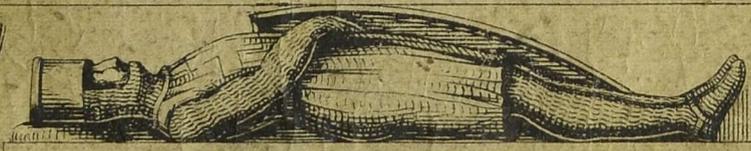




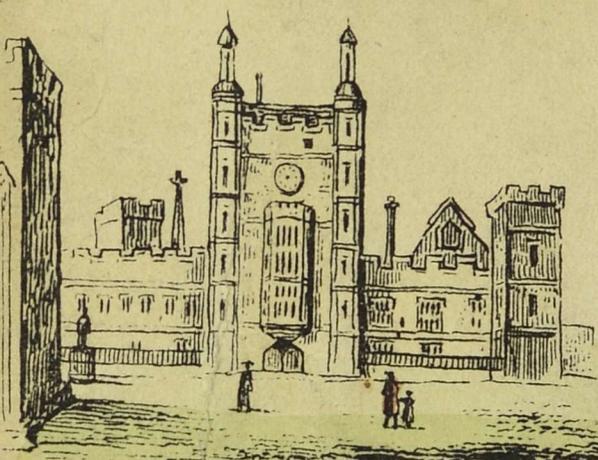
GEORGE BEN RAMPBOLPH'S  
 TRAVELS  
 IN THE

WESTERN COUNTIES OF ENGLAND.



LONDON,  
 DARTON & CLARK, HOLBORN HILL.

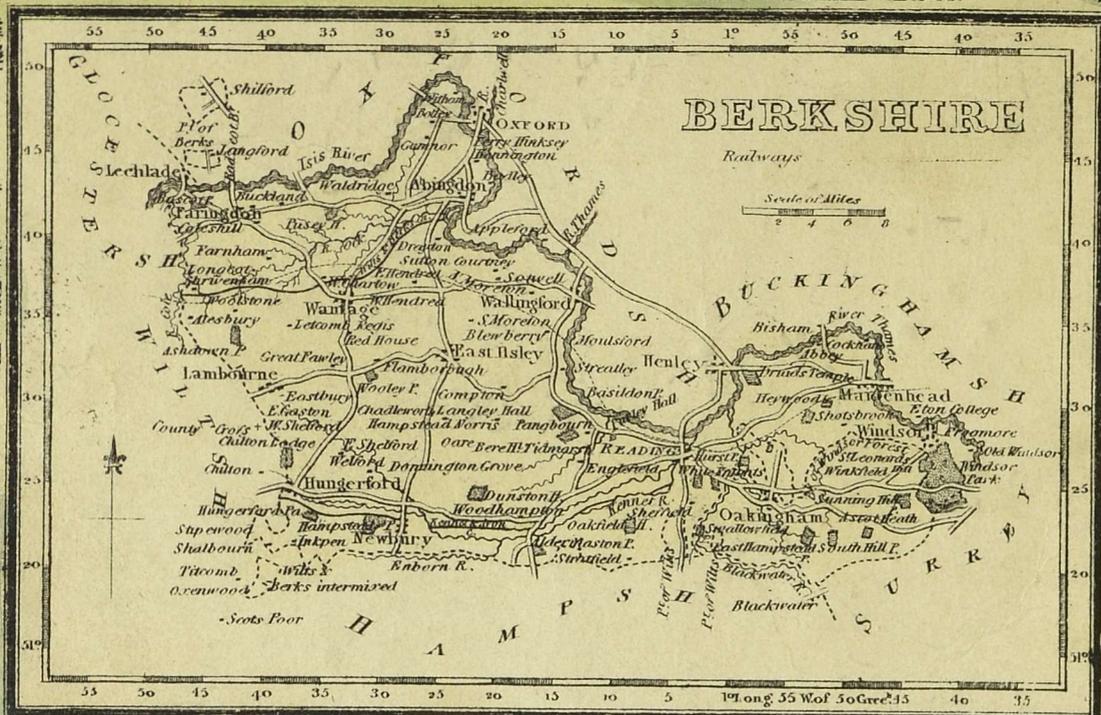




From College



Windsor Castle



THE SHIPPY CAYE



## B E R K S H I R E.

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THE scenery of some parts of the county of Berkshire, or Barkshire as it used to be called, is very beautiful, and abounds with fine woods and pastures. The river Thames runs quite through the county from East to West, and so does the Great Western Railway. It contains 160,000 inhabitants.

Windsor Castle is the finest royal palace in England, and the Queen stays there the greater part of the time that she does not spend in London. It is a magnificent place—one of the most interesting in the world. It was built by King Edward the Third. The park is very large and very beautiful, abounding with large trees, and containing plenty of fine deer. There is a part of the castle called the round tower, from the top of which there is a noble view of the surrounding country.

In the castle there is a very fine collection of paintings. There is also a very curious armoury, containing the weapons and armour of a great many kings and great men, who have fought in the cause

## BERKSHIRE.

of their country. Every one of our kings, since Edward the Third, has spent a good deal of time in this palace ; and it is a place which all Englishmen should visit who have it in their power.

Near the town of Newbury, there are the ruins of Donnington Castle, which are pleasantly situated on a woody hill. The castle was built in the time of Richard the Second, and was so knocked about in the civil wars, that only the gateway and two towers are now standing. But what makes this spot most interesting is, that Geoffry Chaucer, the great poet, lived here for some time.

There are many remains of ancient British and Roman work in this county. One very remarkable object is called Wayland Smith's cave, which is not far from Lambourn. It was most likely a Druid's temple ; but the country people say that it was built by an invisible blacksmith, named Wayland Smith, who now works in it by night.

There is not far from this spot, the figure of a white horse rudely cut out on the side of a chalk hill. It is supposed that this was formed to commemorate a victory gained over the Danes by Ethelred and Alfred.

(TQ) di fol

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## C O R N W A L L.

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THIS county is at the South-Western extremity of England, and it is surrounded by the sea on three sides. The population is 341,000. The dukedom of Cornwall has always belonged to the eldest son of the king, since the time of Edward the Black Prince, and he has peculiar authority in the county. There is an officer under him called the Lord Warden of the Stannary Courts; and in these courts all causes connected with the mines are tried. The word Stannary comes from the Latin "stannum," tin.

The greater part of the land of Cornwall is barren; but in some spots it is famous for the growth of potatoes. A few places are rendered fertile by collecting sea-weed, mixing it with turf and weeds, and then burning it: this produces an excellent manure. There is but little wood; and in several parts, of considerable extent, there is scarcely anything to be seen on the surface but bare rocks of granite and slate.

There is no part of England which is so famous for producing metals as Cornwall. It abounds with copper, lead and tin, and produces also silver and

## CORNWALL.

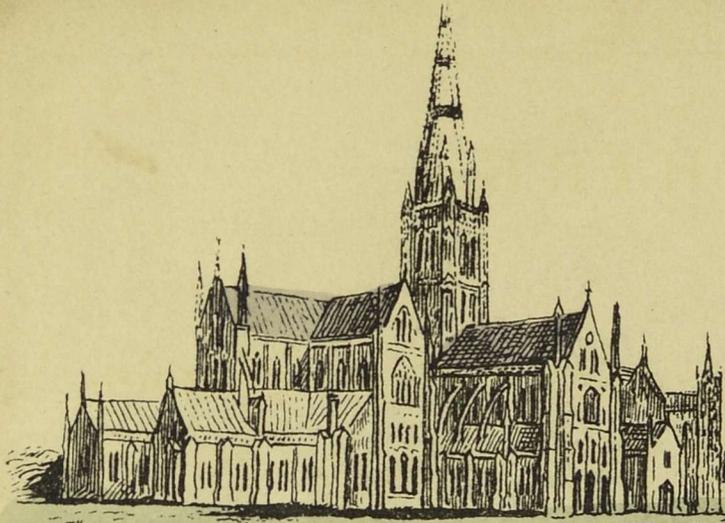
antimony. One of the most remarkable of the mines is the Botallick Copper Mine, the entrance to which is represented in the plate. It extends a long distance quite under the bed of the sea.

St. Michael's Mount is a hill which rises from the sand of the shore, and at high tide it is surrounded by water. It is said to have been the place to which the Phenicians used to come, 2000 years ago, to purchase tin of the Britons, but this is not certainly known. For several centuries it was inhabited by monks; and the place was regarded with such reverence, that people who wished to show their repentance for their sins, used to come to it as pilgrims. Afterwards it was strongly fortified, and was taken and retaken in the civil wars. There are now about 200 people living on it.

Some of the rocks of Cornwall are of such strange shapes, that it has been doubted whether they owe their form to nature or art. The most remarkable of these is the Cheese-Ring; and another is the Logan or rocking stone, which, although it weighs several tons, may be moved by a touch.

The famous Eddystone Lighthouse stands on some sunken rocks off the coast of Cornwall.

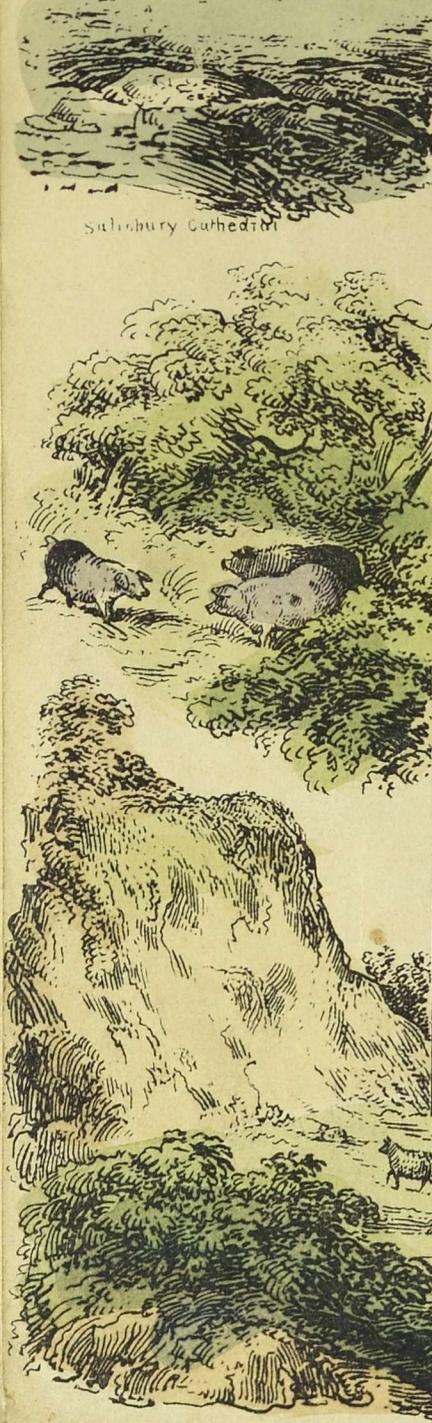
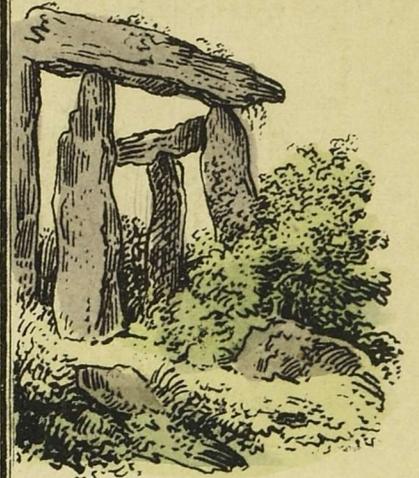
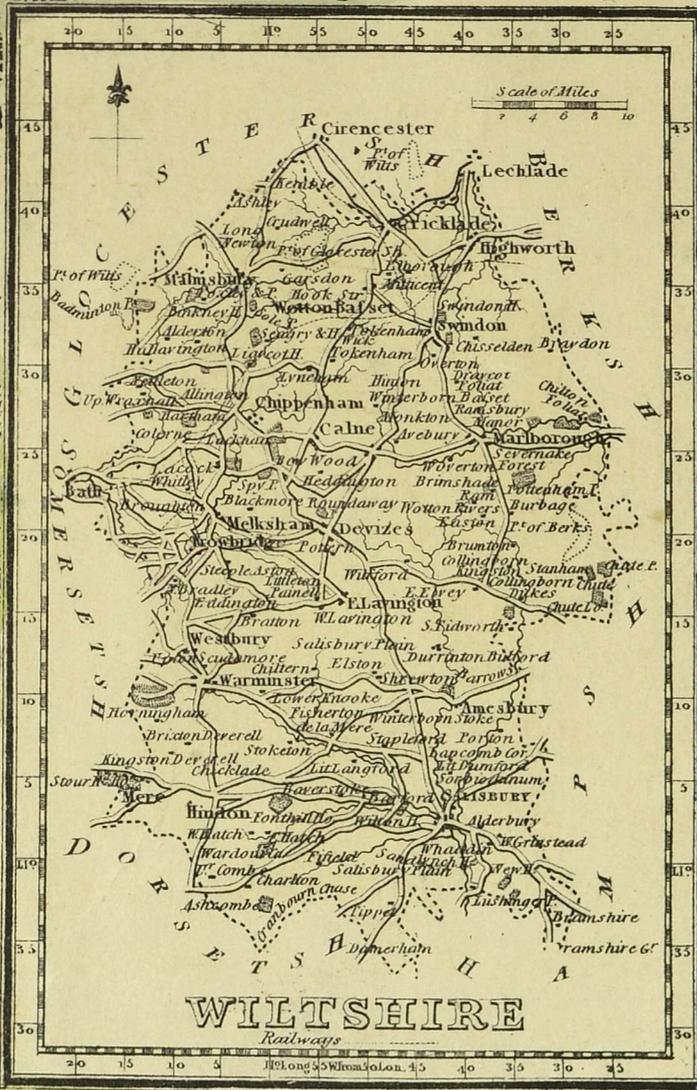




Salisbury Cathedral



Stonehenge



## WILTSHIRE.

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WILTSHIRE is an inland county, which contains 260,000 people. There is a great deal of chalk in it, and the surface of a large part of this is very bare of trees, and produces little besides short grass. This part of the county is called Salisbury Plain, and a great many sheep are fed upon it. The Northern portion is more thickly wooded, and in some parts very fine pigs are produced.

Some years ago there was a considerable quantity of carpet and cloth made in this county, particularly in the town of Wilton. But these manufactures have of late fallen off, and most of the carpet and cloth we use, is now made in the North of England.

The capital of Wiltshire is the city of Salisbury, which contains about 13,000 inhabitants. The Cathedral is a very beautiful building, and the spire is the highest in England. It was built in the reign of King Henry the Third.

Nearly close to Salisbury there is a very curious place, called Old Sarum. It is a low mound of earth, surrounded by a bank. It was once a Roman fortress, and in it the old Cathedral stood. But in

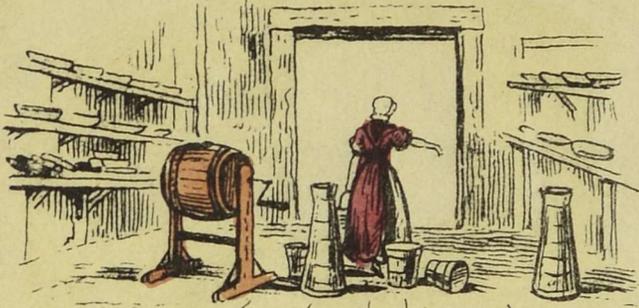
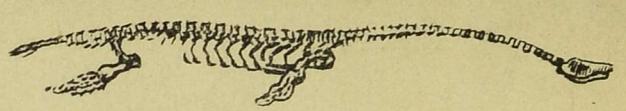
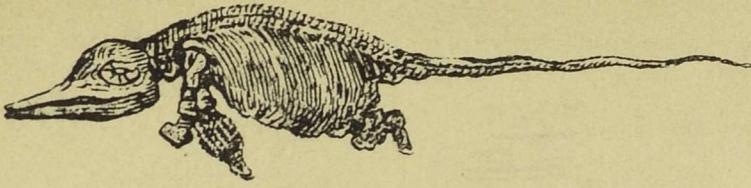
## WILTSHIRE.

consequence of the captain and soldiers who kept it annoying the Bishop and Clergy, it was determined to erect the new one in its present situation.

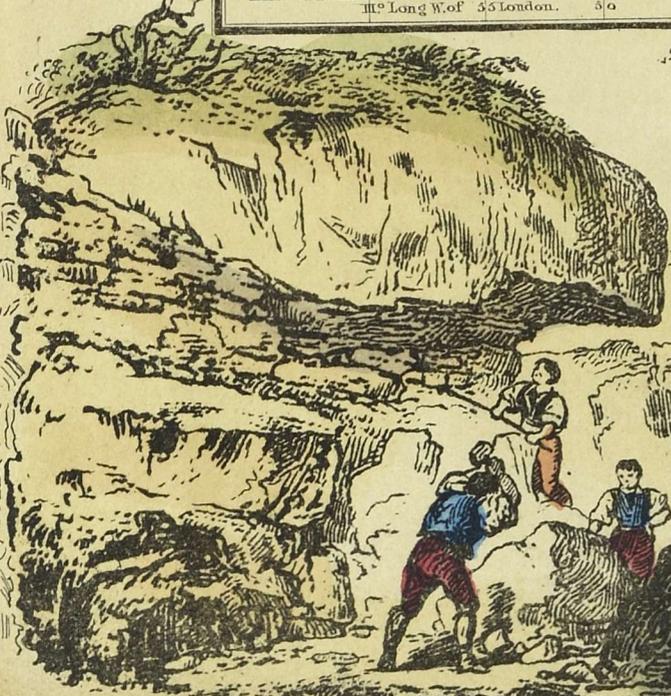
The city of Salisbury is famous for the manufacture of knives, scissars, and other cutlery. It is said that the water of the place is particularly good for the tempering of steel.

The most wonderful things in the county are the two great druidical temples of Abury, or Avebury, and Stonehenge. The temple of Abury is the more extensive of the two, but the stones are much smaller, and there is not nearly so much of it remaining. Stonehenge is the most interesting monument of the kind in the world. It consists of very large stones, which were formerly placed in two circles, one within the other, cross stones being laid upon the tops of others placed upright, so as to unite them. The greater number of the stones are of a white sandstone, such as is found on the Marlborough Downs, about twelve miles off; but a few are of granite and black marble. They are rudely squared, and are fitted together by what carpenters call a mortice and tenon. Stonehenge stands near the middle of Salisbury Plain.





Curie Co. He



## D O R S E T S H I R E.

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THE county of Dorset contains about 174,000 inhabitants. It abounds with rich pasture land, and produces a great quantity of butter. Flax and hemp are cultivated in several parts of the county.

Stone is a very important product of Dorsetshire, and it is quarried in many parts of the coast: the best kind is called Portland stone, and comes from the island of Portland. This sort is chiefly used for building. A coarser kind comes from Purbeck, and is employed chiefly for paving the streets. There is also a kind of marble found at Purbeck, of which the pillars in many of our old cathedrals are formed. Some fine specimens of it are to be seen in the Temple Church in London.

The cliffs of the more Western part of the coast of this county, produce the stones from which Roman cement is made. These cliffs, in the neighbourhood of the town of Lyme Regis, are nearly full of curious fossils; the most remarkable of which are the bones of the large reptiles called *Icthyosaurus* and

## DORSETSHIRE.

Plesiosaurus, and skeletons of these are represented at the top of the plate. The Ichthyosaurus was something like a crocodile; but, instead of having feet, it had fins like those of a whale: it appears therefore that it could not walk on land. It had large eyes with very strong powers of sight; as is known from their resemblance to the eye of the eagle. The name Ichthyosaurus is formed of two Greek words signifying "fish-lizard." It was sometimes more than thirty feet long.

The Plesiosaurus also had fins, but it was not so large or so strong as the Ichthyosaurus. It had a very long neck, much longer even than that of the swan. The head was small and very weak, compared with the other. Its length varied from six to fifteen feet. The name signifies "like a lizard."

The remains of these wonderful creatures are collected from the cliffs by Miss Anning, whose collection all should go to see who go to Lyme Regis.

Corfe Castle is a very extensive ruin of a strong castle, built on the top of a hill by King Edgar: it is not far from Poole, a town which once carried on a large trade in salt fish, brought from Newfoundland, but which has now very much declined.

## DEVONSHIRE.

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THIS is the third in size of the English counties, Yorkshire being the largest and Lincolnshire the second. Its length is seventy miles, and its width about the same. It contains 534,000 inhabitants. The capital is the city of Exeter.

The scenery of Devonshire is very beautiful, and not less so on the North coast than on the South coast, or inland than by the sea side. Beautiful hills and woods and rivers are to be seen in many parts, with rich pasture and smiling orchards. Much of the land that is cultivated is on the tops and sides of very steep hills, and the produce can only be brought down on the backs of horses. This appears very strange to one who has been used only to level country. The pasture is generally very good; and the red cows of Devonshire are famous for the milk they give, but which is more remarkable for its rich quality than its quantity. Clouted cream, which is a kind of butter made by boiling the cream, is almost peculiar to Devonshire. There are some very excellent sheep fed on the hills.

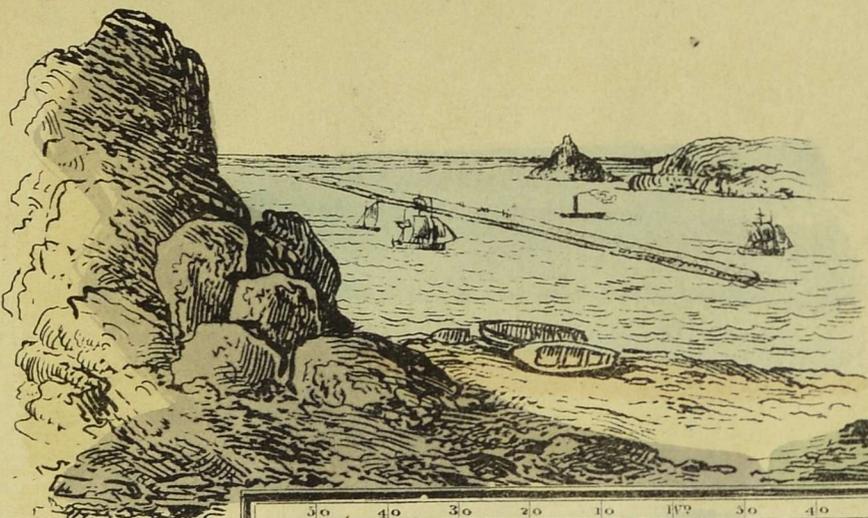
There are a great number of apples and other

## DEVONSHIRE.

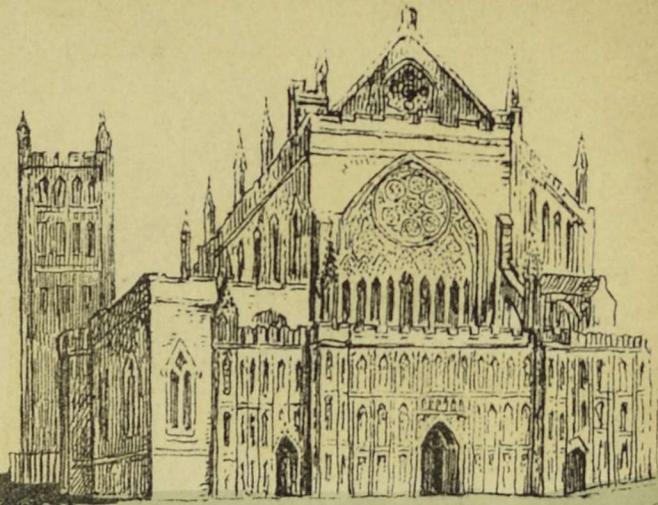
fruits grown in this county; and it has been remarked that the fruit trees grow here much more vigorously than in other parts of England, so that they look almost like forest trees. Most Devonshire people drink cider, as they get it better than in any other county, from the fine quality of the fruit.

Exeter is a city and county of itself, so that it has several privileges apart from the rest of the county like Southampton and some other places. The Castle, which was built, or very much improved, by William the Conqueror, is now in ruins. The Cathedral is very ancient, but it has been considerably altered from time to time. The Western front is considered to be one of the richest pieces of architecture of its kind existing, and some other parts of the building are very fine.

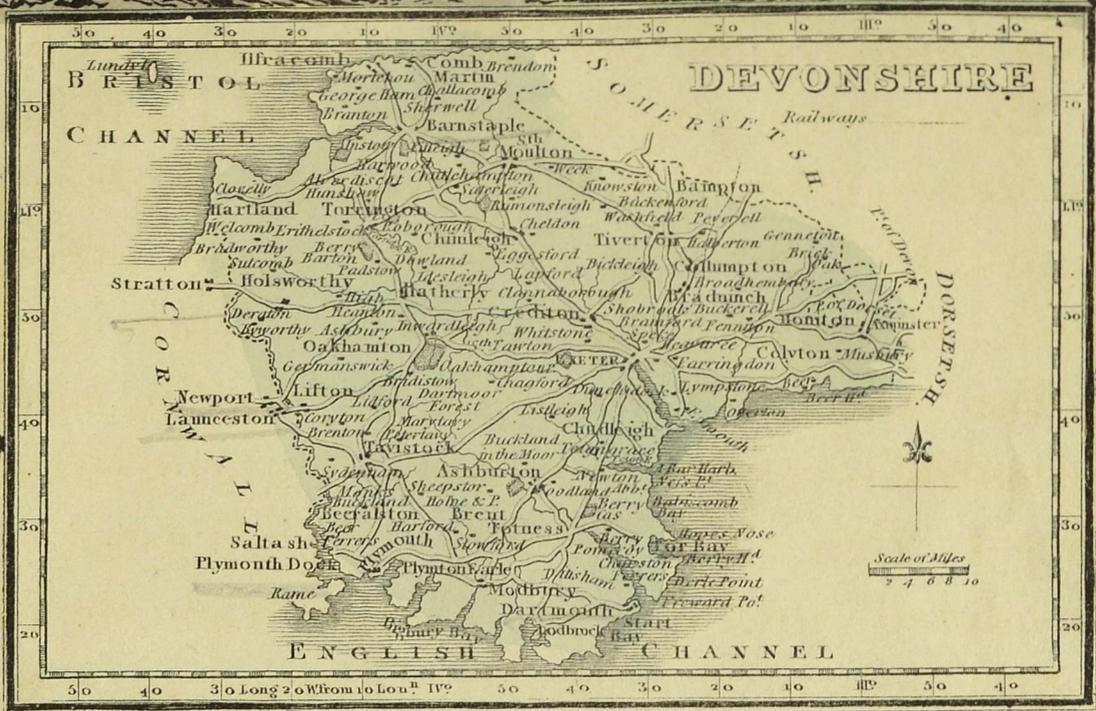
Plymouth, Devonport and Stonehome are a group of towns close together, in some degree resembling Portsmouth, Portsea and Gosport. Like them, they have a fine harbour, docks, and a dock-yard where ships are built for the navy. In order to improve the harbour, a vast work has been built called Plymouth Break-Water, which is one of the most remarkable things of its kind in the world.



Plymouth Breakwater



Exeter Cathedral





## GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

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GLOUCESTERSHIRE contains 431,000 inhabitants. It contains the city of Gloucester, and part of the city of Bristol: the two cities are united in one See, and the Bishop is called the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol.

Gloucestershire comprises some of the most fertile spots in England. Its produce is very various. The land affords wood, fruit and corn in abundance; and the rivers plenty of fish. But the most famous of all its productions is cheese, which is so good that it is inferior to none made in England, except the Stilton and Cheshire.

Coal is found in some parts of the county, and iron mines used to be worked here; but as the metal became scarce, they fell into disuse.

Gloucester is well situated, and carries on considerable trade. It was once celebrated for the manufacture of pins. It is very ancient, and remains of Roman art are to be found in and near it. Several of the public buildings are handsome. The Cathe-

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

dral, which is dedicated to St. Peter, is not only handsome, but interesting as containing specimens of many different styles. It appears to have been built at various periods during nearly four centuries, from 1050 to 1450. It contains some interesting monuments, and amongst others, those of Robert Duke of Normandy, son of William the Conqueror, and of the unhappy King Edward the Second.

Cheltenham is a town of remarkable beauty, which has rapidly increased during the last few years, owing to some medical springs which rise here. The waters are particularly good for liver complaints, and for those people who have suffered from the effects of hot climates. The town is handsomely built, with rows of trees on each side of the principal streets. This gives it a very pretty and singular appearance. Its situation is also favourable, for it stands in the midst of a fertile plain surrounded by tall hills, and from the tops of these hills there are fine views of the neighbouring country.

The scenery of the side of Gloucestershire next to Wales, includes the Malvern hills, and is extremely beautiful, and in some parts grand.





## H A M P S H I R E.

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HAMPSHIRE contains 354,000 inhabitants : its capital is the city of Winchester. The county includes the Isle of Wight.

The scenery of Hampshire is very pretty and interesting : the North part abounds with long chalk ridges and beech woods ; while a great part of the Southern half of the county is occupied by the New Forest, which is one of the noblest forests in England. It was either originally planted or very much enlarged by William the Conqueror, who (it is said) tyrannically turned out a great many people from their homes and destroyed many churches, in order that he might have his way, and get a good place to hunt in. His son, William Rufus, was killed while hunting in this forest. An arrow, shot by a gentleman named Walter Tyrrell, glanced against a tree, and shot the king in his breast.

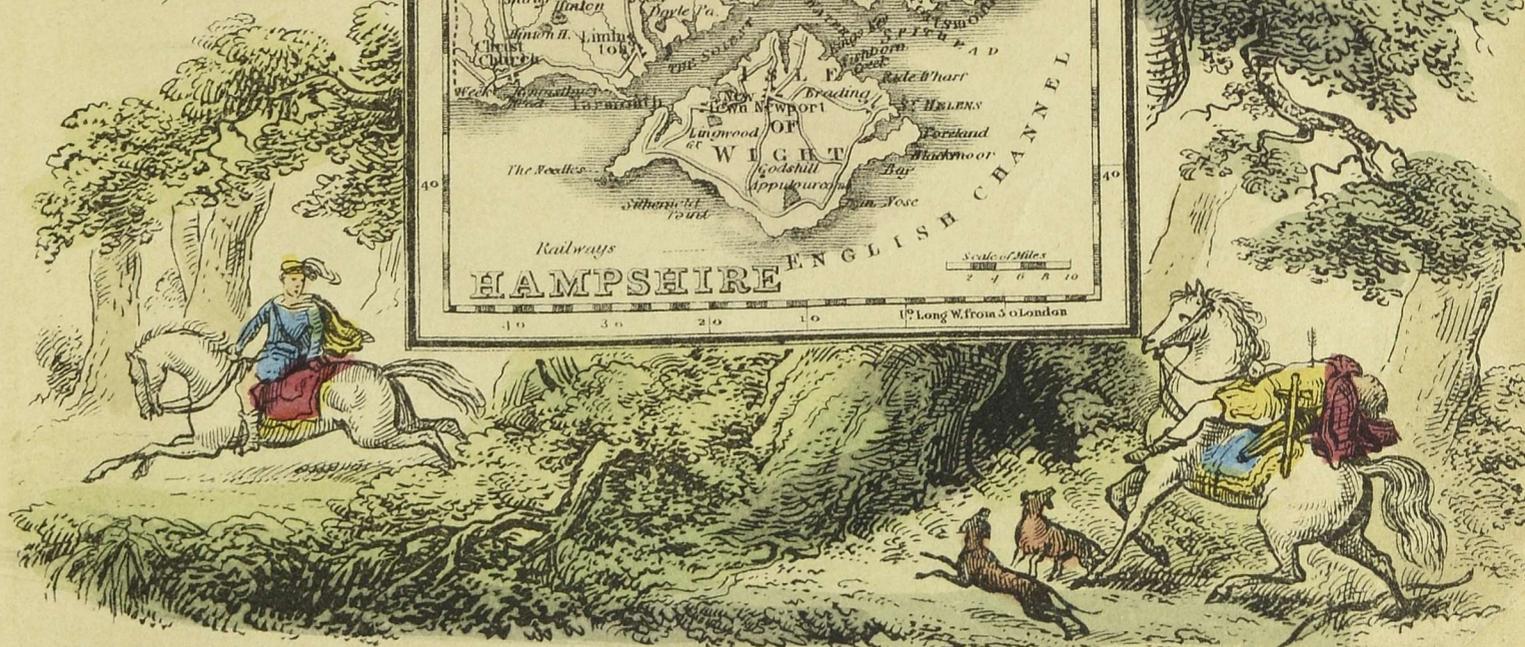
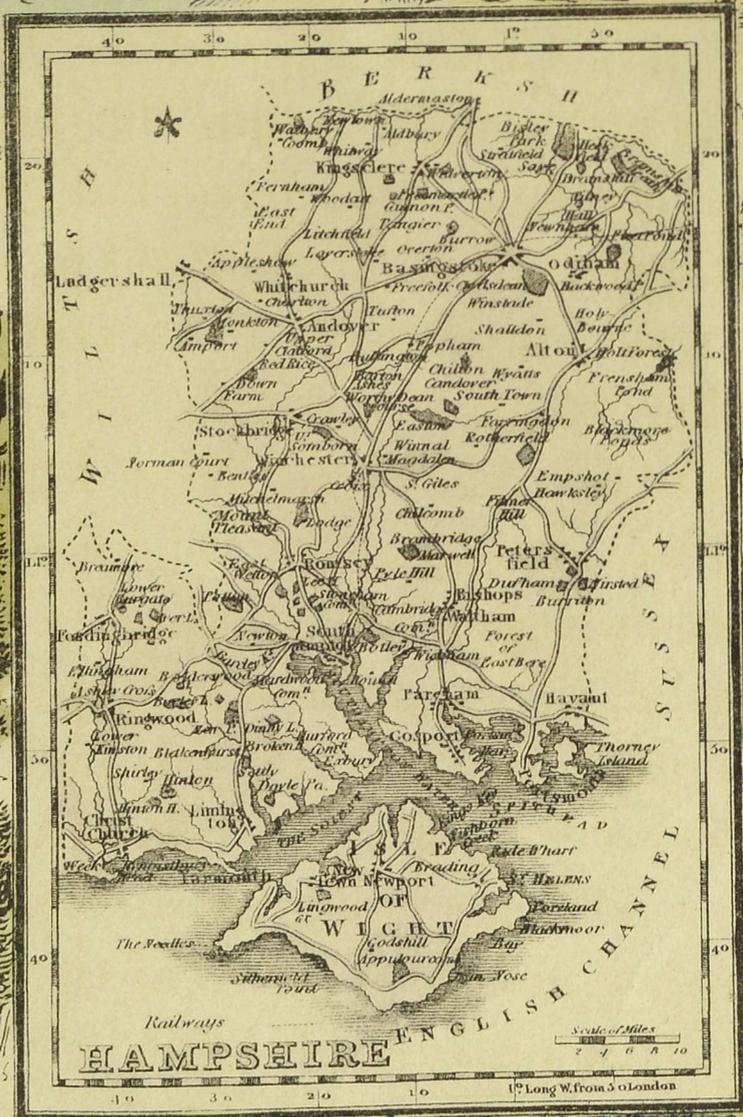
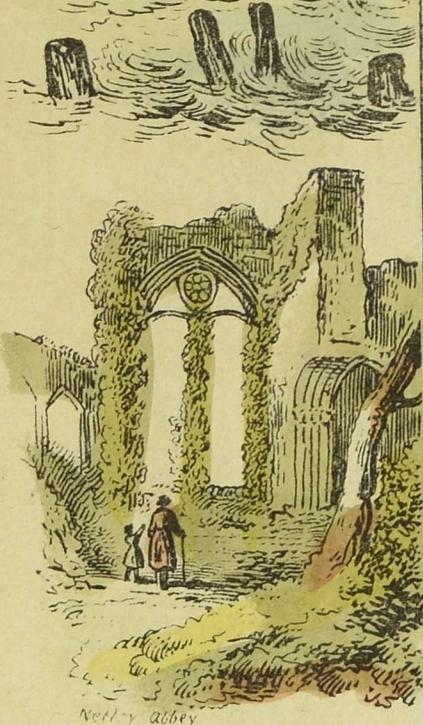
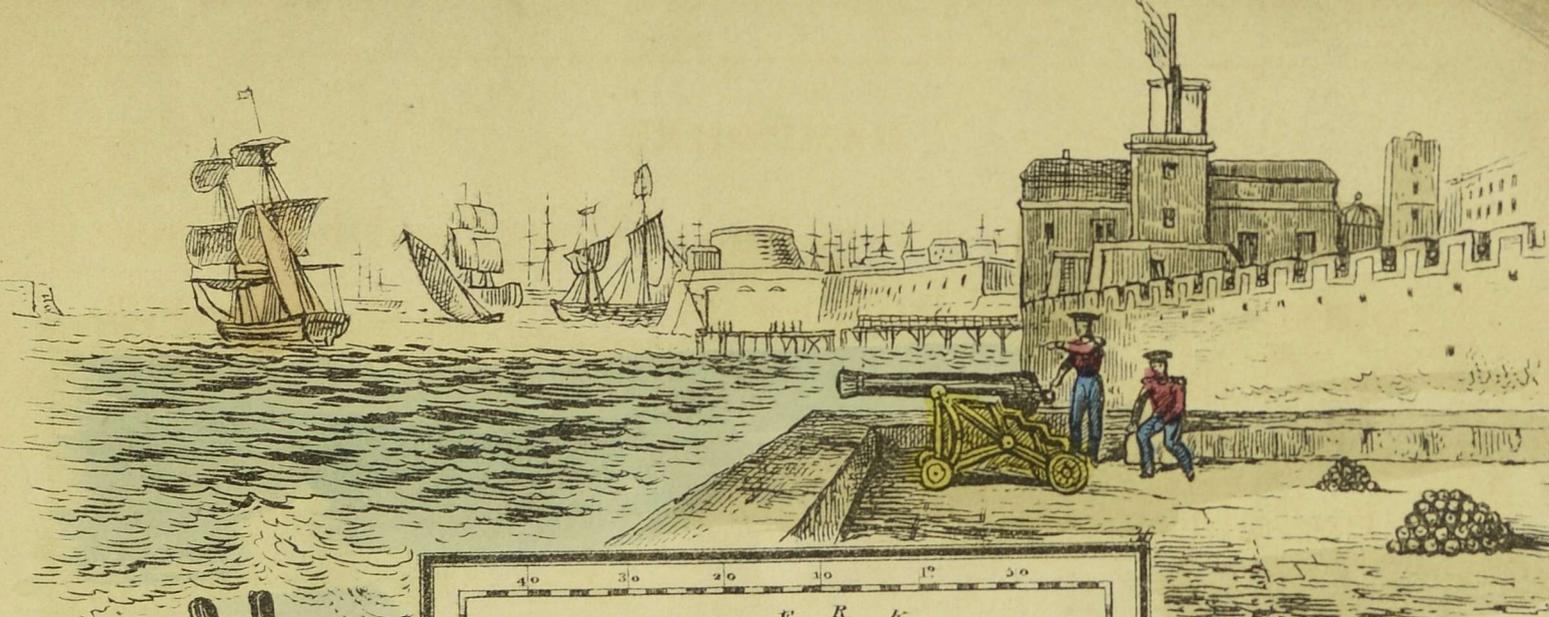
The New Forest is famous for fine pigs, and a very useful hardy sort of ponies, which are bred there : it also abounds with deer. The scenery in it is some of the finest of its kind in the country.

## HAMPSHIRE.

Winchester is a very fine old city, and few places contain a greater number of interesting buildings. The Cathedral is large, and built in a grand style, and is of very great antiquity. The College is also a fine old building. There is a very beautiful Cross, and several fine Churches; and at the distance of about a mile and a-half, stands the Hospital of St. Cross, which is a delightful place, built for the accommodation of a certain number of old men, who have a weekly allowance of money. The custom is kept up here of giving, to all who ask for it, a slice of bread and half-a-pint of good beer. What I have mentioned are not half the curiosities of Winchester, which was a very famous place in the time of the Saxons, and existed long before they came to England.

Southampton is a very handsome town, with a fine port and very ancient walls. In the principal street there is a fine gate of great antiquity called Bargate, and over it are the pictures of two giants. Near Southampton are the beautiful ruins of Netley Abbey.

Portsmouth, Portsea and Gosport are three towns close together, with a fine harbour, and extensive dock-yards for the building of ships of war. Portsmouth is very strongly fortified.





## S O M E R S E T S H I R E .

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THIS is a large county, and contains 436,000 people: it contains the cities of Bath and Wells, and part of Bristol.

The soil of Somersetshire is for the most part very fertile, and its produce is various. A great quantity of cheese is made in it. The scenery of the North part, and especially near Bristol, is remarkably fine, comprising tall hills, and rocks, and cliffs, with a fine river running at their feet. There are few spots to be preferred to Clifton for beauty.

The city of Bristol has a large shipping trade. Many parts of the county produce coal in abundance. At one time, there were very considerable manufactures of several kinds carried on here; but of late they have fallen off, and gloves now form one of the principal articles of manufacture. Yeovil is the most famous place for them.

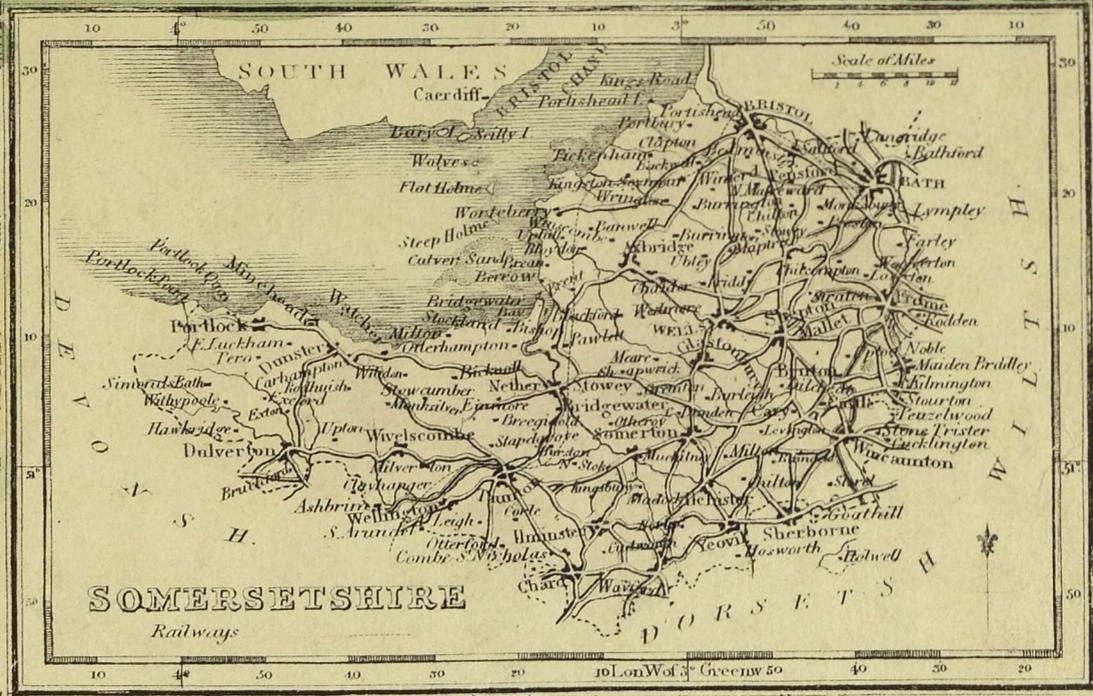
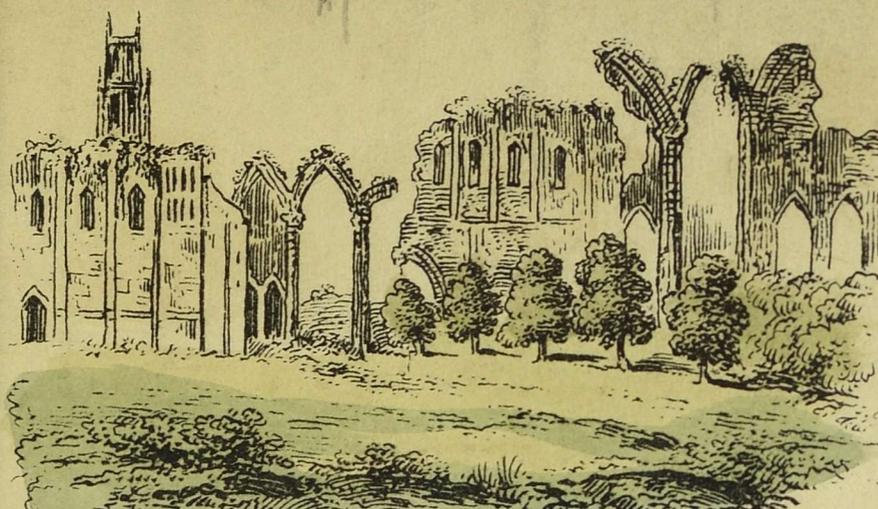
The Cathedral of Wells is a very handsome one, and is considered a fine specimen of architecture. Bath is the chief city of Somersetshire. It is a very beautiful place, the buildings being

## SOMERSETSHIRE.

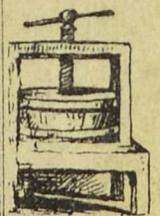
handsomely built of stone. The Abbey Church, or Cathedral, is well worth looking at, though inferior to Wells Cathedral. It was originally the church of an Abbey, from whence it is still called the Abbey Church. Bath, though a remarkable place for its beauty and antiquity, is chiefly famous for its natural hot springs, which have some important and highly useful medical qualities.

Bristol stands partly in Gloucestershire. It is a very ancient place, and was most likely founded in early British times. It has been a very important town for many centuries. The streets are generally narrow and the appearance of the city is not favourable. But the neighbourhood (as I have said already) makes up for the want of beauty in the city itself. The Cathedral has some beautiful parts, but it is not a fine building on the whole.

The ruins of Glastonbury Abbey are very remarkable from their standing probably on the very spot where the first church was erected in England. Some say that Joseph of Arimathea preached here; but without going quite so far back, we may be sure that Christianity was preached at this place at a very early period.



Bristol Cathedral



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- V. THE WESTERN COUNTIES \_\_\_\_\_ .. \_\_\_\_\_