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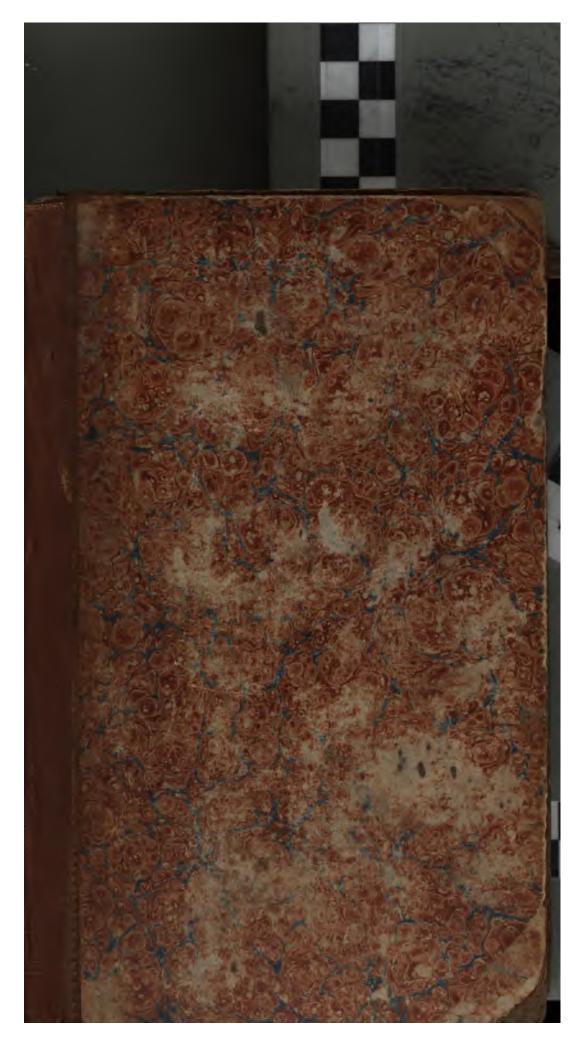
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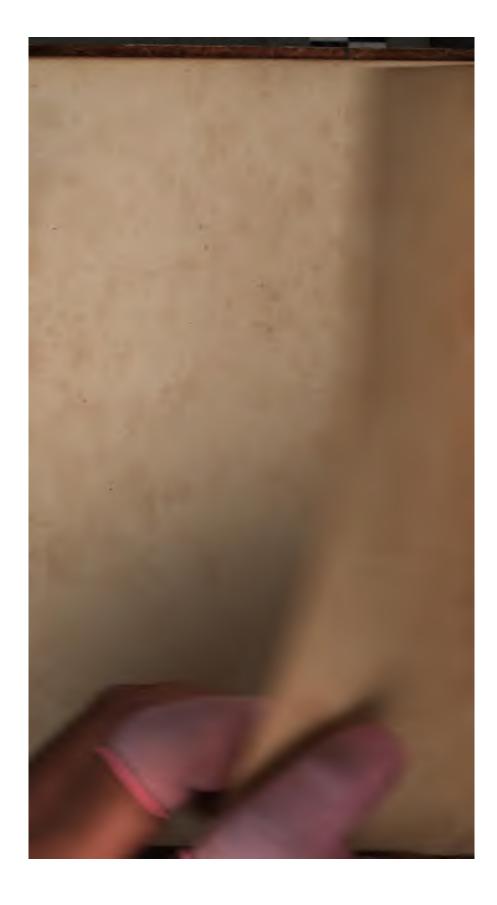
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# ENGLAND AND WALES;

OR,

DELINEATIONS

TOPOGRAPHICAL, HISTORICAL

and

DESCRIPTIVE.

Vol. I.



LONDON:

Published April 181801, by VERNOR & HOOD, Poultry.



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### BEAUTIES

# England and Wales;

## DELINEATIONS,

TOPOGRAPHICAL, HISTORICAL, AND DESCRIPTIVE,

### EACH COUNTY.

EMBELLISHED WITH ENGRAVINGS.

BY

JOHN BRITTON AND EDWARD WEDLAKE BRAYLEY.

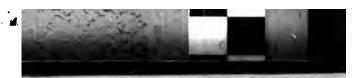
### VOL. I.

- " Happy Britannia!
- " Rich is thy soil, and merciful thy clime:
- " Thy streams unfailing in the fummer's drought:
- " Unmatch'd thy guardian oaks: thy vallies float
- "With golden waves; and on thy mountains, flocks
- "Bleat numberless:—on every hand
  "Thy villas shine. Thy country teems with wealth. THOMSON.

#### LONDON:

Printed by Thomas Maiden, Sherbourne-Lane, FOR VERNOR AND HOOD, LONGMAN AND REES, J. CUTHELL, J. AND A. ARCH, W. J. AND J. RICHARDSON, AND CROSBY AND LETTERMAN.

> 1801. .:



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# ADVERTISEMENT

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THE Subscribers to this Work are respectfully informed, that the ardent desire of the Editors to render the INTRODUCTION as complete as possible, and the time and extensive reading necessary to the full investigation and arrangement of the numerous and complex subjects it involves, have induced them to protract its publication till a more distant period. This delay, the expediency of which cannot be questioned even by those who consider the nature and extent of their design with but partial attention, will afford leisure for that review of British, Roman, and Saxon History, which the Editors imagine will not only prove interesting from the variety of objects it includes, but will also elucidate the origin of many of the important national regulations, which have stamped a character on this Island, given stability to its laws, and extension to its commerce.

"The contemplation of a magnificent building, and of an extensive work," it was observed by a late eminent writer, "are objects pleasing to the imagination; but the construction in both cases, may be embarrassed with unforeseen contingencies, or impeded by unexpected occurrences." The general truth of this remark has been forcibly experienced by the Editors of this Publication; but it has neither retarded their exertions to render it worthy of encouragement, nor impaired their resolution to deserve success. The first Volume of their Work is now before the Public, whose decision is awaited with confidence intermingled with fear. The former is the offspring of the unceasing solicitude bestowed on this specimen of their assiduity; the latter, of the inaccuracies which, even with the most undivided attention, seem hardly possible to be avoided in a performance of this description.

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Through



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#### ADVERTISEMENT.

Through the advice of several judicious literary friends, the Editors have been induced to suspend the publication of the names of the numerous correspondents who have favored them with information till the conclusion of the Work, when they will be incorporated with those of the gentlemen who contributed to its embellishment, by the gift of either drawings or engravings.

The List of Topographical Writings, &c. at the end of each Volume, will only include the principal and particular works that are illustrative of the counties described in it. The publications of a general nature, such as Camden's Britannia, and Grose's Antiquities, can be introduced with greater propriety in the introductory observations.

pedicates of which council he questioned trace by three who con-

The counties of Bedfordshire, Berkshire, and Buckinghamshire, complete the present Volume, which the Subscribers are recommended to have done up in Boards, with the Engravings placed at the beginning, and silver paper between each. When the Work is finished, proper directions will be given for the arrangement of the Plates in the respective counties they are intended to embellish.





THE

### BEAUTIES

OF

# England and Wales.

### BEDFORDSHIRE.

BEDFORDSHIRE, with the adjoining counties of BUCKING-HAM and HERTFORD, was inhabited at the time of the Roman invasion, by the people named Cattieuchlani, or Cassii; whose chief, Cassivellaunus, was chosen by the unanimous consent of the Britons to lead their armies against the arrogant Casar. Why the inhabitants of these parts were thus denominated, is not easy to determine; neither, infact, is the exact reading of the term known to us, a variation being observable both in the copies of Dio and Ptolemy. To attempt explaining its meaning, therefore, would seem like a desire to amuse by visionary conjectures, rather than to instruct by warrantable deductions. Camden supposes, they obtained the name Cassii from Gessi, which, in the language of ancient Gaul, signified Brave or Warlike. That they had the reputation of good soldiers, he adds, is plain from their having reduced part of the Dobuni.

When the Emperor Constantine, in the year 310, divided Britain into Roman provinces, this county was included in the third division, called FLAVIA CESARIENSIS. At the establishment of the kingdom of Mercia, it was attached to that government, and so Vol. I.

B continued

<sup>\*</sup> Veni, Vidi, Vici, (I came, I saw, I conquered,) was the laconic and proud boast of this ambitious chieftain when he sent an account of his adventures in Britain to the Roman senate: but Veni, Vidi, FUGI, (I came, I saw, I fled,) would have been a sentence more agreeable to truth. He, himself, informs us, that he set sail on the midnight of the very day when his victories had forced the Britons to sue for peace. Why did he do this if he had remained a conqueror? Lucan expressly terms his embarkation a flight.

continued till the year 827, when, with the other divisions of the island, it became subject to the West-Saxons, under Egbert.

On the more accurate division of the kingdom into shires, &c. by the great Alfred, this county was called Bedfordshire: probably from the name of its chief town, which the Britons are said to have named Lettidur; in English, Bedford. Lettuy, signifying Public Inns; and Dur, a Ford; and by an easy transition, Beds on a Ford. Such is the ridiculous etymology which some writers have given us of this name. In our account of Bedford, the reader will find one more rational.

This county is bounded on the north by the shires of Northampton and Huntingdon; on the east, by the latter, and that of Cambridge; on the south, and south-east, by Hertfordshire; and on the west, and south-west, by Buckinghamshire. In the accounts of its size there is a considerable difference; some authors estimating its length at 26 miles, and its breadth at 18: others at 32 by 22. In Aikin's England Delineated, its greatest length is computed at 35 miles, and its utmost breadth at 20: and these dimensions appear as near to the truth, as an acquaintance with the best maps and surveys will enable us to determine. Its circumference may be between 90 and a 100 miles. It contains about 260,000 acres, 9 hundreds, 10 market towns, 124 parishes, 58 vicarages, 550 villages, 12 or 13,000 houses, and nearly 70,000 inhabitants.

The limits of the county are very irregular: its only natural ones are, the Ouse for a short distance on the east and west sides, and a rivulet on the south-west border. The face of the county is pleasingly varied, being broken into small hills and vallies. Southwards a range of chalk eminences rises to a considerable height, and sometimes projects into the lower grounds in a bold and abrupt manner. Beneath these hills is an extensive tract of hard, steril land, appearing cold, dreary, and uncomfortable. Some very rich dairy ground, terminated on the north by sandy hills, extends in a line from the middle of the county to the south-east corner. The western side is mostly flat, and sandy; yet, being well managed, it produces great quantities of beans. On the north and north-east, the soil is a deep loam, famous, from the goodness of its cultivation,

for growing large crops of corn, particularly barley. A great proportion of the land is in open or common fields, that unconquerable impediment to the progress of agricultural knowledge. A number of fine woods are interspersed throughout the county; the timber of which is occasionally felled, and most part of it sent by the Ouse to the sea-coast.

This county partakes as little of the advantages and disadvantages of manufactures and trade as any in the kingdom. The chief employment of the poor is agriculture and lace-making. The manufacture of straw hats has considerably increased of late years, but this business extends very little beyond the town and neighbourhood of Dunstable. Its produce is principally corn and butter: much of the former is sent down the Ouse to Lynn, in Norfolk; most of the latter is conveyed by land-carriage to London.

Dependant, huge Metropolis!

Thou, like a whirlpool, drain'st the country round,
Till London market, London price, resound
Through every town, round every passing load;
And dairy produce throngs the eastern road:
Delicious veal and butter, every hour
From Essex lowlands, and the banks of Stour;
And further, far, where numerous herds repose,
From Orwell's brink, from Weveny, or Oufe.

FARMER'S BOY.

Some of the parishes produce large quantities of vegetables, with which the surrounding country is supplied to a considerable extent.

The principal rivers are the Ouse and the Ivel; the former enters the county on the west, between the little villages of Bradfield and Turvey, and, after a very devious course through a number of fine meadows, to which its waters give beauty and fertility, passes the town of Bedford, where it becomes navigable, and then flowing to the east, leaves the county at St. Ncot's on the confines of Huntingdonshire. This river is remarkable for the slowness of its motion, and for the many windings which it makes in so short a distance. From Turvey to St. Neot's is hardly 19 miles; yet the meanderings of the Ouse are supposed to extend to the length of

SEVENTY. It divides the county into two parts; and in a wet season is liable to sudden and great inundations.

The river Ivel rises in Hertfordshire, and passing Baldock and Biggleswade, falls into the Ouse a little above Tempsford.

Bedfordshire is in the diocese of Lincoln, in the Norfolk circuit. It sends four members to parliament; viz. two for the shire, and two for Bedford; pays seven parts of the land-tax, and provides 400 men to the militia. It is one of the seven counties that lie together without a city among them. These are Huntingdon, Bedford, Bucks, Berks, Hertford, Essex, and Surry.

#### BEDFORD,

THE most considerable town in this county, both with respect to size and population, is of great antiquity. It is supposed by some writers to have been the *Lactidorum* of Antoninus; but this, as Camden observes, is unlikely; as it does not stand on the Roman road; neither have any Roman coins ever been found there.

Under the Saxon dominion, it was called Bedan-ford, or rather, according to Dr. Salmon, Bedician forda; words signifying the Fortress on the Ford; and derived from the fortifications established on the banks of the river Ouse, which flows through the town, and divides it into two parts. Even then, in all probability, it was a town of considerable importance; for Offa, the powerful king of the Mercians, chose it for his burial-place: his bones were interred in a small chapel, which being seated on the river's brink, was afterwards undermined, and swept away by the floods during an inundation.

In the year 572, a pitched battle was fought here, between the Saxon, Cuthwolf, and the Britons. The latter were defeated, and obliged to deliver up several of their towns to the haughty conqueror.

The Danes, in the reign of Edward the Elder, having plundered and destroyed the town, that prince repaired and united it to Mikesgate, a little village on the opposite bank. Since that time both places have been called, by the general name, Bedford. The following year 911, the Danes were severely beaten in this vicinity.

Subsequent

Subsequent to the Norman invasion, a strong castle was erected on the north-east side of the town, by Pagan de Beauchamp, the third baron of Bedford. This fabric was encompassed by a vast entrenchment of earth, as well as a lofty and thick wall. "While it stood," says Camden, "there was no storm of civil war which did not burst upon it."

When Stephen, in direct violation of his oath, usurped the British throne, he besieged and reduced this castle. Of the fate that awaited its defenders, we are ignorant, as the accounts vary, Camden observes, that the King took the fortress with great slaughter; yet other historians assert, that he granted the garrison honorable terms.

During the contest between the barons and the cruel, despotic, and treacherous King John, it was delivered up to the former by its lord, William de Beauchamp; but was afterwards wrested from their hands by the forces under the command of Falcasius, or Fulca de Brent, to whom it was given by the King, as a reward for his services.

In the reign of Henry the Third, De Brent\* rebelled against his Sovereign. He had been guilty of numerous depraved and villainous acts in the surrounding country; and, at length, being fearful of punishment, had pulled down the religious houses of the neighbourhood, and applied the materials to strengthen and fortify his castle. Highly indignant at these repeated atrocities, the Monarch laid siege to the fortress, and, after a contest of sixty days, during which Falcasius disputed the ground by inches, made himself mas-

B3 ter

\* This boisterous man, it has been observed, had, "something terrible in him beyond the rest of his age. He was both bully for the King and against him." Yet, notwithstanding his crimes, by which his life had been repeatedly forfeited, was, by an exertion of false elemency, permitted to end it in safety. One instance of his daring character is too remarkable to be paffed over in silence. The King's itinerant justices, having opened a court at Dunstable, fined him in a large sum for the ravages which he and his freebooters had, at different times, committed. This conduct incensed him; and he dispatched his brother with a company of atmed men to seize upon his judges. Two of them escaped; but the third was taken, and confined in the castle, where he was treated with great indignity and rigor.

ter of the "Nursery of Sedition." On the surrender of the castle, De Brent was sent to London, and there imprisoned; but his brother, and twenty-four other knights, were executed on the spot.

An account of this siege, in the words of a cotemporary writer, and eye-witness, † may prove interesting. Even in that age, the engines used for the destruction of man, were scarcely less ingenious and efficacious than those employed in our own.

"On the east side was one petraria, and two mangonella, which daily battered the tower; and on the west side, two mangonella ruined the old tower; and one mangonella on the south, and one on the north, made two breaches in the wall opposed to them. Besides these, there were two wooden machines raised above the height of the tower and castle for the cross-bowmen, and slingers lay in ambush. There was also a machine, called a cat, under which miners had free passage to sap the walls of the tower and castle, The castle was taken by four assaults. In the first was taken the barbican; in the second, the outer bail: in the third, the wall near the old tower was overthrown by the miners, through the breach of which they, with great danger, made themselves masters of the inner bail. On the fourth assault the miners set fire to the tower; and when the smoke burst out, and great cracks appeared in the tower, the besieged surrendered. The sheriff was ordered to demolish the tower and outer bail. The inner, after it was dismantled, and the ditches filled up all round, was left for William de Beauchamp to live in. The stones were given to the canons of Newnham and Chaldwell, and the church of St. Paul at Bedford." This William de Beauchamp, it appears from Leland, was a descendant of the original builder.

The site of the castle forms a parallelogram, divided by a lane; the keep is now a bowling-green. No remains of the fabric can be seen, but the whole circuit may be traced, and the banks on two sides are very bold. In digging for stone, part of the foundations was discovered, as well as several pieces of coin, and a spear of an uncommon size.

In the reign of Edward the First, the liberties of Bedford were seized by that Monarch, the bailiffs having neglected to discharge the crown rents. Henry the Seventh treated the inhabitants more favorably. Madox, in his Firma Burgi, informs us, that the town being much decayed, many of the houses gone to ruin, the trade of it brought low, and the usual issues discontinued, they besought the King to show them his grace; accordingly, he granted that the yearly ferm which they paid to the crown should be lessened.

The government of the town is vested in a mayor, who is elected annually on Michaelmas-day, recorder, deputy recorder, an indefinite number of aldermen, two bailiffs, and thirteen common council-men. The bailiffs for the time being, are lords of the manor, and have the right of fishery to the extent of the bounds, which contain a space upwards of nine miles in circumference. The last renewal of their charter was in the reign of James the Second, in whose time the mayor and aldermen were removed from their respective offices by royal mandate, for not electing two burgesses to serve in parliament. The members were, in consequence, chosen by his Majesty's ministers. This borough sent members as early as the twenty-third of Edward the First: it was then governed by a mayor. Henry the Third granted it to the burgesses in feefarm for 40l, a year. The right of election is, nominally, in the burgesses, freemen, and inhabitant householders not receiving alms. The number of voters is about 1400. This is the only market town in the county north of the Ouse. The assizes were always held here, except in the year 1684, when the interest of the Earl of Aylesbury transferred them to Ampthill.

Bedford is seated in the midst of a very rich tract of land, called the Vale of Bedford, the soil of which being exceedingly fruitful, and well cultivated, produces abundant crops of fine wheat, barley, and turnips. The land on the north side is a strong clay; that on the south, though, in general, lighter, is yet a good staple. The natural fertility of the vale is much increased by the overflowing of the river Ouse, across the stream of which there is a strong stone bridge, believed to have been built with the materials of the ruined castle. On the center of the bridge stood the town goal, which was taken down about thirty-four years since. It served as well for the confinement of felons, as for a barrier dividing the north and south sides, so that no person could pass without permission of the keeper. The river was made navigable to Lynn in Norfolk by act of parliament.

Bedford, in the time of Camden, was more celebrated for its pleasant situation, than for either its extent or beauty; but it has since been considerably improved both in size and population. Within the last ten years, many buildings, public as well as private, have been erected: indeed, few towns have so rapidly increased in so short a period. The inhabitants may be estimated at about 5000; one half of whom are dissenters. The principal street is nearly a mile in length. The town-hall is a handsome modern structure.

A new town goal has lately been erected, and a county goal (expected to be finished in May) is now building. Towards the completion of this structure the late Mr. Whitbread left a legacy of 5000l. Twenty alms houses are likewise building by the trustees of the Harpur charity; and two new roads have been made at the north end of the town, one leading to Kettering, the other to Kimbolton.

In Bedford are five distinct parishes, and an equal number of churches; four meeting-houses of different denominations; a Methodist meeting-house, and a chapel for Moravians: the latter sect perform service every Sunday and Thursday, on which days the solemnity of worship is increased by a good band of vocal music. Their chapel is called the Single-House.

The churches of St. John and St. Mary stand on the south side of the river; those of St. Peter, St. Cuthbert, and St. Paul, on the north. The latter is the principal ornament of the town; it is adorned with an octagonal stone spire. Before the conquest it was collegiate, the prebends having their houses round the church: afterwards it was changed into a priory of canons regular, and removed to Newenham (about a mile lower) by Roisia, the wife of Pagan de Beauchamp, and her son Simon.

" Simon

"Simon de Beauchamp," says Leland, "lyeth afore the high altar of St. Paul's church, in Bedeford, with this epitaphie graven in bras, and set on a flat marble stone:"

- ' Under this marble lyeth Simon de Beauchamp,
- 'Founder of Newenham.'

The only remains of this religious house, is a wall inclosing the site, at the three corners of which are hills with ditches round them. The revenues at the dissolution were computed at 293l. 5s. 11d.

"There were two hospitals in the suburbs of Bedford, the houses whereof and chapels yet stand, both founded by the townsmen; St. John's on the right-hand, first coming in from south to Bedford; and then on the same hand a little aside is St. Leonard's. The Grey Friars stand flat in the north-west of the town."

The hospital of St. John consists of a master, who is rector of the church, and ten poor men. This is thought to have been founded in 980, by Robert Deparis, who was the first master. Some curious particulars relative to this house were destroyed by the fire at the Cotton library. St. Leonard's was built and endowed towards the end of the reign of Edward the First. The revenue was valued at 461. 6s. 8d. The hospital of Grey Friars was founded in the reign of the succeeding Monarch, by the Lady Mabilia de Patershall, who was buried in the cemetery. This establishment furnishes a signal proof of the mutations to which all temporary possessions are subjected. The friary itself is converted into a farm; the cloisters are fitted up for rooms; and the refectory is a barn!

Bedford is distinguished by many liberal donations for charitable purposes: the management of these gifts is vested in the corporation.

Mr. Thomas Christy, who formerly represented this borough in parliament, repaired the old-town hall, situated near St. Paul's church, and founded an hospital for eight poor people, as well as a charity-school for forty children.

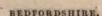
But the donation, from which the poor of the town have derived the most considerable benefit, was the gift of the beneficent Sir William William Harpur, who, by virtue and industry, acquired an ample fortune. He was a native of Bedford, and became lord mayor of London in 1561. The singular increase in the value of this gift requires a full relation.

The corporation of Bedford, in the year 1553, petitioned King Edward the Sixth to erect a Protestant free-school, for the education of youth in the pure and genuine principles of the reformed religion.

Sir William, having purchased thirteen acres and one rood of meadow land, lying in the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn, for 180l. gave it, by deed dated the 22d of April, 1566, to the corporation, together with his late dwelling-house, &c. in Bedford, for the maintenance of a master and usher of the said school; and for apportioning maidens of the town, on their entry into the state of wedlock.

The annual rent for the support of these purposes amounted to about 40l. per annum, till the year 1668, when the corporation leased the whole of the lands in the parish of St. Andrew, for the term of 41 years, at the yearly rent of 99l. In the year 1684 a reversionary lease was granted for the further term of 51 years, at the improved rent of 150l. In consequence of granting these leases, a great number of houses was built, and the following streets, &c. formed upon the above meadow land. Bedford-Street, Bedford-Row, Bedford-Court, Prince's-Street, Theobald's-Row, North-Street, East-Street, Lamb's Conduit-Street, Queen-Street, Eagle-Street, Boswell-Court, Green-Street, Harpur-Street, Richbell-Court, Hand-Court, Gray's Inn-Passage, Three Cup Yard, &c. &c. The annual rent from which is now increased to more than 4000l. and in three or four years, is expected to amount to 5000l. or upwards.

This great and almost unparalleled augmentation of revenue, has obliged the trustees to apply to parliament for two several acts to extend the objects of the charity, and regulate the application of the receipts. By these provisions of the legislature the income is thus appropriated.



To the maintenance of a master and usher of the grammar school; and exhibitions to the scholars for either of the universities. Maintenance of a master and two ushers to the English school. Maintenance, clothing, and educating a number of children. Marriage of forty poor maidens annually. Apprenticing of forty poor children annually. Allowing of benefactions to such apprentices as have served their times faithfully. Endowments of alms-houses for decayed tradesmen. Gratuity to girls at service; and distribution of a surplus to the poor of the town annually.

The school is situated near St. Paul's Church. Over the door is a statue of the founder, carved in white marble. He is dressed in his robes as alderman. Beneath is a Latin inscription to this effect.

Behold, Traveller, the bodily Resemblance
Of Sir WILLIAM HARPUR, Knight,
Of this School,
Thus spacious and adorned,
The munificent Founder.
The Picture of his Mind
Is delineated in the Table of Benefactions.

An institution of this description, when managed by persons of judgment and approved integrity,\* (as in this case it undoubtedly is,) may be made conducive to the welfare of thousands. The lower classs are not, naturally, vicious; to suppose it, is to libel the God of nature! Want and poverty are the parents of vice; for nothing so absolutely destroys the feelings of morality, as the heart-consuming pressure of continual distress. It is that which bursts

\* We fay approved integrity, because the managers of many benevolent institutions have prostituted them to purposes very different from those intended to be effected by their beneficent founders. Many charities are lost; others are so involved in the subtleties of legal chicanery, that the objects intended to be relieved never receive the benefit. It would be well if the legislature were to make an act for examining into the state of all charitable donations, the mode in which the produce ought to be applied, and the manner in which it is actually expended. Numerous, very numerous, abuses would be discovered by this means. bursts as under the bands of society and justice, and renders man every thing to his kind, but a protector and a friend.

To provide for the well-doing of the adult, we should attend to the culture of his early youth. Implant just principles, and firm rectitude and upright conduct will invariably result. This charity, by providing for the children of the poor, at an age when the passions are beginning to unfold, and the spirit of dawning manhood spurns at the trammels of infant tutorage, seems well calculated to become the basis of a fair structure of wide-spreading utility. The donation to females is not without its concomitant share of beneficial consequences. A small sum will frequently enable an idustrious couple to commence some business, which, by attention and frugality, is quickly converted into the means of obtaining a comfortable livelihood.

Besides these charities, a house of industry has lately been opened for the reception of all the poor of the five consolidated parishes, where, from the establishment of a flannel manufactory, the poor are comfortably fed; and that without any additional burden on the inhabitants from the increased pressure of the times.

The lace manufactory employs a great number of the lower classes; children scarcely four years of age are set down to it. The persons engaged in this business are chiefly the female poor, many of whom, throughout the county, are employed in this delicate manufacture. An employment more profitable, or better suited to their condition, cannot, in all probability, be found. On certain days, the persons appointed by the dealers collect the lace at the different villages, and convey it to the London market.

Though the situation of this town is low, it appears to be healthy; many natives, who made it their residence, having been known to live till they arrived to the age of ninety and upwards.

The BARONY\* of BEDFORD was originally possessed by Hugh de Beauchamp, who attended the Conqueror when he invaded England, to whom no less than forty-three lordships were given in

A Barony, in former ages, was a certain portion of land held immediately of the King, and containing, according to Dugdale, not less than 40 hides, or 3840 acres.

this county. The inheritance continued in this family (with some little variation) till the battle of Eversham, in the reign of Henry the Third, when John, the then possessor, having joined the rebellious barons, was slain in the field. His estates were confiscated, and given to Prince Edward, to whose great exertions the success of the day was attributed; but they were afterwards divided among the heirs female.

This ancient family of the Beauchamps were hereditary almoners to the King at his coronation. The following particulars relative to this office are worthy attention.

Previous to the coronation of Henry the Fourth, his second son, Thomas, who sat as lord high steward of England in the Whitehall of the King's Palace at Westminster, caused a proclamation to be made, "that what Nobleman or other, that could clame any office that day of the solemnizing the King's coronation, they should come and put in their bylles comprehending their demandz: whereupon divers officers and fees were claimed, as well by bylles, as otherwise by speech of mouth." Among the claimants was John, Lord Latimer, who, for himself and the Duke of Norfolk, by his attorney, Sir Thomas Grey, Knight, claimed, and had the office of almoner for the day; by reason of certain lands which sometime belonged to the Lord William Beauchamp, of Bedford. They had a towel of fine linen cloth prepared, to put in the silver that was appointed to be given in alms: and likewise the distribution of the cloth that covered the pavement and floors, from the door of the King's chamber to the pulpit in Westminster Abbey.

At the coronation of King James the Second, the Earl of Exeter, Sir George Blundell, and Thomas Snaggs, as being seized of several parts of the Barony of Bedford, respectively claimed to execute the office of almoner; and as the fees of that office, to have the silver alms-bason, and the distribution of all the silver therein; the cloth, spread for their Majesties to walk on, the fine linen towel, a tun of wine, &c. the claim being referred to the King, he appointed the Earl, pro hac vice,\* with a salvo jure + to the

<sup>\*</sup> For this time; or, on this occasion.

<sup>+</sup> Saving right

other two: but the silver dish, and the cloth in Westminster-hall, to the west door of the abbey-church, only, were allowed.

Bedford was made a dukedom by Henry the Fifth. The first who possessed the title was John Plantagenet, third son of Henry the Fourth. The illustrious actions of this great and memorable character are particularly detailed in our histories. He was several times constituted Lieutenant of the whole realm of England, during the absence of the King, while employed in the conquest of France. He defeated the French fleet at the mouth of the Seine; and was afterwards Regent of France during the minority of Henry the Sixth. In this situation the exertion of his splendid talents rendered the superiority of his country manifest, in a season pregnant with misfortune, and teeming with difficulty. He died at Rouen, in 1435, and was buried in the cathedral of that city. His death operated like a mildew on the English banner, stopping the progress of its success, and dimming the lustre of its glory. His monument was visited by Charles the Eighth of France: on that occasion, a nobleman, who accompanied the King, solicited him to give orders for the demolition of the tomb: but his Majesty refused, with this remarkable answer: "Let him rest in peace, now he is dead: it was when he was alive, and in the field, that FRANCE dreaded him."

The second duke was George Nevil, second surviving son to the earl of Salisbury. He was advanced to this dignity about the the tenth of Edward the Fourth; but in the seventeenth of the same King was deprived of his honors by authority of parliament, under pretence, that his income was not equal to his rank, and that needy nobles are always burdensome or oppressive to their neighbours. The true reason of the King's displeasure, by which the parliament was induced to pass this act, is supposed to have originated with the Marquis Montacute, the duke's father, who had sided with the house of Lancaster.

Jasper de Hatfield, Earl of Pembroke, was the third duke. He was honored with this title by his nephew, Henry the Seventh, whom he had rescued from imminent danger at the battle of Bosworth Field.

It afterwards reverted to an earldom, and was bestowed by King Edward the Sixth upon John Russel, of whose origin the reader will find some particulars annexed to our account of the family seat at Woburn.

At ELSTOW, about one mile from Bedford, and opposite to Newenham, was an abbey of Benedictine nuns, founded by Judith, niece to the Conqueror, and wife to Waltheof, Earl of Huntingdon. It was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, the Virgin Mary, and Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great. At the dissolution its revenues were valued at 284l. 12s. 114d.

The church is a very fine structure, with a detached tower on the north-west. The arch at the north door is beautifully ornamented in the zigzag manner. The three arches of the chancel are round with square pillars. In the church are several shields in stone, with the cross and memorials of the passion: these, it is probable, were the abbey arms.

The celebrated, ingenious and pious writer, Mr. John Bunyan, was born in this village in 1628. Having received the rudiments of a common education, he was bred to the business of a brazier, and worked as a journeyman at Bedford. At the breaking out of the civil wars, he entered into the parliament army, where he was converted, and became a baptist. He commenced preaching about 1656, and continued that avocation till the year 1660, when the mistaken policy of the times caused him to be arrested, and thrown into prison, where he remained twelve years. During that time he supported himself and his family by the making and tagging of long thread laces.

The friendly offices of Bishop Barlow, of Lincoln, released him from confinement. After this he went through various parts of the kingdom, practising the duties of an itinerant minister. On the issuing of the famous declaration by James the Second for liberty of conscience, Mr. Bunyan settled at Bedford, where his exertions procured him an extensive congregation. He died in 1688 at London.

This author's works have been printed in two volumes folio.

His writings are ingenious, but strongly tinctured with the debasing

debasing spirit of Calvinism. His allegory of the Pilgrim's Progress has, perhaps, gone through more editions than any book in the world, excepting the Bible. It was written during his confinement in the county goal.

### DUNSTAPLE, OR DUNSTABLE.\*

The origin of this town lies buried, with many others, in the ruins of antiquity. That it was a British settlement prior to the invasion of the Romans, the derivation of the name given to it by Antoninus renders extremely probable: and that it was a principal station of the latter people, the intersection of the two main roads, and the stupendous earth-work in the vicinity, are unquestionable testimonies. The words Maes Gwyn, or the White Field, which, according to Mr. Baxter, become Magionuinion in the plural, agree so well with its situation on a chalky soil, that a doubt of its being the Magiovinium of the Itinerary can hardly be entertained. The etymology of the name Dunstaple must be deduced from other sources.

From the monkish record quoted by Camden, it appears that the structure at the meeting of the Watling and Ikening ways was first raised by Henry the Elder to curb the practices of Dun, a famous robber, and his associates; and from him the place was called Dunstaple. This ridiculous derivation is undeserving of credit. That the residence or stable of a notorious freebooter should have been left undisturbed, after the establishment of a regular government, and the vengeance of the laws contented by only circumscribing the scope of his knavery, cannot be believed for a single moment. Yet, as most stories, however absurd, are founded on realities, we may conclude, that, after the town had been ruined by the Danes, it was neglected, and became an harbour for thieves, who easily eluded pursuit in the woods

<sup>\*</sup> The latter name is generally adopted, though the former is more ancient, and better corresponds with its etymology.

woods\* with which the country is reported to have been overrun; and that this circumstance induced Henry the First to attempt a second colonization of this spot.

To effectuate his purpose, the Monarch issued a proclamation, offering great privileges to such of his subjects as chose to settle at Dunstable: and, in order to destroy the shelter of the robbers, he directed the woods to be grubbed up, and established both a fair and a market. The most obvious etymology, therefore, is from Dunum, or Dun, a Hill, (explanatory of its situation,) and Staple, Merchandise, or Mart for Commerce, as it was rendered by Henry's market.

Dunstable is seated near the entrance of the Chiltern hills, at the junction of the Icknield and Watling streets. The name of the former is still preserved in that of *Hicknill*, which issues from the town on the north side of the church, and is said to connect the cities of Oxford and Cambridge.

The town consists of four principal streets, intersecting each other at right angles, and running nearly in the direction of the cardinal points. The houses are mostly of brick, and some of them have the appearance of considerable antiquity. As the soil is destitute of springs, the inhabitants are supplied from four large ponds, in which the rain-water from the hills is collected, and prevented soaking into the earth by chalky bottoms. No water can be obtained from wells, but at the depth of one hundred and sixteen feet, whence it is commonly drawn by the aid of machinery.

The inhabitants may be computed at about 1000; a number that, from the register of births and marriages, appears to have been but little varied for the last hundred years. Their religion is chiefly that of the established church; though there is one small congregation of Quakers, and another of Anabaptists.

Vol. I. C Dunstable,

<sup>\*</sup> These woods (if any considerable ones ever existed near this place) must have been formed of the smaller species of trees and underwood, as the more mighty tenants of the forest could not have found sufficient nutriment; the foil in this neighbourhood being only a few inches in depth, with a hard chalk below it.

Dunstable, Market-Street, Hochliffe, &c. are principally supported by the passage of travellers; being situated on the great thoroughfare to the north and north-west counties. The inns are thickly clustered; and several of them very large and commodious. Many of the poor derive sustenance from the manufacture of straw hats, baskets, and other articles of the same fashionable substance. And some additional employment is furnished by the whiting manufactory, which stands at the southern extremity of the town. In the straw work, which is the staple manufacture of this place, a woman can earn from 6s. to 12s. a week; children, from 3s. to 4s. in the same time. The earnings in this line, within the last twenty years, have been very great. A few women in the town make lace.

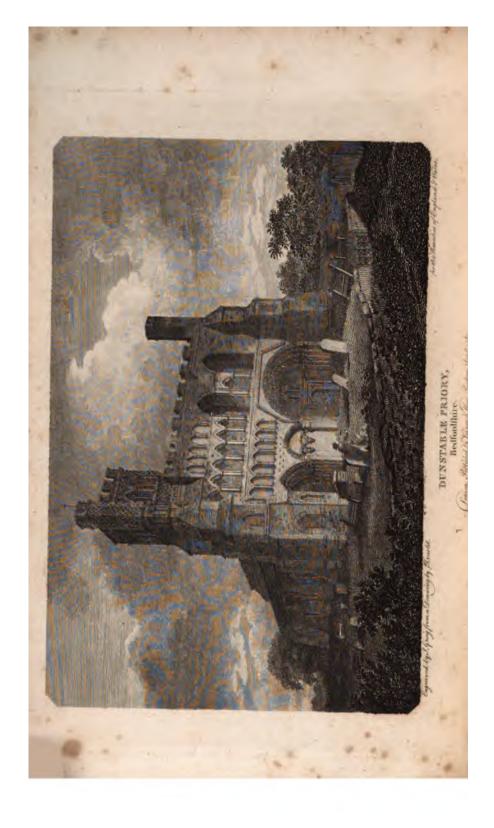
Formerly the breweries established here raised many of the inhabitants to affluence; but most of the trade is now concentrated in the metropolis. Hollinshed informs us, that an eminent brewer of this town, named William Murlie, sallied out in the reign of Henry the Fifth, to join the foolish insurrection of the Lollards, near London. He took with him a pair of gilt spurs, and was followed by two led horses with rich trappings. This gave colour to the report of his expecting to receive the honour of knighthood from Lord Cobham; but, instead of this, he had the hard luck to be taken, and hung with the spurs about his neck.

The

\* Such is the effect of fashion, that what was deemed by our forefathers, only fit to be trampled on in the cow barken, is now very commonly converted into ornaments for the ladies' heads. This circumstance gave rise to the following witty and satirical lines, by M. P. Andrews, Efq.

——Some ladies' heads appear like stubble fields—Who now of threatened famine dare complain, When every female forehead teems with grain? See how the wheat-sheaves nod amid the plumes! Our barns are now transferr'd to drawing-rooms; And husbands, who indulge in active lives, To fill their granaries, may thrash their wives. Nor wives alone prolific, notice draw; Old maids and young ones—all are in the Straw!

• • • ...



The glory of Dunstable was its once celebrated priory; yet of this extensive building nothing remains, but the part now appropriated for the parish church, and two arches in the adjoining wall. It was founded by Henry the First, about the year 1131, for black canons, in honour of St. Peter. At the dissolution of the religious houses, its revenues, according to Dugdale, amounted to 3441. 13s. per annum.

The priory church was originally in the form of a cross, with a tower in the centre, supported by four lofty arches; parts of which, belonging to the two western pillars, still remain: these are of a large size, with clustered columns, and surmounted with hexagon capitals. This fabric appears to have been very extensive and magnificent. Henry the Eighth intended it for a cathedral, and Dr. Day for the first bishop. When this design was abandoned, it is probable, that a considerable part of the structure was demolished; for the whole now standing only reaches from the west door to the cross aisle, or choir entrance; a space containing a nave and two side aisles, yet hardly extending to the length of forty yards.

This is one of the few specimens of Saxon architecture now remaining in the kingdom. On each side the nave are six circular and lofty arches, consisting of four mouldings, with a pilaster in the middle between each arch. The arches of the upper windows are also round, as well as the groined arches at the east end. The windows are of a later date than the building itself, which is mended with brick in various places. A dead wall closes the east end; and the two nearest arches on each side form the present choir. A beautiful stone rood-loft, of four pointed arches, with clustered columns, ranges over the west door: beneath it is a rich wooden screen. The roof is of oak, finely carved with knots of flowers, &c. The beams are supported by angels horizontal and perpendicular. About the church are several grotesque figures.

The west front, though devoid of symmetry, appears to have been wonderfully enriched with a great diversity of historical carving, intermixed with Gothic ornaments of foliage, flowers, &c. The

great door\* had four pillars on each side, with Saxon capitals supporting five mouldings, the outermost of which is ornamented with zigzag work: the second has angels and foliage in alternate ovals: the third, beasts' heads jessant foliage: the fourth, signs of the zodiac, of which Pisces and Capricorn still remain. There is also a spread eagle: the fifth, flowers, &c. The capitals have David playing on the harp, a figure prostrate to him; a bishop in pontificalibus, with mitre and crosier, and a bearded man in a cap: two more bearded men hold a scroll perpendicularly, on whose top is a headless beast, &c. The lesser door has seven mouldings, on five pillars, exclusive of the inner, composed of roses, and laced work, nail-headed quatrefoils. The arch between the two doors is half a zigzag and half a strait moulding; and the interlaced arches within it, rest on capitals charged with grotesque figures: one seems to have a number of souls and a devil. The flat between the doors is charged with indented roses. Above are three rows of arches: the first row consists of seven flat arches, with pedestals for statues; the second, of six small and two large, open to a gallery leading to the bell tower, with a seventh arch between the latter, placed over the door, all on treble clustered pillars. The third row has fine pointed flat arches, with single pillars. Over the west door, under the arch, are three beautiful niches; and under the west windows of the tower are four roses in squares. In the annexed print, this front is represented, and will be found to correspond with the above description. The small turret, or tower, that appears on the right hand corner of the building, has fallen down since Mr. Arnold took his sketch. This part presents a curious mixture of the Saxon, and, what are commonly termed, Gothic arches.

The tower is attached to the north side of the front, and has two rows of niches, now deprived of their statues. Anciently another tower on the opposite side corresponded with this. The Cronicle of Dunstaple records the falling of two towers in the

<sup>\*</sup> The door-way of Malmsbury-abbey, in Wiltshire, is very similar, but rather larger, in better preservation, and more richly ornamented.

year 1221. In falling they destroyed the prior's hall and part of the church. The body was repaired in 1273, by the parishioners, but chiefly at the expence of one Henry Chedde.

Within the church are a number of curious monuments; many of them belong to the Chew family, whose benefactions to this town have caused their names to be repeated with reverence. In the middle aisle was formerly a very long slab, the inscription on which was so quaint and barbarous, that it gave rise to the incredible report of one woman having had nineteen children at five births! viz. three several times three children at a birth, and twice five two other times. Fuller, in his Worthies of Bedfordshire, gave currency to the error, and the tradition of the place has ever since confirmed it. The slab was inlaid with the figures of a man and a woman in brass, both dressed in gowns, with their hands in the attitude of prayer; and at their feet an inscription. Beneath the latter, two groups, one of boys, the other of girls, with the types of the evangelists at the corners. The inscription was in these words;

Hic William Mulso sibi quem sociavit & Alice, Marmore sub duro conclusit mors generalis. Ter tres, bis quinos hæc natos fertur habere Per sponsos binos, Deus his clemens miserere.

This, literally translated, is as follows: "One general fate has shut up here, under a hard marble, William Mulso, and Alice his wife. She is reported to have had three times three, and twice five, children, by two husbands." This conceited mode of informing the world that a woman had nineteen children, undoubtedly gave rise to the mistake of their having been produced at five births; but how Fuller, who was a man of considerable learning, could assert that it was so represented in the epitaph, is indeed surprising: yet our surprise at his error is somewhat lessened, when we reflect on the conduct of Bishop Gibson, who, we are told by Mr. Gough, repeats the story implicitly. How easily would the exertion of a little common sense, have enabled the bishop to rectify this gross misrepresentation! Who for a moment

can believe, that such an uprecedented circumstance, happening so lately as the reign of Henry the Sixth, and some years subsequent to the invention of printing, would have been unrecorded and forgotten, except from the intervention of an obscure epitaph. If the story had been a fact, it must have rung through every quarter of the country. Who was the second husband of this fruitful woman, we are not informed: he was probably of Dunstable, where, Fuller says, "she lived and died."

Above the altar is a large and handsome painting of the last supper, executed by Thornhill. This, with the plate, and a rich pulpit-cloth, was given by two sisters, named Carte and Ashton.

Mr. Willis informed the society of Antiquarians, 1745, that at the east end of Dunstable church, about two feet underground, was found a stone coffin; the lid composed of four stones; the piece at the foot a separate one; the head, sides, and bottom, of one stone; under the head an eminence instead of a pillow, in an hollow or niche corresponding to the head. The skeleton was entire, except the ribs, which had fallen in; the head inclined to the left: between the upper bone of the left arm and the backbone was a glass urn, fallen down, and the lid off, stained with deep brown on the inner side of that part which lay over the stone: about the feet were pieces of leather, very rotten, which by the holes appeared to have been sewed together."

In the collections made for a history of Dunstable in 1714, by Mr. Edward Steele, a remarkable funeral pall is thus described: "It is made of the richest crimson and gold brocade imaginable; and so exquisitely and curiously wrought, that it puzzles the greatest artists of weaving now living to so much as guess at the manner of its performance. It is six feet four inches long, by two feet two inches broad; from whence hangs down a border of purple velvet thirteen inches deep, whereon is lively and most richly worked with a needle, St. John the Baptist, between fourteen men and thirteen women, all kneeling. Under the foremost is written Henry Fayrey, and Agnes Fayrey, between the arms of the mercers. Thus are the sides: at the ends is only St. John between a gentleman and his wife. Under them is written John and Mary Fayrey.

This

This was the gift of the above mentioned Henry Fayrey and Agnes his wife, to a fraternity or brotherhood of this town, dedicated to St. John the Baptist. The said Henry, as appears from a monumental stone in the middle aisle of the church, died the 28th of December, 1516; yet, notwithstanding its age, the pall is as fresh and beautiful as at first making. "The east part of the chancel (says the same gentleman) is raised by two steps, and was formerly the choir of the church, the ancient stalls still remaining, where, under each seat (visible upon turning them up when kneeling to prayers) is carved some extravagant fancy, plainly discovering the humour of those times: but I must not omit, that, under the seat of the east stall, on the south side, is neatly cut, a woman spinning, with a rock and spindle; and on the ground lies a speering friar-preacher, whilst his busy and inquisitive hand is searching under her petticoats; a very improper and scandalous decoration for so sacred a place." However improper, or however scandalous, these kind of ornaments for religious structures may be now considered, their frequent use in former ages, would almost induce us to suppose that they were then regarded as appropriate embellishments. Cathedrals, priories, abbeys, and chapels, have all, more or less, been decorated with grotesque, ludicrous, and impure representations; and numerous places of solemn worship might be mentioned, wherein they may still be found. The corrupt display of this vitiated taste was not confined to the interior of buildings; for even the external ornaments of many fabrics were intermingled with the images of those subjects, which the more delicate feelings of modern times have justly denominated obscene. The outside of St. George's Chapel, at Windsor, and the roof of the cloisters at Lacock Abbey, in Wiltshire, may be given as instances of the various edifices, wherein the prevalence of gross conceptions is thus manifested. The cause of this depravity of taste we shall endeavour to unfold in a future part of the work.

When Henry issued his proclamation for repeopling Dunstable, he offered an acre of land to all settlers for twelve pence per annum, with the same privileges to them, and their heirs, as were possessed by the citizens of London, or any other town in England. He also built a royal mansion in the neighbourhood, which he called Kingsbury. This residence was presented by King John to the Priory; it is now converted into a farm, where the bleating of sheep, and the cackling of fowls, are the harsh and discordant substitutes for the soothing melodies of the lute and the harp.

Seventeen years and a half, Henry kept the town as a free borough in his own hands. The burgesses were free throughout England, and possessed the privilege of not answering before the justices itinerant out of the town and liberty. Those judges were to repair to Dunstable, and there determine all suits, without foreign assessor, by the oath of twelve of the inhabitants.

When the Monarch founded the Priory, he bestowed upon it vast privileges. The whole manor of Dunstable, with the lands pertaining to the town, together with the church, market, schools, liberties, revenues, &c. were all included in the grant; with the exception only of his own palace. He also exempted the monastery from all taxes of whatever kind, from fines, tolls, customs, secular exactions and worldly services through the realm. So distinguished was his favour, that even murder, that blackest, deepest crime of which man can be guilty, might be committed by the professed with impunity. Succeeding Princes confirmed the charter; and many of the inhabitants were tenants in capite,\* and others tenants in fee, to the Prior.

These extraordinary privileges caused many disturbances between the townsmen and the Abbey; and on some unequal assessments being made in 1229, the people were + so provoked, that, out of resentment to the church, they withdrew their tithes and offerings, scattered the Prior's corn, and pounded his horses; and though, at the Prior's request, the Bishop of Lincoln caused the offenders to be excommunicated in the neighbouring towns and deaneries, all would not do: the townsmen declared they would sooner go to the devil than be taxed; and had even treated with William Cantilupe, for forty acres in his field, to build booths on, and quit

<sup>·</sup> Holding their lands immediately from him.

<sup>†</sup> Cronicle of Dunstaple.

quit the town. This difference was at last adjusted by John, Archdeacon of Bedford; the town paying sixty pounds sterling to the Prior for the renunciation of his right to all tollage, except the Miscricordia of 4d. and fines in cases of violence.

The last prior was Gervase Markham, who, with his canons, subscribed to the King's supremacy in 1534; and, on the dissolution, had a pension of sixty pounds a year for life. His reward was the greater for having taken an active part in the divorce of Henry the Eighth, and Catharine of Arragon; his convent being the residence of the commissioners. The unjust sentence was publicly read in the Virgin's chapel, within the Priory church, by Archbishop Cranmer.

Besides this religious house, there was one of Friar-preachers, who settled here about 1259. The inhabitants of the Priory, it seems, did not like such insinuating interlopers, as Chaucer describes this order to have been, who were sure to win the affections of all the penitents.

- " Ful fwetely herde he confession,
- " And plefent was his absolution."

The site of their church is known by the name of St. Mary Over. It lies on the west side of the town, near the Baptist meeting-house.

There are several charitable establishments at Dunstable. The principal of these are the charity-school at the south end of the town, founded in pursuance of the request of Mr. William Chew, by his sisters, and coheirs, Jane Carte and Frances Ashton, for 40 boys and 15 girls, who are educated, clothed, and apprenticed. Six houses for as many decayed maiden gentlewomen, founded by Mrs. Blandina Marshe, and endowed by her with an income of 72l. per annum. This sum, a few years since, was augmented with the interest of 1000l. bequeathed by another lady. These houses are neat and commodious, with small yards before them. They were built and endowed in the year 1713. And, lastly, two alms-houses for the relief and maintenance of poor widows; six in each building. These were founded by Mrs. Carte and Mrs. Ashton, the benevolent females already mentioned.

Most

Most of the poor receive a parish allowance: those to whose necessities this support is inadequate, retire to the workhouse, which has been farmed many years. The farmer having their earnings, and supplying victuals, clothing, &c. such of them as are able to work, are employed in the straw manufacture.

The centre of the town was formerly adorned with one of those beautiful crosses, which the affection of Edward the First induced him to erect to the memory of his beloved Queen Eleanor, on every spot where her body rested during its conveyance to the Abbey at Westminster. It is described by Camden as being decorated with statues, and the arms of England, Castile, and Ponthieu. The enthusiastic zeal displayed in the civil wars robbed the town of this ornament.

Many justs and tournaments have been held here in different reigns, several of which the respective Monarchs have honored with their presence. In the thirtieth year of Henry the Third, there was a great assemblage of lords, knights, and gentry, at this and the neighbouring town of Luton. The avowed purpose of the meeting was to keep a martial just and tournament; but the real intention, it appears from Hollinshed, was to oppose the exactions of the Pope, which at that time were very grievous. This design was counteracted by command of the King, who gave orders that the tournament should not be held.

Several of our ancient chroniclers, particularly Knyghton, Brompton, and Hemingford, have mentioned a singular appearance in the heavens, seen at Dunstable in the year 1189. We shall insert a translation of the account given by the latter writer; because, to whatever cause the effect may be ascribed, the minuteness of the description and peculiarity of the style must prove amusing.

" Of the appearance of the Cross in the Sky at Dunstable, 1189.

"A stupendous prodigy, which about this time was seen by many in England, must not be passed over in silence. Upon the high road which leads towards London there is a street of no mean fame, named Dunestabell. There, while about noon, they were looking up towards heaven, they saw in the height of a serene sky the form of our Lord's banner, conspicuous by its milky brightness, and the form of a man crucified joined thereto, such as is painted in the church in memory of the Lord's passion, and for the devotion of the faithful. Then, when this dreadful figure had appeared a short time, and closely attracted the eyes and hearts of the beholders, the form of the cross was seen to recede from him who seemed affixed thereon, so that an intermediate space of the sky might be observed, and soon after, this astonishing thing disappeared. Let every one explain as he thinks fit this wonderful sign, of which I am to be considered as a mere reporter, not as an expounder of omens; for what it is the divine pleasure to signify I know not."

The most natural and rational explication of the causes of this phenomenon may be discovered by reasoning from analogy. Whatever happens in one part of the globe, may also, under a parity of circumstances, occur in another. We are informed by Brydone, and other travellers, that the vapours arising from the Mediterranean, assume, in particular states of the atmosphere, a variety of forms, singular as well as common. Sometimes the sky has the appearance of an armed phalanx of men, drawn up in martial order to oppose an hostile band who appear to confront them; at other times the clouds put on the shape of an immense city, full of houses, churches, and palaces, which seem to vary their appearances at pleasure, till the all-powerful sun, rising in his might, dispels the visionary illusion, and dissolves the insubstantial pageant into thin air. If in Italy, the laws of nature, acting on congregated vapours, cause them to assume such a number of different forms, why should the same kind of appearances in England be regarded as miraculous? Similarity of production will ever arise from similarity of cause. Nature is every where the same, and the operation of her laws consistent and uniform.

The inhabitants of this town have, more than once, felt the direful scourge of religious persecution. The sect called Lollards, to quell whose opinions the clergy employed both fire and the gibbet,

gibbet, greatly abounded here in the reign of Henry the Fifth. Many of them were imprisoned, and some destroyed. execution, at Dunstable, rendered singular by the display of the most horrid cruelty, will ever remain an indelible brand on the reign of the Seventh Henry, in whose days it was transacted. Dr. Smith, the infamous Bishop of Lincoln, ordered the unfortunate William Tillsworth to be burnt for denying the Pope's supremacy. But the infliction of corporeal pain was insufficient to gratify the malignant and fiend-like feelings of ecclesiastical vengeance. The greatest possible degree of mental anguish must also be superadded to the agonized sensations produced by the action of consuming flames. The infernals in human shape, could only be satisfied by obliging the fear-struck daughter of their miserable victim, to set fire to the pile, destined to end the life of the beloved author of her being! Curses pierce not; but if the tooth of the never dying worm be employed by eternal justice in the punishment of guilty deeds, the perpetrators of such an atrocious act, we may be assured, will have their reward.

The palate of the epicure is well acquainted with the rich flavour and delicacy of the numerous larks which are caught in the vicinity of this town. Whether the herbage of the downs is peculiarly favourable to the production and improvement of this delicious bird, we know not; but certain it is, that the goodness of a Dunstable lark has become a proverb.

A great quantity of copper coins of Antoninus and Constantine, with many small ornaments of bridles and armour, were found by some labourers digging for gravel on a down in this neighbourhood, in the year 1770.

The parish of Dunstable is supposed to contain about 340 acres. The land is principally in pasture; though wheat, barley, and beans, are cultivated in that part which is in open fields. The rent is about 31. an acre. There are neither commons nor waste lands. The farms are but small, one only amounting to a hundred acres.\*

Maiden

\* "SEE STATE OF THE POOR," &c. by SIR FREDERIC EDEN, BART.

Maiden Bower, mentioned by Camden as a circular fortification, such as Strabo described the British towns, is about one mile and a half W. N. W. from Dunstable, near the edge of a low range of the Chiltern hills. It consists of a vallum nearly circular, thrown up on a level plain. The banks are from eight to fourteen feet high: they inclose about nine acres of level ploughed land, producing good wheat. To the south it has no ditch; to the south-west, and west, only a very small one; on the northwest is a descent to the meadows. This is supposed by some of our antiquaries to have been a British settlement; but Dr. Salmon imagines it to have been inclosed by the Saxons, as a place for female exercises; and that it was surrounded with a vallum to keep the crowd at a proper distance. Arbury Banks, near Ashwell, in Hertfordshire, is said, by Dr. Stukely, to be a work of a similar kind to this of Maiden Bower.\* After mentioning two other works of the same nature, one on Wilbury Hill, near Ickleford, the other between Chipping Norton, and Stow in the Woulds, and a long Barrow, called the Mill Bank, near Dunstable, he adds, "A high prominence of the Chiltern overlooks all, called the Five Knolls, from that number of barrows, or Celtic tumuli, which are round, pretty large, and ditched about, upon the very apex of the hill. Close by is a round cavity, as often observed in Wiltshire. This, we are informed, t is called Pascomb Pit, and is a great hollow in the downs," Tradition, that unwearying journalist of marvellous tales, reports that a church was intended to have been erected on this spot, but that the materials were removed invisibly as fast as brought together,

About

<sup>\*</sup> This mound of earth is generally called the Castle by the peafantry, among whom some singular tales are current respecting the cause of its formation. One of these is a vague story of a certain Queen, who having made a wager with the King, that she could encamp a large army of men within a bull's hide, ordered the bull's hide to be cut into strings, and the greatest possible circle to be encompassed therewith: this was done accordingly, and the encampment made upon this spot.

<sup>#</sup> Collections for the History, &cc. of Bedfordshire.

About half a mile westward from Maiden Bower, on the downs above TOTTENHOE, is a strong fortification, towering on a promontory, that projects into the low lands. It is named Tottenhoe Castle, and overlooks the village of Stanbridge. It consists of a keep and circular area, with a square, and a precipice on the west side. The mount is high, and is encompassed by two ditches, one circular, the other square; it takes up the whole breadth of the ridge. The ground round about has been much broken by digging: in one place there appears to have been a well. Contiguous to this is another camp, of the figure of a parallelogram, the shortest sides running across the ridge, the others, lengthway along the ridge of the hill.

#### LUTON

Is pleasantly situated among some hills on the river Lea, which rises in its neighbourhood at Lea Grove. It is a long irregular town, shaped something like the Roman Y, the angles branching off from the market-house. The houses are in general but indifferently built; and the only structure deserving attention is the church, which is dedicated to St. Mary.

This fabric consists of a choir, a nave, with two aisles, supported by ten pointed arches, two transepts, and a handsome embattled tower on the west chequered with flint and freestone: at the corners are hexangular turrets, similar to that at Dunstable. The arch of the west door is ornamented with mouldings of various flowers, &c. Within the church is a singular piece of ancient architecture; this is an hexagonal font, or baptisterium, composed of stone, and inclosed in a lofty wooden frame of Gothic arches, terminated with elegant tabernacle work. The consecrated water, during the prevalence of the Roman ceremonies, was kept in a large bason at the top, whence it was let down by the priest, through a pipe, into the font. On the inside of the roof, a vine is represented, guarded by a lamb from the assaults of a dragon. The vine is an emblem of the church, which is here allegorically defended by baptism from the attempts of the devil.

On

On the north side of the choir is a vestry-room used as a school; and an elegant chapel, founded by John, Lord Wenlock, as appears by the following lines from a manuscript in the British Museum.

Jesu Christ, most of myght,

Have mercy on John le Wenlock, knight,

And of his wyffe Elizabeth,

Woh out of this world is passed by death;

Woh founded this chapel here.

Helpe them with y' harty praer;

That they may come to that place

Where ever is joy and solace.

There are some very ancient monuments in this church; yet, as a repetition of the inscribed memorials of long-forgotten names, can neither prove interesting nor useful to the generality of readers, we shall pass them over without notice. On the east window is a representation of St. George and the Dragon: on the breast of the hero is a red cross: beneath him are five men in blue furred gowns, and a woman praying.

The singular circumstances attending the life and death of the above Lord Wenlock, are too remarkable to be passed over in silence. He flourished in the reign of Henry the Sixth, was knighted, made constable of Bamburg castle, and chamberlain to the Queen. Having acquired great wealth, he furnished his master with the loan of 1033l. 6s. 8d. for which he received an assignment of the fifteenth, and tenth, granted by parliament in the year 1456, and was soon after rewarded with the order of the Garter. He valiantly supported the royal cause at the first battle of St. Alban's, wherein he was dreadfully wounded; yet, with the fickleness of the times, he joined the duke of York in the year 1459, and was in consequence attainted by the Lancastrian parliament. In Towton field he fought bravely; and soon afterwards was recompensed, for his former loss, with several important offices; was created a baron, employed in several embassies, and advanced to the great post of Lieutenant of Calais. Notwithstanding all these favours,

he again revolted, and engaged in the schemes of the Earl of Warwick, to restore the deposed Henry. Having raised forces, he joined Margaret of Anjou before the battle of Tewkesbury. He was appointed by the general, John, Earl of Somerset, to command what was called the middle ward of the army. When Somerset, who led the van, found himself unsupported in the fierce attack he had made upon the enemy, he returned enraged to discover the cause. He found Lord Wenlock, with his troops, standing in the market-place. Whether a panic had seized, or whether, through a mutability of mind, he was meditating a new revolt, does not appear; but the Earl, unable to curb his fury, rode up, and with one blow of his battle-axe claved the head of the supposed traitor.

The Wenlock arms are strewed over the walls in various parts of Luton church, a circumstance rendering it probable that he contributed towards the expence of repairing it, when the chapel above-mentioned was erected.

Part of this town was given by King Offa to the monks of St. Alban's; but the patronage of the church was not appendent to the gift. The advowson was purchased of Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, for eighty marks, by Robert, the eighteenth abbot of St. Alban's; who gave it to his monastery a short time before his death. By a charter of confirmation, granted by King John in the first year of his reign, its revenues were appropriated to the purchase of provisions for the use of the abbey guests.

In the reign of Edward the Fourth, a stately mansion was begun at Luton, by Lord Wenlock. Only the portico was finished, which still remains complete in the wood at Luton Hoo: it is a very beautiful specimen of that kind of architecture, styled the florid Gothic.

"The Lord Wennelock," says Leland, "left an heire general, that was maried to a kinnesman of Thomas Scotte, otherwise caullid Rotheram, Bishop of York. He had with her yn mariage Luton, in Bedfordshire, and three hunderith markes of landes thereaboute, and a faire place within the paroche of Luton caulyd Somerys, the which house was sumptuously begon by the

Lord

Lord Wennelok, but not finisched." The gateway, and part of a tower, are yet to be seen. The tower has been very high, and of great strength. Prior to the invention of gunpowder, it might have been regarded as impregnable. In the wall was a hole or cavity, called a whispering-pipe, which conveyed the lowest sound from the bottom to the top: this was entire, before Sir John Napier began to pull down the tower, about the commencement of the last century.

Mr. John Pomfret, the poet, was born at Luton, and educated at Cambridge. On entering into orders, he obtained the living of Malden, in this county, and might have risen in the church, but from a malicious interpretation of some passage in his poem of the Choice, from which it was inferred, that he considered happiness as more likely to be obtained in the company of a mistress than of a wife.

"This reproach," says Dr. Johnson, "was easily obliterated; for it had happened to Pomfret, as to almost all other men who plan schemes of life; he had departed from his purpose, and was then married." The malice of his enemies was, however, attended with a fatal consequence: the delay constrained his attendance in London, where he caught the small-pox, and died in 1703, in the thirty-sixth year of his age.

# LUTON HOO,

THE seat of the Marquis of Bute, stands on an elevated situation at the edge of the Bedfordshire downs, about two miles from Luton, in the midst of a well-wooded-park.

The house was in a great measure rebuilt by its late noble owner, the father of the present Marquis, who employed the celebrated Adams to reconcile the incongruities of its architecture, and rectify the dissonance of the materials and arrangements, that had been occasioned from the mansion having been erected at various times, and by different persons. This the artist effected by building a kind of architectural façade on the mass, and forming a comfortable and convenient suite of rooms.

Vol. I. D The

The library, said to be only inferior to Blenheim, is 146 feet in length, divided into three rooms. The books are abundantly numerous, scarce, and well arranged.

In the old chapel is preserved an extremely fine Gothic wainscot, wonderfully enriched with carving, intermingled with Latin sentences of Scripture, in ancient characters. It was first put up at Tyttenhanger, in Hertfordshire, by Sir Thomas Pope, the founder of Trinity College, Oxon; and was removed to Luton in perfect preservation by the family of Napier, to whom this estate formerly belonged. The floor is paved with black and white marble.

The grounds, though not highly favoured by nature, have been considerably improved by art. The river Lea, which meanders through the park, has been formed into a noble lake at the bottom of the eminence on which the house is seated. The width of this expanse of water, (nearly a quarter of a mile,) its islands, and the numerous trees and plantations with which it is diversified, present an agreeable prospect. From a path leading through a fine valley, there is a pleasing view of a plain Tuscan pillar, whose graceful effect entirely results from its simplicity and harmony of proportion. On the pedestal is this inscription:

# In Memory of MR. FRANCIS NAPIER.

Upon the summit of the pillar is an urn, which is peculiarly beautiful. The prospect from this spot is interesting to the lover of the picturesque; where the breaks through the woods, the hollow dales, and groups of fine beeches, present an agreeable variety to the landscape-painter. The beech trees are more valuable here, as the general soil of the county is unfavourable to their growth.

# MERGATE, MARKYATE, OR MARKET STREET.

This town is generally regarded as being in Bedfordshire, tho, in fact, it is situated both in this and the adjoining shire of Hertford.

ford. The counties in this part intersect each other in a singular manner; the boundaries being so irregular that the three hamlets, which compose the town, appear to be seated near the extreme point of a neck of land, (if the term may be allowed us,) branching out from that division of the county which is crossed by the Icening Way.

This place consists of one principal street, about three quarters of a mile in length. The houses are rudely built, and mostly inhabited by inn-keepers, shop-keepers, and common tradesmen, whose chief dependence for support is, as we have already mentioned, on the passage of travellers. The inequality of the poor's rates in neighbouring parishes is here remarkably apparent. In the hamlet of Humbershoe (which is on one side of the street) they are full three times as much as in the two hamlets on the opposite side. The reason assigned is, that Humbershoe has very little land, and a number of ruinous houses.

In a wood near this town was a nunnery of the Benedictine order, dedicated to the Holy Trinity. It was built and endowed by Geoffrey, Abbot of St. Alban's, on some lands that were given by the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, London, in the year 1145. In Dugdale's Monasticon is the following story relative to its foundation. "When Geoffrey was Abbot of Saint Alban's, one Roger, a monk of that place, led a most holy eremitical life, near the village called Markate, in the way to Dunstable. The latter four years of his life, he had, in a room separated from his own, the virgin Christina, whom he instructed in such a manner that she became famous for miracles, which moved the said abbot to build there a residence for her, and other nuns that had resorted to her; and the said building happening to be burnt, he again rebuilt the same." What these miracles were, we are not informed; neither do we know any thing of the holy monk's method of instruction. It is much to be lamented that it was not committed to writing for the benefit of posterity. The revenues at the dissolution were rated at 114l, 16s. 1d. per annum.

### LEIGHTON BEAUDESERT,

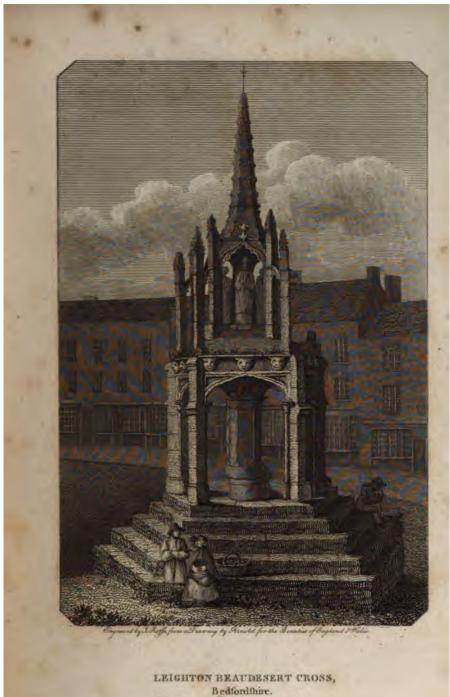
OR, as it is sometimes corruptly written, Leighton Buzzard, is a considerable market-town, and in a very fair way for improvement; the grand junction canal passing it within a furlong, on the west side, where the river Ouzel separates the counties of Bedford and Bucks. The commodities sold in the market are cattle, corn, grocery, bone-lace, platted straw, &c. The channel of the canal is of sufficient width and depth to carry craft of eighty tons burden.

The number of houses in this town is 333; the inhabitants, on a fair average, five to a house; this gives about 1670 for the population. There is a congregation of Baptists, and another of Quakers, here: among the latter, but very few poor can be found. This circumstance seems to arise from some excellent rules, by which the sect is regulated. If a member becomes idle, drunken, or otherwise depraved, he is immediately expelled the society. The poor are partly maintained at home, and partly in the workhouse, which is in a very excellent situation. Those who are in the house, are employed in lace-making. In this town there is an alms-house for eight poor women, who have each an apartment, clothes, fuel, and 2s. 6d. a week: and donations to the amount of about 22l. annually are distributed in bread to the indigent parishioners.

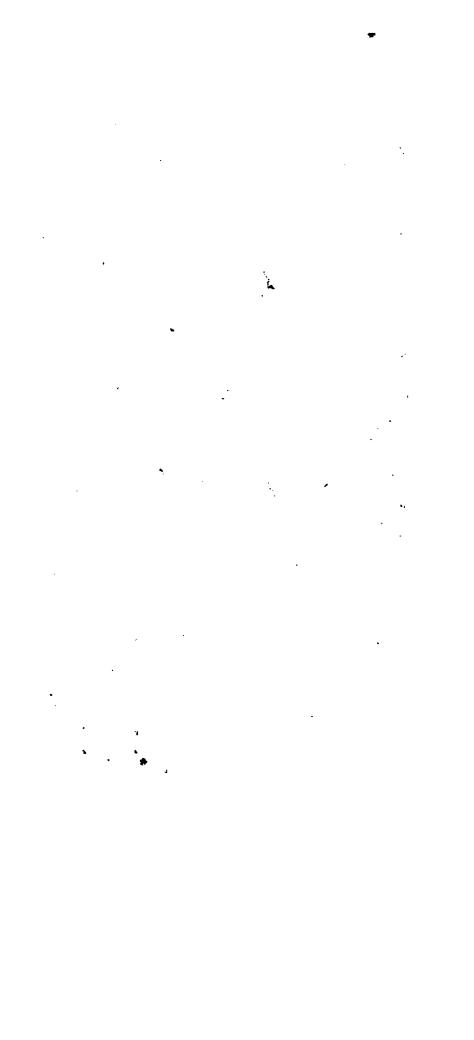
The principal antiquity of Leighton Beaudesert is a handsome pentangular Cross, supposed to have been erected nearly 700 years ago, but by whom, or for what purpose, we have not been able to discover. From the court-roll of the town, it appears, that some time about the year 1650, it was presented at the court-lect, as being in such a ruinous state, that it greatly endangered the lives of those persons who were passing near it. On this occasion it was ordered to be repaired, and a tax of 4d. levied on overy inhabitant to defray the charges.

The height of the cross is twenty-seven feet two inches, from the top of the stone work to the basement, which is seven feet four inches from the ground on the lowest side, and consists of

five



Chinese Rollished to Value & Hood, Penting Mayerie



five rows of steps rising from the earth. The centre pillar, which supports the arch, is eight feet two inches high; and one foot one inch and a quarter wide, on the side fronting the largest angle. The upper story is disposed into five niches, and adorned with pinnacles at the corners; one of these is destroyed. Within each niche was a statue. The first apparently is a bishop; another seems like the Virgin and Jesus; a third appears to be Saint John the Evangelist; the others are so much mutilated, that even conjecture could not be warranted in assigning them a name. The whole height, from the lowest base to the top of the vane, is thirty-eight feet. This cross is built of stone, and is situated in an open area, near the market-house. The church is a large antique structure, and by the various grotesque carvings which are scattered about it, is supposed to have been built at the same period as the cross; and is constructed with the same sort of stone. At the intersection rises a square tower, surmounted with a spire; the whole being 193 feet in height.

This township consists of five hamlets; the greatest part of the land is open field. About 300 acres of common belong to the parish, on which the poor obtain turf, &c.

About half a mile from this place are the remains of a Roman camp: from this, and other circumstances, Leighton Beaudesert is supposed to be the Saxon Lyzeanburgh, taken with several more towns from the Britons by Cuthwolf.

## WOBURN.

This town is situated on the western side of the county, bordering on Buckinghamshire. Its importance is derived from the elegant mansion in its vicinity, belonging to the Duke of Bedford, more than from any remarkable events connected with its antiquity or history. On the 19th of June, 1724, great part of it was destroyed by fire: but this unfortunate circumstance, though D 3

This figure is represented in the annexed print; and also three curious grotesque heads, which are attached to the cornice. There are fifteen of these heads surrounding the building, three over every arch.

distressing to individuals, proved beneficial to the town; as many houses were soon afterwards rebuilt in a more convenient and handsome manner, with the addition of some good inns, and a market-house. The whole expence of the new buildings was defrayed by the benevolent nobleman who then enjoyed the estates and revenues which the Eighth Henry had bestowed on the family of Russel. The MARKET-HOUSE was finished in the year 1737; but it has been materially altered and improved by the present Duke of Bedford. It consists of two floors: the lower one is fitted up for butchers' shambles; over which there is a large room, intended for the corn-market. The number of houses (mostly brick) is 263. The population may be computed at 1500.

The church was crected by Robert Hobbs,\* the last abbot of Woburn. It then belonged to the abbey, and is still of exempt jurisdiction, being in the exclusive possession of the Duke of Bed-This structure furnishes a whimsical instance of capricious taste; the body being completely detached from the tower, which stands at about six yards distance. The tower is a small square building, with large buttresses at the corners, and four pinnacles. The top is embrasured: the dial is about nine feet, only, from the ground. The church consists of three aisles, and a chancel; the latter was embellished in a handsome manner by the late Duke of Bedford. On the north side of this building is a curious marble monument for Sir Francis Stanton and family. It consists of two compartments, comprising twelve figures kneeling in devotional attitudes. The pulpit, probably coeval with the abbey, is particularly deserving of notice, being richly ornamented with carving in the florid Gothic style. The church is undergoing a thorough repair, and will, when completed, be a neat, convenient, and handsome place.

The munificence of the Russels has been of singular benefit to this town, where many monuments of their liberality are existing. Francis,

<sup>\*</sup> This abbot was executed for contumacy in the reign of Henry the Eighth. He was hung on an oak tree in the park near the abbey. The tree still remains, and is preserved from decay by a composition which is applied to every affected part; and protected from external injury by a surrounding fence.

Francis, the first earl of that name, founded and endowed a free-school: and a charity-school, for 30 boys and 15 girls, was after-wards erected by some other noble personage of the same family. These institutions are now consolidated. Here are likewise twelve alms-houses for as many poor families, built by John, the late Duke of Bedford, in consequence of an act of parliament passed in the year 1762. By this act, fifteen houses, cottages, tenements, &c, which had been vested in trustees for the benefit of the poor, and produced an annual income of about 241, were given to the duke for the sole use of him and his heirs; on condition that he, or they, should erect, and keep in repair, twelve houses, for the habitation of the same number of indigent families; to whom, also, the sum of 30l. annually is to be distributed in half yearly payments. Birchmore-House, and the surrounding lands, were made responsible for the due execution of this contract.

The chief business of the poor is straw-hat and lace making: but should these employments at any time fail, the industrious have a resource at the abbey, where every one, who makes application, is provided with work of some kind or other. This is true charity; and does more towards meliorating the condition of the people, by keeping them in habits of regularity and order, than could ever be effected by indiscriminating alms-giving.

The Fuler Earth Pit's, (or rather pit, for there is only one at present,) in the vicinity of Woburn, are, according to the invariable assertions of preceding topographers, situated in Bedfordshire: but this is a mistake; the pits are certainly in Buckinghamshire, in the parish of Wavendon, or Wandon, as it is generally called. They are two miles north of Woburn, and about one furlong on the western side of the Northampton road, which, in this part, forms the boundary between the two counties for upwards of a mile. The more ancient pit, it is true, is in the county of Bedford, in the parish of Aspley, which adjoins to that of Wandon: but this has been disused for upwards of a century. It has large trees growing in it; and is become a secure and comfortable residence for the cunning fox, whose sagacity has taught him, that he may live here unmolested, and free from danger.

As the pit so immediately borders on this county; and as the curious reader, judging from the practise of former writers, will undoubtedly refer to the neighbourhood of Woburn, when desirous of acquiring information on this subject; we trust that we shall not be charged with any impropriety of arrangement, if the particulars we have been enabled to obtain concerning the invaluable substance under consideration are inserted in this place. The surface of the earth may be divided with artificial limits; but the interior strata, in this instance, is unquestionably continued into both counties.

British cloth is chiefly indebted to the cleansing qualities of this celebrated earth, for its great superiority over that manufactured by other nations. In no other country is it found so free from foreign admixture; for this reason, as well as its importance in the woollen trade, several severe laws have been made, at different periods, since the reign of Charles the Second, to prevent its exportation. Nor are these acts of the British legislature without precedent. History informs us, that the fulling business was an object of Roman attention, and that laws were expressly made by that nation to regulate the employment.

This earth is truly a MARL, commonly of a greyish ash-co-loured brown; yet it greatly varies, and is found of different shades, from the very pale, to the dusky, or almost black; but always with a tinge of the yellowish green. The pit at Wavendon consists of two tunnels; one with a ladder for the convenience of the labourers; the other to raise the earth up. The descent is very disagreeable, and the inside of the pit very damp. The wood-work on the top and sides of the excavated angles is continually wet, and almost covered with Boletus Lachrymans, (Dryrot Boletus.) The strata are disposed in the following order.

From the surface to the depth of six or seven feet are several layers of sand, all of a reddish colour, but of different tints. Beneath is a thin stratum of sand-stone, and under this the fuller's earth. The upper stratum is about a foot thick; but being generally impure, or mixed with sand, it is thrown aside; and the rest is taken up for use, The earth is disposed in layers (com-

monly

monly about eighteen inches between one horizontal fissure and another) continued to the depth of eight or ten feet. Between the centrical layers is a thin stratum of matter, of less than an inch, which in taste, colour, and external appearance, bears a striking resemblance to Terra Japonica. Beneath the whole is a bed of rough white free-stone, about two feet thick: this is seldom dug through; when it is, more strata of sand are discovered. The depth of the pit varies, it being from twenty to thirty feet below the surface.

Though fuller's earth is of the most material service in cleansing cloth, and imbibing the tar, grease, tallow, &c. which, from
the operation of many causes, is often mixed with the wool, yet
the present price is scarcely sufficient to defray the expences of
raising it; being only ten shillings a ton, and the quantity sold
not amounting to more than thirty tons annually. The labourers
are occasionally employed, to the number of five, six, or seven,
in proportion as the earth is wanted. The pit belongs to the Duke
of Bedford: and, as we understand, by a recent purchase. Its
situation is nearly opposite to that in the parish of Aspley, which
is also on the duke's estate. About twenty years since there was
a pit in use on the estate of Colonel Moore: but this has been
levelled, and the field is now in pasturage. The earth lay about
four feet from the surface.

The few authors who have written on the topography of this county, are unanimous in ascribing a petrifying quality to a small spring said to be in the parish just mentioned; and not only the water, but the surrounding earth also, is reported to partake of the same property. Camden informs us, that those who belonged to the monastery, showed "a wooden ladder, which, after lying some time in the earth, was dug up all stone." The risible absurdity of this sentence can only be exceeded by the folly of Michael Drayton, poet-laureat to James the First, who inserted the following lines on this subject in his Poly-Olbion.

The brook which on her bank doth boast that earth alone, Which noted of this isle, converteth wood to stone, That little Aspley's earth we anciently instile, 'Mongst sundry other things, a wonder of our isle.

This wonder of the poet, like many more extraordinary circumstances, hath had its nine days of admiration payed by the gaping multitude. The story has now grown into general discredit; and we are informed, from the most unquestionable authority, that there is no such spring in the parish! yet we have heard of some bits of the petrified wood, said to have been obtained here, which appeared handsome when polished; and also, that a pair of buttons has been made of it. But we have said enough on a baseless subject; and, as the stream is wanting, whose qualities could alone give the tale credibility, shall dismiss it with the common motto, Ex nihilo, nihil fit. About one mile east of the town is

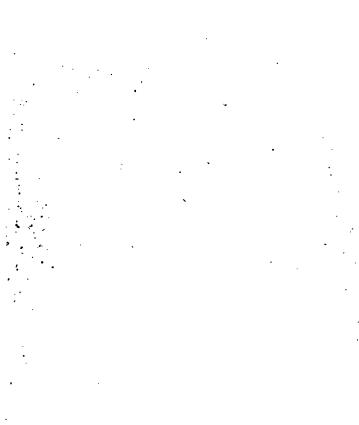
# WOBURN ABBEY,

THE seat of the Duke of Bedford. This extensive and magnificent pile of building is situated in the midst of a large park. Its effect is imposing and dignified; and the mind readily acknowledges that it is truly worthy of being a ducal residence.

The ground-plan of this elegant mansion forms a square of more than 200 feet, containing a quadrangular court in the inside. It was erected on the site of the old abbey, by John, the fourth Duke of the Russel family. The original building was founded in the year 1145, by Hugh de Bolebeck, a nobleman who had large possessions in the vicinity. It was intended for monks of the Cistercian order, a sect of religionists that sent many swarms into this country about the middle of the twelfth century. On the suppression of the religious houses, its revenues, according to Dugdale, amounted to 391l. 8s. 2d. In the first year of Edward the Sixth, it was granted, with many other ecclesiastical estates, to John,\* afterwards Lord Russel, a gentleman who was honored with several employments by Henry the Eighth. In his family the possession has ever since remained.

\* "No family," Mr. Pennant observes, "profited so much by the plunder of the church as that of Bedford. To the grant of Woburn, in 1547, it owes much of its property in this county, and in Buckinghamshire. To that of the rich abbey of Tavistock, vast fortune and interest in Devonshire: and to render them more extensive, that of Dunkeswell was added. The donation of Thorney





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The new building has experienced many considerable alterations † and improvements, particularly during the time it has been in the possession of the present noble owner. Mr. Holland, the architect of Drury-lane Theatre, has displayed much taste and ability in the designs for the additional buildings here, which have been executed under his direction. The west front is built of the Ionic order, with a rusticated basement. The principal floor, or suite of rooms, on this side, consists of a saloon, state bed-room, drawing and dining rooms: the south contains the library, breakfast, etruscan, and duke's rooms; the east, the vestibule, servants' offices, &c. and the north, the French bed-rooms, and various other chambers. Most of the apartments are embellished with fine paintings; some of these we shall describe, occasionally enlivening our descriptions with historical anecdote.

As the PORTRAITS form a very prominent feature in this collection, we shall particularize a few of them, without attending to the rooms in which they are situated.

QUEEN

Thorney abbey gave Lord Russel an amazing tract of fens in Cambridgeshire, together with a great revenue. Melchburn abbey increased his property in Bedfordshire. The priory of Castle Hymel gave him footing in Northamptonshire; and he came in for parcels of the appurtenances of Saint Alban's, and Mount Grace, in Yorkshire. Not to mention the house of the Friars Preachers in Exeter, with the revenues belonging to the foundation: and, finally, the estate about Covent-Garden, with a field adjoining, called the Seven-acres, on which Long-acre is built."

† When part of the abbey was taken down in 1744, a corpse was discovered, the flesh of which was so sound as to bear cutting with a knife, though it must have been interred at leaft 200 years. Soon afterwards, on pulling down one of the walls of the abbey church, a stone coffin was found, which consisted of feveral loose stones set in the ground; and in sinking a cellar, several more stone coffins were discovered, some of them very large, being six feet eight inches long in the inside; they had all a place shaped for a head, and most of them two or three holes at the bottom. Near them were two pots or urns, which probably contained the bowels of some of those who had been buried there. On a scull belonging to some bones, which lay in a stiff blue clay, was some black cloth, which might have been a monk's cowl. Pieces of shoes were also taken up, &cc. Bray's Tour.

QUEEN ELIZABETH. This is a very singular picture. The Maiden Queen is represented with a fan of feathers in her left hand, and a ring on her thumb. The canvass is so completely covered with the gaudy and cumbrous ornaments of her dress, that the painter would have found it extremely difficult to have introduced a new object, unless he had adorned her cheek with sticking plaster. Her hair is of a sandy colour; her complexion rather fair. "A pale Roman nose," says Horace Walpole, "a head of hair loaded with crowns, and powdered with diamonds, a vast ruff, a vaster fardingale, and a bushel of pearls, are the features by which every body knows at once the pictures of Queen Elizabeth." This description is truly applicable to the present piece.

Lady JANE SEYMOUR. Pleasing, and well painted. She is portrayed in a velvet drapery, with a rich gold net-work covering the whole dress.

Mary, Queen of England; by Antonio More. Sandrart observes, that Mary was very handsome. This is a good painted face, but hard favoured, and rather stern. If her features were ever beautiful, the cruelty of her heart and actions must have made lamentable ravages. It is painted on pannel, and dated 1556.

KILLIGREW. Commonly called Charles the Second's Jester.

Lord WILLIAM RUSSEL. This memorable victim to a lawless court, fell a martyr to the gallant design of preserving the constitution and liberties of his country, from the attempts of an insidious and arbitrary faction. When his chief enemy, James the Second, heard of the landing of the Prince of Orange, his pusillanimous weakness induced him to request the advice of the Earl of Bedford, Lord Russel's father: the Earl answered with this melancholy but piercing reproach; "I had a son, Sir, who could have advised your Majesty." If the Monarch had possessed sensibility, his heart must have shrunk into nothingness. He was beheaded in Lincoln's Inn Fields, July 31, 1683.

NICHOLAS BACON, father of the Lord Chancellor Bacon, Etat. 52.

EDWARD

EDWARD CLINTON, Earl of Lincoln; by Cornelius Ketel. This is a half length portrait. The earl is drawn sitting, in a short ruff and a bonnet. This earl was, in all probability, a very prudent man; for, besides being Lord High Admiral for thirty years, in four most difficult reigns, he was entrusted with various martial and ceremonious commissions, for most of which he was amply rewarded, without having performed any action of distinguished importance. He seems to have secured himself both from enemies and reproach, and to have been content with acquiring fortune by his services, rather than to risk success by over-rating his abilities. The quintessence of his wisdom appears to have been couched in the maxim of being an osier rather than an oak. The whimsical artist who produced this picture, not content with the fame he had gained through regular practice, formed a design of obtaining additional celebrity, by introducing a method of painting entirely new. With this intent, he laid aside his brushes, and began to paint with his fingers only. The whim succeeded; and the connoisseurs of the day pretended that the pieces thus fantastically executed, possessed great beauty, and purity of colouring. As his success increased, so did his folly; his fingers appeared to be tools of too easy management, and he undertook to paint with his toes!

Lady ELIZABETH FITZGERALD, third wife of the above earl. This picture of a lady, whose beauty gave birth and currency to the productions of so many eminent wits, her cotemporaries, affords a strong proof of the power of fancy, in heightening the effects of feminine gracefulness. She is more known by the title of The Fair Geraldine.

EDWARD COURTENEY, the last Earl of Devonshire; by Sir Antonio More. This nobleman was imprisoned by the jealous Henry, for his contiguity to the throne, from the age of ten to twenty-eight. The comeliness of his person attracted the attention of Queen Mary, who gave him his liberty, and wooed him to share the kingdom with her; yet he refused, through preference to her sister Elizabeth. For this partiality, and the charge of being accomplices with the Carews, who had headed an insurrection in Devonshire, both he and the Princess were committed to

the Tower. They were soon afterwards released at the intercession of King Philip; when the earl prudently quitted the kingdom, and went to Padua, where he died, at the age of thirty, supposed to have been poisoned. He is represented as a handsome man, with short brown hair, and yellow beard. His dress is a dark jacket, with white sleeves; and breeches. Behind him is a ruined tower; beneath is this inscription:

Fourteen long years, in strict captivity,
Tyrant condemned, I passed my early bloom,
Till pity bade the generous daughter see
A guiltless captive, and reverse my doom.

PHILIP and MARY. "When two such sanguinary hands were joined, it is lucky for mankind that no issue was the consequence. The intrepidity of the Tudors, united with the unprincipled policy of Charles the Fifth, and Philip, might have depopulated Europe, and formed as desolate a waste of empire as that of the Ottomans." This is a very curious picture.

Sir William Russel, Knight of the Bath, when young; by Priwitzer. This is supposed to be the only picture in England of this artist's. It is painted with great brightness and freedom, and displays some very neat penciling. It is dated 1627. Sir William was father of the excellent Lord Russel; and, after the Revolution in 1688, was created Duke of Bedford, by King-William.

Lady Anne Carr, wife of the preceding peer. This lady was the daughter of that infamous pair, Richard Carr, Earl of Somerset, and the profligate Frances Howard, Countess of Essex.\* Lady Anne was married in 1637, and proved herself worthy of the great alliance she had formed. This virtuous female, it is related, was ignorant of her mother's lascivious character, till she read it in a pamphlet which she accidentally found in a window. Struck with the damning proofs of her parents' guilt, and overcome

<sup>\*</sup> A particular detail of the shameful conduct of this abandoned woman, may be seen in Arthur Wilson's Life and Reign of King James the First. The manner of her death is extraordinary, but the account is too horrible to be extracted.

overcome by the suddenness of the communication, she fell to the ground in a fit, and was discovered lying senseless with the book before her. The tragic death of her beloved son is supposed to have been instrumental in shortening her days. She survived him but a year.

FRANCIS RUSSEL, fourth Earl of Bedford. This nobleman was the principal promoter of the draining of the fens, since called the Bedford Level. The death of this wise and temperate man in the year 1641, is thought, by Lord Clarendon, to have been of great detriment to the King's affairs; as the earl was possessed both of sufficient influence and inclination to have prevented much of the violence that ensued.

Sir Philip Sydney, in the 22d year of his age. He has on a quilled ruff, and white slashed jacket. "This gentleman's romance of Arcadia," says Mr. Pennant, "is not relished at present. It may be tedious; but the morality, I fear, renders it disgusting to our age. It is too replete with innocence to become a favourite."

GEORGE DIGBY, Earl of Bristol, and WILLIAM RUSSEL, (afterwards duke,) mentioned above. The characters of these personages, whose portraits are here represented in one picture. were exceedingly dissimilar. Lord Bedford was honest, sincere, and moderate; and so far from being a bigot to party, that he often fluctuated, yet still with a view to preserve the balance of the constitution, and without even being suspected of acting from selfinterest or ambition. Lord Bristol, with brighter parts, was rash, enterprising, full of art, and by no means steady to the principles of honour, nor firm to those of religion. Both distinguished themselves by personal bravery; but Bristol's restless ambition and subtlety only sullied his reputation. Bedford's integrity and temper carried him to the grave with honour at the age of eightyseven. It is said, these two personages were the archetypes for the characters of Castalio and Polydore, in Otway's play of the Orphan.

LADY COOK, wife of Sir Anthony Cook, of Guidea-Hall, in Essex, the tutor of Edward the Sixth. She was the mother of the four learned females; Lady Burleigh, Lady Bacon, Lady Russel, and Mrs. Killigrew.

Anne

ANNE OF DENMARK, wife to James the First. A woman who had no credit with her husband, nor appears to have deserved any. The frivolity of her mind was gratified with the empty admiration which the populace are ever ready to bestow on pomp and magnificence, and her ambition sought no other praise.

ROBERT, EARL OF ESSEX. This is a full length. The earl is represented with a red beard, and black hair: his dress is white, appearing as stiff and formal as if stuffed with wool. The face is well painted.

GENERAL MONK, afterwards Duke of Albemarle. This eminent statesman, so distinguished for the important share he took in the restoration of Charles the Second, and the ease with which he effected it, appears to have been employed by the parliament in direct opposition to the dictates of common sense and rational deduction. Monk had been bred a soldier and a loyalist; had attended Charles the First in two expeditions to the north during the Scotch wars; was sent to Ireland to quell the rebellion in that country, and soon afterwards was appointed governor of Dublin. These things seem sufficiently indicative of his attachment to monarchy; yet the parliament, who, on his return, had witnessed his attempt to relieve Nantwich, in Cheshire, where their army had made him prisoner, and on that occasion conveyed him to the Tower, allowed him to be set at liberty, gave him a command, and again dispatched him to Ireland to subdue the rebels, with whom he concluded a peace so disadvantageous to the cause in which he had embarked, that it subjected him to a vote of censure. But the heedless republicans were not yet convinced of his duplicity, and he was employed under Cromwell against the Scots. Oliver, however, appears to have penetrated into his character; and, not long before his death, wrote him a letter, to which he added this singular postscript: "There be, that tell me, that there is a certain cunning fellow in Scotland, called George Monk, who is said to lie in wait there to introduce Charles Stuart: I pray you use your diligence to apprehend him, and send him up to me." He died of a dropsy in the year 1670.

HENRY

HENRY DANVERS, Earl of Danby. This earl, in addition to his military glory, closed his fair career by founding the physic garden at Oxford in the year 1632. For this purpose, he purchased the ground which had been a cemetery of the Jews, and inclosed it with a wall at the expence of 5000l.

WILLIAM CECIL, Lord Burleigh, the favorite minister of Queen Elizabeth. This truly great statesman was, perhaps, one of the keenest, most active, yet disinterested ministers that ever lived; for though he held the office of Lord High Treasurer twenty-seven years, he left but a moderate estate to his family. Camden informs us, that he would never suffer the rents of lands, that were under his controul, to be raised, nor the old tenants to be turned out,

Christiana, Countess of Devonshire. A lady of distinguished abilities. In her youth she was the platonic mistress of William, Earl of Pembroke, who, in accordance with the romantic gallantry of the age, wrote a volume of poems in her praise. Her ladyship seems to have been a fair model of our ancient nobility; a compound of piety, regularity, dignity, and human wisdom, so discreetly classed, as to suffer none of them to trespass on the interests of its associates. One of her dependants has recorded her life in a small tract, written in the spiritual tone of the times. Her affability, and sweet address, (says her biographer,) so won the favor of the sages of the law, that King Charles said to her, "Madam, you have all my Judges at your disposal." The Countess was believed to be very instrumental in the conduct of the restoration, being entrusted with the design by that "pearl of secresy," General Monk.

THOMAS WRITTHESLEY, Earl of Southampton. It has been remarked, that "puritanic virulence never aspersed Lord Southampton, either when he opposed its power, or rose on its ruin; that his virtues escaped both contagion and ridicule, in a most profligate and satiric court; and that sincere patriots believe, the gates were shut against the inroad of prerogative, at the restoration of the man who was placed by the King at the head of the treasury." That character must be exalted, indeed, whose qualities could engage the good will of so many discordant tempers.

VOL. I. E RACHEL,

RACHEL, LADY RUSSEL. Second daughter of the great and good Wriothesley, above mentioned; and wife to the justly admired Lord Russel. The unshaken firmness of this virtuous heroine, while she assisted her husband during his trial, was the effect of a most determined command over the tenderest sensibility, and not the result of a stoical apathy, miscalled philosophy: for the moment he was no more, she gave such incessant loose to her tears, as, it is supposed, occasioned her subsequent blindness. She lived to a great age, revered almost as a saint, and venerated as the relict of the martyr to liberty and the constitution. This lady is drawn in her widow's weeds; her head is reclined on her hand, and her countenance is marked by deep and expressive sorrow.

Most of the above portraits are in the Gallery, which is 111 feet 6 inches in length, 17 feet 9 inches wide, and 15 feet high. Hence we are conducted to the

SALOON, 35 feet 6 inches wide, 25 and a half feet long, and 27 and a half feet high. This handsome room occupies the centre of the west front, and contains thirteen pictures; the principal are these.

A Portrait of Lewis THE FIFTEENTH, in his robes, 1763, a full length. This fine picture was copied from Vanloo, and presented to the fourth Duke of Bedford when ambassador at the court of France.

Two large Landscapes, by Gasper Poussin.

Abel found in the Agonies of Death: Rembrandt. This picture is exquisitely fine. The artist has placed the figure in a singular position, to represent the contortions of a murdered man. The fore-shortening is executed in a masterly manner; the head and shoulders coming foremost: the chin, knees, and hands, drawn together. The colouring and effect are most skilfully executed.

Angels in the Clouds: Murillo. Truly beautiful.

The sons of light,
Pois'd on the fleecy mantles of the sky,
Here lingering spread their scarcely waving plumes;
And, redolent with joy, draw balmy sweets
From the soft bosom of the glowing air.

Joseph

Joseph interpreting the Baker's Dream: Rembrandt.

"And Joseph answered, and said, this is the interpretation thereof:
"the three baskets are three days. Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift
"up thy head from off thee, and shall hang thee on a tree, and the birds
shall eat thy flesh."

The Drawing-Room. (North.) View in the Netherlands: Cuyp. Clear and transparent, well drawn, and charmingly coloured.

Two Landscapes: Gasper Poussin.

View of Houghton Conquest: R. Wilson. This eminent English artist gave dignity and picturesque beauty to every subject that came beneath the touch of his animated pencil. The chief part of the mansion represented in the picture was taken down when the Swan Inn at Bedford was building, and some of the materials were used in the construction of that fabric.

Boy and Pigeons: Vetto.

Head of a Girl, its companion: Rembrandt.

The LITTLE DRAWING-ROOM. Ballad Singers: Both. A good group, though, possibly bad characters. However we may delight in the presence of this kind of company when confined in a frame, their absence in nature seems most desirable.

A Dutch Kitchen: Both. We may here regale the sight, though we seek in vain to satisfy the appetite.

A small Landscape, with figures: Claude.

Two small Pictures: Salvator Rosa.

A Landscape with Cattle, &c. Bergham. A very fine painting. The artist is famous for the spirit and truth with which his animals are generally executed.

A Landscape, a pleasing woody scene: Bergham.

A Landscape with Figures: Cuyp.

Dutch Boors at Skittles: D. Teniers.

Returning through the two preceding apartments, we are conducted to the West DINING-ROOM, the pannels of which are ornamented with eight whole length portraits, by Vandyck. As the principal of these have already been described, we shall pass

on to the Drwiwe-Room South. This contains twenty-four views in Venice, by Canaletti. Adjoining to this is the Duke's room, which opens into the

LIBRARY, 50 feet long, and 24½ feet wide. Elegance, taste, and literature, are here concentrated to captivate and delight the imagination. The shelves are stored with the choicest productions of genius and ability, arranged in the most superb and costly bindings; and the collection of PORTRAITS are invaluable, as will be readily acknowledged by a perusal of the following list.

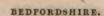
TITIAN, born 1480; died 1576, aged 96. This artist has ever been esteemed for his fine colouring. He made Nature his principal study; and imitated her hues with the greatest correctness and felicity; not only in the tints of his carnations, when he painted figures, but even in the local colours introduced into his compositions. An anecdote is related of this master, highly complimentary to his own talents, and to the nobleness of mind of the Emperor Charles the Fifth. Titian had painted his portrait several times. One day, when the Emperor was sitting, the pencil dropt from the artist's hand: the Monarch immediately stooped, took it up, and presented it to the painter, who, somewhat agitated by his Majesty's condescension, commenced an apology; which Charles interrupted, saying, "the merit of a Titian is worthy the attendance of an Emperor."

------Titian dar'd to soar,

And reach'd the loftiest height of colouring's power.

FRESHOY.

REMBRANDT, born at Leyden, 1606; died 1674, aged 68. This bold and spirited painter is celebrated for the force, contrast, truth of colouring, and chiaro-oscuro, which characterize his productions. He was an artful tradesman, as well as an industrious artist. Sandrart asserts that he managed the sale of his paintings and etchings with so much address, that he gained every year at least 2000 florins. His etchings are much admired, and good impressions are very scarce, consequently very dear. His portraits are always good; and though his historical paintings



are deficient in graceful contour, yet their effects of colouring, and light and shade, are superlatively fine.

Rembrandt, through some darken'd room,
Spreads his soft tints, and animates the gloom.

Tintoretto, born at Venice, 1512; died 1594, aged 82. He obtained this name from being the son of a dyer. His paternal name was Robusti. His rapidity of painting occasioned him to be called Furioso Tintoretto, or, the Impetuous. His manner of painting is bold, and spirited, with strong lights opposed to deep shadows; and his colouring, particularly his carnations, approach very near to those of Titian.

DAVID TENIERS, the Younger, born at Antwerp, 1610; died 1694, aged 84. The productions of this extraordinary genius procured him the friendship of many noble families; and likewise of two crowned heads, the King of Spain, and Christiana, Queen of Sweden. The former employed him several years, and had a gallery erected as an exclusive repository for his paintings: the latter made him valuable presents; and, among others, a chain of gold, with her own busto impressed on a medal. Nature was his model, and he imitated her with astonishing correctness. The expression of his figures, whether they are mirthful or grave, in anger or good humour, is remarkably chaste and natural. Landscapes and rustic diversions were the chief subjects of his pencil.

Rubens, born at Cologne, 1577; died 1640, aged 63. This illustrious painter was patronized and caressed by several monarchs, and was at length knighted by Charles the First, who engaged him to paint some of the apartments of Whitehall. "His expression," says Pilkington, "is noble and just; his colouring lively, glowing and natural; and his invention amazingly fertile." His pencil is mellow, his execution remarkably free, and his pictures are finished in a most pleasing and agreeable manner,

Rubens came, and catch'd, in colours bright, The flickering flashes of celestial light; Dipp'd his bold pencil in the rainbow's dye, And fix'd the transient radiance of the sky.

THE LANDSCAPE.

BARTHOLOMEW STEPHEN MURILLO, born near Seville, 1613; died 1685, aged 72. The favorite subjects of this artist are beggar-boys, which are much valued; but these, like many other good paintings, are often copied, and imposed on purchasers as originals.

FRANK HALS, born 1584; died 1666, aged 82. traits of this master are well drawn, and coloured with much force and nature. Vandyck conceived so high an opinion of his merit, that, it is reported, he travelled to Haarlem, purposely to visit him. He introduced himself as a gentleman on his travels, wishing to have his portrait taken, but in too much haste to stay longer than two hours. Frank hurried from the tavern, seized a piece of canvass, and commenced his task; which, when considerably advanced, he asked his guest to inspect. Vandyck seemed much pleased, and said, the work appeared so easy that he believed he could do the like himself. He then took the apparatus, made Hals sit down, and began. In about a quarter of an . hour Frank beheld his own picture with astonishment, and declared, that no one but Vandyck could work like it. planation ensued. The artists embraced, and, after some time spent in friendly conversation, separated with mutual regret.

JAN STEEN, born at Leyden, 1636; died 1689, aged 53. This artist excelled in humorous subjects; in groups of curious figures, which he always marked with striking character and expression. One peculiarity in his compositions is worthy imitation; his figures never deceive us: we can readily distinguish the boor, the gentleman, and the various other classes of society, either by their forms, attitudes, air, or expression.

Sir Godfrey Kneller, born at Lubeck, 1648; died 1726, aged 78. After travelling over several parts of the Continent, this artist came to London, and received peculiar honor from Charles the Second, who sat for his portrait at the painter's house in Covent Garden. He was State painter to Charles the Second, James the Second, William the Third, Queen Anne, and George the First.

JOHN

JOHN KUPETZKI, born at Porsina, Bohemia, 1667; died 1740, aged 73. Kupetzki felt a most ardent and unconquerable inclination for painting even in his earliest years. His strong aversion to trade induced him to desert his father's house when the necessities of his family would have fixed him to a mechanical business. Undetermined whither to direct his course, he wandered about for some time, begging his bread, and enduring extreme hardship. At length, having stopped in quest of assistance at the castle of Count Czobor, he there saw a painter of reputation at work, named Claus; and, after surveying the productions of his pencil with considerable attention, he took up a piece of charcoal, and on the wall imitated some of the ornaments with so much spirit, that both the count and the painter were surprised at the powerful effect of his uninstructed genius; for Kupetzki being asked by whom he had been taught, answered, that, " Love for the Art had been his only Instructor." This essay of ability was made in a happy hour for the destitute traveller. The generous nobleman took him into the castle, provided him with necessaries, and engaged Claus to instruct him in the art. He was afterwards principal painter to the Emperor Joseph; and Charles the Third would willingly have retained him in the same station, but he preferred liberty to all the advantages of so honorable an employment.

All the above portraits were painted by the respective artists whose names they bear. The six following were executed by Vandyck.

JOHN SNELLINCH, born at Mechlin, 1544; died 1638, aged 94. Vandyck regarded him as one of the best artists in the Low Countries, and painted this portrait for him as a testimony of his esteem.

PETER DE JODE, the engraver; and family.

Daniel Mytens, and his wife. He was born at the Hague 1636; died 1688, aged 52. Mytens was a principal painter to Charles the First, previous to the arrival of Vandyck; when the former, in disgust, solicited permission to retire to his own country. The King having learnt the cause of his dissatisfaction, intreated him to stay, and told him, that he could find sufficient employment both for him and Vandyck. Mytens' grateful sense of this kind-

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ness induced him to consent; and it seems probable, from this portrait, that he afterwards became intimate with his rival.

PHILIP LE ROY.

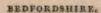
CHARLES DE MALLERY, engraver of Antwerp.

JOHN WOUWERMANS, died 1666. The brother of the celebrated Philip Wouwermans. He died young, and his pieces were consequently too few to establish his reputation.

DIOGENES, born at Sinope; died before Christ 324, aged 76. Sal. Rosa. This celebrated cynic philosopher was the disciple of Antisthenes at Athens. Though he was not the founder of the Cynics, he added many austerities to the order. With all his affected humility, he was insufferably proud; and when Alexander the Great visited him, and inquired if he could do him any service, he snarlingly replied, "get out of my sunshine." When he died, the inhabitants of Sinope erected a monument to his memory, and placed the marble figure of a dog on the top, as a memorial of his crabbed disposition.

JOHN BAPTIST COLBERT, born at Paris, 1619; died 1683, aged 64. Champagni. This celebrated statesman was the son of a silk merchant. In 1648 he became clerk to Le Tellier, the secretary of state at Paris, and afterwards married his daughter. Having transacted some important business for Cardinal Mazarine, that minister, on his death, recommended him to Louis the Fourteenth, as the most proper person to be appointed Intendant of the finances. In this situation he formed new systems for the glory. commerce, and manufactures of France. In the year 1664 he was made superintendant of the buildings, and instantly began to improve the capital, by the erection of the most elegant struc-He instituted the academy of painting and sculpture, and the academy of sciences. By his recommendation, likewise, the royal observatory was built, of which Cassini was the first inhabitant. In 1669 he was made secretary of state and marine minister. In the management of the duties of these offices, he gave satisfaction both to his prince and to the people.

From this interesting repository we are conducted into a singularly elegant apartment, called the ETRUSCAN ROOM. It is furnished in a peculiar style, and adapted to the curiosities which it contains:



contains; among these are thirteen Etruscan Vases. These antiques were purchased at Lord Cawdor's sale, who brought them from the Vatican at Rome.

On the chimney-piece is a small china bust of BONAPARTE, First Consul of the French Republic. This is acknowledged to be a fine and correct likeness of that wonderful and extraordinary character, in whose hands the destinies of Europe appear to be upheld.

The pictures in this apartment are inclosed in black frames, which are far preferable to the pompous gilt ones, that are now too fashionable. Though the glare of rich gilding and burnishing may please the eye of a carver, it must be acknowledged, that they materially injure the effect of a light delicate landscape, especially where the effect of a morning or evening sun is introduced. All the pictures in this room are choice specimens of the respective masters. The paper, carpet, curtains, &c. being all of a brownish colour, seem admirably calculated to show them to advantage.

A village scene, with figures: Ruysdale.

A Landscape with Cattle: P. Potter; dated 1651.

A Flemish Wake: D. Teniers; dated 1640. This valuable picture contains several groups of figures, in one of which the artist has given his own portrait.

View in Holland: Cuyp. A most fascinating, lovely picture. The colouring is from Nature, consequently very good. It represents a frozen canal, with several groups travelling on sledges, fishermen drawing a net from under the ice, &c. This was purchased at Mr. Bryant's, Pall-Mall, from the Calone Collection.

Three Sea Pieces: Vandervelde. A Merry-Making: D. Teniers.

The fall of Hypolitus: Rubens. A small but very beautiful cabinet picture. The subject is taken from the Fifteenth Book of Ovid's Metamorphoses. Hypolitus relates the manner of his death:

With horror wrapt, and fierce with mad'ning fears, The foaming horses high erect their ears, O'er rugged rocks the shatter'd chariot drive, While I, to curb their fury, vainly strive, And pull the reins, extended at my length;
Yet had their vigour not o'erpower'd my strength,
But that the fervent wheel, with sudden stroke,
Whirl'd on a ragged stump, asunder broke.
Thrown from my chariot, in the reins fast bound,
My quivering entrails smok'd upon the ground;
And every limb, disjointed with the shock,
Hung on the stump, or bled upon the rock.

A number of other pictures are distributed through the different apartments of this extensive building. We cannot particularize the whole, but must close our account of these admirable productions of human ingenuity, with briefly noticing the following pieces.

Inside of St. Paul's, Rome: Stenwyck.

Inside of a Hall: P. Neefs.

Cymon and Iphigenia: Polemburg. A very delightful picture. The story is well told, and the attitude and expression of the clown exceedingly well managed.

OLIVER CROMWELL, with his SON and DAUGHTER. The usurper is portrayed at full length, dressed in his leathern doublet. A field of battle is represented in the distance. Oliver's jacket is now in Parkinson's museum.

Three Landscapes: Gainsborough. These are not executed in the artist's best style: they are, nevertheless, clever.

A Landscape with figures: P. Wouwermans. A fine clear picture. On the left hand is a group of travellers and horses; on the right, a boy directing their movements.

From the Duke's apartments, on the south side of the building, a covered way, or piazza, leads to the Green House. This is a handsome building, about 140 feet in length, containing a great variety of valuable plants: but what renders it peculiarly interesting to the connoisseur and artist, is the grand Vase which has lately been stored in this aromatic museum. This great curiosity demands a particular account, which we are enabled to give, from a letter of Mr. Tatham, architect. "This celebrated Bacchanalian vase was purchased by the Duke from the noble collection

collection of Lord Cawdor, in June, 1800, for seven hundred guineas. It is of the lotus\* form, bell-shaped, and was most probably consecrated to the god Bacchus, as may be concluded from the finely-sculptured bacchanalian masks, and other features that accompany it. It must, therefore, have been used either as a laver, or as a symbol only of this part of the heathen mythology, and for no other use; for it is certain that no wine was ever poured into it.

"This superb monument of antique decoration was dug up some centuries ago among the ruins of Adrian's villa, together with the fragments of three other vases of nearly similar dimensions, all of which appeared, by the situation in which they were found, to have occupied the same spot of that once extensive and magnificent emporium of art. It was then removed to the villa Lanti, near Rome, where for many years it attracted the notice, and excited the admiration, of both the traveller and the artist. This, and one at Warwick Castle, which is somewhat more decorated, are the only complete vases of the same dimensions and antiquity extant; and are, unquestionably, the most magnificent and noble-sculptured specimens of antique decoration of this kind ever discovered.

"The Lanti vase was brought from Rome, about twelve years ago, at a considerable risk and expence, by the Right Honorable Lord Cawdor, on whose classical taste and judgment it must ever confer the highest credit. The removal of this grand work of art from that city caused great jealousy among the superintendants of the Vatican museum, then forming under the auspices of the reigning pontiff, the late Pius VI. who, it is well known, in his resentment on this occasion, threatened several persons concerned in the removal of the vase, with the gallies.

"The dimensions of the vase are: diameter of the mole, six feet three inches; height, with its present plinth, six feet nine inches."

Here

\* The forms of all antique vases are supposed to have been taken from the calyx of the lotus. This is a celebrated water plant, well known in Upper Asia,

Here are also some excellent statues, particularly an Apollo Belvidere; a group of Cupid and Psyche; and two figures of Venus, in different positions.

From the east end of this building the piazza continues nearly a quarter of a mile in length to the Dairy. This singular and beautiful structure is built in the Chinese style, and ornamented with painted glass. Its situation is well calculated for its purpose: cool, shady, and pleasant; and the utensils with which it is furnished, are all of the most elegant workmanship and convenient forms.

The country round Woburn presents a wide; open, and rather flat surface: the soil is mostly sand, and generally destitute of trees; yet the Duke's park abounds with wood, and affords many delightful prospects of forest scenery. The ground is diversified with bold swells and a pleasing inequality of surface. The park is well stocked with deer; and is surrounded with a brick wall eight feet in height, and about twelve miles in circumference. It has been considerably enlarged of late years, and lies in different parishes.

The circumstance by which this extensive domain is more peculiarly characterized, is the commodious farms situated in and near it. One of these, which is distinguished by the name of the PARK FARM, merits the attention of every man who feels interested in the advancement and perfection of the important science of agriculture. Every ingenious contrivance to shorten labour, or invention to facilitate useful operations, are here concentrated.

The farm-yard is replete with conveniences. It contains barns, stables, fatting-houses, &c. and a very complete mill, furnished with a curious machine, which threshes and dresses at the same time; a maltern; two pair of stones, for grinding wheat and barley; and every requisite for dressing flour, making oatmeal, &c. In another part is a small water-wheel, which gives motion to some very ingenious machinery for bruising malt, and cutting fodder to chaff. The water is supplied by pipes, which convey it from ponds situated on the adjoining eminences.

This

This farm originated with the present Duke of Bedford, through whose patronage and praise-worthy exertions, many improvements have been made in the different branches of husbandry.

What is generally done by a united society, is here effected by an individual: his Grace rewards invention, fosters ingenuity, and gives a fair practical trial to every new theory in this invaluable art.

The truly patriotic endeavours of the Duke are nobly seconded by Lord Ossory, Mr. Whitbread, and many other private gentlemen. By their united influence, and spirited example, a most laudable emulation has been excited among the farmers in this part of the country, the good effects of which are already become distinct and visible. The qualities of kine, horses, sheep, hogs, &c. have been greatly improved by the introduction of the breed of other counties; and the melioration of the land has kept pace with the improvement of the cattle: both are progressively advancing to perfection.

The Duke has instituted an annual sheep-shearing, at which between three and four hundred persons are generally assembled to partake of the festive cheer which then prevails at Woburn. The meeting is held about the middle of June, and continues for three or four days. During this time experiments are made with new invented agricultural implements, and the inventors of those which are judged to be of most utility, are rewarded. Considerable premiums are also given to such persons, who, in the course of the preceding year, have expended the greatest sums in introducing the breed of other counties, or who produce the best specimens of sheep, &c. bred in Bedfordshire: smaller sums are distributed for the furtherance of other beneficial practices.\*

The

The premiums for the present year are to be distributed as follows. Fifty, guineas to the person in Bedfordshire, who between June and Christmas, 1800, has expended the greatest sum of money (not less than sixty guineas) in the purchase of breeding-ewes, or theaves, of the new Leicester or South Down breed:

Twenty guineas to the person who shall have expended the next largest sum on the same object. A cup, value Ten guineas, to the person who shall breed, and produce at Woburn sheep-shearing, the best two shearfat wethers: Five guineas

The RUSSEL family may date the era of their greatness to a violent storm, which happened about the year 1500, on the coast of Dorset; a county which appears to have been the birth-place of their ancestors, one of whom was constable of Corfe Castle in the year 1221. PHILIP, Archduke of Austria, son of the Emperor Maximilian, being on a voyage to Spain, was obliged, by the fury of a sudden tempest, to take refuge in the harbour of Weymouth. He was received on shore, and accommodated by Sir Thomas Trenchard, who invited his relation, Mr. John RUSSEL, to wait upon the Archduke. Philip was so much pleased with the polite manners and cultivated talents of Mr. Russel, who was conversant with both the French and German languages, that, on arriving at court, he recommended him to the notice of Henry the Seventh, who immediately sent for him to his palace, where he remained in great favor till the King's death. In the estimation of Henry the Eighth he rose still higher: by that Monarch he was made Lord Warden of the Stannaries, Lord Admiral of England and Ireland, Knight of the Garter, and Lord Privy Seal; and on the 9th of March, 1538, created Baron Russel of Cheneys in the county of Bucks, which estate he afterwards acquired by marriage. At the coronation of Edward the Sixth, he officiated as Lord High Steward; and two years afterwards, in the year 1549, was created Earl of Bedford. He died in 1554, and was buried at Cheneys, where many of his descendants have also been interred. He was succeeded by his son Francis. On his death, in the year 1585, the estates and titles devolved to his grandson Edward, whose father had been slain by the Scotch in the Marches but two days before. Edward died in the year 1627, and was succeeded by his cousin Francis, whose great plan of draining the level of the fens added vast sums to his annual income. He died in 1641, and was succeeded

to the person who shall produce the two best fat shear wethers bred in Bedfordshire. A cup, value Ten guineas, to the breeder of the best theave; and Five guineas to the breeder of the second best: both to be the produce of the county. And Twenty guineas to the person who shall invent the most useful agricultural implement.

ceeded by his eldest son, William, whose impartiality, as we have already stated, (page 44,) induced him to coincide occasionally with the measures of both parties during the dreadful contest between Charles the First and his Parliament. He was at one time, General of the Horse, in the army of the latter. Though he had no less than seven sons, he appears to have outlived them all; for, on his death, in 1700, his honors and estates devolved on his grandson, Wriothesley; who, dying of the small-pox in 1711, was succeeded by Wriothesley his son, who was then only about six years of age: he dying in 1732, was succeeded by his brother, John, who was employed in the management of many important affairs, particularly in the year 1763, when he negociated the peace of Versailles. Francis, the fifth and present duke, succeeded his grand-father in 1771; the immediate successor, the accomplished Marquis of Tavistock, being killed by falling from his horse in 1767.

# AMPTHILL,

Though on a sandy soil, is pleasantly situated near the centre of the county, between two hills. This small town has been much improved of late years, particularly by the erection of an handsome market-house. The principal streets are neat and regular, crossing each other at right angles. Near the middle of the town is an obelisk of Portland stone, in which is a pump, built, for the use of the inhabitants, by the Earl of Upper Ossory. There are many good houses here, and also an extensive brewery.

In the church is a mural monument to the memory of Richard Nicholls, who was governor of Long Island after the expulsion of the Dutch. He was gentleman of the bed-chamber to the Duke of York, and was killed while attending his Royal Highness in the famous engagement between the fleets of England and Holland, May 28, 1672. What is remarkable in this monument, is the preservation of the very ball with which the governor was slain. This is a five or six pounder: it is inlaid in marble,

and placed within the pediment; on the moulding of which, on each side of the bullet, are these words:

" Instrumentum Mortis et Immortalitis."

The Instrument of Death and Immortality.

The charitable institutions of this parish are, an alms-house, founded and endowed by Mr. Cross, some time principal of New Inn Hall, Oxford; and a school for 13 children. The alms-house is for 10 poor men and women; who, besides their place of residence, have an annual allowance.

West of the town is AMPTHILL PARK, the seat of the Earl of Upper Ossory. In the old castle, which stood on much higher ground than the present mansion, and then belonged to Henry the Eighth, Queen Catherine resided during the time her unjust divorce was in agitation before the commissioners at Dunstable. She had been cited to appear in court, to defend her cause; but, on refusing to do so, the sentence of separation was pronounced.

In reference to this circumstance, a neat octagonal cross, designed by Mr. Essex, with a shield bearing her arms, has been erected on the site of the castle by the Earl of Ossory. The following lines, written by Horace Walpole, are inscribed on the base:

In days of old, here Ampthill's towers were seen,
The mournful refuge of an injur'd Queen:
Here flow'd her pure, but unavailing tears;
Here blinded Zeal sustain'd her sinking years;
Yet Freedom hence her radiant banners wav'd,
And Love aveng'd a realm by Priests enslav'd:
From Catherine's wrongs a nation's bliss was spread,
And Luther's light from Harry's lawless bed.

"The castle and town of Ampthill, and divers fair lordships thereabout," says Leland, "belonged to Lord Fanhope, a man of great fame, and very rich, who built this stately castle as it now standeth, with the spoils he won in the wars in France."

This was in the reign of Henry the Sixth.

Sir John Cornwall, afterwards Lord Fanhope, married Elizabeth, Countess Dowager of Huntingdon, sister to Henry the Fourth, whose son, when Prince of Wales, gave him large possessions in Cornwall. He distinguished himself by his gallant behaviour at the battle of Agincourt, and was created Lord Fanhope, and Baron Melbrooke, by King Henry the Sixth. On the death of his son, who was killed at a siege in France, he retired to this seat, where he died in the year 1443. His successor\* was attainted of treason for siding with the house of Lancaster; and this estate granted, by Edward the Fourth, to Edmund Grey, Lord of Ruthin, and afterwards Earl of Kent. His grandson, Richard, made it over to Henry the Seventh. From him it descended to his son, who, in the thirty-third year of his reign, constituted it a Royal Demesne, and named the annexed estate the Honour † of Ampthill.

The present mansion is a very superb edifice, with wings, and a flight of steps leading into the hall. It contains a valuable collection of paintings by old and modern masters; such as Julia, Romano, Palma, Rubens, Vandyck, Caracci, Rembrandt, Teniers, Cuyp, Loutherbourg, Gainsborough, Stubbs, Sir Joshua Reynolds, &c. a handsome library, and a museum of natural history. Among the pieces of Sir Joshua, are several family pictures; also portraits of himself, Garrick, Sterne, &c.

The park furnishes some pleasing prospects: one, a water view, is extremely picturesque. It is remarkable for its ancient oaks, which spread their venerable branches through various parts of the grounds; and also for many modern plantations, particularly of firs. Houghton Park is now united to it, by an exchange between the Duke of Bedford and Lord Ossory, and forms all together a very handsome domain. The old house, in the latter Vol. I.

\* The accounts of Camden and Leland are incorrect. By them it appears, that John Cornwall. Lord Fanhope, who built the house, was the person dispossessed by Edward the Fourth: but this is impossible; for the first Lord Fanhope died in the tweaty-second of Henry the Sixth; some years before the war of the Rival Houses began.

<sup>\*</sup> The terms Honour and Barony were formerly considered as synonimous.

park, described and engraved in Pennant's Journey from Chester, has been pulled down, excepting some of the ornamental parts, which form a picturesque ruin. That house was built by Mary, Countess of Pembroke, (on whom the celebrated epitaph was written,) in her widowhood, and was afterwards the seat of the Earl of Ailesbury. About the site of the ruins are some very fine and extensive prospects over the northern part of the county.

At the entrance of the park, from Ampthill, was a lodge; and a pear tree, in which Sir Philip is reported to have wrote part of the Arcadia; and Pomfret many of his verses.

About a mile from Ampthill is HOUGHTON CONQUEST, so called from the family of the Conquests, who long resided here. This family continued till the middle of the last century, when it expired in an heir female, who, in 1663, was married to Henry Lord Arundel of Wardour. This is but a small village, yet it has a free school belonging to Sydney College, Cambridge. Zachary Grey, the editor of Hudibras, was Rector here.

Maudlin church, about two miles east of Ampthill, is noted for an octagonal mausoleum to the memory of Diana, Counters of Elgin. Her tomb, of white marble, is placed in the centre. On it is a sarcophagus, from which rises the figure of the Counters in her shroud. This tasteless performance is thought by the neighbouring peasantry to resemble an old woman in a punch bowl.

Near Silsoe, formerly a market town, but now divested of that privilege, is

# WREST,

THE seat of the Baroness Lucas, daughter to the late Earl of Hardwicke and Lady Jemima Campbell. This was anciently the tesidence of the illustrious family of the Greys, Dukes of Kent; but the last duke dying without male issue, the estates descended to the Lady Jemima, his grand daughter. The house is of white stone, and was greatly improved by the Marchioness Grey, during her widowhood. It is ornamented with a great number of pictures. Among the portraits we shall only notice the following.



#### BEDFORDSHIRE.

MARY, QUEEN of Scots. This beautiful, but unfortunate, female is represented dressed in black; her head reclining in a pensive attitude on a table. The conduct of this giddy, but accomplished woman, has been a theme of considerable animadversion, and much controversy. She has been blamed to the extreme of virulence, and praised to the acme of panegyric; nor is the opinion of the world yet settled as to the degree of admiration or detestation in which her character should be held. The violence of her enemies has only been exceeded by the zeal of her friends; and she has at once been the idol of worship, and the fiend of abhorrence. The evidence in her favour has placed her actions in the most exalted light, where every error appears to be the offspring of extrinsic necessity, and every virtue, the emanation of interior goodness; while, on the other hand, the arguments to her discredit have considered the shades of hell as too bright to display the atrocity of a life where hypocrisy lurked under a sanctified veil, and adultery and midnight murder were the heralds of pleasure. Thus has her history been reduced to a chaos of contradictions, where consummate censure and unqualified praise so mingle in the discordant mass, that the utmost exertions of cultivated intellect are scarcely able to distinguish the suggestions of unadulterated truth from the ebullitions of malicious falsehood. It has been said, and not unaptly, that, of three histories of her life, written in the time nearest to the age in which she lived; Camden's, whose annals were revised and corrected by James the First, is almost wholly devoid of truth; that Buchanan's told the whole truth, and more than the truth; and that Melvil's related the truth, but not the whole truth. Whitaker of Manchester's narrative is probably superior to them all. Mary was beheaded in Fotheringhay Castle, Northamptonshire, on the eighth of February, 1587.

James the First, Anne of Denmark, and Henry their son. This is a very fine picture. James was a man of learning, and the author of several works. One of them is a discourse on Witchcraft. Another is entitled, A Counterblast against Tobacco.

This

This herb had been lately introduced into England, and his Majesty thought proper to warn his loving subjects against its pernicious and deleterious effects. Prince Henry died of a fever in the year 1613, much regretted by the nation.

LORD SOMERS. This celebrated and renowned statesman had a principal share in the conduct of the revolution in 1688. The probity of his heart seems manifested on his countenance.

PHILIP, DUKE of WHARTON. This eccentric nobleman was a man of eminent talent, as well as extraordinary versatility. Soon after the death of his father, the Marquis of Wharton, he went to Geneva, and thence to Lyons, where paying his court to the Pretender, the Chevalier de Saint George, he was received with expressions of great esteem, and was honored with the title of Duke of Northumberland. He returned to England at the latter end of the same year, and soon after went to Ireland, where his splendid abilities procured him the privilege of sitting in the house of peers, though still a minor. He exerted himself in support of the ministry, and was rewarded with his dukedom. When he came to England, he again changed sides, and opposed the court violently, till, at length, being ruined by his boundless profusion, he once more retired to the continent, where he attached himself to the interests of the Pretender, and, after various vicissitudes and adventures, died in 1731.

LADY RICH. This lady is represented arrayed in black, and very handsome. Waller wrote a poem on her death. This and the preceding picture, were purchased of the Duke of Wharton by Sir Robert Walpole, and afterwards sold to Lord Hardwicke. They were both painted by Vandyck.

LORD CHANCELLOR HARDWICKE, by Hoare of Bath. This very eminent English lawyer was born at Dover in 1690. After filling the respective stations of Solicitor and Attorney General, he was appointed Chief Justice of the King's Bench, and created a Peer. On the decease of Lord Talbot, in 1726, he was promoted to the office of Lord Chancellor, which he held 20 years. In these different situations, wherein the interests of so many jarring tempers are involved, his extreme impartiality acquired

him

him the esteem of all parties, and deservedly entitle him to the veneration of posterity. He was created Earl of Hardwicke in 1754.

PHILIP YORKE, the late Earl, son of the Chancellor: by Gainsborough.

Anabella, the good Countess of Kent, who, in the last century, redeemed and improved the estate during her son's minority.

SIR WILLIAM TEMPLE. This portrait was copied from Lely. The Knight is arrayed in a red vest; his long hair is black and flowing, his whiskers small. In his hand is the triple alliance, the greatest act of his patriotic life; but its utility was quickly frustrated by the profligate ministry of the times.

LADY JANE GRAY. The dress of this suffering innocent is a plain white cap, a handkerchief fastened under her arms, and a black gown. A book is in her hand. The talents and acquirements of this much injured lady were most uncommon. She was mistress of Greek and Latin, versed in Hebrew, Chaldee, Arabic, French, and Italian; skilled in Music, and excellent at her needle; and though possessed of all these accomplishments, was only 17 years of age, when the cruel policy of the bigotted Mary caused her to be beheaded.

SIR CHARLES LUCAS: by Dobson. A half length. Sir Charles is dressed in armour, with a fine sash, and long hair. This gentleman was put to death at Colchester, after the garrison had surrendered, for a reason that ought to have endeared him to a soldier, the vigorous defence to which he had excited the troops under his command.

In the passage is a most curious portrait of Lady Susan Grey, daughter of Charles, Earl of Kent, and wife to Sir Michael Longueville. She was a celebrated workwoman, and the dress in which she is drawn is said to be a wedding suit of her own making. This lady is fabled to have died in consequence of pricking her finger with her needle. She looks as pale as if the story were true. Her gown is finely flowered; her petticoat white, and striped; her robes lined with ermine; her veil, large and distended; her wedding ring hangs from her wrist by a silken string.

F 3

Secretary

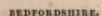
SECRETARY WALSINGHAM, in a quilled ruff; the active, penetrating, able, and faithful servant of Queen Elizabeth; the safeguard of her kingdom, as well as person. This patriot statesman was so attentive to the interests of his country, and so negligent of his own, as to die (1590) without leaving enough to defray his funeral expences.

The pleasure grounds were considerably improved by the plastic hand of Brown, whose skill in embellishing garden scenery is particularly displayed in the noble serpentine river, which forms a principal ornament in these grounds, that for beauty, prospect and extent, have been denominated the Stow of Bedfordshire. They abound with many fine large trees, and, like the gardens of Stow, in Buckinghamshire, have several architectural ornaments situated in various parts, as obelisks, temples, pantheon, &c. The taste of decorating gardens with such ostentatious objects prevailed in England about the time that these two, and Stourhead, in Wiltshire, were first laid out. The park abounds with wood, and contains a number of deer. In one part is a very fine obelisk, whose situation and height renders it conspicuous through a circuit of several miles.

About a mile and half west of this mangen, is the little village of FLITTON: in the church is the memorial of a very singular instance of longevity. On the floor, near the altar, is a figure, in brass, of an honest steward! a true Vellum in aspect. He appears dressed in a long cloak, trunk breeches, great ruff, and large night-cap. His name was Thomas Hill, a receivergeneral to three Earls of Kent. His character is recorded in these lines:

Aske how he lived, and you shall know his ende, He dyde a saint to God, to poore a friende. These lines men know doe truly of him story, Whom God hath called, and seated now in glory. He died May 26, 1601. Aged 128.

Adjoining to the church is the mausoleum of the Greys. This consists of a centre and four wings. In one is the tomb of Henry, the



the fifth Earl of Kent. He is described by Pennant, as a fiery zealot, who sat in judgment on Mary Stuart, and with true bigotry refused her the consolation of her almoner in her last hours. His brutality induced him to give a reluctant assent, to her request of having a few of her domestics to perform their final duties to their dying mistress.

Southward of Flitton is Pullox-Hill, where, in the beginning of the last century, a gold mine was supposed to have been discovered. This was seized for the king, and leased to a refiner. The first substance found beneath the common earth, appeared like a mixture of clay and iron ore, or smith's cinders, Beneath was a heavy yellowish metal, like talc. This was reported to contain the gold; but the produce being insufficient to defray the expences of working, it was quickly given up.

So faded Hope's gay dreams. The bubble burst, And all its splendors vanish'd into air.

Some distance from Wrest-House, on the south, is the village of HIGHAM-GOBION. This little obscure parish, containing almost as few houses as any in the county, is yet famous for being the rectory, retreat, and burial-place, of the great orientalist, Dr. EDMUND CASTELL. This learned divine was the author of the Lexicon Heptaglotton, and had a principal concern in the Polyglot Bible. He was born in 1606, at Hetley, in Cambridgeshire, and was educated at Emanuel College, whence he removed to St. John's. While at this university, he commenced his Lexicon, that memorable proof of his knowledge and industry. He was presented with the rectory of Higham-Gobion in 1663. In 1666 he was appointed King's chaplain, and Arabic professor at Cambridge; and two years afterwards, a prebendary of Canterbury. By intense application to study, he was first deprived of sight, and then of life, in the 68th year of his age. He was buried in the chancel, with an inscription, recording his learning, &c. engraven on a tablet of black marble, placed against the north wall. Thus perish the sons of science. Even the acquirement of knowledge, when pursued beyond the bounds of prudence, is as F4 . detrimental

detrimental to human existence, as the irrational conduct of the drunkard and the profligate.

### **SOUTH-HILL**

Is only remarkable from containing the seat of the Torrington family. In the church is the following inscription to the memory of the unfortunate Byng, who was sacrificed by an infamous ministry to appease the clamours of the people, and divert their attention from the misconduct of the government. He was shot at Portsmouth.

To the perpetual Disgrace of
Public Justice,
The Honourable John Byng,
Vice Admiral of the Blue,
Fell a Martyr to
Political Persecution
On March 14, in the Year 1757,
When Bravery and Loyalty
Were insufficient Securities
For the Life and Honour
Of a naval Officer.

#### NORTH-HILL.

THE church at this village, dedicated to St. Mary, was made collegiate in the reign of Henry the Fourth: and endowed for the support of a master, warden, and several fellows, by the executors of Sir John Trolly, Knight, and Reginald, his son, as a peace offering for their souls. Its revenues amounted to 611. 5s. 5d.

The painted window in this church is celebrated for having been the workmanship of Oliver. "A name," says Horace Walpole, "that can never be omitted when it occurs in any branch of the arts." We suppose he means without culogium; but the sentence is somewhat obscure. The window is over the communion table,



BEDFORDSHIRE.

table, at the east end of the chancel, under a Gothic arch, with ornaments at the top in stone-work. It is disposed in three compartments. The centre contains the arms of Charles the Second; the right-hand division, the arms of the Grocers' company, and of the master and second warden; and the compartment on the left, the arms of Lady Slaney, and of the third and fourth wardens, with the artist's name at the bottom. Beneath the motto, in the centre, is A. D. 1664, 16 Caroli II. and an inscription, purporting, that the window was glazed, and the chancel ceiled and beautified by the company of Grocers, who purchased the impropriation, and settled it for the sole benefit of the church, according to the trust and appointment of the memorable Lady Dame Margaret Slaney. The colors are still very perfect, and the whole in good preservation.

The windows of the RECTORY have been remarked by Mr. Arthur Young, in his Six Weeks' Tour, for being adorned with two small pieces of painted glass by the above artist, each containing a fly, so exquisitely executed, " as to exceed even the power of imagination to conceive." Unqualified praise, like fulsome panegyric, renders defects more striking. The flies are very naturally done, yet hardly worth the notice that has been taken of them. One is a common house fly, painted in the centre of a dial on very ordinary green glass; the other a larger fly, with two cherries before it in the middle of another dial, on the same kind of glass. The wings are painted on one side, and the body and legs on the other, which causes a deception. The dials bear the mottoes, " Dum spectus fugio," and " Sic transit gloria mundi." On the bottom of one of them is " John Oliver fecit;" and at the top, " 1664," When the artist executed the window for the company, it is probable that he gave the dials to the rector to ornament the different sides of his house, Paintings of this nature are not uncommon. We have seen one exceedingly well represented in the dining-room window of Mr. Harold, Bookseller, at Marlborough; and others in various places. The rectory at North-Hill has been lately rebuilt, and the above paintings are now lying useless.

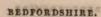
WARDEN ABBEY, seated nearly midway between the two latter places, was formerly a very extensive and considerable monastery; but the destroying hand of Time has nearly demolished it: two rooms, and a staircase, are the only parts which remain perfect. It was founded, in 1135, by Walter Espec for Cistercian Monks. At the dissolution, its revenues were valued at 389l. 16s. 6d. per annum. The estate was purchased by the late Samuel Whitbread, Esq. who was very desirous of preserving the ancient remains. Some curious figured stones, subterranean passages, &c. have been discovered at different times, as the earth has been dug away in the vicinity of the ruins.

# **BIGGLESWADE**

Is agreeably situated on the river Ivel, which has been made navigable to the town by act of parliament. Coals, timber, and oats, are the principal commodities brought by the stream for the supply of this place and its neighbourhood.

This is a large and increasing town: its situation on the north foad has contributed to augment its population; and the continual passage of travellers has added to its prosperity and wealth. An extensive market, and four annual fairs, have still further increased its affluence, by furnishing opportunity for the ready disposal of its productions; and also, from the expenditure of the influx of strangers, which the above privileges have drawn within its circle.

Of its ancient history no particulars have come to our knowledge. The origin of but very few towns can be distinguished with certainty; the meagre records of our forefathers having mostly perished in the numerous revolutions, and storms of civil war, which the malignant passions of the human heart have, at times, brought upon our country. Neither is the increase of residences always noted. Hamlets become villages, and villages become towns, by insensible degrees. By slow and gradual operation, the conveniencies of man are multiplied; nor are we regardful of the change, till the intermediate stages are passed, and the mind, by a sudden effort, recurs to the distant period, when certain



certain things were not in existence, which are now congregated round us, and wonders at the greatness of the alterations.

The parish includes the small hamlets of Stratton and Holme. The number of inhabitants is computed at 1700. The church, an ancient and strong edifice, was built in the year 1230. It was formerly collegiate, and several stalls are still remaining. Being of exempt jurisdiction, the parishioners are free tenants, and all have equal rights to any of the seats. Thus should it ever be. In the sight of God, all distinctions are levelled, but those which derive origin from the opposite states of vice and virtue. Man is incompetent to determine to whom the meed is due; subordinate relations, therefore, should ever be laid aside in places consecrated to religious worship, wherein the presence of the Deity, who acknowledges no supremacy but in goodness, is supposed to be more immediately diffused. For this privilege, however, the inhabitants are constrained to repair or rebuild the church when necessary. The vicarage is worth about 1501. per annum.

In this town are two charity schools, a Baptist meeting-house, several good inns for the accommodation of travellers, and a small manufactory of white thread lace and edging. The King is lord of the manor.

The most considerable alteration that Biggleswade has undergone of late years, arose from a terrible fire, which raged for some hours with unceasing fury. One hundred and fifty dwelling-houses were laid in ashes, besides corn-chambers, malt-houses, &c. all in the centre of the town, round the market-place. The damages were estimated at 24,000l. Biggleswade is indebted for its present improved appearance to this accident; the houses having been mostly rebuilt with brick, and agreeable to the modern taste.

On the 25th of February, 1792, a smart shock of an earthquake was felt here, about half past eight in the morning. It lasted several seconds, threw down some old houses, and much alarmed the inhabitants, though no lives were lost. The shock was felt northwards as far as Doncaster, whence it extended to the sea-coast of Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. At a short distance south-east of Biggleswade, is the manor of Stratton. In June, 1770, as a Carter was ploughing the land pretty deep, he discovered a yellow earthen pot, containing 300 gold coins of Henry the Sixth. They were a little larger than a half crown; yet being thin, were not equal by 20 grains to the weight of a guinea. On the front was represented a ship, with the king in armour holding a sword and a shield, on which were France and England quarterly; on the side of the ship was a lion passant between two fleurs de lis. On the reverse was a cross, between four lions passant, crowned.

#### **POTTON**

Is a flourishing market-town of considerable extent, and pleasantly situated on the borders of the county adjoining Cambridgeshire. It is well watered by small rivulets; though the soil for some distance around is sandy and barren. It is a singular circumstance, that this town was burnt on the same day as the fire above mentioned broke out at Biggleswade. Tents were erected for the inhabitants in the neighbouring fields, under which they remained till better residences could be prepared for their reception.

#### SUTTON

Was the ancient seat and royalty of the famous John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, third son of Edward the Third. It was bequeathed to the family of Sir Roger Burgoyne by the following laconic will, said to be still preserved in the arches' court, Doctors Commons.

I, John of Gaunt,
Do give and do grant
Unto Roger Burgoyne,
And the Heirs of his Loin,
Both Sutton and Potton
Until the World's rotten.

These



These rhyming grants appear to have been very common in former ages, many specimens of this mode of transfer being still extant. It is well for the honorable fraternity of lawyers, that the practice did not continue. The brevity of the style would have prevented litigation; and the meaning of the donors, thus unincumbered with words, would have been too clear to have generated contention.

The celebrated Bishop Stillingfleet was inducted to this living in the year 1657, and here he wrote his "Origines Sacræ, or, A Rational Account of the Grounds and Necessity of revealed Religion:" a work esteemed as one of the best defences of revelation ever written.

# SANDY, or SALNDY,

ABOUT three miles north of Biggleswade, is a place of great antiquity, being one of the two cities which Ptolemy describes as situated in the country of the Cattieuchlani. Verulam (now St. Albans) was the other. Salanæ is said to have been also a station of the Romans; and this is rendered very probable from vast quantities of coins, and other antiquities, found in the vicinity. Mr. Aubrey mentions glass urns, and one of red earth, like coral, with an inscription, that were discovered here; and also some coins found in Chester-field, a ground which adjoins the town, and is occupied by gardeners. At a small distance is GALLY HILL, the Roman fortress. About thirty acres are here enclosed with a rampart and a ditch. The form is irregular, being adapted to the summit of the hill, in the fortifying of which, Nature has herself been liberal. The north and east make two sides of a square; the west juts out towards the river Ivel, which flows by the town. In the middle is a tumulus; and at some distance, across a valley, is a place called Casar's Camp. Several acres at GALLY HILL have been broken, and thrown into small hillocks; by some supposed to be the remains of the foundations of a city, but more probably occasioned by digging for stone, to make the road from the ford of the Ivel to Bedford.

The parish of Sandy has been long famous for the production of great quantities of vegetables; the whole country, for many miles round, being supplied with garden-stuff from this quarter. Above 150 acres of land are constantly cultivated with the minor articles of human subsistence, such as carrots, turnips, parsnips, French beans, cucumbers, &c. The soil is a rich, loose, black sand, 2 or 3 feet in depth; protected from adverse winds by several considerable hills. Carrots, at a medium, yield 200 bushels an acre; potatoes, 250; parsnips about half the latter number, and other articles in proportion.

# PODINGTON, OR PUDDINGTON,

Is nearly thirteen miles north-west of Bedford, on the borders of Northamptonshire. The parish extends about three miles from north to south, and one mile and a half from east to west. It comprises two villages, or hamlets; that of Puddington, and that of Hinwick. The former contains about 50 houses, and 300 inhabitants; the latter about 20 houses, and 110 inhabitants.

The church is dedicated to Saint Mary. It is built of stone, covered with lead, and consists of a body and two sisles. In the north aisle is a neat monument in memory of Major General John Livesay, who died the 23d of February, in the year 1717.

In the reign of Henry the Eighth, the vicar of Puddington was hung at Woburn, with the abbot of that monastery, for withstanding the measures of the imperious Monarch. The parish is inclosed. Under the bill of Inclosure, 151 acres and 7 poles were allowed to the vicar in lieu of tythes. Most of the women and children are employed in making bone and thread lace: in some instances this business appears to be too sedentary for the preservation of health. The interest of 100l. was given, by the late Dr. James Johnson, to purchase books of devotion for the use of the poor of this and three other parishes. The manorhouse is now in the occupation of a farmer. Near it, on the north, a rising ground, surrounded with a double entrenchment, appears to have been the site of a nobler structure.

The

The parish contains two large mansions. One of them, called Hinwick-Hall, has a handsome front on the east, built by General Livesay, 97 feet long, with a porch 12 feet square, carried up in a turret, in which is a clock: over it is a neat, light, airy cupola, with a bell: each side of the porch, and end of the house, is faced with a Corinthian pilaster. Within it is a portrait of General Livesay, a full length of Lady Clarges, by Vandyck, and some good fruit and flower pieces. The other belongs to the Orlebar family, and was built about 1710. The library contains a good collection of books, particularly in the French and Italian languages, the Cartulary of the Canons-Ashby, and another relating to Wimmington. Over the hall-door, on the east front, are the Orlebar arms impaling Astrey's. The pediment of the south front is ornamented with the figure of Diana in her carriage, drawn by stags, &c.

A small brook rises just above the village, over which is a stone bridge, built by Mr. Orlebar in 1779, consisting of 3 arches. A small wood in the parish is called Guorong, a name so like Guorongus, a British chieftain, under Vortigern, that if there were any corroborating circumstances, it would induce one to suppose this might be part of his possessions.

The country for some miles round may be denominated hilly; yet all the hills are gentle, regular ascents, the tops of which are clay, or wood-land, with clay under a shallow staple. The lands about the town are firm and fertile; barren at a distance, and somewhat boggy in the vallies. They contain a mixture of wood, arable, pasture, and meadow: the latter comparatively small, lying only on a little brook. The arable is varied at the pleasure of the tenant, who is nevertheless supposed to keep near one third part laid down with grass seeds. Very little of the pasture or wold remains; and even some of the old enclosure is converted into tillage. The produce is wheat, barley, peas, oats, a few turnips, cole-seed, tares, rye-grass, trefoil, and broad clover.

Between Puddington and Hinwick, is a pond, called Spring Pond, which has something of a petrifying quality. The clay, or dirt, removed in clearing the spring-head, has become, when exposed to the air, concreted, rough, and white, something like petrified moss. Several stone and clay pits are in the neighbourhood, and a considerable pit of sandy gravel. In many of these pits are stones, that seemingly consist of very small shells. Ostroites and Belemnitæ are common. In the gravel-pit one of the turbinitæ has been found.

The most thriving timber is the oak, the ash, and the elm. Beech trees have been planted, but with little success. Canary birds are frequently seen in the hedges: they are supposed to have escaped from an aviary, and to have bred in the woods.

# MISCELLANEOUS.

In almost every account of Bedfordshire that has yet been published, the authors have inserted a variety of particulars relative to the Isatis Tinctoria, or WOAD; formerly, universally cultivated in this county; but now, as we can assure our readers, on the very respectable authority of the Reverend Thomas Orlebar Marsh,\* (Vicar of Stevington, near Bedford, and F. L. S.) is not to be found in it! With the tincture of this plant, the ancient Britons used to stain their bodies; in order, according to the repeated assertions of historians, to render themselves frightful to their enemies when in battle. That this was the sole reason of the practice, however, may, in our opinion, be successfully controverted. Casar, indeed, observes, that the custom of the Britons, in dying their bodies with woad, gave them a horrible appearance in war; yet, as he has no where said, that its use was restricted to the season of tumult and bloodshed; and as both Pliny and Pomponius Mes mention the practice, without regarding it as of distinct application, we are as fully warranted in attributing it to

<sup>\*</sup> This gentleman has been long employed in making collections on that subject for a Natural History of this County; and is daily adding to his stock of information. Where diligent research is united with accurate investigation, a work as nearly perfect as human wisdom will admit, is the assured result.

the operation of different causes, as to the effect of one only. Whether our forefathers stained their bodies with the juice of woad as a preparation for religious solemnities, as a means of striking their foes with terror, or for the purpose of ornament, we believe it to be impossible to ascertain.

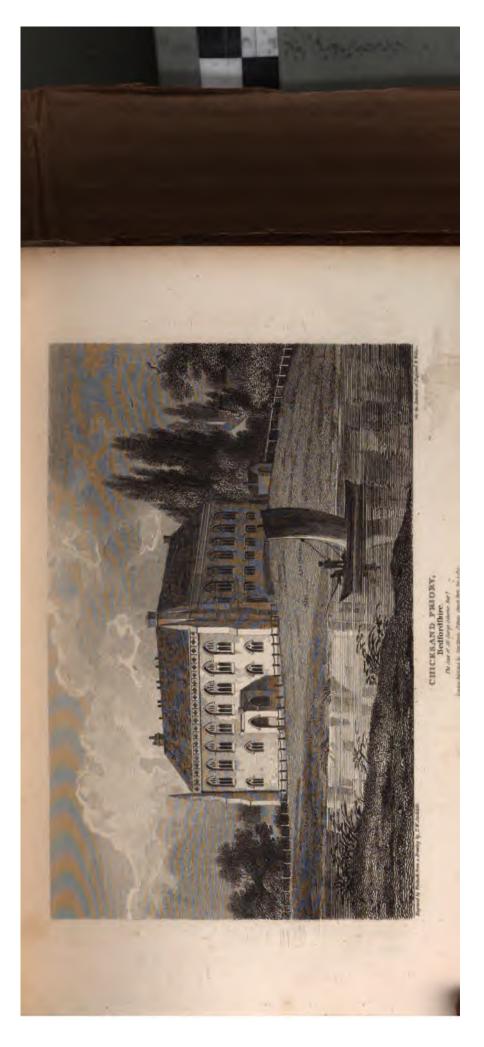
Walsingham relates a singular circumstance concerning the river Ouse, which, on the 1st of January, in the year 1399, suddenly ceased to flow between the villages of Snelson and Harrold, near Bedford, leaving its channel so bare of water, that people walked at the bottom of it for full three miles. Various explications have been given of this remarkable phænomenon; but the opinion that it was a portent of the divisions and dire wars, which the claims of the rival houses of York and Lancaster shortly afterwards occasioned, seems to have obtained most credit in that age of superstitious credulity. Dr. Childrey endeavours to account for it, by supposing that the stream upward was congealed by a sudden frost; yet very little consideration enables us to determine that this conjecture is untenable. What the real cause was, cannot, perhaps, at this distance of time, be discovered; but as the reasons hitherto assigned have proved unsatisfactory, we shall offer a suggestion that appears to us more deserving of belief: Might not the earth have sunk in some part of the channel, and admitted the waters into an extensive cavity, which having filled, the river assumed its course, and again flowed within its accustomed bed?

In the twenty-eighth volume of the Transactions of the Royal Society, Dr. Slare relates that his grandfather, who was a gentleman of this county, had all his teeth strong and firm at the age of 80, and that within five years afterwards he had a new set. His hair also, which had grown white about this time, became much darker; and he remained in good health and strength to the hundredth year of his age, and even then died in consequence of fullness of blood. These singular events the doctor attributes to the frequent use of sugar, of which his relation was a great eater.

Vol. I. G Mr.

. Mr. NICHOLAS ROWE, a poet and dramatist, was born at Little Beckford, in this county, in the year 1673. His family possessed a considerable estate in Devonshire; the revenue of which appears to have been fully equal to the ambition of his ancestors, but not to the wishes of his father, who was the first that quitted his paternal acres to practise an art of profit: his profession was the law, of which he was made sergeant. His son Nicholas was educated at Westminster, under the famous Dr. Busby, who never suffered the talents of his pupils to lie idle. At the age of 16 he was entered a student of the Middle Temple. where, though he attained considerable proficiency in the law, by studying it as "a system of rational government and impartial justice, rather than a series of precedents or collection of positive precepts," he paid more attention to the muses, and at length abandoned the courts altogether. His first production was the Ambitious Stepmother, which was received with so much favor, that his hours from that time were wholly devoted to elegant literature. He wrote several tragedies, and one comedy: of the former, the Fair Penitent and Jane Shore are in most estimation; in the latter (the Biter) he failed so ignominiously, that it has not been inserted in any edition of his works. Dr. Johnson termed his translation of Lucan's Pharsalia one of the greatest productions of English poetry; and asserts, that it will be more esteemed as it is more read. Rowe was willing to improve his fortune by other arts than poetry. He held several places under government: and, on the accession of George the First, was made Poet Laurent, and promoted to several distinguished offices. He died in the year 1718, and was buried in Westminster Abbey.





# BERKSHIRE.

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THOUGH the delineation of British and Roman geography has frequently engaged the attention and application of antiquaries, yet the task of fully establishing the situation of the contested features, seems to have been reserved for the superior discrimination of Mr. Whitaker, by whose labours the scattered rays of information on this subject have been drawn into one focus; and the light thus concentrated, has been no less happily than skilfully used to dispel the gloom which enwrapt the geographical records of former ages.

BERKSHIRE, this gentleman informs us, in his History of Manchester, was inhabited by three nations or tribes, respectively termed Attrebates, Bibroces or Rhemi, and Segontiaci. This account is corroborated by the derivations given by Mr. Owen in the second volume of the Cambrian Register, by which it appears, that the name of each nation had its origin from the general state or characteristical appearance of the country in the immediate vicinity of their abodes.

Thus, the ATTREBATES, who occupied nearly the whole of the western parts of Berkshire, from the Lodden on the southeast, the curving banks of the Thames on the north-west and west, and the hills of East-Ilsley, Lamborn, and Ashbury, on the south, would be so denominated from the roots Attrev, and Attrevad; words descriptive of habitations bordering on a river, on woods, or upon any range of hills, as was the case with the residences of these people. The Bibroces, who occupied the south-eastern part of the county, from the Lodden on the west to the Thames on the east, would derive that appellation from Pau Bróg, or their compounds, signifying, a district covered with tufts of wood, brakes, or thickets. And lastly, the Segontiaci, who inhabited a portion of the south of Berkshire, about the

upper banks of the Kennet, and the north of Hampshire, were so called from Isgwent, Isgwentwg, or Isgwentog, words implying the lower Gwent, and descriptive of open downs.

When the Romans divided their conquests into provinces, this county was included in the first division, named BRITANNIA PRIMA. During the heptarchy, it constituted part of the kingdom of the West Saxons; and thus continued till the whole island was incorporated into one sovereignty, and named ENGLAND.

In the Saxon chronicles this county is termed Berrocshire, which Asser Menevensis derives from the name of a wood abounding in box; the remains of which, according to the opinion of Mr. Wise, were grubbed up so lately as 65 years since, at a place named Box-Grove, in the parish of Sulham, near Reading.

The shape of BERKS has been compared, though somewhat fantastically, to that of a sandal or slipper, but it certainly is too irregular to admit of comparison. On the north lie the shires of Oxford and Buckingham; on the east it is bounded by Surry; on the south by Hampshire; and on the west by Wilt-The north-western corner just unites with a part of Gloucestershire. In the estimation of its size there is much variation. Some have computed its length at 39 miles, and its breadth at 29; others at 42 by 29; but more accurately, its greatest extent, from east to north-west, may be estimated at 48 miles; and its breadth, in the widest part from north to south, about 25; though little more than 6 in the narrowest, near Reading. Its circumference is between 130 and 140 miles. It contains about 530,000 acres, 20 hundreds, 12 market-towns, 140 parishes, 62 vicarages, 671 villages, about 16,900 houses, and nearly 110,000 inhabitants.

The western and middle parts are commonly regarded as the most fertile. The eastern is principally occupied by Windsor Forest and its appendages, and contains a very great proportion of uncultivated ground. A range of chalk hills, entering the county from Oxfordshire, crosses it in a westerly direction, and bounds the celebrated Vale of White Horse. The face of the county is agreeably varied with gentle eminences, and the scenery

partakes

<sup>\*</sup> See Letter to Dr. Mead on some Berkshire Antiquities.

partakes of that peculiar character which writers on the picturesque have termed beautiful. The soil is, generally, fruitful; and the cultivated parts produce abundance of excellent grain, particularly barley, of which vast quantities are made into malt, and sent to the metropolis. On the grass lands in the vale are many good dairy farms, with the refuse of which numerous swine are fattened. The county is well stocked with timber, particularly with oak and beech in the western parts, and in Windsor Forest, which also abounds with wild fowl and other game.

The open and common fields of Berkshire are estimated at half the extent of the county; and the proportion of waste lands is also very great. The forest of Windsor, Maidenhead-thicket, Tylehurst-heath, Wickham-heath, and the numerous commons that are to be found in all directions, contain, without exaggeration, upwards of 40,000 acres; which, in their present wild and uncultivated state, are of very little benefit to the community.

But very few manufactures are carried on in this county, the majority of the people being employed in the various branches of agriculture. In the meadows in the vicinity of Newbury, many of the laboring class procure a livelihood by digging peat for fuel, the ashes of which constitute a good manure, and are reserved to meliorate, and strew upon, the land.

The rivers of Berkshire are the Thames, the Kennet, the Lamborn, the Ock, and the Lodden. The first of these, the majestic Thames, is undoubtedly the most eminent of British streams. The splendid and ever-varied scenery that decorates its shores, the magnificent residences by which its current glides, and the animating theatres of British heroism and liberty through which it flows, are all calculated to awaken those emotions of the heart which lead to reflection and to virtue. The genius of the poet has been often exercised in weaving wreaths for the god who is fabled to preside over the waves of this celebrated river; but no chaplet that we have seen, however the roses of Parnassus may have been entwined to increase its luxuriance, is equal to the beautiful picture which Mr. Pope has presented us with in his Windsor Forest.

From his oozy hed Old father THAMES advanc'd his rev'rend head; His tresses dropp'd with dews, and o'er the stream His shining horns diffus'd a golden gleam: Grav'd on his urn appear'd the moon, that guides, His swelling waters, and alternate tides; The figur'd streams in waves of silver roll'd, And on her banks Augusta, rob'd in gold; Around his throne the sea-born brothers stood, Who swell with tributary urns his flood: First the fam'd authors of his ancient name, The winding Isis and the fruitful Thame; The Kennet swift, for silver eels renown'd; The Lodden slow, with verdant alders crown'd; Cole, whose dark streams his flow'ry islands lave; And chalky Wey, that rolls a milky wave; The blue transparent Vandalis appears; The gulphy Lee his sedgy tresses rears; And sullen Mole, that hides his diving flood; And silent Darent, stain'd with Danish blood.

The name of this river has occasioned many altercations; and though the general opinion has long been, that it does not receive the appellation of Thames till after its union with the Thame of Oxfordshire, yet this is evidently founded in error; for the former word is found in several charters granted to the Abbey of Malmsbury, and likewise in some old deeds belonging to Cricklade, both of which places are in Wiltshire. But the most decisive proof is contained in a charter granted to the abbot Aldheim, where particular mention is made of certain lands upon the east part of the river, "Cujus vocabulum Temis juxta vadum qui appellatur Summerford;" i. e. whose name is Thames, near the ford called Summerford; and as this place is in Wiltshire, it is manifest that the river was named Temis, or Tems, in the uppermost part of its course; and long before its junction with the Thame. This evidence, which is inserted on the authority of Mr. Gough, was unknown to Camden, who imagines the term to be a compound, and has given considerable extracts in his Britannia from a fanciful poem, entitled the MARRIAGE of the THAME and Isis, of which he is said to be the author. From this piece,

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the idea of the passage above quoted from Pope is evidently derived.

The whole of the northern side of Berks is bounded by the beautiful windings of this river, which divides it from Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. It enters the county about a mile south of Lechlade; and in its progress waters the several towns of Abingdon, Wallingford, Reading, Henley, Maidenhead, Windsor, &c. and having received the homage of various tributary streams, soon afterwards flows between the confines of Surry and Middlesex.

The Kennet enters the county at Hungerford, and passing Newbury, laves the rich meadows on the south with divided streams; then flowing through Reading, gently winds among the adjacent meadows, and unites its waters with the Thames. "It is remarkable," says Mr. Gough, "that at Caversham, those wells, between which and the Thames the Kennet has its course, rise and fall with the Thames, not with the Kennet. Hence it is argued, that the bed of the Thames is much lower than that of the Kennet, and detaches its springs under the bed of the latter."

The LAMBORN rises near the town of that name, and, after a short course of eleven miles, falls into the Kennet about one mile below Newbury. This small river has been much celebrated for a circumstance that seems to have no foundation in truth; we mean the story of its being always fuller in summer than in winter. The various ways of accounting for this fancied peculiarity, forcibly remind us of the question concerning the weight of a salmon, which Charles the Second is said to have proposed to the Royal Society.\* Some very ingenious hypotheses have been G4 invented

\* "What is the reason," said the witty Monarch, "why a dead salmon is heavier than a living one?" When the day arrived on which the question was to be solved, the King himself attended to hear the arguments. A learned dissertation was read, in which much physical, and more metaphysical, reasoning was displayed, to account for the well known phænomenon. But equal ingenuity was exerted to invalidate those arguments, and establish another hypothesis in place of the first. This was again refuted in its turn, and the debate waxed warm, without any indications being given that they were ever likely to come

invented to explain the cause of its waters failing in the winter season; and one of them is particularly curious. It has been supposed that the hill whence the water issues, contains a large cavity, with a duct, in the form of a syphon or crane, and that the rain which falls in the autumn or winter season, having filled this extensive reservoir, the water continues to flow through the duct, till it sinks beneath that foot of the syphon which is inserted in the cavity, and that the current then ceases till its exhausted source is replenished by the rains. If the subject was of sufficient importance to be interesting, it might be asked, why, if this hypothesis be true, the bed of the river is not entirely emptied every time the water sinks beneath the foot of the syphon? Where a position is controverted by one argument, it would be childish to offer more. The fact is, the current of the river is nearly the same at all times; and the reason why the stream does not materially increase in winter, seems to arise from the paucity of neighbouring eminences, by which alone the current would be swelled from the torrents poured into its bosom.

The Ock derives its source from the Vale of White Horse, near Kingston-Lisle, and flowing by the side of Abingdon, unites its waters with the Thames.

The LODDEN rises near Bagshot-rails, and passing Oakingham, receives several small streams from the eastern extremity of the county, and empties itself into the Thames near Wargrave.

Berkshire is in the diocese of Salisbury, in the Oxford circuit. It sends nine members to parliament; viz. two for the shire; two for Reading, two for Wallingford, two for New Windsor, and one for Abingdon; pays eleven parts of the Land-tax, and supplies the militia with 560 men. The Lent assizes, and the Epiphany county

to a conclusion. At length, a grave member, who had hitherto taken no share in the dispute, arose, and addressed the president with these words; "Sir, I beg leave humbly to doubt the fact; and, therefore, I move that all further arguments on this head be suspended until the fact shall be proved to the satisfaction of this society, by the undoubted evidence of clear and satisfactory experiment." "Aye," said the King, smiling, "had you begun with this, you might have saved yourselves a great deal of trouble; but at the same time you would have deprived me of a luxurious entertainment."

county sessions, are constantly held at Reading; the Easter sessions at Newbury; the Summer assizes at Abingdon; and the Michaelmas sessions alternately at Abingdon and Reading.

## READING,

The principal town in this county, is supposed by Camden to have derived its name from the great quantities of fern that grew in its neighbourhood, and in the language of the ancient Britons, was called Redyng. This etymology gathers strength from the circumstance of the town being generally denominated Reddynge at the time when the above celebrated antiquary compiled his Britannia. The modern way of spelling the word is evidently corrupt.

The origin of this town is shrouded in the mist which the lapse of ages has generated to infold the records of history. Whether it was a British settlement previous to the Roman invasion, or whether it then only was first inhabited, the meagre pages of antiquity are insufficient to enable us to determine. Dr. Salmon, indeed, has asserted, that it is the SPENCE of the Itinerary; and, to establish his opinion, refers to its situation at the confluence of two rivers, and also to its distance from the other stations, which, according to his system, perfectly agree with the numbers of Antoninus. The statements of this gentleman, however, cannot always be depended on, unless they are strengthened by the arguments of other writers; for he commenced his undertaking with two fundamental errors, which ruined and perverted his whole design." "First, that the itinerary miles were the same as the modern computed miles, and that they had remained invariably the same from the Roman times to the present. Second, that the great roads, so visibly strait, and raised all over the kingdom, had no connection with the routes of the itinerary." The conclusions deduced from such incorrect data can never be deserving of implicit confidence.

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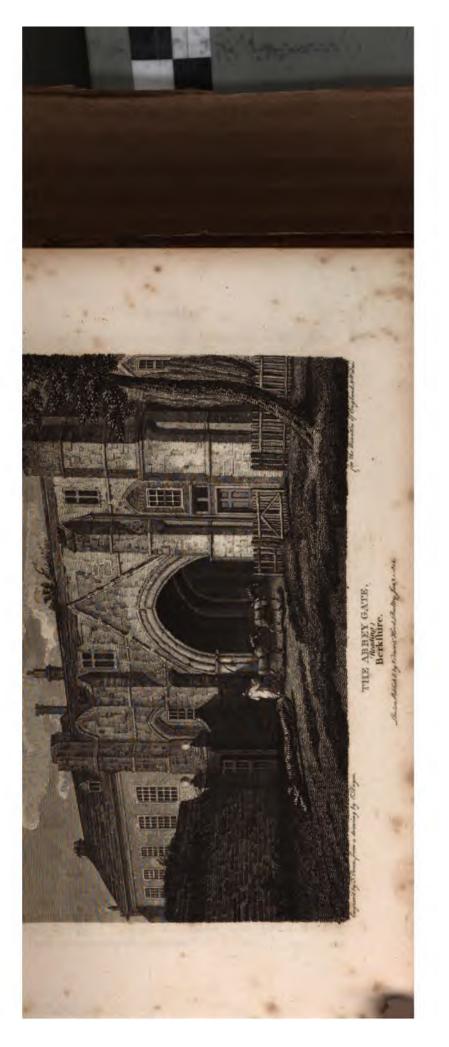
<sup>\*</sup> See Introduction to Gough's Camden.

This town has certainly claims to high antiquity, though its origin is unknown. It was inhabited by the Saxons many years before the piratical Danes began to pour out the vial of destruction upon the fertile plains of Britain: and it appears clearly, from the observations prefixed by Hearne to Browne Willis's Account of the Mitred Abbeys, + that two Castles have at different times been crected and destroyed in this neighbourhood, though neither walls nor fortifications are now remaining. The first stood on the spot where King Henry founded the abbey, part of which was constructed with the ruins of the fortress. Asser Menevensis relates, that the Danes, who were in possession of the town, retreated to this castle after their defeat at Englefield, by Ethelwulf. The other was raised by the usurper Stephen, and demolished by the orders of his successor, Henry the Second. Where it was situated is uncertain; though the term Castle-Street seems to imply that it was near the spot thus denominated; yet, as mere entrenchments of earth have frequently received the apellations of Castle-Hill, and Castle-Field, this cannot be regarded as satisfactory.

Elfrida, the mother-in-law of Edward the Martyr, as he was styled by the courtesy of the monks, founded several religious houses, in expiation of the base murder of that prince, who was sacrificed from her desire of placing her own son Ethelred on the throne. Among these monuments of her guilt and penitence, was a numery in this town, built on the spot that is now occupied by St. Mary's church. The numery was suppressed on the endowment of the abbey, and its revenues appropriated to the use of that foundation.

The abbey was a very magnificent structure, founded by Henry the First, for the maintenance of 200 Benedictine monks, and the refreshment of travellers. The building was begun in the year 1121, and compleated in 1125. The charter recites, that "The abbeys of Reading, Chelsey, and Leominster, having been destroyed for their sins, and their possessions fallen into the hands of the laity, the King, with the advice of his prelates, &c. had built a new monastery at Reading, and endowed it with the monasteries

\* Lelanda Collectanes, Vol. VI.





monasteries of Reading, Chelsey, and Leominster, together with their appurtenances of woods, fields, pastures, &c. with exemption from all tolls, duties, customs, and contributions." Besides these privileges, the abbot and monks were invested with the power of trying criminals, and entrusted, generally, with the conservation of the peace in the town and neighbourhood. In return for these extensive grants, the monks, by an obligation in the charter, were to provide the poor and all travellers with necessary entertainment. William of Malmsbury testifies, that the latter part of their duty was so well performed, that there was always more expended upon strangers than upon themselves. This was a mitred abbey; or, in other words, the abbot had the privilege of sitting in parliament.

The above gifts were not the whole that the munificent piety of the Monarch bestowed on the abbey of Reading. By some means, which history has neglected to register, he became possessed of the hand of St. James the apostle; or, at least, had been so induced to believe by the subtlety of the monks. This sacred rarity he deposited in the monastery, which, according to one assertion, recorded in the Monasticon, he founded "præ gaudio manus." Henry the Second confirmed the grants of all the preceding benefactors,

Though the monastery was finished in the year 1125, it does not appear that the church was consecrated till 1163, or 1164, when the famous Archbishop Becket performed that ceremony in the presence of the King and many of the nobility. On that occasion, the tutelars of the abbey were increased by the addition of the Holy Trinity and St. James the apostle. The church is said to have been a spacious fabric, in the form of a cross, with a tower in the centre, but without aisles.

By

<sup>\*</sup> The custom of summoning to parliament commenced in the 49th year of the reign of Henry the Third. It was afterwards the practice of our Kings to call up as many abbots and priors as they thought proper, so that there was sometimes a less and sometimes a greater number summoned. This mode at length being found inconvenient, the number was limited, and the privilege bestowed on particular places only. The abbots thus dignified were said to be MITARD. The limitation continued till the dissolution.

By the deed of Hugh, the eighth abbot, we are informed that the obligation to relieve the poor, contained in the foundation charter, was not always fulfilled. The abbot observes, that, "Whereas King Henry had appointed all persons to be entertained there, yet he found that the same was performed in decent manner towards the rich, but not according to the King's intention towards the poor, which miscarriage he, as steward to that noble charity, was resolved to correct." For this reason he built an hospital without the abbey gate, that those persons who were not admitted to the upper house might be there entertained. To this hospital he gave the church of St. Laurence for ever, for the maintenance of 13 poor persons in diet, clothes, and other necessaries, and allowed sufficient for the support of 13 others out of the usual alms. "This," Grose observes in his Antiquities, "though done under the specious pretence of charity, was, in all likelihood, only a method taken to exclude the meaner persons from the table

\* From the following story related in Fuller's Church History, it would seem that the devotions of the abbots were neither exclusively directed to the feeding of the poor, nor to the obtaining of spiritual grace.

Henry the Eighth having been hunting in Windsor Forest, struck down about dinner time to the abbey of Reading, where, disguising himself as one of the King's guard, he was invited to the abbot's table. Here, his tooth being whetted by the keen air of the forest, he fed so lustily on a sir loin of beef, that his vigorous appetite was noticed by the master of the ceremonies. "Well fare thy heart," quoth the abbot. " I would give a hundred pounds if I could feed so heartily on beef as thou dost. Alas! my weak and squeazie stomach will hardly digest the wing of a rabbit or chicken." The Monarch, having satisfied his palate, thanked the abbot for his good cheer, and departed undiscovered. Some weeks afterwards the abbot was arrested, conveyed to London, sent to the Tower, and allowed no food for several days but bread and water. This treatment, together with his fears for the consequence of the King's displeasure, soon removed the effects of repletion, and at last, when a sir loin was one day placed before him, he eat as freely as a famished ploughman. When he had finished his meal, the King, who had been a hidden spectator, burst from his concealment. " My lord," said the laughing Monarch, "presently deposit your hundred pieces in gold, or else no going hence all the days of your life. I have been the physician to cure your squeazie stomach; and now, as I deserve, demand my fee for so doing." The abbot, knowing that argument was of no avail with the stern Harry, paid the money, and returned home, rejoicing that he had escaped so easily.

table of the abbey, which was often frequented by travellers of the better sort." This conjecture seems to be well founded; for the prelates and nobility were too haughty to admit of that general association with the lower classes, which the conditions of the establishment must otherwise have occasioned.

This abbey was the burial-place of many illustrious persons. The body of the founder, who died near Rouen, in Normandy, in the year 1135, was embalmed, brought to England, and here deposited; but his heart, eyes, tongue, brains, and bowels, were interred beneath a handsome monument in the church of Notre Dame at Rouen. Sandford asserts, that when the monastery was converted into a royal palace at the dissolution, the bones of the Monarch were disturbed, and thrown out. This relation, which never obtained general belief, was supposed, by some antiquaries, to be entirely refuted in the year 1787, when an ancient coffin was found in a vault on digging the foundation of the county goal, which has lately been erected on the site of the abbey. Henry the First is said to have been buried in a bull's hide; and as the coffin contained the remains of a slipper, and a piece of brass, it was at once conjured into the depositary wherein the monarch's body had been laid. With what slender materials does Credulity erect her temples!

History has particularized two councils that were held here. One in the reign of John, by Pandulph, the Pope's legate, when the abbot was appointed a delegate for promulgating the sentence of excommunication against the barons who opposed the King's assumption of arbitrary power. The other in the time of Edward the First, by Archbishop Peckham. In the refectory (84 feet long by 48 feet wide) the parliament, assembled in the 31st of Henry the Sixth, is supposed to have been held.

The annual revenues of the abbey at the period of the dissolution were valued at 1938l. 14s. 3d. a proof that its possessions were hardly inferior to any in England. Hugh Farringdon, the 31st, and last abbot, was attainted of high treason, for refusing to deliver up his abbey to the visitors; and in the month of November, 1539, was, together with two of his monks, named Rugg and Onion, hanged, drawn and quartered at Reading.

This extensive building appears to have occupied a circumference of nearly half a mile; but nothing remains except fragments of massive walls, composed of flint and gravel, and a gatehouse. The depredations of time, and the more destructive
power of superstition and bigotry, have levelled its glories with
the dust. The walls are eight feet thick in some parts, and were
formerly cased with stone; but this has been long removed. The
hospital for the poor knights at Windsor was built soon after the
Reformation with some of the ruins; and many large masses,
several of them as much as two team of horses could draw, were
carried away by the late General Conway, to erect that singular
bridge in his park, which is thrown across the high road leading
from Henley to Walgrave.

Ausgerus, or Aucherius, the second abbot, founded a house for poor lepers near the church. This was dedicated to Mary Magdalen, and governed by regulations admirably adapted to the preservation of good order. If any person was engaged in dispute, and neglected to obey the third monition of the master to hold his peace, he was deprived for that day of every kind of food but bread and water. He who gave the lie was subjected to the same punishment, with the addition of some humiliating circumstances: if he continued sullen, or received his castigation impatiently, it was to be repeated another day; and should he afterwards persevere in his obstinacy, the benefit of the charity was to be denied him for forty days. A blow was immediate expulsion; and none were to go abroad, or into the laundress's house, without a companion.

Besides these foundations, there were several other religious houses in this town; particularly a priory, now used as a Bridewell, the west window of which still remains an elegant monument of the arts at a remote period; and a convent for nuns in Castle-Street, which at the dissolution was given by Henry the Eighth to the corporation, who disposed of it to the county for a prison. Since the crection of the new gaol, this building has been taken down, and a Methodist meeting house raised on the

READING



READING is situated on two small eminences, whose gentle declivities fall into a pleasant vale, through which the branches of the Kennet flow calmly till they unite with the Thames at the extremity of the town. The surrounding country is agreeably diversified with an intermixture of hill and dale, wood and water; and enlivened with a number of elegant seats. The prospect from the Forbery, a beautiful outwork, on the north-east side of the town, is very extensive, commanding a fine view over a considerable part of Oxfordshire.

The corporation, according to the charter of Charles the Second, consists of a mayor, recorder, twelve aldermen, and as many burgesses, from whom the vacancies in the list of aldermen are supplied. The manor of the town was settled by James the First on Prince Charles, his second son, afterwards King; but it is now vested in the corporation, who possess a very ample jurisdiction, and hold four quarter sessions yearly for the punishment of great offences, as well as a court every Wednesday for the consideration of smaller crimes. This borough has sent members to parliament ever since the 23d of Edward the First. The right of election is in the inhabitants paying scot and lot: the number of voters is somewhat more than 600. On a general election, the nomination of members for the county is at Reading; but if the unsuccessful candidate demands a poll, the election is held at Abingdon.

The houses are estimated at about 2000, and are mostly built with brick. The streets have been paved, and the expences defrayed by a small tax, levied on the inhabitants by act of parliament obtained in the year 1785. Some of them are very narrow and inconvenient. The inhabitants are computed at upwards of 10,000, being tradesmen, farmers, agricultural laborers, and manufacturers, but chiefly the latter. The town was formerly celebrated for the extent of its clothing manufactories, but these, from a variety of causes, have fallen to decay. The principal circumstance by which this trade was ruined, was undoubtedly intended to promote and establish it. We allude to the legacy of Mr. John Kendrick, who, in the year 1624, bequeathed the sum of 7500l, to the town, for the purpose of building

building a house for the employment of the poor in the woollen manufacture, and supplying them with the materials necessary for carrying on the business.

This charity, instead of being applied agreeable to the will of the deceased, for the relief and encouragement of the indigent, was perverted to the benefit of the great clothiers, who being either related to the donor, or connected with the corporation, kept the money in their own hands, and by that means were able to undersell the lesser manufacturers. The latter were obliged, in consequence, to make their cloths of an inferior quality, that they might be enabled to obtain subsistence, by selling them at the same low prices, at which they were afforded by those persons who had illegally secured the use of the bequest to themselves. By this conduct the credit of the town received a shock, with respect to the woollen trade, from which it never recovered; and scarce a vestige of the manufactory is now remaining, that but two centuries ago furnished employment for the majority of its people.

The ruin of an established business is seldom effected on a sudden; and the causes that lead to its destruction are generally obvious to the enlightened portion of the community. Many of the inhabitants were convinced, that the gradual decay of the trade arose from the misapplication of the fund of the charity. and presented a petition to Charles the First in council, praying, that his Majesty would consider of the best means of preserving the remainder for the use of the town, generally, and not permit it any longer to be squandered on mercenary individuals. This petition was referred to the determination of Archbishop Laud, who, being a native of the place, was supposed to be more intimately acquainted with its true interests. The prelate decreed, that the house which had been erected for the manufactory, and is now called the ORACLE, should be preserved for the accommodation of poor manufacturers as nearly as possible in conformity with the donor's will. That is to say, the preference was to be given to those who were in the woollen line; or, in default of workmen in that branch, the poorer classes engaged in other business



business were to be admitted to a participation of the charity. The remainder of the money, amounting to about 4000l. he ordered to be laid out in the purchase of estates, the rents of which should, from time to time, be lent on good security to poor young beginners, clothiers in the first instance: Each person was to have fourscore pounds for ten years without interest; and if at any time the rents should be sufficient, the loan was to be enlarged to "100l. or even 200l. a man, and no more:" but it does not appear that any larger sum than 80l. has yet been lent to one person.

The house is at present occupied by sacking manufacturers, sail-cloth weavers, pin-makers, &c. who are allowed the use of the building gratis. But the complaint is still made, of those who are in the house being able to undersell all of the same trade who carry on business in other parts of the town.

Besides the above donation, Mr. Kendrick bequeathed 500l. to be divided and lent to ten poor industrious clothiers, being freemen of Reading, for the term of three years, without interest; but no person was to have the money a second time. If a sufficient number of clothiers could not be found to enjoy the benefit of this charity; the money might then be lent to industrious tradesmen of any other description; giving preference to those who employed the greatest number of poor persons.

This, like the preceding benefaction, has been appropriated to uses very different from those which were intended to be effected by the donor. Either by the negligence or criminality of the managers, both the time and conditions were so much altered, that the whole sum came into the possession of one person, who, about 1718 or 1719, paid it to the chamberlain of the hall-revenues, where it did not belong, and where its application has been to purposes very distant from the intentions of Mr. Kendrick. In a work published some years since, the managers of this charity are said to be debtors in the sum of 18,439l. 10s.

The income arising from these and the various other legacies, &c. bequeathed or given to this town for charitable purposes, amounts to upwards of 30,000l. annually. A particular enume-

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ration of the manner in which it ought to be applied, would occupy a space far beyond the limits which propriety compels us to affix; yet a brief sketch of the principal modes of application may not be unacceptable.

Sir Thomas White, a native of this town, and lord mayor of London in the year 1553, placed Reading the fourth in his list of 24 cities and towns which were to receive 104l. in yearly rotation for ever from lands vested in the corporation of Bristol. This sum, as often as it is paid, is to be lent to four necessitous young men, clothiers, 25l. to each for ten years without interest. This gentleman also founded a free grammar-school at Reading, with two fellowships for boys educated therein, (being natives,) at St. John's College, Oxford. This privilege was lately attempted to be superseded in favor of the natives of other places boarded as well as educated here, but the scheme was rendered abortive by the active exertions of some of the inhabitants.

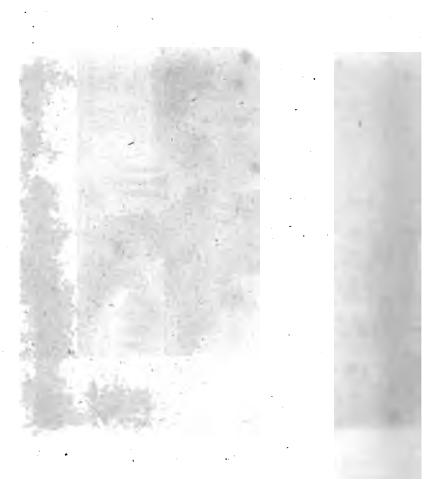
In 1658 Mr. Richard Aldworth bequeathed 4000l. to found a blue-coat school, and maintain a master, lecturer, and 20 boys. This has been encreased by various donations, and is now on a very respectable establishment, the funds being sufficient to support and educate from 30 to 40 children. Every Good Friday, three maid servants, who have lived in one service five years, are appointed by the corporation to draw lots in the council-chamber for 20 nobles, the gift of Mr. John Blagrave; and on the last Monday in August, yearly, at the time of the nomination of the mayor elect, three other maid servants, also, qualified and appointed in the same manner, draw lots in the council-chamber for 8l. the gift of Mr. J. Dean and Mr. J. Richards. In addition to these charities, there are several alms-houses in this town, and numerous smaller donations for beneficial purposes.

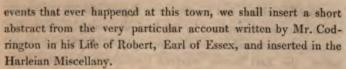
Reading contains three churches; St. Mary's, St. Lawrence, and St. Giles. The first is regarded as the most ancient, and is generally admired for its tesselated tower. The latter church was much damaged by the cannon of the Parliament's army, during the time that the forces of Charles the First were here besieged in the year 1643. As this siege was one of the most remarkable

events



CHURCH OF STLAURENCE, READING.
Berkfhire.
Dates Patrick by from & Hand State Segment.





About the middle of April the Earl of Essex quitted his winter quarters, and advanced towards Oxford, that he might render the garrison of Reading more secure, and cause the King to detach his forces to the place where the greatest danger appeared; but suddenly wheeling about, he encamped before Reading, and summoned the governor to surrender. Colonel Ashton, who commanded for the King, answered, that "He would keep the town, or starve and die in it." On this refusal, the Parliament's army, which had encamped on the west side, to prevent reinforcements entering the garrison from Oxford, began to entrench, and make approaches to the town, which was guarded with many strong out-works, and defended by 3000 troops, well furnished with ammunition and provision.

Causham, or Caversham-Hill, an eminence commanding the town, had been strongly fortified by the King's forces: from this post they were driven by assault, and several batteries being raised on it, the besiegers made their approaches with greater safety. Under cover of the fire of the ordnance planted on this hill, they advanced within half a musket-shot of the works; but not without interruptions from the garrison, who, by a display of the most determined resistance, endeavoured to disconcert the measures of their opponents. "The enemy had planted some ordnance in a steeple, believing that from that height they might play upon our men with more advantage; but our cannon were levelled against it with such dexterity, that both cannoniers and cannon were quickly buried under its ruins." At length many of the houses having been destroyed, and the governor wounded in the head by the fall of bricks from a battered chimney, he offered to surrender,\*

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Mr. Codrington's account is in this particular incorrect. When the governor was wounded, the command devolved on Colonel Fielding, who was the person that surrendered the town, and for which action he was afterwards degraded.

provided his soldiers had permission to depart with all the honors of war; but this was refused by the Earl, who sent him word, that he came for men, and not for the town only. While this was in agitation, the Earl having received intelligence that the King, Prince Rupert, and Prince Maurice, were on their advance towards Reading for the relief of the town, dispatched a strong party of dragoons, who surprised and routed part of the King's forces at Dorchester, nearly seven miles from Oxford, and made Notwithstanding this loss, Charles perabout 140 prisoners. severed in his intention of raising the siege, and being advanced to Wallingford, marched towards Reading with about nine regiments of horse, an equal number of foot, and twelve pieces of ordnance. On the approach of this army, the Earl ordered the regiments of Lord Roberts and Colonel Barcley to be drawn forth to dispute its progress. The conduct of Charles, on this occasion. seems to have been extremely defective; for though his whole body of infantry were near, he only opposed the forces of the Earl with two regiments of his own. The fight was fiercely begun in the vicinity of Causham-Bridge, and the shock of arms was sustained by both parties with much spirit and resolution. At the first charge Lord Roberts was absent from his regiment; but hearing that they were engaged with the King's troops, he rode up full speed, and, by his courage and example, greatly expedited the gaining of the victory. In less than half an hour the royalists were repulsed, and many of their men left dead upon the field: their horse, also, which had descended into the plain to assist the infantry, were beaten, and forced to retreat to the hill whence they had commenced their onset. After this defeat the King returned to Wallingford, and the Earl proceeded with the treaty for the surrender of the town, which was soon afterwards given up on honorable conditions, the garrison being allowed to march away with their arms, ammunition; colours, &c. The fifth article provided for the safety of the town, which was neither to be plundered by the forces of the King, nor those of the Parliament.

Some of the entrenchments thrown up during this siege, which the compass of ten days brought to a conclusion, may yet be discerned





discerned in the quarter of the town that became the more immediate theatre of operations: yet these are daily wearing away; and the peaceful ploughshare will shortly obliterate the remaining vestiges of the bulwarks that were raised amidst the din of arms, and the alarum of war. When the town capitulated, that part of the abbey which the seige had not destroyed, is supposed to have been blown up, or otherwise dismantled, by the pious zeal of the fanatics who composed the majority of the Parliament's army.

The alarm so universally promulgated through the nation at the time of the revolution in 1688, concerning the Irish troops employed by King James being engaged in a general massacre, originated in this town, from the following circumstance. A regiment of Papists having been quartered on the inhabitants, took advantage of the terror which their free living had occasioned, and one Sunday threatened to destroy all the people as they came out of St. Mary's church. When King William came within a few miles of Reading, the magistrates sent to request his assistance. The Monarch detached some Dutch troopers, on the appearance of whom on the church steps, the Irish threw down their arms and fled; but the alarm became general, and the inhabitants of each town were induced to believe the abodes of their neighbours were in flames. This circumstance was formerly dignified with the title of Reading Fight, and a sum of money was allowed for ringing the bells on the 19th of December annually; but this custom has been discontinued since 1788, a century having been thought sufficient time to commemorate so inconsiderable a

Reading has two markets weekly, held on Wednesdays and Saturdays. By the first the inhabitants are supplied with fowls, fish, and butchers' meat. The latter is chiefly for corn, about 50,000 quarters of which are sold annually. The three parishes which comprize the town are supposed to contain about 2200 acres. The rent of the land is from 30s. to 40s. per acre. One third of the inhabitants are supposed to dissent from the established church. The various denominations have no less than six meeting-

houses:

houses: among them are Quakers, Baptists, Independants, and Methodists. The town-hall is a neat building over the free-school, in form of a parallelogram. In the council-chamber are the pictures, in full length, of Sir Thomas White, Mr. John Kendrick, and Archbishop Laud; and also a portrait of Queen Elizabeth, generally regarded as a good likeness.

Many of the laboring class of the community here, as in most other towns, where their morals are depraved by indiscriminate association, possess very little economy or foresight. It is not uncommon for a healthy young fellow, who has ample means of supporting himself and family by his own industry, to request the parish to pay the midwife for his first child. Weavers, who can earn a comfortable livelihood, do not hesitate soliciting relief, if a temporary stagnation of business curtails their customary receipts, and reduces them to those difficulties which a little parsimony might have obviated.

The river Kennet separates the town into two parts, and in its passage forms several excellent wharfs. This river is navigable westward to Newbury, Froxfield, &c. and when the Kennet and Avon Canal is completed, a communication will then be opened by the junction of those rivers from sea to sea. The principal articles of exportation are timber, hoops, bark, wool, corn, malt, and flour. Upwards of 20,000 sacks of the latter commodity are sent to the metropolis annually. This flour is of the best quality, the nature of the soil in the neighbourhood of the town being admirably adapted for the cultivation of the finer species of wheat. The articles imported are grocery, iron, deals, &c. to a very great amount.

The celebrated William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, was born at an ancient house now standing in Broad-Street, in this town. He was the son of an eminent clothier, and was sent at an early age to the grammar school; whence he was removed to St. John's College, Oxford, of which he was elected fellow in the year 1593. Here it seems his pertinacious temper began to display itself, and he was generally regarded as a forward and arrogant

\* See Sir Fred. Eden's State of the Poor.



arrogant young man. In 1601 he entered into orders; and shortly afterwards excited the displeasure of Dr. Abbot, the Vice Chancellor, by his opposition to the tenets of the Puritans, which about that time began to have many supporters in the University. His first preferment was to the living of Stamford, in Northamptonshire, in 1607. The following year he obtained the advowson of North Kilworth, in Leicestershire. He was no sooner invested with these livings, than he put the parsonage houses in repair, and gave 12 poor persons a regular allowance; and the same conduct he is said to have pursued during all his subsequent preferments. In 1617 he accompanied King James to Scotland, on his ill-timed expedition for the purpose of uniting the two kingdoms into one religious community: but the design of the Monarch failed; and the laurels he expected to gather, were withered by the breath of contempt and obloquy.

As a detail of the honors which, at different periods, were conferred on the Archbishop, would degrade this biographical sketch to a mere register of preferments, we shall pass over the intermediate space, and enter upon the year 1630, when the University of Oxford elected him their chancellor; and it may be said with justice, that this venerable seat of learning never had a more zealous and liberal patron. He enlarged and ornamented St. John's College, and erected the elegant building at the end of the divinity school, founded an Arabic lecture, and presented the University with a large collection of coins and manuscripts. In 1633 he succeeded Archbishop Abbot in the See of Canterbury, and instantly began his unpopular work of establishing uniformity in religious worship. The regulations which he endeavoured to carry into effect, were not more illiberal than unwise, since the severity of the restrictions caused many aliens to leave the kingdom; to the great detriment of the manufactures.

The Archbishop has been accused of a covert attachment to Popery, though probably on insufficient evidence. That his creed bordered on infallibility is most true; yet his conference with the Jesuit, Fisher, is a proof of his general regard to the

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doctrines

doctrines of the church of England. The severe prosecutions that were carried on in the Star Chamber against Prynne, Bastwick, and Burton, were chiefly through his instigation; and his vindication of the proceedings of this chamber, as well as the rigorous measures pursued in the High-Commission Courts by his direction, fully demonstrate his love of arbitrary principles.

On the breaking out of the disturbances which afterwards unhappily ripened into civil war, his palace at Lambeth was assaulted by the London apprentices; but having obtained notice of their intention, he previously retired to Whitehall, and by that means avoided the fury of the rioters. In 1640 he was impeached by the House of Commons of high treason, and, at its request, committed by the Lords to the Tower: but his trial did not take place till three years afterwards, when his defence was acknowledged to be satisfactory even by Prynne, his most virulent adversary. Though no charge of treason could be proved against him, his enemies had resolved on his destruction; and the Parliament, to conciliate the favor of the Scots, who were his most determined foes, passed a bill of attainder, which the Lords were compelled to confirm by the threats of the Earl of Pembroke, and the clamours of those who had espoused his opinions.

The Archbishop was beheaded on Tower-hill, the 10th of January, 1644, in the seventy-first year of his age. His behaviour on the scaffold was firm and dignified: and the composure with which he resigned himself to his fate, proves that the deprivation of his interest in this sublunary world had ceased to affect him.

WILLIAM, of READING, Archbishop of Bourdeaux in the reign of Henry the Third; JOHN BLAGRAVE, an eminent mathematician; and SIR JOHN HOLT, lord chief justice of England, one of the greatest men the profession ever produced, are among the number of those celebrated characters whose talents have done honor to their birth-place, and whom the inhabitants of this town are proud to rank with its most distinguished natives.



In the vicinity of Reading, near a place called Catsgrove-Lane, is a remarkable stratum of oyster-shells, embedded in a vein of sea sand, at least twenty fathoms beneath the surface of a hill. This stratum is from 12 to 24 inches in thickness. The shells are intermixed with small teeth, apparently of fish, and are continued through the whole circumference of five or six acres of ground. The foundation of the shells is a hard chalk: the superincumbent matter consists of clay of different descriptions, fuller's earth, fine sand, and common earth, disposed at various depths, and unequal in extent. Many of the shells appear like whole oysters, the valves being close shut; yet their cavities contain nothing but a little sand. The Deluge is the grand solver of difficulties; and to this the phænomenon just mentioned has been repeatedly ascribed; yet, however universally the waters may have covered the earth, or, however the solid globe may have dissolved beneath the tremendous conflict of rushing seas and overwhelming oceans, the subsiding of the buoyant atoms, when the voice of DEITY hushed the tumultuous waves to silence, and the liquid mass softly murmured its subjection, must have produced effects very dissimilar from those now under consideration. The descent of bodies would have been proportioned to their specific gravities; the heaviest would have been at the bottom, and the others ranged according to their respective density; but this is not the case, and the true solution is yet undetermined. The causes which operated to place these shells in this particular spot, are, perhaps, never to be completely ascertained. Nature's phænomena are of difficult investigation: and the contracted space to which the life of man is limited, is scarcely sufficient to enable him to register effects, much less to discover the origin and springs of action. The difficulties which attend every attempt to account for the disposition of the materials of which the earth is composed, are perhaps insuperable to human genius, yet this truth should never deter us from striving to obtain knowledge by deductions from credible data.

We have already observed, that the quality of gravitation would produce effects contrary to those immediately before us; and shall now proceed to state the opinion which to us seems most reasonable, respecting the manner in which the shells were thus deposited. We imagine that the island was once buried in the ocean, and that the hills, which now adorn and diversify its surface, were gradually formed by the action and reaction of the tides, conjointly with the effects of winds, waves and tempests. If this conjecture should be the truth, the disposition of the stratum in question may be easily accounted for on general principles; though the particular applications may almost vary to infinity.

Let us suppose that the bed of chalk was the original bottom of the sea, and that the oysters had chosen this spot for their place of congregation; and that such a supposition is reasonable, the beds of oysters existing on the coasts of Britain are sufficient testimony. We know also, that by constant attrition, the waves are surcharged with particles of different substances; these we may naturally conclude, at the moments when the ebb and flow of the sea have induced a calm at the point where the dominion of each has an end, descend by their own weight, and imperceptibly form strata as distinct in quality, and various in extent, as the causes which operated in their formation.

This regular deposition of the waters would admit of light substances becoming the bases of heavier ones, and therefore does not contradict the acknowledged laws of gravity; for the matter first precipitated, could not change places with the atoms still floating, without violence; and even then the effects would only be partial; and exceptions, we all know, can never be admitted to controvert a general rule. By the application of these arguments, we may easily account for the oysters being embedded so far below the summit of the hill. We have rather enlarged our observations on this occasion, as it will be necessary to mention phænomena of a similar description hereafter; and one digression, it was imagined, would preclude the necessity of repetition.

The country in the vicinity of Reading is embellished with many elegant mansions; yet, as a particular description would not correspond with our limits, we must content ourselves with a

brief



brief sketch of the most remarkable. Nearly opposite the town, on the north bank of the Thames, in Oxfordshire, is CAVER-SHAM, the seat of - Marsac, Esq. This estate originally belonged to the Craven family, but was afterwards purchased by General Cadogan, the friend and companion of the great Duke of Marlborough. The house was erected by the Earl of Cadogan in the reign of George the First; but was afterwards reduced; and has again been altered by the present proprietor. It is an elegant building, with two handsome wings, situated on an eminence, that commands a very extensive and diversified view of Berks and the adjacent counties. On the front is a beautiful lawn, leading to the river. The gardens are pleasingly laid out; and the park, though not large, includes every variety that can regale the taste and gratify the sight. In the old mansion, Anne of Denmark, the Queen of James the First, was splendidly entertained by Lord Knowles, when on her journey to Bath in 1613. When Charles the First was prisoner at Windsor, the Parliament, through the mediation of General Fairfax, permitted him to visit Caversham lodge, where all his children who were in England then resided, in the custody of the Earl of Northumberland.

In the hamlet of WOODLEY is a small but pleasing edifice, belonging to the Honorable Henry Addington. The grounds round it are now laying out with taste; but the want of variety, which arises from its flat situation, will not admit of its being compared with the superior class of buildings which abound in this county.

About two miles west of Reading, in a beautiful woodland country, is the seat of J. Blagrave, Esq. This is a handsome regular structure with wings, seated on a small eminence, near the Bath road, and screened from the north winds by thick woods. The grounds are composed of various shelving lawns, and agreeably diversified by groups and clumps of trees. The park is famous for the production of fine venison.

WHITE KNIGHTS, the seat of the Marquis of Blandford, is about two miles south-east of Reading. The house is a plain, white building, situated near the centre of the grounds, which

are divided by an irregular sheet of water into pasture and arable lands. The borders of the lake are ornamented with the pendant branches of the drooping willow; and the lawns, which slope gently to the waters, are agreeably disposed, and adorned with venerable groves of oak and poplar. An avenue of fine elms leads to the gate at the entrance of the park from Reading; and the path thence to the house is skirted on one side by tall elms, and by poplars on the other. Various openings have been cut in the plantations which are interspersed through the grounds, that the eye might be enabled to range free and uninterrupted over the surrounding country, whose luxuriant and well cultivated meads allay the tumult of the wilder feelings, and divert the imagination to thoughts of Elysium, where peace and happiness are embosomed in the midst of plenty. White Knights was one of the earliest examples of the Ferme Ornèe; and it still continues to be a beautiful specimen of the mixture of the agreeable with the useful; where Nature, improved by the hand of art, smiles in the radiance of her most pleasing attire. From a broad green terrace, in one part of the grounds, there is a fine view of Reading, with all its concourse of habitations, and tumultuous throngs. Caversham house and woods, and the groves of Shiplake, bound the prospect in front; and the high point of the hill of Sunning, with the scarcely discernible Thames gliding at its foot, closes the picture on the east. The back ground is composed of the distant hills of Oxfordshire and Berks.

The village of SUNNING is pleasantly situated on an easy ascent on the banks of the Thames, and, according to the remark of Camden, was formerly the See of a bishop, whose diocese included the counties of Berks and Wiltshire. Leland asserts, that no less than nine bishops successively filled this See; the last of whom (Herman) removed it to Sherborne, whence it was translated to Salisbury. The antiquity of the place is strongly marked by the sepulchral monuments and ancient inscriptions within the church. On one monument are the following pleasing lines, to the memory of two infant children of the family of Rich, who long resided this spot.

The father's air, the mother's look, The sportive smile, and pretty joke, The rosy lip's sweet babbling grace, The beauties of the mind and face, And all the charms of infant souls, This tomb within its bosom holds.

The bridge is a plain modern structure of brick, well adapted for convenience and durability. Near it is an elegant mansion, the seat of Charles Fysh Palmer, Esq. The river Thames glides beneath the elevated spot on which the house is situated, and flowing through a beautiful valley, is seen winding between the distant hills, and giving additional lustre to the neighbouring country, which is extremely pleasing, and in many places picturesque.

The road from Reading to Newbury passes through the villages of Theal, Woolhampton, and Thatcham. The approach to the first is through a beautiful woodland country, highly enriched by cultivation, and occasionally enlivened by glimpses of the Kennet, which glides through beautiful meadows on the south. Beyond Theal the country assumes a bolder appearance; and on the right, a chain of hills, finely tufted with wood, presents itself, and gradually increases as we proceed towards Woolhampton. This is a small place, composed of good houses, pleasingly situated beneath the south side of the range of eminences just mentioned. Beyond this village a large tract of meadow land occupies the valley on the left; and the same chain of hills constantly changing its features, and varying its appearance, continues on the As we advance, the road ascends, and is more inclosed as we approach Thatcham, a small neat place, chiefly composed of one street, with some good houses, and a small church. Hence the road winds along unequal ground, till we approach within two miles of Newbury, where it becomes more level and inclosed; and the country on both sides the river is bounded by woody hills, declining towards the vale, which is interspersed with farms, and rendered fertile by the streams of the Kennet, that meander through its bosom.

NEWBURY.

## NEWBURY.

This town is situated in a fertile plain, watered by the Kennet, which crosses the town near the centre. Its ancient name was *Newbir*, which it appears to have received from its relation to the old town of Spine, (The Spinæ of the Romans,) from which it is only separated by a brook, and from whose ruins it arose.

Though the term Newbury implies a modern borough, yet it evidently had existence before the Norman invasion, for it was then bestowed by the Conqueror on Ernulph de Hesdin, Earl of Perche, whose great grandson Thomas, being killed at the siege of Lincoln, the Bishop of Chalons, his heir, sold it to William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, in whose family it continued till the reign of Henry the Third, when Roger Bigod, the possessor, lost it, with his other possessions, through obstinacy. In the thirtieth year of Edward the First, it returned two members to parliament; and in the eleventh of Edward the Third, it was also represented by three persons, in a great council, held on account of trade at Westminster.

The principal streets of Newbury are disposed nearly in the shape of the Roman Y, the angles branching off from the market-place; and the foot of the letter being formed by the village of Speenhamland: they are spacious, and well paved. The houses are about 950 in number, mostly of brick. The population may be estimated at 3800, being chiefly employed in trade. The church is a plain Gothic stone edifice, supposed to have been built in the reign of Henry the Seventh. This structure westward from the pulpit, was raised, together with the tower, at the charge of the famous John Winschomb, generally called Jack of Newbury. The following words, which appear to refer to this gentleman, are inscribed upon a brass plate near the chancel:

Of your Charite pray for the Soule of John Smalwood, alias Winchom, and Alice, his Wife, Which John died the 15th day of February, An. Dom. 1519.

This

This town was formerly celebrated for its extensive manufactories of woollen cloth, which furnished the inhabitants with employment for several centuries; yet scarcely any thing but serge is now made here, the clothing trade having been carried to the more western parts of the kingdom. In the reigns of Henry the Seventh and Eighth, this business was particularly flourishing at Newbury; and the above Smalwood, or Winschomb, is reported to have been the greatest clothier in England during the early part of the reign of the latter Monarch, who, according to tradition, was, together with Queen Catherine, and many of the nobility, splendidly entertained at Mr. Winschomb's manufactory.

The history of this gentleman, who was a native of Newbury, is so enveloped by the marvellous, that it is almost impossible to distinguish the truth from falsehood. He appears to have been a high spirited youth, fond of company; yet too much actuated by good sense to suffer his love of conviviality to embrute his reason. Having been bred a clothier, it was his good fortune to be entrusted with the direction and management of an extensive manufacture belonging to a widow, which he executed so much to her satisfaction, that her sensations of gratitude for his conduct, combining with her prepossessions in favour of his person, induced her to slight the attentions of more wealthy suitors, and reward his service with her estates as well as person.

Being thus raised to affluence, his generous temper procured him many friends; and the suavity of his manners, and attention to the general interests of the trade, which, by his exertions, was considerably improved, augmented their number. With the increase of acquaintance his business also increased, and several hundred persons were employed in the different branches of his manufacture. Upwards of 100 looms he is reported to have constantly used for the weaving of broad cloth only. His public spirit appears to have equalled his private benefactions; for, on the breaking out of the war with the Scots, he joined the King's army with a 100 of his men, all armed and clothed at his own expence. His death was greatly lamented; and his memory is

still respected by the inhabitants of this town, which was the scene of his fame, and the witness of his actions. His manufactory is now divided into tenements, respectively occupied as a bookseller's, a hair dresser's, and an inn; the latter being honored with the sign of Jack of Newbury. The town-hall is a handsome structure, built over the market-place, near the bridge which crosses the Kennet. When this bridge was rebuilt, in the year 1770, a leaden scal of Pope Boniface the Ninth was found, together with a pix, some knives of a singular make, some spurs, and a few coins, from Henry the First to William the Third. The market is very large, and, from its extensive business, is supposed to be nearly equal to Devizes or Warminster in Wilts.\* On the banks of the river are several mills, which supply the cities of London and Bristol with great quantities of flour. The town abounds with dissenters, and contains five meetinghouses, for the various denominations of 'Quakers, Baptists, Independants, Methodists, and Presbyterians.

When Newbury was first incorporated, is unknown; but in the charter granted by Queen Elizabeth, May 26th, 1596, it is called, "An ancient and populous borough, which had enjoyed divers liberties, franchises, immunities, and pre-eminences, by the charters of many of her ancestors and predecessors; the Kings of England." The corporation consists of a mayor, high steward, recorder, 6 aldermen, and 24 capital burgesses. The mayor is annually chosen on St. Matthew's Day.

Mr.

\* Newbury has time out of mind been justly considered a most excellent corn-market; and still retains some customs, that would be of great use, were they observed in all other markets. Here the grain is pitched in open market, and ingenuously offered to the public in small as well as large quantities. Thus defeating as much as possible the artifices of monopolizers, and holding out to the industrious, lowly hand, the chief nourisher of his existence, at a fair market price.

Another good custom is also observed here; that the farmer, let him sell much or little, has his money paid on the delivery of the article; thus verifying the old observation on Newbury market, that

The farmer may take back His money in his sack.

Pearce's Agricultural Survey of Berks.

Mr. Kendrick, the gentleman mentioned in our account of Reading, bequeathed 4000l. to this town, for the purchase of a house and garden for the employment of the poor in the clothing business, and providing them with necessary materials. Whether the operation of this charity was as detrimental to the trade of Newbury, as its counterpart was to that of Reading, we have not been able to learn; though, from the general decay of the clothing branch in this place, the affirmative seems highly probable. Five hundred pounds were also bequeathed by the same person, to be lent, without interest, in equal portions, to ten poor clothiers for three years; or, in default of workmen in that business, to other tradesmen, being freemen.

The number of alms-houses on different foundations amounts to sixty. One of these, called St. Bartholomew's Hospital, is ascribed to King John, but with what accuracy we cannot determine. The original endowment has been increased by various benefactions. Several legacies have been given and settled for the repairs of the church at different times, and by different persons. Adjoining to this edifice there is a charity-school for the education of 44 boys. The trade of the town is supposed to have increased of late years, by the means of the navigable canal from Reading, which imports goods to the amount of 20,000 tons yearly.

During the dreadful contest between Charles the First and his Parliament, Newbury became remarkable for being the scene of action in two succeeding years. The first battle was fought on a common, called the Wash, in the year 1643: the other in the fields between Newbury, Speen, and Shaw, in the year 1644; the King commanding his army, on both days, in person.

Previous to the first engagement the hopes of the Royalists were at their height. Their advantage in situation was evident, and their horse were superior in number to the enemy. The Parliament's army was commanded by Robert, Earl of Essex, who having advanced to Hungerford from Gloucester, found the country so destitute of provision, that he resolved to march to Newbury, for the purpose of obtaining a supply; but the King's forces had

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taken possession of the town, two hours before the Earl could arrive.

Before the battle, the royal army was in good condition, well supplied with necessaries, and enabled to obtain whatever succours they desired from the garrisons of Wallingford and Oxford. The opposing forces, on the contrary, had been harrassed by long marches; and from the time that Prince Rupert attacked them the preceding day on Auburn Chase, had remained on their arms, without either victuals or refreshment. The advantage of the Royalists was so apparent, that it was resolved, according to the relation of Lord Clarendon, over night, not to engage in battle, but upon such grounds as should give an assurance of victory; but this statement is controverted by Mr. Codrington, who asserts, that the King sent a challenge to the Lord-general to give him battle in the morning.

Early on the 20th of September the Earl of Essex drew up his men in the most excellent order on Bigg's-Hill, about a mile from the town, and placing his ordnance in the most advantageous positions, awaited the attack of the King's forces; large bodies of whom were soon so far involved by the precipitate conduct of some young officers, whose warmth induced them to undervalue the courage of their opponents, that it became necessary to hazard a general engagement.

The battle was disputed on both sides with equal intrepidity, and various success. The Parliament's cavalry were several times dispersed by the vigor of the Royalists; but no charge, however determined, could make an impression on the infantry. Prince Rupert himself led on a choice body of horse, but was unable to penetrate the hedge of pikes that opposed his progress. The approach of night was welcome to both parties, and the battle ceased without any decisive advantage being obtained by either.

The next morning, the Earl, finding the situation of his army not worse than he had reason to expect, and being obliged by necessity to seek some place where his troops might procure both refreshment and rest, began his march towards Reading, and

passed



passed Newbury, into which the forces of the King had withdrawn. When the army had advanced about four miles on the road, and just as they had entered into the narrow lanes, they perceived that their rear was followed by a strong party of the King's horse, whose sudden appearance threw them into considerable disorder. Prince Rupert, profiting by the confusion, lined the hedges with a thousand musqueteers; and many of the Earl's soldiers were killed, and others made prisoners. In the end, the Prince was forced to retreat, having had no less than three horses shot under him during the skirmish.

In this battle the King sustained an irreparable loss in the deaths of more than twenty officers of distinguished abilities. The Earl of Sunderland, the Earl of Caernarvon, and Lord Viscount Falkland, were among the number of the slain. The Earl of Caernarvon had so little apprehension of his approaching fate, that he was seen to ride through Newbury with his sword drawn, and jocosely take measure of a gate, through which he proposed bringing Essex as a prisoner, to know whether it was wide enough for the Parliament general's horns. The same persons who noticed this action, soon afterwards saw his body thrown across a horse like that of a calf.

In the second battle, the King's army being very inferior in numbers, he resolved to act on the defensive; and with this intention placed his forces to the best advantage in the neighbourhood of Speen, Shaw, &c. On Sunday morning, about daybreak, on the twenty-seventh of October, part of the army of the Earl of Manchester, who commanded for the Parliament, descended the hill, and crossing the river at Shaw, surprised the guard which should have kept the pass near the house, but were repulsed with great loss by Sir Bernard Astley. The battle thus commenced, continued, without much advantage being gained by either army, till about three in the afternoon, when Waller, with his own forces, and those that had been commanded by the Earl of Essex, who was then ill at Southampton, fell I 2

The Earl of Essex was the Husband of the Lady Frances Howard, mentioned Page 46. upon the position at Speen, and with little difficulty crossed the river; the officer who had been appointed to guard the passage, being lulled into a false security from the apparent difficulty of the undertaking. This occurrence gave a decided superiority to the troops of the Parliament, who immediately possessed themselves of the village of Speen, and of all the ordnance that had been there planted.

The battle now raged with great fury; one party being invigorated with the hopes of making the Monarch prisoner; the other, determined to defend their Sovereign, and retrieve the losses which neglect and oversight had occasioned. The King was at one time in very great danger, being in the middle of a field between Speen and Newbury, of which the enemy had partly obtained possession, but were driven from it by a vigorous charge made by the Queen's regiment of horse, led on by Sir John Cansfield. Shaw-house, the King's head quarters, and the posts surrounding it, were at the same time attacked by the Earl of Manchester in person, with 1200 horse, and 3000 foot, who advanced with great resolution, singing psalms, and animating each other to the highest degree of fanatical enthusiasm. Their exertions, however, were ineffectual; and their most energetic efforts served only to make the repulse more fatal; it being attended with the loss of upwards of 500 men. Night at length arrived, and the direful conflict ceased.

Notwithstanding the defeat of the enemy in this assault, the events of the day had demonstrated their general superiority; and the King, being deprived of part of his artillery, and knowing that irretrievable ruin would be the consequence of being surrounded in his present situation, retired under the cannon of Donnington Castle, where holding a council with the Prince of Wales, and the Lords who had attended him during the engagement, it was determined to retreat to Wallingford. The King himself, hearing that Prince Rupert was arrived at Bath, precipitately left the field, accompanied by 300 horse, and hastened to that city.

After this disgraceful flight, it was discovered that the King's army was not in that disabled state which had been conceived;

the troops posted in the suburbs of Speen having resolutely kept their ground; while that part of the Parliament's forces which had been so roughly treated at Shaw, though reinforced by a strong body of horse, had been a second time repulsed with loss. This was the last action between the armies; for about ten at night, all the horse, foot, and artillery, in compliance with the orders of the King, drew forth their several guards on the heath about Donnington Castle, where, having left most of their wounded, and all their ordnance, ammunition, and carriages, within the walls of the fortress, they marched to Wallingford without interruption. The bodies of the slain were interred in a large pit near the tower of Newbury church, Those who were killed in the first engagement, were deposited beneath two tumuli near the field of battle. Many vestiges of these sanguinary conflicts have at different times been found in the surrounding country; and three skeletons were lately discovered, together with some cannon-balls, in digging gravel near Speen.

The valley in the vicinity of Newbury is fertilized by the streams of the Kennet, and produces a luxuriant pasture: but the most peculiar circumstance attending it, is the vast quantity of peat found in the centre of the vale on each side the river. This substance is formed of rotten and decayed vegetables, being a composition of wood; branches, twigs, leaves, and roots of trees, intermixed with grass, straw, plants, and weeds. Its consistence varies with its situation, some of it being soft and smooth, and some hard and firm; the difference, perhaps, being occasioned by the varieties of trees of which it is composed. The extent of the peat in this valley is from one quarter to three quarters of a mile in breadth, and sixteen miles in length, and possibly much further, as the intermission may be only accidental.

The true peat, so called when free from extraneous matter, is found at various depths, from one to eight feet below the surface of the ground: the thickness is also different, being from one to ten feet: The under stratum is generally gravel. Within the peat great numbers of trees are discovered lying irregularly on each other: the nearer these are to the surface of the ground, the less

. I3

The twigs at the bottom are sometimes so sound is the wood. firm, as to resist the sharp spade usually employed. These trees are of various species: some of them are oaks, alders, willows, and firs: the others are so much decayed that their kinds cannot be distinguished. The small roots are generally perished; yet their remains are sufficient to prove, that the trees, however they were thus buried, were neither felled by the axe, nor cut down with the saw; as the marks in either of those cases must have been visible. No acorns are found in the peat, though the cones of the fir tree frequently are, and also a great number of hazelnut-shells.

The peat is cut with a peculiar kind of spade, in pieces commonly called long squares: these are about three inches and a half broad every way, and four feet in length, if the depth of the peat will admit. When the pieces are cut, they are laid in regular order on the ground, to be dried by the sun and wind; and as the moisture evaporates, are turned, and broken into smaller lengths. When perfectly dry, it is sold for firing, or burnt into ashes on the spot for manure, being exceedingly good both for arable and grass lands. The price of the peat is about ten shillings a load; and the ashes from five-pence to seven-pence a bushel. The peat lies continually in water, and is cut through without much difficulty.

. "Some years ago an urn, of a light brown color, and large enough to contain above a gallon, was found in the true peat, about eighter ten feet from the river in Speen Moor. It lay about four feet below the level of the ground, and about a foot within the peat, and over it was raised an artificial hill, about eight feet higher than the neighbouring ground: as the whole hill consisted of both peat and meadow land mixed together, it plainly appeared that the peat was older than the urn, and that the person who raised the hill, must first have dug a large hole in the peat to bury the urn, and then formed the hill of the peat and meadow-ground mixed together. Round the hill where the urn lay, were several semicircular ridges, with trenches between

them:

them: the extremities of the semicircles were bounded by the line of the river."\* Various other things have been found embedded in the peat, but so irregularly dispersed, as to render it evident that their situation was the effect of accident only. The horns, heads, and bones of several kinds of deer, the horns of the antelope, the heads and tusks of boars, the heads of beavers, human bones, &c. have at different times been discovered in it. These things are generally found at the bottom of the peat, a circumstance which warrants the supposition that its gravelly bed was once the surface of the earth, and that the peat itself, however produced, must have arisen from the later operations of nature.

### SPEEN.

The small village of Speen is situated on a gentle ascent, about a mile north-west of Newbury. It is a place of considerable antiquity, deriving its name from the Roman Spinæ, which is supposed to have been situated in Speen-field, between the village and Speenham-land, which branching from this town, seems to connect itself with Newbury.

This station, though mentioned by Antoninus, was apparently of but inconsiderable importance, as it does not appear that any antiquities, or remains of buildings, have been discovered in its vicinity; nor is the place yet of any magnitude, the number of houses hardly amounting to 200. Its relation to Newbury is the chief circumstance that renders it deserving notice. Near the church is a well, called Our Lady's Well, where there is a very distinct and clear echo. It repeats but once; but at such intervals of time, and so loud, that a word of four or five syllables is heard as articulately from the echo, as from the voice of the person pronouncing it. The sums given to the parish for charitable uses, amount to about 60l. a year.

Nearly opposite this village, on the north, is DONNINGTON-GROVE, the residence of William Brummell, Esq. The house is a handsome modern building, pleasantly seated on a sloping

4 lawn,

<sup>\*</sup> Philosophical Transactions, Vol. 50.

lawn, under a ridge of woody hills, which screens it from the north, and forms a rich back-ground, where the ruined towers of Donnington Castle breaking the line of trees, enliven the scenery, and contribute to form a prospect of much beauty. The Lamborn stream, enlarged into a handsome piece of water, flows through the vale in front of the house, having its banks decorated with clumps of trees, and its bosom studded with islands, where the feathered visitants of the lake reside in full security. Near the lower extremity the water is crossed by a wooden bridge of one arch, the outlet of the stream being judiciously hidden by plantations. The contracted channel at the upper end is concealed by stately groves, so that only a broad and clear expanse of water is presented to the eye. The grounds are well furnished with wood, and many additional plantations have been made by the present owner,

### DONNINGTON CASTLE

REARS its lofty head above the remains of the venerable oaks which once surrounded it, on an eminence north-east of the grove. It was formerly a place of much importance; and, by commanding the western road, gave to its possessors a considerable degree of authority. When it was originally built is uncertain; but from a manuscript preserved in the Cotton Library, it appears that it belonged to Walter Abberbury, who paid C. shillings for it to the King. Towards the latter end of the reign of Richard the Second, Sir Richard Abberbury obtained a license to rebuild it; and from him it descended to his son Richard, of whom it was purchased by Geoffrey Chaucer, the parent of English poetry.

Hither about the year 1397, in the 70th year of his age, the bard retired, in order to taste those sweets of contemplation and rural quiet, which the hurry and fatigues of a court had before prevented his enjoying. In Gibson's edition of Camden, it is asserted, that "an oak was here standing till within these few years, under which Chaucer penned many of his famous poems." This tradition is in all probability a mistake, as most, if not all,



of Chaucer's poems were written before his retirement; and even so long as forty years ago not the least remains of it could be found after the strictest search, and most diligent enquiry, among the neighbouring inhabitants. That "he composed his pieces under an oak of his own planting," is a story that has likewise been current, but is an absolute impossibility, as he was not in possession of the estate more than three years. He died in London, whither he had gone to solicit the continuation of some of his grants, in the year 1400.

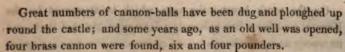
Alice, the grand-daughter of the poet, by marriage with William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, conveyed the castle into his possession. This Lord was the favorite of Henry the Sixth; but having abused the power which he had obtained over that weak monarch, was banished by the Commons. On returning to England, he was seized near Dover by the partizans of the Duke of York, and beheaded. From him it descended to Edmund de la Pole, who being executed for treasonable practices in the reign of Henry the Seventh, it escheated to the crown, where it remained till the 37th of Henry the Eighth, when it appears to have been granted to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk. In the reign of James the First, it belonged to the family of the Packers, whose heiress married Dr. Hartley, ancestor to Mr. Hartley, the present proprietor.

In the civil wars it was a post of great consequence, being fortified as a garrison for the King, and the government entrusted to Colonel Boys. During these troubles it was twice besieged; the last time by Colonel Horton, who, raising a battery against it, at the foot of a hill near Newbury, fired upwards of 1000 shot, by which three of the towers were demolished, and part of the wall; but the governor refused either to give or accept quarter on any terms whatever; and bravely defended the ruined fortress till relieved by the King's army, when his gallant behaviour was recompensed with the honour of knighthood. The day after the second battle of Newbury, it was again summoned by the Parliament's generals, who threatened, if the castle was not surrendered, that not one stone should be left on another. To this the governor replied, "that he was not bound to repair it; but was determined by God's grace to keep the ground afterwards." Various offers were then made to induce him to give up the place, but the knight was inflexible; and though he had permission to retire with arms, cannon, ammunition, and every thing else that belonged to the garrison, only answered, "that he would not go out of the castle till he had the King's orders so to do." This was the most favorable opportunity that had occurred for ruining the King's affairs; but the dissensions which then prevailed in the enemy's camp caused them to neglect it, and after one fruitless assault, nothing further was attempted against the castle. The Monarch a few days afterwards, came unexpectedly to its relief, and escorted his artillery and baggage to Oxford in safety.

In Camden's time, this castle was entire. He describes it as "a small, but very neat place, seated on the brow of a woody hill, having a fine prospect, and lighted by windows on every side." The walls nearly fronted the cardinal points of the compans; the entrance being at the east end. The west end terminated in a semi-octagon, inscribed in the half of a long oval. It was defended by four round towers placed on the angles. The length of the east end, including the round towers, was 85 feet; and the extent from east to west, 120 feet. All this part is destroyed. The remains, displayed in the vignette, consist of the stone gatehouse, with its two round towers, and a small part of the east wall. The gate-way is in good preservation, and the place for the portcullis may still be seen.

A stair-case winds up the south tower to the summit of the castle, which commands a most beautiful view of the Hampshire hills, and the intermediate country. At the conclusion of the civil wars, the ruinous parts of the building were taken down, and a house erected with the materials at the bottom of the hill. Round the castle, almost occupying the whole eminence, are the entrenchments thrown up for its defence in modern times. The site of these is difficult to be traced from the bushes and briars with which they are overrun; but their strength explains the reply of the governor, which, considering the state of the castle at that time, must otherwise have been a vain-glorious boast.

Great



SHAW HOUSE is about the distance of a mile east of Donnington Castle. It is a large edifice, built with brick, mixed with a quantity of stone, and became celebrated for having been the head-quarters of King Charles at the time of the last battle of Newbury. In an old oak wainscot of a bow window in the library, is a hole about the height of a man's head. This aperture, according to tradition, was made by a bullet fired at the Monarch, as he was dressing himself at the window, by a musqueteer belonging to the Parliament's army. The shot narrowly missed him; and the wainscot has been carefully preserved as a memorial of the transaction.

This house was built by an eminent clothier, named Doleman, about the latter end of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. This gentleman, being enriched by his business, resolved to erect a spacious mansion, where the evening of his days might be passed in ease and retirement. This determination, it appears, did not agree with the ideas of his neighbours, the remembrance of whose illiberality has been preserved even to our days by an odd sarcasm:

- " Lord have mercy upon us miserable sinners!
- "Thomas Doleman has built a new house, and has turned away all his spinners!"

The grotesque humor of this distich pleads strongly in favor of its antiquity; and the various Latin and Greek sentences inscribed upon different parts of the house, evince that the sneers of the neighbourhood were not unknown to the builder. The descendants of Mr. Doleman, though the heirs of his estates, were not the inheritors of his penury; for the possessions being much decreased, were at length sold to the Duke of Chandos about 1740.

Benham House, the seat of Lord Craven, is about one mile west of Speen. The entrance to the park from the high road is by a gate with a handsome lodge on each side; hence a spacious way through a wood leads to the open grounds, where a variety of pleasing views are presented.

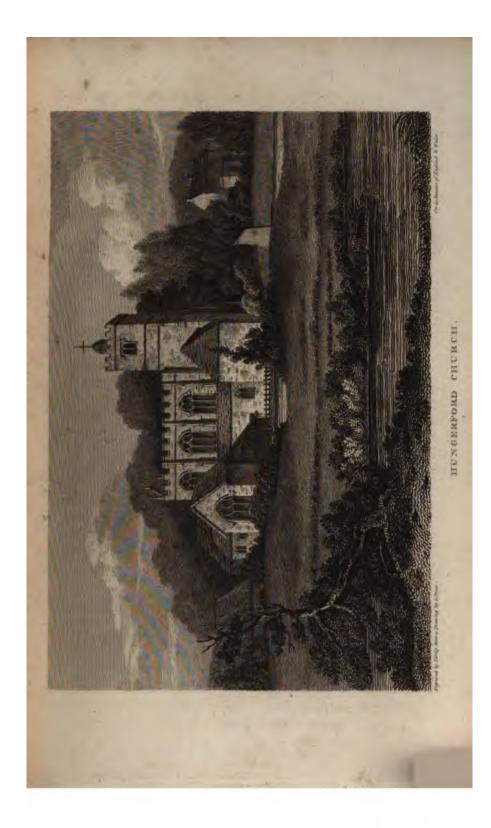
On the south beyond the vale, which is intersected by the Kennet, we have a fine prospect of Hampsted-Marshal Park, and its woody accompaniments. The grounds on this side are agreeably varied in appearance, and decorated with clumps of stately trees, whose deep shadows playing on the water, give animation and contrast to the contiguous scenery. The high grounds on the west are crowned with extensive woods, whose back-ground is formed of bold projecting tracts of the Wiltshire Downs. Towards the east, the eye ranges over a large district of well cultivated country, interspersed with wood, and diversified with a tract of prolific meadow land.

The house is a regular building of the Ionic order, composed of freestone, with an elegant portico on the south front. It stands on a sloping bank, embosomed in a deep and solemn grove, where uniformity of tone has been judiciously prevented by the intermixture of trees of various coloured foliage. A hardsome sheet of water, supplied by the silver Kennet, and bounded with agreeable lines, flows before the mansion, in the vicinity of which is a small wooden bridge of three arches, built after a Chinese design. The north side of the grounds is ornamented by woods, which extend to the western gate, and conceal the termination of the park, which is here confined by a sweep of the Bath road. The general character of the place is simplicity and beauty. The scenery is too regular to be picturesque, and too tame to be romantic.

### HUNGERFORD

Is a small market town, situated at the western extremity of the county, bordering on Wiltshire, and consisting principally of one long street. It was anciently called *Ingleford Charman-Street*, which Mr. Gough supposes to be a corruption from the ford of the *Angles*, on *Ilerman-Street*; a Roman road that crossed this town, and whose name appears to be yet preserved in one of its avenues, called Charman-Street.

Hungerford stands in a marshy soil on the Kennet, and is watered by two separate streams of that river. Near the centre of the principal





principal street is the market-house and shambles. Over the latter is a large room, where the inhabitants assemble for the transaction of public business. In this room a curious relic of antiquity is preserved, denominated the *Hungerford Horn*, which was given as a charter to the town by John of Gaunt. It bears the following inscription:

JOHN A GAUN DID GIVE AND GRANT THE RIALL®
OF FISHING TO HUNGERFORD TOUNE FROM ELDREN STUB
TO IRISH STIL EXCEPTING SOM SEVERAL MIL POUND.

JEHOSPHAT LUCAS WAS CUNSTABL.

The privilege granted to the town by these lines has long been abridged. The liberty extended about seven miles. The horn, we are informed, is made of brass, and is now blown annually to assemble the inhabitants on the day appointed to choose the constable, who is assisted in the execution of his office by twelve feoffees and burgesses, a bailiff, steward, town clerk, &c. The constable is Lord of the Manor, and holds his right immediately of the King. The church is an ancient structure, situated at the end of a pleasant walk, shaded with high trees, in the western quarter of the town: it appears to have been erected at different periods. Among the monuments is a brass plate to the memory of Robert de Hungerford, who was the first of that family in this county. The inscription is in Norman French, purporting, that "whoever shall pray for Robert de Hungerford, shall have whilst he lives and for his soul after death 550 days of pardon." Near the church is a free grammar school, for four boys and three girls, founded by the Reverend Dr. Sheef, in the year 1636; and endowed by Mrs. Cummins, and Mr. Hamblin, with 171. a year; and also a provision for a grammar master. Edward Capps, an old servant of the Hungerford family, whose faithful services had procured him the appellation of Trusty, bequeathed 50l. for the building of a new school-room; and 4l. per annum as an addition to the master's salary. The town is chiefly inhabited by tradesmen, "Maryllating the first of the same beautiful

Riall i. e, Royalty, or exclusive Grant.

tradesmen, and those who are employed in agriculture; but it is expected that its business will greatly increase when the canal, which is now forming to unite the waters of the Kennet and Avon, is completed. The canal crosses the Kennet twice between Newbury and Hungerford, and once between the latter place and Froxfield. It is expected to be finished in about four years, and will then open a navigation from London to Bath, and unite the waters of the Bristol Channel with those of the Thames. The inhabitants of Hungerford have right of common on the neighbouring down, according to the rental of their houses.

HUNGERFORD PARK, situated at the extremity of the down, was formerly the residence of the Barons Hungerford; but lately the seat of Charles Dalbiac, Esq. who erected a neat mansion, in the Italian style, on the site of the old house, which was built by Queen Elizabeth, and given to the Earl of Essex. The lands surrounding the house are mostly cultivated, and the pleasure grounds have a neat and agreeable appearance. The south and west sides are closed with fine woods; but the country being more open on the north, admits the eye to range over a considerable extent of beautiful scenery.

# LAMBORN, OR LAMBOURNE,

Is a small market-town of great antiquity, pleasantly situated in an open country, and deriving its name from the river, whose fancied peculiarity we have already examined. This place was bequeathed by King Alfred to his kinsman Alfrith, with other Lordships. After the conquest it became the property of the Fitz Warins, whose interest with Henry the Third procured its inhabitants the grant of a market and three fairs. On the north side of the church is an hospital for ten poor men; six of whom are nominated by the New College, Oxford, and four by the Hippisley family of this town.

About three miles from Lamborn is the most remarkable antiquity in all Berkshire. This is the figure of a White Horse, formed on the north-west side of a high and steep hill. Mr.

Wise,

Wise, who appears to have given more attention to this subject than any other person, ascribes its formation to the great AL-FRED, who ordered it to be made as a trophy of the signal victory which he obtained over the Danes at Ashdown, in this neighbourhood, in the year 871.

Carv'd rudely on the pendant soil, is seen
The snow-white courser stretching o'er the green:
The antique figure scan with curious eye,
The glorious monument of victory!
There England rear'd her long dejected head;
There Alfred triumph'd, and invasion bled.

Pyr's FARRINGDON HILL.

Mr. Wise, in the warmth of his admiration of this monument, describes it as being designed in so master-like a manner, that even the painter's skill could not give a more perfect delineation of the animal it represents. This praise is certainly exaggerated; for though the outline of the Horse displays ingenuity, yet the rude age in which it was formed, as well as its general appearance, contradict the assertion. The horse is portrayed in a gallopping position, on the upper part of a hill, where its steep situation, and barren soil, furnish complete security against the inroads of the plough, the stagnation of waters, or the grazing of cattle. Its dimensions occupy about an acre of ground; and its shape is determined by hollowed lines, which are trenches cut in the white chalk, between two and three feet deep, and about ten broad. The head, neck, body and tail, are composed of one line varying in width; and one line, or trench, has also been made for each of the legs. The chalk in the hollowed spaces being of a brighter color than the turf that surrounds it, catches the sun's rays, and renders the whole figure visible at several miles distance. Though the situation of the horse preserves it from all danger of being obliterated, yet the peasants of the surrounding country have a custom of assembling at stated periods for the purpose of clearing it from weeds, &c. This practice, in the

See Observations on the White Horse, and Letters on Berkshire Antiquities.

the phraseology of the country, is called scouring the horse, and is attended with a rustic festival, and the celebration of various games. The supplies which nature is continually affording, occasion the turf on the upper verge of the body to crumble, and fall into the trench, for want of continuity; this makes the above proceeding more necessary, as the brightness of the horse must depend on its freeness from extraneous matter.

Some writers have contended that this figure was the work of shepherds, who having noticed the rude, yet natural, resemblance of a horse when tending their flocks, reduced it to a more perfect shape, for amusement, rather than from any determinate signification; and that, instead of being a monument of victory, it is nothing but a memorial of idleness. This opinion is sufficiently refuted by the arguments of Mr. Wise and others, who, from various circumstances, have concluded, that it must have been a production of the West-Saxons, and not later than the age of Alfred; in whose reign the white horse, the original standard of the Pagan Saxons, was discarded for the Christian banner of the cross.

Having established these data, the particular era of its formation was more easy to be determined; and no event of those ages seemed more worthy of being recorded by such a triumphant memorial, than the battle of Ashdown, already mentioned, and which, of all the military achievements of the renowned Alfred, was most worthy of being commemorated. Antiquaries, indeed, have considerably differed as to the situation of the place where the battle was fought; but the reasoning of Mr. Wise seems decisive as to its being a district that included the range of hills from Letcombe and its neighbourhood, which overlooks the vale, and runs into Wiltshire, and is now crossed by the western road called the Ridge-way. The names of the Ashes, Ashen-den, Ashbury, and Ashdown, all found in this neighbourhood, corroborate the hypothesis.

"Here then," observes Mr. Wise, "I was persuaded to look for the field of battle, and was agreeably surprised to find my expectation answered in every respect. Upon the highest hill of these

these parts, north-eastward, is a large Roman entrenchment, called Uffington Castle, where, I suppose, the Danes lay encamped; for as their marches were generally hasty, and more like that of plunderers than of a regular army, they had not time to throw up fortifications; nor, indeed, was there occasion, where they found enough of them ready made to their hands. This place I chose for the Danes, because Asser\* says, they had got the upper ground. About half a mile lower, westward, on the brow of the hill, nearer to Ashbury, overlooking a farm-house, is a camp, fortified seemingly after the Saxon manner, with two ditches, but not near so strong as the former, which has only one: this is called Hardwell Camp, and here I suppose King Ethelred lay the night before the engagement. About a mile or more from hence, beneath the wood of Ashdown Park, is a slight roundish entrenchment, which seems to have been thrown up in haste, and which, as I have been informed, is called Ashbury Camp, and King Alfred's Castle. Such a signal victory as the Saxons obtained in this place, deserved not to pass without some token or memorial of it; and such I take to be the WHITE HORSE described on the hill, almost under Uffington Castle. Alfred, in setting up his BANNER for a token, did nothing but what was exactly agreeaable to ancient practice; and though he had not the opportunity of raising, like other conquerors, a stupendous monument of brass, or marble, yet he has shown an admirable contrivance in erecting one magnificent enough, though simple in its design, that may hereafter vie with the Pyramids for duration, and, perhaps, exist when those shall be more."

It has been observed, that the white horse ceased to be the Saxon standard in the reign of King Alfred: this circumstance may be thought to militate against the opinions of those who ascribe the formation of this monument to that Monarch: we must recollect, however, that the battle of Ashdown was fought during the life of Ethelred, when Alfred acted as his brother's lieutenant, consequently before he had ascended the throne: and also, that Vol. I.

<sup>\*</sup> Menevensis, who wrote the Life of Alfred

the alteration of the banner, in all probability, was not made till the year 883, twelve years afterwards; when, among other relics which Pope Martin the Second transmitted from Rome, was "a large portion of that most holy and most venerable cross upon which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified for the universal salvation of men. ""

From a manuscript journal of the travels, over a great part of England, of Thomas Baskerville, Esq. of Sunningwell in this county, now in the British Museum, it appears that the holders of the land in the neighbourhood of the White Horse, were, by the conditions of tenure, obliged to cleanse and repair it. This obligation is now void; for though the traditions of the peasantry have preserved the memory of its existence, yet the frequent changes which property has undergone, and the endeavours of the purchaser, on each transfer, to avoid restrictions, have contributed to cancel every record that could make it binding.

About a mile from White Horse Hill are a number of large stones, scattered irregularly over a space of ground raised a few feet above the common level. Some are set on edge; but the others are strewed about in confusion; many of them having been broken to mend the highways. Towards the extremity of the hillock, on the south-east side, are three squarish stones, about four or five feet in diameter, standing upright, and supporting another of much larger dimensions. To this place there seems to have been two approaches through rows of large stones, one leading from the south, the other from the west. This monument bears the appellation of WAYLAND-SMITH, from a ridiculous tradition that has long been current in the neighbourhood, of an invisible smith replacing lost horse-shoes, provided the animal was left on this spot, with a piece of money to reward the labours of the workman.

Mr. Wise ascribes this remnant of antiquity to the Danes, who, in his opinion, erected it to the memory of their king Bacseg, slain with several other chiefs in the dreadful battle already mentioned. Bacseg, he imagines, was buried here; but thinks that the

Asser Menevensia

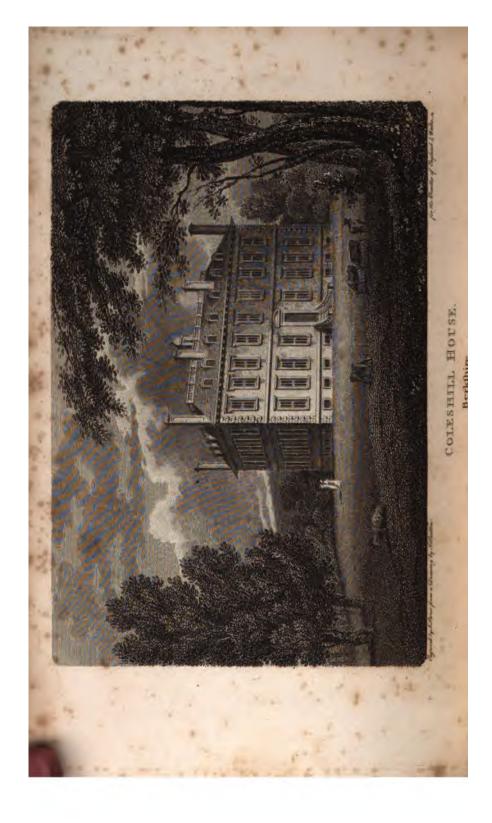
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the chiefs were interred about a mile distant, in the place called the seven Barrows; though more than twenty of those tumuli may yet be counted. The barrows are of various shapes; one is long; two or three others have a ring of earth, inclosing a small eminence in the centre; the remainder are of the common form. Edward King, Esq. the learned author of "Munimenta Antiqua," dissents from the conclusions of Mr. Wise, and refers the above vestiges of ancient manners to the Britons. Between White Horse Hill and a Roman road, supposed to be the Icenning Way, is a large barrow, called Dragon-Hill, which Mr. Aubrey conjectures to have been the burial-place of Uter-Pendragon. Mr. Wise coincides with him in supposing it to be the tumulus of some British chief, but of whom, he is unable to decide.

## COLESHILL

Is a small village on the side of a hill, at the western extremity of the county, about two miles from Highworth. It seems to have derived its name from its elevated situation, and the proximity of the river Cole, which flows near the bottom of the village, and forms the boundary of the parish.

The church is a neat stone building, dedicated to St. Faith, and ornamented at the west end by a handsome square tower, with battlements and pinnacles. The body of the church consists of a nave and two aisles. In the south aisle is a curious circular window, of modern workmanship, in which is a fine piece of painted glass, executed by Mr. Price of London, representing the arms of Sir Mark Stuart Pleydell and his Lady. In the same aisle is an elegant monument of white marble by Rysbrack, to the memory of the only daughter of the above persons. An estate of about 15l, per annum, was given, by the Reverend John Pinsent, vicar of this parish, in the year 1706, for apprenticing the children of those among the poor inhabitants of Coleshill and Great Coxwell (a neighbouring village) who had never received relief from their parish; the sum of five pounds to be allotted for each child. The number of houses is about 50, that of the inhabitants 240.

K 2 Near

Near this village, whence its appellation appears to have been obtained, is COLESHILL, the seat of Lord Viscount Folkstone. the eldest son of the Earl of Radnor. This mansion displays a perfect and unaltered specimen of the architectural taste of Inigo Jones, from whose designs it was erected in the year 1650; only two years before his death. Horace Walpole, speaking of this artist, observes, that he was the "greatest in his profession that has ever appeared in these kingdoms, and so great, that in that reign of arts (Charles the First) we scarcely know the name of another architect." As the celebrity of Inigo Jones must render every display of his works interesting to the admirer of architecture, we have been induced to give a view of the house, which, by representing its shape and style of building, precludes the necessity of verbal description. The internal parts are characterized by those ponderous ceilings, heavy cornices, and profusion of carved ornaments and gilding, which at the period of its erection were supposed to constitute the essentials of elegance. The apartments are decorated with a few good paintings, and several portraits; but the principal pictures belonging to the family are preserved at Longford Castle, the seat of the Earl of Radnor, in Wiltshire.

The grounds have lately undergone a complete alteration, and have been laid out under the direction of the Earl, according to the present taste of landscape gardening. They abound with pleasing scenery, and are diversified by that inequality of surface which seems requisite to render landscape either picturesque or beautiful. The river Cole meanders through the valley which skirts the western side of the park; and the town of Highworth forms an agreeable object from many parts of the grounds.

### FARRINGDON, OR FARRENDON,

As it is sometimes found in ancient writings, is a market town, in the north-west part of the county, situated about two miles from the Thames, on the west side of Farringdon Hill. The population is considerable, amounting to nearly 2000 persons. The church,

church, which stands on the hill, is a spacious edifice; the east end having the appearance of great antiquity. Part of the spire was destroyed during the civil wars: the remainder is but very little higher than the body of the church; within which are several fine monuments; and on the south side that of the unknown founder. Among these memorials of the brevity of human existence, is one to the memory of Sir Edward Unton, Knight of the Garter. This gentleman was ambassador from Queen Elizabeth to France, where he signalized his attachment to his Royal Mistress by sending the following remarkable challenge to the Duke of Guise, "Forasmuch as in the lodging of the Lord Dumayne, and in public elsewhere, impudently, and indiscreetly, and over boldly, you spake ill of my sovereign, whose sacred person I in this country represent; to maintain, both by word and weapon, her honor, which was never called in question among people of honesty and virtue: I say you have most wickedly lied in speaking so basely of my sovereign; and you will do nothing but lie whenever you shall dare to tax her honor. Moreover, that her sacred person being one of the most complete, accomplished, and virtuous princesses in the world, ought not to be evil spoken of, by the malicious tongue of such a perfidious traitor to her law and country as you are; and hereupon I do defy and challenge your person to mine with such manner of arms as you shall like or choose, be it on horseback or on foot. Nor would I have you think that there is any inequality of person between us; I being issued of as great a race, and noble house, in all respects. as yourself. So assigning me an indifferent place, I will there maintain my words and the lie which I have given, and which you should not endure, if you have any courage at all in you. If you consent not to meet me hereupon, I will hold you and cause you to be held for the arrantest coward, and most slanderous slave, that exists in France. I expect your answer, &c."

Robert, Earl of Gloucester, erected a castle here in the reign of King Stephen; but the Monarch, after some resistance, reduced and levelled it with the ground. The site of it, according to the Chronicle of Waverly Abbey, quoted by Camden, was, by King

K 3 John

John, in the year 1202, "by divine admonition, granted with all its appurtenances to build an abbey of the Cistercian order."

These fruitful plains, in that unhappy hour
Of papal sway, and sacerdotal power,
Were doom'd the new made abbey to maintain,
And distant BEAULIEU\* rul'd the fair domain.

FARRINGDON HILL.

FARRINGDON House is an elegant modern edifice, built by Henry James Pye, Esq. the present laureat. It stands in a small park, on the north side of the town, the view of which is happily excluded by lofty elms, and some plantations that have lately been made. The grounds are agreeable from their inequality of surface, and sufficiently covered with wood for their confined limits. During the civil wars, the ancient mansion was garrisoned for Charles the First, and was one of the last places that surrendered; its defenders having repulsed a large party of the Parliament's forces but a short time before the reduction of Oxford. tack was attended with a singular circumstance: Sir Robert Pye, the owner of the house, who had married Anne, the eldest daughter of Hampden, and was colonel in the Parliament's army, being himself the person who headed the assailants. It was in this action that the spire of Farringdon church was beaten down by the artillery.

In the immediate vicinity of the town is Farringdon-Hill, a beautiful eminence, rising gradually from the Vale of White Horse, and terminated by a small grove, which forms a kind of land-mark for the surrounding counties, being seen at a great distance in every direction. This charming place commands a rich and extensive view over parts of Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, and Wiltshire, in addition to the whole of the beautiful and interesting vale beneath. But the muse of Mr. Pye, who on this spot strung her lyre with melody, has snatched the fruitful subject from the attempts of prose; and, by interweaving the beauties it owes to nature, with the embellishments it receives from art, and the

<sup>\*</sup> BEAULIEU in Hampshire, to which the Abbey at Farringdon was subordinate.

interest it derives from history, has precluded description from all but those who have been admitted to partake of the Heliconian stream.

Here lofty mountains lift their azure heads,
There its green lap the grassy meadow spreads;
Enclosures here the sylvan scene divide,
There plains extended spread their harvests wide;
Here oaks, their mossy limbs wide stretching, meet,
And form impervious thickets at our feet:
Through aromatic heaps of ripening hay,
There silver Isis wins her winding way;
And many a tower, and many a spire between,
Shoots from the groves, and cheers the rural scene.

FARRINGDON HILL.

"On the top of BADBURY HILL, on the north side of the turnpike road leading from Farringdon to Highworth, and within a few yards of it, is a camp of a circular form, 200 vards in diameter, with a ditch 20 yards wide. About nine years ago, in levelling the north rampart, human bones and coals were found; and human bones are found every year in digging for peat in the swampy ground about one mile south of the hill. Leland, in his Itinerary, says, that he learned of certainty, that "a mile out of Farringdon, towards the right way to Highworth, appeared a great diche, wher a fortresse, or rather a camp of warre, had beene, as some say, diked by the Danes as a sure camp." Mr. Wise, in his letter to Dr. Mead, supposes that the battle of Mons Badonicus, or Badbury Hill, in the year 520, mentioned by Bede and Gildas, in which Arthur gained his twelfth victory, was fought near the White Horse Hill; but if, from similarity of names, it may be concluded that that battle happened in this neighbourhood, there is much more probability of this being the spot, than the Wiltshire hills; as this camp is Danish, and nearer to the White Horse Hill, than the other, in Wilts, the fortifications of which are Roman, Between this camp and the White Horse Hills is a plain dead flat, five miles wide, a very proper place for the engagement of two armies.\*"

4

About

About two miles north of Farringdon is RADCOT BRIDGE, of great antiquity and venerable appearance; but more peculiarly interesting, from the relation it bears to history. On this spot a memorable battle was fought in the year 1387, between Robert de Vere, Marquis of Dublin, the highly honoured favorite of Richard the Second, and the discontented barons, headed by Thomas, Duke of Gloucester; the Earl of Derby, afterwards Henry the Fourth, &c. The troops of the favorite were routed; and he, himself, only escaped, by plunging on horseback into the Thames, and swimming across the stream.

### **PUSEY**

Is a village only remarkable for having belonged to one family ever since the reign of Canute, who gave it to their ancestor by the medium of a HORN, which is now in the possession of the owner of the estate, and bears the following inscription:

KYNG KNOWD GAVE WYLLYAM PEWSE YYS HORN TO HOLDE BY THY LOND.

This horn is described by Mr. Gough as being of a dark brown tortoiseshell colour, mounted at each end with rings of silver, and a third round the middle, on which the inscription is written in characters of much later date than those of the time of Canute. The horn is of an ox or buffalo; two feet are fixed to the middle ring, and the stopper is shaped like a dog's head.

### WANTAGE,

RENDERED memorable for being the birth-place of KING AL-FRED, whose name no epithet can exalt, whose worth no words can appreciate, is a market town of considerable antiquity, seated on the skirts of the prolific Vale of White Horse. A variety of concurring testimonies render it probable, that this place was once a Roman station; though the numerous alterations which it has undergone, almost preclude the possibility of tracing those remains



remains which would at once decide the question and the controversy. In a country that has been the scene of frequent revolutions, and the theatre of contending armies, it is not to be supposed that the vestiges of former ages should have remained so complete and perfect, as if the halcyon days of peace had for ever shone upon its plains. In this neighbourhood the footsteps of various nations may be discovered; but they are all imperfect. Roman works have been demolished to make room for Saxon; and these again have been destroyed, that the devices of modern times might be executed.

Dr. Salmon has conjectured that this town is the Glevum or Clevum of Antoninus; but in this, we believe, the voice of every other antiquary is against him; that name, by almost general assent, being ascribed to Gloucester. The vallum of the Roman station in Wantage, was plainly to be seen when Mr. Wise visited it about the year 1738, "inclosing a space on the south side the brook, called, the High-Garden." A hollow way into the town from Farringdon, Grove-Street, a morass, and a river, form the sides of an oblong square, containing about six acres of ground. On this spot, continues Mr. Wise, "stood the Saxon palace where ALFRED was born." North of the brook is Limborough, an inclosure where Roman coins have been found: and between this place and the river the remains of a building, called King Alfred's Cellar, were discovered, which was paved with brick, and appeared to have been a bath. Near Limborough is Court Close. Another small piece of ground, called Pallet's More, Mr. Wise conjectures to have been originally Palace Moor.

Wantage was probably of consequence in Saxon times; as it was undoubtedly a royal seat, and appears, together with the surrounding country, to have been the patrimony of the West-Saxon Kings. By the Will of Alfred, it was bequeathed to his cousin Alfrith; and was first made a market town about 150 years after the Conquest, through the interest of Fulk Fitz-warine, on whom it was bestowed by Roger Bigod, Earl Marshall of England, as a reward for military services. Its present population may be estimated at 1800.

ALFRED

ALFRED THE GREAT, THE WISE, THE GOOD, was born in the year 849. His nativity may be regarded as a new Era in the history of human happiness. The tremendous crisis at which he appeared, when the hardy sons of the north were pouring like a devastating torrent on the fertile fields of Europe; the mighty ends he accomplished, by creating the firm barrier which so long opposed their overwhelming progress; and the distinguished station which Britain has assumed in the rank of nations, and which originated in the wisdom of his institutions, are at once the heralds of his fame, and the clear and dicisive records of the extent of his resources, and the pre-eminence of his ability.

ALFRED was the youngest child of Ethelwulph, King of the West-Saxons, and Osberga, the daughter of Oslac, the monarch's cup-bearer. His mother has been extolled for her piety and understanding; but her instructions could have little effect in forming the mind of her son, who, when only four years of age, was taken from her superintendance, and sent to Rome, where, at his father's request, he was anointed King, by Pope Leo the Fourth. Ethelwulph, on this occasion, seems to have been actuated by an unjust partiality. He had overlooked the claims of his elder children, two of whom were verging into manhood, and attempted to bind the diadem on the brows of an infant.

About two years afterwards, when Alfred had entered into his seventh year, he accompanied his father, whose capacity was better adapted for a cloister than the government of a nation, in his journey to the capital of the Papal see; and a second time visited Rome. These successive peregrinations must have had a powerful effect in exciting the latent energies of his genius. The avidity of youth to contemplate new objects, and the various and contrasted scenes which a tour through France and Italy must in those days have exhibited, could not fail of enlarging the powers of a noble and generous disposition. Infant civilization, royal magnificence, nature in terrific grandeur, or in wildest solitude, the human character in every variety of energetic barbarism, or artificial polish, the excitation of unexpected difficulties, dangers surmounted, and persevering labour continued often to toil, mu have occupied his attention in perpetual succession; and muc

activity





activity of mind, and novelty of idea, must have resulted from the varying impressions.

The exclusive partiality of Ethelwulph for his youngest child, combining with other circumstances, had occasioned a conspiracy against his power, and menaced him with deposition and exile. To avert the gathering storm, he took shipping for England; but found, on his return, that the combination was too strong to be resisted; and was forced to consent to the division of his kingdom with his son Ethelbald. His love of Alfred, however, suffered no decay: he made him the object of his most fond, but misguided affection; and nothing, perhaps, but his own death, which happened when the Prince was only eight years old, could have secured the mind of the latter from being enervated and ruined by excessive indulgence.

The education of Alfred was most deplorably neglected, and he passed the first eleven years of his life without being able to read. This his biographer (Asser) ascribes to the shameful negligence of his parents, and of those who nurtured him; but a collateral reason may certainly be found in the general ignorance which in that age pervaded Britain. "Learning was in such discredit, that Alfred, when a sovereign, was unable, in all his provinces, to discover masters competent to instruct him." The attainments of youth were confined to the exercises of the chase. The transmitted wisdom of his forefathers, the unobtrusive eloquence of books, was to him unknown. Judith, his step-mother, whom Ethelwulph had married during his residence on the continent, is said to have been the first to direct his untutored mind to literature. The kindling energy of Alfred's intellect displayed itself in a fondness for the only mental objects which then existed to attract it: these were the wild graces of Saxon poetry. His mother, whose taste was probably congenial with his own, encouraged him, by rewards adapted to his juvenile years, to commit the verses to memory; and also induced him to learn to read, by the promise of a book wherein the effusions of the poets had been recorded. Having once tasted of the intellectual fountain, his thirst of knowledge, grew with his growth, and strengthened

strengthened with his strength. Every increase of ideas gave wings to preseverance; every new attainment augmented his assiduity.

After the death of Ethelwulph, his sons ascended the throne in regular succession. During the reigns of his brethren, Alfred, being exempted from the cares of sovereignty, devoted much of his time to the liberal pursuits of literature. But his studies were embarrassed by the excessive ignorance which then prevailed, "there being no person between the Thames and the Humber capable of translating a Latin letter." Alfred numbered with his several misfortunes, that, "when he had youth, and leisure, and permission to learn, he could not find teachers."

The two elder brothers of Alfred dying after very short reigns, were succeeded by Ethelred, who created him chief minister and general of his armies. In this situation his courage was frequently displayed against the Danes, whose murderous bands were pillaging and destroying every quarter of the kingdom, and at length had penetrated to Berkshire, where possessing themselves of Reading, they dug a trench between the Kennet and the Thames to defend their encampments.

On the third day after their arrival, their leaders, with a powerful body of cavalry, began to plunder the surrounding country, but were opposed by the brave Ethelwulf, earl of the county, who defeated them after a long combat, and forced them to retreat, as we have before stated, page 90, to their fortifications. Four days after this conflict, Ethelred and Alfred began their march, and joining Ethelwulf, attacked the Danes in their camp; but they had rushed to the battle with an inadequate force, and the conflict ceased with the death of Ethelwulf, and the retreat of the English. Animated by this victory, the invaders quitted their entrenchments, and marched to Ashdown. Now it was that the military genius of Alfred began to display itself; the enemy had advanced into the bosom of his country, and every effort that wisdom could devise, and valor execute, was requisite to be employed in the arduous conflict he was compelled to sustain.

The

The brothers collected a more complete and formidable army, and again advanced to the combat. The Danes, mindful of the coming storm, accumulated their utmost strength, and, with an attempt at tactical arrangement, divided themselves into two bodies: One was conducted by their two Kings; the other moved under the Earls. The English imitated their array. Ethelred resolved himself to encounter the chiefs, and appointed Alfred to contend with the Earls. Both armies raised their shields into a tortoise arch, and demanded the battle.

The Danes were first in the field; for Elthelred, impressed with that dispiriting belief, which men on the eve of great conflicts sometimes experience, that he should not survive the battle, waited to say his orisons in his tent. Alfred, more eager for the combat, and provoked by the defying presence of the enemy, was impatient at the delay: his indignant courage forgot the inferiority of the division he commanded; he led up his troops in condensed order, and disdained to remark, that the crafty Danes had the advantage of an eminence. A solitary tree marked the place of conflict, and round this the nations fought with frightful clamour and equal bravery. The exertions of Alfred were unavailing; he had been too precipitate. The English ranks gave way, when the presence of Ethelred, with his battle, destroyed the inequality of the combatants, and reanimated the fainting spirits of his countrymen. The long and dreadful struggle ended in the death of King Bacseg, several earls, and some thousands of the Danes, who were chased all that night, and the succeeding day, till they reached their fortress at Reading. This was the important victory which the White Horse was formed to commemorate.

The cares of Alfred were about to multiply; and the battle, though accompanied with such a dismal slaughter, was not decisive of the war; for the Danes, being reinforced with fresh bodies of their countrymen, supported another combat with the English at Merton,\* and, after a well disputed contest, remained masters

of

Probably Merton in this county. See Turner's Anglo Saxons, Vol. II.

of the field. In this battle Ethelred was mortally wounded; and his death, which shortly followed, removed the barrier which precluded Alfred from the throne. Some children of his elder brother were still alive; but the crisis was too awful for the nation to permit the sceptre to be wielded by the hand of a trembling infant. The nobility assembled, and, with the approbation of the people, chose Alfred for their King.

It is intimated, that he acceded to the request of becoming his brother's successor with hesitation; and, indeed, every evil which can corrode human happiness, seemed about to surround the proffered diadem. It was a crown taken up from the field of defeat, dropping with a brother's blood; and accordingly, when Alfred accepted it, he began a new life of anxiety, shaded for some time with the deepest gloom of misfortune. The fiercest and most destructive succession of conflicts which ever saddened a year of human existence, distinguished that of Alfred's accession with peculiar misery. The circle of destruction which environed him, began to contract, and all the causes of ruin were accumulating to overwhelm him. The West Saxons had maintained eight pitched battles against the Danes, with their own population, besides innumerable skirmishes. Many thousands of the invaders fell, but their ranks were as continually recruited by fresh arrivals.

Within a month after Alfred had accepted the crown, the Danes attacked his troops at Wilton with such a superiority of force, that all the valour of patriotism was unable to prevent defeat. Wearied with these depopulating conflicts, Alfred made peace with his enemies, who quitted his dominions, and marched to London.

The conduct of Alfred during the seven succeeding years of his reign was inexplicably strange. An unwise, temporising policy appears to have governed his actions. He saw the Danes in motion every where around him, successively subduing and laying waste the fairest portions of the island, without taking those measures of precaution which reason must have suggested to be necessary. He was witness to their frequent breach of engagement

and yet had the weakness to confide in their protestations. Every new insult, and every additional act of perfidy, was commuted by fresh oaths, and an increase in the formalities of abjuration. The Monarch at this season appears to have been deficient both in vigilance and vigor; and the only plan discernible in his conduct, was to gain momentary repose. An interval of tranquillity was certainly obtained, but it was a delusive slumber on the precipice of fate.

The time, however, was arrived, when all the latent energies of the hero's character were to be roused to action. The dormant powers of his soul were to be awakened by adversity, and the dazzling rays of his incomparable genius were to shine upon the world in the full glow of meridian splendor. Alfred was compelled to become a fugitive and a wanderer.

The circumstances which led to this extremity are so extraordinary that it is difficult to comprehend them. The Danes invaded Wessex; and the country of an active, powerful Monarch falls undefended into their hands. They take possession of Chippenham, in Wiltshire, in January; and between that month and the Easter following, the kingdom was subjugated, and Alfred in concealment. The gloom that hangs over this event is too thick to be dispersed; but, from the admissions of some of his biographers, it appears, that Alfred at this time was not in possession of the confidence of his people.

Sir John Spelman, Hume, &c. have intimated, that the population of Wessex was exhausted by the frequency of contest, and "the seven desperate battles" fought in the year 876. But these battles are placed by the unanimous agreement of every reputable chronicler in the last year of Ethelred's reign, and the first of Alfred's. Since that period the King had sometimes headed armies; but no sanguinary conflict is mentioned to have ensued in Wessex; and as seven years had elapsed without an important struggle, a third of the juvenile population at Alfred's accession, would, at this period, have attained the age of courageous manhood. The event, therefore, must have proceeded from other causes.

Asser avows his belief that the King's adversity was not senerited. The reason which he adduces for his opinion is, "that in the first part of his reign, while yet a young man, and governed by a youthful mind, when the men of his kingdom, and his subjects, came to him, and besought him in their necessities, when they who were oppressed by power, implored his aid and patronage, he would not hear them; he conceded no assistance; he treated them as of no estimation." When Alfred turned a deaf ear to the complaints of his people, he sapped the foundation of his throne. His contempt alienated their affections, and they deserted him in the hour of his need.

Alfred vacated his seat of royalty in the garb of a common soldier: he knew not whither to go, nor whom to trust. In his wanderings, he beheld the humble cottage of a swineherd, which he entered, a lonely exile. The feelings of the peasant were interested by his intimations of distress; he gave shelter to the unknown Monarch, and treated him with hospitality. In this retirement, the mind of Alfred was busied in retrospection. revolved the important events of his life, and contemplated the miseries of his bleeding country. He beheld his people enslaved; himself, an outcast; and, with all the emotions of indignant sensibility, began to meditate on schemes of deliverance, and fature security. The place of his retreat was peculiarly fitted to become a military post of the most defensible nature. It was a small spot of firm land, a few acres in extent, environed by water, and impassable marshes,\* which had been produced by the conflux of the Perrot and the Thone. Here, assisted by some of his people, to whom he had made himself known, and who acquiesced in his plans, he constructed a long bridge, and upon its western end built a strong fort, which made hostile approaches impracticable.

Having secured the place of his residence, and increased the number of his associates, he began an excursive warfare against the enemy. His small band, formidable from union and vigot, assailed

<sup>\*</sup> In Somersetshire, simucalled Æthelingey, and Athelney.



assailed the invaders whenever opportunity offered; and though their first attempts were not crowned with great success, defeat only augmented their prudence, and called new energies into action. Retiring into their unknown asylum, with a celerity which baffled pursuit, when repulsed by a superior force, they soon harrassed the enemy with hostility in a different quarter. By these expeditions, Alfred furnished himself and his party with sustenance, inured himself to war and skilful generalship, improved in his knowledge of the country, secured the attachment of his friends, provided new resources of character for his future life, collected perpetual intelligence of the motions of the Danes, revived the spirit of the country, and prepared it for that grand exploit which was soon to crown his labours.

After several months' obscurity, lofty achievements began to occupy the mind of Alfred, and an auspicious incident occurred at this juncture, to fortify his courage, and give reason to his hopes. He was informed that Odun, Earl of Devon, had defeated and killed the daring Hubba, who had blockaded his castle at Kynwith. An immense booty rewarded the victors; but the capture of the magical standard of the Danes, the famous Reapan, was, to the eye of ignorant superstition, a more fatal disaster than the death of Hubba, or their own destructive defeat. Inspired by this fortunate omen, he formed a scheme for surprising the great Danish army, which still continued in Wiltshire; but, previous to the attempt, inspected their encampments disguised as a harper. His talents excited notice, he was admitted to the royal tables, heard the secret councils of his foes, and beheld their exposed situation, undiscovered.

Having regained his retreat, he dispatched messengers to his principal friends in the adjacent counties, announcing his existence, and requiring them to collect their followers, and meet him in military array on the east of Selwood Forest. As the Anglo-Saxons had suffered severely in his absence, the tidings of his re-appearance filled every breast with rapture. All who were entrusted with the secret, crowded enthusiastically to the place of meeting. Having encamped two nights in the field, they rose

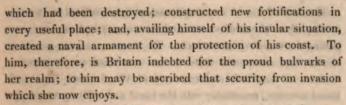
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on the third day with the first gleams of the morning, and marched rapidly to Eddington, near Westbury, where the Northern myriads overspread the plains.

The Anglo-Saxons rushed on their enemies with an impetuosity which disordered valor was unable to withstand. It was ALFRED who led on the bands of punishment; ALFRED who seemed to have risen from his grave, to destroy them in his wrath. Astounded at his name and presence, and surprised in all the carelessness of fancied security, the Danes could only oppose the fierceness of the attack, by hasty assemblages of wild tumultuous numbers. But these fell before the skilful assault of the English King. The plain was strewed with their hosts: part fled to a neighbouring fortification, and Alfred was left the master of that important field, which exalted him from the marshes and penury of Æthelingey to the throne of England. The King, with vigorous judgment, followed the Danes to their fortress, and surrounded it so closely that every reinforcement was precluded. Fourteen days the besieged lingered in unavailing distress, and then, oppressed with hunger and famine, and worn down by fatigue and dismay, humbly supplicated the mercy of the conqueror.

The clemency of Alfred was equal to his valor; and on this occasion it appears to have been governed by the most refined policy. His comprehensive genius had conceived the magnanimous design of binding them with the peaceful obligations of civilization and Christianity. The immediate conditions which he imposed, were oaths that they should leave his dominions; the delivery of hostages; and an agreement to abandon Paganism, and embrace the tenets of the Christian religion. Gothrum, or Gothrun, the Danish chief, readily acceded to his terms, and was baptized with thirty of his principal officers. Alfred then permitted him to colonize East-Anglia, and settled the limits of their respective territories by a treaty which still exists.

The reign of Alfred from his restoration to his death was wise and prosperous. The great object of his care was to fortify his kingdom against hostile attacks. He rebuilt the cities and casts which



The increase of Scandinavian population was so rapid for several centuries, that numerous swarms were continually pouring from the north in search of new settlements. Accustomed to warfare, and restrained by no ties, they fell upon the southern provinces of Europe like the scourges of desolation. England was again destined to become the scene of their barbarity; but the defensive precautions of Alfred were such, as the means and disposition of the impetuous invaders could never effectually withstand. Various bodies of piratical visitants were successively combated, and as often forced to retire to their ships with diminished forces. The navy of Alfred completed their dismay, and for a considerable period his kingdom enjoyed repose.

Fifteen years had now elapsed since the Monarch's restoration, and he had employed that interval in executing every scheme which his wisdom had formed for the improvement and protection of his people: but his quiet was once more interrupted, and he was compelled to abandon the arts of peace for an unremitted exertion of sagacity and courage. The veteran Hastings, who had been employed in ravaging the continent for thirty years, marched to Boulogne, and collecting a fleet of 300 ships, undertook to wrestle with Alfred for his throne. The struggle was long and dreadful; three summers had completed their revolution, before it was decided. The superiority of the Monarch was at length manifested; and Hastings, yielding indignantly to his evil fortune, disbanded his despairing followers, and left the kingdom. During this contest, Alfred is said to have obtained possession of the Danish fleet, by digging three new channels in the vicinity of the river Lea, by which the waters were drawn off, and the ships left immoveable on the ground.

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The last efforts of expiring invasion were confined to the seacoasts, where the freebooters carried on a piratical warfare, more galling than any regular attack. To these no mercy could be shown; and many who were taken, were tried as the common enemies of mankind, and executed at Winchester. This welltimed severity, combining with the naval and military reputation which Alfred had now acquired, secured the tranquillity of the nation during the remainder of his reign. The last three years of his life were devoted to the arts most glorious for a king to cultivate. The encouragement he gave to literature, and the wisdom of his judicial institutions, softened the ferocious manners of his subjects, and diffused prosperity and happiness through a land to which they had hitherto been strangers. The scene of his existence was at length terminated. The hand of time had unfolded the evolutions of his destiny. He was called from the world, on the 26th of October, in the year 900 or 901.

The virtues of Alfred have so emblazoned the page of history, that many of his biographers have forgotten that he was a man. Alfred had faults; but they were like the shadows which glide over the summer grass: it is the surrounding radiance which occasions us to perceive them, and the momentary obscuration lasts only while we gaze. As conspicuous in the annals of time as the comet in the paths of heaven, a luminous stream of praise has always accompanied his name: but the pencil of truth has no favorite. The recording angel wept to register his errors,\* and the inscription was blotted with the tears. This sentence only is legible: The amendment of his conduct was a consequence of his adversity. The sequel of his reign, which was one unvaried course of virtue and intelligence, attests that his fortunate humiliation disciplined his temper, purified his heart, and enlightened his understanding.

The delineation of his varied attainments, and the description of his patriotic institutions, we must leave to the more diffusive pages of the historian. The space we have already allotted to his

biography,

The accusing Spirit, which flew up to heaven's chancery with the oath, blushed as he gave it in; and the recording Angel, as he wrote it down, dropt a tear upon the word, and blotted it out for ever. STERME.

biography, precludes the particular record of those establishments by which the benefits of his wisdom have descended to posterity. But the outline of his character may be drawn in a few words: Alfred was the Friend of his Country; the Father of his People; the Patriot King.

JOSEPH BUTLER, a learned divine, was born in this town in the year 1692. His parents being dissenters, he was educated in a seminary of similar principles in Gloucestershire, where the eminent Dr. Watts became his fellow pupil. Being resolved to conform to the established church, he removed, in 1714, to Oriel College, Oxford, and fortunately contracted an intimate friendship with Mr. Edward Talbot, son of the Bishop of Durham, by whose interest he was appointed rector to the rich benefices of Houghton and Stanhope in that bishopric. He was afterwards made chaplain to Lord Chancellor Talbot, and clerk of the closet to Queen Caroline. Having been honored with several intermediate preferments, he was promoted to the see of Durham; but enjoyed his dignity but two years. He died at Bath in 1752, whence his remains were carried to Bristol, and interred in the abbey church. His writings display an enlarged and comprehensive mind. One of his publications, the "Analogy of Religion," is regarded as a most valuable performance,

## EAST-HENDRED,

THOUGH now reduced to a small village, was, at the time of the suppression of the monasteries, a considerable market-town. It borders on the Vale of White Horse, at the foot of the downs, under the large barrow called Cuckhamsley-Hill. The parish contains five manors, four of which were originally in the possession of different religious houses. The first and principal manor belonged to the priory of Carthusian monks at Sheen, in Surrey,

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<sup>\*</sup> The substance of this biographical sketch is composed of excerpts from Mr. Turner's valuable History of the ANGLO-SAXONS. The facts there recorded are supported by correct references, and extracts from the labours of the ancient chroniclers.

on which it was bestowed by Henry the Fifth. It was this Monarch that granted the charter for a weekly market, and two fairs annually, with exemption from all taxes, and the liberty of punishing criminals taken within the district. The second manor was part of the possessions of Reading abbey, having been given to that monastery by the Empress Maud. The third was the property of the abbey at Abingdon; and the fourth, of the New College, Oxford; and we believe that it still belongs to that foun-We are informed by a reputable author, that a piece of hand in this place, with its appurtenances, of the yearly value of five shillings, was held by the tenure of repeating a Pater-noster daily for the health of the King's soul. The holder was called John Pater-noster, probably, from this circumstance. A road leading to West-Hendred is still called Pater-noster banoke. The foundations of several buildings, and cavities overgrown with grass, supposed to have been wells, were discovered here about the beginning of the last century. The number of houses in this village is about 130.

#### WALLINGFORD.

AMIDST the multifarious subjects that come under the review of a topographer, there are few so ambiguous and perplexing as the task of making the ancient names of places accord with the appellations they have received in more modern times. Many of the stations mentioned in the Itinerary have completely baffled the sagacity of antiquaries; and their researches, instead of removing difficulty, have only tended to the indulgence of speculation, and the increase of hypothesis.

Walfingford is evidently of great antiquity; but its origin has never been satisfactorily explained. Some have referred it to the Britons, and contended, that it is the Calleva Attrebatum of Antoninus; whilst others have placed the chief city of the ATTREBATII at Farnham, † in Surrey; Silchester, ‡ in Hampshire; and Henley, § in Oxfordshire.

\* Blount. + Stukely. Salmon. ‡ Ward. Horsely.

Though the validity of the arguments which ascribe this town to a British origin, may be contested, yet there seems sufficient evidence to warrant the belief of its having been a Roman settlement. Mr. Gough observes, in his additions to Camden, " that the outer work of the castle is evidently Roman; and in a fragment of the wall at the entrance, the stones are laid herringbone fashion, just as in the walls at Silchester;" and adds, that a manuscript note, now in his possession, in the hand writing of Mr. Gale, asserts, that, " Many coins of Gordian, Posthumus, Victorinus, and the Tetrici, were dug up in the town of Wallingford, in August, 1726; and afterwards some of Vespasian and Gallienus." Camden supposes that the name Calleca was a mistake of the transcribers for Gallena, derived from the British Gual-Hen, the old fortification; which name, in his opinion, it still retains with the addition of ford; its present name being contracted from the Saxon Gualleng-a-ford. This etymology is rendered plausible, by the shallowness of the stream in the neighbourhood of the town.

Wallingford is situated on the banks of the Thames, over which there is a long stone bridge of considerable antiquity, supported by nineteen arches. This fabric, from its appearance, seems to vie with the oldest structure of the kind on the river, though the time of its erection cannot be ascertained. The pointed angular sterlings on the upper side are so well constructed as to be capable of resisting the most violent floods; and the whole appears to be of immense strength.

Near the river side, the mouldering ruins of the ancient castle, which, in the estimation of former ages, was regarded as impregnable, may yet be discovered; but they give no idea of that strength which regal armies once besieged in vain. Bereft of its proud towers, and formidable walls, it excites no passion but humility. The astonishment which its size and magnificence formerly impressed on the beholder, is no longer felt; its glories are departed; its importance is no more. "The castle," says Camden, is environed with a double wall and double ditch; and in the middle, on a high artificial hill, stands the citadel, in the ascent

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to which, by steps, I have seen a well of immense depth." Leland, who saw this fortress some years prior to Camden, describes it, as having "three dykes large and deep, and well watered;" and continues, "about each of the two first dykes, as upon the crest of the ground cast out of them, runneth an embattled walk, now sore in ruins, and for the most part defaced. All the goodly buildings with the towers and dungeons be within the third dyke. There is also a collegiate chapel among the buildings within the third dyke." In this dilapidated state the castle probably remained till the civil wars, when an order,\* signed by Thurlow, Cromwell's Secretary, was issued for its total demolition. When Mr. Gough visited Wallingford, in the year 1768, he observed that, "the outer west rampart, planted with trees; and the outer and inner south ones, disposed in garden grounds; were exceedingly bold and fresh. The outer north one, is in corn fields; and the side is single, being defended by the river. This last is broken into two bastions, or outworks, to which correspond two others on the north side. Some fragments of the walls remain in houses, and part of the east pier of the principal gate, on the south east corner of the inner bank. The keep,+ of considerable height. falls into the south-east corner of the inner works." The recent date of this gentleman's description has left us nothing to add; the alterations that have since taken place being too trivial to be

This castle, as we have already stated, appears to have been built by the Romans; but has successively fallen into the power of the Saxons, Danes, and Normans. When Sueno, in revenge for the general massacre of his countrymen, ravaged England

- This order was in the possession of an Alderman of the town, who died
  a few years since.
- + As the meaning of this word, which frequently occurs in the description of castles, is not universally known, it may be expedient to inform our readers, that the Keep was the citadel or last retreat of the garrison, built on an artificial eminence, raised generally in the centre of the castle. It was often surrounded by a ditch with a drawbridge, and a machiolated, or pierced gate, through which scalding water, or boiling lead, might be poured on the assailants.

about the year 1006, he is supposed to have destroyed part of its fortifications: but it seems to have been repaired and enlarged by William the Conqueror, at which time we learn, from the Domesday Book, eight houses were demolished to make way for the castle. This Monarch is said to have encamped at Wallingford on his way to London, after the defeat of Harold.

During the storms of civil war which the ambition of Stephen had brought upon his country, this town was subjected to all the horrors of a siege. The castle was then in the possession of Brientius Fitz Count, who had married the heiress of the manor. The Empress Matilda, the usurper's mortal foe, was inclosed within its walls. This circumstance gave wings to destruction. The fury of the assailants was increased by the quality and importance of their expected prize; the vigor of the besieged received additional animation from the presence of the female whose cause they had undertaken to defend. The assaults of the King proved fruitless; the strength of the place, and the bravery of the garrison, resisted his utmost exertions.

Force being unavailing, Stephen had recourse to policy. He surrounded the castle with a line strengthened by forts, the principal of which he named Crauemerse; and also shut up the passage of the garrison over the Thames, by erecting a strong fort at the head of the bridge. Those whom he was unable to subdue by courage, he resolved to overcome by hunger; and the place was reduced to that extremity, that the governor found it necessary to send to France, to apprize Henry, Matilda's son, and afterwards Henry the Second, of his mother's danger. The Prince immediately came to England, and encamping before the castle, besieged the besiegers, by encompassing their works with a line of circumvallation; thus defeating the projects of Stephen by acting on his own plans. Soon afterwards, the Monarch advanced, with the intent of giving the Prince battle; but the armies being kept asunder by the floods, the ecclesiastics, and nobility of both parties, had opportunity to persuade the rivals for empire, to agree to a conference. This being held on the banks of the Thames, it was determined that Stephen should enjoy enjoy the crown during his life, and that Henry should succeed him. On the conclusion of the peace, Brientius, and his wife, devoted themselves to religion; and the honor of Wallingford reverted to the King.

By a passage in Domesday Book, there appears to have been 276 houses in this town, at the time of the survey, "yielding a tax of 111." This number continued to augment till about the year 1348, when the population was considerably diminished by a dreadful plague. Some idea of the importance of Wallingford at this period may be derived from Leland, who describes it as being surrounded with a wall, "going in compace a good mile or more;" and says, that, by the patents and donations of Edward, Earl of Cornwall, and lord of this manor, "there were fourteen parish churches in Wallingford; and there be men alive that can show the places and cemetaries wherein they all stood. At this time," continues Leland, "there be but three poor parish churches in the town." The building of Culham and Dorchester bridges is said to have contributed to the decay of Wallingford, as great part of the traffic was by that means removed to Abingdon, and other contiguous places.

Though the combination of the above circumstances have considerably diminished the ancient magnificence of this town, it is still a place of consequence, and has of late years been much increased both with houses and inhabitants. It consists of two principal streets, and is supposed to contain about 1800 people, who are chiefly employed in agriculture and malt-making. This trade is in a very flourishing state; the demand amounting to upwards of 120,000 bushels annually. Much of the improvement of Wallingford is owing to the late Sir William Blackstone, through whose generous exertions two new turnpike-roads have been formed; the one opening a communication between Oxford and Reading, by means of a new bridge over the Thames at Shellingford; the other leading to Wantage, through the Vale of White Horse.

Wallingford contains three churches; St. Mary's, St. Leonard's, and St. Peter's: the latter was rebuilt about forty years

years since, and was then ornamented with a spire of a very singular form, at the sole expence of the eminent person above mentioned. During the civil wars, when the town was garrisoned for the King, two churches were entirely destroyed, and only a small part of another left standing. Here are also four dissenting meeting-houses, for the respective denominations of Methodists, Armenians, Baptists, and Quakers.

This was a borough in the reign of Edward the Confessor, and has sent members to parliament from the 23d year of Edward the First. The right of election is in the corporation, and inhabitants paying scot and lot, and not receiving alms. The number of voters is about 140. The rents of the manor, and the revenues arising from the markets and fairs, are said to be vested in the corporation, which, by the charter of James the First, consists of a mayor, high steward, recorder, six aldermen, (who act as justices within the borough,) a town clerk, a chamberlain, and eighteen burgesses. The assizes have sometimes been held in the town-hall, a convenient, well-built structure: here also, the business of the quarter sessions for the borough, which is a distinct jurisdiction, is always executed.

The poor in the parish of St. Mary are provided with food and clothing by a contractor, who receives 300l. annually for that purpose; the parish finding medicines, &c. The indigent of St. Leonard's are relieved at their own houses.

The introduction of a woollen or linen manufacture would, perhaps, be serviceable to this part of the country. A mixture of agriculture and manufactures, more especially when the latter are scattered through a country, seems to be the most effectual method of keeping the poor in constant employment. Country manufacturers escape the immorality and dissipation too much connected with large towns; and have this further advantage, that in the occasional stagnation to which all manufactures are subject, or upon an unusual demand for agricultural labor, they can vary their occupation; a mode of life which is not more conducive to the health than congenial to the natural dispositions of mankind.\*

<sup>\*</sup> See " State of the Poor."

The manor of Wallingford was granted by Richard the First to his brother John, whose second son, Richard, King of the Romans, Earl of Cornwall, repaired the castle, and celebrated his wedding in it with considerable splendor; his guests consisting of Henry the Third, his Queen, and many of the nobility. On the death of Richard, it devolved to his son Edmund, together with the advowsons of all the churches. When he died, his estates became the property of King Edward, whom he had chosen for Edward the Second bestowed it, together with the Duchy of Cornwall, to which it had been annexed, on Piers Gaveston, and afterwards on Hugh de Spencer the elder, his unfortunate favorites, both of whom were beheaded. Edward next presented it to his Queen Isabella, from whom it descended to Edward the Third, who gave it, with other manors, for the support of the Dukedom of Cornwall, a title first conferred on his son Edward the Black Prince in the year 1355. It remained vested in the royal family till the reign of Henry the Eighth, when that Monarch granted it to Wolsey for the use of the magnificent College of Christ Church Oxford, which the Cardinal had found-On Wolsey's disgrace, the castle appears to have been separated from the manor, the latter being annexed to Yew Elm, or New Elm, in Oxfordshire, and afterwards given by James the First to Prince Charles, the former remaining in possession of the college.

Criminals in the borough of Wallingford were formerly invested with a very extraordinary privilege; their lives for a first offence being in their own power, provided they complied with certain conditions. A return made by the jurors in the forty-fifth year of Henry the Third, declared that no person belonging to the borough, for one fact committed by him, ought to be hanged: "Nam secundum consuetudinum istius Burgi, debet oeils, et testiculis privari, et tali libertate usi sunt á tempore quo non extat memoria."

The farms in the neighbourhood of this town are large, being from 200 to 300l. a year. The chief articles of cultivation are turnips, clover, barley, wheat, and oats. The crops are generally very exuberant.

Among



Among the natives of this town whose talents have rendered them more particularly deserving of notice, are RICHARD, abbot of St. Alban's, and JOHN, a monk of the same place. The former was an eminent mathematician, and the inventor of a curious clock, which, according to Leland, represented not only the course of the sun, moon, and principal stars, but also the ebbing and flowing of the sea. This machine, the most ingenious of its kind at that time in England, he presented to the abbey church. The latter was an historian, whose chronicle was published by the learned Dr. Gale, in his Collection of English Histories.

CHOLSEY FARM, about two miles south of Wallingford, was formerly reputed to be the largest and most compact in England; the rent amounting to a 1000l. annually. Before the dissolution of the monasteries, the manor belonged to Reading, whose abbot had a splendid seat here. The Great Barn, wherein he is said to have deposited his tithes, is yet standing. It measures 101 yards in length, and 18 in breadth. The roof is supported by 17 pillars on each side: these rise it to a prodigious height in the centre, but suffer it to decrease gradually towards the walls, which are not more than 8 feet high. The pillars are four yards in circumference. It is now the property of Lord Kensington, but was formerly in the possession of the Earl of Warwick.

SINODUN HILL, nearly one mile and a half north-west of Wallingford, on the banks of the Thames, is surrounded by a deep trench, and was once the site of a Roman fort, which Leland conjectures to have been destroyed by the Danes. The summit is now cultivated; and it produces very good wheat and barley. When the land was first ploughed, Roman coins were frequently discovered. Mr. Gough imagines it to have been a summer camp, to protect Dorchester in Oxfordshire.

ABINGDON.

### ABINGDON.

THE origin of this town is enveloped in uncertainty. Some the supposed it to be a settlement of the Britons on their conversion to Christianity; and this opinion they have endeavoured to substantiate, by adducing the cross, and other relics of devotion, which the Saxons were said to have discovered here after they had expelled the ancient inhabitants; and also by the following legendary tale, which has been preserved in some of the early chronicles.

"At the time when the wicked pagan Hengist basely murdered 460 noblemen and barons at Stonhengest, or Stonehenge; ABEN, a nobleman's son, escaped into a wood on the south side of Oxfordshire, where leading a most holy life, the inhabitants of the country flocking to him to hear the word of God, built him a dwelling-house and a chapel in honour of the Holy Virgin; but he, disliking their resort, stole away to Ireland; and from him the place where he dwelt is called Abingdun."

This story is regarded by other writers as undeserving of belief, and the foundation of the town ascribed to the Saxons, by whom it appears to have been called Scukesham, Shoevesham, or Seore-clesham; the word being differently spelt by various writers. "As soon as Cissa, King of the West-Saxons, founded the monastery or abbey here, it gradually dropt its older name, and began to assume that of Abbandum and Abbingdon, i. e. the Town of the Abbey." This derivation is rendered plausible by the circumstance of Shoevesham having been granted to the abbey by Kenwin, who governed the West-Saxons after Cissa; and at the time he conferred the valuable gift, gave orders that it should in future be called Abendum. †

To whatever age or people the colonization of this spot may be attributed, it is certain that it had arrived at considerable importance at a very early period. An anonymous writer observes, "that it was in ancient times a famous city, goodly to behold, full

full of riches, encompassed with very fruitful fields, green meadows, spacious pastures, and flocks of cattle abounding with milk. Here the King kept his court, and hither the people resorted while consultations were depending about the greatest and most weighty affairs of the kingdom." Mr. Gough imagines it to be the place where several synods were held in the eighth and ninth centuries; the first as early as the year 742.

The monastery was founded by Cissa, already mentioned, and Heane, his nephew, the vice-roy of Wilts, and part of Berkshire, in 675. It was begun at Bagley-Wood,\* about two miles higher on the river; but not prospering there, was removed to Scukesham.

"There were twelve mansions about this monastery at first, and as many chapels inhabited by twelve monks, without any cloister, but shut in with a high wall; none being allowed to go out without great necessity, and the abbot's leave. No woman ever entered the same; and none dwelt there but the twelve monks and the abbot. They wore black habits, and lay on sackcloth, never eating flesh, unless in dangerous sickness. †"

In the reign of Alfred it was destroyed by the Danes, and continued desolate, and in ruins, till the year 954, when, through the cunning policy of Dunstan, who, to promote his own schemes, was endeavouring to fill the kingdom with Benedictine institutions, and the persuasions of Ethelwold, afterwards Bishop of Winchester, King Edgar restored some part of its ancient magnificence. Ethelwold, who was appointed abbot the same year, enlarged the monastery, and caused a trench to be cut from the Thames, for its convenience and cleanliness. He likewise erected the abbey church, and embellished it with many costly ornaments. Succeeding abbots increased its splendor; and soon after the conquest its wealth and grandeur are said to have been equal to any similar foundation in England.

About

Hearne conjectures this place to be Chilswell-Farm, at the west end of Hinksey-Field, near Foxcomb-Hill.

<sup>+</sup> Monasticon.

160

#### BERKSHIRR.

About this time the buildings appear to have undergone great alterations; but the accounts are so confused, that the particulars can hardly be comprehended. Leland says, that "Fabricius removed the old church, which then stood more northerly, where now the orchard is, and made the east part and transept new, adorning it with small marble pillars." Fabricius died in 1117. The central tower, the body of the church, and the west front, with its towers, were erected by four succeeding abbots. In this state it appears to have remained till the dissolution, when the splendid fabric was entirely destroyed; with the exception of the Gate-House, which has since been converted into a goal. Its revenues were valued at nearly 2000l. a year.

This immense income arose from the various possessions and immunities which had been granted to the abbey by different The Kings Ina, Kenulph, Ethelwulph, Edred, Edgar, &c. and various other Monarchs, may be numbered with its benefactors. Kenulph endowed it with fifteen mansions, called Oulnam, and all their appurtenances, as an inheritance for ever; and at the same time exempted it from all episcopal jurisdiction, declaring, by his charter, that all causes should be subject to the decree of the abbot only. The celebrated lawyer, Sir Edward Coke, inferred from this deed, that the ecclesiastical jurisdiction had always been invested in the Crown, consequently that the statute made in the reign of Henry the Eighth, concerning the King's spiritual authority, was not an introductory but a declaratory law, and therefore ought not to be regarded as the assumption of a new prerogative. Pope Eugenius the Third, in the year 1146, confirmed all the grants that had been made to the abbey, and favored it with some additional privileges.

Previous to the invention of printing, and the general diffusion of knowledge occasioned by that important art, the business of tuition was chiefly confined to the cloister. The bosom of the monk was the only depositary of the sciences, and to him it was necessary to apply before the fountain of instruction could be set flowing. When William the Conqueror departed from Abingdon, where he had passed his Easter in the year 1084, he intrusted

the education of Henry, his youngest son, to the inmates of the monastery, who appear to have executed the important charge with fidelity; the learning of the Prince having procured him the surname of Beauclerk.

The abbey became the burial-place of many illustrious persons. The remains of Cissa, the joint-founder, were interred within its walls; but every vestige of his memory was destroyed by the Danes. Geoffrey of Monmouth, St. Vincent, Sidemanne Bishop of Crediton, and Robert D'Oily, were among the eminent characters whose bones were here committed to the silent tomb. The relics of Edward the Martyr were also, according to Leland, preserved in this fabric.

On the suppression of the religious houses by Henry the Eighth, the monks of Abingdon were charged with the most gross incontinence. The abbot, in particular, was not only accused of maintaining three courtezans, but also of an incestuous intercourse with his own sister, by whom he is said to have had two children. This accusation, in all probability, originated with the contrivers of the many absurd reports to the prejudice of monasteries, which at that period were thought necessary to further the designs of the rapacious Henry. The Monarch himself appears to have given it no credit, since, we are informed, that he invested the abbot with the park and mansion of Cumnor, and other lands, besides granting him a pension of 200l, yearly. The name of this prelate was Thomas Pentecost, alias Rowland: he subscribed to the royal supremacy in the year 1534, and surrendered his monastery the 9th of February 1538. The abbey was mitred, and dedicated to St. Nicholas.

This was not the only religious establishment that existed in Abingdon; for Cissa, sister to Heane, founded a nunnery near the Thames, called Helnestow, of which she afterwards became the abbess; and having obtained "a small piece of one of our Saviour's nails, placed it in a cross, and dedicated the monastery to the Holy Cross and St. Helen, "On the death of Cissa, the Vol. I.

<sup>\*</sup> See Dugdale. Camden says, Cilla, sister of King Ceadwalla,

<sup>†</sup> Stevens's Additions to the Monasticon.

nuns were removed to Witham, whence they dispersed at the commencement of the war between Offa, King of the Mercians, and Kinewulph, the Sovereign of the West Saxons.

Previous to the construction of Burford and Culham Bridges, in the year 1416, this town was principally supported by the abbey; but the building of those fabrics having occasioned the high road from Gloucester to the metropolis to be turned through Abingdon, it acquired so much additional traffic, as to rank with the most distinguished places in the county. The honor of erecting these bridges has been given to Henry the Fifth; but the chief contributor to both was Geoffrey Barbour, a merchant, who gave 1000 marks towards their completion, and the making a causeway between them. Some particulars concerning this benefaction, and a curious relation of the proceedings at the building of Culham Bridge, are inscribed on a tablet\* hanging in Christ's Hospital, which was founded on the site of the nunnery just mentioned, by G. Barbour, and St. John de St. Helena. This hospital was anciently called St. Helen's, but received its present appellation from Sir John Mason, who, in the year 1553, endowed it for thirteen poor men and women. Over the entrance are these words:

Hospitia hæc
Posita sunt A. D. MDCCXVIII.
IN Dei Gloriam
A quo, et ad quem omnia,
In pauperum levamen
Ex reditibus qui Hospitali
Christi Abingdonensi accrevere,
Alendorum
Ejusdem sumptibus extructa.

JUSDEM SUMPTIBUS EXTRUCTA.

DEUS DEDIT, ETIAM ET DET

INCREMENTUM.

The

The inscription is in Latin, and has been printed by Hearne in a note to Leland's Itinerary, and also by Ashmole, together with a quaint translation in rhyme. Leland says, "Ther wrought that somer 300 men on Culham bridge." Hearne observes, that, "The best artists that could be found were employed, and every man had a penny a day, which was the best wages, and an extraordinary price in those times, when the best wheat was now and then sold for twelve-pence a quarter."

The memory of Geoffrey Barbour is still held in great veneration by the inhabitants of Abingdon; and we are informed by Hearne, that his body, which had been buried in the abbey, was translated to St. Helen's Church, in the most solemn manner, at the time of the suppression of the monasteries. The respect which the services he had rendered to the town had generated, was even extended to the brass plate that recorded the place of his interment, which was preserved from obliteration amidst all the frenzy of fanaticism, and removed, with his remains, to St. Catherine's aisle in the above structure.

The celebrated Cross, which stood in the centre of the marketplace, and is mentioned by Camden on account of its superior elegance, was destroyed the 31st of May, 1644, by the troops of General Waller, out of chagrin at the repulse they had received from the royal army at Newbridge. Richard Symmonds, who saw this beautiful structure but a few weeks previous to its demolition, has given a very particular description of it in a manuscript now in the British Museum. The cross was of stone, of an octangular shape, and adorned with three rows of statues. The lowest row consisted of six grave kings; the next of the Virgin Mary, four female saints, and a mitred prelate; and the uppermost, of small figures either of prophets or apostles. It was also ornamented with numerous shields of arms, carved and painted. Mr. Gough supposes it to have been built by the Gild of Holy Cross," as the arms of Sir John Golafre, one of the commissioners by whom that fraternity was incorporated in the reign of Henry the Sixth, was, with many others, found on it in the year 1605, M 2

\* Hearne, in a note to Leland's Itinerary, observes, that at the annual feast of this fraternity, "They spent six calfs, which cost 2s. 2d. a piece; sixteen lambs, at 12d. each; eighty capons, at 3d. each; twenty geese, at 2dd. each; 800 eggs, at 5d. per 100; besides many marrow-bones, much fruit and spice, and a great quantity of milk, cream, and flour; all in proportion to the prices specified; and upon these days of rejoicing withal, they used to have twelve minstrels; six from Coventry, and six from Maidenhead; for which, and for other uses of the fraternity, William Dyar, vicar of Bray, in Berks, gave them five tenements in East St. Helen's-Street, three tenements in West St. Helen's-Street, and other lands in Abingdon.

when it was repaired, and the shields of the then benefactors added. The cross erected at Coventry, in the days of Henry the Eighth, is reported to have been built from this model.

Abingdon consists of several streets, which centre in a spacious area, where the market is held. In the agricultural survey of this county, the inhabitants are computed at 2000; many of whom are employed in an extensive manufactory for floor and sail-cloths, and other articles of that description. In Leland's time, the woollen business flourished here; but the chief article of trade of late years has been malt, great quantities being annually sent down the Thames to London. For the convenience of the barges, a handsome wharf has been completed at the extremity of the town, beyond which the new cut, forming a small curve, joins the main river a short distance below Culham Bridge. The market-house and town-hall is a very remarkable structure, being built with ashler, or freestone rough as it comes from the quarry. It appears to have been erected about the commencement of the last century. The hall is supported by arches and lofty pillars. At the time of a county election, the space beneath is judiciously inclosed, and the names of the respective hundreds inscribed over each arch. By this means the crowd and bustle so frequent at elections is avoided, as the freeholder can readily ascertain where the poll is taken for his district, and may give his vote without interruption. The houses are estimated at about 450.

The corporation consists of a mayor, two bailiffs, nine aldermen, and sixteen assistants. Their charter was granted by Queen Mary in the year 1557, at the intercession of Sir John Mason; and the right of election vested in the twelve principal burgesses and their successors. The exertions of the inhabitants have, however, superseded this unjust limitation, and every one paying scot and lot is entitled to vote. The number of electors is about 600. This borough sent to Parliament once previous to its incorporation, upon receiving a peremptory summons in the tenth of Edward the Third.

Abingdon





Abingdon contains the two churches of St. Helen and St. Nicholas. The former is situated near the river, and appears to have been altered and enlarged at different periods. Over the south porch, on a shield supported by an angel to the waist, are the letters T. R. beneath, the date 1543: and over a smaller porch, at the west end, are the figures 1617. The spire is lofty, being raised on a tower decorated with pinnacles. The latter church was built by Abbot Nicholas, near the outside of the west gate of the abbey, some time between the years 1289 and 1307. The entrance on the west is adorned in the Saxon style, with zigzag ornaments. The gate-house, which adjoins this fabric, has been used as the common goal for nearly a century, but is now in a very ruinous state. In a niche in the centre is an image of the Virgin. Here are three meeting-houses for Dissenters of different denominations.

The sums collected for charitable purposes amount to about 900l, a year; part of this is appropriated to support a free-school, founded in the year 1563, by Mr. John Royse, to which many eminent characters are indebted for their rudiments of learning. Among them, are Clement Barksdale, who wrote the life of Grotius; Job Roys, a Presbyterian writer; and Sir Edward Turnour, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer in 1671.

Henry the Eighth visited this town several times; and here, in the year 1518, he received the homage of the university of Oxford. During the civil wars, it was garrisoned for the King, and afterwards underwent the common fate of fortified places, many of the buildings being defaced, and the inhabitants plundered by the opposing army. The ancient earth-works in the neighbourhood were strangely confused at that period, when both Royalists and Republicans applied them to military purposes.

Among the natives of Abingdon whose talents have rendered their possessors eminent, is SIR JOHN MASON, a statesman of the sixteenth century. His memory is the more worthy to be revered, because, from a very obscure origin, his genius and perseverance advanced him to the rank of Privy-counsellor, Ambassador to France, and Chancellor of the University of Oxford.

M 3

His father was a cow-herd, and his mother sister to one of the abbey monks, who attended to the tuition of his early years, and afterwards sent him to Oxford, where he became a fellow of All-Souls College. While in this situation, the liveliness of his temper occasioned him to be chosen to compliment Henry the Eighth on his visit to the university in the year 1523. The graceful manner in which he executed this commission, so engaged the favor of the Monarch, that he carried the young student to court, and thence sent him to Paris, to continue and complete his education. On his return, he was employed in several embassies; and during this and the three succeeding reigns, was promoted to the honorable offices above mentioned. He died in 1566, and was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral.

### FERRY HINKSEY

Is a small village on the northern boundary of the county, nearly opposite to the city of Oxford. The ancient name appears to have been Hengestesigge, probably from its elevated situation; the exact meaning of the word, as defined by a modern antiquary, being, "a pathway on the side of a hill." The church is a low structure, apparently of very remote origin. It consists of a tower, a nave, and chancel. The south (and only) door-way is of Saxon workmanship. The weathering, or outer moulding, is supported on one side by the bust of a warrior; and on the other, is terminated with a rude head of some animal. Within this are four series of siz-zag, with an inner moulding of pellet sculpture, resting on two moderate sized pillars with hatched capitals. The nave is divided from the chancel by a circular arch, over which the creed and Lord's prayer are inscribed, with the King's arms painted in the centre. This church, and the neighbouring one of South Hinksey, were formerly chapels of ease to Cumnor, whence they were separated at the commencement of the last century by Montague, Earl of Abingdon.

WITHAM,



BERKSHIRE.

# WITHAM,

A decayed village, about two miles north of Hinksey, is seated at the foot of a hill, on the summit of which the massive fragments of a desolated fortress may yet be discovered. This is supposed to have been erected by Kinewulph, the monarch of the West Saxons, to repel the incursions of King Offa, into whose power it soon afterwards fell, and is said to have been made the place of his residence. The church is small, with a boarded roof, supported by three wooden arches. Against the wall, on each side the nave, is a series of rude grotesque ornaments in stone, resembling heads, with caps similar to those worn by canons regular of the order of St. Austin. In a north window, near the west end of the nave, are the portraits of Edward the Second and his Queen. The King is depicted with a curled beard, the hair divided, and hanging on each side the chin, Each head is adorned with an open crown fleury. The workmanship is but indifferently executed,

The ancient mansion belonging to the Earl of Abingdon, in this village, was erected about the reign of Henry the Sixth; it conveys a good idea of the gloomy manners of the times prior to the relaxation of feudal tenure. The traveller who views this structure, cannot but recall to his memory the fortified dungeons of our ancestors, whose martial, but suspicious tempers, whilst they consulted the magnificence of petty tyranny, appear to have forgotten convenience, and confined their conceptions of grandeur to unsocial exclusion. The embattled tower in the centre is surmounted by two octangular turrets; and the whole edifice is surrounded by a moat. The hall remains in its original state, and the vestiges of its former splendor are still apparent.

The battle through which Offa obtained possession of Witham Castle, appears to have been fought at a place called Sandfield, in this nighbourhood, where Hearne, in his Liber Niger, mentions armour, swords, and human bones, to have been found. Tradition represents one of the armies to have been drawn up on the declivity of Witham hill, near the desolated village of Dane-

M 4

court; and the other on the opposite side of Cumnor hill; the valley between being the immediate theatre of action. The spot where the battle is said to have began is called *Holdesfield*. What degree of credit should be attached to these vague relations we cannot ascertain; but as *Hold*, in the Saxon language, signifies a carcase, the supposition of the name being significant of the slaughter made by Offa, may not be inadmissible.

### SECKWORTH,

In the vicinity of Witham, was formerly a large town, which we are informed by Mr. Warton, in his History of Kiddington, abounded with inns for the reception of pilgrims. This place, reported to have once maintained the "Roman army," has dwindled into complete insignificance, it consisting at this time of only five houses. Some remains of its buildings are, however, yet visible on the brink of the river, which separated the territories of the Attrebatii and Dobuni; and when the water is low, the fragments of a bridge, crossing the stream to Binsey, may be clearly perceived.

### **CUMNOR**

Is about three miles south of Witham, built on the brow of a hill, commanding a very extensive view over the counties of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire. The church is a strong-built edifice, and apparently ancient, as the west door is finished in the Saxon style. The chancel is divided from the body of the church by a screen, presented to the parish about sixty years since by the then Earl of Abingdon, whose family are owners of the manor. The village contains about 60 houses, and 300 inhabitants, who are mostly employed in husbandry. The parishioners who pay tythes, have a custom of repairing to the vicarage immediately after prayers on Christmas-day afternoon, to be entertained with bread and cheese and ale. They claim, on this occasion, two bushels of wheat made into bread, half a hundred weight of cheese, and four bushels of malt brewed into ale and small



small beer. The fragments are the next morning distributed to the poor.

The remains of several stone crosses may be seen in different parts of the parish. These are supposed to have been erected by the abbots of Abingdon, who formerly had a seat or place of retirement here, called Cumnor Place. In this mansion, a large monastic building, with a quadrangular court in the centre, the wife of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, and favorite of Queen Elizabeth, was murdered by her husband's orders. The life of this unfortunate lady was first attempted by poison, but that failing, she was flung down stairs, and killed by the fall. Being obscurely buried at Cumnor, the privacy of her funeral occasioned censure, when the Earl directed the body to be removed to St. Mary's church, Oxford, where it was re-interred in a pompous and solemn manner. The principal actor in this direful tragedy was Sir Richard Verney. He was assisted by a villain, who, being afterwards apprehended for a different crime, acknowledged the above murder, and was privately destroyed. Verney himself is reported to have died about the same time in a deplorable manner.\* hora middent blue grove or all and a set I

# EAST ILSLEY Toward and Timesed and

Is a small town, situated in a pleasant valley, in the centre of a range of downs, which extend across the county from Aston to Wantage. The number of houses does not exceed 200. The inhabitants are chiefly employed in agriculture. This town is celebrated for its sheep-market, which is supposed to be the largest county market in England. It commences on the Wednesday in Easter week yearly, and continues to be held every alternate Wednesday till Midsummer. The market of late years has become of the first importance, not less than 20,000 sheep having been sometimes sold in one day. The annual average is upwards of 250,000, comprising lambs, tegs, wethers, and ewes. These are principally purchased for the farmers of Hertfordshire

\* See Ashmole's Berkshire. Bibliotheca Topographica, &c.

and Buckinghamshire, in which counties they are afterwards fatted for the London market.

# ALDWORTH, OR ALDER,

As it is generally denominated, is a small village, pleasantly seated on a hill, about four miles south-east of Ilsley. This undoubtedly is a place of very remote origin, and is supposed by Hearne to have been a settlement in the time of the Romans; but the arguments he advances to support this opinion rest on very slender grounds. The village formed part of the possessions of the family of De La Beche, who flourished here in the reigns of the Second and Third Edwards. Their mansion-house was situated on a neighbouring eminence, and appears to have been fortified about the 12th year of the latter Prince, from whom Nicholas De La Beche obtained permission to make castles of three of his seats. The site of the fortress at Aldworth is now designated by the appellation of Beche Farm, but not the least remains of the ancient structure can be found.

The church is a very old building, and though not remarkable for beauty, has become celebrated for its ancient monuments. These are nine in number; three of them situated on the north side, three on the south side, and three in the centre, between the octangular pillars that support the roof. The tombs on the north and south sides are similar in design, being disposed in enriched arches, ornamented with pilasters, columns, and pinnacles. The figures of the persons they were designed to commemorate, are elegantly carved in stone, and lying in different positions on the upper part of the tombs. These statues are supposed to be the effigies of the De La Beche family. Six of them represent knights, arrayed in armour; the seventh is a person in a common habit; the remaining two are females. From the fashion of the armour and drapery, they appear to have been executed in the fourteenth century. Some of the knights are lying cross-legged; a position which, according to Dugdale, intimates, that they had either been in the wars of the Holy Land,

or had vowed to go, and were prevented by death. The work-manship is uncommonly excellent; and the attitude and expression of such of the figures as remain perfect, exceedingly graceful and appropriate. The heighth of the statues rather exceeds the common proportion, being from six feet to six feet three or four inches. Several of them are considerably mutilated. In the church-yard is a yew tree of prodigious bulk, the trunk measuring nine yards in circumference at upwards of four feet from the ground. The shape is very regular, of an urn-like form. The branches spread to a considerable distance, and rise to a great heighth. All recollection of its age is entirely lost.

## STREATLY,

A LITTLE village on the banks of the Thames, derives its name from being situated on the Roman Highway, near Ickenild-Street, which here enters the county from Oxfordshire; and, in the opinion of Mr. Wise, proceeds to Blubery and Wantage: thence passing Childrey, Uffington, &c. it runs under White-horse Hill, towards Abury, in Wiltshire. The inhabitants are mostly employed in agriculture; the whole parish, which is about four miles in extent, being laid out in farms. The river in the Winter season frequently overflows its banks, and the water continuing out for some time, distresses the poorer classes exceedingly. The farms are from 100 to 300l. a year, and the rent of the land about 16s. an acre. The principal articles of cultivation are wheat, barley, and oats. Near Streatly is

### BASILDON,

A LONG village on the turnpike-road leading to Oxford, famous for the extent of its farms, and goodness of its soil; but more celebrated from being the residence of Sir Francis Sykes, who has lately erected

<sup>\*</sup> See Gentleman's Magazine, April, 1799, whence this account is chiefly extracted.

erected an elegant mansion here, on an estate that formerly belonged to the Vere family. This superb building was constructed from the designs of Mr. Carr of York, on the principle of Wentworth-House, in that county. The walls of the grand saloon were painted by Monsieur de Bruin, in imitation of Basso Relievo; and the cieling is ornamented with stucco, executed in a very beautiful manner. The apartments are splendidly furnished; but the more elegant decorations of the fine arts have been sparingly admitted. The park is enlivened by numerous deer, and commands some rich prospects of the windings of the Thames and the surrounding country. The grounds are disposed with much taste, the gardens are well furnished with aromatic shrubs, and the hothouses teem with the fruits of warmer climates. This seat possesses many local advantages; and the high-road in its vicinity, being skirted for several miles with lofty hills, covered with beech, is one of the most pleasant rides in the county.

### **PANGBOURN**

Is a neat village near the river, about three miles below Basildon, built in the form of the Roman T. The manor-house, called Bear-Court, now in the possession of Dr. Breedon, was formerly a seat of the abbots of Reading. This parish is nearly two miles square; and we are informed that it is almost wholly disposed into one farm. The evil arising from this and the numerous similar instances of cultivated lands being accumulated into the possession of an individual, is at length apparent, though the magnitude of its destructive influence on society, has never been sufficiently understood till the present year. The proper extent of farms is a question that has long engaged the attention of writers on political economy, and the general happiness is so intimately connected with the subject, that no apology can be requisite for the insertion of an extract from a late publication, wherein the arguments of the supporters of both opinions are contrasted in a concise manner, and the question placed on its true basis.

"It has been contended, that improvement in agriculture cannot become universal, unless the farms are of sufficient size to cover the risk of making experiments. That the excessive subdivision of farms, considered independently of local or accidental circumstances, is inimical to productive industry, the persons engaged not having business adequate to the employ of their whole time. That the same implements, the same houses, and the same beasts, and almost the same number of laborers, are employed in the operations of a small farm, as would suffice for the cultivation of one considerably larger; and consequently, that a less comparative produce is obtained at a greater comparative expence.

"The opponents to the enlargement of farms admit the general validity of these arguments, but deny the propriety of their application, as well as their efficiency to decide the question, when it is considered on the broad basis of national utility. They contend, that agricultural improvement is not absolutely connected with the maintenance of public happiness, since the price of provisions does not correspond with the improvements that have already taken place; it being an uncontradicted fact, that agricultural produce is now considerably dearer than it was in former times. They assert, that man was not created for continued labor; that the necessity for it was only produced from the corruptions generated by unwise establishments; and therefore, that his exertions should be regulated by a standard more conformable to nature, than to the support of evils which never should have been admitted into the community. Finally, that the consolidation of farms tends as well to the enhancement of the price of the necessaries of life, as it does to the destruction of the middling class of the community, that invaluable link between the poor and the opulent; these effects arising from the operation of two causes. Milk, eggs, butter, vegetables, &c. articles of the first necessity with the indigent, are beneath the attention of the great farmer; he has enough for his own purposes, and his affluence prevents him feeling the want of the small sums which their cultivation and sale would produce. The same affluence also, enables him to withhold his commodities from market till extreme prices are offered, and the country groans beneath the weight of his cupidity and avarice.

"In determining the size of farms, it is necessary to regard the convenience and possibility of cultivation; for their proper extent must ever depend on soil, situation, and modes of husbandry. Both the natural and artificial fertility of the lands of Britain are different in different parts of the isle; and equalization of size, therefore, must be injurious, since the same portion of ground that in one district would be sufficient to occupy and sustain a farmer's family, and at the same time feed with its overplus a fair proportion of the people engaged in other business elsewhere, would in another be inadequate to those purposes. The extent of British farms must therefore be variable.

"In the divisions of every county, however, there is a general level, to which farms of a certain size seem peculiarly adapted: if they are much above or below this, their management will be attended with disadvantages either to the occupiers or to the public. Hence, though we cannot determine as to the uniform number of acres to which the extent of farms should be limited, we may, without descending to minute particulars, name a rental, beyond which they ought no-where to be enlarged. In fixing this at about 300l. per annum, we seem to be as near the truth as the complex circumstances of the question permit us to determine.

"The income arising from a rental of superior magnitude, is injurious to the public interests, by enabling the farmer to influence the market more than a fair remuneration of his labors can justify; yet it by no means follows that all farms should be of this size. "That class" of the community who are employed in raising necessaries for the support of the rest, have a charge highly respectable and important. They should be regarded as the first class of our laborers, and their emoluments ought to be proportioned to the importance of their functions. The subsistence which a farmer may derive from his lands, should afford him a comfortable house, abundance of nourishing fare,

\* Commercial Magazine. Vol. III.

decent raiment, the means of educating his children for any condition in life not excessively above his own, the power of laying up a capital for his relief in seasons of scarcity, for his support in sickness and old age, and for settling his children, when they have grown up, in farms of their own, or in other suitable modes of life. In order to this, the farm ought not to be of the smallest possible extent, but should be sufficiently large to employ a capital in stock, implements, and labor, the profits of which may afford that income for expenditure and accumulation, which is here represented to be necessary?" For the attainment of these objects, the produce of a rental not less than eighty pounds a years seems requisite. Between the above sums, the rental of farms may be allowed to fluctuate; but it should neither exceed the one, nor be inferior to the other."

About one mile eastward of Pangbourn is Purley Hall, erected by the famous Mr. Hawes, who was deeply implicated in the South-Sea scheme in the year 1720. This building is in the heavy formal style, which seems to have been prevalent at the commencement of the last century. The late Mr. Storer, who purchased the manor-house, expended a considerable sum in improving and ornamenting the grounds, preparatory to the erection of a superb mansion on a spot which he had chosen. His intentions, however, were frustrated by the hand of death; yet even in the last hour his favorite idea was not forgotten. He bequeathed 15000l. for the purpose of defraying the expences of the edifice, with an injunction, that it should be commenced immediately on his decease. The design was formed by Mr. Wyatt, and the building is in great forwardness.

### ENGLEFIELD

Is pleasantly situated in a rich valley, which commences at Pangbourn, and extends westward almost to Newbury. At this place the Danes, as we have already mentioned, (page 90,) were repulsed in the ninth century; and in the meads in the vicinity is a squarish squarish entrenchment, supposed to have been thrown up on that occasion. The second and last Marquis of Winchester, who so nobly defended Basing House for Charles the First, is buried in the church.

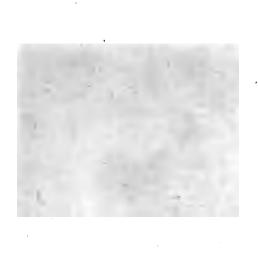
The seat of RICHARD BENYON, Esq. in this village, is a very elegant mansion, which formerly belonged to the Paulet family, by one of whom it was rebuilt. It has since been reduced, and modernized, by Paulet Wright, Esq. a late possessor, lineally descended by the female line from the same noble stem. This structure is seated on the declivity of a hill, whose verdant summit shelters it from the north-east winds. From the front the eye glides over a shelving lawn to a handsome sheet of water, pleasantly interspersed with small islands, where numerous wild fowl have taken refuge. Beyond this, on the south, lies a beautiful valley, bounded with swelling hills, where the deep-colored glossy leafage of the beech forms an agreeable contrast with the light and slender elm. The intermediate space is richly adorned with elegant seats, woods, villages, and cultivated grounds.

TYLEHURST, adjoining Englefield, is a very extensive parish, including a large unproductive heath, the soil of which is capable of yielding the most excellent grain, if once broken up, and properly cultivated. The very numerous poor who reside in this district, and for whose support the sum of eighteen shillings in the pound is now levied, might be employed with great advantage to themselves, and benefit to society, in adapting this desolate waste to the reception and nutriment of seed.

At Hose Hill, in the parish of Burghfield, on the south side of the river Kennet, a vein of freestone was discovered within

The greatness of this sum in a county not remarkable for manufacturers is almost unprecedented; and probably its magnitude may be more apparent than real. In some parishes it is customary to rate two thirds of the rent only. Thus a farm of 3001 per annum, assessed at one shilling in the pound, would produce 151, but if the rate is levied on only two thirds of the rent, or 2001, the amount will be no more than 101, and consequently the assessment must be increased to one shilling and sixpence, before it can equal a rate levied on the whole rent. This we believe is the case at Tylchurst; and if so, the actual assessment is but twelve shillings in the pound.











these few years. This, being at a considerable distance from any quarry, was regarded as a valuable acquisition to the proprietor; but on working it, the texture was found to be so soft as to render it unserviceable. When the attempt to bring the freestone into use was abandoned, the probability of the under strata being composed of coals was suggested, and a shaft was dug to a great depth to ascertain the truth: nothing, however, was discovered worthy observation, but a bed of cockle-shells, about twelve feet beneath the surface, and one foot in thickness. The shells were firmly concreted with sand; but how far they extended is unknown, as well as the causes that placed them on this spot. The same operations of nature, perhaps, which overwhelmed the bed of oysters near Reading, contributed to bury these shells in the situation we have just described.

MORTIMER HEATH, a bleak dreary tract of land on the south side of the county, spreading far into Hampshire, is of little use but for grazing a few miserable sheep, or furnishing the neighbouring cottages with fuel. The soil, indeed, is of that sterile and inhospitable nature, as to bid defiance to every attempt at cultivation. Here, in digging for gravel, many horns of elks and moose deer have been found. The eastern borders of this barren tract are pleasingly contrasted by a more improved country, where the farms are in as good a state, and the lands as productive, as in any other part of Berkshire. The vallies in this vicinity are relieved by various undulating hills, interspersed with elegant seats, and rendered beautiful by luxuriant plantations.

### OAKINGHAM, OR WOKINGHAM,

As it is frequently written, is a populous town on the edge of Windsor Forest, consisting of several streets, which center in a spacious area, where the market-house is situated. This is an ancient building, framed with timber, and open at bottom, with a hall above, wherein the public business is transacted. The church is a large, handsome edifice, situated in a slip of Wiltshire, which commencing at this town, runs through Berkshire towards War-

Vol. I. N grave,

grave, without being connected with the county of which it appears to form a part. The inside of the walls of this fabric is principally chalk; the outside is composed of ferrils and rough grout work. The number of houses is 298, chiefly of brick. The inhabitants are computed at 1300, who are employed in agriculture, throwing silk, sorting wool, making shoes, gauze, &c. The latter manufacture has been lately established.

The corporation of Oakingham consists of an alderman, several burgesses, a high-steward, a recorder, and a town clerk. Many legacies and donations for charitable purposes have been given to this town. Archbishop Laud gave 60l. per annum for the use of the poor, and every third year 70l. additional, for apprenticing boys and apportioning servant maids. Mr. Charles Palmer bequeathed 20l. yearly for the tuition of as many poor children; and various smaller bequests have been made by other persons. Among them, one legacy is remarkable for its singularity. Mr. Staverton left a house at Staines for the purchase of a bull, which is to be baited in the market-place on St. Thomas's day annually, and then given to the poor. The carcase of one beast, however, being insufficient to supply the number of claimants, the inhabitants are accustomed to purchase another, which is baited, and distributed at the same time.

DR. THOMAS GODWIN, Bishop of Bath and Wells, was born in this town in the year 1517. He was educated at Magdalen College, Oxford, and afterwards became master of a free-school at Brackly, in Northamptonshire, which his religious principles occasioned him to resign on the accession of Queen Mary. Early in the reign of Elizabeth, he entered into orders; and, after several intermediate promotions, was raised to the above bishopric, but soon fell under the displeasure of the Queen, whose anger

The country in the neighbourhood of this town varies very much in appearance; the fine smiling corn fields, and light gravelly soil, giving place to a dreary waste of heath, with a sort of black and barren sand, extending as far as Bagshot. This wide-spreading space appears to be pervaded with iron ore, as numerous concrete masses of gravel are found in almost every field, cemented if firmly with iron, as to resist the force of the strongest tool. These hard substances are, by the peasantry, called ferrils.



anger was excited by his having a second time entered into the state of matrimony. He died in the year 1590, aged 73.

At LUCKELY-GREEN, near this town, is an hospital founded in the year 1665 by Henry Lucas, Esq. for sixteen poor men, and a master. The pensioners are allowed ten pounds a year, and are chosen alternately by sixteen parishes in Berkshire, and the like number in Surry. The Draper's Company of London act as the trustees of this charity.

Three miles and a half south-east of Oakingham, near Easthampstead park, is a large irregular fortification, called CESAR's CAMP, situated on the summit of a hill, and defended with a double ditch. About half a mile southward of this camp is a raised road, nearly 90 feet wide, vulgarly denominated the Devil's Highway, with a trench on each side running east and west.

# BINFIELD,

ABOUT two miles north of Cæsar's Camp, is a pleasant village, surrounded with elegant seats, and situated in the midst of the tract called the Royal Hunt, in Windsor Forest. The soil, though of a light sandy nature, produces very good corn; and the meadows are of a peculiar rich quality. Few of the farms exeeed 100 acres; a circumstance which has probably contributed to keep down the poor rates during the present dearth of provisions. In this parish the rate is not more that six shillings in the pound. On the side of the turnpike-road from London is a small yet neat brick house, once the residence of Mr. Pope's father, but now the property of - Webb, Esq. Within half a mile of this building, in a retired part of the forest, on the edge of a common, is the favourite spot where the muse of Pope essayed the strength of her scarcely fledged pinions. On a large tree, beneath which the poet is said to have written many of his juvenile pieces, the words HERE POPE SUNG are inscribed in capital letters. This emphatic sentence is annually revised by a person from Oakingham, at the expence we believe of a lady of N 21 old and to the that

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that place. The seat has been long removed; and were it not for the above inscription, all recollection of this spot, so interesting to the admirers of poetical genius, would probably have been lost. The beginning of the poem of Windsor Forest was composed in these still haunts, which the poet appears to have had immediately before him, when he wrote these lines:

There interspers'd in lawns and op'ning glades,
Thin trees arise, that shun each others shades.
Here in full light the russet plains extend;
There wrapt in clouds the bluish hills ascend.
E'en the wild heath displays her purple dyes,
And 'midst the desart fruitful fields arise,
That, crown'd with tufted trees, and springing corn,
Like verdant isles, the sable waste adorn.

HURST, between Oakingham and Binfield, is a very extensive parish, containing four liberties, which comprise the greatest part of the slip of Wiltshire before mentioned. The land is mostly divided into small farms, rented from fifteen to twenty shillings an acre. The inhabitants are computed at upwards of 1400. In this parish is an almshouse, founded in the year 1682 by William Barker, Esq. for eight single persons, who receive sixpence a day, and a gown once in two years.

### WARGRAVE

Is a small village, situated on the banks of the Thames, which combining with the beautiful range of hills leading towards Park Place, furnishes a number of pleasing views. This, in early times, was a market town, and, prior to the conquest, was given by Queen Emma to the Bishop of Winchester. It continued in that see till the reign of Edward the Sixth, when Doctor Poynett presented it to the King, who gave it to Henry Neville. Queen Mary resumed the grant, and again vested it in the see of Winchester; but Elizabeth restored it to Neville, from whom it descended to his posterity, the Nevilles of Billingsbear.

This village has received an adventitious lustre from having been the residence of the late Earl of Barrymore, who erected a magnificent magnificent theatre here, at an expence of upwards of 6000l. This splendid fabric was crowded on the evenings of representation by audiences composed of the first families in the kingdom, and possessed every accommodation of a royal theatre, with the addition of a most superb apartment, where the Earl's supper parties were entertained. Since the melancholy death of the noble, but inconsiderate owner, the building has been taken down, and the materials sold.

# LAURENCE WALTHAM,

Though now reduced to a few scattered houses, is reported to have been a place of remote antiquity, and much importance. Some of the buildings wear the appearance of having flourished in better times, and the ruins of many more are visible. The inhabitants assert, that the houses were formerly very numerous, and that they extended a considerable way on each side the road, which, at the entrance of the village, passes under an arched gateway, composed of large oak timbers. In a spacious field in this neighbourhood, named Weycock Highrood, was a Roman fortress, the remains of which were apparent in the time of Camden. The site of this structure is still called Castle-acre; it commands a delightful view over a very large extent of country. On this spot many Roman coins have been found, chiefly of the lower empire; and Mr. Hearne dug up a silver one of Amyntas, the grandfather of Alexander the Great.

In a field near the manor-house of Feens, at White, or Abbot's Waltham, the adjoining parish to the above, and at Berry Grove, near the church, a number of Roman coins and tiles have been found. These discoveries induced Mr. Hearne to conjecture that the Roman soldiers rested somewhere in this vicinity, when passing between the stations Calleva and Pontes.

THOMAS HEARNE, the indefatigable collector of books and manuscripts, just mentioned, was born at Littleford Green, in this parish, in the year 1680. His family was originally of Penn, in Buckinghamshire, in which county he received the rudiments of his education; but was afterwards sent to Edmund Hall,

N 3 Oxford,

Oxford, by the liberality of Francis Cherry, Esq. an inhabitant of Shottesbrooke. Here his attachment to the study of English antiquities became so fixed and permanent, that he refused some considerable preferments in the church, rather than quit the attractive spot where he had so many opportunities of gratifying his favourite passion. From some letters written by his father, and preserved in the picture gallery in this university, it seems that Hearne's fondness for ancient lore, prevented him from attending to the distresses of his parent when in the vale of years. The letters are homely, but forcibly depict the sorrow attendant on old age and indigence. In one of them, dated May 28th, 1711, he says, "This is the grand climacterical year of my life, viz. 63, and I do not expect to outlive it." This, however, was only the conclusion of despondency, for he lived till the 18th of October, 1723, though in extreme poverty, and constant expectation of his approaching end. Young Hearne was appointed to several offices in the university, and in the year 1714 was made architopographer. In this situation he employed the chief of his time in collating ancient manuscripts and curious books. He died at Oxford in 1735.

#### SHOTTESBROOKE.

The small parish of this name appears to have been separated from the adjoining one of White Waltham, and was formerly the seat of a small college, founded in the year 1337 by Sir William Trussel, of Cubblesdon, in Staffordshire, who likewise built the church, against the wall of the north cross of which he was buried, together with his lady. This gentleman, we are informed by Hearne, "lyes wrapt up in lead, with his wife in leather at his feet, as appears by a defect in the wall." Here also, the learned Mr. Henry Dodwell, some time Camdenian professor at Oxford, was buried. The great attention of this eminent character to literature, caused a consumption and slow fever, which terminated his existence at the age of 70.

The completion of the church at Shottesbrooke is said to have been accompanied with a very remarkable accident. The architect









who built it, having either laid the last stone of the spire, or fixed the weather-cock, called for some wine to drink the king's health, which being given him, he drank it, and immediately fell to the groud, where he was dashed in pieces, and afterwards buried on the spot. A rough stone, in the shape of a coffin, was placed over his remains, with the interjections O! O! the only sounds he uttered, engraven on it. Such is the tradition of the inhabitants: but Hearne, who particularly examined the stone at the commencement of the last century, observes, that the two oval figures are only portions of the form of the cross. He, however, admits the general validity of the story, and observes, that the grave was opened, and some bones found in it.

# PARK PLACE,

The residence of the Earl of Malmsbury, is situated one mile south-east of Henley. The many interesting objects concentrated in this domain, are calculated to excite even the most latent energies of poetic description; yet none of the magic tints which fancy blends to embellish the creations of imagination, are requisite to give lustre to the picture. Beauty, grandeur and variety, are the characterizing features of this estimable seat, the grounds of which display as much boldness of composition as any on the banks of the Thames. The steep sides of the hills, with their chalky precipices, are overhung with grand masses of stately beech interspersed with evergreens, which extend to the margin of the stream, and, from various points of the landscape, appear like an immense verdant amphitheatre. The projecting lawns correspond with the sublimity of the contiguous scenery, and unite in forming a diversity of rich and beautiful prospects.

This estate was purchased of the widow of the late Field Marshal Conway, by the present noble resident, in the year 1796. The General expended considerable sums in improving and embellishing the grounds; but the principal alterations of the house have been made since it became the property of the Earl, under whose direction the arrangement and construction of the rooms

N 4 have

have been greatly altered, and elegantly decorated from the designs of Mr. Holland, the architect.

This mansion is situated on the brow of a lofty range of hills, that accompanies the windings of the Thames for several miles; and the spot on which it stands is nearly three hundred feet above the level of the water, being judiciously sheltered from the winds by extensive plantations. The building is composed of brick, cased with a yellowish stucco; and, though not externally grand, is highly interesting, from the taste and elegance exhibited in the interior. The library is splendidly furnished, and stored with a profusion of choice books, the chief of which were collected by the late Mr. Harris, (father to the Earl,) who was esteemed by all the literati of the day for his erudition and refined taste. This selection has been considerably increased by his son, whose additions have been principally made from the classics and historians. The taste of this nobleman for literature is displayed by almost every room in the house being filled with select volumes. This mansion contains several good paintings by ancient and modern masters. The following claim our particular attention.

PORTRAITS OF THEIR MAJESTIES: Sir Joshua Reynolds, These are full lengths, and were given by the King to Lord Malmsbury. His Majesty is represented in his Parliamentary robes.

James Harris, Esq.\*: Stewart. This gentleman was distinguished for his very uncommon learning; and his refinement of taste, and elegance of manners, was almost unequalled. He was the author of several valuable works, and particularly of one entitled Hermes, or a Philosophical enquiry concerning universal grammar. This was termed by the late Bishop Lowth, "the most beautiful and perfect example of analysis that had been exhibited since the days of Aristotle," wherein "the greatest acuteness" was united "with perspicuity of explication and elegance of method."

OLIVER

<sup>\*</sup> A complete edition of Mr. Harris's writings, with a memoir, &c. is now in the press, the editing of which has been superintended by Lord Malmsbury.



OLIVER CROMWELL. This is an unquestionable original, and has descended to the present family, from the governor of Carisbrook Castle, who received it as a present for his vigilance in securing the unfortunate Charles after his escape from Hampton Court.

LORD CHANCELLOR SHAFTSBURY: Greenhill. This distinguished statesman seems to have partaken of the versatility occasioned by the disturbances of the seventeenth century, in a very eminent degree. Having been elected a member of the house of commons in the year 1640, he at first inclined to the side of Royalty, but soon quitted it, and accepted a commission from the Parliament; yet when the reins of government were assumed by Cromwell, he opposed him with much warmth, and became exceedingly active in his exertions to restore Monarchy. On the dissolution of the Commonwealth, he was delegated with eleven others to invite the King to England, and was soon afterwards appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer. In 1672 he was created Earl of Shaftsbury, and made Lord Chancellor the same year; yet, during the latter part of Charles's reign, he opposed his measures with so much zeal, that he was twice committed to the Tower, and in 1681 tried for high treason. After his acquittal, he retired to Holland, where he died in 1683. The artist who executed this portrait is described by Walpole as the most promising of Lely's scholars; but his fame was of short duration; for his acquaintance with the players of the age in which he lived, involved him in licentious habits, and contributed to terminate his days at an early period. Returning to his lodgings from the Vine Tavern, where he had passed the evening, he fell into a kennel in Long Acre, whence being taken home, he was put to bed, and died the same night.

LORD AND LADY MALMSBURY: Sir Joshua Reynolds.

CATHERINE THE SECOND, the late Empress of Russia. The features of Catherine were expressive and commanding, and the whole of her form and manner so majestic, that she needed no outward adornment to ensure respect. Her eyes were large and blue, her eyebrows and hair of a brownish color; her forehead

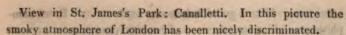
was open and regular, her nose rather long, the mouth well preportioned, and the chin round. Her complexion was not clear, but the tout ensemble was graceful and dignified. Her neck and bosom were high, and the general character more expressive of liveliness than gravity. She died on the sixth of November, 1796, in the 67th year of her age.

PAUL THE FIRST, the late Emperor of Russia. This portrait of the imperial Autocrat was taken when he was only Grand Duke, and presented, together with its companion, the portrait of his Duchess, to Lord Malmsbury by the late Empress. The recent death of this Emperor, whether effected by poison or the bowstring, is a proof that even the most unlimited authority is no security for the life of the possessor, when the only guides of his actions are caprice and cruelty. The eccentric wildness of his conduct, and the sudden changes of his temper, which, like the paroxysms of a rushing whirlwind, overwhelmed whatever came within the sphere of its action, can only be excused on the plea of insanity. The frivolity of his disposition, as well as the weakness of his understanding, are strikingly exemplified in a late publication, entitled Secret Memoirs of the Court of Petersburgh. The following anecdote selected from that performance will illustrate the remark. Paul was riding on horseback through one of the streets of Petersburgh, when the animal stumbled; and the Emperor immediately dismounting, held a sort of council with his attendants, and the horse was ordered to receive fifty lashes with a whip. Paul caused them to be given on the spot before the populace, counted the strokes himself, and when the prescribed number had been inflicted, exclaimed "There, Sir; that is for having stumbled with the Emperor!" Judging from the character of the man, this portrait would seem to be an unfaithful delineation; for the countenance is beaming with mirth and cheerfulness.

FREDERICK THE GREAT, KING OF PRUSSIA. A three quarter face, considered as a good likeness.

View on the Thames, comprising the Tower, London Bridge, &c. Scott.

View



Village Scene: Hobbima. A very choice piece. This artist was fond of leading the eye over a gentle slope, diversified with shrubs, plants, &c. to a ruin, piece of water, or delicately remote distance. His pictures are very valuable, but have been often counterfeited.

Several Views of Venice: Canalletti.

Lady Malmsbury's room is ornamented in a style of elegant simplicity, and adorned with several excellent miniatures by Edrige, whose portraits in Indian ink and pencil are almost without parallel. One peculiarity in this apartment is worthy imitation under similar circumstances. On opening a large japanned closet, where the tea-table equipage is supposed to have been stored, the spectator is delighted with the prospect of an extensive tract of country, of which the town of Henley, and the meanderings of the Thames, constitute the chief objects.

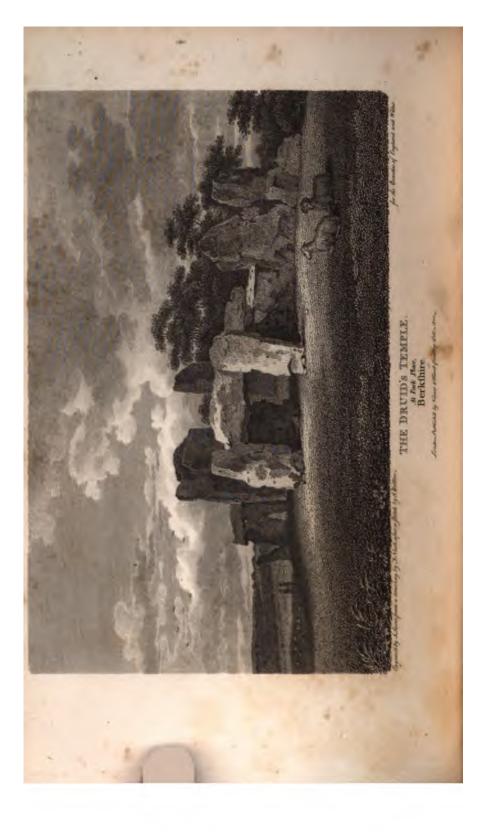
Though the house, as we have already stated, is not without attractions, yet the most prominent feature of Park Place is the beautiful scenery of the grounds, which are diversified with a continued succession of lofty eminences and low vallies, The woods partake of forest wildness, and being intermixed with shrubberies, produce the most picturesque and beautiful views. Many of these scenes would delight the mind of a Salvator, and many others a Claude might in vain attempt to copy. Some of them command an unbounded horizon, and present all the variety of English landscape. On the east of the mansion is a garden inclosed and laid out according to the French taste; and near this is the aviary, designed on a peculiar plan, and furnished with a beautiful selection of the feathered race; among which the silver pencilled and gold Pheasants are particularly deserving of admiration, for their pleasing forms and elegant plumage.

A winding subterraneous passage, nearly 170 yards in length, commencing in a wood on the summit of a hill near the aviary, leads to a fine valley, planted on the borders with cypress and other

other trees. Here a grand colomade, representing a Roman amphitheatre falling into decay, and majestic even in ruin, presents itself. This is executed in a manner far superior to most ornaments of this kind; and its secluded situation, and mouldering ivy-crowned walls, render it peculiarly picturesque. Descending the valley towards the Thames, the path winds under a large arch, curiously constructed with natural stones of vast dimensions, intermingled with the enormous blocks of massive wall brought from Reading Abbey. This fabric, interesting from its singularity, seems a very romantic object, when viewed from the water on the opposite bank of the river. The high road, which passes over the arch, is excluded from the sight by shrubberies and plantations; and through that judicious management is prevented from having an unpleasing effect.

On a hill, near this structure, is an elegant cottage, whence the views are particularly fine. On the west the Thames glides in full stream, washing the skirts of the wood to the whole extent of the grounds. Towards the east, the meanderings of the river are indistinctly seen through the verdant scenery that adorns the eminence on which the cottage is situated. On the north, the church of Henley, and the woody hills of Oxfordshire in the distance, constitute an agreeable prospect. From the river banks in this quarter, a narrow pass, overhung with trees, leads to a chalk cavern of large dimensions. Proceeding southward, a solitary willow walk, on the borders of the stream, conducts the wanderer's feet to an elegant tomb of white marble, composed in the Roman style, and perfectly in unison with the sequestered and lonely spot on which it stands. At some distance is a romantic arch, constructed with rude stones, and rendered pleasing by the variety of its verdant accompaniments. The high grounds on the north towards Henley, are crossed by a noble terrace of great length, whence a complete bird's-eye view of the river, the town, and the surrounding country, enchants the sight of the spectator. Beyond the terrace is a pleasant valley, consisting of about twenty acres, called the Lavender Farm, exclusively appropriated to the cultivation of that herb, and separated by a line of shrubs





shrubs from a steep and rugged ravine, where the high road formerly ran; the sides of which exhibit a variety of rude and broken scenery. Near the bottom is a small stone house, much admired for its elegant simplicity. These different objects form a landscape of very distinct character from any of the prospects before described.

On a well-chosen eminence, near the southern quarter of the ornamented grounds, stands a curious vestige of the manners of antiquity. This is denominated a DRUID'S TEMPLE, and was presented to General Conway by the inhabitants of the isle of Jersey, as a testimony of the respect and gratitude due to his vigilance as a governor, and to his amiable qualities as a man. This invaluable gift was accompanied by an appropriate and forcible inscription, which we shall transcribe in the words of the original.

Cet ancien Temple des Druides decouvert le 12me. Août, 1785, sur le Montagne de St. Helier dans l'Isle de Jersey; a été présenté par les Habitans à son Excellence le General Conway, leur Gouverneur.

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

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The stones which compose this temple are forty-five in number, and were all so carefully marked when taken down, as to be reerected on this spot in their original circular form. They were discovered in the summer of the year 1785, on the summit of a rocky hill, near the town of St. Helier, by some workmen who were employed to level the ground as a place of exercise for the militia, and before that time were entirely hidden with earth, which appeared raised in a heap, like a large barrow or tumulus. The circumference of the circle is sixty-six feet; the highest of the stones about nine. They are from four to six feet in breadth, and from one to three in thickness. The entrance or passage faces the east, and measures fifteen feet in length, five in breadth, and four in height. The inside contains five cells, or cavities, varying in depth from two feet four inches to four feet three inches. The coverings of these cells and of the entrance are of stones from eighteen inches to two feet thick. Within this temple two medals were found: one of the Emperor Claudius; the other so obliterated as to be unintelligible. The accounts of the history and antiquities of Jersey are very imperfect, yet it seems probable, that it was once particularly the seat of Druid worship. So lately as the year 1691, when Mr. Poindextre wrote some tracts concerning it, there were no less than fifty assemblages of rude stones, which that gentleman considered as Druid temples or altars; yet nearly the whole of these antique memorials have since been demolished. When, or by whom, the present structure was covered up is unknown; but it is supposed to have been buried by the Druids themselves, to preserve it from the violence and profanation of the Romans. All the stones with which it is formed are as rough and unhewn as when taken from the quarry. This curious structure seems to be a combination of the Cromlech, the Kistvaen, the stones of Memorial, and the pure druidical, or bardic Circle. It is a very singular relict of British antiquity, and highly deserving of preservation as a vestige of the customs of remote ages. Park Place includes an area of 400 acres; an extent of ground, perhaps, that comprises as great a variety of interesting prospects, as any of similar limits in the kingdom.

HURLEY.



#### BERKSHIRE.

# HURLEY.

MR. IRELAND, in his picturesque views on the river Thames, observes, that "the fascinating scenery of this neighbourhood has peculiarly attracted the notice of the clergy of former periods, who, in spite of the thorny and crooked ways which they have asserted to be the surest road to heaven, have been careful to select some flowery paths for their own private journeyings thither; among which ranks Hurley or Lady Place, formerly a monastery." In the Domesday book, Hurley is said to have lately belonged to Edgar; but was then the property of Geoffrey de Mandeville, who received it from William the Conqueror, as a reward for his gallant conduct in the battle of Hastings; and in the year 1086 founded a monastery here for Benedictines, and annexed it as a cell to Westminster abbey, where the original charter is still preserved.

On the dissolution of the monasteries, Hurley became the property of a family named Chamberlain, of whom it was purchased, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, by Richard Lovelace, a soldier of fortune, who went on an expedition against the Spaniards with Sir Francis Drake, and erected the present mansion on the ruins of the ancient building, with the property he acquired in that enterprize. The remains of the monastery may be traced in the numerous apartments which occupy the west end of the house; and in a vault beneath the hall some bodies in monkish habits have been found buried. Part of the chapel, or refectory, also, may yet be seen in the stables, the windows of which are of chalk; and though made in the Conqueror's time, appear as fresh as if they were of modern workmanship.

The hall is extremely spacious, occupying nearly half the extent of the house. The grand saloon is decorated in a singular style, the pannels being painted with upright landscapes, the leafings of which are executed with a kind of silver lacker. The views seem to be Italian, and are reputed to have been the work of Salvator Rosa, purposely executed to embellish this apartment.

The receipt of the painter is said to be in the possession of Mr. Wilcox, the late resident.

During the reigns of Charles the Second, and James, his successor, the principal nobility held frequent meetings in a subterraneous vault beneath this house, for the purpose of ascertaining the measures necessary to be pursued for re-establishing the liberties of the kingdom, which the insidious hypocrisy of one Monarch, and the more avowed despotism of the other, had completely undermined and destroyed. It is reported also, that the principal papers which produced the Revolution of 1688 were signed in the dark recess at the end of this vault. These circumstances have been recorded by Mr. Wilcox, in an inscription written at the extremity of the vault, which, on account of the above circumstances, was visited by the Prince of Orange after he had obtained the crown; by General Paoli in the year 1780; and by their present Majesties on the 14th of November 1785.

The Lovelace family was ennobled by Charles the First, who, in the third year of his reign, created Richard Lovelace, Baron Hurley, which title became extinct in 1736. The most valuable part of the estate was about that time sold to the Greeve family, and afterwards to the Duke of Marlborough. The other part, consisting of the mansion house and woodlands, to Mrs. Williams, sister to Dr. Wilcox, who was Bishop of Rochester about the middle of last century. This lady was enabled to make the purchase by a very remarkable instance of good fortune. She had bought two tickets in one lottery, both of which became prizes: the one of 500l, the other of 20,000l. From the daughter of Mrs. Williams it descended to Mr. Wilcox in the year 1771.

### BISHAM

Is a pleasant village near the Thames, about two miles from Hurley, and almost opposite the town of Great Marlow, in Bucks. The manor-house is a very ancient building, but has been repaired and altered at different periods. It appears to have been erected by William Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, in the







year 1338, for canons regular of the order of St. Augustine. In 1536 it was surrendered to Henry the Eighth: its revenues at that period were valued at 285l. 11s. per annum. The following year it was founded anew by that Monarch, and more amply endowed for the maintenance of thirteen Benedictine monks, and an abbot, who was to have the privilege of sitting in Parliament. This was dissolved, however, within three years of its institution; the income at that time amounting to the yearly value of 6611. 14s. 9d. and a pension of 66l. 13s. 4d. annually, bestowed on Cowdrey, the abbot. It is difficult to account for the various dedications of this abbey previous to the period when it fell into the hands of Henry, who, claiming a right paramount to the blessed saints, confiscated all its privileges to his own benefit. In the first charter it was said to be dedicated to our Lord Jesus Christ and the Virgin his mother; in the second, to the Virgin only; yet in the time of Richard the Second, and in both the deeds of surrender, we find it was entitled the Conventual Church of the Holy Trinity. The abbey was frequently visited by Henry the Eighth, and also by Queen Elizabeth, who resided here some time. A large state apartment yet retains the name of the Queen's council-chamber.

Bisham Church is seated close by the river, and contains many monuments to record the memory of the Hobys, to whose family the site of the abbey was granted by Edward the Sixth. The bones of the founder are said to have been removed hither, by Maud, his widow, from Circncester, by a license obtained for that purpose from Henry the Fifth.

The borders of the Thames in this neighbourhood are decorated with many pleasing seats. The rural villa of Sir George Young is situated in a low valley, encompassed with fertile meadows, and sheltered from the north winds by the majestic hills and beautiful hanging woods of Hedsor, Cliefden, and Taplow. The view on the south-west is very extensive.

WHITE PLACE is a neat mansion, built entirely with chalk, not a single brick having been used, except for the chimnies. Though erected upwards of twenty years since, the various changes of the weather appear to have effected it but very slightly.

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It commands a number of fine views, enriched with beautiful woodland scenery.

### MAIDENHEAD

Was anciently called South Ailington, and Sudlington. Whence it derived its present name is uncertain; though some visionaries have deduced its origin from a British maiden, one of the eleven thousand virgins said to have been martyred with St. Ursula, their leader, near Cologne in Germany. This tale, however, has been controverted by Simordus, a shrewd Jesuit, who has demonstrated that only two virgins were put to death, Ursula and Undecimilla; the name of the latter having been mistaken by the ignorant monks for Un decim mille.

Maidenhead is situated on the borders of the Thames, in the parishes of Bray and Cookham. It consists principally of one long paved street, the south side of which is in the former parish. Its present consequence may be attributed to the building of the bridge about the time of Edward the Third, by which means the great western road was carried through the town. Previous to this, travellers usually crossed the river at a ferry, called Babham's End, about two miles northward. The first bridge was of wood, towards the repairs of which the corporation were allowed a tree annually out of Windsor Forest. The present bridge is a work of considerable merit, and was constructed from the designs of Sir Robert Taylor, about twenty years ago. It consists of seven large semicircular arches, built with stone, and three smaller ones of brick, at each end. The expence of building was 19000l. independant of some contiguous lands, purchased to render the work complete. The approach to this structure is grand and spacious; the ends being formed with a noble curve outwards. Along the sides is a broad pavement, fenced with a handsome ballustrade. The view from the centre of the bridge is particufarly pleasing. The hills of Cliefden and Taplow, with their elegant mansions and pleasant meadows, form a very diversified and beautiful prospect. The principal trade is malt, meal, and timber; and the inhabitants derive additional assistance from the

passage



passage of travellers, for whose accommodation several inns have been opened. The chapel is dedicated to St. Thomas the Apostle, and Mary Magdalen. The minister is chosen by the inhabitants, and is not obliged to attend the Bishop's visitation. The charitable donations are numerous, but the respective sums are small. In that part of the town which lies in Cookham parish, there is an alms-house for eight poor men and their wives, founded in the year 1659, by James Smyth, Esq. and endowed by the same gentleman with 40l. a year.

This town was originally incorporated under the name of the Gild or Fraternity of the Brothers and Sisters of Maidenhithe, in the 26th year of the reign of Edward the Third. After the Reformation, it was governed by a warden and burgesses; but the charter of James the Second vests the authority in a mayor and aldermen, who are empowered to chuse a high steward, and other officers. The mayor, his predecessor, and the steward, act as justices.

### BRAY,

A SMALL village, about one mile from Maidenhead, has been rendered memorable from the conduct of a vicar who possessed the benefice in the reign of Henry the Eighth, and the three succeeding Monarchs. This man was twice a Protestant and twice a Papist; and when reproached for the unsteadiness of his principles, which could thus suffer him to veer with every change of administration, replied, that, "he had always governed himself by what he thought a very laudable principle, which was never on any terms, if he could avoid it, to part with his vicarage." His name appears to have been Symon Symonds. He died in the forty-first year of Elizabeth.

O 2 Camden

\* Several late writers, particularly Ireland and Ferrar, who have mentioned these circumstances, describe them as happening in the reigns of Charles the Second, James the Second, &c. This mistake throws the imputation of apostacy on the worthy person who held the vicarage towards the conclusion of the 17th century. It should be remarked, that the story was first published by Fuller, in his Church History; and as the author died in the year 1661, it is evident that it must have been circulated previous to that event.

Camden supposes that this place was occupied by the Bibroci, who submitted to Cæsar, and obtained his protection, and with it a secure possession of one of the most beautiful spots in this county. Phillippa, the Queen of Edward the Third, had rents assigned to her from this, and the adjoining manor of Cookham, It is now considered as part of the royal domain, being attached to the liberties of Windsor Castle, and retaining some peculiar privileges, among which may be included an exemption from tolls in the adjacent market-towns. The church is an ancient structure, composed of various materials, and exhibiting a mixture of almost every style of architecture. The number of houses is about 100. In Ferrar's Tour from Dublin to London, we are informed that some workmen, digging in a bed of stiff clay a few years since, somewhere in this neighbourhood, discovered the perfect petrifaction of a turtle, weighing 49 pounds, and measuring sixteen inches in its largest diameter.

The principal charitable institution in this village, is an hospital founded in the year 1627, by William Goddard, Esq. for forty poor persons, who, in addition to their place of residence, are allowed eight shillings a month. Over the door of the almshouse is a statue of the founder, which the tasteless veneration of the inhabitants induces them to keep finely whitewashed.

FILBERTS, is the name of a manor situated at Hollyport, in this parish. The site of the manor-house was formerly occupied by a mansion inhabited by Nell Gwynn, when she was mistress to Charles the Second. The present building is square and spacious, ornamented with embattled turrets on the angles.

BRAY-WICK LODGE, the seat of Thomas Slack, Esq. is a neat edifice, built on a gentle eminence, that commands some pleasing views of a richly cultivated district, interspersed with meadow land, stretching to the town of Windsor, and rendered fertile by the waters of the Thames. The prospect on one side is diversified with the town of Maidenhead and village of Taplow, backed by the majestic woods of Cliefden and Hedsor, and on the other, enriched by Windsor's proud castle, and picturesque forest scenery.

CANNON



#### BERKSHIRE.

CANNON HILL, the seat of James Law, Esq. at Bray-Wick, has been much improved by the judicious taste of the present resident. The grounds also have been considerably enlarged, and adapted to the modern style of landscape gardening. Some of the views are eminently picturesque, but the character of the major part is confined to the beautiful.

MONKEY ISLAND, seated in the river Thames, about three quarters of a mile from Bray, derives its name from a small rustic building called Monkey-Hall, erected on this spot by the late Duke of Marlborough. The sides of this apartment are fancifully painted with a number of monkies, dressed in human apparel, and imitating human actions. Some are represented diverting themselves with fishing, others with hunting, &c. One is delineated gravely sitting in a boat, smoaking, while a female waterman is laboring at the oar, and rowing him across a river. The ceiling and cornice are decorated with resemblances of a variety of those flowers that usually grow at the water side. In another building, raised also at the expence of the Duke, on this island, named the Temple, is an elegant saloon, painted with green and gold, and enriched with figures in stucco work superbly gilt, representing mermaids, sea-lions, fish, shells, and other objects. The island is at present rented by Henry Townly Ward, Esq. who purchased the lease in the year 1787 for 240 guineas. This gentleman has a seat in the neighbourhood, between Bray and Windsor, called THE WILLOWS, the grounds of which he has considerably improved. A moorish swamp, formerly covered with osier, has been drained by his exertions, and converted into a beautiful lawn. The pleasure grounds are connected by a subterraneous passage, with a small farm called Bullock's Hatch, which is likewise the property of Mr. Ward. The prospect of the noble buildings of Eton and Windsor, from the Willows, has been termed by a late writer unequalled.

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WINDSOR

<sup>\*</sup> See Ireland's Picturesque Views on the river Thames.

### WINDSOR

Was supposed by Camden to derive its name from Windleshora, a Saxon term, expressive of winding banks, and in this place applied with peculiar propriety to the meandering course of the Thames. The earliest authentic information concerning its history is contained in a charter of Edward the Confessor's, by which it was granted, with various other lands, to the monastery of St. Peter, Westminster. This valuable gift continued but a short time in the possession of the abbey. A district favored by nature with so many charms, and so peculiarly adapted to the sports of the field, could not be expected to escape the attention of a Monarch whose darling passion was the chase. William the Conqueror was no sooner established on the throne, than he observed the beauties of this situation, and quickly prevailed on the abbot to exchange it for certain lands and manors in Essex. Thus it was again vested in the Crown, where, with the exception of the time of the Commonwealth, it has ever since remained.

Windsor is frequently distinguished by the appellative New, that it may not be confounded with the village of the same name, but of higher antiquity, about two miles distant. Its origin seems to be connected with the castle, on which even now its consequence is in some measure dependant; the trade being greatly promoted by the expenditure of the numerous visitants, which this fabric never fails to attract when it becomes the residence of the Sovereign. Edward the First constituted the town a free borough, and invested its inhabitants with several privileges, which were afterwards confirmed and enlarged by succeeding Monarchs. During the civil wars, all its franchises and immunities were involved in the common ruin; but on the Restoration, a new charter

\* Old Windsor is said, in the Domesday-book, to consist of 100 houses, twenty-two of which were exempted from taxes. Previous to the Conquest, it is reported to have formed a strong pass, and to have been the seat of several Saxon Kings; but from the period when the Conqueror fixed his residence on the neighbouring hill, it gradually decayed; the new town, which sprung up under the protection of the fortress, having superior attractions.







was granted by Charles the Second, the provisions of which were superseded by his successor, but restored at the Revolution, and have ever since been enforced in the government of the town.

The corporation consists of from twenty-eight to thirty brethren; ten of whom are denominated aldermen; the remainder, benchers and burgesses. The mayor and justice are annually chosen from the aldermen; and on the same day two bailiffs are elected from the burgesses. Besides these, the mayor, bailiffs, &c. are empowered to chuse a high steward, chamberlain, under steward, town-clerk, and other subordinate officers. This borough sent members to Parliament in the thirtieth year of Edward the First, and again in the seventh of Edward the Second. From that time till the twenty-fifth of Henry the Sixth, there appears to have been no return: since that period, it has been regularly represented. The right of election was originally vested in the corporation; but this privilege being occasionally contested, was at length overturned in the year 1690, and the liberty of voting extended to all the inhabitants paying scot and lot. By this decision the celebrated Sir Christopher Wren, who had been chosen by the mayor and burgesses, was excluded the House. The number of voters is about 280.

This town consists of six principal streets, and several inferior ones. The former are well paved and lighted; and to defray the expences, a small rate is levied on the inhabitants, by commissioners appointed under the authority of an act passed in the year 1769. The Guildhall is a stately fabric, supported with columns and arches of Portland stone. The room wherein the corporation meet for the transaction of public business is spacious and convenient. It is adorned with the portraits of the Sovereigns of England, from James the First to Queen Anne; and also with those of George, Prince of Denmark, Prince Rupert, Archbishop Laud, &c. In a niche on the north side of this structure is a statue of Queen Anne, drossed in her royal robes, and supporting the globe and sceptre. Beneath, in the frieze of the entablature of the lesser columns and arches, is a Latin inscription to this effect:

Erected in the 6th Year of her Reign, 1707.

Sculptor, thy art is vain. It cannot trace
The semblance of the matchless Anna's grace.
Thou mayst as soon to high Olympus fly,
And carve the model of some Deity.

S. Chapman, Mayor.

This was executed at the charge of the corporation, from motives of gratitude to the Queen, who always resided at Windsor during the summer. In another niche, on the south side, is the statue of PRINCE GEORGE, of Denmark, her Majesty's consort, in a Roman military habit, erected by Sir Christopher Wren in the year 1713. In the area under the hall, the corn market is held weekly. The church is an ancient and spacious fabric, dedicated to St. John the Baptist. Within it are several handsome monuments, to record the memory of respectable families, and a good organ, removed from St. George's Chapel, and presented to the parish by his Majesty. The donations for the use of the poor have been very numerous; and the funds being assisted by some grants from the crown, have occasioned the rates for their support to be less burthensome here, than in many other places. In the year 1706, a neat free school was erected on the north side of the church for thirty boys and twenty girls, who are clothed and educated, partly by subscription, and partly by the income arising from several legacies.

The buildings in this town are chiefly of brick. The number of houses is about 550. The inhabitants are computed at 3000. In the year 1784 his Majesty was presented with a piece of land by the corporation, for the erection of an hospital for sick soldiers. The building was begun and completed the same year. It consists of two wards, sufficiently spacious to accommodate upwards of forty men, with some additional apartments for the use of the attendants. In the summer of 1793 a small, yet elegant theatre was erected here, at the expence of Mr. Thornton, the manager. The seasons of representation are restricted by the Lord Chamberlain's license to the Eton vacations, but the company have

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lately obtained permission from the magistrates to perform during the Ascot races. The system adopted by administration to concentrate the military force, was carried into effect at Windsor in the year 1795, when extensive and convenient barracks were built for 750 infantry; and a large building is now erecting for the reception of about 400 cavalry. The parish of New Windsor, according to a late survey, contains 2618 acres, which, exclusive of the space occupied by the buildings, are principally disposed into parks, gardens, and pleasure grounds.

### WINDSOR CASTLE,

THE magnificent residence of the British Sovereigns, is most delightfully situated on the summit of a lofty hill, whose base is laved by the pellucid waters of the Thames. The prospects to the east, west, and north, are extensive and beautiful, being enlivened by the windings of the river, and variegated with elegant mansions, luxuriant meadows, and gentle eminences, covered with the rich foliage of innumerable woods. On the south, the view is bounded by the wild and picturesque scenery of the Forest, intermingled with a great variety of verdant accompaniments.

Here hills and vales, the woodland and the plain;
Here earth and water seem to strive again;
Not chaos like, together crush'd and bruis'd,
But, as the world, harmoniously confus'd;
Where order in variety we see,
And where, tho' all things differ, all agree.

Winnesse Forest

Windson Forest.

This venerable structure owes its origin to William the Conqueror, who had no sooner negociated the exchange before mentioned, than he erected a castle or palace on this spot, as a hunting seat. He also designed the parks, extended the boundaries of the Forest, and established rigid laws for the preservation of the game. Henry the First considerably improved the edifice which his father had erected, enlarged it with additional buildings, and, for greater security, surrounded the whole with a strong wall. The alterations made by this Prince were so important and

numerous,

From 1364 to 1370, the erection of the castle seems to have proceeded with much rapidity; "artificers being yearly impressed for the King's service:" from that time till the year 1375, this harsh measure appears to have been abandoned; and as the Monarch died in 1377, we may conclude that the principal part of this magnificent structure was completed at the above period.

The facts displayed in this narrative furnish some interesting remarks on the manners of the fourteenth century. They point out the very degraded state in which the Britons of that period were contented to exist. The mandate of the Prince was sufficient, authority both for the infringement of personal liberty and individual property; and his will was as much observed and obeyed, as the obligations of an act of Parliament. The talents of the subject were fettered to the Monarch's caprice, and their reward regulated by his pleasure. The whole of the possessions of the governed, appears to have been at the King's disposal; for we find that even his writ, directed to the sheriffs, and unauthorized by the consent of the other branches of the legislature, was a sufficient warrant for the confiscation of all the effects of the persons who gave employment to an oppressed workman. Those days were indeed evil; and it cannot be denied that every injured sufferer had full license to exclaim, with the poet, " spero meliora."

Many alterations and additional buildings have been made in the castle by the successors of this Monarch. Edward the Fourth enlarged and rebuilt the beautiful chapel of St. George. Henry the Seventh vaulted the roof of the choir of that structure, and erected the spacious fabric adjoining the King's apartments in the upper ward. Henry the Eighth rebuilt the great gate in the lower ward. Edward the Sixth, and Mary, his successor, had a fountain of curious workmanship made in the centre of the upper court, to supply the castle with water. Queen Elizabeth raised the noble terrace on the north side, which commands an unbounded prospect over one of the most beautiful vallies in the kingdom. Charles the First made several improvements, and erected a gate leading to the park; but, during the convulsions which shortly ensued,

ensued, the castle was despoiled of many of its ornaments, and the palace of the Monarch became his prison. Charles the Second repaired and embellished the whole structure, decorated the apartments with numerous fine paintings, established a magazine of arms, and continued the terrace round the east and south sides of the upper court. This walk is faced with a rampart of free stone, and extends to the length of 625 yards, being only inferior to the terrace of the Seraglio at Constantinople. Various alterations have been made by succeeding Princes; but the principal improvements during this and the last century have been effected by the reigning Sovereign, whose munificent plans for the embellishment of this structure have far exceeded the designs of his predecessors. Under his direction the Chapel of St. George has been completely repaired, and superbly decorated. It now forms as perfect an exemplar of beauty, elegance, and unison of parts, as any edifice in the kingdom. The ditches also, which skirted the east and south sides of the castle, have been filled up, and the ground levelled. The rooms have been furnished with new paintings; and many of the windows on the north side of the upper court enlarged, and adapted to the gothic style of architecture. Further improvements are in contemplation, particularly the erection of a chapel in the Horn Court, which is to be ornamented with upwards of thirty paintings by Benjamin West, Esq. The subjects to be taken from the evidences of revealed religion.

This majestic edifice is divided in two courts, called the upper and lower wards, which are separated by The Keep, or Round Tower, built on a lofty artificial mount, surrounded with a moat, in the centre of the castle. The ascent to the upper apartments is by a long flight of stone steps, guarded by a cannon planted at the top, and levelled at the entrance. The curtain of the tower is the only battery now in the castle: round it are seventeen pieces of ordnance, which seemingly retain their situation more as objects of ornament than utility. The summit of this building

All the windows of the court are intended to be made into this form: but the illness of his Majesty has occasioned a temporary suspension of the work. Many other projected alterations are delayed by the same cause.

building presents a combination of the most interesting views in England. The immense variety of objects included within the sphere of vision from this spot, excite the most pleasant sensations. The windings of the Thames through a wide extent of country, the scenery of the forest, the venerable groves, the busy hamlets, the variegated fields, the crouded towns, and all the variety of elegant mansions embosomed in wood, and tastefully situated on the borders of the river, mingle in the landscape, and compose a picture, which the luxuriant pencil of the most fertile imagination might fail to delineate. The names of the following counties, to be seen from this tower, are inscribed on a board near the summit. Middlesex, Essex, Hertford, Bucks, Berks, Oxford, Wilts, Hants, Surrey, Sussex, Kent, and Bedford. On a clear day, the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral may be plainly distinguished. The royal standard is displayed from the summit of the tower whenever the King is at Windsor, and also on state holidays. This flag is fourteen yards long, and eight broad.

The principal curiosities in this fabric are the arms preserved in the Guard Chamber. These consist of whole, half, and quarter pikes, bandoleers of various figures, and some of the first matchlocks that ever were constructed. The pillars of the door which lead to the dining-room are composed of pikes, on the tops of which are two coats of mail, said to have been worn by John, King of France, and David, King of Scotland, when prisoners in the castle. They are inlaid with gold: that belonging to the former Prince, is ornamented with fleur des lis; that worn by the latter, with thistles.

This tower is the residence of the constable or governor, whose office is both military and civil. He is invested with full powers to guard the castle against every enemy, foreign and domestic; and also to investigate and determine all disputes that may arise within the precincts of Windsor Forest, which, from a manuscript descripton of this manor, written by John Norden, and now in the British Museum, is 77 miles and a half in circumference.

The upper ward is a spacious quadrangle, composed of the round tower on the west; the private apartments of their Majes-

ties, &c. on the south and east; and the royal apartments, usually shown to strangers, St. George's Hall, and the Chapel Royal, on the north. Nearly in the centre of the court is a large equestrian statue of Charles the Second in copper, placed on a marble pedestal, which is ornamented with some nautical devices, beautifully carved in basso relievo, by Gibbons. "The fruit, fish, and implements of shipping," observes Walpole, "are all exquisite; the man and horse may serve for a sign to draw a passenger's eye to the pedestal." Beneath the statue is a curious hydraulic engine, invented by Sir Samuel Morland, who was appointed Magister Mechanicorum to the above Monarch in 1681.

The entrance to the ROYAL APARTMENTS is through a vestibule supported by Ionic columns. The staircase leading to the different chambers was painted by Sir James Thornhill. It is now undergoing a total alteration from the designs of Mr. Wyatt. Almost every room in this division of the castle is ornamented with paintings; but as many of these are not original, and as others are only possessed of inferior merit, we shall wave the description of all but those which are the most eminent. Some other curiosities will be mentioned incidentally.

Those inestimable productions of human genius, The Cartoons of the celebrated Raphael, are unquestionably the first pieces that merit attention in this collection. These are disposed in two apartments, respectively entitled, The Queen's Presence Chamber, and The King's Presence Chamber. The subjects represent some very interesting events from the New Testament, and are as follows:

THE MIRACULOUS DRAUGHT OF FISHES: Luke, Chap. v. PETER AND JOHN HEALING THE CRIPPLE AT THE GATE OF THE TEMPLE: Acts, Chap. iii.

ST. PAUL AND BARNABAS AT LYSTRA: Acts, Chap. xiv. ELYMAS THE SORCERER STRUCK BLIND: Acts, Chap. xiii. THE DEATH OF ANANIAS: Acts, Chap. v.

OUR SAVIOUR GIVING THE CHARGE TO PETER: St. John, Chap. xxi.

PAUL PREACHING AT ATHENS: Acts, Chap. xvii.

These

These pieces, so deservedly applauded throughout Europe for their unequalled variety of character, matchless expression, and excellence of composition, were originally designed as patterns for tapestry, to adorn the pontifical apartments of Leo the Tenth, at Rome. They form only a small part of the scriptural designs executed by the great artist when engaged in the chambers of the Vatican, and have, by an uncommon series of favorable circumstances, been preserved to embellish the castle where they are now situated. When finished, they were sent to Flanders, and traced in tapestry under the direction of Van Orley and Michael Coxis: but Leo and Raphael both dying before the work was completed, the tapestries were not carried to the seat of the papal government for several years; probably not till after the sacking of Rome in the time of Clement the Seventh. At that disastrous period, the scholars of Raphael fled; and none being left to inquire for the original designs, they lay neglected and despised in the store rooms of the manufactory. Here, nearly a century after the death of the artist, they were seen by Rubens, who, with an energy proportioned to their extraordinary merit, prevailed on Charles the First to purchase, and have them brought to England.

"At the sale of this Monarch's effects after his death, they were purchased by the order of Cromwell, who commissioned one of his officers to bid for them, and publicly to declare the bidding as for his Highness. Fifty pounds was the sum offered; and such was the respect or dread of the name of the bidder, that they were instantly knocked down to him; though at the same time it was known, unlimited commissions were then in the room from France, Spain, Italy, &c. Much praise is certainly due to the Protector in this transaction, who, although no connoisseur, was well aware of the high value of these works, which he afterwards, in a state-exigency, pawned to the Dutch for fifty thousand pounds. They remained in Holland till the Revolution; after which King William ordered them hither, when they were deposited in a gallery built expressly for their reception at Hampton Court."

From this palace they were removed in the year 1766 to Buckingham-House, where they remained till 1788, when they were again destined to change their station. Benjamin West, Esq. the worthy President of the Royal Academy, solicited His Majesty to have them removed to Windsor Castle, where the purity of the air will probably preserve them for centuries longer than if they had continued exposed to the smoky atmosphere of the Metropolis. Some of these paintings were injured by the humid exhalations in the vicinity of Hampton Court; and all of them appear to have been much damaged by the treatment they received when used as patterns for the tapestry. The extremities of the figures are full of pin-holes, made for the workmen to pounce the outlines; and other parts are almost cut through in tracing. The dimensions of two or three of the Cartoons appear to have been curtailed; and in several places they have been patched and retouched, to the extreme detriment of the workmanship of the original artist.

Though the essentials of design, composition, and expression, are concentrated in these productions,\* they are not faultless; yet, in the opinion of the most eminent judges of the art, the efforts of human ability were never so nearly allied to perfection. To trace their defects, would be to depreciate the lustre of the sun, on account of the dim spots which sometimes obscure its splendor. "Their author," says Mr. Holloway, "has frequently Vol. I.

\* Copies of these sublime performances have frequently been made. Those of Sir James Thornhill are unquestionably the best. They are the same size as the originals, and were purchased at the artist's sale in 1735, by the late Duke of Bedford, for 200 guineas. His descendant, the present Duke, presented them to the Royal Academy in 1800. This generous example, we hope, will be followed by similar donations. It is time that a British national gallery should be established for the improvement of students. The cartoons have also been engraved by Gribelin and Dorigny, but very indifferently by both artists. Mr. T. Holloway has issued proposals for engraving them a third time, and has made considerable progress in his undertaking. The engravings are to be accompanied with a memoir of the painter, and an analysis of his works on professional principles. Mr. Fuseli (in his Lectures just published) states, that there were "thirteen of these magnificent designs, which represented the origin, sanction, economy and progress of the Christian Religion."—See Lecture 111. page 37, &c.

been styled the divine RAPHAEL: but epithets can confer no additional dignity on a name, the simple expression of which as much denotes THE PAINTER, as that of Homer, THE POET."

Eulogiums on the talents and genius of Raphael have been so numerous, that it would be almost impossible to select new terms to characterize his accomplishments. The attempt, indeed, is superfluous. His own works are sufficient testimonies of his skill; and they will long exist to embalm his fame, and consecrate his memory. A few lines, however, on the powers of The Painter, selected from the discourses of Sir Joshua Reynolds, who, of all other artists, was, perhaps, the most capable to appreciate the merit of Raphael, may not be unacceptable.

"The excellency of this extraordinary man lay in the beauty and majesty of his characters, the judicious contrivance of his composition, his correctness of drawing, purity of taste, powers of invention, and the skilful accommodation of other men's conceptions to his own purposes. Nobody excelled him in that judgment, to which he united to his own observations on nature, the energy of MICHAEL ANGELO, and the beauty and simplicity of the antique."

THE QUEEN'S PRESENCE CHAMBER, in addition to three of the above cartoons, contains the portraits of JAMES THE FIRST, by Vandyck, and EDWARD THE THIRD, and his son the BLACK PRINCE, by Belcamp. These illustrious characters are drawn at full length, and were probably taken from original resemblances, as the artist was employed by Charles the First to copy his pictures.

In the Queen's Audience Chamber is a canopy of English velvet, set up by Queen Anne, and a large painting representing His Majesty reviewing the third, or Prince of Wales's regiment of dragoon guards, and the tenth, or Prince of Wales's regiment of light dragoon guards, by Sir William Beechey. This is a very grand and interesting performance. The principal figures are on horseback, finely grouped in the centre, and on the right of the picture. His Majesty is seated on his charger, and accompanied by the Prince of Wales, who appears giving the

word



word of command; the Duke of York; and the Generals, Sir William Fawcett, Dundas, and Goldsworthy. These figures are as large as life, and are generally considered as good likenesses. The manœuvering of the troops in the distance, and the effect introduced by the artist in his sky, are peculiarly well managed. The extent of the canvas is sixteen feet by thirteen. This painting has been engraved.

In the Ball-Room are the portraits of William, Earl of PEMBROKE, by Vansomer; the DUKE OF HAMILTON, by Hanneman; and the DUCHESS OF RICHMOND, by Vandyck. The latter picture represents her Grace in the character of St. Agnes, with characteristic symbols. The drapery is well disposed, and the face and arms are beautifully drawn and colored.

THE QUEEN'S DRAWING-ROOM is embellished with the following beautiful paintings.

Judith and Holofernes: Guido.

LADY VENETIA DIGBY: Vandyck. The extraordinary beauty and singular fame of Lady Digby, were no exemptions from the malevolence of detraction and envy. But the shafts fell harmless; and the artist, in this picture, has veiled the circumstances by allegory. The dove is introduced to express her innocence: the serpent, which she handles with impunity, shows her superiority over the envenomed tongue of slander; and the figure of Calumny with two faces, bound and thrown on the ground behind her, is demonstrative of her triumph over the malice of her defamers. Sir Kenelm Digby, her husband, was so enamoured of her charms, that he tried various whimsical experiments to improve them. Among other chimerical expedients, he prevailed on her to feed on the flesh of vipers; and was continually inventing some new cosmetic to heighten her complexion. To these arts, more expressive of Paphian blandishment than chaste affection, she probably fell a victim, being found dead in her bed on the 1st of May, 1633, in the thirty-third year of her

DE BRAY AND HIS FAMILY, in the characters of Marc Anthony, Cleopatra, &c. This piece was executed by De Bray himself, a Flemish

Flemish artist, who was distinguished for the fidelity of his portraits, and correctness of his drawings; yet this specimen is not calculated to raise his pretensions in the scale of fame.

KILLEGREW AND CAREW: Dobson. Killegrew is described by historians as a person whose "gibes and flashes of merriment were wont to set the table in a roar." He was master of the revels to Charles the Second, and commonly styled the King's Jester, though we have no authority for supposing there was any appointment of that nature in the British Court at so late a period. His education was purposely adapted to the precincts of a throne; and all his acquired accomplishments were directed to attract the sunshine of royal favor. Wit and humor he possessed in an eminent degree, yet the judgment that should have directed them . to virtuous ends, appears to have been wanting. His convivial qualities involved him in every dissipation of a lincentious court, where vice and infamy were the harbingers of prosperity, and the promiscuous intercourse of the sexes, the avowed tenet of its inmates. He died at Whitehall on the 19th of March, 1682, and was buried amidst the bewailings of the poor, to whom, whatever were his errors, he had always been a friend.

THE QUEEN'S BED-CHAMBER is furnished with a sumptuous bed. The furniture is of rich blue and white satin, embroidered with elegant flowers, executed by Mrs. Wright. The principal paintings are six large landscapes, by Zuccarelli, bought of Mr. Smith, late Consul at Venice; and a full length portrait of Her Majesty, by West. This is regarded as one of the best likenesses of the Queen that has yet been executed. The artist has particularly attended to the quaker-like neatness of dress to which Her Majesty was extremely partial at the period when it was taken. The back-ground is enlivened by a distant view of Windsor Castle, with fourteen of the royal offspring represented playing on the lawn.

THE ROOM OF BEAUTIES is so named from its being decorated with the portraits of fourteen ladies distinguished for their attractive charms in the reign of Charles the Second. " The Beauties of Windsor," observes Horace Walpole, " are the Court a dismail the six of passages on the

Fleminh

of Paphos, and ought to be engraved for the memoirs of its charming historiographer. "The suggestion of this eminent writer on the polite arts has been partly carried into effect, and a new edition of the performance alluded to, published with engravings from some of these originals. We shall enlive our list of these beautiful females with a few anecdotes principally derived from that work.

The Duchess of Richmond, a lady of exquisite beauty, but inferior talent, reported by the Count de Grammont to be one of Charles the Second's mistresses; but this is contradicted by Bishop Burnet, who says, that "the King designed to legitimate his adresses to her, when he saw no hope of succeeding any other way." The latter part of the good prelate's assertion is very doubtful; but that Charles had designs of raising her to the throne is unquestionable; and means, it has been said, were in agitation to procure a divorce from the Queen with that intent, when her marriage with the Duke of Richmond, whom Charles but a short time before had discovered at midnight in her bedchamber, prevented the plan being effected. The King was highly incensed: but the weight of his displeasure fell on Lord Clarendon, who was supposed to have promoted the match, to prevent the evils attendant on a disputed succession.

LADY ROCHESTER,

LADY DENHAM. This unfortunate female was related to George Digby, Earl of Bristol, and had been introduced at a very early age into the festive parties which that nobleman was continually forming to engage the favor of the King. Endowed by nature with a heart too susceptible of soft impressions, and captivated with the smiles of royalty, she was only saved from the embraces of Charles by the jealousy of Lady Castlemaine. Her tenderness was afterwards assailed by the Duke of York; but circumstances at that period induced her to prefer the honorable advances of Sir John Denham, who having ridiculed wedlock during a long life, thought proper, at the age of seventy-nine, to marry a sprightly virgin of eighteen! This event led to her death,

\* Count Hamilton, author of the Memoirs de Grammont.

The Duke prosecuted his addresses; and the lady violated her marriage vow on the promise of being made lady of the bed-chamber to the Duchess. The amour was discovered by her husband; and, "merciless fate robbed her of life, and of her dearest hopes, in the bloom of youth." The publications of the day insinuate that she was deprived of life by a mixture infused into some chocolate.

LADY SUNDERLAND.

Miss Brooks, afterwards Lady Whitmore; Lady Denham's sister.

MRS. JANE MIDDLETON. A Coquette, handsome, and of small fortune: three dangerous enemies to female virtue. Her love of magnificence generated difficulties, which the presents of her admirers were necessary to remove. Though fond of accepting favors, she was but tardy in making returns. In conversation, she affected wit, and became tiresome; and the reputation of her tediousness outlived the remembrance of her beauty.

THE COUNTESS OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

MISS HAMILTON, afterwards Lady Grammont. Illustrious both for beauty and accomplishments, this female was one of the most brilliant ornaments of Charles's court, where, in the midst of unlimited freedom between the sexes, she preserved her reputation and character. Even the unsteady Count de Grammont, whose passion for the fair sex had induced him to rival Louis the XIVth, and had been the cause of his banishment from the court of France, was captivated with her charms, and the solidity of her mental accomplishments, and, as the "reward of a constancy which he had never before known, and never afterwards practised, was at length blessed with her possession." The Count was a man of splendid colloquial powers; and the readiness of his wit not unfrequently relieved him from embarrassing situations. This was particularly apparent on the eve of his departure to France; for having commenced his journey without a proper conclusion of his engagements with Miss Hamilton, he was pursued by her brothers, who intended to exchange some pistol shot with him. They overtook him near Dover, and called out, "Count Grammont, have

you forgot nothing at London?" "Excuse me," answered the Count, guessing their errand, "I have forgotten to marry your sister: so lead on, and let us finish that affair." This lady was daughter to Sir George Hamilton, the fourth son of the first Earl of Abercorn.

THE DUCHESS OF SOMERSET.

THE DUCHESS OF CLEVELAND. "The annals of infamy have hardly ever been more distinguished than by this female."+ She became the avowed mistress of the King in the year 1661, and continued her intimacy with him till about 1672, when she was delivered of a daughter, of whom Mr. Churchill, afterwards Duke of Marlborough, was supposed to be the father. She was a woman of strong passions, and very outrageous temper; and though guilty of numerous infidelities, preserved her influence over the heart of the fickle Sovereign, for so long a period, by producing him several children. Her amours, however, occasioned violent altercations, which generally closed with menaces of tearing her offspring into pieces, and setting the King's palace on When thus enraged, she resembled Medea less than her dragons. Charles pardoned her gallantries, but could never forgive her having a child by another man. Bishop Burnet, in the History of his own Times, observes, that " she was a woman of great beauty, but most enormously wicked and ravenous; foolish, but imperious; very uneasy to the King, and always carrying on intrigues with other men, while yet she pretended she was jealous of him." She became Countess of Castlemaine in right of her first husband, but was created Duchess of Cleveland in the year 1670, as a bond of reconciliation after a furious quarrel with her Royal keeper. She died of a dropsy in 1709.

The foregoing Portraits were executed by Sir Peter Lely, at the desire of the Duchess of York. The artist exerted all his skill in the performance, and never, it has been said, could he have employed his pencil upon more beautiful subjects. Walpole

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\* Biog. Gallica. Vol. I.

observes,

<sup>#</sup> Memoirs of the Count de Grammont.

observes, that "Lely was the Ladies' painter;" and whether the age was improved in beauty or in flattery, Lely's women were certainly much handsomer than those of Vandyck. They please as much more, as they evidently meaned to please; he caught the reigning character, and,

On the animated canvas stole

The sleepy eye that spoke the melting soul."

The three next Portraits were painted by Wissing, one of Lely's pupils, and much esteemed. The Countess of Ossory, Mrs. Lawson, and Mrs. Knott. The remaining Portrait was executed by Huysman, or Housman, and is generally said to be the likeness of Lady Byron; but this seems doubtful. Vertue was informed that it was drawn for Lady Bellasis, to whom the Duke of York, as we are told by Burnet, gave a contract of marriage after the death of Anne Hyde, daughter of the Earl of Clarendon, his first wife. However this may be, the picture itself is said, by Walpole, to be "at least as highly finished, and colored with as much force, as Sir Peter Lely's works in the same chamber; though the lady who sat for it is the least handsome of the set." Six of these Portraits have been engraved in Mezzotinto by T. Watson.

In a small closet adjoining The Queen's Dressing Room, the Banner of France is deposited. This is annually presented, on the 2d of August, by the Heir of the Great Duke of Marlborough. By the observance of this tenure, the possession of the magnificent palace of Blenheim, which was built at the expence of the nation, and given to the Duke as a reward for his services, is continued in that family. In this apartment also, are some beautiful cabinet pictures, particularly two heads, finely penciled, by Denner; a pair of Landscapes, Teniers; an old Woman watering Flowers, Gerard Douw; the Inside of a Cottage, with a Girl playing on a Spinnet, Mieris; and a Portrait of Raphael, when a youth, by Lionardo da Vinci. The latter picture was brought from Italy by the late Lord Cooper, who presented it to His Majesty. The tea equipage that belonged to Queen Anne is likewise preserved in this closet.

QUEEN



QUEEN ELIZABETH'S, or the PICTURE GALLERY, is decorated with a great number of paintings by eminent artists. The most excellent are these.

TITIAN AND ARETIN. These portraits are painted on the same canvas by Titian. Aretin is described in the catalogue as a senator of Venice, but was probably no other than the famous satirist of the sixteenth century, whose invectives against sovereigns procured him the appellation of Scourge of Princes. He was also celebrated for some licentious sonnets, which he penned to illustrate the immodest drawings of Julio Romano. The luxuriant obscenity of the designs, and the gross impurity of the verses, are said to have been peculiarly suited to each other. Aretin died in the year 1556. It is unnecessary to comment on the merits of this picture, when it is declared to be the genuine performance of the great Titian.

The Inside of a Cottage: D. Teniers. This is finely painted, and in good preservation. In this beautiful picture is represented a young man and woman kissing, an old man, and various domestic utensils.

The Battle of Spurs, at Guinegaste in France. A very curious picture. This combat occurred in 1513, and was thus called from the French having made more use of their spurs than swords.

Two Misers: Quintin Matsys. This fine performance is most elaborately finished. The artist was a blacksmith, or rather a worker in steel and iron, and is said to have been induced by the blind deity of love to forsake the anvil and sledge, for the easel and pencil. He deserted his original profession, and, by incessant labour, acquired a distinguished celebrity in the new art which he had chosen. His productions display much genius; but the greatness of his fame seems to have arisen from accidental circumstances, rather than superlative merit. He was born in 1460, and died in the year 1529. This picture has been finely engraved by Earlom. It has been said that the beautiful steel tomb in St. George's Chapel was executed by Matsys.

A Boy with Puppies: Luca Giordano; generally said to have been executed by Murillo; but we are assured by Mr. West, that it is a true Giordano. It is a very masterly production. A small Landscape, with figures at an ale-house door; D. Teniers. Esteemed as one of the best landscapes of this artist.

The Converted Chinese: Sir Godfrey Kneller. This is unquestionably the finest piece that ever Kneller executed; and the painter himself appears to have had the same opinion; for when any person criticised on his hasty and slovenly performances, he exclaimed, "Pho, pho: it will not be thought mine; nobody will believe that the same man painted this and the Chinese at Windsor."

The Angel delivering St. Peter from Prison: Steenwyck.

A Landscape: Swanevelt.

THE EMBARKATION OF HENRY THE EIGHTH AT DOVER, May 31, 1520, preparatory to his interview with Francis the First. In this very curious and ancient painting the ship called Harry Grace de Dieu, or the Great Harry," is represented sailing out of Dover harbour; she has four masts, with two round-tops on each mast. The royal standard is flying on the four corners of the forecastle. The sails are unfurled, and the pennants are waving on the mast heads. At each quarter of the deck is a standard of St. George's cross, and also heater shields, or targets, charged differently with the cross of St. George. The sides and tops have the same ornaments. The sails and pennants are of cloth of gold, damasked. On the main deck THE KING is standing, with attendants on either hand. The arms of England and France, quarterly, are depicted on the front of the forecastle, and also on the ship's stern. On the right of the Great Harry is a three masted ship, with her sails furled, and decorated with pennants and standards. Her sides and tops are ornamented with shields. These ships are followed by three more, and those

This ship, the largest at that time in the navy, was built by Henry the Eighth, soon after the battle between the Regent, or Sovereign, and a French Carrick, named the Cordelier. In the engagement the ships were grappled together, and unfortunately taking fire, were both consumed, and all their men buried in the waves. After this dreadful accident the fleets separated, and retired to their respective ports. The Great Harry was burnt at Woolwich by the carelessness of the mariners.

by two others, all of which are decorated nearly in the same manner as the first. Round the ships are several boats, with broad pennants, some of which seem filled with persons of distinction, and others with inferior passengers. In the offing, a variety of vessels are represented under weigh; and in the distance are the faint glimmerings of the white cliffs on the coast of France. In the fore-ground are two circular forts, communicating by a terrace, situated close to the water's edge, firing a royal salute; one of them from two tier of cannon; the other, from three. On the platform of the most western fort is a man displaying the colors of St. George. Near the centre of the terrace is a gentleman, probably Sir Edward Poynings, then constable of Dover Castle, in a green and yellow jacket, with slashed sleeves, and breeches, and white stockings. Round his neck is a yellow ruff, and over the whole a black cloak. Preceding him are two bill-men, with an officer bearing a sword of state. On the hill, which forms the opposite point of the harbour, is Dover Castle. Several of the towers correspond with the appearance which that stupendous building now exhibits. All the ships are crouded with passengers, and have iron and brass cannon pointed out of the port-holes. In this visit to the continent, Henry was attended by the Cardinal Legate, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and most of the principal noblemen and great officers in the kingdom. The number of persons that accompanied their Majesties is fixed by the accurate Stow at 4334, besides the attendants of the Cardinal, and of the dowager French Queen, and her husband the Duke of Suffolk.

The INTERVIEW of HENRY THE EIGHTH, with FRANCIS THE FIRST, between Guênes and Ardres, near Calais, in the year 1520, on an open plain, since denominated, The Champ de Drap d'Or. This interesting and elaborate picture is the companion to the above, and was probably executed in the same age, and by the same artist. It contains a representation of almost every circumstance in progression from the outset to the conclusion of the interview. Historical and local truth are particularly observed in every part of the picture; and the extraordinary vigilance of the painter is manifested by his minute delineation of

the various circumstances transacted during the twenty days which the Kings of England and France passed in each other's com-Who the artist was cannot be ascertained, but the piece was evidently executed within a very short period after the occurrence of the events which it records. The principal characters are faithful portraits; and the detail of the transactions is so full and accurate, as to render it almost impossible to be executed by any other than an eye witness. The interview took place on the 7th of June, 1520; and the remainder of the time that it lasted, was spent in reciprocal visits, splendid bauquets, tilts, tournaments, and other martial exercises. Both Kings strove to outvie each other in the sumptuousness of their apparel, and the magnificence of their treats. The tents and pavilions destined for the conference between the Sovereigns, and the others appropriated for their repose, were covered with cloth of gold; and the embroidered and splendid habits of the nobility and attendants were so excessively rich, that the place of meeting has ever since been called the Field of Cloth of Gold. Immense crouds of people from both kingdoms attended the interview, and partook of the luxuriant entertainment which the liberality of Henry and Francis had provided. In the front of a magnificent temporary palace,\* were two superb conduits flowing with various colored and costly wines, apparently bursting from the throats of lions. Here, all comers were permitted to indulge without restraint. The two Kings, with seven knights of each nation, undertook, in the tournament, to encounter all challengers; and the justings, which continued for five days, were reported to have been the most splendid of the age. These and various other particulars, that occurred during this singular festival, are represented in the painting, which not only presents us with a prospect of the scene

<sup>\*</sup> This was a spacious quadrangular building, made of timber brought ready framed from England, and put together under the inspection of Sir Edward Belknap, by three thousand artificers, who were sent from England for that purpose, and had been previously employed for several months in constructing it. The apartments were hung with rich tapestry, and gold and silver cloth, ebeckered with green and white silk.

of action, but also, if the expression may be permitted, with a bird's eye view of the actions themselves. A very curious anecdote is connected with the history of this picture. After the execution of Charles the First, the Parliament appointed commissioners to dispose of his effects, and an agent from France began a treaty with them for this painting. Philip, Earl of Pembroke, an eminent admirer of the arts, who considered the picture as a valuable appendage to an English palace, resolved, if possible, to prevent the bargain being concluded, and went privately to the royal apartments, cut out the head of King Henry from the canvas, placed it in his pocket-book, and retired unnoticed. The agent finding the picture so materially mutilated, declined to purchase; and it remained in its station till Cromwell, having obtained the supreme command, prevented any further disposal of the collection. On the Restoration, the then Earl of Pembroke delivered the dissevered fragment to Charles the Second, who ordered it to be reinserted in its place. By looking sideways at the picture in a proper light, the reparation becomes visible." The above paintings are five feet six inches in heighth, and eleven feet three inches in width.

The principal portraits in this gallery are those of Sir John Lawson, Sir Christopher Minnes, the Earl of Sandwich, Sir Thomas Allen, Sir William Penn, Sir George Ascough, Sir Thomas Tiddisman, Ann, Duchess of York, Prince Rupert,† Sir Jeremiah Smith, Sir Joseph Jordan, Sir William Berkeley, General Monk, and Sir Joseph Harman; all by Sir Peter Lely; Emanuel Philebert, Duke of Savoy, by Sir Antonio More; and Henry the Eighth, by Holbein.

In THE KING'S CLOSET is a St. Catherine, by Domenichino.

This picture, and a Magdalen, by Carlo Dolci, now in the

Dressing-

<sup>\*</sup> The authorities consulted for the descriptive sketches of these paintings were, Henry's History of England, the Archæologia, and Topham's Description of an Ancient Picture in Windsor Castle, &c.

<sup>†</sup> The art of Mezzotinto engraving is said to have been invented and practised by this Prince, who conceived the idea, from noticing the corrosive effect of rust on the barrel of a gun. See Walpole's Gatalogue of Engravers.

Dressing-Room, were rescued in the year 1785, by Mr. West, from among the lumber, where it is supposed they had remained ever since the time of King William. When that gentleman discovered that their original size had been altered, and the figures converted from half into whole lengths, they were reduced to their primary shapes, and placed in the stations they now occupy at the command of his Majesty. The three following pieces are by Breughel.

A Landscape with boats, &c.

The Garden of Eden. In this beautiful picture the artist has delineated most of the animal creation. Adam and Eve are represented in the distance; whilst the noble horse is made the hero of the piece. Lions, tygers, monkies, swans, and many other kinds of the quadruped and feathered tribes fill up the piece. The subject is from Milton's Paradise Lost, book IV. line 340, &c.

About them frisking play'd

All beasts of th' earth, since wild, and of all chase
In wood or wilderness, forest or den:

Sporting the lion ramp'd, and in his paw

Dandled the kid; bears, tygers, ounces, pards,

Gambol'd before them; the unwieldly elephant,

To make them mirth, us'd all his might, and writh'd

His lithe proboscis,

A Landscape, with a number of figures representing a Dutch Wake, with the painter's name, and dated 1600.

HENRIETTA MARIA, Charles the First's Queen: Vandyck: a half length. This exquisite portrait is allowed to be the best female head that Vandyck ever painted: the drapery and tints were never excelled by the pencil.

THE KING'S DRESSING-ROOM is embellished with several pieces deserving of observation. The following are the best.

A Man's Head: Lionardo da Vinci.

Two beautiful Landscapes with figures: Wouvermans.

Holstoff, a Dutch Merchant: Holbein.

CHARLES THE SECOND: Russel.

CATHARINE

\* The best drawn and most correct portrait of this Monarch, was painted on the ceiling of the King's Presence Chamber, by SIR GODFREY KNELLER.



CATHARINE OF BRAGANZA, Charles the Second's Queen: Sir Peter Lely.

BERKSHIRE.

AN OLD LADY with a cowl over her head, said to be the portrait of the Countess of Desmond, ascribed to Rembrandt, but we believe erroneously. On the back of the picture is this inscription in an old hand-writing: "The mother of Rembrandt, given by Sir Robert Carr." There is, however, no resemblance between this painting and the Mezzotinto print of the maternal parent of the above artist.

The carving of the KING'S PUBLIC DINING-ROOM, which represents a variety of fruit, fish, fowl, &c. was executed by Gibbons, whose performances in this branch of art were never exceeded.

A Family singing by Candle-light: Honthorst.

A large picture of Nymphs and Satyrs, with dead game, Rubens and Snyders. These artists often united their skill in one piece. The first excelled in the beauty and delicate carnation tints of his flesh, which frequently induced him to choose naked figures for the subjects of his paintings. The latter was pre-eminent in the representation of cattle, and domestic animals. This is a charming specimen of Rubens' style of coloring; though the drawing of the figures, as well as the grossness of the subject, are considerable drawbacks on the merits of the piece.

Wild Boar Hunting: Snyders.

THE KING'S AUDIENCE CHAMBER is fitted up and furnished in the most elegant manner. The throne and its appendages are constructed with much taste. The canopy and ornamental parts were wrought under the direction of Mrs. Pawsey, from beautiful paintings by Miss Moser; the chair of state was made by Mr. Campbell; and the drawings, which ornament the rich gold columns, were executed by Rebecca, under the direction of Mr. West; who painted the medallion with profiles of their Majestics. But the most valuable decorations of this apartment are the seven historical paintings, illustrative of the principal events which distinguished the reign of Edward the Third. These interesting pictures were executed at the request of his Majesty, on whose

taste

taste and patronage they reflect peculiar lustre. The heroic achievements they are intended to commemorate, so expressive of the unconquerable force of English bravery, and the minute attention to historic truth displayed in their composition, so useful to the future enquirer into the transactions of remote ages, are sufficient reasons for the insertion of an outline of the subjects represented. The whole of these paintings are by Mr. West, who executed them in the years 1787, 1788, and 1789.

THE PASSAGE OF THE RIVER SOMME, August the 25th, 1346.

Edward the Third having landed with a considerable body of troops

\* These compositions are peculiarly interesting to the many illustrious families who trace their honors and titles to the periods they were designed to commemorate. Mr. West diligently investigated the history of each event, and has introduced portraits of as many distinguished characters as the subjects and spaces would admit. These are designated by their respective armorial distinctions. The names of other persons present in the actions, but not represented in the pictures, may be learnt from their banners seen in distant groups, which the artist has judiciously portrayed with that intent. The list of persons contained in the ensuing notes, with the heraldic insignia by which they are made known, serving as an index or key to each painting, were communicated by Mr. West, who presented His Majesty with the original, and kindly favored us with a correct copy for insertion in the present Work.

## THE PASSAGE OF THE RIVER SOMME,

KING EDWARD III: crest, a lion, &c. LORD CHANDOS: crest, a Saracen's head in profile proper, banded sable. EARL OF ARUNDEL: crest, a griffin's head Or, in a ducal coronet Gules. EARL OF WARWICK: crest, a swan's head Argent, in a ducal coronet Gules. LORD GODFREY HARCOURT: crest, a peacock's tail in a ducal coronet proper. SIR HUGH COURTENAY: crest, a pyramid of swan's feathers in a ducal coronet proper. EARL OF SALISBURY: crest, a griffin sejant Or, on a ducal coronet Gules. The PRINCE OF WALES: the royal crest of England. LORD ROOS: crest, a peacock in his pride, proper, standing on a chapeau.

BANNERS. St. George: Argent a cross Gules. The Standard Royal: the arms of France ancient and England quarterly. Earl of Warwick: Gules a fess between six cross crosslets, Or. Lord Godfrey Harcourt: Gules two bars Or. Earl of Salisbury: quarterly, first and fourth Argent, three fusits in fess Gules for Montacute, second and third Gules; three legs in armour proper, conjoined at the top of the thighs, and flixed in triangle for the Isle of Man.

troops at la Hogue in France, advanced along the Seine nearly to the gates of Paris, before Philip, the French King, could assemble an army sufficient to oppose him; but when this was effected, he caused all the bridges to be destroyed, and attempted to inclose Edward in the heart of the country. The latter penetrated the design, and by a stratagem passed the Seine, but found his progress into Flanders checked by the Somme. He then assembled his prisoners, and offered large rewards to any one who would point out a ford by which he might pass the river. A peasant, named Gobin Agace, was base enough to betray the interests of his country, and discovered a shallow place, where at low water the army might cross in safety.

The opposite banks were defended by 12,000 men, whom Philip had ordered to interrupt the retreat of Edward; but the latter, urged by necessity, resolved to attempt the passage. This is the point of time exhibited in the picture. The King is made the principal figure, and represented on a spirited charger. He appears animating the courage of his soldiers, by plunging into the stream, sword in hand, and inviting them to follow his example. "Let those that love me, follow," were the words of the brave Sovereign; and they were not spoken in vain. The enemy were defeated; but so narrow was the escape of Edward, that some of the troops of his rear guard were slain by Philip's army, whose further pursuit was only retarded by the rising of the tide.

THE INTERVIEW between THE KING and his victorious son the BLACK PRINCE, after the battle of CRESSY\*, August the 26th, 1346. The passage of the Somme was the immediate precursor of the battle of Cressy. Philip still continued to follow the Eu-Vol. I. Q glish

<sup>\*</sup> In the centre of this picture is EDWARD THE THIRD, habited in a surcoat, whereon is embroidered the arms of France and England. On the King's left-hand is the PRINCE OF WALES, in his suit of black armour, from which he was customarily stiled, The Black Prince. Behind them: SIR JOHN BEAUCHAMP, bearing the royal standard; his crest upon his helmet being a swan's head Argent, in a ducal coronet Gules. JOHN LORD CHANDOS: crest, a Saracen's head in profile proper, banded about his temples Sable. JOHN EARL OF OXFORD: crest, a boar Azure, standing upon a chapeau. RICHARD

glish at the head of his vast army, and having crossed the river at the bridge of Abberville, advanced with great rapidity. Edward,

EARL OF ARUNDEL: crest, a griffin's head Or, in a ducal coronet Gules. WILLIAM EARL OF NORTHAMPTON: Arms on his shield, Azure, on a bend cottised between six lions rampant Or, three mullets Sable. Lord Godfrey Harcourt: arms on his shield, Or, two bars Gules: crest upon his helmet, a peacock's tail proper, in a ducal coronet Or. Reginald Lord Cobham: crest, a blackmoor's head couped in profile proper, banded Argent. Ralfh Lord Stafford: crest, a swan's head and wings Argent, in a ducal coronet per pale Gules and Sable. John Lord Willoughby: crest, a Moor's head Sable, ducally crowned Or. Sir Fulk Fitzwarine: crest, a dragon couchant Or. Sir Henry Eam: crest, a demi lion Gules. Humphry Earl of Herzford, with the royal crest. Sir Lewis Tufton: crest, a sea lion sejant Argent.

BANNERS. Richard Lord Talbot: Gules a lion rampant within a border engrailed Or. Sir William Clinton: Argent six cross crosslets fitché Sable on a chief Azure, two mullets Argent, pierced Gules. John Lord Darcy: Azure seme of cross crosslets, three cinquefoils Argent. John Lord La Warr: Gules seme of cross crosslets fitché, a lion rampant Argent. Hugh Lord Le Spencer: quarterly, Argent and Gules, a bend Sable between two frets Or. Sir Robert Nevile: Gules a saltire Argent. John Lord Mohun: Or a cross engrailed Sable. The Banner of St. George and the Royal Standard.

SIR THOMAS HOLLAND: on his helmet a white hart lodged under a tree proper, being the badge of his wife Joan of Kent; and on his shield and surcoat are his paternal arms, Azure seme of fleurs de lys, a lion rampant, guardant Argent. ROBERT LORD FERRARS of Chartley: crest on his helmet, a peacock's tail in a ducal coronet proper.-On the King's right-hand is LAURENCE LORD HASTINGS: on his surcoat Or, a maunch Gules. Size NELE LORING bears the sword of state; and his arms on his surcoat are quarterly, Argent and Gules, a bend engrailed Sable. JOHN LORD MOW-BRAY: on his surcoat Gules, a lion rampant Argent. ROGER LORD MOR-TIMER: crest, a pyramid of feathers Azure in a ducal coronet Or. THOMAS LORD CLIFFORD: checky Or and Azure, a fess Gules. THOMAS LORD WEST: crest, a griffin's head Azure in a ducal coronet Or. HENRY LORD PERCY: crest, a lion Azure standing on a chapeau. WILLIAM LORD ROOS: see page 224. ROBERT LORD BOUCHIER: crest, a Saracen's head couped in profile proper, with a cap Gules. BARTHOLOMEW LORD BURGHERSH: crest, a demi lion double tailed Or in a mural crown Gules. MAURICE LORD BERKELEY; crest a mitre Gules, thereon a chevron between ten crosses patte Argent. BANNERS.



ward, who saw the danger of precipitating his march over the plains of Picardy, determined to await the attack of the French Monarch, and drew up his army in three lines, near the village of Cressy. Here the steady valor of his men, and his own prudent conduct, obtained the most memorable battle that was ever

Q 2 won;

BANNERS. Thomas Lord West: Argent a fess dancette Sable. Ralph Lord Basset of Sapcot: Or three piles Gules, and a canton varry Or and Gules. Sir Peter Grandison: paly of six Argent and Azure on a bend Gules, three eaglets displayed Or. Robert Lord Morley: Argent a lion rampant Sable, ducally James Lord Audley: Gules fretté Or. William Earl of Salisbury, see page 224. John Lord Lisle: Or a fess between two chevrons Sable. John Lord Warren: Checky O B on-lion rampant. Henry Lord Scroop of Masham: Azure a bend Or, and a label of three points Argent. Thomas Lord Dagworth: Ermine a chevron Gules. Peter Lord Mauley: Or a bend Sable. John Lord Segrave: Sable a lion rampant Argent, ducally crowned Or. John Lord Engame: Gules a fess dancette between six cross crosslets Or .- In the distance, over the head of JOHN LORD CLIFFORD, are the BANNERS of Sir Thomas Bradeston: Argent a bend lozengy Gules. William Lord Kerdeston: Gules a cross Argent. John Lord Montgomery: Azure a lion rampant, and a border Or .- In the distance, by the head of THE KING, are these BANNERS : Nicholas Lord Cantelupe : Azure three leopards faces, jessant fleurs de lys Or. Sir Hugh Courtenay: Or three torteaux and a label of three points Azure, on each point three amulets Or. John Lord Grey of Codnor: barry of six Argent, and Azure on a bend Gules, three martlets Or. Sir Guy Bryan: Or three piles Azure. Thomas Lord Furnival: Argent a bend between six martlets Gules. Sir Robert Damory: barry wavy of six Argent and Gules. Roger Lord Strange of Knockin: Gules two lions passant in pale Argent. Laurence Earl of Pembroke: Or a maunch Gules. William Lord Greystock: barry of six Argent and Azure, three chaplets Gules. Geoffry Lord Say: quarterly, Or and Gules. William Lord Botreaux: Or three toads erect Sable. Adam Lord Everingham: Gules a lion rampant Vair. Roger Lord Hussey: Or a cross Vert. Gerard Burdett: Azure two bars Or, on each bar three martlets Gules. John Lord Lovet: barry nebuly of six Or and Gules. Robert Lord Uchtred: Gules on a cross moline Or, five mullets of the field. Sir Richard Goldsborough: Azure a cross patonce Argent, Sir William Swinerton: Argent a cross patte and florette Sable. - In the fore-ground, at the feet of THE KING and PRINCE, lie these TROPHIES: the King of Bohemia's crest, the plume of feathers in a coronet : the surcoat of his son Charles, King of the Romans : and the banner of the King of Majorca. On the ground, behind THE KING, the banner of the Count D' Alençon, being the arms of France within a bordure Gules charged with eight bezants. The shield of Doria of Genoa, per foss Or and Argent, an eagle displayed Gules.

won; and though the numbers of the French were in a four-fold proportion to his own, he permitted that division of his troops which his son commanded to achieve the victory. The gallantry of the Prince, then but fifteen years of age, was fully equal to the arduous conflict; and when the darkness of the night terminated the pursuit, the King flew into his arms, and exclaimed, "My brave son! persevere in your honorable cause; you are my son; for valiantly have you acquitted yourself to-day; you have shown yourself worthy of empire." The prince, grateful for the caresses of his parent, dropt upon his knees, and asked his blessing. This picture is fourteen feet ten inches, by nine feet four inches.

THE BATTLE OF NEVILLE'S CROSS,\* October the 17th, 1346. During the time that Edward was employed on the con-

unent

In the centre of the picture is THE QUEEN mounted on a white horse ; her arms embroidered upon her robes, &c. LORD PERCY is on the Queen's right-hand; his crest upon his helmet, his arms upon his shield Or, a lion rampant Azure. Behind them are HATFIELD, BISHOP OF DURHAM, with the arms of his see impaled with those of his family, Ermine on a chevron Sable, three cinquefoils Argent. SIR GEOFFRY CHERNELS: his arms Azure, a cross engrailed Or. SIR ROBERT NEVILLE: arms Gules, a saltire Argent. ZOUCH, ARCHBISHOP OF YORK: arms of his archbishopric impaled with his own, viz. Gules, ten bezants, and a canton Ermine. LORD MOWBRAY: arms Gules, a lion rampant Argent. BECK, BISHOF OF LIN-COLN: the arms of his bishopric impaling his own, Gules a cross moline Argent. LORD Roos: his arms Gules, three water-bougets Argent. STRAT-FORD, ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY: the arms of the archbishopric impaled with those of his family, which are barry of ten Argent and Azure, a lion rampant Gules, ducally crowned Or.

In the distance are the BANNERS of the King of Scotland: Or a lion rampant, within a double tressure flory, counterflory Gules. The Earl of Douglas: Argent a human heart, imperially crowned proper, on a chief Azure, three mullets Argent. St. Andrew: Azure a saltire Argent. The Earl of Marr: Azure a bend between six cross crosslets fitché Or. The Earl of Murray: Azure three mullets Argent, within a double tressure flory counterflory of the second. Lord Keith, marshal of England, Argent on a chief Gules Sable. Lord Ramsay, standard-bearer to the King of Scotland: Argent an eagle displayed Sable.

The principal Leaders of the Scots. THE EARL OF SUTHERLAND: crest on his helmet, a tabby cat sejant erect. LORD RAMSAY: his crest on his helmet, a unicom's head. LORD KEITH: his crest a stag's head.

BANNERS



tinent in besieging Calais, David Bruce, King of Scotland, invaded his territories at the head of more than 50,000 men, who burnt and plundered almost every town and village in the progress of their march, massacred the inhabitants, and extended their ravages even to the gates of Durham. Phillippa, Edward's heroic Queen, animated by her husband's glory and her country's interests, hastily assembled an army of 16,000 brave yet undisciplined soldiers, and ventured to approach the Scotch King at Neville's Cross, near that city, when riding on a white courser through the ranks of the army, she exhorted them to use their utmost exertions to revenge the cruelties committed by the barbarous enemy. The gallant spirit she displayed had the desired effect; and, after a hard fought battle, the English obtained the victory. Near 20,000 of the Scots were left dead upon the field; and David himself, with several earls, and many other noblemen, were made prisoners. In the painting, Phillippa, mounted on her charger, and surrounded with knights, is invigorating the courage of her associates with that contempt of superior numbers by which she herself appears to have been inspired.

THE SURRENDER OF CALAIS,\* August the 4th, 1347. Within a few days after the Battle of Cressy, Edward the Third com-Q 3 menced

BANNERS of the English in the distance. Lord Piercy: Or a lion rampant Azure. Lord Lucy of Cockermouth: Gules three lucies hauriant Argent. Umphraville Earl of Angus: Gules a cinquefoil within an orle of cross crosslets Or. Rokeby, Sheriff of Yorkshire: Argent a chevron Sable between three rocks proper. In the fore part of the picture, on the left-hand, is the BANNER of BALIOL, viz. Or an orle Gules. Scroop of Masham; Azure a bend Or, and a label of three points Argent.

In the fore-ground LORD HAY lies dead; his arms Argent, three escutcheons Gules.

## \* SURRENDER OF CALAIS.

Over the Burgesses' heads are the Royal Standard, Sir Walter Manny's banner of his arms: Or three chevronels Sable. Lord Basset's banner: Or three piles Gules, and a canton Ermine.

Behind THE KING, are the PRINCE OF WALES, EARL OF WARWICK, LORD STAFFORD. Their crests on their helmets as before, menced the siege of Calais, which was defended for eleven months with uncommon vigilance and bravery. The King experienced the mortification of seeing many thousands of his troops expire of the various disorders generated by the humidity of the soil, and the numerous privations the besieging army were compelled to sustain. These losses incensed him almost to madness; and when at length the necessities of the townsmen, whom famine had reduced to the borders of the grave, induced the governor to offer proposals of surrender, he refused to listen to any terms, but such as permitted him to execute summary vengeance on the brave men who had been the exciters of the determined resistance he had met with. At this juncture Sir Walter Manny, and many English lords who were then in the camp, represented the danger of reprisals, and besought him to avoid so much unnecessary bloodshed. Their urgent intreaties induced the King to mitigate the severity of his demand; but he insisted that the lives of six principal citizens of Calais should be at his disposal; and that they should be sent to him barefooted and bareheaded, with the keys of the city in their hands, and ropes about their necks. This ignominious condition appeared to the inhabitants more dreadful than even the general punishment with which they had been threatened, and but for the genuine patriotism of Eustace de St. Pierre, had probably been rejected. This generous man cheerfully devoted himself to death to save his countrymen, "Another, animated by his example, made the like offer: a third, and a fourth, presented themselves to the same fate; and the whole number was soon completed. These six heroic burgesses appeared before Edward in the guise of malefactors, laid at his feet the keys of the city, and were ordered to be led to execution." The King's laurels, which had been nourished by victory in the bosom of danger, began to wither. His nobles petitioned him to bestow mercy on the braye characters who had thus made a voluntary tender of their own lives to save their friends and companions, yet he remained inexorable: even the solicitations of his most favored son, the Black Prince, were offered in vain; and Edward ordered the execution to proceed.

The

The moment appeared decisive of his fame; but his good angel, in the person of Queen Phillippa, preserved him from the infamy of such an inglorious transaction. She threw herself upon her knees, (the action represented in the picture,) and, with tears streaming down her cheeks, implored him, in the name of the Saviour, and of love, to spare the lives of the intrepid burgesses. The King's heart was softened; and resigning his prisoners to the Queen, he permitted her to dispose of them as she thought proper. Phillippa immediately carried them to her tent, gave them some refreshment, and afterwards dismissed them with a small present.

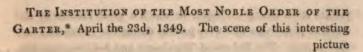
THE CROWNING OF LORD LOUIS DE RIBEMONT, by KING EDWARD THE THIRD, for his VALOR, January the 1st, 1349. During the first years of the truce which Edward had concluded with France through the mediation of the Pope's legates, he entrusted the government of Calais to an Italian, named Aymeric de Pavia, who, tempted by the offer of 20,000 crowns, consented to deliver the castle to Geoffrey de Charny, commander of the French forces in that neighbourhood. This traitorous design being privately communicated to the English King, he resolved that the meditated perfidy should burst on the heads of its contrivers. Sending, therefore, for De Pavia, he reproached him with his guilt; yet promised to pardon his concerted treachery, if he would allure the enemy to their destruction, The Italian, alike destitute of honor and integrity, agreed to the proposal; and a day being appointed for the admission of the French, Edward secretly prepared about 1000 men, with whom the Prince of Wales and himself went to Calais, and landed without suspicion, Having entered the city, he ordered the garrison under arms, and making a proper disposition of his forces, awaited the arrival of the enemy. About midnight, a chosen band of French

<sup>\*</sup> In the centre THE KING, distinguished by the royal bearings upon his armour. On the KING's right-hand, SIR WALTER MANNY, with his family arms upon his armour.

soldiers were admitted at the postern; and De Pavia, receiving the stipulated sum, led them to the place where Edward lay in ambush, under pretence of their aid being necessary to open the great gate. The English springing from their concealment, surrounded the deceived troops, and with very little opposition, made them prisoners. Meanwhile, De Charny, at the head of the main army, had approached the castle, and was impatiently waiting for the opening of the gate. At length the wished event arrived. The doors were unbarred, and Edward rushed upon his foes with cries of battle and victory. A fierce engagement immediately began; for the French, though surprised, were not intimidated. As the morning dawned, the King, who fought as a private man under the banner of Sir Walter Manny, found himself engaged with a hardy soldier, named Eustace de Ribemont. Twice did the prowess of the Frenchman make the gallant Edward bow to the earth; twice did he recover and renew the fight, Being separated by a press of combatants, they dealt destruction on the feeble of either host; but the chance of war once more bringing them together, Edward, after a fierce contest, overpowered his antagonist, and Ribemont yielded himself prisoner. Nearly at the same time the whole of his countrymen were beaten, and most of their leaders bereaved of liberty or life. On the ensuing night, Edward gave a magnificent entertainment to his prisoners, treated them with much courtesy, and informed them with whom they had the honor to be engaged. On Eustace de Ribemont\* he bestowed the highest encomiums; acknowledged that no combat which he had fought, had been attended with so much danger to his person; then taking a chaplet of pearls from his brow, he presented them to his brave enemy, and at the same instant invested him with the honor of knighthood, and granted him his freedom. In the painting, the King is delineated in the act of rewarding his vanquished opponent.

THE

<sup>\*</sup> This brave defender of the liberties of France was slain at the Battle of Poitiers.



\* In the centre of the picture, THE QUEEN: her robe embroidered with the arms of France ancient and England quarterly; likewise those of Hainault and Flanders quarterly. LADY MOWBRAY: her arms Gules, a lion rampant Argent. LADY MORTIMER, with her arms on her mantle. THE COUNTESE OF ULSTER : on her mantle Or, a cross Gules. THE PRINCES ROYAL, having the arms of France and England quarterly upon her mantle. JOAN OF KENT; with her badge upon her left shoulder, a white hart couchant, ducally collared and chained Or, under a tree proper. THE DUCHESS OF NORFOLK: her arms, England with a label of three points Argent. In the arches over the head of the Queen, CHARLES OF BLOIS; his coronet on his head. In the next arch, Lionel Duke of Clarence, John of Gaunt, William OF WOODSTOCK; younger Sons of King Edward the Third, with their proper differences. THE QUEEN OF SCOTLAND: her arms on her mantle. THE DAUGHTER OF THE COUNTESS OF ULSTER: her arms on her mantle, Or a cross Gules. In the canopy over the altar, DAVID, KING OF SCOT-LAND: his arms Or, a lion rampant, with a double tressure flory, counter flory Gules. THE ARCHBISHOP OF ST. ANDREW'S. In the right-hand corner, the arms of Earl Tankerville: Gules, an escutcheon within an orle of cinquefoils Argent.

TROPHIES on the Pillars. Upon that next to the King of Scotland, is the shield of the Earl of Flanders; Argent a lion rampant, double tailed, and rowed Sable. The shield of the Duke of Lorraine: Or on a bend Gules, three eagles displayed Or. The Count of Sancerre: arms Azure a bend Argent. The surcoat of Charles King of the Romans: the arms of Bohemia and the Roman eagle The shield of the Earl of Ew: barry of ten Argent, and Azure a label of five points Gules. On the middle pillar, the shield of Douglas: Argent a human heart Gules, imperially crowned Or. The banners of Scotland and St. Andrew. The shield of Murray: Azure three mullets Argent, within a double tressure, flory counter flory Or. The crest of Lord Keith: a stag's head erect. The shield of the King of Majorea: Or four pallets Gules, and a bend Azure over all. On the left-hand pillar, the banner of France. The banner of Count Grimaldi of Italy; Lozengy Argent and Gules. The banner of the King of Bohemia: Gules a lion rampant, double tailed Argent, crowned Or. The Count D' Alençon's banner; France Ancient, within a border Gules bezante. A helmet with the crest of Grimaldi: a fleur de lys between two sprigs of laurel proper. In the front of this group the shield of Doria of Genoa, per fess Or and Argent, an eagle displayed Gules. Along the top of the picture are the arms and crests of the first founders of the Most Noble Order. Upon the flat part of the spandrels of the arches are the arms of ST. EDWARD AND ST. GEORGE alternately.

picture is St. George's Chapel, in which a great number of the eminent personages who were present during the installation are represented. The Bishops of Winchester and Salisbury are performing the ceremony of high mass, and the Sovereign, Queen, and Knights, kneeling round the altar. The King's children appear in the gallery, in a different part of which is the captive King of Scotland, the Bishop of St. Andrew's, and several French prisoners of noble birth, whom Edward had permitted to witness the magnificence of the institution. On the left of the foreground are two of the alms or poor knights kneeling; and behind them the ambassadors from Gascony and Normandy, arrayed in their official habits. The assemblage of beautiful ladies are also introduced, who are reported to have attended the Queen, and graced the solemnity by the brilliance of their charms, \* The decorations are composed of the arms of the knights of the order, and the trophies which the King had won by his numerous victories.\*

The original sketch of this picture is in the possession of William Beckford, Esq. of Fonthill, to whom we are indebted for the following remarks on its composition and general merit. "Above 100 figures are grouped together, with such effect, and painted with so much spirit, as to raise this beautiful performance almost to a level with the happiest effusions of the pencils of Rubens and Vandyck. The coloring, for richness and transparency, equals the best works of the Flemish school. To the utmost power of execution, it joins the historical interest of the subject, and the curiosity of displaying portraits of Edward the Third, the Black Prince, Queen Phillippa, all the Royal Children, the Fair Maid of Kent, and the beautiful Countess of Kildare; with the King of Scots, and John of Blois, then prisoners in the castle."

THE

<sup>\*</sup> This picture, the Battle of Poitiers, and the Interview between Edward and his Son, are all of the same size.



The Battle of Poitiers,\* September the 19th, 1356. Edward the Black Prince, with an army scarcely amounting to 12,000 men, ventured to penetrate into the heart of France; but, after ravaging Languedoc, and several of the finest provinces, found his retreat to Bourdeaux opposed by John, the French King, at the head of upwards of 60,000 soldiers. In this dilemma he prepared for battle with all the courage of a hero, and the prudence of an experienced commander; yet, willing to save his gallant

\* The principal figure is the PRINCE OF WALES: upon his helmet a plume of ostrich feathers in a coronet, which was worn by the King of Bohemia in the battle of Cressy. JOHN LORD CHANDOS: his crest on his helmet, which is a Saracen's head proper, in profile bended Sable; his shield Azure; on it the Virgin Mary Or, encompassed with the rays of the sun Argent. WILLIAM EARL OF SALISBURY, see page 284. JOHN LORD WILLOUGHBY OF Eresby: his crest a black's head, ducally crowned proper. SIR NELE LORING: crest, a plume of feathers Argent. RALPH LORD BASSET of Drayton; crest, a boar's head Sable, in a ducal coronet Or. JOHN LORD MOHUN: crest, an arm habited in a maunch Ermine, hand proper, holding a fleur de lys Or. GILBERT LORD TALBOT: crest, a lion Or, standing on a chapeau Gules lined Ermine. PRINCE PHILIP, fourth son of the King of France : his crest, a fleur de lys. JOHN KING OF FRANCE: in a surcoat, adorned with the royal arms of France. SIR WALTER PAVELEY: crest, a horse's head truncated Argent. REGINALD LORD COBHAM, see page 226. SIR BARTHOLOMEW BURGHERSH, see page 226. SIR ROGER DE LA WARRE; crest, a griffin's head Azure, in a ducal coronet. MAURICE LORD BERKELEY: crest, a mitre Gules, charged with a chevron between ten crosses patté Argent. SIR FRANK VAN HALL: crest, a wyvern ducally gorg'd and chained, holding a sword proper, standing on a castle Argent. John Earl of Oxford, see page 225. Thomas Earl of WARWICK, see page 224. SIR THOMAS FELTON: crest, a pair of wings extended Gules, in a ducal coronet Or. SIR ROBERT KNOWLES: crest, a ram's head Argent, in a ducal coronet Gules. SIR SANCHET DAUBRICH. COURT: crest in a ducal coronet Or, a double plume of feathers Argent, bound together with two broad bandages, lozengy Or and Gules. THE CAPTAL DE BUCHE: crest, the head of Midas Sable, and on his shield his arms, Or on a cross Sable, five escallop shells Or. SIR JOHN PELHAM: crest, a peacock in his pride Argent, on a chapeau Gules lined Ermine. RALPH EARL OF STAFFORD, see page \$26. Peter Lord Morley: on his shoulder Or a bend Sable.

BANNERS.

gallant comrades from almost certain slaughter, he offered, at the intercession of the Cardinal Perigord, through whose urgent solicitations the fight had been delayed, to purchase a retreat, by ceding the whole of his conquests made during this and the former campaign, and also by stipulating not to carry arms against France for seven years. These conditions were refused by John, whose superiority of force inspired him with an assurance of victory; and he insisted that the Prince, with 100 of his Knights, should submit to an unconditional surrender: on these terms alone would be consent to the unmolested retreat of the English army. The gallant youth treated the proposal with disdain. He declared that he would " accept of no conditions derogatory of his own and his father's glory, or any-wise calculated to blemish the honor of the English nation." This resolute answer destroyed every hope of conciliation. The armies prepared for the combat: but the day having been spent in negociating, the battle

BANNERS. The Prince of Wales. James Lord Audley: Gules a fret Or. St. George, see page 238. The Captal de Buche: Or on a cross Sable, five escallop shells of the field. The Earl of Warwick: his arms first and fourth Gules, a feet between six cross crosslets Or for Beauchamp, second and third checky Or and Azure; a chevron Ermine for Newbourgh, the ancient earls. Sir John Pelham? Azure three pelicans Argent, vulning themselves proper. Sir Dennis Merebeck 7 Azure a fess Or. Lord Cobham: Gules on a chevron Or, three stars Sable. The Marshal; a white banner. The Earl of Suffolk: Sable, a cross engraised Or. The Earl of Oxford: quarterly Gules and Or: in the first quarter a mullet Ara gent. The Archbishop of Sens: habited in his surcoat, with his mitre on his head. James Earl of Bourbon, in his surcoat, embroidered with the arms of France; over all bend Gules, charged with three lions passant Or. John Earl of Arteis: in a surcoat of France, with a label of three points Gules, on each point three towers Or. Sir Arnauld Cervantes: (better known as the Arch Priest:) in a sure coat of the arms of France, within a bordure Gules.-In the fore-ground are these TROPHIES: The banner of France. The standard Orislamme. The banner of Lord Geoffrey de Charny, (standard-bearer to the King of France:) Gules three escutcheons Argent. The Dauphin's shield : arms of France and Dauphiny quarterly, and a label of three points. The Duke of Athens: shield with his arms, viz. quarterly of nine pieces Gules and Ermine. The Lord John Clermonts? shield bearing a device of the Virgin Mary. The Duke of Bourbon: helmet with his crest, a fleur de lys. The Lord Eustace de Ribsmont: helmet adorned with a chaplet of pearls.

battle was deferred till the next morning. In the night the Prince strengthened his post by new entrenchments, and contrived an ambuscade in the vineyards surrounding the field, and intrusted its command to the Captal de Buche. Early on the 19th of September the engagement commenced; and the cool yet determined conduct of the English soon rendered their superiority evident over the impetuous, but disordered and ill-directed, valor of the enemy. There was no approach to the field where the Prince had drawn up his troops, but through a narrow lane covered with hedges, and lined with a body of archers, whose hostile shafts being governed by a deliberate aim, slaughtered numbers of the French soldiers, whilst those who made the havoc continued in complete security. A detachment at length having arrived at the end of the lane, met a chosen body of English troops prepared for their reception, and were immediately beaten, and driven back upon their own army, which their sudden recoil threw into disorder. At the same moment the Captal de Buche. sallied from his concealment, attacked the flank of the division commanded by the Dauphin, increased the panic, and defeated the vanguard, which falling back on the second line, so multiplied the confusion, that some of the French commanders commenced a retreat, which terminated in absolute flight. Lord Chandos, who saw that this movement was decisive of their overthrow, exclaimed "the day is won;" and advised the Prince to give battle to the division led by the King of France. "Advance in the name of God and St. George!" cried the Prince aloud. The trumpets sounded the charge, and he immediately engaged the third division of the French army. The shock was fierce and dreadful; both parties maintaining the conflict with desperate resolution. The intrepidity of the English prevailed; and the utmost exertions of King John, who, with a brave band of warriors, fought with uncommon fury, were insufficient to wrest the victory from the youthful Edward, The standard of France was overthrown, many of her most distinguished nobility slain, and the King with his youngest son forced to surrender themselves prisoners. The Prince treated his royal captives with eminent

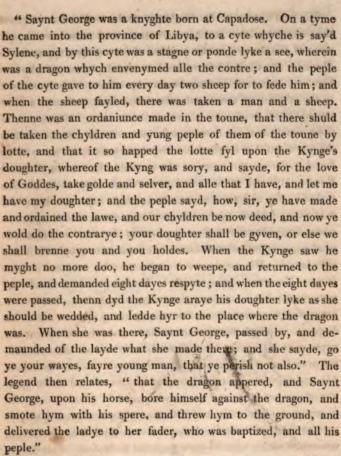
courtesy, provided a repast for their refreshment, and with true humility, and generous forgetfulness of his father's claims to the throne, treated the French Monarch with that respect as a prisoner, which he had refused to his demands as a Sovereign. The painting represents the point of time when Denis de Morbeque, to whom the King of France surrendered, is presenting his captive to the Prince.

On a retrospective view of these performances, we cannot but advert, with the most pleasurable sensations, to the progress of the historic pencil in this country, and its rapid, tho' late, approximation towards eminence. The invidious animadversions of foreign critics on the incapacity of English artists to portray an historical subject with justice, are now effectually controverted; and we can assert, with no less pride than truth, that all the productions of foreign painters, derived from History, and completed within the last 35 years, are not equal to the number executed by the President of the Royal Academy. On the general merit of his performances it is unnecessary to expatiate; yet we cannot conclude without observing, that the pieces above described, form an honorable monument of his abilities as a painter, and perspicuity as an historian. While time permits them to exist, they will preserve the memory of his knowledge of the persons, circumstances, and costume\* of the age, whose history he had undertaken to illustrate.

ST. GEORGE KILLING THE DRAGON: West. This picture of the tutelar Saint of England was executed as a proper accompaniment to the institution of the Garter, of which Order he was constituted patron by Edward the Third. The subject is derived from the fabulous tale related in the Legenda Aurea of Jacobus de Voragine, who lived towards the conclusion of the thirteenth century. As his work was one of the earliest that issued from the press in this country, and is now exceedingly scarce, it cannot be deemed superfluous to quote the passage relative to the piece under consideration.

" Saynt

<sup>\*</sup> Mr. West was the first artist who succeeded in the attempt to array historical figures in the dresses of the times, and the habits of their respective countries.



This story has frequently given employment to the pencil; yet the ingenuity of the present artist has treated it in a novel manner. The Princess is portrayed on her knees, and seemingly embarrassed with contending emotions. Her hope is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of fear. She wishes to confide in the protection of the gallant Saint, yet appears to dread the issue of the combat. The sympathy excited by this animated expression of the feelings, renders the piece peculiarly interesting. The coloring of the landscape, and the keep of the subordinate parts, have scarcely ever been exceeded.

The true history of St. George is a subject that has involved the literary world in much controversy; and even now the opinions of the learned on the question of his existence appear to be divided. By some he is regarded as a real personage, who was born and martyred in Cappadocia: by others, he is considered as the offspring of a warm imagination, whose birth was a mere coinage of the brain, and all his attributes ideal. Which ever of these conclusions are correct, it is incontestible, that he became the tutelar saint of England at a very early period, his name being found in the martyrologies of the venerable Bede. In Gibbon's Roman History, he is traced to a fuller's shop in Epiphania. " From this obscure and servile origin," says the historian, " he raised himself by the talents of a parasite; and the patrons whom he assiduously flattered, procured for their worthless dependant, a lucrative commission or contract, to supply the army with bacon. His employment was mean: he rendered it infamous. He accumulated wealth by the basest arts of fraud and corruption; but his malversations were so notorious, that he was compelled to escape from the pursuits of justice. After this disgrace, in which he appears to have saved his fortune at the expence of his honor, he embraced, with real or affected zeal, the profession of Arianism." He afterwards became Bishop of Alexandria, where his intolerable oppressions excited the indignation of the populace; and in a tumult purposely raised, he was torn in pieces by the mob, and his remains thrown into the sea, to prevent their receiving the future honors, which the superstitious veneration of his votaries were expected to bestow. This design, however, was rendered ineffectual by the absurd bigotry of his Arian disciples, who "introduced his worship into the bosom of the Catholic Church," where " the odious stranger, disguising every circumstance of time and place, assumed the mask of a martyr, a saint, and a Christian hero; and the infamous George of Cappadocia has been transformed into the renowned St. George, the patron of England, Chivalry, and the Garter." This tale of the origin and conduct of the Cappadocian martyr, thus divested of its legendary accompaniments, has met with many supporters; though

though several literary characters have contended, that the profligate Arian bishop, and the celebrated champion of Christendom, were not the same persons. The Legenda Aurea, before quoted, asserts, that in the "noble college in the castle of Wyndsore, is the harte of Saynt George, whych Sygysmunde, the emperor of Almayne, brought, and gave for a great and precious relic to K. Harrye the Fyfth; and also, here is a peyce of his hede."

THE KING'S PRESENCE CHAMBER is decorated with four of the cartoons already mentioned, and likewise with the following pieces.

PETER, CZAR OF MUSCOVY: Sir Godfrey Kneller. This is a full length, dated 1698, the year in which this extraordinary personage visited England. The back ground is ornamented with shipping by Van Diest. The Czar is represented in armour.

PROMETHEUS and the VULTURE: Young Palma,

To mighty Jove, Prometheus ow'd his pains;
And, bound with hard, inextricable chains
To a large column in the midmost part,
He bore his sufferings with a dauntless heart.
From Jove an eagle flew with wings wide spread,
And on his never-dying liver fed:
What with his rav'nous beak by day he tore,
The night supplied, and furnish'd him with more.

COOKE'S HESSOD'S THEOGORY.

A portrait called Duns Scotus in the catalogue, and said to have been executed by Spagnoletto. Mr. Walpole has remarked, in his Ædes Walpolianæ, that "this picture must be ideal, as Scotus died in 1308, when there was no such thing as a tolerable painter; besides, the portrait represents him as an elderly man, whereas he was not thirty-four when he died." Spagnoletto was not born till nearly three centuries afterwards.

IN THE KING'S GUARD CHAMBER is a great variety of warlike instruments, fancifully disposed in columns, pillars, circles, shields, and other devices. Among the coats of mail is one that was worn by Edward the Black Prince. In this room are also eight views of battles, sieges, &c. by Rugendas; and a Vol. I.

portrait of Charles the Eleventh, King of Sweden, by Van Wyck. The Monarch is portrayed on a prancing steed; and in the back ground is a representation of a battle, rendered admirable by its grouping, coloring, and spirited drawing.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL. This spacious apartment is decorated with some of Verrio's best performances. The ceiling, the north side, and the end where the throne is placed, were all painted by this artist, except the portrait of William the Third, which was executed by Sir Godfrey Kneller. The glaring absurdity of Verrio's paintings is more strikingly apparent from their contiguity to the chaste and classical designs of Mr. West. In delineating the triumph of Edward the Black Prince, he has represented that young hero in a car, supported by slaves, and attended by the Roman emblems of liberty and victory, intermixed with the banners of France and Scotland; and, to heighten the incongruity of the composition, he has introduced Shakespeare's Merry Wives of Windsor, together with his own picture, arrayed in a black hood and scarlet cloak. This room is dedicated to the Order of the Garter, and is seldom used but at the time of an installation.

ST. GEORGE'S OR THE ROYAL CHAPEL is embellished with a variety of scriptural devices, beautifully carved by Gibbons. Hence the stranger is conducted to THE QUEEN'S GUARD CHAMBER, which closes the number of apartments open to the public, and is ornamented with guns, pikes, bayonets, and other arms, disposed in various forms.

THE LOWER WARD is bounded on the east by the keep, and divided into two parts by the collegiate church, or chapel of St. George. The south and south-west sides are occupied by the

"The exuberant pencil of this artist," says Mr. Walpole, "was ready at pouring out gods, goddesses, kings, emperors, and triumphs, over those public surfaces on which the eye never refts long enough to criticise, and where one should be sorry to place the works of a better master. I mean ceilings and stair-cases." Verrio was employed by Charles the Second; and, from a memorandum of Vertue's, preserved in the anecdotes of painting, it appears, that he received cash and presents to the amount of 6845l. 8s. 4d. for embellishing the walls and ceilings of the castle. Many of the apartments are covered with his absurd performances.

houses of the alms, or poor knights: the west end is terminated by the residences of the minor canons and choristers, built in the form of a horse-shoe; and on the north side are the apartments of the dean, canons, clerks, vergers, and other officers belonging to the college of St. George. In the inner cloisters are the houses of the several prebendaries, and the college library, which is furnished with a well chosen selection of ecclesiastical writings, and books on polite literature. In the apartment called THE GARTER ROOM, is an ancient screen, emblazoned with the arms of all the Sovereigns and Knights of the Garter, from the institution of the order to the present time.

THE CHAPEL OF SAINT GEORGE was erected by Edward the Third, on the site of a smaller structure, built by Henry the First, and dedicated to Edward the Confessor. The mode of obtaining workmen was nearly the same as that employed in constructing the castle; a person being appointed to superintend the building, and empowered to impress artificers, and constrain them to labor at the King's wages, under pain of imprisonment. The origin of its magnificence, however, may be attributed to Edward the Fourth, by whom it was very considerably enlarged, and rendered one of the most beautiful structures of that era. In the reigns of Henry the Seventh and his successor, it underwent several alterations; but the improved state in which it now appears, is owing to the taste and munificence of his present Majesty, who has expended nearly 20,000l, in its repairs and embellishments. At this period it may be regarded as the most complete and elegant specimen of what is termed the florid Gothic in the kingdom.

The inside of the chapel is singularly neat; its architectural symmetry, appropriate ornaments, chaste devices, and

Storied windows, richly dight, Casting a dim religious light,

have a powerful effect on the imagination, and seem calculated to soothe even the most troubled bosom to peace and serenity. The roof is an ellipsis composed of stone, and admirably executed. The R 2 pillars

pillars are of the ancient Gothic kind; the ribs and groins that support the ceiling are disposed with considerable judgment. The interior space is formed into a choir, a nave, and correspondent aisles. The whole ceiling is decorated with heraldic insignia, intermingled with the arms of many Sovereigns and Knights of the Garter, beautifully emblazoned. The nave is separated from the choir by the organ gallery. The roof and columns that support the loft, form a light and elegant colonnade, perfectly in unison with the rest of the chapel, and embellished with appropriate devices. The screen is composed of Coade's artificial stone; and the expense of its erection is said to have amounted to 1500l. The organ was built by Mr. Green, and the organ-case by Mr. Elmyn; the latter is richly ornamented in the Gothic style.

THE CHOIR may be regarded as a pattern of the most admirable workmanship. It was built by Edward the Third, but greatly improved during the reigns of Edward the Fourth, and Henry the Seventh. The vaulting of the roof was not completed till the latter end of the year 1508.\* This division of the structure is appropriated to the more immediate worship of the Deity; to the installation of the Knights of the Garter, and to the preservation of their names and honors.

The stalls of the Sovereign and companions of the order are ranged on each side the choir. Formerly their number was twenty-six, but six more have lately been added. The ancient stall of the Sovereign was removed in the year 1788, and a new one, highly carved in the Gothic manner, erected under the direction of Mr. Elmyn. In the centre are the arms of the King encircled with laurel, and crowned with the royal diadem; the whole is surrounded with fleurs de lys, the letters G. R. and the star of the order. The curtains and cushions are of blue velvet, fringed with gold.

<sup>\*</sup> Dallaway, in his Anecdotes of the Arts, has affirmed, that "the choir owes its original building and completion, in 1508, to Sir Reginald Bray." This is evidently a mistake, as that eminent statesman and architect died in the year 1502. The error may have arisen from the liberal benefactions of Sir Reginald towards finishing the body of the chapel. The vaulting of the choir roof was undertaken by two free-masons, named John Hylmer and William Vertue, for 7001.

gold. The stalls of the knights display a profusion of rich carved work. On the pedestals is a series of delineations, representing the history of the Redeemer, from his nativity to his ascension: and on the front of the stalls, at the west end of the choir, the actions of St. George are portrayed. The mantle, helmet, crest, and sword of each knight are placed on the canopies of their respective stalls. Over the canopies, the banner or arms of the knights are displayed, elegantly emblazoned on silk; and at the back of each stall are the titles of the personage to whom it belongs, with his arms neatly engraved, and blazoned on copper. The Sovereign's banner is of rich velvet, and much larger than those of the knights; his mantling is of rich brocade. The carved work of the choir abounds with variety of imagery, and several figures of saints, patriarchs, and kings: these, previous to the late repairs, were much mutilated, but have since been restored to nearly their original state,

The altar is embellished with a painting of THE LAST SUPPER, by West. This is a very masterly composition, and charmingly executed; though the figure of Judas has been supposed to detract from its general merit, his visage being so expressive of deceit, as to cause it to be observed, that if his real features had been in unison with this resemblance, all confidence must have been destroyed, and the design of betraying his master rendered abortive. This remark, however, is of little weight. Jesus knew that Iscariot would betray him, and therefore, if all the malignity of a Nero had been impressed on his countenance, it could not have made his perfidy more legible. The beautifully carved wainscot surrounding the altar, was designed by Mr. Thomas Sanby, and executed under the inspection of Mr. Elmyn. It contains the arms of Edward the Third, Edward the Black Prince, and those of the original Knights of the Garter, with various symbols of the order, displayed within two circular compartments. The ornaments consist of pelicans, grapes, wheat, sacramental vessels, and other devices, judiciously disposed, and executed with considerable taste. The altar was formerly adorned with rich hangings of crimson velvet and gold, but was disrobed of its splendid furniture in the year 1462, by Captain Fogg, under pretence of parliamentary authority. At the same time also, it was plundered of the numerous gold vessels, which the munificence or piety of successive Sovereigns and Knights of the Garter had here consecrated to religious uses. The plate thus seized is said to have weighed 3580 ounces, and to have been wrought in a very exquisite manner. On the restoration of Charles the Second, a subscription was opened, and every requisite for the re-embellishment and service of the altar, supplied from the liberal contributions of the Sovereign and Knights of the Garter, and other benevolent persons.

Several windows of this superb fabric are beautifully painted, and, for general composition, brilliancy of color, and correct execution, rival most embellishments of a similar nature in the kingdom. The superior excellence of the window above the altar, though but the second in magnitude, intitles it to precedence in description. The subject is THE RESURRECTION; the delineation of which is displayed in three compartments. In the fore-ground of the centre, the Roman soldiers are depicted in attitudes expressive of surprise and terror, gazing with extreme astonishment on the Saviour, who is represented ascending from the sepulchre, preceded by the Angel of the Lord; above whom, in the clouds, is an host of cherubim and seraphim. In the right-hand division. Mary Magdalen, and Mary, the mother of James and Salome, are portrayed, approaching the sepulchre with spices and unguents, to anoint the body of the crucified Redeemer. In the left compartment are the disciples Peter and John, who are supposed to have been informed that Christ was removed from the grave,

and

<sup>\*</sup> The idea of this magnificent ornament originated with His Majesty. The charge for executing it was defrayed by the Sovereign, Knights, Prelate, and Chancellor of the Garter, and the Dean and Chapter of Windsor. The King's subscription was nearly 1500 guineas, besides 200 for the Prince of Wales, and the same sum for the Dukes of York and Clarence. The foreign Princes, who were knights of the order, subscribed 100 guineas each, and the other knights 50 each. The gift of the Dean and Chapter was 500 guineas.

and, with countenances pervaded by the most anxious expression, are running with great speed towards the sepulchre. This splendid production was executed between the years 1785 and 1788, by Messrs. Jarvis and Forest, from the exquisite designs of Mr. West. The expense of the painting is reported to have been upwards of 4000l. On two windows, one on the north-side of the altar, the other on the south, the arms are depicted of the Sovereign and knights who subscribed to defray the above sum. The arms of each knight are encompassed with a star and garter, and surmounted with his crest and coronet. Beneath is the George pendant to a ribbon, on which the Christian name and title are inscribed.

The east window of the south aisle is painted with a very animated representation of THE ANGELS APPEARING TO THE SHEPHERDS. The countenances of the principal angels are beaming with the most expressive benevolence. Above them are the words "Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace; good will towards Men." On various scrolls, held by the rest of the heavenly host, the tenth and eleventh verses of the second chapter of Luke are inscribed. "Fear not: for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." In the back-ground are the shepherds with their sheep and dogs by moonlight. This is painted in a peculiar style, and the adaptation of the tints to the light in which it is placed is managed with great judgment. The west window of this aisle is embellished with a brilliant delineation of THE NATI-VITY OF CHRIST. The infant Jesus appears sleeping in the lap of his virgin mother, who is attended by Joseph bearing a lamp, and surveying them in a thoughtful yet devout manner. Near them is a beautiful figure of an angel with the olive branch, accompanied by a group of cherubs. In the back and fore grounds, various objects are depicted, either allusive of the redemption, or descriptive of the lowly birth of the Redeemer.

The west window of the north aisle is decorated, with a representation of THE ADORATION OF THE MAGI. In this painting R 4

Jesus is portrayed in a reclining posture in the lap of the Virgin; behind whom appears the humble Joseph. In the front are the wise men of the east, presenting their offerings. Above them is an angel and a luminous star. These paintings were all designed by Mr. West, and executed by Mr. Forest, in the years 1792, 1794, and 1796. Both the composition and workmanship are indicative of uncommon talents. The embellishments of the great west window, consisting of various figures of kings, patriarchs, bishops, and other characters, composed with remnants of stained glass, that were formerly scattered through different parts of the building, are to be removed, and their places occupied with a representation of THE CRUCIFIXION, now painting by Mr. Forest from the designs of Mr. West. This piece will be one of the largest of the kind in Europe, the intended size being thirty-six feet by twenty-eight. The frame work is iron, of no greater substance than is necessary to support the glass. The bars are to be concealed in the shadows.

This structure has been the burial-place of several royal and illustrious personages. At the east end of the north aisle the remains of Edward the Fourth are deposited. Over his tomb is a beautiful monument of steel, representing a pair of gates between two towers, curiously worked in the Gothic style. On a black marble slab, in front, is the name Edward INIA inlaid in brass; above, are his arms and crown, supported by angels. On a flat stone, at the base of the monument, are the words,

### Ring Edward IIII and his Queen Elizabeth Midville.\*

On the 13th of March, in the year 1789, the workmen employed in repairing the chapel, perceived a small aperture in the side of the vault where Edward was interred. This was soon rendered sufficiently large to admit an easy entrance; and on the interior part being laid open, in presence of the surveyor and two of the canons, the skeleton of the Monarch was found inclosed in a leaden and a wooden coffin; the latter measuring six feet

<sup>\*</sup> This lady died in confinement at Bermondsey Abbey, about three years after the decease of the King, and is supposed to have been secretly interred.

three inches in length. The head was reclined to the north side, without any appearance of cerecloth or wrapper, rings or other insignia. The bottom of the coffin was covered with a glutinous muddy liquor, about three inches deep, of a strong saline taste. Near the bones of the king was another coffin, supposed to have contained the body of Elizabeth Widville, but this was entirely empty. Several names, inscribed with chalk, appeared on the inside of the vault, the characters of which resembled those of the times in which it was made, and was thought to have been written either by the workmen, or the attendants on the funeral. When the discovery was communicated, the neighbouring inhabitants pressed with such eagerness to obtain a view and some relic of the remains, that the skeleton of the prince, which upwards of three centuries had failed to reduce to its native element, would have been frittered away in almost as many hours.

Henry the Sixth, the mild and inoffensive rival of Edward, was also buried in this chapel, near the choir door, in the opposite aisle. The arch under which his body was deposited, was sumptuously embellished, according to the directions given in the will of Henry the Eighth; but all the remains of the ensigns and devices with which it was decorated, are the royal arms supported by two antelopes, connected by a golden chain: these are emblazoned on the centre stone. The body of this ill-fated prince was first buried at Chertsey, in Surrey, but afterwards conveyed to its present situation. The popular opinion, that miracles were wrought through his intercession, induced Henry the Seventh to apply to the papal see for his admission into the calendar of saints, and likewise for a license to remove his relics to Westminster Abbey; but the exorbitant demands of the church of Rome not being in unison with the King's avaricious temper, the plan miscarried. This application occasioned a report that the body was actually removed; and Stowe observes, that it was not generally known what became of it. The wills. however, of both Henry the Seventh and Eighth, are decisive as to the fact of its being at Windsor.

The interment of these Monarchs beneath the same roof, is elegantly expressed by the muse of Pope in the following plaintive lines:

Let softest strains ill-fated HENRY mourn,
And palms eternal flourish round his urn.
Here, o'er the martyr King, the marble weeps,
And fast beside him, once fear'd EDWARD sleeps,
Whom not the extended ALBION could contain,
From old Belerium to the German main,
The grave unites; where e'en the great find rest,
And blended lie the oppressor and oppress'd.

In the royal vault in the choir, Henry the Eighth, his Queen, Lady Jane Seymour, and Charles the First, were buried; though the remains of the latter, as we are informed by Lord Clarendon, could not be found when sought for by direction of Charles the Second. This search, it is observed in Pote's History of Windsor Castle, must have been badly executed, as a manuscript memorandum, in the possession of the executrix of Mr. Sewell, a man of probity, and who was chapter-clerk of the college above forty years, affirms, that, upon "opening this vault for the interment of a still-born child of the Princess of Denmark, afterwards Queen Anne, he went into the vault, and there saw the coffins of King Henry the Eighth, and Queen Jane; also, the coffin of King Charles the First, covered with velvet, with a label on the cover, whereon was marked, KING CHARLES 1648; that the velvet of the coffin and pall was sound, and no-ways rent; that the pall laid over the coffin, was as at first flung in at the burial; that the vault was small; and that the new-born child was laid upon the coffin of the King." After the interment of the child, the vault was closed, and has never since been opened.

In a small chapel,\* at the east end of the south aisle, the bodies of the prudent Edward Clinton, Earl of Lincoln, (mentioned

<sup>\*</sup> Most of the small chapels in this and other religious structures, where the Roman Catholic ordinances were originally celebrated, were founded as chantries, and endowed with revenues for the maintenance of priests, whose office was daily to say mass, and other propitiatory services, for the souls of the founder and his kindred.

tioned page 45,) and his lady, rest in the peaceful grave. The earl died on the 16th of January, 1584. His monument is of alabaster, with square porphyry pillars, each surmounted by a ball. On the tomb is the figure of his lordship in armour, lying prostrate on a mat curiously wrought, with his feet resting on a greyhound. By his side is the effigy of his wife in a similar posture: her head rests on an embroidered cushion, and her feet on some animal. Round the monument are the figures of their children, five sons and three daughters, kneeling on cushions.

Richard Beauchamp, Bishop of Salisbury, the first Chancellor of the Order of the Garter, is likewise buried in this part of the aisle. In a niche opposite his tomb, the underwritten inscription seems to imply that a breviary, or missal, was formerly laid there. "Who lyde this booke here? The Reuerand Fader in God Richard Beauchamp, Bischop of thys Dyocesse of Sarvsbury. And wherfor: To this entent, that Priestes and Ministers of Goddis Church may here have the occupation therof, seyving therein theyr Divyne Scrvyse, and for alle other that lysten to sey therby ther devocyon. Askyth he any spiritual Mede; yee, as moche as owre Lord lyst to reward hym for hys good entent; praying euery Man wos dute or devocyon is eased by thys Booke, they woll sey for hym thys commune oryson Dne Jhu Xye; knelyng in the presence of thys holy Crosse, for the whyche the Reucrand Fader in God aboueseyd hathe graunted of the tresure of the Churche, to cuy Man x1 dayys of Pardun." On the centre stone of the adjoining arch, the cross referred to is rudely carved, together with the figures of Edward the Fourth and Bishop Beauchamp, beside it, on their knees.

Lower down in this aisle, is a small chantry, erected in the year 1522 by John Oxenbridge, a canon and benefactor to the chapel. Over the door is a lion rampant, with many escallop shells, and the rebus of the founder's name in the obvious signs of an ox, the letter N. and a bridge. Contiguous to this, is King's or, as it has latterly been called, Aldworth Chapel, which, from the various devices on the walls, appears to have been built by Dr. Oliver King, Bishop of Bath and Wells, whose remains are

said to have been deposited within it. The oaken pannels opposite to this chapel are decorated with carvings of the arms and devices of Prince Edward, son of Henry the Sixth; Edward the Fourth; and Henry the Seventh; whose portraits also are represented at full length on the pannels. Near the middle of the aisle is Bray Chapel, erected by Sir Reginald Bray, before mentioned, and where his body was afterwards deposited, in pursuance of the directions of his will. This gentleman was highly instrumental in the advancement of Henry the Seventh to the throne, and his judicious counsels were supposed to have had considerable influence in the union of the rival houses of York and Lancaster.

Many of the noble family of Beaufort are interred in a small chapel, called from their name, at the west end of this aisle. The monument to the memory of Henry Somerset, Duke of Beaufort. who died on the 21st of January, 1699, is composed of white The upper part is supported by Corinthian columns, whose shafts are entwined with leaves and flowers. In the centre, on the top, is the duke's coat of arms, surmounted with a coronet, and on each side is a flaming urn, embellished with wreaths of flowers. On the front the duke appears reclining on a cushion; and in relievo, in the back ground, several cherubs, and two angels, bearing a crown and palm. Below the Duke, St. George is represented killing the Dragon; and between the columns, on the opposite sides of the monument, are the statues of Justice and Fortitude. On the base is a Latin inscription, chiefly relating to his titles and offices. Another marble monument in this chapel, inclosed in a screen of gilt brass work, records the memory of Charles Somerset, Earl of Worcester, who died in 1526, and his lady, Elizabeth, the daughter and heiress of William Earl of Huntingdon. On the tomb is the figure of the Earl dressed in the habit of the garter, with his head resting on a helmet. By his side lies his lady in her robes of state. An inscription on a marble tablet, affixed to the wall, informs us, that Henry Marquis of Worcester, who so gallantly defended Ragland

Castle,

Castle, in Monmouthshire, for Charles the First, is likewise buried in this chapel.

In Rutland Chapel, in the middle of the north aisle, is a neat alabaster monument, erected to the memory of Sir George Manners, Lord Roos, who died in the year 1513, and Lady Anne, his wife, niece to Edward the Fourth. On the tomb, Sir George lies dressed in armour, his feet resting on a helmet, and his head on an animal. His lady, in her robes of state, lies by his side, her head resting on a cushion, supported by two angels. On each side the tomb are their sons and daughters; and at one end angels displaying the family arms. Ann, Duchess of Exeter, sister to Edward the Fourth, and mother to the above lady, and Sir Thomas Syllinger, her husband, are also deposited in this chapel.

Near the choir door, in the north aisle, is a chapel dedicated to St. Stephen, whose history is painted on pannels in the inside. On the first the saint is preaching to the people: the next represents him before the tribunal of Herod: the third portrays the Jews stoning him: in the last he appears dead; and above him his beatification. On the fore-ground is inscribed in Latin, "He dies in the Lord by whom eternal life is given." This chapel was built by Elizabeth, wife to William Lord Hastings, whom Richard destroyed for his loyalty to the issue of Edward the Fourth. His remains are said to have been buried here.

Many other distinguished persons are interred within this fabric. Of these we shall only particularzie Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, who married Henry the Eighth's sister; Dr. Giles Tomson, Bishop of Gloucester; Dr. Brideoake, Bishop of Chichester; the learned Dr. Waterland; Theodore Randue, Esq. keeper of Windsor palace in the reign of Charles the Second; Dr. Wade; Dr. Honeywood; and Sir Henry Clinton, Bart.

Adjoining to the altar, on the north side, is a gallery called the Queen's Closet, formerly used only for the accommodation of ladies at an installment, but repaired in the year 1780, and fitted up for their Majesties and family to attend divine service.

The

The wainscot and canopy are in the Gothic style, painted to imitate Norway oak. The windows are ornamented with painted glass. In one of them are the arms of their Majesties by Bristow, a sun-flower by West, and a rose by Jarvis. In the chapter house, which is situated at the east end of the north aisle, is a whole length portrait of Edward the Third, dressed in his robes, and holding a sword in his right hand, with the crowns of France and Scotland.

THE ORDER OF THE GARTER is so particularly connected with the decorations of the chapel, that some account of that institution seems to be a necessary adjunct to the description of this superb edifice. The occasion of its origin is involved in much obscurity; the labors of historians having referred it to various contradictory\* circumstances; but the most probable cause is the strong passion for military glory which reigned in the bosom of Edward the Third, the acknowledged founder. The numerous complex movements that emanated from this Prince's assertion of his claims to the crown of France, convinced him of the high importance of inspiring his followers with a similarity of ideas and principles, and he formed the design of associating his most deserving soldiers in one honorable society of love and brotherhood. Success in arms, he perceived, was dependent on unity of conduct; and no way seemed so likely to direct the divergent actions of individuals to the same point, as exciting a kindred spirit of emulation and amity. With this intent, and that he might have an opportunity of increasing the skill and hardihood of his knights by chivalrous exercises, he determined to restore the ancient order of the Round Table, and, by dropping the idle

Joshua Barnes, in his history of Edward the Third, traces its origin to the Phoenicians, who were accustomed to encircle their bodies with a blue or purple fillet, as an amulet against shipwreck. Other writers ascribe it to Richard Caur de Lion, who is said to have bound a leathern strap round the legs of his bravest warriors, as a badge of merit, at the siege of Acon, on the borders of Palestine. A third opinion, originating with Polydore Virgil, refers it to an idle tale of the Counters of Salisbury dropping her garter at a ascribes it to the caumflance of Edward the Third having watchword at the battle of Cressy.

ceremonies of etiquette, bind them more immediately to his person through the obligations of esteem and friendship. These, however, were not the only purposes he meant to effect by the revival of the institution of King Arthur. His war with France rendered it necessary to cultivate the assistance of foreign warriors; and the martial splendor so conformable to the spirit of the age, which the re-establishment of this order furnished him with the means of exhibiting, would, he imagined, induce them to visit England, and inspire them with an inclination to engage in his service. Fraught with these ideas, he ordered preparations to be made at Windsor for a grand tournament, to be held on the 19th of January, 1344; and on new year's day issued letters of invitation and safe conduct to all foreign knights who were desirous of trying their valor at the ensuing festival; and still further to promote his scheme, signified in the proclamation, that himself would be present at the ceremony, together with his Queen, 300 of the fairest ladies of his court in their most splendid attire, and the principal of his nobility. This expedient was attended with complete success; the thoughts of such a combination of beauty and magnificence having so powerful an influence over the minds of foreigners, that the meeting was graced by the assemblage of the most illustrious persons in Europe; and the result proved so favorable to the wishes of Edward, that he resolved the tournament should be held annually, and had a circular building constructed in the castle for the particular accommodation and entertainment of the company.

About this period Philip, King of France, who had penetrated the intentions of the English Monarch, caused a Round Table to be set up at Paris, with the design of counteracting the deep-laid plan of his opponent. The good policy of the new institution soon became apparent; for Edward, being convinced that the attractions of the rival establishment operated to decrease the influence of his own, quickly gave it up, and contented himself with forming an association of a more select nature. This was the Order of the Garter, which was said by the learned Selden to "exceed"

" exceed in majesty, honor, and fame, all the chivalrous orders of the world."

Previous to its complete establishment, the King held an assembly of his earls, barons, and principal knights, to consult as to the best mode of increasing its grandeur, and to assist him in forming the necessary regulations for its government. It was probably at this meeting, that the idea was suggested of limiting the number of persons to be received into the order to twenty-six: a circumstance materially connected with its splendor, and highly conducive to the great estimation with which it has been regarded from the period of its institution: no alteration in this respect having been made till the 3d of June, 1786, when, by an injunction of his Majesty, the badge of distinction was in future to be extended to the King's sons.

The first installation was in the year 1349, on the anniversary of St. George, who was declared the peculiar patron of the order. The ceremony was attended by an immense concourse of people, many of whom curiosity had attracted from very distant countries. The Sovereign, and his twenty-five companions,\* went in procession to the chapel, clothed in russet gowns, and mantles of fine blue woollen cloth, embroidered with garters, and wearing the whole insignia of the order. After the ceremonies of installation, the knights were magnificently entertained at the expence of the King. The festival continued for several days; the martial sport of the tournament being intermingled with the softer diversions of the ball.

The ensigns of the order are extremely magnificent: they consist of the garter, mantle, surcoat, hood, George and collar.

<sup>\*</sup> The first Knights of the Garter, were, the Sovereign Edward the Third, Edward the Black Prince, Henry Duke of Lancaster, Thomas Beauchamp Earl of Warwick, the Captal de Buche, Ralph Earl of Stafford, William Montacute Earl of Salisbury, Roger Mortimer Earl of March, John de L'Isle, Bartholomew Burghwersh, John Beauchamp, John de Mohun, Hugh Courtney, Thomas Holland, John Grey, Richard Fitz-Simon, Miles Stapleton, Thomas Walle, Hugh Wriothesley, Niel Loring, John Chandos, James de Audley, Otho Holland, Henry Eme, Zanchet d'Aubericourt, and William Paveley.

These collectively are called the HABIT. The four first were assigned to the knights by the founder: the George and collar, by Henry the Eighth. The garter is of blue velvet, bordered with gold wire, and enamelled with the motto, Honz Sorr Qui Mat. Y PENSE. This is worn between the knee and calf, on the left leg, and is generally considered as an emblem of the band of affection and concord that ought to unite the companions of the order. The color of the mantle is a rich blue: the left shoulder is adorned with the arms of St. George embroidered within a large garter, and irradiated with beams of silver. The collar is composed of pieces of gold, fashioned like garters; the ground being enamelled blue, the letters of the motto gold, with a red rose in the centre of each garter. The George is appendant from the middle of the collar, and displays the figure of that saint on horse-back, tilting at the dragon. The whole is ornamented with precious stones.

The officers of this order are, the Prelate, Bishop of Winchester; Chancellor, Bishop of Salisbury; Register, Dean of Windsor; Garter, and King at Arms, (both offices being united in one person;) and the Usher of the Black Rod. Among the numerous foreign potentates that have been admitted into this institution, are nine Emperors of Germany, five Kings of France, three Kings of Spain, five Kings of Portugal, two Kings of Naples, five Kings of Denmark, two Kings of Sweden, two Kings of Scotland, one King of Prussia, and seven Princes of Orange, besides a great number of the most illustrious characters in Europe.

When the knights of the order assemble to fill up the vacant stalls, "the chancellor collects the votes; for, though the Sovereign properly elects, the knights have a liberty of nomination, except the person be a foreigner. Each knight may nominate nine persons, out of whom the Sovereign chuses one. Garter is then sent out of the chapter to announce it to the person elected, and conduct him to the presence of the Sovereign, who in person, or by deputy, invests him with the ensigns of the order; the garter is buckled round his left leg, and the George hung

round his neck " by a dark blue ribbon. The mantle and other ornaments are not put on till the installation.

The Royal College of Saint George, to which the order of the garter is attached, was incorporated in the twenty-second year of Edward the Third; but the original articles of foundation were much varied by succeeding princes. The present establishment consists of a dean, twelve canons, or prebendaries, seven minor canons, thirteen clerks, ten choristers, a steward, treasurer, and other officers. The income of the minor canons may be estimated at about sixty pounds yearly. The salaries of the clerks are 22l. 10s. per annum each, together with a place of residence.

The great respect of Edward the Third for military honor, and the feelings of charity, which, amidst the din of arms, sometimes found the way to his heart, occasioned him to provide an asylum and maintenance for a select number of knights, whose circumstances were so reduced by adverse fortune, that they had not wherewith to sustain them, nor to live so genteelly as became a military condition. These were called Milites Pauperes; but the appellation they afterwards received was the Alms, or Poor Knights of Windsor. Previous to the institution of the Garter, their number was twenty-four; but at that period they were increased to twenty-six. By the charter of incorporation, they were united with the dean and canons of St. George's College: but dissentions frequently arising between the respective bodies, an act was obtained in the twenty-second year of Edward the Fourth, by which the dean and canons were for ever exempted from contributing towards the maintenance of the knights. From this time their subsistence was very precarious, and their numbers continued to decrease, till Edward the Sixth, in pursuance of a clause in his father's will, vested revenues in the college, to the amount of 600l, annually, to be employed for the use and support of a new establishment for thirteen poor knights only. In the reign of Mary, the houses in the lower ward were built for their reception; and the Queen nominated nine persons

to enjoy the first fruits of the revival of the charity. On the accession of Elizabeth, all the former grants were confirmed, and the alms knights increased to the number ordained by Henry the Eighth. At this period also, some rules were established for their election and government, which are still in force, though the injunctions they contain are not always adhered to. By these statutes, the thirteen knights are "to be taken of gentlemen brought to necessity, such as have spent their times in the service of the prince." It is directed likewise, that they should be unmarried, and continue so, under pain of vacating their places on the wedding-day. The annual allowance of the knights upon this establishment was 18l. 5s. and 3l, 6s. 8d. for a gown of red, and a mantle of blue or purple cloth, with the cross of St. George embroidered on the left shoulder. These sums are to be paid from the revenues vested in the dean and chapter. James the First ordered the pensions to be augmented by the additional sum of 18l. 5s. to every knight, payable from the exchequer. The income therefore of each pensioner is about 40l. yearly.

Besides the poor knights on the royal foundation, there are five others, who are supported by donations bequeathed in the years 1631 and 1635, by Sir Peter la Maire, and Sir Francis Crane. The houses for their reception were finished in 1658; but the respective legacies being contested in the court of chancery, the funds for the maintenance of the knights were not settled till the twelfth of Charles the Second, when the sum of 2001, was ordered to be distributed among them in equal portions annually.

By the Will of Mr. Samuel Travers, who died in the year 1728, the residue of his estates are bequeathed for the benefit of seven superannuated or disabled lieutenants of English men-of-war, who are to be added to the poor knights of Windsor, and allowed a house of residence and 60l. per annum. This legacy, like the former, was contested in chancery many years; but at length a decree was obtained in favor of the will, and seven gentlemen were appointed to receive the annuities; though no building has yet been erected for their accommodation.

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The decayed building called the Toms House, adjoining the east end of the chapel, was erected by Henry the Seventh, as a mausoleum for his family; but the Monarch soon afterwards determining on a similar design at Westminster Abbey, this structure was neglected, till Cardinal Wolsey obtained a grant of it from Henry the Eighth. The prelate intended it for his own burial-place, and began a sumptuous monument in the centre of the building, but his disgrace prevented its completion; and during the civil wars it was despoiled of all its splendid ornaments. The building itself was fitted up, and converted by James the Second into a chapel, where mass was publicly celebrated; but on a splendid banquet being given by this bigotted prince to the Pope's nuncio, the minds of the people were so inflamed with religious enthusiasm, that they attacked the fabric with infuriated zeal, and quickly destroyed its windows, and internal decorations. In the ruinous state in which it was then left, it remained till the summer of the year 1800, when His Majesty ordered it to be repaired. Its future appropriation is uncertain.

THE QUEEN'S LODGE, where the royal family always reside while at Windsor, is a neat modern built mansion, opposite the south side of the castle. The furniture is extremely superb, and the decorations of the apartments display much elegance. The ceiling of the drawing-room was embellished in the year 1789, by an artist named Haas, in a novel and peculiar manner, from designs by Mr. West. The figures are executed with stained marble dust instead of oil colors, fixed by a durable cement. In the centre, in an oval, is Genius reviving the arts. At the corners are the emblematical representations of Agriculture, Manufacture, Commerce, and Riches, with appropriate symbols. In the intermediate compartments are delineations of astronomy, navigation, electricity, geography, fortification, gunnery, chemystry, and botany, executed in imitation of basso relievo. The surrounding ornaments are festoons of oak leaves, interwoven with roses, lilies, and thistles; the arms of the Sovereign, and other devices.

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Before

Before we commence the description of the parks, and other objects in the vicinity of the castle, it may be expedient to mention a few particulars of the lives of EDWARD THE THIRD and HENRY THE SIXTH, both of whom drew their first breath within its walls. The former of these princes was born in the year 1312, and was called to the throne on the deposition of his father, at the early age of fourteen. His sovereignty, however, was at this time but nominal, the operations of government being directed by Isabella, his mother, and Mortimer, her paramour. The criminal attachment of this pair having occasioned the deplorable murder of Edward the Second, and the commission of numerous acts of rapacity and ill-conduct, was at length terminated by the seizure, condemnation, and death of Mortimer, and the imprisonment of the Queen. The supreme authority was now in the possession of the young Monarch, who began to display his martial disposition, by vindicating the right of Baliol to the throne of Scotland; but the desolated plains of that country afforded not a sufficient scope for his ambition. He advanced a futile claim to the throne of France; and having obtained parliamentary aid, and still further replenished his coffers by several oppressive transactions, invaded its territory. His first attempt being unsuccessful, he concluded a truce through the mediation of his mother-in-law, and returned to England, vexed, angry, and disappointed. In an ill humour he summoned his parliament, and demanded supplies; but, with a spirit of genuine patriotism, never afterwards exerted, they refused to supply his necessities, unless he would sign an act, by which the great officers of state should be rendered liable to be examined and displaced at the commencement of every session. This agreement was ratified in full parliament; but Edward secretly entered a protest, that he would revoke it as soon as his convenience permitted; his consent having been extorted. The protest was afterwards confirmed by public edict; and within two years he appears to have regained the whole of his authority. He now resumed his expedition against France; and the uncommon vigor of his military abilities reduced that empire to the lowest ebb of political S 3

political existence; but all the wisdom of his conduct, and bravery of his troops, proved insufficient finally to subjugate it. The most eminent of his varied triumphs have already been detailed; and we shall only add, that, in the latter part of his life he proved less fortunate; many towns which he had taken being captured by the enemy, while his own army was prevented crossing the sea to their succour by adverse winds. He expired on the 21st of June, in the year 1377. The splendid victories which distinguished the reign of this prince, have encircled it with a brilliant but hollow lustre. His foreign wars were neither founded on justice, nor directed to any salutary purpose; but many of his domestic regulations are entitled to praise. The love of glory was his predominant passion; and to this, says Smollett, he sacrificed "the feelings of humanity, the lives of his subjects, and the interests of his country."

HENRY THE SIXTH was born in the year 1421, and succeeded to the throne within nine months of his birth, amidst the fairest and most brilliant prospects that ever prince possessed. England was exclusively his own; and nearly the whole of France was at the disposal of his generals. The promise of his youth was, however, blighted, and the sun of his early hopes set in darkness and blood. The ambition and intrigues of Cardinal Beaufort, Bishop of Winchester, involved his infancy in confusion, generated animosities which embarrassed the government, impeded the progress of the English arms, and enabled the French to regain many of their advantages. To this prelate his education had been intrusted; and Henry, by a natural consequence, was rendered more fit for the government of a cloister, than to direct the perturbed councils of a powerful nation. At the age of twenty-three he married Margaret of Anjou, a woman of beauty, spirit, and singular intrepidity. This match was promoted by Beaufort, who found it necessary to strengthen the interest of his faction. The Queen readily espoused the Bishop's measures; and Humphrey, the good Duke of Gloucester, the protector of the kingdom, was seized by the directions of the prevailing party, accused of treason, and thrown into Bolifica prison;

prison; where, on the day appointed for his defence, he was found dead. His death was ascribed to the Cardinal, who within six weeks was himself a corpse; his last hours being embittered by the most pungent remorse. The general indignation at the Duke's murder, was increased by the expulsion of the English from every part of France, except Calais; and extended even to the Monarch, whose incapacity to govern became daily more apparent. His natural imbecility was increased by the trammels of superstition; his nerveless hand was too feeble to wield the sceptre, and it was distinctly perceived, that, instead of possessing the supreme power, he was the mere instrument of a party, who employed the authority of his name to give validity to their own edicts. The disaffection of the people augmented; and Richard, Duke of York, the real heir to the throne, made use of the favorable opportunity to assert his claims. Thus was the dire war" commenced, which, distinguished by the badges of the white and red roses, drenched the kingdom with blood. After several battles, the King was taken prisoner by the Duke; and a seeming reconciliation being effected between the contending parties, Richard was appointed protector. This state of things continued but a short time; the masculine activity of Margaret drove him from his station, and, after an hypocritical interchange of forgiveness, both parties again had recourse to arms. Henry was once more made captive; and the pretensions of the rivals for the throne being discussed in the House of Lords, it was determined that the succession to the crown should be vested in the Duke. This plan, however, was contrary to the inclinations of Margaret, who, with her usual intrepidity, assembled an army, and renewed the contention for empire. In two successive battles she defeated the Duke and the Earl of Warwick. who had embraced his cause, and again released the meek-spirited Henry. The head of Richard, who had fallen at the battle of Wakefield Green, was exposed on the gates of York, with the brow encircled by a paper crown, in derision of his claims: but S 4 Margaret's

\* This war is computed to have cost the lives of eighty princes of the royal blood, and nearly all the ancient English nobility.

Margaret's triumph was of short duration; for Edward, the eldest son of the Duke, obtained possession of the metropolis, and, after an appeal to the populace, procured the deposition of the King, and his own advancement to the throne. The undaunted Margaret was still determined to support her husband's authority, and in a few weeks engaged the new Monarch at Towton, in Yorkshire. The Lancastrians, after a most destructive conflict, were defeated, and slain, by Edward's orders, with unremitting fury. The lives of upwards of 38,000 persons were sacrificed in this battle; and Henry, his Queen, and infant son, sought protection in Scotland. The spirit of Margaret was still unsubdued, and she ventured another battle with Edward's forces at Hexham, but was overcome, and separated from the passive Henry, who, after being concealed nearly a twelvemonth in Lancashire, was discovered, and sent to the tower. In this confinement he remained about six years, when, through a complication of strange events, he was released by the great Warwick, and re-proclaimed; but the opening buds of the red rose were quickly blasted. Edward. who had been compelled to leave the kingdom as a fugitive, relanded in the north with a small party of Burgundians, and having been joined by large bodies of his friends, vanquished both the Earl of Warwick and the Queen: the former was slain at Barnet; but Margaret, with her husband, and son, (who was basely murdered by the royal attendants,) were made prisoners. The misfortunes of Henry advanced to their termination: he was again committed to the tower, where in a few weeks he expired. His death has generally been attributed to the Duke of Gloucester; but Carte, Walpole, and the editor of the last volumes of Dr. Henry's History of England, have demonstrated the inconsistency of the evidence, and induced a strong presumption of the Duke's innocence. He died in the year 1471. The cause of his decease is supposed to have arisen from extreme grief.

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<sup>\*</sup> From the commission of inquiry issued by Pope Alexander the Sixth, on the projected canonization of Henry, we learn, that, by his intercession, "the blind were said to receive their sight; the deaf to hear; and the lame to walk." These tales were believed even by Henry the Seventh.

THE LITTLE PARK, extending on the east and north sides of the castle, was enlarged and inclosed with a brick wall by William the Third. It contains about 500 acres of land, plentifully stocked with sheep and cattle, though but few deer. The ground on the north was laid out as a garden by Queen Anne, but has since been levelled, and formed into a spacious lawn. The eminence on the east, which Charles the Second converted into a bowling-green, has been considerably lowered in the present reign, and the earth taken from the summit spread on the declivity of the hill, which has been planted with forest trees, and surrounded with a neat paling. On the south-east is the ranger's lodge, the royal dairy, and the kennel for the King's harriers. This quarter of the park was formerly ornamented with a venerable tree, immortalized by the reed of the divine Shakespeare, and since known by the appellation of

# HERNE'S OAK.

word while remark and decorate



In the Merry Wives of Windsor, Mrs. Page recounts the traditionary story of Herne in these lines:

There is an old tale goes, that Herne the hunter,

Sometime a keeper here in Windsor forest,

Doth all the winter time, at still of midnight,

Walk round about an oak, with ragged horse;

And there he blasts the tree and rakes the castle,

And makes milch-kine yield blood, and shakes a chain

In a most hideous and dreadful manner.

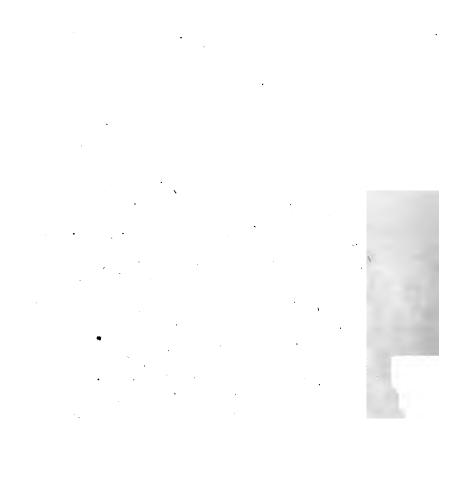
Herne is said to have been keeper of the forest in the time of Elizabeth, and having been guilty of some offence, for which he expected to be diagraced, hung himself upon this oak. The same dulity of the ignorant persantry inducted them: to suppose the councillable his spirit haunted the spot, and the spot of action to expose the councillable the lascivious Falstaff, who had the appointed to meet the "Marry Wives" in the character of Herne's ghost. The view of the oak in the last page was executed by Mr. Anderson, from a drawing taken but a few days previous to its being cut down; and we are assured by a gentleman of Windsor, who was present at the making of the sketch, that it is an exact delineation of the tree as it then stood. Various tea caddies, and other small articles made from the remains of the oak, are preserved by some of the inhabitants at Windsor.

## PROGMORE,

THE favorite residence of the Queen, has become celebrated through the elegant fetes, which have been occasionally given

- Mr. Gough, in his British Topography, laments that no view of this
  mismorable tree had ever been executed.
- † The first fett at Frogmore was given by the Queen on the 19th of May, 1795, to commemorate her birth-day: the second on the 23d of May, 1797, in honor of the marriage of the Princess Royal with the Duke of Wirtemberg: the third on the 8th of March, 1799, for gratitude at the recovery of the Princess Amelia: the fourth and last, in commemoration of the happy escape of His Majesty from a pistol-shot fired by a lunatic at Drury-lane Theatre, May 18th





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here by Her Majesty. It is situated about half a mile east of Windsor, and occupies part of a very fertile valley, which divides the Little Park from the Forest, whence the many fine old oaks and elms which still decorate the gardens, indicate it to have been separated. That it received its present appellation before Shakespeare's time, is evident from some passages in his comedy of the Merry Wives of Windsor. This estate was formerly in the possession of Sir Edward Walpole, and is now the private property of Her Majesty, by whom it was purchased of the Honorable Mrs. Ann Egerton in 1792. Since that period it has not only been considerably enlarged, but most materially improved. An area of thirteen acres is laid out in a beautiful pleasure garden, diversified with a canal winding in different directions; in one part spreading its waters before the front of the house, and again retiring beneath the thick woods. In this sweetly sequestered spot every thing is serene and pleasant. The devious path, the umbrageous thicket, the dilapidated ruin, and secluded temple, all conspire to render it peculiarly interesting. Exclusive of the variety of indigenous and exotic trees and shrubs which are scattered through the grounds, the garden is ornamented with five buildings, respectively denominated The Gothic Temple, The Ruin, The Hermitage, The Temple of Solitude, and The Barn. The Ruin was erected from a design by Mr. Wyatt; and being seated on the water's edge, partly immersed in woods, and diversified with the creeping ivy and fractured wall, it constitutes a truly picturesque ornament, when seen from many points of view. The Hermitage is a small circular thatched building, situated in the south-west corner of the garden, and completely embowered with lofty trees. It was constructed from a drawing of the Princess Elizabeth, whose taste and skill\* in this polite art are flattering encomiums on her genius and application. The surrounding scenery is judiciously

A series of prints, entitled The Birth and Triumph of Cupid, have been engraved from the beautiful designs of this Princess. They are executed with much delicacy, taste, and correctness of drawing.

contrived to assimilate with the character of the place, the view of every distant object being excluded by trees and underwood. The recent improvements and alterations made in the gardens are very considerable; and are highly creditable to the taste and judgment of the gentleman\* who directed the operations.

The house, though not large, is a neat modern structure, which has been much improved and beautified by Mr. Wyatt. It is partly built with freestone, and partly cased; and is decorated with a projecting colonnade towards the south, uniting the principal building with two uniform wings. The apartments are furnished in a plain but peculiarly neat manner. One of them is embellished with the original sketches by Mr. West, and paintings by Miss Moser, that were copied to ornament the throne in the castle; and several there are decorated with paintings, and variety of drawings.

THE GREAT PARK at Windsor reverted to His Majesty on the death of the Duke of Cumberland, in the year 1791, since which period it has undergone a variety of important alterations. The principal entrance is skirted by a double row of majestic trees, "whose seeming boundless continuity fills the mind with an idea of something like infinitude; for the line is extended not only along the whole of a very spacious plain, but up the distant hill, over whose summit it appears to curve, so that nothing like termination is discernible." † The eminence here mentioned commands a vast extent of country, of which Windsor Town and Castle, Eton College, Datchet, Harrow, Highgate, Hampstead, and Stanwell, constitute the leading features. Near this spot is Cumberland Lodge, a spacious edifice, where the last Duke of Cumberland and his illustrious predecessor, to whom it was given in the year 1744, formerly resided.

The park is embellished with some rich forest scenery, and possesses great diversity and inequality of surface; but the circumstances

Major Price, brother to Uvedale Price, Esq. the judicious and classical Commentator on the Picturesque.

<sup>+</sup> Monthly Magazine, September 1799.

circumstances through which it more peculiarly demands attention, are the agricultural experiments now making in its different quarters under the direction of His Majesty, by whom many improvements in the state and general appearance of the grounds have already been effected. The vallies and low parts have been cleared, to give a bolder effect to the woody scenes on the eminences; and several judicious openings have been contrived to remove the disgusting tameness of parallel lines, and separate the plantations that appeared heavy and formal. When the park reverted to the King, it was found to contain about 3800 acres, abounding with moss, fern, rushes, and ant-hills, and rendered dangerous in many places by bogs and swamps. In this state its scanty produce hardly afforted sufficient nutriment for 3000 deer. Since that period " the wet parts have been rendered firm and sound by the Essex mode of under-ground draining; the rushes weakened and destroyed, by draining and rolling; the moss and small hillocks extirpated by harrowing; the large ant-hills cleared by the scarifier; the fern weakened by mowing; the irregular banks levelled; the pits filled up; the vallies opened; the bills ornamented with new plantations; the stiff lines of trees, the vestiges of hedge-rows, judiciously broken:" and the park, though now reduced to 2400 acres, "supports the same number of deer as before, in much better health and condition.\*" The remaining 1400 acres have been disposed into two farms, respectively denominated from the nature of the mode of husbandry by which they were intended to be brought into culture.

THE NORFOLK FARM consists of about 1000 acres of light soil, bordering on the extensive waste called Bagshot Heath, hitherto considered as too barren for cultivation, though large tracts of similar quality have long since been rendered useful in the south-west part of Norfolk. Half this farm has been allotted to sheep-walks; the other is disposed in arable land, managed in a five-course shift of 100 acres in a class, and cropped in the following course: first, wheat or rye; second, vetches, rye,

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#### BERKSHIRE.

and potatoes; third, turnips; fourth, barley, or oats; fifth, clover. The ploughing is chiefly performed with the Norfolk plough; and the ground, which in its former state was not worth renting at above five shillings an acre, now produces crops of more value than the original fee-simple of the land. This improvement in a great measure has been owing to the penning of the sheep on the fallows; from 600 to 800 Wiltshire weathers being commonly kept as a folding stock.\* The irregularly-formed ground, which surrounds the beautiful lake called Virginia Water, has been disposed into a separate walk for Ryeland weathers, who are supposed to be best adapted to the coarseness of the herbage. The waste water of the lake gives motion to an overshot mill, which has been erected to grind corn for the laborers.

In breaking up some of the land for this farm, it was found so coarse and tough, that it could not be cleared in the ordinary way, without uncommon expence and labor. An experiment was therefore made, which, from the success attending it, seems worthy of insertion. "In the early part of the winter it was ploughed to a full depth with a swing plough, whose mould-board was so placed, as to lay the turf in an inverted position. This was well trodden with cattle, and rolled, and the sheep occasionally drove over it. In the spring it was harrowed and cropped with oats, which were no sooner off, than the surface was again harrowed and dragged, so as to get as much loose earth as possible

<sup>\*</sup> In the Transactions of the Society of Arts, Vol. XVII, the following singular method of folding the sheep, in hard or wet weather, is described by N. Kent, Esq. who superintends the whole of the agricultural establishment. "A dry sheltered spot is selected; and sods of maiden earth, a foot deep, are laid over the space of a very large fold. It is then bedded thinly with rushes, leaves of trees, fern, moss, short straw, or stubble; and the flock, instead of being penned upon the clover in the open fields, are put into this warmer fold, where the usual quantity of hay is given to them in racks; and every night they are so penned, the fold is fresh littered. When this has been continued at intervals during the winter, a layer of lime, chalk, rubble, or ashes, six inches thick, is spread over the whole surface, and when it has heated together, the whole is turned up about the month of April, and when mixed, it makes the best manure that can be used for turnips."

possible without bringing up the turf. Early in autumn it was sown with winter vetches, and the beginning of June ploughed crossways, when the turf turned up quite rotten, and the land was got into a clean state by the first week in July. Both turnips and wheat were afterwards sown, and succeeded admirably."

THE FLEMISH FARM contains about 400 acres, situated at the north extremity of the park, and originally intended to have been managed in exact accordance with the system employed in Flanders. This is a four-course shift, yielding an alternate crop for man and beast. The soil, however, being found strong and cohesive, the plan was in part relinquished, for the following more congenial mode. First year, wheat; second, cabbage, or clover; third, oats; fourth, beans. The arable land on this farm is 160 acres.

The comparative advantages of the labor of horses and oxen have long divided the opinions of experimental agriculturalists. The practice of His Majesty has induced him to decide in favor of oxen, which have been found "to answer so well in his different farms, parks, and gardens, that not a horse is now kept" for the purposes of husbandry. The oxen kept on the farms, and in the park, are 200. Forty are yearly purchased as succession oxen; 40 are fatted and sold; and 120 are under work. The absurd practice of coupling the latter with yokes is abandoned, and collars only are used: in this state their step is more free, and their labor performed with much greater ease. The kinds employed are suited to the soil and business. On the light soils, the Devonshire sort are used; on the strong and heavy, the Herefordshire; for carting, harrowing, and rolling, the Glamorganshire. The working oxen are mostly divided into teams of six; and as one of that number is daily rested, no ox labors more than five days in the week. This treatment enables the animal to retain his strength with the ordinary keep. Harder labor and higher feed would be injurious; for the nature of the ox will not admit of his being kept in condition, like a horse, artificially, by proportioning his food to increased exertions, Their summer food is only a few vetches, and what they obtain from the leasowes or coarse mea272

2 months

#### BERKSHIRE.

dows: in winter they have cut hay and wheat straw, one third of the latter being mixed with two thirds of the former.

Besides the improvements that have been effected in the park with respect to agriculture, several valuable plantations have been made on the high grounds; and the natural beauty of the scenery increased, by the grand masses of wood which begin to overrun the eminences. Many parts display a pleasing variety of hill, valley, wood, and water; where the picturesque and romantic are the prevailing characteristics. From some points the views are peculiarly interesting; their general composition bearing a striking resemblance to the celebrated scenery of the New Forest. Virginia Water terminates with a cascade executed from designs by Paul Sandby, Esq. This was formed with large masses of stone, obtained from the sandy soil of Bagshot Heath, by boring to various depths. These are placed with some degree of taste and judgment, though the disposition of the whole is rather stiff and formal. The surplus waters flow over the top, and are broken into several streams by projecting stones.

BEAUMONT LODGE, the seat of Henry Griffiths, Esq. is situated on an easy ascent, on the banks of the Thames, at Old Windsor. The house has been much improved by the present proprietor, who has heightened the centre, and ornamented it with correspondent wings. In the front is a portico, consisting of six columns and two pilasters, which rise from four pedestals, two shafts springing from each base. The light and elegant balcony under the portico commands a pleasing view of the Thames and adjoining country. The grounds are extensive.

Near the upper road at Old Windsor is Pelling Place, the seat of James Bonnell, Esq. The house and grounds were improved by Mr. Pigot, its former possessor, who gave the estate its present name in compliment to his uncle. The present owner has enlarged the grounds with two acres of common land purchased of the parish, and made some new walks and plantations. The gardens are ornamented with a dairy, grotto, saloon, and hermitage.

ST. LEONARD'S HILL, in Windsor Forest, seems to have been a Roman station, many antiquities having been found on it at different times. In the year 1705 a brass lamp was discovered here concealed under a stone, together with two or three celts, a spear head, two pieces of trumpets, some coins, earthen pots, and other things. The lamp was presented by Sir Hans Sloane to the Antiquarian Society, and has since been chosen for their crest. Many coins of Vespasian, Trajan, and the Lower Empire, found on this hill, were purchased by the above society in 1725. The elegant villa on this eminence, belonging to General Harcourt, was formerly called Gloucester Lodge, it having been greatly improved by the Duke of Gloucester, on his marriage with the Countess of Waldegrave, by whom it was built. The pleasure ground and lawns, consisting of about 75 acres, were purchased, together with the house, in the year 1781, for 10,0001.

## SUNNING-HILL.

THE small village thus denominated, is pleasantly situated in a part of the forest bordering on Ascot Heath. The salubrity of its mineral waters has been celebrated in a poem written by the late Dr. Meyrick; and the wells where the healing draught is obtained have occasionally been frequented by much company. The church may be regarded as a specimen of our earlier parochial churches, consisting of a nave, and small chancel divided from the nave by a square belfry tower." In the vicinity of this village are several elegant residences: among the principal is Selwood Park, the seat of James Sibbald, Esq. This estate consists of about 300 acres, the principal part of which are laid out as a Ferme Ornée, or ornamental farm. A fine ride, of about four miles in extent, embraces the principal part of the scenery, which is richly diversified with stately trees, and a large piece of water. The house is a handsome modern building, situated on a rising ground, and was erected by the VOL. I. present

<sup>\*</sup> See Gough's Additions to Camden.

present inheritor from designs by Mr. Robert Mitchell, on whose taste and skill in architecture it reflects considerable credit. It is built with brick, and covered with composition. Each front is decorated with a portico of lofty composite columns. The interior is commodious, and fitted up with peculiar elegance. The entrance front commands an extensive prospect over a richly cultivated valley, bounded by the Surrey hills; whilst the other front embraces a much richer tract of scenery, in which the majestic forest of Windsor constitutes the prominent feature.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

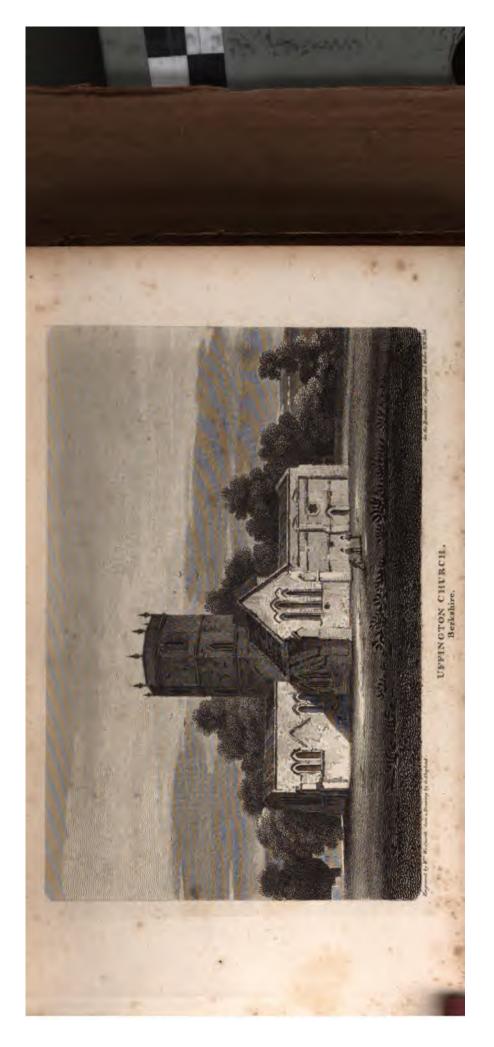
Among the variety of singular tenures by which estates were held in the days of feudal tyranny, was that of taking care of the King's mistresses; nor was this an uncommon service; for several manors, in different parts of the kingdom, were only secured to their possessors by similar customs. At Bockhampton, in this county, half a yard-land was held by the tenure of keeping six damsels, i. e. whores, + at the King's charge. In the same place two hides of land were held by the service of keeping a kennel of the King's harriers. The extreme profligacy denoted by the first kind of tenure, has induced some writers to represent it as having been misunderstood. They observe, that the Latin word Meretrices was used in former times to designate laundresses, and as such should be translated in the passages in question. There is, however, full proof that persons of the latter description were called Lotrices; ; and that the King's houshold was in former times attended by Meretrices, according to the real meaning of the term, is evident from the rules devised for the establishment of good order in the houshold of Henry the Eighth. One of them is to this purport: " The Knight Marshal shall

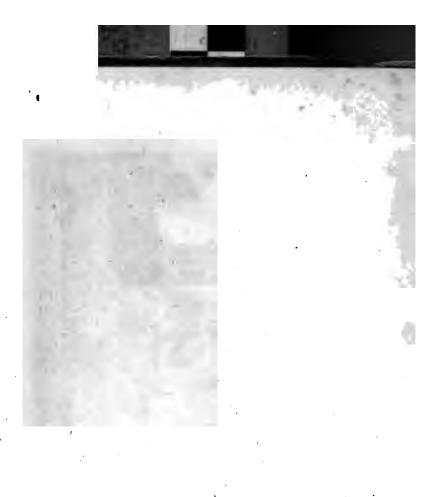
<sup>\*</sup> Views of these two fronts, with a ground plan, and a perspective representation of an elegant music gallery, are engraved in a handsome architectural publication, by Mr. Mitchell.

<sup>+</sup> See Beckwith's Fragmenta Antiquitatis. ‡ Ibid, page 138.









take special care that all such unthrifty and common women as follow the court be banished."

THE humorous custom which formerly prevailed at Enborne, near Newbury, respecting widows, is no longer observed. It is said to be compounded for by a fine; but this is uncertain, the court rolls being silent on the subject. The custom was this: The widow of every copyhold tenant was permitted to retain the possession of his lands, as long as she continued sole and chaste; (dum sola et casta fuerit:) but if she was guilty of incontinence, the estates were forfeited; nor could they be restored, unless she mounted a black ram, and went into the next court held for the manor, riding backwards, and repeating a quaint formula of words.



## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

THOUGH the whole of Buckinghamshire, at the time of the Roman invasion, appears to have been in the possession of the CATTIEUCHLANI, there is reason to believe that its western parts had, at no very distant period, been peopled by the ANCALITES, whose name is apparently derived from the term Uchelitwys, or the Inhabitants of High Grounds, thus called from their relative situation to the Taveini, the appellation of the tribe residing in the low grounds, near the rivers Thame and Thames.

This county was included by the Romans in the division named FLAVIA CESARIENSIS. After their departure, it became the theatre of many battles and revolutions, and was at length constituted a part of Mercia, to whose monarchs it remained subject during the continuance of the heptarchy.

The origin of its name has given birth to various conjectures. Camden imagines that it was derived from the Saxon word Bucken, indicative of the beech trees with which it formerly abounded, and which are still plentiful in many parts of the county. Those who have controverted this derivation, affirm, that its etymology may be traced to the term Buccen, Bucks, or Deer; its forests having anciently afforded sustenance to thousands of those animals. Spelman, and Brown Willis, incline to the latter opinion.

Buckinghamshire is bounded on the north by Northamptonshire; on the east, by the counties of Bedford, Hertford, and Middlesex; on the south, is Berkshire, and a point of Surrey; and on the west, Oxfordshire. Its size has been variously estimated; but the most correct computation has been given in the general view of its agriculture; wherein it is said to be 45 miles in length, eighteen eighteen in breadth, and 138 in circumference. It contains about 518,400 acres, 8 hundreds, 16 market towns, 185 parishes, about 14,500 houses, and 94,000 inhabitants. Its limits are mostly artificial; the river Coln only bounding a small portion of the east side, and the Thames separating it from Berkshire and Surrey.

The face of the county is much varied. The southern parts are occupied by the Chiltern Hills and their appendages. These eminences are chiefly composed of chalk intermixed with flints; and though very inferior to the northern district with respect to richness of soil, have been rendered extremely productive by the great attention given to the cultivation and improvement of the land. The prolific Vale of Aylesbury spreads through the middle of the county, and furnishes a rich pasturage to vast quantities of cattle, its amazing fertility being chiefly employed in the support of the dairy and grazing systems. The more northern parts are diversified with gentle sand hills, entering from Bedfordshire.

The effect of circumstances on human habits is forcibly exemplified by the conduct of the farmers who reside in the above divisions of the county. In the vicinity of the Chiltern Hills, where the soil is light, and inimical to production without much labor, the most sedulous care is bestowed on the business of husbandry. Every variety of materials, that will either constitute or increase manure, is carefully collected, and applied with judgment. Improved modes of culture are readily adopted, and the general management of the land is praise-worthy and judicious. In the Vale of Aylesbury, and the more northern division of the county, this picture is reversed. The astonishing produce of the meadows rendering exertion less necessary,

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<sup>\*</sup> The soil being very shallow, and the grounds elevated, the flints seem to be absolutely necessary to keep the surface moist, and protect the grain from the too-powerful effect of the sun. Some writers have affirmed, that the farmers ineffectually endeavour to cleanse the soil of these stones; but this is a mistake, as the husbandman, in many cases, would rather increase than diminish their number.

the farmer has suffered his indolence to overpower his reason, and, content with the evening mist and the morning dew, neglects the means of improvement, and turns a deaf ear to arguments whose instructive tendency might operate to array his fields in tenfold verdure.

The soil of this county is principally composed of rich loam, strong clay, chalk, and loam upon gravel. Its application in the Chiltern district is to the growth of wheat, barley, oats, beans, and saintfoin: the northern division, as we have already intimated, is chiefly applied to pasture, and meadow, with a very small proportion of arable. The great quantities of butter annually made on the dairy farms, are mostly purchased by the London dealers, who contract for it half-yearly. The average weight, produced weekly from each cow, is eight pounds (sixteen ounces to a pound) in summer, and six pounds in winter. In some of the dairies a very useful machine, called a mill-churn, has lately been introduced, by which the fatiguing operation of churning is greatly facilitated, the mill being worked by a horse. In other dairies a barrel-churn is used, with two handles, turned by two men, who make from six to six score pounds of butter at one churning. The skim and butter-milk is made use of to fatten swine. In the neighbourhood of Midmenham, Great and Little Hampton, &c. many calves are suckled; and at Aylesbury, and its vicinity, great attention is given to the rearing of ducks, to supply the markets of the metropolis.

For

<sup>\* &</sup>quot;So rich and fertile is the soil about Aylesbury and Buckingham, that we were assured it was considered a disgrace to a farmer to suffer a heap of manure to be seen at the end of his field, to plough in straight lines, to disturb an anthill on his pasture, or to permit more water than falls from the heavens to pass over his meadow." See View of the Agriculture of Bucks. This statement is corroborated by the following passage from the same work. "In the district now under consideration, large tracts possess in such a high degree the advantage of obtaining water, that the farmer can flow his grounds when and where he pleases, brooks and rivulets running through the greater part of these fine meadows, with few or no mills to interrupt or control him in the free application of their fructifying streams; yet, excepting in the neighbourhood of one or two of the paper-mills, there is scarcely an acre of land watered throughout the county."

For ploughing, and other laborious operations of agriculture, horses are preferred to oxen. The latter have frequently been tried, but the flintiness of some parts of the soil, and very heavy quality of others, have caused the farmer to decide in favor of the horse. In the southern parts, the swing and high wheel ploughs are chiefly used, and drawn by four horses, two abreast. In the northern division, the loose handle swing and low wheel ploughs, worked by five or six horses in a line. The progress of agricultural improvement is considerably checked on many estates, by the restrictive conditions on which they are leased; the tenants being confined to two or three crops and a fallow, with a prohibition to the growth of clover, and green food. The manures are principally marl, peat-ash, yard and rabbit's dung. On some of the strong and cold soils, hair and hoofs are strewn with much advantage. Soot and ashes are equally beneficial to the wheat and young clover. The generality of farms are from 60l. to 250l. a year; some amount to 500l, and two or three to 1000l. In the agricultural view of the county, the common fields were estimated at 91,900 acres, but a large proportion has since been enclosed. The waste lands are but inconsiderable, their extent not being more than 6000 acres, the greatest part contained in the heaths of Iver, Fulmer, Stoke, and Wycombe. The southern division of the county produces large quantities of fine beech: near a sixth part of the land between the road to Oxford, and the Thames, is supposed to be covered with that wood. On Wavendon Heath (now the property of the Duke of Bedford) several flourishing plantations of Scotch firs have been made since its enclosure about the year 1778. In the coppices on Whaddon Chace are numbers of fine oak and ash The chief manufactures are those of paper and lace. The latter affords employment for nearly all the lower class of females in the county.

The principal rivers are the Ouse and the Thame. The Ouse enters Buckinghamshire on the western side, passes Water Stratford, and flows in a devious course to Buckingham; thence winding to the north through a rich tract of meadow land, pursues its

way to Stony Stratford, Newport-Pagnell, and Olney; soon afterwards, turning suddenly to the east, it leaves the county near Brayfield.

The Ouse, slow winding through a level plain
Of spacious meads, with cattle sprinkled o'er,
Conducts the eye along its sinuous course
Delighted.

COWPER'S TASK.

The Thame rises near the borders of the county in Hertfordshire, and flowing through the Vale of Aylesbury from east to west, receives the waters of several smaller streams, and enters Oxfordshire near Thame. The interchange of traffic has been much facilitated of late years by the Grand Junction Canal, which enters this county near Woolverton, and running eastward, goes within a mile of Newport-Pagnell; thence flowing to the south, it passes Fenny Stratford, Stoke Hammond, Linslade, and Ivinghoe, into Hertfordshire, near Bulbourne. From a branch of the canal at Old Stratford, a cut has been made to Buckingham, and another from Bulbourne to Wendover.

Buckinghamshire is in the diocese of Lincoln, with the exception of six parishes belonging to the See of Canterbury, and four to the diocese of London. It sends fourteen members to parliament; viz. two for the Shire, two for Buckingham, two for Aylesbury, two for Wycombe, two for Amersham, two for Wendover, and two for Marlow; pays twelve parts of the landtax, provides the militia with 560 men, and is in the Norfolk circuit.

### BUCKINGHAM

Was chosen, on the division of the kingdom into shires, to give name to the county. It appears to have been a town of considerable antiquity, being mentioned by Bishop Kennet, as the spot near which the Roman general, Aulus Plautius, surprised and routed the Britons under the command of Caractaous and Togodumnus,







Togodumnus, the sons of Cunobelin. In the early Saxon times it became celebrated as the burial-place of the infant saint, Rumbald, who was born at King's Sutton, in Northamptonshire, and reported to have lived but three days, during which period he professed himself a Christian, performed many miracles, and, on his death, bequeathed his body to be deposited in the church for ever, after it had been one year at King's Sutton, and another at Brackley. This tale, generated by craft, and credited by ignorance, proved a source of considerable revenue to Buckingham, where several inns were erected for the accommodation of the numerous pilgrims whom superstitious credulity induced to make offerings at his shrine. A sagacious personage of the last century is said to have identified his coffin!!

In the year 918, Edward the Elder, according to the Saxon Chronicle, resided here for a short time, and caused two forts to be built and garrisoned on each side the river, to repel the incursions of the Danes, against whom he shortly afterwards advanced, and compelled them to sue for peace. In 941 the town was ravaged by the Danish soldiers, and again in 1010, when having plundered the adjacent country, they retreated hither to secure their ill-gotten treasure. At the time of the Norman Conquest. it is stated by Brown Willis to have been the only borough in the county; yet it was then but an inconsiderable place, and only taxed for one hide. In the reign of Edward the Third, its importance was increased by that prince making it a mart for wool; but the trade being removed to Calais, it again declined, and in the 27th of Henry the Eighth was enumerated among the decayed cities and towns, for whose relief an act of parliament was then made. About this period the assizes, which had usually been held here, were removed to Aylesbury, through the interest of Sir John Baldwin. The misfortunes of Buckingham were completed by a dreadful fire, which occurred in the year 1724, when, out of 387 houses, 138 were entirely consumed. besides several out-houses, and manufacturies belonging to premises that escaped the conflagration. The damage on this occasion was estimated at 40,000l. Since this accident its trade has in a small

small degree revived, and part of the county business brought back, as is testified by the following inscription over the goal door.

The Right Honorable Richard Grenville Temple,
Lord Viscount Cobham,

Caused this Edifice to be erected at his own Expence,
For the Use of this Town and County;
The Summer Assizes being restored to this Place,
And fixed here by Act of Parliament
In the year 1758.

The most conspicuous and principal ornament of Buckingham, is the church, which stands proudly exalted on the summit of an artificial mount, anciently occupied by a castle. This stately fabric was began in 1777, and completed in four years, at the expence of about 7000l. the greater part of which was paid by the late Earl Temple, whose liberality on this, and several other occasions relative to the town, is a frequent theme of panegyric with the old inhabitants. Besides his Lordship's present towards defraying the expences of this building, the townsmen raised 2000l. by life annuities, the interest of which was charged on the poor rates.\* The church is built of stone, and has a handsome square tower attached to its south-west end, ornamented with pinnacles, embrasures, and a light tapering spire, which rises to the height of 150 feet from the ground. The interior is constructed on the same plan as Portland Chapel in London. A large gallery, supported by Doric columns, projects from three of its sides. From the gallery rises twelve more columns of the Ionic order, sustaining a richly decorated ceiling. The seats are all of oak wainscotting. The altar is embellished with a tolerable good copy of Raphael's much celebrated picture of the Transfiguration, given to the parish by the Marquis of Buckingham. About 200 yards south-west of the church is the burial-ground; where a small chapel, or room, has been erected for

This tax, and the distresses occasioned among the lower classes by the severity of the times, have augmented the poor rates to ass, in the pound.

for the accommodation of the clergyman at funerals; no interments being permitted in or near the present church, nor funeral ceremony allowed to be performed. The area surrounding the church is laid out in a pleasant walk, planted with trees, and enlivened with a view of the serpentine course of the Ouse, which winds round three sides of the town.

The Town-Hall is a large brick building, surmounted with a gilt swan, which is the borough arms. The principal floor is reserved for the use of the magistrates when they hold the parish court, every three weeks; and sessions, half yearly. The houses are chiefly brick, irregularly scattered over a large extent of ground on the side and bottom of a hill. The laboring inhabitants are principally employed in agricultural pursuits, or lace"making. As the latter manufacture requires but little ingenuity, and cheap materials, there is scarcely a house or female in the town unprovided with a lace-pillow, parchments, bobbins, gimps, pins, thread, and other requisites. The profits of this business to the makers, depends on their facility of execution; their daily earnings are therefore different. Some women can earn from eighteen pence to two shillings a day; others cannot get more than one shilling in the same time. Their receipts, however, have lately experienced a considerable drawback, a manufactory having been established at Nottingham, in which the lace is made with machinery, and being quicker executed, is retailed at a less price: yet neither its quality nor workmanship is so good as that made by hand.

<sup>\*</sup> In all the accounts we have read of Buckinghamshire, it is stated that bone lace is the chief manufacture; but some of the oldest makers, whom we consulted, were totally ignorant of the term. The principal sort made is fine thread-lace, black and white: the former commonly worked with a french-ground, or perfect diamond squares; the latter generally executed with a roundish hole, called the point-ground. The maker is furnished with a round pillow, on which a slip of parchment is fixed, perforated with a great number of holes, correspondent to the pattern required to be executed. These holes are filled with pins, which are placed and displaced as the bobbins are moved, or stitches finished. The thread is fixed on the top of small bobbins, or gimps; the first are used in making fine lace and ground; and the latter for coarse lace, and to work in the flowers, &c.

The corporation in the reign of Edward the Third consisted of a mayor and three bailiffs; but the charter by Queen Mary vests the government of the town in a bailiff and twelve burgesses, whose titles were altered by Charles the Second into those of mayor and aldermen; but the former charter was afterwards restored, and the magistrates are still entitled bailiff and burgesses. It does not appear that this town sent members to Parliament previous to the 36th of Henry the Eighth, though three persons were sent as early as the 11th of Edward the Third to a council of trade held by that Prince at Westminster. The right of election is vested in the bailiff and twelve burgesses. The inhabitants are divided into several religious sects: the Presbyterians, Quakers, Methodists, and Socinians, have each a place of worship. The free school was founded about 1540, by Isabel Denton, who bequeathed a small legacy for a school-master, &c. The endowment has been increased by several donations; and a sunday school has lately been established for the children of the poor. The extent of the parish is computed at 3800 acres.

About one mile east of Buckingham is a little village called

#### MAIDS MORETON,

So denominated, according to Brown Willis, from its moorish situation, and the daughters of Lord Peover, two maidens who built the church, about the year 1450. This fabric consists of a nave, a chancel, with a small vestry on the south side, and a curiously constructed tower at the west end. The windows are in the large handsome style of Norman architecture, and display several fragments of painted glass, but are too much injured to be intelligible. The roof of the chancel, the porches, and the tower entrance, are highly decorated with light and elegant specimens of gothic architecture, particularly the north porch, which is supported with six small pillars attached to the side walls.

The following memorandums appear in the church register, "Anno 1642. This year the cross, which had like with its fall to have beat out the brains of him that did it, was cut off the

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top of the steeple by the soldiers, at the command of Colonel Purefoy, of Warwickshire." "Anno 1653. This year came in force an act of the usurper Cromwell, that children ought not to be baptized, and about marriages by justices of peace. But it is here observed, that not one in this parish complied with it, but christened the children in the church; and no persons bedded before they were solemnly wedded in the church." This parish contains about 900 acres, principally disposed in unenclosed arable land, called Moreton Fields. The soil is a stiff heavy clay.

# STOWE,

THE chief ornament of the county, and principal Seat of George Grenville Nugent Temple, Marquis of Buckingham. The earliest account of the manor is contained in Domesdaybook, which states, that in the reign of Edward the Confessor, its value was 60s, and that it was held by Robert Doyly and Roger Ivory of the Bishop of Baieux. When the bishop was dispossessed of his lands in the year 1088, this manor was obtained by the above persons for themselves, and afterwards divided between them. Stowe was retained by Doyly, who founded a church in his castle at Oxford, and endowed it with this domain; but on the removal of his foundation in 1129, he bestowed it on the canons of Oseney Abbey, in whose possession it remained till the capricious Henry the Eighth, on the dissolution of the religious houses, erected the abbey into a cathedral, and settled it on the new bishop; but the foundation being removed to Christ Church, it was given by Edward the Sixth to that college. Brown Willis, in his History of Buckingham, states, that it was afwards, on a vancancy of the see of Oxford, granted by Queen Elizabeth to three gentlemen, who first leased, and then conveyed it to John Temple,\* Esq. in the year 1592; but we have

The Temple family deduce their maternal descent from Leofric, Earl of Mercia. They appear to have been first settled at Temple Hall, in Leicester-shire; though they possessed lands in this county as early as the reign of Henry the Sixth.

been assured by the present noble possessor, that it was purchased into this family by Peter Temple, Esq. in 1560; and that the original mansion was soon afterwards erected by that gentleman. Sir Peter Temple, a distant descendant, enclosed about 200 acres of ground for a park, which he stocked with deer from Wicken Park in Northamptonshire. Sir Richard, the next inheritor, rebuilt the manor-house. On his death the estate devolved to his son, who was created Baron Cobham in 1714, and Viscount Cobham in 1718, with a collateral remainder of both titles to his second sister Hester, wife of Richard Grenville, Esq. of Wotton, in this county. Lord Cobham died in 1749, and was succeeded by the above lady, who was created Countess Cobham a month after her brother's decease. Thus the family of the Grenvilles obtained possession of the mansion, estate, and titles. The present owner was created Marquis of Buckingham in the year 1784.

Stowe, when beheld at a distance, appears like a vast grove, interspersed with columns, obelisks, and towers, which apparently emerge from a luxuriant mass of foliage. The gardens obtained their distinguished celebrity from the alterations effected by Lord Cobham, under whose direction the groves were planted, the lawns laid out, many of the buildings erected, and the corridors and wings added to the north front of the house. The gardens were began when an affected regularity was the mode; when straight paths, canals, avenues and fountains, were considered as the greatest beauties; and the formalities of art studiously displayed in every shape of monstrous deformity.

The suffering eye inverted nature sees; Trees cut to statues, statues thick as trees.

Pors.

Stowe partook of the general incongruity, and the graceful variety of nature was tortured into stiffness and absurdity. This state of things, however, is now changed. The gardens have been altered with the times, and the natural beauty of the situation allowed to display itself.

The first professional artist employed to lay out the grounds was Bridgeman, whose plans and drawings of their features at that period are still in the possession of the Marquis. Some of the absurdities left by Bridgeman were removed by Kent, who was consulted in the double capacity of architect and gardener, and to this "Father of modern gardening" is Stowe indebted for many of its distinguished ornaments. " Mahomet," says Mr. Walpole, "imagined an Elysium; but Kent created many." Several other amateurs and artists\* have successively directed alterations here, and most of them have left some specimens of their respective partialities. While the formal mode of gardening prevailed, Stowe led the fashion, and many aped its incongruities; yet, to the honor of the taste and judgment of this country, the formalities of system are nearly abolished; and nature, ever beautiful, and ever varying, is justly considered as the proper archetype to be imitated in modern pleasure grounds. Some of the most elegant and correct writers have classed the varieties of scenery under three peculiar and distinct characters; the beautiful, the picturesque, and the sublime. Few domains in the kingdom can boast the possession of all these characters; yet the two first, and a very considerable portion of the latter, may be found at Stowe, where the beautiful is apparent in its parterres, elegant buildings, and flower gardens; the picturesque,

<sup>\*</sup> The celebrated Launcelot Brown was originally employed here in a very humble situation, whence he rose by degrees to be head gardener, in which station he continued till 1750. It is generally supposed, that his first specimens of landscape gardening were made at Stowe; but we are assured that Lord Cobham restricted him to the kitchen and flower garden. Though his Lordship would not permit him to try experiments on his own grounds, yet he recommended him to the Duke of Grafton, at Wakefield Lodge in Northamptonshire, where he directed the forming of a large lake. This laid the foundation of his fame and fortune; for the undertaking being successfully executed, he was presented, through the medium of Lord Cobham, with the honorable situation of head gardener at Windsor, and Hampton Court. He now became very popular, and his advice was regularly sought by those gentlemen who were disposed to make alterations in their parks and pleasure grounds. Previous to leaving Stowe, he married a young woman of the village, named Mary Holland.

turesque, though not a prominent feature, can easily be seen in the embowered groves, grottos, and heads of the lake; and the grand, bordering on sublimity, certainly belongs to its noble mansion, and the extensive views which it commands, where

The soft distance, melting from the eye.

Dissolves its forms into the azure sky.

The Landscape.

The first architectural object which attracts attention is a CORINTHIAN ARCH, or Gateway, 60 feet high by 60 wide, erected on the brow of a hill, one mile from the south front of the house, after a design of Thomas Pitt, Lord Camelford. The principal approach is conducted through this building, where a grand display of the mansion, groves, temples, obelisks, and water, are at once presented to the admiring spectator. At a short distance from the arch is one of the entrances to the gardens. These extensive and highly decorated grounds contain about four hundred acres, diversified with a great number of distinct scenes; each distinguished with taste and fancy, and each having a complete character of its own, independent of other objects. The whole is enclosed within a sunk fence, or Ha! Ha! which extends nearly four miles in circumference, and is accompanied by a broad gravel walk, skirted with rows of lofty elms. This path leads to many of the buildings, and to several interesting scenes, admitting occasional peeps into the surrounding park, and views of the distant country. Near this entrance are two Ionic pavillions, originally designed by Kent, but since altered by Signior Borra, architect to the late King of Sardinia. In the front of these buildings the water spreads into a considerable lake, which divides itself into two branches, and retires through beautiful vallies to the east and to

<sup>\*</sup> Mr. Walpole conjectures that this kind of boundary was first planned by Bridgeman, who destroyed the imprisoning walls, and let in views of the distant country, by means of this fosse; which obtained the name of Ha! Ha! from the surprise expressed by the common people, when they found their progress unexpectedly checked by the concealed barrier.

the north. The upper end is concealed amidst a mass of woods; here it falls over some artificial ruins, and again extends its broad bosom to reflect the variegated scenery. The path westward leads to a rude pile of building, called the HERMITAGE, and also to the TEMPLE OF VENUS, which was designed and executed by Kent. This is a square building, decorated with Ionic columns, and connected by semicircular arcades to a pavilion at each extremity. The QUEEN'S STATUE is situated on the side of a hill, and completely enveloped with trees. The figure of Queen Caroline is supported by four Ionic columns. Hence the path leads to the BOYCOTT PAVILIONS, designed by Vanburgh: and the principal entrance gate, designed by Kent. Returning towards the house, we discover the TEMPLE OF BACCHUS, built from a design of Vanburgh, whence the view is particularly beautiful. In the centre of a large lawn, encircled with trees, is the ROTUNDA, raised upon ten Ionic columns, and ornamented in the centre with a statue of Bacchus. Beyond this the lake spreads its pellucid waters, reflecting the Temple of Venus, and its richly wooded scenery.

These are the principal objects on the south and west sides of the garden. On the east is the entrance to the Elysium Fields, where the figures of heroes, poets, and philosophers, seem to justify the name. This part is watered by a small rivulet, which flowing from the grotto, passes through a valley ornamented with a number of fine old trees, and then empties itself into the lake. The valley includes some of the most charming views and objects in the whole district. A DORIC ARCH, decorated with the statues of Apollo and the Muses, leads from the parterre into the Elysium Fields. This building is situated on an eminence, and inscribed to Her Royal Highness Princess Sophia Amelia, who, on visiting Stowe in the year 1766, was complimented with some verses by the late Countess Temple. Through the Arch the Palladian Bridge is seen, and a castellated Lodge built on the opposite hill. On the right is the TEMPLE OF FRIENDSHIP; on the VOL. L. left



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left are the TEMPLES OF ANCIENT VIRTUE and of BRITISH WORTHIES; the one in an elevated situation, the other near the water's edge. The three latter buildings are decorated with statues and busts of those persons who have been most distinguished for military, moral, and literary merit. By placing here the meed of valor, and paying a just tribute to departed genius, the character intended to be given to the spot is poetically expressed, and the ideas excited, teach us to respect merit, and emulate the actions which lead to fame.

THE TEMPLE OF ANCIENT VIRTUE is a circular building, of the Ionic order, embowered "within the thicket's gloomy shade," and admirably adapted for pensive meditation. The dome is supported by sixteen columns. The inside is decorated with four statues by Scheemaker. Beneath them are these apposite inscriptions, written by George Lord Lyttleton.

#### Lycurgus,\*

Qui summo cum consilio, inventis legibus,
Omnemque contra corruptelam munitis optime,
Pater Patriæ,
Libertatem firmissimam
Et mores sanctissimos,
Expulså cum divitiis avaritiå, luxuriå, libidine,
In multa sæcula
Civibus suis instituit.

Socrates,

# \* The Inscriptions have been thus translated:

Lycurcus, who, having planned, with consummate wisdom, a system of laws firmly secured against every encroachment of corruption; and having, by the expulsion of riches, banished luxury, avarice, and intemperance; established in the state for many ages, perfect liberty and inviolable purity of manners.—

The father of his country.

SOCRATES,

SOCRATES,

Qui corruptissimă în civitate innocens,
Bonorum hortator, unici cultor DEI,
Ab inutili otio, & vanis disputationibus,
Ad officia vitæ, & societatis commoda,
Philosophiam avocavit,
Hominum sapientissimus.

Homer,

Qui poetarum primus, idem & maximus,
Virtutis præco, & immortalitatis largitor,
Divino carmine
Ad pulchrè audendum, & patiendum fortiter,
Omnibus notus gentibus, omnes incitat.

EPAMINONDAS,

Cujus à virtute, prudentiâ, verecundiâ,

Thebanorum respublica

Libertatem simul & imperium,

Disciplinam bellicam, civilem & domesticam

Accepit;
Eoque amisso, perdidit.

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SOCRATES, who, innocent in the midst of a most corrupted people; the encourager of the good; a worshipper of the one God; from useless speculations, and vain disputes, restored philosophy to the duties of life, and the benefit of society.—The wisest of men.

HOMER, the first and greatest of poets; the herald of virtue; the giver of immortality; who, by his divine genius, known to all nations, incites all, nobly to dare, and to suffer firmly.

EPAMINONDAS, by whose valor, prudence, and modesty, the Theban commonwealth gained liberty and empire, military discipline, civil and domestic policy; all which, by losing him, she lost.

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THE TEMPLE OF BRITISH WORTHIES is a semicircular building, erected on the banks of the upper lake, after a design by Kent. It contains the busts of the following celebrated characters, with appropriate inscriptions:

ALEXANDER POPE, who, uniting the correctness of judgment to the fire of genius, by the melody and power of his numbers, gave sweetness to sense, and grace to philosophy. He employed the pointed brilliancy of wit to chastise the vices, and the eloquence of poetry to exalt the virtues, of human nature; and being without a rival in his own age, imitated and translated, with a spirit equal to the originals, the best Poets of antiquity.

SIR THOMAS GRESHAM, who, by the honorable profession of a merchant, having enriched himself and his country, for carrying on the commerce of the world, built the Royal Exchange.

IGNATIUS JONES, who, to adorn his country, introduced and rivalled the Greek and Roman architecture.

JOHN MILTON, whose sublime and unbounded genius equalled a subject < that carried him beyond the limits of the world.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, whose excellent genius opened to him the whole heart of man, all the mines of fancy, all the stores of nature; and gave him power, beyond all other writers, to move, astonish and delight mankind.

JOHN LOCKE, who, best of all philosophers, understood the powers of the human mind; the nature, end, and bounds of civil government; and, with equal sagacity, refuted the slavish system of usurped authority over the rights, the consciences, or the reason of mankind.

SIR ISAAC NEWTON, whom the God of nature made to comprehend his works.

SIR FRANCIS BACON, LORD VERULAM, who, by the strength and light of superior genius, rejecting vain speculation and fallacious theory, taught to pursue truth, and improve philosophy by the certain method of experiment.

KING ALFRED, the mildest, justest, most beneficent of kings; who drove out the Danes, secured the seas, protected learning, established juries, crushed corruption, guarded liberty, and was the founder of the English constitution.

EDWARD, PRINCE OF WALES, the terror of Europe, the delight of England; who preserved unaltered, in the height of glory and fortune, his natural gentleness and modesty.

QUEEN ELIZABETH, who confounded the projects, and destroyed the power, that threatened to oppress the liberties of Europe; shook off the yoke

of Ecclesiastical tyrauny; restored religion from the corruptions of Popery; and, by a wise, a moderate, and a popular government, gave wealth, security and respect to England.

KING WILLIAM III, who, by his virtue and constancy, having saved his country from a foreign master, by a bold and generous enterprize, preserved the liberty and religion of Great-Britain.

SIR WALTER RALEIGH, a valiant soldier, and an able statesman; who, endeavouring to rouse the spirit of his master, for the honor of his country, against the ambition of Spain, fell a sacrifice to the influence of that court, whose arms he had vanquished, and whose designs he opposed.

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE, who, through many perils, was the first of Britons that ventured to sail round the globe; and carried into unknown seas and nations, the knowledge and glory of the English name.

JOHN HAMPDEN, who, with great spirit and consummate abilities, began a noble opposition to an arbitrary court, in defence of the liberties of his country; supported them in parliament, and died for them in the field.

SIR JOHN BARNARD, who distinguished himself in Parliament by an active and firm opposition to the permicious and iniquitous practice of stockjobbing: at the same time exerting his utmost abilities to increase the strength of his country, by reducing the interest of the national debt; which he proposed to the House of Commons in the year 1737, and, with the assistance of Government, carried into effect in the year 1750, on terms of equal justice to Particulars and to the State; notwithstanding all the impediments which private interest could oppose to public spirit.

In the centre of this building are these lines inscribed on marble:

Hic manus ob patriam pugnando vulnera passi, Quique pii vates, aut Phæbo digna locuti, Inventas aut qui vitam excoluere per artes, Quique sui memores alios facere merendo,

Here are the bands, who for their country bled; And bards, whose pure and sacred verse is read: Those who, by arts invented, life improv'd, And by their merits, made their mem'ries lov'd.

CAPTAIN GRENVILLE'S MONUMENT was erected by the late Lord Cobham, in honor of his nephew Captain Thomas Grenville. This is a lofty column, surmounted with a figure, U 3

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representing Heroic Poetry, and decorated with naval trophies.

The pedestal is inscribed with this epitaph:

Ye weeping muses, graces, virtues, tell,
If, since your all-accomplish'd Sidney fell,
You, or afflicted Britain, e'er deplor'd
A loss like that these plaintive lays record;
Such spotless honor, such ingenuous truth,
Such ripen'd wisdom in the bloom of youth!
So mild, so gentle, so compos'd a mind,
To such heroic warmth and courage join'd!
He too, like Sidney, nurs'd in learning's arms,
For nobler war forsook het peaceful charms;
Like him, possess'd of every pleasing art,
The secret wish of every virgin's heart;
Like him, cut off in youthful glory's pride,
He, unrepining, for his country dy'd.
George Lord Lytterton.

This gallant officer, whose accomplishments are thus commemorated, was mortally wounded in the thigh, in an engagement between the French and the fleet of Admiral Anson. When expiring, he exclaimed, "How much better it is thus to die, than to stand arraigned before a court-martial."

THE GROTTO is situated in a romantic dell, and composed of broken stones, pebbles, flints, spars, and other materials. It consists of two caverns: from the lowermost, the water flows into a rivulet ornamented with several small islands, and overshadowed by a variety of intersecting branches. Fossils, petrifactions, and spars, constitute the inside of the grotto, which is also decorated with two white marble basons, and a statue of Venus apparently rising from the bath. The following beautiful lines, justly descriptive of the situation, from Milton, are inscribed on a tablet of marble:

Goddess of the silver wave,
To thy thick embowered cave,
To arched walks, and twilight groves,
And shadows brown, which Sylvan loves,
When the sun begins to fling
His flaring beams, me, Goddess, bring.

THE TEMPLE OF CONCORD AND VICTORY is a large handsome building, of an oblong shape, decorated with twentyeight fluted Ionic columns. This is acknowledged to be one of
the most chaste and elegant ornamental structures in the kingdom;
and as long as it continues to exist, the architect will need no
other monument to record his taste and judgment. It was
originally designed by Kent, who nearly followed the shape and
measurements of the Maison Quaree at Nismes; but the internal
decorations were completed in 1763 by Signior Borra, when the
late Lord Temple gave it the appellation which it now bears, to
perpetuate the remembrance of the peace then ratified at Fontainbleau.

The front pediment is ornamented with an alto-relievo by Scheemaker, representing the four quarters of the world bringing their various products to Britannia. On the top of the building are six statues. The inside contains two gilt vases, a statue, and sixteen medallions, intended to commemorate some of the principal victories obtained in the war which terminated in the year above mentioned. This temple overlooks a most beautiful scene, called the Grecian Valley, commencing at the Park, to which it has been judiciously made to assimilate, by the distribution of large spreading trees at unequal distances. As the valley winds into the gardens, it gradually contracts itself, sinks deeper, and the trees advance more boldly down its steep bank, till at last it becomes entirely secluded by a close thicket, that overhangs the Grötto.

LORD COBHAM'S PILLAR, on the other side of the valley, is 115 feet high, surmounted with a statue of his Lordship. It was originally designed by Gibbs, but has been altered by Valdre, who enlarged the pedestal, in order to receive four lions, that are now placed on the angles. The four principal faces contain the following inscriptions, testimonial of his Lordship's taste, talents, and character.



Ricardo Vicecomiti de Cobham,

Exerciticum Britannicorum Marescallo,
Qui in castris, et in negotiis,
Rempublicam sustinuit;
Et elegantiori hortorum cultu
His primum in agris illustrato
Patrium ornavit,
MDCCXLVII.\*

L. Luculli summi viri virtutis quis? Quam Multi villarum magnificentiam imitati sunt! TULLY'S OFFICES,

And you; brave Cobham, to the latest breath,
Shall feel your ruling passion strong in death;
Such in those moments as in all the past:
"Oh, save my Country, Heav'n!" shall be your last,
A. Pope,

Consult the genius of the place in all,
That bids the waters rise or gently fall;
That bids th' ambitious hills the heav'ns to scale,
Or scoops in circling theatres the vale;
Calls in the country, catches op'ning glades;
Unites the woods, and varies shades from shades;
Nature shall join you; Time shall make it grow
A work to wonder at—perhaps a Stowe.

A. Pops.

Near this column is a beautiful temple, called the QUEEN'S BUILDING, originally designed by Kent, since whose time it has

- To Richard Lord Viscount Cobham, Marshal of the British Armica, whose military and civil Talents sayed his Country; and who adorned it by a more elegant System of modern Gardening, first illustrated on this Spot.
  - † How many have imitated the Magnificence of the Villas of L. Lucullus!

    How few his Virtues!

has been augmented by a Corinthian portico, leading to a large elegant room, decorated with scagliola columns and pilasters, supporting a trunk ceiling, executed from the design of the Temple of the Sun and Moon at Rome. This apartment was decorated after the King's recovery in 1789. At the east and west ends are two medallions of Britannia: In one of them she appears dejected; her spear reversed. On the tablet is this inscription:

Desideriis icta fidelibus Quærit patria Cæsarem.

In the other she is represented sacrificing to Æsculapius on the restoration of His Majesty's health. On the tablet is this inscription:

Oh sol pulcher! Oh laudande canam, Recepto Cæsare felix!†

In the centre of this apartment is a noble statue of Britannia, seated on a fluted pedestal, and supporting a medallion of the Queen, whose affection and conduct are commemorated by the following inscription:

Charlottæ Sophiæ Augustæ
Pietate erga Regem, erga rempublicam
Virtute & constantiå,
In difficillimis temporibus spectatissimæ,
D. D. D.
Georgius M. de Buckingham,

On

That health to Cæsar may be giv'n, A nation's prayers ascend to heav'n.

MDCCDXXXIX.:

+ With joy elate this happy day I sing, When heav'n, to bless the people, sav'd the king.

‡ To the QUREN, most respectable in her most difficult Moments, for her Duty to the King, and her Attachment and Zeal for the public Service, George, M. of Buckingham, dedicates this Monument.



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On the walls of the centre compartment are four other medallions, composed of emblametic trophies: first, of Religion, Justice, and Mercy; second, of Agriculture and Manufacture; third, of Navigation and Commerce; and fourth, of War.

On the opposite side of a deep valley is the most picturesque and curious building in these gardens, denominated the Go-THIC TEMPLE. This is a triangular building, with a pentagonal tower at each corner; one of which rises to the height of seventy feet, and terminates with battlements and pinnacles: the others are surmounted with domes. The whole is constructed with a brownish stone, and being seated on the brow of a hill, forms an interesting object from many parts of the gardens. The inside is richly ornamented with light columns, and various pointed arches; and the windows are glazed with a fine collection of old-painted glass, on which a variety of sacred subjects, and armorial bearings, are represented. The principal room is circular: and its dome is ornamented with the descents and intermarriages of the Temple family, in a regular series of armorial bearings, from the Saxon Earls of Leicester, to the late Lord Viscount Cobham, and Hester, Countess of Temple, his sister and heiress. Two of the towers contain small circular chapels, decorated with painted glass, of the armorial bearings of different families. In the other tower is the stair-case leading to the gallery on the second story, where there are two other small chapels, with the arms of the Saxon heptarchy. This stair-case leads to the top of the highest tower, where a very extensive view is obtained, comprehending the greater part of the domain, and also a wide tract of country, including several parts of Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire, and Bedfordshire.

In a woody recess, near the temple, are some good statues, by Rysbrach, of the seven Saxon deities who gave names to the days of the week; on each of which is a Saxon inscription. At the bottom of a gentle declivity is the Palladian Bridge, so denominated from being built after a design by the celebrated Italian architect. It has one large and four small arches, and is decorated with a ballustrade on each side, and sixteen Ionic columns

columns supporting a roof. This bridge is built of the same shape and dimensions as that at Wilton in Wiltshire. Near it is

THE TEMPLE OF FRIENDSHIP, built in the Tuscan style of architecture, and ornamented with a portico, supported by four columns. The inside is furnished with busts of the following celebrated and noble personages: Frederic, Prince of Wales; the Earls of Chesterfield, Westmoreland, and Marchmont; the Lords Cobham, Gower, and Bathurst; Richard Grenville, late Earl Temple; William Pitt, late Earl of Chatham; and George, late Lord Lyttleton. The remaining objects on this side of the garden are the Pebble Alcove, and Congreve's Monument, executed from a design by Kent. This is decorated with emblematic devices, expressive of the poet's peculiar bent of genius in dramatic compositions. On the top sits a monkey, viewing himself in a glass; with this inscription:

Vitæ imitatis,
Consuetudinis speculum,
Comædia.

On one side of the monument is the following epitaph on this acccomplished author:

Ingenio
Acre, faceto, expolito,
Moribusque
Urbanis, candidis, facillimis.
GULIELMI CONGREVE,
Hoc
Qualecunque desiderii sui
Solamen simul ac
Monumentum
Posuit Cobham.

MDCCXXXVI.+

<sup>\*</sup> Comedy is the Imitation of Life, and the Mirror of Fashion.

<sup>†</sup> To the sprightly, entertaining, elegant Wit, and the polished, candid, easy Manners, of WILLIAM CONGREVE, this, in some sort a Consolation and Memorial of his affectionate Regard, was erected by COBHAM.

Such are the principal objects in these celebrated gardens, where, as Walpole observes, "the rich landscapes occasioned by the multiplicity of temples and obelisks, and the various pictures that present themselves as we shift our situation, occasion both surprise and pleasure; sometimes recalling Albano's landscapes to our mind; and oftener to our fancy, the idolatrous and luxurious vales of Daphne and Tempe."

THE HOUSE is situated on an eminence, rising gradually from the lake to the south front, which is the principal entrance. It covers a large extent of ground, and measures, from east to west, (with the offices,) nine hundred and sixteen feet, of which the centrical four hundred and fifty-four include the principal apartments. These range on each side the saloon, and communicate with each other by a series of doors, placed in a direct line. The south or garden front is composed of a centre, two colonnades, and two pavilion wings the same height as the centre. This side has a rusticated basement, and is adorned with a great number of Corinthian and Ionic columns and pilasters. The design of this front has been attributed + to Mr. Wyatt; but we are assured that no professional architect was employed, and that it owes its composition wholly to the Lords Cobham and Camelford. The portico, or loggia, is approached by a flight of thirty-one steps, at the bottom of which are two massive lions, executed after the model of those in the garden vestibule of the Villa Medici at Rome. The loggia is formed by six Corinthian columns, and two pilasters, which support a projecting pediment. The inside is decorated with thirteen figures in basso-relievo, representing a sacrifice to Bacchus; and also four colossal female statues, and two fine antique figures in white marble, of Cybele and Juno.

THE SALOON is, perhaps, one of the most magnificent apartments of the kind in England, presenting a combination of objects,

Wiews of all the buildings at Stowe, drawn and engraved in a very beautiful manner by T. Medland, have lately been published by Seeley of Buckingham, together with a description of the house and gardens.

<sup>+</sup> By Mr. Shaw, Mr. Bray, &c.

objects, elegant, beautiful and sumptuous. The expences attending the execution of this apartment amounted to 12,000l. Its shape is oval, measuring 60 feet long, 43 broad, and 56½ high.

Sixteen elegant scagliola columns of the Doric order, in imitation of Sicilian Jasper, rise from the pavement, which is composed of the finest Massa Carrara marble, in squares of four feet. The columns were executed by Signior Dom. Bartoli, and have white marble bases and capitals. In the intercolumniations are twelve niches, and four doors; the former occupied by eight large statues, and four bronzed and gilt candelabras, of six feet high. The statues are of Meleager, Augustus, Hygeia, Agrippina, Diana, Venus, Antinous, and a Muse. Above the niches are sixteen compartments of trophies, executed in alto-relievo. The frieze is adorned with various masks of bacchants and satyrs; and over the cornice is a fine piece of alto-relievo, stretching round the room. It represents a Roman triumph and sacrifice, and consists of about 300 figures, most of which are four feet high; among them are blended various trophies, spoils, and animals. This multifarious assemblage was executed by Signior Valdre, who composed or modelled his principal figures from specimens belonging to the pillars of Trajan and Antonine; the arches of Severus, Titus, and Constantine; and from other monuments of Roman grandeur. A richly decorated dome, divided into compartments, ascends above this to an oval skylight. At each end are female figures, terminated in scrollwork, supporting the arms of the late Earl Temple, and the Marquis of Buckingham. This apartment, though particularly grand at any time, appears transcendantly magnificent when illuminated with nearly 100 patent lamps, which disperse their lights from behind the cornice. At these times the effect is greatly heightened by the melodious strains that issue from a concealed music gallery, situated in one corner of the saloon,

THE HALL was designed and painted by Kent; but the arts of design and coloring have so materially improved in this country since his time, that there is but little to admire in these specimens. The ceiling is covered with an allegorical painting, in

which

which King William is represented in the character of Mars, presenting a sword to the late Field Marshal Viscount Cobham, in allusion to that Prince having given him a regiment at his first entrance into the army. Over the chimney is an alto-relievo in white marble by Banks, representing the valiant Caractacus before the throne of Claudius.

A recess in the opposite wall contains another very bold altorelievo, representing the tent of Darius, executed by a French artist named Christopher Viereziux. Also a statue of Paris, in white marble, and two fine antique Vases, on marble pedestals; one of them purchased from Piranese, and the other from Gavin Hamilton. Both are decorated with figures and foliage; that with four serpents forming the handles, is very finely executed. Here are also eight antique marble busts, four transparent alabaster urns, and a small marble sarcophagus. On each side of the Hall are Dressing and Bed Rooms, containing several portraits, and a few other pictures. These apartments lead to the circular corridors, each formed with twenty-seven Ionic columns, and one pilaster. The western division of the house consists of the State Drawing-Room, State Gallery, State Dressing-Room, State Bed-Chamber, and various Closets.

THE STATE DRAWING-ROOM is 50 feet by 32, and 22 high. It contains a collection of well executed pictures, most of which are by the best old masters.\* The principal are these:

Portrait of Dobson, by himself. This artist was recommended to Charles the First by Vandyck, who became acquainted with him through observing one of his pictures exposed for sale on Snow Hill. The piece had merit; and Vandyck inquiring for the painter, was introduced to Dobson, who was then at work in a shattered garret. He painted many of the Nobles of Charles's court, but his conduct being imprudent, he became involved in debt, and was committed to prison, whence he was delivered by Mr.

In describing the pictures in this collection, which is very extensive, and particularly rich in portraits, we have adopted the names of the artists as printed in the catalogue.

Mr. Vaughan, of the Exchequer, but died soon afterwards, in 1646, aged 36.

A fine sketch by Vandyck, representing Prince Henry and Prince Maurice of Nassau, on large white horses.

REMBRANDT'S FATHER: Rembrandt.

HELENA FORMAN, one of Ruben's wives: Rubens. This lady was supposed to be the artist's greatest favorite, as he copied her countenance for most of his Madonas.

Rachel's Tent: G. Douw. It is generally understood that this artist confined his pencil to small pieces; and Pilkington implies, that his largest pictures did not exceed three feet square. The present performance is above five feet square, finished with that peculiar neatness, and patient detail, for which Douw was celebrated. In one corner are his initials, G. D. The subject is taken from the 31st Chapter of Genesis, when Rachel is described as secreting the stolen gods from Laban and Jacob. She is represented sitting on a bundle of wheat, in one corner of the picture, with two old men and a boy behind her. The tent is strewed with culinary utensils. The composition, coloring, and expression, are very fine; and the ears of wheat, and minutize of parts, touched with wonderful precision.

SIR RICHARD LEVESON, Knight of the Bath: Vandyck.

St. Catharine and St. Barbara; two curious old pictures, by Albert Durer.

View of the Bay at Gravelines, in French Flanders: Ruisdael. This is a beautiful little picture; the sky, water, and aerial perspective are finely painted.

Two exquisite paintings of our Saviour and the Madona, from the Colonna palace, by Carlo Dolci. Most of this artist's productions are finished with extraordinary neatness, transparency, and minutiæ of penciling.

Head of St. Peter; two different compositions of the Holy Family; and a head of St. Paul: Rubens.

Two Landscapes: Gasper Poussin.

Venus reclining: Titian. This picture, though not in good preservation, contains some beautiful coloring, and the figure is very finely drawn. It was purchased from Gavin Hamilton, who, having reduced his finances by his liberality, and the great expence attending his exploratory investigations at Herculaneum, sent this to the Marquis, with a request for an immediate remittance.

A Landscape with Satyrs: P. Brueghel. Delicately colored, and finished with minute attention, even to a blade of grass.

A large Landscape, with Alehouse, and a group of three Figures resting on their staffs: D. Teniers.

In this apartment there is also a fine Italian chimney-piece, in the centre of which is an antique tablet of oriental alabaster, representing the emblems of a sacrifice to Bacchus, and heads of bacchanals. The pilasters are of porphyry, together with part of the entablature; the remainder is of the finest white marble; on the mantle-piece is a very valuable transparent vase of oriental alabaster.

THE STATE GALLERY, 70 feet by 25, and 22 high, is splendidly furnished with settee chairs, covered with blue silk damask. Its walls are hung with five large curious pieces of tapestry. The two chimney-pieces are of Sienna marble, executed by Mr. Lovel. On the tables and mantle-pieces are some fine bronze statues of Hercules, Flora, Venus, &c.

THE STATE DRESSING ROOM, 30 feet by 24, and 19 high, is also hung with tapestry, worked at the request of Lord Cobham, and some other officers, (serving under the Great Duke of Marlborough,) who raised a subscription for the purpose. The different pieces represent the actions of the cavalry in the allied army: the largest displays the battle at Wynendael wood.\*

A fine portrait of the late Field Marshal Viscount Cobham: Sir Godfrey Kneller.

Two capital pictures of a Burgomaster and his Wife: Van Horst.

THE

<sup>\*</sup> Similar sets were worked for the Duke of Marlborough, at Blenheim; Lord Cadogan, at Caversham; Duke of Argyle, at Inverary; Lord Orkney, at Cliefden; General Lumley, at Wanstead; and General Webb.

THE STATE BED CHAMBER, 50 feet by 35, and 18 high, is distinguished by its magnificent bed, executed by Signior Borra. The chairs, window curtains, and hangings, are of crimson damask. Over the chimney is a copy, by Sir Godfrey Kneller, of Vandyck's celebrated picture at Hampton Court, representing Charles the First on a white horse, attended by Monsieur St. Simon. The ceiling is ornamented with the insignia of the Garter. The room, closets, and japan cabinets, contain a vast collection of curious old china.\*

THE STATE CLOSET contains several good cabinet pictures.

A portrait of the present King of Denmark: A. Kauffman.

The Adoration of the Magi: P. Veronese.

A Boy and Woman by Candlelight: Schalken. Many curious anecdotes are related of this artist, one of them strongly characterizes his unpolite sincerity. "Having drawn a lady, says Mr. Walpole," who was marked with the small-pox, but had handsome hands, she asked him, when the face was finished, if she must not sit for her hunds. "No," replied Schalken: "I always draw them from my housemaid."

A Battle-piece : Vander Meulen.

Inside of a Church: P. Neefs.

Flemish Piece by Moonlight: Swickhart. Exquisitely colored.

Two Sketches: Rubens. One of Venus and Adonis; the other of the Adoration of the Magi.

Two small Fruit-pieces, painted with much truth of coloring by Smith of Chichester.

Holy Family: Corregio. This small picture (about 10 inches square) was purchased by Mr. Craggs for two hundred guineas, and, with the principal part of that gentleman's collection, descended to the Marquis.

Returning through the Saloon, we shall next describe the principal objects in the apartments situated on the eastern side of the house.

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<sup>\*</sup> The beginning of the last century was particularly distinguished by a rage for collecting and displaying a profusion of china; many remnants of which still exist in some of the old family mansions.

THE MUSIC ROOM corresponds in size and shape with the State Drawing Room, but being particularly appropriated to sound, the walls are totally divested of framed paintings: yet the whole apartment has been ornamented in a most elegant and chaste style, by Signior Valdre. Each end of the room is decorated with scagliola columns, executed in imitation of Sienna marble, by Signior Bartoli; the capitals, mouldings, and other ornaments, are richly gilt. The walls are divided into pannels, and painted with arabesque and other subjects, executed with the greatest neatness. The general idea is taken from the Loggia of Raphael at Rome.

At one end is a recess for the instruments, decorated with pilasters, painted on a gold ground; and a statue of Apollo, richly gilt, placed on a pedestal containing an organ. The ceiling is painted with much taste, and was executed by Valdre from a design of Raphael. It is divided into compartments, some of which are painted in chiaro scuro upon pink grounds; but the principal are executed in colors. In the centre is a gilt sun; which, from its judicious management, appears to blend its rays with the sky. This is surrounded with an allegorical representation of the Dance of the Hours; the Seasons; Aurora, the Goddess of Morning; and the figure of Night, who, wrapt in her "murky mantle," is retiring behind a cloud. The chimney-piece is Roman; the pannels of Rosso-Antico, with ornaments in Or-moulu.

THE LIBRARY, which is nearly finished, occupies the space that was recently the Drawing and Dining Rooms. This is the same size and shape as the State Gallery, and is situated in that part of the building which connects the centre with one of the pavilions. It contains above 10,000 volumes, many of which are very rare and valuable; and a great collection of unpublished writings. Among them is an invaluable assortment of Irish manuscripts, including all the papers of Mr. Charles O'Conner: some of them are reported to be the productions of the 7th, 8th, and 9th centuries. In this apartment are two globes of the largest size, made by Dudley Adams. The celestial globe is graduated

graduated in the same manner as that of the terrestrial, by lines of latitude and longitude. The stars are of seven different magnitudes, distinguished by different colored foils; and the nebulæ are marked with silver: the number of stars represented amounts to 4944.

The Portraits in the Dressing and Grenville Rooms are very numerous: we shall mention the principal, and illustrate the list with appropriate anecdote.

EARL NUGERT: Gainsborough. A full length, painted in a blue coat and breeches, with a beautiful landscape seen through the window of the room in which he appears sitting.

MRS, SIDDONS: Lady Buckingham. This eminent actress is portrayed in the character of the Tragic Muse, supported by the genii of Pity and of Horror. This was copied from the celebrated picture of Sir Joshua Reynolds, and is a fine specimen of her Ladyship's taste and talents in the fascinating art of painting.

EDWARD SEYMOUR, Duke of Somerset, and Protector in the early part of the reign of Edward the Sixth. The advancement of this Nobleman's fortune was occasioned by the marriage of his sister, the accomplished Jane Seymour, with Henry the Eighth. On that event he was honored with the title of Viscount Beauchamp. The ensuing year he was created Earl of Hertford; and some time afterwards was promoted to the office of Lord Chamberlain. On the death of Henry, he was chosen governor to the young King, and declared Protector. In this situation his conduct was imprudent, and in some respects unjust. The possession of so much authority destroyed the gentler virtues, and rendered him proud, impetuous, and overbearing. "His contributing to the ruin of the Howards, hurt him much in the eyes of the nation. His severity to his own brother, though a vain and worthless man, was still less excusable. His injustice to his own issue was monstrous; for, influenced by his second Duchess, and countenanced by the servility of Parliament, he deprived his eldest son of his inheritance and titles." With all his faults, however, he had many good qualities; and his attention to the interests of the poor was generous and noble; though, by

a strange perversity of argument, it was adduced, by his enemies, as a charge to criminate him. The superior art and interest of the Earl of Warwick first bereaved him of his Protectorship, and afterwards of life. He was arraigned for conspiring the Earl's death, and, by a forced construction of a recent law, declared guilty of felony, and beheaded the 24th of January, in the year 1552.

THOMAS SEYMOUR, Lord Sudley, High Admiral, and brother to the Protector. Lord Sudley was a man of eminent abilities, but uncontroulable ambition. On the death of Henry the Eighth, he married the Queen Dowager, who dying in child-bed, or, according to some writers, of poison, he aspired to the possession of the Princess Elizabeth, and accompanied his pretensions to her hand with indications of violence. For this, and some other turbulent conduct, he was accused of traitorous designs, and condemned by an act of attainder, to expiate his crimes on the scaffold. The Protector incurred considerable odium by permitting his execution, which, it was generally thought, was occasioned less from his being dangerous to the state, than troublesome to the existing government. Both these portraits are said in the catalogue to be undoubted originals. Of the admiral, there is only one more portrait known to be extant, and that is at Longleat, in Wiltshire.

QUEEN CATHERINE PARR. Catherine, the most fortunate of Henry's wives, was a great encourager of learning, and friend to the Reformation; though the tyranny of her husband's temper obliged her to use extreme care in the exertion of her influence. Once, indeed, her life was in much danger; Henry had consented to her impeachment, and Catherine's life hung upon a thread. From this peril she was relieved by a well-timed compliment to the Monarch's abilities. "She was a prudent, amiable woman; and, though neither over young, nor exquisitely handsome, found means to gain more influence with her capricious mate, than either of the young beauties that had preceded her."\*

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ANNA BOLEYN. This unfortunate Queen of Henry the Eighth, is described by Lord Herbert as being "of that singular beautie and towardnesse, that her parents took all care possible for her good education: therefore, besides the ordinary parts of virtuous instructions, wherewith shee was liberally brought up, they gave her teachers in playing on musical instruments, singing and dancing; insomuch, that when she composed her hands to play, and voice to sing, it was joined with that sweetnesse of countenance that-three harmonies concurred: likewise, when she danced, her rare proportions varied themselves into all the graces that belong either to rest or motion." These accomplishments, improved by the ease and self-possession she had acquired at the court of France, captivated, but could not secure, the affections of the salacious Henry, who having conceived a passion for Jane Seymour, caused his Queen to be tried for an incestuous intercourse with her own brother, and adultery with four other persons. This abominable charge rested on no other grounds than some slight indiscretions, which her "simplicity had equally betrayed her to commit and to avow." No proof of innocence, however, could avail with the stern Harry: she was condemned to die, and expired on the scaffold, the 19th of May, 1536. In one of the affecting protestations she sent to her unfeeling persecutor, she thus expressed herself: "From a private station you have raised me to that of countess; from a countess you have made me queen; you now can only raise me one step higher, to be a saint in heaven." Anna Boleyn, when in the plenitude of her power, was a distinguished promoter of the Reformation. This circumstance is alluded to by the classical Gray in these lines;

> When love could teach a Monarch to be wise, And gospel light first beam'd from Boleyn's eyes,

HENRY THE SEVENTH. CHARLES THE FIRST.

SHELDON, Archbishop of Canterbury. The amiable and benevolent disposition of this prelate, has ensured the remembrance of his virtues to the latest posterity. He was truly a husband to A PARTY OF

the widow, and a father to the orphan; the extent of his charities being only bounded by his means. From the private statement of his accounts, it appeared, that during a space of fourteen years, he had expended 60,000l. in acts of benevolence only.

PETER TEMPLE. The founder of Stowe, in 1560.

JOHN TEMPLE. This gentleman was bred in the court of Charles the First, who made him Master of the Rolls, and one of the Privy-Council in Ireland. He was afterwards imprisoned, with some other members of the council, for opposing the measures of the Duke of Ormond. In the year 1644 he was exchanged, and called to the English Parliament, of which he continued a member till 1648, when he was excluded on voting for the conditions then pending with the King. During Cromwell's government he remained in retirement at London, but at the Restoration was reinstated in his former offices in Ireland, where he died at the age of seventy-seven.

HESTER SANDYS, wife to Sir Thomas Temple, Bart. This lady, as we are informed by Fuller, had only four sons and nine daughters, yet lived to see above seven hundred of her own descendants.

LORD VISCOUNT COBHAM: Vanloo. This gentleman was eminently distinguished for his bravery and conduct during the wars of Queen Ann, at the commencement of whose reign he entered the army as a volunteer, but was afterwards promoted to the rank of lieutenant-general; and on the accession of George the First, appointed plenipotentiary to the Emperor.

SIR BEVIL GRENVILLE, killed at the battle of Lansdown in the year 1643. "That which would have clouded any victory," says Lord Clarendon, "and made the loss of others less spoken of, was the death of Sir Bevil Grenville. He was, indeed, an excellent person, whose activity, interest, and reputation, were the foundation of what had been done in Cornwall; and his temper and affections so public, that no accident which happened could make any impression on him. In a word, a brighter courage, and a gentler disposition, were never married together, to make the most cheerful and innocent conversation."

RICHARD GRENVILLE, of Wotton, born 1527.

RICHARD GRENVILLE, of Wotton, born 1586.

RICHARD GRENVILLE, of Wotton: Sir Godfrey Kneller.

HESTER TEMPLE, his wife; the lady who succeeded her bro-

HESTER TEMPLE, his wife; the lady who succeeded her brother to the estate and titles.

The Right Honorable GEORGE GRENVILLE, father to Lord Buckingham: Sir Joshua Reynolds.

WILLIAM PITT, first Earl of Chatham. In the second volume of Seward's Anecdotes, there is a spirited and well-drawn character of this accomplished statesman. The qualities and effect of his eloquence are thus delineated: " It possessed great force of light and shade: it occasionally sunk to colloquial familiarity, and occasionally rose to epic sublimity. If he crept sometimes with Timæus, he as often thundered and lightened with Pericles. His irony, though strong, was ever dignified; his power of ridicule, irresistible; and his invective so terrible, that the objects of it sunk under it like shrubs before the withering and blasting east. Whoever heard this great man speak, always brought away something that remained upon his memory, and upon his imagination. A verbum ardens, a glowing word, a happy facility of expression, an appropriate metaphor, a forcible image, or a sublime figure, never failed to recompense the attention which the hearer had bestowed upon him."

MARTIN LUTHER: H. Holbein, The life of this intrepid reformer was passed in perpetual warfare with the united forces of the Papal world, and all the thunders of the Vatican were ineffectually employed to counteract the effects of his dreaded arguments. The energies of his mind were directed by the most ardent zeal; the expression of his sentiments was accompanied with the most uncontroulable vehemence. "Whatever he says," observes Melancthon, "whatever he writes, pierces to the very soul." His person was imposing and dignified; and the expression of his eye so acute and powerful, as even to awe and terrify an assassin who had gained admittance to his chamber with an intention to murder him. He died in the year 1552, aged 69.

X 4 GENERAL

GENERAL MICHAEL RICHARDS, and his brother, General JOHN RICHARDS. These officers are painted at full length on the same canvas. In the back-ground is a view of Belgrade, with a representation of the siege of that strong fortress in the year 1688. John Richards was afterwards Governor of Alicant; and, upon refusing to capitulate, was blown up March the 3d, 1709.

GENERAL RICHARD LAMBERT: D. Fuller.

CHARLES THE SECOND: given by him to Sir R. Temple.

ADMIRAL RUSSELL, Earl of Orford, an original. This gallant officer had a principal share in the conduct of the Revolution in 1688, and was rewarded with the command of the English fleet. In 1692 he gained the celebrated battle of La Hogue, and in 1696 disconcerted the invasion projected by the French in favor of King James.

WILLIAM THE THIRD, when young; an original.

OLIVER CROMWELL: Richardson the Elder. This portrait is said to be original; an affirmation receiving strength from its having been given to Lord Cobham in the year 1685 by Sir Peter Temple, of Stanton Bury, in this county. Sir Peter is portrayed in this picture as a boy tying the Protector's scarf.

JAMES CRAGGS, Secretary of State to George the First: Sir Godfrey Kneller. The firm integrity and undeviating rectitude that governed the conduct of this gentleman, have been well expressed in the epitaph on his tomb in Westminster Abbey, written by Pope.

> Statesman, yet friend to truth! of soul sincere; In action faithful, and in honor clear; Who broke no promise, serv'd no private end; Who gain'd no title, and who lost no friend: Ennobled by himself, by all approv'd; Prais'd, wept, and honor'd, by the Muse he lov'd.

DEAN SWIFT: Samuel Bindon. This portrait was sent with some verses from Dr. Dunkin to Lord Nugent. The following spirited

<sup>\*</sup> The drawings and journals of this siege are in the possession of the Marquis.

spirited sketch of the Dean's character has been drawn in a late publication. "Ill-natured in his satire, petulant in his politics, and indecent in his wit. A writer whose works, though they exhibit constant examples of a powerful fancy, and comprehensive knowledge, are not calculated either to give confidence to virtue, or corroboration to morality."

DR. MORECROFT, represented leaning on a magnificent bible now in the possession of Lord Buckingham.

JAMES, DUKE OF YORK: given by him to Sir Richard Temple. This present was in all probability made at an early period of their acquaintance; Sir Richard being afterwards particularly active in favor of the Bill to exclude the Duke from succeeding to the Throne.

JOHN CHURCHILL, Duke of Marlborough,

COLONEL JAMES STANYAN: Dobson.

THE MARQUIS DE VIEUVILLE, Ambassador from France to Charles the First: Vandyck. This is a very excellent picture. The Marquis lost his life at the second battle of Newbury.

QLD RICHARD DESBOROUGH, and his jolly Wife: Dobson. These portraits of Cromwell's sister and brother-in-law are very highly finished, and colored with much delicacy and truth.

JOHN LOCKE.

MR. POPE: Hudson. This great Poet is represented with a care-worn and sallow countenance: but the faithful pencil of the artist seems not to have worked in unison with his employer's vanity, as the latter afterwards engaged another painter, to portray him with fuller cheeks, and a more ruddy complexion. The latter piece is a miniature in Lady Buckingham's Dressing Room.

THE BILLIARD ROOM, 29 feet in length, 26 wide, and 19 high, is also decorated with portraits, many of which are original and curious.

CATHARINE OF BRAGANZA, Wife to Charles the Second. This Princess, bred to the pious observance of all the superstitious ceremonies of the Catholic religion, was extremely shocked at the licentiousness of her husband's conduct; yet, when the first emotions of her grief subsided, she appears to have conceived a

sincere

sincere passion for him, and ever after to have loved him with tenderness. The strength of her affection is proved by a singular circumstance, related in the Memoirs of the Count de Grammont. Being given over by her physicians, and at the point of death, she was visited by the King, and supposing it would be the last time she should ever speak to him, " Told him, that the concern he showed for her death, was enough to make her quit life with regret; but that, not possessing charms sufficient to merit his tenderness, she had at least the consolation in dying to give place to a consort who might be more worthy of it, and to whom heaven, perhaps, might grant a blessing that had been refused to her.\* At these words she bathed his hands with some tears, which she thought would be her last. He mingled his own with hers; and, without supposing she would take him at his word, conjured her to live for his sake." The sudden impulse produced by this unexpected kindness gave a check to the disorder, and saved her life. She outlived the King nearly twenty years.

ELEANOR GWYNN; whole length: Sir Peter Lely. Nell Gwynn, the facetious mistress of the inconstant Charles, was the daughter of a tradesman in low circumstances, and her employment in the early part of her life was equally menial with her origin. From selling oranges at a Theatre, her budding beauty, and sprightly disposition, advanced her to the stage; and her genius being adapted to the airy, fantastic exhibitions of the Comic Muse, she became the general favorite of the votaries of Thalia. When in this situation, she was considered as the best speaker of prologues and epilogues of her time, and several of each were purposely written to receive the advantage of her fascinating delivery. Mrs. Gwynn was of small stature; and Dryden, through whose patronage she had performed some superior characters, caused her to speak an epilogue under the shade of a hat

<sup>\*</sup> The Queen in this speech appears to allude to her own sterility, and to the fair Miss Stewart, whom, it was supposed, the King intended to take for his second wife,

made of the circumference of a large coach-wheel. The singularity of her appearance, and her archness of enunciation, convulsed the house with laughter, and was the immediate precursor of her elevation to the Monarch's bed. Charles was then in the play-house, and, on the conclusion of the performance, invited her to supper, and conveyed her home in his own carriage. This sudden advance of circumstances seems to have had very little influence on her temper. She still continued gay, wild, and sportive; qualities which so effectually endeared her to the King, that all the beauties of his other mistresses could never deprive her of his affection. Her ingenuous levity of speech, and acute penetration, may be illustrated by a short anecdote. Charles was frequently at variance with his council and parliament; and one day, when the remonstrances of his subjects, and debates in his cabinet, had much affected him, he entered her apartments in a very pensive mood, and, on her requesting information as to the cause of his melancholy, exclaimed, "O, Nell! Nell! what can I do to please the people of England? I am torn in pieces by their clamours." "There is one way left," said the shrewd Eleanor; " but the expedient, I am afraid, it will be difficult to persuade you to embrace." "What is that?" asked the King, in a tone expressive of curiosity. " Only dismiss your ladies, and mind your business," replied Nell, "the people will soon be pleased." She died at her house in Pall-Mall, in the year 1691.

LADY JANE GREY: an original. The complexion of this lady was rather homely, but the beauty of her intellectual endowments compensated the want of personal charms. Her astonishing fortitude was completely demonstrated in her last moments, when, either by accident, or the most cruel inattention, she met the headless body of her beloved husband as she was passing to the scaffold.\* On this occasion she wrote three sentences in her table-book, in as many languages. One line in Greek was to this effect: "That if his lifeless body should give testimony

<sup>\*</sup> Pennant's Journey to Chester.

testimony against her before man, his most blessed soul would give an eternal proof of her innocence in the presence of God."

MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS. The portraits supposed to represent this unfortunate Princess are exceedingly unlike each other, and all of them differ from the gold medal struck at Paris, on which she appears with her husband Francis the Second. The medal is in the late Dr. Hunter's museum, and represents her as having a turned-up nose. Her figure, however, was so graceful, and her look so fascinating and heavenly, that, when carrying the water in the pix at the procession of the host in France, a woman burst through the crowd to touch her, that she might convince herself that the Queen was not an angel.

MARY CURZON, Countess of Dorset: Vandyck.

PRINCE EUGENE of Savoy, the companion and friend of the Duke of Marlborough, and at one time so much a favorite with the English, that, according to Horace Walpole, an old maid bequeathed him 2500l. and a gardener 100l.

The Lord Treasurer Southampton: Vandyck. The attachment of this great man and his three friends, the Duke of Richmond, and the Earls of Hertford and Lindsey, to Charles the First, induced them to offer themselves as victims to preserve the life of that Monarch. They presented a petition to the Commons, alledging, that they alone were guilty in the eye of the law, as they had acted as counsellors to his Majesty in the several measures imputed to him as crimes, and ought therefore to expiate the supposed offences of the King. On the Restoration, the generous conduct of Southampton was rewarded with the treasurer's rod; but within a few years his services were forgotten, and the ingratitude of an abandoned court would have wrested the staff from his dying hands, if the Chancellor Hyde had not persuaded the King to wait till his death, which in a few days was inevitable. He died of the stone in the year 1669.

WILLIAM EARL OF PEMBROKE: Vandyck. The courtesy of this Nobleman, and his facctious disposition, procured him many

<sup>\*</sup> Seward's Anecdotes, Vol. I.

many friends, and seemed to cancel the remembrance of his love of pleasure, which frequently degenerated to abandoned sensuality.

CHARLES THE FIRST, and his Queen HENRIETTA MARIAS Vandyck. The bigotted and unwise conduct of the lovely Henrietta, was the principal cause of the King's misfortunes. Her detestation of heretical ceremonies is said to have been so great, that she regarded the rights of coronation as profune, and would only attend as a private spectator when the diadem was placed on the brow of her husband. Among the letters of this Princess in the British Museum, there is one written soon after the unsuccessful attempt upon Hull, in the year 1642. This letter is strongly expressive of her intrepidity: the original is in French, and without a date. "When I was closing my letter, Sir L. Dives came, and told me all that had passed at Hull. Do not lose courage, but pursue the business with resolution; for you must now evince that you will make good what you have undertaken. If the man who is in the place will not submit, you have already declared him a traitor, and you must have him dead or alive; for matters begin to be very serious. You must declare yourself: you have shewn sufficient forbearance, you must now show firmness. You see what has happened from not having followed your first resolution, when you denounced the five members, traitors; let that serve as an example; dally no longer with consultations, but proceed to action. I heartily wished myself in the place of my son James in Hull; I would have thrown the scoundrel Hotham over the walls, or he should me. I am in such haste to dispatch this bearer, that I can write to nobody else. Go boldly to work:-I see there is no hope of accommodation," &c.

FRANCIS, the second Earl of Bedford.

SIR FRANCIS BACON, "the PROPHET OF ARTS, which NEWTON was sent afterwards to reveal." The celebrity of Bacon may be attributed as much to his corrupt administration of justice, as to the astonishing vigor of his understanding; for the depraved actions of individuals are more impressed on the

memory of the species, than either their endowments or good qualities. While, however, we revert to his misconduct, it would be ungenerous to withhold applause from the spirit which enabled him to survive disgrace, and apply the resources of his genius to the illustration of science by experiment, its only true criterion. Shame, it has been justly said, "recalled his virtue, and retirement confirmed her influence: the absence of wealth banished the desire of it: he relinquished the dreams of ambition, lost the thirst of riches, and turned his immense talents to much more nobler objects, the pursuits of natural and moral philosophy; his discoveries and improvements in which will be remembered and acknowledged, as long as they continue to exercise and gratify the human intellect." How deeply is it to be regretted that HE, who could explore and comprehend the secret workings of nature, should have debased his God-like faculties, by descending to mean and mercenary practices!

THE LORD TREASURER BURLEIGH. The consummate abilities of this great Minister were always directed to the maintenance of the true interests of the nation. War he abhorred; and, to the extent of his power, avoided increasing the burthens of the people for unnecessary purposes. "I do not love," was his expression, "to see the treasury swell like a disordered spleen, while the other parts of the commonwealth are in a consumption." His private virtues were equal to his public conduct, and his actions were regulated by temperance, moderation, industry, and justice. His magnificence was accompanied by hospitality, and the sums he consumed in deeds of alms amounted to 500l. annually. His conduct, as a Judge, was exemplary and just: "He would never," says his biographer, + " suffer lawyers to digress or wrangle in pleading; advising counsellors to deal truly and wisely with their clients; that if the matter was naught, to tell them so, and not to soothe them; and when he found such a lawyer, he would never think him honest, nor recommend him to any preferments, as not fit to be a judge that would give false council."

Mr. Quin: Gainsborough. Few heroes of the sock and buskin have experienced such various transitions of fortune as this gentleman. He was bred to the inheritance of a handsome estate, of which, on the death of his father, he obtained possession; but was afterwards ejected by an unexpected claimant, who proved to be the real heir. He was then reduced to seek a livelihood on the stage, and doomed for a considerable time to represent the most inferior characters, till the death of Booth paved the way for his moving in a higher sphere, and ultimately, to his exaltation to the management of Drury Lane Theatre. When the current of popular opinion set so strongly in favor of Garrick, that all rival competition was fruitless, Quin retired to Bath on a moderate fortune. He died in that city in the year 1766.

CAMDEN. This portrait of the learned inquirer into British antiquities bears strong marks of originality. He is painted at half length, with a ruff, black cap, and herald's coat. Under his hand is a delineation of his invaluable Britannia, and in one corner of the picture his coat of arms. Mr. Gough, in his life of this illustrious antiquary, has mentioned three portraits of him, as being the only ones that survived the fire of London: this piece, however, seems to render the assertion doubtful.

Joseph Addison: Kneller. The chaste and elegant author of the Spectator presented this portrait to the Marquis of Wharton, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whom he accompanied to that country as secretary. The following extracts from a genuine letter sent by Addison to a Lady, whom he had formerly loved, and from whom he received certain hints impossible to be misunderstood, convey a very exalted idea of the purity of his heart, "It would be ridiculous in me, after the late intimation you were pleased to favor me with, to affect any longer an ignorance of your sentiments, however opposite an approbation of them must be to the dictates of reason and justice. This expression, I am sensible, may appear inconsistent in the mouth of a polite man, but I hope it is no disgrace to a sincere one. In matters of importance,

portance, delicacy ought to give way to truth, and ceremony must be sacrificed to candor. An honest freedom is the privilege of ingenuity, and the mind which is above the practice of deceit can never stoop to be guilty of flattery. You have passions, you say, Madam; give me leave to answer, you have understanding also: you have a heart susceptible of the tenderest impressions, but a soul, if you chuse to awaken it, beyond an unwarrantable indulgence of them; and let me intreat you, for your own sake, to resist any giddy impulse or ill-placed inclination which shall induce you to entertain a thought prejudical to your honor, and repugnant to your virtue." After mentioning the affection he had conceived for her while single, he adds, "Time and absence, at length, abated a hopeless passion, and your marriage with my patron effectually cured it. Do not, Madam, endeavour to rekindle that flame; do not destroy a tranquillity I have just began to taste, and blast your own honor, which has hitherto been unsullied."

In the NEW DINING ROOM are the following pieces.

REMBRANDT'S WIFE, in the character of Minerva: Rem-

JOHN, the last Duke of Cleves: Rembrandt. This Nobleman was occasionally confined for insanity by his father Duke William. In the collection of the King of Prussia there is a painting of this delirious nobleman, called Sampson in the Prison of Gaza, which only differs from the present picture by the omission of two black boys in the back-ground.

Vertumnus and Pomona: Tintoretto.

Christ rising from the Tomb: Tintoretto.

A Battle Piece: Borgognone.

St. Catherine, St. James and the Holy Lamb: Tintoretto.

A Scene from the Novel of the Castle of Otranto: Lady Buckingham. In this performance her Ladyship has evinced the possession of original genius, and proved that she can design as well as copy.

A Flemish Farm Yard : Mieris,

The Entry of Louis XIV into Paris. This curious picture was formerly in the Palais Royal collection.

View of Pekin: Jolli. Esteemed a good and correct view of that magnificent city. The river, which appears winding up to its walls, is covered with junks and other vessels. The peculiarity of the Chinese buildings seems to be marked with accuracy. Jolli was servant to a missionary who had free access to Pekin.

David playing on the Harp, attended by various other Musicians: Lastmann. Sir Joshua Reynolds acknowledged that this was a very curious and valuable picture. The artist was generally scrupulously correct in the costume of his figures, and the drawing of his vases and instruments; but, perhaps, derived more celebrity from having been the master of Rembrandt, than from the productions of his own pencil. In this picture he is said to have introduced his own portrait, playing on a violin.

Death of Adonis: Rubens. Adonis is represented in a beautiful landscape, which is drawn and colored in a very masterly manner; it demonstrates that the artist's excellence was not confined to figures.

Orpheus and the Brutes: H. Bassan. A curious picture; in which the artist seems to have included nearly the whole of the animal creation.

Titian's Mistress in the character of Venus: Titian.

In this room there is also a sarcophagus, found on the road to Tivoli, and brought from Rome by Lord Buckingham. It is about three feet long, by twenty inches deep: on the top lies a snake and a human figure, finely executed. At one end is the following inscription: D. M. Antonia Pacuvio filia fecit sibi et Erennio filio suo piissimo, imperatoris Trajani Cæsaris Auguste Germanici servo dispensatori Montaniano.

THE CHAPEL completes this suite of apartments. It is wainscotted with cedar, and hung with crimson velvet. Over the communion table is a copy of that sweet picture at Wilton, by Rubens, called The Holy Lamb. The sides are decorated with eight paintings from scripture history; and among the ornaments are some fine pieces of carving by Gibbons.

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We cannot conclude the description of this celebrated seat, without noticing, that when it was in the possession of Lord Cobbam, its festive board was attended by many of the most distinguished poets and literati of the age. The harmonious Pope and the witty Chesterfield, the plaintive Hammond\* and the eloquent Lyttleton, the ingenious Pitt and the acute West, were among the number of its frequent visitants. Where genius and talent were blended in such close union, we cannot but imagine, that "the feast of reason, and the flow of soul," were happily realized.

### WATER STRATFORD.

A SMALL village near the borders of the county, west of Buckingham, became famous towards the conclusion of the seventeenth century, for the singular doctrines of its rector, Mr. John Mason, and the absurd credulity of the numerous assemblage of common people whom the fame of his preaching attracted from all parts of the neighbourhood. Every barn and out-house were crowded with his infatuated followers; many of whom disposed of their whole property, under the persuasion that the millenium was approaching, and that faithful believers would shortly have all things in common. The minister himself was a man of irreproachable life and unaffected piety, with a competent degree of learning; but the mysteries of Calvinism and the apocalypse, conjointly with bodily distemper, appear to have overwhelmed his understanding, and subjected him to those internal feelings, which caused him to assert, that he had seen the Lord Christ, who would "appear at Water Stratford, and come and judge the world on the Witsunday following."

The weak minds of his auditors were so impressed with the truth of this prediction, and firmly convinced of their own awaiting happiness, that they expressed their joy by the most frantic actions. Day and night were passed in dancing and singing hallelujahs; and accompanying their absurd gestures with loud shouts of Glory, Glory. In the midst of these revellings of delirium.

<sup>\*</sup> Hammond died at Stowe in the year 1742. West was Lord Cobham's nephew.

rium, Mason was struck speechless; an event which Dr. Paxton, an eminent physician, ascribed to the violent exertion he had employed to enforce his arguments. He had previously told his congregation, that when he died, he should "rise in three days after his decease, and with his body ascend into heaven." Even this tale was credited by his ignorant hearers; and as the loss of speech was the immediate prelude to his death, they waited with the most anxious expectation for its accomplishment.

Before the three days were expired, the body was interred; and such was the rooted enthusiasm of his flock, that several of them avowed they had seen him, and spoken with him, after his resurrection: nor could any of them be convinced of the absurdity of his tenets, till the Reverend Mr. Rushwood, his successor, had the grave opened, and the corpse exposed to the populace. The web of credulity had been woven too strong to be entirely destroyed, for even this evidence proved insufficient to detach the minds of many of his followers from the belief of his doctrines, and for years afterwards they assembled at a house in the village, sung the same hymns, used the same ceremonies, and made the same extravagant gestures, as formerly. The sect became extinct about the year 1740. "The chief thing," said a gentleman in a letter to Brown Willis, "this new religion produced, was, that several women had their bellies raised."

### BITLESDON,

At the time of the compilation of the domesday-book, belonged to the Conqueror, but soon aferwards became the property of Robert de Mapershall, who, to escape punishment for having stolen one of the King's hounds, gave it to the chamberlain of Henry the First, Jeffrey de Clinton, who possessed great influence with the Sovereign. De Mapershall, having married a relation of Clinton's, received the manor back again; but was a second time deprived of it, during the civil wars in the reign of Stephen. It was then, by the favor of Robert de Bellamont, Earl of Leicester, given to

<sup>\*</sup> History, &c. of the Hundred of Buckinghamshire.

Ernald de Bosco, his steward, who in the year 1147 founded a small abbey here of the Cistercian order, and endowed it with the estate, which continued in possession of the monks till the dissolution. Queen Elizabeth bestowed it on Arthur, Lord Grey of Wilton, on the attainder of whose son it reverted to the Crown, and was given to the Duke of Buckingham. His successor sold it to Henry Sayer, who bequeathed it to his son John, then a minor, who was afterwards murdered, on the 29th of January, 1712, by an attorney, who cohabited with his wife. It then descended to Henry Sayer, who destroyed all the remains of the abbey, and entirely levelled the ground on which it stood.

### LUFFIELD,

SITUATED on the borders of Whittlebury Forest, partly in Northamptonshire, was, previous to the suppression of the religious houses, numbered with the monastic possessions of this county. Robert Bossue, Earl of Leicester, in the year 1124, founded a Benedictine priory here, as an oblation for the souls of William and his Queen Matilda. It received benefactions from Henry the First, Maud, his daughter, Edward the First, and Pope Alexander the Third, who invested it with various privileges; but all its endowments were insufficient for its maintenance; and, according to Brown Willis, it was given to Westminster Abbey. At the dissolution it was granted to Sir Nicholas Throgmorton, from whom it passed by marriage to the Temple family, and now belongs to the Marquis of Buckingham. The site of the priory is occupied by a farm-house,

### STONY STRATFORD,

OR its immediate vicinity, appears, from the concurring evidence of several antiquaries, to have been the *Lactodorum* of the Itinerary. The particular *spot* occupied by the Roman station has occasioned some argument. Camden supposes it to have been at this town, and observes, that the etymology of Lactodo-

rum, in the British language, perfectly agrees with its present English name; both appellations being derived from the stones and ford across the river. Dr. Stukely imagines that its situation was at Old Stratford, on the Northamptonshire side of the Ouse, which in this part separates the counties for a short distance: but Dr. Salmon, with more appearance of probability, has placed it at Calverton, an adjoining eminence, close to the old road which led to the ford at Passenham, where Edward the Elder stationed his army whilst he fortified Towcester.

Stony Stratford is built on the Watling-Street, which entering the county near Brickhill, crosses it in a direct line. The houses are of free-stone, and extend for about a mile on each side the road. The town is divided into the two parishes of St. Giles and St. Mary Magdalen; and it has been said, that there are not twenty acres of land in both parishes more than those on which the buildings are erected. Originally it appears to have only consisted of a few inns for the accommodation of travellers; but as trade increased, a stone bridge was thrown over the Ouse, and the road being more frequented, additional houses were built for fresh residents. On the 19th of May, in the year 1742, it suffered greatly by fire: nearly two thirds of the east side were consumed, together with the body of the church\* of St. Mary Magdalen; but the tower is yet standing. St. Giles's church, on the western side, was rebuilt, with the exception of the tower, in a handsome manner, by Mr. Irons, architect, of Warwick, in the years 1776 and 1777. It was formerly a chantry, valued at 201. 2s. 6d, per annum. Near this structure is a neat marketplace; though the principal business is carried on by means of samples displayed by the farmers in the public-houses. In the days of Camden, the centre of the town was adorned with a cross, erected on the spot where the body of Queen Eleanor had rested; but this was demolished in the civil wars. The necessary

\* Mr. Gough, through inattention to this circumstance, states the town to be

still in possession of two churches. Mr. Pennant, though aware of this error, has been guilty of another, by confounding their names, and making that St. Giles's which is actually St. Mary's.

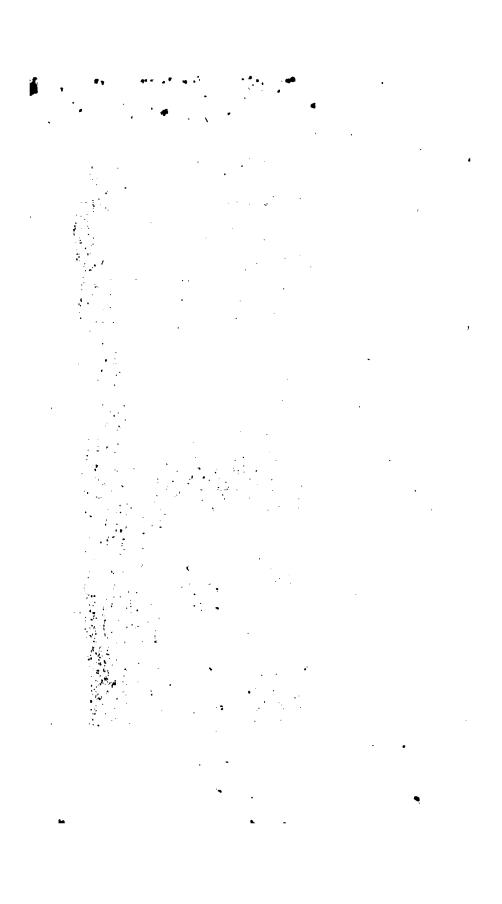
regulations to preserve the peace are made by two of the neighbouring magistrates, who hold their meetings on the first Friday in every month.

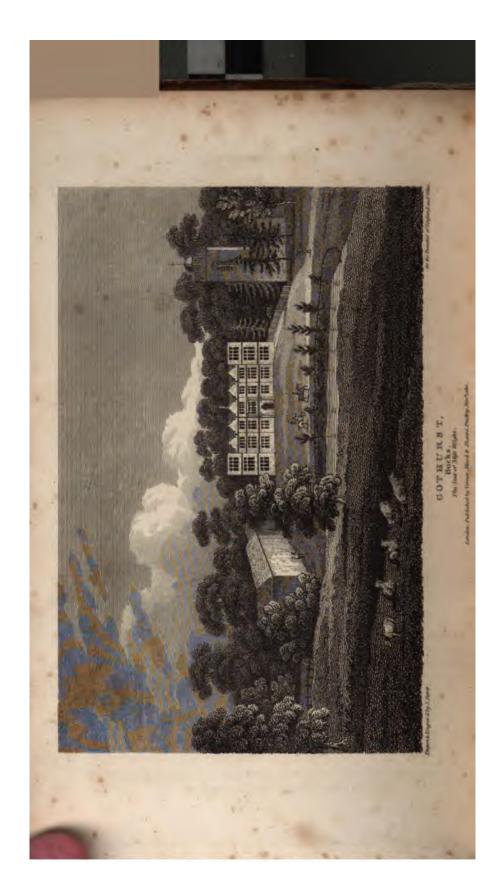
The inhabitants are divided into several religious denominations; but the greater number are Baptists, who have a meeting-house in the town. The Independents have a place of worship at Potter's Perry, a village at a small distance. The principal employment of the women is lace-making; but the chief support of the town is derived from the passage of travellers. In June, 1786, two very large Sunday schools were opened. These were began and supported by contributions of the inhabitants, and governed by the minister, churchwardens, and a committee of subscribers. In these schools upwards of 300 children receive the rudiments of education. The income of the minister is derived from Queen Anne's bounty, a small donation for reading prayers on Wednesdays and Fridays, and the voluntary gifts of his parishioners.

# HANSLOPE

Is built on the summit of a hill, whence there is a gradual descent on all sides, a situation that corresponds with the reputed etymology of its name from the Saxon word haën, and slope, a declivity. This village is only remarkable for its church,\* which is one of the most ancient edifices in the county, and may be considered as a rude specimen of the early Gothic architecture. The tower is ornamented with embrasures and pinnacles. It sustains a neat hexagonal steeple, the top of which is nearly 190 feet from the ground. The body of the church consists of a nave and side ailes; the latter are each supported by three pillars. This village is generally regarded as unhealthy. One cause of disease arises from the unwholesome waters of the springs and ponds: another has been attributed to the sedentary employment of the females, who are mostly engaged in lace-making, and, from the dearness of firing in the winter season, associate

<sup>\*</sup> The view of this structure has been engraved for the Gentleman's Magazine,
(June 1799,) whence the above account was selected.





for warmth in close rooms, and consequently breathe a very impure air. The annual amount of benefactions to the parish is about 620l. The interest of 200l bequeathed by the Lady Dowager Pierrepoint, is vested in the minister and churchwardens for the education of a certain number of boys. The living is in the gift of the corporation of Lincoln, which, when the parish was inclosed about twenty years ago, received an allotment of land in lieu of tythes. The extent of the parish is nearly four miles both in length and breadth; its population has been estimated at 1200. The soil is mostly a strong clay.

STOKE GOLDINGTON is a very pleasant village, and was formerly the place of residence of that great lawyer Sir Edward Coke, who was sheriff of the county in the reign of Charles the First, and died here in the year 1634. In this village is a small charity-school. The church has an embattled tower, a nave, two aisles, and a chancel the windows are gothic.

### GOTHURST,\*

ANCIENTLY written Gaythurst, the seat of George Wright, Esq. stands on a rising ground nearly three miles from Newport-Pagnell, and about half a mile from the banks of the Ouse. This mansion was erected in the latter part of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The principal front may be considered as a complete and venerable specimen of the style of building which then prevailed; but some of the other parts have been modernized. The grounds are extensive, and pleasingly disposed into spacious lawns, one of which occupies about 130 acres. Several walks, enlivened with prospects of the distant country, have been cut through the woods, which are very large.

The manor of Gothurst, at the time of the Conqueror's survey, was held under Odo, Bishop of Baieux, by Robert de Nouers, whose family became possessed of it in their own right in the reign of Henry the Second, or possibly somewhat earlier. In

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This account of Gothurst is chiefly derived from Mr. Pennant's Journey from Northampton,

the year 1408 it passed to Robert Nevyll, who married Joanna, the sister and sole heiress of Almaric de Nouers, his two other sisters, Agnes and Gracia, having preferred a monastic life. In the reign of Henry the Eighth, Maria, the only daughter of Michael Nevyll, who had obtained the possession of Gothurst on the death of her two brothers, bestowed it, together with her person, on Thomas Mulsho, of Thingdon, in Northamptonshire. It continued in his family till the beginning of the reign of James the First, when Maria, daughter and heiress of William Mulsho, resigned herself and fortune to Sir Everard Digby, of an ancient family in Rutlandshire, one of the most handsome and accomplished gentlemen of the age, but whose religious bigotry induced him to engage in the infernal machinations which intended the destruction of the King and both houses of legislature by means of gunpowder. His concern in the plot led to an ignominious but merited death; yet, with a foresight worthy of having been exerted in a better cause, he prepared against the consequences of illsuccess, and, previous to the commission of any acts of treason, secured his property to his infant son and heirs so effectually, that the Crown was unable to profit by the confiscation of his estates.\* The disgrace brought on the family by the atrocious conduct of Sir Everard, was removed by the uncommon abilities of Sir Kenelm Digby, his successor, whose eldest son being slain at St. Neot's, Huntingdonshire, in the civil wars, Gothurst descended to John, his second son, who left two daughters, one of whom married Sir John Conway, of Bodruddan, in Flintshire: the other married Richard Mostyn, of Penbedwr, in the same county. These gentlemen, in the year 1704, sold this manor, together with Stoke Goldington, and the advowson of both the churches, to George Wright, Esq. son of Sir Nathan Wright, the Lord Keeper, in whose posterity it still remains.

Some portraits belonging to the former possessors still keep a place in the house; but the principal part of Sir Kenelm's collection was carried by the above gentlemen into Wales. In the parlour is a full length of OLD MR. DIGBY, father to the misguided

Wright's Antiquities of Rutlandshire.

guided Sir Everard. He is represented in a close black dress, with a laced turnover ruff, and lace at the wrist.

MARY DIGBY, his lady, the widow of Sampson Erdeswick, the Staffordshire Antiquary, is portrayed in a black dress, pinked with red, a thin upright ruff, round kerchief, farthingale, gloves in her hand, and a high fore-top adorned with jewels.

SIR EVERARD DIGBY, their son, the victim to bigotry, is painted at full length, in a black mantle and vest, the sleeves slashed and pinked with white, and a large turnover: one hand holds his gloves, the other is gracefully folded in his mantle. This gentleman was born in the year 1581, and educated with great care, but under the direction of some Popish priests, who early implanted the seeds of that virulence to the reformed religion, which terminated in his disgraceful death. When first arrested, he steadily maintained his innocence as to the powderplot; but on his trial, pleaded guilty; and endeavoured to extenuate the enormity of his crime, by explaining the motives which involved him in the conspiracy, and saying, that he had only acted from the suggestions of conscience. He was executed on the 30th of January, 1606, at the west end of St. Paul's.

SIR KENELM DIGBY,\* "the prodigy of learning, credulity, valor, and romance." This remarkable portrait represents a young man of a large size, in a quilled ruff, white jacket, black cloak, purple hose, flowered belt, and a bonnet with a white feather in it. Above him, on a tablet, is the figure of a lady in a supplicatory attitude, with a lute in one hand, and a purse in the other, which she appears offering to Sir Kenelm, who is standing near her with one hand on his breast, and his face averted. His air and mien shows his rejection of her addresses, and horror at the infamy attendant on mercenary love. "The circumstance of the lady being painted along with him," observes Mr. Pennant, "is a strong confirmation of the truth of the story related by Lloyd, that an Italian Prince, who was childless, earnestly wished that

<sup>\*</sup> The back of this picture is inscribed John Digby: but Mr. Pennant imagines, from the dress, likeness, and romantic circumstances attending it, that it can be no other person than Sir Kenelm.

his Princess might become a mother by Sir Kenelm, whom he esteemed as a just model of perfection."

This gentleman, whose singular merits were mixed with many foibles, was born in this house on the 11th of June, in the year 1603. The culture of his early youth was entrusted to Archbishop Laud, who carefully bred him up to the Protestant religion. He was afterwards admitted a gentleman commoner of Gloucester Hall, Oxford, and soon became eminent for the strength of his talents, and the universality of their application. Having pursued his studies with great advantage for some time, he made the tour of the continent, and, on his return to England, was knighted, and soon after distinguished as the possessor of a famous nostrum, since called the Sympathetic Powder, whose virtues are registered among the observations of the great Chancellor Bacon. On the accession of Charles the First, he was promoted to several naval offices; and having received an admiral's commission, was sent with a small fleet into the Mediterranean, where he displayed much gallantry in the attack on the Venetian fleet in the bay of Scanderoon. About the year 1636 he became a convert to the church of Rome, and vindicated his dereliction of principle in a small pamphlet. This change procured him many Catholic friends, and great influence, which he afterwards exerted in raising a liberal subscription among the Papists for the use of Charles the First. At the commencement of the civil war, he was imprisoned by order of the Parliament in Winchester-house; but was liberated in 1643, through the mediation of the French Queen, and went to France, where he published several ingenious treatises. On the ruin of the King's affairs, he returned to England, to concert measures for the safety of his property; but was obliged by the Parliament to quit the country, under penalty of losing both life and estate. At this time he appears to have acted as chancellor to the Queen Dowager, Henrietta Maria, who shortly afterwards sent him on an embassy to Rome. When the reins of government were assumed by Cromwell, Sir Kenelm again ventured to his native country. and was treated by the Protector with kindness, from endeavouring to conciliate the Catholics in his favor. This versatility of conduct seems to have done him but little injury with the ministers of Charles the Second; for he was well received at court; and, on the incorporation of the Royal Society, appointed one of the council; an honor which he only enjoyed for a short period: the violence of a disorder with which he had been long afflicted (the stone) deprived him of life in the year 1665, on the very day he had completed his sixty-second year.

LADY VENETIA ANASTATIA DIGBY, the beloved wife of the above gentleman, and daughter to Sir Edward Stanley, of Tonge Castle, Shropshire, is portrayed in a Roman habit, accompanied by two of her sons, who appear of a boyish age, and are dressed according to the fashion of the times. The lady is represented with one hand placed on a pair of doves, and the other handling a serpent, as in the picture at Windsor.

SIR NATHAN WRIGHT, Lord Keeper, painted at full length in his robes. This gentleman received his appointment on the precipitate dismission of Lord Somers in the year 1700, the virulence of party not allowing time for reflection on the impropriety of the choice. Sir Nathan retained his place till 1703, when he was disgracefully dismissed, though more from deficiency of talents than want of integrity.

SIR JOSEPH JEKYLL, in a huge wig and robes. Sir Joseph was a firm advocate for constitutional liberty, and a man of great abilities and character. On the accession of George the First, he was made Master of the Rolls, and a Privy Counsellor. He died in the year 1738.

Here are also two beautiful BUSTS of Lady Digby in brass. One of them represents her in the habit of the times; an elegant laced handkerchief falls over her shoulders, leaving her neck bare; her hair is curled and braided, and on the hind part of her head formed into a circle, with flowing locks beneath. On this bust

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<sup>\* &</sup>quot;I am told," says Mr. Pennant, "that the great snail, or Pomatia, is found in the neighbouring woods, which is its most southern residence in this island. It is of exotic origin, and, according to tradition, was introduced by Sir Kenelm as a medicine for the use of his lady."

is inscribed, "Uxorem vivam amare voluptas, defunctam, religio." The other is on the model of the antique, the head dressed in the same manner, only bound in a fillet: the drapery covers her breast, but so artificially as not to destroy the elegance of its form.

At a little distance from the house is the church of Gothurst, a neat modern edifice, it having been rebuilt in pursuance of the directions of the will of George Wright, Esq. son of the Lord Keeper. The figures both of father and son are stationed near the entrance of the church; the first in his robes, the other in a plain gown; with their heads covered with enormous marble wigs.

TYRINGHAM, a small hamlet on the opposite side of the Ouse, was formerly the residence of the very ancient family of Tyringham, one of whom gave the church to the priory of Tickford, near Newport-Pagnell, as early as the year 1187. Sir Roger Tyringham attended Edward the First into Scotland; and his son was sheriff of the county in the fifteenth year of Edward the Second. Sir John Tyringham was condemned unheard, and beheaded in 1461, with several others, for having been present when the Duke of York was killed at the battle of Wakefield. The Duke was slain by an unknown hand; but the violence of the times occasioned the above sufferers to be proscribed for his murder. It continued in this family till 1685, when, by the death of Sir William Tyringham, it devolved to John, son of Edward Backwell,\* Alderman of London, who had married his only daughter. The estate is now in the possession of Mr. Praed. who has taken down the ancient manor-house, and erected a large handsome edifice in its stead.

OLNEY,

<sup>\*</sup> This gentleman is said by Grainger to have been a banker, of great ability, industry, integrity, and extensive credit, but ruined by the infamous project of shutting up the exchequer in the reign of Charles the Second. He died in Holland; but was embalmed, and interred in the old church of Tyringham, with a glass placed over his face.

In the spereeding line ()

# OLNEY,

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THE most northern town in Buckinghamshire, consists of one long street. The houses are built with stone, but principally roofed with thatch, a mode of covering that greatly contributed to the spreading of a fire which happened here in the year 1786, when forty-three dwelling-houses were consumed, besides many barns and other buildings. Since this event, most of the new houses have been prudently covered with tiles. The church is a spacious fabric, ornamented with a tower and a very lofty spire. Lace-making is the chief employment of the inhabitants.

The residence of the late eminent poet COWPER was about a mile from this town, from whose contiguous scenery many descriptions in his elegant poem of the Task are known to have been derived. The beautiful simplicity and truth of the following extracts, from the book intitled the Sofa, must be evident to every person acquainted with the neighbourhood of Olney.

There, fast rooted in their bank,
Stand, never overlook'd, our fav'rite elms,
That screen the herdsman's solitary hut;
While far beyond, and overthwart the stream,
That, as with molten glass, inlays the vale,
The sloping land recedes into the clouds;
Displaying on its varied side the grace
Of hedge-row beauties numberless, square tow'r,
Tall spire, from which the sound of cheerful bells
Just undulates upon the list'ning ear,
Groves, heaths, and smoaking villages, remote.

Descending now (but cautious lest too fast)
A sudden steep, upon a rustic bridge
We pass a gulph, in which the willows dip
Their pendant boughs, stooping as if to drink.
Here, ancle deep in moss and flow'ry thyme,
We mount again, and feel at ev'ry step
One foot half sunk in hillocks green and soft,
Rais'd by the mole, the miner of the soil.
He, not unlike the great ones of mankind,
Disfigures earth; and plotting in the dark,
Toils much to earn a monumental pile,
That may record the mischiefs he has done.



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#### BUCKING HAMSHIRE.

In the succeeding lines the poet, from his "speculative height," surveys the sheepfold, the hay-stack, and the woodlands, and concludes this part of his description with these words:

> O'er these, but far beyond (a spacious map Of hill and valley interpos'd between) The Ouse, dividing the well-water'd land, Now glitters in the sun, and now retires, As bashful, yet impatient to be seen.

A considerable portion of the life of Cowper was passed under the pressure of the most extreme despair, his morbid sensibility having induced him to cherish the dreadful idea that he was forsaken by his Creator; though he had lived in the continued practice of all the virtues. His waking reflections and midnight slumbers were equally haunted by the dread of absolute reprobation; and even in the hour of death, his disordered understanding refused to admit of comfort. "O spare me! spare me!" was his reply to a friend and relative, who assured him that happiness awaited his dissolution, "you know, you know it to be false!" On the 25th of April, 1800, he sunk into a state of apparent insensibility, which continued for twelve hours, when he expired without either moving a limb or heaving a sigh.

At Lavendon, a village about two miles beyond Olney, a monastery for Premonstratensian canons was founded by John de Bidun in the reign of Henry the Second, and dedicated to St. Mary and John the Baptist. The endowments of de Bidun, and some other benefactors, were confirmed by Henry the Third. Its annual income at the dissolution amounted to 79l. 13s. 8d.

### NEWPORT PAGNELL

Is an ancient and populous market-town, pleasantly situated in the north of the county on the banks of the Ouse, and divided into two unequal parts by the small river Lovet. Its name appears to be derived from the Paganels, or Painels, who obtained it from William Fitz-Ausculph, in the reign of William the Second, and kept possession of it for upwards of a century. In the time of Ri-

chard Cœur de Lion this manor became the property of John de Somerie, who married the daughter and heiress of Gervase Paganel, and continued in his family till the reign of Henry the Third, when Roger de Somerie was dispossessed of his lands, for neglecting to obey a summons to receive the honor of knighthood. It was then granted for life to Walter de Kirkham, with several valuable privileges, and liberty of tallage, in the same form as if it had remained in the hands of the King; but it afterwards reverted to the Someries, and in the reign of Edward the Second was conveyed to Thomas de Botetourt by his marriage with Joan, the sister of John de Somerie, the last male heir. From this period the succession is unknown.

Leland and Camden have both mentioned a castle that formerly stood at Newport Pagnell, but of which no traces are discoverable, nor particulars to be found, but that it remained a place of strength till the time of the civil wars. Three hospitals were founded here in early times. The one endowed by John de Somerie, in the year 1280, for six poor men and women, still survives, having been founded anew by Anne of Denmark, and from her named Queen Anne's hospital. The church is an ancient and spacious edifice, dedicated to the saints Peter and Paul, and standing on an eminence that commands an extensive view over the surrounding country, which produces excellent corn and plenty of fine game. In the church-yard are seven alms-houses, built and endowed by John Rivis, citizen and draper of London, and affording a comfortable asylum to four men and three women. Besides the advantages of these charitable institutions, the distresses of the poor are mitigated by the application of various donations and legacies bequeathed for that purpose. The dissenters from the established church in this town, are principally Presbyterians and Anabaptists, who have each a meeting-house.

The laboring classes are chiefly supported by lace-making. 
"There is scarcely a door to be seen, during summer, but what is occupied by some industrious pale-faced lass; their sedentary trade forbidding the rose to bloom in their sickly cheeks."

It

Pennant, This gentleman observes, that the lace manufacture was stolen from the Flemings.

It has been said, that more lace is manufactured in this town and its neighbourhood than in all the rest of England: on every Wednesday a market is held for its sale. Great quantities are also sold in the fairs here, of which there are no fewer than six held annually. The inhabitants are supplied with water from the Ouse, by means of an hydraulic machine.

At Tickford, near Newport Pagnell, there was formerly a cell of Cluniac monks, founded and endowed by Fulk Paganell in the reign of William Rufus, and invested with the power of punishing criminals by Henry the Second. The possessions of this monastery, valued at 126l. 14s. yearly, were granted to Cardinal Wolsey, to be appropriated towards the building and endowment of his two colleges at Ipswich and Oxford; but, on the disgrace of that minister, were bestowed on Queen's College in the latter city. This grant was afterwards resumed, and the lands remained with the Crown till James the First sold them to a physcian named Atkins. The site of the priory is now occupied by a neat modern house, called The Abbey.

MIDDLETON, or MILTON KEYNES, is only remarkable for having been the birth-place of Francis Atterbury, Bishop of Rochester, and the rectory of the celebrated philologist, Dr. William Wotton, who, during his abode here, published his "Reflections on ancient and modern Learning," and several other pieces: but, from deficiency of economy, was obliged to retire to Wales, where he died in the year 1726, aged 60.

FRANCIS ATTERBURY was born on the 6th of March, 1662. He received the rudiments of education at Westminster school, whence he was elected a student of Christ Church, Oxford, and soon afterwards entered the lists of controversy, by a vindication of Luther against the attacks of the Romanists. About the same period he greatly assisted the Honorable Charles Boyle in his dispute with Bentley respecting the genuineness of the Epistles of Phalaris. Oxford, however, was too small a theatre for the vigor of his talents, which he resolved to display in the metropolis, where the attractions of his eloquence soon introduced him to the court, and he became chaplain to King William and Queen Mary. To trace him through his several promotions might be thought

thought tedious; we shall only observe, therefore, that in the year 1713 he was made Bishop of Rochester and Dean of Westminster; but all his hopes of higher dignities were destroyed by the death of Queen Anne. In his capacity as dean, he officiated at the coronation of George the First, and proposed to resign the accustomed perquisites on that occasion; but the offer was rejected by the Sovereign, with some indications of dislike to his person. This treatment co-operating with the tenor of his opinions, led him to join the opposers of the ministry, whose measures he continued to combat with singular vehemence till the year 1722, when he was arrested, and imprisoned, on the charge of being privy to a conspiracy for restoring the Pretender. The proceedings against him were accompanied with many acts of illegality; but the administration having succeeded in passing a bill which gave them the necessary authority, he was banished for life, and left the kingdom in June 1723. From this period till his death, in the year 1732, he resided at Paris; and a short time previous to his decease, published a vindication of himself, Bishop Smalridge, and Dean Aldrich, from the aspersion of having corrupted Lord Clarendon's Manuscript History of the Rebellion. Bishop Atterbury was a man of fine talents, and much learning; but his fondness for polemical divinity is apparent from the successive controversies in which he engaged.

About a mile south-east of Milton Keynes, is WAVENDON HEATH, where the pits of fuller's earth mentioned in page 39 are situated.

# FENNY STRATFORD,

Is so called from the situation of the surrounding lands, though the town itself is built on the rising of a hill. The houses are disposed into two streets; one on the main road, or Watling Street; the other on the cross road, leading to Aylesbury. The north side is in the parish of Simpson: the west in that of Blecheley. The skirts of the town are laved by the little river Lofield, over which there is a large stone bridge. The chapel, which stands in the parish of Blecheley, was rebuilt and endowed at the

expense of the antiquary Mr. Brown Willis and his friends. The ceiling is ornamented with the arms of all the persons whose subscriptions amounted to ten pounds or upwards. Mr. Willis, at his own request, was buried in this chapel, which he dedicated to St. Martin, from respect to his grandfather, Dr. Thomas Willis, who purchased the manors of both Blecheley and Fenny Stratford of the last George Villars, Duke of Buckingham. The inhabitants derive their chief support from the passage of travellers, and the manufacture of white thread-lace. The south-east entrance to the town has been lately improved by a new road, and its trade increased by the proximity of the Grand Junction Canal.

BLECHELEY is a small village about two miles west of Fenny Stratford. In the church there is a very fine alabaster tomb to the memory of Richard, Lord Grey, of Wilton, who, with his son Reginald, and Edmund, his great grandson, were interred in this fabric. On the tomb is the figure of Lord Richard, armed. Round the lower part of the armour is a collar of jewels, in the midst of which is a small shield, with the cross of St. George, in allusion to his having been made knight of the garter by Richard the Second. He appears with cropt hair, and without a beard. On the fingers of his left hand are several rings.

This manor, with the adjoining one of Whaddon, was purchased by the Lord Greys of the Pigot family; and on the attainder of William, Lord Grey, who was imprisoned on the charge of being an accomplice with Sir Walter Raleigh, was granted by James the First to his favorite Sir George Villars, who was created Baron Whaddon, and afterwards Duke of Buckingham. On the death of the son and successor of this nobleman, it was purchased by John Selby and the above Dr. Willis, who almost pulled down the old seat of the Greys. His grandson, Brown Willis, inhabited the remainder. From him it descended to John Willis Fleming, Esq. but Whaddon Chase fell into the possession of the Selbies; but was bequeathed by the last male heir, to William Lowndes, Esq. of Winslow. An original picture of Dr. Willis is now at Whaddon Hall.

<sup>·</sup> Gough's Additions to Camden.

RICHARD Cox, Bishop of Ely, was born at Whaddon in the year 1499. Having early embraced the principles of the Reformation, his conduct gave offence to the ruling powers, who com--mitted him to prison, whence he was released through the intercession of Archbishop Cranmer, and was made master of Eton school. In the reign of Queen Mary he was again imprisoned, and on his liberation withdrew to Germany, where he remained till the accession of Elizabeth, who promoted him to the bishopric of Ely. In this station his conduct was praise-worthy and just; but the arts of his enemies, and his opposition to the principles which condemned the clergy to celibacy, excited the anger of the Queen, and occasioned him to ask permission to resign. His request being acceded to, the forms of resignation were actually drawn out; but as no respectable divine could be found to accept his dignities, he was suffered to retain them till his death. He died in the eighty-second year of his age. The liturgy now used was partly composed under his inspection.

### WINSLOW

Is a small market town, situated on the brow of a hill; and though of very remote origin, it having been given by King Offa to the abbey of St. Alban's, in a council held at Verulam in the year 794, it possesses no objects that can interest the antiquary. The church is a large pile of building, consisting of a nave, two aisles, and a chancel, with a square tower embrasured, at the west end. The houses are mostly brick, and principally inhabited by laborers and lace-makers.

Stewkley is a small village, rendered interesting to the antiquary by its very ancient church, which is of Saxon workmanship, and mentioned by Dr. Stukeley as the oldest and most entire he ever saw. The shape is a parallelogram, 90 feet by 24. Half the length is allotted to the nave, and one fourth to the chancel, which is vaulted with stone. The remaining space is occupied by two round arches, supporting a square tower of the same dimensions, the upper part of which is surrounded with thirty-two



small intersecting circular arches, attached to the wall. The windows are all small, and the mouldings ornamented with sigzag sculpture. The principal entrance is on the west side, which is more embellished than any other part. On this side there are three arches. The centre arch forms the door-way, and is supported by two pillars on each side, with square capitals and zigzag mouldings.\*

## LISCOMBE HOUSE,

The seat of Sir Jonathan Lovett, Bart. is about three miles east of Stewkley. The estate has belonged to the present family for upwards of 500 years, and is said to derive its name from a fortification raised in the adjoining woods, and the combe, or valley, which runs from the front of the house. This mansion stands on the brow of a gentle eminence, which commands a fine view over the villages of Stewkley and Soulbury, and the north part of the county. The building is principally composed of brick, and covered with a composition. It occupies three sides of a quandrangle; the fourth side is partly taken up with a small chapel. The front of the house, measuring about 166 feet, is ornamented with four circular and two square turrets, rising from the ground, and projecting before the building. The whole is surrounded with embrazures, and assumes a castellated appearance.

- \* The era of the erection of this fabric is unknown. Some workmen, who repaired the roof of the chancel, after it had been damaged by a storm a few years ago, are reported to have observed the date 1006 inscribed on a stone. This information, however, must be regarded as doubtful, as the most diligent inquirers have hitherto been unable to trace the introduction of Arabic numerals into England to an earlier period than 1050. A view of this church has been given in Grose's Antiquities.
- This name has been variously written in different ages. A manuscript memorandum of the family states, that William, the son of Richard de Bouet, came into England with William the Conqueror, and that the present family trace their descent from the above William, to whom the Conqueror granted certain portions of lands in Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Leicestashire, and Morthampsonshire.

The apartments are decorated with several portraits: the following appear to be those which most deserve attention.

TITUS OATES: half length, with a bald forehead, and full face. The cold-blooded and malignant perjuries of this wretch so impressed the nation with the belief of the plot which he ascribed to the Papists, of assassinating the Sovereign (Charles the Second) and subverting the constitution, that many were condemned and executed on the most absurd and contradictory evidence, though not one of them either acknowledged the justice of their sentence, or the reality of the conspiracy. His audacity even led him to include the Queen in the dreadful charge, but this accusation the King refused to admit; and after some time, when the heated passions of the people had been allowed to subside, the testimony of Oates became generally discredited, and he was convicted of perjury. He was sentenced to perpetual imprisonment, to stand in the pillory four times a year, and to be whipt on two successive days by the common hangman. " A sentence," says Burnet, " too little if he was guilty, and too much if he was innocent," His guilt, however, cannot be doubted, and posterity will execrate his infamy to the latest

SARAH, DUCHESS OF MARLBOROUGH: Sir Godfrey Kneller, A half length.

HUGO GROTIUS, represented sitting in a study, with a large book before him.

FRANCIS RUSSEL, second Earl of Bedford. This is a small head, with the date 1555. This illustrious personage filled several great offices in the reigns of Mary and Elizabeth; and was much celebrated for his hospitality. He died in the year 1585.

ARCHBISHOP SANCROFT: half length.

SIR EDWARD MONTAGUE: Holbein. An inscription on this picture relates, that he was " Chief Justice of both benches, privy councellor to two Kings, one of the executors to Henry the Eighth; obit A. D. 1556." This is a three quarter length, painted on pannel. Sir Edward is portrayed in his judge's robes.



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ELEANOR GWYNN: Sir Peter Lely: three quarter length. This sprightly female is represented with a pretty face, and dark brown hair; her head reclining on her right hand, and her dress decorated with a profusion of rich lace.

## IVINGHOE

Is a small market-town, situated on the east side of the county, between Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. The surrounding soil is rather unfruitful; a circumstance, probably, that has retarded those improvements which the considerable antiquity of this place would otherwise have given reason to expect. Henry de Blois, Bishop of Winchester, founded a Benedictine nunnery here as early as 1160. Henry the First endowed it with lands; but the revenues were very inconsiderable, the annual receipts at the dissolution amounting to no more than 141. 3s. 10d. yet on this scanty pittance no fewer than nine females depended for their daily food. According to the tradition which accompanies the quaint distich,

- " Tring, Wing, and Ivinghoe, did go
- " For striking the Black Prince a blow,"

those places were formerly in the possession of the Hampden family; but what degree of credit is to be attached to these lines we know not, for the particulars of the circumstance to which they relate have eluded our inquiries.

ASHBRIDGE, a small village between Ivinghoe and Tring, in Hertfordshire, is reported to have possessed a royal palace in very early times. This, when the estate became the property of Edmund, Earl of Cornwall, son to Richard, King of the Romans, was converted into a college for Bonhommes, or monks who followed the rule of St. Augustine, and endowed with the manors of Ashbridge, Gaddesden, and Hemel-Hempsted. In the year 1291 a parliament was held here by Edward the First, and though but of short continuance, was distinguished for a spirited debate on the original and necessary use of fines. After the dissolution,



#### BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

the monastery again seems to have become the seat of royalty; and Norden describes it as the place "wherein our most worthy and ever famous Queen Elizabeth lodged as in her owne, being a more statelie house." This Sovereign, in the 17th of her reign, granted it to John Dudley and John Ayscough, who within a fortnight conveyed it to Henry Lord Cheyney, whose Lady sold it to Ralph Marshal, by whom it was conveyed to Randolph Crew and others, and soon afterwards granted to Egerton, Lord Ellesmere, ancestor to the present Duke of Bridgewater; several of whose family are buried in the neighbouring church of Little Gaddesden. The park is five miles in circumference, pleasingly varied with hill and dale, and furnished with some very fine oak and beech trees. The ancient abbey has been lately taken down: its site, we are informed, is intended to be occupied by a magnificent family mansion.

## AYLESBURY,

The Æglesbury of the Saxons, was originally a strong British town, which maintained its independence till the year 571, when it was reduced by Cuthwulf, brother to Cealwin, King of the West Saxons. About the year 600 it became famous as the burial-place of St. Osith, who was born at Quarendon, but beheaded in Essex by the Pagans. Her relics being interred in the church at Aylesbury, are said to have performed many miracles, and occasioned a religious house to be erected to her memory on the spot where the parsonage now stands. St. Osith, however, was not the only female from whom the town derived consequence in the dark ages of superstition and imposture; the sisters Editha and Eadburga are mentioned by historians as contributing to its celebrity. "Editha," says Camden, "having obtained it of her father Frewald, at the persuasion of certain religious, renounced the world and her husband, and taking the veil, acquired the

<sup>\*</sup> A view of this structure has been engraved in the second volume of the Topographer, which contains some particulars of the Egerton family, and a full account of the abbey.

reputation of sanctity in that age so fruitful for saints, with the additional reputation of miracles." How it descended from this lady we are not informed; but it was afterwards a manor royal, belonging to William the Conqueror, who invested his favorites with some of the lands, under the singular tenure of providing straw for his bed and chamber, and three eels for his use, in winter; and in summer, straw, rushes, and two green geese; thrice every year, if he should visit Aylesbury so In the reign of Henry the Eighth, the manor was purchased by Sir John Baldwin, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, of the heir of the Earl of Wilts and Ormond, to whom it had descended from the Fitz-piers, Earls of Essex. It afterwards became the property of the Packingtons, t one of whom married the daughter of Sir John Baldwin, and has regularly descended to the present Sir John Packington; but has lately been advertised for sale.

This town is situated near the centre of the county, on a small eminence, rising gradually on all sides, in the rich and extensive tract distinguished as the *Vale of Aylesbury*. Leland describes the town as being built with timber; but since his time it has been greatly improved, and most of the houses are now of brick,

The

<sup>\*</sup> Straw, as appears from the fourth volume of the Archiæologia, was used for the King's bed so lately as the reign of Henry the Eighth.

<sup>†</sup> How completely the town was in possession of this family will appear from the following remarkable letter, preserved in the Chapel of the Rolls, among the returns of Parliament writs of the fourteenth of Elizabeth. "To all Christian people, to whom this present writing shall come; I, Dame DOROTHY PACKINGTON, late wife of Sir John Packington, Knight, lord and owner of the town of Aylesbury, send greeting. Know ye me, the said DOROTHY PACKINGTON, to have chosen, named, and appointed my trusty and well beloved Thomas Litchfield and George Burden, Esqrs. to be my Burgesses of my said town of Aylesbury. And whatever the said Thomas and George, Burgesses, shall do in the service of the Queen's Highness in that present Parliament to be holden at Westminster, the 8th of May next ensuing the date hereof, I the same Dorothy Packington do ratify and approve to be of my own act as fully and wholly as if I were witness or present there. In witness whereof, to these presents, I have set my seal, this 4th day of May, in the 14th year of the reign of my Sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the Grace of God, of England, France, and Ireland, Queen, &c."

The improvements were principally owing to the munificence and interest of Sir John Baldwin, who erected several public buildings, procured the assizes to be transferred from Buckingham, and raised a causeway, three miles in length, on one of the approaches to the town where the road was miry and dangerous. The county goal is still at Aylesbury; but the summer assizes were restored to Buckingham through the exertions of Lord Cobham and the Grenville family.

Aylesbury consists of several streets and lanes, irregularly built. The town-hall is a handsome modern structure; but the market-place is a ruinous quadrangular building, which disfigures the centre of the town. The church is a spacious and ancient structure, built in the shape of a cross, with a low tower rising at the intersection of the nave and transept; yet, from its elevated situation, when compared with the surrounding flat, seen for many miles every way. In the church is a handsome organ, given to the parish by a lady. The pulpit is ornamented with curious carved work. In the south transept is a table of the donations given to the town for charitable purposes, and appropriated to supply the poor with food and raiment, and the rising generation with instruction. The church-yard is very large, and disposed into several walks, planted with double rows of trees.

William the First made the church prebendal to Lincoln, whence Robert Grosthead, bishop of that see, in 1235 removed, and gave it to a residing rector: but Richard de Gravesend, advanced to the above bishopric in 1270, again made it prebendal; but at the same time prudently directed that the income of the resident vicar should exceed that of the prebendary. The house for Grey Friars, mentioned by Leland, on the south side of the town, was founded by James, Earl of Ormond, about the time of Richard the Second. On the dissolution it was granted to Sir John Baldwin, and valued at 31. 2s. 5d. per annum.

This town was made a borough by charter, and empowered to send members to Parliament on the 14th of January, 1553-4. Its government was then vested in a bailiff, nine aldermen, and twelve burgesses, who were to elect the representatives: but this corporation being dissolved for neglect, the police is now main-

tained

tained by constables, and the right of election vested in the householders not receiving alms. The number of voters is about 350. The religious denominations consist of Methodists, Presbyterians, and Baptists, who have each a meeting-house. The elevation of the town above the level of the vale frequently occasions the inhabitants to be distressed for water. The market is well supplied with corn, calves, ducks, &c.\* and its six annual fairs for the sale of cattle are well attended.

The parish of Aylesbury is the largest and the most fruitful in the county. It includes the hamlet of Walton, and, according to the enumeration lately made by order of the legislature, contains 675 inhabited houses, 22 uninhabited, and 3082 men, women, and children.

# QUARENDON,

About two miles north-west of Aylesbury, was the ancient residence of the Lees, afterwards Earls of Litchfield, but contains nothing deserving of remark, except the monuments in the chapel, which present a sad picture of neglect and dilapidation. The body of this fabric is divested of its seats, ceiling, and almost every fragment that could preserve the memory of the holy purpose for which it was designed; nor is the chancel in a much better state; though its rich and elegant monuments ought to have insured it protection with every mind over which taste or sentiment

\* Many people in this town and its neighbourhood derive support from their peculiar skill in breeding and rearing ducks. For the gratification of artificial wants, they reverse the order of nature, and, by a restriction of food, and other means, prevent the hen from laying till the months of October and November. Some weeks previous to the time they wish them to sit, the ducks are fed with stimulating provisions, and the eggs being ready, the hen begins sitting, and is frequently obliged to continue on the nest till three successive broods are hatched. By this treatment the poor animal is generally exhausted, and dies under her compulsive duty. When the young leave the shell, they are placed near a fire, and nursed with particular care. By these methods many ducklings are sent at Christmas to the metropolis, where they have been known to sell from fifteen shillings to a guinea a couple.

sentiment had any influence. This place claims our attention, to preserve it upon record, before the ravages of time, and the practices of mischievous boys, have wholly defaced the inscriptions, and destroyed the tombs.

On a black marble tablet, fixed against the wall at the upper end of the chancel, is this inscription:

## 1611-Memoria Sacrum.

SIR HENRY LEE, Knight of the most noble Order of the Garter, son of Sir Anthony Lee, and Dame Margaret his wife, daughter to Sir Henry Wiat, that faithful and constant servant and councellor to the two Kings of famous memory, Henries the Seventh and Eighth. He owed his birth and childhood to Kent, and his highly honorable uncle Sir Thomas Wiat at Arlington Castle, his youth to the court and King Henry the Eighth, to whose service he was sworn at fourteen years old, his prime of manhood (after the calm of that blest Prince Edward the Sixth) to the wars of Scotland in Queen Maries days, till called home by her whose sudden death gave beginning to the glorious reign of Queen Elizabeth. He gave himself to voyage and travel into the flourishing states of France, Italy, and Germany, where soon putting on all those abilities that become the back of honor, especially skill and proof in arms, he lived in grace and gracing the courts of the most renowned princes of that warlike age, returned home charged with the reputation of a well-formed traveller, and adorned with those flowers of knighthood, courtesy, bounty, and valor, which quickly gave forth their fruit as well in the field to the advantage at once of the two divided parts of this happily united state, and to both those princes his Sovereigns successively in that expedition into Scotland in the year 1573, when in goodly equipage he repaired to the siege of Edinburgh, there quartering before the castle, and commanding one of the batteries, he shared largely in the honor of ravishing that maiden fort : as also in court, where he shone in all those fair parts which became his profession and vows, honoring his highly gracious Mistress with raising those later olympiads of her court justs and tournaments, (thereby trying and training the courtier in those exercises of arms, that keep the person bright, and steel to hardiness that by soft ease rusts and wears) wherein still himself led and triumphed, carrying away the spoils of grace from his Sovereign, and renown from the world, as the fairest man at arms and most complete courtier of his times, till singled out by the choice hand of his Sovereign Mistress for meed of his worth (after the lieutenancy of the royal manor of Woodstock and the office of the royal armoury) he was called up an assessor on the bench of honor among princes and peers, receiving at her Majesty's hands the noblest Order of the Garter, whilst the worm of time knawing the root of this plant, yielding to the burthen of age, and the industry of an active youth, imposed on him full of the glory of the court, he abated of his sense to pay his better part, resigned his dignity and honor of her Majesty's knight to the adventurous Captain George Earl of Cumberland, changing pleasure for ease, for tranquillity honor, making rest his solace, and contemplation his employment, so as absent from the world, present with himself, he chose to lose the fruit of public use and action for that of devotion and piety, in which time (besides the building of four goodly mansions) he revived the ruins of this chapel, added these monuments to honor his blood and friends, raised the foundation of the adjoining hospital, and lastly, as full of years as of honor, having served five succeeding princes, and kept himself right and steady in many dangerous shocks, and three utter turns of state, with a body bept to earth, and a mind erected to heaven, aged 80, knighted 60 years, he met his long attended and, and now rests with his Redeemer, leaving much patrimony with his name, honor with the world, and plentiful tears with his friends.

Of which sacrifice he offers his part, that being a sharer in his blood, as well at many his honorable favors, and an honor of his virtues, this narrowly registereth his spread worth to ensuing time.

William Scott.

Near this is a magnificent\_altar-monument, supported with surcoats and helmets, and adorned with banners, battle-axes, and javelins. On it is the figure of the Knight in complete armour, with a surcoat, collar and george of the order of the garter; is head reposing on an helmet adorned with a plume of feathers. Over the effigies of the Knight is this inscription:

Fide & Constantia—Vixit Deo patriæ & amicis .... annos

Fide & Constantia—Christo spiritvm carnem sepvichro commendavi
Fide & Constantia—Scio, credo, expecto mortvvm resvrrectionem.

Beneath on a black marble tablet are the following lines:

If Fortvnes stoore or Natvres wealthe commende They both vnto his virtves praise did lende The warrs abroade with honor he did passe In covrtly jvsts his Sovereigns knight he was Sixe princes he did serve, and in the frighte And change of state did keep himself vpright

With

 There is nothing remaining of this building, nor do the neighbouring villagers recollect any such a place. With faith vntavght spotlesse and cleare his fame
So pyre that Envy covld not wronge the same
All but his virtve now (so vaine is breeth)
Tovrnd dvst lye here in the cold arms of deeth
Thus Fortvnes gifts and gentlhle favors flye
When virtve conquers death and destinye.

Another monument, erected to the memory of Sir Anthony Lee, and Margaret his wife, contains the following inscription:

ANTHONY LEE Knight of worthy name
Sire to Sir Henry Lee of noble fame
Son to Sir Robert Lee, here buried lies
Whereas his fame and memory never dies
Greate in the fountain whence himself did roam
But greater in the greatness of his sone
His body here his soul in heaven doth rest
What scornde the earth cannot with earth be pres't.

There are also the remnants of a third monument, which appears to have been finely executed; but this is so much injured that the inscription cannot be made out.

WHITCHURCH, situated about midway between Winslow and Aylesbury, was given by the Conqueror to Walter Giffard, afterwards Earl of Buckingham, whose kinsman, Hugh de Bolebeck, erected a castle here. The hill on which the keep is supposed to have been situated is partly surrounded by a fosse, but no remains of the fortress are visible. It afterwards passed by marriage to the Veres, Earls of Oxford, in whose family it continued for many generations; but now belongs to Thomas Williams, Esq. The church is an ancient structure, with a lofty embattled tower. It consists of a nave, side aisles, and chancel; the arches of the nave are pointed, and supported by octagon pillars. The village is situated on the edge of the Vale of Aylesbury, over which the view is extensive and beautiful.

MIDDLE CLAYTON is described by Brown Willis as having been the residence of the illustrious family of Verney for eleven generations generations in lineal descent. They purchased the manor in the time of Henry the Sixth, and in the reign of Henry the Seventh erected a spacious mansion-house, which, from the various improvements made at different periods, became one of the most magnificent seats in the county. The late Earl is said to have materially injured his fortune by the numerous alterations which he directed on this estate. The parish contains about 2600 acres.

STEEPLE CLAYTON was given by William the Conqueror to his neice Judith; but he afterwards resumed it, and at the time of the survey it was still in the Monarch's possession. It was then the most populous place in the whole hundred of Buckingham, but has since dwindled to an inconsiderable village. Henry the First gave it to his mistress, Edith Forn, from whom it seems to have passed to the Fitz Johns. In the woods in this parish, an earthen pot is said\* to have been dug up filled with the coins of Carausius and Alectus.

CAVERSFIELD, a small parish belonging to this county, but situated nearly a mile from its western border, in Oxfordshire, is said by Bishop Kennet to derive its name from the Roman general Carausius, who assumed the purple in Britain about the year 287, and was afterwards slain in battle on this spot by the treachery of Alectus.

WOTTON UNDER BERNWOOD, the ancient seat of the Grenvilles, was granted by William the Conqueror to Walter Giffard in the year 1093; but four years afterwards became the property of Richard de Grenvylle, Lord of Grenville in Normandy, in right of his wife Elizabeth. From him it has descended through twenty generations to the Marquis of Buckingham, who has given it to his son Earl Temple.

The manor-house is very spacious. The stair-case and hall were painted by Sir James Thornhill, for which he received 1000L annually for three years. The grounds are delightfully intermixed with wood and water: they abound with fine old oaks, one of which measures twenty-four feet in circumference, and covers an

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#### BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

area fifty yards in diameter with its branches. Wotton chapel was built by William de Grenville and Mary his wife, by license from the Bishop of Lincoln, in 1343. It contains several monuments of this family, and is now receiving a complete repair under the direction of the Marquis of Buckingham, who intends to correct the inscriptions, and have the quarterings of the arms marked accurately. The parish contains about 2800 acres.

BRILL was formerly the residence of Edward the Confessor, who had a palace here, to which he frequently retired to enjoy the pleasure of hunting in Bernwood Forest. The forest about this time is reported to have been infested by a wild boar, which was at last slain by a huntsman named Nigel, whom the King rewarded for his service with a grant of some lands to be held by a horn: a mode of livery which in that age appears to have been common. On the land thus given Nigel built a large manorhouse, called Bore-stall, or Borstal, in memory of the event through which he obtained possession. The estate has descended in uninterrupted succession by several heirs female from the family of Nigel to that of Aubrey, and the original horn by which it was conveyed to the former, is in the possession of Sir John Aubrey, Bart. as well as a folio volume composed about the reign of Henry the Third, containing transcripts of papers relating to the manor, with a rude delineation\* of the site of Borstal-house, and its contiguous lands; beneath which is the figure of a man on one knee, presenting a boar's head on the point of a sword to the King, who is returning him a coat of arms. The horn is of a dark brown color, variegated and veined like tortoise-shell: the ends are tipt with silver, and fitted with wreaths of leather to hang round the neck. During the civil wars, Borstal-tower being in the vicinity of the respective quarters of each party, was frequently the scene of contest. The ancient mansion has been taken down, the seat of the Aubrey family being removed to Dorton, some miles distant.

NUTLEY

<sup>\*</sup> This curious plan, and a representation of the horn, have been engraved in the third volume of the Archiæologia, whence the chief of the above particulars were derived.



NUTLEY ABBEY still displays its ivy-clad ruins in the vicinity of Long Brandon. It was founded by Walter Giffard, Earl of Buckingham, and Cormengard his wife, for Augustine canons regular, in the year 1162. Its endowments were confirmed by Henry the Second and King John, who granted many new privileges and immunities to its "rapacious monks," as they are denominated by Brown Willis. The annual value at the dissolution amounted to 4371. 6s. 8d. and its inhabitants to eighteen.

CHILTON has become celebrated as the birth-place of Sir George Crook, the patriot judge, who steadily opposed the levying of ship-money without authority of Parliament in the reign of Charles the First. He was descended from the ancient family of Le Blount, who being attached to the Lancastrians during the war of the rival houses, were obliged to conceal themselves under a fictitious name till the accession of Henry the Seventh, but afterwards retained it as a memorial of past danger. Sir George filled the office of Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench many years, and during the perilous time which preceded the war between Charles and his Parliament, performed the duties his high station with the greatest integrity. He died on the 5th of February, 1641.

UPPER WINCHENDON became the property of Philip Lord Wharton\* on his marriage with the heiress of the Goodwins. Thomas, his successor, made it his chief residence, and effected many considerable improvements in the ancient mansion house and its surrounding grounds, which at that time were considered as the finest in the county. On the attainder of his eccentricson, the Duke of Wharton, the estate was sold to the famous Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, from whom it descended to the present Duke, who only uses it for a hunting seat. The old mansion was removed about forty years since, and the materials sold; but some of the adjoining offices have been fitted up as a residence for the steward, and occasionally for the family.

EYTHORP.

<sup>\*</sup> See particulars of this family under Wooburn in this county.

EXTHORP, the family mansion of the Earls of Chesterfield, was anciently the seat of the Denhams, but in the reign of Elizabeth became the property of the Dormers, Barons and Earls of Caernarvon, from whom it passed by marriage to the Stanhopes, who still possess it.

DYNTON is mentioned, in the Additions to Camden, as the place where several skeletons were found in building a tower; and also a glass vessel of a conical shape. One of the skeletons had a spear sticking in the throat.

GREAT AND LITTLE KYMBLE, written Kunebel in ancient records, are supposed to derive their names from the British King Cunobelin, and, from the several fortifications and trenches in the vicinity, to have been the seat of action when the brave sons of that Monarch opposed the progress of the Romans. On a round hill, near Ellesborough church, are the remains of an ancient fortification, called Belinus' Castle, where, according to tradition, Cunobelin resided. A high hill at a little distance still bears the name of Belinesbury.

## WENDOVER

Is an ancient borough, consisting principally of mean brick houses, built in a low bottom among the Chiltern Hills. The inhabitants derive their chief support from lace-making; but as a branch of the Grand Junction Canal, called the Navigable Feeder, has been lately brought to the town, we may suppose that their situation will improve, as the facility of removing articles of traffic is frequently the means of opening new sources of employment. Near the town is a large reservoir, which covers about seventy acres; and was made for the supply of the canal. The appearance of the market-house is particularly mean. This borough was first represented in Parliament in the 28th of Edward the First. It intermitted sending till the 21st of James Vol., I.

<sup>\*</sup> Gough's Additions to Camden,

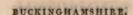
the First,\* when the privilege was restored by petition. The right of election is vested in the housekeepers not receiving alms. The voters are not more than 130, most of whom are permitted to occupy the burgage-houses rent free: the conditions on which they enjoy this privilege are easily comprehended. This town gave birth and name to ROGER, the historian, who wrote a chronicle from the creation of the world to the reign of Henry the Second, and RICHARD, made Bishop of Rochester by Henry the Third.

In this neighbourhood we enter the southern division of the county, called the Chiltern, which is exceedingly different from the other part in its external appearance, quality of soil, mode of agriculture, materials for building, and almost every other circumstance that can render two counties dissimilar. Many of the houses and walls are composed of flint, or flint intermixed with brick. The soil is thin, with a chalk bottom; and very extensive tracts are covered with beech trees. Many elegant mansions are also interspersed through this district, which is elevated, healthy, and pleasant.

CHECQUERS, the ancient seat of Sir John Russel, Bart. is beautifully situated among the woods between Ellesborough and Hampden. Sir John is a lineal descendant of Cromwell, by the marriage of Sir John Russel, of Chippenham, Cambridgeshire, with Lady Frances, the Protector's daughter, widow of Robert Rich, Esq.

HAMPDEN

The intermission was attended by the very remarkable circumstance of all recollection of the right of the borough having been lost, till about this period, when Mr. Hakeville, of Lincoln's Inn, discovered, by a search among the ancient Parliament writs in the Tower, that the boroughs of Amersham, Wendover, and Great Marlow, had all sent Members in former times; and petitions were then preferred in the names of those places, that their ancient liberty or franchise might be restored. When the King was informed of these petitions, he directed his solicitor, Sir Robert Heath, to oppose them with all his might, declaring, that he was troubled with too great a number of Burgesses already." The Sovereign's opposition proved ineffectual; and the Commons, as above stated, decided in favor of the restoration of the privilege. Some particulars of this singular case may be found in Willis's Notitia Parliamentaria.



HAMPDEN HOUSE, the almost deserted seat of the ancient family of that name, is seated on the brow of a hill, overlooking a narrow valley, the sides of which are skirted with well-wooded eminences. This mansion contains several good pictures and family portraits; but the names of the persons whom they represent appear to be forgotten. One of them, however, is easily distinguished; it is a full length portrait of OLIVER CROMWELL, who is delineated with a truncheon in his right hand, and his left resting on a helmet: his hair grey. In the middle distance is a corps of cavalry; and in the back-ground, a sea-port with shipping. Here are also two sets of copies from Raphael's cartoons at Windsor. One set is drawn with red chalk, and the other is painted.

In the village church, situated immediately behind this mansion, there is a monument to the memory of the last heir male, Mr. John Hampden, with the various intermarriages of the family, represented in shields of their arms pendant from a tree. The inscription states, that this gentleman was the 24th hereditary Lord of Great Hampden, and Burgess for Wendover in three Parliaments. He died in 1754, having bequeathed his estates and name to the Honorable Robert Trevor, a descendant on the female side from the distinguished opponent of the unconstitutional right assumed by Charles the First, of levying ship-money by his own authority. His son, the present Viscount Hampden, succeeded to the estate in 1783.

JOHN HAMPDEN, Esq. the celebrated character whose adherence to the principles of general liberty had such a predominating influence over the events of the seventeenth century, was born in the year 1594. His family are supposed to havebeen originally Saxon, and the most ancient in this county, where they had great possessions in the reign of Edward the Third. At the age of fifteen he was sent to Magdalen College, Oxford, whence he removed to one of the inns of court; and though often the companion of the gay and dissipated, acquired a considerable knowledge of the laws. The vivacity and cheerfulness of his conversation became the means of his attaining an extensive

acquaintance;

acquaintance; but the peculiar vigor of his understanding remained concealed till the period when he contested the legality of the rate called ship-money. His opposition to this obnoxious measure immediately rendered him popular; the gratitude of a whole people was excited by his conduct; for in his steady defence of individual right, they discovered the safeguard and the surety of their own. "The eyes of all men," says Clarendon, " were fixed upon him as their pater patrix, and the pilot that must steer the vessel through the tempests and rocks which threatened it." He now became the firm supporter of the measures employed to counteract the designs of the King; and by his discernment, spirit, and address, was soon advanced to the head of his party. On the commencement of the civil war, he was one of the first to appear in arms, and shortly afterwards engaged the royal troops at Brill, in this county. His bravery was as conspicuous as his abilities, and in several skirmishes his success was favorable: but at length, on the 18th of June, 1643, in an action with Prince Rupert at Chalgrove Field, in Oxfordshire, he received a mortal wound with a pistol bullet. The shot entered his shoulder, and broke the bone. After suffering extreme pain for six days, he expired, to the great sorrow of every friend to his person and principles. In the delineation of his character by the Earl of Clarendon, his reach of capacity, penetration, judgment, and solidity of understanding, are strongly marked. "His industry and vigilance," observes the earl, "were neither to be tired out nor wearied by the most laborious, nor his parts to be imposed upon by the most subtle and sharp."

# PRINCES' RISBOROUGH,

Is a small market town, so denominated from Edward the Black Prince, who, according to the tradition of the inhabitants, had large possessions and a palace here. This was probably the old manor-house, which was moated round, and stood near the west end of the church-yard, but is now entirely destroyed. The spot on which it was situated is supposed by Mr. Wise to have

been



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been a Saxon camp, fortified to check the incursions of the Danes; it being near the road called the Icknild Way, or, as it is now corruptly named by the peasantry, the Achnel Way.

Monks Risborough, the adjoining parish, received that appellation from its having been given to Christ Church, Canterbury, by Eschwine, Bishop of Dorchester, about the year 995, and afterwards assigned as a portion to the monks of that place. Near the hamlet of Whiteleaf, in this parish, is an antiquity of a similar kind to the White Horse in Berkshire; this is a Cross formed in the same manner on the side of a high and steep chalk hill, facing the south-west, and thence becoming a distinct and principal object to that part of the county, and the adjoining lands of Oxfordshire. It appears raised on a basis of considerable dimensions. Its perpendicular height is about 100 feet, its greatest breadth 50; yet, as it decreases gradually upwards, the top does not exceed 20 feet. The transverse line is nearly 70 feet in length, and 12 in breadth. The depth of the trench, which is cut in the chalk, to determine the limits of the figure, is between two and three feet. According to tradition, the expense of repairing this rude but durable memorial of our ancestors, was formerly defrayed by some of the Oxford Colleges; but nothing on this subject can be affirmed with certainty: when it was last scoured, it was done by the subscription of the neighbouring gentry.

Mr. Wise, whose arguments on the origin and signification of the White Horse we had occasion to mention in page 126, observes, that, "the Horse cannot but be attributed to Saxons; nor the Cross to any but Christian Saxons; and that the design and meaning of each were the same is clear from their situations." He proceeds to ascribe the latter to the age of Edward the Elder, when it was formed, he imagines, to preserve the memory of a battle fought with the Danes, the scene of which seems pointed out in this neighbourhood by the village named Bledlow, which is a corruption from the term implying the Bloody Hill.

GREAT MISSENDEN was formerly the seat of a monastery for Benedictines, built by the family of the D'Oileys, but

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endowed by Sir Thomas Missenden, Knight, and Admiral, about the year 1293, in pursuance of a vow made on escaping shipwreck. On the dissolution it was leased to Richard Greneweve for 21 years, at the annual charge of 9l. 11s. 10d. Having reverted to the Crown, it was granted by Queen Elizabeth, in the second year of her reign, to Richard Hampden, Esq. Clerk of the Royal Kitchen; and afterwards to the Earl of Leicester. in perpetuity. In 1612 this estate was in the possession of Sir William Fleetwood, whose title was then confirmed by the letters patent of James the First. In the year 1787 it was purchased out of chancery by James Oldham Oldham, Esq. who has made many considerable alterations in the grounds, and wholly rebuilt the house, which is fitted up in the Venetian style, and rendered particularly elegant by its internal decorations. The church is on the side of a hill, about half a mile from the village, and has lately been repaired and embellished by Mr. Oldham. The chancel is built with flint, and contains several mural monuments.

# CHESHAM

Is a small but populous town, situated in a pleasant and fertile valley. It consists of three streets, principally occupied by shoe and lace makers, and manufacturers of wooden articles, in the respective branches of round, hollow, and Tunbridge Ware. The dealings in the turnery goods amount to a very large sum annually; and it has been computed that nearly a thousand pair of shoes are made here every week. The inhabitants are mostly dissenters, and there are no fewer than four places of worship in this town, independent of the parish church. The children of the poor receive the early rudiments of education at a free school.

LATIMERS, the seat of Lord George Cavendish, derived its name from its ancient lords. It was formerly the residence of Sir Edwyn Sandys, whose daughter Hester, the wife of Sir Thomas Temple, was born here.

CHENEYS





CHENEYS is a small village belonging to the Duke of Bedford, but anciently to the family of the Cheneys, who had very extensive possessions in this neighbourhood. The old manor-house, described at some length by Leland, is yet standing near the elegant chapel, built in the year 1562, by Anne, Countess of Bedford, in pursuance of the will of John, Earl of Bedford, her husband. These illustrious personages were the first of the Russels interred in this fabric, which has from that period been the general burial-place of the family, and contains several handsome monuments erected to their remembrance.

CHALFONT ST. GILES has been rendered memorable as the residence of Milton during the plague which raged in London in the year 1665. The house in which he took refuge is now standing, and probably in the same state as when inhabited by that great poet, who on this spot finished his immortal poem of Paradise Lost, Here also the first draught of Paradise Regained is supposed to have been written through the suggestion of his friend Elwood, the Quaker, the companion of his retirement, who, after perusing the original copy of the former poem, returned it to the bard with these words: "thou hast said a great deal on Paradise Lost; but what hast thou to say on Paradise Found?" Milton made no answer, and, after a short silence, began a conversation on another subject; but a considerable time afterwards presented his friend with the Paradise Regained, saying, in a pleasant tone of voice, "This is owing to you; for you made it the subject of my thoughts, by the question you put to me at Chalfont."

## AMERSHAM,

WRITTEN Agmondesham by the Saxons, appears to have been vested in Ann Nevil, wife of Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, who was slain at the battle of Northampton in the 38th of Henry the Sixth. In the ensuing reign it became the property of the Great Earl of Warwick, whose lands were seized by the King, but restored to Anne Beauchamp, the Earl's widow, by Henry the

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Seventh,

Seventh, only for the purpose of having it more formally conveyed to him. Henry the Eighth gave it to John, afterwards Lord Russel; but, in the reign of James the First, it became the property of the Drake family by an intermarriage with the daughter and heiress of William Tothill, Esq. The present possessor is Thomas Drake Tyrwhitt Drake, Esq. a collateral descendant. This family was originally seated at Ash, near Exmouth, Devon.

This ancient town is seated in a vale between woody hills. consists of a long wide street, crossed near the centre by a smaller one. Near the point of intersection is the church, a spacious brick building, covered with stucco, and consisting of a nave, with small aisles, a transept, chancel, and monument room, and a tower at the west end. The nave is provided with good pews; and also three galleries fitted up by the late Mr. Drake, who, when this structure was repaired in the year 1778, had a window of painted glass brought from a decayed mansion at Lamer, in Hertfordshire, and placed in the chancel. In the upper compartments are a Lamb and a Dove, and the figures of Faith, Hope, and Charity, with their proper emblems. Beneath, in two rows, are whole length figures of the twelve Apostles. In the chancel is a large marble monument to the memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Bent, who bequeathed 700l. to purchase lands, the income of which she directed to be given to the clergyman, for preaching sermons and administering the sucrament to the poor. She also appropriated the interest of 100l. to the use of godly widows, who should constantly attend divine service, and receive the communion. The monument-room is paved with marble, and was built by one of the Drakes purposely to receive the family monuments. One of them, erected to the memory of Montague Gerrard Drake, who died in 1728, was executed by Scheemaker, and is very magnificent. It is composed with various colored marble. Mr. Drake is represented on a sarcoplingus, with his head reclined on his left hand, At his feet is a large statue of his widow, sitting; and near his head is the figure of Hymen weeping, and bearing an extinguished torch. Over the 40mb

tomb are two Cupids. The expression of the figures is finely executed. The town-hall was built in the year 1682, by Sir William Drake, Bart. who also erected and endowed an almshouse for six poor widows.

Great quantities of black lace are made here; and the laboring classes derive additional support from a cotton manufactory, established about eleven years ago, which employs above a hundred persons, though much of the business is performed by machinery. The houses in this borough are 267; but very few more than one fourth of that number have the privilege of voting, the right being restricted to the inhabitants who pay scot and lot. The living is said to rank among the best in England. This parish (including the hamlet of Coleshill, which, though but a little distance from Amersham, is considered as part of Hertfordshire) contains 403 houses, 959 male and 1171 female inhabitants. About one mile and a half from this town\* is

SHARDELOES, the seat of T. D. T. Drake, Esq. This estate originally belonged to the Tothills; and from some memorandums in the possession of Mr. Drake, it appears that the old manor-house was the occasional residence of Queen Elizabeth. The present mansion is delightfully situated on the brow of a hill, overlooking a broad sheet of water, which was planned by Richmond, and occupies the centre of a narrow valley, covering 35 acres. The view of Amersham to the north-east, with the surrounding eminences, surmounted with extensive tracts of wood, is very beautiful. The house was erected by Mr. Drake's father, from designs by Adams. The principal entrance is in the north front, under a projecting portico, supported by four fluted Corinthian columns. The hall is 30 feet square. On the right is the dining parlour, 36 feet by 24. On the left a handsome drawing-room of the same dimensions, containing several good paintings: the following are esteemed the best,

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<sup>\*</sup> The burning of William Tillsworth was mentioned in page 28 (through the error of not referring to Fox, the original narrator) to have been effected at Dunstable, but the real scene of that transaction was Amersham, where two other persons were also committed to the flames within a year or two afterwards.

A three quarter portrait of QUEEN ELIZABETH, who is profusely decorated with lace, beads, and bracelets: her right hand rests on a globe. In the back-ground is a representation of the Spanish Armada on one side, and the storm which dispersed it on the other.

A small Landscape with Figures: Francis Van Lins, 1741. LORD CHANCELLOR HATTON: C. Janson.

Four Pieces, representing a Storm at Sea; Sun-Set; a Calm, with the Sun breaking through a Fog; and Sun-Rise. These were executed by Vernet, and are dated 1747. The three first are very finely executed; the fourth is a dark picture, varying from the artist's usual style, and apparently an imitation of some Flemish piece.

A Engagement at Sea: L. A. Carter.

Two Landscapes, with Ruins; Views in Italy: Van Bloomen, 1742.

An upright Landscape, with Rocks and Waterfall: Van Deist. The composition is bold and spirited, and the coloring fine. It bears a strong resemblance to some of the productions of Salvator.

Some good paintings, by Francis Balow, of Fish, Birds, &c.

Among the first is a portrait of a Jack caught in the lake before
the house, which weighed 34 pounds.

## HIGH OR CHIPPING WYCOMBE

Is situated on the banks of a rivulet in a valley, as its name implies; and if not the largest town in Buckinghamshire, is certainly the most handsome. The antiquities found in its neighbourhood, particularly a tessalated pavement, and various Roman

\* This pavement was found in a meadow in the grounds at Loakes, now Wycombe Abbey, in the year 1724. It was about nine feet square, with the figure of a wild beast in the centre, and the borders curiously ornamented with small-square stones of different colors: the coins discovered with it were those of Antoninus Pius and Marcus Aurelius. Several other coins have been found in the neighbourhood; and also part of a Roman vessel in digging a cellar in the High-Street.

Roman coins, have induced a supposition that it was a Roman settlement; but this evidence ought no otherwise to be regarded, than as presumptive, as the above things might have been left on this spot if it had only been the site of a Roman villa. That it was early inhabited by Saxons seems incontestible; for, in addition to the argument which arises from the appellation Chipping being a corruption of the Saxon term indicative of market, we are informed in Langley's\* History of the Hundred of Desborough, that there is a strong double entrenchment in the vicinity, called Desborough Castle, where foundations of buildings, broken tiles and bricks, have been dug up; and also a stone window frame, of a similar shape to those used in ancient churches. These remains were in the innermost part of the fortification, which is but a short distance from the main road, and was probably designed to check the incursions of the Danes.

Previous to the Conquest, Wycombe was considered as the property of Edith, Edward the Confessor's Queen. In the reign of Harold it was possessed by Wigod, the Lord of Wallingford, and afterwards descended with the honor of that place through the hands of Robert D'Oilly, Milo Crispin, and Brientius Fitz-Count, to Henry the First, who about this time made it a free borough. The original manor now became divided; Villa de Wicumbe being given by Henry to Geoffrey, his illegitimate son by fair Rosamond; and Villa Forinseca, i. e. the out village or town, bestowed by King John on Alan Basset and Robert Vipont. The whole manor was soon afterwards vested in the former, with the exception of what was held by Vipont.

The estate given to Basset, and thence called Bassetsbury, continued in his family till the reign of Edward the First, when the heiress of Philip married Roger le Bigod, Earl Marshal, on the attainder of whose issue, Hugh le Despenser, in the year 1326, it reverted to the Crown. Edward the Third, in 1332, granted this manor to his cousin William de Bohun, from whose family

<sup>\*</sup> To this gentleman's very particular History of the above Hundred we are indebted for much of the historical information detailed in our account of the place between Wycombe and Hedsor.



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family it passed by marriage to Henry de Bolingbrook, son of John of Gaunt, and afterwards King by the title of Henry the Fourth. In the reign of Edward the Fourth it was granted to the dean and canons of Windsor and their successors, by whom it has been leased to various families. The present lessee is Sir John Dashwood, Bart.

The manors included in the grant to Vipont were demised by him to the Knights Templars, who retained the estate till the dissolution of their order, by Edward the Second, in 1324. The accounts of their descent from this time are incomplete, till they came into the possession of the Archdale family, and were conveyed in 1700 to Henry Lord Shelburne, from whom they descended to the present Marquis of Lansdown; but are now the property of Lord Carrington by purchase.

Wycombe is a very flourishing town, and consists of several streets branching from the High-Street, which is spacious and well built. The town-hall was erected at the expence of John Earl of Shelburne in 1757. It is a large brick building, supported on thirty-four stone pillars, and finished in a neat and convenient manner. The church is a handsome structure of stone, built in the year 1273, and dedicated to All Saints. The tower is at the west end 108 feet high, and adorned with roses and portcullises; it was erected in 1522; but its pinnacles and Gothic ornaments were built by the above Earl about 1755. The interior is divided into a nave, aisles, and chancel. Over the communion-table is a large painting by Mortimer, presented to the church by Dr. Bates of Little Missenden. It represents St. Paul converting the Druids to Christianity, and contains fifteen figures, with a little babe and a dog, grouped with considerable skill. The expression and coloring are likewise very fine; but the drawing, and mode of treating the subject, are far from being commendable. The Organ was erected by Green in 1783, the expense being defrayed by subscription. In the chancel is a magnificent mural monument, erected to the memory of Henry Petty, Earl of Shelburne. at the charge of 2000l, bequeathed by him for the purpose. The effigies of the Earl is lying on a cist of black marble, with Religion

holding

holding a book before him. On the right hand are Virtue and Learning, represented by female figures instructing a child: on the left Charity and a Roman warrior. The canopy is sustained by pillars of grey marble; at the top is an urn, with Prudence and Justice on either side. Beneath the cist is a medallion of the Great Sir William Petty, the Earl's father; and over it the family arms. In the south aisle is a beautiful monument, by Carlini, to the memory of Sophia, first wife to the Marquis of Lansdown, who died in 1771, and represents that lady reclining on an urn, with her two children.

This borough was incorporated some time prior to the reign of Edward the Third; and a memorandum in the old corporation books mentions the first charter to have been granted by Henry the Third. The existing charters bear date the 28th of Elizabeth, the 5th of James, and the 15th of Charles the Second. The corporation consists of a mayor, recorder, twelve aldermen, and various inferior officers. The dignity of high-steward was annulled by the charter of King Charles, but has occasionally been conferred since that period. The right of election is vested in the mayor, aldermen, bailiffs, and burgesses: The latter are chosen at the discretion of the mayor, aldermen, and bailiffs. Their number at present is about eighty, sixty of whom are compelled to be resident by a bye-law made in 1794. The first return to Parliament was in the 28th of Edward the First, since which time it has been represented without intermisssion. The number of houses in the borough is 421, the inhabitants about 2200.

The prosperity of the town is in a great measure owing to the proximity of the Wycombe Stream, which, in its course through the parish, gives motion to fifteen corn and paper-mills. The manufacture of the latter article is probably carried to as great an extent in this neighbourhood as in any part of England. The second source of its wealth is the expenditure of travellers, which, from this being the principal thoroughfare to Oxford, &c. amounts to a very considerable sum annually. Some of the inhabitants are supported by lace-making. The yearly value of

various

various donations given to support the poor is about 2201. Of this sum, 30l. per annum is appropriated to the master of a grammar school, who has likewise an additional 30l. from the interest of money vested in the funds, and bequeathed for the purpose in 1790, by Mrs. Mary Bonder. This parish contains about 6000 acres, of which 650 are woodland, and 100 common. The rest is arable and pasture. Its houses, independent of those of the borough, are 268, and its inhabitants about 1400.

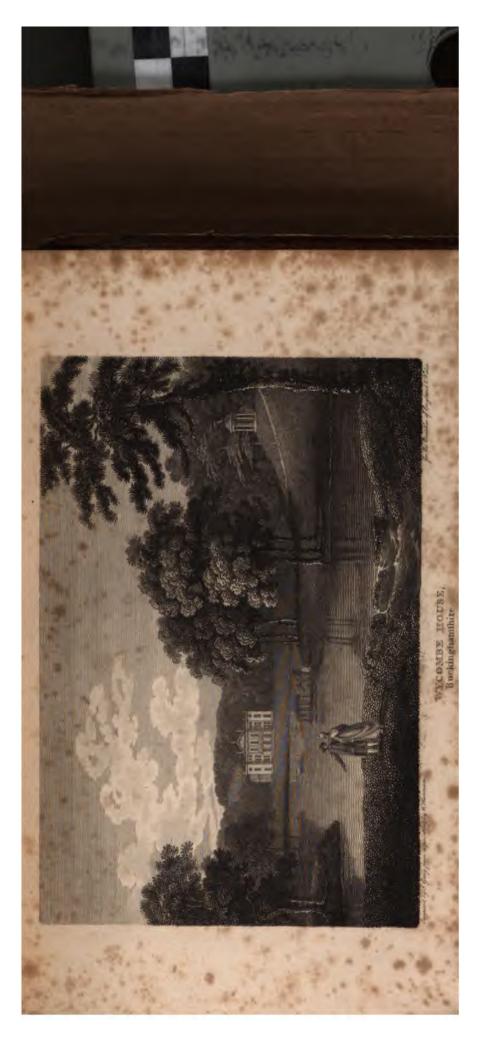
WYCOMBE ABBEY, formerly Loakes, the seat of Lord Carrington, is situated in a bottom, on the banks of the river near the town, but is so entirely secluded in the bosom of its thick groves, that every appearance of a neighbourhood is concealed. The manor-house was an irregular building, erected about the reign of James the First, but will shortly be completely repaired, and considerable additions made from designs by Mr. Wyatt. The whole is intended to be cased with a hard sand stone,t found in the neighbourhood. The front of the house is rendered pleasant by a spacious sheet of water, which winds through the grounds for nearly three quarters of a mile, and is terminated by a small artificial cascade, executed by the ingenious J. J. Lane, and claiming admiration from its variety of parts and picturesque effect. The park, containing about 200 acres, is diversified with bold hills, and eminences covered with wood. About one mile north of Wycombe is

HITCHENDEN, the seat of the Countess Dowager Conyngham, a distant relation of the late John Norris, Esq. This is

\* In the court-rolls of Temple Wycombe is a presentment (3d of Henry the Seventh) against a baker, named Russel, for keeping a scolding harlor in his house; and another (26th of Elizabeth) against the inhabitants of Wycombe for not keeping bows and arrows.

† These stones are dispersed over the grounds in single masses, similar to the grey wethers on Marlborough Downs, but have never before been applied to the purposes of building.

\* This man, though originally only a common mason, has displayed more taste and judgment in the construction of cascades, than perhaps any other person in England. The cascade at Bowood, Wilts, is a very fine specimen of his talents.





## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

TURVILLE, or TURFIELD, consists of two manors, one of which was given to the Abbey of St. Alban's, in the year 794, by Egfrid, son of Offa, King of Mercia. The other was granted at a very early period to the family of Morteyn, but afterwards became the property of the Botilers. The parish contains nearly 2000 acres, disposed into arable, pasture and wood land. In the year 1772 some Roman coins were found here; eight of which were lately in the possession of Colonel Jones, of Ipstone House; they related to the Emperors Antoninus Pius, Vespasian, Trajan, Aurelius, and the Empress Faustina.

## FAWLEY COURT,

The seat of Strickland Freeman, Esq. was formerly the property of the Whitelock family, who obtained it about the commencement of the 17th century. Sir James Whitelock, the celebrated judge, died here in the year 1632, and was succeeded by his son, Bulstrode Whitelock, author of the Memorials which go under his name. This gentleman possessed great talents and considerable learning; but the flexibility of his conduct during the civil wars, has occasioned his memory to be stigmatized with want of principle; though the real cause of his versatility might with more justice be ascribed to a mildness of temper, which divested him of manly fortitude. James, his son, sold this estate, about 1680, to Colonel William Freeman, from whom it descended to the present possessor.

The old manor-house was materially injured by a body of horse in the interest of Charles the Second, who were quartered here at the latter end of the year 1642; and though commanded by their officers to refrain from destroying any part of the property, regarded their orders with as little attention, as they could have done had their quarters belonged to an enemy. They "littered their horses with sheaves of good wheat, and gave them all sorts of corn in the straw. Of divers writings of consequence, and books which were left in the study, some they tore in pieces, others they used to light their tobacco, and some

B b 2

they

manship: between the arches is the figure of a priest, and a bishop's head with a mitre. Many persons of the very ancient family of the D'Oyleys are interred within this fabric.\*

This parish is nearly five miles in length, and four in breadth. It contains about 1200 acres of woodland, 5500 arable and pasture, and 150 common and waste. The number of farms are 30, the cottages 154; the inhabitants nearly 1000. This neighbourhood is rendered extremely beautiful by the inequality of the ground, and the fine mixture of wood, corn, and pasture, which diversifies the appearance of the vales and eminences.

GREENLAND

\* One monument, erected to the memory of this family, is composed of alabaster. It consists of twelve figures as large as life, kneeling, and very elegantly sculptured. They represent Sir Cope D'Oyley, (the heir to the family of the D'Oyleys who founded the abbies of Oseney and Missenden, and the eastle of Oxford,) his lady, and their ten children, five sons and five daughters. The poetry beneath the figures is somewhat singular; and as it records the virtues of a family of much celebrity in the county, we shall insert a copy.

Under the Knight is inscribed:

Ask not of me, Who's buried here?
Goe ask the commons, ask the shiere,
Goe ask the church, they'll tell thee who,
As well as blubber'd eyes can do.
Goe ask the heraulds, ask the poor,
Thine ears shall hear enough to ask no more.
Then if thine eyes bedew this sacred urne,
Each drop a pearl will turne,
T'adorn his tombe; or if thou can'st not vent,
Thou bring'st more marble to his monument.

Would'st thou, reader, draw to life
The perfect copy of a wife,
Read on; and then from shame redeem.
That lost, but honorable name.
This was once in spirit a Jael,
Rebecca in grace, in heart an Abigail,
In works a Porcas, to the church a Hanna,
And to her spouse Susanna;
Prudently simple, providently wary;
To the world a Martha, and to heav'n a Mary.



GREENLAND HOUSE, near Hambledon, at the time of the civil wars, was the residence of Sir John D'Oyley, through whose attachment to the royal cause it was converted into a garrison, and sustained a siege of six months, when most part of the building having been destroyed, the governor, Colonel Hawkins, capitulated on honorable terms. The remains of the house has been fitted up as a farm, which exhibits but few specimens of the former grandeur of the mansion. The fortifications raised during the siege are yet distinguishable.

## MEDMENHAM,

At the time of the Domesday survey, was held by Hugh de Bolebeck, whose eldest son having endowed the abbey at Woburn, in Bedfordshire, gave this manor to found a cell to it; but the latter was not built till the barony descended to his brother Walter, who, in consequence, has erroneously been considered as the founder. In the reign of Henry the Eighth, it was annexed to Bisham Abbey, in Berkshire; but from the return made by the commissioners at the dissolution, appears to have been of very little importance, having only two monks, "who both desyren to go to houses of religion. Servants none—Woods none—Debts none—Bells, &c. worth 2l. 1s. 8d. The house wholly in ruins, and the value of the moveable goods only 1l. 3s. 8d." The abbot was epistolar of the order of the Garter.

In the last century, this little abbey became particularly celebrated from having been made the retiring place of a society of men of wit and fashion, under the title of Monks of St. Francis, whose habits they assumed. Their manners are said to have been very opposite to the strictness of the former inhabitants; but the statement of the disgusting tenets of this new institution, contained in a publication of the day\*, was most probably heightened into falsehood. The descriptions neither agree with the building nor its situation; but whatever were the real prin-

\* Chrysal, or the Adventures of a Guinea.

eiples of the society, many of their transactions were undoubtadly vicious and dishonorable. The words "Fay ce que woudras," the motte of this last order, is inscribed over the door.

This building is very pleasantly situated on the banks of the Thames, beween Henley and Great Marlow. Brown Willis, who visited it in the year 1718, observes, that "it seems to have been a very neat and stately building, well wrought with ashler-work : the four pillars remaining are very handsome, and the windows Its present state is described by Mr. high and spacious." Langley in the following words: "The abbey-house, with its ivymantled roof and walls, forms a very picturesque object. The late addition of a ruined tower, cloister, and other corresponding parts, is made with so much taste and propriety, that when time shall have worn off all traces of the rule, and blunted its sharp edges; when the ivy shall have continued its embraces, and the mosses of various hues overspread the surface; some future writer will be disposed to class it with the more ancient pile. Within the cloister a room is fitted up with the same good taste, and the glare of light is judiciously excluded by the pleasing gloom of ancient stained glass, chiefly coronets, roses, and The figure of the Virgin (the abbey seal) seated portcullises. on a throne, and holding the infant Saviour in her arms, carved in marble, stills remains, and is placed in a niche in the tower." The site of the abbey was purchased of the Duffield family, in 1779, by John Morton, Esq. whose widow sold it, together with the neighbouring villa of Danesfield, in the year 1786, to Robert Scott, Esq. the present owner.

Danesfield, the elegant residence of the above gentleman, was so named from a strong and perfect Danish encampment on the estate in the form of a rude horse-shoe. The situation of the camp was peculiarly inviting, the back part being defended by a thick wood, and the front towards the Thames strengthened by a high cliff. The circular part is fortified by a double vallum. Some warlike instruments were discovered a few years since, in making

making a walk round the rampart. The house and grounds have been considerably improved by Mr. Scott.

HARLEY-FORD, the seat of William Clayton, Esq. was erected from a design of Sir Robert Taylor, in the year 1755, on the site of the ancient manor-house, a very spacious edifice built on a similar plan to Hurley House, on the opposite banks of the Thames. This mansion is not large, but the apartments are very conveniently disposed. The library is nest and elegant. The pictures are chiefly family portraits. The house is sheltered from the cold blasts of the north by a fine grove, where the beech and fir display their contrasted verdure. The lawn is ornamented with venerable chesnut and forest trees. The walks are extensive, and open to many varied and interesting prospects. Several small buildings are dispersed through the grounds, the principal of which, the Temple of Friendship, was a tribute of respect to this family, presented by the late Dr. Thomas, Bishop of Rochester. Its architecture is nest and appropriate, and its situation extremely well chosen. Over the door is a short inscription, expressive of the grateful friendship of the donor.

SEYMOUR'S COURT was anciently the property of the noble family of that name, but is now vested in the dean and chapter of Bristol. The ancient manor-house was so much damaged in the civil wars, that the whole of it has since been demolished. Its situation was singularly pleasant, commanding a fine sweep of the Thames, the town of Markow embosomed in trees, and a very beautiful intermixture of woods, meadows, and cultivated ground. According to the tradition of the country, this was the birth-place of Queen Jane Seymour; though our historians have given that honor to Wolf-hall, the ancient seat of the Seymours in Wiltshire.

## GREAT MARLOW,

SITUATED in a very pleasant part of the county, near the banks of the Thames, is said by Camden to derive its name from the chalk, commonly called mark, which he observes, "being laid

ket is but indifferently supplied; and its little communitate chiraly carried on by sample. The church is a large ancient structure, dedicated to All, Saints. It consists of a body and two sisles; with a transept dividing it from the chancel. From the tower rises a wooden spire, built in the year 1627. The inside is plaine and decent. In the front gallery is a large hand-organ, erected by subscription in 1775. The chancel is separated from the nave by an ancient stone screen. The altar is; of oak, handsomely carved. The church contains a number of monumental inaccipations, but not any deserving of particular notice.

The old bridge across the Thames at Marlow, appears to have been of very remote entiquity. Among the patent rolls of the Tower, are grants, dated during the reigns of Edward the Third, Richard the Second, and Henry the Fourth, allowing the bailiffs. to take tolls of all goods, wares, merchandizes, and cattle, passing over or under the bridge; the receipts to be expended for repairs. . Part of this bridge was destroyed by the army of Major General Brown in 1642; and the Parliament ordered a countyrate to be levied for its reparation. In 1787 this structures becoming, ruinous and unsafe, occasioned an application to be made to the county for rebuilding it; but the magistrates not thinking the evidence of its being a county bridge conclusives refused to accede to the request; on which the Marquis of Buckingham proposed a subscription, and 1800l. was raised in the year 1798, when the present bridge was erected. It is a commodious wooden fabric, with the ballustrades painted white in imitation of stone work. The contiguous scenery is richly variegated with the foliage of different colored woods.

The principal charitable institutions are two free-schools, founded by Sir William Borlase about 1624. One is for twenty-four. boys, of whom three are chosen from Medmenham, and three from Great Marlow. The other is for the same number of girls, who, by, the articles of endowment, were to be taught to knit, spin, and make lace; but the latter branch is neglected, the trustees alledging, that the estates are inadequate for the purpose. The boys are allowed forty shillings each to put them apprentice.

The alms-houses for poor widows were founded in pursuance of a deed of trust, dated July 20th, 1608, and executed by John Brinkhurst, Esq. The rents of the estate appropriated for their support now amount to forty-two pounds yearly; this has enabled the trustees to add two persons to the establishment, which originally consisted of only four. Several other benefactions have at various times been vested in trustees for the use of the poor.

Some faint traces of a corporation are discoverable in the records concerning the town, but it does not appear that any charter for its government was ever obtained. The last mention of the mayor and burgesses occurs about the conclusion of the fourteenth century. The writ for the repair of the bridge, dated 1352, is directed Probis hominibus villa de Merlawe. The first return for the borough occurred in the 28th of Edward the First, when Richard le Mouner and Richard le Veel were chosen as its representatives in the Parliament held at Lincoln. It continued to send Members till the second of Edward the Second, after which no returns were made for 314 years, till the 21st of James the First, when, on a petition to the House of Commons, the privilege was restored. The right of election is in the inhabitants paying scot and lot, to which no house under 3l. is rated. The number of voters are about 220. The parish of Great Marlow contains nearly 6000 acres; of which 800 are woodland, 200 meadow, and 4500 arable, divided into 35 farms; nearly 620 houses, and 3200 inhabitants.

## LITTLE MARLOW,

A VILLAGE about one mile and a half eastward of the latter town, was part of the possessions of Edith, Edward the Confessor's Queen. On the Conquest it was given by King William to the Bishop of Baieux; but having escheated to the Crown, appears to have been given by Richard Cœur de Lion to his brother John, whose daughter Eleanor conveyed it as part of her dowry

<sup>\*</sup> See Langley's Hundred of Deshorough.

dowry to William Mareschal, Earl of Pembroke, from whom it came into the possession of Gilbert, Earl of Clare. Its further descent is involved in some obscurity; but it seems to have been attached to the Benedictine nunnery founded here about the reign of Henry the Second; by whom is uncertain. On the dissolution it was granted to Bisham Abbey; and, after passing through two or three hands, became the property of John Borlase, Esq. whose family was anciently situated in Cornwall, but came to reside here about 1560, and by their generous hospitality soon

hn Bart, the last male heir of ufter bequeathing his estates d Arthur Warren, Esq. of om she had issue, Borlase orlase Warren, Bart. (cre-

war) sold it to William Lee Antonie, the present possessor.

The manor-house is an ancient irregular building, standing near the church, but has nothing in it deserving observation. The church is a small decent edifice; the interior of which has been lately repaired with a new pulpit, desk, and pews. Scarcely any part of the convent is now standing, the principal materials having been used in the construction of a farm-house. The parish contains about 3182 acres; of which 2285 are arable and pasture, 674 woodland, 70 gardens and orchards, and the remainder common or waste land. The number of farms is 20; houses 125; and inhabitants about 600. The population has increased nearly one fourth within the last century.

#### WOOBURN

Is a flourishing village, situated in a pleasant narrow valley, with a river meandering through its bosom, and giving motion to several corn and paper mills. Previous to the Norman invasion, it belonged to Earl Harold, but after that event became the property of the See of Lincoln, under whose bishop Remigius, it was probably separated into the manors of Bishop's Woodurn,

and Wooburn Deyncourt. The former remained attached to Lincoln, and became the favorite seat of its bishops, the rectory being converted into the episcopal palace; but was alienated in . 1547, and two years afterwards granted to John, Duke of Bedford, whose son sold it about 1580 to Sir John Goodwin. The latter was held of the above See by Walter Deyncourt, in whose family it continued till the year 1420, when William, the last male heir, dying a minor, was succeeded by his sister Alice, married to William, Lord Lovell, whose grandson Francis,\* inherited her estates, which, on his attainder, at the commencement of the reign of Henry the Seventh, reverted to the Crown. By Henry the Eighth the manor was granted for a certain term to Sir William Compton, (ancestor to the Earls of Northampton,) whose posterity inherited it till the latter end of the reign of Elizabeth, who granted it in perpetuity to Robert Spencer and Robert Atkins, Esqs. but it soon afterwards became vested in the Goodwins, by the marriage of Sir John Goodwin with the daughter of Sir William Spencer, and thus the two manors again were united. In the reign of Charles the First, Jane, the sole heiress of the Goodwins, married Philip, Lord Wharton.

This Nobleman having succeeded to the estates of the Goodwins, made Winchenden his principal place of residence till the decease of his lady, after which he resided at Wooburn. His Lordship appears to have been a friend to the principles through which Charles the First was ejected from the throne, and was one of the Commissioners sent by Parliament to Scotland; yet, as he had taken no decided part in the execution of the Monarch, he was, at the Restoration, permitted to retire into privacy. The oppressive conduct of James the Second again called him to the busy world, and he had the pleasure of "seeing his exertions in favor of constitutional"

<sup>\*</sup>This nobleman was made knight of the garter by Richard the Third, whose cause he had embraced, and likewise one of his ministers. The quibbling distich written by William Collingbourne, and for which he was brought to the gallows under presence of rebellion, refer to this Francis. The verse was as follows:

<sup>&</sup>quot; The cat, the rat, and Lovell the dog,

<sup>&</sup>quot; Rule all England under the hog."

constitutional liberty sealed by the Bill of Rights." Third visited him at Wooburn soon after he had obtained possession of the crown. Lord Wharton died in 1695, at the advanced age of 83, and was succeeded by Thomas his son, whose attachment to the cause of freedom was eminently displayed by the first draught of the invitation to the Prince of Orange, which is said to have been composed by his Lordship. For this and other services he was made privy counsellor by King William; and in the year 1706 was created Viscount Winchenden and Earl Wharton, for his conduct in settling the terms of the union with Scotland. In the high political disputes which divided the nation during the latter years of Queen Anne, his Lordship opposed the Ministry; yet soon after the accession of George the First, he was made Lord Privy Seal; and on the first of January, 1715. created Marquis of Wharton and Malmsbury. These honors he enjoyed but a short time, for he died on the 12th of April following, and was succeeded by the versatile Philip, of whom we have before spoken.\* This inconsistent and extraordinary character, whose life being regulated by no principle, displayed a mingled series of absurd and contradictory actions, resigned his breath in a disgraceful obscurity at a small monastery in Spain. His vigor of talent, and strange impropriety of conduct, have been finely described by Pope in his Moral Essays.

WHARTON, the scorn and wonder of our days, Whose ruling passion was the lust of praise; Born with whate'er could win it from the wise, Women and fools must like him, or he dies. Though wondering senates hung on all he spoke, The club must hail him master of the joke. Shall parts so various aim at nothing new? He'll shine a Tully and a Wilmot too; Then turns repentant, and his God adores With the same spirit that he drinks and whores; Enough, if all around him but admire; And now the punk applaud, and now the friat.

Thus

" See description of Woburn, Bedfordshire.



Thus with each gift of nature and of art,
And wanting nothing but an honest heart;
Grown all to all, from no one vice exempt,
And most contemptible to shun contempt;
His passion still to covet general praise;
His life, to forfeit it a thousand ways;
A constant bounty, which no friend has made;
An angel tongue, which no man can persuade;
A fool, with more of wit than half mankind;
Too rash for thought, for action too refin'd;
A tyrant to the wife his heart approves,
A rebel to the very king he loves;
He dies, sad outcast of each church and state,
And, harder still, flagitious, yet not great.

After the Duke's decease, Wooburn was sold to John Morse, Esq. whose neice and heiress was wife to Peregrine Bertie, Esq. This family remained owners till the year 1784, when it was purchased by the late Mrs. Rebecca Du Pré, whose son is the present lord of the manor.

Earl Wharton is said to have expended 100,000l. in altering the grounds belonging to the manor-house, which was surrounded with a moat, and retained its ancient character of feudal magnificence.\* The gardens, as improved by the Earl, were in that age highly celebrated, and are reported to have been a line of terraces on the side of the hill which has since been converted into pasture. The mansion was very large, and the apartments spacious. The gallery was 120 feet in length, and contained the very celebrated collection of portraits of the Wharton family which were afterwards purchased by Sir Robert Walpole.

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\* In an extensive wilderness in the vicinity of the house, "a quantity of gold angels, to the value of 50l. was discovered about thirty years since, and are supposed to have been concealed in the great Rebellion. There is a tradition that at that period Lord Wharton concealed 60,000l. in a wood, called West Wood, and that at the Restoration he could not recollect the exact spot, the only person privy to the transaction being either dead or in exile, but that, after clearing two acres, the whole was discovered."

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Langley's Hundred of Desborough.

This mansion was taken down in the year 1750, and the materials sold for 800l. Soon afterwards one of the stable wings was fitted up as a dwelling-house by Mr. Bertie; and in 1769 the whole was new fronted, and converted into a convenient family residence, by the crection of some additional apartments. The Wycombe stream flows through the garden and meadows. The chapel connected with the old manor-house, is still mentioned in terms of admiration by the aged inhabitants of the village.

In a small room adjoining to this structure, named Little Ease, from the inconvenient manner in which it was constructed, some of those unfortunate people, whom a corrupted prelacy called heretics, were confined in the latter end of the reign of Henry the Seventh. The palace was then inhabited by Bishop Smith, whose zeal for persecution appears to have been heightened by the constant perusal of a manual which he had composed from directions contained in a larger work, for the behaviour of ecclesiastics towards those who held heterodox opinions. Chace, of Amersham, who had given offence by his religious tenets, was seized, in 1506, and having in vain been exhorted to recant, was imprisoned by the Bishop in the above chamber. The Bishop's chaplains next attempted to induce him to renounce the principles of his belief; but neither arguments nor threatenings having any influence, they strangled, and pressed him to death privately. To conceal the knowledge of this detestable transaction, as well as to stigmatize the memory of their immolated victim, they reported that he had hanged himself in his prison, on which be was disgracefully buried as a suicide in Norland Wood, in a highway between Wooburn and Little Marlow.

Wooburn church is a large ancient building, with a nave, two aisles, and a good tower. It contains several monuments of the Bertie and Wharton families. The one to the memory of Philip, Lord Wharton, who died in 1695, is a handsome mural monument of grey marble. The font is a curious and ancient piece of carved work. This parish contains 2596 acres, principally disposed in arable and wood land; about 230 houses, and 1200 inhabitants. The Wycombe stream runs through the



whole parish, and gives motion to several corn and paper mills. On Holtspur Heath there was formerly a very large beech-tree, in which a small wooden house was built by some of the Wharton family, for the accommodation of themselves and friends at the annual races.

HEDSOR LODGE, the elegant mansion of Frederick Lord Boston, was erected by his Lordship in the year 1778, and, from its situation on a lofty eminence, which commands a very richly diversified country, its internal decorations, and convenient domestic arrangements, has been made a most desirable and commodious residence. The grounds are distinguished for their high sloping hills, deep vallies, and the wild luxuriant foliage of the woods, which combining with the bold swells or abrupt depressions of the surface, produce some very beautiful and picturesque scenery. The view from the brow of the hill, with the village church embosomed in trees, " the silver-winding stream of the Thames," and the distant hills, clothed with beech wood, is uncommonly fine. In the dining-room, among other portraits, there is one of WILLIAM LORD PAGET, who was made Knight of the Bath at the coronation of Charles the First; yet at the commencement of the civil commotions, he was distinguished for his opposition to that Monarch, and appointed Lieutenant of Bucks by the Parliament. In this capacity he executed the ordinance for raising the militia with much spirit, and contributed more horses for their service than any other person of the same quality; but soon afterwards joined the King, and continued in great favor with the royal party till the Restoration. Lord Boston is a descendant from this Nobleman by the female line.

CLIEFDEN became celebrated from its magnificent mansion, erected by George Villars, Second Duke of Buckingham, in the reign of Charles the Second: but this edifice, which had been greatly improved by Frederick, Prince of Wales, who resided many years on this delightful spot, was almost wholly destroyed by fire on the 20th of May, 1795. The conflagration spread with such rapidity through the building, that scarcely a remnant of its superb furniture or splendid paintings could be preserved.

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The wings were the only parts of this stately fabric that escaped the flames. The terrace occupies the brow of the very lofty eminence on which the house was situated, and is reported to be higher than that at Windsor, whose castle and contiguous buildings constitute the prominent objects of the view. The declivity towards the Thames is finely hung with natural woods; and the prospect of the meanderings of that river, with the prolific meadows nourished by its waters, are extremely beautiful.

Near the bottom of Cliefden Wood rises a small spring, which falling over a rugged ledge, forms a beautiful cascade; and thence murmuring over its pebbly bed, winds onwards to the Thames. Poetry, says a late writer, "would consider it as the crystal tribute of the Dryads of the woods paid to the Naiads of the stream."

The wretched end of the founder of this once noble residence has been finely commemorated by Pope; and as some of the lines refer to the dissipated scenes transacted on this spot, they seem justly to claim recital.

> In the worst inn's worst room, with mat half hung, The floors of plaster, and the walls of dung, On once a flock-bed, but repair'd with straw, With tape-ty'd curtains, never meant to draw, The George and Garter dangling from that bed Where tawdry yellow strove with dirty red, Great Villars lies. Alas! how chang'd from him, That life of pleasure, and that soul of whim ! Gallant and gay, in Cliefden's proud alcove, The bow'r of wanton Shrewsbury and Love." Or just as gay at council, in a ring Of mimick'd statesmen and their merry King. No wit to flatter left of all his store! No fool to laugh at, which he valued more. There, victor of his health, of fortune, friends, And fame, this Lord of useless thousands, ends.

MORAL ESSAYS.

This line alludes to the Duke's intrigue with the Countess of Shrewsbury, which occasioned a duel between him and her husband, when the latter was slain. It has been said that the Countess, disguised as a page, held the Duke's horse during the combat, and afterwards slept with him in the shirt stained with her husband's blood. The Duke died on the 16th of April, 1688, at the house of a tenant at Kirby-Moor Side, near Holmsly, Yorkshire.



# BUCKINGHAMSHIRE. 385

## BEACONSFIELD

Is a small market-town, supposed to have derived its name from the term Beacon, either significant of the commanding eminence whereon it is situated, or of the purpose to which that eminence has been applied. The houses are built with flint and brick, and disposed into four streets, which, from their relative positions, assume the form of a cross. The church is composed with flint and square stones. It consists of a nave, chancel, and side aisles, with a tower at the west end. The inside is neatly plastered and whitewashed. In the south aisle, a small and plain mural tablet of marble has been lately put up, to record the memory of that great and most resplendent genius Edmund Burke, who died at Butler's Court, in this parish. The inscription is as follows:

Near this Place 4445 To Line and Lies interred All that was mortal of the Right Honorable EDMUND BURKE,
Who died on the 9th of July, 1797,
Aged 68 Years. In the same Grave are deposited The Remains of His only Son, RICHARD BURKE, Esq. Representative in Parliament For the Borough of Walton, Who died on the 2d of August, 1794, Aged 35. Of his Brother, RICHARD BURKE, Esq. Barrister at Law, And Recorder of the City of Bristol, Who died on the 4th of February, 1794.

By some inscriptions on the gallery it appears, that the poor of this town enjoy the benefit of several donations. Mr. Thomas Read left, by will, the interest of 100l. to be laid out for bread, and given to the poor every Christmas. Edmund Waller, Esq. by will, dated 30th August, 1699, gave to the poor of Beaconsfield

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and Amersham, 100l. each, to be laid out in the purchase of lands; the rents to be annually appropriated to the same purpose. Henry Clonebery, by will, gave 224l, to purchase lands; the income to be distributed to the poor every new year's day, with the exception of 20s. directed to be given to the minister for preaching a sermon.

In the church-yard is a table monument of white marble, which records the memory of the Poet Waller, and is ornamented with a pyramid in the centre, and four urns at the corners. On each side is a Latin inscription. That on the west concludes with the singular expression, that, "He had so improved his native Language, that whenever the Muses should renounce Greek and Latin, they would discourse in English." The lines inscribed on the east side are worthy of preservation, as they record some particulars of himself and family. They are to this effect.

EDMUND WALLER, to whom this Marble is sacred,
Was a Native of Coleshill, and a Student at Cambridge.
His Father was Robert; his Mother of the Hampden Family.

He was born the 30th of March, 1605.
His first Wife was Anne, only Daughter and Heiress of Edward Banks.

Twice made a Father by his first Wife, and Thirteen Times by his Second,
Whom he survived Eight Years, he died the 21st of October, 1687.

HALL BARN, the once celebrated seat of Waller, by whom it was built, is about one mile south of Beaconsfield, and before the improvements of modern times, was considered as a magnificent abode. It is now the property of Mr. Edmund Waller, a descendant of the Poet's, whose family have long been inhabitants of this neighbourhood.

Waller was the nephew of the great Hampden, and probably by his influence was returned Burgess for Amersham before he was eighteen. His conduct in the early part of his political career appears to have been formed on his uncle's principles, for he opposed the measures of the court with such energetic vehemence, that he was chosen manager of the impeachment against Judge Crawley, whose decision on the great question of ship-money had been in favor of the King. Within

two years afterwards his opinions were so much changed, that he engaged in a conspiracy, whose object was to "seize the Tower, and admit the Monarch's forces into the city, to surprise the militia, and dissolve the Parliament." The despicable cowardice he displayed when the plot was discovered, and his abject and garrulous confessions, saved his life; though the far-less guilty Tomkins and Chaloner were executed before their own doors.

After paying a fine of 10,000l. Waller was released from a twelve-months imprisonment, and went to France; but the splendor of his establishment having reduced him to distress, he obtained permission of Cromwell to return to England. He now became acquainted with the Protector, and wrote a panegyric on his conduct; but at the period of the Restoration employed "his imagination, his elegance, and his melody, with equal alacrity for Charles the Second." "He that has flattery," says Dr. Johnson, "ready for all whom the vicissitudes of the world happen to exalt, must be scorned as a prostituted mind, that may retain the glitter of wit, but has lost the dignity of virtue." Towards the decline of life, he purchased a small estate at Coleshill, his natal spot, and said, "He should be glad to die like the stag, where he was roused." This, however, did not happen, for he drew his last breath at Beaconsfield.

BUTLER'S COURT, formerly called Gregories, the seat of the widow of the late Edmund Burke, Esq. is about one mile northwest of Beaconsfield. The front of the house is very similar to the Queen's Palace, St. James's. The centre is connected with the two wings by colonnades, each supported by eight Corinthian columns. The grounds are pleasing, but not extensive. The country immediately surrounding, is finely diversified with beech and coppice woods, hills, vallies, and inclosures. Beaconsfield, we believe, became the property of Mr. Burke through the friendship of the Marquis of Rockingham and Lord Verney, whose munificence enabled him to make the purchase through which he was furnished with an elegant retreat, and enabled to pursue his studies unembarrassed by want, and free from those perplex-

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ing cares by which the operations of genius are too frequently retarded. The apartments at Butler's Court contain some excellent paintings by Sir Joshua Reynolds, and also some valuable marbles.

WILTON PARK, the seat of James Du Pré, Esq. is nearly one mile and a half north-east of Beaconsfield. The house was built from the designs of Mr. Jupp, late surveyor to the East-India Company, by the late Governor Du Pré, but finished by his widow about twenty years since. It is a neat square edifice,

of oh eech, and elm trees. The d pictures; some of which ling's celebrated collection.

#### BULSTRODE.

ABOUT three miles east of Beaconsfield, is the principal seat of the Duke of Portland, but was formerly possessed by the Bulstrodes, who had been resident in this county since the reign of Edward the Fourth. The heiress of this family was mother of Bulstrode Whitelock, the elebrated statesman before mentioned, on whose death it passed to the infamous Judge Jefferies, and on his attainder, at the Revolution, it reverted to the Crown. William the Third granted it to William Bentinck, the first Earl of Portland, from whom it has descended to the present Duke,

The park contains about 800 acres, diversified with bold swells, almost rising into mountains, and a great number of deep sweeping valleys, crossing and intersecting the grounds in several directions. This pleasing inequality of surface, constituting the greatest beauty in the outline of Nature's scenery, was deemed by some of our forefathers a defect, which they endeavoured to remove by immense labor and vast expense. This is particularly apparent at Bulstrode, where the hill was depressed, and the valley filled, in order to make strait terraces and flat lawns. But Nature has found an advocate in the present N

Proprietor, who has espoused her cause, and swept away some of





of those deformities which false taste or fashion had imposed. The house is built with brick, and forms three sides of a quadrangle, with two wings. It is situated on an elevated piece of ground, which is nearly surrounded by a valley. To the west is a fine grove of old trees, interspersed with several walks, leading to calm recesses and flower gardens. These walks command many extensive and interesting views, where the Forest of Windsor and its Castle, with the blue Surrey Hills, melting into the horizon, constitute some beautiful distant scenery.

Among the variety of paintings which ornament the spacious mansion-house, the following may be regarded as particularly fine.

Six large pictures of Boar-hunting, Stag-hunting, &c. by Snyders and his Pupil.

Two Lions and a Fawn: Rubens.

Tower of Babel: Old Franks.

Virgin and Infant Saviour: Vandyck.

The Holy Family: Raphael. This is a large picture, containing seven figures. The composition, grouping, expression, and character, are all excellent.

Inside of a Prison: Stenwick.

Inside of a Church: P. Neefs.

St. John in the Wilderness: Ann. Carracci.

Dutch Kitchen: Bassan.

WILLIAM THE THIRD in his royal Robes: Sir Peter Lely.

WILLIAM BENTINCE, first Earl of Portland: a full length. This renowned Statesman accompanied the Prince of Orange to England in the year 1688, and was the person honored with the chief management of the expedition. The transport fleet consisted of 500 vessels, which, through his exertions, had all been hired with the greatest secrecy in three days. For this and many other eminent services, he was dignified by several titles, made Knight of the Garter, and had many estates granted to him. He died at Bulstrode in 1709.

A large drawing of Shipping, finely executed by W. V. Velde 1685.

Two Battle Pieces: Borgonone,

Four small Sea Pieces: W. V. Velde.

St. Anthony at his Devotions: H. V. Stenwick, 1624.

A small picture with Horses, &c. Wouvermans.

Portrait of SCHALKEN, by himself.

Landscape, with a Waterfall and Rainbow: Barret.

Ruins of Roach Abbey: Barret.
Two pictures of Horses: Stubbs.
Seven Roman Charities: Old Franks.

Spaniel Dog in a fine Landscape: S. Gilpin.

A large piece, containing a vast assembly of Birds & Beasts: Roland Savery, 1604.

The Chapel is wainscotted with coder, and ornamented with painted glass. On the walls and ceilings are several paintings by Marco and Sebastian Ricci. Above the communion table is a Madona and Child, by Vandyck.

The Park contains between four and five hundred head of deer, and abounds with fine trees. On a hill south-east of the house there is a very large circular entrenchment, inclosing an area of 21 acres, with some very large old oaks growing on its banks.

#### STOKE POGIS

Is a large scattered village, which obtained the appellation Pogeis from its ancient lords of that name. The heiress of this family, in the reign of Edward the Third, married Lord Molines, who shortly afterwards procured a license from the King to convert the manor-house into a castle. From him it descended to the Lords Hungerford, and from them to the Hastings, Earls of Huntingdon, and seems afterwards to have been the residence of the Lord Chancellor Hatton. Sir Edward Coke having married an heiress of the Huntingdon family, became the next possessor; and here, in the year 1601, he was honoured with a visit from Queen Elizabeth, whom he entertained in a very sumptuous style. It was afterwards the seat of Anne, Viscountess Cobham, on whose death the estate was purchased by Mr. William Penn, chief proprietor of Penn-Sylvania, in America, and now belongs to John Penn, Esq. his grandson.

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The old manor-house furnished the subject for the opening of Gray's humorously descriptive poem called the Long Story, in which the style of building, and fantastic manners, of Elizabeth's reign, are delineated with much truth.

Gray, when a student at Eton, occasionally resided with his aunt in this village, whose church-yard was the scene of his much-admired elegy. It was also the place of his interment; though neither friend nor relation raised a stone to his memory till the year 1799, when the Genius of Poetry animated the kindred bosom of Mr. Penn to perform the long-neglected task. The monument erected by this gentleman stands in a field adjoining the church, and forms the termination of one of the views from Stoke House.

It is composed with stone, and consists of a large sarcophagus, supported on a square pedestal, with inscriptions on each side. Three of them are selected from the Ode to Eton College, and Elegy written in a Country Church-Yard: the fourth is as follows:

This Monument, in Honor of
THOMAS GRAY,
Was erected A. D. 1799,
Among the Scenery
Celebrated by that great Lyric and Elegiac Poet.
He died in 1771,
And lies unnoticed in the adjoining Church-yard,
Under the Tombstone on which he piously
And pathetically recorded the Interment
Of his Aunt, and lamented Mother.

STOKE PARK is the seat of John Penn, Esq. who within a few years has made it one of the most charming and magnificent residences in this part of the county. The house was built in the year 1789, from designs by James Wyatt, Esq. since when it has experienced several judicious alterations, and considerable additions. It is built chiefly with brick, and covered with stucco, and consists of a large square centre with two wings. The north, or entrance front, is ornamented with a colonnade, consisting of ten Doric columns, and approached by a flight of steps, leading to the Marble Hall. The south front, 196 feet in length,

<sup>\*</sup> The ground-plan of this mansion is now in Mr. Penn's possession.



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length, is also adorned with a colonnade, consisting of twelve fluted columns of the old Doric order. Above this ascends a projecting portico, of four Ionic columns, sustaining an ornamental pediment. The Marble Hall is oval, and contains four fine marble busts, supported on scagliola pedestals. The whole interior length of the south front is intended to be occupied by an elegant and well-stored library. Besides several good portraits by Lely and Kneller, the following pieces are deserving attention.

A large picture, containing four Children of the Penn family, in a Landscape, by Sir Joshua Reynolds. This very fine picture may be classed with those which obtained our great English artist his deserved celebrity. The coloring is chaste and perfect, the composition is excellent, and the drawing correct.

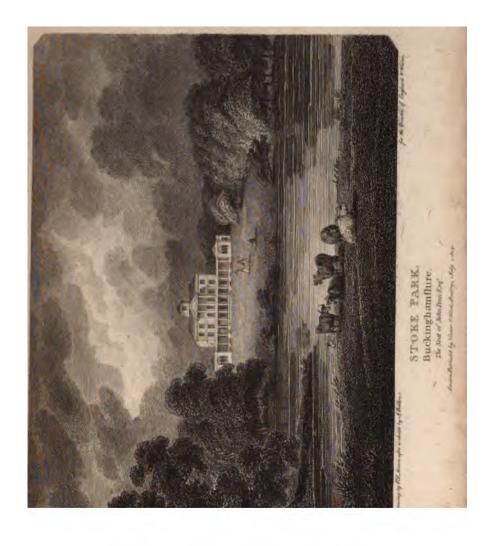
Three Children of King Charles the First. There are so many duplicates of this exquisite picture, that we are led to suspect the originality of every one, except where it is accompanied with demonstrative evidence. The present picture, we are assured, is a true Vandyck, whose name it bears. It is finely colored, and in good preservation.

WILLIAM PENN, the founder of Penn-Sylvania, a half length.
This celebrated Quaker was painted in armour about the age of 22.

The park, though rather flat, commands some very fine views, particularly to the south, where the eye is directed over a large sheet of water to the majestic Castle of Windsor, beyond which Cooper's Hill and the Forest Woods close the prospect. A large lake winds round the east side of the house, with a neat stone bridge thrown over it. The lake was originally formed by Richmond, but it has been considerably altered by Repton, who also directed the laying out of the park. About 300 yards from the north front of the house is a handsome fluted column, 68 feet high, lately erected from a design by Mr. Wyatt. On the top is a colossal statue of SIR EDWARD COKE, by Rosa.

FARNHAM ROYAL, a manor adjoining Stoke, was formerly held by its different possessors, on the condition of fitting the right-hand of the King with a glove on the day of his Coronation, and supporting his arm while he held the sceptre. The

ancestors





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#### ETON COLLEGE,

THE noble seminary of learning founded in the year 1440, by the unfortunate Henry the Sixth, "has every advantage from situation which the luxuriant hand of nature can bestow." The valley in which it stands is both healthy and fertile; and the vicinity of the Thames, which rolls its pellucid stream at a short distance from its walls, contributes to its pleasantness and beauty.

This foundation was originally endowed for a "provost, ten priests, six clerks, six choristers, twenty-five poor grammar scholars, with a master to teach them, and twenty-five poor old men; and though some of its endowment was taken away by Edward the Fourth, yet, being particularly exempted in the act of dissolution, it still subsists in a flourishing state," and now supports a provost, vice-provost, and seventy scholars, besides various officers and assistants.

The scholars on this foundation are annually elected to King's College, Cambridge, but not removed till the occurrence of vacancies, when they are called according to seniority; and, after they have continued at Cambridge three years, are entitled to a fellowship. Besides the King's scholars, there are seldom less than 300 noblemen and gentlemen's sons, who board with the Masters, and receive their education at this seminary.

The college consists of two quadrangles. One of them is appropriated to the school, (which is divided into lower and upper, and each subdivided into three classes,) and the lodging of the masters and scholars: the other contains the apartments of the provost and fellows, and likewise the library, which is regarded as one of the finest in Europe, its original stock of books having been augmented at different periods, with collections bequeathed or given to the college by various literary characters. Some very valuable drawings, paintings, and oriental manuscripts, are numbered with the rare and curious articles here preserved.

In the provost's apartments there is a portrait of JANE SHORE, painted on pannel, and considered as original. The forehead is large, but the features are small and uninteresting. The hair is a yellowish auburn. Her only covering is a thin veil, thrown loosely over her shoulders. The principal argument for the genuineness of the portrait, is the circumstance of the confessor of this celebrated favorite having been provost of the college.

The chapel is a fine gothic structure, ornamented with pinnacles and embrasures, and very similar in its disposition of parts to that of King's College, Cambridge; and has, therefore, with much appearance of probability, been attributed to the same architect. Mr. Baker, the Cambridge antiquary, informed Mr. Walpole, that his name was Cloos, father of Nicholas Cloos, one of the first fellows of the above college, and afterwards Bishop of Litchfield: but Godwin observes, that the designer of the works at Eton was "the Bishop himself."

The origin of the singular custom celebrated at Eton every third year on Whit Tuesday, under the name of the MONTEM, cannot be satisfactorily ascertained, but may be traced as far back as the reign of Elizabeth, who, when on a visit to the college, desired to see an account of the ancient ceremonies observed there from the period of its foundation. In the list was an annual procession of the scholars, who on those occasions repeated verses, and gathered money from the public for a dinner, and other purposes. The ceremony of late years has been conducted with more regard to decorum than formerly; and the institution has been patronized by their Majesties, who frequently honor the celebration with their presence, as well as a liberal subscription. On these occasions the whole school are assembled, and arranged in military order, with music and colors. The fancy dresses of the Salt Bearers, and those denominated Scouts, are of different colored silks. Every person in the vicinity of Windsor is expected at these triennial assemblies to give something toward what is called salt-money; and different parties are stationed on all the neighbouring roads, to levy contributions from passengers, whose refusal to buy salt, would, perhaps, be attended with

danger.



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#### BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

danger. The amount of the sums collected is generally from six hundred to eight hundred pounds. This is given to the Captain or senior of the boys on the King's foundation, previously to his removal to Cambridge.

The village of ETON has of late years been considerably improved, many of the houses having been rebuilt, and others repaired in the modern style. It consists principally of one street, connected with the town of Windsor by a bridge thrown over the Thames.

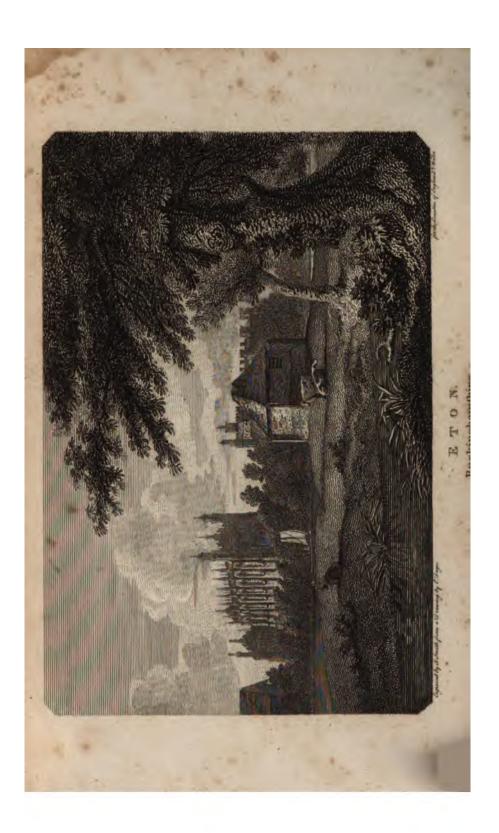
#### COLNBROOK

Is an ancient town, situated on several channels of the river Colne, over each of which there is a small bridge. Camden affirms it to have been the Pontes of the Intinerary: Gale, Baxter, and some others, agree with his opinion; but Leland places that station at Reading, in Berkshire; Salmon, at Dorking, in Surrey; and Horsley, at Old Windsor. The market-house and chapel, which stood in a narrow part of the town, have been lately removed by the commissioners of the turnpike-roads, and a neat chapel erected in a more convenient situation. 'The inhabitants are chiefly supported by the expenditure of travellers. Some of the small islands formed by the different branches of the Colne in this neighbourhood, are supposed by Camden to have been the places where the Danes secured themselves from the attacks of Alfred in the year 894: but Bishop Gibson, with more probability, refers their successful defence to the Isle of Mersey, formed by the river Coln, in Essex.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

In the north aisle of the church at Newport Pagnell, in the year 1619, the body of a man was found, with all the hollow parts of the body, and of every bone, filled with lead. The scull, with the lead in it, weighed thirty pounds, six ounces. It is now in St. John's College Library, Cambridge: and before it was rolled about, and battered, bore as great resemblance to lead, as petrified wood does to stone.

LIST





## LIST

Principal Books, Maps, and Views, that have been published in Illustration of the Topography and Antiquities of the Counties contained in this Volume.

#### BEDFORDSHIRE.

Collections towards the History and Antiquities of Bedfordshire, containing the "Parishes of Puddington, Luton, and Dunstable,"

4to, 1782, with Plates.

"An Historical Account of the Parish of Wimmington, by Oliver St. John Cooper," 4to, 1785.

"An Historical Account of the Parish of Odell, by Oliver St.

John Cooper," 4to, 1787.

The above Works are contained in the Bibliotheca Topographica.

"A short yet a true and faithful Narration of the fearefull Fire that fell in the Towne of Woburne, the 13th September, 1595," Lond. 12mo, by Thomas Wilcocks.

In the Philosophical Transactions, No. 379, is Mr. Holloway's Account of the Fullers' Earth Pits; and in No. 486, Mr. Ward's Remarks on a Roman Transaction at Market-Street.

Remarks on a Roman Tessera found at Market-Street.

Pennant's Tour from Chester to London contains an Account of Dunstable, Woburn, Ampthill-Park, Wrest, Luton, and a few other Places, 4to, 1782. Some Particulars of Woburn and Dunstable may also be found in Bray's Tour, 1783. An Antique Coffin and Runic Inscription, found at Woburn Abbey, are described in the Gentleman's Magazine, April, 1749.
In Carter's Antiquities are some Etchings of the Architectural
Ornaments, &c. of Dunstable Priory.

Jeffereys published an Actual Survey of this County in 8 Sheets, on a Scale of two Inches to a Mile. Many Errors in this Map are corrected, and several Additions made, in a New Map of the County, divided into Hundreds, and published in Smith's "New English Atlas," January, 1801.

Views of the Priories of Bedford, Dunstable, and Chicksand,

of Harwood Nunnery, and Warden Monastery, have been engraved by Messrs. Bucks; the Remains of the Tower at Luton, by Moseum; a Plan of Wrest House, Gardens, &c. by J. Rocque, 1735; and a View of Bedford Bridge, drawn by J. Walker, and engraved by Medland, in the Copper Plate Magazine, Vol. II.

#### BERKSHIRE.

"The Antiquities of Berkshire," by Elias Ashmole, 3 Volumes, 8vo, Lond. 1719, 1723. This was reprinted at Reading in 1736, under the Title of "The History and Antiquities of Berkshire, &c." Folio.

Vol. I.

Dd "Account



#### LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

"Account of some Antiquities between Windsor and Oxford," by Thomas Hearne, 8vo, L. P. Oxford, 1725.

"Letter to Dr. Mead concerning some Antiquities in Berkshire," by Mr. Francis Wise, 4to, Oxford, 1738. This was replied to in a Pamphlet called "The Impertinence and Imposture of modern Antiquaries displayed, &c." 4to, Lond. written by Mr. Asplin, Vicar of Banbury, (under the Signature of Philathes Rusticus,) who was deservedly reprehended in another Pamphlet by Mr. George North, Rector of Coddicote, Herts, in his "Answer to a scandalous Libel, entitled" "The Impertinence, &c." 4to, Lond. 1742. Mr. Wise, the same Year, published "Further Observations upon the White Horse, and other Antiquities in Berkshire, with an Account of Whiteleaf Cross, Bucks, &c." 4to, Oxford.

"History and Antiquities of Windsor Castle," by J. Pote. Cuts, 4to, Eton, 1749.

"History of that most famous Saint and Soldier of Christ Jesus, St. George of Cappadocia, &c. to which is subjoined, the Institution of the most Noble Order of St. George, named the Garter," by Dr. Heylen, 410, 1631.

"The Institution, Laws, and Ceremonies, of the Most Noble Order of the Garter," by Elias Ashmole, Lond. Fol. with fine Engravings by Hollar, 1672. This was abridged and re-published by Walker, under the Title of "The History of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, and the several Orders of Knighthood extant in Europe, &c." Hlustrated with Plates of the Habits. Lond. 8vo, 1715.

"A New Historical Account of St. George, and the Order of the Garter," by Thomas Salmon, Lond. 8vo, 1704.

"Memoirs of St. George, the English Patron," (from Selden's Titles of Honor,) "and of the Most Noble Order of the Garter," (abridged from Ashmole;) by Dr. Thomas Dawson, 8vo, 1714.

"The Register of the Most Noble Order of the Garter," from the "Black Book," so called from its cover of Black Velvet; "with Notes, and an Introduction;" by John Anstis, 2 Volumes, Fol. 1724. Plates.

"Dissertation on the Original of the Equestrian Figure of the George and of the Garter," by Dr. Pettingal, Lond. 1753. The System about the George in this Dissertation was refuted by Mr. Pegge, in the Fifth Volume of the Archæologia.

"The Institution of the Garter, a Dramatic Poem," by Gilbert West, Esq. 4to, 1742. This was re-printed in the 2d Volume of Dodsley's Collection.

"Some Account of the Antiquities of Old Windsor," by Dr. Girdler, printed with Robert of Gloucester, by Hearne.

44 Windsor Castle," a Poem by Otway, 1685. Re-printed in Dryden's Miscellanies.

"The Rights of the Forest of Windsor," by Nat. Boothe, Svo,

" A Black

#### LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

"A Black Scene opened; being the true State of Mr. John Kendrick's Gift to the Town of Reading, &c." by John Watts, 1749.

Some Account of Reading Abbey, by Sir Harry Englefield, is contained in the Sixth Volume of the Archæologia.

- "The Meyrrour of the Church of St. Austyn of Abingdon, with a Petytyon of Robert Copeland, Printer, 1521." 4to, with wooden Cuts.
- "Collections towards a Parochial History of Berkshire, &c." 1783, and "Some Account of the Parish of Great Coxwell," were published in the Bibliotheca Topographica.
- "The History of Mr. John Winchcomb, alias Jack of Newbury," was reprinted at Newbury about 20 Years since from an old Pamphlet. In Fuller's Worthies there is also an Account of the same Person.

In the Philosophical Transactions, No. 261, is some Account of the Oyster Shells near Reading, by Dr. Brewer; and in the same Work, Vol. 50. Dr. Collet's Description of the Peat near Newbury. The latter is reprinted in the Bibliotheca Topographica.

A brief Description of the Towns, Villages, and Scenery of Berkshire, bordering on the Thames, has been given in Boydell's and in Ireland's Account of that River.

The Third Volume of the Archæologia contains an Engraving of the Pusey Horn, with some Particulars concerning it.

Several Poems, descriptive of different Parts of the County, have been published. The most eminent are Pope's "Windsor Forest," Pye's "Farringdon Hill," Sir John Denham's "Cooper's Hill," and "St. Leonard's Hill," by Robert Morris.

A small Map of the County was engraved by Hollar in 1670; and "a Topographical Survey of Berks, in 18 Sheets, on a Scale of 2 Inches to a Mile," was published by John Rocque in 1761. A Map of the County 10 Miles round Newbury, with a Plan of the Town and Speenham Land, were made and printed by John Willis, 1768.

Views of the Town of Reading, South, Windsor Castle and Palace, and Donnington Castle, North-east, have been engraved by Buck. A View of the latter Castle has also been published by Hearne and Byrne, and a Plan of it, in its original State, in Grose's Antiquities. In the "Brauni Civitates Orbis, 1572," is a View of Windsor Castle by Hoefnagle, probably the oldest existing. The Cielings of the Apartments in the Castle, painted by Verrio, were engraved by P. Vanderbank. Four Elevations and a Plan of the Castle were drawn and engraved by B. and T. Langley, 1743. Eight Views in the Green Park, by T. Sandby, were engraved by Mason, P. Sandby, W. Austin, Canot, Vivares, and Rooker. Eight Views of Reading Abbey, by Charles Tomkins, were published in 1791; and Views of Basildon House and Pelling Place, by Angus, in his Select Views, 1800. In the Copper-Plate Magazine, Vol. I. are Views of Bisham Abbey and Windsor. Vol. II. of Basildon Park. Vol. III. of Bear Place. Vol. V. of Benham House, and Abingdon Market-house; drawn by Dayes, Girtin, Corbould, &c. and engraved by Ellis and Walker.

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BUCKING-



#### LIST OF BOOKS, &c.

#### BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

"The History and Antiquities of the Town, Hundred, and Deanery of Buckingham," by Brown Willis, 4to, 1755.

"The History and Antiquities of the Hundred of Desborough, &c." by Thomas Langley, 4to, 1797.

Accounts of a few Places in Bucks are contained in Kennet's Parochial Antiquities, 4to, Oxon. 1695.

"An impartial Account of John Mason of Water Stratford, and his Sentiments," by H. Maurice, Lond. 4to, 1695. The Year before this, "Some remarkable Passages in his Life and Death, &c.," were published by "A Reverend Divine, to prevent false Reports." 4to.

Some Particulars of Buckingham, Stowe, Aylesbury, &c. are contained in Shaw's Tour, 1789: of the same Places, with Newport Pagnell, in Bray's Tour, 1783; and of Gothurst, Stony and Fenny Stratford, Blecheley, and Newport Pagnell, in Pennant's Tour from Chester and Northampton to London, 1782.

Various Descriptions of Stowe have been published both in Verse and Prose. The best is that by Seeley of Buckingham, with Views of the principal Buildings by Medland, 8vo, 1800.

A Map of Bucks was published by E. Bower, in 1736; and another in 1770, by T. Jeffereys, "In four Sheets, on a Scale of one Inch to a Mile." 'This is reduced and much improved in Smith's English Atlas, 1800.

A View of Buckingham from Maids Morton Hills was engraved by G. Bickham; and a "North Prospect of St. Peter and Paul's Church, as it stood before the fall of the Spire," by F. Perry. Among Loggan's Cambridge Views, is one of Eton College: another was engraved by J. Price, but published by W. Collier. "A "General Plan of the Woods, Park, and Gardens of Stowe," with Eight large perspective Views of the Gardens, were engraved from Drawings by Chatelain, by Rigaud and Baron, 1739. Four Views of Lord De Spencer's House and Gardens at West Wycombe, and two of Mr. Waller's at Hall Barn, were engraved by Woollet. Waller's Monument at Beaconsfield was engraved by Virtue, and is in the 4to Edition of the Poet's Works. A South-east View of Harley-Ford was painted by Zuccarelli, and engraved by T. Major. In the Vitruvius Britannica, Vol. 11. are the North and West Frontsof Cliefden House. A View of Stewkley Church, by Godfrey, from a Drawing by Bishop Lyttleton, is in Grose's Antiquities. An Bast View of Nutley Abbey, and a View of Burnham Priory, were engraved by Buck, 1730. Among Angus's Select Views is one of Chalfont House; and in the Copper Plate Magazine are Engravings by Heath, Fittler, Middiman, Ellis, and Walker, of Cliefden House; Gregories, (now Butler's Court;) West Wycombe Park, Hartwell House, Bulstrode, Langley Park, and Marlow Bridge, from Drawings by Corbould, Metz, and Girtin.

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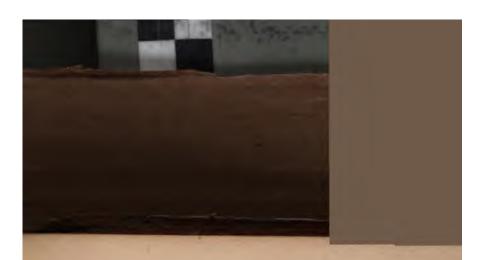
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#### CORRECTIONS TO VOL. I.

Page 3, line 28, for Bradfield, read Brayfield. P. 7, lines 25, 26, read, This and Harrold are the only market-towns, &c. P. 8, for, "their chapel is called the Single-House," read, The House adjoining their chapel, where the Sisters live, is called the Single-House. P. 37, l. 23, read Lygeanburg. P. 67, l. 29, for Whitaker of Manchefter, read, Whitaker, the Historian of Manchefter. P. 68, l. 33, for 1726, read 1736. P. 71, l. 31, for 68th, read 79th. P. 75, omit the account of the earthquake; we have reason to believe it originated with some wild inhabitants of the town, who made it their business to circulate Lying Wonders. The fire at Biggle-swade, page 75, was on the 16th of June, 1785; that at Potton, the 14th of August, 1783. P. 76, l. 26, for will, read grant. P. 80, Note, l. 1, omit the words, on that subject. P. 87, l. 12, for Caversham, read Reading. P. 97, last l. for 30,000, read 3000. P 157, l. 24, for SINODUN HILL, read, WITTENHAM HILL, the name it has obtained in modern times. P. 175, l. 20, for purchased the manor-house, read, purchased a farm-house in this parish. P. 209, l. 2, for 1788, read 6th of August, 1787. L. 13, in the description of the CARTOONS, &c. omit the words, "and other parts are nearly cut through in tracing." L. 15, same page, "patched and" should be omitted. P. 210, l. 32, read "light dragoons," omit guards. P. 211, l. 20, read prevailed on her to feed on capons fed with the flesh of vipers. P. 216. l. 32, the "Portrait of Raphael" is removed, we believe, to Kensington. P. 221, l. 24, 25, 26, read Sir Thomas Tiddiman; Sir William Bartlett, instead of Berkley; and Sir John (instead of Joseph) Harman. P. 231, l. 3, for, "threw herself upon her knees," read "threw herself into a supplicatory attitude." P. 249, l. 13, read "that if their admission had not been prevented, the skeleton, &c." P. 339, l. 27, for small, read large. P. 346, Note, l. 4, for, hen, read duck.

