A description of Buxton, and the adjacent country, or, The new guide, for ladies and gentlemen, resorting to that place of health and amusement; where for the convenience of the public, His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, has magnificently provided such very handsome and ample accommodations / compiled by W. Bott.

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Bott, William.

Publication/Creation

Manchester: Printed by J. Harrop, 1795.

Persistent URL

https://wellcomecollection.org/works/bt8qmuqr

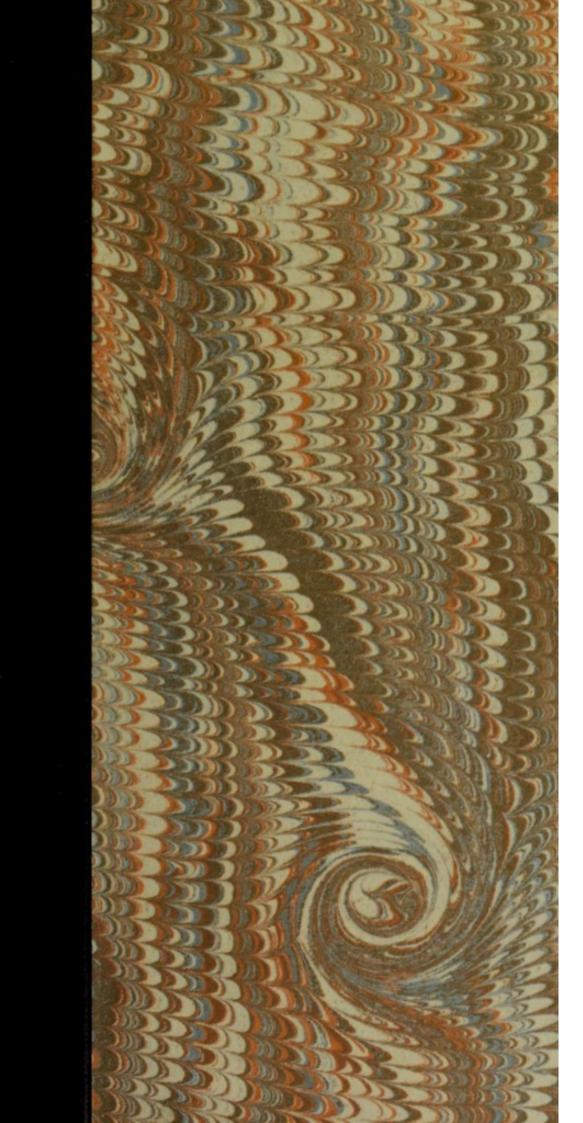
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Binding 16

(8th Edit was sold by John Goodwin, Sheffield and Buxton Printed by W Todd. Mercury Office Published for Goodwin's Buxton Guido. Has a frontis of Buxton Crescent)

This edition much earlier.

£110

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MANCHESTER :

PRINTED BY J. HARROP.

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A

DESCRIPTION

OF

BUXTON, &c.

THE falubrity of the air, and the excellent quality of the water, are entitled to very particular and distinguished notice, on account of both their very ancient reputation and great usefulness.

It will scarcely admit of a doubt, that Buxton, on account of its warm springs, was frequented by the Romans, at the time when they were in possession of this country; and, tho' this place was very much attended in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, yet the number of those who have resorted thither since that time has been continually increasing; houses

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for

for their reception and accommodation, have also, as might be supposed, been multiplied in the same proportion.

The Hall, which is the most ancient building, has been erected at different periods; the oldest part was raised above two hundred years ago: in the reign of Charles the Ist. an addition was made to it by George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, but the largest part was not built till the middle of the present century.

Besides the Hall, there are several other houses designed for the same purpose, but none of them are equal to it in size, or convenience of situation: However, there has been lately erected, a range of building, which, for beauty and magnissence, exceeds any other in this part of the kingdom; it is constructed in the form of a Crescent, with a colonade extending the whole length of the front—the space of the building is two hundred and sifty-seven feet wide, and eleven feet high. This Crescent consists of sour private lodging-houses, two hotels, and the

Assembly Room; the latter of which forms a part of the larger hotel, and is seventy sive feet six inches long, thirty feet two inches wide, and thirty feet high; an elegant stone ballustrade extends the whole length of the front, and the arms of the Cavendish family, neatly carved in stone, are sixed in the centre—the number of windows in this magnificent building are upwards of three hundred.

It is not possible to ascertain with exactness the number of the company who resort to Buxton every season, but it is computed that the public buildings and private lodgings will accommodate above seven hundred persons, besides the inhabitants of the place, and it is well known that for some years past, several persons have occasionally been obliged to seek lodgings in the neighbouring villages.

There are circumstances attending the use of Buxton water, of which it may not be improper to take notice: When drank in considerable quantity, it is found to possess a binding and heating quality, and is productive of many feverish symptoms; with a

view of preventing such disagreeable essects, it is usual to recommend a gentle purgative, to keep the body open. These waters in common with a great many others, are observed, upon first drinking, to affect the head with a fort of giddiness, attended with a sense of universal sulness and drowsiness, but after using them a few days, the sensations go off, and are seldom or never perceived afterwards.

The spirit is different in different waters, and in most appears so extremely sugitive, that it immediately slies off when exposed to the air—all waters are best when drank at the sountain-head. Pure water, as it betrays neither taste nor smell, must be admirably calculated to correct the acrimonious state of the sluids, from whatever cause it may arise, and if any thing upon earth, can be considered as an universal remedy, it must be water. A uniform course of this pure element, assisted by exercise, and a proper regimen in diet, will do more in some diseases than any thing we know of.

Buxton waters are of particular service to people who are fubject to bilious cholics, but the patient must be careful to assist them by observing a fuitable regimen in his diet, avoiding all things of a hot stimulating nature, or fuch as have a tendency to exalt the humours. There is a cholic which attacks people of a scorbutic habit, that seems to derive its origin from the acrimonious state of the humours, and Buxton waters are found to be of fingular fervice in that diforder, efpecially when accompanied with fuch remedies as tend to correct the impurities of the blood. These waters restore the tone of the ftomach and intestines, after diarrhous and dysenteries contracted at sea, or upon land: The patient should however be advised to begin with finall dofes, increasing the quantity as they are found to agree. They are found to be of great use in the cure of the diabetes; and those who are subject to fits of the gravel frequently find great benefit from them. They are also famous for the cure of rheumatic complaints; and in feveral kinds of palfy, they are preferred to Bath.

It is to be remarked that those who go to Buxton on account of rheumatic complaints, find their pains increase, and after bathing and drinking the waters a few days, perceive a fensation of fulness and uneafiness all over their bodies, but this is no unpromifing fign, as it denotes that the impacted matter is attenuated, and again absorbed into the circulation, which before had been obstructed in the small vessels running between the fibres of the muscles; they ought therefore to perfift in bathing and drinking, taking care to avoid cold, which might be of bad confequence and endanger an attack of a rheumatic fever. If any particular joint be more affected than the rest, it must be well pumped and rubbed with a flesh brush, in order to attenuate the impacted matter. Many rheumatic persons of my acquaintance have received great benefit from wearing a flannel shirt next their skin, and it is known, from reason and experience, to be a powerful promoter of infensible perspiration. These waters are ferviceable in the scorbutic rheumatism, which often attacks women and men of a weakly constitution; and differs from

the genuine rheumatism, from its being more irregular in its attacks, seldom or ever attended with any degree of sever, and rarely occasioning any swelling.

The waters of Buxton are of fo happy a temperature, that they may be used either as a warm or cold bath. The instant a person plunges into the water, he receives a shock nearly equal to what is felt upon going into river water in a hot summer's day; in a few minutes the sensation of coldness goes off, a most agreeable warmth succeeds, and if the Patient remains in the bath, a relaxation of the vessels and muscular parts will ensue; this may justly be esteemed amongst the chief properties of Buxton water, in which it very widely differs, from both Bath and Bristol; for in the one, the waters are too hot, and in the other too cold, to enjoy this advantage.

There are few diseases which require bathing more than once in twenty-sour hours, and according to the nature of the case, the time of remaining in the bath must be shortened or protracted; if it be short, it operates much after the manner of a river bath in the height of summer; but if the person chuses to remain four minutes, the relaxing power of the bath will then begin to take place. The morning, about an hour before breakfast is the best time for bathing, though any time in the day may be proper, if not too soon after eating.

Few people drink above three pints of the water in a day, but if their stomachs can well bear, and the nature of the case requires it, they may safely increase the quantity. The usual season for drinking the Water, is from the beginning of April to the beginning of November; but if the patient requires a longer perseverance, he may safely use it all the winter, as it is found upon repeated trials to be equally good in all seasons.

The baths which are five in number, have been formed at different periods. The Gentlemen's has been built time immemorial—that for the Ladies is of a moderate date. There are three private baths, a cold bath, and one which is appropriated to the use of the poor.

They

They are all adjoining to one another, but diftinct apartments.

In the Gentlemen's bath, the water rifes on the fouth east side, in a stratum of lime-stone, and in the other through several seams in the sloor. It has been calculated that all the springs throw out the water at the rate of sixty gallons in a minute; the Gentlemen's bath has filled to the height of sive feet in sifty minutes, and two hours and sifty minutes are required to fill all the three baths.

The poor at their bath are not only exempted from all charge, but also meet with great assistance and support from the charitable contributions of the company who resort to Buxton, as it is customary for every new comer, if he stays more than one day, to give one shilling for their use, which is collected and taken care of by the Steward of the house in which he happens to lodge: and the sum raised in this way in the course of the season, has some years past been very considerable. The common weekly allowance to the poor is six shillings, and should

any of them be more weak and necessitous, then it is usual to add something more.

Buxton is a place of refort for pleasure, as well as for health; the common amusements are, in the morning, taking the air, and sometimes hunting, in the evening, plays and dancing; to the former purpose the country is most excellently adapted, and a most excellent pack of harriers are kept by subscription, where all Gentlemen that resort to Buxton, may have the pleasure of hunting from Michaelmas to Lady-day; and the country being high and open, forms a pleasing contrast to those who are accustomed to low and slat situations.

Pool's Hole is situated at a small distance from Buxton, the entrance to which is low and contracted, as that of Peak's Hole is lofty and magnificent; the passage at first is so very low and narrow, that it is impossible to go forward without stooping; however, after having proceeded between twenty and thirty yards in this posture, you enter a spacious and lofty cavern, the roof and sides of which

are continually dropping, and congeals itself into large pillars and maffes upon the floor; these bodies are daily increasing from the disposition of calcarious earth, with which the drops of water from the roof are discharged in very great abundance, and it is no fmall amusement as you go along, to observe the diversity of curious figures which they have produced. When you reach the Flitch of Bacon, which is a large icicle hanging from the roof of the cavern, it becomes again a little contracted; but beyond this part, it is once more wide and lofty, and continues fo till you come to the Queen of Scots' Pillar, which is a name given to a large massy column of stalactites, on account of its having been vifited, according to tradition, by that unfortunate Queen during her stay at Buxton: The following lines, she wrote upon a pane of glass, at the Hall, before she left Buxton:

> Buxton, whose fame thy Baths shall ever tell; Whom I, perhaps, shall see no more, farewell.

As this Pillar cannot be passed without some difficulty and danger, sew persons venture beyond it, nor does it seem desireable; for by proceeding thus far, a pretty compleat idea

of the cavern may be formed: The path hitherto is along the fide and at some height from the bottom of this fubterraneous passage, but to visit and examine the interior extremity, it becomes necessary to descend a few yards by very flippery and ill-formed steps; at first the path at the bottom is tolerably even and level, but at the distance of twenty yards the paffage rifes with a perpendicular ascent to the height of about eighty yards; and as it is difficult to climb up, it feldom happens that fuch an attempt is made by those who are led by mere curiofity into the place: It is, however, customary for the guide to fix a candle at the extremity, which has a fingufar and beautiful effect, to those who stand below, and appears much like an evening star. The way by which you return, lies along the bottom of the cavern, and you are obliged to pass under the Queen of Scots' Pillar; and by thus changing the path, an opportunity is furnished of better ascertaining the height and width of the cavern in every part, and of viewing other accumulations of watery icicle, some of which are of a prodigious fize and extraordinary form: When you return to the narrow passage by which you entered, two cavities in the rock are shewn, one of which is called Pool's Chamber, and the other his Closet. The whole length of this subterraneous passage is said to be five hundred and sixty yards, viz. four hundred and sixty to the Queen of Scots' Pillar, and one hundred beyond it.

A few years ago as some men were getting stone at the top of a hill above Pool's Hole to burn to lime, they broke into a fresh cavern, which is supposed to communicate with it at the bottom of the hill, but it was impossible to get down.

About a mile and a half from the Hill just mentioned, stands Axe-Hill, which is one of the largest Hills in this country, out of which issue four Rivers, viz. the Wye, the Dane, the Dove, and the Goit, and from whence of a sine clear day, with a telescope, you may see the Welch Mountains, and the Light house, beyond Liverpool.

The most striking and remarkable cavernin Derbyshire, which has ever been discovered

in the clefts of the lime-stone rocks, is met with at Calleton, about twelve miles from Buxton, and is generally known by the name of Peak's-hole: It is fituated in a deep and narrow recess of the valley, in which the Town stands on each side; near the end of the recess, two large faces of rock are seen rifing to a vast height; on the summit to the left, and close to the edge of the precipice, an ancient castle appears, as it were perched aloft in the air, and at the foot of the rock on the opposite side, the mouth of the cavern opens with grandeur and magnificence. It is about eight yards high and forty wide, the arch at the entrance is regularly formed, and in a direct line extends near three hundred feet: This part is tolerably light, and inhabited by a number of poor people employed in the manufacture of packthread, who having built small dwellings, follow their work in this spacious and extended vault, without experiencing the burning heats of the fummer, or the sharp colds of the winter season. yond the first turning, a gentle declivity is perceived, and the path is rendered wet and dirty by the drops of water which are frequently

frequently falling from the roof: At the distance of about one hundred and thirty yards from the mouth of the cavern, all further progress into it was formerly obstructed by a projection of the rock and a deep gulph at the extremity of it; but a passage having been opened through the rock, a door is hung and locked, to prevent any one going beyond this place without the assistance of a guide.

The cavern, which has been fome time gradually contracting, appears about twenty yards further, to be entirely closed in every part; however, upon a near approach to the rock, a low passage under it, almost full of water, is discovered; this opening is just large enough to admit a small boat, and the passengers are obliged to lie almost flat down: Upon landing, you will find yourfelf in a cavern still more spacious than the former, as it is faid to be feventy yards wide and forty high; into which not a ray. of light can enter it, excepting what proceeds from the candle which you carry with you, the faint glimmering of which, tends only to render you sensible of the extreme darkness

and horror of the place; yet by a proper disposition of candles, a tolerable complete idea of its shape and size may be formed, and when sufficiently illuminated, a path is discoverable on the right hand, which leads up a steep ascent to the top of a high rock, called the Chancel: Descending from this elevated situation, and proceeding further in the cavern, you will perceive that it becomes again much narrower and lower, after which nothing occurs particularly deserving of remark.

The whole length of this subterraneous passage is said to be seven hundred and sifty yards. About eight years ago, at a small distance from the end of the old passage a new one was discovered, the length of which is about a hundred and sixty-sour yards; but it is not equal either in height or width to that which has been described. It may be proper to observe, that a stream of water runs through the whole length of this celebrated cavern, which after heavy rain is generally so much swelled as to render it impossible to visit the more distant parts of the cavern, as it must be crossed

crossed several times, and in one place, on account of its depth, the assistance of the guide becomes absolutely necessary.

The most striking valley in the Peak is that in which the town of Castleton stands. The first view you get into it, is the best, more especially at a point where the road makes a fudden and abrupt turning along the edge of a high and steep precipice down into the town of Castleton: The valley which is at least eight hundred feet deep, and in many parts near two miles wide, extends directly eastward to the distance of five or fix miles; a number of leffer dales from the north and fouth, are feen at various distances to open into it, and the steep hill of the valley is rendered very beautiful by a feries of well cultivated inclosures, which rife one above another to its very edge.

The village of Hope, with its spire church which stands about two miles to the east, down the valley, has a very agreeable effect, and by directing your eye along the north side, you see the country boldly swelling

into hills, and at length terminating into two high points at a confiderable distance from each other: When you descend from this elevated fituation, a fresh set of objects prefent themselves, no less striking and pictuerfque, and at the bottom the town of Castleton is observed. On a very high eminence to the fouth of this Town, the ruins of an ancient castle frequently attract your eye, and directly beyond the town, the celebrated Mam Torr raises its lofty head, seeming with an awful majesty to overlook all the scene of beauty and grandeur: Every mile, nay almost every step presents fresh objects and scenes, some of them grand, beautiful, and romantic.

Whoever has followed the course of the river Derwent from Hathersage, by Chatsworth, Darley, Matlock and Dussield, as far as the town of Derby, will have a clearer idea of the highly varied and charming scenery of this valley, than any words can express; it may, however, perhaps, be worth while, to attempt a description of that part of it which passes near the village of Matlock.

When you approach Matlock, from the fouth, you are presented with a specimen of the scenery by which the dale is distinguished; there is a piece of rock at the bottom of Cromford Hill, which is varied on its surface, and beautifully fringed with wood, on the right of which Sir Richard Arkwright has erected a most noble mansion house on the other side the river Derwent.

The entrance into Matlock Dale is through a rock, which has been blafted for the purpose of opening a convenient passage: It was intended, when the passage was made, to have left a rude arch, which was a happy Idea, and, had it been carried into execution, would have had an excellent effect; but even in its present state, the views from this place are very striking. On the left hand of the Dale, prodigious high, barren and large rocks appear, and, casting your eye on the contrary fide, you fee others rifing to the perpendicular height of two or three hundred feet, forming a most magnificent rampart; but the horror they would inspire is greatly diminished, by the variety of trees

and shrubs with which several of them are adorned, which give a foftness to the scene, and render it beautiful and fublime. Whilst the lower part of the Dale is covered with wood and branches of trees, which hang in a very pleafing manner over the river, the most stupendous rocks are feen boldly projecting forward, fome entirely bare, others partly covered with shrubs, which have no nourishment or support but what is found in the crevices of these rocks; and the constant winding of the Dale, which extends in nearly. the fame romantic stile to the distance of two miles, much heightens and improves the fcene. But to render the charms of this delightful place more pleasing, the river Derwent, (which has been already noticed as passing through it) flows, in some parts, with a noise and a rapid current, and in others, with fuch a deep and gentle stream, that its unruffled furface clearly reflects the rocks and woods near its margin; thus rocks, trees, fhrubs and water conspiring at once, to fill the mind of the spectator with admiration and delight.

The Dale will be feen with still additional advantage by croffing the river in a boat above the Old Bath, where it is observed, that art has contributed to improve the natural beauty of the place. On landing, three walks are feen pointing through the wood in fo many different directions; two of them, by curious and frequent windings along the fide of the dale, at last bring you to its fummit, on the edge of a very high and fleep precipice, where you have a new and different view of all the beautiful scenes through which you have passed. The other path I have mentioned is called the Lover's Walk, and runs along the fide of the river; it has been cut through the wood, and is delightfully arched by the branches of the trees with which it is inclosed: There is, besides, another very pleafant walk through a grove, which lies betwixt the Old and New Bath.

No object, however, in Matlock dale is fo striking, as a grand and stupendous rock, known by the name of the High Torr; which rifes almost perpendicular from the river, to the height of about three hundred feet, and holdly

boldly projects its broad front into the valley—the upper part is one folid mass, and for fixty yards appears to be perpendicular.

The warm springs at Matlock have not been fo long discovered, nor are they posfessed of so high a reputation as those at Buxton; they were first noticed about the year 1698. The water at Matlock, like that at Buxton, has gradually risen to the degree of reputation which it now possesses, and fome idea may be formed of the esteem in which it is held, by the company which frequent the place every feafon; it being calculated that the Bath houses, in conjunction with the private lodging houses in the neighbourhood, will accommodate about two hundred perfons; and it is well known, that during the height of the feafon, they are not fufficient to receive all the company that refort to the place.

In pursuing the other Rivers which run through the *Peak* of *Derbyshire*, several romantic dales are to be met with. The banks of the River Wye, are in many places very striking

ftriking and beautiful. At a fmall distance from the Village of Wormbill, the dale is very deep, and when you arrive at the bottom, you are struck with the fight of a prodigious large rock, called Chee Torr, which is said to be one hundred and twenty yards in height: As in some parts it overhangs considerably, is beautifully fringed with wood, with the River Wye, slowing at its soot, the great variety in it cannot be seen to advantage unless the spectator frequently changes the ground on which he stands.

From Chee Torr, to see Monfal Dale, which is only a bridle road, Mr. Hill is the most proper person to be your guide; going down by Millar's Dale, Tideswell Mill, and Litton Mill, you get to a point of land, where you have a fine view of three beautiful Dales: On the south side stands Cressbrook Dale, in which is situated Mr. Baker's House, where he has made a large plantation of lavender, pepper-mint, and other aromatic herbs, and set up a distillery of them: Proceeding down the valley, and leaving a farm house on your right, you ascend the hill to where Longston

lane-head, joins the Bakewell Road: Here you have a grand view of Monfal Dale two different ways, and casting your eye down into the valley, you will behold many objects to render the scene beautiful.

From Matlock to Kedleston, about fourteen miles, is the feat of Lord Scarsdale, which was built by the present Lord, from the defign of Mr. Robert Adam, in the year 1761. The front is magnificent and beautiful, the apartments elegant, and at the fame time useful, a circumstance not always to be met with in a great house: It is the ancient feat of the Curzon's family, a family of great antiquity in this county. The entrance from the turnpike road is through a grove of noble and venerable oaks, and after croffing a lawn and passing the water by an elegant stone bridge of three arches, a gentle afcent leads to the house; the front of which is three hundred and fixty feet, and of white stone: In the centre is a slight of steps leading to a portico, confisting of fix Corinthian pillars, three feet in diameter, which support a pediment decorated with statues; on each fide,

fide, a corridore, forming two wings, connects a pavilion with the body of the house: The steps lead into a magnificent hall, behind it is a circular faloon, on the left of which are a music-room, drawing-room, and library, and at the end of the corridore, the private apartments of Lord and Lady Scarfdale, and their family: On the right are the dining-room, state dressing-room, the kitchen and offices. On each fide of the hall are eight fluted pillars, with two at each end, of the Corinthian order, and of variegated marble of the country; they are twentyfive feet high, and two feet fix inches in diameter: This room is fixty feet by thirty within the columns, fixty-feven feet three inches by forty-two within the walls, and forty-feven to the top of the windows; between the columns are fine antique statues, in niches, over which are baffo relievos in compartments, crowned with festoons, and the cieling is covered and richly ornamented with paintings and relievos in the antique taste: In the centre is a window, by which the whole receives light, and the pannels of the doors which are of paper, the manufacture

of Mr. Clay, of Birmingham, are highly varnished, and the paintings well executed. The Saloon is forty-two feet in diameter, fifty-four feet fix inches high, twenty-four feet fix inches to the cornice, is crowned with a dome which lights it, and over the door are four paintings by Moreland, and there are some statues in niches. In the Music-Hall, which is thirty-fix feet by twenty-four, is the triumphs of Bacchus, a large and capital piece of Luca Giordani; a fine head by Rembrandt; and other pieces by Baffan Horizont, &c. From this room a corridore, hung with elegant prints, leads to the family apartments. The Breakfast Room is painted from the antique in the baths of Dioclesian. In the grand-Drawing Room, which is forty-four feet by: twenty-eight, and twenty-eight high, with a coved cieling, are many capital pictures by Raphael, Claude, Guido, Cuyh, &c. The furniture is blue damask; and a Venetian window, and four door cases are ornamented with small Carinthian columns of alabaster.

The Library is of the same size and height as the Music Room: Over the chimney, is a

piece of Rembrant, which beggars all description; it is the story of Daniel brought before Nebuchadnezzar to interpret his dream, and contains eight or nine whole length figures; the composed majesty of the King, who is feated in a chair of state, the astonishment and terror of his great men fitting near him, and the earnestness of Daniel kneeling before him, in short, the whole piece is beautiful beyond expression. Striking from this room across the saloon, is the dressing-room and bed chamber, the latter of which is thirty feet by twenty-two, and twenty high, with a fervant's room behind, the two former are hung with blue damask, the bed of the same, with gold lace, supported by palm trees of mahogany, carved and gilt. The dining parlour is thirty-fix feet by twenty-four, and twenty high: The ceiling is adorned with paintings; the centre representing Love embracing Fortune, by Moreland; four circles by Zuccho, reprefenting the four quarters of the world; and four squares by Hamilton, the four seasons. The corridore on this fide, which is used as a Chapel, leads to a gallery over-looking the kitchen, which is forty-eight feet by twentyfour, and lofty, with this fignificant motto, waste not, want not. The principal stair-case leading out of the hall to the attic story at this end, conducts to eight apartments for visitors, most of which have bed-rooms, and fervants rooms. The Church stands close to the west end of the house.

From the principal front of the house, which is the north, the eye is conducted by a beautiful slope to the water, which is feen falling down a cascade, encircling an island, planted with trees, and then forming a large river on which is a yatch: Below is a fmall raftic building, over the well and bath, which is principally valued for the antifcorbutic quality of which it is possessed; when taken inwardly it is diuretic, and has given relief to persons afflicted with the gravel; it has also been found useful from external application, in which way it is faid to have been employed with advantage in most diseases of the skin, but more especially in ulcerous complaints: This water, when drank in quantity, has a binding property, and persons of a costive habit cannot make use of it without a gentle purgative, but upon others it is faid to be directly the reverse.

Kedleston House certainly exhibits a very striking proof of taste and ingenuity, every thing being rich, but nothing tawdry, trisling, or affected; for in buildings of this kind, convenience and utility are often facrificed to elegance and grandeur, but here it is scarcely possible to say which has been most consulted, as the state rooms are not many, and the rest of the house consisting of excellent offices and comfortable apartments, render the plan of the whole easy and intelligible: The situation of the house and the improvements about it also afford undoubted evidence of sine taste and exquisite contrivance.

Though the feat of Lord Scarfdale justly excites the admiration of all those who visit it, it is not yet brought to that state of perfection to which his Lordship intends to carry it, being now employed in making considerable alterations and improvements, both in the house and the grounds about it: What has already been executed has been attended

with immense labour and expence; for besides the works which have been noticed,
the antient family seat has been taken down,
a small village and corn mill near it removed
to a considerable distance, and the road which
had formerly been near the house, has been
restored to its ancient direction by Kedleston
Inn, kept by Mr. Stephens, where a great
deal of company resort during the season,
both to bathe and drink the water, which is
much the same as at Harrowgate, Yorkshire.

From Kedleston you proceed to Ashborne, where you take a guide to see Dovedale, which is about three miles from Ashborne, and eighteen from Buxton.

At Okeover, (two miles from Ashborne,) which is a feat belonging to a gentleman of that name, is a piece of painting by Raphael, which is exquisite indeed.

From hence you proceed to *Ilam*, a feat of *Mr. Porte*: On entering this gentleman's grounds, (for the house has nothing in it remarkable) you get into a deep glen, on either

fide well covered with trees, and the river Manifold rolling at the bottom; continuing your progress, you come to a rude seat in the rock, famous as being the spot where Congreve, then scarcely nineteen, wrote his Old Bachelor, and descending by a number of steps, which afford a grand view of the oppofite hill, you continue along the path way, at the fide of which are many confiderable fized trees, growing through the interstices of the rocks, and which as they increase in bulk, gradually expand: From this fpot you get upon a flat, where you are encircled by a range of beautiful and lofty wood, except at one end, where the Thorp Cloud, at the entrance of Dovedale, peeps through the trees : Thence continuing along the borders of a canal you come to the fpot where the rivers Hemp and Manifold iffue from two apertures in a rock, at the distance of fifteen yards from each other. As the fources as they are called of fuch bodies of water, these springs would be worthy the observation of a traveller; but when you find they are merely the continuance of the same rivers, which lose themselves in different parts of the country, the Hemp being

being four miles distant, and the Manifold fix, and five miles at least from each other, the matter becomes a curiofity, and many people might be led to suppose, that by shewing themselves so very close to each other at Ilam, it is probable they joined in their fubterranean passage. This is, however, put beyond a doubt by experiment: The gardener being a man of a more extensive way of thinking than generally falls to the lot of people of his class, threw about two gross of corks into the Manifold where it loses itself, and watching the next two days unremittingly in his master's grounds, at length found about two dozen of them iffue from the chasm of that river; the others, as supposed, being stopped in their progress, or ground to pieces by the sharpness of the rocks: To ascertain this as certain, a similar trial was made with the Hemp, and it answered in the fame manner; from which it is demonstratively proved, that they continue ufunder during the whole course of their progress, till they join their streams at Ilam with that of the Dove, and there form a river.

You now proceed to Dovedale, so called from the river running through it, the approach to which along the side of Thorp Cloud, is, though much admired, almost unworthy of notice, the Cloud having neither height nor beauty to recommend it: On entering the dale you walk on the banks of the river, which is a clear transparent brook, winding beautifully; the rocks on either side are mishapen and grotesque, and a profusion of woods scattered up and down, combine to give a wild and romantic variety to the scene.

Not far within the dale your guide shews you the frightful eminence, where the Rev. Mr. Langton, Dean of Clogher, in Ireland, proposed, on horseback, to ascend a very high precipice near Reynard's Hall, which is apparently between three and four hundred feet high; and Miss La Roche, a young lady of the party, with greater spirit than prudence, requested she might get up behind, and accompany him in his bold adventure, which being immediately complied with, the head of the horse was directed up the precipice: Having climbed the steep ascent to a considerable

considerable height, the feet of the horse flipped, and they all fell down; the Dean having fallen to the bottom, was found bruifed in a most terrible manner, and being conveyed to Ashborne, there died, after languishing a few days: With the young lady it fortunately fared better, for though found in an insensible state, she in a few days happily recovered, having been caught in her descent by the hair, by a bramble bush: The horse was more fortunate than the riders, for tho' it rolled to the bottom of the precipice. the only injury it received from the fall, was a few bruises on its fides. I would advise therefore the company that refort to Dovedale, to walk up the dale, and fend their horses to meet them at the top, which is near New Inn turnpike, eighteen miles from Buxton.

The Staffordshire fide of the dale and little stream of Dove dividing it from Derbyshire, are well clothed with trees, while the opposite shore, which is totally bereft of wood, is so barren and rugged, that their dissimilarity is entertaining: A chasm to the right soon opens itself, thro' which you have a delight-

ful view of the traverfings of the river, and of an assemblage of rocks, which are almost buried within the trees, and give an idea of a mouldering monastry.

From this place the rocks continue, some stupendous, and others so rent asunder, that they form the oddest appearances that can be conceived. Proceeding on, you come to a grand arch in a rock, called Reynard's Hole, from whence a diversified scene appears, and passing through it you next ascend Reynard's Hall, and Kitchen.

This fituation furnishes a beautiful but continued view of the Dale; the rocks on the opposite side are finely adorned with hanging woods, and at a small distance from them arises a grand solitary pointed rock, which by way of eminence is known by the name of Dovedale Church; its appearance is peculiarly pleasing and sublime, and cannot fail to strike the eye of every one who passes by it. Before you quit the Dale, a cold fountain, which is transparent and sweet, must not be forgot; it issues immediately into the

river from a spring almost on the same level, thereby rendering it difficult sometimes to be found out.

A little way higher up the Dale are like-wise many delightful scenes, and it may be proper to add, that at the distance of a mile from Buxton, is a deep and craggy precipice, known by the name of the Lovers Leap, where his Grace the Duke of Devonshire has made a carriage road of near two miles, for the accommodation of the public: This part of the dale is no more than a narrow and tremendous chasm, and it requires some firmness of mind to be able to look down to the bottom of it without feeling some degree of terror.

Middleton Dale is a narrow, winding and deep chasm; in grandeur and beauty not inserior to some of the vallies and dales which have been attempted to be described; yet the rocks in it are of so peculiar a shape, that they never fail to make a striking impression on the mind of those who happen to visit the place, bearing, on the north-side, a strong resemblance

resemblance to the round towers and buttresses of a ruined castle, and in some parts there is such an appearance of mouldings, that one can scarcely help thinking it is not as nature formed it. The rocks are entirely perpendicular, rising to the height of three or four hundred seet, and are every where naked and unadorned, excepting a point near the entrance into Eyam dale, where Mr. Longsden has raised a beautiful plantation, in the midst of which, he has formed a grotto, and surnished it with the most elegant sossilis, collected in that part of the country.

Chatsworth, the seat of his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, is about seventeen miles from Buxton, and it is not easy to say which is most deserving of admiration, the magnificence of the Building, or the extraordinay appearance of the country in which it is situated. Upon your approaching the house at Chatsworth, you are struck with the idea of a palace, and immediately conceive that so grand and noble a mansion can be only proper for the residence of a subject of the sirst rank and for-

tune: It is built round a large quadrangular court, and has two principal fronts, the extent of one is one hundred eighty two, and the other one hundred-eighty feet: The lightness and elegance of the former, does honour to the architect, but the other fides of the house are not quite fo beautiful: Having paffed the porter's door, you are conducted through a long court, round which the apartments are built; on the opposite sides, is a colonade, fixty yards long, and in the centre a fountain, with the statue of Orpheus: a passage at the north-east corner, leads to the hall, and from thence into the apartments. The Hall is fixty feet by twenty-feven: the paintings in which are chiefly by Varro; and the death of Cafar in the Capitol, is very fine. From the stair case, which is thirty feet by twenty-four, you pass through a long gallery hung with prints, into the Chapel, which is spacious and handsomely fitted up; the floor is marble, the feats are made of cedar; and the carved work executed by Cibber and Gibbons: On each fide of the altar is a statue, by the former, which are Faith and Hope; the draperies have great merit, but the hairs of the head are not equally good: Besides these, there are many other ornaments in the Chapel, by the same hand, and amongst the paintings, the insidelity of Thomas is deserving of particular notice. There is one large room sitted up in a most elegant manner, hung with a red silk Tabberet, in which is a very large and handsome glass, in two pieces which was originally a single one, but was broken in the park, by the overturning of the waggon in which it was carried, and was valued at 500l.

The dining-room is fifty feet by thirty, is likewise hung with a beautiful filk, and has lately been sitted up in a modern and elegant manner: The dancing-gallery is one hundred feet by twenty-two, is exceeding beautiful, and is adorned with fine paintings, statues and carved work: There are six statues in the coves; the ceilings are very elegantly painted, and the cornice gilt.

When Gibbons had finished his work at Chatsworth, he presented the Duke with a point cravat, a woodcock, and a medal, which

are here preferved in a glass-case. Passing through the Billiard Room and a gallery, you come into the Blue Room, and the late Duke's apartments; and returning by the fame gallery, you are conducted to the Dutchess's dreffing room, the furniture in which is very elegant, and the ceiling beautifully painted. Proceeding through her Grace's bed chamber and the Duke's dreffing room and chamber, you enter the Music Room, which is painted in imitation of marble, and afcending another stair-case, you come to the apartments in the attic story. The room by Sir James Thornhill is thirty feet by twenty: Another large room has a portrait of the fecond Dutchefs of Devonsbire and four children, not unworthy of notice; then returning to the staircase, and passing through a modern dressing room, you come to the fate apartments on the fouth fide of the house: In a closet is a carved pen, fcarcely diftinguishable from a real feather, and in the anti-chamber, which is thirty-four feet by thirty, there are fowls over the chimney piece, finely carved, all executed by Gibbons; there are likewise feveral good paintings in the closet, particular-

ly the

ly the discovery of Ulysses. The Withdrawing room, which is thirty-fix feet by thirty, is hung with tapestry, esteemed to be the best in the house; it contains several good portraits, and the carved work is very fine: In another withdrawing room of the fame fize with the last, are the Coronation Chairs used when the present King came to the throne, which were a perquisite of office to the late Duke, as Lord Chamberlain of his Majefty's Household; the carving of the fowl and fish over the chimney piece is very fine, and the ceiling is adorned with many beautiful paintings; in one part of which, a fingular ludicrous incident is recorded of Mrs. Hacket, the Housekeeper, who being violently enraged with the painter, he caught the air of her countenance, and represented it in all the deformity with which it then appeared, by drawing her in the character of a Fury, cutting the thread of life.

You now come to the modern apartments, generally called the apartments of Mary Queen of Scots, though it would be an error to suppose that this unfortunate Queen ever made

made use of these apartments; yet it is an undoubted fact, that she was some time confined at Chatsworth, and wrote from thence her second letter to Pope Pius, dated 31st October, 1570; this event, however, took place more than a century before the prefent house was built, but as it stands near the situation of the old one, it is probable that the apartments answer to those which were appropriated to the use of the Queen of Scots: In the bed-chamber is the bed which was presented to the Duke on the same occasion with the coronation chairs; and in another apartment, which is fifty feet by thirty, are feveral excellent specimens of carving by the fame hand which has adorned fo many parts of the house.

The fituation of Chatfworth House is no less striking and magnificent, than the building itself, as it stands in a wide and deep valley, near the foot of an high mountain, which is finely covered with wood: The object of the greatest curiosity in the Gardens, is the water works, and the most striking the great cascade, which when exhibited

hibited, descends with a considerable noise and velocity down a steep hill, and after running two or three hundred yards, finks in the earth and entirely disappears: At the head of the cascade is a temple, on the pinnacle of which are placed four lions heads, and on the front lies the god Nilus at full length, in a reclining posture; a little below are two fea nymphs, betwixt whom and the river god, are two lions heads, with two dolphins underneath; from the mouth of each of which figures, the water spouts out into a bason beneath, in which it also rises up in the shape of a fan. Beside these, there are two other discharges on each side of the bason, from which the water in a sudden and irregular manner, rushes out with a great noise and violence, and when the bason is filled, it rolls down the hill, and the cafcade is feen in all its beauty.

Leaving this place, you enter a wood to the South, where you are shewn two copper trees, the branches of which produce an artificial shower: Then returning by the same path, and descending the hill, you come to

a large bason, in the middle of which is a fountain, which throws the water up to the height of fixty feet, and at a small distance is the grand canal, three hundred twenty yards long and twenty-five broad, near the north end of which are two Spynk, on large bases, with ornaments in good tafte, well executed by Cibber: In this canal is a fountain which throws the water ninety feet high, and in a bason nearer the house, are four sea horses and a triton, from the head of each of which, fmall streams iffue. All these works are subplied by a large refervoir of water, which is faid to cover fixteen acres of land, to each of which, pipes are laid under ground, and the gardener, who is with the company, gives notice to a person on the hill, which pipe he wishes to be filled.

On the North East side of the house stand the great stables, which are magnificent and well contrived; the West and North fronts are said to extend two hundred and two feet; they were built thirty years ago. On the side of the valley opposite the house, are several small hills crowned with plantations;

beyond

beyond which, but more especially to the North, the mountains of the Peak rear their lofty heads towards the clouds; in short, every object in view, appears with an usual air of greatness and sublimity.

Chatfworth appears to have been nearly two centuries the feat of the ancestors of the noble family to which it now belongs, as a handsome house was built here by the Countess of Shrewsbury, mother of the first Earl of Devonshire, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, but that was taken down, and the present noble and stately mansion raised in its stead by the Earl of Devonshire, a few years before the revolution.

William, the fifth, and present Duke of Devonshire, is Lord Treasurer of Ireland, Governor of the county of Cork, Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire, and Lord High Steward of the corporation of Derby. In the year 1774, his Grace married Georgina, daughter of Lord Viscount Spencer, of Althorpe, in the county of Northampton, by whom he has issue

two daughters and one son, the Marquis of Hartington.

Haddon Hall, near Bakewell, is a very ancient mansion, belonging to his Grace the Duke of Rutland. At the third mile-stone, on the London road, on the North East, about half a mile from the village of Chelmerton (which is a pleafant ride from Buxton, being about five miles) is a Barrow or Low, which was examined in the year, 1782. This Barrow, which I shall attempt to describe, is a fmall circular mount, whose circumference at the base, measures about seventy-five yards, whose height is seven feet, at the top whereof is a hollow refembling a bafon, and a knowledge of its inward construction was obtained by fome labouring men, who were fearthing for stone to build a wall: After removing a thin covering of moss and foil from the lower part or skirt of the mount, they discovered a kind of breast-work, or regular wall of stones formed without mortar; not expecting to meet with any thing extraordinary beyond this wall, they proceeded in their work, but were foon furprized by the fight

of several human bodies, and they found that the wall was the end of the cell or coffin, in which the bodies had been laid: Though fome of the stones, and a small quantity of the foil had fallen into the vault, yet feveral human bodies might be clearly distinguished lying at full length, with their heads towards the centre of the mount, the bones of which had never been disturbed, and were apparently united together at the different joints; on the flightest motion they were found to be entirely loofe and unconnected, though upon examination they appeared to be strong and found, and the ribs not displaced: Those who faw the bones, thought they were uncommonly large, and imagined the perfons, when alive, to have been feven feet high at least—the teeth were found and perfect. From the number of bones and fculls, and the dimensions of the vault, it was supposed to have contained four or five bodies, and though only one vault was opened and examined, it was prefumed that others were carried through the circumference of the mount, and from the width of that which was opened, it is calculated there are about twenty.

About two miles from Buston, on the Macclessield road, is a very extensive common, to which many gentlemen refort during the shooting season, as it abounds with Moor game, and there are likewise partridges, hares, woodcocks, snipes, dotterels, and plovers; one part of it belongs to his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, and the other to the Earl of Derby.

rently united together at the diffe

The rides about Buxton are pleafant and airy, and create the company good appetites. To Fairfield is one mile, a pleafant ride, round the Barms, then go on the Sheffield road; near the fecond mile stone, turn at the four lane-ends to your right of Hardy Barn, which leads you into Great Rocks pasture, a mile long, belonging to Mr. Goodwin; at the farther end whereof you have a profpect of the river Wye, and down the valley towards Chee Torr, which looks very romantic: If you cross the river Wye, at Blackwell Mill, and come by Chelmerton to Buxton, you will join the London road three miles from Buxton. The way to Chee Torr is on the Sheffield road till you come to the four mile-stone, when leaving

leaving the turnpike and keeping near the wall fide to your right, leads you into the village of Wormbill; about half way of which, you will fee a small neat sashed house called the Chee Torr Coffee-house, belonging to Mr. Hill, who is the most proper person to shew you the Torr; and as you cannot ride to the rock, it is proper to leave your horses here, and walk: At the bottom of the village, on your lest, betwixt an avenue of trees, you will perceive a genteel smart house, belonging to John Bagshaw, Esq.

The road to the ebbing and flowing well, is another pleafant ride of about five miles: When you are at Fairfield, go on by a clump of trees at the top of the Barms, taking the lane straight forward, till you come to the Dove-bole House, which is a quarter of a mile; then, go through the first gate to the right hand of a narrow lane, which leads you to a few houses called the Horsteds, where you may be directed to Mr. Taylor's in Barr-moor, who will shew the well. In dry weather it ebbs and slows every half hour, and in wet, every quarter; it is about sifteen minutes in

rifing and falling, and rifes to the height of about four inches, and then goes gradually off.

village of Wormbille a

From this place, you will be directed to Castleton, about seven miles farther, a bridle, but not a carriage road. Another road to Castleton is, that when you are at the Barms. House, where the clump of trees is beyond Fairfield, take the first lane on your right hand to the four lane ends, which is called-Batham Gate, and leaving the nursery on your right hand, go straight forward to the bottom of the hill, through a gate; about one hundred yards farther you come to another gate, and leaving it on your right, go up the valley to Small Dale, a few houses, where they will direct you to Peak Forest, from whence you will learn the road by Eden Hole to Caftleton, which is about four miles.

Another pleasant ride from Buxton is on the London road: About half a mile quit the turnpike road, and go by a white house, belonging to Mr. Longden, then go straight on the road for about a mile, where you will come to Hasling House, which leaving on your right and the turnpike road on your left, keep the wall fide for a mile and a half on the common, and you will come to the Cheadle road, that leads you to the top of the hill; then leave the turnpike road on your right, and on the top of the hill for two miles as you go along, you will fee a little village below you in the valley, called Earl Sterndale, but commonly called Church Sterndale, and the valley beyond that is Dove-dale, which you have a fine view of, and the romantic hills adjoining thereto.

The balls at Buxton are in the grand room in the great hotel; the dress balls are on Wednesday nights, undress balls are on Mondays and Fridays; an elegant card room, adjoining the grand room is open every night. The Subscription to the ball and card room, is one guinea, but if a family, one guinea the the first, and half a guinea each after.

To the Coffee and News-room the Subfcription is only five shillings.

E 3

There is a good company of comedians belonging to Mess. Welch and Williams, perform during the season, every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

Likewise a CIRCULATING LIBRARY kept by Mr. Bott, who accommodates the company with horses for airing, upon reasonable terms.

A coach goes through Buxton from Manchester to London, every Monday, Wednefday, and Friday morning, (paffengers breakfast at the White Hart, in Buston, at ten o'clock,) meets the London coach at Leicester, and returns through Buxton to Manchester, on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, dines at the Eagle and Child, in Buxton, at three o'clock, and arrives at Manchester the same night: Fare from Manchester to London three guineas, outfide half price. There is another coach from Manchester, and likewise one from Sheffield, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, which arrive at the White Hart, in Buxton, about twelve o'clock, and return to Manchester and Sheffield again

every

the fame evening: Fare from Buxton to Manchester eight shillings, the same to Sheffield, outfide paffengers half price. The following Carriers go to and from Buxton-Pickford's waggon goes through Buxton, Wednesdays and Fridays to London: Bass and Morris' waggon Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays to London, meets another at Ashborn, and returns every Monday and Thursday mornings through Buxton to Manchester, and stops at the New Inn: Shallerofs's waggon goes through Buxton every Saturday, meets Hawkins' and Co. at Derby, and returns through Buxton every Wednesday: Knowles's waggon goes through Buxton from Manchester to Nottingham every Saturday, and returns the Friday following: Wild and Bennett's carts go to Macclesfield every Monday and Friday mornings, and return to Buxton the fame evening: And Swindell's and Walton's carts go to Sheffield every Tuesday, but the days of returning to Buxton, are not regular.

The South Post comes in every morning at feven o'clock, and out again at four o'clock in the afternoon: The North Post goes out

every morning at feven o'clock, and comes in at four o'clock in the afternoon.

His Grace the Duke of Devonshire is planting the hills round Buxton, which, when smisshed, will have a noble appearance. The stables which his Grace has erected at Buxton, it is supposed will be the grandest in Europe when compleated; there is a ride in the inside of the circus many yards round, where the ladies and gentlemen may ride in wet weather, and walk under the piazzas in the crescent when it rains.

Buxton is well supplied with fish from Warrington, Manchester, and Sheffield, during the season; there are fine trout and crawfish in the river Wye, which rises near Buxton, but the finest of the former are to be found in the rivers Larkbill and Bradford, about ten or twelve miles from Buxton: The town is well supplied with beef, veal, mutton, lamb, vegetables, and fruit during the season.

MEASUREMENT

OF THE

Principal Post Roads from Buxton,
According to the Mile Stones.

Buxton to Manchester 24 Miles.

Difley101
Stockport 6½
Manchester 7
Buxton to Sheffield 24 Miles.
Tidefwell 6±
Middleton 5 [±]
Sheffield12
Buxton to Chesterfield 24 Miles.
Tidefwell 6
Middleton $5\frac{1}{2}$
Chesterfield12
Buxton to Chatsworth 17 Miles.
Tidefwell 6=
Middleton $5\frac{z}{z}$
Chatfworth 5
Another Road to Chatsworth 17 Miles.
Money-ash 8
* ACC 1
Bakewell 1
Chatfworth 3
Marble Works to be feen at Ashford, worthy of notice
D.

Buxton to Liverpool 51 Miles.
Macclesfield101
Knutsford11 1 2
Warrington11
Prescot
Liverpool 8
Buxton to Congleton 20 Miles.
Macclesfield101
Congleton 9±
Another Road to Congleton 15 Miles.
Buxton to Bath 148 Miles.
Leek 12
Sandon $8\frac{\tau}{z}$
Stafford 4±
Penkridge 6
Wolverhampton10
Stourbridge10
Bromfgrove10
Worcester127
Tewksbury5
Frocester 22
Bath27 =
Buxton to Bath another Road 152 Miles.
Newhaven11
Ashborn 9

Sudbury 9
Lichfield
Birmingham16
Bromfgrove14
Droitwich 6
Worcester $6\frac{\tau}{2}$
To Bath as before641
Buxton to Castleton 12 Miles.
Tidefwell 6
Castleton 6
Another Road to Castleton 12 Miles,
Peak-forest 6
Perryfoot
Castleton 5
The Seven Wonders of the Peak.
First Wonder is Pool's Hole.
Second Ditto, ST. ANN'S WELL.
Third Ditto, EBBING & FLOWING WELL.
Fourth Ditto, ELDEN HOLE.

FINIS

MAM TORR.

Sixth Ditto, PEAK's HOLE, Castleton.

Seventh Ditto, CHATSWORTH.

Fifth Ditto,

MOTEUR TO MOTTERSON

Buster to Cafileton 12 Tide to chammer to Caffleten g The Seven Wienders of the Peak, First Wonderis Poet's Hour. Second Ditto, ST. ANN'S WELL Third Ding, Esting & Flowing Wes Fourth Dine, Ecount Hours, PRAK'S HOLE, CEN reach Ditto,

GINI.

