

**A descriptive sketch of Sidmouth : comprising its ancient and modern history, climate, residences, religion, edifices, botany, marine botany, conchology, geology, public charities and amusements, together with many things worthy of notice... accompanied by a tide calculated for the west of England and a correct map to the extent of twenty miles each way round Sidmouth / by Theodore H. Mogridge.**

### **Contributors**

Mogridge, Theodore H.  
Mogridge, Theodore H.  
Royal College of Physicians of London

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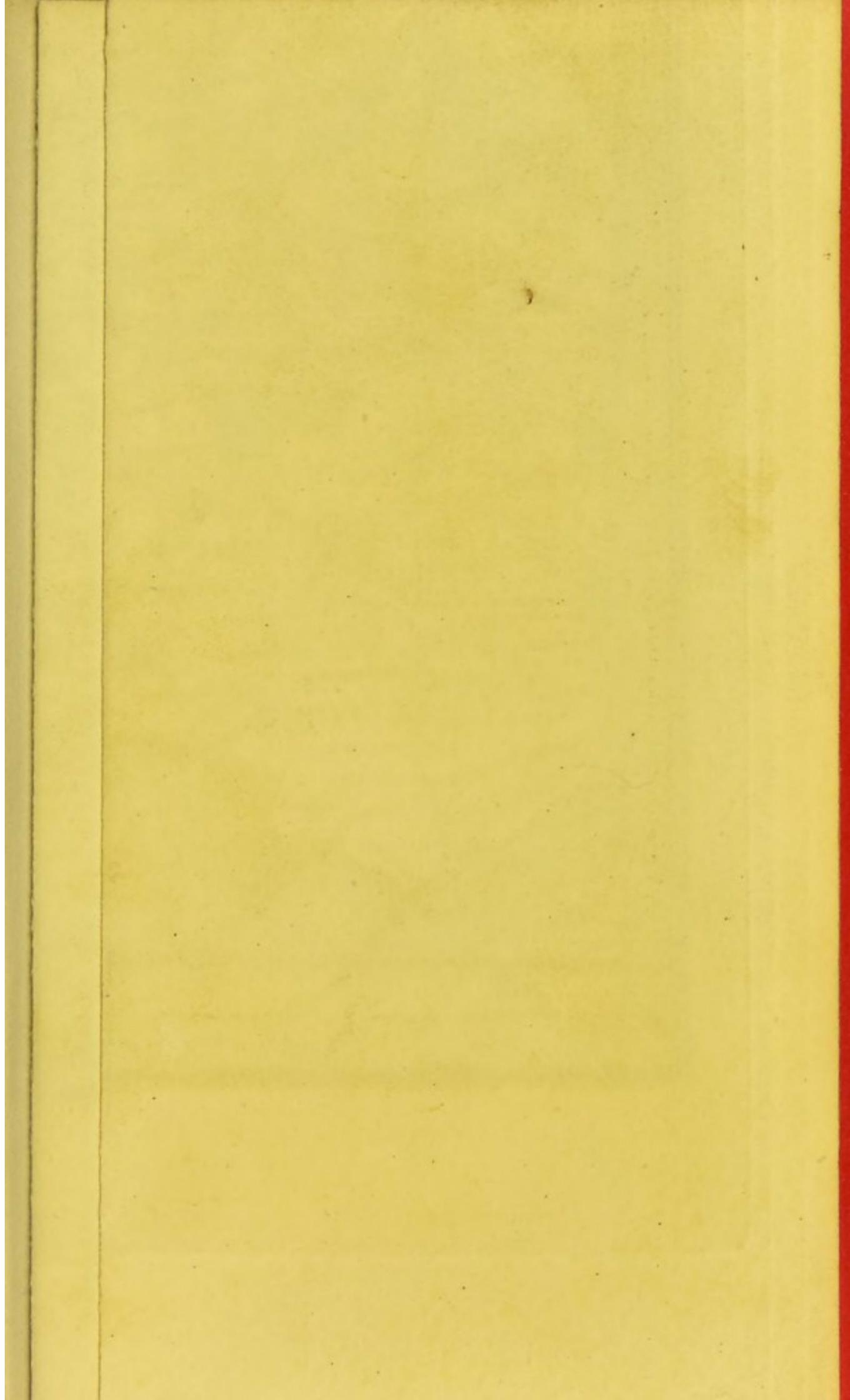
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# DESCRIPTIVE SKETCH

OF

# SIDMOUTH;

COMPRISING

*Its Ancient and Modern History;*

CLIMATE, RESIDENCES, RELIGIOUS EDIFICES, BOTANY,  
MARINE BOTANY, CONCHOLOGY, GEOLOGY, PUBLIC  
CHARITIES AND AMUSEMENTS;

TOGETHER

WITH MANY THINGS WORTHY OF NOTICE

AT OR GOING TO THE FOLLOWING PLACES;--

SALCOMBE, WESTON, BRANSCOMBE, BEER, BOVEY, SEATON,  
AXMOUTH, COLYTON, SHUTE, THE PINNEY CLIFFS,  
LYME, AND AXMINSTER;  
SIDFORD, SIDBURY, GITTISHAM, FARWAY, AND HONITON;  
HARPFORD WOOD, HARPFORD, NEWTON POPPLEFORD,  
OTTERY ST. MARY, AND CLIST ST. MARY;  
OTTERTON, BICTON, BUDLEIGH, SALTERTON, EXMOUTH,  
TOPSHAM, AND LYMPSTONE;

ACCOMPANIED BY

*A Tide Table calculated for the West of England;*

AND

## A CORRECT MAP

*To the extent of Twenty miles each way round Sidmouth.*

By THEODORE H. MOGRIDGE, Esq.

*Member of the Royal College of Surgeons.*

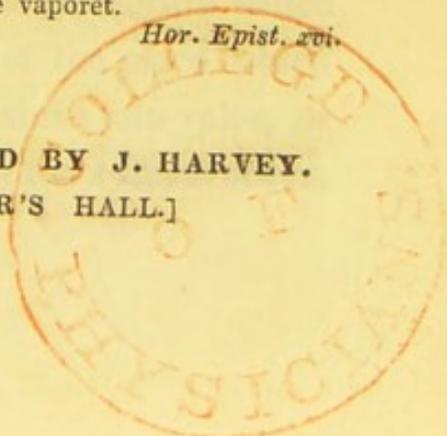
"Continui montes, nisi dissocientur opaca  
Valle, sed ut veniens dextrum latus aspiciat sol,  
Lævum discedens curru fugiente vaporet.

*Hor. Epist. xvi.*

SIDMOUTH:

PRINTED, PUBLISHED AND SOLD BY J. HARVEY.

[ENTERED AT STATIONER'S HALL.]



DESCRIPTIVE CATALOG

SIDHOUTH

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## PREFACE.

---

To the variety of tastes which may be employed in appreciating the merits of this little book, it is highly probable that many of the remarks may appear more or less objectionable; and critical severity is sometimes found to confine its animadversion to a single page or expression, having the chemical power of extracting from a sentence the essence of the work: but in vindication of him by whom they have been presented, it may be necessary to remark, that he has endeavoured to write a book which should neither perplex by its abstruseness, harass by its diffusion, nor fatigue by its prolixity; and whilst carefully excluding every thing noxious, to adapt its contents, as far as possible with judicious variety, to the young, the aged, the vigorous, the declining, the grave, the gay,—in short to make it a work which should be in three words *perspicuous, interesting, and short.*

The sublime and beautiful features of nature which here surround us, whether the face of the place which we inhabit swells into mountains, or sinks into vales, or spreads into plains, or forms a bed for the restless ocean,

every part of it displays matchless skill, and demonstrates infinite agency; and the writer feels that to attempt to add to its beauty by any description, would be

“ to add another hue

Unto the rainbow; or with taper light

To seek the beauteous eye of heaven to garnish.”

It is therefore with much diffidence, as to its execution, that the author has endeavoured to supply a deficiency long felt; there not having been a guide to Sidmouth on sale for several years: and whilst he will be the first to acknowledge his obligation to the candid reader who points out any errors, unjust criticism, so far as his personal feelings are concerned, will be, he trusts a pointless shaft: for to those who assume a privilege of hastily condemning whatever does not coincide with their own sentiments, it might be said,

“ ΜΩΜΕΙΣΘΑΙ ῥαον εστιν η ΜΙΜΕΙΣΘΑΙ.”

“ It is easier to blame, or sneer, than to imitate.”

The accurate reader will not only discover many deficiencies in this volume, but also, from the numerous extracts, that the author is greatly indebted to older and abler writers. Instead however of endeavouring to repel this imputation, he begs to state, that anxious mainly to convey the most correct information, he has never hesitated to draw freely upon the resources of others in order to supply his own great defects,

He would therefore beg those who may honour these pages with their perusal, to consider, with regard both to the reasonings and expressions, not so much *whose* they are as *what* they are; and that whilst they freely impute all that is faulty to the author, they will ascribe all that is really valuable to the proprietors of the various inclosures in which he has been permitted to glean after the harvest has been gathered; and if, like the gleaner of the field who picks up one ear in this place and another in that, until he has at length made a handful of those stalks which lay scattered at a distance before, the author is numbered among the poor of the land who are thus industriously and honestly employed, he will nevertheless deem himself amply remunerated for his trouble, if on the whole, the little book, which he cheerfully presents to the Inhabitants of Sidmouth, may add a small pittance to their store, and increase in the smallest degree the welfare of a place from whose climate he has derived the greatest advantage.

*Rose Cottage, Sidmouth,*



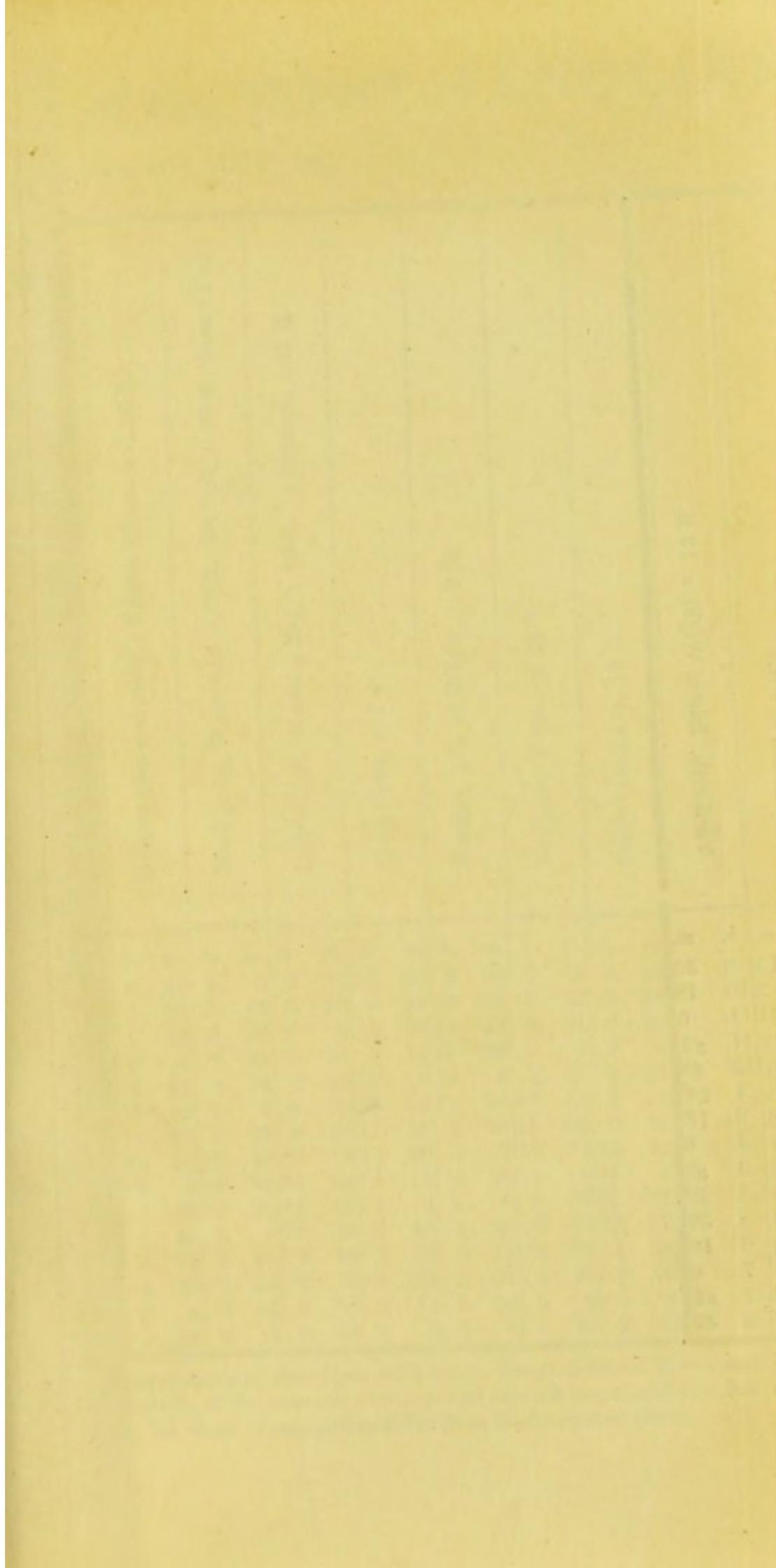
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CHAPTER I.

---

General History.

---

“ More mighty spots may rise—more glaring shine,  
But none unite in one attaching maze  
The brilliant, fair, and soft.”

---

SIDMOUTH, from its highly favoured situation, (being defended by a range of lofty hills from every wind but the south,) its vicinity to the sea, the salubrity and mildness of its atmosphere, the purity of its water, the richness of its soil, the diversity and beauty of its scenery, and the facility with which every requisite to improve or confirm health may be acquired; stands, and will stand, until the evils attendant upon luxury and disease be eradicated from the earth, one of the chosen resorts of the many who seek to renovate their wasted strength, to give renewed vigour to their attenuated frames, and to obtain by a state of comparative tranquillity, the repose so requisite to the welfare both of body and mind.

Were the writer disposed to deal in hyperbole, he might say that like the fabled island of Calypso, or the fertile Thessalian vale of Tempe, *here* reigns perpetual spring. Sheltered from the chilling blasts of winter, cooled and refreshed by delightful breezes from the sea, during the overpowering heat of summer, its atmosphere preserves an equilibrium of temperature scarcely equalled in this 'isle of fogs.' And whilst the numerous evergreens springing up on every side render the autumnal fall of the leaf, and the naked barrenness of winter less observable, the geranium, the myrtle, the fuchsia, and other tender plants luxuriantly flourish *al fresco*, giving to Sidmouth the appearance of one large but ever varied garden.

A few years since this delightful spot was only a small and insignificant fishing village, in a part of the coast little known and still less frequented. It has now become a populous and far-famed watering-place of much resort. Like the butterfly it has cast its shell, and appears in its renewed life with all the attractions and adornments of beauty and fashion. It was formerly called Sidemew or Sidemuie, but now bears the appellation of Sidmouth, or Sidmouth St. Nicholas; being thus designated from a little rivulet called the Sid, according to the old Saxon custom of naming towns and villages from some neighbouring stream or river. This rivulet gives name to Sidford and Sidbury. During the summer months, partially dried up, it trickles down the valley, and seldom finds its way to the sea, save by draining through large collections of

shingles which are thrown up by the tide, and thus form a natural rampart, (which, until lately, has been the only barrier that has protected the vale from the incursions of the sea during spring tides.) In winter, or after much rain, it becomes enlarged and swollen, and then forms no inconsiderable addition to the beauty of the surrounding scenery, as impetuously rushing along it bears away every obstruction,

“Hasting to pay its tribute to the sea,  
Like mortal life to meet eternity,”

and freely mingles with the grand reservoir of all rivers, the majestic ocean.

That beautiful part of the coast of England comprised by Devon and Dorset, terminating in the west by the Start Point, and in the east by the isle of Portland, presents a vast amphitheatre of bold and rugged rocks, rearing their lofty peaks, as if in defiance of the mighty ocean rolling at their base, lashing itself to foam, and seeming to demand them for its own; whilst their precipitous sides, their huge and towering pinnacles, and the enormous masses which appear here and there detached from their parent rock, mark the overwhelming power and constant encroachments (“πολυφλοισβοιο θαλασσης.”) of the loud resounding main. This vast semicircular ridge is throughout the whole of its course, hollowed by the action of the waters into smaller curves or scallops, forming minor bays. In one of these indentations, almost in the centre of the entire range, and bounded by the Peak

hills to the west, by Salcombe hill to the east, and by the Honiton and Gittisham hills to the north, lies the lovely vale, the subject of our present sketch, in fifty degrees thirty minutes north latitude, and about three degrees west longitude.

Of its former history but little is known ; we soon are lost in the mists of obscurity, catching but here and there a glimpse from out the dim obscure, and all is dark again. Were we about to pen the history of imperial Rome, the capital of an empire, or even the chief city of a county, volumes might be written; the annals of the historian would be open to our view, wars and rumours of wars would assist us, the birth or burial places of distinguished individuals would be a light unto our paths, archives, deeds, grants, and charters might be perused. But, when we undertake that of an obscure village how different are our resources; in what a wilderness of arid and barren sand do we engage to discover the hidden spring; in what a forest of shrubs and flowers do we seek the modest violet, enshrouded from our view by the more umbrageous foliage which surrounds it. The few ancient authors who have written on the county in which is situated the object of our research, are diligently examined, and the bare gleanings which we find are treasured with avidity. Frequently, the dry documents of monasteries are our only assistance, and from them we learn merely the uninteresting intelligence that, during the reigns of certain kings, certain manors were granted to certain individuals upon

the payment of certain sums, and other information perhaps equally important to the possessors, but by no means interesting to the general reader. We have in the present instance greatly to lament this lack of information. Indeed so scanty are our materials, that it is almost impossible to consider them in any other light than as a few memoranda. History records no splendid fact, nor has biography any distinguished name to select from its inhabitants. If, therefore, it should be found deficient in that interest and amusement which the records of other places afford, the writer must claim the indulgence of his readers; at the same time he bears in mind that

“The wise and prudent conquer difficulties  
By daring to attempt them. Sloth and folly  
Shiver and shrink at sight of toil and danger,  
And make the impossibility they fear.”

The remnants of antiquity which still exist, will naturally attract our attention in the first place, even though tradition has failed to supply any information by which we might direct our course. For, by analogy, are we enabled to penetrate deeply through the veil of oblivion, and to assign with a degree of certainty, the times and uses of things, which otherwise would be still engulfed beneath the waters of Lethe. We find on the summits of many of the highest hills in this neighbourhood, heaps of stones, amassed together in order; not such as geologists have discovered to be the order of creation, but such as plainly indicate the hand of man. In comparing these with similar

structures in other parts of the country, to which fame has been more prodigal, we discover that they were erected as places of offence or defence, either by the Romans or ancient Britons.

“In Britain, where the hills and fertile plains,  
Like her historic page are overspread  
With vestiges of war ; the shepherd boy  
Climbs the green hillock to survey his flock,  
Then sweetly sleeps upon his favourite hill,  
Not conscious that his bed’s a warriors tomb.”

This at once carries us into the remote ages, and we find at the period of the invasion of Britain by Julius Cæsar, the south western part of England was divided between three powerful tribes, viz: the Belgæ, from Germany; who, having driven away the ancient Britons, possessed themselves of Hampshire, Wiltshire, and Somersetshire: the Morini, who conquered the Durotriges, a Celtic tribe, and had seated themselves in Dorsetshire; and the Danmonii, or Devonshire men, who had retained possession of Devon, and conquered part of Cornwall the territory of the Carnabii. (The *first* settlers in this part were supposed to be descended from the Celtæ, a branch of the nations from the east.) According to Camden, Danmonii is the name given by Solinus to the ancient inhabitants both of Devon and Cornwall, but Ptolemy and Richard of Cirencester call them Damnonii, though in some copies Danmonii occurs, which is more correct, the transposition of the two letters being of very easy occurrence.

“This name,” says Ptolemy, “if not derived from

the mines of tin, called by the British 'moina,' seems to be taken from their dwelling under mountains, the inhabitants generally living in the valleys, called in the British *Danmunith*, and on this account the county of Devon is still called by the Britons *Duffneint*, or 'the low valley;' *neint* or *nant* is the ancient British signifying 'valley.' Sammes supposes it to be of Phœnician origin, deriving the name from *moina*, but the question is whether the *Dan* or *Dun* precedes. In the British and Phœnician language *Dun* signifies hill, and *Dan* of the British is down of the Phœnicians and English, and signifies low. Now, whether we derive the name from *Dan* from their living in valleys, or from *Dun* and *Moina* signifying hills of tin, both are of Phœnician origin. Gale also considers that the name signifies a hill of mines, *Dun Mwyn*.

These tribes were more polished than the savages of the interior, owing to their intercourse with the Phœnicians and Greeks, who bartered their pottery, salt, and brass, for the gold, silver, and more useful metals of Devon and Cornwall, the pearls of the coast, and the skins of animals; and they are said by Strabo to have estimated the advantage of their traffic so highly, that they used the most careful means to conceal the destination of their voyages.

“When erst Phœnicians crossed the trackless main,  
For Britain's secret shore, in quest of gain,  
This desert wild supplied the valued ore,  
And Vectis isle received the treasured store.”

It seems that these tribes waged constant and rancorous warfare with each other, so much so that the frontier hills were for the most part surmounted by these entrenchments or hill forts, to which they might retire in extremity, or upon occasion suddenly rush upon their unsuspecting foe. The Peak hill at Sidmouth could formerly boast one of these, but it has now fallen into the sea: Salcombe a second: a third may plainly be traced on the summit of Castle hill, Sidbury: a fourth above Wishcombe Park, called Blackberry: and within twenty-five miles of Axminster are the remains of nearly thirty; marking the division of the Morini and the Danmonii, and indicating the jealousy with which they regarded each other. In a work entitled "The British and Roman remains in the vicinity of Axminster," Mr. James Davidson assigns to the Morini, extending from the sea coast northward, the forts of Hawkesdown, Musbury, Membury, Lambert's Castle, Pillesdown Pen, and Hambill; and to the Danmonii, Woodbury, Sidbury, Bellbury, Blackberry, Hembury, Dumpden, and Neroche. Some assert that these forts were thrown up by the Romans, during their progress towards the subjection of the country; their relative situations, and different methods of encampment, will however enable us pretty accurately to determine between them. The Romans invariably erected their fortifications in the form of a quadrangle, each side having an entrance in the centre of the wall, and their routs of communication from one place to another were malgré bongré, rivers and mountains in a direct line. The Britons on the

contrary threw up their entrenchments according to the shape of the summit of the hill, and their roads were skirting the sides. Yet it is generally allowed that the Romans did occupy those thrown up by the Britons, (as has been partly proved from the old coin which has been dug from among them,) but only as temporary encampments. Such, with the remains of old Roman and British roads, are the only trophies now existing in these parts indicating the wars of our ancestors. May we not say with Mrs. Hannah More

—————“O War! what art thou?  
 At once the proof and scourge of man's fall'n state.  
 After the brightest conquest what appears  
 Of all thy glories? For the vanquished, chains!  
 For the proud victor, what?”

Having stated by whom Devonshire (and of course Sidmouth) was peopled in the earlier ages, we shall confine ourselves to what appertains to this little spot alone, passing over a long long lapse of years. We learn from ancient writings that Sidmouth in the thirteenth century was a borough town, and a port of no inconsiderable size. Sir William Monson in his naval tracts asserts, that in the reign of Edward the third, Sidmouth had to furnish three ships and sixty-two mariners upon forty days warning, for its quota towards the fleet of 1100 sail. This it had to do annually if required, for fifteen days at its own expence, and the remainder of the time at the cost of the king. Risdon likewise in his survey of Devon, written in the time of Charles the second, states, “Sidmouth is one of

the especialest fisher towns in this shire, and serveth much provision unto the eastern parts, whereupon its principal maintainence consisteth, but in times past a port of some account, now choaked up with chisel and sands by the vicissitudes of the tides." This last observation was deemed inaccurate by the Rev. J. Evans, A. M. who states, as the Harbour was certainly not formed by any inlet of the sea, it consequently could not be filled up by an accumulation of marine substances. The fact is, the land to the westward of the town formerly projected far beyond its present boundary, into the sea, and probably formed a bight bay, or natural pier, within which vessels sought refuge in time of danger. This supposition is the more plausible, as immense rocks are now seen at low water, stretching far from the point just mentioned in a southern direction, and pointing out to the observing eye, an eligible basis for the re-erection of such a work. It is said, that when the inhabitants of this place were no longer able to take refuge in stormy weather among their own native rocks, they set on foot a liberal subscription towards a quay at Torquay; and hence their vessels in time of distress, take shelter there without paying the customary port duties which are exacted of all others.

Sir William Pole in his collections for Devon, circ. A. D. 1630, informs us that "Sidmouth, where the little river Sid runneth into the sea, is a small market town, and hath been famous for fishing." We are told by the venerable Bede, that the south Saxons were ig-

norant of the art of fishing, until they were instructed by Wilfred, Bishop of York, and his followers, who took refuge in their country A. D. 676. ' Though a dreadful famine raged, the people could not catch any thing but eels. The Bishop collected all the eel nets, and sent his own servants to the sea and caught fish.' ( Bede Hist. eccles. vol. iv, chap. 14, quoted by Dr. Henry, vol. iv. page 99.) This appears strange, as the Romans were well acquainted with the art, and British oysters were in high esteem at Rome.

In more modern times, Sidmouth not only supplied all the neighbouring towns with the small fry that people the ocean, but its inhabitants were largely concerned in the Newfoundland fishery; in which lucrative but frequently hazardous employment, many considerable and some large fortunes have been accumulated. This branch of commerce is now entirely neglected; and so completely has Sidmouth changed its character, that its gradually decreasing race of fishermen do not supply even the consumption of the place itself, but it is indebted to Brixham on the west, and Beer on the east. Tradition tells us that the Pilchard fishery, that great source of national wealth, was once carried on to a great extent by the natives of Sidmouth: that its hardy sons with every returning season sought their finny stores, and pursued them along the coast of Cornwall, round the Scilly isles, and even up to the northern shores of their native country. Unhappily two succeeding unfavourable seasons overtook them, their boats were all cast away,

their crews overwhelmed in the ocean returned no more; where the bustle and gaiety of business had adorned every countenance with smiles, nothing was seen but sable weeds, nothing was heard but sighs and lamentations; the spirit which had animated this enterprising spot was quenched at once, and of all its former celebrity, nought remained but the apparatus in which its merchandise had been prepared for the market.

Occasionally however vast multitudes of the finny and scaly nations are caught opposite the town, and during the season it is no very unfrequent occurrence, for from five to ten thousand mackerel to be brought to shore at a single haul of the seine. At such periods to survey the fishermen at their employments, and the fruit of their labour, is interesting: the eye is rivetted by the diversity of tints, the ever varying colours, the silver white shaded by purple dyes alternately fading to a light green, and a thousand variations marked with exquisite delicacy produced by the agonies of dissolution, or as humanity hopes, by simple muscular contractions of the expiring inhabitants of the liquid world. Soles, Salmon peel, red Mullet, John Dories, Turbot, Pipers, Gurnets, and Brills, are the fish most commonly brought to Sidmouth. The shell fish are Crabs, Lobsters, Shrimps, and Prawns.

Of late years Sidmouth has been rapidly increasing; numerous detached villas have been erected, sheltered from the colder winds, and rendered suitable in every

respect for the residence of families who seek the advantages of a mild and temperate climate, without saying in the words of the poet

“ My native land, good night.”

Towards the close of the year 1811, an engineer was employed to make drawings, and estimate the expense of a Harbour, which it was proposed to form in a meadow called the Ham, through which the river Sid flows into the sea. The necessary drawings and estimates were prepared, meetings were called upon the subject, and the sum of £11,800. was subscribed towards carrying it into execution, it having been resolved unanimously, that the same was feasible and would be advantageous. Amongst other resolutions were the following, viz. that Mr. Crockers' estimate, founded on Mr. Fawckner's plan, amounting to the sum of £15,352, 2s. 11d. having been submitted, be approved: and that in case the plan be carried into effect, Mr Charles Dalby be the contractor for the work. It soon appeared however that this plan had powerful opponents, who suggested (and with good reason) that the western end of the beach afforded a more eligible situation for a harbour than that fixed upon by these resolutions. The friends of the design were divided, and, as has in a multitude of instances been the case, it was lost in a conflict between different and *clashing interests*; for which should rather be substituted *clashing opinions*; for it is submitted that the interests of all classes would be promoted by

the proposed harbour. Whatever adds to the facility of trade, benefits the gentleman equally with the man of business, and occasions a greater influx of visitors and residents; adding, not merely to the dealings of the tradesman, but to the social and friendly intercourse of the resident gentry, with those of equal standing in society from different parts of the kingdom.

On these accounts Sidmouth is at this time (1836.) much indebted to several gentlemen of this place, who (at a great personal sacrifice,) are making exertions to promote this important object. It has indeed been affirmed by some individuals, that to construct a harbour at Sidmouth would be to change the character of the place, as a genteel and inviting retreat for visitors. It is granted that in the immediate vicinity of the harbour, would be a scene of bustle and business not hitherto witnessed in this delightful watering-place. But it is confidently asserted, that the proposed harbour will not be of sufficient extent to do more than add to the life and entertainment of those who shall prefer to walk that way; and that many will do so as a part of the amusement of every day there can be but little doubt. The mind of man is so constituted, that, while a day or two's retirement is delightful on emerging from a great city inland to a sea-side retreat, yet he is soon found to be in quest of scenes that are moving and varying; and hence is glad to quit the view that at first delighted him from his window, which perhaps commanded the wide ocean, the sublime cliff, and the fruitful vale, but

always possessing the same unvaried attractions, for the entertainment of witnessing the egress and ingress of boats and sailing vessels, and the movements on shore necessarily corresponding to the scenes passing on the water. It is acknowledged that such a harbour as that proposed for Sidmouth, might entirely disturb the retirement of some watering-places; namely, such as are confined to a narrow valley, lying between the sudden and steep declivities of the hills which enclose them on either side, so that all the residences being crowded together, whatever traffic would be occasioned by the goods landed from the vessels, would necessarily pass near to every one's dwelling: but it is unnecessary to state, that the widely spread valley of Sidmouth presents a place of a totally distinct character. Sidmouth is indebted for its beauty not only to the luxuriance of nature, but to its being mainly composed of residences sprinkled over the whole expanse, and which have been erected within their own distinct gardens, or grounds, according to the taste of their owners; most of which are entirely removed from the town: their occupiers must therefore leave their houses and seek the annoyance, (if they should account it such) before they could be inconvenienced by it.

There is however one plea in behalf of the harbour alluded to, which, when duly contemplated, will not fail to address itself with peculiar force to all who are not deficient in the sympathies of our common nature, and are not so absorbed with the enjoyments of the present time and season, as to disregard the contin-

gencies of a less propitious part of the year which will follow ; and the influence which these changes may have on the well-being of others. It has been the calamity of Sidmouth to witness within these last few years, several most distressing shipwrecks on her shore: it being a peculiarity of her coast, that at a certain point of the wind, no vessel encountering a storm can work herself out of the bay, but is unavoidably driven in closer and closer to the land. Consequently it has fallen to the lot of the inhabitants and visitors, repeatedly to witness vessels making every possible effort to escape the shore, still nearing every hour, till they have at length grounded, and by the irresistible fury of the wind and waves have been wrecked on her beach, generally with the loss of life, within view of the assembled crowd on land, who have nevertheless been too often unable to render essential aid. How welcome a harbour at Sidmouth would therefore be to many a mariner in circumstances of peril, it is needless to say; excepting with the view of putting forth the plea of *benevolence* for a more extensive patronage of the undertaking, in order to ensure its effectual and complete accomplishment. The public spirit recently manifested by the Inhabitants of Sidmouth in erecting by *voluntary subscription*, at an expense of upwards of £2000 the whole length of the Esplanade, a substantial Sea Wall, to prevent the encroachments of the sea, incontestibly proves that nothing will be wanting on their part to accomplish the desired object of the harbour adverted to.

In the historic collection relating to the monasteries of Devon, by the Rev. George Oliver, of Exeter, we learn that the manors of Otterton, Otrinton, or Otterington, and Yarticombe, were granted by William the Conqueror, to the Benedictine Abbey of St. Michael de monte in periculo maris; and from the Monasticon, that King John founded a priory for four monks, and granted them the manors of Sidmouth and Budleigh, in consideration of which they were obliged to distribute to the poor, the sum of sixteen shillings every week in bread, for ever. This was one of the priories suppressed in 1414, and very soon afterwards it was annexed, with all its dependencies, to Syon house, the foundation of Henry V. On the suppression of that royal monastery, Otterton manor, then valued at £87. 10s. 4d. per annum, was granted thirty-first Henry VIII. to Richard Duke, one of the clerks of the augmentation court, and at that time a clerk of the council, in whose posterity it continued until the twenty-fourth of September, 1725, when it was purchased by — Rolle, Esq., the father of Lord Rolle, the present owner. In the taxatio of Edward I. we read as follows:

Manerium de Otrintina	£15.	2s.	8d.
Manerium de Sidemuie	£10.	6s.	8d.

Agnes, abbess of Syon house, demised Sidmouth manor and rectory to Richard Gosnell esq., for the term of ninety-nine years, under the yearly rent of £51. 17s. 7d. dated the fifth of February, 1539, 30th Henry VIII. This lease was allowed by the augmen-

tation court; and from other deeds it should seem that the manor and rectory, reserved to the crown after the dissolution, were in the reign of Elizabeth leased to Sir William Perryam for the term of his natural life. James I. let it to Sir Christopher Mainwaring esq. at the yearly rent of £54. 7s. 8d. This manor was sold by Christopher Mainwaring esq. to Sir Edmund Prideaux, and the large tithes to Wadham College, from which College they were purchased by the present holder. Sir Wilmot Prideaux was the owner of the manor in 1775, and held his court leet and court baron at Sidmouth. Thomas Jenkins, esq. then resident at Rome, became by purchase the next lord of the manor, and from him it came to his nephew, the present Thomas Jenkins, esq.

This parish, in the hundred of East Budleigh, is three miles in its greatest, two in its shortest length, and one mile in breadth; it is bounded by Harpford, and Sidbury to the north, by Salcombe Regis to the east, and by Otterton to the west. In the census taken in 1801, the number of inhabitants amounted to 1252, in 1811, to 1683, in 1821, to 2747, and in that taken in 1831, to 3126. The fairs are holden on Easter Monday and Tuesday, and the 3rd Monday in September for cattle: petty sessions are held every month, by two resident magistrates, for this and several neighbouring parishes; and courts leet and courts baron are held annually, at which two constables and tithing men are chosen.

This may decidedly be considered a dairy parish ; the pasturage is abundant, and, like most parts of Devon, it is celebrated for the excellence of its scalded or clouted cream. Spencer alludes to this preparation in his poem "the shepherds' calender."

" Ne would she scorn the simple shepherd swain,  
For she would call him often héme,  
And give him curds and clouted cream."

In a series of letters to Robert Southey esq. (the poet Laureat,) by Mrs. Bray, speaking of Devonshire, is the following passage. "Indeed we are so celebrated for our cream, and have been so in all ages, that I doubt not, that of this was made the very sort of butter, in the western parts of Britain so much esteemed by the Romans; the wicker worked baskets and the butter of the Britons being alluded to by one, or more of their most famous writers. Martial mentions the baskets, and Pliny the butter of the barbarians. We have also another delicious preparation from our milk called junket, alluded to by Milton in his L'Allegro

' And fairy mab the junkets ate.'

The custom of preparing clouted cream, is no doubt of great antiquity. "I once told an old woman," says Mrs. Bray "that she little thought of how ancient date was the custom of preparing the rich scalded cream in the manner she was describing to me: "aun-  
cient!" she exclaimed, "I'se warrant he's as old as Adam, for all the best things in the world were to be

had in Paradise," and "no doubt" continues the lady "if all the best things in the world were really to be found in Paradise, our cream might, certainly there claim a place." In common with other parts of Devonshire, Sidmouth is celebrated for its cider, and provisions of all kinds are easily obtained in rich abundance at a very moderate rate. The town gives the title of viscount to the Addington family.

## CHAPTER II.

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### Climate.

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“Mild is the clime though sullen winter reign,  
Though frost with iron grasp extend his chain,  
Some secret charm soon breaks the chrysal band,  
And strikes the sceptre from his livid hand :  
The piercing winds whose ice flak'd tempest blows  
From hills deep buried in a waste of snows,  
Soon as they touch this bland enchanted ground,  
Confess the spell, and feel their rigours bound.”

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“It is air” says the immortal Hippocrates “which supports life and directs the progress of disease.” Considering this remark to be indisputable, we shall at once perceive what uncontrolled dominion the air must necessarily exert over all created beings. Without it, both the animal and vegetable kingdoms would sink into decay. No plant, however low its vitality, could be nourished; no seed could germinate deprived of its benign influence. It is natural, therefore, that we should consider a pure atmosphere to be the source of health, and on the contrary, an impure one, the prolific

parent of disease. Air may become healthy or unhealthy, according to the particles with which it is impregnated, from exhalations of certain substances, whether animal or vegetable. All constitutions are in a degree affected by these; for even the fragrant perfumes of odoriferous plants will cause in some, a sudden syncope, or partial cessation of animal life; so, that from exhalent atoms floating in the atmosphere, we may attribute the origin of many diseases, which otherwise would be unaccountable. It is frequently asked, is such or such a climate suitable for an invalid? Van Swieten has justly said "to assert a thing to be wholesome, without a knowledge of the condition of the person for whom it is intended, is like a sailor pronouncing the wind to be fair without knowing to what port the vessel is bound;" for though any particular climate may be healthy to one constitution, or to a person labouring under one class of disease, it by no means follows that it must, of necessity, be suitable to another constitution, or to one labouring under another class of disease. Yet, the decided benefit accruing to the general health by a change from the smoky atmosphere of a large town to the more open, and purer climate of the country, is a matter of daily observation; and the deserted state of our metropolis during some months in every year, is a proof of the increasing conviction of the public, that, to preserve their health, it is occasionally requisite to fly from their deteriorated atmosphere, and inhale a more refreshing and invigorating air. For, in populous cities, or large towns, where great multitudes of

people are gathered together, the air cannot long retain its pristine purity. Offensive smells, arising from the decomposition of putrid animal and vegetable substances, the fumes of slaughter houses, the volumes of smoke, the number of sick of every disease, who diffuse infectious effluvia through the atmosphere, tend to render it contaminated and polluted, and unfit for respiration.

“Ye who amid this fev’rish world would wear  
 A body free from pain; of cares, a mind;  
 Fly the rank city, shun its turbid air,  
 Breathe not the chaos of eternal smoke  
 And volatile corruption from the dead,  
 The dying, sick’ning and the living world,  
 Exhal’d, to sully heav’ns transparent dome  
 With dim mortality.”

Indeed we may be justified in referring many of our *most dangerous* diseases, either to the vitiated atmosphere of crowded cities, the very graves of the human species, or to the vicissitudes and inclemency of our seasons, acting upon weakly constitutions, and this appears reasonable when we consider the great alterations and effects produced on the animal œconomy by these circumstances.

“God made the country, and man made the town,  
 What wonder then that health and virtue, gifts  
 That can alone make sweet the bitter draught,  
 That life holds out to all, should most abound,  
 And least be threatened in the fields and groves?”

A timely residence in a purer and milder climate, has frequently prevented dangerous maladies, and even when formed been the means of alleviation or

cure. The influence of climate on disease is then a subject of vital import, and yet, although that influence is established by the daily observation of thousands, nothing is more unsatisfactory than the manner in which we are enabled to explain it. "When we consider" says Dr. Clarke, "that the problem of physical climate still remains unsolved by natural philosophers, it will not be matter of surprise that physicians should find it no easy task, nay, almost impossible to give a satisfactory explanation, when the subject becomes complicated by the addition of such elements as organic life, health, and disease, with all the intricacy and complexity of their combinations."

Discarding therefore all the theories that have been broached at various times concerning its physical action, as useless digressions, the discussion of which would hazard a departure from the subject before us, and to which justice could not be done within the limits of this chapter, we shall confine our observations to a statement of acknowledged facts, the unexplained results of experience alone; simply narrating the state of the climate of the south of Devon generally,—the diseases to which a residence in this part of the county is likely to prove efficacious, and those to which it might prove injurious: neither exaggerating its beneficial influence on the one hand, nor depreciating it on the other.

The air of Sidmouth may be considered pure, soft,

and mild, yet somewhat moist, and consequently rather relaxing; but no exhalations from stagnant pools; no miasmata from marshy lands tend to taint its atmosphere, or disseminate their baneful influence to the prejudice of its inhabitants; on the contrary, the early breezes and the evening gales, fanning the humid buds, diffuse a thousand sweets, mingled with the most sovereign supports of health. In common with the neighbouring coast of this part of Devon, it lies under the imputation of being "in November subject to sea fogs," but might we not ask what happy place is not subject to fogs during that dreary month, that month of misanthropy and suicide, when the sun rises but shines not, and when proverbially, its genial warmth is overclouded by chills and damps? And further, whether a sea fog is not less obnoxious than a land fog? Or even whether the saline particles floating about in such a state of the atmosphere, do not act as antidotes to poisons? By their stimulating properties do they not correct the ill effect of the fog's humidity?

Is it not true? that

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“Through the blue serene  
 For sight too fine, the ætherial nitre flies,  
 Killing infectious damps, and the spent air,  
 Storing afresh with elemental life.”

Polwhele, in his history of Devon, after stating that the inhabitants of Sidmouth are in general healthy and strong, and live to a good old age, continues,

such indeed might be expected from the salubrity of the air, a fine dry soil, and a situation the most delicious, open to the south sea, *yet not subject to fogs*, and screened from all but the southern winds. With him the writer cordially agrees; for, during a residence of the greater part of six winters, he has certainly not met with a tithe of the fogs he has witnessed in large towns. It has been said that more rain falls in the west, and south west of England, than in the northern parts; and an ingenious poetic libeller has described the weather in the neighbourhood of Dartmoor, with much humour in the following lines.

“The west wind always brings wet weather;  
The east wind wet and cold together;  
The south wind surely brings us rain,  
The north wind blows it back again.”

“If the sun in red should set,  
The next day surely will be wet;  
If the sun should set in grey,  
The next will be a rainy day.”

It is readily acknowledged that Dartmoor is particularly humid; for there the clouds, which, owing to the prevalence of the westerly winds in this quarter pass onward from the Atlantic ocean, are attracted by the summits of its granite tors, and discharge their contents in rich abundance, not only on the extensive moor, but for some distance around. Indeed it is traditionally averred, that, whilst Charles the second was at Tavistock (in his father's lifetime, during the civil

wars) he was so annoyed by wet weather, that if any body remarked it was a fine day, he was wont to declare ever after, "that however fine it might be elsewhere, he felt quite sure it must be raining at Tavistock." To which part of Devonshire it would appear that the poet Carrington was no stranger by the following lines :

"Lovely Devonia! land of flowers and songs!  
To thee the duteous lay: thou hast a cloud  
For ever in thy sky—a breeze, a shower  
For ever on thy meads; yet where shall man  
Pursuing spring around the globe, refresh  
His eye with scenes more beauteous than adorn  
Thy fields of matchless verdure?"

But Sidmouth is above fifty miles from Tavistock, and very unlike it in this particular. In a published account kept by two gentlemen for a term of years, of the comparative quantity of rain which fell in Yorkshire and in Devon, the result was, that less rain fell in Devon than in the former place.

The Rev. E. Butcher, in a work entitled "the beauties of Sidmouth displayed," (now out of print) has given a table of the number of days on which rain fell, during fifteen years, and he computes the average to be 163, within two; but, continues he "on full half of them only one shower, and that frequently an inconsiderable one, caused the day on which it fell to be put on the black list;" and he

desires that circumstance to be borne in mind on looking over the table. Dr. Clarke, in his valuable work "on climate," considers that the rev. gentleman has underrated the number of days, and he agrees with Mr. Holland, of Lyme, who wrote "observations on the distribution and duration of rain," that the average would be about 200 days. Snow is seldom witnessed, and in very severe seasons when the surrounding hills are deeply covered, not a vestige, not a flake will remain in this warm and secluded vale.

The mean temperature of Sidmouth averages about three degrees warmer than London. This is more decided during the winter months, at which time in the more sheltered situations, its excess is from four to five degrees; in February it falls to three, and in March and April does not amount to more than one. It should be borne in mind, that London is much warmer than the surrounding country. With respect to the more northern parts of our island, the invalid will experience *here*, a less degree of cold, and for a shorter duration; and by enjoying more hours of fine weather, will be enabled to take more exercise in the open air, and thus give himself a greater chance of improving or regaining his health. Indeed there are few days, even in the winter months, that he may not venture out between the hours of eleven and two o'clock. Now this is a great recommendation, for by a due attention to *proper* exercise, the muscular system is braced and strengthened, the tone of the nervous energy increased, the circulation quickened, the

blood determined from the internal viscera to the skin, opening the pores, causing salutary perspiration, and thus removing obstructions, and carrying off a tendency to obesity, increasing the appetite, and preserving the tone of the stomach and digestive organs. Hippocrates says, that "exercise gives strength to the body and vigour to the mind," and certainly it is undeniable that if it be neglected, the energy and power of the various organs, gradually give way, their functions become impaired, a morbid irritability is induced, the appetite is vitiated, the bile and other fluids requisite for the work of digestion, are improperly secreted, the muscular energy becomes relaxed and debilitated, and a train of nervous and hypochondriac symptoms, with gout, scurvy, &c. are the result. Some celebrated physicians have in many instances recommended this coast even in preference to the south of France, and at this we shall no longer feel surprise, when we take into consideration the inconveniencies attendant on the journey, the misery of the household accommodations compared to the comforts of home, the floors guiltless of carpets, the bad arrangement of the chimnies, and the *tout ensemble* so different to what the delicate sufferer has perhaps for years been accustomed, to say nothing of being subject to the chilling *Mistral*. And again, not among the least of the evils attending a continental residence, when we consider the intimate connection of the body and mind, the sympathy which exists between them, and the tendency of the latter when in a strange country, away from home "from all whom

we love, and from all who love us," to run into a state of despondency and gloom, highly unfavourable to the healthy performance of any of the natural functions of the body,

—————" 'Tis the great art of life  
To manage well the restless mind."

May we enumerate the absence of the cheering society of early, and valued friends, which, by enlivening the spirits, preventing the mind from dwelling on its real, or fancied evils, and creating "unnumbered scenes of woe," existent only in its hypochondriac imagination, would predispose to a kind of perpetual serenity, a species of tranquility and contentment so desirable and so efficacious in promoting that object to which all our solicitude has been turned. "Sweet is the memory of distant friends, like the mellow rays of a departed sun, it falls tenderly yet sadly on the heart," but as the lamp of life burns to waste in the sepulchre of solitude, how much sweeter is the knowledge that we have friends around us who will sympathize in our woes, comfort us in our afflictions, assuage, as far as in them lies our sufferings, regret and weep over us when we are no more. Friendship is indeed the shadow of the evening which increases with the setting sun of life. Speaking of the influence of the mind over the body, one of the ablest physicians alive once said, that in a dangerous illness, (*cæteris paribus*) a christian would have a better chance of recovery than an unbeliever;

that religious resignation was a better soothing medicine than poppy, and a better cordial than æther; and Dr. Reed, speaking on morbid affections of the mind says "The habitual horror which overshadows the mind, darkens the little daylight of life. An indulgence in this morbid excess of apprehension, not only embitters a man's existence, but may often tend to shorten its duration; he hastens the advance of death by the fear with which his frame is seized at its real or imaginary approach. *His trembling hand involuntarily shakes the glass in which his hours are numbered.* Contradictory as it may appear, there are well attested instances of persons who have been driven even to suicide, by the dread of dissolution. *It would seem as if they had rushed into the arms of death, in order to shelter themselves from the terrors of his countenance.*

An author before alluded to states, "In the south of Europe, the invalid has finer days, a drier air, and more constant weather; but the transitions of temperature, though less frequent, are more considerable; in the nights the invalids are often exposed to severer cold than here; and this arises partly from the greater range of temperature, and partly from the imperfect manner in which they are sheltered from the cold." In that popular work, "The Diary of an invalid," written by Henry Matthews, A. M. Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, dated December 30th, 1817, the writer says, "the more I see of Italy, the more I doubt whether it be worth while for an invalid to encounter

the fatigues of so long a journey for the sake of any advantages to be found in it, in respect of climate, during the winter. To come to Italy with the hope of escaping the winter is a grievous mistake; this might be done by getting into the southern hemisphere, but in Europe it is impossible; and I believe that *Devonshire* after all, may be the best place for an invalid, during that season."

"In Devonshire too, all the comforts of the country are directed against cold; here all the precautions are the other way. The streets are built as much as possible to exclude the rays of the sun, and are now as damp and cold as rain and frost can make them. And then what a difference between the warm carpet, the snug elbowed chair, and the blazing coal fire of the English winter evening, and the stone stair cases, marble floors, and starving casements of an Italian house. The only advantage of Italy then is, that your penance is shorter than it would be in England; for *I repeat, that during the time it lasts, winter is more severely felt here than at Sidmouth, where I would even recommend an Italian invalid to repair, from November till February, if he could possess himself of Fortunatus' cap to remove the difficulties of the journey.*"

To those whose peculiarity of constitution render it necessary that they should reap the full benefit of the mildness of our winter season, it would be well to retire for a short period during the heat of summer, to some

more elevated and bracing spot, which may readily be found on the northern coast of Devon. "There is," says Dr. Clarke, "as marked a difference between the summer climate of the north, and south of Devon, as there is between the east of their scenery; the air of the former being keen, and bracing, and its features romantic, and picturesque; whilst in the latter, the rich softness of the landscape, seems to harmonize with the soft, and soothing qualities of the climate."

It will be obvious then to what class, or classes of disease, according to human calculation, it may prove beneficial. In incipient Phthisis, or where from peculiar circumstances such a disease may be apprehended, what is more likely to check its fatal career, or be conducive to a happy result, than an early residence in a climate, the temperature of which is so equable, and in a place where, owing to its sheltered situation, and its proximity to the sea, the invalid will be subject to a less degree of cold in winter, a less intense heat in summer, and where sea air, sea bathing, sailing, and every variety of exercise, both passive and active are attainable.

This is of the more importance, inasmuch as at this period, we may strike at the root of this pernicious and destructive disease; now it is subject to the rules of art, now, whilst it is in its infancy is our opportunity, but if this precious time be neglected, in all probability, all but hope, which is still "life's cordial," is lost. Some one has said, and said truly, that, op-

portunity is the flower of time, and as the stalk may remain when the flower is cut off, so time may remain with us, when opportunity is gone for ever." This is certainly applicable to incipient Phthisis; for if we allow the favourable moment to pass away—to steal a march upon us—to pass the Rubicon,—in a word, to become a confirmed consumption, the most skilful treatment, and the most unwearied attention, will too generally fail to do more than alleviate the patient's sufferings.

Well would it be, if consumption, the very bane, the pestilence of our country; which seizes for its prey, not the old, and the decrepid, not the lame, the maimed, and the blind; but the flower, the beauty of our nation, the young, the lovely—were properly appreciated; if it were known, not as portrayed in writings of romance, or in narratives of fiction, "as a state on which the fancy may agreeably repose, and in which, not more misery is felt than may be expressed by a blossom nipped by untimely frosts;" but as it exists in horrible reality, with all its corroding anxiety, its varied, and protracted misery, such as might be depicted alone by a bereaved parent, writhing under the recent loss of a beloved child.

"But why the dire, distressful scenes review,  
And open all a parent's grief anew:  
Trace the long roll of death, and sorrowing tell,  
How marked by fate the best and lov'liest fell."—

Were it so understood, we should no longer have to

lament the many fatal cases, which might be referred to a culpable inattention to the premonitory indications, a neglect of proper treatment, "a leaving undone those things we ought to have done," until the disease stares us in the face, with aggravated symptoms, no longer to be mistaken, even by those most willing to be deceived; and too, too late do we endeavour to remedy our inadvertence; to do that, we should have done months, aye, years before; too late do we seek to avert the inevitable stroke, to arrest the slow, insidious, but marked, and unerring hand of death, that

" Unseen, cold, and uninvited visitor  
 Who hustles by the porter at the gate,  
 And the loquacious lackey at the door  
 Although it be a palace, rushes up  
 Unceremonious, to the inner chamber,  
 Giveth no card of entrance, doth not knock  
 Before he enters, undraws the curtains of the princely  
     couch,  
 And tips his arrows in the very chamber  
 Where monarchs breathe their last."

However pure and healthy the climate of any place may be, still it is not possible to be the "all in all" to every malady. It cannot at one and the same time, be mild and soft, and keen and bracing. In those affections therefore which require the latter, such as, diseases attended with a languid state of the constitution, that kind of dyspepsia referable to a relaxed state of the nervous system, nervous headaches, menorrhagia, and leucorrhœa, and affections of the mucous mem-

branes, marked by a loss of tone, and accompanied by increased discharges, a residence here might prove injurious rather than otherwise. Whilst on the contrary, in all diseases having an inflammatory diathesis, more especially where the chest is concerned; in chronic inflammations of the mucous membranes generally, whether of the digestive or respiratory organs; in affections of the œsophagus, trachea, and bronchiæ, attended with a dry cough; in dismennorrhœa, and the nervous symptoms consequent thereon; in nervous affections, dyspepsia, and hypochondriasis, dependant on an excited state of the mucous membranes, it would be of the greatest utility, nay, it would become, under certain regulations and restrictions, a source of renewed health and vigour, without which the treasures of the east would be but as "dust in the balance." Life itself would become irksome, the mind would lose its tone, and external objects viewed by a jaundiced eye, become sources of annoyance rather than pleasure.

To those who are thus circumstanced, the writer could conscientiously say,

"While yet you breathe, come here : the rural wilds  
 Invite, the mountains call you, and the vales,  
 The woods, the streams, and each ambrosial breeze  
 That fans the ever undulating sky,  
 A kindly sky ! Whose fostering power regales  
 Man, beast, and all the vegetable reign."

## CHAPTER III.

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### Description, Residences, &c.

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“ Fair are the provinces that England boasts,  
Lovely the verdure, exquisite the flowers,  
That bless her hills, and dales; her streamlets clear,  
Her seas majestic, and her prospects all  
Of old, as now, the pride of British song!  
But England sees not on her charming map  
A goodlier spot than our fine Devon.—Rich  
Art thou in all that nature’s hand can give  
Land of the matchless view! ”

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THE description of a place cannot be very interesting to its residents; for who would be satisfied with beholding a picture, when the original landscape, glowing with all the beautiful tints of nature, lay exposed before them. The *Inhabitants* of Sidmouth need only be reminded of the emphatic word graven in St Paul’s cathedral, as the close of the monumental inscription of Sir Christopher Wren, “*si monumentum quæris, circumspice,*” *look around.* For *strangers*

and *strangers* alone, is the following attempted copy.  
I say attempted, for

“To such as see *it* not my words were weak ;  
To those who gaze on *it* what language could they speak.”

SIDMOUTH is one of the prettiest spots on the coast of Devon; the charms of nature are spread forth in verdant scenery, in pure streams, in pastoral hills, or are displayed in towering cliffs, that proudly o’erbeetle the blue expanse of ocean. The course of the meandering Sid, presents meadows embroidered with myriads of the fairest flowers, and yielding soft and fertile beds for the luxuriant herbage; on which graze flocks of well fleeced sheep, and herds of sleeky kine, with “milk in their udders, and violets in their nostrils,” whilst delightful zephyrs

“Fanning their odoriferous wings dispense  
Native perfumes, and whisper whence they stole  
Those balmy spoils.”

The town is flanked on either side by cliffs of great altitude, the bases of which are washed by the sea; whilst the sides, gradually sloping towards each other, are thickly studded with mansions, villas, and cottages ornées, and in autumn expose orchards laden with fruit, and fields waving with corn, interspersed with plantations, where varieties of birds, native warblers, perched on innumerable boughs, sing a thousand sprightly and harmonious airs. Cultivation extends almost to the summit of these cliffs; and, where this fails, its place is

supplied by the products of wild nature's garden; the prickly furze, shining with its ever gilded blossoms, tempered by the softer tints of an almost endless variety of flowering heaths.

—————“ And thence spreads  
 A wide heath covered with thick furze, whose flowers  
 So bright, are like the pleasures of this world,  
 Beautiful in the distance, but once gained  
 Little worth, piercing with thorns which grow  
 Around them ever.”

The view which hitherto teemed with luxury, and reposed on verdant meadows, with their well wooded hedge rows, and trees of various shades, scene behind scene, now suddenly expands; the prospect becomes sublime and striking; from the eastern summit the English Channel presents itself in all its grandeur; and the eye, wearied with gazing on an expanse of water—solemnly vast, turns with delight landward to a prospect replete with all the charms which nature and art can give; nor rests, until at a distance of at least forty miles it lights upon the rugged tors of Dartmoor Forest—the region of the vast and the sublime—the temples of the ancient Druids; from which, unless the Sun of Righteousness had arisen upon the darkness of heathenism, and dispelled the thick mists of ignorance and superstition, a voice might seem to say

“ Oh thou! imbued with celtic lore,  
 Send back thy soul to days of yore,  
 When kings descended from their thrones,

To bow before the sacred stones,  
 And Druids from the ancient oak,  
 The will of heaven, prophetic spoke."

From Peak, the western eminence, the landscape is equally complete, comprehending Haldown Hills, Berry head, Down end, and Torbay; the termination of the white cliffs of Albion, and the bold and rugged rocks of Portland Isle. Standing on the brink of the cliffs, many hundreds of feet above the level of the sea, and venturing to gaze upon the deep profound, we are reminded of the beautiful and appropriate lines of our immortal bard;

"How dizzy 'tis to cast one's eyes so low!  
 The crows, and choughs, that wing the midway air,  
 Seem scarce so gross as beetles. Half way down,  
 Hangs one that gathers samphire: dreadful trade!  
 Methinks he seems no bigger than his head;  
 The fishermen that walk upon the beach  
 Appear like mice; and yon tall anchoring bark  
 Diminished to her cock; her cock a buoy,  
 Almost too small for sight. The murmuring surge  
 That on the unnumbered pebbles chases,  
 Cannot be heard so high. I'll look no more  
 Lest my brain turn, and the deficient sight  
 Topple down headlong!"

In fine, as a summary of this imperfect description, the remark is just, that, "here is every entertainment for the eye, the most refined gratification for the ear, and a perpetual banquet for the smell, without any insidious decoy for the integrity of our conduct, or even for the purity of our fancy."

With the exception of the church, we have little in the town itself worth noticing; from its northern entrance, at the termination of Mill lane to the beach, is about the third of a mile; the major portion of which is occupied by one street, which, lower down, divides into two branches. There is little of the regular arrangement of modern houses; here and there are commodious and handsome residences, but in general they are in no respect to be admired on account of their architectural peculiarities, which, if they belong to any definable order or species, must be arranged with those which no person of taste or judgment can approve. Nearer the beach, in the eastern branch, are shops of almost every description; together with the Commercial Inn, and London Hotel, in which latter are the Assembly Rooms. In the western, the smaller of the two, is the post office; there are several very respectable shops in the market place and its vicinity, to which this street leads.

On either side of these branches are the suburbs; that to the east, termed the marsh, probably from its situation near the river; and that to the west, called western town, which is inhabited chiefly by the fishermen of the place. Facing the sea, are comfortable lodging houses, with every accommodation for large and small families. In front lies the Esplanade, which extends the entire breadth of Sidmouth. The amphitheatre of ocean and mountain scenery, presented from this long and beautiful walk, where the pure and fresh breezes sweeping over the sea are inhaled, is perhaps

unrivalled by any other place of maritime resort in the kingdom; and it is scarcely necessary to mention, that it is therefore a favourite promenade of fashionable parties. The York, Bedford, and Marine Hotels, together with a Library, Billiard, Reading, and Concert Rooms, are situate in this part of the town.

The mansions, villas, and cottages, which form an attractive part of Sidmouth, demand some notice. The attention of the visiter is first directed to a beautiful and airy pile, called Peak House; situated on the slope of the western hill, and commanding the most enchanting views. This mansion has been considerably enlarged and beautified by its present owner and occupant, E. Lousada, esq., who has manifested much true taste in a new arrangement and disposition of the adjoining pleasure grounds, which will be more apparent, as every succeeding year, by adding growth to the young plantations, will add increasing beauty to the scene. The alteration of the house itself was designed by Mr. Julian, of Exeter, and does credit to his architectural abilities.

From this place we behold several mountain houses, particularly Peak, and Mount Sid cottages, which are situated many hundreds of feet above the level of the sea, enjoying an extensive range of land and water, and being let as lodging houses ready furnished, with coach-houses, stables, &c., form delightful abodes for small and genteel families, and such persons are not likely to be troubled with the

diseases arising from indolence, who reside here, and daily visit the reading rooms on foot. Near the gate of the north lodge of Peak, on the opposite side of the road, is seen between lofty elms, beautiful and beautifully placed, Sidmouth House, the residence of Edward Lee, esq., one of the county magistrates; every thing about this edifice is solid, substantial, and useful, and the prospect of land and sea, of great extent. Adjoining the grounds is Helens, an excellent family dwelling, occupied by Philip H. James, esq. Cotland House next presents itself, a large and commodious habitation, the residence of Mrs. Col. Bradshaw. Nearly opposite Helens is a narrow gravel walk, having Witheby, (the property of Major Cunningham,) a large and elegant cottage ornée to the right; and to the left, with a beautiful lawn and shrubbery, conservatory and walled garden, the Marino, the well designed and highly finished house of the Rev. J. Hobson; this gentleman has, at a great expence, added much to the appearance of the two houses, and the immediate neighbourhood, by well arranged alterations and improvements in the grounds before them; both houses have extensive gardens, with commodious stabling, coach-houses, &c., and stand at the summit of a sloping meadow, enjoying a fine reach of ocean scenery.

The continuation of the gravel walk through the fields, is over a neat iron bridge, from whence most of the houses at the upper part of Mill lane may be seen to advantage, as, with a few exceptions, they

front towards it; but to prevent confusion in the description, it will be well to follow the more regular, and beaten tract, and returning again to Mill lane, we pass over a wooden bridge, and arrive at a retired and neat cottage, now occupied by the Rev. Mr. Hutton; beyond this on the same side, surrounded by an extensive lawn, and fine old timber, is Springfield cottage, the delightful abode of Mrs. Bernard, one of the most interesting in the vicinity of this place; on the opposite side, are three agreeable residences, the property of J. Carslake, esq.; the first called Asherton, is occupied by Mrs. Hancock; the second new Cotmaton, the abode of Miss Bethell; and third old Cotmaton, the residence of H. Stuart, esq.; these all possess their respective beauties of landscape. "Cottrington, or Cotmaton," says Polwhele "is an ancient seat, commanding a pleasant view of the bay," it was sold by Mr. Duke, of Otterton, to William Harlewin, esq.; Sir John Harlewin, who was knighted for his valour in the reign of Edward IV., lived at Sidmouth, and his relations continued to reside there until the time of Charles II.

Passing down a lane to the right towards the sea, is High bank, let as a lodging house, next to which is Eglantine Cottage, the tasty and picturesque residence of Mrs. Rose, and adjoining is Rosemount, in the occupation of Mrs. Ximenes. Returning to Mill lane is Woodlands, a cottage originally altered from a barn, by the Rev. Mr. Copleston, father of the present Bishop of Llandaff, from whom it was pur-

chased by Lord Gwydir, who greatly improved it, and changed its previous name of Old Hayes, to the one it now bears: its present possessor, Shirley Newdick, esq., has added much to its appearance by laying out the grounds (formerly an orchard) into a pretty lawn, through which trickles a clear and chrystal stream; and repairing a covered walk of great simplicity and beauty running along its northern side, 180 feet in length, supported by oaken pollards, around which the *glycine sinensis*, the perpetual scarlet rose, and many really splendid creepers entwine themselves in rich profusion. The next house called Spring Gardens, belongs to the same gentleman, who has pulled down the old building, and erected another a few yards from its site. Immediately beyond, but secluded from public view, is the peculiarly neat and comfortable cottage of H. Carew, esq.; and on an eminence to the north, is Knowle Cottage, the property of T. L. Fish, esq.; this marine villa was erected by Lord Le De Spencer, A. D. 1805; it is a thatched building, forming nearly a quadrangle, and which contained about forty rooms; these have been much diminished in number by the present proprietor, who, by his improvements and embellishments, has rendered it a truly picturesque and enchanting residence; the gardens, lawns, and conservatories, are in the highest state of cultivation, and contain rare and valuable specimens of tropical botany. Interspersed are several oval basons of water, containing gold and silver fish, from the centre of one a jet d'eau issues from a bed of coral. The Grounds,

about ten acres in extent, have the appearance of a small park. Scattered around are many figures on pedestals, and some foreign animals, whose habits of gentleness admit of their roaming about free and unshackled; among them are Kangaroos, Cape Sheep, two small Buffaloes, Pacas or South American Camels, and several varieties of Deer. Among the Birds are Emews or South American Ostriches, Black Swans, Pelicans, Macaws, Crown and Demoiselle Birds, Gold and Silver Pheasants, Grey Parrots, Peruvian Cockatoos, Paroquettes, &c. with a great variety of small foreign birds in the aviary or in cages.

The suit of Drawing Rooms, nearly one hundred feet long, contain seventy-six tables, arranged in the centre and along the sides, covered with the choicest specimens of the art of the jeweller, and vases, figures, &c. of splendid Dresden China. The Breakfast room contains rare and valuable assortments of fossils, minerals, shells, corals, &c. The philosopher, the antiquarian, the mineralogist, the botanist, and the lover of the picturesque, might willingly linger in this delightful spot, and find ample sources of gratification. The liberal proprietor of this elegant place, during his sojourn at Sidmouth, (from July till October,) throws open his house and gardens for public inspection, every monday, from two o'clock till four, provided the weather be fine; this causes a great influx of visiters to Sidmouth on that day, and is of material benefit to the place.

Nearly opposite Knowle, and overlooking the Deer

Park, is Claremont, lately the delightful residence of F. Barker, esq: and above it, entering by the same carriage drive, a handsome and well built house, situated on the summit of a beautiful rising ground, the property of Mrs. Mackie. Some little distance beyond the grounds of Knowle, is Broadways; a substantial, modern house, the residence of Colonel Slessor. Returning to Mill lane and passing onwards, to the left we perceive Powis Cottage, the abode of Miss Ridout; it is a thatched building of one story; in length, one hundred and twenty feet; the middle division of which is a conservatory. It is surrounded with beautiful shrubberies, walks, and gardens, and commands a fine view of the church embosomed in rich foliage, with the sea in the distance.

Opposite Powis is Audley, formerly the abode of the Dowager Lady Audley, now the property and residence of the Misses Dawson, by whom it has been much enlarged, and converted with a considerable share of taste and judgment, from a thatched cottage to an elegant mansion. The noble landscape, which lies like a panorama around, has a striking air of natural beauty, developed and heightened by the perfection of art.

“Scenes must be beautiful, which, daily seen,  
Please daily, and whose novelty survives,  
Long knowledge and the scrutiny of years.

Lower down, and adjoining the grounds of Powis,

is Belle-Vue, situated on an eminence, occupied by J. Harrison, esq.; next to it is Ivy Cottage, the residence of Mrs. Kennet Dawson, and opposite, Rose Cottage, the property of the above gentleman, occupied by the Rev. Mark Henry Mogridge, having from its southern front, a view of the sea, with the church, and church fields, in which is May Cottage, a neat and comfortable lodging house.

At the end of Mill lane on the left, some years since, stood a large oldfashioned brick mansion, in which, died one of the family of the Oxenham's, of which tradition records the strange and wonderful story, that at the death of any of them, a bird, with a white breast is seen for a while, fluttering about their beds, and then suddenly to vanish away. Mr. James Howel, in his "anecdotes," tells us that in a lapidary's shop in London, he saw a large marble stone to be sent into Devonshire, with an inscription, "that John Oxenham, Mary his sister, James his son, and Elizabeth his mother, had each the appearance of such a bird fluttering about their beds as they were dying. Mrs. Bray, of whom mention has been made in a former chapter, speaking of the natural history of Dartmoor, states as a tradition that "there also the white breasted bird of Oxenham, so fatal to that house, still appears, with her bosom pure and unsullied as the Druid's robes, and like him, raises a cry of augury and evil; Her mission done, she is seen no more 'till she comes again as a virgin mourner, complaining before death." In

further reference to this tradition, I beg to insert an extract from a letter, received from a highly esteemed and valued friend on the subject.

“My dear Sir,

I give you, as well as I can recollect, the anecdote related to me, by a late respected Baronet of this county. He told me, that, having read in “Howel’s anecdotes” of the singular appearance of a white bird flying across, or hovering about the lifeless body of the different members of the Devonshire Oxenham family, immediately after dissolution, and also having heard the tradition in other quarters, wishing rather for an opportunity of refuting the superstitious assertion, than from an idea of meeting with anything like a confirmation; having occasion to come to Sidmouth, shortly after the death of his friend Mr. Oxenham, who resided in an old mansion, not now standing, and the place of which is now occupied by the houses called *Sidlands*; he questioned the old gardener, who had the care of the house, as to who attended his master when he died, as Mr. O. had gone there alone, meaning only to remain a day or two. “I and my wife Sir,” was the reply. “Were you in the room when he expired?” “Yes, both of us.” “Did any thing in particular take place at that time?” “No sir, nothing;” (but then after a moment’s pause) “there was indeed something, which I and my wife could almost swear we saw; which was, a white bird fly in at the door, dart across the bed, and go into one of those drawers; and as it appeared in the same

way to both of us; we opened all the drawers to find it, but where it went to we could never discover." If I recollect rightly, the man on being questioned, had not heard of the tradition respecting such appearances, and that he was not prepared by previous instruction to confirm the story, seems more than probable, by his only mentioning it at second thought, as though he hardly supposed the Baronet's inquiry had reference to anything supernatural, and by his not more positively making the assertion, which it seems probable he would have done, had he any end to answer by making up the story."

I do not presume to offer an opinion, that on this account we are necessarily to believe that there certainly was an appearance of the nature alluded to; it might have been altogether an illusion, though if so, it is quite unaccountable that two persons should see the same thing at the same moment, unless they agreed together to relate the same falsehood for no purpose whatever, as it should appear. It is the fashion of the day, to account every one weak and credulous, who admits that such appearances may occur on any occasion. It may however be inquired, whether this is not one of those extremes into which we are liable to run, when avoiding an opposite extreme; perhaps it is occasioned by the circumstance that as in the instance before us, there appears to be no object whatever, no end answered in such an appearance; hence a precipitate inference has been induced, that there has been no reality in any of the

numerous occurrences to which strong and concurrent testimony has been afforded; whereas a previous question should perhaps be decided, namely, whether it is consistent with a well regulated judgment, to admit the possibility, if not the probability, of a providential supernatural interposition, occasionally at least, in extraordinary cases; and if this be not denied, then it only becomes a question of degrees, how far, and under what circumstances, we may or may not give credit to the testimony we receive respecting supernatural appearances or occurrences: perhaps, as in most cases, truth may lie between the two extremes; the one extreme being that of credulously receiving as realities, every tale we are told of extraordinary sounds, appearances, impressions, and forebodings; the other extreme being that of denying the interference of the Almighty in the affairs of man, in any other than the usual course of events, although it may be to preserve life, or to rescue from some fatal calamity. The writer, however, perhaps ought to apologize for offering in this volume any sentiments of his own on such a subject.

This old Mansion is no longer in existence, having been pulled down; and two handsome well built houses, called Sidlands, have been erected on its site. Passing these, and entering the Exeter road, is Radway Cottage, belonging to J. G. Jenkins, esq. Solicitor; next to it, is the Vicarage, an old building modernized, and very considerably enlarged and improved, the residence of the Rev. W. Jenkins, A. M.

near this, on the right hand, is a commodious cottage, the property of Mrs. Cutler; and opposite, three cottages in a cluster; first, the Hermitage, a neat and pleasing cottage, occupied by Mrs. Rees; second, Balster's Cottage; and the Shrubbery, the quiet, and retired cottage of Miss Tinney, having a view of the Elysian Fields, which are laid out with great taste, and are worthy the attention of the visiter. In this secluded spot, entering the carriage drive on the Exeter road through iron gates, on the right, are Temple, Rosebank, and Cumberland cottages, with Richmond House; on the left, are Camden and Somerden cottages.

Continuing our course on the Exeter road through a turnpike, we soon arrive at Lime Park, the seat of Lieutenant General Walker, a large, square, substantial, modern building, surrounded by young but thriving plantations, not laid out by a tasteless ancestor, but grown "to order" of the present occupier; the trees are not yet sufficiently large to give it that rich and elegant appearance, which no doubt in a few years it will assume. A short distance from this, on an elevated situation, commanding many beautiful and interesting prospects, with the broad expanse of ocean in the distance, stands Arcot House, the seat of Lieutenant General Rumley. Entering the Honiton road, at some little distance on the right, is Livonia Cottage; and a little beyond, a newly erected one, called Mount Edgar; both are well suited for small families, and to such as seek quiet

and retirement, are eligible abodes; a little farther on the left, is Bloomfield Cottage; close to which is the residence of F. Stevens, esq. Solicitor.

Returning nearly to the entrance of the town, and passing the Lyme road, over the river Sid, by a stone bridge to a turnpike, immediately in front is Mount Pleasant; between the grounds belonging to this house and the river, is a path leading to Salcombe Hill, the mansion of Mrs. Cornish, which, with a few other residences, enrich and adorn the eastern boundary of Sidmouth; from the grounds of the house, which extend to the sea, a near view of the town is to be obtained,—the little bay in which it is secluded,—many of the indentations of the coast,—the deep ribbed side of the High Peak, &c. &c. Egypt Cottage, occupied by the Rev. J. Dean, is pleasantly perched on the slope of the hill; beneath which is Myrtle Cottage, decorated by the taste of Mrs. Campbell; and on the same level is Woodbine Cottage.

Returning to the turnpike, and entering Sid lane, we perceive Salcombe house, the residence of James Peel Cockburn, esq. situated on a fine lawn, through which, along the banks of the Sid, is one of the most delightful walks in the vicinity of Sidmouth. To the right is a lane leading to Salcombe, by Salcombe Cottage, the detached and rustic residence of Captain Stapleton. Higher up the hill, is a neat box, situated at the summit of a rising knoll, called Salcombe Mount.

Beyond Salcombe house is Hill's Cottage, belonging to C. Smith, esq.; and on the right, the house of Mrs. Lyde. Still passing up the green sheltered road, overhung with trees like an avenue, we just perceive, on the left hand, the retired, neat, and very convenient cottage and grounds of R. Miles, esq.; which is perhaps the more beautiful for being shut in a thriving plantation. Some distance from the road, on the right hand, is Laburnum cottage, the residence of S. S. Kent, esq.; and still further from the town is Sid Cliff, a secluded and truly romantic cottage, lately the residence of J. Bacon, esq. The grounds contain about sixteen acres; six tastefully laid out and diversified in walks, gardens, and orchards, and connected with the remaining ten, which are of meadow land, by a light fancy wooden bridge thrown across the Sid.

Adjoining these grounds is Sid Abbey, from the south-west front of which, is seen a sort of amphitheatre, of fertile enclosures, richly set with orchards, and crowned with beautiful hills. This mansion, together with about one hundred and fifty acres of land, extending to Sidbury parish, belong to James Clarke, esq. The murmuring Sid meanders along the pleasure grounds belonging to Sid Cliff and Sid Abbey, producing a very delightful and picturesque effect, when combined with the rich scenery for which the sylvan character of Sidmouth vale is so much famed.

In the town are a few excellent houses; among which are Myrtle Hall, the property of G. Manning, esq.

a large house built by General Grinfield, now belonging to J. Cutler, esq. around whose garden a road leads to Blackmore Hall, (the property of Sir John Kennaway, Bart., the proprietor of several houses in this place,) occupied by Lady Miller. Passing through the town we arrive at the beach, to the houses on which we have already adverted. At the west end of the esplanade is an embattled wall, enclosing a very convenient and delightful residence, called Belmont house, the property of M. Gutteres, esq. Adjoining this is Woolbrook Glen, the charming residence of Mrs. General Baynes. In the front of this mansion is an ever flowing stream, from which the house derives its name. The skilful and elegant arrangement of the undulating ground and easy swell of the lawn, whose smooth verdure is relieved by groups of trees and shrubs are highly pleasing. In 1820, their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Kent, with the Princess Victoria, resided here for a short period,—but, alas! death is no respecter of persons; at his touch, the sceptre of royalty, as well as the implement of husbandry, fall from the stricken hand.

“Pallida mors æquo pulsat pede pauperum tabernas,  
Regumque tures.”

His Royal Highness, after an illness of short duration, (being seized with inflammation of the lungs) breathed his last, to the great grief of his family, and the nation at large, in the fifty-third year of his age.

“What are our ages? but a few brief waves  
 From the vast ocean of eternity;  
 That break upon the shore of this our world,  
 And so ebb back into the immense profound  
 Which He on high even at one instant sweeps  
 With His omniscient sight.”

Near the gate of Woolbrook is a red building called Westmount; and on the left is Clifton Terrace; the whole of which is appropriated to lodging houses. Continuing our walk up the hill, and passing Rock and Clifton Cottages, we arrive at Cliff Cottage, the admired residence of Lieut. Richard Murray, R. N.; the prospect from which, of ocean, cliff, mountain and valley, is beautiful in the extreme. On returning to the beach and taking the first turn to the left by the Bedford Hotel, we pass Bedford House; two small genteel lodging houses, called Potbury's buildings; and three large handsome houses, with every comfort and convenience for respectable families, termed Denby Row.

Opposite is a large field, called Fort field, (from a small fort erected during the late war, but which is now demolished,) on which is a fine open terrace, lined with a row of excellent houses, commanding a varied and extensive prospect. On the east of the terrace is a very roomy lodging house, suitable for a large family, belonging to Mr. Rafarel; behind which is a small house, the property of the same person, occupied by Captain Pelly. Next is Barton Cottage, the residence of R. Kennet Dawson, esq.; and to the east is a convenient family dwelling, adjoining Fort house, an extensive

brick mansion, the residence of the Rev. James Blencowe; close to the gates of this house is a tasty dwelling, named Villa Verda; near to which is Cobourg terrace.

Sidmouth is remarkable for the numerous sheltered lanes which it possesses, and they are the more to be admired for being shut in with a forest like closeness. There is no prospect in this labyrinth of roads uphill or down; these quiet woody glades scarcely give a peep at the world, except over an occasional gate, a gap, or some low fence.

## CHAPTER IV.

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### Religious Edifices.

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“ Religion, if in heavenly truths attired,  
Needs only to be seen to be admired.”

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THE Church, which is dedicated to St. Nicholas, stands nearly in the centre of the town. Although this building is said to have been granted by Bishop Marshal to the monastery of St. Michael de Monte in Normandy, to which the priory of Otterton was a cell, yet, no part of the present edifice presents traces of an earlier date than about four hundred years ago. It has evidently been much enlarged at various times, to accommodate the rapidly increasing population of the town. It consists of a nave about fifty-six feet long by eighteen wide within the walls; aisles, north and south, each about fifty-six feet by sixteen; a chancel, thirty-five feet by sixteen; with a vestry on the north side of it, and a tower at the western end of the nave, fifteen feet by thirteen.

The nave opens to the chancel and the tower, by lofty pointed arches of a late period; and to the aisles, by four arches, resting on columns, formed by four shafts, with cavettoes between them, which are continued up the arches. The shafts have circular laminated capitals; but are all of a late period of the pointed style. The windows are all modern, and in a nondescript style, in imitation of the Gothic; excepting the eastern window of the chancel, which has four lights with cinque foil heads, and perpendicular tracery in the arch. It contains some fragments of stained glass; an ancient coat of arms, argent five piles en saltier gules; and some modern painted glass, (said to have been executed by a lady of the place,) but almost defaced, representing our Lord bearing the cross, and the four evangelists.

The tower is seventy-five feet high to the top of the battlements, which are modern, with heavy square pinnacles at the angles. It has buttresses at the angles, and a belfry window in each face, of two lights, with cinquefoil heads, and a quatrefoil in the arch. It contains a clock and five musical bells. The ringing loft is supported by two large guns, brought from the fort now demolished, they are each marked with a rose crowned. The western door is modern, having a low pointed arch, with a horizontal head, and a quatrefoil in the spandrils. The gables are ornamented with modern crosses, except that on the chancel, which is ancient, but broken. The ceilings are arched, and divided with plain oak ribs without ornament.

A piscina is in the south wall of the chancel, under a trefoil arch, with crocketed canopy, and pinnacles loaded with whitewash. The modern font is a small marble basin, which stands in the piscina. There are galleries at the western end and along the aisles, erected in 1822. A small organ is against the tower. The pulpit is modern and plain.

A tablet against the western wall of the south aisle is thus inscribed, "This church was repaired and enlarged in the year of our Lord 1822, and additional accommodation afforded for two hundred and sixty persons, of which number, one hundred and sixty are appropriated to the free use of the parish for ever; in consideration of which, the society for building churches and chapels, contributed the sum of £200; the remainder of the expense attending the enlargement, was defrayed by the vicar, the Rev. W. Jenkins.

Some of the inscriptions in the church and church yard are very pathetic, as might be expected from the melancholy circumstances of their recording persons who were snatched away in 'the blossom of life,' by that insatiable foe to the young and fair,—consumption. Amongst the older monuments, is one on the north side of the chancel, to the memory of Walter Harlewin esq. On the east, another to the Rev. John Minshull, formerly vicar of this parish. On the south, a third to the Rev. Oliver Courtrice, and John his son, the two preceding vicars. Of the modern mural records which commemorate the virtues

of the dead, one of the most remarkable preserves the memory of Dr. Currie, of Liverpool; the inscription (in which allusion is made to his practice of employing affusions of cold water in fevers, his treatise on the French Revolution, and his edition of Burn's works,) is as follows.

To the memory of  
**JAMES CURRIE, M. D. F. R. S.**  
 late of Liverpool, afterwards of Bath,  
 who died at this place, August 31, 1805,  
 aged 49 years.

The milder virtues which the friend endear,  
 The soften'd worth which makes affection's tear,  
 And all that brightens in life's social day,  
 Lost in the shades of death, may pass away:  
 Fast comes the hour when no fond heart shall know,  
 How lov'd, Oh Currie, was the dust below.  
 Here cease the triumphs which the grave obtains;  
 The man may perish, but the sage remains.  
 Freedom and Peace shall tell to many an age,  
 Thy warning counsels, thy prophetic page:  
 Art, taught by thee, shall o'er the burning frame,  
 The healing freshness pour, and bless thy name:  
 And genius, proudly while to fame she turns,  
 Shall twine thy laurels with the wreath of Burns.

On another monument near to that of Dr. Currie,  
 are these words, *on the Urn*:

**MARY,**  
 Wife of **ROBERT LISLE**, of Acton House,

in the county of Northumberland, esq.  
died 21 February, 1791, aged 39 years,  
and by her own desire, lies buried here.

On the marble slab below :

Blest with soft airs from health restoring skies,  
Sidmouth! to thee the drooping patient flies :  
Ah! not unfailling is thy port to save,  
To her thou gav'st no refuge but a grave :  
Guard it, mild Sidmouth, and revere its store,  
More precious, none shall ever touch thy shore.

In the churchyard are many mortuary erections, some of which are in a handsome, substantial style; one records the name of the Rev. Samuel Blackall, B. D. Rector of Loughborough, the grandson of Dr. Offspring Blackall, who was Bishop of Exeter in the reign of Queen Anne, and from the great interest which her Majesty took in his elevation, denominated the Queen's Bishop.

The Living is a Vicarage, in the Archdeaconry and Diocese of Exeter, valued in K. B. £18 15s. 5d., and annual net value, according to the last Parliamentary returns £481. The Patron and present incumbent, is the Rev. W. Jenkins, M. A.

The Independent Chapel, erected in 1811, is situated near the beach, in the Marsh, and is neatly fitted up for the accommodation of about 400 persons. A ladies' loan tract and book society, and a Sunday

school are connected with the congregation. The Rev. James Dean is the minister. At the north end of the chapel, near the pulpit, is a handsome monument, erected according to the inscription

In memory of  
**THE REV. DAVID PARKER, A. M.**  
 Who had officiated as Pastor of this church  
 and congregation scarcely exceeding three years,  
 when he was suddenly called from the scene of  
 his earthly labour and usefulness to enter that "rest  
 that remaineth for the people of God:"  
 on the 15th of March, 1832, at the age of 45.  
 His remains are deposited in the chancel of Salcombe  
 Church.

In speaking of this eminent and devoted servant of Christ, it may, with truth, be said in the language of Scripture, "he gave no offence in anything; but in all things approved himself as a minister of God: by knowledge, by kindness, by the word of truth, and by the power of God: a power invariably manifested in this and other places where he had dispensed the word of life, because it had been every where his determination  
 "not to know any thing among men,  
 save Jesus Christ and him crucified."  
 As a testimony to his fidelity and consistency as a minister of the Gospel, and also of the high esteem and veneration entertained for his person and character, this tablet is affectionately inscribed  
 by his surviving friends.

The old Presbyterian Chapel stands at the upper part of Mill lane, and is a very neat, small, thatched building, about 45 feet long, and 23 broad. The Rev. Robert Gibson, B. A. is the minister.

In this chapel is a marble tablet, with the following inscription.—

“ Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright,  
for the end of that man is peace.” Psalm xxxvii, 37.

To the memory of

**THE REV. EDMUND BUTCHER,**

who died at Bath, April 14th, 1822, aged 65 years.

His congregation

erect this Tablet as a lasting tribute  
of respect and admiration

for the piety, zeal, and unremitting fidelity  
with which he fulfilled his pastoral duties in this place  
during 23 years.

## CHAPTER V.

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### Botany, Marine Botany, Conchology.

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—————“ Who can paint  
Like nature? can imagination boast  
Amid its gay creation hues like her's?  
Or can it mix them with that matchless skill  
And lose them in each other, as appears  
In every bud that blows? If fancy then  
Unequal fails beneath the pleasing task,  
Ah! what shall language do?

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It has been said that “a taste for the beauties of vegetation is a mark of a pure and innocent mind; it diverts the attention from the turbulent scenes of folly, and superinduces a placid tranquillity highly favourable to the gentler virtues.” If so, to persons possessing this taste, Devon should be a happy land; for, as might be expected from the fertility, richness, and diversity of the soil, combined with the mildness of the climate, it admits of a variety of botanic productions.

No place in this isle can exceed, or even vie with it as it regards the facility with which plants, natives of the warmer climes, can be reared, without resorting to the aid of artificial means. Well does it deserve the appellation of the garden of England. In the study of the many plants wild and native, as well as cultivated and exotic, which flourish in Sidmouth, the botanist will find his time pass quickly, for his hands will be full; it will be long ere he weep the tears of the Macedonian, or exclaim 'Othello's occupation's gone.'

An alphabetical arrangement of some of the phœnogamous or flower bearing plants, indigenous to the place, will be all that our limits will allow. The following are the principal,—

Abbreviations,—*a.* annual, *b.* biennial, *p.* perennial, *s.* shrub or tree.

BOTANIC NAME.	ENGLISH NAME.	WHERE FOUND.
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Milfoil or Yarrow	Pastures, frequent <i>p.</i>
<i>Adoxa moschatellina</i>	Tuberous Moschatel	Hedges <i>p.</i>
<i>Agrimonia Eupatoria</i>	Agrimony	Fields and Hedges <i>p.</i>
<i>Agrostemma Githago</i>	Corn Cockle	Corn-fields <i>a.</i>
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugle	Meadows <i>p.</i>
<i>Alchemilla vulgaris</i>	Ladies Mantle	Meadows <i>s.</i>
<i>Alisma plantago</i>	Great Water Plantain	River bank <i>p.</i>
<i>Allium vineale</i>	Crow Garlic	Meadows, frequent <i>p.</i>
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Pimpernel	Cultivated land <i>a.</i>
——— <i>tenella</i>	Bog Pimpernel	Bog on Salcombe Heath <i>p.</i>
<i>Anchusa sempervirens</i>	Alkanet	Hedges on road sides <i>p.</i>
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood Anemone	Harpford Wood <i>p.</i>
<i>Anthemis nobilis</i>	Common Chamomile	Salcombe Heath <i>p.</i>
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney Vetch	Dry Pastures <i>p.</i>
<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	Great Snapdragon	Old Walls <i>p.</i>
——— <i>Orontium</i>	Least Snapdragon	Corn-fields <i>a.</i>

BOTANIC NAME.	ENGLISH NAME.	WHERE FOUND.
Antirrhinum Linaria	Toad Flax	Hedge banks <i>p.</i>
Apium Graveolens	Smallage	Bogs <i>b.</i>
Artemisia vulgaris	Mugwort	Hedges <i>p.</i>
Arum maculatum	Spotted Arum	Hedges, frequent <i>p.</i>
Asperula odorata	Woodroof	Harpford Wood <i>p.</i>
Bryonia dioica	White Briony	Hedges, frequent <i>p.</i>
Betonica officinalis	Wood Betony	Woods <i>p.</i>
Caltha palustris	Marsh Marigold	Banks of the river <i>p.</i>
Campanula Hederacea	Ivy-leaved Bell flower	Peak Hill, scarce <i>p.</i>
Cardamine pratensis	Cuckoo flower	In Meadows, abundant <i>p.</i>
Carlina vulgaris	Carlina Thistle	Salcombe Heath <i>b.</i>
Carduus lanceolatus	Spear Thistle	Meadows and Hedges <i>b.</i>

BOTANIC NAME.	ENGLISH NAME.	WHERE FOUND.
<i>Carduus crispus</i>	Thistle upon Thistle	Hedges <i>b.</i>
—— <i>Eriophorus</i>	Woolly headed Thistle	High Pastures <i>b.</i>
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed	Meadows, abundant <i>p.</i>
—— <i>Cyanus</i>	Blue bottle	Corn-fields <i>a.</i>
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Celandine	Hedges <i>p.</i>
<i>Chlora perfoliata</i>	Yellow Wort	<i>a.</i>
<i>Chryso-splenium oppositifolium</i>	Golden Saxefrage	Woods, frequent <i>p.</i>
<i>Chirònia Centaurium</i>	Less Centaury	Pastures <i>a.</i>
<i>Chrysánthemum Leucanthemum</i>	Great Daisy	Meadows <i>p.</i>
<i>Cicùta virosa</i>	Long leaved Water Hemlock	River bed <i>p.</i>
<i>Circea lutetiana</i>	Enchanter's night shade	In gardens <i>p.</i>
<i>Clématis Vitalba</i>	Traveller's joy	Hedges <i>s.</i>
<i>Convòlvulus arvensis</i>	Gravel bind weed	Way sides <i>p.</i>
—— <i>sepium</i>	Gread bind weed	Hedges <i>p.</i>
<i>Cotyledon umbilicus</i>	Navelwort	Old Walls, abundant <i>p.</i>
<i>Crambe maritima</i>	Sea Kale	Cliffs to the E. of Sidmouth <i>p.</i>

BOTANIC NAME.	ENGLISH NAME.	WHERE FOUND.
<i>Crithmum maritimum</i>	Samphire	Cliffs <i>p.</i>
<i>Cuscuta Europœa</i>	Dodder	On the Furze on Salcombe <i>a.</i>
— <i>Epithymum</i>	Less Dodder	Heath on Salcombe <i>a.</i>
<i>Cynoglossum Officinale</i>	Hound's Tongue	Road sides in Rubbish <i>b.</i>
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	Meadows <i>b.</i>
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove	Salcombe Heath <i>b.</i>
<i>Dipsacus Fullonum</i>	Great Teasel	River bed <i>b.</i>
<i>Drosera longifolia</i>	Long leaved Sun Dew	Bog on Salcombe Hill <i>p.</i>
— <i>rotundifolia</i>	Round leaved Sun Dew	Ditto <i>p.</i>
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's Bugloss	Corn fields <i>b.</i>
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Hairy Willow herb	Banks of the River <i>p.</i>
<i>Erica vulgaris</i>	Ling or common Heath	Salcombe Heath <i>s.</i>

BOTANIC NAME.	ENGLISH NAME.	WHERE FOUND.
Erica cinerea	Fine leaved Heath	Salcombe Heath
— tralix	Cross leaved Heath	Ditto
Erodium cicutarium	Hemlock leaved Cranesbill	Hedges
— moschatum	Musk ditto	Ditto
Ervum hirsutum	Rough Tare	Cultivated land
Eupatorium Cannabinum	Hemp Agrimony	River bank
Euphorbia Amygdaloides	Wood Spurge	Corn-fields and Dry Banks <i>p.</i>
Euphrasia officinalis	Official Eyebright	Dry pastures, Salcombe <i>a.</i>
— odontites	Red ditto	Meadows <i>a.</i>
Fragaria vesca	Wood Strawberry	Woods and shady Lanes <i>p.</i>
— sterilis	Barren ditto	Dry banks <i>p.</i>
Fumaria capreolata	Ramping Fumitory	Hedges <i>a.</i>
— claviculata	Climbing ditto	Ditto <i>a.</i>

BOTANIC NAME.	ENGLISH NAME.	WHERE FOUND.
<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>	Snowdrop	In Old Orchards and Lanes <i>p.</i>
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Goose grass, or Cleavers	Hedges, abundant <i>p.</i>
— <i>pusillum</i>	Least Lady's Bedstraw	Salcombe Heath <i>p.</i>
— <i>verum</i>	Yellow ditto	River bed <i>p.</i>
<i>Galeobdolon luteum</i>	Yellow Dead Nettle	In Woods and Hedges <i>p.</i>
<i>Gentiana amarella</i>	Field Gentian	Meadows <i>a.</i>
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Jagged leaved Cranesbill	Ditto <i>a.</i>
— <i>Molle</i>	Doves' foot ditto	Road sides <i>a.</i>
— <i>Robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	Hedges <i>a.</i>
— <i>lucidum</i>	Shining Cranesbill	Ditto <i>a.</i>
— <i>rotundifolium</i>	Round leaved ditto	Old Walls <i>a.</i>
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Common Avens	Hedges <i>p.</i>
<i>Glaucium luteum</i>	Great Yellow horned poppy	Sea shore <i>p.</i>
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground Ivy	Hedges, abundant <i>p.</i>
<i>Gnaphalium uliginosum</i>	Black headed G.	Stagnant Water <i>a.</i>

BOTANIC NAME.	ENGLISH NAME.	WHERE FOUND.
Hedera helix	Common Ivy	Every where s.
Hyacinthus nonscriptus	Hare Bells	Hedges, frequent p.
Hypericum Androsæmum	Tutsan	Hedges s.
— elodes	Bog St. John's Wort	Bogs p.
— perforatum	Perforated ditto	River bed, frequent p.
— pulchrum	Upright ditto	Woods and Hedges p.
— humifusum	Trailing ditto	Waste ground p.
— quadrangulum	St. Peter's Wort	Moist Hedges p.
Hyoscyamus niger	Henbane	Sea Shore b.
Ilex aquifolium	Holly	Every where, frequent s.
Iris Pseudacorus	Yellow Water Flag	River bed and Meadows p.
— Fœtidissima	Gladwyn	Woods and Hedges p.

BOTANIC NAME.	ENGLISH NAME.	WHERE FOUND.
Lamium album	White Dead Nettle	Hedges <i>p.</i>
— purpureum	Purple ditto	Cultivated ground <i>a.</i>
Lapsana communis	Nipplewort	Hedges <i>a.</i>
Lathyrus Aphaca	Yellow Vetchling	Corn-fields <i>a.</i>
— pratensis	Tare everlasting	Woods <i>p.</i>
— sylvestris	Wood everlasting	Woods and Hedges <i>p.</i>
Linaria cymbalaria	Ivy-leaved Linaria	Old walls and moist banks <i>p.</i>
— vulgaris	Toad Flax	Dry banks <i>p.</i>
Lithospermum purpureo cœruleum	Creeping Gromwell	Dry banks, rare <i>p.</i>
Lychnis dioica	Wood Robin	Hedges, frequent <i>p.</i>
— viscaria	Catchfly	High Pastures <i>p.</i>
— floscuculi	Meadow Pink	River bed and Meadows <i>p.</i>
Lysimachia nemorum	Yellow Pimpernel	In moist Woods <i>p.</i>
— nummularia	Money-wort	Meadows <i>p.</i>
Lythrum salicaria	Purple spiked Willow herb	Banks of rivers <i>p.</i>

BOTANIC NAME.	ENGLISH NAME.	WHERE FOUND.
<i>Malva moschata</i>	Musk Mallow	Dry banks and Pastures <i>p.</i>
— <i>sylvestris</i>	Common ditto	Waste ground, frequent <i>p.</i>
<i>Matricaria Parthenium</i>	Feverfew	Waste ground <i>p.</i>
— <i>Suaveolens</i>	Sweet scented ditto	Ditto <i>a.</i>
<i>Melampyrum arvense</i>	Purple Cow Wheat	Corn-fields <i>a.</i>
— <i>cristatum</i>	Crested ditto	Woods <i>a.</i>
— <i>pratense</i>	Meadow ditto	Meadows <i>a.</i>
<i>Menianthes trifoliata</i>	Buck or Bog Bean	Bogs <i>p.</i>
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury	Hedges <i>p.</i>
<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	Scorpion Grass	Ditches and moist places <i>p.</i>
— <i>palustris</i>		
<i>Narcissus Pseudo Narcissus</i>	English Daffodil	Meadows and Orchards <i>p.</i>
— <i>biflorus</i>	Two flowered Narcissus	Orchards, rare <i>p.</i>
<i>Nartheceium ossifragum</i>	Breakbone or Lancashire Asphodel	Salcombe Hill, rare <i>p.</i>

BOTANIC NAME.	ENGLISH NAME.	WHERE FOUND.
<i>Enanthe crocata</i>	Hemlock Dropwort	Banks of the river <i>p.</i>
<i>Ononis arvensis</i>	Corn rest harrow	Corn-fields, rare <i>p.</i>
<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>	Adder's Tongue	Salcombe Lawn <i>p.</i>
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee Ophrys	Hedges on Salcombe Hill <i>p.</i>
<i>Orchis maculata</i>	Spotted Orchis	Moist Meadows and Bogs <i>p.</i>
— <i>mascula</i>	Male ditto	Meadows and Hedges <i>p.</i>
— <i>morio</i>	Female ditto	Meadows <i>p.</i>
— <i>latifolia</i>	Male handed ditto	Ditto <i>p.</i>
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood Sorrel	Harpford Wood, abundant <i>p.</i>
— <i>corniculata</i>	Yellow ditto	Gardens <i>p.</i>
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Scarlet Corn Poppy	Corn-fields, local <i>a.</i>
<i>Parietaria officinalis</i>	Pellitory of the Wall	Old Walls, frequent <i>p.</i>
<i>Petasites vulgaris</i>	Common Butter Bur	Banks of the river <i>p.</i>
<i>Pinguicula lusitanica</i>	Common Butterwort	Bog on Salcombe Heath <i>p.</i>

BOTANIC NAME.	ENGLISH NAME.	WHERE FOUND.
<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>	Common Red Rattle	Moist Meadows <i>b.</i>
—— <i>palustris</i>	Marsh ditto	Bog on Salcombe Hill <i>b.</i>
<i>Plantago</i> var. <i>sp.</i>	Plantain, var. <i>sp.</i>	Every where
<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Milk-vetch, four varieties	Salcombe Heath <i>p.</i>
<i>Polygonum persicaria</i>	Spotted Persicaria	River Bed, frequent <i>a.</i>
<i>Potentilla Anserina</i>	Silver weed	Road sides <i>p.</i>
—— <i>reptans</i>	Common Cinquefoil	Gardens, frequent <i>p.</i>
—— <i>verna</i>	Spring ditto	Barren grounds <i>p.</i>
<i>Potamogeton lucens</i>	Long-leaved Pondweed	Ponds, &c. <i>p.</i>
<i>Poterium sanguisorba</i>	Burnet	Dry Pastures, rare <i>p.</i>
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip	Salcombe, Slade <i>p.</i>
—— <i>vulgaris</i>	Primrose	Every where <i>p.</i>
—— <i>elatior</i>	Oxlip	Salcombe, Slade <i>p.</i>
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal	Meadows, frequent <i>p.</i>

BOTANIC NAME.	ENGLISH NAME.	WHERE FOUND.
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Upright Meadow Crowfoot	Meadows, frequent <i>p.</i>
——— <i>bulbosus</i>	Bulbose Crowfoot	Ditto <i>p.</i>
——— <i>Ficaria</i> { <i>vulgaris</i> <i>verna</i>	Pilewort	Meadows and banks <i>p.</i>
——— <i>flammula</i>	Less Spear wort	Bogs and Fens <i>p.</i>
——— <i>hederaceus</i>	Ivy leaved water Crowfoot	Rivers, Ditches, &c. <i>p.</i>
<i>Reseda luteola</i>	Wild Wood	Waste ground and old Walls <i>a.</i>
<i>Rhinanthus Crista Galli</i>	Yellow Rattle	Meadows <i>a.</i>
<i>Rosa arvensis</i>	White Dog Rose	Hedges <i>s.</i>
——— <i>canina</i>	Dog Rose	Hedges, frequent <i>s.</i>
——— <i>rubiginosa</i>	Sweet Briar	Gardens <i>s.</i>
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Common Bramble	Hedges, abundant <i>s.</i>
<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's Broom	Harpford Wood <i>s.</i>
<i>Sanicula europœa</i>	Sanicle	Woods and shady places <i>p.</i>

BOTANIC NAME.	ENGLISH NAME.	WHERE FOUND.
<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>	Soapwort	River bed, rare p.
<i>Saxifraga tridactylites</i>	Rue leaved Saxifrage	Old Walls a.
<i>Scabiosa succisa</i>	Devil's bit	Meadows p.
— <i>arvensis</i>	Field Scabious	Corn-fields, rare p.
<i>Scirpus sylvaticus</i>	Millet Cyprus grass	Wet ground p.
<i>Scrophularia aquatica</i>	Water Figwort	River bed p.
<i>Scutellaria minor</i>	Less hooded Willow herb	Meadows and Pastures p.
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Wall Pepper	Old Walls p.
— <i>anglicum</i>	English Stonecrop	On Rocks, Salcombe Heath p.
<i>Sempervivum tectorum</i>	House leek	Old walls, and roofs of houses p.
<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Little field Madder	Corn-fields a.
<i>Silene nutans</i>	Nottingham Catchfly	High Pastures p.
<i>Statice armeria</i>	Thrift	Cliffs, on the Coast p.
— <i>Limonium</i>	Sea Lavender	Ditto p.
<i>Solanum Dulcamara</i>	Bitter Sweet	Hedges, frequent s.
— <i>nigrum</i>	Common Nightshade	Ditto p.

BOTANIC NAME.	ENGLISH NAME.	WHERE FOUND.
<i>Sparganium ramosum</i>	Great Bur Reed	River bank <i>p.</i>
<i>Spiræa Ulmaria</i>	Meadow Sweet	Ditto <i>p.</i>
<i>Stellaria Holostea</i>	Great Stichwort	Hedges, frequent <i>p.</i>
— Graminea	Less Stichwort	Ditto <i>p.</i>
<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	Comfrey	River bank <i>p.</i>
80		
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Common Tansy	Dry banks <i>p.</i>
<i>Thymus Serpyllum</i>	Wild Thyme	Salcombe Heath <i>s.</i>
<i>Tormentilla reptans</i>	Tormentil	River bed, abundant <i>p.</i>
<i>Tussilago Farfara</i>	Colt's foot	Woods, Heaths, &c. <i>s.</i>
<i>Vaccinium Myrtillus</i>	Black Whortle berries	Moist Meadows <i>p.</i>
<i>Valeriana dioica</i>	Small Marsh Valerian	Road sides <i>b.</i>
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Common Vervain	River bed, abundant <i>p.</i>

BOTANIC NAME.	ENGLISH NAME.	WHERE FOUND.
<i>Veronica becca bunga</i>	Brook lime	River bed, abundant <i>p.</i>
— <i>officinalis</i>	Male Speedwell	Salcombe Heath <i>p.</i>
— <i>serpyllifolia</i>	Little Smooth Speedwell	Meadows <i>p.</i>
— <i>agrestis</i>	Germander leaved S.	Pastures, <i>a.</i>
— <i>chamœdrys</i>	Wild Germander	Hedges &c. abundant <i>p.</i>
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch	Woods and Hedges <i>p.</i>
— <i>Lathyroides</i>	Strangle Tare or Wild Vetch	Dry Pastures <i>a.</i>
— <i>sativa</i>	Common Vetch or Tare	Cultivated <i>a.</i>
<i>Vinca major</i>	Greater Periwinkle	Woods and Hedges <i>s.</i>
— <i>minor</i>	Less ditto	Ditto <i>s.</i>
<i>Viola canina</i>	Dog violet	Banks, abundant <i>p.</i>
— <i>odorata</i>	Sweet scented ditto	Hedges, frequent <i>p.</i>
— <i>palustris</i>	Marsh violet	Bogs and Marshes <i>p.</i>
— <i>tricolor</i>	Pansies	Corn-fields <i>a.</i>

The Fern tribe flourish luxuriantly,—of which may be found the following species,—

Aspidium Aculeatum	Prickly shield Fern	<i>p.</i>
————-- cristatum	Crested ditto	<i>p.</i>
————-- Spinulosum	Spiny ditto	<i>p.</i>
————-- filix mas	Male ditto	<i>p.</i>
————-- —- foemina	Female ditto	<i>p.</i>
————-- oreopteris	Mountain ditto	<i>p.</i>
Asplenium Adiantum nigrum	Black Maidenhair	<i>p.</i>
————-- marinum	Sea ditto	<i>p.</i>
————-- Trichomanes	Maidenhair	<i>p.</i>
————-- ruta muraria	Wall rue	<i>p.</i>
Blechnum Boreale	Rough Spleen Wort	<i>p.</i>
Equisetum fluviatile	River Horsetail	<i>p.</i>
————-- limosum	Smooth ditto	<i>p.</i>
————-- arvense	Corn ditto	<i>p.</i>
————-- palustre	Marsh ditto	<i>p.</i>
Lycopodium clavatum	Common Club moss	<i>p.</i>
————-- Selago	Fir ditto	<i>p.</i>
Ophioglossum vulgatum	Common Adder's tongue	<i>p.</i>

Polypodium vulgare	Polypody	p.
Pteris aquilina	Brake	p.

Scolopendrium vulgare	Hart's-tongue	p.
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A great variety of Musci Hepaticæ and Lichens grow around Sidmouth; amongst the latter are found—

Clarmia uncialis	Scyphophorus fimbriatus
—— rangiferina	—— filiformis
	—— cocciferus

Ramilina fraxinea	Usnea florida
—— fastigiata	—— barbula
—— scopulerum	
—— farinacea	

The sea shore is rich in Algæ,—the following list of which is according to Dr. Hooker's British Flora.

Asperococcus fistulosus	Callithamnion Brodiaei
—— Turneri	—— corymbosum
—— compressus	—— cruciatum
	—— pedicellatum
	—— plumula
Bryopsis plumosa	—— repens
—— hypnoides	—— tetragonium
	—— tetricum
	—— Turneri
Callithamnion Borreri	Calothrix confervicola

- |                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Catenella opuntia         | Conferva scutulata    |
| Ceramium ciliatum         | Corynephora marina    |
| ———— fastigiatum          | Cystoseira ericoides  |
| ———— diaphanum            | ———— fœniculacia      |
| ———— rubrum               | ———— febrosa          |
| Chætospora Wiggii         | ———— granulata        |
| Chondrus Brodiaei         | Cutleria multifida    |
| ———— crispus              |                       |
| ———— mamiculosus          |                       |
| ———— membranifolius       | Dasya coccinea        |
| Chorda filum              | Delesseria alata      |
| ———— tormentaria          | ———— hypoglossum      |
| Chordaria flaggelliformis | ———— ruscifolia       |
| Chylocladia articulata    | ———— sanguinea        |
| ———— clavellosa           | ———— sinuosa          |
| ———— kaliformis           | Desmarestia aculeata  |
| ———— ovalis               | ———— ligulata         |
| ———— parvula              | Diatoma Biddulphianum |
| Cladostephus spongiosus   | ———— striatulum       |
| ———— verticellatus        | ———— unipunctatum     |
| Codium tomentosum         | Dichloria viridis     |
| Conferva ærea             | Dictiota atomaria     |
| ———— albida               | ———— dichotoma        |
| ———— arcta                | Dumontia filiformis   |
| ———— flaccida             |                       |
| ———— fucicola             |                       |
| ———— diffusa              | Ectocarpus granulatus |
| ———— glomerata            | ———— littoralis       |
| ———— Hutchinsii           | ———— Mertensii        |
| ———— lanosa               | ———— Siliculosus      |
| ———— rupestris            | ———— tomentosus       |

Enteromorpha clathrata	Halimena ligulata
————— compressa	Himanthalia lorea
————— cornucopiæ	
————— ramulosa	
	Iridœa edulis
Fucus nodosus	
———— serratus	Laminaria bulbosa
———— vesiculosus	———— digitata
Furcellaria fastigiata	———— saccharina
	Laurentia dasyphilla
	———— obtusa
Gelidium cartelagineum	———— pinnatifida
———— corneum	Lychina pygmœa
Gigartina acicularis	
———— compressa	
———— confervoides	Mesogloia capillaris
———— erecta	———— coccinea
———— griffithsiæ	———— Griffithsiana
———— plicata	———— Hudsoni
———— purpurascens	———— purpurea
Grateloupia filicina	———— virescens
Griffithsia corralina	———— vermicularis
———— equisetifolia	Nitophyllum Gmelini
———— multifida	———— laceratum
———— setacea	
	Padina parvula
Halidrys siliquosa	———— Pavonia
Haliseris polyodioides	Phyllophora rubens
Halimena furcellata	Plocamium coccinium

Polyides rotundus	Rhodomenia ciliata
Polysiphonia Agardhiana	————-- jubata
———— Brodiaei	————-- lanciniata
———— byssoides	————-- palmata
———— elongata	————-- Palmetta
———— elongella	Rivularia Atra
———— fastigiata	———— nitida
———— fibrata	———— plicata
———— fibrillosa	
———— furcellata	
———— fruticulosa	Schizonema Dillwynii
———— nigressens	———— Grevilli
———— urceolata	———— Smithii
Porphyra lanciniata	Spiridia filimentosa
———— linearis	Sphærococcus coronopifolius
———— vulgaris	Sphacellaria cirrhosa
Ptilota plumosa	———— Scoparia
Punctaria latifolia	Sporocnus pedunculatus
———— plantaginea	———— atrizodes
	———— villosus
Rhodomela pinastroides	
———— subfusca	Ulva latissima
Rhodomenia bifida	Vaucheria terrestris

A few mollusca may sometimes be observed, *sæpia officinalis*, *loligo vulgaris*, *octopus octopodia*: several species of *Holothuriæ*, (after a long continuance of wind from the south-west) the beautiful *H. Physalis*, *Aplesia depillans*; several species of *Asteriæ* and *Actinæ*, and the *Lucemaria auricula*.

Various rare shells and corallines are occasionally dredged up,—the few shells found on the shore, are

Patella vulgata	Nasa reticulata
—— pellucida	Nerita littoralis
—— lævis	Fissurella græca
Turbo littoreus	Tembra tubercularis
—— Petreus	—— reticulata
—— rudis	Mytilus edulis
—— fulgidus	Modiola discors
Cingula parva	Macha stultorum
—— Pulla	Kellia suborbicularis
—— ulvæ	—— rubia
Trochus umbilicatus	Donax trunculus
—— cinerarius	Hiatella arctica
—— crassus	Chifon cinereus
—— Ziziphinus	—— marginatus
Purpura lapillus	—— facicularis
Buccinum undatum	

The land and fresh water shells are

Cyclas cornea	Helix hortensis
Lymnea stagnalis	—— rufescens
—— fossariæ	—— virgatum
Planubis nautilus	—— cuparata
—— Albus	—— aspersa
Amylus fluviatilis	—— Ericetorum
Cyclostema elegans	—— nitens
Vitрина pellucida	—— lucida
Helix nemoralis	—— chrySTALLINA

Clausilia biplicata

———— pervensa

———— bidens

Pupa tuniperi

Carichium murinum

———— fuscum

Balea pervensa

## CHAPTER VI.

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### Geology, &c.

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“It is the voice of years that are gone; they roll before me with all their deeds.”

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INTERESTING and instructive as the science of Geology most undoubtedly is, fashionable as it has of late become, studied by almost every class of individuals, calculated with other sciences to expand the mind, causing it to look “from nature up to nature’s God,” from creation to the creator; still it will not be our province in this place, though our pen lingers on the paper, to search into its hidden mysteries, to examine the theories concerning the formation of the world, whether there was a pre-adamite existence? whether in the first instance it was, or was not cometary? and whether in this state it had been exposed to great heat near the sun? its solid mass cooled in an irregular form, presenting elevations as buttresses of land, and great basins as depositories of water.

Neither shall we consider whether the submersion of the world at the Deluge for the short space of one hundred and fifty days, would be sufficient to account for the phenomena of the various strata, and the marine or terrestrial fossils deposited therein; or whether the deluge arose from the compression of the earth by the sinking of the old continent, by which its beds were filled with water that had previously covered the present continent; suffice it that

————— Of one departed world  
 We see the mighty shadow: oozy wreath  
 And dismal sea weed crown her; o'er her urn  
 Reclin'd, she weeps her desolated realms,  
 And bloated sons and weeping, prophecies,  
 Another dissolution, soon in flames.

Or, whether the hypothesis of the Scandinavian Hell be more satisfactory; supposing there is a central fire expanding the earth, and then a reaction in the air and water; compressing and counteracting, each getting the better when the other had attained a limit.

“Non nostrum est tantas componere lites.”

No! a dissertation on such topics would swell our words into lines, our lines into pages, our pages into volumes, and in the end but add to the almost numberless tomes that yearly pour forth, either in refutation or support of some new or favorite doctrine. The geology of the contiguous coast of Sidmouth is our subject, and to it will this chapter be confined.

Mr. Bakewell, author of "Outlines of Geology," in a letter to the Rev. E. Butcher, states, "the southern coast, from Portland Head to Exmouth, exhibits a fine section of the different strata, as they rise in succession to the south west, the sea having laid bare the surface, and presented a perpendicular face of rock nearly along the whole line. The southern counties east of Portland, Hampshire, Sussex, and Kent, are almost exclusively occupied with rocks of the chalk formation, and their accompanying beds of sand and clay. The Roe stone, which succeeds, terminates at Portland.

Between Portland and Bridport bay there appears to have been a considerable break in the strata, and the green sand, which in its regular position is above the roe stone, may be seen rising above the sea, east of Bridport. This stratum, which is provincially called fox mould, extends far to the west, as we shall have subsequently to observe. The blue lias, covered by the green sand, rises from the sea near Bridport, and extends from thence to the river Ax with little interruption.

This is the most remarkable and best characterized of the British strata; the whole thickness of this bed cannot be less than two-hundred yards. It is composed of numerous thin strata of dark grey limestone, combined with much clay and iron, and some manganese. Many of the strata form an excellent water lime stone; the beds of dark clay which intervene abound with pyrites, and have been known to take fire sponta-

neously. The strata rises gradually to the south west, but there are numerous faults, or breaks, which throw them down on the western side of such breaks from ten to thirty feet.

Large masses from the perpendicular cliffs of lias are constantly falling down, and discovering the imbedded petrifications of numerous tribes of extinct animals. The lias limestone is the lowest of the British limestones that contain the remains of oviparous quadrupeds, or of any vertibrated animals, that is, such which have a brain and spinal marrow. Remains of fossil alligators, in a mutilated state, are very frequently found.

About a mile west of Lyme, there is a small formation of chalk at Pinney, resting on the fox mould over the lias. The Lias continues to near Axminster, where several of the lower beds lose their dark grey colour, and are called white lias. This white lias may be seen distinctly resting on the red marle east of Axminster. It may be proper to observe, that the same bed of lias runs northward, through Dorset, Somersetshire, and Gloucestershire, and into some of the northern counties of England, carrying with it, in its whole extent, numerous fossil remains of ammonites, pentachronites, nautilites, scalyfish, and the bones of alligators. Near Bath it is more indurated and crystalline than in Dorsetshire.

The red marle, which succeeds the lias, is suddenly

broken on the west side of the Ax, and a small formation of chalk makes its appearance at Beer, where we are presented with a fantastic range of chalk rocks, and caverns, the chalk forming perpendicular cliffs, projecting into the sea. The fox mould, or green sand succeeds, and then the red marle, which extends from near Beer to Sidmouth, and to the west of Exmouth, constituting a range of precipitous cliffs, rising from the sea many hundred feet, in several parts of its course, particularly in Salcombe and Peak hills. The red marle, as it has been denominated by some Geologists, consists of silicious particles mixed with clay, and deeply coloured by the red oxide of iron: various beds of stratified sand stone occur in it, particularly at Heavitree, near Exeter. These strata are evidently of mechanical formation, and contain imbedded fragments of slate, and amygdaloid, similar to the rocks on the west of Exeter.

Geologists have been perplexed in attempting to class the red marle with the rocks in Werner's system, some supposing it to occupy the place of what he denominates the old red sand stone. But without stopping to inquire what place it occupies in any geological system, I will briefly state what place it really occupies in Devonshire.

I have before observed that it rises from under the lias limestone; now where this limestone occurs, it is always above the coal formation, but in the south of Devon, the coal formation is entirely wanting, and

also the mountain limestone under the coal, and the red marle supplies the place of both, extending from the river Ax, to some miles west of the Ex, where it is found resting on coarse slate, provincially called shillet, in the north of England termed shale. The east side of Exeter stands on the red marle, the west on the slate or shillet. Near the termination of the red marle on the west, various rocks of basaltic formation, provincially called dun-stone, frequently occur between the slate and red marle, and in many parts, the rocks of dun-stone project through the red marle.

The dun-stone differs much in its quality; in some parts it is a sienite, and passes into green stone or trap, in other parts it is more like what the Germans would call a compact grey wacke: sometimes it assumes all the appearance of real lava, containing numerous hollow cells, and presenting a dry, and burnt aspect; in this state it cannot be distinguished from many volcanic lavas. Were I to hazard a conjecture respecting the formation of the red marle, I should say that it had been derived from the debris, or waste of extensive basaltic rocks, of which the present rocks of dun-stone are only the remains, and it adds probability to this opinion, that the red marle on the east side of the dun-stone, is always filled with fragments of the same kind of rock with that which is in its more immediate vicinity.

The red marle in some parts, contains beds of Gypsum, and I should not think it improbable that

rock salt, or brine springs may exist in some parts of Devon, occupied by this extensive stratum. I now return to speak of the green sand, or fox-mould, which, though a member of the chalk formation, and immediately subjacent to chalk, is carried not only over the lias, but over the red marle, and forms caps on many of the highest hills, from Black Down on the east, to Hal Down, six miles west of Exeter: it contains numerous silicious masses conglomerated, in which a kind of opaque horn-stone may be traced, passing into flint. The flint also may be traced passing into beautiful chalcedony, and the chalcedony again forming into quartz crystals.

I am satisfied that process is now going on, though we are at present unacquainted with the causes by which it is effected. Numerous marine shells, ammonites, &c. occur in the green sand, proving incontestibly, that the highest hills in this part of Devonshire were once buried under the waves of the ocean, of which we have further proof in the heaps of rounded pebbles and gravel on the high ground between Sidmouth and Exeter.

It would be foreign to the purport to describe the rocks below the red marle, and dun-stone, but I may just observe, that the slate round Dartmoor is remarkably twisted and bent, and contains in some parts beds of transition limestone; it is succeeded by Granite, which forms the base and summit of Dartmoor, and extends from thence with some interruption, to the Land's end in Cornwall."

In the green sand formation in the Dunscombe cliff, at an elevation of three hundred and fifty-one feet above high water mark, and directly under the old lime kilns, there is a stratum of shells converted into chalcedony, of one foot thickness. In the stratum of shells and fossilized fishes, teeth of the lanceolate form are found; many shells of a different character are also embedded in the sand rock, twenty feet above the before mentioned stratum. At Lincombe shoot, half a mile to the eastward of Weston mouth, is a singular petrifying spring. A considerable quantity of moss beautifully encrusted, is here dug out from the cliffs, and frequently offered for sale at Sidmouth.

Gypsum, but more particularly that in an amianthiform state, which resembles the mineral called mountain leather, is also found in the cliffs. Green, yellow, and red jasper, also moss agates of great beauty, and agatized wood, are frequently picked up from among the shingles forming the beach at Sidmouth. The chalcedonies are remarkably fine; the purest are found on the beach at Branscombe, at which place they are numerous.

Beautiful pholens are here to be met with, and the stones of the cliff often abound with *echinæ marinæ*, petrified coral, and other similar productions. The *cornu-ammonis* is frequently found. In little basins worn by the waves in the rocks, elegant corallines may be seen; and not unfrequently, that singular production of nature, the animal flower, commonly called the sea anemone.

## CHAPTER VII.

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### An Epitome of the Public Charities.

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“Grasp the whole world of Reason, Life, and Sense,  
In one close system of Benevolence;  
Happier as kinder in whate’er degree,  
An height of bliss but height of charity.”

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*The following is taken from the Report of the  
Commissioners concerning Charities.*

#### SIDMOUTH POOR LANDS.

By indenture, dated 18th of June, 21 Charles II, between Nicholas Haydon, and Christopher Isaack of the one part, and Walter Harlevin and eleven others of the other part; reciting, that *Anthony Isaack*, of Sidford, by will, dated 13th of August, 1639, gave to William Isaack and John Serle, six score pounds, to be paid by his executors within one month after his death, on trust, to purchase to them and their heirs, lands and tenements of the clear yearly value of six pounds, or so much as could be bought with the same; and, after the pur-

chase of such lands, yearly for ever to distribute forty shillings of the rents and profits among the most aged and impotent poor people of Sidmouth; and that he directed that the said William Isaack and John Serle should, within three years after such lands should be purchased, enfeoff, and grant so much thereof as should be worth forty shillings a year, to the most able and sufficient inhabitants of the parish of Sidmouth, and their heirs, on the trusts aforesaid, with a provision, that after the decease of eight or nine trustees, the survivors should re-enfeoff the lands to twelve of the like inhabitants of the parish; and reciting also, that after the death of the said Anthony Isaack, his executors paid the same sum of one hundred and twenty pounds to the said William Isaack and John Serle, who, by reason they could not procure a convenient parcel of ground to lay out the said money on, with the consent of the churchwardens, and overseers of the poor, and of the chief parishioners of Sidmouth, by the order of the commissioners of charitable uses, paid one third part of the said one hundred and twenty pounds to the said officers of Sidmouth, to be laid out in the purchase of lands worth forty shillings per annum, upon the trusts aforesaid; and reciting also that the parishioners of Sidmouth, having been unable to meet with a convenient purchase, had with the profits of the said third part of one hundred and twenty pounds constantly paid to the poor forty shillings per annum, as the gift of the said Anthony Isaack; and further reciting, that John Minshull, then late rector of Sidmouth, by will, dated the twenty-sixth of November, 1663,

appointed the said Nicholas Haydon, and Christopher Isaack, executors in trust thereof; and that after giving divers legacies he directed that all the residue of his goods and chattels should be sold, and that he gave the proceeds, after payment of debts, legacies, &c. to the poor of the parish of Sidmouth in manner following; namely, he directed that one moiety thereof should be put out, and the profits thereof constantly bestowed, and laid out in the maintaining, and paying for the schooling of poor children of Sidmouth, as then was done, and that the other moiety should remain in stock for the poor there for ever, and be employed for their best advantage, and that the profits thereof should be bestowed amongst the poor, as the overseers yearly should think fit; and further reciting, that the said John Minshull, after making his will, and before his death declared his mind to be, that the money to be raised by the disposing of the said residue, should be laid out by his executors in the purchase of the inheritance of some lands for the use aforesaid, and that bibles should from time to time be bought, and given to the poor children of Sidmouth, and their schooling should be paid as he had formerly done; and further reciting, that the said residue amounted to near the sum of three hundred and sixty pounds, and that the officers and chief inhabitants of Sidmouth, being desired by the executors to find out a parcel of land near that value, had pitched on the lands and tenements after mentioned; and understanding that the lowest price thereof was four hundred pounds, they proposed that the sum of forty pounds in their hands, given by

the said Anthony Isaack, should be added to the money given by the said John Minshull to make up that sum; and therefore desired the said Nicholas Haydon, and Christopher Isaack, to purchase the said lands, and settle the same according to the wills of the respective donors; and that they did therefore contract with one John Veryard, of Sidmouth, for the purchase of the lands mentioned, who thereupon, by indenture dated the first of November, 18 Car. II, in consideration of the said four hundred pounds, conveyed to the said Nicholas Haydon, and Christopher Isaack, and their heirs, a messuage, tenement, and two gardens, with the appurtenances, containing by estimation twenty-four acres, called Holway, situate in the parish of Salcombe, in Devon, with common of pasture on Bidden Hill, and a rent charge of four shillings out of certain parcels of land in Salcombe; it was witnessed that the said Nicholas Haydon, and Christopher Isaack, to the end that the most sufficient inhabitants of Sidmouth might from time to time take care that forty shillings of the rents and profits of the said premises might yearly be distributed amongst the most aged and impotent poor people in Sidmouth, and the will of the said Anthony Isaack, in that behalf fulfilled, and that one moiety of the residue of the said profits of the premises might be laid out in the maintainence, and paying for the schooling of the poor children of the said parish, and buying bibles for them as theretofore had been done, and that the other moiety of the residue of the said profits might be bestowed amongst the other poor of the said parish, according to the will of the said John Minshull, granted

and enfeoffed to the parties of the second part and their heirs, the said messuage, lands, and tenements, in trust for the purposes last aforesaid; with a provision, that when eight of the trustees should die or depart out of the parish, and have their residence elsewhere, the rest of the trustees, with some of the chiefest and most substantial inhabitants of the said parish for the time being, should fill up the number twelve out of such other inhabitants of the parish, as were not tenants of any part of the premises, and, that the estate should be conveyed accordingly; and that any trustee removing and dwelling for eight months out of the parish of Sidmouth, should, on request made, convey to the residue of the trustees then remaining in the parish, all his estate and interest in the said premises; and it was agreed that two of the trustees should be yearly chosen receivers, who should account to the rest of the trustees.

The whole property now vested in the trustees of this charity, is by admeasurement, 22A. 1R. 7P.; this quantity is supposed to comprise eight acres, situate at Holway Foot, which are mentioned in the returns of 1786, as situate in Salcombe, and belonging to the parish of Sidmouth, but of which the donor was unknown. An old lease, dated the twentieth of January, 40 Eliz. which it will be observed, is prior in point of time to the gifts of Isaack and Minshull, was laid before us, containing a grant from Walter Harlevin, gent., John Evans, Clerk, Vicar of Sidmouth, William Lee, Christopher Channon, and five others, to Edward Purchase, and two others, of a tenement and eight

acres of land, meadow and pasture, situate at Helway foot, in the parish of Salcombe, for ninety-nine years, if three persons should so long live, at the rent of twelve shillings, and the fine of twelve pounds. We also saw a deed dated the twentieth of October, 1641, by which William Lee, and Christopher Channon, granted and enfeoffed to John Minshull, Clerk, Vicar of Sidmouth, John Harlevin, and others, and their heirs, the premises mentioned in the above lease, but it contained no declaration of trusts. We have not been able to discover by whom these eight acres were originally given; we think it probable however that they form a part of the 22A. 1R. 7P. above mentioned, for the customary acre in this part of the country is about one third less than the statute acre; and if it be assumed that the above mentioned eight acres were customary, and that the premises conveyed by the deed of the first of November, 18th Car. II. which are stated to contain "by estimation," twenty-four acres, were computed in the same manner, it will be found that both quantities are sufficiently accounted for.

#### GIFTS OF JOHN ARTHUR, AND WILLIAM SLADE.

A house, which was formerly used as a work-house, and was situate in the High-Street, Sidmouth, is supposed to have been given by John Arthur in the 26 Eliz. for the habitation of three poor persons of that parish; and William Slade, whose name was inscribed on the walls of the building, is said to have given ten

pounds towards its repairing or re-building, in the year 1640. In this house, meetings for the transaction of parish business used to be held; out about fifteen years ago, in consequence of its delapidated state, it was exchanged with Mr. Samuel Cawley, for a piece of land on the eastern side of the town, which is stated to be about seven times as large as the site of the old work-house. On the newly-acquired land, a poor house and a school have been erected; the sum necessary for building the former, together with that which was required for paying the difference in value to Mr. Cawley, was raised partly by means of the poor rate, and partly by subscription; the expence of the school house was entirely defrayed by voluntary contribution.

#### ROBERT BLOWER'S CHARITY.

By deed dated the twentieth of October, 1641, William Lee, and two others, granted and enfeoffed to Francis Haydon, and others, a tenement situate in the town of Sidmouth, between the King's highway there on the east, the lands of Robert Clarke on the west; and also those other lands called Brewer's Park, containing by estimation, one acre and a half of land in Sidmouth, near the highway leading towards Peak Down on the south; to hold them and their heirs, but no trusts were declared. The property mentioned in this deed, is supposed to have been given by *Robert Blower*, but we have been unable to trace its connection with any person of that name.

\* \* \* \* \*

The field called Brewer's Park, containing one acre and a half, was in 1799 sold to B. Lousada, esq. for redemption of the land tax on all the charity lands at Sidmouth; it produced ninety-four pounds ten shillings, and the land tax redeemed, was,

for Salcombe land, . . . . . £2 19s. 1½d.

for Harpford land, . . . . . £0 18s. 4d.

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£3 17s. 5½d.

Of the purchase money, ninety-two pounds, twelve shillings and ten pence, was paid to the receiver general of the county of Devon. He remitted that sum to the commissioners for the redemption of the land tax, and it was by them transferred to the commissioners for the redemption of the national debt; but by some neglect, the premises were not discharged from the tax, and no further steps were taken by the feoffees to complete its redemption until 1815, when Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Saunders the survivors, presented a memorial to the Board of Taxes on the subject; the object however was not finally effected until July 1818, when, on account of the advance in the price of Stock, the feoffees were obliged to pay sixteen pounds three shillings and five pence more than the sum paid in 1800, as well as all the land tax due in the mean time.

REV. — BURROUGHS' GIFT.

The Rev. — Burroughs, Rector of Gittisham,

gave by will, of which the date is not mentioned, forty pounds to the Rev. Mr. Curtis, of Sidmouth, in trust for such charitable and pious uses within the said parish, as the said Mr. Curtis should think fit. He accordingly during his life, paid the interest thereof for teaching poor children of the charity school at Sidmouth, to read, and say their prayers and catechism; and by will dated the twentieth of October, 1764, directed it should be paid to the feoffees of Mr. Minshull's charity school, to be applied to the use of the charity school as before.

#### CONANT'S AND CURTIS' GIFTS.

John Conant, by will (the date of which does not appear) gave to Mr. John Curtis, Vicar of Sidmouth, and to Mr. Samuel Cawley, of the same place, and to the survivors of them, his executors, administrators, and assigns, £50. in trust, to put the same out at interest, and to pay the produce thereof yearly, about Christmas, among such poor housekeepers, and inhabitants of Sidmouth, as his said trustees, or the survivor, his executors &c. should think most deserving objects of charity.

The Rev. John Curtis, Vicar of Sidmouth, by will dated the twentieth of October, 1794, gave ten pounds as an addition to Conant's charity. The two sums amounting together to sixty pounds, were in the hands of Mr. Samuel Cawley, who paid interest for them 'till the year 1811, when he died intestate, possessed of considerable landed property, but his personal estate

was insufficient for the payment of his debts; he left a widow who administered to his effects, and also three sisters, one of whom is since dead; the widow died about the year 1816, having continued to pay the interest due, to the charity to the time of her death.

#### OLIVER CAWLEY'S GIFT.

Mr. Oliver Cawley, by will dated the tenth of February, 1779, gave fifty pounds to trustees, on trust, to place the same at interest, and to pay the produce every year equally, to ten poor house-keepers in Sidmouth, who were to be chosen by the trustees, and were not to receive parish relief; and he appointed Samuel Cawley his executor, who paid the fifty pounds to the Rev. William Jenkins. This Gentleman and the church-wardens distribute the interest, amounting to fifty shillings annually, among ten such poor persons of the parish, as are described in the donor's will, in sums of five shillings each, and a list of their names is kept.

#### SEXTON'S HOUSE.

A house in the churchyard belonging to the parish, and which has been rebuilt at its expence, furnishes a habitation for the sexton.

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By indenture dated the twenty-ninth of September, 18th Charles I. a messuage and lands, lying in Southwood, in the parish of Dawlish, in the county of Devon,

containing by estimation, one farthing and a half of land, that is to say forty-five acres, were conveyed, upon trust, that there should be issuing and payable out of the said messuage, and premises, and should be reserved out of all demises and grants, which thereafter should be thereof made, a yearly rent of twelve pounds, to be employed in the first place, in defraying the charges for bread and wine for the holy communion, in the parish church of Sidmouth, and the surplusage, and residue of the fines, rents, and profits, to be employed to such further uses, at any publick meetings of the parishioners of the said parish of Sidmouth, to be publickly warned, before hand, in the parish church thereof, should by the major part of the said parishioners, being twelve in number, or more, be ordered, or thought meet, for the common good of the church, or relief of the poor people of the parish of Sidmouth, or any other pious, charitable, or common uses of the said parish. This statement is taken from a recital in a deed appointing new trustees, dated the twentieth of March, 1680. The donor of these lands is unknown.

By indenture, dated the thirtieth of November, 1806, made between the Rev. John Templar, of the one part; and Roger Saunders, Richard Wood, William Jenkins, and four others described to be then surviving trustees, under a deed of the tenth of May, 1791, of the other part; reciting, that the said John Templar, was possessed of and entitled to a fourth part of a messuage, and six closes of barton land, then lying together, called Conninger's Balls, containing by estimation, thirty

acres, situate in Harpford, in the county of Devon, for the residue of two several terms of four hundred and fifty years, and one hundred and fifty years, under the yearly rent of four pence to the lords of the inheritance; of which two terms there were unexpired, from the twenty-fifth of June then last, three thousand seven hundred and eighty four years; and reciting also, that the said John Templar had proposed, and agreed to demise and grant the said fourth part of the said premises, for the term of three hundred and seventy seven years, without impeachment of waste to the said surviving trustees, by way of exchange, for a grant, and demise of the said premises in Southwood, for a like term of three hundred and seventy seven years; and that the said surviving trustees had in regard that the said exchange would be for the mutual advantage and accommodation of the said parties thereto, and particularly for the advantage of the trusts, and of the persons entitled to the rents and profits of the said premises, under the before mentioned deed, consented and agreed to make such exchange, and had, in performance of the said agreements, by indenture, bearing even date therewith, granted and demised by way of exchange, the premises in Southwood, to the said John Templar, his executors, &c. for a term of three hundred and seventy seven years; it was witnessed, that in consideration of the said indenture of demise, so made by the said trustees to the said John Templar, he, the said John Templar, granted, exchanged, and demised, unto the said trustees, the said fourth part of the premises called **Conninger's Balls**, to hold to them, their execu-

tors &c. for a term of three hundred and seventy seven years, without impeachment of waste, at a pepper-corn rent, upon the like trusts as were declared of the said premises of Southwood, in the said parish of Dawlish.

There was no timber on the Dawlish land, but on that of Harpford there is enough for the repair of the premises. The land at Dawlish is very poor, and the exchange was thought advantageous by the parishioners of Sidmouth as well as the trustees.

Estimate of the yearly value of a freehold Estate, being donation lands, belonging to the feoffees of the poor and school of Sidmouth, situated in the parish of Salcombe Regis, in the county of Devon, valued in January, 1819, by William Bond.

<i>Description.</i>	<i>Quality 1819.</i>	<i>Statute quantity by Evans.</i>	<i>Yearly value.</i>
Rev. W. Cockburn, D. D. Tenant.			
		<b>A. R. P.</b>	<b>£. s. d.</b>
Long Down	Fallow	1 0 17	3 10 0
Hatchet close	Wheat	1 3 28	8 0 0
Orchard	Orchard	1 1 37	15 0 0
The Lawn Acre	Pasture	0 3 21	4 10 0
Ditto	Ditto	0 3 25	1 0 0

<i>Description.</i>	<i>Quality 1819.</i>	<i>Statute quantity by Evans.</i>	<i>Yearly value.</i>
Parts of two Orchards in the Byes	Orchard	A. R. P. 0 1 11	£. s. d. 1 0 0
		6 2 19	36 12 0
George Cornish, Esq. Tenant.			
Little Downland	Fallow	1 1 4	4 0 0
Great Downland	Wheat	2 1 26	7 15 0
William Stone	Fallow	1 0 22	4 0 0
Pitfield Orchard	Oldseeds	2 0 15	9 0 0
Silk Acre	Meadow	0 3 3	4 0 0
Three Yards	Beans	0 2 15	2 10 0
Seven Acres	Turnips	0 3 27	3 10 0
		9 0 32	34 15 0
— Sedgewick, Esq. Tenant.			
A comfortable thatched dwelling house and garden		0 0 39	25 0 0
A cottage and work- shop occupied by Mr.			

<i>Description.</i>	<i>Quality 1819.</i>	<i>Statute quantity by Evans.</i>	<i>Yearly value.</i>
		A. R. P.	£. s. d.
Tweed; and a cellar, pound house, yard and sheds; with a garden and orchard, occupied by Mr. Sedgewick		0 1 35	10 0 0
An orchard adjoining the garden	Orchard	0 2 21	6 0 0
Tutchen Mead	Wheat	2 0 27	10 10 0
Shorland Meadow	Meadow	1 0 32	6 0 0
Channon's Close	Garden	1 0 14	4 4 0
Three Yards	Ditto	0 2 28	3 10 0
		6 1 36	65 10 0
Allow for the annual repairs of the buildings			5 10 0
			60 0 0

## RECAPITULATION.

	A. R. P.	£. s. d.
Rev. W. Cockburn,	6 2 19	36 12 0
George Cornish, Esq.	9 0 32	34 15 0
— Sedgewick, Esq.	6 1 36	60 0 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>22 1 7</b>	<b>131 7 0</b>

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over	131	7	0

## DEDUCTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
The Land Tax*	2	19	1½				
The Poor's and Church rates are estimated to average	8	7	10½		11	7	0
					<hr/>		
The clear yearly value,					£120	0	0
					<hr/>		

Axminster, January 27th, 1819.

( Signed, )                      W. BOND.

\* The land tax being now redeemed, and Mr. Bond having deducted it from his valuation, it should be added to the rent (being £2 19 1½) and the clear value of the rent will be about £123, according to the estimate.

The feoffees of the poor in the year 1836, are—  
Rev. W. Jenkins, Rev. J. Hobson, E. Lee, esq.  
E. Lousada, esq. G. Manning, esq. T. Hodge, sen. esq.  
T. S. Hodge, Jun. esq. Mr. W. G. Harris, Mr.  
J. Farrant, Mr. R. Farrant, Mr. W. N. Gale, Mr.  
J. Hooke.

SIDMOUTH BRANCH OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN  
BIBLE SOCIETY.

President—SIR JOHN KENNAWAY, BART.

Vice Presidents—REV. H. SIMCOE; JOHN BLATCH, ESQ.;  
JOHN BACON, ESQ.

Treasurer—REV. MARK H. MOGRIDGE.

Secretaries—REV. GEORGE CORNISH; MR. M. HALL.

Treasurer of the Ladies' Association—MRS. WREY.

Secretary—MRS. TYRRELL.

This Branch, since its commencement in the year 1814, has collected one thousand five hundred and eleven pounds sixteen shillings and six pence; and has put into circulation in Sidmouth and its Neighbourhood, two thousand five hundred and eighty copies of the sacred Scriptures.

The Parent Society, formed in 1804, for the sole purpose of circulating the Bible at home and abroad, without note or comment, has met with patronage and success unparalleled in the annals of religion.

During the thirty-two years of its existence it has aided the translation of the Bible into upwards of one hundred and fifty languages, and at an expense of full *two millions sterling*; put into circulation no less than *nine million seven hundred and fifty one thousand seven hundred and ninety two* copies of the Word of God.

SIDMOUTH BRANCH OF THE CHURCH MISSIONARY  
SOCIETY.

*Established in the year 1818.*

President—SIR JOHN KENNAWAY, BART.

Treasurer—JOHN BACON, ESQ.

Treasurer of the Ladies' Society—MRS. W. JENKINS.

Secretary—MRS. MALING.

This Society, in conjunction with the Ladies' Association, has remitted within the last four years, for the promotion of missions, one hundred and seventy-eight pounds eleven shillings and six pence to the parent society; whose income for 1835 was sixty-eight thousand three hundred and fifty-four pounds ten shillings and six pence.

SIDMOUTH BRANCH OF THE LONDON MISSIONARY  
SOCIETY.

Treasurer—REV. J. DEAN.

The Parent Society was established in 1795, for the sole object of spreading the knowledge of Christ among the heathen and other unenlightened nations; and its *fundamental principle* is not to send Presbyterianism, Independency, Episcopacy, or any other form of church order and government, (about which there may be difference of opinion among serious persons,) but the glorious Gospel of the Blessed God, to the heathen; and that it shall be left to the minds of the persons whom God may call into the fellowship of his Son from among

them, to assume for themselves such form of church government, as to them shall appear most agreeable to the word of God.

The income for 1835, was fifty-five thousand eight hundred and sixty-five pounds, two shillings, and eleven pence; and there are belonging to the society, in different parts of the world, two hundred and seventy-two stations and out stations; one hundred and eleven Missionaries, and two hundred and twenty-three assistants, &c.; making, with upwards of four hundred and fifty schoolmasters and assistants, seven hundred and eighty-four persons, more or less, dependant on the society, exclusive of families.

**SIDMOUTH BRANCH OF THE WESLEYAN MISSIONARY  
SOCIETY.**

*Established 1836.*

**Treasurer—MR. SAWDAY.**

**SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.**

**Treasurer for Sidmouth—REV. W. JENKINS.**

**Depository—MR. RIPPON'S.**

The receipts of the Parent Society during the year 1835, amounted to seventy-two thousand six hundred and thirty pounds fourteen shillings and eleven pence. An annual sermon in aid of this society is preached in rotation at Sidmouth, Houlton, Ottery St. Mary, Axminster and Colyton.

## RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.

**Depository**—MR. HARVEY'S, BOOKSELLER.

The income of the Parent Society for 1835, was sixty-three thousand thirty-four pounds thirteen shillings and eight pence; and the circulation of books and tracts during the year amounted to the extraordinary number of fifteen million nine hundred and fourteen thousand one hundred and forty-eight; and the total circulation of the society from its commencement to *two hundred and thirty-five millions, in eighty different languages.*

## SIDMOUTH POOR'S FRIEND SOCIETY.

Instituted in the year 1815, for the purpose of relieving principally cases of distress, arising from sickness and infirmity, at the respective abodes of the poor in the town and in the neighbourhood.

**Patronized** by His Royal Highness, the late Duke of Kent.

**Treasurer**—REV. W. JENKINS, M. A.

**Secretary**—MR. M. HALL.

**Committee**—C. CORNISH, Esq.; E. LEE, Esq.; REV. J. HOBSON; THE VERY REV. THE DEAN OF YORK; REV. H. FELLOWES; J. BACON, Esq.; H. STUART, Esq.; M. GUTTERES, Esq.; D. O'BRIEN, Esq.; COL. SLESSOR.

## LADIES' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

In consequence of the destitute condition of the poor in the villages of Beer, Brauscombe, Otterton, and Colaton, a society was formed some years since, for the purpose of supplying them with warm clothing at Christmas.

Within the last three years a Penny Club has been formed in each of these villages, which combines, it may be hoped, the advantages of adding to the very limited funds arising almost entirely from subscriptions at Sidmouth, and by leading the poor to habits of economy and regularity, shewing them how to assist themselves, and thus rendering them a permanent benefit.

About two hundred families are annually relieved by this charity; and it is well remarked, "if there be a pleasure on earth which angels might almost envy man the possession of, it is the power of relieving distress. If there be a pain that devils might pity man for enduring, it is the death-bed reflection that we have possessed the power of doing good, but that we have abused and perverted it to purposes of ill."

**Committee**—MRS. GEN. BAYNES; MRS. BARKER; MRS. KENNY; MRS. HOBSON; MISS E. LEE; MISS BAYNES.

**Treasurer**—MRS. TYRRELL.

#### PENNY CLUB.

For providing the Children of the poor of Sidmouth with clothing, and promoting in them early habits of economy and punctuality.

**Treasurer**—MISS BERNARD.

#### COAL CHARITY.

Supported by voluntary subscriptions, and a moiety paid by the poor, for the purpose of supplying the poor of Sidmouth with coal during severe weather. A Subscriber being entitled to one ticket for every seven shilling subscription.

**Treasurer**—REV. W. JENKINS.

## BLANKET CHARITY.

For supplying the poor with Blankets at Christmas; supported on the same principle as the coal charity.

Treasurer—MRS. W. JENKINS.

## DORCAS CHARITY.

Supported entirely by voluntary subscriptions; by which, in time of need, the poor are supplied with a basket of child-bed linen, one pound of sugar, one quart of groats, and one pound of Soap.

Treasurer—MRS. W. JENKINS.

## SIDMOUTH NATIONAL SCHOOL.

*Conducted upon the system of the late Dr. Bell.*

From ninety to one hundred Boys, and from seventy to eighty Girls are here daily educated.

The insinuation that a Parish School might have a tendency to make the people less industrious, was strenuously resisted many years since by our great moralist, with his emphatic "No Sir; while learning to read and write is a distinction, the few who have that distinction may be the less inclined to work; but when every body learns to read and write it is no longer a distinction: A man who has a laced waistcoat is too fine a man to work; but if every body had laced waistcoats we should see every body working in laced waistcoats." *Boswell's Life of Johnson.*

## THE INFANT SCHOOL.

Treasurer—MRS. GENERAL BAYNES.

This School is chiefly supported by donations and voluntary subscriptions; together with a small weekly payment from the parents of the Infants admitted.

The children are simply instructed in the truths of the bible, by way of repetition, until they are able to read; they are likewise taught spelling and arithmetic on the Pestilozzian system. There is no point more universally admitted than the influence of right and early culture, informing the mind to every thing that is great and good. Reason, experience, and the unerring oracle of divine truth, concur in the testimony, that, *for the soul to be without knowledge is not good.*

By the last returns made to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, of the number of children under education throughout the kingdom, it appears that there are in England and Wales two thousand nine hundred and eighty-five Infant Schools, attended by eighty-nine thousand and five children.

## INDEPENDENT SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Upwards of one hundred Boys and Girls are in this school weekly receiving the blessings of a religious education; and it is obvious that Sunday School teaching is doing good to our fellow creatures, at the best time of life, *youth*; to the most needy, *the poor*; in the most important point, *the soul*; in the most effective manner, *for godliness is profitable unto all things*; at the least expense, *for labour is gratuitous*; and in the most permanent way, for the tendency is to make *wise unto salvation.*

THE OLD MEETING HOUSE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Forty Girls, and twelve Boys are here instructed.—By the statement published in the interesting and important document already adverted to, it appears that there are in England and Wales, sixteen thousand eight hundred and twenty-eight Sunday schools, containing, one million five hundred and forty-eight thousand eight hundred and ninety children.

SIDMOUTH SELF-SUPPORTING DISPENSARY.

The main objects of this Institution, which is expected to be in operation in a few weeks, are to enable small tradespeople, mechanics, servants, labourers, and others of the poorer classes, who are above charitable or parochial dependence, but are unable to pay a medical attendant in the usual manner, to *provide for themselves* good medical advice and medicine in case of illness; and to secure to the ordinary medical attendants of the Dispensary, a moderate, but certain remuneration for their time and services.

The Institution to be supported by two distinct funds; the *Honorary* and the *Ordinary* fund.

The *honorary* fund to be derived from the subscriptions and donations of the benevolent; and the *ordinary* fund to consist of the small periodical payments of the poor subscribers, (one penny a week for each adult, and one halfpenny for each child; or one penny for all the children of the family, where there are more than two; female servants paying five, male servants seven shillings per annum, in not less than half yearly payments,) to be devoted to the purchase of drugs, the defraying the expenses of the establishment, and the remuneration of the ordinary medical attendants.

## CHAPTER VIII.

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### Amusements.

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“ Whate’er you study, in whate’er you toil,  
Indulge your taste. Some love the manly chase ;  
The Cricket some, and some the graceful dance ;  
Others more hardy range the purple heath,  
Or naked stubble, (where from field to field  
The sounding coveys urge their labouring flight ; )  
Eager amid the rising cloud to pour  
The gun’s unerring thunder.”

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It is well said that “ a man may be merry upon principle, and occasionally take a laugh as others do a walk, for the benefit of his health.” Cheerfulness and hilarity, when unprovoked by unwholesome incentives, undegraded by brutality, or untainted by licentiousness, may be prescribed as one of the means of urging a lazy circulation. Sidmouth is much admired by those who are inclined to mingle retirement with occasional amusement.

*Hunting.* Two packs of hounds are kept in the place, by James Peel Cockburn, Esq. and Henry Carew, Esq.; and two packs in the immediate neighbourhood, by the Right Honourable Lord Rolle, and John Guppy, Esq. Information at what place and time the hounds throw off, may generally be obtained by referring to a card either at the reading room or at the post office.

*Racing.* There is a race course upon Salcombe hill, which, however, is but seldom used by the lovers of the Turf.

*Fishing.* The river Otter, a few miles from hence, will furnish sufficient employment for those who think with Isaac Walton, that,

“Of recreation there is none  
So free as fishing is alone;  
All other pastimes do no less  
Than mind and body both possess:  
My hand alone my work can do,  
*So I can fish and study too.*”

*Shooting.* Save the sport resulting from the destruction of Sea Gulls, Merles, Cormorants, and other aquatic birds which frequent the coast, the stranger sportsman will find that it is the same here as in other places, that although the game be plentiful, his gun will be useless, until he has obtained the permission of some landed proprietor or proprietors to shoot over their grounds.

Another species of healthy and manly amusement consists in the game of Cricket, for which the Fort Field is appropriated. The Club, consisting of many of the gentlemen of Sidmouth and its vicinity, meet every Tuesday at eleven o' clock, from May until the end of August; and during an interval of the game dine together in the cricket house, a comfortable and convenient building erected in the field by the members.

For Sailing and Fishing in the bay, every facility is furnished, by the careful and obliging fishermen of the place. Pic nic parties, visits to the Marine Villa of T. L. Fish, Esq. (see page 45,) pedestrian, assinarian, and equestrian excursions to the interesting places in the adjacent country hereafter particularized, furnish other pleasurable employments of time.

Above all, many of the more serious and reflecting part of the company, will perhaps find the circulating Libraries replete with the most rational and permanent pleasure. There are two established here, and the terms of subscription are extremely moderate; one kept by Mr. Harvey, in the Fore Street, which is regularly supplied with the most esteemed and popular works, in the various departments of literature, as soon as published; and the other by Mr. Cawsey, pleasantly situated near the York Hotel, facing the sea; here the daily papers are to be read, and it is a fashionable lounge for both Ladies and Gentlemen. There is likewise a good billiard table.

These, with Balls held at the London Hotel Assembly Rooms, occasional Concerts, Promenades at the Cricket House, Fort Fields, every Tuesday evening during the season, and frequent Routs given by private parties, form the round of fashionable amusements of this place.

“ Know then, whatever cheerful and serene  
Supports the mind, supports the body too.  
Hence the most vital movement mortals feel  
Is hope ; the balm and life blood of the soul ;  
It pleases, and it lasts.”

## CHAPTER IX.

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### Enbironz.

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SALCOMBE, WESTON, BRANSCOMBE, BEER, BOVEY,  
SEATON, AXMOUTH, COLYTON, SHUTE, THE PINNEY  
CLIFFS, LYME, AND AXMINSTER.

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“Where'er we fix or turn our wand'ring eyes,  
Around, on every side, fresh objects rise ;  
A field of contemplation meets our view,  
For ever pleasing, innocent, and new.”

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SINCE the villages and picturesque spots in the immediate neighbourhood of a watering place, are of almost equal interest to the casual visitant as the place itself, a guide would be incomplete without a short description of them. In taking a hasty glance around us, our view becomes more and more cursory, as the distance becomes greater,

Proceeding in the direction from Sidmouth to Lyme, we ascend by a tortuous road the cliff to the east, at the summit of which is a large flat surface containing the race course; having passed which, the road divides, the left branch continuing on the same level, leading to Branscombe, &c. and the one to the right suddenly descending to the romantic village of Salcombe, or the Salt Vale. "Few places" says Mr. Butcher "are more susceptible of improvement than this charming spot; nature has done so much that art has only to bestow a few embellishing touches; there is much to adorn but nothing to create."

Risdon says "Salcombe is a place numbered among those which King Canute bequeathed to the church of St. Peter, in Exeter, to expiate his Father Swain's barbarous cruelty to the church in these parts. Its principal village is *Seed*, which contains many delightful residences which have been mentioned in the description of Sidmouth; including a neat and convenient house recently erected by Mr. Pike, called Fortescue Cottage, commanding an extensive view, where "beauty clothes the vale, and beauty is scattered over the field."

The parish is in the hundred of East Budleigh; its annual value of real property according to the assessment of 1815, is £3451; it contains four hundred and forty-nine inhabitants. The Living a dis. vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Exeter, valued in K. B. £14 12s. 8d. and according to the last Parliamentary returns, the net value £143. The Patrons are

the Dean and Chapter of Exeter. The Church, a small edifice, dedicated to St. Peter, stands at the head of a narrow coombe, which opens to the sea; it is a pleasing object as viewed from the surrounding hills.

The building comprises, a nave, chancel, side aisles, and a tower at the western end, with a vestry room, which has been added to the western end of the north aisle. The tower is square and embattled at the summit; it has a demi-octagonal turret on the south side for the stair case, a peculiarity of most of the Devon and Cornish churches, and contains three bells. The windows do not appear to be ancient; that at the east end is divided by mullions into three lights, having cinquefoils, and the label on the outside rests on corbels representing angels holding shields, with two keys en saltier, and a sword en pale. Below this window are inserted in the wall some fragments of fret work in stone, in the Anglo Norman style, and above is a circular open ornament; these are no doubt relics of an earlier edifice. There is an uncouth singing gallery at the west end of the nave. The font is of stone, large and heavy, of octagonal form. The monumental inscriptions are numerous. Near the Church, at the foot of a beautiful little hill, is a comfortable modern parsonage house.

The principal free stone in the county of Devon is found in the adjoining parishes of Salcombe, Branscombe, and Beer. The outside of the cathedral of Exeter is built of stone from their quarries, and though

parts of it have been erected six hundred years, it is still in a good state of preservation. The free stone of Beer and Branscombe is much finer and softer than that of Salcombe, but does not bear the weather so well.

In a small and luxuriant valley to the north of Trow hill is Knowle, which has long been the property and residence of the Wolcotts.

Between Trow hill and Trow turnpike, is a field on the right hand, just as you arrive at the road which leads to Salcombe, in which, about twenty-five years ago, it is asserted, that a farmer, while ploughing, witnessed the following extraordinary circumstance of an Ox in his team, suddenly sinking into the ground; on removing the Ox, he discovered an excavation, in which it is said a large sum of money, in coin or bullion, was secreted, to which however it is stated, the farmer would never confess: some assert that a number of boxes were shortly afterwards removed to a neighbouring village, for conveyance to London; and others, that the farmer, whose name is well known, and who, when he took the farm, was possessed of little which he could call his own, excepting his numerous sons and daughters, was able to give each of them fifteen hundred pounds on the days of their marriage. Whether the farmer was more likely to have earned his wealth by the good and successful management of his business, or to have gained it in this extraordinary way, the reader must form his own judgment. But even if it be more

feasible to listen to the marvellous, rather than the more rational way of accounting for the possession of this affluence, it seems that he must have been the individual, and the only individual justly entitled to the booty, for the following still more wonderful traditional reason. The peasantry inhabiting the country for many miles around, will bear testimony to the well known *fact*, as they assuredly deem it, that previously to the discovery of this spoil, the ghost of a lady was occasionally seen gliding to and fro in this field, near to the spot where the treasure was concealed, but that she has never made her appearance since, which certainly leads to the conclusion that the spirit was satisfied, and no longer restless, when the rightful owner had obtained his just inheritance. The question how far a disembodied spirit can feel an interest in gold, silver, or any thing possessing value, only in a world which it has done with for ever, does not seem in any degree to influence the conclusion of the country people, that the ghost was for some reason or other in quest of the money.

Leaving Salcombe we arrive at Slade House, situate at the head of a beautiful, and richly wooded vale; it is now the residence of W. Leigh, Esq. formerly it belonged to the Mitchells of Salcombe, an ancient family now extinct; the late Sir Isaac Heard, Garter Principal King at arms, was the last of the race—he died at a very advanced age. At Weston, in the parish of Branscombe, are the ruins

of several farm houses. J. Stuckey, Esq. erected a handsome mansion, in the Grecian style, which was bequeathed to the present possessor, J. Bartlett Stuckey; a few years since it was completely gutted by fire, and nought save the bare walls remain, which yet appear in a good state of preservation. Desolation seems to reign over the place, the court-yard is overgrown with weeds; altogether it forcibly reminds one of the beautiful and pathetic lines of Ossian.

“I have seen the walls of Balclutha; but they are  
 “desolate.—The fire hath resounded within the walls,  
 “and the voice of the people is now heard no more.—  
 “The stream of Clutha is removed from its place by the  
 “fall of the walls.—The fox looked out of the window;  
 “the rank grass waved round his head. Desolate is the  
 “dwelling of Moina; silence is in the house of her  
 “fathers.”

The village of Branscombe, about five miles from Sidmouth, surrounded by the most enchanting scenery, appears literally embedded among the hills, parallel ridges running from east to west; the sides of which facing the village are covered with hanging woods, and rich enclosures; whilst on the southern aspect are several petrifying springs, and various strata of freestone and fossils.

The Living is a Rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Exeter, valued in K. B. £18 15s. 10d. and according to the last parliamentary returns, net value

£190 per annum. The Patrons are the Dean and Chapter of Exeter. The Church, dedicated to St. Winifred, is nearly in the centre of the parish; it is a neat and plain edifice, containing some monuments, one of which is erected to the memory of John Wadham. There is also a small Methodist Chapel in this place.

At Egge, in the reign of Edward III. was the dwelling of Richard Branscombe; it afterwards came into possession of Sir John Wadham, Judge, and in his family it remained for eight descents. The last of the name, Nicholas Wadham, having no issue, his sisters' children became his heirs, but as he had made a very large addition to his patrimony, he determined to lay the foundation of a college, and Oxford is indebted to him and Dorothy his wife, for the foundation and establishment of Wadham College.

Three vallies, forming a triangle, meet near the church; through each of these rapid streams descend, which, uniting in the bottom, flow on together to the ocean. Branscombe is separated from Beer by a small brook; "it coasteth the sea," says Risdon, "and is full of coombes and vallies." The parish is in the hundred of Colyton; its annual value of real property, according to the assessment of 1815, is £3629. At the last returns the population was eight hundred and twenty-nine.

Beer, a chapelry in the parish of Seaton, and hun-

dred of Colyton, is a small place rather more than seven miles from Sidmouth; its inland scenery is fraught with beauty, and its view of the distant cliffs and surrounding ocean extensive; the houses are for the most part built of free-stone from its celebrated quarry; a spring arising from a flint rock runs in a clear current through the town. The Living is a curacy not in charge, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Exeter, annexed to the vicarage of Seaton.

The church, dedicated to St. Gregory, is an ancient slated edifice, the tower low and heavy, containing four bells: a handsome marble monument within this church, is sacred to the memory of W. Walrond, Esq. The Vicarage house lies near the church, and is very old. There is an Independent Chapel in this place.

The inhabitants both of Branscombe and Beer, are remarkable for their longevity, and the latter for the observance of many ancient customs. They derive their subsistence from fishing, for which the situation of their town is eminently calculated; they not only supply the places in their vicinity, but also the markets of Taunton and Bath, and occasionally that of London.

A few hundred yards on the Lyme road, before coming to the turn which leads to Beer, is a path to Bovey House; a short distance up this path-way, is *Hangman's Stone*, so named as tradition goes,

from the following circumstance, which it is asserted, occurred fifty or sixty years ago:—a man, who during the night had stolen a sheep, was bearing away the animal, having tied its legs together, and thrown it over his shoulder, passing his own head between the legs of the sheep, and holding by the cord in front: on arriving at the stone alluded to, it appears he had stopped to rest, and had seated himself against the stone, on the top of which it is supposed he had placed the sheep to relieve himself from its weight, without disengaging his head from the legs of the animal, and the cord which held them together. Whilst thus seated, it is conjectured that the animal must have struggled for his liberty, and fallen over the stone behind, in consequence of which, the man's head was forced back against the stone by the weight of the sheep, and the cord so tightly drawn across his throat, as to hang or strangle him. In this state he was discovered lifeless the next morning; having thus met his death by means of the same cord which he had used for the sake of purloining his neighbour's property.

Bovey house, a very ancient seat in this manor, the property of Lord Rolle, is a very old irregular building of free-stone. A Gentleman says of this mansion, when in the occupation of the widow of Mr. Walrond, “on visiting Bovey some years since I was much pleased with the venerable appearance of the house, and every object around it. There was something unusually striking in the antique mansion, the old rookery

behind it, the mossy pavement of the court, the raven in the porch, grey with years, and even the domestics hoary in service,—they were all grown old together.”

Seaton is a small watering place, well attended in the summer season, irregularly built, consisting chiefly of one street, and a promenade on the beach; it lies very low, and close beside it along the borders of the river Ax, is an extensive marsh, which has been partially drained: in times past this marsh was an arm of the sea, but during a storm, a considerable embankment of shingles was thrown up at the mouth; the inhabitants endeavoured to render this permanent, and by erecting an embankment on the side of the Ax, gained a large tract of land.

Seaton is remarkable as the landing place of the Danish Princes in the year 937. In the time of Edward III. it furnished two ships and twenty-five mariners, for its quota towards the fleet. By many this place is considered to be the Moridunon of Antoninus.

The Living is a vicarage with the curacy of Beer, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Exeter, valued in K. B. £17. 0s. 7½d. and the net value, according to parliamentary returns £206. The church is dedicated to St. Gregory; patron, Lord Rolle. Here are also Wesleyan and Independent chapels. The parish is in the hundred of Colyton; its annual value of real property, according to the assessment of 1815, is £5684. At the last returns the population amounted to one

thousand eight hundred and three inhabitants. The fair is holden on Whit-tuesday for toys.

Near Seaton is Axmouth, so called on account of the river Ax falling into the sea at this place. Here is a good bay, formerly much resorted to for shelter by shipping. The Living is a vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Exeter, valued in K. B. £22. 19s. 2d. and annual net value, according to the last parliamentary returns, £230. Patron, J. H. Hallett, Esq. The parish is in the hundred of Axminster; its annual value of real property, according to the assessment of 1815 is £5139. At the last returns the number of inhabitants amounted to six hundred and forty-six.

Colyton (about a mile from Colyford, a small village, through which runs the turnpike road from Sidmouth to Lyme) is a small market town on the western side of the river Coly, about nine miles from Sidmouth, in the hundred of the same name. It is governed by a portreeve, and in the time of William the Conqueror, was the king's demesne.

The Ax and the Coly flow through the beautiful vale in which Colyton lies,—the surrounding views are finely varied by a mixture of hill and dale, river and sea. The houses are mostly built of free stone or flint, and are neatly thatched: there is a good market house, school house, and an Independent

Chapel. The most considerable building is a large house, the property of Sir William De la Pole.

Colyton is a good dairy parish, and contains two thousand one hundred and eighty-two inhabitants, its annual net value of real property, according to the assessment of 1815, is twelve thousand nine hundred and nine pounds. The fairs are holden first Wednesday in May, and November 30th, for cattle.

The living is a Vicarage, with the curacies of Monkton and Shute, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Exeter, valued in K. B. £40 10s. 10d. the net value per annum, according to parliamentary returns £401. Patrons, The Dean and Chapter of Exeter. The church, a strong stone edifice, dedicated to St. Andrew, is a spacious building, with a tower over the chancel, containing six bells. Within the church, is a monument to a girl five years old, said to be grand-daughter to Edward IV. who was choaked by a fish bone. On the southern side of the chancel, is an enclosed burial place, highly ornamented with monumental decorations, belonging to the De la Poles, and on the northern side a corresponding one, the property of Sir George Younge's family.

Shute, a small Parish on the western side of the Ax, containing the Village of Whitford, is in the hundred of Colyton; the Living is a curacy subordinate to the Vicarage of Colyton, in the archdeaconry and

diocese of Exeter. The church, dedicated to St. Michael, is a small stone building, containing several monuments of the family of Sir William De la Pole, and of the Templer family.

Near Shute house is a fine stone building very pleasantly situated under Shute hill, the property of Sir W. T. Pole. After crossing the river from Colyford, we perceive on the right, Stedcombe, the residence of James Hallet, Esq.

“The hill of Stedcombe,” says Polwhele, “gradually rising from the extensive level of the marshes to a conical height, suggests the idea of Mount Vesuvius.” It is richly wooded, and a stream of water runs at its foot. The population of Shute is considered at six hundred and seventeen; and its annual value of real property, according to the assessment of 1815, £4945.

Between Axmouth and Lyme, two miles short of the latter place, are the *Pinney Cliffs*, rich in the treasures of the ante-diluvian world; a place on which the fossilist and geologist look, as does a sportsman on Melton Mowbray. The eulogy bestowed on these grounds by the illustrious Earl of Chatham is too apposite to be passed over. “I have read, I have heard,” said he, “of Pinney, but after all, the highest reach of my fancy, never pictured to me a spot, so diversified in its beauties—so fitted for contemplation—so peculiar in its combinations.”

The scenery is delightfully varied, and in the words of the poet we may say

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“ Collected here  
As in one spot all nature’s charms appear.”

A celebrated novelist of the day has likewise borne testimony to its merits. “Pinney, with its green chasms, between lofty rocks, exhibits a scene so romantic, and so lovely, as to more than equal any of the resembling spots in the far-famed Isle of Wight.

It may be said that here a struggle seems to take place between the genius of the mountain, and that of the vale.—*Here* is met with fertility,—*there* the rugged cliff,—*there* the majestically towering White Chapel rocks, bidding proud defiance,—*here* gently swelling hills, studded with trees of luxuriant growth:—a happy combination of Alpine scenery, and Italian landscape.

“ Hail awful scenes, that calm the troubled breast,  
And woo the weary to profound repose,  
Can passion’s wildest uproar lay to rest,  
And whisper comfort to the man of woes ;  
Here innocence may wander, safe from foes,  
And contemplation soar on seraph’s wings,  
O ! Solitude, the man who thee foregoes  
When lucre lures him or ambition stings  
Shall never know the source whence real grandeur springs.”

A path, running in a parallel direction with the

edge of the cliff, conducts us to a spot from which a view may be obtained of the western coast, as far as Down end and the Berry head, and of the scenery immediately contiguous, which abounds with a peculiar wildness of feature, constituting the most picturesque objects that can be imagined.

Under the cliffs, another path leads to some detached rocks, venerably mantled with ivy and moss, which are the building places for thousands of Daws, that are frequently disturbed by the hilarity of *Picnic*, and *Gipsying Parties*;—a deviation from the path, in order to obtain different points of view, exposes one to irregularities of a fatiguing character; but what! if the *fair Gipsy* (like a lamb rushing through a thicket) should leave a tribute of her dress on the surrounding briars? What! if her garments be soiled and torn? What! though her path be through brambles, her feet pierced by thorns? What! though she lose her way, and wander, twilight approaching, farther, and still farther from her picnic camp? Is not every step on romantic ground? Do not new embellishments, features, and combinations continually rise into view, causing a rapture that renders one insensible to pain or fatigue?

Soon after the restoration, when the nonconformists were forbidden by law to assemble for divine worship, they secretly met in the solitudes of Pinney, and offered up their prayers in a dell between two high rocks, which have ever since retained the name of the White Chapel

rocks. It is said that a party of soldiers quartered in Stedcombe house in 1644, engaged a body of Prince Maurice's troops, and forced their way into Lyme without much loss.

Lyme and Axminster are too distant from Sidmouth to be visited from thence, and indeed a full description of either would fill a volume much larger than the present; besides which, having separate guides of their own, it would be superfluous to dwell upon them. A few lines however will not be amiss.

Lyme Regis, sixteen miles from Sidmouth, and one hundred and forty-three from London, is a market, borough, seaport town and parish, on the borders of Dorsetshire; in the liberties of Loders and Bothenhampton, division of Bridport, but under a separate jurisdiction; it is situated on the declivity and base of a very steep hill, at the mouth of the little river Lyme; it is much visited during the season for sea bathing, for which the beach is conveniently adapted. The streets are well paved and lighted; there are several good Inns, and a number of lodging houses, with assembly, billiard, and card rooms, and a public library. The importance of the place depends on its harbour, which is formed by a pier or breakwater termed the cobb. The borough has been represented in parliament since the time of Edward I. its franchise being founded on the charter of that king.

In the reign of Edward III. this port furnished four

ships and sixty-two mariners to serve at the siege of Calais; but in the reigns of Henry IV. and V. the town was sacked and burnt by the French. It was off this port that the English fleet first made its attack on the famous Spanish armada, sent by Phillip II. to invade this country in 1588.

In the civil war under Charles I. Lyme was garrisoned by parliament; and the town being besieged by the king's forces in 1644, was gallantly and successfully defended by Colonel Blake, the governor, afterwards highly distinguished as a naval officer. Charles II. after the battle of Worcester, fled hither in disguise, hoping to have obtained a passage to France; but he was disappointed; and after a narrow escape from discovery, he withdrew elsewhere. The last historical event which occurred here deserving of remark, was the landing of the Duke of Monmouth, in the prosecution of his disastrous attempt to overturn the government of James II. in 1685.

The living is a Vicarage, and a peculiar of the Dean of Salisbury, valued in K. B. £10 5s. 10½d. and according to parliamentary returns, net value, £275 per annum: the patron, the president of Lyme and Halstock, in Salisbury Cathedral. The church, dedicated to St. Michael, is an ancient edifice at the east end of the town; there are places of worship for the Independents, Baptists, and Methodists. The population is estimated at 2621. The fairs are holden February the thirteenth, and October the second, for

cattle. Its annual value of real property assessed in 1815, is £5351.

Axminster, nine miles from Honiton, and one hundred and forty-seven from London, is a market town in the hundred of the same name, it received its designation from the river Ax, on which it lies, and by which name alone, it was known until King Athelstan's time, when a minster was erected, and from thence its present name.

The living is comprised of Rectory and Vicarage united, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Exeter, the former charged in K. B. £40 6s. 8d. and the latter, £44 6s. 8d. and according to last parliamentary returns, net value per annum, £975 0s. 0d. The Patrons are the prebendary of Warthill in York Cathedral, and the Chancellor of York. The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, exhibits specimens of various styles of architecture, and a part of it has been deemed as ancient as the reign of its original founder, Athelstan. Here is a Roman Catholic Chapel, and places of worship for the Independents, and Wesleyan Methodists.

Excellent and durable carpets resembling tapestry, are manufactured in this place, which are much esteemed. The population is estimated to be about two thousand seven hundred and nineteen. The fairs are holden St. Mark's day, April the thirtieth, Wednesday after June the twenty-fourth, Wednesday after Octo-

ber the tenth. The annual value of real property according to the assessment of 1815, is £13,797.

## CHAPTER X.

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### Environs.

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#### SIDFORD, SIDBURY, GITTISHAM, FARWAY, AND HONITON.

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“Now from the steep, through scattered farms and groves,  
Our eye through Honiton’s fair valley roves.”

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RETURNING to Sidmouth, and re-commencing our route in a northerly direction, we soon arrive at Sidford, which is a small straggling village, about two miles on the Honiton road. Tradition says, that King Charles II. took refuge in a cottage in this place, when he fled from Lyme, after his narrow escape from detection by a blacksmith, who observed that his horse had been shod in foreign parts, and it is said that the good lady who was at that time mistress of the tenement, never afterwards entered the room in which he slept, without making the most profound courtesy.

To the east of this village is a small stone bridge of two arches, over the Sid, thickly festooned with ivy, and presenting so picturesque an object, that few Sidmouth visitants who carry sketch books, fail to devote a portion of their time and paper to perpetuate the scene.

Of superstitious belief in witches and evil spirits, there still appear in this and other villages in Devonshire, some traces. Not six months since, a gentleman and two ladies walking near this place, met a young woman, who, upon their approach, fell into frightful convulsions; a crowd soon gathering around, the gentleman inquired of a respectable person near him, "if she knew the afflicted woman?" she replied, "O yes sir, she is overlooked, and this business ought to be enquired into." Upon his asking "what she meant by being overlooked?" she emphatically told him, "she was *bewitched*."

It is remarkable how ancient is this superstition; the heathen believed that great mischief might ensue from an *evil eye*, or from being regarded with *envious and malicious looks*. Pliny relates from Isigonus, that, among the Triballians, and Illyrians, there were certain enchanters, "qui visu quoque effascinent interimantque, quos diutius intueantur, iratis præsertim oculis." 'Who with their *looks could bewitch, and kill* those whom they *beheld* for a considerable time, especially if they did so with *angry eyes*.' Nat. Hist. lib. vii. cap. 2 =

*Ὡς μὴ βασκανθῶ δε, τρίς εἰς ἐμὸν ἐπτύσα κοιλίον'*

“ To guard against the harm of evil eyes  
Thrice on my breast I spat.”

says a shepherd in Theocritus, *Idyl. vi. lin 39.*—and another in Virgil, *Eclog. iii. lin. 103.*

“ *Nescio quis teneros oculus mihi fascinat agnos,*”  
“ Some evil eyes bewitch my tender lambs.”

These passages, to which many more might be added, are sufficient to shew the notions of the ancient heathen on this subject ; and we may add that the same superstitious fancies still prevail in Pagan and Mahometan countries, and among the vulgar in most of those that call themselves christian.

About a mile from Sidford is Sidbury, a large parish in the hundred of East Budleigh, sixteen miles in circumference, and containing according to the last census 1725 Inhabitants ; its annual value of real property, according to the assessment of 1815 is £10,057. The fairs are holden on the Tuesday before Ascension day, and at Michaelmas. There is an Independent chapel in this place ; and near to it the Old Manor House, the property of R. Hunt, Esq. this is now divided into three dwellings. Woodhouse, the present manor house, the property of James Cunningham, Esq., belonged in the time of Richard II. to John de Woodhouse, whose ancestors were called De Bosco. The town itself is rather a mean-looking place, in which a great quantity

of lace is manufactured. The living is a vicarage in the archdeaconry and diocese of Exeter, valued in K. B. £28., and net value according to P. R. £476. per ann. The Patrons are the Dean and Chapter of Exeter.

The church, dedicated to St. Giles, presents traces of a building of the thirteenth century, which has been altered and enlarged at later periods. It consists of a nave 50ft. by 15 within the walls—north and south aisles, transept, chancel about 27ft by 15—Tower at the western end, and a south porch, with two embattled heavy turrets for stairs, one leading to the belfry, the other to a room over the porch. It is stated that the boundary of the parishes of Sidbury, Farway, Gittisham, and Honiton (concerning which there was some controversy) was determined by Isabel de Fortibus, wife of the Earl of Albemarle, and daughter of Baldwin de Ripariis, seventh Earl of Devon; being a Lady of great influence, she rode to the plain where the parishes meet, and taking from her finger a ring, threw it into the mire; saying *that place* should be the boundary of the four parishes, and so it has remained unto this day, and the spot is still known by the name of the *ring in the mire*.

After ascending a steep hill, the Honiton road lies over an extensive down, called Gittisham Hill, from whence the traveller enjoys a beautiful and widely extended view of the surrounding country. The rich pastures, the green hills, the woodland declivities of

Devon, its vallies alive with sparkling streams, and skirted by banks whose verdure never fails, studded as they are with cottages and farms, convey to the mind that sense of pleasure which renders the spirit cheerful and buoyant.

The parish of Gittisham is in the hundred of East Budleigh, containing 370 Inhabitants: its ann. value of real property according to assessment of 1815 is £2939. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Exeter, valued in the K. B. £21. 8. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ ., and its ann. net value according to last P. R. £320. Patron, Rev. T. Putt.

Farway, is a parish in the hundred of Colyton, containing 360 Inhabitants; its annual value of real property according to the assessment of 1815 is £2573. The church is an ancient edifice dedicated to St. Michael. In the early part of the 17th century, an aisle was added to it, the expense of which it is said was defrayed by money which was discovered by a Farmer whilst ploughing in the neighbourhood. Here are several handsome monuments to commemorate the Priedeaux family, one of which is particularized by Prince in his writings. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Exeter, valued in K. B. £15. 6. 8., and according to last P. R. the annual net value £247. Patron, Rev. T. Putt.

In this parish is Netherton Hall, an old Mansion, partly in the Norman style of architecture, the seat of

Major Sir Edmund Prideaux, the premier Baronet of Devonshire, of whose family it has been the property and fixed residence for more than two centuries. "Netherton" says Polwhele "sometime belonged unto Canonsleigh, was purchased by Piers; Sir Bernard Drake, Knt., purchased this land. Lowman had the demesne, and left it unto Philip his son who sold it unto Sir Edmund Prideaux, Bart." Prince states that "Netherton, about four miles to the east of Honiton, sometime belonged to the Abbey of Canonsleigh, and after the dissolution became the property of Sir Bernard Drake, of Ash, whose Son John Drake sold the manor as Lowman did the demesne to Sir Edmund Prideaux, Bart.—Sir Edmund Prideaux was a man of great abilities, and by being professor of Law in the time of Elizabeth, he was enabled to raise his family to a rank in this county beyond any of his ancestors."

Honiton is a borough, market-town, and parish, in the hundred of Axminster, containing 3509 Inhabitants; its annual value of real property, according to the assessment of 1815 is £10,698. The fair is holden July 20th for cattle. The town, situated in a delightful vale, on the south of the river Otter, has a new, airy, and modern appearance, probably owing to the older buildings being destroyed by fire at four different periods. It consists chiefly of a long broad street, with another crossing it at right angles; a stream of clear water runs along the former, with dipping places before many of the houses. The buildings

are for the most part slated ; the shops good and plentifully stocked ; the Inns commodious and well lighted. Large quantities of thread lace are sold here, some very broad and beautiful, bearing a high price.

The town is governed by a Bailiff and Portreeve. The latter is the returning officer, as this place is represented in parliament. The livings are a rectory and curacy, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Exeter, the former valued in K. B. £ 48. 4. 2., and according to last P. R. £ 866. The curacy not in charge, Patron, the Earl of Devon. The parish church, dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel, is a stone edifice, inconveniently situated on an eminence half a mile from the town ; it was originally a small chapel for Mendicant Friars, but was much enlarged at the expense of Courtenay, Bishop of Exeter, who also gave the screen, which separates the chancel from the nave. It has a good organ, and a fine altar-piece of white stone. By the door is a tomb stone erected to the memory of Dr. Marwood, (Physician to Queen Elizabeth) who died Sep. 1617, aged 105. The tower, which is 63ft. high, is square, and contains five bells.

Risdon states that Drogo, a Saxon, held this manor before the conquest, but that William gave both manor and town to his maternal half Brother, whom he also made Earl of Cornwall. It now belongs to the Courtenay Family.

The new church, now erecting on the site of the old

chapel of ease, dedicated to All Saints, (which is supposed to have been the ancient parish church,) is a very handsome structure. There is an Independent chapel, to which is connected a sunday school, a Baptist, Methodist, and an Unitarian chapel, and a national and british school in this place.

## CHAPTER XI.

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### Environz.

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HARPFORD WOOD, HARPFORD, NEWTON-POPPLEFORD,  
OTTERY ST. MARY, AND CLYST ST. MARY.

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“ not a breeze

Flies o'er the meadow, not a cloud imbibes  
The setting Sun's effulgence, not a strain  
From all the tenants of the warbling shade  
Ascends, but whence our senses can partake  
Fresh pleasure.”

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EXETER, the metropolis of the west, called by the ancient Britons *Caerath*, (the city of the red soil) and also *Penhulgoile* (the chief town of the wood ; ) by the Romans, *Isca Danmoniorum*, by which name it is mentioned by the Geographer *Ptolemy*, in the middle of the second century : by the Saxons, *Monkton*, from the number of religious establishments it contained ; and by *Athelstan* in 914, *Exonceastre*, is situated on the eastern branch of the river *Exe*, 171 miles south-west from London, and 15 miles north-west from Sid-

mouth. Between it and the latter place, are Clyst St. Mary, Ottery St. Mary, Newton-Poppleford, and Harpford, which places, being within a morning's drive from Sidmouth will require description.

About 3 miles from Sidmouth, in a north-west direction, on the high road is Harpford wood, the property of Lord Rolle, which consists, within the hedges, of 370 acres of hilly land, covered with timber, principally of beech and oak. This forest is much admired for the beauty of its sylvan scenery, and is, during the summer months, a favourite resort for numerous Pic nic parties, who roam along the intricate mazes of its paths, unmolested by the scorching rays of the mid-day sun.

“ Here quivering Aspens kissed the whispering gale,  
 And hawthorns blossomed, hid in sunless shade ;  
 The morning ring dove cooed her doleful tale ;  
 The holly green, its shining leaves displayed ;  
 The branching birch o'erhung the flowery glade ;  
 The towering elm sheltered the noisy rook ;  
 The hazel in rich foliage stood arrayed ;  
 The willow trembled o'er the wimpling brook,  
 Whose bright, smooth, mirror'd face tall whistling reeds o'er-  
 look.”

At the western extremity of this wood lies the quiet and retired village of Harpford, commanding extensive views of the devious windings of the River Otter, which flows through a rich and fertile valley to the ocean.

The parish is in the hundred of East Budleigh, containing 307 inhabitants; its annual value of real property according to the assessment of 1815 is £2472. The living is a vicarage united to that of Fen-Ottery, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Exeter, valued in K. B. £18. 11. 3., and net value per ann. according to P. R. £221. The patron Lord Rolle. The church, a small low building, dedicated to St. Gregory, has a tower containing three bells; the vicarage house is a convenient residence, erected in 1786. Near the church is a building, called in the parish rates Court Place, a part of which was formerly the Old County Gaol for felons, which was removed from thence to Bicton, by the Rolle Family, and subsequently to Exeter, where it now remains.

Leaving Harpford a little to the right, and crossing the river Otter by a stone bridge of five arches, we arrive at Newton-Poppleford, or Pebbleford, so called from the number of oval pebbles contained in the soil, similar to those on the beach at Salterton. It is a tithing and chapelry, in the parish of Aylesbeare, and hundred of East Budleigh. The living is a curacy, subordinate to the vicarage of Aylesbeare, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Exeter, not in charge; its annual value, according to P. R. £30. 12. 0. The chapel, dedicated to St. Luke, presents scarcely a vestige of antiquity, though formerly a chantry, founded by Hugh de Courtenay, Earl of Devon, in the time of Edw. III. Tradition says it was built as an atonement for some crime. It consists of a nave about 33ft. by 20 within the walls;

a chancel, which is formed only of half an octagon ; an aisle on the south, 33ft. by 15 ; and a tower at the western end, low, embattled with pinnacles at the corners, containing one bell ; a gallery runs across the western end of the nave, and a clock in the tower. There is a small chapel, nearly in the centre of the village, belonging to the Independent denomination of Christians.

Newton-Poppleford is a long straggling village, containing two small Inns, and 588 inhabitants. The fair is holden in October, for cheese and cattle. The river Otter, which runs near this place, rises near Otterford, in Somersetshire, to which, as well as to several other places on its banks, it gives name. From its rise it runs about four miles, to a village called Up-Ottery, and thence to Moncton ; and proceeding between Honiton and Coombe Raleigh, to Fenton-bridge, by Ottery St. Mary on the east, between Fen-Ottery and Harpford to Newton-Poppleford, it passes Colyton-Raleigh and Otterton ; about two miles below which it empties itself into the sea near Budleigh-Salterton ; its course in this county being about 25 miles.

“ Tho’ deep yet clear, tho’ gentle yet not dull  
Strong without rage, without o’erflowing full.”

This is not a large river, as it seldom exceeds thirty feet in width, it has a gravelly bottom, and is well stocked with fine trout. From Harpford to the sea it is strictly preserved by Lord Rolle, whose keepers are

constantly ranging its banks. His Lordship allows gentlemen to fish as low down as Otterton wear, upon application to his Steward, Mr. Daw, of Bicton, for a card of permission, without which, no one is allowed to angle ; from the latter place to the sea it is especially preserved for his Lordship's family, and private friends : in this part many salmon are caught ; some making their way above Otterton wear, are occasionally taken by gentlemen with the artificial fly. The trout and salmon peel in this river run to a large size ; they are shy of the fly, and require fine tackle ; the May-fly, so destructive in many rivers is scarcely seen, and seldom, if ever used in this ; neither perch, pike, roach, or chub, are to be met with ; it is in the extreme sense of the word, a trout stream, and, owing to the regulations of Lord Rolle, an excellent one too. The fertility of the land through which it passes, would make one exclaim with that quaint old fisherman Isaac Walton—

“ I in these flowery meads would be,  
 These chrystal streams should solace me ;  
 With whose harmonious bubbling noise  
 I with my angle would rejoice.”

About 7 miles from Sidmouth, to the right of the Exeter road, is Ottery St. Mary, a market-town and parish in the hundred of the same name ; it is pleasantly situated near the Otter, and is the principal place to which that river gives name. The town is large and irregularly built. In Mill Street, are the remains of a monasterial house, the residence of the celebrated Sir Walter Ra-

leigh ; and in one of the old Collegiate houses, near the Church-yard, is the convention room of Oliver Cromwell, of which Echard gives the following account. “ About the time that Exeter was besieged, Cromwell came to Ottery, to raise men and money from the town and neighbourhood : for this purpose he held a convention there, in a parlour now standing westward of the church ; the people of Ottery refused to comply with his requisition ; Cromwell was so much irritated at their refusal, that he ordered his men to destroy all the ornaments of the church. The organ in the body of the church, and the organ in the chapel (now in the library,) were both dashed to pieces ; and several fine monumental figures decapitated.

The Inhabitants in times past, derived their chief employment from the manufacture of flannel, serge, and other woollen goods ; but these have been for the most part superseded by extensive silk works, especially the manufacture of ribands and handkerchiefs. The living is a dis. vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Exeter, valued in K. B. £ 20. and net value per annum, according to P. R. £ 112. The Lord Chancellor is the patron. The church, which is dedicated to St. Mary, and once Collegiate, is the principal object in the town : it is spacious and handsome ; of singular construction, in the early Gothic style. Risdon says “ it is fair according to the structure of those times ; whereof the windows, little, and low, are so bedecked with the armories of divers benefactors, more especially of the founders, that instead

of "Lux fuit" it may be verified that they are umbrated thereby." At the north-west corner, Bishop Grandison built a richly ornamented chapel, the roof of which was decorated with fan shaped tracery. The towers on the north and south sides, are about half the height of those of Exeter Cathedral, from which they were copied. They are ornamented with pinnacles and open battlements; that on the north has a small spire.

This church has a very handsome altar-piece, and many ancient monuments which have been much neglected. In the body, between two pillars, under a pyramidal arch, is the stone statue of a warrior, armed cap a pie, with a lion at his feet; and opposite, between two similar pillars, is laid a female figure; the inscription and heraldic ornaments once about these figures are now defaced by time; but tradition bestows upon them the names of William Grandison, father of the Bishop, and Sibyl his wife.

The population of Ottery St. Mary, is about 3849; its annual value of real property, according to the assessment of 1815, is £17,682. The fairs are holden, the tuesday before Palm Sunday, Whit-tuesday, and Aug. 14th, for cattle, sheep, &c. In this place is a large and ancient Independent chapel, together with alms-houses, subscription charity school, and various benefactions for charitable purposes

The last place on this road is Clyst St. Mary, nearly 12 miles from Sidmouth, which has nothing to distinguish it but a fine situation. The parish is in the

hundred of East-Budleigh, containing 137 Inhabitants; its annual value of real property, according to the assessment of 1815, is £1556. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Exeter, valued in K. B. £5. 1. 3., and net annual value according to last P. R. £ 190. patron, Rev. Thomas Strong.

## CHAPTER XII.

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### Environz.

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OTTERTON, BICTON, BUDLEIGH, SALTERTON, EXMOUTH,  
TOPSHAM, AND LYMPSTONE.

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“Go climb the mountain; from the ethereal source  
Imbibe the recent gale. The cheerful morn  
Beams o'er the hills; go mount the exulting steed.  
But if the breathless chase o'er hill and dale  
Exceed your strength; a sport of less fatigue,  
Not less delightful, the prolific stream  
Affords.”

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WESTWARD of Sidmouth, over Peak hill, are the following places worthy of notice; namely, Otterton, Bicton, Budleigh, Budleigh-Salterton, and Exmouth, and between the latter place and Exeter, Topsham and Lympstone.

Otterton, about three miles from Sidmouth, is a parish in the hundred of East-Budleigh, deriving its name from the river Otter. Its annual value of real

property, according to the assessment of 1815, is £6086. The town is a poor place, consisting principally of one street; the number of inhabitants are computed at one thousand one hundred and seventy-eight, for the most part comprised of farmers and their labourers; the females are almost wholly occupied in the manufacture of a coarse kind of thread lace. The situation of the parish is pleasant and healthy; the enclosures are numerous, and the orchards and hedges very flourishing. Here was an alien priory of black monks, suppressed by Edward IV; the Prior of which claimed the right of first choice in the fish-market, of taking to himself the half of every dolphin brought there, and appropriating every porpoise at the price of twelve pence, a loaf to each sailor, and two to the master.

The manor is a noble one; for account of which see Historic collections relating to the monasteries of Devon, by the Rev. George Oliver of Exeter, quoted in General History of Sidmouth, page 17.

The living is a vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Exeter, valued in K. B. £22, and net annual value according to P. R. £312, Lord Rolle is the patron. The church, a stone building, dedicated to St. Michael, is situate on a hill at the western end of the village, overlooking the river—it comprises a nave, about 40ft. by 24ft. wide, a chancel about 20ft. by 20, an aisle with a porch, on the south about 40ft. by 20, an embattled tower south of the chancel, containing 5 bells, and a clock, and a chapel south of the tower in the south wall. Cross-

ing Otterton bridge, at a little distance on the right hand, is Bicton, the property and residence of Lord Rolle. The Mansion stands in a beautiful park, well stocked with deer, and distinguished for its noble and venerable groves of beech and oak. The gardens are extensive and elegantly planned; adorned at intervals with statues; a clear and chrystal brook meanders through the grounds. This is the most delightful place in the vicinity of Sidmouth, the region of picturesque beauty, resembling the paradisaical garden, described by Milton, in which

“ Blossoms, and Fruits, at once, of golden hue,  
 Appeared, with gay enamelled colours mixt.”

The parish of Bicton is in the hundred of East-Budleigh, containing 213 inhabitants; its annual value of real property, according to the assessment of 1815, is £ 1966. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Exeter, valued in K. B. £ 12. 13. 3., and according to P. R. net annual value, £ 220. Lord Rolle is the patron. The church, which was formerly a chapel to Otterton, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, is situated in a sequestered spot, embowered in trees and shrubs, adjoining the splendid Gardens of Bicton. It consists of a nave about 30ft. by 15 wide, a chancel about 15ft. by 15, an aisle or chapel on the south 12ft. by 12, and an aisle on the north 45ft. by 12. In the south aisle or chapel against the south wall, is a large and handsome monument of black and white marble, with the effigies at whole length of D. Rolle, Esq. his lady and child

all richly habited, reclining on an altar-tomb. Above, is the following inscription, written by Dr. Fuller.

“THE REMAINS OF DENY’S ROLLE, ESQ.”

“ His earthly part within this tomb doth rest  
 Who kept a court of honour in his breast,  
 Birth, Beautie, Witt, and Wisdom, sate as peeres,  
 Till death mistook his vertues for his years ;  
 Or else Heaven envy’d earth so rich a treasure,  
 Wherein too fine the ware, too scant the measure ;  
 His mournfull wife, her love to shew in part,  
 This tomb built here, a better in her heart.  
 Sweet babe, his hopefull heyre, (Heaven grant this boon )  
 Live but so well, but oh ! die not so soon.”

The historian of Devonshire describes the church in the following words :—“It is a small but neat building, its situation is most romantic ; placed in silence and solitude, it stands embowered, amidst the fine deep foliage of forest trees that surround it at a little distance, and interweave their branches, as if to secure it from every passing eye. Whilst we approach the church we feel sensations of awe from its holy seclusion ; but they are mixed with ideas of fairy scenery. The spot is in itself most enchanting ; thus encircled by such a beautiful screen of wood, thus insulated and withdrawn from the world, we fancy ourselves amidst the groves of Rousseau’s Ermenonville, and recalling his fine painting to memory, can recognise its prototype in the objects around us.”

Budleigh, or rather East-Budleigh, is a parish in

the hundred of the same name, containing 2044 inhabitants; its annual value of real property according to the assessment of 1815, is £5067; formerly it was a market-town. To the west of this is Hayes, celebrated as the birth-place of Sir Walter Raleigh, who seemed to be greatly attached to it, for during the plenitude of his court favour, he wrote to Mr. Duke, to purchase it. The house is a pretty rustic dwelling; its immediate vicinity may very aptly be apostrophized by an extract from one of his own poems—

“Blest silent Groves! O may ye be

For ever mirth’s best nursery!

May pure contents

For ever pitch their tents

Upon these downs, these meads, these rocks, these mountains

And peace still slumber by these purling fountains

Which we may ev’ry year

Find when we come a fishing here.”

It may not be perhaps amiss to introduce the following account of this celebrated man, taken from the Aubrey papers. “Sir Walter was a tall, handsome, bold man; he had a most remarkable aspect, an exceeding high forehead, long faced, and sour eyelidded, a kind of pig eye,—he was the first that brought tobacco into England, and in fashion. They had first silver pipes; common people used a walnut shell and a straw; I have heard my great Grandfather Lyte say, that one pipe was handed from man to man round the table.” “Sir Walter, standing in a stand at Sir Robert Pointz’ park, at Acton, took a pipe of tobacco,

which made the Ladies quit it 'till he had done. For a long time it was scandalous for a divine to take tobacco. I have heard some of our old Yeomen neighbours say, that when they went to market, they culled out their biggest shillings to lay in the scales against the tobacco." "Old Sir Thomas Mallet, one of the justices of the King's bench prison, in the time of Charles I. and II. says that 'notwithstanding his so great mastership of style, and his conversation with the learnedst and politest persons, yet he spake broad Devonshire to his dying day.' In his speech on the scaffold, he spake not one word of Christ, but of the great and incomprehensible God, with much zeal, and adoration, so that my cousin Whitney concluded he was an a-Christ, not an a-theist."

The living of Budleigh is a dis. vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Exeter, valued in K. B. £ 30., annual net value, according to P. R. £ 318, Lord Rolle is the patron. The church, dedicated to All Saints, is a stone edifice, with a square tower 80ft. high, containing a clock, and five bells. The windows are decorated with several coats of arms, and on the facing of an old seat is a representation of Bishop Blaze. Tradition says, that on a stone in the churchyard, was formerly an inscription, without date, over the tomb of a man who broke his neck in an attempt to fly from the tower with artificial wings. There is a large ancient Independent chapel in East-Budleigh.

About  $1\frac{1}{3}$  mile from the latter place, and 7 from

Sidmouth, is a pleasant and rapidly increasing watering-place called Budleigh-Salterton; the air of this town is considered as peculiarly light and buoyant. A great number of lodging-houses have lately been erected. The appearance of the beach is very peculiar, being comprised of a vast number of uniform broad, flat, oval-shaped pebbles, some curiously veined. Salterton is indebted to Lord Rolle for an Episcopal Chapel, and to the late well-known Mr. Lackington, the bookseller, for a neat place of worship for the Wesleyan Methodists.

Exmouth, about 168 miles w. s. w. from London, 10 from Exeter, and 12 from Sidmouth, is a township partly in the parish of Littleham, and partly in that of Withycombe Raleigh, in the hundred of East-Budleigh, containing, with the parish of Littleham, 3189 inhabitants; its annual value of real property, according to the assessment of 1815, £8647. It is the oldest watering-place in Devonshire, and conformably to its name, is situated at the spot where the river Exe mingles its waters with the ocean. A little more than a century ago, it was merely a fishing hamlet, but is now one of the best frequented watering places in the county. The old houses are low and incommodious, but many new ones have been erected for the accommodation of visitors. There are hot and cold baths, assembly rooms, and circulating libraries, with every convenience and attraction. It is sheltered from the north-east and south-east winds by high hills, from which rise several springs, which supply the place

with excellent water. The walks about Exmouth are very delightful, and together with the newly erected houses on the beacon, command a fine and extensive prospect. A terrace runs along the cliffs, made some years since by Lord Rolle, to whom the manor belongs. The view to the right exhibits a beautiful amphitheatre of hills, stretching from Exeter to the Berry head, the central part adorned by the rich woods of Mam-head, crowned by the obelisk. (Mamhead formerly belonged to the family of the Nightingales. The beautiful monument by Roubiliac in Westminster Abbey, is said to commemorate a tragical event, which occurred in these grounds; when Mrs. Nightingale was struck dead by lightning, in her husband's arms.) Beyond, lies Powderham Castle, with its belvidere and grounds. On the left is an unlimited expanse of sea, and in front the entrance of the estuary of the Exe, covered with vessels of every description. Among the improvements of the place, is a new Gothic Church, erected at the sole expense of Lord Rolle. Here are two chapels belonging to the Independents, and a charity school for boys and girls, supported by the nobleman just alluded to.

Between Exmouth and Topsham, on the eastern banks of the Exe, is Lympstone, anciently called Lenningstone, a village and parish in the hundred of East-Budleigh, containing, 1066 inhabitants; its annual value of real property, according to the assessment of 1815, is £3377. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Exeter, valued in K. B. £15. 13. 4. according to P. R. net value per annum £267. Patron, T. Porter, Esq. The church, dedicated to St. Mary,

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#### ERRATA.

- Page 25, line 13, for misanthrophy, read misanthropy.  
 — 43, — 14 & 15, for Major Cunningham, read James Cunningham, Esq.  
 — 46, — 6, for Pacas, read Lamas.  
 — 51, — 12, for betwen, read between.  
 — 96, — 4, for an, read and.  
 — 115, — 22, for semon, read sermon.  
 — 118, — 6, for entireley, read entirely.  
 — 123, — 12, for assinarian, read asinarian.  
 — 126, — 22, for beauty read bounty.  
 — 150, — 2, for the Inns commodious and well lighted, read, the Inns commodious, and streets well lighted.

The letter box for the London Mail leaves at 10 o'clock  
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