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A

HANDBOOK FOR TRAVELLERS

IN

WILTSHIRE, DORSETSHIRE,

AND

SOMERSETSHIRE.

NEW EDITION.

With a Travelling Map.

LONDON:

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PREFACE.

THE Handbook for the three Counties of Wilts, Dorset, and Somerset, has been drawn up from a careful personal exploration of the country, and from the most recent information that could be obtained. If, however, from the rapidity of change in every part of Great Britain, or other causes, errors or omissions should occur, those who, from living on the spot, have facile means of detecting mistakes, are requested to aid in the object of obtaining a correct guide for all corners of Old England by sending notice of them to the Editor, care of Mr. Murray, 50 A, Albemarle Street.

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HANDBOOK

FOR

WILTS, DORSET, AND SOMERSET.

SECTION I.

WILTSHIRE.

INTRODUCTION.

WILTSHIRE—or Wiltonshire, as it was called by the Anglo-Saxons, after their capital town Wilton—is the 14th of the English counties in point of size, the 30th in density of population, and of interest to a traveller chiefly for its antiquities, which embrace works of a most remote origin, and for its magnificent seats, such as Tottenham and Longleat, many of them enriched by valuable collections of art. The configuration of the ground has naturally divided it into two districts—the plains and the hills, the course of the Great Western Railway pretty nearly defining the line of separation.

The plain, extending from the escarpment of the chalk to the bed of the Thames, presents a surface checkered with corn-fields and rich pastures, and here are produced the cheeses for which the county is known. In early times it was covered by a forest, which is said to have offered a serious obstacle to the Roman general Vespasian. The hill district, which comprehends the greater part of South Wiltshire, is a very different country, a range of bleak downs and deep valleys, “a series of chalky waves,” bare of wood and swept by keen invigorating winds. It is but thinly peopled, and much of it consists of solitary sheep-walks, over which roam large flocks of sheep, each attended by its shepherd.

On these lonely hills, long the battle-ground of the Celt and Saxon, are preserved those ancient monuments and earthworks for which Wiltshire is celebrated—the ruin of the Druid temple, overgrown with mosses—the far-extending boundary, such as the Wansdyke and Bokerley-ditch, to be traced by a shadowed line across the country—and the entrenched camp on the hill-top, still perfect as on the day when it was formed. Neither is it alone in such remains that we find the vestiges of an early people in Wiltshire, for “this county,” says a writer in the ‘Quarterly Review,’ “with the exception, perhaps, of Monmouth and Hereford, retains a larger number of British names than any other in England. Not merely natural objects, as the Avon, but even towns,

as in the striking group of the Lydiards, still bear the names given by the elder race."

The earlier antiquities of Wiltshire may be briefly enumerated under the following heads:—

Druidical Temples.—Stonehenge and Avebury.

Sacred Circles, formed by a bank and ditch, the ditch being inside the rampart.

Cromlechs, of which there is a specimen near Marlborough.

British Boundaries, the most remarkable the Wansdyke and Bokerley-ditch, the former still perfect for many miles.

British Roads, principally the Ridge Way, which runs N.E. from Avebury by the camps of Barbury and Liddington. They generally pursue a course along the high land, which the Romans avoided as much as possible.

British Villages, still to be traced on the slopes of Salisbury Plain. There is no doubt that in early times the hills were inhabited in preference to the valleys, which were overgrown with forests, marshy, and insalubrious. They were better adapted for cultivation, as well as for defence.

Banks and Ditches, which marked out the lines of communication from village to village.

Barrows, studding all the chalk hills and valleys, and to be classed in four divisions—the Long-barrow, Bowl-barrow, Bell-barrow, and Druid-barrow—the three first so named from their shape, the fourth consisting of one or more tumuli, enclosed within a circular ditch, sometimes 100 ft. in diameter. The Wiltshire barrows, particularly those which surround the temples of Avebury and Stonehenge, rank among the most ancient in England, and are all supposed to date from a time preceding the arrival of the Romans. They are also very remarkable for the variety and symmetry of their forms. Many of these old sepulchres were opened by Sir R. C. Hoare, who, in his 'History of Ancient Wiltshire,' has given us an interesting account of their contents: how in one he found the skeleton of the child clasped in the mother's arms; in another the hunter, with his faithful dog; in a third the maiden still encircled by her little beads and trinkets; in a fourth the warrior in the midst of his weapons, and with the incense and drinking cup by his side. Three modes of interment appear to have been pursued. In the first the skeleton reposes with its head to the N., and its legs drawn up; in the second it is extended at full length; in the third the body has been burnt, and the ashes deposited either in a cist cut in the chalky ground, or within a funeral urn. With these relics of mortality are found the arms and the personal ornaments of the dead—the arrow-heads of flint, the rude axes of stone, the beads of glass, jet, or amber, and, occasionally, articles of brass, gold, or iron.

Entrenchments, viz.: 1. rectangular enclosures, probably the rude defences of villages; 2. camps on elevated points, varying in size and construction, and of which Battlesbury and Scratchbury, near Warminster, are remarkable specimens.

Roman Roads.—1. Fosse Way, from Cirencester to Bathford; 2. Ermin Street, from Cirencester to Aldbourn; 3. Julian Street, from Bath to Marlborough; 4. Bath to Old Sarum; 5. Old Sarum to Dorchester; 6. Old Sarum to Uphill, on the Bristol Channel; 7. Old Sarum to Winchester; 8. Old Sarum to Silchester.

Norman Castles, of which there are remains at Ludgershall and Wardour, and the mounds of the keep at Marlborough, Devizes, Sherington, Castle Combe, and Malmesbury.

To view these ancient relics with the interest they deserve, it will be necessary to know the chief events in the early history of this county. At the time of the invasion of Cæsar, Wiltshire was occupied by the Belgæ, who are supposed to have constructed the Wansdyke for the protection of their territory. This tribe having been conquered by Vespasian, the Romans established themselves at three principal stations, the chief of which was Old Sarum, and through these they carried the roads which are still to be traced on the hills. After the departure of this people came the Saxons, who under Cerdic founded the kingdom of Wessex, and marched into the chalk downs of Marlborough; but Arthur and his chivalry defeated them at Badbury, and it remained for Cynric, the successor of Cerdic, to annex Wiltshire. He captured Old Sarum, and at Barbury completed the conquest. After this event the county enjoyed for a time comparative tranquillity, although occasionally disturbed by the stormy contentions of the Saxons; but these at length were set at rest by Egbert, who subdued his rival the king of Mercia, and united in his own crown all the opposing kingdoms. The next marauders on the scene were the Danes, who repeatedly ravaged Wiltshire, and drove Alfred into the fastnesses of Selwood. From this retreat he emerged to overthrow them at Edington, and to subject them for a time; but their inroads were renewed under Swein and Canute.

The geological structure of Wiltshire is chiefly cretaceous and oolitic, the clays of the Wealden forming but a narrow band around the chalk, and those of the tertiary beds of Southampton being confined to the vales below Salisbury. The London basin ends at Hungerford; but its former extension to the W. appears probable from the numerous blocks of a siliceous grit which are scattered over the downs of this county. These are provincially called *sarsen-stones* * and *grey wethers*, the latter from their fancied resemblance to sheep. The cretaceous beds constitute the greater part of S. Wiltshire, forming the central mass of the English chalk, which here attains its greatest elevation, in Inkpen Beacon, a summit 1011 ft. high, rising at the junction of the three-counties of Wiltshire, Hampshire, and Berkshire. From this nucleus proceed those four great branches, the N. Downs of Surrey, the S. Downs of Sussex, the N. and S. Downs of Dorsetshire, and the range extending by the Chiltern Hills to the coast of Norfolk. The underlying greensand we find exposed in the

* "The Saxons applied the term *Saracen* to pagans or heathens in general; and as most of these stones were congregated together as temples, it naturally came to pass that the whole formation acquired the distinctive appellation of *Saracen* (or heathen) stones; that is to say, after the conversion of the Saxons to Christianity."—*Notes and Queries*.

deep valleys of the chalk, for instance in that of Pewsey, which separates the downs of Marlborough and Salisbury Plain, and also in a ridge skirting the escarpment of the chalk and in some places attaining a considerable elevation, as about Devizes, Warminster, and Stourhead, where the greensand eminence of Alfred's Tower rises 800 ft. above the sea. Below the greensand lies the Wealden clay, which comes to the surface in a narrow tract around the chalk hills, and below the Wealden the oolite, which forms the N. and extreme W. of the county, the beds succeeding one another in the following order:—1. Portland stone, which is quarried at Swindon, Tisbury, and Fonthill; 2. Kimeridge clay, ranging from Swindon to the W. of Devizes; 3. Coral rag, an ancient reef, extending in low hills from Highworth to Bromham; 4. Calcareous grit, chiefly composed of siliceous sand; 5. Oxford clay, a level district rich in cephalopoda and abounding in mineral springs; 6. Kelloways rock, a mass of fossil mollusks, named from its predominance at Kelloways, near Chippenham; 7. Cornbrash, a rubbly limestone used for building at Malmesbury; 8. Forest marble, yielding coarse tiles and flagstones, and beautifully preserving the ripple-marks of waves and the foot-prints of crustaceans; 9. Bradford clay, full of organic remains; and 10. The great oolite, forming lofty hills about Bath and the Box tunnel.

The most interesting points of the county may be indicated as follows:—

- Near Hungerford - - - Littlecot Park; Inkpen Beacon, the highest chalk down in England.
- Marlborough - - - - - Savernake Forest and Tottenham Park; Avebury; Silbury Hill; Wansdyke.
- Salisbury - - - - - Cathedral; Stonehenge; Wilton House (pictures and marbles); Longford Castle (pictures); Fonthill; Wardour Castle (pictures).
- Warminster - - - - - Longleat (pictures); Stourhead (pictures); Scratchbury; Battlesbury.
- Chippenham - - - - - Bowood (pictures); Laycock Abbey.
- Corsham - - - - - Corsham Court (pictures).
- Malmesbury - - - - - Abbey Church; Charlton Park (pictures).

Strangers travelling in Wiltshire will remark among its characteristics the stalwart proportions of the people; their courteous demeanour; their broad dialect in some districts—as about Marlborough and Calne; the excellence of their bacon, and acidity of their beer; the open character of the country, and, in general, the absence of trees; the purity and bracing qualities of the air; the number and immensity of old earthworks; the picturesqueness of the cottages and farm-buildings; and last but not least, the comfort of the inns. Descended from a race of shepherds, the inhabitants retain much of the simplicity of the pastoral character, a fact denoted by their proverb, *Wiltshire moonrakers*. This is said to have originated in the exertions of a rustic, who, upon seeing the figure of the moon in a pond, attempted to rake it out.

ROUTES.

. The names of places are printed in *italics* only in those routes where the *places* are described.

ROUTE	PAGE	ROUTE	PAGE
1 Great Western Railway— <i>Swindon to Bath, by Wootton Bassett, Chippenham (Castle Coombe, Laycock Abbey, Malmesbury, Charlton Park), Corsham (Corsham Court) and Box</i>	6	8 Hungerford to Bath, by <i>Marlborough, Beckhampton, Cherhill White Horse, Calne (Bowood), Chippenham, and Corsham (the great Bath road from London)</i>	67
2 Great Western Railway— <i>Gloucester, Cheltenham, and Cirencester Branch from Swindon, by Purton (Lydiard Park), Cricklade (Down Ampney), and Minety</i>	17	9 Hungerford to Bath, by Marlborough, Beckhampton, <i>Bishop's Cannings, Devizes, Seend, Melksham, and Bradford (a branch of the great Bath road from London)</i>	71
3 Wilts, Somerset, and Weymouth Railway— <i>Chippenham to Frome, by Melksham, Trowbridge (Bradford), and Westbury (Edington)</i>	18	10 Andover to Devizes, by <i>Ludgershall and East Everley</i>	72
4 Faringdon to Swindon, by <i>Highworth</i>	24	11 Andover to Shaftesbury, by <i>Winterslow Hut, Salisbury, Barford St. Martin (Compton Chamberlayne House, Vale of Chalk), and Donhead (the great W. road from London to the Land's-End; South-Western Rly., Andover and Salisbury Branch from Basingstoke; Exeter Extension Rly.)</i>	74
5 Swindon to Salisbury, by <i>Marlborough (Avebury, Savername Forest, Littlecot), Burbage, Collingbourn, Sidbury Hill (Amesbury, Stonehenge), Tedworth and Old Sarum (Wilton, Longford Castle)</i>	25	12 Wilts, Somerset, and Weymouth Railway— <i>Branch from Salisbury to Westbury, by Wilton (Stapleton, Steeple Langford), Wiley (Deptford Inn, Yarnbury), Codford (Sherrington, Boyton House), Heytesbury, and Warminster (Scratchbury, Battlesbury, Longleat, Maiden Bradley)</i>	77
5a Salisbury to Christchurch, by <i>Downton (New Hall, New House)</i>	60	13 Salisbury to Wincanton, by <i>Chilmark, Hindon (Fonthill, Wardour Castle, Tisbury), and Mere (Pen Pits, Stourhead, Alfred's Tower)</i>	85
5b South-Western Railway, Salisbury Branch from Bishopstoke— <i>(Farley, Trafalgar House, Brickworth House, Cowsfield House, Milshal Park)</i>	61		
6 Chippenham to Salisbury, by <i>Bromham, Devizes (Roundaway Hill, Vale of Pewsey, Casterley Cump), and the Bustard Inn</i>	63		
7 Hungerford to Swindon, by <i>Aldbourn and Liddington</i>	66		

ROUTE 1.

SWINDON TO BATH, BY WOOTTON BASSETT, CHIPPENHAM (MALMESBURY), CORSEHAM, AND BOX.

(Great Western Railway.)

After an uninterrupted ascent by easy gradients from London, the railway enters Wiltshire in the Vale of White Horse, and at $4\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the border reaches

77 *Swindon Junction Stat.*, the summit of the line, 270 ft. above the London terminus, and 292 ft. above that at Bristol, and from which a branch extends on rt. to Cirencester 18 m., to Gloucester 37 m., and to Cheltenham 44 m. Here are Refreshment-rooms, the "half-way house," where every train stops 10 minutes, corresponding in this respect with the Wolverton Station on the London and Birmingham Railway. These rooms are decorated in arabesque, and form on the upper story an hotel, which communicates with the opposite station by a covered gallery.

Swindon is the great central establishment of the company, and on the N. side of the line, at some distance W. of the passenger-station, is the engine depôt, capable of accommodating 100 engines. The shed is 490 by 72 ft., and will hold upon its 4 lines of rails 48 engines and tenders, of which a certain number are always kept ready for action; for here every train changes its locomotive. The engine-house is 290 by 140 ft., and divided into compartments, in which the iron monsters stand like horses in the stalls of a stable. The centre is occupied by a travelling platform 50 ft. wide. N. of this building is the erecting-house, in which the parts of the machinery are put together. A number of mechanics are here employed, and of their skill a curious specimen was exhibited in Hyde Park, 1851; it was a working model of a pair of non-condensing steam-engines, which

stood within the compass of a shilling, and weighed 3 drachms.

The locomotives in use upon the Great Western differ from those generally employed, chiefly in the dimensions of their wheels and framing, which are adapted to the broad gauge, and in the short stroke of their pistons as compared with the diameter of their driving-wheels, an arrangement intended to allow of a high rate of speed without an unfavourable increase in the motion of the parts of the machinery upon each other. All the engines run upon 6 wheels. In the passenger-engines the driving-wheels are 8 ft. in diameter; the length of stroke is 24 in., and the diameter of the cylinder 18 in. The boiler contains 305 tubes. Each of these engines, when upon the line, and properly supplied with fuel and water, weighs about 35 tons, and is calculated to exert a power equal to 743 horses. The tender following each engine runs also upon 6 wheels, and is constructed to contain about 1600 gallons of water and 1 ton 10 cwt. of coke, and when thus loaded weighs 17 tons. The express-trains travel at the rate of 55·33 m. per hour excluding stoppages, including them 42; the ordinary mail trains at an average speed of 29 m. per hour. The time lost by stops, including pulling up and getting into speed, is estimated at 7 minutes each stop.

A considerable town has arisen about the station. The Railway Company and private speculators have built upwards of 300 neat substantial cottages, which are principally inhabited by the men employed with the engines—a superior class, both in intelligence and conduct. A library, reading-room, and mechanics' institute have been established for this community.

A large church has been erected at a cost of 6000*l.*, and a parsonage and school-house at an expense of 1700*l.* A piece of ground has also been laid out as a park. To this judicious

scheme of improvement the directors have liberally contributed. They employ here from 300 to 400 mechanics, pay to their servants about 140,000*l.* half-yearly, and have expended on this establishment nearly 600,000*l.* Hence they have a vast interest at stake; and in these provisions for the comfort of their servants have shown a wise and liberal policy.

The church, which contains 800 sittings, is built in the Dec. style. It is surmounted by a crocketed spire 140 ft. high, and is one of the most perfect and beautiful modern ecclesiastical structures in the country. It gives character to the rising town, and shows that this great railway company is not wholly absorbed in the worship of Mammon.

To the l. of the Stat., on the summit of the hill, 1 m. distant, is the old market-town of

Swindon (Inns: Goddard Arms; Bell), commanding extensive prospects over Berks and Gloucestershire, but not otherwise remarkable. Its quarries of building-stone, and the view from the back of the inn, are the chief points of interest. In the latter the traveller beholds to the E. the great chalk ridge, with its entrenchments and barrows, "the scene, probably, of the early Celtic settlements, of the final struggle of that people under Arthur against the Saxons, and subsequently of some of the most severe contests between the Saxons and the Danes." This ground forms the N. limit of that range of chalk which extends in a compact mass as far as Salisbury, and branches thence through Dorset to the sea, including among its lonely hills some of the most stupendous Celtic works now extant. In the plain to the N.W. will be observed *Coleshill* (Earl of Radnor), and on the Lambourn Downs, E., *Wayland Smith's Cave*, the burial-place of Baereg, a Danish chieftain, but so named from a wild legend of an in-

visible smith replacing lost horse-shoes there. The reader of 'Kenilworth' will remember the story.

Swindon is rather a picturesque place, with its old houses of red brick and stone, and has recently received an ornament in a new church erected on the verge of the hill. Adjoining the town is *The Lawn*, residence of a branch of the Goddards, and 2½ m. S., on the flank of the Marlborough Downs, *Burdrop Park*, seat of the Calleys; 5 m. distant are *Barbury* and *Liddington Castle*, fine specimens of British castramentation, the one on the old and the other on the new road to Marlborough. (See Index.)

Proceeding on our route—

3 l. *Bassett Down*, once the residence of Dr. Maskelyne, the astronomer-royal, and still possessed by his daughter, Mrs. Storey Maskelyne.

rt. *Lydiard Tregoze*, from the reign of Hen. VI. the seat of the St. Johns, Viscounts Bolingbroke and Barons St. John. The mansion stands in a park finely wooded with old oaks. The parish church contains a screen and a number of ancient monuments of the St. Johns. The great Lord Bolingbroke was buried at Battersea.

82½ *Wootton Bassett Stat.* The town (*Inn*, Royal Oak) occupies the summit of a hill: it was once the inheritance of the Bassetts of Wycombe, its first name being corrupted from *Wodeton*, "Woodtown." It is an insignificant market-town of 2000 Inhab.; disfranchised by the Reform Bill. Lord Clarendon, the historian, was first returned to Parliament as its member. *Lydiard Tregoze* is 2½ m. distant, *Malmesbury* 10. A great number of septaria or cement-stones are found here in the Oxford clay, a stratum of the middle oolite. Farther N. are the coral-rag hills, and, bounded by their woods, the old camp of *Ringsbury*, 3 m. on the road to the Purton Stat.

In the town-hall are preserved the

remains of a *Cucking* or *Ducking-stool*, once

"The dread of every scolding qucan."

This was an arm-chair on wheels, with 2 long poles or shafts, to the ends of which were fastened ropes. The mode of punishment was as follows: The woman who was supposed to have merited immersion was tied into the chair, and the machine wheeled to a pond, over which it was made to project. The shafts were then released, and the chair with its unfortunate occupant tilted into the water. When the ducking had been duly performed, the stool was again raised by a pull on the ropes. The chair bears the date 1668.

Broad Hinton, 5 m. towards Marlborough, was the residence of the great lawyer *Sir John Glanville*, b. near Tavistock in Devonshire. "His seat," says Evelyn in his *Diary*, 1654, "is at Broad Hinton, where he now lives, but in the gatehouse; his very fair dwelling having been burnt by his own hands, to prevent the rebels making a garrison of it."

Cliffe Pypard, S. of Wootton, was severely visited, Sept. 1856, by a remarkable whirlwind, which, descending from the high land, destroyed several hundred trees on the grounds of the *Manor-house*, seat of H. N. Goddard, Esq. The ch. contains a brass, with effigy of a knight, probably a Cobham, c. 1380. The ch. of *Winterbourn Bassett*, situated on the hills, is referred to the time of Edw. III., and was restored 1857. The tower is Perp., and the N. window of the N. chapel of the best period of Dec.

Leaving Wootton Bassett, the line enters a deep cutting, crossed by a bridge carrying a road from Malmesbury towards Cliffe Pypard. In 4 m. it passes on the l. *Bradenstoke Hill*, crowned by a Decorated priory (now a farmhouse), and *Clack Hill*, with its earth-works, including a central mound for a beacon-fire; and 3 m. farther the foot of the hill

"Whence Brandon gently brings forth Avon
from her source,
In her most quiet course, which, southward
making, soon
Receives the gentle Caln."

At *Kelloways Bridge*, 91 m., are seen the limestone beds of the Oxford clay, almost entirely composed of fossil shells, and called *Kelloways rock* from this locality.

Bradenstoke or *Broadstoke* was one of 4 abbeys which stood here in early times on the banks of the Avon; the others were Malmesbury, Stanley, and Laycock. "Its remains," says the poet Bowles, "yet appear conspicuous on the edge of that long sweep of hills which formed the N.W. bounds of the ancient forest of Braden, from whence the Daues descended like a storm to lay waste the country about Chippenham and Laycock. They may be distinguished by their massy buttresses and battlements far off in the sunshine." Bradenstoke was founded for Augustine or Black Canons, by Walter of Salisbury, a son of a companion of the Conqueror. At the Dissolution it was granted to Richard Pexel, and from his heirs it came by purchase to the Methuens of Corsham.

93½ *Chippenham Junction Stat.* Hence the *Wilts, Somerset, and Weymouth Railway* passes off on l. to Dorchester and Weymouth. From Westbury a branch, opened 1856, runs by Warminster to Salisbury, and there joins the line to Southampton. Another branch, completed 1857, goes to Devizes.

Chippenham (Inns: Angel; George; Bear). This is an agricultural and manufacturing town, of about 5000 Inhab., situated on the *Avon*, here a clear winding stream working numerous mills. It is celebrated for its cheese and corn markets, the former one of the largest in England; and it also derives importance from several manufactures. The cloth made at Chippenham was deemed worthy of the first prize in the Great Exhibition; its silk-weaving

is still a considerable business; and its two large iron-foundries, employing upwards of 300 persons, supply not only the Great Western, but several lines of railway in the N. of England. The town has also two tanyards, conducted on a large scale. Chippenham, which still retains its Saxon name, was the Court of Alfred the Great, both before and after his defeat of the Danes. When he retired to Selwood Forest the Danes made it head-quarters, and hence they marched to give the King battle on the field of Edington. It first received a Mayor and Corporation under the Municipal Reform Act, and is the birthplace of *John Scott*, the divine, and of *Lodowick Muggleton*, founder of the sect. The old Bath and London road passes through the town. In 1742 Sir Robert Walpole, finding himself in a minority of 16 on a question relating to a Chippenham election, resigned, having been then Prime Minister of England for 21 years.

The church is a large edifice of mixed architecture. The tower is late Perp., with a spire; the W. door Early Eng., with a Perp. dripstone; the E. arch Early Dec.; the chancel arch elaborate Norman work, and of large span. Near it is a rich Dec. Hagioscope. There is a very curious Perp. chapel, covered with the cognizances of the house of Hungerford, who seem also to have built the tower. A monument to Sir Gilbert Prynne, 1627, will be noticed.

The objects of chief interest in this neighbourhood are—*Bowood*, *Malmesbury Abbey-church*, *Charlton Park*, the manorhouse of *Draycot*, *Castle Combe*, *Corsham Court*, *Laycock Abbey*, *Spy gatehouse*, and *Bradenstoke Priory*. *Avebury*, *S. Wraxall*, and *Bromham Church*, are also within reach.

In the vicinity of the town are *Joy House*, Mrs. Humphries; *Monkton House*, Graham Moore Esmeade, Esq.; *Notton*, Hon. Sir J. W. Awdry; *Lackham*, G. Montagu, Esq., the or-

nithologist; and *Hardenhuish Park* (commonly called *Harnish*), E. L. Clutterbuck, Esq. The cemetery attached to the church of Hardenhuish contains a monument to the celebrated financier David Ricardo, father of the late Mrs. Clutterbuck, buried here 1823. 4 m. N. is

Draycot Cerne (Earl of Mornington), ancient seat of the Cernes and the elder branch of the Longs, whose monuments may be seen in the neighbouring ch., one a brass to Sir Edw. C., 1380; 6 m. N. W.,

Grittleton House, purchased of Col. Houlton, 1828, by the late Joseph Neeld, Esq., and now the property of his brother Sir John Neeld, Bart.; and of which the mansion, designed by Mr. Thomson, and completed 1857, contains a fine collection of works of art, including a gallery of sculpture, in which are several of the chefs-d'œuvre of *Baily, R.A.*, the *Eve listening*, the *Graces*, *Maternal Love*, &c.; and a gallery of pictures, chiefly of the Italian and Flemish Schools. Of the latter there are some exquisite specimens. 2 m. E. of Grittleton is the small but highly decorated church of *Leigh-Delamere*, entirely rebuilt 1846, at the sole expense of the late Mr. Neeld. About 2 m. W. of Grittleton, and 6 from Chippenham, stands

Castle Combe (G. Poulett Scrope, Esq., M.P.), seat of the famous family of Scrope for the last 500 years. Here lived Lord Scrope of Bolton, Lord Chancellor of England in the reign of Richard II., and in our time William Scrope, author of those well-known books, 'Days of Deer Stalking,' and 'Days and Nights of Salmon Fishing.' The situation is romantic. "The house lies deeply embosomed among steep and wooded slopes, in an angle of one of those narrow cleft-like valleys which intersect and drain the range of limestone hills called in Gloucestershire the Cotswolds, and which extend southwards as far as Bath. A small but rapid stream runs through the village, and

after a course of some miles joins the Avon near the town of Box, whence it is known as the *Box brook*." Above this stream rises the wooded hill on which the original castle was built by the Dunstanvilles. In the village may be found an ancient market-cross, and numerous old houses constructed of the rubbly limestone of the surrounding hills, and generally retaining the gable-fronts, the labelled and mullioned windows, and the wide stone fireplaces, characteristic of early times. Of these the manor-house, with its terraced garden, and the dowry-house, are very interesting specimens, the one on the old road to the castle, the other at the end of High-street, on the road leading up the hill to the N.

In the parish of *Kington St. Michael*, 4 m. E. of Castle Combe, is the small hamlet of *Easton Percy*, in which, on the site of a farmhouse called *Lower Easton Percy*, was formerly an older house, the birthplace of *John Aubrey* the antiquary (1626), who, though stigmatised by Anthony Wood as "a shiftless person, roving and maggoty-headed," has left us many valuable works, including a 'Perambulation of the County of Surrey,' 'Monumenta Britannica,' 'The Nat. Hist. of Wiltshire,' 'A Description of the N. Division of Wiltshire,' and the 'Lives of Eminent Men,' compiled in aid of Wood's *Athenæ Oxonienses*. He lived 72 years, through the Civil War, Commonwealth, Restoration, and Revolution, and for some time at Broad Chalk in S. Wiltshire. *John Britton*, the antiquary, to whose labours English Gothic architecture and antiquities are so much indebted, was also born at *Kington St. Michael* in 1771. His father was a baker, maltster, shopkeeper, and small farmer. In the ch., restored 1857, is a monumental window to Aubrey and Britton, two worthies who, living at an interval of 150 years, were remarkable for similarity of taste and pursuits, as well as for their strong

attachment to, and garrulous reminiscences of, their native parish. *Kington St. Michael* had formerly a nunnery, of which there are some remains. "Old Jaques," says Aubrey, "who lived on the other side, hath seen 40 or 50 nunes in a morning spinning with their wheels and bobbins."

Bowood [Rte. 8], the seat of the Marquis of Lansdowne, is 4 m. towards Calne. *Corsham Court* is 4 m. W.

Laycock Abbey (from *lay*, a meadow, and *oche*, water), the property and residence of W. H. Fox Talbot, Esq., the well-known inventor of the "Talbotype," is situated on the *Avon*, below the heights of Bowden Park, 3½ m. on the road to Melksham. Though converted into a family mansion, it retains many of its monastic features. Arches hung with ivy, and tall spiral chimneys, are seen from the surrounding meadows, which in early times, says Bowles, formed, probably, a glade between the forests of Melksham and Chippenharn. *Laycock* was founded as an Augustine nunnery in 1232 by Ela Countess of Salisbury, who, in 1238, entered the establishment as a nun, and shortly afterwards was elected its abbess. She founded it in memory of her deceased husband William Longspee, the eldest natural son of Henry II. by Fair Rosamond, and in his wife's right Earl of Sarum. In the reign of Henry VIII., 1539, after a 3 years' reprieve, as one of the 30 lesser monasteries, *Laycock* was confiscated to the king. It was then bestowed upon Sir William Sherington, who changed the domicile of the nuns into a residence for himself; and, dying without issue, his brother Henry's daughter carried the estate by marriage to the Talbots. During the Rebellion the Abbey was fortified and garrisoned by a member of this family for Charles I.; and in 1645 besieged by Colonel Devereux, to whom it surrendered by capitulation. As a nunnery, it is supposed to have been a much larger building than the present abbey. It formed 2 quad-

angular courts, one of which contained the offices; the other the vestry and chapter-house, the various apartments occupied by the nuns, and the *cloister*, a work of the time of Henry IV., still in good preservation, and said by Britton to be the most perfect example of a domestic cloister in England. Its roof is decorated with grotesque figures, and on the pavement lies a monumental stone, believed to be the one originally placed in the church over the remains of Ela, the founder and first abbess. Around this cloistered court are the ancient apartments. On the W. side the *refectory*, now the hall, with emblazoned roof, and walls ornamented in illustration of the history of the abbey; on the N. side the old *hall*, now converted into offices; and on the E. side the *nuns' kitchen*, the *chapter-house* and *vestry*, all supported by pillars; and adjoining the vestry the *tower*, or *muniment-room*, in which is preserved an original copy of the Magna Charta of Henry III., sent to Ela Countess of Salisbury, as hereditary sheriff of Wiltshire. In another part of the building are the *library* and the *stone-gallery*, the latter containing some old carved chairs, supposed to have belonged to Charles II., and a pair of antlers of the elk remarkable for their size and beauty. From the cloister a door opens to the *terrace-walk*, the site of the Abbey church, long since destroyed, with the exception of a part of the N. wall. Beyond lies the garden, a charming retreat, through which the stream of the Avon meanders, and where may still be seen the *ponds* or *stews* for fish, and the *nuns' caldron*, a metallic vessel cast in Mechlin in the year 1500, and of a size to contain some 67 gallons. In these secluded grounds it is pleasant to hear the *matin-bell*, which still proclaims the flight of time from the top of the Abbey.

The Talbots owe their inheritance of Laycock to a very romantic incident. The young daughter and heiress of Sir Henry Sherington, being

in love with John Talbot, contrary to her father's wishes, and "discoursing one night with him from the battlements of the abbey church, said she, 'I will leap downe to you.' Her sweetheart replied he would catch her then: but he did not believe she would have done it. She leapt down, and the wind, which was then high, came under her coates, and did something break the fall. Mr. Talbot caught her in his armes, but she struck him dead; she cried for help, and he was with great difficulty brought to life again. Her father thereon told her that since she had made such a leap she should e'en marrie him." So runs the tale, according to Aubrey, who was personally acquainted with the grandson of the lady. The poet lets us know how the feat was done:—

"Upon the highest tow'r she stood,
And once she trembled, as she view'd
The dizzy height, to trace
If he were there, the chosen one,
Down to whose arms she would have flown,
Though fathomless the space.
But, from the world of stars above,
Love saw the maid, then laugh'd for joy,
And downward from the court of Jove
Flew thro' the air that bright-eyed boy.
Quick to the tower he, laughing, springs,
With his own zone her eyes did cover,
Then took her on his silver wings,
And bore her safely to her lover."

The portrait of Dame Olave is still preserved in the abbey.

At Laycock *Bp. Jewel* preached his last sermon, when making a visitation to the churches of his diocese. It was from the text "Walk in the spirit." He went from the pulpit to his bed, and died in a few days, 1571. The abbey was then the dwelling of Sir Henry Sherington, the last heir-male of that ancient family. His monument may be seen in the neighbouring parish church, which has also a fine brass to the memory of Robert Baynard, 1501.

Should the visitor to Laycock be inclined to extend his ramble, he may ascend the neighbouring hill to the picturesque gatehouse of *Spy Park* (p. 19), from which he will com-

mand one of the most extensive prospects in the county.

It is a drive of 10 m. from Chippenham, passing *Draycot Cerne Park*, to *Malmesbury* (Inns: King's Arms; George), a town remarkable for its *abbey-church*, one of the most curious in Wilts. Malmesbury itself is a decayed place of some 2000 Inhab. (returning 1 M.P. since the Reform Bill), prettily situated on a ridge flanked on either side by the running streams of the *Avon*. In the market there is a *cross* (of Perp. Gothic) erected to shelter the people, probably in the reign of Hen. VII. It is octagonal in form, and surmounted by a pinnacle bearing sculptures.

The *Abbey-church*, built in the style of the transition from Norman to Early Eng., is the principal object of interest. It is, however, but a fragment of the original church, consisting of the nave, walled up at the ends, so that on the W. a very fine but mutilated Norman front, and on the E. 2 piers, which supported the tower at the crossing, stand detached. Its most striking feature is its unrivalled Norman S. porch, composed of 8 concentric arches, the mouldings covered with ornaments, knots, foliage, and bas-reliefs in medallions. Rt. and l. within the porch are figures of the Apostles, very early Byzantine sculpture, and over the door the Saviour in the vesica piscis. In the interior massive cylindrical piers support pointed arches, and over them a triforium of semicircular arches, from which a curious stone balcony projects. The aisles appear to have been Norman; the mouldings and ornaments have a late Norman character. The church was probably erected in the reign of Hen. II. The N. tower arch (now excluded from the building) is stilted to reach the level of that towards the nave, which was nearly 10 ft. wider than the side arches. To the S. of the altar is a crowded

effigy on a tomb, said to be that of king Athelstan, who was a great benefactor to the original abbey, and was interred here; but this figure is of a much later date than his age.

The first abbey was founded in the year 675, by Eleutherius bishop of Winchester. The buildings occupied 45 acres. Edward III. raised the abbot to the dignity of the mitre, with a seat among the peers. The patron-saints of the establishment were the Virgin and St. Aldhelm. In the reign of Henry VIII. the abbey was purchased by one Stumpe, a rich clothier, who erected his looms within its walls. The manufacture has dwindled, but still lingers on. In one corner of the churchyard rises the isolated tower of St. Paul's, which has been disused since the abbey was converted into a parish church.

There are several other fragments of antiquity in and about Malmesbury. The *Corporation Almshouse*, at the S.E. end of the town, includes a pointed arch walled up, and part of a hospice of St. John of Jerusalem. In this building Henry VIII. was entertained by Stumpe the clothier, and Charles I. feasted by the corporation. The *White Lion Inn*, lately destroyed, was an hospitium of the abbey, and retained some bits of old stone and wood-work.

Malmesbury, during the Rebellion, was twice taken by the forces of the Parliament—the first time by Sir William Waller, the second by Col. Massey, who stormed it in 1645. Its name is supposed to be a corruption of Maildelphsbury, the town of Maildelph, a Scottish hermit, who had his cell here in early times. A road near the town has been known from time immemorial as *King Athelstan's Way*. It is mentioned in charters of Athelstan and Eadwig.

Aldhelm of Malmesbury, Abbot here for 30 years, and first Bishop of Sherborne, 709, was a learned Saxon and Latin author, some of whose writings

are preserved. Malmesbury was also the native place of *Thomas Hobbes*, the philosopher, born 1538, at Westport, a suburb of the town. A small house, with a low arched doorway, opposite the W. end of Westport church, is pointed out as his birth-place, but erroneously, for the cottage, distinctly marked by Aubrey on a plan of the town preserved among his MSS., stood at one side of the Horse-fair, and has been pulled down. His father was the minister.

Oliver of Malmesbury, a Benedictine monk and astrologer, d. 1060, is mentioned by Fuller as having attempted a flight from one of the Abbey towers. He had fastened wings to his hands and feet, but they proved unequal to his weight, and he fell, breaking both his legs.

The Minety station of the Cheltenham Railway is 7 m. distant (Rte. 2). 2 m. N. of Malmesbury is

Charlton Park (Howard, Earl of Suffolk and Berkshire), a stately old mansion, of Jacobean architecture; the W. front designed by *Inigo Jones*. The interior is modernised, excepting one long gallery with oak panelling, and its original stucco roof, with pendants. It is hung with interesting portraits, curious as historical memorials rather than fine as works of art, excepting the 3 children of Charles I. (a sketch—half-lengths), and Elizabeth Countess of Northumberland, by *Vandyck*.

Here are Richard Sackville, Earl of Dorset, *Mytens*; Sir Jerome Bowes, ambassador to the Czar of Muscovy, *L. de Heere*; Sir Edward Sackville, Earl of Dorset, who slew Lord Bruce in a duel, and fought at Edgehill, *Mytens*; James I., *Mark Gerard*; Queen Elizabeth, Charles I., Lady Emily and Gertrude Howard, *Corn. Jansen*; George Villiers, first Duke of Buckingham, *Van Somer*; Diana Countess of Oxford, *Mytens*; Beatrice d'Este, queen of James II., *Lely*; John Hampden; and many more. Here is a roomful of Charles II.'s

beauties, by or after *Lely*, including Moll Davis, who originally, it is said, was dairymaid at Charlton.

There are, besides, some very good paintings by old masters. Among them, by *Leon. da Vinci*, that composition so well known by the name of "La Vierge aux rochers,"* of which there is a repetition in the Louvre. Dr. Waagen is of opinion that "this alone is to be considered the original picture. The decisive evidence consists in the incomparably nobler expression, in the greater delicacy of drawing, and in the masterly modelling of the heads." *Domenichino*, St. Cecilia; 2, whole-length portrait of the widow of Cosmo II., Grand-Duke of Tuscany. *Ann. Carracci*, a large landscape, with the Flight into Egypt*; 2, a male portrait. *Guido Reni*, the Adoration of the Shepherds*. *Holbein*, Catherine Howard, queen of Henry VIII. *Bagnacavallo*, the Virgin borne by Angels to Heaven. *Pietro F. Mola*, a landscape, with Hagar and Ishmael. *Agost. Carracci*, a landscape, with the Baptism of Christ. *Claude*, 2 small landscapes. *Gaspar Poussin*, 2 small landscapes*. *D. da Volterra*, Christ lamented by his Disciples. *Murillo*, the Ascension of the Virgin; 2, the Coronation of the Virgin. *W. Van de Velde*, a calm sea*, "of singular delicacy and transparency." *Van der Heyden*, interior of a Dutch town with figures*—the latter by *A. Van de Velde*. *F. Milet*, a landscape, "in the taste of his great model Gaspar Poussin." *G. Poussin*, a landscape, with the Temple of the Sibyl at Tivoli, and the Flight into Egypt*. *Paul Brill*, a large poetic landscape. *Paul Veronese*, "a Flight into Egypt, here called a Lorenzo Lotto, I am inclined to attribute to this master." — *Waagen*. The 8 pictures marked with asterisks, together with an *Ecce Homo* by *Guido*, and a Virgin and child by *Procaccini*, were stolen out of the two drawing-rooms in a most

daring manner on the night of Oct. 10, 1856, by a discarded servant. Fortunately they were recovered, and in the summer of 1858 were among the works of the Old Masters exhibited at the British Institution.

Dryden, who married a daughter of the Earl of Berkshire, was a frequent visitor to Charlton. His letter to his wife's brother, the Hon. Sir Robert Howard, giving an account of his 'Annus Mirabilis' is dated from Charlton, Nov. 10, 1666.

Great Sherston, $5\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. of Malmesbury, is considered to be the *Scorstan* of Henry of Huntingdon, where, in 1016, Edmund Ironside fought an obstinate battle with the Danes under Canute. It was a place of some consequence in early times, and has a large Norman church, in which, according to the tradition, King Edmund slept on the night before the battle.

At a short distance N.E. is an entrenched camp, probably constructed at that time by the Saxon army. Near the village is *Pinkney Park*, W. H. Creswell, Esq.; and $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. S., close to the Roman road, a spot called *Elm and Ash*, after 2 trees which apparently grew from one root, and in the popular belief had sprung from the stakes driven through the body of a suicide who had been there interred.

W. of Malmesbury runs the Roman *Fosse Way*, almost in a direct line from Cirencester to Bath. The station of *Mutuantonis*, or *White Walls*, occupied the high ground near *Easton Grey*, 3 m. due W.

Foxley, 2 m. S.W., gave the title of Baron Foxley to Lord Holland. *Bradfield*, S. of Foxley, was once a cell to a monastery.

Between Chippenham and *Kelloways*, a village 4 m. N.E., runs a paved causeway, constructed in 1474, "for the good of travellers," by one Maud Heath, of Langley Burrell. An inscribed pillar, of more recent date, remains as a record of

the gift. It bears the following couplet—

"Hither extendeth Maud Heath's gift,
For where I stand is Chippenham Cliff."

Proceeding on our route—

98 *Corsham Stat.* The town (*Inn*: Methuen Arms), or rather village, lies on the rt. It was a residence of our Saxon Kings, and the birthplace of *Sir Richard Blackmore*, physician to Will. III., and poet, d. 1729. Blackmore is principally known as the author of the 'Creation;' but, says Leigh Hunt, "he composed heaps of dull poetry, versified the Psalms, and, by way of extending the lesson on patience, wrote a paraphrase of the 'Book of Job.'" Dryden compares the music of his verses to "the rumbling of his chariot-wheels." He was the son of an attorney, and in early life a schoolmaster:—

"By nature form'd, by want a pedant made,
Blackmore at first set up the whipping trade;
Next quack commenced."

However, says Cibber, he was "a worthy man and a friend to religion."

The church contains Norman, Early Eng., Dec., and Perp. work, and a richly carved wood screen, with a canopy of fan tracery. There are also additions by the Hungerfords, 1631; and in the N. chancel chapel 2 altartombs, one of great size to Thomas Tropenell and his wife Agnes, the supposed builders of Great Chalfield manor-house late in the reign of Henry VI.

Corsham Court, the seat of Lord Methuen, at present occupied by Lord Broughton, is 4 m. W. of Chippenham. The S. front, which has been judiciously preserved through the successive alterations undergone by the rest of the mansion, is a charming example of the Elizabethan style. It was built (Aubrey says) by "Customer Smythe," an ancestor of Lord Strangford, so called from being "farmer of the customs," and bears date 1582. The N. front, and other parts of the house remodelled by Nash,

have been lately pulled down and reconstructed from a good Italian design by Charles Bellamy. The staircase is spacious and stately. In the surrounding park are trees of magnificent growth, particularly cedars and oriental planes, one of the latter being probably the largest of its kind in England. In 1602 this estate became by purchase the property of the Hungerford family, of Farleigh Castle. Sir Edward Hungerford, commander of the Wilts forces for the Parliament, resided here, and his widow Margaret, daughter and co-heir of William Halliday, Lord Mayor of London, founded 1672 the late Gothic Almshouse and Free-school adjoining the park; of which hospital *Edward Hasted*, the historian of Kent, was for some years master, dying 1812. Corsham House contains a gallery of very valuable paintings, in great part collected by Sir Paul Methuen, the celebrated ambassador, known as the author of the "Methuen Treaty" with Portugal. Their number has been judiciously augmented by the present Lord. They are arranged in the state rooms built by Lancelot, or "Capability" Brown, and include a number of family portraits by *Lely*, *Kneller*, *Dobson*, *C. Jansens*, *Vandyck*, *Riley*, *Reynolds*, *Gainsborough*, *Romney*, and others. Strangers are kindly permitted to view these pictures, of which the following may be noticed as the most remarkable:—

Jan Van Eyck (?)—Virgin and Child, with Joseph, St. Catherine, and another female saint; a beautiful Flemish painting, probably by an artist younger than Van Eyck. *A. Elzheimer*.—1. St. Paul at Malta; 2. Death of Procris; very fine specimens of an exceedingly rare master. *Mich. Angelo* (?)—The Rape of Ganymede. *Carlo Dolce*.—1. Christ breaking bread, known as the "Salvador Mundi," and corresponding with the picture by the same painter in the Dresden Gallery. 2. Our Saviour at the house of the Pharisee,

Mary bathing his feet; said to have been designed by Lud. Cigoli, and painted for the Barberini family at Rome, from whom it was purchased, 1737; the portrait of the count is introduced as a servant. 3. An angel showing a child the way to heaven. *Bourguignon*.—A landscape, with robbers. *Mabuse*.—1. The 3 children of Henry VII., from the collection of Charles I. 2. Eleanor, the mother of Henry VII. *Albert Durer* (?)—The Adoration of the Shepherds; "an early picture by *Lucas Van Leyden*"—*W.* *Giorgione* (?)—Portrait of Scanderbeg; "an admirable painting by *Holbein*."—*W.* *Lionello Spada*.—David with the head of Goliath. *Guido Reni*.—The Baptism of our Saviour, from the Duke of Buckingham's collection, 1684. *Rubens*.—The Boar-hunt, a well-known picture. *Vandyck*.—1. The Betrayal of our Saviour, "a painting of the earlier time of the master, and of extraordinary effect."—*W.* 2. Portrait of James Stuart, Duke of Richmond and Lennox. 3. Charity. 4. Charles I. on horseback, the size of life. 5. Massacre of the Innocents. *Lesueur*.—Pope Clement blessing St. Dionysius; remarkable for depth and purity of feeling, and for powerful colouring. *Carlo Cignani*.—The Madonna and Child. *Guercino*.—Christ and the Samaritan woman at the well. *Pietro da Cortona*.—The Virgin in glory, "a first-rate picture by the master."—*Waagen*. *Albano*.—Holy Family; in a silver frame by Alessandro Algardi. The arms of Pope Innocent X. are on the back. *Zuccherro*.—A curious portrait of Queen Elizabeth. According to the account handed down, it was painted for her, after the death of Essex, to symbolize her grief at his loss. Two angels are removing the crown from her head: the hour-glass on the table is broken, and Death stands behind.

The original collection at Corsham—said to be the oldest private collec-

* *W.* signifies Waagen's 'Art Treasures.'

tion in England—consists of upwards of 150 pictures, besides the family portraits; and to these about 70 works of a very choice kind are to be added from the gallery of the late Rev. John Sandford, father of Lady Methuen. They were selected with great judgment during a residence in Florence, and are at present in Mrs. Sandford's residence, 4, Connaught Place, Hyde Park. Dr. Waagen has described them at length in his 'Galleries of Art in Great Britain,' and directed particular attention to the following, which are numbered as below in the catalogue:—

7. *N. Poussin*.—A landscape, "with the blind giant Orion meeting the rising sun, in order to regain his sight. A picture of the loftiest poetry of sentiment."—*W.* Painted in 1658, and formerly in the possession of Sir Joshua Reynolds. 8. *A. del Sarto*.—A portrait. 9. *Guido Reni*.—Portrait of Paul V. 15. *S. del Piombo*.—Portrait of Francesco Albizzi; grandly conceived, but poor in colour. 17. *Tintoretto*.—Portrait of a Procurator of St. Mark's. 18. *J. Sustermans*.—Portrait of Galileo. 25. *D. da Volterra*.—A Mater Dolorosa. —28. *G. da Fabriano*.—Coronation of the Virgin. 29. *Fiesole*.—Death of the Virgin. "In richness of composition, and variety of the most refined and beautiful heads, this is one of the most admirable works I know of the master, and at the same time in marvellous preservation."—*W.* 30. *Fra Bartolomeo*.—Virgin and Child. 31, 32. *Ubertini*.—The History of Joseph; 2 of the best works of the master: from the Gaddi collection. 33. *Domenichino*.—St. Catherine; grand in conception. 34. *Ghirlandajo*.—Virgin and Child. A charming picture. 36. *L. Carracci*.—The Annunciation. 39. *Pontormo*.—Virgin and Child, with St. John. 44. His own portrait. 40. *Fra Filippo Lippi*.—The Annunciation. 41. *G. di San Giovanni*.—Virgin and Child, with St. John, in

fresco. Particularly fine. 42, 43. *S. Rosa*.—2 remarkable landscapes. 47. *Guercino*.—The infant Christ bearing the Cross. 48. *Claude*.—Landscape, with St. John in the desert. On tin. 49. *D. da Volterra*.—Study for the fresco at Rome. On the back the Crucifixion. 50. *L. Fontana*. SS. Cecilia and Sebastian. 52. *L. di Credi*.—Virgin and Child. 53. *Correggio*.—The Fall of Phaëton. 55. Cartoon of an angel in the Cupola at Parma. "Graceful in motive, and soft and grand in the forms."—*W. Albano*.—Landscape with Salmacis and Hermaphrodite.

Corsham was a royal vill in the Saxon era, and afterwards a residence of the Earls of Cornwall. In Leland's time the old manor-place was in ruins.

The monuments of the early Methuens, including one to Sir Paul Methuen, are in the church of Bradford. Those of the 3 last generations are in North Wraxall church.

S. of the Stat. are *Monks' Park* and *Neston Park*, the latter the seat of the Fullers.

3½ m. N.W., on a branch of the Avon, lies the hamlet of *Slaughterford*. The hill immediately above it, in the parish of Yatton or Eaton, and called *Eaton-Down* before its enclosure, is supposed by Whitaker to have been *Ethandune*, the scene of the defeat of the Danes by Alfred. In *Bury Wood* are remains of a strong camp, to which, in the opinion of the same authority, the discomfited warriors retreated, and where they ultimately surrendered. But see p. 23.

Biddestone, N. of Corsham, has 2 churches, each remarkable for an ancient and very picturesque bell-turret. That of St. Nicholas' is Norman, that of St. Peter's Perp. *Corston*, 2 m. S. of Malmesbury, has also a bell-turret resembling these in plan. It is Perp. and of very elegant form.

Proceeding on our route, a cutting, 2½ m. long, and of an average depth of 30 ft., in the cornbrash,

forest marble, and great oolite, leads to the mouth of the

Box Tunnel, in length 3195 yards, or about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m., and in places 300 ft. below the surface. It was excavated at each end and from 11 intermediate shafts, ranging from 129 to 293 ft. in depth. 500 men were employed in its formation, and the water and rubbish were lifted by 6 steam-engines. The total progress was about 6 ft. a-day. The gradient descends at 1 in 100 W.; the strata dip E., and are therefore all pierced in succession, viz. the great oolite, fuller's earth, inferior oolite, blue marl, and lias limestone. The E. end stands with its natural roof, other parts are lined with brickwork. The cost of the tunnel was upwards of 500,000*l.*

"The *stone-quarries* here are curious. A shaft is sunk through the forest marble and rubble beds, and is then carried in every direction. The galleries, are sometimes of great extent, and from 20 to 50 ft. in height. The stone is cut with a saw, and blocks containing 200 cubic ft. are sometimes raised to the surface." There are 3 quarries in Box Hill; the lower one is subterranean, and of considerable size. The space quarried out varies from 12 to 20 ft. between the side-walls or pillars left to support the roof. Into *Box-field Quarry* the workmen descend by shafts 100 ft. deep. The roof of the quarry is intersected by vertical cracks in a manner that appears extremely dangerous to an observer unacquainted with the nature of the rock; but these fissures have remained in the same condition for 20 years, with the labourers working continually beneath them.

$101\frac{1}{2}$ *Box Stat.* On l. are the church and village of *Box*, the former an Early Engl., Dec., and Perp. building, with a central Perp. tower and spire. The vicarage garden contains a Roman pavement and other remains. The site is marked by some lofty poplars.

Within reach of the stat. are several points of interest. N. are *Cheyney Court*, a mansion of the time of Eliz. or James I., with superb old chimney-pieces; *Coles Farm*, built in 1645; and the little church of *Ditteridge*, a specimen of Norman and Early Engl., its doorway ornamented with grotesque figures. E. is *Hazelbury House*, of Eliz. date; S. *Chapel Plaster*, probably *Pley-stow* (Sax.), playground or village green—"the Kirk on the green"—formerly a resting-place of pilgrims to the Abbey of Glastonbury, and in the last centy. the retreat of a notorious highwayman—one John Baxter, hung on Claverton Down; the farmhouse of *Wormwood*, built in the 17th cent.; and *S. Wrazall*, a manorhouse of the Longs, described in p. 21. W. is *Shockerwick*, seat of John Wiltshire, Esq., with a collection of pictures, 4 by *Gainsborough*, including the Harvest Waggon and a portrait of Quin the actor.

About 1 m. beyond Box the railway enters the county of Somerset, where the *Avon* comes winding from the beautiful valley of *Claverton* (p. 171). The churches of *Batheaston*, *Bathford*, and *Bathampton* will be observed rt. and l. as the traveller is hurried towards

$106\frac{1}{2}$ *Bath Stat.* (Rte. 27).

ROUTE 2.

SWINDON TO CHELTENHAM, BY PURTON, CRICKLADE, AND MINETY.

(*Great Western Railway.*)

This branch connects the Great Western and Bristol and Birmingham Railways—trunk lines which meet at Bristol. It runs to Gloucester 37, and to Cheltenham 44 m. from Swindon.

77 (from London) *Swindon Stat.* (Rte. 1.)

$81\frac{1}{2}$ *Purton Stat.* The village is situated on an eminence to the l. In the church, which has a handsome

tower, are monuments of the Maske-lynes, ancestors of *Dr. Maske-lyne*, astronomer-royal for nearly 50 years, and projector of the Nautical Almanac, first published in 1767. He was born in London, 1732. His father lived at Purton.

1. $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. is *Ringsbury Camp*, and 2 m. *Lydiard Park*, the seat of Viscount Bolingbroke; rt., 3 m., in a flat country,

Cricklade (Inn: White Hart), a town of 2000 Inhab., situated on the *Isis*, $10\frac{1}{2}$ m. from W. Crudwell, one of the sources of the Thames, and about as far from St. John's Bridge near Lechlade, the terminus of the river navigation. Cricklade is a place of great antiquity, being mentioned in an Anglo-Saxon charter as *Crócgelád*. It stood on the Roman *Ermin Street*, which passed through this county from Spene near Newbury to Cirencester. In 1016 it was plundered by the Danes. Its churches, *Down-Ampney*, 2 m. N., and the Camp of *Castle Hill*, 4 m. S.E., are the only points of interest.

St. Sampson's is a cruciform building with pinnacled tower. It is internally decorated with armorial shields, one charged with the "bear and ragged staff" of the Earls of Warwick, and contains a curious clock and an aisle belonging to the Radnors. Sir Walter Hungerford, in the reign of Henry VI., bestowed the advowson of this church on the dean and canons of Salisbury to assist them in repairing their celebrated spire.

St. Mary's is an ancient structure, with a semicircular Norman arch between the nave and chancel, and a sculptured cross in the churchyard.

Down-Ampney, the property and occasional residence of Lord Eliot, is situated on the border of the county, the gardens being partly in Gloucestershire. Between the reigns of Richard II. and Charles I. it was a

seat of the Hungerfords, and before that of the family of Villiers. The *Great Hall*, now a kitchen, bears date 1537; and the *gatehouse*, said to have been built by Sir Anthony Hungerford, is apparently of the age of Henry VIII. Contiguous to the mansion is the church of *Down-Ampney*, in part the original Templar building, and containing the tomb of a Crusader, Sir Nicholas de Villiers, who is represented in his armour by the side of his lady. His feet rest upon a lion, and on his arm is a shield bearing the cross of St. George and 5 scallop-shells. The supposed date of this monument is 1294.

N. of Cricklade is the canal which connects the Thames and Severn (completed in 1789), and E. the N. Wilts canal, which joins the Wilts and Berks canal at Swindon.

$85\frac{1}{2}$ *Minety Stat.* 1. 5 m. *Charlton Park*, seat of the Earl of Suffolk and Berkshire, and 7 m. the town of *Malmesbury* (Rte. 1).

The parish of *Minety* is situated on some outlying acres of Gloucestershire, islanded by Wiltshire, but the church and neighbouring houses belong to the hundred of *Malmesbury*. S. and S.E. of it is the district of *Bradon Forest*, which once covered the greater part of N. Wiltshire. *Bradon Pond*, l. of the road to *Malmesbury*, is the largest sheet of water in the county.

From *Minety* the rail runs onward through an undulating country towards the border, near which it extends an arm on the rt. to Cirencester 95 m., and then passes into Gloucestershire at the Roman *Fosse Way*.

ROUTE 3.

CHIPPENHAM TO FROME, BY MELKSHAM, TROWBRIDGE, BRADFORD, AND WESTBURY (SALISBURY.)

(*Wilts, Somerset, and Weymouth Railway.*)

$93\frac{1}{2}$ (from London) *Chippenham Stat.* (Rte. 1.) Between Chippen-

ham and Corsham the flank of the chalk hills, which for many a mile has limited the view from the railway, turns abruptly towards the S., when the rail throws off a branch in the same direction.

After leaving the main line the traveller may observe on the heights to the l. *Bowden Park* and *Spy Park*, and in the vale, by the side of the *Avon*, *Laycock Abbey* (p. 10). $\frac{1}{2}$ m. beyond *Laycock* the railway crosses the Roman *Julian Street* from Bath to Marlborough.

100 *Melksham Stat.* The town (*Inns*: *King's Arms*; *Bear*) lies to the l., on the old mail-coach road from London to Bath. It is seated on the rt. bank of the *Avon*, and on the Wilts and Berks canal, and gives name to the hundred in which it is situated. Although the census of 1851 shows a decreasing population for this neighbourhood, Melksham is an active, busy town. Its inhabitants have erected by subscription a town-hall and market, at a cost of 3000*l.*; and the workmen of the place are associated in a literary institution called the *Mutual Improvement Society*, which has a good library, and is in flourishing circumstances. The principal manufacture is that of cloth.

Melksham can boast of considerable antiquity. In Norman times it was a populous town, although surrounded by *Melksham Forest*, a favourite scene of the hunting exploits of Edward I. At a later age it had evidently much declined in importance, as *Leland* has passed it without notice in his description of this neighbourhood. In 1841 the pop. of the district was 18,879; in 1851, 18,806. Near the town a mineral spring, a sulphureous chalybeate, wells up from the beds of the Oxford clay, but it has fallen into disuse.

The church, dedicated to St. Michael, is in part supposed to date from the 12th century, of which time

its flat buttresses are said by *Britton* to be characteristic. It is a cruciform stone structure, with embattled tower rising from the transept.

There are some interesting spots at a little distance from the town.

Great Chaldfield, 3 m. W., is an almost perfect specimen of a manor-house of the time of Edward IV. "The hall, with its lancet windows and open roof of oak, the inner apartments with advancing oriels and radiated framework ceilings, still remain. The groined portal is uninjured, and the exterior walls retain their massive buttresses and fantastic heraldic terminals. The front opens on a square court, having on one side the farm and stable offices and gate-house, on the other the ch., with ample western window and gable belfry turret. A moat surrounds the whole, and includes the garden and bowling-green. It was the property of the *Eyres*, inherited from the *Tropenells*, who built it." *Little Chaldfield*, further W., was another seat of the *Eyres*, and its manor-house bears the stamp of its Elizabethan date. *S. Wraxall* is described in p. 21.

Laycock Abbey (Rte. 1) is 3 m. on the road to Chippenham. The hill which rises from it so abruptly commands one of the finest prospects in the county—a chequered expanse, "clad in colours of the air," which may remind the traveller of the views from the *Sussex* or *Surrey Downs*. These woodland heights, once included in the *Forest of Melksham*, are now the parks of *Bowden* (Captain Gladstone, R.N.) and *Spy*, ancient family seats which, with the "Great Wood" of Lord Lansdowne's extensive domain, form a sylvan district of most picturesque character, finely contrasted by the naked slopes of the chalk which are seen across an intervening valley. At the top of the hill is the old gatehouse of

Spy Park (J. Baynton Starky, Esq.), an interesting embattled struc-

ture, first erected, according to the tradition, at Corsham, in the time of Henry VIII. The house was built about 1650 by the Bayntun family, after the destruction of Bromham House in 1645. It is of brick, and, with the exception of one room, of no great size, but it rests on the verge of a charming hill. Evelyn mentions it in his 'Diary,' as "like a long barn, seated on the precipice of an incomparable prospect." This estate, in the reign of Charles II., was occasionally visited by the Earl of Rochester, celebrated for his wit and poetical talent, but more notorious for his profligacy—"the man whom the Muses loved to inspire, but were ashamed to avow." The Roman road from Bath to London crosses the park. If bound to Bromham the stranger will find a delightful path to that village just below the gatehouse. It runs across the fields, behind the mansion of Spy, and by the hamlet of Chitway: the distance about 2 m.

Bromham can be visited either from Melksham or Devizes, being equidistant (4 m.) from these towns. It consists of a group of cottages, individually most picturesque (particularly a hostel called the Greyhound), and of a curious old church, one of the most beautiful specimens of Dec. architecture in the county. It is a spired building, richly sculptured, especially at the E. end, which terminates in a chapel, apparently of the same date and by the same hand as that appended to the neighbouring church of St. John at Devizes. This chapel contains the monumental effigies, pennons, and rusty armour of the Bayntuns, in times bygone manorial lords of Bromham; the chancel an alabaster tomb and effigy of one of the Beauchamp family, and a tablet to Henry Season, M.D., author of an almanac which he whimsically entitled 'Season on the Seasons;' and the churchyard the grave of *Thomas*, the poet, who died 1852 at his

residence, *Sloperton Cottage*, between Bromham and Chitway.

Bromham in the time of Edward the Confessor was the lordship of Earl Harold. In the reign of Hen. VI. it belonged to William Beauchamp, Lord St. Amand, and from the son of that nobleman it passed to the Bayntuns.

1 m. N. of Bromham is the supposed Roman station of *Verlucio*. It is situated on the Julian-street, which ran by Bath and Marlborough, and whose vicinity is indicated by such names as *Hawkstreet* and *Nether-street*. *Nonesuch Park* is a pretty spot near this village.

Scend manor-house, 3 m. S. E. of Melksham, is now a seat of the Awdrys (p. 71).

105½ *Trowbridge Stat.*, from which branches (first opened in 1857) run rt. and l. to Bath and Devizes. That to Bath is about 8 m. in length, and completes almost a direct line on the broad gauge between Bristol and Salisbury, and Bath and Weymouth.

Trowbridge (Inn: George) is an old, irregular, populous town on a rocky hill sloping to the river *Biss*, a tributary to the Avon. It enjoys a reputation for its cloth manufacture, which was first established in the reign of Hen. VIII. Leland, the authority for that period, says "Thoroughbridge flourisheth by drapery." It contains 11,000 Inhab.

Trowbridge, like many of our country towns, was first built around a castle, which, during the Norman period, rested its heavy walls on an eminence now called *Court Hill*. Little, however, is known of this ancient stronghold, and there are now no remains on which we might trace the shadows of events. The moat alone has been preserved to our times. The first notice of Trowbridge Castle occurs in the reign of Stephen, when, the place being in the possession of the Empress Maud, it was besieged and taken by the king. We find it next mentioned in the

chronicle of Edw. III., as held at that time by John of Gaunt, and some say rebuilt by him. After this comes a long dark interval, during which old Time was probably busy on the walls, for by the next gleam of light we find them in ruins. This was in the reign of Hen. VIII., but how long they had lain so we have no means of knowing. The name Trowbridge has been derived by some etymologists from the position of the infant town by the Castle *drawbridge*. Camden, however, calls the place Trubridge; Gough, Trolbridge; and Leland, Thoroughbridge. The distance from Salisbury is 28 m., from Bath 10 m.

The church (St. James's) though styled the New Church, dates from the 14th century. It contains a fine old font, and from the year 1814 to 1832 was the living of the Rev. George Crabbe, the poet, who now lies in the chancel, under a monument by Baily, erected by a parish subscription. Crabbe spent a lusty old age at Trowbridge, and was in the habit of rambling for hours together, hammer in hand, among the quarries near the town.

Road Ashton, about 2 m. S.E., is the seat of Walter Long, Esq., one of the members for N. Wilts. The village of *Steeple Ashton*, some 3 m. in a similar direction, has an interesting church, erected between 1480 and 1500, at the cost of Robert Long, a clothier, and Edith his wife; the S. aisle at the cost of Walter Lucas, also a clothier, and Maud his wife. The "spired steeple" mentioned by Leland was overthrown by lightning in the summer of 1670.

The ruin of *Farleigh Castle* (Rte. 27), an ancient stronghold of the Hungerfords, is about 5 m. W.

Bradford (*Inn: Swan*), the first Stat. on the line to Bath, was formerly the seat of an important woollen manufacture, but as such has been long on the decline, its clothiers having deserted it for Trowbridge, and for

the coal-field of the West Riding. Leland has described it as "standing by clooth-making;" but its once numerous factories are now reduced to six. It is, however, a large town, built in the hollow and on the slopes of the *Avon valley*, partly in terraces facing the S. It is in a pretty situation, encompassed by hills.

There are many curious old houses in Bradford, and the principal "sight" in the place is one called the *Duke's House*, formerly a residence of the Pierreponts, Dukes of Kingston, into whose possession it passed from the family who built it, the Halls, rich clothiers here in the times of James I. It is entirely of stone, full of windows like a lantern, and was perhaps by the hand of the architect of Longleat. It has been most carefully restored by its owner Mr. Moulton. On the S. side of the river are a barn and some farm-buildings of the 14th century; on the bridge, an ancient *chapel of St. Lawrence*, now a lock-up prison; towards *Winsley*, a house of comparatively modern date, but interesting as a work of Wood, the celebrated architect of Bath; and at

S. Wracall, on the road to Corsham, the manor-house of the Longs, a very perfect and beautiful specimen of the domestic buildings of our ancestors; the hall dating from the beginning of the 15th cent.; the drawing-room an addition of the time of Eliz., and remarkable for its rich decorations, particularly its ceiling, and its chimney-piece supported by caryatides. An avenue of beech-trees leads from this old mansion to Monkton Farleigh, and to the clump called the *Farleigh Beeches*, a splendid point of view.

The church (Holy Trinity) contains monuments of the Methuens, among them that of the negotiator of the treaty which bears the family name. The font is Perp. On the N. side of the chancel, separated by the road, is a very remarkable and interesting building, perhaps one of the

most remarkable in England. It is now used as the Free-school, but is in fact a small church, probably the church of the abbey which formerly stood here, of which Aldhelm, the founder of Malmesbury Abbey, was also the founder and Abbot. This small church is entire, consisting of a chancel, nave, and N. porch. It was probably ruined with the rest of the abbey buildings in the year 1003, when Sweyn laid waste to Wiltshire. This little church deserves the especial notice of travellers and antiquaries, who should also not overlook two very ancient figures of angels on the porch of the master's house adjoining. These were lately discovered in the wall over the chancel arch.

On the summit of *Tory Hill* are ruins of a chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary, built just above the spring which supplies the town with water. 3 m. S.W., on the road to Farleigh Castle, is the village of *Westwood*, with a very pretty church, exhibiting features of archæological interest in its tower, chantry roof, oaken seats, and stained glass.

Woolley House, $\frac{1}{2}$ m. E., is the seat of the Baskervilles. *Turley House*, N., was a residence of *Edmund Burke*.

In the neighbourhood of the town are many pleasant valleys, embosomed in lofty hills—that of the *Avon*, with its verdant meads, and *Avon Cliff Quarries* rich in fossils, its winding river and prim canal, the former spanned by the frequent aqueduct; the valley of *Freshford*, with its rural village, long the residence of Sir William Napier, who here wrote his *History of the Peninsular War*; and that of *Midford*, more distant, leading to Dunkerton and to the busy coalfield of Radstoke. A short ride by railway (or the path by the canal) will bring you to *Freshford*, *Limpley Stoke*, or *Claverton*, three of the prettiest spots in the Avon valley. In Claverton church-

yard lies *Ralph Allen*, the Allworthy of Tom Jones; and adjoining the road are ancient terraces, remains of an Elizabethan mansion of the Bassetts; and on the brow of the hill *Claverton Manor*, the seat of George Vivian, Esq., now occupied by Rt. Hon. Jas. Wilson, the house by Sir Jeffrey Wyattville, commanding the fine valley of the Avon, and enriched by a gallery of pictures, chiefly of the Italian, Spanish, German, and English schools (see p. 170).

The Avon valley and its branches present many examples of the subsidence of the strata. On the hills bounding the l. bank of the river the effect of landlips may be observed in the inferior oolite, and from the commanding eminence of *Hampton Rocks* the spectator beholds below him rugged masses of great oolite, which, having slipped from the cap of the hill, now lie in picturesque confusion among the trees.

Farleigh Castle, 3 m., and *Hinton Abbey*, 4 m., are other interesting places which may be visited from Bradford. The best way is by rail to Freshford. Farleigh is 2 m. from the station, and the abbey ruins about 1 by a pretty path through the fields.

Bath is 7 m. distant, and the main road to it passes, on l. *Warley*, the castellated mansion of the Skrines, beautifully situated below the hanging woods of Monkton Farleigh Down; on the rt., *Monkton Farleigh*, seat of the late Wade Brown, Esq., occupying the site and built from the ruins of a priory of Cluniac monks.

Bradford means *broad ford*; *braden*, Saxon. It has considerable claims to historic notice, as has been shown by the present vicar. Dunstan was here elected Bishop of Worcester; and in the neighbourhood Cenwalph, king of the West Saxons, defeated his rebellious subjects under Cuthred in the year 652.

109 $\frac{1}{2}$ Westbury Stat., where a line

passes off on the l. to Salisbury, Southampton, &c. *Westbury (Inns: Lopes Arms; White Lion; Crown)*, probably so named from its position under the western declivity of Salisbury Plain, is an ancient but now insignificant town, once, but no longer, busy in the cloth manufacture. It is situated on the small stream of the *Were*, at the foot of the chalk hills, particularly of *Westbury Down*, which rises to the height of 775 ft. above the sea. It was early incorporated, and returned 2 M.P.'s before the Reform Bill, but that measure reduced the number of its members to one. In 1766 it was represented by Sir William Blackstone, the celebrated lawyer. *Bryan Edwards*, the historian of the West Indies, was born in the vicinity of Westbury, at *Charlott*, formerly the manor-house of the Mauduys, and purchased by his father. From Salisbury, Westbury is 26 m., from Warminster 4. In itself it contains little to interest the traveller, but it is within reach of Longleat, of the camps of Scratchbury and Battlesbury above Warminster, of the camp and White Horse at Bratton, and of the church of Edington. Its own

Church is a fine building, dedicated to All Saints, and erected in the 13th century—at least the chancel, which is the oldest part of it. This contains the monument of Sir James Ley, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Treasurer, and President of the Council in 1629—

“That good Earl, once President
Of England's Council and her Treasury.”

Milton.

He was created Baron Ley, of Ley in Devon, by James I., and Earl of Marlborough by Charles I.

Some traces of the ancient inhabitants may be found in the neighbourhood. At *Leigh*, a village to the S., a moated site, called the *Palace Garden*, is pointed out by tradition as the residence of one of our Anglo-Saxon kings; and in a field,

known as the *Ham*, in the vicinity of the railway stat., many remains of Roman pottery and coins have been discovered. *Brook*, further to the N.W., was the seat of the Pavelys, lords of Westbury at a later period. It derived its name from a small stream which runs past it towards the Avon; and “in its turn,” says Camden, “Brook gave the title of Baron to Robert Willoughby, who, on account of his descent from the Pavelys by the family of Cheney, was advanced to it by King Henry VII., with whom he was a special favourite.” To this may be added that it also gave title to the Earls of Brooke and Warwick, by descent through Elizabeth, eldest daughter and coheir of Lord Willoughby de Broke the 2nd baron, and wife of Sir Fulke Greville.

Bratton Castle crowns a hill about 2 m. E. It is an irregularly shaped camp of 23 acres, formed in part by a double rampart, in some places 36 ft. high. According to Camden, Gibson, Gough, and Hoare, it was the entrenchment to which Guthrun the Dane retired after his decisive defeat by Alfred in the battle of *Ethandune* (Edington, 1 m. off); and there is a tradition that the Danes were posted in the little valley, thence called *Dane Leys*, situated under the hill. Milner, however, has laid the scene of this fight at Hedington, near Devizes; and Whitaker, on Yatton, or Eaton Down, where a *Slaughterford* on a branch of the Avon would seem to record some bloody event. This victory secured to Alfred, who had been previously a fugitive in the Isle of Athelney, a firm seat upon the throne. He had compelled the Danes to surrender at discretion, but he treated them in a wise and generous spirit, and not only granted them their lives, but allowed them, on condition of embracing Christianity, to retire into East Anglia and Northumberland, and to settle in those districts which

their own ravages had depopulated. Below the camp, on the S. slope of the hill, is the figure of a colossal *White Horse*, formed by excoriating the turf—originally a rude design, and perchance (as long credited by enthusiastic antiquaries) a record of Alfred's victory, but it was remodelled in 1778. The white horse was the Saxon standard, and is still borne on the coat armour of our Hanoverian kings.

Edington, 1 m. from Bratton Castle, and 3 from Westbury, is interesting for its *priory-church*, a structure of the 14th century, and a most valuable illustration of that date (Transition) when the Decorated was combined with, and yielding place to, the Perpendicular. It was built by Bishop Edington, a native of this parish, who immediately preceded William of Wickham in the see of Winchester, and commenced the restoration of that cathedral carried on by his successor. It contains monuments of Sir Edw. Lewys and lady, temp. Chas. I., and of Sir Simon Taylor by *Chantry*. At the time of the Dissolution the priory belonged to a body of monks of the order of Bonhommes, and was granted to Lord Seymour of Sudeley, the Protector's brother. On his fall it was re-granted to Earl Poulett, first Marquis of Winchester, then Lord Treasurer, from whom it passed to the Dukes of Bolton. It is now the property of S. Watson Taylor, Esq. In Jack Cade's rebellion Ayscough Bishop of Salisbury was dragged from the altar of the church, and stoned to death on the neighbouring hill.

Maver House, near Westbury, is a seat of Sir Massey Lopes, Bart.

About 6 m. E. is *Erle Stoke Park*, the property of Simon Watson Taylor, Esq.; 1 m. N., *Heywood House*, seat of the Ludlows, built in the reign of James I. by Lord Ley, afterwards Earl of Marlborough; 1½ m. S. *Dilton Court*, Colonel Phipps; and 6 m. S., the splendid park and mansion of

Longleat, Marquis of Bath (shown Wednesdays and Fridays). Above Warminster are the entrenchments of *Scratchbury* and *Battlesbury*, and between that town and Longleat the eminence of *Cley Hill*, on which Alfred is supposed to have rested on his way to Edington.

115¼ *Frome* (Rte. 28).

ROUTE 4.

FARINGDON TO SWINDON, BY HIGHWORTH.

The road from Faringdon in Berkshire to the border of Wiltshire passes *Coleshill House*, seat of the Earl of Radnor, built 1650, one of Inigo Jones's latest and least altered works. The adjoining church contains a monument, by Rysbrach, to one of the Bouveries, and some marble effigies of the Pleydells and Pratts, Lord Radnor's maternal ancestors. It has a handsome Perp. tower, an excellent W. door, and in the nave some late Norman and good Dec. architecture. In the Bouverie aisle window are a pedigree of the family and a view of *Coleshill* in coloured glass.

Highworth (*Inn*: King and Queen). This is an old town, on a hill, commanding views over the counties of Gloucester, Berks, and Wilts. The church (St. Michael's) may interest the stranger by its antiquity. It is on an elevated site, like most of the edifices dedicated to the archangel, and contains monuments of the Warnefords of *Warneford Place*, near Sevenhampton. E. of the town is a pretty village, called *Hunnington*, built in the form of a Y; and 2 m. W., *Blunsdon Castle Hill*, so named from a camp generally attributed to the Romans. Highworth is 40 m. from Salisbury, and 6 from Faringdon and Swindon.

2 rt. *Stanton House*, Rev. J. A. Trenchard.

1½ *Stratton St. Margaret's*, on the Roman road called the *Ermin-street*.

2½ *Swindon* (Rte. 1).

ROUTE 5.

SWINDON TO SALISBURY, BY MARLBOROUGH, AVEBURY, SILSBURY, SAVERNAKE FOREST, STONEHENGE, WILTON, LONGFORD CASTLE.

Swindon (Rte. 1). Mail every night. A stranger should notice at Swindon the *stone-quarries*, and the view from the back of the Goddard Arms.

Two roads run from Swindon to Marlborough, the old and the new, both about 11 m. The former crosses a wild hilly district, and is a rough one for carriages; the latter is the coach-road, and runs most of the distance through a valley. One on foot, bound to Marlborough by the old road, can shorten the way by pursuing the new road as far as the turn-pike, where he will turn into a green lane, floored with Bagshot sandstone, which will lead him to the old road at *Burdrop Park* (J. J. Calley, Esq.). He will there find himself in a high open country, in view of the greater part of N. Wiltshire, and of Swindon crowning an outlying eminence.

Proceeding towards Marlborough, he should glance about him at the following points.

3 Where the road approaches a crescent of hills, some 10 m. from horn to horn, roughened rt. and l. by the prominent camps of *Barbury* and *Liddington Castle*. The hills are unenclosed, and bare of trees, with the exception of some beech-clumps, mere dots on the landscape.

1 *Burdrop Racecourse*. Here the road has reached the crescent, and climbs a formidable hill. You should diverge to the rt. by ascending the turfey down to

Barbury. This is a large camp, in excellent preservation. It is nearly circular, and girdled by a double ring of ditch and rampart; the inner very strong, the massive rampart sloping full 50 ft. to the bottom of the ditch. The entrances are E. and W., and the diam. of the area 2000 ft. *Barbury*, in 556,

[W. D. & S.]

was the scene of an obstinate and sanguinary action between the Britons and the Saxons under Cynric. The savage warriors fought from the rising to the setting of the sun, when victory declared for the Saxons, and the camp was stormed. This defeat was decisive of the fate of Wiltshire, which became a province of Wessex.

2 Here the traveller has reached the culminating point of the road, in a country wild and lonely. Around him are the grassy sides of the hills, down which he may trace the long descent to Marlborough, and at a little distance the plantations of *Rockley House* (rt.), seat of the late Sir John Smith, and now of Mr. Tanner, to the W. of which lies a stony valley, called *Temple Bottom*, containing the remains of a cromlech. In about 3 m. the traveller arrives at *Marlborough Racecourse* immediately above the town.

On the new road from Swindon may be noticed—

1 rt. a reservoir of the Wilts and Berks canal, a sheet of water nearly 1 m. in length.

2 On a hill to the l. the church of *Wanborough*, remarkable for having a spire at one end and a tower at the other. This peculiarity has given rise to a village tradition, that the church was erected by two maiden ladies, who, unable to agree whether it should have a tower or a spire, decided the matter by building both. It is a plausible story, but libellous on the ladies, as to the wall of the tower is affixed a tablet by which prayers are demanded for the soul of Philip Polton, Archdeacon of Gloucester, for those of his father, mother, brother, and sister, and of all others who contributed to build this campanile. This tablet is dated from the reign of Edward IV.

2 *Red House*. Here our route crosses the *Ridge Way*, an old British road running N.E. into Berkshire. l. rises

Badbury or *Liddington Castle*, a

c

British entrenchment, where, in the year 520, King Arthur, with his chivalry of the round table, defeated the Saxons under their famous leader Cerdic. The victory was decisive, and completed, says Whitaker, "the circle of Arthur's military glories."

6 *Marlborough* (*Inns*: Ailesbury Arms; Castle and Ball; Angel), an old-fashioned town, pleasantly situated in a valley of the chalk range, on the river *Kennet* and the great Bath road. It is an agricultural place, distinguished for the excellence of its market; but as its prosperity much depended on a stream of traffic, it is now suffering by the diversion of this fertilising current by the railway. The Romans had a station here, called *Cunetio*, on Forest Hill, the site of which is now Folly Farm; but Marlborough cannot date its origin so far back. It was, however, a place of some importance soon after the Conquest; Henry III. resided in its castle, and the "statutes of Marlbridge" have handed down the memory of the parliament which was held here by that monarch in 1267. The name is supposed to be derived from the *marl* or chalk hills in which the town lies embedded. The nearest railway-station, Hungerford, is 10 m. distant, Swindon 11, Andover 21, Salisbury 27.

Marlborough is well known to sportsmen as a central point in a *coursing* country. Matches are run, in particular, on *Ashdown*, near Lambourn, and the clumps of trees which offend the eye by forming dots on the landscape are planted with the view of sheltering the hare; the object of the sportsman being the running of the dogs rather than the capture of poor puss. The uninitiated may here gain some insight into the mysteries of training these animals, and into the off-hand mode of dealing with young dogs which disgrace themselves on the trial-day. To judge a good greyhound by the shape they should call to mind the proverbial dog-grel—

"A head like a snake, a neck like a drake,
A back like a beam, a belly like a bream,
A foot like a cat, a tail like a rat."

The angler may enjoy himself on the banks of

"The *Kennet* swift, for silver eels renouw'd ;"
but equally famous for trout, the fishing near Hungerford being considered equal to that of any other river in England. It is strictly preserved. Among the natives of Marlborough were *Henry Sacheverell*, the political divine,

"the sentinel
Who loudest rang his pulpit 'larum-bell"
Wordsworth—

Sir Michael Foster, the lawyer; and *Walter Harte*, the poet, friend of Pope, and biographer of Gustavus Adolphus, 1707.

Marlborough has some other associations in connection with eminent men. In the parsonage house, when on a journey from Bath, died *Robert Cecil*, *Earl of Salisbury*, Lord High Treasurer to James I., 1612. At a later time the poet *Thomson* was a frequent visitor here, at the mansion of the Earl and Countess of Hertford, afterwards Duke and Duchess of Somerset, and here he wrote his 'Spring,' which he dedicated to the Countess, soliciting her

"to listen to the song
Which thy own season paints."

Again in 1767 this town was for a time the quarters of the great *Lord Chatham*, who had been attacked by the gout on his road to London. "When he reached the Castle Inn," runs the story, "he stopped, shut himself up in his room, and remained there some weeks. Everybody who travelled that road was amazed by the number of his attendants. Footmen and grooms, dressed in his family livery, filled the whole inn, though one of the largest in England, and swarmed in the streets of the little town. The truth was that the invalid had in-

sisted that, during his stay, all the waiters and stable-boys of the 'Castle' should wear his livery."

In the Rebellion Marlborough was stormed and partly burnt by the royalists under Wilmot, 1642, when John Franklin, the popular member, and several of the townsmen were sent prisoners to Oxford. In the following year the King and Prince Rupert defeated the Earl of Essex on Aldbourn Chace; and in the spring of 1644 Charles reviewed his army on the same ground, being quartered for the time at Marlborough Castle, then the residence of Lord Seymour.

The principal things to be noticed in Marlborough are some *Old Houses*, the *College*, and a *White Horse*, on the Calne road. In the neighbourhood are objects of interest to engage the traveller 3 or 4 days, viz. :—

1. A cromlech, known as the *Devil's Den*, the so-called barrow of *Silbury Hill*, and the remains of the great serpent *Temple of Avebury*.

2. *Martensell Hill* and the *Wansdyke*.

3. *Savernake Forest* and *Tottenham*.

4. *Littlecot*.

These require a full description, but first the stranger should be introduced to the *High-street*. This forms an airy Broadway, very suitable for a market or fair, and is terminated on the W. by the *Church of St. Peter* and *Marlborough College*, on the E. by the *Town Hall* and *Church of St. Mary*. *St. Mary's* has an ancient tower, the entrance ornamented with a zigzag moulding; and the *Town Hall* bears the dates 1653, 1793. On the N. side of the street are several *old houses* with picturesque gables, carved timbers, and scaly coats of tile-work, the more interesting because no glaring novelties intrude among them.

Marlborough College is a handsome structure of red brick, occupying the site of the castle. The central part of it is of considerable age, being a remnant of the *Great House*, built by

Sir Francis Seymour, the grandson of the Protector, created Baron Seymour by Charles I. during the Rebellion. In 1643, however, his mansion was held by Sir Nevile Poole for the Parliament. In the following year it afforded quarters to Charles I. and his staff, and after the Restoration to Charles II. and his Queen, who, in a progress to the west, were here received in great state by Lord Seymour. Early in the 18th cent. it was the residence of the Earl and Countess of Hertford, and the hospitable resort of Thomson, Pope, Dr. Watts, and other literary characters; and, on the death of the Countess, it underwent a change into the *Castle Inn*, one of the best on the old Bath road in the days of coaching. To this ancient house wings and other appendages have been added, and, apart from it, has been built a large chapel of stone. About 500 boys are educated at this school, the foundation being limited to the sons of the clergy. In the College garden remains the mound of the keep and only vestige of *Marlborough Castle*, which, founded in the reign of Henry I., by the bold Bishop Roger of Salisbury, was an important place during the wars of the Barons. It was captured by Stephen, seized by John, but honoured as a royal residence by Henry III. and his court. Of the date or reason of its destruction nothing is known save that they had occurred before Camden wrote his 'Britannia.' The principal entrance to the College is from the Calne road, and beyond it is seen the figure of a *white horse*, in a trotting attitude, cut on the chalky slope of the valley. It is the work of no Celt or Saxon, but of some modern schoolboys, who had seen the white horses of Cherhill and Bratton.

The *Devil's Den*, *Avebury*, and *Silbury Hill*, may be placed together as objects for a day's excursion from Marlborough. The first lies to the rt. of the carriage-road to Avebury, but directly

in the path of one on foot, at least that which he is advised to pursue. The distance to Avebury is 6 m. The traveller leaves the town by the Calne and Devizes road, and at $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Marlborough has the entrance to *Clatford Bottom* on his rt., through a gate opposite the farmhouse of Clatford; $\frac{1}{2}$ m. up this winding vale is the cromlech called the *Devil's Den*, i. e. the Devil's house or cave. It is about 10 ft. high, consisting of a slab stone supported on 2 upright blocks, the remnant of 4 which originally propped the impost, and formed a sort of cave, whence the name. It is considered a Druidic monument, bearing a relation to the neighbouring temple of Avebury, and perhaps marks the burial-place of some once famous priest or chieftain, but more probably it was the sepulchre of a family. Proceeding up the valley the traveller will soon find himself entangled among boulders of *sarsen*, or silicious sandstone, which extend for upwards of a mile, and present one of the most remarkable geological phenomena in the country. He will thread this labyrinth of grey stones, and, having passed a ride from the Marlborough race-course, which crosses the vale obliquely, ascend the hill on the l., and steer direct for Avebury. The vantage ground of this hill will afford him an excellent view not only of the surrounding country, but of the interesting spot he is approaching. He will look upon an extensive basin, begirt by a circle of barrows, and containing in the centre, within a grassy ring or rampart, the remains of the great serpent temple and the modern village of Avebury; and towards the S., upon the culminating ridge of the Marlborough Downs, sweeping from Bowood to Savernake, and scored by a long waved line marking the course of the Belgic boundary, the *Wansdyke*.

Avebury or *Abury* is wholly built from the ruins of the ancient temple.

It occupies an area of 28 acres, once partitioned into circular spaces by Druidic stones, now cut into quadrants by roads from the four cardinal points, but still girt by the original earthen mound and ditch. It is circled again at a distance of $\frac{1}{2}$ m. by an irregular belt of Celtic barrows, many of large size and sharp symmetrical outline.

The church is situated outside the earthen ring or rampart. It is an ancient building of flint and stone, internally modernised, but retaining a curious Norman font, and an entrance-arch ornamented with a zig-zag moulding. Adjoining it is *Avebury House*, the parsonage.

The stranger should obtain a general view of Avebury from the rampart, which is about 50 ft. high from the fosse, and little injured except near the church, where it is levelled. He will be probably much impressed by the singularity of a scene so unlike any other that he can have witnessed—the earthen ring, the vast Druidic stones, and Silbury, that wonder of the county, a hill in size, but in shape so strange and artificial. Of the circles which formed the temple the remains now consist of about a dozen stones, scattered at wide intervals through the grassy paddocks, in which they seem strangely out of place. A group of 4 at the entrance from Marlborough are the most remarkable. Upwards of 600 have been destroyed, and their broken fragments now form the roads, the cottages, and the hedges. It may be truly said that even their ruins have perished.

Avebury was first described by Stukeley; and at the time when he commenced his survey, about 1740, its plan could be traced. The area was enclosed by a rampart and ditch, the ditch being inside the rampart. Within the ditch was a circle such as giants might have formed, consisting of 100 rough, enormous stones fixed upright in the ground

at intervals of 27 ft. Its diam. was no less than $\frac{1}{4}$ m. In the enclosure thus formed were 2 double concentric circles. The outer circles of each of these consisted of 30 stones, the inner of 12, enclosing in the one a single block 20 ft. high; in the other a group of 3 placed in triangular order. Such was the temple. The avenues which led to it extended 2 m. in length, and were each formed of 100 stones arranged in double lines. The one came from the S.W. (Beckhampton), and commenced with a single stone, the other from the S.E. (Overton), where it began with a double concentric circle. With the exception of a couple of blocks near Beckhampton, they are now destroyed. It was Stukeley's opinion that they represented the serpent, the symbol of the sun.

Of the origin of Avebury nothing certain is known; but antiquaries are agreed that it was of much earlier date than that of the trilithons of Stonehenge. The rough unhewn surfaces and primitive arrangement of the stones were proof of high antiquity. The structure differed essentially from the simple Druid circles common in Cornwall, but was evidently designed for religious, or at least purposes distinct from those of war, by the circumstance of the ditch being inside the vallum. Stukeley pronounces it a Druid temple—indeed, "the great cathedral, the chief metropolitical or patriarchal temple of the island;" while others consider that it might also have been used as a place of meeting by national councils. A bold hypothesis has been adduced by Mr. Duke, in his 'Druidical Temples of Wiltshire.' He contends that our rude forefathers delineated on the Wiltshire downs a planetarium or stationary orrery, in which the sun and planets were represented on a meridional line from N. to S., a position from which the ancients believed the

planets had started in the beginning of time, and to which they would return on the completion of the cycle of cycles, or *magnus annus*, when the world was to end. Under this view he considers that the earth, then regarded as the centre of the universe, was represented by Silbury Hill; the Sun and Moon by the circles of Abury (*Abiri*, Phœnician or Hebrew, the *Mighty Ones*); the Ecliptic by the avenues, or serpent; Venus by a stone circle at Winterbourne Bassett; Mercury by Walker's Hill; Mars by an earthwork at Marden, in the Vale of Pewsey; Jupiter by Casterley camp, on the edge of Salisbury Plain; and, lastly, Saturn, by the celebrated monument of Stonehenge. These works are admitted by antiquaries to have been erected for religious purposes. They are also situated on a line running N. and S., and at distances from each other which, if accidental, bear a curious relation to those of the planets. Our author also remarks, that the stones at Abury represented either numerical or astronomical cycles, the former being compounded of the mystic *four*, or tetragrammaton, sacred as the number of letters by which the name of the Supreme Being was expressed in early languages. Thus the 100 stones of the bounding ring were 4 twenty-five times repeated, and the 400 of the avenue 100 four times repeated; whilst the 30 of the outer ring of each double circle represented the Lunar cycle, or days of the month; and the 12 of the inner the cycle or months of the year. "Thus," says Mr. Duke, "was formed a standing almanac, enabling the priest to reckon the passing day, and to observe the religious festivals as they arose in the perpetual and ever-flowing course of time." For a full account of Avebury, and a complete epitome of all that is at present known on the subject, the reader is referred to a paper by Mr. Long,

in the *Wiltshire Magazine*, No. XII.

Silbury Hill rises from the valley of the Kennet, about a mile S.S.E. of Avebury church. It is truly, as its Saxon name expresses, a "marvellous hill," so exact are its geometrical proportions, so huge its size. In shape a cone flattened at the top, it covers upwards of 5 acres, its contents being estimated at 13,558,809 cubic ft. Its sides slope at an angle of about 35°; its height is 135 ft.—nearly equal to that of St. Michael's Mount on the coast of Cornwall; its diam., measured at the base, 500 ft., at the top 165 ft.—that of the area of Stonehenge. It has been calculated that to raise such a mound in our days would cost no less a sum than 20,000*l*. With respect to the character of this ancient work, it will probably long remain a subject for discussion. Although generally regarded as a part of the adjoining temple—as the mimic Ararat of the Druid priest—*Silbury* has been considered by some, and by Stukeley among the number, as a simple barrow, the burial-place of the founder of Avebury. If this be true, it is the largest monument of the kind existing in this kingdom, and probably in the world. There are, however, many reasons for doubting it, and not the least the fact that no trace of any interment could be discovered when the hill was opened by Cornish miners, under the direction of the late Duke of Northumberland and Colonel Drax, in 1777; or in 1849, when a space 12 ft. in diam., in the very centre of the mound, was examined by means of a tunnel, under the superintendence of the Dean of Hereford. "The name *Sil-* or *Sul-bury*," says a writer in the *Quarterly Review*, "is suggestive of the god *Sul* or *Sol*, to whom the hot springs of Bath, 'aquæ Sulis,' were certainly dedicated, and who was probably worshipped in the adjoining fane." The

visitor should ascend to the top for an interesting view, and he should here call to mind Southey's 'Inscription for a tablet,' for, if not applicable to *Silbury*, it may at least be transferred to one of the many barrows which surround it:—

'This mound, in some remote and dateless day
Rear'd o'er a chieftain of the age of hills,
May here detain thee, traveller! from thy
road
Not idly lingering. In his narrow house
Some warrior sleeps below, whose gallant
deeds
Haply at many a solemn festival
The Scald hath sung; but perish'd is the
song
Of praise, as o'er these bleak and barren
downs
The wind that passes and is heard no more.
Go, traveller, and remember, when the pomp
Of earthly glory fades, that one good deed,
Unseen, unheard, unnoted by mankind,
Lives in the eternal register of Heaven.'
Bristol, 1796.

Another excursion from Marlborough is to *Martensell Hill*, or to *St. Ann's Hill*, heights of about 1000 ft. above the sea. 3 m. S. of this town the chalk range is divided by the *Vale of Pewsey*, which separates the Marlborough Downs from Salisbury Plain; and *Martensell* and *St. Ann's* are elevated points on the steep escarpment. They therefore command a most extensive prospect, including Salisbury Plain and the Forest of Savernake.

Martensell is situated about 3 m. from Marlborough, to the l. of the road to Pewsey. It is a fine bold hill, descending sheer on the E., and throwing out a spur to the S.W. The ditch and rampart of a Celtic camp gird the summit, enclosing an area of 31 acres, and commanding a distant view of the entrenched heights of *Sidbury*, *Chlorus*, *Clearbury*, *Bratton*, and *Clee Hill*, of *Salisbury Spire* and *Alfred's Tower*. If we proceed W. from *Martensell* along this ridge of high land, we shall reach in succession *Hewish Hill*, remarkable for extensive vestiges of a British village; *Knap Hill*, crowned by an earthwork of high antiquity,

enclosing 2 tumuli; *Walker's Hill*, conspicuous by its long barrow or altar; and beyond *Walker's Hill*—

St. Ann's, which rises 5 m. W. of *Martensell*. It is the highest point of the *Marlborough Downs*, and known throughout Wilts and the neighbouring counties as the site of *Tan Hill Fair*, held annually for pleasure and business on the 6th of Aug. "The corruption of *St. Ann's Hill* to *Tan Hill*," says Mr. Duke, "is curious, but obviously thus—*St. Ann's Hill*, *S'tan Hill*, *Tan Hill*." There, is, however, another derivation of the name, from the Celtic *Tanaris*, the god of thunder, to whom there might have been a temple on the hill. "It is well-known," says *Bowles*, in his *Life of Ken*, "that *Pope Gregory* gave directions to his missionaries not to change the places of assembly where Pagan rites were celebrated, but to dedicate them afresh to Christian saints, and turn the Pagan into Christian rites. Hence the hill of *Tanaris* became that of *St. Ann*, and *Cad-a-Ryne*, the fortification above the water, *St. Catherine*." On the projecting buttress of *St. Ann's* rests the old camp of *Rybury*, formed by a single bank and ditch, and evidently the work of a primitive people; and along the summit of the hill runs that interesting relic of antiquity,

The Wansdyke, which is still to be seen in its pristine state on the downs between *Walker's Hill* (W. of *Martensell*) and *Heddington*. It is generally considered to have been the boundary of the Belgæ, who dwelt to the S. and the W. of it, and who probably constructed it as a defence against the Britons or the Romans. *Dr. Stukeley* mentions 4 great ditches as marking the advance of this people from the S. The 1st extended through *Dorsetshire* from *Shaftesbury* to *Wimborne*; the 2nd, called the *Bokerley Ditch*, skirted the N. side of *Cranbourne Chase*; the 3rd traversed *Salisbury Plain*,

about 2 m. N. of *Wilton*; the 4th was the *Wansdyke*, which at this day may be traced through *Wiltshire* for 19 m., including gaps; but it is supposed to have formerly extended from the *Thames* to the *Severn*. The part of it which remains consists of a huge rampart and ditch, the ditch on the northern side, and runs in a waved line along the summit of the hills, which being unenclosed and solitary contribute much to the effect of this rude bulwark of a race so long passed away. "Offa's Dyke in *Wales* and the *Wansdyke* in *England*," says *Sir R. C. Hoare*, "are the most conspicuous examples of the ancient territorial boundaries." A person walking from *Marlborough* to *Devizes* can pursue a delightful route along this dyke. He will proceed by the *Calne* road as far as *Fyfield* (some 2 m.), there turn to the l. (by the *Fighting Cocks*) to *Lockeridge*, situated in a bottom among boulders of sandstone, and thence direct his way to the summit of the downs. He will reach the dyke about 1 m. E. of *St. Ann's Hill*, and from that point can follow it N.W. unchecked by hedge or other impediment, to *Shepherd's Shore*, on the *Devizes* and *Swindon* road, or farther to the heights N. of *Roundaway Down*, scene of the rout of *Waller* in 1644. He will then quit it and turn S. over *Roundaway* to *Devizes*. This route along the *Wansdyke* will give the traveller an insight into the character of the *Marlborough Downs*. He will walk along the crest of the dominant ridge, with a glorious prospect continually in view; and as his course lies westward, the setting sun, gilding the long perspective of the dyke, will charm him on his way. He will be much impressed by the strange form of *Silbury* rising in the distant vale, and his curiosity may be excited by certain rectangular enclosures on the northern side of the dyke. These are formed by a low earthen rampart and ditch

and were probably stations for the defence of the boundary. Two works of this description, about 1 m. apart, will be observed between St. Ann's Hill and Shepherd's Shore. The scene from the Devizes road is particularly interesting. The road runs athwart a basin of turf, whose smooth surface is studded with sepulchral mounds; and the dyke comes winding down the hill, crossing the road at the lone, deserted house, formerly an inn, called *Shepherd's Shore*. On the western declivity of this basin is an oblong earthwork, similar to those already mentioned; in the centre of the turfey expanse a black solitary object, resembling a sentry-box, which covers one of the wells sunk on these downs for the sheep; on the N.W. a huge hill, crowned by as huge a monument, the *Lansdowne Column*, which stands in the camp of *Oldborough*, in close proximity to the *Cherhill White Horse*, and to the Roman *Julian Street*, which descends the southern slope and joins the Wanslyke on *Morgan's Hill* above Heddington. The 5th milestone from Devizes is a somewhat smaller, but yet a conspicuous mark on the roadside near Shepherd's Shore.

Savernake Forest and Tottenham Park, the domain of the Marquis of Ailesbury, occupy a district 16 m. in circumf. E. of Marlborough. No traveller should neglect an opportunity of visiting this sylvan tract, which still displays a magnificence of forest scenery peculiarly interesting to the artist, who, among its majestic oaks and graceful beech, may realise the paintings of a Gainsborough or Hobbema. The Hungerford road runs for 3 m. along the ferny hills of Savernake, which is said to be the only forest in this country in the possession of a subject. It formed part of the jointure of Queen Eleanor, and was in after times granted to the family of Seymour, Dukes of Somerset, from whom,

in 1676, it passed by marriage to the Bruces. The objects of chief interest are the *King Oak*; the *Creeping Oak*, with a huge limb stretched along the ground; the *avenue of beech*, which is 4 m. long, and probably the finest in the kingdom; and *Tottenham House*, which is accessible to the stranger during the absence of the family. It is 2 m. from Marlborough to the entrance of the forest; 3 to the Eight Walks, from which the King Oak is distant $\frac{1}{2}$ m.; $3\frac{1}{2}$ to *Savernake Lodge*, where the present Marquis resides; and 6 to Tottenham House. Provided with this information, let the traveller gird up his loins and start on the excursion. He will proceed by the Hungerford road, and in 1 m. will be climbing *Forest Hill*, with Marlborough and the vale of the Kennet below him; and to the rt. on Folly Farm, the site of the Roman station of *Cunetio*. After a steep ascent he will enter the forest, and turn rt. to the great avenue, which runs in a straight line by the Eight Walks and Savernake Lodge to Tottenham. He will be much impressed by the magnificence of this splendid road. It is of considerable width, and bordered by the beech in thick-set ranks, their towering trunks and interlacing limbs forming a vista of singular grandeur and beauty. In about a mile its continuity is interrupted by an open space; and here, from the centre of a clump of firs, the *Eight Walks* diverge to as many points of the compass, 5 leading over grass to distant forest glades, 1 S.E. to Savernake Lodge, and 2 formed by the avenue, whose course is N. and S. The walk, running S.W., will lead you to the *King Oak*, a huge old tree, 24 ft. in circumference, and still stretching on high 4 kingly limbs, but inwardly so decayed that you may walk into it erect. Around are grouped the nobles of the forest court, a stalwart band, arrayed like their monarch in the

elegant drapery of moss and fern. The spot is most secluded and beautiful, and so suggestive of enjoyment, that the wanderer may feel the propriety of a halt for, perchance, a quiet meal; and this he may enjoy though envious showers should threaten; for close to the King stands the *Round House*, a spacious shed, which the visitor will find a welcome shelter when the trees are swinging in the wind. He can regain the avenue by another path, and proceed down its long-drawn aisle to *Tottenham House*. This is a large plain building, originally designed as a hunting-seat, and erected on the site of a palace of the Seymours destroyed during the Rebellion. One wing of the old mansion remains. The body of the house and other wing were built by the late Marquis, but, for effect, the edifice is but homely in comparison with the splendour of the surrounding forest, and cannot be classed with such piles of architectural beauty as Bowood and Longleat. The views from the interior are, however, very grand. The N. front commands the *Ailesbury Column*, through a long perspective formed by detached masses of elm and beech; the S., of a vista cut through woods over a double line of hills, the farthest of which must be 4 m. distant. The column crowns a lofty height. It was erected in 1789, and commemorates the recovery of George III. and various other circumstances. Among the pictures at Tottenham are the Marriage Feast at Cana by *Murillo*, Samson and Dalilah by *Vandyck*, a landscape by *Gaspar Poussin*, an old copy of *Raphael's* School of Athens, and portraits of Lady Jane Seymour, Christian Bruce Countess of Devonshire (*Vandyck*), the Earl of Elgin (*Corn. Jansen*), and the first Earl of Ailesbury (*Sir P. Lely*). In the library is preserved an ivory horn, silver-mounted and very curiously orna-

mented with subjects of the chase. It belongs to the hereditary keeper of the forest, and has been handed down for many generations through the Seymours, ancestors of the present family. Beyond the boundary of the park, S.S.W. of the house on the opposite side of the Kennet Canal, are some remains of

Wolf Hall, originally the seat of the family of Sturmy, the bailiffs of the neighbouring forest, and later of Sir John Seymour, father of Lady Jane Seymour, queen of Henry VIII. and mother of Edward VI. The old house was partly destroyed circa 1662, and nothing now remains but the "Laundry," a picturesque building at the foot of the hill; but adjoining the farmhouse is an ancient barn, which traditionally was the scene of the king's bridal feast with Jane Seymour on the day after the execution of the unfortunate Anne Boleyn. In proceeding from Tottenham to Wolf Hall the traveller obtains a good view of the steep side of Martensell Hill, nearly 1000 ft. high. S.E. of Wolf Hall, 2 m., lies

East Grafton, where, in 1842, an elegant Norman church was built by Mr. Ferrey, chiefly at the expense of the Marquis of Ailesbury. At the W. end it has a good Norman door, at the E. end an apse, at the N.W. angle a tower. The painted glass in the chancel is by Willement. In 1856 a window was added by the parishioners as a memorial of the late Marquis of Ailesbury. E. of the park 1 m. lies the market-town of

Great Bedwin, now, as in the time of Leland, "but a poore thing to syght," but under Saxon rule an important place, the residence of Cissa, viceroy of Berks and Wiltshire. In 675 it was the scene of a desperate fight between the kings of Wessex and Mercia, in which the latter was defeated. The flint-built church, restored 1854, is an in-

teresting relic of early times. Its round pillars are curiously sculptured, and the obtusely-pointed arches decorated with a Norman zigzag moulding. There are a few monuments in the chancel and S. transept. In the former Sir John Seymour, father of a queen and a lord protector, chiselled in armour; a marble bust of Frances, daughter of Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, and widow of William, 2nd Duke of Somerset; and a brass memorial to John Seymour, eldest son of Sir John. In the latter, under the S. window, are two arched recesses, one of which contains a stone cross-legged figure in chain mail of Sir Adam de Stokke, one of the lords of Stokke manor; the other a Purbeck slab, once bearing a brass cross. The inscription records the decease of Sir Roger de Stokke, a son probably of Sir Adam. Great Bedwin was the birthplace of *Thomas Willis*, 1621, a physician and founder of a philosophical society at Oxford, from which arose the Royal Society of London. He was buried in Westminster Abbey. About 1 m. S. of this village is the height of *Castle-Hill*, so called from an entrenchment, in which have been found large quantities of tesseræ, bricks, and other evidences of Roman habitation; 1 m. N. the encampment of

Chisbury, of 15 acres, and one of the finest specimens of Saxon castrametation in the county. It is situated on the Wansdyke, and girt by a rampart 45 ft. in height. Within the enclosure is a chapel of the Decorated style, now used as a barn.

Inkpen Beacon, the loftiest chalk down in England, rises to the S.E. of this neighbourhood, on the borders of the three counties of Hampshire, Berkshire, and Wiltshire. It is 1011 ft. above the sea, and commands a most extensive and beautiful view. On the one side it overlooks the forest of Savername; on the other the woods of

Highclere, seat of the Earl of Carnarvon. The village of *Swallowfield* stands in the 3 counties.

Littlecot (shown when the family is away), the seat of the Pophams, is situated in its park in the valley of the Kennet, about 8 m. E. of Marlborough, and 4 m. from Hungerford. It is a remarkable specimen of an almost unaltered mansion of the 16th century, built by the Darells, and sold by the last of that family to Judge Popham in the reign of Elizabeth. The great hall is hung with armour, cross-bows, &c., and the identical buff jerkins and steel caps of Cromwell's Ironsides; the gallery, which is upwards of 100 ft. long, with family portraits, including those of Judge Popham and Nell Gwyn. In one room the visitor is shown the chair of Judge Popham, and the finger-stocks, a curious instrument of torture for punishing servants; in another a piece of needlework representing a Roman pavement found in the park. Attached to this old house is the story told in a note to Scott's 'Rokeby.' A midwife was fetched out of Berkshire, at dead of night, to deliver a woman, with a promise of high pay, but on condition that she should be blindfolded. After a rough ride on horseback behind the messenger, she arrived at a house, and was conducted up-stairs, where she performed her duties to the lady; but no sooner were these ended than she beheld a man of ferocious aspect, who, seizing the newborn infant, dashed it under the grate and destroyed it. The woman returned to her home, and long brooded in secret over her singular adventure; but the crime to which she had been privy at length produced its fruit. Her mind grew ill at ease; so, disregarding the bribe which she had received, she went to a magistrate, and confessed to him all that she knew. She had reasons for believing that she could identify

the house. On ascending the stairs she had counted the number of steps, and from the bedside she had brought away a piece of the curtain. Circumstances tended to throw suspicion on the proprietor of Littlecot—"Wild Darell," as he was called. An inquiry was set on foot, but either the court was corrupt or the proof insufficient, and the accused escaped the gallows; but, what was believed to be a judgment from Heaven, broke his neck shortly afterwards, while hunting. He fell in a leap over a stone stile, which is still pointed out as Darell's death-place. Ever since that time a curse has been said to hang over the old house, in consequence of the unjust sentence by which it is alleged the Pophams acquired its possession, and that under this evil influence the eldest son has never lived to inherit the property. The story has been told by Aubrey and many others; but there is no reason for believing that they had any grounds for a charge so seriously affecting the reputation of the judge, whose character was highly estimated by his contemporaries. On the other hand, says a writer in the *Quarterly Review*, "the curtain still shows the fatal patch; the grate is to be seen in the bedroom; the stone stile exists. These are material proofs, such as no lover of the marvellous will discredit—in spite of Lord Campbell."

Adjoining Littlecot, in the parish of Chilton Foliot, is *Chilton House* (the residence of — Honeywood, Esq.), and the town of

Ramsbury, which was a seat of the bishops of Wiltshire for more than 100 years, from about 920 to 1058, when the county was re-annexed to the parent see of Sherborne. The chancel of the church contains a stone of great length, which, according to the tradition, covers the remains of a giant. *Ramsbury Manor* belongs to Sir Robert Burdett, Bart. For many years it was the property of

the Jones's, and the house was designed by Webb, the son-in-law of Inigo, the great architect. To this place *Tom D'Urfey* was invited every year to fish. This celebrated wit and "delight of companies," from the reign of Charles II. to that of George I., is said to have "angled for a trout the best of any man in England." *Aldbourn*, N.E. of Ramsbury, gave name to a *chace*, a favourite hunting-ground of King John, and in 1643 the scene of the defeat of the Earl of Essex by the King and Prince Rupert, who drove the Parliamentary general as far as Hungerford.

At *Manton*, on the road from Marlborough to Pewsey, are preserved two rickety specimens of the coachmaking of 150 years ago. They are a carriage and a phaëton, built for one of the Baskerville family on his being appointed high sheriff of the county. The arms of Baskerville are painted on the panels.

Proceeding on our route from Marlborough to Salisbury, a distance of 27 m., the road passes over the hills, and runs for 2 m. along the skirt of Savernake Forest. *Martensell Hill* will be observed on the rt., the *Ailesbury Column* on the l.

6 *Burbage*, a picturesque straggling village. The ch., rebuilt 1854 excepting the tower, contains painted windows; one a memorial to Bp. Denison, and another to 4 soldiers, natives of this parish, who fell in the Crimea. Enormous sycamores shelter the church on the S.W. *Wolf Hall*, now a farmhouse, is 1 m. to the l.

2 the road divides; the rt. branch is the old road to Salisbury by *East Everley* (Rte. 10), the left the new and more level road to the same destination. The former passes over the downs, and, until recently, existed as a "turnpike" only as far as East Everley, beyond which it was linked together by tracks on the turf. 1 m. to the rt. is an entrenchment on *Easton Hill*.

2 *Collingbourn Kingston* (*Inn*: *Collingbourn Kingston Inn*), one of those scattered villages whose several parts one might imagine had been electrified and endowed with a power of repulsion by some passing thunder-cloud. It contains an ancient ch. and several as old cottages of red brick and flint ornamentally worked. It was the birthplace of *John Norris*, a divine and philosopher, known for combating the opinions of Locke. He was born in the parsonage-house, 1657.

2 *Collingbourn Ducis*, so called from having belonged to the Duchy of Lancaster. This and the preceding village perpetuate the name of a family of whom was Wm. Collingbourn, executed in the reign of Richard III., on the pretence of being implicated in Buckingham's rebellion, but in reality for writing and posting on the church-doors seditious rhymes, and, in particular, the following distich, reflecting on the king and his ministers, Lovel, Catesby, and Ratcliffe:—

“The Rat, the Cat, and Lovel the Dog,
Govern old England under the Hog.”

The hog was an allusion to the crest of Richard. The tower of the church is said to have been built for a dove-cot, and its walls in the interior are full of holes, “larger,” writes a correspondent of *Notes and Queries*, “than by mere omission of stones.”

E. of *Collingbourn Ducis* are *Collingbourn Heath* and *Collingbourn Wood*, and, at a distance of 3 m., the village of *Chute*, bearing the name of a forest which formerly extended far into Hampshire, and, in a northerly direction, to the skirts of *Savernake*. 1 m. N. of *Chute*, on the farm of *Fosbury* and the estate of the *Bevans*, is the camp of *Haydon Hill Castle*; and 1 m. E. *Conholt Park*, seat of *Lady Charles Wellesley*. *Chute Lodge*, about 2 m. to the S. of *Conholt*, is the property of the *Rev. H. Fowle*.

By the church the road divides: rt. to *Salisbury*, l. to *Andover*, through *Ludgershall* (Rte. 10); both branches ascend into *Salisbury Plain*.

1½ The road again divides: rt. to *Salisbury* over lonely downs, l. to the same destination through a valley, passing numerous villages. First for the rt. branch (l. see p. 42).

1 rt. *Sidbury Hill*, crowned by an entrenchment of 17 acres, heart-shaped, and enclosed by 2 ramparts and ditches, the inner 46 ft. deep. From the principal entrance a raised causeway (probably a Saxon road to *King Ina's* palace, see p. 72) runs towards E. *Everley*, intersecting a barrow in its course. At other points banks and ditches diverge like rays from the earthwork, and lead either to the remains of British villages or to groups of *Druidic tumuli*.

3 the road crosses *West Down*, and beyond it runs for about 3 m. below *Beacon Hill*, a ridge 690 ft. above the level of the sea, the summit bearing the mark of the sappers and miners, who, in the trigonometrical survey, measured a base-line from this point to *Old Sarum*. Numerous large barrows are disposed in groups about the valley and the neighbouring hills. They may suggest to the traveller the reflection that the Britons, although they painted their bodies, had nobler ideas with regard to sepulture than the present generation. Indeed, there can be no just comparison between such huge mounds, heaped at intervals on the solitary hills, and the tombs crowded in churchyards. The dead of old have room to breathe!

3 The traveller crosses one of the great western roads from London to the *Land's End*, a road skirted by an ancient bank and ditch, between the 75th and 76th milestones, and at the 74th joined by another, which descends to it from *Beacon Hill*. 1 m. to the rt. is the town of *Amesbury*, and about 2 m. beyond *Amesbury Stonehenge*, which is generally visited from

Salisbury. Amesbury, however, has good accommodation for those who wish to pay more than a flying visit to this "wonder of the West." It may be added, that pedestrians who diverge from this route to Stonehenge, if they value first impressions, should not proceed through Amesbury, but cross the Avon at Bulford, pursue the road from that village up the downs 2 m., and then turn S. They will thus obtain a fine distant view of

"What seems an antique castle spreading wide,"

by approaching it over a part of the plain which is still uncultivated.

Amesbury, or *Ambresbury* (*Inn*: the Crown), is a village of 1200 Inhab., 8 m. from Salisbury. It is a very ancient place, supposed by some to have been so called after Aurelius Ambrosius, a King of the Britons, or Ambrius, a monk, who are respectively supposed to have founded a monastery here soon after the introduction of Christianity into Britain; but Stukeley and others trace the origin of the name to Stonehenge. It was a patriarchal custom to anoint the stones of a place of worship with *ambrosia*, or sweet-scented oil, and this practice gave the designation of *ambres*, or *maen ambres*, to the entire temple. Thus the town, being close to Stonehenge, may have been called after its temple or church, like Launceston, Lancaster, &c., in later times, and the *church-towns* of Cornwall at the present day. Amesbury is very prettily situated in the valley of the Upper Avon; it is surrounded by a dreary country (celebrated for coursing), but this enhances the beauty of its fertile vale snugly bosomed in woods. It occupies such a site as a monk would have selected for his cell; and the stranger at the first glance may infer that it was once consecrated to religion. He will rightly fix upon the white building above the bridge as

Amesbury Abbey, but he must refer

to us to learn that this abbey, with upwards of 5000 acres of land, was purchased in 1824 by Sir Edmund Antrobus, Bart., and was formerly the residence of the Duke of Queensberry and his charming Duchess—Prior's

"Kitty, beautiful and young,
And wild as colt untam'd"—

and the happy retreat of *Gay*, who here composed the *Beggar's Opera*. It occupies the site of the ancient monastery, which about 980 was converted into a nunnery by Queen Elfrida in expiation of the murder of her son-in-law Edward at Corfe Castle. Many years later this establishment was attached as a cell to the great convent of Font-Everault in Anjou, and several royal and noble dames took the veil in it,—in particular, Mary, daughter of Edward I., and Eleanor, queen of Henry III., who died here in 1292. But the present abbey cannot be considered as haunted by the shades either of nuns or poets, for it has been lately rebuilt. It is now fronted by a Corinthian portico, in the place of one by Webb, the son-in-law of Inigo Jones, which is, however, still preserved. The Avon flows through the grounds, lingering on its course as if loth to leave so pleasant a spot. It is a notable trout-stream (though occasionally ravaged by jack below Amesbury), and sweeps round the base of

Vespasian's Camp, a densely-wooded hill, which forms the principal feature in the view from the abbey, and has been so called from its ancient lines of defence, which, enclosing 39 acres, and boldly scarping towards the W., environ the summit in the form of a scalene triangle. They are supposed to have been thrown up originally by the Britons who dwelt on the neighbouring plains, but to have been afterwards altered and occupied by the Romans when, under their general, Vespasian, they were engaged in the conquest of the

Belgæ. The area of the camp, now divided by the high road which passes Stonehenge, and intersected by drives, was entered through two openings, one on the N. and the other on the S.; and the former, which is still used as a roadway, commands a beautiful view over the subjacent vale, and of the *abbey-church*, which, prettily tinted by time, is a building rich in examples of the early pointed (the lancet) style, and contains a font of the same date, and quite original in its decoration.

There are several places near Amesbury deserving notice, not to mention Stonehenge. They lie mostly on the banks of the Avon, which the traveller may explore by an excellent road lately extended to Pewsey, a distance of 14 m. But, before running through the list, we must dispose of 3 old stones, which may possibly have interest for a determined antiquary, as some writers on the county have connected them with Stonehenge. One, 5 ft. in length, may be found on the cultivated open land, 1 m. N. of Amesbury, close to a barn: another in the river, $\frac{1}{4}$ m. below the Nag's Head at Bulford, sometimes under water, but generally above it, close to the l. bank. An attempt was once made to drag it from its bed. By means of an iron ring a number of oxen were harnessed to the block, but their united strength proved unavailing. A third stone, which, however, is of small size, may be found in Mr. Long's field, E. of and near Bulford.

Above Amesbury the points on the Avon deserving notice are—*Bulford*, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m., containing a picturesque church, and situated E. of an earthwork called *Durrington Walls*, supposed to be the remains of a British village; *Milston*, a group of exceedingly pretty cottages, a diminutive church, and gabled old parsonage, the last of which, now a farmhouse, has a classic interest as the birth-

place of *Joseph Addison*, who was born in it May 1, 1672—his father, Mr. Lancelot Addison, was the rector; *Brigmlston*, the property of C. E. Randall, Esq.; *Syren Cot House* (formerly of the Dyke family), of E. D. Poore, Esq.; *Nether Avon House*, of Sir M. H. H. Beach, Bart.; *Chisenbury Priory*, of Chafyn Grove, Esq.; and *Rushall Park*, of the Earl of Normanton. Nether Avon was for 2 years the curacy of *Sydney Smith*, who is said to have here undergone the most imminent risk of starvation, both mental and bodily. "Once a-week," writes Lady Holland, "a butcher's cart came over from Salisbury; it was then only that he could obtain any meat, and he often dined on a mess of potatoes sprinkled with a little ketchup. Too poor to command books, his only resource was the squire, and his only relaxation long walks over these interminable plains, in one of which he narrowly escaped being buried in a snow-drift." In the Avon valley, S. of Amesbury, a district locally called *the Bourns*, are *Wilsford House*, Giles Loder, Esq.; *Lake House*, Rev. E. Duke, a very picturesque mansion in the Elizabethan style, of the time of James I., and a remarkably fine and perfect specimen of the architecture of that period. It is much admired by travellers, and contains some valuable antiquities collected by the late Mr. Duke, the antiquary, author of 'The Halle of John Halle,' 'The Druidical Temples of the County of Wilts, &c.:' *Durnford House*, the Earl of Malmesbury (but let to Captain Chambers), a seat close to *Ogbury Camp* (p. 42) and to *Durnford Church*, a rich Norman building, with curious font and doorways; *Little Durnford House*, E. Hinxman, Esq.; and *Heale House*, G. Loder, Esq., one of the places in which Charles II. sheltered after the battle of Worcester, the property of Admiral Bowles, a relative of the poet, William Lisle Bowles, and formerly seat

of the Erringtons and Hydes. It was from the transactions at Heale, when the fugitive prince arrived in disguise, that Sir Walter Scott gathered the scenes which he has transferred to 'Woodstock.' The house has been altered, but some of the old carved work still remains.

Stonehenge is 2 m. from Amesbury, in an angle formed by the high road, where it branches rt. to Heytesbury, l. to the Deptford inn. It is situated in the midst of *Salisbury Plain*, an undulating tract of chalk country, which has been aptly likened to the surface of the ocean when heaving after a storm—to the long rolling swell, "in fluctuation fixed." Until a comparatively recent period this district was entirely in a state of nature. It was coated with a fine turf, which afforded pasture to sheep, but the soil was in many places but skin-deep, and the whole region bare of trees. Even the works of man were here of a desolate character—mysterious mounds and barrows, full of dead men's bones, and the huge ruin of a temple which, looming through the misty air, served the traveller as a landmark. But the natural features of this country are now much changed. The genius of the Plain is retiring before cultivation, which has for some time been creeping over the hills, and is indeed now advanced to the very precincts of Stonehenge. N. and S. of the temple there is still a wild slope of thistle-covered turf, but E. and W. of it are gaily-coloured fields, and within a gunshot a farmhouse neatly slated and white-washed. But Stonehenge, as seen from a distance, has generally disappointed. Its vastness is lost in the expanse of open country. It is only on the spot—where the traveller beholds around him the ponderous masses, some erect, some leaning, some pendent in the air—that its true proportions can be appreciated. Stonehenge when perfect consisted of 2 circles and 2 ellipses of upright

stones, concentric, and environed by a bank and ditch, and, outside this boundary, of a single upright stone and a *via sacra* or *cursus*. The entrance to the great cluster of circles faced the N.E.; and the road to it, or *Avenue*, is still to be traced by banks of earth. The traveller approaching Stonehenge by this course (which commands a grand outline of the ruin when the sun is low in the west) first reaches the isolated stone called the *Friar's Heel*, a block 16 ft. high, and now in a leaning position. It is supposed to have been a gnomon or mark to direct the observation of the priest to the point of the rising of the summer sun; and it would appear to occupy the spot from which the builders of the temple measured off their ground-plan; for if a right line, drawn from it towards the S.W., be divided into 4 equal lengths of 60 cubits (about 120 ft.), the first of these spaces will reach the fosse, the second the outer circle, the third will span the outer circle, and the fourth terminate at the fosse on the farther side. A step then of 120 ft. will carry the visitor from the *Friar's Heel* to the boundary of the temple—the bank and ditch, which, however, are now but slightly marked on the turf. Within the entrance lies a fallen block, improperly called the *Slaughtering-stone*, as it evidently once stood upright. Mr. Duke conjectures that it was a screen which protected the priest, when observing the rising of the sun, from disturbance by the passing to and fro of people between the gnomon and the temple. Its length is such that, if the stone were placed perpendicularly, it would allow a person standing in the central cell of the temple to see the apex of the gnomon. 2 smaller stones, each of which adjoined a circular depression in the ground, were situated just within the fosse, on points facing S.E. and N.W. Having crossed the boundary, the visitor will advance

another 120 ft. to the temple itself—to those huge old stones which have been standing here in their solitude year after year and century after century, wrecks of an unknown time, a puzzle to the antiquary and a wonder to the passing traveller—

“ Pile of Stonehenge! so proud to hint yet keep
Thy secrets.”—*Wordsworth*.

The *outer circle* consisted of 30 stones, fixed upright at intervals of $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft., but connected at the top by as many imposts, which formed a continuous corona, or ring of stone, at a height of 16 ft. above the ground. These blocks were all squared and rough-hewn, and cleverly joined together. The uprights were cut with knobs or tenons, which fitted into mortice-holes hewn in the under-sides of the horizontal stones, and the imposts were dovetailed to each other. About 9 ft. within this imposing peristyle was the *inner circle*, which resembled one of the simple Druidic monuments common in Wales and Cornwall, being a circle of unhewn granite pillars about 5 ft. in height. Within this, again, was the grandest part of Stonehenge, the *great ellipse*, formed of 5, or, as some think, 7 trilithons, or triplets of stones, 2 upright and 1 crosswise, like the frame of a doorway. These imposing structures rose progressively in height from E. to W., and the loftiest and largest attained an elevation of 25 ft. Lastly, within the trilithons were the *inner ellipse*, consisting of 19 granite posts, similar in size to those of the inner circle, and, in the cell thus formed, the *altar-stone*, or, as Mr. Duke calls it, *the stone of astronomical observation*. Such was Stonehenge before time and ignorant men had defaced its fair proportions. The ruin of to-day presents a very different appearance. It is, indeed, but a confused pile of enormous moss-grown stones, which, according to the saying, cannot be counted twice alike. Yet enough remains to excite

our admiration of the unknown people who, in the infancy of the arts, could design and raise so grand a temple to their gods. Of the outer circle, or peristyle, 16 uprights and 6 imposts retain their original position; of the inner circle, the stones of which are unfortunately of a size very convenient for the farmer, 7 only stand upright; of the great ellipse, there are still 2 perfect trilithons, and 2 single uprights, one, however, in a leaning position, but a striking and interesting object with its boldly-cut tenon at top; of the inner ellipse there are 6 blocks in their places, and in the cell remains the so-called altar-stone.

Having examined the ruin of the temple, the visitor should direct his attention to the neighbouring plain. He will observe the sepulchral tumuli ranged at a distance in circular order. The cluster to the N. is called the *Old King Barrows*, and adjoining it is the western end of the *Cursus*. This sacred road or race-ground, whichever it may have been, is marked out by banks of earth along the gently sloping plain, E. and W., a distance of about a mile and a half. At one end (the E.) it is barred by a high mound, supposed to have been the seat of the principal spectators; near the other by a low bank, which would appear to have been the goal. But we have no certain knowledge of the purpose this roadway served. It has been called the *Cursus*, under the idea that it was either a *via sacra* for the parade of the Druidic idols, or a course for horse-racing, in which the goods of deceased persons were the prizes. Its antiquity appears in the circumstance of its being cut by the fosse which girdles the largest of the barrows. At a short distance farther N. is a smaller but similar work, likewise barred by a bank at its western end.

Before the stranger bids adieu to Stonehenge he will probably feel desirous of information with regard to

its date, origin, and use. It must, however, be confessed that they are all equally unknown to us. The depths of time transmit but a feeble light for our guidance. We will endeavour, nevertheless, to collect these rays, such as they are, into a focus, premising that the subject may prove uninteresting, and giving the reader the option of closing the book with Warton's beautiful sonnet:—

Thou noblest monument of Albion's isle !
Whether by Merlin's aid from Scythia's shore
To Amber's fatal plain Pendragon bore,
Huge frame of giant-hands, the mighty pile,
To entomb his Britons slain by Hengist's
guile :

Or Druid priests, sprinkled with human gore,
Taught 'mid thy massy maze their mystic
lore :

Or Danish chiefs, enrich'd with savage spoil,
To Victory's idol vast, an unheun shrine,
Rear'd the rude heap: or, in thy hallow'd
round,

Repose the kings of Brutus' genuine line ;
Or here those kings in solemn state were
crown'd :

Studious to trace thy wondrous origin,
We muse on many an ancient tale renown'd.

With respect to the name: it is a supposition of certain old writers that Stonehenge was called in early times *Choir Gaur*, or the Great Round Church; and of others, that *Ambres*, or the Holy Stones, was the original British title. The latter adduce in support of their opinion the name of the adjoining town, and a Tyrian coin which bears the impression of a similar temple, with the legend "*Petræ ambrosiæ*." In the middle ages we have the distinct assertion of Alexander Necham that Stonehenge was then called *Chorea Gigantum*, the Giants' Dance, a name which is supposed to have been a monkish Latinized version of *Choir Gaur*. By the Saxons it was termed *Stanhengist*, the Hanging or uplifted Stones, which obviously referred to the position of the imposts; and from *Stanhengist* came the present title of Stonehenge. Secondly, as to the origin: the British Chronicle, supposed to have been written early in the 8th century, and common tradition,

assign it to Emrys, or Ambrosius, king of the Britons, at the time when Hengist had founded his kingdom in Kent, A.D. 472. The story is as follows. Hengist, having invited Vortigern to a conference and fast on Salisbury Plain, there treacherously captured the king and slew 300 of his nobles. Aurelius Ambrosius, the successor of Vortigern, determined upon handing down the memory of this perfidious act by raising a monument on the spot where it had been perpetrated. With this view he summoned to his council the magician Merlin, and, hearing from him of a great stone circle which had been carried out of Africa by giants, and set up near the shore in Ireland, he ordered him to remove it to England. Merlin set about this task. He filled his caldron and muttered incantations, and the stones at once came floating over the sea, and then hastened by land to the indicated site, where they had no sooner arrived than, at Merlin's "word of power," they moved into their appointed places. So runs this marvellous legend, which dramatically concludes with the death of Ambrosius, who fell in defending his country against the Saxons under Cerdic, and, according to the poet,

"Entombed lies at Stonehenge by the heath."
Spenser.

Whether truth may play a part in this strange story is a much-vexed question. The massacre by Hengist is first mentioned by Nennius, a writer of the 8th century. The tale is repeated by that romantic old chronicler Jeffrey of Monmouth. It is to be found in the Welsh Triads, and in the work of Giraldus Cambrensis. On the other hand, the Welsh bard Aneurin expressly tells us that Stonehenge existed before the time of Aurelius, whose title of Ambrosius may, as Davies supposes, have been derived from Stonehenge, and have signified Defender of the Faith, or, literally, of the ambrosial stones.

It is evident that the Saxon name Stanhengist was not commemorative of Hengist, but descriptive of the monument. But the entire tale of the massacre, of the building of the temple, and burial of Ambrosius, is now scouted by antiquaries, who, in despair of finding credible guides to direct them to Truth, have mounted their hobbies and ridden in search of her over the field of conjecture. In this misty region it may well be imagined that some have gone astray and mistaken illusion for reality. Thus, one has beheld in Stonehenge a work of the antediluvians, and another a sanctuary of the Danes, whilst a third, Inigo Jones, who would seem to have wilfully selected shadows, a temple of the Romans. But a numerous and learned band has kept together; and as this cautious company includes Gibson, Stukeley, Wood, Cooke, Smith, King, Davies, and Maurice, we may place some confidence in the result of their researches, which have induced them to consider Stonehenge as a Druidic temple, reared on the solitary plain long before Roman, Dane, or Saxon had set foot within the country.

There is, however, one consideration that must strike every visitor to Stonehenge,—viz. that it was the work of two distinct eras. This, indeed, has been a very general belief, and we find Sir R. C. Hoare attributing the smaller circles to the Celtic Britons, and the trilithons and peristyle to the Belgæ. The smaller circles are constructed of granite, probably derived from Devonshire; the larger of the boulder sandstone which is so widely distributed over the downs of this county.

An ancient British road, or *trackway*, which enters Wiltshire from the Vale of White Horse at Bishopstone St. Mary, and passes Barbury Hill to Abury, and thence runs southward across the Vale of Pewsey by Marden, is supposed to have been the *via sacra*, by which, at the time of reli-

gious festivals, the distant tribes proceeded to the great temples of Abury and Stonehenge.

In 1645 Stonehenge was selected by Fairfax as the rendezvous of his army; and in 1651 Charles II. came to it from his concealment at Heale House, to meet the friends who were to conduct him to the coast of Sussex, where they had secured a vessel for his escape. Arriving at the spot before the appointed hour, the king, to beguile the time, counted and recounted the stones, and proved to his satisfaction the fallacy of the vulgar notion that they cannot be told twice alike.

Resuming our route at the point where we left it for Amesbury (*see* p. 36):—

3 About 1 m. to the rt. is *Ogbury Camp*, an entrenched circular space of 62 acres, regarded as an unaltered work of the Britons, but in the general opinion miscalled a camp. The reasons assigned are the absence of a fosse, and the name, the word *og* signifying a hurdle or boundary of a sheepfold. The rampart is, however, more than 30 ft. high.

3½ *Old Sarum* (p. 51).

½ *Salisbury* (p. 44).

Having traced the western branch of the Marlborough road to its termination in Salisbury, we now return to the point of divergence (p. 36), to track the eastern to the same destination.

1 *North Tedworth* (Ram Inn), a village pleasantly situated in a valley below the woodlands and prospect tower of

Tedworth Park, the seat of the late T. Assheton Smith, Esq. This gentleman was distinguished for his ardent love and pursuit of the chace, and as the proprietor of a kennel and stables which were the admiration of sporting men. They accommodated 3 packs of hounds and about 30 hunters, which here led no life of luxurious ease, as the squire, before his great age incapacitated him, took the field on

every week-day during the season. The gardens are very beautiful. They were the creation of Mr. Smith, who, on succeeding to the paternal property in 1826, rebuilt the family mansion, and remodelled the grounds on a grand scale. A conservatory, connected with the house and stables by a corridor, measures no less than 310 ft. in length by 40 in breadth. At the death of Mr. A. Smith in 1858, he had hunted the Tedworth country for the long period of 31 years. He commenced his career in Northamptonshire; then purchased the Quorn in Leicestershire, and afterwards worked the Burton Hunt in Lincolnshire. He was a bold and excellent rider—in his youth quite “a miracle on horseback”—and his numerous exploits have found a worthy chronicler in ‘Nimrod.’ His love of the chase remained to the last. He erected a lofty tower in his grounds, and from this elevated position he would watch the running of his dogs, when unable to follow them on the saddle. In memory of Mr. Smith, the “Tedworth Hunt” has been preserved: his hounds were presented by his widow to the county, and the Marquis of Ailesbury, Sir John Pollen, and Sir E. Antrobus have undertaken the duties of a committee for their management. The mansion occupies the site of a manor-house reputed to have been haunted, in 1661, by an “invisible drummer,” immortalised by Addison in his comedy. South Tedworth then belonged to Mr. John Mompesson, who early in that year had sent a vagrant drummer before a magistrate. This man had been a soldier of Cromwell’s, and was an escaped convict, tried and convicted for a witch at Salisbury. The magistrate imprisoned him, and seized his drum, but the fellow soon contrived to elude his gaoler. The drum was then sent to Tedworth, and nothing further was heard of the supposed witch until Mr. Mompesson’s

return from a visit to London, when he found his house and family disturbed by nocturnal noises of the strangest description. Thumping and drumming were the prevailing sounds; but these were varied by a scratching under the beds, by the panting of dogs, by the clinking of money, and by unearthly singing in the chimneys. The chairs and tables danced as if bewitched, and invisible beings appeared to flit about the house. The children had their hair pulled at night, marks, as of claws, were observed upon the stairs, and knives were found upright in the beds. This pleasant state of things continued throughout the year, the ingenuity of Mr. Mompesson and his friends being vainly exerted to unravel the mystery. North Tedworth, in 1607, was the birthplace of *Robert Maton*, an eccentric divine, who contended for a millennium in works entitled, ‘Israel’s Redemption,’ ‘A Discourse on Gog and Magog,’ and ‘A Commentary on the 20th Chapter of Revelations.’ In passing through the village notice the slate railing by the roadside.

At a spot called *Hampshire Cross* our route enters Hampshire, in which it continues for 3 m.

1 The road traverses *Tedworth Park*; the house may be observed on the rt. To the l. is the hamlet of *South Tedworth*.

1 *Shipton* to the rt. If on foot, and bound to Amesbury (6 m.) or Stonehenge (8 m.), you may take a green road which strikes into the downs from this village.

1 Our route crosses the high road from Andover to Amesbury, and re-enters Wilts. *Park House*, an inn, stands at the crossing, and near it an ancient bank and ditch traverse the neighbouring fields. In a S.E. direction is the camp of *Quarley Mount*.

½ *Cholderton*, with a manor-house, now the property of the Dowager Countess Nelson. This was for years the residence of the family of Foyle,

by whom it was probably built in the 17th centy. The *Church*, erected 1844 by Messrs. Wyatt and Brandon, is in the Perp. style, with an octagon tower, and a spire at one of the angles of the W. front.

1 *Wilbury Park*, seat of Sir Alexander Malet, Bt., but tenanted by M. H. Marsh, Esq., M.P. for Salisbury. It is an estate of some 3000 acres, and was purchased by Sir Charles Malet in 1803.

1½ *Allington*. The Roman road from Old Sarum to Silchester in Hampshire pursued its course along the hills to the l.

½ *East Boscombe*. Of this place *Richard Hooker*, author of 'The Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity,' was rector between the years 1591 and 95, and here he wrote the first 4 of his 8 books of the Laws. The part of the Rectory-house in which they were written still remains.

1 *Idmiston*. The Rev. *John Bowle*, a scholar in Spanish literature and vicar of Idmiston, lies buried in the church, b. 1725, d. 1788. He edited an edition of *Don Quixote* in 6 vols. 4to., and was familiarly known as *Don Bowle*.

1½ *Winterbourn Gunner*, so named from *Gunnora*, wife of *Henry De la Mere*, the lord of this place in the reign of *Hen. III.*

½ *Winterbourn Dantsey*, with a monument in the ch. to the first Baron *Dantsey*, *Henry Danvers*, a gallant soldier, so created by *James I.*, and raised to the earldom of *Danby* by *Charles I.* The epitaph records that he died full of honours, wounds, and days, 1643. About 1 m. to the l. is

Chlorus's Camp, or *Figbury Ring*, an entrenchment of 15 acres, remarkable for containing a deep ditch within the ramparts. The outer vallum girdling this circular camp is 46 ft. in height, and pierced by 3 entrances, pointing E., W., and S.; that towards the E. is fortified by outworks. On the S. are remains

of the Roman road from Old Sarum to Winchester; and towards the N. and N.E. a network of Celtic banks and ditches. This camp is supposed to have been made by the British general *Constantius Chlorus*, who married *Helena*, the daughter of "Old King *Coel*," and whose son was *Constantine the Great*. "It standeth," says *Kennet*, in his '*Paroch. Antiq.*,' "upon the N. corner of *Chlorendon Park*, which taketh its name thereof."

½ *Winterbourn Earls*, the seat at an early time of the family of *Nicholas*, also of *West Horsley*, in *Surrey*. Among their monuments in the ch. is a memorial to *Sir Edw. Nicholas*, secretary of state to *Chas. I.* and *II.*

1 *Winterbourn Ford*, where the Roman road forded the river on its way to Winchester or *Venta Belgarum*. The arch of the church porch is set in the zigzag moulding peculiar to the Anglo-Norman period. *Laverstoke*, a hamlet further down the *Bourn*, has a pretty Saxon name, signifying "the village of the lark."

"Now lav'rocks wake the merry morn."

—*Burns*.

1½ *Old Sarum* (p. 51).

½ **SALISBURY** (*Inns*: *White Hart*; *Red Lion*; *Three Swans*; *Lamb*, *Commercial Inn*). Pop. of the district in 1851, 8931. This cathedral and county town is situated in a valley at the confluence of 3 streams, the *Upper Avon*, *Bourn*, and *Wily*, and near the junction of a 4th, the *Nadder*, from which abundant supply copious rivulets flowed until lately through the principal streets, and hence *Salisbury* has been likened to a "heap of islets thrown together," and, with a bolder fancy, to *Venice*. It dates from 1220, the 5th year of the reign of *Hen. III.*, when the present cathedral was founded, and the inhabitants removed from *Old Sarum*.

Before the buildings were commenced the ground was very wisely partitioned into squares or "che-

quers," as they are called, and to this we owe the regularity and airiness of the place, the houses being arranged in rectangular groups, which face a thoroughfare on each side, and enclose in the centre an open space for yards and gardens, the streets running in straight lines—5 from N. to S., and as many from E. to W. The town was incorporated by Henry III., and in 1244 was made independent of Old Sarum by the diversion to it of the great western road, or "Wilt-way." It was once famous for clothing and cutlery, but both these manufactures are now dwindled to nothing.

Salisbury is not without associations in connection with the military history of the country. Although for ages the seat of an ecclesiastical establishment, it has had its share of the excitement of a more active life. Around Old Sarum—"the Wiltshire Nineveh"—the Briton, Saxon, and Roman contended for victory, the Dane raised his Raven banner; in the neighbourhood the remains of their camps still arrest the attention of the traveller. From the position of the city on the great western road it was in times of civil commotion a post of importance, and particularly exposed to the passage of troops. In the wars of the Barons and the Roses it suffered accordingly. At the period of the Rebellion it was alternately occupied by either party as they marched through the country—by Ludlow, then by Doddington, and next by Waller, who in turn retreated before the King and Prince Maurice. In 1645 Ludlow with a few horsemen held the Close against Sir Marmaduke Langdale; and for several hours maintained an unequal fight in the market-place and adjoining streets, his troopers on one occasion charging through the narrow passage by the Poultry Cross. After the battle of Worcester Charles II. lay concealed for a few days near Salisbury, and at the King's Arms,

St. John-street, his friends met in secret and successfully planned his escape. The city then regained the tranquillity it had lost, but in 1655 it was once again disturbed by the abortive rising of Penruddocke and his companions, who entered it in considerable force and proclaimed Charles II.; but meeting with no sympathy, retired, and were soon afterwards captured and executed. The last event of moment of which this city was the scene occurred at the memorable crisis of the Revolution of 1688. The army had been concentrated at Salisbury to oppose the expected invader, but, his landing having been effected in Torbay, it hastened forward to welcome him, and James, who was on his road hither, found it necessary to retrace his steps. On the 4th of December the Prince of Orange triumphantly entered the city, and a few days later removed to Littlecot, where he received the welcome intelligence of the King's flight from London.

The *cathedral* is justly the pride of the inhabitants of Salisbury. Rising from a luxuriant lawn and a girdle of trees, it will strike the most indifferent observer by its beauty, while the spire, springing lightly upward, may direct the current of his thoughts. Mr. Rickman—no mean judge—pronounces the view from the N.E. "the best general view of a cathedral to be had in England, displaying the various portions of this interesting building to the greatest advantage." Commenced in the year 1220, and finished, almost without interruption, in 1258, Salisbury Cathedral exhibits in perfection the Pointed or Early English style, which attained its highest excellence at that period. Its architect was Elias de Derham, its founder Bishop Richard Poore, whose predecessor had obtained permission from the king to transfer the see from Old Sarum to this spot, but did not live to carry his design into execution.

Bishop Poore laid the first 3 stones, the first for the Pope, the second for the Archbishop of Canterbury, the third for himself; Wm. Longspee, Earl of Salisbury, laid the fourth; his countess, Ela, the fifth; and, after her, certain noblemen and church dignitaries in turn deposited others, as stepping-stones for their souls. In 38 years from this time the cathedral was finished, at an expense of 40,000 marks = 26,666*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*; but the *spire*, for which it is now so remarkable, formed no part of the original plan, but was an afterthought added in the reign of Edward III. It is the most elegant in proportions and the loftiest in England, rising 400 ft. from the pavement, 30 ft. above the top of St. Paul's, and only 74 below that of Strasburg, the highest building in the world. The exterior of the cathedral is perfect in plan, and uniform, with slight exceptions, in style, and, on the whole, surpasses the interior, partly owing to the vicious changes made by James Wyatt in 1789-90. The extreme length is 449 ft., the breadth at the great transept 203 ft. 10 in., the height of the interior 81 ft., and the circuit of the exterior walls exactly half a mile. The building, including the roof, is constructed of stone from the quarries of *Chilmark*, 12 m. distant towards Hindon. The pillars are of Purbeck marble, and according to the county rhyme as numerous as the hours of the year:—

“As many days as in one year there be,
So many windows in this church you see,
As many marble pillars here appear,
As there are hours through the fleeting year.
As many gates as moons one here does view,
Strange tale to tell, yet not more strange
than true.”

The *W. front*, although denuded of more than 100 statues, is a rich and beautiful piece of architecture, well balanced in composition, and graceful in outline. The centre, supported by elaborate buttresses, is pierced by the great *W. window* and

doorways; the two sides are each terminated by a tower. The whole is divided into five stories by the mouldings, and decorated with arches, columns, trefoils, quatrefoils, &c. On the main buttresses are four mutilated effigies, supposed by Mr. Cockerell to represent St. Paul and St. John the Evangelist (N.), St. Peter and St. John the Baptist (S.); and on the smaller buttresses two other figures, assigned by the same authority to Bishop Poore (N.) and William Longspee (S.). Passing through the portico, the visitor enters the

Nave, the floor of which lies so low that it has been frequently inundated. Here the long perspective of the roof, the array of columns and noble arches, produce a grand impression, but the effect would be considerably heightened by a diminution of the light, and by the presence of those coloured sunbeams which add such a charm to other cathedrals. The great *W. window* is the only one fitted with painted glass. This, however, is of excellent quality, of Flemish manufacture, and was brought from Dijon at the time of the French Revolution. On each side of the nave, ranged in line under the pier arches, are a number of monuments, the most curious those of certain bishops brought from Old Sarum; but both their historical and artistic interest have been sadly injured by Wyatt's alterations. They are placed in the following order:—

West Door.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Bp. Herman, 1078,
from Old Sarum;
first bishop of Old
Sarum and chaplain
of Edward the Con-
fessor. | Unknown. |
| Bp. Joceline, 1184,
from Old Sarum. | Boy Bishop, 13th cen-
tury. |
| Bp. Roger, 1139, from
Old Sarum. Chan-
cellor of Hen. I. | William Longspee,
2nd Earl of Salisb.,
crusader. Killed
with his standard-
bearer and most of |

- his knights in the assault of Mansourah (Egypt), 1250; buried at Acre. In complete mail, with his legs crossed, a lion at his feet.
- Unknown. Unknown.
- Bp. Beauchamp, 1481. Unknown.
He built the Beauchamp Chapel destroyed by Wyatt.
- Robt. Lord Hungerford, 1459, alabaster: the effigies in armour, with a collar of SS. Sir John de Montacute, 1389: fought at Crecy.
- Lord Stourton, hanged for murder by a silken cord in the reign of Q. Mary. Bp. Osmund, 1099, nephew of the Conqueror, and founder of the Cath. of Old Sarum.
- Bp. Walter De la Wyle, 1270. Hungerford family.
- Wm. Longspee, 1st Earl of Salisb., 1226, eldest nat. son of Hen. II., by Fair Rosamond. Died at Old Sarum, it is supposed by poison. Sir John Cheyney, 1509, standardbearer at Bosworth; alabaster.

The coffin-shaped stone which is supposed to have covered the remains of Herman is probably the oldest monument in the church. One of the most curious is that of the Boy Bishop, which was found in 1680, buried below one of the seats. It was formerly a custom for the boys of the choir to elect from among themselves, on St. Nicholas's day, a boy bishop, who was called by this title until the day of Holy Innocents, the space of a month, and if he died within the interval he was buried with great ceremony in his pontifical robes. This was naturally a rare occurrence, and hence the singularity of the relic. Lord Stourton's monument bears a representation of the 6 sources of the Stour, the armorial ensigns of the family. Sir John Cheyney's is of alabaster, and a fine work of art of the period; but the opposite tomb of the first William Longspee is the only one left unin-

jured by Wyatt. It is of oak, and upon it, protected by glass, is a shred of linen, supposed to be as old as 1226. "It is surmounted," says Bowles, "by the warrior's majestic figure, in armour, recumbent, with a border round the edge of the tomb of broken flowers, perhaps in allusion to his untimely end. His pointed shield is on his l. side, his long sword on his rt." All these monuments were removed by Mr. Wyatt from their original positions in different parts of the cathedral, and separated from the bodies whose memory they were designed to perpetuate.

From the nave the visitor enters the *transept*, and stands beneath the spire. He will observe that the pillars have been bent by the weight of the superincumbent masonry, and that those on the N. and S. sides are propped by inverted arches, inserted in the 15th century (as at Wells), but of such elegance that they are rather a beauty than a defect. From the settlement in the 2 W. piers the spire is somewhat awry, a plumb-line dropped from the vane falling about 23 in. out of the perpendicular, and from this alarming change great fears were at one time entertained for the safety of the building, but no further movement has been detected for the last 200 years. The test of the plumb-line was repeated 30 Sept. 1858, which was the 600th anniversary of the dedication of the cathedral. A staircase leads to the top of the tower, from which, through the *four doors*, fine views are obtained over the town and surrounding country. The ascent of the spire is a much more formidable undertaking. It is made internally by a series of slender ladders as far as a little door about 40 ft. below the cross, and from that point the adventurous climber has to scale the outside by means of hooks attached to the walls. The spire is filled with curious timber-work, and strengthened by iron ties, the masonry

being 2 ft. thick below, but only 9 inches above. By the advice of Sir Christopher Wren it was bound together by hoops of iron. The N. transept contains some monuments which well deserve attention: 3 by *Flaxman*,—one to Benson Earle, Charity raising a veil, which encloses a beautiful bas-relief of the Good Samaritan; the others to Walter and William Long, each supported by figures; the one by Justice and Literature, the other by Science and Benevolence; that of Benevolence is of perfect beauty. The first Lord Malmesbury, whose journals and letters form so valuable a contribution to the history of the reign of George III., has a monument here, by *Chintrey*; and near it is that of his father, James Harris, the author of 'Hermes,' by *Bacon*. The statue of Sir Richard Colt Hoare, by *Lucas*, is a failure. In the S. transept, among others, are a fine old monument with alabaster effigy, to Bp. Metford, 1407; an altar tomb to Bishop Fisher, 1825; the Poore monument, 1791; a tablet to Lord Chief Justice Hyde, with his bust; and another, of fanciful design, by *Pugin*, to the memory of Lieut. William Fisher, who fell at Moodkee.

From the transept the verger will conduct the visitor into the *choir*, which, though injured in effect by modern stalls of painted wood, presents a striking coup-d'œil. It is crossed by a transept, and behind the altar is open, so as to afford a free view of the Lady Chapel and E. window through 3 elegant arches. There is an airy and graceful lightness about the *Lady Chapel*, which procures for it more admiration perhaps than any other part of the interior, the roof resting partly on single shafts of Purbeck marble 30 ft. high. The E. window, a memorial to Dean Lear, illustrates the chief events in the life of our Saviour by a series of medallions on a diapered ground. That which terminates the

choir represents the Elevation of the Brazen Serpent. *Bp. Audley's Chapel*, on the N. side of the choir, is the most beautiful monumental fabric in the church, and was built by Audley himself in 1520, 4 years before his death. On the opposite side is the *Hungerford Chapel* (1429), constructed principally of iron, with an emblazoned roof. It is now used as a pew by the Radnor family, but has much the appearance of a cage for wild beasts. In the *N. choir-transept* will be noticed the effigy of Bishop Richard Poore, founder of the cathedral, removed by Wyatt from a canopied recess by the High Altar; the gravestone of Bishop Jewell, author of 'The Apology;' and a fanciful brass to Bp. Wyvill (d. 1375), who, *temp.* Edw. III., regained possession of Sherborne Castle, which Stephen had wrested from Bishop Roger. Edw. III. had granted it to William Montacute Earl of Salisbury; and when the rival claims of earl and bishop were about to be decided by trial of battle, the king interposed, and restored the property to the see for a payment of 2500 marks. Wyvill is represented at a door of the castle in the act of blessing his champion, who is issuing forth to the combat. In the foreground are several hares and rabbits, in allusion to another event in Wyvill's life, the acquisition of the chace of Bishop's Bere in the forest of Windsor. In the *N. choir-aisle* are the reputed tombs of Bps. Bingham (1246) and Woodville (1484); and the sumptuous monument of Sir Thomas and Lady Gorges, builders of Longford Castle, resting on twisted pillars (1635). In the *S. choir-transept* are those of Bps. Burgess (1837), Seth Ward (1689), and Giles de Bridport (1262), the last under a Dec. canopy on which the events in the life of the bishop are portrayed in a series of sculptures. In the *S. choir-aisle* are the Jacobean monument to Edward Earl of Hertford (d. 1621),

son of the Protector Somerset, and to his wife Catherine (d. 1563), sister of Lady Jane Grey; the altar tombs of Bishops Davenant, 1641, and Salcot, 1557; and the Mompesson monument, with effigies of Sir Richard M., 1627, and his lady. The organ-screen and altarpiece were made from the woodwork of the Beauchamp and Hungerford chapels destroyed by Mr. Wyatt.

The *cloisters* are large, perfect, and very beautiful, and lead into the almost unrivalled

Chapter-house, an octagonal building, 52 ft. high, supported by a central pier of slender clustered shafts. It has been restored, as a memorial of the late bishop Denison, by Mr. Clutton, the architect. The sculptured heads attached to the pointed arcade, and the curious series of bas-reliefs from Genesis and Exodus, which fill the spandrels of the arches running round the building, deserve examination. They date from the 14th century, but were greatly injured at the time of the Rebellion, when the Parliamentary commissioners held their sittings in this room. In the restoration the elegant central pier, which had been bound to the surrounding stone-work for security by radiating iron bars, has been rebuilt; the arcade of Purbeck shafts and the sculpture renewed; and the roof and walls repainted according to the original pattern. The work has cost upwards of 7000*l.*, and is most creditable to the Bishop and Chapter.

The *palace* contains a feudal hall, built in 1460, the walls hung with portraits of the bishops since the Restoration, chiefly copies. The originals are those of Hyde, Burnet, Sherlock, Barrington, and Douglas. The garden, a pretty spot, commands a good view of the cathedral.

In the grounds of *the College*, J. H. C. Wyndham Esq. (N. E. of the city), is a Gothic porch, which formed the entrance to the N. transept until removed by Wyatt.

[W. D. & S.]

Within the *close*, near the N. entrance from High-street, is *Bishop Ward's College of Matrons*, for 10 widows of clergymen of the Church of England, founded 1682 by Bishop Seth Ward; on the W. side, the *King's House*, an ivy-clad Tudor building of the 15th century, so called because our kings, on their visits to Salisbury, from the time of Richard III., are said to have lodged in it; and, near St. Anne's gate, the *Canon's house*, surmounted by a double gable, and long the residence of *Canon Bowles*, the poet, and immediately before him of *Archdeacon Coxe*, author of the 'Life of Marlborough.'

The *churches* of Salisbury are not very remarkable.

St. Thomas's is a large Perp. edifice, with a roof of carved timber and numerous windows. In the chancel are monuments to the Eyres of New House, and on the exterior wall, near the W. door, one to *Humphrey Beckham*, fashioned by his own hands. He was a self-taught sculptor, native of this city, d. 1671.

St. Edmund's, to the N. E., was founded 1268, by Bp. De la Wyle, as a collegiate ch., but fell down 1653, and has been entirely rebuilt. The E. window, by Eggington, represents the Ascension. In *the College* adjoining, seat of Mr. Wyndham, is preserved the cathedral porch. The old fosse of the city crossed the site of the pleasure-ground, and in levelling it 1771 several skeletons and rusty weapons were found. This is supposed to have been the scene of the fierce struggle in which Old Sarum was captured by the Saxons under Cynric, A. D. 552.

St. Martin's, to the E., with spire, is chiefly remarkable for its Perp. windows, and for those of a lancet shape, and of considerable antiquity, on the S. side of the nave.

St. Osmund's, in Exeter Street, for the Roman Catholic worship, was built after a design by Pugin.

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The *Church of E. Harnham*, on the hill beyond the limits of the city, was erected (1854) by Mr. Wyatt as a memorial to the late Dean Lear. It is a small but very beautiful structure in the Dec. style, with porch and bell-turret, and, in the interior, some good carving and painted glass.

St. Nicholas Hospital, near Harnham Bridge, was founded earlier than the cathedral, or even than the new city, but was largely endowed with lands by Ela Countess of Salisbury, widow of Wm. Longspee. It maintains 12 poor men and women. The chapel and chaplain's house are part of the old church.

Philip Massinger, the dramatic poet, b. 1584; and *James Harris*, the philologist and author of 'Hermes,' b. 1709, —were natives of this city. *John of Salisbury*, one of the ornaments of the 12th centy., was born at Old Sarum, 1116.

Joseph Addison, born at Milston near Amesbury, was educated at the grammar-school.

In the *Great Market-place* Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, was beheaded (1483) by Richard III., the master whom he had served and betrayed.

"Off with his head—so much for Buckingham!"

The exact spot of the execution was the yard of the Blue Boar inn, which stood on the site of the present *Saracen's Head*. A headless skeleton, without the rt. arm, exhumed in this building in 1838, is supposed to have been Buckingham's.

An ungainly *Town Hall*, built in 1788–95, stands at the S.E. corner of the market-place, and contains, among other portraits, those of Queen Anne by *Dahl*, Earl of Radnor by *Hoppner*, James I., John Duke of Somerset, Bp. Seth Ward, Sir Robert Hyde, Sir Sam. Eyre, Sir Thos. White, Wm. Chiffinch, and Bishop Fisher.

The *Market-house*, to which the railway has been extended, was erected 1858–9. From the S.W. corner of

the market-place a narrow passage leads to the

Poultry Cross, a Gothic hexagon supported by buttresses. It has been recently restored, and from the style dates probably from the 16th century. An adjoining house, now occupied by a watchmaker, has a picturesque carved gable, and is one of the oldest in Salisbury. At the back of the china-shop of Mr. Payne, in the street called the New Canal, is the

Halle of John Halle, a wealthy wool-stapler in the reigns of Henry VI. and Edward IV. It was built 1470, and restored 1834 by Mr. Pugin. It is an interesting specimen of domestic architecture, with a lofty wooden roof with plaster scollop-work inserted, an elaborate carved screen at one end, and a mantel-piece bearing the arms of the founder and his merchant's mark. The painted windows show the devices and alliances of the house of York, and the union of the red and white roses. They are 4 in number. The 1st, on the E. side, has the following shields in the upper compartments—1. John Halle; 2. the royal arms; 3. the royal arms (England and France); 4. John Halle. In the lower divisions—1. Hungerford of Down Ampney; 2. Neville, quartering Montacute (3 fusils) and Monthermer (an eagle), probably the arms of Clarence, Earl of Warwick, the last of the Plantagenets; 3. Earls of Salisbury, quartering Beauchamp, Montacute, Monthermer, Neville, Clare, Despencer, and Newburgh; 4. Hungerford, impaling Halle, in reference to the marriage of the merchant's daughter with Sir Thos. H. The 2nd window shows in the upper lights—1. Monthermer; 2. Halle impaling Halle: in the lower—1. Halle impaling his merchant's mark; 2. the ancient arms of the city of Salisbury impaling Montacute and Monthermer. In the W. window are represented the Bear and Ragged Staff of Warwick, and the figure of

Halle himself in the picturesque costume of the period.

The *George Inn*, in High-street, though defunct as an hostel, still retains its old ornaments of wood, and external gallery round the court. Pepys put up here (see his Diary).

At the *King's Arms*, St. John Street, Lord Wilmot and his companions planned the escape of Charles II., when concealed at Heale House.

The *Barracks*, in Brown-street, a building so called of the time of Henry VI., has a curious chimney-piece in one of its rooms.

The *Joiners' Hall*, in St. Anne-street, now converted into dwelling-houses, retains an antique front of the time of Queen Elizabeth.

The *Tailors' Hall*, at the end of a narrow passage leading out of Milford-street, is a ruinous edifice. The hall is decorated with numerous shields of former members of the craft.

The *Workhouse*, near Crane Bridge, was originally a mansion of Mervin, Lord Audley, Earl of Castlehaven, executed 1631. On his attainder it escheated to the Bishop as lord of the manor, and was presented by him to the city.

In a house at the foot of Milford Hill, *Fielding*, who married Miss Craddock, a beauty of Salisbury, is said to have written part of his 'Tom Jones.' The first edition of the 'Vicar of Wakefield' and of 'Humphrey Clinker' were printed in this city by a person of the name of Collins.

Excursions from Salisbury: a. to Stonehenge (including Old Sarum); b. to Wilton House (Wednesdays and Fridays); and c. to Longford Castle (Tuesdays and Fridays).

a. To Stonehenge, 9 m. A carriage may be hired at the White Hart for 12s. 6d. to go and return; 4 or 5 hours required. Old Sarum will be seen on the way, and Wilton House may be also included in the excursion should the visitor be pressed for time. The daily coach to Devizes passes within 2 m. of Stonehenge at

the Druid's Head, 6 m., and the road it travels is the shortest and best for those who walk. The flymen drive by Amesbury, along the new road through the Avon valley, passing on the outskirts of the town the bold and remarkable earthworks of

Old Sarum, a lofty eminence, now partly in a state of nature and partly under cultivation, but for many centuries the site of one of the principal towns in the kingdom. It is encircled by 2 earthen ramparts and ditches, 100 ft. in depth, and formerly strengthened by thick stone walls, of which a fragment, constructed of flint and rubble, overhangs like a rock the ascent to the eastern entrance. The inner line of defence enclosed the citadel, now overgrown by the wild brier and clematis; the outer, the town, which is at present under the plough. The area included within the fortifications is 27½ acres, but the suburbs extended much farther down the hill. Sarum was the Roman station *Sorbiodunum* (the dry city), a centre from which no less than 6 great roads diverged. It was an equally important place during the Saxon and Norman periods. Its capture was effected by Cynric in 552: in 871 Alfred is supposed to have added the outer entrenchment; and in 960 Edgar summoned hither a wittenagemot to devise the means of defending the country against the Danes. In 1086, the year before his death, the Conqueror assembled here all the barons of his kingdom to submit their land again to the yoke of military tenure, when he swore by his usual oath, "the Resurrection and the Throne of God," to take vengeance of his insulting enemies beyond the sea. In 1075 the bishopric of Sherborne had been transferred to Sarum, and in 1092 the new cathedral was consecrated by its founder, "the blessed Osmund." But the city reached the zenith of its prosperity at a later period, when "Roger the Great," the bold baron and bi-

shop, presided over its castle and church. The civil war of Stephen produced the first symptoms of decay. The immediate cause of the decline of Sarum was the removal of the cathedral—an event brought about in 1220 by the jealousy of the military and ecclesiastical authorities; the blow fatal to its existence—the diversion from it to the new city of the great western road, or Wilt-way. Down to the 15th century, however, Sarum had been the resort of kings and the seat of national councils; and it retained for 536 years one relic of its former greatness—the right of returning 2 members to parliament, which was duly exercised until the passing of the Reform Bill, although for many a year not a single house had existed. The elections were held at the foot of the hill, on *Election Acre*, where a tent was pitched beneath the branches of an elm-tree, which is still pointed out as occupying the site of the last remaining house.

On the same side of the hill is the village of *Stratford*, which derived its name from the Roman *street* or road which here *forded* the river on its course to Badbury Rings and Dorchester. The manor-house was the birthplace, or at least the residence, of *William Pitt, Earl of Chatham*, who was first returned to parliament (1735) as member for those vacant mounds on the hill above. Governor Pitt purchased the manor in 1690 for 1500*l.*, and Lord Granville afterwards sold it for 65,000*l.* to Lord Caledon. In 1801 John Horne Tooke was returned by Lord Camelford. The door-head of the Parsonage bears the following inscription—"Parva sed apta Domino, 1675."

4½ m. from Salisbury the traveller will pass *Heale House*, G. Loder, Esq., a mansion in which Charles II. was concealed after the battle of Worcester; and *Heale Hill*, remarkable for a sacred circle on the summit, and for traces of a British village on the S. slope: in about 5½ m. *Durn-*

ford House, the property of Lord Malmesbury; and *Ogbury Camp* (p. 42), on the hill to the rt. of Great Durnford. *Amesbury* and *Stonehenge* are described at pp. 37, 39.

Those who wish to become better acquainted with Salisbury Plain can return by the unsheltered road from Devizes. About 1 m. short of Salisbury, beyond the intersection of a cross-road from Wilton, they may notice a peculiar hollow to the rt., between a copse-wood and the road. It was one of the five places or "steads" in England in which tournaments were held according to a charter of Richard I. An imaginary line from Old Sarum to Wilton would intersect the actual spot.

b. *Wilton House*, seat of the Earl of Pembroke, and celebrated for its marbles and pictures, may be seen on Wednesdays and Fridays. It is 3 m. distant. To the l. of the road is the hamlet of

Bemerton, interesting as the living of *George Herbert* (1630–35), so charmingly described by Isaac Walton. Herbert restored the parsonage and church, within the altar-rail of which he now lies buried. According to the tradition, an aged fig-tree against the wall of the rectory, and a medlar in the garden, were planted by him. *Norris* the poet and divine, and *Coxe* the traveller and historian, were also rectors of Bemerton. The bells in the church turret are of the 14th century, the S. and W. windows of Dec date (about 1300), the doorway and pulpit canopy Jacobean, and the font Early English.

Wilton, 3 m. (*Inn*: Pembroke Arms, close to the park gates), is a small quiet town situated on the junction of the Wily and Nadder. It is of great antiquity, and, as the capital of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Wessex, gave name to Wiltshire, and was the scene of many stirring events. Here, says Palgrave, when Wessex and Mercia were contending for the possession of all England S.

of the Humber, Egbert King of Wessex overthrew his rival Beornwulf in the year 823. In 871 the great Alfred here defeated the Danes in a pitched battle, which procured him a peace of 2 years' duration; and in 1003 the Danes had here their revenge, when, under Swein, they burnt the place to the ground. At a later period came to Wilton King Stephen, with mind intent on fortifying the monastery, and by these means curbing the rebellious burghers of Sarum; but the Earl of Gloucester, having assembled a force for the Empress Maud, fired the houses and put the monarch to flight. During all these early times Wilton flourished as a large and busy town, quickly recovering from its disasters, and it continued to prosper down to the year 1244, when it received the blow which was to prove fatal to its importance, in the diversion of the great western road, which formerly passed through it on its way from Old Sarum. In our times the name of Wilton has been associated with *carpets*, which were first made in England at this town (by a Mr. Moody), and are still the staple of the place. In the factory of Messrs. Blackmore and Lapworth the finest Axminsters are manufactured, as well as those called Saxony, made of short-staple wool.

The *Wily* and *Nadder*, which wash the sides of Wilton, effect a junction below the park of the Pembrokes. The former was anciently called the *Gwillow*, a name differently derived from *guil*, a willow-tree, and *gwillow*, a stream flowing from a forest. The latter is the more appropriate, as the Wily rises on the high land formerly bosomed in Selwood, and on its approach to this place flows for a long distance by the side of the ancient forest of Grovely. The Nadder was originally called the *Noddre*, of which the name is a corruption.

Wilton has received a great ornament by the erection in 1844, by the Right Hon. Sidney Herbert, of

the *New Church*, at an expense of 20,000*l.* T. H. Wyatt and D. Brandon were the architects. The style, though novel in this country, is the ordinary Romanesque, or Lombard, of Italy; but for gorgeousness and beauty of detail Wilton church stands unrivalled. Elevated on a terrace, it presents its E. front to the road, the bell-tower rising on the S. side to a height of 108 ft. distinct from the church, after the fashion of the Italian campanile, but communicating with it by a cloister of elaborately worked columns in pairs. The E. front is approached by a flight of steps 100 ft. in width, and presents 3 deeply recessed circular porches, the central and principal entrance being ornamented with mouldings, exquisitely worked, and with pillars, the foremost of which are twisted and detached, resting on lions sculptured in stone from the Isle of Man. Crossing the threshold, the visitor will be astonished by the sudden splendour of marble and mosaic glittering in streams of coloured light. He will enter, through screens of twisted column, the nave, its roof resting on circular piers, with elaborate and beautiful capitals, each of a different design; its W. end terminated by a gallery of Painswick stone, supported on marble columns with alabaster capitals, and bearing the motto, "All things come of Thee, and of Thine own have we given Thee." Below the gallery is the font, of variously coloured marble, resting on a polished black slab of the same material, and decorated with the fruit and leaves of the vine, in allusion to the parable of our Saviour: "I am the vine, ye are the branches." To the l. will be observed the cloister door, enriched with pillars and pilasters inlaid with mosaic-work. The gorgeous windows on the same side are of ancient Flemish glass. Passing up the nave over a flooring of slate, the visitor will pause before the pulpit, a work

constructed at Rome of Caen stone, painted, gilded, and decorated with variegated borders and twisted pillars of mosaic-work, and resting on 16 black marble twisted columns with alabaster capitals. Near the pulpit is the reading-desk, rich in carving representing the 4 Evangelists, executed in Belgium; and the lectern in the shape of an eagle, gilt, and supported on 3 black marble pillars. The chancel presents an equal amount of decoration and intricate detail. The floor is composed of tesserae manufactured by Singer of Vauxhall; the walls and ceilings are painted after the style of the middle ages; the communion-table enclosed by glittering columns of Sienna marble, supporting milk-white alabaster arches; and the whole illumined by the rich and shifting colours of a window of ancient glass. Arches supported on lofty pillars of black and gold marble, each of a solid block, separate the aisles of the chancel from those of the nave. The apse l. of the communion-table contains a fine brass (1585), and an alms-chest of wrought-iron from Venice; the opposite apse the monuments of the Pembroke removed from the former parish-church, one by Westmacott and another by Rossi. The windows in these recesses are particularly brilliant. Lastly, before the visitor leaves the building he should inspect the old carvings of Scripture subjects forming the panels of the doors.

The former parish church, in the centre of Wilton, has been partly pulled down, but the ancient *borough cross* remains on the site it has so long occupied by the churchyard wall.

Wilton House :—

“ Pembroke's princely dome, where mimic
Art
Decks with a magic hand the dazzling
bowers,
Its living hues where the warm pencil
pours,
And breathing forms from the rude
marble start.” T. Warton.

Wilton occupies the site of a monastery, given, with the lands attached to it, by Henry VIII. to Sir William Herbert, 1st Earl of Pembroke. The place abounds in interesting associations—the family of Herbert have been distinguished equally in arts, arms, and literature. They were the patrons of Holbein, Shakespeare, Ben Jonson, Inigo Jones, and Vandyck; and of Mas-singer, whose father was a retainer of the family. Sir Philip Sidney wrote part of his ‘Arcadia’ on this spot, at the request of his sister, Countess of Pembroke, whose beautiful epitaph has been generally attributed to Ben Jonson :—

“ Sidney's sister, Pembroke's mother,
Death, ere thou hast slain another
Wise, and fair, and good as she,
Time shall throw a dart at thee.”

The present mansion, famed for its *marbles* and pictures, but particularly renowned for its *Vandycks*, is, for the most part, modern. It was “Gothicised” in questionable taste by James Wyatt at the beginning of the present century, but has been improved by more recent alterations.

A *Triumphal Arch*, surmounted by a cast from the equestrian statue of Marcus Aurelius, leads to the chief entrance.

The *Hall* is adorned with suits of ancient armour, which have an interest independent of their splendour in being trophies of the victory of St. Quintin, gained by the Spaniards over the French, chiefly by the co-operation of a brave band of English sent by Queen Mary, under the command of Wm. Earl of Pembroke, 1557. His harness is here, together with the full suits of the Constable Anne de Montmorency, Louis de Bourbon, Duc de Montpensier, &c. The *Pembroke Marbles*, arranged in the hall and around the cloister, were collected, 1678, by Thomas, 8th Earl of Pembroke, of whom Pope said,

“For Pembroke statues, dirty gods, and coins;”

and include a portion of those of Thomas Earl of Arundell (the rest are at Oxford), and of the collection of Giustiniani, of the Valetta Gallery at Naples, and of Card. Mazarine. They long possessed an undeserved reputation; for, in truth, many of the specimens are modern antiques: among the genuine ancient marbles not a few are mutilated, the limbs, &c., are badly restored; and the greater part are of second-rate value as works of art. The best are—

In the *Entrance-Hall*—Statues of Apollo, Jupiter, and the Elder Faustina;—a Mosaic in relief of Hercules in the Garden of the Hesperides, a serpent twined round the golden apple-tree, very curious, and probably unique;—a colossal horse, workmanship admirable, head noble and delicate;—Curtius leaping into the fiery chasm, a bas-relief in a circle.

In the *Gallery*—No. 1. An altar of Bacchus, the figures in relief. 8. A sleeping Nymph. 23. The Gods summoned by Vulcan to see Venus and Mars taken in the net, an oval relief. 48. Bas-relief of Jupiter on his throne. 61. Death of Meleager, 3 bas-reliefs on a sarcophagus, after the Greek model; the figures finely designed, the workmanship indifferent. 62. Silenus drinking out of a cantharus; the action spirited. 109. A Cippus: “the figures very noble and simple in action.”—Waagen. 115. A relief of Venus accompanied by Tritons and Nereids. 117. Statue of a female seated. 124. Cupid bending his bow, a copy of the well-known work of Praxiteles; very delicate, but only the torso is old. 136. An ancient Roman consular chair, part bronze, part iron. 137. A sarcophagus, with reliefs from the story of Ceres and Bacchus; the principal subject represents Ceres sending Triptolemus to sow corn; workmanship indifferent, of a late time. 151. Statue of a young Faun,

gracefully twisting back his body to look at a panther at his feet; a repetition of an often-repeated group, the design good, and of delicate execution. 163. Large sarcophagus, with high relief of the destruction of Niobe’s children; of a late period; the attitudes very beautiful, and probably from older models. 170. An Amazon defending herself against a horseman. 171. The family of Niobe, “an elegant bas-relief of the cinquecento time, and strongly resembling the works of the able Florentine sculptor Benedetto da Rovezzano, who was for a time in England.”—Waagen’s ‘*Treasures of Art.*’

Busts—of Nero; Julia Mæsa; Lucan; and a so-called Lucilla, daughter of Marcus Aurelius (wonderfully finished). Passavant, however, in his *Tour*, remarks that those of Germanicus, Augustus, and several of the Greek poets, are the finest in the collection.

Paintings:—

Alb. Durer (1512) (? *I. H. Rhenus*): the Descent from the Cross, “wrought with amazing labour and neatness; the composition good and well conducted throughout, but the style dry and hard. The expressions poor, but the actions good. The colours are positive, without any attempt at harmony, and yet are well arranged.”—*T. Phillips*, R.A. From the Arundell collection.—*Parmegiano*: Virgin, Child, St. John, and Catherine; “very beautifully designed, but rather hard in the execution, and inharmonious in colour.”—*P.* It was given by the Grand Duke of Tuscany to Philip E. of Pembroke.—*Spagnoletto*: Democritus, whole length, laughing, exceedingly fine, and expression entirely appropriate.—King Richard II. when young (*i. e.* about 1377), backed by his patrons, St. John Baptist, St. Edmund King, and St. Edward Confessor, praying to the Virgin and Child; a Diptych, or folding picture, curious from its age and style, and

probably by an Italian painter. It is mentioned by Walpole as an early specimen of *oil-painting*, whereas it is in *distemper*, not in oil. It is on a gold background; the finish careful, the arrangement formal, the faces uniform and without expression. The arms of the king, the broom-pod (Plantagenet), and the white hart, derived from his mother, are seen on his robe and on the angels' necks.—*Netscher*: Portrait of De Witt.—*Holbein*: the Father of Sir Thomas More; shows the simple truth of nature; hands excellent.—*Mabuse*: the Three Children of Henry VII., same as those at Hampton Court and Longford, but good.—*Honthorst*: Prince Rupert; one of the finest paintings here.—*And. Mantegna*: Judith with the Head of Holofernes; "her features and attitude noble and graceful; carefully executed."—*And. del Sarto*: Holy Family.—*Balthazar Peruzzi*: the Ascension of our Lord.—*N. Poussin*: two boys playing with a bird.—*Mieris's* own portrait, capital.—*Titian*: Head of the Magdalen; has suffered much.—*Vandyck*: Ph. Herbert Earl of P., with his wand of office; small sketch for the larger picture.—*Rubens*: Four children, Christ and St. John with a lamb, a little girl, and an angel; a subject often repeated by Rubens.—*Steenwick*: Peter conducted out of prison; a dark crypt, minutely painted, but with good effect.—*Parmejiانو*: Ceres, genuine, but affected attitude.—*Guido*: Charity; must have been beautiful, but is spoiled by rubbing. It belonged to Charles I.—*Lucas Van Leyden*: Men and women playing cards; one of the very rare genuine works of this master; heads animated and spirited, full of expression, though hard in manner.—*Sir Josh. Reynolds*: Henry, 10th E. of Pembroke.—*An Antique Painting* from the Temple of Juno, representing Minerva, Hercules, Diana, Apollo, Ceres, Vertumnus, and Juno; rude

in the treatment, but worthy of notice on account of the broad handling.

In the double Cube, or *Great Room*, are the *Portraits* by VANDYCK, the pride and boast of the Wilton collection. The finest are—

The Herbert Family: ten figures. Philip Earl of Pembroke, and his Countess, in black, seated on a raised platform; on their rt. their 5 sons; on their l. their daughter, in blue, and her husband, Robert E. of Caernarvon; before them Lady Mary, daughter of George D. of Buckingham, betrothed to Charles Ld. Herbert; above, in the clouds, as angels, 2 sons and a daughter, who died young. This large work stands alone in point of merit. The personages are not dramatically connected together, but they all look out of the picture.

The late Mr. Phillips, R.A., observes, "I am at a loss for words to convey my admiration of this picture. An air of nobleness reigns over it, with rich and deep colouring. Yet I think the expression bad; and wish it had an unity of subject, or any subject. But, as it is, when shall we see its like again?" 1801. It has suffered grievously from cleaning and repairing.

Charles I. in armour, $\frac{1}{2}$ length, very excellent. Henrietta Maria, inferior, perhaps a copy. 3 Children of Charles I., beautifully painted, particularly the Princess, dated 1635. The Duchess of Richmond and her Dwarf, Mr. Gibson, whole length, very good, especially the dwarf (the Duke is probably by Jansen). The Countess of Castlevan, in an orange dress. The 2nd Earl Philip, $\frac{1}{2}$ length, not one of Vandyck's best. Mrs. Killigrew and Mrs. Morton, beauties of Charles I.'s court, "well-painted heads, especially Mrs. Killigrew's, which is in his most finished manner—rich, soft, and true, beyond measure."—*T. P.* Earl and Countess of Bedford, same size of canvas, but

very inferior. Philip E. of Pembroke. Penelope, wife of Ph. E. of P.

In the *Library* are portraits of William, 1st Earl of Pembroke, the friend of Shakspeare, and founder of the family, with his dog, who pined away at his death: it is called *Holbein's*, but either it is not his, or it has been repainted, the hands very bad. Portraits of Alexander Pope and of St. Evremond. A copy of the 'Arcadia' contains a lock of Queen Elizabeth's hair, given by her to Sir Ph. Sidney, together with some verses in his hand in acknowledgment of the gift.

The *grounds* and gardens of Wilton, although flat, are exceedingly beautiful, owing to the views they command, especially the vista opening on Salisbury spire, opposite the S.E. angle of the house—to the noble trees, particularly the group of cedars, and an ancient ilex, beneath whose branches Sir Philip Sidney may have reclined, when he here composed his 'Arcadia'—to the architectural ornaments, such as the *triumphal arch* by Chambers, and the covered *Palladian bridge*, built by Henry Earl of Pembroke, over the water (the Nadder). The Italian garden, tastefully arranged with balustrades and vases, terminates in a *pavilion*, once a vestibule of the house. This was designed by *Holbein*, in the style of the Renaissance, and consists of a portico of pillars, with busts of Edward VI. and the Earl of Pembroke inserted.

At *Dinton*, 5 m. W. of Wilton, *Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon*, Lord Chancellor, and historian of the Great Rebellion, was born (1609), in the old rectory-house. He lived for some time at Hatch House, S. of Fonthill. Dinton was also the birth-place of *Henry Lawes*, the musician:—

"Harry, whose tuneful and well-measur'd
song
 First taught our English music how to span
 Words with just note and accent."—*Milton*.

He was the friend of Milton and of Waller, and was shot at the siege of Chester, 1645. Adjoining the village is the seat of William Wyndham, Esq.

c. *Longford Castle*, seat of the Earl of Radnor, but occupied by Lord Folkestone, is situated on the Avon, l. of the road to Downton, 3 m. from Salisbury. It may be seen on Tuesdays and Fridays, or by travellers and foreigners, with Lord Folkestone's permission, on any week-day. It is of curious construction, and celebrated for its picture-gallery, one of the finest in the country, and particularly rich in paintings by *Holbein*. On the road may be gained a very excellent view of Salisbury Cathedral. Longford was built about 1591, by Sir Thomas Gorges, who married a Danish lady, Helena Snachenberg, widow of William Parr, Marquis of Northampton; and he was induced by her to construct it after the model of the Castle of Uraniberg, designed by Tycho Brahe. He accordingly pulled down an ancient mansion of the Cervingtons, and prepared the ground for the new building; but so great proved the expense of driving piles as a foundation, that Sir Thomas nearly sunk his fortune at the outset. At this juncture came the alarm of the Spanish Armada, when Sir Thomas was appointed governor of Hurst Castle, and, as luck would have it, a Spanish galleon was soon wrecked near his post. His wife modestly begged but the *hull* of the queen, and in this were found bars of silver and other treasure, ample, and more than sufficient, to complete the intended structure at Longford. The work, therefore, proceeded merrily, and was completed in 1591, at a cost of about 18,000*l.* The architect was Thomas Thorp, who built Holland House. The castle, as it then appeared (the "Castle of Amphialeus" of Sir Philip Sidney's 'Arcadia'), had the singular form of a triangle, enclosing a court of

a similar shape, and flanked by circular towers at the angles, the whole being surrounded by a moat filled with water from the Avon. In this form it was besieged and taken in 1645 by Cromwell, who had mounted a battery opposite the garden front. In 1641 it had been sold by the 2d Lord Gorges to to Hugh Hare, Baron of Coleraine; and in 1717 it came into the possession of the present family, the Bouveries, by purchase. But Longford Castle, as it now stands, is very different from the triangle of the Gorges, having been altered by the late Lord Radnor, who had intended to rebuild it in the form of a hexagon. He, however, left it unfinished, and in this condition it remains, flanked by 5 towers. It is chiefly remarkable for its collection of *paintings*, one of the very finest in Britain. Among them are the following:—

In the *Chapel*—*A. Durer* (? probably by *Henry de Bles*, an old Flemish painter): Adoration of the Virgin by Saints George, Agnes, &c.; very good and curious; the female figure on the rt. painted with great feeling for beauty; on the wings St. John the Baptist and Evangelist.—*A. Durer* (?): the Nativity and Salutation.—*Mabuse*: Children of Henry VII., a repetition of the original picture at Hampton Court. It was in the collection of Charles I.—*Zuccherò*: Queen Elizabeth; very characteristic of the harsh, imperious woman.—*Holbein*: Edward VI.; “too poor a production for the master:” *Waagen*.—*Mabuse*: Virgin and Child.

In the *Long Gallery*—*Murillo*: Ruth and Naomi.—*Guido*: Head of a Magdalen; a picture of a most attractive sweetness, painted with great clearness. 2. Europa and the Bull, a masterpiece, the original of many repetitions.—*Claude*: 2 celebrated pictures known as the Morning and Evening, or Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire. One represents the landing of Æneas in the Bay of

Naples by sunrise, “the morning freshness of nature typifying the beginning of the Roman empire;” the other the ruins of the Arch of Titus and the Coliseum, with the sun sinking towards the sea. “Two masterly pictures, with great depth and fulness of colour, combined with softness of gradations:” *Waagen*.—*Rubens*: a large landscape of the desolate country around the Escorial. “Carefully and admirably painted, but not the original of this often-repeated view, which is said to be at Petworth:” *Waagen*. 2. Diana with her Nymphs returning from the Chace; a sketch for the picture at Dresden.—*Seb. del Piombo* (?): St. Sebastian’s Martyrdom, after a design by Michael Angelo; carefully executed in very clear colouring; in the background rocks and ruins of singular forms.—*Nicolas Poussin*: the Worship of the Golden Calf, and the Passage of the Red Sea; capital works, of the artist’s best period, scarcely equalled by any in the Louvre.—*Correggio* (?): Venus disarming Cupid; a picture in the style of those in the National Gallery.—*Holbein*: the Ambassadors at Vienna, 2 whole-length portraits, apparently of philosophers, with books, geometrical and musical instruments; “one of the finest works by Holbein in England,” says *Waagen*. 2. Sir Anthony Denny, chamberlain and favourite of Henry VIII. 3. *Ecolampadius*.—*Velasquez*: Adrian Pulido Pareja, admiral of the Spanish Armada; a first-rate portrait.—*Titian*: a whole-length portrait of a General, his helmet on a table; carefully executed in a full, warm, golden tone.—*Vandyck*: Rubens on a Grey Horse; 2. Gaston Duc d’Orléans.—*Carlo Dolce*: Christ crowned with thorns; 2. portrait of himself.—*Gaspar Poussin*: 2 small landscapes.—*Jan Wynants*: a landscape, with figures by *Adrian Van de Velde*.—*W. Van de Velde*: 2 sea-pieces. In this gallery stands a wonderful and pro-

bably unique specimen of sculpture in metal, a *steel chair*, presented to the Emperor Rudolph II. by the city of Augsburg, where it was made by one Thomas Ruker, in 1574. It is covered by 130 groups of figures in relief, representing events in the history of the Roman Empire from Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the colossal image, and from the landing of Æneas in Italy, down to Rudolph's own time. It was carried off from Prague by the Swedes.

In the *Green Drawing-room*—*Rubens* (?): his son; a beautiful portrait.—*Titian* (?): Cæsar Borgia; "a most perfidious countenance." *Holbein*: a male portrait, called Luther; broad in treatment, and noble in expression.—*Giorgione* (?), more probably *Paris Bordone*: a portrait of Violante, daughter of Palma Vecchio, commonly designated Titian's Mistress.—*Velasquez*: the Moorish Slave.—*Walker*: portrait of Oliver Cromwell.—*Rubens*: Duke of Alva.—*Sir P. Lely*: his own portrait.—*Rubens* (?): portrait of Mary of Medicis, attributed by Waagen to Vandyck.—*H. Van Vliet*: interior of a church, a capital work.—*Vandyck*: Countess of Chesterfield; 2. Countess of Monmouth.—*Sir Josh. Reynolds*: Anne Countess of Radnor, in a cart-wheel hat; 2. Lady Tilney Long.

In the *Long Parlour*—*Holbein*: portrait of Erasmus; brought to England by the painter, with a letter of introduction from Erasmus to Sir Thomas More. This picture, says Waagen, "is alone worth a pilgrimage to Longford. Seldom has a painter so fully succeeded in bringing to view the whole character of so original a mind as in this instance." The execution is most masterly and careful, even to the accessories—the brown fur for instance; and it is evident that the artist here tried to do his best. 2. Portrait of Peter Ægidius, the traveller: "as animated in conception as it is delicate in individuality."—*Salvator Rosa*: a sea-

coast; a picture remarkable for "happy composition, unusual warmth of tone, and spirited treatment."—*Teniers*: Return from the Chase; 2. Boors playing at bowls.—*Sir Josh. Reynolds*: James, second Lord Radnor, as a boy.—*Rubens*: Cupids gathering the harvest; "one of the great master's most original and attractive inventions." *Waagen*.—*J. Ruysdael*: Landscape by moonlight.

On an eminence nearly opposite Longford, on the E. side of the river, stood the *Ivy Church*, an Augustine monastery founded by Stephen within the boundaries of the forest of Clarendon, with the object of providing its wild denizens with spiritual instruction. Some remains of its walls may still be seen in a school which occupies its site, and one of its old fire places, 7 ft. in length, and cut from a single block of Portland stone, in the kitchen of the Green Dragon at Alderbury, a village on the Southampton road.

Britford Church, to the N. of Longford, contains a mausoleum of the Bouveries, and in the chancel a curious altar-tomb, sculptured with figures of St. Margaret, St. Nicholas, St. Edmund of Canterbury, St. Catherine with her symbols—the sword and the wheel, St. George, and the Virgin and Child. This tomb was erroneously attributed by Sir R. C. Hoare to the Duke of Buckingham, beheaded at Salisbury, and in which city he is said to have been buried.

Clarendon, Sir F. H. H. Bathurst, Bart., lies about 2 m. S.E. of Salisbury, on the road to Southampton. This ancient forest was granted by the Conqueror to Humphrey the Bearded, the first of the family of Bohun, and its palace was celebrated as a residence of our kings from the reign of Hen. I. to that of Edw. III., and as the scene of some important events in our history, particularly of the enacting, by a great council of the nation, of the

famous 'Constitutions of Clarendon,' the first barrier raised in this country against Papal aggression. Its traditional name of *King John's Palace* has preserved the memory of its selection by that monarch as his favourite abode, but it attained its greatest magnificence in the reign of his successor, Hen. III. At a later period, in 1356, Philip of Navarre did homage here to our Edw. III., as King of France and Duke of Normandy; and, in 1357, after the battle of Poitiers, the glades of Clarendon were enlivened by a royal chace, in which the captives John of France and David of Scotland rode side by side with our king. After the reign of Edw. III. the palace of Clarendon appears to have been neglected, but its forest remained for many years a favourite hunting-ground of our monarchs. In the 14th century this royal domain was granted for a term to the first Earl of Pembroke. It was mortgaged by Charles I., and at the Restoration bestowed in fee upon George Monk, Duke of Albemarle, whose successor left it by will to his cousin the Earl of Bath. In 1713 it was purchased by Benjamin Bathurst, Esq., an ancestor of the present possessor. *Clarendon Lodge* is situated about a mile from the site of the ancient palace, of which there still remains a fragment of flint-wall, now propped by buttresses, and bearing an inscription which enlightens the passing traveller as to the many interesting memories connected with the spot. Clarendon is said by Kennet to derive its name from Chlorus's camp, which crowns a hill to the N. of it, and is supposed to have been constructed by the British general Constantius Chlorus.

Harnham Hill, the ascent from Salisbury on the road to Blandford, commands the best view of the city and its cathedral.

Among points of interest rather distant, but within reach of Salisbury, are the camps of Yarnbury,

Battlesbury, and Scratchbury; and the seats of Longleat, Stourhead, Fonthill, and Wardour Castle (*see* Index).

ROUTE 5 a.

SALISBURY TO CHRISTCHURCH, BY DOWNTON.

The road from Salisbury by Longford runs along the valley of the Avon to Ringwood and Christchurch, leaving this county in 7 m. It passes on its course—in $1\frac{1}{2}$ m., *Britford*, seat of G. P. Jervoise, Esq., to the l.;—in 3 m. *Longford Castle*, on the l.;—and further to the l. *New Hall*, residence of Major-General Buckley, M.P. for Salisbury, who has here a valuable collection of pictures;—on rt. the village of *Nunton*, of which the small church, lately restored by T. W. Wyatt, contains the monument of J. T. Batt, Esq., from whom General Buckley inherited *New Hall*;—*Odstock* church, also on the rt., has an oaken pulpit of Eliz. date, inscribed with the following couplet:—

"God bless and save our royal queen,
The lyke on earth was never seen;"

—in 4 m. rt. an earthwork, called *Clearbury Ring*, crowning a lofty hill. It is of an oblong shape, protected by a single ditch and rampart about 40 ft. in height, and has been generally attributed to the W. Saxons, particularly to Cynric, who fought with the Britons 4 m. below Charford in 519, captured Old Sarum in 552, and

finally completed the conquest of Wiltshire. The spot commands a most extensive view:—in 5 m. l. *Trafalgar House* (p. 62), seat of Earl Nelson; and adjoining it, *Barford*, now a farmhouse, purchased by the late Lord N., and formerly the residence of Lord Feversham, a title now extinct;—lastly, in 6 m.,

Downton (i. e. *the town by the river*), a place of great antiquity and early importance, and still retaining a vestige of Saxon times in a mound called the *Moot*, at the E. end of the village. After the Conquest Downton belonged to the bishops of Winchester, who resided in it for many years. The site of their mansion, *Old Court*, is still pointed out on the rt. bank of the river, and there they are supposed to have entertained King John, who is known to have visited Downton on three separate occasions.

The *church* dates in part from the reign of Henry III., and contains as ancient a font, and a fine monument to Margaret Lady Feversham, by Scheemacker. In the churchyard stands a time-worn *cross*.

The old *rectory*, of Eliz. or Jacobean date, but now a farmhouse, was for a long time a residence of the Raleighs, and also the birthplace of *Admiral Sir Roger Curtis*, who commanded the gunboats at the siege of Gibraltar. One of the old chimney-pieces, sculptured with shields, may still be seen in the hall.

The *Moot*, property of W. P. Shuckburgh, Esq., will, however, be the point most interesting to the antiquary at Downton; not only kindling his enthusiasm by its name, but actually presenting to his notice the singular earthworks in which either Saxon parliaments or Saxon courts of justice were held. They are in good preservation, and surrounded by an old-fashioned garden.

W. of Downton, on *Wick Down*, are remains of several complicated circles, forming what antiquaries

have called a *maze*. About 4 m. S.W. the hills are crowned by the entrenchment of

Whichbury, or *Castle Ditches*, and from this camp the

Grims-ditch may be traced in a winding course of some 6 m. This name occurs in many parts of England, and is generally derived from the Anglo-Saxon *grima*, an evil spirit. It may therefore be interpreted as *the Devil's Ditch*. Stukeley says the word means "the ditch made by magic," and that it was indiscriminately applied to ancient trenches. It is a striking proof of the antiquity of such works, that even the Saxons considered them old and mysterious.

At *Charford*, farther down the Avon, Cynric and his West Saxons are supposed to have crossed the river. *Lushinger*, S.E. of Downton, now a farm of Lord Radnor's, was formerly a park, and the occasional residence of Lord Feversham. The house commands a view over the New Forest of great extent and beauty. *New House*, to the E., once known as Tychebourn Park, is a mansion of Eliz. date, now the seat of George Matcham, Esq.

ROUTE 5 b.

SALISBURY TO SOUTHAMPTON.

(*South-Western Rly., Salisbury Branch from Bishopstoke.*)

Salisbury is 27½ m. from Southampton by rail, and 20 m. by road. The former leaves this county at West

Dean, the first station, 7 m. distant, passing on rt. *Clarendon*, and on l. *Farley*, birthplace of *Sir Stephen Fox*, founder of the noble families of Fox and Ilchester. The *Hospital* at Farley contains a portrait of Sir Stephen, by Lely, and a monument to Henry Thomas, Earl of Ilchester, by the younger Westmacott. In the church is a tablet to Charles James Fox. *West Dean House*, now pulled down, was formerly a seat of the Evelyns, and afterwards of the first Duke of Kingston, and is mentioned in the letters of his celebrated daughter, Lady Mary Montagu. In the church are monuments of the Evelyns and Pierrepoints; among them one to John Evelyn and his lady, their kneeling effigies being represented in the costume of the time of James I.

The coach-road to Southampton leaves the county in 14 m., passing—in 3 m. on l. *Alderbury House*, seat of the Forts, built of the materials of the ancient belfry of Salisbury Cathedral; on rt. *Clarendon Lodge* and the woody region of the forest—in 5 m. *Standlinch Down* (the Stony ridge), with its prospect-house erected by the Eyres; and 1½ m. to the rt. old Standlinch House, now

Trafalgar House, seat of Earl Nelson, built by Sir Peter Vandeput in 1733, and purchased in 1814, under an act of parliament, for the heirs of the conqueror of Trafalgar. The wings and portico had been added in 1766. The ceiling of one of the rooms was painted by Cipriani. In the park are noble woods of beech, and near the river-side a chapel of the 17th century, said to have been founded as early as 1147.—In 6 m. *Brickworth House*, a Jacobean mansion (but modernised), for many years seat of a branch of the Eyres, and now of the Earl of Ilchester. To the E. of it is the old terraced garden.—In 7 m. *Harestock*, a hamlet called after the family of Heyraz, who were so named as the keepers of the king's harriers; and to the l. *Whiteparish*,

in which there stands, W. of the church, a manor-house of the Lynches of the time of James I.; and at the entrance of the village, in a pretty position, *Whelpley*, an ancient farmhouse, and “very interesting relic of the old yeoman’s establishment;” and on an adjoining knoll, commanding a view over the New Forest to the sea, the remains of a chapel to St. Leonard. W. of Whiteparish is *Cowsfield House*, mansion of the Lawrences, partly rebuilt 1815, but still preserving the traces of its Eliz. date:—in 8 m. the wild wood of the *Earldoms*, so named as an ancient possession of the Pembrokes, and embosoming in its recesses an entrenchment called *Castle Hill*, formed by a single rampart and ditch, which encircle a little spring which wells up in the enclosure. On the southern verge of these woods is *Hamptworth Lodge*, recently erected by R. Duncombe Shafto, Esq., M.P. l. 1½ m.,

Milshal Park (or *Melchet*), formerly a royal forest, purchased in 1783 by Alexander Baring, afterwards raised to the peerage as Baron Ashburton. The house, now residence of the Hon. and Rev. Fred. Baring, occupies an elevated site commanding a wide and beautiful view, and on an eminence in the park stands a Hindoo temple, erected 1800 in memory of Warren Hastings. It was designed by Thomas Daniell, R.A., and constructed in artificial stone by Rossi, R.A. Over the portal is the figure of Ganesa, the genius of wisdom, and within the temple a bust of Warren Hastings embedded in the sacred flower of the lotus.—In 9 m. on rt. *Landford Lodge*, seat of the Greatheads, rebuilt 1776;—and lastly, in 9½ m. on l. the village of *Landford*, with its manor-house of the Lyghs and Davenants, and an Anglo-Norman entrance to its church.

ROUTE 6.

CHIPPENHAM TO SALISBURY, BY
DEVIZES.

Chippenham (Rte. 1). From this junct. stat. a branch of the Wilts, Somerset, and Weymouth Railway runs to Devizes. The coach road pursues the following route:—

$2\frac{1}{2}$ l. the entrance to *Bowood*, seat of the Marquis of Lausdowne (Rte. 8). The road skirts the *Great Wood* for 2 m. On the neighbouring downs are the *Lansdowne Column* and the *Cherhill White Horse*.

2 rt. *Spy Park*, J. Bayntun Starky, Esq. The lane in that direction leads to the entrance gateways of *Spy* and *Bowden Park*, Captain Gladstone, R.N. That of *Spy* (p. 19) is old and curious, and commands a very extensive view over the country to the W. *Laycock Abbey*, W. H. Fox Talbot, Esq., is situated under the hill, below *Spy* and *Bowden*.

$\frac{1}{2}$ l. *Wands House*, Captain Wyndham.

$\frac{1}{2}$ l. at a distance of $\frac{1}{4}$ m. is the supposed site of the Roman station *Verlucio*. Camden fixes it at Westbury, and other antiquaries at Devizes and Warminster, but the majority are in favour of this spot. The *Julian Street* descended from the hills by the neighbouring village of *Hedington*, where many Roman remains have been found.

$1\frac{1}{4}$ To the rt. are the village and church of *Bromham* (p. 20), the latter a beautiful specimen of Dec. architecture. To the l. the heights of *Beacon Down*, *Oliver's Castle*, and

Roundway Hill, forming the escarpment of the Marlborough Downs. The church of *Devizes* may be observed below *Roundway*.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ l. *Rowdeford*, F. A. S. Locke, Esq.

$\frac{1}{2}$ *Rowde*.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ *Devizes* (*Inns* : Bear; Castle). This is a large town, situated on the Kennet and Avon canal, at the entrance of the Vale of Pewsey, which divides the thinly-populated districts of the Marlborough Downs and Salisbury Plain. Devizes has therefore little neighbourhood to depend upon. It is nevertheless the principal town of N. Wilts, and one of the most important corn-markets in the W. of England, and is now connected with the general system of the Great Western Railway by a branch of the Wilts, Somerset, and Weymouth line, completed in the summer of 1857. The main street is wide and airy, and the market-place spacious, and ornamented by a cross erected in 1814 by Lord Sidmouth, as a mark of esteem for a borough of which he had been for 30 years Recorder. But Leland's observation still holds good, "The beauty of the town of Vies is all in one strete."

Devizes is an ancient town, its origin so obscure as to have fairly mystified the brain of the learned Dr. Stukeley, who has absurdly imagined that in the vulgar name of "*The Vies*" may be traced the terminal syllables of the *Punctuobice* of *Ravennas*! It is commonly said to have been called Devizes because divided between the king and the bishop.

The *Market-cross*, designed by Benj. Wyatt, bears an inscription to record an awful event which occurred here in 1753. "A woman named Ruth Pierce, having, with 2 others, bought a sack of wheat, and each paid as was thought their part of the money; a deficiency was found, and Ruth was accused of not having paid. To this she replied, 'She wished she

might drop down dead if she had not.' She had scarcely spoken the words when she fell down and expired, having the money concealed in her hand."

The *Corn Exchange* was opened 1857, and the market, which for many generations has been held in the square, will in future be carried on within the walls of this building. It is an elegant and spacious edifice, designed by Hill, of Leeds. It is 142 ft. long, and affords standing room for nearly 3000 persons. The façade, 46 ft. in length, is ornamented with appropriate carving and a statue of Ceres.

The *Lent Assizes* for the county are in future to be held at this town instead of Salisbury, according to an Order in Council lately issued. Devizes is also the head-quarters of the Royal Wiltshire Militia, and stores have been recently erected here for the regiment, at a cost to the county of nearly 10,000*l.*

The *Castle* was built in the reign of Hen. I. by the warlike bishop Roger of Salisbury, who held it for Stephen against the Empress Matilda. It was dismantled as early as the time of Edw. III., but long subsequently, in the Great Rebellion, was capable of sustaining a siege by Cromwell. The site is behind the Bear hotel, where the ditch and lofty mound of the keep may still be seen. A path winds upward through the trees to a modern tower on the summit, by the side of which in a hollow are the walls of one of the dungeons. The position is strong, being bounded by a deep valley.

The *Ch. of St. John*, near the Castle, is one of the most interesting in the county. The massive old tower, the transept, and chancel display the Norman style; the tower resting on 2 semicircular and 2 pointed arches, evidently constructed at the same time, and probably by Bp. Roger (Hen. I.) In the N. wall of the chancel is an original semicircular window.

Observe in particular the tower, the N. end of the transept, the S.E. chapel of Dec. date (attributed to the Hungerford family), and the grand old tombs in the churchyard. In the interior of the building are several monuments to the Heathcotes and Suttons.

St. Mary's stands on the N.E. skirt of the town, commanding a view of Roundaway Hill. The Norman chancel is the oldest part of it; the S. porch a good specimen of the Early Eng. of the time of Hen. II. Observe in the churchyard an embossed tomb by the chancel wall.

In the *Savings Bank*, erected 1848, are deposited the museum and library of the *Wiltshire Archæol. and Nat. Hist. Soc.*, an institution founded 1853, under the patronage of the Marquis of Lansdowne. They include the collections of the antiquary John Britton, consisting of original drawings of Salisbury Cathedral and of other Wiltshire churches; illustrated copies of Mr. Britton's works relating to this county; and his unique Celtic cabinet, enclosing models of Stonehenge and Avebury. The town has also a remarkable *collection of fossils*, formed by Mr. William Cunnington, local secretary to this society, and grandson to the associate of Sir R. C. Hoare in his Wiltshire investigations.

The museum of a *Literary and Scientific Institution*, in St. John's-street (near the Bear), contains specimens of birds, minerals, and fossils.

The father of *Sir Thomas Lawrence* was landlord of the Bear, and here the youthful artist first learnt to draw likenesses, as well as to spout poetry for the entertainment of customers. His father would introduce him to his visitors with, "Gentlemen, here's my son; will you have him recite from the poets, or take your portraits?" Devizes was the birthplace of *Joseph Allein*, an eminent non-conformist minister, b. 1633. He was several times imprisoned for preaching, and

is best known by a work entitled 'The Alarm to the Unconverted.'

Roundaway Hill, which rises immediately from Devizes, was the scene of the defeat of Sir William Waller by Lord Wilmot, 1643. After the battle of Lansdown, the Royalists, under the Marquis of Hertford and Prince Maurice, retreated to Devizes, closely followed by Waller, who soon invested the town, and erected a battery against it. He, however, was repulsed in many desperate efforts to force an entrance, and the news soon arrived that Lord Wilmot was approaching with 1500 horse to the succour of the besieged. Waller drew off his men to oppose the coming foe, and took up a position on Roundaway Down; but when he had descried the advancing troop, and perceived the smallness of their number, he descended from the hill and charged with his cavalry, confident of success. He had, however, much miscalculated the strength of the Royalists, for after a severe struggle his troopers were overthrown, and his infantry, assailed on one side by Wilmot and on the other by the garrison of Devizes, were obliged to surrender. Waller himself put spurs to his horse and fled towards Bristol, leaving behind him his artillery, ammunition, and baggage, and 2000 men either killed or prisoners. The view from the brow of Roundaway, in the opinion of many, is the most interesting "sight" at Devizes. A path leads from the church of St. Mary to the *Quaker's Walk*, which, skirting the grounds of *New Park*, seat of the Colstons, runs direct for the foot of the hill, whence the ascent is steep to the top. In a westerly direction the prospect is almost boundless; to the S. it is limited by the chalk range of Salisbury Plain; E. it embraces the bold heights which abut upon Pewsey Vale; and N. it extends to the blue distance of N. Wilts and Gloucestershire. If inclined to extend his ramble, the traveller will find, a little

way to the N.W., the Roman camp of *Oliver's Castle*, marked by a straggling group of beech-trees; and N.E., at the distance of 2½ m., the astonishing *Wansdyke* (p. 31), perfect as on the day when it was first thrown up.

In the neighbourhood of Devizes are some points which deserve notice. E. lies the *Vale of Pewsey*, a strip of varied colour between the slopes of the chalk-hills, and well known to geologists for its abundant greensand fossils. On the N. side of this valley, about 6 m. distant, rises the bold hill of *St. Ann's*, lifting its head nearly 1000 ft. high. It forms the summit of the Marlborough Downs, and is known throughout the county as the site of *Tan Hill Fair* (p. 31), held annually on the 6th of Aug. The point which is most commanding is crowned by the entrenchment of *Rybury*. The village of *Marden*, on the opposite side of Pewsey Vale, is the supposed scene of the battle in which Ethelred was defeated and slain by the Danes. Two remarkable tumuli formerly occupied the spot, but whether they were sepulchral barrows or the earthwork of a Celtic temple is a question for the antiquary. E. of Devizes is *All Cannings*, with its manorhouse of the 14th cent. (now a farmhouse); N.E. *Bishop's Cannings* and its Early Eng. church; W., *Seend*, with its iron-works (p. 71) and manorhouse, and the beautiful church of *Bromham* (p. 20); S., *Pottern* manorhouse, seat of the Oliviers; *Eastwell*, of the Grubbes; *West Lavington*, of Lord Churchill; and *Market Lavington*, the birthplace of *Tanner* the antiquary (1674); and, 7 m. on the road to Westbury, *Erle Stoke Park*, the seat of S. Watson Taylor, Esq. Adjoining the town is *Southbroome House*, Parry Nisbet, Esq. *Sloperton Cottage*, between Bromham and the hamlet of Chitway, was for several years the residence of *Thomas Moore*, the poet, who died in it, 1852, and is buried in Bromham churchyard.

The old cottages in this neighbourhood, with their long roofs of thatch and frames of woodwork, are exceedingly picturesque.

Proceeding on our route—

5 The road ascends into *Salisbury Plain*, and enters a wild open country, appropriately called the *Black Heath*. *Broadbury Camp*, overhanging the Vale of Pewsey, is 2 m. E. of Redhorn turnpike, where a *British trackway* crosses the road. From Broadbury this trackway struck over the vale by Broad Street and Honey Street, and climbed the Marlborough Downs between Walker's Hill and Knap Hill.

3½ l. *Ell Barrow* (*Ell* means conspicuous). A large bank and ditch traverse the country to the E. of it. N.E. 1 m. is a small entrenchment called *Castle Ditches*; and 3 m. in a similar direction,

Casterley Camp, an area of 64 acres surrounded by a single vallum 28 ft. in height. It was probably a British town. "It will be found," says Sir R. C. Hoare, "to be one of the most original and unaltered works of the British era which our country can produce." In the centre is a sacred circle.

3½ The *Bustard Inn*, the half-way-house; and appropriate quarters, one might think, for a highwayman. According to the adage, "Salisbury Plain is seldom without a thief or twain." The great Bustard was formerly common on the Wiltshire hills, but is now rarely to be seen. In 1805 a bird of this kind attacked a horseman in the country near Heytesbury; and in January, 1856, a fine male specimen was captured near Hungerford. The Bustard is about 4 feet in length, and the largest of our land birds. It runs with great rapidity, and when young has been taken with greyhounds.

½ l. ancient earthworks; and, at a distance of 2 m., *Knighton Long Barrow*.

2 *Stonehenge* 1½ m. to the l. The view on all sides is wild and dreary:

"the spacious plain
Of Sarum, spread like Ocean's boundless
round,

Where solitary Stonehenge, grey with moss,
Ruin of ages, nods." *Dyer's Fleece.*

2½ The *Druid's Head*, a lonely inn; S.W. of it, on the slope of a hill, is a large ancient enclosure formed by a bank.

4½ rt. the *Field of the Tournament* (p. 52).

2 *Salisbury* (Rte. 5).

ROUTE 7.

HUNGERFORD TO SWINDON.

16 m.

Hungerford (*Inns*: Bell; Three Swans) (*Handbook for Berkshire*). An omnibus from the rail to Marlborough. Excursions to *Littlecot*, *Suvernake Forest*, and *Avebury* (Rte. 5). S. of Hungerford, at the junction of the 3 counties, rises the loftiest chalk point in England, *Inkpen Beacon*, 1011 ft. above the level of the sea (p. 34).

2½ rt. *Chilton House*, — Honeywood, Esq.

1 l. *Littlecot Park* (p. 34), E. W. L. Popham, Esq.

1 l. the town of *Ramsbury* (p. 35).

2½ *Aldbourn* (p. 35).

1 The road traverses *Aldbourn Chase*, a scene of the hunting exploits of King John.

3 *Wanborough Plain*. To the l. rises *Liddington* or *Badbury Castle*, according to Whitaker besieged by the Saxons, under Cerdic, when they first advanced into Wiltshire (p. 25). At

a distance in the same direction is the strong and perfect entrenchment of *Barbury*, where *Cynric*, the successor of *Cerdic*, completed the conquest of the county (p. 25). rt. *Charlbury Hill*. The road now descends from the downs, crossing the British track called the *Ridge Way*.

1 The village of *Liddington*.

1½ On a hill to the rt. the village and church of *Wanborough*, the latter remarkable for having both a spire and a tower (p. 25).

1 l. a large reservoir for the supply of the Wilts and Berks canal.

1½ *Swindon* (Rte. 1) (Inn: Goddard Arms).

ROUTE 8.

HUNGERFORD TO BATH, BY MARLBOROUGH, CALNE, AND CHIPPENHAM.

(The Great Bath Road from London).

Hungerford (HANDBOOK FOR BERKSHIRE).

4 The entrenchment of *Chisbury* (p. 34), 1 m. to the l. The lane leads direct to it.

3 The road enters *Savernake Forest* (p. 32), the princely domain of the Marquis of *Ailesbury*.

1½ l. the *avenue of beech* (p. 32) leading 3 m. to *Tottenham House*. The road leaves the forest and descends a steep hill into the valley of the *Kennet*. *Folly farm*, site of the Roman station *Cunetio*, on the l.

1½ *Marlborough* (Inns: *Ailesbury Arms*; *Castle and Ball*; *Angel*). (Rte. 5.)

2 rt. *Clatford Bottom*, containing

the cromlech called the *Devil's Den*, ½ m. from the road (p. 28).

¼ *Fyfield*.

2½ *Avebury* on the rt. (Rte. 5.)

1 The road passes close to the immense tumulus of *Silbury* (p. 30). The course of the *Wansdyke* (p. 31) may be traced on the bare hills to the l., the culminating ridge of the *Marlborough Downs*.

¼ *Beckhampton*. The road to *Devizes* branches off on the l. In a field rt. are two great stones which formed part of the *Druidic avenue* leading to *Avebury*. From *Beckhampton* our road ascends a lonely down, attaining its greatest elevation in 2 m. Several barrows will be observed in the valley to the l.

2 l. are the *Lansdowne Column*, the entrenchment of *Oldborough*, and the *Cherhill White Horse*, the last cut about 80 years ago on the chalky slope which here abuts upon the lower ground. The road rapidly descends to the village of

1 *Cherhill*. In the wood to the rt. is *Compton Basset House*, G. H. W. Heneage, Esq.

2 l. *Blackland House*, seat of the family of *Tanner*.

¼ *Calne* (Inns: *Lansdowne Arms*; *White Hart*; *Bear*). This is a strange old town of small houses built of stone, which are either much weather-stained or whitewashed. The shops are scarce and antiquated, the streets narrow, and the causeways paved with pebbles. *Calne* has the aspect of a place decidedly past its prime. It had once a busy manufacture of cloth, but this has left it for the northern counties, and its numerous factories are either closed or converted to other purposes.

Calne is a borough by prescription, and dates its origin from the time of the Saxons; but the only historic event at all connected with it is a synod held here by *St. Dunstan* in 977, to settle the question of the celibacy of the clergy. It was rendered memorable by the falling in of

the floor, when, with the exception of St. Dunstan, the whole party were precipitated, and more or less injured. The chief influence in the borough has long been exercised by the lord of the neighbouring Bowood.

Dr. Priestley, the chemist, resided at Calne between the years 1770-1780, nominally as librarian, but really as literary companion to the Earl of Shelburne.

The "sights" of Calne, "par excellence," are *Bowood* and the view from the *Lansdowne Column*. Other places, mentioned below, may be visited.

The church is old and handsome, the tower 93 ft. high, the roof finely carved. In the churchyard, to the l. of the S. door, is the tomb of *Investo Boswell*, commonly called the king of the gipsies; a rearing horse is represented at one end of it.

The *Lansdowne Column* crowns a lofty promontory of the chalk range, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. distant. It is erected within the area of *Oldborough Castle*, an entrenchment, to which, in the opinion of Milner, the Danes retired after their defeat by Alfred in the battlefield of Ethandune (p. 23), which this antiquary places at Heddington. On the adjoining slope is the *Cherhill White Horse*, cut on the chalky ground about the year 1780, by Dr. Alsop, a physician resident at Calne. It is in a spirited trotting attitude, and visible at a distance of 30 m. The *Wansdyke* will be observed on the downs to the S.

Bremhill, 2 m. N.W., was the living of the poet Bowles (d. 1850), whose residence has been thus described by Moore in his 'Diary':—"His parsonage-house at Bremhill is beautifully situated; but he has frittered away its beauty with grottoes, hermitages, and Shenstonian inscriptions: when company is coming he cries, 'Here, John, run with the crucifix and missal to the hermitage, and set the fountain going.' His sheep-bells are tuned in

thirds and fifths. But he is an excellent fellow, notwithstanding; and if the waters of his inspiration be not those of Helicon, they are at least very sweet waters, and to my taste pleasanter than some that are more strongly impregnated." The church is an ivy-covered edifice, with a beautifully carved rood-loft, and 2 ancient crosses in its immediate vicinity. Several epitaphs and inscriptions in the churchyard are by the pen of the poet.

Bowood, the seat of the Marquis of Lansdowne, is 2 m. from Calne, towards Chippenham. It is a mansion in the Italian style, combining splendour and taste with comfort, but of no very great extent, a villa rather than a chateau, and for this reason, unfortunately, its interior cannot be shown, except, perhaps, during the absence of the family. The gardens are, however, more accessible, and the park freely open. Bowood owes many of its most interesting associations, as well as much of its beauty, to the present Marquis, who has made it the resort of those distinguished in science, literature, and art. The principal entrance of the park is from Chippenham, by an arched gateway, flanked by a tower after a design by Barry, and ornamented on the inner wall by two reliefs by M. L. Watson. The drive to the house is nearly 2 m. through luxuriant woods, an occasional view being obtained of the *Lansdowne Column* and the white horse cut on the slope of the *Cherhill downs*. From Calne the park-road skirts the garden for the distance of a mile. Having arrived at the house, the visitor will observe how well it harmonizes with the surrounding scenery, with which, indeed, it is in a measure blended by the beautiful tints of the stone. The principal front, adorned by a Doric portico, faces the S., and attached to it is a long low wing, containing a conservatory opening on a succession of terraced gardens, and

built in imitation of a wing of Diocletian's palace at Spalatro. The view from this S. front is exceedingly beautiful; the lake winding from the woods, the ferry to the rustic cottage just peeping from the trees, the prospect over the forest upland to the purple hills of Roundaway and Beacon Down.

Among the various apartments are distributed the pictures, which include specimens "of the best masters of the Italian, Netherlandish, Spanish, French, and English schools. They are arranged upon walls of crimson silk, which have an excellent effect."—*Waagen*. Among them may be enumerated—

In the drawing-room: *Salvator Rosa*, portrait of himself; 2. portrait of the Marchese Ricciarelli. *Rembrandt*, his famous mill, viewed at sunset; the finest landscape Rembrandt ever painted; there is a dark solitary grandeur about it. *L. Carracci*, the Virgin and Child. *Domenichino*, a small landscape. *Watteau*, 2 pictures. *G. Bussano*, the Entombment. *Gainsborough*, cattle returning at sunset. *Sir Joshua Reynolds*, Dr. Johnson, when an infant; 2. the Strawberry Girl, "with all his glow of colour;" 3. Love nourished by Hope; 4. Mrs. Baldwin, in a Turkish dress, purchased at the sale of Sir Joshua's pictures by Phillips, R. A., as a study of colour; 5. Mrs. Sheridan (Miss Linley, the singer) as St. Cecilia. *J. Ruysdael*, a storm at sea, representing a vessel beating in to a harbour. "Among the few pictures of this class by Ruysdael, this, in point of grandeur of conception and astonishing truth, is one of the finest."—*Waagen*; 2. view of a town upon a stream, of charming light and shade. *P. Wouermans*, a landscape. *J. F. Navarete*, called *El Mudo*, head of Donna Maria de Padillas; a portrait of exquisite beauty. "This brings before us in a most lively way, and with a Rembrandt glow of colour, the genuine character of those Spa-

nish women whom Calderon loves to describe."—*Waagen*. *A. Cuypp*, 2 charming seapieces; 3. sunset view on the Maas, cost 125*l.* *Titian*, Virgin and Child, "painted in the clear golden tones of his earlier period." *Hobbema*, a landscape, most harmonious and beautiful; also 2 small landscapes. *E. Luini*, a Magdalen. *Hogarth*, portrait of Peg Woffington, the actress. *Murillo*, Portrait of an ecclesiastic; one of the finest pictures by the master. *Berghem*, a landscape. *A. Carracci*, landscape, "a grand composition of mountains, sea, and lofty trees." *Claude*, view of a seaport by the morning-light; a concentration of the painter's excellences. *Wilkie*, a Capuchin monk confessing.

In the library: *Raphael*, St. John the Baptist preaching in the wilderness; perhaps the most valuable picture in the collection. It is a specimen of Raphael's transition from his Perugian to his Florentine style, painted in 1505. "The youth in a green cap is evidently the portrait of Raphael himself."—*Waagen*. The figures are in the costume of the time. *S. del Piombo*, a monk with a skull. *Giorgione*, a shepherd, evidently a portrait of the master himself. *Domenichino*, a small landscape, with Abraham and Isaac going to Mount Moriah. "The poetic composition, fine transparent colour, and singularly careful execution render this a perfect jewel."—*Waagen*.

In the cabinet: *Wilkie*, the Jew's harp; 2. Grandmamma's lap. *L. Bachhuysen*, a seapiece. *Van der Heyden*, a Dutch town, remarkable for depth of colour; 2. A town gate, with figures, by A. Van de Velde. *P. Wouermans*, a silvery landscape, a perfect gem. *Teniers*, the Temptation of St. Anthony, and 3 other pictures. *A. Cuypp*, a landscape with cows; full of sunshine. *Greuze*, a girl watching a cat playing with a ball. *N. Maas*, a child in its cradle. *J. Steen*, the doctor and his patient.

Rembrandt, a landscape in rainy weather, "of astonishing truth of effect." *Velasquez*, two horsemen; 2. a lady seated, and other figures. *W. Van de Velde*, a calm sea. *J. Ruysdael*, a hilly landscape; "this picture shows the intensest feeling for nature."—*Waagen*.

In the breakfast-room: *E. Landseer*, the Deerstalker's return, a procession over a bridge. *Van de Capella*, a seapiece; "one of his best pictures."—*Waagen*. *Jan Both*, buildings, with figures. *Teniers*, a peasant woman approaching over a hill. *Rembrandt*, a landscape. *W. Van de Velde*, a calm sea, with shipping; "of singularly delicate aerial perspective." *A. Calcott*, the Thames, with shipping, one of his best works. *Goodall*, a sick room. *Cope*, going to church. *Hurlstone*, Cupid. *Etty*, the Prodigal Son. *Leslie*, Sir Roger de Coverley going to church. *S. Newton*, the Vicar of Wakefield receiving back his daughter Olivia; 2. *Captain Macheath*; "How happy could I be with either." *E. W. Cooke*, view of Mont St. Michel. *F. Albano*, St. John preaching in the wilderness.

In the dining-room: *Stanfield*, 6 landscapes, chiefly views of Venice and of the coast about Naples. *Eastlake*, pilgrims in sight of Rome.

Among the sculpture is *Westmacott's* celebrated Hagar in the Desert, with the dying Ishmael in her lap. The cabinets contain a collection of miscellaneous china.

The gardens are admirably kept, and abound with the noblest and choicest trees, such as the cedar of Lebanon, the oak, and the cork. The park derives beauty from the undulations of the ground, its boundary including as many as nine distinct valleys. Hill and dale are intersected in every direction by green roads. The lake is a pretty object, winding from the Great Wood. It terminates in a cascade, which, tumbling over mossy stones, very

fairly represents the variety, grace, and abandon of the natural object.

Bowood, in early times, formed part of the royal forest of *Pewisham*, which extended from Chippenham to Devizes. The estate was purchased by John Earl of Shelburne, father of the first Marquis.

Thomas Moore, the poet, passed his later years in this neighbourhood, at *Sloperton*, a cottage near Bromham, belonging to Lord Lansdowne. He was a frequent guest at Bowood. He died at Sloperton 1852, and is buried in Bromham churchyard.

Laycock Abbey (Rte. 1) is 6 m. from Calne, perhaps too far for an excursion. It is more easily visited from Chippenham. The road to it from this town runs between the parks of *Spy* and *Bowden* (Rte. 3), and commands a fine view to the W. The old gatehouse of *Spy* (p. 19) is an excellent subject for a sketch, and it is a pleasant walk to it through Bowood park and Great Wood, distance 5 m.

The country about Calne is pretty. Those who explore it will be charmed by the picturesque irregularity of the cottages, but may be inconvenienced by the *stiles* peculiar to this neighbourhood. They consist of two curving timbers, fixed a few inches apart, and for a well-developed leg afford a passage that is but barely sufficient.

Proceeding on our route:—

1½ A lane on the l. leads to the entrance of *Bowood*, which the road skirts for 2 m.

4 *Chippenham* (Rte. 1). On leaving this town *Ivy House*, Mrs. Humphries, is passed on the l. On the rt., beyond the railway, is *Hardenhuish* (pronounced *Harnish*) Park, the seat of E. L. Clutterbuck, Esq.

3½ l. *Corsham Court*, Lord Methuen (p. 14).

1 *Corsham* (Rte. 1). Between this place and Bath the road crosses *Box Hill*, now pierced by the well-known tunnel of the Great Western Railway. 9 *Bath* (Rte. 27).

ROUTE 9.

HUNGERFORD TO BATH, BY MARLBOROUGH, DEVIZES, AND MELKSHAM.

(A Branch of the Great Bath Road from London.)

Hungerford to Beckhampton, 16½ m., the same as Rte. 8.

1 Here the Roman *Julian-street*, from London to Bath, in its course to Heddington, crosses our road nearly at right angles.

1 The traveller will be impressed by the lonely character of the country. For 2 m. the road traverses a depression in the chalk range, and on all sides are groups of sepulchral tumuli scattered over the turf, and in front the *Wansdyke*, winding along the hills.

1½ *Shepherd's Shore*, a solitary house, formerly an inn, where the *Wansdyke* crosses the road. The *Lansdowne Column* is a conspicuous mark on Cherhill Down.

1 l. *Bishop's Cannings*, with an E. Eng. church, supposed to have been partly built about the same period as Salisbury cathedral. The interior shows an earlier style of architecture—the Anglo-Norman. It contains a curious painting of a hand outstretched, with inscriptions in abbreviated Latin on the fingers and thumb.

The manor gave name to the ancient Catholic family of *Canynge*, and was the seat of the senior line

until it terminated in coheireses, *temp.* Henry VII. A younger son, who had settled in Bristol as early as the reign of Edward II., was the first of that branch which became so opulent and influential as merchants, and of whom was Wm. Canynge, the so-called "pious founder of the church of St. Mary Redcliffe."

Beyond this village the road, passing the flank of *Roundaway Hill*, the scene of the defeat of Sir William Waller by Lord Wilmot (p. 65), descends into the Vale of Pewsey.

3 *Devizes* (Rte. 6).

1½ rt. the Kennet and Avon Canal, rapidly descending through a series of locks.

2 l. *Seend*. The manor-house belonged to the celebrated Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex, who fortified it. It is now a seat of the Awdrys.

In the vicinity of Seend the lower greensand formation contains a rich bed of *iron-stone*, which, although known and worked by the ancients, has been neglected in our times. A company is, however, now formed for mining it, several furnaces have been erected, and, as the ore contains a large percentage of iron of good quality, it is anticipated that the undertaking will be profitable to the promoters and beneficial to the neighbourhood.

3½ *Melksham* (Rte. 3). From this place the road threads the valley of the Avon; passing on rt. *Broughton Gifford*, residence of the family of Staples; *Great Chaldfield*, described in p. 19; and *Woolley House*, mansion of the Baskervilles.

5 *Bradford* (Rte. 3).

6 *Bath* (Rte. 27).

ROUTE 10.

ANDOVER TO DEVIZES, BY LUDGERSHALL.

Andover (HANDBOOK FOR HANTS). The road enters Hampshire $\frac{3}{4}$ m. from

7 *Ludgershall* (the inns are but village alehouses, Queen's Head and Crown). This was formerly a borough town, which returned 2 M.P.'s, but the Reform Bill very properly lopped off the privilege, for, although Ludgershall figures in large letters on the map, it is but a poor village of thatched cottages, built of red brick and flint. Tradition, however, has much to tell of its former state, of its size and importance in the Normange, when it possessed its baronial castle, the seat of noble families from the Conquest to the reign of Edward I. This castle is supposed to have been destroyed by Edward I. In the reign of Stephen it had afforded shelter to the Empress Maud in her flight from Winchester to Devizes, and in that of John it belonged to one of the most powerful nobles in the kingdom,—to Geoffrey Fitzpiers, Earl of Essex and Chief Justice of England, at whose death the monarch is reported to have exclaimed, "Now, indeed, I shall be king and lord of this realm!" The ruins of the castle are at the N. end of the village, but consist of little more than a fragment of the keep, now forming part of a farmyard wall; they are still encompassed by an earthen rampart and two deep ditches. Their Norman origin may be traced in the shape of the windows. A pleasant view is gained from the spot, the eye ranging in a northerly direction over *Collingbourn Wood*, 2 m. in extent.

On the roadside, by the Queen's

Head, is the foot of an ancient cross, rudely sculptured, and elevated on a pediment of brick.

The church is an old building, and contains the Jacobean tomb of Sir Richard Brydges, Knt., and of Jane his wife, whose effigies repose within an archway piercing the wall which divides the S. transept and nave.

Conholt Park, Lady Charles Wellesley; *Chute Lodge*, Rev. H. Fowle; *Collingbourn Lodge*, and *Biddesden House*, are seats in the neighbourhood.

Ludgershall is pleasantly situated. It stands on high ground, over which sweep invigorating breezes from Salisbury Plain. It is on one of the old roads from London to Bath, 3 m. from *Weyhill*. Should the traveller visit it about the beginning of October, he should be reminded that *Weyhill Fair*, one of the largest in England, commences on the 10th of that month, when, in the language of Carlyle, "assembling from all the four winds come the elements of an unspeakable hurlyburly." 140,000 sheep have changed hands on the first day. The staple commodities of the fair are Dorsetshire sheep, Farnham hops, and the cheeses of the neighbouring counties. In 1784 this great fair was nearly destroyed by fire.

After leaving Ludgershall the road enters *Salisbury Plain*.

2 A road on the rt. descends to *Collingbourn Ducis* (Rte. 5); l. is the bold hill and entrenchment of *Sidbury* (p. 36). The eye ranges freely over the naked country.

2 *East Everley* (*Inn*: George), traditionally the residence of the West Saxon king Ina, whose palace is supposed to have stood near the encampment of Sidbury. A pool of water by the village is still called the *King's Pond*. Everley was a market-town in comparatively modern times. It stands on the old road from Marlborough to Salisbury, which ran most of the way over the turf. The lordship belonged to the Plantagenets,

and was granted by Elizabeth to the royal falconer, Sir Ralph Sadleir, a worthy knight, appointed to guard the unfortunate Queen of Scots at Tilbury, but so fond of hawking that he could not refrain from it, or from allowing his prisoner to participate in the amusement, for which he was severely reprimanded. His portrait still hangs on the walls of

Everley House, a mansion probably built by him, and now the seat of Sir Francis Dugdale Astley, Bart. Another painting in this house represents two duels fought on horseback by Sir John de Astley in the reign of Hen. VI.: one with a Frenchman in the street of St. Antoine in Paris; the other with a knight of Arragon in Smithfield. There is also a curious portrait of Sir Walter Hungerford, of Farleigh Castle, inscribed to the effect that Sir Walter had challenged all England to produce a better horse, hound, or hawk, than those which he possessed.

On the surrounding hills are many remains of British villages, barrows, and camps. Sir R. C. Hoare states, in his 'Ancient Wiltshire,' that he knows of no tract of country more abundant in British tumuli than that leading from Everley to Amesbury. Many of these ancient sepulchres he opened, and in one near this village he found some interesting remains. "The first object," he says, "that attracted our attention was the skeleton of a small dog, deposited in the soil 3 ft. below the surface; and at a depth of 8 ft. 10 in. we came to the bottom of the barrow, and discovered the following very perfect interment deposited on a level floor. The body of the deceased Briton had been burned, and the bones and ashes collected in a small heap, which was surrounded by a circular wreath of horns of the red deer, within which, and amidst the ashes, were 5 beautiful arrow-heads, cut out of flint, and a small red pebble. Thus we evidently see the profession of the Briton

[*W. D. & S.*]

here interred. In the flint arrow-heads we recognise his fatal instruments of destruction; in the stags' horns we see the victims of his skill as a hunter; and in the bones of the dog deposited in the same grave, and above those of his master, his faithful attendant in the chase, and perhaps his unfortunate victim in death. Can the language either of history or poetry speak more forcibly to our feelings than these mute and inanimate memorials of the British hunter?"

On *Milton Hill*, to the N. of Everley, are a group of 8 barrows, arranged in 2 parallel lines, and of which 1 is remarkable for a form more pointed than any other in the county; to the S. 2 m. the bold entrenchment of *Sidbury* (p. 36); S.W. 2 m., the *Twin Barrows*, enclosed by a ditch; and W. *Lidbury* and *Chisenbury*, mentioned below.

In the neighbourhood are traces of no less than 9 British villages: 1. on Easton Hill, N.; 2. on Milton Hill, N.; 3. on Pewsey Heath, N.W.; 4. at Lidbury, W.; 5. on Comb Hill, S.W.; 6. in a vale adjoining Bulford Field, S.W.; 7. on Haxton Down, W. of Sidbury; 8. between Everley and Sidbury; 9. on Westdown Hill, S. of Sidbury.

To proceed on our route:

2½ l. 1 m. distant, the small camp of *Lidbury*, girt by a rampart 40 ft. high. A bank and ditch lead from it to the site of a British village in the valley. The *Twin Barrows* are 1 m to the S.

1 l. ½ m., *Chisenbury* or *Trendle*, a circular work, formed by a bank 16 ft. high. Some antiquaries think it was a British *round* or amphitheatre, of which there remains an undoubted specimen at Perranzabuloe in Cornwall. The word *Trendle* is Saxon, and signifies a circle.

1 Descending into the valley of the Avon our route joins the new road from Amesbury to Pewsey. On the opposite hill is the earthwork

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called *Casterley Camp*, evidently the entrenched site of a large British village (p. 66); and 1 m. down the river, *Chisenbury Priory*, seat of *Chafyn Grove, Esq.*

$\frac{1}{2}$ *Upavon*. *Pewsey* is about 4 m. from this place, and near it, on the road to Marlborough, the park of *Wilcot House*.

1 rt. *Rushall Park*, property of the Earl of Normanton.

2 l. *Broadbury Camp*.

2 $\frac{1}{2}$ Our route joins the Salisbury road.

4 *Devizes* (Rte. 6).

ROUTE 11.

ANDOVER TO SHAFTESBURY, BY SALISBURY.

(*S. Western Rly., Branch from Basingstoke. Exeter Extension Rly.*)

(*The Great West Road from London to the Land's End*).

Andover (HANDBOOK FOR HANTS), a sta. on the branch railway from Basingstoke to Salisbury. This line pursues a course to the N. of the coach-road, by *Porton* and *Grateley*, and on the completion of the Exeter Extension will form part of a direct route from London to the West.

10 The old road enters Wilts at *Lobcombe Corner*, on Salisbury Plain.

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ The *Pheasant Inn* or *Winterslow Hat*. Numerous banks and ditches and barrows to the rt., including 2 of the largest in the county. 1. *Winterslow*, of which the manor was held in early times by the service of provid-

ing the King with claret at his palace of *Clarendon*. *Winterslow House*, formerly a residence of the family of Fox, was burnt to the ground in 1774, on which occasion the future Lord Holland had a narrow escape of his life, being borne through the fire in the arms of his mother.

In Oct. 1816, on a dark still night, *Winterslow Hut* was the scene of a curious incident. The Exeter mail, on its road to London, was in the act of pulling up, when the leading horse was seized by a lioness. Great was the uproar which immediately sounded over the solitary Plain. It re-echoed with the cries of the affrighted passengers, 2 of whom impetuously rushed into the inn, and locked themselves into an upper chamber. In the mean time a large mastiff had bounded to the rescue, but it soon paid the penalty of its temerity. The lioness left the horse, which still fought with spirit, pursued its assailant and struck it to the ground. The keeper of the animal had, however, now arrived, and, with considerable risk to himself, contrived to drive it into an outhouse, and there escape it. It had escaped from a caravan on its way to Salisbury fair.

2 $\frac{1}{2}$ rt. *Chlorus's Camp* (p. 44); 1. the Roman road from Old Sarum to Winchester.

4 *Salisbury* (Rte. 5). From this town the Exeter Extension Railway, of 92 m., will prolong the iron path from London through Andover, and restore to Salisbury its ancient importance as a station on the direct West Road. It was opened to public traffic between Salisbury and Gillingham, 20 m., in the spring of 1859. The stations are at *Wilton*, *Dinton*, *Tisbury*, *Semley* for Shaftesbury, and *Gillingham*. On our route there are 2 carriage roads as far as Shaftesbury—the new road by the valley, the old road by the hills. The former pursues the following course:—

3 *Wilton* (Rte. 5).

$2\frac{1}{2}$ *Barford St. Martin*, where we turn l. leaving the Hindon road.

1 rt. *Hurcot House*, residence of the Powells.

1 rt. *Compton Chamberlayne House* (Charles Penruddock, Esq.), at the time of the Rebellion the seat of the gallant Colonel Penruddock, who lost his life in an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow Cromwell. In the early morning of the 11th of March, 1655, Penruddock, in company with Sir Joseph Wagstaff and other adherents of the King, to the number of 200 horsemen, rode into Salisbury, and, seizing in their beds the High Sheriff and the judges, who were then holding the assizes, proclaimed Chas.

II. But the boldness of this measure failed to produce the desired effect. The citizens remained passive, and, after waiting some hours in the expectation of their rising, the discomfited royalists were fain to beat a retreat. The country had, however, been alarmed, and a troop of horse, galloping from Andover in pursuit, captured Penruddock near South Molton in Devonshire. He was tried with his companions at Exeter, and condemned to be beheaded, a sentence which was soon carried into execution. On ascending the scaffold he exclaimed, "This, I hope, will prove like Jacob's ladder; though the feet of it rest upon the earth, yet I doubt not but the top of it reacheth to heaven." Compton House contains the portrait of the unfortunate colonel, together with those of many members of his family, some by *Lely* and *Vandyck*. They are in frames carved by Grinling Gibbons, and fill the panels of an old oaken chamber. Among them is a picture which has excited much interest, as it represents an unknown person handsomely dressed in the style of Elizabeth's reign, but whose rt. hand is withered. In the upper part of the painting is the single word "*utinam*" (oh that!).

The adjoining church contains an obituary of the Penruddocks: and,

on the floor of the chancel, a large brass, on which is figured a robed priest with his arms crossed.

1 On the hills to the l. *Chiselbury*, an old encampment described in p. 76.

1 *Pembroke Arms Inn*. rt. *Fovant*, of which the church contains a brass to one of the Rede family, 1495.

2 *Bell Inn*. l. *Burbury*. rt. *Castle Ditches*, a very interesting camp and fine point of view, commanding the valley of the Nadder and the woods of Wardour Castle. It is an earthwork of great strength, formed by 3 concentric ditches and ramparts 40 ft. in height. The area is as much as 23 acres.

2 The road skirts the park of *Wardour Castle*, seat of Lord Arundell of Wardour (p. 88).

1 l. *Fern House*, seat of T. Grove, Esq., a mansion rebuilt in 1811. The estate has belonged to this family since 1563.

1 rt. the villages of *Donhead St. Andrew* and *Donhead St. Mary*, straggling over the inequalities of a picturesque descent to Wardour Castle. A striking feature of the scene is *Tittlepath Hill*, an eminence of greensand, cut into a singular shape by the ditch and lofty rampart which girdle it. The area thus enclosed is $15\frac{1}{2}$ acres, and known by the name of *Castle Rings*. *Tittlepath* would seem to be related to *Sticklepath* on Dartmoor, both deriving their names from the Saxon word *sticcle*, steep. Below the hill to the S.W., in *Wincombe Park*, seat of Charles Gordon, Esq., rises the river *Nadder*, forming at its source a small lake, from which in the olden time the nuns of Shaftesbury were supplied with fish.

Donhead is a corruption of *Dunheved*, the *Swelling Hill*. The church of St. Andrew contains an old Anglo-Norman font, and a curiously sculptured capital of a column. It represents a shield bearing the emblems of the Crucifixion and supported by

angels. This rests on a head of the Savour which terminates the shaft.

Donhead Hall, adjoining these villages, was once the property of a grandson of Sir Godfrey Kneller, to whom it came by marriage with the heiress of the Weekes's. It is now the seat of John Du Boulay, Esq., who purchased it of Mr. Wyndham.

3½ *Shaftesbury* (Rte. 20).

The old road from Salisbury to Shaftesbury, which was originally a British trackway, passes the following points in its course along the high land.

1 *Harnham Hill*, commanding the finest view of Salisbury and its cathedral.

2 rt. the *Racecourse on Combe Down*.

1. in the *Vale of Chalk*, a most sequestered district, the village of *Bishopstone*, worthy of notice for its church, which affords examples of the decoration peculiar to many different periods. The greater part of the building is, however, of the date of Hen. VI., including the finely sculptured chancel-porch. The church of *Broad Chalk*, higher up the vale, is mentioned by Hoare as "a pure specimen of the time of Hen. VIII., with a Norman doorway on the W." This village was for some years the residence of *John Aubrey*, the antiquary, born at Easton Percy (p. 10), near Chippenham.

West Knighton, E. of Broad Chalk, was the rectory of *Bp. Latimer*. "In the walke at the parsonage-house," says Aubrey, "is yet the oake, a little scrubbed oake, and hollow, where he did use to sitt, called 'Latimer's Oake.'"

4 rt. in the valley the wooded park of *Compton House*, seat of the Penruddocks.

1½ rt. *Chiselbury Camp*, an entrenchment of 10½ acres, encompassed by a single fosse and vallum 27 ft. high. Sir R. C. Hoare considers it a Roman work.

2½ rt. *Buzbury*, a promontory projecting from the downs. On the opposite side of the valley rises the height of *Castle Ditches* (p. 75).

1 l. in the Vale of Chalk, the ruins of *Norrington*, mansion once of the Gawens, a family traced by Aubrey to so high and noble a source as King Arthur. *Norrington* was their seat from 1377 to 1658, when it passed to the Wyndhams. Its ancient grandeur is attested by the remains of the formal terraces and gardens, and the wreck of the old hall, which appears to have been built about the time of Rich. II.

1½ The road traverses the ridge of *White Sheet Hill*, with extensive views on either side. Below to the l. lies the village of *Berwick St. John*, under *Winkelbury*, or *Vespasian's Camp*, an entrenchment of 12½ acres, girt by a single ditch and rampart 39 ft. high. Beyond are the far-extending forest heights of *Cranborne Chase* (p. 130). In the church of *Berwick* may be seen 2 old monuments of Crusaders, with effigies in chain armour. They are supposed to be those of Sir Robert Lucy and John de Hussey, Knights Templars in the reign of Edw. I.

To the rt. the eye ranges from the park of *Wardour Castle* to the woods of *Fonthill*. Shaftesbury and the far country to the W. are well displayed on the descent from this high tract of land. At the foot of the hill we join the new road from Salisbury.

5½ *Shaftesbury* (Rte. 20).

ROUTE 12.

SALISBURY TO WESTBURY, BY HEYTESBURY AND WARMINSTER — LONGLEAT.

(Wiltts, Somerset, and Weymouth Railway: Salisbury Branch).

This branch, opened 1856 to the Great Western at Chippenham, and 1857 to Bath by Bradford, now forms almost a direct line on the broad gauge between Salisbury and Bristol.

Salisbury (Rte. 5).

2½ Wilton Stat. (p. 52).

2½ Wishford Stat. To the l. rises the hill of

Grovely Wood, formerly one of the largest woods in the county, and a forest as late as the reign of Elizabeth. It is remarkable for a number of ancient earthworks. Opposite Wishford are *Grovely Works*, the remains of a *British town*, extending a mile in length and occupying 60 acres; further to the E., to the S. of Little Langford, *Grovely Castle*, encircled by a single ditch and rampart, but, in the opinion of Sir R. C. Hoare, of no very high antiquity; *East Castle*, to the S. of Steeple Langford, a work remarkable for its small size (¾ acre), and for containing a central mound; *Hanging Langford*, evidently a *British camp*; and *Belbury Ring*, fortified by double and triple ramparts, and enclosing a still older work in its area of 17 acres. To the S., on Barford Down, is another entrenched village, called *Hamshill Ditches*, and through the heart of the wood runs the Roman road from Old Sarum to Uphill on the Bristol Channel. Grovely is the property of the Earl of Pembroke. "The circuit of this wood," says Sir R. C. Hoare, "is an *iter* rich in food for the antiquary, and interesting to every eye that is not totally indifferent to the many varied and beautiful views which it continually affords."

The church contains several monuments worth notice, particularly those of Sir Richard Grobham and

his lady, 1629, and of one Bonham, a former lord of this manor, whose effigy is represented in the habit of a pilgrim. According to the local legend he was the father of 7 children, who were all born at one birth, after his return from a 7 years' pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and were brought together to the christening prettily grouped in a sieve.

Stapleford, on a tributary to the Wily called the *Winterbourn*, that is, winter stream (see p. 118), is 1½ m. distant. The antiquity of this place is shown by the name of the *Old Castle Ground*, a moated site adjoining a meadow called the *Park*. The church has a fine Norman porch and stone pulpit. Those of *Berwick St. James* and *Winterbourn Stoke*, villages higher up the stream, are also known for their Norman doorways.

The church of *Steeple Langford*, 2 m., contains a rich altar-tomb to one of the family of Mompesson; but it has long lost the steeple which formerly distinguished it. The Norman porch of *Little Langford*, with its rude bas-relief, is an object of curiosity.

2½ *Wiley Stat.* On the coach-road is the *Deptford Inn*, the halfway house between Salisbury and Warminster. In the hollow lies *Bedhampton*, the seat of H. N. Jarrett, Esq., and on the rt. a bold and lofty down rises abruptly from the road. The garden of the inn commands a pretty view. 2 m. N.E., on the highway to Stonehenge and Amesbury, is

Yarnbury Camp, a very perfect and interesting work of the ancient Britons, placed on the summit of a solitary eminence of the great Plain, whose hills, dressed in their old coats of turf, are seen from it in a panoramic view. It is circular, and of great size, the entrenchments being two banks and ditches, the inner about 50 ft. deep. The principal entrance faces the E., and is defended by a complicated outwork. Another

entrance on the S. should be noticed for its complete preservation. On the 4th of Oct. Yarnbury is the scene of an annual fair for the sale of sheep and colts. The road from Salisbury to Bath formerly skirted the camp on the E., and its course is still marked by many of the milestones. West is *Oldbury*, or *Codford Circle*, marking the summit of a hill by its earthen bank. The eye ranges over a wide uncultivated country.

Below the inn is the village of *Wily*, deserving mention for a picturesque view from its little bridge. A statue of the river-god rises from the weeds in mid-stream, and the wooded hill of *Bedhampton* forms the background. A mile S. of *Wily* is *Belbury Ring*; $\frac{1}{2}$ m. farther the camp of *Hanging Langford* and the *Dinton Beeches*; and, about 2 m. towards *Hindon*, *Stockton Works*, the site of a British town, afterwards occupied by the Romans as a station on their road from *Old Sarum*. *Fonthill* is 10 m. distant.

Fisherton de la Mere, $\frac{1}{2}$ m. W., is so named after its ancient lords, the *De la Meres* of *Nunney Castle*, Somerset. According to a tradition, *Fisherton House*, seat of *J. Davis, Esq.*, occupies the site of their mansion, and this is not improbable, as the remains of terraces are to be traced in the garden.

Stockton House (*H. Biggs, Esq.*) lies about 2 m. W. of *Wiley*, embosomed in woods. It is a Jacobean mansion, and contains one very beautiful room, of which an engraving is given in *Hoare's 'Modern Wiltshire.'* Formerly it was the possession of the *Topps*. In the church is a handsome tomb, with recumbent effigies, to *John Topp* and his wife *Mary*, 1635.

$3\frac{1}{2}$ *Codford St.* About 1 m. to the rt. is a curious earthwork, called *Oldbury*, or *Codford Circle*, which was evidently not designed for the purposes of defence. It occupies the summit of a hill commanding a most interesting view.

Codford St. Mary, a straggling vil-

lage, is connected with the more compact one of *Codford St. Peter*. The church of the latter is a handsome building, with pointed windows and embattled tower, ornamented in the Gothic taste with frightful faces, which leer upon you from their airy height. S., on the rt. bank of the *Wily*, lies the village of

Sherrington, remarkable for a moated mound, on which stood of old the castle of the wealthy and powerful *Giffards*, whose property in *Plantagenet* times extended over many parishes in this county. The small church has early Decorated windows of exquisite tracery. Beyond *Codford St. Peter* the valley expands considerably.

Boyton House (*Rev. Arthur Fane*) will be observed on the l. This in the days of *Hen. II.*, and for many subsequent years, was the seat of the *Giffards*, whose grand old tombs are an ornament to the neighbouring church, particularly those of *Sir Alexander Giffard*, the companion of *William Longspee*, the crusader, and one of his knights in the fatal conflict of *Mansoura*, from which he escaped to fulfil the dying wishes of his friend; and of *Margaret* (*Edw. III.*), the last of this family who dwelt here. In our times *Boyton* has belonged to a distinguished botanist, *Mr. Bourke Lambert*, who discovered on this estate 2 plants previously unknown to the British flora—*onicus tuberosus* and *centaurea nigrescens*—and here collected from all parts of the world a most valuable *Hortus Siccus*, which consisted of more than 30,000 species. The mansion was built by *Thomas Lambert*, in 1618. In the vicinity of the grounds the country people point out a pit called *Chapel* or *Chettle Hole*, as the spot where a church was once mysteriously engulfed. A little spring bubbles up from it.

Upton Lovel, 2 m. from *Codford*, bears the name of its ancient lords, the *Lovels* of *Castle Cary*, Somerset.

The church contains the effigy of one of this family stretched at length on an old tomb in his armour; and also a brass, the demi-figure of a priest, c. 1430. The Wily is here spanned by an ingeniously constructed bridge, by J. Chapman of Frome, who sent a model of it to the Great Exhibition. Each parapet is formed by trussing a beam of red pine.

2½ *Heytesbury Stat.* The town (*Inns*: Angel; Red Lion), commonly called *Hatchbury*, was in the reign of Stephen the residence of the Empress Maud, and subsequently of a branch of the great family of Hungerford. It is now an inconsiderable place, with a small manufacture of broadcloths and kerseymeres. Between the years 1830 and 1841 its population diminished from 1350 to 1311, and in 1832 the borough was disfranchised. Its claims upon the interest of the traveller arise from the accident of its forming the central point of a district peculiarly rich in earthworks of the olden time. The Anglo-Saxons called it *Heytredesbirryg*, a somewhat formidable name, afterwards softened to *Hascherie*.

The church is collegiate, and supposed to date from the 13th century, at which time its massive tower was probably erected. It was partly rebuilt in 1404 by the Hungerfords, whose favourite badge, the sickle, appears on a chantry chapel, now the burial-place of the A'Courts. In the S. transept is a tablet to the memory of *Mr. Cunningham*, whose antiquarian researches formed the groundwork of Sir R. C. Hoare's 'Ancient Wiltshire.' He resided for many years at Heytesbury, where he died in 1810.

On the N. side of the town is *Heytesbury Park*, the seat of Lord Heytesbury. Its woods clothe the base of Cotley Hill, and sweep in dark plantations of fir to the neighbouring heights. The mansion is comparatively modern, but it contains some fine pictures of the Italian,

Spanish, French, and Netherlandish schools, particularly of the Spanish. In the drawing-room—*Teniers*: several.—*Paul Veronese*: the Baptism, elevated in sentiment, and powerful in colour.—*Luca Giordano*: Philip II. examining the plan of the Escorial, a sketch for the picture in the Escorial.—*Valasquez*: the sketch for "los Barrachos" in the gallery at Madrid; full of spirit and expression.—*J. Juannes*: copy of the Ecce Homo by Rogier Van de Weyden the younger; 2. the Virgin Mary (companion picture).—*B. Luini*: the Baptism; "among the few pictures on a small scale by the master, this is the most beautiful I know:" *Waagen*.—*B. Schidone*: Virgin and Child, with St. John and Joseph.—*Murillo*: St. John and the Lamb; 2. "las Gallegas" (Gallician girls), a well-known picture, "of animated conception and admirable drawing:" *Waagen*.—*Zurbaran*: 2 masterly pictures of saints, life-size.—*Guercino*: the Magdalen.—*Jan Van Eyck*: St. Francis receiving the Stigmata, "a finely preserved little gem:" *Waagen*. In the Ante-room—*G. Poussin*: a grand mountainous Landscape.—*Zurbaran*: St. Francis; 2. a Saut. In the Dining-room—*A. Cano*: the Magdalen.—*G. Romano*: Marriage of St. Catherine.—*Murillo*: Virgin and Child, with SS. Joseph and John.—*N. Poussin*: View of Ponte Molle; 2. Herminia seeking refuge with the Shepherds.—*Claude*: 2 small Landscapes of his best time.—*S. Rosa*: portrait of a man.—*Zurbaran*: the Infant Christ on an ass, with Joseph and St. John.—*C. Cignani*: Charity.—*Domenichino*: a Landscape, with St. John preaching.

Adjoining Heytesbury Park is the residence of Joseph Everett, Esq., who has also some excellent pictures. By *Paul Potter*: a Landscape with cattle and sheep, of great power both in execution and colour.—*J. Van Ostade*: a village scene, with travellers; "a rich composition, in a deep

glowing tone, and of solid impasto:" *Wuagen*. — *Jan Steen*: a domestic after-dinner scene in a garden bower, the dessert on the table, one of the best pictures of the master. — *B. Denner*: portrait of an old woman, of which there are several repetitions. — *Teniers*: a Dispute at Cards. — *Van der Helst*: portrait of a young girl. — *Uochterfeldt*: 2 girls at the piano, "a charming picture by this second-rate master." *Waajen*.

Cotley Hill rises immediately above *Heytesbury*, and commands one of the finest panoramic views in the county. It is remarkable for a tumulus crowning the very summit, and formerly encircled by a low bank and ditch, which in part remain to the present day. This mound was opened by Mr. Cunnington, who found in it the bones of animals and fragments of pottery, but no trace of any human interment. The bank is on the outer side of the ditch, and for this reason it is concluded that the work was of a religious character. To the N.N.W. is the striking camp of *Scratchbury*, and beyond it, and concealed by it, the yet finer entrenchment of *Battlesbury*. The visitor will be well repaid by a walk to these camps from the summit of *Cotley Hill*.

Knook Castle is another ancient work, about 2 m. N.E. of the town. It is a single-ditched entrenchment, supposed to have been originally a British village, afterwards occupied by the Romans as a summer camp, their coins having been found in it. To the N. of it are remains of another British settlement, and the *Old Ditch*, which runs for 11 m. across *Salisbury Plain* in the direction of *Great Durnford* on the *Avon*. The site of these villages, says Sir R. C. Hoare, "is decidedly marked by great cavities and a black soil; and the attentive eye may easily trace out the lines of houses, and the streets, or rather the hollow ways conducting to them." Long barrows are very numerous on these hills.

In the parsonage of *Little Sutton*, S. of *Heytesbury*, may be recognised the remains of a manor-house, in the Gothic windows of the old hall and buttery-hatch.

At *Heytesbury* the valley has expanded to a considerable width, the downs sweep to it with their grassy sides in bold slopes, and the singular eminence of *Cley Hill* rises midway where it opens on the plain at *Warminster*.

Proceeding on our route:—

rt., *Scratchbury*, a magnificent and well-preserved specimen of a British camp, supposed to derive its name from the Celtic word *Crech* or *Crechen*, a hill. The area it occupies is 40 acres. It is of a circular form, encompassed by a ditch and rampart in places 66 ft. in height. The entrances are three, the principal one, opening to the S.E., being fortified with outworks. Within the area is an inner camp and several tumuli. The railroad runs at the foot of the hill. Separated from this work by a deep valley is the camp of

Battlesbury, another entrenchment attributed to the Britons. You ascend to it by a giants' stairway, the slope of the intervening valley being formed in a series of those terraces, called "linchets." On the S. and S.E. the height and abruptness of the hill render this camp almost inaccessible; on the N. it is more easily approached, and there the defences are double. The area encircled is more than 23 acres, and the rise of the ramparts 60 ft. In the view, which is most extensive, the pretty knoll of *Cophead*, the singular outlying eminence of *Cley Hill*, the town of *Warminster*, and woods of *Longleaf*, are interesting features. "In comparing the entrenchments of Britons and Romans," says a writer in 'Notes and Queries,' "the palm of science must be assigned to the Britons, and so said Sir Christopher Wren. And it must be remembered that we see them now,

not in the pride of their first estate—with fosses, portals, chariot-ways, ramparts, and towers—but as ruins, the relics of nigh 2000 years of the ravages of time.”

Near the hamlet of *Boreham* remains of an earthwork called the *Berries* mark the site of a Roman station on the road from Old Sarum to Bath. Pottery and numerous coins have been found on the spot, and at *Pitmead*, lower down the river, the tessellated pavements of 2 villas. The road is supposed to have proceeded down the valley as far as Stapleford, and thence across the downs to Old Sarum.

In the same neighbourhood is the *King-Barrow*, so called as one of the largest in Wiltshire. It is 206 ft. in length, 56 in width, and 15 in height. It was opened in 1800, when two human skeletons and the bones of a horse, together with the horns of a stag, the tusks of a boar, and fragments of pottery, were found in it.

4 Warminster Stat.

Warminster (*Inns* : Bath Arms ; Lamb), the seat of Quarter Sessions, Visitations, &c., with a Saturday market, to which the ready-money dealing in corn, and a considerable malting business, give importance. It is a place of great antiquity, disputing with Heddington the honour of the Roman *Verlucio*, and deriving its present name from a nunnery which stood on the banks of the *Were*. Tradition still points to the site, as well as to the *Nuns Path*, a track ascending the neighbouring hill. At the period of the Conquest, Warminster, being situated within the bounds of the forest of Selwood, belonged to the Crown, and its lord held the manor by the service of providing the King and his suite with 1 night's lodging when they visited the neighbourhood. This right was claimed in later times by Charles II., and in our own days by George III., who with the Queen and Princesses

was entertained at Longleat. Warminster is a clean, airy town, in a beautiful country, situated at the entrance of a valley under the escarpment of the downs, which here expose their flanks in long perspective, or rise from the plain in isolated knolls.

The chief buildings are—the parish church, dating from the reign of Hen. III.; the *Chapel of St. Lawrence*, founded Edw. I., formerly the chapel of the lord of the manor, sold at the Reformation, and now completely restored and thrown open to the street; the *Market-house*, built by the Marquis of Bath; and several other edifices of public utility, as *Savings Bank*, *National Schools*, &c.

The chief point of interest is *Longleat*, the seat of the Marquis of Bath, $4\frac{1}{2}$ m. distant. It is shown to the public every Wednesday and Friday, between the hours of 11 and 4. (A carriage from the Bath Arms will take you there and bring you back for 7s. 6d.)

Other places to be visited are *Cley Hill* and the camps of *Scratchbury* and *Battlesbury*; and, by the angler, *Shirewater*, rt. of the road to Longbridge Deverill, where there is excellent fishing. It is a pretty little lake of 45 acres deeply embosomed in wood, and belongs to the Marquis of Bath, by whose orders permission is readily given.

The antiquary may be attracted by the barrow so conspicuous on the wooded knoll of *Cophead*. It was opened by Sir R. C. Hoare, who found in it a skeleton with beads and flints, and the horns of the deer. He should also know that in Southley Wood, S. of Warminster, there is a small square earthwork, called *Robin Hood's Bower*.

At *Corsley*, W. of Warminster, a farmhouse near the church, and formerly an inn, is said to have been visited by Sir Walter Raleigh at some period of his disgrace. A story is also told of his indulging on the occasion in the luxury of a pipe, to the no little astonishment and dismay of

his host, who, upon observing smoke rolling from his mouth, refused to take his money, imagining that it was the Evil One himself, who had come to tempt him. The church of *Upton Scudmore*, 2 m. N., possesses a font and porch of the Norman period, both set in the toothed ornaments peculiar to that time.

Cley Hill may be ascended on the way to Longleat. 1½ m. of level road and another ¼ m. of field-path will bring you to the foot of it. It is an isolated outlying member of the chalk range, 900 ft. high, and so singularly shaped that it resembles a huge mound, raised, one might suppose, as a pedestal for the beacon which formerly crowned it. A bank and a ditch, of great antiquity, encircle it midway, and 3 barrows mark the top, which commands a view as extensive as it is beautiful. On the S. the eye ranges over the woods of Longleat; on the E. along the boundary of Salisbury Plain; and on the W. over a cultivated country to the distant heights about Bath and the indented line of the Mendips. Cley Hill is said to have been the spot where King Alfred rested on his way to Elington. Its name has been explained as the Celtic word *cleis*, or *chalk*, of which material the hill is formed. There was anciently a custom for the boys and girls of the neighbourhood to slide down this hill on Palm Sunday, and Sir R. C. Hoare informs us that the skulls of horses were kept by the boys as convenient sledges for the purpose. A hill of the same name is a well-known height in Shropshire. The entrance of the park of

Longleat is 2 m. from Warminster, and 2½ from the house. The road ascends 1 m. between wooded and ferny slopes to the boundary of the home park, enthusiastically designated as *Hoven's Gate*, where the traveller beholds spread out below him a forest region. It then descends rapidly between the trunks of the beech, soon opening to view a pile

of architecture worthy of the locality. The house rises from a vale in all the beauty of that mixed Italian and English style which prevailed at the end of the 16th century, its venerable fronts of lichen stone pierced by windows more numerous than the days of the year, and ornamented with pilasters, cornices, and colossal statues. On the N. it is bounded by its gardens, and on the E. by a branch of the river Frome, which threads the park in a string of lakes, communicating by cascades.

Longleat, originally the site of an Augustine monastery, was purchased in the reign of Hen. VIII. by Sir John Thyne, who laid the foundation of the present structure in 1567, after designs, it is said, by John of Padua, a name believed to be an *alias* for John Thorp. The edifice was 12 years building, and completed at a total expense of 80,000*l.* The second Lord Weymouth, created Marquis of Bath, added much to its beauty, and formed the pleasure-ground and gardens, under the direction of the celebrated "Capability" Brown. The interior presents a series of grand apartments, lately remodelled with taste and judgment by Jeffrey Wyatt, and hung with a collection of paintings, chiefly limited to portraits, but interesting from the celebrity of the persons whose likenesses they preserve. The visitor is first ushered into the

Hall, a lofty room with an emblazoned screen, a sculptured chimney-piece some 15 ft. in height, and oaken benches very beautifully carved. On the walls are the antlers of the stag, and large hunting-pictures by *Wootton*. From this apartment the servant will conduct him through the different rooms in the following order.

The *Corridor*, containing portraits by *Vanderbank* (one of Sir Walter Raleigh), and furnished with chairs of ebony.

The *Chapel* (date 1684), with painted windows, which suffuse it with a golden light.

The *Staircase*, much admired, hung with *Rubens's* picture of the Lion-hunt, the finest painting in the house, and with another, almost its equal, by *Snyders*.

The *Upper Corridor*, containing a Chinese cabinet, and portraits of Charles I. and his Queen (copies from *Vandyck*), of Laud, and of others (the names are on the frames).

The *Upper Drawing-room*, with a view into the Hall, and the Cobham picture, a family group by *L. de Heere* (*Walpole*), supposed to represent George Brooke, Lord Cobham, with his lady and 7 children.

The *Saloon*, 100 ft. long, richly stored with historical portraits, of which the following may be enumerated:—

Hen. VIII., *Holbein*; Catherine Parr; General Monk, Duke of Albemarle, *Wright*; Duchess of Albemarle, *Sir P. Lely*; Jane Shore; Earl of Carnarvon and his lady, *Vandyck*; Marchioness of Bath and three children, *Sir Joshua Reynolds*—an unfinished picture; Charles II., *Sir P. Lely*; James I.; Queen Catherine of Portugal, *Sir P. Lely*; Duchess of Monmouth, *Kneller*; Gustavus Adolphus, 1629; Fair Rosamond; Countess of Shrewsbury, *Sir P. Lely*; Viscount Dundee, *Vandyck*; Lady Lonsdale, *Sir P. Lely*; Mary Queen of Scots, *Sir Godfrey Kneller*; Charles Brandon Duke of Suffolk, *Holbein*; Stafford Duke of Buckingham; John Fisher, Bp. of Rochester, *Holbein*; Lady Saville, *Sir P. Lely*; the Protector Somerset, *Holbein* (?); Lord Seymour of Sudley, his brother; Lord Chancellor Bacon; Bp. Juxon, who attended Charles I. on the scaffold; Sir T. Gresham, *Holbein*; Sir Philip Sidney, the author of 'Arcadia'; Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, *Zuccherò*; Lady Arabella Stuart; Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford; Lucius Carey, Visct. Falkland, slain at Newbury; Sir Thomas

Overbury, poisoned in the Tower, *Zuccherò*; Lord Shaftesbury, temp. Charles II.; Bishop Ken, who spent his latter days at Longleat, and died here 1711, and whose books are preserved in the library, *Sir P. Lely*; Claverhouse, Visct. Graham of Dundee, who fell at Killiecrankie; Prince of Condé; Cardinal Richelieu; Countess of Nottingham, *Sir P. Lely*; Sir Kenelm Digby, after *Vandyck*; Sir Thomas More; Galileo; Sir Henry Spelman; Chaucer; Shakespeare; Ben Jonson; Dryden; Cowley; Waller; Butler; Petrarch; Harvey; Martin Luther; and Cavendish, the circumnavigator, *Zuccherò*. Among other paintings in this room are The Baptism and Holy Family, *Zuccherò*; The Arabians, *Rubens*; and a hawking party, *Snyders*.

The *Upper Dining-room*, with a view of the gardens.

The *Stone Gallery*, with portraits by *Vandyck* and *Sir P. Lely*.

The *Billiard-room*, with a charming look-out, and portraits of the first Marquis of Bath by *Dobson*, and Lord Thurlow by *Sir Josh. Reynolds*.

The *Dining-room*, with family portraits: the first Lord and Lady Weymouth, *Lely*; Sir John Thynne, the builder of Longleat (the name was Boteville until the reign of Edw. IV., when John Boteville was surnamed "of Th' Inn," from the circumstance of his residing in one of the inns of court); Earl of Essex, a copy of one at Woburn; the second Lady Weymouth; the mother of the Marquis of Bath, in crayons; Lady Lansdowne, *Lely*; Duke of Richmond, *Vandyck*; Lady Isabella Thynne, of whom there is a portrait by *Lely* in the corridor; Lord Keeper Coventry, *C. Jansen*. The sideboard is a superb piece of furniture carved in ebony. Lastly,

The *Drawing-room*, rich in knick-knacks, Sevres china, and other tasteful things—such as a table inlaid with chira, a timepiece which belonged to Louis XIV., cabinets of

tortoiseshell, and others of Japan work curiously painted.

The principal approach to Longleat is from the S., through a triumphal arch, and by a straight drive of nearly a mile in length, skirted by ancestral elms, and bounded on one side by the pleasure-ground and on the other by the water. The highly decorated and stately mansion forms an appropriate finish to the vista. In the view from the house it is terminated by the bold height of *Brimsdon* or *Cold Kitchen Hill*. Among the woods, which abound in every variety of forest timber, is to be found the Weymouth pine, first grown in England by the Duchess of Beaufort, at Badminton, in 1705, and soon afterwards planted in considerable numbers at Longleat, by Lord Weymouth, from whom it derives its name. The circumf. of the estate is estimated at 15 m., the woods and plantations covering 2000 acres. S.W. of the park is

Woodhouse, now a farm, but formerly the site of a mansion of the Vernuns and Stantors, and temp. Charles I. of the Arundells of Wardour, when it was besieged by the forces of the Parliament. According to the tradition it was defended by Lady Arundell, who, upon finding that its capture was inevitable, contrived to escape from it in a coffin. The place was subsequently retaken by the Royalists, when 12 unfortunate clothiers were hanged on one tree, and buried under a tumulus which is still pointed out as their grave.

Beyond the S. gate of Longleat is the hamlet of *Horningsham*, in a most picturesque district, resembling the best parts of Devonshire; and, on the slope of the hill, its little well, covered with masonry, partly old, and bearing the inscription, "O ye wells, bless the Lord; with thee is the spring of life." The church, a handsome structure, was rebuilt, save the tower, in 1844 by the Marchioness of Bath, at an expense of more than

5000*l.* Wyatt and Brandon were the architects. To this ch. Bp. Ken was accustomed to repair during his residence at Longleat, and on a neighbouring hill, according to the tradition, he composed the "Morning and Evening Hymns." Adjoining the ch. are remains of a manorhouse of the Arundells of Wardour, erected by them after the destruction of Woodhouse. An upper room contains a chimney-piece sculptured with their arms, and reaching from the floor to the ceiling. From Horningsham a lane threads a winding valley between golden furze and broom in the direction of

Brimsdon, or *Cold Kitchen Hill*, a height remarkable not only for its beauty, but for numerous vestiges of the ancient inhabitants, and for a view which all admit to be one of the finest in the county. On a bright clear day even the Welsh mountains are visible; but the prospect towards the S.W. forms the charm of the landscape, the downs sweeping to a distance in bays and promontories, the pretty outliers of *Bradley Park Knoll* and *Long Knoll* giving character to the scenery. Towards the S. *Alfred's Tower* at Stourhead is a conspicuous object; and on the N. lies the park of Longleat. The curious name *Cold Kitchen* is supposed to be a corruption of *Col crechen*, the chief summit, Celtic. *Brimsdon* is derived from *brin*, a hill, and *don*, an elevation.

Maiden Bradley, W. of *Brimsdon*, and on the road from Frome to Shaftesbury, was in early times the site of a hospital for lepers, and afterwards of a monastery, of which some portion still exists incorporated with a farmhouse to the N.E. of the village. The situation is beautiful. The village occupies high ground, but is surrounded by more elevated and isolated hills, *Brimsdon* and the knolls of *Long* and *Bradley Park*. *Park Knoll* is so called as the ancient deer-park of *Bradley House*, the seat

of the Duke of Somerset. A visitor to this village should notice the old inn, the Somerset Arms, which would suit the fancy of a Wilkie.

The Church contains a monument to Sir Edward Seymour, Speaker of the House of Commons in 1672, and who died 1707. Maiden Bradley came into the possession of the Seymours in the reign of Hen. VIII. In a line between Brimsdon and Warminster are 5 small villages, all distinguished by the name of

Deverill (or *Dive-rill*), and so called from a stream, one of the sources of the Wily, which *dives* under ground near Maiden Bradley. *Hill Deverill* was for some time the residence of the Ludlows, to one of whom there is a fine old monument in the church; and in its vicinity was born the republican general *Ludlow*, 1615, at *New Mead*, E. of Maiden Bradley, a farm rented by his father. The church possesses a rich screen. *Brixton Deverill*, says Hoare, "was undoubtedly the Petra Egbryhta mentioned by Asser as the spot where Alfred halted for one night on his march towards the Danes;" and *Deverill Longbridge* derives its name from an ancient bridge supposed to have been built by the Abbots of Glastonbury, its former lords. The church is the burial-place of the Thynnes, and contains among their monuments one to the builder of Longleat.

Lastly, in this description of the environs of Longleat, may be mentioned 2 small circular earthworks just N. of the park, *Roddenbury* and *Hays Castle*, both on *Roddenbury Hill*.

Proceeding on our route from Warminster—

4½ *Westbury Junction Stat.* (Rte. 3).

ROUTE 13.

SALISBURY TO WINCANTON, BY HINDON AND MERE—LONGLEAT, WARDOUR CASTLE, STOURHEAD,

Salisbury (Rte. 5).

3 *Wilton* (Rte. 5). Beyond this town the road ascends the valley of the *Nadder*.

2 *Barford St. Martin*.

2 l. *Compton Chamberlayne House*, seat of the Penruddocks (p. 75).

2 rt. *Marshwood House*; 1. *Dinton* (p. 57) and *Dinton House*, seat of Wm. Wyndham, Esq.

½ 1. *Wick Ball Camp*, on a hill, embosomed in woods. It is a single-ditched oblong entrenchment of 9 acres.

½ *Teffont Magna*. 1. *Teffont Evias*, formerly the seat of the Leys, to whom there is a large monument in the church, with 3 effigies in armour of the time of James I.

1½ *Chilmark*, the birthplace, says Fuller, of *John of Chylmark*, a famous mathematician of the reign of Rich. II., accounted the Archimedes of that age. It is better known for its *freestone* (the Portland beds), of which Salisbury cathedral is built. The quarries are 1 m. to the l., but not seen from the road. On the rt. rises *Chilmark Down*; and on the l., beyond the valley of the *Nadder*, *Castle Ditches*, described in p. 75. *Gassen* farmhouse at *Chicksgrove*, near this camp, belonged to the abbey of Shaftesbury, and still preserves its Gothic windows and doorways.

2 *Bishop's Fonthill*. On the l. the entrance to *Fonthill*.

¾ rt. incorporated with the build

ings of a farm, some remains of the old manor-house of *Berrick St. Leonards*, built in the reign of James I. or Charles I., and from 1629 to 1735 the seat of the Howes. In 1668 the Prince of Orange slept in it on his road to London. The porch forms the entrance to the kitchen-garden, in which is a sycamore of remarkable size, perhaps coeval with the ruins. A little church of great antiquity adjoins the house.

1 *Hindon* (*Inns*: Lamb; Swan), an ancient but inconsiderable market-town, on a declivity facing the woods of Fonthill. It consists of one broad street, and has a small manufacture of linen. The inn is excellent, and affords convenient head-quarters for an excursion to *Fonthill*, and, perhaps, *Wardour Castle* (shown Mondays and Fridays, from 11 to 4); but the latter is 4 m. distant. *Stourhead* is within reach, but much nearer the pretty town of Bruton. N. and W. Hindon is bounded by a wild expanse of down, tumid in many places with ancient earthworks. The site of a British village may be traced at a little distance to the N.W., and several others on the border of the *Great Ridge Wood*, 2 m. N. A Roman road runs from end to end of the same wood.

About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Hindon is a beautiful *terrace-walk*, 3 or 4 m. long, overlooking the grounds at Fonthill.

Hindon has been represented in Parliament by *Monk Lewis*, and by *Henry Fox*, afterwards Lord Holland, who first took his seat as its member.

Fonthill, once so well known as Fonthill Abbey, the seat of the author of 'Vathek,' has undergone many changes within the last half-century. The Abbey, built by James Wyatt, and furnished by Mr. Beckford with the choicest works of art, has lain a ruin in the solitary woods for many a past year. The estate has been sold, and, what is more, subdivided; and now belongs in part to the Marquis of Westminster, and

in part to the heir of the late millionaire James Morrison. As a baronial seat, it dated from a very distant period, having been the lordship of the Giffards about the time of the Conquest. From the Giffards it has passed in succession through the families of Maundevill, Mauduit, Molyn, Hungerford, Mervyn, Cottington, and Beckford.

The entrance is 1 m. from Hindon towards Salisbury—an archway ornamented on each front with a colossal face of grotesque expression. Having passed it, the traveller will view with delight the noble expanse of park scenery, generally too confined to be striking by its extent. A lake glistens in the vale, and on either side of it, at some distance, rise finely-wooded hills. To the rt. is the mansion of the late Mr. Morrison, a modern building with lofty tower in the Italian style, seated under a splendid screen of trees. Continuing along the road, the visitor in $\frac{1}{2}$ m. will reach the *Hermit's Cave*, made by the younger Beckford in imitation of one at Painshill, the seat of his eccentric uncle, the Hon. Charles Hamilton. It consists of 2 subterranean excavations—one a series of chambers lighted by openings in the wood above, and passing under the road; the other a circular cavern with 2 dark recesses, in one of which lies the mutilated figure of the hermit. By the water-side, below these caves, are a cedar of great size and a ferry to the opposite shore, where a landing-place of stone, with balustrade and vases, forms a pretty feature. From the Hermit's Cave the road ascends a hill to an inn, and the little church of *Fonthill Giffard*, a square stone building with portico and cupola. Beyond it the traveller should leave the road and strike into the wood (rt.) by a cartway, which will lead him to the lake of the woods and the site of the Abbey. He will be impressed by the girth and height of the silver firs through

which he journeys; but he must reserve his rapture for the lake, which, bosomed in trees which dip their branches to its surface, and circle around it on the hills, possesses a charming seclusion and beauty. The hill to the N. is the site of the Abbey, and the visitor may reach it by ascending from the little glen at the head of the lake. It is a beautiful spot, commanding, through an opening, the Dorset hills and woods of Wardour, and, in a westerly direction, a green glade, where the trees sweep the turf with their branches. The Marquis of Westminster is now erecting a mansion on this site. It is about 1 m. from the S. boundary of the woods and park.

The history of Fonthill has been checkered by many disasters. The ancient mansion of the Mervyns fell a prey to the flames; the second, built by the Cottingtons, and purchased by Alderman Beckford, shared a similar fate in 1755; and the third, "Fonthill splendens," as it has been called, erected by the Alderman at a cost of 240,000*l.*, became dilapidated, and was sold by his son for 9000*l.* It was then that the author of 'Vathek' shifted the site, and planned his magnificent abbey, upon which more than another quarter of a million was expended. But this fairy palace, having arisen to become the wonder and admiration of all beholders, was fated to a brief existence, for its destruction commenced in 1824 with the fall of the tower. This, however, did not take place until after the sale of the whole estate in 1823, with the abbey and its valuable contents, to Mr. Farquhar, for the round sum of 350,000*l.* It is said that Mr. Beckford anticipated its fall, and on stormy nights always slept at a lodge in the park. In the days of its glory Fonthill had been the scene of many splendid fêtes, some of which are still remembered by persons living, particularly those of 1781, on the occasion of Mr. Beck-

ford's coming of age, when music, dancing, and feasting were continued for a week, when 300 guests assembled at the dinner-table, and 1200 of Mr. Beckford's tenants and the people of the neighbourhood dined on the lawn, when the surrounding hills were illuminated by bonfires, and the park by 30,000 lamps; and of 1797, during the building of the Abbey, when, after a succession of rural sports in the park, and the roasting of an ox and 10 sheep at 11 fires, 700 persons were feasted, and blankets and fuel distributed to all the poor of the neighbourhood.

But Fonthill was the scene of still greater excitement when the abbey and all its contents were thrown open for sale, first by Mr. Christie in 1822, and afterwards by Mr. Phillips in 1824. For not only had the art treasures of that princely place been sealed against the public, but the park itself—known by rumour as a beautiful spot—had for several years been enclosed by a most formidable wall. This had been built by Mr. Beckford to exclude poachers and the hounds, but by no means with the object of "preserving" the game. "I never suffer an animal," he said, "to be killed but through necessity. In early life I gave up shooting, because I consider we have no right to murder animals for sport. I am fond of animals. The birds in the plantations of Fonthill seemed to know me. They continued their songs as I rode close to them; the very hares grew bold. It was exactly what I wished." In a solitary ride—such as he has described—he encountered a whole bevy of men and dogs ranging at full liberty over his land. He at once returned to his house, and sent a notice for a contractor who was to build a wall around all the planted and arable part of his estate, extending about 7 m., within 12 months. It was to be 12 feet high, and to have a chevaux-de-frise on the top,

and such a wall was completed in 1796. "I found remonstrances," he said, "vain, and so I built a wall." Mr. Beckford was born at Fonthill, 1759, and on attaining his majority became one of the richest subjects in England, the possessor of nearly a million in ready money, and an income of 100,000*l.* a year. Unfortunately this wealth was derived in great part from West Indian property, and so it happened that the accomplished and magnificent patron of the arts, the millionaire of Fonthill and Cintra, had eventually to sell his estates and content himself with a house at Bath. His abbey was commenced about 1796, and at Christmas 1800, when partly finished, was visited by Nelson, who came by invitation in company with Sir William and Lady Hamilton.

Pyt House, the seat of Vere Fane Bennett, Esq., grandson and heir of the late John Bennett, so long known as one of the members for Wiltshire, is situated a short m. S. of Fonthill, and 3 from Hindon. It is a handsome stone structure of Grecian architecture, erected by Mr. Bennett about 50 years ago. It is faced by a portico, and commands a view, across the valley of the Nadder, of the hills about Shaftesbury. It contains a few choice pictures — among them the portrait of Francis I., by *Albert Durer*; the Rape of Helen, by *Lucca di Giordano*; 2 cabinet paintings by *Vanderveelde*, a Storm and a Calm; and portraits of Prince Rupert, King William, and Q. Mary. Adjoining the park-wall is

Hatch House, an old manor-house, original seat of the Hyde family, but now incorporated with the buildings of a farm. 2 m. from Pyt House, and 4 from Hindon, lies

Wardour Castle, the seat of Lord Arundell of Wardour, situated in its park, on a gentle eminence rising from the Nadder. It is a large stone mansion, more remarkable for size than for architectural beauty,

but justly celebrated for its collection of paintings and of other rare and curious works of art. It was erected between the years 1770-76, after a design by Paine. The visitor enters it on the N. front, the wings of which, curving outwards, form a crescent. He is conducted to the *rotunda staircase*, and by this very grand and beautiful approach to the following suite of apartments, which contain the pictures.

The *Drawing-room*, in which are the Storm and Calm by *Vernet*, a striking contrast, the latter being a moonlight scene; a landscape, *Hobbema* († *Ruysdael*); the Virgin and Sleeping Child, *Sassoferrato*; Moses striking the Rock, and the Children of Israel collecting Manna, *Breugel*; and a landscape by *Rembrandt*.

The *Little Drawing-room*, with Tobit going to meet his Son, *Gerard Dow*, the largest picture by the master known, measuring 6 ft. by 4, drawn with great care and highly finished, the details executed with the painter's usual minuteness; portrait of a lady, *Sir Josh. Reynolds*; 2 landscapes, *G. Poussin*; a small circular *Claude*; 2 rocky landscapes with robbers, *Salv. Rosa*; 2 pictures by *Lingelback*; and a large Banditti scene, by *D. Teniers* — a remarkable picture.

The *Boudoir*, containing Christ driving the Money-changers from the Temple, *Rembrandt*; the Marriage of St. Catherine, *Correggio*; the Virgin and Child, *Don Alessandro*; a landscape with cattle, *Louthembourg*; and some beautiful carvings in ivory, family relics, and other curiosities. Among them are an ivory crucifix, attributed to Mich. Angelo; the Scourging at the Pillar, 3 figures in solid silver on a stand of lapis lazuli inlaid with precious stones, a work made for Pope Alexander III., and presented by him to Queen Christina of Sweden; china saucers painted in imitation of Raphael's cartoons; and the *Glastonbury Cup* or Wassail-bowl, a very interesting relic, sup-

posed to date from as early a time as the reign of Edgar. It is a cup of oak resting on crouching lions, the bowl carved in relief with the 12 apostles, and the lid with the Crucifixion. "The contents," says the antiquary Milner, "are just 2 quarts of ale measure, and there were originally 8 pegs placed one above another in the inside, which divided the contained liquor into equal quantities of half a pint each." These peg-tankards were introduced in the reign of Edgar, who, to restrain the prevailing habit of drunkenness, made a law that each person should empty the space between peg and peg, but that he who drank below the proper mark should be punished. From the use of these goblets came the expression "a peg too low."

The *State Bedroom*, on the walls of which are the Angel conducting Peter out of Prison, *M. Angelo*; a Hurdigurdy Player in a Dutch village, *Albert Durer*; portraits of the late Lord Arundell, Miss Markham as an Augustine nun, *Bartoli*; and the Duke of Tuscany, *Giorgione*; and 3 small pictures by *Schidoni* and *Domenichino*.

The *Small Ante-room*, containing Sir Thomas Arundell taking the Turkish standard, *Cooper*; Constantine's victory over Maxentius, *Filippi*; a small interior by *Teniers*; and head of an old woman, *Rembrandt*.

The *Billiard-room*, with the Martyrdom of Pope Sixtus X., *Palma Giovane*; the 3 Children of Charles I.; Cardinal Pole; Etna and Veuvius in eruption (2 paintings by the same master); Pope Benedict XIV.; and other popes and cardinals.

The *Saloon*, enriched by one of the finest pictures in the collection, Our Saviour taken from the Cross, by *Spagnoletto*—a powerful work; the despair expressed by the attitude and countenance of the Virgin most touching. Among the other pictures in this room are 2 large landscapes, *G. Poussin*; a *Pieta*, *Ribera*; a male

head, *Velasquez*; a Boy playing on a Bagpipe, *Caravaggio*; St. Bernard, and the Infant Christ sleeping on the Cross (exquisite in colour), *Titian*; Santa Maria, *Carlo Dolce*; St. Jerome, *Rubens*; John the Baptist, *Guido Reni*; the Holy Family, *A. del Sarto*; Christ's Charge to Peter, *Ann. Carracci*; and Joseph relating his Dream to his Brethren, *Murillo*.

The *Dining-room*, hung with portraits: Hugo Grotius, *Rubens*; Sir Thomas More, *Holbein*; Card. Pole, a copy of *Titian*; Villiers Duke of Buckingham (a handsome face); the first Lord Arundell of Wardour, *Vandyck*; his wife, by the same artist; Viscount Falkland, *Vandyck*; and the 2 daughters of the 1st Earl of Rivers, *Sir P. Lely*.

The *Music-room*, with the 8th Lord Arundell of Wardour and his wife, *Sir Josh. Reynolds*, the latter much faded; the 7th Lord A. and his wife, by the same artist; the Holy Family, *Giorgione*; Hagar in the Desert, *P. Bartoli*; and the Lady Blanch who defended Wardour so gallantly, a copy from a portrait by *Angel. Kauffman*, a most delicate face with small features; on the ceiling a copy of Guido's *Aurora*, by *P. Bartoli*.

The *Chapel* is in the W. wing, and contains an Assumption by *Caspar de Crayer*; a beautiful relief in marble of the Virgin, Child, and St. John; and a sumptuous altar of agate and marble resting on an antique sarcophagus, and surmounted by a crucifix of solid silver. To the rt. of the altar stands the monument of the 2nd Lord Arundell and his heroic lady Blanch.

The *Park* is large and finely wooded, and surrounded by hills: *Castle Ditches* (p. 75) on the E., *Whitesheet Hill* on the S., and *Castle Rings* (p. 75) and the high land of Shaftesbury on the W. The pleasure-grounds bound it N.E., extending more than 1 m. from the house to the ivy-mantled ruin of the ancient castle, destroyed during the Rebel-

lion. Wardour was attacked by a powerful force under the command of Sir Edward Hungerford, 1643, at a time when Lord Arundell was in attendance on the king at Oxford. But his lady, Blanch, refused to surrender, and, with her little garrison of 25 men, most heroically withstood the onslaught of 1500 soldiers, and a bombardment which lasted 5 days. After defending the castle as long as it was tenable, she capitulated on honourable terms; but the Republican leader, having once gained possession, did not scruple to violate his engagements, and to plunder the mansion of some of its most valuable contents. It was then garrisoned by the Parliament, and placed under the command of Edmund Ludlow, a native of this county, afterwards raised to the rank of general; but it did not long remain in the hands of its captors. In the course of the summer Lord Arundell and Sir Francis Doddington invested it, and compelled Ludlow to surrender after a gallant defence. These stormy events left the walls in a condition more picturesque than stable, and so they have remained to the present day, affording a shelter to the owl, and much pleasure to the passing traveller, and suggesting the reflection that from the heaviest disaster springs a certain amount of good.

The visitor, having entered through a gatehouse the precincts of the ruin, stands on a beautiful turf under the shadow of the cedar, the cypress, and the iron-wood tree, the last springing from the ground in a cluster of stems. He will be shown the old armoury, the drawing-room, and the kitchen, and the deep marks where the balls struck the masonry. An hexagonal court forms the centre, and contains the well sunk by Ludlow during the siege. Adjoining the ruins, in the buildings of a farm, are the remains of the mansion occupied by the family after the destruction of this castle, and to

the time of their removal to the present house.

Wardour was the birthplace of Sir Nicholas Hyde, Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench 1526-31. The apparition upon the battlements of two owls of a gigantic size is said to give sad warning to the noble race of Arundell.

Tisbury Church, 2 m. N.E., is the burial-place of this family, and contains many of their monuments, from 1571 to 1808. Among them is that of Thomas 1st Lord Arundell, created of Wardour by James I., and count of the Holy Roman Empire by Rodolph II., 1595, for his gallantry at the siege of Gran in Hungary, where he captured with his own hands the Turkish standard, afterwards sent to Rome. In the churchyard is a yew-tree 37 ft. in circumference, hollow inside, and entered by a rustic gate. Tisbury was the birthplace of *Sir John Davies*, poet, and attorney-general in Ireland, b. 1559. It is known for its quarries in the lower Purbeck beds and the upper oolite—in one of which a layer of flint affords beautiful specimens of coral in chalcedony; and for its manorhouse (of the 14th cent.), called *Place Farm*, an occasional residence of the Abbess of Shaftesbury, and still retaining its gateway and barn, the latter 200 ft. long. *Hazelton*, nearer Wardour, was the possession of the Lords De la Warr.

East Knoyle, a village 2 m. S.W. of Hindon, was the birthplace of *Sir Christopher Wren* (1631). He was the son of the rector. His father, Dr. Christopher W., descended from an old English family of Danish origin, was a fellow of St. John's, Oxford; chaplain in ordinary to Charles I., Dean of Windsor, and registrar of the Order of the Garter. He was a learned divine, and had even studied the art in which his son so distinguished himself. *Knoyle House* is the seat of H. Danby Seymour, Esq., M.P., who has here a

small collection of very excellent pictures, chiefly of the Netherlandish school. Among them are the following:—*A. Van de Velde*, a pastoral landscape;—*W. Van de Velde*, a seascape, the water calm and studded with vessels, a beautiful specimen of the master;—*J. Vernet*, a coast view;—*M. Houlecoeter*, a white hen, “of the utmost truth and mastery of painting:” *Waagen*;—*J. Van der Heyden*, a charming landscape, the figures by *A. Van de Velde*;—*B. Van Orley*, the Virgin and Joseph adoring the new-born Child; *A. Turchi*, a Pietà;—*Luis de Morales*, Virgin and Child, a picture of elevated feeling, and of which there is another example in the Berlin Gallery. *Sedgell*, S. of Knoyle, is a property of the Marquis of Westminster.

Proceeding on our route:—The road from Hindon to Mere is a wild and a bleak one, passing for 7 m. over downs, with wide prospects on each side.

9 *Mere* (*Inns*: *Ship*; *George*), situated in Wilts, but on the border of Somerset and Dorset, and in the centre of a district in which much coarse linen or dowlas is manufactured. The old *church*, and perhaps *market-house*, are of interest. In the neighbourhood are *Stowheul*, and those curious excavations called *Pen Pits*. Mere, though now insignificant, is said to have been once of importance, and the mound of its castle may be considered as evidence that such was the fact. It derives its name from its former lords, the *Meres*, whose crest, a *Ship*, is still the sign of the head inn.

The *Church*, an old and handsome structure, is particularly remarkable for an oaken roof, very beautifully carved. A chantry in the building contains a brass to the memory of John de Bettesthorpe, its founder, d. 1390, who is represented accoutred for the field in his armour and spurs.

S.W., and near the town, was *Mere Park*, anciently a royal residence;

and S., *Mere Woodlands*, a manorial seat of the *Doddingtons*, whose arms are on the farmhouse.

Pen Pits is the popular name given to several thousand rudely circular holes in a marshy tract of country about 3 m. W. of Mere. Such phenomena have naturally given rise to much speculation, but nothing certain is known about them. Dr. Buckland favours the opinion that they were nothing more than the places where the Britons dug their millstones; Fosbroke and other antiquaries regard them as the foundations of the thatched huts of the early inhabitants; but of their antiquity there is no doubt, as they were overgrown with large oaks in the time of the Saxons. A number of similar excavations, called the *Colcs Pits*, are found in Berkshire, $\frac{3}{4}$ m. S.W. of Faringdon. Others are mentioned by Camden as situated near Tilbury on the Thames, and by Hasted, in his ‘History of Kent,’ as in the parishes of Crayford and Dartford.

Pen Selwood, situated to the N. of these pits, marked the southern limit of the *Forest of Selwood*, which extended N. along the heights of the greensand as far as Westbury, and was a royal forest as late as the reign of Charles I. The *Church* contains a curious piece of antiquity, in 2 crowned heads, rudely sculptured, as the capitals of a Norman doorway. They are supposed to represent Canute and Edmund, the Danish and Saxon kings who here met in a bloody conflict. E. of the village and the pits, on the banks of the *Stour*, are remains of an old entrenchment called *Castle Orchard*. Several battles were fought in the immediate vicinity of Pen Pits between the Britons and Saxons, and Saxons and Danes, particularly that decisive action in 658 which secured the annexation of Somersetshire to the W. Saxon kingdom.

N.W. of Mere, on a precipitous hill, is *Whitesheet Camp*, considered

by Hoare as a British work further strengthened by the Saxons. It occupies 15 acres, and is defended on the side most easy of access by triple ramparts. Further N. is *Long Knoll*, 973 ft. above the sea, and the extreme W. point of the chalk of Salisbury Plain.

Stourhead, the seat of Sir Henry Ainslie Hoare, Bart., and one of the wonders of the W. of England, occupies a range of lofty hills 3 m. from Mere. It is well known for a fine collection of pictures, but more celebrated for the extreme beauty and decoration of its park and grounds. It is, however, no longer shown to the public. The road to Stourhead from Mere passes on the l. *Zeals House* (C. Grove, Esq.), a manor-house, formerly of the Chafyns, and keeps in view on the rt. the heights of *Whitesheet Camp* and *Bradley Knoll*.

The entrance is an embattled gatehouse, flanked by round towers, and beautifully ivied. The mansion consists of a centre, built after the designs of Colin Campbell in 1720, and of 2 wings added 1800, the former fronted by a Corinthian portico and 2 flights of steps, each terminated by a large ornamental basin, on the rims of which 2 sculptured birds lean forward in the attitude of drinking. The view embraces a foreground of beech-trees and Spanish chesnuts, remarkable for the large size of their trunks, and originally planted along the approach to the castle of the Stourtons. Of the pictures, and other curiosities, the following may be enumerated.

In the *Entrance Hall*: portraits of the Hoare family, including one of Sir R. Colt Hoare the antiquary, by *Woodforde*; a small Landscape, *Hobema*; a Welsh Mill, *Calcott*; the Cottage-door, *Collins*; the Broken Pitcher and the Bird's Nest, *Withington*; Bust of Pope, by *Roubilliac*.

In the *Saloon* (or dining-room): Three Children of Charles I., after *Vandyck*; Stonehenge and gateway

of Malmesbury Abbey in water-colours; the Judgment of Midas, *S. Bourdon*; the Death of Dido, after *Guercino*; the Rape of Helen, after *Guido Reni*; Antony and Cleopatra, *Raphael Mengs*; Portrait, *Angelica Kauffman*; the family arms in gold and precious stones; a piece of plate of silver-gilt, representing the story of Cyrus and Queen Tomaris, presented by the Corporation of London. On the marble chimney-piece, which is exceedingly handsome, is a head of Medusa.

In the *Cabinet Room*: Lake Nemi, engraved by *Vivares, Claude*; a Seaport by *Moonlight, Vernet*; a Landscape, *G. Poussin*; a Landscape, *Nic. Poussin*; a Storm, with story of Jonah and the Whale, copy of *Nic. Poussin*; Lake Avernus, with Æneas and the Sibyl, *Turner*; a Landscape, *D. Teniers*; a Landscape, presented by the artist to his friend *Zucharelli, Wilson*; Diana and her Nymphs, in a frame carved by *Gibbons, Zucharelli*; 2 small Landscapes, *Bartolomeo*; Views at Venice, *Canaletto*. Here also is the beautiful *Cabinet* which gives name to the room. It belonged to Pope Sixtus V., and was left by the last of his family, a nun, to a convent at Rome, where it was purchased by Mr. Henry Hoare. It is made of ebony, agate, and lapis lazuli, fronted by pillars of precious stones, and inlaid with gold, and upon it are the heads of the Peretti family modelled in wax, the Pope's forming the centre of the group, and a gold medal extremely scarce and valuable, struck in the reign of Elizabeth to commemorate the defeat of the Spanish Armada.

In the *Anteroom*: the Daughter of Herodias with the head of John the Baptist, *P. Battoni*, after *Guido Reni*; St. Peter denying himself, and the Card-players, *Caravaggio*; St. Mark's, Venice, *Canaletto*; a Field of Battle, *Borgognone*; a Holy Family, *Palma*.

In the *Picture Gallery*: Elijah re-

storing the Widow's Son to Life, *Rembrandt*, engraved by Earlom (considered the finest picture in the collection); St. John in the Wilderness, a sketch of the picture at Venice—2, a Peasant's head—3, Portrait of a Girl as St. Agnes, *Titian*; the Birth of our Saviour, *Lud. Caracci*; the Rape of the Sabines, and the Judgment of Hercules, *N. Poussin*; a Holy Family—2, Head of St. Francis, *Guido Reni*; a Holy Family, from the Barberini Palace, *Leon. da Vinci*; the Virgin and Child with St. John and St. Ambrose, *And. del Sarto*; the Magdalen washing the Feet of the Saviour—2, Sketch of an Apollo, *Paul Veronese*; the Marriage of St. Catherine, *Baroccio*; the Virgin and Child—2, the Good Shepherd, *Guericino*; the Virgin and Child—2, St. John with the Lamb—3, an old man's head, *Schidone*; David and Goliath—2, Tobit and the Angel, *Pietro Francesco Mola*; the Adoration of the Kings, a fine work, *Cigoli*; the Flight into Egypt—2, portrait of the painter, with the 3 Graces—3, Hope, *Carlo Maratti*; an Old Woman, *Murillo*; Distress by sea and Distress by land, *Thompson*; the Triumph of Bacchus, copy of *Ann. Caracci*; Holy Family, *Fra Bartolomeo*; the Madonna, *Carlo Dolce*; Democritus, *Sal. Rosa*; Madonna and Child, *Carlo Cignani*; a Holy Family, after *Raphael*; Introduction of a young Carthusian to St. Teresa, *Pacchiarotto*; Madonna and Child, *Palma Vecchio*; the Emperor Charles V., after *Titian*, *Rubens*; Temptation of St. Anthony, *D. Teniers*; the Annunciation, *Albano*.

In the *Music-room*: St. Peter's, *P. Panini*; the Car of Cuthullin (from Ossian), *Cooper*; Sheep and interior, *Morland*; Cattle, *Cuyp*; the Dumb Girl talking, *Northcote*; Diana and Actæon, *Calcott* and *Owen*; a storm by land and a storm by sea, *Nicholson*; the Martyrdom of St. Peter, after *Titian*, *F. Mola*; Peasant Children, *Gainsborough*; a scene in the East Indies, *T. Daniell*; Head of a Child, *Holbein*.

In the *Library* are some remarkable drawings by *Canaletto*, representing 10 of the most celebrated buildings in Venice. They were purchased by Sir R. C. Hoare in Italy, and are arranged around a portrait of Petrus Landi, Doge in 1538. In this room are also the busts of Milton, when young and old, by *Rysbrach*; and a window by *Egginton*, with figures copied from *Raphael's School of Athens*.

The *Museum* contains the valuable antiquities collected by the late Mr. Cunnington during his examination of the earthworks of this county. They comprise the various articles found in the barrows, in the camps, and on the sites of ancient villages, some of the funeral urns being particularly remarkable for their large size and excellent preservation. The Antiquities of Wiltshire are further illustrated by drawings by *Buckler*, and the cathedral of Salisbury by 10 views by *Turner*.

A visitor to the *pleasure-grounds*—after passing the gate-house, where he will notice on the opposite side of the road the enormous sycamore so gaily decked with fern—descends between banks of turf and hedges of laurel to the hamlet of *Stourton*; a group of pretty cottages, ancient church, and inn, ensconced in a little dell beneath impending woods. If charmed by the singular beauty of the spot, he may linger in it a while, and visit the church. It is a small Pointed building, with embattled tower, rising from a churchyard decked with flowers, but is principally remarkable for its secluded and pleasing site. The churchyard contains a lofty stone cross, the mausoleum of the Hoare family, and a monumental tower enclosing the marble tomb and remains of *Sir Richard Colt Hoare, Bart.*, the author of 'Ancient Wiltshire,' and of several other learned topographical and historical works. In the church are memorials of the *Stourtons* (including the effigies of

Edward, the 5th baron, and his lady Agnes, 1535), and a mural monument to Henry Hoare, Esq., 1785, with inscription by the pen of Hayley.

Opposite the church is the entrance to the pleasure-grounds, where a prospect as delightful as unexpected meets the view. The confined scene of Stourton is suddenly shifted to give place to a large and beautiful lake embosomed in wooded hills, which open as if to show the distant vistas ascending through the park. After a glance at its leading features, the visitor will proceed to seek the beauties of this dainty garden in detail. He will make the circuit of the lake, a distance of 2 m., the water occupying an area of 30 acres. At the entrance his attention will be directed to a beautiful, though rather incongruous, ornament, the *High Cross of Bristol*, erected in that city about 1373, as a mark of gratitude to Edward III., who had conferred important privileges on the citizens. It is an elaborate piece of stonework, decorated with the statues of 8 of our monarchs, King John, Henry III., Edward I., Edward III., Henry VI., Elizabeth, James I., and Charles I., the four last added in 1633, when the cross was enlarged and curiously painted and gilded. It was taken down in 1733, and shortly afterwards sold to Mr. Henry Hoare, who re-erected it where it now stands, at an expense of 300*l*. Descending to the level of the lake, a hemlock spruce will be pointed out, and then the *Temple of the Muses*, *Paradise Well*, and an old font removed to this locality from the church. Pursuing the path which follows the windings of the shore, the visitor will observe a silver beech of extraordinary beauty, its branches drooping to the ground in the form of a tent, and a thorn-tree on which a mountain-ash has been engrafted, an unnatural union which has changed the character of the leaf. A view now opens on the

rt. up *Six Wells Bottom* to *Peter's Pump*, another relic from Bristol, covering the six sources of the Stour. The path next crosses an arm of the lake, and winding past the *Sean House* dives into the *Grotto*, a dim and cool retreat, perpetually reverberating the plunge of the Stour, which conducted underground from the Six Wells, is here poured forth from the urn of the river god. A sleeping nymph in marble reclines by a bath in another recess, the following lines by Pope being inscribed on the rock:—

“Nymph of the grot, these sacred springs I
keep,
And to the murmur of these waters sleep;
Ah! spare my slumbers, gently tread the
cave,
And drink in silence, or in silence lave.”

Emerging from this cavern, the visitor threads a beech-grove to a spring of delicious water, which, rising under a tulip-tree, flows swiftly to the lake. And here he will open to view the portico of the *Pantheon*, a copy of the famous temple at Rome, occupying a charming site, and decorated with several statues, including an antique marble of Livia Augusta in the character of Ceres. Arranged with Ceres are Hercules and Flora, by *Rysbrach*, and casts of Peace, Diana, Meleager, and the Egyptian Isis. In the portico are Alexander and Pompey (antique), and on the outside Ceres and Minerva. The counties of Wilts and Somerset meet in the centre of the building; and on the hill to the W. of it is an ancient *camp*, of 7 acres, formed by a double line of ramparts. The path now turns in the direction of the house, and affords a view of the *Cascade*, which, though natural in itself, is not in character with its banks. Beyond it is reached the foot of a dense wood, first planted on the naked down by Sir R. C. Hoare, where, midway on the hill, shines the *Temple of the Sun*, designed after that at Balbec, fronted by Corinthian

columns, and commanding a bird's-eye view of lake and garden. Trees of fantastic growth next claim attention—an ash ingrafted on an acacia; a thorn-tree of America; a tulip-tree, a giant of its kind; and, last, a spruce-fir, as singular as old, grotesquely branched, and rising in distinct trees from its far-extended roots. Leaving this haunted company, the visitor ascends again to the beautiful Bristol Cross, and quits the garden with lingering steps by the gate at which he had entered it.

Alfred's Tower, not the least of the curiosities at Stourhead, occupies a magnificent point of view called *Kingsettle*, one of the loftiest of the greensand hills 800 ft. above the sea. It is 3 m. distant from the house, but strangers are not allowed to drive to it through the park; they will pursue the old British road, or *Hardway*, by which Alfred is supposed to have advanced from the fastnesses of Selwood to the attack of the Danes. The tower was erected by Henry Hoare, Esq., in memory of that event, and is a triangular building of red brick 150 ft. high, flanked at each corner by a slender tower. The entrance is on the E. side, surmounted by a colossal statue of Alfred and a tablet bearing the following inscription:—"Alfred the Great, A.D. 879, on this summit erected his standard against Danish invaders. To him we owe the origin of juries, the establishment of a militia, the creation of a naval force. Alfred, the light of a benighted age, was a philosopher and a Christian, the father of his people, the founder of the English monarchy and liberty." The tower is plainly seen from all parts of the neighbouring counties, and consequently looks as far, and much farther. Every visitor should ascend it. The key will be found at the adjoining lodge, which commands an extensive view to the S. The roads down the hill are very beautiful. 1 m. S. of the tower rises an enor-

mous mound, vulgarly called *Jack's Castle*, long considered as a beacon on which fires were formerly lighted to spread signals through the country, but constructed for a different purpose, as was ascertained by Sir R. C. Hoare, who found within it the remains of some old warrior buried with his weapons.

Stourhead is a very ancient place, the seat, there is reason to believe, of a noble family in the time of the Saxons. The name is principally associated with the Stourtons, its lords and proprietors from the days of Richard II. to those of Queen Anne. At that period Edward the twelfth lord sold it to Sir Thomas Meres, Kt., from whose heirs it was purchased, in 1720, by Henry Hoare, Esq., founder of the London banking-house, and ancestor of the present proprietor.

A remarkable story is connected with the Stourtons—the *murder of the Hartgills* by Charles Lord Stourton, in the reign of Queen Mary, 1556. The circumstances which led to it were as follows:—On the death of his father, Lord Stourton endeavoured to persuade his mother to enter into a bond not to marry again. The Hartgills, it appears—a father and son, and agents of the family—were possessed of much influence with Lady Stourton, and on their refusal to further the designs of her son, he vowed vengeance against them, and commenced a system of persecution, which was only to end with their death. This had continued for some time, and the Hartgills had been frequently waylaid and maltreated by ruffians hired for the purpose, when they sought redress at law, and obtained a verdict against Lord Stourton, who was sentenced to be fined and imprisoned in the Fleet. After a while, however, he was allowed to revisit his country seat, upon entering into a bond to return. It was then that he sent to the Hartgills, desiring them to meet him to be paid their fine; and this

they consented to do at the sanctuary of *Kilminster Church*. On the day appointed they arrived; a table was placed on the grass, and the business commenced; but it had not proceeded far, when, at a signal from Lord Stourton, the Hartgills were seized by armed men and pinioned, Lord S. himself assaulting with his sword the young wife of the son. They were then hurried to a house called *Bonham*, 2 m. distant, and again in the dead of night brought to a field adjoining *Stourton*, and there knocked on the head, Lord S. himself standing at his gallery-door to witness the deed. The bodies were then brought into the house, their throats were cut, and they were buried in a dungeon. But the disappearance of the Hartgills soon led to the discovery of

these bloody doings, and Lord Stourton was committed to the Tower. He was tried in Westminster Hall, found guilty, and condemned to be hung with 4 of his men. The sentence was shortly afterwards carried into effect at Salisbury, Lord Stourton being executed with a silken cord. He was interred in the cathedral, and, according to Mr. Dodsworth, "a twisted wire with a noose, emblematic of a halter, was hung over his tomb, as a memorial of the crime, till about the year 1775."

Proceeding on our route from Mere,

1 l. *Zeals House* (C. Grove, Esq.). A mile beyond it the road enters Dorsetshire, and in another mile leaves it for Somersetshire.

7 *Wincanton* (Rte. 40).

SECTION II.

D O R S E T S H I R E.

INTRODUCTION.

DORSETSHIRE is a bleak country of chalk downs and sandy heaths, thinly peopled, and below the average of the English counties in fertility. It has, however, a certain charm in its very wildness and the forlorn aspect of its villages, while it can deservedly boast of the prospects from its numerous hills and the beauty of its shores. It is chiefly a pastoral district, producing sheep and cattle, cheese and butter; but it is also distinguished for the excellence of its ale, for flax and for hemp, and for the celebrated building-stone of Purbeck and of Portland.

Its earliest known inhabitants were the tribe called the Durotriges, "the dwellers by the sea," mentioned by Ptolemy and other old writers, but now barely to be traced by the names of hills and villages, and the scanty fragments of some monuments. The Romans were established here at several of the towns, their chief station being at Dorchester, and through this they carried their great road, the Fosse Way, which connected the north of England with the Land's-end. Under the Saxons Dorsetshire formed a part of Wessex, and its kings occasionally honoured it by residing at Corfe Castle or Kingston Hall. They were much harassed by the Danes, who for some time occupied Wareham, and under Swein destroyed Dorchester, Sherborne, and Shaftesbury.

In a geological view chalk is the leading feature of Dorsetshire. It sweeps through the county in two lofty ranges, which, uniting towards the W., enclose in the "trough of Poole" the sands and clays above the chalk, and abut at their outer edges on the beds of the wealden, the oolite, and the lias. The various formations which appear in the county are to be classed as follows:—1. Tertiary deposits, chiefly the sands of the plastic clay, stretching in barren heaths from Poole to Dorchester, and bounded on each side by the downs. They produce potters' and pipe-clay, but are of little value for cultivation. 2. Cretaceous strata, of which the chalk of the N. Downs extends from Hampshire to Beaminster, with a breadth of from 10 to 18 m., reaching its greatest elevation on Bulbarrow, a hill near Milton Abbas, 927 ft. high. That of the S. Downs runs a parallel course near the coast, uniting with the larger mass beyond Dorchester. It barely averages 2 m. in width, but attains a height of 817 ft. on Blackdown. 3. The greensand, skirting the escarpment of these ranges, and beyond Beaminster forming the loftiest point in the county, Pillesdon Pen, 934 ft. above the level of the sea. 4. The wealden, consisting of the clay, the iron-sand, and the Purbeck limestone, all developed in the Isle of Purbeck, where the last is extensively quarried. 5. The oolitic strata, of which the Portland stone and Kimmeridge clay appear in Purbeck, where they form, with the beds of the

[W. D. & S.]

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wealden and the chalk, its romantic coast. The chief seat of the former is, however, in Portland, where it is quarried on so large a scale as a freestone for building. W. of Weymouth and Shaftesbury are found the lower beds of this formation, the coral rag, calcareous grit, Oxford clay, cornbrash, forest marble, great oolite, fuller's earth, and inferior oolite; and beyond them, at Lyme Regis, the dark blue clays of the lias, studded with ammonites and the bones of colossal reptiles.

The most interesting objects in the county may be enumerated as follows:—

- Near Poole - - - - - Church of Wimborne; Kingston Lacy (pictures);
Badbury Rings; Wareham; Corfe Castle.
Swanage - - - - - Coast to Lulworth, particularly Worbarrow Bay, Lulworth Cove, and Gad Cliff; Lulworth Castle.
Dorchester - - - - - Roman Amphitheatre; Maiden Castle.
Weymouth - - - - - Isle of Portland; Chesil Bank; Abbotsbury.
Lyme Regis - - - - - Pinney Landslip; Ford Abbey.
Blandford - - - - - Milton Abbey; Hamilton and Hod Hill.
Sherborne - - - - - Church; Sherborne Castle.

ROUTES.

ROUTE	PAGE	ROUTE	PAGE
14 South - Western Railway — Southampton to Weymouth, by Wimborne Minster (<i>Kingston Lacy, Badbury Rings, Poole (Corfe Castle, Lulworth Castle), Wareham, Wool, and Dorchester (Maiden Castle)</i>)	99	21 Shaftesbury to Poole, by Blandford and Wimborne Minster	131
15 Poole to Weymouth	112	22 Wincanton to Poole, by <i>Stalbridge and Sturminster Newton</i>	134
16 Wilts, Somerset, and Weymouth Railway — Yeovil to Weymouth, by <i>Evershot (Melbury Park), Maiden Newton (branch to Bridport), and Dorchester</i>	116	23 The Isle of Purbeck, and the Coast from Swanage to <i>Whitenose, by Durlston Head, St. Aldhelm's Head, Encombe, Kimeridge, Gad Cliff, Worbarrow Bay, and Lulworth Cove</i>	138
17 Dorchester to Axminster, by <i>Winterbourn Abbas (Blackdown, Bridehead, Eggardon Hill), Bridport, and Charmouth</i>	118	24 The Isle of Portland (the <i>Chesil Bank, Portland Castle, Quarries, Breakwater, Convict Prison, Bow and Arrow Castle</i>) 143	
18 Dorchester to Sherborne, by <i>Cerne Abbas</i>	123	25 Weymouth to Lyme Regis, by <i>Portisham, Abbotsbury, Burton Bradstock, Bridport, and Charmouth</i>	148
19 Dorchester to Salisbury, by <i>Piddletown, Milborne St. Andrews (Bere Regis, Milton Abbey), Blandford, Pimperne (St. Giles's Park, Cranborne, Cranborne Chace), and Wood-yates Inn</i>	126	26 Crewkerne to Bridport, by <i>Beaminster (Levesdon and Pillesdon)</i>	154
20 Shaftesbury to Yeovil, by West			

ROUTE 14.

SOUTHAMPTON TO WEYMOUTH, BY
WIMBORNE MINSTER, POOLE,
WAREHAM.

(*South-Western Railway.*)

3 m. beyond Ringwood Stat. the railway, a single line W. of Wimborne, enters Dorsetshire over a branch of the *Stour*, and crosses one of those wild, forsaken heaths, characteristic of the southern parts of this county to

115 (from London) *Wimborne Stat.* 1. is *Canford Hall* (Sir Ivon Bertie Guest, Bart.); rt. $\frac{1}{4}$ m.,

Wimborne Minster (*Inns*: Bowles' Hotel; King's Head), situated in the fertile vale of the *Stour*, on the *Allen*, a clear and lively rivulet. Wimborne is supposed to have been the winter station of a Roman force, entrenched during the summer months in the neighbouring camp of *Badbury*. During the Saxon period it was the scene of much fighting, and in after-times of importance for its convent and monastery, founded in the 8th centy., the former by Cuthburga, the sister of the W. Saxon king Ina. It is a clean, airy town, with a small manufacture of buttons and knit stockings.

The principal things to be seen here are the *Minster*, the pictures at *Kingston Lacy*, and the camp of *Badbury Rings*.

The *Minster*, which gives a distinctive name to this town, is a cruciform building, surmounted at the transept by a Norman tower of red sandstone (from quarries near Ringwood), and terminated at the W. end by another tower, to which is attached a "quarter boy." The interior has received a careful restoration. The visitor first enters the

Nave, which serves as the parish ch., and is imposing from the grand proportion of its circular piers and plain early-pointed arches, set with zigzag mouldings, as with teeth. At the W. end are a gallery of carved

oak (brought from Italy), erected 1825, and a lunar orrery (16th centy.) moved by the clock. In the transept 4 massive circular arches support the central tower. The S. transept was once called *Death's Aisle*, from a painting of the grisly king which frowned from its walls.

The *choir* is furnished with stalls of Jacobean woodwork, and oaken gates, presented by one of the Bankes family, whose shield is carved on them. Here the service is performed, as in cathedrals, by 3 priests, 3 clerks, and 4 singing boys. The altar and benches are, by old usage, constantly covered with white linen, as for the Holy Sacrament. In the S. choir aisle are the alabaster monument of Sir Edmund Uvedale (1606), and the tomb of Anthony Ettrick, the magistrate who committed the Duke of Monmouth, after his capture in this neighbourhood; in the N. the mutilated effigy of a knight Templar, which, together with a close-fitting lead coffin, were found buried in the market-place, formerly the site of a church.

The *chancel*, raised on a vaulted crypt, has a remarkable and probably unique E. window, a lancet triplet, each light surmounted by a circular moulding rising from shafts of Purbeck marble. This window is filled with rich old glass from Italy, the gift of the Bankes family. The middle light represents the genealogy of Christ. On the N. wall are 3 sedilia, and a piscina surmounted by Dec. canopies and plumed finials; and on the same side, below a coloured window (gift of the Duke of Somerset), the tomb, with alabaster effigies, of John de Beaufort, Duke of Somerset, d. 1444, and of Margaret Beauchamp his wife, erected by their daughter, the Lady Margaret, mother of Henry VII. On the opposite S. side, in front of another painted window (gift of the Earl of Devon), is an altar-tomb, with Purbeck marble slab, to Gertrude, Marchioness

of Exeter, mother of Edward Courtenay, last Earl of Devonshire, d. 1556; and in the pavement near the altar, a brass, dated 872, said to mark the grave of Ethelred, killed in battle by the Danes. Over the vestry is a library of the 17th century, containing many curious books, attached by chains to an iron rod. In 1858 a window was presented by the Earl of Malmesbury, in remembrance of the time he passed at Wimborne, as pupil of a late vicar. The subjects are, Christ blessing little children, and Timothy with Lois and Eunice.

2 m. from Wimborne, on the upper road to Blandford, a road bounded that distance by elms of remarkable size and beauty, is

Kingston Lacy, seat of the Bankes family, one of the oldest (of commoners) in Dorset and Britain. The house, built by Sir Ralph Bankes, 1663, and restored by Barry, is a mansion of stone, with lofty apartments, and a staircase of white marble. Here are preserved the key and seal of Corfe Castle, so gallantly defended by Lady Bankes; and a small but choice collection of *paintings*, including some of the best works of Spanish art in Britain. In the *Spanish room*, of which the ceiling came from Venice, are—*Velasquez*: Philip IV., a whole length, very fine; 2. Philip's family, stiffly draped infants, in front a dog, in the background the painter: 3. Head of Cardinal Borgia, Archbishop of Seville:—*Spagnoletto*: St. Augustine:—*Murillo*: Sta. Rosa and the infant Saviour:—*Orrentes*: Moses and the Burning Bush: 2. David and the lion:—*Zurbaran*: Sta. Justa, a whole-length, fine:—*Rebatta*: Virgin and Child with angels:—*Morales*: Christ scourged:—*Espinosa*: portrait of Francisco Vives (with a dog), a whole length. In the saloon—*Rubens*: two fine whole-length portraits of the Marchese Isabella and, Maria Grimaldis, brought from Genoa:—*Giorgione*: the Judgment of Solomon, an un-

finished sketch from the Marescalchi Palace, Bologna:—*Vandyck*: Charles I.; Queen Henrietta Maria; Prince of Wales (afterwards Charles II.); Duke of York (afterwards James II.); Princess Mary (afterwards Princess of Orange); Princes Rupert and Maurice (?); Sir John and Lady Borlase; Richard Weston, Earl of Portland:—*Raphael*: Virgin and Child, with St. John; in the late manner of the artist; the picture bears the mark of King Charles I., and was brought from the Escorial:—*Lawrence*: Mrs. Reddell and Lady Falmouth:—*Salvator Rosa*: Mr. Altham (grandfather of Lady Bankes, who defended Corfe Castle), as a hermit:—*Greuze*: a child reposing on its pillow; full of sweetness and innocence:—*Corn. Jansen*: Ralph Hawtrey and his lady (parents of Lady Bankes):—*Sir P. Lely*: a Magdalen; Mrs. Middleton (a duplicate is at Hampton Court); Sir Ralph Bankes; Lady Jenkinson; Lady Cullen; Mrs. Gillies; Mr. Stafford; Mr. Brune; Betterton, as Tamerlane (a drawing):—*Gainsborough*: Duke of Gloucester, brother of George III.; James, the great Duke of Ormond, who died at Kingston Lacy 1688; Lord Chancellor Clarendon; and Sir John Bankes, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. The house contains numerous works of art besides pictures, including a variety of unrivalled wood carvings, marbles, bronzes, and paintings in arabesque. In the park stands an Egyptian obelisk, transferred to this site from the island of Philæ. Its base was laid by the Duke of Wellington in 1827.

Badbury Rings (from *bod*, a dwelling, Celtic) is situated 3½ m. from Wimborne, beyond Kingston Lacy, on the old road to Blandford. This earthwork, planted with firs, and set as a crown upon the point of a naked hill, long rivets the attention of a traveller approaching it from the W. It is formed by 3 concentric rings or ramparts, each

with its exterior ditch, the outermost a mile in circumference, wide spaces intervening between the lines of fortification. From the top the panoramic view embraces the Needles and cliffs of Alum Bay, the high land of Purbeck, the woods of Kingston Lacy and Charborough, and the glistening reaches of the Stour. This entrenchment stands on a Roman road, which ran hither from Old Sarum, but it is considered a British work, mainly from its circular shape and its position in a line of similar entrenchments extending through the county. There is no doubt, however, that both Romans and Saxons used it in their time as a military post, and the former for a considerable period. After the death of Alfred the Great his son Edward the Elder encamped in it. Ethelwald the Pretender had seized Wimborne, but on Edward's approach he abandoned it, and eventually joined the Danes in Northumbria. E. of Wimborne, 2 m., on the bank of the Stour, is

Canford Hall, the seat of Sir Ivo Bertie Guest, Bart., an Elizabethan mansion, built by Blore, in 1826, for Lord de Mauly, and in part reconstructed by Barry. It occupies the site of an Ursuline convent, of which there still remains a kitchen (16th century) with 2 stupendous fireplaces. The hall is a striking apartment. A gallery, connected with the house by a cloister, is devoted to a series of Assyrian sculptures brought from Nineveh by Mr. Layard, winged lions and bulls, bas-reliefs, &c., similar to those in the British Museum. The gardens are much admired, and beyond them are fir-woods intersected by drives which reach nearly to Poole. The manor, once held by John of Gaunt, is peculiar, extending over the river from Blandford to the sea, and giving right to a fishery which is exercised once a-year, under the name of the "Royal Hawl." The ivy-mantled

church, which stands in the garden, is a small but curious building, with some Norman features, particularly the tower. In the chancel are monuments by Bacon to the Willetts of Merly Hall, remarkable for the pagan character of the inscriptions.

Merly House, as it is now called (Willet L. Adye, Esq.), is rt. of the Poole road, 1 m. from Wimborne, and contains some interesting paintings by Hogarth, particularly the sketches of 'the Marriage à la Mode,' of which the finished pictures are in the National Gallery.

Several other seats are situated at some distance round this town:—to the W. 3 m. *Henbury House*, C. J. Parke, Esq.; and *Knowle House*, W. C. Lambert, Esq.; 6 m. *Lychet House*, W. Fryer, Esq.; and

Charborough House, Erle Drax, Esq., ancient seat of the Erles, containing on the ceiling of the staircase a painting of the Judgment of Paris, by Thornhill, who was a native of Weymouth; and in the park an obelisk, a conspicuous object for miles around, and a small building inscribed to the effect that under its roof, in 1686, was concerted the plan of the Revolution. The Erles, says Hutchins, were a very ancient and knightly family; they were lords of Newton and N. Petherton, Somersetshire, and held the manor of Somerton Erleigh under Edw. II. by Grand Sergeanty of being King's Chamberlain, and 45 Edw. III. by service of pouring water on the King's hands on Easter and Christmas day. Their present direct male representatives are the Rt. Hon. Sir W. Erle, Lord C. J. of the Com. Pleas, and his brothers.

To the N. 2 m. is *High Hall*, on the Allen; 3 m. *Uddens House*, seat of the Greatheads; and *Gaunt's House*, of Sir Richard Glyn, Bart., supposed to have belonged to John of Gaunt; 5 m. *Horton Park*; and *More Critchell*, H. C. Sturt, Esq., a fine ancestral place; 6 m. the *Woodlands*

estate, Earl of Shaftesbury, on which the unfortunate Duke of Monmouth was captured; and $7\frac{1}{2}$ m., near Cranborne, *St. Giles' Park*, seat of the Earl of Shaftesbury.

The circumstances attending the capture of the Duke of Monmouth were of a very melancholy nature. Having separated from his companions near Woodyate's inn, where they had been forced to abandon their horses, the Duke, disguised as a peasant, hastened towards the coast on foot. He had arrived in view of it, when, pressed by his pursuers, he took refuge in some fields called the "Island," in the midst of a heath, in the parish of Horton. The soldiers soon arrived, and, being informed by a woman that the fugitive had concealed himself, they searched diligently till nightfall, but without success. The next morning, however, when on the point of departure, one of the troop espied the Duke in a ditch, half concealed by the fern. He was immediately seized and carried before a magistrate, one Anthony Etricke of Holt, who committed him to London, where he soon paid the penalty of his ill-success with his life. The ash-tree under which he was discovered still stands on the Woodlands estate, in a field called *Monmouth's Close*. It is scored with the names of numerous visitors.

Wimborne is to be the junction stat of the South-Western with the *Dorset Central and Somerset Central Rlys.*, a line which will connect the English and Bristol Channels, and bring coals direct from Wales to Southampton and Portsmouth. It will run by Blandford, Sturminster, Castle Cary, Bruton, and Glastonbury, to Burnham, near Bridgewater, and is to be the joint concern of two companies—the one on the broad, the other on the narrow gauge, but each will lay an extra rail to accommodate the traffic. It has for some time been completed between Highbridge and Glastonbury.

To proceed on our route:—

From Wimborne Stat. the railway, passing *Merly House* on the rt., runs over hilly heaths, thinly scattered with firs, to *Poole Junction*, a wild spot, $1\frac{3}{4}$ m. from

123 *Poole Stat.*, which, situated on the shore of Poole harbour, commands an uninterrupted view of this estuary and its beautiful island, of the vast heaths which encompass them, and of the bold chalk range, which, enclosing Purbeck like a wall, has a deep cleft in its centre, in which are seen the ruins of Corfe Castle, standing like sentinels in a gateway. Crossing by a swing-bridge a branch of the water which expands into another inlet called *Hole's Bay*, the traveller enters

Poole (Inns: London Hotel; Antelope), an old town of red brick, bearing resemblance in this respect to such seaports as Sheerness and Portsmouth. It is an intricate cluster of houses, pierced by a High-street a mile in length, and terminated towards the water by capacious quays well lined with shipping. It is the principal seaport of the county, and drives a prosperous trade, more especially with Newfoundland and foreign countries, its chief imports being salted fish, oil, timber, corn, and coals,—its exports sailcloth and cordage, potters' and pipe clay, provisions and clothing, particularly linen shirts, which are made here in great numbers. It has also some business in ship and yacht building, the latter by the well-known Mr. Wannell, whose skill has been shown by many a celebrated clipper. The place derives its name from the inlet or *pool* on which it is situated, and its importance from Queen Elizabeth, who raised it from the insignificance of a "fisher village" to the dignity of a town and county. In later days it was surrounded by fortifications, which were levelled by Charles II. as a mark of resentment against the inhabitants, who, in the Rebellion, had

shown a very active spirit on the side of the Parliament.

From the position of this town on a labyrinth of creeks, it afforded convenient shelter in former times to a number of very questionable characters, who obtained a living from the sea by other modes than lawful commerce or fishing. Hence it acquired a considerable notoriety, and became the subject of the following doggrel—

“If Poole was a fish-pool, and the men of
Poole fish,
There'd be a pool for the devil, and fish for
his dish.”

One of the most daring and successful of English buccaneers was *Harry Page* of Poole, or, as he was more commonly called, *Arripay*. His enterprises were principally directed against the coasts of France and Spain, where he committed such havoc that a formidable expedition was fitted out in those countries to destroy him. It sailed along our southern shores, destroying as opportunity offered, until it reached Poole. Here it landed, and a battle ensued, in which the inhabitants were driven from the town, and the brother of *Arripay* killed.

Poole is situated in the neighbourhood of extensive heaths, and all the higher grounds command a prospect of great beauty, seen in perfection when the tide fills the numerous inlets. On the one side there is the sea, on the other the estuary, and beyond it the purple moors extending to the downs. The suburb of *Parkstone*, on the road to Bournemouth, is a good point of view, and in particular *Parkstone Lodge*, the residence of *J. Touchet, Esq.*, charmingly seated on a hill.

With the exception of this view there is little worth notice in Poole. The antiquary may be interested by an old gateway of the time of *Richard III.*, and by the building at the quay called the *Great Cellar*, or *Wool-house*; and the *Town Library, Literary and Scientific Institute*, in

course of formation, has a *museum*, which contains among other things a good collection of *Purbeck* fossils, and some specimens of the rarer wild fowl shot in the harbour.

Several delightful excursions can be made, viz.—to *Brownsea Island, Corfe Castle, Creech Barrow, the Agglestone, Studland, Bindon Abbey, and Lulworth Castle. Bournemouth* and *Wimborne Minster* may also be visited, and the *Isle of Purbeck*, by a walk round the coast, returning by rail from the *Wool Stat.*

The harbour of Poole is a beautiful and capacious estuary, resembling at high water an inland lake, which branches in every direction into the heaths which surround it. To the sailor it is not quite so charming. Its navigable channels are very narrow and intricate, and its entrance so barred by shifting sands, that it is never attempted without a pilot. It opens into a bay bounded at *Studland* by the chalk rocks called *Old Harry and his Wife*, and further S. by the oolitic promontory of *Durlston Head*; the direction and narrowness of the mouth giving rise to the phenomena of 2 tides in the time commonly allotted to one. The retreating water runs against the ebb tide of the Channel; it is driven back and kept ponded in the estuary, until, by its accumulation and the abatement of the Channel current, the tables are turned. But the rise and fall are very irregular, indeed to such an extent, that the sailors of the place can never predict with any certainty the time of high water. The chief ornament of Poole harbour is

Brownsea Island, a romantic cluster of lonely hillocks and glens. It is some 6 m. in circumference, and was long used as a deer-park by the families who formerly possessed it. Sombre fir-woods clothe its sides, and at its extreme point stands *Brownsea Castle*, first erected as a defence for the harbour in the reign of *Elizabeth*, strongly fortified during that of

Charles I., but since occupied as a family residence. A few years ago Brownsea was sold to Colonel Waugh, who, after his purchase, found it to consist mainly of a deposit of potter's clay, in places 70 ft. deep, and in great part fit for use in Staffordshire. Pits were worked here to a large extent. Potteries, a pier, and a tramroad were constructed; and a village and Gothic church built for the men employed. Colonel Waugh also added 100 acres to the island, and made other improvements. The whole estate is now for sale by order of the Court of Chancery.

The ruins of *Corfe Castle* (an inn) are $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. from *Wyck Passage*, the usual landing-place (7 m. from Poole; fare of boat 3 shillings), 4 m. from *Ower Passage*, a point of the harbour opposite Poole, and the same distance from *Wareham*, a ride of 20 minutes by rail. Most visitors will proceed by way of *Wareham*. The road from that town runs direct over a desolate heath, widely spread over the sands of the plastic clay, the lowest of the tertiary deposits. Here blue *potter's-clay* is extracted from numerous pits, yielding annually thousands of tons, which are shipped to Staffordshire and Scotland, to Spain and Holland, and other parts of the world. Clay which will burn white instead of red is also largely raised for the manufacture of tobacco-pipes and stoneware. The railway for the transit of this raw material to the water crosses the road (2 m. from *Wareham*), and leads on thert. to one of the principal pits, which is about 60 ft. in depth, and provided with a steam-engine to raise the water and the clay. Above it is a very pretty scene. An abandoned excavation forms a pool of emerald green water, of which the sandy sides, tinted with rosy red, blue, and fawn colours, beautifully contrast with the sombre heath. Adjoining it are the slopes of

Creech Barrow, which are pleasantly

reached by this diversion to the pits. The view from the summit is probably the finest for colour in the W. of England, its predominant feature being an expanse of heath, which stretches from the sea to *Lulworth Castle*, a distance of 10 m. In combination with this are the silvery surfaces of *Poole Harbour* and its numerous ramifications, a background swelling up to *Salisbury Plain*, which is visible on the horizon, the blue sea and promontories of *Portland* and the *Needles*, and last, but not least, the rounded masses and grassy flanks of the downs themselves, which, terminating abruptly E. and W. on the shore, so completely isolate a part of *Purbeck* from the rest of the county. At the foot of the hill lies *Grange*, mansion of the Bonds, and formerly a possession of the abbot of *Bindon*; and in the distant woods to the W., *Lulworth Castle*, seat of the family of *Weld*.

Descending from this airy height, a walk of 2 m. along the crest of the ridge, 369 ft. above the sea, will bring the traveller to that convenient gap which forms the gateway of *Purbeck*, where, in mid entrance, set as a coronet on a knoll, are the beetling walls and rocklike towers of

Corfe Castle, pregnant with the memory of many a cruel deed. For here was murdered by his savage stepmother *Edward the Martyr*; here were incarcerated *Peter the Hermit* and the unfortunate *Edw. II.*; and here died by starvation, at the will of the tyrant *John*, as many as 22 noble prisoners confined at the same time in the dungeons. Built, it is supposed, by the Saxon king *Edgar*, *Corfe Castle* was for many centuries one of the most powerful fortresses in the kingdom. In the reign of *Elizabeth* it was granted to *Sir Christopher Hatton*, whose descendants sold it in 1635 to *Sir John Bankes*, attorney-general to *Charles I.*, and ancestor of the present

owners, the family of Bankes, of Kingston Lacy. It was dismantled in the great civil war, when its gallant defence by a woman forms quite a romantic tale. Sir John Bankes having been summoned to the king at York, his lady and children retired to this place for security. They remained here unmolested until 1643, when the rebels, having captured the town on the coast, took advantage of a customary stag-hunt on May-day to despatch a body of horse to surprise the castle; but their plans were discovered in time to close the gates. The committee of Poole, thus foiled, next demanded the surrender of the cannon which the fortress contained, and sent a body of sailors to enforce it; but Lady Bankes, assisted by her serving-men and women, contrived to mount one of these rude pieces and to fire it against the enemy, who was thus put to flight. She then summoned assistance by beat of drum. But the castle was without provisions or ammunition, and to obtain them she had to beguile the authorities at Poole by the pretence of a surrender. Having completed her arrangements she despatched messengers to Prince Maurice, who had advanced to Blandford, urgently pressing for assistance, when a Captain Lawrence was sent to take command. The rebels soon made their appearance. Horse and foot, they took post on the adjoining heights, and cannonaded the castle, but fortunately with little effect. On the 26th of June they made their grand attack. They came streaming up the hill, under the command of Sir Walter Erle and others, to the number of 600, and, favoured by a mist, obtained possession of the town. From all quarters they opened their fire, and advanced against the castle under cover of two engines called the "Boar" and the "Sow," vociferating that they would grant no quarter. The garrison, however, were not to be intimidated;

and they not only returned with interest the musketry and shouts, but sallied from their walls with great success. But an additional force was now at hand to assist the Republicans. A large band of sailors came with peters and granadoes to join in the assault, and the fight was continued. Twenty pounds were offered to the first man who would scale the wall; strong liquors were distributed; and a brisk cannonade sustained from the church, the leaden roof of which had been converted into balls. All rushed to the assault, carrying wild-fire in their hands, and ladders which they planted, but vainly strove to mount. On every side they were met by a shower of stones or hot embers. Their hopes waxed faint beneath this storm of missiles; the fumes of the wine evaporated, and they were at length compelled to abandon the enterprise. In 1646 Corfe Castle was again besieged, and this time with a different result. It was captured through the treachery of Lieut.-Col. Pitman, one of the officers of the garrison. The Parliament had no sooner gained possession than it ordered the building to be destroyed, and accordingly the towers and walls were undermined and partly blown up by gunpowder. The key and seal of the castle are still preserved at Kingston Lacy.

The visitor approaches the ruin by a bridge of 4 arches, thrown across the moat, and enters it through a gateway, grooved for 4 portcullises, and flanked by 2 massive round towers pierced for arrows. He then finds himself in the first ward, now a wide area of turf, enclosed by a line of ruinous walls and towers, resembling rather a chain of rocks than a work of human hands. Yet, though 12 ft. thick, the whole leans outwards, such was the force of the explosion and the tenacity of the cement. From the main entrance the ground rises rapidly to that of the second ward, a fosse and a gateway similar to the first,

but where the force of the powder has produced a remarkable effect. The l. hand tower has been moved bodily down the hill, but, although 9 ft. below its former position, it is still upright. The archway shows 2 grooves for portcullises. This is supposed to have been the spot where the unfortunate Edward was treacherously stabbed. He had been hunting in the neighbouring forest, and, having lost his attendants, and being wearied, he stopped at Elfrida's castle to obtain a draught of wine. Whilst raising the goblet to his lips he received the fatal blow, some say from Elfrida herself. His horse, alarmed at the noise, dashed away on the gallop, and dragged the unfortunate prince by the stirrup to the spot where he was found dead and mutilated by the persons sent in search of him. Elfrida, however, reaped little benefit from her cruelty. She was haunted by the shadow of the murdered Edward, and died conscience-stricken in one of those abbeys which she had founded in expiation of her crime. Here the visitor will be impressed by the noble aspect of the keep, which, rising in a series of towers almost to its original height, is held together by the strength of the cement, although undetermined. The second ward, which is now entered, is considered the oldest part of the castle, the stones of the wall being arranged in the *herring-bone* fashion, one of the earliest modes of building. On the W. it has a tower called the *King's Chamber*, in which the steps still remain. On the E. rise the *King's Tower* and other parts of the keep, commanding the most beautiful views, which are roughly framed as pictures by the openings. Here are doorways and windows of many shapes and sizes, pointed, circular, obtuse, and square, and in which may be traced almost every change of architecture from the reign of Edgar to that of Hen. VII. Below, in the mossy ground, are the

dungeons where King John's unhappy captives were starved to death, and whence, at certain hours, it is said faint groans are heard to issue. But this the visitor can investigate for himself; let him come at the "witching hour" and astonish the owls. 'The Story of Corfe Castle' has been told by the late Rt. Hon. George Bankes, in an interesting volume published in 1853.

The village of *Corfe Castle* (a small *Inn*: the *Ship*) consists of a long street of picturesque cottages, built of stone, even to their roofs. The whole place, including the church, is exceedingly old, and in its diminished importance would seem to be following the fortunes of its castle. It is principally inhabited by quarrymen and knitters of stockings. *Encombe*, the seat of Lord Eldon, is situated by the sea, 3 m. S. *Rempston House*, of the Calcrafts, 2 m. E. towards Studland. *Swanage* is 6, and *Studland* 5 m. distant. The shortest route and a most charming one, to *Lulworth*, is along the top of the downs, about 9 m.

A beautiful view of Corfe Castle is obtained from the road running up the hill towards Studland. The walk along the summit of this ridge, over *Nine Barrow Down* (642 ft. high), is, in point of scenery, one of the finest things in the county.

The *Agglestone* (from *Halig-stan*, Saxon for *Holy-stone*) and *Studland* are often coupled together as objects for a ramble from Poole, the later being 3 m. from the mouth of the harbour. The *Agglestone*, or *Devil's Nightcap*, as it is commonly called, is 1 m. N.W. of Studland, and nearly the same distance from the nearest point of the shore. It is an isolated block of ferruginous sandstone, perched on the summit of a hillock, where the heathy moor dips to the low ground which borders the harbour. It is a most singular object, and has naturally given rise to many conjectures as to its origin. Some

have regarded it merely as a monster pebble of the stone common to the country; others, who have looked at it with the eye of the antiquary, either as a Druidic idol, or the monument of some old warrior who sleeps within the hill. But the country people tell a tale that is more in unison with the wildness of the locality. The devil, they affirm, one day seated on the Needles, espied the towers of Corfe Castle, a place he loved full well, when, taking the cap from his head, he tossed it in a frolicsome mood across the sea. It fell on this heath, and here it has remained to the present day, a wonder to the passing traveller. It is a capacious and a somewhat heavy article. It measures no less than 15 ft. in height, 19 in width, and 37 in length, and is computed to weigh about 400 tons.

Studland consists of a church and a few thatched cottages embowered among numerous lofty elms. The cliffs are of sand, overgrown with the wild brier and the holly, and form a pretty little bay, terminated by the chalk promontory of *Old Harry*. Beyond the point are *Old Harry's Wife* and the *Pinnacle Rock*, and a large cavern called the *Parson's Barn*.

Lulworth Castle, the seat of Joseph Weld, Esq. (shown Wednesdays), is 3½ m. S. of Wool Stat., a ride from Poole by rail of 40 minutes (*Inns*: Red Lion at W. Lulworth; Weld Arms at E. L.). The remains of *Bindon Abbey*, also the property of Mr. Weld, are close to the l. of the railway, ½ m. short of the same station. They consist of the foundation walls of the church; and of the old canals, shady walks, and fish-ponds, which have been restored to their pristine state, and are embedded in a thick wood. Within the precincts of the chancel, which has a tessellated floor, covered with turf for protection, is the slab of the tomb of one of the abbots, Bindon Abbey was founded 1172 by Roger de Newburgh, for Cistercian

monks, and in part destroyed at the Dissolution, when, together with the manor, it was granted to Thomas Lord Poynings, from whose heirs it descended to the Earl of Suffolk. It was sold by that nobleman to the family of Weld.

Pretty lanes lead to *Lulworth Castle*, a feudal-looking pile, situated in a park 5 m. in circumference, and in a country most secluded. E. of it, for 10 m., extends a heath only terminated by the sea, and S. a naked range of chalk downs, abutting on one of the most unfrequented but romantic coasts in the kingdom. This present castle was commenced 1588 by the Earl of Suffolk, and completed 1641 by Humphrey Weld, to whom the earl had sold it unfinished. It was constructed chiefly from the ruins of Bindon Abbey. In form an exact cube, it is flanked at each corner by a lofty round tower, and ornamented on its principal front, which is of Chilmark stone, by the arms of the Weld family, and by statues of Music and Painting, and of two Roman worthies. The interior contains some family portraits by *Lely*, and others in pencil by *Hussey*, an artist who drew the human head by the musical scale, and was a native of this county. Among those in oil is one of Sir John Weld, who raised a troop for Charles I. There is a state bedroom in which slept Charles X., who found a shelter here when banished from France; an old drawing-room, with painted ceiling; in the hall, an eagle shot in the park; and from the window of the bedroom in the N.W. tower a view which ranks high among the beauties of the place. The *Chapel* is a modern building detached from the castle, with a copy of *Raphael's* Transfiguration, and an altar decorated with alabaster, porphyry, and various Italian marbles. The crucifix is inlaid with lapis lazuli. Here also is a Psalter of the time of Edward I., curiously illuminated. The neigh-

bouring parish *Church* has been recently rebuilt, and the Weld monuments removed to the vaults beneath the chapel. It however retains some memorials of the family, including that of Sir John Weld, 1674, in which is set forth a genealogy, tracing his descent from Edrike the *Wild*, a nephew of the Duke of Mercia, the son-in-law of King Ethelred.

Lulworth has on several occasions been honoured by the presence of royalty—by James I., when the plague raged in London; by Charles II.; and by George III., who often rested here on his road to Weymouth. In 1830, as above stated, it afforded an asylum to Charles X. when driven from his throne.

The castle commands a pretty view of the sea, through an opening in the chalk hills called *Arish Mill Gap*, towards which a large gun, planted in the park, is pointed. The woods are extensive, and in one of their recesses, tradition says, a former Mr. Weld kept an "ornamental hermit," and that the fancy gave rise to O'Keefe's laughable comedy of 'The London Hermit, or Rambles in Dorsetshire.' But the story has been also told of Painshill, and its eccentric owner, Mr. Hamilton. The *lake* lies 1 m. N., adjoining the great heath which stretches towards Wareham. It is a pleasant solitude. A walk runs around it, and within it are a mimic fort and harbour, and a model of Mr. Weld's celebrated yacht "Alarm," which until recently was rigged as a cutter.

S. of the park are some fine scenes on the coast, viz. *Worbarrow Bay*, with its Roman camp, *Gad Cliff*, and the romantic *Cove of Lulworth* (all described in Rte. 23).

The watering-place of *Bournemouth* (*Inns*: Bath H.; Bellevue H.) is situated in Hampshire, $4\frac{3}{4}$ m. from Poole. It is principally a creation of the last few years, and consists of an irregular cluster of villas scattered through a valley, the cen-

tre of which, a pretty fir wood, is laid out as a pleasure-ground. It has, however, lost much of its original beauty by the increase of buildings, and the very questionable taste shown in remodelling the ground. The advantages of the place are the immense tract of heath adjoining it, the absolute dryness of the soil, the mildness and purity of the air, the beauty of the views, and the excellence of the beach. The cliffs are very prettily coloured and fissured by the rain, and above them runs a terrace of drifting sand, piled in hillocks, and extending as far as Christchurch. Some 2 m. along the shore are *Boscombe Chine* and *Boscombe Lodge*, seat of Sir Percy Shelley, Bart., where there is a curious hollow, the *Crater*, as it is called, which has been chiselled by a stream in the sandy cliff. The principal proprietor of Bournemouth is Sir John Gervis, Bart.

The *Ch.* is a modern building of E. Dec. character. *Godwin*, the novelist; his wife *Mary Wolstonecraft Godwin*, author of 'A Vindication of the Rights of Women;' and their daughter *Mary Wolstonecraft Shelley*, widow of the poet, are interred in the chyard.

Proceeding again on our route from Poole, the line runs over heaths, and across a branch of the estuary by a long timber bridge, to

126 *Wareham Stat.* The town (*Inns*: Red Lion; Bear) is situated nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the l. on rising ground, between the rivers Piddle and Frome, and presents a feature very foreign to an English town, namely, a rampart of earth by which the place is surrounded. Wareham is, indeed, exceedingly ancient. It was a British town, and a Roman station, to which a road ran direct from Dorchester, and in after times the port at which the Danes disembarked in almost all their incursions into this county. The British vallum is, however, the only part of it of high

antiquity. The whole place was burnt during the contest between Stephen and the Empress Maud, and two-thirds of it again in 1762, owing to the carelessness of throwing some heated ashes into the street. In the Rebellion it was fortified by the Parliament, but it changed hands more than once during the struggle.

Having crossed the Trent or Piddle, which gives such queer names as *Aff-piddle*, *Turners-piddle*, and *Piddle-trentside* to places on its banks, the visitor ascends the slight eminence on which Wareham is built, and enters it at the *Priory*, the ivied fragment of a religious house, first founded, it is said, by Aldhelm bishop of Sherborne, and now the property of Lord Rivers. The principal things to be seen here are the views from the E. side of the rampart and from the bridge over the Frome, both exceedingly beautiful. Two wild ranges are hence displayed: the main line of the Purbeck downs, on which *Creech Barrow*, with its conical summit, is conspicuous, and the lower heights of sand, a broken surface, coloured by heather and fern, and dotted by white pits of *pipe* and *potter's-clay*, which are scattered over the heath. The old vallum will also claim a share of attention. It is about 30 ft. high, and still perfect on three sides. On the E. it is separated from the houses by gardens, which occupy the site of ancient streets, for Wareham once covered all the ground within the barrier, an area of 100 acres. It had then no less than 8 churches, 3 of which remain. The chief of these is *St. Mary's*, considered the third in point of antiquity in the county, the first two being Sherborne and Wimborne. It, however, possesses no particular interest, if we except, perhaps, the chapel in the S. aisle, which bears undoubted marks of age, and is supposed to have been a burial-place of our Saxon kings. Within it is a monument to the *Rev. John Hutchins*,

for many years rector here, but better known as author of the 'History and Antiquities of Dorsetshire.'

S. of the town runs the *Frome*, the boundary of the Isle of Purbeck, and navigable as far as this. It has a salmon-fishery, let on lease by the proprietors. Above the river stood the castle, the site of which is still pointed out as the *Castle Close*.

The *Isle of Purbeck*, hence affording such fine wild views, is included between the sea, Poole Harbour, and a tributary to the Frome; but it is, in fact, a peninsula, connected with the mainland of the county at E. Lulworth. In another sense a part of it may be truly called insular, being isolated by the sea and a range of downs which terminate at each end on the shore. The passage through this great chalk wall is at Corfe Castle, which was therefore said to hold the keys of the island. In former times the Isle of Purbeck was a royal deer-forest, and contained several hunting-seats, now farmhouses. James I. was the last king who followed the chase in it. It has long been celebrated for its quarries of *Purbeck stone*, the material of the London pavements, and largely employed in the cathedral of St. Paul's.

Wareham means the town on the *Varia*, the old name of the Frome. S. are *Corfe Castle*, 4 m.; the *Grange*, Rev. Nath. Bond, below *Creech Barrow*; *Swanage*, 10 m., and *Encombe*, Lord Eldon, 7 m.; S.W. *Lulworth Castle*, Joseph Weld, Esq., 7 m., and *Lulworth Cove*, 10 m.; N. *Morden Park*, 4 m.; *Bloxworth House*, Rev. G. P. Cambridge, 5 m.; *Lytchet House*, W. Fryer, Esq., 6½ m.; and *Charborough House*, Erle Drax, Esq., 7 m. *Exacum filiforme*, or marsh centaury, a plant of some rarity, may be found on the surrounding heaths.

From Wareham the railway runs in the valley of the Frome, passing the ruins of *Bindon Abbey*, l., to

131 Wool Stat. 1. Lulworth Castle,

3½ m.; *Lulworth Cove*, 7 m.; rt. *Bere Regis* (Rte. 19), 5 m. The road to *Bere Regis* crosses to the valley of the *Trent* a solitary heath, commanding beautiful views from its summit. From the *Trent* it ascends another heathery hill to *Bere Regis*, which is situated on the chalk. In the pretty view from *Wool Bridge* are the woods and prospect-tower of *Moreton*. An old manor-house, now a farmhouse, stands on the l. bank of the river; and farther to the rt. *Hethfelton*, property of the *Fylers*.

136 *Moreton Stat.* rt. *Moreton House*, seat of the *Framptons*, with its obelisk.

141 *Dorchester Stat.*, S. of the town, and close to the *Amphitheatre*.

Dorchester (*Inns*: *King's Arms*; *Antelope*). This old Roman station and county-town of *Dorsetshire* is situated on a hill which slopes on the one side to the valley of the *Frome*, and extends on the other in an open country, across which run the Roman roads, still used as the highways. The principal thoroughfares divide *Dorchester* pretty equally, the *High Street* intersecting it from E. to W., the *South Street* and *North Market* in the opposite direction. On the S.W. is the suburb of *Fordington*, the property of the *Duchy of Cornwall*. The principal street—on the line of the *Via Iceniana*—ends abruptly at the fields, and on the S. and W. is the rampart, long since planted with rows of sycamore and chesnut trees as a walk.

The things to be seen here are this public walk, the *Amphitheatre*, and the camps of *Poundbury* and *Maiden Castle*. Of the 3 churches the principal is

St. Peter's, which occupies a prominent position at the intersection of the four streets, and rises, in its tower, to a height of 90 ft. It has been recently restored, and is a well-proportioned building, with Norman porch, and some monuments, with

effigies, to *Lord Holles of Ifield*, *Sir John Williams of Herringston* and his lady (1628), and to two unknown *Crusaders*, in coats of mail, with their legs crossed. A brass on the pavement preserves the memory of *Johanna de St. Omero*, relicta *Rob'ti More*, 1436.

The *Church of Fordington* is another ancient pile, with the figure of *St. George* rudely carved on the S. porch.

All Saints is of interest for its painted glass, of which the E. window was presented by the late Bp. of *Salisbury*.

The town also contains the *Dorset County Museum* (in *High West-street*), a small but interesting collection of minerals, British and Roman antiquities, &c. Among them are Roman coins found in *Poundbury Hill* during the progress of the railway works. A tessellated pavement (of geometric pattern) discovered within the precincts of the gaol has been relaid in the gaol chapel, so as to form an ornamental floor. The *Hospital*, erected 1840, is a handsome building. The *Market-house*, from designs of the architect *B. Ferrey*, is remarkable for its timber roof.

The *Amphitheatre*, called *Maenbury*, or *Maumbury*, and first brought into notice by *Sir Christopher Wren*, has been generally considered a Roman work of the time of *Agricola*. It is, however, very different from the amphitheatres existing in Italy, whilst it closely resembles the British "rounds," of which there is a specimen in *Cornwall*. Whether British or Roman, it is equally interesting as the most perfect relic of the kind in this country. It is an oval or elliptical earthwork, formed by excavating the chalk and heaping it around to a height of 30 ft. The area thus enclosed is 218 ft. in length and 163 in width. The rampart rises from the ends towards the centre, where it attains its greatest elevation and breadth, and, according to a calculation by the antiquary *Dr.*

Stukeley, would accommodate as many as 12,960 spectators. Its capabilities were tested in the year 1705, when the body of Mary Channing was burnt here after execution. 10,000 persons are said to have assembled on that occasion. This amphitheatre is situated beyond the walls of the town, by the side of the Roman road to Weymouth, and now of the 2 railway stations. The line of the S.-Western was originally planned to pass through it.

From the walk on the W. rampart is seen another ancient work—the camp of *Poundbury*—cresting the head of a hill which rises from the river. Camden and others think it was constructed by the Danes when they laid siege to Dorchester, under their famous leader Swein. It is an irregularly shaped entrenchment, protected by a lofty vallum and ditch, double on the W. side. On the N. the steepness of the hill appears to have been the only defence. The summit commands an extensive view, in which *Maiden Castle* is seen to the S., and *Hardy's monument* to the S.W. The hill is now pierced by the railway.

Maiden Castle, one of the finest old camps in England, is situated most conspicuously to the rt. of a Roman road (now the Weymouth highway). It may astonish the traveller by the scale of its 3 earthen ramparts, the innermost being 60 ft. in height, and a mile or more in circumference. Climbing to the camp, he will find that these bulwarks are as steep as they are lofty, and that they are pierced by intricate entrances formed by the overlapping ends of the valla, and additionally strengthened by outworks. They enclose an area of 44 acres, divided in two parts by a low bank and ditch. Near the S. end of this bank is the mouth of a cave (now filled up) supposed to have communicated with the stream below. The view is commanding, but not remarkable for beauty; the

principal features being the Roman roads diverging from Dorchester, and the innumerable barrows which dot the hills near the sea. E. lies *Came House*, with its park, and N. the open tract called *Fordington Field*. Opinions differ as to the origin of this remarkable hill-fortress, but the weight of authority is in favour of its construction by the Britons, and its subsequent occupation as a summer camp by the Roman troops stationed at Dorchester. The facts which support this view are the irregularity of the shape, the intricacy of the outlets, and the number of tumuli on the surrounding hills. The name is supposed to be a corruption of *Mew dun*, the *Great hill*, Celtic.

Fordington Field, says a writer in the *Edinburgh Review*, “exhibits at this day one of the finest of the few remaining specimens of the open fields of our ancestors.” It is of 3400 acres, and belongs to the Duchy of Cornwall. Arable cultivation in common was a marked feature in old English rural economy.

5½ m. W. of Dorchester, or ½ m. beyond the village of *Winterbourn Abbas*, l. of the road, are remains of a *Druidical circle*, called the *Nine Stones* (p. 118).

Among the seats in the neighbourhood are *Kingston House*, J. Felloses, Esq., on the Blandford road; *Came House*, S. Dawson Damer, Esq., on the road to Wareham; *Frampton Court*, seat of the Sheridans, in the direction of Melbury; and *Herringston*, of the Williamses, l. of the road to Weymouth. *Frampton Ch.* has a stone pulpit of about 1450.

Wolveton Hall, James Henning, Esq., 1 m. towards Yeovil, was built in the reign of Henry VII. by Sir Thos. Trenchard, and is remarkable as the spot where the high fortunes of the house of Bedford were founded. According to the tradition, Philip, king of Castile, with Johanna his queen, having been driven into Weymouth by bad weather, were hos-

pitably received at Wolveton by Sir Thos. T., who, feeling the want of an interpreter, bethought himself of his young neighbour John Russell (of Kingston Russell, p. 119), who had for some time lived in Spain. It fortunately happened for Mr. Russell that he was gifted with the art of pleasing, for, having ingratiated himself with the royal visitors, he accompanied them to London, and was introduced to Henry VII. as a man of abilities, "fit to stand before princes, and not before meaner men." Thus established at court, he soon rose to high office, and in the reign of Henry VIII. was created Lord Russell, and, what was of more importance, obtained a large share of the monastic lands. He died 1554, and was the ancestor of the Bedford family. At the time of the Rebellion Wolveton was the seat of another Sir Thomas Trenchard, who played an active part in this county as a Parliamentary commander. The hall was then curiously ornamented with carvings in oak, among which were the figures of every king who had reigned in England.

Wynford Eagle, 8 m. N.W., was the birthplace of *Sydenham*, the great physician, b. 1624.

Dorchester has unquestioned claims to antiquity. It was a British town before the invasion of Cæsar, and was long afterwards known by its Celtic name *Durnovaria*, or the place on the river *Varia*. The Romans made it one of their principal stations. They carried roads from it in different directions, and brought one through the heart of the place. They also fortified it with walls, which remained in fragments as late as the year 1802. Under the Saxons its name was changed to *Darncaster*, but it continued of such importance as to attract the notice of the Danes, who besieged it in 1003, and burnt it to the ground. From that distant period to the time of the Civil War its annals have little interest, although

in 1595 it was ravaged by the plague, and in 1613 by a terrible fire. After the breaking out of the Rebellion it again became enlivened by stirring events. It was early fortified by the Parliament, but surrendered without a blow on the approach of the Earl of Caernarvon. Its defences were then dismantled, and it was afterwards occupied only as quarters by the contending parties: in 1645 by Cromwell, who was driven out of it by General Goring. But perhaps the most memorable scenes ever witnessed in Dorchester occurred during the "Bloody Assize" of the infamous Jeffreys, when the court was hung with scarlet, and 80 persons were condemned to death in one day. The chair in which the judge sat is still preserved in the Town Hall.

To *Weymouth* 8 m. The road and railway run thither together, leaping the one over the other as they pass through the hills. *Maiden Castle* is seen rt., and *Chalbury* l.

Dorchester is situated in a chalk country celebrated for *sheep*, and is the centre of a considerable traffic. It is no longer famous for the beer which was formerly so well known by the name of "Dorset."

ROUTE 15.

POOLE TO WEYMOUTH.

28 m.

Poole (Rte. 14). The road from this town skirts the shore of the great

estuary of *Hole's Bay*, passing *Upton House*, a seat of Sir E. Doughty, Bart., and the head of *Lytchet Bay* to

5 *Lytchet Minster*, a village under the heathery hills of *Lytchet Forest*. rt. 2½ m. is *Lytchet House*, W. Fryer, Esq.; and 3½ m. *Charborough House*, Erle Drax, Esq. Across *Holton Heath* to

5 *Wareham* (Rte. 14). l. 4 m. *Corfe Castle*; 10 m. *Swanage*. Here the road falls in with the rail, which it accompanies up the valley of the *Frome* to

5 *Wool*, a small village of thatched cottages, 3½ m. from *Lulworth Castle*, 7 m. from *Lulworth Cove*, and ½ m. from the ruins of *Bindon Abbey*. The woods and obelisk of *Moreton* contribute to the pretty view from the bridge. On rt. is *Hethfelton*, seat of the Fylers, and by the bank of the river an interesting old mansion, now a farmhouse. 1 m. beyond *Wool* the road and rail diverge, the former running towards the hills.

3 l. 4 m. *Lulworth Cove* (Rte. 23). On the rt. the obelisk of *Moreton House*, H. Frampton, Esq.

3½ Here the road branches—rt. to *Dorchester*, 5½ m.; l. to *Weymouth*, 6½ m.

¾ *Pozwell*. In this little village are an ancient manor-house and curious church, and, at a distance of ½ m. remains of one of those Druidical *hut-circles* so common on *Dartmoor* (see *Handbook for Devon*). To find the last, leave the road at the lime-kiln, ¼ m. nearer *Weymouth*, and walk up the down on the l. The circle is at the summit, by the hedge. It is about 12 ft. in diameter, and consists of 14 small stones, which have been evidently long exposed to the weather. There are also remains of an outer ring (4 stones), and some traces of a line of stones running parallel with the hedge.

1¾ *Osmington*, a pretty village, embowered in a woody valley, among lofty hills. It is an ancient place, named after St. Osmund, and once

the property of the abbots of *Milton*. 1 m. to the l. is *Osmington Mill*, a coastguard station, where a cascade tumbles to the shore; and further E., along the coast, near the hamlet of S. *Holworth*, the *Burning Cliff*, which, between the years 1824 and 1827, emitted clouds of heated vapour, and exhibited on a small scale the phenomena of a volcano. The effect was produced by the decomposition of the iron pyrites and bituminous shale by a long continued rain. In 1816 the land slipped, and for the 3 following years moved at intervals.

Beyond *Osmington* the downs rise abruptly on the rt., and on one of their steepest slopes appears the colossal figure of *George III.* on horseback, formed by removing the turf from the chalk. It was the work of a private soldier, and must be regarded as a proof of considerable skill; for, being cut on an inclined surface, it had to be distorted to produce a true image. It is visible from the sea at a great distance. Along the crest of the ridge are a great number of barrows, arranged in groups.

1½ rt., on a spur of the hills, the old entrenchment of *Chalbury*. Here the road turns l. towards the sea, and, after nightfall, commands a very pretty view, the bright lamps of *Weymouth* appearing like a string of beads suspended in the dark air. The traveller now reaches the shore, and, having skirted it across the race-ground called *Lodmoor Marsh*, arrives at his destination—

2½ *Weymouth*. (*Inns*: Royal; *Burdon*; *Victoria*; *Golden Lion*; *Crown*; and *The Cutter*. *Gloucester Lodge* is about to be converted into a family hotel and lodging-house.)

This fashionable watering-place is very pleasantly situated. The coast here, turning to the S., forms a wide open bay, which is shaped in the form of the letter E., the projection in the centre dividing it into two parts—*Weymouth Bay* and *Portland*

Roads. Beneath this projecting point (called the *Nothe*) lies the old town of *Weymouth*, and connected with it by a bridge across the harbour is *Melcombe Regis*, the modern town, extending nearly a mile along the curving shore. It is built on a narrow strip of land, with the sea on one side and an estuary (the *Backwater*) on the other, and commands in long perspective the coast to the E. as far as *St. Aldhelm's Head*. Its principal feature is the *Esplanade*, distinguished by its length and symmetrical curve, and as the site of a monument erected by the townspeople in commemoration of the 50th birthday of their great patron *George III.* From this point diverge the two main streets, *St. Thomas* and *St. Mary*, which, with *St. Edmund Street*, form a triangle, resting its base on the market-place. The chief curiosities and buildings of the town are as follows:—

In *St. Mary's Church* (*M. Regis*) a Last Supper by *Sir James Thornhill*, the painter of the cupola of *St. Paul's*, and a native of *Melcombe Regis*, which he represented in Parliament in the reign of *George II.* He was originally a house-painter, and when eminent as an artist was little valued in his generation. *Hogarth's* copper-plates were sold by weight, and *Thornhill* was remunerated for his pictures according to what they measured. Thus he received only 40s. a square yard for the dome of *St. Paul's*.

In *Trinity Church* (*Weymouth*) a Crucifixion by *Vandyck*; and below the building *catacombs*, which may be seen on *Wed.* and *Sat.*

Holy Trinity Schools, adjoining this ch., and dating from 1853. They are of *Portland* and *Caen* stone. and have lofty ornamental roofs, and a bell-turret of oak. The design was by *Mr. T. Bury*.

St. John's Church (*M. Regis*), a very handsome structure in the late *Dec.* style, and of which the foundation stone was laid 1850, *Mr. T. Bury*

architect. The plan is peculiar, the tower being placed at an angle of the nave, into which it opens by a lofty arch. There are transepts, aisles, 2 porches, and an octagonal spire 140 ft. in height. The pulpit, font, and tracery of the windows are of *Caen* stone, the rest of the building of *Portland* stone.

The *Market-House*, in *St. Mary* street, another proof of the talent of *Mr. Bury*, and of the increasing demand for good architecture. The principal front, though based on the *Romanesque* or *Lombard* of *Italy*, shows much originality of invention, and is an exceeding rich and harmonious composition. The arms of the borough occupy a central point above the cornice.

The museum of the *Weymouth Institute*, in *St. Thomas* Street. The town has also, in connection with *Sherborne* and *Yeovil*, a *Horticultural Society*.

The *Old Town Hall* (in *Weymouth*), a curious, dirty building, with bell-tower, supposed to have been originally a place of worship.

The *Friary* (*M. Regis*), a group of dismal alleys, of interest, to a determined antiquary, as the site of a *Dominican* monastery. The entrance is close to *St. Mary's*.

But the charm of *Weymouth* is its neighbourhood, unrivalled for walks and excursions. The first point to invite a ramble is

The *Nothe*, the green promontory which rises from the mouth of the harbour, and is reached in a few minutes from the *Esplanade*, either by the *Swing-bridge* or a boat. It is a commanding and delightful spot, where, seated on the turf, you may watch the sunshine as it plays along the curtain of the hills, illumining at one moment the huge figures of *George III.* and his trotting steed, and at another the cliffs of *White Nose* and *Lulworth*, or brightening with more effect the adjacent roadstead and naked precipices of *Port-*

land. During the Rebellion it was fortified, with the object of "keeping in the Portlanders," as an old writer expresses it. From this point the visitor should ramble along the cliffs to

Sandsfoot Castle ($\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Weymouth by road), a picturesque ruin on the verge of the yellow rocks. It is, however, more interesting at a distance than on a nearer approach, being daubed with the rude designs of the neighbouring townspeople. It was erected as a coast defence by Henry VIII., about the year 1539, at which time the country apprehended an invasion by the Pope. Its last governor was appointed in 1685. From this ruin

The Smallmouth Sands extend to the long timber bridge over the *Fleet*, a distance of $\frac{3}{4}$ m. They are generally selected by the country-people as the road to Portland, being remarkable for a firm and level surface. The view is delightful.

To *Radipole*, 2 m., a pretty walk along the shore of the *Backwater*. This is a village embowered in trees, where the *Wey* joins the inlet. It has a sulphurous mineral spring and bathing establishment. In the churchyard are the graves of eighty persons drowned in the wreck of the "Abergavenny," off Portland, in the winter of 1805. The captain was brother of Wordsworth, the poet. The fishermen assert that the timbers of the vessel may still be discerned through the water, and speak of the spot where she sank by the name of the ship, or, as they abbreviate it, "The Abbey."

To *Wyke Regis*, 1 m. The road to it passes on the l. *Belfield House*, the seat of the late Sir T. Fowell Buxton, Bart., who represented Weymouth for many years. *Wyke Regis* is seated on an eminence with a fine view of Portland and of *Dead-man's Bay*, as sailors term the fatal West Bay. The church is the parish church of Weymouth and a well-known sea-

mark. In the churchyard, among numberless graves of shipwrecked sailors, is one which contains 140 of the passengers and crew of the "Alexander" East Indiaman, lost on the Chesil bank in 1815. Only four *Las-cars* escaped.

The following *excursions* may be made from Weymouth:—

A walk round the *Isle of Portland* (Rte. 24), which can be accomplished in one day. The chief points of interest are—view of the Chesil Bank from Fortune's Well—Breakwater—Quarries—Convict prison—Bow and Arrow Castle—Pensylvania Castle—Cave's Hole, and Portland Bill. A steamer plies between Weymouth and the island.

To *Lulworth Cove* (Rte. 23), and *Lulworth Castle* (Rte. 14), by excursion steamer during the summer months. The distance by road is 16 m.

To *Abbotsbury*, 9 m. (Rte. 25.)

To *Dorchester*, 8 m. including *Maiden Castle* and *Poundbury* (Rte. 14).

Shorter trips may be taken to *Nottingham*, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. (l. of the Dorchester road), known for its sulphurous spa;—to *Upwey*, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. (l. of the Dorchester road), a rural village in a dell, at a source of a branch of the small river *Wey*, called *Upwey Spring*, a favourite spot with George III.;—to *Ridgeway Hill*, a commanding point of the downs above *Upwey*;—to *Chalbury*, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ m., an old camp l. of the road to Wareham; and to *Preston Valley*, *Osmington Mill*, and the *Burning Cliff* (p. 113), respectively 4 and 5 m. across the bay. "*Preston Valley*," says Gosse, "is a little gem; a verdant dell opening to the sea, through which a streamlet runs, with the sides and bottom covered with woods."—*Gosse's Aquarium*.

The *tides* on the shore at Weymouth differ from those which prevail along the coast, the irregularity being most marked at the time of the "springs." According to the sailors

there are 4 hrs. flood, 4 hrs. ebb, and 4 hrs. standing water, but this description is scarcely correct. There is generally a secondary tide—a slight flow and reflux—which takes place after the lowest ebb, and is popularly known by the name of the *Gulder*. Steamers in connection with the Great Western Railway ply between Weymouth and the Channel Islands, and at times to Weymouth and Cherbourg.

Weymouth takes rank among the ancient towns of the county. By Edward the Confessor it was bestowed, together with the manor, on the monks of Winchester, but as a port it was of little consequence before the reign of Edward I. In that of Edward III. it contributed as many as 20 ships to the fleet which assisted in the siege of Calais. After that time it suffered much from the attacks of the French, who found it an easy matter to step across the Channel and burn this undefended place. To render it not worth the burning, Henry VI. transferred its privileges as a port and its woolstaple to Poole, a measure which deprived it of much of its former trade. However, in 1588, it was capable of arming and despatching 6 ships against the Spanish Armada. During the Rebellion it was garrisoned by both parties, and the scene of some fighting. In 1644 it fell a valuable prize into the hands of the Parliament, which successfully defended it against a fortnight's siege by the Royalists. As boroughs, its two divisions of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis were long at open war with each other. The narrow channel of their harbour was as jealously guarded by the contending factions as the boundary of rival kingdoms; and in the reign of Elizabeth their animosity had reached to such a height that the Government interfered and compelled the inhabitants to coalesce and incorporate, and from that time to the present day their in-

terests have been one, as the united borough of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis. As a watering-place Weymouth dates from 1763, when Ralph Allen of Bath (the Allworthy of Tom Jones) introduced the first bathing-machine. Being pleased with the place, he sang its praises wherever he went, and with considerable effect, for they soon reached the ears of royalty. In 1780 the Duke of Gloucester passed the winter here, and built *Gloucester Lodge*, and in 1789 the king, George III., with his family, took up his residence in Gloucester Lodge, and from year to year repeated his visits until prevented by infirmity.

Weymouth derives its name from the small river *Wey*; Melcombe, from *Mele-combe*, the *Valley of the Mill*.

ROUTE 16.

YEovil to WEYMOUTH, BY MAIDEN
NEWTON (BRIDPORT), DORCHESTER,
(*Wilts, Somerset, and Weymouth
Railway.*)

Yeovil Stat. (Rte. 28).

4 *Yetminster Stat.* The *Ch.* has a fine brass to Sir John Horsey and his lady, 1531. The knight is represented in armour.

4½ *Evershot Stat.* (*Inn*: Acorn), adjoining *Melbury Park*, the Earl of Ilchester's seat. W. some 2 m. is the entrenched grassy knoll of *Castle Hill*; further W. *Crook Hill*, called by the country-people the *Devil's*

Dancing-Hill; and S.W. 2 m. the retired village of

Rampisham (pronounced *Ransom*), known for its old church, now partly modernized, and for the pediment of a cross (in the churchyard), which has excited much interest from its curious sculpture, and the long flat stone for preaching attached to it. On the 4 sides of this relic are represented "the stoning of St. Stephen, the martyrdom of St. Edmund, the martyrdom of St. Thomas à Becket, and two crowned figures sitting at a long table, to which a man kneels on one knee. Over the projections at each end of the panels are carved whole-length figures of St. Peter, with a scroll, the cock standing on a pillar; a man sitting in the character of a fool; a monk sitting; another fool and another monk, both sitting; and two men in armour, standing." This was Britton's account some 30 years ago. The sculpture is now nearly obliterated, with the exception of the stoning of St. Stephen. In the lane which runs to Evershot is the mutilated shaft of another cross 5 ft. high. The church is prettily placed.

Melbury Park, the seat of the Strangeways, Earls of Ilchester (shown when the family is absent), is situated immediately to the N. of Evershot, and the road through it is a public footway. The house, which was built about the beginning of the last century, stands on high ground, and presents towards the E. a front of weatherbeaten stone, ornamented with Corinthian pilasters. Connected with the S. side is the church of *Melbury Sampford*, with pinnacled tower, an ancient structure, containing several monuments to the Brownings, and one, with alabaster effigies, to "Egidius Strangewaies" and "Dorothee" his wife. There is also a brass to Sir Giles Strangeways, 1562. On the S. side a sloping lawn descends to a lake in a charming dell, from which rises a wood terraced at the top. W. of the house

is a remarkably fine avenue of 4 rows of sycamores; N. of it a grove of lofty oaks, limes, sycamores, and chestnuts; and E., beyond a valley, the wooded eminence of *Bubb Down*, a conspicuous landmark, over which are conducted numerous drives commanding a most extensive and beautiful prospect. Alfred's Tower at Stourhead, Wells cathedral, the Mendips and Quantocks, may be seen at different points. Towards the S. a road traverses the park to *Evershot*, and towards the N. another directs its course between two valleys (each with its stream) to the rural little village of *Melbury Osmund*, which is decked with innumerable creepers, ivy, and laurel hedges, and contains a whimsical old yew-tree which leans over the road. The estate of Melbury is distinguished for the size of its oaks, which thrive on the stiff, retentive soil. There is one in particular, known as *Billy Wilkins*, which is 50 ft. high and 37 ft. in circumference. It is a very gnarled tree, and is called by Mitchell, in his 'Dendrologia,' "as curled, surly, knotty an old monster as can be conceived."

The Oxford clay of this district contains masses of septaria or cementstone, which are polished under the name of *Melbury marble*.

A steep incline leads to *Holywell tunnel*, a very difficult and expensive work, as it is excavated in a loose greensand full of springs. It pierces the hill in a curve 220 yards, and cost 150,000*l*.

$4\frac{1}{2}$ *Maiden Newton Stat.*, from which a branch runs rt. to *Poorstock* and *Bridport*, $9\frac{1}{2}$ m. The road to Crewkerne is known by the curious name of *Cromlech Crock Lane*. S.W. $1\frac{1}{2}$ m., is *Wynford Eagle*, the birthplace of *Sydenham*, the famous physician in the reign of Charles II., and in its vicinity a residence of William Samuel Best, Baron Wynford.

$3\frac{1}{2}$ *Grimstone Stat.*, where a tunnel passes through the chalk for 600

yards. On rt. is *Frampton Court*, seat of R. B. Sheridan, Esq., M.P. for Dorchester. The line traverses the water meadows of the valley of the Frome, and gives the traveller a glimpse of

Wolveton Hall (p. 111), built in the reign of Hen. VII., and at the time of the Rebellion the seat of Sir Thomas Trenchard, who with Sir Walter Erle, an ancestor of the present distinguished judge, was so active in this county on the side of the Parliament.

It next enters the *Ridgeway tunnel*, the longest on the line, and, passing under the entrenchment of *Poundbury*, emerges within a short distance of

$4\frac{1}{2}$ *Dorchester Stat.* (Rte. 14). Here it allows of a brief view of the *Amphitheatre*, and then of *Maiden Castle*, as it pursues a direct course in company with one of the old Roman roads to its terminus at

7 *Weymouth Stat.* (Rte. 15.)

ROUTE 17.

DORCHESTER TO AXMINSTER, BY BRIDPORT AND CHARMOUTH.

Dorchester (Rte. 14). The traveller leaves this town by the Roman *Via Iceniana*, now for $\frac{1}{2}$ m. an avenue. On the rt. is *Poundbury*; on the l., in the distance, *Maiden Castle*.

From the end of the avenue the road runs in a straight line up the long slope of *Bradford Down*, and from the summit, in 3 m., commands an extensive prospect. Heights and hollows are alike studded with bar-

rows. 20 may be counted on the crests of the distant hills ranging from Weymouth to Blackdown. There are others on the low ground of Fordington Field, and several by the roadside, in the adjacent meadows. After a descent of $\frac{3}{4}$ m. we turn l., leaving the Roman road, which pursues a direct course towards Eggardon Hill. In front rises the dark height of

Black Down, 817 ft. above the sea. It is crowned by a monument to the memory of the gallant *Admiral Sir Thomas Hardy*, who was born in the village of Portisham to the S. of it.

$4\frac{1}{2}$ *Winterbourn Abbas* (*Inn: Coach and Horses*), a rural village in a vale, $9\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Weymouth. Winterbourn, in common with other places of the name, is so called from a stream, peculiar to the chalk valleys, of which the fountains periodically well up, or "break," as it is termed, in the winter. The following explanation has been given of the phenomenon. Rain percolates rapidly through chalk, and finds an outlet in ordinary weather at the bottom of the hills. But when a long-continued downfall has filled the fissures—or the ordinary vents below are insufficient for the drainage—the reservoir overflows, and exudes from the gullies of the upper surface, and these continue to emit the water until the equilibrium is restored. $\frac{1}{2}$ m. beyond this village is a lodge entrance to *Bridehead*, seat of R. Williams, Esq., and at the corner of the plantation (nearest Winterbourn), l. of the road, a Druidical circle called the

Nine Stones, 28 ft. in diameter. It stands on a bare spot, which, in the belief of the country people, is likely to continue in the same condition, as there is a popular notion that trees will not grow within the circle. The stones are of a cherty conglomerate, and 8 in number, and one only appears to be wanting. The

largest is 7 ft. in height by 4 in width; the next in size $5\frac{1}{2}$ ft. by 6 ft.; the others are mere fragments little raised above the ground. There is a cromlech on a hill S. of Blackdown, near Portisham (p. 148).

$\frac{1}{2}$ Another entrance to *Bridehead*, which is about 2 m. l. The road here quits the enclosed country for the open downs, on which it continues for some miles. Upwards of 20 barrows stud the adjoining slopes.

1 rt. *Kingston Russell*, an ancient mansion, now a farm-house, with tall trees and a rookery—an oasis among the furze-covered hills. It was built 1720, and for 4 centies. was the seat of the Russells, ancestors of the Duke of Bedford. On the summit to the l. are several barrows, and a bank and ditch running E.N.E. and W.S.W. Below the S. side of this hill lies the village of *Long Bredy*.

$\frac{1}{2}$ *The Hut Inn* and *Long Bredy Gate*, on cross roads, where there is a pass through the downs. By the gate are 2 grassy tumuli, and the remains of a third which form a prop for the inn stable. The road now ascends to the summit of a lofty ridge, on which it continues for $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. To the l. is a delightful view of fertile valleys, of the hills by the coast, and a fringe of blue sea. The earthworks of *Abbotsbury Castle*, and the height of *Punchnoll Knob*, with its sea-mark, are conspicuous.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ Here the whole of western Dorset, and parts of Somerset and Devon, open on the traveller, who commences a descent of 2 m. On the rt. beyond an intervening valley stretches the long rolling down of

Eggardon Hill, crowned by a remarkable camp, resembling in its shape and the strength of its defences *Maiden Castle*, near Dorchester. On the N. and E. its entrenchments are double; on the W. triple; on the S. they cannot be accurately traced. The inner rampart is more than 50 ft. in height, and the oval

area it encloses, 20 acres, studded with tumuli. The entrances are two in number, on the N.W. and S.E., and artfully made by overlapping banks. To that on the S.E. ran the Roman road direct from Dorchester. The hill stands in 3 parishes.

2 l. *Shipton Beacon*, with another old camp, supposed to have been made by the Saxons. It is irregular in form, with a single low rampart and ditch. Just S. of it is *Hammerdon Hill*, and to the N.W. those singular twin heights *Lewesdon* and *Pillesdon*, called by sailors the *Cow and the Calf*, the latter the highest hill in Dorsetshire, 934 ft. above the sea.

3 *Bridport* (*Inns*: Bull; Greyhound). This is a large airy town surrounded by hills, and seated on a gentle eminence between 2 rivulets. The principal street rises from the E. and W. to a summit in the centre, and hence commands in each direction a vista, which is beautifully terminated by a hill. That towards the W. is a cone called *Colmers Hill*, which after sunset has very much the appearance of a volcano. Bridport has long been celebrated for its manufacture of twine, rope, shoe-thread, &c., and in the reign of Henry VIII. supplied most of the cordage used in the royal navy. A quantity of hemp was formerly grown in the neighbourhood, and hence the local phrase for a man being hanged, "he was stabbed with a Bridport dagger." This was taken by Leland in a literal sense; "at Bridport," he says, "be made good daggers."

A wide street runs from the town-hall in the direction of the *Quay*, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. distant, where there is a double wooden pier of rather primitive appearance, each end being sharp like the prow of a vessel. The harbour thus formed is of consequence to Bridport, but useless as a place of refuge, the entrance being narrow and obstructed by sand. Around the inner basin are grouped some cottages and an *Inn*, the *George*. The coast

is very beautiful, undulating towards the W. in irregular heights, including that striking eminence *Golden Cap Hill*. It also displays an excellent geological section, the strata, from their easterly dip, being exhibited in succession on the cliff. On *Golden Cap* the sands of the inferior oolite are seen resting on lias, which forms the body of the hill. On *Down Cliff* the blue stratum of lias is at a much lower level, and E. of the harbour it disappears altogether beneath the shore, being succeeded by the beds of yellow sand and marl belonging to the oolite. Again, beyond the mouth of the small river Bredy, the oolite is lost to view in its turn; the low *Burton Cliffs* being formed of fullers' earth, abounding in fibrous calcareous spar. At *Bridport* harbour the *Chesil bank* begins, its materials passing gradually from fine sand to coarse shingle between this point and *Portland*.

Bridport has never been distinguished by any important event. It was occupied during the Civil War as quiet quarters by Royalists and Roundheads, but it was never contested by either party. Upon *Monmouth* landing at *Lyme*, it was, however the scene of some temporary confusion and riot, and for this the inhabitants had to reckon with Judge *Jeffreys*, who hung up a dozen of their number in the market-place.

A person stopping here any time should visit *Lyme Regis*, the *Pinney Landslip*, *Abbotsbury*, *Lewesdon*, and *Pillesdon*, and the camps previously mentioned in this route. It is about 3 m. to *Eggardon Hill*. The romantic coast affords a fine field for rambles. In the town the chief objects of interest are the *twine factories*, an *iron-foundry*, and a *yarn-spinning mill*. An *Independent Chapel*, High-street, built 1859, is in the Geometrical or E. Dec. style. *Camesworth House*, N., is the seat of the Rev. E. Drury Butts.

Proceeding on our route, we enter at once on a series of long and steep

hills, which succeed one another like waves.

1½ To this point it is a continued ascent of *Colmers Hill*, of which the summit is here seen on the rt. There is a fine view forward of rolling downs, and of the blue sea through the gaps, but much time is not allowed you for its enjoyment; as one foot has barely rested on the ridge before the other plunges downward towards the village of

¾ *Chideock*, situated in the depths of the valley, on a stream which runs to the sea near the *Down Cliffs*. At the entrance of the place begins another long climb to

1¾ *Morcumbelake*, a hamlet at an airy height. To the l. lies *Golden Cap*, to the rt. the crest of *Hadden Hill*. Winding over these grassy summits, the road opens "Marshwood's fruitful vale," with its romantic knolls of *Coneygore* and *Catherston*, and begins a long descent along the flank of *Stonebarrow* to

2½ *Charmouth* (*Inns*: *Coach and Horses*; *George*), a large village with a sprinkling of villas climbing the hill, called by *Hutchins* the *Plinlimmon of Dorset*. It consists of one long street, or rather road, situated above the mouth of the *Char*, the leading feature of the view being the heights which hedge in the valley, particularly those from which the road has just descended. It is an ancient place, which still preserves the memory of two sanguinary battles between the Danes and Saxons. In the first the Saxons were commanded by *Egbert*, in the second by *Ethelwolf*. In both, the Danes were victorious, but so crippled in the fight, that they were obliged to retreat to their ships. At *Charmouth*, too, in the attempted escape of *Charles II.* to France, occurred the incident which so nearly led to the discovery of the fugitive. A plan had been concerted with the captain of a merchantman trading to *Lyme*, that a boat, at a particular hour of the night,

should be sent to the beach at Charmouth. Charles rode hither under the guidance of Lord Wilmot and Colonel Wyndham, and rested at the little inn to await the appointed time. The vessel, however, from unforeseen circumstances, was unable to leave the harbour, and the fugitive was obliged to give up the enterprise, and to pass the night in the village. The next morning it was found that his horse had cast a shoe, and the village blacksmith was summoned to repair the loss. This was a curious fellow, whose suspicions were aroused on observing that the old shoes were fastened in a manner peculiar to the N. of England. The hostler, who was a Republican soldier, carried the information to the Puritan minister. From the minister it went to the magistrate; and from the magistrate to the captain of a troop of horse, who soon galloped with his men in pursuit. Fortunately for the king, they took the wrong road, and he escaped. The "king's bed-room," in a part of the old inn, now inhabited as a cottage, is pointed out. The house is the next above the chapel.

The church, dedicated to St. Matthew, is supposed to have been rebuilt about 1503. It contains a screen, and on the seats by the chancel some droll figures cut in oak, of undoubted antiquity.

The cliffs at Charmouth, descending in dark slopes to the sea, exhibit a fine section of the strata (described at Bridport), and abound in interesting fossil remains. These include the bones of those colossal reptiles the Ichthyosaurus and Plesiosaurus (see Lyme), of the Pterodactyle, and numerous fish; and, among other shells, those of the ammonite and belemnite, which are found in great quantities on Golden Cap. The lias contains much bituminous matter and iron pyrites, which have frequently taken fire after heavy rains. Remarkable instances occurred in 1531 and 1751. A bed of gravel at

[W. D. & S.]

the mouth of the river encloses the bones of the elephant and rhinoceros, and the remains of trees.

Trout, and in the proper season salmon-peel, may be caught in the Char. The river rises under Lewesdon and Pillesdon, some 6 m. distant in a direct line.

N. of Charmouth 3 m. is *Conie* (i. e. the King's Castle, supposed to have been the camp of Egbert when he fought with the Danes; and 4 m. *Lambert's Castle*, another strong entrenchment, having triple mounds and ditches, pierced by 3 outlets. The area of the last is 12 acres, and shaped like a D.

At *Whitechurch*, on the Char, *Judge Jeffreys* was buried. His seat was at *Catherston*. His judge's cap is preserved in the ch.

Our route to Axminster ascends the lofty hill on which Charmouth is placed. At the end of the village a road turns off on the l. to *Lyme-Regis*, 2 m.

$5\frac{1}{2}$ *Axminster*. 7 m. from this town, rt. of the Chard road, is

Ford Abbey (*Knap Inn*), seat of G. W. F. Miles, Esq., one of the most perfect and beautiful monastic structures in the kingdom. It is seated in its park, in a retired valley (4 m. from the nearest town, Chard), on the river Axe, which there forms the boundary of Dorset and Somerset. It was built in the reign of Stephen (1148) for a community of Cistercian monks, which had been first established at Brightley, near Okehampton, Devon, by Richard de Brioniis, a descendant of the Dukes of Normandy. Ford was given in exchange for Brightley by his sister Adeliza or Alice. In the reign of Henry II., by the marriage of the heiress of this family, the abbey passed to the Courtenays, who continued its patrons for many generations. Its last abbot was Thomas Chard, and he restored and beautified it, and reconstructed the cloister and refectory, which remain

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perfect to this day. At the Dissolution it was granted to Richard Pollard, who was subsequently knighted, and from his family it passed in succession through those of Poulett, Rosewell, Prideaux, and Gwyn. It escaped destruction in the Rebellion, as the property of the Attorney-General of the Commonwealth, Sir Edmund Prideaux, who afterwards employed Inigo Jones to make extensive alterations, which were, however, not completed at the death of the architect in 1654. In 1680 the son of the attorney-general received a visit from the Duke of Monmouth, who was making a tour through the Western counties. He had afterwards, however, to regret the honour, for he was arrested as accessory to Monmouth's rebellion, and kept a prisoner in the Tower until he had paid a ransom of 15,000*l.* to Judge Jeffreys. His heiress carried the property to the Gwyns of Glamorgan-shire. In the reign of Queen Anne Francis Gwyn was the proprietor of Ford. He was Secretary at War, and was presented by the queen with the tapestry which, until lately, ornamented the saloon. In 1815 one of his descendants let the abbey for a term of 3 years to *Jeremy Bentham*, who here wrote some of his works. In 1847, after the death of John Fraunceis Gwyn, the last transfer of the estate occurred. It was then in the hands of trustees to sell, and after it had been stripped of its pictures and tapestry it became the property of the present owner.

The approach to the abbey is by a broad straight road, which leads to the eastern ivy-covered side, but affords no view of the S. or principal front, in which is concentrated most of the beauty of the ancient pile. This S. front faces the lawn and terrace, and presents a long range of sculptured wall, richly coloured by mosses and lichens, and forming (from E. to W.) the *chapel*, *cloister*, *saloon*, *porch*, *tower*, *refectory*, and *state apart-*

ments. The cloister, tower, and refectory remain as they were built by Thomas Chard, the last abbot, and bear his initials and the arms of Courtenay, Poulett, and Prideaux. The square windows in the W. wing are part of the alterations by Inigo Jones. The *chapel* is the oldest portion, and supposed to be in great part coeval with the foundation of the abbey, in the reign of Stephen. It has a vaulted roof hung with pendants, a finely carved screen and pulpit, and obtusely pointed arches set with the zigzag moulding of the Norman style. The E. window is in the Tudor form, and was probably the work of Thomas Chard. The *cloister* (by the same hand) still retains all the beauty of its vaulting and delicate tracery, but is a little injured in effect by the square-headed doors added by Inigo Jones. It is 82 ft. in length, and now used as a conservatory. The hall or *refectory*, also built by Chard, is 28 ft. in height and 55 in length, and lighted by 4 large Tudor windows. Its carved ceiling is gilded and painted, and its walls are partly wainscoted. W. of it are the *state apartments*, designed by Inigo Jones. The most remarkable of these are the *dining-room* and *drawing-room*, both with elaborate and beautiful ceilings, and formerly furnished in the old English fashion with high-backed, tapestried chairs, &c. Above them are several bedrooms, one called *Queen Anne's room*, because prepared for that sovereign by Francis Gwyn, when secretary at war. The *grand staircase*, designed by Inigo Jones, but completed after his death, in 1658, is much admired, particularly the balustrade. It leads to the *saloon*, also by Inigo Jones, a noble room, 50 ft. in length and 28 in height, and for more than 130 years hung with the famous Raphael tapestries presented to Francis Gwyn by Queen Anne. According to the family tradition, they were worked at Arras for the

king of Spain, and taken in a Spanish galleon by one of our cruisers. On the E. side of the Abbey is the *dormitory*, now called the *Monks' Walk*, and partly divided into separate rooms; and on the N., by the kitchen entrance, the *buttery*, where the hospitable monks dispensed their good cheer. In the park is a lake well stored with fish, and several old trees, particularly a cedar of Lebanon of remarkable size.

Leigh House, C. Henley, Esq., on the hill-side opposite Ford, is a fine old Elizabethan mansion.

Thorncombe, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. S.E., was the birthplace of Admiral Hood, Viscount Bridport, 1728. His father was the vicar. The *ch.* contains a brass to Sir Thomas and Lady Brook, 1437. S. of Thorncombe is *Sadborough House*, Colonel Bragge; and W. the ruins of *Olditch Court*, long a residence of the Brook family, afterwards Lords Cobham, who forfeited it by the attainder of Henry Lord C. in the reign of James I. They are probably of the time of Edw. III., and now partly incorporated with a farmhouse. The *ch.* of

Hawkchurch, S.W. of Thorncombe, and 4 m. from Axminster, belonged to Cerne Abbey. It has Norm. and E. E. work, and one very curious feature in a Norm. corbel-table, of grotesque figures, running round the wall of nave and chancel. *Wylde Court*, W. of the *ch.*, was b. by John Leigh, to whom the manor was given at the Dissolution.

ROUTE 18.

DORCHESTER TO SHERBORNE, BY CERNE ABBAS.

Dorchester (Rte. 14).

$7\frac{1}{2}$ *Cerne Abbas* (New Inn), a small town, surrounded by chalk hills, on the river *Cerne*. It derives its distinguishing name from an *abbey*, which

was founded by the Saxon *Æwald*, in memory of his brother St. Edmund the Martyr, who was cruelly put to death by the Danes. The remains consist of a *gate-house*, bearing the escutcheon of the abbey, and those of the Earl of Cornwall, Fitz-James, and Beaufort; the *abbey-barn*, a long buttressed building, still used as a granary; and some traces of the park and gardens.

The *Church*, dedicated to St. Mary, is of Perp. date, and supposed to have been built by the abbots. N. of the churchyard is an earthwork, of which, however, the history is unknown.

Immediately above the town rises a lofty eminence, popularly called the *Giant's Hill*, from an uncouth colossal figure cut on its chalky surface. It represents a man, 180 ft. in height, holding in his rt. hand a club, and stretching forth the other. "Vulgar tradition," says Britton, "makes this figure commemorate the destruction of a giant, who, having feasted on some sheep in Blackmoor, and laid himself to sleep on this hill, was pinioned down, like another Gulliver, and killed by the enraged peasants, who immediately traced his dimensions for the information of posterity." On the summit of the hill is an entrenchment called *Trendle* (i.e. a circle, Saxon); and N. of Cerne, about 2 m., *Minterne House*, seat of Lord Digby.

3 *Revels Hill*. The road here descends the escarpment of the chalk, and commands an extensive view over Somerset. *High Stoy*, to the l., is one of the loftiest of the downs.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ *Middlemarsh*, near the source of a branch of the river *Lidden*. rt., on a hill, an earthwork called *Dungeon*; and below it *Glanvilles Wootton*, the seat of the Dales.

1 *Holnest Lodge*, a seat of Erle Drax, Esq.

2 1 m. *Lewston Park*.

$3\frac{1}{4}$ *Sherborne* (Inns: King's Arms; Antelope; Angel). This town is very pleasantly situated on the slope

of a hill which descends to a rivulet; and hence its Saxon name *Scireburn*, or the clear brook (*scir burna*). It lies partly in the vale of the Yeo, and faces the woods of *Sherborne Castle*, seat of G. W. Digby, Esq. Its antiquity is seen in its beautiful abbey church, which for nearly 400 years was the cathedral of a bishopric—from the reign of Ina to that of the Conqueror, when the see was transferred to Old Sarum. The first bishop of Sherborne was St. Aldhelm, and one of his successors the famous Asser, the friend and biographer of Alfred the Great. In the time of these bishops the town seems to have prospered, till it was burnt by the Danes, a calamity which crippled it so completely that William of Malmesbury expresses his wonder that so paltry a place could have been the seat of a bishopric for so many years. But this was the low tide of its fortunes, which again began to rise by means of the cloth manufacture, and the traffic of the great western road, which, in Leland's time, had made Sherborne "the most frequented town in the county." In subsequent years the trades of button and lace making were introduced; and, in 1740, *silk-throwing*, which is now the principal business. It is conducted in 3 factories, of which the largest employs 500 hands. Sherborne was the birthplace of *Joseph Towers*, a learned divine, b. 1737. *Sherborne House* is the retreat of *W. C. Macready, Esq.*, the tragedian.

The chief things to be seen here are the church and Sherborne castle; but other objects of some interest will be mentioned below.

The *Abbey Church of St. Mary* has much of the beauty and Gothic splendour of our ancient cathedrals. It exhibits, in common with such edifices, the architecture of different periods. The rounded arches and zigzag mouldings of the Norman age appear in the S. porch, the S. tran-

sept, the W. end, and the N. side; and the Perp. style of Hen. VI.'s time in the tower, the nave, the E. end, and the aisles. In Hen. VI.'s reign the church was in great measure rebuilt, after a destructive fire, occasioned by a quarrel between the monks and the townspeople. "A priest," says Leland, "shot a shaft with fire into a division of the church which separated the part used by the monks from that frequented by the town, and, this partition happening to be thatched, the roof was soon in a blaze, and nearly the whole building was consumed." This beautiful ch. has been completely restored—the nave, 1849-50, by the late Mr. Carpenter, mainly at the expense of the late Lord Digby; the choir, 1855-8, by Mr. Slater, a pupil of Mr. Carpenter, entirely at the cost of G. D. Wingfield Digby, Esq., of Sherborne Castle. In the restoration the S. porch and the roof of the transept have each been raised, and pinnacles have been added to the former. The altar window, and those of the clerestory, have been filled with painted glass by Messrs. Clayton and Bell of London. In the former are represented the Entry into Jerusalem, the Agony and Betrayal, the Ecce Homo, the Bearing the Cross, the Crucifixion and Resurrection, and, in the tracery, the various orders of martyrs; in the latter, life-size figures of saints, &c., and of the bishops of the ancient see of Sherborne. The altarpiece, a rich work of Caen stone, forms a frame-work for 2 large subjects in alto-relievo, designed by Mr. Slater, the Last Supper and Ascension; and near it is a monumental brass in memory of the late Lord Digby, to whose spirit and munificence the present beautiful appearance of the nave is due. The interior of the church presents a splendid coup-d'œil, particularly the roof of carved stone, with its gilded ribs and bosses, and emblazoned panels, bearing the crest of Digby, the

arms of Sherborne Abbey, and those of Old Sarum and the Bishop of Salisbury quartered. The principal monument is that to John Digby Earl of Bristol, 1698, in the S. transept, with 3 figures representing the earl and his 2 wives. It is by *Nost*, an Italian sculptor, and of white marble. Near it is a tablet to the memory of 2 children of William Lord Digby, with inscription in English verse by Pope; and the Horsey monument, 1546, 1564, with 2 mutilated effigies. *Sir Thomas Wyatt* the poet is buried in the ch. without a monument. During the restoration the workmen have discovered specimens of the encaustic tile pavement of the 11th and 12th centuries, and a stone coffin of the earliest form found in England. The church is built principally of Hamhill stone.

On the N. side of the churchyard are some remains of the *abbey*, erected in the reign of Ethelred, consisting principally of the refectory, now used as a building for the manufacture of silk; on the E. side is a *Free-school*, founded by Edw. VI. The *Parsonage-house* is a curious structure of Early Perp. date.

A passage leads from the churchyard through an archway to the *Conduit*, which bears the escutcheon of its founder, Sir John Horsey (temp. Edw. VI.), and stands in the market-place.

The *Town-Hall*, opposite the King's Arms, is an antique edifice, the walls ornamented with shields. W. of it, at the corner of the street, is

The *Almshouse*, a very venerable structure, originally a hospital of the order of St. Augustine. The almsmen are dressed in blue, and attend prayers daily in a chapel at the E. end. One of the rooms contains a curious old painting.

Pack-Monday Fair, held at Sherborne in October, is said by the inhabitants to commemorate the completion of their church. According

to the tradition, the workmen were ordered to pack and be off by midnight on Sunday; and now, annually, as the clock strikes the hour, its deep tones are accompanied by the dulcet notes of the tin-kettle, the marrow-bone, the cleaver, and other rude instruments. It is an ancient custom, and this must console the sleepy traveller in his inn, on whom this untimely concert is well calculated to produce a lively impression.

Sherborne Castle, G. D. Wingfield Digby, Esq., is situated on the hills above the town, and may be seen by any stranger, as the road through the park is a public footway. It is one of the quaintest old houses imaginable. The ground-plan is in the form of the letter H, the superstructure consisting of a centre and two far-projecting wings, the former built by Sir Walter Raleigh, the latter by the Earl of Bristol, after the Restoration. The walls are of stone, but coated with grey plaster, which in its turn is very singularly patched with white and yellow lichens; the windows are barred diamond-wise, and thus is completed the odd appearance of this most whimsical structure. The entrance into the court-yard is by an arch of Hamhill stone, surmounted by the crest of the Digbys, an ostrich holding a horseshoe in its beak, a device which originated in the vulgar notion that this bird could digest iron. Over the central doorway appear the arms of Sir Walter Raleigh, with the date 1594. The house contains several portraits, including one of Sir Kenelm Digby, and a full-length of Dogget, the great actor, by *Murray*; also the Procession of Queen Elizabeth, a noted picture by *Mark Gerrard* of Bruges. It represents Elizabeth in a sedan-chair, as she was carried to Hunsdon House in Hertfordshire by 6 noblemen of her court, Lord Hunsdon carrying the sword of state before her, Knights of the Garter walking in advance, and ladies

following in the train. A broad sheet of water winds through the park, and, sweeping in a semi-circle N. of the mansion, divides it from the pleasure-ground and the ruins of the *ancient castle*, which rises from a wood with a charming effect. It is supposed to have been built in the reign of Stephen, by "Roger the Great," as he has sometimes been called, a famous bishop of Old Sarum, whose castles are described as "for space very large, for cost very chargeable, for show very beautiful." But the history of Sherborne Castle goes back to the Conquest, and much further if it could be traced. Indeed, in Saxon times it was the episcopal residence of the bishops of Sherborne. William I. bestowed it on Osmund de Sels, afterwards Bishop of Sarum. He annexed it to his see, and, according to the legend, invoked a curse against all who should alienate it "from that godly use;" and hence, it is said, arose the misfortunes of its subsequent proprietors—Stephen, the Montacutes, the Duke of Somerset (Edw. VI.), Sir Walter Raleigh, and Prince Henry. By Charles I. it was sold to John Digby, Earl of Bristol. In the Rebellion it was one of the first fortresses attacked by the Parliament, and one of the last to hold out for the king. In 1645, after a siege of 16 days, it was taken by Fairfax, who found in it so much plunder that he held a fair on the occasion. The castle was then destroyed, and with a part of its materials were built Castleton church and the wings of the present mansion. The last incident of any consequence that occurred at Sherborne Castle was the visit of the Prince of Orange, who slept in it on his road to London, 1688.

The park is 2 m. in length by 1 m. in breadth, and contains, on the E. side, a number of huge old oaks, perfect giants of their kind. It has also a grove planted by Sir Walter Raleigh, and another by Pope. In the pleasure-grounds, which show

the "capability" of the famous landscape-gardener Brown, a stone seat is pointed out as the spot where Raleigh was in the habit of smoking. It has a lower stone for the pipe to rest on.

N.W. of Sherborne, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m., is *Trent House*, in which Charles II. was concealed by Colonel Wyndham after the battle of Worcester. It is now a farmhouse, but the "king's room" is preserved (p. 207). Opposite is the residence of the clergyman, the Rev. W. Turner, which contains a collection of *pictures* shown to strangers; and S. of Trent, at *Over Compton*, a seat of the Gooddens.

The *Yeo*, or *Ivel*, which flows past this town, rises about 4 m. N. of it in 7 springs called the *Seven Sisters*.

Excursions can be made from Sherborne to *Yeovil*, famous for gloves; to *Montacute House*, and the *Hamhill Quarries*, near that town; and to the remarkable entrenchment of *Cadbury*, some 6 m. N. (See *Index*.)

ROUTE 19.

DORCHESTER TO SALISBURY, BY BLANDFORD.

Dorchester (Rte. 14). Rt., about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from this town, is *Kingston House*, J. Fellowes, Esq.

3 The road crosses *Yellowham Hill*, a picturesque eminence covered with fir-trees.

$\frac{3}{4}$ A hamlet known as *Troy Town*, a

name which may call to mind the story of Brute and his Trojan companions, who are fabled to have first colonised this country. Troy-town is, however, another designation for the *maze* or *labyrinth*, constructed by the old inhabitants of Britain with banks of turf, and of which remains have been found in different parts of the kingdom. They are common in Wales, where they are called *Caer-troi*, that is, *turning-towns*.

$\frac{1}{2}$ *Piddletown*, a large village on the Piddle, which falls into Poole harbour. S. of it is *Ilington Wood*. The church dates from 1505, and contains several brasses and monuments with mailed effigies. One of the brasses is to C. Martin, who is represented in armour, 1524.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ l. 1 m. *Dewlish House*, General Michel. $4\frac{1}{2}$ m. *Binghams Melcombe*, Colonel Bingham, birthplace of *Sir Richard Bingham*, "a brave soldier," says Fuller, "*fortis et felix* in all his undertakings." He was at the siege of St. Quintin, and has a monument in Westminster Abbey.

2 *Milborne St. Andrews (Inn)*: Royal Oak, the halfway house between Dorchester and Blandford). 1. $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. *Milton Abbey*; rt. 1 m.

Weatherbury Castle, or, as it is called here, *Castle Rings*, a rectangular British camp, with 2 ramparts and ditches. An obelisk has been erected within the enclosure, which is now covered with fir-trees. 2 m. S.E. of Milborne is the market-town of

Bere Regis (Inns): Royal Oak; Drax's Arms), a poor place of thatched cottages on the higher road from Poole to Dorchester, and in the immediate vicinity of an immense tract of barren heath. It is however, respectable for its antiquity, which carries us back to Roman times, when it is supposed to have been a station, of which *Woodbury Hill* was the *castra æstiva*. Queen Elfrida had a mansion here, to which she retired after the murder of her son-in-law at Corfe Castle,

and, according to the tradition, the same was afterwards occupied by that ubiquitous monarch King John. In a field opposite the church are shown the so-called remains of his palace. By Henry VIII. the lordship of Bere was granted to the Turbervilles, who had possessed a moiety of it from the time of the Conquest. They lived here for many generations, and their manorhouse may still be seen (at the entrance from Wool), as well as their monuments in the church. Bere was the birthplace of *Cardinal Morton*, b. 1410, Archbishop of Canterbury and Lord Chancellor in the reign of Henry VII.

E. of the town $\frac{1}{2}$ m. rises *Woodbury Hill*, the site of the supposed *castra æstiva* of the Romans. The entrenchment is circular, and formed by 3 ramparts and ditches. It is annually the scene of *Woodbury Fair*, a large market for sheep, cheese, &c., and formerly very celebrated. It begins September 18th, and lasts 6 days. E. of this hill is *Bere Wood*, and adjoining this wood *Bloxworth House*, seat of the Picards, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. on the road to Poole. 4 m. on the same road is *Morden Park*. Bere Regis was severely ravaged by fire 1634 and 1788. The country surrounding it is covered with barrows.

From Milborne a pretty lane runs up a vale to *Milton Abbey*, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m., the seat of Baron Hambro, known for its *abbey church* and, until recently, for its gallery of *pictures*, now removed by Lord Portarlington. From the park-gate, with its huge dogs supporting with raised paws armorial shields, the lane turns rt. to

Milton Abbas (Inn): Hambro Arms), a prim but pretty village which lines a steep road between two wooded hills. It was built by the first Earl of Dorchester, and consists of two rows of cottages, each cottage with high thatched roof, and in all respects similar to its neighbour, from which it is separated by an open space planted with a chestnut-tree.

In the centre of one row is the almshouse, and in that of the other the church, with pinnacled tower. The inn is at the top.

Milton Abbey is a charming place among the hills. It is seated in a dell at the confluence of three deep valleys below amphitheatrical heights and woods, and in a park which extends 3 m. from E. to W. It occupies the site of an abbey founded by Athelstan, and at the Dissolution, says Fuller, given by Henry VIII. (for 1000*l.*) to Sir John Tregonwell, his proctor in the divorce from Q. Catherine. With the exception of the hall, it was rebuilt at the beginning of the present century by the Earl of Dorchester. The architect was Sir William Chambers. It is a large quadrangular mansion with a central court, and is constructed of white limestone, in parts alternating with layers of flint. The principal fronts face the N. and the W., and on the S. is the beautiful old abbey church, now used as a private chapel.

The most interesting part of the house is the *Monks' Hall*, or *refectory*. The walls are hung with ancient weapons and emblazoned with the arms of Athelstan and other patrons of the abbey. It is a venerable apartment, with a roof of Irish oak, a much-admired screen of the same material (but painted white and gilded), and a sideboard, on which a stag-hunt is finely carved. Among its curiosities are also the antlers of an elk found in Tipperary; the great bugle-horn used in the old deer-hunts, and 2 portraits of monks in the recess where the abbot dined. The date of the monastery, 1498, will be observed in early characters on the screen and cornice.

The *abbey church*, which forms such a beautiful feature in the view of the abbey, is considered to date from the reign of Edward II., when the original church was destroyed by lightning. It is a mutilated structure, consisting of a choir with

aisles, a transept, and tower, the nave having been probably demolished at the Dissolution. The rich altar-screen (dated 1492), which was walled up for security, is an elaborate work, divided into niches, which are surmounted by highly-decorated canopies. The carving of the stalls is also much admired; but perhaps the most curious relics in the building are the 2 rude old paintings beneath the organ-gallery. They are supposed to represent Athelstan, the founder of the abbey, and his queen, the former presenting a model of the church to a monk who is kneeling; the latter holding in her hand a hawk, which is devouring a small bird. Among other things, the visitor should notice, on the rt. of the altar, the 3 canopied sedilia; in the N. transept the marble monument of Lord and Lady Milton, by *Carlini*, 1775; in the S. transept, the window by Pugin, 1849 (the subject the family of Jesse), and the font, of Coade's artificial stone, 1791; in the S. aisle, on the wall, the rebus of the name Milton (a mill and a tun, or cask, with date 1218); and in the N. aisle, the old marble monument of Sir John Tregonwell, 1565. As a parting salute, your conductor should bang the church-door, when a sound like thunder will reverberate through the building.

On the hill E. of the abbey stands an old chapel or hermitage of the monks. On the S. are the lake and pleasure-grounds, the latter occupying the site of the market-town of Milton, removed from the face of the earth by the first Earl of Dorchester, who built the pretty village to supply its place.

About 3 m. N.W. rises *Bullbarrow*, the loftiest chalk down on the range, 927 ft. above the sea. It is crowned by the camp of *Rawlsbury*, a circular work formed by double ramparts, and commanding the most extensive views over the country. *Nettlecomb Tout*, 4 m. W., is another entrenched

hill. Tout was probably *Theut* (unde *Θεός*), the chief deity of the Egyptians, and worshipped by the Celts under the name of *Theut-Ait*, the god of the dead. Hills in the shape of barrows were sacred to *Theut-Ait*. His image was represented by a stone, which was placed on some lofty height.

Proceeding on our route:—

2½ l. ½ m. *Whatcomb House* (Mrs. Michel), adjoining the park of *Milton Abbey*.

1½ The road crosses an old dyke on *Charlton Down*. Two barrows face each other on opposite sides of the highway, like posts for sentinels.

2 l. *The Down House*, Sir J. J. Smith, Bart.

1½ *Blandford* (*Inn: Crown*), on the river *Stour*, which flows from *Bryanston Park*, under a wooded hill, in the form of a crescent,—a pretty scene from the bridge. This town, burnt to the ground in 1731, is now one of the most cheerful and handsome in the county, its houses having a certain air of stateliness with their high roofs and ornamented fronts. It is built entirely of red brick, in two main thoroughfares, *East-street* and *Salisbury-street*. These meet in a spacious market-place, terminated at one end by the church, and at the other by the inn and park of *Bryanston*, which is separated from the street by a light iron fence. The chief manufacture is that of buttons, which is principally carried on by women and children; at one time the town was the most celebrated in England for point-lace. It was the native place of *Archbishop Wake*, b. 1657. The manor belongs to the duchy of Lancaster.

The church is of Grecian architecture, with a tower 80 ft. high. Adjoining it, under a portico, is a pump, erected by one *John Bastard*, 1760, in remembrance of the great fire, and to provide against the recurrence of a similar disaster. It bears an inscription to that effect. An old mansion of red brick (*Mr. Fincham's*),

about a gunshot N.E. of the church, is said to have been the only house which escaped this conflagration. It is an ancient building, with high roof and hexagonal chimneys.

On the skirt of the town, beyond *East-street*, are some remains of *Damorey Court*, in the reign of *Edward II.* the residence of *Roger d'Amorie*, constable of *Corfe Castle*, but now a farmhouse. A barn to the E. of it was *St. Leonard's Chapel*. By stepping over a stile you may see its pointed windows and doorway, now partly walled up. On this estate stood *Damorey's Oak*, a celebrated tree 68 ft. in circumf. at the ground. During the Rebellion its hollow trunk was inhabited by an old man, who vended beer in it. In 1703 it was greatly injured by a storm, and in 1755 it was taken down and sold as firewood for 14l.

The most interesting place near *Blandford* is *Milton Abbey*, the seat of *Baron Hambro*. It is 8 posting miles distant, but a horseman may reach it in 6.

Bryanston House, *Lord Portman*, is not accessible to strangers. It is a large mansion erected from a design by *Wyatt*, the chief feature of the interior being an octagonal staircase 30 ft. in diameter. The park is more than 1 m. in length, and watered by the *Stour*, which sweeps through it below a beautiful crescent of wood. This is well seen from the bridge, a little distance from the *Crown inn*. The estate first came into the possession of the *Portmans* in the reign of *Charles II.*, when it was purchased by *Sir William Portman*.

Several old camps are within a ride of *Blandford*, viz.: rt. of the *Sturminster road*, *Hod Hill*, 3 m., and *Hamilton Hill*, 4 m.; on the old road to *Wimborne*, *Buzbury*, 2½ m., and *Badbury Rings*, 6½ m.; and on the lower road to *Wimborne*, *Spetisbury Ring* or *Crawford Castle*, 3½ m. (See *Index*.)

Blandford St. Mary, 1 m. S., was the birthplace of *Browne Willis*, the antiquary (1682), whose industry may be gathered from the fact that no less than 150 volumes of his MS. relating to Buckinghamshire are now preserved at Oxford.

Numerous seats are scattered among the chalk hills and valleys of this neighbourhood. Among them may be enumerated *Milton Abbey*, Baron Hambro; *Bryanston House*, Lord Portman; *Steepleton House*, (just E. of Hod Hill), Lord Rivers, occupied by Sir John H. D'Oyley, Bart.; *Ranston House* (adjoining Steepleton), Sir Edw. Baker Baker, Bart.; *Hanford House*, H. Ker Seymer, Esq.; *Turnworth House* (5 m. N.W.), P. Okeden, Esq.; *Whitcomb House* (by Milton Abbey), Mrs. Michel; and *Charborough House* (6 m. on Wareham road), Erle Drax, Esq.

Proceeding on our route—

2½ *Pimperne*. The ch. has a brass to Dorothy Williams, 1688. A rector here was *Christopher Pitt*, translator of *The Æneid* and Veda's 'Art of Poetry,' and author of a volume of Poems, published in Chalmers' Collection.

rt. *Blandford Racecourse*, on *Monkton Down*.

2 l. 1 m. *Eastbury Park*, formerly the site of a mansion, by Vanbrugh, of great size and splendour, erected, at a cost of 140,000*l.*, by George Bubb Dodington, afterwards Lord Melcombe. It was pulled down by his successor, Earl Temple, who had previously offered an annuity of 200*l.* to any gentleman who would occupy it and keep it in repair. It is celebrated in verse by Thomson and Young, who, with Fielding, Bentley, and other literary men of the day, were frequent guests here. The estate is now the property of J. J. Farquharson, Esq., and its occupants a pack of fox-hounds and their huntsmen.

2 rt. 4 m. *More Critchell*, H. C. Sturt, Esq.; 1. 3½ m. in *Cranborne Chace*,

Rushmore Lodge, the seat of Lord Rivers, the house being in Wiltshire, but nearly 30,000 acres of the estate are in this county. In 1814 the Princess Charlotte was placed here under the charge of the Dowager-Countess of Rosslyn and the Countess of Ilchester.

2¼ rt. 3 m. *St. Giles's Park*, seat of the Earl of Shaftesbury, and birthplace in 1621 of *Anthony Cooper*, the statesman and leading member of the Cabal ministry, created Baron Ashley 1661, and Earl of Shaftesbury 1672—and at a later date of the author of 'The Characteristics,' who was here educated by Locke, who came into his grandfather's family as doctor, 1666, and some years afterwards found a wife for his father. The house is embattled, and was partly rebuilt in 1651. The pleasure-grounds contain a grotto, which is said to have cost 10,000*l.* In the kitchen-garden, according to the tradition, that homely but useful vegetable the cabbage was first grown in England.

1 rt. 4 m. *Cranborne (Inn: Cross Keys)*, an old market-town on the high road from Salisbury to Poole. It had anciently a monastery, founded as early as 980, but its name is best known in connection with *Cranborne Chace*, an extensive tract of wild land on the borders of Dorsetshire and Wiltshire. The church formerly belonged to the abbey, and is one of the oldest in the county.

Edward Stillingfleet, Bishop of Worcester (died 1699), was born close to Cranborne, on a small estate possessed by his family. *St. Giles's Park*, Earl of Shaftesbury, is 1 m. S.

Cranborne Chace, so named from this town, was in early times connected with the New Forest, and formed with it an immense sylvan region, which comprised considerable parts of Dorset, Hampshire, and Wiltshire. Its limits were then Salisbury, Wilton, Tisbury, Kingsettle (near Shaftesbury), Blandford, Wimborne,

Ringwood, and Fordingbridge, including an area of some 18 square miles. For many years it was the property of the Earls of Gloucester, but it belonged to the Crown in the reign of John, and from the time of Edward IV. to that of James I. By the latter monarch it was granted to the Earl of Pembroke, from whose descendants it passed through several noble families to its present proprietor Lord Rivers. Cranborne Chace, though now disfranchised, is still an extensive wooded tract, consisting principally of the Wiltshire hills on the border of this county. As late as 1828 it contained 12,000 deer, and as many as 6 lodges, each of which had its "walk," and was under the management of a ranger appointed by Lord Rivers. It presents many a charming scene. "Nothing," says the poet Bowles, "can be more wild than this leafy labyrinth, opening at times, and showing, through the hollies and thorns and hazels, some distant woodland hamlet in sunshine. On the bordering downs no object meets the eye, except here and there, at a distance, a small round clump of trees on summits, called by the people of the country appropriately *a hat of trees.*" Over the hills of this forest ran the *British Ridge Way*. The ancient *Chace Prison* was at Cranborne.

1¼ Here the highway falls in with a Roman road from Old Sarum, running in a straight line towards Badbury Rings. Numerous tumuli are scattered over the downs. The wooded hills of *Cranborne Chace* are well seen on the l.

1 *Woodyates Inn*. Near this spot the Duke of Monmouth, in his flight from Sedgemoor, was obliged to abandon his horse. He proceeded on foot towards the coast, but was overtaken and captured by his pursuers on the Woodlands estate near Wimborne (p. 102).

½ The road, crossing *Bokeley-ditch*, a supposed territorial boundary of

the Belgæ, enters Wiltshire on *Vern-ditch Chace*, formerly a "walk" of Cranborne.

4 *The Grims-ditch* (p. 61), here running in a serpentine line from E. to W. It may be traced for 6 m.

6 *Salisbury* (Rte. 5).

ROUTE 20.

SHAFTESBURY TO YEOVIL, BY MILBORNE PORT AND SHERBORNE.

(*The Great West Road from London to the Land's-end.*)

Shaftesbury (*Inns*: Grosvenor Arms; Abbey Arms), or *Shaston*, as it is commonly called. This town is very curiously placed, on the narrow ridge of a chalk hill which projects into the lower country, and rises from it with abruptness. Hence an extensive landscape is seen through the openings between the houses, and from commanding points the eye ranges over the greater part of Dorset and Somerset. To add to the beauty of the position, the scarp slope of the hill is curved on its southern side. Shaftesbury is one of the oldest towns in the kingdom. Its traditions go back to the time of King Lud, who, according to Holinshed, founded it about 1000 B.C. Brampton, who dares not so long a flight, refers its origin to Cassibelaunus; but, taking these old traditions for what they are worth, it is certain that Alfred, in the year 880, founded here a *numery*, which in aftertimes became the richest in England, and, as the shrine of St. Ed-

ward the Martyr—whose body was removed to this town from Wareham—the favourite resort of pilgrims. Asser who, wrote the Life of Alfred, has described Shaftesbury as consisting of one street in his time. In that of Edward the Confessor it possessed 3 mints, sure evidence of its importance; and shortly after the Conquest it had no less than 12 churches, besides chapels and chantries, and a hospital of St. John. Of its abbey, once so celebrated, there are now scarcely any vestiges besides the name and a portion of the wall of the park. Of its numerous churches 4 remain, of which the principal is

St. Peter's. The parapet of this ch. is remarkably rich and beautiful; the exterior walls much ornamented, the font curiously carved.

The church of the *Holy Trinity* contains in its churchyard an octagonal cross and a part of the old abbey wall.

The chief things to be seen here are the views from the *Castle Hill* and the terrace-walk called the *Park*, and *Wardour Castle* (Rte. 13), the seat of Lord Arundell of Wardour, 5 m. on the Salisbury road, and shown on Mondays and Fridays. Other interesting places will be mentioned below as within reach of this town.

The entrance to the *Park Walk*, so called from the abbey park, is close to the Grosvenor Arms. It overlooks the country to the S. and S.W. The great eminence to the S. is *Melbury Hill*, the boundary of the high land of *Cranborne Chace*.

The *Castle Hill* is the W. end of the ridge, and commands a most extensive and beautiful landscape, "through which a white road, sometimes losing itself among woodlands, and sometimes traversing verdant pastures, winds westward into the distance." The side-scenes to this charming picture are 2 conical hills, very singularly alike, and each about 2 m. from Shaftesbury. That on the rt. is *Kingsettle*, that on the l. *Doncliff*.

Foxes, when they are hunted here, generally run from one to the other. *Motcombe House* (Marquis of Westminster) will be observed in the vale, and on the distant heights to the N. *Alfred's Tower* at Stourhead. The hill derives its name from a tradition that it was once the site of a castle, and on its slope are some remains of ancient earthworks.

Fonthill is 6 m. N.E., *Stourhead* about 10 m. *Motcombe House* (Marquis of Westminster), 1 m. N.W., contains pictures, which may be seen at times.

Castle Rings is an entrenchment on *Tittlepath Hill* (2½ m.) close to Wardour. N. of it is *Pyt House* (Vere Fane Benett, Esq.), and S. *Donhead Hall*, formerly the seat of the family of Sir Godfrey Kneller.

Ashcombe, 5 m. S.E. (in Cranborne Chace), an estate formerly of Lord Arundell, and now of Mr. Grove, is a most romantic spot. It is in a deep circular dell, which may be supposed to bear resemblance to a crater in the moon, as a small hill rises from its centre. Upon this isolated knoll stands a relic of the old mansion, in the midst of an amphitheatre of woods. The only outlet is by a steep road carried up the heights.

Shaftesbury was called by the Britons *Caer Palladur*, or the town on the point of the hill. On this elevated perch of chalk it is obviously far removed from the sources of spring-water, and the supply of this necessary article has from time out of mind been brought on horses' backs from the parish of Gillingham. Hence arose a curious custom which was annually observed here for a great number of years. On the Monday before Holy Thursday the mayor proceeded to Enmore Green, near Motcombe, with a large fanciful broom, or *Byzant*, as it was called, which he presented as an acknowledgment for the water to the steward of the manor, together with a calf's head, a pair of gloves, a gallon of

ale, and 2 penny-loaves of wheaten bread. This ceremony being concluded, the Byzant—which was usually hung with jewels and other costly ornaments, was returned to the mayor, and carried back to the town in procession.

In 1016 the Danes under Canute were defeated by Edmund Ironside, near *Pen Selwood* on the border of Somerset, and the name of *Slaughtergate* ($5\frac{1}{2}$ m. N.W.), in the parish of Gillingham, commemorates the pursuit. According to the tradition the blood flowed to Slaughtergate, and the dead were buried on *Langbury* adjoining. In 1855 the tumulus on this hill was opened, and found to contain the remains of several bodies which had apparently been interred without much care; but unfortunately an antiquary has since stepped in, and declared the tumulus to be a "long barrow," and not sufficiently elevated above the surface to be Saxon. A year after this battle Canute raised himself to the throne of England, and in 1035 died at Shaftesbury, after 4 years of peace. He was buried at Winchester.

Our road, leaving Shaftesbury, is for some little distance called *Sherborne Causeway*. On the rt. the escarpment of the chalk from Hindon to Bradley Knoll forms the leading feature of the landscape.

3 Here on the l. the wooded cone of *Doncliff* has a very beautiful appearance. Its summit is encircled by a solitary entrenchment, partly concealed by the trees, and watered by a spring, which must have been the inducement to the old warriors to encamp here.

2 $\frac{1}{4}$ *West Stower* (Inn: the Ship), a village on an eminence. *Melbury Hill*, as well as *Doncliff*, here assumes a conical form. The view is delightful. The road now descends *Stower Hill* to the

1 *Vale of Blackmoor*, an extensive and fertile level, bounded by ranges 4 m. apart, and celebrated among

farmers as one of the richest of pasture-lands. Its marshy surface is speckled by herds of lazy cattle, and by busier droves of pigs, of which this vale supplies to London a larger number than either of the counties of Somerset and Devon. Blackmoor is also known for the vigorous growth of its oaks, which thrive on the tenacious soil. Loudon says it was originally called *White Hart Forest*, from Henry III. having here hunted a beautiful white hart and spared its life; and Fuller gives the sequel to the tale. He says that Thomas de la Lynd, a gentleman of fair estate, killed the white hart which Henry by express will had reserved for his own chase, and that in consequence the county—as accessory for not opposing him—was mulcted for ever in a fine called "White-hart Silver." "Myself," continues Fuller, "bath paid a share for the sauce who never tasted the meat." Loudon also informs us that the vale contained *Losel's Wood*, in which stood the *Raven's Oak*, mentioned by White in his 'Nat. Hist. of Selborne.' It is watered by the river Cale, which flows from Wincanton.

$\frac{3}{4}$ The road crosses the river *Cale*.

$\frac{1}{2}$ *Bow Brook*, a tributary to the Cale. Here is the county bridge, connecting Dorset and Somerset.

1 rt. *Moon's Park*, on rising ground. The road ascends the W. boundary of the vale to

$\frac{1}{2}$ The *Virginia Inn*, at *Henstridge Ash*, on 4 cross roads. A young ash-tree, surrounded by a circular stone seat, grows by the road-side. At this inn, according to the tradition, Sir Walter Raleigh astonished the natives—and particularly the waiter, who is said to have dashed a pail of water over him—by indulging in the first pipe of tobacco smoked in England. The "first cigar" he had taken on the banks of the Dart. His seat here was Sherborne Castle, which had been given him by Queen Elizabeth. l. is seen the village of *Henstridge*,

and its church, which contains an altar-tomb with effigies to Sir William Carent and Alice his wife, the one in armour, the other in a robe decorated with rosettes. In the same direction, 1 m., is *Stalbridge Park*, now a farm belonging to the Marquis of Westminster; and $1\frac{1}{2}$ the town of *Stalbridge*. *Stowel*, to the N.W., has a manor-house of ancient date. The road continues to ascend.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ The top of *Bullslake Hill*, commanding extensive views E. and W. Shaftesbury and Alfred's Tower are conspicuous in the former direction.

1 *l. Venn* (Sir William Medlycott, Bart.). The scene is exceedingly pretty; a branch of the Yeo winds beneath the wooded crescent of *Henover Hill* on its course to Sherborne Castle. Venn is a red-brick mansion of rather singular appearance; its front being inlaid with stone, and its wings pierced by large archways. It was built by Inigo Jones.

$\frac{1}{2}$ *Milborne Port* (*Inn*: King's Head), a small borough-town of cottages, with a considerable manufacture of sail-cloth, leather gloves, and shoes, and highly respectable for its antiquity. It returned M.P.s in the earliest periods of our parliamentary history.

The church is a massive structure of Anglo-Norman date, with a transept and embattled tower rising from the centre, and contains the monuments of the Medlycotts.

The *Town-Hall* (half a cottage opposite the King's Head) has a doorway set with a toothed Norman moulding. In the street are the pediment and steps of an ancient cross.

A *Ball Court*, further down the High-street, was erected by Sir William Medlycott for the use of the townspeople.

Milborne Port during the Rebellion was occupied for some time by Cromwell's soldiers, who stole the Bible from the church. This so incensed the inhabitants, that they rose to a

man and drove the soldiers from the town. The name of Milborne Port is of Saxon origin, and signifies the borough (Port) on the mill-stream.

$\frac{1}{2}$ Here, at the top of a hill, the road re-enters Dorsetshire.

1 *Oborne church*, a quaint little structure, with inscription over one of the square windows. The woods of *Sherborne Castle* cover the hills on the l., which sweep round to Sherborne in the form of a crescent. Passing through the suburb of *Castleton*, the traveller reaches

$1\frac{1}{2}$ *Sherborne* (Rte. 18).

$2\frac{1}{2}$ *Halfway House*. rt. 2 m. is *Trent* (now a farmhouse), in which Charles II. was concealed by Colonel Wyndham (p. 207).

$1\frac{1}{2}$ The road having descended *Babylon Hill*, which commands a bird's-eye view of Yeovil and its neighbourhood, here crosses the river Yeo and enters Somerset.

$\frac{1}{2}$ *Yeovil* (Rte. 28).

ROUTE 21.

SHAFTESBURY TO POOLE, BY BLANDFORD AND WIMBORNE MINSTER.

Shaftesbury (Rte. 20). There are 2 roads to Blandford, the old and the new, the former along the top of the escarpment of the chalk downs, the latter along the foot of it. First for the old road:—

$2\frac{1}{2}$ Here, at *Melbury Abbas*, it climbs into the hills of Cranborne Chace, between *Melbury Down* l. and *Melbury Hill* rt. The rest of its course to

Blandford is over uncultivated, but for long distances wooded downs, commanding extensive views.

3 l. *West Lodge*, a seat of Lord Rivers, rented by Charles Wyndham. Esq.

2 rt. the outlying entrenched heights of *Hamilton Hill* and *Hod Hill*. 1. *Gunville Park*.

3½ *Blandford* (Rte. 19).

The new road runs by the foot of *Melbury Hill* to

4½ *Fontmell Magna*.

1 *Sutton Waldron*.

1 *Iwerne Minster*, passing *Iwerne House*, seat of the Bowers.

1 rt. *Iwerne Courtney* and

Hamilton Hill. This bold outlier of the chalk is crowned by an extensive fortification, consisting of 2 ramparts and ditches strengthened by advanced works on different points. It was either a Danish or a Roman camp.

½ rt. *Ranston House*, the seat of Sir Edward B. Baker, Bart.

½ rt. *Steepleton House* (Lord Rivers, but occupied by Sir John H. D'Oyly, Bart.) and

Hod Hill, crested with an entrenchment which is separated from that on *Hamilton Hill* by a deep valley. It is constructed in the shape of the letter D with 2 ramparts, and is remarkable for containing within its area a small but very perfect Roman camp, and a number of circles formed by narrow trenches, such as have been attributed to the ancient Britons in other counties. For what purpose these circles could have been made is quite a mystery.

1 *Stourpaine*. Here the road meets the river *Stour*, which it accompanies along a pretty valley, bounded by a naked hill on one side, and by the woods of *Bryanston* (Lord Portman) on the other.

3 *Blandford* (Rte. 19). Two roads run from this town to Wimborne—the upper and the lower—one over the downs, the other along the valley

of the *Stour*. The former is called the *old road*, and is the most direct. It leaves the town by *East-street*, passing on l. *Damorey Court*, now a farmhouse. Ascending the hills, in 1 m. it commands extensive views in every direction.

1½ rt. the plantations of *Langton House*, seat of the Farquharsons; an estate of 4500 acres; 1. *Monkton Down* and *Blandford Race-course*.

1 *Buzbury*, a small circular entrenchment. Fine prospects N.E. and S.E. Beyond it the road skirts *Ashley Wood*.

1 *Tarrant Keynestone*, a rural village, with public-house called the *True Lover's Knot*. Clematis and holly grow luxuriantly in the hedges.

1 *Blandford Down*, a wide, turfy expanse, tumid with barrows. The eye is riveted by the striking earthwork of *Badbury Rings*, planted with firs. Rt., in the valley, is seen Mr. Drax's obelisk or *spire*, as it is called, rising from the *Mount* on the *Charborough* estate.

1½ l. *Badbury Rings* (p. 100), rising from the roadside.

1 rt. the park of *Kingston Lacy* (p. 100), seat of the Bankes family. The house is not seen from the road, which is bounded by the park for ¼ m.

½ Here commences an avenue of large elms, extending to Wimborne. *Cole Hill* rises with effect to the E.

2 *Wimborne Minster* (Rte. 14).

The lower road to Wimborne leaves Blandford by the bridge over the *Stour*, with a pretty view of the river flowing below the woods of *Bryanston* (Lord Portman).

1 *Blandford St. Mary* (p. 130).

1 *Charlton Marshall*.

1 *Spettisbury*.

¾ rt. *Spettisbury Ring* or *Crawford Castle*, a small circular entrenchment, probably Saxon. l., across the river, *Tarrant Crawford*, birthplace of *Bishop Poore*, the founder of *Salisbury Cathedral*, and formerly the site of a nunnery established by the bishop.

2 l. *Sturminster Marshall*. On the hills beyond are the woods of *Kingston Lacy*, seat of the *Bankes* family, and the camp of *Badbury Rings*. rt. 1½ *Charborough House* (*Erle Drax, Esq.*), with its obelisk on the *Mount*.

1 Here the direct road to Poole turns off on the rt.

½ rt. *Henbury Hill*.

1 *Corfe Mullen*. rt. *Knowle House*, *W. C. Lambert, Esq.* 1. 2 m. *Kingston Lacy*.

1½ rt. *Merly House* (*Willett L. Adye, Esq.*).

1 *Wimborne Minster* (Rte. 14). Beyond this town the road crosses the *Stour*, and in 1 m. passes on the rt. *Merly House*. From that point it runs in a straight line over hills of sand, covered with broom and heather and wild woods of fir. Both road and country may remind the traveller of the French *Landes*.

3 The highest point of the road commanding a beautiful view over Poole harbour and the Isle of Purbeck. The extent of heath is very striking. After descending to the inlet called *Hole's Bay*, the road skirts its shore to

3 *Poole* (Rte. 14).

ROUTE 22.

WINCANTON TO POOLE, BY STALBRIDGE AND STURMINSTER.

Wincanton (Rte. 40). From the romantic height of this town the road descends the wide *Vale of Blackmoor* to 6½ *Virginia Inn*, at *Henstridge Ash*

(p. 133), where our route crosses the great west road from London.

1 The border of Dorset, which on rt. skirts the side of *Stalbridge Park*, purchased by the Marquis of *Westminster* of the late Marquis of *Anglesea*, and now leased as a farm. The manor-house is above *Stalbridge*, among a group of old chestnut-trees, and commands a delightful view of the *Vale of Blackmoor* and of the downs beyond it. In early times it was successively the seat of the *Touchets*, *Barons Audley*, and of the *Earls of Castlehaven*. In 1646 it belonged to the *Earl of Cork*, whose 14th child, the celebrated *Robert Boyle*, the philosopher, resided in it from that year until 1650, and here made his first chemical experiments. He was born in the castle of *Lismore*, in the province of *Munster, Ireland*, 1626-7.

1 *Stalbridge* (*Inn: King's Arms*), an insignificant market-town, once the property of the abbey of *Sherborne*, and now consisting of thatched cottages. The view from the neighbouring hill and the cross in the street are the only things to remark in it. In the view are seen *Alfred's Tower* at *Stourhead*, and the outlying knolls of *Doncliff* and *Kingsettle* near *Shaftesbury*.

The cross is a light and beautiful structure about 30 ft. high, but much weather-worn and mutilated. The steps are modern. The figure of the Saviour is represented on the shaft; those of the *Virgin* and *St. John* on the stone above it; on the pediment are 4 rude designs in bas-relief. The whole is richly ornamented.

1 l. 1 m. *Thornhill*, seat of the *Rev. H. Boucher*, and formerly of *Sir James Thornhill*, the painter of the cupola of *St. Paul's*, born at *Weymouth*. An obelisk—known as the *Thornhill Spire*—on an eminence near the house, was erected by *Sir James* to the memory of his patron *Geo. I.* It bears the date 1727.

1½ The road crosses a tributary to

the *Stour* by a watermill, a pretty spot under a wooded hill.

2 *Sturminster Newton* (*Inns*: Crown; Swan), another market-town, insignificant in size, but exceedingly ancient, as may be seen by the vestiges of the castle and the octagonal steps of a *cross* in the market-place. It is built on a declivity descending to the sluggish *Stour*, which is here crossed by a bridge of 6 arches. Beyond the bridge rises a beautifully wooded hill called *Piddleswood*, a cover belonging to Lord Rivers, the lord of the manor; and immediately opposite the end of the bridge a moated mound (now an orchard), on which the *castle* stood formerly. A fragment of this building still remains, but it is not worth a visit. Those in search of the picturesque had better ascend the steep road above *Sturminster*, which commands a charming landscape.

Marnhull, N. of this town, was the birthplace of *Giles Hussey*, 1710, an ingenious artist. He contended that every human face was in harmony with itself, and that, taking the profile as an octave, it was only necessary to find the key-note to discover the correspondent proportions. Acting upon this idea, he corrected his drawings by a musical scale, and found that by so doing he produced a more characteristic likeness. After the death of the artist, Mr. Barry declared that "the public are likely never to know the whole of what they have lost in Mr. Hussey." A few of his drawings are preserved at *Lulworth Castle*.

1 m. S. is a small oblong camp called *Banbury*, and S.W., on the stream of the *Divelish*, *Plumber House*, a seat of the *Prideaux Brunes*. Further S. is

Wooland, where a very handsome *Ch.* was erected 1857, in place of the old one, after the designs of Mr. Gilbert Scott. It is built of stone from *Hamhill* and the neighbouring quarries of *Hazelbury Bryan*, and consists of

chancel, nave, S. aisle, porch, and bell-turret. The turret is particularly admired. It is square at the base and octagonal above, with buttresses, and supports a lofty spire, which tapers to an iron cross. At the very top is the crest which has distinguished *Wooland ch.* from a very ancient time—a frog. In the *chancel*, pillars of red marble sustain the roof, and of encrinitical marble the *chancel arch*. The windows, of rich workmanship, are each enclosed by shafts of *Purbeck marble* polished. The *chancel steps* are of *Kenton stone*, the *pulpit* of *Caen stone*. In the *nave* the chief ornament is the central column of the aisle arches. It is of *Derbyshire marble*, and its capital well carved in imitation of foliage. The painted glass in the windows is by *Wailles of Newcastle*.

The road from *Sturminster* to *Blandford* is interesting, crossing the downs by a pass, over which tower the entrenched camps of the old Romans.

$3\frac{1}{2}$ *Shilling Okeford*, a long straggling village on the hills. In the centre of it are the pediment and steps of a *cross*, and a tapering *Maypole*, some 50 ft. high, which is annually "dressed" on the 9th of June. Rt. is *Okeford Hill*, and 1., beyond the *Stour*, the isolated heights of *Hamilton Hill* and *Hod Hill*, each crowned by a camp (p. 135).

$2\frac{1}{2}$ Here there is quite a defile among the chalk downs. The road runs as a terrace beneath impending woods of fir, midway on a slope which dives to the winding river. A quick descent leads to the village of

$\frac{1}{2}$ *Durweston*, where the road crosses the *Stour*, and proceeds at a lower level along a pretty valley to

$2\frac{1}{2}$ *Blandford* (Rte. 19).

For the remainder of this route see Rte. 21.

ROUTE 23.

THE ISLE OF PURBECK AND THE
COAST FROM SWANAGE TO WEST
LULWORTH.

(This route would be a pleasant ramble on foot of 4 or 5 days from Wareham Stat.)

The *Isle of Purbeck* is an irregular oval, some 14 m. in length by 7 in breadth, bounded by the sea, Poole harbour, and the stream of *Luchford Lake*, which, rising in the park of Lulworth Castle, flows into that harbour. It is, therefore, in reality a peninsula, being connected with the rest of the county at E. Lulworth. It is in many respects a very interesting district. To the admirers of fine scenery it offers the attractions of a heath 10 m. in length, of a range of downs nearly 700 ft. in height, and of a rock-bound coast either fronting the open sea or retiring in bays of remarkable beauty. The geologist also can here revel in a variety of strata, including beds of the tertiary, cretaceous, wealden, and oolitic formations, which are so arranged on the eastern shore that their names may be read like those of books on a shelf. The greater part of the district is isolated by a crescent of chalk hills, which dips to the sea at each end, and forms with the range of limestone on the coast a long curved valley, terminating in the bays of Swanage and Worbarrow. In ancient times the Isle of Purbeck was a royal deer-forest. Edward the Martyr had been hunting in its hills when he was murdered by the cruel

Elfrida at Corfe Castle; and successive kings continued to follow in his steps as late as the reign of James I. It is, however, better known for its quarries of freestone, which have been worked from the earliest period. They have yielded the materials of the London pavement, and of considerable parts of St. Paul's, of Salisbury, and other cathedrals.

Swanage, 11 m. from Wareham stat. (*Inns*: Royal Victoria; Ship.) This watering-place is situated on the S. side of Swanage Bay, in a retired position, commanding in long perspective a view of the Hampshire coast, and of the Isle of Wight, which is distant about 15 m. across the sea. It consists principally of an ancient village, 1 m. long, running at the foot of a hill towards the shore, and facing the chalk range, which attains an elevation of 642 ft. on *Nine Barrow Down*, and of 584 ft. on *Ballard Down*, from which it descends in precipices to the sea.

Few places possess a more interesting neighbourhood. In the vicinity of the town are the quarries of the famous *Purbeck stone*, *Durlston Head*, *Tilly Whim*, the *Dancing Ledge*, and numerous caverns; and at distances suitable for excursions, *Studland*, 3 m., and the *Agglestone*; *Corfe Castle*, 6 m., and *Crech Barrow*; *St. Aldhelm's Head*, 6 m.; *Gad Cliff* and *Worbarrow Bay*, 12 m.; *Lulworth Castle* (shown Wednesdays) 13 m., and *Lulworth Cove*, 15 m.

The *Church*, says Hutchins, "is, perhaps, the oldest building in the isle, not excepting Corfe Castle." The tower is the most ancient part of it. Its walls are perfectly plain and of great thickness.

Swanage Bay, fronting the E., forms a convenient shelter to vessels wind-bound by westerly gales. It is terminated on the S. by the black rocks of *Pevel Point*, and on the N. by the chalk *Foreland*, 350 ft. in height, facing the *Needles*, with which it was once evidently united. Beyond it, at the

extremity of the chalk, are the whimsical fragments known as *Old Harry and his Wife* and the *Pinnacle Rock*, and a large cavern called the *Parson's Barn*. "As big as a parson's barn" is a Dorsetshire proverb. In 877 Swanage Bay was the scene of the shipwreck of a Danish fleet, which had been driven from Wareham by king Alfred.

The geological structure of the district is well displayed on the cliffs between Studland and Durlston Head, the beds dipping to the N. and so appearing in succession. First come sandy slopes of the *plastic clay* series, gay with a variety of colours. At Old Harry these give place to walls and flanking towers of *chalk*, with bands of flint at the Foreland, where the strata are tilted vertically. By their side are ranged *firestone*, *galt*, and *greensand*, 3 layers descending to the sea from the foot of the hills. Next come the beds of the *wealden* formation, viz. the *Hastings sand*, and *Purbeck limestone*, the former sweeping round the bay to Swanage, which stands on the junction line; the latter appearing in the dark cavernous point of Peverel, and extending in curved and twisted strata to the downs of Durlston, where the *Portland oolite* emerges from the sea and forms the headland. Ammonites of large size abound in the oolite; and in the wealden the bones of fish and of huge reptiles, the bucklers of turtles, the little bodies of flies and beetles, and the trunks of trees. The teeth of fish are very numerous, and are called "fishes' eyes" by the quarrymen, who also find in their pits the remains of the *iguanodon* and of other extinct monsters, and in 1847 first brought to light the *Swanage crocodile*, described by Dr. Mantell, and now in the British Museum.

Numerous *quarries of Purbeck stone* are worked in the hill above the town. The stone is reached by a slanting pit about 120 feet in depth,

which allows of the ingress of the quarryman by a flight of rude steps, and of the egress of the stone by a slide. Each quarry is generally worked by two men, who are employed either in excavating the stone, or in shaping it in the sheds. The Purbeck strata are estimated at a total thickness of 275 ft., of which the upper 55 are useful stone. The top vein of all, called *Purbeck marble*, is almost entirely composed of a small river snail (*unio*), cemented by lime and mixed with green matter; and others consist of bivalve shells of the genus *cyclas*. The stone is carried for shipment to Swanage, where it is piled in the unsightly "banks" which encumber the shore.

Proceeding on our route, we pass from Peverel Point along the edge of the cliffs of *Durlston Bay*, with the stone-pits on our rt., to

1 *Durlston Head*, a lofty down descending to a cliff of Portland oolite. If the tide permits it you can descend to the shore and examine an arched band of rock to the rt., and the many sea-worn fragments, which are wrinkled like the bark of old trees. The tide hurries round the point with rapidity.

½ *Tilly Whim*, an ancient cliff quarry, traditionally said to have been last worked during the building of Corfe Castle. The scene is romantic. A hollow, descending from the hills, conducts the stranger to a terrace, hewn midway on the ponderous cliff, about 30 ft. above the sea. Opening to this terrace are capacious chambers, remarkable for their flat and solid roofs, and entered by square apertures, reminding one of Egyptian or Cyclopean architecture. The black cliffs, grandly divided into enormous cubes, are of Portland oolite capped by Purbeck limestone. At some distance from this spot we pass two smaller cliff quarries now at work. Immediately W. of the furthest is

2 The *Dancing Ledge*, a beach of solid stone, descending at a gentle inclination to the sea, which here breaks with a lively motion *dancing* up the ledge. It is the floor of a quarry, about 150 ft. in length by 50 in breadth, abutting on a cliff which has been worked back in the form of an amphitheatre. E. and W. rises a magnificent coast—huge piles of stone, which re-echo with the thunder of the waves. The ledge is covered at high water, and, being continually washed by the sea, its surface is much worn, and has the appearance of pumice-stone. At its W. extremity, embedded in its substance, is the spiral shell of an ammonite, $\frac{1}{2}$ ft. in diameter.

West of the Dancing Ledge are 4 busy quarries, with cranes perched on the cliff for lifting the stone into the vessels. The largest is *Winspit quarry*, situated under St. Aldhelm's Head, and consisting of a terrace and numerous subterranean chambers. Above it the path rises rapidly to the cape, and commands a fine view of the coast and sloping downs which have been traversed from Swanage. The lofty arch of *Connaught's Hole* will be observed E. of the Dancing Ledge.

3 *St. Aldhelm's Head*, so named after the first bishop of Sherborne. This promontory is 440 ft. in height, and crowned by an ancient chapel or chantry, in which masses were performed by a monk for the safety of mariners passing this dangerous shore. It is a small stone building, the walls supported by buttresses, and the roof by a pillar from which spring four intersecting circular arches. The entrance is a round-headed Norman doorway, and the window a slit in the wall. It is still used for the purpose for which it was founded—the preservation of sailors—but the monk has been superseded by the coastguard, who here keeps the ropes and the rockets which he launches over the sea. On the face of the promontory are exhibited in a

section, the three beds of the Portland oolite, viz. the *Portland limestone*, the *Portland sand*, and the *Kimeridge clay*; the first forming the precipice, the second the long slope, and the third the base, which is, however, concealed beneath the débris of the cliff. The view is superb, the eye ranging down a coast unsurpassed for variety. The colossal profile of *Gad Cliff* will tempt every visitor to a longer ramble.

W. of this headland the coast, shifting from the limestone to the sand and clay, assumes a new character. It dives at once to a deep valley, and then rises in *Emmit Hill* to a height of 250 ft., forming a range of ivy-mantled ragged precipices. Long dark slopes, covered with fragments of fallen stone, descend from these walls to the sea, with intervening channels of trickling streams, which seem for ever busy in the work of destruction. The path winds along the undercliff to a little bay called *Chapman's Pool*, from which rises a towering height of Kimeridge clay alternating with bands of stone, and containing beds of bituminous shale, which have been for a long time in a state of slow combustion. This forms the termination at the shore of

Encombe, the seat of Lord Eldon. Passing hence along the beach, we find a waterfall in the next recess, and beyond the point a flight of steps by which we can ascend the cliff. Near this spot rises *Swyre Head*, a hill not so lofty as its namesake further W., but very striking in form, the summit being shaped like a helmet. By climbing to its crest we obtain a view over the isle of Purbeck, and find the ground-plan of *Encombe* displayed below us. The house we see seated at the junction of 3 valleys, each thickly clothed with woods, with sheep-walks above them, and one of such fertility as to be called the *Golden Bowl*. It is watered by a stream, which forms a lake, and then flows to the sea. Under the hill, to

the W., is *Smedmore House*, Colonel Mansel. Encombe was formerly the seat of the Cullisfords. In 1734 it belonged to Mrs. Lora Pitt, who rebuilt it, and sold it to her grandson Lord Chancellor Eldon.

Between Encombe and Gad Cliff the hills receding form an amphitheatre, enclosing the vale of *Kimeridge*, which gives name to the *Kimeridge clay*, a stratum of the oolite here largely developed. Its dark blue beds are seamed by limestone, and abound in bituminous shale, a local deposit, which is quarried in the cliffs under the name of *Kimeridge coal*. It is a combination of bitumen with clay, and burns with a bright flame, emitting considerable heat, but a disagreeable smell. The products of its distillation, as carried on by a company at Wareham, are a volatile mineral oil, grease, asphaltum, and a manure. Here also are found, about a foot below the surface of the soil, particularly in the parish of Smedmore, those small disks of shale called *Kimeridge coal-money*. This name has been given under the popular idea that they were the coins or amulets of the old inhabitants, but antiquaries consider them merely as refuse pieces thrown aside by the fabricators of beads, bracelets, and other ornaments for the Roman population. Some, indeed, have a round hole for the chuck of the lathe, and others a square hole for a mandril-head. In 1839 bracelets made of this coal, and evidently turned, were discovered in a Romano-British burial-place at Dorchester.

$\frac{4}{5}$ *Kimeridge Bay*, girdled by black cliffs and a shore of bituminous mud and seaweed, which by no means contribute to the sweetness of the breeze. E. are the terraces where the coal is extracted, and $\frac{3}{4}$ m. inland the village of *Kimeridge*. From the low point of this bay the land rapidly rises to the grand and romantic

2 *Gad Cliff*, the thin edge of a steep hill, cut vertically at a height

of above 500 ft. Along the summit are ranged the most fantastic precipices, overhanging a tangled under-cliff, and the débris of the rocks, among which lies a noble specimen of a fossil tree of the order *Cycadeæ*. On the topmost point is a signal-station of the coastguard, who shelter in a kind of nest below the edge of the cliff. From this dizzy perch the path rapidly descends to

1 *Worbarrow Bay*, a scene of surpassing beauty, and unique in many respects. It is 1 m. in width, and compassed by lonely cliffs, which exhibit a number of striking contrasts in their colour, height, and structure. In two points they attain an elevation of 500 ft., and in the centre are cleft to the sea by *Arish Mill Gap*, where there is a miniature bay, and a view through the opening of the park and castle of Lulworth. The various strata of the isle of Purbeck, spread at Swanage over a distance of more than 2 m., converge as they run westward, and are here so compressed that they all appear in the small compass of this bay. The bluff promontory at the E. point is of Portland and Purbeck limestone, darkly coloured and contorted; adjoining it are the yellow sands of the wealden, forming low cliffs which terminate the long valley of Swanage; from these rise the chalk heights of *Ring's Hill*, crowned by a camp, and descending again to the sea in *Arish Mill Gap*. Then comes *Bindon Hill*, with its pearly-white precipices, to be succeeded by lower cliffs of wealden sand; and, lastly, the W. point, of Portland stone, which is terminated by the *Muke Rocks*, a chain of fragments in the sea. The downs are fine slopes of turf, and on *Ring's Hill* are crowned by a camp called *Flower's Barrow*. This is a circular work formed by 3 ramparts and ditches, but it has been partly destroyed by the falling of the cliff. Mr. Hutchins conjectures that the

name may be a corruption of *Florus*, some Roman officer under whose direction the entrenchment was thrown up; other writers, including *Aubrey*, attribute the camp to the Britons. On a lower eminence to the W. of it are a group of 3 barrows.

Lulworth Castle (*Joseph Weld, Esq.*) is $1\frac{1}{4}$ m. from this bay. It may be seen on Wednesdays (*Rte. 14*).

Passing either over *Bindon Hill* or by the road at the foot of it, we next reach

West Lulworth (Inn: Red Lion), and a little further

4 *Lulworth Cove*, justly considered one of the most romantic inlets on the coast. It is a circular little basin begirt by towering cliffs of chalk and sand, and entered by a narrow opening between two bluffs of Portland stone. It exhibits a section of all the beds between the chalk and oolite, and owes its peculiar form to the unequal resistance of these strata to the action of the sea. The perpetually moving water, having once pierced the cliff of stone, soon worked its way deeply into the softer sand and chalk. *West Lulworth*, situated in a retired valley under *Bindon Hill*, consists of an old village a mile from the sea, and of some lodging-houses by the cove.

The things to be seen here are *Lulworth Castle* (on Wednesdays), *Lulworth Cove*, and the coast in its vicinity, particularly *Worbarrow Bay* and *God Cliff*, 2 m. E., and *Stair Hole* and *Durdle Bay* immediately W. About a furlong to the E. of the cove a number of petrified trees are exhibited on the face of the cliff.

Starting for a ramble W. of *Nelson Fort*, the signal-station at the entrance of *Lulworth Cove*, we first come to

Stair Hole, an oblong chasm walled by a rock of Portland limestone from the sea, which flows into it at high water through chinks and caverns. It strikingly shows the manner in which the neighbouring coves have

been formed, the waves here leaping through the breached barrier of limestone to the assault of the sand and chalk. It is a wild and interesting spot, with its huge ribs of contorted stone. Beyond it is *Dungy Head*, alive with rabbits, and then *Oswald Bay*, with beach of shingle and immensely high cliffs of chalk, called *Marm Tout* (or *Theut*, see p. 129). These are terminated W. by a low but most picturesque promontory formed by vertical and curved bands of limestone variously coloured. Crossing the neck of this point we find

Durdle Bay, and the *Barn-Door*, an archway 30 ft. high, piercing a wall of rosy rock, on whose ledges, says *Gosse*, nestle the guillemot, the auk, the puffin, the shag, and one or two kinds of gulls. *Swoyre Head* rises from this bay to a height of 669 ft., its slopes of turf cresting a vertical chalk cliff, on each side of which they descend to within a few feet of the beach. At the W. end of the bay is *Batt's Corner*, tunnelled by a cavern, and a pinnacle of chalk standing detached among the waves. The next bay terminates with

Whitenose, $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. from W. *Lulworth*, and the last chalk cliff for many miles. Immediately W. of it is an undercliff, and, in *Ringstead Bay*, low cliffs of *Kimeridge clay*, which in 1824 spontaneously ignited and continued to smoulder for some years.

West Lulworth is 10 m. from *Weymouth*, and $6\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the *Wool Stat.* A steamer runs occasionally from *Weymouth* to *Lulworth* during the summer months.

ROUTE 24.

THE ISLE OF PORTLAND.

The *Isle of Portland*, one of the six great headlands of our southern coast, is a rocky peninsula projecting 4 m. into the Channel, in the shape of a tongue or beak, from which configuration it has been called the *Bill of Portland*. It is composed of oolitic limestone, and presents an even surface, which slopes in a long inclined plane from a height of 490 ft. to within 30 ft. of the sea; but its sides, exposed to the fury of the waves, are extremely rugged. It is only 9 m. in circumf., and may be therefore easily walked round in one day from Weymouth. Its distance from that town is 4 m. by land, 3 m. by water; a steamer plies 4 times daily during the summer. The chief points of interest are the *Chesil Bank*, the view from the heights above Fortune's Well, the *quarries*, the *break-water*, and *Bow and Arrow Castle*.

Portland was the place on which the Danes first landed in this country, and in the year 1404 it was selected by the French for a similar purpose, but their attempt proved unsuccessful. At the commencement of the Great Rebellion the Portlanders declared for the Parliament, who garrisoned the island, and made it a *dépôt* for their plunder. This, however, together with the island itself, soon fell into the hands of the Royalists, who captured the stronghold by a stratagem. A party of horsemen galloped towards the castle, crying out that they were pursued by the King's troops; the gates were opened to them, and, having thus gained an entrance, they speedily overpowered the garrison. The Portlanders were the *Baleares*, or slingers of stones, of ancient times. They are a sturdy race, and long maintained themselves distinct from the people of the adjacent

county, intermarrying, and handing down from father to son many curious customs; but they are now less exclusive, and their customs are in great measure discontinued. The island is famous for its building-stone, and for a breed of small sheep well known for their excellent flavour as Portland mutton.

The approach to the island is by a timber bridge, 600 ft. long, erected in 1838, and guarded by a sentry as the outpost of the convict-prison. This bridge carries the Weymouth road across the water to the

Chesil Bank, one of the curiosities of the county. It may be likened to a string stretched from Portland to the mainland at Abbotsbury, 10½ m. distant, being separated from the land so far by a narrow channel called the *Fleet*. It is a compact ridge of shingle, in places mixed with sand, and slopes steeply on each side to the water, its width being 200 yards at Portland and 170 at Abbotsbury. Its origin has never been explained. The shingle is doubtless now driven along the bank by the prevailing S.W. winds, and its accumulation may be due to the obstruction of the promontory of Portland, but why it was not originally piled against the ancient coast (which is still to be seen on the other side of the Fleet), is a question hard to answer. Again, in stormy weather the shingle is continually thrown to the land-side, from which it can never return, and yet, strange to say, the bank retains its position without encroaching on the channel which separates it from the land. Another of its peculiarities is the gradual increase of the size of the pebbles from W. to E., the bank commencing at Bridport with sand, and terminating at Portland with stones 3 or 4 inches in diameter. Throughout this distance of 17 m. the change is gradual but constant; so that smugglers, landing on the bank in thick weather or a dark night, can determine the exact spot without any difficulty. In heavy

gales from the westward this long line of desolate beach is lashed by a frightful sea, the slope being abrupt, and the water deep. Shipwrecks are unfortunately too frequent, and upon such occasions it is a work of considerable danger to proceed to the assistance of the stranded vessel, the landward side being swept by heavy showers of shingle. The shipwrecked sailor has indeed but a poor chance of saving his life. Owing to the steepness of the bank the broken water rolls back with resistless force, springing high into the air as it meets the advancing wave; and the strength of the undertow alone will frustrate the efforts of the strongest swimmer. Such melancholy scenes have been repeatedly witnessed, and hence the bay has acquired its dismal name, the *Dead-man's Bay*. In the great storm of Nov. 1824 the bank was considerably lowered, shingle to the amount of many hundred tons having been thrown to the land side. On that occasion an Ordnance sloop, laden with stores, was carried by a wave to the very top of the ridge, where the crew disembarked and walked into Portland. They afterwards launched her down the other side into the Fleet, and thus she is said to have sailed round the island. The pebbles of the bank are of various colours; having travelled from Devon and Cornwall they are derived from many different sources, and the country people assert that a prize of 50*l.* awaits the lucky person who should find two stones alike.

A road, occasionally washed away by the sea, connects the bridge with the island, which on a near view presents a dreary aspect, with its stone hedges, gaunt cottages, and slides of rubbish. On the l. is

Portland Castle, built by Hen. VIII., 1520, after his return from the "Field of the Cloth of Gold," when it was thought advisable to protect the coast against a surprise by the French. He granted it in succession to three of his

queens—Jane Seymour, Cath. Howard, and Cath. Parr; and in 1588 it was garrisoned in expectation of a landing by the Spanish Armada. During the Rebellion it was several times besieged and taken by the contending parties, once by stratagem, as already related, when the Royalists found in it the plunder of Wardour Castle. In 1816 it was granted by the Crown to the family of Manning, and it is now occupied by Capt. Chas. M., her Majesty's lieutenant for the island. A number of very curious and beautiful things adorn the interior of this ponderous building: they are not shown to the public, but we may mention,—in the *Hall*, formerly the guard-room, a grand collection of ancient arms.—In the *Drawing-room*, portraits of William and Mary by *Mytens*, and of the Mannings by *Lely* and others; a splendid Indian cabinet, and a clock of rich workmanship, for more than a centy. in the possession of the family of the French General Montcalm, killed in the storming of Quebec.—In the *Gallery*, 2 very rare prints of the interview between Francis and Henry on the Field of the Cloth of Gold, and the Coronation Procession of Edw. VI.—In *Queen Jane's closet*, a portrait of an ancestor of the Mannings, ambassador to Persia, 1699, painted at Ispahan, and presented by the Shah: and, in the *Dining-room*, a shield, composed of arms from the date of Marathon to that of Waterloo.

Chesilton forms the entrance to Portland. This village straggles up the hill in connection with

Fortune's Well (*Inn*: Portland Arms), which occupies the higher ground, and derives its name from a spring which rises behind the inn, 200 ft. above the sea level. From this elevation there is an astonishing view of the Chesil Bank, which appears stretched out in long perspective, conducting the eye to the distant heights above Lyme, and in particular to the truncated cone of

Golden Cap. Above the village the stony hill attains a height of 490 ft., commanding a panorama of which the leading features are the Chesil Bank and the lofty coast of the Isle of Purbeck. This is the summit of Portland, and is called the *Vern Hill*. A curious relic of antiquity may be seen at the inn—the *Reeve Pole*, “a sort of wooden Domesday Book,” bearing a record of every estate in the island, and of which a silver model was presented to the Queen by the tenants of the royal manor, 1850. It is referred to as an authority in all questions of manorial dues. Steep roads lead from Fortune's Well to the

Quarries of Portland stone, which lie enconced among enormous heaps of rubbish, the ruins of the overlying useless beds. There are about 100 of these quarries scattered over the island, each generally worked by 6 men and 2 boys, but they have no particular interest, except as the nidus of that valuable material first brought into estimation by Inigo Jones, who selected it for the Banqueting Hall at Whitehall, and from his time employed for most of our great public edifices. The building or *merchantable* stone, as it is called, extends throughout the island like a floor, at an average depth below the surface of 30 ft. The quarryman, having worked his way to this solid pavement, splits it into blocks by means of wedges driven into holes which he has prepared for the purpose. Having separated these fractured masses by lifting them from their bed (a work of considerable labour), he squares them with his kever, a kind of pick, when they are ready for the market, and are despatched by tramroad to the wharf to be shipped. The strata thus excavated are the upper series of the oolitic limestones, and vary in thickness from 7 to 16 ft. They are 6 in number, and are named in a descending order, *top-cap*, *skull-cap*, *roach* (a

[W. D. & S.]

good stone), *top-bed* (the best of all), *middle* or *curf-bed*, and *bottom-bed*, the last being of inferior quality. They lie immediately below the Purbeck beds, one of which, called the *dirt-bed*, contains the trunks of large trees of the fir tribe, now converted into stone, the roots being still fixed in the soil from which they derived their nourishment. In Chesilton there is a fine specimen of these silicified trees; it is 20 ft. in height, and has been placed against the wall of one of the cottages. The quarries are Crown property, and either worked by the Government or leased to certain parties, who pay a royalty of 1s. on every ton of stone raised, half of which reverts to a trust fund for the islanders. This is a compensation for the destruction of the pasture land, and was granted by Charles II., in whose reign the quarries were first worked to any extent. The annual export of stone is estimated at 50,000 tons. Each quarry is managed by a steward, who has under him a master, or foreman, to superintend the operations. The quarryman earns on an average 10s. a week, that being the sum paid for every ton he raises. The annual extent of the excavations is calculated at an acre, and at this rate of progression the island will supply stone for the next 2000 years.

In a *walk round the island* the visitor leaves Chesilton by the road along the coast, passing Portland Castle on the l. to

Custleton (Inn: Castle Hotel), where he will observe the *stone-wharf*, from which the 450 vessels engaged in the carrying-trade ship their cargoes, and where a pier for the use of the steamer has been recently erected. On rt. is the *tramroad*, descending in a straight line the abrupt hill from the quarries. Down this come the loaded waggons by their own weight, their impetus being controlled by the empty cars attached to the other end of the chain, which passes over a huge drum at the top of

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the incline. A new road leads from the Castle Hotel to the

Portland Breakwater, a national work which has been in course of construction for some years past. The utility of such an undertaking was first suggested in 1794, by a Mr. Harvey of Weymouth, who endeavoured to impress the Government with its importance. He, however, met with but little success, and died in 1821. From that time his plans were kept before the public by his son Mr. John Harvey, and at length, in 1844, they appeared in a fair way of being carried into execution. In that year the naval commissioners, who had been appointed to inquire into the expediency of forming harbours of refuge on our coast, recommended that Portland Roads should be converted into such a harbour by the erection of a breakwater, to extend a mile and 3 quarters from the N. end of the island, leaving an opening at a distance of 1800 ft. from the shore, a work which they estimated might be completed at a cost of about 600,000*l*. In 1847 the Bill for carrying out this suggestion received the royal assent; the construction of the work was conceived with the largest views by the late Mr. Rendel; and in July, 1849, the first stone was laid by Prince Albert. It weighed about 9 tons; and in a cavity cut for the purpose, and afterwards covered by a brass plate bearing a suitable inscription, was enclosed a bottle containing coins from the value of a double sovereign to a silver penny-piece. The site of Portland harbour possessed advantages which had long been apparent. It was already protected by nature from westerly gales, and needed only a barrier towards the S.E. to render it on all sides secure; the roadstead was capacious, the depth of water ample, and the holding-ground tenacious; the position was intermediate between Portsmouth and Plymouth, and opposite to the French arsenal of

Cherbourg, a desideratum in a warlike point of view; it had the advantage of an inner harbour at Weymouth, and of a copious supply of spring water at Portland; and, lastly, it was situated under heights covered by tons of stone already excavated and thrown aside as useless, but admirably adapted for the construction of a breakwater. The work was actually commenced in Dec. 1849, and has been since steadily progressing, to Nov. 1856 under the direction of Mr. Rendel, and from that time of Mr. Coode, who is now the engineer-in-chief. The process seems simple enough. The stone, prepared by the convicts, runs unattended to the shore by a steeply inclined railroad worked by gravity; it is then drawn out by a locomotive along the kind of scaffolding which spans the sea, and shot with tremendous uproar into the clear depths of the water, during the summer of 1858 at the rate of 2000 tons a day. The waggon carrying these loads are fine structures of iron, with dropping floors to shoot the stone; and visitors will also notice the fantastic cranes, which move to and fro on wheels, and are employed in fixing the piles and timbers. The breakwater at the end of March, 1857, had reached a distance of 5145 ft. from the shore, where the depth at low water spring tides is $9\frac{1}{2}$ fath.; when complete its length will be a mile and three-quarters, enclosing an area of 6745 acres from low-water mark, of which 1290 will have a depth of 5 fath. and upwards. Already its advantages have been felt by shipping, and the work rapidly progresses, upwards of 1500 tons of stone being deposited each day. In 1857 Mr. Coode expressed an opinion that it would be finished in about 4 years. The labour of 1300 men is employed upon it, but, as most of these are convicts, the expense is less than has been incurred for other breakwaters, viz. at the rate of 85*l*. a lineal foot.

This, however, does not include the superstructure—to be founded at the level of low water—which will raise the total cost to about a million and a half. The original approximate estimate was 500,000*l.*, which for the rough stone alone was extended to 558,000*l.*, and again to 932,000*l.*, an error of 7 ft. 6 in. having been made in taking the depths. In 1859 the government determined upon establishing a naval station at Portland. A dockyard is to be formed, and batteries for its protection are now in course of construction. The office of Mr. Coode contains a good collection of the fossils of the island.

Ascending to the heights by the rail, or continuing along the shore and climbing a zigzag road, we next reach the

Convict Prison, erected in 1848 (but to which strangers are admitted only at the dinner-hour, 11 A.M.) It is a model building of the kind, consisting of 8 wings, besides a hospital, chapel, barracks, and cottages for the warders. It accommodates a governor, deputy-governor, chaplain, 2 schoolmasters, and other officers, and about 1500 convicts, of whom the greater number are employed in quarrying stone for the breakwater. The arrangements are very perfect; the building is lighted with gas from its own gasometer, and abundantly supplied with both fresh and salt water; which are pumped into it by a steam-engine from reservoirs on the shore. In the year ending Sept. 29, 1857, the daily average number of convicts was 1494, and the net total expenses of the establishment 50,142*l.* 3*s.* 9½*d.*, being at the rate of 33*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* per prisoner. From the entrance gate the visitor obtains a view over the southern part of the island, and sees before him the united villages of

Wakeham and Easton, the latter perpetuating in its name (a corruption of *Ison*) the memory of a Roman road which passed through it. A

walk of a few minutes will conduct him to the most romantic spot in Portland, the

Cove of Church Hope, containing *Pensylvania Castle*, and on a cliff overhanging the sea the ruinous old keep of *Bow and Arrow Castle*. A rugged road leads down to the beach, and about midway is a spring which supplies the inhabitants with water.

Pensylvania Castle (G. Penn, Esq.) is an unpretending mansion, charmingly placed in a rough dell here descending to the cove. It was built, at a cost of 20,000*l.*, by John Penn, governor of this island (d. 1834), and grandson of the founder of *Pensylvania*. It is embowered among shrubberies, and contains a collection of Indian and Chinese antiquities. It is shown to strangers. Below it are the ruins of a church and graveyard destroyed in the Rebellion; they occupy a wild site now sprinkled by the salt spray, but, according to the tradition, were at one time in the centre of the island. From a sea-girt crag rises

Bow and Arrow Castle, a pentangular tower of rude construction, commonly said to have been built by *William Rufus*. The walls are pierced by small circular apertures for the discharge of arrows, and provided at the top with overhanging brackets from which stones or other missiles might have been hurled on an assailant. The ruin is situated 300 ft. above the water, and connected with the mainland by a bridge, the arch of which frames a beautiful view of the blue sea and lofty coast about *Lulworth*. In the year 1142 *Robert Earl of Gloucester* took possession of this castle for the *Empress Matilda*. On the other side of the cove the rocky ground has been broken by a landslip into the most romantic forms. There is a deep chasm, and in advance of it a detached pile which rises like a figure from the cliff.

Continuing our course towards the S. end of the island, the slope of the

land brings us nearer and nearer to the level of the sea, the cliffs being hollowed into caverns which resemble enormous sheds, and, according to the Portlanders, are haunted by mysterious monsters of the deep. Over the thin roofs of these vaults we unconsciously walk until startled by a well-like aperture in the path. This is known by the name of

Cave's Hole, probably a corruption of *keeve*, a caldron. The upward rush of the water has here pierced the roof of a cavern, and through it you may drop to a dark abyss. About a mile beyond it we reach the termination of the island, or

Portland Bill, a castellated mass of rocks. Around it is a busy quarry, and at some distance the *lighthouses*, the lantern of one 130, and of the other 197 ft. above the level of the sea. In rough weather there is a wild waste of tumbling water off this point. The tide rushes with extraordinary impetuosity between the land and a bank called the *Shambles*, 3 m. S. E., raising a dangerous surf, which is well-known to sailors as the *Race of Portland*.

From this promontory we can return along the western side of the island, an unenclosed sheep-walk, commanding a charming view of the Dorsetshire coast. The botanist may notice by the way *Euphorbia Portlandica* and *Lavatera arborea*, or tree-mallow.

ROUTE 25.

WEYMOUTH TO LYME REGIS, BY ABBOTSBURY AND BRIDPORT.

The road to Abbotsbury is over a bleak but cultivated country between the downs and the sea.

3 *West Chickerell*. On l. a lane leads in $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to

East Fleet, on the *Fleet Water*. This retired village suffered greatly in the memorable storm of November, 1824, when its church was destroyed; E. of it 1 m. is *Fleet House*, seat of the Rev. George Goodden, but occupied by John Royds, Esq.

$4\frac{1}{2}$ *Portisham*, a village situated under bold furzy hills, from which a lively little rivulet runs through the place. Here was born *Admiral Sir Thomas Hardy*, one of the most illustrious of Nelson's captains, to whose memory a tower has been erected on the adjacent height of *Black Down*, 817 ft. above the sea. On the summit of the intervening hill (rt. of the ascent to Winterbourn) are remains of a cromlech or kistvaen called the

Hell's Stone, which, according to the legend, was thrown by the Devil to this spot from the isle of Portland. They consist of a ponderous slab about 8 ft. square of a very hard conglomerate (the Hertfordshire pudding-stone), resting partly on one of its supports, which were originally numerous, as six others lie around it. The name of Hell's Stone is found in connection with many such Druidic monuments, and has been probably derived either from the Anglo-Saxon *Haliġ-stan*, holy-stone, or, as Britton suggests, from the word *helicen*, to cover or conceal. The town of Helston in Cornwall, and the Hailstone in Staffordshire, are other examples. The locality commands a good view of Hardy's pillar on Blackdown, to the l. of which is *Bridehead*, the seat of R. Williams, Esq.; an ancient earthwork known as the *Old Warren*; and a stony valley called *Bride Bottom*.

1½ *Abbotsbury* (*Inn: Ship*). This village is very pleasantly situated in a vale about a mile from the sea below picturesque hill-sides golden with furze, one crowned by the ancient chapel or chantry of St. Catherine. It was famous in the olden time for its monastery, founded in the reign of King Canute, by one Orcus, steward of the palace; but the name of *Abodesbyri* is said to have been given it at a much earlier period, even by St. Peter, according to the legend. The things to be seen here are the ruins of the Abbey, the chapel of St. Catherine, the *Decoy* and *Swannery* on the Fleet, and the *Chesil Bank*. There is also an *intermittent spring* near the limekiln on the hillside opposite the village; and, in the neighbourhood, *Hardy's monument*, and *Abbotsbury Castle*.

The *Abbey ruins* are inconsiderable though scattered over a large area, the principal fragments being the arched entrance of the abbey-church and the granary, a long buttressed building of the 14th cent., which, though partly demolished, is still used as a barn. Among other remains are portions of the walls of the dormitory, and of a cell in which it is said the last abbot was imprisoned and starved to death. Adjoining these ruins stands the parish

Church, an embattled structure of some antiquity, with a weather-worn figure of the Trinity in a niche over the W. door. The pulpit is well carved, and bears the marks of a fray which occurred in the church at the time of the Rebellion, when Sir Anthony Ashley Cooper assailed a Royalist party who had here taken refuge.

The *Chapel of St. Catherine* is romantically placed on the crown of a lofty hill overlooking the sea. It is a curious little building, 15 ft. in breadth by 45 in length, very strongly constructed of stone, which is ingeniously dovetailed together in the roof; the walls are 4 ft. thick and supported

by heavy buttresses, which rise above the parapet. It has 4 handsome windows and 2 arched entrances with external porches, and at the N.W. angle a look-out tower. The building, though much corroded by the action of the elements, is in good repair. It is supposed to have been erected during the civil war of York and Lancaster. From this interesting spot the visitor can descend to the

Decoy and *Swannery*, at the end of the Fleet. The former is constructed for the wholesale capture of wild fowl, which are enticed into its mazes by tame birds trained for the purpose. The latter is an inlet of the Fleet, and affords a home to a flock of about 1000 swans, which, in the time of the abbots, were 8 times as numerous. In the winter they are visited by wild birds of their species.

The *Chesil Bank* presents at *Abbotsbury* the same astonishing spectacle as at *Portland*; but the shingle, which at *Chesilton* was nearly half a foot in diameter has here decreased to half an inch. The music of the sea has also changed, for there is more hissing in the sound. The bank is steeply sloped on both sides, and of immense bulk. Looking towards the land we find that the village has disappeared—a turn of the valley has concealed it—and the eye rests on ferny hills and the solitary little chantry on its airy height. To the rt. of the valley stands a castellated residence of the Earl of Ilchester, who has a considerable property here, including the *Swannery*.

Hardy's Monument, about 3 m. distant, is often ascended for the view. The key must be obtained at *Abbotsbury*.

Resuming our route, we take the coast-road, which for the beauty of its extensive prospect is unrivalled in the county. It immediately climbs to high ground, and soon reaches on rt.,

1½ *Abbotsbury Castle*, a semicircular entrenchment of about 20 acres, with

single ramparts N. and S., and double E. and W. It should be visited for the sake of the view. N.W. are those remarkable twin hills *Lewesdon* and *Pillesdon*, called by sailors the *Cow* and *the Calf*, and E. N. E. below a fir clump, *Little Bredy* or *Bride Bottom*, a stony valley from which a road leads to *Hurdj's monument*. Along the coast the vision wanders over miles of cliff from the Start Point to Portland, including the entire length of the Chesil Bank. The surrounding hills are wild and picturesque.

2 *Scyre*. On the descent to this hamlet you face the entrenched height of *Shipton Beacon*, *Lewesdon* and *Pillesdon* forming the background. 1 m. to the rt. is *Berwick farm*, where in the centre of the 4th field from the cottages near the farmhouse, in a N.E. direction, is an *intermittent salt spring*, said to ebb and flow with the sea. It is enclosed in a small thatched building.

2½ *Burton Bradstock*, with a twine factory, in the vale of the Bredy. By crossing the hill to the sea you can descend upon the shore, or walk by the cliff to *Bridport harbour*, 2 m. The mouth of the river is a pretty spot. The shingle of the Chesil Bank has here diminished to coarse particles of sand, 4 or 5 of which go to the inch. The *Burton Cliffs* are of fuller's earth, and those between the Bredy and *Bridport Quay* of yellow oolitic sand and marl obliquely traversed by bands of blue limestone.

3 *Bridport* (Rte. 17). The road between this town and

6½ *Charmouth* is described in Rte. 17. From the higher end of this village you ascend into a deep cutting called the *New Passage*, which forms rather a perilous pass in the winter, as the rocks have the habit of falling after rain. The road then skirts the slope of a great hill-crescent full of echoes, with a beautiful view of Lyme far below on the margin of the sea. The descent is long and steep. One on foot may shorten the distance by a

field-path, which runs direct from the summit to the new *Cemetery*, a pretty spot on the outskirts of the town.

2½ *Lyme Regis* (*Inns*: *Three Cups*; *Royal Lion*). This small watering-place is situated in a most romantic position at the foot of the hills, being built in the hollow and on the slopes of a deepcombe, through which flows the small stream of the *Lym* to the sea. It is seated on a grand coast which rises E. in the blackest precipices and W. in broken crags thickly mantled with wood. As a port it is most ancient, having furnished ships to *Edward III.* during his siege of *Calais*.

There is not much to be seen in the town besides the view from the pier or *Cobb*, but in the immediate vicinity are the *Pinney Landslips*, and at some little distance the fine coast beyond *Seaton*, *Ford Abbey*, several ancient camps, and the ruins of *Shute* and *Colcombe* in the valley of the *Axe*. To the geologist the cliffs will be a mine of interest. They are formed of *lias*, capped in some places, as on *Golden Cap*, with *greensand*, and contain the remains of the *Ichthyosaur*, *Plesiosaur*, and *Pterodactyle*; of several extinct species of fish and crustaceans, and various shells, including *belemnites* and *ammonites*. The spot most prolific in the bones of reptiles is *Black Venn*, between *Lyme* and *Charmouth*. At the mouth of the *Char* there is an alluvial deposit, in which are found trees and the teeth of the elephant and rhinoceros. The cliffs also contain much *pyrites* and *bituminous shale*, which have occasionally ignited after rain. They waste rapidly under the assault of the sea, the *Church cliffs* at *Lyme*, receding at the rate of 3 ft. a year. *Charmouth Lane*, which once traversed them from *Lyme* to *Charmouth*, has long since disappeared.

Lyme, in its day, has seen a good many stirring events. In the reigns of *Henry IV.* and *V.* it was twice plundered and burnt by the *French*;

and in that of Richard II. nearly swept from the earth by a violent gale. During the Rebellion it successfully withstood a siege which was one of the most important of the time. In 1644 Prince Maurice invested it, establishing his head-quarters at Old Colway and Hay House, and his troops along the neighbouring hill. Day after day the assault continued, more than once by storming parties; but the gallant governor, Colonel Ceeley, assisted by Blake, afterwards so famous as an admiral, most courageously repulsed every attack, and after a siege of nearly seven weeks, was relieved by the approach of the Earl of Essex. In 1685 the town was again enlivened by the bustle of arms, when, in the month of June, the Duke of Monmouth here landed with about eighty companions, after running the gauntlet through a storm and a fleet of English cruisers in his passage from Amsterdam. As he reached the sandy shore he fell upon his knees and uttered a thanksgiving for his preservation. He remained here 4 days at the George Inn, when, having collected about 2000 horse and foot, he set forward on his disastrous expedition.

In a walk through the town the visitor will observe by the stream the old mills for cloth-making, a trade briskly carried on here until the introduction of a more complicated machinery, when the business left the western counties for the north. Among objects of interest are

The *George Inn*, in which "Monmouth's room" is pointed out.

The *Church*, dedicated to St. Michael, and rebuilt about the end of the 15th century. In the graveyard is a mound where those who died of the plague were buried.

The *Cobb*, or pier, so called from a very remote period. It was probably first constructed in the reign of Edw. I. It has been frequently washed away, and restored at a great price, and was finally renewed and

strengthened in 1825-6, when 232 ft. of the pier and 447 ft. of the parapet were rebuilt at a cost of 17,337*l.* It is a semicircular structure, of great strength, the thick outer wall rising high above the roadway, so as to protect it from the wind and sea. The regular curve of this parapet produces a singular effect. It concentrates at a certain point the sounds uttered at another, and thus forms a "whispering gallery," in which two persons may converse at a distance from each other, as in the dome of St. Paul's. For this purpose one speaker should take his station by the steps near the tablet, and the other by the slip. The view from this pier is extremely beautiful, extending across the West Bay to Portland. Close at hand are vast hills by the sea, their bleak bare fronts descending in precipices, tier upon tier. The most remarkable of these is called *Golden Cap*, a well-known landmark. Above the town rises *Rhodehorn*, its summit pierced by the cutting of *New Passage*, sometimes called the *Bellows*, from the extreme fury of the gusts which sweep through it. The pier is a busy spot, there being a considerable export of cement stone, now so largely used as stucco. Its curious name *Cobb* has given rise to much discussion, but is generally supposed to be of British origin. A barrow-crowned knoll above Warminster is called *Cophead*, and on the racecourse at Chester a long embankment, which protects it from the river Dee, has been known from time immemorial as the *Cop*.

"9 m. out at sea," says Mr. Buckland, in his 'Curiosities of Nat. Hist.,' "is a ledge of chalk rocks abounding with prawns and lobsters. If a basket be let down the prawns immediately crowd around it: if it be daylight, and they can see the boat, they will not go in, but at night they go in in great numbers." A lobster is said to smell a putrid object 100 yards off.

Among the walks in the neighbourhood may be mentioned—

To the *Undercliff*, W. of the town. The path proceeds to it through Holmbush-field, commanding a fine view of the coast, and then runs for about a mile along the broken ground, as far as *Pinney House*. Beyond this place it is but slightly marked among the crags, and over these you must scramble if bent on further progress. The path passes at one spot the *Chimney Rock*, projecting from the *Ware Cliffs*, and at another the *Whitechapel Rocks*, so called as the place of meeting of dissenters, who, being persecuted after the Restoration, met to pray in this solitude.

To *Middle Mill*, about a mile up the combe at the back of the town. In its vicinity are *Old Colway House* and *Huy Farm*, the head-quarters of Prince Maurice when he besieged Lyme.

To *Charmouth* by the sands when the tide permits it.

The *Pinney Landslip* is rather more distant than the preceding, but still within an easy walk. You may either scramble to it along the undercliff, or take the lane to *Dowlands*, 3 m., where there is a cart-road down the cliff. The entire coast between Lyme and the mouth of the river Axe has been the theatre of disturbances similar to those which have produced such charming scenery in the Isle of Wight, and to be attributed to the same cause—the undermining action of the land-springs, this action being the result of the structure of the district and of the vicinity of the sea, which gives an outlet to the water. The chalk and sandstone forming the upper portion of the down rests on loose sand, which in its turn reposes on an impervious bed of clay shelving towards the shore. The rain, percolating the upper beds, collects on the clay and washes away the sand as it filters to the sea. Cavities are thus formed, and into these at length the superstratum is precipitated,

and, being rent by the convulsion, it glides forward on its watery basis. Such landslips have occurred along this coast at various periods, but that of *Pinney* was remarkable for the extent of ground it devastated, and for the wild scene it created. It occurred at Christmas, 1839, over an area of 40 acres, on the farms of Bendon and Dowlands; but the catastrophe, although so wide spread, was unattended by any sudden convulsion, nature seeming to deliberate as she formed the craggy buttresses and pinnacles which now so delight and astonish the beholder. For a week previously cracks had been observed on the brow of the hill, but on the night of Christmas Eve the land began slowly to subside, while crevices extended in every direction. This disturbance continued on the following day, and at midnight a party of the coast-guard were witness to the commencement of the great chasm by the opening of fissures, which produced a noise like the rending of cloth. This was the most eventful period; by the evening of the following day the down had regained its stability, but it presented for a long distance a scene of great ruin. The damage done was considerable; 40 acres of good land had been lost for ever to cultivation, an orchard had been roughly transplanted, and two cottages moved bodily and deposited with shattered walls at a much lower level. The visitor will now find this scene enriched by a variety of shrubs and trees, many of which were carried down by the débâcle, and survived the rough treatment, particularly the orchard, which still flourishes and bears fruit. He will descend upon the cottage which has been rebuilt on the site of those destroyed by the landslip, but he must not expect to find a guide in this solitary region. He must thread its mazes unassisted, and should come provided with the knowledge that the finest views are to be ob-

tained from the brink of the cliffs overhanging the landslip, from the cottage, from the knolls near the sea, and from the E. end of the great chasm, which is situated just W. of the mural precipice. This precipice is the finest feature, and from its rocky wall an echo will bandy words with you, if you will it. The great chasm will probably disappoint. It too much resembles a gravel-pit; but the view from the E. end of it is wonderfully fine, and the old hedges which cross it, disjointed by the fall, are interesting. The features of the scene are much changed since the landslip occurred. They are, in fact, continually changing; and many curiosities, such as the beaches heaved up on the shore, and the *havens* which were formed by it, have long since disappeared. A decided path runs E. for about 1 m., and, though intruding on the privacy of the rabbits, you are advised to explore it. You may ascend again at *Whitlands*, 2 m. from Lyme. A small landslip occurred here, Feb. 1840, a month or two after that at *Dowlands*, and between this point and *Pinney House* the path is difficult to find. The farmhouse of *Bendon*, nearly opposite the great chasm, and rt. of the lane to *Axmouth*, retains the interesting features of a manor-house of the 16th cent. It was long a seat of a branch of the *Erles*, now represented by *Thomas Erle Drax, Esq.*, and from whom the Lord Chief Justice Erle is lineally descended. Sir Walter Erle, a distinguished officer on the side of the Parl., resided here. *Bendon* is about $\frac{3}{4}$ m. both from *Axmouth* and the ferry at *Seaton*.

Ford Abbey (p. 121), a very perfect specimen of a monastic structure, may be made the object of an excursion from Lyme. It is 10 m. distant.

Hawksdown over *Axmouth*, and *Musbury* to the N. of it, are Roman camps domineering the valley of the *Axe*, and commanding extensive

views. *Conie Castle* and *Lambert's Castle* are strong entrenchments in the vale of *Marshwood*, N. of *Charmouth*; and *Levesdon* and *Pillesdon*, curious twin hills farther N., which are also often visited.

Lyme has never produced any persons of great note, but among her celebrities may be mentioned *Miss Mary Anning*, who discovered the *ichthyosaurus*. She was the daughter of a vendor of curiosities, nicknamed from his pursuit the *Curi-man*, and was only 10 years of age when in 1811 she found the wonderful reptile in the cliff. The specimen was sold almost immediately for 23*l.*, and is now in the British Museum. Other "worthies" of this town were *Captain Coram*, founder of the Foundling Hospital, b. about 1668;—*Sir George Somers*, the discoverer of the Bermudas, called after him "The Summer Islands";—*Arthur Gregory*, who, says Fuller, "had an admirable tact of forcing a seal; yet so invisibly that it still appeared a virgin to the exactest beholder;" and who was employed by *Walsingham* to open the letters addressed to *Mary Queen of Scots*;—and lastly, *Dr. Case*, quack and astrologer in the reign of *James II.* *Case* made a large fortune by his practice, and on setting up a carriage placed the following quaint motto under his arms—"The Case is altered."

ROUTE 26.

CREWKERNE TO BRIDPORT, BY
BEAMINSTER.

Crewkerne (Rte. 41). At a little distance from this town the eye will be attracted by a very singular knoll on *Crook Hill* to the S.E. It is called by the country people the *Devil's Dancing Hill*, and is a conspicuous object from many points of this neighbourhood. Adjoining it, on the S, is *Wynniard's Gap Inn*, and a British camp, commanding a most extensive view. N. of it is *Pendomer* or *Birt's Hill*, a rounded eminence.

$3\frac{1}{2}$ *Mosterton*, on the river *Axe*, which rises about 3 m. E., from 2 springs, on *Axeknoller Farm* and in *Cheddington Copse*, 1 m. S. of *Cheddington*. The source of the *Parret* is also at *Cheddington*, on the estate of *W. Trevelyan Cox, Esq.* *Mosterton* was the ancient seat of the *Hoods*, and their house, immediately opposite the church, is still standing, but used as a beer-shop.

$2\frac{1}{2}$. Here the road passes the summit of *Horn Hill*, through a tunnel 200 ft. long, completed in 1832. Emerging on the other side, we shift the scene to the valley of the *Birt*, and commence a long descent to

$1\frac{1}{2}$ *Beaminster*, pronounced *Bemminster* (*Inn, White Hart*). This town is deeply seated among hills, near the head-waters of the *Birt*, which flows through it. It is a place of some antiquity, but not remarkable for much, if we except its sufferings by fire. In 1644, when *Prince Maurice* was quartered here, it was burnt completely to the ground, having been fired by a drunken soldier. The greater part of it was a second time destroyed in 1684, and again in 1788. The only building now worth notice is

The church, of which the tower is nearly 100 ft. high, and has a curious piece of sculpture on its western side.

In the interior of the building are monuments of the *Strode* family.

Beaminster is in the centre of a district famous for the double *Dorset* or *mould cheese*, and the surrounding hilly country is mostly laid out in dairy farms. $\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the town, on the *Bridport* road, is

Parnham, the seat of *Sir Henry Oglander, Bart.*, and formerly of the *Strodes*, from whom it passed by marriage to the *Oglanders* in 1764. The house (which is occasionally shown) is an old *Tudor* structure at the end of an avenue of wide-branching elms. It contains a fine hall emblazoned with coats of arms, and a gallery of portraits, chiefly of the *Strode* family. The *Birt* flows behind the house, and along its banks is a pretty walk to the village of *Netherbury*. N.W. rises a conical hill called *Chart-Knoll*.

Broad Windsor, W. of *Beaminster*, was the rectory of that quaint old writer *Thomas Fuller*, who there finished his 'History of the Holy Warre.' *Nichols*, who edited his 'Worthies of England,' tells us he was presented to it 1634, and ousted at the *Rebellion*; and that he seems to have returned to it at the *Restoration*, and to have held it until his death in 1661.

Lewesdon Hill and *Pillesdon Pen*, two eminences of greensand remarkable for their likeness to one another when viewed from certain points, are about 3 m. W. of *Beaminster*. The singularity of their appearance has naturally excited much attention. Sailors, whom they serve as a landmark, call them the *Cow and the Calf*; the *Rev. William Crowe* has sung the praises of *Lewesdon* in a descriptive poem; and the two hills together have given rise to a proverbial saying current in this county, and applied to neighbours who are not acquainted—

"as much akin

As *Lew'son Hill* to *Pil'son Pen*."

These hills command a charming prospect, and *Pillesdon* is further

interesting as the site of an ancient camp, of oval form, encompassed by three strong ramparts and ditches. It is the highest point in the county, 934 ft. above the sea. Crowe's 'Lewesdon Hill' was much admired by Rogers, who says in his 'Table-talk,' "When travelling in Italy I made two authors my constant study for versification, Milton and Crowe."

In the *Vale of Marshwood*, which stretches S. from these heights to the sea at Charmouth, are the camps of *Lambert's Castle* and *Conie Castle* (p. 121). This is a district little visited, and of no very attractive fea-

tures, "a terrible rough country," based on the cold stiff clay of the lias. It is, however, remarkable for the large size of its oaks. Loudon mentions a tree of this kind, on the estate of *Stockham*, below Lewesdon Hill, as 52 ft. in height and 22 ft. in circumference. "It stands," he says, "singly on rising ground, and attracts the notice of travellers."

Resuming our route, we pass *Parnham* on our l., and proceed down the rich vale of the Birt, once famous for the growth of hemp, to
6 *Bridport* (Rte. 16).

SECTION III.

S O M E R S E T S H I R E.

INTRODUCTION.

SOMERSETSHIRE, "the pleasant country," as it was aptly named by the Saxons, has many claims to this distinction, the land being exceedingly fertile, the climate mild, the scenery delightful. The variety of surface and quick interchange of hill and valley which characterise Devonshire are here modified by broad vales and marshes, separating the high land into detached ranges; but in point of beauty this county may take rank as it stands—the next to Devonshire—which is a position of no little honour. The choicest scenery is to be found on the skirts of Exmoor, where the extreme ruggedness of the ground, the abundance of wood and running water, the picturesqueness of the homesteads, and the magnificence of the dark hills, produce the most charming effects. Somersetshire is for many reasons an interesting county. It embraces the city of Bath, the busy port of Bristol, the cathedral of Wells, the ruins of the great abbey of Glastonbury, and of the Norman castle of Farleigh, and many grand and well-preserved mansions of the 14th and 15th centuries, such as those of Dunster, Montacute, and Hinton. It is further distinguished by the great beauty of its Perpendicular church-towers, particularly for that of Wrington, which has been considered "the finest square tower, not designed for a spire or lantern, in all England, and therefore possibly in the whole world." It is the seventh of the English counties in point of size, the eleventh in density of population, and remarkable for its rich pastures, which produce cattle and sheep, butter and Cheddar cheeses. Its minerals are chiefly the ores of iron, lead, and zinc, coal and building-stone.

In early times Somersetshire was occupied by the Belgæ, whose supposed boundary, the Wansdyke, crossed the hills S. of Bath, terminating at Portishead. The Romans were established principally at Bath and Ilchester, one of their great roads, the Fosse Way, passing through the county in its course to Devonshire. They also occupied several minor stations and camps, of the latter of which as many as 23 have been enumerated. As a part of Wessex, Somersetshire was one of the earliest districts in England to embrace Christianity, the Saxon king Ina founding a collegiate church at Wells in the year 704. It suffered much from the Danes, who compelled Alfred to take refuge among its marshes. In later times it was the scene of some important events, for here occurred the fatal fight of Sedgemoor, and, in the Rebellion, the battle of Lansdown, and the sieges of Bristol, Bridgewater, and Taunton. With respect to its inhabitants, they possess the robust forms and simple manners of

an agricultural people, while they show their spirit by their proverb, "I will not want when I have, and when I ha'n't too." In their uncouth speech are found many words and usages of the Anglo-Saxon tongue, "a fountain-head," says Bosworth, "from which some streamlets flow down in every province, retaining their original purity and flavour, though not now relished, perhaps, by fastidious palates." This patois is very remarkable in the remote district of Exmoor, as may be seen by the 'Exmoor Scolding' and 'Exmoor Courtship,' published many years ago at Exeter. Mr. Bosworth, in the introduction to his Anglo-Saxon Dictionary, enumerates the chief peculiarities of the Somersetshire dialect, and quotes as a specimen the following dedication in verse :—

"Ta you, the Dwellers o' tha West,
I'm pleas'd that thā shood be address;
Vor thaw I now in Lunnun dwell,
I mine ye still—I love ye well;
Au niver, niver sholl vorget
I vust drāw'd breath in Zummerzet;
Amangst ye liv'd, an left ye zorry,
As you'll know when you hire my storry.
ThiAZE little book than take o' me;
'Tis all I hā jst now ta gee."

The geology of Somersetshire embraces a long series of formations, which produce variety in the forms of the hills and the character of the vegetation. First in order come the alluvial deposits, forming those extensive fens or "levels" on the shore of the Bristol Channel, districts dreary and monotonous enough were it not for their boundary of hills, but exceedingly valuable as pasture-land. They are intersected in every direction by dykes for drainage, and in places contain deep beds of peat and the fossil remains of ancient woods, chiefly oak. Of the cretaceous strata chalk occurs but sparingly, capping some of the hills, as the range of Blackdown; but the greensand is more abundant, forming the lofty height of Alfred's Tower and other detached eminences. The various beds of the oolite are largely developed, constituting the bold hills about Bath, and ranging thence by Frome, Bruton, Yeovil, and Ilminster, to Wellington. They yield the various building-stones, the great oolite that of Bath, the inferior oolite those of Dundry, Doulting, and Hamhill. Next to these appears the lias, skirting the oolite on the N., and pierced by its outliers, such as the ridge of Dundry and Glastonbury Tor; and below the lias the new red sandstone, forming the rich vales of Western Somerset. The busy coal-fields of Bristol and Radstoke point out the locality of the coal-measures, and the craggy rocks of Cheddar and St. Vincent those of the mountain limestone, which rests upon the flanks of the Mendip chain, and rises in outliers on the coast between Bristol and Clevedon. Lastly, the old red sandstone, or Devonian, is to be sought for among the wildest scenes of the county, on the sterile waste of Exmoor, which is wholly included in this formation, and on the lofty hills of Quantock and of Mendip, of which it constitutes the axis.

The chief points of interest in the county are as follows :—

- Bath - - - - - Abbey Church; Pump-room and Baths; Queen's Square, Circus, and Royal Crescent; Farleigh Castle.
- Bristol - - - - - Cathedral; church of St. Mary Redcliffe; Mayor's Chapel; St. Vincent's Rocks; Leigh Court (pictures); Blaise Castle (pictures).
- Clevedon - - - - - Wrington church-tower; Brockley Combe.
- Weston-super-Mare View from Worle Hill; Banwell Caves.
- Taunton - - - - - Crowcombe Court (pictures); Will's Neck.
- Wellington - - - - - View from the Wellington Monument.
- Dunster - - - - - Dunster Castle; Cleeve Abbey; view from Grabhurst.
- Porlock - - - - - Dunkery Beacon; Culbone; Bossington Beacon; Glenthorne.
- Dulverton - - - - - Exmoor.
- Frome - - - - - Vallis Bottom; Longleat.
- Wells - - - - - Cathedral; Cheddar Cliffs; Wookey Hole; Glastonbury Abbey; Glastonbury Tor.
- Bruton - - - - - Stourhead (pictures); Alfred's Tower.
- Yeovil - - - - - Montacute House; Brympton Hall.
- Crewkerne - - - - - Church; Hinton St. George; View from Rana Hill.

With reference to the church architecture the following table may be useful:—

Saxon - - - - -	Before A.D. 1000.	
Norman - - - - -	12th century	Will. I. to John.
Early English or Pointed - -	13th	John to Edw. I.
Decorated - - - - -	14th	Edw. I. to Hen. IV.
Perpendicular - - - - -	15th and 16th centuries	Hen. IV. to Eliz.

ROUTES.

ROUTE.	PAGE.	ROUTE.	PAGE.
27 Great Western and Bristol and Exeter Railways—Bath to Wellington, by Bristol and Clifton (Kingsweston, Leigh Court, Portishead), Yatton, Clevedon (Brockley Combe), Banwell, Weston-super-Mare, Highbridge (Burnham), Bridgewater (Sedgemoor, Isle of Athelney), Durston, and Taunton (Quantock Hills)	160	Yeovil, by Bradford, Frome (Nunney Castle), Bruton, and Castle Cary (Cadbury, Montacute House, Hamhill)	202
28 Wilts, Somerset, and Weymouth Railway—Bath to		29 Bath to Frome, by Charterhouse Hinton (Hinton Abbey) and Norton St. Philip	210
		30 Bath to Weymouth, by Radstoke, Shepton Mallet (Doulting), Castle Cary, Yeovil	211
		31 Bath to Wellington, by Wells (Wookey Hole), Glastonbury, and Taunton	213

ROUTE.	PAGE.	ROUTE.	PAGE.
32 Bristol to Yeovil, by (<i>Stanton Drew</i>) Wells, Glastonbury, Somerton, and Ilchester . . .	225	<i>Polden Hill, Piper's Inn, and Glastonbury</i>	248
33 Bristol to Bridgewater, by (<i>Wrington</i>) Axbridge (<i>Brent Knoll</i>).	229	37 Taunton to Minehead, by <i>Bishop's Lydeard, Combe Flory, Lydeard St. Lawrence (Stogumber), and Monksilver</i>	249
34 Yatton Stat. to Wells, by Axbridge and <i>Cheddar (Cheddar Cliffs, Mendip Hills)</i>	232	38 Taunton to <i>Dulverton, by Milverton, Wiveliscombe, and Bampton</i>	250
35 Bridgewater to Lynton, by <i>Nether Stowey (St. Audries), Williton (Watchet, Cleve Abbey, Blue Anchor, Dunster, Minehead, and Porlock (Dunkery Beacon, Culbone, Glenthorne)—and by Bishop's Lydeard and Croucombe</i> .	235	39 Taunton to <i>Lyme Regis, by Ilminster, Chard, and Axminster</i>	254
36 Bridgewater to Wells, by		40 Taunton to <i>Salisbury, by (Burton Pynsent) Langport, Somerton, Castle Cary, and Wincanton</i>	256
		41 Shaftesbury to <i>Chard, by Milborne Port, Sherborne, Yeovil, and Crewkerne</i> . . .	259

ROUTE 27.

BATH TO WELLINGTON, BY BRISTOL AND CLIFTON (KINGSWESTON, LEIGH COURT, PORTISHEAD), YATTON, CLEVEDON (BROCKLEY COMBE), BANWELL, WESTON-SUPER-MARE, HIGHBRIDGE (BURNHAM), BRIDGEWATER (SEDGEMOOR, ISLE OF ATHELNEY), DURSTON, AND TAUNTON (QUANTOCK HILLS).

Great Western Railway.

Bristol and Exeter Railway.

The Great Western enters Somersetshire $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the Box Tunnel, through a deep valley, in which the clays of the inferior oolite and lias are in places exposed. The scenery is striking. On emerging from the tunnel the traveller beholds around him the great oolitic hills rising steeply to elevations of about 700 ft., and on the l., between *Monkton Farleigh Down* and *Hampton Down*, the Avon flowing from the beautiful *Vale of Claverton*. The river is crossed by the railway, the bridge being a

simple but elegant structure of one flat arch. As the train leaves the cutting a glimpse is obtained of

l. *Bathford*, and its church, and immediately afterwards of the ivied tower of

l. *Bathampon Church*, close to the line. This building is chiefly of Perp. date, and has a fine W. door. It has also, within the porch, effigies of a knight and his lady, *temp. Edw. III.*, and in a niche on the exterior wall of the E. side the figure of a priest of the 11th cent. In the churchyard is an ancient barn.

rt. *Batheaston* and its Perp. ch.

The line enters Bath by a cutting through the *Sydney Gardens*, and, sweeping round in a curve on a viaduct 40 ft. above the level of the river, commands on the rt. an excellent view of the cathedral and city, and on the l. of the suburb of *Widcombe* and the height of *Beechen Cliff*.

106 $\frac{1}{2}$ *Bath Stat. Inns*: York House; Castle; Greyhound; Royal, by the railway; White Hart; White Lion. Pop. of the district in 1851,

69,836. The station is on the rt. bank of the Avon; and its roof, of 60 ft. span, without horizontal tie or any considerable buttress, deserves attention. On either side of the station the line crosses the river, towards Bristol by a skew bridge of ingenious construction. The Avon is navigable to Bath, and the *Kennet and Avon Canal*, connecting it with the Thames, opens a waterway to London, but this route has been of less importance since the completion of the railway, which was first opened between Bath and Bristol August 1840, and between Bath and London June 1841.

Bath is situated in the bottom and on the steep sides of the valley of the Avon. The abbey and the busiest streets lie below; and above, on the northern slope, rise terraces and crescents, tier upon tier, to a height of nearly 800 ft., the Royal Crescent being the most conspicuous. The whole city is built of the white oolite called *Bath Stone*, and in a style of architecture worthy of the material. Some of the streets and groups of houses are, indeed, models of excellence, and their effect is enhanced by the beauty of the site, and the absence of the smoke and dirt attendant upon trade and manufacture. Bath bears the stamp of opulence in its aspect; and although its "season" no longer commands the *élite* of fashion, it enjoys its share of gaiety, and as a residence is a favourite retirement from more busy scenes. It combines many of the advantages of the metropolis with those of a watering-place; and education, amusement, and society may be obtained here at a moderate expense.

Bath is a city of comparatively modern growth, but its traditions go back to a very early period, when Bladud, a British prince, is said to have first discovered the healing virtues of its waters. According to the legend—for which we are indebted to Geoffrey of Monmouth—Bladud was a

leper, and for that reason had been expelled his father's palace, and reduced to the ignoble condition of a swineherd. His pigs, runs the story, were afflicted with the same disease, but, wandering in this valley, they rolled in the warm mud where these waters stagnated, and were healed. Bladud, perceiving this cure, tried the same remedy with the same success, and when he became king he built a city on the spot. So, say its inhabitants, was founded Bath, B.C. 863, and the statue of King Bladud, erected in the Pump Room about the year 1700, bore an inscription to that effect. To the Romans, however, more probably belongs the merit of first appreciating and using these waters. Bath was their *Aquæ Solis* (or *Sulis*), one of the most important of their stations, where Agricola built a temple to the goddess Minerva, here worshipped under the name of *Sul*, and where Claudius established a College of Armourers for the manufacture of weapons for his legions. The walls which surrounded this station were nearly on a line with the streets called the *Lower Boroughwalls*, *Westgate Buildings*, *Sawclose*, and *Upper Boroughwalls*, and their foundations have been frequently laid open. They formed a square about the baths, which were of a magnificent description, decorated with columns and tessellated floors, and furnished with sudatories and other appliances. When discovered, in 1755, the flues were found charged with soot, and the bricks marked with fire, as if the last Roman had but just stepped from the bath; yet in the interval which had elapsed, the ground, by a gradual accumulation, had risen 20 ft., for at such a height above the old surface was the level of the surrounding streets.

In the stormy period which followed the departure of this people the beautiful buildings and monuments which they had raised around

“the Waters of the Sun” were destroyed. By the legendary account, King Arthur of heroic memory long deferred the inevitable hour, and kept possession of Aquæ Solis to the year 576, when the Saxons defeated him on Lansdown, and entered the contested station for the first time as conquerors. Even Apollo was then ousted from his imaginary throne, and the Roman name was superseded by that of *Hat Bathan*—the *Hot Bath*—which in an abbreviated form still distinguishes the city. Pillaged at this period both by Saxon and Dane, Bath was shorn of its magnificence; yet at times it must have presented scenes of rude splendour, as when Sweyne here established his head-quarters, and received the homage of all the thanes of the west. To the Saxons is due the introduction of a purer worship, and in 676 a monastery was founded on the site of the Roman temple of Minerva. It was in Athelstan’s reign that Bath fairly recovered from its disasters. It was then favoured by royalty, and Edgar was crowned in its Church of St. Peter, an honour of which the inhabitants were not unmindful. The coronation occurred at Whitsuntide, and was long commemorated at this season by a custom of the citizens to elect from among themselves a so-called king, and in allusion to this ancient practice Beau Nash was styled *the King of Bath*. A mint was established here, and coins struck by most of the Anglo-Saxon monarchs. In the Norman survey, however, the town is represented as of little size according to our modern notions. In the reign of William Rufus it was burnt; and in 1090 rebuilt by the bishop, John de Villula of Tours, who had purchased it of the king, and removed to it his episcopal seat from Wells. Then, as time rolled onward, fortune was here coy and changeable as in other cities, but the abbey steadily flourished and grew rich. In 1590 Bath was visited

by Queen Elizabeth; and a few years previously it had been described by Leland. He pictures it as standing in a comparatively small compass around its baths and abbey, and entirely within its walls, of which there still remain embattled fragments in the street called the *Upper Borough-walls*, and in *Boatstall Lane* at the back of the market, including the eastern gateway. In the Great Rebellion Bath was of little consequence to either party, for being surrounded by hills it was untenable against artillery; but on the adjoining height one of the great battles of the time was fought—that of Lansdown, in which the gallant Sir Beville Grenville ended his career. At a later period the inhabitants took a decided part for James II., and closed their gates against Monmouth, obliging him to commence that retrograde movement which terminated fatally at Sedgemoor.

The modern history of Bath begins with the 18th century, when the city underwent most important changes. In the course of a few years it could boast of its really splendid architecture, and for this it was indebted to the talent of two architects named Wood, who in 1729 began Queen Square, in 1740 the N. Parade, in 1754 the Circus, and in 1769 the Royal Crescent, the crowning effort of their genius. From this time nearly to the reign of Geo. III. it was deemed the source of health, and was the focus of fashion. To “the Bath” Fielding and Smollett bring their heroes. Lord Chesterfield was often here, and here the great Chatham nursed his gout. Anstey (1760), in his well-known ‘Bath Guide,’ ridiculed the follies of the place, and Beau Nash regulated its fashions.

The things to be seen in Bath are the Abbey, and the baths close to it, and both not $\frac{1}{4}$ m. from the Station. Then hire a fly, or walk up to Camden Place and Lansdown Crescent, whence

you have good views of the town. Descend through the Royal Crescent, Circus, and Queen Square, the 3 finest architectural bits in Bath, and so back to the Station. If time allow, visit the antiquities in the Institution. The finest view of Bath is from *Beechen Cliff*, the steep eminence overhanging the railway on the S., 400 ft. above the Avon. It may be reached in 10 minutes from the Station, walking up *Holloway* (the Roman Fosse Way), and taking the path to the l. At night the view is curious. As the celebrity of Bath is due to its waters, the

Pump Room first demands notice. This is a Romanesque structure, rebuilt 1796, and bearing on its front a Pindaric motto—ΑΡΙΣΤΟΝ ΜΕΝ ΥΔΩΡ—Water best of elements. The interior is a spacious saloon, 60 ft. in length by 34 ft. in height, with coved recesses at each end, and in one a statue of *Beau Nash*, so long the arbiter of fashion here. The water tumbles continually into a marble vase, and fills the room with its pleasant murmurs. It comes from a point quite distinct from the baths, so that "ladies may drink it out of the pump" without any fear of the ablutions detailed by Anstey. From 2 to 4 a band plays here during the season. No payment is expected for merely tasting the water. The charge for drinking it, either in the Grand Pump Room or the Hetling Pump Room, is 1s. 6d. per week, 5s. per month, 10s. 6d. three months, 15s. six months, and 1l. per annum. The hours of drinking are later than on the Continent, and the water is said to be less efficacious in consequence. Adjoining the pump-room are the so-called

King's and Queen's Baths, separated from each other by a screen. The King's or principal bath measures 66 ft. by 41 feet, and is open to the sky, except a colonnade on one side. It is filled daily to a height of 4 ft. 7 in., and contains about 364 tuns

of water. Dressing and retiring rooms communicate with it, and the bathers properly attired walk about in the water. A brass rail round the centre marks where the temperature is hottest, and bathers may select for themselves a degree of heat varying from 100° to 112°. The spring issues from its source at 116° Fahr., and yields 2 hogs-heads per minute. Different hours of the day are allotted for ladies and gentlemen, but in the great days of Bath they used to meet together in the water (as is still the practice in many watering-places abroad), the ladies coiffée in the extreme of fashion, the gentlemen with powdered hair and bag wigs.

"T was a glorious sight to behold the fair sex
All wading with gentlemen up to their
necks." *Anstey.*

The Queen's bath (so named from Anne, the consort of James I.) is 25 ft. square. It is supplied from the same source as the King's, but, as the water flows into it through a passage, the temperature is rather lower. Connected with the King's bath is a reservoir, fit to contain 32,000 gallons, for cooling the waters, by means of a steam-engine which throws up a jet in the centre. From this spring and reservoir the adjoining

Private Baths, in Stall Street, are supplied at suitable temperatures. This establishment is excellently arranged and conducted. Douche baths, by which a stream of hot water is applied to any limb or part of the body, without immersing the whole, are provided: the process is here called dry pumping.

The Cross Bath (end of Bath Street), so called from a silver cross, which once stood in the midst, set up in honour of a visit from the Queen of James II. in 1687, is resorted to by the less affluent classes, who pay only 3d. for admission. The temperature is 98°.

The Tepid Swimming Bath, a neat building from a design of Decimus

Burton (entrance piazza in Bath St.), measures 65 ft. by 25, and is supplied from the King's source. The temperature is 88°.

The *Hot Bath* (end of Bath Street), built by the younger Wood, is a very elegant structure, remarkable for the great beauty of the sculptured foliage and fruit. It is supplied with the hottest of the Bath waters, the spring gushing from its source at a temp. of 120° Fahr. Adjoining are

The Royal Private Baths, which are not surpassed in cleanliness, comfort, and convenience by any in Europe. There are 7 baths, of large dimensions, lined with Dutch tiles, having steps descending into them. One is provided with a crane to facilitate the immersion of feeble patients.

The Hetling, or Hot Bath Pump Room, is opposite the Hot Bath, at the corner of Hetling Court.

The Kingston Baths, in Church Street, occupy the site of the Roman Baths, and are the property of Earl Manvers. All the other baths belong to the borough and are under the superintendence of the Town Council.

The Bath waters rise in 4 distinct springs and are the hottest of any known in England, having a temperature at one of the sources of 120° Fahr. They act as a stimulant, and are considered efficacious in gout and paralysis, and the numerous diseases depending on a relaxed state of the fibres, but may be injurious where there are inflammatory symptoms. They are supplied to the hospitals, and in particular to the *Bath General Hospital*, a noble institution, which was founded for their special administration to the poor, who come hither from all parts of the kingdom. Hence the proverb "the beggars of Bath."

The Abbey Church, now cleared from the mass of unsightly buildings which concealed and disfigured it, is

one of the latest specimens of Perp. Gothic in the kingdom, commenced 1499 by Prior Birde and Bishop Oliver King, arrested in its progress 1539 by the dissolution of the Abbey, but completed 1606 by the bounty of Bishop Montague. The building, however, is uniform in its character.

The W. front has a magnificent window of 7 lights, flanked by turrets, on which are carved angels, ascending and descending by ladders, either to represent the dream of Jacob, or to commemorate a vision of the founder, who was instigated to the work by a revelation of the Holy Trinity with angels on a ladder! The winged figures are now headless and mutilated. The space above the window is also filled with angels on corbels: the figures are well designed, but much defaced. The battlements of this front are varied and very rich; the transept windows are fine. Over the W. door are the arms of the bishopric, impaling Montague; on the sides of it statues of Prior Birde and Bp. King; over the N. door a figure of king Edgar, and over the S. door one of king Osric, founder of the monastery in 676. The tower, 162 ft. high, is of good composition, flanked by octagonal turrets; it is broader in one direction than in the other. The interior, 210 ft. long, and 75 ft. high, is of uniform Perp. work, but much crowded with tasteless monuments. They are, indeed, so numerous that one might suppose truth, as well as wit, had been expressed by the following smart epigram:—

"These walls, so full of monument and bust,
Shew how Bath-waters serve to lay the
dust."

Or by this:—

"Messieurs, vous voyez très bien ici,
Que ces eaux ne sont pas d'eaux de vie."

There is no triforium, the sills of the clerestory window being carried down to the stringcourse above the main arches.

"The roof of the nave, of wood, is a very flat arch, composed of a series of small rich panels, with a few large ones in the centre of the compartments formed by the piers."—*R.* "It appears," says another writer, "to derive support from invisible means, and is a model of grace, elegance, and lightness." A modern screen, designed by Blore, separates the nave from the

Choir, which is rather open, and distinguished by the great beauty of its roof, of the most elaborate fan tracery; the roofs of the choir aisles also deserve attentive notice. It is to be regretted that the choir is fitted, like a parish church, with pews and galleries, instead of stalls. The E. window is of 7 lights, plain, and without painted glass; below it is a tolerable modern-altar-screen of Gothic work. Below the easternmost arch on the S. side is *Prior Birde's Chantry* (begun 1515), a beautiful specimen of rich work, containing much excellent detail, fan tracery, and foliage, amongst which is the prior's rebus, a bird in the letter W. It has been restored and fitted as the Bishop's seat. Its exterior should be viewed from the S. aisle. The side facing the choir is left unfinished.

Outside the E. end a careful observer may see the bases of the piers of the old Norman apse or, as some have thought, of a Roman temple.

The monuments to be noticed are— in the *nave* the altar-tomb of Bishop Montague, with his effigy, 1618;— in the *S. aisle of the nave* those of *Beau Nash*, a plain marble tablet, with epitaph by Dr. Harington; the Hon. William Bingham, by *Flaxman*, flanked by figures of 2 angels; William Clements, with this inscription:

"Sacred to the memory of William Clements, Esq., a youth distinguished by the sweetness of his manners and the excellence of his heart. Generous, humane, affectionate: his life was a source of happiness to others; his death, it is to be hoped, was the commencement of his own.

"Look down, blest soul, and, from the realms above,
Accept this last sad tribute of our love.
The last—ev'n now our sorrows we resign,
And lose our feelings to rejoice in thine."

James Quin, with medallion portrait, and inscription by Garrick:—

"That tongue, which set the table on a roar,
And charm'd the public ear, is heard no more;

Clos'd are those eyes, the harbingers of wit,
Which spake, before the tongue, what
Shakespeare writ;

Cold is that hand which, living, was
stretch'd forth,

At friendship's call, to succour modest worth.
Here lies JAMES QUIN!—Deign, reader,
to be taught,

Whate'er thy strength of body, force of
thought,

In Nature's happiest mould however cast,
To this complexion thou must come at last."

By the *W. door* those of Herman Katencamp, by the younger *Bacon*; and Col. Champion, by *Nollekens*;—in the *N. aisle of the nave* of Malthus, author of the 'Essay on Population,' who is buried in the aisle; and Sarah Fielding, with inscription by Dr. John Hoadley—"For the honour of the dead, and the emulation of the living;"—in the *S. transept*, that of Lady Waller, with her husband—who fought at Lansdown and Roundaway—mourning over her—

"To the deare memory of the right vertuous and worthy lady, Jane Lady Waller, sole daughter and heir to Sir Richard Reynell, wife to Sir William Waller, Knight.

Sole issue of a matchless paire,
Both of their state and vertues heyre;

In graces great, in stature small,
As full of spirit as voyd of gall;

Cheerfully brave, bounteously close,
Holy without vain-glorious shoves;
Happy, and yet from envy free,

Learn'd without pride, witty, yet wise—
Reader, this riddle read with mee,
Here the good Lady Waller lyes."

In the *N. transept* those of Fletcher Partis, founder of the college named after him; Sir R. H. Bickerton, by *Chantry*; Dr. Sibthorp, the botanist, a pleasing work by *Flaxman*; James Tamesz Grieve, Physician to the Empress Elizabeth of Russia, an interesting sculpture of the wife eagerly attempting to arrest the

dart of Death; and Mary Frampton, with epitaph by Dryden:—

"Beneath this marble monument is laid
All that heaven wants of this celestial
maid:
Preserve, O sacred tomb! thy trust con-
sign'd!
The mould was made on purpose for the
mind;
And she would lose, if at the latter day
One atom could be mixed of other clay.
Such were the features of her heav'nly
face,
Her limbs were formed with such har-
monious grace,
So faultless was the frame,—as if the
whole
Had been an emanation of the soul,
Which her own inward symmetry reveal'd,
And like a picture shone, in glass anneal'd;
Or, like the sun eclips'd, with shaded light,
Too piercing else to be sustain'd by sight.
Each thought was visible that roll'd
within,—
As through a crystal case the figur'd hours
are seen:
And heaven did this transparent veil pro-
vide,
Because she had no guilty thought to hide.
All white, a virgin saint, she sought the
skies—
For marriage, though it sullies not—it
dyes!
High though her wit, yet humble was her
mind,
As if she could not, or she would not, find
How much her worth transcended all her
kind.
Yet she had learn'd so much of heaven
below,
That when arriv'd she scarce had more to
know;
But only to refresh the former hint,
And read her MAKER in a fairer print!
So pious! as she had no time to spare
For human thoughts, but seem'd confin'd
to prayer;
Yet in such charitties she pass'd the day,
'Twas wondrous how she found an hour to
pray.
A soul so calm, it knew not ebbs nor flows,
Which passion could but curl—not dis-
compose!
A female softness, with a manly mind,
A daughter dutieous, and a sister kind;
In sickness patient! and in death resign'd!"

In the *chancel*, l. of the altar, of
Lady Miller, a pretty specimen of
the elder *Bacon's* sculpture:—

"Devoted stone! amidst the wrecks of time,
Uninjur'd bear thy Miller's spotless name:
The virtues of her youth and ripen'd prime,
The tender thought, th' enduring record
claim.

"When clos'd the num'rous eyes that round
this bier

Have wept the loss of wide-extended
worth,

O gentle stranger, may one gen'rous tear
Drop, as thou benedest o'er this hallow'd
earth!

"Are truth and genius, love and pity thine,
With lib'ral charity, and faith sincere?

Then rest thy wand'ring step beneath this
shrine,

And greet a kindred spirit hov'ring near."

—Of Mrs. Frazer, with epitaph by
her husband:—"This tablet is erected
to the memory of Mrs. Mary
Frazer, by her most afflicted hus-
band, with the most devout resigna-
tion to the will of the Almighty,
and a truly religious sense of grate-
tude for the blessings he has been
permitted to enjoy with her, in the
various vicissitudes of life, during a
period of 40 years of uninterrupted
happiness. At the same time he
shall ever, with humility, deplore
the loss of her, whose piety, bene-
volence, and amiable disposition,
will to the last hour remain most
firmly and gratefully imprinted with
the deepest sorrow on his mind."—
Of Colonel Walsh (under the organ
screen), a column broken in the
middle, and its ornamented capital
fallen to the ground. "By the
death of this gentleman an ancient
and respectable family in Ireland
became extinct." In the *S. aisle of
the choir*, of Hoare, the artist, by
Chantry.

The *Royal Literary and Scientific
Institution* (a little E. of the Abbey),
on the site of the Old Assembly
Rooms, of which the portico is a
remnant, resembles the Royal Insti-
tution in London, having a theatre
in which lectures are given. The
Museum contains several Roman
sculptures, inscribed monumental
stones, and other relics of the an-
cient Aquæ Solis, and collections to
illustrate the geology of the neigh-
bourhood, and of England generally,
carefully arranged by the late cu-
rator, Mr. Lonsdale. There are also
a cabinet of coins, a collection of

British birds, and some shells, including a fine specimen of *Pentacrinus Briareus*. The Museum is free to the public between 11 and 4. In the garden, which is situated on the bank of the river, a band plays occasionally.

The *Athenæum*, in the Orange Grove, adjoining the Abbey, was originally a Mechanics' Institution. Its museum is chiefly devoted to geology and ornithology.

The *Old Assembly Rooms*, the scene of Beau Nash's glory, were destroyed by fire in 1820, excepting the portico and exterior walls, which now form a part of the Literary Institution. Nash was master of the ceremonies nearly 50 years, from 1710 to 1760. He used to move about in an equipage drawn by 6 horses, and followed by a retinue of servants: his successor of the present day, the *master of the ceremonies*, goes about more modestly afoot, and is rewarded by a subscription ball every season. The existing or *Upper Assembly Rooms*, built by the younger Wood, 1771, and close to the Circus, have been handsomely furnished, and contain full-length portraits of Beau Nash and Colonel Wade, the latter by *Gainsborough*, who resided for some time at Bath, in the Circus. Balls are given during the season on Monday or Thursday.

In the *Guildhall*, b. 1768-75, are portraits of Frederick P. of Wales and his consort, Geo. III. and Q. Charlotte, Pitt Earl of Chatham, and Earl Camden. Behind the Guildhall are the *Markets*. The entrance is through Boatstall Lane, and below the level of this narrow passage may be seen the old E. *gateway*, and a part of the embattled wall which encircled the town of early times.

The *Street Architecture* is the feature which distinguishes modern Bath, and entitles it to pre-eminence as the most beautiful city in England. A few of the more remarkable streets, crescents, &c., may be enumerated as follows:—The *Royal Crescent*, by

the younger Wood; to the W. of it, *Marlborough Buildings*; to the N., *St. James's Square*, *Cavendish Place*, *Cavendish Crescent*, *Somerset Place*, and *Lansdown Crescent*. To the E. of the Lansdown Road, *Camden Place*. Adjoining the R. Crescent, the *Circus*, designed by the elder Wood; and below it *Queen Square*, b. by Wood, each side after a different design. On the E., beyond the Avon, *Pulteney Street*, the finest *street* in Bath, b. about 1770, by the Hon. William Pulteney, together with *Pulteney Bridge*, which is lined on each side with houses. Adjacent to the Sydney Gardens, *Old and New Sydney Place*. E. of the Abbey ch., the *North and South Parades*, designed by Wood, and b. 1740. Lastly, S.W. of the city, *Green Park Buildings* and *Norfolk Crescent*. *Milsom Street* is the Regent Street of Bath, and contains the finest shops.

Hetling House, in Hetling Court, near the Pump-room, is one of the oldest mansions in Bath. Its great room, of which the chimney-piece is a fine specimen of decoration, is now used as a chapel by a congregation of Mormons.

A house in Trim-street was the residence of *General Wolfe* and his family, and No. 13, New King-street, of the astronomer *Herschel*, who here made the observations which led to the discovery of the Georgium Sidus. Beau Nash lived on the Sawclose, where his house may be recognised by its handsome doorway.

Partis College, on Newbridge Hill, between Bath and Kelston, is an institution for the reception of 30 reduced gentlewomen (10 of them must be widows or daughters of clergymen of the Church of England), who are each furnished with a separate house of 4 rooms and an allowance. It was founded by Mrs. Partis, in conformity with the intention of her deceased husband, Fletcher Partis, and was completed in 1827. It is a Gothic building, with a chapel in the centre.

The *Wesleyan College*, an Eliz. structure, erected 1850, from the designs of Mr. James Wilson, F.S.A., occupies a commanding site on the ascent of Lansdown. It has a tower 90 ft. in height.

The *Lansdown Proprietary College*, lower on the hill, was completed 1858, by the same architect, and has also a lofty central tower. The architecture is Gothic of the Geometric period. The school, in the N. wing, is of 3500 sq. ft., and lighted by traceried windows. In the S. wing is a room of 2100 ft. The roofs are of timber, coloured.

The *Victoria Park* is a very pretty enclosure of about 10 acres, immediately west of the Royal Crescent and Circus, and approached through the *Royal Avenue*, which is laid out with plantations, shrubberies, and walks. At the entrance of the park is an obelisk in honour of her present Majesty, in whose presence (while Princess) this agreeable public garden, created at the expense of some zealous citizens and inhabitants of Bath, who contributed 4000*l.* to this object, was thrown open in 1830. Higher on the hill is a colossal bust of Jupiter by Osborne, a self-taught artist, who died in poverty. It is made of a single block of Bath stone, weighing more than 6 tons, and is 7 ft. high.

The *Royal Victoria Horticultural and Botanical Gardens* occupy a portion of the park.

The *Sydney Gardens*, at the end of Pulteney Street, were formerly the "Vauxhall" of Bath. They occupy 16 acres, and were laid out 1795.

In Lansdown Crescent lived *William Beckford*, of Fonthill, the talented but eccentric author of 'Vathek'; and on the summit of Lansdown, which is 813 ft. above the sea-level, and now covered with houses to within a short distance of the top, stands

Beckford's Tower. He had a passion for towers, and built one in turn at his previous residences of

Cintra and Fonthill. This one is 130 ft. high. It commands an extensive view, and was erected within a walled garden, which since the death of Mr. Beckford (1844) has been converted into a public cemetery, with a handsome modern gateway of Byzantine style. Beckford's monument, which formerly stood in the cemetery of Widcombe Vale, has been removed here. It is a sarcophagus of red granite, which was prepared for him in his lifetime. The inscriptions are singular. On one side—

"Eternal Power!

Grant me, through obvious clouds, one transient gleam
Of thy bright essence in my dying hour!"

On the other—

"Enjoying humbly the most precious gift
of Heaven to man—hope."

Neither of these inscriptions were selected by the author of 'Vathek,' as incorrectly stated by some persons.

About 2½ m. beyond Mr. Beckford's Tower is the *battle-field of Lansdown*, fought 1643 between the forces of King Charles, led by the Marquis of Hertford, and those of the Parliament under Sir William Waller. The spot is marked by a monument to the memory of Sir Beville Grenville and his Cornish friends, who fell here, erected by his grandson, George Granville, Baron Lansdowne, 1720. Lansdown Hill is now much enclosed, and the view from it, notwithstanding its elevation, is greatly impeded by the stone walls which hem in the road; but a walk of 2 m. from Beckford's Tower, or of 4 from Bath, will bring you to a spot on Upper Lansdown, called *Prospect Stile*, from which may be seen at the same time both Bath and Bristol, the Avon and Severn, the Welsh mountains and the Mendip hills. It is on *Stoke Brow*, ½ m. to the S.W. of the pretty village of *North Stoke*.

On the road to the monument, and 1 m. beyond Beckford's tower, we pass on the rt. *Chapel Farm*, a build-

ing of the time of James I., and so named from an ancient *Chapel of St. Lawrence*, of which one Dec. window remains. A large fair is held here on St. Lawrence's day, Aug. 10.

Among the natives of Bath were *Gildas*, the historian; *Terry*, the comedian; and *Hone*, the author of the 'Every-day Book.' *William Prynne*, the 2 *Lysons*, and *Sir Sidney Smith*, were educated at the Grammar-school, a foundation of Edw. VI.

The walks and rides around Bath may be almost infinitely varied, and derive a peculiar charm from the wood and rock in the vales, the height of the hills—each with a distinct and extensive view—the numerous old camps, the curious churches, and the farmhouses of Elizabethan or an earlier date, which abound in the district.

Walks and Excursions :—a. To *Sham Castle*, an artificial ruin built by Ralph Allen, to improve the view from his town residence, now buried among houses at the end of the N. Parade. It is a fine point of view. You may extend your walk to the summit of *Hampton Down*, on which are remains of the *Wansdyke*, and a *British camp* of 30 acres. On the E. side of the hill are the *Hampton Rocks*, a landslip of the great oolite.

b. To *Prior Park* and *Combe Down*. On leaving Bath, the road passes *Widcombe ch.*, built by Prior Birde, and then commences the ascent of the fertile dell of Widcombe. Here is the *Abbey Cemetery*, a pretty spot, the grounds tastefully planted by the late Mr. Loudon. *Prior Park* is situated at the head of the vale, on a brow commanding a beautiful view. The mansion, a handsome Palladian structure, connected by arcades with its wings, is 400 ft. above the river and 100 below the top of *Combe Down*. It was built 1743 by Wood for *Ralph Allen*, the Allworthy of Fielding's 'Tom Jones,' originally a clerk in the Bath post-office, then postmaster and

[*W. D. & S.*]

mayor, and lessee of the cross-posts which he had established, and by which he made a fortune. He was the friend of Fielding, Pope, and Sterne, and of Warburton, who married his niece. Pope, who corresponded with him, used to visit him at *Prior Park*, where he finished the 'Dunciad,' 1741. Pope disliked Bath, its rocks, and dirt, and brimstone, and fogs, and declares in his letters that health itself should not draw him thither, though friendship had once or twice. "I live," he says, "out of the sulphurous pit, at the edge of the pit, at Mr. Allen's, for a month or so." The error of supposing the existence of sulphur in the Bath water is common even now, but no sulphur occurs in it. The mansion at *Prior Park* has been of late years enlarged, as a Rom. Cath. College; but in 1836 the central part of it, which was Allen's residence, was gutted by fire. The house is now for sale, and has a neglected appearance, wild flowers growing from the cornices. Behind are remains of the *Wansdyke*, which traversed the breezy upland of

Combe Down, 550 ft. above the sea. On the S. side of this hill, which commands an extensive prospect, several villas have been lately built, and there is now quite a town with church and inn. A path across two fields leads to *Mount Pleasant*, where a beautiful landscape opens on the view. You look down upon the meeting of the *Claverton*, *Freshford*, and *Midford* valleys, and upon a hill-side covered with wood. The canal winds below, and in the centre a long viaduct spans the valley. To the rt., by a clump of firs, is an artificial ruin (another fine point of view), and the sloping park of *Midford Castle*. In the far distance rises the tower at *Stourhead*.

The quarries on *Combe Down* furnish the well-known *Bath freestone*, a variety of *oolite*, of which not only the abbey and houses of Bath are built,

but many other public and private edifices in distant parts of the kingdom. The down, fields, and roads are undermined by caverns and passages.

c. To *Beckford's Tower*, *Stoke Brow*, and *Kelston Round Hill*, returning by *Weston*.

Bitton, W. of N. *Stoke*, is a pretty village, on a small lake or reservoir, which supplies water to several paper-mills. Its church contains the effigies of Sir Thomas de Bitton, a work of the 13th cent.

Below *Kelston Round Hill*, which is 730 ft. above the sea, lies

Kelston Park, 3 m. from Bath, property, late of Joseph Neeld, Esq., and now of Lieut.-Col. Inigo Jones. Kelston occupies the site of a house built 1587 by Barozzi, an Italian architect, and in which lived Sir John Harington, the wit, poet, and court favourite, who had here the honour of entertaining Q. Eliz. It was pulled down 1760, with the exception of some outbuildings, which still remain. The present house was built by Sir Cæsar Hawkins. The village church is in part Early Eng.

In the churchyard of *Weston* an altar-tomb marks the burial-place of Mrs. Jane Falconer, relict of William Falconer, author of 'The Shipwreck.'

d. To *Granville's Monument* on Lansdown, returning by the pretty road from *Chapel Farm* to *Langridge*, and by *Swainswick*.

Langridge has its manorhouse, and a diminutive ch., said to be the smallest in England. It measures only 50 ft. in length by 18 in breadth. It is also remarkable for a beautiful Anglo-Norman entrance, and has an early sculpture of the Virgin and Child, and an effigy of a lady in the costume of Henry III.

Swainswick also has its manorhouse, the birthplace of *William Prymne*, b. 1600, educated at the Bath grammar-school. In the ch. is a fine brass to *Edmond Ford*, 1439. Above the village rises the British

camp of *Solsbury*, 600 ft. above the sea, and beyond it *Charmy Down*, where remains of a *Druidic circle* may be seen in a field near the farmhouse.

e. Over Lansdown to the *Wick Rocks* (3 m. from the monument), a romantic wooded valley between limestone cliffs, which rise to a height of 200 ft. and are crowned on the N. side by an ancient camp.

f. To *Batheaston* (2 m.) and *St. Catharine* (4½ m.). *Batheaston Ch.*, a Perp. building, contains a tablet to the Rev. J. Conybeare, the Anglo-Saxon scholar, for several years vicar of this parish. There is a ferry to Bathampton. 2 m. distant is *Shock-erwick* (p. 17), seat of the descendants of the Wiltshires, the attached friends of *Gainsborough*, and where some of the best paintings of this truly English artist are preserved. The Box Tunnel is 3 m. N.E. 2½ m. the three counties of Wilts, Gloucester, and Somerset meet on *Banner-down*, by the side of the high road. For upwards of a century the spot has been marked by 3 small stones, but these have been superseded by a cromlech which was set up in 1858. L. of *Batheaston*, in a pretty valley, lies the village of

St. Catharine, long a residence of the priors of Bath, whose *grange*, built by prior Cantlow about 1499, is still standing in its terraced garden. Its porch, of the time of Charles I., and its beautiful hall-screen, are much admired. The church—also partly built by Cantlow—contains a finely carved pulpit, a Norman font, and, in the chancel, an altar-tomb, with effigies, to Wm. Blanchard and his lady, 1631. The return to Bath may be varied by a route over *Charmy Down* and *Solsbury*.

g. To *Claverton*, a very pretty spot, and an agreeable drive of about 3 m. from Bath, passing the *Hampton Rocks*, a landslip of great oolite on the face of *Hampton Down*. A *Claverton*, rt. of the road, are the old

stone terraces of an ancient mansion of the Vivians. This house is now seated high on the hill, and at present occupied by the Rt. Hon. James Wilson. It was built from a design by Sir Jeffery Wyattville, and is ornamented with many charming works of art. Among the pictures are 5 by *Tintoretto*, viz., the sketch for his colossal picture of Paradise in the Ducal Palace, Venice; SS. Jerome, Nicolas, Francis, and Stephen; a Procurator of St. Mark's; a Cardinal; and the Hall of the Ten in the Doge's Palace—*J. Van Ostade*, a Village, with Country People, a large picture—*Andrea del Sarto*, or *Seb. del Piombo*, Portrait of Mich. Angelo—*Brouwer*, Peasants drinking—*Guerchino*, 2 landscapes, Morning and Evening—*J. Ruysdael*, a dark poetic landscape—*Swanevelt*, a fine landscape. The old house, which stood lower down the hill, and was flanked by terraced gardens, was besieged and taken by a Parliamentary force in the Civil War. Claverton was for 60 years the living of *Richard Graves*, author of the 'Spiritual Quixote.' He is buried in the church, which was rebuilt and enlarged 1858. In the churchyard, a pretty enclosure, full of roses, is the stately tomb of *Ralph Allen* of Prior Park, interred here 1766. You may return to Bath by the road over Claverton Down, passing, at the summit of the hill, a lodge entrance to Claverton Manor, where there is a fine view up the wooded valley to the distant chalk escarpment.

† The valley of Claverton is remarkable for its beauty, and for several rugged scenes, such as the *Hampton Rocks*, produced by the subsidence of the oolite. The position of *Warley*, opposite Claverton, under the hanging woods of *Monkton Farleigh Down*, will charm every visitor. You may extend your drive to *Limpley Stoke* and *Freshford*, or make them the object of a separate excursion by rail. About 1 m. beyond Claverton (at the

Viaduct Inn) the road to *Freshford* and *Frome* is carried across the valley by a stone viaduct on 11 arches, and the canal over the rly and the river by an aqueduct. The l. road leads to

Limpley Stoke (4 m. from Bath), a romantic village, with hanging woods and orchards, and a wild hillside well adapted for a picnic or for sketching. The view of the rail, river, and canal, serpentine down the valley side by side, but at different elevations, is curious. *Limpley Stoke* should be seen from the ascent towards *Freshford*, which is 1 m. distant. At

Freshford, where Sir William Napier wrote his 'History of the Peninsular War,' you should go to the high ground called *Sharpstone*, and *Mount Pleasant*, to gain a view up the 2 valleys. In the one, in the far distance you will see the White Horse at *Westbury*; in the other the town of *Bradford*. A path leads from Mt. Pleasant to the ruins of *Hinton Abbey*. *Farleigh Castle* is 2 m. from *Freshford*.

h. To the *Farleigh Beeches*, *Monkton Farleigh*, and *S. Wrahall manor-house* (p. 21).

Another commanding point of view is *King's Down*, E. of *Bathford*, where the panorama embraces the *Cotswold hills*, the *Wiltshire chalk downs* from *Swindon* to *Alfred's Tower*, the range of the *Mendips*, and immediately under foot the beautiful valley of *Claverton*.

i. To the ruins of *Hinton Abbey* (p. 210) and *Farleigh Castle*. The quickest route is by rail to *Freshford*, from which the abbey is 1 m., and the castle 2 m. distant. "Some 8 m. from Bath, in the direction towards *Salisbury*, are to be seen, on the north-east slope of a rocky height called *Farleigh Hill*, the ruins of the *Castle of Farleigh Montfort*, or *Farleigh Hungerford*; mansion once of the honourable family of the *Hungerfords*, while there was such a family. The

Hungerfords are extinct above a century ago, and their mansion stands there as a ruin, knowing little of them any more."—*Carlyle*. The road runs by *Midford* and by *Charterhouse Hinton*, and commands distant views of *Farleigh* village. The *Houlton Arms* will be found a tolerable *Inn*. On rt. are the church, dedicated to *St. Leonard*, and *Farleigh House*, seat of the *Houltons*.

The *Castle* is prettily situated above a deep wooded ravine, called, from some ancient tradition, *Danes' Ditch*. It is a complete ruin, consisting of fragments of the wall, and of 2 towers and a gatehouse. The general plan appears to have been an oval double court, with towers upon the walls. The park was on the N. between *Farleigh* and *Iford*.

The *Chapel*, within the enclosure, has been preserved. The windows are *Perp.*, but the walls may be older. The dripstone of the W. door seems *E. Eng.* There is a northern addition of later date, of which the wall has been painted with the matches of the *Hungerfords*. The roof of the porch is good; upon its wooden bosses are the family coat and badge of 3 sickles interlaced. The altar-slab is a handsome block of *Puddingstone*. A quantity of armour has been put away here. There are monuments to *Sir Walter Hungerford* (an altar), 1595, with his posie, "Time trieth Truth;" to *Sir Thomas Hungerford* (the purchaser), and *Joanna* his wife, 1398, 1412, two effigies on an altar; and to *Sir Edward Hungerford*, 1607, with *Dame Jane* his wife, an altar-tomb. Besides these, and several smaller monuments, is a very handsome altar-tomb with effigies to *Sir Edward* and *Margaret Hungerford*, 1648 and 1672, with arms and the motto, "Et Dieu mon appuy." This *Sir Edward* commanded at *Wardour*, and his lady founded the hospital at *Corsham*.

Beneath is the *vault*. Here, sheathed in closely fitting coffins of lead, are

6 corpses. The hearts of some of the family were formerly preserved here in glazed jars covered with white leather. *Margaret*, daughter of *George* of *Clarence*, and the last of the *Plantagenets*, was born at *Farleigh*. She married *Sir R. Pole*, and had by him 4 sons, the youngest, *Richard*, the too celebrated *Cardinal Pole*. *Farleigh* was for 300 years the chief mansion in *Somersetshire* of the *Hungerfords*, from 1369 to 1689, and had been previously held by the *Montfords*. It was converted into a castle in the reigns of *Rich. II.* and *Hen. IV.* by *Sir Thomas H.* and his son *Walter*. In the *Rebellion* it was held for the king, and surrendered 15th Sept. 1645. The *Hungerfords* obtained it in the reign of *Edw. III.*, and their line failed in that of *James II.*, when *Farleigh* was sold to the *Bayntuns*, who were the last to use the castle as a residence.

j. To *Midford*, *Wellow* (p. 210), and *Combehay*.

k. To *Barrow Hill* and *Englishcombe* (3 m.), a retired and pretty village, once the residence, according to *Hoare* ('*Hist. of Ancient Wilts*'), of our *Saxon kings*. At a later period it was the site of a castle of the *De Gournays*, of which the mound and the fosse are still to be seen in the dell to the E. of it; and, in *Tudor times*, of a manorhouse, now used as an alehouse. It has also, adjoining the ch., a mossy buttressed barn, built from the ruins of the *Castle*; and 2 whimsical yew-trees, which have grown into one during a long embrace. In the orchard by the ch. the *Wansdyke* may be traced, but in the 2nd field beyond the orchard it is in good preservation, running W.N.W., with the ditch on the N. side.

Barrow Hill, or the *Round Hill*, as it is commonly called, crowns a very elevated ridge of land, and is a conspicuous object in almost every view from *Bath*. If artificial, it is one of the largest barrows in *England*. It is 100 ft. in height. *Englishcombe* lies to the W. of it, on a

cluster of knolls, and much reminds one of Devonshire. The manor-house, in connection with Barrow Hill, would make a subject for a sketch.

l. To *Stantonbury Hill* (about 6 m. W.), a conspicuous outlier of the inferior oolite, capped by a very perfect British camp, on the line of the Wansdyke. The entrenchment is of 30 acres, and commands a fine distant view of Bath. E. is *Newton Park*, seat of W. H. Gore Langton, Esq., M.P., and W. *Houndstreet Park*, a residence of the Pophams. The panorama is complete, and includes the Welsh mountains. W.N.W. is Dundry Hill, W. by S. the Mendips, in the distant S.S.W. the tower at Stourhead. Under the S. side of the hill lies the village of *Stanton Prior*.

m. To *Stanton Drew* (p. 225), about 5 m. from the Keynsham Stat.

n. To *Ditteridge*, or to *Chapel Plaster* and the manor-house of *S. Wraxall*, from Box Stat. (p. 21.)

Resuming our route:—On leaving Bath stat. the line crosses the Avon upon a timber bridge, remarkable for its obliquity, its 2 arches being each as wide as the river. Close on rt. is the old town bridge; on l. high above, Holloway Hill and Beechen Cliff. The gaol, that never-failing accompaniment of an English borough town, forms the foreground in the view of the city.

108½ m. *Twerton Stat.* On rt., on the Avon, are large cloth-mills. There is also a carpet manufactory. The church has a Norman font.

Beyond this Station the train enters the *Twerton tunnel*, driven in the new red sandstone, and then dashes through the *Newton cutting*, in excavating which was discovered the Roman pavement, now preserved at the Keynsham Station. It represents Orpheus playing to the brutes.

l. are *Newton St. Loe*, with a Perp. church, and

Newton Park, seat of W. H. Gore Langton, Esq.

111½ m. *Saltford Stat.* A neat village, with park-like meadows stretching to the Avon. A deep cutting in the lias leads to the *Saltford tunnel*, 499 ft. long; on emerging from which, and crossing the river Chew, near its junction with the Avon, the line reaches

113½ m. *Keynsham Stat.* (*Inns*: Lamb and Lark; Crown), where the Roman pavement may be seen.

The *Church*, large, handsome, but dilapidated, contains monuments of the 16th cent. to the Brydges ancestors of the Dukes of Chandos, who had formerly a mansion here. The chancel is Early Eng.; the tower, of grand proportions, Perp.; date 1612. E. of the ch. are remains of an abbey barn, gutted by fire a few years ago.

This town is said to have been once the residence of St. Keyna, who lived in a solitary wood infested with venomous serpents, which her prayers converted into stone; and the number of ammonites found in the neighbouring quarries serve, in the eyes of the vulgar, who believe them to be the actual serpents, to confirm the fable. Here also, as the legend reports, the leprous king Bladud was hired as a swineherd, and hence he drove his pigs to the springs of Bath. At a later period Keynsham was celebrated for its abbey, of which there still remain some relics in the curious *hostelry for pilgrims*, in the principal street, the barn by the ch., and the Norman gateway of the Abbots' grange at *Queen Charlton*, a village 2 m. l. There is some pretty scenery in the neighbourhood, particularly at *Hanham*, where the Avon flows between rocks for some distance. The Druidic stones of *Stanton Drew* are about 5 m. to the l.

Beyond this Stat. commences a remarkable series of tunnels and excavations, the latter in places vertical, and supported by massive buttresses of masonry. E. of Brislington is a cutting through the freestone, with

vertical sides. *Brislington tunnel*, 3148 ft. long, is carried through the shale and sandstone of the coal-measures, and ventilated by 4 shafts. 2 other tunnels, ivy-mantled, 475 ft. Another, 990 ft.

Emerging from the last tunnel is the new red sandstone, which here covers up the coal; the line crosses the Avon by a handsome Gothic bridge of stone, and amidst dust and smoke enters the suburb of Bristol.

118½ m. **BRISTOL** Stat., a handsome Gothic structure, common also to the railways to Exeter and Gloucester. *Inns*: White Hart; White Lion; both ancient hostleries. At Clifton, Bath Hotel; Queen's Hotel;—and close to the steamboat basin, Cumberland H.; Hibernian H.

The things to be seen at Bristol are as follows:—*Redcliffe Church*, 5 min. walk from the stat.; the *Cathedral*, and the *Mayor's Chapel*, on opposite sides of College Green; the churches of *St. Stephen*, the *Temple*, *St. James*, and *St. Philip and St. Jacob*; the view from *Brandon Hill*.

At Clifton, *St. Vincent's Rocks*, and *ravine of the Avon*; the *Zoological Gardens*; the *Victoria Rooms*.

Environs.—On the rt. bank of the Avon—*Henbury Cottages*; *Blaise Castle* (pictures); *Kingsweston Park*; and *Penpole Point* (4 m. from Clifton)—all within the compass of a drive. On the l. bank—*Nightingale Valley*, and *Leigh Court* (pictures), 3 m. from the Ferry, where a carriage can be procured at the *New Inn*.

Such are the chief points of interest which Bristol offers to a stranger; in former times, according to Locke, who frequently visited in this neighbourhood, it possessed as many delicacies to gratify the palate. The following were the directions of the philosopher to some foreigner:—"At Bristol see the Hot-well, St. George's Cave, where the Bristol diamonds are found, Ratcliff church, and at Kingwood the coal-pits. Taste there *Mil-*

ford oysters, *marrow puddings*, *cock-ale*, *metheglin*, *white and red muggets*, *elvers*, *sherry sack* (which with sugar is called *Bristol milk*), and some other wines, which perhaps you will not drink so good in London." Of these, alas! only the Milford oysters have survived to the present day.

There are steamboats to Portishead, down the Avon, the scenery of which should be seen from the water.

Bristol (Pop. of the district in 1851, including that of Clifton, 143,704) is not altogether undeserving of its Saxon appellation of *Bright-stowe*. It is an ancient city and port, the third in commercial importance in the kingdom. It stands on the rt. bank of the Avon, 8 m. above its termination in the Bristol Channel. Bristol is an opulent and lively city, and once engrossed nearly all the West India trade.

"Bristol, the capital city of the West of England, has been distinguished for its commerce from a very early period, and was for many centuries the second city in the British dominions. Its position, upon a tidal river, and surrounded by an extensive coal-field, appears as well fitted to secure a pre-eminence amongst the manufacturing interests of modern times as amongst those of commerce in days of yore. In practice, however, this has not been fulfilled. The manufactures of England, since they have attained their present immense importance, have flourished chiefly in the Northern and Midland districts, and have not descended, in any great force, into the West."

The Frome joins the Avon to the S. of the town, where the channel of the rivers has been converted into a floating basin. A part of the Avon is conducted in a deep new cut further south, a considerable work, executed 1804, at a cost of 600,000*l*. The tide rises here nearly 30 ft.

Bristol resembles some of the old towns of Belgium and Germany more perhaps than any other city in Britain.

Many of the streets are highly picturesque, containing curious timber houses, with gables and overhanging upper stories, and numerous windows. Mary-port Street, opening into High Street, is one of the most remarkable. Bristol boasts many objects of curiosity, the chief of which are its churches, and at their head the

Cathedral. This ancient building, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, stands on the S. side of College Green. It consists of choir and transepts, the nave having been pulled down before the Reformation, and is more interesting in details than imposing in size or general appearance. It was the ch. of the Monastery of St. Augustine, founded by Robert Fitzharding, ancestor of the noble family of Berkeley, and to the period of the Dissolution it was the burial-place of the Berkeleys. Henry VIII. created the see, which in our days has been united with Gloucester. The choir and its aisles were commenced by Abbot Knowles, who died 1332. The style is chiefly late and rich Dec. passing into Perp. The side aisles are of equal height with the centre, and are distinguished by a peculiar arrangement of open arches, thrown transversely across to support the roof of the building, and to serve as rests for the ribs of the aisles, which are vaulted, not as usual parallel with the centre, but at rt. angles to it. This arrangement, and the shape of the piers, of which the mouldings run up into the arch without capitals, give to this cathedral quite a foreign aspect. The choir, not improved by its modern woodwork, terminates in an E. window, which has been well restored. The side windows of the chancel, and those at the end of the aisles, are also restorations. The organ-screen is late Perp., and decorated with paintings of the 12 minor prophets. This church abounds in

Monuments of various ages, the older ones in recessed canopies with stellular Gothic tracery, perhaps

copied from Spanish or Portuguese originals in Seville or Batalha; those in the chancel enclose the effigies of mitred abbots; those in the aisles the mailed figures of knights—some of them cross-legged. In the S. aisle are the Berkeley and Newton chapels. Among the more modern monuments and tablets which cover the walls the following may be mentioned:—*in the chancel*, that of Lady Young, 1603;—*in the Newton Chapel*, that of Bishop Gray, by *Baily*;—*in the S. aisle*, those of Dr. Elwyn, by *Baily*, and his wife, by *Chantrey*; and of Elizabeth Stanhope, with a bas-relief of an angel bearing aloft the deceased, by *Sir R. Westmacott*;—*in the S. transept*, those of Bishop Butler, author of the 'Analogy', with a prose inscription by *Southey*; of Emma Crawford, by *Chantrey*; and of Catherine Vernon, by *Bacon*;—*in the N. transept* that of Mrs. Draper, the Eliza of Sterne's correspondence, flanked by 2 graceful but somewhat unmeaning female figures, by *Bacon*;—*in the N. aisle* that of Mrs. Mason, bearing an epitaph by her husband, assisted by *Gray*, beginning

"Take, holy earth, all that my soul holds dear;"

that of Mrs. Middleton, a kneeling figure, by *Baily*; and a bust of Southey by *Baily*, erected as a monument by his fellow citizens. The arches of this aisle are decorated with grotesque carvings—such as a monkey playing on the Pan-pipes—similar to those in Wells Cathedral. *Bishop Butler* is buried near the Bishop's throne.

On the S. side of the church (entered from the low cloisters of Perp. Gothic) is the

Chapterhouse, preceded by a vestibule of Norman arches round and pointed. It is an oblong apartment, vaulted and groined, of late Norman date. Its walls are lined with circular arcades with intersecting arches. The Dean, Dr. Lamb,

laid open several monuments and in other respects much improved the building. Adjoining the cloisters are some remains of the

Bishop's Palace, burnt by the mob 1831. The bishop now resides at *Stapleton*, 4 m. E. of Clifton. A little W. of the cathedral, in the corner of the green, is the

College Gate, a most elaborate Norman archway of oolite in beautiful preservation, with Perp. superstructure. Its condition is so perfect that the whole has been regarded as of Perp. date. This and the chapter-house are probably parts of Fitzharding's church. On the N. side of College Green is

St. Mark's Church, commonly called the *Mayor's Chapel*, one of the most beautiful Gothic edifices in Bristol. Its S. extremity (for it stands nearly N. and S., not E. and W.) displays fine Dec. windows. Close to the S. door is the organ, resting on an elaborate modern screen supported by pillars from which rises fan tracery. The chapel is small, consisting of a narrow choir terminating in an elaborate stone altar-screen of rich Perp. niches and tabernacles surmounted by a painted window. On the rt. are 4 very fine sedilia; on the l. 2 sepulchral recesses: one, fringed with a Dec. arch sculptured with cusps and foliage of great beauty, contains the armed effigies of a Berkeley, and his lady, interesting for the costume. In the other recess reposes a bishop. The chapel is roofed with a flat ceiling of oak, in compartments, with richly designed and painted bosses. The pulpit carved out of Painswick stone, and the mayor's seat and stalls of oak, are modern. On an altar-tomb are the effigies of Sir Maurice de Gaunt, 1229, and his nephew. There are several other monuments in a side aisle on the E., well preserved, chiefly Elizabethan in style. On the rt. or E. side of the altar near the tower is another entrance lead-

ing into the Poyntz chapel, a small chantry now used as a *Vestry*: it is a gem of Perp. Gothic, with niches in the wall; 2 recesses on one side are occupied by iron closets. The variegated tiles appear to be Moorish azuleias brought from Spain. *Capt. Bedloe*, the noted colleague of Titus Oates, and concerned in the Rye House Plot, was buried here, in the S. porch. The person who keeps the key lives a long way off; it should be sent for beforehand. Not very far from the terminus of the Great Western Railway, and upon a knoll of new red sandstone, is the celebrated church of

St. Mary Redcliffe,

"The pride of Bristowe and the Western londe,"

and one of the fairest and goodliest parish churches in England, far finer than the cathedral. It has for some time been undergoing a restoration by Godwin, but, judging by the progress hitherto made, it will be 30 or 40 years before it is completed. The cost is estimated at 40,000*l.* The approach from the W. or Redcliffe Street is up a broad flight of stone steps, handsome, but not in keeping. The church is cruciform, with a rich W. tower and the stump of a spire of the date of Edward I.; the rest was destroyed in a storm, 1445, to the great injury of the church. The height to the top of the stump is 200 ft. The tower base and the inner N. porch, 1200–1230, are E. Eng. verging into Dec., and the oldest parts of the building. A fragment of a Norman buttress has been detected in the tower. The upper part of the tower is decided and rich Dec., and the bulk of the church Perp. The proportions of the interior are very harmonious. The central aisle is 54 ft. high, the piers gracefully moulded, and the roof covered with elaborate tracery. The finish of the detail throughout is very remarkable.

Among the contributors to the building of this beautiful church

were Simon de Byrton, 1294, a Bristol merchant, and 6 times mayor; Wm. Canynges the elder, 1376-96; and Will. Canynges the younger, 5 times mayor of Bristol, and one of its "Merchants Royal." The younger Canynges was a great builder and owner of ships, and lent Edward IV. 3000 marks. He died 1474, having retired from the world and become a priest at Westbury. At the end of the S. transept his effigy, with that of his wife, boldly executed in stone, is placed in a canopied recess. An inscription records his wealth and the names of his ships. Against the pier at the angle between the S. transept and choir is suspended the armour of *Admiral Sir Will. Penn*, who was buried here, father of the Quaker founder of Pennsylvania, and a native of Bristol. Above are some tattered banners.

The *Choir* is surrounded by an elegant screen of open stone-work, and behind the altar is the late Perp. *Lady Chapel*, with a painted figure of Queen Elizabeth on the wall. In the N. aisle are 2 monuments to the brothers Meade 1475, merchants of Bristol, monuments remarkable for the carved canopies (Perp.), and the winged angels between the arches. At the back of one tomb is a singular brass plate.

The *N. porch* is interesting in many respects: it is in 2 divisions. The inner portion is very good E. Eng. with pointed arcades on shafts of black marble, which, from their property of *ringing* when struck, are vulgarly called "the dumb organ." The outer and more recent porch is a hexagon of rich Dec. work. A sort of closet lighted by a circular hole in the wall on one side is called a *Confessional*, but erroneously; there is nothing in its construction or position to fit it for such a purpose: it was probably a watch-box for a porter. The very peculiar external arch of this porch should be observed. It was in the 'Treasury,' a muniment

room forming the upper story, that the unfortunate and misdirected genius *Chatterton*, son of a sub-chantor in the cathedral—(his uncle was a schoolmaster, the sexton of Redcliffe Church)—pretended that he had discovered in an old chest, which went by the name of Mr. Canynges' Coffin, MSS. attributed by him to Rowley, a monk. The fragments of the coffin are still preserved in their original place in the attic of the porch. Chatterton was born on Redcliffe Hill 1752, and educated at Colston's charity school. He is represented in the dress of that establishment on the monumental cross erected to his memory in the churchyard.

St. Stephen's, distinguished by its lofty and elegant square tower 133 ft. high, dating 1470, and perhaps the finest in Bristol, was built in the reign of Henry VI. by John Shipward, a merchant and mayor of Bristol. It contains a chantry founded by one Edward *Blanket*, who gave his name to that comfortable article of bed furniture which he or his family, a race of clothiers, are said to have invented. It has also a rich porch.

The *Temple Church* (near the Rly. Stat.) contains a fine brass of a civilian, c. 1395, name unknown. The unfortunate poet, *Richard Savage*, is buried in the churchyard of

St. Peter and St. Paul; he died 1743 in the Newgate prison in this city, where he was confined for debt, after writing his 'London and Bristol delineated.' He was buried at the cost of the gaoler, but no stone marks his grave. Parts of the church and tower of

St. Philip and St. Jacob are in the E. Eng. style and curious, deserving the notice of the architectural student. An ancient figure in the Kemys' aisle is attributed to Robert, eldest son of Will. the Conqueror, deprived of sight when imprisoned in Bristol Castle, by order of his brother Henry I. The W. end of

St. James's Church is a very curious specimen of the Norman style, and includes an intersecting arcade of circular arches, with a round window above. It was built 1139; the tower was added 1374. Within, against the S. wall, is placed a monumental effigy, said to be of Robert Earl of Gloucester, the founder.

In *All Saints*, Corn Street, a Perp. Church with a modern steeple, is the monument (by *Rysbrach*) of Edward Colston, merchant of Bristol (d. 1721), a most princely benefactor by his educational charities to his native town. At the lower end of Broad Street is

St. John's Church, on the line of the town wall, and which contains one of the old hour-glasses in very perfect condition, the glass itself remaining. *St. John's Gate* is carried under the church tower. Over the gate are statues called Brennus and Belinus, the fabled founders of Bristol.

The central point of Bristol is at the meeting of 4 streets — *High-street* from the S., *Broad-street* from the N., *Wine-street* from the E., and *Corn-street* from the W. Here are the ancient hostleries of the White Hart and White Lion, and some of the more important public buildings — the Exchange, Guildhall, Council House, and Commercial Rooms.

The *Guildhall*, in Broad Street, is a modern Gothic building of the style of Richard II., by *Pope* of Bristol. The six niches between the windows are filled with statues of Edward III. (who granted the corporation charter); Q. Victoria; Dunning and Sir Michael Foster, Recorders of Bristol; and of Colston and Whitson, its benefactors, by *Thomas*, a Bristol sculptor. The building includes law-courts, bankruptcy court, and the grand-jury room; its merits are not very considerable.

The *Exchange*, in Corn-street, is a building of the Corinthian order by *John Wood* of Bath, 1743. It is but little used by the merchants, who meet at the Commercial Rooms.

The interior is used as a corn-market, and adjoining is the *Post Office*.

The *Commercial Rooms*, nearly opposite, serve as an exchange, and contain reading-rooms. They were built 1811, and are surmounted by statues, which represent the city of Bristol, Commerce, and Navigation. On the same side of Corn-street is the

W. of England and S. Wales Bank, a beautiful structure, completed 1858, W. B. Gingell and T. R. Lysaght, architects. The façade is a composition based on a study of the Library of St. Mark at Venice. The lower story is Doric, with an arcade of 5 arches, columns, and decorations emblematical of the city, the county, and S. Wales. The upper is Ionic, with rich capitals to the columns, and, in the 10 spandrels of the arches, as many life-size female figures emblematical of the elements and sources of wealth. On the entablature is a sculptured frieze of boys coining, storing, and trading with money, and a number of shields bearing the arms of the towns in which the Company have branch establishments.

In the centre of Queen Square (in the S. part of Bristol) stands a bronze equestrian statue of William III., by *Rysbrach*, for which the artist received 1800*l.* S. of Queen Square and the Floating Harbour, and by the side of Bathurst Basin, is the

Bristol General Hospital, one of the noblest buildings of the kind in the country. In 1845 Mr. Joseph Eaton, of the Society of Friends, offered 5000*l.* towards the erection of a new structure, on condition that another 10,000*l.* were raised, and in 1850 this sum had been subscribed. The hospital was then commenced, and in 1857 completed at a cost of about 15,000*l.*; W. B. Gingell, architect. The principal fronts are of blue Pennant stone, with admixture of Bath stone, and rise from a basement of which the walls are slightly battered. This basement consists of warehouses which produce a revenue for the institution. The building is

erected on a fire-proof system, and its 10 wards will accommodate 170 patients. It has colonnades for exercise, and in the tower day-rooms for the convalescent, each with 5 windows which command extensive views. It has a steam-lift to the different floors. In the

Baptist College, Stoke's Croft (N. part of Bristol), is preserved an original miniature portrait of Oliver Cromwell, said to be the best portrait of him known. It is by *Cooper*, and was bequeathed to the College, 1784, by the Rev. Andrew Gifford, a Baptist minister. 500 guineas have been refused for it. Here also is a curious collection of Hindoo idols.

Canynges' Chapel, or the Masonic Hall, in Bridge Street, has a beautifully decorated and light roof of wood. *Red Lodge*, near Park Street, long the residence of the learned *Dr. Prichard*, is a curious old mansion, with carved staircase and internal porch, and handsome chimney-pieces and ceilings.

The *Bristol Library* (King Street) is an institution of some standing, and especially rich in Hutchinsonian Divinity. It contains the books of *Dr. Matthew*, Bp. of Durham, a native of Bristol, who left them for the free use of the citizens. *Catcott's* minerals and fossils, bequeathed 1779, are preserved here.

The *Bristol Institution*, in Park Street, on the way to Clifton, contains a theatre for the delivery of lectures, a library, and an excellent museum. The building, occupying an angle in the street, was designed by *Cockerell*, and cost 11,000*l.* He presented to it a collection of casts of the *Egina* marbles, of which he was one of the discoverers. The Geological collection is particularly rich in the fossils of the mountain limestone and the lias, and in shells and productions of the W. Indian seas. It owes its origin and admirable classification to the late *Dr. Riley*, and its first curators *Mr. Miller* and *Mr. Stuchbury*. Here also are preserved

the will and other papers connected with the memory of *Chatterton*. *Baily's Eve* is one of the treasures of the institution.

At the upper end of Park Street, the steep hill leading to Clifton, are the *Blind Asylum* and *Public Library*. A little farther on, in the angle of the roads, stand the

Victoria Rooms; a handsome building with Corinthian portico, intended for festive assemblies, concerts, &c., as well as for public meetings of business. The great hall measures 117 ft. by 35, and is 47 ft. high. On the opposite side of the road are the *Queen's Hotel*, and the

Bristol Fine Arts Academy, a richly decorated and beautiful modern structure, with marble statues of *Flaxman* and *Reynolds* on the front. Here are 3 pictures by *Hogarth*, formerly in *Redcliffe ch.*—the *Entombment*, *Resurrection*, and *Ascension*—remarkable as the only paintings of religious subjects by the artist. To the l. of Park Street, on the ascent to Clifton, rises

Brandon Hill, to a height of 250 ft. It is a bit of open green or common, surrounded by houses, but commands a fine view of Bristol, and of the country to the S., particularly of the *Tump* at *Ashton Court*, and of *Dundry Hill*. A footway to Clifton lies across it. It is a good example of "millstone grit," and bears the traces of a fort thrown up as a defence against *Rupert*. It is laid out as a park, and in an enclosure on the summit are two guns from *Sebastopol*. At the foot of the western slope stands

Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, a large castellated building in the Tudor style, erected 1847. The charity was founded 1586 for the education of poor boys of this city and the manor of *Congresbury*.

Bristol can boast of many eminent children:—the two *Canynges*; *William Botoner*, called of *Wyrester*, the son of a glover on *St. James's Back*, in the reign of

Henry VI.; *William Grocyn*, Greek Professor at Oxford, 1442; *Alderman Whitson*, founder of the Redmaids' School; *Admiral Sir William Penn*; *Edward Colston*, founder of the Free School which bears his name; *Chatterton*, born on Redcliffe Hill, 1752; *Hannah More*, who kept a school with her sister in Park Street, and died in Clifton; the poet *Southey*; *Sir Thomas Lawrence*; *Sir Francis Freeling*, so long the head of the Post Office; *Baily* the sculptor; and *Müller*, *Ripingille*, and many eminent living artists, such as *Danby*, *Poole*, *Pyne*, *Branwhite*, *West*, the *Tripps*, *Jackson*, &c. At Bristol also *Davy* made his first appearance in the scientific world, under Beddoes.

Henry II. was placed in Bristol for safety and education by his uncle the wise Duke of Gloucester. Stephen was here imprisoned, 1141.

Bristol Castle, now destroyed, underwent a siege in the reign of Edward II., when the elder Despencer was taken and hanged in it. Castle Street marks the site. It was razed by Cromwell. It was placed between the Avon and the Frome, and covered about an acre, occupying the isthmus which commanded the entrance to the old town.

In 1496 the elder Cabot, whose son was a native of Bristol, received a patent from Henry VII., and sailed from hence, 1497, in the "Matthew." He explored the coast of Labrador about a year before Columbus saw the main land.

Traces of the close commercial connexion between Bristol and Spain and Portugal are visible in the ecclesiastical structures here.

In 1642 Bristol was garrisoned for the Parliament, and batteries were thrown up on Brandon, St. Michael's, and Prior's hills. St. Michael's is still called "the Fort." In 1643 the city was stormed and taken by Prince Rupert. The breach, entered by Col. Washington, was near Berkeley Square. Charles I. lodged in Small Street. In 1645 Fairfax was quar-

tered at Stapleton. He stormed Prior's Hill fort, at the end of Somerset Street, and Rupert, pressed by the plague and by want of provisions, surrendered at once. Charles, indignant at this, revoked all the Prince's commissions, and ordered him to leave the kingdom.

Mr. Burke sat for Bristol, and here made some of his most brilliant speeches. Here, after one of them, his colleague, a Bristol merchant, when his turn came to make an address, simply added, "I say ditto to Mr. Burke."

In October 1831, during the agitation excited through the country with the object of turning out the ministry and enforcing the Reform Bill, Bristol was the scene of a disgraceful riot. Two sides of Queen Square, including the Mansion House, were burned down, and property to the extent of 70,000*l.* destroyed, owing to a want of ordinary firmness in the civil and military authorities.

Bristol Docks and the *Floating Harbour* were formed 1804-9 by changing the course of the river Avon, and placing locks in the old channel. The lower or entrance lock is at Rownham. Several of the roads by the water-side are known by the name of *Back*—as St. Augustine's Back, Redcliffe Back, &c. *Bac* is a Saxon word, and signifies the moveable bridge of a ferry.

The Great Western steam-ship, the first steamer which crossed the Atlantic, in 1838, was built in Bristol, as was the still larger iron ship, the Great Britain.

Bristol gives the title of marquis to the family of Hervey. It was first bestowed on the Digbys by James I.

CLIFTON. *Inns*: Bath; Queen's.

The long and steep ascent of Park Street leads from College Green to Clifton, once a distinct village, now a suburb of Bristol. It is the "west end" of the city, where its merchants dwell, far removed from the smoke and din. It is also much frequented as a water-

ing-place and summer residence, and is remarkable for the beauty of its villas, and the breadth of its elm-shaded roads. Among a labyrinth of streets, squares, and crescents, ranged one over the other along the slopes, the most elevated and handsomest of all is York Crescent, above which, at the top of the hill, are the open downs, and the heights of St. Vincent, upon the verge of the

Gorge of the Avon, where "the river runs between rocks and a hanging wood; a scene truly magnificent, and wanting nothing but clearer water; the stream consists of liquid mud, and the gutter-like bed is hideous except when the tide is full, for it rises here not less than 30 ft."—*Southey*. The gorge has been compared by Dr. Holland to the Vale of Tempe, on a small scale; the river larger, but the rocks smaller. The name is taken from St. Vincent, the patron saint of hermits. The Avon is here navigable for large vessels and steamers approaching the port of Bristol.

It is indeed a most striking view to look across this chasm of about 600 ft. span, which separates Somersetshire from Gloucestershire, upon the river winding at a depth of nearly 250 ft. below, upon the sails of ships and the funnels of steamers.

At the spot where the passage is deepest and most picturesque are the deserted preparations for a gigantic suspension bridge, 630 ft. long. The piers, in their present state unsightly, were to have been cased with iron. The work was designed by Mr. Brunel.

Above the Clifton pier of the bridge is an eminence, corresponding to one on which the Somersetshire pier is placed, and N. of this is a third promontory. All three are crowned by Roman or British camps. The beautiful ravine between the two last (*Bower Walls* and *Stokeleigh Camp*) is known as *Nightingale Valley*.

St. Vincent's Rocks are composed of the mountain limestone, which abounds

in fossil remains; and in its upper beds, where it mingles with the millstone grit, includes also crystals of quartz, which are sold under the name of *Bristol Diamonds*. Quarries have been formed in these cliffs, so as to diminish their beauty, and cause Southey to accuse the Bristolians of "selling the sublime and beautiful by the boatload." High up on the bold precipice is a cavern called the *Giant's Hole*, from which an echo appears to issue when a shout is raised on the opposite bank. It may be visited from the *Observatory*, by a flight of steps cut through the solid rock. The strata have a southerly dip, but are much contorted.

The *Clifton Club* occupies the site of the Old Royal Hotel on the Mall. Strangers are admitted by payment of a monthly subscription, or, if for a longer period, by ballot. The club has a coffee-room.

An easy zigzag road and winding paths lead from the heights of Clifton Down to the water-side and the

Hotwells, a Grecian building, erected over the medicinal spring, which in spite of the name is only tepid or milk warm, being about 73° Fahr. It has little taste, and is not strong, its chief chemical ingredient being sulphate of soda, of which it contains only 2 grains in a pint. It is recommended in cases of consumption, and is efficacious in diabetes, &c. The Hot Well House includes a pump room and baths.

St. Vincent's Terrace is a sheltered row of houses near the wells, but low and damp. *Hannah More* lived for some time, and died, 1834, at the age of 88, in a house in Windsor Terrace, overlooking the wells. She is buried at Wrington. *Bird* the painter also resided in Bristol, and is buried in the cloisters of the Cathedral. A little further up the river is

Rownham Ferry, where you may cross to the other bank, and visit *Nightingale Valley* and the *Leigh Woods*.

There is a very pretty *Zoological*

Garden on Durdham Down, a few minutes' walk from the Mall.

At the extremity of the hill, some way down the Avon, and high above its waters, is a picturesque tower, erected 1693, and ungraciously known as "*Cook's Folly*." It has been so called from a tradition that a person of the name of Cook was here shut up to escape the fulfilment of a dream which indicated death from a serpent. A viper entered with fagots for the fire, and so inflicted the destined death-wound. The ivied tower rises prettily from the woods, and is improved in effect by a castellated mansion which has been added to it. A good view of the scenery is obtained from a summer-house at the Folly Tavern, on the brink of the precipice.

Walks and Excursions:—

a. To *Nightingale Valley* and the *Leigh Woods*. Cross the Avon at *Rownham Ferry*, and walk down the river bank to the entrance of the valley. On the heights above it are *Stoneleigh Camp*, with 2 ramparts and ditches, and *Bower Walls* with 3. The best view is from *Bower Walls*, from the pier of the bridge.

b. To *Henbury Cottages* and *Blaise Castle*, 4 m. N. of Clifton, and thence to *Kingsweston Park* and *Penpold Point*. Or reverse the order of this route; or make a separate excursion to *Kingsweston* and *Penpold Point*, a pleasant walk of 4 m. The path leaves Durdham Down at a small Gothic lodge $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of the Folly Tavern. Or you may go down the river bank and turn inland where the path ends.

Kingsweston, once the seat of Lord de Clifford, and now of Mrs. Miles, is a plain but large house, 3 stories high, by Vanbrugh, beautifully situated on the Avon, 3 m. above its junction with the Severn. Of both rivers the grounds command delightful views, as well as of the Bristol Channel and the hills of Glamorganshire.

The park is uncommonly beautiful, and the ridge from hence to Blaise Castle forms a noble terrace. *Penpold Point*, almost within the park, and *Shirehampton* village below it, should be visited. Here is shown a rocky seat, on which the giant *Goram* slept whilst his rival the giant *Vincent* rent the rocks for the Avon to pass into the sea.

Blaise Castle, the modern seat of J. S. Harford, Esq., stands in a limestone ravine of singular beauty. The grounds are shown; the house and pictures on Thursdays only. The parish church of *Henbury* is in its way a beautiful thing.

Mr. Harford's cottages, "the beau ideal of a village, consist of a group of houses of different forms, styles, and materials, stone, brick, wood, &c., roofed with thatch, tiles, or slate, each surrounded with different trees, and enwreathed with clematis, rose, honeysuckle, or vine. The dwellings have separate gardens, and a common fountain, in the centre of the green, shadowed by old trees. The inhabitants are all poor families, settled here by the bounty of the proprietor."

—*Prince Pückler*. The cottages are 10 in number. They were b. 1810, and are irregularly placed around a sloping lawn on the N.W. side of *Henbury*. They may be seen any week-day between 12 and 5.

Blaise Castle contains a fine collection of pictures, principally of the time of Michael Angelo and Raphael, arranged with great taste in a gallery opening to a conservatory. Among them are the following works:—*Seb. del Piombo*, the Virgin grieving over the body of the dead Saviour, a circular picture, painted on black marble. From the Barberini Palace. 2. The Holy Family. *M. Venusti*, a copy of the Christ bound, by Seb. del Piombo;—*D. da Volterra*, the Entombment;—*Correggio*, excellent copies by his scholars of the Christ on the Mount of Olives, and the Virgin and Child;—*Parmigianino*, the

Marriage of St. Catherine, "worthy of his great model, Correggio."—*Waagen*. 2. The Virgin and Child adored by SS. Margaret, Augustin, and Jerome, a repetition of the altarpicture in the Gallery of Bologna;—*Paul Veronese*, the Dead Christ on the lap of the Virgin;—*L. Carracci*, a copy of Correggio's St. Jerome, in the Gallery at Parma;—*Ann. Carracci*, a Riposo;—*Guido Reni*, the Assumption, of the same period as the Murder of the Innocents in the Gallery at Bologna. 2. The Crucifixion. 3. An Ecce Homo. *Guericino*, a Youth holding up a Bunch of Grapes. 2. Diana. *Lanfranco*, Belisarius;—*Carlo Dolce*, Christ and the Woman of Samaria;—*G. Poussin*, a Landscape;—*Salvator Rosa*, 2. large poetical Landscapes; and 3 smaller Landscapes, one a Sea-shore Scene, of great transparency;—*Vandyck*, a half-length Portrait of a Lady armed as Minerva;—*Hobbema*, a large Landscape;—*J. Vernet*, View of a Sea-coast; 2. a Sea-piece, of his later time;—*Raphael*, the Spasimo, of which the original is in the Madrid Gallery. Drawing-room.—*Guido Reni*, St. Veronica, "of great power of colouring;"—*Tiarini*, the Assumption;—*Schidone*, St. John the Evangelist;—*N. Poussin*, a Landscape, highly poetic and of fresh colour;—*Il Cavaliere d'Arpino*, Christ on the Mount of Olives;—*C. Procaccini*, the Tribute-money;—*G. Poussin*, a Storm; 2. a Landscape;—*Salvator Rosa*, a Sea-piece, in the style of the large sea-pieces by this master in the Pitti Palace;—*Carlo Dolce*, an Ecce Homo. 2. The Virgin, in profile.

In the entrance hall are casts of the Apollo Belvidere and Versailles Diana, and, in the conservatory, of some of the finest heads of the Antinous.

Dining-room.—*Lawrence*, Portrait of Mrs. Harford.

The park of Blaise is remarkable for the beautiful undulations of the ground, which are thickly covered

by the arbutus and other evergreens, and diversified by rocks. A lofty tower commands a view across the glittering surface of the Severn to the mountains of Wales, and a number of walks lead to other points as delightful.

c. To the *Tump* at Ashton Court, an eminence commanding a fine view of Bristol, and of the vale in which it lies. You should go E. along the ridge for a pretty glimpse of the sea between the valley sides, and of Worle Hill and the Steep Holme in the opening. There is another path from Rownham Ferry by Ashton Court, seat of Sir J. H. Greville Smyth, Bart. (p. 229), to the conspicuous ch. tower on *Dundry Hill*.

d. To *Leigh Court*, seat of Sir Wm. Miles, Bart., M.P., well known for its gallery of pictures. It is about 3 m. from Rownham Ferry, on the E. bank of the Avon, and is shown to the public on Thursdays. Application must be made at Mr. Miles's office, 61, Queen Square, Bristol, a week before.

"Passing through an extensive park you come to the beautiful grounds, which are kept in the finest order, and to the splendid mansion, built with great taste in the Italian style. Though my expectations of this collection had been raised very high, they were far exceeded. I found in these apartments a series of capital works of the most eminent Italian, Flemish, Spanish, and French masters, which would grace the palace of any monarch."—(*Waagen*.)

"Dining-room.—*Ann. Carracci*, John the Baptist in the Wilderness; half the size of life. A noble and graceful figure and warmly coloured;—*Velasquez*, a female saint in ecstasy, called a Velasquez; has an ideal beauty of head, such as I have never yet seen in any authentic picture by that master; also in style of painting it is unlike him. I am inclined to attribute it to some excellent Spanish painter unknown to me;—*And. del Sarto*, the Virgin with

the Child, and St. John. Of extraordinary effect, from the figures being above the size of life, and of very powerful colouring, though it cannot be classed among the graceful and attractive works of the master;—*Murillo*, the Martyrdom of St. Andrew; figures about quarter the size of life. The whole composition is very discreetly treated, the expression of the saint noble, the colouring singularly tender and clear, and the execution uncommonly careful;—*Gaspar Poussin*, a very large Landscape, almost square, from the Colonna Palace. In the most elevated taste of the master, and in admirable harmony with the fine figure, by *Nicholas Poussin*, of *Elijah*, to whom an Angel is pointing out *Jehovah* passing over in the clouds. If to this be added the remarkable clearness of the colouring and the careful execution, it must be confessed that this picture is a *chef-d'œuvre* of this great master, nay, that it is a *chef-d'œuvre* of landscape painting;—*Murillo*, the Holy Family, with Angels, in a landscape; figures almost the size of life. Of the decidedly naturalistic epoch of the master; hence the forms are more determined, the colours less tender and clear. The impasto and execution are admirable; at the same time the expression is nobler than in most of his pictures of this period;—*Claude*, the effect of the morning sun upon the sea; in the fore-ground fishermen drawing their net. So far as the height and dark situation of the picture would permit me to judge, it is of his earlier time; of great freshness and clearness of tone, and very good body;—*Ann. Carracci*, *Diana and Actæon*; figures about half the size of life; in a fine landscape, with an open view of the sea. The horns of *Actæon*, who is escaping, are beginning to shoot. The figures are more slender in the proportions, and more graceful in the attitudes, than usual; the colouring particularly clear, the execution careful;—*Guido*

Cagnacci, *Susanna and the Elders*; half-length figures, the size of life. A very choice picture, with great power of colouring, and particularly careful;—*Nic. Poussin*, the *Plague at Athens*, according to the description of *Thucydides*. A large, very rich masterpiece of *Poussin*, in which we are reconciled by his skill to the horrors of the subject. All the motives suggested by the author are here employed—disease and death spread their terrors around. The expression of a dying mother is particularly touching. Many in vain implore help in the temples of their gods. Very few pictures of *Poussin* are of such masterly completion in all their parts, and so well understood in the very difficult foreshortening: the heads, at the same time, are much more varied and more true to nature than usual.—On the wall between the windows I remarked a graceful female figure by *Romanelli*; a small Landscape with *Banditti*, by *Salvator Rosa*; and *Youths* looking at a sleeping *Nymph*—a happy composition, said to be by *Domenichino*, which, however, the dark situation of the picture would not permit me to decide.”

“Saloon.—*Claude*, 1. A mountainous, richly wooded Landscape, with rich melting middle distances. In the back-ground the sea, with distant coasts; in the fore-ground the temple of *Apollo*, in which an ox is being sacrificed. A cool, morning, silvery tone most delicately pervades the whole picture. This picture is in every respect one of the finest that ever came from the hand of this great master. The most charming motives of nature are here woven into a magic poem, the whole of which bears the impress of the refined mind of *Claude Lorraine*. The picture is of that time when *Claude* had attained the highest perfection in general keeping, without sacrificing to it, as he afterwards did, the vigorous execution, the local colours, and the individuality of the details.

This picture has been engraved by Woollet. 2. The companion: also an exquisite composition, though much paler, and more monotonous in the colour. The harmony of the effect also is disturbed by the stiff, lengthy figure of Æneas, who, with his companions, is landing in Italy. Painted 1675, in his 75th year. From the Altieri palace, Rome. Mr. Beckford gave 10,000*l.* for the pair, with 4 other cabinet pictures;—*Rubens*, the Woman taken in Adultery. A composition of five principal, and seven subordinate figures; rather above the size of life. Entirely painted by *Rubens*' own hand, perhaps of a not much later date than the celebrated Descent from the Cross at Antwerp. This seems to be confirmed by the elevation of feeling and the soberness of the colouring. The woman stands, with an expression of contrition, in the centre. The calm dignity of Christ at her right hand forms a striking contrast with the vulgar appearance of a corpulent priest, and the cold refined malice of a tall, meagre Pharisee on the other side. The flesh is of a very full tone; the careful execution admirably melting. This celebrated picture, which is in an extraordinary state of preservation, is said to have been painted for the family of Van Knyf at Antwerp; at all events, in the year 1780 it was in the celebrated collection of the Canon Van Knyf, in that city. At the sale of Mr. Henry Hope's collection, in the year 1816, it was sold for 2000*l.*;—*Domenichino*, St. John the Evangelist in a vision, supported by two angels; full-length figures, the size of life. The elevated character, the careful drawing, the glowing colouring, and admirable body, render this picture, formerly in the Giustiniani Gallery, one of the most beautiful by this rare master. In the year 1804, 6500 scudi were refused for it. It is in an excellent state of preservation;—*Titian*, Venus and Adonis, a good school copy of the celebrated picture in the

Museum at Madrid;—*Rubens*, the Virgin supporting the infant Christ standing on her lap, to whom St. John stretches out his arms. St. Francis of Assisi worshipping, Elizabeth and Joseph. Very pleasing in the expression; warm, but sober in the colouring, and carefully finished;—*L. da Vinci*, Christ giving the Benediction. Of a grave, dignified character, but deficient in expression, though it has much merit. It is of a later period than Leonardo."

"Drawing-room.—*Raphael*, 1. Christ bearing his Cross. A long narrow picture, formerly the centre-piece of the Predella to the altarpiece which Raphael painted for the nuns of St. Antonio at Perugia (painted in 1505). The beautiful composition is well known to the friends of art by the engraving by Larmessin, when in the Orleans Gallery. The group of the mourning women is peculiarly beautiful in the motives, and striking in the expression. 2. The Virgin lifting the veil from the Child, which has just awaked, and with much animation stretches out its arms to her. Half-length figures, the size of life. The composition agrees entirely with the celebrated Loretto picture, brought by the French to Paris, and which has disappeared since the Restoration. The figure of Joseph, however, is wanting here. The Child is of the greatest beauty, and has all the peculiarities of Raphael—the greatest vivacity, the delicately felt drawing, and the reddish extremities. The Virgin has, more than any other of Raphael's, the appearance of a portrait; yet the features are very delicate. The colouring is, throughout, even in the half-shadows, extremely clear. On panel.—*Claude*, a Landscape, with a temple on a rt. and hills in the foreground. The morning light is very harmoniously carried out in a delicate silvery tone. From the old Hope collection:—The Virgin and Child, called a *Fra Bartolomeo*, is not deli-

cate enough for him, but is by the hand of one of his imitators;—*Guido Reni*, Cleopatra; the original of innumerable repetitions. Extremely pleasing in beauty of feature, expression, clearness of colouring, and melting execution;—*Velasquez*, Philip IV., King of Spain, on horseback; a small, very excellent picture, in the bright, clear, and yet full tone peculiar to him; soft and freely executed with a flowing brush;—*Marcello Venusti*. To this scholar of Mich. Angelo I am inclined to attribute the well-known composition of the Crucifixion, with the Virgin and St. John at the sides. The expression is intense, the execution well understood, and of admirable body;—*Gerard Dow*, the Doctor; a medical man looking at a bottle, a woman watching him. The head very expressive; the details rich, and approaching his master, Rembrandt, in warmth of colour;—*Paul Potter*, three Cows in a Meadow. Admirable in composition, in warm and luminous colouring, and in the spirited treatment;—*Murillo*, the Virgin with the sleeping Child and Joseph. Realistic in the characters, and carefully executed. St. Francis in an ecstasy, supported by an angel, here called a *Correggio*; but I believe it to be a beautiful and careful picture in the manner of *Correggio*, by *Ann. Carracci*, to whom an early repetition of the same is here erroneously ascribed;—*Raphael*, Pope Julius II. I would not mention this picture, of which there are such numerous repetitions, were it not different from all that I have seen, and extremely excellent. The treatment is masterly; on panel;—*Carlo Dolce*, the Virgin, with the blue mantle over her head, so often met with, here taken in profile, and of great clearness and delicacy.”

“Library.—*Murillo*, St. John the Evangelist in ecstasy, which is admirably expressed in the realistic head. The execution masterly, in a silvery tone. A John the Baptist,

whole-length figure, the size of life, which is here given to *Correggio*, I believe to be a picture by *Parmigianino*.”

“Music-room.—*G. Poussin*, two views of Tivoli, large upright pictures, which are among his finest works, for the happily-chosen points of view, the clearness and completion of all the parts. A smaller, also very beautiful landscape;—*Holbein*, a half-length undraped figure, here, in defiance of all probability, called a William Tell, from the circumstance of his holding a bow and arrow in his hands; most carefully modelled from Nature, in a true, warm, and powerful tone, and in very decided forms; the hand particularly admirable;—*Parmigianino*, a small version of the larger picture in the National Gallery; careful and in a warm tone;—*Scarsellino da Ferrara*. This master, in my opinion, painted the Entry of Christ into Jerusalem, which here bears the name of *Paul Veronese*;—*Raphael Mengs*, the Virgin and Child enthroned, surrounded by Angels; feeble in character, but of a delicate harmony;—*G. Bellini*, the Adoration of the Kings, a predella of very pure conception, and peculiar composition. Joseph, who is seated near the Virgin, appears of more importance than usual. The kings, remaining at a little distance, respectfully offer their gifts. Delicately executed, with clear yellowish flesh tones;—*Stolkard*, the Pilgrimage to Canterbury; the original picture and finest example by him of this often-repeated subject. The colouring warm and transparent, the execution careful;—*G. Poussin*, a Landscape, with figures in the foreground, and water in the middle distance. Nobly conceived, and of admirable keeping in the silvery tones;—*G. Mazzuola*. To this master I am inclined to attribute an allegorical representation, with the Virgin borne by angels above, and below Vice bound; here called a *Parmigi-*

anino;—*Hogarth*, a Female Portrait; animatedly conceived, and coloured in a light clear tone;—*Claude*, a Harbour; of great delicacy and transparency in keeping and colour;—*J. Vernet*, a Sea-piece, with the morning mist; of great truth.”

“Little Dining-room.—*Rubens*, the Conversion of St. Paul, in figures as large as life. The spirited, long-maned horse of the saint has fallen on its knee, and Paul, thrown over its head, lies on the ground with his eyes closed. Terror is most strikingly expressed in his noble, pale features. In the position of the arms *Rubens* has very happily called to mind the Ananias of *Raphael*, which so incomparably expresses the irresistible effect of a Superior power. In the dazzling beam of light which falls on him from heaven, appears Christ. One of the attendants is assisting Paul; all the others are seized with terror, while the horses of three of the riders are rearing and running away. *Rubens* appears here not only with his wonted animation, but with an unusual sobriety of form and colour, which latter is, however, of surprising depth, force, and clearness, and with a sustained and careful execution. In 1806 this picture was sold for 4000 guineas;—*Lairesse*, Jupiter and Antiope; a good picture, in which he has endeavoured to imitate Titian;—*C. Maratti*, a Holy Family; a pretty picture, warmly coloured for him;—*Hogarth*, the Shrimp Girl; animatedly conceived, and sketched with the utmost freedom. A picture of the Three Graces, here attributed to *Titian*, appears to me rather the work of *Niccolo dell' Abbate*.”—*Waagen*.

Such are the most interesting places in the immediate neighbourhood of Bristol. At greater distances, but, in point of time, as near by railway, are—to the N., *Thornbury*, 11 m., with a beautiful ch., and ruins of a castle commenced, but never finished, by Edw. Duke of

Buckingham, in the reign of Hen. VIII.; *Berkeley Castle*, and the Berkeley monuments in the ch., 19 m.; *Badminton*, the seat of the Duke of Beaufort, 16 m.—to the E., the city of *Bath*—to the S., *Clevedon*, *Brockley Combe*, &c.

Portishead (pronounced *Posset*), at the mouth of the Avon, now a gay collection of villas, is supposed to have been anciently the harbour of *Portbury*, a town of note with the Romans, whose coins have been found in it. The present little watering-place occupies a pretty position on a wooded hill which projects into the sea. The *Portishead Hotel* stands on the point of this promontory (which is of old red sandstone), commanding views over the King Road, the mountain-coast of Wales, and the entrance of the Avon. Behind it rises the wooded hill cut with paths, and below steps descend to the landing-place of the steamers. Off the shore lie the shoals of the *English and Welsh Grounds*, and the curious *Denny Rock*, resembling a sailor's hat floating on the water. A project has been long on foot for restoring to this place its ancient importance as a harbour, by forming in its bay a series of docks on a scale adapted for ocean steamers. Another plan proposed by Lieut. Denham, who surveyed the Bristol Channel for the Admiralty in 1835, selects Sand Bay, a spot further W., as more suitable to the object.

To proceed on our route from Bristol, by the Bristol and Exeter Rly., which was first opened to Bridgewater June 1841, and to Exeter May 1844:—the line traverses the *Bedminster coalfield*, with a view of *Dundry Hill*, 1, 700 ft. high, and of *Leigh Down*, rt., to

126½ *Nailsea Stat.*, where *Cadbury Castle* is about 2 m. to the rt. The ch. of *Nailsea* has a stone pulpit. A little further down the line are remains of the manor-house of *Chelvey Court*, now a farmhouse, but still

retaining many of the old panelled chambers, one of which has a hiding-room at the back of the fireplace. On the porch are the arms of Tynte, the family who became owners of the house and manor about 1600. The tomb of Edw. Tynte, the purchaser, is in the adjacent chyard.

130½ *Yatton Stat.*, ½ m. from *Yatton*, which is situated under the bold eminence of *Cadbury Hill*. rt. a branch of 4 m. runs to

134½ *Clevedon (Inns: Royal H.; York H.; Bristol H.)*. This watering-place is a creation of the last 30 years, being the off-shoot of a village which has been seated here from a remote time, 1 m. from the sea, under a rocky height called *Dial Hill*. It is a collection of villas, sheltered by high land on the N.E., and extending over undulating ground above the cliffs of a small bay. It is a quiet little place, with neither pier nor parade. W. of it the country is a marsh for some miles, but S. and E. it is hilly and beautiful.

The places to be seen in the immediate vicinity are *Dial Hill*, *Walton Church*, *Walton Castle*, and *Clevedon Court*; and at various distances, *Cadbury Camp*, the view from *Cadbury Hill*, *Brockley Combe*, *Cleve Combe*, and the *Chedder Cliffs*. At the end of the old village is

Myrtle Cottage, for some time the residence of *S. T. Coleridge*, the poet, who sings its praises in his 'Sibylline Leaves,'—

"Low was our pretty cot; our tallest rose
Peeped at the chamber window. We could
hear

At silent noon, and eve, and early morn,
The sea's faint murmur. In the open air
Our myrtle blossom'd; and across the porch
Thick jasmins twined: the little landscape
round

Was green and woody, and refresh'd the eye.
It was a spot which you might aptly call
The Valley of Seclusion!"

The *Old Church*, on *Clevedon Point*, is another object of some interest. It is sacred to *St. Andrew*, and was in early times attached to the Abbey

of *St. Augustine* in *Bristol*. Its principal feature is the Norman chancel arch. The lower part of the tower and the arch into the N. transept are also Norman. The S. trans., externally supported by *Dec. buttresses*, has a fine *Perp. window* to the S. This church contains the burial-place of the *Clevedons*, anciently lords of the manor, one of whom is supposed to be represented by the effigy of a knight in a recumbent position, resting his feet upon a bull. In the S. transept are some monuments to the family of *Hallam* the historian—one to the late *Mrs. Hallam*, who was daughter of *Sir Abraham Elton* of *Clevedon Court*.

Dial Hill, which rises immediately above the town, will reveal to you some of the "sculpture of landscape," for the view embraces the mountains of *Glamorganshire*, the rocky islands of the *Steep* and *Flat Holmes*, the *Mendips* with their pyramidal height of *Crook Peak*, the lofty hills beyond *Yatton*, and those stretching towards *Bristol*, with their intervening valleys. Pathways conduct to different points, called respectively the *Bonnie View*, the *Mountain Pass*, and *Strawberry* or *Bella Vista Hill*.

Continuing our walk from this hill along the coast we descend upon a valley, where, close to the sea, stands the solitary ruin of *Walton church*, its graveyard, its grey walls and mutilated cross being alike overgrown with wild weeds. On the lofty hill beyond it are the remains of

Walton Castle, once a hunting seat of the lords of *Clevedon*, but now of lonely owls and jackdaws. The ruins occupy the summit of a furzy height between the sea and the woods of *Walton Court*, and consist of an octagonal wall with a tower at each angle, and, in the area thus formed, of an octagonal keep with a tower at one angle. There is little, however, feudal in the appearance of the castle. The walls are but slightly

built, and they are pierced for large windows which must have commanded the rarest prospects. At the farther end of the hill is a tower which forms an ornament to the grounds of *Walton Court* (W. Miles, Esq.). Beyond it we can descend to a road which has come from Portishead, and turns abruptly to the village of

Walton in Gordano, which, according to the tradition, stood formerly near the ruin of its parish church. It is in a pretty dell among hills affording many beautiful scenes. Here the road from Clevedon to Portishead divides, so as to accommodate the taste of the traveller, one branch selecting the high ground near the sea, and the other pursuing an inland course up the valley. At the point of divergence there is a whimsical elm, which rising many feet with the straightness of an arrow launches forth at once its huge limbs horizontally. The higher road to Portishead passes *Weston in Gordano*, of which the ch. has some interesting features. It is of Perp. date, with excellent E. window, an oaken roof, chancel, stalls, and screen, and a bellcot. The font is Norman. From Walton we can return towards Clevedon, and if time and the day permit it pay a visit to

Clevedon Court, seat of Sir Arthur Hallam Elton, Bart., about 1 m. from this spot, but nearer to Clevedon. It was built in the reign of Edw. II., remodelled in that of Eliz., and much altered at various subsequent periods. The kitchen and parts of the entrance hall are the most ancient, but much of the fine front is of the 14th century. The hill above commands a splendid view, which, together with the house and grounds, is shown to the public every Thursday between the hours of 12 and 3. The hall contains a number of family portraits, including one (a copy) of Hallam the historian.

Cudbury Camp, attributed to the Romans, is on the same ridge of hills as Clevedon Court. It is on a commanding point overlooking the vale of Nailsea on the one side, and of Portbury on the other, and is formed by 2 ramparts made of loose stones. If you pursue the Walton road for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, you will find a path on the rt. which will lead you direct to it. A lane just beyond this path goes to the same destination. In the vale beyond lies

Tickenham, a village remarkable for remains of a manor-house, formerly residence of the De Tickenhams, and for its church, of which the chief features are a rude Norman chancel arch, an Early Eng. S. porch, and a Dec. E. window studded with armorial shields. In the chancel are 2 cross-legged effigies in chain mail, temp. Hen. III. or Edw. I., and in the churchyard the broken shaft of a cross overshadowed by ancient yew-trees. At the gateway is the *hopping* or *upping-stock* (*loupin'-on stane*, Scotch), by which the ladies of the olden time mounted their pillions.

Brockley Combe, a wooded and rocky hollow in the hills beyond the rlwy., is about 4 m. from Yatton Stat., 2 from Nailsea Stat., and 9 from Bristol. Adjoining it is *Brockley Hall*, a seat of the family of Pigott. Towards the close of day the valley forms a vista to the setting sun, which in its descent illuminates the distant sea. Brockley was a favourite spot with the poet Coleridge, who in one of his rambles from Clevedon composed the following lines:—

“With many a pause and oft reverted eye
I climb the Coomb's ascent: sweet song-
sters near
Warble in shade their wild-wood melody:
Far off the unvarying cuckoo soothes my
ear.
Up scour the startling stragglers of the
flock
That on green plots or precipices browse:
From the deep fissures of the naked rock
The yew-tree bursts! Beneath its dark
green boughs

(Mid which the May-thorn blends its blossoms white),
 Where broad smooth stones jut out in mossy seats,
 I rest :—and now have gain'd the topmost site.
 Ah! what a luxury of landscape meets
 My gaze! Proud towers, and cots more dear to me,
 Elm-shadow'd fields, and prospect-bounding sea :
 Deep sighs my lonely heart : I drop a tear :
 Enchanting spot! O were my Sara here!"

Cleve Combe is another rugged valley of a character similar to that of Brockley. It is nearer the Yatton Stat., being 3 m. to the E. of it.

The *Chedder Cliffs* (p. 234), one of the most romantic scenes in the county, are 1½ m. from Yatton Stat. A coach runs daily.

Wrighton (p. 229), in the Yeo Valley, 4 m. from Yatton Stat., is celebrated for its church-tower. Wrighton was the birthplace of Locke the philosopher, and the residence of Hannah More, who lived at *Barley Wood*.

The road from Clevedon to the Yatton Stat. passes through *Kingston Seymour*, which has a curious old church, and in the churchyard an ancient cross in good preservation. On a tombstone is the following strange epitaph :—

" J. H.
 He was universally beloved in the circle of
 His acquaintance; but united
 In his death the esteem of all,
 Namely, by bequeathing his remains."

Proceeding again on our route by railway :—we cross the Yeo to

133¼ *Banwell Stat.* The town (*Inns* : Ship; Bull) lies 3 m. to the l., in a pretty situation under Banwell Hill. This limestone height has been long known for its *bone-caves*, in which have been found the remains of the bear, with those of the buffalo, deer, wolf, fox, and other animals. The bones of these creatures were embedded in a floor of hardened mud, and are supposed to have been collected by beasts of

prey which made the cavern their den. There are 2 chambers, of which the larger is about 60 ft. in breadth and 40 in height, the floor sloping downward 150 ft., when it terminates in a whimsical petrification called the *Bishop's Chair*. Other bone-caves may be found at *Hutton*, 3 m. W.; at *Uphill*, 5 m. W., almost under the church; at *Sandford*, 2 m. N.E.; and at *Loxton* and *Compton Bishop*, both 3 m. S., under the heights of *Crook Peak*. See on the subject Dr. Buckland's '*Reliquiæ Diluvianæ*.' The greater part of Banwell hill, including the bone-caves, is the property of the Worshipful Chancellor J. T. Law, who has a house here. The *obelisk* was erected by his father, the late Bishop of Bath and Wells. To the S. are seen the loftier heights of *Wavering Down* and *Crook Peak*, which with Banwell Hill form the western points of the Mendips. Immediately E. is *Park Hill*, with remains of a small camp on its summit.

Edward the Confessor bestowed Banwell on the see of Wells, and in later times a palace was built here by Bishop Beckington. It stood to the S.E. of the church, on the site of a monastery of which Asser had been abbot.

Banwell Stat. is the nearest to the *Chedder Cliffs*, 9 m. distant.

136¼ *Weston-super-Mare Junction.*

138¼ *Weston-super-Mare* (*Inns* : Reeve's Hotel; Bath Hotel). This fashionable watering-place is situated at the corner of a capacious bay under a rocky fir-covered hill. It sweeps along the shore in a crescent of handsome houses and a parade of great width, and commands a charming view of the mountains of Wales, of the 2 islets of Steep Holme and Flat Holme, and of its own rocky heights—*Worle Hill* above the town, and *Brean Down* at the S. horn of the bay. The position of Weston may be compared with that of Penzance in Cornwall, taking Brean Down as the equivalent of the Mount of St.

Michael, although there are some essential differences, for instance the sea is of a tawny colour, and its retreating waves expose such an extent of ooze that the town has been nicknamed from it *Weston-super-mud*. Here, however, as at Penzance, we have a smooth beach of sand, a marsh extending inland to the foot of high hills, and a solitary road along the shore to a village on the opposite point of the bay, where a rugged rock stands islanded in the sea.

The things to be seen here are the view from *Worle Hill*, the road along the sea-front of this hill, the *sprat-fishing* on *Bearn Rock* in the season, and the ruins of *Uphill Church*.

Excursions may be made to *Woodspring Priory*, to *Brockley Combe* (by rail to *Nailsea*), to *Clevedon*, to *Banwell* 6 m., to *Cheddar* 12 m., and to *Crook Peak* 8 m.

In the town there are several *intermittent springs* which are influenced by the sea. One at *Clarence Lodge* ceases to flow when the tide reaches the rocks, and others in the vicinity of *Knighthstone* are variously affected.

The *Church*, dedicated to *St. Emmanuel*, is a modern Gothic structure, with pulpit of stone, and screens of the same material between the aisles and chancel. The *Independent Chapel*, built 1857-8, at a cost of 2300*l.*, is chiefly remarkable for the tower which forms the entrance. The upper part is an octagonal lantern, surmounted by a spire which rises 85 ft. from the ground. *Pritchett* of *Darlington* was the architect.

Worle Hill, alt. 306 ft. To ascend this charming hill we proceed along the parade to *Anchor Head*, the extreme point of the town and bay, passing, on a rock called *Knighthstone*, a group of lodging-houses and the *baths*, with an open reservoir in which the sediment is deposited from the muddy water. Beyond *Anchor Head* we turn up the hill by a path among

the firs, which leads to a pile of stones on the summit, to which the fisherman in his daily walk to *Kewstoke* is in the habit of contributing a stone for success in his fishing. It stands on an open spot, and commands a view of the town below, of the *Quantocks*, the *Mendips*, the heights about *Clifton*, and the coast of *Wales*. But the most delightful walk is along the sea-front of the hill, where a prospect greets us which is certainly among the finest in the W. of *England*, including, as it does, such a near view of the *Welsh mountains*, such a foreground of wild firs and dark rocks of limestone, and so many distinct ranges in *Somerset* and the adjoining counties. Hence too we can see well the features characteristic of this part of *Somerset*, viz. the extensive marshy flats, each bounded by hills, and the numerous detached and outlying knolls.

Worle Hill is about 3 m. in length, but little more than a furlong in breadth. On its summit are remains of a camp of about 20 acres, formed on the E. side by 2 ramparts of loose stones, and further protected by no less than 7 outlying ditches; and from the approaches to this entrenchment a flight of about 200 rude stairs, called *Kew Steps*, descend to the village of *Kewstoke*. Along the top of the pass run the foundations of a building which was probably a military work, but is popularly supposed to have been the hermitage of *St. Kew*. Within the area of the camp, which contains several of those hut circles so common on the moors of *Devonshire*, are found arrow and spear-heads; remains of the *bos longifrons*, a species of ox known in *Britain* at an early period; and human bones and skulls much battered and notched, as if a desperate struggle had here occurred. The *Rev. Mr. Warre*, who has given much attention to the subject, thinks that this camp was destroyed by *Ostorius* in the reign of *Claudius*, and that the

Britons were subsequently defeated here in the Saxon irruption under Ceawlin, year 577. Nothing Roman has been discovered.

Along the flank of this hill a carriage-road has been cut through the wood of fir and oak to *Kewstoke*, 2 m., commanding at every part the most delightful views over the channel and Welsh mountains. It is a public drive, but private property, belonging, together with the hill, to the proprietor of *Ashcombe Lodge*. *Kew* is a Celtic word, the name *Kewstoke* signifying the *boat-station*. The church has a stone pulpit and Norman entrance.

In the sea below Worle Hill lies the rugged islet of *Bearn Rock* or *Bearn Back*, which from the middle of October to Christmas is the scene of a busy *sprat fishery*. The capture is effected by nets stretched on poles from the shore to the island, and the finny shoals thus secured are removed at low water when the channel is dry. The operation is worth seeing, especially at night, when the little fish glitter in the beams of the moon. The fishery is pursued along this coast on a considerable scale. More than 10,000*l.* has been made by it in a season; and a ton of sprats has been sold in Taunton market on a single day.

Uphill Old Church is an object for another short ramble. You will pursue the level road which skirts the shore of the bay, and in 2 m. may reach the ruin which crowns a rocky hill. Consisting of a nave, a chancel, and a central tower, it exhibits the architecture of almost every style from Norman to late Perpendicular. It is a notable landmark, and commands an extensive view, particularly towards the S.W., in which direction the eye ranges to the Quantocks across the great *Burnham Level*, resting midway on *Brent Knoll*, which rises from this plain with singular abruptness. Below our hill the river *Axe* sluggishly creeps to the

sea, and at its mouth rises *Brean Down*, which is here seen to be connected with a sandy beach extending without a break to the embouchure of the *Brue*, some 7 m. distant. The northerly dip of the mountain limestone may be observed in the fractured end of *Brean Down*. Uphill is supposed to have been the Roman

Axium, from which the mining produce of the Mendips was shipped. It was for some time the residence of *Gildas* the historian, born at Bath. The church now in use is one of the stations of the survey made in 1837, under the authority of the British Association, to ascertain the difference of level between the Bristol and English Channels, and to establish marks by which any future elevation or depression of the land may be detected. The line of the survey passes by *Ilminster* and *Chard* to *Seaton* on the coast of Devonshire. In the hill on which the ch. stands is

Uphill Cavern, one of those ancient bone-caves so numerous in the mountain limestone. It was discovered in 1826, and was then filled with the remains of sheep, oxen, pigs, and horses, and of animals long since extinct in this country, such as the elephant, rhinoceros, bear, and hyæna. Many of these bones were indented with the marks of teeth, so that the cavern was, doubtless, at one time a den of wild beasts. At *Hutton*, towards *Banwell*, there is a similar cave.

The *Steep Holme* and *Flat Holme*, rocky islets off this coast, are objects well known to all who navigate the Bristol Channel, as they stand directly in the course of vessels, and the latter shows a light for their guidance. They are both outliers of the Mendip range, on the axis of the chain prolonged under the sea, the one being connected with *Crook Peak* by the links of *Brean Down*, *Uphill*, and *Bleadon Hill*; the other with *Banwell Hill* by those of *Bearn Back* and *Worle Hill*. The *Steep Holme* is of mountain limestone, the

Flat Holme of the magnesian or conglomerate limestone.

Woodspring Priory, now a farmhouse, is about 4 m. N. of Weston, at the farther end of Sand Bay, under a rocky headland called the *Middle Hope*. The pleasantest way to it is by the road as far as Kewstoke, and then by the shore to the Middle Hope. It is an interesting old building, with a tower and pointed windows, and a large barn, the walls buttressed. The remains consist of this barn, the conventual church, the cloisters, and refectory. On the ancient gate-posts are the figures of 2 winged angels, each supporting a shield; one sculptured with the pierced hands and feet, and heart in the centre; the other with the armorial bearings of the founder, or a proprietor of the monastery, viz. a chevron between 3 bugle horns, with the addition of a small crescent for difference, or to mark the descent of the owner, as second son of his house or family. The building is in a lonely position, on the marshes near the mouth of the Yeo. It was founded for Augustine monks, in the year 1210, by William de Courtenay, and was consecrated to St. Thomas & Becket.

Starting again on our route, we dash through a projecting tongue of the Mendips by the deep *Uphill cutting*, which displays an excellent section of the strata, including some igneous rocks. We then enter the alluvial flats, or *levels*, of N. Somerset (p. 230), a district of about 200 square miles, remarkable for fertility, and here and there pierced by hills, which stand in it like islands. *Brent Knoll*, the most important of these, is seen on the l. rising nearly 1000 ft. above the marshes. It is composed of lias, with a cap of inferior oolite; the cap being pretty well defined by the earthworks of an ancient camp (p. 231).

145½ *Highbridge Stat.*, the junction with the *Somerset Central Rly.*, which, in connexion with the *Dorset Central*,
[*W. D. & S.*]

is planned to unite the two channels, and form part of a direct line from the Welsh coalfields to our southern coast. It runs l. through the moors to *Shapwick*, 8 m.; *Glastonbury*, 12 m.; and *Wells*, 18 m. It was first opened to Glastonbury Aug. 1854. rt. 1¼ m., the watering place of

Burnham (Inn: Clarence Hotel), much frequented by the inhabitants of Bridgewater. It has a fine sandy beach; but the sea retires from it 4 m. at low water, when the river Parret flows past the town. ½ m. to the N. is the *lighthouse* for the entrance of this river; and close to the beach 2 *mineral springs*, welling up near each other, but differing in their qualities, the one being saline, the other sulphurous. At some little distance inland are *Brent Knoll*, and the 2 churches of *E. Brent* and *S. Brent* (Rte. 33).

Continuing our route, we keep in view the Mendips, and passing the isolated knoll of *Pawlet rt.*, and the ridge of *Cossington l.*, and traversing *Horsey Slime*, a pasture-land remarkable for its richness, enter

151¼ *Bridgewater Stat.*, on the outskirts of the town (*Inns: Royal Clarence Hotel; Railway Hotel; Globe*, by the bridge). Bridgewater is seated on the banks of the Parret, 6 m. in a direct line from the sea, and 12 m. by the course of the river, on the border of that marshy plain which stretches from the Mendip to the Quantock hills. It is an ancient town. It derives its name—a corruption of Burgh Walter—from Walter de Douai, a Norman baron, on whom the manor was bestowed by the Conqueror; and it had formerly a castle of great strength, and a moat, of which there are still some traces. It was almost entirely rebuilt during the Commonwealth, after its destruction by Fairfax; and it is now a handsome place, chiefly of red brick houses, connected by an iron bridge with a suburb called *Eastover*.

The "sights" here are the altar-

piece of *St. Mary's*, the *tapestry* in the *Assize Hall*, the *Bore* on the river, the *Church of St. John*, and the *Bath-brick works*; but there are other objects of some interest which will be mentioned below.

The *Church of St. Mary*, a large structure of red stone, is principally remarkable for its slender spire, which rises to a height of 120 ft. from the tower, and of 174 from the ground. The greater part of the ch. appears to have been altered or rebuilt about 1420; the N. porch, and some of the windows of the nave being older, and dating probably between 1327-77. The N. porch is a fine specimen of the geometrical style. The interior, which has been recently restored, has a roof and screens of black oak, and two rows of clustered columns. The altarpiece, a Descent from the Cross, was taken in a prize during the French war, and presented to the ch. by one of the Pawlets. It is a good picture of the Italian school, but by whom is uncertain. The chancel contains an Elizabethan monument to Sir Francis Kingsmill, 1620; the exterior wall of the N. transept an arched recess with effigies, which is very uncommon; and the churchyard the tomb of *Oldmixon*, an historian of the Great Rebellion and a native of *Bridgewater*. The spire has been once struck by lightning.

The *Church of St. John* is in the suburb of *Eastover*, and was built in 1849 by the Rev. J. M. Capes, at a cost of 10,000*l.* Brown of *Norwich* was the architect. The structure is of Bath stone, and much admired. Its roof is of carved oak, richly ornamented in the chancel, where the corbels support 4 half-length figures of winged angels, 2 bearing the cross and 2 the crown. The pulpit, font, and screens of the organ and altar are of *Painswick* stone. The windows are lancet-shaped, and filled with painted glass. The E. light, 21 ft. high, represents the *Annunciation*, *Birth*, *Agony in the Garden*, *Lord's*

Supper, *Crucifixion*, *Ascension*, and *Glorification*. That behind the font contains a patchwork of glass collected by Mr. Capes, exhibiting colours now lost, and a curious miscellany of designs, such as a knight in armour, a hand, the top of a quill, &c. You should also notice the small window to the l. of the altar, and the upper light on the S. side of the nave, which is a copy of one at *Amiens*. The vestry is a model of the *Abbot's Kitchen* at *Glastonbury*. In the churchyard a stone marks the burial-place of 88 persons who died of cholera in 1849. This ch. occupies the site of a *Hospital of St. John*, founded for the support of a community of *Augustine* monks, and for the entertainment of pilgrims, by the early patrons of *Bridgewater*, the family of *Briere*.

The *Assize Hall* contains a reservoir of water for the supply of the inhabitants, and, in the *Grand Jury Room*, 3 pieces of tapestry which were formerly at *Enmore Castle*, and were purchased at the sale of *Lord Egmont's* property.

King Square, behind the *Clarence Hotel*, was the site of *Bridgewater Castle*, built by *William de Briere*, 1202, but long since destroyed, with the exception of the water-gate and some other fragments forming the wall of a stable in *Castle Street*, and the bonded cellars at the *Custom-house*. At the time of the *Rebellion* this castle was one of the strongest in the kingdom. It mounted 40 guns, and was surrounded by a moat filled with water from the *Parret*, and in 1645, under its governor *Colonel Wyndham*, it withstood for some time a siege by *Fairfax*, who ultimately destroyed it, together with the greater part of the town. *Castle Field* is memorable as the spot on which *Monmouth* encamped before the fatal fight of *Sedgemoor*.

An Elizabethan house in *Mill-street* was the birthplace of the gallant *Admiral Blake*, the Republican

commander, and successful opponent of Van Tromp. His father was a merchant, and his mother the co-heiress of a knightly family. He was born in 1599, but was 50 years of age before he commenced his naval career.

An arched doorway in Silver-street is supposed to have belonged to a *Monastery of Grey Friars*, founded 1230 by the 2nd William de Briere. The *Market-house Inn* is another relic of ancient days.

The *Bath-brick Works* are by the river-side, about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. above and $\frac{1}{4}$ m. below the bridge; this town being the only place in the world where these articles are made. This curious circumstance is owing to a peculiar mixture of clay and sand which the flood and ebb tides deposit in turn at these particular points. The sediment having been removed from the river is consolidated by drying, and cut into oblong masses, which are the Bath bricks, as well known in China as in England, in Damascus as in London—but why so called it is difficult to say. The business gives employment to a great number of persons, 8,000,000 bricks, valued from 12,000*l.* to 13,000*l.*, being made every year.

Farther down the river is a *Pottery* for coarse ware, formerly the *Glass-house*, in which French prisoners were confined; and above the bridge an *Iron Foundry*, belonging to the Bristol and Exeter Railway. All the coke consumed on this line is made at Bridgewater.

The *Bore*, or tidal wave which rushes up the Parret on the flood of spring tides, is a phenomenon common to the Severn and other rivers, where the rise and fall is very considerable, and the channel contracted. These causes produce an immediate rise of a large body of water, which hurries onward as an upright wave, its velocity allowing no time for the gradual elevation of the surface by transmitted pressure. After a gale from the W., the Bore is often 9 ft. in height, but

it is usually 5 or 6 ft., the entire flow of the spring tide being 36 ft.

In the neighbourhood of Bridgewater are *Burnham*, a 10 min. ride by railway, and the following places, deserving mention for various reasons.

Chilton Priory, a small building furnished as a museum, $5\frac{1}{4}$ m. on the road to Glastonbury. It stands on *Cock Hill*, a narrow ridge along which the road runs, commanding on each side the most extensive and interesting views; l. of the entire range of the Mendips, which, together with Brent Knoll, are seen across the intervening fen, called the Marsh; rt. of the scarped heights about Langport, the Blackdown and Quantock Hills, the Bridgewater Levels, and Bridgewater itself with its needle-like spire. The museum contains in its miscellany of curious things 2 Roman inscriptions, tapestry from Enmore Castle representing the coronation of Marcus Aurelius, armour from Halswell House, the carved stone cover of the Cheddar cheese presented to the Queen in 1841, a white water-rat, a magnificent cabinet of black oak from Glastonbury, some ghostly old chairs, a bedstead of black oak bearing a shield of 3 swans, and, lastly, 3 cannon-balls picked up on Sedgemoor. This queer little museum, which one might fancy had been whisked to this spot by some tricksy spirit, is the property of Mr. W. Stradling, who lives in the neighbouring village of Chilton-super-Polden.

Sedgemoor, the scene of the defeat of the Duke of Monmouth by the King's forces under the Earl of Feversham, 1685, about 5 m. S.E. of Bridgewater, beyond the village of Weston Zoyland. It is intersected by dykes, which contributed not a little to the discomfiture of Monmouth's untrained troops, who lost their guide in the confusion of a night attack. On the fatal field Feversham commenced those cruel executions which were afterwards so

ably carried on by the bloody Jeffreys and Kirk. A prisoner being pointed out to him as a remarkably swift runner, the Earl induced him, by a promise of his life, to show him an instance of his agility. A halter was fastened round his neck, and attached at the other end to a horse, when the rider starting away on the gallop, the runner kept even with him for the distance of half a mile along the stream called *Bussex Rhine to Brentsfield Bridge*. This feat having been performed, the general, in defiance of his compact, gave an order that the poor man should be hung with his fellows. But another prisoner, if we are to believe the story, was more fortunate. He leaped for his life; and at the third bound escaped into an adjoining wood. His name was Swaync, and *Swayne's Jumps*, marked by 3 stones, are to this day pointed out on the Shapwick estate. About 20 were executed after the battle, and the moor between Weston and Bridgewater was marked by a long range of gibbets.

Weston Zoyland, worthy of notice for its church, which has one of the fine Perp. towers.

The *Isle of Athelney*, a corruption of *Æthelinjay*, the Isle of Nobles, 6 m. in a direct line from Bridgewater, and near the confluence of the Parret and Tone. It is a spot of rising ground surrounded by marshes, adjoining the village of East Lyng, and is celebrated by the tradition that this was the place where King Alfred established himself after the Danes had overrun the country. From this fastness he is said to have made frequent incursions against the enemy, and with such success that he was soon enabled to take the field, when he totally defeated them in Wiltshire, and captured their King. Having subjected the Danes, he founded an abbey at Athelney, of which there are now no remains; but several rude coffins and other relics have been found on the site.

A stone pillar bears the following inscription:—“King Alfred the Great, in the year of our Lord 879, having been defeated by the Danes, fled for refuge to the forest of Athelney, where he lay concealed from his enemies for the space of a whole year. He soon after regained possession of his throne; and in grateful remembrance of the protection he had received, under the favour of Heaven, he erected a monastery on this spot, and endowed it with all the lands contained in the Isle of Athelney. To perpetuate the memory of so remarkable an incident in the life of that illustrious prince, this edifice was founded by John Slade, Esq., of Mansell, the proprietor of Athelney, and lord of the manor of N. Petherton, A.D. 1801.” Whilst Alfred was sheltered here in the hut of the cowherd—baking and burning the cakes of the angry housewife—he is said to have lost an ornament of gold and enamel, which had been fastened to a necklace. This was found in perfect condition in the 17th centy., and is now in the Ashmolean Museum. Inscribed on it are the words, “Alfred het meh gewirean”—“Alfred caused me to be made.” At the neighbouring village of *Boroughbridge* are the ruins of a chapel which was attached to Alfred's abbey.

North Petherton, 3 m. on the road to Taunton, remarkable for its church-tower, a noble specimen of Perp. The pulpit rests on the shoulders of a human figure carved in stone and represented crouching on the floor.

Halswell House, seat of Colonel Tynte, 4 m. on the road to Milverton, a splendid scene of wooded hill and vale, with prospects over the sea and to blue ranges in the distance. A stream runs through the valley, here rippling over stones, there tumbling in a cascade, and charming rides traverse the woods and climb the hills to commanding points of view. These are occupied by grottoes and temples;

one called the *Rotunda*, with Ionic portico, another *Robin Hood's Temple*, and a third the *Druid's Temple*, where "the view is gloomy and confined, the water winding silently along." The mansion is a handsome structure, built in 1689, on the site of the old house, by Sir Halswell Tynte. Adjoining the estate is the hamlet of *Goathurst*, with an ancient church containing the burial-place of the Tyntes. "Of the surname of this family, tradition," says Burke, "has handed down the following derivation. In 1192, at the celebrated battle of Ascalon, a young knight of the noble house of Arundel, clad all in white, with his horse's housings of the same colour, so gallantly distinguished himself, that Richard Cœur-de-Lion remarked publicly, after the victory, that the maiden knight had borne himself as a lion, and done deeds equal to those of 6 crusaders; whereupon he conferred on him, for arms, a lion arg. on a field gules, between 6 crosslets of the first, and for motto, '*Tynctus cruore Saraceno.*'"

Enmore Castle, rt. of the Milverton road, and opposite to Halswell, seat of Mrs. Trevelyan, and formerly of the Earl of Eginont, a curiously constructed house, with a semicircular bastion on one front and colonnades on the other. It was formerly surrounded by a dry moat, of which a part still remains. Adjoining it is the church, with an Anglo-Norman doorway, and in the churchyard old yew-trees and the shaft and steps of an ancient cross. The estate is situated at the foot of the Quantock hills.

Cothelstone, 9 m. on the Milverton road, once the manorhouse of the Stawels, but now a farmhouse (Rte. 35).

The *Agapemone*, or *Love's Abode*, at Charlinch, 4 m. W. of Bridgewater. This is an establishment of Communists called *Princites*, from the name of their founder and head, or "Lord," as he is styled by them. In

1851 the society consisted of 65 individuals, who were classed by Mr. Prince in the census-paper under the following heads:—5 clergymen without cure of souls, 1 civil engineer, 1 landed proprietor, 1 member of the Royal Coll. of Surgeons not practising, 2 annuitants, 1 solicitor and master extraordinary, 1 gentleman, 6 fundholders, 1 farmer of 500 acres employing 30 labourers, 1 groom, 1 postboy, 3 helpers in the stables, 1 shoemaker, 8 female house-servants, 2 dressmakers, 1 servant-boy, 3 carpenters, 1 mason, 6 laundresses, 1 tailor, 9 wives of visitors, 3 unmarried female visitors, 1 unmarried male visitor 16 years of age, 2 ditto 3 years of age, and 2 female visitors, one of them 6 and the other 4 years old. Total of males, 30; total of females, 35. Henry James Prince, the head and founder of this sect, was originally a curate, and now rules supreme over the worldly possessions of his "Family of Love"—a position which enables him to cultivate in a superior manner one of the finest farms in the county, and to present a very splendid appearance in public. He purchased for the society the carriage-horses of the late Queen Dowager; and with these on the gallop, and seated in a barouche and four, "the Lord" and his *Princites* are frequently to be seen in Bridgewater, attended by outriders and bloodhounds. No strangers are admitted to the *Abode of Love*. This society is by no means original either in doctrine or name, but a revival of a sect of the reign of Elizabeth, founded 1540, either by an Anabaptist named David George, or by Henry Nicholas, an enthusiast of Westphalian extraction, who styled himself "The Deified Man," and contended that he was greater than Moses or Christ, because they had taught mankind to *hope* and *believe*, whilst he led them to *love*. A royal proclamation was issued against these sectaries, whose tenets were charac-

terised by a writer of the day as "a masse or packe of Poperie, Ariaisme, Anabaptisme, and Libertinisme."

Bridgewater gave the titles of Earl and Duke to the family of Egerton, now represented by the Earl of Ellesmere.

Continuing our route, the rly. pursues its course along the skirts of a hilly country, in company with the river Tone and the Great Western Canal, to

157½ *Durston Stat.*, from which a line branches off on the l. to *Athelney* 2½ m., to *Langport* 7 m., to *Martock* 12 m., and to *Yeovil* 19 m. It was first opened to Yeovil Oct. 1853.

163 *Taunton Stat.*, on the N. side of the town (*Inns*: Castle Hotel; Giles's Hotel; Railway Hotel; London Hotel; White Hart; George). Taunton is seated on a rising ground above the river Tone, from which it derives its name, and in a rich and picturesque country,—its famous vale of *Taunton Dean* being bounded by the wild ranges of the Quantock and Blackdown hills. It is the county town of W. Somerset, and has long been celebrated for its healthy position, sunny aspect, broad streets, old-fashioned respectable houses, and beautiful parish church. It is a town of considerable antiquity. The coins which have been found in it sanction a belief that it was a Roman station, but there is no doubt that in Saxon times it was a place of importance, in which Ina built a castle and drew up his code of laws. At the present day its chief points of interest are its church and the remains of this castle.

The church of *St. Mary Magdalen* is remarkable in many respects, but has been chiefly known for the great beauty of its tower, which was one of the finest specimens of late Perp. in the county. It rose to a height of 153 ft., and exhibited an admirable lightness, combined with richness of detail. Unfortunately it had been

been much weakened by time, and in 1857 it was considered so insecure that it was taken down. It is to be rebuilt on the same plan, and the first stone of the new structure was laid with much ceremony in Aug. 1858. The interior of the church is extremely handsome. Its roof of black oak, skilfully relieved by contrasting colours, will please every eye, and the same may be said of the screens, the pulpits, the font, and organ-loft. A peculiarity of the nave is its subdivision by the double rows of columns which support the roof, and of the entire building, the great number of its windows, which are no less than 44. Among other things the visitor should notice the carved oaken seats, and in the N. aisle of the nave the coloured effigy of "Robert Graye, Esq.," 1635, in the dress of that period. He was a benefactor to the town, and founder of the almshouses in East Street for "ten poore aged syngle women." This church is built of the Keuper (or upper new red) sandstone, and from the style of its architecture (late Perp.), referred to the reign of Henry VII. The interior has been restored very completely through the exertions of the patron of the living, Dr. Cottle.

The tower of *St. James's*, although not to be compared with that which so long distinguished *St. Mary's*, is a notable specimen of late Perp. This was the conventual church. It contains a tablet to the late Colonel Yea, killed in the Crimea, in the attack on the Redan, June 18, 1855.

At the N. end of *St. James's-street* stands a part of the old *Priory*, apparently a chapel, now used as a barn and stables on the *Priory Farm*. It is of E. Dec. date, and upon one solitary boss, on the outer wall, and probably of Perp. date, are carved the 3 swords conjoined in point, that have so long been the insignia of the house of Pawlet. This building is the only remnant of the Augustinian

Priory, founded 1127 by William Giffard, and his successor in the see of Winchester, Henry of Blois, brother to King Stephen. An archway by the principal hotel leads into the Green, the site of

Taunton Castle, of which the remains are to be seen on the rt. This structure, as before stated, owed its origin to a Saxon king, but the greater part of Ina's Castle was rebuilt at the Conquest by a bishop of Winchester, to whose see the estate then belonged. The remains at the present day consist principally of a round tower, an embattled gateway, with groove for the portcullis, the hall, long used as the Assize Hall, and the W. wing, which is supposed to have been part of Ina's building. On the exterior of the hall are the arms of the bishop of Winchester, with the date 1577, probably a year when the structure was repaired, and over the archways of the castle entrance the escutcheon of Henry VII., supported by a greyhound and a wivern, and that again of the bishop, with the date 1496, and inscription "Laus tibi Christe. Langto Winto." The hall is a noble room, 119 ft. in length by 30 in width. It was thoroughly repaired, together with other parts of the castle, at the close of the last century, by Sir Benjamin Hamett, many years M.P. for Taunton. A new county building is now nearly completed at a cost of about 20,000*l.*

The *Town Hall* occupies a central position in a large open market-place called the Parade. From this point the main streets diverge, the High Street terminating at an iron fence which encloses the grounds of *Wilton House*, residence of the lord of the manor, A. W. Kinglake, Esq., father of the well-known author of 'Eothen.'

In the great room of the *Taunton Literary Institution* is arranged the *Museum of the Som. Archæol. and Nat. Hist. Soc.* It includes the Williams' geological collection, containing a store of palæozoic fossils from W.

Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall; the fossils of other formations; saurians from the lias quarries at Street; and the bones of animals from the limestone caverns. Here also are preserved a tessellated pavement found at East Coker; a collection of rubbings from brasses; various mining implements of the Romans, found in old shafts on the Quantock hills; and the drawings presented to the county by the late Mr. Pigott, of the Eglisli abbatial and collegiate seals by *Howlett*, and of the Somersetshire churches, monastic and castellated ruins, ancient and modern mansions, crosses, town-halls, &c., by the Messrs. *Buckler*, 1827-47.

Taunton has a small manufacture of silk, but it is principally agricultural, being seated in a district remarkable for fertility. "The Vale of Taunton," says old Fuller, "is so fruitful, to use their own phrase, with the *zun* and *zoil* alone, that it needs no manuring. The peasantry therein are as rude as rich, and so highly conceited of their own country that they conceive it a disparagement to be born in any other place." Hence the Somersetshire proverb—"Ch was bore at Taunton Dean; where should I be bore else?" The vale is particularly famous for its Nonpareil apples.

Taunton was the native place of *Henry Grove*, 1683, a Nonconforming divine, who resided in it for 18 years, preaching to 2 congregations upon a salary of 20*l.* per ann. It has been the scene of events which have found a place in history. In 1497 its castle was taken by Perkin Warbeck, the Flemish Counterfeit. In 1645 the gallant Blake maintained the town against the utmost efforts of Goring; and in 1685 the Duke of Monmouth was here proclaimed king. Blake's defence of Taunton was one of the most spirited actions which occurred during the Rebellion. Pressed by an army of 10,000 men, who spared no effort to gain the

place, he scouted all idea of surrender, even after his ammunition was spent, and his provisions so diminished that, according to the tradition, there was but one hog left in the town, which half-starved animal was whipped round the walls, and made to cry in different places, to deceive the besiegers into a belief that fresh supplies had been thrown in. Blake declared that he would eat his boots first, and continued to resist after a breach had been made, and the enemy had actually gained possession of a part of the town. He was at length relieved by Fairfax, on the 11th of May, a day, says Toulmin, in his 'Hist. of Taunton,' 1791, which has been observed within the memory of men with joy." In 1685, as before stated, the unfortunate Duke of Monmouth was here invested with "a little brief authority. After his execution the citizens of Taunton contemplated a visit from Judge Jeffreys with no little trepidation, and as it proved with reason; for, on the judge's arrival, he declared in his charge that it would not be his fault if he did not depopulate the place—a threat which he did his best to carry out. "He made all the West," says old Fox, "an Aceldama, and nothing was to be seen in it but forsaken walls, unlucky gibbets, and ghostly carcases." At length, to the relief of the inhabitants, the chief justice proposed "to jog homewards," having transported 385 persons and hung 97.

The principal seats in the neighbourhood of Taunton are *Hutch Court*, H. P. Collins, Esq.; *Orchard Portman*, Lord Portman; *Pyrland*, Sir William Walter Yea, Bart.; *Hestercombe*, Miss Warre; and *Heatherton Park*, A. Adair, Esq.

At *Norton Fitz-Warren*, 2½ m., on the road to Milverton, is a curious earthwork on the hill above the church. It is of 13 acres, and formed by a ditch with an external and internal rampart. According to the local legend it was once the haunt of

an enormous serpent, which for a long time devastated the surrounding country, and whose ravages are supposed to be portrayed in the carving of the rood-screen of the adjoining church. The Rev. Mr. Warre, who has given an account of it in the Proceedings of the Som. Archæol. Soc. for 1849, thinks that it was a British town, and that the old local rhyme may apply to it:—

"When Taunton was a furzy down,
Norton was a market town."

The name Norton or Nertown is variously supposed to be a corruption of North-town, Near-town, and Nether-town.

At *N. Curry*, E. of Taunton, a curious Christmas feast has been held from the time of King John, to whose "immortal memory" the first toast is drunk. An account of the customs observed on the occasion is inscribed on a marble tablet in the vestry-room of the church. The dinner takes place at the Reeve's house, and among the dishes is a large minced-pie ornamented with an effigy of King John. Two candles, weighing a pound each, are lighted, and until they are burned out the company have a right to sit drinking ale. The manor belongs to the Dean and Chapter of Wells. A pleasant walk or drive of about 3 m. N. of Taunton leads to the beautiful ch. of

Kingston. It has a groined S. porch, a tower with handsome W. door and windows, numerous carved niches in the walls, buttresses adorned with pinnacles, and a light parapet of open work. Altogether both ch. and chancel form a good example of the best class of Perp. parish ch. in Somerset. In the S. aisle is a curious altar-tomb of the existing family of Warre, covered with a magnificent slab of Devon fossil marble. The carved ends of the free seats, though dated 1622, are in excellent taste, in the flamboyant style. Beyond the village a walk of 2 to 3 m. leads up

the wooded head of the valley to a summit overlooking the Bristol Channel. The valley of Kingston is celebrated, even in W. Somerset, for its cider.

Coaches run daily in the summer to Lynton, a beautiful drive skirting the slopes of the

Quantock Hills, a heathery range extending from Taunton northward to the sea, at an elevation of from 1000 to 1100 ft., rising to 1270 ft. in Will's Neck, the highest point. They are steep on the W. side, but on the E. the declivities are more gradual, descending into winding, romantic valleys—such as those of the *Seven Wells* and the *Hunter's Combe*, favourite scenes of Wordsworth and Coleridge, when they resided in their younger days at Stowey and Alfoxton. The chain is mainly composed of the Devonian or grauwacke slate, which is islanded, as it were, in the new red sandstone forming the vales which surround it.

An excursion may be made to *Crowcombe* (pictures) and to the summit of *Will's Neck* (Rte. 35), or to the *Wellington Column* on the Blackdown Hills.

Starting again by the railway, we proceed up the course of the Tone towards the Blackdown Hills. In 5 m. we pass on the l. *Heatherton Park*, A. Adair, Esq., and directly afterwards, on the rt. *Ninehead*, E. A. Sanford, Esq., where we gain a distant view of an isolated knoll crowned by *Willet Tower*, a conspicuous landmark, 8 m. N.

170 *Wellington Stat.*, close to *Ninehead*, and $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. of

Wellington (Inns: Squirrel; King's Arms). This market-town is seated on a gentle elevation in a country of hill and dale, at the foot of the Blackdowns, which are here crowned by the Wellington monument. It is built chiefly of red brick, and boasts a handsome town-hall and church.

The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is remarkable for its graceful tower, 100 ft. in height, for

its E. window, a fine example of transition-work (Edw. I.), and its tomb of Sir John Popham, Lord Chief Justice in the reign of Elizabeth, and a benefactor to this town. He is represented by the side of his lady in the judge's dress of the period (1607). The tower, which is of the Perp. of Henry VI., is externally in 2 stories, and similar in design to that of Wrington.

The *Wellington Monument* is $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. distant, on the lofty height which rises from the town, and where annually a busy fair is held on the 15th of June. The monument is a stone pillar, erected by a county subscription, to commemorate the victory of Waterloo. The original intention was, however, to crown it with a bronze statue of Wellington, and this design it has been proposed to carry into execution, together with the addition of a small hospital for decayed soldiers, who are to serve as custodians of the monument. The site necessarily commands an extensive prospect, to which the proximity of Exmoor gives grandeur. A road-way descends the S. side of the hill to the village of *Hemyock*, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m., seated on a trout-stream, in a true Devonshire valley, and containing some remains of a Norman castle.

Wellington had the honour of giving title to the conqueror of the Peninsula and Waterloo, the victory of Talavera raising Arthur Wellesley to the peerage as Viscount Wellington, of Wellington, in the county of Somerset. There is reason for believing that the family derives its name from a manor in this county—that of Wellesleigh near Wells—and the Duke is said to have chosen Wellington for his title because this town is near *Wensley*, which bears resemblance in its name to *Wesley*, afterwards altered to Wellesley. On his accession to the peerage he made an effort to purchase an estate here, but without success. In the Rebellion the inhabitants of this town exhibited

such activity on the side of the Parliament that *Wellington Roundheads* were long afterwards proverbial.

The town has a manufacture of woollens, the mills being worked by the neighbouring river and the water of the canal.

The hilly road or rather lane from hence to Milverton is one of the prettiest in Somersetshire. It gradually ascends towards Exmoor, between tangled hedges through a thickly-wooded country. In 1 m. from Wellington it passes on rt. *Ninehead Court*, E. A. Sanford, Esq., and in 2½ m. *Chipley Park*, the site of an old hall, in which Locke wrote a part of his *Essay on the Human Understanding*, first sketched out at Oxford, and finished in Holland. His manuscript, written in a very neat hand, is now preserved at Ninehead by Mr. Sanford, the owner of Chipley.

Scythe-stones are procured from quarries on the Blackdown hills. They are concretions of the greensand, which are found in layers associated with organic remains.

Leaving Wellington by the railway, we look our last at the pleasant face of Somerset, as, in little more than 3 m., we rush through a tunnel into the adjoining county.

ROUTE 28.

BATH TO YEOVIL, BY BRADFORD, FROME, BRUTON, AND CASTLE CARY.

(*Wilts, Somerset, and Weymouth Railway.*)

Bath Stat. (Rte. 27).

2 *Bathampton Stat.* Rt. are the *Hampton Rocks*, where a landslip has occurred in the oolite. The summit

of the cliff is 600 ft. above the river. Turning the point of this bold hill, the line enters the Valley of Claverton. On the l. rises the steep side of *Monkton Farleigh Down*, and a beautiful expanse of wood. Below lies *Warley*, the castellated mansion of the Skrines. On the rt. is the park of *Claverton Manor*, and, peeping from the trees, the village church.

4½ *Limply Stoke Stat.* (Rte. 27), in a charming part of the valley.

1 *Freshford Stat.* (Rte. 27). Rt. 1 m. are the ruins of *Hinton Abbey*, a pretty walk up the hill. *Farleigh Castle* is about 2 m.

¾ *Bradford Stat.* (Rte. 3).

3½ *Trowbridge Junct. Stat.* (Rte. 3.)

4 *Westbury Stat.* (Rte. 3.)

5½ *Frome Stat.* (*Inn: Crown*). Pop. about 14,000 — of the district, in 1851, 25,325. This busy town is seated among hills in a deep hollow, on the river Frome, from which it derives its name. It is one of the strangest old places imaginable. The streets branch into paved lanes, which again divide and contract as they run up the hills, like the tributaries to a stream. A steep lane, opposite the inn, forms the *Bond Street* of the town. The inhabitants of this hive are industriously engaged in the manufacture of cloth, silk, hats, gloves, and many other articles, the water-power of the stream being enlisted in their service. Frome is an old town, as is obvious at a glance. It was built about a monastery founded here in Saxon times, by Aldhelm of Malmesbury, and in former days was surrounded by *Selwood Forest*, of which the woods of Longleat are a remnant. The country in the neighbourhood is still rich in trees, and extremely pretty. It is principally laid out in dairy-farms, which produce excellent butter.

The chief things to be seen here are a *card factory*, *Vallis Bottom*, and *Longleat*, 4 m. distant, shown Wednesday and Friday (p. 82).

The *church*, conspicuous by its spire,

is partly modern. It contains a Norman font, and a monument by Sir Richard Westmacott to the daughters of Lord Cork, two graceful female figures. Near it is another monument by Mr. Westmacott the son. On the outside of the building, adjoining the E. end, is the tomb of *Bishop Ken*, one of the seven bishops committed to the Tower by James II., for refusing to read the declaration in favour of the Rom. Catholics, 1688, a year

“When oyster-women lock'd their fish up,
And trudg'd away to cry—No Bishop!”

He died at Longleat in his 73rd year, and, according to Bowles, was buried at sunrise, in reference to his habit of rising with the sun. He is interred beneath a grating of iron bars, bent into the form of a coffin, and across which are laid an iron mitre and pastoral staff. An obituary window to his memory has been placed in the chancel by the Marchioness of Bath.

Mr. Gregory's *card factory* is well worth a visit, the machinery being highly curious. The cards are for tearing or “carding” the wool.

The *cloth-mills* are scattered about the neighbourhood of the town. Mr. Shepherd's, called *Spring Gardens*, is the largest, and may be visited in a walk to Vallis Bottom. Leaving your inn, you will turn l. at the bridge down the course of the river, which is stained of a dark blue colour by the dyers. A path across small grassy fields, well provided with hedgerow timber, and commanding a good view of smoky Frome and its background, *Cley Hill*, leads in 1 m. to Spring Gardens. It is a picturesque group of many-windowed mills, with tall chimneys and appurtenant buildings, all surrounded by trees, and reflected on the smooth surface of the confined river. It is an extremely busy place, employing upwards of 400 hands.

Vallis Bottom lies 1 m. W. of Spring

Gardens, and the same distance N.W. of Frome, l. of the road to Radstoke. It is a romantic little glen, pierced here and there by the mountain limestone, and winding through a wood. Here quiet reigns undisturbed, for even the streamlets cease their prattle, and creep in silence, forming pictures in glassy pools. The rock is in some places quarried, and exhibits its strata of various colours, dipping at a high angle. *Vallis*, now a farmhouse, was the seat of the Leversedges, the ancient lords of the manor. The brook rises at E. Cranmore, and about 3 m. above Vallis flows in a deep dingle through the Asham and Nunney woods.

At *Nunney*, 2½ m. on the lower road to Shepton, there is another pretty dell, somewhat similar to that of Vallis. It is called the *Valley of Holwell*, and is watered by a branch of the same tributary to the Frome.

Nunney Castle, the ruin of a building, erected by Sir Elias De la Mere, in the reign of Edw. III. or Rich. II., is also an attraction to this village. “The shrubs, the festoons of ivy,” says Maton, “and the large fragments of stone hanging from the shattered battlements, impart to it the most picturesque effect.” In the Rebellion this castle was taken by the forces of the Parliament, 1645, and the effects of the siege are still to be observed on the walls. It was originally an oblong moated structure, with a tower at each angle, its central part divided into 4 stories by wooden floors. The tower on the S.E. contains a very perfect specimen of a domestic chapel.

Mells, 2 m. W., is celebrated for its manufactory of scythes, which are supposed to owe their excellent temper in part to the water, which is impregnated with lime from the mountain limestone. At *Nunney* another edge-tool mill is worked by Mr. Fussell.

Radstoke, 8 m. N.W., is the centre of an extensive coal-field. Some of

the pits are of considerable depth, employing horses underground.

Lullington, a secluded village $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. N., deserves notice for its church, which has good transition-work, between Norman and Early English. The most curious part of it is the doorway, richly decorated with twisted columns and with bird's-beak and other mouldings. Within the crown of the arch is a rude sculpture of 2 animals fighting for a cross, and above it a figure of the Deity. The chancel is of Dec. date, about 1320.

The church of *Beckington*, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. N.E. contains a monument to the poet *Daniel*, placed there by the Countess of Dorset. In the parish was born *Bp. Beckington*, who lived temp. Eliz., and whose name is well known in connection with the architecture of Wells.

The principal seats in the neighbourhood of Frome are *Longleat*, Marquis of Bath; *Witham Park*, an estate belonging to *Bradley Park*, Duke of Somerset; *Marston House*, Earl of Cork and Orrery; *Mells Park*, Rev. John Horner; *Babington House*, W. F. Knatchbull, Esq.; *Ammerdown*, Colonel Jolliffe; *Hardington Park*, of which the house is in ruins, Lord Poltimore; *Orchardleigh*, Wm. Duckworth, Esq., who has built a new house, and laid out the grounds—the old mansion, formerly seat of the Champneys, remains in the hollow; *Standervick Court*, Admiral Edgell; and *Berkley House*, Mrs. Churchill. Of the Horners of Mells was that favourite of the nursery, *Little Jack Horner*, who

"Sat in a corner
Eating a Christmas-ple."

The plum which the good boy found is said to have been 100,000*l.* In the park of Orchardleigh are some supposed Druidical stones.

Proceeding on our route, the rly. runs parallel with the escarpment of the great Wiltshire chalk range, crowned near Bruton by *Stourton* or *Alfred's Tower*, on the estate of *Stour-*

head. The section from Frome to Yeovil was first opened Sept. 1856.

$5\frac{1}{2}$ *Witham Stat.*, the Junction of the E. Somerset line, which runs rt. to *Cranmore*, $5\frac{1}{2}$ m.; and *Shepton Mallet*, 9 m.

$5\frac{1}{2}$ *Bruton Stat.* (*Inns*: Wellington; Blue Bell). This little town is prettily placed in a valley among a cluster of hills, about 4 m. from the wooded heights of *Stourhead* and *Alfred's Tower*. It derives its name from the *Brue*, which, rising in the neighbourhood, flows through it in a shallow stream, turning wheels for the manufacture of silk and serge. It is a place of some antiquity, and was formerly the seat of a family of *Berkeleys*, and of a brotherhood of *Black Canons*, whose abbey was built by *William de Mohun*, 1142, on the ruins of a *Benedictine* monastery founded here in very early times by an *Earl of Cornwall*.

The church, the view from *Alfred's Tower*, the gardens of *Stourhead*, and the remains of the *Priory of Stavordale*, are the principal objects of interest.

The church has considerable merit, its tower at the W. end, of the date of *Edw. IV.*, being richly ornamented, and the walls of the nave and chancel surmounted by an open-worked parapet, which produces a pretty effect. Within are some good monuments, particularly one to *Sir Maurice Berkeley* and his 2 wives, whose effigies are represented in the costume of *Eliz.* An ancient tomb in the churchyard is attributed to *William Gilbert*, the last abbot of *Bruton*, whose arms, with the initials *W. G.*, may be seen over the N. door.

The vicarage, adjoining the church, was built 1822 by *Sir Richard Colt Hoare* from the ruins of the abbey. On a grassy hill above it, once the park of that abbey, stands a roofless tower, commanding an excellent view of *Bruton* and its neighbourhood. *Creech Hill*, crowned by a small camp, is seen to the N.W.

The *Free Grammar-School*, a foundation of Hen. VIII., refounded by Edw. VI., derives its revenue from the Abbey lands. It possesses an excellent library of modern literature.

The road to *Wincanton*, 4 m., is a pretty drive, passing on rt. *Redlinch Park*, a seat of the Earl of Ilchester; and rt., 1 m. from Bruton, *Discove*, a romantic hamlet, where a Roman pavement was found in 1711. This road runs out of Bruton through a double archway, the lower of stone, the upper of the leaves and branches of a group of elms which embrace across the road.

The pictures at *Stourhead*, the seat of Sir Henry Ainslie Hoare, Bart., are no longer shown to the public. The *gardens* may occasionally be seen. *Alfred's Tower*, commanding a view over an immense extent of country, is accessible at all times, the key being kept at the adjoining lodge. It is $4\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Bruton to Alfred's Tower, $7\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the house, but $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile may be saved by crossing the meadows called *Bruton Park*. S. of Alfred's Tower is the earthwork of *Jack's Castle*, on the summit of a hill, and at the foot of this height the remains, in a farmhouse and its buildings, of the Augustine priory of *Stavordale*, founded by one of the Lovells in the reign of Henry III. (p. 258).

On the road to Castle Cary the bold eminence of *Creech Hill* will be observed on the rt.

3 *Castle Cary Stat.* (*Inns*: Almsford Inn; George; Britannia). This is another small town, or rather village, deriving interest from the beauty of the surrounding country, but in itself possessing little to delay the traveller. It is situated on the escarpment of the inferior oolite, partly in the valley, partly on the slope, its principal street running up a hollow between two hills. It is a place of little trade, its manufacture being confined to flax spinning and weaving hair for the seats of chairs.

The list of its "sights" is not a long one: the *church* and the *view* from Castle Cary Park; but in the neighbourhood is the camp of *Cadbury*, the strongest, and in many respects one of the most interesting in all England. Of the *Castle*, which once stood upon the *Cary*, the name alone remains, even its site being uncertain. The last mention of it occurs in the reign of Stephen, when it played a part in the civil contests of that period.

Castle Cary was in early times the seat of the Luvells, descendants of Robert Breherval, a companion of the Conqueror, whose son was surnamed *Lupus*, from the fierceness of his disposition. His brother was called *Lupellus*, as of a less savage nature, and in after-times this sobriquet was softened into *Lupel* or *Luvell*, and lastly *Lovel*.

The little *church*, so primly perched upon a hillock, is a picture in its way. It is a Dec. structure of the time of Hen. VI., embattled, and furnished with those hideous faces which were intended to raise a laugh, and thus to scare away the evil eye. In 1855, however, it received a new tower and spire, and was in great part rebuilt under the auspices of Mr. Ferrey. It contains a font dating from Hen. VI., and a pulpit richly carved. Opposite this church is

Castle Cary Park, a prettily-broken hill-side. From its summit, which is called *Lodge Hill*, both seas are said to be visible, but, at any rate, the longest sight may be satisfied with the view. It embraces the vales of Bridgewater and Taunton, the Quantock and Blackdown hills, the last extending to Exmoor: towards the N.W. Brent Knoll and Glastonbury Tor; N.E. the conical top of Creech Hill; and E. the far-seen town of Stourton. The hill was probably the chace or park of the barons who once dwelt here.

The *Market-house*, a very ornamental structure, was built in 1855, at a cost of 2300*l.* Mr. Penrose was

the architect. The upper story contains an assembly room upwards of 50 ft. in length.

After the battle of Worcester Charles II. slept at Castle Cary, on his way to Colonel Wyndham's, at Trent. Within the village are the springs of the *river Cary*, which forms a pond at its fountain-head.

The road from this town to Wincanton, 6 m., is one of the prettiest in the county. Winding over the hills, it gives the traveller delicious peeps at distant vales and heights, and at certain points a variety of distances in connection with a rich foreground. At 1½ m. it passes on l. *Hudspen House*, Rt. Hon. Henry Hobhouse, a grey old mansion beneath a wood, through which a walk is seen to climb. The entrenched height of *Cadbury* is a striking object from this road.

At *Yarlington*, S. of Hadspen, and about 3 m. from Castle Cary, are some remains of a manor-house of the Montacutes, and in the church an ancient and curiously sculptured font. Adjoining the village is *Yarlington Lodge*, the seat of the Rogers', and on the hill-top to the W. the earthworks of a British camp.

Cadbury, or the hill-fort, is about 5 m. S. through the two villages of N. Cadbury and S. Cadbury. It is a conical summit on the escarpment of the oolite, abutting on the plain which extends to Ilchester, and encircled at the top by 4 deep ditches in concentric rings, and by as many bulky ramparts of earth and stone. These formidable defences enclose an area of about 20 acres, in the centre of which is a moated mound or prætorium called *King Arthur's Palace*. Cadbury is mentioned in old records under the title of *Camelot*, a name still perpetuated in the adjoining villages of Queen's Camel and W. Camel, and also to be found in Cornwall, in the river Camel and town of Camel-ford, near King Arthur's Castle of Tintagel. Many interesting relics

have been found in this camp: round stones for slings, a silver horseshoe, and numerous coins, chiefly of Antonine and Faustina, proving that this fortress was occupied by the Romans, whatever might have been its origin. This by common tradition is assigned to King Arthur, who, in the opinion of Camden, probably fought a battle with the Saxons near the spot. In the fourth ditch is a spring called *King Arthur's Well*, said to possess many marvellous virtues, and sharing with the lonely "palace" on the top the reverence of the country people, who, indeed, imagine the whole hill to be haunted ground, and to be gradually sinking into the earth. According to an old writer, Cadbury was one of the stations of the "Round Table."

North Cadbury, crowning a neighbouring height, was formerly a possession of the Hungerfords, and its church was built by a Lady Botreaux in the reign of Hen. VI. It is a fine structure, dedicated to St. Michael, with a noble E. window, an oaken roof, and an altar-tomb, with effigies, to 2 of the family of Botreaux, and for some years had *Ralph Cudworth*, the learned divine, for its rector. Adjoining it is the baronial mansion of the Lords Newmarsh, Botreaux, and Hungerford, built by the 3rd Earl of Huntingdon about 1581. *Cadbury House* is the seat of James Bennett, Esq.

The church of *Alford* (p. 257), 3 m. on the road to Somerton, is an ancient structure deserving the notice of the curious. *Alford Well*, a mineral spring, rises to the S. of it.

Proceeding on our route from Castle Cary,

5 *Sparkford Stat.* 1., 1½ m., the entrenched height of *Cadbury*. rt., at about the same distance,

Hazlegrove House, seat of the Mildmays, built 1730. Its park is remarkable for its enormous oaks. One, mentioned by Loudon, is 80 ft. in height, and has a trunk 30 ft. in cir-

cumference at 4 ft. from the ground. S.W., 1 m., the village of

Queen's Camel, noted for a sulphurous spring, which rises 1 m. to the W. of it. The line now enters a broad marshy vale, which sweeps past Ilchester to Langport along the banks of the Yeo. It is bounded by an amphitheatre of hills.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ *Marston Stat.*

$4\frac{1}{2}$ *Yeovil Stat.* (*Inns*: Mermaid; Three Choughs). Pop. in 1851, 7751. This is a busy, handsome town, built of red brick and yellow Hamhill stone, and situated on a hillside sloping to the Yeo, from which it derives its name. It is in a pretty country, and on the old coach-road from London to the West. Its chief manufacture is that of kid gloves, which is extensively carried on here, about 80,000*l.* being annually paid to the workmen. The largest factories are those of Mr. Boyd and Mr. Fook. Gloves are made both in the town and the neighbourhood, and sailcloth at the 3 villages of *Chinnock*.

The chief places to be visited are *Montacute House* and the *Hamhill Quarries*, both to the W., some 4 m. distant. *Cadbury*, described above, can be made the object of a longer excursion, 9 m.

The *Church of St. John* (a structure of the 15th centy.) is admired by architects for its harmonious effect as a whole. The height of the side aisles and large size of the windows give it grace and lightness, and hence it has been called "the Lantern of the West." The tower (Perp.) is 90 ft. high.

Trinity Church, Peter Street, was built 1843-6, after a design by B. Ferrey. It is in the E. Eng. style.

The *George Inn*, in Middle Street, is a good specimen of an old hostelry. It was formerly called the Three Cups.

A view of Yeovil from *Summerhouse Hill* will well repay a walk of 10 min. Proceed down Middle Street to the John Bull inn, where

a lane and pathway on the rt. will lead to the hill. From its summit you may study the town in detail, and send a curious eye up the vale of the Yeo to the hills about Sherborne, and in an opposite direction to the wooded knoll of Montacute. At the foot of the eminence runs the Wilts, Somerset, and Weymouth Railway, and between it and the river is *Newton House*, an Eliz. building, seat of the old family of Harbin.

Another view of the town, with a more extended landscape, may be obtained from *Babylon Hill*, about 1 m. on the road to Sherborne.

Coker Court, 3 m. S., is the residence of the Helyars, and

Brympton Hall, on the road to Montacute, of Lady Georgiana Fane. This is a beautiful specimen of a mansion of the time of Henry VII., with garden front by Inigo Jones. It contains some good tapestry, and excellent portraits by *Lely* and other eminent masters. The adjoining ch. of *Brympton d'Every*, is remarkable for its stone rood-screen, for a geometrical window in the S. transept, and for stately monuments to the family of Sydenham. In the churchyard are effigies of the 13th, 14th, and 15th centies. 2 m. S.W. of Yeovil, l. of the road to W. Coker, are some remains, in a farmhouse, of *Nash Priory*.

At *Trent*, N. of Babylon Hill, and 4 m. from Yeovil, Charles II. lay concealed for more than a fortnight after the battle of Worcester and it was from this place that he made his unsuccessful attempt to escape at Lyme, under the guidance of his host, Colonel Wyndham (p. 120). *Trent House* is now the residence of a farmer, but the king's bedroom, with a double floor, is pointed out. The rector of Trent, the Rev. W. Turner, has a collection of pictures, which is occasionally shown.

The church is a very interesting building, remarkable for "the splendid and unique decorations of the N.

aisle, the burial-place of many illustrious families allied with the Storkes." The sculpture represents, among a variety of detail, 2 genealogical trees hung with shields. The building has also a beautiful screen, and a monument to Sir Francis Wyndham, who, as Col. Wyndham, concealed Charles II. in his mansion of Trent. To the W. of the village is an earthwork called *Trent Burrow*; and N.E. of it, 3 m.,

Sandford Orcas, deserving mention for its manorhouse, an Elizabethan structure, formerly the seat of the Orskoyes and Knoyles, whose arms are carved over the gateway.

Montacute House, seat of Captain Phelps, is 4 m. on the road to S. Petherton. It is a most imposing and beautiful old structure, built between the years 1580 and 1601, by Sir Edward Phelps, Queen's Serjeant, afterwards Master of the Rolls and Speaker of the House of Commons, whose father and ancestors had resided at Barrington Court near Ilminster. It is in the form of an H, of Hamhill stone, and pierced on its E. front by no less than 41 Tudor windows. The spaces between these windows on the second story are occupied by statues. The W. front is equally handsome, and has the addition of a gorgeous screen, which was brought from Clifden Hall, near Sherborne, an old house belonging to the family. The arms over the doorway also came from Clifden, those of Phelps excepted. The principal entrance bears the hospitable motto—

"Through this wide opening
None come too early,
None return too late;"—

the front door, "And yours, my friends." The *hall* is a stately apartment with singing gallery and screen, and a decoration of bas-reliefs which represent the ancient punishment of "riding the skimmington." The upper story of the house is almost entirely devoted to a single room,

185 ft. in length and 21 in breadth, furnished as it was in the time of Elizabeth. The *gardens* are in the Italian style, with terraces and fountains, and derive a peculiar beauty from the flower-beds, which are very skilfully arranged with a reference to complementary colours. In the civil war Montacute was sacked by the rebels, and, for a short time, occupied by Cromwell.

The *church*, dedicated to St. Catherine, belongs principally to the transition period between E. Eng. and Dec. The chancel arch is Norman; those of the S. transept E. Eng.; of the N. Dec.; the font and tower are Perp. Here are the monuments of the Phelipses, one, with effigies, to David Phelps and Anne his wife, dated 1484. The churchyard contains the shaft of a canopied cross. Adjoining are the remains of

Montacute Priory, supposed to have been founded for Cluniac monks in the reign of the Conqueror. They consist of a battlemented gate-house, flanked by towers, and lighted on each side by an oriel window. On one battlement are the arms of England, and on the other the letters T.C., probably the initials of Thomas Chard, the last prior. The architecture is Perp., and the same style may be recognised in the village of *Montacute*, where "every cottage preserves its little oriel, arched doorway, and chimney-shaft." *Tintinhull*, to the N., has also many picturesque specimens.

Beyond Montacute rise two pyramidal hills (whence *mons acutus*), clothed with wood to their summits. The first is *St. Michael's*. Beyond these, again, are *Hamhill* and *Stoke Down*, forming a promontory on the escarpment of the oolite, which strikes S. from this point towards Crewkerne. The road to Hamhill passes the church of E. Stoke, or

Stoke-under-Hamdon, which is well worth a visit, for "in this one little building," says Mr. Freeman, "are

specimens of all the principal eras of our national architecture." The entrances N. and S. and the chancel arch are Norman; the transept E. Eng.; the S. chapel Dec.; the tower Perp. On each side of the chancel is a low window, or lych-noscope, and of the chancel arch a hagioscope. Among the monuments is one to Matthew de Gournay, who was born at Stoke and died in the reign of Richard II. He was a gallant soldier and ancestor of Mr. Daniel Gurney. He fought at Cressy and Poitiers, and built both a castle and a manor-house in his native place. Beyond Stoke Church we can turn up a road to the l., and visit

Hamdon or Hamhill, and its *Quarries*, for centuries celebrated for their building stone, a magnesian limestone, which, though coloured by iron, and containing more siliceous sand than the oolite of Bath, is little inferior to it in durability, and an equally beautiful material, as may be seen by the houses of Montacute and Sherborne Castle. The pits are scattered over the hill, which they pierce to a depth of about 100 ft., exhibiting a fawn-coloured rock, sometimes grained like wood. On the summit of Hamdon is a well-known British camp, which has been occupied and altered by the Romans. It is of more than 200 acres, or about 3 m. in circumference. The remains of chariots have been found in it. At the N. angle is a hollow called "the Frying-pan," and near it a series of low perforated stones, supposed to have been used for tethering the horses or securing the tents. At all events, they are curious, and of undoubted antiquity. From this camp the visitor may enjoy a panorama of distant hills, complete but at one point, where the eye meets with a check in St. Michael's Hill. The great landmarks of the county are, however, in view, and from Rana Hill, in the S., you may range round the horizon by the Blackdowns,

Exmoor, the Quantocks, the sea at Bridgewater, the Mendips, the hills from Bath to Sherborne, and Bubb Down, over Melbury. At the foot of Hamdon is the village of

W. Stoke, inhabited by quarrymen, and containing the manor-house, or *College* as it is commonly called, of Matthew de Gournay. It is in the style of Montacute, with an ivied arch at the entrance to the courtyard. The village of

Martock (*Inns*: White Hart; George), a station on the branch-line from the Great Western, 1½ m. from W. Stoke and 7 from Yeovil, has a handsome Perp. church, of the 15th cent., remarkable for its nave, which is considered the finest in the county. A visitor will also notice the roof of open woodwork, and the beauty of the Hamhill stone, and of the pierced parapet which surmounts the nave and tower. The churchyard is entered through pinnacled archways, dated 1627; and adjoining it is the *Manorhouse*, a building of the 14th century, still in good preservation, although divided into tenements. Its hall, with open timber roof, has been long used as a schoolroom. The *market-cross* is a fluted column, bearing a sun-dial, a gilt ball and vane, and resting on the steps of an older cross.

S. Petherton, 8 m. from Yeovil, has also a fine church.

ROUTE 29.

BATH TO FROME, BY HINTON AND NORTON ST. PHILIP.

Bath (Rte. 27). This road leaves Bath by *Holloway Hill* over *Odd Down*, and passes on its summit some of the stone-quarries and at the Cross Keys Inn a part of the *Wansdyke*. The church of *South Stoke*, rt., has a Perp. tower and a Norman doorway.

3 l. *Midford Cistle*, C. T. Conolly, Esq., on the terraced slope of the hill above the pretty valley of Midford. Through this valley runs a canal, by which the coal from the mines about Radstoke finds its way to Bath and the towns of N. Wiltshire.

½ *Midford*. Rt. 2 m, *Combehay Park*, Hon. Hanbury Tracy, and the village of *Combehay*, where the churchyard contains the grave of the poet *Carrington*, the author of 'Dartmoor,' and a native of Plymouth. *Combehay* is in the neighbourhood of 3 farms, which rejoice in the names of *Fortnight*, *Week*, and *Three Days*. The road to it accompanies the canal which descends a declivity by means of 21 locks. A hill of about 2 m. leads from the hamlet of Midford to

2 *Charterhouse Hinton*, where l. of the road is *Hinton Great Abbey*, a manor-house of the Hungerfords, now seat of Erle Brooks, Esq., and so named from the Carthusian priory, founded 1232, by Ela, Countess of Salisbury, in pursuance of the will of her deceased husband William Longspee. The ruins of

Hinton Abbey are 1 m. l., and consist chiefly of 2 detached buildings, originally connected by a cloister. One of these, now used as a storeshed, with groined roof, pointed doorway, and lancet windows, is supposed to have been the chapterhouse. The other, which is beautifully covered with ivy, contains the refectory and dormitory, and a third room with large stone fireplace flanked by Norman columns. Around are numerous

old elms, and under the adjoining road an archway, from which there is a pretty path to Freshford. Among the monks of Hinton was Nicholas Hopkins, "through whose false-forged prophecies," says Bowles, "the weak but magnificent Duke of Buckingham, the last of the great house of Stafford, was fatally betrayed in 1521. He had been some time the duke's confessor." Rt. of Charterhouse Hinton, 2 m., by the British *Ridge Way*, is

Wellow, a village remarkable for the Roman pavements which have been found in its vicinity, and for an ancient burial-place (at *Stoney Littleton*, 1 m. S.W.), more than 300 ft. in length, and formed in chambers by large stones. Its church is distinguished as a very beautiful specimen of the time of Edw. III., built by Sir Walter Hungerford, 1372, and restored 1845. The roof, chancel-screen, and Norman font, are particularly worth notice. A manorhouse of the Hungerfords is still standing near the churchyard.

1½ *Norton St. Philip* (*Inn*: George, a very curious old building of the 15th century). At the entrance of the village stands an enormous elm, of which the trunk forms a summer-house, which is lighted by coloured windows. In this place occurred the skirmish between the army of the Duke of Monmouth and the king's troops under Feversham. The latter having been repulsed, Monmouth marched upon Frome, where, hearing of the defeat of Argyle and the advance of a strong force from London, he determined to return to Bridgewater—to lose his cause on the fatal field of Sedgemoor. The church is a fine building of Perp. date.

½ l. *Chatley House*.

2½ *Beckington* (Rte. 28).

3 *Frome* (Rte. 28).

ROUTE 30.

BATH TO WEYMOUTH, BY SHEPTON
MALLET, CASTLE CARY, AND
YEOVIL.

Bath (Rte. 27). The road, to within 3 m. of Shepton Mallet, was the Roman *Fosse Way*, which ran from the N. of England to Totnes in Devonshire, by Lincoln, Cirencester, Bath, &c. It proceeds nearly in a straight line. Ascending Holloway it passes the site of the British camp of *Berevyke*, and reaches

2½ The summit of *Odd Down*, where remains of the *Wunsdyke*, the Belgic boundary, may be seen on l. by the turnpike.

2 rt. *Dunkerton*, in its valley. Here the road enters the coal-field of which Radstoke is the centre. The pits are sunk through no less than 3 formations before they reach the coal measures, namely, the lower oolite, the lias, and the new red sandstone. These strata would in some places make a total thickness of 2000 ft., but they are here reduced to less than 500 by the thinning out of many of the beds.

2 rt. *Cumerton Park*, J. Jarrett, Esq.; and *Cumerton*, where remains of Roman villas have been found. The church contains several fine tombs of the Carews. l. *Woodborough House*, W. S. Wait, Esq.

1½ *Radstoke*, so called from the red sandstone which lies below it. It is surrounded by coal works.

3½ *Stratton-on-the-Fosse*, an ancient village, as is shown by the name. The Saxons called the Roman roads *strcets*, and the towns upon them

street-towns or *strettons*, and "in this instance, as in many others, corruption in speech has jostled out the E and put an A in its place." The name occurs in many parts of England on the lines of the Roman roads. 2 m. S.W. is the romantic valley of *Gurney Slade* (p. 213).

3 The road here ascends an offshoot from the chain of the Mendips, passing on rt. *Ashwick Grove*, seat of the Stracheys. On the summit *Beacon Hill* lies to the l.; and on the rt.

Maesbury Castle, a British camp with double ramparts, on the line of a Roman road from the Bristol Channel to Old Sarum. A fine view is obtained on the descent to

2½ *Shepton Mallet* (*Inns*: George; Hare and Hounds), commonly known as Shepun, a mean, uninteresting town, but with a considerable manufacture of silk, velvet, crape, and knitted stockings. It is chiefly situated on a hillside sloping to a valley, and in a country of stone, as is obvious from the numerous ugly fences which partition the fields. It is a station on the E. Somerset rly., which joins the Wilts, Somerset, and Weymouth line at Witham.

Shepton derives its distinguishing name from the *Malets*, its Norman lords, whose ancient mansion is now the Swan, in Kilver Street. It was the birthplace of *Simon Broune*, a learned Protestant dissenter, b. 1680. A considerable part of the parish belongs to the Duchy of Cornwall.

The only thing to be seen here is the *market-cross*, a hexagon surmounted by a Gothic pinnacle, first erected in 1500. 8 years ago the spire, which had been blown down, was rebuilt, and the rest of the structure renewed at the surface by rubbing.

The *church* has a fine tower with 3 statues in niches, and a rich wooden roof in compartments. It is, however, badly situated, and surrounded by iron railings and pollard limes.

Mr. Hardesty's is the principal

factory of crape and silk; Mr. Phillips's of velvet; Mr. Jarrett's, at *Croscombe*, 3 m. distant, of knitted stockings.

At *Doulting*, 2 m. on the road to *Frome*, are the quarries which supplied the stone of *Wells Cathedral* and *Glastonbury Abbey*; and *St. Aldhelm's Well*, the fountain-head of the river *Dulcot*, the motive power of the weavers of *Shepton*. *St. Aldhelm* died here in the year 709. He was buried in *Malmesbury Abbey*.

Doulting church also is worth a visit, for the sake of its S. porch, of *Perp.* architecture, with a pendant, and for its *cross* in the churchyard, with the instruments of the *Passion* carved on its base. The quarries are in the inferior *oolite*, which is excavated for building purposes also at *Hamhill* near *Yeovil*, and *Dundry* near *Bristol*. *St. Andrew's* is the name of the old quarry from which the stone was taken for the cathedral.

Croscombe, 3 m. towards *Wells*, and situated on the pretty stream which flows past *Shepton*, was formerly the seat of a *priory*, of which some remains may still be seen in the inn. The village has a *cross*, and a very interesting *church*, supposed to have been built about 1480. It is in the *Perp.* style, with a fine spire-crowned tower, an embattled parapet, and benches, screen, and roof of carved oak.

The Roman *Fosse Way* is still the route from *Shepton Mallet* to *Ilchester*.

Downside church, 1 m. N., on the high road to *Bath*, contains 2 effigies of cross-legged knights in chain-armor, supposed to represent crusaders of the family of *Malet*. The structure was partly rebuilt in 1837, but it has still much to show of the date of *Hen. VI.* or *Edw. IV.*, including a fine oaken roof and stone pulpit.

On the road to *Wells* is *Dinder*, the manorhouse of the *Somervilles*; and on that to *Frome*, through *Doulting*, *South Hill*, seat of the *Chethams*; and

Cranmore Hall, of the *Pagets*. On *Small Down* to the S.E. of *Doulting*, is an ancient camp.

Pilton Park, rt, of the *Glastonbury* road, was a possession of the abbots of *Glastonbury*, of whose grange a noble barn remains. This building is ornamented at the gables with the emblems of the 4 *Evangelists*, and appears to have been erected about the time of *Rich. II.*, the architecture inclining rather to the *Perp.* than the *Dec.* The church of *Pilton* is said to date from *Edw. III.*

Proceeding on our route, we ascend to high ground, and find that *Shepton* is seated among hills, principally in grass, the chief production of this district being cheese.

2 Here we descend the escarpment of the *oolite*, with a charming view of the wooded vale we are to traverse to *Castle Cary*. The church tower of *Evercreech* is a pretty feature in the landscape.

1½ rt. 2 m. *Pylle House*, in by-gone times a manorial residence of the *Berkeleys*, of which a wing, in the *Elizabethan* style, is still standing attached to the farmhouse. In the vicinity of this old place is *Pennard Park*, *E. B. Napier, Esq.*

1¼ *Arthur's Bridge*, over a tributary to the *Brue*. rt. *Ditcheat*, and 1½ m. *Wraxill*, where the rectory-house was a seat of the abbots of *Glastonbury*. Further to the rt. the *Pennard Hills*, outliers of the *oolite*. 1. *Creech Hill*, a bold promontory of the same formation, but injured in effect by the hedgerows which score its sides.

1½ Here we leave the vale and its woods and orchards, and climb a steep hill to *Almsford*, and

1 *Castle Cary* (*Rte. 28*).

The remainder of this route is described in *Rtes. 28, 18.*

ROUTE 31.

BATH TO WELLINGTON, BY WELLS,
GLASTONBURY, AND TAUNTON.

Bath (Rte. 27). The road is the same as Rte. 30 as far as

1½ *Stratton on the Fosse*, where it turns rt. towards the Mendips.

2 *Old Down Inn*.

rt. 1½ m. *Stone Easton Park*, seat of Sir John Stuart Hippisley, Bart. l. *Blacker's Hill Camp*, above the valley of *Gurney Slade*, a sequestered romantic dell, watered by a rivulet which works an ancient mill.

¾ l. *Lechmere Water*, a pool ½ m. in length.

2 l. on the summit of the hills, *Maesbury*, an entrenched area of 6 acres, traversed by a Roman road which passed along the Mendip range, towards Old Sarum. rt. *Pen Hill*, 930 ft. in height.

¾ *Wells* (*Inns*: *Swan*; *Somerset Hotel*; *Star*). This quiet little city is prettily placed at the foot of the Mendip hills, whose outliers of mountain limestone rise around it from the plain like islands, particularly *Dulcot Hill*, a detached craggy summit of singular beauty. It is a town which has been consecrated to religion from an early period, the W. Saxon King *Ina* having founded a collegiate church here in 704, and Edward the Elder the bishopric in 905. It is named from its spring or well, sacred to St. Andrew, and is a clean, cheerful place, with runlets of water flowing through the streets. Its manufactures consist of brushes and knitted hose.

The chief things to be seen here are the *Cathedral*, *Bishop's Palace*, and *St.*

Cuthbert's Church; and in the neighbourhood *Glastonbury Abbey*, *Wookey Hole*, *Ebber Rocks*, and the *Cheddar Cliffs*. Fine views are to be obtained from the adjoining hills of *Lyal* and *Dulcot*.

The cathedral, as it now stands, was begun in 1214 by Bishop *Joce-lyne Trotman*, who lived to consecrate it in 1239. It exhibits in perfection the Early English style of architecture in the nave, the transept, and part of the tower, but particularly in the *W. front*, one of the noblest Gothic façades in the kingdom, especially interesting for its sculptures, which convert it into a gallery of early Christian art. These consist of upwards of 300 statues, of which 152 are either life-size or colossal, arranged in 9 tiers of decorated niches, and grouped with a reference to artistic composition. Of the larger figures 21 are crowned kings, 8 crowned queens, 31 mitred ecclesiastics, 7 armed knights, and 14 princes or nobles in costumes of the 12th century. With respect to the identification of the personages they represent, much difference of opinion exists. Mr. *Cockerell*, in a work of research and learning, 'The Iconography of Wells Cathedral,' gives a name to every statue; but his conclusions have been controverted by Mr. *Planché*, in a very able paper read at the Congress of the British Archæological Association in 1857. To the nomenclature of Mr. *Cockerell*, this antiquary has applied the test of *costume* with fatal effect; and, indeed, expresses an opinion that "amongst all the statues on the historical tier, not one could be now identified, and but one (*Edw. the Martyr*) with any probability guessed at." The following is Mr. *Cockerell's* description:—"In the first tier nearest the earth are the personages of the first and second Christian missions to this country — as *St. Paul*, *Joseph of Arimathea*, and *St. Augustine* and his followers. In the



second, the Angels chanting *Gloria in excelsis*, and holding crowns spiritual and temporal, the rewards of those predications. In the third, to the S., subjects of the Old Testament; to the N., of the New—compositions of the highest merit and interest. In the fourth and fifth an historical series of the lords spiritual and temporal, saints and martyrs, under whom the church has flourished in this country: as King Ina, founder of the Conventual Church of Wells; Edward the Elder, founder of the Episcopal Church; the Saxon, Danish, Norman, and Plantagenet dynasties, individually and most significantly represented. Together with these are the founders of those dynasties, the remarkable daughters and allies by marriage of the royal families of England, with the leading characters and lords of the Church—as Archbishop Brithelmus, St. Dunstan, Bishops Asser, Grimbold, the Earl of Mercia, surrounding Alfred, &c.; they form a complete illustration of William of Malmesbury, and the early historians of our country—‘a calendar for unlearned men,’ as well as for unlearned artists; for many of them are as beautiful as they are historically interesting. In the sixth tier are 92 compositions of the Resurrection, startling in significance and pathos and expression, worthy of John of Pisa, or of a greater man, John Flaxman. In the seventh, the angels sounding the last trump, the 4 archangels conspicuous. In the eighth, the Apostles, of colossal dimensions and admirable sculpture. In the ninth the remains of the Saviour in judgment, with niches on either side for the Virgin and St. John.” Of the whole design the Resurrection forms the main feature, and this is highly interesting as the earliest existing representation in sculpture of that solemn event, and by no means the worst. Flaxman attached a very high value to these

sculptures as works of art; he selected the death of Isaac, the figure of St. John, and the creation of Eve for the beauty of their composition, and made from them careful drawings which he exhibited at the Royal Academy. He laid particular stress on the early date at which they were finished, 1242, a period at which there is no record of any school of art having existed in this country, and even preceding the revival of art in Italy. “The work,” he says, “is necessarily ill drawn and deficient in principle, and much of the sculpture is rude and severe; yet in parts there is a beautiful simplicity, an irresistible sentiment, and sometimes a grace excelling more modern productions.” This W. front of Wells was in progress at the time when Nicolo Pisano was exercising his art in Italy, but his sculptures do not exhibit so advanced a knowledge of art; and indeed the execution of the Italian artists of that period, as exhibited in the tombs of Edward the Confessor and Henry III. in Westminster Abbey, is in a totally different style. It may however be doubted whether the façade was completed by Bp. Trotman. Mr. Planché characterizes the evidence as “vague and uncertain,” and thinks that some of the statues may be of later date. The figure of Bp. Bubwith on the N.W. tower gives support to this opinion.

The *towers* flanking the W. front were built at a later period than the façade; that to the N. in 1407, the other about 1380. They are 130 ft. high.

The *N. porch* equals the W. front in the beauty of its architecture. It is in the Early English style, and ornamented with sculpture representing the martyrdom of St. Edmund, who was defeated by the Danes on their first incursion into this country under Hubba, and bound by them to a tree, and shot with arrows.



Upon entering the *nave* the visitor will remark its simplicity and elegance combined with grandeur, and also the good effect of the recent restoration, which has removed the plaster from the Purbeck marble, and reproduced the colour on the roof. He will be particularly struck by that prominent feature the inverted arch, supporting the central tower, and by the reeded and clustered piers, crowned by capitals of rich and varied foliage. From this general view he may descend to particulars, viz. the *pulpit* of stone, dating from 1547; the *chantry of Bishop Bubwith*, 1424; the *chantry of Dean Sugar*, 1480, with the doctor's device, 3 sugar-loaves on a shield; *King Ina's tomb*, a marble slab in the pavement, said to cover the remains of the royal founder of the cathedral; the *W. window*, a triplet, representing King Ina, Bishop Ralph de Salopia, and the beheading of John the Baptist—the last, forming the central light, of foreign glass.

The *transept* comes next in order, exhibiting at the crossing those inverted arches which were built in the 14th cent. to give strength to the piers supporting the central tower. They each rest upon a lower arch, with the spandrils filled in with open circles, and are decidedly an addition to the beauty of the building, while they effectually prevent the collapsing of the piers. In the N. transept is the curious old *clock* made in 1325 by Peter Lightfoot, a monk of Glastonbury, and removed to Wells at the Dissolution. It shows the hour of the day, the age of the moon, and the position of the planets, and at certain intervals communicates motion to some figures attached to it. As the clock proclaims the hour a group of horsemen start into action and hurry rapidly round; while the quarters are announced by 2 figures on the exterior wall which strike the bell with their halberts, and by another

in the interior which uses its feet for the same purpose. In the opinion of Mr. Planché, the great authority on costume, the smaller figures, which move in a sort of tilting-match, cannot be those made by Lightfoot, or they have been much altered since his time. Two, he says, appear intended for jesters, and one certainly, as he wears a hood with ears to it; the third is a non-descript; the fourth, by his dress, a civilian of the reign of James I. or Charles I. Those on the outside, which strike the bell, are in armour of the 15th centy., Henry VI. or Edw. IV. The works of this clock are new, but the original machinery, made of iron and brass, is preserved in the crypt. In the S. transept the visitor should particularly remark the capitals of the pillars, which exhibit the most fanciful and exquisite carving. One represents a man suffering with a toothache; another a cobbler, with his awl and strap; a third, an individual removing a thorn from his foot; a fourth, a face whistling with all its might; a fifth, the moral of the adage, that "honesty is the best policy," by a series of groups, showing boys stealing fruit, the owner of the fruit in search of the thief, the thief captured by the ear, and the thief punished in prison. A door leads from this transept into the

Cloister, a quadrangle of Perp. date, built by Bishops Bubwith and Beckington. In the area still remains the lavatory at which the monks performed their ablutions, and the recess in which the towels were deposited. Around the walls are a number of monumental tablets judiciously removed here from the body of the cathedral. The *Cathedral Library* is on the E. side.

The *Choir*, of later date than the nave and transept, exhibits the Dec. form of Gothic, and is now seen in all the brilliancy of a restoration. The *Bishop's throne*, an exquisite

work of stone, constructed in 1450, has been stripped of the coat of paint which for many years disfigured it; handsome stalls of the same material have replaced the former seats of wood; and 5 canopied sedilia, with light columns of Purbeck marble, have been erected by the altar. The monumental chapels also have been judiciously repaired. The most beautiful of these is the shrine of Bishop Beckington, 1465, which is so elaborate and delicate in its detail as to resemble rather a work of lace than one of stone. Within it lies the effigy of the bishop in his robes, and in a lower recess the figure of a skeleton, teaching by contrast the old lesson, the vanity of human greatness. The W. end of the choir is open to the

Lady Chapel, one of the most elegant productions of the Decorated Gothic, recently restored with skill and judgment. It has a polygonal apse, lighted by 5 coloured windows, a tessellated pavement, and a groined roof of the richest workmanship, resting on clustered pillars of Purbeck marble. The E. window is a restoration by Willemet; that to the S.W. a present from the students of the Theological College. Among the monuments should be noticed the shrine of Bishop Drokensford, a graceful pinnacled structure of stone; the marble monument of John Phelips, Esq., of Montacute, by *Chantry*; and, in the pavement, a brass to the memory of the late Dean Goodenough. On the N. side of the choir is the

Chapterhouse, commenced, it is supposed, by Bishop De la Marsh, a favourite of Edward I., about 1293, and finished in the reign of Edward III. An imposing stairway leads to this beautiful structure, which is an octagon, supported in the centre by a single pier of clustered shafts, branching to meet the richly-groined roof, and reminding one in its effect of a stately palm-tree. No similar

building in England can be compared with this chapterhouse, which is by far the noblest portion of the cathedral. Below it is the *crypt*, a contrast by its simplicity and gloom, but equally deserving of notice, particularly for its roof, which is a model of plain groining. This crypt was formerly the sacristy, and in it are preserved a curious wardrobe, or cope-chest, and the wheels of the clock made by Peter Lightfoot in 1325. From the staircase a covered gallery leads over the *Chain Gate* to the

Vicar's Close, or *College*, a building founded for the Vicars Choral, by Bp. Joceline, 1230, completed by Bp. Beckington 2 centuries later, and still retaining many of its features as originally designed. It forms an oblong court, with a gate-house at one end, a chapel at the other, and 21 dwellings on either side. It has also a hall, a muniment room, a kitchen, and a library, and is exceedingly picturesque, with its tall, perforated chimneys, each decorated with the shield of Beckington and the arms of his executors, Swan, Sugar, and Pope. The hall contains a pulpit, a great fireplace, several portraits of the bishops, and a curious picture of Bp. Ralph de Salopia answering the Vicars' petition; the figures on the rt. being probably an addition of the time of Elizabeth, who confirmed the Vicars' charter. On a gable end outside the chain-gate is a small but beautiful oriel.

The *Cathedral Green*, an extensive lawn, with trees, is entered by 3 gateways, of which the more interesting are the chain-gate and that which opens to the market-place. On the N. side is the

Demery, with its turrets, buttresses, and embattled parapet, built chiefly by Dean Gunthorpe, 1475. He was chaplain to Edw. IV., Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal, and holder of many other high appointments; and, by the king's favour, was enabled

to devote both a cultivated taste and a well-filled purse to the construction of this residence. It is a quadrangle enclosing a court, and still shows the beauty of the original building in the garden front, remarkable for its richly ornamented windows, particularly a large oriel which formerly lighted the hall. Conspicuous in the decoration are the badges of Edw. IV. (a rose and radiant sun) and the rebus of Gunthorpe. The front towards the Green is supposed to have been rebuilt at the time of the Commonwealth. An ancient pastoral staff, found some years ago in the precinct of the cathedral, is preserved in one of the rooms. It is a beautiful specimen of mediæval art. The head, of Limoges enamel, represents St. Michael vanquishing the dragon; it is most delicately worked, and studded with small turquoises and other precious stones.

The *Bishop's Palace*, on the outskirts of the town, is a relic of that olden time when bishops as well as barons had to rely for security on the strength of their castles, and the courage of their retainers. Occupying, with its pleasure-ground, a space of 14 acres, it is surrounded by a moat, supplied from the abundant source of St. Andrew's Well, and by thick and lofty walls flanked by towers of defence. The entrance is through an embattled gatehouse, built by Bp. Beckington, 1453, but over a *skum* drawbridge, which rather detracts from the real antiquity of the building. Within this gatehouse stands the palace, now to be classed in 3 divisions—the ruin of the great hall, the chapel, and the present episcopal residence. The dates of the different parts are as follows:—

Palace—originally founded . . .	1088
Chapel—Bp. Jocelyne Trotman . . .	1236
Old hall—Bishop Burnell . . .	1275-92
Wall, &c.—Bp. E. de Salopia . . .	1329

The *Great hall*, now a roofless and ivied ruin, was dismantled in the reign of Edward VI. by Sir John [W. D. & S.]

Gates, who purchased the palace for its materials after the execution of the Duke of Somerset, 1552, the grantee at the Dissolution. The building of which it was a part formed a residence complete in itself without reference to the older edifice, but is now almost entirely destroyed. The corner turrets, however, remain, and in one (to the S.) is a very beautiful little chamber. Of the nine large windows which lighted the hall there are now only four, but their slender mullions and tracery seen through the openings in the ivy produce a charming effect. "No ruin," says Mr. Davis, "of the same extent, presents to us so many objects of admiration." In 1539 Whiting, the last abbot of Glastonbury, was here brought to his trial, on a pretended charge of appropriating the church plate, but in reality for refusing to surrender his abbey to Henry VIII.—a mockery of justice, for, although acquitted by the court, he was seized on his return to Glastonbury, dragged to the top of the Tor, and there executed. The hall then presented a magnificent appearance with its grand oaken roof and gorgeous windows; but its splendour was soon to pass away. Gates was the first to strip it of its timber; and at the hands of the fanatic Burgess (*temp.* Cromwell) it suffered complete spoliation. In the reign of Charles II. Bp. Piers partly repaired it, but it has since been neglected, and in the last century it fell into ruins.

The *chapel*, restored at a cost of 1500*l.* by the late Bishop Bagot, is a light, graceful Dec. building, the oaken roof supported by tapering piers of Purbeck marble, each with a beautiful capital. The 3 windows on either side are geometrical in their tracery and of as many designs, but correspond with those opposed to them. The glass in the E. window was a gift of Bishop Law.

The *palace* has been considerably

altered and improved as a residence since the days of Wolsey and Laud, particularly by Bishops Law and Bagot. The oldest portion of it is the basement story, probably built by Bp. Savaric, 1192-1205. It is E. Eng. in style, and divided principally into a long gallery and central hall, or crypt as it is called; the latter with a groined roof supported on Purbeck marble pillars. The entrance is an E. Eng. doorway flanked by columns. A staircase, ornamented with griffins seated on their haunches, ascends to the first story, which has been much altered in modern times. The chief apartment is the *gallery*, a room 80 ft. in length, with groined roof and richly-carved doors and wainscoting, and hung with portraits of certain bishops of the see, including those of Wolsey, Godwin, Laud, and Ken. The chair of the abbot of Glastonbury is here preserved. The gallery communicates with the *library*, where the window with its shafts of Purbeck marble will be noticed, and the library with the *drawing-room*, an apartment similar in size and appearance to the gallery, with roof and doors as richly worked. The garden, shut in by the old walls, is a secluded and pretty spot, commanding from its terrace walk a view of Glastonbury Tor, and of craggy Dulcot Hill, which rises beyond the meadows of the *Bishop's Park*. Here too the cathedral is seen to great advantage from the bank of the moat by the spring of St. Andrew, which bubbles up from what is called the *Bottomless Well*. The visitor may also notice the *Virgin's Tower* at the N.E. angle of the palace, the bold buttresses on the E. side, and on the lawn a Glastonbury thorn-tree.

The *Market-place*, designed by Bishop Beckington about 1443, still retains many traces of its origin. The archways leading to the Cathedral Green and Palace—the first known as *Penniless Porch*—were both

built by Beckington, but have been mutilated, and are defaced by modern windows. They bear the bishop's punning rebus, a flaming *beacon* and a *tun*. The houses on the N. side also contain remains of that period; those on the S. are of Eliz. date. In the centre of the square is a conduit, supplied by St. Andrew's Well, and distributing water through the streets. *Kill Canon Corner* is a locality worthy of its name from its windy exposure.

The *Crown Inn* is an ancient hostelry, with frame-work of timber and windows projecting on brackets. The most curious part of it overlooks the yard.

St. Cuthbert's church, a specimen of Dec., is much admired, principally for its "glorious belfry," roof, and windows, and for the subdivision of its buttresses, "a feature most elegantly treated." It is supposed to have been built in the reign of Edward III. The tower is of Perp. date, and ranks 2nd in the county in point of grandeur, the first being Wrington, the 3rd St. John's, Glastonbury. Late repairs have revealed in the N. aisle a life-size fresco-painting of the Saviour in the attitude of benediction; and in one of the chapels an altar of exquisite workmanship, which had been previously concealed by plaster. Near this church is an *almshouse* founded in the time of Henry IV. by Bishop Bubwith, and partly rebuilt in the reign of Elizabeth by Bp. Stillington.

St. John's Street was named after a priory of St. John, which may still be traced in some old doorways and windows.

Into these doorways the traveller may now dismiss his guide for Wells, and take another for the rocky Mendips, where romantic valleys and caverns invite him to wander. The most celebrated of these caves is only 2 m. from this town on the road to Cheddar:—

Wookey Hole, the legendary haunt of the "Witch of Wookey," where,

"Deep in the dreamy dismal cell,
Which seem'd and was ycleped hell,
This blear-eyed hag did hide;"

and whose exploits form the subject of a ballad in Percy's 'Reliques.' A road over *Milton Hill* (with a fine view), or by the foot of the hill, passing *Burcot House*, Sir C. Taylor, Bart., will lead to a pretty dell deeply scooped in the limestone. Along this runs the stream of the *Axe* to turn the wheels of a paper-mill. By a path through a wood we soon reach its source, the foot of a lofty precipice which closes in the valley. Here it issues from an unseen aperture, and above it, some 50 ft., appears the entrance to the cavern. This is a little hole, where the guide will light his torch, and bid you follow in a stooping posture. "Its entrance," says William of Worcester, "is narrow, and the ymage of a mau stands beside it, called the Porter, of whom leave to enter the hall of Woky is to be obtained." The passage leads at once by a sharp ascent and as abrupt a descent, slippery with mud, and well called *Hell's Ladder*, to the sanctum of the witch, her *kitchen*, where the walls expand so considerably as to be lost to view in the feeble light of the torch. It falls, however, with sudden effect on a mysterious figure, shaped like a sphinx, its head directed towards an abyss, from which comes the sullen sound of water. This is the "*witch of Wookey*," thus transformed by the "lerner wight of Glaston:"—

"He chantede out his godlie booke,
He crost the water, blest the brooke,
Then, pater noster done,
The ghasstlie hag he sprinkled o'er,
When lo! where stood a hag before,
Now stood a ghasstlie stone."

The hair and profile of the face are distinctly defined. In the same chamber are the *dog*, the *witch brewing*, the *pillar of salt*, and the *boiling*

furnace, whimsical creations formed by the dripping water. From the kitchen the guide will conduct you to the *parlour*, and point out the *witch's hand-basin*, the *organ*, and the *flitch of bacon*; and from the parlour to the *drawing-room*, where the river prevents any farther progress. On your return you may enliven these dreary vaults by a shout near the furnace, which will effectually awaken the sleeping echoes. The rock in which this hole has been excavated is the magnesian limestone, which is found in several places on the flanks of the Mendips; but the mountain limestone of these hills is chiefly remarkable for its caverns and subterranean streams. In this latter formation are the caves of Banwell, Chedder, East Harptree, and Green Ore farm. That of Chedder is richly hung with stalactites.

Wookey, more properly *Okey*, is derived from the British word *ogo*, a cavern. A plan was once proposed to drive an adit for the drainage of the mines from Wookey Hole, to East Harptree, a distance of 6 m., passing entirely through the chain of the Mendips. In the belief of the country people a passage already exists to the Chedder cliffs. Human bones have been found in one of the fissures.

W. of Wookey, at *Milton*, are remains of an old manorhouse and garden; to the S. of it *Somerteaze*, a seat of the family of Bathurst, and, by the river-bank, *Castle Hill*—an eminence so called, as the site of an ancient stronghold. In the adjoining hamlet of *Castle* stands a venerable *cross*.

The *Ebber Rocks* are on the hill above Wookey Hole. You will pursue the Chedder road, and turn in at the first gate on the rt., where a path leads up a wooded bottom to a ravine with rocky sides and slopes of such débris as would please a M'Adam. This is the ravine of *Ebber*, very lonely and haunted by owls. The cliffs are above it.

Chedder (Rte. 34) is 8 m. from Wells, a pretty drive along the foot of the hills. A *lead-mine* is N.E. of it. *Wookey Hole* may be visited on the way.

Glastonbury is 6 m. from Wells, and thither our route will now lead us. The road crosses the alluvial flats of East Sedgemoor, on a causeway made in 1794 from the ruins of *Glastonbury Abbey*. I. are seen *Dulcot* and *Twine Hill*, and about midway, at the turnpike, a pretty vista to the distant heights of Wiltshire and Alfred's Tower. Before us rises *Glastonbury Tor*. At Hartlake Bridge we reach the *Island of Avalon*, and, ascending along the flank of Edmund Hill, enter the High-street of

6 *Glastonbury* (Inn: George), seated on the Avalonian hills, outliers of the inferior oolite, surrounded by marshes, and once encircled by the arms of the Brue or Brent, which formed the Roman *Insula Avalonia*, or *Isle of Avalon*. The town is built in the form of a cross, and owes its origin to its celebrated abbey, one of the earliest, if not the first seat of Christianity in Britain, founded, according to tradition, by Joseph of Arimathea. On the one side of it is *Glastonbury Tor*, on the other *Weary-all Hill*, on which St. Joseph paused after his weary pilgrimage from the Holy Land, and planting his staff in the ground, decided on ending his wanderings in this land of promise.

The chief things to be seen here are the ruins of the *abbey* and *abbot's kitchen*, the 2 *churches*, the *George* and *Red Lion* inns, the *Tor*, and *Weary-all Hill*.

The approach to the *ruins* of the *abbey* is through a garden, in which grows one of the oldest of the *Holy thorn-trees*, a graft from the miraculous staff of St. Joseph, which sprouted when thrust into the ground, and ever afterwards retained the power of flowering at Christmas, a fact attributed in our time to the foreign habits of the tree, which was

probably brought from Palestine. A similar legend is told of Mahomet, whose so-called palm-stick is pointed out near El Medinah. The most interesting and best preserved portion of the ruin is *St. Joseph's Chapel*, which stood before the W. end of the abbey church. It is one of the most elegant specimens remaining of the transition from Norman to E. Eng., erected, it is supposed, in the reigns of Henry II. and Richard I. It is roofless, and the vaulting of the crypt is nearly destroyed, while ivy creeps over the walls, and wild trees and briars usurp the aisles: yet between the rich foliage appear beautiful fragments, an elegant triplet window at the W. end, and interlacing circular arcades and a stringcourse along the sides. The N. door is a splendid entrance, headed by 4 rows of sculpture in semicircular arrangement, representing a procession of knights in armour, horses and oxen, and other subjects, illustrative of the dress and customs of the time. The exterior wall on the S. side is also very beautiful, with its light columnar buttresses and airy turret, and its 4 graceful windows, each of a different pattern, the corbel heads showing the ages of human life. In the interior E. Eng. prevails, the arcades being trefoiled and the arches lancet. Below the floor is a Norman *crypt*, and within the crypt *St. Joseph's Well*, which was supplied from the mineral spring under *Glastonbury Tor*. A flattened archway led from this chapel by a flight of steps to the *church*, of which the remains are part of the S. wall of the nave, with 3 windows; 2 of the piers which supported the tower at the crossing; part of the S. wall of the choir, with 5 windows and 2 archways; the roots of the buttresses on which the E. window rested; and the *Chapel of St. Mary*, which is roofless, but otherwise in good condition. The pointed win-

dows and archways of the choir and this chapel are exceedingly elegant, with their light shafts and tooth ornaments. The chapel contains a mutilated figure of Abbot Whiting, and a curious piece of sculpture representing the games of wrestling, archery, and dancing.

In the cemetery of this abbey were buried, according to the tradition, King Arthur and his queen Guinever, and Joseph of Arimathea. Henry II. caused a search to be made for the grave of King Arthur. At a considerable depth a stone and a leaden cross were discovered, the former bearing the inscription, "Hic jacet sepultus inclytus Rex Arthurus in insula Avalonia;" and a few feet beneath them a rude oak coffin containing a gigantic skeleton. Separated by a little space were the remains of the queen, whose "yellow hair," says Sharon Turner, "lay apparently perfect in substance and colour, but on a monk's eagerly grasping and raising it up, it fell to dust." One of our old chroniclers, Giraldus Cambrensis, was present at the disinterment of these interesting relics. They were afterwards removed into the church, and deposited in a magnificent shrine, which, by order of Edw. I., was placed before the high altar.

At Glastonbury St. Patrick and St. Benedict presided as abbots, and St. Dunstan, skilful as a smith, who being one day engaged in the exercise of his craft, the devil thrust his head into his forge in the shape of a beautiful woman, when the saint seized the intruder by the nose with his red-hot tongs. Edwy expelled this "Wolsey" from his abbey, when a loud fiendish laugh is said to have resounded through the building. At the time of the Dissolution few religious houses exceeded Glastonbury in grandeur; the abbot's household amounted to 300 persons, and 500 strangers were often entertained within its walls. Its riches speedily

attracted the notice of Henry VIII., who to gain their possession sentenced the unfortunate Whiting to death. The abbey was then abandoned, and allowed to fall to ruins, but even in this condition it has suffered from the cupidity of its owners. About the end of the last century the area surrounding it was levelled and converted into a pasturage, and cartloads of remains—broken shafts and capitals, and rich fragments of sculpture, sold for the purpose of making a road over the marshes. The buildings dependent on the abbey have almost entirely disappeared, with the exception of the *barn* and the

Abbot's Kitchen, now standing alone, and entered by a gate in St. Magdalene-street. The key is kept in the house opposite. This kitchen is a curious specimen of domestic architecture and of ingenious construction. It is commonly said to have been built by Richard Whiting, the last abbot, about 1524, and is entirely of stone. Externally it is a square building of very massive walls, strongly buttressed; within, the 4 angles are occupied by fireplaces and chimneys, which convert the interior into an octagon. This is surmounted by a stone roof in the shape of an octagonal pyramid, which supports in the centre a double turret, or lantern, pierced with an aperture to allow the vapour and heat to pass out. The structure of this open stone-work is curious. According to the tradition, this ingenious building was planned by Whiting, after a dispute with the king, who had threatened to burn his kitchen—a delicate reproach for the luxurious living of his merry monks. To this, it is said, "the abbot haughtily replied that he would build such a one that all the wood in the royal forests should not suffice to accomplish that threat, and forthwith erected the present edifice." The truth of this tale has, however, been doubted, and, among others, by Mr.

Warre, who thinks it more probable that the kitchen was the work of Abbot Breynton, the style seeming to indicate the end of the 14th or the beginning of the 15th century. Pugin has assigned it to Abbot Chinnock, 1374-1420.

The *Abbot's Barn* is another specimen of the architecture of the same period (Perp.), although parts of it are of Dec., and the buttresses of still an earlier date. It is one of the very finest examples of this kind of building, and remarkable for its grand timber roof and external decoration, of which the latter is both adapted to a purpose and imbued with a meaning. The design of the great W. gable, says Pugin, is appropriate and beautiful. The loopholes for ventilation are made subservient to ornament; they also represent the figure of the cross, and with the emblems of the four evangelists, and the mystical *tri-une* tracery in the windows, are memorials of that religious spirit which animated the pious builders.

On the E. side of the Close stands the *Abbey-house*, an Eliz. mansion, erected at a cost of 8000*l.*, and sold in 1851, together with the ruin and 40 acres of land, to Mr. H. Danby Seymour for 10,000*l.* In the streets of the town the following buildings deserve notice:—

The *Red Lion Inn* (in St. Magdalene-street), formerly the great entrance to the abbey. The narrow pointed gateway for foot passengers still remains. It has a groined roof formed by intersecting arches. In the yard is a small chapel built, with an almshouse, for women, by Abbot Rich. Beere, about the year 1500.

The *George*, the old Pilgrims' house, with a picturesque front, supposed to date from the reign of Hen. VII. or VIII.; the archway bears the arms of the abbey and those of Edward IV., supported by the black bull of Clare and the white lion of Mortimer. Above it hangs the sign

which for ages has distinguished this hostelry—St. George and the Dragon; to the l. is a large bay window. The oriels are good, and the furniture curious.

The *Tribunal*, higher up the street, a domestic building of the 16th cent., formerly belonging to the Abbey. It is chiefly remarkable for its window, which was once filled with painted glass. The origin of the name is unknown.

The *Market-Cross*, at the intersection of the 4 streets, erected in 1846 on the site of an old conduit, which it was thought advisable to pull down. It is in the Dec. style.

The *Church of St. Benedict*, partly rebuilt 1493-1524, by Abbot Beere, whose initials are carved on one of the battlements. In the interior is the following inscription:—“The breach of the sea flood was Jan. 20th, 1606.” According to the tradition the surrounding country was overflowed, and the water reached the tower of this church.

The *Church of St. John the Baptist*, remarkable for its grand Perp. tower and E. window. The tower is in 3 stories, 140 ft. high, with 4 niches (2 still filled with figures) with an open-worked parapet and slender pinnacles. Over the W. door is a pelican feeding its young with its own blood, a design emblematic of Christ's love for His Church; in the chancel the coloured tomb of one Campbell, bursar to the abbot, whose name is represented by a camel. The stone pulpit, designed by Mr. Scott, after fragments of an old pulpit lately found in the building, was the gift of Lady Charlotte Grenville. It is of Painswick stone, and decorated with figures of the Apostles. In the S. transept is a remarkable window.

Northload street, as containing many old bits of the abbey in the fronts of the houses.

The traveller should now visit *Weary-all* and the *Tor*, the former

for a view of the town, the latter for a prospect over the country. Ascending *Weary-all Hill*, in the footsteps of St. Joseph, he will soon reach the spot where the saint planted his staff, now marked with a flat stouë, inscribed, I.A. A.P.P.D xxxi. Here stood the *Holy Thorn*, winter after winter, putting forth its pretty blossoms, which were held in such estimation that they were actually exported from Bristol to foreign countries. The tree is said to have flourished down to the reign of Charles I., when the Puritans swept it away with other monkish things. It is curious that in this view the town should present the figure of a perfect cross; the shaft extended up the opposite hill, St. John's forming the central point. The grey old abbey and churches are seen among the red-tiled houses—the past and the present broadly marked by the colours. Below the S. slope of the hill are some fields called the *Vineyards*, where grapes were formerly grown for the use of the abbey.

The *Tor Hill* is a more formidable height to scale, being 500 ft. above the sea, and steep at one part. Ascend the High-street, turn rt., and then l. opposite the Abbey-house. You are then in a straight path for the summit. It is crowned by a beautiful tower, the ruin of a pilgrimage chapel of *St. Michael*, rebuilt soon after 1271, when, together with a monastery, an earthquake had thrown it headlong down the hill. Over the doorway are 2 rude bas-reliefs—a woman milking a cow, and St. Michael weighing the Bible against the devil in a pair of scales. Above are 7 canopied niches, in one of which a figure still remains; below the embattled parapet is another sculptured tablet representing an eagle with outstretched wings. Heavy buttresses support the building. To this elevated spot, in 1539, the unfortunate *Whiting*, last abbot of Glas-

tonbury, was dragged on a hurdle, and here hanged and quartered by order of Henry VIII., for refusing to surrender his abbey. His head was set over its gate, and his quarters distributed to Bath, Wells, Ilchester, and Bridgewater. The view here is complete of the Avalonian hills, islanded in the marshes. In their lap lies the town, and beyond it is *Weary-all*, whose singular figure may suggest the idea that a great hand has been put forth from the clouds, and has pinched up the level surface. Around the horizon the eye ranges freely, embracing in its view the Bristol Channel, Brent Knoll, the Mendips, and the cathedral of Wells, Hood's monument on the hills at Butleigh, Alfred's tower on the heights of Wiltshire, the Polden and Quantock hills. Nearer at hand, below the *Tor*, to the E., lies *Northwood*, now a farmhouse, but formerly a residence of the abbots, and centred in a deer-park 4 m. in circumference. You may descend the *Tor* on the N.E. side, visiting *Bushey Coombe* on your way back to the town, which you will re-enter by *Chinkwell-street*. Here is the *abbey barn* and the *mineral spring*, commonly called the *Black Spring*, which was in great repute about 1750, when the Pump-room was built. It is a chalybeate impregnated with sulphur. "As old as Glastonbury Tor" is a proverbial saying.

In Sept. 1856, Glastonbury was visited by a remarkable whirlwind, which will be long remembered along the path it pursued. Suddenly commencing at Northover, it swept through the town from W. to E., tearing the roofs from several of the houses. It passed on by N. Wootton, Croscombe, and Warminster; and at Clyffe Pypard, in N. Wiltshire, raged with undiminished violence. Its influence was felt as far N. as Oxford.

Sharpham, 2 m. W., a house erected by Abbot Richard Beere, was

1707 the birthplace of *Henry Fielding*, the unrivalled novelist. His tutor, the Rev. Mr. Oliver, was the original of Parson Trulliber. Sharpham was a country-seat of the abbots, who used to come to it by water. What remains of it is now a farmhouse, in the Tudor style, standing on a declivity, with a view down the vale to the distant Tor.

Meare, 3 m. N.W., formerly islanded in a large lake or *mere*, whence the name, and now surrounded by marshes, was another residence of the abbot of Glastonbury; and the present farmhouse, built by Adam de Sodbury in the middle of the 14th cent., bears undoubted marks of its former grandeur, particularly in the ancient kitchen and hall, which are finely preserved. To this place the abbots also came by water; and a field, called *Pool-reef*, marks the spot where their boats were moored. It is but 50 years ago when the village could be approached only by a horse-path. E. of the manor-house is a unique and most interesting curiosity—a *cottage* of the time of Edw. III., traditionally known as the *Fish-house*, and doubtless the residence of the abbey fisherman when washed by the waters of the lake. It has a roof of open timber-work, and is kept in repair by its proprietor, Sir Charles Taylor. The *church*, as might be imagined from the history of Meare, is a fine old structure. The greater part of it dates from the reign of Edw. II., but the chancel is of the time of Edw. III., and the windows of that of Hen. VI., of which they are a good example. The pulpit, also, is richly sculptured, and to the wall by the side of it is still affixed the iron stand for the hour-glass, by which the methodical preacher of yore was accustomed to regulate his discourse:

"He said that Heaven would take her soul no doubt,
And spoke the *hour-glass* in her praise quite out."—*Gay*.

Meare was the living of the *Rev. W.*

Phelps, author of a 'History of Somerset.' The marshes surrounding it contain an immense store of peat, which is extensively cut, and used for fuel. The stacks of it dot the country in every direction.

West Pennard, 3 m. W., has another interesting church, with a carved pulpit of the year 1618, the stand for the hour-glass, and a sculptured *cross* in the churchyard. On the way to it, 2 m., is *Ponter's Ball*, an ancient earthwork, through which the road passes.

Shapwick House, adjoining the station on the railway, is the seat of George Warry, Esq.; *Edjarley*, 1 m. E., of T. P. Porch, Esq.; and

Butleigh Court, on the road to Somerton, of R. Neville Grenville, Esq. This fine mansion has been lately rebuilt in part under Buckler, the architect. Its saloon measures 45 by 25 ft. Among the pictures are a full length of the Rt. Hon. G. Grenville, the minister, by *Sir Josh. Reynolds*, and, by the same master, the Marchioness of Buckingham and her son the first Duke. There are also full lengths of the great Earl of Chatham and his Countess, and other family portraits by *Gainsborough*, *Hoppner*, *Hudson*, &c.

In the church of *Butleigh* is an epitaph by Southey to the 3 brothers Hood—Arthur, lost in the Pomona in the Caribbean sea, together with Falconer, author of 'The Shipwreck'—Alexander, who sailed round the world with Cook—and Sir Samuel,

"With Keppel and with Rodney trained,"

who died of fever on the Coromandel coast.

Proceeding on our route:—

1½ *Street*, a very long street, the cottages built of blue lias. From the neighbouring quarries Mr. Hawkins of Sharpham collected his fossil saurians, now in the British Museum. Some of them are so perfect that, according to Dr. Buckland, even what

they had last eaten for their dinners is known. Hearth-rugs and shoes are made here.

2 *Walton*. At the turnpike a lane on rt. leads to *Sharpam*. The approach to it is by an avenue.

1 *Piper's Inn*, a handsome house on the slope of a vale, commanding a view of *Glastonbury Tor*. Beyond it the road crosses *Polden Hill*, descending upon *King's Sedgemoor*.

4 *Blindman's Gate*. Here the knoll of *Middlezoy* breaks the level of the plain, and forms the pedestal of a village, which has one of the more elaborate of the Perp. church-towers. 1. are the hills about *Langport*, and at their foot *Aller Moor*, the scene of the baptism of the Danes by *Alfred*, and of the defeat of *Goring's* troopers in 1645.

3 *Boroughbridge*, at the junction of the *Tone* and *Parret*. The ruinous chapel on the mount was formerly attached to the Abbey of *Athelney*, founded by *Alfred*. In this neighbourhood was fought the battle of *Sedgemoor* (p. 195).

1½ rt. The *Isle of Athelney*, a little hill surrounded by marshes, rendered famous by the tradition that *King Alfred* was here sheltered when overpowered by the Danes (p. 196). Beyond it the road passes the village of *East Lyng*, skirting the moors and river *Tone* on the l.

4 *Walford Bridge*. rt. *Walford House*, seat of *Meade King, Esq.*, and formerly of the *Beauchamps*.

1 rt. *West Monkton*, seated on a spur of the *Quantocks*. Its Perp. church-tower is much admired, though the design is simple.

3 *Taunton* (Rte. 27).

4½ *Black Lion Inn*, and a fine view of the *Blackdowns*. rt. the entrance by gatehouse to *Heatherton Park*, *A. Adair, Esq.* The house commands from a terrace the country in the direction of *Exmoor*.

2 *Wellington Turnpike*. rt. a beautiful vista up a vale to a distant knoll crowned by *Willet Tower*. In the

foreground the woods of *Ninehead Court*, *E. A. Sanford, Esq.* 1. the *Wellington monument* on the *Black-down hills*.

½ *Wellington* (Rte. 27). About 4 m. beyond this town the W. road passes into *Devonshire*, in company with the railway, which dives under the border through *Whiteball tunnel*.

ROUTE 32.

BRISTOL TO YEOVIL, BY WELLS, GLASTONBURY, SOMERTON, AND ILCHESTER.

Bristol (Rte. 27). The road passes the E. end of *Dundry Hill*, an outlying ridge of inferior oolite, nearly 4 m. long and 700 ft. above the sea. *Maes Knowl*, its E. point, is a British camp, on the line of the *Wansdyke*, and corresponding with the entrenched height of *Stantonbury*, 5 m. to the E. of it. The oolite is quarried on the hill.

5 rt. traces of the *Wansdyke*, which formed the N. sides of the camps of *Maes Knowl* and *Stantonbury*.

½ rt. *Belluton*, which belonged to the father of *Locke*, the philosopher. In *Domesday* it is written *Belgeton*, a name signifying the town of the *Belgæ*.

½ *Pensford*, called by *Leland* "a market townlet," and in his time busied in the manufacture of cloth. The scenery is pretty, orchards hanging on the hills.

Stanton Drew, rt. (1 m. through the fields)

—*Stanton Drew*,
A mile from *Pensford*—another from
Che—

derived its name from a Druidic temple which once stood near the site of the church. It was a vast barbaric work, of enormous stones in circles and avenues, similar to the Celtic remains at Abury in Wiltshire, and considerable portions of it are still preserved. They include the ruins of 3 circles, and 4 outlying stones—huge, shapeless blocks, of which 3 form a group S. W. of the church, and the 4th stands on the high road. This is popularly known as *Hautville's Quoit*, under the idea that it was thrown from the height of Maes Knowl by Sir John Hautville, a redoubtable member of a family who once dwelt here, and whose effigy, in Irish oak, was found many years ago in the ch. of Norton Hautville, and is now in that of Chew Magna. He lived in the reign of Hen. III., and according to the tradition was of such amazing strength, that on one occasion, for a wager, he carried no less than three men to the top of Norton church tower—one under each arm, and the third between his teeth! Of the circles the largest encompassed an area 300 ft. in diam. S. of the river Chew, and its circumference is still marked by 14 stones, of which 5 stand upright, while in the centre remains a so-called altar-stone, and on the E. side 5 stones of an avenue. The 2nd circle formed a ring 84 ft. in diam. about 30 yds. further N.E., and now consists of 8 stones, of which 4 are upright; and connected with them are 7 stones of an avenue. The 3rd and smallest circle is now partly concealed by an orchard S. of the church. It originally consisted of 12 stones, of which 10 still remain. These mysterious relics have naturally excited the wonder of the country people, who in all ages have been prone to seek the origin of such works in the freak of a super-human agent, and generally an evil one. Accordingly we hear that these

stones were once merry human beings, who, for no very heinous offence, were thus transformed. The legend, called the *Evil Wedding*, has been narrated as follows:—"Many hundred years ago (on a Saturday evening), a newly-married couple, with their relations and friends, met on the spot now covered by these ruins to celebrate their nuptials. Here they feasted and danced right merrily, until the clock tolled the hour of midnight, when the piper (a pious man) refused to play any longer. This was much against the wishes of the guests, and so exasperated the bride (who was fond of dancing), that she swore with an oath she would not be balked in her enjoyment by a beggarly piper, but would find a substitute, if she went to h—ll to fetch one. She had scarcely uttered the words, when a venerable old man, with a long beard, made his appearance, and having listened to their request, proffered his services, which were right gladly accepted. The old gentleman (who was no other than the Arch-fiend himself) having taken the seat vacated by the godly piper, commenced playing a slow and solemn air, which, on the guests remonstrating, he changed into one more lively and rapid. The company now began to dance, but soon found themselves impelled round the performer so rapidly and mysteriously, that they would all fain have rested. But when they essayed to retire, they found, to their consternation, that they were moving faster and faster round their diabolical musician, who had now resumed his original shape. Their cries for mercy were unheeded, until the first glimmering of day warned the fiend that he must depart. With such rapidity had they moved, that the gay and sportive assembly were now reduced to a ghastly troop of skeletons. 'I leave you,' said the fiend, 'a monument of my power and your

wickedness to the end of time; which saying, he vanished. The villagers, on rising in the morning, found the meadows strewn with large pieces of stone, and the pious piper lying under the hedge, half dead with fright, he having been a witness to the whole transaction." The parsonage-house of Stanton Drew is a fine old building, with the arms of Bishop Beckington over one of the windows. The church has a beautiful doorway. At *Chew Magna*, farther rt., are remains of a mansion of the middle ages called *Chew Court*.

1 l. *Houndstreet Park*, E. W. L. Popham, Esq., also of Littlecot, Wiltshire. rt. 2 m., *Sutton Court*, Sir H. Strachey, Bart.; an ancient mansion and seat of this family. Locke, author of the 'Essay on the Human Understanding,' frequently resided here with his friend, Mr. Strachey.

2 *Clutton*.

2 *Farrington Gournay*. l. lie the coal-fields of Camerton and Radstoke.

1 l. *Stone Easton Park*, the seat of Sir John Stuart Hippisley, Bart.

1½ *Chewton Mendip*, among the combs and projecting spurs of the Mendips. It gives the title of viscount to the family of Waldegrave, and has one of the finest church-towers (late Perp.) in the county. 3 m. rt. is *E. Harptree*; W. of it the *Lamb Cavern* in the mountain limestone; and further W. *Compton Martin*, where the *fountains of the Yeo*, gush in a copious stream from the rock. *Harptree Court* is a seat of the Waldegraves. In the direction of W. Harptree a wooded hollow in the hill-side, called *Haydon's Gully*, derives its name from a romantic incident. According to the tradition a Colonel Haydon, one of Monmouth's adherents, fled for refuge to this neighbourhood, and lay concealed during the night at his brother's house; but every morning he rode forth to this sequestered spot, and backing his horse into a hole in the

bank, spent the day in tolerable security.

2 rt. *Green Ore Farm*, on which there is another of the Mendip caverns. Beyond it our route crosses at right angles the Roman road from Uphill, on the Bristol Channel, to Old Sarum.

¾ l. *Penhill House*, on the heights of *Pen Hill*, 930 ft. above the sea. On the descent to Wells, the venerable towers of the cathedral are seen rising from the vale. l. is *Stoberry House*, J. M. Carrow, Esq.

2½ *Wells* (Rte. 31). Wells to *Glastonbury* (Rte. 31).

6 *Glastonbury* (Rte. 31).

1½ *Street* (Rte. 31). From this village the road runs towards *Polden Hill*, a ridge of lias far projecting into the marshes of Sedgemoor. At the summit it passes

2 *Marshal's Elm Inn*, from which it descends on the other side. l. is the escarpment of the high country of which Polden is an offshoot. It is beautifully wooded, and streaked by red slides of rocky debris, the refuse of alabaster quarries. On a commanding point l. stands *Sir Alexander Hood's monument* on the estate of *Butleigh*.

1½ rt. *Dundon Beacon*, an entrenched height 360 ft. above the sea; and at its foot *Compton Dundon* and its manorhouse, now partitioned into cottages; an outbuilding contains a very remarkable circular window, richly ornamented with flowing tracery. The road now runs on the flank of *Copse Leigh* and *Hurcot Hill*, both thickly clothed with the woods of *King Weston*, the fine old seat of the Dickinsons. rt. is the river *Cary*, and beyond it *Bradleigh Hill*. Crossing the river we ascend to

2½ *Somerton* (Inns: Red Lion; White Hart), a small unfrequented market-town, in a charming country of wild hill and fruitful dale. It was, anciently, however, the capital of the county, in which Ina and other

W. Saxon kings resided, and hence the name of Somersetshire, "the pleasant land," as the word signifies in Saxon. In Norman times there was a castle here, in which John of France was confined, and its foundations may still be traced in the buildings of the White Hart. The town stands on a hill, but you ascend from it still higher on the road to Langport. The houses are of blue lias, and remarkably low-built, which the inhabitants explain by their fear of being blown away. The most striking object in the principal street is the sign of the head inn, a red lion of ferocious aspect mounted on a pillar. Turning the corner of this street, we find the

Market-cross, an ancient structure, with open arcade and central column supporting a pyramidal roof. The town-hall, and 2 old houses adjoining, form with it a group characteristic of an old English town.

The *church* is also a venerable building, with time-worn tower, the upper half octagonal and embattled. The stone of which it is constructed is in small rugged pieces.

The best view of the town is from *Kingsdon Hill*, 2 m. S.; the best view of the country from the top of *Somerton Hill*, 1½ m. towards Langport. The prospect embraces the entire breadth of Somersetshire—from Alfred's Tower in Wiltshire to the Wellington Monument on the border of Devonshire. A person acquainted with the county may recognise from this point the Montacute hills; Bubb Down, at Melbury; Rana Hill, near Chard; the Blackdowns, Exmoor, the Quantocks and the Mendips.

It is a pretty walk to *Hurcot Hill*, 2 m. N.E., where there are quarries of alabaster; and rather a longer one over *Kingsdon Hill*, 4 m., to *Lytes Cary House*, ancient seat of the family of Lyte, a name distinguished for literature in Elizabeth's reign. A painted window in the little ch. of *Angersleigh*, near Taunton, represents

their arms and alliances for many generations.

The seats in the neighbourhood are *King Weston*, F. H. Dickinson, Esq.; *Somerton House*, W. Pinney, Esq.; *Kingsdon*, C. A. Moody, Esq.

The nearest railway stat. is Langport, 5 m.

Proceeding on our route:—

½ l. *Somerton House*, on the banks of the Cary.

1½ The road crosses *Kingsdon Hill*.

½ l. *Kingsdon*, and on the opposite bank of the Cary, 1½ m., *Lytes Cary House*, a picturesque relic of the olden time. The chapel, forming a wing, dates from Edw. III., and the rest of the building from Hen. VIII.

2½ *Ilchester* (*Inns*: Dolphin; Bull), a mean, decayed town, but remarkable for its antiquity and early importance, and as the birthplace of "the wonderful doctor," *Roger Bacon*, b. 1214. It is supposed to have been the chief seat of the Belgæ; and by the Romans it was made their principal station in this part of England. They called it *Ischalis*, and surrounded it by a strong wall and ditch, both of which can be traced to this day. Their great road, the Fosse Way, ran through it, and still forms the principal street, and the highway to Shepton Mallet. The town is seated in a broad marshy vale, on the banks of the Ye o Ivel, a bridge connecting it with a suburb called *Northover*.

There is little to be noticed here besides the slight vestiges of the Roman works. *Yard Lane* marks the line of the ditch; and the adjoining gardens contain the foundations of the Roman wall, which have been from time to time exposed by digging.

The *church* is an ancient structure, with an octagonal tower, built partly with Roman materials.

The *cross* is similar to one at *Marstock*, a pillar crowned by a sun-dial, gilt ball and vane. A Wednesday market has been held here since the Conquest.

Ilchester has a prominent place in the annals of electioneering, the seat having been often contested with singular obstinacy. At one time party-spirit here ran so high, that electors are said to have desired on their death-beds that they should be buried in *true blue* coffins. The town was once represented by Richard Brinsley Sheridan. "All Ilchester is gaol" is a proverbial saying by no means complimentary to the inhabitants.

The church of *Lymington*, 1 m. E., has an ancient chantry, with cross-legged effigies of a knight, his hand on his sword as if about to draw it. *Lymington* was the first preferment of *Card. Wolsey*. He was presented to the living by the Marquis of Dorset, to whose sons he had acted as tutor at Oxford. Whilst rector here he was put in the stocks by Sir Amias Paulet, an indignity he never forgave, and which he afterwards found the means of resenting.

On leaving Ilchester we traverse the flat vale of the Yeo, a low line of hills being seen on all sides, and in the direction of Yeovil the wooded height of *St. Michael's* at Montacute.

$4\frac{1}{2}$ *Yeovil* (Rte. 28).

ROUTE 33.

BRISTOL TO BRIDGEWATER, BY AXBRIDGE.

This is one of the great western roads thrown out of general use by the railway. It leaves Bristol over the *Bedminster coal-field*, with the woods of

Ashton Court, seat of Sir John Henry Greville Smyth, Bart., and the high land of *Leigh Down*, on the rt. Some years ago Ashton Court was brought prominently before the public by an impudent attempt to gain possession of it. On Jan. 2, 1857,

it was the scene of some splendid festivities, on occasion of the present owner attaining his majority. The tenantry and the poor of the neighbouring villages were regaled; a ball was given at the Court; and a bonfire of magnificent dimensions "flamed amazement" from a neighbouring hill. It was lighted on the summit of the *Tump* (above the village of Long Ashton), and consisted of 10 tons of coal, 50 old trees, 50 tar-barrels, and 1000 bundles of faggots. Part of the W. front of the house was built by Inigo Jones, 1634.

3 rt. *Deep-Comb-lane*, supposed to have been the fosse of the *Wansdyke*, which traversed the counties of Berkshire, Wilts, and Somerset, and terminated on the shore at Portishead.

1 l. the W. end of *Dundry Hill*, 700 ft. above the sea (p. 225). rt. a wood, called the *High Country*, belonging to *Barrow Court*, Montague Gore, Esq. The house is passed on the l.

1 *Barrow Inn*. Beyond it is *Dial Quarry*, in the inferior oolite. The road now ascends *Broadfield Down*, and enters a hilly country, rich in beauty. 1. are *Hartcliff Rocks*; rt. the *Goblin Combe* and *Hill Scars*; and, at a distance of 2 m., the romantic valley of *Brockley Combe*. On the N.W. shoulder of *Broadfield Down* are one of the 3 igneous vents mentioned by Dr. Buckland as occurring in this county. The 2nd is at the Uphill cutting, on the Mendips; the 3rd at *Hestercombe*, on the Quantocks.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ l. *Butcombe Court* and *Winford House*; rt. *Broadfield House*.

$\frac{3}{4}$ rt. a road to *Wrington*, passing *Barley Wood*, for several years the residence of *Hannah More*, and built by her in 1800. Her grave is in the churchyard; a tablet to her memory in the church. The tower of this building is one of the very finest in England. It is of the early Perp. of Henry VI., and similar in plan to that of *St. Cuthbert's* at Wells. It

is 140 ft. high, and crowned by no less than 16 pinnacles. The pulpit is of stoue. *Wrington* is distinguished as the birthplace of *John Locke*, the philosopher, author of the 'Essay on the Human Understanding,' born 1632, in a house still standing near the church. His father had a small landed property at Pensford and Bel-luton, in Stanton Drew. He became a captain in the Parl. army, and was killed at Bristol, 1645. The entry of Locke's baptism is in the parish Register. He died in 1704, and is buried at Otes, in High Laver, Essex. The town is beautifully situated under the hill, over which it is a walk of $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the rocky valley of *Cleve Combe*.

1 l. *Aldwick Court* (J. Robbard, Esq.), in the vale of the Yeo; and *Cowslip Green*, where Hannah More resided before she removed to Barley Wood.

$\frac{3}{4}$ The road crosses the river Yeo by *Perry Bridge*. Opposite rises the range of the Mendips, here attaining its greatest elevation, in *Black Down*, 1100 ft. above the sea.

1 l. *Langford Court*, J. H. Addington, Esq., and beyond it, on the slope of the Mendips, *Mendip Lodge*, the seat of T. Somers, Esq. This is a beautiful place, deeply bosomed in wood. The grounds contain 52 grottoes, one for every week in the year, and the terrace walks command enchanting views. Mrs. Siddons was a frequent visitor here. Above it is *Dolberry Warren*, with an old camp on its W. point; and E. the village of *Burrington*, from which a romantic rocky hollow leads up to *Black Down*. The little road in this valley is margined by fine turf, and $\frac{1}{4}$ m. above the village reveals the mouth of a cavern, with sanded floor slanting steeply downward, as if it were a highway to the Lower Regions. This is *Burrington Cavern*, which when first discovered exhibited a scene which filled the beholder with astonishment. The

vaulted chamber glittered with fantastic pendants, and on the floor were arranged in a long grim line about 50 human skeletons, resting among the weapons which they had used when living. Subsequent searchers also found in the hardened mud the bones of horses and of sheep, and the jaw of a fox, showing that this cavern had been the resort of wild animals after its abandonment by the Britons as a place of burial. If you stand opposite the arched entrance, and speak even in a whisper, your voice will be distinctly repeated. On either side of the hollow are great ribs of mountain limestone, well displaying the inclination of the strata; and above, on the hill, an earthwork called *Burrington Ham*, which is supposed to have been a scene of Druidical worship.

2 The road passes the W. end of *Dolberry*, here crowned by an encampment, and separated from *Rowbarrow* by a rocky hollow. rt. *Sandford Hill*, and, S. of Churchill, the *Sandford Caves*, 2 in number. At the turnpike rt. to *Banwell* and the *Banwell bone caves* (Rte. 27) 3 m. distant.

1 l. the villages of *Shipham* and *Rowbarrow*, on the slopes of *Black Down*, and inhabited chiefly by miners, or *groovers*, as they are here termed. The greater number of the lead and calamine mines are situated in these parishes, but the amount of ore now raised is inconsiderable.

2 The road crosses a promontory of the Mendips between *Wavering Down*, rt., and *Shutshelve Hill*, l. Further rt. is the pyramid of *Crook Peak*, and caverns in its rocky sides at *Compton Bishop* and *Loxton*.

1 *Axbridge (Inn : Lamb)*, at the foot of *Shutshelve Hill*. The only thing to be noticed is the church, which has a handsome tower and old monuments to the family of Prowse. *Chedder Cliffs* are 2 m. distant. Here we bid adieu to the hills, and enter the

Somersetshire Levels, flat marshes

extending from Wells to Bridgewater, and well known for affording some of the most valuable grazing land in England. They are banked from the sea, and intersected in every direction by dykes, or *rhines* for the drainage, and in many places contain extensive beds of peat, often 30 ft. deep, enclosing the horns of the red deer, and the blackened trunks and branches of oak trees (locally "underground oak"), which are supposed to have been floated here by ancient floods when the marsh was an estuary. Around this great plain of 200 square miles are seen the coasts of that olden time, in hills projecting as promontories, or standing detached like islands. These break the monotony of the level surface; but intrinsically the district has a certain claim to attention. To a farmer the mere ground that will fatten a bullock on every acre will be probably as attractive as any hillside hung with wood or scarred by unprofitable rocks; but the botanist may also revel among its rare and dainty flowers—such as the bog myrtle, the asphodel, and the sundew; and the antiquary find his reward in seeking out its churches and manor-houses. For in Tudor and Stuart times the marsh had its "aristocracy," wealthy graziers, whose acres were as numerous as their broad pieces, who farmed their own estates, and lived in the fine old English style in the midst of their herds. Those were the genial days when

"Muster Guy was a gentleman
O' Huntspill, well known
As a grazier, a hirch un
Wi' lands o' his awn ;"

"but mangold-wurzel and the swede turnip," says Mr. Acland, "have introduced great changes, and the race no longer exists in its glory."

2 Crossing the Axe, the road runs towards the highest of the outlying hills,

4 *Brent Knoll*, a mass of *lias* capped by *oolite*, and rising in a

peak nearly 1000 ft. above the sea. It shares its name—derived from the Saxon *brennan*, to burn—with two hills in Devonshire, which are equally conspicuous by reason of their height and isolation, and it has probably derived it from the signal-fires formerly lighted on these elevated points. On the crest are remains of an entrenchment, in which Roman coins and other relics have been found. There is a tradition that King Alfred here defended himself against the Danes, and the name of *Battleborough*, at the foot of the hill, is evidence of some fight having occurred here. The Romans took possession of the country between the Avon and the Parret in the reign of the emperor Claudius.

East Brent and *South Brent*, on opposite sides of *Brent Knoll*, have each an interesting church. That of *East Brent* is dedicated to St. Mary, and contains several windows of ancient glass, representing Scriptural subjects, such as the Nativity, the Offerings of the Wise Men, &c. On the tower are the figures of a queen and two kings, in niches, one above the other. The church of *South Brent* is in honour of St. Michael the Archangel, who has also a church on *Brent Tor* in Devonshire. In the aisle is a large monument, dated 1663, to a person named Somerset, whose effigy, and those of his 2 wives, are habited in the costume of the period. The benches are old, and most fancifully carved. On one is seen a monkey at prayers; on another a fox, in the dress of a bishop, with the mitre and crozier. *South Brent* belonged formerly to the abbots of Glastonbury, who had here a country-seat, in which it was their custom to pass the festive season of Christmas. 12 houses were held by the service of drawing wine for the merry monks.

Crooked Lane leads straight from this village to the lighthouse near *Burnham*. *Crook Peak* and *Crom-*

lech Crock Lane may give light to an etymologist who is seeking the meaning of this name.

1 *Battleborough*.

2 The road crosses the railway near *Highbridge Stat.* 2 m. rt. is the watering-place of *Burnham* (Rte. 27).

$\frac{1}{2}$ *Highbridge*, on the river Brue.

1 *Huntspill*, on the *Huntspill Level*. rt. 1 m. is the mouth of the river Parret.

2 *Pawlet*, on an outlying knoll which rises from the marshes. Beyond it the road runs over *Horsey Slime*, one of the richest of pasture lands.

4 *Bridgewater* (Rte. 27)

1 l. the mining villages of *Rowbarrow* and *Shipham*. Beyond them the road crosses *Shutsheloe Hill* to the market town of

$3\frac{1}{2}$ *Arxbridge* (Rte. 33), from which it runs at the foot of the Mendips, with *Chedder Wood* and *Long Bottom* on l., to

2 *Chedder* (*Inns* : Bath Arms ; King's Arms, kept by Mr. Cox). This village, situated at the mouth of the romantic ravine called the *Chedder Cliffs*, is bounded on one side by the rocky slopes of the hills, and on the other by the levels extending to *Bridgewater*. It derives its name—*Ced dwr*, or lofty ground by the water—from a stream, which, issuing from the yawning mouth of a cavern, works the machinery of some paper-mills.

The things to be seen here are the *Chedder Cliffs* and *Caverns*, and at a distance of 2 m. the summit of *Black Down*, the highest hill on the Mendips.

Other objects very interesting to a hungry man are the *Chedder cheeses*, for which the rich grass-farms of this neighbourhood have been famous from an early period. Camden bears witness to their excellence in his time, and speaks of their "prodigious size, requiring more than one man's strength to set them on the table." They now rarely exceed 56 lbs. in weight, unless made for a special purpose. In 1841 a monster cheese was manufactured at W. Pennard as a present to the Queen, every farmer in the neighbourhood contributing to it a day's milk. During the ripening it was publicly exhibited in London. A show of a similar kind may be often seen in this neighbourhood, where, says Mr. Acland, "a full cheese-room, exhibited by a Marsh yeoman after his rent has been paid, and all made straight, is a pleasant sight, as it is one which the farmers have always great pleasure in showing to a visitor."

The *church* is supposed to have been built about the beginning of

ROUTE 34.

YATTON STAT. TO WELLS, BY CHEDDER.

A *coach* daily. *Yatton* is the nearest stat. on the down line to Chedder ; Banwell on the up line.

The *church* contains a monument, with effigy of a judge in his robes, traditionally ascribed to Sir Richard Newton, who died 1449, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. On the neck of the figure is a collar of SS.

The road passing through the village, in view of its fine church, skirts the bold height of *Cadbury* to

2 *Congresbury*, on the river *Yeo*. 2 m. to the l. is *Wrington*, the birth-place of Locke (p. 229).

3 Here the Mendips are reached at the foot of *Dolberry Warren*, which is crowned by an ancient camp.

the 15th century. It is dedicated to St. Andrew, whose effigy occupies a niche on the tower, which is of Perp. date, and a fine specimen of the style. In the interior are a sculptured stone pulpit, a rich screen and ceiling of oak, and 2 brasses to the memory of Sir Thomas de Cheddar and his lady Isabel, 1443. The De Chedders were a wealthy family, who represented Somersetshire in Parliament for many years. Their manor-house stood by the roadside at the entrance to Axbridge, and a part of it still remains in a farmhouse.

The *market-cross* was restored in 1834 by the late Marquis of Bath.

In the *paper-mill* of Tanner, brothers, the conversion of pulp into writing-paper may be seen in 5 minutes.

The village extends to the entrance of the ravine, where the rocks hang grandly over the pass. Below them is a pretty sheet of water, once reflecting the rugged scene on its limpid surface, but now rendered turbid and poisonous by the lead mines. On its bank is Mr. Cox's corn-mill, and opposite this mill the

Cheddar Cavern, accidentally discovered by Mr. Cox in 1837. 3s. is the charge for showing its wonders to a party of from 1 to 3 persons. The cave is narrow and of small size, but quite a fairy world. In every part it is crowded by fantastic figures, the insensible growth of ages, still nourished by the dripping water. When seen by the uncertain torchlight, they whimsically resemble the various forms which the guide will point out. Among them may be enumerated—5 turkeys suspended by the legs, and, in the same cleft, a loaf of brown bread with the mark of the baker's thumb, this hole being the spot in which the water drops from a stalactite—a monkey—ropes of stone, and folds of linen, fringed at the bottom—a stalactite and stalagmite separated by a single drop of

water, and in the same condition as when first seen 18 years ago. This fact may give an idea of the time required to deck this cavern with these wonderful forms.—An Egyptian mummy: here the roof is very beautiful.—A goose hanging by the legs, as in a larder. Above it the fretted stonework resembles the pipes of an organ. The sparry matter is here of a lighter colour, and has the appearance of wax flowing down the walls. At one spot it seems to be entering the mouth of a bottle.—The Black Prince, a stalagmite shaped like a close-fitting coffin—musical bells, which when struck produce clear and harmonious sounds—the basin of water, a little pool reflecting a wonderful miniature scene resembling a forest of withered pines—the trough—the oak stem, the largest stalagmite in the cavern, and ribbed like the bark of a tree—the jelly-glass—the chessman—and lastly, the tongue, properly hung below the turkeys.

Several caverns of larger size are shown by the women who offer their services to visitors as guides, but they are mere gloomy vaults in the hill-side. One may be explored for about 300 ft. Another, situated $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the entrance of the cliffs, l. of the road, and some 200 ft. above it, has excited much interest by the discovery in the mud breccia of its floor of human skulls and bones, together with those of wild animals. A description of this cave and its contents was communicated to the meeting of the British Association in 1838, when Professor Lyell remarked that "the circumstance of human bones being found in connection with those of animals was no proof that they were coeval, but only that they were of high antiquity, though not referable to a geological era." The mouth of the cavern is a vertical fissure, so that these bones may be the remains of persons thrown into this hole by some barbarous

tribe of ancient times. A carriage-road, made in 1801, leads through the pass of the

Chedder Cliffs, in the direction of Bristol. The entrance is more grand than might be expected from the character of the hills, the mountain limestone rising abruptly in towering precipices, whilst from a cavern at their foot the Chedder water rushes in a torrent. Within the portal of the pass its stony jaws appear to close upon the little road, which, margined by turf, winds from side to side, and opens at every turn a fresh picture of huge and wildly-grouped rocks. The finest portion of the scenery is included in the first $\frac{1}{2}$ m., in which a cliff rises vertically on the rt., and directly from the path of the spectator, to an elevation of 429 ft. This grand and beautiful wall is decked by festoons of ivy, and scored on the surface by a network of fissures, from which spring the mountain ash, the yew-tree, and various shrubs and grasses. Here and there projecting buttresses throw their dark shadows, and aloft are airy towers and slender pinnacles. As the road proceeds its barriers gradually open out, and the dark blue precipices are succeeded by slopes of turf. The chasm is about a mile in length, and presents numerous fine studies of rocks and caverns. It is a habitat of *Poly-podium Robertianum*, and in July is coloured by the pretty *Dianthus Cæsius* or *Chedder pink*, a plant peculiar to the locality.

Mines of lead and calamine (carbonate of zinc) have been worked on the Mendip Hills from the time of the Belgæ, principally in the parishes of Rowbarrow, Shipham, and East Harptree. The visitor to Chedder is within reach of one of them, called the *Mendip Lead Mine*, a walk of about 2 m. Let him turn l. through the first gate in the Chedder Cliffs, and pursue his way up the rocky bottom to a wood,

where he will observe a stile on the rt. A path leads from this stile along another wild hollow to the mine. Just beyond the stile a stream, fed from the mining operations, plunges into a *swallet-hole*, a well-like chasm, to emerge again to the daylight at Chedder. The mountain limestone abounds in vertical cracks or fissures, and by these its numerous subterranean waters are fed. At the mine the visitor may inspect the various operations for washing the ore, which is afterwards smelted on the spot. He may then, if he is willing to extend his ramble, walk to the summit of *Black Down*, which rises at a short distance to the N. It is a heathery eminence, crowned by a mark of the Sappers and Miners, and commands a most extensive and beautiful view. It is elevated 1100 ft. above the sea, and is said to be the part of Somersetshire seen from Windsor Castle. The mines on Mendip are locally called *grooves*, and the miners *groovers*.

The *Mendip Hills* extend in a N.W. and S.E. direction about 12 m., the width of the chain varying from 3 to 6 m. On the S.E. its beds of mountain limestone dip below the oolite, in which position they are seen in the many romantic dales between Shepton and Frome. The nucleus of the range consists of old red sandstone, the flanks of mountain limestone. Hence the resemblance of this district to the highlands of Derbyshire, a similar rock presenting similar phenomena in both counties, such as veins of lead, caverns, and subterranean streams. In early times the moors of Mendip were attached to the crown as a royal forest, in which Saxon and Norman kings diverted themselves by hunting, and here Edward the Martyr had a narrow escape of his life, when the flying deer and dogs were dashed down the cliffs at Chedder. For many years past a considerable portion of the range has been under cultivation,

the latest enclosure having occurred in 1801. The summit, along which ran a Roman road from Old Sarum to the Bristol Channel, has a comparatively level surface, attaining its greatest elevation, about 1100 ft., in Black Down, N. of Chedder, but here and there the traveller will find an unexpected chasm, and the declivities are on all sides abrupt, and scored by rocky hollows. The heights of Mendip are covered with barrows, among which are many of the bowl-shape. The inhabitants of this district are rather primitive in their manners, and many old customs and forms of expression linger among them. In the obscure village of *Priddy* the boys are notorious for the skill with which they will throw a stone by the hand.

Our route from Chedder to Wells proceeds along the foot of these hills, and occasionally commands a wide prospect over the level country to the rt. The numerous outlying knolls are pretty features in the scenery.

1½ rt., among the marshes, a *decoy* for the capture of wild fowl.

1 *Stoke Rodney*, the prettiest spot on the road, the hills rising from it with great boldness and beauty, particularly a peak called *Stoke Knoll*. The place gave title to Admiral Lord Rodney, raised to the peerage in 1782.

1 *Westbury*. Here, at the intersection of roads, stands an ancient cross, raised aloft on a pile of steps.

4 *Wells* (Rte. 31).

ROUTE 35.

BRIDGEWATER TO LYNTON, BY WILLITON (WATCHET), DUNSTER, MINEHEAD, AND PORLOCK.

Bridgewater (Rte. 27). On this route there are 2 roads as far as Williton: one, 17½ m., passing the Quantocks by the sea; the other, 20 m., crossing these hills near their southern termination, and skirting their western slopes to Williton. They are both beautiful roads, but perhaps the latter is the more picturesque of the two. First for the former, the direct road by Nether Stowey.

3 *Cannington*. Beyond this village, on the rt., are *Brymore House*, seat of the Hon. P. Pleydell Bouverie, and *Cannington Park*, now occupied as a grazing-farm. *Cannington Church*, formerly conventual, is a fine building. Rt., 2 m., is *Hill House*, seat of the Earl of Cavan.

2 l. ½ m. *Charlinch*, and the establishment of the communist society called *Princites* (p. 197).

3 *Nether Stowey*, for some time the residence of *Samuel Taylor Coleridge*. Among the woods of the neighbouring hills are the valleys of the *Seven Wells*, and *Hunter's Combe*, beautiful scenes, rendered classic ground by the genius of this chance visitor, and that of his companion *Wordsworth*, who occupied at the same period a house at *Alfoxton*. Many of *Wordsworth's* lyrical ballads, and most of *Coleridge's* poems, were written at *Alfoxton* and *Stowey*, including 'Peter Bell' and the 'Ancient Mariner,' of which the latter was suggested in a walk to *Dulverton*. S., near the village of *Spaxton*, is *Holwell* (i.e. *holy well*) *Cavern*, 127 ft. in length, partly excavated in the *grauwacke* slate, and encrusted with crystals of white *arragonite*, here and there tinged with a delicate hue of purple. A *copper-mine* was formerly worked at *Doddington*. At *Over Stowey* is the seat of the Rt. Hon. *Henry Labouchere*, which contains, among other

curiosities, a fine collection of miscellaneous china.

2 l., on a hill-top 1022 ft. above the sea, the British camp of *Danesborough*, where the Belgæ were defeated by the Romans. It is of a circular form, with double ramparts.

1 *Holford*. l., in a commanding and most beautiful position, *Alfoxton House*, seat of Lewis St. Albin, Esq. About 2 m. rt. is *Fairfield*, Sir P. Palmer Acland, Bart. (also of New House, Devon), a mansion of the 16th century, surrounded by an extensive park and grounds; and beyond it *Stokecourcy*, a village so named from its former lords, the De Courcys, the remains of whose moated castle may still be seen. A redoubtable member of this family, John de Courcy, was the first to subdue Ulster, in Ireland, of which he was created Earl. He was afterwards, says Fuller, imprisoned by King John in the Tower, and, whilst there, selected to decide, by combat with a Frenchman, the right of the English monarch to a certain castle in France. But the question was decided in another manner. Enfeebled by long durance, he eat so much as fairly to frighten the Frenchman, who declined to fight, declaring that his antagonist was a cannibal, who would devour him at the last course. In this neighbourhood a sanguinary conflict occurred in 845 between the Danes and Saxons, when the latter, led by a bishop of Sherborne, succeeded in driving the pirates to their ships. The church is worth a visit; it was conventual to a priory of Benedictines, seated here in early times. Near Alfoxton, on the sea-shore, is the little village of *Kilve*—Southey's "Kilve by the green sea"—where the *West Somerset foxhounds* are kennelled.

1 *Putsham*. Beyond this village the road ascends the slope of the Quantock hills, when the traveller, by a backward glance, may behold, spread over a vast distance, the hazy

levels of Bridgewater, the range of the Mendips, the cone of Brent Knoll, the glistening sea with its rocky islets of the Holmes, and the magnificent coast of Wales.

2 Here, on a spur of the hills, is *St. Audries*, seat of Sir Alexander Hood, Bart. On right is the home-park sloping to the shore, and the house, which, seated on the eastern point of Minehead bay, commands the mountainous distance of Exmoor in connection with the sea, a view most charming. l. is the deer-park, with its ferny brakes and wooded heights. The road now descends the western side of the Quantocks, unfolding the landscape in the direction of Exmoor.

3½ *Williton* (see below).

The longer road from Bridgewater to Williton runs for above 5 m. through an undulating country, passing on the l.

3½ *Halswell House*, seat of Colonel Tyute (p. 196), and rt.

½ *Enmore Castle*, formerly the property of the Earls of Egmont, and now of the family of Trevelyan; when it ascends the Quantock hills, rising to a view of the greater part of eastern Somersetshire. Having gained the summit, about 1000 ft. above the sea, it proceeds for 1½ m. on a level, running amid wild plantations of fir which sweep to the valley, and passing, on the l., *Broomfield House*, the seat of the Crosses. It then begins a very beautiful descent on the western side, where the traveller is deeply embowered in a tall beech wood, through which he sees by glimpses a dark romantic dell, and the mansion of *Cothelstone Park*, seat of E. J. Esdaile, Esq.

5 At the foot of the hill the road passes under an ivied archway, which was formerly the entrance of the manor-house of *Cothelstone*, now a farmhouse, situated to the rt. Passing through an embattled gatehouse,

the stranger stands before a gabled old building, thickly mantled with ivy, and of a singular style of architecture, the large oblong windows being formed by a series of pillars, which also on a larger scale decorate the front and entrance. Over the doorway appear the arms of Stawel. At the rear of the garden is the little parish church, in which lie the remains and monuments of the former lords of Cothelstone. The visitor will notice the fine elm by the churchyard, and the walnut-tree in the adjoining field. Further to the rt. is *Bagborough House*, a seat of the Pophams.

$\frac{3}{4}$ The road crosses a small stream which descends from *Will's Neck*, the summit of the Quantock hills, 1270 ft. above the level of the sea. The scenery on either side is delightful, particularly on the l., where there are fir-woods, and *Willet Tower* rising beyond them.

$\frac{1}{4}$ *Crowcombe* (*Inn*: Carew Arms), a romantic little village under the escarpment of the Quantocks, and so raised as to command the hilly country to the W., and that far-seen *Willet Tower*, and a straight avenue-drive to it through a wood. The place owes its neat appearance in great measure to the Carews, whose mansion of *Crowcombe Court*, and its hanging groves, appear on the rt. At the entrance from Williton the pretty creeper-bound cottages of the village are seen in connection with the dark height of *Will's Neck*.

The objects of interest here are a sculptured *cross* in the churchyard, another by the roadside, and the pictures and curiosities in the seat of the Carews.

At the gate of *Crowcombe Court* you have the *church*, with its cross, on the rt., and before you the park with its 2 old cedars and hanging woods on the hillside. A net-work of walks and drives penetrate these woods, and lead to the ferny heights of the hill by a ravine or glen, darkly

shadowed by the oak and beech, and by silver firs 12 ft. in circumference. Beneath their spreading branches enormous laurels extend their arms in every direction. Altogether there is something very mountain-like and wild in this great wood. In its deepest recesses leaps a cascade, among ruins of an arch and convent, artificial, but happily placed. The mansion is of red brick, with portico and wings, built in a semicircular form. Among the pictures and other works of art the following will be pointed out:—In the *Front Hall*: Mr. Palmer, by *Corn. Jansen*; full-lengths of Charles I. and his Queen, *Vandyck*; Sir George Carew, *Zucchero*.—The *Staircase*: the family of Erasmus, *Holbein*. The carved balustrade and the Carew arms on the ceiling will be noticed.—The *Library*: Charles II. as a child; the Duke of Richmond who volunteered to be beheaded in the place of Charles, *Vandyck*.—*Drawing-room*: Vesuvius, *G. Poussin*; Offering of the Wise Men, *Rubens*; Falls of Tivoli, *Rosa di Tivoli*; Narcissus, *N.* and *G. Poussin*; Rachel at the Well, *Carlo Maratta*; St. Agnes, *Carlo Dolce*; the Circumcision, *Leonardo da Vinci*.—*Dining-room*: a Polish general, *Rembrandt*; Sir Francis Drake, *C. Jansen*; Rembrandt, by himself; Duke of Norfolk; Nelson, author of the 'Fasts and Festivals,' *Sir Godfrey Kneller*; General Monk, *Vandyck*; Rembrandt's mother; and Miss Carew, who founded the charity for the Crowcombe boys.—*School-room*: Sir T. Carew, who built Crowcombe; his 2 wives; Sir John and Lady Wyndham, and other family portraits.—The *Oak Passage*, fitted as a museum, with stuffed birds, &c.; family portraits; cabinets and doors of carved black oak.—The *Oak Room*, entirely of carved black oak, excepting the floor and ceiling. It contains a miscellaneous collection of curiosities, and some pictures; among them 3 of Charles II.'s beauties; a Miss

Carew; and Bamfylde Carew, called the King of the Beggars. 2 pieces of tapestry—in one Solomon is represented about to divide the child. Old chairs, one decorated with the head of Henry II.

A road runs directly across the Quantocks from Crowcombe to Bridgewater, meeting the high road at Nether Stowey. The distance is about 12 m. You should ascend this road a little way for the sake of a superb prospect over the entire hill country on the border of Exmoor. The 2 twin tower hills are seen rt. and l., Dunster and Willet. The road is steep and romantic.

Will's Neck, about 2 m. S.E., is the highest summit on these hills, being 1270 ft. above the sea. Its ascent is a favourite excursion with the inhabitants of Bridgewater and Taunton.

Proceeding on our route:—

1 *Lower Halsway*. $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to the rt. is a curious manorhouse, now inhabited by a farmer. *Hurley Beacon* here raises its dark head; the slopes are finely wooded with beech and fir.

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ *Bicknoller*, between 2 gullies in the Quantock hills. If on foot climb aloft for a view; there is a small encampment on the slope, but go, if possible, to the barrow on the summit, *Thorncombe Barrow*, from which you may see on the one side the bay of Bridgewater, on the other that of Minehead, the Welsh coast, the entire front of Exmoor, and the moor itself, the whole range of the Blackdowns with the Wellington monument, and far into Devonshire. Opposite are the woods of Nettlecombe, and S. of them Willet Tower.

1 rt. at the foot of the hills, *Weacombe House*, Mrs. St. Albiu; l. the village of *Sumpford Brett*; and, away in the distance, the ranges beyond Dunster, and the huge Dunkery Beacon.

2 $\frac{1}{2}$ *Williton (Inn: Egremont Arms)*, a village of 2 long streets, in a sheltered valley under the Quantock

hills, about 2 m. from the sea. The cottages are embowered in myrtles and scarlet creepers; but there is little here to delay the traveller, the remains of 2 old crosses by the inn being the only objects of any curiosity. To the S. are seen the fir-crowned hills of *Nettlecombe Court* (p. 250), a fine ancestral place with gardens in the old style; and nearer Williton is *Orchard Wyndham*, seat of the late Earl of Egremont. In the reign of Henry II. Williton was the residence of Sir Reginald Fitz-Urse, one of the murderers of Thomas à Becket. It is a walk of 2 m., or 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ over stile and by pathway green (*over the ground*, in Somersetshire lingo), to the small but ancient seaport of *Watchet*, passing the parish church of

St. Decumans, so called from a saint who, according to the legend, crossed the sea on a cow from Wales, and here pitched his cell. It occupies a commanding point of view, and contains the monuments of the Wyndhams. Among them are a brass, dated 1371; a mural tablet, with figures in brass, of John Wyndham and his lady Florence, habited in the dress of the period, 1572, 1596; effigies of Henry and George Wyndham, 2 kneeling figures the size of life, 1613, 1624; the monument of Sir William Wyndham, 1683; and the tomb of the late Earl of Egremont, a slab of blue marble emblazoned with shields. There is also a monumental brass to which a curious tradition attaches. It is said to preserve the memory of a lady who was awakened from a trance, and restored to life by the sexton, in an attempt of that functionary to cut a jewelled ring from her finger. The roof, pulpit, screen, and pews are of carved oak; and the churchyard contains an ancient cross.

Watchet (New London Inn) is situated at the end of a pretty valley which runs obliquely to the sea; it is a mean, dirty place, with a pier, iron foundry and paper-mill, its principal

business being the transportation of iron-ore to Wales, and the importation of coal for the limekilns. On either side of it are cliffs of blood-red conglomerate, streaked by light-green bands of limestone, and, towards Blue Anchor, abounding in alabaster, which is collected and ground for cement in a mill at Wilton. The shore is flat, but rocky. In early times this little town suffered much from the attacks of the Danes, who on more than one occasion burnt it and destroyed the inhabitants. In 1856 it was the scene of "turning the first sod" of a railway to the Brendon hills, a line intended for the conveyance of the iron-ore. It is to be $13\frac{1}{2}$ m. in length, and constructed at an expense of about 4000*l.* a mile.

The road along the coast from Watchet to Blue Anchor, 2 m., commands the most beautiful views of the hilly country in the interior.

Proceeding on our route:—

2 *Washford*, a village at the junction of 2 roads from Taunton, both 18 m. l., a gunshot from the signpost, are the ruins of

Cleeve Abbey, founded for Cistercian monks by Wm. de Romana, E. of Lincoln, in the reign of Hen. II. They are situated in a valley, called in old records Vallis Florida, the Flowery Vale, on the stream which flows to the sea at Watchet. Passing through a gatehouse, which bears an inscription in an early character, the stranger stands among dilapidated walls and arches, partly incorporated with the buildings of a farm, a huge sycamore and walnut-tree springing from what was formerly the court of the monastery. He will be shown the *refectory*, now a cider-house, with curiously carved oaken roof, elegant windows, huge fireplace, and remains of paintings in distemper; the *kitchen*, now a beer-cellar; the *dormitory*, now a barn, with arched entrance of very intricate construction; and lastly, the *cloister*, with its singularly-shaped

arches. The ruin is now the property of John Halliday, Esq., of *Old Cleeve*.

rt. a shady lane leads to *Blue Anchor*, once the route of pilgrims to our *Lady's Chapel of Cleeve*, a shrine much frequented in early times by devotees. The remains of a cross for their guidance will be passed midway between Washford and the church of

Old Cleeve, an ancient building, bearing every mark of antiquity, the floor slanting upward from the tower to the chancel. In the churchyard stands another old cross in a fair state of preservation. The site of the chapel, of which some fragments still exist (as well as portions of a house of the 14th cent.), is nearer

Blue Anchor (Blue Anchor Hotel), one of the smallest of watering-places, seated on rising ground by the side of the salt marsh which extends to Minehead. It commands one of the most beautiful prospects in the county, and for this reason should be visited by travellers who find their way to Dunster or Minehead. Around the alluvial plain to the W. of it the hilly ranges circle in amphitheatrical order, wild and heather-covered, sweeping in undulating outline from Minehead to the Quantocks. In advance of them rises the tower-crowned cone of Dunster, and through the vista of the valley of Avill looms the giant Dunkery.

The shore here is interesting. To the E. is a remarkable headland of a dull green colour, intersected in every direction by ramifying lines of alabaster. Both in form and colour it bears some resemblance to a berg of Polar ice. The strata are curved and contorted, and, dipping to the sea, have become caverned in a singular manner. They overlie the new red sandstone, which appears again within $\frac{1}{2}$ m. of Watchet. The alabaster occurs in irregular veins, either white or of a cornelian red.

It is largely collected and ground for cement. The sea here retires for a long distance, and at low water spring-tides exposes the fossil remains of a submerged forest. Compressed Ammonites, having the iridescent naere, may be found on the beach.

A road runs direct from Blue Anchor to Dunster $3\frac{1}{2}$ m.

Proceeding again from Washford, we pass through a rich and wooded country.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ l. *Sandhill*, built in 1588, formerly the residence of a branch of the Escott family, but now a farmhouse.

1 *Carhampton*, where the old church is worth inspection. It contains a screen, and the churchyard some ancient tombs, and remains of a cross. Beyond this village the traveller will view with delight the glens and wild hills on the l. A steep ascent by the side of Dunster Tor brings him to

3 *Dunster (Inn: Luttrell Arms)*, a characteristic specimen of an old English town, with its dilapidated market-cross, and ivied castle closing the vista of the street. It is extremely ancient, as may be gathered from its appearance. The West Saxon kings had a fortress here, which they denominated the *torre* or tower; to this name the word *dune* was afterwards prefixed, signifying the tower or castle on the hill, and hence, by a slight alteration, came the present name Dunster.

Dunster is seated on an eminence in the midst of the most beautiful scenery in Somersetshire, so that a stranger may well amuse himself here for some days by exploring the neighbourhood. The chief points of interest are the castle and its park, the view from Grabhurst Hill, the ruins of Clevee Abbey, Blue Anchor, Minehead, Porlock, Culbone, and Dunkery Beacon. The fisherman will find in the little river *Hone* trout and eels, and near the sea

salmon and mullet. In the town are some noticeable buildings.

The *inn* claims attention not only as a good house, but as an exceedingly old one. It is, in fact, believed to have been at one time attached to the priory founded here shortly after the Conquest by the family of Mohun. The landlady will show you a carved ceiling in the commercial-room, an emblazoned escutcheon of the Luttrells in an upper chamber, and in one of the bedrooms a chimney-piece richly ornamented with sculptures, representing 2 full-length female figures dressed in the style of Elizabeth, the fable of Actæon, coats of arms, and other devices. At the back of the house are remains of a chapel, in the kitchen a huge fireplace, and on the hill beyond the garden the earthworks thrown up by the Parliamentary army during the siege of the castle.

The *church*, a remarkably large Gothic structure, appears from its architecture to have been built about the end of the reign of Henry V., or early in that of his successor. It consists of a nave, transept, chancel, and tower 90 ft. high; but the chancel was separated from the rest of the building as early as 1499, in consequence of a dispute between the monks and parishioners, and has been long closed and neglected. Within it, however, are the monuments of the Mohuns and Luttrells. "By the law of England," says Mr. Parker, "the chancel is distinct from the church, and each has to be kept in repair by a different party. Hence hundreds of chancels were destroyed at the Reformation to save expense." The visitor will notice the screen of black oak which crosses the nave, and in the transept the eccentric horse-shoe arch and oaken gates, through which he may obtain a glimpse of the old chancel and its mouldering effigies of ladies in antique dress, and knights sleeping in their armour. In the churchyard are remains of a

cross, and in the buildings of the adjoining farm some fragments of the *priory*, founded for Benedictine monks by Sir William de Mohun, in the reign of the Conqueror. It was dedicated to St. George, and annexed as a cell to the abbey of St. Peter at Bath.

The *Yarn Market*, a crazy old structure of wood, recalls the time when Dunster was of importance for the manufacture of kerseymeres, which are mentioned in an act of Parliament of James I., under the name of "Dunsters." One of the timbers of the building has been pierced by a cannon-shot from the castle.

Dunster Castle may be seen during the absence of the family; the grounds on any week day. This ancient seat of the Mohuns, and of the Luttrells from the reign of Henry VII., crowns the Tor where it slopes to the valley of Avill, in full view of the wild height of Grabhurst, of the seacoast, and of the beautiful Castle park. Its foundation dates from a time before the Conqueror, in whose reign it was rebuilt by the first William de Mohun; but of the Norman structure the iron-studded door and ruinous tower at the entrance are the only remains. The present edifice was erected in 1580, the time of Elizabeth, excepting the great gateway, which is as old as Edward III. The chief events which have passed here are the capture of the castle by the Marquis of Hertford in 1643; the visit of Charles II., when Colonel Wyndham was the governor; the subsequent successful siege by Blake; and the confinement here of William Prynne, member of the Long Parliament, by Cromwell, 1648.

Passing through the gatehouse, the visitor—noting by the way the Norman door and flanking tower on the rt.—will be conducted to the terrace at the back of the castle, where his attention will be drawn to a remarkable lemon-tree trained against the

[*W. D. & S.*]

wall, and bearing fruit in great plenty; and to the yew hedge, some 50 ft. high, through a gap of which is seen a little bridge, and "bit" of sparkling stream. He will then be led by a circling walk to the summit of the wooded knoll on which the keep stood, now a bowling-green. Hence, through embrasure-like openings in the trees, are beheld a series of enchanting views: through one, the town of Minehead and its hills; through another Blue Anchor, the rocky islets of the Holmes, and a distance of Welsh mountain; a third will show you the glens and straggling oaks of the park; and a fourth, the valley of Avill in long perspective to the brown sides of Dunkery. Around the wooded hill are numerous shady walks which here and there give a peep through a gap of a glittering eddy in the stream, or the wheel of a water-mill. In the castle itself the chief things to be seen are the *hall*, with portrait of Cromwell by *Vandyck*, and a picture of Sir John Luttrell (temp. Henry VIII.) saving the lady of his love from drowning; the *great staircase*, with its curious carving; Charles II.'s room; and the ancient pictures on leather, painted in imitation of tapestry—the subject Antony and Cleopatra. Leather hangings were in vogue in the middle ages, and Waagen informs us that the so-called Titians at Blenheim are painted on leather. Among some stuffed specimens of birds in the castle are a white rook, and a blackbird spotted grey by age. On the lawn there is an excellent echo, which will 3 times repeat the blast of a bugle horn.

The *park* is of 69 acres, affording scope for an extensive ramble. It occupies one of the rough hills here descending in numberless knolls to the lower country. This, with good taste, has been allowed to remain as nature formed it, innocent of hedges. Its sides are wrinkled by dingles and glens, and in these grow irregular

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woods of oak, which scatter as they ascend the heights. Nearer the castle screens of timber are hung as it were upon the lower eminences. A walk to the old Roman camp on *Gallows Hill*, or further to *Batt's Castle*, on *Croydon Hill*, should be an object with every one. The way lies through the deer-park up a rugged hollow by the side of a brook. The view embraces the great offshoots of Exmoor, the Quantock hills, and the coast both of Somerset and Wales. Grabhurst lies to the W. and S., the woods about Luxborough, and the dark ridge of Brendon, 1210 ft. above the sea. On Croydon are several *hut circles* or remains of ancient British habitations.

Grabhurst Hill is a loftier but more handy perch for the study of this glorious landscape. It rises immediately from Dunster, to a height of 908 ft., the Tor and Conygar being the steps which lead up to it. From the turnpike on the Timberscombe road there is a path to the summit, where, seated on the heather, you may feast your eyes on the grand Dunkery, the azure sea, and distant coast, or on the beautiful undulating lines of the park and adjoining hills. On the southern slope are remains of terraces, on which stood the racks for drying the cloth, or "Dunsters," formerly made in this neighbourhood. The name Grabhurst signifies the entrenched wood. Deep on the S.W. side of this hill, about 3 m. from Dunster, is *Wootton Courtenay*, a village so named from the noble family who possessed it of old, and of interest for the beauty of its position and the antiquity of its church. The pillars separating nave and aisle are ornamented with sculptured figures; the font also is very ancient, and the churchyard has its cross and venerable yew-tree. S. of Grabhurst lies *Timberscombe* (pronounced Immercombe) and its manorhouse of *Bickham*.

Conygar Hill, the far-seen landmark of Dunster, is another point of view for the consideration of the traveller. In itself it is a beautiful object—a pyramid of foliage, jutting into the marshes, and crowned by the picturesque shell of a tower. This was erected as a prospect-house by one of the Luttrells, and, occupying so prominent a position, is a well-known sea-mark. Conygar is supposed by Mr. Savage (in his 'History of Carhampton') to be derived from *cyning garas*, the king's house; but it is not an uncommon name, and may be a corruption of *Cuning-gaer*, British for a rabbit-warren, the usual appendage of a country mansion in the olden time.

From Dunster to Dulverton, 14 m., is one of the most romantic drives in the county. The road passes through deep valleys hung with wood, and for some distance along the banks of the Exe.

Leaving Dunster on our route, we descend the flank of Conygar, and, resuming the high road, soon open to view the ancient port of

2½ *Minehead*, commonly pronounced *Minyard* (*Inns*: Duke of Wellington H.; Feathers H.), seated upon a promontory called *Greenaleigh*, 690 ft. high, the E. point of a wild range of hills extending along the coast to Porlock. This town consists of 3 detached parts, the *Upper Town* on the hill, the *Lower Town*, and the *Quay Town*, the last ¼ m. distant from the inn by an elm-shaded road along the shore. Minehead in times past had a considerable trade, particularly in the export of woollen goods and of herrings to the Mediterranean; and from the former it derived its arms, a ship under sail and a woolpack. At the present day it is of no mercantile consequence, but a pleasant little watering-place, the neighbourhood being beautiful beyond measure, and the climate mild, in proof of which the tender myrtle here flourishes in the open air.

The "sight-seeing" of the traveller is here chiefly confined to a visit to the quay, and to a point of view on the brow of Greenaleigh. Other objects of some interest are the *Feathers inn*, as an old house, with antique fireplace in the commercial-room, and the

Church, in the Upper Town, as containing a monument, supposed to be that of *Bracton*, the famous lawyer, who was born in this neighbourhood; and a statue of Queen Anne, in alabaster, presented to Minehead by Sir Jacob Banks, 1719, M.P. for this borough for 16 years. The church is dedicated to St. Michael, who appears in a niche of the tower. The font is old and curious, and in the churchyard is an ancient stone *cross* on steps. *Bracton's* monument bears a robed effigy. Some years ago the tomb was opened, and a skeleton found in it, the skull of which had 2 rows of upper teeth, one within the other.

Henry de Bracton, judge in the reign of Henry III., but chiefly distinguished by his treatise on the Common Law of England, was born at *Bratton Court*, about 1 m. W. of Minehead, where his family had resided for many generations. The house is an old timbered quadrangular mansion, now partly modernised; but the "Judge's chamber," traditionally said to have been *Bracton's* study, is still pointed out over the gateway.

The visitor to Minehead should ascend the hill above the upper town. W. are seen Dunkery Beacon and the mountainous coast towards Porlock; S. the heathery hills of Brendon and Grabhurst, and near at hand the beautiful cone of Dunster; E. the Quantock Hills and the coasts of Somerset and Wales, and the rocky islets of the Holmes dotting the white waters of the Bristol Channel.

Excursions may be made to Porlock, Culbone, Dunster, Blue An-

chor, and the ruins of Cleeve Abbey. Those who find delight in the scenery of a wild coast should betake themselves over *North Hill* to Porlock. This range of high land attains an elevation of 1059 ft., and descends in long slopes to a desolate beach. About midway are *Myne Rocks*, a well-known retreat of foxes, and at the W. end *Bossington Beacon*, 801 ft. above the sea. In Watchet Bay, E. of Minehead, abundant remains of a fossil forest are exposed in low spring-tides.

Proceeding again on his route, the traveller will find the drive from Minehead to Porlock one of the most beautiful in all Somersetshire. On each side of the road rise hills of varied outline, wildly decked with heaths and ferns, and other plants peculiar to such highlands; whilst the rugged valley charms by its abundant woods, delightfully grouped over broken ground, and mingled with cornfields. Cottages and homesteads here and there peep through the trees with a gabled roof or latticed window, and the hedgerows glitter with the scarlet berries of the holly, which abounds throughout the district.

1½ rt. under *North Hill*, *Bratton Court*, the birthplace of *Bracton*; 1. *Heyden Down*, from which a view may be obtained of Minehead on the one side, and of Porlock on the other.

2½ *Holnicote*, a hamlet of pretty creeper-bound cottages, deriving its name from *holegn* or *holen*, Anglo-Saxon for the holly. 1. the park of *Holnicote*, Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, Bart., of which the mansion was burnt in 1799. Its timbered slopes are seen in connection with the huge side of Dunkery, and a middle distance of hollow, wooded glens. Let no artist sleep over this part of the road. rt. ½ m. at the entrance of a deep nook among the hills lies the little village of *Selworthy*, a fitting subject for the pencil. A stream flows through it on a rocky path; and above it, on

the western hill, are the ramparts of an ancient camp called *Bury Castle*. In the churchyard stands a cross of stone.

From Holnicote, passing *Brandy Street*, another hamlet, embowered by the rose and woodbine, the traveller descends into the vale of Porlock, and soon crosses a mountain stream, the *Horner*, which flows from Dunkery by a romantic valley. It is a wild, noisy spirit, so named from the British *hurner*, the Snorer.

2 *Porlock (Inn: Ship)*. Here we have reached a charming little village, where we may well be content to bide a time at the inn, a humble but most hospitable house, its entrance garnished with the antlers of the red deer. It has entertained among its guests the poet Southey, who here,

"By the unwelcome summer rain confined,"
composed a sonnet by the alehouse fire.

"Porlock! thy verdant vale, so fair to sight,
Thy lofty hills which fern and furze
embrown,
Thy waters that roll musically down
Thy woody glens, the traveller with
delight
Recalls to memory."

Porlock, the "enclosed port," its Anglo-Saxon signification, stands in a fertile vale about 1 m. from the sea, in an amphitheatrè of hills, formed by the dark masses of Exmoor. It is a picturesque village; its thatched cottages bound by the rose and myrtle, and washed by the rapid waters of a stream which issues from a gorge in Dunkery. In Saxon times it had a chace, and was considered a town of some importance, and on more than one occasion it was selected by the Danes for plunder. In 1052 it was the scene of a more serious inroad, when Harold, Earl of Essex, having been banished to Ireland, collected a large force, with which he landed here and formed a camp. He then ravaged the neighbourhood, but being

alarmed at the approach of the king, set fire to the town and sailed away. The remains of his camp may be seen S. of the church.

Porlock gives name to a breed of small sheep, whose pretty horned heads would charm the eye of a Cooper, as they are seen amongst the heather on the hills.

The church, an old weather-worn building, with mutilated slate spire, possesses a grand old monument of a knight and his lady, the knight represented "in complete armour, with a military belt and sword, and wearing a curious cap over his helmet, and a richly sculptured garland, composed of grapes and vine leaves; the lady in a close bodice, with a loose robe over it, and a kind of mitred head-dress, very richly ornamented in imitation of lace." Another monument, apparently of a crusader, is supposed to represent Sir Simon Fitz Roges, Knt., lord of the manor of Porlock in the reign of Richard I. The churchyard contains the broken shaft of a cross, and a venerable yew-tree surrounded by a seat. A common country epitaph illustrates a peculiarity of the Somersetshire dialect:—

"As us am, so must you be,
Therefore prepare to follow we."

1½ m. distant is the port or *Quay* where the little trade of the place is carried on. A grassy flat intervenes between the village and the shore, and on either side of this plain rise imposing hills; that of *Bossington*, to the E., is one of the most beautiful in the W. of England.

The excursions to be made from Porlock are to the summits of Dunkery Beacon and Bossington Hill, and to the romantic hamlet of Culbone by Ashley Combe. A person remaining here any time should also explore the glens under Exmoor, the courses of the Horner and other wild streams.

Dunkery Beacon, the most elevated point of Exmoor and of Somerset-

shire, rises at once from the vale of Porlock to a height of 1668 ft. above the sea, commanding a view which should be an object with every visitor to this neighbourhood. It is a dark, brown moorland hill, whose heathery slopes, free of rocks, offer little impediment to its ascent, which may be accomplished in a walk of about 4 m. from Porlock, by the hamlet of *Horner*, or by the remote little village of *Stoke Pero*. On the summit are remains of the hearths in which beacon-fires were formerly kindled, and which might have spread an alarm from the heights of Plymouth to those of the Malvern hills in Worcestershire, for both these points, although 200 m. apart, are visible from Dunkery on a clear day. The horizon of this noble prospect has been calculated as 500 m., and as including in its panorama no less than 15 counties. Its leading features are the highlands hence to Lynton, distant Dartmoor, the Quantock and Mendip hills, the Bristol Channel, and the long mountain ranges of Wales. By a walk across the moor you may descend from this airy perch upon Culbone or Ashley Combe, and so return to Porlock.

Bossington Beacon is the ridge bounding Porlock Bay on the E. It is 801 ft. above the sea, and owes its exceeding beauty in great measure to the good taste of its proprietor, Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, who has planted it with irregular woods of fir, not marshalled into line by fences, but scattered over the hill with the genuine feeling of an artist. If pressed for time the traveller should give the preference to Bossington over Dunkery, for the view from it is certainly the more beautiful of the two. He should walk to it through *Bossington*, 1 m. distant, a hamlet so called from its vicinity to Exmoor, the name meaning the Forest Town. In this little hamlet are rare scenes for the painter—a swift stream, rude old

cottages, an antique village tree, and as background the hill-side with its patches of fern, its purple gullies of stones, its dark-green furze crofts, and waving woods. Along the summit of the Beacon are numerous paths, here and there provided with seats, of which some are cut from the living rock, and from these the visitor may enjoy at his leisure the marvellous beauty of the prospect. The entire sea-front of Exmoor lies in view to its termination at the Lynmouth Foreland—at one time of a dark blue, at another partially veiled by the light mists from the ocean. Nearer at hand are the wooded glens below Dunkery, with a stream glittering in one of them; and above all the huge Beacon with its dark-brown sides. At the end of the hill, called *Orestone Point*, a craggy pathway descends to the beach, where the rocks are on a grand scale, and the strata curiously contorted. At the spot where you reach the shore there is a singularly-shaped cavern formed in a curved cliff of slate.

To *Culbone* 3 m., a hamlet placed like a nest in a nook of the coast. From Porlock Quay the road to it is equally romantic—a horse-path, now passable for carriages as far as Culbone, running midway along the steep slopes which descend to the sea, and throughout its course densely enveloped with coppice-wood. In 2 m. it reaches *Ashley Combe*, a summer residence of the Earl of Lovelace, perched as it were upon a narrow shelf, in full view of Porlock bay and the Welsh coast. An opening will here admit you to a glen which is terminated by a most imposing amphitheatre chiselled in the moor-side by 5 streams which rattle down its heathery slopes. Another m. from Ashley Combe brings the traveller to Culbone, where a rivulet, in the course of time, has scooped a hollow in the hill. Deep in this recess hides the coy little hamlet,

3 rustic cottages, and a tiny Gothic church, "situated," says Warner, "in as extraordinary a spot as man, in his whimsicality, ever fixed on for a place of worship." The little plain on which it stands is not above $\frac{1}{4}$ acre in extent; it is 400 ft. above the beach, and on either side hemmed in by dark wooded hills, which tower to a height of 1200 ft. A road ascends from it to the moor, by which, if willing to prolong the excursion, you can return to Porlock. Culbone is so called after its patron saint; in early times it was known as *Kitmore* or *Kytenore*, which signified the caverns or hiding-places on the sea-shore.

From Porlock to Lynton the traveller has the choice of 2 roads, the high road over the moor, and the romantic horse-path which runs midway along the slopes of the coast from Porlock Quay to Countesbury, a village 2 m. short of Lynton. The latter passes by Culbone and Glenthorne, and in and out of many a pretty dingle, threading for the greater part of the distance a dense oak coppice. It is called a horse-path, but a rider must have good nerves for the journey.

By a new road from the quay we ascend *Porlock Hill* into the moor—a hill by the old road, steep in places as a house-roof, and commanding a view which some travellers have considered the finest in the W. of England. Having gained the summit we must bid adieu to cultivation, and prepare to face the winds of an unsheltered waste, on which for many a mile runs the road at an elevation of some 1100 ft. above the sea.

7 Here, on the dark moor, we reach the boundary of Devon and Somerset, a fence and a gate intended to keep the half-wild sheep and ponies in their respective counties. rt. on the summit of a hill is seen the camp of *Oldbarrow*, one of the most perfect

in Devonshire, and far below it, in a deep dell by the sea,

Glenthorne, the romantic residence of the Rev. Walter Halliday. By many a complicated zigzag a road descends to this charming retreat, where, some 50 ft. above the shore, we find a house and gardens embosomed in woods, which rise above them on the slopes to a height of 1100 ft. E. of the house a path and stream descend by a shadowy dingle to the beach, and a labyrinth of walks track the hill-side among rocks and old oaks, many of the trees twisted in fanciful shapes, and one in particular forming an archway over the path. The house, which is occasionally shown to strangers, contains many curiosities—antiquities from Greece and Italy, a collection of armour, rare cabinets, and among some pictures the *Spectre Ship*, by *Severn*, in illustration of Coleridge's 'Ancient Mariner.' In the servants'-hall there is a fireplace which belonged to Cardinal Wolsey, and on *Palermo Point*, above the house, a group of marbles from Athens and Corinth.

3 *Countesbury*. 1. beyond this wild hamlet are the ramparts of an ancient camp commanding the ravine of *Waters' Meet*. The road now rapidly descends towards the gorge of *Lyn-dale*.

1½ *Lynmouth* (*Inn*: *Lyndale Hotel*), above which lies its sister town,

Lynton (*Inns*: *Castle Hotel*; *Valley of Rocks Hotel*; *Globe Inn*), far celebrated watering-places, which are fully described in the *Handbook for Devon and Cornwall*. It will be sufficient here to repeat the chief points of interest in this delightful neighbourhood, viz.:—

1 *Lyndale, Valley of Rocks, Lee Abbey, Lee Bay.*

2 *Valley of the W. Lyn.*

3 *Heddon's Mouth.*

4 *Simonsbath.*

5 *Brendon Valley.*

6 *Glenthorne; path along the Ex-moor coast.*

7 *Porlock, Bossington Hill, Dunkery Beacon, Culbone.*

Of these *Simonsbath* is the only one in Somersetshire which has not yet been described, and this may be included in a brief account of

Exmoor, which our route has now traversed from *Porlock* to *Lynton*. This highland district occupies an area of about 14 square m., and is still to a great extent uncultivated—a waste of dark hills and valleys tracked by lonely streams. It attains its greatest elevation on the E., where *Dunkery Beacon* rises 1668 ft. above the sea; but on the W. its hills are of little inferior height, *Chapman Barrows* being 1540 ft., and *Span Head* 1610 ft. On its borders it is pierced by deep wooded ravines, of which the traveller has a magnificent example in *Lyndale*. The central part of this region, about 20,000 acres, formed the ancient *Forest of Exmoor*, for which an Act of enclosure was obtained in 1815, when it was purchased by the late John Knight, Esq., of *Wolverley Hall*, *Worcestershire*, who proposed converting it to a less interesting but more profitable land of meadows. With this object he encircled the whole forest with a ring fence, and commenced building a castellated mansion at *Simonsbath*, but this he soon found occasion to abandon, together with many of his projected improvements, for the speculation proved anything but a golden adventure. A considerable acreage has, however, been brought under cultivation, and this is now leased in separate farms by the proprietor of the forest, Mr. Frederick Knight, the principal drawbacks to success being the strong winds and chilly mists which prevail in so elevated a district. The soil is in general of a fair quality, although the hard sandstones below the surface, being little liable to decompose, are somewhat unfavourable to fertility. Extensive tracts, however, still remain both in the forest and

surrounding highlands in a state of nature, delighting the eye by the grandeur of their unbroken outline, and the rich beauty of their colour; and here, over slopes of heather, interspersed with the dwarf-juniper, cranberry, and whortleberry, roams the “*Exmoor pony*,” a breed of the native English horse, carefully preserved by Sir Thomas Acland, and the red forest-deer, which still makes its lair in the extensive covers on the moor side. Since the year 1841 the farms have been chiefly under the management of Mr. Robert Smith, the resident agent of Mr. Frederick Knight, and under his superintendence upwards of 4000 acres have been let on lease, in addition to the land previously occupied. The water-meadows made by this gentleman are particularly worth the attention of those interested in agriculture. But the farmer is now likely to be driven by the miner from his settlement on *Exmoor*. In 1851 a specimen of the white carb. of iron was sent by Mr. R. Smith to the Great Exhibition. Its value suggested the expediency of a further search, and this led to the discovery of abundant iron-lodes, including the hæmatites and other ores hitherto supposed peculiar to *Staffordshire* and *Wales*. Large districts of the moor are now in the hands of 3 of the principal iron companies in the kingdom, viz. the *Ulverstone* of *Lancashire*, and the *Dowlais* and *Plymouth* of *S. Wales*. Their steam-machinery is expected to raise about 300,000 tons of iron-ore annually. Two lines for a mineral railway have been surveyed, the one to *Porlock*, the other to *Lynton*, but it is not yet determined which will be adopted. A new district ch., erected principally through the exertions of Mr. Knight, was consecrated 1856.

Simonsbath, the seat of Frederick Knight, Esq., may be visited from *Lynton*, or in a walk across the moor from *Dulverton* to *Lynton*, the inducement to the trip being the

romantic wildness of the scenery. The house is situated in the centre of the forest, on the Barle, a tributary to the Exe, 9 m. from Lynton. The traveller leaves that town by the grand defile of Lyndale, ascending into the moor from Ilford Bridges. Arrived in the upper region he will observe to the rt. the hills in which the Exe and Barle have their fountains, and in whose vicinity are the morasses called the *Black Pits*, and *Mole's Chamber* (now cultivated), the last so named from an unfortunate farmer who was lost in it with his horse when hunting. He will proceed along a good and easy road to the entrance of the forest at the *double gates*, across the road, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. beyond it in a most desolate part of the moor, cross the head waters of the Exe, here draining from a bog called the *Chains*. In another $\frac{1}{2}$ m. he will open to view the valley of the Barle, and begin the long descent upon Simonsbath, the ruinous wall and flanking towers commenced by Mr. Knight skirting the road on the l. Simonsbath he will find a most romantic spot—a solitary settlement in a moorland valley, encircled by some fine old trees, originally planted as shelter to a rough house of entertainment which formerly stood here. The place consists of Mr. Knight's unfinished mansion, now a picturesque ruin, a small house adjoining it, occupied occasionally as a residence by the present lord of Exmoor, a humble inn, and various outbuildings, including the shop of a blacksmith, the yard of a carpenter, and the store of a general dealer. In front the ground slopes to the Barle, whose foaming waters may be traced for some distance, glittering in a vista formed by wild heathy hills; and in the bed of this stream lies the original *Simon's Bath*, a deep pool, in which, according to the legend, a noted outlaw, once the terror of these moors, was accus-

tomed to disport himself. From this central point Mr. Knight, at great expense, cut roads across the forest, E. to Red Deer, 2 m., and Exford 5 m., W. to South Molton 11 m., N. to Challacombe 6 m., and to Lynton 9 m. By ascending for a short distance the hill towards Red Deer, you may gain a fine view of the dark walls of the ruin, which are seen from it to advantage rising among the trees.

The pedestrian—who will find his reward in longer excursions over the wild country of Exmoor—may be advised of the following walk, which is recommended in a charming little volume prettily named 'Ferry Combes' (1856). To *Simonsbath*, and thence down the Barle to Landacre Bridge and *Withypool* (*Inn*: Royal Oak); and further down the stream (about 5 m.), between hills wild and bare on the one side, beautifully wooded on the other, to *Tor's Steps* (perhaps *Thor's Steps*), an ancient British bridge formed of huge blocks of stone, fixed as piers and pathway. Then across the hill to *Winsford* (a very good inn); and by a lane just wide enough for a small carriage, to *Exford*; from which a road leads to the top of Porlock Hill.

ROUTE 36.

BRIDGEWATER TO WELLS, BY GLASTONBURY.

Bridgewater (Rte. 27). From this town the road to Glastonbury runs

in a direct line towards *Polden Hill*, across *Sedgemoor* (p. 195).

1½ rt. *Chedzoy* the head-quarters of *Fairfax*, when besieging *Bridgewater*.

1 *Crandon Bridge*, and beyond it *Knoll Inn*, where the traveller commences the long ascent of *Cock Hill*, soon opening to view *Bridgewater* and the *Quantocks*.

1½ l. are seen the church and village of *Cossington*, and a peep of the *Mendips*.

1 *Chilton Priory*, a quaint little museum occupying a fine point of view. It is described in p. 195. The views rt. and l. are exceedingly beautiful. The steep sides of the ridge slant directly from the road, exposing on the rt. the flats of *Sedgemoor* and the heights of the *Quantock* and *Blackdown* hills; on the l. the entire range of the *Mendips*, *Brent Knoll*, and the sea.

3½ l. *Shapwick Stat.*, on the *Glastonbury* branch-line; *Shapwick House*, *George Warry, Esq.*, and a road to *Chedder*. rt. to *Langport*. Our route here begins to descend from the long ridge of *Polden*.

1 *Ashcot*.

½ *Piper's Inn*, prettily situated at the head of a vale, through which you obtain your first view of *Glastonbury Tor*. The country is well wooded.

1 *Walton*. At the turnpike a lane on the l. leads to *Sharpham* (p. 223).

1 *Street* (Rte. 31). Beyond this village we cross the river *Brue*, and in full view of the astonishing *Tor* enter the monkish old town of

2 *Glastonbury* (Rte. 31). For the remainder of this route see Rte. 31.

ROUTE 37.

TAUNTON TO MINEHEAD, BY MONKSILVER.

Taunton (Rte. 27). The new road from this town to *Dunster* and *Minehead* runs by *Crowcombe* and *Williton*, and is identical from *Bishop's Lydeard* with Rte. 35. The present Route is the old road.

1 rt. *Pyrland*, seat of *Sir William Walter Yea, Bart.*

4 rt. *Bishop's Lydeard*, a village coloured blood-red by the soil. It is remarkable for its church-tower, a very beautiful specimen of the *Perp.* of Hen. VII., consisting of 4 stories, which are surmounted by a pierced parapet. It has, however, some appearance of top-heaviness, in consequence of the lantern rising above the buttresses. In the churchyard are 2 sculptured crosses. This is the vicarage of the *Rev. F. Warre*, author of several excellent papers in the *Proceedings of the Som. Archæol. and Nat. Hist. Soc.* 2 m. towards *Bridgewater*, at the foot of the richly wooded *Quantock Hills*, are the interesting remains of the ancient manorhouse of *Cothelstone*, and the modern mansion of that name, seat of *E. J. Esdaile, Esq.* (Rte. 35).

½ rt. *Watts House*, *Mrs. Winter*. l. *Sandhill Park*, *Sir John H. Lethbridge, Bart.*

1 rt. *Combe Flory*, from 1828 the living of the celebrated wit *Sydney Smith*, who made the parsonage one of the most delightful of residences. "He carried his system of furnishing for gaiety," writes *Lady Holland*, "even to the dress of his books, which were not brown, dark, dull-looking volumes, but all in the brightest bindings." The open windows admitted "a blaze of sunshine and flowers," and commanded a view of a pretty valley and a wood which was traversed by paths. Here the ingenious *Sydney* would entertain his *London* friends with many a

pleasant device. On one occasion he called in art to aid nature, hanging oranges on the shrubs in the drive and garden. "The stratagem succeeded admirably, and great was his exultation when an unlucky urchin from the village was detected in the act of sucking one through a quill. It was as good, he said, as the birds pecking at Zeuxis' grapes. At another time, on a lady happening to hint that the pretty paddock would be improved by deer, he fitted his 2 donkeys with antlers, and placed them immediately in front of the windows." Sydney Smith deserves to be remembered as much for his writings in the cause of social and political reform, as for his inimitable humour.

1½ rt. *Lydeard St. Lawrence*, in a beautiful position, commanding a fine view of the dark Quantock Hills, and in particular of *Will's Neck*, the highest point of the range, 1270 ft. above the level of the sea. 1. are the great offshoots of Exmoor. This village was the birthplace of *Thomas Manton*, a learned writer and non-conformist divine, whose works fill 5 vols. fol., b. 1620.

1½ l. *Tolland*, and S. of it *Gaulden Farm*, a curious old manorhouse.

1 Here the road passes along the flank of a fir-covered knoll, an outlier of *Brendon Hill*, crowned by *Willet Tower*, a conspicuous object from many distant parts of the county. On the W. point of *Brendon Hill* is a British camp called *Ellworthy Barrows*. This range attains a height of 1210 ft. above the sea, and has lately acquired importance by the discovery in it of a valuable vein of carbonate of iron, a mineral employed in the manufacture of steel, and hitherto obtained chiefly from Silesia. The lode is now worked by the *Ebbw Vale Company*, who are constructing a railway to *Watchet*.

1½ rt. 1 m. *Stogumber*. In the church is a stone pulpit and a grand old tomb to *Sir George Sydenham*,

with his effigy and those of his 2 wives; in the churchyard an ancient cross. *Stogumber ale* is famous throughout *Somersetshire*.

1¼ *Monksilver*. To the 1.1 m. are the park and gardens of *Nettlecombe*, seat of *Sir W. C. Trevelyan, Bart.* This is a fine ancestral place, and contains many curiosities, such as an original grant of *Nettlecombe* in the reign of *Hen. II.*, and a miniature portrait of *Charles I.* worked with his own hair. An oak in the park measures 17 ft. in circumference near the ground. *Leighland Chapel*, farther W., in a romantic dell, by *Treborough*, was formerly attached to the abbey of *Old Cleeve*.

1¼ rt. *Orchard Wyndham*, seat of the late *Earl of Egremont*.

2 *Washford*, and at its entrance the remains of *Cleeve Abbey* (p. 239). The road from *Washford* to *Minehead* is described in *Rte. 35*.

ROUTE 38.

TAUNTON TO DULVERTON, BY MILVERTON, WIVELISCOMBE, AND BAMPTON.

Taunton (*Rte. 27*). For the first 5 m. this road runs in the vicinity of the river *Tone* and its tributaries. It passes through a superb country between *Milverton* and the border of *Devonshire*, and again between *Bampton* and *Dulverton*.

7½ *Milverton* (*Inn: White Hart*), a small but ancient market town in a deep combe or dell, the church, dedicated to *St. Michael*, on an emi-

nence overlooking it. W. are high and steep hills, mostly cultivated to their summits. Milverton is a place of little note now, except for beauty of position, but it had once a considerable business in the woollen trade. It was the birthplace of *John de Milverton*, a furious opponent of the doctrines of Wickliff, died 1480, and of *Dr. Thomas Young*, born 1773, who first established the undulatory theory of light, and first penetrated the obscurity of the Egyptian Hieroglyphics.

The old *market-cross* is a picturesque object; and the *churchyard* a fine point of view, commanding the Quantock Hills and the outliers of Exmoor. You will observe in it the rudely sculptured pediment of a cross. On one of the benches of the ch. are carved the arms of Hen. VIII.

Wellington Road, 4 m., is the nearest railway stat., and the lane to it one of the prettiest in the county, particularly where it passes through a rocky cutting by *Chipleigh Park* (p. 202), 1½ m. from Milverton.

Proceeding towards Wiveliscombe we dive into a valley encompassed by huge hills of various forms, one covered by a dense wood of firs.

2 rt. *Castle Hill*, the site of a Roman camp, the traces of which are now concealed by trees.

1 *Wiveliscombe*, commonly pronounced *Wilscombe* (*Inns*: Lion; Bell). This is a market town of some size in a remote situation among swelling hills, on one of which it hangs, with its feet in a valley. It derives its pretty name from the Saxons, who, according to the tradition, built it when driven from the *Castle Hill* by the Danes, a hill once occupied by the Romans, for their coins have been found on it in great number. The manor afterwards became a royal domain, and was granted by Edward the Confessor to the cathedral of Wells, whose bishops had a palace here. The church is still a prebend of Wells.

W. of the town rise the lofty heights of *Main Down* and *Heydon Down*, links in a chain of hills prolonged eastward from the great mass of Exmoor called *Molland Down*. To penetrate these hills and the deep valleys which intersect them, or to angle in their trout streams, are the attractions held out by Wiveliscombe. A view of the place may be obtained from the road to Bampton, and every visitor should see the first valley on that road, 3 m. distant.

The *church* is modern and plain, save its pinnacles, but there are remains of an ancient *cross* in the churchyard.

The town stands on the junction line of the new red sandstone and Devonian slate rocks, the latter comprising the district of Exmoor.

Proceeding on our route we climb a hill 1½ m. in length, and look down upon Wiveliscombe and the surrounding country, but they may be seen to yet greater perfection from the summit to the rt., together with the Quantock and Blackdown ranges, Willet Tower on its distant mount, the vales and hills beyond Taunton, and directly to the N. the huge side of *Main Down* clothed with sombre fir woods.

From this height a long descent leads to the hamlet of

3 *Waterwood*, situated deep in a combe by the rocky bed of the *Tone*, here closely shut in by soaring hills prettily broken by wooded rifts and hollows. An old bridge spanning the stream, a cottage full of timbers and angles, and a scarred slate rock on the hill-side, form a scene for a painter. Firs and other trees are thickly grouped over the dell, and adjacent is a noble valley down which the river flows from its source on Brendon.

1 The traveller here reaches the border of the county on a watershed, from which he gains a view forward of the hills about Bampton. rt. and l. are narrow lanes; the one

leading to *Chipstable* in Somerset, the other to *Clayhanjer* in Devon. His onward course is somewhat lonely, by an open valley with pleasant heights to the rt.

4 *Shillingford*, and a bridge over the *Bathern*. rt. a distant view of *Lower Timewell House*, Rev. R. Bere. From this bridge by a kind of defile we enter

1½ *Bampton (Inn: White Horse)*, another hill-embedded town, pleasant quarters for the angler or artist. It was known to the Romans, from whom its stream derives its name, the *Bathern*, and it has a place in the Saxon Chronicle as the scene of a furious fight between the Britons and West Saxons: with these exceptions it has few memories connected with it, save those of its 4 great fairs, which have been held in it annually from a distant time. These are for the sale of sheep and cattle, and Exmoor ponies; and take place in March, June, October, and November; that of October, the last Thursday of the month, being the largest.

Bampton had at one time a *castle*, the chief residence of the Norman *Walter de Douai*, from whom *Bridge-water* derives a part of its name. It stood on the fir-crowned knoll by the *Wiveliscombe* road, at the E. end of *Castle Street*.

The *church* is a Dec. and Perp. building with carved roof and screen, and fragments of stained glass.

The things to be seen here are the views from the churchyard and quarries, the latter S. of the town, and the first mile of the *Wiveliscombe* road.

At a little distance are the most beautiful scenes—*Pixton Park*, *Dulverton*, the *ravines* of *Exmoor*, and *Haddon Down*, 1140 ft. high, often visited in the summer time by picnic parties.

The sportsman may have trout fishing on the *Exe* and *Barle*, and stag and fox-hunting on *Exmoor*, the

hounds being kept either at *Dulverton* or *Lynton*.

The nearest railway stat. is *Tiverton*, distant 7 m.

From this town our route strikes to the N. to re-enter Somersetshire. A long hill brings us in view of it, when we look upon a grassy basin, and the vista of two rivers which enter it, the *Barle* and the *Exe*, which flow united in a swift and turbulent current by

2½ *Exbridge (Inn: Blue Anchor)*, a hamlet much frequented by anglers, the *Exe* and the *Barle* being notable trout streams. You should bestow a glance upon the view from the bridge.

Our road next enters a very beautiful course—the valley of the *Barle*, one mass of foliage, through which run the road and river in company, the glittering surface of the water being seen between the trunks of the trees. These are the woods of *Pixton Park*, a seat of *Herbert Earl of Carnarvon*. On the opposite hill is a heronry.

2½ *Dulverton (Inns: Red Lion; Lamb; White Hart)*. Here we have reached the bourne of our journey, and may rest awhile to contemplate the *cul de sac* into which we have run our heads. The town is seated in an amphitheatre of hills, wooded with large covers for the red deer. An impetuous torrent, the *Barle*, dashes past it under a bridge of 5 arches, and springing over rocky ledges is lost to view among the trees. To the N. stretches the lonely district of *Exmoor*, closing the approaches very completely on that side, and limiting the little trade and traffic of the place. To an artist or sportsman *Dulverton* has many attractions. The scenery is beautiful; the trout fishing free to the public as far as the border of the forest; the stag and fox-hunting on *Exmoor* of a very exciting description. The deer are hunted every season, the hounds being kept either at *Dulverton* or

Lynton; but they are by no means so numerous as they were some years ago, when they abounded in the covers near this town, and were frequently to be seen from the churchyard. Their antlers and skins will be observed in the inn.

At Dulverton you should notice the views from the churchyard and bridge. You should walk down the path below the bridge, and explore the upward course of the river; and, above all, you should ascend to an open spot, called *Mount Sydenham*, in the wood above the church. The prospect it commands is truly most magnificent. Towards the N. you will look up the valley of the Barle, a wild and solitary valley, where no road has yet penetrated beyond a certain point. Its sides are the wooded covers of the red deer; the heights above them naked heaths. You will command the windings of the river in long perspective for many miles. A short but delightful excursion is to ascend *Catford's Lane* to *Mount Sydenham* (a rocky platform at the top of the hill, l. of the path), and to *Higher Combe*, a hunting-box of Sir Thomas Acland's, and return by the Barle. This will give you some idea of the indescribable beauty of the moorland glens. You will gain views over the greater part of Devon and of Somerset, and behold the mountainous chain of Dartmoor on the distant horizon.

Those who are bound to Lynton may post to it from Dulverton over the forest, but they will find the road hilly, and in some parts bad. For a pedestrian or equestrian it is an interesting route; for a carriage the preferable one would be by the Dunster road, as far as *Timberscombe*, a drive of great beauty. From *Timberscombe* a cross road leads to Porlock. The distance by the forest from Dulverton to Lynton is 23 m. (charged 26 post), an easy walk in a summer's day. *Red Deer* is the half-way house, and a good road runs

from Red Deer by *Simonsbath* to Lynton. *Simonsbath* is a wild romantic spot, 2 m. from Red Deer and 9 m. from Lynton (p. 247).

From the centre of Dulverton the huge fir-clad hill on the W. is a prominent object, rising high above the roofs. It is called *Part of Dobbs's*, in accordance with a whimsical nomenclature common in the town. Thus one house is called *Part of Kennaway's*, another the *Huntsman's House*.

Near Dulverton are *Combe*, an old mansion 1 m. S., *John Sydenham, Esq.*, and *Hollam House*, Miss Brague, just above the town. Dulverton is 17 m. from Dunster, a beautiful drive; 15 m. from S. Molton, post; and rather more by an ancient trackway, which passes, 5 m. N.W., *Tor's Steps*, a very wild but most charming spot, where a series of rude stones cross the Barle. There are iron-mines on Exmoor, and lead-mines near *Molland*, in the adjoining county. The principal landowners are the Earl of Carnarvon, and Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, Bart., whose seat in Somerset is *Holnicote*, near Minehead; in Devon, *Killerton*, near Exeter. The hill above *Hollam* commands one of the finest views in the neighbourhood.

The church of Dulverton has been recently restored. The town, says Fuller, was the birthplace of *Humphrey Sidenham*—"Silver-tongued Sidenham"—an eloquent preacher, who died 1650.

ROUTE 39.

TAUNTON TO LYME REGIS, BY ILMINSTER, CHARD, AND AXMINSTER.

Taunton (Rte. 27). To Chard there is a shorter but more hilly road, 12 m., through *Staple Fitzpaine*, which has a fine Perp. church-tower of the time of Hen. VII. This route is the coach-road.

3 l. *Thornfalcon*, and a seat of the *Battens*.

2 rt. a pretty view along a vale to the *Blackdowns*, which are seen in dark masses by a setting sun. The road reaches the escarpment of high land extending to *Langport*, and here hung with the plantations of *Hatch Court*, seat of the *Collins's*. The country is well covered with hedge-row elms and orchards.

$\frac{3}{4}$ l. *Hatch Beauchamp*, and adjoining it *Hatch Court*.

1 $\frac{1}{4}$ l. The road crosses at the foot of the *Blackdown Hills* heathy land, called *Ashill Forest*. 1. are the remains of the ancient waste of *Neroche Forest*, and on *Buckland Down*, 3 m. distant, the extensive earthworks of *Neroche Castle*, a British camp supposed to date from the *Belgic* invasion. It is remarkable for being constructed partly of stone. *Ashill* has a church with Norman doorways, and near the village rises a spring which ebbs and flows.

2 $\frac{1}{2}$ l. *Jordans*, a seat of the *Spekes*.

2 l. *Ilminster* (*Inns*: *George*; *Grapes*), a town seated on the *Isle*, which flows to the N. E. through a low flat country. To the N. W. is the high land of *Neroche Forest*, and its camp, *Neroche Castle*, 6 m. distant. *Ilminster* has a manufacture of web for carpets. It is an ancient place, its Saturday market dating from the *Saxons*.

The church, which formerly belonged to the abbey of *Muchelney*, is one of the 2 finest cruciform churches in this county, the other being at *Crewkerne*. It has a transept and

central tower, and N. and S. aisles. In the N. transept is the monument of *Nicholas Wadham* and his wife, founders of *Wadham College*, *Oxford*, died 1609 and 1618; and a tomb of variegated marble to another member of this family, who is represented in armour standing with his lady under a canopy.

The *Free Grammar School* is a foundation of the reign of *Edw. VI.*, 1550, and owns the manor of *Swanage* in *Dorsetshire*.

Adjoining the town is *Dillington House*, a seat of the *Lees*; and between it and *S. Petherton* a district very remarkable for fertility. In 1844 a crop of wheat, grown by *Mr. Parsons*, of *S. Petherton*, yielded 30 qrs. on 3 acres, and over the entire farm an average of 7 qrs. the acre. The land is on the *oolite*. The upper and middle *lias* are also developed here, and among the beds of the former are found abundant remains of fossil saurians, fish, crustaceans, and insects. These relics are remarkable for their fine preservation, and occur chiefly in a layer of yellow limestone, of which an excellent section may be seen at *Shepton Beauchamp*, near *South Petherton*. The insects have been discovered in all stages of their growth, from the caterpillar to the fly, and beetles so perfect that "they seem to be staring at you, their eyes being well-defined in the stone."

Barrington Court, N. of this town, is a most interesting specimen of early English architecture. It was a seat of the families of *Phelips* and *Strode*, and when in possession of the latter was visited by the *Duke of Monmouth* a few years before his attempt on the *Crown*.

Leaving *Ilminster* we have in front the hill of *St. Rana* and *Cricket St. Thomas*, seat of *Lord Bridport*; and 1. the fine woods of *Hinton House*, seat of *Earl Poulett*. Crossing *Chard Common*, with the height of *Avishays* l., we enter

5 *Chard (Inns: Chard Arms; George; Crown)*, a rather handsome town, principally of one broad street, running up a hill from E. to W. It is situated within a mile of the border of Devonshire, on a watershed, from which the streams flow in opposite directions to the Bristol and English channels. By the Saxons it was called *Cerdre*, a name supposed to have been derived from their chieftain Cerdic. It has a manufacture of lace and an excellent market, well known for potatoes, which are principally brought from the neighbourhood of Crewkerne. In 1644, on his return from Cornwall, Charles I. was here for a week, passing a night at Hinton St. George. In 1685 Monmouth marched through Chard, and a little later in the year the inhabitants had to witness the execution of 12 unfortunate victims to the bloodthirsty Jeffreys: according to the tradition they were hung on an oak still standing near the lower end of the town, and called the *Hangcross Tree*.

The things to be noticed in Chard are the *church*, the *lace factories*, the *Grammar School*, and some other old houses, probably of the 16th centy.—one, for instance, above the George, and another, the *Chough Inn*, beyond the intersection of the 4 streets. In the neighbourhood, *Ford Abbey*, and the views from *Snowdon* and *Rana Hill*.

The *church*, in the street towards Axminster, is a long low building of the Perp. of the 15th century, the transepts covered with the demon heads peculiar to the style. It contains a strange old monument to the memory of William Brewer, a physician of Chard, and Deanes, his wife, 1614, 1618, who are represented in black dresses and ruffs, kneeling face to face at an altar, the one with his 6 sons, the other with her 6 daughters, in pairs, size after size, all in similar dresses and attitudes. The ch. was restored

1828, and in 1829 the E. window, which represents Christ in the garden, was erected by subscription.

Two *lace factories*, great buildings of red brick, with innumerable windows, are conspicuous from the High-street, and respectively employ about 200 and 300 hands, exclusive of menders. The lace, however, is not quite completed here: it is sent away to be bleached and to receive sundry finishing touches, but much of it returns to be sold in this town.

Snowdon, one of the summits on the high land from the Blackdowns, rises immediately above Chard, and on a clear day will give the traveller fine prospects over Devonshire and Somerset. 1½ m. will bring him to the highest point.

Rana Hill is the narrow ridge on which the road runs hence to Crewkerne, and *Windwhistle Inn* the favourite point of view. It is a solitary house of entertainment, 4 m. on this road, fully exposed, as its name imports, to the rushing winds. On each side the road is wooded, and on the rt. the trees in summer shut out the view, but when bare of leaves the English Channel is seen, together with the cliffs of Beer Head. On the l. stretch long undulating lines of hills, innumerable vales and glistening streams, the chequered surface of the fair county of Somerset, edged on the far horizon by the purple sea. A mile nearer Crewkerne the view is open on both sides.

Ford Abbey, described at p. 121, is 3½ m. from Chard.

The road to Axminster is pretty, but has no very marked features.

3 Here it passes into Devonshire.

½ *Tytherleigh Arms*, the half-way house, on the highest point of the road. Near it, in a farmhouse, are some remains of the mansion of the Tytherleighs, a family who became extinct 1741, but were long lords of the manor here; and 2½ m. l. the ruins of *Olditch Court* (p. 123). *Coaxdon*, an old house between

Tytherleigh and Axminster, was the birthplace of *Sir Symonds D'Eves*, the puritan and antiquary, 1602. *Coaxdon Mill* on the river is picturesque.

3½ *Axminster* ('*Handbook for Devon*').

5 *Lyme Regis* (Rte. 25).

ROUTE 40.

TAUNTON TO SALISBURY, BY LANGPORT, SOMERTON, CASTLE CARY, AND WINCANTON.

Taunton (Rte. 27). This route passes nearly through the centre of Somersetshire, through rich scenes of fertility, in view of the broad orchard-bearing vales and long hill ranges characteristic of the county.

5 rt. the hanging woods of *Hatch Court*, seat of the *Collins's*, and a pretty view through an opening to the *Blackdown Hills*.

2 The ascent of high land extending to *Langport*. Rt. and l. are shelving woods, over which appear the *Bridgewater Levels* and a distance of waded hills formed by *Exmoor* and the *Quantocks*; rt., at the summit, *Cathanger*, now a farmhouse; and far below, among the marshes, *Isle Abbots*, remarkable for its *Perp.* church-tower; l. *Swell Hill*. Hence the road runs along a ridge for 4 m., a vast landscape lying in view to the rt.—the lowlands of the rivers *Parret* and *Isle* bounded by the hills of *Rana* and *Montacute*.

3½ l. *Burton Pynsent*, and on the

escarpment of these heights the *Parkfield Monument*, commonly known as the *Burton Steeple*, a column 140 ft. high, crowned by a funeral urn, erected by the Earl of Chatham to the memory of *Sir William Pynsent*. It commands a prospect N. and S. through an avenue of fine trees, particularly beautiful towards the N., where the marshy levels of *Bridgewater* extending to the sea-coast contrast with innumerable hills and woods. To the l. is seen the mansion of *Burton House*, now the residence of *Colonel Pinney*. For many years this estate was the seat of the *Pynsents*, but in 1765 *Sir William Pynsent*, the last of that ancient family, having no issue, bequeathed it to *William Pitt*, "in his veneration of a great character of exemplary virtue and unrivalled ability." In the same year *Pitt* came into Somersetshire to take possession of the property, and, on his arrival, found another, but more humble, present awaiting him. It was a fine salmon, accompanied with this note from the donor, an inhabitant of *Wareham*: "I am an Englishman, and therefore love liberty and you. Sir, be pleased to accept of this fish, as a mark of my esteem; were every scale a diamond (alluding to *Pitt's* diamond), it should have been at your service." When *Earl of Chatham*, *Pitt* occasionally resided here, and the grounds contain a funeral urn, dedicated to his memory by his *Countess*, 1781.

½ *Curry Rivell*. The church is worth a visit: it is a hoary embattled building with beautiful windows, and roof, screen, and seats of carved oak. l. of the altar a curious monument preserves the memory of *Marmaluke* and *Robert Jennings*, whose effigies appear in the costume of troopers, with jack-boots and jerkins. Around the tomb are the quaint figures of attendant mourners. From this village we descend upon

2 *Langport* (*Inn*: *Langport Arms*), where a break in the hills gives

passage to the river Parret, which here first becomes subject to the action of the tide. rt. are the extensive marshes of this river and its tributaries the Yeo and the Isle, and rising from the midst of these watery channels the church tower of *Muchelney*, once the site of an abbey.

Langport, divided into Langport Eastover and Langport Westover, and connected by rail with Yeovil and the Great Western, is an ancient place, but it has little besides the church-tower of *Huish Episcopi* (late Perp.) to interest the traveller. This is, however, one of the most beautiful erections of the kind in Somersetshire. You turn towards it on the rt. beyond the inn, passing by an archway under the *Hanging Chapel*, an old building now converted into a museum, and evidently so named from its position—overhanging, or uplifted—although traditionally one of the scenes of the bloody assize of Judge Jeffreys. Beyond it is Langport church, itself a fine structure, but thrown into the shade by its neighbour of *Huish Episcopi*. A story—told in other places where comparisons are made—is current here that the apprentice built this tower, the master that of *Muchelney*, and that the master destroyed himself in vexation at being so surpassed by his pupil. 2 m. from this church, on the road to Ilchester, is the village of *Long Sutton*, which, according to an old doggerel, stands in no very good repute for its cleanliness:—

“ Sutton Long, Sutton Long, at every door a
tump of dung;
Some two, some three; it's the dirtiest
place that ever you see.”

At *Muchelney*, 1½ m., are some trifling remains of the Benedictine abbey, supposed to have been founded by *Athelstan*.

The country in this neighbourhood is well covered with elms, which give it a golden appearance in the autumn. The soil is tenacious,

the plough being drawn by long teams of oxen.

Aller, to the N.W., is said to have been the place where King Alfred baptized the vanquished Guthrum and his Danes after the battle of Edington. It was the native village of *Ralph Cudworth*, the divine, author of 'The True Intellectual System of the Universe,' b. 1617. On *Aller Moor* a detachment of Goring's army was defeated, 1645.

Leaving Langport we again ascend the hills and open distant views, the church towers of *Huish Episcopi* and Langport being conspicuous in the valley.

3 The top of *Somerton Hill*, from which there is a view ranging from one end of the county to the other. The 3 landmarks, *Stourton Tower*, *Burton Steeple*, and the *Wellington Monument*, are seen in a line, together with those great features of Somerset the heights of Exmoor, Blackdown, Quantock, and Mendip. The near prospect of wooded hills running N.E. from *Somerton* is most beautiful.

1½ *Somerton* (Rte. 32). From this town, passing the river in its valley, we ascend once again to high land dividing the channels of the Brue and the Cary.

3 *King Weston Inn*. 1. *King Weston House*, seat of F. H. Dickinson, Esq., a fine estate, remarkable for the beauty of its elms.

1½ 1. *Keinton Mandefield*, where there are quarries in the lias.

1 *Cross Keys Inn*, where we cross the *Fosse Way* running N.E. towards Shepton. 1. *West Lydford*, with a venerable manor-house, and 2 ancient mills on the Brue.

2½ *Alford*, where the church is an admirable specimen of the early Perp. of Henry VI. The roof and screen are very delicately carved, and the churchyard has its cross. S. of the village is *Alford Well*, a mineral spring.

3 *Castle Cary* (Rte. 28), from

which it is a very pretty drive to Wincanton, the road keeping on the edge of the hills, and undulating over the broken ground in a succession of little waves.

1½ l. *Hudspen House*, Right Hon. Henry Hobhouse, a grey old mansion seated under woods.

1 l., in the valley, *Yarlington Lodge*, the residence of the Rogers's.

½ Delightful prospects to the W. and S. In the latter direction rises the fortified height of *Cadbury* (p. 206). 1. is seen the church of *Bratton*, on a grassy height falling steep to a dell.

1 l. *Holebrook House*, Charles Barton, Esq.

1½ *Wincanton* (*Inns*: Greyhound; Bear), situated on the *Cale*, in a position which may remind the traveller of Shaftesbury. It stands on steep ground at the head of the broad *Vale of Blackmoor*, where the hills form a natural terrace. Upon this many of the houses are built, commanding from their windows the vista of the vale and its long-drawn boundaries, and the onward course of the little river, which is indicated by a glittering line of light.

Wincanton, formerly called *Wincalton*, is a town of the olden time, when the manor belonged in succession to the Lovells of *Castle Cary*, the St. Maurs and Zouches, of which the two latter families were seated at *Marsh Court*, now a farmhouse, 3 m. S. In 1553 Wincanton was terribly ravaged by the plague, to such an extent that the roads to it were closed, and travellers passed into Wiltshire by *Alfred's Tower*. In 1688 it was the scene of a skirmish between the troops of the Prince of Orange and some dragoons of the King. The Prince afterwards slept in a house in South-street, where the *Orange room* is still pointed out.

The pretty road out of this town towards Bruton, and the view from that towards *Castle Cary*, should be seen. At a distance of 7 m. S.W.

is *Castle Cadbury*, the traditional camp of King Arthur, p. 206; 3 m. in the direction of Bruton *Redlintch Park*, a seat of the Earl of Ilchester, the house built in 1672 by Sir Stephen Fox; on *Stourhead* to the N. *Alfred's Tower* and *Jack's Castle*, described in Rte. 13; and lastly, below the heights of *Jack's Castle* and *Penridge*, about 3 m. from Wincanton, some remains of the Augustine priory of

Stavordale, rebuilt 1443, but founded by one of the Lovells in the reign of Henry III. They now form the house and appurtenances of a homestead. The choir is the farmhouse, the nave the barn, the chapel the dairy, but the roof of the last is of exquisite beauty. *Stavordale* gives the title of Baron to the Earl of Ilchester.

At Wincanton Major Stanley's hounds are kennelled. They are known as the *Blackmoor Vale foxhounds*.

The road to Mere climbs *Bayford Hill*, which on the rt. looks far into Dorsetshire. 1. is *Bayford House*, the seat of the Messiters.

3 The border, from which our route passes through a projecting tongue of Dorsetshire. 1. are *Pen Selwood* and those curious excavations called the *Pen Pits*; farther 1. *Alfred's Tower* and *Jack's Castle* (Rte. 13).

2 *High Cross*, a spot where the 3 counties meet. 1. 2 m. *Stourhead*, seat of Sir Henry A. Hoare, Bart.

1 rt. *Zeals House*, seat of the Groves; 1. the old camp of *White-sheet Castle*.

1 *Mere*, described, with the remainder of this road, in Rte. 13.

ROUTE 41.

SHAFTESBURY TO CHARD, BY MILBORNE
PORT, SHERBORNE, YEovil, AND
CREWKERNE.

Shaftesbury to Yeovil (Rte. 20).

Yeovil (Rte. 28). From this town the road ascends into the hills, passing l., in a farmhouse, some remains of *Nash Priory*, and rt., in 2½ m., an old camp.

3½ *West Coker*.

1 *East Chinnock*, where there is a considerable manufacture of sail cloth. At *Chiselborough*, 2 m. N.W., many of the inhabitants are affected by goitre and cretinism, maladies attributed to a defective ventilation at a mild temperature, the village being situated in a narrow valley closed on 3 sides by lofty hills. These unhappy beings are described by Dr. Guggenbühl in a letter to Lord Ashley (in 1851) as "3 German ft. high—corpulent and bloated, with mis-shapen heads, turgid lips, and noses flattened like the negro's."

1 The road descends from the high land into the vale of the Parret.

1 l. *Haselbury*, where, in the reigns of Stephen and Hen. I., lived Wulfric, a celebrated saint and hermit, who, according to the legend, dressed in a coat of iron, and in this easy habit would receive the visits of the King and nobles who came to consult him.

2 *Crewkerne* (*Inns*: George; Red Lion), a market town of some size, in the valley of the Parret, surrounded by a wide amphitheatre of hills. It has a manufacture of sail cloth, webbing, and girths, and is a busy place, where every gaping cottage door reveals a loom at work. Several houses, as the George, are constructed of Hamhill stone. The name *Crewkerne* signifies "the hermitage at the Cross."

The church, dedicated to St. Bar-

tholomew, is one of the 2 finest cruciform churches in the county, the other being at Ilminster. It is a beautiful specimen of the Perp. of the 15th century, of remarkable richness, the windows of the N. transept being especially worthy of notice. You should observe also in particular the W. door and its ornaments. This church was given by the Conqueror to Caen Abbey, and so included in the Norman diocese of Bayeux. In 1402 its churchyard struck the fancy of a certain monk of Ford, one Robert Chard, who obtained permission to immure himself as an anchorite in a "solitary house" beneath it.

The *Free Grammar-school*, on the N. side of the ch., was founded 1499 by John Combe, a native of *Crewkerne*; and for many years precentor of Exeter Cathedral. It is one of the most ancient in England. Mr. Justice Best, afterwards Lord Wymond, was educated at this school.

The father of *Tom Paine*, author of 'The Rights of Man,' was a native of *Crewkerne*. He was a staymaker, and carried on business at *Thetford* in Norfolk, where his son was born.

Hinton St. George, seat of Earl Poulett, is 3 m. N.W. It is occasionally shown. Fuller says it may be called "a charitable curiosity, if true what is traditioned—that about the reign of King Hen. VII. the owner built it in a dear year, on purpose to employ more people thereupon." The garden front was designed by Inigo Jones. The family pictures were given, it is said, to the great Lord Clarendon, and now form part of the collections at the Grove in Hertfordshire and Bothwell Castle in Scotland. The *Hinton* monuments are in the neighbouring church.

At *Racedown Lodge*, near this town, the poet *Wordsworth* and his sister lived for about two years, and first became acquainted with Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

Proceeding on our road to Chard

we obtain a good view of Crewkerne, together with its background, *Pendomer Down*, and the conical knoll of *Crook Hill*.

2 A steep ascent to the heights of *Rana Hill*, a narrow ridge, so named from St. Ranus, to whom there was once a chapel on the hill. The road runs along the summit of this ridge to within 2 m. of Chard. Rt. are the fir plantations of Hinton St. George.

1 The highest point, from which we obtain a bird's-eye view over Somerset and Dorset, each bounded by the sea: in the foreground a clump of beech trees, and a sandy road descending the hill, complete the picture.

1 *Windwhistle Inn*, a name suggestive of snug quarters on a winter's night—

"When frosty winds blow in the drift."

l. the woods of

Cricket Lodge, seat of Lord Bridport. Through the trees are seen those twin hills Lewesdon and Pillesdon. The mansion is situated far below the road, in a romantic dell which opens into the valley of the Axe. It was rebuilt about 60 years ago. Adjoining it is the little ch. of *Cricket St. Thomas*, in which the first Lord Bridport was buried. There is a monument to his memory, and another to the Rev. William, Earl Nelson, Duke of Bronte, whose remains were deposited in St. Paul's. He was the father of the present Lady B. The residence of the Hoods was originally at Mosterton, a village S. of Crewkerne.

2½ rt. *Avishays*, a seat of the Fortescues, where Chard greets us in its valley, particularly its great lace factories, which rise high above the houses.

1½ *Chard* (Rte. 39).

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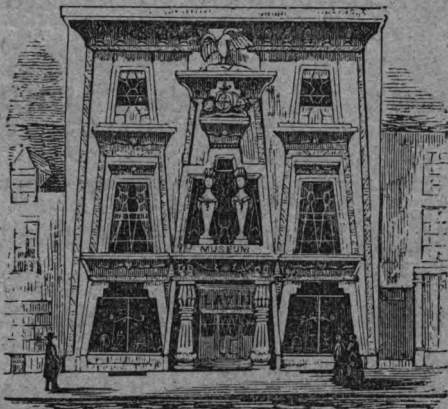
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