

Sketch of Bristol and the Hotwells / [Francis Moreton].

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Publication/Creation

[Bristol] : [Crooker], [1825]

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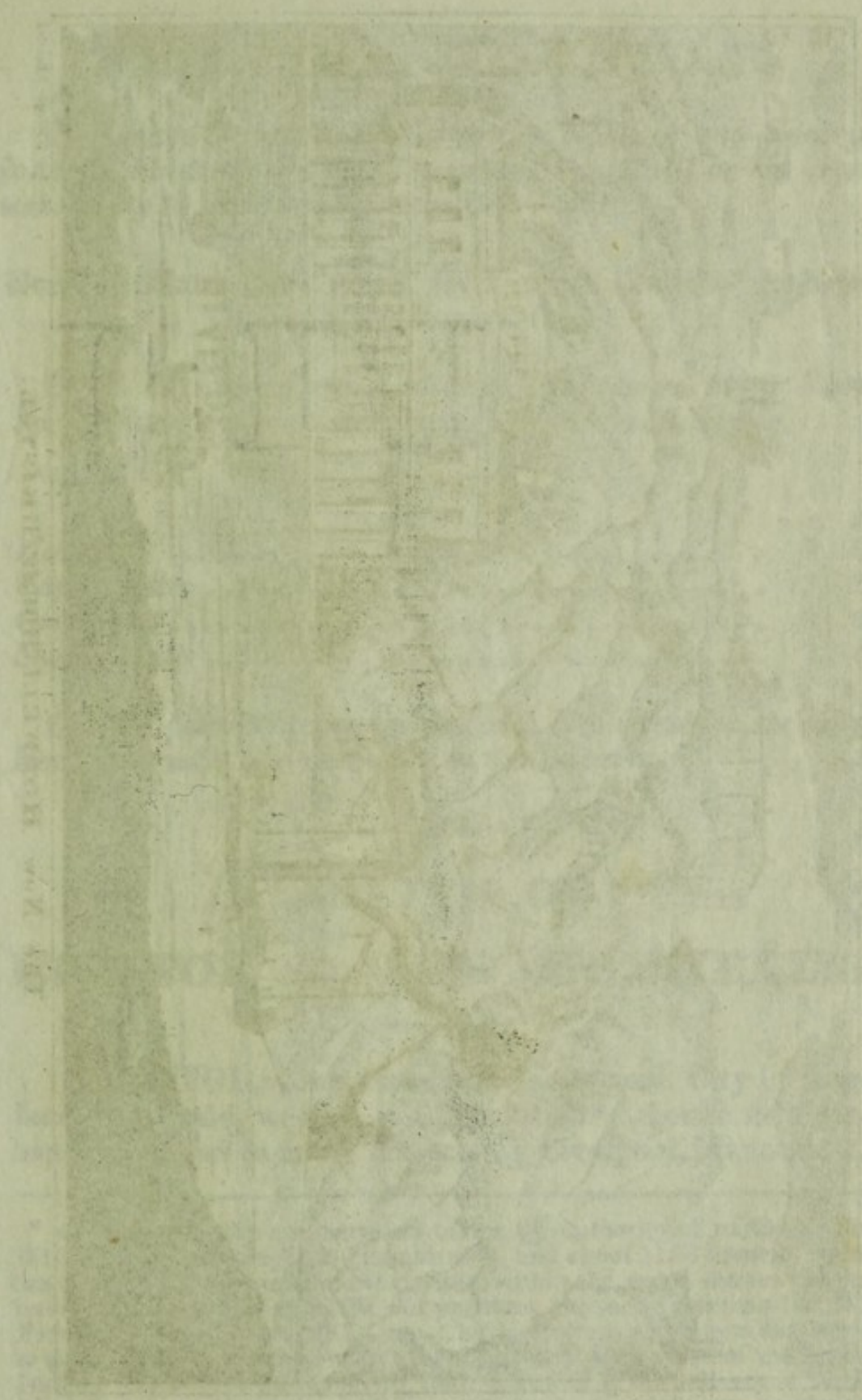
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David Hunter, Bethel, Mead, Nov. 24th 1863.



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Hotwell House, Hotwell-Road, Nov. 1835



Engraver: C. Tompkins S. Bristol

The New HOTWELL HOUSE, BRISTOL.

C. H. W. Lachlan
Sep^r 1879. Brought to Paper

Hotwell House, Hotwell-Road, Nov. 20th 1825.

FRANCIS MORETON,

Begs leave to return thanks to the Nobility and Gentry for their kind support; and assures them it will be his constant study to merit their future Commands.

Bottled Water sent to all parts of the United Kingdom and for Exportation..

F. M. begs to inform Ladies and Gentlemen, that Sion Spring has no communication with the Hotwell Spring.

BATHS.

	s	d
Hot Bath	3	6
Vapour ditto	3	6
Cold ditto	1	6
Shower ditto	1	6

Genteel parties accommodated with Breakfasts in the long Room, or with Tea or Coffee in the Evening.



SKETCH OF

BRISTOL & THE HOTWELLS.



BRISTOL, long accounted the second City in England for trade, wealth, and population*, though now perhaps, surpassed in many respects by Liverpool, Manchester,

* According to the enumeration taken by authority of parliament in 1811, Bristol contains 71,279 inhabitants, and about 11,000 houses; but as this account barely includes the parishes within the walls, the real population of Bristol, taking in the out parishes, cannot be less than 100,000. From the little interest felt by the Churchwardens and others employed to make the return, this number certainly fell very short of the truth. Instead of previously announcing their intention by the delivery of blank schedules, they abruptly applied at the door of each house, and being received (among the working classes especially) by females, who suspected their purpose to be that of taking down names for the militia, ballot, or a poll-tax, they met with more anxiety to conceal than readiness to disclose the full number of residents.

and Birmingham, lies in $51\frac{1}{2}$ degrees of north latitude, and 2 degrees 46 minutes west longitude from London, at the southern extremity of Gloucestershire, and the northern of Somersetshire; distant twelve miles from Bath; by one road 117, by another 119, miles from the metropolis.

Bristol, the site of which lies partly in two counties, was erected by Edward III. into an independant city and county of itself. The From and the Avon wind their way through it: the latter is the principal river: and at eight miles from its efflux into the Bristol Channel, or Severn Sea, this city is built in a most delightful and healthy country, surrounded by verdant hills, which in the north and east rise to a towering height, and shelter it from the chilling blasts, while they at the same time serve to diversify the objects, and give beauty to the scene.

The surrounding districts are variegated with high salubrious downs, producing the sweetest herbage; fruitful valleys, watered with springs, rivulets, brooks, and rivers; steep precipices and rocks; waving woods; and the most charming natural prospects embellished by art. In the immediate vicinity are many handsome and pleasantly situated villages, interspersed with seats of the nobility and gentry; all which unite to render Bristol an object of attraction, even to those who cannot be biassed by native partiality.

This city, taken with its accompaniments, may be said to stand in a vale, on eminences, and level ground. Some parts of it indeed are built on steep and lofty acclivities, which render the use of carriages inconvenient. Kingsdown, St. Michael's Hill, and Brandon Hill, rise nearly 250 feet perpendicular above the bed of the river; and consequently, when viewed from such elevations, the lower buildings appear sunk in a deep valley, while the spectator looks down upon the loftiest spires.

The old town, which is of remote antiquity*, and was

* Without entering into a detailed account of the ancient history of Bristol, it may be observed, that Bristol is said by some to have been founded by Brennus about 380 years before the Christian era; and it is certain that it was a place of some note under the Romans, and has continued ever since to be distinguished. During the Saxon times, we find several records concerning it; and from the Norman conquest its history is well authenticated. It seems to have had a strong castle very early, and to have been a place of considerable commerce. That it has long been engaged in the slave-trade, will appear from the following extract

known by the names *Caer Oder* and *Caer Brito*, standing within the inner wall, (of which there are few vestiges now discernable,) is built upon an eminence of forty feet perpendicular height, from which there is every way a decent. Thus the centre of the city, (which is most crowded,) by means of its elevation, has a free admission and circulation of air, which contributes to render it more healthy.

A fanciful resemblance has been discovered by some between Bristol and ancient Rome. It is chiefly drawn from this circumstance; that both stand on seven hills, and have a muddy rapid river running through a part of them. Some of the eminences or hills on which Bristol stands, exhibit a variety of beauties; and are in general covered with houses and gardens, rising street over street, to their very summits, whence there are delightful and extensive views over the city and circumjacent country.

Indeed, both the valleys and the hills within the precincts of Bristol are covered with public and private buildings, some of which are of great elegance: but there is little uniformity in this respect. The situation is peculiarly favorable for cleanliness; and it must be allowed, that much has been done by sewers and drains communicating with the two rivers, to effect this desirable purpose, no less desirable to health than to comfort.

In short, the local advantages of Bristol, as a place of commerce, can scarcely be excelled. The river Avon, though navigable at high water for the largest merchant ships up to the bridge, was, till very lately, encumbered with several disadvantages, which were reserved for a remedy in the spirit of the present day. Now, however, a new and capacious channel has been dug for the river, commencing a little above the city on the side of Bath, and terminating near the Hotwells, by which means the loss of

from an old life of Wulfstan, bishop of Worcester:—"There is a town called Birkston, opposite to Ireland, and extremely convenient for trading with that country. Wulfstan induced them to drop a barbarous custom, which neither the love of God nor the King could prevail on them to abandon. This was the mart for slaves, collected from all parts of England; and particularly young women, whom they took care to provide with a pregnancy, in order to enhance their value. It was a moving sight to behold, in the public markets, rows of young people of both sexes, tied together with ropes, and daily prostitute and sold in the flower of youth and beauty. Execrable fact! wretched disgrace! men, unmindful of the affections of the brute creation, delivering into slavery their relations, and even their very offspring."

a tide is obviated, and the ships can lie constantly in deep water. A towing-path has also been made at a great expense to the mouth of the river on the south side. The communication between the banks of what is called the New Cut and of the Floating Basin is also most materially facilitated by two iron bridges; one of which communicates with Bedminster, and the Bridgewater road; and the other with Bath, Wells, &c. There is also a third bridge, called the Swing-bridge, that faces the end of Prince's-street, being named in compliment to *George Prince of Denmark*; as was the adjoining square to his consort, *Queen Anne*, and greatly facilitates the communication with Bath by avoiding Temple-Street, to those who come from the Clifton side. A good road also is now open from the Hot-wells, crossing the new dam, and skirting the new cut, as far as the second iron bridge, on the road to Bath; so that any person may go commodiously from Bath to Clifton and the Wells, or from Bridgewater, without entering the city of Bristol, on paying a single toll; and will enjoy at the same time, a view of the whole of the new navigation, and both the entrance-basins; which are named, that at the Hot-wells, Cumberland basin, in compliment to the Royal Duke, and that near Prince's-Street, which is about the centre of the float, Bathurst basin, after one of the representatives of Bristol in Parliament at the time of its completion. The expense of these extensive improvements has been defrayed by a subscription, which very shortly after the plan was proposed amounted to 500,000*l.*; and to evince more clearly the opulence and public spirit of the inhabitants of Bristol, no less a sum than 10,000*l.* was at the same time raised by voluntary subscription for building an additional wing to its infirmary, while the annual subscriptions for the support of it amounted in 1814 to nearly 4000*l.* Its regular annual expenditure, now that the new wing is opened for the reception of patients, is about 7000*l.*, which sum is liquidated by the dividends arising from funded property formed of legacies. Bristol holds a proportionate degree of rank in its support of the Bible society, and possesses two institutions for raising the children of poverty above the brutality of ignorance. For relief of diseases of the body there are, in addition to the Infirmary, a Dispensary, chiefly for the assistance of lying-in women; an Hospital for diseases of the eyes; an Asy-

sum for the indigent blind, where they are instructed in useful arts within the sphere of their capacity, principally basket-making; an Asylum for poor orphan girls; a Humane Society, for recovery from the risk of drowning; a Female Penitentiary; a Strangers' Friend Society, for the relief of all who are sick and distressed at their respective habitations; a Samaritan Society, upon similar principles; a district branch of the National Benevolent Institution, projected by Mr. Hervé; the Prudent Man's Friends Society, for the suppression of vagrants, street-beggars, and imposters, and for the promotion of economy and prudence among the labouring classes, managed by a committee of 20 ladies, and as many gentlemen, with two lady-secretaries; the Friend in Need Society, a rival institution to the Stranger's Friend Society, the latter having originated with the Wesleyan Methodists, and the former with the followers of Whitfield; the Dorcas Society, for the distribution of flannel clothing among poor women; and the Female Miserecordia, for the loan of child-bed linen during the necessary period. Here also are three societies in honor of Edward Colston, the great benefactor of Bristol; and it ought not to be omitted that several saving Banks have been lately instituted. Besides the Lancastrian and Bellian establishments, there are twelve public schools upon ancient foundations for both sexes, some of which provide also food and clothing; to crown all, a school for adults has very recently been established, in which many poor persons of both sexes, and all ages, even to 70 years, have actually attained a sufficient knowledge of letters to read the scriptures with the greatest facility.

The river Avon is capable of wafting up a thirty-gun ship to the bridge in one tide. This river too is navigable as far as the elegant and spacious city of Bath, with which a constant intercourse is kept up, by water as well as land. The vicinity of the Severn also contributes most essentially to the trade and navigation of Bristol; and above all, the central situation of the place gives it facilities of communication, which few other cities can boast. It is surrounded with collieries, and the quarries in its immediate vicinity would furnish stone enough to build and pave the largest city in the world. The rock, called the Black Rock, under Cook's Folly, about a mile below the Hot wells, has been used for paving the city under the new act. It is a

dark lime-stone, in some places tinged with petroleum, and occasionally affording fluor spar.

From its standing in a fertile part of the country, and its having the advantage of water conveyance from so many different places, all the necessaries of life may be here had in abundance, and at moderate rates; notwithstanding which; it has not retained its original rank among commercial places. Whether this is to be ascribed to a want of public spirit among its inhabitants, the monopolies of overgrown capitalists, or to what other cause, we will not pretend to determine; but the fact is certain. Waiving, therefore, discussions of this nature, we shall briefly notice the principal architectural beauties in Bristol; and then proceed to the Hot-wells, from which, like many patients who resort thither for health, perhaps it will be thought we have staid too long.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The Cathedral, in College-green, was formerly the collegiate church of St. Augustine's monastery; but when that establishment was dissolved by Henry VIII. Bristol was erected into an episcopal see, for the maintainance of a bishop, dean, prebendaries, and other officers.

The present cathedral consists of the spacious cross of the old church, the tower springing from its centre, and all the eastern part of the original pile. Its length is 175 feet, and the breadth of the cross or transept is 128 feet. The height of the tower is 140 feet and the breadth of the body and aisles is 73 feet. The roof is beautifully arched with stone; the windows are adorned with painted glass: and throughout the whole fabric we discern some Gothic beauties, and in the interior many handsome monuments, both ancient and modern. That of Mrs. Draper, the celebrated Eliza of Sterne, was executed by Bacon.

Some of the inscriptions here are charmingly pathetic, as may be expected from the melancholy circumstances of their recording persons who were snatched away in the blossom of life, by that insidious foe to the young and the fair—consumption. Among these we particularise the following epitaph by mason the poet, written on his wife, who died in the 28th year of her age.

Take, holy hearth, all that my soul holds dear!

Take that best gift which Heaven so lately gave.

To Bristol's fount I bore with trembling care

Her faded form:—she bowed to taste the wave,

And died. Does youth, does beauty read the line?
 Does sympathetic fear their breasts alarm?
 Speak, dear Maria, breathe a strain divine;
 Ev'n from the grave thou shalt have power to charm.
 Bid them be chaste, be innocent, like thee;
 Bid them in duty's sphere as meekly move;
 And if so fair, from vanity as free:
 As firm in friendship, and as fond in love:
 Tell them, tho' 'tis an awful thing to die,
 ('Twas even to thee!) yet the dread path once trod,
 Heav'n lifts its everlasting portals high,
 And bids the pure in heart behold their God.

Close to the east side of this cathedral was born in 1758, that lovely but unfortunate daughter of genius, Mary Robinson, who, in her interesting Memoirs, has related particulars of this place which cannot fail to endear it to every visitor possessed of sensibility.

A singular story is told of a robin-red-breast, which for fifteen years inhabited this cathedral, and received its subsistence from the hands of the vergier. During the time of divine service, it usually perched on one of the mitres of the organ, and accompanied the solemnity with offering up its harmonious praise.

St. Mary Redcliff, allowed to be the finest parish church in England, obtains its appellation from its being founded on a red sandy rock or cliff. It is a beautiful, stately, and venerable Gothic pile; and was founded in 1292, by Simon de Burton, who had been six times mayor of Bristol. The tower and spire were originally 250 feet high.

In the north porch are a set of pillars, which, on being struck with the hand, give varied musical tones; but as they are according to a most barbarous custom, painted with oil, we cannot discern the quality of the marble of which they are constructed. They are small enough to be grasped by both hands.

The whole church is 239 feet in length, and the breadth of the cross aisle is 117 feet. The architectural beauties of Redcliff church are too numerous to mention in this place; and the painting over the altar, by Hogarth and Tresham, are generally admired.

The situation of this church on an eminence, about three furlongs from the bridge, gives it a commanding aspect at a distance; and it will bear a minute examination, both internally and externally. It was in a muniment room, over the north porch of St. Mary Redcliff, that the unfortunate Chatterton pretended the poems of Rowley were

found by his father, (who had been sexton of the church) which were unquestionably the fruits of his own genius. The life and death of this extraordinary young man are equally the subject of regret; but though he owed little to Bristol except his birth, it will ever have reason to be proud of having produced such a son.*

There are eighteen other churches in the city and suburbs. That of St. Stephen's, in Clare-Street, has a beautiful Gothic tower. In the church of All-Saints is the monument of that excellent philanthropist Edward Colston, Esq. And Temple church is remarkable for its leaning tower; which though sufficiently firm, appears in the act of falling. When the bells are rung, the lower stones of the belfry open so as to admit of a thin shilling being introduced between them and withdrawn.

The Guildhall, the Exchange, the Merchants' Hall, and several other public buildings, besides hospitals, schools, and various charitable foundations, do honour to the taste, opulence, and benevolence of the Bristolians. The quay is very long, and extremely commodious, not only for loading and unloading ships, but also for foot passengers, who are not incommoded by drays and other stoppages, as in London.

The Theatre-royal, in King-street, is a model of elegance and convenience, and was first opened in 1766. It is rented by Mr. Macready, who has a very respectable company occasionally assisted by some of the principal performers from the London Houses. They usually act three nights in the week.

The Assembly-Room, in Princes-Street, has a beautiful front of free-stone, with a central projection, supported by four columns of the Corinthian order, coupled and crowned by an open pediment. On the pediment is the following sentiment in relief letters: "CURAS CITHARA TOLLIT." *Music dispels care.* Here a master of the cere-

* Chatterton was born on the 20th of November, in 1752. He never saw his father, and the master under whose care he was placed in his infancy, pronounced him "too dull to learn." Accordingly, what little education he acquired, was owing to his mother and his own industry; except during the time he remained in Colston's Charity-School. He appears to have been born a poet, and to have exhibited all the eccentricities of a genius from his earliest years. Pride and distress drove him to swallow poison, when he was only eighteen years of age; and thus deprived the world of a person formed to be one of its brightest ornaments.

monies formerly presided, who had an annual ball, but the difficulty of assigning degrees of precedence in an aristocracy of which wealth alone is the basis, combined with the very superior facilities for pleasures of this class, afforded by the more recent establishments of Bath and Clifton, have long since consigned the Bristol Assembly-room to the occasional use of itinerant exhibitions, now and then relieved by a subscription-concert, very respectably got up, and conducted by Mr. Ashe, assisted by some of the first vocal and instrumental performers in the Kingdom, and the resident professors of Bristol and Bath.

The commercial Rooms.—The merchants of Bristol having experienced much inconvenience from the want of a public institution, affording accommodations on a plan somewhat similar to the establishment of Lloyd's in London, and the public rooms at Liverpool; a subscription of 17,000*l.* was filled by the mercantile interest of that city, and in the year 1809, a piece of ground was purchased by the committee of the subscribers, in Corn-Street, nearly opposite the Exchange, for the purpose of erecting a building suitable to the objects in view.

Shortly after, the committee made a public application to architects, offering premiums of 50, 30, and 20 guineas, for the first, second, and third best designs for the proposed building. Ten plans were accordingly submitted to their judgment, and after the gentlemen of the committee had duly considered, and publicly exhibited all the plans, they awarded the first premium to Mr. C. A. Busby, of London, under whose superintendance, as architect to the committee, this building has been subsequently erected.

The entrance from Corn-street is under an Ionic portico of four columns, communicating immediately with the grand room, which is 60 feet long, 40 feet wide, and 25 in height. In the centre of the ceiling is a circular lantern light, 21 feet in diameter, covered with a dome, borne by 12 caryatides, or supporting figures, between which the light is admitted into the room through reticulated iron sashes, and the whole has an effect altogether pleasing and elegant. The height from the floor to the dome is 45 feet, and from the centre is suspended a beautiful Grecian lamp, besides four others of smaller dimensions in the angles of the room. The reading-room is 30 feet by 20, and 17 high. There is also a committee-room and offices, and two rooms over the reading and committee-rooms, of dimensions cor-

responding with those below. The whole site of the building is vaulted, and the liberality of the committee has spared no expense in the solidity of its construction, or in the embellishments, which render it an honourable proof of their public spirit.

The rooms are furnished with handsome mahogany tables and chairs. All the London news and commercial papers, as well as those printed in the principal cities and towns of the United Kingdom, are taken in, and also the best periodical publications. Correct and authentic lists are kept, of all vessels coming in and clearing out from the principal ports, and every possible information is afforded to facilitate the extensive commercial arrangements of the citizens of Bristol.

Bristol has several Circulating Libraries and Reading-rooms: the largest is kept by Messrs. Barry and Sons, in High-street, instituted in January, 1802, and carried on with great public spirit and liberality. Some short time since they built an entire new reading room, fifty feet long; and this, in addition to their extensive collection of the most valuable works, renders their house a convenient and general resort for all the principal visitors and inhabitants of Clifton and the surrounding villages.

The Inns and Taverns at Bristol have long been justly celebrated. The principal is the Bush Tavern, opposite the Exchange. It has an excellent coffee-room, supplied with the London and provincial papers; and it is famous for its larder, particularly at Christmas.

The White Lion, White Hart, Talbot, and Rummer, are all good houses. The Full Moon, also, at Stoke's Croft, is a noble inn; and at Reeve's Hotel, near College-green, are elegant and quiet accommodations.

But we have sojourned long enough in Bristol; it is now time to proceed to the Hotwells. Before we quit the city, however, we must observe that some of the squares, particularly Queen's, in which is an equestrian statue of William III. by Rysbrach; and also the Custom-house, may vie with any thing of the kind elsewhere. The College-green is also a delightful situation. Strangers who are desirous of taking a view of the whole, should observe Bristol from Brandon-hill; a pleasant lofty conic mount, rising about 250 feet in perpendicular height from its base. From its summit, Cromwell battered the cathedral and town. A new prison on improved principles has been lately erected.

THE HOT-WELL.

This salutary spring, which "pale-eyed suppliants drink and soon flies pain," lies about a quarter of a mile westward from the boundary of Bristol, in the parish of Clifton, on the Gloucestershire side of the Avon. It rises near the bottom of the cliffs, about twenty-six feet below high-water mark, and ten feet above low water, forcibly gushing from an aperture in the solid rock.

A spring so copious as to discharge sixty gallons in a minute, and possessing the rare quality of being tepid, could not escape the notice of our ancestors. William of Worcester, the earliest writer concerning Bristol, whose works are extant, observes, that it is as warm as milk, and like the waters of Bath; but without adverting to its medical qualities. In time, however, it became famous for stone and gravel, diarrhœas and diabetes, king's evil, cancer, sterility and impotence; and in short, for almost every disease that can afflict human nature. In 1725, Dr. Winter seems first to have noticed its sedative effects, on which probably its real virtues depend; since that time, its waters have been analysed by various physicians; and for two centuries at least it has been resorted to by invalids; while successive improvements have been adopted to preserve it in its native purity, and to furnish accommodation to those who wish to use it at the fountain-head.

Its real temperature, when drunk at the pump, has been ascertained to be between seventy-two and seventy-six degrees of Fahrenheit; and, according to a modern author, its principal component parts are:

1. An uncommon quantity of carbonic acid gas, or fixed air.
2. A certain quantity of Magnesia, soda, and lime, in various combinations with the muriatic, vitriolic, and carbonic acids.

In consequence of these impregnations, the water appears well calculated to temper a hot acrimonious blood; and to cure or palliate consumptions, weakness of the lungs, hectic heats, and fevers. It is also successfully prescribed in uterine and other internal hæmorrhages and inflammations; in spitting of blood, dysentry, chlorosis, and purulent ulcers of the viscera. It is likewise beneficial in diarrhœa, gleet, diabetes, stone, gravel, stranguary, nervous atrophy, colliquative sweats, loss of appetite, and indigestion.

In all these complaints it may be used with success, particularly if timely resorted to; and there can be little doubt, that the purity of the air around Clifton is equally as beneficial as the springs, when the patient is not too far gone.

The water, when received into a glass from the spring, appears sparkling, and full of air bubbles; which rise from the bottom, and adhere to the sides, as if it were in a state of fermentation. At first it is of a whitish colour, but this goes off when it becomes cold. It is without smell, pleasing and grateful to the stomach; and though soft and milky to the taste, is in reality a hard water, and will not easily dissolve soap but curdles it into white masses.

Dr. Keir observes, that consumptions have been stopped, in their rapid career, by the continued use of this water, and a strict milk diet. He also adds, that it is a specific in diabetes; and that he does not know any medicinal water, in the use of which a person may with less risk be his own physician.

The times of drinking the water are commonly before breakfast, and always an hour before or after a meal. Patients who are much enfeebled should begin with a quarter of a pint for a draught, which they may repeat four or five times a day, and increase the quantity till they can bear from half-a-pint to a pint. Gentle exercise should be used between each draught; but this should be regulated according to the strength of the patient, and the state of the weather.

In all seasons the water has the same efficacy and temperature, but the time of general resort is from the middle of April to the end of October. Spring and summer are unquestionably most favourable for invalids of every description, and particularly so for those who are consumptive; and if we combine the salubrity of the air in this vicinity with the medicinal qualities of the water, no situation seems to be more auspicious and inviting. From a poetic address to the fountain, we borrow the following lines:

Scar'd at thy presence, start the train of death,
And hide their whips and scorpions. Thee, confus'd,
Slow fever creeps from; thee, the meagre fiend
Consumption flies, and checks his rattling coughs.

But chief the dread disease* whose wat'ry power,
 Curb'd by the wave restraining, knows its bounds,
 And feels a firmer barrier.
 Nor youth alone thy pow'r indulgent own:
 Age shares thy blessings; and the tottering frame,
 By thee supported.

After drinking the salutary beverage, those who are inclined, have the advantage, during rainy or cold weather, of walking under a colonnade in a crescent form, with ranges of Shops. There is likewise a fine gravelled parade, about 600 feet long, by the side of the river, which was, till lately, completely shaded with trees; and hither, during the heat of the day the company could retire, and be amused, when the tide was in, with the scene of ships passing and repassing; but in the year 1809, the merchants' company, to save the trifling expense of constructing a towing-path, cut down one whole row (out of two) of these trees; and now the invalid can find no shelter here from the sun, except by walking in the road. Little excursions are frequently taken down the river in boats, sometimes accompanied with music, which, re-echoed by the rocks, has a delightful effect. Companies at times sail as far as Portishead, where they land, and dine in the cool and shady woods; and, from different stations, in the vicinity, enjoy delightful views of the Bristol Channel, the little isles called the steep and Flat Holmes, and the opposite Welch coast. A covered boat goes daily to Pill, to convey passengers at sixpence each. By this conveyance many go to Lord de Clifford's park, and walk back (a distance of four miles) from Shirehampton; where there are excellent ordinaries on Sundays, at two good inns.

Durdham and Clifton Downs being covered with fine verdure, are much resorted to by persons on foot, horseback, or in carriages; and, independant of the charming prospects which open in all directions, here the lover of antiquities may be gratified by tracing several Roman castrametations. The most convenient for visiting is that at the Windmill-hill, on S. Vincent's mount, under which is a cave, called Giant's Hole. lately rendered inaccessible to prevent accidents.

King's Weston-hill attracts numerous visitors, who will be abundantly pleased by the rich and varied views which

* Diabetes.

it displays. Near Pen Pole point, at the end of Lord de Clifford's grounds, may be seen from a bench the whole Channel and Wales.

The village called the Hot-wells has been considerably improved and enlarged, within the last twenty years. The new colonnade, and the extension of the parade and trees by the side of the river, have added much to the beauty and convenience of the place.

The society of merchants have erected a new house, (see the plate of the same, front facing the river,) with a neat and handsome Pump-room, Reading-room, and Baths of every description at moderate prices. There is also a new carriage-road, and a new zig-zag road, which leads down the side of the rock, and commences at the top near the old one, and comes down to the right of the house, near the end of it, the view from which is beautiful. Genteel parties are accommodated with breakfasts, or tea-parties in the evening, in the long room, Hot-well House.

Many handsome piles, mansions, and houses, of freestone, have been lately erected here. The houses which are appropriated for the use of the company as lodgers, and where they may meet with accommodations according to their circumstances, are the Hotwell-house, the Colonnade, St. Vincent's Parade, Paradise-row, Dowry-square, Chapel-row, Albermarle-row, Hope-square, Granby-place, &c.; besides three hotels, of which, Barton's is the principal.

A spacious and elegant hotel and assembly-rooms, erected on Clifton Hill, were opened in 1811. These, under one roof, form the whole east end, or top of the Mall, commanding a view of Leigh Down, and of the rocks and woods on the Ashton side of the Avon; and have been finished by their spirited proprietor, Mr. Auriol, at an immense expense. That part of the structure denominated the Assembly-rooms, comprises a noble reception saloon, and tea-room, a ball-room, highly finished and decorated, and a handsome card-room, with convenient lobbies, a billiard-room, &c. The terms of subscription are two guineas the season for families, with three tickets transferable, and one guinea single admissions. The balls are held every Tuesday, and are well supported. They are superintended by Mr. Madden, master of the ceremonies, who is entitled to a riband and medallion of office as at Bath. Mr. Warne's handsome ball-room, at Gloucester House, Hot-wells, 90 feet in length, by 36 wide, is still kept open.

A singular phenomenon happened to the Hot-well, on the first of September, 1755, which deserves to be mentioned: the water suddenly became as red as blood, and so very turbid that it could not be drunk. Conjecture as to the cause of this extraordinary circumstance was vain. The people who witnessed it were in the utmost consternation, and the rumour spreading, the inhabitants of the city flocked to the churches, and offered up prayers to avert the vengeance of heaven, of which this was judged to be an indication.

The same day the water of a common well, in a field near St. George's church, in Kingswood, which had been remarkably clear, turned as black as ink, and it continued unfit for use nearly a fortnight. The tide also, in the Avon, flowed back contrary to its natural course, and various other effects of some unknown commotion in the bowels of the earth were perceived in different places. At last the news arrived of the earthquake at Lisbon, which happened on the same day, and gave a solution to these appearances.

ST. VINCENT'S ROCKS.

On each side of the river, between Rownham and the Hot-well house, rise magnificent ranges of corresponding rocks of remarkable height; through which the Avon pursues a serpentine course, for about a mile and a half. The rocks are named St. Vincent's, from a chapel formerly built on the highest part of them, and dedicated to that saint, who suffered martyrdom at Valentia, in Spain, A.D. 305. St. Vincent's rocks at the highest part are full 300 feet from the bed of the river: these evidently seem, from their configurations, to have once joined, and probably were separated from each other by some great convulsion of nature. The chasm between them, through which the Avon flows, no where exceeds 150 yards in breadth.

The Gloucestershire side of the Avon, for a long way is void of trees and verdure, except in a few places, where a stem of ivy, creeping up the rocks, accidentally diversifies their grey and barren appearance. On the other side of the river, their summits, and partly their sides, are covered with a thick wood. Here it is not unusual, during a fine summer evening, for a band of musicians to assemble for the purpose of a concert; at which time the opposite side is covered with an attentive crowd of both sexes, who

look among the rocks like so many Thracians; but Orpheus never played to such advantage! The music wafted over the water is truly enchanting.

To an observer, on the Clifton side of the river, the opposite woods in summer present a most charming appearance: they contain almost every forest-tree indigenous to this country; among which the broad-leaved sycamore, the majestic oak, the sombre yew, the lofty elm, the graceful mountain ash, and the sprightly box, together with many others, are distinctly seen, blending their hues together, and forming a scene of foliage, that for variety and exuberance is scarcely to be equalled. If we add to this, the contrasted view of the neighbouring rocks, with the Avon winding at their base, the whole becomes truly beautiful and magnificent.

In these woods are the remains of two Roman camps, which, according to the mode of attack and defence in those days, must have been remarkably strong. Behind, it is defended by the river, and the natural inaccessibility of the rock on which it stands; on one hand is a valley, whose sides are steep and lofty; and on the other, the ground is also disadvantageously hilly; so that it could be assaulted only in front. Here the Romans raised a triple fortification. The two exterior ramparts are mounds of earth thrown out of the ditches; the third is by much the largest, and seems to have been the chief defence of the station. This, as appears from the present ruins, must have been a wall of considerable height and thickness.

The mortar by which the stones are cemented together is formed without any mixture of sand; for it is perfectly white, and even now, nearly as hard as the stone it envelops, though it has been exposed at least sixteen hundred years to the wind and rain.

All the rocks here are formed of excellent lime-stone; and supply, from an inexhaustable fund, the wants of the neighbouring cultivator and builder. The workmen descend the precipices by means of ropes, but, even with the best precautions, they sometimes meet with accidents. As they hang suspended at their "perilous toil," sensibility often turns her head aside, and shudders for their safety. The stone is sometimes polished, and made into chimney-pieces; but it is chiefly burnt for lime, for which purpose vast quantities of it are blown up with gunpowder. The

sublime effect of the explosion, re-echoed from cliff to cliff, is not to be adequately conceived.

Both the fossilist and botanist may here find ample amusement; but they should be aware of the numberless smooth and tempting paths among the rocks: as a single false step may precipitate the careless adventurer down one hundred yards of perpendicular descent, which was the case some years ago, with a Scotch nobleman; and since with a boy, who was throwing a stone at another below. A horse also once galloped over St. Vincent's rock.

The petrifications found here, are chiefly two kinds of bivalves, *annomia*, the winged and the *productus*. The rock-crystals also are the hardest and brightest that this country produces; and for that reason are called Bristol diamonds. Some, in their colour, resemble amethysts, from the manganese which enters into their crystallization. Where the bed is particularly ferruginous, they approach in colour towards the topaz; and in some specimens the crystals are of a ruby colour, owing to a basis of iron.

The botanist will find, in these parts, almost every species of moss and lichen; with a great assemblage of plants; among which is that peculiarly delicate one called *geraneum sanguineum*; a native only here and in North Wales.

It has often been suggested, that beauty and utility would be united if a bridge were thrown across from the Clifton side of the Avon to Leigh Down, but though the design was once seriously under contemplation, it is now abandoned; from a consideration of the great expense, and the circumstance of two bridges having been since built higher up the river.

WALKS AND RIDES.

DUNDRY HILL — Though this hill is the most lofty round Bristol, and constantly in sight, being only distant four miles and a half south-west, yet the inhabitants seldom visit it. The prospects, however, from the summit of this long ridge, are well worth enjoying. Thence may be seen extensive views of the Bristol Channel, and of the coast and mountains of Wales; of Malvern hills, in Worcestershire; of the cities of Bath and Bristol; of the Whitehorse, in Wiltshire; and with a telescope, from its tower near the western end of the hill, the city and cathedral of Gloucester may be clearly distinguished. The top of Dundry hill is an immense quarry, whence it is said that the

stone for Redcliff church was brought. Here is also a very interesting ancient beacon.

Abbot's Leigh, about three miles west from Bristol, claims attention, not only for the singularity of the structure of its manor-house, but also for its having afforded protection to Charles II.; who was so closely pursued after the battle of Worcester, that he had only time on entering, to disguise himself, by throwing a carter's frock over his shoulders. Trusting his secret with the cook-maid, when his enemies rushed in and enquired if he had been seen, she replied only "Awan!" and instantly applied a stick to the king's back, whom she had set to wind up the jack, at the same time scolding him loudly for his slowness. His pursuers seeing her behave with so much apparent severity, interceded for the poor lad, and left the house, without suspecting the deception.

The block on which Charles performed this servile office, and the chair on which he sat, are still preserved, as relics of the merry monarch. The manor of Leigh has lately been bought by Mr. Philip John Miles, for the sum of 150,000*l.* though it contains only 2800 acres.*

Ashton Court, about three miles south-west of Bristol, lies in a sweet and pleasant vale, between Dundry and Leigh Down. This seat of Sir John Smith, Bart., built by Inigo Jones, is a stately edifice. Vast quantities of strawberries and raspberries are produced in the adjoining village called Bower Ashon, which, in the season, are eaten with cream, by crowds of visitants from the Hot-wells and Bristol. Ashton Court has of late been much enlarged, with stables nearly as extensive as the house; and also a park, enclosed by a wall, which is twelve feet high in its lowest part. This wall, which is said to have cost 30,000*l.*, greatly injures and disfigures the country. Two handsome lodges also have been added, one of them built from a fine Gothic design.

In the road to Bath, and about a mile from Bristol, is Arno's Vale. On the right is a gentleman's seat; and on

* Mr. Miles has taken down the old manor-house, and nearly upon the same site, erected one of the most superb mansions in the west of England. The interior decorations are of unusual taste and magnificence. The splendid collection of pictures which already adorns Leigh Court, is said to have cost the possessor one hundred thousand pounds. The house may be viewed by tickets upon proper application.

the left a building resembling a castle with its usual accompaniments. Here is re-erected the Castle-gate of Bristol. Over the outside stood, till lately, in niches, two statues of Saxon princes, taken from Lawford's gate; but these, with one of the finest crosses in England, were removed, by consent of the corporation. The cross is now at Sir Richard Hoare's, in Wiltshire, and on the inside are the statues of Robert, Earl of Gloucester, and Godfrey, Bishop of Constance, brought from New-gate.

Keynsham is a market-town on the Bath-road, at the distance of five miles from Bristol. It has a spacious Gothic church, with a good ring of bells; and was formerly noted for its abbey. The town itself is far from elegant. Some copper-mills are erected near it on the Chew, which falls into the Avon. The neighbourhood is famous for the cultivation of woad; and here the stone called *cornu Ammonis*, or, the horn of Jupiter Ammon, may commonly be found.

At Stanton Drew, six miles from Bristol, are the remains of a druidical temple, forming three circles, nearly complete, of large stone, six feet high. The lover of antiquity must not fail to visit this.

Wrington is a market-town about ten miles south-west from Bristol; and deserves to be noticed, as being the birth-place of John Locke, "who made the whole internal world his own." He was born here in 1632. In this vicinity is obtained lapis calaminaris; which, mixed with copper produces brass.

The city of Wells, and the site of Glastonbury Abbey, will amply repay persons of taste and observation for a visit, if they are able to take such a long ride; but being out of the circle of what may be called a morning-airing, we shall quit Somersetshire, and notice some remarkable places of Gloucestershire, in the environs of Bristol.

Almondsbury, seven miles north of Bristol, from its inn, standing on a hill, commands fine prospects of the Severn sea, and adjacent countries. Under the hill is the church, in which it is said that Alemond, the father of Egbert, was buried; whence, probably, the name of the place.

At Knowle, in this parish, is an ancient fortification, with a double ditch, supposed to be the work of Offa. The Chester family-seat is here.

Aust Passage, eleven miles from Bristol, has a *ferry to cross the Severn, which at this spot is two miles wide, Here Edward the elder summoned Leoline Prince of Wales to pass over and confer with him, but the haughty Cambro-briton refusing to pay this mark of respect, Edward prepared to cross the river to him: on which, Leoline, throwing his robes on the ground, leaped into the water and said: "Most wise king, your humility has conquered my pride, and your wisdom triumphed over my folly: I yield myself your vassal."

Blaize Castle, four miles north from Bristol, is a large triangular tower, built on an eminence in the midst of a wood, and commanding very extensive landscapes. In digging the foundation of this fanciful structure, which was erected between thirty and forty years ago, several brass and silver coins of the Roman emperors were found. Here formerly stood a chapel dedicated to St. Clazius, Bishop of St. Sebastian, in Spain, who was the patron of woollen manufacturers. The singular taste of the late Mr. Repton, has made this naturally beautiful place still more whimsically fantastical than it originally was.

At Cotham, close to Bristol, is a round tower, seventy feet high, from whose top there are beautifully picturesque views of the city and circumjacent scenery.

** Directions for crossing the Severn, both at AUST and NEW PASSAGE.*

The passage over the Severn, which separates England from Wales, being of great importance, those who have occasion to use either Aust or New Passage, are desired to observe, that the time of high water at the former is almost the same as at Bristol quay, and at the latter nearly an hour earlier. The hours of passing at both places are, if the wind be northerly, any time for five hours before, and if southerly or westerly, for seven hours after high water at each place respectively.

The time of high water at Bristol quay, every morning and afternoon for the following week, may always be seen in the Bristol newspapers published every Monday, Thursday and Saturday; and the variation, from one day to another, is about fifty minutes. New Passage, full and change of the moon, high water seven o'clock; third day after ditto, nine o'clock; quarter-day twelve o'clock.

Charges for Goods, Cattle, and Passengers, at both Passages.

Four-wheel carriages, 12s. Two-wheel ditto, 6s. Horse, 1s. Cattle, 6d. per head. Sheep, pigs, and lambs, 3s. 4d. per score. Man and horse, 1s. 6d. Foot passenger, 9d.

N. B. Any person that engages a small boat, must pay 5s. for the same, and 9d. for every passenger that goes in it.

King's Weston, the delightful residence of Lord de Clifford, about four miles from Bristol, was built by Sir John Vanbrugh, and is a striking monument of the taste of that architect; which Sir Joshua Reynolds has rescued from the discredit into which certain wits brought it by their false and malicious criticisms. In this building parts which architects wish to hide, are made peculiarly ornamental; for the chimneys, rising boldly from the centre of the house, form a square arcade at the top, and give to the whole a light and pleasing appearance. Few noblemen's seats contain so valuable a collection of original paintings; they are chiefly from the Italian and Flemish schools. The house with the park and gardens laid out in the first style of elegance, may be seen every day in the week. Here, opposite the grand alcove, is an echo that makes eight or ten repetitions. A neat thatched cottage serves as a lodge, where the woodbine and other shrubs delight to stray. Pursuing the road, the mansion partially shaded by stately trees, presents itself at the extent of a fine lawn, whose sides are deeply fringed by luxuriant elms.

Among the various objects seen from hence, one of the most conspicuous is a singular tower situated nearer Bristol in the midst of a wood, and named Cook's Folly, the traditionary history of which is as follows;—A person of this name having been told by a fortune-teller, that his son would die of the bite of a viper; in order to prevent this fate, the father built a tower, with no access to it except by a ladder: and here he immured the child with an old maid-servant, who fetched for him whatever he wanted. It happened that the servant fell sick, which obliged her ward to light the fire, but on going to the place where his stock of wood was kept a venomous reptile concealed in it, bit him, and in consequence of this he died. From this building there is a fine view of the river, both up and down.

New Passage is nine miles and a half from Bristol, and is chiefly noticed as it opens one of the two communications with Wales. The Severn here is three miles and a half broad.

Pen Park Hole, five miles north-west from Bristol, is a tremendous abyss. It is situated in the corner of a field; and inclosed by a hedge, to prevent accidents. The ground

around the entrance is so uneven, and overgrown with shrubs and bushes, that strangers should be cautious in their approaches, or engage a guide. A little below the entrance of the principal hole, appears an impending rock, and all the rest is hideous gloom. Stones thrown into it are heard for some time, dashing from one rock to another, and at last plunging into a lake of water. In 1669, one Captain Sturmy attempted to explore this cavern; but he is said to have been so frightened, that he lived only a fortnight after. In 1682, another Captain named Collins, resolved to make the attempt; and he found the depth of the cavern to be fifty-nine, its length seventy-one, and its breadth forty-five yards.

A dreadful catastrophe happened here on the 17th of March, 1775. The Rev. Mr. Newnham, one of the canons of Bristol cathedral, in company with another gentleman, with his sister, and a lady, who was the object of his fondest affection, went to explore the depth of this horrible gulf. Mr. Newnham having lowered a line for this purpose, in order to support himself with more security, laid hold on a twig shooting from the root of an ash that shaded part of the abyss; but at this instant his foot slipping the faithless twig gave way, and he was precipitated into the pit, in the sight of his agonizing friends. Thirty-nine days after his body was found floating in the water. It is probable he was dashed to pieces in an instant.

It is remarkable that this unfortunate gentleman officiated that morning at Clifton church, and read Psalm lxxxviii, in which are these words, so descriptive of his end. "Thou hast laid me in the lowest pit, in a place of darkness, and in the deep."

Piercesfield is the last place which we shall mention in our desultory excursions; and it is one of the most illustrious that art and nature combined can produce. It lies upwards of seventeen miles north across the Severn from Bristol, and is the object of universal admiration. The magnificence of the surrounding scenery, consisting of stupendous rocks, vast woods, the meandering Wye, the expansive Severn, the town and castle of Chepstow, with various other attractions, present a picture unrivalled in point of beauty and Grandeur. The walks and rides are conducted in the happiest taste; and confer great honour on the late Valentine Morris, Esq., under whose

auspices, and by whose genius they were planned. A volume might be filled on the subject of this enchanting place; but no words can convey an adequate impression of what every spectator feels, as he strays amid the romantic scenery.

After visiting Piercefield, few will be willing to return without seeing Tintern Abbey, which lies five miles from this enchanting spot. Tintern in itself is one of the finest Gothic ruins in the kingdom; and its delightful situation on the bank of the Wye renders it doubly attractive. Often has it been delineated by the pencil and the graver but it must be seen to give an adequate idea of its charms.

Bristol is governed by a mayor, a lord-high-steward (Lord Grenville), a recorder (Sir Robert Gifford, attorney general), twelve aldermen, two sheriffs and an under-sheriff, twenty-eight common-council, a town-clerk, deputy town-clerk, chamberlain, vice-chamberlain, and a number of inferior officers.

The wealth of the corporation is very great, and its power and patronage extensive. Bristol was a borough at the time of the Conquest; and very early sent two burgesses to parliament by ancient prescription, before it was incorporated. There are between seven and eight thousand freemen, who become so by birth, freehold, servitude, purchase, donation, or by marrying a freeman's daughter. The last is a singular kind of privilege, and many will think it is purchasing civic freedom at the expense of domestic slavery, we are told, however, that it was granted by Queen Elizabeth, when the Bristol ladies were infinitely less handsome than they are at present, as an encouragement to matrimony. Times are since altered, and a man would now be happy to *lose* his freedom for their sakes.

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