

500

A TOUR  
TO THE  
**ISLE OF WIGHT,**

ILLUSTRATED WITH

EIGHTY VIEWS,

DRAWN AND ENGRAVED IN AQUA TINTA.

BY

**CHARLES TOMKINS.**

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IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

London:

PRINTED FOR G. KEARSLEY, FLEET-STREET.

1796.



TO

SIR JOHN BARRINGTON, BART.

OF BARRINGTON HALL,

IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX,

AND OF SWAINSTON, IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT,

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT,

FOR THE BOROUGH OF NEWTOWN,

THIS TOUR

TO THE

*ISLE OF WIGHT,*

ILLUSTRATED WITH VIEWS,

IS DEDICATED,

WITH RESPECT, AND GRATITUDE,

FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND ASSISTANCE

HE KINDLY AFFORDED THE AUTHOR,

IN THE PROGRESS OF THIS WORK,

BY HIS OBLIGED,

AND OBEDIENT SERVANT,

*CHARLES TOMKINS.*



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## P R E F A C E.

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IT was not the original intention of the Author to have given any more than a short account of each of the views, which he presented to the public; but finding, that though there were several histories of the Island, some of them were become scarce, and none contained any direction, by which the traveller could guide his steps, in search of the many beautiful situations abounding in the Island, he was induced to change his purpose, and after giving the best historical account, which he could select, for the narrow limits of his work, and adding some particulars not mentioned by former writers, he has subjoined a complete

description of the country, by which the reader may have an opportunity of going through the Island, without missing any object that is worthy of his attention.

He begs the Subscribers will have the goodness to attribute the little delays which have taken place in the publication of some of the numbers, to the anxiety which he has felt, to render his work as complete as possible, and to the labour, which they will readily conceive, must rest upon a single individual, in so arduous a task, as the drawing and engraving eighty plates.

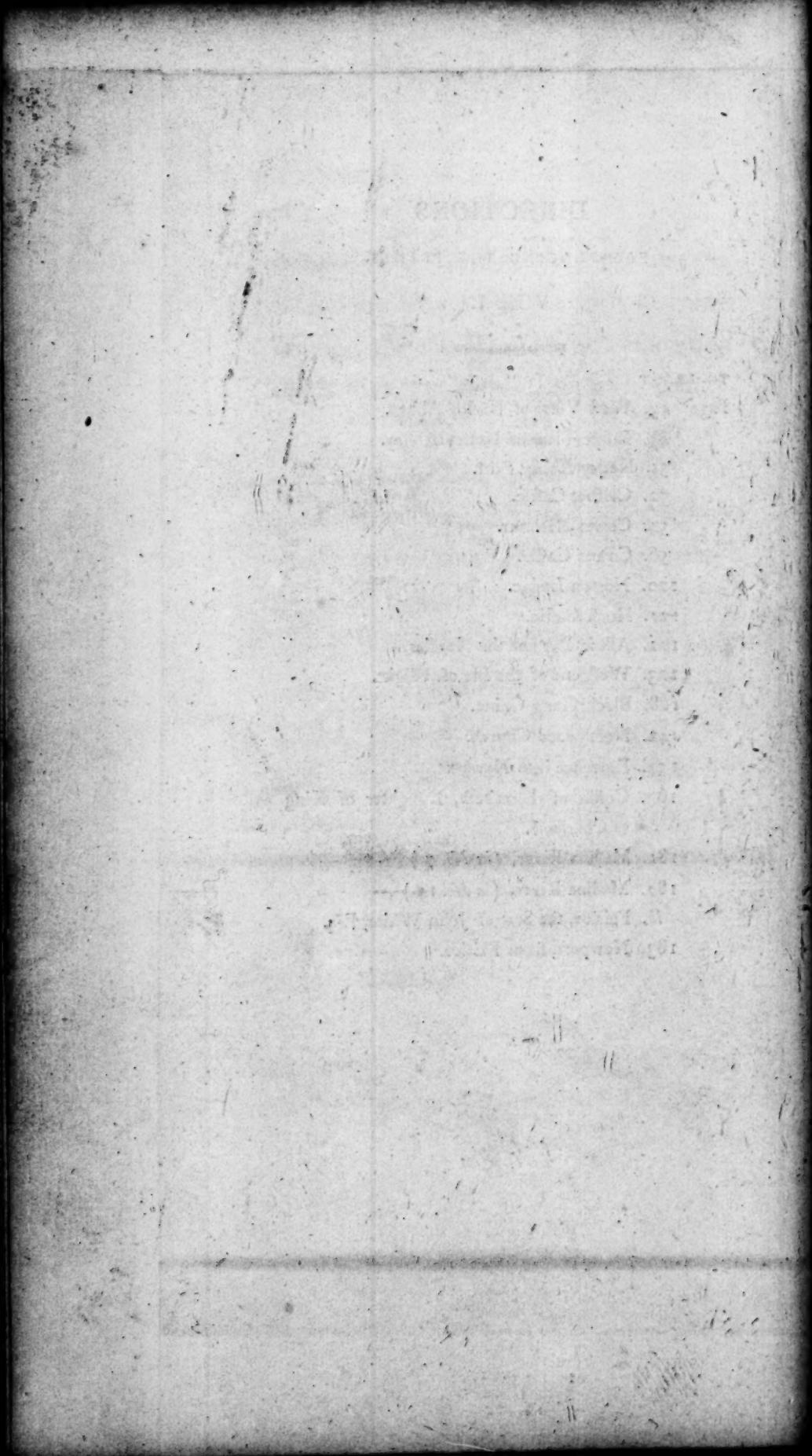
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FOR PLACING THE PRINTS.

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A PLAN  
of the  
ISLE of WIGHT  
Surveyed & Engd  
By Cha: Tomk<sup>s</sup> IP®



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A

## TOUR

TO THE

### ISLE OF WIGHT.

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HAVING long been actuated by a desire to view the picturesque beauties of the *Isle of Wight*, so justly called, by all who have visited it, the *Garden of England*, I determined to embrace so favourable a season as the summer of 1793, to examine that beautiful and romantic island. I therefore left London early in June, and took the road for Southampton, through Kensington and Hammersmith, places too well known by their contiguity to the metropolis, to require any minute description. I next came to Brentford, the county-town of Middlesex, remarkable only for the length, dirtiness, and ruggedness of its streets. It has indeed been

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rendered memorable by the victory which Edmund Ironside obtained over the Danes, who raised the siege of London, in order to meet his army at this place, A.D. 943; hither also King Charles I. advanced after the battle of Edgehill, in 1642.

Three miles farther westward is Hounslow, a market town, principally inhabited by inn-holders, as it is the first stage on the great western road. Here I unsuccessfully endeavoured to discover the scite of a convent of Friars of the order of the Holy Trinity, for the redemption of captives, which is said to have existed at this place before the third of Edward I.

This order carries the name of its institutor or founder, who was John of Matha, born at Provence, in France, in the year 1154. He followed his studies at Aix, and at Paris, where he took his degrees, and being afterwards made a priest, he retired to a place near Maux, called

Cufroid, where, with an hermit, whose name was Felix, he led a solitary life.

Both having been admonished in a dream, as the Papists affirm, to go to Pope Innocent the III<sup>d</sup>. they accordingly visited Rome, where, the Pope having had the same vision, waited for them. On the preceding day, whilst he was saying mass, it is said, a hideous phantom appeared to him, arrayed in white, with a cross half red and half blue on his breast, and grasping, with his hands, two slaves bound in chains. This vision made him resolve to establish an order, whose care should be, to go and redeem the Christian captives detained in slavery by the infidels. Having then conferred with the two hermits, he made them take an habit like to that which the phantom appeared in while he was at the altar, and gathering great alms, he sent them to redeem several captives, an undertaking which succeeded very well, and induced many others to follow their example;

monasteries were also founded for them, where they professed the rule of St. Austin. Their order was confirmed in the year 1207, under the name of the Holy Trinity, for the redemption of captives.

In England, this order was received in the year 1357, and was called the order of Ingham,

Hence I proceeded, across Hounslow-Heath, to Bedfont. The church stands on the right hand, at the entrance of the village; and the yew-trees which are before it, being cut in the shape of two large birds, have a singularly fantastical appearance, and relieve the eye of the traveller, after having passed three miles over a barren and uncultivated heath.

Next to this is Staines, a market town, sixteen miles distant from London, and situated at the western extremity of Middlesex, which is here divided from Surry by the

river Thames. This place is greatly resorted to by persons who prefer angling as an amusement; the river abounding with fish, and its banks supplying many convenient stations for sportsmen of that description. In the meadows, which skirt the river on each side, are delightful walks; and in one of them, on the Middlesex side, is an ancient stone, placed by the corporation of London, to mark the boundary of their jurisdiction on the Thames. This place will be greatly improved in its appearance, by the stone-bridge which is now erecting.

Crossing the Thames into Surry, the meadow on the right hand is Runnymede, the well-known spot where King John signed *Magna Charta*, the foundation of our liberties, and of that happy Constitution, which has ever been the wonder and admiration of Europe, the glory and pride of Englishmen. This meadow is now the race-ground of Egham.

At a short distance on the road, is the village of Egham, which was one of the first possessions of Chertsey-Abbey. Abbot Rutheric, famous for his public works, built the chancel of the church in the time of Edward III.; the church itself however is much more ancient. Here lived the poet Sir John Denham, well known by his elegant description of Cowper's-hill, which is in this neighbourhood.

Leaving Windsor-forest on the right, I next ascended Egham-hill, and entered the dreary heath of Bagshot. Here the continued sandy road, and succession of hills covered with dark furze, render travelling tiresome, and prove very ungratifying to the eye. This, at length, is somewhat relieved by the artificial cascade in Windsor Great Park, which, though the head of a considerable piece of water, for want of proper management, is separated into a confused number of small streams, and hence is destitute of that

grandeur, of which so magnificent an object might be rendered capable. Pursuing my journey over the heath, I passed Sunninghill-wells, and arrived at Bagshot, a small village, adjoining to which is Bagshot-park, once the residence of the late Prince of Wales. This, though small, is remarkably well wooded, and presents a rich and lively scenery, scarcely any trees being visible within several miles of it.

Leaving Bagshot, and ascending a long hill, a lone house presents itself, which is said to have obtained the name and sign of the *Golden Farmer*, by the following extraordinary circumstance. A farmer, for several years, met his landlord at Bagshot, for the purpose of paying his rent, and taking advantage of the old man's convivial disposition, always contrived to detain him till a late hour. When they separated, the farmer disguised himself, and knowing his landlord must ascend the hill in his way home, he lay in wait for him at this place,

and for several years robbed him of the bag of gold he had paid him but a few hours before. Playing this game, however, a little too often, he was at length detected in the fact, and confessed, that he had, for a series of years, paid his landlord the identical gold with which he had discharged his first year's rent.

Four miles farther, I crossed the stream which parts Surry from Hampshire at Blackwater, on leaving which, I kept a fine level road over the heath for near five miles, in a direct line to Hartford-bridge, and thence through the villages of Hartley-row, Hook-Newnham, and Skewers. Here the country becomes well wooded and cultivated. A few miles westward, on the right, is the village of Basinc, at which was fought a bloody battle between the Saxons, under Ethelred and his brother Alfred, and the Danes, who obtained the victory A.D. 871. At Basinc, John Marquis of Winchester, had a magnificent residence, larger

than that of any other subject in the kingdom. It afterwards became a garrison for King Charles I. and endured a siege of two years, under its gallant and loyal lord; but being at length entered by the Parliament forces in 1645, it was plundered and burnt to the ground by order of Oliver Cromwell. All that can now be discovered of this magnificent habitation, are the garden walls, and the scite, which is circular, like a keep, with an area in the middle.

Before I entered Basingstoke, I crossed the new canal, which is to join the river Wey, near Chertsey, in Surry. Great difficulties have arisen in the prosecution of this important and laudable work, from the loose sandiness of the soil, which the canal is unavoidably obliged to pass through: when completed, however, it will be of essential service, not only to the town of Basingstoke, but to all the villages near which it passes.

Basingstoke is forty-seven miles from London. It is governed by a corporation, and has a good market for corn and malt, and likewise possesses a small share of the woollen trade. It has a handsome church, built by Fox, Bishop of Winchester, in the reign of Henry VIII. as appears by an ancient inscription on the spandrils of the north door of the chancel. The vestry and library adjoining, are parts of the old church; the library having been originally the chapel of St. Stephen. In this church were buried the mother and several of the kindred of Walter de Merton, Bishop of Rochester, and High Chancellor of England, the munificent founder of Merton-college, Oxford, in the reign of Edward I. A chauncry was founded for them in St. Stephen's chapel. Walter de Merton had large property and connections here. Sir George Wheeler, the great Asiatic traveller, was vicar of this church. The advowson, being part of the possessions of Selbourne priory, was granted to Magdalen

college, Oxford, by the founder, Bishop William of Wainflete.

According to Tanner, Henry III. at the desire of Walter de Merton, founded an hospital for aged priests, at Basingstoke. The walls were of flint, and part of the chapel-roof lately remained. It was panelled with the arms of Merton, in the intersections; but every mark of antiquity about this hospital, was at length destroyed by the erection of a new brick-building on the spot, about the year 1778.

Here was born John de Basingstoke, archdeacon of Leicester, much celebrated for his knowledge of the Greek language, and an intimate friend of Matthew Paris; also Bishop Grosseteste, who first introduced the Greek numerals into England. John de Basingstoke died in 1252.

North of Basingstoke, on the right of the road, is a foundation of Sir William Sands,

knight, chamberlain, and privy counsellor to Henry VIII. who created him Lord Sands. Bishop Fox obtained for him the king's leave to found, at Basingstoke, a free chapel, and guild of the Holy Ghost, the priest of which was to officiate in the chapel, and teach in the school, which is adjoining. It was suppressed in the 37th year of the same reign.

Cardinal Pole, however, restored its estates, which were again seized in the civil war, but once more restored, together with the school, in 1670, by Bishop Morley.

The chapel is now in ruins; there remains only part of the north and south walls, with a once beautiful hexangular tower, at the south west corner. Of the tomb of its founder, who was buried here in 1542, not the smallest vestige is now to be discovered. Both the school and the chapel have fallen into neglect, since 1673. The building was most elegantly finished in florid Gothic.

Crossing from Basingstoke, through an open cultivated country, I arrived at Kempshot, a hunting-seat of the prince of Wales, which has a small house, and an extensive park. I next passed through Popham-lane, travelling on the old Roman-road from Silchester to Winchester, and through the villages of East-Streton, at which place is the seat of Lord John Russell, and at a short distance are the villages of Kings-Worthy, and Headbourn-Worthy. The country here is pleasantly contrasted, and the eye extends to a view of Winchester, surrounded by lofty hills. On the top of one of these, on the left hand before you enter Winchester, is the chapel of St. Giles, which seems to have been a larger structure than it now appears. At this place, Waldtheof, earl of Northumberland, a noble Saxon, was beheaded, by command of William the Conqueror.

The next place I arrived at was Winchester, the ancient and most famous city of the British Belgæ, called by the Romans

*Venta Belgarum* and *Wintonia*; by the Britons,  
*Caer Gewent*, and by the Saxons *Pintace ntep.*

It is situated in a vale, surrounded by lofty hills. The river Itchen passes the east end of the city, where there is a wharf for unlading barges, which come from Southampton, and the parts adjacent. The streets in general are narrow, and badly paved, except the high-street, in which stands the market-cross, built in the reign of Henry VI. It is a handsome structure, richly ornamented, in the Gothic taste, with figures in niches; but its grandeur has been much diminished, by the manner in which it was repaired and painted in 1770, when it was in contemplation to have taken down the whole of this curious memorial of antiquity. This city was considerable in the time of the Romans; since it appears, that the emperors had a weaving manufactory here, not only for their own dresses, and those of their army, but also for making sail-cloth, and household linen. The em-

perors breed of British dogs, which were much esteemed, for purposes of war, as well as for the amusements of the amphitheatre, were trained and kept in this place. Under the Saxon heptarchy, Winchester was pillaged several times; but recovering itself after the union of the kingdoms, it became the residence of the Saxon kings, who embellished it with magnificent churches, and made it the see of a bishop.

King Ethelstan gave to Winchester the privilege of having six mints for the coinage of money. After the Norman conquest, the city increased considerably, and the public records were kept here. The town suffered considerably by two accidental fires, and by the licentious violence of the soldiery, during the civil wars between King Stephen and the Empress Matilda; the latter proving victorious, made this city her head quarters. But the inhabitants, who were not attached to her cause, with the assistance of Henry de Blois,

bishop of the see, betrayed the place into the hands of King Stephen ; and Matilda would have been taken prisoner, had she not escaped, by the stratagem of spreading a report that she was dead, and being afterwards carried through the midst of her enemy's army in a coffin.

On the south-side of the west-gate, is an old castle, which sustained many sieges ; but the severest was that of 1141, during which, it was defended against King Stephen by the Empress Matilda ; when the whole city, with Hyde-abby, a magnificent and stupendous structure, besides several churches, were burnt by Henry de Blois' adherents, who, having first deserted his brother King Stephen, afterwards took part against the Empress Matilda, and by this conduct, involved the whole kingdom in a civil war. Out of the ruins of Hyde-abby, the next year, this bishop received from the monks, two hundred and fifteen pounds of silver, and fifteen pounds of gold, besides jewels and other

valuables. In this fire perished a superb crucifix, given by Canute, the Dane, who had expended upon it, as old records say, one year's revenue of the whole kingdom. It was generally thought, that De Blois took advantage of the times, to get this wealth into his own power, and to humble the monks, whose abbey was become a rival to the cathedral, which he wished to convert into an archbishoprick for himself, and to make the abbey a bishoprick, dependent upon it. This abbey was originally called *Newanminſtre*, and stood in the Close, hard by St. Swithen's cathedral, which was otherwise called *Ealdeminiſtre*.

These abbeys were so near together, that the voices of the singers could be heard from one to the other, which occasioned many disputes among the monks, who afterwards proceeded to open quarrels. This circumstance, added to the inconvenience of the air being rendered unwholesome, by the great body of water issuing from the west-

gate, through the streets, and stagnating at the new monastery, occasioned Newanminstre to be removed, two hundred years after its foundation, into the suburb called *Hide*; after which translation, it bore the name of *Hide*-abbey. The bones of Alfred, king of the West Saxons, and of Edward, his son and successor, were brought to this place, and laid in a tomb before the high altar, in which were lately found two small tablets of lead, inscribed with their names. There also were deposited the bones of St. Grimbald and Judoce.

The building of the castle is ascribed to King Arthur. Edgar, Edward the Confessor, William Rufus, and Richard the First, after his return from the holy wars, were crowned here. Sir William Waller took this castle from King Charles in the civil wars; at which time, it consisted of a square stone building, having a tower at each of the corners. The whole of it was soon afterwards destroyed, except the Keep, whose

foundation is formed of flint and stone, and the great hall, where the assizes are now held. In this hall is preserved a large oak-table, which they tell you is King Arthur's celebrated round-table; but it may, with greater propriety, be stated to have been one of those tables, used, at an early period, at tournaments or other military festivals, to prevent disputes of precedence amongst the young nobility.

King Charles the Second began a magnificent palace near the scite of the castle. It was built, at a great expence, from a design of Sir Christopher Wren. The shell alone cost £.25,000. The west-side of the building is 328 feet long, the south-side 216 feet; and a cupola, of 30 feet high, was intended to have been raised from the roof, to serve as a sea-mark. In the original plan was a handsome street, formed in a direct line from the palace, to the west-end of the cathedral; and besides this, a park of ten miles in circumference was intended. This palace would

have been sufficiently extensive to entertain the whole of the court; and if the scheme had been completely carried into execution, it would have given Winchester a superb and splendid appearance, and furnished a lasting memorial of the refined taste of that expensive monarch. During the last war, this building was converted into a prison, and it is now, by the humanity of the British Government, made an Asylum for the French Emigrants.

In this city, it is supposed, that King Lucius founded a monastery, A.D. 196, and that the cathedral was begun by Kinegils, the first Christian King of the West Saxons, after pulling down a college of monks, which stood in the heart of the city, in the time of the Romans, and probably was that in which Constats, the monk, resided, before he was appointed emperor by his father Constantine. King Kenwalch finished this cathedral in 646, and the see of Dorchester was transferred hither by Bishop Wina, in

660. In 963, Bishop Ethelwold converted this monastery into a convent of benedictines. The present cathedral was begun by Bishop Walklyn, about the year 1079. He built the tower, the greatest part of the choir, the transept, and probably the west-end. The nave was partly repaired by Bishop Edindon; but William of Wickham, Bishop of this See, entirely rebuilt it in 1394. The whole of the building, from east to west, is 545 feet, including the chapel of our Lady, which is 54 feet. The choir is 136 feet by 40, the transept 186 feet long, the centre tower 150 feet high, the nave 300 feet long, and 87 feet wide, including the side-ailes. The stalls of the choir were built, by Prior Silk~~Rede~~. The choir under the tower was vaulted in the reign of Charles I. The noble altar-screen, the side-walls, the roof of the presbytery, and its ailes, were built by Bishop Fox, in 1525. At the entrance of the choir is a screen, designed by Inigo Jones. Thirteen Saxon kings were buried here, as were also King

Lucius, Canute, Hardicanute, William Rufus, Queen Emma, and Richard the Third, son of William the Conqueror. When the soldiers under Sir William Waller entered this abbey, at the time of the civil wars, they opened the tomb of Rufus, in the choir, and found on his thumb, a gold ring set with rubies, said to be worth five hundred pounds. Nor was this the only act of depredation of which they were guilty; for, besides displacing the bones of the Saxon kings, which had been carefully deposited by Bishop Fox, in oaken-chests, richly carved, they damaged several of the monuments; and it was with difficulty, that an officer of the name of Cuffe, who had been educated at the college, saved the magnificent tomb of William of Wickham from their fury.

Above twenty Bishops of Winchester have been buried in this cathedral. Cardinal Beaufort, Bishops Edindon, Wainfleet, Wickham, Fox, Gardiner, Langton, Pon-

tissara, and Tocliffe, have handsome monuments. The font is a square bason of black touchstone, adorned with very ancient bas-reliefs, representing one of the miracles performed by the patron of the church, and is probably of Saxon antiquity. The cathedral was originally dedicated to St. Swithen. At the reformation, its establishment was altered by Henry VIII. to one dean, twelve prebendaries, six minor canons, ten lay clerks, and eight choristers, with some inferior officers. He, at the same time, granted permission to dedicate the cathedral to the Holy Trinity, since which period it has been called Trinity-church. There is also a chapel of the Virgin Mary, and another called Silkstede's chapel, probably built by the prior of that name. Over the altar is a beautiful picture, painted by Mr. West, representing the raising of Lazarus from the dead. On the south-side of the cathedral, stands the college of St. Mary, founded by that eminent patron of learning, William of Wickham, in 1387. The establishment

consists of a warden, ten fellows, one school-master, one usher, three chaplains, and seventy scholars, besides three clerks, and sixteen choristers. The building contains two quadrangles, with a noble chapel, hall, library, and cloisters, besides a spacious quadrangle, contiguous to the college, where the commoners or scholars, not on the foundation, live, in a collegiate manner, under the master.

The bishop's palace, called *Wolvesey*, stands opposite to the college. It is a large building with several towers, and has a stream running nearly round it. This palace has undergone a great number of alterations from the various possessors of the See, so that scarcely any part of the original building is left entire.

In this city there was also a convent and abbey, founded by Elfwida, wife of King Alfred, and dedicated to St. Mary. From this convent, which, from its ruins appears to

have been very extensive. From this convent, Henry I. married Matilda, daughter of Malcolm, King of Scotland, the heiress of the ancient royal family of the Saxons; and thereby formed an union with the house of Normandy. In Winchester, there are several other buildings of antiquity, but of lesser note, for which reason, I shall pass them over, and proceed to speak of a structure, half a mile south of the town, where stands the hospital of St. Cross, an ancient and extensive building. It was founded by Henry De Blois, in 1136, for the residence and maintenance of thirteen poor men, with provision for one hundred others to dine every day. This establishment was altered by Bishop Tocliffe in 1185, and an additional number of pensioners, of both descriptions, were added. In 1444, Cardinal Beaufort also gave ample endowments, and greatly increased the number of objects. Henry VI. added five hundred pounds per annum to its revenues, and entitled it the Alms-house of Noble Poverty. Now, however, this well-endowed house maintains only a master, nine poor brethren,

and four out-pensioners. The church is a venerable and curious specimen of Saxon architecture. It is in the form of a cross, with aisles; the nave is one hundred and fifty feet long, and the transept one hundred and twenty.

Leaving St. Cross, I took the road through Compton, and the pleasant village of Hurstley. At this place the Bishop of Winchester had formerly a park and castle, called Merdon, the scite of which is now a farm. These, together with the village, became the property of Richard, the son of Oliver Cromwell, in consequence of his marriage with the eldest daughter of Richard Major, esq. then lord of the manor. Richard Cromwell was buried in the parish-church, which, with the house, was elegantly rebuilt by Sir William Heathcote, father of Sir Thomas, the present possessor. The wood and verdure in this park, are beautiful and luxuriant.

Passing Otterborne, I proceeded to Stoneham, the Ad Lapidam of the Ancients.

Here were concealed the two infant brothers of Arvandus, a petty prince of the Isle of Wight, after escaping the massacre on that island. Being betrayed, however, they were at last put to death by order of Ceadwalla. Prior to their execution, Abbot Cymberth, taking pity on their innocence, prevailed on their executioner to let them be baptized at his monastery, at Redford, now called Redbridge.

At North Stoneham, John Fleming, esq. has a handsome house, and extensive park, well stocked with deer. Judiciously placed, on an eminence at the extremity of the latter, stands a summer-house, from which the view is extensive, and well contrasted; and here I first descried the place of my destination, enriched with the prospect of Southampton water and the new forest on the right, whilst, on the left, Portsmouth, Portsea, Gosport, Spithead, bounded with the whole extent of the Isle of Wight, Solent sea, St. Helen's road, the coast of Sussex, and Portsdown hills,

were also distinguishable. I arrived too at a fortunate moment, for the day being fine, and the sun declining, nature was profuse in that variety of beautiful tints, which a lover of the arts so much admires, together with the view of near four hundred sail of vessels of various descriptions, rendered the scene truly picturesque and enchanting.

Farther on the left, is Portswood-house, the seat of General Stibbert, in whose grounds, on the banks of the Itchen, are the small remains of a priory, dedicated to St. Dionysius. On the opposite shore, once a Roman station, is Bittern. Near it passes the Via Icenorum, or Ikelind-street, a Roman way, which extended from Tinmouth, in Northumberland, to Winchester and Southampton. Before you enter the town, are Bevis Mount (or Padwell) the seat of Edward Horne, esq. and Bellevue, the residence of Sir Richard King. Each of these, in particular points of view, makes an interesting appearance.

Having travelled twelve miles, I arrived at Southampton, anciently called Hanton, from its situation on the Tese, or Anton, and the Arle, or Itchen. The old town is allowed to be the Clausentum of the Romans, which was situated more east, on the ground near St. Mary's church, which still retains the ancient privilege of being the mother church of Southampton.

The old town, which had suffered repeatedly by the ravages of the Danes, at an early period, was at length demolished by the French and Genoese, A.D. 1338, during the contest between Edward III. and Philip de Valois, for the crown of France. As this story may possibly afford the reader some amusement, I shall relate it in the author's words:

" The fourth of October, fiftie galleyes  
" well maned and furnished came to South-  
" ampton, about nine of the clocke; and  
" sacked the towne, the townsmen running

“ away for feare; by the breake of the next  
“ day they which fled, by the help of the  
“ country thereabouts came against the py-  
“ rates and fought them, in which skirmish  
“ were flaine to the number of three hun-  
“ dred pyrates, together with their captaine,  
“ a young soldiour, the Kinge of Sicilie’s  
“ sonne: to this young man the French  
“ Kinge had given whatever he got in the  
“ kingdome of England; but he being  
“ beaten down by a certaine man of the  
“ countrey, cried Rancon: yea (quoth he,  
“ I know well enough thou art a Francon  
“ and therefore shalt thou dye) for he un-  
“ derstood not his speech, neither had he  
“ any skill to take a gentleman prisoner and  
“ keep them for their ransome; wherefore  
“ the risidue of these Gennowayes, after  
“ they had set the towne a fire, and burned  
“ it quite, fledde to their galleyes; and in  
“ flying certaine of them was drowned; and  
“ after this the inhabitants of the towne  
“ compassed it about with a strong and great  
“ wall.”

To preserve the new town, which was built soon after, from the like calamity, it was fortified with an embattled wall, built with stone, and flanked with towers. It was also, in many places, fenced by a double ditch; and Richard II. in aid of the undertaking, not only granted the inhabitants several of the duties paid at that port, but also built a strong castle, at his own private expence, for the defence of the harbour.

The present town, in point of convenience, is much to be preferred; as on the west and south it is washed by Southampton water, and, at a short distance towards the east, by the river Itchen. It had originally seven gates, of which six now remain; and the strong walls, which once inclosed it, may yet be traced quite round the town.

Bar-gate, by which you enter the principal street, is not much impaired by time. Over it, is the town-hall, and the prison for debtors. The street, which is wide, and

well paved, and three quarters of a mile in length, has a striking appearance. Here are good private houses, and inns, shops of every description, and a handsome market house, well supplied with provisions three days in the week.

At the end of this street, is Water-gate, which has been strongly fortified with a portcullis, and machicolated. This joins the quay, on which stands the custom-house. Vessels of considerable burthen may unload very commodiously. Packets, with the mail for the Isle of Wight, sail from this place, every day, except Monday, at seven in the morning; and there are boats which go to Portsmouth three times a week. The packet also sails from hence for Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney, and Sark; a considerable trade being carried on with those places, and the merchants having agents at this town, to transact their business. Going to the right when you return from the quay, you pass God's house-gate, and approach South-gate,

which is converted into the town-prison. Near this, but much neglected, is a platform of cannon, one of them in several respects curious. It is mounted on a singular kind of carriage, bearing the arms of England and France, quarterly, supported by a griffin and a greyhound, under which is the following inscription.

HENRICUS VIII.  
ANGLIE. FRAN  
CIE. ET HIBERN  
IE. REX FIDEI. DE  
FENSOR. INVICT  
ISSIMVS. FF.  
—  
MDXXXII  
HR. VIII  
—  
COLOVRINA. 4 Q. 14

Beyond the platform, is a pleasant walk, much frequented in the summer evenings, on account of its delightful situation on the banks of the river Itchen, and under the shade of a double row of trees. The village of *Hitbe*, on the other side of Southampton water, and the woods on the opposite shore

of the Itchen, are viewed from hence to great advantage. This walk terminates at the ferry, across the Itchen, where Queen Elizabeth built the cross house for the accommodation of passengers, waiting for the ferry-boat. From this place, you return into the town by Chapel mill. Half a mile farther, at *Northam*, is a large dock-yard, where several ships of war have been built for government by contract. In the suburb of St. Mary, leading to East-street, there stood a gate, which bore the same name, but which has been taken down some years. It is said to have been a curious structure. *West Quay* gate, which has suffered much by time, appears to have been once a very strong fabric. In the way to it, you pass the ancient cellars, once used for the stowage of tin, and alum foil, of which great quantities were manufactured at this place; but they are now occupied as warehouses, for the wool brought from the Isle of Wight. Henry VI. in the thirty-first year of his reign, seized on the tin and alum foil, and sold it for his own use; allowing, as a compen-

fation to the merchants, whose property it legally was, the duties and sole privilege of importing and exporting various articles at the port of Southampton, until they were reimbursed the full value of their goods. Near this spot, are the assembly rooms and baths, which are commodious, and well adapted for public use. In the neighbourhood too, is another small gate, and, on a mount, not far off, where stood the castle, which has long been destroyed, a handsome pleasure-house was built, in the year 1741. From the roof of this, every part of the town and adjacent country, may be viewed with so great advantage, that I would recommend every stranger to visit it. A short time spent in surveying the surrounding objects, will convey a more correct idea of the place, than can be acquired by any other means.

Southampton contains five churches : St. Lawrence's, Holy Rood, and All Saints, stand in the high street; St. Michael's is in the square, and St. Mary's in the east suburb.

All Saints church is now rebuilding, on a plan which does great honour to the abilities of Mr. Revely, the architect.

A convent of Franciscans or Grey Friars, was founded here, A.D. 1240. This order originated in the penitentiary sacrifices of a debauched youth, of the name of Francis, who was born at Assify, in Umbria, and who was disinherited for robbing his father. Stung with remorse, however, for the profligacy of his life, he retired, in the year 1206, to a little chapel, near Assify, called Our Lady of the Angels. Here he led so rigid a life, that, in a short time, he attracted many admirers, and at last followers and companions, of whom he made himself the head, and formed a set of rules, for the regulation of this order, which, in a short time, became a very numerous body.

Near this, is God's house, a very ancient establishment, founded by Roger Hampton. The deed, which is in the archives of the

corporation, is so decayed by time, that the date cannot be made out. By a charter of Edward III. however, it was granted to Queen's college, Oxford, with a proviso, that, out of the rents, a fund should be formed for the maintenance of such poor scholars of the college, as had the misfortune to labour under incurable disorders. God's house, at present, consists of a warden, four old men, and the same number of women, who each have an allowance of two shillings a week, and lodging.

In the chapel of St. Julian at this place, were interred the bodies of Richard Earl of Cambridge, Sir Thomas Grey, and Lord Scrope, after their execution, for a conspiracy against the life of Henry V. when he was preparing to embark for France. To carry on this design, it is said, the sum of one million, in gold, was remitted them from France. They were greatly in the king's confidence, but the Earl of March, one of the conspirators, foreseeing the con-

sequences which would follow to the nation if this bloody transaction were accomplished, revealed the whole plot. Earl Cambridge and Sir Thomas Grey were beheaded, and Lord Scrope was hanged, drawn, and quartered.

Southampton contains several other public foundations, which it is unnecessary to describe minutely. On the shore, it is said, Canute the Great, wisely reproved the flattery of his courtiers, who servilely endeavoured to persuade him, that all nature, even the waves of the sea, must obey his mandate.

Domesday-book states, that in the year 1080, Southampton had but eighty men, tenants in demesne. Either the ruinous condition in which it was left by the Danes, or the subsequent impediments to its re-establishment, must have occasioned this. However, when the nation was more settled, the inhabitants applied to commerce, and their first object was to be incorporated, or,

as it was then called, to be made a Guild, by which certain liberties, exclusive privileges and immunities were secured to them.

Their first charter was granted by Henry II. and it was afterwards confirmed by Richard I. King John, Edward III. and Richard II. But Henry IV. extended their privileges still farther, and these were confirmed to them by Henry V. and VI.

To Southampton belonged the sole privilege of importing canary wines, which the inhabitants even supplied to the merchants of the metropolis. It also ranked next to the port of London, in the importation of other wines.

According to the last charter which was granted by Charles I. though only a confirmation of former charters, the corporation is directed to consist of a mayor, recorder, sheriff, and two bailiffs. Persons who have served any of those offices become mem-

bers of the common council, which is unlimited with respect to number. The corporation have a power of choosing burgesses, who, though not members of the common council, are yet of the corporation, and have votes. There are eleven justices of the peace, to wit, the mayor, the bishop of Winchester, the recorder, the last mayor for the time being, five aldermen, and two burgesses. All who have passed the chair are aldermen, and besides those already mentioned, there are several officers, such as the town clerk, four serjeants at mace, a town crier, &c.

This borough was made a county in itself, independent of the lord lieutenant and sheriff of the shire, by Henry II. and this right was confirmed by King John and his successors.

It returns to parliament two members, who are elected by the inhabitants paying scot and lot. The mayor is admiral of the

liberties from South Sea Castle to Hurst Castle.

Since the year 1667, Southampton has given the title of Earl to the families of Beauvois, Fitzwilliams, and Wriothesley; but in 1675, Charles Fitzroy, eldest natural son of King Charles II. by the Duchess of Cleveland, was created Duke of Southampton. At present the title of Lord Southampton exists in the person of Charles Fitzroy, a relation of the Duke of Grafton, created a Baron, in 1780, by his present Majesty.

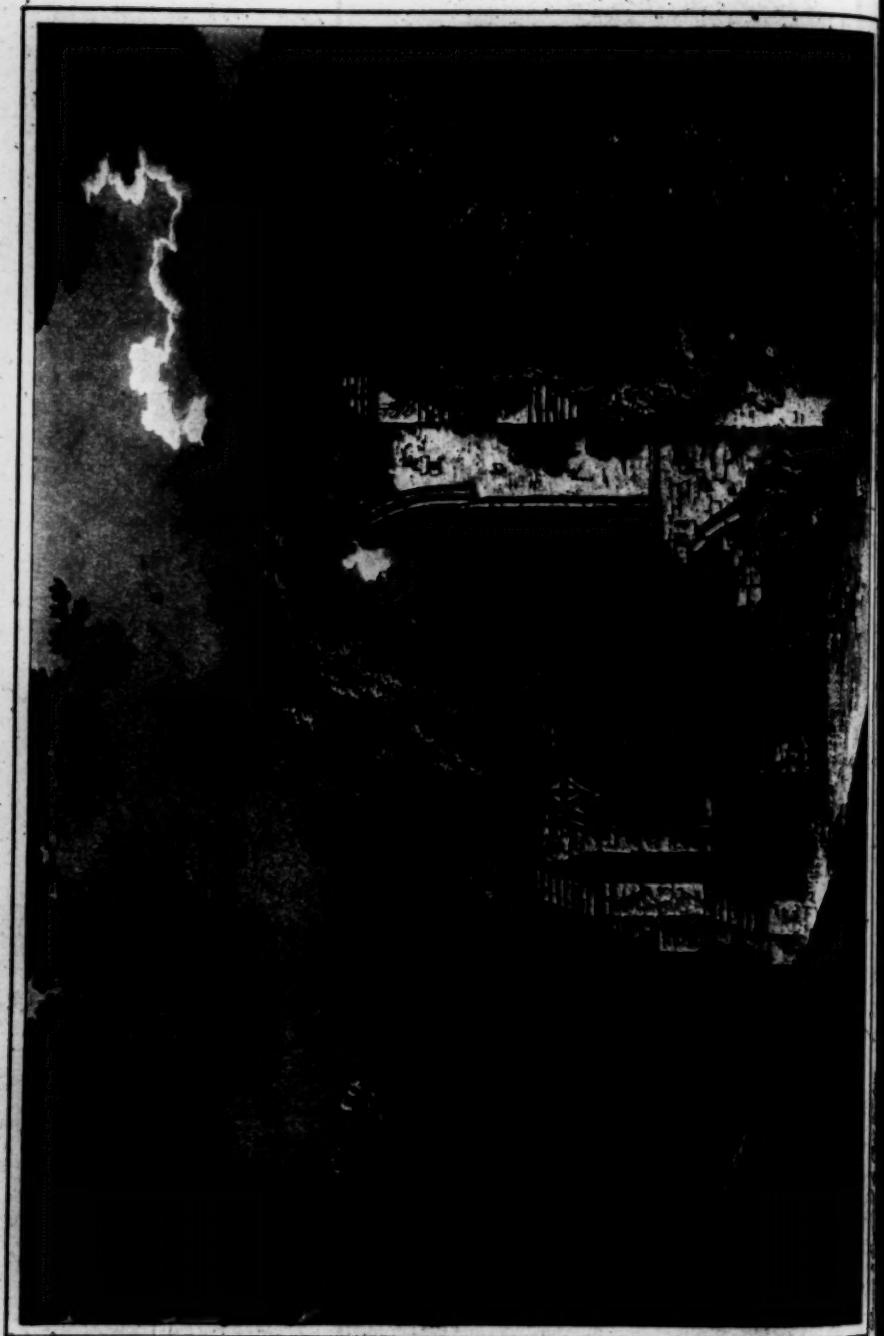
Of this place nothing farther need be said, than that it supplies every kind of accommodation and amusement, both for vale-tudinarians and the fashionable world. The environs of the town and the unfinished Polygon, are pleasant and airy. The country abounds with desirable walks, and the means of a variety of pleasing excursions on horseback, or in boats on the water, offer to

strangers an agreeable change of amusements.

After having seen every thing worthy of notice at Southampton, I determined on visiting, in my way to the island, the ruins of Netley Abbey; and as I had already made my observations on the opposite shore of Southampton water, I ordered a boat to wait for me at the Abbey fort, which is three miles distant from Southampton, and pursued the foot path to those celebrated ruins.

The road down East-street, leads to Itchen-ferry. On the opposite side of the river stands the village of Itchen, consisting of a few houses, chiefly inhabited by fishermen. I took the right hand path, through a copse of considerable length, which occasionally affords different views of Southampton, at the different openings formed by the hand of nature. These varieties of prospect are extremely interesting, and would afford many beautiful subjects for the pencil.





On leaving the copse, I crossed several fields, through an agreeable serpentine path, which brought me to the lawn of Woolsonhouse, one of the seats of N. Dance, Esq. R.A. the proprietor of the estate of which Netley-Abbey forms a part. From hence, I descended a small hill, through the adjoining fields, which are enlivened with a view of the New-Forest and Southampton water, until I came to the rural village of Weston. I then passed across several meadows, which terminate in an extensive wood, through which the path is continued for upwards of a mile, winding in various directions. Towards the end of it, the foliage thickens considerably, and renders the west end of Netley-Abbey, which here first strikes the eye of the visitor of this charmingly secluded edifice, extremely picturesque.

The remains of this Abbey are situated in a dell, surrounded with various trees, which greatly relieve the building, and add much to its antiquated splendour. The path, by

an easy descent to the left, leads towards the outer gate, which is kept locked to prevent depredations. Mr. Dance's keeper has a small house, about a quarter of a mile from the Abbey, where refreshments are provided; or his family will wait on those parties who bring provisions for themselves, and wish to regale under the shadow of these magnificent ruins, which is very frequently done. On entering the outer gate, I crossed the space formerly occupied by the porter of the Abbey, and passed through a smaller gate, into a spacious cloister court. Here, a number of ash trees, which appear to have grown spontaneously, assist greatly in producing that gloomy stillness so highly grateful to the minds of all, who contemplate these once sacred abodes of religion and solitude.

On the left of the cloister court, are several doors, which lead to small apartments. On the right side, there are likewise doors, leading to the chapel and the habitable parts of





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the building. Passing through several square apartments, I was shewn a large vaulted room, which is called the Abbot's kitchen; but from its dark and gloomy appearance, I should rather suppose it to have been one of the cellars belonging to the Abbey. There is yet remaining in the south aisle, a part of the stone cieling, in which are several coats of arms, neatly carved, and in a good state of preservation. These, and the different ornaments scattered about, show that the workmanship of the building was superb and well executed. The stone is of a close texture and exceedingly firm, and in many parts it has the appearance of having been lately cut.

Of the east window, which is large and handsome, some judgment may be formed from the annexed view; but the scale of this work is much too small to do justice to so noble a subject.

If the trees in the inside of the chapel were thinned with judgment, it would give some-

what more consequence to the ruins, and preserve them also from the damp, which so large a quantity of surrounding foliage communicates.

A small stair-case still remains, by which you may ascend to the top of the building, and view the ruins to great advantage.

Here the ivy is luxuriant and picturesque, and the body of the chapel is seen filled with fragments of the building, overgrown with weeds and moss.

“ From the rent roof and portico sublime,  
Where rev’rend shrines in gothic grandeur stood,  
The nettle or the noxious nightshade spreads ;  
And ashlings, wasted from the neighbouring wood,  
Through the worn turret wave their trembling heads.”

Necteleye, Lettley, Netley, or Edwardstow, is pleasantly situated in the parish of Hound, on the eastern banks of Southampton water, three miles below the town. Leland and Godwin attribute the founding

of the Abbey to Peter de Rupibus, who died in 1238. But Dugdale and Tanner differ from them in opinion. Those learned antiquaries say, that an Abbey for Cistercian monks from Beaulieu, dedicated to St. Mary and St. Edward, was founded by Henry III. A.D. 1239, which probably was this very edifice, as the situation perfectly agrees with the place where the king is said to have built it. On the suppression of this monastery, it was occupied by an abbot and twelve monks, whose possessions were valued, according to Dugdale, at £.100 12s. 8d. but according to Speed, at £.160 2s. 9d.

The order of Cistercian Monks was originally founded by Robert, Abbot of Molsme, who, being tired of the dissolute life which the monks of that monastery led, withdrew himself, with twenty-one of his religious companions, into the solitudes of Citeaux, five leagues distant from the city of Dijon, in Burgundy. Oto I. Duke of Burgundy, endowed this establishment with

considerable revenues. The monks followed the rule of St. Bennet, with the addition of some constitutions, framed with the consent of his brethren, by Stephen III. abbot of this order, and confirmed, in 1107, by Pope Urban II. This order existed in England before the year 1132, as, at that time, they had a monastery at Rishval. Their habit was originally black, but it was changed by Barnard, one of their abbots, who pretended, that the Virgin Mary appeared to him, and commanded him, for her sake, to wear white clothes.

At the reformation, Henry VIII. granted this Abbey and its possessions to Sir William Paulet. About the middle of the sixteenth century, it was the seat of the Earl of Hereford, and was afterwards fitted up and inhabited by the Marquis of Huntingdon, who, it is said, converted the west end of the chapel into a kitchen and other offices, reserving the east end for sacred purposes. In the year 1700, it came into the possession of

Sir Bartlet Lucy, who sold the materials of the chapel to one Taylor, a carpenter of Southampton, who took off the roof, which, till then, had remained entire. The fate of this artificer, as related by Brown Willis, in his History of Mitred Abbeys, I shall introduce here, as I found, upon enquiring of some of his family, who are now living at Southampton, that the account is a true one :

“ During the time that Walter Taylor  
“ was in treaty with Sir Bartlet Lucy, he  
“ was greatly disturbed by frightful dreams,  
“ as some say, apparitions, particularly by  
“ that of a person in the habit of a monk,  
“ who threatened him with great mischief if  
“ he persisted in his purpose : one night in  
“ particular, he dreamed a large stone from  
“ one of the windows fell upon him and  
“ killed him. This so terrified him, that he  
“ communicated these disturbances to a par-  
“ ticular friend, who advised him to desist ;  
“ but avarice and the contrary advice of

" other friends, getting the better of his  
" fears, he concluded the bargain, when, at-  
" tempting to take out some stones from  
" the bottom of the west wall, the whole  
" body of a window fell upon him and  
" crushed him to death."

The ruins of Netley-abby became afterwards the property of Henry Cliff, esq. who sold them to the late Mr. Dummer. They are now in the possession of N. Dance, esq. R.A. who married Mr. Dummer's widow. At some distance from the building, to the eastward, there are large mounds, which appear to have been the heads of fish-ponds or reservoirs for fresh water, the tide of Southampton water being salt. A little to the westward, on the shore of Southampton water, stands a ruined castle, the shell of which now only remains. From its construction, it appears to have been built considerably later than the abbey. This ruin consists of a square centre building, which you enter by a flight of steps, through a





small door, that appears to have had a portcullis on the east-side. It has likewise been defended with a deep moat, a double platform for cannon, and a wing on each side, of nearly the same dimensions as the centre, with battlements on the top.

Leaving this place, I reached the shore of Southampton water, at the Abbey-fort, of the structure and situation of which, the annexed sketch, taken with a view towards Southampton, will give the reader an idea.

The tide and a gentle breeze being in my favour, I went into the boat, and passed Gatlands, a seat of Mr. Drummond, the situation of which is extremely pleasant; the new forest adorning the right hand shore, with a variegated and rich scenery. On a hill upon the left hand, stands Hamble-church, a plain building, with a square tower, which serves as a land-mark. Mrs. York, is building a handsome house on the shore, not very distant from that part

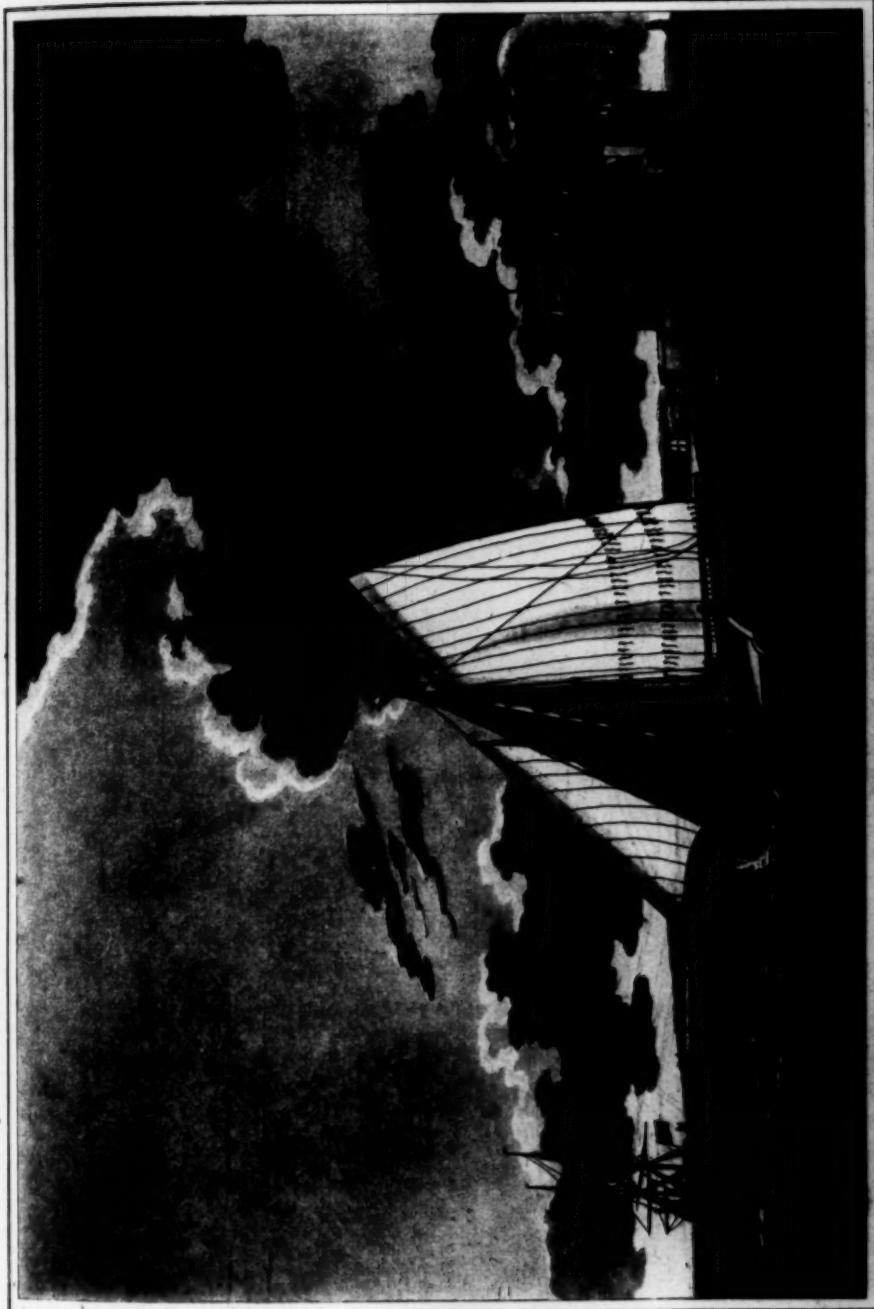
of the Hamble-river, which joins Southampton water.

Moored at the mouth of this river, is a handsome vessel, the property of Governor Hornby, who has an elegant house, in the parish of Hook, at the extreme point of land on the left of the mouth of Southampton water, which, in this part, is about two miles across. Nearly opposite to Hook, I stopped to take a drawing of Calshot-castle, and a distant prospect of the Isle of Wight, which form the fourth view in this work. I afterwards landed to see the castle, which is situated on a neck of land projecting into the Solent sea, at the entrance of Southampton water. It was built in the reign of Henry VIII. for the defence of this part of the coast and Southampton harbour. The platform, where the large cannon are mounted, is a polygon, surrounded by a moat, the upper part, which is at present fitted up for the officer, is circular. From the top of it, I had an extensive view to the

*Printed by Wm. Clowes & Sons, Lambeth.*

CALSHOT CASTLE.

*Photographed by Mr. J. C. H. Smith.*





east and west, and also of the whole extent of the Isle of Wight, which appears to great advantage.

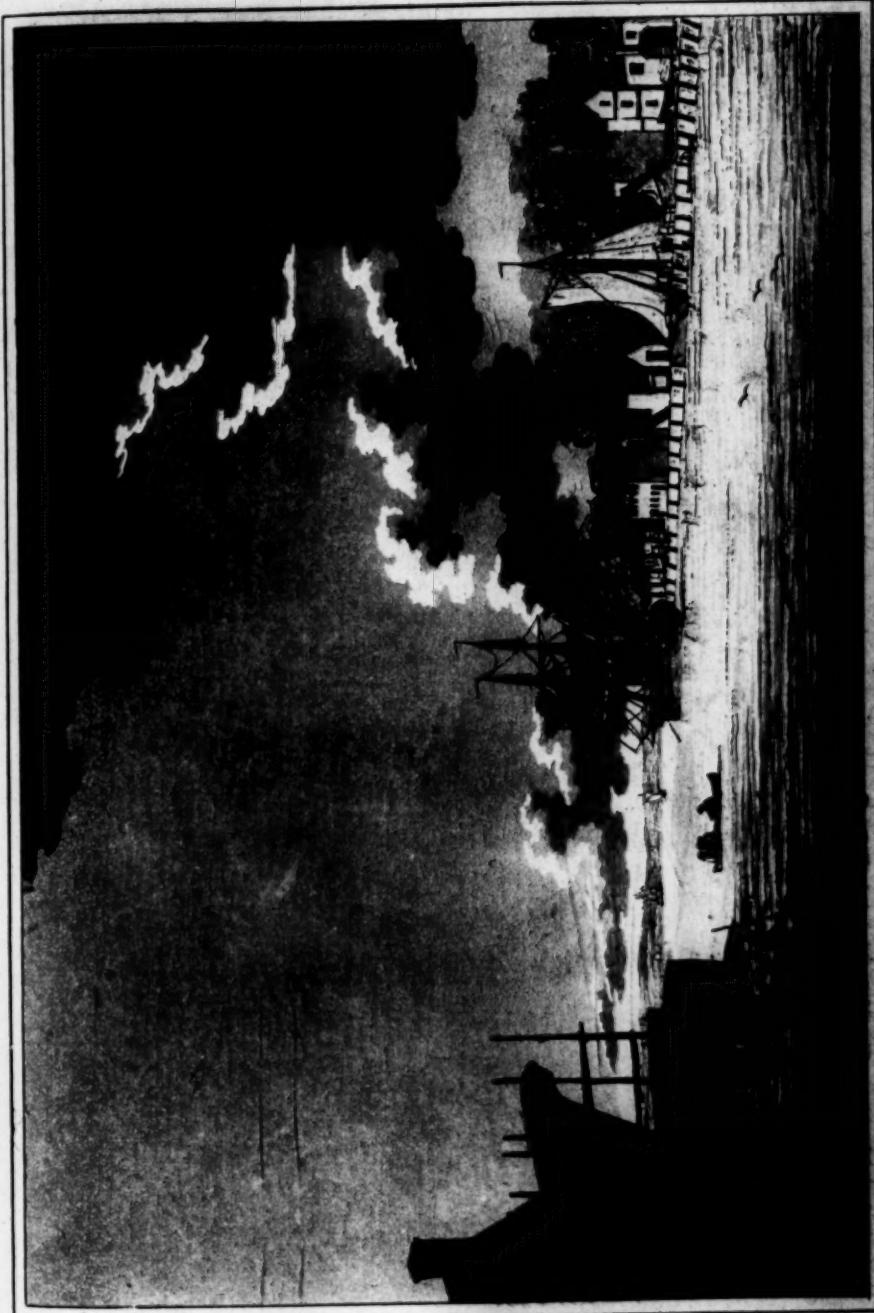
Taking water again, I approached the Brambles, a sand-bank which runs nearly up to Spithead. Here the masts of a collier, which was bound to Southampton, and lost on these sands, are still seen.

" Now favour'd with a mild propitious gale,  
We to the breeze expand the swelling sail;  
The land recedes—the vessel seems to sleep,  
Smooth, gliding o'er the surface of the deep;  
Near, and more near, advancing Vecta moves,  
Along her shores the eye delighted roves;  
Secure from storms, here lies the circling bay,  
Fair rural views ascending from the sea;  
There lowering rocks a threat'ning ruin show,  
And here the dashing surges rage below."

Approaching the shore, Cowes-harbour and the village make a striking appearance, the houses being built in irregular ranges above each other, on a rising ground, intermixed with gardens and lofty trees.

Covering the opposite shore of the Medina, is the village of East-Cowes, at which place, all the custom-house duties are paid, for the ships that arrive in the harbour. On the high ground above the village, Mr. Aljoe has built a house, the prospect from which, to the westward, is very extensive. The village of East Cowes, the River Medina, and West-Cowes, form agreeable and busy scenes, enlivened still more by the vessels continually passing, and the boats from the shipping, which lie at anchor in Cowes-road. This place is the general resort of foreign vessels, owing to the convenience of the situation and tides, which enable them to turn out either to the eastward or westward, without difficulty.

After two hours sailing, I arrived at West-Cowes, a village consisting of one street, chiefly inhabited by tradesmen, who supply the shipping that arrive, with any article they may want. At this place, there is a private dock-yard, which, within the last



Wet plate negative taken by C. and J. Kirby, Ryde, 1894.

COWES HARBOUR.

Presented by Mr. T. T. Lewis.



sixty years, has contributed to the British navy, the following ships of war, namely, the Vanguard of seventy guns, the Repulse of sixty-four, the Salisbury of fifty, the Cerberus and Astrea of thirty-two, the Andromeda of twenty-eight, the Veteran of sixty-four guns, and the Experiment of forty-four; besides a number of smaller vessels.

The chief imports of the Island, are timber, deals, and iron. These articles, which are destined for Dorsetshire, and Sussex, are landed at this port, on account of its accommodation for loading and unloading. Of late years, considerable quantities of wine, some cargoes of hemp, and also fruits from Spain and Portugal, have been consigned hither. Before the separation of the American colonies from Great-Britain, there annually arrived from Georgia and South Carolina, a number of vessels laden with rice, whose cargoes were computed at thirty or forty thousand barrels. The rice was landed, opened, skreened, and repacked; and

generally shipped again for Holland, Germany, or some of the French ports. These ships likewise brought tobacco, deer-skins, staves, indigo, pitch, tar, and various other articles. Since the establishment of the independence of America, the port of Cowes has been deprived of the advantages of these beneficial imports. The articles exported from the Island, consist of wheat, flour, malt, barley, wool, and salt; of which large quantities are shipped for France, Spain, Portugal, and the ports in the Mediterranean.

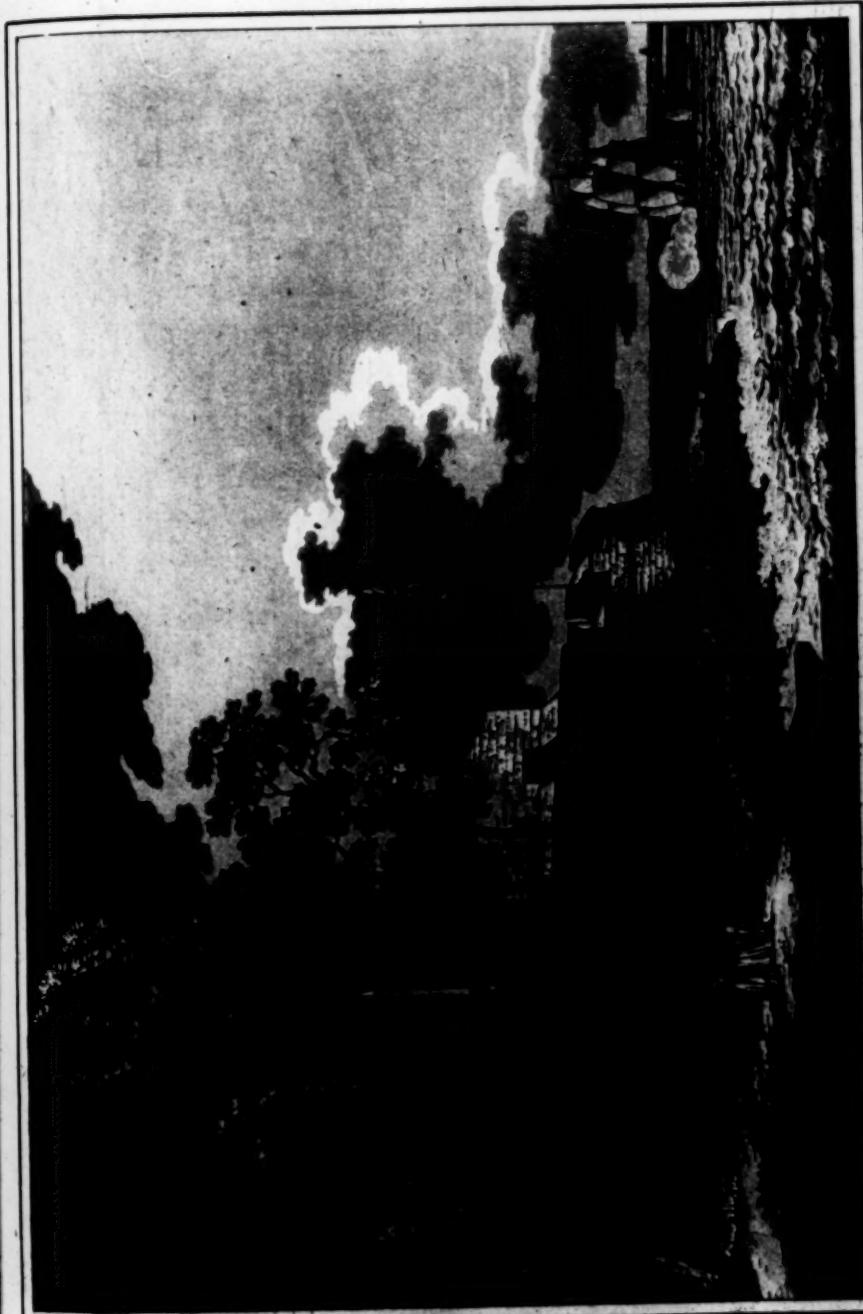
There are two inns at West-Cowes, and a number of lodging-houses, for the accommodation of strangers, who, of late years, have frequented it as a bathing-place, in which respect, besides the conveniences common for sea bathing, it possesses the singular advantage of a shore, on which parties may bathe at any state of the tide.

Cowes-castle, which stands near the bathing place, was built by Henry VIII. as a pro-

*Published at the Author's Office by C. and J. Waring, Swan Lane, York.*

COWES CASTLE.

*Drawn & Engraved by G. F. Stanier.*





tection to the port. It consists of a small battery, in the form of a crescent, which mounts a few cannon. The circular tower and square building, are occupied by the officer and gunner. In the upper part of this town, are several neat houses, inhabited by different gentlemen, which possess great advantages in point of prospect. One of these on the sea-shore, called *Egypt*, is a delightful summer residence.

This Island, known to us by the name of the Isle of *Wight*, was called by the Britons, *Guith*; by the Romans, *Vecta*, or *Vectis*, and by the Saxons, *Wiceland*, and *Wicp-Ea*. This, which is the largest and most valuable of the appendant British Islands, is situated opposite the south coast of England, from which it is separated by a channel, varying in breadth, from one mile to seven, formerly called the Solent Sea. It forms a part of the county of Southampton, or Hampshire, and is within the Diocese of Winchester. The figure

of the Island, is an irregular lozenge; in length from east to west, upwards of twenty-two miles, and in breadth, from north to south, in the widest part, near fourteen miles. It is reckoned to contain a hundred and thirty thousand acres of land, and possesses every variety of soil that can be found in any other part of Great-Britain. Its fertility is so remarkable, that it has been said to produce, in one year, enough to supply the consumption of its inhabitants, for eight years; but the present produce, from the many improvements which have been made in agriculture, must considerably exceed the former computation. Extending from the east to the west end of the Island, we see a range of downs, from several parts of which, particularly Ashey, Bucombe, and St. Catherine's, nearly the whole coast of the Island may be seen, together with the adjacent shores of Dorsetshire, Hampshire, and Sussex. These downs afford excellent pasture for sheep, of which there are great numbers bred in the

Island. The lambs are sent to different markets, and some thousands are annually carried to London. Their wool, which is scarcely inferior to that of Leominster, and Cotswold, supplies the different cloathing towns in Dorsetshire and Devonshire, with many thousand tod's yearly, and is sold in the fleece. Every species of fish that is found on the English coasts is caught here, and the southern side of the Island abounds with such plenty of shéll-fish, that a village has obtained the name of *Crab Niton*, from the abundance of crabs which are caught near it.

Some years back, this place was well furnished with game of all sorts, but it has been much thinned of late, by the great number of sportsmen that have traversed the Island for their amusement. It has been remarked, however, that there is neither fox, badger, nor pole-cat, to assist in their destruction. In the months of May, June, July, and August, great numbers of sea birds assemble to take

advantage of the solar rays, on the south-side of the Island, to breed up their young. Poultry of every denomination is bred here, to the great accommodation of the vessels anchoring at the different ports, and at St. Helen's, and the Mother Bank.

Formerly, there was plenty of timber upon the Island ; but being situated so near to Portsmouth dock-yard, the consumption of that place and of its own private yards, for ship building, has reduced it to a quantity scarcely sufficient for private consumption. The water, of which there are various springs equal in purity to that of Bristol, I have been informed, has frequently undergone the experiment of a West-India voyage, and returned in a pure and wholesome state.

The present division of the Isle of Wight, is into two hundreds, separated by the course of the River Mede, Medham, or, as it is now called, Medina, which rising near

the bottom of St. Catharine's down, runs northward, and discharges itself into the channel, between East and West Cowes. These hundreds are distinguished by the names of East and West Medina, according to their situation in respect to that River. Formerly the east was called Hommerfwell, and the west, Bowcomb hundred. In Doomsday-book, mention is made of a third hundred, lying in that of Bowcomb, and called Cauborn hundred; probably on account of its belonging to the fee of Winchester, and thence enjoying peculiar immunities. The Island at present contains thirty parishes, some of which are small, and have obtained the denomination of separate parishes, merely from having distinct parochial rates. The following is a list of the names of the parishes as they are situated in the two hundreds.

*East Medina.*      *West Medina.*

Arreton	Brixton
Binstead	Brook
Bonechurch	Calborne
Brading	Chale
Godshill	Carisbrook
Newchurch	Freshwater
Niton	Gatcombe
Shanklin	Kingston
St. Helen's	Mottistone
St. Laurence	Newport
Whippingham	Northwood
Whitwell	St. Nicholas
Wootton	Shorwell
Yaveland	Shalfleet
	Thorley
	Yarmouth.

According to the best information I can collect, the inhabitants are about twenty thousand in number. The population has

therefore increased considerably since the year 1377, when the number was ascertained to be no more than seven thousand and ninety-nine. The inhabitants cannot be supposed to differ from those of the adjacent country, the distance being too small to cause any variation, and the constant intercourse with the metropolis having erased all the insular peculiarities that might have existed formerly. Their hospitality stands unrivalled ; and indeed no part of Great Britain can boast a more universal exercise of the social virtues than this Island, which seems highly favoured by nature in every respect.

“ Nor, Vecta, be thy generous sons unsung,  
 To whom the manly graces all belong ;  
 Courage to act and prudence to controul,  
 The social temper, and the friendly soul ;  
 Their language pure, their sentiments refin’d,  
 Nor less complete in person than in mind ;  
 Of comely size ; to health, to vigour known ;  
 Untainted with the vices of the Town.  
 View in thy daughters fair proportion rise,  
 The snowy bosom, and the sparkling eyes ;

And midst the bloom of beauty and of youth,  
 Mild modest virtue, and unfullied truth ;  
 With ev'ry grace adorn'd and nameless art  
 To charm the sense, and captivate the heart ;  
 Loves round them sport, in innocence they smile,  
 And crown the glories of the happy Isle.”

The Isle of Wight has been stated, by various writers of eminence, to have formerly joined the main land of Great Britain, and to have been gradually disjoined by the encroachments of the sea, which is there called the Solent, or more properly the *Solvent* sea, from the Latin verb *solvere*, to loosen or set at liberty. To give the reader as correct an idea of every thing relative to this Island as possible, I shall introduce the opinions of two very ingenious writers on this subject.

Mr. Borlase, in his Natural History of Cornwall, expresses his sentiments concerning the Isle of Wight in the following argument—  
 “ The short description which we have of the tin trade in Diodorus Siculus, must not be

omitted, though it is too general for us to learn many particulars from it. These men, (says he, meaning the tinners), manufacture their tin, by working the grounds, which produce it, with great art; for though the land is rocky, it has soft veins of earth running through it, in which the tinners find the treasure, extract, melt and purify it; then shaping it, by moulds, into a kind of cubical figure, they carry it off to a certain Island, lying near the British shore, which they call Ictis. For at the recess of the tide, the space betwixt the Island and the main land being dry, the tinners embrace the opportunity, and carry the tin in carts, as fast as may be, over to the Ictis or port; for it must be observed, that the Islands which lie betwixt the Continent and Britain have this singularity, that when the tide is full they are real Islands, but when the sea retires they are all but so many peninsulas. From this Island the merchants buy their tin of the natives, and export it into Gaul, and finally through Gaul, by a journey of about thirty

days, they bring it down on horses, to the mouth of the Erydanus, meaning the Rhone. In this description it will naturally occur to the inquisitive reader, to ask where this Ictis was, to which the Cornish carried their melted tin in carts, and there sold it to the merchants. I really cannot inform him; but by the Ictis here, it is plain, that the historian could not mean the Ictis or Vectis of the Ancients, at present called the Isle of Wight: for he is speaking of the Britons of Cornwall, and, by the words, it should seem those of the most western parts; *Της ναρ Βρετανικῆς καὶ το ἀκρωτηρίου το καλύμενον Βελερίου οι μάλισται γές, &c. Οὐδοι τον καστίλερον καλεσκευαζόσι Φιλολεκνας, &c.* that is, those who live at the extreme end of Britain, called Belerium, (now called the Lands' End,) find, dress, melt, carry, and sell their tin, &c. Now it would be absurd to think these inhabitants should carry in carts their tin, nearly two hundred miles, for so distant is the Isle of Wight from them, when they had at least as good ports and harbours on their own shores, as they

could meet with there; besides, the inhabitants are said in the same paragraph, to have been more than ordinarily civilized by conversing with strangers and merchants. Those merchants then must have been very conversant in Cornwall; there trafficked for tin, that is there bought, and thence exported the tin, or they could have no business there: their residence would have been in some of the ports of Hampshire, and Cornwall would scarce have felt the influence of their manners, much less have been improved and civilized by them at that distance. Again, the Cornish, after the tin was melted, carried it, at low water, over the Ictis, in carts; this will by no means suit the situation of the Isle of Wight, which is at least two miles distant from the main land; and never, so far as we can learn, has been alternately an island and a peninsula, as the tide is in and out. The Ictis, therefore, here mentioned, must lie somewhere near the coast of Cornwall; and must either have been a general name for any peninsula or creek, (*Ik* being

a common Cornish word, denoting a cove, creek, or port of traffick), or the name of some particular peninsula and common emporium on the same coast, which has now lost its isthmus, name, and perhaps wholly disappeared, by means of some great alterations on the sea shore of this country." The opinion of Mr. Whitaker differs much from this. In his History of Manchester, after mentioning that the Phœnicians had continued the tin trade on the coasts of Scilly for three hundred years, says "The Greeks of Marseilles, first followed the track of the Phœnician voyagers, and before the days of Polybius, and about two hundred years before the age of Christ, began to share with them in the trade of tin. The Carthaginian commerce declined.—The Maffylian commerce increased; and in the reign of Augustus, the whole current of the British traffick had been gradually diverted into this channel. Two roads were laid across the country, and reached from Sandwich to Car-

narvon on the one side, and extended from Dorsetshire into Suffolk on the other. The great Staple of tin was no longer settled in a distant corner of the Island. It was removed from Scilly, and was fixed at the Isle of Wight, a central part of the coast, lying equally betwixt the two roads, and better adapted to the new arrangement of the trade. Thither the tin was carried by the Belgæ, and thither the foreign merchants resorted with their wares." He adds further, "that the Isle of Wight, which, as late as the eighth century, was separated from the remainder of Hampshire by a channel no less than three miles in breadth, was now actually a part of the greater Island; disjoined from it only by the tide, and united to it always at the ebb. And during the recess of the waters, the Britons constantly passed over the low isthmus of land, and carried their loaded carts of tin across it."

A gentleman of the island, in support of Mr. Whitaker's opinion, has remarked, that

at each extremity of the channel, between the island and Hampshire, the tide rushes in and out with such impetuosity, as to render these parts the deepest and most dangerous; but in the midway, where the tides meet, though the conflict occasions rough water, according as the wind may happen to assist the one or the other, there is no rapidity of current to carry away the soil and deepen the bottom. Nearly across the channel, a gravelly beach extends, which is only found in this part and on the opposite shore of Hampshire, at a place called Leap. This probably was the narrow pass before alluded to, and along which, the Cornish men transported their tin to the Isle of Wight.

Opposite to this place, is a straight open road above two miles in length, called Rew Street. This road runs quite across the forest of Parkhurst, and may be easily traced to the west of Carisbrook castle, over a field called North-Field, by Sheat, and from thence to the South part of the island. No use is at

present made of many parts of this road, and unless it was especially made for the conveyance of the tin, it is not easy to conceive what purpose it was to answer. To prove that the Staple of tin was brought into Hampshire, there is undoubted authority; but, that a port on the South side of the island, to which this road is supposed to lead, was the place from whence the tin was exported, is a supposition that wants confirmation. No part of the South coast of the island seems adapted for a sea port, and the fact is still more to be doubted when we reflect on the convenience of the port of Southampton for that purpose; for surely our ancestors must have known their own interest and convenience better than to have given themselves unnecessary trouble in conveying so ponderous an article by land, without deriving any particular advantage from that mode. It is also known, that the office of the Stannaries, was not removed from Southampton till the fifteenth century.

The Isle of Wight not having been under any other government than that of Britain, has therefore no separate history of its own. As connected with the History of England indeed, we find this island mentioned occasionally in the Roman, Saxon, and other annals, of the ancient situation of the country; but the accounts are few and unconnected: whole centuries sometimes intervening, without any mention being made of it. For the satisfaction of our readers, however, we shall give a detail of such particulars as we have been able to collect from the scattered relics of antiquity, and in the order of time in which they occurred.

Very little is known of the history of Britain before the landing of Julius Cæsar, about fifty-five years before the birth of Christ; nor have we any account of the Romans having entered the Isle of Wight, until near a century afterwards, when Claudius, the Emperor of Rome, in the year 43, sent an

army into Britain under Plautius, who, after various successes against Togodumnus and Caractacus, two kings of Britain, was recalled to Rome, and received the honour of an oration or inferior triumph, has the reward of his services. Tacitus, in his Life of Agricola, informs us, that Plautius fought thirty battles with the Britons, subdued two powerful nations, and conquered the Isle of Wight. We are not told of any opposition that Plautius met with in the island, nor indeed is it to be supposed that the inhabitants were capable of any effectual resistance to the powerful and victorious legions of Rome, who, most probably, entered the island without any difficulty, from the Hampshire coast, after having subdued that county. And this conjecture is the more probable, as no appearances exist, in any part of the island, of those fortified camps in which the Romans never failed to secure themselves, when they had an enemy opposed to them, and which are to be found in so many other parts of England.

The dominion of the Romans over Britain, continued from this period till about the year 426; and it is probable, that during that space of time, the Isle of Wight remained peaceably under their subjection.

For more than twenty years after the Romans withdrew themselves, the Britons were continually harrassed by the Picts and Scots, who coming from the Northern part of the island, do not, however, appear to have penetrated so far as the Isle of Wight. At length, the Britons, having invited the Saxons to assist them against the Northern depredators, the latter began also to settle in Britain, and formed several kingdoms for themselves.

In 495, Cerdic, a Saxon General, arrived in Britain. He landed with his son Cenric, at a place which was thence called *Cerdic's Ora*, which Camden supposes to have been Yarmouth, in Norfolk; but some other authors imagine it to have been near South-

ampton; and Gibson, in his Glossary, at the end of the Saxon Annals, with great appearance of probability, states it to have been Calshot, of which we have already spoken.

After a variety of alternate successes and defeats, Cerdic, in the year 519, gained a great victory over the Britons under Auther, one of their leaders, at a place called by the Saxons, *Cerdic's-ford*, (now Chardford) in Hampshire, where he had before defeated the Britons in 508. In consequence of thi victory, the counties of Hampshire and Somersetshire were surrendered to Cerdic, who formed, of them, the kingdom of Wessex, to which, in the year 828, the rest of the kingdoms of the Saxon Heptarchy were subjected.

In 530, Cerdic having attacked and subdued the Isle of Wight, destroyed the greatest part of the inhabitants; and having invited over from Germany a considerable number of Saxons and Jules, he distributed a great

part of the latter through this island, the government of which he conferred on his nephews Stuff and Withgar, who had brought him a considerable reinforcement from the Continent in the year 514, and served him with great fidelity since his last victory at Cerdic's-ford, to which they had themselves been very instrumental.

Withgar, in all probability, continued in the government of the island till his death, as he was buried in the town, which was named from him *Withgaraburgb*, and is now, by contraction, called Carisbrook.

Wulfer, who succeeded his father Penda in the kingdom of Mereia, in 659, took the Isle of Wight from Cenowalch, king of Wessex; and about the year 661, made a present of it to Adelwalch, king of Suffex, whom he had subdued and held in captivity.

In 686, Cedwalla, king of Wessex, attacked the Isle of Wight, which had been in the

possession of the kings of Sufsex from the time it had been granted to Adelwalch by Wulfer; and though it was defended by the Governor Arwald, brother of Auther, king of Sufsex, Cedwalla took it by the superiority of his forces.

Upon the first impulse of his zeal for religion, Cedwalla determined to exterminate the inhabitants of the island who had not embraced Christianity, and to people it with Christians; but in consequence of the humane advice of Widfrid, Bishop of Selsey, in Sufsex, he was induced to spare the lives of such of them as would consent to be baptized immediately. Birwin, nephew of Widfred, was sent into the island to convert the inhabitants, who, wisely preferring the Christian Religion to death, ceased from that time to be idolaters. In how many instances, in the history of all countries, have the capricious inclinations and opinions of Princes been the occasion of a change in Religion !

It is said, that, in the reign of Alfred, a fleet of Danish pirates plundered the Isle of Wight. In the succeeding reign, of Ethelred II. the Danes again made themselves masters of it, as well as of Hampshire and Dorsetshire. In these places they kept their magazines, and from thence they made frequent excursions into the adjoining counties, which they ravaged without opposition.

During the reign of Edward the Confessor, in 1052, Earl Godwin, being banished by the king, retired to Flanders, where, having obtained some ships from the Earl of that country, he made a descent on the Isle of Wight, and extorted very large sums of money from the inhabitants, whilst he was waiting there for his son Harold.

In 1066, Toston, or Tosti, Earl of Northumberland, having been driven out of that county, procured several ships from the same Earl of Flanders, who was his father-in-

law. With these he infested the English coast for some time, and plundered the Isle of Wight.

For a considerable length of time after this took place, the island appears to have remained in a state of perfect tranquillity. In 1070, William the Conqueror bestowed it, together with the Earldom of Hereford, on William Fitz-Osborn. Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, half brother to William the Conqueror, having determined, without consulting the king, to go to Rome for the purpose of obtaining the Papacy, came to this Island in 1082, where he had caused some ships to be prepared for his expedition. But the Bishop being detained by contrary winds, and the king having been informed of his design, came over from Normandy to the Isle of Wight, and seized him with his own hands just as he was going to set sail. About two years afterwards the king went into the Isle of Wight, and crossed from thence to Normandy. During his stay in the Island,

he levied very considerable sums of money on the inhabitants, without paying much regard to the justice of his claims.

In 1137, Baldwin de Redvers, Earl of Devonshire, and Lord of the Isle of Wight, having revolted against king Stephen, was driven from his Castle of Exeter, and pursued by the king into the island, from whence also he was in a short time compelled to fly.

The various events which occurred in England during the active reigns of Henry II. and Richard I. do not appear to have molested the island.

In 1215, after king John had signed the great palladium of the liberties of England, *Magna Charta*, that monarch quickly formed a design of annulling the grant ; and having so recently experienced the extraordinary influence of the Pope over the minds of all men in that age of bigotry, he wished to

engage the assistance of the See of Rome in the execution of his project. Accordingly he sent a private letter to the Pope, wherein he intreated absolution from the oath which he had taken to be faithful to his engagements; and lest his design should become public, and expose him again to the resentment of the Barons and people of England before he was armed with ecclesiastical support, he withdrew to the Isle of Wight, where he waited three months for the Pope's answer, and the arrival of some foreign troops which he expected. For some time after his coming, he kept himself concealed from the observation of the inhabitants, amusing himself with the conversation of fishermen and sailors, with whom he became familiar in his walks upon the sea shore, attended only by a few domestics. After the Pope had annulled the great Charter and absolved the king from his oath, John hastily quitted the island, and went to Dover to meet the soldiers, enlisted for him by his agents in Brabant, Flanders, and other places.

Henry III. granted the wardship of Aveline, daughter and heiress of Isabella de Fortibus Countess of Albemarle and Devonshire, and Lady of this island, to his second son Edmund, who shortly after married his ward.

King Edward I. was very desirous of purchasing the reversion of the Lordship, and accordingly entered into a Treaty for that purpose with his brother Edmund, and Aveline his wife, but before the purchase could be completed, Aveline died without issue in the life-time of her Mother. Edward, however, found means to effect his purpose, by persuading the Countess Isabella to sell it for 6000 marks. The conveyance was made in the last illness of the countess; the deed was sealed about three o'Clock in the afternoon, and she died soon after midnight. This Deed, from the suspicious circumstances attending its execution, was made an object of parliamentary examination in the subsequent Reign of Edward II. upon the petition

of Hugh de Courtney, Earl of Devonshire, who claimed the island as part of his inheritance from the countess Isabella, to whom he was heir at law.

A short time after this purchase, upon the breaking out of hostilities with France, the king issued a commission appointing Sir Richard De Affeton, the Bishop of Winchester, and Adam de Gorden, Wardens of the island, with orders for its defence, in case of an attack, which was expected to be made by the French upon the Southern coast of England.

Amongst the many honours and estates bestowed by Edward II. upon his favorite Peirs Gaveston, when he married him to his niece Margaret, sister to the Earl of Gloucester, was Carisbrook in the Isle of Wight, and with this was also conferred the wardenship of the island, of which, however, Gaveston never obtained possession.

In the 12th of Edward III. a writ was issued to the Bishop of Winchester, stating that the French, who had invaded the country about Portsmouth, and done considerable mischief, meditated similar depredations in the Isle of Wight. The king, desirous on this account, that the island should be put in a proper state for defence, informs the Bishop, that he has ordered the wardens of the island, to distrain the lands and goods of all such persons as failed to provide, agreeably to the tenure of their estates, men at arms, and archers for the defence of the island. He also permitted the Prior and Monks of Appuldurcombe to remove to Hide Abbey, near Winchester.

In consequence of these orders, such preparations were made for the reception of the enemy, that when they landed the following year at St. Helens, and were proceeding into the country, the Islanders drove them back to their ships, after an action, in

which Sir Theobald Russell, one of the Wardens, was killed. The regulations made at this time for the security of the inhabitants, are quoted from a manuscript in the possession of Sir Simeon Stuart Bart. by Sir Richard Worsley, in his History of the Isle of Wight, from which very excellent work may be collected many interesting particulars, not compatible with the limited nature of a publication, designed only as an illustration of the views in the island.

The Governor, William Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, and most of the chief persons of the island, received orders from Edward III. in the fifty first year of his reign, to provide for its defence; and writs were also sent to the Justices of the Assize, the Sheriff of Hampshire, and the Governor and Constable of Carisbrook Castle, directing them not to compel the inhabitants to attend on juries, in order that they might remain at home for the defence of the place, which

(say the writs), the public enemies wish to get possession of, and are preparing to invade\*.

The expected invasion, however, did not take place, till the first year of the subsequent reign of Richard II. when the French, who had been repulsed at Winchester, landed in the Isle of Wight, and plundered all the inhabitants. On this occasion, the Castle of Carisbrook was bravely defended by Sir Hugh Tyrrell, who drew the enemy into an ambuscade, as they were approaching the Castle, and killed a considerable number. Finding themselves at length disappointed in their hopes, the French withdrew from the island, after exacting a contribution of One Thousand marks from the inhabitants, as a consideration for not destroying their houses.

\* Quam etiam insula iidem hostes multam desiderant, at cum infra breve tempus appropinquare et debellare propo-nunt ut audivimus et se parant. RYMER, Vol. VII.  
p. 147.

In the fifth year of the reign of Henry IV. the French again landed in the island, under the command of Valeran, Earl of St. Pol, who having married the half-sister of Richard II. gave out that his attack was intended to revenge the death of that king. However, the inhabitants, although they received no assistance from Henry, forced the Earl to reimbarke after he had plundered some of their villages.

Henry VI. about the year 1444, gave the title of King of the Isle of Wight to Henry Duke of Warwick, and crowned him with his own hand; but it does not appear, that the Duke obtained, with this distinguished honour, any regal power; nor did he even possess the Lordship of the island, which was held, at that time, by Humphrey Duke of Gloucester, under a grant for his life. It has indeed been doubted, whether this unusual title was really conferred upon the Duke of Warwick, as here related, but the fact may be readily admitted, if we consider the high

degree of favour in which that nobleman stood with King Henry, who was a weak prince, and in bestowing favours upon so great a man, might have forgotten, or chose not to regard, the impropriety of making a grant of the title of king, when, by the laws of the land, he was not enabled to transfer to another person the sovereignty of any part of his dominions. The fact, indeed, is confirmed, by a painting of the Duke, in an ancient window of the collegiate church at Warwick, where he is represented with a crown upon his head and a sceptre before him.

In the 28th of Henry VI. a petition from the inhabitants was presented to the King, and another to the Parliament, complaining of the miserable and defenceless state of the island which is attributed, by the petitioners, to the misconduct of one John Newport, who had been steward under the Governor, Richard Duke of York. It appears, that this Newport had been discharged from his office, and

had afterwards committed great depredations both by sea and land upon the property of the Inhabitants, though at the same time he was making interest at court to be restored. The prayer of the petition was, that the island might be put in a state of defence, and that Newport might not be replaced in the office of Steward. But the King and the Duke of York were too much taken up with those fatal projects which shortly after embroiled the houses of York and Lancaster, to pay much attention to any representations from a quarter so remote from the scene of action for which they were preparing. Happy indeed, in those days, were the Inhabitants of the Isle of Wight, whose situation secured them from participating in those wars of ambition which deluged England in blood!

During the dispute between Charles VIII. King of France, and the Duke of Bretagne, Sir Edward Woodville, uncle to Henry the Seventh's Queen, and Captain of the Isle of Wight, desired the king's permission to raise a

troop of volunteers in the island, and carry them to the assistance of the Duke; but as the king had himself offered to be mediator between the contending parties, this proposal was refused. Woodville, however, notwithstanding this refusal, imagined the king would not be displeased at his giving assistance to the Duke. He therefore repaired immediately to the island, where he engaged about forty gentlemen, and four hundred commoners, with whom he set sail from St. Helens, and joined the Duke of Bretagne's army before the battle of St. Aubin. In order to intimidate the enemy, and make them believe that this reinforcement from England was greater than it really was, the *Bretons* dressed a large body of their soldiers in white coats with red crosses, which was the uniform worn by Woodville's followers. The French however were not dismayed by this artifice, but defeated the Duke's army in a dreadful battle, in which Woodville and almost all his followers were slain. This battle was the cause of much affliction in the island, for

there was scarcely a family of any description, who had not to lament the loss of a relation or friend.

In the fourth of Henry VII. an act of parliament was passed to prohibit the inhabitants from holding farms above the annual rent of ten marks. This regulation was adopted with a view to promote the population of the island, which had suffered considerably by Woodville's unfortunate expedition.

Henry VIII. in 1541, sent an order under his sign manual, to Richard Worsley Esq. captain of the island, to prevent the destruction of game, and soon after the King went thither himself, and was entertained by that gentleman, at *Appuldurcombe*. Thomas Lord Cromwell, who was a principal instrument in bringing about the reformation, was at that time constable of Carisbrook Castle, and attended the king in this excursion, which was probably undertaken for the

purpose of enjoying the diversion of hawking, which his majesty was extremely fond of.

In 1545, Francis I. king of France, fitted out 150 large ships, besides seventy smaller ones, and ordered them to sail towards England. This fleet arrived on the 18th day of July at the Isle of Wight, under the command of Admiral Annebaut. The English fleet, which consisted only of sixty ships, lay at Portsmouth; but they stood towards the enemy, and after a slight skirmish, retired into the channel, in hopes that the French would follow them and get entangled in the sands and rocks. The French admiral however was too prudent to attack them in that dangerous situation, and finding the English were not disposed to give up the advantage of their post he landed his forces in three different parts of the Isle of Wight, and burnt several villages. It was even in contemplation of the French, to fortify this island and keep possession of it, but finding that it would take more time

than they could spare, and that the captain of the island (the same Richard Worsley already mentioned) had taken measures to drive them out, they departed very soon after their landing. For the future security of the inhabitants, the captain caused several forts to be erected on the island, and one of them was called Worsley's tower after his name. At so early a period, this mode of fortifying might be considered as a very sufficient security against the attacks of an enemy, but the modern improvements in the art of war (if any thing can be called improvement which tends to facilitate the destruction of mankind) have been so considerable, that the island would now stand but an indifferent chance, even from the attack of a large ship of war, did it not find a stronger protection than its forts, in that best security of Britain, its powerful and irresistible navy.

In the first year of Queen Elizabeth, Richard Worsley, Esq. who had been dismissed

from his office of captain in the preceding reign, was restored; and in his instructions, he was directed to take special care for the increase of Harquebusry. In consequence of this order, the use of fire-arms was first introduced into the island.

In 1588, when England was in some degree of alarm at the approach of what the Spaniards called their invincible Armada, this island, amongst the other seaports, was put into as good a state of defence as time would permit; but the measures taken for its security by Sir George Carey, (the first Captain that assumed the name of Governor of the island,) gave great offence to several of the inhabitants, who remonstrated against his conduct to the Lords of the Queen's council. But the danger of the times having rendered strict regulations necessary, their petition was but coolly received, and Mr Robert Dyllington, one of the petitioners, being charged by Sir George with disaffection to the Government, was committed to the Fleet prison.

These gentlemen indeed were rather hasty in their condemnation of Sir George Carey, who, though he continued in the government many years afterwards, does not appear, in more peaceable times, to have persisted in those arbitrary measures of which they complained, and which might be justified by the extreme hazard to which the island was exposed, at the period when he put them in practice.

It is at least true, that Sir John Oglander, in his MSS. memoirs written some time afterwards, speaks handsomely of Sir George Carey's government, and draws a very striking contrast between the state of the island then, and in Sir George's time. The singularity of some of these remarks, may, perhaps, prove a sufficient excuse for introducing them in this place, in the author's own words.

" I have heard," says the writer," and partly know it to be true, that not only heretofore

there was no lawyer nor attorney in owe  
island, but in Sir George Carey's time, an at-  
torney coming to settle in the island, was by  
his command, with a pound of candles hang-  
ing att his breech, lighted, with bells about  
his legs, hunted owte of the island: insomuch  
as oure ancestors lived here so quietly and se-  
curely, being neither troubled to London nor  
Winchester, so they feldom or never went  
owte of the island; insomuch as when they  
went to London (thinking it an East India  
voyage) they always made their wills, suppo-  
sing no trouble like to travaile."

Sir John afterwards observes—"The Isle of  
Wight, since my memory, is infinitely de-  
cayed; for either it is by reason of so many  
attorneys that hath of late made this their  
habitation, and so by futes undone the coun-  
try, (for I have known an attorney bring  
down after a tearm three hundred writts, I  
have also known twenty nisi prius of our  
country tried at our assizes, when as in the  
Queen's time we had not six writts in a yeare,

nor one nisi prius in six years) or else wanting the good bargains they were wont to buy from men of war, who also vented our commoditys at very high prices; and readie money was easy to be had for all things. Now peace and law hath beggered us all, so that within my memorie many of the gentlemen and almost all the yeomanry are undone."

Sir John's advice, which is subjoined, will doubtless be thought better than his reasoning on the decline of the island. "Be advised by me", says he, "have no suites at law; if it be possible, agree with thine adversary, though it be with thy losse: besides the neglect of thy time at home, thy absence from thy wife and children, so manie inconveniences hangeth upon a suite in lawe, that I advise thee, although thou hast the better of it, let it be reconciled without law; at last twelve men or one must end it, let two honest ones do it at firste. This country was undone with it, in king James his reign; hazard death and

all quarrels, rather than let thy tongue make his master a slave."

During the dispute between King Charles the First and the Parliament, before matters came to an open rupture, the House of Commons, amongst other resolutions made in consequence of the news of a rebellion in Ireland, resolved, "that the custody of the Isle of Wight be taken, for the present, from the Lord Weston, suspected of being a Catholic, and sequestered into another hand." In consequence of this, Lord Weston, who was also Earl of Portland, was removed from the government, notwithstanding the inhabitants presented a petition to the house in his favour. The king, hereupon, gave the custody of the castle of Carisbrook, to Colonel Brett; and the Countess of Portland, together with her five children, and the Earl's brother and sister, withdrew to the castle, in hopes of being able to preserve it for the king.

The spirit of popular resentment, which had risen in most parts of England against that ill-fated monarch, spread itself also into this island ; and the Newport militia, with four hundred men, collected from the ships in the port by authority of parliament, marched against the castle, under the command of Moses Read, mayor of Newport. Although the castle had a very slender supply of provisions, and there were not more than twenty men to assist Brett in its defence, the countess resolved to hold out to the last extremity, unless honourable terms could be obtained for the garrison. The castle, however, was soon after surrendered, upon condition that Colonel Brett, and those who had assisted in the defence should be allowed to go wherever they pleased within the island, and that the countess should be permitted to remain in her apartments at the castle, till the Parliament should direct the contrary.

It was not long, as might be expected, before she received notice to quit the island

within two days, and after her removal, the parliament took possession of the other forts, and the Earl of Pembroke, whom they had appointed governor, entered upon his office. This earl, is the same who was returned, and took his seat in the House of Commons, as knight of the Shire for the County of Berks, in 1649, after the suppression of the House of Lords.

In 1647, the king was seized by Cornet Joyce, and delivered up to the army, by whom he was soon afterwards sent to Hampton-Court. Finding the restraint he was under at that place extremely disagreeable, as well as dangerous, he determined, with the assistance of his friends, Mr. Ashburnham and Sir John Berkley, to make his escape, which he effected in the night, and, accompanied by them, and Legg, arrived safe at Titchfield, in Hampshire, a seat of the Earl of Southampton. At this place, they held a consultation, where the king should go next, and Ashburnham advised, that he should re-

tire to the Isle of Wight, and trust himself in the hands of Colonel Hammond, who was at that time governor, and whose uncle was one of his majesty's chaplains. It should have been considered however, that Hammond had connections of a clofer nature with the king's enemies. He was married to a daughter of the celebrated John Hampden, and had been appointed governor of the island, through the interest of Oliver Cromwell.

Ashburnham and Berkley went first to the governor, to endeavour to make terms with him ; but all the answer they could obtain, was, that he would do the king all the service in his power ; but as he was a subordinate officer, he could not undertake to disobey his superiors in what they should please to command him. Hammond then went, with Ashburnham and Berkley, to the king, who returned with them to the Isle of Wight, and on the 12th of November, 1647, was conducted to Carisbrook castle, where Ham-

mond treated him with all possible respect, but sent a letter immediately to the speaker of the House of Lords, acquainting him of the king's arrival in the island. His majesty also sent a message to the parliament, making proposals for an accommodation.

On the 14th of December, the parliament passed four bills, to which they were desirous of obtaining the royal assent, before they proceeded in the treaty; and for that purpose they named a committee to present them to the king. The commissioners from Scotland, who had attended the king at Hampton-Court, to treat relative to the affairs of that kingdom, protested against this proceeding of the parliament, and went to the Isle of Wight to renew their negotiations. They arrived there on the 25th of December, the day after the four bills had been presented by the committee of the parliament. The Scotch commissioners, having brought with them a treaty more agreeable to the inclinations of the king, than the terms proposed

by the parliament, he acquiesced in it, and told the committee, that he could not think of giving his sanction to any of the acts presented to him, till the whole conditions of the peace should be concluded ; and for adjusting these, he knew of no way but a personal treaty, to take place either at London, or any other place the parliament should chuse.

Soon after the committee had received this answer, all the king's servants were dismissed from the castle, and no person was permitted to see him without an express order. An attempt, however, was made by Captain Burley, an inhabitant of the island, to rescue Charles from his captivity ; but the plan was so ill-concerted, that it was quickly discovered, and served only to increase the rigour of his confinement. Captain Burley himself was condemned and executed. But notwithstanding the fatal issue of this project, two other attempts were made to effect this object, and the particulars are briefly as fol-

lows. Henry Firebrace, a person who, by permission of the parliament, came to attend the king, as one of the pages of his bedchamber, found means to deliver to him a packet of letters, written by some who were favourable to the royal cause. This he effected, by placing them in a secret corner of the chamber, and apprizing the king of the circumstance, by a note conveyed into his majesty's hand as he went to bed. The king took the dispatches, and on the next day, put a letter in the same place, desiring Firebrace to continue that mode of correspondence, which indeed was successfully carried on for several weeks. A considerable impediment, however, to the execution of any plan for the king's enlargement, arose from Colonel Hammond's having ordered two persons to watch at the two doors of the king's chamber during the day, whilst, at night, their beds were placed so close to the doors that they could not be opened. But Firebrace, having found means to ingratiate himself with these guards, was allowed to supply the place of one of them, during sup-

per time, and thus found frequent opportunities of talking with the king. In one of these conversations, it was proposed, that the king should escape out of the chamber window, after cutting the bars with a saw; but Charles, fearing that the noise of the saw would be heard, and conceiving that he might effect his escape through the window of his apartment, without removing any of the bars, the distance of which, from each other, was sufficient to afford a passage for his head, determined on making the experiment, and accordingly directed that every thing should be prepared.

Mr. Edward Worsley, a gentleman of the island, Mr. Osborne, another of the king's attendants, and Mr. Newland, of Newport, were made acquainted with the design, and it was agreed, that, upon a signal to be given from without, the king should let himself down by a cord, provided for that purpose, and that Firebrace should conduct him to the main wall of the castle, from whence he

was to let himself down by another cord, into the ditch, out of which he could easily have ascended. Mr. Worsley, and Mr. Osborne, were to attend on horseback at this place, with a horse, boots, and pistols for the king, and Mr. Newland was to be ready at the sea-side, with a boat to convey him away.

Firebrace made the signal at the appointed time, and the king attempted to get out of the window, but unfortunately, when it was too late to provide a remedy, he found it impossible to get his body through the bars, and stuck so fast between them, that it was not without great difficulty that he extricated himself. Thus the king's design was frustrated; but his friends had, nevertheless, the good fortune to get away without its being known that such a plan had been in agitation. Firebrace, however, was afterwards dismissed from his attendance on the king, upon some circumstances of a suspicious nature, which had been communicated to Colonel Hammond.

Another similar attempt was afterwards made, but with no better success. The king had removed one of the bars, either by sawing it asunder, or by corroding it with aqua fortis, and was about to get through the window. But discovering more persons in the garden than he expected to see, he thought it prudent to desist, and withdrawing himself, returned to bed. This plan had, in fact, been discovered by Major Rolfe, an officer of the castle, who had artfully deceived Osborne into an opinion, that he would assist in liberating the king, and had, for that purpose, been entrusted with a knowledge of the whole scheme. It is said, that Rolfe intended to have shot the king as he came through the window, and that Colonel Hammond, had also placed soldiers to fire on the king's friends in their retreat, but they luckily escaped unhurt. After this transaction, the king's confinement was rendered much more strict and uncomfortable, none of his friends or servants being suffered to approach him.

In September, 1648, after a long contention between the army and the parliament, it was agreed, that a treaty should be entered into with the king; and the town of Newport, in the Isle of Wight, was appointed for the place of conference. The House of Commons sent instructions to Colonel Hammond, that the king should be removed to Newport, and allowed the same freedom he possessed at Hampton Court; but no person who had carried arms against the parliament, was to be permitted to see the king, or to remain in any fort or tower in the island. Accordingly his majesty was conducted to Newport, and granted the indulgences directed by the House of Commons, upon giving his word not to go out of the island during the treaty, nor for twenty eight days after, without the approbation of both Houses of Parliament.

The commissioners from both houses, consisting of five lords and ten commoners, being arrived at Newport, the conference began on the 18th of September, at the

house of Sir William Hodges. But continual difficulties arising in the course of the negotiation, the parliament several times found it necessary to prolong the period allowed for the conclusion of the treaty ; and the army, having, in the mean time, obtained a complete ascendency over the nation, determined to put it out of the power of the parliament, to make any terms with the king, by seizing his person a second time. Fairfax, their general, in order to effect this object with greater certainty, directed Colonel Hammond to attend him at head quarters, and, at the same time, sent Colonel Ewers to take the custody of the king.

On the evening of the 29th of November, the king was privately informed that the army intended to seize him, and sent for the Duke of Richmond, the Earl of Lindsay, and Colonel Cooke, to consult them, respecting the measures necessary to be taken. After Colonel Cooke had communicated all the information he had been able to get, by going to Carisbrook castle, it was evident, the intelli-

gence was well founded, and the king, was, on that account, advised to make his escape, which, under all circumstances, was thought a very practicable thing. But Charles rejected this advice, saying, "the parliament had promised him, and he had promised them, and he could not break first."

At day-break, the king was informed, that there were several gentlemen of the army at the gate, who were desirous of speaking with him. Directions being given for their admission, the officers rushed into the king's bedchamber, and informing him they had orders from the army for his removal to Hurst castle, in Hampshire, scarcely gave him time to eat his breakfast, before they hurried him thither; nor would they allow the Duke of Richmond to accompany him farther, than about two miles on the road.\*

\* The occurrences of the night previous to King Charles's removal from the Isle of Wight, are more fully related in Colonel Cooke's narrative, the original MSS. of which, is preserved in the Harleian collection, at the British Museum.

After the restoration, the inhabitants of the island presented a petition to King Charles the Second, against the governor, Lord Culpeper, whom they accused of oppression, and of having neglected the fortifications of the island. But it was not so well received as they expected, for Lord Clarendon, then lord chancellor, replied to their complaints by a letter, in which he blames them, both for the manner and matter of their petition.

In 1671, Charles the Second paid a visit to the governor, Sir Robert Holmes, a very distinguished naval commander, at his house at Yarmouth.

From this period, nothing occurs in the history of the island, to which it is necessary to draw the reader's attention. We shall therefore proceed to give a list of the lords; wardens, captains, and governors, in the order of time in which they were severally appointed.

*Lords of the Isle of Wight, from the time of  
William the Conqueror.*

William Fitz Osborne,  
Roger de Breteville, or Bristolis, Earl  
of Hereford. From the attainder of  
this earl, in 1078, the lordship con-  
tinued in the crown, till Henry I.  
granted it to

Richard de Redvers, Earl of Devon-  
shire.

1135 Baldwin de Redvers, Earl of Devon-  
shire.

1155 Richard de Redvers, Earl of Devon-  
shire. (2)

1162 Baldwin de Redvers, Earl of Devon-  
shire. (2)

Richard de Redvers, Earl of Devon-  
shire. (3)

1184 William de Vernon, Earl of Devon-  
shire, and the Isle of Wight.

1216 Joan, his daughter, who married Hubert  
de Burgh, Earl of Kent.

1227 Baldwin, Earl of Devonshire. (3)

1240 Baldwin, Earl of Devonshire. (4)

1257 Baldwin, Earl of Devonshire, (5) and  
Amicia his wife, who held the lordship as part of her dower, after his death.

1283 Isabella de Fortibus.

1293 The Crown.

1307 Peirs Gaveston.

1308 Edward, Earl of Chester, afterwards Edward III.

The lordship afterwards remained in the crown till,

1386 William Montacute, Earl of Salisbury.

1397 Edward, Earl of Rutland, afterwards Duke of York.

1415 Phillipa, Duchess of York.

1447 The Crown.

1449 Richard, Duke of York.

1452 Edmund, Duke of Somerset.

1453 Henry, Duke of Somerset.

1464 Anthony de Woodville, Lord Schales, afterwards Earl of Rivers.

1483 The Crown.

1485 Edward de Woodville.

It is uncertain whether this gentleman was lord or captain of the island ; but no grant of the lordship has been made since his death.

**1488 The Crown.**

*Succession of Wardens, Captains, or Governors of  
the Island.*

The first warden was appointed by the crown in 1216, during the minority of Baldwin, third Earl of Devonshire. This appointment, indeed, has only existed during minorities of the lords, or when the lordship happened to be in possession of the crown, or of a prince of the blood royal.

**1216 Walleran de Ties.**

**1229 Savery de Mauleon, or de Malo Leone.**

**1293 John Fitz Thomas.**

**1294 Richard de Affeton, the Bishop of  
Winchester, and Adam de Gorden.**

**William Russell.**

**1302 Sir John Lisle.**

**1307 Nicholas Lisle.**

- Sir John Lisle again.
- 1321 Sir Henry Tyes.
- 1325 John de la Huse, and John Lisle.
- 1325 Nicholas de la Felde.
- 1336 John de Langford.
- 1338 Theobald Russell.
- 1340 Abbot of Quarr.
- 1341 Sir Bartholomew Lisle, John de Langford, and Sir Theobald Russell.
- 1343 Bartholomew Lisle, John de Kingston, and Henry Romyn.
- 1353 John de Gatesden.
- 1360 The Abbot of Quarr, Theobald de Gorges, and William Dale.
- 1377 Sir Hugh Tyrril.
- 1447 Henry Trenchard.  
John Newport.  
Henry Bruin.
- 1461 Sir Geoffery Gate.
- 1483 Sir William Berkley.
- 1483 Sir John Savile.
- 1485 Sir Edwarde Woodville.
- 1495 Sir Reginald Bray.  
Sir Nicholas Wadham.

- 1511 Sir James Worley.  
 1538 Richard Worsley, esq.  
 1553 Mr. Gisling.  
 1558 Richard Worsley, esq. again.  
 1565 Sir Edward Horsey.  
 1582 Sir George Carey, afterwards Lord Hunsdon.  
 1603 Henry, Earl of Southampton.  
 1625 John, Lord Conway.  
 1631 Richard, Lord Warton.  
 1634 Jerom, Earl of Portland.  
 1642 Philip, Earl of Pembroke.  
 1647 Colonel Robert Hammond.  
 1649 Colonel William Sydenham.  
 1660 Thomas, Lord Culpeper.  
 1667 Admiral Sir Robert Holmes.  
 1693 John, Lord Cutts.  
 1707 Charles, Marquis of Winchester, afterwards Duke of Bolton.  
 1710 General John Richmond Webb.  
 1715 William, Lord (afterwards Earl) Cadogan.  
 1726 Charles, Duke of Bolton,  
 1733 John, Duke of Montague.

- 1734 John, Viscount Lymington, afterwards  
Earl of Portsmouth.
- 1742 Charles, Duke of Bolton, again.
- 1745 John, Earl of Portsmouth, again.
- 1763 Thomas, Lord Holmes.
- 1764 Hans Stanley, esq.
- 1766 Harry, Duke of Bolton.
- 1770 Right Honorable Hans Stanley, again.
- 1780 Right Honorable Sir Richard Worsley,  
Bart.

Having furnished a detail of as much of the history of the island as is consistent with the nature of this publication, it becomes necessary, to revert to the village of West Cowes, of which some description has already been given.

It remains only to be said, that West Cowes is a Hamlet in the Parish of Northwood. It has a chapel which was erected in the year 1657, probably about the period when West Cowes assumed the appearance

of a village; as, before that time, it only consisted of a few fishermen's houses scattered on the shore. At this place, I embraced the opportunity of joining a party, who had engaged a vessel for the purpose of making a voyage round the island.

The morning being fine, and the season the best in the year for an aquatic excursion, the surrounding country afforded that rich variety of tints which the approach of autumn usually scatters over the face of nature, and which contributes equally to delight the traveller, and inform the artist.

At six in the morning we weighed anchor, and left Cowes Harbour, with a gentle breeze from the west. We stood out for the opposite coast of Hampshire, where the lofty tower of Eaglehurst, backed by the luxuriant foliage of the new forest, formed a striking and noble object. We now tacked and stood in again for the Island, making the point of

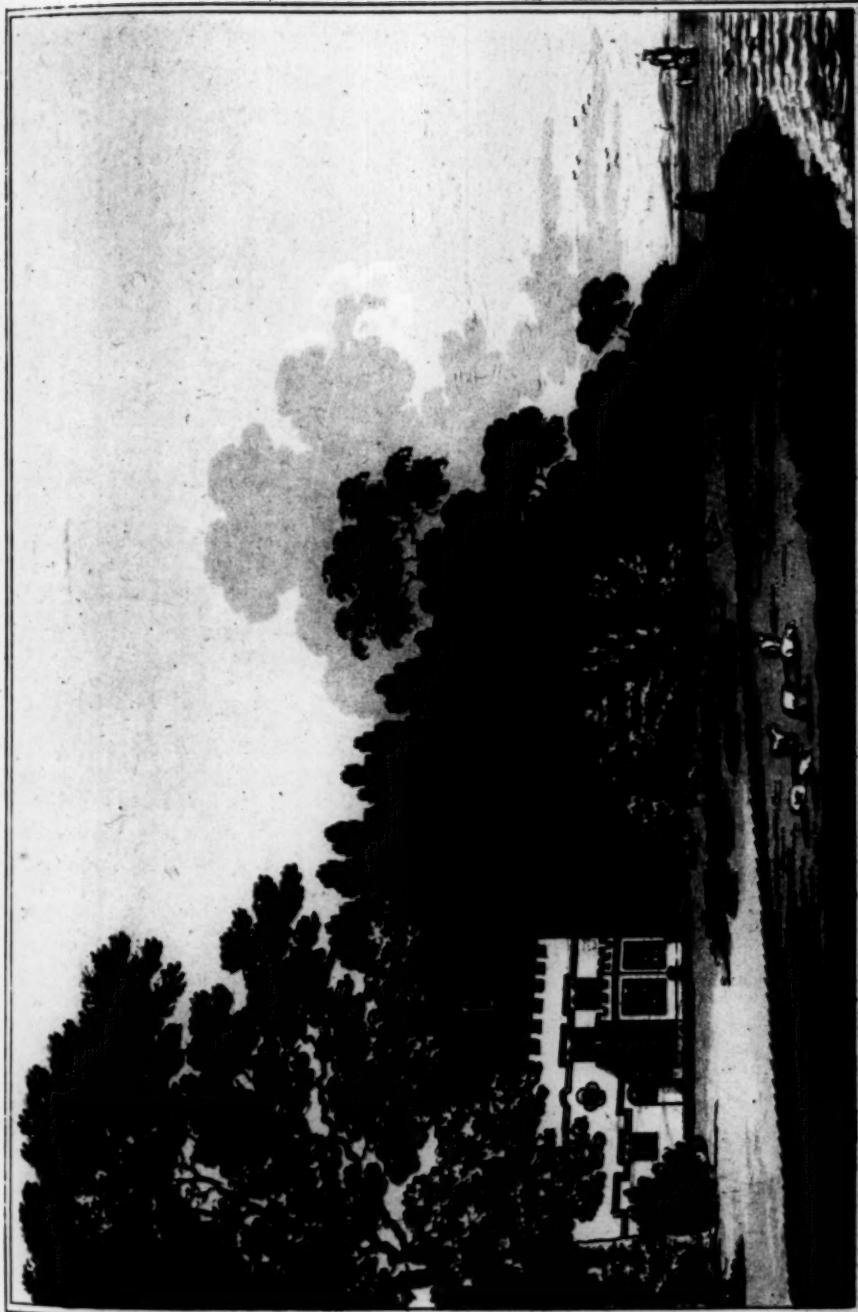
land on which stands Mr. Collins's house, called Egypt, of which mention has already been made.

In Gurnet bay, we caught a picturesque inland view of the country, closed with the high downs of Alvington, Bucombe, Mountjoy, and the castle of Carisbrook. Here are several stone quarries, which at present furnish materials for the various improvements going forwards at Portsmouth. The rocks appear grand, and are well contrasted with underwood. On reaching Gurnet point we plainly saw, running to a considerable length, the gravelly ridge, supposed to be the isthmus which once joined the Isle of Wight to Hampshire.

We then put about for the Hampshire shore, and passed the mouth of the river Bewley, from which we stood across to Thorneys Bay. The barrenness of the shore here, is much relieved by the farm at Whippencote, and by woods stretching towards this bay.

Another tack from the Hampshire coast, brought us to New-town bay, into which runs the New-town river, by some called Shalfleet lake. The shore here lies very flat, without exhibiting any very striking feature; but Afton downs, which rise behind the village of Shalfleet, form an agreeable background.

We found the shore from hence quite barren till we reached Yarmouth, which is situated on the water's edge. From the sea, a battery, erected by Captain Urry at the bottom of his garden, strikes the eye very agreeably; and indeed might, at first sight, be mistaken for Yarmouth Castle, as it is by much the most conspicuous. At the mouth of the river Yar, stands the castle, and the opposite shore is enlivened by the Hamlet of Norton, where the cottage of Mr. Binstead, surrounded with fir and other trees, stands unrivalled. The view from it is extremely interesting, as it commands Yarmouth roads, the usual resort of outward bound ships, together with the



Built at the Order of Dr. Binsteadi  
by G. H. and G. H. Ward, 1795.

NORTON LODGE, the Seat of M<sup>r</sup>. BINSTEAD

Drawn & Engraved by J. Sandars







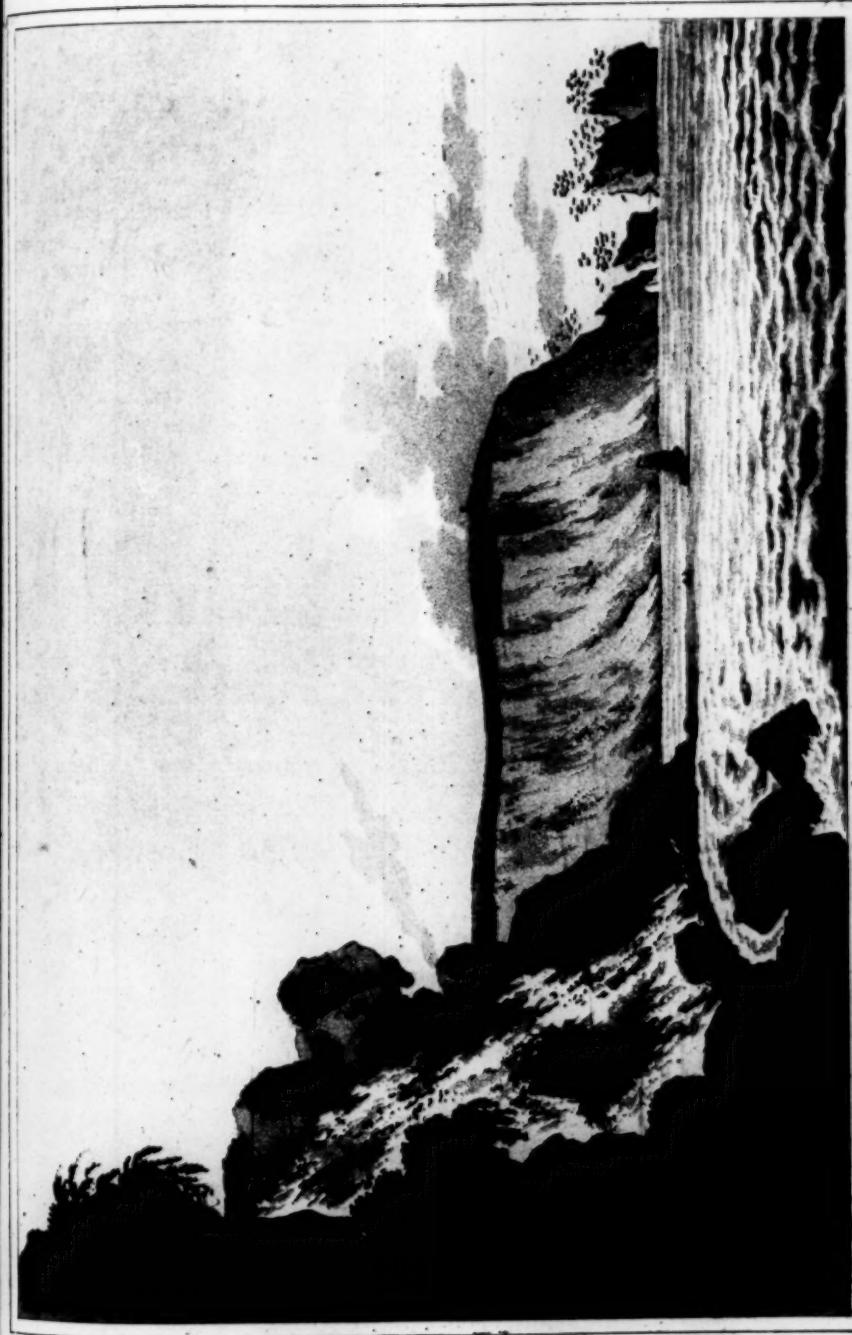
whole extent of the coast of Hampshire and the shore of the Island, with Portsmouth and Spithead to close the scene.

Passing the scite of Carey's Sconce, and Worley's Tower, which are on Norton Common, we stood over to Hurst Castle. It is built on a neck of land, which runs out for a considerable distance, and forms that part of the Hampshire Coast which is nearest to the island, the channel being only three quarters of a mile across. At this place the wind freshened, and the agitation of our vessel convinced us, that we were crossing what the seamen call Fidler's Race. This unusual motion, which is always felt with a fresh breeze, is supposed to arise from the tide being confined in the narrow pass.

On our approach to Cliff's-end, we made the land, and stood close into Colwell Bay. The shore here is bold, but so barren as to afford little pleasure until we left Warden Ledge and Totland Bay; but, on standing

round Headen Point, we entered Allum Bay, and were highly gratified with the sudden change, from a tame heath to stately promontories of various colours, with which that part of the shore abounds. At the extremity of the adjoining high lands, are seen the insulated rocks called the Needles. Three of them, of considerable size, are still remaining, but that which originally procured them their name, was a tapering pillar of above a hundred feet high, thrown down by the fury of the waves, in the year 1764. Its fall was attended with so tremendous a shock, that it is said to have been felt at Southampton. The base of this rock we could not possibly discover, though the sea is particularly transparent at this part, and we employed a considerable time in looking for it,

We stood round the Needles, and lay to in Scratchel's Bay, which is the western end of the island. Here part of our company landed on the rocks, to take the diversion of shooting at their feathered inhabitants, which,



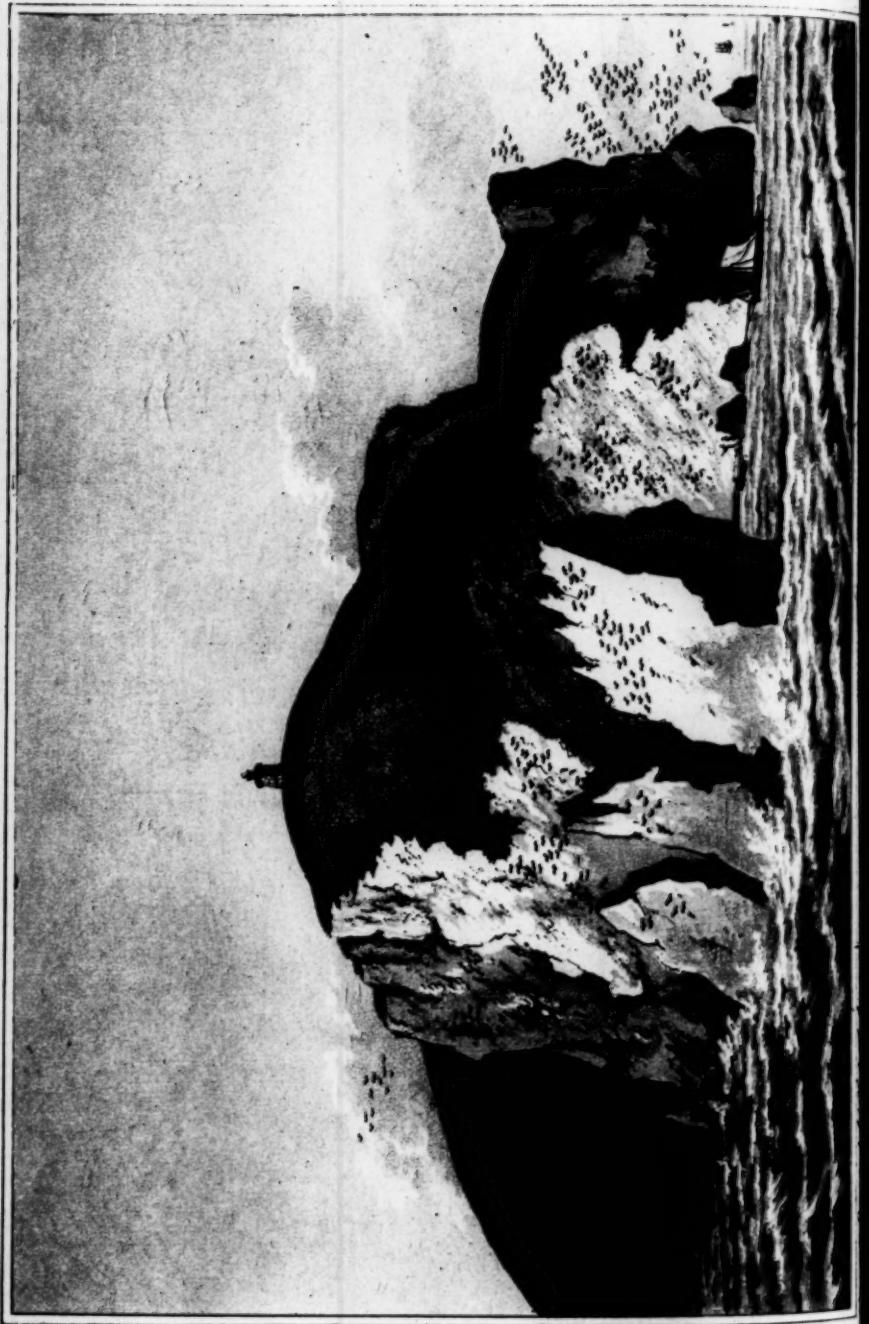
*Published & Printed by Grand & Keeley New Haven 1794.*

*Given & Signed by the Author.*

**ALLUM BAY and the NEEDLES.**







In the months of May, June, and July, it is said, are incredibly numerous. Whilst my fellow travellers were thus engaged, I rowed out to catch a sight of the Lighthouse, which is erected on the summit of the shore, for the security of vessels passing between the Needles and some smaller rocks, lying more to the northward, called the Shingles, and which are supposed to have formerly joined. This passage the sailors call shooting the Needles. When I had got out to a sufficient distance I made a sketch of the *West end of the Island.*

Scratchel's Bay is small, and when viewed from the beach, the rocks above have a terrific appearance, as they overhang a considerable way, and their white colour adds much to their apparent height. At the north part of this bay, there is formed in the rock, a natural arch, which at low water may be passed on foot. Here we made a hearty meal, and enlivened the dreary scene with mirth and a bottle. We could not help observing, that this is a spot by no means favourable to

the talents of our London sportsmen, who were much deceived as to distance on the water. The birds, indeed, seemed aware of this error, and remained quietly on the rocks after being repeatedly fired at.

At length we embarked, and left this bay with a fair wind, keeping the shore, under Mainbench, which is a rock immensely high, said to be upwards of six hundred feet perpendicular at high-water-mark. It is chiefly composed of light grey and white stone, in some parts broken with yellow. In the lower rocks we saw several small caverns, but none of any consequence till we reached Freshwater-Gate. Our vessel again lay to, and we took to the boat, intending to view the cave of Freshwater from its mouth; but this we found impossible, owing to the tide's running in so strong; and indeed, when a westerly wind prevails, it is highly necessary to caution those travellers who do not engage the man who resides at Freshwater-Gate for a guide, to be very careful

how they approach the mouth of this Cave whilst the tide is running in ; for it requires a skilful management of the boat to prevent mischief, from the numerous rocks which are just under the surface of the water. As we found the tide much too high to attempt entering it from the shore, we returned to our vessel.

From Freshwater Gate, we kept as close under the shore as the rocks would permit, and passed the parishes of Brook, Motteston, and Brixton. Their shores do not possess any very striking features. On the contrary, a continued sameness of dark loam, and yellow earths, tinged with green, in consequence of the quantity of copperas with which they are impregnated, rather offends than delights the eye. Copperas stones, which are washed on this shore every tide, and collected in great quantities by the inhabitants of the adjacent villages, are shipped for London, for the purpose of extracting the copperas.

We now stood into the Channel, to avoid the lurking rocks which abound in Chale Bay. The dangers which these occasion to the unsuspecting mariner, though a subject not the most pleasing to contemplate, are nevertheless so beautifully and aptly delineated in the following lines, by an inimitable authoress, that I cannot forbear introducing them here.

“ Oft in this Bay—the dark o’erwhelming deep  
Mocks the poor pilot’s skill, and braves his sighs ;  
O’er the high deck the frothy billows sweep,  
And the fierce tempest drowns the sea boy’s cries.”

“ The madd’ning ocean swells with furious roar :  
See the devoted bark, the shatter’d mast,  
The splitting hulk, dash’d on the rocky shore,  
Rolls ’midst the howlings of the direful blast.”

“ O’er the vex’d deep the vivid sulphur flies,  
The jarring elements their clamours blend,  
The deaf’ning thunder roars along the skies,  
And whistling winds from lurid clouds descend.”

“ The lab’ring wreck, contending with the wave,  
Mounts to the blast, or plunges in the main ;  
The trembling wretch, suspended o’er his grave,  
Clings to the tatter’d shrouds, the pouring rain

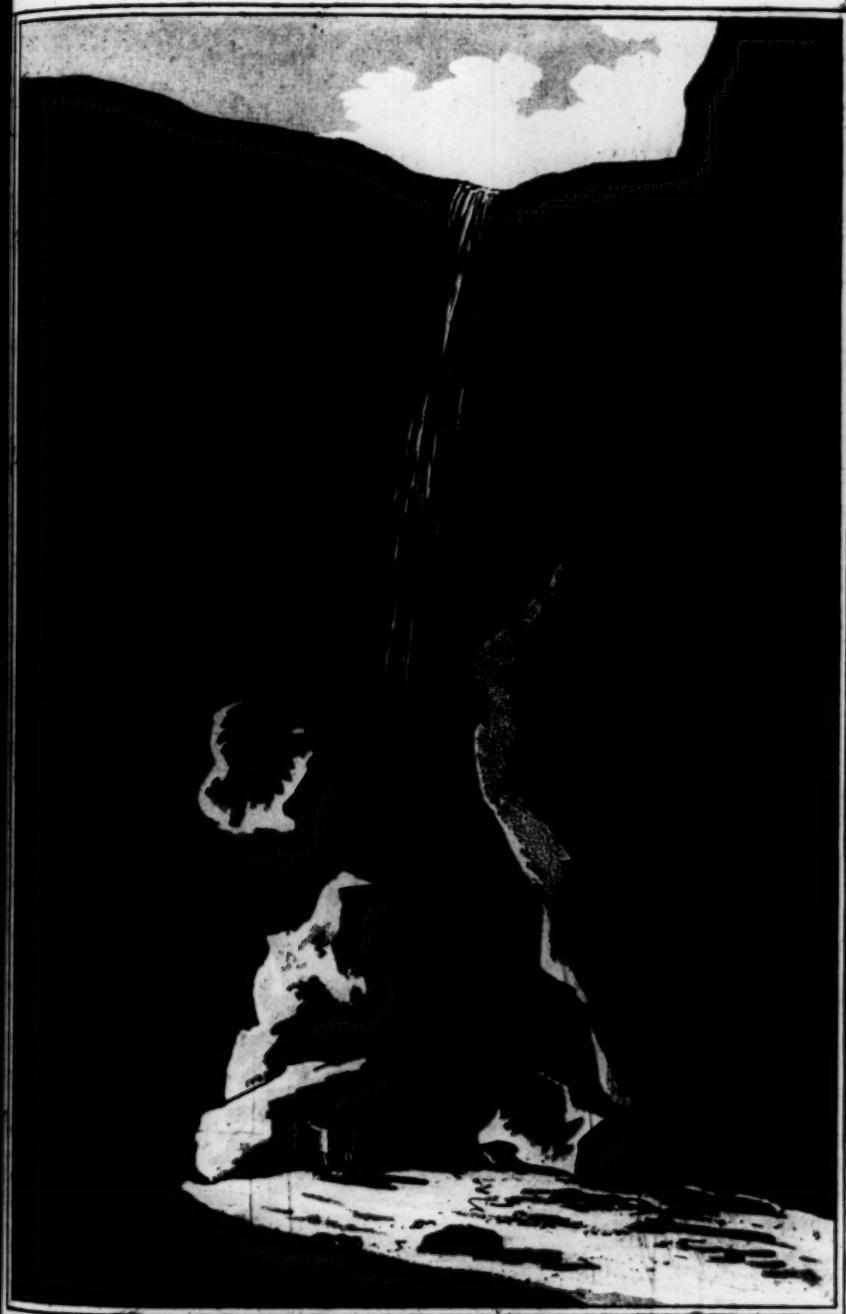
Chills his sad breast, methinks I see him weep,  
 I hear his fearful groan, his mutter'd pray'r,  
 O, cease to mourn, behold the yawning deep  
 Where soon thy weary soul shall mock Despair,  
 Yes, soon thy aching heart shall rest in peace,  
 For in the arms of Death all human sorrows cease."

Here our sailors told us of an inhuman stratagem, said to have been practised on this coast for a number of years; but it has too much the air of fiction and improbability to be seriously credited. On every stormy night, the inhabitants of the coast of Chale are said to have allured the unwary mariner to his destruction, by fixing a lanthorn to the head of an old horse, one of whose fore legs had been previously tied up. The limping gait of the animal, gave the lanthorn a kind of motion exactly similar to that of a ship's lanthorn, and led the deceived pilot on these fatal rocks, a prey to merciless plunderers, who, it is said, would not even scruple to dispatch any unfortunate individual that survived the wreck, in order to secure their booty more compleatly.

On the high down of St.Catherine's, stands an ancient sea mark, which is perceived at a considerable distance out at sea. The cliffs under these downs, as you view them *en paffant*, have the appearance of an immense fortification; and on the shore is a cavity, which, though viewed at a distance, strikes the mind with horror at its dark and fable aspect. This is called *Black gang Chine*, but from whence it derived that name, our seamen were unable to inform us.

We now stood out to sea, to avoid the shoals of Rocken end, and in so doing, part of our company began to feel the unpleasant sensations of the deep water at the Race. The sea, indeed, rolled tremendously, and whilst our minds were impressed with an idea of its immensity, we could have exclaimed with an admired writer—

“ Hail! thou inexhaustible source of wonder and contemplation! Hail! thou multitudinous ocean! whose waves chase



Printed & Engraved by Cha. & Tomkins

Published at the Red Devil by C. and G. Newbery Fleet St. 1795.

**BLACK-GANG CHINE.**



one another down like the generations of men, and, after a momentary space, are merged for ever in oblivion ! Thy fluctuating waters wash the varied shores of the world, and while they disjoin nations, whom a nearer connection would involve in eternal war, they circulate their arts and their labours, and give health and plenty to mankind.”

“ How glorious ! how awful are the scenes thou displayest ! Whether we view thee when every wind is hushed, when the morning sun silvers the level line of the horizon, or when its evening track is marked with flaming gold, and thy unripled bosom reflects the radiance of the over arching Heavens ! Or whether we behold thee in thy terrors ! when the black tempest sweeps thy swelling billows, and the boiling surge mixes with the clouds ;—when death rides the storm,—and humanity drops a fruitless tear for the toiling mariner, whose heart is sinking with dismay !”—

" And yet, mighty deep ! 'tis thy *surface* alone we view.—Who can penetrate the secrets of thy wide domain ?—What eye can visit thy immense rocks and caverns, that teem with life and vegetation?—or search out the myriads of objects, whose beauties lie scattered over thy dread abyss ?"

" The mind staggers with the immensity of her own conceptions,—and when she contemplates the flux and reflux of thy tides, which from the beginning of the world were never known to err, how does she shrink at the idea of that Divine Power, which originally laid thy foundations so sure, and whose omnipotent voice hath fixed the limits where thy proud waves shall be stayed?"

Our attention was soon afterwards taken up, with viewing a convoy of upwards of two hundred sail of merchant ships, working up the British Channel ; and the day being exceedingly fine, this sight was highly gratifying indeed. We now directed our vessel towards

the island, and had a full view of the whole extent of what is termed the undercliff. This famously variegated and romantic part of the island is nearly five miles in length; and the information I received of its numerous and well contrasted beauties, was such, that I felt extremely anxious to land, in order to examine them. Wishing however to complete our voyage on a day so propitious to the undertaking, we scudded under the shore, which is composed of clays of various hues, broke with numbers of shrubs, and water falls interpersed with rock of several colours. The church of St Lawrence is seen from the sea, though a small and inconsiderable object. We next reached Steephill, where the Hon. Mr. Tolmarche occupies the house built by Hans Stanley, Esq. when governor of the island. The whole of this scenery is backed by the cliff, which forms *Underwartb*, as it is called by the inhabitants, and the high downs of Niton, Week, Rue Ventnor, and St. Boniface. On passing Ventnor, the Village of Bonchurch came full in view, the houses of which are mostly whitewashed; a common custom in

the country, and which not only takes from the beautiful tints of nature, but disgusts the eye even when seen at a distance. On this subject, the opinion of that ingenious writer Mr. Gilpin, is so perfectly conformable to my own sentiments, that I cannot help introducing here, the remarks he has made concerning the impropriety of introducing white into landscapes.

“ Nature, says he, never colours in this offensive way. Her surfaces are never white. The chalky cliff is the only permanent object of the kind, which she allows to be her’s; and this seems rather a force upon her, from the boisterous action of a furious element. But even here it is her constant endeavour to correct the offensive tint. She hangs her chalky cliff with samphire, and other marine plants; or she stains it with various hues, so as to remove, in part at least, the disgusting glare. The western end of the Isle of Wight, called the Needle-cliffs, is a remarkable instance of this. These rocks are of a substance nearly resembling chalk;

but nature has so reduced their unpleasant lustre by a variety of chastising tints, that in most lights they have even a beautiful effect. She is continually at work also, in the same manner, on the white cliffs of Dover; though her endeavours here are more counteracted by a greater exposure. But here, and in all other places, were it not for the intervention of foreign causes, she would, in time, throw her green mantle over every naked and exposed part of her surface.

" In these remarks I mean only to insinuate, that *white* is a hue, which nature seems studious to expunge from all her works, except in the touch of a flower, an animal, a cloud, a wave, or some other diminutive or transient object; and that *her mode* of colouring should always be the model of *ours*."

" In animadverting, however, on *white objects*, I would only censure the mere *raw tint*. It may easily be corrected, and turned

into stone-colours of various hues ; which though light, if not too light, may often have a good effect.

“ Mr. Lock, who did me the favour to overlook these papers, made some remarks on this part of my subject, which are so new, and so excellent, that I cannot without impropriety, take the credit of them myself.”

“ White offers a more extended scale of light, and shadow, than any other colour, when near ; and is more susceptible of the predominant tint of the air, when distant. The transparency of its shadows, (which in near objects partake so little of darkness, that they are rather second lights) discover, without injuring the principal light, all the details of surfaces.

“ I partake, however, of your general dislike to the colour; and though I have seen a very *splendid effect* from an *accidental light* on a white object, yet I think it a hue,

which hurts, oftener than it improves the scene. It particularly disturbs the air in its office of graduating distances, shews objects nearer than they really are, and by pressing them on the eye, often gives them an importance, which, from their form and situation, they are not entitled to."

Leaving Bonchurch, we doubled Dunnose, a craggy promontory, composed of dark earth, and rocks of a deep slate colour, tinged with green. It is supposed, that a stratum of coal runs from this point to Bimbridge. In the rocks of Dunnose, there are several caverns, which the smugglers, a few years ago, made the depositaries of their contraband merchandize.

On passing this headland, we scudded close under the shore of Luecombe chine, and reached Shanklin. Here the scene from the water is much enlivened, by the shady groves with which the village of Shanklin abounds. These, indeed, form a very agreeable

contrast, which we did not fail to remark for some hours before we reached them. We lay to, opposite Shanklin chine, in order to view this rural and extraordinary chasm, which is much resorted to by those who make the tour of the Isle of Wight. It was a matter of regret to our whole party, that time would not permit us to land. For my own part, I shall not, in this place, attempt to give the reader a description of this charming spot, as I shall have occasion to mention it in the account of my progress through the island, when I had a much better opportunity of contemplating its beauties.

As we passed on, the sweep of Sandown Bay, with Culver cliffs and Bimbridge point, formed a new, and very pleasing scene, improved by a very advantageous view of Mr. Wilkes's cottage, in which that celebrated gentleman has shewn the excellence of his taste in a variety of respects, and particularly in selecting a spot, so peculiarly adapted by nature as this is, for a summer residence.

For the protection of Sandown-Bay, Henry VIII. built a fort, which has been kept in good repair ever since.

Sailing from hence, we came immediately under Culver-Cliff. In these rocks, which are composed of chalk, a great number of gulls and common rock pigeons are bred; and the Cliff is supposed to have derived its name from this circumstance. About half-way up, is a place called Hermit's-Hole, which appears, at the distance from which we saw it, to be a small cavity, only capable of being approached by a narrow and dangerous path, that descends from the summit of the rock, which, itself, is almost perpendicular. Previous to, and during the reign of, Queen Elizabeth, there was, near this spot, a famous breed of hawks, to protect which, the Governor had special charge from the Queen, with directions to punish any one who should presume to plunder their nests.

We now stood round Bimbridge-Ledge, and saw a richly cultivated country rising above the Cliffs. A serene evening, and a declining sun which gives an agreeable tinge to even the most indifferent objects, here added beauty to a situation at all times truly picturesque, and invited us to take advantage of the tide, and row up the Haven of Brading in a boat. Each side of this Haven is in a state of high cultivation, and richly adorned with wood. The village of Brading, with its ancient church, forms a beautiful feature in the prospect, which is backed by the high downs of Ashey, on which is the sea-mark directed by George II. A.D. 1735. This object is of great consequence to the ships that pass and repass from Portsmouth.

As we rowed back to our vessel, we could not but admire the situation of the village of St. Helen's, which is on a rising ground, on the north-side of the mouth of the Haven. On the shore, stand the remains of the old

church of St. Helen's, which has been dilapidated by various encroachments of the sea. Part of the steeple is faced with brick, whitened, and serves for a sea-mark for the road of St. Helen's, which is just off this point, and is the usual station of our fleets when they leave Portsmouth or Spithead.

At a short distance from this sea-mark, commences a beautiful grove, belonging to the Priory, a seat of Sir Nash Grose. Sailing in view of these woods, we entered Spithead, in order to have an opportunity of observing the British fleet, which lay at anchor there. So grand a sight as this fleet, which consisted of upwards of fifty large ships, with a numerous assemblage of smaller vessels, could not fail to excite a degree of exultation, in the minds of Englishmen, at the astonishing naval strength of our country. Nor, perhaps, were we to be thought inex-  
cusable, in so far giving way to a national prejudice, as to imagine, that we discover-  
ed a very visible superiority in the construc-

tion and convenience, as well as the appearance and decorations of our ships of war, over those of the Portuguese Governor, which lay at Spithead at the same time.

We left this busy scene, and stood over to the Mother-Bank, which is a ridge of gravel, lying about a mile to the north of the Isle of Wight, and is the place where outward bound ships usually assemble to wait for convoy, and where also the ships from the Straits perform quarantine. This station is well adapted for the above purposes, as there is good anchorage, and various depths of water.

We now passed St. John's, a delightful villa, consisting of a small but elegant mansion, built by the late General Amherst. Immediately under it, is a seat of Mrs. Roberts, called Appley, which possesses the same advantages in point of situation, as St. John's. A little farther on, is Nettlestone, the seat of Henry Oglander Esq.; but of

this place, it is my intention to give a full description in my tour through the island.

The next village on the shore, is Ride, the usual place of embarkation from the island to Portsmouth, where packets and open boats are continually passing. The wind changing in our favour, we had an opportunity of directing our course under the shore of the Isle of Wight, where we passed Binstead, and the woods of Quarr-Abbey, to Fishborn-Creek, which runs through Wootton-Bridge, for some distance, into the woods.

The shore now continues wooded to King's-Key, so called, as I was informed, from King John's having passed some months at this retired spot. On leaving this place, the view is extended along the woods of Barton-Point, to Old Castle-Point, which we passed, and entered Cowes harbour, much entertained with our voyage.

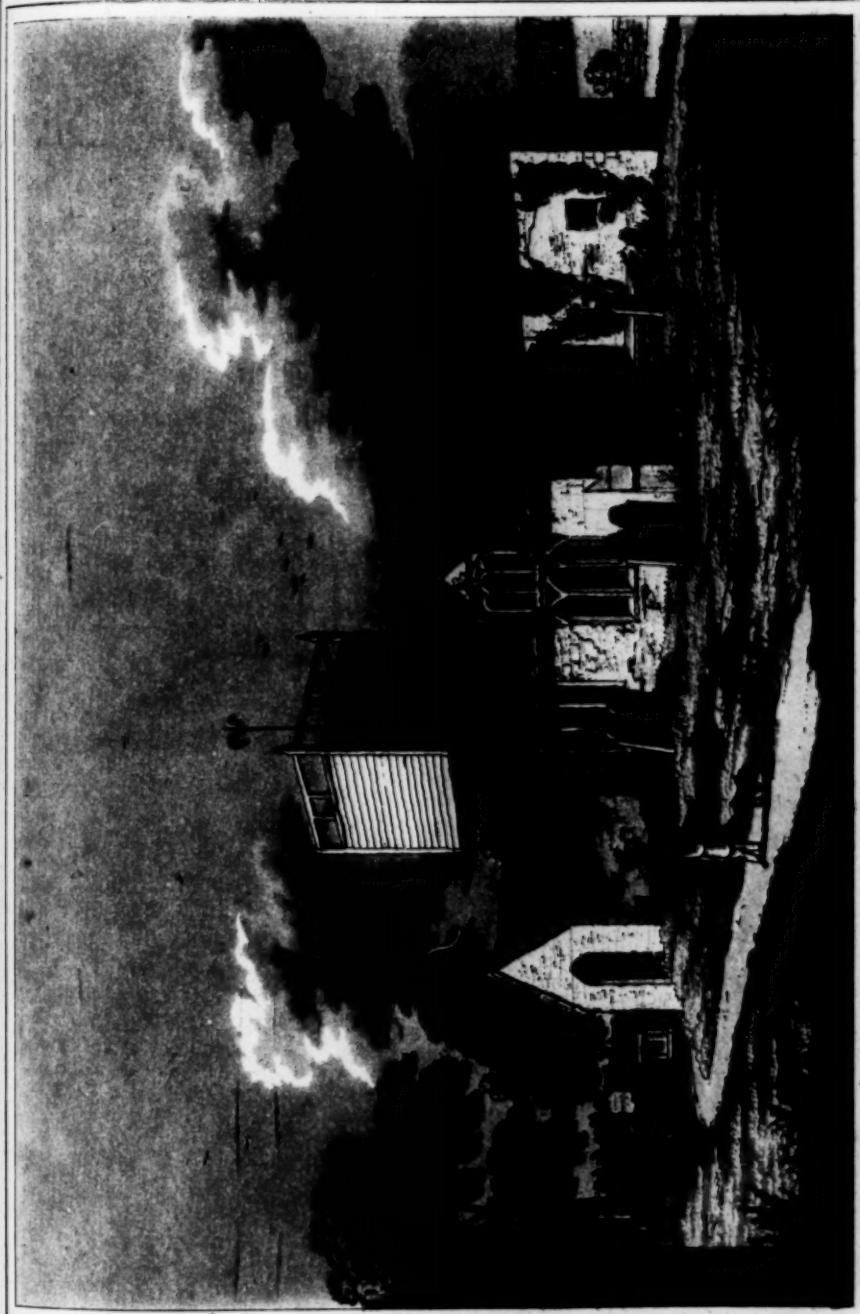
I landed again at Cowes, of which place the reader has already been furnished with a description, and commencing my journey towards Newport, I ascended the hill, from whence the road is enclosed with hedge rows, which separate it from well cultivated lands on each side, from Cowes to the forest of Parkhurst. About two miles from Cowes, I turned out of the road, to the left hand, in order to take the view of *Northwood church*, which has a place in this work.

The parish of Northwood, is situated on the west side of the river Medina, opposite to Calshot-Castle. It is bounded by the sea on the north and north-west, by the parish of Calbourne on the west, and by part of the parish of Shalfleet, and the forest of Parkhurst on the south. The church of Northwood, was a chapel of ease to Carisbrook, until the reign of Henry VIII. when parochial privileges were granted to it, with an exemption from

Published at New-York by C. and G. Knapp, No. 1 Broad-st.

NORTHWOOD CHURCH

Drawn & Engraved by A. T. Johnson





contributing to the repairs of the mother church. But the great and small tythes still belong to the Vicar of Carisbrook, who is also Rector of Northwood. It is probable, that these tythes were of little value when they were originally assigned to the Priory of Carisbrook, as the parish was at that time mostly over-grown with wood, and from this circumstance, it appears to have derived its name. The church, which is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is built of stone, and plastered in some parts. It consists of a body, compass-roofed, and covered with tiles and stone. On the north and south sides, there are aisles, which are separated from the body, by four Gothic arches. None of the monuments in Northwood church are very ancient, or in any degree remarkable, except one, which has been erected to the memory of the Reverend Thomas Smith, who was minister of this parish, in the year 1681. It is formed of one entire piece of chalk, three feet long, and four feet high, curiously carved with

a variety of hieroglyphic characters, which are in high preservation.

The chapel at West-Cowes, which has been already mentioned, is a chapel of ease to Northwood, and is larger than the Parish-church. It was consecrated in the year 1662, five years after its erection, by George, Bishop of Winchester; and was endowed, in the year 1671, with 5*l.* per annum for ever, by Mr. Richard Stephens. In the year 1679, Bishop Morley endowed it with the further annual sum of 20*l.* upon condition, that the inhabitants should allow the minister, (who is chosen by themselves,) the sum of 40*l.* per annum; but if the inhabitants neglect to make this payment, the Bishop's endowment is to be forfeited for ever. The rectory of Northwood, is united with the vicarage of Carisbrook, and both are in the gift of Queen's-College, Oxford. The annual amount of the poor's rate collected in this parish, is about 360*l.*

Before the Reformation, there was, in this parish, a religious house of "fratres et sorores fraternitatis sancti Johannis Baptistæ, in eccllesia de Northwode," brothers and sisters of the fraternity of St. John the Baptist, in the church of Northwood. This monastery was situated near the church, but it had not subsisted long, before it was suppressed, with the other establishments of that sort, by Henry VIII. The building, which is said to have been standing about a century ago, was called the *Church-house*, but no remains of it can be traced at present.

Near Northwood Church, is the neat and hospitable cottage of Captain Price, which commands an interesting view of the river Medina; and not far distant, is Medham, the seat of Mr. Green, which possesses the same advantages in point of situation.

Returning from Northwood, I pursued the Newport road for a mile and a half, till I came to the gate of Parkhurst forest. The

view before me was extensive ; commanding, towards the left, the river Medina, with its cultivated shore; in the front appeared St. George's down, backed by St. Catherine's down ; and, on the right, Carisbrook Castle, with Mountjoy, and the high downs surrounding it.

The forest of Carisbrook, or Parkhurst, is extra-parochial, and contains about three thousand acres of land. In the reign of William the Conqueror, and for a long time afterwards, it was called the King's Park, and is so described in domesday book. By a grant made in the twentieth of Henry VI. to Henry Trenchard, of the office of constable of Carisbrook, it is denominated the King's Forest; and in an account of rents, issues, and disbursements of the island, in the twenty-third of Henry VII. there is a charge for salaries paid to the ranger of the forest, and two under keepers. Swain-motes were yearly held in this forest, as appears by a warrant from the duke of Suffolk, justice of the king's forests,

parks, and chaces, in the thirty-sixth of Henry VIII. directed to the warden, lieutenant, and quarter keepers of the forest of Carisbrook.

About a mile within the forest, stands the house of industry for this island, a structure, which, for convenience and good regulation, is equally deserving of praise and imitation. The poor who receive the advantages of this useful institution, are much indebted to the humanity and good sense of the gentlemen of the island, who, at a general meeting in the year 1770, proposed an application to parliament, for consolidating the poor rates of the several parishes, and erecting a house or houses of industry, for the maintenance and employment of the indigent. In consequence of the unanimous opinion of this meeting, and the measures afterwards pursued, an act of parliament was obtained in the eleventh year of his present Majesty's reign, the preamble of which sets forth the useful purposes it was intended to effect. It states "that the providing a place for the general recep-

tion of the poor, would tend to the more effectual relief of such as by age, infirmities, or diseases, were rendered incapable of supporting themselves by their labour; to the better employment of the able and industrious; to the correction and punishment of the profligate and idle; and to the education of the children in religion and industry; and thereby making the poor, instead of being totally supported by the public, contribute to the support, assistance, and relief of each other; and be of some advantage to the community, to which they had before been only a heavy and grievous burthen." By this act of parliament, His Majesty was enabled to grant, under the exchequer seal, such part of the forest of Parkhurst, near the town of Newport, not exceeding eighty acres, as certain trustees therein named, should allot for the purposes of the act, for such term as his Majesty should think proper. The trustees having fixed upon a spot which they thought the most convenient for the intended building, obtained a grant of eighty acres to be made to the corporation

erected by the act, for the term of nine hundred and ninety-nine years, at the yearly rent of £.8 17 9*½*. Agreeably to this plan the house of industry is erected; the principal part of the building extending from east to west three hundred feet, and twenty feet wide, with windows on both sides, for the benefit of a thorough air. A wing twenty-four feet wide is formed from the main building, at the distance of two hundred feet from the west end, and extends in length, towards the south, one hundred and seventy feet. A range of workshops also, for manufacturers and mechanics, runs from the end of this wing in a line parallel with the main building. On the east side of the wing is a court, one hundred and seventy feet by fifty, having a dairy, washhouse, brewhouse, and other offices on the east side, and a wall on the south.

The principal building consists of a store room, steward's room, committee room, a dining hall one hundred and eighteen feet

long, and twenty-seven feet wide, a common sitting room for the aged and impotent poor, rooms for the laundry, governor, and matron, nurseries and sick wards, with excellent cellars under the east end. On the ground floor of the wing, are the governor's and matron's sitting rooms, the school rooms, apothecary's shop, kitchen, scullery, &c. Above, are the lying-in rooms, sick wards, twenty separate apartments for married men and their wives, and two common sitting rooms for the old and infirm. In front of the principal building is a large gateway, on the east side of which is a master weaver's room and spinning room, with store rooms over them; and on the west side, are the shoemaker's and taylor's shops, and a large spinning room, with weaving rooms, and store rooms in the upper story. The manufactures now carried on are, sacks for corn, flour, and biscuit; stockings kerseys, and other articles of apparel for the use of the poor. On the north side of the principal building is a chapel, fifty feet long by twenty seven wide, where di-

vine service is performed twice a week, besides Sundays. There is also a pest house, and a burial ground walled in. A large garden, which supplies the house with vegetables, occupies the ground on the south side of the building ; and on the east, behind the offices, is a barn, a stable, hog-sties, &c. The house is capable of containing near seven hundred persons, and the number usually supported in it, are from five hundred to five hundred and fifty, varying according to the season, and the general healthiness of the country.

The great expence of this building, which exceeded the sum allowed by the act of parliament, made it necessary, in 1776, to procure a second act, by which the corporation was enabled to borrow a farther sum of money. Many defects in the former law were also remedied, and the corporation of guardians were continued, with new and enlarged powers. By this act the corporation are styled, “ The guardians of the poor within the Isle of Wight,” and all persons are declared

to be guardians, who possess, in their own right or in right of their wives, lands within the island rated to the poor rate at the yearly value of 50/. or are heirs apparent of such lands of the yearly value of 100/. or rectors and vicars within the island, or who are occupiers of lands rated at the yearly value of 100/. Out of these, twenty-four directors and thirty-six acting guardians are annually appointed for the management of the concerns of the corporation, and in them is vested the appointment of proper officers for the internal government of the house. That part of the land which is not occupied by the building and garden, has been cultivated at a very considerable expence, and is divided into fields of from five to twelve acres, mostly fenced with quick hedges, and in such a state of improvement as promises to repay very amply, the labour and cost bestowed on them.

I have been induced to give a more circumstantial account of this excellent institu-

tion than is perhaps consistent with an undertaking like the present, merely from a conviction, of the great benefits which the public would derive, from similar establishments in different parts of the kingdom.

Not far from the house of industry, is St. Cross, the seat of Mr. Kirkpatrick. Upon this spot formerly stood a priory or hospital, dedicated to the Holy Cross. It is mentioned in the Lincoln Taxation 20th Edward I. and again, amongst the alien priories, in the twenty-fifth of the same reign. This priory was a cell to the abbey of Tirone, in France; but by whom it was founded is not known. It appears to have been called an hospital in the 6th of Richard II. that monarch having granted "to John de Coweshall, the custody of the *hosptial* of the Holy Cross, in the Isle of Wight, for life."

An acknowledgement was paid to the priory of Carisbrook, from this house, for the liberty of burying their own dead, for which the

bishop had granted a licence. This being an alien priory, was given to the college of Winchester, some time before the general dissolution of the religious houses. Some small remains of the ancient building, are still visible in the walls of Mr. Kirkpatrick's house, and the farm-house adjoining.

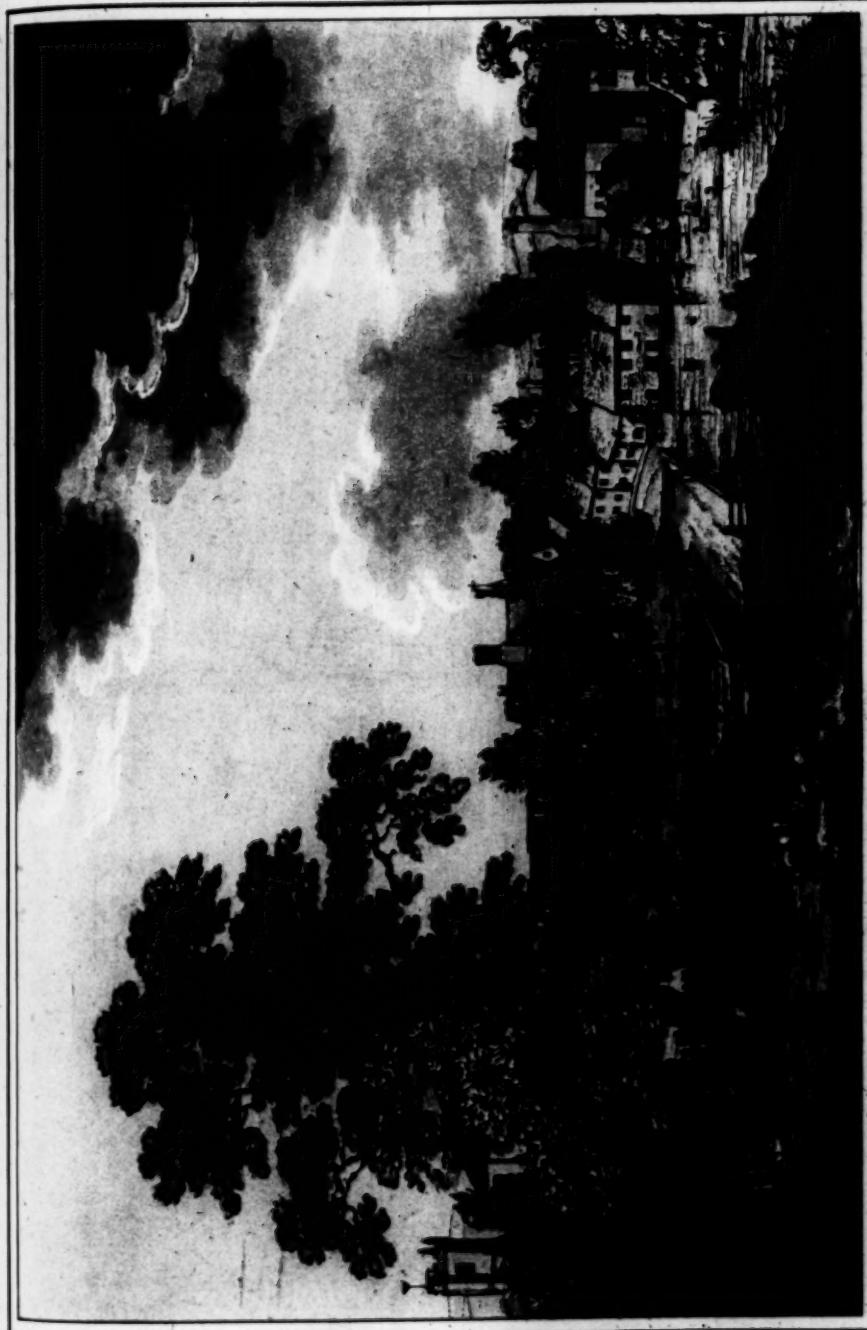
From St. Cross, I took the view of the “*Entrance into Newport*”, which appears in this work.

The town of Newport is considered as the capital, and stands nearly in the centre of the island. It is watered on the east and west sides by two streams, one of which takes its rise at the foot of St. Catherine's, and the other at a place called Rayner's grove, about three miles from Newport: these two streams, after supplying several corn mills, form a junction at the quay, from whence the river Medina is navigable to the sea. The town contains about six hundred dwelling-houses, and is disposed in five long

*Published by George H. French, 32 Broad St., 1824.*

*Engraved by G. L. & J. C. 1822.*

ENTRANCE into NEWPORT.





parallel streets, crossed by three others, the whole of which are well paved. The buildings, which are for the most part of brick, are neat and regular, and amongst them are several good houses. To the beauty and amusement of the place two elegant assembly rooms also contribute. In the original plan of the town, it was intended, that there should have been three large squares, at the intersections of the streets, to serve as markets for cattle, corn, and poultry ; but various encroachments have destroyed the uniformity of the first design.

A market is held every Wednesday, and another on Saturday. The principal commodities brought thither, are poultry, butter, and grain. A great part of the latter, is manufactured in the island, into flour, malt, and biscuit, for the navy ; and the remainder is sold for exportation.

Newport received its first charter of immunities from Richard de Redvers, the second

earl of Devon of that name, in the reign of Henry the second. The second charter was granted by Isabella de Fortibus, countess of Albemarle and Devon.

In this charter, the countess styles the town her new *borough of Medina*; and she grants to the burgesses, all the market tolls, and other liberties belonging to her; with power of distraining for such tolls, and of holding pleas, and amercing within the borough. She also grants the burgesses common of pasture for all animals in Parkhurst; and she gives them in fee, a water mill, near the priory of the Holy Cross, called West-mill; and a moiety of another water-mill, situated near the Ford, called the Ford-mill.

A yearly tent of eighteen marks, is reserved to the countess, and one mark annually to the lepers of the hospital of St. Augustine, for all the houses in the borough, except certain messuages, with their appurtenances, which are stated to have been dedicated, by the

countess, to God, and the chapel of St. Nicholas in the castle of Carisbrook, and to the vicar of that chapel.

These premises are still out of the jurisdiction of the borough, and are called " Castle-hold." The rent reserved for the mills, tolls, fines, and amerciaments, is eighteen marks of silver to the countess, and two marks annually, to the prior and monks of Carisbrook.

The borough of Newport sent representatives to the parliament held in the 23d year of the reign of Edward I; and it appears, that writs were sent to the bailiffs of the Isle of Wight, in the second and fourth years of the reign of Edward II; but no returns were made to the sheriffs upon those writs.

The charter of Isabella de Fortibus, was successively confirmed, by Edward III. Richard II. Edward IV. Henry VII. Henry VIII. and queen Elizabeth; by some of whom

were added, grants of the forfeitures of outlaws, felons, and fugitives, within the borough, and of the petty customs within all ports and creeks of the island.

By some of the old books of the corporation, it appears, that they formerly claimed fourpence per ton, from all shipping which passed the coast; and this is supposed to have been the origin, of the duty still imposed on all vessels anchoring in Cowes road, at the mouth of Newport river.

King James I. granted a charter to the bailiff and burgesses of this borough, constituting them a corporation, to consist of a mayor, twenty-four burgesses, and a recorder: the mayor to be sworn in before the captain of the island, or his steward. The mayor, recorder, (or his deputy) and two burgesses, are empowered to hold a court every Friday, for the trial of all causes of debt, trespass, &c. arising within the borough.

In the thirteenth year of Charles II. the mayor and burgesses obtained a second charter, by which they are now incorporated by the names of the mayor, aldermen and burgesses. The aldermen, who are twelve in number, are elected by the mayor and aldermen, out of the chief burgesses; and the mayor is elected out of the aldermen. The petty customs within all ports and creeks of the island, are confirmed to the borough by this charter; and the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses, are exempted from serving on juries.

No members were sent to parliament by this borough, from the twenty-third of Edward I. until the twenty-seventh of Elizabeth; but, from that period, they have been regularly returned. Newport is indebted to Sir George Carey, captain of the island, for the restitution of this privilege; and the gratitude of the bailiff and burgesses, appears from a memorandum entered in the town books, by which they acknowledge the favour done

them by Sir George, and agree, that he shall nominate one of the burgesses during his life.

The steward of the governor of the island, holds a court in the town hall, called "Curia militum, knight's court, or knighthen court." This court is of very ancient institution, and is supposed to have been erected by William Fitz-Osborne, who received the first grant of the island from William the Conqueror. It is plain, that this court is of feudal origin; for the judges of it were such as held a knight's fee, or part of a knight's, from the lord of the island; and these judges, according to the feudal system, gave judgment, as in courts of equity, without the intervention of a jury. The captain's steward or his deputy, holds this court, by virtue of the captain's patent, every Monday three weeks, except that day happens to be a holiday. It has jurisdiction over the whole island, except the borough of Newport, and holds plea of all actions of debt and trespass under the value of forty shillings, and upon replevins

granted by the steward or his deputy. The proceedings are of the same nature as those in our courts of equity, and are carried on by attorneys admitted by the court. The actions of debt are tried by proof of plaintiff or defendant, or the defendant's wager of law, by two hands, if he prays it, and actions of trespass are determined by proof only.

A representation was made to lord Conway, the governor, in 1626, concerning the nature of this court, and the inconvenience arising from the small number of its judges, who must be freeholders, holding of the castle of Carisbrook. This was also accompanied with some useful hints for its improvement, by the introduction of juries, and the extension of its jurisdiction to causes of higher value. No alteration, however, has been made in its forms or powers.

The seal of Knighton Court represents a castle with battlements, round which are inscribed these words :

SIGIL: CVRIÆ MIL: IN: INSVLA: VECTIS:+

Under the government of the earl of Southampton, in the beginning of the last century, a free grammar school, was erected at Newport, by public subscription. It is a plain stone building, with convenient apartments for the master, who is maintained by the profits arising from some lands adjoining to the forest, which were granted in fee to the bailiffs and burgesses of Newport, in the first year of Henry V. by Agnes Attelode, and John Erlesman, at the yearly rent of twenty-pence. The original deed of conveyance is kept in a small black box in the town-chest, and is as follows :

*"SCLANT presentes et futuri qd. nos Agnes qui  
fui uxor Johannis Attelode et Jokes. Erlesman  
senior dedimus concessimus et bac pnti. charta nra.  
confirmav. Willmo. Farfyre & Willmo. Gan-  
dere ballivis de novo burgo de Newporte Johanni  
Compton, Johanni Langstoke, Willmo. Pax-  
hulle, Richard Shide, et oibus. alijs burgens,  
eiusdem burgi omnes terras et pasturas quas ha-  
mus. Sup. Honiehulle in borial pte. cursus aque  
voc. Lukkeley et in occiden. pte. fossat. priorat.*

*See Cruc. voc. Monken Woodich : habend. et tenend. omnes terras et pastur. pratas. cum ptin. suis prefatis Willmo. Farfye, Willmo. Gandere, Johanni Compton, Johanni Langstoke, Willmo. Paxhulle, Rico. Shide, et oibus. alijs burgens. burgi præd et heredibus suis imppm. de capital. dnis feodi illar. p. servic. inde debit. et de jure consuet. Reddend inde annuatim nobis et heredibus nris. vigint. denar. ad fest. Pasche et see Michis. archb. p. equales porcones. pro oibus. al. servic. exactiōnibus sive demand. Et nos vero predic. Agnes et Johes Erleman, et heredes nre. oes. prdtas. terr. et pastur. cum suis ptin. prefatis Willmo. Farfye, Willmo. Gandere, Johanni Compton, Johanni Langstoke, Willmo Paxhulle, Rico. Shide, et oibus alijs burgenibus predic. burgi et heredibus suis contra oes. gentes warrantizabim. acquietabim. et imppm. defendem. In cuius rei testimon. buic presenti charte nre. sigilla nra. apposuim. Hjs testibus Willmo Bremeskete, Willmo Ringborne, Thome Brereding, Johanne Hakett, Johanne Heyno, et alijs. Dat. apud Newport pred. qrto. die mensis Octobris anno regni regis Henrici Quinti Primo."*

The church stands in the centre of one of the squares. It is supposed to have been built about the reign of Henry II. from its being dedicated to St. Thomas à Becket, who was the popular saint of that time. The building is of stone, and is spacious, but not sufficiently lofty for its size. It consists of a body and two aisles, one of which is separated from the body by seven gothic arches, and the other by six. It has been imagined that this church was partly built by a subscription of the mechanics who resided in the town, from the various mechanical figures carved on the South wall, some of which are still visible; but it is probable many more have been destroyed by the successive reparations of the church. The tower has a ring of six bells, and is provided with a clock. The pulpit is of wainscot, ornamented with fourteen emblematical figures curiously carved in alto relieveo, representing the Liberal Arts and Cardinal Virtues. Under the sounding board is the date of 1636, and on the cornice, a sentence from Isaiah, cut in fret work. On the top, the God

of War and the Goddess of Peace are represented, forming an union. The church has galleries all round, and likewise an organ. The only monument in it worthy of notice, is that of Sir Edward Horsey, who is represented in armour, lying in a handsome decorated niche. At his feet is a horse's head attired in a wreath argent and azure, and above him is the following inscription :

*Edwardus qui miles erat, fortissimus Horsey,  
Vectis erat praes constans, terraque marique  
Magnanimus, placidae sub pacis nomine fortis,  
Iustitiae cultor quam fidus amicus amico.  
Fautor Evangelii, dilectus principe vixit  
Munificus, populo multum dilectus ab omni  
Vixit; et ut sancti, sic flamina sancta peregit.*

*Qui obiit 23 die Marcii.  
An. Dni 1582.*

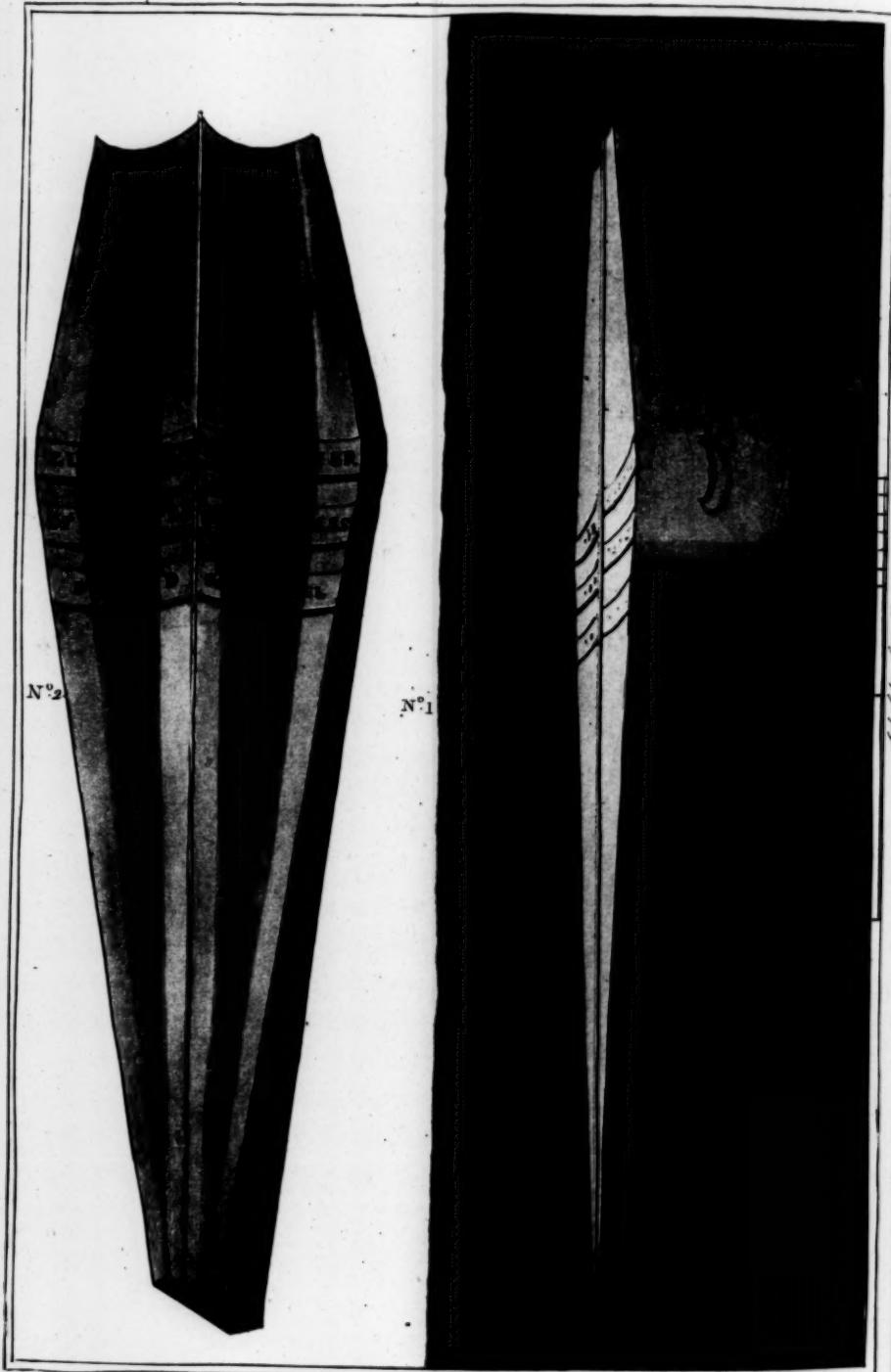
The arms of Sir Edward are quartered over the centre of the arch.

Sir Edward Horsey well deserved the praise bestowed on him in this Epitaph. During seventeen years government of the island, he

was constantly attentive to its interests, and particularly to the wool trade, from which it derives considerable advantage. There is extant, an agreement between the bailiffs of the town of Newport, and the clothiers of the county of Somerset, for fixing the petit customs of wool, purchased by the clothiers within this island; this agreement is dated the 6th of July, 1578; and is declared to have been made by the mediation and award of Sir Edward Horsey. The plentiful supply of game with which this island formerly abounded, was also owing to the attention and care of this gentleman, who is reported to have been so anxious for its increase, that he gave a lamb to every person who brought a live hare into the island.

The chancel is separated from the body of the church by small oak pillars and arches ornamented with carving. In digging a grave nearly under the communion table for the honourable Mr. West, son of Lord Delawar, in October 1793, the leaden coffin of





N°2

N°1

Princess Elizabeth, second daughter of King Charles I. was discovered in a vault which was perfectly dry when it was opened, and the coffin in a state almost equal to new. An ingenious friend having communicated a sketch of the coffin, taken in the situation in which it stood when the vault was opened, the reader will probably not be displeased with the annexed engraving of it. Fig. 1, in this Plate, shews the coffin in a side view, as it stood in the vault; and Fig. 2, the lid with the inscription. Upon the wall of the chancel not far distant from the vault, is a small stone, with the letters E. S. cut in it. This obscure inscription had passed almost without notice, till the coffin was discovered, but it now seems clear, that it was meant as a direction to those who might search for the grave of this unfortunate young Princess, Elizabeth Stuart, who did not long survive her father, and died a prisoner in Carisbrook Castle.

Newport originally belonged to the Priory of Carisbrook, and upon the sequestration

of the Priory, the right of appointing the minister seems to have devolved, as in all similar cases, to the vicar of the Mother Church of Carisbrook: and this appears the more probable, as there is no endowment of the Church of Newport, nor, indeed, was there any certain support for the minister till the year 1653, when the mayor and chief burgesses ordained, that a rate should be made for his subsistence. As the minister is thus entirely supported by the inhabitants, it has been usually left to them to elect whom they pleased; but judging from the usual course of ecclesiastical preferments, we are rather naturally led to agree with Sir Richard Worley, that the appointment of the curate is strictly in the vicar of Carisbrook. From the report made to Edward VI. by the commissioners appointed by letters patent in 1547, it appears, that the plate, bells, vestments, and other implements belonging to the Church of Newport, which were seized at the Reformation, produced the sum of £100. 5s. 6d.

The great increase of buildings in Newport, since the decay of Carisbrook, has extended the town beyond the limits of the parish. Accordingly, Castle Hold is within the parish of St. Nicholas, Copping's Bridge is in that of Whippingham, and Node Hill in Carisbrook.

Newport has given title to four Earls and one Baron. In the fourth year of Charles I. Lord Mountjoy Blount, natural son of the Earl of Devonshire, was created Baron Thurlston, and Earl of Newport. He was succeeded by his three sons, who all dying without issue, the title became extinct in 1679.

The borough of Newport sends two burgesses to parliament. The right of election is in the corporation, consisting of twelve aldermen and twelve burgesses; who have been for some time past influenced in their choice of representatives, by the family of Holmes. Upon the death of the late Lord

Holmes, his estate in the island, together with his influence in this borough, descended to his Nephew the Rev. Leonard Troughear, who has taken the surname of Holmes. An attempt was made, at the time of Lord Holmes's death, to change the patronage of the borough; and a considerable interest was established in the corporation, by Sir William Oglander and some other gentlemen, for the purpose of effecting this object. There were at that time only twenty-three electors, eleven of whom had declared themselves in favour of the old patronage, and an equal number were determined to oppose it. The remaining elector was Mr. Taylor of Newport. Both parties in their zeal to secure this gentleman's interest, applied to him in a way that gave him an opportunity of exhibiting a character, for integrity and independence, rarely to be met with in the annals of borough elections. He was offered a considerable sum of money by the agents of each party; but disdaining to put to sale that which is justly considered the most va-

luable privilege of an Englishman, he chose rather to resign his gown as a burges, than give his support to any party who would accept his suffrage on such dishonourable terms. Since this event, Mr. Troughear Holmes, found means to establish himself in the patronage, and still continues to possess it. The present members are, Lord Viscount Palmerston, and the Hon. Penyston Lamb.

The town of Newport is badly supplied with water, there being few wells. On this account, the principal part of the water used by the inhabitants, is brought in water-carts from Carisbrook, and retailed through the town. It appears however, that, formerly, there was a better regulation in this respect; for in digging lately in the beast-market for stone to pave the town with, a large reservoir was discovered, and several pipes have likewise been found in the road from Carisbrook, leading in a direct line to Newport. It would be very easy to restore this method of supplying the town with so necessary an article; and it is somewhat surprizing, that

this should have escaped the notice of those public spirited gentlemen, who have, on many occasions, taken great pains for the improvement of the island, and the accommodation of its inhabitants. It is said, indeed, that a gentleman offered a short time since to bring water by pipes from Carisbrook, and also to light the town, if the corporation would elect him one of their representatives in parliament: and though elections of this sort ought to be free from influence of every description, it must be allowed that this was such a proposal, as might have been accepted, without subjecting the electors to the same degree of venality, as would have attached to the acceptance of such an offer as that rejected by Mr. Taylor. The advantages in one case would have been materially felt by the public; in the other, the avarice of an individual alone would have been gratified.

There was formerly at Newport a chantry, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and founded by John Garston of that town. By

a half yearly rental, beginning at Michaelmas in the year 1682, it appears, that the lands in and about Newport, belonging to this chauntry, were in the possession of Edward Fleming Esq. the yearly income thereof, at that time, being £ 15. 3s. 6d. The same lands are now held by John Fleming, Esq. who pays to the crown the yearly rent of £ 12. 5s. 9d.

The original seals of the town, made use of under the charter of Isabella de Fortibus, and the first seal used by the corporation, under the charter of King James I. are still remaining. The former of these represents an ancient ship, with one mast, and a sail bent, and an anchor and rudder. Round it is this inscription:

**Sigillum: commune: ville: de:  
Neuport: in: Insula: de:  
Wight.**

King James's seal is made of copper, and is in two pieces, formed so as to be screwed into one handle. One part of it is kept by the mayor, and the other by the town clerk; consequently the seal cannot be made use of without the presence or assent of the possessors of both parts. It represents the figure of the King in full face, in his royal robes, with a crown on his head. On one side of the figure is the letter I, on the other the letter R; and surrounding the seal, is this inscription:

S'STATVTORVM MERCATOR' CAPT' INFRA BVR.  
GVM DE NEWPORT IN INSVLA VECT.

I shall close this account of Newport, with a copy of the charter, granted to this town, by Isabella de Fortibus, in the reign of King Edward the First.

*“ Sciant presentes et futuri, quod ego Isabella de Fortibus, comitissa Albemarl. et Devon. ac Dna. Insulæ in ligea viduitate et plena potestate*

*mea, dedi et concessi, et hac presenti charta mea confirmavi burgenibus meis de novo burgo meo de Medina omnimodam libertatem de theolonio, et de omnibus alijs consuetudinibus unde liberi burgenses libertatem babeant, quantum in me pertinet; per totam terram meam, in villis, in vijs, in terra, in mare, in portu, in nundinis, in mercatis, in ventionibus, in eruptionibus, in burgo et extra bur-gum, et in omnibus locis, et omnibus rebus suis. Concessi etiam præfatis burgenibus meis qd. sint quieti et liberi de sciris et bundredis, et de om-nibus sect. ad seir. et bundr. in insula. Concessi quoq. ijsdem burgenibus qd. babeant comia pas-turæ ad omnimodo animalia sua p. totam pasturam in landis meis in Parkhorst, extra boscum quie-tam de herbagio in perpetuum. Præterea concessi ip[s]is burgenibus, quod omne placitum quod in pre-dicto burgo ortum fuit, quod ad me pertinet in ipso burgo inter ipsos et per ipsos placitetur et amer-ciamentum inde proveniens, per ipsos amercietur et taxetur. Et volo et concedo pro me et bæredibus meis qd. nullus eorum cum amerciari debeat de amerciamento qd. ad me pertinet, ad plus quam ad triginta denarios amercietur;*

et hoc judicis et consideratione ipsorum burgenum concessi insuper prædictis burgenibus qd. nullus in dicto burgo sit præpositus aut balivus nisi ipse quem ijdem burgenses et bæredes eorum reddent singulis annis mibi et bæredibus et assig-natis meis pro omnibus messuagijs suis in eadem villa exceptis messuagijs ædificatis in tredecim placeis et dimid. placea quorum redditum una cum escheata et omnibus alijs rebus adbuc unde continentibus dedi et concessi Deo et capellæ beati Nichi. in castro meo de Carebroc et vicario ejusdem capellæ prout carta ejus plenius portestatur, ad duos anni terminos decem et octo marcas duos solidos et duos denarios, viz. medietatem ad Pascham, et alteram medietatem ad festum sancti Michis: et leprosis hospitialis sancti Augustini ad prædictos terminos singulis annis unam marcam argenti de libera et perpetua eleemosina mea, videlicet ad quemlibet terminorum prædictorum dimid. marc. Dedi insuper et concessi prædictis burgenibus meis ad feodi firmam perpetue duratur unum molendinum aquaticum situm juxta prioratum sc̄ti. Crucis qd. appellatur la West Mill, cum omnibus pertinentijs suis, et medietatem unicus molendini aquatichi siti juxta

*la ford quod vocatur Le Ford Mill, cum omnibus  
ptinentijs suis. Concessi etiam qd. præfati bur-  
genses quiete habeant omnia et singula amerci-  
amenta de omnibus querelis et placitis ortis in  
prædicto burgo quæ inter ipsos placitantur vel pla-  
citari possint. Et etiam qd. habeant totum theo-  
lonium et custumam quæ ad me pertinent in præ-  
dicto burgo et extra burgum, simul cum potestate  
disstringere pro eisdem theolonis et custuma, in om-  
nibus locis ubi ea aliquando tempore consueverunt,  
exceptis tredecim placeis et di mid. supradictis et  
salvis libertatibus a me concessis abbatii et conven-  
tui de Quarr. et hominibus suis, priori Xti ecclæ-  
siæ de Twynham, et hominibus suis, et priori de  
Appledurcombe, et hominibus suis, prout cartæ  
eorum plenius et melius testantur; babendum et  
tenendum omnia premissa data et concessa prædictis  
burgenibus et eorum bæredibus, cum omni com-  
moditate et incremento quæ in prædicto burgo  
accessere poterint; sine contradictione reclamatione  
seu impedimento mei, vel bæredum aut affignato-  
rum meorum, libere, pacifice, quiete, et integre,  
reddendo inde annuatim mibi et bæredibus vel  
affignatis meis pro prædicta feudi firma molendin.*

theolon. custum. et amerciament. decem et octo marcas argenti ad quatuor anni tempora, viz. ad festum s̄t̄i. Michis. sexaginta solidos, ad nat. Dni. sexaginta solidos, ad festum Pafcb. 60s. et ad nat. s̄t̄i Johis. Baptista, 60s. Et priori et monacis de Careſbroc, duas marcas annuatim ad eosdem terminos per æquales portiones de perpetua eleemosina pro omnibus servitus s̄ecularibus exactione et demandis. Et ego Isabella, et hæredes et affig-nati mei hæc omnia data concessa et confirmata prædictis burgenibus et eorum hæredibus in omnibus et per omnia warrantizabimus et contra omnes gentes defendemus in perpetuum: ut autem hæc nostra donatio et bujus cartæ meæ confirmatis perpetuæ firmatis robur obtineat, præsentem cartam sigilli mei impressione roberavi. His testibus, Willō. de Sancto Martino, Henrico Trenchard, Thoma de la Haulde, Tho. de Evercey, Willō. Estur, Jordō. de Kingeston, militibus, Johē. de Patghgrave, tunc constabulario insulæ, Johē. de Heyno, Willē. de Nevile, Galfrido de Insula, Hugone la Vavasur, Walt. Barnard, et aliis."

The present number of inhabitants of the town of Newport, is two thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight.

The extensive tours to which we now proceed to draw the reader's attention, shall be described in the following order, viz. First, the Western; Secondly, the Eastern; and Thirdly, the Southern; each of which possesses a great and pleasing variety. Before we commence with these, however, it may not be amiss to point out two walks, in the vicinity of the town of Newport, that will give the traveller a just idea of the situation and conveniences of the place: these will also prove a considerable saving to him in point of time, and render it less necessary to digress from the general road of the different tours that we shall have occasion to mention in future.

The Medina being the source of the mercantile advantages of Newport and its environs, it seems requisite to direct the rea-

der's notice to a walk on the banks of that river; an excursion which cannot but be pleasing to all visitors of the Isle of Wight. The way to the river is down Quay-street; then across a foot-bridge, near Mr. Cook's Brew-house, over the stream that runs from Carisbrook, and joins the Medina river at this place. After passing a few fishermen's houses, we are then led by a path between a double row of elms, on the bank of the river. The most eligible time for undertaking this walk, is the evening, when the beauties of this delightful scene are viewed to the greatest advantage. At the end of the path, we enter a copse, which still possesses a pleasant gloom, and at various openings shews the river and its opposite banks, which are covered with a fine verdure. Leaving the copse, we take the beaten path up an easy ascent in the adjoining meadow, to a seat placed under a clump of trees, from whence we have an extensive view in every direction. The southern view wears so picturesque an appearance, that I have



Scenes & Landmarks of Medina.

MEDINA RIVER.

Medina River Grand Canal.



been induced to give a representation of it,  
under the title of *The Medina River.*

This place is much resorted to by the inhabitants of Newport. A short distance from it, is a pleasant spot, called Hurst-stake, which is a small Public-house, under a grove of trees, on a projecting sweep of the river's banks. Refreshments may be procured here, and likewise a boat for crossing the river, which should rather be done at this place than farther on; as this side of the river now begins to lose its agreeable variety. From this situation, the serpentine direction of the river is seen to advantage in either view, and is no less worth attending to than the rival mills, situated on each side of the river. These are immense piles of brick and stone work; and though far from picturesque, do not deserve on that account, to be passed over in silence, since their want of beauty is amply compensated by their utility. They are said to be capable of grinding forty loads of wheat in a week; and

are worked by a pent water, which is formed by the tide's flowing over a dam. These fabrics also possess every convenience for baking biscuits for the use of the navy, of which considerable quantities are daily shipped for Portsmouth, and other places.

The principal kinds of fish which are caught in the river Medina, are mullet, flat-fish, and oysters.

Crossing the water at Hurst-stake, the tide running out afforded so advantageous a view of the place I had just left, as to induce me to add a second plate under the same title. In this view *Hurst-stake* forms the right-hand screen, and the Whippingham shore the left, with Newport Church, and the high ground of *Mountjoy* in the centre.

At Fairlee, in the parish of Whippingham, is the seat of John White, Esq. On the east-side of the river, the house is substantial, and has the appearance of being a

*Published for the Author by David G. Bogue, New Haven, 1793.*

MEDINA RIVER.

*Drawn & Engraved by G. H. Lane*





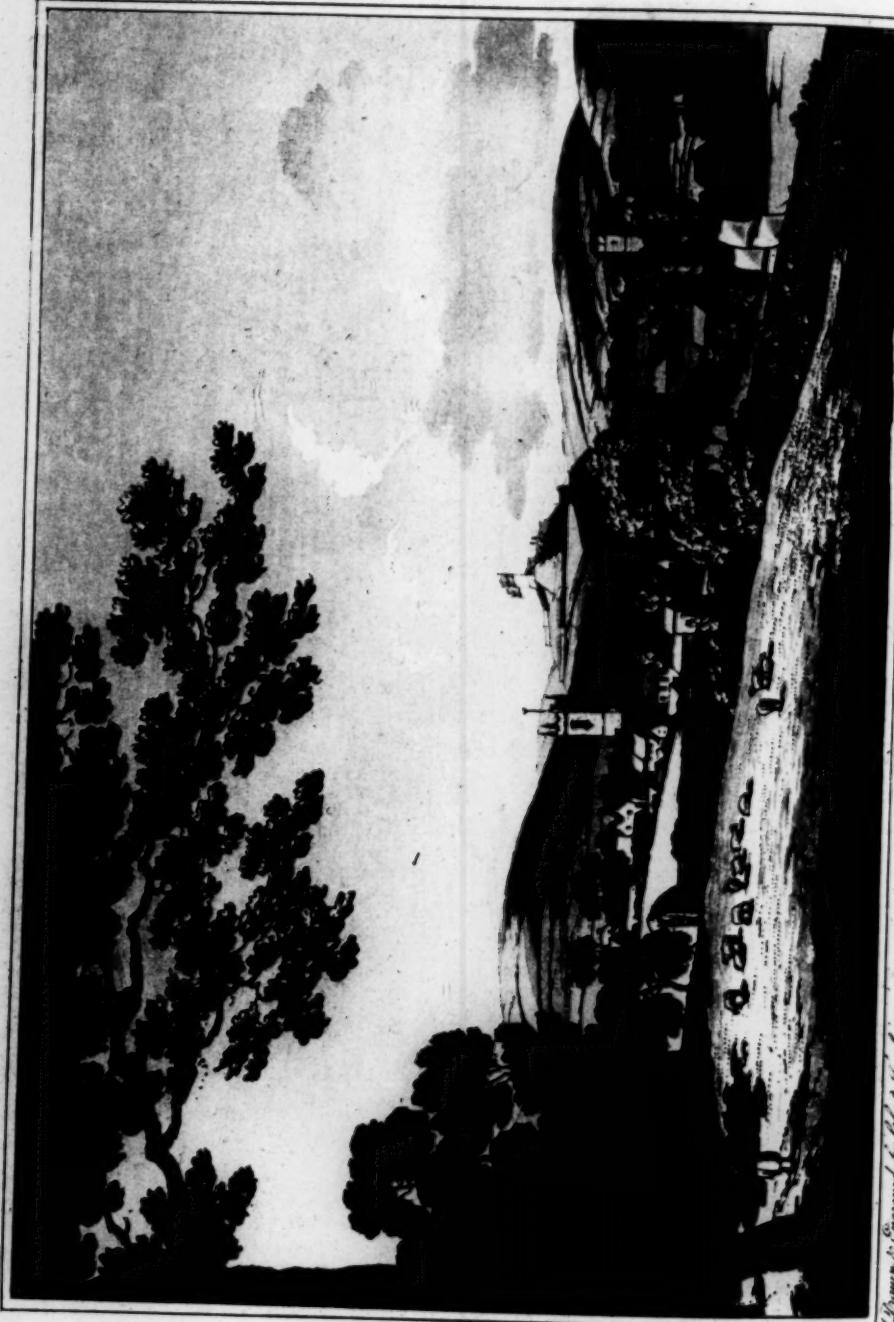
*Published at the Office of Charles G. Hartley, 82, Newgate-street, London.*

FAIRFEE the Seat of JOHN WHITTE ESQ.

*Drawing & Engraving by Chas. Greenway.*







Printed by John & Son, London.

Published by the late Edward G. Baily for the author, 1794.

good family house. It is built of glazed brick, plain, and without decoration, as may be perceived from the annexed view of the west front, which is taken from the lawn, that falls, in an easy slope, towards the water's edge. At the south-side of the lawn, is a plantation of evergreens, under a grove of oaks, in which is a winding path from the water up to the house.

Leaving this place, we took the right-hand path into the fields, in one of which the view of *Newport from Fairlee* was drawn. This is a much better view of the town of Newport than is seen in any other direction; as it exhibits the whole of the town, backed by Mountjoy, Carisbrook castle and village; besides Bucombe, Avington, and Galibury Downs, with the grove of St. Crofs: in a word, the river only is wanting to make this view complete. Passing the meadows, we entered the Whippingham road, and kept to the right-hand which led by Coppin's-

bridge into the town of Newport, and were not a little satisfied with our excursion.

Carisbrook Castle deserves likewise to be recommended for a walk, as it is not more than a mile from the town of Newport. The way to this place is through High-street and Castle-Hold, taking the foot-path called the Mall, which joins the western end of the town. It is about two hundred yards in length, and eight yards wide. On the left hand, it is in part shaded by lofty elms, under which, some seats would be a very desirable addition. On the right, it is open to meadows, which are backed by Parkhurst forest. It possesses also the farther advantage of a good view of Mountjoy, Carisbrook Castle, the village of Carisbrook, and Priory Farm: from its contiguity to the town, it is the resort of the gay throng.

At the end of this walk, is the horse-road to the village of Carisbrook, and to the

castle. Just opposite to this part of the road, is a narrow lane, which is the pass where, it is said, Sir Hugh Tyrrel, in 1377, defeated the French, who were on their march to the castle of Carisbrook. The lane still retains the name it acquired from that event, of *Dead-man's lane*; and adjoining the East end of it is a part of Newport, called Nodes hill, probably a corruption from *Noddies* hill, which was the name given to the tumulus, formed by the bodies of those slain in the engagement. Farther on, the road divides at an angle: the left leads to the castle, and the right to the village, both of them carriage roads. At a short distance, for the accommodation of foot passengers, there is an agreeable path over the fields, which continues by an easy ascent, till you arrive at the outer gate of the castle. This road is much improved, and the waste ground, which is planted with various shrubs, will, in a few years, form an agreeable contrast with the surrounding fields and meadows.

These meadows produce a plant, which is not commonly met with, called the *Opbrys apifera*, or *Bee Orchis*. The stalk and leaves of this plant resemble those of a hyacinth; and, at the top of the stalk, it bears a double flower, so extremely like a bee, that the naturalists have observed, that all other insects, deceived by the appearance, forbear to approach it.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.



