PICTURESQUE VIEWS

AND DESCRIPTION OF

CITIES, TOWNS, CASTLES, MANSIONS,

AND OTHER

OBJECTS OF INTERESTING FEATURE,

IN

SHROPSHIRE,

FROM ORIGINAL DESIGNS, TAKEN EXPRESSLY FOR THIS WORK,

BY FREDERICK CALVERT;

ENGRAVED ON STEEL BY MR. T. RADCLYFFE:

WITH HISTORICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL ILLUSTRATIONS,

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INTRODUCTION.

Although SHROPSHIRE has not, like most of our Counties, had to boast of any great or elaborate Historian, yet various portions of its Antiquities, Historical Associations, and its Picturesque Beauties, have been ably and interestingly described in various detached Publications, which rank beyond what are usually termed "Guides;" and as they enter very fully into descriptions of particular places, remarkable for their Antiquities, Public Buildings, and Institutions, we shall duly notice them, particularly in a description of Shrewsbury, Ludlow, &c. &c.

Mr. Nightingale's History of the County, as attached to, and forming a portion of, the "Beauties of England and Wales," is perhaps the most full and general description of it. He states in his Preface, that he engaged Mr. RYLANCE to make an actual Survey of this interesting County, and that from the fruit of his friend's exertions, aided by the obliging communications of several gentlemen resident in Shrewsbury and other places, and by availing himself of the little which printed materials furnished, he drew up his account. This account was pualished in 1813. Great alterations and improvements, have subsequently taken place, which will be duly noticed.

It is not, however, within the scope or view of the present Work, to enter into a dry, elaborate, or too lengthened detail of what has been so frequently repeated in numerous productions. The heads only, and material points will be given—Picturesque Delineations, and Descriptions of Scenery, and the principal Seats of the Nobility and Gentry, being the avowed objects of the Editor and of the Proprietor.

Descriptive heads of the principal Towns will necessarily be given, with their Topographical Situation; Population—Agricultural and Commercial; the Public Buildings, Institutions, &c. &c.

PICTURESQUE VIEWS

OF

SHROPSHIRE.

Salop, (as frequently called Shropshire) an inland County of England, in the shape of an irregular parallelogram, is bounded by Denbigh, a detached part of Flintshire, and by Cheshire on the North; by Staffordshire on the East; by Radnorshire, Montgomeryshire, and Denbighshire, on the West; and by Worcestershire, and Herefordshire, on the South. Its extreme length from North to South, is about forty miles, and its breadth from East to West, thirty-five miles. Its circumference is computed at 218, and containing 1341 square miles, or 858,250 acres, constituting about a forty-fifth portion of England and Wales. The County is divided into fifteen hundreds or divisions, viz.—Oswestry, Pimhill, North and South Bradford, and Brimley, on the North-East side of the Severn; the liberty of Shrewsbury and the franchises of Wenlock, and the hundred of Stoddesden, extending on both banks of that river; the hundreds of Ford, Chirbury, Candover, Munslow, Overs, Purslow, and the honour of Chin, on the South-west side of the Severn. Shropshire contains 229 *Parochial* Churches, out of the *total* number of 262, and the County is partly in the Dioceses of Hereford, Lichfield and Coventry, and St. Asaph, and comes within the Oxford Circuit.

The salubrity of the air, the fineness of the soil, and the picturesque beauty of Salop, is universally acknowledged, yet it appears from the average scale of mortality for the last ten years, that one out of fifty-eight of the total population die annually; this appears a vast number, when compared with some other places that are more densely populated, and are considered so much less salubrious and less healthy: for instance, in the large manufacturing town of Birmingham, one out of thirty-five only, die annually, out of a population of upwards of 140,000!—It is true that at Manchester, (where the manufactories are more crowded and less healthy) one out of thirty-seven die annually; and in the metropolis one out of thirty-one. A modern topographer (Capper) states that there are mines of lead-ore of a good quality, on the eastern side of the County, which have been productive, and that in some of these mines tools have been found, a few of which have been preserved in the library of the Free-school at Shrewsbury. Calamine is also met with, and the rock of Pimhill is strongly tinctured with copper. Symptoms both of lead and copper appear on the Cardington hills. Coal of the best quality, is also found on the eastern side of the county, which not only supply the domestic consumption, but also the extensive iron manufactories around and leave a surplus for exportation.

This County is also productive of excellent materials for building, having a good stone fit for that purpose, and limestone contiguous to the coal.

Near Shrewsbury, at a place named Pitchford, a mineral pitch exudes from a red sandstone, and a manufactory of coal tar is carried on south of the Severn.

Many rivers, exclusive of the canals, ornament and fertilise this fine County. The Severn flows, and is navigable, from the north-east to the south-east part of the county, without a single lock or weir, from Poolquay, Montgomeryshire, to the mouth of the Avon, near Bristol, a distance of upwards of 150 miles. There are besides the rivers Camlet, Clun, Cundbrooke, also the Perry, the Teme, Vyrney, and the Weaver, with several smaller and tributary streams.

Some of the lakes in Shropshire are also extensive as to occupy from 50 to 100 acres of land. Salt-springs have also been found near North Bradford.

Canal navigation is peculiarly accommodating in this County, for independent of their being everywhere distributed over an extensive and fertile portion of the country, they combine, and are so connected with others, as to render the greatest facilities to trade and manufactures. Capper truly remarks, that "accommodation by canal-navigation in Shropshire is very considerable by means of the Shropshire, the Shrewsbury, the Ketley, the Ellesmere, and other Canals. The Shropshire Canal may be called a system of water-levels and inclined planes; its general direction is from north to south, and it commences in the Severn at Coalport. The Shrewsbury Canal commences in that town, and terminates in the Shropshire Canal. This canal was completed in 1792, and is said to have cost between 40 and £50,000. The Shrewsbury Canal was completed is 1797. The Ellesmere Canal unites with the Severn, Mersey, and Dee, communicating with the ports of Bristol and Liverpool. These communications are of the utmost advantage to their manufactories, which consist of a superior article of blue, and white and gold China, that now vies with that of the East.

The manufacturing of flannel, broad-cloth, Welch flannels, linens, cottons, mineral-tar, and cast-iron, has been carried on to a considerable extent.

The general produce of the County are wheat and other grain, coal, iron, lead, limestone, &c.

The county contains seventeen market-towns, nine smaller towns or villages, having fairs but no markets. It sends 12 members to Parliament, viz. two for shire, and two for each of the boroughs of Shrewsbury, Bishop's Castle, Bridgenorth, Ludlow, and Wenlock.

According to the Parliamentary Returns of 1821, the whole county was stated as containing 38,663 houses, and 206,153 inhabitants, viz. 102,056 males, and 104,097 females, of whom 17,485 families were employed in trade, and 18,414 in agriculture.

The gross amount of the assessed taxes in 1815, was £1,037,988., and the amount of the poors'-rate, in the same year, was £131,287., at the rate of 2s. 6½d. in the pound.

Mr. Nightingale commences his account of Shropshire, by truly remarking that of the beauties of England, perhaps no county contains a more interesting share than the one now

under consideration. It possesses every natural charm; the bold and lofty mountain; the woody and secluded valley; the fertile and widely-cultured plain; the majestic river, and the sequestered lake. It is no less rich in those remains of ancient times, which awaken a thousand enthusiastic reflections, by engaging us in the contemplation of the memorable events of our history. Besides these claims to the attention of the Topographer and the Antiquary, it has others of a more substantial, though less brilliant kind, which equally engage the notice of the Statistical enquirer. The rich stores of iron, lead, coal and stone; the increasing manufactories, and the agricultural improvements of this flourishing district, have raised it high in the scales of national importance, while its inland navigation has rendered it an emporium of the trade between England and Wales, and a grand centre of connnection to the inland counties of the kingdom.

Shropshire, at the time of the Roman invasion, was occupied by the Cornavii and the Ordovices: of the former little is known; of the latter, their enterprising and warlike spirit, and their junction with the Silures under Caractacus, a renowned British king, in defending their country, is upon record. This County was at that period divided between the Cornavii and the Ordovices by the Severn. Caractacus occupied two military posts, and the remains of his encampments are still to be traced in this County, although a difference of opinion exists respecting his last engagement with Ostorius Scapula;—Herefordshire as well as Salop, claiming the field of action upon which the battle was fought; and as the description given by Tacitus was a general one, and no other records remaining to confirm and particularise it, the dispute remains, and must continue to be undecided. Mr. Nightingale states that a gentleman of Shrewsbury, who has personally inspected all the military anaiquities of his native County, and of those which border upon it, is inclined to suppose that the only place which can answer the description of Tacitus, is the Breiddeur-hill of Montgomeryshire. The vestiges of a British encampment on its summit, and the course of the river Severn near its base, are the circumstances on which he grounds his hypotheses; and, continues Mr. N., "that Caractacus for a considerable period successfully resisted the progress of the Roman conquerors in the hilly country, now forming part of Shropshire, is manifest from the united testimony of history and tradition; and this evidence seems to justify the supposition that he there terminated his military career." Gough, the Great British antiquary, and the celebrated editor of Camden, is decidedly in favour of the scene of action lying in this County, and that a hill, about two miles south of Clun, called Caer Caradoc, or the Gaer, near the junction of the rivers Clun and Temd, among several dangerous fords, exatcly answers the description of Tacitus.

The result of this battle, and the ultimate fate of Caractacus, as detailed by Tacitus, has been deemed sufficiently interesting to authorize its insertion in the history of Shropshire—it is as follows:

"P. Ostorius, the Pro-prætor, found things in great disorder in Britain; the enemy having overrun the lands of our allies with less restraint, as they did not suppose the new gene-

would march against them with an army to which he was a stranger, and at the beginning of winter. But he, convinced that fear or confidence of an enemy depend on the first events, marched against them with such troops as were at hand, and cutting to pieces all who opposed him, pursued the rest, whom he had dispersed, to prevent their collecting themselves again. Unwilling to trust to a dangerous and uncertain peace, which would allow new rest to the general or the army, he prepared to disarm the nations whom there was reason to suspect, and draw a line of camps round them, between the rivers Antona, (Avon) and Severn. This step was first opposed by the Iceni, a powerful nation, unbroken by the war, having before voluntarily embraced our alliance. By their advice, the neighbouring nations appointed a place for battle, enclosed by a rude rampart of earth, with a narrow entrance inaccessible to horsemen. These works, the Roman general, though he had only the auxiliary troops of the allies, without the strength of the legions, attempted to force; and disposing of his cohorts, drew up likewise some troops of horse before the rampart: upon a signal given, they broke down the work, and fell upon the enemy, entangled in their own inclosures. A consciousness of their revolt, and despair of escaping, animated them to many gallant actions. In this battle, M. Ostorius, one of the lieutenants, gained the honour of having saved the life of a citizen.

"The defeat of the Iceni awed those nations who fluctuated between peace and war, and the army advanced against the Cangi, whose territories they ravaged, carrying off much booty, the enemy not daring to face them, and if they fell upon the rear by surprise, paying dear for it. The army was now got pretty near the sea that looks towards the island of Ireland, when disorders arising from the Brigantes, obliged the general to return, he being constantly attentive not to make new conquests till the former advantages were secured. The Brigantes, after the slaughter of a few who had taken up arms, returned to their obedience, and obtained forgiveness. But neither severity nor milder measures had any effect on the Silures, who continued in arms, and required the force of legions to reduce them. The sooner to accomplish this, a colony was planted at Camudonum (Colchester) consisting of a numerous body of veterans, who took possession of the conquered lands, ready to assist their countrymen against any revolt, and bring their allies to a conformity to our laws. Some cities were also given to King Cogidunus, agreeable to that ancient usage of the Roman people to make even kings their instruments to enslave mankind.

"The army next marched against the Silures, who, besides their own native ferocity, placed great hopes in the valour of Caractacus, whom the many changes and prosperous turns of fortune had advanced to a pre-eminence over the rest of the British leaders. He, artfully availing himself of his knowledge of the country, countervailing his inferiority in numbers, transferred the war into the country of the Odovices, and being joined by those who mistrusted the peace subsisting between us, put matters upon a decisive issue, posting himself on a spot, the approaches and retreats to and from which were as advantageous to his party as they were perplexing to us. He then drew up the more accessible parts of the highest

hills, a kind of rampart of stone below, and in front of which was a river, difficult to ford, and on the works he placed the troops of soldiers. The respective leaders also went round to animate and inspirit them, lessening their fears, magnifying their hopes, and urging every encouragement usual on these occasions. Caractacus, running from one to another, bade them consider, that the work of that day would be the beginning of new liberty, or eternal slavery. He set before them the example of their ancestors, who had driven Cæsar, the dictator, out of Britain, and by whose valour they had been hitherto preserved from axes and tributes, and their wives and children from dishonour. The people received these animating harangues with loud acclamations, engaging themselves by the most solemn rites, according to the religion of their country, never to yield to weapons or wounds. Their resolution astonished the Roman general; and the river in the way, together with the ramparts and the steeps, presented to the assailants a formidable and resolute appearance. But the soldiers were clamorous for the charge, crying, that valour could bear down all opposition; and the inferior officers inspiring the same sentiments, gave new courage to the troops. Ostorius, after reconnoitering the ground to see which part was impenetrable, and which accessible, led on the eager soldiers, and with much difficulty crossed the river. When they came to the rampart, while they only threw their darts at a distance, our people suffered most, and numbers were slain; but closing their ranks, and placing their shields over them, they presently tore down the rough irregular piles of stones, and coming to close quarters, obliged the barbarians to retire to the tops of the hills. Thither also both the light and heavy-armed soldiers followed them, the former attacking them with their spears, the latter in a body, till the Britons, who had no armour or helmets to shelter them, were thrown into confusion; and if they made any resistance to the auxiliaries, they were cut to pieces by the swords and spears of the legionaries, against whom, when they turned, they were destroyed by the broad-swords and javelins of the auxiliaries. This was an illustrious victory. The wife and daughter of Caractacus were taken, and his brother submitted to the conqueror. Caractacus himself, by the common insecurity of adversity, throwing himself upon the protection of Cartismandua, Queen of the Brigantes, was put in irons, and given up to the conquerors, nine years after the war first broke out in Britain. His fame which had reached the islands and the neighbouring provinces, and even Italy, made people eager to see what kind of a man it was who had so long set our power at defiance. Nor was the name of Caractacus inconsiderable at Rome. And the Emperor, in advancing his own glory, added to that of the conquered prince. The people were assembled as to some great sight. The Prætorian cohorts were under arms in the field before the camp. First came the king's dependents and retinue, and the trappings and collars, and the trophies which he had won in foreign wars; next, hi brothers, his wife and daughter, and last himself was presented to the public view. The rest expressed their fears in unworthy supplications. Caractacus neither by his look nor language pleaded pity; and when he came before the emperor's seat, expressed himself in these terms:

"Had I made that prudent use of my prosperity which my rank and fortune enabled me to do, I had come hither rather as a friend than as a prisoner. Nor would you have disdained the alliance of one descended from illustrious ancestors, and sovereign over many nations. My present condition, disgraceful as it is to myself, reflects glory on you. Possessed as I once was of horses, men, arms and wealth, what wonder, if I parted from them with reluctance! For since universal empire is your object, we must all be slaves. Had I been given up at the first, neither my fortune, nor your glory would have been set in a distinguished point of view, and my punishment would have sunk all remembrance of me. In giving me my life you make me an eternal monument of your clemency."

"The Emperor immediately pardoned Caractacus, his wife, and brothers. As soon as their chains were taken off, they proceeded to pay their respects, in the same terms as before, to the Emperor and to Agrippina, who sat on a raised seat not far off. A woman sitting at the head of the Roman army, among the Roman ensigns, and seeming to command them, was a new sight, and very foreign to the manners of our ancestors. But she assumed a share in the government, as obtained by her family. The Senate was afterwards assembled, and many congratulatory speeches were made on the taking of Caractacus. It seemed as illustrious a sight as when Scipio showed Syphax, Paulus, Perses, and other generals and conquered kings, to the Roman people; and the ensigns of a triumph were decreed to Ostorius."

Shropshire formed a portion of Flavia Cæsarensis, during the period that Britain remained subject to the Romans, who founded and fortified the cities of the Cornavii, of which Wroxeter, or Uttoxeter, was one of the principal. The Roman highway, called Watling-street, passed into the eastern part of this County, between Crackley Bank and Weston, and takes a bending course into Herefordshire on the southern borders.

This portion of the County was the theatre of war on the decline of the Roman Empire, when it became exposed to more barbarous invaders, and contests continued for a length of time between the Britons and the Saxons. The Britons held it as part of the kingdom of Powisland, of which Pengwerna, now Shrewsbury, was the capital. Subsequently the County was incorporated with Mercia at the establishment of the Heptarchy, but this was after a contest of a century and a half. The British Princes, notwithstanding their long contest for the possessions of their forefathers, were compelled by King Offa, and a confederacy of Saxon princes, to retreat among the mountains of Powis, frequently making inroads on the usurpers. Mr. Nightingale observes that "the evils attending these hostilities induced Offa to cause a deep dyke and rampart to be made, which extended one hundred miles along the mountainous border of Wales, from the Clwyddian Hills to the mouth of the Wye. Part of this dyke may be traced at Brachy Hill and Leintwardine in Herefordshire, continuing from Knighton in Radnorshire, over part of Shropshire, entering Montgomeryshire between Bishop's Castle and Newtown. It is again visible in Shropshire near Llaneymenech, crosses the race-course near Oswestry, descends to the Ceriog near Chirk,

where it again enters Wales, and terminates in the parish of Mold, in Flintshire. This work answered very little purpose as a line of defence, or even of boundary: the Welsh continued their incursions far into the borders, and in their hasty retreats often carried with them immense spoil to their native mountains, pursuing the mode of warfare common to all savage nations.

This part of the kingdom of Mercia shared in calamity from the incursions of the Danes in the ninth century, and, although not so extensively as other places, its total subjugation was frequently threatened.—Shrewsbury, to which the Saxons applied the synonymous term of Scrobbesbyrig, flourished by the reverses of the Danes; and Alfred, after expelling them, ranked Shrewsbury among the first of his cities, and bestowed upon it the name of the shire of which it is the capital. The Welsh, however, obstinately disputed the western boundaries, and Prince Griffyd, in the time of Edward the Confessor, not only made formidable inroads into this part of the country, but caused such general terror, that Harold undertook a naval and military expedition against him: in the latter, his cavalry and light troops drove this hardy race into their native fastnesses, and eventually routed them with such success, as to send the head of Prince Griffyd as a proof of their being subdued. Rude piles of stones were placed upon the Welsh and Salopian mountains, in commemoration of the warlike achievements of Harold, and upon them were inscribed,

"Hic victor fuit Heraldus."
Here Harold was victorious.

According to Nightingale's account, there is still "a doubtful tradition that the rude heaps of rock, called by the Britons *Carneddautewion,* on the ridge of the Stiperstones in this County, were thrown together as monuments of his triumph. He aftewards endeavoured to secure the advantages he had gained, by a decree which forbad any Welshman to appear on the eastern side of Offa's Dyke, on pain of losing his right hand."

William the Conqueror bestowed on Roger de Montgomery, one of his chief captains, nearly the whole of this County, besides upwards of one hundred and fifty manors in other parts of the kingdom, as a reward for his services in assisting at the Conquest, and of subsequently subduing the Earl of Shrewsbury, to whose title and estates he succeeded. Roger de Montgomery was a relative of William, and was constantly annoyed in his extensive and numerous acquisitions by the Welsh, particularly in the early part of the eleventh century, when one of their princes, Owen Gwinnedd, made a formidable assault upon Shrewsbury, the Salopian capital. He was, however, vanquished by the army and the King in person, but this only served to increase the warlike spirit of the Welsh, who so strongly felt the monstrous encroachments of the Normans, sanctioned as they were by the Conqueror.

"He, the Conqueror," as Nightingale remarks, "also endeavoured to divide and weaken the Welsh Border Chieftains themselves, by promising a confirmation of all their rights and privileges, in return for a simple acknowledgment of dependence on the English

Crown, and by threatening the seizure of their possessions by right of conquest, as a punishment for ther refusal of allegiance. Hence appear to have originated the seignories and jurisdictions of the Lords Marchers. The precise extent of territory denominated the Marches, is difficult to define. During the time of the Saxons, the Severn was considered the ancient boundary between England and Wales: the lands conquered by Offa on the western side of that river, were annexed to the kingdom of Mercia, and afterwards incorporated with the monarchy by Alfred the Great. The word Marches signifies generally the limits between the Welsh and English; of which, consequently, the western border of Shropshire formed a principal portion. Of the Norman Lords, besides the Earl of Shrewsbury, who did homage for royal grants of territory in these and other parts adjoining, we notice Fitzalan for Clun and Oswestry; Fitzwarine for Whittington; and Roger le Strange for Ellesmere. The tenure by which these Lords held under the King was, 'in case of war to serve with a certain number of vassals, furnish their castles with strong garrisons, with sufficient military implements and stores for defence, and to keep the King's enemies in subjection. To enable them to perform this, they were allowed to assume in their respective territories an absolute jurisdiction: their power seems to have been as arbitrary and despotic within their several seignories, as that by which they were created.* For the better security of themselves, and the government of the people, these new Lords repaired and fortified old castles, erected new ones, and garrisoned them with their own soldiers. They also built towns on the choicest spots of the country for their English followers. It was in this manner most of the castles on the borders of Wales were built; as is evident from their number, there being thirty-three in the County of Salop alone.' The whole government and jurisprudence, within their respective limits, depended on the will of the conquerors; but it sometimes happened that the jurisdiction of one lordship infringed on the rights of another. As they were all equal, these disputes could not be settled by the ordinary decision of justice. It was necessary therefore that superior courts should be erected, for the purposes of accommodating the differences: the Lords Marchers regularly held their baronial courts, where the inferior lords who held of them were obliged to attend. It appears at a subsequent period, the chief court for the Marchers of North Wales, was held in Ludlow Castle. To this court appeals might be made, both from the Lords themselves against others, and also from the people against the wrong judgment of the Lords. A President and Council were instituted to decide on these appeals, and to control, in some degree, the tyrannical authority exercised by those warlike chiefs over their oppressed vassals."

The high privileges of the Lords Marchers could not, however, be held by Charter, nor were they anxious for it, knowing the uncertainty of the tenures, from the circumstance of the frequent recovery of those lands by the Welsh, either from a composition with the Kings of England, or by force of arms; indeed, theKings themselves could not decide with cer-

* Evans's Tour through North Wales, p. 338.

tainty on granting Charters upon any particular precincts, from the uncertainty of their not being subdued: it also appears that the Crown could not, according to the law of the land, grant privileges of so highly legal a nature. Or, at least, it was considered more politic not to suffer these grants to be called in question. The Lords Marchers were, therefore, left to establish their own authority.

These privileges continued to increase in their limits, and were not confined to Wales, but extended into the heart of the country, until—as Mr. Nightingale states—on the death of Llewellyn, in the eleventh year of Edward I. the necessity and the grants ceased together, and after this period no more Lords Marchers were created. The Welsh submitting to Edward, he took the principality into his own hands, conferred it on his son Edward, Prince of Wales, assembled a Parliament at Rhudlan Castle, and enacted laws for the government of the country after the English manner.

These laws were confirmed on the following year, by the statute Rutland. From this period, no Lord Marcher could exercise any prerogative not previously confirmed by him, without a special grant from the Crown. The power and consequence of these once absolute baronial chieftains, being thus curtailed and diminished, gradually declined, and after the extinction of feudal tyranny, the limits of Shropshire became settled and defined, within the boundaries of what we have already stated.

Of the agricultural state of this County, the admirable report made to the Board of Agriculture, from the survey made by the *Rev. Archdeacon Plymley*, (subsequently Corbet) is so general and extensive, that we shall insert the principal objects, as concisely enumerated by Cooke, who observes, under the following heads, *Rent and Size of Farms*:—The size of both the estates and farms here is various; several, belonging to noblemen and opulent commoners, cover from 10,000 to 25,000 acres each; while there are an infinite number of freeholders' and yeomens' estates of inferior sizes, but the misery of a small farmer, generally speaking, is extreme. He has not constant employment for himself and family (if large) upon his farm; he is often above working at day labour; is unable to exert himself, and improve his poor pittance of land, and sits by the fire-side with his family, great part of the winter, lamenting the smallness of his farm and capital, and often brooding nothing but discontent. But, whilst the advantage of large over small farms is admitted, the benefit and comfort that the common workman receives from grass land being attached to his cottage, for keeping a cow in summer and winter, should never be lost sight of. The landlord will also receive benefit, as well as self-satisfaction, from being the cause of the plenty that the produce of a cow makes in a large and poor family.

Farms and Cottages.—The inconvenience of having the farm buildings in villages, is severely felt—the land being distant, reduces the value in some instances two shillings an acre. The farm houses and buildings, in general, have been noticed as inconveniently situated, and ill-constructed; many of them being at one extremity of the farm. Those, too, not in villages, are mostly built in some low situation, by which means the farmer loses entirely the drainings of his fold-yard, which, being turned over his land, would prove ex-

tremely beneficial. The cottages, till of late years, have been liable to the same objection as the farm houses; but both are now in a progressive state of improvement.

To almost every farm-house there is a small plot of land called the hemp-yard, and to many of the best cottages: a peck of hemp-seed, Winchester measure, which, if it cost two shillings, will on an average sow ten perches of land. This will produce from two to three dozen pounds of tow; when dressed and fitted for spinning, each dozen pounds of tow will make about ten ells of cloth, generally sold at about three shillings an ell. Thus, a very good crop, upon ten perches of land, or a very middling crop upon fifteen perches, will produce about £4 10s, the profits of which may be one half, after the rent of land, seed, dressing, whitening, and weaving expenses are defrayed.

Leases.—These have of late years besn exploded by many gentlemen of landed property, many of whom, having formerly granted them for very long terms, have been induced by the injury they have thereby sustained, and other reasons, to object to any lease. This being a contrary extreme, the Rev. J. Plymley, a few years since, formed a lease which was so fortunate as to meet with the approbation of both landlords and tenants in general, the landlord being left, in some degree, at liberty, and the tenants made confident of having an allowance made for their improvements before they quit. Leases are granted for seven, fourteen, or twenty years.

Tithes and Tenures.—About one-twentieth part of the income of this County may be paid in tithe, by composition, to the parochial clergy, as scarcely any is gathered. Without including the tithe, about 15s per acre has been reckoned as a high valuation for the County throughout; the average of the composition for tithes perhaps not exceeding the tithe of the rent, or two shillings in the pound, though a few extreme cases may be pointed out. There is much copyhold tenure, but of easier customs than in the neighbouring Counties. The lords of some of the manors have enfranchised the copyholders, upon receiving an equivalent in money. The customs of the greater number are preserved and acted upon in the manors of Ford, Cundover, Wem, and Loppington. In the manors of Cardington and Stretton, the lands descend to the youngest son, and, in default of sons, the daughters are co-heiresses. The fines and heriots also, in these two manors, though somewhat different, are so fixed and easy, that it may be doubted whether the tenure is not preferable to the freehold.

From the preceding account of the farms, leases, tithes, and tenures of Salop, it will be perceived, that although the peasantry may have laboured under some disadvantages from their limited means and scale of action, they enjoy many advantages from a high-minded nobility and gentry;—the tenant being indemnified for improvements upon quitting his farm, is particularly liberal.

With regard to *Cattle*, Cooke remarks that "the neat cattle of this County cannot be referred to any of the distinct breeds enumerated by writers on live stock; probably they are much the same as that spread over Warwickshire and Staffordshire. The old Shropshire ox was remarkable for a large dew-lap. For many years past, numbers of cattle have

been reared here of improved breeds. The Herefordshire breed was long preferred on the south confines of Shropshire. Lord Clive, many years ago, had a male and two female zebus from Madagascar—each of these had a calf; they themselves were considerably less than the smallest Scots; but their calves at six months old were nearly as large as their dams, and endured showers of rain at which the old ones ran for shelter. Neat cattle on the north-east side of the Severn were, some time since, an inferior sort of the Lancashire long-horn; in general for the dairies. Cows in this County are every where housed and tied up during the winter." With regard to *Sheep*, the same author remarks that the breeding flocks are few and small, where there are no commons, but various in their sorts, there being specimens here of most in England, &c. from the Welsh of six pounds per quarter, to the Leicestershire of thirty pounds per quarter. There is scarcely an instance of folding sheep. The old Shrepshire sheep are horned, and black mottled faces and legs; they are nearly as large as the South-down sheep, but the neck rather longer, and the carcase, perhaps, not so compact. They are extremely hardy, never have any food given to them in winter, except in great snows. They are not attended by a shepherd, nor folded, and do not generally drink: the farmer conceives that those seen to drink are rotten or tainted. Upon the hills near Wales, the flocks are white-faced and without horns, and are rather shorter in the legs than the Longmynd sheep, and have heavier, but coarser fleeces.

Of Horses and Oxen.—It appears they are not confined to any particular breed in this County: their supply is principally from Leicestershire and Derbyshire, although they have a strong and hardy, though smaller race. The strong black Suffolk punch horse is generally preferred by the farmers; and they wisely and humanely have discontinued the docking of the tails of those useful animals, whose possession of that natural appendage is the only defence they have in protecting themselves from the torture they would otherwise suffer from the flies. Cooke observes that the practice of setting the horns of oxen is also pretty generally exploded by persons who attend to the dictates of humanity, as a paramount consideration to any fanciful or useful ornament. Oxen are much used in teams, &c. by those farmers who calculate upon the advantage of ox-teams above horses.

Of Hogs.—It is supposed that Shropshire rears and fats a greater number in proportion to space than any other County. The original high-backed and long-legged, or *grey-hound* breed, as they might almost be termed, have become extinct;—a general improvement here, as well as every where else, has taken place in this respect; and the farmers, labourers, &c. here, as well as in the surrounding Counties of Warwickshire, &c. principally subsist on this animal food, either pickled or made into bacon. What substitute could be supplied? This animal, when properly fed and cured, produces that health and cleanliness of complexion, for which the English peasantry are remarked; and it is to be regretted, that there are not so many of the peasantry enabled at present to avail themselves of the advantages of rearing pigs as formerly. Archdeacon Plymley assigns as a cause, that the labourers purchase bread instead of wheat, and thereby lose the bran. The

farmers, too, act unkindly in objecting to sell their wheat in small quantities, from which circumstance they deprive the labourer of a superior article of bread, and of the bran which would feed his pig.

Agricultural Implements.—These are so various and complex in double and single ploughs, with and without wheels, harrows, tumbrils, waggons, carts, &c. but assimilate so nearly with those of other Counties, that it is unnecessary to describe them. A few years since, the thrashing machines in this County were of a different construction to many others; and the swing ploughs were used by skilful ploughmen in preference to the wheel plough. Wheat was more generally reaped with the broad hook than the sickle; barley and oats by neither, being always mowed; and even the wheat in some places is mowed, and to advantage, by three persons: the first mowing, the second gathering, and the third binding. This is easily and simply performed, by placing a cradle upon the scythe, which keeps the corn compact for gathering. Peas, &c. are cut with a *bagging* hook.

With regard to the climate of this County, it is the opinion of the author of the *History of Shropshire*, (Mr. Nightingale) and of Archdeacon Plymley, that "there is a considerable difference, owing to the irregularity of its soil and surface. The harvest on the eastern side, where the land is warm and flat, is frequently ripe a fortnight sooner than in the middle of the County, where the vales are extensive, but where the surface is less light, and the bottom often clayey: hay and grass are both gathered earlier in the middle of the County than on the western side, where the vales are narrow, the highlands frequent and extensive, although the ground in general is not so stiff, and lies, for the most part, on a semi-rock full of fissures."* The easterly winds prevail in spring, and those from the west in autumn, but in the opinion of the judicious Archdeacon, the easterly winds are the most regular, those from the west generally blowing for a series of years (five or six perhaps) strong and frequent, and then, for a somewhat similar space, less open and less violent. The same may be said of wet and dry seasons, but the periods of both appear to be much shorter. The air is generally very salubrious, and yet, strange to say, as we have before remarked, the average deaths annually in the whole County are equal to those of the town of Birmingham, *i. e.* one out of fifty-nine.

Of *Mineralogy*, observes Mr. Nightingale, "in tracing the general features of the County, the plain of Salop† naturally claims the first attention of the topographer. It constitutes the most interesting portion of that vast valley between the hills of Wales and those of Derbyshire and Staffordshire. It is a tract of considerable extent, divided by the Severn into two unequal portions, and though flat, when compared with the surrounding hills, of very varied surface. Its greatest extent from north to south may be reckoned about thirty miles, comprehending the space between Whitchurch and Church Stretton: its

* Archdeacon Plymley's Survey, p. 38.

† Arthur Aikins's Tour through North Wales and part of Shropshire, p. 87, &c.

breadth from Oswestry to Coalbrook Dale is about twenty-eight miles. A range of limestone, from Ruabon to Llanymenich and the Breidden Hills, forms the western boundary; the northern extremity terminates on the borders of Cheshire and Flintshire; the eastern line consists of the hills on the Staffordshire border, the Wrekin, the hills of Acton Burnel, Frodsley, the Lawley, and the Caer Caradoc; the southern boundary is formed by the Longmont, Stiperstones, and Longmountain. From Hawkestone, southward to Lea and Greenshill Hills, extends a line of silicious freestone, chiefly of the red kind, except at Grindshill, where there is a considerable quantity of white, of which great use has been made in the bridges, churches, and other modern edifices of Shrewsbury. To the west of this is another bridge of the same kind of stone, beginning a little north of Ellesmere, and in its progress southwards dividing into two branches, one of which, descending between Ellesmere and Whixal Moss, touches upon Wem, includes Armor Hills, and terminates in Pym Hill: the other branch, passing the west of Ellesmere, reaches the river Perry, which it accompanies to its junction with the Severn, under the names of Nesscliff and Leaton-shelf; then crossing the Severn, it terminates in the high grounds of Bicton and Onslow. The valleys between each ridge contain marl, more or less mixed with sand and clay. This tract, about seventeen miles from north to south, and varying in breadth from eight to fourteen, has but few running waters, but abounds in peat mosses, and large pools or meres, of which the chief are the pools of Ancott, Marton, Fennymoor, Beaumere, Berrington, and five others of considerable size near Ellesmere.

On the west side of this sandstone, and nearly parallel with the Welsh border, is a band of coal strata extending from the Dee to the Severn. The coal, in many parts of this tract, is wrought to a considerable extent; and, besides its domestic use, is used in the lime-works. To the west of the coal strata extends an irregular band of limestone, in some parts rising 500 feet above the level of the plain, in others, barely appertaining beyond the surface of the soil. It appears that this limestone near Oswestry is in the perfect state of marble, and small portions of lead and copper have been found in the course of its extent. The limestone rests upon the beds of slate that compose the Ferwyn Mountains, of which only a small portion, the slate mountain of Selattyn, is in the County of Salop.

The sandstone is very general in this County; on the north-east of the plain it extends from Hawkestone towards Salop, and is bounded by a range of grauwakke, commencing at Hagmond Hill, about two miles from Shrewsbury. It is said that the strata of this hill are nearly perpendicular to the horizon; and its escarpment faces the Severn that flows within half a mile of its bottom. Mr. Nightingale also remarks, "that the valley eastward between this ridge and the Wrekin, consists of sandstone, similar to the former, mixed with many rolled fragments of granite and other primitive rock, and in the swampy tract, called the Wildmoors, covered to a considerable depth by peat: the Wrekin itself, with two other smaller hills on the north-east of it, consists of unstratified greenstone and amygdaliod, mixed with compact felspar, and covered in many parts by strata of silicious schistus. It is craggy at the top, and so much higher than the surrounding hills, as

apparently to rise alone from the middle of the plain: its plan is a long oval, pointing nearly north and south; its figure resembling that of a whale asleep on the surface of the sea. The most precipitous side of the mountain is the eastern: its height is about 1100 feet.* Eastward of the Wrekin is found limestone and basalt, upon which rests the great formation of coal and ironstone.

A long and considerable line of sandstone bounds, on the east, the extensive tract in which is included the great iron-works of the County; it commences at Shiffnall, accompanying the course of the Severn till it leaves the County. The rocks on each side the river are composed of limestone, and continue from Coalbrook Dale to Wenlock and Shrewsbury. In the *Beauties of England*, it is noticed that it is this singular combination of coal, iron-ore, and lime, together with the advantage of water-carriage, that renders Coalbrook Dale the centre of the most extensive iron-works in the kingdom: the ore for the most part is so poor, as, in less favourable situations, to be hardly worth the trouble of reducing; yet here, when the fuel and flux are near at hand, it is made the source of astonishing wealth, and supports a population of many thousands. Dr. Townson remarks, that the coal district of Coalbrook Dale, lying on the east side of the Wrekin, and running parallel with it on the north-east to south-west, is about eight miles long and two broad; and, continues the author of the *Beauties of England*, (Shropshire) "it is first observed on the other side of the Severn, in the parishes of Barrôw and Much Wenlock, and runs through those of Broseley, Madeley, Little Wenlock, Wellington, Dawley, Malins, Lea, Shiffnal, and Lilleshall. The whole, but especially the southern part of this coal district, is considerably above the plain of Shropshire, so that near Horsehay it is nearly 500 feet above the Severn, which flows in its neighbourhood. The dip of the strata varies in the parish of Madeley towards the east, and near Wellington and Lindsel it is, from north to north-east, about one yard in ten.

The support or foundation of the coal and its accompanying strata, is dye earth and basalt. The former lies on the east side, the latter on the west. The dye earth is a grey dry clay, which effervesces with acids, and contains petrifactions chiefly of the Dudley fossil kind. It is a stratified mass, and at Tickwood, in the neighbourhood of Coalbrook Dale, may be seen to be at least an hundred yards thick. The basalt varies from the softer and lighter kind, called wacke, to true basalt. In some places in the parishes of Broseley, Madeley, Little Wenlock, Wellington, and Lilleshull, limestone is found as the support of the coal strata. At Wombridge, at the northern part of the coal district, Dr. Townson enumerates and measures seventy of these strata, forming a mass of about five hundred and fifty feet

* From an actual level, taken in 1790, it was found that the fall from the summit of the Wrekin to Ketley Brook was ..... ft. 897 in. 7
And from thence to the water in the river Severn, at Coal Fort, with a six feet water 192 0
—Archdeacon Plymley's Report, p. 45. 1089 7

thick. The order in which they lie is not common to all the district, nor do they always correspond in thickness. Dr. Townson further states, that the district of Coalbrook Dale, like other coalfields, is troubled with faults; that is, the strata is broken, and, in some parts, lie much lower than they do in others. The principal faults in the district run nearly north-east and south-west. Two of these are thrown; the strata on the east and west sides are from one to two hundred yards lower than they are in the middle. This elevated middle district, which does not affect the surface, is about seven miles in length, and from one to two in breadth; and it is here, on account of the greater facility of working the mines, that by far the greater quantity of coal and ironstone has been gotten. The Madeley Wood and Lightmoors works are the only collieries in the eastern depression, which is called a *swamp*. The elevated district has several faults, running in various directions, which have caused depressions in some places of fifty or sixty yards.

Animal and vegetable productions are found in the lower strata of this, as well as in most other districts, including impressions of ferns, and an appearance of various kinds of shells, and other petrifactions. Mr. Nightingale, after pursuing his sketch of the mineralogy of the plain of Salop, north of the Severn, observes, that it may be proper to follow the guidance and quote the observations of Mr. Aikin, on those ridges which lie right on the south side of the river: of these, observes that accurate and elegant tourist, "the first (in order of position from east to west) is the limestone ridge which, commencing at Lincoln Hill at Coalbrook Dale, proceeds in a south-westerly direction towards Stretton, near which place, being forced to the south by the hills round Hope Bowdler, it descends nearly in a right line to Ludlow. The form of these hills are the same with that of every other limestone range, at a sufficient distance from the primitive mountains. The outline of a limestone hill generally rises from the plane of the horizon, with an angle of about twenty-five degrees, till it reaches the height of three or four hundred feet, it then proceeds in a direction nearly level with its base, but more usually ascending than descending for the space of half a mile, or even a mile, and at length drops down into the plain at a very large angle, approaching frequently to a right angle, and this precipitate descent is called its *escarpment*. Of the range of hills now under consideration, the escarpment is from the south-west, and the steepest descent of the side is that towards the plain of Salop. Near Coalbrook Dale, the line abounds in crystals, but great part of the rock is a coarse confusedly crystallized marble. As the hills proceed further south, they alter somewhat in shape, the difference between the ascent and the escarpment being less perceptible: like the Strale Hills, the lime is mixed more with clay, the strata become thinner and more like schistus; the only appearance of crystallization is between the strata, and the substance becomes so soft, as easily to be broken down by a small hammer. Westward of this ridge is a valley, the soil of which consists of clay and limestone: its breadth is about two miles, and its length, from Coalbrook Dale to Stretton Valley, is near fifteen miles. This valley, to the west, is bounded by some hills of micaceous

argillaceous schistus, ranging, for the most part, without any intermediate valley, along the base of a ridge of Trap Mountains. This ridge, of which the Wrekin is the northern extremity, appears on the south side of the Severn, in the same line with the Wrekin, and consists of the hills of Acton Burnel, Frodsley, Lawley, Cær Caradoc, and Hope Bowdler. Each of these, like the Wrekin, has the long diameter from north-east to south-west; they are craggy at the top, and ascend from the plain of Salop very abruptly, at an angle of about 60 degrees. Of this ridge, those hills which form the eastern side of Stretton Valley, have their bases covered by a bed of very shivery shale, rising to the height of 200 to 300 feet. The vale in which Church Stretton is situated, separates the Trap Mountains from a very singular mass of hills, called the *Longmont*. They ascend gradually from the plain to the height of 800 feet, and then, with a very level and unvaried summit, stretch for several miles towards Bishop's Castle. Squareness seems the peculiar characteristic of these hills, both in their plan and outline; and from Stretton Vale this singularity appears to the greatest advantage. Three or four lines of these hills are seen rising one above another, the form of each of which was, in all probability, nearly a cube: at present, however, from the diminution of their tops, and the proportionate enlargement of their bases, they approach nearer to the figure of a truncated pyramid. Almost every individual is separated from the surrounding hills by a deep narrow valley or glen, with a stream flowing through it, forming occasionally small cascades, and here and there overhung by woods. The substance of which the Longmont is composed, appears to be solely a very shivery kind of schistus. It is covered, for the most part, with heath and short grass, and furnishes an extensive pasturage. Several brooks take their rise here, some of which flow northward into the plain of Shrewsbury, and others tend southwards, watering the country between Bishop's Castle and Ludlow."

It was not our intention to follow the talented observations of the author of the *Beauties of Shropshire*, or Mr. Arthur Aikin and Dr. Townson, through their various researches into the mineralogy of this County; but, really, the subject is so interesting, that we cannot resist, in the language of Mr. Nightingale, "following the mountainous line that forms the southern boundary of the plain of Salop, we next come to a very elevated rocky tract, between the high-road from Shrewsbury, to Bishop's Castle and the vale of Montgomery. The most elevated peak of this vast assemblage of hills is called Stiperstones; its summit is extremely craggy, and overspread with enormous blocks of quartz, that, at a distance, look like some great fortress. In height it is somewhat superior to the Wrekin, and forms the abrupt termination of a line of mountains that hence extend south-west into Radnorshire. Towards the plain of Salop, the Stiperstones is bordered by the basalt and amygdaloid of Pontesford Hill, and by the limestone and coal strata of Plaley and Pontesbury, which last join the great mass of sandstone already described."

Lead and red lead-ore are found in considerable quantities in the districts already described, and Mr. Nightingale proceeds, that "from the Stiperstones a range of low hills

proceeds, in a north-easterly direction, as far as Shrewsbury, known under the names of Lyth Hill and the Sharpstones; they consist, for the most part, of grauwakke, mixed with mica: in some places, however, the rock is covered with an indurated stratum of various thickness, consisting of round pebbles, in size from a walnut to a grain of corn, cemented with clay: the pebbles are quartz, semi-transparent, varying in colour from pure white to flesh colour, and containing particles of mica. On the west, however, of Lyth Hill, descending to Meole Brook, are several beds of stratified rock, consisting of clay, sulphuret of iron, & lime: on the addition of nitrous acid, a very lively effervescence takes place; it melts into porous shining black slag on being kept a few minutes in a white heat in an open fire; when exposed to an inferior degree of heat and plunged into water, a considerable quantity of hepatic gas is extricated. This rock gradually shelves down to Pulley Common, and is there terminated by beds of soft lime and coals. In tracing the mineraology of the southern district of this County, (continues the author of the *Beauties of Shropshire)* we are enabled to avail ourselves of the curious and profound researches of Dr. Townson. He observes, that if we come back to the Lawley and Caradoc, and then continue our course eastward, we find under both these hills, on their eastern side, a parallel range of white sandstone, which, in some cases has a very coarse grain. Where it is most regular, as under the Lawley, it presents its escarpment towards these hills, from which it is divided by a small valley, under the Caradoc: on one spot it forms a little conical hill. It appears that the Brown Clee Hill, and the Titterston Hill, which lies three or four miles to the south of the former, in the southern district, are amongst the highest hills in Shropshire, and are, particularly the latter, treasures for this part of the County. They belong to the flat-topped hills, but are very irregular in their forms. They are about five or six miles in length, and half that in breadth. They resemble each other in their products; both contain coal and iron-stone, which in both are sometimes covered by a thick bed of basalt, and this basalt in each forms two irregular ridges, higher than the other parts of the hill. They further agree in their strata, dipping all around from their circumference to the centre, like the sides of a bowl, but they differ greatly in the quantity of coal they yield. The coal in the Brown Clee Hill only lies in this strata, and is chiefly worked in a small way by poor colliers, while the principal stratum in the Titterston is six feet thick. On this hill there are six different coalfields, which differ considerably in their extent and thickness. The most extensive and valuable is the Coalbrook, which is about a mile long, and half a mile broad."

The Newbury coalfield, the Hill Work coalfield, and the surrounding country, abound in coal: in the latter the Cannal coal is also found; and Billingsley, two or three miles to the north-east, is a coal country, and also produces the argillaceous iron-stone. Sandstone strata also prevails in the Wire Forest; and from the Clee Hills to Bewdley, in Worcestershire; on each side the Severn about Bridgnorth; and from the latter, in a north-east direction, to Tong Castle and Weston, on the confines of Staffordshire.

Of the minerals generally, Cooke observes, there are mines of good lead-ore on the

western side of the County. The Bog-mine in Wentnor parish, and the White-grit mine n Shelve and Worthen parishes, adjoin the Stiperstones; these high hills resemble the ruins of walls and castles, and contain a granulated quartz, harder than common sandstone. A solid lump of pure ore, of 800 lbs. has been gotten up from the Bog-mine. One ton will run 15 cwt. of lead, besides slag. The vein is in some parts three feet thick, and generally bedded in white spar. The ores at the White-grit mine are the common galena, and the steel-grained ores; they produce from 10 to 13 cwt. of lead, besides slag, from a ton of ore, and rarely more. Lead has been obtained from Trailbach, near Shrewsbury, for a long time. The vein was in some parts four yards wide. The vein-stones are heavy spar, mixed with calcareous spar and quartz: the ore here is the common galena, the steel-grained, and sometimes the white spatous ores. As far west as Llanymynech, lead is found in small quantities; and copper, which the Romans are said to have worked at a great expense. Tools, judged to have been Roman, have been found in these mines, and some of them are preserved in the Library at Shrewsbury Free-school. Calamine is also met with here. The rock at Pimhill is strongly tinctured with copper, and symptoms of this and lead appear also in the Cardington Hills, many miles south-east. Lead is also found at Shipton, in the road from Wenlock to Ludlow.

Shrewsbury.—Before we enter into even a moderate detail of this ancient and venerable borough & market-town, we shall give its topographical situation, and an abstract of the principal objects connected with it, and of its origin, &c. To enter into the minutiæ of its ancient history, and present state, with its ecclesiastical structures, convents, chapels, charitable institutions, and other foundations, public buildings, &c. would exceed the limits of this publication. In 1808, in an excellent work published by Mr. Sandford, of Shrewsbury, a description of the town occupied a volume exceeding 500 pages. A modern topographer gives the following compressed, but explanatory account of it. "Shrewsbury consists of five parishes, in the liberties of Shrewsbury, in the County of Salop, of which it is the capital, and stands in the hundred to which it gives name, and nearly in the centre of the County, on a kind of peninsula, formed by the winding of the river Severn. It is 155 miles N.W. from London, containing 3603 houses, and 19,602 inhabitants, 9275 of which are males, and 10,327 females, of whom 2506 families were, in 1821, (at the period these returns were made to Parliament) employed in trade and manufactures, principally in those of flannels. It is a town of great antiquity, having, it is supposed, been built by the Britons, on the ruins of an ancient city, called *Uriconium*. The Britons called it *Pengwerne*, and the Saxons named it Scrobbesbyrig." It has two fine bridges thrown across the Severn. The New, or English bridge, is an uncommonly fine structure, extending to 410 feet in length, and has seven arches; this bridge is an eastern point: the other, which has of late years been rebuilt, and has a handsome gate, leads into Wales, and is called the Welsh bridge. Many of the buildings in the streets of this town (which are clear, and well paved and lighted) are elegant and capacious. The collegiate church of St. Alkmund

SHREWSBURY,

FROM THE WELCH BRIDGE

Pub.d by W. Lunans Birm.m

was rebuilt in 1796. St. Mary's and St. Chad's were also formerly collegiate; the former has a very high spire, that has been injured by tempests; the latter ancient structure was collegiate as early as the reign of William the Conqueror. Whilst repairing in 1788, it was nearly destroyed by the falling of the decayed tower. It was rebuilt in 1792.

St. Michael's, originally a royal free chapel in the castle, was granted to the college at Battlefield by Henry I. St. Julian's was erected in 1748, (except the tower,) and is a neat modern structure. This was also a royal free chapel, but subsequently annexed to St. Michael's. St. Giles's is a small plain built church. It appears that a part of the former magnificent abbey is now the church of Holy Cross.

In addition to the preceding, there are several places of worship for dissenters, and a Roman Catholic chapel. The Goal and Bridewell are built under the same roof, near the castle. The County business is conducted, and the Sessions are held at the Shire-hall, and a suitable house is erected for the accomodation of the judges. The Market-house was erected by subscription in 1819, and a resevoir is erected near it, for supplying the town with water. This town has a Theatre and Assembly Rooms. Among the charitable institutions are an Infirmary, erected in 1747, and the House of Industry and an Hospital were founded in 1784, and are under excellent regulations. There are several alms houses, charity schools, &c., of which we shall give a further account.

A superb column of freestone, surmounted with a statue of Lord Hill, the Shropshire hero, was erected at the cost of £6,000., at the entrance of the town from London, to commemorate his Lordship's gallant victories in the late war.

The Free Grammar School has several exhibitions to Cambridge; and has a capital library, and a very spacious chapel. This stately building is considered not inferior to some of the colleges.

Shrewsbury has to boast of twelve trading companies, incorporated by charters, similar to those of London, and having similar neat halls. The staple trade of the town consists of flannels and webs. The former are bought in the rough at Welchpool, finished here, and forwarded to the domestic and foreign markets. At the Isle, about five miles from Shrewsbury, spinning and fulling mills are erected: there are others in the County for dying woolen cloths; and several considerable manufactories of linen-yarn, an extensive iron foundry, porter brewery, &c. Shrewsbury is famous for the excellence of its brawn, and has, for a number of years, been celebrated for its delicate cakes. This town supplies most of the necessary articles of life to Wales.

The beautiful tract of land called the Quarries, lying between the town walls and the river, is considered the greatest ornament to Shrewsbury. It is laid out in the neatest manner, with beautiful walks, shaded by a double row of lime trees; the whole space consists of about twenty acres, and the walks are laid out for the accomodation of the inhabitants. The town has the advantage of the great beauty and benefit of the Severn, as well as those of a canal to Wales with branches of Ellesmere, Madeley, and Newport.

Charles I. incorporated this town, which consists of a mayor, recorder, steward, town-clerk, 24 aldermen, and 48 common-councilmen, with inferior officers. The corporation has the power of trying criminals, except traitors, for crimes committed within their liberties; but fortunately for the relief of that respectable body, as the assizes are held here twice a year, the cases of the criminals are left to the decision of the Judges.

Shrewsbury sends two Members to Parliament, chosen by the burgesses, and the mayor is the returning officer. The town was formerly encompassed with a stone wall, and defended by a castle of great strength.

The fairs are held the second Tuesday and Wednesday in every month: the markets on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

The church of Holy Cross is a vicarage, value £8; St. Alkmund is also a vicarage, value £6; both in the patronage of the Crown. St. Mary's, St. Chad's, and St. Julian's, are curacies.

Perhaps no town in England displays a greater number of the ancient vestiges of British and Saxon architecture than Shrewsbury. The town is generally supposed to have been founded in the fifth century. Greatly to the credit of its inhabitants, the ancient buildings that remain are kept in admirable order and repair. This town is remarkable for the salubrity of its air, doubtless arising from the dryness of its soil and the purity of its water. Its able historian, the Rev. Mr. Blakeway, correctly describes it as situated on two hills of gentle ascent, composed of a light dry reddish earth, and formed by the Severn into a peninsula, the ground gradually sloping, in most parts, to the river. The extremities on the east, west, and north, are lengthened into extensive suburbs; the two former are on the opposite banks of the Severn. The bold situation of the town, rising amidst a vast plain backed with mountains, its summit crowned with lofty steeples, the venerable castle towering over the isthmus, the encircling river, with the two handsome stone bridges—produce, altogether, a scene of singular beauty and grandeur. The prospects commanded from every part of the town, over a rich and well-cultivated country, adorned by the meanderings of the Severn, which is here clear, wide, and rapid, are perhaps not inferior to any in the island.

The same author, in giving the etymology, and describing the situation of the town before entering into its ancient history, observes, that "Shrewsbury was, by the Saxons, called Scrobbesbyrig, and by the Britons, Pengwerne, both signifying nearly the same, 'the head of the alder groves': the ancient Welsh also called it *Ymwithig*, or the Delight, probably of its princes; and it is still so denominated by their descendants."

Leland, our early antiquary and poet, in his usual style, bestows some lines in Latin, descriptive of the town, which are thus translated by the Rev. Mr. Blakeway:—

> "Built on a hill, fair Salop greets the eye,
> While Severn forms a crescent gliding by;
> Two bridges cross the navigable stream,
> And British alders gave the town a name."

According to Mr. Nightingale and others, when the British had established themselves on the Pengwerne Hill, they built a city, which, as hath already been intimated, they called Pengwerne. This soon became the capital of the Welsh princes, being advantageously situated in that part of the division of Wales called Powisland. The royal palace of Brochwel Yscithrog, who lived about the year 607, occupied the spot of ground, subsequently the site of the old church of St. Chad. This capital remained in the possession of the Britons many ages, till at length the destructive spirit and restless bravery of the Saxons compelled them to abandon the seat of their ancestors, and drove them to seek the preservation of their dignity and independence in the mountainous district of Mathrafael, in Montgomeryshire. Cooke says, that the first mention we have of this town, as a place of repute, is in the reign of Ethelred II., when it was cruelly-harrassed by the Danes, who had gained a settlement in this part of the kingdom, and exercised the most horrid barbarities on the English. At this time England was torn in pieces by intestine divisions, and consequently unable to make head against the common enemy; but that deficiency was made up by policy. Ethelred projected a scheme for destroying all the Danes in the kingdom in one night; to effect which, he sent a commission to every town and city, enjoining the people to fall on them on the 13th of November, 1002, which was executed with great punctuality, few of the Danes escaping with their lives. In consequence of this, the following year the Danes invaded England under Sween, their king, murdered all the inhabitants they met with, and destroyed or carried with them their property. Ethelred was at this time at Shrewsbury, and after consulting his nobles what measures to take in opposition to their invaders, it was agreed to purchase a peace with them. They were offered 30,000 lbs. weight of silver, which they accepted, and left the kingdom;—but they returned soon after, and at various times perplexed the English; nor were they quiet, till they placed Canute, their King, on the English throne.

It appears that Ethelred kept the Christmas at this town in 1006, and that the inhabitants revolted to the Danish chief in 1016. They subsequently, however, returned to their allegiance, but were punished severely by Edmund, son of Ethelred. Edric, Duke of Mercia, and son-in-law to Ethelred, invited Alphelen, a prince of the blood, to a banquet at Shrewsbury, and subsequently to a hunting party, for the purpose of causing him to be murdered, and which was basely effected during the chace, by a butcher of the town, named Godwin Porthund, whom Edric had hired for the crime.

At the Norman Conquest, it appears that Shrewsbury was in considerable repute, as was considered from its paying for 200 hides of land, in gelt, i. e. money. Mr. Nightingale remarks, that after the Norman Conquest, in the year 1067, or according to Rapin and Hume, 1069, Edric the Forester, with the aid of Owen Gwynedd, Prince of Wales, laid siege to Shrewsbury; but William the Conqueror, who had just returned from a visit to his native country, in order to quell the rising tumults which every where began to threaten his British dominions, soon raised the siege, and punished or cajoled the leading

English chiefs, while he took ample vengeance on the Welsh. Edric, however, was one of the last to yield to the arms or the persuasions of the Norman monarch. He, nevertheless, obtained forgiveness from the mercenary clemency of William, and was afterwards restored to some degree of trust and favour.

William the Norman, at the Conquest, heaped great honours upon, and made extensive grants to his relative, favourite, and great captain, the celebrated Roger de Montgomery: he not only created him Earl of Shrewsbury, Arundel, and Chichester, but also granted to him nearly the whole County of Salop, besides one hundred and fifty-eight manors, in various parts of the kingdom. And, as is stated in the ancient history of Shrewsbury, "Roger fixed his residence in this his newly acquired city, which, as lord paramount of the County, he constituted capital of the earldom; and within the castle, which he judiciously erected on the isthmus, attended by his inferior barons, administered solemn and kingly acts of justice, donation, and investiture. One of the most munificent deeds of this favourite Norman, was his foundation of the large and opulent Benedictine abbey of St. Peter and St. Paul, as a grateful and pious offering to heaven for the splendid success of his arms. The Earl was not, however, suffered to enjoy his vast possessions in perfect tranquillity, for in 1067, Owen Gwynedd, Prince of Wales, assaulted Shrewsbury, and so formidable were his arms, that the victorious King himself thought it a contest worthy his presence: he marched from York, raised the siege, and defeated the Welsh with great slaughter." In this reign, according to Doomsday-book, Shrewsbury is styled a city, and the following churches are noticed: St. Alkmund, St. Julian, Salton Church, St. Cœd, and the monastery of St. Peter: the latter is denominated the parish of the city; and the abbey is said to have been founded where the parish church of the city stood.

Roger de Montgomery was succeeded in the earldom of Shrewsbury by Hugh de Montgomery, who, having been shot by an arrow, from the hand of Magnus, King of Norway, was succeeded by Robert de Belesme, eldest son of Robert de Montgomery, a most profligate and turbulent tyrant; and, as Nightingale describes him, "in the character and conduct of his profligacy, hereditary despotism, as is usually the case in all such irrational compacts, was more conspicuously manifest in vicious propensities than even in his accession to power and territory. Such instances as this make one lament that hereditary succession must rank among other necessary evils incident to every human establishment. Earl Robert united with that party who opposed the pretensions of Prince Henry, son of William Rufus, and espoused the more legal claims of Robert, Duke of Normandy, who was just returned from the slaughter of the unoffending inhabitants of Jerusalem, still heated with the fire of superstition, and a more durable passion for the beautiful Sibylla; and who eventually lost the kingdom through the delays which his enthusiasm in the east, and his amours in Italy, had occasioned. The settlement of Henry I. on the throne of his father did not abate the intemperate zeal of Robert de Belesme in the service of the Duke; and he was hence induced to speak in direct terms against the person

and government of the King. He afterwards broke out in open rebellion, strengthened his castles in Shropshire, and at Shrewsbury built and fortified flank wall, from each side of the castle, across the isthmus, down to the side of the Severn." Having fortified his castle, it is stated in the ancient history of the town, that he "placed it under the command of Roger de Corbet, and three other knights, and attempted to unite his forces with the rebellious barons. The King proclaimed him traitor, and laid seige to Shrewsbury with a formidable army, threatening the governors, that, if the castle was not delivered to him in three days, he would hang all he should find within it. Robert, terrified at this threat, and possessing no force sufficient to face the royal army, returned to Srewsbury, implored his sovereign's mercy, acknowledged his crime, and sent the keys by Ralph, Abbot of Seez, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury. On the forfeiture of the Earl, Henry banished him to Normandy, seized his immense estates, and thus for ever extinguished the glory of this opulent and powerful baronial chief. The haughty temper of the Earl, and his inveterate hatred to Henry, once more incited him to appear in arms in Normandy against his Prince; he was defeated, brought over a prisoner, loaded with chains, and sentenced to perpetual confinement in the castle of Wareham, where he miserably died." According to Mr. Nightingale's statement, the rebellion of the Earl commenced in A. D. 1102; and in the year in which he died, the King sent certain members of his privy council to Shrewsbury, on pretence of consulting Corweth ap Blythen, respecting the state of the royal affairs? but when this ill-fated Welchman arrived at town, he was condemned for treason, and committed to prison.

The Norman barons continued their depredations upon the possessions of the Welsh, whose enraged princes perpetually repelled force by force; and as Shrewsbury was the most strong and important fortress on the borders of Wales, the English for several ages made it their place of rendezvous for their armies, and Shrewsbury was frequently visited by its monarchs.

In the progress of the civil war between King Stephen and the Empress Maud, William Fitzalan declared for the Empress, and held out at the castle against the King for a considerable time; but it was at length taken by assault, and it appears that Stephen ungenerously hanged many brave knights of the garrison for the persevering valour with which they defended the castle and town of Shrewsbury. It appears that Fitzalan escaped to the Empress, abandoning his castle and extensive possessions to the King. Upon the accession of Henry II. to the throne, he was restored to his former dignities and estates.

In the reign of Henry III., a war broke out between him and the great barons: the latter, being declared traitors, fled into Wales, and were there joined by a considerable number of forces, with whom they marched to Shrewsbury; and, as Cooke states, "after having laid all the Marches waste and desolate with fire and sword, they burnt part of this town, which, at that time, was one of the most flourishing in the kingdom A

reconciliation, however, was soon after effected between the king and the barons, and things returned to their former state of tranquillity.

"In the reign of Richard II., a parliament was held here, at which, it is said, the King sat with the crown upon his head. But the most remarkable occurrence that ever happened, was the following: some disputes having arisen between King Henry IV. and Percy, Earl of Northumberland, concerning the ransom of some prisoners who had been taken at the battle of Holmedon, and the Earl having let drop some expressions that offended the King, he was forbid the court, under pain of being declared a traitor. The soul of Percy took fire at such treatment; he could not bear such contempt without revenge; and, as it was chiefly owing to his assistance that Henry came to the crown, he thought that it was still in his power to take it from him. It was necessary that the Earl and his adherents should set up some other pretender to the crown, and their first scheme was to publish to the people that King Richard was yet alive; but that having been disproved, they set up Mortimer, Earl of March, who was descended from the third son of Edward III, and consequently had a better title than Henry, who was son of John of Gaunt, the fourth son of Edward. Mortimer, however, was in too depressed circumstances to assert his title, and, therefore, obliged to submit to his more powerful cousin of Lancaster, till the Earl of Northumberland sent to him, and offered to assist him, not only with all the men he could raise in the north, but also to call in the Earl of Douglas from Scotland. The proposal was readily accepted by Mortimer, and a solemn league was entered into between him and the younger Percy, who was to bring a great army to the Marches, whom the Welsh were to join; the Earl of Worcester, brother to Northumberland, was also brought into the scheme, and with many other lords, he joined the rebel army; whilst Percy, in order to oblige the Scots, set all their prisoners at liberty."

Henry Percy, commonly called Hotspur, from his active and warlike disposition, and the natural violence of his temper, "was the life of the conspiracy, and took the readiest means to bring it to issue. He released and made a friend of his valiant rival and prisoner, Douglas, entered into a correspondence with Glyndwr, and reared the standard of rebellion, round which all his vassals and adherents rallied. He was joined by a powerful levy from Scotland, under Earl Douglas, and other chiefs, who, won by his example, and impelled by a rooted animosity to the King of England, warmly espoused the cause of the conspirators. When all was in readiness for open war, the Earl of Northumberland was suddenly taken ill at Berwick, (a village near Shrewsbury,) Lord Percy took command of the army, and advanced to Stafford, where he was joined by his Uncle Worcester. Having consulted on their affairs, and inspirited their army by an harangue on the justice and glory of the cause, they directed their march towards Wales, in order to effect a junction with Glyndwr. Henry, who was apprised of their movements, placed himself at the head of a body of troops, which had been destined to act against the Scots, and was then posted at Burton-upon-Trent: with this army he hurried into

Shropshire, having previously ordered his sons, the Prince of Wales and Lord John of Lancaster, and his steady adherent, the Earl of Westmoreland, to meet him with reinforcements at Bridgnorth. Aware that every thing depended on a celerity of movement, he took possession of Shrewsbury just as the forces of Lord Percy were preparing to assail it.* Previous to the battle, they issued a manifesto, enumerating all the grievances which the people laboured under from the King's tyranny, declaring that they came to force him to put up with the duchy of Lancaster, and restore the crown to Mortimer, the true and lawful heir." And (continues Cooke) "the King published an answer to their manifesto, offering them all a free pardon if they would lay down their arms; but the Earl of Worcester, who had lived in the reign of Richard II., looked upon such promises as snares laid for the unwary, and, therefore, persuaded his nephew and the other lords to set the King at defiance, being convinced that his army was inferior to theirs. When the morning, however, arrived, the rebels saw the royal banners displayed; but the King was still afraid to engage, and rather than venture his crown on the fate of a battle, he employed the Abbot of Shrewsbury to offer peace to the rebels, and the whole day was spent in messages between them, without coming to any arrangement."

On the following morning both armies were prepared for the fight. Hotspur, on being informed of the King's approach, placed his men in order for battle—exclaiming, that they must conquer or die—they replied with shouts of applause. The army of the King was judiciously placed, and the battle commenced, from both of the front lines, with a tremendous discharge of arrows. The front line of the royal army soon experienced some confusion from the intrepidity of the Scots, who, impatient of their distant position, rushed on with the greatest fury, and would have done signal execution, had not the impetuosity of Hotspur defeated his great object. He, however, seconded by Douglas, fought with the most undaunted bravery and courage, opening a way into the centre of the King's army, and, notwithstanding his men were unable to follow these associates in arms, and heaps of the slain lay scattered around, yet victory was about to be proclaimed by the rebels, when, on a sudden, the King brought up his reserve, and turned the tide of fortune in his favour: Douglas and Percy still continued the combat with such undaunted courage, as to astonish the beholders; but the rebel army was at length defeated, the victory became general, and they were put to flight in confusion. Nightingale observes, that "had the valour of Hotspur been tempered by discretion, he would have paused on this last resort, until the junction of his ally had given him better assurance of success. His army was, indeed, already equal in number to that under the royal standard, and it had the superior advantage of being commanded by two of the bravest captains of the age. His confidence in his own prowess, and the experience of that of his compeer, Douglas, banished every doubt of victory from his mind. His ardour,

* Beauties of England, (Shropshire p. 60.)

however, was damped by the transient impression of an incident, which strongly exemplifies the universal superstition of the times. In preparing for the field, he called for his favourite sword, when he was informed that he had left it at the village of *Berwick*, near Shrewsbury, where he had rested the preceding night. The name of the place startled him, and heaving a deep sigh, he exclaimed, 'Alas! then my death is near at hand, for a wizard once told me, that I should not long live after I had seen Berwick, which I thought was the town in the north, so called—yet will I not be cheaply won.'"*

Hotspur fulfilled his resolve, in parting with his life at as dear a rate as possible, for he rushed into battle where it raged with the greatest fury, and was killed, as were many thousands on both sides. The Earl of Worcester, with some other lords, were taken prisoners, and instantly beheaded. The body of Percy was recognised among the slain, afterwards cut into quarters, and fixed on the gates of Shrewsbury, and other towns.

Douglas, who had killed four distinguished persons, accoutred like the King, was set at liberty. The old Earl of Northumberland, although he had, to support his son, raised a considerable army, proceeded to and joined the King, informing him, that it was his intention to suppress the rebellion. Henry, who had no proofs of, or reason to rely upon his integrity, however, restored him to his honours and property. Mr. Nightingale rationally accounts for the conduct of the King. He says, "pious gratitude of the victorious monarch but ill accorded with the severe punishment he subsequently inflicted on some of the vanquished. The Earl of Worcester, Sir Theobald Trussel, and Sir Richard Vernon, were executed at the high cross at Shrewsbury, and their heads exposed to view on London bridge. Hotspur's body, which had been delivered to Lord Furnival for interment, was, by the royal order, taken from the grave, and placed between two mill-stones in the market-place, after which, it was quartered, and hung on the gates of Shrewsbury, and in other places of the kingdom, as before noticed. The lenity shown to others of the rebels, was plainly the result of Henry's policy, rather than his mercy. He courteously released Douglas without ransom, because he feared that the Scots would have dreadfully avenged the death of a man so dear to them; and from similar motives, he afterwards accepted the proffered submission of Northumberland."

Shrewsbury appears to have been visited by many of the monarchs of England, in addition to those already noticed. King Edward IV. often kept his court here, and had several paternal estates in the County. Henry, Earl of Richmond, when marching against Richard III. was joined at Shrewsbury by Sir Gilbert Taylor, High Sheriff of the County, who had raised 4000 men to assist him. Cooke remarks, that "this town will for ever be distinguished for the reception of King Charles I., who, after setting up his standard at Nottingham, and finding no encouragement there, removed to Shrewsbury, being invited by the gentry of the town and country around, where he was received with

* Otterbourne.

such general affection and hearty zeal, that his Majesty recovered himself from the discouragement of his first step at Nottingham, and raised and completed a strong army in less time than could be imagined; insomuch that, to the surprise of the Parliament, and, indeed, of all the world, he was in the field before them so fast, that he met them two-thirds on his way to London, and gave them battle at Edge-Hill, near Banbury." But the fate of war turning afterwards against the King, the weight of it fell heavy upon this town, and almost ruined it. It is now fully recovered, and is one of the most flourishing towns in England. The walls and gates are yet standing; and the old castle, though in ruins, is highly picturesque. The Author of the *Ancient and Present state of Shrewsbury* (published in 1808*) gives a long and interesting account of the castle, from which we select the following:—" Its founder, Roger de Montgomery, made it his residence soon after the Conquest, and it became the chief seat of his baronial power. Mr. Pennant, indeed, assigns it to a more remote origin, and, from its exploratory mount, thinks it of British foundation. But it is very probable that the high-raised mount was, by our earliest Norman lords considered as a part of military architecture, and very often adopted by them in their castles. As his new possessions had been acquired by the sword, Earl Roger considered the inhabitants as his property of course. The spot on which he laid the foundation of his castle, was then, it seems, well peopled; and he scrupled not to destroy fifty-one houses, a fifth part of the whole town at that time, without recompense to the owners, to make room for his intended buildings. After the fall of the great house of Montgomery, in the reign of Henry I. on the forfeiture of Earl Robert de Belesme, the castle became a royal fortress; its defence was entrusted to a Constable, usually the Sheriff, who maintained the prison of the County within its walls; and a part of its vast estate was parcelled out to various knights, on the condition of their keeping castle-ward for a certain number of days during the war. It was, at this time, considered rather as a place of great consequence in protecting the country from the incursions of the Welsh, than as a royal or baronial residence."

When, by the union of Wales, all apprehension of its former unquiet neighbours had vanished, the importance of the castle, as a fortress, ceased. In the reign of Henry VIII., it seems to have been rapidly hastening to decay. Leland, who then saw it, observes, that it had been a "stronge thinge, but nowe much in ruine." The whole was leased by Queen Elizabeth, for a mark yearly, to Richard Onslow, Esq. who appears to have conveyed his interest in it to the corporation.

During the unhappy civil war in the reign of Charles I. the castle resumed some share of its ancient importance. It was garrisoned for the King: its shattered walls were repaired, and its gates strongly fortified. After its shameful surrender to the Parliament

* A new and splendid edition of the History of Shrewsbury, by the Rev. Mr. Blakeway, has recently been published by Harding and Lepard, in two volumes quarto, with numerous fine engravings.

forces in 1645, it escaped the destruction which fell upon many other castles. It owed this exception from the general fate of the royal fortresses to the circumstance of its being entrusted by the House of Commons to Colonel Mitton. This able officer, displeased with the virulent persecution of the King, soon resigned his commission; and Colonel Mackworth had then the charge of it, who was succeeded by Colonel Hunt. After the restoration of Charles II., the property of the castle returned to the burgesses, who, in 1665, surrendered it to the King; and that monarch presented it to Viscount Newport, afterwards Earl of Bradford. It continued, however, in a fortified state some time longer, containing a large magazine of arms; and it was not till the reign of James II., that the cannon, muskets, and ammunition were removed. About this time, probably, the outworks were, in a great measure, destroyed, and its ancient chapel demolished.*

The part still remaining was leased by the Earl of Bradford to Mr. Gosnell, of Rossall, about the year 1730. This gentleman converted it into a gloomy habitation, in which state it remained till Sir William Pulteney repaired and greatly improved it. The castle has undergone such various changes, and has suffered so much from the dilapidations of peaceful times, rather than the ravages of war, that it is not easy to form any correct notion of its original state. Its present appearance certainly does not convey an adequate idea of the size, the dignity, or the strength of a great baronial fortress, placed on so important a spot as Shrewsbury once was esteemed.

It stands upon a narrow neck of land, not more than 500 yards in breadth, made by the windings of the Severn, which, in every other part, by surrounding Shrewsbury, formed a considerable portion of its defence. The approach from the town is by a handsome broad street, which has a slight ascent. On the sides towards the country, it stands boldly elevated on a steep bank of brown earth. The present buildings are of red stone; and consist of the keep, the walls of the inner court, and the great arch of the interior gate. Whether, indeed, it ever occupied a greater space than is enclosed by the existing walls, cannot now be determined absolutely: it is highly probable that the usual appendage of feudal castles, the outer court, or ballium, with its strong gate, portcullis, and towers, once made parts of the fortress, and extended, perhaps, beyond the council-house. The keep, converted into a handsome house, consists of two round towers of equal diameters, embattled and pierced, connected by a square building about 100 feet in length, and nearly of the same height. The inside has been so entirely altered, that it is hardly possible now to conjecture the original disposition of all its parts. The arch of the gateway is, no doubt, part of the original castle of Roger de Montgomery. It is about eighteen feet high, semicircular, and with plain round facings. Its walls appear to have sustained a tower, from whence hung the herse or portcullis. On the other side of the court is a postern, built, probably, in the time of Charles I., when the fortress was restored; and near it are

* Phillips.

the massive foundations of an ancient tower. Attached to the south side of the court, and included within it, is a lofty mount, which rises abruptly from the Severn's edge. The summit is surrounded with a wall, now much in ruins, on one corner of which was a small barbican or watch-tower, for the purpose of descrying an enemy at a great distance. This has, of late, been partly rebuilt, and converted into a beautiful summer-room. The sides and crown of the mount having been planted, are very ornamental to the surrounding country. From this eminence is commanded a fine view of uncommon richness and beauty. Immediately below the spectator the Severn winds with great majesty. The eye, after viewing awhile the town with its spires and turrets, the free-schools, the House of Industry, crowning a green eminence; and, on the other side, the extensive suburb of Abbey Foregate, with its venerable church, is led to survey the most extensive amphitheatre of mountains which, perhaps, the island can boast.

In recurring to the visits of the English kings to this town, it is stated in the *Beauties of England*, "that the last royal visit, and the last circumstances particularly worthy of notice, in what has been denominated ancient history, happened on the 25th of August, 1787, when James II. passed a day here. Those sentiments of loyal attachment for which Shrewsbury has ever been conspicuous, burst forth, on this occasion, with chivalrous enthusiasm. They blazed in bonfires and illuminations, and literally ran through the streets in torrents of wine, the public conduits being charged with the royal liquid."

In the topographical account of Shrewsbury and its environs is the following description the Quarry, occupying a rich meadow of about twenty acres, which we before adverted to. "An avenue of well-grown limes, more than five hundred yards in length, follows the windings of the stream, and forms the principal walk, which is connected with the town by three others, shaded also with trees. The formal effect that would have been produced by this disposition of the ground, was broken many years since by a clump of horse chesnut and lime-trees, nearly in the centre of the meadow, on the site of an old stone quarry. The opposite bank of the Severn, which res abruptly, is crowned with the House of Industry, an extensive handsome building; and some modern plantations about it, contribute greatly to embellish the scene;" but Mr. Nightingale remarks, "the proximity of this steep ascent, and the thick shade of the trees cast a constant gloom over the quarry, and render it more like the garden of a convent, than the gay pleasure-ground of a populous town. As a retired and agreeable summer vale, its cool and sequestered situation, its noble avenue of trees its fine verdure, and its vicinity to the river, give it a decided advantage over the gardens of Kensington. It is, however, but little frequented." This is generally the case with walks of a similar, though less enchanting description, with the inhabitants of most towns at a distance from the metropolis, particularly where the environs, possessing the interesting scenery that Shrewsbury can boast of, interfere. Indeed, the same author, correctly acknowledges, that "while Shrewsbury ranks high among our ancient provincial capitals, from the eventful importance of its history, it is no less eminent in the beauties of its situation and prospects. Being

seated on a circular peninsula of considerable elevation, formed by a winding of the Severn, it presents at every approach a pleasing variety of views; and the noble sweep of the river, which seems to embrace it, heightens at every turn the charm of the scene. Hence it might deserve the simile applied by Shakespeare to England, 'a precious stone set in silver.' The exterior range of houses which front from the town, in many places, command, to a fine extent, the rich and beautiful landscapes of the surrounding country."

The talented historian of the town confesses, that the interior of Srewsbury does not correspond with its delightful exterior appearance. As is the case in many of our ancient towns, the streets are irregularly disposed, some of them steep and narrow, and all very indifferently paved. Modern houses here and there mix their red brick fronts with the sharp-pointed timber gables of our ancestors. Since the period at which the above was written, 1808, many improvements have taken place. Several of the streets are wide and extensive, and many of the houses well built. It was first paved in 1254. In 1756, an act passed for paving and lighting the town; and considerable improvements have subsequently from time to time taken place.

It is recorded that Charles II. would have converted this town into a city, but the principal inhabitants declining the honour, were in consequence designated the proud Salopians. The town, however, is a corporate one, by prescription, and several successive Kings of England have granted charters and immunities to it. The first appears to have been given by Henry I. By another of King John, the aurgesses were empowered to elect two bailiffs, whose principal business was to collect for the king, the rent of the town. The bailiffs were empowered to act as magistrates, and to hold sessions, by Edward III. And for the better government of the town, the burgesses were, in the 12th of Richard II., empowered to choose twelve aldermen.

The office of bailiff was united with that of mayor, by Charles I., who formed the corporation, which consists of a mayor, recorder, twenty-four aldermen, forty-eight common councilmen, with a steward, town-clerk, and the usual class of inferior officers. The Quarter Sessions are held four times a year, and the public justice is administered in the Exchequer, every Tuesday, by the mayor and some of the aldermen, who are magistrates.

Camden, in speaking of Shrewsbury, says, that in his time "it was a fine populous trading town, much enriched by the industry of the inhabitants, their cloth and manufacture, and their commerce with the Welsh, who brought their commodities to this place, as to the common mart of both nations.

In reference to a recent period, Cooke gives the following account of its commerce. "The staple trade of Shrewsbury is in fine flannels and Welsh webs. The flannels are bought at Welsh-pool, in a market holden for that purpose every Monday. Most of the flannels are made in Montgomery-shire; and some are made, and more spun, in the

* Account of the ancient and present state of Shrewsbury, 1808.

neighbouring parts of Shropshire. The flannel, in Pool market, has been sold from 9d. to 4s. per yard, in pieces of 100 yards long upon an average. They are chiefly re-sold to London merchants, who are the exporters. The webs are fabricated in Merionethshire and Denbighshire, and brought to Shrewsbury, where they used to be sold in a close market, that is, in a hall, where none but the Draper's Company can enter; but for several years past much of their market has been anticipated by buyers in the country, which forced the Shrewsbury dealers to send there themselves. Webs are about 200 yards long. and have been rated from 1d to 10d. per yard. The webs made in Merioneth are about seven-eighths of a yard wide, and are called the strong, or high-country cloth.—Those made in Denbighshire are called small, or low country cloth. The former, after they are bought by the drapers, have the wool raised and sheered by persons at Shrewsbury, called the Sheermen; or they are sent to the fulling mill to be thickened, and are then exported in bales of different sizes, some containing even 2000 yards. The ultimate markets used to be Holland, Germany, and America. The small cloth, which is about one-eighth narrower, is mostly sold in Oswestry market, and generally dyed before exportation to the West Indies and to South America." Great changes and revolution have, however, taken place in this, as well as every other branch of manufacture.

Shrewsbury is celebrated for its ancient structures, public edifices, and endowments; and, as Cooke truly states, near the Castle there is one of the largest schools in England. It was first founded and endowed by King Edward VI. by the name of the Free Grammar School. Queen Elizabeth rebuilt it from the ground, and endowed it more largely. It is a fine stately fabric, with a good library, a chapel, and spacious buildings, not inferior to many colleges at Oxford and Cambridge; in which last University several scholarships are founded in its favour. At the commencement of our account of Shrewsbury we gave an outline of its principal features—it may not be unacceptable hereafter entering into further particulars, without going to the full length of Mr. Owen's, or Mr. Nightingale's interesting accounts of the town.

The Abbey, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, erected in 1085, was suppressed at the dissolution of the religious houses, in the time of Henry VIII. Nothing but the west part, from the cross aisle to the west tower, now remains, and the stone roof of that part has disappeared. A neat stone Gothic octagonal structure, called St. Winifred's pulpit, standing on the south side of the garden, is considered the most interesting remain belonging to the abbey, and is said to be a master-piece in ancient architecture.

St. Chad's Church, the most ancient in the town, occupied the site of a palace which belonged to the Princes of Powis, burnt down by the Saxons.—This church was accidentally destroyed by fire in 1393, soon after which it was again erected, and was a Norman Gothic structure. In 1788, while under renair, its mouldering tower fell suddenly, during the absence of the workmen, destroying almost the whole of this venerable pile. The church was, however, rebuilt in 1796.

Mr. Nightingale observes that "the site of the old church being deemed ineligible, the new church of St. Chad was erected on a commanding eminence, bordering on the quarry. It is constructed of the beautiful stone of Greenshill, on a plan extremely novel. The body of the church, externally, is a circle, one hundred feet in diameter. This is divided into two stories: the basement is rustic, and contains a range of square windows. In the higher division are the large arched windows, which form the principal lights, and between them are double Ionic pilasters, resting upon the basement, and supporting a bold and handsome cornice, crowned with an open ballustrade. Attached to this main edifice on the eastern side is a small circular building, with similar enrichments, and beyond is the steeple. The portal is placed in the front of the lower story of the tower, on each side of which is a plain square wing. Before the front is a portico, elevated on a flight of steps, and supported on four Doric columns. The steeple consists of a square basement of rustic work, on which rests an octagonal belfry, highly enriched with Ionic pilasters, pannels, &c. containing twelve bells, and above is a small dome, supported by eight Corinthian pillars, and crowned with a gilt cross."

St. Mary's, founded by King Edgar, is another collegiate church, and is exempted from the jurisdiction of the Bishop: by some it is considered of earlier date than that of Edgar.—It was deprived soon after the Norman Conquest of extensive landed estates, which it held in the time of Edward the Confessor. From the privileges it possessed of a royal free chapel, and the exemption above alluded to, they formed frequent grounds of dispute between the Sovereign Pontiffs and the Kings of England:—for its long and interesting ecclesiastical history we must refer to the account of the ancient and present state of Shrewsbury, from which we select the following correct description:—"The church of St. Mary stands at the north-eastern part of the town, in a small area, which has the appearance of a collegiate close. As hath already been remarked, this and the church of St. Giles are the only structures of the town that have been handed down to us entire. The church is a large venerable building, in the form of a cross, consisting of a nave, side aisles, transept, choir and its chapels, with a western steeple. The exterior aspect presents various styles of ancient architecture. The basement of the tower is of red stone, and has the small round headed windows of the early Norman æra. From the bell-story the latter pointed style takes place, and is of the grey free-stone of Greenshill quarry, as is also the greater part of the fabric. The upper story has on every side handsome double windows, and its embattled parapet was, till of late years adorned with four high pinnacles. From the tower rises a lofty and beautiful spire. The windows of the lower parts, when they immediately spring from the tower, have the remains of rich spiring canopies and pinnacles. The whole height of the steeple is 216 feet, of which the tower comprises 76 feet, and the spire 140 feet; thus making it equal in height to Louth Cathedral, in Lincolnshire, and nearly equal to St. Michael's, Coventry; although

its base, or tower, bears no proportion either to their heights or elegance. The steeple of St. Mary's, standing upon the most elevated part of the town, has an uncommon bold appearance, and is a beautiful object to a considerable part of the County of Salop.—" The author thus quotes an admired writer, describing the distant effects of such structures:—

How noble 'mid the fading landscape stands
Yon fane pre-eminent! It warms my heart,
When through the wide-spread provinces I stray
Of this fair realm, to view the slender spire
And massy tower from deep embowering shades,
Oft rising in the vale, or on the side
Of gentle sloping hills, or loftier placed,
Crowding the woody eminence. It looks
As though we own'd a God, adored his power,
Revered his wisdom, loved his mercy; deem'd
He claimed the empire of this lower world,
And marks the deeds of its inhabitants.
It looks as though we deem'd he fills all space
Present throughout; and bends from heaven's high throne,
With ear attentive to the poor man's prayer."

Gisborne's walks in a Forest.

The Church of St. Giles.—After describing the abbey of St. Peter and St. Paul, the author of the ancient and present state of Shrewsbury, proceeds in his description of the ecclesiastical buildings, to give an account of St. Giles's* Church, erected at the eastern end of the Abbey-Foregate suburb:—he says that no authentic account of its origin is known. It is by tradition said to be the oldest church in the town, and as the abbey is recorded to be founded in "the Parish of the City," it has been generally conceived that this was the church of that earliest parish, an opinion that has been adopted by an eminent antiquary of the present age.† But the unexceptionable reasons which there are for concluding from the Doomsday-book, that the parish church of the ancient city stood on the spot on which the abbey was afterwards founded, and its continuation from early

*St. Giles, in Latin Ægidius, was born at Athens, but having sold his estate, and distributed the money to the poor, he came to France in the year 717, where having passed two years with Cæsarius, Bishop of Arles, he became a hermit, and practised the most rigorous austerities. The King accidentally discovered him in his cell as he was hunting, and, struck with the sanctity of his appearance, built an abbey at Nismes, at the solicitation of the anchorite, of which he was nominated the first superior.

† See Gough's additions to Campden's Brittania, Shropshire.

Saxon times, through the monastic æra, in the nave or body of that of the convent, to the present period, clearly give to "the Church of the Holy Cross, within the Abbey," the honour of having been the earliest parochial establishment of Shrewsbury. This small plain building consists of a nave, chancel, and north aisle, with a turret, sufficient only for a single bell, which it formerly held. This building of late years has been chiefly used for sepulture, and public worship having only been performed in it twice a year, it has been suffered to go to decay.—On a tomb-stone, covering the ashes of Mr. John Whitfield, an eminent surgeon of Shrewsbury, is an inscription, which for chemical brevity cannot be surpassed:—

COMPOSITA SOLVANTUR.

The suburb of the Abbey-Foregate forms a straggling street of considerable length, constituting nearly the whole parish of the Holy Cross and St. Giles; this street stands on an eminence, sloping on the south to Meole brook: several of the houses command beautiful views of the rich meadows and excellent gardens bordering the stream. The Abbey-house, and others that surround it are supplied with excellent spring water by means of the ancient arched aqueduct, which conveys a plentiful supply.

With regard to the church of St. Giles, the author of the ecclesiastical history further observes—"Had St. Giles's existed as the parish church previous to the foundation of the Abbey, it seems most extraordinary that the monks should establish another within the very walls of their own convent, especially when it is recollected that the monastic clergy extremely disliked the intrusion of parochial establishments within abbey churches, and never permitted it, except where the house had been engrafted upon some ancient Saxon parish church, as was the case in this instance."

In addition to the curious inscription on the tomb-stone erected to the memory of Mr Whitfield, there is another in this church, upon which are the following lines to the memory of William White, who, in the reign of William III. was quarter-master of the horse at the period of the battle of the Boyne:—

"In Irish wars I fought for England's glory,
Let no man scoff at telling of the story:
I saw great Scomberg fall, likewise the brave St. Ruth,
And here I come to die, not then in my youth.
Through dangers great I've passed many a storm;
Die we must all as sure as we are born."

THE CHURCH OF ST. ALKMUND.—Queen Elfleda, daughter of Offa, King of Mercia, is said to be the personage who founded this church, and King Edgar, at the advice of St. Dunstan, appointed ten priests to the establishment, for whose support he granted rich prebends, or portions of land.

A prince of the Northumbrian family was its patron saint; and the circumstances which led to the death of Alkmund, it appears, are differently detailed, and but imperfectly understood. He is said, by one writer, to have been buried at Lilleshull, in this County; by another, that he was buried at Whitchurch, whence it was translated to Derby.

As Nightingale states, upon the authority of the ecclesiastical history of the town:—like other sacred edifices of Shrewsbury, this church was erected at different periods, and exhibited various styles of architecture. Of its antiquity, however, few features remain: for the panic caused by the sudden fall of St. Chad's, induced the parishioners of St. Alkmund's to petition Parliament for leave to pull down the body of the old church, and to erect a new one in its stead, which was opened for Divine Service in 1795. He also states, that the expenses amounted to £3,000., half of which might have answered for a substantial repair of the original structure. The modern building is a tolerable imitation of the ancient pointed architecture. Its plan is an oblong square, eighty-two feet by forty-four, with a small recess for the altar. The interior is without pillars or galleries, excepting one at the west end, and has a flat ceiling, with stucco ornaments. Over the altar is a window, painted by Eggington, representing the Evangelical Faith, in a Female figure as large as life, kneeling on a cross, with the eyes elevated and arms extended towards a celestial crown. The motto is "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." At the west end is a beautiful spire steeple, which escaped the fate of the church. From the flat arches of the bell windows, and the general style of the architecture, it is conceived to have been erected in the seventeenth century.

It also appears in the ecclesiastical history, that in the year 1788, two-thirds of the spire were rebuilt, and a considerable improvement was made in the taper finishing of the top, which before ended too abruptly. Mr. Cheshire, of Solihull, who so ably performed the work, was a spire builder by profession, and possessed the merit of having admirably rebuilt and repaired many of our finest steeples. The ease with which he took down and restored the decayed parts by means of ladders, without scaffolds, and with one assistant only, was truly surprising. The expense was about £100. Some of the internal bandages having become loose, it was found necessary to take down and rebuild a few feet of the spire in 1803, which was effected not quite so happily as when performed by Mr. Cheshire. The whole height of the steeple is 184 feet, of which the spire is 114 feet, and the tower 70 feet, in the latter are six old bells. Cooke says, it was anciently the custom to ring or toll the great bell of St. Alkmund's, in Shrewsbury, at six in the evening, twelve at night, and four in the morning, which was called "Halliwel's Knell," having been instituted in 1557. The custom of tolling this bell is said to have arisen from the necessity of directing travellers by the sound of bells during the darkness of long nights, when great part of the country was wild and unenclosed, and the roads little better than obscure paths.

It is still usual in darkness and foggy weather to ring the bell of the little church of Aber, in Cærnarvonshire, to prevent travellers who cross the dangerous sands between that village and Beaumaris, from wandering from the line they ought to keep. This custom has also been supposed to have arisen from the necessity of marking the hours, in times when watches were articles of expensive luxury, and among the common people hardly known, or when, perhaps, there was not more than one public clock in a town though it might contain several churches.

It appears that the spire steeple of St. Alkmund has always been an object of admiration, and has frequently displayed the dexterity and intrepidity of the workmen employed on these occasions—of which the first curious account bears the date of 1584, and is as follows :--

"This yeare, and in the monthe of Februarie, the steeple of St. Alkmond's in Shrosberie was new pointed by one George Archer, of St. Alban's, by London, who being a very simple man and lame, the 22nd day of Februarie, being Saturday, and in the afternoone of the same day, clymed up to the top of the same steeple, being 56 yards of height from the bottom, with clowted showes upon hys feete, and brought down the sayd coke, being also of sisse from the bill to the ennde of the tayle three quarters of a yard, and in bredth from hys comb to the bottom of hys belly half a yard, lacking two ynches.—And the thirde daye of Marche, being Tuesday, in lycke manner clymed upon and did put the sayde coke upon the topp of the said steeple againe, turning about soondrie tymes, standing upright uppon the iron crosse, being a rayny daye, shakyng hys hands and leggs abroade, to the admiration of the beholders; who also the 10th daye of Marche following, being Wednesday, clymed up the sayde steeple topp againe in lycke manner, tacking with him a drome, and a long bowe and arrowes, and standing upright uppon the crosse of the same, shott an arrowe out of the said bowe.—Also againe and last of all, the thirteenth daye of Marche, beinge Saturdaye, he clym'd up in lycke manner to the sayde steeple, and turned the sayde coke about like a wheele, shakyng his armes and leggs about, whooting and crying about the crosse almost two houres, and so cam down—sober as he always did, but going up at every tyme drunke as hys manner was."

St. Julian's Church.—This, as well as the other ancient churches of Shrewsbury, was of Saxon origin, but its foundation of uncertain date. It appears, that in the 16th of Edward III. a grant was made, in which the King presented John de Wynick to the royal free chapel of St. Juliana.—In 1292 it was rated at £8 per annum, at which period the chapel of Ford belonged to it.

It continued as a rectory and royal free chapel, with a peculiar jurisdiction, through several reigns. Tanner describes it as having, from an early period, been annexed to the free chapel of St. Michael within the Castle, and continued so until the reign of Henry V.,

when both were resigned to the King. The church of St. Julian subsequently sunk from a rectory into a stipendiary curacy.—In the ecclesiastical history of Shrewsbury, St. Julian's is thus described—"The old church was an irregular pile, consisting of a nave, north aisle, and large chancel, with narrow pointed windows. The present modern structure is composed of brick stone. Its interior is handsome and commodious, having on each side four Doric columns, which sustain the roof. The east window is filled with fine painted glass, consisting chiefly of a large ancient figure of St. James, which was purchased in 1804 from the splendid collection brought from Rouen. In the east wall of the chancel is a small figure, within a foliated tabernacle, preserved from the ruins of the old church, and probably representing St. Juliana, the patroness, a noble lady of Florence, who suffered martyrdom in the ninth century."

At an early period there were convents belonging to the Austin, Dominican, and Franciscan friars in this town. Few vestiges remain of these buildings. It is supposed that the refectory belonging to the convent of the Franciscans, which stood on the banks of the Severn, formed that portion which is converted into houses, under the Wyle Cope; and the large shell of a building, having two pointed arch door ways, are the only traces that remain of the convent of the Austin friars, situate near the river, at the bottom of Barker-street. Scarcely a fragment remains of the Dominican convent, which occupied a meadow skirting the river, between Watergate-lane and the English bridge.

Among the several chapels which formerly stood in this town—the collegiate chapel of St. Michael, within the Castle, is said to have been the most ancient and the most splendid. Its exact site is not positively known, though it existed in a ruinous state in the reign of James II., as an order appears in the records of the corporation for entering into an inquiry respecting the stones taken thence.—A small portion of the chapel of St. Nicholas still remains, but has been converted into a stable. Its origin and history have not been preserved.

The chapels of St. Blaise, St. Catherine, and of St. Mary Magdalene, together with other ancient ecclesiastical structures, which formerly adorned and graced this ancient town, have yielded to the silent touches of time, and few traces of them remain.

The first dissenting chapel erected in Shrewsbury was subsequent to the act of uniformity, which took place on Bartholomew's Day, 1662. It appears in the annals of this town, that in the year 1715, a year remarkable for the first Jacobite rebellion, this meeting-house was destroyed by a mob; but was soon afterwards rebuilt at the expense of Government.

Nothing of consequence is observable in its history till the year 1742, when the Rev. Job Orton was appointed on the death of Mr. Berry. Mr. Orton was a gentleman of great piety, and of considerable literary attainments; and, in succession, the vacancies have been filled up by several ministers of talent.

The chapel is a plain brick building, commodiously and neatly fitted up—it stands on the north side of High-street. The congregation consists of Unitarian dissenters, including a number of opulent and highly respectable inhabitants of the town and its environs.

It appears that after the departure of Mr. Orton, in 1766, a separation from the old meeting-house took place, and a new congregation was formed; who, with the *previous* assistance, or, at least, concurrence of Mr. Orton, erected a new meeting-house on Swan Hill, of the Independent persuasion.

In addition to the places of worship already named, there are in Shrewsbury a Baptist Meeting-house, a Roman Catholic Chapel, a Moravian Meeting-house, and a Quaker and Wesleyan Methodist place of worship.

Hospitals and Charitable Foundations.

Shrewsbury stands rather conspicuously in this respect—and of such establishments in general, the author of the topographical description of this County justly remarks, that —the piety of our ancestors not only shone forth in their magnificent foundations for places of Divine Worship, but also in their numerous hospitals and charitable institutions for the deceased and indigent. Hospitals were originally designed for the relief and entertainment of travellers on the road, and particularly pilgrims; and, therefore, were generally built on the road side; but, in later ages, they were always founded for fixed inhabitants, were incorporated by royal patents, and were made capable of receiving gifts and grants of land.

These priests were generally canons of the order of St. Augustine, the rule of which the poor also, in some degree, observed, in addition to their own local statutes. Among the various humane and charitable purposes to which such foundations were devoted, none were more common in early times than lazar-houses, spitals, or hospitals, for the maintenance of persons afflicted with leprosy, which being deemed infectious, the houses were always at the extremity of the towns, and generally dedicated to St. Giles, as we find in London, Edinburgh, Oxford, Northampton, Cambridge, Hereford, Durham, &c.—Anciently the maintenance of these wretched people arose from the liberty which was given them of begging corn on every market-day, with a dish called a *clap-dish;* whence our old proverb—I know you as well as a Beggar knows his Dish. Their horribly loathsome appearance, and the dread of infection, in process of time caused them to be confined to their hospitals; but they were still permitted to send their procurator or purveyor of their house, who, with his box, appeared at the doors of the churches and monasteries during Divine Service, to collect the alms of the congregation, Many of

these charitable foundations were wealthily endowed from valuable lands. The hospital at Burton Lazars, was considered not only the most opulent, but had also the pre-eminence of all the lazar houses in Great Britain. The hospital of St. Giles is of this description, and was in existence, in the Abbey-Foregate, at so early a period as the reign of Henry II., who is supposed to have been its original founder. He was, at all events, a liberal benefactor to it.

For the support of the lepers, that King granted to their hospital the toll of all corn and meal sold in Shrewsbury Market, and an annual pension of thirty shillings out of his rent of the County of Salop. A charter of King John confirms the donation of his father, and defines the toll which was allowed to the hospital to be a handful of both hands out of every sack of corn coming to market; but out of every strike of wheat a handful of one hand only. Henry III., in the sixteenth year of his reign, added the privilege of a horse-load of dead and dry wood to be taken from his royal wood of Lythwood, every day by the hospital.

This ancient foundation still exists, in some degree. The lepers are succeeded by four poor persons who inhabit the same number of alms-houses, nearly adjoining the church of St. Giles, which was, doubtless, the chapel of the old hospital. They were rebuilt nearly a century ago. By what means the lands, charged for their maintenance, came into the family of Prince, does not appear; but their connexion with it was as early as the beginning of the seventeenth century, when Walter Wrottesley, Esq. of Wrottesley, whose daughter married Sir Richard Prince, bequeathed £100. thereto, and the said Sir Richard Prince occurs as "Mayor of the hospital of St. Giles," in 1632, and the same office is now held by the Earl of Tankerville, probably as possessor of certain estates. His Lordship nominates the alms people, to each of whom he pays one shilling and sixpence per week, with a certain allowance of coals, and an upper garment annually, the whole payment amounting to £19. per annum. The original donation by Henry II., of thirty shillings per annum, is still paid by the Sheriff of the County, and s allowed to him in his "cravings" at the Exchequer.

The Hospital of St. John the Baptist and St. George.—This Hospital was erected at the extremity of the Welsh Bridge, outside the gate which leads to Frankwell suburb, but no vestiges remain to mark the exact spot where the house stood. In an old rental of the town, taken in the thirtieth of Henry III., appears the first mention of this charity. Its subsequent history principally relates to the various benefactions, at different periods, which do not require to be enumerated. It appears that this little asylum for poverty and age was dissolved in the reign of Edward VI.

St. Chad's Alms-Houses, founded in 1409, by Bennet Typton, who was a public brewer, are situate on the south side of the cementary of St. Chad's Church, for decayed old men and women, but it appears that the provision is now scarcely adequate to the maintenance of the persons for whose use they are alotted, being no more than sixteen shillings per annum, including two shillings and sixpence paid annually by the company

of Mercers. These alms-houses have been described as wretched hovels, projecting into the street, and a great inconvenience to the public. They were formerly thirteen in number but several of them have, from want of funds, sunk into decay.

ST. MARY'S ALMS-HOUSES, situate at the west end of the church-yard, although better endowed than those of St. Chad, are considered quite as wretched and filthy, and as great a public nuisance, being situated in a much frequented thoroughfare, and in a very central part of the town, from which they might be removed without much injury to the cause of charity.

Cooke states that these alms houses "were founded about 1460, by Degory Watur, draper, (son of John del Watur) who was buried in the chapel of the Holy Trinity, in St. Mary's church, 28th July, 1477, and, by his will, gives twenty shillings a-piece to the three convents of Friars, whom he calls the Preachers, Minors, and St Austin's. Tradition relates that the founder, who must have been an aged man, as he was admitted to his burgesship in 1404, lived himself in the centre house, among the poor people, and it was his 'custom to go wyth them dayle to our Lady's chirche, and to kneel wyth them in a long pew in the quire, made for them and himself."

In 1587 the following rules were agreed upon respecting these alms-houses;

"The Wardens of St. Mary's parish to name four poor people, upon every vacancy, and the Master of the Drapers' Company, and the said Wardens, to chuse one of the four.

Their age to be above fifty. To be single persons, except in the hall-house, where there must always be a man and his wife to be chose for the hall.

Each person admitted, to bring with them a winding sheet, with four pence wrapt up in it, to pay for their burial.

Each of the fourteen houses to have nine load of wood yearly, the hall-house twelve load, and a bushel of corn every month."

The sum of £2. 6s. 10½d., is allowed to each person (who must be a parishioner of St. Mary's) annually, by quarterly payments from the Drapers' Company.

MILLINGTON'S HOSPITAL is situate at the extremity of Frankwell, or Frankevile, suburb, on an elevated site. It is a brick building of very respectable appearance. It is supposed to have been the site where Ladogan's chapel, an ancient religious structure, was erected, adjoining to which was a stone cross.

Mr. James Millington, who was a draper in Shrewsbury, in 1734, bequeathed nearly the whole of his fortune to the eudowment of this charity; his landed estate was, however, after his demise, disputed in chancery, and decided in favour of his heirs at law; but his personal property went to the support of the charity, and, from the admirable management of the trustees, an estate at Llanfair Waterdine, in this county, was subsequently purchased, the produce of which exceeds £600. annually.

This is not only a valuable charitable institution, but is well conducted and well regulated, consisting, as Cooke states, of a schoolmaster and mistress, who have each

house and £30 per annum, and the master an additional £10 per annum for keeping the accounts. A chaplain, whose duty it is to read prayers every day, with a stipend of £25 per annum. Twelve poor men or women, chosen from the single housekeepers of Frankwell, or the part of St. Chad's parish nearest to it, to each of whom is allotted an apartment in the hospital, consisting of two comfortable rooms, a small garden, a gown or coat, given on St. Thomas's day, a load of coals on All-Saints day, and an allowance of £6 per annum. Gowns or coats, and forty shillings each, are also dispensed every year to ten poor single housekeepers, resident in Frankwell, and when a vacancy happens in the hospital, the person who has longest received the garments, is of course elected to it. The hospitallers and out-pensioners have two penny loaves weekly. Twenty poor boys, and as many girls, born in Frankwell, are completely clothed twice annually, and receive their education in the hospital. When arrived at the age of fourteen, the boys are apprenticed; £7 10s is given with each, and £2 10s is laid out in clothing; a gratuity of £5 is presented besides as a reward to those, who, at the expiration of the first year's apprenticeship, can bring certificates of their good behaviour. The girls are allowed £5 on going out apprentices.

Two exhibitions of £40 a year each, are founded for students of St. Mary Magdalen's College, Cambridge. Those who have been originally scholars on the hospital foundation claim the preference; or one born in Frankwell, and educated at the Free Grammar School is most eligible.

Over the pediment, in the centre of the building, is a clock. In this part is the chapel, used also as a school-room, and houses of the master and mistress.

The Salop Infirmary, in St. Mary's churchyard, it appears, "was originally intended for a mansion-house, by Dorbet Kynaston, Esq. who erected it on the town wall, of which he had obtained a grant from the corporation: it was founded in 1745, though a period of great public difficulty and danger, (being that of the Scotch Rebellion) and opened on the 25th of April, 1747, having the honour of being one of the earliest institutions of the kind in the kingdom.

The first treasurer, William Tayleur, Esq. assisted by a committee, drew up those rules under which, after some alterations, rendered necessary, as change of circumstance took place, it has now eminently flourished upwards of eighty years, with increasing utility, from voluntary subscriptions and benefactions, and, as Mr. Nightingale truly observes, "a good increase is made to the funds at each anniversary of the institution, which occurs on the Friday of the race week, when the contributors attend the treasurer to church, where, after an appropriate sermon, a collection is made at the doors, the plates being held by two ladies and two gentlemen of distinguished rank and fortune. A stranger who witnesses this scene, cannot but revere the worthy and amiable character of the Salopians, who, even at a season of festivity and dissipation, can find leisure to fulfil the best duties of humanity.

Of the general arrangement of this valuable institution, Cook states that "a treasurer is annually chosen from among the subscribers of five guineas and upwards; and the ordinary concerns of the house are regulated by twelve directors, who generally consist of the trustees resident within the town, six of whom go out of office in rotation half yearly. The domestic economy is regulated by a matron, (who has a yearly salary of £20,) for whom and the house surgeon, a table is kept. The secretary, whose office is to manage, under the inspection of the board of directors and deputy treasurer, the pecuniary concerns of the institution, receives a salary of thirty guineas per annum. Besides the physicians and surgeons of the town, who afford their gratuitous assistance in rotation, a surgeon retained at a handsome salary, makes a part of the establishment, and resides in the house, that medical aid may not be wanting on any emergency. The clergy of the established church, resident in the town, officiate by turns as chaplains; and some useful religious tract is given to every patient capable of making use of it, at his entrance into, and dismissal from the house.

This excellent asylum for the indigent and diseased, is a handsome, though plain brick edifice, with a handsome portal of stone, and is well situate on the verge of an eminence commanding charming prospects, and a fine salubrious air. In the year 1789 two wings were added. The walls of the bed-room are covered with tables of occasional benefactions, and the cornice is ornamented with a series of armorial bearings of the annual treasurers.

Of a House of Industry, plans were adopted here at so early a period as the reign of James I., for the employment of the poor in so necessary an asylum. In 1604, the corporation passed an order for "raising a sum of money for settinge the poor to worke;" and the castle, which it is supposed was then in a dilapidated state, was repaired, or fitted up for the purpose; but from its not answering, or the castle being wanted for other uses, a building, called the Jersey-house, subsequently St. Chad's workhouse, at the lower end of Barker-street, was appointed for a general workhouse in the year 1628, and during a great part of the reign of Charles I. various corporation orders were passed in favour of it, but, as Cooke states, "our records from that time are silent on the subject; it is, therefore, probable that the scheme was abandoned, and that the management of the poor reverted to the usual channel of parochial officers, till the establishment of the House of Industry. A house, for the reception of orphans, (continues Cooke) was first opened in the street called Dog-lane, as early as the year 1756. The ardour with which that institution was supported, induced the governors to enlarge their colony at Shrewsbury; and for this purpose the building, now the House of Industry, was erected at their sole charge. It was begun in 1660, and finished in about five years, at an expense of more than £12,000." Thomas Coram, the benevolent patron and contriver of the Foundling Charity, was born at Lyme, Dorset, about the year 1688. Having an early attachment to a maritime life, he became master of a trading vessel to America, and, in the course of his occupation,

occasionally took up his residence in the eastern part of London, where he had many opportunities of witnessing scenes of distress, but none which affected him more forcibly than the lamentable situation of exposed and deserted young children. His zeal for the public welfare, and the shocking spectacle he had too often witnessed, induced him to form a plan, one the most compassionate that human nature ever witnessed—the erecting an asylum for the succour and education of neglected innocents, known by the name of the Foundling Hospital. To accomplish this purpose, he had to obtain the patronage of the great, and assistance of the powerful; he had also to combat that greatest of all difficulties—popular prejudice. After the Foundling was established in London, children were sent down from thence in great numbers, during their earliest infancy, and put out to nurse with the neighbouring cottagers, under the inspection of the gentlemen in the vicinity. At a proper age they were brought into the house, and employed in the branches of a woollen manufactory, and afterwards placed out apprentices. At one time there were more than four hundred orphans in the hospital, under the care of a governor, matron, chaplain, schoolmaster, and mistress.

Several interesting accounts have been given of two young females who had the benefit of this institution; we prefer the one given by Cooke, which is as follows:

The history of two of these girls is so singular and romantic, that the reader will pardon the introduction of it at some length in this place, which shall be done chiefly in the words of Mr. Keir, the Biographer of the benevolent but eccentric Mr. Day, and of Miss Seward, in her life of Dr. Darwin. "A youthful and active mind," says Mr. Keir, "inflamed with the enthusiasm of virtue, but undirected by the wisdom which experience alone can give, could not avoid falling into one of those delusions which have been created by heated imaginations, or by the sophistry of hypocrites. It is no wonder, then, that at this period he was led, like many others, by the seductive eloquence of Rousseau, into worlds of fancy respecting education. According to the notions of this celebrated writer, society is an unnatural state in which all the genuine worth of the human species is perverted; and he therefore recommends, that children should be educated apart from the world, in order that their minds should be kept untainted with, and ignorant of its vices, prejudices, and artificial manners. Nothing surely can be more absurd than the principle of this plan of education, or more impracticable in execution. Nevertheless, Rousseau has thrown over his opinions on this subject a speciousness which unguarded minds may easily take for the light of truth; whereas it is but an *ignis fatuus* of the fancy, fanned by the breath of eloquence peculiarly persuasive. These notions sunk deep into Mr. Day's young and sensible mind, a soil where no seed fell unproductive; and began to expand into schemes, which on account of the impracticability of their execution, were the subject of his own pleasantry in his maturer age. The most singular of these projects was an experiment on female education, in which he proposed to unite the purity of female virtue with the fortitude and hardiness of a Spartan virgin, and with a simplicity of taste that

should despise the frivolous vanities, the effeminate manners, and the dissipated pleasures, which, according to Rousseau's declamation, constitute the characters of the present age. There was no finding such a creature ready made; philosophical romance could not hope it;—he must mould some infant into the being his fancy had imagined. With this view Mr. Day, attended by his friend, Mr. Bicknel, (a barrister) journeyed to Shrewsbury to explore the Foundling Hospital. From the little train, Mr. Day, in the presence of Mr. Bicknel, selected two girls of twelve years of age each, both beautiful, one with flaxen locks and light eyes; her he called Lucretia; the other, a clear auburn brunette, with darker eyes, more glowing bloom, and chestnut tresses, he called Sabrina. These girls were obtained on written conditions, for the performance of which Mr. Bicknel was guarantee. They were to this effect:—That Mr. Day should, within the twelve months after taking them, resign one into the protection of some respectable tradeswoman, giving one hundred pounds to bind her apprentice; maintaining her, if she behaved well, till she married, or began business for herself. Upon either of these events he promised to advance four hundred pounds more. He avowed his intention of educating the girl he should retain, with a view to make her his future wife; solemnly engaged never to violate her innocence; and if he should renounce his plan, to maintain her decently in some creditable family, till she married, when he promised five hundred pounds as her wedding portion.

Mr. Day went instantly to France with these girls, not taking an English servant, that they might receive no ideas, except those which himself might choose to impart.

They teazed and perplexed him: they quarrelled; they sickened of the small pox; they chained him to their bedside by crying if they were ever left alone with any person who could not speak English. He was obliged to sit up with them many nights, to perform for them the lowest offices of assistance.

They lost no beauty by their disease. Soon after they had recovered, crossing the Rhone with his wards, in a tempestuous day, the boat overset. Being an excellent swimmer, he saved them both, though with difficulty and danger to himself.

Mr. Day came back to England in eight months. Sabrina was become the favourite. He placed Lucretia with a chamber milliner. She behaved well, and became the wife of a respectable linen draper in London. With Sabrina he actually proceeded during some years in the execution of his favourite project. The experience which had at first been wanting to him, at length gave him convincing proofs of the impracticability of this mode of education, while his acquired knowledge of mankind suggested doubts of its expediency; and after a series of fruitless trials, Mr. Day renounced all hopes of moulding Sabrina into the being his imagination had formed. Finding himself obliged to relinquish his project of forming Rousseau's children of nature in the centre of England, he nevertheless continued these children under his protection and maintenance. Ceasing to behold Sabrina as his wife, he placed her at a boarding-school, at Sutton Coldfield, in Warwickshire. She remained at school three years, gained the esteem of her instructress, grew feminine,

elegant, and amiable. When Sabrina left school, Mr. Day allowed her fifty pounds annually. She boarded some years near Birmingham, and afterwards at Newport, in Shropshire. Wherever she resided, wherever she paid her visits, she secured to herself friends. Beautiful and admired, she passed the dangerous interval between sixteen and twenty-five, without one reflection upon her conduct,—one stain upon her discretion.

Mr. Day corresponded with her parentally, but seldom saw her, and never without witnesses. In her twenty-sixth year she married Mr. Bicknel, the same gentleman who had accompanied him to Shrewsbury.

But to return to the House of Industry. About the year 1774, the managers of the Foundling Hospital in London, finding even their large revenues inadequate to the extensive plan of branching out the charity into various counties, ceased to send children to the provincial hospitals, and the Shrewsbury house was consequently shut up, and remained so during some years. Afterwards, having been partly used by Messrs. Baker as a woollen manufactory, it was taken by Government, who, in the American contest, converted it into a place of confinement for prisoners of war, chiefly Dutch.

The rapid increase of parochial rates of Shrewsbury, which then threatened a still heavier pressure, impelled the inhabitants to endeavour at least to check the progress of so great an evil, by a new mode of maintaining their poor, and for this purpose, in the year 1784, they obtained an Act of Parliament to incorporate the five parishes of the town, and Meole Brace, as far as concerned the poor, and to establish a general house of Industry. The late Orphan Hospital immediately presented itself, as the most eligible situation that could possibly be fixed upon; it was ready built to their hands; the governors of the Foundling Charity were anxious to get rid of it at a price much below its value, and it required no considerable sum to repair the injuries it had sustained while a prison. The house and other buildings, with twenty acres of good land, were purchased at £5500, and about £750 was expended in repairing and fitting it up for the purpose of its new destination. In December, 1784, the house was open for the reception of the poor, who having been accustomed to a maintenance from regular or occasional weekly pay, at first evinced great reluctance in accepting the mode of relief prepared for them: but on experiencing the plenty and comfort of the new institution, the mildness of its regulations, and benevolent attentions of its directors, their prejudices gradually subsided, and they in a great measure became reconciled to it.

The first set of directors chosen for carrying the Act of Parliament into execution, were John Oliver, Esq., William Smith, Esq., Thomas Lloyd Anwyl, Esq., John Maddock, Esq., Robert Jeffreys, Esq., John Bather, Esq., Mr. Joseph Gittins, Mr. John Lloyd, Mr. Charles Bage, Mr. John Jones, Mr. Thomas Hotchkiss, and Mr. George Lloyd. To the indefatigable exertions and unwearied perseverance of these, and of the gentlemen who immediately succeeded them, the inhabitants of Shrewsbury are chiefly indebted for those

excellent regulations and judicious laws, which have rendered their House of Industry a model to almost all succeeding institutions of this kind throughout the kingdom.

Such of the inhabitants of the six united parishes as are rated and assessed, and possessed of property to the amount of £30 per annum, or are rated at £15, are by the act incorporated as guardians of the poor: from these are chosen twelve directors, four of whom go out of office every year, and four more are elected in their stead; by which provision there always remain eight persons in the direction who have had some experience in its duties, and thus every director serves the three years. To the board of directors the management of the whole concerns of the poor is intrusted. They meet at the house in a handsome room appropriated to their use twice a week. Mondays to receive the various applications of the poor, and on Thursdays to audit the accounts and regulate the internal economy of the family. The chaplain, steward, a clerk, and the matron, are appointments to which salaries are annexed.

The proportion of money paid by the parishes is fixed and ascertained according to the average expenditure of each for twelve years prior to the passing of the act, and which amounted in the whole to £2761 16s 8¼d per annum, viz.:—

	£	s.	d.
St. Chad	1276	15	11¾
St. Mary	479	13	5¾
St. Julian	314	3	8
St. Alkmund	271	0	6¼
The Holy Cross and St. Giles'	303	12	0¾
Meole Brace	116	5	11¾

The average number of poor in the house, including children, is about 275. Their employment consists principally in preparing their own clothing, which they do from the raw materials to its finished state. Work-rooms are also set apart for shoemakers, tailors, &c. where the paupers who have been brought up in those occupations are employed, and where some of the boys are taught to work. The girls are by rotation employed in the kitchen, and instructed, as much as possible, in washing, cooking, and such other work as may best qualify them for service. To encourage the exertions of the poor, an allowance is made them of a sixth part of their earnings as a gratuity. The utmost cleanliness is constantly preserved. All the paupers breakfast, dine, and sup in the dining hall, a large room 115 feet by 20. They are classed at separate tables; the men, the women, the boys and girls, have each their respective stations. The quantity allowed for breakfast, is a pint either of broth or milk porridge to each adult; and to each of the children in proportion. For dinner, the grown-up persons have six ounces of solid meat after boiling, a trencher-full of potatoes or greens, and a pint of beer. Working children have each three ounces of solid meat, with roots or greens. The children drink water. At supper, the adults are

allowed a pint of broth, or soup, and six ounces of bread, and the children in proportion. The other supper consists of a trencher-full of potatoes mashed with milk, and a pint of beer. The steward and matron attend at the meals, to see that the meal is properly distributed.

Parralel with the hall is a plain decent chapel, in which Divine Service is performed twice every Sunday, and the children are at other times instructed by the chaplain in the principles of religion. Prayers are also read to the whole family every morning and evening.

At a little distance from the house is an Infirmary, where the sick and infirm are lodged in proper wards under the care of nurses, and attended by the apothecary of the house.

The principal advantage obtained from this institution, is the check which has been given to the great frauds and abuses that prevailed in the old system of parochial expenditure by an indiscriminate allowance of weekly pay. Here the aged pauper, who is destitute of a home, or of a friend or relative to assist him when helpless and infirm, finds an asylum where his wants are supplied; and those who are incapable of providing for themselves, from natural weakness of intellect or long habits of debauchery, are maintained, and by the mild discipline of the house, at once restrained from further irregularities, and in some degree rendered useful and industrious.

A rigorous adherence to the principle of witholding every kind of relief except that offered by the house, is by no means observed; those poor who labour under temporary distress or disability, are liberally assisted and relieved in their own houses; and even regular pay is allowed in some cases, where great age or infirmity can meet with the constant attention of a child or other near connexion at home. The out pay allowed by the directors from August 1799, to May 1800, was £412. 10s. 3d.; from August 1800, to May 1801, it amounted to £851. 9s. 9d. The former was a period of plenty, —in the latter provisions were exceedingly dear. The difference is £438. 19s. 6d. which shows at once the liberality of the directors, and a proper discrimination in the distribution of their assistance.

A considerable advantage is also derived from the improved management of children. Infants thrown on the parish from their birth are put out to nurse, where they remain till they are of age sufficient to be admitted into the house. The nurses are occasionally required to bring them before the directors, that they may observe what care is taken of them, and that the children may be identified, and those frauds guarded against which have not unfrequently been practised. When taken into the family, the children are placed under the care of the house nurses, the boys in one nursery, and the girls in another. As soon as they are capable, they every morning and afternoon attend the school-room, where they are taught to read. Many attempts have been made at employing the children and some of the adults in a woollen manufactory, conducted by servants under the inspection of

the directors, and although the project was so far crowned with success, that cloths of a good quality and in considerable abundance were produced by their labours, it turned out a very losing concern to the real interests of the institution, from the unavoidable ignorance of the directors in the various branches of a complicated machinery, and the consequent necessity of delegating its entire management to inferior agents. At present, the children are furnished with knitting, or other employments, which may be easily superintended and controlled, merely to prevent habits of idleness. As soon as their ages will admit, they are put parish apprentices.

Bridges.—In the ancient and present state of Shrewsbury, and in the topographical account of the County, the ancient bridges at this place are described as being fine specimens of the architecture of the times, and the mode of the fortification then used; and those that have succeeded them have an ample share of the improvement of the art in their construction.

The Welsh Bridge was formerly called St. George's from the adjoining hospital named after that Saint, and hence on the curious seal of the corporation, which represents a prospect of the town from this quarter, and of which an engraving is given, a shield charged with St. George's cross appears on one of the gates of Shrewsbury. At what period this bridge was erected does not appear. The old structure, as tradition asserts, and the appearance of the spot corroberates the assertion, succeeded to a bridge placed somewhat higher on the stream, and leading from the bottom of Roushill-lane to a house now called Stew, a stately specimen of the fortified bridge of ancient days. It consisted of seven arches, which having often been repaired with stone of different colours, had been mellowed by age into one rich and venerable tint. The gates of each extremity were of the finest kind of castellated building. That on the Welsh side was secured by a strong outwork, and to annoy an enemy who might attempt to pass the ford below, the battlements of the bridge nearest it were pierced with loops, and were more than usually bold and lofty. Over this gate was a massive square tower, with its herse and machicolated battlement. The chamber above it, in modern times, served as a guard-house for soldiers. The tower was taken down about the 1770. The gate nearest the town stood on the bridge within one arch of its extremity, and was of uncommon beauty. Its arch on the north side was in the most graceful manner of the pointed style, and was furnished with a portcullis and doors studded with iron; above was, as usual, a chamber lighted by a narrow window, and over it, a machicolated battlement peculiarly deep, and projecting much over the walls. In the centre of this, in a canopied niche, was the statue of a knight in complete armour, having one hand lifted on his breast, the other pointing to a device on a corbeil below, which was three roses carved on a stalk. When the tower was demolished, this statue, with the arms &c. were removed to the end of the Market-house. The surtout was emblazoned with the arms of France and England, quarterly. Erroneous traditions have long prevailed concerning the person whom this statue, as meant to represent. Some have given it to the Black Prince, others (and this has been the most general opinion) to Llewellyn, the unhappy Prince

of Wales; or to his brother David, executed here; and some even to Prince Arthur, eldest son of Henry VII. It is to one of these opinions that Roger Coke alludes, where speaking of General Monk's design to restore Charles II., he says, in his quaint manner, "and for the end for which a free Parliament was to be called, was interpreted by hanging out the King's picture, which was no less gazed upon by the Londoners, than by the Welshmen at King Taffy's Effigies at the Welsh gate at Shrewsbury." But these embellishments will help us to discover for whom the statue was really designed. This, it is conceived we shall find in Richard Duke of York, the father of Edward IV. That celebrated chieftain of the white rose was once the popular favourite and patron of Shrewsbury. The three roses issuing from one stem, probably denote his three sons, Edward, Earl of March, afterwards King; George, afterwards Duke of Clarence; and Richard Duke of Gloucester. The device is found in the seals of the Duke exactly as it was represented on the corbeil of the statue, and he was certainly the only Prince of his family who ever used it, which circumstance alone amounts to a proof that it was designed for him. The arms clearly ascertain that the figure could not have been meant to represent Llewellyn or David, Besides, had it been designed for either of these princes, or for the Black Prince, it would have been clad in linked mail; the plated armour of this statue, was the invention of a later era. On one side of the niche, was a shield with the arms of England and France quarterly, and on the other those of the corporation. Attached to each angle of the tower was a singularly elegant turret, the bases of which rested on the pier of the bridge. These were round until they reached the lower parrapet over the gate; they then spread into octagons, supported on corbeils, carved as cherubs, with a small painted window in each compartment, and were finished with a machicolated or projecting battlement. The side of this gate which faced the town was not less beautiful, though in a style entirely different, having been perhaps, one of the earliest attempts that had yet appeared in the kingdom, towards the revival of the architecture of Greece and Rome. This great opening was square, without an arch. Above was a lofty embattled tower, with its front adorned by two composite twisted columns, rudely designed, resting on scrolls, having a circular headed nicne between, and supporting aregular entablature, frieze, and cornice. On the left hand, a mantle was a shield, with the arms of the Corporrion, well carved, inclosed with fluted pilasters, and opposite a patera, charged with the cross of St. George. This front was erected in the year 1539, the other mnst have been earlier, for the styles were so perfectly dissimilar that the whole edifice could not have been the productinn of the same period. The Welsh side was probably built by Edward IV. The style of architecture, the statue of his father, and the great affection that Prince had for the town, seem to point out this, and it is further confirmed by his device of the three roses, as that was the whole number out of the Dkue's eight sons, who were then living: Henry, William, John, and Thomas, having died young, and Edmund, Duke of Rutland, having been slain at the battle of Wakefield. In the year 1791, under an unhappy prejudice that it endangered the safety of the bridge, this

beautifnl and curious gate, the chief architectural ornament the town possessed, was demolished by order of the corporation, to the regret of every person of taste, and every lover of antiquities acquainted with the transaction. The statues and shields were spared and placed in their present situation at the end of the Market-house. The destruction of the bridge itself soon followed.

During the mayoralty of John Bishop, Esq. 1790, the corporation offered to sell to the public their tolls of all marketable goods passing through the gates for £6000., which sum having been raised by a subscription, they were purchased, and immediately abolished. A further contribution was set on foot for rebuilding the Welsh Bridge, which, though an interesting monument of antiquity, was always inconvenient, and was then become ruinous. Towards this good work the corporation gave £4000., and the whole sum called for, amounting to about £8000., was procured in a few months.

The first stone of the new bridge was laid in the spring of 1792, and it was finished in 1795. The design which was given by Messrs. Tilley and Carline, stone-masons of the town, does them credit. It is a very convenient, substantial, and handsome edifice, consisting of five elegant arches, the length being two hundred and sixty-six feet, the breadth eighty, and the height thirty. A quay, faced with stone, adjoins the extremity nearest to Mardol, accomodated with warehouses. It is, however, to be regretted that the funds were not sufficient to enable the trustees to complete the approaches to the Welsh Bridge; that, especially on the Frankwell end, is still in a state of deformity and inconvenience very unsuitable to so respectable a building.

The English, or East Bridge, frequently called the Stone Bridge, is supposed to have been built by the abbots and burgesses conjointly, although subsequent litigations arose between the inhabitants of the town and those of the abbey, with regard to keeping it in order: it was, at length, agreed, that the part adjoining the town should be kept in repair by the burgesses, and the end next the monastery should be repaired by the monks:—the period at which the bridge was originally built, is not known. It, however, extended over the main stream of the river Severn, and a branch from it, which is now filled, and crosses the present road from the eastern extremity of the new bridge, under the abbey precinct. The portion of the bridge, covering the principal course of the Severn, was erected upon six arches of considerable extent, having a deep angular recess formed by the spandrill of each. The whole of the bridge, was constructed upon seventeen arches, which exhibited various styles of architecture, and were of varied dimensions. Within two arches of the eastern extremity, a massive gate and strong embattled tower, with its chamber and portcullis, was erected; and further on was a drawbridge. The arms of the Earl of Shrewsbury and of the Corporation, and the crest of the Prince of Wales, were fixed on the western side, over the arch of the gate. It is supposed that the tower, taken down in 1765, had been repaired with the materials of the old abbey. The arms of England and France appeared emblazoned on the back of one of the stones, upon which there was also thre

tabernacle niches in fine preservation, enclosing in the centre a figure of the Virgin Mary; on one side St. John, and on the other an abbot, in his costume, giving benediction.

This bridge being only twelve feet wide, and encumbered with old houses, proved, as the town advanced and increased, not only an inconvenient, but dangerous thoroughfare: a subscription was, in consequence, set on foot in 1765, for widening it, and some progress was made in the work, which was to have been completed upon a plan given by Mr. Mylne, the architect of Blackfriars' Bridge. Subscriptions and contributions continued to flow in so much more abundantly than was expected, principally arising from the persevering and active exertions of Roger Kynaston, Esq. of Hardwick, a most liberal friend to every provincial improvement, that the preceding plan was relinquished, and a determination entered into to remove the old bridge entirely, and to erect a new one in its stead. It was resolved this new bridge should be worthy this rich county, and an ornament to the noble river it was to adorn. Mr. Gwyn, a native of Shrewsbury, produced a plan which was highly approved of and adopted. Sir John Astley, who gave £1000., towards the building, laid the first stone on the 25th June, 1769: the whole expence of this noble structure amounted to £16000.—Thus as is remarked in the topographical description of the County, while cities of the greatest commercial importance have not been able to erect bridges, without the aid of tolls and forced contributions, the town of Shrewsbury may boast that it has accomodated the public with two noble structures of this kind, at no great distance from each other; and the neighbouring country has been for ever freed from a vexatious tax, which acted as a check upon its trade, and was the constant source of animosity, at the expence, altogether, of full £30,000., the whole of which was raised by a voluntary subscription of the inhabitants of the town and country:—a splendid but rare instance of provincial liberality.

This bridge extends to the length of four hundred feet, and is composed of the beautiful stone of Grindshill quarry: it is erected on seven semi-circular arches, and surmounted with a fine balustrade. The centre arch is sixty feet in width, and forty in height, from low water mark; and the two arches at the extremities are thirty-five feet wide, and twenty high. The breadth between the balustrade is twenty-five feet; and the embellishments altogether are light, airy, and graceful, and the elevation is acknowleged as chaste, and as claiming to be included amongst the most elegant modern structures in the kingdom. The entire edifice is viewed to the greatest advantage from the Ludlow road. Cooke remarks, that the great height of the centre arch of this bridge renders the ascent disagreeably steep, and the breadth is certainly inadequate to modern notions of convenience. The architect's meaning in giving so unusual a loftiness to the centre arch, was, probably to afford a freer passage to the prodigious floods which often inundate the country, and block up arches of common size. In the memorable flood of 1795, even the great arch was not more than capacious enough to receive the torrent that rushed against it.

Public Seminaries, &c.—The ancient Saxon monastery of St. Peter's appears to have

been the earliest seminary in this town, at least, of which any record remains, and which states, that Ordericus Vitalis, one of our best early historians, was educated here, and of whom the following account is given. He was the Ordericus, a priest of Attingham, (Atcham) where he was born in 1074. At five years old he was sent to the seminary, in the church of St. Peter, at Scrobbesbyrig, to which his father was a large benefactor. Here he remained until he attained his tenth year, when he was placed in the Benedictine abbey of Uticum, in Normandy, in which, at eleven, he received the tonsure of his order, and was then called Vitalis, because this, his first acceptance of the rule of St. Benedict, happened on that Saint's day. He appears to have been a person of curious research. His great work, which is entitled *An Ecclesiastical History*, is in effect an history of his own times. A fragment of it was published by Camden, in the collection of English historians sent to the press by him from Frankfort, in 1603. That learned writer calls it the *Caen Fragment*, and it is supposed to have been written by William de Poicteu, Archdeacon of Lesieux. The whole work was printed by Du Chesne, in his grand and accurate edition of Norman writers.

From the Conquest, until the dissolution, the Benedictine abbey, aided by the other ecclesiastical foundations, doubtless afforded opportunities for such education as the kingdom then possessed*

At the dissolution of religious houses and collegiate foundations in the time of Henry

* There were very few schools before the Reformation : youths were generally taught Latin in the monasteries, especially the Dominican, Franciscan, or Augustine Friaries, in which they officiated as choristers ; and where, as Erasmus says, "they had not above a month's time allowed them for learning grammar; and they were posted away immediately to sophistry, logic, suppositions, amphilations, restrictions, expositions, resolutions and a thousand other quibbles, and so on to the mysteries of divinity. But if they were brought to any classic author, Greek or Latin, they were blind, they were ignorant, they thought themselves in another world. Yet the age began to grow wiser, and to be versed in grammar was thought a matter of importance by all who were well-wishers to real learning." Many young men of rank were brought up in the families of the ecclesiastics, in which they were employed as pages. Young women had their education in the nunneries, where they learned reading, writing, needle-work, confectionary, and even surgery and physic, apothecaries being at that time very rare.—*Antiq. Repret.* We read in an old French Book, (*Le Grant Voyage de Jherusalem*, printed at Paris, 1517,) that Dame Bertha, mother of the Emperor Charlemagne, taught her daughters spinning, embroidery, and other arts, to employ them, that they might not be idle, that "idleness might not be the cause of sin," says the old writer. The first great school founded in England was the celebrated College of Bishop William of Wykeham at Winchester, in 1382. It is said that the munificent prelate was induced to this pious act, to remedy the evils then felt in the nation, for want of an educated clergy, for the great plague which a little before raged throughout the kingdom, swept away nearly one half of the people, and nine parts out of ten of the clergy. Colleges and schools were shut up; abbeys, priories, and churches, for the most part, deserted, and left without Divine Service; so that out of mere necessity, great numbers of illiterate laymen, who had lost their wives in the plague, though they could hardly read, much less understand the scriptures, were admitted into holy orders. This noble impulse of christian charity, in the foundation of schools, was one of the providential means of bringing about the Reformation; and it is, therefore, observable, that within thirty years before it, there were more grammar schools erected and endowed in England than had been in three hundred years preceding. After the Reformation was established, the piety and charity of Protestants ran so fast in the channel of founding schools, that in the next age there wanted rather a regulation of grammar schools than an increase of them.—*Knight, p.* 100.

VIII., and by the rapacity of the ministers of Edward VI., a trifling pittance only was left to the ministers of several churches which had been collegiate, or impropriations in abbeys, for the regular performance of Divine Worship.

Mr. Nightingale observes, that by the suppression of this seminary, at the dissolution of the abbey, the town was left without any establishment for public education, until the inhabitants, encouraged by the munificence of Edward VI. in refounding the free school of Wellington, in this County, represented their necessities to that monarch, who acceded to their request, and granted certain tythes from the former possessions of St. Mary's and St. Chad's, for the endowment of a school, under the title of a Free Grammar School of King Edward VI. Two masters were appointed; and the Bishop of Lichfield, with the bailiffs and burgesses, were denominated governors. Queen Elizabeth greatly augmented her brother's donation by giving the whole rectory of Chirbury, with additional tythes and estates belonging to St. Mary's. She conferred a second liberal donation at the instance of the excellent Thomas Ashton, master of the school, a descendant, probably, of the ancient family of that name in Lancashire. As a proof (continues Mr. N.) of the flourishing state of the establishment under him, it is recorded, that he had two hundred and ninety scholars, a number rarely exceeded by the great foundations of Westminster, Eton, and Winchester. Many of the first persons in the kingdom committed their youth to the care of Mr. Ashton's tuition; among the rest, Sir Henry Sidney, Lord Deputy of Ireland, and President of the Marches, sent his son, the afterwards illustrious Sir Philip Sidney, who here laid the foundation of his friendship with the celebrated Sir Fulk Greville, Lord Brooke. They both entered at Shrewsbury school on the same day. For the improvement his pupils Mr. Ashton introduced occasional dramatic exhibitions. Of one of these, an ancient manuscript gives the following account: "This yeare, 1568, at Whytsuntyde, was a notable stage play played at Shrosbery, which lastyd all the holydayes, unto which cam greate numbers of people, of noblemen and others,* the which was praysed gretely; and the chyffe auctor thereof was one Master Aston, being the head scoolemaster of the free scoole there, a godly and lerenyd man, who took marvellous pains therein."

At about this period, some verses were written by Churchyard, (a celebrated poet, born in this town, and of whom we shall hereafter give an account) who, after calling "Maister Astone a goode and godlie preacher," mentions the plays, and thus describes the rural theatre in the quarry, on which they were performed.

I had such haste in hope to be but brefe,
That monuments in Churches were forgot,
And somewhat more, behind the walls as ehlefe
Where playes have been, which is most worthy note
There is a ground new made, theatre wyse,
But deepe and hye, in goodlie auncient guyse;

* Among other inducements, the expectation of seeing the Queen, might have brought a considerable portion of this great multitude to Shrewsbury. The curiosity of Elizabeth had been excited by the fame of Ashton, and, in 1575, she advanced as far as Lichfield, on her way thither, when intelligence reached her that the plague, of which she had a great dread, had broken out in this neighbourhood, on which she changed her route, and proceeded to Worcester.—*Owen.*

Where well may sit ten thousand men at ease,
And yet the one the other not displease.
A place below to bayte both bull and beare,
For players too great roume and place at wyll;
And in the same a coke pit wond'rous fayre,
Besides where men may wrestle to their fill.

The School was subsequently governed for two centuries by a code of laws drawn up by Mr. Ashton, on his resignation. He also liberally bestowed a considerable donation, and evinced a lively and paternal interest in this foundation, to the latest period of his life; a short time before the close of which, he revisited the spot where he was so much beloved, and delived so pathetic a sermon to the inhabitants of Shrewsbury, that it produced their tears and blessings,—a just tribute to his merit and deserts. He, after taking his farewell, retired to his residence, contiguous to Cambridge, where he expired at the end of a fortnight—1578

Several other eminent persons have in modern times presided over the Free School of Shrewsbury, among whom, Mr. Nightingale observes, may be distinguished the Rev. Charles Newling, to whose respectable character many persons now living, who were educated under him, can bear testimony. He resigned in 1770, having been presented by Archbishop Cornwallis to the Rectory of St. Philip's, Birmingham, which he enjoyed with the next prebend and treasurership of the Cathedral of Lichfield, and the first portion of the Rectory of Westbury, in this County.

It is extraordinary that so noble a foundation as this should have at any time declined. It has been mainly attributed to certain defects in the ancient rules and ordinances; these however, have been remedied by an Act of Parliament passed in 1798, "for the better government and regulation of the Free Grammar School of Shrewsbury." By this act a power is vested in the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, as visitor, and in thirteen trustees or governors (of whom the mayor, during his period of office is one) in the management of the revenues, and in discharge or removal of Schoolmasters; the appointment of new ones remaining solely in St. John's College Cambridge.

The present Free School is not only a substantial, but also a stately structure, built with the Grindshill stone, surrounding two sides of a court, and has a square pinnacled tower in the centre. The gateway, which is in the centre, is adorned with rude Corinthian columns, surmounted with statues of a scholar and graduate, in the costume of the time at which it was erected, 1630. It contains some sepulchral and other curiosities of Roman origin, found near Wrotexeter, that have been fully described by Mr. Pennant and others, but which would exceed the limits of this work, as would a full account of the numerous eminent persons, who were educated at this school. Lord Chancellor Jefferies, generally termed the notorious Judge Jefferies, was educated here, but as he was not a native of Salop, it is unnecessary for us to enter into a full detail, for, as Mr. Nightingale observes of him—whatever were his talents as a lawyer, his character, as a monster of

cruelty has long been fully established. In him were united whatever could deform humanity, or excite a feeling of indignation in the hearts of the good and the virtuous. His cruelties on the Western Circuit, after the defeat of Monmouth, almost exceed credibility. His remains were discovered in 1810, by some workmen employed to repair the church of St. Mary, Aldermanbury. He died shortly after his committal to the tower, either of the bruises he had received from the populace, or of the effects of excessive drinking. He had previously resided at Aldermanbury, and his body, it now appears, remained a considerable time in the Tower, when it was privately interred by his family in this church. The discovery of the remains of so infamous a man greatly excited the public curiosity. After the popular feeling had been gratified, the coffin was replaced, and the stone is now fastened over it.

In addition to the superior Free School we have already noticed, three are three other institutions of an inferior description. These latter are for the education of the poor:—the first was established by a public subscription of the town at large, at the commencement of the eighteenth century, and is situated near the abbey church. The second was erected in 1724, by Mr. Thomas Bowdler, an alderman and draper of the town; it was founded for the laudable purpose of instructing, clothing and apprenticing of poor children, belonging to the parish of St. Julian's. In 1798, another and superior charity school was established by John Allatt, Esq. who was for several years chamberlayn of the corporation, and who munificently bequeathed his fortune and a noble garden at the foot of Swan-hill, for the endowment and erection of two schools, for the instruction of such poor children whose parents have not been burdensome to the parish. A certain sum is appropriated for, and expended annually in, coats for old men and gowns for widows. The school is built of fine free stone, and is not only a neat, but an elegant structure. United to the school rooms by arcades, are two commodious houses for the master and mistress. The whole expense of the building amounted to £2000. The master and mistress are paid and supported by the interest arising from the remainder of the property left by Mr. Allatt. The children, amounting to twenty boys and twenty girls, are instructed in reading, writing, and arithmetic: they are clothed twice a year, and are apprenticed from the school at a proper age.

A *Court of Conscience* for the recovery of small debts was granted to this town and liberty by Queen Elizabeth; and in 1783, an Act of Parliament was passed for establishing a Court of Requests for the recovery of debts in a summary way, not amounting to forty shillings, and exceeding two shillings.

The *Market-house* is exceedingly spacious, and was munificently built in 1595. The market is extremely well supplied; and here is a fish-market in a narrow lane called Fish-street.

The *Public Halls* do great credit to this ancient town. The *Theatre*, according to Philips, is part of the ancient palace of the Princess of Powis-land, and the council-house

has frequently been the Court of the Lords Presidents of Wales, during their visits to Shrewsbury. The White Hall, a neat stone house, and the Bell-stone house are ancient and curious structures. The old timber and half timber buildings are still pretty numerous in Shrewsbury; but the Depôt, erected by Government in 1806, does credit to the skill of the late Mr. Wyatt, who was employed as the architect. Besides magazines, offices, houses, &c. here is a room for 25,000 stand of arms.

The New County Gaol.—This structure superseded the old one, and was completed in 1793, after the plan of Mr. Howard. It is entirely separated from the town; and a little detached from the castle is a brick building, spacious, airy, and well supplied with water Over the arch of the gate is a fine bust of Howard, by Bacon. The internal regulations of this prison correspond with the neatness of its exterior. All prisoners are classed according to the nature and measure of their crimes; and males and females kept separate. There are no dark and dreary dungeons—no damp and noxious cells;—clothes and implements of labour are given to those who, on quitting the prison, are found worthy to receive a written certificate of their industry, penitence, and good behaviour. Bibles, prayer-books, and other religious works, are put into their hands; and every possible exertion is made to reclaim the wanderer and relieve the wretched.

The House of Correction, or County Bridewell, is within the new prison, and partook of the benefits of its government and regulations, till the prisoners of the town gaol were incorporated with those of the county.

Even the great private manufactories in Shrewsbury partake of the same moral government that pervades the public institutions.

Eminent Men, born in Shrewsbury.—Perhaps few towns of similar extent in England have produced a greater number of talented individuals than the one we are treating of. Various biographers, as well as the author of *The ancient and present State of Shrewsbury* —as also Mr. Nightingale and others—have given full and numerous details, from which we select the following personages:—

Thomas Churchyard, a poet of some note in his time, was a native of this town, but neither the incidents of his life, nor the merit of his writings, have been thought of sufficient importance to employ the pen of the biographer, or the skill of the critic, to any great extent: yet, he says of himself, he was a descendant "of a right good race," that flourished in the reign of Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth. His writings certainly discover him to have been a man of learning and taste. His principal work is entitled "*The Worthiness of Wales*," including Shropshire. It is written in very humble verse, and is noted only for its faithfulness of description. It was printed in 1587, and was reprinted in 1776, in 12mo. In 1558, he published a work bearing the following title, "*A Spark of Friendship and warm Goodwill, that shews the Effect of true Affection, and unfolds the Fineness of this World.*" This tract was printed in London, and is dedicated to Sir Walter Raleigh, Knight, whom the author calls his "honourable friend."

This dedication is dated "London, at my Lodging, the 8th of March." Mention is made of it in his "*Book of Choice*," and that, as "a matter to be mused at," he had "sixteen several books printed, presently to be bought, dedicated in sundry seasons, to several men of good and great credit," yet he complains, that "not one among them all, from the first day of his labours and studies, to that present year and hour, had any way preferred his suits, amended his state, or given him any countenance." This complaint, not uncommon even with authors of more modern times, it should seem, was not made without some provocation; for Mr. Churchyard, a little further on, confesses that he "shews a kind of adulation to fawn or favour on those that are happy," justifying his conduct as "a point of wisdom, which his betters had taught him," seeing he "had read in a great book of Latin, printed four hundred years before, that one of Sir Walter's ancestors," and of the same name, "had more fawners and followers than even Sir Walter himself," and thus, like many other prudent men, our author "took example from the fish that follow the stream, the fowls that come to the covert from the winds, and the brute beasts that avoid a sturdy storm—under the safeguard of a strong and flourishing tree." It is to be feared, however, that all poor Churchyard's "crafty forecasting" eventually rendered him no essential service, for his epitaph, written by himself, is as follows:—

"Come, Alecto, and lend me thy torch,
To find a Churchyard in a church porch;
Poverty and Poetry this tomb do enclose,
Wherefore, good neighbours, be merry in prose."

According to Anthony Wood, Mr. Churchyard died in 1605, and was buried in St. Margaret's church, Westminster.

John Benbow, Vice-Admiral of the Blue Squadron, and one of the most eminent English seamen mentioned in our histories, was born at Shrewsbury, about the year 1650, and descended from a very ancient, worthy family; though his father, Colonel John Benbow, and most of his relations, were much reduced by their loyal adherence to the cause of King Charles I., and by the readiness they showed to assist King Charles II. in endeavouring to recover his rights, when he advanced with the Scots army as far as Worcester. His father dying when he was very young, left his son no other provision than that of the profession to which he was bred, viz. the sea, a profession to which he had naturally a great propensity, and in which he succeeded so happily, that before he was thirty, he became master, and in a good measure owner, of a ship called the Benbow Frigate, employed in the Mediterranean trade, in which he would probably have acquired a good estate, if an accident, that happened to him in the last voyage he made, had not given a new turn to his fortunes, and brought him to serve in the British navy with equal

reputation to himself, and good fortune to his country, to which he rendered many and very important services.

In the year 1686, Captain Benbow, in his own vessel before mentioned, was attacked on his passage to Cadiz by a Salle rover, against which he defended himself, though very unequal in the number of men, with the utmost bravery, till at last the Moors boarded him, but were quickly beat out of the ship again, with the loss of thirteen men, whose heads Captain Benbow ordered to be cut off, and thrown into a tub of pork pickle. When he arrived at Cadiz, he went ashore, and ordered a negro servant to follow him with the Moors' heads in a sack. He had scarcely landed, before the officers of the revenue inquired of his servant what he had in his sack? The captain answered, salt provisions for his own use. That may be, answered the officers, but we must insist upon seeing them. Captain Benbow alledged, that he was no stranger there, that he did not use to run goods, and pretended to take it ill that he was suspected. The officers told him that the magistrates were sitting not far off, and that if they were satisfied with his word, his servant might carry the provisions where he pleased, but that otherwise it was not in their power to grant any such dispensation. The captain consented to the proposal, and away they marched to the Custom house, Mr. Benbow in front, his man in the centre, and the officers in the rear. The magistrates, when he came before them, treated Captain Benbow with great civility, told him they were sorry to make a point of such a trifle, but that since he had refused to show the contents of his sack to their officers, the nature of their employment obliged them to demand a sight of them; and that, as they doubted not they were salt provisions, the showing them could be no great consequence one way or other. "*I told you,*" said the captain sternly, *they were salted provisions for my own use. Cæsar, throw them down upon the table, and, Gentlemen, if you like them, they are at your service.* The Spaniards were exceedingly struck at the sight of the Moors' heads, and no less astonished at the account of the captain's adventure, who with so small a force, had been able to defeat such a number of barbarians. They sent an account of the whole matter to the court of Madrid, and Charles II., then King of Spain, was so much pleased with it, that he wished to see the English captain, who made a journey to Court, where he was received with great testimonies of respect, and not only dismissed with a handsome present, but his Catholic majesty was also pleased to write a letter on his behalf to King James, who, upon the captain's return, gave him a ship, which was his introduction to the royal navy.

After the Revolution, he was constantly employed, and frequently, at the request of the merchants, was appointed to cruize in the channel, where he did very great service, as well in protecting our trade, as in annoying and distressing that of the enemy. He was likewise generally made choice of for bombarding the French ports, in which he showed the most intrepid courage, by going in person in his boat to encourage and protect the engineers, who, for that reason, were very solicitous that he should command the escorts whenever they went upon those hazardous enterprizes, in which they knew he would not

expose them more than was absolutely necessary, and that he would put them upon running no sort of danger, in which he did not willingly take his share. t is certain that several of those dreadful bombardments had great effects, spoiled several ports, and terrified the French to the last degree, notwithstanding all the precautions their government could take to keep up their spirits.

The vigour aud activity of Captain Benbow, in every service on which he was employed, recommended him so effectually to his royal-master, King William, who was both a good judge of men, and always willing to reward merit, that he was early promoted to a flag, and entrusted with the care of blocking up Dunkirk; the privateers from thence proving extremely detrimental to our trade during all that war. In 1695 we find him thus employed with a few English and Dutch Ships, when the famous *Du Bart* had the good luck to escape him with nine sail of Ships, with which he did a great deal of mischief both to our trade and that of the Dutch. Rear-Admiral Benbow, however, followed him as well as he could; but the Dutch ships having, or pretending to have, no orders, quitted him which hindered him from going to the Doggerbank, as he intended, and obliged him to sail to Yarmouth Roads; into which he was hardly come, before he received advice that Du Bart had fallen in with the Dutch fleet of seventy merchantmen, escorted by five frigates, and that he had taken all the latter, and thirty of the vessels under their convoy; which might probably have been prevented if the Rear-Admiral had sailed, as he intended, to the Doggerbank, and could have persuaded the Dutch to have continued with him. As it was, he safely convoyed a great fleet of merchantmen, to Gottenburgh, and then returned to Yarmouth Roads, and from thence to the Downs for a supply of provisions. He aferwards resumed his design of seeking Du Bart; but his ships being faster sailers than the Rear-Admiral's, he escaped him a second time, thuogh once within sight of him; but, however, he secured three English East Indiamen, that came north about, and brought them safe home.

In 1697 he sailed, the 10th of April, from Spithead with seven third-rates and two fire-ships, and after some time, returned to Portsmouth for provisions; after which, he had the good fortune to join the Virginia and West India fleets, and saw them safe into port. He then repaired to Dunkirk, where he received from Captain Bowman two orders or instructions from the Lords of the Admiralty: one to pursue Du Bart, and destroy his ships, if possible, at any place, except under the forts in Norway and Sweden; the other, to obey the King's commands, pursuant to an Order from his Majesty for that purpose. On the 30th of July, Rear-Admiral Vendergoes joined him with eleven Dutch ships, when he proposed that one of the squadrons should be so placed, that Dunkirk might be south of them, and the other in or near Ostend Road, that if Du Bart should attempt to pass, they might the better discover him; but all the answer he received from the Dutch commander was, that his ships being foul, they were not in a condition to pursue him: Rear-Admiral Benbow being disappointed in this project immediately formed another, for observing in

the beginning of August that ten French frigates were hauled into the basin to clean, he judged their design to be, what it really proved, to put to sea by the next spring tide; and, therefore, as his ships were all foul, he wrote to the Board to desire that four of the best sailers might be ordered to Shearness to clean, and that the others might come to the Downs, not only to take in water, which they very much wanted, but also to heel and scrub, which he judged might be done before the next spring tide gave the French an opportunity of getting over the bar; but this was not then thought adviseable, though he afterwards received orders for it, when it was too late.

By this unlucky accident, the French had an opportunity given them of getting out with five clean ships; which, however, did not hinder the Admiral from pursuing them as well as he was able, and some ships of his squadron had the good luck to take a Dunkirk privateer of ten guns and sixty men, which had done a great deal of mischief. This was one of the last actions of the war, and the Rear-Admiral soon after received orders to return home with the squadron under his command. It is very remarkable, that as the disappointments we met with in the course of this war, occasioned very loud complaints against such as had the direction of our maritime affairs, and against several of our admirals, there was not one word said, in any of the warm and bitter pamphlets of those times, to the prejudice of Mr. Benbow. On the contrary, praises were bestowed upon him in many of those pieces, and his vigilance and activity made him equally the darling of the seamen and the merchants; the former giving him the strongest marks of their affection, and the latter frequently returning him thanks for the signal services he did them, and for omitting no opportunity that offered, of protecting their commerce, even in cases where he had no particular orders to request or require his service. But to consider these passages as instances only of his merit and their gratitude, and not to imagine them in any degree owing to his affecting popularity, which was by no means the case. He was a plain downright seaman, and spoke and acted upon all occasions without any respect of persons, and with the utmost freedom.

After the conclusion of the peace at Ryswick, and even while the partition treaties were negotiating, King William formed a design of doing something considerable in the West Indies, in case his pacific views should be disappointed, or Charles II. of Spain should die suddenly as was daily expected. There were, indeed, many reasons which rendered the sending a squadron at that time into those parts highly useful and requisite. Our colonies were in a very weak and defenceless condition, the seas swarmed with pirates, the Scots had established a colony at Darien, which very unluckily for them, gave the English very little satisfaction, at the same time that it provoked the Spaniards very much. King William himself fixed upon Rear-Admiral Benbow to command this squadron, which proved but a very small one, consisting only of three fourth-rates; and when he went to take upon him his command, he received private instructions from the King to make the best observations he could on the Spanish ports and settlements, but to keep as fair as

possible with the governors, and to afford them any assistance he could, if they desired it. He was likewise instructed to watch the galleons, for the King of Spain, Charles II. was then thought to be in a dying condition.

Rear-Admiral Benbow sailed in the month of November, 1698, and did not arrive in the West Indies till the February following, where he found things in a very indifferent situation. Most of our colonies were in a bad condition, many of them engaged in warm disputes with their governors, the forces that should have been kept in them for their defence, so reduced by sickness, desertion, and other accidents, that little or nothing was to be expected from them; but the Admiral carried with him Colonel Collingwood's regiment, which he disposed of to the best advantage in the Leeward Islands. This part of his charge being executed, he began to think of performing the other part of his commission, and of looking into the state of the Spanish affairs, as it had been recommended to him by the King; and a proper occasion for doing so speedily offered, for being informed that the Spaniards, or Carthagenians, had seized two of our ships with an intention to employ them in an expedition they were then meditating against the Scots at Darien, he, like a brave and spirited commander, as he really was, resolved to prevent it, and restore those ships to their right owners. With this view he stood over the Spanish coast, and coming before *Boccachica* castle, he sent his men ashore for wood and water, which, though he asked with great civility of the Spanish governor, he would scarcely permit him to take. This highly nettled the Admiral, who thereupon sent his own lieutenant to the governor, with a message, importing that he not only wanted those necessaries, but that he came likewise for three English ships that lay in the harbour, and had been detained there for some time, which, if not sent immediately, he would come and take by force. The governor answered him in very respectful terms, that if he would leave his present station, in which he seemed to block up their port, the ships should be sent out to him. With this request the Admiral complied; but finding the governor trifled with him, and that his men were in danger of falling into the country distemper, which they thought the Spanish governor foresaw, he sent him another message, that if in twenty-four hours the ships were not sent him, he would come and fetch them; and that if he kept them longer than the time, he would have an opportunity of seeing the regard an English officer had to his word. The Spaniards, however, did not think fit to make the experiment, but sent out the ships within the time, with which the Admiral returned to Jamaica. There he received an account that the Spaniards at Porto Bello had seized several of our ships employed in the slave trade, on the old pretence, that the settlement at Darien was a breach of peace. At the desire of the parties concerned, the Admiral sailed thither also, and demanded these ships, but received a surly answer from the Admiral of the Barlovento fleet, who happened to be then at Porto Bello. Rear-Admiral Benbow expostulated with him on this head, insisting, that as the subjects of the Crown of England had never injured those of his Catholic Majesty, he ought not to make prize of their ships for injuries done by another nation. The Spaniards

shrewdly replied, that since both crowns stood on the same head, it is no wonder that he took the subjects of the one crown for the other. After many altercations, however, and when the Spaniards saw that the colony at Darien received no assistance from Jamaica, the ships were with much to do restored. The Admiral in the mean time, sailed in quest of one Kidd, a pirate, who had done a great deal of mischief in the East and West Indies. On his return to Jamaica, towards the latter end of the year, he received a supply of provisions from England, and, soon after, orders to return home, which he did with six men-of-war, taking New England in his way, and arrived safe, bringing with him from the plantations sufficient testimonials of his having discharged his duty, which secured him from all danger of censure, though the House of Commons expressed very high resentment at some circumstances that attended the sending this fleet. But in regard to the Admiral, the greatest compliments were paid to his courage, capacity, and integrity by all parties; and the King, as a signal mark of all his services, granted him an augmentation of *arms*, consisting in adding to the *three bent bows*, he already bore, as many *arrows;* which single act of royal favour sufficiently destroys the foolish report of his being of mean extraction. His conduct in this expedition raised him so much in the King's esteem, that he consulted him as much or more than any man of his rank, and yet without making the Admiral himself vain, or exposing him, in any degree, to the dislike of the ministers.

It may easily be imagined, that in the time the Rear-Admiral spent in the West Indies the face of affairs was much changed; indeed, so much were they changed, that the King was forced to think of a new war, though he was sensible the nation suffered severely from the effects of the old one. His first care, therefore, was to put his fleet in the best order possible, and to distribute the commands therein to officers that he could depend upon; and to this it was that Mr. Benbow owed his being promoted to the rank of Vice-Admiral of the Blue. He was at that time cruising off Dunkirk, in order to prevent, what was then much dreaded here, an invasion. There was yet no war declared between the two crowns, but this was held to be no security against France; and it was no sooner known that they were fitting out a squadron at Dunkirk, than it was firmly believed to be intended to cover a descent. Vice-Admiral Benbow satisfied the ministry that there was no danger on this side, and then it was resolved to prosecute without delay the projects formerly concerted, in order to disappoint the French in their views upon the Spanish succession; and to facilitate this, it was thought necessary to send immediately a strong squadron to the West Indies. This squadron was to consist of two third-rates and eight fourths, which was as great a strength as could be at that time spared; and it was thought perfectly requisite that it should be under the command of an officer whose courage and conduct might be relied on, and whose experience might give the world a good opinion of the choice made of him for this command, upon the right management of which, it was believed, the success of the approac hing war would in a great measure depend.

Mr. Benbow was thought of by the ministry as soon as the expedition was determined; but the King would not hear of it. He said that Benbow was in a manner just come home from thence, where he had met with nothing but difficulties; and, therefore, it was but fit some other officer should take his turn. One or two were named and consulted; but either their health or their affairs were in such disorder, that they most earnestly desired to be excused;—upon which the King said merrily to some of his ministers, alluding to the dress and appearance of some of these gentlemen, "*Well then, I find we must spare our beaus, and send honest Benbow.*" His Majesty accordingly sent for him upon this occasion, and asked him whether he was willing to go to the West Indies; assuring him that if he was not, he would not take it at all amiss if he desired to be excused. Mr. Benbow answered bluntly, that he did not understand such compliments; that he thought he had no right to choose his station; and that, if his Majesty thought fit to send him to the East or West Indies, or any where else, he would cheerfully execute his orders, as became him. Thus the matter was settled in very few words, and the command of the West India squadron conferred, without any mixture of envy, on Vice-Admiral Benbow.

To conceal the design of this squadron, and, above all, to prevent the French from having any just notion of its force, George Rooke, then Admiral of the fleet, had orders to convoy it as far as the Isles of Scilly, and to send a strong squadron with it thence, to see it well into the sea; all which he punctually performed; so that Admiral Benbow departed in the month of October, 1701, the world, in general, believing that he was gone with Sir John Munden, who commanded the squadron that accompanied him into the Mediterranean; and to render this more creditable, the Dutch minister at Madrid was ordered to demand the free use of all the Spanish ports, which was accordingly performed. As soon as it was known in England that Vice-Admiral Benbow was sailed with ten ships only for the West Indies, and it was discovered that the great armament at Brest was intended for the same part of the world, a mighty clamour was raised here at home, as if he had been sent only to be sacrificed; and heavy reflections were made upon the activity of our grand fleet; whereas, in truth, the whole affair had been conducted with all imaginable prudence, and the Vice-Admiral had as considerable a squadron, as, all things maturely weighed, it was, in that critical juncture, thought possible to be spared. It is certain that King William formed great hopes of this expedition, knowing well that Mr. Benbow would execute, with the greatest spirit and punctuality, the instructions he had received; which were, to engage the Spanish governors, if possible, to disown King Philip; or, in case that could not be brought about, to make himself master of the galleons. In this design it is plain that the Admiral would have succeeded, notwithstanding the smallness of his force, if his officers had done their duty; and it is no less certain, that the anxiety the Vice-Admiral was under about the execution of his orders, was the principal reason for his maintaining so strict a discipline, which proved unluckily the occasion of his coming to an untimely end. Yet there is no reason to censure either the King's project, or the Admiral's conduct; both were

right in themselves, though neither was attended with the success it deserved, which is too often the case, even in the best concerted expeditions.

The French had the same reasons that we had to be very attentive to what passed in the West Indies; and it must be acknowledged, that they prosecuted their designs with great wisdom and circumspection; and, which is very extraordinary, they so contrived, as to send for this purpose a force, much superior to that of ours, which, however, would have availed them little, if the Admiral's officers had been of the stamp with himself. The Admiral's squadron, consisting of two third and eight fourth-rates, arrived at Barbadoes on the 3rd of November, 1701, from whence he sailed to the Leeward Islands, in order to examine the state of the French colonies and our own.

He found the former in some confusion, and the latter in so good a situation, that he thought he ran no hazard in leaving them to go to Jamaica, where, when he arrived, his fleet was in so good a condition, the Admiral, officers, and seamen most of them being used to the climate, that he had not occasion to send above ten men to the hospital, which was looked upon as a very extraordinary thing. There he received advice of two French squadrons being arrived in the West Indies, which alarmed the inhabitants of that island and of Barbadoes very much.

After taking care, as far as his strength would permit, of both places, he formed a design of attacking Petit Guavas; but before he could execute it, he had intelligence that Monsieur du Casse was in the neighbourhood of Hispaniola, with a squadron of French ships, with an intention to settle the Assiento in favour of the French, and to destroy the English and Dutch trade for negroes. Upon this he detached Rear-Admiral Whetstone in pursuit of him, and on the 11th of July, 1702, he sailed from Jamaica, in order to have joined the Rear-Admiral, but having intelligence that Dn Casse was expected at Ceogone, on the north side of Hispaniola, he plied for that port, before which he arrived on the twenty-seventh. Not far from the town he perceived several ships at anchor, and one under sail, who sent out her boat to discover his strength, which, coming too near, was taken; from the crew of which they learned, that there were six merchant ships in the port, and that the ship they belonged to was a man-of-war, of fifty guns, which the Admiral pressed so hard, that the Captain seeing no possibility of escaping, ran the ship on shore and blew her up. On the twenty-eighth the Admiral came before town, where he found a ship of about eighteen guns hauled under the fortifications, which, however, did not hinder his burning her.

The rest of the ships sailed before day, in order to get into a better harbour, viz., *Cul-de-Sac.* But some of our ships, between them and that port, took three of them, and sunk a fourth. The Admiral, after alarming Petit Guavas, which he found it impossible to attack, sailed for Donna Maria Bay, where he continued till the beginning of August, when having received advice that Monsieur Du Casse was sailed for Carthagena, and from thence was to sail to Porto Bello, he resolved to follow him, and accordingly sailed that day for the

Spanish coast of Santa Martha. On the nineteenth of August, in the afternoon, he discovered ten sail near that place, steering westward along the shore under their top-sails, four of them from sixty to seventy guns, one a great Dutch-built ship, of about thirty or forty, another full of soldiers, three small vessels, and a sloop. The Vice-Admiral coming up with them, about four the engagement began. He had disposed his line-of-battle in the following manner, viz., the *Defiance, Pendennis, Windsor, Breda, Greenwich, Ruby* and *Falmouth.* But two of these ships, the Defiance and the Windsor, did not stand above two or three broadsides before they loofed out of gun-shot, so that the two sternmost ships of the enemy lay on the Admiral, and galled him very much, nor did the ships in the rear come up to his assistance with the diligence they ought to have done.

The fight lasted, however, till dark; and though the firing then ceased, the Vice-Admiral kept them company all night. The next morning, at break of day, he was near the French ships, but none of his squadron, except the *Ruby*, was with him, the rest being three, four, or five miles astern. Notwithstanding this, the French did not fire a gun at the Vice-Admiral, though he was within their reach. At two in the afternoon the French drew into a line, though at the same time they made what sail they could without fighting. However, the Vice-Admiral and the *Ruby* kept them company all night, firing their chase guns. Thus the Vice-Admiral continued pursuing, and at some times skirmishing with the enemy, for four days more, but was never duly seconded by several of the ships of the squadron.

The twenty-third, about noon, the Admiral took from them a small English ship, called the *Anne Galley*, which they had taken off Lisbon; and the *Ruby* being disabled, he ordered her to Port-Ryal. About eight at night, the whole squadron was up with the Vice-Admiral, and the enemy was not two miles off. There was now a prospect of doing something, and the Vice-Admiral made the best of his way after them; but his whole squadron, except the Falmouth, fell astern again. At two in the morning, the twenty-fourth, the Vice-Admiral came up with the enemy's sternmost ship, and fired his broadside, which was returned by the French very briskly, and about three the Vice-Admiral's right leg was broken to pieces by a chain shot. In this condition he was carried down to be dressed, and while the surgeon was at work, one of his lieutenants expressed great sorrow for the loss of his leg, upon which the Admiral said unto him, "*I am sorry for it too, but I had rather have lost them both than have seen this dishonour brought upon the English nation. But, do ye hear, if another shot should come and take me off, behave like brave men, and fight it out.*"

As soon as it was practicable, he caused himself to be carried up, and placed, with his cradle, upon the quarter-deck, and continued the fight till day. They then discovered the ruins of one of the enemy's ships, that carried seventy guns, her main-yard down and shot to pieces, her fore-top-sail yard shot away, her mizen-mast shot by the board, all her rigging gone, and her sides torn to pieces. The Admiral soon after discovered the enemy standing towards him with a strong gale of wind. The *Windsor, Pendennis,* and *Greenwich,* a-head

of the enemy, came to the leeward of the disabled ship, returning about twenty guns: the *Defiance* put her helm a-weather, and ran away right before the wind, lowered both her top-sails, and ran right into the leeward of the *Falmouth*, without any regard to the signal of battle.

The enemy, seeing the other two ships stand to the southward, expected they would have tacked and stood towards them, and, therefore, they brought their heads to the northward; but when they saw those ships did not tack, they immediately bore down upon the Admiral, ran between their disabled ship and his, and poured in all their shot, by which they brought down his main-top-sail yard, and shattered his rigging very much, none of the other ships being near him, or taking the least notice of his signals, though Captain Fogg ordered two guns to be fired at the ship's head, in order to put them in mind of their duty.

The French, seeing things in this condition, brought to, and lay by their own disabled ship, re-manned and took her into tow. The *Breda's* rigging being much shattered, she was forced to lie by till ten o'clock, and being then refitted, the Admiral ordered the Captain to pursue the enemy, then about three miles to the leeward, his line-of-battle signal out all the while; and Captain Fogg, by the Admiral's orders, sent to the other captains to order them to keep the line and behave like men. Upon this Captain Kirby came on board to the Admiral, and told him "*He had better desist, the French were very strong, and that, from what had passed, he might guess he could make nothing of it.*" The brave Admiral Benbow, more surprised at this language than all that had hitherto happened, said very calmly, that this was but one man's opinion, and, therefore, made a signal for the rest of the captains to come on board, which they did, in obedience to his orders, but when they came, they fell too easily into Captain Kirby's sentiments, and, in conjunction with him signed a paper, importing "*that,*" as he had before told the Admiral, "*there was nothing more to be done:* though at this very time they had the fairest opportunity imaginable of taking or destroying the enemy's whole squadron; for our's consisted then of a ship of seventy guns, one of sixty-four, one of sixty, and three of fifty, their yards, masts—and, in general, all their tackle in as good condition as could be expected, the Admiral's own ship excepted, in which their loss was considerable; but in the rest they had only eight killed and wounded; nor were they in any want of ammunition necessary to continue the fight.

The enemy, on the other hand, had but four ships of between sixty and seventy guns, one of which was entirely disabled and in tow, and all the rest very roughly handled; so that even now, if these officers had done their duty, it is morally certain they might have taken them all. But Vice-Admiral Benbow, seeing himself absolutely without support, (his own captain having signed the paper before mentioned) determined to give over the fight, and to return to Jamaica, though he could not help declaring openly, that it was against his own sentiments, in prejudice to the public service, and the greatest dishonour that had ever befallen the English navy.

The French, glad of their escape, continued their course towards the Spanish coasts, and the English soon arrived safe in Port Royal harbour, where, as soon as the Vice-Admiral came on shore, he ordered the officers who had so scandalously misbehaved to be brought out of their ships and confined; and immediately after directed a commission to Rear-Admiral Whetstone to hold a Court-martial for their trial, which was accordingly done; and, upon the fullest and clearest evidence that could be desired, some of the most guilty were condemned, and suffered according to their deserts.

Some of the French writers (according to their usual custom) have given quite another turn to this transaction, and have endeavoured to make the world believe, that the bravery of his men, and the conduct of Commodore Du Casse, enabled him to beat an English squadron of superior force, and that, if he had been apprised of the shattered condition to which he had reduced them, he might have pursued and taken several, if not all the ships of which it consisted. But Du Casse himself, who was both a brave officer and an able seaman, was far enough from treating things in this way, and candidly acknowledged that he had a very lucky and unlooked-for escape. As for Vice-Admiral Benbow, though he so far recovered from the fever, induced by his broken leg, as to be able to attend the trials of the captains who had deserted him, and thereby vindicated his own honour and that of his nation; yet he still continued in a declining state, occasioned partly by the state of the climate, but chiefly from the grief which this miscarriage occasioned, as appeared by his letters to his lady, in which he expressed much more concern for the condition in which he was likely to leave public affairs in the West Indies, than his own. During all the time of his illness, he behaved with great calmness and presence of mind, having never flattered himself, from the time his leg was cut off, with any hopes of recovery, but showed an earnest desire to be as useful as he could while he was yet living, giving the necessary directions for stationing the ships of his squadron for protecting the commerce and incommoding the enemy.

He continued thus discharging his duty to the last moment; for dying of a sort of consumption, his spirits did not fail him till near his end; and his senses were very sound to the day he expired, which was the fourth of November, 1702. His royal mistress spoke of his loss, when she heard of it, with great tenderness and concern; and it may be truly said, that no man of his rank was more sincerely regretted by the bulk of the nation; so that one cannot help wondering at the singular method taken by a certain historian, to sink the names of those offenders, who so justly suffered for betraying so brave a man; and, at the same time treating the Vice-Admiral's character with apparent marks of disrespect.

The Vice-Admiral's sister made a present of his picture to the corporation of Shrewsbury, who caused it to be hung up in the Town-hall, where it remains as a testimony of the regard his countrymen have for the memory of so brave a man, so gallant an officer, and so true a patriot, who manifested his love to his country,

not by fair professions and fine speeches, but by spending his whole life in their service.

The Vice-Admiral left behind him a widow and several children of both sexes; but his sons dying without issue, his two surviving daughters became co-heiresses, of whom the eldest married Paul Calton, Esq. of Milton, near Abingdon, in Berks, who was a person of great reading and general knowledge, very communicative, and had a great desire that the memory of his worthy father-in-law should be transmitted to posterity with due honour, and with a just regard to truth. It is certain that, but for his attention in this respect, the public had been deprived of the most curious circumstances relative to the actions of this great man, and known nothing more of him than had been preserved in the traditional recitals of sailors, who were remarkably fond of claiming Benbow as their own, and were sure to mention him in every dispute where the virtue of the tars was called into question. Benbow and Shovell were their favourites: they were sailors, rose by being sailors, and were proud of being sailors, much more than of their flags: men who had by a long obedience learned how to command, and who directed such as served under them as much by example as by orders. In one word they were men distinguished in and by their profession, and who, after many years' employment, left behind them small fortunes and great reputation.

John Taylor, a learned English divine, writer on civil law, and antiquary, was born at Shrewsbury in 1701, died 1765, leaving valuable editions of "Lysias" and "Demosthenes." He was the son of a barber, and the grandson of the Rev. John Taylor, third master of Shrewsbury school. The father of the younger Taylor, in following the humble occupation of a barber, designed his son for the same business, but his biographer states, that a strong passion for letters, which early displayed itself, being providentially fostered by the generous patronage of a neighbouring gentleman, enabled young Taylor to fill a far higher station in society than that to which he was entitled by his birth. The steps which led to this happy change in his situation are worthy of notice. Taylor, the father, being accustomed to attend Edward Owen, of Condover, Esq. in capacity of barber, that gentleman used occasionally to inquire into the state of his family, for what trade he designed his son, &c. These inquiries never failed to produce a lamentation from the old man of the untoward disposition of his son Jack, whom, said he, I cannot get to dress a wig, or shave a beard, so perpetually is he poring over books. Such complaints, often repeated, at length awakened the attention of Mr. Owen, who determined to send him to the University, chiefly at his own expense. St. John's, in Cambridge, which has an intimate connexion with the Free-school of Shrewsbury, naturally presented itself as the place of his academical education, and Mr. Taylor was, doubtless, assisted by one of the exhibitions founded in that college for the youth of the school. Under this patronage he pursned his studies in the University, and regularly

took his degrees: that of B. A. in 1724, and of M. A. in 1728. Thus employed in his favourite occupations, the periods of his return into his native country were the only times which threw a transient cloud over the happy tenor of his life. On such occasions he was expected to visit his patron, and to partake of the noisy scenes of riotous jollity exhibited in the hospitable mansions of a country gentleman of those days. The gratitude of young Taylor taught him the propriety of making these sacrifices of his own comfort; but it could not prevent him from sometimes whispering his complaint into the ears of his intimate friends. A difference of political opinion offered a more serious ground of dissension. A great majority of the gentlemen of Shropshire were, at that period, strenuous in their good wishes for the abdicated family. Though educated at Cambridge, Mr. Taylor retained his attachment to toryism, but he did not adopt all its excesses, and he at length forfeited the favour of his patron, without the hopes of a reconciliation, by refusing to drink a Jacobite toast on his bare knees, as was then the custom. This refusal precluded him from all hopes of sharing in the great ecclesiastical patronage at that time enjoyed by the Condover family, and inclined him, perhaps, to abandon the clerical profession for the practise of a civilian. But however painful to his feelings this quarrel with his benefactor might prove, he had the consolation to reflect that it could not now deprive him of an easy competence. His character as a scholar was established at the University; he was become a fellow and tutor of his college; and on the 30th of January, 1730, he was appointed to deliver the Latin Oration, then annually pronounced in St. Mary's before the University on that solemn anniversary; and at the following commencement, he was selected to speak the Music Speech. This annual performance was supposed to require an equal share of learning and genius, for, besides a short compliment in Latin to the heads of the University, the orator was expected to produce a humorous copy of verses on the fashionable topics of the day, for the entertainment of the female part of his audience; and in the execution of this office (derived, like the Terra Filius of Oxford, from the festivities of a grosser age) sometimes indulged a licentiousness which surprizes one on perusal.* The music speech of Mr.

* Dr. Long, the astronomer, then Mr. Long, being appointed to deliver the Music Speech in 1714, chose for his subject the complaint of the ladies for not being permitted to sit in the seats of the Doctors, or heads of houses, in St. Mary's church, called the THRONE, and for being obliged to descend from that eminence to places assigned them in the chancel. The following lines are extracted from this whimsical performance;

"Some here, since scarlet has such charms to win ye,
For scarlet gowns have laid out many a guinea,
Though I should think ye had far better wed
The young in sable, than the old in red;
There's one among our doctors may be found,
Values his face above a thousand pounds;
But if you stand, he'll something 'bate perhaps,
Provided that you don't insist on sharpes:

Taylor is sufficiently free, and though it does some credit to his poetical talents, is not very civil to his contemporaries of Oxford, whom he openly taxes with retaining their fellowships and wives at the expense of their oaths; or of Trinity College, his own University, whom he ironically represents as the only members of Cambridge who could wipe off the stigma imputed to them by the sister University.

"———If the picture be'nt exactly true,
The thanks to white-glov'd Trinity is due.
What, though our Johnian plead but scanty worth,
Cold and ungenial as his native North,——
The *Jesuit* cloister'd in his pensive cell,
Where vapours dark with contemplation dwell;
Though politics engross the sons of Clare,
Nor yields the state one moment to the fair;
Though Bennet moulds in indolence and ease,
And whisk prolong the balmy rest of Kayes;
And one continued solemn slumber reigns
From untun'd Sidney to protecting Queens.
Yet, O ye fair!
Let this one dressing, dancing rare, atone
For all the follies of the pedant gown:
The Templar need not blush for such allies,—
Nor jealous Christ-church this applause denies."

This speech was printed by his young friend and fellow collegian, Mr. Bowyer, and the publication concludes with an ode, designed to have been set to music. In March, 1732, he was appointed librarian,* which office he held but a short time, being in 1734 appointed registrar to the University.

After he had been appointed registrar, Cambridge became his principal residence, and if ever he had entertained thoughts of practising as a civilian, it does not appear that he carried his intention into effect. He was, however, resident in London in the year 1730, at which time his celebrated edition of *Lysias* appeared. This edition, which evinced his

Some of our dons, in hope to make you truckle,
Have, for these two months, laid their wigs in buckle
If clear starch'd band and clean gloves won't prevail,
Can the lac'd gown or cup of velvet fail?
What, though the squire be awkward yet, and simple,
You'd better take him here than from the TEMPLE.

* He used to relate, that while librarian, as he was shewing the library to a young nobleman, who, from his silence and attention, he guessed to be very learned, and to enter deeply into the topics on which the Doctor entertained him, he produced the famous M. S. S. of the Gospel, and was relating its history at length, till his Lordship suddenly interrupted him with "*Pray, Sir, are we in Cambridge-shire or Herlfordshire?* Taylor, it may be supposed, shut the book, and finished his story at once.

intimate knowledge of the Greek language and Attic law, is executed, as to the external embellishments of type and paper, in a manner which reflects great credit on the press of Mr. Bowyer, from which it proceeded; but is certainly inferior in that respect to Mr. Taylor's subsequent publication, all of which issued from the University press of Cambridge.

A smaller edition of *Lysias*, in 8vo. in the following year, 1740, is the first of his Cambridge publications. In 1740 he took his degree of LLD. The subject which he took for his act is curious, and worthy of our author. A. Gellius had related on the authority of the ancient jurists, that by the laws of the ten tables, the body of the insolent debtor was cut in ten piecs and distributed among his creditors. Dr. Taylor undertook to set this in a new light, and to show that it was the *property* and not the *person* of the debtor that was liable to that division; and if he did not succeed in producing complete conviction, his treatise was at least calculated to increase the opinion already entertained of his erudition and ingenuity. It was published in 1742. A late writer has represented our author as a practitioner in Doctors' Commons, but this is believed to be a mistake. It is certain, however, that about this time, there was a design to employ his talents in a civil station, as it was in agitation to make him Under-secretary to Lord Granville.

In the following year, the learning and critical abilities of Dr. Taylor were again called forth. The late Earl of Sandwich, on his return from a voyage to the Greek islands, of which his own account has been published since his death, and which shows him to have been a nobleman of considerable learning, brought with him a marble from Delos. That island, "which lay in the very centre of the then trading world," (to use the words of our learned countryman, Mr. Clarke) "was soon seized by the Athenians, and applied to the purpose of a commercial repository; and this subtle and enterprising people, to increase the sacredness and inviolability of its character, celebrated a solemn festival there once in every olympiad." The marble, in particular, contained an account of all the revenues and appointments set apart for that purpose. From the known skill of Dr. Taylor, on all points of Grecian antiquity, it was submitted to his inspection, and was published by him in 1743, under the title of *Marmor Sandvicense cum commentario et notis*, and never, may we say, was an ancient inscription more ably or satisfactorily elucidated. In the same year he also published the only remaining oration of *Lycurgus* and one of *Demosthenes*, in a small octavo volume, with an inscription to his friend, Mr. Charles York.

This volume is printed in the same type with, and was intended as a specimen of, his projected edition of all the works of that great orator; a task which "either the course of his studies, or the general consent of the public, had," he says, "imposed upon him" While he was engaged in this laborious undertaking, he received an accession of dignity and emolument, being, in the beginning of 1744, appointed by the Bishop of Lincoln, (Dr. John Thomas) to the office of Chancellor of that extensive diocese in the room of

Mr. Reynolds. For his introduction to this prelate, he was indebted to the kindness of his great patron, Lord Granville, as we learn from the dedication to the third volume of his *Demosthenes*, which came out in the spring of 1748, the publication of the first volume being postponed, that the life of the great orator, and the other prologomena, might appear with more correctness.

The only prefaratory matter, prefixed to this third volume, is a long and elegant dedication to Lord Granville, a patron worthy of the edition and of the of work, as that nobleman was himself an admirable scholar. The following passage is curious not only for the sentiments which it contains, applicable to the present times, but also for the mention of a battle, which does not make so conspicuous a figure in the page of history, as it does in the Latin of the dedicator. After having observed that the genius of English oratory approaches much nearer to the Demosthenic than the Ciceronian model, and having drawn the parallel between Demosthenes employed in the business of exciting Athens and her allies to a vigorous resistance of Macedonian influence; and his patron, Lord Granville, engaged in an opposition to the despotism of France;—he proceeds, "the Athenian orator openly declared that he never would make peace with Philip till he had lost, not merely his animosity, but his power of doing hurt. And shall we, so nearly resembling that state in the posture of our affairs, differ by the weakness and inconstancy of our councils; Or shall we, equal as we are to them in the glory and authority of our dominion, superior in felicity and fortune, shall we estimate at a lower rate than they the dignity of our country, the welfare of our people, the security of our allies, the freedom of our constitution? No! By those who, oppressed by numbers, but unsubdued by spirit, died for the general liberty of Greece in the plains of Chæronea! No! By those who with better success, under the command of his Majesty, repelled the common enemy of Europe in the field of Dettingen!" Had our editor endeavoured to conciliate the favour of his sovereign by this eloquent apostrophe, nothing could have been more misplaced. No one was more insensible to every kind of literary merit than George II., who looked upon a drill-serjeant as a much greater character than all the writers that ever existed. But our doctor had no such design; occupied by studies which were at once his employment and delight, and provided with an income far beyond his wants, he was alike exempt from the calls of avarice and ambition.

In April, 1751, Dr. Taylor succeeded the Rev. Christopher Anstey, D. D. in the rectory of Lawford, in Essex, a living belonging to St. John's College, and the only parochial cure he ever enjoyed: in January, 1753, he became Archdeacon of Buckingham. After he had obtained this distinction, he was esteemed a very eminent and successful preacher. Two of his sermons are in print; one preached August 22, 1749, at the scool feast at Bishop's Stortford (of which his townsman, Mr. Mawle, was head-master) from Numbers xi. v. 29; the other at St. Margaret's, Westminster, on the fast-day, February 11, 1757, from Judges xx. 23., before the house of Commons. There is

nothing in the latter of these compositions to distinguish it from the ordinary herd of discourses on similar occasions, but the school sermon is every way a considerable performance, elegant, learned, judicious, and affecting.

When the late Marquis of Bath and his brother were sent to St. John's, they were placed under the care of our author by his patron, Lord Granville, maternal grandfather of these young noblemen. This charge led to his work on the *Elements of Civil Law*, in quarto, 1755, and which was formed from the papers drawn up by him to instruct his noble pupils in the origin of natural law, the rudiments of civil life, and of social duties. If the work, as published, partakes somewhat too much of the desultory character of such loose papers—if its reasoning is occasionally confused, and its digressions sometimes irrevelant, it is impossible to deny it the praise of vast reading and extensive information on various subjects of polite literature and recondite antiquity. It quickly came to a second edition, and has also been published in an abridged form. It did not, however, escape without some severe animadversions.

The learned world at Cambridge was, at that time divided into two parties; the polite scholars and the philologists. The former, at the head of which were Gray, Mason, &c. superciliously confined all merit to their own circle, and looked down with fastidious contempt on the rest of the world. It is needless to observe that Dr. Taylor belonged to the latter class. A member of the former, a writer of celebrity, and eminent for his attachment to Warburton, of whose "school" he was a distinguished disciple, in a most unjustifiable pamphlet, published the same year, 1755, and directed against the amiable and modest Jortin, steps out of his way to express his contempt of Taylor: "there are several ways," says he, "of a writer's expression of his devotion to his patron without observing the ordinary forms of dedication, of which, to note it by the way, the latest and best instance I have met with, is a certain thing prefaratory to a learned work, entitled the '*Elements of Civil Law.*'" This was but the prelude to a more severe attack from the "master" himself, who with learning much inferior, but talents much greater than those of Taylor, exercised an insolent despotism over the republic of letters. Our author, in his *Elements*, had expressed his opinion that the persecutions which the first christians experienced from the Roman emperors proceeded not from any peculiar disapprobation of their tenets, but from a jealousy entertained of their nocturnal assemblies. In expressing this opinion, Taylor did not mention, and, perhaps, did not even think of Warburton; but, as the latter in his *Divine Legation* had derived these persecutions from another source—the absurdities of Pagan religion and the iniquities of Pagan politics—the holding, and much more the publishing of a contrary notion by any contemporary, was too great an offence for that haughty dogmatic to pass with impunity. His prefaces and notes were, as was wittily observed of him, the established places of execution for the punishment of all who did not implicitly adopt his sentiments; and having occasion soon after (in 1758) to publish a new edition of that celebrated

work, he seized that opportunity to chastise Taylor with all the virulence, wit, and ingenuity of distortion which he could command.

An attack so insolent and unprovoked could not injure the established character of Dr. Taylor, or ruffle his temper. He was sensible it could be detrimental only to its author, and wisely abstained from taking any notice of it. Indeed, he was better employed, as the second volume of his *Demosthenes* appeared in May, 1757 ; and in the following July he made a canon Residentary of St. Paul's. For this appointment, which was the summ it of his preferment, he was indebted to his steady and active patron, Lord Granville, who was now a member of administration.

In consequence of this dignity, he resigned the office of Registrar in 1758, in favour of his friend, Mr. Hubbarb, of Emanuel, and quitted Cambridge to reside in London. The rewards of merit and industry had, it is to be feared, somewhat of their usual influence on Dr. Taylor, though it did not produce an absolute intermission of the great work which he had undertaken. He still continued to collect and arrange the materials for the first volume of his *Demosthenes*: but the expectations of the learned were frustrated by his death, which took place on the 14th April, 1766, before he had prepared his volume for the press.

Dr. Taylor used to spend part of his summers in his native country, taking for that purpose a ready-furnished house, in which he might enjoy the society of his friends. For several years he rented the curate's house at Edgemond, his equipage in the mean time standing at livery in the neighbouring town of Newport.

As Dr. Taylor had for many years been in the receipt of an ample, and even splendid income, it might have been expected that he should die in afluent circumstances. But this was by no means the case. He lived in a handsome style, and expended a large sum of money in books. His library, at the time of his death, was large and valuable. This, with the residue of his fortune, for the support of an exhibition at St. John's, he bequeathed to the school where he had received his education; reserving, however, to his friend and physician, Dr. Askew, all his manuscripts, and such of his printed books as contained his marginal annotations.

In private life Dr. Taylor's character was extremely amiable ; his temper remarkably social, and his talents fitted to adorn and gladden society. The even tenor of his employments furnished him with an uninterrupted flow of spirits. Though he was so studiously devoted to letters—though, an intimate friend and fellow-collegian of his informs us "if you called on him in a college after dinner, you were sure to find him sitting at an old walnut table, covered with books ; yet when you began making apologies for disturbing a person so well employed, he immediately told you to advance, and called out '*John, John, bring pipes and glaeses!*' and instantly appeared as cheerful and good-humoured as if he had not been at all engaged or interrupted.—Suppose now you had staid as long as you would, and been entertained by him most agreeably, you took your leave, and

had got half way down the stairs, but recollecting somewhat that you had to say to him, you went in again; the bottles and glasses were gone,—the books had expanded themselves so as to re-occupy the whole table,—and he was just as much buried in them as when you first came in."*

He loved a game at cards, and we are told that he played well. He was also an excellent relater of a story, of which he had a large and entertaining collection;—but, like most story-tellers, was somewhat too apt to repeat them. His friend, the facetious and good-humoured Henry Hubbard, of Emanuel, with whom he associated, would sometimes in the evenings which they used to pass together, use the freedom of jocosely remonstrating with him on the subject, and when the Doctor began one of his anecdotes, would cry out, "*Ah! dear Doctor, do not let us have that story any more, I have heard it so often:*" to which Taylor humourously replied, "*Come, Harry, let me tell this once more*"' and would then go on with his narration. After this representation of our critic's social and convivial turn, the reader will be surprised by the following tale which Dr. Johnson related of him. "*Demosthenes Taylor, as he was called (that is, the Editor of Demosthenes) was the most silent man, the nearest statue of a man, that I have ever seen. I once dined in company with him, and all he said during the whole time mas no more than* Richard. *How a man could say no more than Richard it is not easy to imagine. But it was thus: Dr. Douglas was talking of Dr. Zachary Grey, and ascribing something to him that was written by Dr. Richard Grey, so to correct him Taylor said, (imitating his affected sententious emphasis and nod,)* Richard." It is not intended to impeach the veracity of Johnson, or the authenticity of his biographer, and, therefore, the only inference to be deduced from this anecdote is, that Taylor did not like his company that evening; possibly he might be disgusted by the dogmatic and overbearing rusticity of the lexicographer, so opposite to his own placid and polite manners, and might have expected more deference than he received, from one so much his inferior both in rank and learning.

Dr. Charles Burney, the eminent musician, was born in the town of Shrewsbury in 1726, and educated at the Free Grammar-school there. He was subsequently placed with Mr. Baker, the organist of Chester cathedral, as a pupil, until the year 1741, when he returned to his native town, and shortly after proceeded to London, where he followed the profession of an organist for some time, and afterwards resided about ten years at Lynn, in Norfolk. He, however, returned to London, and in the year 1769 obtained the honorary degree of Doctor of Music, at Oxford. In the year following he travelled through Germany, Holland, and the Netherlands, and on his return published an account of his travels in two octavo volumes. In 1776 he produced the first volume of his "*History of Music,*" in quarto; and from that period to 1789, the remaining four volumes were

* Nicholls, p. 66.

produced at different intervals. In 1758 his interesting history of the musical festival, in commemmoration of Handel, appeared in quarto; and in 1796, his "*Life of Metastasio,*" in three volumes octavo. He also wrote several minor publications, among which were "*An essay towards the History of Comets.*" "*The Plan of a Musical School.*" *An Account of little Crotch, the Infant Musician;*" and the "*Cunniny Man,*" a dramatic piece. For some time he resided near Leicester-square, in the house formerly occupied by Sir Isaac Newton, from which he removed to Chelsea college, upon being appointed its organist. He died at Chelsea, in 1814.

The Rev. Job. Orton, whom we have mentioned in our account of Shrewsbury, was born in this town, and it appears that from a long line of ancestors they were worthy, pious, and useful members of society. Mr. Orton's character, and that of his "*Treatise upon Time and Eternity,*" and other publications, are so well known, as not to need further comment.

Dr. John Thomas, Bishop of Salisbury, was born in the town of Shrewsbury. Bishop Newton relates the following curious coincidences between him and another of the same name and profession. "There were," says the writer (in his own life) "at that time two Dr. Thomas's, who were not easily distinguished, for as somebody was speaking of Dr. Thomas, it was asked, which Dr. Thomas do you mean? Dr. John Thomas.—They are both named John. Dr. Thomas who has a living in the city.—They both have livings in the city. Dr. Thomas who is chaplain to the King.—They are both chaplains to the King. Dr. Thomas who is a very good preacher.—They are both very good preachers. Dr Thomas who squints.—They both squint."—They were subsequently both Bishops.—It appears that Dr. Thomas of Shrewsbury, while a chaplain at Hamburgh, was in the habit of meeting George II. upon his visits to Hanover. On one of these occasions his Majesty asked him if preferment could be obtained from the crown—whether he would not gladly leave Hamburgh to settle in England? He replied "That his Majesty's father had made him the like gracious offer, and he had declined it, because there were many eminent merchants with whom he lived much at his ease, and who were very kind and liberal to him; but now the case was altered, a new race was springing up, and he should think himself very happy under his Majesty's patronage and protection." He was desired to mention the preferment which would be most agreeable to him, and he pointed out one of the royal prebends. His Majesty intimated that was not in his power to "get him any such thing, because his ministers laid their hands upon them all, as necessary for his service, but he proposed to make him his Chaplain and give him a living, and promised the next time he came to Hanover to take him over as his chaplain; "and then," said the King, "if a deanery or prebend should fall, you will have a good chance of it." Dr. Thomas, agreeably to this plan, returned to England, had the living of St. Vedast, Forster-

lane, was appointed one of the King's chaplains, and, in the spring ensuing, when the King was making preparations for Hanover, he sent word privately to the Doctor to prepare himself, and to have every thing in readiness to put on board by a particular day. The Minister, having been informed of the King's order, assured Dr. Thomas that he could not go, as another person had been fixed upon for that appointment long before. Dr. Thomas answered, that he had received his Majesty's express command, and should certainly obey it: he accordingly attended the King, and not the clergyman who had been nominated by the Minister. It happened that during the summer, the deanery of Peterborough became vacant, and Dr. Thomas kissed the King's hand for it: at the same time the Duke of Newcastle wrote to him from England that he had engaged that deanery, and if the Doctor would wait his turn, he would certainly procure for him a better. Dr. Thomas wrote in answer, that as the King had been graciously pleased to give him the deanery, he could not with any decency decline his Majesty's royal favour, but his Grace might vacate it by giving him a better thing, as soon as ever he pleased. In 1743 he was nominated to the see of St. Asaph, but before consecration removed to Lincoln, in 1744, and was translated to Salisbury in 1761. He is buried in the cathedral of Salisbury, in which there is a monument to him. He was a very pleasant facetious man, but had the misfortune of being deaf. Dr. Thomas was of Cambridge, and always attended the Duke of Newcastle in his visits to that University, where he was remarkable for his good sayings. He was concerned in writing the celebrated periodical paper called the *Patriot*, when at Hamburgh, being well versified in the German language.

The Rev. Hugh Farmer.—A celebrated and learned divine among the Protestant Dissenters, was born in a village near Shrewsbury, in the year 1714. His learned and critical works always have been greatly admired, and will continue to add a lustre to his name. Several lengthened biographical accounts have been given of him, and extensive criticisms on his able "*Dissertation on the Miracles.*" Our limits will not admit of a more lengthened account of him than the following concise sketch given by Mr. Nightingale who describes him as descended from a family of respectability in North Wales. The Rev. Hugh Owen, who was a candidate for the ministry, when the act of uniformity passed, and who has been distinguished among the illustrious band who sacrificed interest to conscience on that occasion, was his grandfather.* Mr. Farmer received the rudiments of grammar at a school of some note at Llanegrin, near Towyn, Merionethshire. From thence he was removed to the Warrington academy, then under the superintendance of Dr. Owen; a gentleman, as Dr. Kippiss observes, of considerable learning, great piety, and one of the most amiable men ever known, for polite behaviour, sweetness of temper and manner, and a genteel address.

* Calamy.

In 1780, he removed to the academy of Northampton, under the care of the celebrated Dr. Doddridge. He was one of the Doctor's earliest pupils. From Northampton he removed to Walthamstow, in Essex, having become chaplain in the family of William Coward, of that place, Esq. but the oddities in this gentleman's temper and habits soon forced him to seek refuge under the more social roof of William Hull, Esq., a solicitor of high respectability, who lived in habits of intimacy and friendship with the Lord Chancellor Hardwicke, Sir John Strange, and other persons of eminence at the bar and on the bench. In this family Mr. Farmer continued to enjoy a life of peaceful leisure for more than thirty years. This period he chiefly employed in collecting a large fund of sacred and profane literature, intended to be produced in the defence and illustration of natural and revealed religion.* At this time, says Dr. Kippis, his congregation was very large and respectable, and adds, that he well remembers his chapel having been attended with between thirty and forty coaches.

Mr. Farmer's first appearance as an author was in a discourse on the suppression of the rebellion of 1745. It was printed in 1746. In 1761 he was appointed one of the lecturers of Slater's Hall; and in the same year appeared an "*Enquiry into the Nature and Design of Christ's Temptation in the Wilderness,*" in which that event is considered as a vision, representing the different scenes of our Saviour's future ministry. This work called forth the answers of several persons.† It was spoken of by the critics of the day, as a work of considerable learning, though somewhat fanciful in its speculations,‡ which, after an attentive perusal, we are inclined to think is a fair and candid decision on the work. In 1764 our author published an appendix to his "*Enquiry,*" containing some further observations on the subject, and an answer to objections; and in 1776 a third edition, with further additions, made its appearance. It has, since that time, been reprinted, we believe, more that once by "The Unitarian Society," in London, "for promoting Christian knowledge, and the practice of virtue," being a work much read and approved of by that increasing class of christians.

In 1771 appeared Mr. Farmer's "*Dissertation on the Miracles, designed to show, that they are arguments of a Divine interposition, and absolute proofs of the mission and doctrine of a Prophet.*" This was a better and a much more useful work than the former; and has rendered considerable service to the cause of virtue and religion. It has also been reprinted by the society above mentioned, in a cheap and correct edition. Aware of the objections to the general principles of his "*Dissertation on the Miracles,*" arising from the cure of the gospel demoniacs, Mr. Farmer, in 1775, endeavoured entirely to remove the difficulty, in

* Gentleman's Magazine, Vol. lvi., p. 184.—Urwick's Funeral Sermon for Mr. Farmer, p. 33.

† Monthly Review, Vol. xxvii., p. 78

‡ In the Monthly Repository of Theology and General Literature for 1810, are several well-written and curious letters on this mysterious subject.

"*An Essay on the Demoniacs of the New Testament*," whose afflictions, he maintains, were natural diseases. This is a curious and well-written performance: but it gave much offence at the time of its appearance to the advocates for supernatural possessions; and greatly enraged the exorcists, who were justly zealous for the safety of their craft. This work was answered in 1777 somewhat roughly by the learned and pious Dr. Worthington; and again in 1779 by the Rev. Mr. Fell, a dissenting minister of various literary acquirements. To the former of these antagonists Mr. Farmer gave a temperate and learned reply; but toward Mr. Fell he was not quite so gentle. Mr. Farmer's last work appeared in 1783, and was entitled, "*The General Prevalence of the Worship of Human Spirits in the Ancient Heathen Nations asserted and proved*," which was also attacked by Mr. Fell, who had been rather disingenuously treated in Mr. Farmer's notes, interspersed throughout his last work.*

In the year 1785, Mr. Farmer was nearly deprived of his sight, but was relieved by a surgical operation, and enabled to pursue his studies.† He died at Walthamstow, February 6th, 1787, aged seventy-three. He directed his executors to burn his papers; but some of his letters, and fragments of a dissertation on the story of Balaam, were published in 1804, with his life prefixed.

Having inserted biographical sketches of some of the most eminent persons born in the venerable capital of Salop, it may not be uninteresting to describe the principal objects of historical interest in the immediate neighbourhood: the first deserving of attention is a beautiful column of free-stone, (placed near the entrance of the town from the London road) erected to commemorate the gallant achievement of *Lord Hill* during the late war. The column is surmounted with a fine statue of his lordship. This beautiful and interesting object cost £6000.

Haughmond Abbey, of regular canons of St. Augustine. It is situate four miles east of Shrewsbury, upon a rising ground. These truly interesting ruins are backed by an extensive forest: a very expansive and rich view is commanded from the front of the abbey over the rich and fertile plain of Shrewsbury, including a view of the town and castle, and the handsome demesne of Sundorn House. The abbey was founded in the year 1100, being the last of the reign of King William Rufus, by William Fitz-Alan: it is now totally deserted, except by the crows and martlets, that flit around its mouldering battlements; but much care is taken to preserve it by the present owner. Of the abbey church the nave only remains; but the chapter-house is entire, having a roof of fine oak: the entrance is by a richly decorated round arch, with a window on each side, divided into two round arched compartments by slender short pillars. South of the chapter-house are the remains of the refectory, and beyond, a large building, consisting of a spacious hall,

* See Biographia Britannica.

† Gentleman's Magazine, vol. lvi., p. 186.

on the north side of which is a curious antique fire-place: this apartment communicates with another, about the same size, which appears formerly to have been divided into two, above which has evidently been an upper story. This range of buildings is conceived to have been the abbot's lodging. Henry II., at the request of the abbot, granted the keeping of this abbey and its possessions to William Fitz-Alan and his heirs for ever, so that Henry and the succeeding kings should not, upon the death of any abbot, intermeddle with the original grant.

Leland observes, "there was an hermitage and a chapel on this spot before the abbey was built. William Fitz-Alan and his wife, with Robert Fitz-Alan and others, are there buried; also Richard Fitz-Alan, a child, who fell out of his nurse's arms from the battlements of Shrawardine Castle."*

According to Dugdale, the yearly revenues at the dissolution were £259. 13s. 7¾d.; and according to Speed, £294. 12s. 9d. In the year 1653 it is registered as in the possession of William Barker, who, it is said, with his family, are buried under an old tombstone, placed in the vestry of St. Mary's church:† such, observes Mr. Nightingale, "is a faint outline of the ancient history of Haughmond Abbey."

A wood of considerable extent covers the verge and slope of the hill behind the abbey; and emerging from thence lie the fine lands of Mr. Corbet, adorned on one side by a rich plantation and a hill, crowned with a shooting-box, in the form of an ancient turret. Near it Lord Douglas, in the battle of Shrewsbury, was taken prisoner, in attempting to precipitate himself down the steep, when his horse fell under him, and he received a severe contusion on his knee. The piece of armour covering the knee-pan was some years ago dug up, and is now in the possession of Mr. Corbet.

Battlefield.—The village of Battlefield, deriving its name from the famous battle fought here between Henry IV. and Henry Percy, is situate on a plain, about one mile to the east of the village of Albrighton, and four miles east of Shrewsbury. According to Pennant, Henry IV. having with difficulty, after slaughtering five thousand persons in the conflict, put a period to the contest there, and abated the ardour of pursuit, halted to return thanks for his victory (in a bad cause,) on the field of battle, which he sanctified and commemorated by decreeing the erection of the collegiate church at Battlefield. It had formerly a college for secular priests, founded in memory of that event, which was endowed with several lands, on condition that the priests should say mass for the souls of such as were slain in battle.

Part of the church is in good preservation, and is thus described in the *Beauties of England and Wales.*—"This church consists of a nave and choir, without aisles, and at the west end a very well-proportioned square tower, embattled and crowned with eight pinnacles. The whole is lighted by twelve handsome gothic windows, with a large eastern

* Leland's Itinerary, vol. viii., p. 129. † Phillips.

window. Those of the choral division are in an earlier style than the rest, and were doubtless the fabric built in the time of the founder. The western portion, by its style and inscription on the tower, appears to have been erected in the reign of Henry VII. Over the east window, in a niche, is a statue of Henry IV. Although the church is still parochial, the parish in 1821 contained only thirteen houses and sixty-four inhabitants. Many years previously to that, the nave and steeple were in a ruinous state and deprived of their roofs. The chancel is only used for divine service, and has within the last century been fitted up in a modern and incongruous fashion. The whole was entire within the memory of persons now living. The choir was furnished with handsome stalls, and the windows were resplendent with very fine painted glass, representing the history of the death of John the Baptist, with various portraits of the warriors who fell on the King's side in the battle of Shrewsbury, their arms, and cognizances."

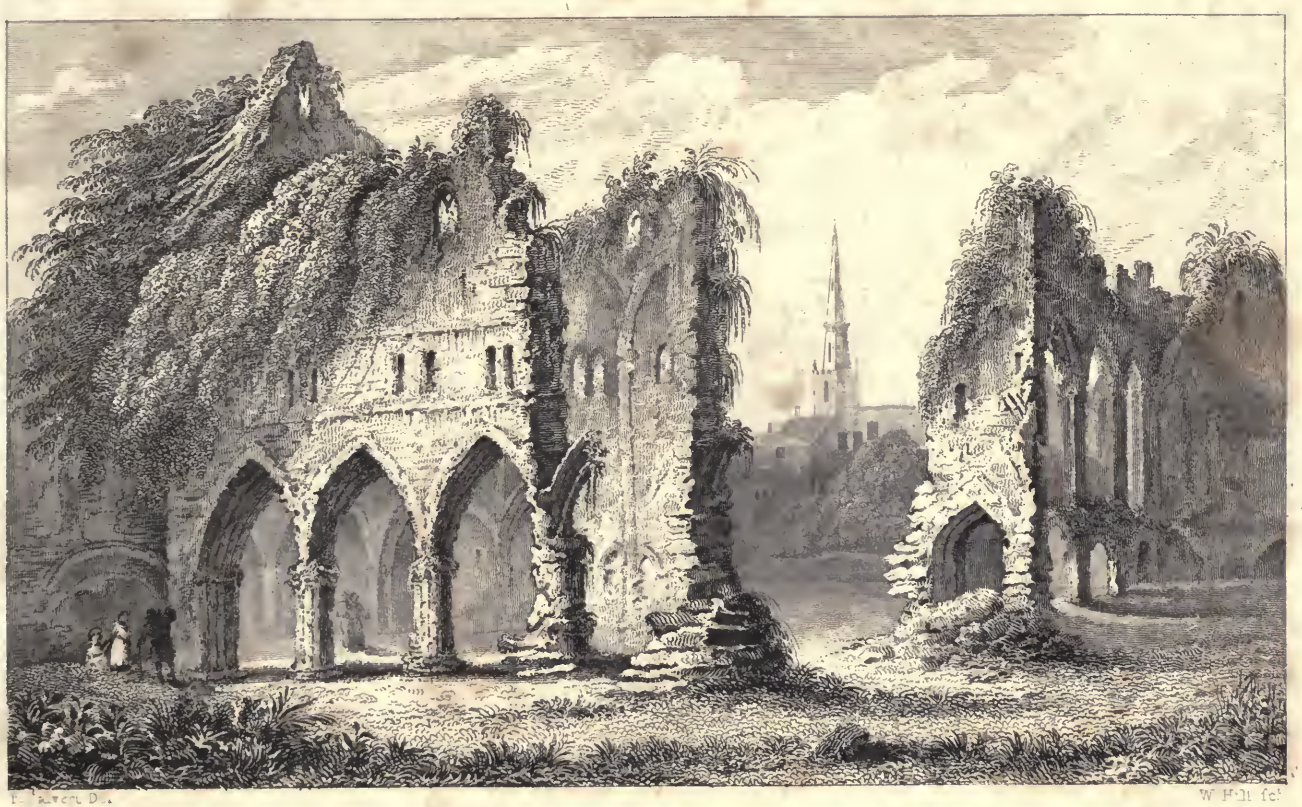
The same authority states, that " when the shameful mutilation of the church took place, this glass was taken down and entrusted to the care of a neighbouring farmer, who suffered his children and servants to break and disperse it, so that when it was replaced, a few fragments only could be found, which are now fixed in the east window, and by their great beauty excite the deepest regret for the sacrilegious destruction of the rest. In one of the stone seats of the officiating priests, near the altar, is a mutilated female figure in stone, with a dead Christ on her lap. It must have been removed from some other situation. In a plot of ground adjoining the churchyard there is a mound of earth, where the slain in battle are said to have been buried. A grove of oaks waves over them, and the grass grows green on the graves. The piece of land, now called *King's Croft*, is the place on which, as is supposed, Henry pitched his tent." Dugdale gives an ancient account of this church, which would exceed our limits to insert.

WROXETER—Is supposed to have been an extensive city, built by the Britons: the walls of it, at a much later period, exhibited a breadth of three yards, and extended three miles. It is a parish in South Bradford Hundred, situate five miles S.E. of Shrewsbury, and one hundred and fifty-six from London: in 1811 it contained about one hundred houses, and five or six hundred inhabitants; in 1821 it contained one hundred and twelve houses, and six hundred and fifty-nine inhabitants. Mr. Nightingale justly remarks that this town is, on several accounts, one of the most interesting places in the County. Its high antiquity, the many remains of its ancient importance, and the circumstance of its having contributed very much to enlarge, if not even to produce, the present capital of the County itself, all tend to press its history and description on the notice of the antiquary, the medallist, the historian, and the topographer; nor have these claims been urged in vain. Few persons curious in antiquarian research have overlooked this rich and valuable source; yet no regular and connected account of it has been given to the public; and the impenetrable obscurity of its ancient history now precludes the possibility of any detailed description of its real form, origin, and splendour. The early

writers—Camden, in his *Britannia;* Leland, in his *Itinerary;* Dugdale, in his *Monasticon;* and Tanner, in his *Notitia;* as well as Gough, Grose, and other antiquaries of modern date, have all referred to its high claims to antiquity; and Mr. Nightingale, after giving an account of its ancient silver and copper coins, thus concludes: "The present town of Wroxeter does not possess many claims on public notice besides what it derives from its ancient importance and its almost inexhaustible sources of antiquarian treasure. In the church is a monument for Sir Thomas Bromley, Lord Chief Justice of England, one of the executors of Henry the Eighth's will. He died in 1555, and his daughter married a person of the name of Newport. There are also monuments of Sir Richard Newport, ancestor of the Earls of Bradford, 1570; Francis, the first Lord Bradford, 1708; his brother Andrew, 1699; and his son Thomas, Earl of Torrington, 1719."

The Wrekin.—This beautiful and sublime object, situate about a mile from Wroxeter, extends "its slow length along," and, gradually rising in a lofty and venerable eminence, presents from its summit a most interesting and truly magnificent panorama, composed of hills, dales, and woods, beautifully interspersed with cultivated grounds, and skirted by a bold outline of hills, presenting the delighted spectator with the appearance of (as Mr. Mogg, after the preceding remarks, happily terms it) an elegantly executed *map*, emblazoned with all the richness and variety of nature's ever-varying and inimitable tints. The summit is occupied by one of those rude specimens of fortification which are to be found in so many parts of this country, and have furnished endless subjects for the exercise of the ingenuity and opinions of our most eminent topographers. The bleakness of this situation seems only calculated to suit the hardihood of an ancient Briton, and it was probably one of their strongholds: it is composed of two ramparts and trenches; one about forty yards above the other, and both entered by one narrow opening, guarded by a mound of earth on each side. The circuit of the outward rampart is about a mile, and it appears calculated to have afforded protection to a garrison of twenty thousand men. But how different a feeling is produced upon the mind in viewing it as a garrison, and the exquisite picture it has for ages, and now presents; and, as another eminent topographer beautifully describes it, the view from its highest point is delightfully awful. The vast plain of Salop, stretched like a carpet below, with its various enclosures and intersecting hedges, diminishing in apparent extent as they recede from the eye till they appear like the meshes of a net; the bold outline of the Welsh hills; the romantic aspect of the Caer Caradoc, the Lawley, and the Stiperstones, with intervening varieties of hill and dale; here and there a wood or forest, which from its natural pyramid seems to dwindle into an insignificant garden, are objects that here meet the eye in every direction, and fill the mind with admiration at the wonderful works of the mighty architect of nature.

Buildwas.—At a short distance from the Wrekin, on the banks of the Severn, is the small village of Buildwas.—Buildwas is a small village, containing about sixty



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