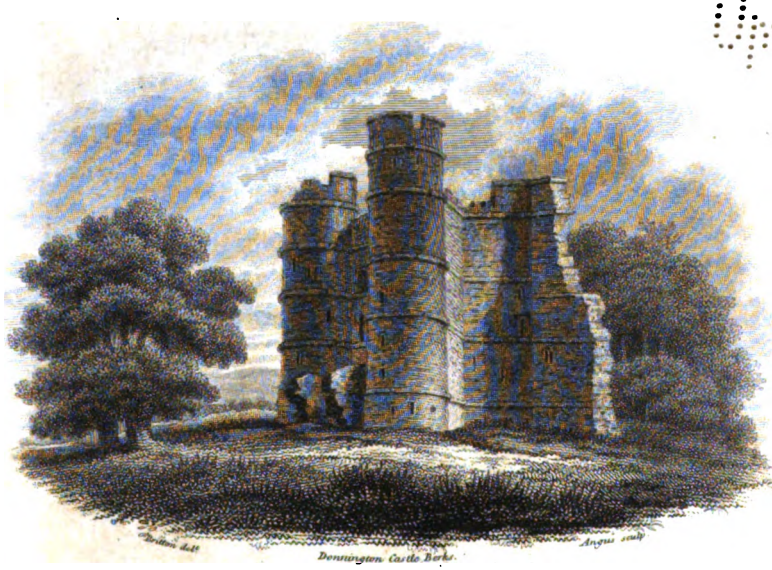
THE *Beauties* of ENGLAND AND WALES;

OR,

DELINEATIONS

TOPOGRAPHICAL, HISTORICAL and DESCRIPTIVE.

Vol. I.



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THE

BEAUTIES

OF

England and Wales;

OR,

DELINEATIONS,

TOPOGRAPHICAL, HISTORICAL, AND DESCRIPTIVE,

OF

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 summer'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,
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AND CROSBY AND LETTERMAN.

1801.

ADVERTISEMENT.

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.

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.

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.

Engraved by Sharp from a Drawing by T.W.L. Stockdale after a Sketch by the late C. Tomkins

for the Beauties of England & Wales.

TEMPLE,
Berks.

the Seat of John Williams Esqr.

London Published by John Harris St Pauls Church Yard Novr 1.1814

BERKSHIRE.

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 south-east, 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 Wiltshire. 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

* 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 bed
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, the

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

 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 to

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 SPENÆ 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.

This

* 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 erected 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 Engleficld, 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 nunnery in this town, built on the spot that is now occupied by St. Mary's church. The nunnery 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

† Lelandi Collectanea, Vol. VI.

Engrav'd by T. Owen, from a drawing by E. Dayes. for the Beauties of England & Wales.

THE ABBEY GATE,
(Reading)
Berkshire.

London, Publish'd by Vernor & Hood, Poultry, Jan. 1, 1800.

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

* 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 MITRED. 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

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 gate-house. 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 erection of the new gaol, this building has been taken down, and a Methodist meeting-house raised on the same spot.

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 unsuccesaful 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. be 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-

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

Engraved by J. Owen, from a drawing by H. Neel, for the Beauties of England & Wales

CHURCH OF S^T LAURENCE, _ READING,
Berkshire.

London, Published by Vernor & Hood, Poultry, [illegible]

events that ever happened at this town, we shall insert a short abstract from the very particular account written by Mr. Codrington in his Life of Robert, Earl of Essex, and inserted in the Harleian Miscellany.

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,*

 provided

* 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 about 140 prisoners. Notwithstanding this loss, Charles persevered 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 transaction.

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: 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

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

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

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 CAVERSHAM, 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

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, which long resided on this spot.

The

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 right. 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

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 seal 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 meeting-houses, 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

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

* 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

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 fertilised 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

sound is the wood. The twigs at the bottom are sometimes so 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 hazel-nut-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 eight or 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, that, 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

* Philosophical Transactions, Vol. L.

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

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

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 handsome 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 *Herman*-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

Engraved by J. Greig from a Drawing by J. Prout.

For the Beauties of England & Wales.

HUNGERFORD CHURCH.

London: Published by Vernor, Hood & Sharpe, Poultry, March, 1805.

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 GIUE AND GRANT THE RIALL* OF FISHING TO HUNGERFORD TOUNE FROM ELDREN STUB TO IRISH STIL EXCEPTING SOM SEUERAL 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 17l. 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,

* Riall i. e, Royalty, or exclusive Grant.

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 agreeable 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

* 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 Baskervillé, 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.

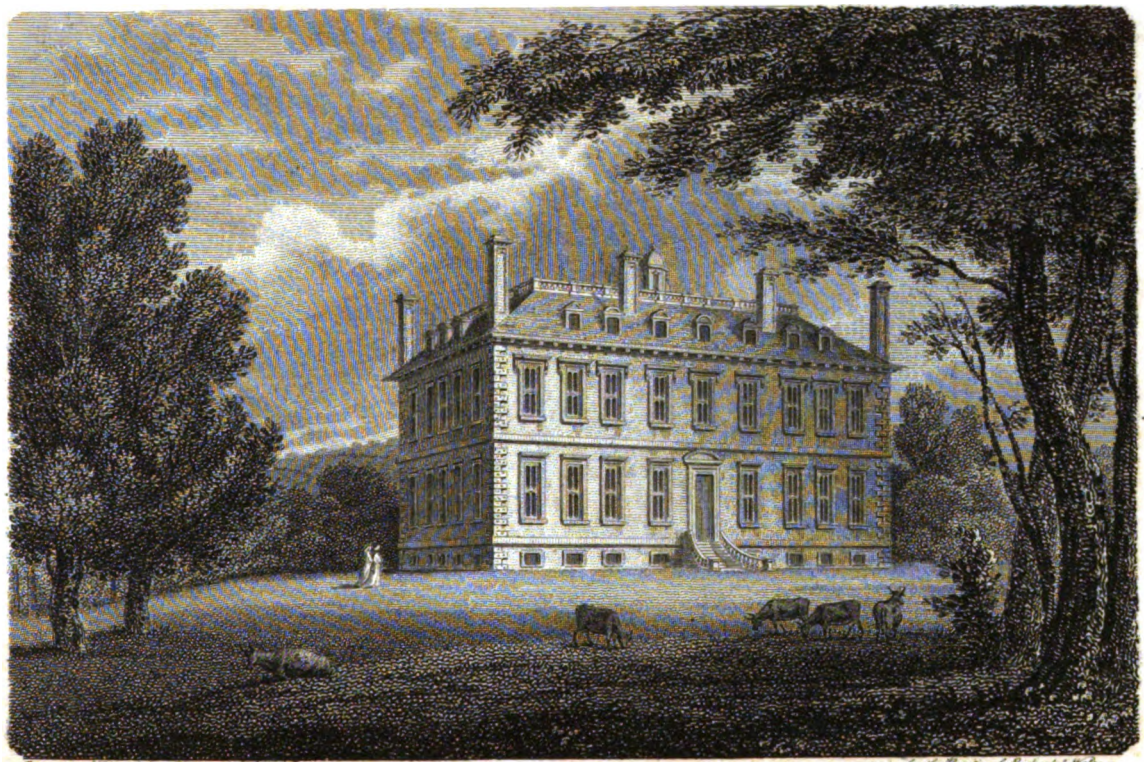
About a mile from White Horse Hill are a number of large stones, scattered irregularly over a space of ground raised a few feet above the common level. Some are set on edge; but the others are strewed about in confusion; many of them having been broken to mend the highways. Towards the extremity of the 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 Menevensis.

COLESHILL.

Berkſhire.



COLESHILL HOUSE.

Berkshire.

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.

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

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 honored 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 ALFRED, 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 Marshal 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, must have occupied his attention in perpetual succession; and much 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 perseverance; 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 engagements, and

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

Asser avows his belief that the King's adversity was *not unmerited.* 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. He 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 future 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 vigor, assailed

* In Somersetshire, since called 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 REAFAN, 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

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 castles which

which had been destroyed; constructed new fortifications in every useful place; and, availing himself of his insular situation, created a naval armament for the protection of his coast. To him, therefore, is Britain indebted for the proud bulwarks of her realm; to him may be ascribed that security from invasion which she now enjoys.

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.

The last efforts of expiring invasion were confined to the sea-coasts, 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 well-timed 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. STERNE.

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,

* 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 foundation. We are informed by a reputable author,* that a piece of land 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 banke*. 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.

Wallingford 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.

Though

* Blount. † Stukely. Salmon. ‡ Ward. Horsely.

§ Gale. Hearne.

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 herring-bone 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 *Calleva* 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 *Guallenq-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

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 wall, 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 mentioned.

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 about

* 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 11l." 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.* The

* 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 his heir. 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 founded. 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 have 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 *Seukesham*, *Shoevesham*, or *Sevechesham*; 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 *Abbandun* 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 *Abendun*.†

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

* Camden. † Dugdale.

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 Sonkesham.

"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.

† Monasticon.

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 princes. 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

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

*See Dugdale. Camden says, Cilla, sister of King Ceadwalla.

† 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.
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 market-place, 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,

* 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 2½d. 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

THE TOWN HALL &c. AT ABINGDON
Berkshire.

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.

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 ziz-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,

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-

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.*

EAST ILSLEY

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 and

* 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

or had vowed to go, and were prevented by death. The workmanship 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

* 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 hot-houses 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

"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 corruptic : 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

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, decent

* 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

† See Beauties of Wiltshire. Vol. II.

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 these

* 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 300l. per annum, assessed at one shilling in the pound, would produce 15l. but if the rate is levied on only two thirds of the rent, or 200l. the amount will be no more than 10l. 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 Tylehurst; and if so, the actual assessment is but *twelve* shillings in the pound.

OAKINGHAM CHURCH,
Berks.

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 Wargrave,

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 so 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 CÆSAR'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 exceed 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 than 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 favorite 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

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,

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 favorite 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

PARK-PLACE,
Berkshire.

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 ground, 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

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

* 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

was open and regular, her nose rather long, the mouth well proportioned, 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

View in St. James's Park: Canalletti. In this picture the smoky atmosphere of London has been nicely discriminated.

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 colonnade, 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 the 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

Engraved by S. Stowe from a drawing by J. Nash after a sketch by J. Britton.

for the Beauties of England and Wales.

THE DRUID's TEMPLE.

At Park Place.

Berkshire.

London. Published by Vernor & Hood Poultry &c. 1805.

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
á 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 siécles 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.

The

* The Latin name of the island.

The stones which compose this temple are forty-five in number, and were all so carefully marked when taken down, as to be re-erected 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.

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

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

BISHAM ABBEY.
Berkshire.

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 661l. 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 Cirencester, 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.

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 Bab-ham'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 particularly 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.

* 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

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.*

* 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 was

* 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.

Engraved by B. Comte from a Painting by B. West Esq. P.R.A.

for the Beauties of England & Wales

WINDSOR

Berkshire

London. Published by Vernor & Hood, Poultry, July [illegible]

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, dressed 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 lately

Engraved by J. Storer from an Original Drawing by J. Britton. for the Beauties of England & Wales

WINDSOR CASTLE.

Berkshire

London. Published by Vernor & Hood, Poultry, April 1, 1802.

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.
>
> WINDSOR 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,

numerous, that many writers have given him the honor of founding the castle. Henry the Second held a council or parliament here in the year 1170; and when Richard *Cœur de Lion* departed on his romantic expedition to the Holy Land, the Bishop of Ely (to whom, in conjunction with the Bishop of Durham, the Monarch had entrusted the government of his kingdom) made it his place of residence. King John also resided here during his contest with the Barons, who, in the year 1216, besieged it without success. In the next reign it was delivered to them by treaty; but in the ensuing year, was surprised, and made the rendezvous of the King's forces. Queen Eleanor, Edward the First's consort, was extremely fond of this situation, and was here delivered of four children. The heroic EDWARD THE THIRD was also born at Windsor; and to his affection for his birth-place, the castle is indebted for its present sublimity and grandeur. The improvements made by this Prince extended to nearly the whole of the ancient fabric, which, with the exception of the three towers at the west end of the lower ward, was entirely taken down, and the chief part of the structure as it now stands erected on its site. Some singular particulars relative to the mode of procuring workmen, &c. are detailed in Ashmore's History of the order of the Garter. We are there informed, "that the King granted his letters patent to certain surveyors, empowering them to *impress* as many hewers of stone, carpenters, and other artificers, as might be necessary to the due and honest performance of the great undertaking." These letters are dated the 23d of his reign. Four years afterwards, two commissioners were appointed to provide stone, timber, lead, iron, &c. and privileged to seize *carriages* for the conveyance of the materials to Windsor.

In the year 1357 the celebrated William de Wyckham* was appointed to superintend the works, with the salary of a *shilling* daily;

* An anecdote of this distinguished architect, who was afterwards Bishop of Winchester, has been often mentioned by historians. Having nearly finished the building of the castle, he caused the words, "*This made Wyckham*," to be inscribed on stone in the inner wall of Winchester Tower. This circumstance excited

daily; and three *shillings* per week for his clerk. The conduct of the supervisor obtained the approbation of the Monarch, who, in 1360, gave him complete authority over every thing connected with the castle, as well as the unlimited jurisdiction of the manors of Old and New Windsor. The ensuing year the King issued writs to the sheriffs of several counties, directing them, under the penalty of a hundred pounds, to provide a certain number of workmen, and send them to Windsor within ten days, to be employed at, "the *King's wages* as long as was neccessary." "And because divers of these workmen did afterwards clandestinely leave Windsor, and were entertained by other persons, upon greater wages, to the King's great damage, and manifest retarding of his work," the sheriffs of London were ordered to make proclamation, that those persons who should presume to employ any of the fugitive artificers, should be dispossessed of *all* their property. The sheriffs were also directed to arrest the runaways, and commit them to Newgate.

For a year or two, the raising of the buildings appears to have been pursued with great celerity; but a contagious disorder having destroyed many of the workmen, the Monarch was a second time obliged to have recourse to writs dated the 30th of March, 1363; and his desire of completing the structure increasing with the delay occasioned by the fatal malady, the sheriffs were commanded under *twice* the former penalty, to send to Windsor a stated number of skilful masons and diggers of stone, by the following Easter. The next year the buildings were ready for glazing, and persons were appointed to purchase glass in every part of the country where it could be obtained. Twelve glaziers were at the same time ordered to be impressed, and set to work at the King's wages. This year also many carriages were detained for the purpose of conveying the necessary materials.

From

excited the Monarch's displeasure; and only the ambiguity of the sentence prevented the disgrace of Wyckham, who assured the King, that it meant no more, than that the money and reputation he acquired by erecting the castle had been the *making of him*.

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 unauthorised 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 *fleurs de lys;* 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 Majesties,

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

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

* 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 800 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, œconomy and progress of the Christian Religion."—See Lecture III. page 137, &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 age.

DE BRAY AND HIS FAMILY, in the characters of Marc Anthony, Cleopatra, &c. This piece was executed by De Bray himself, a

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 of

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 enliven 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 addresses 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 bedchamber 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

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 fire. 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

 observes,

* Biog. Gallica. Vol. I.

† 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 pencilled, 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

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 by

* 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

the various circumstances transacted during the twenty days which the Kings of England and France passed in each other's company. 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 banquets, 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 of

* 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, checkered 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-

* 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.

† 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 Catalogue 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.

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 Majesties. 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

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, bandèd Argent. RALPH 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 HEREFORD, 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 Neville:* 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. SIR NELE LORING bears the sword of state; and his arms on his surcoat are quarterly, Argent and Gules, a bend engrailed Sable. JOHN LORD MOWBRAY: on his surcoat Gules, a lion rampant Argent. ROGER LORD MORTIMER: 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

 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 crowned Or. *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 continent

* 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, BISHOP OF LINCOLN: the arms of his bishopric impaling his own, Gules a cross moline Argent. LORD ROOS: his arms Gules, three water-bougets Argent. STRATFORD, 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 unicorn'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 commenced

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 brave 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

* 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

* This brave defender of the liberties of France was slain at the Battle of Poitiers.

THE INSTITUTION OF THE MOST NOBLE ORDER OF THE GARTER,* April the 23d, 1349. The scene of this interesting picture

* 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 COUNTESS OF ULSTER: on her mantle Or, a cross Gules. THE PRINCESS 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 SCOTLAND: 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 quarterly. 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 Majorca:* 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

* 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 224. 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 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 DAUBRICHCOURT: 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 226. 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 he 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 fess 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 Morebeck:* 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 engrailed Or. The *Earl of Oxford:* quarterly Gules and Or: in the first quarter a mullet Argent. 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 Artois:* 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 surcoat 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 Ribemont:* 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,

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

* 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.

"Saynt George was a knyghte born at Capadose. On a tyme he came into the province of Libya, to a cyte whyche is say'd Sylene, and by this cyte was a stagne or ponde lyke a see, wherein was a dragon whych envenymed alle the contre; and the peple of the cyte gave to him every day two sheep for to fede him; and when the sheep fayled, there was taken a man and a sheep. Thenne was an ordaniunce made in the toune, that there shuld be taken the chyldren and yung peple of them of the toune by lotte, and that it so happed the lotte fyl upon the Kynge's doughter, whereof the Kyng was sory, and sayde, for the love of Goddes, take golde and selver, and alle that I have, and let me have my doughter; and the peple sayd, how, sir, ye have made and ordained the lawe, and our chyldren be now deed, and now ye wold do the contrarye; your doughter shall be gyven, or else we shall brenne you and you holdes. When the Kynge saw he myght no more doo, he began to weepe, and returned to the peple, and demanded eight dayes respyte; and when the eight dayes were passed, thenn dyd the Kynge araye his doughter lyke as she should be wedded, and ledde hyr to the place where the dragon was. When she was there, Saynt George, passed by, and demaunded of the layde what she made there; and she sayde, go ye your wayes, fayre young man, that ye perish not also." The legend then relates, "that the dragon appered, and Saynt George, upon his horse, bore himself against the dragon, and smote hym with his spere, and threw hym to the ground, and delivered the ladye to her fader, who was baptized, and all his peple."

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

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 HESIOD'S THEOGONY.

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

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 houses

* "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 rests 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

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.

* 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 700l.

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,

* 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 NATIVITY 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

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 IIII. 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,

King Edward IIII and his Queen Elizabeth Widville.*

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 three

* 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

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 marble. 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 particularize 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 dependant 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 ceremonies

* Joshua Barnes, in his history of Edward the Third, traces its origin to the Phœnicians, who were accustomed to encircle their bodies with a blue or purple fillet, as an amulet against shipwreck. Other writers ascribe it to Richard *Cœur 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 Countess of Salisbury dropping her garter at a ball; and a fourth ascribes it to the circumstance of Edward the Third having given *Garter* as a 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 expense 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. These

* 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, HONI SOIT QUI MAL 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

* Gough's Additions to Camden.

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 200l. 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.

The decayed building called the TOMB 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.

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 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 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

* 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.

THE

* 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.

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 horns;
> And there he blasts the tree and rakes the cattle,
> 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 disgraced, hung himself upon this oak. The credulity of the ignorant peasantry induced them to suppose that his spirit haunted the spot, and the bard from this circumstance, has chosen it as a fit scene of action to expose the cowardice of the lascivious Falstaff, who had here appointed to meet the "Merry 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.

FROGMORE,

The favorite residence of the Queen, has become celebrated through the elegant *fetes*,† which have been occasionally given here

* Mr. Gough, in his British Topography, laments that no view of this memorable tree had ever been executed.

† The first *fete* 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 15th, 1800.

Engraved by W. Angus, from a drawing by S. Rawle.

for the Beauties of England & Wales.

FROGMORE,

The Favorite Residence of Her Majesty Queen Charlotte.

Berkshire.

London: Published by Vernor & Hood, Poultry, 1802.

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 contrived,

* 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 others 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.

† 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 afforded 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 hills 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, and

* Agriculture of Berks.

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

* 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 cross-ways, 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 meadows:

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.

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 10,000l.

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

* 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 take

* 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.

† See Beckwith's Fragmenta Antiquitatis. ‡ Ibid, page 138.

Engraved by Wm. Woolnorth from a Drawing by G. Shepherd.

For the Beauties of England and Wales.

UFFINGTON CHURCH,
Berkshire.

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.