Suffolk ; Stoke Park, Joshua Smith, Esq. ; Bradley, duke of Somerset ; and Ramsbury, Sir Francis Burdett.@@1

WIMBLEDON, an extensive parish of the county of Surrey, in the hundred of Brixton, seven miles from Lon­don. The village consists of one main street on the great road to Portsmouth, but is most remarkable for the number and elegance of the residences around its common, and in other parts of the parish. The most striking of these is the seat of Earl Spencer, and the park which surrounds it, originally built by Lord Burleigh in 1588, and afterwards rebuilt by Sarah duchess of Marlborough. Many others are deserving of attention. The population of the parish amounted in 1821 to 2195, and in 1831 to 2195.

WIMBORN-MINSTER, a market-town of the county of Dorset, in the hundred of Badbury and division of Shaftesbury, 100 miles from London and seven from Poole. It is finely situated between the rivers Stour and Allen, over each of which are bridges. Its name is derived from the minster, a Gothic-Norman structure, which now serves as the parish church. It has a lofty tower in the middle, and another at the west end, and in the choir are fourteen stalls. The town has a good market-place, well attended on Friday, an endowed grammar-school, and several charit­able foundations. The population amounted in 1821 to 3563, and in 1831 to 4009 ; but in this estimate are includ­ed the inhabitants of three tythings within the parish.

WINCANTON, a market-town of the county of So­merset, in the hundred of Ferres-Norton, 108 miles from London. It has a market on Wednesday. What little trade there is, consists in making tickings, dowlas, and other coarse linen goods. The population amounted in 1821 to 2143, and in 1831 to 2123.

WINCHCOMBE, a market-town of the county of Glou­cester, in the hundred of Kiftsgate, ninety-six miles from London and six from Cheltenham. It is situated in the Cotswold Hills. It is a place of great antiquity, and was once deemed a county of itself, having exempt jurisdiction. The church is deserving of notice, being a fine Gothic structure, and the burying-place of some of the ancient kings of Mercia, one of whom, Kenulph, founded a Bene­dictine monastery in the sixth century. It is still a bo­rough, governed by two bailifs. Till the reign of Charles II., this place was the chief seat of the cultivation of tobacco in England. There is now a good market on Saturday. The population amounted in 1821 to 2240, and in 1831 to 2514.

WINCHELSEA, a town and parish of the county of Sussex, in the hundred of Guestling and rape of Hastings, sixty-seven miles from London. It stands on a rising ground, overlooking marshes which extend to the sea. The ancient town of this name was once a large city, and con­tained a harbour and eighteen parish churches, nearly the whole of which have been swallowed up by tempests, and by the receding of the land. The present town, which is dis­tant from the sea a mile and a half, is built upon an emi­nence, and was erected in the reign of Edward I. In various parts of the town are spacious stone-vaults, and extensive ruins. An attempt was made to introduce the manufac­ture of cambrics into this town, but it was attended with no success. The small market is on Saturday. The popula­tion amounted in 1821 to 817, and in 1831 to 772.

Winchelsea *Island,* in the Gulf of Carpentaria, New Holland, near the coast of Groote Eylandt, with which it forms a bay, called by Captain Flinders North-west Bay. It is about five or six miles long. There is another island of this name in the Pacific Ocean, thirty miles south-east of Sir Charles Hardy’s Island.

WINCHESTER, a city in Hampshire, of which it is the capital, sixty-two miles from London, and eleven from Southampton. It is built on the side of a hill, and on the level below it, which extends to the banks of the river Itchin. It is a remarkably clean place ; and though many of the houses are in an antique style, it is well built, and the streets, though some are narrow, are well paved and well lighted. The country around it is fertile, yielding supplies, to the two weekly markets on Wednesday and Saturday, of the best kinds of meat, vegetables, fish, and all other requisites for subsistence. With the sea it has a communication by a canal, by which coals and other heavy commodities are furnished at moderate rates. From these circumstances, the city is inhabited by many respect­able families in moderate circumstances, as well as by pro­fessional persons drawn to it as the county-town, and on account of the cathedral, the college, and other public in­stitutions.

This city is one of the most ancient in England. It was known in the time of the Romans. During the contests of the Britons and the Saxons it became the capital of the West Saxons, and, under the reign of Egbert, the capital of the whole kingdom ; and it was not till the reign of William the Conqueror that London began to rival it, though not then the royal residence. In the reign of Ed­ward L, who preferred London for his abode, Winchester felt the effects of the royal abandonment, in the loss of the numerous attendants on the king, and of those who had re­paired to the supreme courts of law. Edward III. erected this city into the staple or mart for wool, which gave to it some animation ; but the plague, which raged in the city and neighbourhood, caused the removal of the trade to Calais, then an English fortress, about the year 1360. The dissolution of many religious houses in the reign of Henry VIII. inflicted great calamities on the city, and re­duced its population, its wealth, and its extent. During the civil war of the reign of Charles I., it was seized by the parliament forces under Waller, and to this day it is re­lated that he converted the cathedral into horse-barracks, and caused much injury to many other sacred edifices. In 1643, the king’s forces seized upon it, and converted Win­chester into a garrison town, which, after the battle of Nase- by, and a short siege, surrendered to the forces of Crom­well. The fortifications and castle were then destroyed, as well as the bishop’s palace at Wolversey, and several churches and other public buildings, few of which were re­placed after the restoration. The last historical event relat­ing to the place is the plague of 1665, which swept away a great portion of the inhabitants. Among the objects deserv­ing attention, one of the most beneficial in the present day is the college, founded by William of Wykeham, then the bishop, between the years 1387 and 1393. It was built on the site of an ancient grammar-school, certainly existing in 1136, and probably at an earlier period. The building consists of two large courts, highly ornamented with ancient sculpture, and a chapel, the ceiling of the vestibule of which is much admired, while the interior has a fine effect, from the bold and lofty vaulting being richly adorned with tra­cery, and a variety of sculptures, representing kings, pre­lates, and saints. Near to the college are the cloisters, 132 feet square, a detached building for those pupils who are not on the foundation, and a library. The establish­ment of the college consists of a warden, ten fellows, seventy scholars, three chaplains, and masters. This foundation is connected with New College, Oxford, where the Winches­ter scholars become fellows. It has long been a flourish­ing institution, and here some of the most distinguished scholars have received their early education.

The cathedral of Winchester is one of the most interest-

@@@1 See the Ancient History of South Wiltshire, by Sir Richard Colt Hoare, Bart. ; Aubrey’s lntrodιιction to the Survey and Natural History of North Wiltshire; the Beauties of Wiltshire displayed in Statistical, Historical, and Descriptive Sketches, by John Britton ; Davis’s View of the Agriculture of the County of Wilts.