raneous river runs over a bed of rock-salt, whose thickness has not yet been ascertained. Besides the springs at Droit- wich, other mineral springs are found at Malvern, which are resorted to for their healing properties, as well as for the pure air of the district. The combinations of the wells are carbonate of soda, carbonate of lime, carbonate of magnesia, carbonate of iron, sulphate of soda, and muriate of soda.

The most considerable places, and their population in the year 1831, were the following.

Worcester 18,610

Dudley 23,043

Kidderminster ... 20,865

Bromsgrove 8,612

Stourbridge 6,148

Evesham 3,991

Bewdley 3,908

Tardebig 3627

Malvern, Great and Little 3535

Droitwich 2487

Upton on Severn.. 2343

Pershore 2080

The titles derived from the county are the marquisate of Worcester and the earldom of Beauchamp. For election purposes thc county has been formed into two divisions, distinguished as the eastern and the western, each of which elects two members to the House of Commons. The elec­tion for the eastern division is held at Droitwich ; and the other polling places are Pershore, Shipston, and Stour­bridge. The election for the western is held at Worces­ter ; and the other polling places arc Upton, Stourport, and Tenbury. The city of Worcester and the borough of Evesham, as formerly, return two members, and Bewdley one. By the reform bill, Droitwich has been deprived of one of its members, and Kidderminster and Dudley have been constituted boroughs, each electing one member.

Among the numerous seats of noblemen and gentlemen in this county, the most distinguished are, Madresfield, Lord Beauchamp; Hagley, Lord Lyttelton; Croome Court, earl of Coventry ; Northwick, Lord Northwick ; Hartlebury Castle, bishop of Worcester ; Dailsford, late Warren Hast­ings ; Ombersley Court, marquis of Downshire ; Hewell Grange, earl of Plymouth ; Hanbury Hall, John Phillips; Overbury, James Martin ; Winterdyne House, William Moselay ; Westwood House, Sir Herbert Packington ; and Whitely Court, Lord Foley.@@1

Worcester city, the capital of the county of that name, in nearly the centre of England. It is finely situated on a gradual ascent from the left bank of the river Severn, over which is an elegant stone bridge. The river is navi­gable for barges far above the town ; and after the winter rains, timber is floated down from Montgomeryshire in Wales. The trade by the river is very considerable, as by that channel the foreign and colonial productions required by the inhabitants are supplied from Liverpool or from Bristol. One branch of trade, that of culinary salt from the brine springs of Droitwich, about six miles higher up the river, and connected with it by a short canal, is very extensive, as it supplies some of the western counties of England, and some parts of South Wales, with that indis­pensable article.

In past time this city had some trade in making wool­len cloths and carpets ; but that business has departed, and now the chief manufacturing employment is the making of leather gloves. There is also a manufactory of porcelain, more remarkable for the beauty of the work than for its being in any extensive demand. The city was anciently surrounded with walls, in which were six gates, some traces of which are still to be seen. Worcester suffered much during the wars between the rival houses of York and Lancaster ; but the most remarkable event of a his­torical nature was the great battle fought here in 1650, by the English army under Cromwell, and the Scotish army under the command of King Charles II. The loss of the king’s troops is stated to have been 2000 men killed

and 8000 taken prisoners. Most of the latter were Bold as slaves to the colonies in America and the West Indies. The destruction of the walls and gates was ordered by Cromwell after his decisive victory. It is, generally speaking, a well-built city, and the chief street, the Fore­gate, is remarkably fine. The guildhall, in that street, is a handsome structure, finished in 1723. Its front, which is of brick, is ornamented with stone quoins, with mould­ings and tablets to the windows, of the same materials. The principal entrance, after ascending some semicircular steps, is ornamented with columns of the composite order, highly enriched, and crowned with an indented cornice and open pediment, in which are the city arms. On each side of this principal entrance are the statues of the two kings Charles, in niches ; and over it a statue of Queen Anne. The county-jail and the county-hall are fine buildings. The market-house is another fine edifice. It is highly orna­mented, and conveniently arranged for the purpose it is in­tended to serve. The cathedral, whose effect is lessened by the close approach of some of the surrounding dwellings, is a noble specimen of Gothic simplicity. It was first erected by Ethelred, king of Mercia, in 680, when it was a convent of secular priests. Soon after the Norman conquest, it was laid in ashes by the Welsh, and was afterwards rebuilt with greater magnificence, though not entirely completed until the year 1374. The building is 394 feet in length, 78 in breadth, and the tower is 162 feet high. On the south side is a chapel of curious workmanship. Both the church and the cloisters are arched with stone of a reddish colour ; and in the tower are eight good bells, the largest of which weighs 6600 pounds. The elegant window in the west front was constructed on occasion of the visit of George III. to this city in 1788, when, at the music meet­ing, the throne was placed near to it. Another window was built at the east end in 1792, containing some excel­lent painting in glass. The pulpit is octagonal, and of stone, curiously carved in the Gothic manner, with the symbols of the four evangelists, and a representation of the New Jerusalem, as described in the book of Revelation. The altar-piece is of plain oak, having in the centre a paint­ing of the descent from the cross. The chief monument is that of King John, standing in the midst of the choir; but the body was interred under a small stone in the eastern part of the church. On each side of the figure of the king are those of the bishops Wolstan and Oswald. On the south side of the altar is Prince Arthur’s sepulchral chapel, a most curious piece of antique workmanship, which was repaired and beautified in 1791. It consists of five orders of images, viz. virgins, bishops, kings, confessors, and angels, ornamented with the various badges of royalty; and under an arched roof is the tomb, of fine marble. There are also several other handsome monuments, one of Bishop Hough, by Roubiliac. The cloisters, where the monks for­merly resided, and which are now inhabited by the digni­taries of the cathedral, are 125 feet by 120, and sixteen feet in breadth. The vaulted roof is adorned with a va­riety of sculptures. The bishop’s palace stands near the cathedral, in a most commanding situation, overlooking the river Severn, which flows at the bottom of the garden.

There are nine parish churches within and two without the walls. The most remarkable of them are, St Michael’s, a very ancient specimen of ecclesiastical architecture; St Andrew’s, with a lofty and well-proportioned tower, built in the eleventh century; All-Saints, which was rebuilt in 1742, an edifice of the modern style ; St Martin’s, a handsome edifice, finished in 1772, after four years’ labour ; and St Nicholas, of which the interior is neat and commodious. Its style of architecture, executed in stone, is very pleasing, the front being of the Doric order, with six pilasters, the

@@@1 See Nashe’s Survey of Worcestershire ; Pitt’s Agricultural Survey ; Brewer’s Worcestershire.