

AN
EXCURSION
1844 FROM *Roslyn*
LONDON TO DOVER:

CONTAINING SOME ACCOUNT

OF THE

Manufactures, Natural and Artificial Curiosities, History
and Antiquities of the Towns and Villages.

INTERSPERSED WITH

Historical and Biographical Anecdotes; Natural History,
Poetical Extracts, and Tales,

PARTICULARLY INTENDED FOR THE
AMUSEMENT AND INSTRUCTION OF YOUTH.



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1484

TO MY PUPILS

THIS LITTLE WORK

IS MOST

RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY

THEIR SINCERE FRIEND,

THE EDITOR



upon, the publishers found themselves under a necessity of dividing the work into two volumes, although the numbering of the pages is carried on in regular succession from the beginning. It is hoped, however, that this deviation from the usual mode of printing, will not lessen the book in the opinion of the public.

CONTENTS.

TOWNS, VILLAGES, &c.

	Page
Barson	477
Belvedere House	96
Birchington	391
Blackheath.	72
Blackheath, Cavern at	ib.
Broughton-hill	204
Broadstairs.	429
Buckland	478
Canterbury	205
Chatham	163
Cinque-ports	495
Crayford	103
Dartford	104
———— Brink	123
Deptford	6
Deal	449
Dover	479
Downs	448
Erith	95
Feversham	185
Fordwich	368
Foreland, North	428
————, South	493
Gads-hill	141
Gillingham	174
Godwin Sands	493
Greenwich	21
Greenwich Hospital	67
Gravesend	125
Greenhithe	123
Harble-down	204
Hearne	293

	Page
Kent	3
Kingsgate	398
Lee Church	89
Margate.....	394
Milton	175
Minster	390
Morden College.....	79
Monckton	379
Orm	141
Ramsgate	437
Rainham	174
Reculvers	289
Rochester	144
Romney Marsh.....	380
Sarre	378
Sandwich	443
Shooter's-hill.....	91
Sheerness	171
Sittingbourn	182
South End.....	171
Stroud	143
Sturry	260
Stonar	449
Stone church.....	123
Swanscomb	124
Thanet, Isle of	387
Tilbury Fort	139
Tower.....	136
Waldershire	471
Woolwich	82
Wodensborough	448

BIOGRAPHY, &c.

Alfred	<i>Watkins</i>	176
Alexowna, Catherina	<i>Goldsmith</i>	11
Athelstan		206
Augustin	<i>Watkins</i>	150
Bale, John.....	<i>Jones</i>	231

CONTENTS.

IN

		Page
Berenger	Watkins	220
Becket, Thomas à	Watkins	223
Behn, Mrs.	Pilkington	254
Black Prince	Watkins	226
Boyle, Richard	Jones	256
Bryan, Mrs.	Pilkington	81
Canute	Watkins	214
Cade, John	Helme	76
Cæsar	Lempriere	454
——'s Landing	Evans	451
Calpurnia	Pilkington	460
Chichely, Henry	Watkins	228
Charles I.	Watkins	388
Charles II.	Watkins	488
Churchill		490
Cleopatra	Jones	462
Cook, Capt. J.	Mangnall	19
David I.	Mangnall	221
Domneva		390
Drake, Sir Francis	Mangnall	17
Dunstan	Watkins	236
Duncombe, Mr.		294
Edward VI.	Watkins	65
Edward the Confessor	Watkins	369
Egbert		389
Elizabeth	Pilkington	25
Emma	Watkins	215
Ethelbert		149
Gale, Rev. Dr. J.		8
George I.	Watkins	66
Gregory VII.	Watkins	217
Dr. Halley	Jones	90
Hawkins, Sir J.		167
Henry I.	Mangnall	220
Henry IV.	Watkins	226
Henry V.	Mangnall	222
Henry VIII.		208
Hengist		378
Henry IV. of Germany	Watkins	218

		Page
Henry V. of Germany	<i>Watkins</i>	219
Hyde, Lady Anne	<i>Pilkington</i>	201
Hollis, T. Esq.	<i>Jones</i>	7
James, Sir Wm.		92
James II.	<i>Watkins</i>	195
James, Abdication of	<i>Evans</i>	196
Kenulf		206
Kennet, White	<i>Watkins</i>	492
Knolles, Sir Robert		147
Lanfranc	<i>Watkins</i>	216
Leake, Sir John.		158
Mary Queen of England	<i>Pilkington</i>	22
Mary, Queen, wife of William III. . .	<i>Pilkington</i>	156
Matilda		207
Mildred		391
More, Sir T.	<i>Evans</i>	205
Parsons, Mr.	<i>Jones</i>	89
Peter the Great	<i>Watkins</i>	8
Philip II. King of Spain	<i>Watkins</i>	210
Pole, Cardinal	<i>Watkins</i>	227
Pompeia	<i>Lempriere</i>	461
Robertson, Miss.		97
Rooke, Sir George	<i>Watkins</i>	229
Roper, Mrs.	<i>Pilkington</i>	237
Seymour, Lady Arabella.	<i>Pilkington</i>	132
Severus.	<i>Watkins</i>	290
Shovel, Sir Cloudesley.	<i>Watkins</i>	154
Stephen		207
Tillotson, Dr. J.	<i>Watkins</i>	230
Theobald, Lewis		185
Tyler, Wat	<i>Helme</i>	75
Vortigern	<i>Watkins</i>	212
Wales, Princess of	<i>Pilkington</i>	439
William I.	<i>Mangnail</i>	213
William III.	<i>Watkins</i>	155
Yorke, Philip.		491

NATURAL HISTORY.

ANIMALS.

Class 1. Mammalia.—Order 1. Primates.

	Page
Bat.....	357

Order 3. Feræ.

Hedgehog.....	<i>Mavor</i> 299
Mole.....	306

Order 4. Glires.

Mouse.....	335
Rat.....	336
Hare.....	<i>Mavor</i> 474
Rabbit.....	476

Order 5. Pecora.

Sheep.....	381
Ox.....	382

Order 6. Belluæ.

Horse.....	372
------------	-----

Order 7. Cetæ.

Whale.....	431
------------	-----

Class 2. Birds.—Order 1. Accipitres.

Owl.....	359
----------	-----

Order 2. Picæ.

Cuckoo.....	321
-------------	-----

Order 6. Passeres.

Lark.....	298
Swallow.....	350
Nightingale.....	<i>Mavor</i> 352

Class 3. Amphibious Animals.—Order 1.

Frog	<i>Mavor</i>	Page 365
Toad		366

Order 4. Nantes.

Sturgeon	425
----------------	-----

Class 4. Fishes.—Order Jugulares.

Cod	429
-----------	-----

Order 4. Abdominades.

Trout	370
-------------	-----

Class 5. Insects.—Order 2. Hemiptera.

Grasshopper	308
-------------------	-----

Order 3. Sepidoptera.

Butterfly	302
-----------------	-----

Order 5. Hymenoptera.

Ant	314
Bees	343

Order 6. Diptera.

Gnat	319
------------	-----

Order 7. Aptera.

Spider	325
Shrimp	447

Class 6. Vermes or Worms.—Order 1. Intestina.

Worms	<i>Mavor</i>	330
-------------	--------------	-----

Order 3. Testacea.

Snail	<i>Martinet</i>	331
Conchites		202
Oyster		180

BOTANY.

Class 2. Diandria ; two Stamens.
Monogynia ; One Pistil.

	Page
Salix. Willow.....	Mavor 121

Class 3. Triandria ; Three Stamens.
Digynia ; Two Pistils.

Ordeum. Barley.....	Mavor 386
---------------------	-----------

Class 4. Tetrandria ; Four Stamens.
Monogynia ; One Pistil.

Rubia. Madder	393
---------------------	-----

Class 5. Pentandria ; Five Stamens.
Order 2. Digynia ; Two Pistils.

Kali. Glasswort	426
Humulus. Hops	247
Anethum. Fennel.....	390
Daucus. Carrot	446

Order 5. Pentagynia ; Five Pistils.

Linum. Flax	130
-------------------	-----

Class 6. Hexandria ; Six Stamens.
Order 1. Monogynia.

Asparagus.....	Mavor 127
Tulipa. Tulip	339
Convalleria. Lily of the Valey.....	342

Class 8. Octandria ; Eight Stamens.
Order 2. Digynia ; Two Pistils.

Corylus. Hazel	122
----------------------	-----

Class 17. Diadelphia ; Two Brotherhoods.
Order 3. Decandria ; Ten Stamens.

Hedysarum. Saintfoin	Mavor 379
----------------------------	-----------

Class 19. Syngenisia ; Congeneration.
Order 3. Polygamia ; Frustranea.

Sun-flower	Page 340
------------------	-------------

Class 22. Dioecia ; Pentandria.

Hemp.....	129
-----------	-----

Class 24. Cryptogamia ; Lithophytorum.

Coral. Marine Plant	427
---------------------------	-----

Cryptogamia ; Lithophyta.

Sponge. Submarine Plant	426
-------------------------------	-----

METALS AND MINERALS.

METALS—*Perfect.*

Gold	414
Silver	ib.
Platina	ib.

Imperfect.

Lead	415
Copper	ib.
Iron	ib.
Tin	ib.
Quicksilver.....	416

Semi-metals.

Antimony	419
Vitriol	ib.
Bismuth	421

Factitious Metals.

Steel	423
Pewter	ib.
Bell Metal	415

CONTENTS.

xv

Bronze	Page
Pinchbeck	ib.

Iron Ore.

Magnet	422
--------------	-----

Fossils.

Sulphur	416
Zink	420
Coal	414

Salts.

Alum	417
Salt	418

Earth.

Ochre	420
-------------	-----

Precious Stone.

Diamond	423
---------------	-----

Physics.

Atmosphere	<i>Sael</i>	355
Dew	<i>Sael</i>	356
Moonlight	<i>Beauties of the Universe</i>	361
Tides	<i>Sael</i>	297
Twilight		355

Arts.

Brawn	250
Carding	129
Card-paper	120
Wind-mill	262
Flax-dressing	130
Gun-powder	120
Gunpowder-mill	121
Glue	386

	Page
Glass	426
Linen	131
Oil	436
Pasteboard	120
Paper-mill	118
Soap	426
Silk	252
Spermaceti	436
Spinning	129
Weaving	131
Whalebone	432

P O E T R Y.

To Morning	<i>Mason</i>	3
Kent	<i>Drayton</i>	4
Peter the Great	<i>Thomson</i>	9
The Ship Pelican	<i>Cowley</i>	17
The Thames	<i>Scot</i>	20
On Dr. Halley	<i>Cawthorne</i>	90
Verses	<i>Akenside</i>	ib.
On the Thames	<i>Dyer</i>	92
Epitaph on a Child		107
Swainscomb	<i>Evans</i>	125
On the Lady Arabella Seymour ..	<i>Dr. Corbet</i>	138
On Human Life	<i>Evans</i>	155
The Pleasant Evening	<i>Scot</i>	162
Description of a Cottage	<i>Scot</i>	163
The Ship	<i>Aikin</i>	172
Gunpowder	<i>Bloomfield</i>	193
-----	<i>Milton</i>	194
-----	<i>Ariosto</i>	195
-----	<i>Spenser</i>	ib.
Britannia		204
On Sir Thomas More's Daughter ..	<i>Leland</i>	245
The Hop	<i>Kent Guide</i>	246
A Storm in Harvest	<i>Dryden</i>	257
Morning Sounds	<i>Beattie</i>	259

CONTENTS.

xvii

	Page
The Miller	<i>A Song</i> 260
The Summer Evening Walk.	<i>White</i> 280
The Glow-worm	<i>C. Smith</i> 284
On Social Intercourse	<i>Duncomb</i> 294
An Evening Walk by the Sea-side.	<i>C. Smith</i> 295
The Lark	<i>Waller</i> 298
The Hedgehog	<i>C. Smith</i> 301
Wild Flowers.	<i>C. Smith</i> 304
Hay-making	<i>Gay</i> 308
The Grasshopper	<i>Cowley</i> 309
The Clouds	313
The Ant	<i>Dryden</i> 318
The Cuckoo Song	321
The Cuckoo	<i>Logan</i> 322
The Spider.	<i>Dryden</i> 328
Insects	<i>Barbault</i> 334
The Garden	<i>Thomson</i> 337
The Rose	343
The Swallow	351
The Setting Sun.	352
The Nightingale	<i>Thomson</i> 354
Verses on Churchill	489
Hymn.	<i>Addison</i> 364
Margate Hoy.	<i>Walcot</i> 396
The Dying Negro	403
A Walk on the Sand	295
The Whale	<i>Darwin</i> 436
Solitude	<i>Cowley</i> 471
The Hare	<i>Dryden</i> 476
The Cliff.	<i>Shakespeare</i> 483

T A L E S, &c.

The Convict	86
The Old Man's Tale.	107
Story of Frank Wilson	111
The Halsewell	140
Story of Miss Milleners.	182
Story of the Dredger.	187
The Windmill	262

	Page
Rose Hill	267
The Rich Indian	270
Address to the Ocean..... <i>Keate</i>	292
A Walk	295
The Garden	<i>Ventum</i> 338
The Bees..... <i>Ventum</i>	343
The Evening Walk	348
A Storm.....	400
The Shipwreck	401
Characters	<i>Spectator</i> 441
The Disabled Soldier..... <i>Goldsmith</i>	464
The Cottage	498
Madame Jerome Bonaparte	496
The Bashful Man	509





LONDON TO DOVER.

May 1, 1805.

MY DEAR SISTER,

I TAKE the earliest opportunity of giving you an account of my pleasant jaunt to Dover, with my reverend, intelligent friend, and his amiable daughter Adelina. I have written my journal every night since I left home, according to the desire of my beloved parents; but I will own to you, that I thought it very irksome at first, when I was weary and fatigued, to be obliged to sit down to write: however, I persevered, and am very glad that I obeyed; for I again find, as I have ever done, that a ready obedience to our parents' commands always brings its reward; and now, instead of a task, I feel myself amply recompensed for my trouble, by the amusement it affords me, and the pleasure it will give you, who are so fond of tours. Without this aid,

indeed, I am afraid I should have acquitted myself very ill, and have given you but an imperfect account of what I have seen and heard; for although we take such easy stages, yet, from seeing so many different places, my memory would have failed to relate what was worthy your attention with that accuracy which my dear parents, I know, require, and which I think due to them, for their obliging consent to my taking this charming tour, at a time when I was so much wanted at home, to assist in fitting out my brothers for college. However, I flatter myself they will not repent it; for my lovely friend Adeline takes so much pains to improve me in music and drawing, of which she is a perfect mistress, that I hope to make a great proficiency before I return. We have a flageolet with us, on which I begin to play tolerably; we often sit down upon a bank whenever the prospect invites us, and while one plays and sings, the other takes a sketch of the landscape, which we finish when we have opportunity. Mr. A——, in the mean time, takes down notes in the chaise, in which he has a portable writing-desk and stand.

In the morning that we were to leave London, we arose early, as you will suppose, impatient to begin our jaunt. The sky was lowering, and did

not promise a fine day; but the sun soon burst through the clouds, and gilded alternately the shrubs and meadows. I was so enlivened by breathing the country air, and so charmed with the beautiful scenery around me, that I could not help exclaiming in the words of Mason—

Hail to thy living light,
Ambrosial morn! all hail thy roseate ray,
That bids young nature all her charms display
In varied beauty bright:
That bids each dewy spangled flowret rise,
And dart around its vermeil dyes;
Bids silver lustre grace yon sparkling tide,
That winding warbles down the mountain's side.

As soon as we had left the rattling of the stones, Mr. A—— gave us this account of Kent:—

“The celebrated Julius Cæsar, in his Commentaries, makes particular mention of Kent, being the theatre of his renowned actions in Britain. He bestows on it the name of *Cantium*; so that the revolution of eighteen hundred years has produced no other change than the giving it a more English sound. Camden thinks, with probability, that Kent is so called from Britain here extending into a *large corner* eastward, and that the name might therefore be derived from the word *Canton* or *Cant*, which signifies a corner. In this sense the term is still used in the science

of heraldry. It is about sixty-five miles in length, thirty-seven in breadth, and one hundred and ninety-five in circumference. It produces cattle, sheep, wild-fowl, iron, corn, carrots, hops, woad, cherries, and all other fruits and vegetables, excellent fish, chalk, timber, and sand for the glass manufactories."—Adelina here interrupted her father, saying that she recollected a line or two from Drayton on the fertility of this county, which he desired her to repeat.

O, famous Kent!

What county hath this isle that can compare with thee?
That hath within itself as much as thou canst wish;
Nor any thing doth want that any where is good.

Mr. A—— then told us, that the inhabitants, who are said to have been the first converts to Christianity, glory in the stand which they made for their liberties, against several invaders of Britain; fewer marks of conquest, and greater privileges, being found here than in other counties.

In general, as a great part of this county lies upon the sea, the air is thick, foggy, and warm, though often purified by south and south-west winds; and the shore being generally cleaner than that of Essex, the marshy parts of Kent do not produce so many agues; and the air in the higher parts of Kent is reckoned very healthy.

The soil is generally rich and fit for the plough, pasture, or meadow; and that part of the county which borders upon the river Thames abounds with chalk-hills, whence not only the city of London, and parts adjacent, but even Holland and Flanders, are supplied with lime and chalk; and from these hills the rubbish of the chalk is carried in lighters and hoys to the coasts of Essex, Suffolk, and Norfolk, where it is sold to the farmers as manure for their lands.

Mr. A—— then asked Adélina, if she could recollect what he had once told her, of the productions of this county, when they paid a visit to Dartford. She said she thought she could; and added, “If I remember right, this county affords some mines of iron, and in general abounds with plantations of hops, fields of corn, and orchards of cherries, apples, and other fruit: it produces also woad and madder for dyers; and in the cliffs of Dover and Folkstone is found plenty of samphire; hemp and sainfoin grow here in great abundance: the south and west parts of Kent, especially that called the Weald, are covered with woods of oak, beech, and walnut-trees, which afford great quantities of timber for shipping and other uses: here are also many woods of birch, from which the broom-makers in and about London are abundantly supplied.

The cattle here of all sorts are reckoned larger than they are in the neighbouring counties. The Weald of Kent is remarkable for large cattle; here are also several parks of fallow deer, and warrens of grey rabbits; and this county, abounding in rivers, and being almost surrounded by the sea, is well supplied with all manner of fish, in particular it is famous for large oysters."

Mr. A—— expressed his approbation to his daughter for giving so faithful an account: "And now," said he, addressing himself to me, "my dear Jeannette, give me your quota of information, by telling me the boundaries of Kent." I felt diffident, but said I believed that Kent was bounded by Sussex on the south-west, by Surry on the west, by the Straights of Dover on the south-east, by the Downs on the east, and on the north by the Thames, which separates it from Essex. Mr. A—— said I was quite a geographer, and desired that I would not neglect to improve myself in so useful a study.

Leaving London for Canterbury, we passed through the Borough, famous for its extent and population; and, Mr. A—— thus beguiling the time with his account of Kent, we soon reached *Deptford*, where we alighted to view the place. This is the first town that we meet with on the road, and is entitled to our atten-

tion. It is only four miles and a quarter from London; is a large and populous town; was anciently called West Greenwich; and is said to have received its present name from its having a deep ford over the little river Ravensbourne, near its influx into the Thames, where it has now a bridge. It is divided into Upper and Lower Deptford; formerly it had only one church, that of St. Nicholas, a saint whom our Saxon forefathers thought propitious to mariners, merchants, and fishermen. In the year 1730, however, the new church, St. Paul's, was consecrated; one edifice being found insufficient to contain the inhabitants of this district. It is an elegant structure, and the ground adjoining it is filled with tomb-stones. Close to it stands an old General-baptist place of worship, which has been recently repaired at a considerable expence by some individuals belonging to it. It is encircled by a burying-ground, which is walled round, and contains a neat tomb belonging to the family of Thomas Hollis, Esq. a name well known in the literary world. Mr. A—— gave us this account of him: He was born at London in 1720, and died suddenly in 1774.—He was possessed of a large fortune; above the half of which he devoted to charities, to the encouragement of genius, and to the sup-

port and defence of liberty. His studious hours were devoted to the search of noble authors hidden by the rust of time, and to do their virtues justice by brightening their actions for the review of the public. A new edition of *Toland's Life of Milton* was published under his direction in 1762; and in 1763 he gave an accurate edition of *Algernon Sydney's Discourses on Government*; on which the pains and expence that he bestowed are almost incredible. Mr. A—— added, that the religious society in this town had the honour of producing the Rev. Dr. John Gale, a learned divine among the Baptists. He was born in London, in 1680, his father being a citizen of good repute. He is chiefly known for his writings against *Wall's defence of Infant Baptism*. In the year 1721, he was suddenly carried off by a fever. His memory will be revered for the solidity of his talents, the soundness of his learning, and the extent of his liberality.

Deptford first began to assume an importance in the reign of Henry VIII. who erected here a store-house for the royal navy. In the dock-yard belonging to government about one thousand men are employed. Near this dock is the house in which Peter the Great, Czar of Muscovy, lived, where he learnt the art of ship-

building, which he carried with him to Russia, and by the cultivation of which the prosperity of that vast empire was advanced. Mr. A—— asked if either of us could repeat what Thomson had said of Peter. I immediately recollected these lines:—

Immortal Peter ! first of monarchs he,
Who greatly spurn'd the slothful pomp of courts,
And roaming every land, in every port
His sceptre laid aside—with glorious hand
Unweari'd plying the mechanic tool,
Gather'd the seeds of trade, of useful arts,
Of civil wisdom, and of martial skill.

Mr. A—— told me I repeated them so well, that he would give me an account of Peter the Great, as he knew that biography was one of my favourite studies. I thanked him, and he related as follows:—“ Peter the Great, Czar of Russia, was born in 1672. Upon the death of one of his brothers in 1682, Peter ascended the throne, to the exclusion of another, named John, who was weak both in body and mind. The pretensions of John, however, met with considerable support; and therefore, to avoid the evils of a civil war, it was agreed that they should jointly wield the sceptre. The Czar John died in 1696, and Peter remained sole ruler of the empire. The history of this monarch borders on the romantic; indeed, almost every event of his life partakes of

the marvellous. He raised an army by the assistance of foreign officers, serving in it himself as a drummer or private soldier; and visited England and Holland *incognito*, in order to acquaint himself with the art of ship-building. As early as 1700, he had collected together a body of thirty thousand standing forces, and disclosed a project surprising in all its parts. He sent his chief nobility into foreign countries to improve their knowledge; and invited foreigners, distinguished for talents, to his own dominions, for the improvement of those of his subjects who could not leave their homes. Having made an alliance with Augustus King of Poland, he declared war against Charles XII. of Sweden; and though at first he had very ill success in conducting it, yet he was so far from being discouraged, that he said, 'I know that my armies must be overcome for a while; but it will teach them to conquer.' He founded Petersburg in 1703, and in 1709 obtained a complete victory over the Swedes at Pultowa. The history of the Czarina Catherine is not less remarkable than that of Peter; and her courage, and presence of mind, in contributing to rescue him from the danger of his situation when enclosed by the Turks on the banks of the Pruth, excite the highest admiration. Peter died in 1725."

“I should like much to hear some particulars of Catherine’s life,” said Adelina. I told her that I would relieve Mr. A——, by reciting what I remembered from Goldsmith. “Catharina Alexowna, Empress of Russia, was born near Derpat, a little city in Livonia, and was heir to no other inheritance than the virtues and frugality of her parents. Her father being dead, she lived with her aged mother, in their cottage covered with straw; and both, though very poor, were very contented. Here, retired from the gaze of the world, by the labour of her hands she supported her parent, who was now incapable of supporting herself. While Catharina spun, the old woman would sit by, and read some book of devotion. When the fatigues of the day were over, both would sit down contented by their fire-side, and enjoy their frugal meal. Though Catharina’s face and person were models of perfection, yet her whole attention seemed bestowed upon her mind. Her mother taught her to read, and an old Lutheran minister instructed her in the maxims and duties of religion. Nature had furnished her, not only with a ready, but a solid turn of thought; not only with a strong, but right understanding. Her virtues and accomplishments procured her several solicitations of marriage, from the pea-

sants of the country; but their offers were refused; for she loved her mother too tenderly to think of a separation.

“Catharina was fifteen years old when her mother died. She then left her cottage, and went to live with the Lutheran minister by whom she had been instructed from her childhood. In his house she resided in quality of governess to his children, at once reconciling in her character unerring prudence with surprising vivacity. The old man, who regarded her as one of his own children, had her instructed in the elegant parts of female education, by the masters who attended the rest of his family. Thus she continued to improve, till he died; by which accident she was reduced to her former poverty. The country of Livonia was at this time wasted by war, and lay in a miserable state of desolation. Those calamities are ever most heavy upon the poor; wherefore Catharina, though possessed of so many accomplishments, experienced all the miseries of hopeless indigence. Provisions becoming every day more scarce, and her private stock being entirely exhausted, she resolved at last to travel to Marienburgh, a city of greater plenty.

“With her scanty wardrobe packed up in a wallet, she set out on her journey on foot. She

was to walk through a region miserable by nature, but rendered still more hideous by the Swedes and Russians, who, as each happened to become masters, plundered it at discretion; but hunger had taught her to despise the dangers and fatigues of the way. One evening, upon her journey, as she had entered a cottage by the way-side, to take up her lodging for the night, she was insulted by two Swedish soldiers. They might, probably, have carried their insults into violence, had not a subaltern officer, accidentally passing by, come in to her assistance. Upon his appearing, the soldiers immediately desisted; but her thankfulness was hardly greater than her surprise, when she instantly recollected, in her deliverer, the son of the Lutheran minister, her former instructor, benefactor, and friend. This was a happy interview for Catharina. The little stock of money that she had brought from home was by this time quite exhausted; her clothes were gone, piece by piece, in order to satisfy those who had entertained her in their houses; her generous countryman, therefore, parted with what he could spare, to buy her clothes; he also furnished her with a horse, and gave her letters of recommendation to a faithful friend of his father's, the superintendant of Marienburgh.

“ The beautiful stranger was well received at

Marienburgh. She was immediately admitted into the superintendant's family, as governess to his two daughters, and, though but seventeen, showed herself capable of instructing her sex, not only in virtue, but in politeness. Such were her good sense and beauty, that her master himself in a short time offered her his hand, which, to his great surprise, she thought proper to refuse. Actuated by a principle of gratitude, she was resolved to marry her deliverer only, though he had lost an arm, and was otherwise disfigured by wounds received in the service. In order, therefore, to prevent further solicitations from others, as soon as the officer came to town upon duty, she offered him her hand, which he accepted with joy, and their nuptials were accordingly solemnized. But all the lines of her fortune were to be striking. The very day on which they were married, the Russians laid siege to Marienburgh. The unhappy soldier was immediately ordered to an attack, from which he never returned.

“ In the meantime the siege went on with fury, aggravated on one side by obstinacy, on the other by revenge. The war between the two northern powers at that time was truly barbarous; and the innocent peasant, and the harmless virgin, often shared the fate of the soldier in arms. Marienburgh was taken by assault;

and such was the fury of the assailants, that not only the garrison, but almost all the inhabitants, men, women, and children, were put to the sword. At length, when the carnage was nearly over, Catharina was found hid in an oven. She had hitherto been poor, but free; she was now to conform to her hard fate, and learn what it was to be a slave. In this situation, however, she behaved with piety and humility; and though misfortunes had abated her vivacity, yet she was cheerful. The fame of her merit and resignation reached even Prince Menzikoff, the Russian general. He desired to see her, was pleased with her appearance, bought her from the soldier her master, and placed her under the direction of his own sister. Here she was treated with all the respect that her merit deserved, while her beauty every day improved with her good fortune.

“ She had not been long in this situation, when, Peter the Great paying the prince a visit, Catharina happened to come in with some dry fruits, which she served round with peculiar modesty. The mighty monarch saw her, and was struck with her beauty. He returned the next day, called for the beautiful slave, asked her several questions, and found the charms of her mind superior even to those of her person.

He had been forced, when young, to marry from motives of interest ; he was now resolved to marry pursuant to his own inclinations. He immediately inquired into the history of the fair Livonian, who was not yet eighteen. He traced her through the vale of obscurity, through the vicissitudes of her fortune, and found her truly great in them all. The meanness of her birth was no obstruction to his design. The nuptials were solemnized in private ; the prince declaring to his courtiers, that virtue was the properest ladder to a throne.

“ We now see Catharina raised from the low mud-walled cottage, to be empress of the greatest nation upon earth. The poor solitary wanderer is now surrounded by thousands, who find happiness in her smile. She, who formerly wanted a meal, is now capable of diffusing plenty upon whole nations. To her good fortune she owed a part of this pre-eminence, but to her virtues more. She ever after retained those great qualities which first placed her on a throne ; and while the extraordinary prince, her husband, laboured for the reformation of his male subjects, she studied, in her turn, the improvement of her own sex. She altered their dresses ; introduced mixed assemblies ; instituted an order of female knighthood ; promoted piety and virtue ; and,

at length, when she had greatly filled all the stations of empress, friend, wife, and mother, bravely died without regret—regretted by all.” Adelina thanked me, and said, that she thought history must be an entertaining study.

Not far from the dock-yard were deposited the remains of the Pelican, in which Sir Francis Drake circumnavigated the globe. Out of its relics a chair was made and presented to the university of Oxford. Mr. A—— asked Adelina if she recollected the lines that Cowley wrote upon that ship, which she immediately repeated :

To this great ship, which round the world has run,
And match'd in race the chariot of the sun !
This Pythagorean ship, (for it may claim
Without presumption so deserv'd a name)
By knowledge once and transformation now
In her new shape this sacred post allow.
Drake and his ship could not have wish'd from fate
A happier station or more bless'd estate,
For lo ! a seat of endless rest is given
To her in Oxford---and to *him* in Heaven !

Mr. A—— continued : “ Sir Francis Drake was born in Devonshire in 1545, and died in 1596. He was a distinguished naval officer, served under Queen Elizabeth with high reputation, and made a voyage round the world.” I thanked Mr. A——, and we proceeded. Besides the royal dock-yard, there are several yards

in the vicinity of Deptford, appropriated chiefly to the mercantile interests of Great Britain. In Greenland dock, ships laden with blubber, or the fat of whales, find a safe retreat; and the quantity of oil extracted here is very considerable; but, however useful this article may be to mankind, the process of its preparation is peculiarly offensive.

The Trinity-house at Deptford is a society of great utility, and was founded in the year 1515, by Sir Thomas Spert. It was incorporated by Henry VIII. and its privileges have in several successive reigns received enlargement. Its province is, to take cognizance of sea-marks and erect light-houses, cleanse the Thames, grant licenses to poor seamen not yet free of the city to row on the river, examine the mathematical children at Christ's Hospital, appoint pilots, and assist in other matters connected with the maritime department of the county. This corporation is governed by a master, four wardens, eight assistants, and eighteen elder brethren. The Duke of Marlborough, Lord Bridport, and several other distinguished characters, are among the honorary members. This company relieves every year about three thousand poor seamen, their widows and orphans. On Trinity Monday they have a grand procession from their

house on Tower-hill to the hall at Deptford, where they choose a master for the ensuing year. Of what essential service must such an institution prove to society !

Among the curiosities preserved in the hall of this building, are, a flag taken from the Spaniards by Sir Francis Drake, whose picture is also there ; a large and exact model of a ship entirely rigged, and two large globes ; and in the parlour are five large drawings, curiously executed by the pen, of several engagements at sea in the reign of Charles II.

As we returned to the inn, I recollected that Captain Cook sailed from Deptford when he went to take some astronomical observations and make discoveries in the Pacific Ocean ; and Mr. A—— rejoined, “ Captain James Cook was born in Yorkshire in 1728, and died in 1779. He was a celebrated navigator, who sailed three times round the world ; and his discoveries have been of the most essential service in improving nautical and geographical knowledge. Captain Cook was killed at one of the Sandwich Isles, in a skirmish with the natives.”

We remounted the carriage very much pleased with this town, and set off for Greenwich, which stands a little below Deptford. The road from London to Greenwich is actually busier, and

far more alive, than the city of York; at every step we met people on horseback, in carriages, and foot passengers; every where also, on each side of the road, are well built and noble houses, whilst all along, at proper distances, the road is lined with lamp-posts. The horses are good, the postillions particularly smart and active, and they always ride on a full trot. A thousand charming spots, and beautiful landscapes, on which my eye could have dwelt with rapture, were now rapidly passed with the speed of an arrow. Our road appeared to be undulatory; and our journey, like the journey of life, seemed to be a pretty regular alternation of up hill and down; and here and there it was diversified with copses and woods; the majestic Thames, every now and then, like a little forest of masts, rising to our view, and then losing itself among the delightful towns and villages. This scene put me in mind of Scot's Thames.

“This scene how rich from Thames's side,
While evening suns their amber beam
Spread o'er the glassy surfac'd tide,
And 'mid the masts and cordage gleam;

Blaze on the roofs with turrets crown'd,
And gild green pastures stretch'd around,
And gild the slope of that high ground
Whose corn-fields bright the prospect bound,

The white sails glide along the shore,
Red streamers on the breezes play,
The boatmen ply the dashing oar,
And wide their various freight convey ;

Some Neptune's hardy thoughtless train,
And some the careful sons of gain,
And some the sportive nymph and swain
List'ning to music's soothing strain,

But here, while these the sight allure,
Still fancy wings her flight away
To woods recluse and vales obscure,
And streams that solitary stray ;

To view the pine-grove on the hill,
The rocks that trickling springs distil,
The meads that quiv'ring aspens fill,
Or alders crowding o'er the hill."

The excursion to *Greenwich*, five miles from London, was delightful ; and we did not fail to request all the information that Mr. A—— was possessed of concerning this place.

" *Greenwich*," said he, " was formerly distinguished for its royal palace ; and now is known throughout the world for its hospital. In the reign of Henry V. it was a fishing-town. At present it covers a considerable portion of ground, and boasts of a large population. It contains one church, of an elegant appearance, built in the course of the last century. *Greenwich* was

the birth-place of Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth, and here died the pious Edward VI. Mr. A—— paused, and begged me to give him the lives of Mary, Elizabeth and Edward; which I did as follows:

“ Mary, Queen of England, was the daughter of Catherine of Arragon, and Henry the Eighth; she was born at Greenwich the 18th of February, 1517. The utmost pains were bestowed upon the education of this princess; and though the first masters attended her, it was superintended by the queen; who was no less anxious to instil religious sentiments into her bosom, than to improve and cultivate her mind. Of the learned languages she soon became a perfect mistress, she even acquired them with facility while merely a child; but though her head was stored with literary knowledge, her heart must have been naturally depraved. As she advanced in years, she excited the resentment of her father, by differing from him upon subjects where religion was concerned; and Henry, who would not bear opposition from any human being, was particularly indignant at meeting with it from his child. Bishop Burnet, in his History of the Reformation, tells us, that the King was so exasperated at her conduct, that he at one time entertained thoughts of having

her put to death, by way of striking terror into those who opposed his authority, by adhering to the catholic faith. Upon the death of her brother Edward, in the year 1553, Mary was proclaimed queen of these realms. Her treatment of the amiable but unfortunate Lady Jane Grey was but a prelude to the crimes which disgraced her reign; and never did a heart more sanguinary and unrelenting reside in the human breast. The year after her accession to the throne of her father, she was united to Philip, the elder son of Charles the Fifth of Spain; but this marriage was proved to be merely political, as he treated her with the greatest neglect. Painful would be the task of describing the various cruelties which were committed upon the protestants, by Mary's command; suffice it to say, that they were such as have cast an indelible stain upon her memory, and which the latest period of time never can deface. That religion, which ought to unite mankind together in bonds of unanimity and love, was made a pretence for the commission of barbarities, at the bare mention of which humanity revolts. She was insensible to the ties of nature, as she was to those of feeling; and many are of opinion, that if her life had been lengthened, her sister Elizabeth never would have reigned. The

total neglect with which this princess was treated by her husband, his voluntary absence from the English court, united to the mortification that she felt at having no children, produced a visible effect upon her health; and in the sixth year of her sovereignty, and the forty-third of her age, she expired at St. James's, on the 7th of November, 1558. Few were the persons who lamented the death of Mary; her manners were not calculated to conciliate the affections, or to make an impression upon the heart. I shall conclude the account of her with Mr. Hume's description, extracted from his historical work.

“ It is not necessary to employ many words in drawing the character of this princess; she possessed few qualities either estimable or amiable, and her person was as little engaging as her behaviour and address. Obstinacy, bigotry, violence, cruelty, malignity, revenge, and tyranny, marked her disposition; and every action of her life was tinged from the weakness of her understanding, and the depravity of her heart. Amidst the complication of vices which entered into her composition, we shall scarcely find any virtue but sincerity; a quality which she seems to have maintained throughout her whole life, except in the beginning of her reign; when the necessity of her affairs obliged her to make some

promises to the protestants, which she certainly never intended to perform: but, in that case, a weak bigoted woman under the government of priests, easily finds casuistry sufficient to justify to herself the violation of an engagement. She appears, as well as her father, to have been susceptible of some friendship, without that caprice and inconstancy which was so striking in the conduct of that monarch. To which we may add, that in many circumstances of her life she gave indications of resolution and vigour of mind; a qualification which seems to have been inherent in her family."

Mr. A—— observed, that Mary was extremely bigoted, and of a cruel and vindictive temper, which she endeavoured to confound with zeal for religion; and desired me to relate Elizabeth's life.

"*Elizabeth*, Queen of England, daughter of Henry the Eighth and Anne Boleyn, was born in the year 1533. The ill-fated queen, her mother, at her death, recommended the object of her affections in the strongest terms to Doctor Parker's care. This amiable prelate, who was afterwards raised to the see of Canterbury, sacredly fulfilled the trust which had been reposed in him, and carefully instructed the young princess in the duties of that religion to which she

was ever warmly attached. Lady Champeron was appointed by her father to superintend her education; and the first classical scholars were engaged to improve her infant mind. She not only acquired modern languages, with a facility which was surprising, but obtained a perfect knowledge both of the Latin and Greek. To the attentions of Doctor Grindal and the celebrated Roger Ascham, Elizabeth was indebted for that learning which few of her sex attain. From her childhood she evinced a fondness for literature, and was justly esteemed a prodigy of her age. Upon the death of King Henry, Edward, who was tenderly attached to her, endeavoured to supply her lost parent's place; and encouraged that fondness for useful information, which, to the astonishment of her instructors, she displayed. At the accession of Mary, Elizabeth was sent to the Tower; and Bishop Gardiner urged the necessity of her being put to death. But this act of cruelty was prevented by Philip, who would not permit the commission of the crime. After a reign of five years, the sanguinary Mary, to the relief of her country, and the joy of her sister, died; and Elizabeth ascended the throne of her father, in the twenty-fifth year of her age. Never was joy more universal than that which was testified by the

people; for though the catholics lamented the death of this bigoted sovereign, their number was confined; and many even amongst them disapproved of the cruelties which had been committed under the cloak of a religion which ought to humanize the mind. Elizabeth was at Hatfield when she was informed of the death of her sister; from thence she proceeded to the Tower, when the recollection of her emotions the last time she had entered it, made a forcible impression upon her mind; and, falling upon her knees, she poured out her grateful heart to heaven, for the unexpected deliverance that she had received. The magnanimity of her disposition now displayed itself; instead of showing any resentment for the cruelties which she had met with, they seemed to be entirely effaced from her mind; and those who had the most reason to dread her indignation, were actually treated as if they had been her friends. Philip was no sooner acquainted with the circumstances that had happened, than he made the new sovereign an offer of his hand; but Elizabeth knew too well the disposition of her subjects, to think of subjecting them to a foreign yoke; and therefore declined the offered alliance; but in the most conciliating style. Philip, who was at this time in the Low Countries, notwithstanding the

refusal, applied for a dispensation of his former marriage from the pope, flattering himself with the hope that he should still be able to induce the queen to accede to his proposals. To establish the reformed religion throughout her dominions, was the first object that actuated Elizabeth's mind; yet she was aware that it would be necessary to act with precaution, and conciliate the catholics at the same time. To do this, she retained eleven of her sister's counsellors; adding eight to the number, who were warmly attached to the protestant faith; among these were Sir Nicholas Bacon, and Sir William Cecil; the former she created lord keeper, and made the latter secretary of state. The first preparatory measure that she adopted, was to recal all the exiled protestants who had suffered under her predecessor's scourge; she next made several alterations in the public service, and forbade the elevation of the host in her church. The catholic bishops, aware of her future intention, actually refused to officiate when she was crowned; but at length the Bishop of Carlisle was induced to perform the ceremony; and she afterwards passed through the principal streets of London, amidst reiterated shouts of applause. Frank in her address, and on all public occasions affable, she seemed to enjoy the highest satisfaction

at observing the concourse of people who crowded round her whenever she appeared; and, without forgetfulness of her dignity, she entered into the amusements of her subjects, and obtained a popularity which none of her predecessors had acquired. Her youth, her graces, her prudence, and her talents, at once attracted admiration and delight; and while her authority was under the direction of law and religion, she at once displayed ardour and magnanimity of mind. The first bill which was brought into parliament was for the suppression of the monasteries which had been recently erected, and for restoring to the queen the tenths and first-fruits; and the next attempt which was made to establish the protestant persuasion, was that of denominating the queen *Governess of the Church*. To both these bills, of course, there were many objections; but the partizans of Elizabeth established her rights; and, emboldened by success, the reformers ventured upon the last important step, which was the abolition of the mass. Penalties were enacted against those who absented themselves from the ordinances of the church; and thus in one session, without tumult, or active resistance, was the established religion of the country changed. Soon after this event, which struck astonishment into the minds of the peo-

ple, and was a marked proof of the extraordinary abilities of the queen, the commons implored her to make choice of a husband; but she informed them, that she was betrothed to her country, that her subjects were her children, and that she wished for no fairer a remembrance transmitted to posterity, than to have engraven on her tomb, "Here lies Queen Elizabeth, who lived and died a maiden queen." Notwithstanding she fancied herself securely established upon the throne of her ancestors, yet her catholic subjects disputed her right; for though her father's marriage with Anne Boleyn had been ratified by the English parliament, it had been opposed by the see of Rome; from this circumstance, Elizabeth was considered as an usurper by the catholics; and Mary Queen of Scots, who was united to the Dauphin of France, was acknowledged as the rightful heir; the French monarch supported her pretensions, and by his advice she assumed the English title and arms. The English ambassador in vain complained of the affront which was offered his sovereign; he merely received evasive replies; and, on the death of the King of France, his successor Francis still called himself King of England and France. Tumults about this time broke out in Scotland, in consequence of some innovations upon their religious

rites; and Elizabeth, anxious to crush the power of her adversaries, resolutely determined to lend Scotland her aid. Mary and Francis, alarmed by the interference of Elizabeth, offered immediately to relinquish Calais, if she would withdraw her succours from the Scotch; but, instead of this, she augmented the forces destined to their assistance; and at length the French monarch was compelled to relinquish his claim to the British crown. By the aid which Elizabeth afforded the discontented people of Scotland, she weaned them from their affection to their lawful queen; and though an accommodation had taken place between the two sovereigns, yet Elizabeth felt towards Mary the most invincible dislike. It was not merely that she considered her as a dangerous rival, whose pretensions to the English throne she had reason to fear; but she felt a secret kind of envy, excited by her personal attractions, which were allowed to be far greater than those which Elizabeth possessed. The demise of the King of France, at this period, was not only a death-blow to Mary's happiness, but occasioned a diminution of her power; she determined therefore to take refuge among her own subjects, and applied to Elizabeth for permission to pass through her realms. This was refused, under different pre-

tences; but Mary passed the fleet which was stationed to intercept her passage, by the assistance of a heavy fog. Internal commotions, however, agitated her kingdom, and she found it necessary to keep up an appearance of friendship with the woman whom it is evident she despised; in consequence of which she relinquished all claims to the British dominions during the period of Elizabeth's life; at the same time, she urged in the strongest manner her right to be nominated successor to the crown.

“Though Elizabeth did not absolutely refuse a compliance, she contrived to evade Mary's demand; in the mean time, a variety of suitors offered themselves, equally anxious to obtain her hand; but the queen gave all a gentle refusal, without absolutely discouraging their hopes; a mixture of coquetry and policy influenced her conduct, whilst, at the same time, she had determined never to divide her power. The Earl of Arundel, Sir William Pickering, and Lord Robert Dudley, were allowed to rank high in the favour of the queen; but to the latter gentleman she evidently gave a preference, though he was the least deserving of her esteem. Dissensions soon broke out between Spain and England, and religious prejudices influenced the minds of both; Philip was zealously attached

to the catholic persuasion, and Elizabeth warmly adhered to the protestant church. The King of Spain, jealous of the progress which the Huguenots had made in France, felt alarmed, lest the contagion should extend to his realms; he therefore assisted the catholic party both with men and money, while the protestants received aid from Elizabeth's purse. At this time the queen was seized with an alarming malady, which eventually proved to be the small-pox; and immediately after her recovery, she was implored either to marry, or nominate an heir; for the recollection of the blood which had been shed in the contests between the houses of York and Lancaster, filled the minds of the people with apprehension and alarm; but Elizabeth remained still inflexible to their intreaties. Occupied, as this extraordinary princess was, with the weighty affairs of a kingdom, yet of each day several hours were devoted to the improvement of her mind; her perfect knowledge of the dead languages excited the astonishment of the most learned; and the study of modern authors afforded her equal delight. Four years after her accession she resolved to visit Cambridge, and remained with the provost of King's College five days; during which time the most learned orations were recited before her, and the even-

ings generally closed with a representation of different classical plays. At her departure, she took leave of the university in a Latin oration, which is still to be seen; and, two years afterwards, she paid a visit to Oxford, where she was in a similar manner entertained. Elizabeth was not only a promoter of learning, but frequently wooed the muses with transport and delight; to music, the sister art, she was no less partial, and she is allowed to have possessed both judgment and taste. Of astronomy and mathematics she likewise had a knowledge, and upon subjects of divinity she delighted to converse; in short, her knowledge was of such extent, that she was capable of conversing upon any subject that was named. Though Elizabeth had refused to nominate Mary as her successor, the animosity which had subsisted between them seemed to have given place to regard; but the Queen of England was at length informed, that the King of France was anxious that his niece should marry; and this was a circumstance which called forth her alarm. If the Queen of Scotland formed an alliance at the instigation of her uncle, Elizabeth was persuaded that her husband would make pretensions to the English crown; and, to prevent this circumstance from happening, she recommended Mary to marry a favourite

of her own. This favourite was Lord Robert Dudley, on whom she had bestowed the title of earl; and she informed the Queen of Scotland, that if she would accept the hand of the Earl of Leicester, she would immediately nominate her successor to the throne. The person of the Earl of Leicester was formed by the hand of the graces; but his mind was degenerate, and influenced by deceit; and, from the decided marks of favour which he had received from his sovereign, he entertained hopes of possessing her hand. In consequence of this, he heard of her intention with respect to Mary with evident marks of disapprobation and chagrin; and even the queen, when she perceived that Mary seemed inclined to agree to her proposal, deemed Leicester too essential to her own happiness, and would not suffer him to depart. The Queen of Scotland, irritated at being thus trifled with, expressed her disapprobation of Elizabeth's conduct in terms rather severe; in consequence of which, that friendship which had appeared to subsist between them, seemed upon the eve of dissolution. To follow the Queen of England through all those intricate mazes which are the result of political designs, would extend this history far beyond its necessary bounds. I shal therefore only observe, that as Elizabeth disapproved of

Mary's alliance with the Earl of Leicester, Mary sometime afterwards gave her hand to Lord Darnley, the Earl of Lenox's son; a nobleman whose personal appearance was no way inferior to that of Leicester, and who inspired her with the liveliest affection and regard. This marriage, however, proved unpropitious to Mary, and was the cause of those dissensions which shook her upon her throne. Upon the birth of the Queen of Scotland's son, the English Parliament again implored their sovereign to marry, or to nominate a successor to the throne; when she once more evaded complying with their wishes, yet seemed to give them reason to imagine that she might yet become a wife. Commotions of the most alarming nature now agitated Scotland: the queen's popularity decreased; her subjects revolted; Darnley was murdered, and her enemies even accused her of being accessory to his death. In this situation, she applied to Elizabeth, who promised her assistance, yet made excuses for delay; at length, Mary's army was completely vanquished, and she preserved her freedom only by flight. Reaching the borders of Cumberland, she immediately dispatched a messenger to Elizabeth, who, at the commencement of hostilities in Scotland, had promised to aid her in establishing her rights; but, by the

advice of Cecil, she was persuaded to alter her purpose, and, instead of supporting the claims of Mary, to keep her in her own power. Veiling her designs under the appearance of friendship, she sent Lady Scrope, sister to the Duke of Norfolk, to the disappointed queen, to inform her that she could not admit her into her presence, until she had acquitted herself of the charge of being accessory to her husband's death. Mary, who had reached Carlisle when this message arrived, burst into tears; but soon afterwards, conquering the violence of her agitation, she replied, "That she was ready to submit her cause to the arbitration of so good a friend." To Murray, the Regent of Scotland, Elizabeth likewise dispatched a messenger, desiring him to send persons to London to justify his conduct to the queen; and so completely did she conceal her future intentions, that it was impossible for either party to find out what course she meant to take. To Mary she frequently sent the most friendly messages; the purport of which was, that she was confident she would find no difficulty in refuting the calumnies which had been raised; and informing her that she should not be cited to a trial; but that her enemies should be compelled to justify themselves, for the manner in which they behaved. Mary, deceived by

these expressions of kindness, agreed to every proposal which Elizabeth made; and the Duke of Norfolk, the Earl of Sussex, and Sir Ralph Sadler, were appointed by the English court to examine into the merits of the cause. Persons were also chosen as commissioners from Mary; the regent, and several noblemen of the first distinction, were summoned to appear; York was, at first, the place of their meeting; but the evidence being complex on both sides, they were afterwards removed to Hampton Court. Elizabeth, at first, seemed inclined to favour Mary; but the evidence of her being accessory to her husband's destruction appeared very strong. The Earl of Lenox loudly demanded vengeance upon his son's murderers, yet still was unable to bring positive proof. Elizabeth seemed rather inclined to keep the matter doubtful; for till evidence was produced either to criminate or exculpate Mary, she was still in her power; the regent implored permission to return again to Scotland, and no farther scrutiny was made in the affair. The friends, however, of Mary, began to increase in number; the Duke of Norfolk placed himself at their head; and his interest alone was a powerful auxiliary; but, as a reward for his exertions, he aspired to her hand. Though Norfolk had arranged his measures with precaution,

they did not escape the vigilance of Cecil and the queen ; he was arrested, and sent to the Tower, as suspected of aiding a rebellion ; but he soon had an opportunity of making his innocence clear ; in consequence of which he was set at liberty, on condition that he would resign his pretensions to the Queen of Scots.

“ Still Elizabeth contrived to amuse the mind of her prisoner by promises of friendship and assurances of release, and at the same time kept up an appearance of cordiality with the regent ; and Lenox, the young king’s grandfather, was appointed regent after the death of Murray, who fell by the hand of an assassin whom he had privately injured.

“ Though the rebellion, which the Duke of Norfolk was supposed to be concerned in, was soon stifled, yet Elizabeth began to be alarmed at the authority of the pope, who, having in vain endeavoured to conciliate her friendship, issued a bull of excommunication against her, depriving her of all right to the crown, and absolving her subjects from their oath of allegiance ; which bull was posted by a man of the name of Felton, upon the Bishop of London’s palace wall. All Europe soon became in a state of commotion ; a religious mania seemed to have seized each individual mind ; the intrigues of the catholics, and the furious zeal of the sectaries, were carried

to a most alarming height. France was at length compelled to court the friendship of England, and negociated a treaty of marriage between the Duke of Anjou and the queen; but the difference of religion was an excuse for procrastination, and prevented the affair being brought to a close. The enemies of Elizabeth, and the partizans of Mary, determined to make another effort to restore her to her throne; and Norfolk was again persuaded to conduct the undertaking, upon receiving the promise of obtaining his reward. A large sum of money was to be sent to Scotland, to be circulated among the queen's friends; and the pope and the King of Spain had both consented to furnish him with a large body of foreign troops. Unfortunately for Norfolk, the person who was intrusted with the money gave it into the custody of a man who was unacquainted with their views, who immediately conveyed it to the minister; and by the letter which accompanied it, the whole secret was discovered. Norfolk was tried, condemned, and executed, and a more rigorous confinement inflicted upon the queen; while her partizans, finding that they were not likely to accomplish their purpose, quietly submitted to the regent's power. Soon after, the horrible massacre of Saint Bartholomew was committed, for which the French ambassador

was ordered to make excuses to the English court; and so completely was he shocked at the enormity of the action, that he declared he even blushed at bearing a French name. Elizabeth concealed her indignation while she listened to his apology, to which she replied in guarded, but severe terms; for she considered the massacre of the Huguenots as a mere prelude to the designs of the courts of France and Spain upon her. She immediately ordered her fleet to be got in readiness, exercised her militia, and fortified her ports, renewed her alliances with the German princes, and acted with the greatest vigour; for the young King of Scots, the nobility and gentry, aroused by the barbarous murders which had been committed upon so many thousand men, offered to levy an army among them, and to maintain it for six months in France. Elizabeth, however, rather chose to act with moderation, and the death of the king produced a temporary peace; soon after which, the Prince of Orange sent an ambassador to the Queen of England, offering the sovereignty of his provinces, if she would assist him against Spain. This proposal was at first rejected; but a treaty of mutual alliance and defence was entered into in the year 1578. It is scarcely possible for me, in this short history of Elizabeth, to describe the judicious measures which she pur-

sued; for though no sovereign ever maintained the regal authority with more firmness, or exercised over the parliament a more despotic sway; yet her address was so great, and her measures so well concerted, that she contrived to make herself both loved and obeyed. By a rigid attention to economy in every department, she paid all the debts which had been contracted by the crown; and, instead of burdening her subjects with heavy taxes, she discharged many of them from her own private purse. The credit of this princess was so extensive, that she could have demanded any sum of money which her exigencies might require; and though she has sometimes been accused of parsimony, yet her justice and frugality deserve to be admired.

“About the year 1577 the political horizon began to appear clouded; new troubles had arisen in Scotland; and the regent, who was devoted to Elizabeth, was compelled to resign his power. The friends of the young king insisted upon his taking the reins of government, although he was scarcely twelve years old. Mary, at this critical juncture, implored Philip's protection, who sent into Ireland a body of Spanish troops. Religious animosities had long actuated the mind of Philip; but the reason he assigned for sending troops into Ireland, was the conduct of Drake, who had

taken an immense booty from the Spaniards in the South Sea. Elizabeth, dreading the increasing power of Philip, found it prudent to be upon the most amicable terms with France; in consequence of which, the contract was renewed between her and the Duke of Anjou, and it was settled that the marriage should take place in the course of six weeks. As soon as the ceremony was performed, the duke was to bear the title of King of England, though the administration of government was still to remain in the hands of the queen; their children, whether male or female, were to be heirs to the crown of England; and, in case of the demise of Henry without issue, the younger (if it was a male) was to be King of France. The grand object of this political marriage was to unite France and England; the Duke of Anjou, who had paid a private visit to his future consort, now publicly appeared at court, where he met with a reception the most flattering to his wishes; and Elizabeth took a superb ring from her finger, and placed it upon his hand. The parliament were universally dissatisfied with the projected measure; Sir Philip Sidney undertook to point out to the queen the evils which might result from it, and represented, that instead of being the means of uniting the two kingdoms, England would become subject to a foreign yoke.

“It is difficult to say, whether Elizabeth was convinced by these arguments, or whether she began to think that she should not be able to exert the same dominion after marriage as she had done before; but certain it is, that the treaty was put an end to, and the Duke of Anjou retired to the Netherlands in disgust. About this time the catholics both in England and Scotland openly testified their zeal in Mary’s cause; when Elizabeth summoned a new parliament, which extended the boundaries of her authority, and enacted severe penalties against jesuits and popish priests. Persons of this persuasion were ordered to quit the kingdom within the space of forty days; and by this violent exertion of sovereign authority, the exercise of the catholic religion was totally suppressed. The queen was not only permitted to exercise an unbounded sway over the constitution, but was actually suffered to extend it over all the affairs of the church; and it is curious to trace the nice gradations by which she acquired a truly despotic power. In the year 1584, another conspiracy was discovered, at the head of which was a catholic gentleman, named Parry, who meditated the death of the queen; although his own life had been preserved by her, as he had some time before been convicted of a capital crime. The mind of Elizabeth was kept in a constant

state of agitation, from the disloyalty of the catholics, and their attachment to the Queen of Scots ; in addition to this circumstance, she was alarmed at the increasing power of Philip, and suffered some degree of apprehension from the Dutch. At length the partizans of Mary resolved to make another bold stroke for her liberation ; and John Savage, a man of desperate courage, undertook to assassinate the queen ; the pope himself approved of the enterprise, and the venturer was warmly encouraged by a variety of catholic priests. A young gentleman, of good family, of the name of Babington, was the first to whom Savage revealed his intended design ; and being strongly attached to the catholic persuasion, he warmly entered into the cause. Animated by the idea of rescuing the unfortunate prisoner, he undertook, at the head of his associates, which were numerous, to attack her guards, and their projected measures were communicated to Mary by letters, which were conveyed by a brewer, and thrust into a chink in the wall. Notwithstanding the precaution which was used by the conspirators, however, Walsingham, the secretary of state, obtained intimation of their design ; and was likewise informed that the pope, the King of Spain, the Duke of Guise, and the Prince of

Parma, all threatened to levy their forces against England about the same time. Elizabeth therefore had to guard at once against assassination, insurrection, and invasion; and dreadful must have been the state of her mind. By measures the most politic on the part of Walsingham, the conspirators were apprehended, and the principal of them punished for their crimes; while the unfortunate Mary, who was considered as the cause of this rebellion, was destined to expiate the offence with her life. Though it is much to be feared, that Elizabeth was secretly gratified at the prospect of her fears and apprehensions being brought to a close; yet, when a verdict of guilt was passed upon Mary, she affected the most lively interest and concern, and could not be persuaded to sign that mandate which was to put a period to her days. Whether she really felt a repugnance, or whether she wished the odium of Mary's death to fall upon the lords and commons, is a circumstance that must ever remain undecided, and can only be known to the great Searcher of Hearts. Certain it is, however, that when both houses had passed sentence against the prisoner, she implored them once more to assemble, and reflect upon the crime; declaring that she could not bear the idea of taking away the unfortu-

nate Mary's life. Through this veil of hypocrisy, it was not difficult to penetrate; but at length the fatal warrant was signed, and presented to her secretary, whose name was Davison, under pretence that it was not to be executed but in case of another revolt. To render this probable, a variety of stories were circulated: merely to alarm the public mind, it was said that the Spanish fleet had arrived at Milford-haven; that the Scotch had made an irruption in the north; that the Guises had landed an army in Sussex; and that Mary had escaped from prison, and had collected her troops. All these reports terrified the minds of the protestants, and made them hear of Mary's death with emotions of delight; whilst Elizabeth appeared affected with the most unfeigned sorrow, and declared that, though the warrant had been signed, it was her intention to have saved the prisoner's life. Davison was accused of disobedience to her orders; as she declared that she had given directions that the fatal instrument should remain in his hands; instead of which, he had presented it to the chancellor, and forwarded it for execution as soon as it had passed the seal. In a letter to the King of Scotland, she protested her innocence of the transaction, with that energy of assertion which it seems

scarcely possible that guilt could assume; it is not probable, however, that, even at the instigation of the parliament, Davison would have ventured to have transgressed his sovereign's commands: the very signing of the warrant proved that she intended to have it executed; but she was aware that the deed would tarnish the lustre of her fame; with well feigned sorrow, therefore, she pretended to lament the fate of her rival, though it is too evident that her death had been a long projected scheme. The dissimulation of Elizabeth upon this fatal catastrophe, afforded the young King of Scotland an opportunity of renewing the bonds of amity with a sovereign with whom it was his interest to be in league; for, as she disclaimed being accessary to the death of his mother, he could, without appearing to want filial affection, conciliate her esteem. About this time Elizabeth was informed that the Spanish monarch was making preparations to attack the English coasts; in consequence of which, she sent Sir Francis Drake to Lisbon, and he actually burnt and destroyed a hundred vessels laden with ammunition and stores. Notwithstanding this exploit of bravery, Philip resolved to prosecute his design; and the most formidable preparations were made for the invasion of England, in which

he was assisted by all his allies. The ports of Spain, Sicily, and Portugal, were filled with vessels destined to attack the English shores, whilst an army of forty thousand men were collected in the Netherlands; the duke of Parma furnished a number of flat-bottomed boats; and officers of the most consummate skill were appointed to conduct the undertaking. Elizabeth heard of the preparations without terror or alarm, yet determined to make the most vigorous exertions to save her country from a foreign yoke. Their utmost estimate of British sailors only amounted to fourteen thousand three hundred men; which, when compared with the immense forces that were to oppose them, appeared like placing children to fight against men. The ships were likewise inferior in number, and there was a still greater disproportion in their size; yet commanded as they were by a Drake, a Hawkins, an Effingham, and a Frobisher, their inequality seemed rather to invigorate than depress the minds of the people. Though the land forces were more numerous than those of the enemy, yet they were inferior in military skill; twenty thousand of them were placed along the southern coasts of England, and twenty-three thousand, under the command of Leicester, were stationed at Tilbury fort. The partiality

of the queen for this nobleman could never have been more strongly manifested than in giving him this command; and, in all probability, she would have had reason to repent of the selection, had the enemy been permitted to land. In other respects, her conduct at this critical juncture was such as evinced the intrepidity of her mind; she rode through the ranks and exhorted the soldiers to prove their valour, and, like her, resolve to conquer or die. Collecting her troops round her person, she called forth all their energies by the following speech, and seemed to breathe into their bosoms that enthusiastic thirst for glory which at the moment animated her own:

“ My loving people,

“ We have been persuaded by some, that are careful of our safety, to take care how we commit ourselves to armed multitudes, for fear of treachery; but I assure you I do not desire to live to distrust my faithful and loving people. Let tyrants fear! but I have always so behaved myself, that, under God, I have placed my chief strength and safe-guard in the loyal hearts and good will of my subjects; and therefore I am come amongst you, as you see, resolved to live or die amongst you all: I know I have the body but of a weak and feeble woman, but I

have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a king of England too; and think foul scorn that Parma, or Spain, or any prince of Europe, should dare to invade the borders of my realm; to which, rather than any dishonour should grow by me, I myself will be your general, judge, and rewarder of the valour you display in England's cause. I know already, for your forwardness, you have deserved rewards and crowns, and we do assure you, on the word of a prince, they shall be amply paid you. In the mean time, my lieutenant-general shall be in my stead, than whom never prince commanded a more noble, a more worthy subject; not doubting, but by your obedience to him, by your concord in the camp, and by your valour in the field, we shall shortly have a famous victory over those enemies of my God, my kingdom, and my people.'

"This appeal to the hearts and valour of her subjects, was received with reiterated bursts of applause; their affection for their sovereign seemed to rise to a pitch of enthusiasm; and they unanimously resolved to conquer, or perish in the cause. In the beginning of May 1588 the Spanish Armada was prepared to quit the port; when the Marquis Santa Croce, who had the command of the whole squadron, was seized

with a fever, which terminated his life. The loss of this experienced officer was a presage of the failure of the expedition, for the Duke of Medina had a very imperfect knowledge of naval affairs; yet the Spaniards were completely confident of victory, and quitted the harbour invigorated by hope. On the following day a violent storm dispersed this immense body; many of the smaller vessels were totally lost, and the larger were so much damaged, that they were compelled to return into port. Disappointed, but not dismayed, they repaired the damages, and again proceeded toward the English coast; but I should trespass too much upon your time, to describe how they were vanquished, or by what accident their ships were lost. I will only add, that the English admirals displayed both judgment and valour; and that a second tempest overtook the enemy, as they were returning to their native shores. The conduct of Elizabeth, in the hour of danger, rendered her an object of universal regard; the commons, without a murmur, voted her the supplies which she demanded, and she at once obtained an ascendancy over their minds and their hearts. Soon after the defeat of the Spaniards, the queen lost her favourite Leicester; and though no doubt can be entertained of her having felt an affection for

that nobleman, yet it certainly could not have been of the most refined kind; as she ordered all his goods to be sold at a public auction, to reimburse her for a long-contracted debt. The Earl of Essex soon succeeded the Earl of Leicester in his sovereign's favour, and he was allowed to have been much more deserving of her esteem; he was made commander of the troops which Elizabeth sent to assist Henry, in quelling the insurrection which had taken place in part of his dominions, and to enable him to expel the insurgents that had arrived from the Normandy coast. During the military operations in France, which were attended with various successes, the queen still employed her naval power in the annoyance of Spain; and though she succeeded in harassing a foreign enemy, she did so at a most enormous expence. Notwithstanding the immense sums of money which were lavished, not only on her determination to harass Philip, but on the troops which were sent to France, the prerogative of the crown daily acquired fresh consequence, and at length was exercised with absolute uncontroul. The Spanish court, by its intrigues, contrived to excite insurrections in Scotland; and James in vain applied to Elizabeth for redress; instead of affording him the assistance which he demanded,

she countenanced the Earl of Bothwell, one of the most inveterate of his foes; and though it was believed that she intended to make him heir of her dominions, she encouraged the same dislike to him which she had felt to the author of his birth.

“ In 1597, Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins undertook an important enterprize against the Spanish settlements in America, which unfortunately did not succeed; still the queen was not to be diverted from her purpose of subduing Philip, and gave orders for the equipment of a most powerful fleet, which was destined to attack Cadiz, the port of which was full of rich merchant ships. The command of the land forces was given to the Earl of Essex, and Lord Effingham was appointed high-admiral at sea. In this undertaking the English were more fortunate, for the loss of their rivals was very great; but it is believed that the success of the British arms depended greatly upon a precaution of Sir Walter Raleigh, as the orders of Essex led him foremost in the fight; and when he had taken possession of Cadiz, he wished to have conducted his troops farther into Spain. A mutual dislike soon took place between the two generals, which occurring circumstances tended to increase; and though the

queen made a grateful return for the services she had received from Raleigh, it was evident that Essex acquired an ascendancy over her heart. The personal attractions of this nobleman are allowed to have been pre-eminent, his manners were dignified and full of grace; while the independence of his mind, and the ingenuous emotions of his feelings, were strikingly depicted in his expressive face. Fond as Elizabeth was of compliment and adulation, yet these were not the means which Essex adopted to insure her regard; and in a conference between them respecting the choice of a lord lieutenant for Ireland, he forgot that she was his sovereign, and treated her with marked symptoms of disrespect. The queen, enraged in the first instance at his venturing to differ from her in opinion, and still more so, at his want of respect, rose from her seat, impelled by resentment, and struck him a violent blow upon the ear; which the indignant Essex not only resented, but, clapping his hand upon his sword, instantly quitted the court, declaring that he would not have submitted to such an insult had he received it from Henry the Eighth. The friends of Essex, alarmed for his safety, implored him to make concessions to the queen; this he did; and instead of being punished for the temerity, he was

honoured with more decisive proofs of her esteem. The ingenuous disposition of Essex exposed him to the malice of his enemies, for his language was the pure dictation of his heart; he knew not how to disguise his sentiments, and was above the petty policy of a court. Elevated as he was by the favour of his sovereign, his very situation excited envy in illiberal minds, who carefully watched an opportunity of depreciating those great qualities, which are generally blended with imperfection or vice. To an impetuosity of temper, was united an independence of sentiment, which did not easily submit to control; and during the time he was lord lieutenant of Ireland, the queen expressed her disapprobation of his measures, in terms which offended his pride.—His enemies, and unfortunately he was surrounded by numbers of them, eagerly reported his expressions of anger to the queen; and upon his being made acquainted with this circumstance, anxious to acquit himself, he returned to England without leave, actually forced himself into his sovereign's dressing-room, and when she believed him to be in Ireland, was before her at her feet. The queen, instead of expressing any resentment at his having abandoned the elevated station to which she had raised him, listened to the re-

futation of the charges which had been alleged against him with pleasure in her eyes; and upon quitting the presence of his royal mistress, he "thanked God that after all his storms and troubles abroad, he had found a sweet calm at home!" The calm, however, which afforded so much delight to Essex, was but the presage of a gathering storm; for the moment he had quitted the presence of his sovereign, she put a very different construction upon his returning home; and instead of considering it as a mark of attachment to her person, she thought it a proof of a presumption which ought to be subdued. Essex was accordingly committed into the custody of the lord keeper Egerton, and debarred even the society of his amiable wife. So sincerely did he seem to regret having offended Elizabeth, that he was soon taken alarmingly ill. The queen instantly felt the latent sparks of affection towards him rekindle; she sent her own physician to attend him, with orders to endeavour to compose his mind, by assuring him that he would soon be released from confinement, and that he was at liberty to enjoy the company of his wife. The enemies of Essex, alarmed at these symptoms of approaching pardon, represented to the queen that his illness had been feigned, and pointed out the absolute necessity

there was for subduing a spirit so uncontrollable; as otherwise it would be a subject, instead of a sovereign, who reigned. Absolute power was the idol of Elizabeth; and the idea of having it disputed by any one, was what she could not bear: the enemies of Essex, therefore, could not have adopted any measure more likely to have driven his image from her heart. At length he was examined by the privy council; but when he was ordered to reply to the charge, he merely said, that he never should contest with his sovereign, and that the grief he felt at having offended her was the most deep and profound; that his heart glowed with affection and loyalty; and, that the greatest misfortune he had ever suffered, was that of incurring the anger and resentment of the queen. The sentence passed upon him by the lord keeper was, that he should not hold any important office in the state, but that he should return a prisoner to his own mansion, and remain so until it was the queen's pleasure to set him free! The queen was surrounded by the enemies of her favourite, who were continually fabricating some story to keep her resentment alive; while his friends openly condemned the injustice with which he had been treated by persons whom in his prosperous days he had essentially obliged. At length

Essex was determined to apply to his sovereign for a favour, which she, in terms the most mortifying, refused ; his fiery spirit, insulted as well as wounded, could no longer submit to control. When honoured with distinguished marks of favour from his sovereign, he frequently adopted an independent, if not imperious tone ; and he had found it sometimes procure him the accomplishment of his wishes, when persuasion and conciliation had failed. Again he had determined to try this dangerous expedient, and he delivered his sentiments with an unguarded freedom that he had reason to deplore ; for they were represented to the queen, with those exaggerations which at once excited resentment and rage. Not satisfied with this act of imprudence, he courted public popularity, and military power, and even caressed those bold adventurers whose desperate situation had rendered them hateful to the queen. He formed friends among the catholics, both in the Spanish and Roman territories, and advised the King of Scotland to insist upon being declared Elizabeth's heir. While things were in this situation, some advances were made from Spain of the pacific kind ; but the people, flushed with the hopes of future victory, were much more inclined to war than peace ; and Essex suggested the idea, that mi-

nisters chose to sacrifice the interests of their country, from some private advantage that was to result to themselves. A select council of mal-contents daily assembled at his mansion; where it was agreed, that they should take possession of the palace, and that Essex should rush into the presence of the queen, and implore her immediately to remove his enemies from the helm of government, assemble her parliament, and form a new code of laws. Of the affections of the people, Essex imagined himself in possession; and the idea of forming an improved mode of government animated his breast with delight; but in the midst of these transporting visions he was alarmed, by finding that the queen was prepared to frustrate his designs. How she acquired a knowledge of this important secret, or by what method this well arranged plan was overthrown, would take up too much of your time to elucidate. I shall only add, that the Earl of Essex and his associates were condemned for high treason, and the queen with much reluctance signed the warrant for his death. Thus perished in his thirty-fifth year, in the bloom and vigour of manhood, the gallant Essex; whose brilliant endowments seemed to promise a far different fate; whose generosity, courage, and genius, excited admiration; but

whose impetuosity of disposition threw these great qualities into a shade. Though the queen took an active part in the affairs of government, yet it was evident that the death of Essex had given a severe pang to her heart ; but about two years after the event, a circumstance was imparted to her, which absolutely gave a death-stroke to her peace. At the time that the Earl of Essex stood highest in the favour of his sovereign, she presented him with a most valuable ring; telling him at the same time, that if any change should take place in her regard towards him, upon his sending her that ring, she would grant whatever he might require. During the time of his confinement, he still cherished the hope of pardon ; but when he was told that the warrants had been signed, he drew the precious ring from his finger, which he flattered himself would be the means of saving his life: to the Countess of Nottingham, he entrusted the treasure, imploring her to present it to the queen, and remind her of the promise which she had made upon giving it, which he had only to hope she would fulfil. The husband of the countess was the mortal enemy of Essex, and he persuaded her not to deliver the ring ; but being taken dangerously ill, she communicated the circumstance to Elizabeth, from whom she

implored pardon for the crime. Distress the most poignant was produced by the intelligence; and it is reported, that the queen actually shook the dying countess in her bed; exclaiming at the same time, that God perhaps might pardon her, but that she never could: frantic with grief, she returned to the palace, the victim of remorse, affection, and despair; and throwing herself upon the carpet, she remained in that situation for the space of ten nights and days. In vain did her physicians prescribe remedies for a malady which had taken its root in the mind, but which evidently made rapid ravages upon her constitution, and threatened to put a period to her life. A council assembled to implore her to nominate a successor; when, in a languid tone of voice, she mentioned James, the King of Scots; after which she fell into a lethargic kind of slumber, in which she remained several hours, and expired on the twenty-fourth of March, 1603, in the seventieth year of her age. Long before her death, her health had visibly been declining; the weight of government became oppressive for her years; yet she could not bear the idea of suffering any other person to share it with her, so fond was she of undivided power. Of this princess different historians have given different characters; but as a sovereign, her

abilities are universally allowed to have been great ; as a woman, however, her talents excite admiration, rather than affection ; and her conduct towards Mary has thrown her brilliant qualities into a shade. Rapin, in his account of Elizabeth, tells us, that she possessed great natural wit, combined with solid sense ; and of her fondness for literature, and her wish to promote learning in both the universities, there are several proofs. She has been accused by her enemies of hypocrisy and dissimulation, not only with respect to the unfortunate Mary, but to the courts of France and Spain ; and when she professed the affection which she felt for her subjects, it is to be believed that her expressions described an exaggerated regard. The charity of Elizabeth has likewise been doubted ; but against this, there certainly was never any positive proof. She was fond of admiration to the greatest degree of weakness, and expected the same kind of personal homage in advanced age that she had received in youth. Essex, in all probability, would never have fallen a victim to her resentment, had his enemies not repeated the sarcasms which he threw out against the decay of her charms. " To sum up, in two words," says Rapin, " what may serve to form Elizabeth's character, she was a good and illus-

trious queen, with many virtues and noble qualities, and with few faults." "Her singular talent for government," observes Hume, "was founded equally on her temper and capacity; endowed with a great command over herself, she obtained an uncontrouled ascendancy over her people; and while she merited all their esteem by her real virtues, she also engaged their affections by her pretended ones. The wise ministers and brave warriors who flourished during her reign, share the praise of her successes; but instead of lessening the applause due to her, they make a great addition to it, for they all owed their advancement to her choice. Her vigour, her constancy, her magnanimity, and her penetration, are allowed to merit the highest applause; her heroism was exempt from all temerity, her frugality from avarice, her friendship from partiality, her active spirit from turbulence and vain ambition; and her qualities as a sovereign, though with some considerable exceptions, are the objects of undisputed approbation and applause." Smollet tells us, "that her conversation was sprightly and agreeable, her judgment solid, her apprehension acute, her application indefatigable, and her courage invincible. She was the great bulwark of the protestant religion, and highly commendable for her general

regard to the impartial administration of justice ; yet in some instances, where her own interest was concerned, she deviated from the general rule ; and, notwithstanding all her great qualities, she was vain, proud, imperious, and sometimes cruel. Her predominant passions were jealousy and avarice ; and she was subject to such violent gusts of anger, as overwhelmed all regard to the dignity of her station, and hurried her beyond the common bounds of decency. She was, however, wise and steady in her principles of government ; above all princes, fortunate in her ministry, and died after a reign of forty-four years, four months, and eight days, and was interred in Westminster Abbey, in the vault of Henry the Seventh's chapel." Mr. A—— remarked, that Elizabeth had great sense and a judgment naturally sound and solid ; that she was a good and illustrious queen, endued with many virtues, noble qualities, and few faults, and caused her subjects to enjoy a felicity unknown to their ancestors.

I then continued. " Edward the 6th was the son of Henry the 8th by Jane Seymour. He ascended the throne in 1547, at the age of ten years, and was a prince of promising talents, virtue, and piety. The reformation begun by his father went on vigorously in his reign,

through Archbishop Cranmer and the protector; but he died at Greenwich in 1553, aged 16. He founded the hospitals of Christ church, London, and St. Thomas, Southwark." Mr. A—— was pleased with my retentive memory; and told us, that George the 1st landed at Greenwich, September 18, 1714, of whom he wished me also to give him an account.

"George the 1st, King of England, was the eldest son of Ernest Augustus, elector of Brunswick Lunenburgh, or Hanover, by the Princess Sophia daughter of Frederick, elector Palatine and King of Bohemia, and Elizabeth daughter of James I. He was born in 1660, created Duke of Cambridge in 1706, and succeeded Queen Anne in 1714. The next year a rebellion broke out in Scotland in favour of the pretender, which, however, was shortly quelled. In his reign parliaments were made septennial, and the order of the Bath was revived. In 1720 happened the failure of the famous South Sea scheme, by which many thousands were ruined. He died at Osnaburgh on his journey to Hanover, Sunday, June 11, 1727, of a paralytic disorder, aged 67." Mr. A—— added, that when the king first landed at Greenwich, he was received by the Duke of Northumberland and the lords of the regency; that he afterwards

sent for such of the nobility as had distinguished themselves by their zeal for his succession; and that he was a very valiant, learned, and politic prince.

The palace at Greenwich was erected by Humphrey Duke of Gloucester, who named it Placentia. It was afterwards enlarged by Henry VII. and completed by Henry VIII. This building, being suffered to run to decay, was in the time of Charles II. pulled down; and that monarch erected on the site the first wing of the college, then designed for a royal palace. He also enlarged the park, walled it round, planted it, and erected a royal observatory on the top of the hill, for the celebrated astronomer Flamstead, and furnished it with astronomical instruments. This residence is allotted to the astronomer royal, with a salary. There is here a deep dry well for observing the stars in the day-time. This park is much resorted to in the Easter and Whitsun holidays, by young men and women from London and the neighbourhood, who divert themselves by running down the hills and various other sports.

King William the Third being very desirous of promoting the commerce, navigation, and naval strength of this kingdom, by inviting great numbers of his subjects to betake themselves to

the sea, gave this noble palace, and several other edifices, with a considerable spot of ground, for the use of disabled seamen, and for the wives and children of such as lose their lives at sea; and as he could not compass so extensive a charity alone, desired the assistance of his subjects, who, both in his reign and the succeeding ones, have contributed largely, not only to finish the building in its present magnificent state, but also to adorn and endow it. On our reaching the hospital Adelina exclaimed, in a rapture, "You might well, sir, call it magnificent! This is indeed a palace! Look, too, at the old men, how clean and merry they appear! I shall always love the memory of King William for this noble generous gift."

"The institution," returned Mr. A——, "is indeed highly to the honour of all concerned; for our seamen, after experiencing the hardships and dangers of a maritime life, have a just claim to expect to finish their days sheltered from want and the vicissitudes of fortune; and it certainly must be a consolatory reflection to them, that in case of necessity they have such an asylum."

We then entered the building, the whole arrangement of which, and the beauty of the paintings, greatly pleased us; an old seaman leading the way, explaining the various subjects,

and giving every information concerning the management of the hospital.

“My good sir,” said I to Mr. A——, “how truly did you say that good actions communicate pleasure whenever they are reflected on! For how great a satisfaction must a survey of this charity have given to those who willingly contributed towards it, when it makes even my heart glow with delight that am simply a spectator!” But it is time, my dear sister, to give you an account of this Royal Hospital.

It raises its magnificent front close to the river, and to the passing voyager exhibits traits of sublimity. Charles the Second began the superb structure, and George the Second finished it. Its chapel is elegant: on the sides are galleries for the officers and their families; beneath are seats for the pensioners, nurses, and boys. Above the altar is a representation of the Shipwreck of Paul, by West, who has exercised his pencil with great success on scriptural subjects. The hall is decorated by some fine paintings undertaken by Sir James Thornhill in 1708, but not finished till about twenty years after. Portraits of the royal founders meet the eye, though the four Seasons are the best calculated to produce an impression. The old man shivering with cold and stretching out his hands toward

a scanty pittance of fire is admirably delineated. I recollect the sensations with which it inspired me; for at the very moment, I felt that chillness which the dreariness of winter occasions, when

“ It reigns tremendous o’er the conquer’d year!”

Nor must I forget to mention a series of small pictures in the anti-chamber to the council-room: they represent the loss of the *Luxenburgh* galley, commanded by Captain William Kellaway, burnt in 1727, on her passage from Jamaica to London, together with the distress of part of the crew who escaped in the long boat, and were at sea twelve days without any victuals, or a single drop of liquor: twenty-three were in this boat—six only survived! Mr. William Boys, one of the six, was afterwards lieutenant governor of this hospital. It is impossible for a feeling heart not to be interested in the representation of such a series of calamities; the destruction of a ship at sea by fire is the consummation of human misery. I could not view these pictures unmoved.

Of the internal management of this hospital, I shall only mention a few particulars. Two thousand disabled seamen are provided for in this royal asylum. Every man has a weekly allowance of seven loaves, weighing sixteen

ounces each, three pounds of beef, two of mutton, a pint of peas, a pound and a quarter of cheese, two ounces of butter, and fourteen quarts of beer; and one shilling a week tobacco-money. Beside these allowances, every common pensioner receives once in two years a suit of blue clothes, a hat, three pair of stockings, two pair of shoes, five neck-cloths, three shirts, and two night-caps. Toward the support of this hospital, every seaman, whether in the royal navy or in the merchant service, pays sixpence per month, stopped out of their wages, and paid to the treasurer of the Sixpenny-office on Tower-hill. There are estates belonging to the hospital, and it has also received large benefactions."

Having examined every particular of this edifice, we walked to the park; the beautiful situation of which, and delightful views of the Hospital, the river Thames, the city of London, and the deer with which it is well stocked, so entirely employed our thoughts, that Mr. A—— was more than once obliged to remind us that it was time to breakfast. When we were upon One Tree Hill, I could not refrain from sketching the view. Adelina took one of the Hospital, which I send you with this. At length we forced ourselves away. After having

made a hasty meal, we proceeded to view the curious cavern discovered, in the year 1780, on the left side of the ascent to Blackheath; and having procured a guide we entered it.

The guide led the way with a lanthorn, down a regular flight of steps composed of chalk, to a depth of at least fifty feet from the surface of the earth, at the entrance; and, as the guide informed us, at the extremity of the cavern 160 feet. We then reached the apartments, which are seven in number, and where the guide lighted up candles. Some of these apartments are from twelve to thirty-six feet wide each way, and have a communication with each other by arched avenues. The sides and roofs of these are chalk, the bottoms of sand: some of the apartments have large conical domes, upwards of thirty-six feet high, supported by columns of chalk; and in one of them is a well of very fine water, twenty-seven feet deep.

Adelina and I were not soon weary of exploring this cavern; but Mr. A——, observing me shudder and complain of cold, desired the guide to lead the way out.

“How amazingly curious!” said I, as we reached the top of the stairs, and again beheld the rays of the sun, which was shining in its full meridian splendour; “yet how gladly do I

again see the cheerful light! I shall hereafter consider it with redoubled pleasure; for how dreadful must a dwelling be where the light of the sun never enters!"

"Dreadful, indeed!" resumed Mr. A — ;
"yet how many are condemned to labour in the bowels of the earth, where no beam of cheering sunshine can ever perforate, to dig for metals and minerals for the use of their more fortunate fellow-creatures, who never consider the sorrow and labour with which they have been procured!"

"My dear sir," said Adelina, "when I have made myself mistress of the history of my own country, I know no study that would afford me so much pleasure as natural history."

"You are perfectly right, my dear," answered her father. "No pursuit is more pleasant or better calculated to improve the mind; I therefore think your intention commendable. It is matter of conjecture, among the curious, to what purpose such a recess as that which we have just visited could have been appropriated."

From the point on Blackheath there is a transporting view of the metropolis, with its environs. Round this ridge the nobility and gentry take a morning ride, by which their spirits are exhilarated, and a keener relish is

obtained for the subsequent diversions of the day.

Blackheath, six miles from London, and long known in the annals of our history, is a large plain, so called from the blackness of its soil. It is much admired for the beauty of its situation and its excellent air; and has been rendered memorable by being the theatre of several remarkable transactions. It was here that the Danish army lay a considerable time encamped in the year 1011; and it was here that the famous Wat Tyler, the Kentish rebel, mustered one hundred thousand men. John Cade also, who stiled himself John Mortimer, and laid claim to the crown, pretending that he was kinsman to the Duke of York, encamped on this heath for near a month together in 1451.

Mr. A—— asked me if I recollected any account of those transactions. I replied, that I believed the first was in the reign of Richard the second; whose grandfather Edward the Third had levied a tax of three groats on every person above the age of fifteen; and which being entrusted to collectors to be gathered, they were said to be, sometimes, guilty of the most brutal violencees.

The first person who openly resisted these tax-gatherers, was a blacksmith named Wat

Tyler, at Dartford. His daughter had been grossly insulted by one of these men, whom her father, in the heat of passion, struck dead with a hammer with which he was at work; an action which was applauded by the by-standers, who resolved to defend his conduct, and appointed him their leader in the common cause. The fire of sedition, once kindled, spread rapidly; the rebels soon amounted to a hundred thousand men, and, being composed of the dregs of the people, committed the most horrid excesses, spreading desolation and murder wherever they came.

The young king, then not sixteen, had been placed in the Tower for safety; but Wat Tyler having led a party of his men from Blackheath to Smithfield, he met him there, demanding a conference, and promising to redress the grievances complained of.

Wat Tyler complied, and, ordering his men to retire, boldly advanced to the king, who was surrounded by his nobles, and proceeded to make his demands. In the heat of the contest, Wat Tyler repeatedly raised his sword, as it was thought in a menacing posture; which insolence so exasperated William Walworth, then mayor of London, that taking no time to reflect on the temerity of the action, or that he exposed the

king to the most imminent danger, he struck the rebel leader on the head with his mace; when one of the knights who attended the king rode up, and instantly dispatched him with his sword.

The rebels, on seeing their leader fall, prepared for revenge; but Richard, with great presence of mind and courage, for his years, prevented them from carrying their designs into execution; for advancing towards them he said, "What, my people, would you kill your king? Be not concerned for the loss of your leader; follow me, I will be your chief, and grant whatever you desire."

The multitude, awed by the manner of the young king, immediately obeyed, and followed him to the fields, where he granted them charters of amnesty, and enfranchisement; but which grants were afterwards annulled in parliament.

In the reign of Henry VI. John Cade, a native of Ireland, a man of low birth, and who had before fled the country for his crimes, on his return assumed the name of Mortimer; and, at the head of twenty thousand Kentish men, advanced toward the capital, and encamped on Blackheath, where he published a manifesto against the government; and having dispersed a small body of troops that were sent against him, was at length received at London, from

which the court had retired. Here, however, his party committing some excesses, he was driven from thence by the citizens, and retreated to Rochester; where being abandoned by most of his followers, a price was set upon his head; and being discovered in the wolds of Kent, he was slain, his body quartered, and his head set up on London Bridge.

Mr. A—— then said that in the following year King Henry the Sixth pitched his royal pavilion here, having assembled troops to withstand the force of his cousin, Edward Duke of York, who was afterwards King Edward IV. And here against that king did the bastard Falconbridge likewise encamp. In 1497, the Lord Audley, Flemmock, an attorney, and Joseph the blacksmith, encamped on this place, in the rebellion which they raised against King Henry the Seventh. And here that politic and warlike prince routed them, killing above two thousand on the spot, and taking about fourteen thousand prisoners. In 1415, the lord mayor and aldermen of London, with four hundred citizens in scarlet, and with red and white hoods on, came to Blackheath, where they met the victorious prince, King Henry the Fifth, who had just returned from France, after the famous battle of Agincourt; and from Blackheath they conducted his

majesty to London. In 1474, the lord mayor and aldermen, attended by five hundred citizens, also met King Edward the Fourth here, on his return from France. It appears also to have been usual formerly to meet foreign princes and other persons of high rank, on Blackheath, on their arrival in England. On the 21st of December, 1411, Maurice, Emperor of Constantinople, who came to solicit assistance against the Turks, was met here with great magnificence by King Henry the Fourth. In 1416, the Emperor Sigismund was met here, and from hence conducted in great pomp to London. In 1518, the Lord-admiral of France and the Archbishop of Paris, both ambassadors from the French king, with above twelve hundred attendants, were met here by the Admiral of England, and above five hundred gentlemen. And the following year Cardinal Campejus, the pope's legate, being attended hither by the gentlemen of Kent, was met by the Duke of Norfolk, and many noblemen and prelates of England; and here in a tent of cloth and gold he put on his cardinal's robes richly ermined, and from hence rode to London. Here also King Henry the Eighth met the Princess Anne of Cleves, in very great state and pomp, and was soon afterwards married to her.

We were so attentive to Mr. A——'s account of Blackheath, that we had like to have passed, without perceiving it, *Morden College*, on the east side of the heath, which was erected for the support of poor decayed merchants, by Sir John Morden, Bart. a Turkey merchant, several years before his death, which happened in the year 1708. It consists of a large brick building, with two small wings, strengthened at the corners with stone rustics. Sir John erected his college at a small distance from his own habitation, in a place called Great Stone Field, and endowed it after his lady's decease, with his whole real, copyhold, and personal estate, to the value of about thirteen hundred pounds per annum. He placed in this hospital twelve decayed Turkey merchants in his life-time; but, after his decease, the Lady Morden, finding that the share allotted her by Sir John's last will, was not sufficient for her decent support, some parts of the estate not answering so well as had been expected, she was obliged to reduce the number to four; but upon her death, the whole estate coming to the college, the number was increased. There are at this time thirty-five poor gentlemen; and the number not being limited, it is to be increased as the estate will afford; for the building will conveniently hold

forty. The treasurer is allowed forty pounds a-year; and the chaplain, who reads prayers twice a-day, and preaches twice every Sunday, had at first a salary of thirty pounds per annum, which the Lady Morden doubled at her death. Lady Morden was in several respects a benefactress to the college; and as she put her husband's statue in a niche over the gate, the trustees have placed her's in another niche, adjoining to that of her husband. The treasurer, chaplain, and pensioners, are obliged to reside in the college; and, except in case of sickness, no other persons are to reside, live, or lodge there; but no person can be admitted as a pensioner, who cannot make it appear that he is above sixty years of age. The pensioners have each twenty pounds a-year, and at first wore gowns, with the founder's badge; but this badge has not been worn for some years. They have a common table in the hall to eat and drink together at meals, and each has a convenient apartment with a cellar. Seven Turkey merchants have the direction of this hospital, and the nomination of the persons to be admitted into it; to them the treasurer is accountable, and whenever any of these die, the surviving trustees chuse others in their stead.

There are several noblemen's and gentlemen's seats on Blackheath; and in particular, those of

the Earl of Chesterfield and the Earl of Dartmouth. Not far from Morden College, Mr. A—— told us, the mansion of the late Sir Gregory Page used to rear its head, and attract admiration. It was begun and finished in twelve months! for this expedition, he said, various reasons were assigned; but Sir Gregory died in 1775, and in 1787 the materials were sold—so that no traces are left of its former glory! Should the report be true, he added, that this princely seat originated in the success of the South Sea company in 1720, it may be said to bear a melancholy resemblance to that institution in its evanescent nature; they both glittered like a meteor, and then disappeared, to the astonishment of mankind!

On seeing Bryan House, I recollected having read a System of Astronomy by Mrs. Bryan, who lived there, the perusal of which had filled me with sentiments of adoration for that Almighty Being, who has created so many worlds! I asked Mr. A—— if he knew any thing of the lady who resided there. He told us, “that the biography of this lady was completely silent as to the early incidents of her life; yet her education must not only have been extremely liberal, but the utmost pains must have been taken to cultivate her mind. At present she is at the

head of a seminary for young ladies, at Bryan House; and if we may judge from the specimen which has been displayed of her abilities, few females are so well calculated to instruct the youthful mind. The work which you mentioned is entitled 'A compendious System of Astronomy in a Course of familiar Lectures,' in which the principles of that science are clearly elucidated, and rendered intelligible to those who have not studied the mathematics. The approbation of that complete judge of literary merit, Dr. Hutton, is in itself sufficient to establish the author's fame; but it is universally allowed to be a masterly composition, and calculated to do honour to the lady's name. One of the reviewers, who pays the tribute due to Mrs. Bryan's merit, says, 'this work may be confidently recommended to those who have the care of the rising generation, as calculated to call forth into exertion the powers of ripening genius, to fill the mind with vast conceptions, and to inspire the soul with admiration of that consummate wisdom, which ordained all things in measure and number, weight and order, beauty and proportion.'

As we manifested a great desire to see Woolwich, which lies on the north side of Blackheath, Mr. A—— indulged our wish, and

ordered the postillion to drive thither. That portion of space which I then saw surround me, was a most delightful selection from the whole of beautiful nature. Here was the Thames full of large and small ships, and boats, dispersed here and there, which were either sailing, or lying at anchor; and there the hills on either side, clad with so soft and mild a green, as cannot be equalled. Wherever I turned my eyes, nothing appeared but fertile and cultivated lands; and those living hedges, which form the boundaries of the green corn-fields, and give to the whole of the distant country the appearance of a large and majestic garden. The neat villages and small towns, with sundry intermediate country seats, suggest ideas of prosperity and opulence, which it is not possible to describe. I shall inclose a view that I took of *Woolwich*, which is a market town about nine miles from London, and three from Greenwich, situated on the banks of the river Thames, and wholly taken up by, and in a manner raised from, the yards and docks erected there for the naval service. I shall dispatch this packet from hence, and continue my journal in the evening.

As we walked about, Mr. A—— told us, that in the reign of King Edward the First, Woolwich was in the possession of Gilbert de Marisco;

and he held it, as half a knight's fee, of Warren de Monchensie, Baron of Swanscombe. But Queen Elizabeth, when the business of the navy increased, built here larger ships than were employed before; new docks and launches were erected, and places prepared for building and repairing ships of the largest size; because here was a greater depth of water and a freer channel than at Deptford. This is reckoned the mother-dock of the royal navy, and is said to have furnished as many ships of war as any two docks in England.

All the buildings and yards belonging to the dock are encompassed with a high wall; they are very spacious and convenient, and so prodigiously full of all sorts of stores, of timber, plank, masts, pitch, tar, and other naval provisions, as can hardly be conceived. Besides the building-yard, here is a large rope-walk, where the greatest cables are made for men of war; I was astonished to see them; and in the lower part of the town is the gun-yard, commonly called the *Warren*, or the *Gun Park*. This has been recently ordered by the king to be called *The Royal Arsenal*. It contains a vast quantity of cannon of all sorts for the ships of war, every ship's gun apart, heavy cannon for batteries, and mortars of all sorts and sizes; insomuch that

here have been laid up at one time, between seven and eight thousand pieces of ordnance, besides mortars and shells almost beyond number. Here also is the house where the firemen and engineers prepare their fire-works, and charge bombs, carcasses, and grenadoes, for the public service.

The town has been of late years much enlarged and beautified; several fine docks, rope-yards, and capacious magazines have been added; and the royal foundery for cannon repaired and improved. The regiment of the Royal Train of Artillery commonly lies here, and here is an academy for instructing them in the art of gunnery. Here also are the hulks, &c. of old ships, thronged with convicts, who are expiating their crimes by a laborious degradation. Mr. A—— observed, that, how far such discipline tended to reformation, might bear discussion. In the opinion of some, it is a school for vice, and inures the mind to a still greater degree of hardness. He added, it was a pity that some punishment could not be devised better calculated to effect the amendment of the unhappy criminals. Many of these persons might surely be reformed, and become valuable members of the community. Soon after this we had an opportunity of conversing with one of them, who was

the picture of wretchedness. Alas ! he might have held a respectable station in society ; but idleness led to vice, and vice terminated in his present misery. He told us, that his father was a very respectable tradesman, who had no other children than himself and a younger brother ; that his parents spared no pains or expence to make them happy ; but that their dispositions were widely different ; his brother's was so diligent and gentle, that he was the delight of his parents ; but for himself, he was perverse, obstinate, and idle ; he used to steal sugar, tarts, &c. when he was a child, and never would learn his book ; so that he was a continual uneasiness to his parents ; that when he was fourteen years old, his father told him, he would give him a week to choose what business he would be bred to, as it was time he should be bound apprentice ; but instead of considering about it, meeting with another boy as idle as himself, they agreed to rob their fathers and run away ; which they effected, and lived merrily while the money lasted ; and then enlisted for soldiers : but finding that they must learn their exercise, and having severely suffered from the rattan, he deserted, and rambling to Portsmouth was pressed on board a man of war ; in which he suffered so much that he was nearly tempted

to throw himself overboard. That when he returned from sea, finding his father had died very rich, he turned his mother out of doors, and seized upon all his father's property; he remained in a state of intoxication till all was gone; and, finding that he must either go to sea again, or starve in the street, he chose the former, and once more went on board a man of war: he lost one arm by a shot, and a leg by a splinter; he then took to begging in the streets by day, and pilfering by night; and at last was detected, with another of his associates, in the cellar of a grocer, where they had secreted themselves in the hopes of plunder. Their guilt was fully proved, as they had packed up several parcels of sugar and fruit, ready to decamp with, as soon as an opportunity should offer; they were accordingly sentenced to labour in the hulks for life; he had been seven years there at this time, and appeared very penitent. Mr. A—— enquired if his mother or brother were living; he said his mother had died of a broken heart soon after he turned her out of doors; that his brother, who till then supported her, had accepted a lucrative office abroad, but that he had never enquired about him afterwards: however, as he expressed great contrition for his offences, and avowed purposes of reformation, Mr. A——

took down his name with an intention of doing what he can for him.

The convicts come on shore every day, and are employed in manual labour ; they return on board to their meals ; and clambering up the side of their vessels, the clanking of the chains resounds from afar, and wounds the ear of sensibility. My blood ran cold when I heard the horrid sound. Chained together, and subjected to the strictest regulations, their station must be very mortifying to their feelings. Mr. A—— observed, that vice was in every stage of its progress the source of misery. Far better, however, is it thus to try the effects of discipline upon offenders, than for every little crime to consign them over to the hands of the executioner. Our laws are sanguinary ! public executions are perpetually occurring : hence a number of poor wretches covered with crimes are precipitated into eternity, while the frequency of these spectacles brutalizes the lower classes of mankind. In the province of Pennsylvania, capital punishments are abolished ; nor has their abolition been found to injure the peace and order of society. Solitary imprisonment, recommended by the benevolent Howard, answers valuable purposes ; for few criminals are so depraved as not to feel its efficacy.

I was greatly delighted with Woolwich, and took a drawing of it; but we returned so dull from this melancholy scene, that we had almost overlooked Lee church, on the summit of a hill at the south side of Blackheath. This ancient small structure, in a secluded situation, we stopped to view. The church-yard is neat, and much ornamented with costly monuments of statuary and black marble. The great astronomer Dr. Edmund Halley lies buried here, under a plain table tomb, with an inscription of some length in Latin; and also Mr. Parsons the comedian. The latter, Mr. A—— told us, was well known in the gay world for his powers of wit and mimicry; he was a comic actor of the highest eminence, and trod the stage forty-five years. Mr. Parsons was born Feb. 29, 1736, and died Feb. 3, 1793. In the conception and execution of such characters as Foresight, in *Love for Love*; Corbaccio, in *Volpone*; Sir Fretful Plagiary, in the *Critic*, &c. we may never expect to see his equal. To his talents as a comedian, Mr. Parsons added others approaching to excellence in painting, and particularly in fruit-pieces.

Dr. Halley will long be revered for his discoveries in science, particularly in astronomy and navigation. He was a most eminent English

philosopher as well as astronomer, and his works are highly valued in every part of Europe. He was born in 1656, and died in 1742.

Adelina recollected these verses of Cawthorn in memory of Dr. Halley :

Immortal Halley! thy unwearied soul
On wisdom's pinion flew from pole to pole ;
Th' uncertain compass to its task restor'd ;
Each ocean fathom'd, and each wind explor'd ;
Commanded trade with every breeze to fly,
And gave to Britain half the Zemblian sky!

The church-yard is also adorned by a monument to the memory of Lord Dacre, which Lady Dacre is said to visit daily with punctual devotion. Mr. A—— observed, that such circumstances show the power which the association of ideas holds over the mind ; and turning to me, asked if I recollected the lines in which Akenside referred to an instance of a similar kind. I repeated them :

----- Ask the faithful youth,
Why the cold urn of her whom long he lov'd
So often fills his arms, so often draws
His lonely footsteps at the silent hour,
To pay the mournful tribute of his tears?
Oh! he will tell thee that the wealth of worlds
Should ne'er seduce his bosom to forego
That sacred hour, when, stealing from the noise
Of care and envy, sweet remembrance soothes
With virtue's kindest looks his aching breast,
And turns his tears to rapture!

You find that we sometimes deviate a little from the direct road: every place, indeed, that we wish to see, we do see: and having thus glanced at Blackheath and its environs (the theatre also of the famous Miss Robertson's manœuvres), we proceeded up to the summit of *Shooter's Hill*, eight miles from London, whence we enjoyed a most extensive horizon. The cities of London and Westminster rise in full prospect before you; generally, indeed, enveloped in smoke, but always exhibiting marks of grandeur and sublimity. St. Paul's appears like some huge mountain above the enormous masses of smaller buildings. The monument, a very lofty column erected in memory of the great fire of London, exhibited to us (perhaps chiefly on account of its immense height, apparently so disproportioned to its other dimensions; for it actually struck Adelina and me as resembling rather the appearance of a slender mast, towering up in immeasurable height into the clouds, than as what it really is, a stately obelisk) an unusual and singular appearance. Shooter's Hill affords a most noble and extensive prospect, not only into almost all parts of this county, but into Sussex, Surrey, and Essex; and the whole landscape is enriched beyond measure by the meanderings of the Thames, the pride and or-

nament of Britain. Originating in a spring not larger than the palm of your hand, it gradually widens, by the accession of lesser streams, till it bears upon its bosom the stately vessels of commerce; and then pouring itself into the ocean, throws its waters round the globe! Mr. A—— desired Adelina to recollect what Dyer had said of the Thames; and she immediately repeated these lines:

----- See the silver maze
 Of stately *Thamis*, ever chequer'd o'er
 With deeply laden barges, gliding smooth
 And constant as his stream: in growing pomp,
 By Neptune still attended, slow he rolls
 To great Augusta's mart, where lofty trade,
 Amid a thousand golden spires enthron'd,
 Gives audience to the world!

On the brow of the hill, near the eighth milestone, is a triangular brick building, raised, by his lady, to the memory of Sir William James, Bart. (who died December, 1763) and which is beheld in every direction around London, on account of the height of its situation, being 482 feet above the sea. Mr. A—— told us that Sir William had the command of the Company's marine forces in the East Indies, where he distinguished himself by the capture of Severndroog castle on the coast of Malabar, April 2nd, 1755." This singular tower has three floors,

and the entrance is decorated with trophies taken from the enemy. We inspected it; and the weather being fine, we had a most pleasing and delightful view from the summit of the building, which afforded us the highest gratification. The interior is remarkably neat; there are not only picturesque representations of the taking of Severndroog; but the motto inscribed on the furniture, indicates the purpose for which the tower is raised and embellished. The late Dr. Ray made this tower a principal point in determining the relative situations of the observatories of Greenwich and Paris. Not far from the tower is one of the telegraphs which communicate between London and Deal; we looked through the perspective glasses, both eastward and westward, and were astonished at the sight of the other telegraphs which these glasses are intended to recognize, apparently so near: it appears to have been a well-chosen situation. With respect to the road over the hill, attempts have been made to render it more easy. It continued, however, to be narrow till 1739, when the road was widened, and the declivity of the hill diminished. A design was some time since formed of building a town here, but it seems now to be laid aside.

As we proceeded on our journey Mr. A—— told us, that Shooter's Hill was formerly used

as a butt for archers, and was in great repute among the neighbouring people, till King Henry the Eighth's time; from which circumstance some think it took its name. But others say, that it received its name from the frequent robberies that were committed here. It was common, it is said, for thieves to be lurking in the woods here about, in order to shoot passengers, and then rifle them. And King Henry the Fourth granted leave to Thomas Chapman to cut down and sell the wood here, that it might not be a harbour for thieves; and to lay out the money raised thereby, for the improvement of the highways.

King Henry VIII. and his Queen Catharine once came in very great splendour, on a May-day, from Greenwich to Shooter's Hill, and were received by two hundred archers clad all in green; with one personating Robin Hood, as their captain, who first showed the king the skill of his archers in shooting, and then leading the ladies into the wood, gave them a grand entertainment of venison and wine, in green arbours and booths adorned with fine pageants, and all the efforts of romantic gallantry.

The *bow* was a principal instrument of war among the nations of antiquity; its use may be traced to the earliest times, and followed in the history of almost every country. In England it

was carried to a degree of perfection that is even yet unrivalled. The battles of Cressy, Poitiers, and Agincourt, were gained by the English in consequence of the skilful use of the bow.

We now descended on the other side of the hill, and soon passed by the little town of Erith, situated on the bank of the Thames, where the East India ships unburthen themselves of part of their cargo, that they may proceed up to London with the greater safety. Near this place, we were enticed out of our road a little; for on the brow of the hill is a very agreeable seat, of Lord Eardley's, called Belvedere House, which commands the view of a vast extent of fine country many miles beyond the Thames, which is about a mile and a half distant. This river and its navigation add greatly to the beauty of the scene, which exhibits to the eye of the spectator a most pleasing and delightful landscape. The innumerable ships employed in the immense trade of London, are beheld continually sailing up and down the river. On the other side are prospects not less beautiful, but of another kind. The noble proprietor of this seat (of which I shall send you the Drawing that I took) has very judiciously laid out the grounds, and made many beautiful vistas. The house is but small,

though an addition has been made of a very noble room; this and two others are finely furnished with a valuable collection of pictures by the greatest masters; among which are the following: a portrait of Sir George Gage, by Hans Holbein; St. Catherine, by Leonardo da Vinci; Rembrandt painting an old woman, by himself; Snyders with his wife and child, by Rubens; Boors at cards, by Teniers; the marriage in Cana of Galilee, by Paul Veronese; the genealogy of Christ, by Albert Durer; Herod consulting the wise men, by Rembrandt; and Mars and Venus, by Paul Veronese. Knowing my fondness for pictures, you will suppose how much I was gratified by seeing these.

As we pushed on to *Crayford*, fourteen miles from London, I begged Mr. A—— to give us some account of the Miss Robertson, whom he mentioned when we were at Blackheath. He told us, that Miss Robertson was a notorious impostor, who lately resided at Blackheath, where she had the address to defraud various tradesmen of property to the amount of twenty thousand pounds. Her father was, at the time of his marriage, an oilman in Horsley-down. When about sixteen years of age, Miss Robertson engaged as teacher in a boarding-school at Richmond, and at the age of eighteen had a seminary

of her own at Chelsea. Here she failed, and went to Scotland as governess to the daughters of the late Hon. Mr. Cunningham. In 1795, she and Miss Sharp had a boarding-school on Croom-hill two years, during which time she kept her carriage, and represented herself as heiress to several large estates, particularly to that of an uncle in Scotland, on whose demise she should come into possession of one hundred thousand pounds. Under the impression of these high-flying appearances, she assumed all the consequence attached to birth, fortune, and expectations; and, from her manner of address, and the lofty style which she assumed, the people in the neighbourhood of Blackheath and Greenwich really believed every thing that she thought proper to advance. In May, 1802, she sent to a Mr. Creese, of Greenwich, a man of property, by trade a currier, whom she informed that her uncle, Alexander Stuart Robertson, of Foscally, was dead, and begged that he would accompany her to a respectable attorney, in Crane-court, Fleet-street, to arrange matters preparatory to her taking possession. Mr. Creese complied, and went with her to the gentleman's house in question. Miss R. in stating the business to the attorney, desired that he would make out a satisfactory (the usual pro-

cess for conveying Scotch property) for sixteen hundred pounds a year on the estate of her late uncle, Alexander Stuart Robertson, of Fascally, and a bond for five thousand pounds, to be drawn on the agent who had the superintendence of the estate, and who, she said, had been appointed to receive her rents. A few days after this transaction, she again sent to Mr. Creese, and, knowing him to be a man of property, asked him to lend her two thousand pounds until the settlement of her affairs at Fascally. Mr. Creese, not having the slightest suspicion of any part of what had been advanced being untrue, readily complied, and likewise recommended her to all the trades-people in the town. Desirous of an elegant house, she fixed upon a very handsome one in the Paragon, which was in an unfinished state; this house she purchased on credit; and, through the recommendation of Creese, engaged bricklayers, carpenters, and painters, to finish the premises in the most expensive style imaginable; and ordered Mr. Driver, the nursery-man, to spare no expence in planting the shrubberies and improving the pleasure-grounds. While these improvements were going forward, Miss Robertson set up three carriages, a coach, a sociable, and a post-chariot; and while the house and grounds were

finishing, she, and her companion, Miss Sharp, continued at Croom-hill, from whence they made frequent excursions to London. Toward the latter end of June they set off for Brighton, where they figured away with four horses and out-riders. The horses they had on job from a stable-keeper at Greenwich, and the carriages from different coachmakers in London. On their return, Miss Robertson went to Hatchett's, and desired him to make her an elegant chariot, with silver mouldings, and raised coronets of the same. Mr. Hatchett treated his customer with much respect, and hastened to complete the order by the time promised, the queen's birth-day; her cousin, Mr. Secretary Dundas, intending on that day to introduce her at court. About this time the house was finished, but not furnished: having heard that Mr. Oakley, in Bond-street, was remarkable for the elegance of his ware-rooms, she applied to him through the medium of a man of respectability at Blackheath, and, from the representation made to Mr. Oakley, he agreed to furnish the house for four thousand pounds. Things then went on in a very flourishing way; the drawing-rooms were painted in water-colours by one of the first artists in the kingdom; the walls in landscape, and the ceiling composed of clouds, and appro-

priate devices. The looking glasses to the floor were in burnished gold frames, richly carved, with statuary marble slabs, and mola ornaments. These six mirrors came to eleven hundred pounds. On the marble slabs in the principal drawing-room, were placed a pair of Egyptian candelabras, the price of which was two hundred guineas; the principal bed five hundred pounds, and every other article equally magnificent. During the three months that the furnishing of the house was going forward, Mr. Oakley had many conferences with his employer, Miss Robertson; who frequently mentioned that she had great expectations from rich relations in India, and was continually receiving presents of great value. Among the number lately arrived was a marble chimney-piece, then lying at the India-house, worth, in that country, eleven hundred pounds; and she added, that it was her intention to build a room on purpose to erect it in, adapted for balls or music. Mr. Oakley, not being perfectly satisfied with appearances, requested, when half the order had been completed, the sum of one thousand pounds. Miss Robertson felt herself hurt, and said, that if he had any doubts of having his money when her affairs were settled at Fascally, he might apply to her sister, Lady Paget, or to her cousin the

Bishop of London. "If you have any further doubts (added Miss Robertson), apply to Sir Richard Hill, who has known me from my infancy. Sir Edward Law (the attorney-general) can speak to my respectability." From these bold assertions Mr. Oakley proceeded with the order; but when nearly completed, he judged it proper to wait upon the Bishop of London and Sir Richard Hill; both of which gentlemen said, they had no farther knowledge of a Miss Robertson than by a card, which a person of that name had been in the habit of leaving at the houses of persons of distinction. Upon this discovery Mr. Oakley took out a writ, and with proper officers, his own men, and several carts, went down to Blackheath, and laid in wait till nine o'clock (being informed that Miss Robertson dined out), when the carriage came home, but no Miss Robertson. From this circumstance it appeared, that she had received intimation of what was going forward, and would not return. Mr. Oakley, finding that he could not arrest her person, contrived to get into the house, and let in his men, who disrobed the mansion of its furniture by six o'clock the next morning, having worked hard all night. At nine o'clock in the morning came an execution, by virtue of which the remaining part of the property was sold by

auction on the premises. On leaving Blackheath, Miss Robertson, and her companion, Miss Sharp, set off in the mail coach for Devonshire. At Penzance, in Cornwall, they took up their residence at the hotel; Miss Sharp describing her *protégée* as Madame Douglas, who was a lady of large fortune in the north of England, travelling for the benefit of her health; that being of a recluse turn of mind, she wished to avoid travelling with a retinue, the care and anxiety attending which would more than counterbalance any comforts. Miss Sharp added, that her name was Sydenham, a distant relation of Madame Douglas; and, that being of minds congenial, they had resided together many years. This conversation passed between Miss S. and the landlady at the hotel; the motives for which were, that all further inquiry might be prevented; but their conduct during the time of residence at the inn was so remarkable (they seldom going out till the evening, and then with deep veils over their faces, seeing no company, &c.) that suspicion was excited. The chambermaid having overheard a conversation, wherein the names of Oakley and Creese were frequently mentioned, immediately recollected the particulars which were published of the female swindler. On communicating the affair, a letter was

written to Blackheath; but the next day the party decamped, after remaining only a week at that place. A writ was made out by Messrs. Martyr and Swinton, and sent down with proper officers to execute it; and, by indefatigable inquiry, Miss Robertson was traced to Huntingdon, and conducted to the county gaol. This female Proteus pretended to great sanctity in religion, was a devotee, and attended several presbyterian and other meetings, where she worked upon the christian bowels of the compassionate and liberal, by borrowing money in the way of loan, representing herself as a person of family in distressed circumstances. In person she is plain, much marked by the small-pox, about five feet two inches in height, insinuating in her manners, and speaks in an elevated tone of voice. During her confinement she wrote and published a pamphlet containing an account of her own life and memoirs."

Just as Mr. A—— had finished his account of this daring swindler, we entered *Crayford*, thirteen miles and a quarter from London; a small town, which obtained its name from its having anciently a ford over the river Cray, or Crouch, a little above its influx into the Thames; the transparency of its waters reminded me of these lines of Spenser, though speaking of a different river:

“Lo! the still Darent, in whose waters clear,
Ten thousand fishes play and deck his pleasant stream.”

This place is famous for a battle fought near it between the Britons and Saxons, commanded by Hengist, A. D. 457, in which the Britons were overthrown. In the adjacent heath and fields are several caves, supposed to have been formed by the Saxons as places of security and shelter for their wives, children, and effects, during their wars with the Britons. As we had spent so much time in viewing the places that we passed through, we did not arrive at Dartford till about four o'clock; here we dined, and afterwards called at Mr. Bertram's, where we spent a delightful evening with his agreeable family; consisting of his wife, three sons and three daughters; the youngest of the latter, a beautiful girl of fourteen, has the sweetest voice I ever heard. Mr. and Mrs. Bertram are a charming couple; the innocent vivacity of the one is tempered and composed by the cheerful gravity of the other. The wife grows wise by the discourses of the husband, and the husband good humoured by the conversations of the wife. Mr. Bertram would not be so amiable were it not for his Lucy, nor Lucy so much esteemed were it not for her husband. Their virtues are blended in their children, and diffuse through the whole family a perpetual spirit of benevolence, com-

placency, and satisfaction. I had been pleased, as we came along, with the rural scene of children carrying garlands; we had distributed some pence among them in the villages and hamlets that we passed through; and in the evening we were delighted to partake of a rural ball on the green, with Mr. Bertram's family, and a party of their young companions. A great many spring flowers were brought to us by a servant; and after we had adorned ourselves, each according to her taste, we tripped round the may-pole with merry glee, and kept up the festive dance till eleven o'clock, when we partook of an elegant cold collation. The next morning we arose early and took a pleasant walk to view the place. *Dartford*, fifteen miles from London, is a handsome large town. Upon the river are no less than five mills; one for sawing wood, one for grinding corn, one for making paper, and another for manufacturing gun-powder. On this river the first paper mill in England was erected in 1588, by Sir John Spilman, who obtained a patent, and two hundred pounds a year, from King Charles I. to enable him to carry on the manufacture; and on this river was also the first mill for slitting iron bars for making wire, in 1590. In January 1738 a powder mill was blown up here (for the fourth time in eight

years); when, though all the servants were at their duty, not one was hurt. The town is full of inns and other public-houses, on account of its being a great thoroughfare to Canterbury and Dover. It is finely watered by two or three very good springs, and has a harbour for barges. King Edward III. at his return from France, had a general tournament performed here by his nobles, and also founded a convent, whose abbess and nuns were, for the most part, of the noblest families in the kingdom; and this convent King Henry VIII. turned into a palace. King Henry VI. founded an alms-house here for five poor decrepit men. There is a market on Saturdays, which is generally well stored with corn and other provisions, and much frequented by corn-dealers and meal-men. It was disgraced by being the first town concerned in the rebellion of Wat Tyler and Jack Straw; but has since been honoured, by giving the title of viscount to the Earl of Jersey.

We were so earnestly entreated to stay till the next day with the young party, that Mr. A—— consented, and after breakfast we again sallied out to view the mills; but a Miss Selwyn remarking that we had not yet seen the church-yard, where she wished to read the epitaphs, Adelina and I, willing to explore every

thing worth attention, enquired the way, and set forward. There are two church-yards; one about the church, in which was the following epitaph on a child of three years old, and which pleased me so much that I wrote it down with my pencil:

When the archangels' trumpets blow,
And souls to bodies join,
What crouds will wish their stay below
Had been as short as mine!

How fine a contrast do these lines form to the rubbish by which places of interment are generally disgraced.

The other cemetery is on the top of the hill towards Northfleet, which is so steep, that the church-yard overlooks the tower of the church. We had reached some distance from the house, when a heavy shower of rain fell, and wet our clothes; as the church-yard was in sight, we resolved to seek shelter under its walls. Here we had not stood long, before we saw a man whose hair was white with age, and his form bent with palsy, walking slowly up the path near which we stood. Advancing toward us, he said, "You will take cold, ladies; my house is near. I have been caught in the rain as well as yourselves;—you had better dry your clothes before you proceed."

We thankfully followed him round the church walls, which had screened his humble dwelling from our sight. He lifted the latch, and a cheerful fire gladdened our sight; while, at the same time, the internal cleanliness of the place invited our nearer approach. We hung our pelisses to dry; and, as we were not inclined to remain long silent, Miss Bertram began with expressing a curiosity to know whether he lived there alone;—"Pray, sir," said she, "have you a wife or family?"

"No, miss, I have neither; and I seldom see any one, except my noble benefactor and his lady, who sometimes take an airing this way; indeed, they often honour me by bringing my dear Master Francis and Miss Emily to see that my wants are supplied."

"Francis and Emily!" said Charlotte Bertram, "pray, sir, is the gentleman's name Wilson?" The old man answered, it was; when Miss Charlotte observing that they were acquainted, the old man gave us the following account of his obligations to that family.

"I laboured during my youth," said he, "hoping to save what would help to support me in my old age; when, about four years ago, being already advanced in years, I went to work in a damp house, which brought on me a severe

fit of illness. My disorder was the ague, accompanied by a paralytic affection that had threatened me some time. A hundred miles from my own parish, and without any means but the small sum that I had saved, and which was soon expended, I must have perished with want, had not Providence thrown master Wilson in my way. One day, when I had fasted till nature was nearly exhausted, and had not even the means to pay for a night's lodging, I went out with a design to beg; but my courage failing, I sat myself down on the step of a door in a private street, praying heaven to take compassion on my sufferings. My head was bent towards the earth, so that I did not see any person approach, till Master Wilson, stopping close by me, said, 'Friend, are you ill?'

"Alas! sir," replied I, 'I am, indeed, very ill; nor have I tasted food since yesterday morning.'

"The young gentleman took some silver out of his pocket,— 'Here,' said he, 'are five shillings; they are all that I have now got; my father gave them to me to buy bats and balls; but I do not want them, and am glad that I met with you before they were purchased. Go directly and procure some food; here is a card of my address; do not fear coming; I will speak

to my parents;— they are good and charitable, and will not let any one die of want if they can prevent it.’

“With these words the generous boy hastened away, and left me with a heart overflowing with gratitude and reverence to my God, and thankfulness and love toward his agents.

“Mr. Wilson afterwards placed me in this comfortable asylum, and allows me a sufficiency to supply my wants; my health is strengthened, and I feel myself happy, as I do not covet more than I possess.” — “Ah!” said Charlotte, mentally, as the old man finished, “what my dear mother says about forming hasty conclusions is very just; some time ago I determined rather to give up the pleasure of Miss Wilson’s company, than be obliged to bear the occasional visits of her brother; and I now wish to be better acquainted with the whole family. My god-mother also said that Frank Wilson was reformed; he cannot have a bad or unfeeling heart, who gives up the price of his own pleasures to relieve the distresses of his fellow-creatures.”

Charlotte, seeing that we were ready to depart, stepped towards the old man, and after having thanked him for his civility and kindness, said, “I doubt not, sir, but that you know some one to whom this trifle may be a relief; do me the

favour to present it where it is most needed : for this time I take my leave, but hope soon to see you again, and shall endeavour to prevail on Miss Wilson to bear me company." Adelina and I with much difficulty prevailed on him to accept a trifle for himself; and having thanked us with tears of grateful acknowledgment, we left his dwelling.

As we walked from this hospitable cottage to the paper-mill, I joined Charlotte, and begged her to tell me why she was so much prejudiced against Master Wilson. "I will relate to you his history," said she; "and then you may judge whether I had not reason to dislike him. When we came to Dartford, a gentleman of the name of Wilson resided here, who had a son and daughter, named Frank and Emily; they were the most opposite characters existing in human nature. Emily was so mild and good-tempered, that she was beloved by all who had the pleasure of knowing her; while Frank was feared and detested for his mischievous and cruel disposition.

"We had not been long in the country before my mother and Mrs. Wilson visited; and, in consequence, my brother Charles and Frank, being nearly of the same age, became likewise acquainted. They were at first very well pleased

with each other; but in a very short time, the rude and unpolished manners of Frank made Charles tired of his new playmate. One evening, while their parents and Emily were engaged in the house, the boys obtained permission to play in the grounds. At the end of the inclosure was a pond, or rather a deep ditch, over which was placed a board for the accommodation of the servants to pass into an adjoining meadow when they went to milk the cows.

“Come Charles,” said Frank, “let us cross the ditch; it will be good sport to chace the cattle: see how contentedly they are extended on the grass, as if they were secure from being disturbed.”

“Pray, Frank,” said Charles, “do not be so cruel—I was just pleasing myself with the thought of the poor creatures having such a nice pasture to feed on, and to repose in quiet; I am sure I could not easily forgive their being chased and heated.”

“I don’t mind your forgiveness, but am determined to please myself with hunting them.” So saying, he ran to cross the plank; but before he had reached half over, it gave way, and he fell into the water.

“Charles, though greatly displeased, did not hesitate a moment, but gave him all the assist-

ance in his power; and it was very fortunate that the bad boy was not drowned, for the water was very deep; indeed, Frank felt the obligation that he owed to his young friend, though at the same time he could not forbear inveighing against his own forgetfulness; for he owned that he had sawed the board nearly through, out of mischief, that the maids might fall into the pond the next morning, when they went to milk the cows. As this mischance was not attended with worse consequences, Charles was very glad that he had thus fallen into his own snare. On the contrary, Frank appeared quite sullen and vexed, that his scheme was not only unfolded, but had also tended to his own punishment.

“The boys soon reached the house; and Charles, being too good-natured even to expose the fault of another, kept back, that Frank might tell his own story; though, had he been asked, he would by no means, nor for any consideration, have deviated from the truth; and he afterwards told my godmother the whole.

“Though Frank endeavoured as much as possible to excuse himself, Mr. Wilson was very much displeased, and ordered that his clothes should be taken off, and himself put to bed. Mr. Wilson also assured him, that on the morrow he should be confined, restricted from play, and severely punished.

“ Frank, for a long time after the unfortunate termination of his mischievous design, continued under the displeasure of his parents; at length, his apparent penitence, docile behaviour, and promises of amendment, caused them to forgive him, and for about a month they had no serious cause to repent of their credulity, he being guilty of no outrage during that time; but unhappily his evil propensities were not yet sufficiently overcome, or else his good resolutions were too suddenly made, and without being duly weighed and reflected on; however, one severe and unlooked for accident did more toward his reformation, than all the severity, nay, than even all the tenderness of his parents could effect.

“ Mr. Wilson early one morning set off on horseback to visit a friend who lived at a considerable distance; and Frank, no longer under the eye of paternal authority, and not expecting his father home that night, found all his propensity to mischief revive. His sister Emily was busied in his mamma’s apartments; and for himself, as he knew he must not presume to seek amusement among the servants, he asked his mother’s permission to go into the garden, which was readily granted. He was no sooner out of sight, than he proceeded to form some gunpowder, which he had hid in the summer-house, into wildfire; and opening the gate that

went into the high road, he resolved to throw it among some opposite trees, in order to alarm the neighbourhood. By the time Frank had arranged his apparatus, it was dark ; and, hearing the sound of horses' feet at a distance, he suddenly changed his resolution. ' It is,' said he, ' one of the old farmers jogging home to supper ; if I can but frighten his horse into a good smart gallop, it will be fine sport.' The unfortunate boy had no sooner formed his design, than, advancing up the path, he threw the fire as near as he could direct it towards the horseman, for it was too dark to take a particular aim.

" This mischievous trick effected, he gained the house as speedily as possible ; well pleased with having, at least, alarmed a traveller. His mother commended his quick return, and promised to tell his father of his obedience to her commands. Then, observing that it grew late, she rung the bell for a servant to light them to their apartments. No one answering the summons, after it had been repeated several times, she, attended by her children, left the room, and was crossing the hall, when she perceived several lights in the court-yard, the servants all assembled on the spot, and apparently in great consternation, though their voices were low, and their words indistinct. Opening a window,

she looked out; but what was Frank's horror and surprise, when he saw his father's horse without a rider, streaming with sweat, and covered with dirt.

"Mrs. Wilson flew to the place, and, as soon as her alarm gave her power, dismissed the men different ways in search of their master. Mrs. Wilson's anguish had been too great to suffer her to notice her children; but, the servants dismissed, she extended her arms toward them, and bathed their faces with her tears. As Frank was never remarkable for tenderness, where he was not himself the object, she was astonished to find him almost without life or motion, stupid with sorrow, and unable to relieve his feelings either by words or tears. At this moment the servants returned, bearing their master in their arms, bleeding, covered with bruises, and unable to stand. He extended his hands toward his wife and children; but Frank, unable to raise his eyes to his wounded parent, dashed himself on the ground in an agony not to be expressed, exclaiming. 'This crime is committed by me;' wretch that I am, I have murdered my father; my wickedness is beyond all hope of pardon.'

"Mr. Wilson was immediately conveyed to bed, to which his wounds kept him confined

many weeks. Mrs. Wilson was happy in insensibility; for a delirious fever with which she was seized rendered her incapable of feeling the probability of her husband's loss, until the most imminent danger was over.

“Frank in this, to him, dreadful interval did not dare venture into the presence of his much-injured parents; but running in dismay from apartment to apartment, he would listen first at one door, and then at the other. In his father's chamber, he heard only the heavy moans of one in great pain; in his mother's, the frenzied accents of delirium, calling on her husband, or reviling the wicked contriver of his misfortune.

“The now repentant boy became almost a shadow through his uneasiness of mind, while his parents slowly recovered from the state into which his folly and cruelty had plunged them. Frank, at length restored to their favour, appeared almost by a miracle to have become all that they could wish; his disposition, nay, his very nature seemed changed; and since that time, which is now more than five years, his behaviour has been uniformly good, thoughtful, and humane; so that his parents regard the misfortune that afflicted them, as the immediate hand of Providence to effect this great change in his heart; and even those who were most aggrieved

by his former follies heartily forgive him, and warmly commend his present conduct."

Just as Charlotte had finished her narrative, we approached the paper-mill, where we found Mr. A—— and Mr. Bertram, who had waited a little while for us. Mr. A—— then gave us this account of making paper, as we viewed every part of the process. He told us, that paper-mills are always erected on a stream of water; not only for the convenience of water carriage, but for working beaters, &c. He added, "Men having found out a method of writing, it was necessary to contrive something to write upon. Various modes of making paper, from the bark of trees and other materials, were contrived; but none so complete as that now in use, of making it from white linen rags. European paper appears to have been first introduced among us toward the beginning of the 14th century; but by whom this valuable commodity was invented is not known.

"Great quantities of rags are collected in all parts of the world; and such collectors are called Rag-merchants. Ship loads are imported hither from Holland.

These rags, being purchased by the paper-maker, are sorted for different uses: fine rags, for fine writing paper; and coarser rags for more

ordinary paper. When sorted, they are laid to soak in water, to rot, and then, under a beater worked by a mill-wheel and water, beaten to a fine pulp. After this, they undergo several washings; and, being thrown, at last, into a large vat, in a *fluid* state, about the consistency of thin pap; the paper-mould, which is a square wire-sieve, is dipped into the vat, and, being taken out, the water runs from the sieve through the wires, and leaves a thin surface of pulp upon them; which is then turned out upon a blanket, and the sieve is dipped again for a fresh sheet; so that each dipping produces a sheet of paper; and every sheet, being put between blankets, as soon as there is a heap of them so formed, the heap is drawn away, put under a press and squeezed very hard. After this, it is taken out, sheet by sheet, and hung up to dry. When dry, it is sorted, the good from the bad, the broken from the unbroken; and being made up into certain quantities, it is pressed again.

“Paper is made of many qualities and sizes; from coarse brown, to the finest writing-paper; and such paper as is made to write upon, is always sized, or stiffened so as to bear the ink without sinking. It is occasionally coloured with blue or yellow paint, to give it a fair complexion.

“ Paper is sold by the ream ; twenty quires in one ream, and twenty-four sheets in one quire.

“ It is needless, I presume, to repeat, that linen, which is the basis of paper, is made from flax ; and flax grows in the earth, like wheat or other grain.

“ Very thick paper is called cartridge-paper ; and many sheets of paper being pasted together, form what is called pasteboard.

“ Cards are made of card-paper, printed and glazed.”

I was so exceedingly gratified by what I saw and heard of the process of making paper (of which I had before no idea), that I walked without speaking a word, full of thought, to the gunpowder mill.

Mr. A—— told us, that gunpowder is a composition of salt-petre, sulphur, and charcoal mixed together, and usually granulated ; that it easily takes fire, and, when fired, rarifies, or expands, with great vehemence, by means of its elastic force.

These ingredients are reduced to a fine powder, and beaten for some time, in a stone mortar, with a wooden pestle, wetting the mixture with water, so as to form the whole into an uniform paste, which is reduced to grains by passing it through a wire-sieve fit for the purpose (for

greater quantities, mills are usually provided ; by means of which more work may be done in one day, than a man can do in a hundred.)

These grains being then shaken, or rolled in a barrel, with some powdered black lead, are rounded by the mutual friction, and are glazed by the powder of lead. Its force and explosion, when set on fire, are occasioned by the sudden expansion of the elastic aërial matter which it contains. But to return to this mill.

The ingredients being duly proportioned, and put into the mortars of the mill, which are hollow pieces of wood, each capable of holding twenty pounds of paste, are incorporated by means of the pestles and sprinkling. There are twenty-four mortars in each mill ; where are made each day four hundred and eighty-two pounds of gunpowder ; care being taken to sprinkle the ingredients in the mortars with water from time to time lest they should take fire.

Mr. A—— asked Adelina to give him a botanical account of the two trees, that were often instruments of so much mischief ; which she did in these words : “ The charcoal for making gunpowder is either the willow, or hazel. The willow, *salix*, is of the class *Diandria*, two stamens ; and the first order *Monogynia*, one pistil. This class contains that beautiful family of plants

122 THE WILLOW TREE AND HAZEL.

falling under the genera *Orchis*, *Ophrys*, *Serapias*, *Satyrium*, and *Cypripedium*, which present a delightful field for the researches of a botanist. The ash, the willow, and the sweet-scented vernal grass, also belong to it. There are two orders and eighteen genera."

Adelina added, "As for the Hazel, *Corylus*, it is of the eighth class, *Octandria*, eight stamens. Though far from being very extensive, the class *Octandria* is extremely interesting. It includes the majestic Oak, the graceful Poplar, and the thick-spreading Hazel. That it is prolific in beauties, will not be denied, when I mention that it contains the elegant family of Heaths, the Willow-herb, Mezerion, and Spurge Laurel. There are four orders and fifteen genera."

Mr. A—— expressed himself much pleased with Adelina for her retentive memory.

We walked about the greatest part of the morning; the afternoon we spent in amusing ourselves with the travelling games; and in the evening had a most delightful concert. Charlotte sung divinely. Adelina and I also endeavoured to contribute our share to the entertainment, by exerting our vocal and instrumental powers, and gained so much applause, that good Mr. A—— was quite satisfied with us both.

The next morning we left this amiable family with great regret, and proceeded seven miles further to *Gravesend*, where we breakfasted.

Near the road from Dartford to Gravesend, is a large common called *Dartford Brink*, where Mr. A—— told us Edward III. held a solemn tournament in the year 1331; and that the contest between the families of York and Lancaster began here, when Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, &c. A. D. 1452, brought together on this spot an army of ten thousand men. “At present,” said Mr. A——, “it is the theatre of more peaceful scenes, as appears by the booths erected on a part of it, in which spectators behold the great cricket-matches that are played on this spot.”

About half a mile to the left of the road, between Dartford and Gravesend, is the venerable church of *Stone*, which has in it several ancient monuments. The mansion called *Stone-castle* is to the right of the road; the ancient structure is gone to ruins, and a modern building has been erected in its place. *Greenhithe* is a romantic situation on the banks of the Thames; on the left are a number of large pits, from which are shipped innumerable tons of chalk and lime. Beyond the eighteenth mile-stone, on the left hand, is Ingries, or Ingress, the seat

of the late John Calcraft, esq. one of the representatives of the city of Rochester. We alighted and went all over it; the house is very convenient, and the gardens are beautifully romantic. From a spacious and elegant room at the west end of the house, as well as from various parts of the gardens, the eye is entertained with views of the river, and the whole Essex shore, that are perfectly enchanting; upon the whole, I believe, it is one of the most delightful spots on the banks of the Thames.

The country about Greenhithe and Swanscomb is famous for having been the rendezvous of the Danish freebooters, who drew their fleet into the inlet or rivulet that formerly was pretty deep between the hills on which Northfleet and Swanscomb are situated; the latter place derives its name from a captain of those barbarians, its original name being Swein's camp. There still remain several small hills cast up by these freebooters, called sconces, being stations for a small number of men employed as centinels, when the camp was here. Swanscomb is also said to be the place where the Kentish men, sheltered with boughs in their hands, and appearing like a moving wood, surprised William the Conqueror, and, throwing down their boughs, threatened battle, if they had not their

ancient customs and franchises assured to them ; which he thereupon granted. I recollected some verses on this subject, which Mr. A—— begged me to repeat :

“ Swainscomb does point to where the village swain,
Scared from his calm abode and native plain,
Chill'd with unusual horror, heard from far
The mingled clamour of the distant war ;
What time, with honest indignation fir'd,
And rage, which sense of outrage had inspir'd,
'Gainst Norman hosts the sons of Kent were led ;
Kent, known for conquest, has for freedom bled ;
Freedom, invaluable prize ! In freedom's cause,
They spurn'd the invader's arbitrary laws ;
With honest scorn, too spirited to brook
The vile dishonours of a slavish yoke :
William, who saw them near, aloud did cry,
Kent's privilege I'll grant---I'll not deny,
From *this day* forth, it is my firm decree,
That oak shall be the emblem they are free !”

Gravesend (of which I send you a view that Adelina took whilst I practised some songs which Charlotte Bertram gave me) is the first port on the river Thames, and twenty-two miles distant from London. Here all outward bound ships are obliged to cast anchor, nor are they suffered to proceed farther till examined. Here a fine row of shipping is often seen riding before the town, and produces on the eye a pleasing impression. The prospect towards Gravesend is

particularly beautiful. It is a neat, flourishing, and populous little town, both paved and lighted ; built on the side of a hill, about which there lie hill and dale, and meadows and arable land intermixed with pleasure-grounds and country seats ; all diversified in the most agreeable manner. On one of the highest of these hills, near Gravesend, stands a wind-mill, which is a very good object, as you see it at some distance, as well as part of the country around it on the windings of the Thames. But as few human pleasures are ever complete and perfect, we, amidst the pleasing contemplation of all these beauties, found ourselves exposed to a violent shower of rain, which drove us to the inn ; where we endeavoured to divert a gloomy hour, by the employments of drawing and music. How thankful ought we to be to our parents, for procuring us talents, by the employing of which we can so agreeably pass our time !

Gravesend was incorporated with Milton, which is at a small distance from hence, in the tenth year of Queen Elizabeth's reign, by the name of the port-reeve, (which has been changed to that of mayor), jurats, and inhabitants of the towns of Gravesend and Milton. Gravesend is situated on the river Thames, opposite to Tilbury Fort, and is a vast thoroughfare between

London and Dover. Here is seated one of the block-houses for securing the passage of the Thames up to London; and this being the usual landing-place for all strangers and seamen, occasions a great resort of all degrees of people; for whose accommodation there are held here two weekly markets, on Wednesdays and Saturdays, well stored with all sorts of provisions. The towns for several miles round are supplied from hence with vegetables; of which great quantities are also sent to London, where the asparagus of Gravesend is preferred to that of Battersea. That delicate excellent plant, and some others which are used as condiments in the culinary art, with some of medical virtue, are, if you remember, of the sixth Class, Hexandria—six stamens. The delicate snowdrop, with “ice still lingering in its veins;” the gaudy tulip, the queen of the garden; the hyacinth, the narcissus, the lily of the valley, and several other flowers of eminent beauty, are arranged under the sixth class. Pardon this digression; but I assure you, that Adelina and I are making great improvement in our study of botany, and I hope you do not forget it.

In the reign of Richard II. the French and Spaniards came up the Thames, burnt and plundered Gravesend, and carried away many of the

inhabitants. To compensate the town for this loss, the abbot of St Mary le Grace on Tower-hill, to whom Richard II. had granted a manor belonging to Gravesend, called Parrocks, obtained that the inhabitants of this place and Milton should have the sole privilege of carrying passengers by water from hence to London.

Queen Elizabeth, in order to show the grandeur of the metropolis of her kingdom, ordered the lord-mayor, aldermen and city companies to receive all ambassadors and eminent strangers here, in their formalities, and to attend them to London in barges, if by water; and if they chose to come by land, they were to meet them on horseback at Blackheath in their livery-gowns. It was anciently the manor of the lords Cobham, till, one of them having by treason forfeited it to the crown, it was given to the Duke of Lenox. In the east part of the town there remains the body of an old chapel, supposed to have belonged to some monastery. The whole town being burnt down in 1727, five thousand pounds were granted by the parliament in 1731, for rebuilding its church, as one of the fifty new ones. In 1624, Mr. Pinnock gave twenty-one dwelling houses here, besides one for a master weaver, to employ the poor; and here is a charity school for twenty-four boys, who are both taught and

cloathed. The chief employment of the labouring people is spinning of hemp. As we were again caught in a shower of rain, we went into a good old woman's house, who was very busy in carding or combing it on her knees, between two cards; her two daughters were spinning hemp. I begged Mr. A——to tell us the process of this valuable plant and also of flax, which he did in the following words:

“I have just now observed to you, that every thing we have is the produce of the land, which the fertile invention of man has converted to his use and to his comfort. Even the dress made by the taylor and the milliner rises originally from the earth. Woollen clothes are made of wool; wool grows on the back of the sheep; and the sheep, as well as man, was created, by God, from the dust of the earth. Linen is made of flax, which is a plant, sowed in the fields like other grain; and, when ripe and fit to cut, is converted into thread in the following manner.

“After the plants are pulled up, they are laid, in small heaps, in the field to dry; and, when the seed is beaten out, and the leaves combed off by a ripple, the stems are soaked five or six days in water to rot them; and, when this is done, they are dried in a kiln. After this, the stalk is peeled, and the woolly part of the stem

is bruised, or beaten with beaters. It is next swingled, or beat again, with a piece of wood, edged for the purpose ; then beaten, on a block, with hammers or beetles, till it separates into threads. After this it is steeped, washed, and dried again, and dyed of various colours. This is also the manner of preparing hemp ; which grows like flax ; and of this a coarse thread is formed, with which they make sack-cloth, and other linens.

“ Whether it be hemp or flax, in this state, before it is dressed, it is called tow. To prepare it for the spinner, it is heckled, that is, passed or pulled through various toothed instruments, not unlike the wool-dressers’ combs, which are square pieces of board, with handles, full of teeth, between which they tear the tow, backwards and forwards, till it is very soft and fine. When it is carded between two combs, and heckled through an instrument with long wire teeth, standing upright, a bundle of this tow being fixed on the top of the distaff belonging to the spinning-wheel, it is pulled off gradually with the left hand, and with the right led round the spindle ; and, observe, as the spinner turns the wheel with her foot, she twists the tow or wool, and converts it into threads or worsted. After this, it is wound round some pegs on a

stand, as that young woman is winding it, and then tied up into skeins for sale. When wool is spun, they draw the wool with one hand, and turn the wheel with the other.

“In the state of thread or worsted, it is sold to the weaver and the sempstress. The former converts it into cloth; the latter forms that cloth into various forms for dress.

“Linen and woollen cloth are both woven the same way; the first from thread, the second from worsted. So also is silk; which when taken from the silk-worm, and wound, is called floss-silk, and afterwards spun into sewing-silk.”

After thanking Mr. A——, we attempted to spin; but breaking and entangling the old woman's tow, who laughed heartily at our awkwardness, we made her amends by giving her a trifle, and followed Mr. A—— to a weaver's, where we saw a weaving machine, called a loom; by which the thread is converted into linen cloth, and the woollen into woollen cloth; which last is sent to a fulling-mill, to wash and cleanse it from the oil with which the wool is preserved; and the linen to the bleaching ground to whiten; for, when it is first made, it is brown, and of the colour of the thread of which it is formed.

Woollen cloth undergoes a number of operations before it is fit for sale; but linen is nearly finished when bleached and pressed.

As the weather was extremely fine about twelve o'clock, we walked out and were ferried over the Thames to Tilbury Fort, nearly opposite; where Queen Elizabeth reviewed the army that she had assembled to oppose the famous Spanish Armada in 1588.

As we were crossing the water, Mr. A—— entertained us very much by relating the life of lady Arabella Seymour, who stopped at Tilbury in her flight; but I will give you the particulars of her eventful life, which he related to us.

Lady Arabella Seymour was the daughter of Charles Stuart, Earl of Lenox, younger brother of Lord Darnley, father to James the 1st. Though the person of this lady is represented as not having been very attractive, yet nature was more bountiful in the gifts of the mind; she was very learned and very successful in her invocations to the poetic muse. Her affinity to the crown seems to have been an eternal source of inquietude to her; Elizabeth regarded her with a jealous eye, and refused to deliver her up to the King of Scotland, who wished her to marry the Duke of Lenox, whom, at that time, he intended making his heir. Soon after the accession of King James to the crown of England, a plan was formed by several of the nobility to destroy him, and make the lady Arabella queen; and upon its being detected, she was made a pri-

soner, and confined to her house. During her captivity, the allowance which she received from his majesty was not sufficient even to supply her wants, as may be proved by the following letter, written with her own hand, to the lord secretary Cecil.

“ My good lord,

“ I humbly thank your lordship, that it will please you, amongst your great affairs, to remember my suit to his majesty for the alteration of my pension; and I hope I shall shortly have the means to acquaint your lordship with it myself. If I should name two thousand pounds for my present occasions, it would not exceed my necessity; but I dare not presume to crave any certain sum, but refer myself wholly to his majesty's consideration, and assure myself that I shall find your lordship my good and honourable friend, both in procuring it as soon, and making the sum as great, as may be. So with humble thanks to your lordship for continual favours, I recommend your lordship to the protection of the Almighty.

“ Your lordship's poor friend.

“ ARABELLA STUART.”

“ From Sheen.

23d, of June, 1603.”

Some time after this letter was written, the author of it was released from all restraint, upon the king's being persuaded that she had no concern in the plot which had been formed against his life; her debts were paid; he presented her with two hundred pounds worth of plate for a new year's gift, and made a handsome addition to her income out of his own private purse. Lady Arabella, however, soon excited his majesty's indignation, by giving her hand to the honourable Mr. Seymour, the Earl of Hertford's second son, without even consulting him or any of her other friends. A second confinement was the consequence of this marriage; the bride and bridegroom were committed to the Tower, and closely imprisoned in separate apartments, for the space of a year. At the expiration of that time, they contrived to elude the vigilance of their keepers, which gave the court considerable alarm; a proclamation was issued, charging all persons, upon their peril, neither to harbour them, nor aid their escape. In a letter from Mr. More, to Sir Ralph Winwood, which I remember to have read, he gives a full account of their escape. "On Monday last, in the afternoon, my Lady Arabella, who was staying at Mr. Conier's house, at Highgate, having induced her keepers into confidence, by the fair

show of conformity to go on her journey towards Durham, which the next day she was to have done, contrived to escape their vigilance by drawing a pair of great French fashioned hose over her petticoats; putting on a man's doublet, and a peruke with long locks, a black hat, russet boots with red tops, and her rapier by her side; and thus disguised walked forth, between three and four o'clock, with Mr. Markham. After they had gone a mile and a half, they stopped at a sorry inn, where Crompton met them with horses, which they mounted, and arrived at Blackwall about six, where they found two men, a gentlewoman, and a chambermaid, with two boats, one full of her trunks and Mr. Seymour's, and another for their persons, they hastened from thence towards Woolwich, where the watermen wanted to land, but for double freight they consented to go on to Leigh; yet being tired by the way, they were fain to lie still at Tilbury whilst the rowers went to land to refresh themselves. They then proceeded to Leigh, and by the time day appeared, discovered a ship at anchor a mile beyond them, which was the French bark that waited for them. Here the Lady would have remained at anchor for Mr. Seymour; but through the importunity of her followers, they forthwith hoisted sail to

seaward. In the mean while Mr. Seymour, with a peruke, and beard of black-hair, and a tawney cloth-suit, walked out without suspicion at the great west-door of the Tower, following a cart that had brought him billets ; from thence he walked along by the Tower wharf, and so on to the iron-gate, where Rodney was ready with a boat to receive him, and proceeded to Leigh. When they found the billows rising high, and the French ship gone, they hired a fisherman, for twenty shillings, to set them on board a ship that they saw under sail, which proved to be going to Newcastle ; this, with much persuasion, they hired for forty pounds to take them to Calais. Now the king and the lords being much disturbed with this unexpected accident, the lord treasurer sent orders to a pinnace that lay at the Downs, to put immediately to sea, for Calais Road, and then to scour up the coast towards Dunkirk. This pinnace spying the aforesaid French bark, which lay lingering for Mr. Seymour, made towards her, and finding that she offered to fly to Calais, attacked her ; but she received thirteen shots before she would strike. In this bark was the Lady Arabella, with her followers, taken, and brought back to the Tower ; and not so sorry for her own restraint, as she is anxious to know whether Mr.

Seymour has escaped, whose welfare, she protests, affects her much more than her own." Though there is something in this account, which gives it an air of fiction, yet there is no doubt of the circumstances having been related exactly as they occurred; the letter was dated June the 8th, 1611. The plan of her escape was well formed, though badly executed, as there was every reason to suppose that the noble fugitive would be pursued; and we cannot help feeling a degree of concern at her having been taken, merely in consequence of her having displayed her anxiety and love. Had she not lingered, in the hope of aiding the flight of Mr. Seymour, she would have been safely landed on the French shore; but her subsequent misfortunes excite a much greater degree of commiseration, and claim the sympathy of every feeling-heart. The unfortunate lady Arabella appears to have possessed a large portion of sensibility; the trials she was destined to encounter pressed heavily on her mind; her reason was not sufficiently strong to sustain them, and she was reduced to the most pitiable and lamentable state. Her biographers do not mention whether Mr. Seymour was taken: from their not having done so, it appears probable that he escaped. They merely say, that a dejection was the conse-

quence of his wife's rigid confinement, which terminated in a total derangement of mind, and that she died at the expiration of four years, September the 27th, 1616. Although it was natural to suppose that her death might have been occasioned by the dreadful malady under which she laboured, yet strong suspicions were entertained that it was not fair, but that poison had been administered to her, though no enquiries into the circumstance were ever made. Dr. Richard Corbet, Bishop of Norwich, composed the following lines upon her death; she was interred in the same vault with Mary Queen of Scotland, and her coffin is at present so much shattered, as to discover her head.

On the Lady Arabella Seymour.

"How do I thank thee, Death, and bless thy pow'r,
That I have pass'd the guard, and 'scap'd the Tower;
And now my pardon is my epitaph,
And a small coffin my poor carcase hath;
For at thy charge both soul and body were
Enlarg'd at last---secur'd from hope and fear;
That amongst saints---this amongst kings, is laid,
And what my birth did claim---my death hath paid!"

Tilbury Fort, which is in the county of Essex, opposite to Gravesend, is a regular fortification, planned by Sir Martin Beckman, chief engineer to Charles II. with bastions, the largest of any

in England. It has a double moat; the innermost of which is 180 feet broad, with a good counterscarp, a covered way, ravelins and tenailles, and a platform, on which 106 cannons are placed, from 24 to 46 pounders each, besides smaller ones planted between them, and the bastions and curtains also planted with guns; and there is a high tower, called the Block-House, which is said to have been built in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. On the land side are two redoubts of brick; but the chief strength of this fort on the land side consists in being able to lay the whole level under water. The four proconsular ways made in Britain by the Romans crossed each other here. Mr. A—— told us, that great part of the land in this level, which is formed of those unhealthy marshes called the *Three Hundreds*, is held by the farmers, cow-keepers, and grazing butchers of London, who generally stock them with Lincolnshire and Leicestershire wethers, which they buy in Smithfield in September and October, and feed them here till Christmas or Candlemas; and this is what the butchers call right Marsh mutton.

As we returned from Tilbury Fort, I could not help sighing, and said, I believed it was from Gravesend that the unfortunate Halsewell East Indiaman sailed. Mr. A—— said, that it

was indeed, November 16th, 1785, that she fell down to Gravesend, where she completed her lading; and taking the ladies and other passengers on board at the Hope, she sailed through the Downs on Sunday the 1st of January, 1786, and on the morning of Friday the 6th of the same month was wrecked at Seacombe, in the isle of Purbeck, on the coast of Dorsetshire. This melancholy catastrophe was of a nature so direful, that humanity recoils at the recollection of it; and among the various events of the same deplorable kind, which have blackened the annals of the last forty years, scarcely one has been attended with so many circumstances of aggravated woe. Only seventy-four persons, (consisting mostly of common sailors and soldiers) out of about two hundred and forty, the number of the crew and passengers in the ship, survived the angry waves. The vessel was commanded by Capt. Pierce, a man of distinguished ability and exemplary character. Among many respectable passengers were two of the commander's own daughters, and five other ladies, equally distinguished by their personal charms and mental attainments. These, together with the venerable commander, most of his officers, and the passengers, were all buried in the remorseless deep; and so complete was the wreck, that not

an atom of the ship was ever after discoverable. Thus perished the Halsewell, and with her, worth, honour, skill, beauty, amiability, and bright accomplishments; never did the angry elements destroy more excellence; never was a watery grave filled with more precious remains. The event, melancholy as was its operation, was nevertheless the dispensation of that Being who "rides in the whirlwind, and directs the storm;" whose purposes, however unaccountable in the weak perception of human wisdom, are unquestionably wise, gracious, and ultimately merciful.

We were so much affected by this melancholy narrative, that it was some time before we recovered our spirits. The variety of objects on the road, however, roused us; and Adelina first broke silence, by admiring the seat of Charles Lefebure, Esq. vulgarly stiled the Orm, not far from Gravesend; but Mr. A—— told us, that Ormus is its proper appellation, from Ormus at the entrance of the Persian Gulph. He added, tradition, indeed, does not preserve the name of the individual who first built it; but it is said, that the gentleman, having been saved amidst the horrors of shipwreck, declared that where he should land on his return home, he would build a house, and that it should be called Ormus, in commemoration of his deliverance upon that

island. About twenty-seven miles from London we passed through Gad's Hill, where Mr. A—— said that Henry Prince of Wales (son of King Henry IV.) and his dissolute associates robbed the Sandwich carriers, and the auditors who were carrying money to his father's exchequer. Few of Shakespeare's plays are more read and admired than the first part of Henry the 4th. and I felt pleasure in the recollection that here the dialogue took place between the Prince and Falstaff, which powerfully excites our risibility. Imagination with her magic wand consecrates such spots of earth, and we approach them with a more than ordinary degree of emotion. We passed by a public-house that has a sign with Falstaff on one side and Henry on the other; as a memorial of the fact. As we passed the hill, I could not help fancying that I saw the figure of the humorous fat knight. I fancied that I heard him facetiously complaining of the stony-hearted villains, his companions, removing his horse, and constraining a man of his bulk to rob on foot, to whom eight yards of uneven ground was threescore and ten miles! And when I recollected Hal's request to Jack, to lay his ear to the ground, to listen whether he could distinguish the tread of travellers, I recalled to mind with pleasure the knight's

droll, but apposite question—“Have you any levers to lift me up again?” I fancied too I was a spectator of the thieves robbing the true men, and of the retaliation made upon the thieves by two of their own gang, in forcibly taking from them their rich booty; and I enjoyed the conceit of Falstaff, with his cups of limed sack, telling incomprehensible lies, in order to cover his cowardice; his long rencontre with the two rogues in buckram suits, growing up into eleven, all of whom he peppered and payed, till three knaves, in Kendal Green (“for it was so dark, Hal, thou couldst not see thy hand,”) came at his back and let drive at him. Thus, on the stage, in the closet, and upon the road, Falstaff’s adventure at Gad’s hill is likely to be, according to the prediction of the poet, not only an argument for a week, laughter for a month, but a good jest for ever! Indeed, I laughed so much at the ideas which this place brought to my imagination, that I was obliged to relate to my companions the cause of my merriment, who joined in the laugh most heartily, and we soon after reached *Stroud*, twenty-nine miles from London, a place of considerable antiquity. We then passed over a handsome bridge that crosses the Medway, a river which takes its rise in Surrey; after its meanderings by Tunbridge,

Maidstone, Rochester, and Sheerness, it empties itself into the vast and boundless ocean. Rochester, Stroud, and Chatham, though they are three distinct places, yet are so contiguous, as to appear in a manner but one city; and these three towns form a continued street, extending above two miles in length. Stroud is separated from Rochester by the bridge that we crossed. There is an hospital here for sick and lame soldiers; a very good institution, I think; for those who have been wounded in the service of their country ought to be taken care of afterwards.

We arrived at Rochester about half-past two o'clock, and only stopped to see our beds at the Crown, order dinner at five, and eat a sandwich, before we sallied out to take a view of the place; we walked about till dinner; and in the evening I wrote down this account of it, which I shall send you, with the rest of the packet, to-morrow.

Rochester is a very ancient city, at the distance of thirty miles from London. It is situated on an angle of land formed by the current of the river Medway, which, coming from the south, runs northward till it has passed by the city; and then, turning, proceeds nearly to the east. This city has sent members to parliament from the earliest times; it is the see of a bishop, and, next to Canterbury, the most ancient see in

England. It is but a small city, though it is supposed to have been walled round before the Conquest; and great part of the walls still remain. The town is well supplied with provisions of every kind, and with plenty of fish from the Medway. The buildings, they told us, were lately much improved, and in several parts of the town are agreeable residences for small genteel families. On Boley Hill, near Rochester, which was anciently a burial-place of the Romans, in a retired and pleasant situation, is an ancient seat, wherein Queen Elizabeth was entertained in 1573. And near to this, on a delightful eminence, is the residence of —, esq. from many parts of whose house are pleasant views of the Medway and the surrounding hills. This gentleman is possessed of a collection of fine paintings, many of them by the first masters in that delightful art; particularly two capital drawings of Rubens, viz. the Crucifixion and the Pentecost. The gentleman belonging to the house standing at the window, as we passed by, and seeing that we were strangers, politely asked us to walk in: as Mr. A—— and he recollected having met each other before, he accompanied us in our walk, and proved a very intelligent man, telling us many things concerning this city, of which we might have re-

mained ignorant, had it not been for so good a guide.

Rochester affords three capital and spacious inns, which may vie with most others in England, as well for their good accommodation, as for their antiquity. Nearly on the spot where the Crown now stands, has been an inn distinguished by that name upwards of four hundred and seventy years, it having been kept by Simon Potyn, the founder of St. Catherine's hospital, A. D. 1316. It also appears from court-rolls, that on the same spot where the Bull, and the King's-Head, now stand, there have been houses of public entertainment distinguished by the same signs for above three hundred years.

In the neighbourhood of this city are several rural and pleasant walks, particularly on the banks of the Medway.

It had a castle built by Odo, Bishop of Bayeux in Normandy, but within the last two hundred years it has fallen to ruins. It was about three hundred feet square within the walls, which were seven feet in thickness, and twenty feet high above the present ground, with embrasures. It was placed on a small eminence, near the river Medway, just above Rochester bridge, and consequently was in the south-west angle of the walls of the city. Three sides of the castle were

surrounded by a deep broad ditch, which is now nearly filled up; on the other side runs the Medway. In the sides and angles of the castle, were several square towers, some of which are still remaining; these were raised above the walls, and contained lower and upper apartments, with embrasures on their tops.

But what chiefly attracted our notice was the noble tower which stands on the south east angle of this castle, and is so lofty as to be seen distinctly at twenty miles distance. It is quadrangular in its form, having its sides parallel with the walls of the castle. We ascended it, and from the top enjoyed a very pleasing prospect of the city and adjacent towns, with their public buildings, the dockyard at Chatham, the meanders of the Medway, and the surrounding country. Adelina and I were so delighted with this view, that we determined to rise early in the morning to take drawings of the castle, bridge, &c. Mine I send to you.

There is an ancient stone bridge, over the Medway, which was erected in the reign of Richard II. Sir Robert Knolles is celebrated as having been the founder of this bridge. He was distinguished both by his courage and military preferments, being raised by degrees from the rank of a common soldier to that of a general.

He attended Edward III. in his successful campaigns in France ; and when the king's affairs declined, by the ill state of health of Edward the Black Prince, Sir Robert was sent over to the continent with an army of thirty thousand men. He advanced into the heart of France, and extended his conquests as far as the gates of Paris. In this and many other expeditions, he acquired great riches, and returned to his country laden with wealth and honour.

Lombard says, Sir Robert Knolles built this bridge with "the spoils of towns, castles, churches, monasteries, and cities, which he burnt and destroyed ; so that the ruins of houses, &c. were called Knolles's Mitres."— This bridge, for height and strength, is allowed to be superior to any in England, except the bridges at London and Westminster. It is above five hundred and sixty feet long, and fourteen feet broad, with a stone parapet on each side, strongly coped and crowned with an iron balustrade. It has eleven arches, supported by strong and substantial piers, which are well secured on each side with sterlings. The river has a considerable fall through these arches.— At the east end, and fronting the passage over the bridge, a chapel was originally erected by Sir John Cobham, who gave some assistance to Sir Robert Knolles in building

the bridge; but a neat stone building has since been erected on the place where the chapel stood, in which the persons to whom the care of the bridge is entrusted hold their meetings.

A bishopric was founded at Rochester, in the reign of Ethelbert, King of Kent, soon after Augustine the monk had landed in the isle of Thanet, and preached at Canterbury.

As we walked along, Mr. A—— entertained us with the following accounts of the persons mentioned, which I wrote down afterwards for your amusement.

Ethelbert, King of Kent, reigned A. D. 560. He married Bertha, daughter of Caribert King of France. He was one of the wisest and most powerful of all the Saxon princes, but a pagan. Bertha laboured to convert the king to christianity, which however was not accomplished till Austin the monk came to England, being sent hither by pope Gregory. Ethelbert died in 616, aged 56. It was expressly stipulated on the marriage of Bertha, who was a christian, that she should profess her own religion unmolested. Listening to the doctrines of her faith, Ethelbert became a convert to it in 597."

Mr. A—— observed further, that Ethelbert was a prince of great virtue, and given to no vice, and that he was a good deal harassed by the Danes.

Augustin, or St. Austin, the first archbishop of Canterbury, was a Roman monk, and sent by Gregory I. with forty others, on a mission to convert the Saxon inhabitants of this island, about 596. On landing in Thanet, they informed King Ethelbert of their business, and the king assigned them Dorovernum, now Canterbury, for their residence, with permission to exercise their functions as they pleased. At length the good monarch himself embraced christianity; but never attempted to bring over any of his subjects by force, or other improper means. Augustin, having met with this success, was consecrated at Arles archbishop and metropolitan of the English. He fixed his seat at Canterbury, and then endeavoured to form a correspondence with the Welch bishops; for christianity had long before been settled in that part of the island. To this end a conference was held in Worcestershire; which proving unsuccessful, another was appointed, at which appeared some monks from the monastery of Bangor. It is said, that these monks, before their departure from Wales, applied for advice to an old hermit, who was esteemed a saint in their country. The sage told them, that if Augustin was a man of God, they should submit to be directed by him; and, on their asking how they

were to know this, he said, by the humility of his demeanour. “And if (added he) on your arrival in his presence, he rises to salute you, there is no doubt of his coming from God; but if he omit that ceremony, you ought to have no more to do with him.” When they came to the assembly, Augustin received them sitting; in consequence of which the Welchmen opposed all measures of accommodation. The points in which they were required to yield were, the celebration of Easter, the mode of administering baptism, and the acknowledgment of the pope’s authority. Augustin died at Canterbury in 604; and afterwards, on account of some pretended miracles said to have been wrought by him, he was canonized.

The first church at Rochester was finished in the year 604; but this building having suffered considerably by time, and the ravages of foreign enemies, Bishop Gundulph rebuilt the cathedral about the year 1080. It consists of a body and two aisles, one on each side; its extent, from the west door to the step ascending to the choir, is fifty yards, and from thence to the east windows at the upper end of the altar, fifty-two yards more, in all one hundred and two yards, or three hundred and six feet. At the entrance of the choir is a great cross aisle, the length of

which from north to south, is one hundred and twenty-two feet. At the upper end of the choir, between the bishop's throne and the high altar, is another cross aisle, which extends from north to south ninety feet.

The west front extends eighty-one feet in breadth; the arch of the great door is doubtless the same which Gundulph built; and is a most curious piece of workmanship, every stone being engraved with some device. It must have been very magnificent in its original state, its remaining beauties being sufficient to excite the attention of the curious; it is supported by several columns on each side, two of which are carved into statues, representing Gundulph's royal patrons, Henry I. and his Queen Matilda. The capitals of these columns, as well as the whole arch, are cut into the figures of various animals and flowers. The key-stone of the arch seems to have been designed to represent St. Andrew, the apostle and tutelar saint of the church, sitting in a niche, with an angel on each side; but the head is broken off: under the figure of St. Andrew, are twelve other figures, supposed to be designed for the twelve apostles, some few of which are perfect; but in general the whole arch is much injured by time.

On each side of the west door is a square tower; that on the north side has lately been

rebuilt, and has in the centre niche, on the west front, a very ancient figure, supposed to be the statue of Bishop Gundulph.

A priory was founded at Rochester about the year 600. A chapter of secular priests was first placed here; but they were afterwards removed, and Gundulph, Bishop of Rochester, established here sixty black monks. There are some ruins still remaining of the ancient chapter-house, which show it to have been a building of elegance, considering the age in which it was erected. A skeleton was dug up, in December, 1766, by the workmen employed in digging a new cellar for the deanery of Rochester, in an area under the old chapter-house, or secretarium of the priory. This skeleton was full seven feet in length, and the skull very entire, with fine teeth quite firm in the jaw.

The town-hall is a handsome brick structure, built in 1687, supported by coupled columns of stone, in the Doric order. At the upper end of the hall, are the original portraits of King William III. and Queen Anne, by Sir Godfrey Kneller. Here are also the portraits of Sir Cloudesley Shovel, Sir John Leake, and other persons of note, well executed by eminent masters. The clock-house, which is a neat building, was erected by Sir Cloudesley Shovel, who

represented this city in four parliaments. Mr. A—— observing that he could never contemplate the name of that admiral without emotions of sorrow, I begged that he would give us some account of his life: he said, he would with pleasure oblige me, on condition that Adelina and I would give him an abridgment of the lives of King William and Queen Anne.

“Sir Cloudesley Shovel was a gallant English admiral, born in 1650, of mean parentage. He went early to sea, and, from being a cabin-boy, rose to the first honours of his profession. In 1674 he served in the Mediterranean, under Sir John Narborough, and did such service by burning the ships in the harbour of Tripoly, that Sir John recommended him in his letters, and Shovel obtained the command of a ship. He rendered great services to King William at Bantry-bay, for which he was knighted; and in 1690 had the honour of receiving an admiral's commission from the king's own hand. He had a considerable share in the great victory at la Hogue; as he had also in that off Malaga, where Sir George Rooke commanded in 1704. The year following he had the command of the fleet in the Mediterranean, and by his activity Barcelona was taken. Soon after this he proceeded for England; but in the night of October

22d, 1705, his ship and several others struck on the rocks of Scilly, and were lost. His body was cast on shore the next day, and picked up by some fishermen, who, having stolen a valuable emerald ring from off his finger, stripped and buried him. The ring having led to the discovery of the body, it was conveyed to Portsmouth, and thence transferred to Westminster Abbey, where a monument was erected to his memory."

At the conclusion of this melancholy catastrophe, Mr. A—— broke out into the following stanza, and afterwards seemed absorbed in deep reflection:—

" Ah! human life, how transient and how vain,
How thy wide sorrow circumscribes thy joy:
A sunny island in a stormy main;
A speck of azure in a cloudy sky!"

Then turning to me, he requested that I would give him some account of King William, which I did in these words:

" William III. the son of William of Nassau, Prince of Orange, and of Henrietta Maria, daughter of Charles I. was born at the Hague in 1650. The Dutch in 1672, when almost crushed by the united force of Lewis XIV. and Charles the II. of England, vested in him the authority of Stadtholder; he came over to

England in 1677, and married Mary, eldest daughter of the Duke of York; he was invited over to England to supersede his father-in-law; and succeeded in the attempt, after landing a small force at Torbay, Nov. 4, 1688, when James fled to France, and thereby gave way for a complete revolution. The prince and princess jointly reigned till her death in 1693, when William was acknowledged King of England, and his title confirmed by the treaty of Ryswick, in 1697. He fell from his horse and broke his collar bone, Feb. 21, 1702, died March 8th following, aged 51, and was succeeded by the Princess Anne."

Mr. A — expressed his approbation of my correct account of King William, and then desired that I would also relate the life of Mary.

" Mary, Queen of England, daughter of James the second, was born in the year 1662; at the age of fifteen, she was united to William Prince of Orange; and in less than a twelve-month afterwards, was, with her husband, invited to take possession of the English throne, in consequence of James's having alienated the affections of his subjects, from his bigoted attachment to the catholic faith. The principal virtue in Mary's character seems to have been her attachment to her husband; filial affection

certainly possessed but a small portion of her heart ; for it is allowed, that she felt but little for the change in her father's situation, though she has been dignified with the title of the *good* queen. This appellation, in all probability, was bestowed upon her in contrast with the character of that sovereign who bore the same name ; and as far as the comparison extended, she doubtless was entitled to the praise she received. Mary died in 1694, in the 33d year of her age, of that dreadful disorder the small pox." Smollet gives the following character of her, which has been extracted from his historical work.

"Mary was in her person tall and well proportioned, with an oval visage, lively eyes, agreeable features, a mild aspect, and an air of dignity ; her apprehension was clear, her memory tenacious, and her judgment solid ; she was a zealous protestant, scrupulously exact in all the duties of devotion, of a calm and mild conversation ; she was ruffled by no passion, and seems to have been a stranger to the emotion of natural affection ; for she ascended the throne from which her father had been driven, with perfect composure, and treated her sister as an alien to her blood ; in a word, Mary seems to have imbibed the apathetic disposition of her husband, and to have centered all her ambition

in deserving the epithet of being an humble and obedient wife."

Mr. A—— praised my memory in so flattering a manner, that I was encouraged to ask him to relate to us the life of Sir John Leake, whose picture we had been contemplating. He told us, " Sir John Leake was the son of Richard Leake, master-gunner of England. He was born at Rotherhithe in 1656, and was, with his father, in the memorable engagement with Van Trump in 1673. In 1688 he was appointed to the command of a fire-ship, and after the Revolution he distinguished himself by some important services, particularly the relief of Londonderry. In 1702 he was sent out as commodore of a squadron to drive the French from Newfoundland, which service he performed with great credit. On his return home, he was made rear-admiral of the blue. The year following he was engaged with admiral Rooke in taking Gibraltar, and for his services received the honour of knighthood. In 1705 he saved that important fortress from the combined attacks of France and Spain. The same year he was engaged in the reduction of Barcelona; and in 1706 he so seasonably relieved that place, that King Philip was obliged to raise the siege. This was followed by the reduction of the cities of Car-

thagena and Alicant, and the island of Majorca. On the death of admiral Sir Cloudesley Shovel, he was appointed admiral of the white, and commander-in-chief of her majesty's fleet. In 1708 he convoyed the new Queen of Spain to her consort King Charles, and was presented by her with a diamond ring worth three hundred pounds. He next reduced the islands of Sardinia and Minorca. Having thus terminated the campaign, he returned to England, where he was chosen member of parliament for Rochester. On the death of the queen he lost his places, after which he lived privately at Greenwich, where he died in 1720."

After this long digression, I return to finish my description of Rochester.

This city is governed by a mayor, eleven aldermen, and twelve common-council men.

Sir Joseph Williamson, who was one of the plenipotentiaries at the treaties of Nimeguen and of Ryswick, and who was one of the representatives of this city, founded a mathematical school here. There is also a grammar-school, called the King's school, consisting of twenty scholars on the royal foundation, who have their education free, and each nine and four-pence per quarter. They wear surplices, and, with the choristers, are always obliged to attend divine service at the cathedral.

There is in the river Medway at Rochester, and in several of its creeks and branches within the jurisdiction of the city, an oyster fishery ; which is free to every one who has served seven years apprenticeship to any fisherman or dredger, who is free of the said fishery ; and the mayor and citizens hold a court once a year, or oftener when occasion requires it, for the regulation of this fishery, and to prevent abuses in it.

There is a structure in the principal street of this city, remarkable for the following inscription ;

Richard Watts, esq.

by his will, dated 22d of August, 1579,

founded this charity

for six poor travellers,

who, not being *rogues*, or *proctors*,

may receive gratis, for one night only,

lodging, entertainment,

and four pence each.

In testimony of his munificence,

in honour of his memory,

and as an inducement to his example,

Nathaniel Wood, Esq. the present mayor,

has caused this stone

gratefully to be renewed

and inscribed,

A. D. 1771.

Rochester was burnt in 677 by Ethelred ; it was burnt again in 1130, and again June the 3d, 1137.

Ethelred, seventh king of Mercia, and twelfth monarch, who reigned in 675, desolated part of Kent, and in 677 destroyed Rochester, and many religious foundations ; in recompense for which he became a monk, in 703, and died abbot of Bradny, in 716.

A long row of buildings, on a gentle eminence, called the Bank, connects Chatham (31 miles from London) with Rochester. We preferred walking, as it was only one mile, to the house of a friend of Mr. A——'s, from whence we had a beautiful prospect of the river Medway, with its variegated shipping. On the left rises the hoary spire of Rochester cathedral, and the castle, with its battered fragments ; while to the right Chatham appears in a kind of amphitheatre, presenting to the eye his majesty's dock-yard, with its immense store-houses, containing articles of every kind, both for the naval and military departments. Above them a fort lifts its head, and crowns the top of the hill, bidding defiance to the surrounding country.

We took a walk in the evening to this eminence, accompanied by Mr. Jackson and his son ; they appear agreeable people, and entertained us with the greatest politeness.

Adelina and I were charmed with the prospect that offered itself to the eye from every part of the horizon. The gentlemen walked back with us to Rochester. The beauty of the evening reminded me of those lines of Scott which you and I have often repeated on a fine evening:

Delightful looks this clear calm sky,
With Cynthia's orb on high!
Delightful looks this smooth green ground,
With shadows cast from cots around;
Quick-twinkling lustre decks the tide;
And cheerful radiance gently falls
On that white town and castle walls,
That crown the spacious river's further side.
And now along the echoing hills
The night bird's strain melodious trills;
And now the echoing dale along
Soft flows the shepherd's tuneful song:
And now, wide o'er the water borne,
The city's mingled murmur swells,
And lively change of distant bells,
And varied warbling of the deep-ton'd horn."

Mr. Jackson was so desirous to have us all spend the day with him and his son to-morrow, that Mr. A—— consented. I shall therefore, perhaps, have an opportunity of unravelling their characters.

Early in the morning our obliging friends came to conduct us to their cottage to breakfast; it is indeed a delightful spot.

"On a green hillock by a shady road
Their dwelling stands—a sweet recluse abode,
And o'er their darken'd casement intertwine
The fragrant brier, the woodbine, and the vine.
Before their door the box-edg'd border lies,
Where flowers of mint and thyme and tansy rise;
Along the wall the yellow stone-crop grows,
And the red houseleek on the brown thatch blows,
Spread on the slope of yon steep western hill,
Their fruitful orchard shelters all the vill;
There pear-trees tall their tops aspiring show,
And apple-trees their branches mix below."

After breakfast we went to see a regiment of the Guards that had just encamped; the soldiers were all fine looking young men; their tents were remarkably neat. At the sound of the bugle-horn, they appeared in their respective ranks. They are stationed in this spot not merely for the purpose of repelling the enemy in case of invasion, but that they may, at a moment's notice, embark for any part of the world.

I never met with any man so placid as Mr. Jackson, though he is frequently much afflicted with the gout; he has arrived at that composure of soul, and wrought himself up to such a neglect of every thing with which the generality of mankind is enchanted, that nothing but acute pains can give him disturbance; and against

those too, he tells Mr. A——, he has a secret which gives him present ease. Mr. Jackson is so thoroughly persuaded of another life, and endeavours so sincerely to secure an interest in it, that he looks upon pain but as a quickening of his pace to a home, where he shall be better provided for than in his present apartment. Instead of the melancholy views which others are apt to give themselves, he told us that he had forgotten he was mortal, nor will he think of himself as such. He imagines that at the time of his birth he entered into an eternal being; and the short article of death he will not allow to be an interruption of life; since that moment is not of half so long duration as is his ordinary sleep. Thus is his being one uniform and consistent series of cheerful diversions and moderate cares, without fear or hope of futurity. Health to him is more than pleasure to another man, and sickness less afflicting to him than indisposition is to others. His son Charles has the quality of good humour to the highest perfection, and communicates it wherever he appears; the sad, the merry, the severe, the melancholy, show a new cheerfulness when he comes among them. At the same time no one can repeat any thing that Charles has ever said which deserves repetition; but he has such an innate goodness of temper,

that he is welcome to every body, because every one thinks he is so to him. He does not seem to contribute any thing to the mirth of the company; and yet, upon reflection, you find that it all happened by his being there.

We had a large party to dinner, and I thought it was whimsically said by Capt. White, who sat next me, that if Charles had wit, it would be the best wit in the world. It is certain, when a well corrected and lively imagination and good breeding are added to a sweet disposition, they qualify it to be one of the greatest blessings, as well as pleasures, of life.

This portable quality of good humour seasons all the parties and occurrences which we meet with, in such a manner, that there are no moments lost; but they all pass with so much satisfaction, that the heaviest load, (when it is a load) that of time, is never felt by us.

Men would come into company with ten times the pleasure that they do, if they were sure of hearing nothing which would shock them, as well as expected what would please them. When we know that every person who is spoken of is represented by one who has no ill-will, and every thing that is mentioned described by one that is accustomed to set it in the best light, the entertainment must be delicate, because the

cook has nothing brought to his hand but what is most excellent in its kind. Beautiful pictures are the entertainments of pure minds, and deformities of the corrupted. It is a degree towards the life of angels, when we enjoy conversation, wherein there is nothing presented but in its excellence; and a degree towards that of demons, where nothing is shown but degeneracy.

This morning, after breakfast, we walked to *Chatham*, which I shall now describe to you.

The town itself is narrow and dirty; though, since the late terrible fire, about four years ago, some parts of it are widened and improved. Being the *depot* for recruits, it is said that some thousands of pounds were expended annually here, which must have proved a great source of emolument to the trading part of the inhabitants. Their recent removal to the Isle of Wight was occasioned by their desertion at this place, often secreting themselves in the river Medway, and often escaping to London, where they were soon lost in the immensity of its population. *Chatham* church, on the side of the hill near the barracks, was rebuilt with brick in 1788; it contains monuments raised to the memory of officers who died in the service of their country. The village of *Brompton* rises behind with a careless irregularity.

Here is an hospital for poor mariners and shipwrights, founded by Sir John Hawkins, 1592, a gallant English admiral in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. He was a native of Devonshire, was rear-admiral of the fleet that was sent against the Spanish Armada, and had a great share in that glorious victory. The riches that he amassed were appropriated to the purposes of charity, and he died in the West Indies in 1595.

Chatham is a suburb to Rochester, and perhaps the completest naval arsenal in the world. It affords a sight equally noble and pleasing, to every one who is sensible how much the safety and prosperity of this nation depends on its maritime strength. It has been brought to its present state of perfection by degrees, the dock having been begun by Queen Elizabeth, and continually improved by her successors. This celebrated dock-yard, including the ordnance wharf, is about a mile in length; it is ranged on the south-east side of the river, and is adorned with many elegant buildings (inhabited by the commissioner and principal officers belonging to the yard), which well become the opulence of the nation, and the importance of the navy. Here are many neat and commodious offices for transacting the business of the yard; also spacious store-houses (one of which is six hundred

and sixty feet in length) and work-rooms, which, by their amplitude, manifest their prodigious contents, and the extensive works carried on within them. The sail-loft, in which the sails are made, is two hundred and ninety feet in length; in these magazines are deposited amazing quantities of sails, rigging, hemp, flax, pitch, tar, rosin, oil, and every ingredient necessary for the building and equipping of ships; the coils of cordage, and heaps of blocks, with innumerable other articles, are arranged with such order, that on any emergency they may be taken out without the least confusion. To every apartment proper officers and attendants are assigned, for the more expeditious dispatch of business; so that even a first or second rate is often equipped for sea in a few weeks.

The masts are carefully deposited in store-houses peculiarly adapted for them, one of which, in this yard, is two hundred and thirty-six feet in length, and one hundred and twenty feet wide; some of these masts are near one hundred and twenty feet long, and thirty-six inches in diameter: there are also two spacious basins of water, in which these masts are kept continually floating. The smith's shop contains twenty-one fires; here the anchors are made, some of which weigh near five tons. In an extensive rope-

house, which is upwards of seven hundred feet in length, large quantities of hemp are twisted into cables one hundred and twenty fathoms long, and some of them twenty-two inches round. In this yard are four deep and wide docks, for docking and repairing large ships ; in one of these docks was built the *Victory*, a first-rate, the largest ship in the universe, carrying one hundred and ten guns, which was moored in this river near Gillingham ; there are also four slips and launches, on which new ships are constantly building.

The ordnance wharf is situated to the south of the dock-yard, between Chatham church and the river, and was the original naval yard. The guns belonging to the ships in this river are deposited in long tiers ; some of these guns weigh sixty-five hundred weight each ; large pyramids of shot are to be seen on different parts of this wharf ; there are also capacious store-houses, in which are deposited prodigious quantities of offensive weapons, as muskets, pistols, cutlasses, pikes, pole-axes, &c. &c. The armory is a curious assemblage of hostile weapons, arranged in admirable order. To defend this large naval magazine, there is a strong garrison at Sheerness, the entrance into the Medway.

A fort is also erected at Gillingham. For the

further security of this yard in the beginning of the last war, ramparts were thrown up.

That which is called the Chest at Chatham was instituted in 1588, the memorable year of the defeat of the Spanish Armada; when by the advice of Sir Francis Drake, Sir John Hawkins, and others, the seamen in the service of Queen Elizabeth voluntarily assigned a portion of each man's pay, to the relief of their wounded fellows; which, being confirmed by the queen, has been continued ever since.

From the summit of the hill above Brompton, Sheerness may be discerned, at the distance of seventeen miles; it was built to defend the Medway, after the Dutch had, in the reign of Charles the 2d, burnt our shipping at Chatham.

Some time after dinner, Adelina and I retired into a beautiful arbour in the garden, and left the gentlemen to themselves. Charles and two or three more followed us very soon, to inform us, with smiling countenances, that a party had agreed to go the next morning by water to Sheerness, and that Mr. A—— had consented to join them, on condition that it was agreeable to us: you will guess, perhaps, that we did not require much soliciting.

We spent a delightful day, quite pleased with

Chatham and our visit to the cottage, and arose early in the morning, to equip ourselves for our sail, which was a most charming one indeed ; the weather was extremely fine, our companions lively and agreeable, and we ourselves in admirable spirits.

Sheerness is two miles from *Queenborough*, eighteen from *Rochester*, three from *Blackstakes*, and forty-seven from *London*. It is a flourishing place, consisting of three clean streets, and has a regular fortification with a line of heavy cannon. Here is also a yard for building ships, which are generally fifth and sixth rates ; and the channel from hence to *Rochester* affords a safe station for ships. There is a deep well here, whence water is drawn up after a curious manner. The *Nore*, immediately opposite the fort of *Sheerness*, generally exhibits a vast quantity of shipping. This was the scene of the unhappy mutiny in 1797, which violently agitated the nation, but which terminated in the execution of *Richard Parker*, and several other of the insurgents. Since that period maritime affairs at this place have gone on with their accustomed regularity.

The view of *South End*, on the *Essex* side, directly north, heightens the beauty of the prospect. This little sea-bathing place begins to

be much frequented; it seems rather in a low situation; but lying at the mouth of the Thames, a pleasing and constant succession of ships are seen passing to and from every part of the world. We were greatly delighted with one ship particularly, which had just sailed for the East Indies :

With gallant pomp and beauteous pride
The floating pile in harbour rode;
Proud of her freight, the swelling tide
Reluctant left the vessel's side,
And rais'd it as it flow'd.

The waves, with eastern breezes curl'd,
Had silver'd half the liquid plain;
The anchors weigh'd, the sails unfurl'd,
Serenely mov'd the wooden world,
And stretch'd along the main.

We dined at Sheerness, and returned by water again to Chatham in the evening: After sunset we were amused with *luminous appearances* in the wake of the vessel, which struck the eye with a vivid sensation of beauty. Upon enquiry, we found the sea-faring men well acquainted with the phenomenon; and Charles throwing out a rope into the water, according to their direction, a similar light was produced. The sailors did not attempt its solution; but chymists have exercised their ingenuity in its explication. They

suppose it to arise from *phosphoric* matter, emitted either from small insects, or from the substance of animals in a state of putridity. Thus it is that the water exhibits a luminous appearance immediately on its agitation.

As the officers gave a ball in compliment to us in the evening, a chaise met us at our landing, which we immediately entered and drove to the inn at Rochester to dress. We spent a delightful evening, enjoying our dance, and an elegant cold collation, which was prepared for us. This morning Mr. A—— gave a public breakfast to the officers, &c. in return for the civilities which had been shown to us, and at three o'clock we left Rochester with some regret. Mr. Jackson and Charles accompanied us to Canterbury, which greatly enlivened our party.

Ascending the hill from Chatham, on the road to Canterbury, we enjoyed a view of the country. On every side interesting objects presented themselves to our attention. Hills and dales, orchards and gardens, churches and farmhouses, with the meanderings of the Medway, crowd upon the eye, and delight the imagination. We now discerned that river winding down with its serpentine evolutions to Sheerness, where it is soon lost in the German Ocean. I recollected these two lines of Blackmore:

The fair Medway, that, with wanton pride,
Forms silver mazes with her crooked tide!

Ships of the first rate are built on its banks, and gliding along its bosom present a scene of grandeur and majesty.

Not far from this part of the road, and near the Medway, stands the village of *Gillingham*. In the church, which we stopped to look at, are several monuments of eminent persons. Over the west porch is a niche, in which once stood the image of the famous Lady of Gillingham. The Archbishop of Canterbury formerly had a palace here, and in its chapel some bishops appear to have been consecrated. We soon passed through the little village of Rainham, and alighted as usual to see the church; our fellow travellers joined us, and as Mr. Jackson made the motion that we should change parties, it was agreed that the two old friends should go a few miles in one chaise, and we young folks in the other.

The church is only remarkable for some ancient monuments, particularly an elegant marble statue of Nicholas Tufton, Earl of Thanet. Under one of the chapels is a curious vault belonging to that family.

After travelling a few miles we reached Milton and Sittingbourn; the former on the left, and

the latter in the road, both of which I shall mention distinctly.

Milton is an ancient town about twelve miles from Rochester, and forty-two from London. It is in a manner situated on the waters of a fine rivulet, at the head of a creek that runs into the Swale, which separates the isle of Sheppey from the main. Antiquity has dignified it by calling it, "The royal town of Middleton." When King Alfred divided his kingdom into hundreds and shires, Milton was in his possession, and therefore was so denominated; it was honoured with a royal palace, which was situated near where the church at present stands, about a mile north-east of the town. It was a flourishing place until the reign of Edward the Confessor; nor do we read of its being injured by the Danes, although it must have been visited by them: in the same reign, A. D. 1053, Earl Godwin, who had been banished, came hither, and burnt the palace and town to ashes. Milton church is a large handsome building; there was a church in this place very early, for Sexburga, the foundress of the nunnery at Minster in Sheppey, is said to have expired in the church porch of Milton, about the year 680. It contains several ancient monuments of the Norwood family. The town is governed by a portreeve,

who is annually chosen on St. James's day. There is a good oyster-fishery in the Swale, belonging to this town; and the oysters are much esteemed in London.

Within a mile to the east of the church is a large open field or marsh, called Kelmsley-down, derived, it is imagined, from Campsley down, or the place of camps, because there the Danes under Hastings, in 892, encamped on their arrival from France with eighty ships. On the east side of the down are the remains of a castle, said to have been built at that time by those free-booters; it is now called Castle Ruff. All that appears of this fortress at present is a square piece of ground surrounded by a large moat.

As we were walking to this place Mr. A—— said, he thought Alfred was my favourite hero, and therefore he begged I would give them his history. I immediately complied in these words:

“ *Alfred the Great*, the youngest son of Ethelwolf, King of the West Saxons, was born at Wantage in Berkshire, A. D. 849. His father sent him to Rome when he was but five years old, where the pope anointed him with the royal unction. Ethelwolf died in 858, leaving his dominions to Ethelbald and Ethelbert, and his personal estate to his younger sons, Ethelred and Alfred. Ethelbald did not long survive his

father, and was succeeded by Ethelbert; but he, dying in 866, left the throne to Ethelred, who kept Alfred about his person, as his prime minister and general of his armies, Ethelred died of a wound, received in an engagement with the Danes, in 871. Alfred now found himself, at the age of 22, in possession of a distracted kingdom. After several actions with the Danes, his followers were so dispirited, that he soon found himself unable to make head against the invaders; wherefore, laying aside the ensigns of royalty, he concealed himself in the cottage of one of his herdsmen. One day, as he sat by the fire-side trimming his bow and arrow, his hostess left in his care some cakes, which were placed on the hearth to be baked. Alfred, however, was so intent upon his employment, as to suffer the cakes to be burned; and when the woman returned, she scolded him heartily, saying, "he could eat the cakes fast enough, though he would not take the trouble of looking after them." He afterwards retired to the isle of Athelney, in Somersetshire, with a few followers, and there received information that Odun, Earl of Devon, had obtained a great victory over the Danes, at Appledore, in Devonshire, and had taken the *reafin*, or magical standard. On this, Alfred disguised himself as a harper, and

went into the enemy's camp, where he roved at liberty, and was admitted to play before the chiefs. Obtaining an exact knowledge of their state, he directed his nobles to collect their vassals and to meet him at Selwood in Wiltshire, which was done so secretly, that the Danes were surprised at Eddington, and completely defeated. Alfred behaved with great liberality on this occasion, giving up the kingdom of the East Angles to those of the Danes who embraced the Christian religion. Having now some respite, he employed himself in putting his kingdom into a state of defence, and increasing his navy; and having recovered London from the Danes, he soon brought it into a flourishing condition. After some years rest, a numerous fleet of Danes entered the Thames, and landed an immense body of troops in Kent. Those who were settled in Northumberland broke their treaty, and fitting out two fleets sailed round the coast, and committed great ravages. Alfred, however, pursued and defeated them, and made examples of some of the pirates, by causing them to be executed at Winchester. At length he secured the peace of his dominions, and struck terror into his enemies, after fifty-six battles by land and sea; in all of which he was personally engaged. But what presents him most to our

view, as an object of admiration, is his character as reformer of laws and manners, and the promoter of learning. He composed a body of statutes, instituted the trial by jury, and divided the kingdom into shires and tithings. He was so exact in his government, that robbery was a crime unheard of; and valuable goods might be left on the high road, without danger of being meddled with. He also formed a parliament which met in London twice a year. Learning, in his time, was at so low an ebb, that he himself complained, that from the Thames to the Humber, hardly a man could be found who understood Latin. To remedy this evil, he invited over learned men from all parts, and endowed schools in various parts of the kingdom; and if he was not the founder of the university of Oxford, certain it is, that he raised it to a style of reputation which it never enjoyed before. He was himself a learned prince, and composed several works. He divided the twenty-four hours into three equal parts, one devoted to the service of God, another to public affairs, and the third to refreshment. To Alfred also we are indebted for the first formation of a naval establishment, and for being the first who sent out ships to make the discovery of a north-east passage. In private life he was benevolent, pious,

cheerful, and affable, and his person was amiable, dignified, and engaging. He died in 901 aged fifty-three. By his Queen Elswitha, Alfred had three sons and three daughters. He was succeeded by Edward his second son, commonly called Edward the Elder."

I received the compliments and thanks of the party; and Mr. A—— told me, that in return for the entertainment my history of Alfred had afforded them, he would give me some particulars of the oyster; as it was a curious fish, and he knew my taste for natural history was as great as for biography. I answered, that he would oblige me much, and he gave me this account of the oyster.

"This delicious sea-fish, it has been remarked, occupies, in the scale of nature, a degree the most remote from perfection; destitute of defensive weapons and progressive motion, without art or industry, it is reduced to mere vegetation in perpetual imprisonment, though it every day appears regularly to enjoy the element necessary to its preservation. Oyster, *Ostrea* in zoology, is a genus of bivalve shell-fish, the lower valve of which is hollowed on the inside, and gibbose without; the upper one is more flat; and both are composed of a multitude of laminæ or crusts, and usually scabrous or rough on the outer surface; some oyster-shells

are also furnished with tubercles, or spines, and others are deeply furrowed and plicated; the figure of most oysters is roundish, but in some is quite irregular.

“Oyster-shells are accounted drying and abstergent, and are given internally as a sudorific.

“Oysters usually cast their spawn, or *spat*, in May, which at first appears like a drop of candle-grease, and sticks to any substance that it falls upon. They are covered with a shell in two or three days time, and in three years are large enough to be brought to the market. These oysters they term *natives*, and they are incapable of moving from the places where they first fall; for this reason the dredgers make use of nets, which are fastened to a strong broad iron hook with a sharp edge, which they drag along at the bottom of the sea, and so force the oysters into the nets. When they are thus taken, they are carried into different places, where they are laid in beds, or rills, of salt-water, in order to salt them. When the spawn happens to stick to the rocks, they grow to a very large size, and are called *rock oysters*. Between the tropics, there are millions of them to be seen, sticking at the roots of a sort of trees called Mangroves, at low-water.”

I pressed Mr. A——’s hand, and thanked him

much for his account of so curious a fish, the history of which I had never read, nor heard of before.

At Sittingbourn we found all the inhabitants in commotion, on account of a fire which had broken out the night before; and the wind blowing very high from the east, threatened for some time the total destruction of the place. It began at a Mr. Millener's house, close behind which was a carpenter's shop, that was soon reduced to the ground. From thence it was communicated to three cottages, the unfortunate inhabitants escaping naked from their beds, with their infants clinging around them, crying most piteously to see the flames devour their little all. At the same time it spread to the opposite side of the street, and caught the roof of another cottage, and a wheelwright's shop and sheds. At this moment the attention of the inhabitants, who had flocked to the scene, became distracted in their endeavours to extinguish the flames. At length, after the unwearied exertions of the inhabitants, assisted by their neighbours from Milton and the adjoining country, it was happily got under; but not before Mr. Millener's house fell a prey to the flames. They told us, that the air was as red as blood; my heart beat very strong; and I trembled, during the relation of this catastrophe, lest we should hear that

some of the inhabitants had been destroyed in their beds ; but happily no lives were lost. It was dreadful to see such devastation by fire : how careful people ought to be, to avoid the sudden horror of so terrible a calamity ! If the two Miss Milleners had been careful, this misfortune would not have happened ; for they were the occasion of it. They had in the evening, without its being observed, lighted a fire in their play-room, and spread the coals on the hearth, privately to bake some cakes. The fire must certainly have caught the boards ; but they did not perceive it ; as they were interrupted before the cakes were half baked, and obliged to go to their mother, who called for them. They swallowed hastily the unwholesome, and even unpalatable cakes, and shut the door without thinking any more about it. The flames did not burst out till the whole family had been some time fast asleep. There is not any thing saved. All their furniture and clothes, with the stock of the farm, were reduced to ashes. The poor girls escaped with only a single petticoat on ; and Mrs. Millener was with difficulty rescued from the devouring flames which consumed all her substance.

It appears, that the Miss Milleners treated with great disdain the neighbouring farmers'

daughters, because they were their inferiors in birth and fortune; and now they are happy to find a shelter in the houses that they despised. What will become of their pride now! As soon as we had heard of this sad misfortune, Adelina and I ran out to visit the poor cottagers, and distributed the contents of our purses, for which we received their blessings: we then went with the gentlemen to visit poor Mr. Millener. I could not restrain my tears, when I heard the grey-headed old man lament the disaster, which, in the course of one night, had swept away the hard-earned fruits of many toiling years. "To be plunged into poverty," said he, "when my strength faileth me, and even the sweat of my brow will not procure the necessaries of life, is sad." The gentlemen then communicated to him a scheme that they had formed, to procure him and his family a comfortable subsistence, and told him what methods they should take to secure it to him. When we parted from him, the tears rolled down his venerable cheeks as he pressed our hands alternately.

We were all so greatly affected by the melancholy scenes we had been witnesses to, that we pursued our journey to Feversham deeply absorbed in thought. I shall not, however, forget to say something of *Sittingbourn*, which is one

mile from Milton and forty from London; it is a neat well-built village, and considerable as a great thoroughfare to Dover; consisting of one long street, with several excellent inns; at one of which, viz. the Red-Lion, one Mr. Norwood treated King Henry the 5th, and his retinue, at his return from the battle of Agincourt in France, in the year 1415; when the wine was but two-pence a quart, and every thing else so cheap, that the whole feast cost but nine shillings and nine pence. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, this was made a mayoralty town, and it once had a market; but now through disuse it has neither. Here is a small charity school.

Sittingbourn gave birth to Lewis Theobald, an English theatrical writer, and editor of the works of Shakspeare, who died in 1742. He was author of nearly twenty dramatic pieces.

Leaving Sittingbourn with our thoughts full of the conflagration, we were glad to be roused by perceiving *Feversham*, which is seven miles from Sittingbourn, and about forty-seven from London; it consists of four long streets, and has about two thousand inhabitants. It is a town of great antiquity. In a charter of Kenulph, King of Mercia, dated 812, it is called the king's little town, and seems to have been a royal residence at that time. Several Roman

urns and medals have been dug up in its vicinity. King Stephen founded an abbey here in 1148, which was once a famous building; but there are no remains of this superb structure to gratify the lover of antiquity, except an inner gate and some walls. The church is large and handsome, and its steeple forms an embellishment in the landscape of the surrounding country. Feversham is now in a flourishing state, being the chief port for this part of the country; it is situated on a rivulet which falls into the mouth of the Swale, and has an oyster fishery. The dredgers have a peculiar law among them, which obliges a person to marry before he can be free of the grounds. We were fortunate enough to pass through this town on the very day when a rural fête of this kind took place; the bells were ringing merrily when we entered Feversham; and Mr. A——, enquiring the occasion of this rejoicing, learnt amongst other particulars, that the wedding was kept at the house of a Mr. Bennett. On hearing the name, he recollected having formerly sailed to Jamaica in a ship, of which this gentleman was the surgeon: as, from the congeniality of their dispositions, an intimate acquaintance had commenced between them, he did not fail to renew it, by calling upon him after dinner; rejoiced to find that he

was returned to England, and happily settled. Mr. Bennett was no less delighted to see his old friend. A polite card of invitation was soon sent for our party to the wedding supper; we readily accepted it, and enjoyed one of the pleasantest evenings with the happy family, and with festive glee joined in the lively dance.

The next morning Mr. Bennett, his wife and daughter, breakfasted with us; and it is from Mr. Bennett's conversation that I am able to give you some interesting details of the young couple, and of the amiable Miss Henrietta Bennett, who is about sixteen years old, the most beautiful and fascinating creature I ever beheld.

The young dredger, whose name is Simon, possesses, beside his fishing tackle, a very neat cottage on the skirts of the town, a cow, three pigs, &c. which made him be looked upon as one of the best matches of his class, and therefore every one of the dredgers who had daughters wished to have him for their son-in-law; but he resisted all their attacks, having fixed his affections upon Anna; a poor, but virtuous young woman, who by her labour and industry alone supported her only relation, an old grandmother, who had been blind for three years, and was therefore unable to maintain herself. Anna, though pleased with the young man's affection

for her, resisted his solicitations to become his wife; and though she acknowledged his merit, and that she esteemed him very much, she would not consent to marry him, because, she said, she should then have household affairs to attend to, and could not take proper care of her grandmother. It was about this time, that Henrietta, in her morning rambles in search of objects of charity, passing by the place where this old woman lived, was struck with the neatness of the cottage, and this pretty young woman leading an old blind female to a little shady arbour, where after having safely seated her, she began to clean their habitation. Henrietta directed her steps for several mornings to the same place, and became so interested about this industrious young woman, whom she always saw at work, that she determined to inquire into their circumstances; and one morning she ventured to sit down by the old woman in the arbour, and after introducing herself learned the particulars that I have already mentioned. Henrietta, ever active in benevolent pursuits, soon procured many comforts for the old woman; and, instead of the laborious employment of washing to gain a livelihood, obtained the young woman so much needle-work as proved a decent maintenance for them both; she also engaged her father to at-

tempt the cure of the old woman, which he thought he should be able to effect in a fortnight; during which time she and Anna remained at his house, that he might have the former constantly under his care.

Henrietta saw with great pleasure the day approach when the operation of couching was to be performed. Simon, more in love than ever, had interested the surgeon, his wife, and daughter, very greatly in his favour. Anna's refusal, which proved so strongly her affection for her grandmother, made her still more amiable and dear in the eyes of Simon. Mrs. Bennett spoke to Anna in his favour, and she promised solemnly to marry him if her grandmother was restored to sight, on condition that the young dredger would consent that she should live with them; Simon with pleasure agreed, and, full of affection for this amiable young woman, waited with as much anxiety as impatience the day fixed for the operation.

This wished-for day at last arrived; Henrietta herself led the old woman into the surgeon's closet. The poor creature, penetrated with gratitude towards her young benefactress, expressed her thanks in the most moving terms, and pressing her hand affectionately, said that if God restored her to sight, she should have as much

pleasure in looking at Henrietta, as she should in seeing her dear Anna again. The surgeon commanded silence, and the good woman was seated in an arm chair: she begged that her grand-daughter and Henrietta might be near her. Simon, the young dredger, pale and trembling, supported himself against the ceiling. Anna, covering her face with her apron, that she might not see the operation, held one of her grandmother's hands, which she bathed with her tears. Mrs. Bennett contemplated this impressive scene with great sensibility. The surgeon began the operation, which the old woman underwent with the greatest fortitude. When, after some time, the surgeon pronounced, *It is done*, at the same moment the old woman cried out, "Blessed be God! I am no longer blind! Anna, my child, I see thee again! and Miss Henrietta, where is she?" Anna, drowned in tears, threw her arms round her grandmother's neck. Henrietta, quite transported with joy, ran to embrace her; the dredger fell down at Anna's feet, crying: *She is mine*. Nothing could equal the pure delight of Henrietta, or the gratitude which the old woman, Anna, and Simon, expressed to her, except the rapture which the surgeon and his lady felt, at having a daughter so worthy of their tenderness. After the first emotions of joy, delight, and af-

fection, had a little subsided, the surgeon asked the old woman to fix her grand-daughter's wedding-day, which she consented should be on that day week. The surgeon undertook to provide the wedding dinner; and Henrietta begged to present Anna with her wedding clothes, which were elegant and yet simply neat. The old woman never ceased the whole day calling Henrietta her *protectress*; and when she thanked the surgeon, she added, "But it is to Miss Henrietta I owe my happiness; it was she who found out our misery; it was she who brought me to your house: she seeks out the unhappy, she finds out their wants, she visits them, she makes them happy." Anna, while her grandmother was talking, kissed Henrietta's hands. Simon dared not speak, but he raised his eyes to Heaven, and his looks expressed the most lively gratitude. We were greatly pleased with this happy party, and were told several other anecdotes of the amiable Henrietta, who seems quite adored by all ranks of people: her countenance is the most interesting that I ever beheld, and there is a sweetness in her manners quite irresistible. We were sorry to part so soon with a family so amiable. They walked about with us the next morning after breakfast to see the town, which I shall now describe to you.

Feversham is an appendage of the town and port of Dover. It is governed by a mayor, jurat, and commonalty. A large powder-manufactory, which subsisted near this town as early as the time of Queen Elizabeth, has lately been purchased by government. In 1767, in 1781, and in 1793, some of the mills blew up, with the most tremendous explosions. Numerous lives were lost, and many buildings were damaged. Adelina observed, it was astonishing that people would engage in such a hazardous mode of livelihood. "My dear child," said Mr. A——, "light labour, and constant pay, are inducements sufficiently strong to engage them to do it; and (he added) it is to gunpowder we owe all the action and effect of guns, ordnance, &c. so that the modern military art, fortification, &c. in a great measure depend thereon. Bertholet Schwartz, born at Friburgh in Germany, is said to have been the discoverer of that fatal composition, as he was making some chemical experiments in prison at Mentz, in the year 1330. He was a cordelier. Gunpowder was first made in England in 1561. "This discovery," rejoined Mr. A——, "has changed the military system of nations; and, though awfully destructive, yet it appears to have diminished the slaughter in war, by repressing, in some

degree, the rancour which actuates combatants fighting hand to hand !

Mr. A—— asked me if I recollected what Mr. N. Bloomfield said, in his *Essay on War*, respecting the powers of gunpowder. It had already occurred to my mind, and I readily repeated the paragraph :

“ Gunpowder ! let the soldier’s pean rise
Where’er thy name or thundering voice is heard.
Let him, who, fated to the needful trade,
Deals out the adventitious shafts of death,
Rejoice in thee, and hail, with loudest shouts,
Th’ auspicious æra, when deep searching art,
From out the hidden things in nature’s store,
Call’d thy tremendous pow’rs, and tutor’d man
To chain the unruly element of fire—
At his controul to wait his potent touch,
To urge his missile bolts of sudden death,
And thunder terribly his vengeful wrath.
Thy mighty engines and gigantic towers
With frowning aspect awe the trembling world !
Destruction, bursting from thy sudden blaze,
Hath taught the birds to tremble at the sound ;
And man himself, thy terror’s boasted lord,
Within the blacken’d hollow of thy tube,
Affrighted sees the darksome shades of death ;
Not only mourning groves, but human tears,
The weeping widow’s tears, and orphan’s cries,
Sadly deplore that e’er thy powers were known.

Yet let *thy* advent be the soldier’s song ;
No longer doom’d to *grapple* with the foe,

With teeth and nails. When close in view, and in
 Each other's grasp, to grin, and hack, and stab,
 Then tug his horrid weapon from one breast
 To hide it in another;—with clear hands
 He *now*, expertly poisoning thy bright tube,
 At distant kills, unknowing and unknown,
 Sees not the wound he gives, nor hears the sighs
 Of him whose breast he pierces. Gunpowder,
 O! let humanity rejoice—how much
 The soldier's *fearful* work is humaniz'd,
 Since thy momentous birth, stupendous pow'r."

Mr. Jackson said, it was however remarkable, that the poets ascribed the discovery of gunpowder to the Devil, who is thought to be the first author of such an invention: he said, he recollected a passage in Milton's *Paradise Lost*, in which, speaking of its materials, he makes one of the Infernals exclaim—

' *These*, in their dark nativity, the deep
 Shall yield us, pregnant with infernal flame :
 Which into hollow engines, long and round,
 Thick-ramm'd, at th' other bore with touch of fire,
 Dilated and infuriate, shall send forth
 From far, with thundering noise, among our foes
 Such implements of mischief, as shall dash
 To pieces and o'erwhelm whatever stands
 Adverse; that they shall fear we have disarm'd
 The Thund'rer of his only dreaded bolt!"

Charles recollected that Ariosto, in his *Orlando Furioso*, has these lines of similar import—

“ All closed save a little hole behind,
Whereat no sooner taken is the flame,
The bullet flies with such a furious wind,
As tho' from clouds a bolt of thunder came;
And then whatever in the way it find,
It burns, it breaks, it tears, and spoils the same!
No doubt some fiend of hell, or dev'lish wight,
Devised it to do mankind a spite!”

Adelina begged leave to add a stanza from Spenser's *Fairy Queen*, to the same purpose; the coincidence between these three poets being striking and impressive:

“ As when that devilish iron engine wrought
In deepest hell, and fram'd by furies, shall,
With windy nitre and quick sulphur fraught,
And ramu'd with bullet round, ordain'd to kill!”

Mr. A—— observed, that such an article being attributed to such an origin could not be matter of astonishment to a mind tinctured with humanity. It is a shocking reflection, he added, that creatures ordained by the dictates of reason, and enjoined by the precepts of revelation, to live together in amity, should study each other's destruction. The pages of history are stained with blood. War is at once both the curse and disgrace of mankind!

“ On December 12th, 1688, King James II. fled from his palace, and was stopped here, on

board a smack, as he was escaping for France, and detained till the Prince of Orange sent coaches and a guard to attend him to Whitehall, London. The surgeon said, he had a curious account of this event in writing, drawn up by Captain Richard Marsh of this town, who was an eye-witness of the transaction. This he put into Mr. A——'s hands, who read it to us as follows.—“The nation was already in a ferment, and every one upon his guard to secure suspicious persons, especially strangers; at which time the Feversham sailors observing a vessel, about thirty tons burden, lying at Shellness, to take in ballast, resolved to go on board of her; accordingly they went in the evening with three smacks, and about forty men, and three files of musketeers, and in the cabin of it they seized *three* persons of quality, of whom they knew only Sir Edward Hales. From them they took *three hundred* guineas, and gold medals, and brought them all three on shore, beyond Ore, on Wednesday December 12, 1688, about ten o'clock in the morning, where they were met by a coach and about twenty gentlemen of the town on horseback, and brought to the Queen's Arms at Feversham. Here Captain Marsh, seeing the king coming out of the coach, and knowing his person, told them, to their no

small surprise, that they had taken the king prisoner; upon which the gentlemen owned him for their sovereign. Then the king ordered the money taken from him to be distributed among them that took him, and wrote a letter to Lord Winchelsea to come to him, who arrived from Canterbury that night; at which the king was greatly rejoiced, as having one with him who knew how to respect his person, and awe the rabble and the sailors, who had carried themselves very brutishly and indecently towards him. He desired, very much, the gentlemen to convey him away at night, in the custom-house boat, and pressed it on their conscience; for if the Prince of Orange should take away his life, his blood would be required at their hands. But they would by no means admit of this; saying, that they must be accountable for him to the prince, and it would be the means of laying the nation in blood. After this he was carried to the mayor's house, and continued under a strong guard of soldiers and sailors until Saturday morning at ten o'clock. The king had during that time sent to the lords of the council, acquainting them that the mob had possessed themselves of his money and necessities, and desiring them to supply him with more; upon which the Earls of Feversham, Hilsbo-

rough, Middleton, and Yarmouth, with about 120 horse-guards, besides some sumpter horses, &c. and coaches, were sent him. They were ordered, if possible, to persuade the king to return to Whitehall; but not to put any restraint upon his person, if he chose to go beyond the seas. The lords came to Sittingbourn on Friday evening, but were met by Sir Basil Dixwell, who commanded the horse-guards in town, under the Earl of Winchelsea, with some other persons of quality, and persuaded the lords to leave the guards at Sittingbourn, and they would conduct his majesty thither the next morning; which was done with much order and satisfaction both to the king and the people. The king lay that night at Rochester, and went the next day to Whitehall. Sir Edward Hales, and the rest of the popish prisoners, were kept in the court-hall; only Sir Edward Hales was removed to Maidstone gaol within a few hours after the king's departure. There were about ten popish priests and others, and three protestants, who remained prisoners at Feversham, under a strong guard, until December 30, when some were conducted to the Tower, others to Newgate, and some were released."

Mr. A—— added, that this infatuated monarch, some little time afterwards, came back to

Rochester; where, after having lingered a few days, he embarked on board of a frigate, which landed him safely at Ambleteuse, in Picardy. This quitting of the kingdom is usually termed the *abdication* of James; the throne being thus vacant, William and Mary were appointed to fill it up; a circumstance truly glorious; for the rights and liberties of the inhabitants of Britain were now placed on a permanent foundation. May they be perpetuated, with every requisite improvement, to latest posterity!

Mr. A—— then, turning to me, said, “My dear Jeannette, you are fond of biographical tracts; pray give us a short account of James II.” I bowed assent.

“James II. King of England, the second son of Charles I. was born at London in 1633, and immediately created Duke of York. During the usurpation he resided in France, where he imbibed the principles of popery. At the restoration he returned to England, and married secretly Anne Hyde, daughter of the Earl of Clarendon. In the Dutch war he signalized himself as commander of the English fleet, and showed great skill and bravery. On the death of his first wife, he married the princess of Modena. He succeeded his brother in 1684; but, his zeal for his religion leading him into measures subversive of

the constitution, the Prince of Orange, who had married his daughter Mary, was called over; and the king, finding himself abandoned by all his friends, withdrew to France, where he died at St. Germain's in 1701. His son James, commonly called the pretender, died at Rome in 1760. His son Charles-Edward, who invaded Scotland in 1745, died in 1788. Henry-Benedict Stuart, Cardinal York, is the last surviving branch of this unfortunate race."

Mr. A——, finding that the company were really much entertained with my history of James, said, he hoped it would not be intruding upon their patience, if he requested me to give him an account of some more of the branches of James's family; and, addressing himself to Mr. and Mrs. Bennett, said, that as he had run away with the girls from their studies, to travel with him, he thought it incumbent upon him to refresh their memories whenever an opportunity offered. I told him, I was quite ready to oblige him, if I did not weary his friends: the whole party eagerly saying how much pleasure I should give them, I added, I thought I ought to begin with Anne Hyde; as it was not quite right to divide man and wife, even when their bones were laid in ashes. The company smiled, and I went on.

"Lady Anne Hyde, daughter of the lord chancellor Clarendon, seemed to have inherited no small portion of the superior abilities of her sire; and her personal attractions are allowed not to have been inferior to the brilliant qualifications of her mind. She died in the year 1671."

Some young ladies being at this moment announced, we took our leave of this amiable family soon after; promising to stay a few days with them on our return; with the proviso, that Henrietta should accompany us to London; but I must not, after this long digression, forget to finish my account of this town, which supplies the London markets with abundance of apples and cherries.

Mr. Bennett walked with us to see some ancient pits near this place, one hundred feet deep, narrow at the top but wide at the bottom, whether dug by the ancient Britons, for extracting chalk to manure their grounds, or whether dug by the Saxons, after the manner of the ancient Germans, to lay up their corn in, to preserve it from the extreme cold weather, or from any surprise of their enemies, Mr. Bennett said, had not yet been clearly determined.

About a mile from this town, there appears in the cliff a stratum of shells of the white conchites, in a greenish sand, not above two feet

from the beach. Adelina saying that she did not very well understand the term conchites, Mr. A—— told her, that conchites, in natural history, signified a petrified shell, of the concha kind; that the concha was a genus of bivalve shells, which was a very comprehensive genus, comprising the oyster, chama, muscle, heart-shell, pecten, solen, &c.

As we rode from Feversham, Mr. A—— begged us not to forget how many august visitors had distinguished that place by their presence in former times; he said, he should enumerate them to us, that we might, in the evening, give him an account of each person; and first, we were to remember that it was a royal demesne A. D. 802, and called in Kenulf's charter the King's little Town. That in 903, King Athelstan had a great council here. That King Stephen erected a stately abbey, whose abbots sat in parliament, and he was buried here, together with Maude his queen and Eustace his son. That Mary, widow of Louis the Twelfth, King of France, and sister to Henry the Eighth, rested here in 1515, on her return from the continent. King Henry the Eighth, in 1522, passed through with the emperor and a numerous train of nobles; and in 1545 he rested here on his journey to the siege of Bullein. King Philip and Queen Mary

passed through in 1557. Queen Elizabeth slept two nights in the town, in 1573; and finally, Charles II. visited it in 1660, and dined with the mayor on his restoration.

To the north-west of the town on the other side of the rivulet, which I had forgot to notice before, is the chapel of Davington, where was anciently an eminent nunnery. It was founded soon after the abbey. The chapel of this old religious house is now the parish church.

To the south of the town near the road, is the small but neat church of Preston, in which we saw some monuments three hundred years old.

At a little distance from hence, Lord Sondes has an elegant seat, known by the name of Lees Court; and in the neighbourhood is also Nash Court, the handsome and pleasant seat of the Hawkins's family, with a ballustrated terrace on its top; fronted with a green park in which are beautiful plantations, that we were heartily tired in walking over, for we sauntered three hours in them.

We soon descended Broughton-hill, from the summit of which the fertility of Kent is seen to advantage. We were quite charmed with the beautiful prospect on every side, and alighted from the carriages to take views; we were all employed; for Mr. A——, Mr. Jackson, and

Charles, are fine draughtsmen. On one side we beheld the isle of Sheppey, with the ships at the Nore; on the other the country through which we had journeyed in the way from Chatham, with the town of Feversham, and its white spire; and the high steeple of Canterbury cathedral appears directly in the road, rearing aloft its immense towers with archiepiscopal dignity. I stood for some time enraptured with delight at this prospect, and could not help exclaiming—

Thy spacious vale with flowers
O'erspread, and copious herbage, pleases at once
The sight, and offers to the ready hand
Spontaneous beauty ripening in the sun!

About three miles from hence is the ancient village of *Harbledown*, noted for the salubrity of its air, and the pleasantness of its situation. The church is situated on a hill west of the street; opposite to the church is the hospital and chapel, originally built and endowed by Archbishop Lanfranc, about the year 1080, for the benefit of poor lepers. This was the place that formerly held the precious relic called Saint Thomas à Becket's slipper, neatly set in copper, and adorned with crystals, mentioned by Erasmus. The numerous pilgrims to the shrine of Saint Thomas used to stop here, and kiss his slipper, as a preparation for their more solemn

approach to his tomb. Since the Reformation, this hospital is continued for the relief of poor persons.

I was quite in an agitation when we drew near Canterbury, so great had been my desire to see that ancient great city. After having passed the church of St. Dunstan we hastily jumped out of the chaise. It is related, that a scull used to be preserved in St. Dunstan's church, said to be that of Sir Thomas More, who was beheaded on Tower-hill, July 5, 1535. It was kept in a niche of the wall, inclosed by an iron gate; though it is reported by others, that his favourite daughter, Mrs. Margaret Roper, was, according to her desire, buried with it in her arms. Mr. A—— said, "Sir Thomas, who had been lord high chancellor of England, was a very singular character: and Addison well observes, respecting the magnanimity with which he behaved on the scaffold, 'that what was only philosophy in this extraordinary man, would be phrenzy in one who does not resemble him, as well in the cheerfulness of his temper as in the sanctity of his life.'"

We ordered dinner as soon as we arrived at the inn, and, having had a great deal of exercise in the morning, ate with good appetites, and were not sorry to sit quietly in the evening draw-

ing, and entertaining each other by relating the lives of the personages whom I have noted; for it rained so heavily that we could not go out. As I know my father expects me to be very circumstantial, I withdrew early to write down the different accounts of the persons whose lives we portrayed; they afforded us a fund of interesting conversation, and caused many reflexions which I must leave to you to suggest; for I really was so weary that I can only barely narrate the lives of the sovereigns and sum up briefly the remarks.

“Kenulf, thirteenth king of the Mercians, and eighteenth monarch, in 795, conquered Kent, and gave that kingdom to Cudred in 798. He built Winchcomb monastery, in Gloucestershire, where he led the captive King Penn to the altar, and released him without ransom or intreaty. He died in 819, and was buried at Winchcomb.”

“Athelstan, King of England, was the natural son of Edward the elder, whom he succeeded; he was crowned, with far greater magnificence than usual, at Kingston upon Thames in 924. In 937 he defeated two Welch princes; but soon after, on their making submission, he restored them to their estates. He escaped being assassinated in his tent 938, which he revenged by

attacking his enemy ; when five petty sovereigns, twelve dukes, and an army which came to the assistance of Anlaf, King of Ireland, were slain ; this battle was fought near Dunbar, in Scotland. He made the Prince of Wales tributary, and died at Gloucester, Oct. 17, 940." Mr. A—— observed, that Athelstan was equally beloved by his subjects, feared by his enemies, and respected by the greatest princes in Europe ; and his life was said to be little in time but great in action.

" Stephen, King of England, was born in 1105, and crowned December 2, 1135, to the prejudice of Maude, daughter of Henry I. A war ensued, in which Stephen was taken prisoner at Lincoln by the Earl of Gloucester, Maude's half brother, February, 1141, and put in irons at Bristol ; but released in exchange for that nobleman, who was taken at Winchester. He made peace with Henry, the son of Maude, in 1153, and died October 25, 1154, aged fifty ; he was buried at Feversham, and was succeeded by Henry, son of Maude."

Mr. Jackson remarked, that Stephen of Blois was a prince of great valour, clemency, and generosity ; but used unjust measures to obtain the crown, and paid little regard to his word.

" Matilda, Stephen's queen, was crowned on Easter-day, 1136, died May 3, 1151, at Hen-

ningham-castle, in Essex, and was buried in a monastery at Feversham."

" Henry VIII. born June 28, 1491, succeeded his father Henry VII. at the age of eighteen. The first years of his reign were very popular, owing to his great generosity; but at length his conduct grew capricious and arbitrary. The Emperor Maximilian and Pope Julius II. having made a league against France, persuaded Henry to join them, and he in consequence invaded that kingdom, where he made some conquests, and returned to England with a great number of prisoners. About the same time James IV. King of Scotland, invaded England, but was defeated and slain by Henry at Flodden-field. His minister Wolsey succeeded in bringing his master over from the imperial interest to that of the French King. When Luther commenced the reformation in Germany, Henry's zeal was stirred up to defend the tenets of the Roman church; and he accordingly published a book against the Reformer, for which he was complimented by the pope with the title of *defender of the faith*, in 1521. This attachment to the Roman see, however, did not last long; for having conceived an affection for Anne Boleyn, he determined to divorce his wife Catherine of Arragon, to whom he had been married eighteen

years. His plea for the divorce was, that Catherine was his brother Arthur's widow. This, however, was not admitted by the pope; and Henry, not being in a humour to suppress his desires, renounced the papal authority, assumed the title of supreme head of the English church in 1531, put down the monasteries, and alienated their possessions to secular purposes. His marriage with Anne Boleyn, May 23, 1533, was the consequence; but afterwards he brought her to the scaffold, and married Lady Jane Seymour, May 20, 1536, who died in child-bed, October 12, 1537. He then married Anne of Cleves, January 6, 1540; but she not proving agreeable to his expectations, he put her away, July 10, 1540, and caused Cromwell, Earl of Essex, who had projected the match, to be beheaded. His next wife was Catherine Howard, who was also beheaded on Tower-hill, with Lady Rochford, February 12, 1542; after which he espoused Catherine Parr, July 12, 1543, who had the good fortune to survive him. Henry died of a fever and ulcerated leg, at Westminster, January 28, 1547; was buried at Windsor, and was succeeded by his only son Edward VI. He was a man of strong passions and considerable learning."

Mr. A—— remarked, that King Henry VIII.

for the greatest part of his reign, governed with much applause; but at last made his will a law; and luxury and cruelty so possessed his mind, that they obscured his virtues, and stained his former glory.

Philip II. King of Spain, in the thirtieth year of his reign, fitted out the famous armada; he died in 1598, and was succeeded by his son Philip III.

Mr. A—— observed, that Philip II. King of Spain and Portugal, was a warlike and politic, but ambitious and cruel prince. He was born at Valladolid in 1527, was the son of Charles V. and in 1554 obtained two crowns; that of Naples and Sicily, by the abdication of his father; and that of England, by his marriage with Mary, daughter of Henry VIII. In 1556 he succeeded his father in the throne of Spain, on Charles's retirement from the cares and pleasures of the world. Philip began his reign with considerable reputation, and had some signal successes in a war against France. However, he experienced a sad reverse in his affairs by the loss of the United Provinces, and by an unsuccessful war with the English and French. After finding that all his romantic and ambitious projects failed, and that his country was going fast to decay through the oppressions which he had

heaped upon it, he made peace with France, and began to take measures for restoring the strength of his kingdom.

After breakfast the next morning, we sallied out to view this famous and ancient city, of which I shall give you as good an account as I am able.

Canterbury, the chief city of the county of Kent, and the metropolitan of all England, stands at the distance of fifty-six miles from London. It is situated in a beautiful and fruitful valley, with the river Stour running through it, in two clear and useful streams; and, being spread over a considerable portion of ground, contains a great number of inhabitants. It is said to have been built nine hundred years before the birth of Christ; but that the Romans were here near fifty years before, appears pretty certain, from Antoninus's itinerary, from the Roman coins dug up in it, from the remains of a military way, and from the great Roman causeways leading from hence to Dover and Lyme. Vortigern, King of the Britons, resided here after the Romans, and yielded it to the Saxons.

As we walked along, Mr. A—— desired that one of us would give him a short account of Vortigern, which, on a look from Adelina, I immediately did.

“ Vortigern, a British chief, on the departure of the Romans in 445, was elected King of South Britain. He was a careless and luxurious prince; and, being threatened by the Scots and Picts, applied to the Saxons for assistance. The Saxons landed in 450, under the conduct of two brothers, Hengist and Horsa, and succeeded in the overthrow of the confederate army. Disagreements soon happened between the Saxons and the Britons, and wars ensued, which ended in the ruin of the natives. Vortigern afterwards married Rowena, the daughter of Hengist, who, in consequence of the marriage, got possession of the whole province of Kent. Hengist took the king prisoner, and for his ransom obtained those provinces since called Essex, Sussex, and Middlesex. Thus the Saxons acquired power by degrees; and Vortigern, retiring to a castle that he had built in North Wales, was burnt there A. D. 484.”

The thanks of Mr. A—— are always so grateful to me, that I do assure you I am eager to merit them; and he never fails to bestow them freely, when we can relate any piece of information that he requests of us.

Mr. A—— then told us, that Canterbury was supposed to have been walled in during the time of King Ethelbert, about the year 600;

and when the walls were repaired, in 1400 they are said to have been nearly two miles in compass. There were twenty-one small towers on the walls, and seven gates, besides posterns. There are now only six, and a great part of the wall is in a ruinous state.

This city had once an exchange and a mint, a deep ditch, and a great rampart. On the south side of the city, at Dungeon-hill, are the ruins of a castle, a venerable structure, supposed to have been built by William the Conqueror during the wars between the Danes and Normans in 1075. Mr. A—— desired me to give him a short account of William.

“William the Conqueror, in 1066, caused a general survey of the lands to be made; in his reign began the first wars with France; the Norman laws and language were introduced; and many forts built. He reigned with arbitrary sway, instituted the curfew bell, and died in 1087.”

Mr. A—— observed, that William the Conqueror was one of the wisest princes of his time; ever vigilant and active; he showed as great a resolution in executing, as boldness in forming his designs, and faced danger with the greatest intrepidity; but that he was extremely covetous and partial.

Besides the cathedral, which adds greatly to the appearance of this city, there are fourteen parish-churches; the whole city is divided into six wards, which are named after the six city gates. Here were also a priory, a nunnery, and three religious houses, for the Augustine, black, and grey friars. The knights templars had also a mansion in this city. It likewise contained nine hospitals, three of which are dissolved. Here is a free-school, and three charity-schools.

The cathedral, a vast pile of building, is a fine piece of Gothic architecture, and exhibits marks of hoary antiquity. It rears its towers with elegance, and its interior is decorated by monuments well worth examination. Mr. A—— told us, that it was partly built by Lucius, the first christian king of the Britons, and that St. Augustine consecrated it by the name of Christ-church; that it was rined and burnt in 1011, together with the rest of the city, by the Danes. King Canute caused it to be repaired, and presented his crown of gold to it. Mr. A—— here interrupted himself, to ask me for an account of Canute, which I gave him in these words:

“ Canute, King of Denmark, and of England, married Emma the widow of Ethelred.

He subdued Norway in 1029, and two years after went to Rome to obtain a pardon for some offences of which he had been guilty. He was a frank and generous prince; and a story is told of him which redounds to his honour. His flatterers having almost deified him, Canute caused a chair to be placed on the sea shore, and seating himself therein, commanded the waves not to approach his sacred feet. The sea, regardless of the mandate, rolled onwards as before; on which, leaping up, he said, that no one deserve to be called sovereign, but that Being whom winds and waves obey. He then resigned his crown, and retired to a monastery, where he died in 1035."

Mr. A—— observed, that Canute the Great was a famous soldier, and in the beginning of his reign trampled on religion and justice; but in time became humble, modest, just, and truly religious.

Mr. A—— then asked if I recollected any thing of Emma. I told him I thought I could give a short account of her, which I did, as follows.

"Emma, daughter of Richard II. Duke of Normandy, and mother of Edward the Confessor, King of England, was first married to Ethelred, who was obliged to go to Normandy with

his sons Alfred and Edward, when the Danes invaded the kingdom. After his death, she married Canúte, and gave her consent to the exclusion of Ethelred's sons from the throne. In the reign of her son she was an associate in the government, till the Earl of Kent contrived to prepossess Edward against her. In this exigence, she applied to her relation the Bishop of Winchester, which occasioned another slander to be invented by her enemy, namely, that she had a criminal intercourse with this prelate. She was sentenced to prove her innocence, according to the custom of the times, by walking barefoot over nine burning plough-shares; which she is said to have done without being hurt. "I shall not apologize, my dear sister, for my digressions, because I know that my father will be even better pleased with them than Mr. A——.

In 1043, the cathedral was again much defaced by fire; upon which Lanfranc, the archbishop, pulled it all down, rebuilt it, together with the palace and monastery; and the church was dedicated anew by the name of the Holy Trinity. Mr. A—— told us, that Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury, was born at Pavia, and studied at Bologna; after which he went to France, where he retired to the abbey of Bec, of which he was elected prior in 1044. William

Duke of Normandy made him Abbot of St. Stephen at Caen, and when he conquered England preferred him to the see of Canterbury. In 1071 he went to Rome to receive the pallium from the pope; but it must be observed, to his honour, that he stoutly resisted the authority of Gregory VII. who repeatedly cited him to Rome to answer the charge of heresy brought against him. He rebuilt the cathedral of Canterbury, founded several other churches and hospitals, and died in 1089. He wrote a book against Berenger, and other works, which were collected into a volume, in 1647.

Adelina saying that she did not recollect any thing about Gregory VII. or Berenger, I told her, that Gregory VII. was the son of a carpenter of Soano in Tuscany, and succeeded to the pontificate in 1073. This pope formed vast projects for the reform of the church; and, in attempting to execute them, assumed unexampled powers. Gregory was soon embroiled with the Emperor Henry IV. and after a violent struggle, with alternate success and disgrace, retired to Salerno, where he died in 1085. Mr. A—— added, that Gregory excommunicated the Emperor Henry IV. who deposed him for it; and he desired that before I noticed the life of Berenger, I would relate that of Henry IV. I instantly complied.

“ Henry IV. of Germany, son and successor of Henry III. was born in 1050. Agnes, his mother, governed with great courage and ability during his minority, and at the age of thirteen he took the reins into his own hands. The Saxons rebelled against him, and accused him of simony, and other crimes, to pope Gregory VII. who, in consequence, took from the emperor the right of presenting to benefices. Henry then called a diet at Worms, in 1076, for the purpose of deposing the pope, who launched his anathema against the emperor. The German princes deposed Henry, who went into Italy and made his submission to the haughty pontiff; but Gregory was not to be appeased; and Henry, hurt at the treatment he had received, resolved to take vengeance. The electors had chosen Rodolphus Duke of Suabia, and Gregory confirmed his title; but Henry beat his competitor in several engagements, and at last put him to death. He then called a council, which deposed the pope, and elected in his room the Archbishop of Ravenna, who crowned Henry at Rome shortly after. In 1106, his son Henry assumed the imperial title, and was supported by the princes of the empire. The unfortunate Henry was obliged to renounce his crown to his unnatural son; after which he became a wanderer, and supplicated the Archbishop of

Spire to give him a prebend in his church, which he refused. He died at Liege in 1106, and was interred there in a private manner; but five years afterwards Henry caused the body to be removed to the cathedral of Spire."

Mr. A—— remarked, that Henry IV. Emperor of Germany, was a prince of incomparable wit, valour, solidity, and liberality; very valiant, and merciful to excess; and that he died miserably, though he had fought and won sixty-two battles.

Adelina said he had a most unnatural son, and begged I would inform her what became of him.

I told her, that Henry V. was born in 1081, and deposed his father, in 1106. In 1110, he went into Italy, and forced Pope Pascal II. to grant him the right of nominating to ecclesiastical benefices, which Gregory VII. had wrested from his father. Pascal afterwards called two councils, and excommunicated Henry, who returned with an army into Italy, where he opposed the election of Gelasius II. But in 1122 he found the ecclesiastical thunder too mighty for him, and yielding, like a dutiful son, to the holy chair, received a full absolution. He died at Utrecht in 1125.

Mr. A—— observed, that Henry V. Emperor

of Germany was a prince of good courage, but bloody, cruel, and perfidious.

I then related, that Berenger was a French divine of the 11th century; that he revived the opinions of Scotus, surnamed Erigena, on the subject of the eucharist, which was in fact a denial of transubstantiation, and that he was condemned at the council of Paris in 1050, and at Rome in 1079.—He died in 1088.

Mr. A—— continued to give us an account of the cathedral, which was again dedicated in the reign of Henry I. in presence of the king and queen, and of David King of Scots, and many of the bishops and nobility of both realms, by the name of Christ-church. Mr. A—— paused, and calling upon me to give him an account of Henry I. and of David, I did so in these words:

“ Henry I. began to reign in 1100: he purchased the throne by seizing his brother’s treasures; suffered the clergy to assume excessive power; conquered Normandy from his brother Robert, and confined him cruelly. Henry’s abilities were great, but his conduct very exceptionable.”

Mr. A—— observed, that Henry I. called Beauclerc, was very courageous, and had a great capacity both in military and civil affairs; that

he was learned, prudent, severe in punishing the guilty, and a favourer of learned men.

“ David I. was contemporary with Stephen King of England, in 1124. His valour was unquestioned, and his liberality to church-men great; he compiled a code of Scottish laws, built many religious edifices, and reigned gloriously.”

Mr. A—— remarked, that David was a prince of great virtues, a good soldier, and remarkably condescending; and then told us, that the cathedral was also destroyed by fire in 1174; but was begun to be rebuilt in the reign of King Stephen, though not completed till that of Henry V. He added, that the practice of erecting vaults in chancels began at Canterbury about 1375.

Being again called upon for an account of Stephen and Henry V. I said, that, in 1135, Stephen seized upon the throne; that a long and bloody war ensued; many forts were built by the barons; and his crown, after several battles, was settled upon Henry, grandson to Henry I. but that Stephen, who was famed for personal valour, was allowed to enjoy it for life.

“ Henry V. began to reign in 1413; he was powerful and victorious; his conquests in France were numerous and splendid; he gained the

battles of Harfleur and Agincourt, and was declared next heir to the French monarchy. In his reign the followers of Wickliffe were severely persecuted. Henry at last died in the midst of victory." Mr. A—— remarked, that Henry V. had all the endowments of body and mind requisite to form a great man, and was a prince of uncommon prudence, resolution, and bravery.

The cathedral is a spacious square toward the east side of the city, and is built in form of a cross; about fifty feet long, seventy-four broad, exclusive of the cross aisle, and eighty feet high. Before the Reformation it had thirty-seven altars. The choir is thought to be the most spacious in the kingdom; the stalls for the dean and prebendaries are of wainscot, divided by neat fluted pillars, with capitals of the Corinthian order, supporting the insignia of ecclesiastical authority. From the middle of the building rises a beautiful tower two hundred and thirty-five feet high, called Bell Harry. There is an ascent from the choir to the chapel of Becket, who was murdered here, and to whose shrine such rich offerings were formerly made, by pilgrims and other votaries, for several ages, that it is said the chapel shone all over with rare and very large jewels; and at the Reformation the plate and jewels belonging to this tomb filled two great

chests, each of which required eight men to remove it.

“My dear Jeannette,” said Mr. A——, “I shall now trouble you to relate the life of Thomas à Becket.” I with pleasure complied.

“Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, was born in London in 1119, and educated at Oxford and Paris. Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury, became his patron, and recommended him to Henry II. who appointed him, in 1158, high chancellor, and preceptor to the prince. The year following he attended the king to Thoulouse, having, at his own charge, twelve hundred horse and a train of seven hundred knights. In 1160, he was sent to Paris to negotiate a marriage between Prince Henry and the King of France’s eldest daughter, with whom he returned to England in 1162; he was elected Archbishop of Canterbury, on which he resigned the chancellorship, which greatly displeased the king. He now altered his manner of life, and became the rigid churchman, instead of the easy courtier. Henry and he soon came to open hostilities; the king endeavouring to curb the overbearing spirit of the clergy, and the archbishop protecting them stiffly in all their pretensions. In a convention, or parliament, held at Clarendon, certain laws were passed respecting the pri-

vileges of the clergy, which were at first assented to by Becket; but he afterwards repented of what he had done, and endeavoured to leave the kingdom, in order to communicate his grievances to the pope. This occasioned a parliament to be called at Northampton in 1165; when the archbishop was sentenced to forfeit all his goods and chattels to the king. On this, Becket privately left the kingdom, and Henry seized upon the revenues of his see. Becket was kindly received by the French king, and resigned his archbishopric into the hands of the pope at Sens, who returned it to him, with assurances of his support. The archbishop now fulminated his anathemas against several bishops and noblemen; which irritated the king so much, that he banished all his relations. In 1167, an interview took place between Henry and Becket at Mount Miral, in Champagne, at which the former made very ample concessions; but the latter would not yield an article of his claims; so that the conference broke up without producing any effect. In 1169, another attempt was made to bring about a reconciliation; which also failed through the obstinacy of Becket; and Henry was so exasperated, that he obliged his subject to renounce, by oath, all obedience to Becket and Pope Alexander. He also caused his son to

be crowned at Westminster by the Archbishop of York, which office belonged to the see of Canterbury. For this the pope suspended that prelate, and excommunicated those who assisted him. At last an accommodation was concluded between Henry and Becket in Normandy; on which the archbishop returned to England, where the young king directed him to absolve the Archbishop of York and the other bishops; which he refused. The injured prelates then went to lay their complaints before Henry in Normandy; on which, in a fit of spleen, he called himself an unhappy prince, that out of so many attendants, none had gratitude enough to rid him of an insolent prelate, who caused him so much disturbance. These words induced four of his knights to set out for Canterbury, where they assassinated the archbishop at the altar in the cathedral, December 29, 1171. For this the king was obliged by the pope to do penance at Becket's tomb, where he was scourged by the monks, and passed all the day and night fasting upon the bare stones. The murderers were sent on penance to the Holy-land, where they died. Becket was canonized two years after; and his miracles were so great and numerous, that his shrine soon became richer than that of any saint in Europe."

They showed us the fatal spot where his brains were dashed out on the pavement; and an old man, pointing to the identical part where he fell, assured us that there was a stain which time had not obliterated.

There are many ancient monuments in this church, some in very good condition; among which are those of Henry IV. and his queen, built A. D. 1413; and Edward the Black Prince. As I was desired to give the lives of the persons whose monuments we stood viewing, in which there was any thing remarkable, I shall write them down as I mentioned them; and first Henry IV.

“Henry the Fourth deposed his cousin Richard the Second, and seized the throne in 1399. He was the son of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, the third son of Edward III. By this usurpation, England became at length the seat of civil war between the two houses of York and Lancaster. Henry died in peace in 1413, and was buried at Canterbury.”

“Edward, Prince of Wales, commonly called the Black Prince, from the colour of his armour, was the eldest son of Edward the Third, and was born in 1330. He accompanied his father to France when he was but sixteen years old, and distinguished himself there above all the warriors

of his age, particularly at the battle of Cressy. He there took the standard of the King of Bohemia, embroidered with three ostrich feathers, and having this motto, *ICH DIEN*. This he always wore, and it has continued to be the arms of the Prince of Wales ever since. He also won the victory at Poitiers, where he took John King of France and his son prisoners, and brought them to London. This prince married the Lady Joanna, daughter of Edmund Earl of Kent, brother to Edward the Second, a widow, by whom he had a son, who was afterwards Richard II. Edward died, to the grief of the whole nation, in 1376."

Mr. A—— continued to relate some particulars of the other monuments, as the monument of Cardinal Pole, Archbishop Chichely, Admiral Rooke, &c.

"Reginald Pole, a cardinal, and kinsman to Henry VII. was, according to Camden, born in 1500, at Stoverton castle, in Worcestershire, and instructed in the Carthusian monastery at Sheen, near Richmond, in Surrey. At twelve he became a student at Magdalen College, Oxford. His royal relation conferred several favours on him, designing to raise him to the highest dignities in the church; and after he had taken the suitable degrees, allowed him a

large pension to enable him to travel into Italy. Henry the Eighth's dispute with the holy see occasioned Pole to stay out of England, and to write a piece called *Pro unitate ecclesiasticæ*; for which, and refusing to return when ordered, his pension was taken away, and himself attainted. The pope and emperor compensated the loss of his church preferments; the former had made him cardinal in 1536, and sent him as nuncio both to France and Flanders. Under Mary he returned to England in 1554, and was made Archbishop of Canterbury. He died at Lambeth palace in 1558, sixteen hours after the death of the queen. Though zealously attached to all the superstitions of the papacy, he was a man of amiable manners, mild disposition, great learning, and a patron of men of letters."

"Henry Chichely, Archbishop of Canterbury, was born at Higham Ferrers in Northamptonshire; educated first at Winchester school, and then at New College, Oxford. In 1407, he was at Rome, on an embassy to the pope, who gave him the bishopric of Saint David's. In 1414 he was raised to the see of Canterbury; which dignified station he maintained with great spirit and attention; and obtained many privileges for the clergy. He also resisted the encroachments of the papal see. This archbishop

was a liberal encourager of learning; and his foundation of All-soul's College, Oxford, will eternize his memory. He died in 1443."

"Sir George Rooke, a gallant English Admiral, was born of a good family in Kent, in 1650. He entered early into the navy, and rose by his merit to the first honours of his profession. He gave eminent proofs of his skill and courage in many expeditions, particularly in burning the French ships at La Hogue, at the battle of Malaga, and in the glorious action off Vigo. The taking of Gibraltar showed in the clearest light his spirit and sagacity. He sat in parliament for Portsmouth, and distinguished himself as an honest independent senator. Sir George died in 1709, and was buried in Canterbury cathedral."

"Dr. John Tillotson, Archbishop of Canterbury, was the son of a clothier at Sowerby, in Yorkshire, and was born in 1630. He received his education at Clare-hall, Cambridge, where he was chosen fellow in 1651. Though bred among the Puritans, he cheerfully conformed, at the Restoration, to the church of England, and became curate of Cheshunt, in Hertfordshire. In 1663 he became preacher to the society of Lincoln's Inn, and the year after, lecturer of St. Lawrence, Jewry. He was soon followed as

a popular preacher, and in 1666 took his degree of D. D. In 1670 he was made prebendary of Canterbury, and in 1672 dean of that church. He distinguished himself by his zeal against the progress of popery, both in his preaching, and from the press. He attended Lord Russel; and it is remarkable, that he urged upon him, as also did Dr. Burnett, the doctrine of non-resistance; a principle which they both saw reason to renounce afterwards. At the Revolution he was taken into the entire confidence of King William and Queen Mary; and when Sancroft was suspended, the metropolitical seat was conferred on him, much against his inclination. He was violently assailed with abuse by the non-juring party, to all of whom he paid little attention; and when some of the libellers were taken up, he laboured to get them discharged. After his death a bundle of papers was found in his study, with this inscription upon them, 'These are libels. I pray God forgive them; I do.'

"This excellent prelate died in 1699, and his funeral sermon was preached by Bishop Burnet. His works are so universally known, that it is needless to make any observations upon them."

"John Bale, Bishop of Ossory in Ireland, was born at Cove, a small village in Suffolk.

He was bred up in the Romish religion; but became afterwards a protestant. His conversion, however, greatly exposed him to the persecution of the Romish clergy; and he must have felt their resentment, had he not been protected by Lord Cromwell; but upon the death of that nobleman, he was obliged to fly to Holland, where he remained six years, and during this time wrote several pieces in the English language. He was recalled into England by Edward VI. and presented to the living of Bishop's-stoke, in the county of Southampton. On the 15th of August, 1532, he was nominated to the see of Ossory; and, upon his arrival in Ireland, used his utmost endeavours to reform the manners of his diocese, to correct the vices of the priests, to abolish the mass, and to establish the use of the new book of common prayer set forth in England; but all his schemes of this kind having proved abortive by the death of King Edward, and the accession of Queen Mary, he became greatly exposed to the outrages of the papists in Ireland. Once, in particular, we are told that five of his domestics were murdered while they were making hay in a meadow near his house; and having received intimation that the priests were plotting his death, he retired from his see to Dublin. He afterwards made

his escape in a small vessel from that port ; but was taken by the captain of a Dutch man of war, who stripped him of all his money and effects, and, when he arrived in Holland, obliged him to pay thirty pounds before he could procure his liberty. From Holland he retired to Basil in Switzerland, where he continued during the reign of Queen Mary. On the accession of Queen Elizabeth he returned from exile ; but did not chuse to go again into Ireland, being satisfied with a prebend of Canterbury, in which city he died, November, 1563, aged sixty-seven, and was buried in the cathedral of that place. This prelate has left a most celebrated Latin work, containing the lives of the most eminent writers of Great Britain. He was also one of the earliest of our dramatic poets. Twenty of his plays are recorded."

In viewing such a variety of tombs, a passage of Addison's in the Spectator was forcibly impressed upon my memory:—"When I look upon the tombs of the great, every emotion of envy dies within me. When I read the epitaphs of the beautiful, every inordinate desire goes out. When I meet with the grief of parents upon a tomb-stone, my heart melts with compassion. When I see the tombs of parents themselves, I consider the vanity of grieving for those whom

we must quickly follow. When I see kings lying by those who deposed them—when I consider rival wits placed side by side, or the holy men that divided the world with their contests and disputes, I reflect with sorrow and astonishment on the little competitions and debates of mankind. When I read the several dates of the tombs, of some that died yesterday, and some six hundred years ago, I consider that great day when we shall *all* of us be cotemporaries, and make our appearance together.”

There was also a famous monastery belonging to this cathedral, containing, it is said, one hundred and fifty Benedictines: the cloister and chapter-house belonging to it, are on the north side of the church, and are of the same age with the body of it. In this chapter-room, A. D. 1171, King Henry the Second, either through piety or policy, suffered the monks to scourge him, by way of penance, on account of the murder of Thomas à Becket. This monastery was dissolved in 1539; and there are now belonging to this cathedral, a dean, archdeacon, twelve prebendaries, six preachers, six minor canons, twelve lay clerks, ten choristers, two masters, fifty scholars, and twelve alms-men. In the windows of this fabric are some fine remains of painted glass; and underneath it the French and Walloon congregation have a church.

This was first given by Queen Elizabeth to the Walloons, who fled here from the Netherlands, to escape the Duke of Alva's persecution; and this congregation has been much increased, by numbers of protestants, who were driven from France in the reign of Louis the Fourteenth. These foreign protestants were extremely serviceable to Canterbury, by introducing here the art of weaving broad silks, which has been brought to great perfection.

Mr. A—— told us, that the diocese of Canterbury contains two hundred and fifty-seven parishes, besides chapels, in Kent, and one hundred more in other dioceses. These latter are called *peculiars*; because whenever the archbishop has manors, or advowsons, those places are deemed in the diocese of Canterbury. The see is supposed to produce about ten thousand pounds per annum. The archbishop is primate of all England, and the first peer of the realm, having precedence of all dukes not of the blood royal, and all the officers of state. He is stiled *His Grace*, and writes himself, by Divine Providence; other bishops only stiling themselves, by Divine Permission. At coronations, he places the crown on the king's head; and wherever the court may be held, *Their Majesties* are the proper domestic parishioners of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

We now left the cathedral to view the ruins of St. Augustine's monastery, or abbey, to the east of the city, which are fine and impressive. The abbey was built by Ethelbert, given to Augustine, and richly endowed by the donations of many kings and queens. At the west end of the abbey is Ethelbert's tower; which is thought to have been used as a belfry and steeple, and to have been so called from a large bell named from that king. It was built about the year 1047, and is now much decayed. Near the ruins of this abbey, are those of Pancras chapel, which was an idol temple, and probably built by the Romans, or soon after their time, from the Roman bricks still to be seen. Augustine consecrated it for christian worship. This abbey and chapel with its precincts occupied a large compass of ground, which is surrounded by a high wall, the two grand entrances into which are still remaining. To the east of this monastery is St. Martin's church, famous for its antiquity, it being built in 182 by the believing Romans, and rebuilt and used by Bertha, Ethelbert's queen, for christian worship, before Augustine came into England; and was the first place in which that missionary said mass after his arrival. Bertha is said to have been buried in the porch with her husband Ethelbert. There

are rows of Roman bricks still to be seen in it; and it had a bishop before the Conquest. It must have been formerly a structure of uncommon magnificence and splendor. When Henry the Eighth seized the religious houses, the gates of this abbey were shut against him, till two pieces of cannon, placed on an adjoining hill, made the affrighted monks speedily give up their keys. Enough, however, remained entire to receive the unfortunate Charles the First at his wedding, where it was kept with every possible degree of festivity. How little do short-sighted mortals know what will be their fate! According to some historians, his queen brought on his melancholy destiny. Here also Charles the Second was entertained, on his way from Dover, with great pomp at his Restoration.

The parish of Saint Dunstan is called after *Dunstan*, the famous saint, and Archbishop of Canterbury, who was born in 924, under the reign of Athelstan, who was his relation. He retired from court in disgust, and became a monk. Edmund, successor of Athelstan, drew him from his retreat, and was guided by his advice. He was made Bishop of Worcester, and afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury. The pope sent him the pallium, and made him legate for the holy see in England. Edwin having

succeeded Edmund, Dunstan took the liberty of reproving him for his scandalous life, on which the king banished him. His exile, however, was not of long duration, and he died in the quiet possession of his archbishopric in 988. Dunstan founded the famous monastery of Glastonbury.

In this church was interred Margaret Roper, daughter of Sir Thomas More, Lord High Chancellor of England. She was born about the year 1508, and received one of those learned educations which were customary in those times: the first masters were engaged to instruct this young lady, as well as her sisters, not only in the accomplishments necessary for her sex, but in Latin and Greek; she was likewise well acquainted with philosophy, astronomy, logic, and physic, and was one of the most learned females of the age. To this desirable comprehensibility of mind, was united a peculiar sweetness of manners, which insured her the affection of every heart. Her father's tenderness was of the liveliest nature; her filial fondness gratified his feelings, and he listened to her conversation with pride and delight; his affection for her is displayed in the following extracts from his letters, which have been taken from Ballard's account of Mrs. Roper's life. "Thomas More

sendeth a hearty greeting to his dearest daughter Margaret. I cannot avoid telling you, my sweetest daughter, how much your letter delighted me; and you may imagine how exceedingly it pleased your father, when you understand what affection the reading of it caused in a stranger. It happened that the Lord Bishop of Exeter was with me this evening; and in taking a paper out of my pocket, I by chance pulled out your letter; the hand-writing pleased him, he took it from me to look at it; but when he had read it, and understood that it was your composition, which he could hardly believe, until I seriously affirmed it—such a letter!—I will say no more—yet why should I not report what he said to me? So pure in style! such excellent Latin! so eloquent! so full of sweet affection! that he was marvellously ravished with it.” From this extract the fame of Mrs. Roper is established as a scholar, and as an affectionate and amiable child; and it is impossible to peruse the praises bestowed upon her by her father, without experiencing a pleasurable emotion of mind: yet as whatever interests the affections is perused with satisfaction, I cannot resist the inclination that I feel to transcribe part of another letter of Sir Thomas More’s, wherein he displays all the fondness of a father, and all the

liberal sentiments of a generous mind—"You ask money, dear Megg, with too much fear and diffidence of your father, who is both desirous to give it you, and your letter hath deserved it, which I could find in my heart to recompense, not as Alexander did by Cherilus, giving him for every verse a phillipine of gold; but if my abilities were equal to my will, I would bestow two crowns of pure gold for every syllable it contains. I now send you as much as you requested, and am willing to have sent you more; yet as I am glad to give, so am I desirous to be asked, and fawned upon by my daughters, and especially by thee, whom virtue and learning has made most dear to me. Wherefore, the sooner you have spent this money well, as you are wont to do, and the sooner you ask for more, the sooner you will give your father a singular pleasure. Farewell, my most beloved daughter." There is something so truly parental in this epistle, that it is impossible to peruse it without pleasure and delight; in short, one of the biographers of Sir Thomas More informs us, that his very existence seemed to depend upon this favourite daughter's life; for when she was thought past recovery, with that dreadful disorder the sweating sickness, which prevailed in London and its environs in the year 1520, he

declared that he would throw up the important situation which he held, retire from the world, and devote the remainder of his days to religion and solitude, if the almighty did not mercifully listen to his prayers. In the twentieth year of her age, Miss More was united to William Roper, Esq. of West-Hall, near Eltham, in Kent; with him, for sixteen years, she enjoyed the most perfect domestic happiness; and few women in the conjugal state have been so completely blest. By this gentleman Mrs. Roper had five children, whom she educated with the fondest care; in this pleasing task she was aided by her husband, and the best masters that could be procured. Blest as she was in the partner of her affections, yet she was destined to endure an affliction which fortitude could not sustain; for she had the misery of beholding the author of her existence condemned to suffer an ignominious death.

