raised the siege, retired to their ships, and set sail for their own country.

For having thus relieved his country, the king would have conferred honours upon him; but Guy refused to be any way distinguished upon the occasion, saying, he had bid adieu to the vanities of the world.

The Earl of Warwick then retired to a cave near Warwick, to spend the remainder of his days in religious tranquillity, and leading the life of an hermit, he died in that obscure recess. This cave is situated about a mile to the north-east of Warwick, in a great cliff, called Guy's Cliff, on the west-side of the Avon. In the time of the Britons there was an oratory here, and in that of the Saxons an hermitage. This hermitage was kept up to the reign of Henry the Sixth, when Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, established a chantry here; and, in memory of the famous Guy, erected a large statue of him in the chapel here, eight feet in height, and raised a roof over the adjacent springs; the chapel is in the parish of St. Nicholas. At this place is Guy Cliff House, the seat of Bertie Greathead, Esq.; and at a little distance is the Priory, probably built on the site of a priory of regular canons, founded by Henry de Newburgh, Earl of Warwick, and his son Sir Roger, in the reign of Henry the First. The Priory at present is the seat of H. Christopher Wise, Esq.

LEAMINGTON PRIORS, about two miles to the east of Warwick, takes its name from the river Leam, which passes through it, joined with the circumstance

of its having formerly belonged to the Priors of Kenilworth. From the experience of the salubrity of the waters, which has been exhibited nearly two centuries, Leamington has risen into considerable celebrity; and, as a watering-place, seems to rival several others. The conveniency, as well as the novelty of finding a place of this nature in the centre of the kingdom, have lately operated as powerful attractions, independent of those operating upon persons that are led any where by the influence of custom, the frolics of gaiety, or the laws of fashion. For successive years the number of visitants have increased; new wells were opened, new baths constructed, and new houses built. Some of the latter are of a magnificent and costly description, especially those that form the principal part of what is called the New Town.

Leamington has also a small theatre, neatly fitted up, a picture-gallery, a reading-room, a promenade, and a museum of natural and artificial curiosities; together with a subscription-library. The most ancient of the six saline springs discovered here, is situated on the waste land, and is called the public well; it was enclosed by the late Earl of Aylesford, to whom it belonged as lord of the manor. The efficacy of the water is said to be greatest in the summer. Dr. Middleton, who published an analysis of the waters a few years ago, acknowledged himself greatly indebted to Dr. Lamb. Dr. Winthorp submitted the water to various chemical tests, and made numerous experiments upon the different springs. The specific gravity of that in the public well was found to that of distilled water as 10, 107, to 1000. The gaseous contents of a wine pint (in parts of a cubic inch) were found to be as follows:—

Nitrogen (or Mephitic air) - - - -	67
Carbonic Acid (fixed air) - - - -	25
Oxygen (vital air) - - - - -	68

1 00

The solid contents of a wine pint, in grains,	
Muriate of Soda, (common salt) - -	48 50
Sulphate of lime (gypsum) - - - -	17
Sulphate of Soda (Glauber's Salt) -	9
Muriate of Magnesia - - - - -	4
Sulphate of Magnesia (Epsom Salt) -	3
Carbonates of Iron very trifling	

 81 50

By far the largest and most complete range of baths are those erected by a joint company of proprietors, at the expense of about 25,000*l.* and which have been denominated THE NEW BATHS, at the North Well, the spring of which was discovered in 1810, about 34 feet deep from the surface of the ground. This elegant building is entirely of stone, and is situated close by the river on the north. Three of its sides are surrounded by a spacious colonade; the central part of this structure is 106 feet in length, and in height 30 feet. The two wings, which are the principal entrances to the bath, extend 30 feet. At the western extremity of the room, on an ornamental pedestal of Derbyshire marble, is the pump, if it may be so called, it having a basin in the centre, which is enclosed by a neat mahogany balustrade. The visitors receive the water in glasses from young girls, to whom it is usual to give a gratuity. The terms for drinking these waters here, is 3*s.* 6*d.* per week, exclusive of the gratuity. At the other wells it is 2*s.* 6*d.* per week, and the gratuity. The terms for bathing appear to be in general 3*s.* for a warm bath, 2*s.* for that of a child, and 1*s.* 6*d.* for a cold bath, with a gratuity to the attendant.

In 1816, a seventh well made its appearance in Clemen's-street, which bears the pompous title of the Imperial Sulphuric Medical Font, and Ladies Marble Baths. Here are four baths, with a dressing-room to each; and also an elegant pump-room.

Lest seven wells and 50 baths should not be suffi-

cient to accommodate the visitors at Leamington, preparations were soon after made for the eighth well, near Ranelagh gardens. 'This is to be called the Spa, and, with the pump-room, are intended to exceed the former in splendour.' The hours for drinking and for the promenade are from seven till nine in the morning, though many defer it till after breakfast, and bathe in the evening, before they retire to sleep.

When the warm baths are not in use, they may be seen by any person, and may be filled in the presence of the visitor, which is done in the course of three minutes. The cold baths are commonly emptied and filled every day. The prevailing opinion among medical men is, that the warm bath is by far the most efficacious in most disorders. The houses in Upper Union-street, Union Parade, and Cross-street being erected, some public-spirited gentleman, in 1813, resolved to erect an assembly-room, that might vie with, if not excel, those of Bath and Cheltenham.

This, at the expence of 1000*l.*, was completed by one of Mr. Wyatt's pupils. The spacious stone front is simply elegant; in the central part is a range with seven windows, supported by light pilasters of the Doric order, ornamented by a plain entablature. Two handsome wings project from the main building; there are two entrances, one on the eastern side from the Union Parade, the other, the principal, from Upper Cross-street. The hall is spacious and well-proportioned, and the refectory is opposite the entrance. To the right is a billiard-room, containing a massive mahogany table, made by Ferneyhough, of London, said to be worth 100 guineas. On the left, a flight of stairs leads to another billiard-room. The ball-room, entered on the same side, measures 82 feet in length, 36 wide, and 26 in height. Three superb chandeliers, of cut glass, are suspended from the ceiling. The windows are furnished with curtains of crimson moreen, edged with black fringe. On the opposite sides of the room are two fire-places, the chimney-

pieces of Kilkenny marble, having over them two ornamental mirrors. At the upper end is the orchestra, on the left of which is a door, leading into the card-room. Beyond this is a reading-room, well provided with the London and Provincial newspapers, and the most esteemed periodical publications. On ball-nights, this room is appropriated for tea. From June till November, balls are held every Thursday night at eight, and card assemblies occasionally throughout the season. The Master of the Ceremonies is C. Stevenson, Esq., and the whole concern is under a committee. 20,000*l.* was appropriated to build another hotel in 1818; and an elegant suite of rooms, called the Apollo, have since been opened for assemblies, every fortnight during winter.

A charitable institution has been established here for the gratuitous relief of distressed individuals, to whom the use of the waters might be recommended, and this has been supported with liberality. In fact, the proprietors of the New Bath have also appropriated one cold and two hot baths to the use of the poor. The lodging-houses and hotels contain every accommodation which the sick or gay may desire; and, as a circumstance equally connected with the amusement of the fashionable, and the benefit of the convalescent, it must be observed, that the scenery around is rural and attractive, and the walks and rides well calculated to add to the celebrity of the waters. The season lasts from April to November.

The church of Leamington is small, but suited to the condition of the place 25 years ago; a plan was proposed for enlarging it, being too confined for visitors; but this did not hold out such prospects of ample returns as some others.

The church-yard contains, among some ancient tomb-stones, a handsome one of the altar kind, enclosed with palisades, and emblazoned with a long poetic inscription, from the pen of Mr. Pratt, to the memory of Benjamin Sachwell, the original founder

of Leamington Spa Charity. He was the village rhymmer, and he appears to have been much caressed in his latter days. He was in the practice of waiting upon each illustrious visitor of the Spa, with a laudatory address, in which he described himself as the oldest inhabitant of the parish, &c. These verses used to be printed in the Coventry and other Provincial papers. Thomas Abbots also has a monument here to his memory; he was the founder of the baths constructed in 1786, and was a native of this village.

The decorations at Leamington have been carried to a profusion beyond precedent at any other watering place; 20,000*l.* have been expended on one single room, and a suite of baths upwards of 20 in number, with commodious dressing-rooms adjoining. The engine that supplies the baths from the saline springs is of sufficient power to force up as many tons in a few hours as would float a man-of-war. The hotels are the Bedford Copps, in High-street, and the Blenheim. A bowling-green joins the Bowling-green Inn; and the New Inn in Bath-street, is so called on account of the original baths being there. Ranelagh-gardens and the Priory-gardens attract much company. The splendid houses in the New Town have balconies to the fronts; the streets are wide, with fine broad pavements, and every accommodation may be had at the lodging and boarding-houses. The market on Wednesday is plentifully supplied with necessaries and luxuries of every description, as are also the shops in the town: and, to the assembly-rooms, libraries, &c. may be added the attractions of a theatre, a handsome building in Bath-street, with a composition front, under the management of Mr. Elliston, of Drury-lane. A new chapel has also been erected in Clemen's-street, where the prayers of the church of England are read, and a weekly lecture delivered on Tuesday evening; and, it is understood, that the town will be further ornamented by an iron-bridge across the canal, leading to the New Crescent, with a circus, &c.

Resuming our journey, we now proceed southerly, and, at the distance of about three miles, we pass through the village of BARFORD, remarkable for being the residence of Samuel Fairfax, who, in the year 1647 was twelve years of age, and lived under the same roof, and ate at the same table, with his father and mother, grandfather and grandmother, great grandfather and great grandmother, and none of the three generations of either sex had been twice married.

At the distance of three miles from Barford we pass through the village of WELLESBURN HASTINGS, which had formerly a market and fair. On the right is the seat of Bernard Dewes, Esq.; and beyond is Chalcote, the seat of the Rev. John Lucy; Thomas Lucy, who built the house in the reign of Elizabeth, is said to have driven Shakspeare from the county for stealing his deer.

At Wellesburn Hastings is a road to the left, leading to the town of KINETON, situated about five miles distant. This town (according to Camden) owes its name to an ancient market for cows.—Henry the First, in the grant which he made of it to the canons of Kenilworth, calls it Chinton. Here was a castle, in which it is said King John resided, and left his name to a well at the foot of the hill; perhaps it may have received its name from its being a royal residence, viz. Kingstown. The market is on Tuesday.

About four miles to the south of Kineton is Edge-Hill, on the descent of which was fought one of the most signal battles during the whole contest between Charles the First and the Parliament, on September 2, 1642; in which, some say, 5 or 6000 were killed; but, according to a survey taken by the Rev. Mr. Fisher, vicar of Kineton, not many more than 1,300; and, among the rest, several of the nobility—night prevented greater slaughter, and both armies kept the field. The king took Banbury Castle, and, though his way was open to London, retreated to Oxford,

and the Parliament voted a thanksgiving. Kington-field at that time was common.

At a short distance from Edge-Hill is the vale of Red-horse, so called from the representation of a red-horse, cut on the side of a hill, 16 feet high from the shoulder, and 34 from the tail to the breast. A farm of 60*l.* per annum was subject to the charge of keeping it clean scoured, at which time the people, who assisted, were treated with cakes and ale. Mr. Wise supposes it a memorial of the famous Richard Nevil, Earl of Warwick, whose castle of Fulbrook, now entirely demolished, stood eight or nine miles off facing this hill. He, just before the battle of Towton, killed his horse with his own hand on the field. This battle was fought on Palm Sunday, which is the anniversary of scouring the horse. It is in the manor of Temple Tysoe, which formerly belonged to the knights Templars, and, with Over Tysoe, forms the parish of Tysoe.

Returning to our road, at the distance of about six miles from Wellesburn Hastings, we arrived at the village of HALFORD, which takes its name from its old ford over the Stour. A little to the north is Lower Easington, the seat of Eveleyn Shirley, Esq.

About eight miles to the south of the last-mentioned place, and on the borders of the county, is the village of LONG COMPTON, where (says Dugdale) is Weston, the seat of the Sheldaus, of Beoly, in the county of Worcester, ever since the time of Henry the Eighth. Ralph, who died in the year 1613, built the present house, and, being a great encourager of the Flemish weavers, had the oldest maps of England woven in tapestry, which, at the sale of the library and furniture, in the year 1781, were purchased by Mr. Walpole, who presented them to the Earl of Harcourt. Three large pieces of tapestry, near 80 feet square, covering two sides of a large room, were intituled maps of the counties of Warwick, Oxford, and Worcester, but comprehended all the rest in different par-

cels as borderers. The first had in the corner an abstract of Mr. Camden's introduction to this county and description of Warwick. At the corners were the arms of Sheldon and England, and the names of Francis and Richard Hickes, as the improvers of these maps, the orthography of which favours of Flemish artists.

Journey from Sutton Colefield to Birmingham.

SUTTON COLEFIELD is a market-town, and large parish, situated in the north-western part of the county, in an excellent air, among pleasant woods, but in a barren soil. It is a place of great antiquity, and was known in the times of the Saxons: but whatever it was then, there is reason to believe that in latter times it fell to decay, as it appears from Sir William Dugdale, that John Herman, Bishop of Exeter, in the reign of Henry VIII., had such regard for it, as the place of his nativity, that he procured letters-patent from the king to have it incorporated. He also re-built the greatest part of the church, and at his own expence erected a town-hall and a market-house.

The church is a stately Gothic structure, consisting of a nave and two side aisles, with a square tower, in which is a clock, six good bells, and musical chimes. It is remarkable that the bodies interred in the vaults of this church, as well as in the church-yard, are consumed to ashes within a few years after they are deposited, which we find ascribed to the elevated situation of the ground; though we are rather of opinion, that the sudden dissolution is occasioned by some internal heat in the soil, which operating on the grosser particles, reduces them to dust sooner than they would do in other places, however the ground may be situated.

Among other benefactions to this place by Bishop Herman, he founded and endowed a noble free-school. It is remarkable, that he enjoined that the master should be a layman, and that every morning the scho-

lars should sing the 130th psalm, beginning with the following words: "Out of the depth have I cried unto thee." The singing of this psalm has been omitted ever since the reformation, because being repeated for the repose of the bishop's soul, it was considered as superstitious; but the other part of the injunction, namely, that of the master being a layman, is strictly observed.

This town is governed by a warden, two justices, and ten aldermen; it is in a flourishing state, and is endowed with many valuable privileges; particularly a large common, where all the inhabitants have a right of pasturage. On one part of this common is plainly to be seen the course of the Roman Consular way, called Ikenild-street; it is overgrown with furze and heath, but being high-ridged up with stone and gravel, it has baffled all the efforts of time and the plough to efface it.

The principal trade of the place consists in making barrels for guns, axes, forks, knives, buttons, and such other articles as depend upon the different trades in Birmingham, by which great numbers of people are constantly employed. The above articles are made by the assistance of mills, which are worked by some small rivulets that take their rise from the common. But as the streams themselves are not capable of constantly moving the mills, by their common current, reservoirs are made; but these have sometimes been attended with inconveniences, by overflowing their banks. A particular instance of this happened in the year 1668, when there was so great an inundation as almost to ruin the place; but the loss was made up by voluntary subscriptions of the neighbouring gentlemen.

Walter de Clodshale, a native of the place, having acquired several estates in Birmingham, purchased the lordship of Saltly, and resided in the manor-house, now gone to decay, though its traces remain, and are termed by the common people the Giant's Castle.

This man procured a licence, in the year 1331, from William de Birmingham, lord of the see, and another from the crown, to found a chantry at the altar in St. Martin's church, for one priest, to pray for his soul and that of his wife. He gave, for this purpose, four houses, 20 acres of land, and eighteen-pence rent, issuing out of his estates in Birmingham. The chantorial music continued 204 years, till the year 1535, when Henry VIII. closed the book, turned out the priests, who were Sir Thomas Allen and Sir John Green, and seized the property, valued at 5*l.* 1*s.* per annum.

At the north-west extremity of Sutton Colefield, joining the Chester-road, is the Bowen Pool; at the tail of which, 100 yards west of the road, on a small eminence or swell of the earth, are the remains of a fortification, called Loaches-banks; but of what use or original is uncertain, no author having mentioned it; 400 yards farther west, in the same flat, is a hill of some magnitude, deemed by the curious a tumulus. The Roman tumuli were of two sorts, the small for the reception of the general, or great men, and the large for the reception of the dead, after a battle; they are both of the same shape, rather high than broad. That before us comes under the description of neither; nor could the dead well be conveyed over the morass. The ground-plot, in the centre of the fort, at Loaches-banks, is about two acres, surrounded by three mounds, which are large, and three trenches, which are small; the whole forming a square of four acres. Each corner directs to a cardinal point, but perhaps not with design; for the situation of the ground would invite the operator to chchose the present form. The north-west joins to, and is secured by, the pool. As the works are much in the Roman taste, it might at first view be deemed the residence of an opulent lord of the manor, but the adjacent lands carrying no marks of cultivation, destroys the argument; it is also too large for the fashion; besides all these, manorial foundations have been in use since the conquest,

therefore tradition assists the historian; but here, tradition being lost, proves the place of greater antiquity. One might judge it of Danish extraction, but the trenches are not large enough for that people: of themselves they are no security, whether full or empty. It is probably the remains of a British camp, for near these premises are Drude-heath (Druid's-heath) and Drude-fields, which we may reasonably suppose was the residence of a British priest; the military would naturally shelter themselves under the wing of the church, and the priest wish the protection of the military. The narrowness of the trenches is another proof of its being British; they exactly correspond with the style of that people. The name of the pool Bowen, is of British derivation, which is a farther proof that the work originated from the Britons. They did not place their security so much in the trenches as in the mounds, which they barricadoed with timber. This camp is secured on three sides by a morass, and is only approachable on the fourth, that from Colefield. The first mound on this weak side is 24 yards over, twice the size of any other; which allowing an ample security, is a farther evidence of its being British, and tradition being silent is another.

A little to the west of Sutton Colefield Heath, are Sutton Colefield Park and Woods, belonging to the corporation of Sutton; and Four Oaks Hall, the seat of Sir Edmund C. Hartopp, Bart.

On leaving Sutton Colefield we proceed southerly, and, at the distance of three miles, we pass through the village of ERDINGTON, two miles beyond which, on our left, is Aston Hall, the seat of Heneage Legge, Esq.; here, in a stair-case, is the shot-hole of a cannon-ball, fired at the house when King Charles I. was in it.

At the distance of about two miles beyond the last-mentioned place, we arrive at BIRMINGHAM, the third for population and extent in England. In the approach to this celebrated place, the upper part appears to be seated on the side of a hill, in a kind of

peninsula, bordered by parts of the counties of Stafford and Worcester. The buildings of Birmingham, like those of most English towns, not formed in dependance upon a castellated defence, were originally placed in a low and watery situation. The chief street of the ancient town is that termed Digbeth, where there are some excellent springs. At the restoration of Charles II., the town of Birmingham consisted of about fifteen streets, not all finished, and about 900 houses. The increase of buildings since then has exceeded the expectations of the most sanguine: the town no longer crouches in humility of site, but boldly solicits the ingress of the winds from each point of the compass; modern Birmingham, nearly of an oval form, is approached on every side by an ascent, except from the north-west; and as scarcely any of the streets lie on a dead flat, every shower conduces to cleanliness or health. What is called the Crescent is a fine range of domestic buildings, elevated upon a terrace of 1182 feet in length, and 17 feet high. The air is naturally pure, and the soil a dry reddish sand; the lowest apartments are free from damp; hence agues, and the numerous tribe of distempers incidental to moist situations, are here unknown, and instances of longevity are strikingly numerous. Before Birmingham became so eminent for its manufactures, that part of it called Digbeth abounded with tanners, and large numbers of hides arrived weekly for sale, and supplied the whole county. When the weather permitted they were ranged in columns in the High-street, and at other times deposited in the Leather-hall. This market, begun about 700 years ago, continued till the beginning of the last century. Two officers are still annually chosen by the name of leather-sellers; but shops are erected upon the tan-fats, and the Leather-hall is gone to ruin.

Its ancient manufactures were confined to coarse iron-ware, nails, bits, and some lacquered articles;

shortly after the Revolution, one of its principal manufactures at present, fire-arms, got a degree of establishment which was exceedingly advanced by obtaining a contract for furnishing a supply to government; and at the same time the prohibition of French commodities, although it could not destroy a predilection for their fashions, yet establishing the necessity of deriving from ourselves the materials of decoration, the profusion of buttons, with which dress-clothes were then ornamented, became supplied by London and Birmingham. As the demand increased the latter obtained the pre-eminence, from her advantages in the price of labour, fuel, and the necessities of life. Soon after, the iron and metal-buckle trade became extensive: various circumstances, aided by the genius and persevering industry of the inhabitants, afterwards created a number of new objects in the toy and hardware lines; yet, until the establishment of the late John Taylor, Esq. there does not appear to have been any manufacturer upon that general and extensive scale of which Birmingham can, in the present day, furnish such numerous instances. It is scarcely sixty years since there was not a single mercantile house which corresponded directly from hence with any foreign country, but furnished their products for the supply of those markets through the medium of merchants in London; at this time the principal orders for foreign supply come directly to merchants or manufacturers resident in the town.

The manufacture of guns was commenced by a person in Digbeth, in the reign of William III. This profitable trade was, after an interval of time, accommodated with a *Proof-house*, for proving gun-barrels.

The manufacture of brass was introduced here about 1740, and was at first confined to a few opulent persons. But, when numerous brass works were erected, this branch was cultivated on liberal principles of competition. The late Mr. J. Taylor introduced

the gilt button, the painted, japanned, and gilt snuff-boxes, and the numerous variety of enamelled articles. Mr. Taylor died in 1775.

The present consequence of Birmingham, contrasted with its original situation, will, at any rate, justify a retrospective view of its former history, having been distinguished in the annals of Great Britain for a spirit of enterprise, united with the habits of perseverance, a genius to invent, and a hand to execute.

In old writings, the name is frequently spelled *Brumwychham*; and Mr. Hutton thinks, that some articles of iron were fabricated here as early as the times of the Britons. It certainly was a place of some consideration in the time of the Saxons, as William de Birmingham, lord of this manor, proved that his ancestors had the privilege of a market here before the conquest. In the Norman survey, or Domesday-book, this place is merely rated for four hides of land, and woods of half-a-mile in length and four furlongs in width, the whole being valued on an annual rent of 20s. Peter de Birmingham, another lord, there is no doubt obtained a grant for a weekly market, on the Thursday, in the reign of Henry II.; and, in the reign of Henry III., William de Birmingham procured charters for two yearly fairs. In 1319, Audomore, Earl of Pembroke, obtained a licence to take toll for the term of three years, on every article sold in the market, towards the expense of paving the streets; but this work was not completed during 18 years, when a second licence of this kind, to be in force for three years more, was procured. This family of de Birmingham remained possessed of the manorial rights till the reign of Henry VIII., and resided in a moated mansion, about 60 yards south of the old church. The ground having been lately purchased, the moat is filled up, and the buildings erected on the site of the manor-house taken down. In the reign of Henry VIII. the aspect and character of this place is thus noticed, "The beauty of Birmingham, a good

market-town, in the extreme parts of Warwickshire, is one streete, going up a longe, almost from the left ripe of the brooke, up a mean hill, by the length of a quarter of a mile. There be many smithes in the town, that used to make knives, and almost all manner of cutting tools, and many loriners, that make bittes, and a great many naylors, so that a great part of the town is maintained by smithes, who have their iron and coal out of Staffordshire."

In the war between Charles I. and the parliament, Birmingham sided with the latter. King Charles being here in 1642, the inhabitants, when he quitted the town, seized the carriages containing the royal plate, and conveyed them to Warwick Castle. In the ensuing year they so long and strenuously resisted the entrance of Prince Rupert into the town, that he burnt several of the houses, and afterwards laid a contribution upon the inhabitants. William Fielding, Earl of Denbigh, a volunteer under the Prince, was killed by a random shot, and on the other side a clergyman, who acted as governor, was slain in the Red Lion Inn, having refused quarter. In the reign of the profligate and luxurious Charles II., the toy trade was first cultivated in Birmingham, which was afterwards carried to an extent unprecedented in the annals of manufacture, and not been productive of local wealth but of national pride. The navigable communication from Birmingham to various places has been of incalculable benefit to Birmingham. The old canal or navigation, made in the year 1768 and 1769, brings hither various raw materials, and the produce of the Wednesbury collieries. This cut, in the year 1772, was carried on to Autherley, whence there is a communication to the Severn, and thereby to Shrewsbury, Gloucester, Bristol, and with the Trent to Gainsborough, Hull, and London. From this canal there is likewise a junction with a grand line, running along the pottery in Staffordshire, and proceeding to Manchester and Liverpool. Thus the manufactures of Bir-

mingham have been conveyed entirely by water-carriage to the principal parts of the British Ocean, the Irish Sea, and St. George's Channel. By the new canal a communication was opened by Fazeley to Fisherwick, Tamworth, Polesworth, Atherstone, Nuneaton, Coventry, Oxford, and from thence to London, thereby obtaining a navigable conveyance to the south-east extremity of the kingdom, and diffusing the various products of British industry in four grand and opposite points, amongst the inhabitants of every clime.

Birmingham, during many successive years of prosperity, had very happily escaped the effects of party-spirit, till, unfortunately, on the 14th of July, 1795, when, to commemorate the French revolution, with a dangerous degree of ostentatious publicity, some gentlemen, mostly dissenters, assembled at one of the hotels to dinner. By two in the afternoon a vast concourse of people had assembled round the house; about five they began to shew signs of turbulence, and before six it was recommended to the gentlemen to retire, for the sake of peace; and, though they instantly complied, none remaining, yet the multitude increased, and threatened destruction, for not being contented with this moderate triumph, they broke the windows of the hotel. Their numbers swelled now by all the idle and vicious, from every lane and alley in the town, they proceeded to acts of more serious mischief, encouraging each other in the work of havoc, by clamours expressive of their love of the church and king—good order, &c. Thus professing themselves the peculiar friends to the Church of England, the infuriated rabble commenced their general operations, by setting fire to the meeting-house belonging to Dr. Priestly, which they soon reduced to ashes; a second quickly shared the same fate. They then proceeded to the dwelling of the philosophic preacher at Fairhill, about a mile from the town, on the Oxford-road. It appears, though extremely abstemious himself, that the doctor's cellar was well-

stored, for its contents silenced the rage of more than 40 of the rioters, who lay stretched out on the grass-plot adjoining the house, in a state little better than that of nonentity, and several, in this state of intoxication, perished in the flames. Persuasive means were employed to preserve as much of the library and manuscripts as possible, but to no effect. The doctor's beautiful elaboratory underwent utter destruction; every thing in the house was destroyed, not excepting even the servants' clothes. Dr. Priestly luckily escaped the rage of the mob, a circumstance that gave pleasure to every lover of science; but those who rejoice at his escape will regret that his fine philosophical apparatus, with a most valuable library, were destroyed.

After the mob had completed the destruction of Dr. Priestley's house and elaboratory, the Earl of Aylesford, and some other gentlemen, led a great part of the rioters from Sparkbrook to Birmingham, in hopes of dispersing them, but without effect. A great number, about one o'clock on Friday, assembled round the elegant mansion of Mr. John Ryland (formerly the residence of Baskerville, the celebrated printer,) which had lately been enlarged and beautified at a great expense. The most soothing means were adopted to make them desist—money was offered them to induce them to retire, but to no purpose; for, first exhausting the contents of the cellar, they then set fire to the house and furniture. The conflagration was dreadful.

The rioters being divided into parties, and meditating the destruction of several other houses, about three o'clock in the afternoon, consternation and alarm seemed to have superseded all other sensations in the minds of the inhabitants; business was given over, and the shops were all shut up. The inhabitants were traversing the streets in crowds, not knowing what to do, and horror was visible in every countenance.

About half-past three the inhabitants were summoned by the bellman to assemble in the New Church-yard; two magistrates attended in an adjacent room, and swore in several hundred constables, composed of every description of inhabitants, who marched away to disperse the rioters, who were beginning to attack the house of Mr. Hutton, paper-merchant, in the High-street.—This was easily effected, there being not more than half-a-dozen drunken wretches then assembled on the spot. From thence they proceeded to disperse the grand body, who were employed in the destruction of Mr. Ryland's house. On entering the walls which surrounded the house, then all in a blaze, a most dreadful conflict took place, in which it is impossible to ascertain the number of the wounded. The constables were attacked with such a shower of stones and brickbats as it was impossible to resist. The rioters then possessing themselves of some of the bludgeons, the constables were entirely defeated, many of them being much wounded, and one killed. The mob being victorious, and heated with liquor, every thing was to be dreaded. Several attempts were yet made to amuse them, but in vain. They exacted money from the inhabitants; and, at ten o'clock at night, they began and soon effected the destruction of Mr. Hutton's house, in the High-street, plundering it of all its property.

From thence they proceeded to the seat of John Taylor, Esq. banker. There 500*l.* were offered them to desist; but to no purpose, for they immediately set fire to that beautiful mansion, which, together with its superb furniture, stables, offices, green-house, hot-house, &c. were reduced to a heap of ruins.

At eight o'clock on the following evening, the rioters began demolishing the beautiful houses of Mr. Humphreys, and that of William Russel, Esq. a little farther on the road, and most dreadful depredations were committed.

The next morning the people of Birmingham be-

came the trembling spectators of the tremendous conflagration of Mosley-hill, the property of John Taylor, Esq.; but in the occupation of Lady Carhampton. Fortunately Lady Carhampton, who was blind, was removed to a place of safety by Sir Robert Lawley, who took her in his carriage to Canwell; at which instant a most awful scene presented itself: four dreadful fires within a mile of each other! The house of William Russel, Esq. and also that of Mr. Hawkes, of Mosley, shared the same fate with Mosley-hall, where the rioters deliberately killed ducks, geese, and turkies, which, half broiled on the ruins of that once noble edifice, they devoured with brutish ferocity.

At the burning of Mr. Ryland's house many of the rioters were suffocated or burnt, by the walls falling in upon them. Their groans pierced the ears of the multitude. Next morning the bodies were dug out of the ruins, but so mutilated as not to be known.

During the whole of these transactions, the populace continually shouted "God save the king!"—"Long live the king and the constitution, in church and state—down with the dissenters—down with all the abettors of French rebellion!"—"Church and king!"—"Down with the rumps!"—"No Olivers!"—"No false rights of man!"

On Sunday night the military arrived, consisting of the Oxford Blues, and a party of light-horse from Hounslow. By eleven o'clock the town was completely illuminated, in order to give effect to the troops, which was continued till day-light. During the night more troops came in from every quarter; and they lay on their arms till ten next forenoon, when a regular guard was established.

The terror and distress which pervaded the whole town, while these dreadful scenes were acting, will be better conceived than described. The magistrates had tried every means of persuasion to no effect; large bills were stuck up, requesting all persons to

retire to their respective homes, to no purpose; nothing certain was known respecting the approach of the military; and numbers of the rioters, joined by thieves and drunken prostitutes from every quarter, were, with blue cockades in their hats, in all parts of the town, and in small bodies, levying contributions on the inhabitants. There was scarcely an housekeeper that dared refuse them meat, drink, money, or whatever they demanded. The shops were mostly shut up, business nearly at a stand, and every body employed in secreting and removing their valuables.

The rapid march of troops to the relief of the town, whilst it struck terror into the hearts of the rabble, exhilarated the spirits of every peaceable inhabitant, and soon contributed to the complete dispersion of the rioters. As an acknowledgment for the expedition and the good-behaviour of the troops, the dissenters presented them with 100*l.*; and, at a town-meeting, a handsome sword was voted to each of the officers, and a piece of plate, of 100 guineas value, to each of the magistrates.

At the Warwick assizes which followed, four men were capitally convicted of being concerned in these riots, but only two of them suffered the sentence of the law, on the 8th of September, as the others received his majesty's most gracious pardon.

Birmingham, since this disgraceful period, has been uncommonly tranquil; and, among the improvements that have been effected, the several buildings that encumbered the bull-ring, or market-place, have been removed; and, in an eligible part of this area, was erected, in 1809, a good statue of the brave and successful commander, Lord Nelson, executed by Westmacot. The town, too, which used to be much neglected in this particular, is now fairly lighted; but the want of good paving with flag-stones has long been regretted.

A town, not possessing a charter of incorporation,

fails to present such a variety of public structures as would appear suited to its magnitude or resources. The following are the principal buildings, dedicated to religious use, to charitable purposes, or to public amusement.

St. Martin's, or the old church, is situated at the upper end of that part of the town nearest the London-road, called Digbeth, and in the neighbourhood of the corn-market. The most ancient part of this venerable structure cannot be reasonably supposed to be earlier than the thirteenth century. This building was originally formed entirely of stone, but in the year 1690 the whole, excepting the spire, was cased with brick. The lower part of the tower has undergone the least alteration of any. In 1786, upwards of 4000*l.* were expended in further alterations and improvements, when it appears that even the monuments of the ancient lords of Birmingham, in this church, could not escape a whitewashing. These monuments consist of recumbent effigies, but have no inscriptions; the furniture of the church is respectable and appropriate, and the steeple contains a good peal of twelve bells.

Until the early part of the 18th century, Birmingham continued to be one parish. A triangular portion of the town, covering about 100 acres, was then separated from the rest, and constituted a parochial district, by the name of St. Philips. In 1711, a new church for this parish was begun by act of parliament, and finished in 1719. This structure stands on elevated ground, and is judiciously placed in one of the largest areas or church-yard in England, by which its architectural beauties are properly displayed. This burial-place occupies four acres at least, and is planted with numerous trees; the style of the building is chaste and elegant; the steeple, at the west-end, is surmounted by a cupola, in some degree resembling that of St. Paul, in London. The vestry contains a theological library, bequeathed by W. Higgs, the first rector, for the use of the clergy. He also left 200*l.*

for a future purchase of books. Here is also a handsome library, next the parsonage-house, erected by the Rev. Mr. Madan in 1792.

A third church, called the *Free*, (or Christ) church was more particularly designed for the use of the lower classes. This building is ornamented with a steeple and a portico, and nearly 20,000*l.* were expended upon its erection and embellishments.

Birmingham contains five chapels for the exercise of the established religion. St. John's Deritend, although now encompassed by the extended streets of Birmingham, is in fact a chapel of ease to the parish of Aston. This chapelry was founded in the year 1382; but, the ancient building having fallen to decay, the body of the present structure was erected in 1735. A square tower at the western end was added in 1762.

St. Bartholomew's chapel, on the east side of the town, was built in 1749, and is remarkable for not standing due-east and west. It is supposed to accommodate about 800 persons. In 1772, in consequence of the great increase of the population of the town, an act of parliament was obtained for the erection of two additional chapels, termed St. Mary's and St. Paul's; the first is of an octangular form, but has no pretensions to architectural beauty; St. Paul's chapel is a respectable stone-building, with a square tower at the west end. The whole of the interior is plain, the window over the communion-table excepted, which is filled with painted glass, exhibiting the history of St. Paul, executed by Mr. F. Eginton.

The chapel, dedicated to St. James, is formed from a mansion erected several years since by Dr. Ash, an eminent physician of this town; but, not being completed in the year 1810, having undergone suitable alterations, it was converted into its present use, after having been consecrated. Here is also one Jewish synagogue, and 20 meeting-houses, for various classes of dissenters. The free-school here is an extensive and noble foundation. The history of this is

connected with a *gild*, founded at Birmingham, in the year 1389, called the gild of the *Holy Cross*. The lands being valued at 31*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* at the dissolution, they were vested in the crown, till 1552, when Edward VI. assigned them to certain inhabitants of Birmingham, for the foundation of a grammar-school; so great has been the increase of landed property, that their annual produce has been estimated at 2000*l.* The present building was erected in the early part of the 18th century, and is both spacious and ornamental. Seven exhibitioners are sent hence to the University of Oxford.

The Charity, or Blue-coat School, is supported by voluntary subscription; 150 orphan boys and 40 girls are here maintained and educated. The buildings are extensive and elegant. Here is also a dissenting charity-school for females only. Large seminaries have likewise been instituted upon the plans of Lancaster and Dr. Bell. The general Hospital, begun at Birmingham in 1766, was augmented with two wings in 1790; and, in 1813, the annual subscriptions amounted to 1,945*l.* and the legacies to a greater sum. In 1808, a handsome building was first appropriated to the use of a Dispensary; and, in 1813, a central society was formed here for the education of the deaf and dumb. Lench's almshouses, founded in the reign of Henry VIII., have also been increased by a number of tenements, owing to the rise of the finances since that period.

The culture of land by *hand-labour* has lately been adopted for the relief of the poor belonging to Birmingham. One of the overseers, in 1817 and 1818, has asserted, that there were 800 adult poor in the workhouse, for whom there was no employment; that about 30 acres of land belonged to the town, that these were let to different tenants, but that four acres were obtained, on which they planted cabbages and potatoes, and obtained a sufficient supply for 600 persons, from July to September. In March, 1818, he took seven acres and a half more ground, and cul-

tivated two acres in flax. The soil was hard and sterile, but being dug by the spade, and the turf buried, without manure, it soon assumed a most promising appearance.

The Theatre is a building correspondent in size and character with the population and opulence of the town. The front is a handsome elevation, judiciously airy and inviting, and the interior is arranged with considerable taste. This place of rational amusement is joined by a tavern and hotel, comprising an elegant assembly-room, in which are held periodical concerts.

A public library commenced here in 1779, but this most desirable institution advanced very slowly, until aided by the advice and assistance of Dr. Joseph Priestly, in 1782. Since that period a handsome brick building has been erected, from a design by Mr. William Hollins, of Birmingham. The collection of books exceed 20,000 volumes, and many of them are of considerable rarity and value. Another place, of a similar kind, is called the New Library.

A philosophical society has also been formed, and a building set apart for experiments in chemistry and other scientific pursuits; public lectures are also delivered here. A new prison, on a judicious plan, was built here in 1806, at the expense of 9000*l*. Towards the front are spacious rooms, used for the meetings of the county magistrates, and other public business.

Much of the success of this place, in commercial pursuits, has been attributed to its freedom from chartered laws. The possession of industry is a sufficient qualification for its exercise, and talent supplies the place of birth-right. The internal policy of this great town is yet directed by two constables, annually chosen, and by a high-bailiff, a low-bailiff, a headborough, two high-tasters, two low-tasters, two affeirers, and two leather-sellers. The high-bailiff is to inspect the markets, the low-bailiff is to summon a jury, who choose all other officers, and the headborough acts as assistant to the constables, the high-

tasters examine the beer, and the low-tasters inspect the meat exposed to sale, and the affeirers ratify the rent and amercements between the lord and his tenants. In 1752, a court of conscience, for the recovery of debts under 40s. was established here; and by an act of parliament, obtained in 1807, the power of this court was extended to the cognizance of all debts not exceeding 5*l*. A market on the Tuesday, for the sale of hay, was opened in 1791. Besides the annual fair for cattle, there are several wakes held annually for amusement in the skirts of the town.

The immediate vicinity of Birmingham is ornamented by numerous small allotments of garden-ground, which afford a healthful and pleasing amusement to many of the inhabitants. The public-gardens and bowling-greens in this neighbourhood are also respectively suited to the manners of the people. The surrounding country is in many points diversified and picturesque, and is embellished by numerous villas, belonging to the principal persons in this great town; Edgbaston and Aston Halls are among this description.

About a mile and a half from Birmingham, on the Wolverhampton-road, in the county of Stafford, and near the Soho, are the works of Mr. Eginton, where we find the lost art of painting upon glass revived, with a glow of colouring equal to the brightest of the ancients, and with an execution of the pencil wholly unknown to them.—A superb window, placed over the communion-table of St. Paul's chapel, in this town, put up a few years since by Mr. Eginton, will fully justify this remark.

At the Soho is one of the most extensive manufactories in the kingdom, as well for the number of hands employed as the variety of different articles they produce. It consists of four squares, with connecting ranges, or rather streets, of shopping, warehouses, &c. capable of employing above 1000 workmen in all the

varieties of the button, buckle, plated, or *argent moulu*, steel-toy, and trinket manufactories.

Birmingham goods are dispersed throughout the kingdom, and exported in great quantities to foreign countries, where, in respect to show and cheapness, they are unrivalled; so that this town has become (to use the emphatical expression of Burke) “the toy-shop of Europe.”

In order to make excursions to the environs of Birmingham, you proceed down SNOWHILL, and having passed the one-mile stone, there are a few trees close to the road-side, and opposite to them there is an extensive view over Barr-beacon, and the adjacent country, including the lofty trees in Aston Park, over whose tops the elegant spire of that church is seen. In descending the hill, when you have passed the buildings, the eye is delighted, on the right hand, with an extensive view over Hunter’s nursery-grounds, and on the left is Hockley Abbey: this building was erected upon a piece of waste, boggy land, about the year 1779, by Mr. Richard Ford, an ingenious mechanic of Birmingham, who, among other things, invented a one-wheel carriage, which he constructed entirely of iron; and for his ingenuity in the formation of that vehicle, the society of arts presented him with their gold medal. As he employed a number of hands, several of whom expended nine or ten shillings each week at the alehouse, it occurred to him, who was not given to drink, that he would lay aside two shillings every day; and having done so for a considerable time, as his business required him to keep a horse and cart, when they were at leisure he sent them to Aston furnace,* to bring away large masses of scorïæ, usually termed slag or dross, that lay there in great abundance. Having collected together a large quantity of it, he began to erect this building, to represent ruins;

* A blast furnace for the making of pig-iron, very near at hand.

and, to add to the deception, there is in the front of the house, in small pebble-stones, the date, 1473; and all this was done, as he informed the writer of this article, without advancing any other money than the 14s. per week. It is now nearly overgrown with ivy, and if no account had been given of the materials with which it is erected, posterity might have been at a loss to know what substance the walls were built with. Hubert Galton, Esq. now resides there, who pays rent for the house, and about 15 acres of land, more than 100*l.* per annum, exclusive of the enormous parochial taxes of Birmingham, which for these premises, from Michaelmas, 1816, to Michaelmas, 1817, amounted to the astonishing sum of 61*l.* 10*s.* viz. 36 levies for the poor, at 30*s.* each, three highway levies, at 30*s.* each, and two levies for the church, at 30*s.* each. In the back-ground, beyond this, is seen a glass-house, belonging to Messrs. Shakespear and Fletcher.

You now cross the Bourn, a small stream of water, that separates Warwickshire from the county of Stafford, and passing by Mr. Boulton's plantations on the left, when you are about half-way up the hill, there is on the right hand Prospect-house, where the late Mr. Eginton carried on his manufactory of stained glass.

At the two-mile-stone, on the left, is the entrance to SOHO, where Matthew Robinson Boulton, Esq. resides, who is proprietor of the Soho Manufactory. The road leading to this magnificent pile of building is on the left, when you have passed through the turnpike. The spot upon which it is erected, was, in the year 1764, a steril, barren heath, and so it continued until 1793, when it was enclosed by act of parliament. The late Mr. Boulton, in the first instance, expended more than 9,000*l.* in the erection of buildings, exclusive of machinery. He soon after removed his manufactory from Birmingham; and then this enterprising genius established a seminary of artists;

men of ingenuity being sought after from all parts of Europe, and patronised with the greatest liberality: thus fostered by his benevolence, they soon produced an imitation of the *or-moulu*. These metallic ornaments, in the form of vases, tripods, candelabras, &c. found a ready sale, not only in this kingdom, but in France, and almost every part of civilized Europe. This business being established, silver articles were manufactured in such profusion, that it became necessary to make application for an assay-office to be established in Birmingham, which was carried into effect in the year 1773.

About this time, a mechanical process was discovered of copying pictures, in oil colours, which was brought to such perfection, that the most experienced connoisseurs were sometimes deceived. The process was chiefly under the direction of Mr. Francis Eginton, who afterwards commenced the business of staining glass.

Mr. Watt having obtained a patent for the improvement of steam-engines, came and settled at Soho, in 1769, where he erected an engine, upon his own principles; which answering the intended purpose, he in 1775 obtained from parliament a prolongation of his term for 25 years. A partnership being now formed between Mr. Boulton and Mr. Watt, an extensive manufactory of these engines was established at Soho, and conveyed from thence to most of the deep mines and extensive works, where great power was requisite.

In 1788, a mint was erected at Soho, to be worked by the steam-engine; from the rolling of the copper into sheets, afterwards passing it through steel polished rollers, and then cutting out the blanks; all which was performed with the greatest ease and regularity by girls, instead of employing able men. This was not the whole, for the coining machines were worked with greater rapidity and exactness, by boys from 12 to 14 years of age, than could be done

by the former process, by a number of strong men, and their fingers not being in the least endangered ; the machine depositing the blank upon the dies, and when struck, it displaced one piece and deposited another.

To facilitate the manufacturing of steam-engines, they erected an iron-foundry at Smethwick, on the banks of the Birmingham canal, where nearly all the laborious part is consigned to the engine. Engines are here manufactured from one-horse to 200-horse power, all acting together. Handsworth-common being enclosed, enabled Mr. Boulton to extend his grounds to a considerable degree, which form an agreeable separation from his own residence, and a much admired scene of picturesque beauty.

A person wandering through these secluded walks, or on the banks of the various lakes and water-falls which adorn them, may here enjoy the sweets of solitude and retirement, with equal composure as if he was far distant from the busy scenes that are close at hand.

What is here enumerated are all of them manufactured or carried on at the Soho, at the present time :—steam-engines of every description, and for all purposes, where great power is requisite ; coining of medals, or medallions, of any size required ; silver and plated articles, of every description, such as tea-urns, vases, tureens, dishes, candelabras, and every necessary article to decorate the table or the drawing-room ; metals of every description are here rolled, to any length or breadth required ; patent copying-machines ; fine polished steel fire-irons ; steel buttons ; ornaments for stove-grates, fenders, or any other article in steel, where taste and elegance are necessary.

Leaving Soho, you come to the elegant village of HANDSWORTH, where the common lands of the parish being inclosed by act of parliament, in 1793, they have probably been as productive, if not more so, than others of a similar nature in any other part of the

kingdom ; for there are now at least 150 respectable houses erected upon the ground, which, before it was enclosed, lay entirely waste ; and plots of the same land have been sold from 200*l.* to 1000*l.* per acre.

About one quarter of a mile distant from Soho, is the residence of Miss Boulton, whose house is secluded from public view by a lofty brick wall ; and half a mile farther, going down a lane, by the sign of the Queen's Head, a landscape of considerable interest exhibits itself, including Soho, Birmingham, and the intermediate country, to the Monument. In the grounds, on the right, opposite the three-mile-stone, is a grand picturesque view of the whole country, including Barr-beacon, Aston church, and the lofty trees in the park. About half-a-mile farther, you arrive at the verge of Sandwell Park, a seat belonging to the Earl of Dartmouth, and opposite, on the left, is a grand panoramic view of the country, including the ruins of Dudley Castle.

The church is an ancient Gothic stone building, dedicated to St. Mary, with a square tower, of grey-stone ; the body is of an irregular form, the workmanship being rude and tasteless. It appears to be much neglected and out of repair, both inside and out ; and neither in respect to size or decorations does it bear any analogy to the number of the population, or the wealth of the parishioners. Indeed, if the structure of the church should be a criterion to judge of the opulence of the inhabitants, a stranger would certainly conclude, that they were most of them tenants at rack-rent, and greatly burdened with poor. The only objects deserving of notice are two monuments ; one in the inside, and the other on the out. The one erected to commemorate the late Matthew Boulton, Esq. is the work of the celebrated Flaxman, and adds another wreath of laurel to the brow of that classical artist. It is of white and blue marble, and is surmounted by a bust, which is the best representation extant of that enterprising and deserving man, to

whose memory it is sacred. The other is an humble tomb-stone, remarkable as being one of the last works, cut by his own hand, with his name at the top of it, of that celebrated typographer Baskerville; but this, being neglected by the relations of the deceased, has been mutilated, although the inscription is still perfect, but so much overgrown with moss and weeds, that it requires more discrimination than falls to the lot of many passing travellers to discover the situation of this neglected gem. To those who are curious, it will be found close to the wall, immediately under the chancel window. This precious relic of that eminent man is deserving of being removed, at the expense of the parish, and preserved with the greatest care, withinside the church. Mr. Baskerville was originally a stone-cutter, and afterwards kept a school in Birmingham.

There is only one more of his cutting known to be in existence, and that has lately been removed and placed withinside the church, at Edgbaston. The Rev. L. Freer, rector of Dudley, and the wealthy parishioners, have entered into a liberal subscription, and being aided by government with the sum of 500*l*. they have undertaken to re-build the body of the church, according to an elegant plan, designed by W. Hollins, statuary and architect, of Birmingham, without making any rate on the inhabitants.

WEST BROMWICH.—The church is an old tower structure of stone, dedicated to St. Clement; the body having been of late years re-built, has two side-aisles, handsomely pewed, and galleries all round. The officiating clergyman is the Rev. Charles Townsend.

The waste-lands in this parish being enclosed by act of parliament in the year 1804, has produced a very beneficial effect; for, by the side of the main road, which scarcely produced a blade of grass, there are now numerous houses erected, and the lands about them are very productive. The new enclosed

lands now let at a high rent, and a great part of it is in tillage.

In this extensive parish, the new enclosed land has been sold from 100*l.* to 840*l.* per acre; and the neighbourhood is now become so populous, that it is in contemplation to erect a new church.

Before you arrive at the six-mile-stone the road divides, and you proceed on the right hand for another mile, when, on a sudden, the eye is highly gratified with a view of WEDNESBURY, crected on a declivity; and on the summit the church, with its lofty spire, makes a very unusual and respectable appearance. This church is a beautiful Gothic edifice; the body and tower of which is coated with Parker's cement, but the chancel remains as before. Tradition says, that on this spot there was, in former times, a Saxon castle. Withinside the church there are numerous ancient monuments, and an inscription, signifying that William Hopkins, yeoman, Richard Hawkes, and Robert Carter, caused the chimes of this church to be made and set up, at their equal and proper cost and charges, A. D. 1635. The clock, which is represented to be a remarkable good one, has a pendulum upon an unusual construction, the rod being 14 yards in length, and the ball of it weighs 100 pounds.

Here are eight musical bells, the two trebles being fixed in 1558; the sixth has an insription, "William Comberford, lord of this manor, gave this bell, 1623." On the seventh is, "Santa Bartholomew, ora pro nobis." And on the tenor is inscribed, "I will sound and resound to thee, O Lord, to call thy people to hear thy word."

The church-yard is of considerable extent, and being in such an elevated situation, those who profess to delineate panoramas may here find ample scope to display their abilities; for there is not only a view of the following churches, but the towns and villages wherein they are situated, are several of them under the eye of the spectator from this lofty eminence, viz.

Walsall, Willenhall, Darlaston, Wolverhampton two churches, Bilstone, Sedgley, Dudley, two churches and the ruins of the castle, West-Bromwich, Tipton, Wednesfield, Brierly-hill, and Rushall; in addition to the above, by ascending the roof of the church, you command Birmingham and Aston, together with numerous engines that are at work in its vicinity; the whole when combined form such a rich and variegated scene as probably cannot be equalled in any other situation.

In the vicinity of Wednesbury there are numerous mines of coal, wherein great numbers of people are employed, whilst others pursue the different branches of gun-making; springs, steps, and other articles used by coachmakers, are also manufactured here, together with wood-screws, hinges, and, of late, apparatus for the gas-lights.

To visit WALSALL, in Staffordshire, distant nine miles, on the direct road to Stafford, it is necessary to proceed down Snowhill, and having passed the buildings, you perceive on the right hand Hunter's nursery-grounds, from whence there is a good prospect of the town of Birmingham, in a clear day. On the left, Hockley Abbey, and the plantations of Mr. Boulton, present a rich scene in front, with a glass-house in the background. At the bottom of the hill you cross a small stream of water, which separates Warwickshire from the county of Stafford. In ascending the opposite hill, on the right hand, is Prospect-house, where the late Mr. Eginton carried on his manufactory of stained glass. Soon after the road divides, when, turning to the right hand, it leads you by a row of respectable houses, and when through the toll-gate, you leave what was once Handsworth-common, and immediately on the left is a handsome house, with a beautiful avenue of lime-trees, once the seat of the ancient family of Sacheverel, but now the property of Joseph Grice, Esq.

A little farther on the right is a simple though taste-

ful lodge, leading to Heathfield, the elegant mansion of the celebrated James Watt, Esq. who late was well-known to all scientific men, for the great improvements he made in steam-engines, and various other useful works. A few years back, the adjacent ground was a wild and dreary waste, but it now exhibits all the beauty and luxuriance that art assisted by taste can give it. Woods and groves appear to have started up at command, and it may now vie with any seat in the neighbourhood, for rural elegance and picturesque beauty. Descending the hill, the parish-church of Handsworth presents itself to view, and a short distance before you arrive at it, is the parsonage-house, where the Rev. Lane Freer resides. It is a very excellent house, and possesses more conveniences and luxuries than are usually to be met with in the habitations of the clergy. About a mile farther on the right is the elegant residence of N. G. Clarke, Esq. one of the king's counsel; a gentleman highly distinguished for acuteness and perspicuity in his profession, and thorough hospitality in his house. Still farther on the left, as you descend a steep hill, there is a fine view, at a considerable distance, of the domains of Hamstead-hall. It is a very elegant and modern-built mansion, the old one having been taken down some years since, which was for many generations the seat of the ancient and respectable family of the Wyrleys, who possessed the manor and very large property in this parish. On the demise of the late John Wyrley, Esq. the whole of this estate was left by will to George Birch, Esq. at whose decease it devolved upon his only son, the present Wyrley Birch, Esq. It is difficult to conceive a more beautiful residence than this, as it contains all that hill and dale, wood and water, aided by extensive views, can do to make a place delightful and desirable: these seem here to have been combined in the most beautiful manner; for the river Tame meanders through this enchanting and extensive domain, on whose banks

are numerous groves of trees, and from a solid rock there arises a lime-tree, of unusual magnitude, whose branches, spreading in an horizontal direction, became so heavy, and injured the trunk to such a degree, that in order to preserve the body it not only became necessary to lop off the principal branches, but to bind it together with iron in different ways, by hooping of it, and passing a bar of iron through it, in the same manner as buildings are frequently done to preserve them. At the height of three feet, it girths 23 feet and rises to the height of 70 feet. The rock upon which this tree grows, is of such a nature that there is a grotto of considerable size cut in it, wherein the roots from this tree spread themselves in different directions. This inestimable estate, although for so many generations the patrimonial possessions of the family, has been lately transferred by the proprietor to the Earl of Dartmouth, and is now in the possession of William Wallis, Esq.

In the valley is a corn-mill, worked by the river Tame, over which there is a substantial bridge. Near the summit of the opposite hill, the road passes close by the residence of Mr. Wren, who is well known in Staffordshire, as an agriculturist. Near half a mile farther on the left is an ancient white house, which has been occupied as a school for a number of years. From the green opposite, if you face about, there is an extensive view over the country; two of the Birmingham churches and the Monument being conspicuous objects. A very short distance farther is a gravel-pit, opposite to which is a rich and luxuriant view for a considerable distance. At the finger-post, two miles before you arrive at Walsall, there is a beautiful landscape, and when you approach near the town, by looking the contrary way, there is a rich and variegated view over the country. A little before you enter the town, there are two respectable houses, one on each side of the road; that on the left is the residence of Mr. Richard Jesson, an attorney, and at the other,

which is built of stone, Mr. John Adams, a merchant, resides.

This road to Stafford is nearer by five miles than going through Wolverhampton, and the accommodations are in every respect equal: independent of that circumstance, whoever travels this road is not incommoded by the numerous collieries and engines that are adjacent to the other.

The Guildhall, at Walsall is situated in the High-street, one wing of which is the Dragon-inn, and the other is a large room where the corporation assemble to transact business, and is called the Mayor's Parlour, under which is the prison for the town.

The ancient wooden staves belonging to the corporation are still deposited in the hall, and are curious relics of antiquity, being ornamented with heads of various animals, rudely carved.

The sheriff of the county, by his deputy, holds a court in this town, at the Castle-inn, every third Monday, for the recovery of debts under 40*s.*; but the expenses are excessive to both debtor and creditor, and if the latter loses his cause, his expenses alone will amount to six or seven pounds.

The church is a vicarage, dedicated to St. Matthew, or All Saints: it is an ancient pile of building, singular in its appearance, being in the form of a cross, the transept of which is composed by large side chapels, whose roofs lie east and west, parallel to the body of the church. The tower, which is situated at the south-west angle of the west front, is strong, plain, and far from inelegant, being built with coarse limestone, on which a new spire was erected since 1775, when a set of eight musical bells were fixed there, by Mr. Rudball, of Gloucester; the weight of the tenor being more than 23 cwt. and key note E flat.

On each side of the chancel are eleven stalls, very entire, the seats of which, being lifted up, exhibit a series of grotesque figures, curiously carved, in bas relief; no two of which resemble each other. Over

the communion-table is a large painting, representing the Last Supper. The vicarage, where the Rev. Philip Pratt resides, is in a delightful situation, being on an eminence, and encompassed with lofty and majestic trees.

There are three fairs in the year, viz. February 24th, Tuesday in the Whitsun-week, and the Tuesday before St. Michael; at which time the races take place, and have been for a number of years both numerously and genteelly attended; as a proof of it, the inhabitants, in the year 1809, expended the sum of 1,300*l.* in the erection of a grand stand; in the lower apartments of which is a billiard-table, where they resort for recreation. The fair at Whitsuntide is not held by charter, but being market-day, at that holiday-time is considered a fair by prescription.

The town has a singular appearance; its situation being upon a bold eminence, from whose summit arises a fine old Gothic church, with a lofty spire, the streets and houses descending in every direction. In the vicinity are numerous lime-stone quarries, some of which are open from the surface, and from others it is drawn up through a shaft, similar to coal-mines.

Mr. Siddons, the husband of the celebrated actress, was born in Rushall-street, in this town, whilst his father kept a public-house, known by the sign of the London Apprentice, whose death was occasioned by sparring or wrestling with a person named Denston. The present Mr. Siddons was originally a barber, but having an inclination for the stage, he joined the itinerant company of Mr. Kemble, and married one of his daughters, who afterwards proved the heroine of the stage. Another well-known character was also a native of this town, viz. Thomas Haskey, the celebrated ventriloquist, who was by trade a bridle-bit maker; but whilst an apprentice he left his master, and entered into the army, where he lost a leg and obtained a pension. When young, he did not know the abilities he possessed, but hearing O'Burn, he en-

deavoured to imitate him; and when Mr. Stanton's company of performers were at Walsall, he repeatedly from the gallery entertained the audience by sham dialogues, in two voices, between himself and Tommy. He was an ignorant man, but possessing this unusual faculty, he was frequently sent for by Lord Dudley, to entertain the company at Himley, upon which occasions he always hired a post-chaise to convey him there. He afterwards went to London, and performed at Sadler's Wells, in the year 1796, and when his benefit came on, he cleared 200*l*.

About one mile from the town, on the road to Wolverhampton, is a strong chalybeate water, called Alumwell.

The chief articles manufactured in this town and its vicinity are bridle-bits, stirrups, spurs, and other articles either used or sold by the saddlers.

Barr Park, distant five miles on the road to Walsall, the hospitable mansion of Sir Joseph Scott, Bart. is surrounded by a park of considerable extent, wherein there is the greatest variety of undulating hills and dales, wood and water, together with such extensive views as can only be found in this part of the kingdom. To this park there are three entrances, and at every avenue the worthy proprietor has erected an elegant lodge, from whence there are capacious carriage-roads to the mansion. One of these lodges is about five miles on the road to Walsall, to which you approach by taking the right-hand road, opposite a house of entertainment, the Scott's Arms, and then taking the second turning to the left conducts you to the lodge. On entering the park, a circular coach-drive leads to the holly-wood, through which you proceed by a serpentine road near half a mile, when a beautiful sheet of water presents itself to view, along whose banks you pass near a mile before you arrive at the mansion.

The situation of the building is low in front of the water, but being screened by rising ground and lofty

trees, it must be very warm in the winter. On the left of the house, a walk leads you to the flower-garden, which is laid out with great taste, containing flowers and small shrubs of the choicest and rarest kinds, together with a fountain in the centre. From hence there are delightful views, and among others over the adjacent country, Birmingham is distinctly seen. At the distance of about two miles farther, towards Walsall, there is another lodge, which is the entrance from Walsall, and leads you by a spacious serpentine road through the Marrian Wood, which is composed of various shrubs and evergreens, and conducts you to a most elegant chapel, with a beautiful and well-proportioned spire, underneath which you enter into one of the most sumptuous places of worship in the universe. There are in the whole 11 lofty windows, and seven of them are ornamented in the most elegant manner with stained glass, by Eginton: they are all full-length figures, large as life, with their proper attributes. The first represents Fortitude, the second Temperance, the third Justice, in the fourth, which is over the communion-table, is the apotheosis of a child, after the Rev. Mr. Peters, the fifth represents Hope, the sixth Charity, and the seventh Prudence. The pews and every other part correspond, there being a sumptuous organ, with a gallery in front of it, which extends on each side, before two windows. In a spacious cemetery there are some tombs, much more elegant than are usually met with; there is also a yew-tree of large dimensions, which is grown much higher than trees of that species do in general, and also some venerable elms, together with the village school. Close adjoining is another lodge, and the road from it conducts you over an elegant bridge, on the right of which is a cascade.

There is also another lodge, at a place called the Quieslet, about six miles on the road to Barr-beacon, where a spacious road conducts you for a considerable distance, by a plantation of oaks, and so through

the park, wherein there are fixed numerous seats, which command delightful and comprehensive prospects; and among others may be seen the extensive sheet of water in the vale, backed by a grand screen of venerable oaks and verdant hills; at the same time, from amidst the nearer trees and shrubs, the house appears to emerge, and adds considerably to the scene. From the various knolls with which this park abounds, there are several that command a view of Birmingham, and also of the woods in Sandwell Park.

There is also a view of the ruins of Dudley-castle; and from another eminence the churches of Wolverhampton and Wednesbury are seen, with the elegant spire of Barr-chapel in front. From the lodge at the approach of Walsall there is an extensive view over the country, bounded in the horizon, to the left by Dudley-castle, the Rowley-hills, &c. and to the right by the Wrekin and other mountains in Shropshire.

In Dudley are two parish-churches, one of which is dedicated to St. Thomas, and is now re-building in a magnificent manner, to which a lofty spire is attached, it being in height 170 feet, and therein are 10 musical bells: of this church the Rev. Luke Booker, L.L.D. is vicar. The other is dedicated to St. Edmund, wherein a free gallery has been erected by subscription; over which the Rev. Proctor Robinson presides.

The different sects of presbyterians, baptists, quakers, methodists, and independents, have each of them their respective places of worship.

There is a Free-school, founded by King Edward VI. two national schools, on the plan of Dr. Bell, and one Lascasterian ditto. The inhabitants, who have a taste for reading, have established a library, wherein there are more than 3000 volumes.

There are here five glass-houses, two of which belong to Messrs. T. and G. Hawkes, where the most superb articles are manufactured; another to Mr. John Roughton; a fourth to Price, Cook, Wood, and Co.;

and the fifth is at Holly-hall, belonging to Zephaniah Parkes and Co.

There are also the following iron-works established: Zephaniah Parkes and Co.; Messrs. Attwoods, three furnaces; Glazebrook and Whitehouse; Salisbury, Hawkes, and Co.; — Banks; Wainwright, Jones, and Co.

At the Priory there is a powerful steam-engine, belonging to Mr. Benson; and on the road to Birmingham is a brewery, belonging to a public company.

The ancient Castle, of which there still remains the keep and the gateway, is said to have been erected about the year 700, by a person named Dodo, from whom the name of the town is derived. Underneath the hill, whereon the castle was situated, there are stupendous caverns, from whence the lime-stone has been conveyed away, which are truly august, being of considerable extent, and proportionably high; the roof being supported by rude pillars of vast dimensions, which have been left by the miners for that purpose. There is one tunnel that perforates the hill entirely, being in length near two miles: it is in height 13 feet, in width nine feet, and in one part 64 feet below the surface.

These enormous subterranean works, with the method of procuring the stone, are highly deserving the attention of strangers, who have there an opportunity of seeing this useful article forced from its natural situation by means of gunpowder; raised from the bowels of the earth, and conveyed through the country by means of inland navigation, to serve the purpose of the agriculturist, and also the architect. In these rocks there are numerous marine productions, and among others one which the miners denominate a locust, for which they have been known to refuse its weight in gold; it being understood that there is only one other place in the kingdom where they are to be found. The mines of coal in this vicinity are from 10

to 12 yards in thickness, which circumstance it is said does not take place in any other part of the kingdom. A stranger approaching Dudley after it is dark, will be astonished to see the numerous fires in different directions, which proceed from the furnaces, forges, and collieries; the latter converting their small coal into coke.

The noble proprietor of these extensive mines, and the ruins above them, has for several successive years planted innumerable trees of different kinds around the Castle-hill; and during the summer of 1818, caused avenues to be cut through them, which forms the most romantic, picturesque, and diversified shady walks, extending over numerous hills and dales, that can be imagined; the views that occasionally present themselves, when least expected, are enchanting, and when you arrive at the summit there is a most extensive prospect over the counties of Worcester, Stafford, Derby, Leicester, Warwick, Salop, Hereford, and part of Wales: it is not only extensive, but full of variety, comprising hills and dales, woods and villages, populous towns, and busy seats of manufacture; a scene that may be justly termed, of various view, warm and alive with human habitations. From this eminence 18 churches are discernable; viz. those of Dudley, Birmingham, West-Bromwich, Walsall, Rushall, Wednesbury, Darlaston, Tipton, Bilston, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton, Sedgley, Briery-hill, Oldswinford, and Pedmore; and also the fine obelisk and castle at Hagley; the elegant seat of Lord Westcote; Envil, the admired seat of Lord Stamford; and part of the woods at Himley, the spacious and beautiful seat of the humane, generous, and noble proprietor of these ruins. The stupendous mountains of Malvern, (though near 40 miles distant,) bounding the horizon towards the south, are grand and noble features in the scene; as are also those of Clent, Abbersley, the Cleys, and the Wrekin;

“Mountains on whose barren breast

“The lab’ring clouds do often rest.”

Leaving Smethwick, you proceed towards OLDBURY, upon which road the trustees are making great improvements, by widening the road and turning the course of a brook, over which they are building a bridge, which when finished will be a great accommodation. This village is situated in the county of Salop, and is a chapel of ease to Hales-owen. A new court-house was erected here in the year 1816, where the court of requests is held once a fortnight. The Protestant dissenters have here a neat place of worship, as have also the Methodists.

Close to the village are several coal-mines, and a blast-furnace, belonging to Mr. Parker.

A new bridge is completed, and the whole line of road improved to a considerable degree.

To go to Hockley-house, on the road to Stratford-upon-Avon and also to Warwick, you proceed through Deritend, up Camp-hill, and when near the summit, there is on the right-hand an ancient brick building, called the Ravenhurst, the residence of Mr. John Lowe, attorney. A short distance beyond on the left is Fair-hill, where Samuel Lloyd, Esq. resides, and on the opposite side of the road is the Larches, the abode of Wm. Withering, Esq. This house, when it belonged to Mr. Darbyshire, was known by the name of Foul Lake, but when Dr. Priestley resided there, he gave it the name of Fair-hill; afterwards, being purchased by Dr. Withering, he altered the name of it to the Larches. Having passed through the turnpike, on the left is Sparkbrook-house, John Rotton, Esq. resident. At the distance of one mile and a half the road to Warwick branches off to the left, and on the summit of the hill is Spark-hill-house, inhabited by Miss Morris. Opposite the three-mile-stone is a very neat pile of building, called Green-bank-house, where Benjamin Cooke, Esq. has taken up his abode. A little beyond, at a place called the Coal-bank, there is a free-school, which is endowed with about 40*l.* per annum.

At a short distance on the left is Marston-chapel, which is usually called Hall-green-chapel: it was erected and endowed by Job Marston, Esq. of Hall-green-hall, with about 90 acres of land, and other donations.

At the distance of five miles, you pass through a village called Shirley-street; and at the distance of another five miles, you arrive at Hockley-house, a place of entertainment, where travellers of every denomination are accommodated in a genteel manner, and on reasonable terms. About one mile from hence, on the road to Stratford, is Umberslade, or Omberslade, where the Archer family were used to reside, but it is now untenanted.

About half-a-mile north-east of Birmingham is Duddeston, (Dud's-town) from Dud, the Saxon proprietor, lord of Dudley, who probably had a seat here. Three miles from Birmingham, in the same direction, is **WARD END**, anciently Little Bromwich, a name derived from the plenty of broom. The hall, erected in the year 1710, and its environs, are the property of Abraham Spooner, Esq.; and about three miles north-east of Birmingham is Erdington-Hall, which boasts a high antiquity; the manor was the property of the old earls of Mercia; the present hall was erected by the Erdingtons. One mile north-east of Erdington is Pipe-Hall.

DUDDESTON, or Vauxhall, once the resort of the gonteeler people, is now completely changed, it being, as Mr. Pye observes in his accurate "Description of Modern Birmingham, in 1818," turned into an ale-house, where persons of all descriptions may be accommodated with liquor; though during summer, fire-works, and sometimes concerts of music, are exhibited.

The baths near Lady Well are always ready for hot or cold bathing, and also for immersion or amusement, with sweating-rooms, &c. The swimming-bath is 36 yards long and 18 broad. It contains more than

2000 hogsheads of spring-water, gradually sloping from the depth of one to five feet, and is situated in the centre of a garden, surrounded by a wall and lofty trees. There are also very decent baths in Newton-row.

By an accurate survey taken in the year 1816, it appears that there were then 9,496 front houses, and 8,214 back houses, within the connected streets of Birmingham, which, reckoning five persons and a half to a house, makes the population 97,405. There appears to be about 400 houses erected annually, which made the number, in 1818, 18,510; this, in 1811, was 16,653; the population was 101,805; which, in 1811, was only 85,753. The established market is on Thursday, but the population of the town has made it necessary there should be a good market on Mondays and Saturdays, and another for hay and straw on Tuesdays.

Birmingham possesses what are called *Public Scales*. A beadle is stationed in the market-place with the public scales and weights, where any person may weigh whatever article of provision they have purchased, free of expense. This is also a custom in Spain, but much more strictly enforced there than here.

Though Birmingham, generally speaking, is void of antiquities, two admirable pieces of brick-work still remain. In the front of a house in Bull-street, opposite the Quakers' Meeting, under a most beautiful arch, is the lock-makers' arms, in brick-work, which does infinite credit to whoever executed it, and which appears to have been done about 150 years ago. In Moor-street there is another specimen of the same kind, about 100 yards above the public-office. This was executed in the year 1671, being arms, a chevron between three goats' heads, and a goat's head for a crest. Such specimens of brick-work are very scarce. The parsonage-house of old St. Martin, situated near Smallbrook-street, is in all probability one of the most

ancient entire buildings in this part of the country; it being a low half-timbered erection, which has been surrounded by a moat, in front of which is what was the tythe-barn.

The old Roman road, denominated Ikenield-street, that extends from Southampton to Tynemouth, enters the parish near the observatory in Ladywood-lane, crosses the road to Dudley at the sand-pits, and proceeding along Warstone-lane, leaves the parish at Hockley-Brook, but is distinctly to be seen at the distance of five miles, both in Sutton Park and on the Cold Field, in perfect repair as when the Romans left it.

The improvements of Birmingham, within the last twenty years, have been very considerable; numerous houses adjacent to the church-yard of St. Martin have been entirely removed, and the space they occupied thrown open to enlarge the market-place. The entrance into several streets have been made considerably wider; some have been re-paved, and the water conveyed by culverts instead of annoying the pedestrian as it used to do. Some parts of the town are lighted by gas, but the want of clean lamps has been severely censured.

Journey from Kingsbury to Willoughby; through Coventry.

KINGSBURY is a village delightfully situated on the river Tame, at the northern extremity of the county, and is supposed to have been the seat of some of the Mercian kings.

On leaving Kingsbury our road lies in a southerly direction, and, at the distance of two miles, we pass through the village of LOW WHITACRE, to the right of which is Hams Hall, the seat of C. B. Addersley, Esq.

At the distance of about 11 miles from the last-mentioned place, after passing through the villages of Upper Whitacre, Fillingley, and Corley, we arrive

at Coventry, a description of which has already been given ; on leaving which we proceed south-easterly, and, at the distance of two miles, pass through the village of WILLENHALL, one mile to the south-west of which is the village of BAGGINGTON, which had formerly a castle, belonging to the Bagots, where Henry, Duke of Hereford, lodged previous to his intended combat with the Duke of Norfolk, on a spot near Coventry, called Gosford Green ; only the earth-works remain.

About one mile and a half from the last-mentioned place is the village of STONELEIGH, where was an abbey of Cistercian monks, brought from Radmore, in Staffordshire, in the year 1154, and granted to the Duke of Suffolk. A little to the south of the village is Stoneleigh Abbey, the seat of the Rev. Mr. Leigh.

Returning to our road, at the distance of about one mile and a half, we pass through the village of RYTON ; two miles to the east of which is WOLSTON, or Wolfricheston, where was a priory, cell to the abbey of St. Peter, super Divam, in Normandy, given by Richard II. to the Carthusian Priory near Coventry.

At the distance of seven miles from Ryton, after passing the village of Knightlow, we arrive at DUNCHURCH ; two miles to the north-east of which is the town of RUGBY, pleasantly situated near the river Avon. The ancient history of this place, which it seems possessed no monastic institution, is of very little importance ; but in the ninth year of Queen Elizabeth, a school was founded here which has, by a series of fortuitous events, risen to a respectable rank among the classical seminaries of this country ; and the town of Rugby may be said to have "grown with its growth, and strengthened with its strength," its present consequence having been principally derived from that establishment.

The founder was Lawrence Sheriff, a grocer, of London. It was originally a free grammar-school, for the children of the parishes of Rugby and Brown-

soever only, but afterwards,* for those of other places adjoining thereto. A house, in which he is supposed to have resided in the latter part of his life, he bequeathed for the master's accommodation, who was ever to be, "if convenient," a Master of Arts!

Near to this mansion he directed that "a fair and convenient school-house should be erected;" and in order to defray the expenses of this institution, and a range of alms-houses, on the same foundation, Lawrence Sheriff bequeathed the revenues arising from the rectory of Brownsoever, and a third-part of 24 acres of land, situate in Lamb's Conduit-fields, London, and termed the Conduit-close.

At that period, this bequest was of no great importance.—The metropolis of Britain was not then, what it has since been acknowledged, the greatest depôt of public wealth, and the first commercial city in the world.

These eight acres of land, described in 1653 as being *near* London, were of such little value, that the commissioners appointed to examine into the state of public charities, under the great seal of England, were only enabled to make the following decree, from the annual income of this charity :

* In the year 1777, an act was obtained to authorize the Trustees of the Rugby Charity Estate, to grant fresh leases, &c. in which the bounds of limitation, in regard to boys admissible upon the foundation, are thus defined ; "The boys of Rugby, Brownsoever, or any other towns, villages, or hamlets lying within five measured miles of Rugby (or such other distance as the major part of the trustees present at any public meeting shall ascertain, regard being had to the annual revenues of the said trust-estate for the time being), shall be instructed by the said masters and ushers respectively, in grammar, and such other branches of learning as are herein before-mentioned, without taking from the said boys, or their parents, friends, or relations, any fee or reward for the same, directly or indirectly."

“That the trustees should, out of the rents of the said trust-estate, pay quarterly to the schoolmaster, his salary of 3*l.* and to every one of the almsmen, his allowance of 7*s.* 7*d.* according to the founder’s intent; and out of the remainder of the said rents should defray the necessary charges of repairing the school, the schoolmaster’s house, and the almsmen’s lodgings; and the overplus, after the charges of meeting were deducted, which were not to exceed 20*s.* per annum, should be distributed between the schoolmaster and the almsmen, according to the proportions of 3*l.* to the schoolmaster, and 7*s.* 7*d.* a quarter, to every almsman.”

The property in Lamb’s Conduit-fields was let on a lease for 50 years, in the year 1686, to Dr. Barbon, of London, at the rent of 50*l.* per annum—and a decree of Chancery was obtained, in order to divide the land, and appropriate to the charity its due proportion.

The extension of the metropolis, in process of time, drew towards this spot, and began to awaken an idea of the advantages that were ultimately derived from it. A new lease was granted by the trustees, in 1702, (34 years before Dr. Barbon’s term expired,) to William Millman, Esq. afterwards Sir William Millman; this was for 43 years, to commence from the expiration of the former term, at an advance of 10*l.* only per annum. Up to the year 1780, the yearly proceeds of the estate belonging to the Rugby charity amounted only to the trivial sum of 116*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* Soon after the grant of an extended term, to Sir William Millman, a great and important change took place in the value of property, in this promising situation:—extensive streets of good family-houses were erected, from which a ground-rent of more than 1500*l.* per annum was expected to accrue, on the expiration of his lease; and so rapidly did the value of property advance in the interim, that the amount did, in fact, considerably exceed that sum.

Anticipations the most sanguine have been excited from this circumstance—it has even been predicted, that when the leases last granted shall have terminated, the revenues may be doubled, or even trebled in amount, with great facility and advantage. It must, however, be obvious to the honourable the trustees of this establishment, that this will depend upon fiscal regulations, over which they have no power or controul, other than what certain of them possess in their legislative capacity, as trustees to the nation at large.

The present trustees of Rugby school are 12 in number,* and the office is discharged with great zeal and activity by those among them who reside in the country, by whom regular meetings are held, and in the month of August an annual examination takes place before them.

Fifteen *exhibitions* have been instituted, and the exhibitors are allowed 40*l.* per annum, to assist in their support, for seven years, in any college or hall they may choose for residence in either university. These are termed “Lawrence Sheriff’s exhibitors,” and the vacancies are filled up at the annual examinations above referred to, which is attended by a member of each of the universities, Oxford and Cambridge, appointed for that purpose, by their respective vice-chancellors. The number of scholars at present varies between 3 and 400, of whom about one-eighth part only are on the foundation.

Compared with the elegant mansion lately erected, as a residence for the head-master, his former habitation was an humble tenement; and the school-rooms

* The present Trustees are :

The Earl of Craven	Abraham Grimes, Esq.
Sir Charles Mordaunt, Bart.	Wriothesley Digby, Esq.
M. P.	William Holbech, Esq.
Sir Grey Skipwith, Bart.	Gore Townsend, Esq.
Sir Theophilus Biddulph, Bart.	Rev. Dr. Berkley.
Dugdale Stratford Dugdale, Esq. M. P.	Lord Hood.

were made commensurate with the limited nature of the establishment, and were built at different times, as its funds were found to improve. These, as we have remarked, accumulated so much, that the trustees, after a meeting, which took place in London, in May, 1808, determined upon building a new edifice, and they obtained authority from the lord-chancellor for that purpose.

Mr. Hakewell was appointed architect, and designs were submitted by that gentleman, at the annual meeting of the trustees at Rugby, in the following August, which were finally approved and acted upon.

Nearly on the same spot where the old buildings stood, the new structure is erected, at the southern extremity of the town, and it has an august and commanding appearance: it is upon a large scale, from designs by Henry Hakewell, Esq. architect; it is composed of white brick, but the angles, cornices, and dressings to the windows and openings, are principally of Attleborough stone. It was the particular wish of Lord Hood, that the stone employed should be furnished from his quarry at Whitley:—pleased in the reflection that so noble an edifice should be partly raised from materials produced on his estate, but this stone proved of too friable a nature for the purpose.

The style of architecture selected by Mr. Hakewell, is that which prevailed at the period in which the school was originally founded, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; this is considered as a compliment to the memory of the founder. The principal front is towards the south, which extends 220 feet.

A gateway opposite the street forms the entrance to the schools, and leads to the principal court,—an area, 90 feet long by 75 feet wide, with a collegiate cloister on the east, south, and west sides.

On the south of the court is the dining-hall, belonging to the boys in the head-master's house; three schools for different classes are also on this side. On

the west side is the great school; and the north side is occupied by the French and writing-schools. The east side is that which joins the offices belonging to the head-masters, the latter of which is placed at the east end of the range of building, forming the south front. There are a number of small rooms in a compartment of buildings, three stories high, called "Studies," for the pupils belonging to the house—one room is appropriated to each student for his own use. These serve to accommodate about 60 boys, the remainder are lodged in the different boarding-houses in the town, or in the houses of the other masters.

The head-master's house is of an elegant and sumptuous character, suited to the condition of a rich and flourishing institution. It was the intention of the trustees to erect a private chapel for the accommodation of the students; and an application has actually been made to parliament, for enabling them to employ part of the funds to that object, a project not yet carried into execution. This appendage seems the more necessary, seeing that the parish-church of Rugby is too small to accommodate both the parishioners and the pupils.

The head-master of Rugby school is said to have as much influence and authority in the town as that possessed by the prior of a convent in ancient times, and is sometimes invested with the magisterial functions. Besides this, here is another school and alms-house, for the teaching and clothing of 30 poor children. Rugby has 11 annual fairs; that of Martinmas continues nearly a week, when cattle-dealers attend from the most distant parts of the kingdom. The grammar, or the Latin school of Rugby, is its principal support. Several new buildings have been erected to accommodate the boys, as boarding-houses. Here are no staple manufactures. Rugby church is a plain building, dedicated to St. Andrew. The dissenters have also several places of worship.

This place, by its inland navigation, has commu-

nileation with the rivers, Mersey, Dee, Ribble, Ouse, Trent, Derwent, Severn, Humber, Thames, Avon, &c. which navigation, including its windings, extends above 500 miles, in the counties of Lincoln, Nottingham, Lancaster, York, Stafford, Leicester, Oxford, Worcester, &c.

Two miles to the east of Rugby is HILL-MORTON, which till lately had a market on Tuesday. It stands on a rivulet that comes from Creek, in Northamptonshire, and falls into the Avon, below Chifton; part of it is on a hill, and part on moorish ground, from whence it has its name.

About three miles to the south-west of Dunchurch is LEMINGTON-HASTINGS, so called from the family who were its lords till the time of Edward IV.; after that it came to the Trevors, and now to Sir C. Wheeler. By one of the last family an almshouse was founded, and another by Humphrey Davis.

Resuming our journey, at the distance of three miles and a half from Dunchurch, we arrive at WILLOUGHBY, situated near the Oxford canal, from the trade on which the town has already began to receive great benefit. Here is a handsome cross of one stone, five yards long. On the side of the road is an hillock, called Cross-Hill, where the country people observe an anniversary festival. Willoughby-Brook plays in delightful meanders along a valley between corn-fields, with a moderate water, unless raised by rains.

*Journey from Colehill to Southam; through
Coventry.*

COLESHILL is a market-town, pleasantly situated on an eminence, at the bottom of which, on the north side, runs the river Cole, whence it takes its name. It consists of one long street, running north and south, with a small one branching out eastward about the middle of the town, and leading to the church-yard,

which is the summit of the eminence, and commands a pleasing view of the country around.

Coleshill had been long a royal demesne; was possessed by Edward the Confessor, and afterwards by the Conqueror. It fell, either in his reign or that of William Rufus, into the hands of the Clintons, in whom it continued till the year 1353, the 27th of Edward III. when it passed to Sir John de Mountfort, by virtue of his marriage with Joan, daughter of Sir John Clinton. The Mountforts held it till the reign of Henry VII. upon the cruel attainder and execution of Sir Simon Mountfort, for sending 30*l.* by his younger son Henry to Perkin Warbeck, on supposition that Perkin was the real son of his former master, Edward IV. This brought ruin on himself and family. He was tried at Guildhall, in the year 1494, and condemned to be drawn through the city, and hanged and quartered at Tyburn. His manor of Coleshill was immediately bestowed on Simon Digby, deputy-constable of the castle, who brought the unfortunate gentleman to the bar. He was a younger son of the house of Tilton, of Leicestershire.

In the church, which is an old structure, dedicated to St. Peter, are numbers of fine tombs of the Digbys, with their figures recumbent. Among others, that of the above-mentioned Simon and his spouse Alice, who lie under a tomb erected by himself. He died in the year 1519; she survived him, and left by her will, a silver penny to every child under the age of nine, whose parents were housekeepers in this parish, (beginning with those next the church,) on condition that every day in the year, after the performance of the high-mass, they should kneel at the altar, and repeat five paternosters, an ave, and a creed for her soul, that of her husband, and all christian souls; and the annual sum of 6*s.* 8*d.* to the dean, for seeing the same duly performed, and likewise for performing the same himself. At the Reformation, this custom was

abolished, and the inhabitants purchased from the crown the lands charged with this money, part of which maintains a school; the rest is distributed to such children who repair to the church every morning at 10 o'clock, and say the Lord's prayer; and the clerk has an allowance for seeing the performance, and for ringing the bell to summon them.

The figure of Simon Digby is in armour, with lank hair, and bare-headed. His grandson John, and great-grandson George, are represented in the same manner, with their wives. The first died in 1558, the last in 1586. These are of alabaster, and painted.

The tomb of Reginald, son of Simon, who died in the year 1549, differs. His figure and that of his wife are engraven on a flat slab of marble, with 12 of their children at their feet.

On a pedestal, with an urn at the top, is an inscription to Kildare, Lord Digby, of Geashil, in the kingdom of Ireland, who died in the year 1692, drawn up by Bishop Hough, forming a character uncommonly amiable and exemplary; the integrity of that worthy prelate giving sanction to every line.

Beneath two arches are two ancient figures of cross-legged knights, armed in mail, with short surtouts, in all respects alike, only one has a dog, the other a lion at his feet. On their shields are *fleurs de lis*, which denote them to have been some of the earlier Clintons.

The vicarage was formerly belonging to Markgate, in Bedfordshire, but it is now in the gift of its lord. The spire, lofty as it is, was 15 feet higher before it had been struck with lightning in the year 1550; when the inhabitants sold one of the bells towards the repairs.

Over the river is a stone-bridge; and on the north side of the church-yard is a free grammar-school, of an ancient foundation, with a salary and privileges worth about 50*l.* a-year; but it has been a sinecure for above

20 years. There is also an English school, with a salary of about 20*l.* a-year. No manufacture is carried on at this place; and although it contains upwards of 300 houses, and about 1,300 inhabitants, there is scarcely a person who professedly dissents from the established church. This town is a great thoroughfare, and has a market on Wednesday.

Near the town is the seat of Lord Digby, proprietor of almost all the parish. It is a venerable old mansion, with a park well-stocked with deer, and was the ancient and almost constant residence of the Digby family. The house, park, and demesne lands, are now let to tenants.

A little to the north of Colleshill is Blithe Hall, formerly the seat of Sir William Dugdale, one of the greatest antiquaries of his time, who was born here on the 12th of September, 1605. He received a classical education at the free-school of Coventry, whence he was sent to finish his studies in Merton College, Oxford. Whilst very young, he discovered a strong taste for the study of antiquities, in which he made such proficiency, that he was taken notice of by the Earl of Arundel and Sir Henry Spelman, by whose interest he was entered in the herald's office, where he spent the remainder of his days. He received the honour of knighthood, and was advanced through all the inferior offices, till he came at last to be made Garter, principal king at arms. He died on the 10th of February, 1686.

His *Monasticon* is one of the most valuable works that we have concerning the religious houses of England, and his *Antiquities of Warwickshire* is equally interesting. His history of the cathedral of St. Paul's contains a description of that celebrated structure, previous to its destruction by the fatal fire of London, in the year 1666.

A short distance to the south of Blithe-Hall is a village called MAXTOKE, formerly noted on account of its Priory, founded in the reign of Edward III. for

Augustine monks. Part of this abbey is still standing, from which it appears to have been originally a stately and magnificent structure.

About a mile from this priory, one of the earls of Huntingdon built a strong castle, as a seat for himself and his successors, but it afterwards fell into other hands. The whole of this stately building is still standing, it having been repaired at different times, and is one of the best ancient edifices in the kingdom. The gate is extremely curious; at each of the corners are lofty towers with battlements, and behind, as well as on each side, are gardens laid out with taste and elegance.

About four miles to the north-west of Coleshill is CASTLE-BROMWICH, a village which takes its name from an ancient castle, the site of which is only known from tradition.

On leaving Coleshill we proceed southerly, and at the distance of three miles pass on our left Packington-Hall, the seat of the Earl of Aylesford. The manor anciently belonged to the priory of Kenilworth, being granted to it by Geoffrey de Clinton, lord-chamberlain to Henry II. At the dissolution it was sold for the sum of 621*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.* to John Fisher, esq. gentleman-pensioner to Henry VIII. and four succeeding monarchs. By the marriage of Mary, daughter and heiress of Sir Clement Fisher, bart. with Heneage, second earl of Aylesford, the place was transferred to that noble family. The house stands on the south side of the road, and the park on the north side. A large arch is turned over the road, wide enough for a wheel-carriage to pass over, in order to have a communication between the house and the park, without going through the road. The house is modern, and appears from the road to be built in good taste, but its low situation must deprive it of any extraordinary prospect; though the situation has of late years been highly-improved by the change of the road, which was

turned to the south side of the house, by an act of parliament, in the year 1764.

Two miles to the south-west of Packington is the village of HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN, where were formerly two parks, in one of which stood a manor-house, and a castle, the intrenchments of which, still visible, are called the Castle-Hills. The spire of the church was beaten down, and the steeple and body of it much injured by lightning in the year 1643.

About one mile and a half to the south of Packington, in our road, is MEREDEN, a pleasant village. The church, in which is an ancient stone cross, is situated on an eminence: within it is a handsome alabaster tomb of John Wyard, in armour, with sword and dagger by his side; his arms a cinque-foil on his breast. This gentleman had been an esquire to Thomas de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, and founder of a chantry in this church, near which he had his residence. He was also a knight of the shire for this county, in the second year of Richard II. The ancient name of this place was Alspath, or Aile-spede, till the beginning of the reign of Henry VI. about which time, becoming a great thoroughfare, it got the name of Myreden; den signifying a bottom, and myre, dirt; and those who knew it before the institution of turnpikes, can with great truth vouch for the propriety of the appellation.

At the distance of three miles beyond Mereden is ALLESLEY, a village with a church and spire-steeple. This place was originally a member of the city of Coventry, Bishop Clinton having permitted a chapel to be built here for the use of the poor, reserving the right of burial to the mother-church. In a place called the Parks stood a castle, doubly moated, probably the residence of the Hastings, who possessed this place in the reign of Edward I. The present handsome seat to the south of the village is the residence of James Beak, esq.

About two miles beyond the last-mentioned place we pass through the city of Coventry, about four miles to the east of which is the village of BRINKLOW, which flourished in great wealth and splendour till the reformation. The church is demolished; but the abbey called Comb-Abbey, the seat of the Earl of Craven, with some modern improvements, is a handsome mansion. Here are the remains of an ancient castle.

Continuing our journey, at the distance of about seven miles and a half, we pass through the village of MARTON, which has a bridge over the Leame river, built in the reign of Henry V.; near the village are Birdingbury, a seat of Sir Theophilus Biddulph, bart. and Easthorpe, Dr. Vyner.

Two miles beyond Marton we pass through LONG ITCHINGTON. Between this place and Harbury, a village to the westward, Fremund, son of Offa, was treacherously killed, and buried in his father's palace; that prince was afterwards canonized. This was anciently one of the chief towns of the county, and according to the late population-act contained 145 houses and 704 inhabitants.

At the distance of two miles beyond Long-Itchington we arrive at Southam, a market-town of considerable antiquity, and pleasantly situated. The church has a steeple, but there is no other building that merits particular description.

About three miles to the south-east of Southam is Napton-on-the-Hill, which had lately a market; two miles to the north-east is the village of Shuckburgh, where is a seat of Sir Stukeley Shuckburgh, bart.

*Journey from Solihull to Stratford-on-Avon;
through Warwick.*

SOLIHULL is situated 109 miles from London, near the western extremity of the county, and is remarkable only for its handsome church, and having once

had a market. Near the village, on the right of our road, is Malvern-Hall, the seat of H. G. Lewis, esq.

On leaving Solihull we proceed south-easterly, and at the distance of two miles we pass through the village of KNOLL, where was a chapel built by William Cook, canon of Lincoln, about the latter end of the reign of Richard II. and a chantry founded in it soon after.

Two miles to the east of Knoll is the village of TEMPLE-BALSAL, the manor of which was given to the Knights-Templars by Roger de Mowbray, and became a commandery of that order. It afterwards came to the knights of St. John of Jerusalem, and at the general dissolution was given to the Earl of Warwick. The tenants of this manor could not marry their daughters, or widows marry without the leave of the knights. Here is an hospital for poor women, founded in 1677, by Lady Catherine Leveson.

Resuming our road, at the distance of four miles from Knoll, we pass the village of WROXALL, where was a priory of Benedictine nuns, founded by Hugh de Hatton, in the reign of Henry I. or Stephen. It was granted by Henry VIII. to Robert Burgoyne and John Seudamore.

At the distance of three miles to the south of Wroxall, we pass the village of Hatton, the residence and living of Dr. Parr; about three miles to the east of which, on the opposite side of Wedgnoek-Park, is Blacklow-Hill, where Gaveston, Earl of Cornwall, having been surprised by Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, and the Earl of Lancaster, was forced by them from the rest of the barons, who were conveying him to London, and carried to the top of the hill, and there beheaded without any farther process. On the spot was erected a cross, called Gaveston's Cross, and on the south side of the hill near the top is cut in a rock, among other letters, this inscription:

1311. *P. Gaveston, Earl of Cornwall, beheaded here.*

Pursuing our journey, three miles from Hatton,

we pass through Warwick, from whence taking a south-westerly direction, at the distance of about eight miles, we arrive at STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, a handsome well-built town. King Richard I. granted it a market on Thursday; and King Edward VI. made it a corporation.

Stratford is approached by a fine stone-bridge thrown over the river Avon, 376 yards in length. A stone-pillar, placed on the third pier from the east end, bears this inscription, "Sir Hugh Clopton, knight, Lord-Mayor of London, built this bridge at his own proper expense, in the reign of Henry ye seventh.

The town of Stratford consists of twelve principal streets, and presents a cheerful, though not a busy, aspect. It is well-paved and extremely clean. The different fires that occurred towards the close of the 16th, and early in the 17th centuries, have destroyed much of its ancient simplicity of domestic character. There are, however, some specimens remaining of houses, which must have been constructed anterior to Shakspeare's time. The buildings of later erection are, in general, neat and commodious, and many handsome and capacious dwellings occur in various parts of the town.

The most interesting of the ancient domestic structures, is the house in which Shakspeare was born. This is situated in Henley-street, and remained the property of the Hart family, descended from *Jone*, the sister of Shakspeare, till 1806, when they parted with it by sale. The premises, originally occupied as one dwelling, are now divided into two habitations; the one being a butcher's shop, and the other a public-house, known by the sign of the Swan and Maidenhead.

The outer walls were divided into pannels by strong pieces of timber: but a brick front has been substituted for that of the public-house or inn; the ancient form is still preserved in the other half, or the

butcher's premises. The rooms are plain, somewhat gloomy, and of limited proportions; yet by no means beneath a trader of no contemptible description in the 16th century.

From these lowly, but attractive tenements, the curious observer will pass to the site of *New Place*, the residence of Shakspeare when he had attained comparative affluence. *New-Place*, according to Mr. Wheeler's History of Stratford, was originally erected by Sir Hugh Clopton, knt. in the time of Henry VII. and being then called *The Great House*, was probably the largest in the town. The property afterwards passed to the Underhall family, and from them it was purchased by Shakspeare, in 1597, who having repaired and modelled it to his own mind, changed the name to that of *New Place*, which, in 1753, came to the Rev. Francis Gastrell, Vicar of Frodsham, in Cheshire; who having an aversion to any enquiries after the remains of Shakspeare, made the celebrated mulberry-tree, planted by the hand of that great poet, the first object of his vengeance. Being then remarkably large and at its full growth, he not only ordered it to be cut down, but to be cleft in pieces for firewood. This occurred in the year 1756; but the greater part of the wood being purchased by Mr. Thomas Sharp, of Stratford, he turned it to considerable advantage, by converting every fragment into small boxes, goblets, &c. Nor did the buildings of *New-Place* long escape the destroying hand of Mr. Gastrell; for, as he was compelled to pay the monthly assessments for the maintenance of the poor, because he resided part of the year at Lichfield, though his servants remained at Stratford, he declared that house should never be assessed again, and in 1759, he razed the building to the ground, disposed of the materials, and left Stratford amidst the rage and curses of its inhabitants. The site of *New-Place* being afterwards added to the garden adjoining, it was sold in 1775, by Mr. Gastrell's widow.

The public buildings in Stratford are of a highly-respectable class. The church, a spacious and venerable structure, is dedicated to the Holy Trinity. It is built cathedral-wise, and surmounted by a square tower rather low. An octagonal spire of stone has taken place of one of wood; and the different parts of the church have been built at various periods, though mostly in the 14th and 15th centuries. The approach to this structure is through a long avenue of lime-trees, the foliage of which is so intermingled in summer as to produce a solemn, but yet a grateful, shade. The church, standing on the margin of the Avon, is embosomed in lofty and "time-honoured" elms. The interior is divided into a nave, two aisles, a transept, and a chancel; the nave is formed by six hexagonal pillars, supporting pointed arches. Over a gothic door-way, forming an entrance on the west, are three niches, formerly containing statues, above which is a fine window, nearly the width of the nave. At the eastern termination, where two altars formerly stood, is now placed a good organ. The south side was rebuilt in the beginning of the 14th century, by John de Stratford, Bishop of Winchester, and at the east end he founded a chapel dedicated to Thomas à Becket. The east end of the north aisle contained a chapel dedicated to the Holy Virgin, now entirely occupied by the monuments of the Clopton family. The chancel, a fine building, was erected by Dr. Thomas Balsall, warden of the college of Stratford, in the 15th century. The five large uniform windows on each side, were formerly ornamented with painted glass. There are several recesses in the walls, and round the western end is a range of stalls, with their lower parts carved in a curious and very grotesque manner. The monuments and inscriptions are numerous. All that is earthly of the incomparable Shakspeare, lies on the north side of the chancel, beneath a stone which has this inscription:—

“ Good Friend for Jesus Sake Forbeare,
 To Digg the Dust Enclosed Heare ;
 Bless be ye Man yt Spares Thes Stones,
 And Crurst be He yt Moves My Bones.

About five feet from the floor, on the north wall, is the monument ; as inarched between two corinthian columns of black marble, with gilded bases and capitals, is placed the half-length effigies of Shakspeare, with a cushion before him, a pen in his right hand, and his left resting on a scroll. Above the entablature are his armorial bearings, the Arden arms and crest ; the tilting-spear point-upwards, and the falcon, supporting a spear, for the crest. Over the arms, at the pinnacle of the monument, is a death's head ; and on each side, is a boy figure in a sitting attitude, one holding a spade, and the other, whose eyes are closed, bearing with the left-hand an inverted torch, and resting the right upon a chapless scull. The effigies of Shakspeare was originally coloured so as to resemble life, and the appearance, before touched by innovation, is thus described : “ The eyes were of a light hazel, and the hair and beard auburn. The dress consisted of a scarlet doublet, over which was a loose black gown without sleeves. The lower part of the cushion before him was of a crimson colour, and the upper part green, with gilt tassels.” In the year 1741, this monument was repaired, at the instance of a travelling company of players, who raised money for that purpose by performing in Stratford the play of Othello. In this repair, the colours originally bestowed on the effigies were carefully restored by a lianner, residing in the town ; but in 1793, the bust and figures above it were painted-white at the request of Mr. Malone.

Beneath the bust are the following lines, probably by Ben Jonson :—

JUDICIO PYLIUM, GENIO SOCRATEM, ARTE MARONEM
 TERRA TEGIT, POPULUS MÆRET, OLYMPUS HABET.

Stay Passenger, Why Goest Thou By So Fast,
 Read If Thou Canst, Whom Envious Death hath Plast
 Within This Monument, Shakespeare With Whome
 Quick Nature Dide; Whose Workes Doth Deck ys
 Tombe,

Far More Then Cost; Sieh All yt He Hath Writt,
 Leaves Living Art, but Page to Serve His Witt.

Obiit Ano Doi., 1616, Ætatus 53, Die 23 Ap.

The bust was evidently executed by a sculptor of some taste and skill, and is certainly an estimable relic, as we are fairly warranted in supposing that it was approved on the score of resemblance by those relatives familiar with Shakspeare's person, under whose direction the monument was erected. The eye-brows are strongly marked; the forehead unusually high; the head nearly bald; and the face evincing an habitual composure. The remains of the wife of Shakspeare, who died in August, 1623, at the age of 67, lie between the grave of her husband and the north wall of the chancel. On a brass plate which expresses her age, &c. are written some pious Latin verses, probably by her son-in-law, Dr. Hall. Two other flat stones denote the place of the interment of Shakspeare's beloved daughter, Susanna, and her husband John Hall, the physician. A copy of some English verses, formerly upon Mrs. Hall's tomb, are preserved in Dugdale; but these were many years since purposely obliterated to make room for another inscription on the same stone for Richard Watts, no relation to the Shakspeare family.

The Crypt, or Charnel-house, formerly attached to Stratford church, was an object of much curiosity, and was not demolished till the year 1800. Here was a vast assemblage of human bones, probably the collection of several ages; though it is supposed the custom was discontinued at the Reformation, as no addition had been made to them in the memory of the oldest inhabitant living in the last century.

The guild of the Holy Cross was founded at

Stratford at a very early period, but the exact time is not known. The possessions of the fraternity remained in the crown till the seventh of Edward VI. and the chapel belonging to them is a considerable ornament to the town. In 1804, when this chapel was repaired, it was accidentally discovered that the interior face of the walls had been embellished with fresco-paintings, and some accumulated coats of white-wash were dextrously removed; however, the execution of these paintings was much too good for the trite subjects of Popes and Emperors, Priests and Purgatory Dragons, and Devils, with reprobates, &c. hastening to the infernal regions.

The Guildhall, on the south of the chapel, is supposed to have been built by Robert de Stratford, towards the end of the 13th century. The lower part is now used for public business, and the upper as a grammar-school, founded in the reign of Henry VI. by an ecclesiastic, named Jolepe. Contiguous to the Guildhall are almshouses, where 12 poor men, and as many women, receive 5s. each per week, besides apparel, &c.

The Town Hall is a fine structure of the Tuscan order, erected in 1768. On the west front are placed the arms of the corporation; and in a niche, at the north end, is a good picture of Shakspeare, painted by Gainsborough, and presented for the purpose by Garrick; and on a scroll, are some lines from the "Midsummer Night's Dream :"—

"Take him for all in all,

We ne'er shall look upon his like again."

Another inscription records the re-building of this edifice in 1768, by the corporation and the inhabitants, &c. The chief room of this building is 60 feet long by 30, and is adorned by the portraits of Shakspeare, Garrick, and John Frederic, late Duke of Dorset.

The market-house, locally termed the Cross, is

situate at the top of the High-street; the market is weekly and well-attended, and though there is no staple manufacture of consequence here, the commercial interchange, especially of malt, with the neighbouring places, is a tolerable substitute. The municipal government of the town is vested in a mayor, 12 aldermen, and 12 burgesses. The mayor, *pro tempore*, is coroner of Stratford-upon-Avon, and justice of the peace within the limits of the borough, the town of Old Stratford, and within the church and church-yard. According to the returns of the population in 1811, the number of inhabitants here, including Old Stratford, was 3694, and the houses 700.

If ever any author merited the celebration of a periodical festival, Shakspeare certainly called for that distinguished honour. Many persons of high rank and approved taste had admired; many excellent critics and commentators on this divine bard had exerted their talents in the illustration of his text, and bestowed upon his writings a profusion of just panegyric; but the idea of a jubilee, or grand festival, to his honour was reserved to David Garrick.

We have before noticed the Rev. Mr. Gastrell's want of taste, and his barbarous treatment of the memory of Shakspeare, by his conduct in cutting down his mulberry-tree, and also Mr. Sharpe's manufacture of the former into different articles, as snuff-boxes, tea-chests, standishes, tobacco-stoppers, &c. The corporation of Stratford bought several of this man's curious manufacture of the mulberry-tree; and, influenced by good sense and superior taste, they inclosed the freedom of Stratford in a box made of this sacred wood, and sent it to Mr. Garrick; at the same time they requested of him, in very polite terms, a bust, statue, or picture of his admired Shakspeare, which, they informed him, they intended to place in their town-hall. In the same letter, with equal politeness, they assured him, that they should be no less pleased if he would oblige them with his own pic-

ture to be placed near to that of his favourite author in perpetual remembrance of both.

This judicious and well-timed compliment gave rise to the Jubilee of Shakspeare. In September, 1769, an amphitheatre was erected at Stratford, upon the plan of Ranelagh, decorated with various devices. Transparencies were invented for the town-house, through which the poet's most striking characters were seen. A small old house, where Shakspeare was born, was covered over with a curious emblematical transparency; the subject was the sun struggling through clouds to enlighten the world, a figurative representation of the fate and fortunes of the much-beloved bard. The Jubilee lasted three days; during which time, entertainments of oratorios, concerts, pageants, fire-works, &c. were presented to a very brilliant and numerous company, assembled from all parts of the kingdom. Many persons of the highest quality and rank of both sexes, some of the most celebrated beauties of the age, and men distinguished for their genius and love of the elegant arts, thought themselves happy to fill the grand chorus of this high festival.

But though the wealthy and liberal part of the inhabitants of Stratford were truly sensible of the honour conferred upon them by this magnificent festival in commemoration of their townsman, the lower and more ignorant class of the people entertained the most preposterous and absurd notions of the jubilee. They viewed Mr. Garrick with some degree of apprehension and terror; they considered him as a magician, and dreaded the effects of his wand as strongly as the deluded populace did formerly, in the darkest days of ignorance, the power of witchcraft. Yet though the common people were so stupid as to impute the violent rains which fell during the jubilee, to the vengeance of heaven, they did not forget to exact the most exorbitant prices for lodgings, provisions, and every necessary article of accommodation.

For the best character of the life and writings of our immortal bard, we are indebted to "Remarks on the Life and Writings of William Shakspeare," by John Britton, Esq. F. S. A.

"WILLIAM SHAKSPEARE," he observes, "the pride of England, and of nature, first drew breath in the town of Stratford-upon-Avon, in the county of Warwick, on the 23d day of April, 1564. His juvenile habits and early associations are unknown; but it has been inferred from his writings, that he did not receive a very liberal, or as it is commonly called "learned education." Rowe states, that he was "for some time at a free-school, where, it is probable, he acquired what Latin he was master of; but that the narrowness of his circumstances, and the want of his assistance at home, forced his father to withdraw him from thence, and unhappily prevented his further proficiency in that language." On this statement Malone remarks, in a note, "I believe that on leaving school, Shakspeare was placed in the office of some country attorney, or the senechal of some manor court." The principal reason which this commentator urges for his opinion, is the appearance of "legal technical skill," which is manifested in our poet's plays. But whatever doubts there may be as to his employment on leaving school, it is certain that he early entered into the matrimonial condition, for an entry in the Stratford register mentions, that "Susanna, daughter of William Shakspeare, was baptised May 26, 1583," when he was only 19 years of age. His wife was Anne Hathaway, who is said to have been the "daughter of a substantial yeoman, then residing at the village of Shottery," which is distant about a mile from the town of Stratford. From the inscription (quoted in the sequel) on her tombstone in the church, she was eight years older than her husband, to whom she brought three children, Susanna, Judith, and Hamnet: the two last were twins, and were baptised February 2, 1584-5.

Concerning the domestic economy of Shakspeare after his marriage, and the means by which he maintained his family, neither tradition nor record furnish the most distant hint. Nor is the date of his leaving Stratford better ascertained; but it is conjectured, with much plausibility, that it did not take place till after the birth of his twin-children. As to the cause of his flight to the metropolis, the common story is, that being detected in robbing the deer-park of Sir Thomas Lucy of Charlecote, that gentleman, who was one of the county magistrates, prosecuted him with so much rigour, that he found it necessary to escape beyond the boundaries of his influence and jurisdiction. Sir Thomas's spirit of justice, or, as some call it, revenge, is said, on this occasion, to have been stimulated by a ballad written by Shakspeare.

This story of Sir Thomas and the deer, is not very well substantiated, and it comes "in a questionable shape." Without dwelling on it, or crediting another story of Shakspeare being employed to hold horses at the doors of the theatre, we shall rather be inclined to attribute his removal to London to domestic differences, combined with the persuasion of Thomas Green, a relation and townsman, who had been settled in the metropolis, and was noted as "a celebrated comedian." That there was an estrangement from his wife, may be inferred from the fact of his having no progeny by her, after the twins of 1584; from an entry of burial in the register, of Thomas Greene, *alias* Shakspeare, in 1589-90; and from his neglect of her in his will, wherein her name is interlined, and with a legacy of the "second-best bed" only.

"The inducement of Shakspeare to resort to the theatre, and his first employment after his arrival in London, are matters no less clouded with obscurity than the previous incidents of his life. "No era in the Annals of Literary History," justly observes Dr. Drake, "ever perhaps occurred of greater importance than that which witnessed the entrance of Shakspeare

into the metropolis of his native country. The office which he first held in the theatre, according to stage tradition, was that of call-boy, or prompter's attendant, but this statement is almost as questionable as the legendary tale of Pope, of his taking charge of horses. At all events, his continuance in that capacity was of very short duration. Talents like his could not remain long unnoticed or unemployed; but we are inclined to think that he was earlier distinguished as a player than as a dramatic writer. He must have made himself conversant with the machinery of the stage, its language, &c. before he composed his plays."

"We now come to that era in the life of Shakspeare, when he began to write his immortal dramas, and to develope those powers which have rendered him the delight and wonder of successive ages. At the time of his becoming in some degree a public character, we naturally expected to find many anecdotes recorded of his literary history: but, by a strange fatality, the same want of authentic record, the same absence of all contemporary anecdote marks every stage of his life. Even the date at which his first play appeared is unknown; and the greatest uncertainty prevails with respect to the chronological order in which the whole series was exhibited or published.

"Much has been said by different commentators on certain plays, ascribed to Shakspeare, but which are of such a doubtful class, that it is almost impossible to identify their authors; and it is quite impossible to prove them "to be, or not to be" the writings of the bard of Avon."

Shakspeare, besides his plays, wrote several Poetical pieces, viz "Venus and Adonis," printed in 1593; "The Rape of Lucrece," printed in 1594; "The Passionate Pilgrim," printed in 1599; "A Lover's Complaint," not dated; and a Collection of Sonnets, printed in 1609. The first and second of these productions were dedicated to the Earl of Southampton,

who is stated, on the authority of Sir William D'Avenant, to have given the poet 1000*l*. If this anecdote be really true, it evinces a spirit of liberality and well-directed munificence, which entitles his lordship to the highest rank among the patrons of genius. It shows also that Shakspeare's merits were appreciated by some eminent characters, even in his life-time; a truth which is confirmed by the rapid sale of his poems, and by the attentions which he received from Queen Elizabeth, and her successor, King James. The former, says Rowe, had several of his plays acted before her, and "without doubt gave him many gracious marks of her favour." According to the same writer, it was at her desire he composed the *Merry Wives of Windsor*. King James also was present at the representation of many of his pieces, and is stated by Lintot to have written to him "an amicable letter" with his own hand, and, as Dr. Farmer conjectures, in return for the compliment paid him in *Macbeth*. This letter is said to have remained long in the possession of Sir William D'Avenant, who, according to some persons, was an illegitimate son of the poet.

"Shakspeare, as already hinted, was an actor as well as a writer of plays, and seems to have taken a share in the representation of many of his own productions. As late as the year 1603, only 13 years before his death, his name appears among the actors of Ben Jonson's play of *Sejanus*. Thus it is evident that he continued to perform many years: but of his merits as a player, we find no positive data to found an accurate estimate, and hence there is much diversity of opinion among his commentators.

"At what period our poet gave up all personal connexion with the theatre has not been discovered; but it is probable that he retired from it at least three years before his death. Rowe indeed states, that "the latter part of his life was spent, as all men of good sense would wish theirs may be; in case, retire-

ment, and the conversation of his friends." During his dramatic career, he acquired a share in the property of the Globe Theatre, and was joint-manager of the same; his name is mentioned in the licence granted by King James, in 1603, for the exhibition of plays in that house, and in any part of the kingdom. This share he probably sold when he finally retired to Stratford, as it is neither alluded to in his will, nor does his name occur in the accounts of the theatre for 1613.

Shakspeare, like most men of pre-eminent talents, is said to have been much assailed by the attacks of envious rivals; yet we are assured that diffidence and good-nature were the peculiar characteristics of his personal deportment. Among those who are stated to have treated him with hostility, was the celebrated Ben Jonson; but Dr. Farmer thinks, that though Jonson was arrogant of his scholarship, and publicly professed a rivalry of Shakspeare, he was in private his friend and associate. Pope, in his preface, says, that Jonson "loved" Shakspeare, "as well as honoured his memory; celebrates the honesty, openness, and frankness of his temper; and only distinguishes, as he reasonably ought, between the real merit of the author, and the silly and derogatory applauses of the players.

"Shakspeare," observes Rowe, "had the good fortune to gather an estate equal to his occasion, and in that to his wish;" but the biographer does not even hint at the amount of the poet's income. Malone, however, judging from the bequests in Shakspeare's will, thinks it might be about 200*l.* per year; which at the age when he lived, was equal to 800*l.* a year at the present time. Subsequent to his retirement from the stage, he resided in a house at Stratford, which he had purchased, according to Wheeler, in 1597, from the family of Underhill, and which, previous to that time, had been called the Great House, probably from its having been the best in the town, when it was ori-

ginally erected by Sir Hugh Clopton, in the reign of Henry VII. The poet appears to have made considerable alterations in this house, and changed its name to New-place. Here he seems to have resided a few years in retirement, but not without devoting some time to dramatic composition; for Malone asserts, that the play of *Twelfth Night* was written after his final residence in Stratford. In this house he died, on Tuesday, April 23, 1616, being the anniversary of his 52d year; in two days afterwards his remains were interred within the chancel of the parish-church; where a flat stone and a rural monument were afterwards placed to point out the spot, and commemorate his likeness, name, and memory.

“Such is the substance of the scanty notices respecting the life of Shakspeare, which we are enabled to collect from Rowe, and from the various commentators on his work, to Dr. Drake, inclusive.

“The family of Shakspeare, as already mentioned, consisted only of one son and two daughters. The son died in 1592; but both the daughters survived their father. The eldest, Susanna, married Dr. John Hall, a physician of Stratford, who is said to have obtained much reputation and practice. She brought her husband an only child, Elizabeth, who was married, first, to Thomas Nashe, Esq. and afterwards to Sir John Barnard, of Abingdon in Northamptonshire; but had no issue by either of them. Judith, Shakspeare’s second daughter, married Thomas Quiney, a vintner of Stratford, by whom she had three children; but as none of them reached their 20th year, they left no posterity. Hence our poet’s last lineal descendant was Lady Barnard, who was buried at Abingdon, Feb. 17, 1669-70. Dr. Hall, her father, died Nov. 25, 1635. and her mother, July 11, 1649: and both were interred in Stratford church under flat stones, bearing inscriptions to their respective memories.

“Shakspeare, by his will, still preserved in the office

of the Prerogative Court, London, and bearing date the 25th day of March, 1616, made the following bequests :

“To his daughter Judith he gave 150*l.* of lawful English money ; 100*l.* to be paid in discharge of her marriage-portion, within one year after his decease, and the remaining 50*l.* upon her giving up, in favour of her eldest sister, Susanna Hall, all her right in a copyhold tenement and appurtenances, parcel of the manor of Rowington. To the said Judith he also bequeathed 150*l.* more, if she or any of her issue were living three years after the date of his will ; but in the contrary event, then he directed that 100*l.* of the sum should be paid to his niece, Elizabeth Hall, and the proceeds of the fifty to his sister, Joan, or Jone Hart, for life, with residue to her children. He further gave to the said Judith, ‘ his broad silver-gilt bowl.’

“To his sister Joan, besides the contingent bequest above-mentioned, he gave 20*l.* and all his wearing-apparel ; also the house in Stratford, in which she was to reside for her natural life, under the yearly rent of 12*d.*

“To her three sons, William Hart, — Hart, and Michael Hart, he gave 5*l.* a piece ; to be paid within one year after his decease.

“To his grand-daughter, Elizabeth Hall, he bequeathed all his plate, the silver bowl above excepted.

“To the poor of Stratford he bequeathed 10*l.* ; to Mr. Thomas Combe, his sword ; to Thomas Russel, 5*l.* ; to Francis Collins, Esq. 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* ; to Hamlet (Hamnet) Sadler, 26*s.* 8*d.* to buy a ring ; and a like sum, for the same purpose, to William Reynolds, gent. Anthony Nash, gent. John Hemynge, Richard Burbage, and Henry Cundell, his ‘ fellows :’ also 20*s.* in gold, to his godson, William Walker.

“To his daughter, Susanna Hall, he bequeathed New-place, with its appurtenances ; two messuages or tenements, with their appurtenances, situated in Henley-street ; also all his ‘ barns, stables, orchards,

gardens, lands, tenements, and hereditaments whatsoever, situate, lying, and being, or to be had, received, perceived, or taken, within the towns, hamlets, villages, fields, and grounds of Stratford-upon-Avon, Old Stratford, Bishopton, and Welcombe, or in any of them in the said county of Warwick; and also all that messuage or tenement, with the appurtenances, wherein one John Robinson dwelleth, situated, lying, and being in the Blackfriars, London, near the Wardrobe; and all my other lands, tenements, and hereditaments whatsoever: to have and to hold all and singular the said premises, with their appurtenances, unto the said Susanna Hall, for and during the term of her natural life; and after her decease, to the first son of her body lawfully issuing, and to the heirs males of the body of the said first son, lawfully issuing; and for default of such issue, to the second son of her body lawfully issuing, and to the heirs males of the body of the said second son lawfully issuing; and so forth, as to the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh sons of her body and their male heirs: and for default of such issue, the said premises to be and remain to my said niece Hall, and the heirs males of her body lawfully issuing; and for default of such issue, to my daughter Judith, and the heirs males of her body lawfully issuing; and for default of such issue, to the right heirs of me the said William Shakspeare.

“To the said Susanna Hall, and her husband, whom he appointed executors of his will, under the direction of Francis Collins and Thomas Russel, Esqrs. he further bequeathed all the rest of his ‘goods, chattels, leases, plate, jewels, and household stuff whatsoever,’ after the payment of his debts, legacies, and funeral expenses; with the exception of his ‘second-best bed with the furniture,’ which constituted the only bequest he made to his wife, and that by insertion after the will was written out.

“The houses mentioned above, as being situated in Henley-street, according to tradition, originally con-

stituted a single mansion, the residence of our poet's father, and the immediate scene of his own birth.

"New Place, the residence of Shakspeare, was occupied after his death, by Mr. and Mrs. Hall, the latter of whom survived her husband several years. During her residence in it in her widowhood, it was honoured by the temporary abode of Henrietta Maria, Queen to Charles I. On the decease of Mrs. Hall, it became the property of her daughter, Lady Barnard, and was sold by her surviving executor, to Edward Nash, Esq. who bequeathed it to his daughter Mary, wife of Sir Reginald Forster. By that gentleman it was sold to Sir John Clopton, a descendant from the original proprietor and founder. Here, under a mulberry-tree planted by Shakspeare's own hand, Garrick, Macklin, and Delany, were hospitably entertained, when they visited Stratford, in 1742, by Sir Hugh Clopton, barrister-at-law, who repaired and beautified the house, instead of (as Malone asserts) pulling it down, and building another on its site. On his death it was sold, in 1752, by his son-in-law, Henry Talbot, Esq. to the Rev. Francis Gastrell, who cut down the mulberry-tree to save himself the trouble of showing it to visitors.

"Many portraits have been engraved, and published as likenesses of our bard; but it is a lamentable and extraordinary fact, that there is no authority attached to one of them. The pedigree of each is defective, and even that in the title of the first folio edition of the author's works, and so poetically extolled by Jonson, is so badly drawn and executed, that it cannot be a good likeness.—Not so, the *monumental bust* in Stratford church; for this appeals to our eyes and understandings, with all the force of truth. It is indeed the most authentic and probable portrait of the poet. It was executed soon after his decease, and according to the creditable tradition of the town, was copied from a case after nature. We also know that Leonard Digges mentions the 'Strat-

ford monument,' in his lines prefixed to the folio edition of Shakspeare's plays of 1623; whence it is certain that the bust was executed within seven years of the poet's death. The common practice in that age of executing monumental busts of illustrious and eminent persons, is also in favor of this at Stratford: but we have a still better criterion, and a more forcible argument in its behalf: one that 'flashes conviction' to the eye of the intelligent artist and anatomist. This is the truth of drawing with the accuracy of muscular forms, and shape of the skull which distinguishes the bust now referred to, and which are evidences of a faithful sculptor. The head is cut out of a block of stone, and was formerly coloured in imitation of nature: but Mr. Malone prevailed on the respectable clergyman of Stratford, to have it re-painted all over with white-lead, &c. By this absurd and tasteless operation, the character and expression of the features are much injured. It was the practice of the time to paint busts to imitate nature; and had this been left in its original state and colour, some useful information would have been imparted. Provoked at this act of Malone, a visitor to Stratford church left the following lines in a book kept near this tomb:

Stranger, to whom this monument is shown,
 Invoke the poet's curses on Malone;
 Whose meddling zeal his barb'rous taste displays,
 And *smears* his tomb-stone as he *marr'd* his plays.

From what has already been stated, it is evident that the writings of Shakspeare have progressively acquired considerable publicity; and that they now rank as chief, or in the first list of British classics. This high celebrity is to be attributed to various secondary causes, as well as to their own intrinsic merits. To players, critics, biographers, and artists, a large portion of this celebrity is to be ascribed; for had the plays been represented by Garrick, Kemble,

&c. as originally published by Condell and Hemynge, or reprinted verbatim from that text, the spectators to the one, and the readers of the other, would have been comparatively limited. It is talent only that can properly represent and appreciate talent. The birth and productions of one man of brilliant genius will stimulate the emulation, and call into action the full powers of a correlative mind. Hence the British theatrical hemisphere has been repeatedly illumined by the coruscations of Garrick, Henderson, Pritchard, Kemble, Siddons, Cooke, Young, and Kean: and those performers have derived no small portion of their justly-acquired fame, from the exquisite and powerful writings of the bard of Avon.

“An overstrained enthusiasm,” says Hazlitt, “is more pardonable, with respect to Shakspeare, than the want of it; for our admiration cannot easily surpass his genius.” Again, Pope remarks, Shakspeare’s “characters are so much nature herself, that it is a sort of injury to call them by so distant a name as copies of her. Those of other poets have a constant resemblance, which shows that they received them from one another, and were but multipliers of the same image; each picture, like a mock rainbow, is but the reflection of a reflection. But every single character in Shakspeare is as much an individual, as those of life itself: it is as impossible to find any two alike; and such as from their relation or affinity in any respect appear most to be twins, will, upon comparison, be found remarkably distinct.

“When Learning’s triumph o’er her barbarous foes,
First rear’d the stage immortal Shakspeare rose;
Each scene of many-colour’d life he drew,
Exhausted worlds, and then imagined new;
Existence saw him spurn her bounded reign,
And panting Time toil’d after him in vain.
His powerful strokes presiding Truth impress’d,
And unresisting passion storm’d the breast.”

Schlegel, a German author, in his eloquent and discriminating *Lectures on the Drama*, has some admirable and judicious remarks on Shakspeare and his plays. "Never," says he, as rendered into English by Black, "perhaps was there so comprehensive a talent for characterization as Shakspeare. It not only grasps the diversities of rank, sex, and age, down to the dawnings of infancy; not only do the king and the beggar, the hero and the pickpocket, the sage and the idiot, speak and act with equal truth: not only does he transport himself to distant ages and foreign nations, and pourtray, in the most accurate manner, with only a few apparent violations of costume, the spirit of the ancient Romans, of the French in their wars with the English, of the English themselves during a great part of their history, of the southern Europeans (in the serious part of many comedies,) the cultivated society of that time, and the former rude and barbarous state of the north; his human characters have not only such depth and precision that they cannot be arranged under classes, and are inexhaustible, even in conception:—no, this Prometheus not merely forms men, he opens the gates of the magical world of spirits; calls up the midnight ghost; exhibits before us his witches amidst their unhallowed mysteries; peoples the air with sportive fairies and sylphs:—and these beings existing only in imagination, possess such truth and consistency, that even when deformed monsters like Caliban, he extorts the assenting conviction, if there should be such beings they would so conduct themselves. In a word, as he carries with him the most fruitful and daring fancy in the kingdom of nature—on the other hand he carries nature into the regions of fancy, lying beyond the confines of reality. We are lost in astonishment at seeing the extraordinary, the wonderful, and the unheard of, in such intimate nearness.

Shakspeare's comic talent is equally wonderful with that which he has shewn in the pathetic and tragic:

it stands on an equal elevation, and possesses equal extent and profundity. He is highly inventive in comic situations and motives. It will be hardly possible to show whence he has taken any of them: whereas, in the serious part of his drama, he has generally laid hold of something already known. His comic characters are equally true, various, and profound with his serious. So little is he disposed to caricature that we may rather say many of his traits are almost too nice and delicate for the stage, that they can only be properly seized by a great actor, and fully understood by a very acute audience. Not only has he delineated many kinds of folly, he has also contrived to exhibit mere stupidity in a most diverting and entertaining manner.

The first collection of Shakspeare's plays was published in 1623, with the following title:—"Mr. William Shakspeare's Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies. Published according to the true original copies. London: printed by Isaac Jaggard and Ed. Blount, 1623." folio. This volume was edited by John Hemynge and Henrie Condell, and was dedicated to "the most incomparable pair of brethren," William, Earl of Pembroke, and Philip, Earl of Montgomery. In the title-page is a portrait, said to be a likeness of the author, with the engraver's name, "Martin Droeshout, Sculpsit, London;" and on the opposite page are these lines by Ben. Jonson:—

" This figure that thou here see'st put,
It was for gentle Shakspeare cut,
Wherein the graver had a strife
With nature to outdoo the life:
O, could he but have drawne his wit
As well in brasse, as he hath hit
His face; the print would then surpasse
All that was ever writ on brasse.
But, since he cannot, Reader looke
Not on his Picture, but his Booke.

B. J.

But to particularize all the different editions of Shakspeare's plays, would occupy a considerable space; and to do it correctly would be a task of difficulty. Besides a vast number produced by London printers, several have been published in Scotland, Ireland, also in America, &c. His writings have also been translated into different languages, and accompanied by comments. Latterly they have appeared in the German language by Schlegel, whose translation, according to Madame de Stael, procured for the author great reputation.

Near Stratford is Welcome-hill, with some entrenchments, called the Dingles. Here is a neat modern mansion, the seat of — Lloyd, Esq.

The navigation of the river AVON is an exceeding advantage to all this part of the county, and also to the city of Bristol. For by this river is carried on a great trade in sugar, oil, wine, tobacco, iron, lead, and in short all heavy goods, which are usually conveyed by water almost as far as Warwick; and in return, the corn, and especially cheese, are carried back from Gloucestershire and this county to Bristol.

About three miles to the south of Stratford-on-Avon, is ATHERSTONE-UPON-STOUR, a small village, situated on the river Stour, near its junction with the Avon. The town is well-built, and has a handsome chapel of ease, the church being above a mile distant from the town; and here is a charity-school for girls, who are both taught and clothed.

Journey from Henley-in-Arden to Stratford, through Wooten Waven.

HENLEY-IN-ARDEN, a market-town, situated in a forest, near the river Arrow, was anciently a member of Wooten Waven, but afterwards annexed to Beaudesert, where was once a castle, and a market kept at it, by grant of King Stephen, which was the occasion of building the town for the reception of the market-people, at the bottom of the hill whereon the

castle stood. The market is on Tuesday; and the town contained, at the late returns, 245 houses, and 1,055 inhabitants.

About the time of the battle of Evesham, this town was burnt; but, in the reign of Edward I., it recovered, and was called the borough of Henley. Here is a chapel of ease to Waveney, the parish-church, which chapel was first built in the 41st year of the reign of Edward III.

One mile west from Henley is Oldbury, where the Romans are supposed to have had a fort, which contained seven acres, enclosed with high ramparts. Several flints have been ploughed up here, curiously ground in the form of a pole-axe, thought to be the instruments of war brought here by the Britons, before the invention of other arms, because there are no flints found within 40 miles of it.

About three miles to the north of Henley, in the parish of Tanworth, is Omberslade, which has been from the reign of Henry II. the seat of the Archers, one of the most ancient families in this county; of whom Thomas was created, in the year 1747, Lord Archer, baron of Omberslade, and, dying in the year 1768, was succeeded by his son Andrew, who dying 1778, without male issue, the title is extinct.

On leaving Henley we proceed southerly, and, at the distance of about one mile and a half, we pass through the village of WOOTON WAVEN, where was formerly a Benedictine priory cell, to the abbey of Castellion, or Conches, in Normandy. Lord Catherlough, son of the famous Mr. Knight, cashier of the South Sea Company, had a seat at Barrel's-green, about three miles off, and built a tower in his grounds for his own burial and that of his family, who were removed from their vault. Charles Smith, created Baron Carrington of Wotton, by Charles I., in the year 1643, had a good house at Wotton, but the two wings have been pulled down. His son Francis married Anne, third daughter of William Herbert, mar-

quis of Powis ; but the title became extinct in the year 1705.

Resuming our journey, at the distance of six miles, after crossing the Alne river, and the Stratford Canal, we arrive at STRATFORD-ON-AVON.

*Journey from Studley to Woodchurch, through
Aulcester.*

STUDLEY is a villago situated on the river Arrow, and had once a castle belonging to J. Fitz-Carbution, by one of which family a priory of Augustine canons was brought hither in the reign of Henry II., from Wicton, in Worcestershire, where it was first founded ; the site was granted to Sir Edmund Knightley, serjeant-at-law. Before the gate of the monastery there was an hospital for the relief and entertainment of poor infirm people founded by William Cantelupe, before the reign of Henry III.

Our road, on leaving Studley, lies southerly, and, at the distance of two miles, we pass through the village of COUTON, two miles beyond which we arrive at Alcester, Aulcester, or Allencester, a neat market-town, and a place of great antiquity. It is situated in a pleasant and fertile vale, near the conflux of the Alne and Arrow ; from the first of which rivers, and its having been a city or fortified place, in the times of the Saxons, the name is probably derived. The Roman way, called Ykenil-street, passed through or near this place ; and many coins, Roman bricks, &c. continue to be found. There is a very considerable market for corn, &c. on Tuesdays. The Earl of Warwick is lord of the manor, and patron of the rectory ; and, in the year 1765, generously surrendered the tolls of the market and fairs, for the benefit of the town and country. It is governed by a steward, deputy-steward, two bailiffs, and constables, who are elected annually at the court-leet, &c. of the lord of the manor.

In the parish were formerly two chantries, and an abbey, erected on a piece of ground encompassed

with the river Arrow, and a moat, which made it a kind of island. The church is a neat edifice, situate near the centre of the town; here are also three meeting-houses, viz. presbyterians, anabaptists, and quakers. Walter Newport, of Holdenby, in the county of Northampton, in the 34th of Elizabeth, gave the sum of 400*l.* to buy lands, or an annuity of 20*l.* a-year, to found and endow a school; here are also eight almshouses, for aged men and women, with suitable allowances; and many other charities to the poor of this parish. The principal manufactory carried on here is needle-making, which affords employment to many families. The town, according to the late population-act, consisted of 349 houses, and 1625 inhabitants, viz. 734 males, and 891 females; of whom 370 were returned as being employed in trade and manufacture, and 68 in agriculture.

“Aulcester, (says Leland) is a pretty market-town. The town hath been a great thing. Some say there hath been three parish-churches in it, and that the priory, now a little without the town, by east-north-east, was in the middle of it. Many tokens of buildings and bones of men be found in places without the town especially in Black field. The priory was of ancient time a great monastery, since inappropriate to Evesham. Aulcester, as it now standeth, on the ripe of Arrowe water, yet seeing that it beareth the name of Aulne, it is an evident token that the old town stood most by Aulne.” The Priory was founded by Ralph le Boteler of Oversley, in 1140, for Benedictines, and valued at 65*l.* per annum. “Alcester, (says Gough) takes it name from Allencester from the river Alne, to which Leland probably enough conjectured it once extended. It has now two handsome stone-bridges over this river and the Arrow. Roman coins of all metals, and other antiquities, have been discovered in great abundance in the town, and the environs called Black-fields. Lately, in making the turnpike-road to Stratford, were found

several intire skeletons, with Roman coins, in a bed of gravel. In the church is a monument of Sir Fulke Grevil, lord of Beauchamp's court in this neighbourhood, and grandfather to Sir P. Sidney's friend, Lord Brook. Here Salmon places Manduessedum.

"The Beauchamps (continues Leland) were lords of Aulcester, and had a house by the Priory called Beauchamp's Hall. It came by marriage to the Lord Brooke, and now by marriage to Fulk Grevill, who now buildeth at Beauchamp's Hall, and taketh stones from Aulcester Priory, the which he also hath."

Gough says, "Sir Fulke Greville was one of those heroes of the Elizabethan age who panted after opportunities of signalizing their valour and virtues in foreign courts, or under famous generals, or on discoveries and conquests. The queen having checked his genius, he gave himself up, with his loving and beloved Achates, Sir Philip Sidney, to learned retirement, and to the patronage of the arts. Sir Fulke never ceased soliciting the Queen till she promoted Mr. Camden to the office of Clarencieux, king at arms, in gratitude for which Mr. Camden left him, in his last will, a piece of plate, besides immortalizing him in his *Britannia*. Speed, in his *Theatre of Great Britain*, speaking of Warwick Castle, expresses himself thus: "The right worthy knight, Sir Fulk Greville, in whose person shineth all true virtue and high nobility, whose goodnes to me ward I do acknowledge, in setting this hand free from the daily employments of a manual trade, and giving it full liberty thus to express the inclination of my mind, himself being the procurer of my present estate.

"Sir Fulke had the office of the signet at the council in the marches of Wales, and that of treasurer to the navy, and a grant of Wedgnoek park, under Queen Elizabeth. At the coronation of James I. he was made Knight of the Bath, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and one of the privy-council. He obtained a grant of Warwick Castle, and laid out above

20,000*l.* in repairing it, and making it fit for his own residence, besides purchasing and planting the Temple-grounds adjoining, with an intention of putting in execution a design, which George, Duke of Clarence, had formed, of making a park of them under his windows, and which George, the present Earl Brooke and Earl of Warwick, since he became lord of the manor, has been able to accomplish. Sir Fulke had in his own person the hereditary right of a peerage, being by his grandmother heir-at-law to Robert Willoughby, Lord Brook. But it probably being not then a clear point in law, that, after an honour had been some time in obedience of the female line, it could afterwards be claimed by the heir-at-law (as indeed this question was first determined in this very case, decided on in the House of Lords, 8th of William III., on the petition of Richard Verney, of Compton Murduck,) Sir Fulk accepted of letters-patent, 18th of James I., creating him Lord Brooke, Baron Brooke of Beauchamp's court, in this county, with reversion to his cousin Robert Greville, on whom he settled all his estates, which he had cleared from all intails and other incumbrances. He executed his will, Feb. 18, 1627-8, and added a codicil of annuities to several gentlemen in his service; but omitting one of them, whose name was Haywood, he resented it so highly, that being one day alone with him in his bed-chamber at Brook-house, Holborn, he, after warm expostulations, stabbed him in the back, and escaping into another room, which he locked, murdered himself before he could be seized. His lordship, after languishing a few days, died Sep. 30, 1628, in the 75th year of his age, and was buried with great solemnity in his vault in Warwick Church, under a monument erected by himself, with this remarkable inscription:—

Fulke Greville,
 Servant to Queen Elizabeth,
 Councillor to King James,
 And Friend to Sir Philip Sidney.
Trophæum Peccati.

“ His cousin Robert succeeded to his estate and title, and, being slain at the siege of Lichfield close was succeeded by his three sons, and by the descendants of the youngest of them, whose grandson, Francis, was created Earl of Warwick, 1759, and is succeeded by his son George, present and second Earl Brooke, and Earl of Warwick.

“ Alcester hath for its near neighbour Arrow, whose lord, for his dependence upon George, Duke of Clarence, words unadvisedly uttered and hardly construed through the iniquity of the time, lost his life. But by his grandmother marrying to Edward Conway, brother to Sir Hugh Conway, of Wales, a gracious favourite of King Henry VIII., the knightly family of the Conways have ever since flourished and laudably followed the profession of arms.”

At the distance of one mile from Alcester is Ragley Park, the seat of the Marquis of Hertford; about four miles beyond which we arrive at the village of Woodchurch; three miles and a half to the east of which is Bitford, formerly a considerable town, but it is now so reduced as scarce to deserve the name of village. It is pleasantly situated on the banks of the river Arrow, near its confluence with the Avon,

END OF TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION.

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