

# TOMMY TRIP'S TOUR

THROUGH

# THE COUNTIES OF ENGLAND.

"MINE BE THE TASK, IN PLAIN AND SIMPLE VERSE,
OF ENGLAND'S FORTY COUNTIES TO REHEARSE."

#### NORTHUMBERLAND.

First of Northumberland: whose length expands Unto the North, and nearest Scotland stands; Famed was Northumbria, in days of old, For border warfare, and for warrior bold: Famed, too, for hunting, as when Percy's horn Summoned his vassals at the break of morn, O'er Chevy Chase to hunt the nimble game, That chase which soon a battle-field became, Fraught with renown to many a hero's name, Coal, in this county, 'neath the surface lies, Enough to last for many centuries.

#### CUMBERLAND.

Ranges of mountains wooded well with trees,
Lakes clear as crystal, rippled by the breeze;
Fields which were once by foemen overspread,
Pict, Scot, and Dane, when Britons freely bled;
Lands which became, in ages that ensued,
Points of dispute, and many a border feud:
For such, fair Cumberland, thou art noted, and
Many have styled thee "British Switzerland."

#### DURHAM.

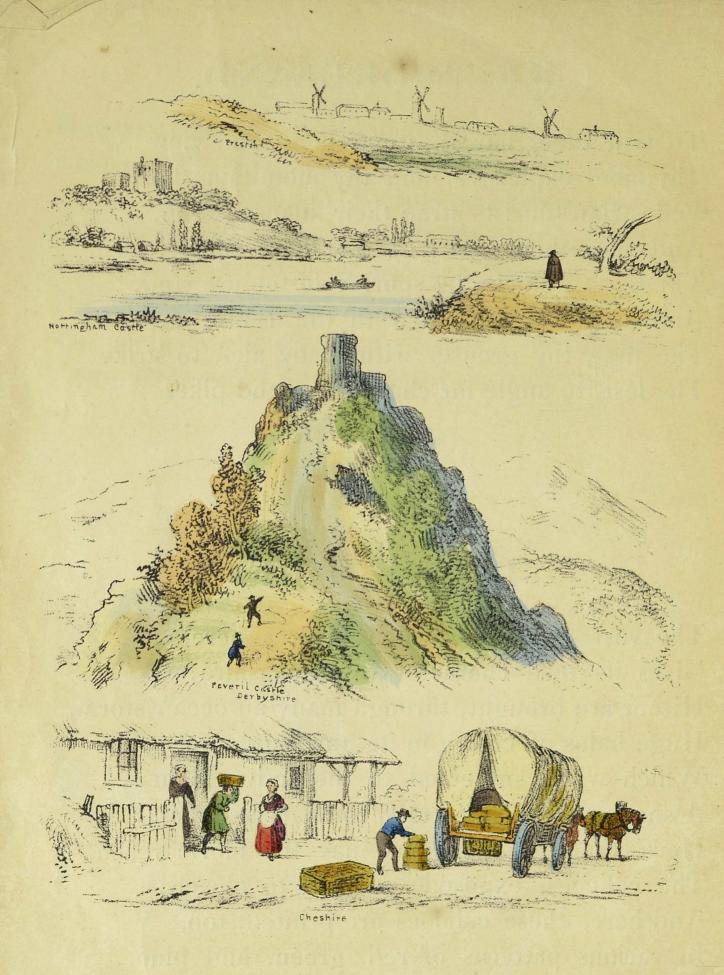
Though Durham fertile in her fields be found,
Her real wealth lies hidden under ground:
Coal is that wealth—that jewel rich and rare,
For oh! what jewel can with thee compare,
Thou bright black diamond? we owe to thee
Much of our comfort and prosperity.
Deprived of thee, our hearths would cheerless prove,
Nor ships, nor carriages, by steam could move:
For without thee no steam could we command,
And void of power, our vast machines would stand.

#### WESTMORELAND.

To visit thee, fair Westmoreland, and view
Thy lakes expansive, and thy mountains blue,
Pedestrian tourists strap their knapsacks on,
And turn their backs on London's smoky town.
Thy barren moors, by sportsmen too are trod,
And anglers seek thee with the fishing rod:
The first, thy grouse, with ready aim, to strike;
The last, to angle for char, trout, and pike.

## LANCASHIRE.

The vast machinery which centres here,
Gives its own character to Lancashire;
Hither are brought, through many an ocean storm,
Huge bales of cotton in its unwrought form,
Which when subjected to the active looms,
A shape more useful and compact assumes;
Here, that the sunbeams may the fabric reach,
The calicoes, exposed, are left to bleach:
And here, these calicoes are printed, too,
In various patterns of red, green, and blue.



#### YORKSHIRE.

By looking at the map, you'll plainly see
That Yorkshire, parcelled into ridings three,
North, East, and West, as far outstretched it lies,
Excels each other county for its size;
Its Sheffield cutlery we value most.
But Yorkshire may with justice boast
Its breed of horses, either for the race,
The coach, the cavalry, or nimble chace.

#### CHESHIRE.

Cheshire, renowned for broad and fertile vales,
And closely bordering on thy neighbour, Wales,
How art thou wont our palates oft to please
With dairy produce, in the shape of cheese;
Thy rich old cheese has justly earned a name
"Inscribed immortal in the rolls of fame;"
With bread, old ale, and one good slice of thee,
Thou Cheshire cheese, how happy could we be!
No more, for now our palates crave indeed,
Let's to another county straight proceed.

## DERBYSHIRE.

For natural wonders Derbyshire is famed,
Among the rest, its peak may well be named,
Here mighty caverns, hewn by nature's hand,
Attention from the visitor command;
The first, alone, enjoys the light of day,
The rest are lighted by the torch's ray,
Roofs of stalactites\* are then brought to view,
And lakes below them, of the darkest hue.

## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

Of Sherwood Forest, and of Robin Hood,
His hundred men, tall archers all, and good;
Of little John, and what they did and said,
These outlaws bold, we most of us have read;
In Nottinghamshire these robbers dwelt remote;
But this famed shire has other claims to note,
Its rise in manufactures, we might trace,
As those of stockings and of British lace.

<sup>\*</sup> Petrified drippings, which hang and look like icicles.

#### LINCOLNSHIRE.

Lincolnshire, noted for its lands of fen,
Somewhat injurious to the health of men,
Affords rich pastures, notwithstanding that
On which lean cattle speedily grow fat;
Cattle, in droves, from many a distant part,
Are hither brought, to fatten for the mart;
To good account the farmers thus contrive
To turn their fens, and prosperously thrive,
And wealth abundant gather from a soil
That scarce requires the exercise of toil.

#### SHROPSHIRE.

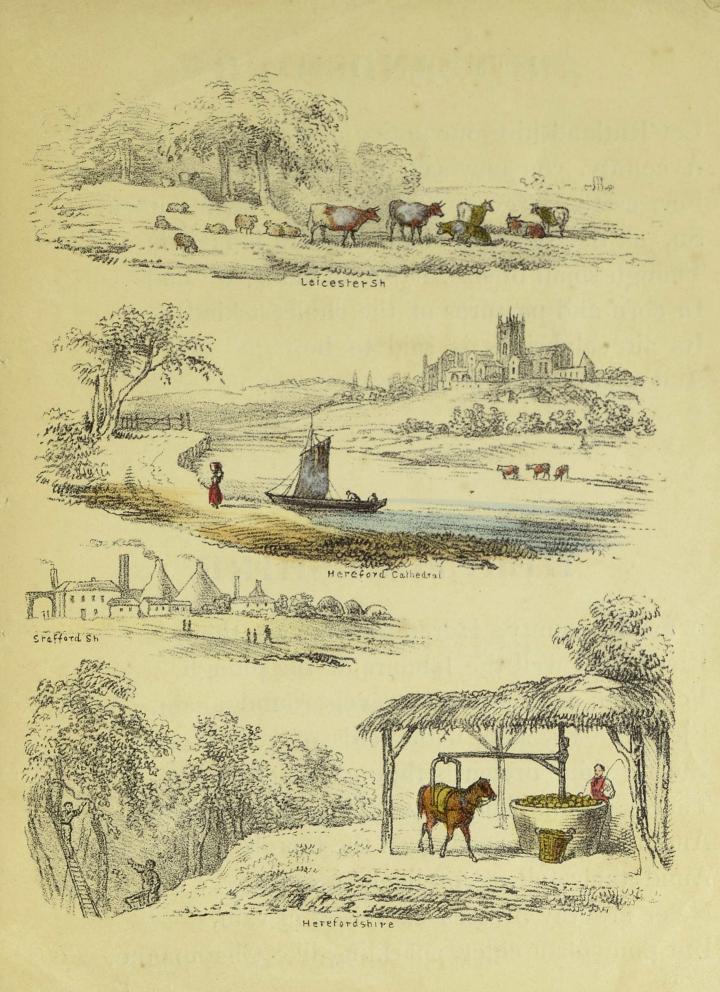
Southward of Cheshire, on the Welsh frontiers,
Shropshire, in green luxuriance appears,
Corn is its produce; and a cheese so rare,
That with famed Cheshire it may well compare;
Here the smooth Severn flows through tranquil vales,
Its source, Plinlimmon, in the North of Wales,
The Shropshire iron works employment give
To many hundreds, who by labour live.

#### STAFFORDSHIRE.

For fertile plains, for hills, and valleys fair,
Few counties can with Staffordshire compare;
But that which raises it to notice most,
Of which its industry may justly boast,
Is its extent of potteries, from which
Wares of all patterns, and adornment rich,
Are fashioned skilfully, and made to vie
With the best wares of France and Germany;
When you have need your china ware to choose,
I would not have you Staffordshire refuse.

#### LEICESTERSHIRE.

With just pretence may Leicestershire aspire
To claims as high as any English shire:
For pastures rich, o'er which the oxen feed;
(Leicestershire oxen form a separate breed.)
Here, too, Meltonians are wont to meet,
To drive sly Reynard from his dark retreat:
When o'er the hills their "tally ho!" resounds,
Till the spent fox lies captured by the hounds.
In this same county we may note as well,
On Bosworth field that crook-backed Richard fell.



### RUTLANDSHIRE.

Let Rutlandshire our notice next secure,
A county, you may say, in miniature;
For, as the largest, Yorkshire has been named,
So, as the smallest, Rutlandshire is famed;
Though small in size, it yet abounds, we find
In corn and pastures of the choicest kind;
Its air salubrious is said to be,
And picturesque is all its scenery.

## HEREFORDSHIRE.

A fertile county, Herefordshire, art thou, Rewarding well the labours of the plough, For when each autumn travels round again, Blest are thy soils with fields of yellow grain. But for thine orchards thou art chiefly known, There, in abundance, are thy treasures grown, And apples, clustering on the boughs, are seen Amid their foliage of lively green; Ne'er are thy presses exercised in vain, But pour forth cider, sparkling like Champagne,

#### WORCESTERSHIRE.

Should you, perchance, have never viewed before
The process used for smelting iron ore,
Go visit Worcestershire, in long array,
Furnaces there, are smelting night and day;
This county also, may in justice share
The fame of Staffordshire for china ware;
Its pears and apples are of choicest juice,
And perry, and brisk cyder, too, produce.

#### WARWICKSHIRE.

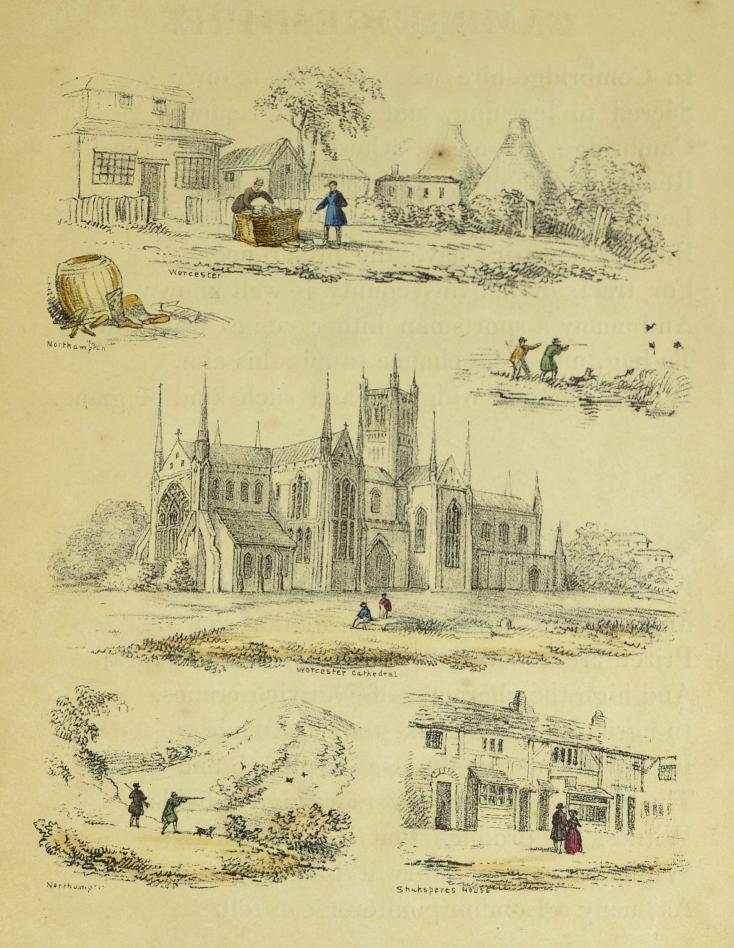
Worthy of note be Warwickshire's renown,
For 'twas on Avon, and in Stratford town,
That Shakspere first beheld the light of day,
And there, too, died; though aptly we may say
Died but in body, for his name will live
As long as England's language shall survive:
Here a brief notice, Kenilworth must claim,
And Birmingham we've only room to name.

#### NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

Tis plain Northamptonshire can make no boast Of views marine, or picturesque sea-coast; Since in the centre of the map 'tis found By other shires on each side girt around: For large domains, and hospitable fare, For close preserves of pheasant and of hare, Where only some are privileged to shoot, Northamptonshire has long enjoyed repute: Its town, Northampton, many dealers choose, In which they buy their stock of boots and shoes.

#### HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

Close to the former county, and between
Cambridge and it, may Huntingdon be seen:
Though small in size, its soil demands our praise,
For with abundant interest it repays
The Farmer's toil, whose fields ne'er tilled in vain,
Produce rich harvests of the yellow grain.
This shire, in ballads, has been linked with one
Called Robin Hood, the earl of Huntingdon.



#### CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

In Cambridgeshire we recognize a town
Sacred to learning, and of high renown:
Cambridge, we mean, whose name alone recalls
Remembrance of its colleges and halls;
Latin and Greek the tutors here dispense,
But mathematics have the preference.
For tracts of fen this county is well known,
And many a sportsman hither comes from town,
To bag, unless he chance to miss his aim,
Wild duck, and widgeon, and such kind of game.

#### NORFOLK.

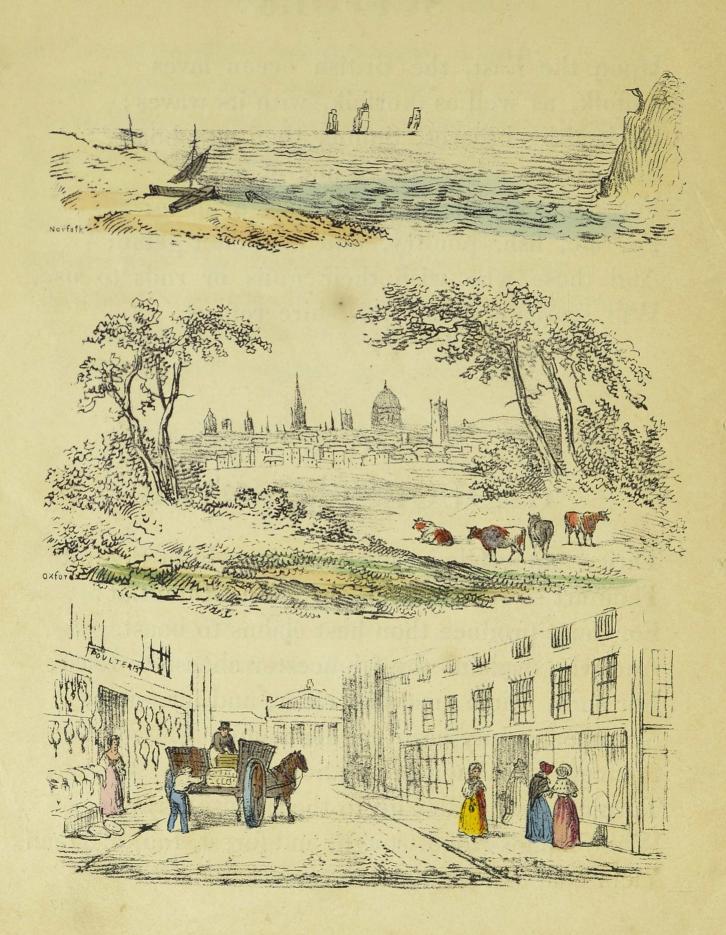
Norfolk, for fabrics of a texture rare,
May well our country's approbation share;
Prized are its silks, its woollens, and its tapes;
And high the character of Norwich crapes.
In agriculture, Norfolk, too, has made
Improvements, in the use of plough and spade;
The choicest herbage overspreads its fields,
Witness the produce that its dairy yields;
While for good poultry it is known full well,
As many a London poulterer can tell.

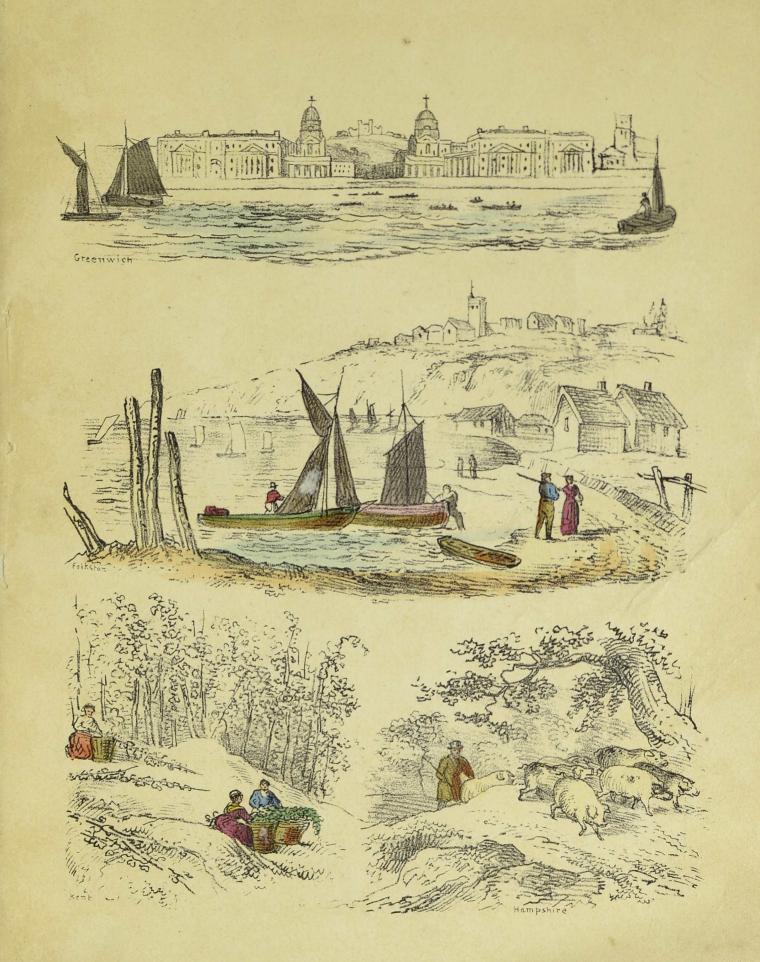
#### SUFFOLK.

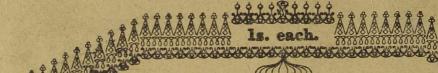
Upon the East, the British ocean laves
Suffolk, as well as Norfolk, with its waves;
Its healthy breezes, Suffolk then may boast,
Since it possesses such a line of coast.
For dairy produce, Suffolk has a name;
For ale, fish, poultry, and abundant game;
And those who wish their guns or rods to use,
Will scarce a visit to this shire refuse.

#### GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Thrice happy Gloucestershire, how blest thy lot,
Thou art so rich, indeed, what hast thou not?
For dairy produce thou hast claims to boast,
And who disdains thy Gloucester cheese to toast?
For corn, prime meat, for cider, and for game,
No other county has a higher name:
Choicest of salmon in thy Severn play,
Turning their scales up to the noontide ray;
While King's-wood, rough, and forest, too, of Dean,
Yield coal as excellent as e'er was seen.







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