



REUBEN RAMBLES'S TRAVELS IN THE

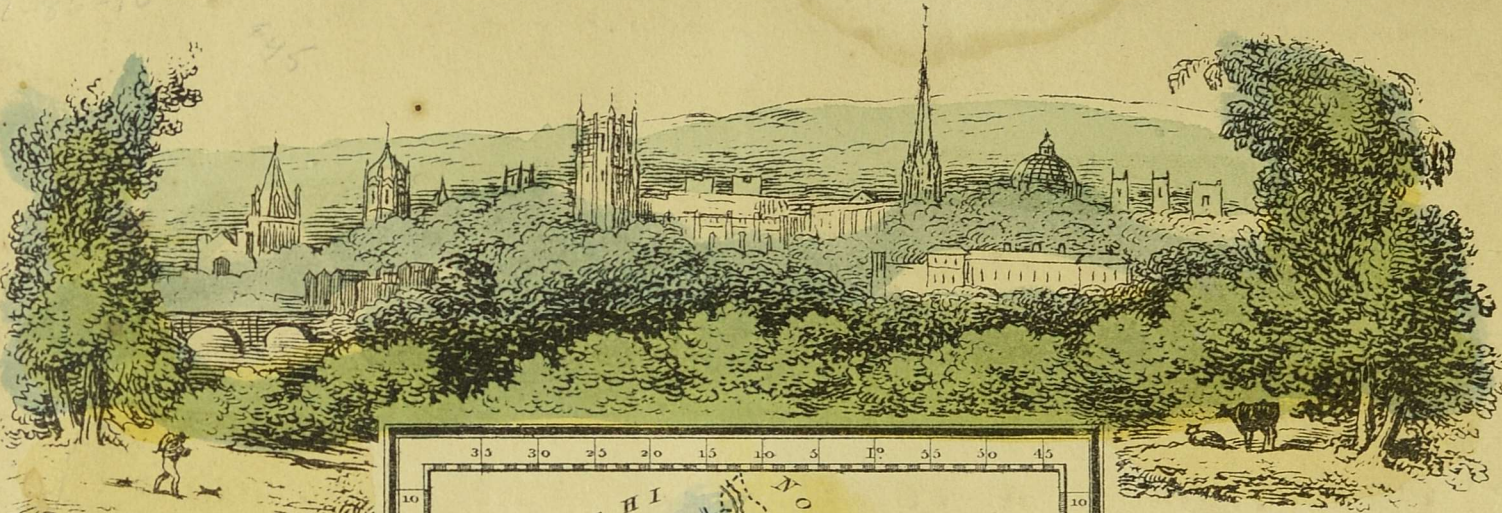
MIDLAND COUNTIES



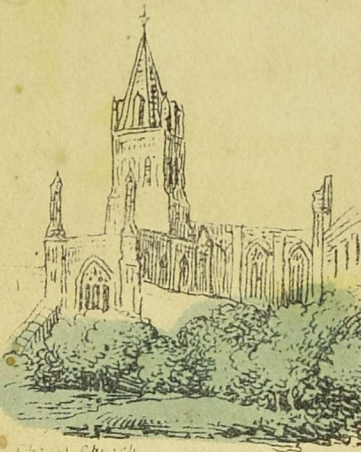
OF ENGLAND.

LONDON: DARTON & CO.

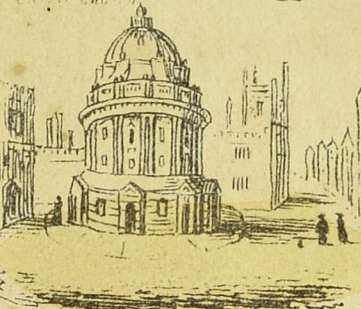
HOLBORN HILL.



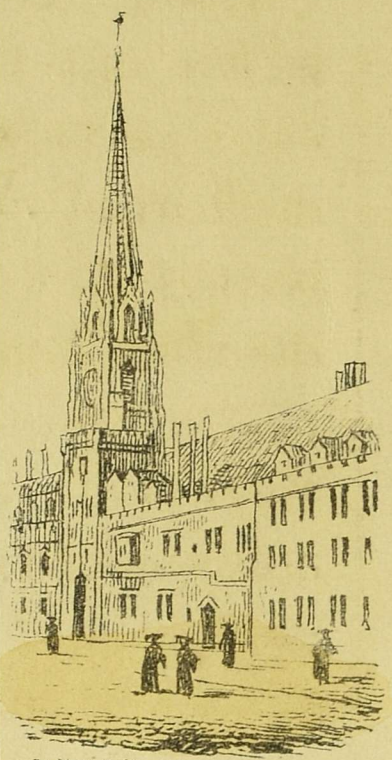
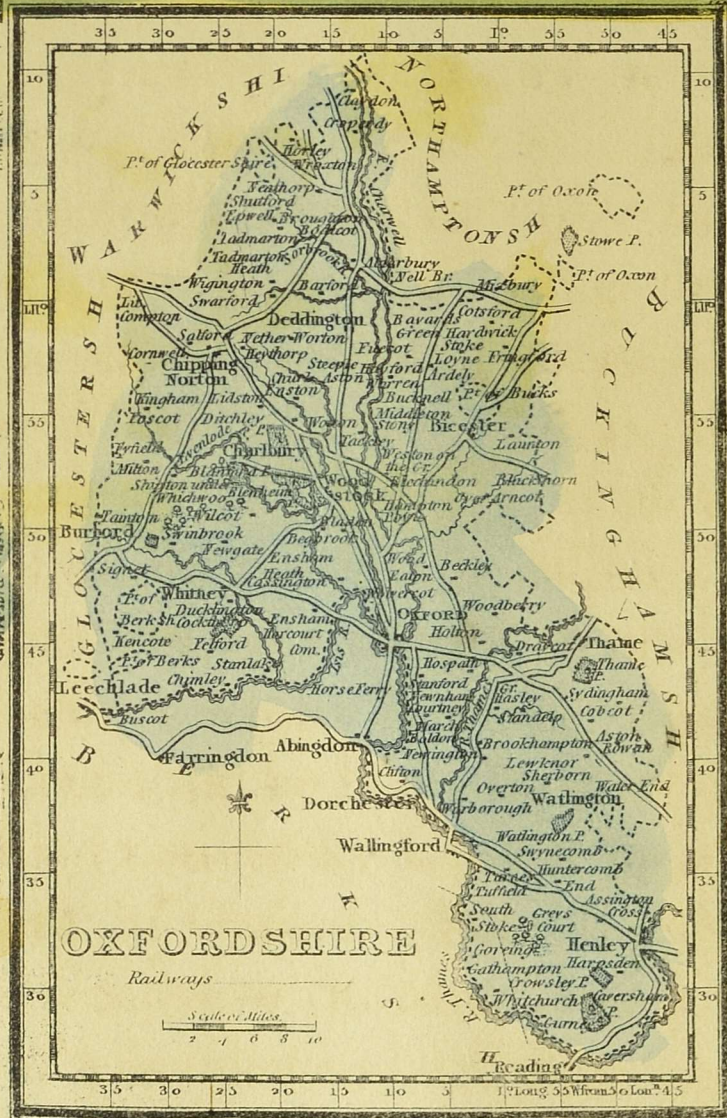
City of Oxford



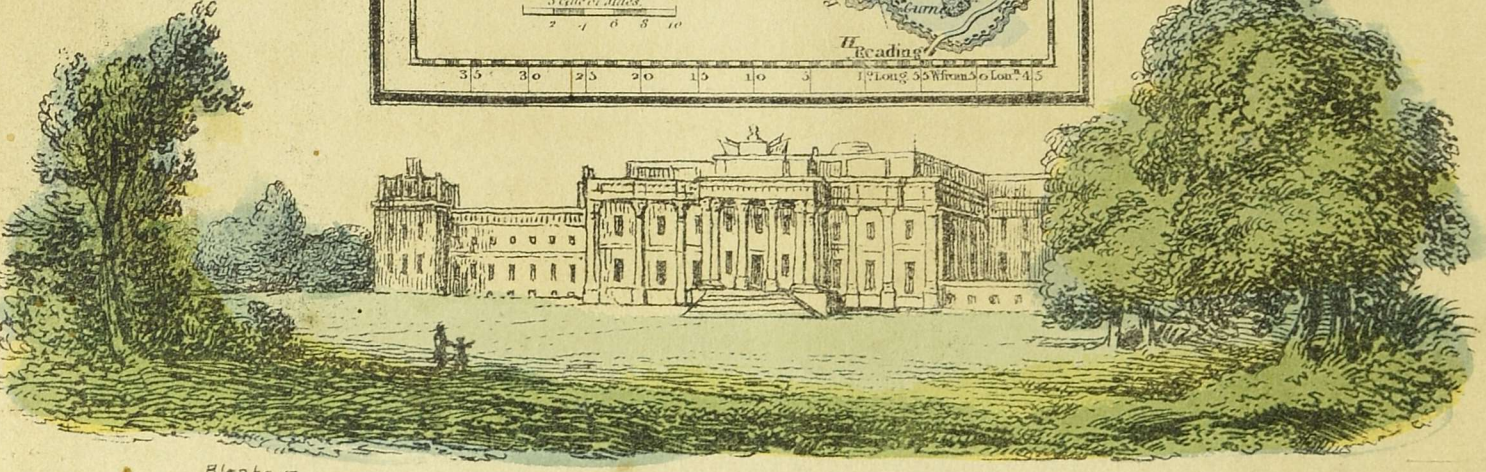
Christ Church



Radcliffe Library



St Mary's Church



Blenheim

OXFORDSHIRE.

OXFORDSHIRE is an inland county, containing 162,000 people. A part of the river Thames, which is called the Isis, runs through it. The name of Oxford is said to have been given first to the part of the county in which the city now stands, because at that place there was a ford for oxen over the river Thames.

Oxford is one of the most beautiful cities in England. It stands almost upon an island, being nearly surrounded by the two rivers, the Isis and the Cherwell; and on all sides, at a little distance, there are pleasant hills, some of them covered with fine wood. But the great beauty of the city consists in the colleges, most of which are very handsome buildings, with fine gardens and avenues of trees attached to them. These colleges are parts of the University of Oxford, one of the most famous places of learning in the world.

A University is a place in which that knowledge is taught which concerns all men; and from

OXFORDSHIRE.

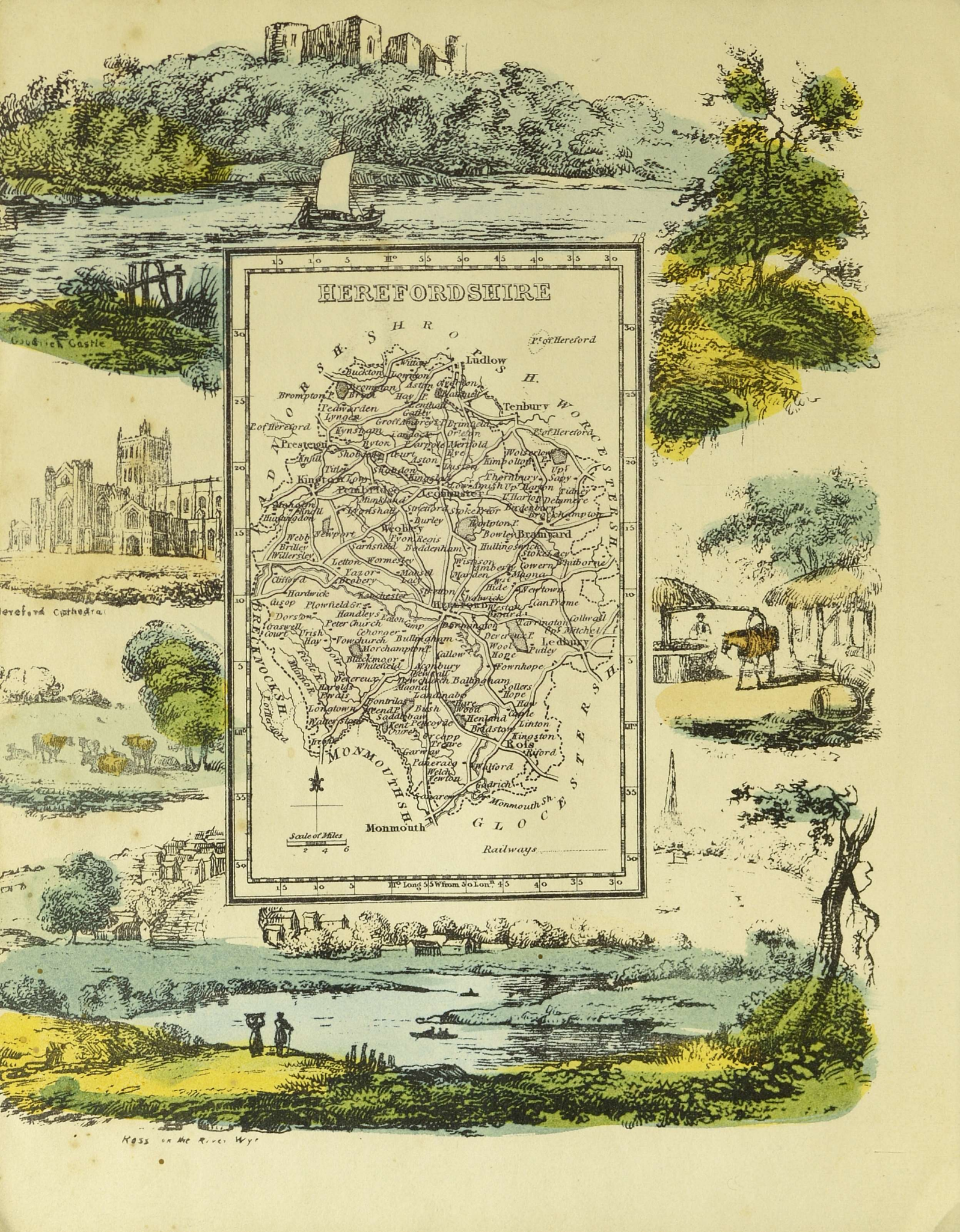
this it takes its name. It is not a place where merely law or medicine is taught, to make men lawyers or physicians; but a great part of the instruction which is given at a University, is in those subjects of which every man must learn something; only they are here studied more deeply than in common schools, in order that those who learn them should know how to teach others.

The University of Oxford is said to have been founded by king Alfred, and it is certain that it existed before the time of Edward the Confessor. The largest of the colleges is called Christ Church, and was founded by Cardinal Wolsey. It is close to the cathedral, which is a very ancient building, but not so beautiful as many other cathedrals. The college called University College is said to be the most ancient in Oxford. The University Church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, has a very beautiful spire, and is a handsome building.

Blenheim House, which is in this county, is a very fine place, which was given by Queen Anne to the great Duke of Marlborough, who gained so many battles during her reign.

(TG) de fol

37131 048 604 664



HEREFORDSHIRE



Kass on the River Wye

HEREFORDSHIRE.

HEREFORDSHIRE is an inland county on the borders of Wales, which contains 115,000 inhabitants. The river Wye runs through it. The capital is the city of Hereford.

The scenery of the banks of the river Wye is not so beautiful in its course through this county as in Monmouthshire, though it is very pleasing, and so is the whole county. The soil is fertile, and produces vast quantities of apples and hops. There is no county in England which produces such fine apples, and the cider which is made from them is very celebrated. The oxen and the sheep are also very fine.

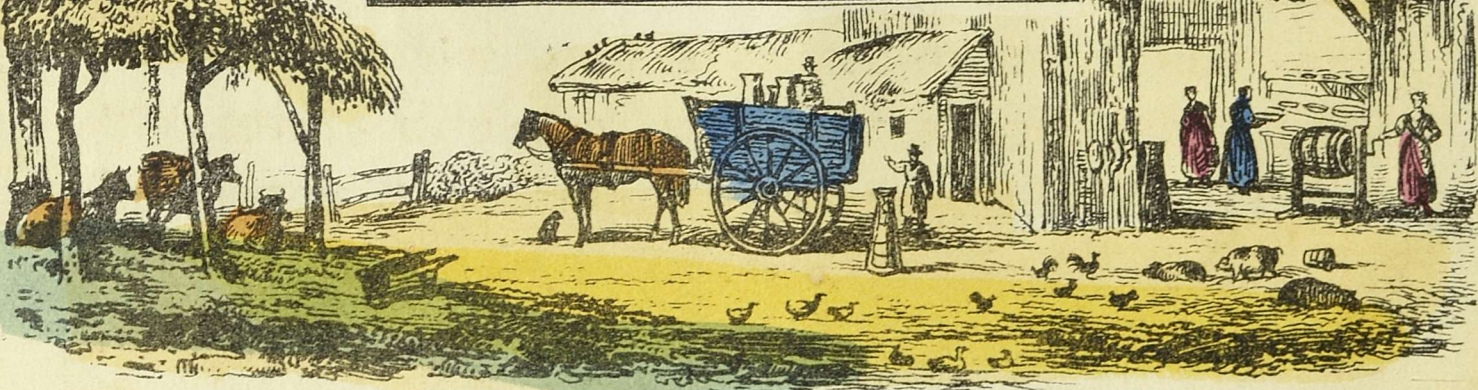
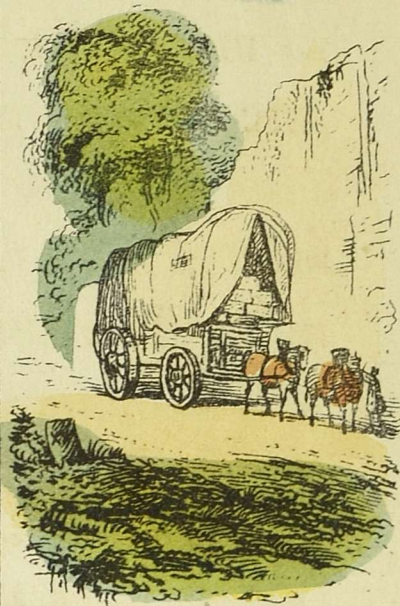
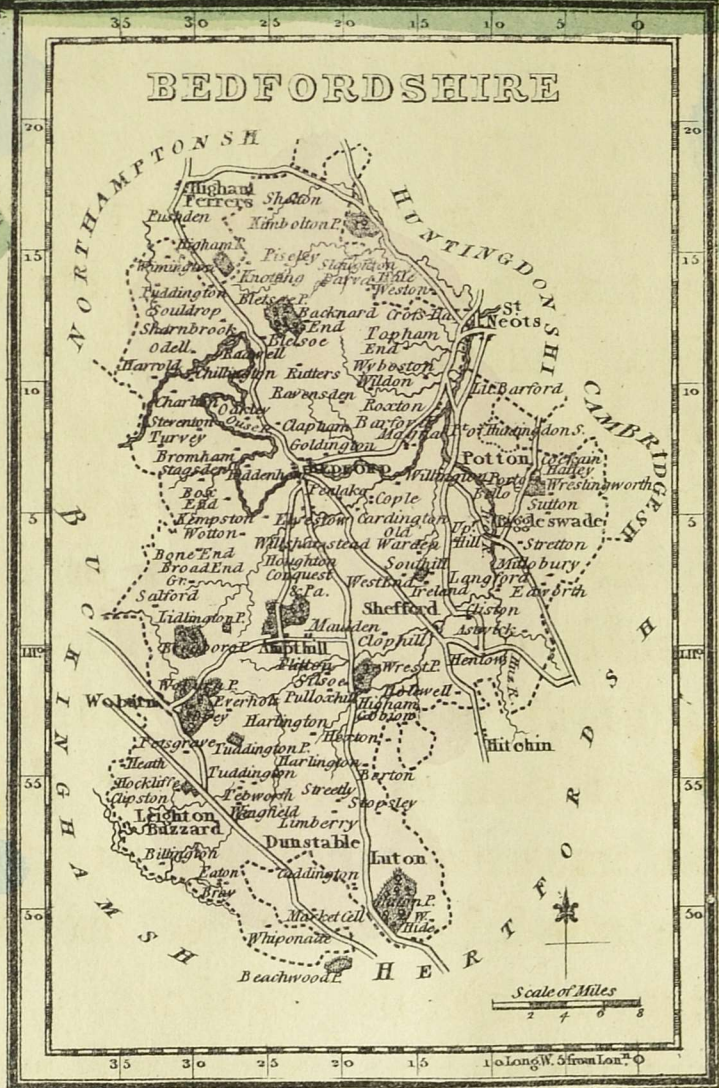
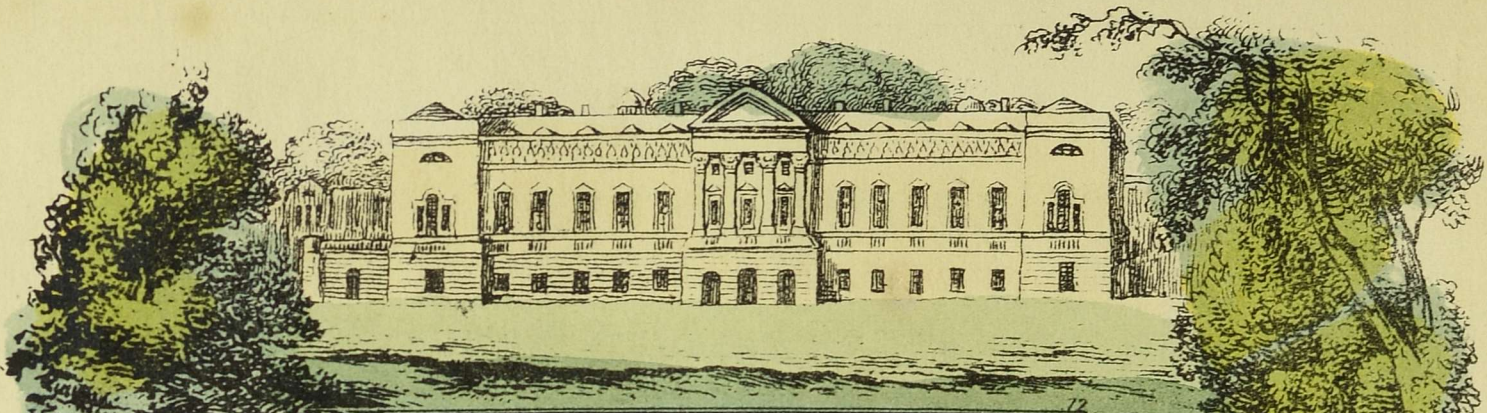
Herefordshire was in ancient times the scene of many battles with the Welch. Along with Shropshire and Monmouthshire, it formed what was called "the Marches," or Border-land, which the Earls of March had to defend against the Welch. The castles of the Barons who lived in these counties,

HEREFORDSHIRE.

were very strong and numerous, as they were almost always at war. There are many ruins of these castles now remaining, and one of the most famous of them is Goodrich Castle, which stands upon a beautiful part of the river Wye.

Hereford is a pleasant city, and contains many old buildings. In the reign of Offa, it was the capital of the kingdom of Mercia, and the royal palace was at Sutton, which is about three miles distant. The cathedral was founded before the time of King Offa, but in his day it was built of wood, and was perhaps a very small building. It was rebuilt of stone twice before the Norman conquest; and in the reign of William, the present cathedral was built by Bishop Losing. It was a very fine old building till the year 1786, when a part of it fell down, and it has been since repaired in a very clumsy manner.

Ross is very beautifully situated on the Wye. It was in this town that "the Man of Ross" lived, respecting whom Pope has written a poem. His name was Kyrle.



BEDFORDSHIRE.

BEDFORDSHIRE is a small inland county, which contains 108,000 people. The capital is the town of Bedford.

The soil of Bedfordshire is very different in different parts; and though a great part of it is not naturally fertile, it is well cultivated, owing to the care which the Dukes of Bedford have taken to encourage agriculture. There is a large quantity of butter and of vegetables produced here, and sent to the London market.

Woburn Abbey is now the seat of the Duke of Bedford, and is the most interesting object in the county. It was formerly an abbey of the order of Monks called Cistercians, and was founded in the year 1145, by Hugh de Bolebec. When the Monks were turned out by King Henry VIII. the place was given to Lord Russell, who afterwards became the Earl of Bedford; and it has been held by his family ever since. A small part of the old building still remains, but the greater part of what is now standing is a very handsome new building.

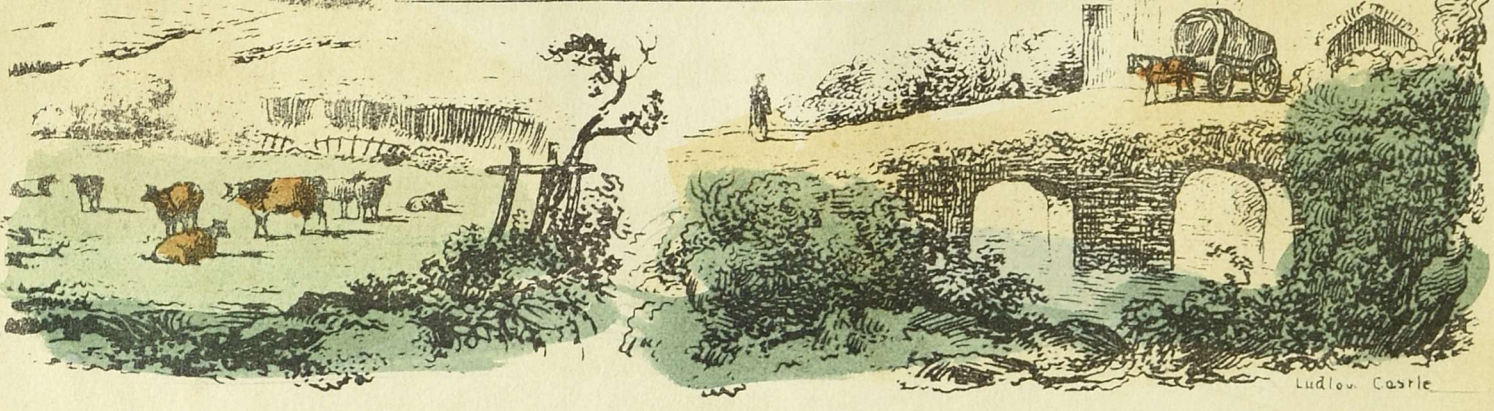
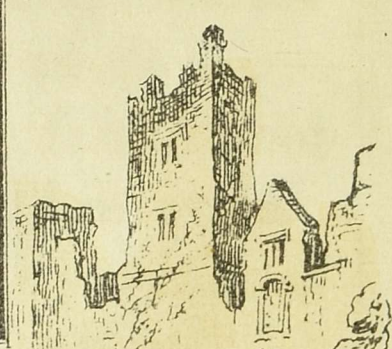
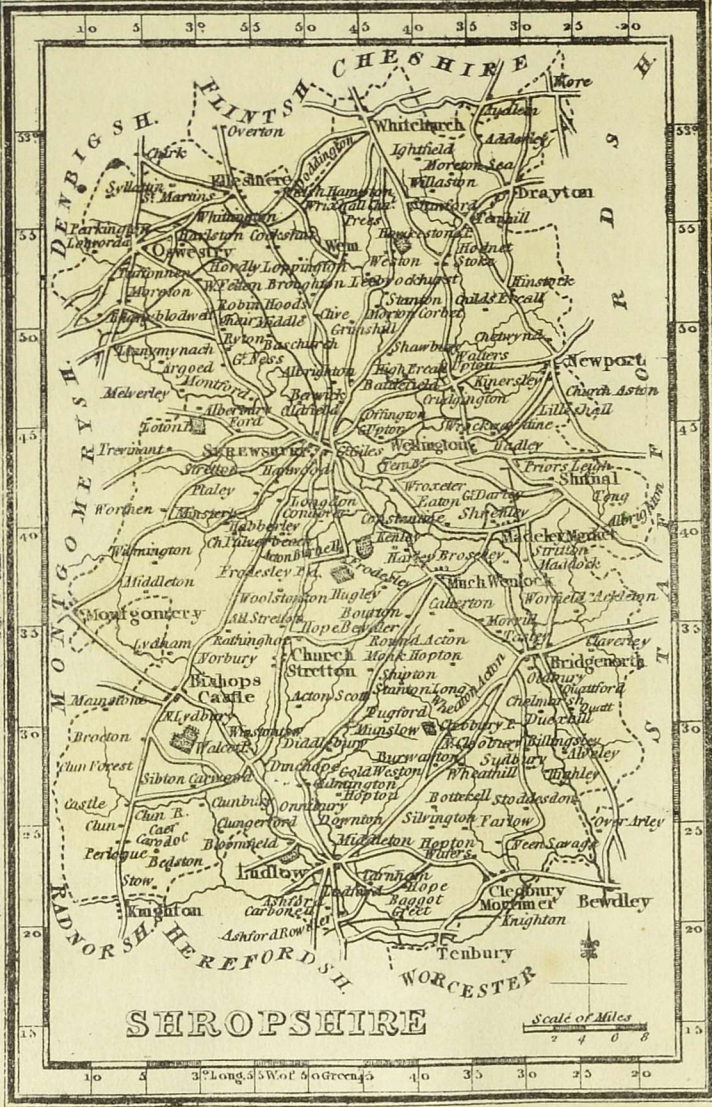
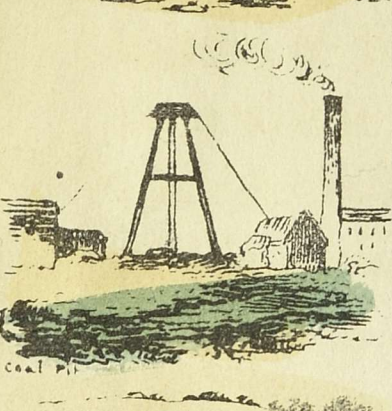
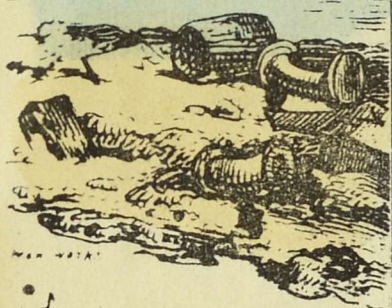
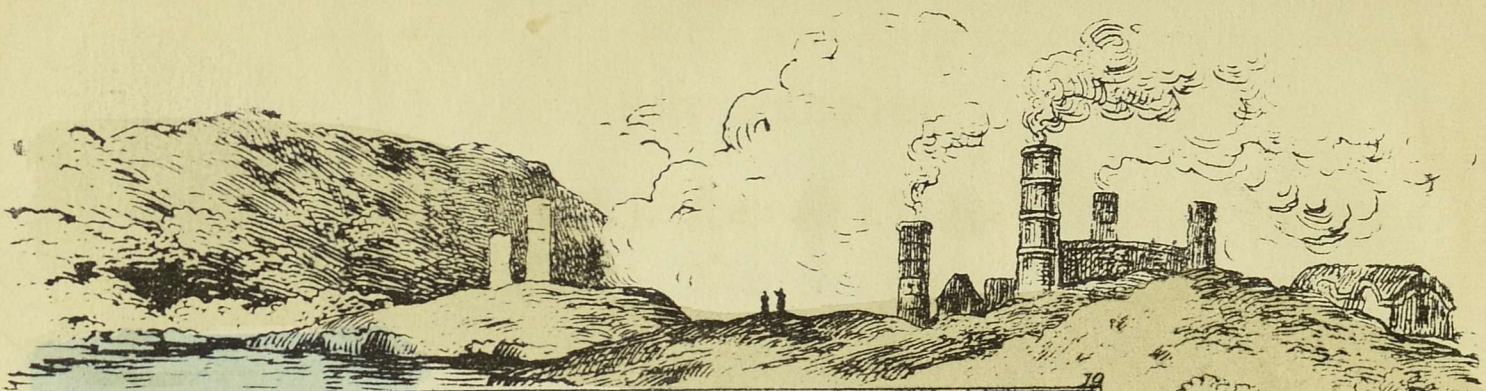
BEDFORDSHIRE.

The park which surrounds it is very large and beautiful, abounding with fine trees. The gardens are extensive, and laid out with great taste. The abbey contains a great many paintings, a noble library, a gallery of sculpture, and a great collection of curious and beautiful things of different kinds.

There are the remains of an old British town not far from Dunstable, and near the same place is Toternhoe Castle, as it is called, which is either of British or Roman origin. It is a circular mount, surrounded by two circular banks.

Bedford is a very ancient town, which was probably standing when the Romans were in Britain. There was once a famous castle in the town, which was built in the reign of William Rufus. During the wars between the Kings and the Barons, in the reigns of John and Henry III. it was very often beseiged and taken; but at last it was destroyed by Henry, and has never been rebuilt.

It was at Bedford that John Bunyan, the author of "Pilgrim's Progress," lived, and the chapel in which he preached, and the prison in which he was confined, may still be seen. Bedford is a famous place for schools and charitable institutions.



Ludlow Castle

SHROPSHIRE.

SHROPSHIRE is an extensive county, but not so populous as most of the neighbouring English counties. It contains 240,000 inhabitants, is situated on the borders of Wales, and the river Severn runs through it. The capital is Shrewsbury.

A great part of the land of Shropshire is fertile, and produces abundance of grain. The scenery is pleasingly diversified by hill and dale. A very remarkable hill, 1320 feet in height, called "the Wrekin," stands not far from the town of Wellington. There are a large number of productive coal mines in the county, and great quantities of iron come from the neighbourhood of Colebrook Dale and other parts.

There is scarcely any county of which the history is more interesting than that of Shropshire. There are in it many traces of old British fortifications; and one of these, called Caer Caradoc, was an encampment of the army of the famous hero Caractacus, whose British name was Caradoc.

SHROPSHIRE.

There are also the remains of several Roman stations and roads. When the Saxons had conquered Britain, this county formed a chief part of the kingdom of Mercia; and here it is that traces may be seen of the fortification called Offa's Dyke, which King Offa formed to defend the country against the Welch.

The Earls of March, or of the Marches, as they were sometimes called, lived chiefly in Shropshire. They were appointed by the king, to defend the march or border-land against the Welch, who used frequently to make incursions into this county. There are some strong castles still remaining here, but the most famous is Ludlow Castle, where several kings have lived.

Shrewsbury is a fine old town, near which there was a famous battle fought, which is described in Shakspeare's play of Henry IV. The Welch had been conquered by Edward I., but they submitted to the English very unwillingly. In the time of Henry IV. a man, named Owen Glendwyr, who was descended from the ancient Kings of Wales, stirred them up to rebel, but they were overcome in this battle.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

STAFFORDSHIRE is an inland county. It is very populous, and contains 510,000 people. The capitals are the city of Lichfield and the town of Stafford.

Some parts of this county are well wooded, and contain some fine estates. But it is not in general fertile, and is more remarkable for what it contains underground than above. There are many coal and iron mines; and in the neighbourhood of Newcastle-under-Lyne are the most extensive manufactories in the world of china and other earthenware. The towns of Burslem, Hanley, Stoke, and their neighbourhoods, containing several small towns and villages, are called "the Potteries." The North part of the county contains fine beds of clay, out of which the pottery is made; while the South part contains great quantities of iron. Plenty of coal is to be found almost every where; and it is used in the North for baking the earthenware, and in the South for working the iron. The town of Wolverhamp-

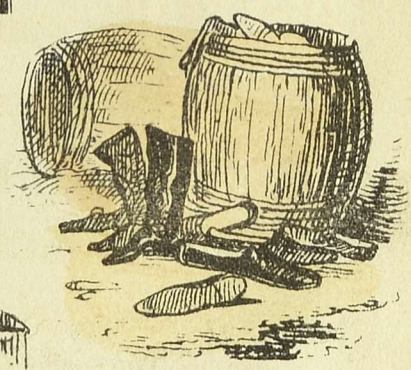
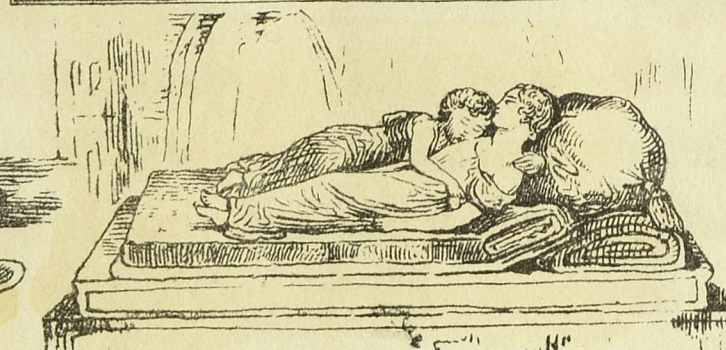
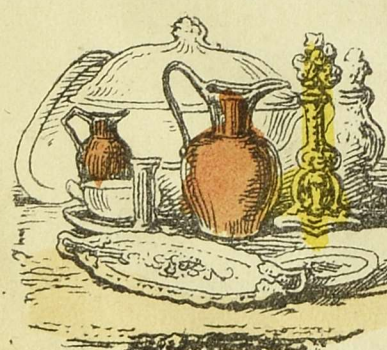
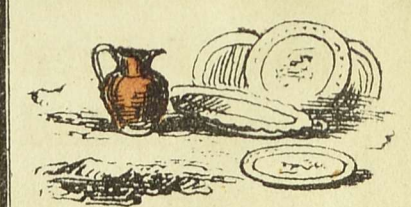
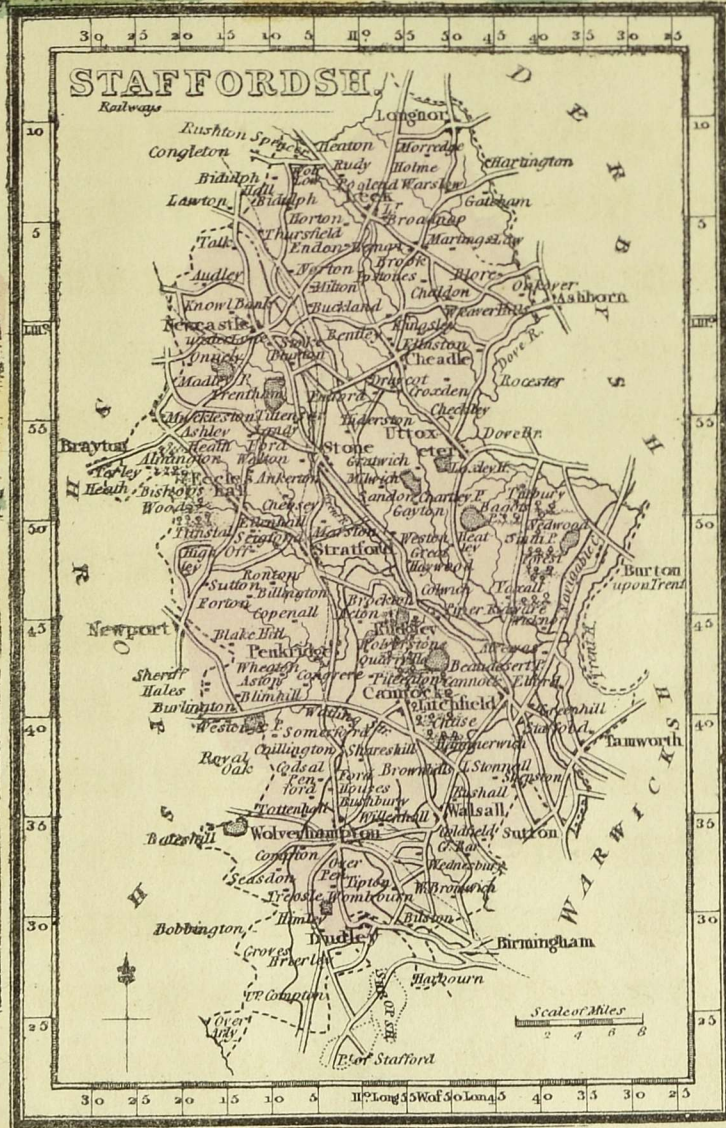
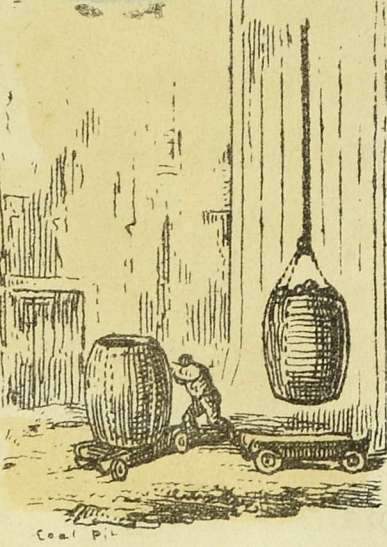
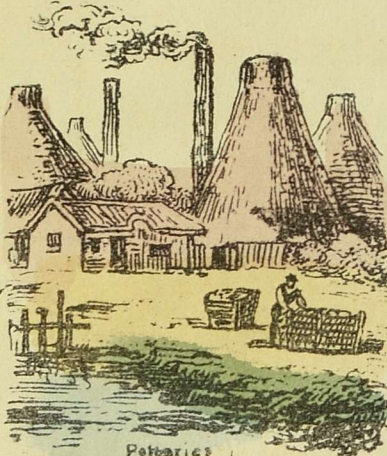
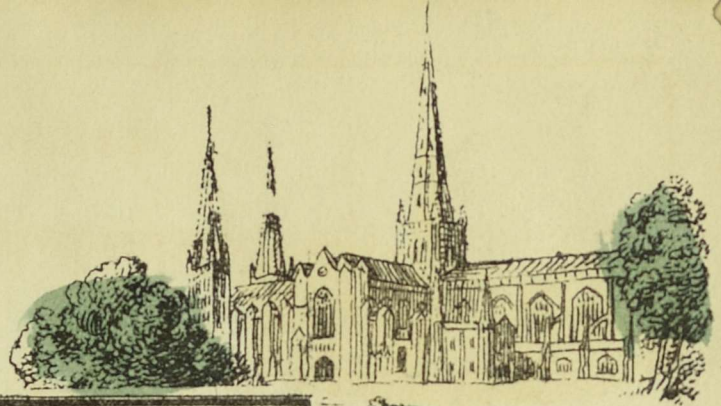
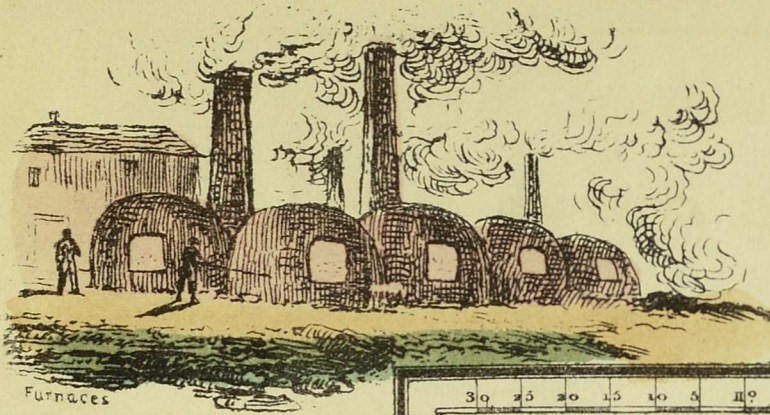
STAFFORDSHIRE.

ton, and the places round it, are very famous for their iron trade.

Tamworth is a very ancient town, where some of the kings of Mercia resided in the time of the Saxon Heptarchy. There is a very ancient castle overlooking the town.

Dudley is a very interesting town, which was founded by Dodo, a Saxon Prince, about the year 700. The castle was a very strong place, and the ruins now form a beautiful object at the top of a tall hill. Under the castle there is a curious stone quarry, from which limestone is obtained for the use of the iron works which are near. It is in the form of a long passage or tunnel, more than a mile in length, and thirteen feet high. The town is supported chiefly by the trade in iron goods.

Lichfield is a very pleasant city, and has a very beautiful cathedral, which was much injured during the civil wars, but was restored by the excellent Bishop Hackett, chiefly at his own expense. It contains a monument to two children, by Sir Francis Chantry, which is said to be one of the finest in England.



WARWICKSHIRE.

THIS is an inland county, and very populous, containing 402,000 inhabitants. The largest place in the county is Birmingham, of which the population is 140,000; but the capital is Warwick.

Warwickshire is a fine county, with plenty of wood and rich pasture. It contains a great many interesting places.

Warwick is a handsome and ancient town; but its great ornament is the castle, in which the Earl of Warwick now lives. It was a royal castle in the time of Edward the Confessor, but having been destroyed, it was rebuilt by Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, who fought bravely in the battles of Cressy and Poictiers, when the Black Prince so distinguished himself. It has been kept in repair exactly in the style in which it was first built, and is now the finest specimen of a Baronial Castle in England.

Kenilworth is another noble castle in this

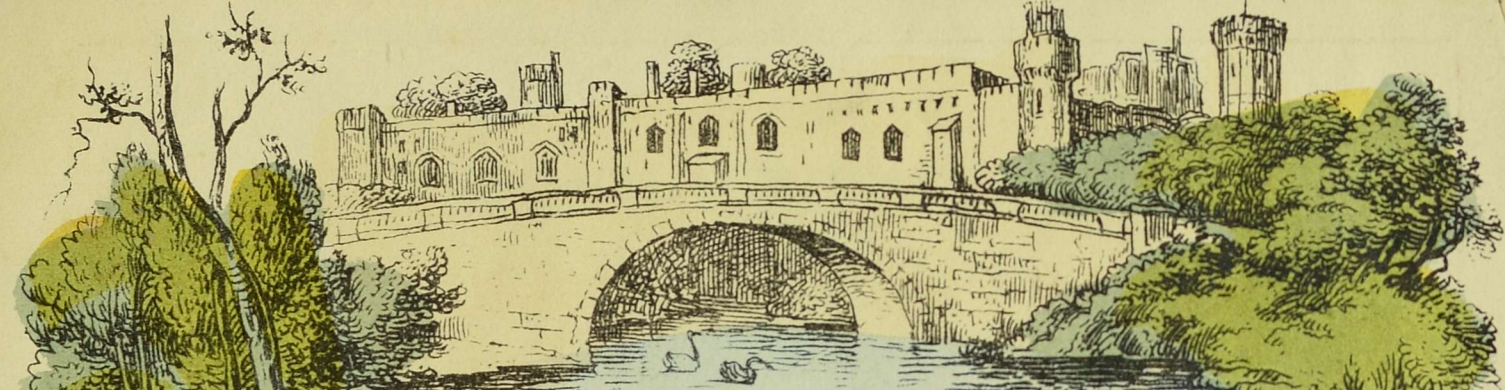
WARWICKSHIRE.

county, but it is now in ruins. It was here that the famous John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, lived; and, in later times, the Earl of Leicester entertained Queen Elizabeth in a very magnificent style.

Coventry is a large and very ancient town, with some fine churches. It is famous for the manufacture of silk goods and watches.

Birmingham is the most celebrated place in the world for the manufacture of iron, brass and plated articles. It is a very large town, with some fine buildings in it. The town hall is a noble specimen of architecture, and the Grammar School and the market place are built in excellent style. But it is not an agreeable place, from the smoke of the forges and furnaces which abound in it.

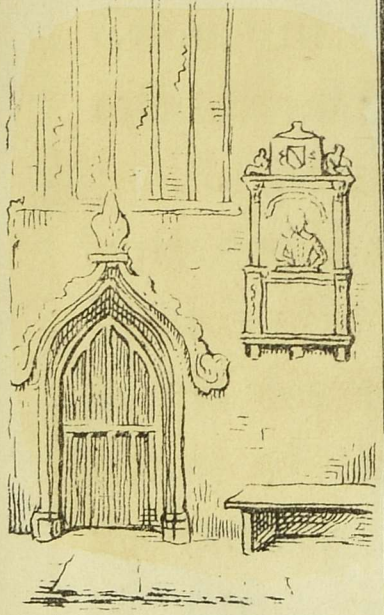
But the most interesting place in the county is Stratford-upon-Avon, the native place of Shakspeare, the greatest poet that ever lived. The house in which he was born is still standing; and his tomb, with a bust of him, is to be seen in the Church.



View of Castle



WARWICKSHIRE



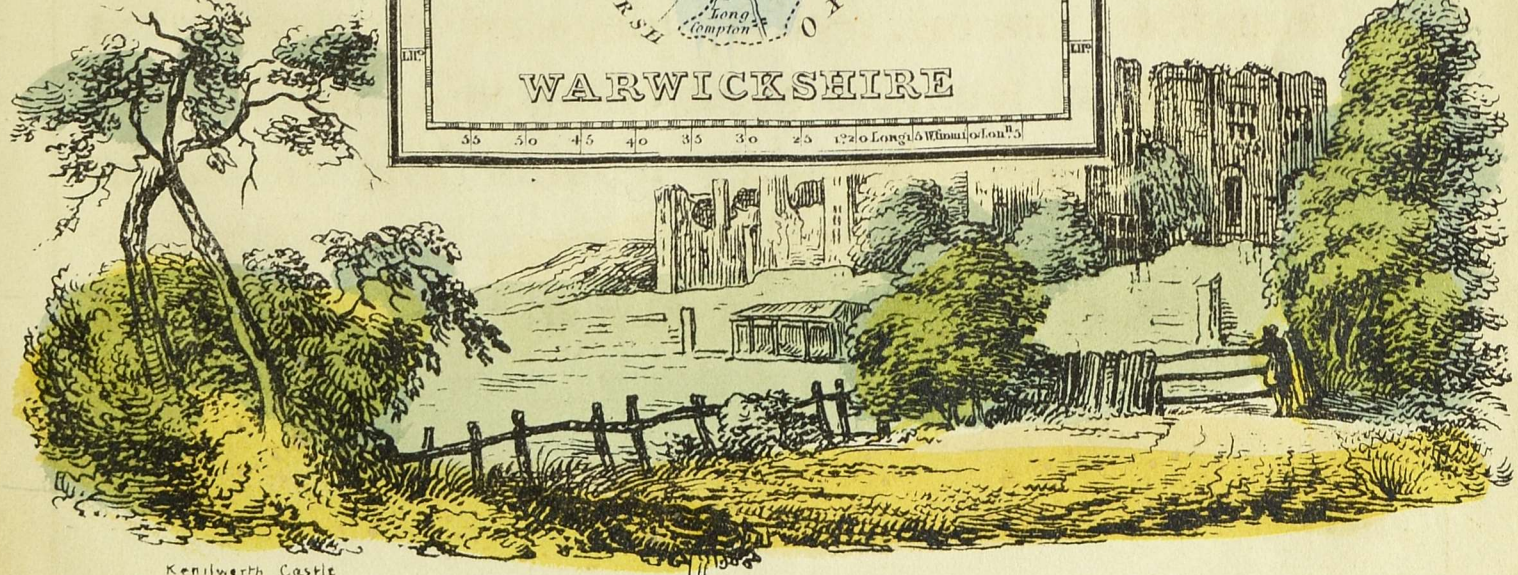
Shakespeare's Tower



Stratford Church



Shakespeare's House



Kenilworth Castle

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

THIS county is on the borders of Wales, and is bounded on the South by the Bristol Channel. It contains 134,000 inhabitants. The river Wye runs through it, and the banks of the stream between Chepstow and Monmouth present some of the most beautiful scenery in England.

A great quantity of limestone, iron, and coal is obtained in this county. The coal is not of a fit kind to burn in houses, but it is used in great quantities for steam engines, furnaces and kilns. Some of the towns, and especially Merthyr Tidril, are strange black-looking places, from the number of furnaces which are always burning around them.

There are several very ancient towns in Monmouthshire, which deserve to be noticed. Caerwent was the capital of the Silures, who fought so bravely against the Romans, in the time of the Emperor Claudius, under their king Caractacus, of whom you may read an account in the history of England. Caerleon is the place where the famous

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

British Kings, Uther Pendragon and Arthur are said to have lived. Chepstow was founded when the Romans were here, and now contains the ruins of a very large and strong castle.

In the times of the Saxon Heptarchy, and for a long time afterwards, the English and the Welch were always fighting for Monmouthshire, and sometimes one nation held it, and sometimes the other. It was hardly determined to be a part of England till the reign of Charles II.

The ruins of Tintern Abbey are considered to be the most beautiful ruins in England. The Abbey was founded in 1131, by Walter de Clare, and was inhabited by Cistercian Monks. The church of the Abbey was built by the Earl of Norfolk, in the year 1268. When the Monasteries were put down by Henry VIII. the Abbey was given to the Earl of Worcester, but at present it belongs to the Duke of Beaufort.

The ruins of Llanthony Abbey are now almost destroyed, but what remain are very interesting. The style of architecture belongs to an earlier age than that of Tintern, and the buildings were most likely erected a hundred years before.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

WORCESTERSHIRE is a very pleasant county. The river Severn runs through it, and it contains 233,000 inhabitants. The capital is the city of Worcester.

The land of this county is generally fertile, and produces plenty of corn of all kinds; but it is more famous for trees and fruit, especially apples and pears. A very large quantity of salt is made from the salt springs which rise at Droitwich. The part called the Vale of Evesham is very beautiful, and so is the scenery of the Malvern Hills.

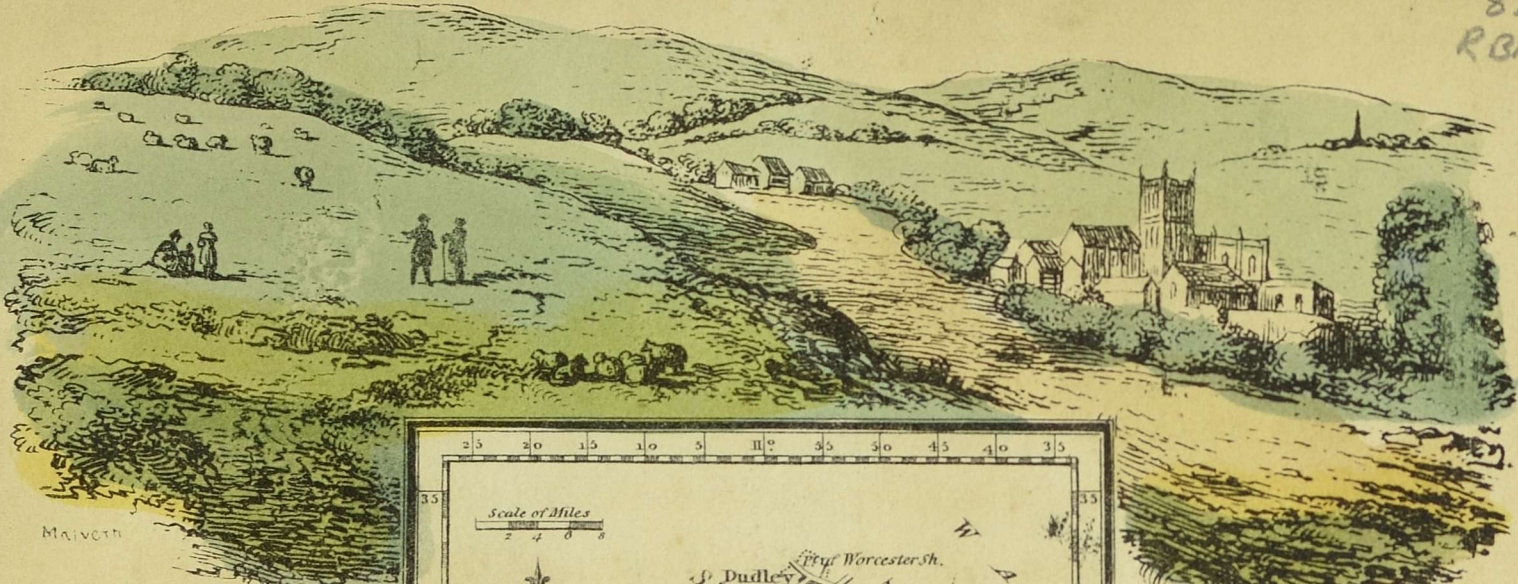
Worcester is a fine city, with wide and well-built streets. The cathedral was founded by Ethelred, King of Mercia, one of the states of the Saxon Heptarchy in which Worcester stood; but it has been rebuilt several times since his days. The present structure was built about five hundred years ago. It contains the tombs of King John and of his nephew Prince Arthur, whom, it is said, he cruelly murdered, because the prince had a claim

WORCESTERSHIRE.

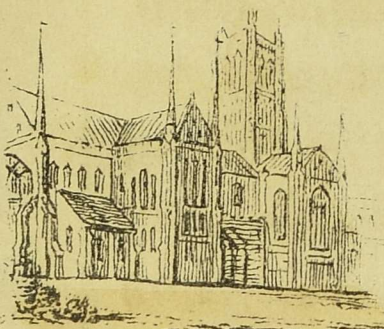
to the throne of England which interfered with his own. These tombs originally stood in the old building.

There was a great battle fought at Worcester, between Oliver Cromwell and the Scotch friends of Charles II., after which Charles was obliged to fly from the country. There are a great many gloves made at Worcester, and a fine sort of China-ware. The town of Kidderminster is famous for the manufacture of carpets, and there is one kind of carpet which takes its name from the town.

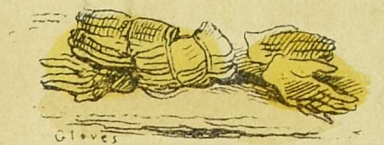
Evesham is a very interesting town, and beautifully situated. It contains the ruins of an abbey, which was founded in the year 709. The part which remains is called the Abbot's Tower, having been built by one of the Abbots, named Clement Lichfield, in the time of Henry VI. It was at Evesham that Prince Edward, afterwards King Edward I., conquered the celebrated Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, who had rebelled against King Henry III. Simon de Montfort was a Frenchman, who was the author of the plan of the English House of Commons.



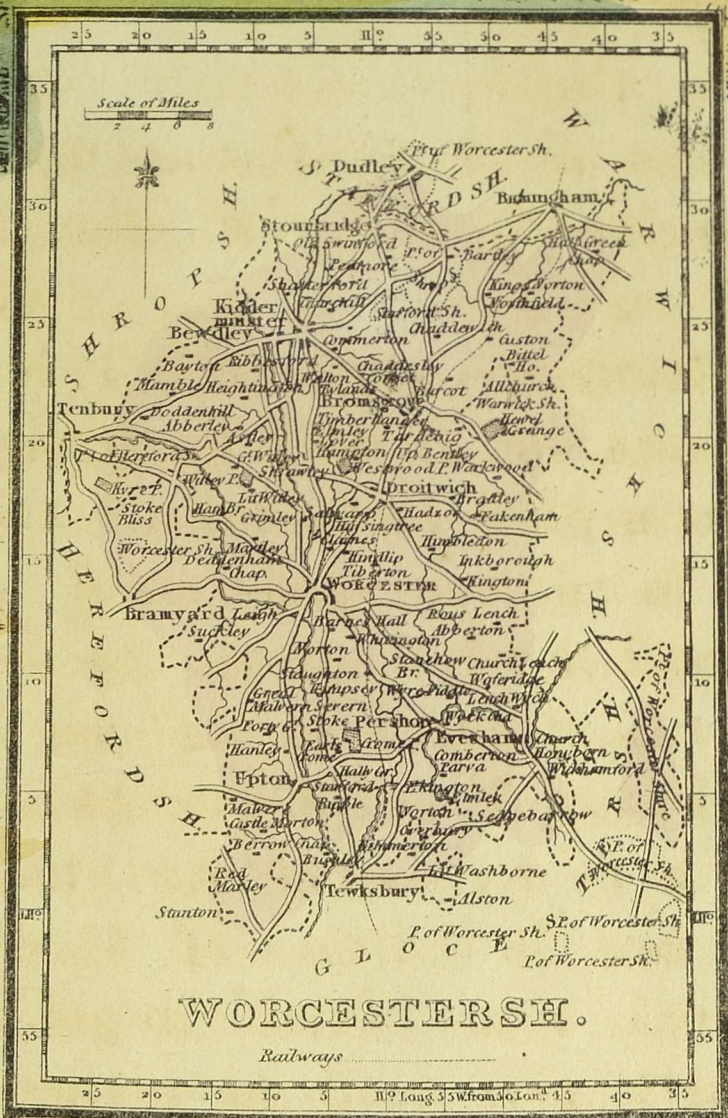
Malvern



Worcester Cathedral



Gloves

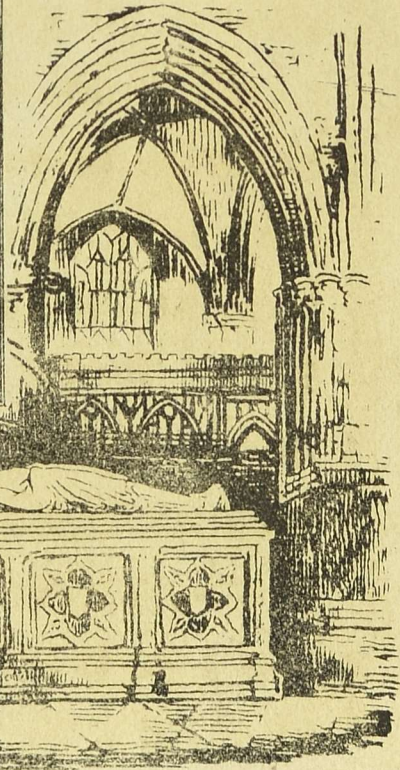


WORCESTERSH.

Railways



Carpet



King James Monument



Battle of Evesham

PICTORIAL INSTRUCTION

FOR

YOUNG CHILDREN,

*Foolscap Quarto, sewed in neat wrappers, each containing Eight large Coloured Plates,
with the Letterpress in bold type.*

PRICE ONE SHILLING EACH.

QUADRUPÉDS, AND THEIR USES TO MAN.
THE LITTLE MECHANIC, OR BOOK OF TRADES.
THE WORLD AND ITS INHABITANTS; OR TRAVELS OF REUBEN
RAMBLE.
LIVING AND MOVING; OR, HORSES, COACHES, AND RAILWAYS.
UNCLE BENJAMIN'S FARM. By REUBEN RAMBLE.
THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS; OR BOOK OF WILD BEASTS.
BIRDS, AND THEIR USES TO MAN.
THE BIBLE PICTURE BOOK.
THE OCEAN AND ITS INHABITANTS, WITH THEIR USES TO MAN.
THE MORAL PICTURE BOOK.
WILD BEASTS, THEIR HABITS AND USES. *Oblong 4to.*
THE ROSEBUD.—POETIC TALES.
LITTLE TALES FOR LITTLE CHILDREN. By MRS. JERRAM.
SONGS FOR THE NURSERY.
FAIRY TALES IN VERSE.
CHILD'S OWN PICTURE ALPHABET.
HOWITT'S FIRESIDE STORIES.
WONDERS OF NATURE AND ART.

Just out, on the same plan,

PRICE ONE SHILLING EACH,

REUBEN RAMBLE'S TRAVELS IN

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| I. THE NORTHERN COUNTIES OF ENGLAND. | |
| II. THE EASTERN | DITTO |
| III. THE SOUTHERN | DITTO |
| IV. THE MIDLAND | DITTO |
| V. THE WESTERN | DITTO |