In an adjoining yard is the laboratory, where the se­veral kinds of fire-working are carried on, and the most destructive projectiles are prepared. There is also the Royal Academy, with its appropriate professors and mas­ters, in which the officers of the engineers and artillery receive their professional instructions. Woolwich has a good parish church ; and the weekly market, on Friday, is well supplied. The population amounted in 1821 to 17,008, and in 1831 to 17,661.

WOOTTON-BASSET, a market-town in the county of Wilts and hundred of Kingsbridge, eighty-nine miles from London. It stands on a gentle eminence, which com­mands an extensive view, and consists of one long street. It is a poor place, with mean houses, and has an inconsi­derable market on Friday. Until 1832, it returned two members to parliament. The population amounted in 1821 to 1701, and in 1831 to 1896.

Wooten-under-Edge, a town of the county of Glou­cester, in the hundred of Berkeley, 108 miles from London. It is well built and pleasantly situated, and has a handsome church, in which are several monuments to members of the Berkeley family. It has a good market on Friday. Some of the finer cloths are made here. The population amounted in 1821 to 5004, and in 1831 to 5482.

WORCESTER, an inland English county in the Ox­ford circuit, and nearly in the centre of the kingdom. It is bounded on the north by Staffordshire and Shropshire, on the south by Gloucestershire, and on the east by War­wickshire. Its figure is very irregular ; and it is remarkable for having several detached portions scattered about the neighbouring counties, which makes it difficult to be accu­rate in its dimensions. It may be stated as about thirty miles in length and twenty-four in breadth, and to be 723 square miles or 462,720 acres in extent.

The population of the county at the four decennial enu­merations has been as follows : in 1801, 139,331; in 1811, 160,546 ; in 1821, 184,424; and in 1831, 211,400. At the last of these periods the males were 103,383 and the females 107,982. The number of dwelling-houses was 41,406, in­habited by 45,512 families; of whom 14,654 were chiefly employed in agriculture ; 19,040 were chiefly employed in trade, manufactures, and handicraft; and 11,828 were not comprised in either of the preceding classes. At the same period the number of males twenty years of age was 52,796 ; the occupiers of land employing labourers were 2636 ; the occupiers not employing labourers, 1260 ; the labourers employed in agriculture, 14,590; the labourers employed in manufactures, and in making manufacturing machinery, were 8024 ; those employed in retail trade or handicraft, as masters or workmen, 12,693 ; those described as bankers, professional and other educated men, 2085 ; labourers em­ployed in labour not agricultural, 6544 ; other males under twenty years, except servants, 2885 ; male servants twenty years of age, 1079 ; male servants under twenty years of age, 446 ; female servants, 8162.

There is a soft beauty on the face of this county, when viewed from any elevation, such as the Malvern or Abber- ley Hills, which is highly gratifying. From such spots the state of its cultivation appears to great advantage, as there are no parts of any considerable extent so barren or neglect­ed as to be destitute of an agreeable and profitable verdure. With the exception of those hills, the former of which rise to the height of 1440 feet, the whole county consists of gentle undulations, wholly enclosed, well wooded, and intersected by the great rivers Severn and Avon, and their several tribu­tary streams. Thc abundance of orchards of pear-trees, and the scattered hop plantations, give a peculiar richness to the autumnal scenery. Even the poorer parts of the county, between the towns of Droitwich and Bromsgrove, have of late been cultivated ; and though they do not rival in beauty the vale of Evesham, they are far from the aspect of sterility which they exhibited twenty years ago. The farms are ge­nerally of small extent, from forty to three hundred acres, and the cultivation is generally well conducted. The arable land, which, in the rotation of crops, produces artificial grasses, is estimated to be 360,000 acres ; the permanent grass land 100,000 acres ; and the woods, wastes, rivers, roads, sites of towns, and gardens, 40,000. The crops of wheat, barley, and especially of beans, are more productive than the average of England. Hops are extensively culti­vated, and the pear-trees are so abundant and so productive as to afford perry for the common drink of the labourers in agriculture. There is no breed of cattle peculiar to Wor­cestershire, as it is found more profitable to buy oxen and sheep in a lean condition from poorer districts, and to fatten them in this county, than to breed them on its rich soil.

The great rivers Severn and Avon are both navigable, the former to an extent of nearly two hundred miles from its mouth, and the latter to Stratford from its junction with the former. The Severn abounds with salmon, shad, and lampreys, though those delicious fish are never known to ascend the Avon. The other rivers are, the Stour, the Sal- warpe, the Ledden, and the Rea. This county has par­taken largely of the benefit communicated by internal navi­gation. The canals are, the Trent and Severn, the Droit­wich, the Worcester and Birmingham, the Dudley and Leo­minster. The town of Stourport has risen into importance since the extension of canals, and exhibits a large maritime town in the centre of the kingdom, connecting its various productions in a focus, and distributing them where needed.

Although this county has hitherto had no railways formed through it, yet as one portion of it is in contact with the town of Birmingham, that part has, by the vicinity, the means of the most rapid communication with London, Li­verpool, and Manchester ; and projects are now on foot which in a few years may give facilities of speedy inter­course with Bristol and Exeter, and may perhaps be ex­tended to Plymouth.

The county possesses a variety of manufactures in hard­ware, carpet-making, gloves, and china. At Dudley, Stour­bridge, and Old Swinford, about 450 males upwards of twenty years of age are employed at the forges, who make anvils, chains, and the heavier kinds of iron tools and ma­chinery. At Woolverley, and some other neighbouring vil­lages, about 280 men make gun-barrels, edge-tools, and files. At Tardebig, and the parishes near it, 540 men make needles and fish-hooks. The number of nailers throughout the county is about 3000, chiefly in and near Bromsgrove, Dudley, and Swinford. At and around Kid­derminster, 2300 men are employed in making carpets, and in preparing materials for that manufacture. At Worcester, and in its suburbs, nearly 1000 men, and a much greater number of females, are employed in making gloves; and about fifty men, besides many females, are occupied in making china, chiefly in burnishing and other delicate ope­rations. At Pershore, some men are employed in making watch-springs.

The salt made at Droitwich supplies nearly one half of England with that indispensable article. Thc duty collect­ed there before the abatement of the tax amounted to more than L.1000 per day. The water, from which the salt is made by evaporation, is more highly saturated than any other that has been discovered. Researches in the bowels of the earth have shown that a river of salt water, about twenty-two inches in depth, runs about 250 feet below the surface. Immediately above this subterranean stream is a bed of gypsum 130 feet thick. When this stratum is pene­trated by the borer, the spring rises to the surface, and yields a never-failing supply of water, so fully saturated that no more salt can be dissolved in it. The springs at Droitwich hold in solution about one fourth of their weight in salt ; and no other in England holds more than a ninth. The subter-