

different vicinal ways with others in the adjoining counties; and on its site have been found coins and every other ordinary relic of Roman occupation. On a hill overlooking this spot is a large Roman camp of an irregular oblong form; but the most remarkable military intrenchment is that called Totternhoe Castle, situated on the brow of a high hill, about two miles to the north-west of Dunstable, and consisting of a lofty circular mount, surrounded by two distinct ramparts: a little south-eastward of this is a camp in the form of a parallelogram, about five hundred feet long, and two hundred and fifty broad. About a mile from Dunstable is the large circular encampment called Maiden-Bower, about two thousand five hundred feet in circumference, and formed by a single ditch and rampart: another extensive fortification of the same kind, and nearly of a circular form, is seen near Leighton-Buzzard; and a third circular intrenchment, one hundred and twelve feet in diameter, is situated about four miles from Bedford, adjoining the road from that town to Eaton-Socon.

At the period of the Reformation, this county contained fourteen religious houses, besides a preceptory of the Knights Hospitallers, six hospitals, and one college of priests. There are considerable remains of Elstow abbey and Dunstable priory; and smaller vestiges of Warden abbey, of the Grey friars' monastery at Bedford, and of the priories of Bushmead, Harrold, Newenham, and Caldwell. The most ancient specimens of ecclesiastical architecture are seen in the church of Elstow, anciently belonging to the monastery at that place, which was founded, and the present church built, soon after the Norman Conquest. The parish church of Dunstable, also originally conventual, and built in the reign of Henry I., yet exhibits considerable remains of its original style of architecture. The other churches possessing any remarkable architectural feature are those of St. Peter at Bedford, Caddington, Little Barford, Puddington, and Thurleigh, all of which have doorways of Saxon architecture; and those of Biggleswade, Eaton-Bray, Eaton-Socon, Felmersham, Leighton-Buzzard, Luton, Marston, Northill, Odell, Studham, Willington, and Wymington. Many of the churches have richly ornamented niches, and contain fonts curiously decorated, and in some instances of great antiquity. Hardly any traces of mural fortresses now exist, excepting the strong earthworks which yet mark their ancient sites. The most remarkable of these are situated at Arlsey, Bedford, Bletsoe, Cainhoe, Mepershall, Puddington, Ridgmont, Risinghoe, Sutton, Thurleigh, Toddington, and Yielding. Among the mansions of the landed proprietors, those most worthy of particular notice are, Woburn Abbey, Ampthill Park, Luton Hoo Park, Wrest Park, Broghborough Park, Bletsoe Park, and Melchbourn Park. There are mineral springs at Barton, Bedford, Bletsoe, Blunham, Bromham, Bushmead, Clapham, Cranfield, Holcutt, Milton-Ernest, Odell, Pertenhall, Risley, Silsoe, and Turvey; they possess different properties, some being saline, others chalybeate, but none of them are much frequented.

BEDHAMPTON, a parish in the hundred of PORTSDOWN, Portsdown division of the county of SOUTHAMPTON, $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile (W.) from Havant, containing 413 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry

and diocese of Winchester, rated in the king's books at £10. 3. 9., and in the patronage of Andrew Reid, Esq. This parish is within the jurisdiction of the Cheyney Court held at Winchester every Thursday, for the recovery of debts under 40s.

BEDINGFIELD, a parish in the hundred of HOXNE, county of SUFFOLK, 4 miles (S. S. E.) from Eye, containing 318 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Suffolk, and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £8, and in the patronage of J. J. Bedingfield, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Mary.

BEDINGHAM, a parish in the hundred of LONDON, county of NORFOLK, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N. W. by W.) from Bungay, containing 343 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Norfolk, and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £5, endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £200 royal bounty, and in the presentation of R. Stone, Esq. on the nomination of the Bishop of Norwich. The church is dedicated to St. Andrew. Another church, dedicated to St. Mary, formerly stood in the churchyard; and the living consisted of medieties, which have long been united.

BEDLINGTON, a parish in the eastern division of CHESTER ward, county palatine of DURHAM, of which it is a detached portion, lying at the south-eastern corner of Castle ward, county of Northumberland, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S. E. by E.) from Morpeth, comprising the townships of Bedlington, North Blyth with Chambois, Choppington, Netherton, East Sleekburn, and West Sleekburn, and containing 1862 inhabitants. The living is a vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Northumberland, and diocese of Durham, rated in the king's books at £13. 6. 8., and in the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Durham. The church, dedicated to St. Cuthbert, whose remains rested here for one night in 1069, when the monks fled from Durham, at the menacing approach of the Conqueror, was enlarged and repaired in 1818. There are places of worship for Primitive and Wesleyan Methodists and Presbyterians. This parish, commonly termed Bedlingtonshire, is situated on the coast of the North sea, and is bounded on the north and south by the river Blyth: it had anciently courts within its own limits, and the officers of justice were appointed by the Bishop of Durham, to whom the manor belongs. Petty sessions for the district are held monthly at one of the inns in the village. Bedlington iron-works rank among the oldest and most extensive in the kingdom: they are romantically situated on the banks of the river Blyth, which is navigable for small craft, and affords the means of conveying their produce, consisting of chain cables, bolts, bar and sheet iron, and nearly all the heavier articles in wrought iron, to the port of Blyth, where it is shipped for London. The vicinity contains several stone quarries, producing grindstones and whetstones of a superior quality; and there are some extensive collieries. A petrifying spring rises at the western end of the village.

BEDMINSTER, a parish in the hundred of HARTCLIFFE with BEDMINSTER, county of SOMERSET, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile (S. by W.) from Bristol, containing 7979 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, with the perpetual curacies of St. Thomas' Redcliffe and Abbot's Leigh annexed, in the archdeaconry of Bath, and dio-

cese of Bath and Wells, rated in the king's books at £10. 3. 4., and in the patronage of the Prebendary of Bedminster in the Cathedral Church of Salisbury. The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, displays various portions of ancient architecture, mixed with modern insertions: a spire on the tower was thrown down in 1563. A chapel of ease is in progress of erection, under the act passed in the 58th of George III., the first stone having been laid on the 8th of September, 1829. There are places of worship for Baptists, Independents, and Methodists: that belonging to the Independents is one of the most handsome and spacious buildings of the kind in the kingdom; the principal entrance is adorned with Grecian columns, and the exterior coated with freestone. Bedminster anciently consisted only of a few cottages, but, from its proximity to Bristol (being separated from it by the new cut, whereby the natural channel of the river Avon has been converted into a floating harbour for vessels frequenting the port), and the main road to that city from the western counties passing through it, it has become a considerable suburb to Bristol, participating in its manufactures, trade, &c. Here are tan-yards and rope-walks; and in the environs are several gardens, with the produce of which the occupiers supply the city of Bristol; but many of the inhabitants, the number of whom now exceeds ten thousand, are employed in the collieries within the parish. About the close of the twelfth century, Robert de Berkeley founded an hospital, dedicated to St. Catherine, for a master and several poor brethren; it stood on the western side of a street near the extremity of Brightlow bridge, and was subsequently used as a glass-manufactory, but has since been converted into small tenements: another hospital was founded by a member of the same family, but every vestige of it has disappeared. A court baron for the prebend is held here.

BEDNALL, a joint chapelry and township with Acton-Trussell, in the parish of BASWICH, eastern division of the hundred of CUTTLESTONE, county of STAFFORD, 4 miles (N.E. by N.) from Penkridge. The population is returned with Acton-Trussell. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the peculiar jurisdiction of the Prebendary of Whittington and Baswich in the Cathedral Church of Lichfield, endowed with £600 royal bounty. The chapel is dedicated to All Saints.

BEDSTONE, a parish in the hundred of PURSLOW, county of SALOP, 4½ miles (N.E.) from Knighton, containing 165 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry of Salop, and diocese of Hereford, rated in the king's books at £4. 13. 4., endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £200 royal bounty, and in the patronage of Benjamin Brown, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Mary.

BEDWARDINE (ST. JOHN), a parish in the lower division of the hundred of OSWALDSLOW, county of WORCESTER, comprising the townships of St. John Bedwardine and Bishop's Wick, and containing 2424 inhabitants, of which number, 1161 are in the township of St. John Bedwardine, 1 mile (S.W. by W.) from Worcester. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Worcester, rated in the king's books at £13. 6. 8., and in the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Worcester. The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is an ancient edifice, partly

in the Norman, but chiefly in the later style of English, architecture. The parish takes its name from its having been allotted to supply the table of the monks of Worcester with provisions. The village, pleasantly situated on an eminence rising from the western bank of the Severn, forms a suburb to the city of Worcester, from which it is separated by the river Severn. A fair is held on the Friday before Palm-Sunday, on which day (by ancient usage, originating in a grant of certain privileges to the bailiffs and corporation, by the prior of Worcester, in the reign of Edward IV.,) the mayor and corporation of Worcester walk in procession through the village.

BEDWAS, a parish comprising the hamlet of Van, in the hundred of CAERPHILLY, county of GLAMORGAN (Wales), and the hamlets of Lower and Upper Bedwas, in the lower division of the hundred of WENTLOOG, county of MONMOUTH, and containing 650 inhabitants, of which number, 298 are in the hamlet of Upper, and 272 in that of Lower, Bedwas, 9 miles (W. by N.) from Newport. The living is a rectory, with the perpetual curacy of Ruddry annexed, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Llandaff, rated in the king's books at £10. 14. 9½., and in the patronage of the Bishop of Llandaff. The church is dedicated to St. Barrog.

BEDWELTY, a parish in the lower division of the hundred of WENTLOOG, county of MONMOUTH, 16 miles (N.W.) from Newport, comprising the hamlets of Ishlawroed, Mamhole, and Ushlawroed, and containing 6382 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Llandaff, endowed with £600 royal bounty, and £1600 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of the Bishop of Llandaff. The church, dedicated to St. Sannan, is of early English architecture; and the churchyard, which commands extensive and variegated prospects, is surrounded with some trifling remains of an intrenchment.

BEDWIN (GREAT), a borough, parish, and market town, in the hundred of KINWARDSTONE, county of WILTS, 5½ miles (S.W. by W.) from Hungerford, 23 (N.) from Salisbury, and 70½ (W. by S.) from London, containing, with the tythings of Crofton, East and West Grafton, Martin, Stock with Ford, Wixcombe, Wilton, and Wolfhall, 1928 inhabitants.



Arms.

This place, supposed by Dr. Stukeley to be the *Leucomagus* of Ravennas, derives its name from the Saxon *Beegwyn*, or *Bedgwyn*, expressive of its situation on an eminence, in a chalky soil. It was anciently a city of great extent, and the metropolis of Cissa, one of the three sons of Ælla, the Saxon chieftain, who invaded Britain in 477. Cissa, when viceroy of Wiltshire and part of Berkshire, is said to have enlarged and strengthened Chisbury Castle, now a noble relic of Saxon earthwork, about a mile to the north-east of the town, in the parish of Little Bedwin. In 674, a battle was fought here between Wulphere, King of Mercia, and Æscuin, a nobleman in the service of Saxburga, Queen of Wessex, in which, after a desperate struggle, the latter was victorious. The soil of

Great Bedwin is good, and the general aspect of the country luxuriant. The Kennet and Avon canal passes through the parish, and affords a medium for the conveyance of excellent coal. The market is on Tuesday; and fairs are held on April 23rd and July 26th: the market-house is an ancient building, situated in the principal street. A portreeve, who is customarily called mayor, a bailiff, and other officers, are annually chosen at the court leet of the lord of the manor. This borough sent representatives to all the parliaments of Edward I., from the close of whose reign to the 9th of Henry V. there were frequent intermissions; but since then it has constantly returned two members. The right of election is vested in the freeholders and inhabitants of the ancient burghage messuages, in number about ninety-five: the portreeve is the returning officer, and the influence of the Marquis of Ailesbury predominates. The living is a vicarage, within the jurisdiction of the peculiar court of the Lord Warden of Savernake Forest, rated in the king's books at £8. 10. 10., endowed with £400 private benefaction, £400 royal bounty, and £600 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of the Marquis of Ailesbury. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, and the only remaining one of seven which are said to have anciently existed here, appears to have been erected at various times, and exhibits good specimens of all the styles of architecture, from the Norman to the later English; it is a cruciform structure, with a lofty embattled tower rising from the intersection, and contains several ancient memorials, among which is the figure of a Knight Templar, and the monument of Sir John Seymour, father of the Protector Somerset, and of Lady Jane Seymour, consort of Henry VIII., who were born at Wolf Hall, now a farm-house, in this parish. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists. A school is endowed for the instruction of ten boys; and Sir Andrew Hungerford, in 1694, left an annuity of £10 for apprenticing poor boys of the borough. Within the mounds of Chisbury Castle, comprising an area of fifteen acres, are the remains of an ancient chapel, now used as a barn. Half a mile to the south-west are some vestiges of a Roman building, but they are now scarcely discoverable. A fine tessellated pavement was preserved here till within the last few years. Dr. Thomas Willis, a celebrated physician, was born here in 1621, and died in London, in 1675.



Corporate Seal.

BEDWIN (LITTLE), a parish in the hundred of KINWARDSTONE, county of WILTS, $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles (W. S. W.) from Hungerford, containing 504 inhabitants. The living is a vicarage, within the jurisdiction of the peculiar court of the Lord Warden of Savernake Forest, rated in the king's books at £9. 6. 8., and in the patronage of the Marquis of Ailesbury. The church is dedicated to St. Michael. The Kennet and Avon canal passes through the parish, which is also intersected by the ancient Wansdyke.

BEDWORTH, a parish in the Kirby division of the hundred of KNIGHTLOW, county of WARWICK, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles

(S.) from Nuneaton, containing 3519 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Coventry, and diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, rated in the king's books at £10. 3. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$., and in the patronage of the Earl of Aylesford. The church, dedicated to All Saints, has recently received an additional number of sittings, by means of a grant of £250 from the Incorporated Society for enlarging churches and chapels. There is a place of worship for Particular Baptists. Near the village is a coal mine, from which a railroad extends to the Ashby de la Zouch and Coventry canals, which form a junction within the parish, the latter terminating here. Two charity schools, and almshouses for twenty-four persons, are endowed with land producing £700 per annum, bequeathed by the Rev. Nicholas Chamberlain, in 1715.

BEEBY, a parish in the eastern division of the hundred of GOSCOTE, county of LEICESTER, 6 miles (N. E. by E.) from Leicester, containing 120 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Leicester, and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £15. 2. 6., and in the patronage of the Earl of Shaftesbury. The church is dedicated to All Saints.

BEECH, a liberty in the parish of STONE, southern division of the hundred of PIREHILL, county of STAFFORD, containing 838 inhabitants.

BEECHAMWELL, comprising the parish of All Saints, and the united parishes of St. John and St. Mary, in the hundred of CLACKCLOSE, county of NORFOLK, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles (W. S. W.) from Swaffham, and containing 288 inhabitants. The living of All Saints' is a discharged rectory, with that of Shingham annexed, rated in the king's books at £6. 13. 4., and in the patronage of the Crown. St. John's and St. Mary's are discharged rectories consolidated, rated jointly at £9. 13. 4., and in the patronage of J. Motteaux, Esq.: they are in the archdeaconry of Norfolk, and diocese of Norwich.

BEECH-HILL, a tything in that part of the parish of STRATFIELD-SAYE which is in the hundred of READING, county of BERKS, 6 miles (S. by W.) from Reading, containing 274 inhabitants. There is a place of worship for Particular Baptists.

BEECHING, or **BEAUCHAMP-STOKE**, a parish in the hundred of SWANBOROUGH, county of WILTS, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles (E. by S.) from Devizes, containing 156 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Wilts, and diocese of Salisbury, rated in the king's books at £7. 2. 11., and in the patronage of George Wylde Heneage, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Stephen. On opening a tumulus in this parish lately, a considerable quantity of stags' horns and human bones was discovered.

BEEDING, a parish in the hundred of BURBEACH, rape of BRAMBER, county of SUSSEX, comprising Upper and Lower Beeding, and containing 904 inhabitants, of which number, 499 are in the former, 1 mile (E.), and 405 in the latter, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile (E. S. E.), from Steyning. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Lewes, and diocese of Chichester, rated in the king's books at £8, and in the patronage of the President and Fellows of Magdalene College, Oxford. The church is dedicated to St. Peter. An Alien priory of Benedictine monks was founded here about 1075, the revenue of which, amounting to £26. 9. 9., was given to the Society of Magdalene College, in the reign

of Henry VI. The navigable river Adur runs in the vicinity.

BEEDON, a parish in the hundred of FAIRCROSS, county of BERKS, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S.W. by W.) from East Ilsley, containing 313 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Berks, and diocese of Salisbury, rated in the king's books at £6. 10. 10., endowed with £250 private benefaction, and £200 royal bounty, and in the patronage of Sir J. Reade, Bart. The church is dedicated to St. Nicholas.

BEEFORD, a parish in the northern division of the wapentake of HOLDERNESS, East riding of the county of York, comprising the chapelry of Lissett, and the townships of Beeford and Dunnington, and containing 791 inhabitants, of which number, 620 are in the township of Beeford, 9 miles (E. S. E.) from Great Driffield. The living is a rectory, within the peculiar jurisdiction of the manor court of Beeford, rated in the king's books at £22, and in the patronage of the Crown. The church is dedicated to St. Leonard. There are places of worship for Independents and Wesleyan Methodists. A free school here is conducted on the National plan.

BEELEY, a chapelry in the parish of BAKEWELL, hundred of HIGH PEAK, county of DERBY, 4 miles (E. by S.) from Bakewell, containing 350 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, within the peculiar jurisdiction of the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield, endowed with £400 private benefaction, and £1200 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Duke of Devonshire. The chapel is dedicated to St. Anne. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists. Several small benefactions have been made for the relief of the poor.

BEELSBY, a parish in the wapentake of BRADLEY-HAVERSTOE, parts of LINDSEY, county of LINCOLN, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles (E.) from Caistor, containing 160 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £8. 17. 6., and in the patronage of the Chapter of the Collegiate Church of Southwell. The church is dedicated to St. Andrew.

BEENHAM, a parish in the hundred of READING, county of BERKS, $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles (W. S. W.) from Reading, containing 437 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Berks, and diocese of Salisbury, rated in the king's books at £7. 17., and in the patronage of Mrs. Stevens. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. The navigable river Kennet runs in the vicinity.

BEER, a chapelry in the parish of SEATON, hundred of COLYTON, county of DEVON, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S. S. W.) from Colyton, containing 1256 inhabitants. The Cove of Beer is highly favourable for fishing. In 1820, Lord Rolle obtained an act for constructing a pier and improving the harbour. Edward Colston bequeathed land, producing about £500 a year, for maintaining, clothing, and teaching one hundred poor boys of Idstock and Beer. Lady Rolle bequeathed £7000 three per cents. for charitable purposes, from which fund almshouses for twenty-five poor fishermen, and twenty infirm widows, and schools for the instruction of boys and girls, on Dr. Bell's plan, have been erected and endowed.

BEER-ALSTON, a borough in the parish of BEER-FERRIS, hundred of ROBOROUGH, county of DEVON, 14 miles (N.) from Plymouth, and 211 (W. S. W.) from London. The population is returned with the parish. This place, about the year 1295, received the grant of a weekly market and an annual fair, which have been for a considerable time discontinued. It is pleasantly situated within a mile of the navigable river Tamar, but consists only of a few mean houses. Some lead mines, opened here in the reign of Edward I., produced abundance of ore, from which a great quantity of silver was separated; after a long period of disuse they were again worked, but their produce had greatly diminished. A portreeve and other officers are annually chosen at the court leet of the lord of the manor, which is held under a large tree, where also the election of the parliamentary representatives for the borough takes place. The elective franchise was conferred in the 27th of Elizabeth, since which time the borough has returned two members to parliament: the right of election is vested by burgage tenure in those who have land in the borough, and pay an acknowledgment to the lord of the manor, upon whose will their number is entirely dependent: the portreeve is the returning officer. Here was formerly a chapel of ease to the rectory of Beer-Ferris. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists.

BEER-CROCOMBE, a parish in the hundred of ABDICK and BULSTONE, county of SOMERSET, 6 miles (N. W. by N.) from Ilminster, containing 186 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry of Taunton, and diocese of Bath and Wells, rated in the king's books at £11. 12. 6., and in the patronage of the Earl of Egremont. The church is dedicated to St. James.

BEER-FERRIS, a parish in the hundred of ROBOROUGH, county of DEVON, $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S. by W.) from Tavistock, containing, with the borough of Beer-Alston, 2198 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Totness, and diocese of Bath and Wells, rated in the king's books at £24. 1. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$., and in the patronage of Viscount Valletort. The church is dedicated to St. Andrew. The parish is bounded on the west by the navigable river Tamar, and on the east by the Tavey, which unite at its southern extremity, and fall into the English channel on the western side of Devonport.

BEER-HACKET, a parish in the hundred of SHERBORNE, Sherborne division of the county of DORSET, 5 miles (S. W. by S.) from Sherborne, containing 78 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, within the peculiar jurisdiction of the Dean of Salisbury, rated in the king's books at £6. 2. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$., and in the patronage of Sir John Munden. The church is dedicated to St. Michael. There is an endowment for the instruction of children.

BEER-REGIS, a market town and parish in the hundred of BEER-REGIS, Blandford (South) division of the county of DORSET, 7 miles (N. W.) from Wareham, and 113 (S. W.) from London, containing, with the tything of Shitterton, 1080 inhabitants. This place, which is supposed by Dr. Stukeley to have been the *Ibernium* of Ravennas, derives its name from the Saxon *Byrig*, and the adjunct from its having been held in royal demesne. Elfrida, after the murder of her step-son, is said to

have retired hither to avoid suspicion; and King John, who occasionally made this his residence, granted the inhabitants the privilege of a market, in the seventeenth year of his reign. Edward I. made it a free borough, but it does not appear to have ever returned any members to parliament. A great part of the town was destroyed by fire in 1634: it experienced a similar calamity in 1788, and, in 1817, another destructive fire occurred, in which the parish registers were burnt. The town is pleasantly situated on the small river Beer; the houses, in general, are modern and well built, and the inhabitants are amply supplied with water. The market is on Wednesday: a fair is held, September 18th and the four following days, on Woodbury hill, for horses, horned cattle, sheep, cloth, and cheese. The living, which, in conjunction with Charmouth, formerly constituted the golden prebend in the Cathedral Church of Salisbury, and is now in the peculiar jurisdiction of the Dean of Salisbury, is a vicarage, with the perpetual curacy of Winterbourne-Kingston annexed, rated in the king's books at £25. 5., and in the patronage of the Master and Fellows of Balliol College, Oxford. The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is a spacious ancient structure, with a square embattled tower crowned with pinnacles. There are places of worship for Independents and Wesleyan Methodists; that for the Independents has an endowment of £18 per annum. A charity school was founded and endowed by Thomas Williams, Esq., and further endowed by the Rev. Thomas Williams, for two additional scholars. In 1773, the Rev. Henry Fisher bequeathed £100 to this institution: the master has a salary of £10 per annum, with a house and garden. On Woodbury hill, about half a mile from the town, there is a circular camp, comprehending an area of ten acres; and to the west of it are the site of the ancient chapel of Sancta Anchoretta, and a well called Anchoret's well. Dr. John Moreton, Archbishop of Canterbury, and a cardinal; and Dr. Tuberville, Bishop of Exeter; were natives of this place; the former also distinguished himself in the wars, and projected the union, of the houses of York and Lancaster.

BEERHALL, a tything in the parish and hundred of Axminster, county of DEVON, containing 331 inhabitants.

* **BEES (ST.)**, a parish in ALLERDALE ward above Darwent, county of CUMBERLAND, comprising the port and market town of Whitehaven, the chapelries of Ennerdale, Eskdale with Wasdale (including Wasdale-Head), Hensingham, and Netherwasdale, the townships of St. Bees, Kinneyside, Lowside-Quarter, Preston-Quarter, Rottington, Sandwith, and Wheddicar, and containing, according to the last census, 19,969 inhabitants (since greatly increased), of which number, 655 are in the township of St. Bees, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles (W. by N.) from Egremont. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of Richmond, and diocese of Chester, endowed with £600 private benefaction, £1000 royal bounty, and £1600 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of the Earl of Lonsdale. The church, dedicated to St. Bega, was formerly the conventual church of a monastery, founded about 650, by Bega, or Begogh, an Irish female, who subsequently received the honour of canonization. This monastery was destroyed by the Danes, and restored, in the reign of Henry I., by William de Meschines, Lord of Copeland, as a cell to the

abbey of St. Mary at York: its revenue, at the dissolution, was estimated at £149. 19. 6. The church is cruciform, having a strong tower of early Norman architecture, but the rest of the edifice is in the decorated English style: the nave is used for the celebration of divine service; and the chancel, which had long lain ruinous, was repaired in 1819, and fitted up as a school for divinity, in connexion with a clerical institution, founded by Dr. Law, a late bishop of Chester, for the benefit of young men intended for holy orders, who do not mean to complete their studies at Oxford or Cambridge, and who receive ordination after having studied for a certain period at this place; but they can only enter upon their ministry within the province of York. In addition to this, there is a celebrated free grammar school, founded by letters patent, dated April 24th, 1583, obtained by Edmund Grindall, Archbishop of Canterbury, whereby its management is entrusted to a corporation of seven governors, of whom the Provost of Queen's College, Oxford, and the Rector of Egremont, are always two, the former enjoying the privilege of nominating the master, who chooses an usher. The annual income, arising from land, is £125: of this sum, £50 are paid to the master, and £10 to the usher, but their salaries receive considerable augmentation from entrance-fees and donations at Shrovetide, and the former takes boarders: gratuitous instruction is limited to the classics. The school enjoys the advantage of a fellowship and two scholarships at Queen's College, Oxford, with the privilege of sending a candidate to be examined for one of five exhibitions, founded at the same college by Lady Elizabeth Hastings; a fellowship and three scholarships at Pembroke College, Cambridge; a scholarship of £4 a year at Magdalene College, Cambridge, and, in failure of scholars from the school at Carlisle, eligibility to two exhibitions, founded by Bishop Thomas, at Queen's College, Oxford. A good library is connected with the school. The parish extends for about ten miles along the coast, which in some parts is rocky and precipitous, and contains coal, limestone, and freestone: lead-ore is obtained at Kinneyside, where there are smelting-furnaces, and iron-ore was formerly got in Eskdale. A lighthouse was erected in 1717, on a promontory called St. Bees' Head.

BEESBY, formerly a distinct parish, now united to HAWERBY, in the wapentake of BRADLEY-HAVERSTOE, parts of LINCOLN, $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N.W. by N.) from Louth. The population is returned with Haverby. The living is a rectory, consolidated with that of Haverby.

BEESBY in the MARSH, a parish in the Wold division of the hundred of CALCEWORTH, parts of LINCOLN, county of LINCOLN, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N. by E.) from Alford, containing 132 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £13. 10. $2\frac{1}{2}$., and in the patronage of the Crown. The church is dedicated to St. Andrew.

BEESTON, a hamlet partly in the parish of NORTHILL, and partly in the parish of SANDY, hundred of WIXAMTREE, county of BEDFORD, 3 miles (N.N.W.) from Biggleswade, containing 214 inhabitants.

BEESTON, a township in that part of the parish of BUNBURY which is in the first division of the hundred of EDDISBURY, county palatine of CHESTER,

3½ miles (S.S.W.) from Tarporley, containing 441 inhabitants. On a rocky eminence, affording a fine view over the Vale Royal, are the massive ruins of Beeston Castle, comprising part of a tower which guarded the principal entrance, flanked by semicircular ones, which formed the inner ward, occupying nearly an acre of ground, and protected by a moat excavated in the solid rock; the outer walls were guarded by eight round towers irregularly placed, and are now, for the greater part, romantically covered with ivy and other foliage: in the outer court is a considerable stone quarry. This fortress, founded by Ranulph de Blundeville, about 1220, was made a royal garrison in the war between Henry III. and the barons; and, in 1643, it was held by a detachment of the parliamentary forces. Having been subsequently taken by the royalists, it was surrendered by them for want of provisions, after a long siege, in 1645, and, early in the following year, was demolished. Courts leet and baron are held here. There is a small endowment for the instruction of poor children. A mineral spring was discovered about fifteen years ago.

BEESTON, a parish in the southern division of the wapentake of BROXTON, county of NOTTINGHAM, 3½ miles (S.W. by W.) from Nottingham, containing 1534 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Nottingham, and diocese of York, rated in the king's books at £4. 15., and in the patronage of the Duke of Devonshire. The church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist. The inhabitants are principally employed in the manufacture of hosiery and lace: a large silk-mill has also recently been erected. A branch of the Nottingham canal, called Beeston Cut, crosses the parish on the south-east, to its junction with the Trent. Considerable portions of a Roman road, uniting with the "old Coventry road" in the adjoining parish of Attenborough, and the remains of an ancient building, are discernible here. There are some wells in the village, the water of which is slightly chalybeate.

BEESTON, a chapelry in the parish of St. PETER, within the liberty of the borough of LEEDS, though locally in the wapentake of Morley, West riding of the county of YORK, 2¼ miles (S.W. by S.) from Leeds, comprising the townships of Beeston-Shaw, Cottingley-Hall, New Hall, Parkside, Royds, and Snickells, and containing 1670 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry and diocese of York, endowed with £210 private benefaction, and £200 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Vicar of Leeds. The chapel is a very ancient structure, dedicated to St. Mary. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists. Extensive coal mines near the village have been worked since the reign of Charles II.; and there are various establishments connected with the clothing business. An hospital is stated to have anciently existed here, but there are no remains, and even its site is not distinctly known.

BEESTON (ST. ANDREW), a parish in the hundred of TAVERHAM, county of NORFOLK, 4½ miles (N.N.E.) from Norwich, containing 69 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £3. 6. 8. W. Boycott, Esq. and others were patrons in 1806. The church is desecrated.

BEESTON (ST. LAWRENCE), a parish in the hundred of TUNSTEAD, county of NORFOLK, 4½ miles (E. by N.) from Coltishall, containing 54 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £6, endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £200 royal bounty, and in the patronage of J. Preston, Esq. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists.

BEESTON (ST. MARY), a parish in the hundred of LAUNDITCH, county of NORFOLK, 7 miles (N.E. by E.) from Swaffham, containing, with the parish of Little Bittering, 666 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £13, and in the patronage of the King, as Duke of Lancaster. A sum of money has been left for the instruction of poor children; and there is an almshouse with a small endowment.

BEESTON-REGIS, a parish in the northern division of the hundred of ERPINGHAM, county of NORFOLK, 3 miles (W.N.W.) from Cromer, containing 238 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry of Norfolk, and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £16, and in the patronage of the King, as Duke of Lancaster. The church is dedicated to All Saints. The sea has made considerable encroachments on this part of the coast. Here are some remains of a priory of Augustine canons, founded in the reign of John, by Lady Isabel de Cressey, the revenue of which, at the dissolution, was £50. 6. 4.

BEETHAM, a parish in KENDAL ward, county of WESTMORLAND, comprising the chapelry of Witherslack, and the townships of Beetham, Farleton, Haverbrack, and Methop with Ulpha, and containing 1618 inhabitants, of which number, 830 are in the township of Beetham, 3 miles (N.W. by W.) from Burton in Kendal. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Richmond, and diocese of Chester, rated in the king's books at £13. 7. 4., endowed with £400 private benefaction, and £400 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the King, as Duke of Lancaster. The church is dedicated to St. Michael. This mountainous parish is situated at the south-western extremity of the county, on both sides of the æstuary of the river Kent, which is navigable for small craft as far as the hamlet of Storth, and on the shore of which are two wharfs, where slate and other articles are shipped for various ports on the western coast: there is also a ferry across the river. The Kendal and Lancaster canal, the river Belo, and some smaller streams, also intersect the parish, through which a new road was formed between Lancaster and Ulverstone, about 1820. The sands are well adapted for bathing, though the place is not much resorted to for that purpose. There is a manufactory for paper and pasteboard at the village, and limestone abounds within the parish. A grammar school, built about 1663, and rebuilt in 1827, has an endowment of about £40 per annum, arising from land, for the instruction of about fifty boys. Near the school-house stood an ancient chapel, dedicated to St. John, where human bones have frequently been dug up: the site has been converted into a garden. A court leet and baron, with view of frankpledge, are held annually by the lord of the manor. Beetham Hall, formerly a fortified mansion, situated within a spacious park, is now in ruins; and at a short distance

to the south are the ruins of Helslack and Arnside towers, which were probably erected to guard the bay of Morecambe, there being remains of similar towers on the opposite shore. At Beetham Mill is a waterfall on the river Belo, near where the new road crosses that river by means of a bridge.

BETLEY, a parish in the hundred of LAUNDITCH, county of NORFOLK, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N. by W.) from East Dereham, containing 356 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £9. 7. 11., and in the patronage of the Rev. C. Munnings. The church is dedicated to St. Mary.

BEGBROOKE, a parish in the hundred of WOORTON, county of OXFORD, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S.E. by S.) from Woodstock, containing 102 inhabitants. The living is a rectory not in charge, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Oxford, and in the patronage of Sir G. Dashwood, Bart., for three turns, and the Principal and Fellows of Brasenose College, Oxford, for one. The church is dedicated to St. Michael. A little westward from it is an ancient military work, called Round Castle.

BEIGHTON, a parish in the hundred of SCARSDALE, county of DERBY, $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles (E. S. E.) from Sheffield, containing 856 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Derby, and diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, rated in the king's books at £6. 11. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$., endowed with £10 per annum private benefaction, and £200 royal bounty, and in the patronage of Earl Manvers. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. In 1666, William Jessop bequeathed land, producing about £14 per annum, for apprenticing poor children of this parish, and other charitable purposes. A school for the instruction of ten children has an endowment of about £5 per annum.

BEIGHTON, a parish in the hundred of WALSHAM, county of NORFOLK, 2 miles (S.W. by S.) from Acle, containing 244 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £13, and in the patronage of R. Fellowes, Esq. The church is dedicated to All Saints.

BEIGHTON, county of SUFFOLK.—See BEYTON.

BEILBY, a chapelry in the parish of HAYTON, Holme-Beacon division of the wapentake of HARTHILL, East riding of the county of YORK, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S. by W.) from Pocklington, containing 239 inhabitants. The chapel is dedicated to St. Giles.

BELAUGH, a parish in the southern division of the hundred of ERPINGHAM, county of NORFOLK, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile (S. E.) from Coltishall, containing 133 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, annexed to the vicarage of Scottow, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £6. The church is dedicated to St. Peter.

BELBANK, a township in the parish of BEWCASTLE, ESKDALE ward, county of CUMBERLAND, containing 415 inhabitants. There are collieries and limeworks at Oakshaw, a hamlet in this township.

BELBANK, a township in the parish of STAFLETON, ESKDALE ward, county of CUMBERLAND, 9 miles (N.) from Brampton, containing 137 inhabitants.

BELBROUGHTON, a parish in the lower division of the hundred of HALFSHIRE, county of WORCESTER,

5 miles (N. W. by N.) from Bromsgrove, containing 1476 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Worcester, rated in the king's books at £19, and in the patronage of the President and Fellows of St. John's College, Oxford. The church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, has recently received an additional number of sittings, by means of a grant of £100 from the Incorporated Society for enlarging churches and chapels. Here is an extensive manufactory for scythes, hay-knives, &c. Fairs are held on the last Monday in April, and the Monday before St. Luke's day. A sheriff's court, for the recovery of small debts, is held on the third Wednesday in every month. There is an endowment of about £10 per annum for the instruction of poor children. The parish is divided into four yields, viz., those of Belbroughton, Brian's Bell with Moor-Hall Bell, Forfield, and Broomhill.

BELBY, a township in the parish of HOWDEN, wapentake of HOWDENSHERE, East riding of the county of YORK, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile (E. by N.) from Howden, containing 49 inhabitants.

BELCHAMP (OTTON), a parish in the hundred of HINCKFORD, county of ESSEX, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N. by E.) from Castle-Hedingham, containing 352 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Middlesex, and diocese of London, rated in the king's books at £12, and in the patronage of the Rev. John Cox. The church is dedicated to St. Ethelbert and All Saints. Albright's chapel, formerly in this parish, has been long since demolished.

BELCHAMP (ST. PAUL'S), a parish in the hundred of HINCKFORD, county of ESSEX, 2 miles (S. E. by E.) from Clare, containing 685 inhabitants. The living is a vicarage, in the peculiar jurisdiction and patronage of the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, London, rated in the king's books at £14. The church is dedicated to St. Andrew.

BELCHAMP (WALTER), a parish in the hundred of HINCKFORD, county of ESSEX, 3 miles (W.) from Sudbury, containing 608 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, consolidated with that of Bulmer, in the archdeaconry of Middlesex, and diocese of London, rated in the king's books at £6, and endowed with £100 and £6 per annum private benefaction, and £200 royal bounty. The church is dedicated to St. Mary.

BELFORD, a parish partly in ISLANDSHIRE, a detached portion of the county palatine of DURHAM, but chiefly in the northern division of BAMBROUGH ward, county of NORTHUMBERLAND, comprising the market town of Belford, and the townships of Detchant, Easington, Easington-Grange, Elwick, Middleton, and Ross, and containing 1783 inhabitants, of which number, 1208 are in the town of Belford, 49 miles (N. by W.) from Newcastle upon Tyne, and 325 $\frac{1}{2}$ (N. by W.) from London. This place, though possessing little architectural beauty, has a very pleasing appearance: it is situated on a gentle eminence within two miles of the sea, of which, and of Bambrough castle, it commands a fine view on the north-east; on all other sides it is sheltered by hills, on one of which are seen the ruins of an ancient chapel. The town consists principally of two spacious streets, intersected by a few narrow lanes, badly paved and not lighted; the houses are irregularly built, but the inhabitants are amply

supplied with water: the neighbourhood abounds with pleasingly diversified scenery and agreeable walks. Belford is mainly indebted for its rise to the spirited exertions of Mr. Dixon, a former proprietor of the manor, who built several houses on a larger and more convenient scale, cleared away unsightly objects, and established a woollen manufactory, a tannery, &c. His father had previously procured the privilege of holding a market and fairs: the market is on Tuesday, and is noted for corn, much of which is sold for exportation; and the fairs are on the Tuesday before Whitsuntide, and August 23rd. The parish abounds with coal, limestone, and freestone; and considerable quantities of cockles, called Budle cockles, are got upon the coast. The town is within the jurisdiction of the county magistrates, and constables are annually appointed for the several townships. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of Northumberland, and diocese of Durham, endowed with £800 private benefaction, £600 royal bounty, and £1100 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of William Clarke, Esq., as lord of the manor. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a handsome structure, erected in 1700, at the north-western extremity of the town. There are places of worship for Anti-burghers, Wesleyan Methodists, and Presbyterians. A charity school is supported by subscription. About a mile to the south-west of the town is a quadrilateral intrenchment, having an entrance on the north-east, and defended by a wide ditch and a double rampart: it is by some supposed to have been a strong hold, or place of security from the incursions of the Scots, during the border wars; by others it is thought to be of Danish origin. The races, formerly held at Beadnell, have been removed hither, where a course has just been completed for holding them. There are a few mineral springs in the parish.

BELGRAVE, a parish comprising the chapelry of South Thurmaston in the eastern, and the chapelry of Birstall in the western, division of the hundred of Goscote, county of LEICESTER, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile (N. N. E.) from Leicester, and containing 1904 inhabitants. The living is a vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Leicester, and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £13. 6. 8., endowed with £8 per annum and £600 private benefaction, £400 royal bounty, and £1000 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry. The church is dedicated to St. Peter. This parish is in the honour of Tutbury, duchy of Lancaster, and within the jurisdiction of a court of pleas held at Tutbury every third Tuesday, for the recovery of debts under 40s. The river Soar, or Leicester canal, which is navigable for barges, and over which there is a bridge, forms a junction with the Melton-Mowbray Navigation, by means of an artificial cut, immediately after its course through the parish. Traces of the Roman Fosse-way are visible in the vicinity. Belgrave gives the title of viscount to Earl Grosvenor.

BELLASIS, a township in the parish of STANNINGTON, western division of CASTLE ward, county of NORTHUMBERLAND, 6 miles (S. by E.) from Morpeth. The population is returned with the parish.

BELLASIZE, a township in the parish of EAST-RINGTON, wapentake of HOWDENSHERE, East riding of the county of YORK, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles (E. by S.) from Howden, containing 197 inhabitants.

BELLCHALWELL, a parish forming, with the parishes of Shillingstone and Turnworth, a detached portion of that part of the hundred of CRANBORNE which is in the Shaston (West) division, being locally in the hundred of Pimperne, Blandford (North) division of the county of DORSET, 8 miles (W. N. W.) from Blandford-Forum, containing 192 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, united, in 1776, to the rectory of Fifehead-Neville, in the archdeaconry of Dorset, and diocese of Bristol, rated in the king's books at £7. 15.

BELLEAU, a parish in the Marsh division of the hundred of CALCEWORTH, parts of LINDSEY, county of LINCOLN, 5 miles (N. W. by W.) from Alford, containing 88 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, to which the vicarage of Aby was united in 1732, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £13. 3. 9., and in the patronage of Lord Gwydir. The church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist. The name (*Belle eau*) is derived from a fine stream of water, which issues from a chalk hill with considerable force.

BELLERBY, a chapelry in the parish of SPENNI-THORN, western division of the wapentake of HANG, North riding of the county of YORK, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile (N.) from Leyburn, containing 407 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of Richmond, and diocese of Chester, endowed with £400 private benefaction, and £800 royal bounty, and in the patronage of W. Chaytor, Esq.

BELLESTER, a township in the parish of HALT-WHISTLE, western division of TINDALE ward, county of NORTHUMBERLAND, 16 miles (W. by S.) from Hexham, containing 118 inhabitants. On the bank of the South Tyne are the ruins of an ancient castle, once belonging to the Blenkinsop family.

BELLINGHAM, a parish in the north-western division of TINDALE ward, county of NORTHUMBERLAND, comprising the market town of Bellingham, and the townships of East Charlton, West Charlton, Leemailing, the Nook, and Tarretburn, and containing 1396 inhabitants, of which number, 404 are in the town of Bellingham, 30 miles (W. N. W.) from Newcastle upon Tyne, and 298 (N. N. W.) from London. This place, from the remains of several camps apparently of Roman origin, is supposed to have been occupied by that people; but little of its early history is recorded, though the neighbourhood abounds with circular intrenchments, and the remains of British fortifications. The lords de Bellingham are said to have had a castle, or baronial seat, here, erected on an eminence still called Hall Field. In the reigns of Richard II. and Henry IV., the manor and castle were in the possession of Richard de Bellingham; the estate afterwards became the property of the Earl of Derwentwater, upon whose attainder it was given to the Governors of Greenwich Hospital. The town is pleasantly situated on the northern bank of the North Tyne, between that river and a stream called Hareshaw-burn, over which, near the eastern extremity of the town, a good stone bridge was erected in 1826. The rocks, on each side of the burn, rise precipitously to the height of one hundred feet, and the water at Hareshaw-lynn has a perpendicular fall of thirty feet. In the parish there are from seven to eight thousand acres of moor-land, abounding with grouse and other

game. A book club was established in the town in 1809. The market is on Saturday: a fair is held on the first Saturday after September 15th, and there are statute fairs on the Saturdays before May 12th and November 12th. This parish was formerly part of the extensive parish of Simonburn, which was divided into six distinct parishes by act of parliament obtained in 1811. The living is a rectory not in charge, in the archdeaconry of Northumberland, and diocese of Durham, and in the patronage of the Governors of Greenwich Hospital. The church, dedicated to St. Cuthbert, is a small ancient structure, with a finely groined roof of stone; the chancel contains many mural tablets and monuments: the churchyard, occupying an elevated situation, forms a beautiful terrace overlooking the river. There is a place of worship for Seceders from the Scottish church, besides a Roman Catholic chapel. A school was endowed here with £200, by Mrs. Reed of Troughhead, with which sum, and a legacy of £40 left by Mr. John Charlton, in 1732, the third part of a farm was purchased, which would have now produced £50 per annum, but the Reeds of Chipchase having purchased the whole estate, sold it without any reserve, and the trustees having lost their deeds, the school has been deprived of the endowment.

BELPER, a market town and chapelry in the parish of **DUFFIELD**, hundred of **APPLETREE**, county of **DERBY**, 8 miles (N.) from Derby, and 134 (N.N.W.) from London, containing 7235 inhabitants. This place, at which was formerly a park and hunting seat belonging to John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, was an inconsiderable village, inhabited principally by nailers, till the year 1777, when the cotton manufacture was introduced by Messrs. Strutt, since which time it has risen into a considerable town. It is pleasantly situated on the river Derwent, over which a handsome stone bridge of three arches has been recently erected, the former bridge, said to have been built by John of Gaunt, having been destroyed, in 1795, by a great flood. The town, consisting of several streets, is partially paved, lighted with gas, and amply supplied with water. There are five mills for the spinning of cotton, all belonging to Messrs. Strutt, who make their own machinery on the spot; two of these, and also a bleaching mill, are about a mile and a half lower down the river, over which the proprietors have built a neat stone bridge of two arches, for their own accommodation. Here is one of the largest establishments in the kingdom for silk and cotton hose, in which upwards of four thousand persons are employed, principally residing in the surrounding villages: the nails made here, especially those for the shoeing of horses, are much in demand, from the superiority of the rod iron made at Alderwasley, four miles distant, arising from the peculiar quality of the coal in that neighbourhood. The Cromford canal passes within two miles of the town, and the High Peak railway within six. The market is on Saturday: the fairs are, May 12th and October 31st, for horned cattle, sheep, and horses. The county magistrates hold a petty session for the district every Saturday: courts for the manor are held twice in the year, under the steward, at one of which constables and other officers are appointed. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of Derby, and diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, endowed with £200 private benefaction, £800

royal bounty, and £2300 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of the Vicar of Duffield. The chapel, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, was erected in 1824, at an expense of upwards of £12,000, which was partly defrayed by a parliamentary grant: it is a handsome structure in the decorated style of English architecture, with a lofty tower, and contains one thousand eight hundred and four sittings, of which one thousand two hundred and four are free. The old chapel, built by John of Gaunt, the burial-ground of which is still used, is now appropriated to the use of a Sunday school. There are places of worship for Baptists, Independents, Wesleyan Methodists, and Unitarians. A Lancasterian school is supported by the proprietors of the cotton-works, for the benefit of the children belonging to the factory. Henry Smith, Esq. endowed two almshouses for poor persons, and bequeathed an estate producing £30 per annum, directing the rental to be divided equally between the minister and the poor of Belper: two other almshouses were endowed by James Sims, with £12 per annum. In a field in the neighbourhood may still be traced the massive foundations of the mansion in which John of Gaunt resided.

BELSAY, a township in that part of the parish of **BOLAM** which is in the north-eastern division of **TINDALE** ward, county of **NORTHUMBERLAND**, 15 miles (N.W.) from Newcastle upon Tyne, containing 327 inhabitants. There are considerable remains of an ancient castle, occupying an elevated site, above which is a stone cross. Belsay Hall is a splendid edifice of Grecian architecture, but the entire design has not been completed.

BELSHFORD, a parish in the northern division of the wapentake of **GARTREE**, parts of **LINDSEY**, county of **LINCOLN**, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N.E. by N.) from Horncastle, containing 490 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £18. 6. 8., and in the patronage of the Crown. The church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. The parish abounds with excellent limestone.

BELSTEAD, a parish in the hundred of **SAMFORD**, county of **SUFFOLK**, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S.W. by W.) from Ipswich, containing 255 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry of Suffolk, and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £7. 6. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$., and in the patronage of Ambrose Steward, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Mary.

BELSTONE, a parish in the hundred of **BLACK TORRINGTON**, county of **DEVON**, 3 miles (E.S.E.) from Oakhampton, containing 157 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry of Totness, and diocese of Exeter, rated in the king's books at £9. 0. 1., endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £300 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of the Rev. John Hole. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, contains the remains of a cucking stool. The rivers Ockment and Taw, having their sources in Dartmoor, flow through the parish, in which several copper mines were formerly worked.

BELTON, a parish in the western division of the hundred of **GOSCOTE**, county of **LEICESTER**, 5 miles (S.W. by S.) from Kegworth, containing, with the extraparochial liberty of Grace-Dieu, 664 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of

Leicester, and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £8. 18. 4., and in the patronage of the Marquis of Hastings. The church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists. A considerable fair for horses is held here annually, on the Monday next after Trinity week. A convent for nuns of the order of St. Augustine was founded at Grace-Dieu, in the reign of Henry III., the revenue of which, at the dissolution, was £101. 8. 2½. Sir John Beaumont, author of a poem entitled "Bosworth Field," brother of Francis Beaumont, the celebrated dramatist, was born at Grace-Dieu, in 1582.

BELTON, a parish in the soke of GRANTHAM, parts of KESTIVEN, county of LINCOLN, 2½ miles (N. N. E.) from Grantham, containing 178 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £12. 3. 6½., and in the patronage of Earl Brownlow. The church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. Here is an almshouse for six poor persons. Belton gives the title of baron to Earl Brownlow.

BELTON, a parish in the western division of the wapentake of MANLEY, parts of LINDSEY, county of LINCOLN, 1½ mile (N.) from Epworth, containing 1437 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of Stow, and diocese of Lincoln, and in the patronage of the Mayor and Corporation of Lincoln. The church is dedicated to All Saints. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists.

BELTON, a parish in the soke of OAKHAM, county of RUTLAND, 4 miles (W. N. W.) from Uppingham, containing, with Gunthorpe Lodge, 401 inhabitants. The living is a vicarage, annexed to the rectory of Wardley, in the archdeaconry of Northampton, and diocese of Peterborough. The church is dedicated to St. Peter. A school for the instruction of twelve poor children is endowed with about £10 per annum.

BELTON, a parish in the hundred of MUTFORD and LOTHINGLAND, county of SUFFOLK, 4½ miles (S. W.) from Great Yarmouth, containing 385 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry of Suffolk, and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £17. 15., and in the patronage of the Bishop of Norwich. The church is dedicated to All Saints. The navigable river Waveney forms the western boundary of the parish.

BELVOIR, an extra-parochial liberty, partly in the soke of GRANTHAM, parts of KESTIVEN, county of LINCOLN, but chiefly in the hundred of FRAMLAND, county of LEICESTER, 7 miles (W. by S.) from Grantham, containing 88 inhabitants. Belvoir castle, the magnificent seat of the Duke of Rutland, stands on the site of an ancient fortress, said to have been built soon after the Conquest, near which a Benedictine priory was founded, in the reign of William I., the revenue of which, at the dissolution, was £135.

BEMERTON, a parish in the hundred of BRANCH and DOLE, county of WILTS, 2 miles (W. by N.) from Salisbury. The population is returned with Fugglestone. The living is a rectory, united to that of Fugglestone, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Salisbury. The church is dedicated to St. Andrew. This place is remarkable for the celebrity of three of its rectors,—George Herbert, commonly called "the Divine," who died in 1635; John Norris, a metaphysical writer, who

died in 1711; and Archdeacon Coxe, the traveller and historian, who died in 1828: the first greatly repaired the church, and rebuilt the parsonage-house, at his own expense.

BEMPTON, a parish in the wapentake of DICKERING, East riding of the county of YORK, 3½ miles (N. N. E.) from Bridlington, containing 231 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of the East riding, and diocese of York, endowed with £800 royal bounty, and in the patronage of John Broadley, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Michael. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists.

BENACRE, county of SUFFOLK.—See BINACRE.
BENAGER, county of SOMERSET.—See BINEGAR.

BENEFIELD, a parish in the hundred of POLEBROOK, county of NORTHAMPTON, 3½ miles (W.) from Oundle, containing 444 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Northampton, and diocese of Peterborough, rated in the king's books at £35. 9. 7., and in the patronage of J. Watts Russell, Esq. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, has been lately repaired at the expense of Mr. Russell: near it are the site and moat of an old castle. The parochial school is endowed with £10 per annum. About a furlong to the west of the village are nine of those cavities in the earth, commonly called "Swallows," into which the waters of the land floods flow and disappear.

BENENDEN, a parish in the hundred of ROLVENDEN, lathe of SCRAX, county of KENT, 3½ miles (S. E.) from Cranbrooke, containing 1746 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Canterbury, rated in the king's books at £17. 12. 6., endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £1300 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of T. L. Hodges, Esq. The church, dedicated to St. George, was rebuilt in 1672, the former edifice having been damaged by lightning. Fairs for horses and horned cattle are held on May 15th and August 4th. Edward Gibbon, in 1602, founded a school, which has been subsequently endowed with property producing £114 per annum. There is another school with a small endowment, the bequest of Thomas Buckland, in 1786; and there are endowments for the instruction of girls.

BENFIELD-SIDE, a township in that part of the parish of LANCHESTER which is in the western division of CHESTER ward, county palatine of DURHAM, 14 miles (N. W. by N.) from Durham, containing 341 inhabitants.

BENFLEET (NORTH), a parish in the hundred of BARSTABLE, county of ESSEX, 3½ miles (W.) from Rayleigh, containing 303 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Essex, and diocese of London, rated in the king's books at £16, and in the patronage of the Rev. C. R. Rowlett. The church, dedicated to All Saints, has a small wooden steeple. Canvey island partly belongs to this parish.

BENFLEET (SOUTH), a parish in the hundred of BARSTABLE, county of ESSEX, 4 miles (S. W. by S.) from Rayleigh, containing 515 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Essex, and diocese of London, rated in the king's books at £16. 5. 5., and in the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. King Alfred, in the year 894, took and

destroyed a castle here, built by the celebrated Danish pirate Hesting. The creek called Hadleigh Rey, or Bay, from its passing by Hadleigh, runs up between this place and Canvey island, and is navigable for small craft; and the other creeks, entering from the Thames round Benfleet, are noted for producing good oysters.

BENGEO, a parish in the hundred and county of **HERTFORD**, 1 mile (N. N. E.) from Hertford, containing 731 inhabitants. The living is a vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Huntingdon, and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £7. 8. 6½., and in the patronage of T. H. Byde, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Leonard.

BENGWORTH (ST. PETER), a parish within the jurisdiction of the borough of **EVESHAM**, locally in the lower division of the hundred of Blackenhurst, county of **WORCESTER**, ½ a mile (S. S. E.) from Evesham, containing 853 inhabitants. It is situated on the southern side of the navigable river Avon, opposite the town of Evesham, with which it was incorporated in the reign of James I. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the peculiar jurisdiction of the Bishop of Worcester, rated in the king's books at £7. 10. 10., endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £400 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Rev. W. Alies. The church, which has a handsome tower and spire, is dedicated to St. Peter: it stands on the site of a castle which belonged to the abbey of Evesham, and which was destroyed by William D'Andeville, one of the abbots, who recovered it from William de Beauchamp, hereditary sheriff of the county, by whom it had been held, in contravention of the abbot's rights. John Deacle, alderman of London, who was born here, left £2000 for the endowment of a free school for thirty boys, who are clothed, educated, and apprenticed. See **EVESHAM**.

BENHALL, a parish in the hundred of **PLOMESGATE**, county of **SUFFOLK**, 2 miles (W. by S.) from Saxmundham, containing 710 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Suffolk, and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £7. 1. 3., and in the patronage of Edward Hollond, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. Sir Edward Duke, in 1731, bequeathed property producing about £25 per annum, for the endowment of a free school.

BENHAM, a tything in that part of the parish of **SPEEN** which is in the hundred of **KINTBURY-EAGLE**, county of **BERKS**, 3 miles (W.) from Speenhamland, containing 380 inhabitants.

BENNINGBROUGH, a township in the parish of **NEWTON UPON OUZE**, wapentake of **BULMER**, North riding of the county of **YORK**, 7¼ miles (N. W.) from York, containing 99 inhabitants.

BENNINGHOLME, a joint township with Grange, in that part of the parish of **SWINE** which is in the middle division of the wapentake of **HOLDERNESSE**, East riding of the county of **YORK**, 9¼ miles (E. by S.) from Beverley, containing, with Grange, 97 inhabitants.

BENNINGTON, a parish in the hundred of **BROADWATER**, county of **HERTFORD**, 5½ miles (E. S. E.) from Stevenage, containing 658 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Huntingdon, and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £19, and in the patronage of George Procter, Esq. The church is

dedicated to St. Peter. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists. On an intrenched eminence on the western side of the church anciently stood a castle. The kings of Mercia are stated to have had a palace here: several ancient coins have been found in the parish.

BENNINGTON, a parish (formerly a market town) in the wapentake of **SKIRBECK**, parts of **HOLLAND**, county of **LINCOLN**, 5 miles (E. N. E.) from Boston, containing 406 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £33. 8. 11½., and in the patronage of Viscount Goderich. The church is dedicated to All Saints. A free school is endowed with about £60 per annum.

BENNINGTON (LONG), a parish in the wapentake of **LOVEDEN**, parts of **KESTEVEN**, county of **LINCOLN**, 7 miles (N. W.) from Grantham, containing 881 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, with the perpetual curacy of Foston annexed, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £20. 1. 10., and in the patronage of the King, as Duke of Lancaster. The church is dedicated to All Saints. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists. The river Witham forms the north-eastern boundary of the parish, in which there is a mineral spring strongly impregnated with iron. An Alien priory of Cistercian monks was founded here about 1175, the revenue of which, in the reign of Richard II., was £50 per annum.

BENNIWORTH, a parish in the eastern division of the wapentake of **WRAGGOE**, parts of **LINDSEY**, county of **LINCOLN**, 6½ miles (E. N. E.) from Wragby, containing 346 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £23. 8. 6½., and in the patronage of R. Ainslie, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Julian.

BENRIDGE, a joint township with Kirkley and Cartermoor (but formerly distinct), in the parish of **PONTELAND**, western division of **CASTLE ward**, county of **NORTHUMBERLAND**, 9½ miles (N. W. by N.) from Newcastle upon Tyne. The population is returned with Kirkley.

BENRIDGE, a township in that part of the parish of **MITFORD** which is in the western division of **MORPETH ward**, county of **NORTHUMBERLAND**, 2 miles (W. N. W.) from Morpeth, containing 57 inhabitants.

BENSINGTON, or **BENSON**, a parish partly in the hundred of **DORCHESTER**, but chiefly in that of **EWELME**, county of **OXFORD**, 11 miles (N. W. by N.) from Henley upon Thames, containing, with the hamlets of Crowmarsh-Battle and Fifield, 961 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, within the jurisdiction of the peculiar court of **Dorchester**, endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £200 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Dean and Canons of Christ Church, Oxford. The church is dedicated to St. Helen. This ancient place is reported to have been taken from the Britons, about 572, by Ceawlin, third king of the West Saxons, whose successors retained it for about two hundred years, until it was surrendered to Offa, King of Mercia. The Roman way leading from Alchester to Wallingford crossed the Thames here. A royal palace anciently stood in the vicinity.

BENTFIELD, a hamlet in that part of the parish of STANSTED-MOUNTFITCHET which is in the hundred of CLAVERING, county of ESSEX, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile (N.W. by N.) from Stansted-Mountfitchet, containing 513 inhabitants.

BENTHAL, a township in the parish of ABBERNURY, hundred of FORD, county of SALOP. The population is returned with Shrawardine.

BENTHALL, a parish within the liberties of the borough of WENLOCK, county of SALOP, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N.E. by N.) from Much Wenlock, containing 554 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of Salop, and diocese of Hereford, endowed with £800 royal bounty, and £1200 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of the Vicar of Much Wenlock. The church is dedicated to St. Bartholomew. The population are principally employed in the potteries established here. The navigable river Severn flows past this place.

BENTHAM, a parish in the western division of the wapentake of STAINCLIFFE and EWCROSS, West riding of the county of YORK, comprising the chapelry of Ingleton, and the townships of Bentham and Langcliffe, and containing 3824 inhabitants, of which number, 2102 are in the township of Bentham, 12 miles (W.N.W.) from Settle. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Richmond, and diocese of Chester, rated in the king's books at £35. 7. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$., and in the patronage of T. L. Parker, Esq. The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, has lately received an addition of two hundred and eighteen sittings, one hundred and twenty-seven of which are free, the Incorporated Society for the enlargement of churches and chapels having granted £100 toward defraying the expense. Here are mills for the spinning of flax and the manufacture of linen; there are also some potteries in the parish. William Collingwood, in 1726, bequeathed property for the endowment of a free school for boys in Upper Bentham, and an hospital for six men and six women, which was vested in trustees under a decree of the Court of Chancery, in 1733, and now produces £240 per annum; some trifling donations have since been made to the school.

BENTLEY, a parish and liberty in the hundred of BASINGSTOKE, Basingstoke division of the county of SOUTHAMPTON, 4 miles (W.S.W.) from Farnham, containing 690 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Winchester, endowed with £600 private benefaction, £400 royal bounty, and £800 parliamentary grant. J. Andrews and others were patrons in 1820. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. Bentley is within the jurisdiction of the Cheyney Court held at Winchester every Thursday, for the recovery of debts to any amount.

BENTLEY, a liberty in the parish of ALDRIDGE, southern division of the hundred of OFLOW, county of STAFFORD, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile (W. by N.) from Walsall, containing 99 inhabitants.

BENTLEY, a parish in the hundred of SAMFORD, county of SUFFOLK, $6\frac{1}{4}$ miles (S.W.) from Ipswich, containing 366 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Suffolk, and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £6. 2. 11., and in the patronage of W. Deane, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Mary.

BENTLEY, a chapelry in the parish of SHUSTOCK, Atherstone division of the hundred of HEMLINGFORD, county of WARWICK, 3 miles (S.W.) from Atherstone, containing 246 inhabitants.

BENTLEY, a township in the parish of ARKSEY, northern division of the wapentake of STRAFFORTH and TICKHILL, West riding of the county of YORK, 2 miles (N.W. by N.) from Doncaster. The population is returned with the parish. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists.

BENTLEY (FENNY), a parish in the hundred of WIRKSWORTH, county of DERBY, $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles (N. by W.) from Ashbourn, containing 242 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry of Derby, and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £6. 12. 10., and in the patronage of the Dean of Lincoln. The church, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene, is a small structure with a low tower.

BENTLEY (GREAT), a parish in the hundred of TENDRING, county of ESSEX, 8 miles (E.S.E.) from Colchester, containing 794 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Colchester, and diocese of London, rated in the king's books at £7, endowed with £400 private benefaction, and £400 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Bishop of London. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists. The parochial school is endowed with about £15 per annum.

BENTLEY (HUNGRY), a liberty in the parish of LONGFORD, hundred of APPLETREE, county of DERRY, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S.) from Ashbourn, containing 88 inhabitants. Here was formerly a chapel, long since demolished.

BENTLEY (LITTLE), a parish in the hundred of TENDRING, county of ESSEX, $5\frac{1}{4}$ miles (S. by E.) from Manningtree, containing 402 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Colchester, and diocese of London, rated in the king's books at £13, and in the patronage of Robert Foot, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists.

BENTON (LONG), a parish in the eastern division of CASTLE ward, county of NORTHUMBERLAND, $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles (N.E. by N.) from Newcastle upon Tyne, comprising the townships of Long Benton, Killingworth, Walker, and Weetsted, and containing 5547 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Northumberland, and diocese of Durham, rated in the king's books at £3. 1. 3., and in the patronage of the Master and Fellows of Balliol College, Oxford. The church, dedicated to St. Bartholomew, is a neat unadorned edifice, with a tower and spire; it was rebuilt, except the chancel, in 1791. This parish is bounded on the south by the river Tyne, on the banks of which are various extensive manufactories and coal-wharfs: it contains a very great quantity of coal, and there are some stone quarries. A parochial school-room, and a house for the master, were built some years ago, at an expense of £205, which was partly raised by subscription. The Roman wall of Severus passed through the parish, prior to its immediate termination at *Lagedunum*, in the adjoining parish of Wallsend.

BENTWORTH, a parish in the hundred of ODIHAM, Basingstoke division of the county of SOUTHAMPTON, $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles (W.) from Alton, containing 548 inhabit-

ants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Winchester, rated in the king's books at £14. 10. 5., and in the patronage of R. Matthews, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Mary.

BENWELL, a township in that part of the parish of St. John which is in the western division of Castle ward, county of NORTHUMBERLAND, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles (W.) from Newcastle upon Tyne, containing 1296 inhabitants. It is situated on the north bank of the river Tyne, and contains a great quantity of coal. In the sixteenth century, a vein of coal accidentally caught fire in the vicinity, and continued to burn upwards of thirty years, bursting out, in various places, like a volcano. It is in contemplation to erect a chapel here. Lying at a short distance southward from the wall of Severus, the site is supposed to have been occupied by the Roman station, *Condercum*. A building called the Old Tower was the summer residence of the priors of Tyne-mouth, who had a small chapel here, the site of the burial-ground of which is marked by a few tombstones.

BENWICK, a chapelry in the parish of DODDINGTON, northern division of the hundred of WITCHFORD, Isle of ELY, county of CAMBRIDGE, $8\frac{1}{4}$ miles (S. W.) from March, containing 514 inhabitants. The chapel is dedicated to St. James.

BEOLEY, a parish in the upper division of the hundred of PERSHORE, county of WORCESTER, $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles (E. by S.) from Bromsgrove, containing 640 inhabitants. The living is a vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Worcester, rated in the king's books at £7. 16. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$., and in the patronage of W. Holmes, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Leonard. Here are some remains of an ancient castle, which belonged successively to the noble families of Mortimer, Beauchamp, and Holland. In the reign of Charles I. the manor was the property of Ralph Sheldon, a distinguished royalist, whose mansion was burnt, to prevent its falling into the possession of the parliamentarians.

BEPTON, a parish in the hundred of EASEBOURNE, rape of CHICHESTER, county of SUSSEX, $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles (S. W.) from Midhurst, containing 140 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Chichester, rated in the king's books at £8, and in the patronage of W. S. Poyntz, Esq.

BERDON, a parish in the hundred of CLAVERING, county of ESSEX, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N. W.) from Stansted-Mountfitchet, containing 338 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of Colchester, and diocese of London, and in the patronage of the Governors of Christ's Hospital. The church is dedicated to St. Nicholas. The river Stort runs through the parish. A priory of Augustine canons was founded here in the reign of Henry III., the revenue of which, at the dissolution, was £35. 5. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. The Rev. Joseph Mede, a learned commentator on the Book of Revelations, was born here, in 1586.

BERE-CHURCH, a parish within the liberties of the borough of COLCHESTER, county of ESSEX, $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles (S. by W.) from Colchester, containing 122 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of Colchester, and diocese of London, endowed with £600 private benefaction, and £800 royal bounty, and in the patronage of J. Bawtree, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Michael.

BERGHOLT (EAST), a parish in the hundred of SAMFORD, county of SUFFOLK, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N. W.) from Manningtree, containing 1246 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, annexed to the rectory of Brantham, in the archdeaconry of Suffolk, and diocese of Norwich. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. There is a place of worship for Independents. The navigable river Stour flows along the southern side of the parish. Lettice Dykes, in 1589, gave property, now producing about £40 per annum, to endow a free school, which was built by subscription, on land given by Edward Lamb, in 1594.

BERGHOLT (WEST), a parish in the Colchester division of the hundred of LEXDEN, county of ESSEX, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N. W.) from Colchester, containing 694 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Colchester, and diocese of London, rated in the king's books at £10, and in the patronage of William Fisher, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists.

BERKELEY, a market town and parish in the upper division of the hundred of BERKELEY, county of GLOUCESTER, 17 miles (S. W.) from Gloucester, and 114 (W. by N.) from London, comprising the chapelry of Stone, the tythings of Alkington, Hinton, and Ham, and the hamlets of Bradstone and Hamfallow, and containing 3835 inhabitants. This place is supposed to have been a British town in the reign of Alectus, who, as the successor of Carausius, assumed the imperial purple in Britain towards the close of the third century. It was a place of considerable importance in the time of the Saxons, and is said to have had a religious establishment, and probably a castle, prior to the Conquest, but little of their history is recorded. Henry I. visited this place in 1121, where he remained during Easter; and in the reign of Henry II., the castle, which had been erected by Roger de Berkeley, was considerably enlarged by Robert Fitz-Harding, to whom the king gave the manor (which is divided into seven considerable tythings), and who thereupon assumed the title of Baron de Berkeley. The castle, which received various additions from its successive proprietors, became one of the principal baronial seats in the country, and was connected with many transactions of intense political interest, the most important of which was the inhuman murder of the misguided king, Edward II., who was detained here in confinement under the nominal custody of the earl. During the civil war in the reign of Charles I., it was garrisoned for the king, but after a siege of nine days, in which it sustained considerable damage, it was surrendered to the parliamentarians. The principal remains of the ancient building are the keep, a fine specimen of Norman military architecture, flanked by three semicircular towers, and a square tower of later date, in a dark room in the upper part of which the inhuman murder was perpetrated. The entrance is under a massive arched portal, richly ornamented with sculpture: it occupies an area which is nearly circular, and is surrounded with a moat; part of it has been modernized, and is now the residence of Col. Berkeley, who enjoys the estate, but not the title. The town is situated on a gentle eminence in the beautiful Vale of Berkeley, at the distance of a mile from the river Severn, and consists principally of one street; the houses are indifferently built, but the inhabitants

are well supplied with water. It was once of greater extent than it is at present; the diversion of the turnpike road from Gloucester to Bristol, which formerly passed through it, is supposed to have contributed to its decay. The trade is principally in timber, corn, malt, and cheese, for which last the neighbourhood is celebrated: iron-ore has been found in the vicinity, and there are appearances of some works having been formerly carried on. The Berkeley and Gloucester canal, navigable for vessels of four hundred tons' burden, passes to the north of the town, and the river Severn bounds it on the west. The market is on Thursday, but it has considerably declined of late years; the fairs are on May 14th and December 1st. The town, which was a borough in the reign of Edward I., having lost its charter of incorporation, is within the jurisdiction of the county magistrates, who hold petty sessions here for the district: a mayor is still annually elected, but the office is merely nominal; constables and other officers are appointed at the court leet of the lord of the manor, and a court for the recovery of small debts is held every third week.

The living is a vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Gloucester, rated in the king's books at £32. 15. 7½., and in the patronage of Col. Berkeley. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a spacious structure, consisting of a nave, aisles, and chancel, of considerable dimensions, partly of later Norman, and partly in the early style of English, architecture: the tower, which is detached, has been rebuilt within the last century. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists. The free school was founded, in 1696, by Mr. Samuel Thurner, who endowed it with lands producing £16. 5. per annum, which has received an augmentation of land producing £17 per annum, purchased with a bequest by Mr. John Smith, amounting in the whole to £33. 5. per annum, for which the master teaches thirty-nine boys. In 1626, John Attwood left by will, for the benefit of the poor inhabitants of Berkeley, lands of the value of nearly £20 per annum; and various smaller sums have been given and bequeathed at different times by other individuals, for a like purpose. Edward Jenner, M.D. and F.R.S., who introduced the practice of vaccination, was born here in 1749, and died of apoplexy in 1823.

BERKELEY, a parish in the hundred of FROME, county of SOMERSET, 2½ miles (E.N.E.) from Frome, containing 550 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Wells, and diocese of Bath and Wells, rated in the king's books at £7. 9. 7., and in the patronage of the Rev. J. M. Rogers. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, was built in 1751.

BERKESWELL, a parish in the Solihull division of the hundred of HEMLINGFORD, county of WARWICK, 6½ miles (W. by N.) from Coventry, containing 1468 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, with the perpetual curacy of Barstow annexed, in the archdeaconry of Coventry, and diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, rated in the king's books at £14. 12. 6., and in the patronage of the Disbrowe family. The church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist. There is an endowment in land, amounting to about £70 per annum, being the produce of various benefactions, for the support of a school at Berkeswell, and for various other charitable purposes.

BERKHAMPSTEAD

(GREAT, or ST. PETER'S), a market town and parish in the hundred of DACORUM, county of HERTFORD, 25½ miles (W. by S.) from Hertford, and 26 (N.W. by W.) from London, on the road to Holyhead, containing 2310 inhabitants. The Saxon name of this place, *Berghamstede*, is derived from its situation,



Arms.

either on a hill, or near a fortress, which latter, from the site of the present town, appears to be the more probable. It is a town of considerable antiquity, the kings of Mercia having had a castle here, to which circumstance its early growth and subsequent importance may be attributed. According to Spelman, Wihtred, King of Kent, assisted at a council held here, in 697. At the time of the Conquest, William, on his arrival at this place, was met by Stigand, Archbishop of Canterbury, who tendered his submission; but on leaving Berkhamstead, his march was greatly obstructed by the opposition of Frederick, abbot of St. Albans, who caused the roads to be blocked up, by cutting down the trees, and, on his arrival at St. Albans, exacted from him an oath that he would observe the ancient laws of the realm, particularly those of Edward the Confessor. Robert, Earl of Moreton, to whom the Conqueror gave this town, built a castle here, which was subsequently taken from his son William, who had rebelled against Henry I., and by that monarch's order razed to the ground. Henry II. held his court here for some time, and conferred many privileges on the town. The castle was rebuilt in the reign of John, and soon after besieged by Lewis, Dauphin of France, who had come over to assist the barons that were in arms against the king. In the 11th of Edward III., Berkhamstead sent two representatives to the great council at Westminster, James I., who selected this place as a nursery for his children, granted the inhabitants a charter of incorporation; but they were so impoverished during the civil war in the reign of his son Charles I., that they were unable to maintain their privileges, whereby the charter became forfeited. The town is pleasantly situated in a deep valley, on the south-western bank of the river Bulbourne, and consists of two streets intersecting at right angles, the principal of which, nearly a mile in length, contains several handsome houses: the air is highly salubrious, and the inhabitants are amply supplied with water. Assemblies are held regularly during the season. The manufacture of wooden bowls, spoons, and other articles of a like kind, formerly prevailed, but it is on the decline; and the making of lace, which was also carried on extensively, has given place to the plaiting of straw, in which, at present, the female part of the population are principally employed. The Grand Junction canal, which passes by the town, affords an extensive line of inland navigation. The market is on Saturday; the market house is an ancient building in the centre of the town. Fairs are held on Shrove-Tuesday and Whit-Monday, and there is also a statute fair at Michaelmas. The county magistrates hold a petty session on the first and third Tuesdays in every month; and courts leet for the honour of Berkham-

stead, which is part of the duchy of Cornwall, are held at Whitsuntide and Michaelmas. The prison is used as a house of correction, and for the temporary confinement of malefactors previously to their committal to the county gaol.

The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Huntingdon, and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £20, and in the patronage of the King, as Duke of Cornwall. The church, dedicated to St. Peter, is a spacious cruciform structure, exhibiting some fine portions in the several styles of English architecture: the tower, rising from the intersection, and highly enriched with sculpture, was built by Richard Torrington, in the reign of Henry VIII.: within the church are two chapels at the eastern end, one dedicated to St. John, the other to St. Catherine, and some interesting monuments. There are places of worship for Baptists, the Society of Friends, and Independents. The free grammar school was founded in the reign of Henry VIII., and endowed with lands belonging to the dissolved guild of St. John the Baptist. In the succeeding reign it was made a royal foundation, the master, usher, and chaplain, were incorporated by act of parliament, and the Warden of All Souls' College, Oxford, was appointed visitor. The school was originally endowed for one hundred and forty-four scholars, but, for the last twenty years, not one boy has received any instruction; the establishment is at present under investigation in the court of Chancery. The premises are situated on one side of the churchyard, and consist of a school-room and houses for the master and usher. A charity school, for twenty boys and ten girls, was founded in 1727, by Mr. Thomas Bourne, who endowed it with £8000: the property now consists of £9300 in the New South Sea annuities, and there are at present thirty boys and twenty girls in the school. Almshouses for six aged widows were founded, in 1681, and endowed with £1000, by Mr. John Sayer; the endowment was augmented with £300 by his widow, and subsequently with £26. 5. per annum by Mrs. Martha Deere. King James I. gave £100, and Charles I. £200, for providing employment and fuel for the poor, and there are also several other bequests for charitable uses. There are slight vestiges of the ancient residence of the Mercian kings, on the north side of the town, and at the north-east end of Castle-street are the remains of the castle, consisting principally of walls of an elliptical form, defended on the north-west side by a double, and on the other sides by a triple, moat; the entrance was at the south-east angle, where there are two wide piers, between which probably was the drawbridge. At the end of the High-street is a spring of clear water, called St. James' Well, to which medicinal properties are attributed. An ancient hospital, dedicated to St. James, formerly existed here, but there are no vestiges of it. The poet Cowper was born here in 1731.

BERKHAMPSTEAD (LITTLE), a parish in the hundred and county of HERTFORD, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S. W. by S.) from Hertford, containing 439 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Huntingdon, and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £7. 8. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$, and in the patronage of the Marquis of Salisbury. The church, a neat structure, is dedicated to St. Andrew. At How Green, in this parish, is a place of worship for

Wesleyan Methodists. A National school for boys and girls is now in progress of erection, and there are three almshouses, the inmates of which are supported by the parish. On an elevated situation near an old manor-house, a circular tower of brick, one hundred feet in height, termed the Observatory, has been erected, which commands an extensive prospect.

BERKHAMPSTEAD (ST. MARY), or **NORTH-CHURCH**, a parish in the hundred of DACORUM, county of HERTFORD, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile (N. W. by W.) from Great Berkhamstead, containing 1028 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Huntingdon, and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £21. 1. 3., and in the patronage of the King, as Prince of Wales.

BERKSHIRE, an inland county, bounded on the north by the county of Oxford, and a small part of the county of Buckingham, from both which it is separated by the Thames; on the east by the counties of Buckingham and Surrey; on the south by the county of Southampton; and on the west by that of Wilts: it extends from $51^{\circ} 19'$ to $51^{\circ} 48'$ (N. Lat.), and from $34\frac{1}{2}'$ (E.) to $1^{\circ} 43'$ (W. Lon.), and, including the detached parts, contains about four hundred and sixty-four thousand acres, or seven hundred and fifty-six square miles. The population, in 1821, amounted to 134,700. This county was anciently called *Barrocschire*, or *Berocschire*, softened in process of time into *Barkshire* and *Berkshire*, and probably derived its name from a thick wood, called *Barroc*, which occupied an extended tract between Lambourn and Wantage, on or near the downs; though some deduce its etymology from *Berroc*, a bare oak in some part of Windsor Forest, beneath which the Britons, as their custom was, assembled for devotional and legislative purposes. The *Bibroci* occupied the south-eastern extremity, and the *Segontiaci* dwelt in that part which borders on Hampshire, but the greater part was inhabited by the *Atrebatii*. The Romans included it within the district of *Britannia Superior*, and subsequently in that of *Britannia Prima*. During the Octarchy, it formed a part of the kingdom of the West Saxons, or Wessex, and, after the reduction of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom into one monarchy, it belonged to the district called West Saxon Læge. Offa, King of Mercia, after his victory over Cynewulf, King of the West Saxons, in 775, seized on all that territory lying between Iknield-street and the Thames. The Danes having made an irruption into Wessex, in 871, were repulsed near Englefield by Earl Athelwolf, who was slain in a subsequent battle between them and the army under Ethelred; a few days after which, they were again routed at Ashdown, and compelled to retreat to Reading, where they passed the winter of 872. Alfred gained a decisive victory over them at Eddington, in 878; but, in 1006, they committed great devastation in the county, and defeated the Saxons near the river Kennet. In 1011, Berkshire was under the dominion of Ethelred II., and in the year ensuing, Sweyn, King of Denmark, was at Wallingford. In the struggle between Stephen and the Empress Matilda, the castle at Wallingford was one of the strongest fortresses which were garrisoned by the empress, and was the place of her retreat when driven from Oxford: it was repeatedly besieged by Stephen, but was successfully defended until the termination of the war, when the amicable arrange-

ment which ensued was concluded beneath its walls. During the absence of King Richard I. on a crusading expedition into Palestine, his brother John came over from Normandy, and seized the castles of Wallingford and Windsor, but the latter was retaken by the partizans of the king. Two meetings for the redress of grievances were held between John and the barons in 1213, one at Wallingford and the other at Reading: three years afterwards, the former place was fortified by the king, and the latter besieged by the barons, whose army, under Simon de Montfort, obtained possession of it in 1263: a temporary reconciliation was effected at Reading between Richard II. and the discontented nobles, in 1389. During the parliamentary war, Berkshire was frequently the scene of hostile operations. Wallingford was garrisoned for the king, and Windsor for the parliament; and each place continued in the possession of its own party until the close of the war. Reading, which had been seized on by the parliamentarians, was evacuated by them on the approach, in October 1642, of a detachment of the king's troops, the head-quarters of whose cavalry were at Abingdon. At this period, the king held the whole of the county, except the neighbourhood of Windsor, which fortress sustained but one attack during the war, and that an unsuccessful one, from Prince Rupert. In April 1643, Reading was retaken by the parliamentary army; and in the month of September following, the first battle of Newbury was fought, and the victory claimed by both parties; a few days after the action, Reading again fell into the hands of the king, who also placed a garrison in Donnington castle, near Newbury, under Col. Boys, by whom it was bravely and successfully defended against repeated attacks of the enemy. In the course of the ensuing year, Newbury, Reading (which had been dismantled of its fortifications by the king's troops), and Abingdon, fell successively into the hands of the parliament, who obtained possession of the whole county, except Wallingford. The second battle of Newbury took place in the month of October, in this year, the result of which was equally indecisive with the first. In 1645, Sir Stephen Hawkins made an unsuccessful attack on the parliamentary garrison at Abingdon; and Cromwell, with like fortune, attacked Farringdon, which was then held by the royalists, but he soon after took Sir William Vaughan and Col. Littleton prisoners, with two hundred of their troops, at Radcutt bridge. Prince Rupert attacked Abingdon in March 1646, but failed in his efforts to retake it; and this was the last event of a military nature which took place in Berkshire during the parliamentary war. Wallingford and Farringdon were surrendered to the parliament a few months afterwards, and the king passed his last Christmas in confinement at Windsor. Subsequently to the Restoration, a slight skirmish took place near Reading, in December 1688, which, with the exception of a more trifling affair at Twyford, was the only engagement that happened in this county previously to the Revolution.

Berkshire lies within the diocese of Salisbury and province of Canterbury: it forms an archdeaconry, is divided into the deaneries of Abingdon, Newbury, Reading, and Wallingford, and contains one hundred and forty-eight parishes, of which seventy-two are rectories, sixty-four vicarages, and twelve perpetual curacies. For civil purposes it is divided into twenty hundreds, namely,

Beynhurst, Bray, Charlton, Compton, Cookham, Faircross, Farringdon, Ganfield, Hormer, Kintbury-Eagle, Lambourn, Moreton, Ock, Reading, Ripplesmere, Shrivenham, Sonning, Theale, Wantage, and Wargrave. It contains the boroughs and market towns of Abingdon, Reading, Wallingford, and Windsor; the incorporated market towns of Maidenhead, Newbury, and Wokingham; and the market towns of Great Farringdon, Hungerford, East Ilsley, Lambourn, and Wantage. Two knights are returned to parliament for the shire, and two representatives for each of the boroughs, except Abingdon, which sends one: the county members are nominated at Reading, and elected at Abingdon, these being the chief towns. This county is included in the Oxford circuit; the Lent assizes and the Epiphany sessions are held at Reading, the summer assizes and Hilary sessions at Abingdon, the Michaelmas sessions in either town, at the option of the magistrates, and the Easter sessions at Newbury. The county gaol and house of correction is at Reading, and the county house of correction, or bridge-well, at Abingdon: there are ninety-three acting magistrates. The rates raised in the county for the year ending March 25th, 1827, amounted to £118,593, and the expenditure to £114,970, of which £99,527. 4. was applied to the relief of the poor.

Berkshire is not a manufacturing county, but there are some cotton-manufactories and a large paper-mill near Newbury, a paper-mill at Bagnor, and a large manufactory for blankets at Greenham mills, near Thatcham; the weaving of sheeting, sail-cloth, and sacking, the manufacture of floor-cloth, and that of silk ribands and galloons, are carried on at Reading; sacking and sail-cloth were formerly extensively made at Abingdon and Wantage; silk is manufactured at Wokingham to a small extent, and copper bolts for the navy, at the Temple mills in the parish of Bis-ham: there are also several large breweries in the county, particularly at Windsor, which is celebrated for its ale. The natural divisions of the county are four, namely, the Forest district, commencing at the eastern extremity of the county, and extending to the river Loddon westward, and from Sandhurst on the south to Maidenhead on the north; the Vale of the Kennet, stretching from near Wargrave on the east to Hungerford on the west; the Chalk hills, extending nearly across the upper part of the county; and a vale lying between Budeot and Streatley. The substratum consists of chalk, or gravel, with portions of clay at greater or less depths, according to the quality of the soil. Stones of a fine silicious grit, vulgarly called Sarsden-stones, or the Grey-weather, are scattered over the Berkshire and Wiltshire downs, and lie on strata to which they do not naturally belong. The crops commonly produced are those of wheat, barley, oats, beans, peas, rye, buck-wheat, vetches or peas, rape of cole-seed, turnips, and potatoes; those of limited cultivation are cabbages, carrots, hops, woad, flax, dill, and lavender. The artificial grasses are red, broad, Dutch clover, ray-grass, cow or marl grass, hop-trefoil, heart-trefoil, saintfoin, lucern, burnet, and corn spurry. For pleasing and picturesque scenery, the eastern extremity of the county is pre-eminent, particularly in Windsor Forest, on the banks of the Thames between Henley and Maidenhead, and between Reading and Wallingford. The waste lands chiefly consist of Maidenhead Thicket,

BERKSHIRE



Longitude West from Greenwich

ENGRAVED FOR LEWIS'S GEOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY.

and some parts of Windsor Forest and its neighbourhood: this forest was formerly of much greater circuit than it is at present, having included a part of the counties of Buckingham and Surrey, and the whole of the south-eastern part of Berkshire, as far as Hungerford; its present circuit, in which is a part of Bagshot heath, is about fifty-six miles. Windsor Great park was lessened by George III., from three thousand eight hundred to one thousand eight hundred acres, two thousand acres having been brought into cultivation. From an estimate made in the year 1806, it appeared that there were in the county two hundred and fifty-five thousand acres of arable land, seventy-two thousand in meadow and dairy land, twenty-five thousand in sheep-walks, chiefly unenclosed, on the chalk hills; twenty-five thousand in other dry pastures, parks, &c., and thirty thousand waste, chiefly barren heaths. The cattle are of the long horned, or common country breed; many calves are bred for stock, but suckling for the butcher is the prevailing practice. There is a native breed of sheep, strongly marked, but the pure race is not very common. The horses are usually black, very strong and powerful, and rather of full proportions than tall. The hogs, for compactness and size, are excelled by none: in the dairy tract, the piggeries are an important appendage to the farm.

The principal rivers are the Thames and the Kennet: the former skirts the county during a course of more than one hundred miles, and is navigable as high as Lechlade; the latter flows into Berkshire at Hungerford, becomes navigable at Newbury, where it is joined by the Lambourn, and falls into the Thames near Reading: the river Loddon rises near Aldershot, in Hampshire, enters Berkshire in the parish of Swallowfield, and runs into the Thames near Wargrave; the Ock rises near Uffington and flows into the Thames at Abingdon; the Auburn rises near Inkpen, pursues an easterly course beyond Hide-End, then taking a northerly direction, falls into the Kennet a little below Wasing; the Lambourn rises amongst the hills above the town of that name, and falls into the Kennet near Shaw. The Wilts and Berks canal extends from the Thames, at Abingdon, to the eastern border of the county, in the upper part; and the Kennet and Avon canal, from the river Kennet, a little above Newbury, across the lower part of the county. The great road from London to Bath enters at Maidenhead bridge, and passing through Reading, quits near the sixty-fifth milestone; the road from London to Oxford enters at the same place, and leaves at Henley bridge; and the Cirencester road, which branches off at Didcot, re-enters Berkshire at Abingdon, and passing through Farringdon, quits it at St. John's bridge, near Lechlade.

Within the county are many specimens of Saxon ecclesiastical architecture: the most remarkable is Avington church, which remains nearly in its original state; the churches at Abingdon, Aldermaston, Chaddleworth, Charney, Childrey, Cholsey, Hanne, Hatford, North Hinksey, Hurley, Kintbury, Shalbourne, Shaw cum Donnington, Stanford-Dingley, Sunninghill and Wallingford, have doors with circular arches, and Saxon mouldings and ornaments. Within the limits of the county were anciently twelve religious houses, including one Alien priory, and two preceptories of the Knights Hospitallers: there were three colleges, of which, the royal chapel of

St. George at Windsor still remains; and ten hospitals, five of which are now in existence, two at Abingdon, and those at Donnington, Lambourn, and Newbury. Of the magnificent abbey built by Henry I. at Reading, little more than rude heaps of stones is now to be seen, and the church of the Grey friars has been converted into a bridewell: there are some remains of the ancient monastery at Abingdon, of that of the Benedictines at Hurley, and of the collegiate church at Wallingford. The most distinctly marked Roman road is that from Gloucester to London, which enters the county from Baydon, and falls into the modern high road from Bath to London, near the fifty-eighth milestone; the road from Silchester to London passed through the south-eastern part, bearing for Old Windsor, or Staines; the Iknield-street enters Berkshire at Streatley, and the Portway on its north-westerly border from Wiltshire; traces of the Old street are also visible between Wantage and Thatcham. Of the many ancient camps, the most remarkable are Letcomb Castle, enclosing an area of twenty-six acres, the intrenchments and ditches containing eight acres and a half; Uffington Castle, seven hundred feet in diameter from east to west, and five hundred from north to south, near which is the rude figure of a horse, of very ancient execution, formed by cutting away the turf on the side of the hill, which has hence acquired the name of White Horse hill, and the vale below, that of White Horse vale; Hardwell Castle, in form approaching to a square; Caesar's Camp, on Bagshot heath, five hundred and sixty paces in length, and two hundred and eighty in width; Cherbury camp, near Pusey, three hundred and ten paces across; and Alfred's Castle, on the west side of Ashdown park, one hundred and forty paces in diameter. The only mineral springs of any note, are those at Cumner and Sunninghill, the first a mild cathartic, the other a very weak chalybeate; a strong chalybeate spring in the parish of Wokingham, called Gorrick Well, and some springs near Windsor, of the quality of the Epsom waters.

BERMERSLEY, a township in the parish of NORTON on the MOORS, northern division of the hundred of PIREHILL, county of STAFFORD, $6\frac{1}{4}$ miles (N. N. E.) from Newcastle under Lyne, containing 190 inhabitants.

BERMONDSEY, a parish in the eastern division of the hundred of BRIXTON, county of SURREY, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile (S. S. E.) from London, containing 25,235 inhabitants. This place, in Domesday-book, is described as a royal demesne, and, in other ancient records, as having been occasionally the residence of William the Conqueror, and his successor, William Rufus, who had a palace here. In 1082, a priory for Cluniac monks was founded by Aldwin Child, a citizen of London, as a cell to the abbey of La Charité in France, from which establishment brethren of that order are said to have been sent hither through the influence of Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury. To this monastery William Rufus and some of his successors were great benefactors. Henry I. gave the palace to the monks, for the enlargement of their cloister, reserving a part of it as a residence for himself, in which King John having subsequently resided, it obtained the appellation of King John's palace, and has been by some antiquaries considered rather the original site, than, as it was in reality, only an appendage to the monastery. This establish-

ment increased so much in wealth and importance, that it was found necessary to enlarge the buildings; and an hospital was erected adjoining it, for the reception of their converts and the education of their children, which was dedicated to St. Thomas the Martyr. Though an Alien priory, it was exempted from sequestration in the reign of Edward III., who placed it under the superintendence of an Englishman, in whom he could confide, and whom he made prior. It was subsequently elevated into an abbey, and retained its grandeur and importance till the dissolution, when its revenue was £548. 2. 5½. The site appears to have been very extensive, comprising the present churchyard, and an adjoining area, still called King John's Court. Vestiges of the palace and conventual buildings may still be traced in the gardens of the houses which have been erected on the site: a gateway, which was standing in 1807, has been taken down, in order to form a new street. Bermondsey owes its origin to the establishment of this monastery, in the vicinity of which, a gradual accumulation of buildings had formed an extensive village in the reign of Edward III., when a church was founded by the prior, for the use of the inhabitants. In this religious house, Catherine of France, widow of Henry V., lived in retirement, and died in 1436; and here also, in 1486, Elizabeth, queen of Edward IV., who was sentenced by the council to forfeiture of land and goods, ended her life in confinement. The village is situated on the southern bank of the Thames, and consists principally of two extensive streets, meeting obliquely near the church, and intersected by many smaller streets; the houses, in general ancient and irregularly built, are interspersed with several modern and handsome structures: the streets are paved, and well lighted with gas, and the inhabitants are supplied with water from the river and from springs. The tanning of leather is carried on to a very great extent, by a company chartered in the reign of Queen Anne; there are also numerous woolstaplers, fellmongers, curriers, and manufacturers of vellum and parchment. The situation is favourable to the carrying on of many trades: there are two small docks and several yards for boat-builders, in connexion with whom are rope-makers, anchor-smiths, and stove-merchants, and there are establishments for the printing and dyeing of calico.

The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Surrey, and diocese of Winchester, rated in the king's books at £15. 8. 11½., and in the patronage of Mrs. Humbly. The church, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene, is an ancient and very plain structure, with a low square tower. A new church was completed in 1828, partly by grant from the parliamentary commissioners, at an expense of £21,412. 19. 5.; it is a handsome edifice in the Grecian style of architecture, with a tower, and a portico of four pillars of the Ionic order, and contains two thousand sittings, of which one thousand two hundred are free. There are places of worship for Independents and Wesleyan Methodists. A free school for sixty boys, who are instructed in reading, writing, and arithmetic, was founded, in 1709, by Mr. Josiah Bacon, who left £700 for building the premises, and £150 per annum for an endowment; of this annual income, the master receives a salary of £80 per annum, and the usher one of £50, the remain-

der being laid out in repairs: the school-room, which was erected in 1718, in the Grange road, is a neat brick building, having a statue of the founder in a niche over the entrance. The united charity schools, established in 1712, are supported partly by subscription, and partly by an endowment of £109. 16. 4. per annum, arising from several donations: the whole income is about £550 per annum, for which two hundred and twenty boys, and one hundred and thirty girls, are instructed, of whom fifty boys and thirty girls are also clothed: there is another school with a small endowment, and numerous benefactions have been made for the relief of the poor. In 1770, a chalybeate spring was discovered here, and a spa established, which, for many years, was a celebrated place of entertainment. Israel Mauduit, an ingenious writer on politics and commerce, was born here, in 1708.

BERRICK-PRIOR, a liberty in the parish of NEWINGTON, hundred of EWELME, county of OXFORD, 4½ miles (N. N. E.) from Wallingford, containing 152 inhabitants.

BERRICK-SALOME, a chapelry in the parish of CHALGROVE, hundred of EWELME, county of OXFORD, 4 miles (N. N. E.) from Wallingford, containing 174 inhabitants. The chapel is dedicated to St. Helen. Here is a school with a small endowment.

BERRIER, a township in the parish of GREYSTOCK, LEATH ward, county of CUMBERLAND, 8 miles (W. by S.) from Penrith, containing, with the township of MURRAH, 128 inhabitants. Mary Jackson, in 1799, left £230 in reversion, to found and endow a school for girls, which, having become the subject of a lawsuit, was confirmed by the court of Chancery, in 1811, and the school was built by subscription, in 1828, on ground given by the Hon. Henry Howard, of Corby Castle, and endowed with £5 per annum, the remainder of the property having been expended in the lawsuit.

BERRINGTON, a hamlet in the parish of CHIPPING-CAMPDEN, upper division of the hundred of KIFTSGATE, county of GLOUCESTER, containing 171 inhabitants.

BERRINGTON, a township in the parish of EYE, hundred of WOLPHY, county of HEREFORD, 3½ miles (N. N. E.) from Leominster. The population is returned with the parish.

BERRINGTON, a parish in the hundred of CONDOVER, county of SALOP, 5½ miles (S. E. by S.) from Shrewsbury, containing 657 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Salop, and diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, rated in the king's books at £10. 12. 1., and in the patronage of Lord Berwick. The church is dedicated to All Saints. The navigable river Severn passes through the parish.

BERRINGTON, a hamlet in the parish of TENBURY, upper division of the hundred of DODDINGTREE, county of WORCESTER, 2 miles (W. by S.) from Tenbury, containing 195 inhabitants.

BERROW, a parish in the hundred of BRENT with WRINGTON, county of SOMERSET, 9½ miles (W. by S.) from Axbridge, containing 449 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Wells, and diocese of Bath and Wells, rated in the king's books at £13. 11. 10½., and in the patronage of the Archdeacon of Wells. The church is dedi-

cated to St. Mary. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists. Berrow bay, a small inlet of the Bristol channel, forms the western boundary of the parish.

BERROW, a parish in a detached part of the lower division of the hundred of OSWALDSLOW, locally in the lower division of the hundred of Pershore, county of WORCESTER, 6 miles (S.W.) from Upton upon Severn, containing 464 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the peculiar jurisdiction and patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Worcester, rated in the king's books at £7. 18. 4., and endowed with £1200 parliamentary grant. The church is dedicated to St. Faith.

BERRY POMEROY, a parish in the hundred of HAYTOR, county of DEVON, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile (E.N.E.) from Totness, containing 1255 inhabitants. The living is a vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Totness, and diocese of Exeter, rated in the king's books at £18. 19. 7., and in the patronage of the Duke of Somerset. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, contains a finely carved wooden screen and rood-loft. The navigable river Dart runs along the south-western side of the parish. Here are the ruins of Berry castle, founded by Ralph de Pomeroy, soon after the Conquest.

BERRY-ARBOR, a parish in the hundred of BRAUNTON, county of DEVON, $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles (E. by S.) from Ilfracombe, containing 648 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Barnstaple, and diocese of Exeter, rated in the king's books at £34. 15. 10., and in the patronage of the Bishop of Exeter and others. The church is dedicated to St. Peter. Bishop Jewell, celebrated for his controversy in support of the Protestant faith, was born here, in 1522.

BERSTED (SOUTH), a parish in the hundred of ALDWICK, rape of CHICHESTER, county of SUSSEX, 6 miles (S.E.) from Chichester, containing, with the market town of Bognor, 1851 inhabitants. The living is a vicarage, in the peculiar jurisdiction and patronage of the Archbishop of Canterbury, rated in the king's books at £7. 18. 9. The church is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene.

BERWICK, a parish in the hundred of LONGBRIDGE, rape of PEVENSEY, county of SUSSEX, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N.E. by N.) from Seaford, containing 172 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Lewes, and diocese of Chichester, rated in the king's books at £13. 6. 8., and in the patronage of Jeremiah Smith, Esq. This parish is separated from that of Arlington by the river Cuckmere.

BERWICK (ST. JAMES), a parish in the hundred of BRANCH and DOLE, county of WILTS, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles (W.S.W.) from Amesbury, containing 227 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, within the peculiar jurisdiction of the Bishop of Salisbury, rated in the king's books at £8. 10., endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £500 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of Alexander Baring, Esq.

BERWICK (ST. JOHN), a parish in the hundred of CHALK, county of WILTS, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles (E. by S.) from Shaftesbury, containing 386 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Salisbury, rated in the king's books at £26. 13. 4., and in the patronage of the Warden and Fellows of New College, Oxford. About a mile southward from the village is

an intrenchment, called Winkelbury Camp, supposed to have been constructed by the Romans.

BERWICK (ST. LEONARD), a parish in the hundred of DUNWORTH, county of WILTS, 1 mile (E.) from Hindon, containing 44 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, with the perpetual curacy of Sedghill annexed, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Salisbury, rated in the king's books at £8. 6. 8., and in the patronage of the Rev. Charles Henry Grove.

BERWICK upon TWEED, a port, borough, and market town, situated between the boundary line of the northern part of the county of Durham, and that of Scotland, 64 miles (N. by W.) from Newcastle upon Tyne, and 334 (N. by W.) from London, containing 8723 inhabitants. The name, which Leland supposes to have been originally *Aberwick*, from the



Arms.

The British terms *Aber*, the mouth of a river, and *wic*, a town, is, by Camden and other antiquaries, considered to imply only a hamlet annexed to a place of greater importance, such appendages being usually, in ancient records, styled *berewics*; and in this sense of the term Berwick is supposed to have obtained its name from having been the grange of the priory of Coldingham, ten miles distant. It is said to have been a place of considerable importance as a barrier town, in the reign of Osbert, King of Northumbria, and, according to Boethius, was the place where the Danes, under the conduct of Hubba, landed, on their invasion of England, in the year 867. The town having come into the possession of the Saxons, they, on the defeat of their king, abandoned it, when, with that part of the kingdom of Northumberland called Bernicia, it was ceded, or sold, by Eadulf-Cudel, Earl of Northumberland, to Malcolm II., King of Scotland, in 1020. The earliest authentic notice of Berwick occurs in the reign of Henry I.; and in that of Henry II., it was, with four other towns, given up to that monarch by William the Lion, in 1176, as a pledge for the performance of the treaty of Falaise, by which, in order to obtain his release from captivity, after the battle of Alnwick, in 1174, he had engaged to do homage to the English monarch, as lord paramount, for all his Scottish dominions. Richard I., to obtain a supply of money for his expedition to the Holy Land, sold the vassalage of Scotland for ten thousand marks, and restored this and the other towns to William, content with receiving homage only for the territories which that prince held in England. King John, on retiring from an unsuccessful invasion of Scotland, burnt Berwick, which the Scots almost immediately rebuilt on an enlarged plan, and strongly fortified. In 1291, the commissioners appointed to examine and report on the validity of the title of the respective claimants to the crown of Scotland, met at Berwick, and pursued there the investigation which led to the decision in favour of John Balliol. Edward I. having compelled Balliol to resign his crown, took the town by storm, and inflicted dreadful carnage on the occasion. In 1296, he received the homage of the Scottish nobility, in the presence of a council of the whole nation, at Berwick, where, in the following

year, he established a court of Exchequer for the receipt of the revenue of the kingdom of Scotland. Wallace having laid siege to the town, took possession of it, but was unsuccessful in his attempt on the castle, which was relieved by the arrival of a numerous army. Edward II., in prosecuting the war against Scotland, assembled his army here repeatedly, and made several inroads into the enemy's territory. Robert Bruce obtained possession of it in 1318, and having raised the walls, and strengthened them with towers, kept it, notwithstanding several attacks from Edward II. and Edward III., until it surrendered to the latter, after the celebrated battle of Hallidown Hill, in this neighbourhood, which took place on the 19th of July, 1333. As a frontier town it was invariably the first object of attack, on the renewal of hostilities between the two kingdoms, and, after repeated surrenders and sieges, it was ceded to Edward IV., from whom and his successors it received several charters and extensive privileges. After having been exposed, during the subsequent reigns, to the continued aggressions of the Scots and the English, it was made a free town, independent of both kingdoms, by treaty between Edward VI., King of England, and Mary, Queen of Scots, signed at Greenwich, on the part of the former, on the 10th of May, and, on the part of the latter, at Norham, in the vicinity of this town, on the 10th of June, 1551. It was strongly fortified in the reign of Elizabeth, who placed a garrison in it, which was kept up till the accession of James to the English throne, when its importance as a frontier town ceased. During the civil war in the reign of Charles I. it was garrisoned by the parliament.

The town is pleasantly situated on the northern bank, and near the mouth, of the river Tweed: the approach from the English side is over a handsome stone bridge of fifteen arches, connecting it with Tweedmouth on the south. The streets, with the exception of the High street and Hidehill, are narrow, but well paved, and lighted with gas, and the houses are in general well built: some of the inhabitants are supplied with water brought into their houses by pipes, from a spring at the distance of a mile and a half; the others are supplied from public cisterns placed in situations convenient for the purpose. The new fortifications, which are exceedingly strong, have displaced those of more ancient date, of which there remain only the ruins of the fortress at the south-west angle of the old town walls, and those near the castle. The ramparts afford an agreeable promenade, much frequented by the inhabitants. The barracks for the garrison, on the north-east side of the town, form a small quadrangle, neatly built of stone; the establishment consists of a governor, lieutenant-governor, town-major, town-adjutant, surgeon, master gunner, and a few invalid gunners: the buildings are capable of accommodating seven hundred men. Connected with the barracks are the guard-house, an hospital, and an ordnance house. A public library was established in 1812. The theatre, a small neat building, is opened annually in summer. The assembly-rooms are opened on public occasions; and subscription balls take place regularly during the winter.

The trade of the port is somewhat extensive coastwise; the exports are corn, wool, salmon, herrings, pork, and eggs; the imports are timber, deals, staves, iron, hemp, tallow, and blubber. The number of vessels

belonging to the port, according to the return made to parliament in 1828, was fifty-four, averaging ninety tons' burden: the harbour is good, but, from the bar at the entrance, it is inaccessible to ships of large burden. The pier, which has been recently constructed, extends nearly half a mile in length; a lighthouse has been erected on it, to guard mariners against the rocks and shallows by which the navigation is endangered. About eight hundred men are employed in the fishery: the salmon and trout, which are caught in abundance, are packed in boxes stratified with ice, by which they are conveyed fresh to the London and other markets: a great quantity of lobsters and herrings is also found here. The annual rental of the fisheries has been estimated at £10,000, and the supply of eggs, which are sent from this place for the use of sugar refiners, has been returned as exceeding the value of £13,000 per annum, but this branch of the trade has materially diminished. The principal articles of manufacture, exclusively of such as are connected with the shipping, are damask, diaper, sacking, sail-cloth, cotton, hosiery, carpets, hats, boots, and shoes. The market, which is abundantly supplied with grain, is on Saturday; and there is a fair, for black cattle and horses, on the Friday in Trinity week; statute fairs are also held on the second Wednesday in May, the Wednesday before August 26th, and the first Wednesday in November.

The government, by charter of incorporation granted in the reign of James I., is vested in a mayor, recorder, four bailiffs, and an indefinite number of burgesses, assisted by a town clerk, coroner, four serjeants at mace, and subordinate officers. The mayor, who, with the bailiffs, is elected annually at Michaelmas, the recorder, and such of the burgesses as have filled the office of mayor, are justices of the peace by virtue of their office: the freedom of the borough is inherited by birth, acquired by servitude, or obtained by gift. The corporation hold courts of quarter session and gaol delivery for the borough, and a court of pleas every alternate Tuesday, for the recovery of debts to any amount. A court leet is held under the charter, at which a high constable and six petty constables are appointed. The town hall is a spacious, handsome building, with a portico of four massive circular columns of the Tuscan order: a portion of the lower part, called the Exchange, is appropriated to the use of the market; the first story contains two spacious halls, and other apartments in which the courts are held, and the public business of the corporation is transacted; and the upper part is used as a gaol: the whole forms a stately pile of fine hewn stone, and is surmounted with a lofty spire containing a peal of eight bells, which on the Sabbath day summon the inhabitants to the parish church, but is inconveniently situated in the centre of the High-street, by which the thoroughfare is greatly obstructed. Berwick was one of the four Scottish burghs which anciently sent representatives to the court of the four burghs in Scotland; on being annexed to the kingdom of England, its prescriptive usages were confirmed by royal charter. It first sent representatives to the English parliament in the reign of Henry VIII., since which time it has continued to return two members: the right of election is vested in the burgesses at large, in number about one thousand; the mayor and bailiffs are the returning officers.

The living is a vicarage, within the jurisdiction of the Consistorial Court of Durham, rated in the king's books at £20, endowed with £1000 private benefaction, and £1500 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Durham. The church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, is a handsome structure in the decorated style of English architecture; it was built during the usurpation of Cromwell, and is consequently without a steeple. There are two places of worship for those connected with the Scottish Kirk, and one each for Particular Baptists, Burghers, Anti-burghers, the Scottish relief, and Wesleyan Methodists. The free grammar school, founded originally by the corporation, and endowed, in the middle of the seventeenth century, by Col. Strother, with the estate of Coldmarten, is under the management of the corporation, who appoint the master; he has a salary of £80 per annum, and a house and garden, and receives ten shillings per quarter for every scholar who is not the son of a freeman. A school for the instruction of the sons of burgesses in English, Latin, and the mathematics, was founded and endowed by the corporation in 1798; to each department there is a separate master, each of whom, in addition to his salary, has a house and garden. The Blue-coat charity school, in which forty-two boys are clothed and educated, was founded by Captain James Bolton, in 1725, and endowed with £800, since augmented by various benefactions; the master has a salary of £50 per annum. The school of industry for girls, established in 1819, is supported by the ladies of Berwick, and affords instruction to one hundred and six girls. There is also a school in connexion with the workhouse, in which about one hundred children are educated; the master has a salary of £60 per annum, which is paid out of the poor's rate. A pauper lunatic asylum was erected in 1813; and there is a dispensary, established in 1814, under the patronage of the Bishop of Durham, which affords relief to the poor within twelve miles of the town, and is attended by four physicians, three surgeons, and a dispensing apothecary. There are some trifling remains of the castle, and a pentagonal tower near it, a square fort in Magdalene fields, and some intrenchments on Hallidown Hill. A Benedictine nunnery is stated to have been founded by David, King of Scotland, who died in 1153; here were also monasteries of Black, Grey, White, and Trinitarian friars, and three or four hospitals, but every vestige of them has long disappeared.

BERWICK-HILL, a township in the parish of **PONTELAND**, western division of **CASTLE** ward, county of **NORTHUMBERLAND**, $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N.N.W.) from Newcastle upon Tyne, containing 111 inhabitants.

BESFORD, a township in that part of the parish of **SHAWBURY** which is in the hundred of **PIMHILL**, county of **SALOP**, $3\frac{3}{4}$ miles (S. E. by E.) from Wem, containing 169 inhabitants.

BESFORD, a parish in the upper division of the hundred of **PERSHORE**, county of **WORCESTER**, 3 miles (W. by S.) from Pershore, containing 154 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, annexed to the vicarage of St. Andrew's, Pershore, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Worcester, rated in the king's books at £3. The church is dedicated to St. Andrew. The navigable river Avon runs along the border of the parish.

BESSELSLEIGH, a parish in the hundred of **HORMER**, county of **BERKS**, 5 miles (N.W.) from

Abingdon, containing 130 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry of **BERKS**, and diocese of **Salisbury**, rated in the king's books at £4. 17. $3\frac{1}{2}$, and in the patronage of W. J. Lenthall, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Lawrence. The parishioners are entitled to participate in the advantages of the school at Appleton, endowed by Sir R. Fettiplace. The old manor-house, formerly the seat of Lenthall, Speaker of the House of Commons in the Long Parliament, was pulled down about forty years ago. Cromwell, who was a frequent visitor here, usually concealed himself in a room to which the only access was by a chair let down and drawn up with pulleys.

BESSINGBY, a parish in the wapentake of **DICKERING**, East riding of the county of **YORK**, $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles (S.W.) from Bridlington, containing 83 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry and diocese of **York**, endowed with £1400 royal bounty, and in the patronage of H. Hudson, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Magnus.

BESSINGHAM, a parish in the northern division of the hundred of **ERPINGHAM**, county of **NORFOLK**, $5\frac{1}{4}$ miles (S.W.) from Cromer, containing 149 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry of **Norfolk**, and diocese of **Norwich**, rated in the king's books at £4. 6. 8., and in the patronage of Viscount Anson. The church is dedicated to St. Mary.

BESTHORPE, a parish in the hundred of **SHROPHAM**, county of **NORFOLK**, $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile (E. by S.) from Attleburgh, containing 519 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of **Norfolk**, and diocese of **Norwich**, rated in the king's books at £5. 6. $10\frac{1}{2}$, and in the patronage of the Earl of Winterton. The church is dedicated to All Saints.

BESTHORPE, a chapelry in the parish of **SOUTH SCARLE**, northern division of the wapentake of **NEWARK**, county of **NOTTINGHAM**, 8 miles (N.N.E.) from Newark, containing 271 inhabitants. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists. A school is endowed with £8. 12. per annum.

BESWICK, a chapelry in the parish of **KILN-WICK**, Bainton-Beacon division of the wapentake of **HARTHILL**, East riding of the county of **YORK**, $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N. by W.) from Beverley, containing 192 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of the East riding, and diocese of **York**, endowed with £600 royal bounty, and in the patronage of J. Denison, Esq.

BETCHWORTH, a parish in the first division of the hundred of **REIGATE**, county of **SURREY**, $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles (W. by S.) from Reigate, containing 909 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of **Surrey**, and diocese of **Winchester**, rated in the king's books at £7. 8. $11\frac{1}{2}$, endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £200 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Dean and Canons of **Windsor**. The church is dedicated to St. Michael. A school is endowed with £20 per annum, and is further supported by subscription.

BETHERSDEN, a parish in the hundred of **CHART** and **LONGBRIDGE**, lathe of **SCRAY**, county of **KENT**, 6 miles (W.S.W.) from Ashford, containing 1001 inhabitants. The living is a vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of **Canterbury**, rated in the king's books

year, he established a court of Exchequer for the receipt of the revenue of the kingdom of Scotland. Wallace having laid siege to the town, took possession of it, but was unsuccessful in his attempt on the castle, which was relieved by the arrival of a numerous army. Edward II., in prosecuting the war against Scotland, assembled his army here repeatedly, and made several inroads into the enemy's territory. Robert Bruce obtained possession of it in 1318, and having raised the walls, and strengthened them with towers, kept it, notwithstanding several attacks from Edward II. and Edward III., until it surrendered to the latter, after the celebrated battle of Halldown Hill, in this neighbourhood, which took place on the 19th of July, 1333. As a frontier town it was invariably the first object of attack, on the renewal of hostilities between the two kingdoms, and, after repeated surrenders and sieges, it was ceded to Edward IV., from whom and his successors it received several charters and extensive privileges. After having been exposed, during the subsequent reigns, to the continued aggressions of the Scots and the English, it was made a free town, independent of both kingdoms, by treaty between Edward VI., King of England, and Mary, Queen of Scots, signed at Greenwich, on the part of the former, on the 10th of May, and, on the part of the latter, at Norham, in the vicinity of this town, on the 10th of June, 1551. It was strongly fortified in the reign of Elizabeth, who placed a garrison in it, which was kept up till the accession of James to the English throne, when its importance as a frontier town ceased. During the civil war in the reign of Charles I. it was garrisoned by the parliament.

The town is pleasantly situated on the northern bank, and near the mouth, of the river Tweed: the approach from the English side is over a handsome stone bridge of fifteen arches, connecting it with Tweedmouth on the south. The streets, with the exception of the High street and Hidehill, are narrow, but well paved, and lighted with gas, and the houses are in general well built: some of the inhabitants are supplied with water brought into their houses by pipes, from a spring at the distance of a mile and a half; the others are supplied from public cisterns placed in situations convenient for the purpose. The new fortifications, which are exceedingly strong, have displaced those of more ancient date, of which there remain only the ruins of the fortress at the south-west angle of the old town walls, and those near the castle. The ramparts afford an agreeable promenade, much frequented by the inhabitants. The barracks for the garrison, on the north-east side of the town, form a small quadrangle, neatly built of stone; the establishment consists of a governor, lieutenant-governor, town-major, town-adjutant, surgeon, master gunner, and a few invalid gunners: the buildings are capable of accommodating seven hundred men. Connected with the barracks are the guard-house, an hospital, and an ordnance house. A public library was established in 1812. The theatre, a small neat building, is opened annually in summer. The assembly-rooms are opened on public occasions; and subscription balls take place regularly during the winter.

The trade of the port is somewhat extensive coast-wise; the exports are corn, wool, salmon, herrings, pork, and eggs; the imports are timber, deals, staves, iron, hemp, tallow, and blubber. The number of vessels

belonging to the port, according to the return made to parliament in 1828, was fifty-four, averaging ninety tons' burden: the harbour is good, but, from the bar at the entrance, it is inaccessible to ships of large burden. The pier, which has been recently constructed, extends nearly half a mile in length; a lighthouse has been erected on it, to guard mariners against the rocks and shallows by which the navigation is endangered. About eight hundred men are employed in the fishery: the salmon and trout, which are caught in abundance, are packed in boxes stratified with ice, by which they are conveyed fresh to the London and other markets: a great quantity of lobsters and herrings is also found here. The annual rental of the fisheries has been estimated at £10,000, and the supply of eggs, which are sent from this place for the use of sugar refiners, has been returned as exceeding the value of £13,000 per annum, but this branch of the trade has materially diminished. The principal articles of manufacture, exclusively of such as are connected with the shipping, are damask, diaper, sacking, sail-cloth, cotton, hosiery, carpets, hats, boots, and shoes. The market, which is abundantly supplied with grain, is on Saturday; and there is a fair, for black cattle and horses, on the Friday in Trinity week; statute fairs are also held on the second Wednesday in May, the Wednesday before August 26th, and the first Wednesday in November.

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BERWICK-HILL, a township in the parish of PONTELAND, western division of CASTLE ward, county of NORTHUMBERLAND, $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N.N.W.) from Newcastle upon Tyne, containing 111 inhabitants.

BESFORD, a township in that part of the parish of SHAWBURY which is in the hundred of PIMHILL, county of SALOP, $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles (S. E. by E.) from Wem, containing 169 inhabitants.

BESFORD, a parish in the upper division of the hundred of PERSHORE, county of WORCESTER, 3 miles (W. by S.) from Pershore, containing 154 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, annexed to the vicarage of St. Andrew's, Pershore, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Worcester, rated in the king's books at £3. The church is dedicated to St. Andrew. The navigable river Aven runs along the border of the parish.

BESSELSLEIGH, a parish in the hundred of HORMES, county of BERKS, 5 miles (N.W.) from

Abingdon, containing 130 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry of BERKS, and diocese of Salisbury, rated in the king's books at £4. 17. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$, and in the patronage of W. J. Lenthall, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Lawrence. The parishioners are entitled to participate in the advantages of the school at Appleton, endowed by Sir R. Fettiplace. The old manor-house, formerly the seat of Lenthall, Speaker of the House of Commons in the Long Parliament, was pulled down about forty years ago. Cromwell, who was a frequent visitor here, usually concealed himself in a room to which the only access was by a chair let down and drawn up with pulleys.

BESSINGBY, a parish in the wapentake of DICKERING, East riding of the county of YORK, $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles (S.W.) from Bridlington, containing 83 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry and diocese of York, endowed with £1400 royal bounty, and in the patronage of H. Hudson, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Magnus.

BESSINGHAM, a parish in the northern division of the hundred of ERPINGHAM, county of NORFOLK, $5\frac{1}{4}$ miles (S.W.) from Cromer, containing 149 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry of Norfolk, and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £4. 6. 8., and in the patronage of Viscount Anson. The church is dedicated to St. Mary.

BESTHORPE, a parish in the hundred of SHROPHAM, county of NORFOLK, $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile (E. by S.) from Attleburgh, containing 519 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Norfolk, and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £5. 6. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$, and in the patronage of the Earl of Winterton. The church is dedicated to All Saints.

BESTHORPE, a chapelry in the parish of SOUTH SCARLE, northern division of the wapentake of NEWARK, county of NOTTINGHAM, 8 miles (N.N.E.) from Newark, containing 271 inhabitants. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists. A school is endowed with £8. 12. per annum.

BESWICK, a chapelry in the parish of KILNWICK, Bainton-Beacon division of the wapentake of HARTHILL, East riding of the county of YORK, $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N. by W.) from Beverley, containing 192 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of the East riding, and diocese of York, endowed with £600 royal bounty, and in the patronage of J. Denison, Esq.

BETCHWORTH, a parish in the first division of the hundred of REIGATE, county of SURREY, $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles (W. by S.) from Reigate, containing 909 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Surrey, and diocese of Winchester, rated in the king's books at £7. 8. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$, endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £200 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Dean and Canons of Windsor. The church is dedicated to St. Michael. A school is endowed with £20 per annum, and is further supported by subscription.

BETHERSDEN, a parish in the hundred of CHART and LONGBRIDGE, lathe of SCRAY, county of KENT, 6 miles (W. S.W.) from Ashford, containing 1001 inhabitants. The living is a vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Canterbury, rated in the king's books

at £12, endowed with £200 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The church is dedicated to St. Beatrice. There is a place of worship for Particular Baptists. A fair is held here on the 1st of July. A considerable quantity of a species of grey marble, used for columns and the internal ornaments of various neighbouring churches, is obtained in the northern part of the parish. The inhabitants are entitled to send six children to the free school at Smarden.

BETHNAL-GREEN, a parish in the Tower division of the hundred of OSSULSTONE, county of MIDDLESEX, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N.E. by E.) from St Paul's, containing 45,676 inhabitants. This very extensive parish, which was severed by act of parliament, in 1743, from the parish of Stepney, to which it was formerly a hamlet, is divided into four districts, called Church division, Green division, Hackney-road division, and Town division. It is supposed to have derived its name from Bathon Hall, the residence of a family of that name, who had considerable possessions here in the reign of Edward I., and from an extensive green, to the east of which is the site of an episcopal palace, called Bishop's Hall, which is said to have been the residence of Bonner, Bishop of London. The popular legendary ballad of the Blind Beggar of Bethnal Green, the hero of which is said to have been Henry de Montfort, son of the Earl of Leicester, has reference to an ancient castellated mansion in this parish, built in the reign of Elizabeth, by John Kirby, a citizen of London, and now converted into a private lunatic asylum. The houses in general are meanly built of brick, and consist of large ranges of dwellings, inhabited chiefly by journeymen silk-weavers, who work at home for the master weavers in Spitalfields, in each of which two or three families live, and exercise their sedentary occupation. The parish is watched, and lighted with gas; the streets are partially paved, and the inhabitants are supplied with water by the East London Company's works. There is a very extensive cotton-factory, besides a large manufactory for water-proof hose, made of flax, without seam, and of any length and diameter, chiefly for the use of brewers and for firemen. A great quantity of land in the parish is in the occupation of market-gardeners, who raise fruit and vegetables for the London market; and there are extensive beds of clay, which is much used for the making of bricks. The fair formerly held here has been suppressed, in consequence of the riotous proceedings which usually took place during its continuance. The Regent's canal passes through the parish. This district is within the limits of the New Police act, and under the jurisdiction of a court of requests for the Tower Hamlets, for the recovery of debts under 40s.

The living is a rectory, in the peculiar jurisdiction of the Commissary of London, concurrently with the Consistorial Court of the Bishop, and in the patronage of the Principal and Fellows of Brasenose College, Oxford. The church, dedicated to St. Matthew, and erected in 1746, is a neat brick building, ornamented with stone. St. John's church was built in 1828, by grant from the parliamentary commissioners, at an expense of £17,638. 18.; it is a handsome edifice of stone, in the Grecian style of architecture, with a tower, and is capable of accommodating two thousand per-

sons; one thousand two hundred of the sittings are free. There are places of worship for Baptists, Independents, and Methodists. An episcopal chapel was erected, in 1814, by the Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews, attached to which are two schools, wherein fifty boys and nearly sixty girls are maintained and instructed. St. Matthew's school, founded in 1771, by the inhabitants, for clothing and instructing forty-five boys and forty-five girls, and a National school for one thousand children, are supported by subscription. In 1722, Mr. Thomas Parmiter left an estate in Suffolk, now producing £25 per annum, for the erection and endowment of a free school and almshouse in this parish; for the promotion of which purpose, Mrs. Elizabeth Carter gave the ground rent-free for six hundred years, and £10 per annum: Mr. William Lee also gave £10 per annum towards the maintenance of the school; and Mr. Edward Mayhew £5 towards the clothing of the children. The income, under the management of trustees, has greatly improved; there are fifty boys in the school; the master has a salary of £50, and the almspeople an allowance of £5 per annum and a supply of coal. The almshouses founded, in 1711, by Captain Fisher, and those belonging to the companies of Drapers and Dyers, are situated in this parish. Trinity Hospital, at Mile-End, was erected in 1695, on land, in this parish, given by Captain Henry Mudd, an elder brother of the Trinity House, and endowed, in 1701, by Captain Robert Sandes, for twenty-eight masters of ships, or their widows, who have each a pecuniary allowance, apartments, and other advantages. The Roman road from the western counties of England to the ferry over the river Lea at Old Ford, passes through the northern part of the parish. Sir Richard Gresham, father of Sir Thomas Gresham, who built the Royal Exchange; Sir Thomas Grey, Knt.; and Sir Balthazer Gerbier, a celebrated painter and architect, who designed the triumphal arch for the entrance of Charles II. into London, on his restoration; were residents at this place. Ainsworth, the celebrated compiler of the Latin Dictionary, kept an academy here for some years, and the noted Caslon, who established the celebrated type-foundry in Chiswell-street, lived here in retirement till his decease in 1766.

BETLEY, a parish (formerly a market town) in the northern division of the hundred of PIREHILL, county of STAFFORD, $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles (W. by N.) from Newcastle under Line, containing 932 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of Stafford, and diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, endowed with £600 private benefaction, and £600 royal bounty, and in the patronage of George Tollet, Esq. The church, dedicated to St. Margaret, is an ancient structure, with a tower, supposed to have been erected in 1713, as that date appears on the vane: the nave is separated from the aisles by pillars and plain pointed arches of wood; several handsome monuments adorn the walls of the chancel, which is of modern construction. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists. The village is remarkably cheerful and pleasant, and contains several respectable houses; in the neighbourhood are extensive gardens, from which the town of Newcastle is supplied with vegetables, for the cultivation of which the soil is particularly adapted. Courts leet and baron are held annually; and a fair for cattle takes place on

the 31st of July. Here is a charity school with a small endowment.

BETTERTON, a tything in the parish of **LOCKINGE**, hundred of **WANTAGE**, county of **BERKS**, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles (E. S. E.) from **Wantage**. The population is returned with the parish.

BETTESHANGER, a parish in the hundred of **EASTRY**, lathe of **ST. AUGUSTINE**, county of **KENT**, 4 miles (S. S. W.) from **Sandwich**, containing 21 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of **Canterbury**, rated in the king's books at £6. 4. 4., and in the patronage of **F. E. Morrice, Esq.** The church is dedicated to **St. Mary**.

BETTISCOMBE, a parish in the liberty of **FRAMP-TON**, Bridport division of the county of **DORSET**, 6 miles (W. by S.) from **Beaminster**, containing 62 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of **Dorset**, and diocese of **Bristol**, rated in the king's books at £8. 2. 3½., and in the patronage of **F. J. Browne, Esq.**

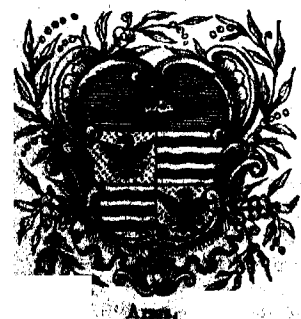
BETTUS, a parish in the hundred of **PURSLOW**, county of **SALOP**, 6 miles (N. W.) from **Knighton**, containing 341 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of **Salop**, and diocese of **Hereford**, endowed with £600 royal bounty, and £200 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of the **Vicar of Clun**. The church is dedicated to **St. Mary**.

BETWIS, a parish in the upper division of the hundred of **WENTLOOG**, county of **MONMOUTH**, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N. W. by W.) from **Newport**, containing 76 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, annexed to the vicarage of **St. Woollos**, in the archdeaconry and diocese of **Llandaff**. The church is dedicated to **St. David**.

BETWIS-NEWYDD, a parish in the lower division of the hundred of **RAGLAND**, county of **MONMOUTH**, 4 miles (N. by E.) from **Usk**, containing 84 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, annexed to the vicarage of **Llanarth**, in the archdeaconry and diocese of **Llandaff**, endowed with £200 royal bounty.

BEVERCOATES, a parish in the South-clay division of the wapentake of **BASSETLAW**, county of **NOTTINGHAM**, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles (W. N. W.) from **Tuxford**, containing 48 inhabitants. The living is a vicarage, united to that of **West Markham**, in the archdeaconry of **Nottingham**, and diocese of **York**. The church, now desecrated, was dedicated to **St. Giles**.

BEVERLEY, a borough, market town, and the head of a liberty, having separate jurisdiction, in the East riding of the county of **York**, 9 miles (N. E.) from **Kingston upon Hull**, 29 (E. S. E.) from **York**, and 183 (N.) from **London**, containing 6728 inhabitants. This place, from the woods with which it was formerly covered, was called *Deirwalde*,



implying the forest of the *Deiri*, the ancient inhabitants of this part of the country. By the Saxons, probably from the number of beavers with which the river **Hull** in this part abounded, it was called *Beverlega*, from

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which its present name is deduced. About the year 700 **John**, Archbishop of **York**, partly refounded the church dedicated to **St. John the Evangelist**, and established an oratory, in honour of **St. Martin**. These he subsequently converted into a monastery, in which, after having filled the archiepiscopal see of **York** for thirty-three years, with a reputation for extreme sanctity, he spent the remainder of his life in retirement and devotion; and dying in 721, was canonized by the title of **St. John of Beverley**. In the year 867, this monastery was destroyed by the **Danes**, and, after remaining for three years in a state of desolation, was partly restored by the monks. In the early part of the tenth century, **Athelstan**, marching against the confederated Britons, Scots, and **Danes**, caused the standard of **St. John of Beverley** to be carried before his army, and having returned victorious, bestowed many privileges upon the town and monastery. He founded a college for **Secular canons**, which, at the dissolution, had an establishment consisting of a provost, eight prebendaries, a chancellor, precentor, seven rectors, and nine vicars choral, and a revenue of £597. 19. 6.; and he conferred on the church the privilege of sanctuary, the limits of which, extending for a mile around the town, were marked out by four crosses, erected at the four principal entrances. From this time the town began to increase rapidly in population and importance. About the year 1060, **Kinsius** the twenty-third archbishop of **York**, built a hall, nearly rebuilt the church, to which he added a tower, and contributed greatly to its internal decoration. The memory of **St. John of Beverley** was held in such veneration, that **William the Conqueror** having advanced within seven miles of the town, gave strict orders to his army that they should not damage the church; the day of his death was appointed to be kept holy, and the festival of his translation, October 25th, was, in 1416, ordered to be annually celebrated, in commemoration of the battle of **Agincourt**, which was superstitiously thought to have been gained through his intercession. At the commencement of the parliamentary war, the king fixed his headquarters at **Beverley**, and attempted to gain possession of **Kingston upon Hull**, which was then defended by **Sir John Hotham**, who, having subsequently made overtures to the king, and entered into a negotiation for surrendering the town, fled from **Hull**, upon the discovery of his intention, and was made prisoner at **Beverley**, which had fallen into the hands of the parliamentarians.

The town is situated at the foot of the **Wolds**, about a mile from the river **Hull**, and consists of several spacious streets, in which are many handsome well-built houses: the approach from the **Driffeld** road is remarkably fine, having, particularly on the north-east side, many elegant buildings, and terminating in an ancient gateway, which leads into the town. The streets are well paved, and the inhabitants are amply supplied with water: the air is salubrious, and the environs afford agreeable walks. The races are held annually in June, on **Hurn meadow**, about a mile distant, on which a commodious stand has been erected. The theatre was built in 1805, assemblies are held periodically in a suite of rooms for that purpose. The trade is in coal, corn, oatmeal, malt and tanned leather, and has been greatly extended by means of a canal, called **Beverley Beck** constructed under an act of parliament, in 1727, and

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connecting the town with the river Hull: a considerable quantity of bone lace is also made. The market is on Saturday: the market-place occupies an area of four acres, in the centre of which is a stately cross supported on eight pillars, each of one entire stone. Fairs are held on the Thursday before Old Valentine's day, Holy Thursday, July 5th, the Wednesday before September 25th, and November 6th, chiefly for horses, horned cattle, and sheep, and on every alternate Wednesday there is a great market for sheep and horned cattle.

The government of the borough, by charter of Queen Elizabeth, is vested in a mayor, recorder, twelve aldermen, and thirteen burgesses, assisted by a town-clerk and subordinate officers: the mayor and burgesses are elected annually, and the aldermen are chosen by a majority of their own body, as vacancies occur. The freedom of the borough is inherited by the sons of freemen, if born within the liberty, acquired by servitude, or obtained by purchase: among the privileges which it conveys are, exemption from toll and custom in every town or port in England, and the right of depasturing twelve or thirteen head of cattle, at a trifling cost, on four large pastures, containing about one thousand acres. The corporation have the power of trying for capital offences, but do not exercise it; they hold courts of session for the borough and liberty which latter comprises the townships of Molscroft, Stockhill with Sandholme, Thearne, Tickton with Hull-Bridge, Weel, and Woodmansey with Beverley - Park, and part of the township of Aike, all in the parish of St. John; and a court of record is also held, called the Provost court, which takes cognizance of all pleas, except those respecting titles to landed property. A court of requests is holden under an act passed in the 21st of George III., the powers of which were extended by a subsequent act, in the 46th of the same reign, whereby debts under £5 are recoverable. The guildhall, or, as it is here called, the Hallgarth, is a neat building, containing, in addition to the apartments in which the public business of the corporation is transacted, a courtroom in which the general quarter sessions for the East riding are held, and a registrar's office. The house of correction is a small neat building, about half a mile from the town. The elective franchise was conferred in the reign of Edward I., but was not exercised from the end of that reign till the 5th of Elizabeth, since which time the borough has continued to return two members to parliament: the right of election is vested in the freemen generally, whether resident or not, the number of whom is about one thousand four hundred; the mayor is the returning officer.

Beverley comprises the parishes of St. John, St. Martin, St. Mary, and St. Nicholas, all within the arch-deaconry of the East riding, and diocese of York: the parish of St. John extends into the northern division of the wapentake of Holderness. It was formerly the head of a peculiar and exempt jurisdiction, under the provost of the collegiate church, which expired at the



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dissolution of monasteries. The living of St. John's is a perpetual curacy, with that of St. Martin's united, endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £400 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Mayor and Corporation. The church, anciently belonging to the monastery of St. John, and still called the Minster, was almost entirely rebuilt in 1060, by Kinsius, Archbishop of York. In 1664, some workmen opening a grave in the chancel, discovered a sheet of lead, enveloping some relics, with an inscription in Latin, purporting that the ancient church having been destroyed by fire, in 1188, search was made for the relics of St. John of Beverley, which having been found, his bones were again deposited near the altar. It is not known at what precise period the present church was built, though probably it was in the early part of the reign of Henry III.; it is a venerable and spacious cruciform structure, in the early, decorated, and later styles of English architecture, with two lofty towers at the west end. Though combining these several styles, it exhibits in each of them such purity of composition, correctness of detail, and elegance of execution, as to raise it to an architectural equality with the finest of the cathedral churches, to which it is inferior only in magnitude. The west front is in the best character of the later style, and the nave and transepts are of the early English, of which the fronts of the north and south transepts are pure specimens. The choir is partly in the decorated style, with an exquisitely beautiful altar, screen, and rood-loft, which, though unequalled in elegance of design and richness of detail, has been concealed by one of very inferior composition, put up within the last century: the east window is decorated with stained glass, which has been collected from the other windows, and skilfully arranged: near the altar is the seat of refuge, formed of one entire stone, with a Latin inscription, offering an asylum to all criminals who should flee to this sanctuary; and on an ancient tablet are the portraits of St. John of Beverley and King Athelstan, with a legend recording the monarch's grant of freedom to the town. In the choir there is a superb and finely executed monument to the memory of one of the Percies, and in the north transept is a fine altar-tomb, both in the decorated style. The living of St. Mary's is a vicarage, with those of St. Nicholas and Holme on the Wolds united, rated in the king's books at £14. 2. 8., and in the patronage of the Crown. The church is a highly interesting structure, and contains fine portions in the various styles of architecture, from the Norman to the later English: the towers at the western end are finely pierced, and the octagonal turrets flanking the nave are strikingly elegant: the roof of the chancel, which is in the decorated style, is richly groined, and the piers and arches are well proportioned; there are some interesting monuments, and a fine font in the later style. The churches of St. Martin and St. Nicholas have long since gone to decay. There are places of worship for Baptists, the Society of Friends, Independents, and Primitive and Wesleyan Methodists.

The grammar school is of uncertain origin, though it appears to have existed at a remote period: the fixed endowment is not more than £10 per annum, which was bequeathed, in 1652, by Dr. Metcalf; this is augmented with a donation of £20 per annum by the muni-

bers for the borough, and one of £70 per annum by the corporation, in whom the management is vested; these sums are paid as a salary to the master, who receives also 40s. per annum from each of the scholars, and has the privilege of taking boarders. There are three scholarships of £6. 18. 4. per annum each, founded by Dr. Metcalf; one of £6 per annum by William Coates, Esq., in 1681; two of £8, at St. John's College, Cambridge, founded by Dr. William Lacey, in 1670; one of £20 at Corpus Christi, or St. John's, Colleges, Cambridge, founded by Dr. Green, Bishop of Lincoln, in 1778, who bequeathed £1000 for that purpose, or to the charity school; and one of £5 by Margaret Ferrer, to a student at the latter college. The Blue-coat charity school was established by subscription, in 1709, for the maintenance, clothing, and education of poor children; the annual income, arising from subsequent benefactions, is at present about £126: there are ten boys in this establishment, with each of whom, on leaving school, an apprentice fee of £3 is given. There is also a school, founded in 1804, by Mr. James Graves, who endowed it with stock in the Navy five per cents., producing £64 per annum, in which two hundred children of both sexes are instructed, the boys on the Lancasterian, and the girls on Dr. Bell's, system. Almshouses for four aged widows, each of whom receives 10s. per month, were founded and endowed by Mr. Thwaite Fox, in 1636. Almshouses also for thirty-two widows, who receive a weekly allowance of 5s. each, were founded by Mrs. Anne Routh, in 1721, and endowed with estates now producing £675 per annum; the matron receives two shillings and sixpence, and two nurses two shillings each, per week, in addition to their regular allowance. An hospital, containing fourteen apartments, was founded in 1712, by Mr. Charles Warton, who endowed it with property now producing about £400 per annum, for fourteen widows, who have a weekly allowance of 4s. each. There are also unendowed almshouses, erected by the corporation, comprising twenty-six tenements, the occupiers of which receive a portion of various bequests for charitable uses. Sir Michael Warton, Knt., in 1724, bequeathed £4000, as a perpetual fund for keeping the minster in repair; and Mr. Robert Stephenson, in 1711, left an estate, now producing from £70 to £100 per annum, for the maintenance of "Non-conformist preaching ministers." Alfred of Beverley, a monkish historian of the twelfth century, is supposed to have been born here; Dr. John Alcock, Bishop of Ely, and founder of Jesus' College, Cambridge; Dr. Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, a martyr to his religious tenets in the reign of Henry VIII.; and Dr. Green, Bishop of Lincoln, an elegant scholar, and one of the writers of the Athenian Letters, published by Lord Hardwicke, were natives of this town.

BEVERSTONE, a parish in the upper division of the hundred of BRIMZLEY, county of GLOUCESTER, 2 miles (W.N.W.) from Tetbury, containing 160 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, with the perpetual curacy of Kingscote annexed, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Gloucester, rated in the king's books at £30, and in the patronage of the Crown. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. One of the sources of the river Avon is in this parish, in which also there are quarries of stone used for roofing houses. Here are the remains of a moated castle, built by Thomas, Lord

Berkeley, in the reign of Edward III., which, after repeated sieges, was taken and burnt in the early part of the parliamentary war. It is a noble ruin overgrown with ivy; and its chapel, still perfect, has a beautiful arched roof, a fine window, and an elegant shrine of tabernacle-work on the right hand side of the altar.

BEWALDETH, a joint township with Snittlegarth, in the parish of TORPENHOW, ALLERDALE ward below Darwent, county of CUMBERLAND, 6½ miles (N.E. by E.) from Cockermouth, containing, with Snittlegarth, 97 inhabitants.

BEWCASTLE, a parish in ESKDALE ward, county of CUMBERLAND, comprising the townships of Bailie, Belbank, Bewcastle, and Nixons, and containing 1213 inhabitants, of which number, 188 are in the township of Bewcastle, 19 miles (N.E.) from Carlisle. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Carlisle, rated in the king's books at £2, endowed with £800 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Carlisle. The church is dedicated to St. Cuthbert. In the churchyard there is a curious antique cross, composed of a single stone, bearing inscriptions which have been variously interpreted, and some curious devices, which are supposed to be emblematical of the conversion of the Danes to Christianity, and commemorative of the death and interment of one of their kings. There is a place of worship for Presbyterians. The rivers Leven, or Line, and Irthing, have their sources in this parish. Limestone, coal, and lead-ore are obtained here. In the 7th of Edward I. license was granted to John Swinburn to hold a market and a fair. There are two schools in the parish, which are partly supported by subscription. This was a Roman station, of which there are some traces, and many coins, inscribed stones, and other relics of Roman occupation have been found: the Maiden-way passed through the parish. Bueth Castle, a fortress built by Bueth, Lord of Gilsland, soon after the Conquest, was occupied by a border garrison in the reign of Elizabeth; and, in 1641, was demolished by the parliamentarians: some vestiges are still visible, and there are various relics of antiquity in the vicinity, which abounds also with picturesque scenery. There are two mineral springs, one with a sulphureous impregnation, the other chalybeate; and at Low Grange, a quarter of a mile to the east of the church, is a petrifying spring.

BEWDLEY, a borough, market town, and chapelry, in the parish of RIBBESFORD, having separate jurisdiction, locally in the lower division of the hundred of Doddingtree, county of WORCESTER, 14 miles (N.W.) from Worcester, and 122 (N.W.) from London, containing 3725 inhabitants. This place, from the pleasantness of its situation, and the beauty of the surrounding scenery, anciently obtained the appellation of *Beau lieu*, of which its present name is a corruption. In the 13th of Henry IV., a petition was presented to parliament from the men of "Bristowe" and Gloucester, praying that they might navigate the river Severn without being subject to new taxes levied by the men of *Beaudley*. At this time



Seal and Arms.

at this time

Bewdley appears to have enjoyed many privileges, among which was that of sanctuary for persons who had shed blood: it was formerly extra-parochial, but, by letters patent granted by Henry VI., was annexed to the parish of Ribbesford. Edward IV. gave the inhabitants a charter of incorporation in the twelfth year of his reign; and Henry VII. erected a palace here for his son Arthur, in which that prince was married by proxy to Catherine of Arragon, and dying soon after at Ludlow, his corpse was removed to this town, where it lay in state previously to interment in the cathedral church of Worcester. Bewdley, formerly included in the marches of Wales, was, by an act of parliament passed in the reign of Henry VIII., added to the county of Worcester. During the civil war in the reign of Charles I., that monarch, who had been driven from Oxford by the parliamentary forces, retired with the remnant of his army to this town, where he encamped, in order to keep the river Severn between him and the enemy. Whilst staying here, he was attacked by a party of Scottish cavalry, when several of his officers, and seventy men, were made prisoners. In these attacks the palace was greatly damaged, and was subsequently taken down; the site is now occupied by a modern dwelling-house, and not a single vestige of the original edifice can, with certainty, be traced. The more ancient part of the town was built at a greater distance from the river, and the street called Load-street is supposed to have been the place where the inhabitants loaded their boats: there were formerly four gates, two of which were standing in 1811, but they have since been entirely demolished.

Bewdley is beautifully situated on the western bank of the river Severn, over which a light and elegant stone bridge was erected in 1797: the main street, leading from the bridge, diverges right and left, but extends furthest in the latter direction; it is indifferently paved and not lighted. The houses are in general well built, and of respectable appearance; and several of them, erected at different elevations on the slope of the hill rising from the bank of the river, with well cultivated gardens, and tastefully disposed pleasure grounds, present an appearance truly picturesque: the inhabitants are amply supplied with water; the air is salubrious, and the surrounding scenery richly and pleasingly diversified. Some years since, Bewdley was a place of considerable trade, having two markets and four fairs, and for a long period was the mart from which the neighbouring towns were supplied with grocery and other articles of consumption; but in consequence of the recent construction of a canal from Stourport to Stourbridge, that portion of its trade has been diverted to other towns. The manufacture of woollen caps, known by the name of Dutch caps, was introduced here in consequence of the plague prevailing at Monmouth, where it had previously been carried on, and, being encouraged by legislative enactments in the reign of Elizabeth, it continued for some time to flourish, but has now declined, and the trade is principally in malt, the tanning of leather, and the making of combs. The market is on Saturday: fairs are held on April 23rd, July 26th, and December 10th and 11th. The government of the borough, by charter of incorporation granted by James I., and confirmed by Queen Anne, is vested in a bailiff, high steward, re-

corder, deputy recorder (who is usually the town clerk), and twelve capital burgesses. The bailiff, who is also coroner and clerk of the market, the late bailiff, and the recorder, are justices of the peace: the freedom of the borough is obtained only by gift. The corporation hold a court of session annually, in which the bailiff, the late bailiff, and the recorder, preside; a court of record for all pleas, and for the recovery of debts under £100, in which the bailiff, or, in his absence, a deputy appointed by him from among the capital burgesses, and the recorder, preside; and a court leet, at which constables and other officers are appointed. The town hall is a neat building of stone, erected in 1818; the front is decorated with six square pilasters supporting a pediment, in which are the arms of the family of Lyttelton; under the hall is the entrance into the market-place, which has an arcade on each side for stalls, and an open area in the centre; at the extremity are two small prisons, one for malefactors, the other for debtors. The elective franchise was conferred by James I., since which time Bewdley has returned one member to parliament: the right of election is vested exclusively in the bailiff and burgesses, thirteen in number; the bailiff is the returning officer.

The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of Salop, and diocese of Hereford, endowed with £8 per annum, the revenue of a dissolved chantry which formerly existed here, and in the patronage of the Rector of Ribbesford. The chapel, a neat stone edifice at the upper end of the street leading from the bridge, was erected in 1748, by means of a subscription among the inhabitants, aided by a brief, and the Rev. Thomas Knight, rector of Ribbesford, principally contributed to the erection of the tower. There are places of worship for Baptists, the Society of Friends, Wesleyan Methodists, and Unitarians. The free grammar school, founded and endowed in 1591, by William Monnox, or Mormoye, and further endowed in 1599, by Humphrey Hill, was made a royal foundation by charter of James I.; the endowment, augmented by subsequent benefactions, produces a salary of £26 per annum to the master, who has also a house rent-free. A collection of books, the gift of the Rev. Thomas Wigan, is deposited in the school, under the care of the master, and the rector of Ribbesford, for the use of the clergy and laity in the neighbourhood. The Blue-coat school, for thirty boys and thirty girls, is supported by subscription. Almshouses for six aged men, founded by Mr. Sayer, of Nettlestead, in the county of Suffolk, and endowed with £30 per annum, were rebuilt in 1763, by Sir Edward Winnington, Bart., member for the borough. Burton's almshouses, for fourteen aged women, were founded and endowed in 1645; and eight other almshouses were erected and moderately endowed in 1693, by Mr. Thomas Cook. John Tombes, a celebrated biblical critic of the seventeenth century; and Richard Willis, Bishop of Winchester, and principal founder of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, were natives of this town.

BEWERLEY, a township in that part of the parish of Ripon which is in the lower division of the wapentake of CLARKE, West riding of the county of YORK, 11½ miles (W. S. W.) from Ripon, containing 1408 inhabitants. The vicinity abounds with valuable lead mines, which are worked to a considerable extent.

BEWICK (NEW), a township in the parish of **EGLINGHAM**, northern division of **COQUETDALE** ward, county of **NORTHUMBERLAND**, $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S.E.) from **Wooler**, containing 93 inhabitants.

BEWICK (OLD), a township in the parish of **EGLINGHAM**, northern division of **COQUETDALE** ward, county of **NORTHUMBERLAND**, 7 miles (S.E. by E.) from **Wooler**, containing 247 inhabitants. Here was anciently a chapel, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, the ruins of which are situated a little to the north-west of the village. On **Bewick hill** is an encampment of a semicircular form, with a double rampart; and at **Hare-up-burn**, half a mile eastward, is another, supposed to have been an outwork: they were probably constructed by the ancient Britons, and were afterwards occupied by the Romans.

BEXHILL, a parish in the hundred of **BEXHILL**, rape of **HASTINGS**, county of **SUSSEX**, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles (W. by S.) from **Hastings**, containing 1907 inhabitants. The living is a vicarage, in the archdeaconry of **Lewes**, and diocese of **Chichester**, rated in the king's books at £24. 10. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$., and in the patronage of the Bishop of **Chichester**. The church is dedicated to **St. Peter**. The hundred of **Bexhill** is a franchise in the enjoyment of privileges similar to those possessed by the franchise of **Battle**. There are several chalybeate springs in the parish.

BEXINGTON, a hamlet (formerly a parish) in the liberty of **BINDON**, **Blandford** (South) division, though locally in the parish of **Abbotsbury**, hundred of **Uggscombe**, **Dorchester** division of the county of **DORSET**, 1 mile (N. W.) from **Abbotsbury**, with which the population is returned. The living, which was a rectory, was, in 1451, annexed to that of **Puncknoll**; and the church, which was dedicated to **St. Giles**, and stood on the sea-shore, not far from the ruins of **Abbotsbury castle**, has long been desecrated.

BEXLEY, a parish partly in the hundred of **LESSNESS**, but chiefly in the hundred of **RUXLEY**, lathe of **SUTTON at HOME**, county of **KENT**, 3 miles (W.) from **Dartford**, containing 2311 inhabitants. The living is a vicarage, in the exempt deanery of **Shoreham**, the whole of which is within the peculiar jurisdiction of the Archbishop of **Canterbury**, rated in the king's books at £13. 4. 7., and in the patronage of **Viscount Sidney**. The church is dedicated to **St. Mary**. In the reign of **Elizabeth**, the manor belonged to **Camden**, the celebrated antiquary, who bequeathed it in trust to the Master and Fellows of **University College, Oxford**, for the foundation and endowment of a professorship in history. A National school for the instruction of sixty boys and sixty girls was established in 1809, and is supported by voluntary subscription and an endowment of £8 per annum: there are also almshouses for twelve persons. The Right Hon. **Nicholas Vansittart**, on retiring from the chancellorship of the **Exchequer**, was created **Baron Bexley**, March 1st, 1823.

BEXTON, a township in the parish of **KNUTSFORD**, hundred of **BUOXLOW**, county palatine of **CHESTER**, 1 mile (S. S. E.) from **Nether Knutsford**, containing 69 inhabitants.

BEXWELL, a parish in the hundred of **CLACKEN**, county of **NORFOLK**, 1 mile (E.) from **Downham-Market**, containing 63 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry of **Norfolk**, and diocese of **Norwich**, rated in the king's books at

£7. 11. 8., and in the patronage of the Bishop of **Ely**. The church, dedicated to **St. Mary**, is built of rag-stone obtained in the vicinity. **Henry III.** granted to **William de Bexwell** permission to hold a market on Thursday, and a fair on Whit-Monday.

BEYTON, otherwise **BEIGHTON**, a parish in the hundred of **THEDWESTRY**, county of **SUFFOLK**, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles (E. by S.) from **Bury St. Edmund's**, containing 238 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry of **Sudbury**, and diocese of **Norwich**, rated in the king's books at £4. 3. 9., and in the patronage of the Crown. The church is dedicated to **All Saints**.

BIBURY, a parish comprising the chapelry of **Winston**, in the hundred of **BRADLEY**, and the tythings of **Ablington** and **Arlington**, in the hundred of **BRIGHTWELL'S BARROW**, county of **GLOUCESTER**, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N. W.) from **Fairford**, and containing 990 inhabitants. The living is a vicarage, within the jurisdiction of the peculiar of the vicarage of **Bibury**, rated in the king's books at £13. 1. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$., and in the patronage of **E. Creswell, Esq.** The church is dedicated to **St. Mary**. **Thomas Tryon**, author of a curious work, entitled "**The Way to Health, Long Life, and Happiness**," published in 1691, was a native of this place.

BICESTER, a market town and parish in the hundred of **PLOUGHLEY**, county of **OXFORD**, $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N.E. by N.) from **Oxford**, and 55 (N.W. by W.) from **London**, containing 2544 inhabitants. This place, by the Saxons called *Burenceaster* and *Bernaceaster*, both implying a fortified place, is supposed to derive its name either from its founder, **Birinus**, a canonized Saxon prelate, or from **Bernwood**, a forest in **Buckinghamshire**, on the verge of which it is situated. A priory for canons of the **Benedictine** order was founded in 1182, and dedicated to **St. Eadburg**, by **Gilbert Basset**, Baron of **Haddington**, and his wife, **Oglean Courtney**, the revenue of which, at the dissolution, was £167. 2. 10. In 1355, a royal license was granted to **Nicholas Jurdan**, warden of the chapel of **St. John the Baptist**, for the establishment of an hospital for poor and infirm people, but the design does not appear to have been carried into execution. During the civil war in the reign of **Charles I.**, the inhabitants suffered by repeated exactions levied on them by both parties, and, in 1643, a skirmish took place, in which the royalists were defeated and driven through the town. **Bicester**, which is divided into the townships of **King's-End**, and **Market-End**, part of the latter being in the parish of **Caversfield**, is situated in a valley, on the banks of a tributary stream which falls into the river **Cherwell** at **Islip**; it is handsomely built, and amply supplied with water. Two book clubs have been established, one by the clergy resident in the town and neighbourhood, the other by the inhabitants. The manufacture of leather slippers is extensively carried on, and the female inhabitants are employed in making bone lace: the town is noted for excellent malt liquor. The market is on Friday; and fairs are held on the Friday in Easter week, the first Friday in June, August 5th, and the third Friday in December; there are also statute fairs on the first three Fridays after **Michaelmas**. The county magistrates hold their petty sessions here for the district. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of **Oxford**, rated in the king's books at £16, and in the patronage of **Sir G. P. Turner, Bart.** The

church, dedicated to St. Eadburg, was rebuilt in 1400, on the site of the former edifice: it is a spacious structure with a lofty square tower; the interior contains many interesting monuments and some antique sculptures. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists. A school for the instruction and clothing of thirty boys is supported partly by subscription, and partly by the dividends on £1000 stock, given in 1811 by Mr. Walker, in fulfilment of the intention of his deceased father, out of which, £14 per annum is given in moieties to a Sunday school in connexion with the established church, and to a similar institution for the children of dissenters. Lands producing £200 per annum, and a few minor charitable bequests, are appropriated to the relief of the poor. In making some excavations, in 1819, the foundations of the conventual buildings belonging to the priory, a vast mass of sculptured fragments, pieces of painted glass, and other relics, were discovered.

BICKENHALL, a parish in the hundred of **ABDICK** and **BULSTONE**, county of **SOMERSET**, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S.E. by E.) from Taunton, containing 215 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, annexed to the rectory of Staple-Fitzpaine, in the archdeaconry of Taunton, and diocese of Bath and Wells.

BICKENHILL (CHURCH), a parish in the Solihull division of the hundred of **HEMLINGFORD**, county of **WARWICK**, 4 miles (N.E.) from Solihull, containing, with Lyndon and Marston Quarters, 648 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Coventry, and diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, rated in the king's books at £7. 17. 3., and endowed with £1000 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of the Earl of Aylesford. The church is dedicated to St. Peter. The Warwick and Birmingham canal passes in the vicinity. Here was anciently a castle, the site of which is now occupied by a farm-house; and a beacon formerly stood where the church now is.

BICKER, a parish in the wapentake of **KIRTON**, parts of **HOLLAND**, county of **LINCOLN**, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile (N.E. by N.) from Donington, containing 627 inhabitants; but, with the extra-parochial liberties of Coppin-Sike and Ferry-Corner, 644. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £15, and in the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln. The church is dedicated to St. Swithin. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists. The school has a small endowment for the instruction of children.

BICKERSTAFFE, a township in the parish of **ORMSKIRK**, hundred of **WEST DERBY**, county palatine of **LANCASTER**, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S.E.) from Ormskirk, containing 1212 inhabitants. Coal is obtained in this township.

BICKERTON, a township in the parish of **MALPAS**, higher division of the hundred of **BROXTON**, county palatine of **CHESTER**, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N.N.E.) from Malpas, containing 370 inhabitants. On the summit of a hill, in this township, there is an intrenchment called Maiden Castle.

BICKERTON, a township in the parish of **ROTHBURY**, western division of **COQUETDALE** ward, county of **NORTHUMBERLAND**, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles (W. by S.) from Rothbury, containing 18 inhabitants. Here is a school with an endowment of about £90 per annum.

BICKERTON, a township in the parish of **BILTON**, ainsty of the city, and East riding of the county, of **YORK**, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (E.N.E.) from Wetherby, containing 149 inhabitants.

BICKINGTON, a parish in the hundred of **TEIGNBRIDGE**, county of **DEVON**, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N.E.) from Ashburton, containing 301 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, annexed to the vicarage of Ashburton, in the peculiar jurisdiction of the Dean and Chapter of Exeter. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists. A fair for cattle is held on May 14th. There are two small endowed schools.

BICKINGTON (ABBOT'S), a parish in the hundred of **BLACK TORRINGTON**, county of **DEVON**, 9 miles (S.W. by W.) from Great Torrington, containing 75 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of Totness, and diocese of Exeter, endowed with £200 private benefaction, £600 royal bounty, and £300 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of Lord Rolle. The church, dedicated to St. James, has some remains of ancient stained glass. Limestone, a kind of hard blue stone used in building, and marble, are obtained in the neighbourhood.

BICKINGTON (HIGH), a parish in the hundred of **NORTH TAWTON** with **WINKLEY**, county of **DEVON**, $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles (E. by N.) from Great Torrington, containing 748 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Barnstaple, and diocese of Exeter, rated in the king's books at £29. 7. 6., and in the patronage of the Rev. W. Stawell. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. A school was endowed with £10 per annum by Gertrude Pyncombe, in 1740.

BICKLEIGH, a parish in the hundred of **HAYRIDGE**, county of **DEVON**, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S. by W.) from Tiverton, containing 273 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Exeter, rated in the king's books at £18. 4. 9½., and in the patronage of Sir H. Carew, Bart. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. The navigable river Exe here receives a small stream called the Dart, and is crossed by a bridge near the point of junction. Bamfylde Moore Carew, styled King of the Beggars, was born here, in 1693, of a respectable family, his father being rector of the parish; and hither he returned, at the close of his extraordinary wanderings, where he died in 1758.

BICKLEIGH, a parish in the hundred of **ROBOROUGH**, county of **DEVON**, 7 miles (N.N.E.) from Plymouth, containing 457 inhabitants. The living is a vicarage, with the perpetual curacy of Sheepstor annexed, in the archdeaconry of Totness, and diocese of Exeter, rated in the king's books at £11. 4. 7., and in the patronage of Ralph Franco, Bart. The Plymouth railway passes along this parish. Here is a charity school; also an almshouse for six widows.

BICKLEY, a township in the parish of **MALPAS**, higher division of the hundred of **BROXTON**, county palatine of **CHESTER**, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (E.N.E.) from Malpas, containing 431 inhabitants. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists. On the 18th of July, 1657, about a quarter of an acre of elevated ground, covered with full-grown trees, sunk suddenly with a thundering noise to such a depth below the surface of the surrounding ground, that even the summits of the trees were not visible, from their total immersion in

water: the water has long been dried up, and the chasm, called the Barrel-Fall, from being situated on the Barrel farm, is now quite dry. In a field adjoining this farm, two tablets of copper, bearing an inscription importing that certain privileges were thereby granted by Trajan to some veteran soldiers serving in this island, and now deposited in the British Museum, were discovered in 1812.

BICKMERSH, a hamlet in that part of the parish of **WELFORD** which is in the Stratford division of the hundred of **BARLICHWAY**, county of **WARWICK**, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S. by E.) from **Alcester**, containing, with **Little Dorington**, 61 inhabitants.

BICKNELL, county of **SOMERSET**.—See **BICKEN-HALL**.

BICKNOLLER, a parish in the hundred of **WILLI-TON** and **FREEMANNERS**, county of **SOMERSET**, $13\frac{1}{2}$ miles (W. by N.) from **Bridg-water**, containing 251 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of **Taunton**, and diocese of **Bath and Wells**, endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £400 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the **Dean and Chapter of Wells**. Two fortifications, named **Trendle Castle** and **Turk's Castle**, together with the ruins of a beacon, occupy the summit of an eminence near the village; and a variety of Roman coins has been found in the vicinity.

BICKNOR, a parish in the hundred of **EYHORNE**, lathe of **AYLESFORD**, county of **KENT**, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S.W.) from **Milton**, containing 53 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of **Canterbury**, rated in the king's books at £5. 10., and in the patronage of the **Crown**. The church is dedicated to **St. James**.

BICKNOR (ENGLISH), a parish in the hundred of **ST. BRIAVELLS**, county of **GLOUCESTER**, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N.) from **Coleford**, containing 534 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of **Gloucester**, rated in the king's books at £13. 6. 8., and in the patronage of the **Provost and Fellows of Queen's College, Oxford**. The church, dedicated to **St. Mary**, stands within the area of an ancient fortification, the fosse belonging to which may still be traced. This parish lies within the forest of **Dean**, on the eastern bank of the **Wye**, opposite to **Welch-Bicknor**, and contains mines of coal and iron: the neighbourhood produces a considerable quantity of apples, particularly of that kind from which styre cider is made.

BICKNOR (WELCH), a parish in the lower division of the hundred of **SKENFRETH**, county of **MONMOUTH**, locally in the lower division of the hundred of **Wormelow**, county of **Hereford**, 7 miles (S. by W.) from **Ross**, containing 113 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of **Hereford**, rated in the king's books at £4. 6. 8., and in the patronage of the **Crown**. The church, dedicated to **St. Margaret**, contains an antique chalice, said to have been brought into Europe with the Saracens; the lid is of beaten silver, and it bears other evidences of high antiquity. At **Courtfield**, a private mansion about half a mile off, there is a Roman Catholic chapel; and tradition relates that **Henry V.** was nursed there, under the care of the Countess of **Salisbury**, who, according to the same authority, is represented by a recumbent stone figure in the church. The parish is almost surrounded by the river **Wye**.

BICKTON, a chapelry in the parish of **St. Chad**, within the liberty of the borough of **SHREWSBURY**, county of **SALOP**, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N.W. by W.) from **Shrewsbury**. The population is returned with the parish. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of **Salop**, and diocese of **Lichfield and Coventry**, endowed with £200 royal bounty, and £200 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of the **Rev. Thomas Stedman**. The navigable river **Severn** runs through the chapelry, which is also intersected by the Roman **Watling-street**.

BICTON, a parish in the eastern division of the hundred of **BUDLEIGH**, county of **DEVON**, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (W. S.W.) from **Sidmouth**, containing, with a portion of the tything of **Rawleigh**, 204 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of **Exeter**, rated in the king's books at £12. 13. 4., and in the patronage of **Lord Rolle**. The church is dedicated to the **Holy Trinity**. According to **Mr. Polwhele**, the possessor of the manor of **Bicton** is obliged to "find a country gaol."

BIDBOROUGH, a parish in the hundred of **WASH-LINGSTONE**, lathe of **AYLESFORD**, county of **KENT**, 3 miles (S.W.) from **Tonbridge**, containing 192 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of **Rochester**, rated in the king's books at £5. 4. 4½., endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £200 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the **Rev. W. Gay**. The church, dedicated to **St. Lawrence**, has a wide Norman doorway. There are some chalybeate springs in the parish.

BIDDENDEN, a parish in the hundred of **BARCLAY**, lathe of **SCRAY**, county of **KENT**, 5 miles (E. by N.) from **Cranbrooke**, containing 1544 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of **Canterbury**, rated in the king's books at £35, and in the patronage of the **Archbishop of Canterbury**. The church, dedicated to **All Saints**, is a fine structure in the later style of English architecture, with an embattled tower and turret. This place was once famous for its clothing trade, now entirely decayed. Fairs for **Welch cattle** are held on **Old Lady-day** and **November 8th**. **John Mayne**, in 1566, bequeathed a sum for the erection of a school-house, and endowed it with a rent-charge of £20. 3. 4., which is applied for teaching twelve boys. An annual distribution of bread and cheese to the poor parishioners takes place on **Easter-Sunday**, the expense of which is defrayed from the rental of about twenty acres of land, the reputed bequest of the **Biddenden Maids**, two sisters of the name of **Chulkhurst**, who, according to an unauthenticated tradition, were born joined together by the hips and shoulders, in the year 1100; and having lived in that state to the age of thirty-four, died within about six hours of each other. To perpetuate the remembrance of this extraordinary circumstance, cakes, bearing a corresponding impression of the figures of two females, are given, on the same day, to all who apply. Hasted, coinciding in the general opinion of the fabulousness of this tale, states that the print on the cakes is of modern origin, and considers the land to have been given by two maidens named **Preston**.

BIDDENHAM, a parish in the hundred of **WILLEY**, county of **BEDFORD**, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles (W. by N.) from **Bedford**, containing 393 inhabitants. The living is a discharged

vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Bedford, and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £8, endowed with £400 private benefaction, and £600 royal bounty, and in the patronage of Viscount Hampden. The church is dedicated to St. James.

BIDDESCOTE, a township in that part of the parish of TAMWORTH which is in the southern division of the hundred of OFFLOW, county of STAFFORD, 1 mile (S. S. W.) from Tamworth, containing 70 inhabitants.

BIDDESHAM, a parish in the hundred of BEMPSTONE, county of SOMERSET, 3 miles (W. by S.) from Axbridge, containing 136 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the peculiar jurisdiction of the Dean of Wells, and in the patronage of the Dean and Chapter thereof.

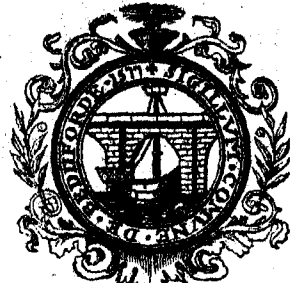
BIDDESTONE (ST. NICHOLAS and ST. PETER), a parish in the hundred of CHIPPENHAM, county of WILTS, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles (W.) from Chippenham, containing 414 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry of Wilts, and diocese of Salisbury, rated in the king's books at £2. 18. 4., and in the patronage of the Warden and Fellows of Winchester College. The church contains a monument to the memory of Edmund Smith, A.M., a poet of some repute, who died in this neighbourhood in 1709.

BIDDLESDON, a parish in the hundred and county of BUCKINGHAM, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N. E. by E.) from Brackley, containing 175 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of Buckingham, and diocese of Lincoln, endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £200 royal bounty, and in the patronage of Mrs. Verney. The church is dedicated to St. Margaret. An abbey of Cistercian monks was founded here in 1147, the revenue of which, at the dissolution, was £142. 1. 3. In 1315, Edward II. granted to the convent a market on Monday, and a fair on St. Margaret's day.

BIDDLESTON, a township in the parish of ALLENTON, western division of COQUETDALE ward, county of NORTHUMBERLAND, $7\frac{3}{4}$ miles (N. W. by W.) from Rothbury, containing 166 inhabitants. The manor was granted, in 1272, to Sir Walter Selby, Kut., and has ever since continued in the possession of his descendants. King James held this ancient family in such high estimation that he bestowed the honour of Knighthood upon five of its members. The manor-house, a commodious stone building of modern erection, occupies the summit of a gentle declivity, commanding, on the south, a fine prospect of the vale of Coquet.

BIDDULPH, a parish in the northern division of the hundred of PIREHILL, county of STAFFORD, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S. E. by S.) from Congleton, containing 1666 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Stafford, and diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, rated in the king's books at £4. 9. 8., endowed with £400 private benefaction, £200 royal bounty, and £900 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of J. Bateman, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Lawrence. On Biddulph moor there is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists. The parish contains collieries, manufactories for cotton and earthenware, and iron-works. It is in the honour of Tutbury, duchy of Lancaster, and within the jurisdiction of a court of pleas held at Tutbury every third Tuesday, for the recovery of debts under 40s. Here is a school with an endowment of about £12 per annum.

BIDEFORD, a sea-port, incorporated market town, and parish, having separate jurisdiction, locally in the hundred of Shebbear, county of DEVON, 39 miles (N. W. by W.) from Exeter, and 201 (W. by S.) from London, containing 4053 inhabitants. This place, called also *Bytheford*, of which its modern appellation is a variation, derives its name from being situated near an ancient ford on the river Torridge. It was a town of some importance in the time of the Saxons: in early records it is styled a borough, and in the reigns of Edward I. and II. returned members to parliament; but the burgesses having pleaded inability to supply the usual pecuniary allowance to their representatives, this distinction was withdrawn. In 1271, Richard de Grenville, to whose ancestor Bideford was granted in the reign of William Rufus, obtained for it a market and a fair; and, in 1574, Queen Elizabeth incorporated the inhabitants, and made the town a free borough. From that time it rapidly increased as a place of trade, and the expeditions of Sir Walter Raleigh to Virginia, and of Sir Richard Grenville to Carolina, established the basis of its foreign commerce. During the civil war in the reign of Charles I., two small forts were erected on the banks of the river, and a third at Appledore, which were garrisoned in the interest of the parliament, until they were taken for the king by Col. Digby, after the battle of Torrington, September 2nd, 1643, who soon after entered this town, which had been evacuated by the parliamentary troops. From this period till the beginning of the eighteenth century, Bideford was in its highest prosperity. The weaving of silk was introduced in 1650, and, after the revocation of the edict of Nantes, in 1685, many French Protestants settled in the town, and established the manufacture of silk and cotton; a great quantity of wool was imported from Spain, and, in 1699, its trade with Newfoundland was inferior only to that of London and Exeter: from 1700 to 1755, the imports of tobacco exceeded those of every port, except London. The town is situated on the river Torridge, which in spring tides rises to the height of eighteen feet above the level of high water mark: the greater part is built on the acclivity of its western bank, and is connected with that on the eastern side by a noble stone bridge of twenty-four arches, of sufficient span to allow free passage for vessels of sixty tons' burden. The bridge was erected in the early part of the fourteenth century, by a subscription raised in the counties of Devon and Cornwall, under the auspices of Grandison, Bishop of Exeter, who, being influenced by a dream of Gornard, the parish priest, granted indulgences to all who should contribute to the work: an estate, called the Bridge estate, for keeping it in repair, is vested in trustees, who are a body corporate, and have a common seal. The town consists principally of two spacious streets, well paved and lighted; the houses are in general indifferently built, many of them being of timber and brick, plastered over, though there are some of more respectable appearance: the inhabitants are amply supplied with water. Its vicinity to Apple-



Corporate Seal.

dore renders Bideford a place of resort for company frequenting that watering-place: there are assembly-rooms on the quay. The port, including within its jurisdiction the harbours of Clovelly and Hartland, and a convenient station for wind-bound vessels, carries on a considerable colonial and coasting trade: the exports are sails, cordage, and articles of general supply to the fisheries of Newfoundland, oak-bark to Ireland, apples to Scotland, earthenware to Wales, and corn and flour to Bristol; the imports are timber from America and the Baltic, and coal from Bristol and Wales. The river, in spring tides, is navigable for vessels of three hundred tons' burden, as far as the bridge, two miles and a half above which it is connected, by means of a sea-lock, with the Torrington canal. The quay, one thousand two hundred feet in length, and of proportionate breadth, has been greatly improved by the corporation; it is very convenient for loading and unloading, and is accessible to ships of considerable burden. The number of vessels belonging to the port, according to the return of 1828, is ninety-nine, averaging a burden of ninety tons; the majority of which are employed in the coasting trade: there are also one hundred and sixty licensed boats engaged in the fishery. Ship-building is extensively carried on: during the late war, several frigates were launched at this port, and there are eight or ten dock-yards, in which smaller vessels are built. The principal articles of manufacture are ropes, sails, and common earthenware; there are also several tanyards, and a small lace-manufactory. The market days are, Tuesday for grain, and Saturday for provisions: fairs are held on February 14th, July 18th, and November 13th. The government, by charter of incorporation granted in the 16th of Elizabeth, and confirmed and extended in the 7th of James I., is vested in a mayor, recorder, seven aldermen, and ten burgesses, assisted by a town clerk, two sergeants at mace, and subordinate officers. The mayor (who is chosen by the corporation on the 21st of September), the recorder, and one of the aldermen (who is annually elected for that purpose), are justices of the peace; a chief constable, and twelve petty constables, are appointed annually by the mayor. The corporation hold a court of general session quarterly, a court of petty session monthly, and a court of record every third week, for the recovery of debts to any amount. The town hall, erected in 1698, is a neat and commodious building; underneath are two prisons, one for malefactors, and the other for debtors: a handsome hall was erected in 1758, for the trustees of the Bridge estate, with a school-room adjoining.

The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Barnstaple, and diocese of Exeter, rated in the king's books at £27. 7. 6., and in the patronage of Lewis William Buck, Esq. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a spacious cruciform structure, in the early style of English architecture; within are a handsome stone screen, a Norman font, and some interesting monuments. There are places of worship for Baptists, Independents, and Wesleyan Methodists. The free grammar school is of remote foundation: it was rebuilt in 1657, and, in 1689, was endowed by Mrs. Susannah Stucley, with an estate of £200 value; a good house was purchased for the master with money arising from the sale of timber on the estate: there are at present only three boys on the foundation, who are

nominated by the corporation. A charity school for reading, writing, and arithmetic, is supported by the trustees of the Bridge estate; and a National school, in which one hundred and fifty boys, and one hundred and fifty girls are taught, besides other schools for the children of dissenters, are supported by subscription. Almshouses in Maiden-street, for seven poor families, were erected in 1646, by Mr. John Strange, alderman of Bideford; and an hospital in the Old town, for twelve poor families, was built pursuant to the will of Mr. Henry Amory, who died in 1663. In 1810, Mrs. Margaret Newcomen left a considerable fund for poor dissenters in this and the neighbouring parishes. Mines of culm and black mineral paint are found in the vicinity. Sir Richard Grenville, who was a native of this town, distinguished himself in 1591, in an action fought near the island of Flores, with a Spanish fleet, consisting of fifty-three sail, and ten thousand men, having only his own ship, and one hundred and eighty men; notwithstanding this inferiority of force, he gallantly repulsed the enemy fifteen times, destroyed four of their ships, and upwards of one thousand men, nor did he surrender till he had spent all his ammunition, and then only on honourable terms. Thomas Stucley, an eccentric character, the supposed original of Sterne's Captain Shandy; Dr. John Shebbeare, a noted political writer, born in 1709; the Rev. Zachary Mudge, a learned divine, and master of the grammar school; were also natives of this place. Hervey, author of the "Meditations," was curate here from 1738 till 1742.

BIDFORD, a parish (formerly a market town) in the Stratford division of the hundred of BARLICHWAY, county of WARWICK, 4 miles (S. by E.) from Alcester, comprising the hamlets of Barton, Broom, and Marlclift, and containing 1219 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Worcester, rated in the king's books at £7. 10. 7½., endowed with £800 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of Lady Skipwith. The church is dedicated to St. Lawrence. This place stands on the northern bank of the navigable river Avon, and the river Arrow runs through the parish, in which there are several stone quarries. The market was held on Friday, but it has long been discontinued.

BIDICK (SOUTH), a township in the parish of HOUGHTON le SPRING, northern division of EASINGTON ward, county palatine of DURHAM, 6½ miles (S. W. by W.) from Sunderland, containing 167 inhabitants. The unfortunate James Drummoud, commonly called Duke of Perth, sought an asylum here after the rebellion of 1745, where he lived concealed until his death in 1782.

BIDSTONE, a parish in the lower division of the hundred of WIRRAL, county palatine of CHESTER, comprising the chapelry of Birkenhead, and the townships of Bidstone with Ford, Cloughton with Grange, Moreton, and Saughall-Massey, and containing 1014 inhabitants, of which number, 257 are in the township of Bidstone with Ford, 9½ miles (N.) from Great Neston. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Chester, endowed with £200 and £35 per annum private benefaction, £200 royal bounty, and £1300 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of the Bishop of Chester. A lighthouse, standing on an elevated site in this township, was purchased by the

corporation of Liverpool, under an act obtained in 1762, and is supported by a duty levied on all vessels sailing to or from that port. A school is endowed with £8 per annum, and a house and garden for the master.

BIERLEY (NORTH), a chapelry in the parish of **BRADFORD**, wapentake of **MORLEY**, West riding of the county of **YORK**, 2 miles (S.E. by S.) from Bradford, containing 6070 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry and diocese of York, endowed with £1800 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of Miss Currer. The chapel lately received an addition of three hundred and twenty free sittings, toward defraying the expense of which the Incorporated Society for the enlargement of churches and chapels granted £200. There are extensive iron-works within this chapelry, and throughout the entire parish the woollen manufacture prevails to a very considerable extent.

BIERTON, a parish in the hundred of **AYLESBURY**, county of **BUCKINGHAM**, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile (N.E. by E.) from Aylesbury, containing, with the hamlet of Broughton, 620 inhabitants. The living is a vicarage, with the perpetual curacies of Quarrendon and Stoke-Mandeville annexed, in the peculiar jurisdiction and patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £20. 10. The church is dedicated to St. James. A school is endowed with £10 per annum; and Mr. Hill, in 1723, gave property, directing the proceeds to be applied in clothing poor men, and in educating and apprenticing children.

BIGBURY, a parish in the hundred of **ERMINGTON**, county of **DEVON**, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S.) from Modbury, containing 536 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Totness, and diocese of Exeter, rated in the king's books at £28. 7. 11., and in the patronage of P. Browne, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Lawrence. The parish is bounded on the east by the river Avon, which falls into Bigbury bay, an inlet of the English channel, the navigation of which is somewhat dangerous: the coast is indented with several coves, which afford convenient retreats for smugglers.

BIGBY, a parish in the southern division of the wapentake of **YARBOROUGH**, parts of **LINDSEY**, county of **LINCOLN**, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles (E.) from Glandford-Bridge, containing 190 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £13. 10. 10., and in the patronage of Robert C. Elwes, Esq. The church is dedicated to All Saints.

BIGGE'S, or CARLISLE'S, QUARTER, a township in the parish of **LONG HORSLEY**, western division of **MORPETH** ward, county of **NORTHUMBERLAND**, containing 262 inhabitants.

BIGGIN, a township in that part of the parish of **WIKSWORTH** which is in the hundred of **APPLETREE**, county of **DERBY**, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles (E. by N.) from Ashbourn, containing 160 inhabitants. This place is in the honour of Tutbury, duchy of Lancaster, and within the jurisdiction of a court of pleas held at Tutbury every third Tuesday, for the recovery of debts under 40s. Here was formerly a church, or chapel, but for many years not even the site of it has been known.

BIGGIN, a township in the parish of **KIRK-FENTON**, partly within the liberty of **ST. PETER** of **YORK**,

East riding, and partly in the upper division of the wapentake of **BARKESTONE-ASH**, West riding, of the county of **YORK**, $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles (W.N.W.) from Selby, containing 164 inhabitants. The plant teasel (*Dipsacus Fullonum*), used in dressing woollen cloth, is said to have been first cultivated here in this county.

BIGGLESWADE, a market town and parish in the hundred of **BIGGLESWADE**, county of **BEDFORD**, $10\frac{1}{2}$ miles (E.S.E.) from Bedford, and 45 (N.N.W.) from London, on the road to York, containing, with the hamlet of Holme with Stratton, 2778 inhabitants. This town is pleasantly situated on the river Ivel, which is crossed by two stone bridges, and which, by act of parliament, has been made navigable to its junction with the Ouse, whereby the neighbourhood is supplied with coal, timber, and various articles of merchandise. A considerable part of the town was destroyed by fire in 1785, to which circumstance its improved condition and handsome appearance may be attributed. The houses are uniformly built of brick, the air is pure and salubrious, and the inhabitants are amply supplied with excellent water from numerous springs. The environs, abounding with elegant villas and picturesque scenery, present a pleasing appearance. The making of white thread-lace and edging affords employment to a considerable part of the female population; but the town derives its principal support from being situated on the north road, whence the continued traffic it enjoys. The market, which is on Wednesday, is considerable for grain: fairs are held on February 13th, the Saturday in Easter week, Whit-Monday, August 2nd, and November 8th, for horses and live stock of every kind. The town is within the jurisdiction of the county magistrates, who hold a petty session for the hundreds of Biggleswade, Clifton, and Wixamtree.

The living is a discharged vicarage, in the peculiar jurisdiction and patronage of the Prebendary of Biggleswade in the Cathedral Church of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £10. The church, dedicated to St. Andrew, and formerly collegiate, is an ancient and venerable structure, in the early style of English architecture; the chancel was rebuilt in 1467, by John Reeding, Archdeacon of Bedford, whose arms are carved on some ancient wooden stalls in the north aisle. A chantry belonging to the guild of the Holy Trinity was anciently founded in the church, the revenue of which, at the dissolution, was £7. There are places of worship for Baptists and Wesleyan Methodists. Sir John Cotton, in 1726, bequeathed £1800 for charitable uses, directing it to be laid out in the purchase of lands, two-ninths of the rental of which were to be given as a salary to a schoolmaster, who, together with the boys, is nominated by the lord of the manor, and one-ninth to the vicar of the parish: the proceeds are about £36 per annum; twelve boys are taught gratuitously. There is also an endowment of £13 a year, given by Edward Peake, in 1755, for the instruction of eight more children. In 1770, a yellow earthen pot, containing three hundred gold coins of the reign of Henry VI., was discovered by a ploughman, in a field near the manor-house; they were rather larger in diameter than a half-crown, and twenty grains less in weight than a guinea. On the obverse was a ship, with the figure of a king in armour, holding in one hand a sword, and in the other a shield, on which were quartered the arms of England and

France; on the side of the ship was a lion passant, between two fleurs de lis: on the reverse was a cross between four lions passant, crowned with the legend "*Jesus autem transiens per medium illorum ibat.*"

BIGHTON, a parish in the hundred of **BISHOP'S SUTTON**, Alton (North) division of the county of **SOUTHAMPTON**, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile (N. E. by E.) from New Alresford, containing 231 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Winchester, rated in the king's books at £19. 8. $1\frac{1}{2}$., and in the patronage of the Duke of Buckingham. The church is dedicated to All Saints. Bighton is within the jurisdiction of the Cheyney Court held at Winchester every Thursday, for the recovery of debts to any amount.

BIGLANDS, a joint township with Gamelsby, in the parish of **AIKTON**, ward and county of **CUMBERLAND**, 4 miles (N.) from Wigton, containing, with Gamelsby, 191 inhabitants. A sulphureous spring was discovered here about 1775, the water of which is much used for cutaneous complaints.

BIGNALL-END, a township in the parish of **AUDLEY**, northern division of the hundred of **PIREHILL**, county of **STAFFORD**, containing 308 inhabitants.

BIGNOR, a parish in the hundred of **BURY**, rape of **ARUNDEL**, county of **SUSSEX**, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S. by E.) from Petworth, containing 138 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Chichester, rated in the king's books at £8. 3. $6\frac{1}{2}$., and in the patronage of the Crown. The church is chiefly in the early English style, but has some decorated portions intermixed. There are vestiges of a Roman pavement at a short distance eastward from the village.

BILBOROUGH, a parish in the southern division of the wapentake of **BROXTOW**, county of **NOTTINGHAM**, 4 miles (W. N. W.) from Nottingham, containing 291 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry of Nottingham, and diocese of York, rated in the king's books at £3. 12. 6., and in the patronage of T. Webb Edge, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Martin. Here are some coal-works. The hamlet of Broxtow, in this parish, was anciently a place of considerable importance, having given name to the wapentake.

BILBROUGH, a parish in the ainsty of the city, and East riding of the county, of **YORK**, $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles (N.E.) from Tadcaster, containing 260 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry and diocese of York, and in the patronage of T. L. Fairfax, Esq. Thomas, Lord Fairfax, the celebrated parliamentary general, who died in 1671, was interred in the church here. A school is endowed with about £15 per annum, for the instruction of twenty-two children.

BILBY, a joint township with Barnby-Moor, in that part of the parish of **BLYTH** which is in the Hatfield division of the wapentake of **BASSETLAW**, county of **NOTTINGHAM**, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles (W. N. W.) from East Retford. The population is returned with Barnby-Moor.

BILDESTON, or **BILSON**, a parish (formerly a market town) in the hundred of **COSFORD**, county of **SURREY**, $14\frac{1}{2}$ miles (W. N. W.) from Ipswich, and 66 (N. E. by N.) from London, containing 814 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Sudbury, and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £12. 18. $10\frac{1}{2}$., and in the patronage of the Rev. Charles Johnson. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a

handsome spacious structure. There is a place of worship for Baptists. The manufacture of blankets and woollen cloth was formerly carried on here; but at present the chief employment of the inhabitants consists in spinning yarn. The market, now disused, was held on Wednesday: there are fairs on Ash-Wednesday and Holy Thursday. In 1535, a school-house was given to the parish, but the name of the donor has not been preserved.

BILHAM, a township in that part of the parish of **HOOTON-PAGNELL** which is in the northern division of the wapentake of **STRAFFORTH** and **TICKHILL**, West riding of the county of **YORK**, 7 miles (W. N. W.) from Doncaster, containing 74 inhabitants. Strata of coal and limestone, and a kind of sand used in the foundries at Rotherham and Sheffield, exist here.

BILLERICAY, a market town and chapelry in the parish of **GREAT BURSTEAD**, hundred of **BARSTABLE**, county of **ESSEX**, $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S. S. W.) from Chelmsford, and 24 (E. N. E.) from London. The population is returned with the parish. The name, anciently *Belunca*, is of uncertain derivation, and of the history of the place, few particulars of importance are recorded. From the discovery of Roman urns containing bones, glass vessels, and other relics, and from the traces of a Roman vallum and ditch at Blunt's Walls, nearly a mile distant, this place appears to have been not unknown to the Romans, who had probably a station here, though the exact site has not been ascertained. The town is pleasantly situated on an eminence overlooking an extensive and richly cultivated vale, and commanding a fine prospect of the surrounding country, which abounds with beautiful scenery, and a distant view of the shipping on the Thames: it has of late been much improved by the erection of several large and well-built houses. The only branches of manufacture are those of silk braid laces and wire riband, and they are at present declining. The market is on Tuesday: fairs are held on August 2nd and October 9th, principally for cattle. Courts leet and baron are held occasionally, at the former of which constables and other officers for the internal regulation of the town are appointed. The living is a perpetual curacy, annexed to the vicarage of Great Burstead, in the archdeaconry of Essex, and diocese of London, endowed with £1200 parliamentary grant. The chapel, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene, is an ancient brick building in the centre of the town. There are places of worship for Baptists, the Society of Friends, and Independents. The Rev. Mr. Bayley, rector of Benfleet, in 1654, bequeathed an estate of £20 per annum for the education of ten poor children. There is a parochial almshouse for poor females.

BILLES DON, a parish in the hundred of **GARTREE**, county of **LEICESTER**, $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles (E. by S.) from Leicester, containing, with the chapelries of Goadby and Rolleston, 751 inhabitants. The living is a vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Leicester, and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £14. 10., and in the patronage of the Rev. H. Greene. The church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist. A school-house was built, in 1650, by William Sharp, which has since been endowed, by various benefactors, with property producing about £10 per annum. Here are some traces of a Roman camp, fortified with a deep ditch and a high rampart.

BILLESLEY, a parish in the Stratford division of the hundred of **BARLICHWAY**, county of **WARWICK**, $3\frac{3}{4}$ miles (W. N. W.) from Stratford upon Avon, containing 26 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Worcester, rated in the king's books at £5. 4. 7., endowed with £400 private benefaction, and £400 royal bounty, and in the patronage of M. and J. Mills, Esqrs. The church is dedicated to All Saints.

BILLING (GREAT), a parish in the hundred of **SPELHOE**, county of **NORTHAMPTON**, 4 miles (E. N. E.) from Northampton, containing 334 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Northampton, and diocese of Peterborough, rated in the king's books at £19, and in the patronage of the Principal and Fellows of Brasenose College, Oxford. The church is dedicated to St. Andrew. This parish has a communication with the North sea, through the Northampton canal and the river Nen. An almshouse was founded by John Freeman, Esq., in the reign of James I., for one man and four women. Sir Isaac Wake, a distinguished scholar and diplomatist in the same reign, was born here, in 1575.

BILLING (LITTLE), a parish in the hundred of **SPELHOE**, county of **NORTHAMPTON**, $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles (E. by N.) from Northampton, containing 76 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Northampton, and diocese of Peterborough, rated in the king's books at £10. 2. 11., and in the patronage of Earl Brownlow. The church is dedicated to All Saints. The river Nen passes through the parish.

BILLINGBOROUGH, a parish in the wapentake of **AVELAND**, parts of **KESTEVEN**, county of **LINCOLN**, 3 miles (E.) from Folkingham, containing 745 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £6. 1. 8., and in the patronage of Earl Fortescue. The church, dedicated to St. Andrew, has a fine tower and spire, and displays chiefly the decorated style of English architecture. Mary Toller, in 1671, gave land producing about £25 per annum, for the endowment of a free school.

BILLINGE (CHAPEL-END), a chapelry in that part of the parish of **WIGAN** which is in the hundred of **WEST DERBY**, county palatine of **LANCASTER**, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S. W.) from Wigan, containing 1002 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Chester, endowed with £200 private benefaction, £200 royal bounty, and £1000 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of the Rector of Wigan. The manufacture of cotton is here carried on to a limited extent. A charity school here has a trifling endowment.

BILLINGE (HIGHER-END), a township in that part of the parish of **WIGAN** which is in the hundred of **WEST DERBY**, county palatine of **LANCASTER**, 5 miles (W. S. W.) from Wigan, containing 670 inhabitants. A school here is endowed with £20 per annum.

BILLINGFORD, a parish in the hundred of **EARSHAM**, county of **NORFOLK**, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile (E.) from Scole, containing 190 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, with that of Little Thorpe annexed, in the archdeaconry of Norfolk, and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £9, and in the patronage of George Wilson, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Leonard.

BILLINGFORD, a parish in the hundred of **EYNSFORD**, county of **NORFOLK**, $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles (S. S. W.) from Foulsham, containing 248 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry of Norfolk, and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £7. 10., and in the patronage of T. W. Coke, Esq. A grant of a fair to be held here was obtained in the 33rd of Edward I. At Beck Hall, in this parish, now the property of Mr. Coke, an hospital, with a chapel dedicated to St. Thomas à Becket, was founded in the beginning of the reign of Henry III.

BILLINGHAM, a parish in the north-eastern division of **STOCKTON** ward, county palatine of **DURHAM**, comprising the chapelry of Wolviston, and the townships of Billingham, Cowpen-Bewley, and Newton-Bewley, and containing 1154 inhabitants, of which number, 395 are in the township of Billingham, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles (E.) from Stockton upon Tees. The living is a vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Durham, rated in the king's books at £11. 3. $1\frac{1}{2}$., and in the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Durham. The church is dedicated to St. Cuthbert. This is a place of considerable antiquity, having been the scene of a battle fought in the time of Eardulph, King of Northumberland. Here is a school with a small endowment.

BILLINGHAY, a parish in the first division of the wapentake of **LANGOE**, parts of **KESTEVEN**, county of **LINCOLN**, $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N. E.) from Sleaford, containing, with the chapelry of Walcott, and the township of Dogdyke, 1554 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £13. 14., and in the patronage of Earl Fitzwilliam. The church is dedicated to St. Michael. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists.

BILLINGLEY, a township in that part of the parish of **DARFIELD** which is in the northern division of the wapentake of **STRAFFORTH** and **TICKHILL**, West riding of the county of **YORK**, $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles (E. by S.) from Barnesley, containing 214 inhabitants.

BILLINGSHURST, a parish in the hundred of **WEST EASWRITH**, rape of **ARUNDEL**, county of **SUSSEX**, $6\frac{3}{4}$ miles (S. W. by W.) from Horsham, containing 1369 inhabitants, of which number, 794 are in East Billingshurst, and 575 in West Billingshurst. The living is a vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Chichester, rated in the king's books at £9. 6. $0\frac{1}{2}$., and in the patronage of Sir Harry Goring, Bart. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. There is a place of worship for Unitarians. The river Arun rises in this parish, and the Arun and Wey Junction canal passes through it: it is also intersected by a Roman road, called Stanestreet.

BILLINGSIDE, a township in that part of the parish of **LANCHESTER** which is in the western division of **CHESTER** ward, county palatine of **DURHAM**, 13 miles (N. W.) from Durham, containing 45 inhabitants.

BILLINGSLEY, a parish in the hundred of **STORTESDEN**, county of **SALOP**, $5\frac{1}{4}$ miles (S. by W.) from Bridgenorth, containing 176 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry of Salop, and diocese of Hereford, rated in the king's books at £4. 13. 4., endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £200 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Marquis of Cleveland. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. Under

the name *Billigesleage*, historians mention this place as the scene of a congress, in 1055, between King Harold and Griffin Prince of Wales, at which they engaged to observe mutual peace and amity. Dr. Thomas Hyde, Professor of Oriental Literature at Oxford, was born here, in 1636.

BILLINGTON, a chapelry in the parish of LEIGHTON-BUZZARD, hundred of MANSHEAD, county of BEDFORD, 2 miles (S. E.) from Leighton-Buzzard, containing 237 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, endowed with £200 parliamentary grant, and within the peculiar jurisdiction and patronage of the Prebendary of Leighton-Buzzard in the Cathedral Church of Lincoln.

BILLINGTON, a chapelry in the parish, and lower division of the hundred, of BLACKBURN, county palatine of LANCASTER, 5½ miles (N. N. E.) from Blackburn, containing 922 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Chester, endowed with £200 private benefaction, £600 royal bounty, and £600 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of the Vicar of Blackburn. Here is a free school, with an endowment of about £14 per annum.

BILLISBORROW, a township in the parish of GARSTANG, hundred of AMOUNDERNESS, county palatine of LANCASTER, 4½ miles (S. S. E.) from Garstang, containing 209 inhabitants. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists. John Cross, in 1718, bequeathed property producing about £46 per annum, for the endowment of a free school for children of the townships of Billisborrow and Myerscough.

BILLOCKBY, a parish in the western division of the hundred of FLEGG, county of NORFOLK, 2½ miles (N. E.) from Acle, containing 63 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £2. 8. 9., endowed with £400 royal bounty, and in the patronage of Charles Lucas, Esq. The church is dedicated to All Saints.

BILL-QUAY, a village in the chapelry of NETHER HEWORTH, parish of JARROW, eastern division of CHESTER ward, county palatine of DURHAM, 3½ miles (E.) from Gateshead. The population is returned with Nether Heworth. The village lies on the southern bank of the river Tyne. The Arkendale mining company have an extensive refinery here for extracting silver from lead-ore, and an establishment for making sheet lead; and there are manufactories for glass bottles, fire-bricks, colours, and mustard; also an establishment for the distillation of oil from bones, the calx of which, after having been reduced to ashes, is used in making ivory-black, &c.; there is likewise a yard for ship-building. In a deep dene, called Catdene, now overgrown with forest trees and thorns, are extensive quarries, from which it is said the stone was obtained for building the walls of Newcastle.

BILLY-ROW, a joint township with Crook, in the parish of BRANCPETH, north-western division of DARLINGTON ward, county palatine of DURHAM, 7 miles (N. W. by N.) from Bishop-Auckland. The population is returned with Crook.

BILNEY (EAST), a parish in the hundred of LAUNDRA, county of NORFOLK, 5 miles (N. N. W.) from East Dereham, containing 172 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese

of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £5. 14. 2., endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £200 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Rev. C. Munnings. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. Thomas Bilney, a learned divine, who was burnt at Norwich in 1531, for preaching against popery, is said to have been born here.

BILNEY (WEST), a parish in the Lynn division of the hundred of FREEBRIDGE, county of NORFOLK, 7 miles (S. E. by E.) from Lynn-Regis, containing 193 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Norwich, endowed with £600 royal bounty, and £200 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of John Dalton, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Cecilia.

BILSBY, a parish in the Wold division of the hundred of CALCEWORTH, parts of LINDSEY, county of LINCOLN, ¾ of a mile (E. by N.) from Alford, containing, with the hamlet of Thurlby, 416 inhabitants. The living is a vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £13. 3. 4., and in the patronage of Mrs. Wayet. The church is dedicated to the Holy Trinity. Here is a school with a small endowment.

BILSDALE (WEST SIDE), a township in the parish of HAWNSBY, wapentake of BIRDFORTH, North riding of the county of YORK, 8 miles (N. W. by N.) from Helmsley, containing 127 inhabitants. In 1757, John Smales and Gregory Elsley bequeathed £120. 5., directing the proceeds to be applied to teaching six poor boys of this township.

BILSDALE-MIDCABLE, a chapelry in the parish of HELMSLEY, wapentake of RYEDALE, North riding of the county of YORK, 7 miles (N. N. W.) from Helmsley, containing, with Bilsdale-Kirkham, 780 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of Cleveland, and diocese of York, endowed with £800 royal bounty, and £800 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of the Vicar of Helmsley. There is a meeting-house for the Society of Friends.

BILSINGTON, a parish partly in the liberty of ROMNEY-MARSH, but chiefly in the hundred of NEWCHURCH, lathe of SHEPWAY, county of KENT, 6½ miles (S. S. E.) from Ashford, containing 299 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Canterbury, endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £200 royal bounty, and in the patronage of T. Rider, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. A fair, formerly called Woodstock fair, is held here on July 5th. The Grand Military, or Shorncliffe and Rye, canal passes through the parish. There are some remains of a priory of Augustine canons, founded in 1253, the revenue of which, at the dissolution, was £81. 1. 6.

BILSTHORPE, a parish in the South-clay division of the wapentake of BASSETLAW, county of NOTTINGHAM, 5 miles (S.) from Ollerton, containing 252 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry of Nottingham, and diocese of York, rated in the king's books at £5. 1. 8., and in the patronage of the Rev. Lumley Savile. The church is dedicated to St. Margaret.

BILSTON, a market town and chapelry in that part of the parish of WOLVERHAMPTON which is in the northern division of the hundred of SEISDON, coun

ty of STAFFORD, 3 miles (S. E.) from Wolverhampton, 19 (S. by E.) from Stafford, and 120 (N. W.) from London, containing 12,003 inhabitants. This place, formerly belonging to the portionists, or prebendaries, of Wolverhampton, and in their charter called *Bilereton*, was a royal demesne at the time of the Conquest, and in the reign of Edward III., under the name *Billestone*, was certified to be free of toll. Previously to the introduction of the iron-works, Bilston contained only a few private houses; but, from the abundance and rich quality of its mines of coal and iron-stone, it rapidly increased in extent and population, and has become one of the largest towns in the county. The town is situated on rising ground, in the centre of an extensive district abounding with numerous foundries, forges, furnaces, steam-engines, and other works necessary for the various processes of the iron trade, of which the smoke by day, and the fires by night, present a scene singularly impressive and terrific. It is irregularly built, and is nearly two miles in length: the principal streets contain several substantial and handsome houses, and throughout the neighbourhood are scattered in every direction the numerous habitations of persons employed in the different works. The manufacture of tin, japanned and enamelled wares of every kind, iron-wire, nails, screws, iron-gates, pallisades, machinery, steam-engines, and all the heavier articles in the iron trade, is carried on to a very considerable extent: there are several mills for slitting the pig-iron into bars, and many iron and brass foundries. Clay, of which the coarser kind of pottery-ware is made, and a particularly fine sand for casting, are found in great abundance: there are also quarries of a species of very hard stone, much esteemed for grindstones, troughs, and for building; it lies in horizontal strata of twelve layers, gradually increasing in thickness from the surface. The Birmingham and Staffordshire canal, which passes near the town, and several branch canals in the vicinity, afford the means of conveying the manufactures of the town, the produce of the mines, and the massive productions of the foundries, to various parts of the kingdom. The market days, established by an act of parliament obtained in 1825, are Monday and Saturday; and the fairs, which are toll-free, are on Whit-Monday and the Monday preceding the Michaelmas fair at Birmingham. Constables and other officers are appointed at the court leet of the lord of the manor. A court of requests, for the recovery of debts not exceeding £5, is held under an act passed in the 48th of George III., the jurisdiction of which extends over the townships of Bilston and Willenhall, and the parishes of Wednesbury and Darlaston, excepting the manor of Bradley, which is within the jurisdiction of a similar court previously established at Oldbury. The living is a perpetual curacy, within the jurisdiction of the court of the royal peculiar of Wolverhampton, endowed with £400 private benefaction, and £400 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the resident householders. The chapel, dedicated to St. Leonard, was rebuilt in 1826. A church, dedicated to St. Mary, and containing nine hundred and fifty-six free sittings, was erected in 1829, at an expense of £7223. 6. 1., part of which was defrayed by grant from the parliamentary commissioners; it is an elegant structure in the later style of English architecture, with a handsome tower. There are places

of worship for Baptists, Independents, and Primitive and Wesleyan Methodists. A Blue-coat school was founded and endowed by Humphrey Perry, Esq., of Stafford, for clothing and instructing six boys, since which it has received a trifling bequest for the education of two more.

BILSTONE, a chapelry in the parish of NORTON juxta TWYCCROSS, hundred of SPARKENHOE, county of LEICESTER, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N. W. by W.) from Market-Bosworth, containing 176 inhabitants. It is in the honour of Tutbury, duchy of Lancaster, and within the jurisdiction of a court of pleas held at Tutbury every third Tuesday, for the recovery of debts under 40s.

BILTON, a parish in the Rugby division of the hundred of KNIGHTLOW, county of WARWICK, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile (W. S. W.) from Rugby, containing 401 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Coventry, and diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, rated in the king's books at £16. 10. 7½., and in the patronage of the Rev. J. T. Parker. The church, dedicated to St. Mark, is principally Norman, of which style it exhibits some good specimens; the tower and spire are of later date. Bilton Hall, with the estate belonging to it, was purchased, in the early part of the last century, by Joseph Addison, Esq., the poet and moralist, who spent a considerable portion of the latter part of his life here, where he wrote his "Evidences of the Christian Religion." Miss Addison, his only child, retired hither towards the close of her life, where she died, in 1797. A school was endowed with £20 per annum, the bequest of Langton Freeman, Esq., in 1783.

BILTON, a chapelry in that part of the parish of SWINE which is in the middle division of the wapentake of HOLDERNESS, East riding of the county of YORK, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N. E.) from Kingston upon Hull, containing 91 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of the East riding, and diocese of York, endowed with £400 private benefaction, and £800 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Hon. and Rev. W. H. Dawnay. The chapel is dedicated to St. Peter.

BILTON, a parish within the ainsty of the city, and East riding of the county, of YORK, comprising the townships of Bickerton, Bilton, and Tockwith, and containing 808 inhabitants, of which number, 223 are in the township of Bilton, 5 miles (E. by N.) from Wetherby. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the peculiar jurisdiction and patronage of the Prebendary of Bilton in the Cathedral Church of York, rated in the king's books at £3. 16. 0½., endowed with £400 private benefaction, £200 royal bounty, and £300 parliamentary grant. The church is dedicated to St. Helen. At Syningthwaite, in this parish, Bertram Haget, in 1160, founded a Cistercian nunnery for a prioress and twelve nuns, in honour of the Blessed Virgin, which, at the dissolution, had a revenue of £62. 6.

BILTON, a joint township with Harrogate, in that part of the parish of KNARESBOROUGH which is in the lower division of the wapentake of CLABO, West riding of the county of YORK, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles (W.) from Knareborough. The population is returned with Harrogate. A free school is endowed with about £20 per annum, given by Richard Taylor, in 1785. In the neighbourhood are several petrifying springs, and one with a sulphureous impregnation.

BINACRE, a parish in the hundred of **BLYTHING**, county of **SUFFOLK**, 6 miles (N. by E.) from Southwold, containing 224 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, with that of Easton-Bavents and the vicarage of North Hales consolidated, in the archdeaconry of Suffolk, and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £18, and in the patronage of Sir T. S. Gooch, Bart. The church is dedicated to St. Michael. About half a mile from the sea is Binacre Broad, a sheet of fresh water comprising an area of one hundred acres, and abounding with pike and other fish. About fifty years ago, in forming a new turnpike road from Yarmouth to London, through Binacre, the workmen discovered an urn containing coins of Vespasian, Trajan, Adrian, Antoninus Pius, and Marcus Aurelius.

BINBROOKE, a village (formerly a market town) comprising the parishes of St. Gabriel and St. Mary, in the southern division of the wapentake of **WALSHCROFT**, parts of **LINDSEY**, county of **LINCOLN**, 8 miles (E. N. E.) from Market-Rasen. St. Gabriel's, containing 497 inhabitants, is a discharged vicarage, within the peculiar jurisdiction of the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £8, endowed with £200 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Prebendary of Milton in the Cathedral Church of Lincoln. St. Mary's, containing, with the extra-parochial liberty of Orforth, 293 inhabitants, is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £10. 4. 2., and in the patronage of the Crown. The Wesleyan Methodists have a place of worship here. There are extensive rabbit-warrens in the neighbourhood, and considerable business is done in the dressing of skins for furriers. A fair is held on Easter-Tuesday, on which day there are also horse-races. Here is a charity school.

BINCHESTER, a township in that part of the parish of **ST. ANDREW AUCKLAND** which is in the north-western division of **DARLINGTON** ward, county palatine of **DURHAM**, 2 miles (N. by E.) from Bishop-Auckland, containing 49 inhabitants. Bincchester appears to have been a Roman station, called *Vinovia* by Antoninus, and *Binovium* by Ptolemy, situated on the Fosse-way. Mr. Cade considers it to have been sacred to Bacchus, and to have derived its name, *Vinovium*, from the festivals held at it, in honour of that deity. The fortress occupied an elevated site rising from the bank of the river Wear, and the station comprised a plot of about twenty-nine acres of ground, within which, and in its vicinity, the remains of a hypocaust, altars, urns, and other relics, have been found.

BINCOMBE, a parish in the liberty of **FRAMPTON**, Bridport division of the county of **DORSET**, 5 miles (S. by W.) from Dorchester, containing 178 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, annexed to that of Broadway, in the archdeaconry of Dorset, and diocese of Bristol, rated in the king's books at £9. 1. 5½. The church is dedicated to the Holy Trinity. The river Way runs through the parish, in which are quarries of fine stone, and a mineral spring. Numerous barrows are visible on the neighbouring downs.

BINDERTON, a chapelry in the parish of **WEST DEAN**, hundred of **WATTSBOURN** and **SINGLETON**, rape of **CHICHESTER**, county of **SUSSEX**, 4 miles (N.) from Chichester, containing 67 inhabitants. The chapel is not in use, and is said to be unconsecrated.

BINEGAR, a parish in the hundred of **WELLS-FORUM**, county of **SOMERSET**, 4 miles (N.) from Shepton-Mallet, containing 363 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, within the peculiar jurisdiction of the Dean of Wells, rated in the king's books at £13. 12. 8½., and in the patronage of the Prebendary of Whitchurch in the Cathedral Church of Wells. The church is dedicated to the Holy Trinity. A large fair, noted for the sale of horses, formerly held at Wells, was removed hither in the seventeenth century, in consequence of the plague, and is held during the whole of Whitsun-week.

BINFIELD, a parish in the hundred of **COOKHAM**, county of **BERKS**, 3 miles (N. E.) from Wokingham, containing 1057 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Berks, and diocese of Salisbury, rated in the king's books at £18. 17. 1., and in the patronage of the Crown. The church is dedicated to All Saints. A National school is endowed with about £23 per annum. Pope, the poet, in the early part of his life, resided with his father in this village, where he wrote his poem entitled "Windsor Forest." Traces of a large intrenchment, called Caesar's Camp, supposed to have been occupied by Julius Caesar during his invasion of Britain, are still visible.

BINGFIELD, a chapelry in the parish of **ST. JOHN LEE**, southern division of **TINDALE** ward, county of **NORTHUMBERLAND**, 6½ miles (N.N.E.) from Hexham, containing 111 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, within the jurisdiction of the peculiar court of Hexham, belonging to the Archbishop of York, endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £600 royal bounty, and in the patronage of Col. and Mrs. Beaumont. The chapel is dedicated to St. Mary. A school here is endowed with £10 per annum. Near the Erring-bourn, a little northward from the village, there is a mineral spring, the water of which is so powerful, that neither fish nor any kind of insect can live in it.

BINGHAM, a market town and parish in the northern division of the wapentake of **BINGHAM**, county of **NOTTINGHAM**, 10 miles (E.) from Nottingham, and 123 (N. W. by N.) from London, containing, with part of the township of Newton, 1574 inhabitants. This place, which, previously to the Conquest, was possessed by two Saxon chieftains, appears to have been anciently more extensive than at present: it had a college, or guild, founded in honour of St. Mary. The town is pleasantly situated in the fertile vale of Belvoir, and consists principally of two parallel streets, one of which leads directly into a spacious market-place; some smaller streets have been formed within the last twenty years. The houses, though irregularly built, are neat, and several of them are of handsome appearance: the town is well paved, and amply supplied with water. The market is on Thursday: fairs are held on February 13th and 14th, for draught horses, on Whit-Monday for toys, and November 8th and 9th for young horses and hogs. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Nottingham, and diocese of York, rated in the king's books at £44. 7. 11., and in the patronage of the Earl of Chesterfield. The church, dedicated to All Saints, is an ancient and spacious cruciform structure, partaking of the early and decorated styles of English architecture, with a square embattled and highly enriched tower, crowned with the remains of

statues, which have been substituted for pinnacles, and surmounted by a lofty spire, which, with the upper stage of the tower, is of later erection: within the church are some beautiful specimens of foliage and sculpture, of elegant design and elaborate execution. There are places of worship for Primitive and Wesleyan Methodists. An endowment of £8 per annum, for a free school, has been augmented with a dividend of £10 per annum, payable on the sum of £150, raised by the performance of plays, and invested in the Nottingham and Grantham canal, by a few individuals of the town. The Roman Fosse-way, in its course through the parish, passes by a large mound, called Castle Hill, the site of an ancient fortress. Mr. Robert White, the astronomer, and editor of the *Ephemeris* which bears his name, was a native of this parish, and is interred here; a mural tablet in the church has been inscribed to his memory. Abbot, Archbishop of Canterbury; Wren, Bishop of Ely; and Hanmer, Bishop of Bangor; were successively rectors of this parish, from which they were promoted to their respective sees, in the seventeenth century.

BINGLEY, a parish in the upper division of the wapentake of **SKYRACK**, West riding of the county of **YORK**, comprising the market town of Bingley, and the township of East and West Morton, and containing 7375 inhabitants, of which number, 6176 are in the town of Bingley (including Micklethwaite), 37 miles (W.S.W.) from York, and 202 (N.N.W.) from London. This place is pleasantly situated on an eminence near the river Aire, and consists principally of one long street, containing several respectable and well-built houses; it is plentifully supplied with water: the air is salubrious, and the environs, which are richly wooded, abound with agreeable and diversified scenery. A news-room has been recently established, which is well conducted and liberally supported. The principal branch of manufacture is that of worsted yarn, which is extensively carried on in the town and neighbourhood: there are some smaller factories for the spinning of cotton, and a manufactory for paper, together with a considerable trade in malt: the Leeds and Liverpool canal passes near the town. The market is on Tuesday: fairs are held on January 25th, and August 25th, 26th, and 27th, for linen, horses, and horned cattle. The living is a discharged vicarage, within the peculiar jurisdiction of the court of the manors of Crossley, Bingley, and Pudsey, rated in the king's books at £7. 6. 8., endowed with £400 private benefaction, £200 royal bounty, and £300 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of the Crown. The church, dedicated to All Saints, is a neat edifice, in the later style of English architecture. There are places of worship for Baptists, Independents, and Methodists. The free grammar school was founded in the reign of Henry VIII., and endowed with land and tenements producing at present nearly £300 per annum, subject to certain payments to the poor: the premises comprise a large school-room, and a house and garden for the master. There is also a National school, capable of admitting eight hundred scholars. Mrs. Sarah Rhodes, in 1784, gave five cottages, which she endowed as almshouses for five aged widows, who receive £3 per annum each: there are also several bequests for distribution in bread and clothes among the poor, and for other charitable uses.

BING-WESTON, a quarter in that part of the parish of **WORTHEN** which is in the hundred of **CHIRBURY**, county of **SALOP**, containing, with Beachfield, Walton, and Rewins-Farm, 155 inhabitants.

BINHAM, a parish in the northern division of the hundred of **GREENHOE**, county of **NORFOLK**, 4 miles (N.E. by E.) from Little Walsingham, containing 438 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £6. 13. 4., endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £800 royal bounty, and in the patronage of T. T. Clarke, Esq. The church, dedicated to the Holy Cross, belonged to a Benedictine priory, founded in the reign of Henry I., the revenue of which, at the dissolution, was £160. 1.: the western front affords a fine specimen of the early style of English architecture.

BINLEY, a parish in the Kirby division of the hundred of **KNIGHTLOW**, county of **WARWICK**, 2½ miles (E. by S.) from Coventry, containing, with the liberty of Earnsford, 211 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of Coventry, and diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, and in the patronage of Earl Craven. The church, dedicated to St. Bartholomew, was built by Lord Craven, and consecrated in 1772. The Rev. Thomas Wagstaffe, who wrote a defence of Charles I., was born here, and died at Rouen in 1770.

BINNINGTON, a township in the parish of **WILLERBY**, wapentake of **DICKERING**, East riding of the county of **YORK**, 8 miles (S.W. by S.) from Scarborough, containing 50 inhabitants.

BINSEY, a parish within the liberty of the city of **OXFORD**, locally in the hundred of Wootton, county of **OXFORD**, 2 miles (N.W.) from Oxford, containing 82 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Oxford, endowed with £600 private benefaction, and £600 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Dean and Canons of Christ Church Oxford. The church, dedicated to St. Margaret, is an ancient structure.

BINSTEAD, a parish in the liberty of **EAST MEDINA**, Isle of Wight division of the county of **SOUTHAMPTON**, 5½ miles (E.N.E.) from Newport, containing 225 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory in the archdeaconry and diocese of Winchester, rated in the king's books at £1. 7. 1., and in the patronage of the Bishop of Winchester. The church, dedicated to the Holy Cross, exhibits marks of considerable antiquity, particularly in the arch which separates the nave from the chancel, and another in the north wall, now filled up. In the vicinity are the ancient quarries from which part of the stone used in the erection of Winchester cathedral was obtained. At Quarr, in this parish, there are remains of an abbey of Cistercian monks, which was founded, in 1132, by Baldwin de Redveris, afterwards Earl of Devonshire; its revenue, at the dissolution, was £184. 1. 10. Their situation is very fine, having the sea on the north, and thick woods to the south and east. Most of the boundary wall, including above thirty acres, is yet standing, together with the remains of two gates, which formed the north and south entrances. The refectory, the only entire part of the buildings, is now a barn, and another part of the site is occupied by a farm-house erected out of

the ruins. It was the burial-place of several distinguished persons, amongst whom were Earl Baldwin, its founder, and his countess Adeliza.

BINSTED, a parish in the hundred of **ALTON**, Alton (North) division of the county of **SOUTHAMPTON**, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (E. by N.) from Alton, containing 946 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, annexed to the vicarage of Alton, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Winchester. The church is dedicated to St. Nicholas. Binsted is entitled to send five children to St. Andrew's school in Holyburn. It is within the jurisdiction of the Cheyney Court held at Winchester every Thursday, for the recovery of debts to any amount.

BINSTED, a parish in the hundred of **AVISFORD**, rape of **ARUNDEL**, county of **SUSSEX**, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (W. by S.) from Arundel, containing 98 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Chichester, rated in the king's books at £5. 17. 9½., and in the patronage of the Rev. M. Smelt. The church is dedicated to St. Mary.

BINTON, a parish in the Stratford division of the hundred of **BARLICHWAY**, county of **WARWICK**, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (W. by S.) from Stratford upon Avon, containing 232 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Worcester, rated in the king's books at £8. 10., and in the patronage of the Marquis of Hertford. The church is dedicated to St. Peter. The navigable river Avon is here crossed by a bridge on the road leading to Chipping-Campden.

BINTREE, a parish in the hundred of **EYNSFORD**, county of **NORFOLK**, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile (S. W. by W.) from Foulsham, containing 333 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, with that of Themelthorpe annexed, in the archdeaconry of Norfolk, and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £10, and in the patronage of Sir Jacob Astley, Bart. The church is dedicated to St. Swithin. The river Wensom, which separates the parish from North Elmham, is expected to be made navigable to Norwich.

BIRBECK-FELLS, a hamlet partly in the parish of **ORTON**, East ward, and partly in the parishes of **CROSBY-RAVENSWORTH** and **SHAP**, West ward, county of **WESTMORLAND**, 4 miles (W.S.W.) from Orton. The population is returned with the above parishes. A free school at Greenholme, for the education of the children of Birbeck-Fells, Bretherdale, Routhwaite, and Low Scales, is endowed with land producing about £40 per annum, purchased with a bequest of £400 by George Gibson, in 1733.

BIRCH, a chapelry in the parish of **MIDDLETON**, hundred of **SALFORD**, county palatine of **LANCASTER**, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (W. N. W.) from Middleton. The population is returned with the township of Hopwood. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Chester, and in the patronage of the Rector of Middleton. The chapel, dedicated to St. Mary, was built by means of a parliamentary grant of £4000, and consecrated December 11th, 1828; it contains one thousand sittings, of which five hundred and four are free. The spinning of cotton, and the manufacture of gingham, are carried on in this chapelry to a limited extent.

BIRCH, a chapelry in the parish of **WARRINGTON**, hundred of **WEST DEASY**, county palatine of **LANCASTER**, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile (E. N. E.) from Warrington, with which the population is returned. The living is a perpetual

curacy, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Chester, endowed with £400 private benefaction, and £600 royal bounty, and in the patronage of J. Dickinson, Esq.

BIRCH (GREAT), a parish in the Colchester division of the hundred of **LEXDEN**, county of **ESSEX**, 5 miles (S. W.) from Colchester, containing, with the parish of Little Birch, 662 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Colchester, and diocese of London, rated in the king's books at £11, and in the patronage of the Bishop of London. The church is dedicated to St. Peter. Here is a small endowment for the education of poor children. The remains of Birch castle are conspicuous in the village.

BIRCH (LITTLE), a parish in the Colchester division of the hundred of **LEXDEN**, county of **ESSEX**, $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles (S. W. by W.) from Colchester. The population is returned with Great Birch. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry of Colchester, and diocese of London, rated in the king's books at £5. 6. 8., and in the patronage of Charles Round, Esq. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is desecrated, and religious rites are celebrated at Great Birch.

BIRCH (LITTLE), a parish in the upper division of the hundred of **WORMELOW**, county of **HEREFORD**, $6\frac{1}{4}$ miles (S.) from Hereford, containing 310 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Hereford, rated in the king's books at £6. 12. 11., and in the patronage of the Governors of Guy's Hospital, London. The church is dedicated to St. Mary.

BIRCH (MUCH), a parish in the upper division of the hundred of **WORMELOW**, county of **HEREFORD**, $6\frac{1}{4}$ miles (S. by W.) from Hereford, containing 353 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, annexed to the vicarage of Much Dewchurch, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Hereford, endowed with £600 royal bounty. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. Wormelow, from which the hundred takes its name, is within this parish.

BIRCHAM (GREAT), a parish in the hundred of **SMITHDON**, county of **NORFOLK**, $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S. W. by S.) from Burnham-Westgate, containing 398 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Norfolk, and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £22, and in the patronage of J. Spurgeon, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Mary.

BIRCHAM-NEWTON, a parish in the hundred of **SMITHDON**, county of **NORFOLK**, $7\frac{1}{4}$ miles (S. W. by S.) from Burnham-Westgate, containing 75 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, annexed to that of Bircham-Tofts, in the archdeaconry of Norfolk, and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £7. 13. 4. The church is dedicated to All Saints.

BIRCHAM-TOFTS, a parish in the hundred of **SMITHDON**, county of **NORFOLK**, $7\frac{1}{4}$ miles (S. S. W.) from Burnham-Westgate, containing 135 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, with that of Bircham-Newton annexed, in the archdeaconry of Norfolk, and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £6. 13. 4., and in the patronage of the Earl of Orford. The church is dedicated to St. Andrew.

BIRCHANGER, a parish in the hundred of **UTTERLESFORD**, county of **ESSEX**, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile (S. W. by S.) from Stansted-Mountfitchet, containing 336 inhabitants. The

living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Colchester, and diocese of London, rated in the king's books at £9. 13. 4., and in the patronage of the Warden and Fellows of New College, Oxford. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. Richard de Newport founded here, in the reign of John, an hospital dedicated to St. Mary and St. Leonard, for a master and two chaplains, the revenue of which, in the 26th of Henry VIII., was estimated at £31. 13. 11.

BIRCHER, a township in the parish of YARPOLE, hundred of WOLPHY, county of HEREFORD, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N. by W.) from Leominster. The population is returned with the parish.

BIRCHES, a township in that part of the parish of GREAT BUDWORTH which is in the hundred of NORTHWICH, county palatine of CHESTER, $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles (E. S. E.) from Northwich, containing 8 inhabitants. Mrs. Elizabeth Dobson, about 1695, assigned an estate here in trust for the education of two boys, one to be the son of a counsellor, and the other the son of a divine of the church of England.

BIRCHINGTON, a parish within the cinque-port liberty of DOVER, of which it is a member, though locally in the hundred of Ringslow, or the Isle of Thanet, lathe of ST. AUGUSTINE, county of KENT, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (W. by S.) from Margate, containing 700 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, united to the vicarage of Monkton, in the peculiar jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The church, dedicated to All Saints, consists of a nave, chancel, and aisles, with a lofty tower and spire rising between the east end of the north aisle and a small chapel, now the vestry-room: the nave is separated from the aisles by octangular columns supporting five pointed arches: the three east windows of the chancel are in the decorated style. On the north side of it is Quex chapel, belonging to the manor of Quex, in this parish, containing several monuments and brasses of the family of Crispe. A pleasure fair is held here on Whit-Monday and Tuesday. Hemming's bay is thought to have been so named from the landing of Hemming, a Danish chieftain, accompanied by Anlaf, in 1009. Mrs. Anna Gertrude Crispe, by will dated February 13th, 1707, bequeathed forty-seven acres of land in Birchington and Monkton for certain charitable purposes; among others for the instruction of twelve boys and girls of this parish and the vill of Acole, the remainder of the rental to be applied in apprenticing some of the boys. The master receives £36. 15. annually, for which he instructs about twenty-four children, one-half appointed by the overseers, from whom the apprentices are selected, and the rest by himself. Near the village stands the workhouse for the reception of the poor of Birchington, Monkton, Sarre, and Acole.

BIRCHOLT, a parish in the franchise and barony of BIRCHOLT, lathe of SHEPWAY, county of KENT, 4 miles (E. by S.) from Ashford, containing 33 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Canterbury, rated in the king's books at £2. 10. 10., and in the patronage of Lady Bankes. The church, now desecrated, was dedicated to St. Margaret.

BIRCHOVER, a chapelry in that part of the parish of YOULGRAVE which is in the hundred of HIGH PEAK, county of DERBY, 1 mile (N. by W.) from Winster, containing 121 inhabitants. It is in the

honour of Tutbury, duchy of Lancaster, and within the jurisdiction of a court of pleas held at Tutbury every third Tuesday, for the recovery of debts under 40s.

BIRDALL, a joint township with Raisthorpe, in the parish of WHARRAM-PERCY, wapentake of BUCKROSE, East riding of the county of YORK, $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S. E.) from New Malton. The population is returned with Raisthorpe.

BIRDBROOK, a parish in the hundred of HINCKFORD, county of ESSEX, 7 miles (N. W.) from Castle-Hedingham, containing 460 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Middlesex, and diocese of London, rated in the king's books at £19, and in the patronage of Sir W. Rush. The church is dedicated to St. Augustine.

BIRDFORTH, a chapelry in the parish of COXWOLD, wapentake of BIRDFORTH, North riding of the county of YORK, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N. W. by N.) from Easingwold, containing 42 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of Cleveland, and diocese of York, endowed with £800 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Archbishop of York. The antiquity of this place is evinced by its having given name to the hundred.

BIRDHAM, a parish in the hundred of MANHOOD, rape of CHICHESTER, county of SUSSEX, 4 miles (S. W. by S.) from Chichester, containing 532 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Chichester, rated in the king's books at £10. 0. 10., endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £200 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Chichester. The church is dedicated to St. Leonard. The Portsmouth and Arun canal passes through the parish, and terminates at Chichester harbour. Here is a National school, in which about one hundred boys and girls are instructed.

BIRDINBURY, a parish in the Southam division of the hundred of KNIGHTLOW, county of WARWICK, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N. by E.) from Southam, containing 213 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry of Coventry, and diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, rated in the king's books at £7. 10., endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £200 royal bounty, and in the patronage of Sir T. Biddulph, Bart. The church is dedicated to St. Leonard.

BIRDSALL, a parish in the wapentake of BUCKROSE, East riding of the county of YORK, 6 miles (S. S. E.) from New Malton, containing 240 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of the East riding, and diocese of York, endowed with £400 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Marchioness of Hertford. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is an elegant structure, erected in 1824, at the expense of Lord Middleton. Henry Burton, a puritan divine, was born in this parish.

BIRKBY, a township in the parish of CROSS-CANNONBY, ALLERDALE ward below Derwent, county of CUMBERLAND, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile (E. N. E.) from Maryport, containing 96 inhabitants.

BIRKBY, a township in the parish of MUNCASTER, ALLERDALE ward above Darwent, county of CUMBERLAND, $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles (E. by S.) from Ravenglass. The population is returned with the parish. Extensive ruins of a British or Danish city, called Barnscar, are visible on Birkby-Fell.

BIRKBY, a parish in the wapentake of **ALLERTONSHIRE**, North riding of the county of **YORK**, comprising the chapelry of **Hutton-Bonville**, and the townships of **Birkby** and **Little Smeaton**, and containing 261 inhabitants, of which number, 90 are in the township of **Birkby**, 6 miles (N.N.W.) from **North Allerton**. The living is a discharged rectory, in the peculiar jurisdiction of **Allerton** and **Allertonshire**, belonging to the **Bishop of Durham**, rated in the king's books at £6. 13. 4., and in the patronage of the **Bishop of Durham**. The church is dedicated to **St. Peter**.

BIRKDALE, a township in the parish of **ORMSKIRK**, hundred of **WEST DERBY**, county palatine of **LANCASTER**, 7½ miles (N.W.) from **Ormskirk**, containing 414 inhabitants.

BIRKENHEAD, a chapelry in the parish of **BIDSTONE**, lower division of the hundred of **WIRRAL**, county palatine of **CHESTER**, 9¼ miles (N.N.E.) from **Great Neston**, containing 200 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry and diocese of **Chester**, endowed with £1000 private benefaction, £800 royal bounty, and £1200 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of **F. R. Price, Esq.** A priory for sixteen **Benedictine** monks was founded here, about 1150, in honour of **St. Mary** and **St. James**, by **Hamon de Massey**, third baron of **Dunham-Massey**, which, according to **Leland**, was subordinate to the abbey of **St. Werburgh**, at **Chester**; but from the power exercised by the monks, **Bishop Tanner** considers it to have been an independent priory: the revenue, at the dissolution, was £102. 16. 10. The ruins, part of which has been fitted up for a chapel, stand on a peninsular rock of red freestone, formed by the estuary of the **Mersey**, on the east, and a small creek on the west, opposite to **Liverpool**.

BIRKENSRAW, a hamlet in the parish of **BIRSTALL**, wapentake of **MORLEY**, West riding of the county of **YORK**, 5 miles (S.E.) from **Bradford**. The population is returned with the township of **Gomersall**. A new church is in progress of erection here. A great quantity of coal and iron-stone is found in the vicinity, and the manufacture of woollen goods is carried on to a very great extent.

BIRKER, a joint township with **Austhwaite**, in the parish of **MILLOM**, **ALLERDALE** ward above **Darwent**, county of **CUMBERLAND**, 7½ miles (E. by N.) from **Ravenglass**, containing, with **Austhwaite**, 101 inhabitants. This township is within the limits of the chapelry of **Eskdale**, in the adjoining parish of **St. Bees**, and the inhabitants enjoy the privilege of marrying and burying there. The lake **Devock-water**, and the waterfalls of **Birker Force** and **Stanley Gill** are in the neighbourhood, which abounds with picturesque scenery.

BIRKIN, a parish in the lower division of the wapentake of **BARKSTONE-ASH**, West riding of the county of **YORK**, comprising the chapelry of **Chapel-Haddlesey**, and the townships of **Birkin**, **West Haddlesey**, **Courtney-Hurst**, and **Temple-Hurst**, and containing 917 inhabitants, of which number, 139 are in the township of **Birkin**, 8½ miles (N.E. by E.) from **Ferrybridge**. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of **York**, rated in the king's books at £36, and in the patronage of the devisees of the late **Thomas Wright, Esq.** The church is dedicated to **St. Mary**. The village is situated on the northern bank of the river **Aire**.

BIRLEY, a parish in the hundred of **STRETTFORD**, county of **HEREFORD**, 4 miles (E. by N.) from **Weobley**, containing 119 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, consolidated with that of **King's Pion**, in the archdeaconry and diocese of **Hereford**, rated in the king's books at £5. 9. 7., and endowed with £200 royal bounty. The church is dedicated to **St. Peter**.

BIRLING, a parish in the hundred of **LARKFIELD**, lathe of **AYLESFORD**, county of **KENT**, 6¾ miles (N.W. by W.) from **Maidstone**, containing 459 inhabitants. The living is a vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of **Rochester**, rated in the king's books at £6. 9. 4½., and in the patronage of the **Earl of Abergavenny**. The church is dedicated to **All Saints**. Foundations of buildings have frequently been discovered in a field near the church.

BIRLING, a township in that part of the parish of **WARKWORTH** which is in the eastern division of **COQUETDALE** ward, county of **NORTHUMBERLAND**, 6½ miles (S.E.) from **Alnwick**, containing 69 inhabitants.

BIRLINGHAM, a parish in the upper division of the hundred of **PERSHORE**, county of **WORCESTER**, 3 miles (S.S.W.) from **Pershore**, containing 327 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of **Worcester**, rated in the king's books at £9. 17. 11., and in the patronage of **A. Luders, Esq.** The church is dedicated to **St. James**. The navigable river **Avon** forms a boundary to the parish.

BIRMINGHAM, a celebrated manufacturing town in the **Birmingham** division of the hundred of **HEMLINGFORD**, county of **WARWICK**, 18 miles (N.W. by W.) from **Coventry**, 20 (N.W.) from **Warwick**, and 109 (N.W.) from **London**, on the road to **Holyhead**, containing, with the environs, nearly 100,000 inhabitants. The earliest authentic notice of this place occurs in **Domesday-book**, in which it is called *Bermengeham*, whence may be easily deduced *Bromwycham*, which name, together with those of **Castle** and **West Bromwich**, two adjacent villages, is supposed to be derived from the quantity of broom growing in the neighbourhood. It is thought by some antiquaries to have been the *Bremenium* of the Romans, from its situation near the **Ikniel-street**; and others state it to have been a British town of some importance prior to the Roman invasion, and to have been eminent for the manufacture of arms, for which the mines of iron and coal in the vicinity rendered its situation peculiarly favourable. Its history, prior to the Conquest, is involved in great obscurity, and from that period until the reign of **Charles I.** few incidents of moment are recorded. In the civil war during that reign, the inhabitants embraced the cause of the parliament; and in 1642, after the king had passed through the town, on his route from **Shrewsbury**, they seized the carriages containing the royal plate and furniture, and conveyed them to **Warwick castle**; they arrested all messengers and others supposed to be partizans of the king, and frequently attacked small parties of royalists, whom they sometimes defeated and sent



Arms.

prisoners to Coventry. In 1643, Prince Rupert, on his way to open a communication between Oxford and York, met with considerable resistance from a detachment of parliamentary forces, assisted by the inhabitants, who stationed themselves at Camp-hill, and opposed his entrance into the town. A sharp conflict ensued, in which the parliamentarians were driven from their station; the Earl of Denbigh was killed, and a clergyman, who acted as governor during the action, was taken prisoner by the royalists, and, rejecting quarter, was killed after the battle, at the Red Lion inn. The prince, provoked at this resistance, set fire to the town, and, after several houses had been burnt, the inhabitants saved themselves from further suffering by the payment of a heavy fine. On the 14th of July, 1791, a party having met at an hotel, to celebrate the anniversary of the French revolution, a mob collected in front of the house, and broke the windows; they thence proceeded to the Unitarian meeting-house, which, with another, they burnt down. Doctor Priestley's dwelling-house, about a mile from the town, was the next object of attack, which, with his library, philosophical apparatus, and manuscripts, shared the same fate. For some days they continued their devastations, setting fire to several other meeting-houses and private mansions, but on the arrival of the military from Oxford and Hounslow, order was restored: at the ensuing assizes four of the ringleaders were convicted, and two of them suffered the penalty of the law. Shortly after this occurrence barracks were erected on the Vauxhall-road, near the town, consisting of a range of handsome buildings, enclosing a spacious area for the exercise of cavalry, and a smaller for parade, a riding-school, a magazine, and an hospital.

The extraordinary increase of the town, the improvement of its manufactures, the extension of its trade, and the rapid growth of its commerce, within the last century, may be attributed to the mines of iron-ore and coal with which the district abounds, to its freedom from the restrictions of incorporation, which has made it the resort of genius and of talent, and to the numerous canals by which it is connected with every part of the kingdom, and through which it not only carries on an immense inland trade, but exports its manufactures to every quarter of the world. Birmingham, in the reign of Henry VIII., was inhabited principally, as described by Leland, "by smiths that use to make knives and all manner of cutting tooles, and lorimers that make bittes, and a great many nailours." Soon after the Revolution in 1688, the manufacture of fire-arms was introduced, and continued to flourish until the close of the late war, during which, the government contracts for muskets alone generally averaged thirty thousand per month: the manufacturing of swords and army accoutrements is still carried on to a considerable extent. By an act obtained in 1813, the gun-makers were authorised to erect a proof-house, in which, under a heavy penalty, all gun and pistol barrels are subjected to a severe proof, and stamped by the master and wardens, under whose inspection the business is conducted; and since this period, the manufacture of fowling-pieces has greatly increased: the building, called the Tower, stands on the bank of the canal, and is a handsome structure, with a row of cannon in front, presenting the appearance of a military establishment. It is uncertain at what

time the manufacture of buttons was begun, but it has continued to flourish in every variety from a remote period, and is still a source of wealth to many, and of employment to thousands. The buckle trade was established soon after the Revolution, and, after exercising the inventive powers of the manufacturers in every variety of size, form, and pattern, became nearly extinct in 1812. The leather trade, which formerly was extensively carried on, has very much declined; at present there is only one tan-yard in the town. The principal branches of manufacture are those of light and heavy steel goods (here called toys), gold, silver, and plated wares, trinkets, jewellery, fancy articles of every kind in the gilt-toy trade, machinery of every description, and steam-engines on every known principle: there are many iron and brass foundries, three metallic hot-house manufactories on a large scale, in one of which a hot-house has lately been made for the Duke of Northumberland, at an expense of nearly £50,000, measuring five hundred feet in length, and having in the centre a dome sixty-five feet high, and forty feet in diameter, with wings, in the purest style of modern architecture: there are also various rolling-mills of great power, worked by steam. Casting, modelling, die-sinking, and engraving, have been brought to great perfection; and several glass-houses have been erected within the last few years, besides many mills for cutting glass, of which brilliant specimens may be seen in all the show-rooms in the town. There are divers establishments for supplying the town with articles requisite for the use of the inhabitants, and for carrying on the manufactures: the Old and New Union-Mill Bread and Flour Companies, and the public and private coal-wharfs, are on an extensive scale. Of the numerous manufactories with which the neighbourhood abounds, the most ancient and extensive is the Soho Manufactory, about a mile from the town, in which, under the superintending genius of the late Mr. Boulton, the Birmingham manufactures were brought to their present high degree of perfection; and in which, under the same proprietor, assisted by his colleague, the late Mr. Watt, the most efficient application of mechanical power was produced in the construction of machinery. In this factory were coined the pennypieces still in circulation, in a mint of great mechanical ingenuity, which, with the assistance of one or two persons, performed the whole process of coinage from the rolled metal. It was here also that the first application of gas, as a substitute for oil and tallow, was made under the auspices of Mr. Murdock, who, after a course of experiments at Redruth, in Cornwall, lighted the shops of this factory, and, in 1802, displayed the success of his researches in a splendid public illumination of the Soho, in celebration of the peace with France. Mr. Thomason's manufactory, in Church-street, has a splendid suite of show-rooms attached to it, replete with costly and elaborate specimens of workmanship, in gold, silver, plated ware, medals, bronzes, and the crystallized bases of metals and semi-metals. Among the more massive productions is a fine statue in bronze of his late majesty, George IV., in his coronation robes: the attitude is graceful and dignified; the figure, which is more than six feet high, weighs forty-five hundred weight, and is so proportioned, as, at its proper elevation, to present a fine resemblance to

countenance, form, and stature, of the monarch when at the age of fifty. In a lofty room of suitable dimensions, built for the purpose, and solely appropriated to its exhibition, is the large metallic vase, a fac-simile in size, form, and embellishment, of the celebrated Grecian vase of Lysippus, dug from the ruins of Adrian's palace, near Tivoli, which was, by the direction and at the expense of Lord Warwick, brought over to England by the late Sir William Hamilton, and placed in the gardens of Warwick castle. To this huge piece of art, which is more than twenty-one feet in circumference, six feet in height, and which weighs ninety hundred weight, the proprietor, by the peculiar process which he adopted, has imparted a soft solidity of colour, unequalled by any example of the kind, both in the porphyritic oxyde of the ground, or field, and in the ancient green bronze of the arms, visors, panthers' skins, foliage, and other ornaments with which it is embellished. Mr. Thomason's latest production is a beautiful series of sixteen scientific and philosophical medals of German silver, each containing, within a circle of three inches in diameter, a complete epitome of one of the sciences; they are enclosed in a morocco case, in the form, and of the size, of an imperial octavo volume. The manufacture of japan and papier maché has been much improved by Messrs. Jennens and Betteridge, who, by a chemical process in the preparation of pearl, by which it is reduced to the eightieth part of an inch in thickness, and made susceptible of greater transparency and brilliancy of colour, have rendered it peculiarly elegant in the decoration of cabinets, tea-trays, fans, snuff-boxes, &c., of which many beautiful specimens are exhibited in their show-rooms.

The Pantechnececa, or General Repository, was erected in 1824, for the exhibition and sale of articles in the finer department of the arts, selected from the various manufactories in the town: the exterior of the building is fronted, on the basement story, with a Grecian Doric colonnade, supporting another of the Ionic order, surmounted by a handsome balustrade with projecting pedestals, on which are emblematical figures well sculptured; the interior consists of two handsome show-rooms, in which the manufactured articles are judiciously displayed. Mr. Phipson's pin-manufactory, by a simple but effective process, exhibits the progress of this article through all its stages, from the drawing of the wire, to sticking the pin upon paper, and occupies a thousand persons, besides affording, in many of its branches, employment to the inmates of the parish asylum, and the county bridewell. The number and variety of the manufactories, in almost all of which there is some ingenious application of machinery, either to expedite or to improve the manufacture of the article, while they preclude the possibility of enumeration, are such as to justify the assertion, that there is no state of manufacture carried on here which is not in a state of absolute or relative perfection.

The town is pleasantly situated on an eminence, at the north-western extremity of the county, bordering on the counties of Stafford and Worcester, from the former of which it is separated by a small brook. The streets, which are very numerous, and in general spacious, are, with the exception of a few in the more retired parts of the town, well paved, and lighted with gas. The streets, on a declivity, are always clean. The

houses, mostly modern and well built, are chiefly of brick, but, since the use of the Roman cement, they have assumed an improved appearance, and present, nearly throughout the town and its environs, specimens of elegance in almost every style of architecture: among those erected within the last three or four years are many splendid edifices. The inhabitants are amply supplied with water from pumps attached to their houses, and soft water is obtained from two fine wells at the lower extremity of the town. On entering Birmingham from London, the road, by a handsome stone bridge over the small river Rea, leads up an ascent into the market-place, in the centre of which is a statue in bronze of Lord Nelson, finely executed by Westmacott, at an expense of £3000, raised by subscription among the inhabitants. An act of parliament has recently been obtained for taking down the houses on one side of the present market-place, and forming an extensive area, in which it is intended to build a market-house; and under the same act, the erection of a town-hall is contemplated. The market days are Monday and Thursday, the latter being also for the sale of horses and horned cattle; and there is a market for hay on Tuesday. The cattle market and horse fair are held at Smithfield, a spacious area to the south-east of the town, conveniently divided and arranged for the purpose. A sale of horses by auction takes place also on the same day, at Beardsworth's Repository, an establishment of unequalled magnitude, near the spot. The buildings comprise a spacious quadrangular area, round which are stalls for one hundred and fifty horses, exclusively of twenty-four boxes for hunters; above these are galleries, in which there are standings for four hundred carriages, which are constantly on sale: the whole area is covered with a shed-roof supported on pillars forty feet high, and is lighted with a double range of upper windows: on one side of the quadrangle, over which the roof is continued, there is a covered ride, one hundred and eight yards in length, and forty yards in width; and on the opposite side is another of equal extent, enclosed by walls, but not roofed. In addition to the accommodations of a repository, it contains a splendid suite of apartments, elegantly furnished for the reception of gentlemen or families, who may visit Birmingham at the triennial festival, or on any other public occasion. The fairs are on the Thursday in Whitsun-week, and on the Thursday next before Michaelmas-day, each for three days; they are chiefly show fairs, though on the first day many horses and horned cattle are sold.

The town is wholly within the jurisdiction of the county magistrates, of whom, those acting for the town hold a meeting, every Monday and Thursday, at the public office: a high bailiff (who is clerk of the market, and by courtesy presides at all public meetings), a low bailiff, two constables, a headborough, two ale-conners, two flesh-conners, two affeers, and two leather-sealers, are chosen at the court leet of the lord of the manor, which is held at Michaelmas. A court of requests for the recovery of debts under 40s., established by an act passed in the 25th of George II., the powers of which, by a subsequent act in the 47th of George III., were extended to the recovery of debts under £5, is held every week: it consists of seventy-two commissioners, three of whom, assisted by two clerks, who must be lawyers, form a quorum; its jurisdiction extends only

to the limits of the parish. The public office is a commodious building with a handsome stone front; the court-room is well arranged, and behind it is a prison, for the confinement of malefactors previously to their committal to the county gaol. The news-room, built in 1825, is a handsome edifice with a stuccoed front, ornamented with lofty pillars of the Ionic order: the interior consists of one large room, opening through folding doors into two smaller apartments, over which are a billiard-room and a refectory; and a suite of rooms has lately been added, in which copies of the public records, and books of reference, are deposited. The old library, established in 1798, is a handsome stone building, with a circular portico; the reading-room is circular, and is lighted by a dome lantern resting on handsome Ionic pillars of porphyry: this institution, the number of volumes in which exceeds thirty thousand, is under the direction of a committee; admission is obtained by the purchase of a share of the value of £10, and the payment of an annual subscription of £1. The new library, similarly conducted, but upon a smaller scale, is a neat building, recently erected, and internally well arranged. The Philosophical Society, which had been instituted some years previously, extended their plan in 1810, and erected a commodious theatre for the delivery of lectures by their own members, and occasionally by eminent professors, in the various branches of science: they have a museum, containing a fine collection of minerals and fossils, an extensive philosophical apparatus, a library, and a reading-room. The school of medicine and surgery was established in 1828, by Mr. W. S. Cox, and the resident physicians and surgeons lecture weekly upon subjects connected with the design of the institution; certificates of having attended these lectures qualify students to pass their examination at the Royal College of Surgeons in London: a handsome and appropriate building has been recently erected on Snow-hill for the use of this establishment.

The Society of Arts was instituted in 1821, for promoting the general study of the fine arts, by procuring from the nobility and gentry, who are its patrons, the loan of original pictures of the old and new schools, in order to stimulate the genius and industry of the members, and to enrich their annual exhibition: it comprehends also, in addition to the higher pursuits of the art, the cultivation of those particular departments of it which are connected with the manufactures of the town. The building is a chaste and elegant specimen of the Corinthian order, with a boldly projecting portico of four elegant columns, supporting a triangular pediment. An institution for promoting the fine arts, established in 1828, for the encouragement of artists resident within thirty miles of Birmingham, by appropriating its funds to the purchase of pictures from the walls at their annual exhibition, has been recently incorporated with the former. A mechanics' institution was established in 1825. The theatre is a spacious and well-arranged building, with a handsome stone front, consisting of a portico of the Ionic order, supported by a piazza, through which is the entrance to the boxes; on one side is that to a coffee-room, and on the other to a billiard-room, over which is an elegant suite of assembly-rooms: it was rebuilt in 1820, at an expense of £14,000, which was subscribed in shares; the present front is what remains of the former theatre, which was burnt down in the

beginning of the same year: the season generally commences in May, and ends in October. Assemblies are held periodically, during the winter, at the Royal Hotel: the room, which is spacious and elegantly fitted up, is also appropriated to the subscription concerts, which are supported by more than three hundred subscribers, under the patronage of the nobility and gentry in the neighbourhood: the orchestra combines the first-rate talent of the metropolis with the professional skill of the town. A second concert has been recently established, which, originating, like the other, in a private meeting of amateurs, promises to equal the former in respect of numbers, though not enjoying such distinguished patronage. Triennial music meetings, the receipts of which are appropriated to the support of the general hospital, are held at the church and at the theatre; at the former, oratorios and selections of sacred music are performed, and at the latter, miscellaneous concerts in which the principal vocal and instrumental performers in the kingdom are engaged. The Vauxhall Gardens, which are brilliantly illuminated, are open during the summer, and attract much company to concerts performed there, and to grand displays of fireworks, which are frequent during the season. The Lady-well baths (so called from one of the springs by which they are supplied) form a complete establishment, consisting of hot, cold, sulphureous, vapour, and fumigating baths, attached to which are dressing-rooms and every accommodation for invalids. The swimming, or pleasure bath is one hundred and ten feet long, and fifty-two feet wide, and is supplied with a constant influx of water, at the rate of one thousand hogsheads per hour; it is surrounded with high walls, shaded with lofty trees, and furnished with alcoves and dressing-boxes. The gentlemen's cold bath is sixteen feet long, and twelve feet wide, and is supplied by a spring within itself, at the rate of twelve hogsheads per hour; the buildings are replete with every accommodation, and the gardens and pleasure grounds are extensive and retired.

Prior to the year 1715, Birmingham comprised only one parish, and for all civil purposes it is still so considered: at that time, a small portion of the original parish of St. Martin, consisting of a district in the centre of the town, was formed into the parish of St. Philip; and, in 1829, two other districts were formed into the parishes of St. George and St. Thomas: they are all within the archdeaconry of Coventry, and diocese of Lichfield and Coventry. The living of St. Martin's is a rectory, rated in the king's books at £19. 3. 6½., and in the patronage of the Executors of the late William Hawkes, Esq. The church is an ancient structure, in the decorated style of English architecture, with a square tower, and a lofty and well-proportioned spire, with the exception of which, the building, originally of stone, been cased with brick: within are several effigies, details of some of which are finely executed. The living of St. Philip's is a rectory not in charge, to which is annexed the prebend of Sawley, including the dignity of canon residentiary and treasurer in the Cathedral Church of Lichfield, with the patronage of the perpetual curacy of Sawley, in the county of Derby: it is in the patronage of the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry. The church, erected in 1726, is a handsome structure, in the Grecian style of architecture, consisting of the

Corinthian and the Doric orders, with a tower supporting a dome and a cupola: the churchyard is a spacious area, around which are many elegant buildings of modern erection. The living of St. George's is a rectory not in charge, in the patronage of the Executors of the late William Hawkes, Esq. The church, containing one thousand three hundred and seventy-eight free sittings, was erected in 1822, by subscription among the inhabitants, aided by a grant from the parliamentary commissioners, at an expense of £12,491.6.6.: it is a fine specimen of the early character of the decorated style of English architecture, with a lofty square embattled tower, with pierced parapet and crocketed pinnacles. The living of St. Thomas' is a rectory not in charge, to which the Executors of the late William Hawkes, Esq. presented in 1829, in which year the church, containing one thousand four hundred and twenty-three free sittings, was completed, at an expense of £14,712.10., which was wholly defrayed by a grant from the parliamentary commissioners: it is a chaste and elegant structure, in the Grecian style of architecture, with a handsome steeple, connected in the lower part with the sides of the church, by quadrants of the Ionic order. St. Mary's chapel, in the parish of St. Martin, erected by subscription in 1774, on a site given by Miss Weaman, is an octagonal brick building, with a small stone steeple: the living is a perpetual curacy, in the patronage of trustees appointed under the will of the late Miss Weaman. St. Paul's chapel, in the same parish, built by subscription in 1779, on a site given by Miss Colmore, is a handsome edifice in the Grecian style: the roof, which over the galleries is plainly groined, is supported on handsome pillars of the Ionic order; the altar-piece is ornamented with a painting in stained glass of the Conversion of St. Paul; the steeple, which is much admired for the lightness and elegance of its design, was added in 1820: the living is a perpetual curacy, in the patronage of Mr. Latimer. Christ Church, in the parish of St. Philip, erected in 1813, by subscription, for the especial accommodation of the poor, is a neat plain building, with a handsome portico of the Tuscan order, and a spire: the living is a perpetual curacy, to which is annexed the prebend of Tachbrook in the Cathedral Church of Lichfield; it is in the patronage of the Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry. St. Bartholomew's, a chapel of ease to the rectory of St. Martin's, is a plain brick building, with a cupola; the interior is a good specimen of the Tuscan order, and the altar-piece is richly carved. St. Peter's, a chapel of ease to the rectory of St. Philip's, containing one thousand four hundred and thirty-one free sittings, was built in 1827, at an expense of £13,365.16.6., part of which was defrayed by the parliamentary commissioners, and was almost destroyed by fire, in January 1831. There are places of worship for Baptists, the Society of Friends, Independents, Primitive and Wesleyan Methodists, Swedenborgians, and Unitarians; besides a Scotch church, two Roman Catholic chapels, and a synagogue. Among these, Zion Church, in Carr's Lane meeting-house, the Scotch church, and the Wesleyan chapel, may be distinguished as spacious and handsome structures.

The free grammar school was founded by Edward VI., in the fourth year of his reign, and endowed with the revenues of the priory of the Holy Cross, which, prior to the

dissolution, occupied the site of the present building: the endowment, arising from land, at that time amounted only to £30 per annum; at present, from the ground having been let on building leases, it produces from £8000 to £10,000 per annum, which, upon the expiration of the leases, will be greatly augmented. The management is vested in a bailiff and eighteen governors, who appoint a head-master, second master, and two ushers, with a writing-master and a drawing-master. There are seven exhibitions, of £70 per annum each, to either of the Universities; and not less than eight subordinate schools are attached to the establishment: the number of scholars on the foundation is one hundred and fifty: the premises, occupying three sides of a quadrangle, with houses for the masters, are about to be rebuilt. The Blue-coat charity school was established by subscription, in 1724, for the maintenance, clothing, and education of twenty-two boys and ten girls: its funds having been increased by additional subscriptions, donations, and legacies, the buildings were enlarged in 1794; there are at present one hundred and thirty boys and sixty girls in the school. A similar school for the children of dissenters, established in 1762, is now limited to the maintenance and instruction of forty-eight girls. The National and the Lancasterian schools are supported by subscription; and an infant school, which is under excellent regulations, is numerous attended.

The general hospital is a handsome and spacious brick building, consisting of a centre and two wings, and containing fourteen wards, in which are one hundred and sixty-five beds. This establishment has obtained extensive patronage and support: it was opened in 1779, when the committee, in order to augment its funds, had recourse to a performance of sacred music, under the direction of a London professor, the produce of which was £127. This performance, repeated every third year, formed the groundwork of the triennial musical festival, for which, under the gratuitous superintendence of Mr. Joseph Moore, a resident amateur, Birmingham has, for the last twenty years, been so justly celebrated. The receipts, which have been progressively increasing, now average a net sum of upwards of £5000, available for the benefit of the institution, which, as a school of medicine and surgery, has attained a high degree of celebrity. The dispensary was established by subscription, in 1794, and affords medical relief to about four thousand patients annually: the building, consisting of a centre and two wings, is a handsome structure of freestone, with four lofty pilasters supporting a triangular pediment, ornamented with a basso-relievo of the "Good Samaritan." The self-supporting dispensary, upon the plan of Mr. Smith, of Southam, is maintained by small annual subscriptions from the poor, aided by those of the honorary members. The infirmary for diseases of the eye and ear, established by Mr. Hodgson, surgeon, in 1823; and the infirmary for the cure of bodily deformity, established in 1817, under the patronage of the Earl of Dartmouth, are liberally supported; and a house, at the extremity of the town, has, under the superintendence of Dr. Birt Davies, been appropriated as a house of recovery from fever. The asylum for deaf and dumb children was established in 1815, and is partly supported by a weekly charge, and partly by

subscription; the number at present in the institution is thirty. The school of industry is a large establishment under the management of the guardians of the poor, in which three hundred children are maintained, and employed in platting straw, heading pins, and in other kinds of work suited to their age. There are also almshouses for the aged and infirm, and numerous and extensive funds for charitable purposes. About a mile from the town is a chalybeate spring, which, though known to possess highly medicinal properties, is not much noticed; and about three miles to the west, and within a few hundred yards of the Ik-nield-street, are the remains of a large quadrangular encampment, surrounded by a triple fosse, which, from the extent of its area (being more than thirty acres), is supposed to be of Danish origin: pieces of armour, broken swords, and battle-axes, have been ploughed up in the vicinity. Inconsiderable vestiges of an ancient priory are still visible in the cellars of some houses in the square, which now occupy its site; and a great number of human bones, and skulls with teeth having the enamel perfect, have been found in the neighbourhood, parts of which still bear the names of the Upper and Lower Priory. At the western extremity of the town was an hospital, dedicated to St. Thomas the Apostle, the revenue of which, in the 26th of Henry VIII., was £8. 5. 3. Birmingham gives the title of baron to the Earl of Dudley.

BIRSTALL, a chapelry in that part of the parish of BELGRAVE which is in the western division of the hundred of GOSCOTE, county of LEICESTER, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N. by E.) from Leicester, containing 371 inhabitants. The chapel, dedicated to St. James, has lately been enlarged by the addition of one hundred and seventy-seven sittings, of which number, ninety-nine are free, and toward defraying the expense of which the Incorporated Society for the enlargement of churches granted £100. There is a communication with the Leicester and Melton-Mowbray navigation by means of the river Soar, which runs through the chapelry.

BIRSTALL, a parish in the wapentake of MORLEY, West riding of the county of YORK, $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S. W.) from Leeds, comprising the chapelries of Clackheaton, Drighlington, Heckmondwike, Liversedge, and Tong, and the townships of Great and Little Gomersall, Hunsworth, and Wike, and containing 21,217 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of the East riding, and diocese of York, rated in the king's books at £23. 19. 2., and in the patronage of the Archbishop of York. The church, dedicated to St. Peter, has lately been enlarged by the addition of one hundred and fifty sittings, one hundred of which are free; the Incorporated Society for the enlargement of churches and chapels having granted £150 towards defraying the expense. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists. A chapel is also being erected at Birkenshaw, in this parish. The village of Birstall is situated in the township of Gomersall: the clothing business prevails to a great extent in the parish, in which also there are some collieries. The Rev. William Arnystead, in 1601, bequeathed £100 for the erection of a school; the fund now produces £8. 10. per annum, for which six children are instructed gratuitously in a National school, which was erected in 1819, at the expense of William Charlesworth, Esq. Dr. Priestley,

equally distinguished for his advocacy of Unitarianism, and his discoveries in chemistry, was born at Field-head, in this parish, in 1733; he died in America, in 1804.

BIRSTWITH, a township in the parish of HAMPTHWAITHE, lower division of the wapentake of CLARKE, West riding of the county of YORK, 8 miles (W. by N.) from Knaresborough, containing 621 inhabitants. John Richmond, in 1711, gave a rent-charge of £14 for the instruction of poor boys belonging to the townships of Birstwith and Felliesscliff.

BIRTHORPE, a chapelry in the parish of SEMPERINGHAM, wapentake of AVELAND, parts of KESTIVEN, county of LINCOLN, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles (E.) from Folkingham, containing 56 inhabitants.

BIRTLE, a joint township with Bamford, in the parish of MIDDLETON, hundred of SALFORD, county palatine of LANCASTER, 2 miles (E.N.E.) from Bury, containing, with Bamford, 1207 inhabitants. The manufacture of woollen and cotton goods, and the printing of calico, are carried on here.

BIRTLES, a township in the parish of PRESTBURY, hundred of MACCLESFIELD, county palatine of CHESTER, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles (W. by N.) from Macclesfield, containing 47 inhabitants. There are various tumuli in the neighbourhood, and fragments of urns, which formerly contained burnt bones, have been discovered.

BIRTLEY, a township in that part of the parish of CHESTER le STREET which is in the middle division of CHESTER ward, county palatine of DURHAM, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S. by E.) from Gateshead, containing 1386 inhabitants many of whom are employed in the coal mines in the vicinity. There is a place of worship for Roman Catholics. A brine-spring exists in the township, from which salt is made.

BIRTLEY, a parochial chapelry in the northeastern division of TINDALE ward, county of NORTHUMBERLAND, 5 miles (S.E. by S.) from Bellingham, containing, with a small portion of the township of Broomhope with Buteland, 393 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of Northumberland, and diocese of Durham, endowed with £400 private benefaction, and £800 royal bounty and in the patronage of the Duke of Northumberland. Birtley was formed into a parochial chapelry in 1765, in which year it was separated from the parish of Chollerton. Coal and lime exist in the neighbourhood: there is a day and Sunday school in the village.

BIRTS-MORTON, a parish in the lower division of the hundred of PERSHORE, county of WORCESTER, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S. W.) from Upton upon Severn, containing 231 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Worcester, rated in the king's books at £7. 8. $1\frac{1}{2}$., and in the patronage of J. Thadwell, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. A charity school was endowed by Sir John Juice, in 1703, for the instruction of boys, of whom are clothed by means of a separate fund. The manor-house is an ancient edifice, surrounded by a moat still very perfect.

BISBROOKE, a parish in the hundred of WOODHALL, county of RUTLAND, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile (E.) from Uppingham, containing 923 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Northampton, and diocese of Peterborough, rated in the king's books at

£6.0.4., and in the patronage of the Duke of Rutland. The church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist. Here is a school with a trifling endowment.

BISCATHORPE, a parish in the eastern division of the wapentake of WRAGGIE, parts of LINCOLN, county of LINCOLN, 8 miles (N.E. by E.) from Wragby, containing 37 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £5.18.4., endowed with £200 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Crown. The church is dedicated to St. Helen.

BISCOTT, a hamlet in the parish of LUTON, hundred of FLITT, county of BEDFORD, 2 miles (N. by W.) from Luton. The population is returned with Limbury.

BISHAM, a parish in the hundred of BRYNHURST, county of BERKS, 4½ miles (N.W.) from Maidenhead, containing 707 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Berks, and diocese of Salisbury, rated in the king's books at £7.13.1., and endowed with £200 and £20 per annum private benefaction, £600 royal bounty, and £900 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of G. Vansittart, Esq. The church, dedicated to All Saints, is pleasantly situated close to the river Thames, the banks of which are adorned with interesting scenery, and many pleasing seats. The rolling of copper into sheets, and the making of copper bolts for the navy, and of pans and other vessels in copper, are carried on here to a considerable extent. The temple mills, esteemed among the most complete and powerful of the kind in the kingdom, received this name from having been in the possession of the Knights Templars, who established a preceptory here, on receiving a grant of the manor from Robert de Ferrariis, in the reign of Stephen. This institution, on the dissolution of the society, was succeeded by an Augustine priory, founded in 1338, by William de Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, the revenue of which, in the 26th of Henry VIII., amounted to £327.4.6. It was surrendered in 1536, was re-founded by the king, for a mired abbot and thirteen Benedictine monks, and was finally dissolved on the 19th of June, 1538: the abbey was frequently visited by Henry VIII., and also by Queen Elizabeth, who resided here some time, a large state apartment being still called the Queen's council-chamber; but a very small portion only of the conventual buildings can be traced in the mansion which now occupies its site.

BISHAMPTON, a parish in the middle division of the hundred of OSWALDSLOW, county of WORCESTER, 1½ miles (N.E. by N.) from Pershore, containing 374 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Worcester, rated in the king's books at £7.9.9½., endowed with £400 private benefaction, and £400 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Bishop of Worcester. The church is dedicated to St. Peter.

BISHOP'S BOURNE, a parish in the hundred of BISHOPSTON, lathes of ST. AUGUSTINE, county of KENT, 4 miles (S.E. by E.) from Canterbury, containing 1,100 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, with the personal advowson of Barham annexed, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Canterbury, rated in the king's books at £12.12.1., and in the alternate patronage of the Bishop and the Archbishop of Canterbury. The church is dedicated to St. Andrew.

BISHOP'S-CASTLE, a borough, market town, and parish, having separate jurisdiction, locally in the hundred of Purslow, county of SALOP, 19 miles (N.W. by N.) from Ludlow, 20¼ (S.W. by S.) from Shrewsbury, and 157 (N.W. by W.) from London, containing 1880 inhabitants, of which number, 1616 are within the borough. This place



Corporate Seal.

owes its name to a castle belonging to the bishops of Hereford, that stood here, but of which the site alone, now a bowling-green belonging to the Castle Inn, and some small portions of the enclosing walls, can be traced: a subterraneous passage is said to have subsisted from this castle to another at some distance, the arched entrance to which is shown in the garden of an adjoining house; but it is scarcely distinguishable from the heaps of stones found in various parts of the hill on which the castle stood. The town is partly situated on the summit, but chiefly on the steep declivity of a hill: the houses in general are meanly built of unhewn stone, with thatched roofs; though, in detached situations, there are several handsome edifices of modern erection. Such of the inhabitants as have not pumps attached to their houses, are indifferently supplied with water, from a reservoir under the town-hall, into which it is conveyed by pipes from the neighbouring hills. The market is on Friday, and is well supplied with grain, which is sold by sample: the market-house, built within the last twenty years, by the Earl of Powis, is a handsome edifice of stone, supported on piazzas; the area is used as a corn market, and the upper part as a school-room. The fairs are on February 13th, for cattle and sheep; on the Friday preceding Good Friday, which is a very large fair for horned cattle; on the first Friday after May-day, a pleasure and statute fair; July 5th, formerly a great wool fair; September 9th, and November 13th, for horned cattle, sheep, and horses. The government, by charter granted in the 15th year of the reign of Elizabeth, and confirmed and extended by James I., is vested in a bailiff, recorder, and fifteen capital burgesses, assisted by a town-clerk, two serjeants at mace, and subordinate officers: the bailiff, late bailiff, and recorder, are justices of the peace. The bailiff is elected from among the capital burgesses, on the first Monday before Michaelmas-day, and sworn into office on the first Monday after it; the capital burgesses are chosen by a majority of the burgesses at large: the freedom is acquired only by birth. The corporation hold a court of session quarterly for the borough, on the next Wednesday after the general quarter sessions for the county, at which the bailiff, the late bailiff or justice, and the recorder, preside; and a court of record is held every alternate Saturday, for the recovery of debts under £20, under the presidency of the bailiff and two capital burgesses. The town-hall is a plain brick edifice on pillars and arches, built by the subscriptions of the burgesses, in 1750, with a prison on the basement story for criminals, and above it one for debtors. The elective franchise was conferred in the 26th of Elizabeth, since which time the borough has returned two

members to parliament. The right of election is vested in the burgesses generally, about sixty in number, provided they have been resident within the borough twelve months prior to the election, in default of which they lose their title to vote: the bailiff is the returning officer.

The living is a vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Salop, and diocese of Hereford, rated in the king's books at £9. 12. 10., and in the patronage of the Earl of Powis. The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is a fine old structure, principally in the Norman style, with a square embattled tower, crowned with pinnacles: it was burnt in the parliamentary war, by Cromwell, and has been rebuilt without a due regard to the original style of its architecture. The free school was founded, in 1737, by Mrs. Mary Morris, in memory of her first husband, Mr. John Wright, of Wimbledon in Surrey, merchant, a native of Bishop's Castle, and endowed with £1000 in the three per cents., for the instruction of twenty-five boys and twenty-five girls in reading, writing, and arithmetic, and the latter in sewing and knitting. Some charitable benefactions are distributed by the vicar and churchwardens, in money and bread. Jeremy Stephens, author of various doctrinal works, and the learned coadjutor of Sir Henry Spelman in the compilation of the "English Councils," was a native of the place.

BISHOP'S DALE, a township in the parish of Aysgarth, western division of the wapentake of HANG, North riding of the county of York, 12 miles (S.W. by W.) from Middleham, containing 95 inhabitants. The neighbourhood contains several waterfalls, and abounds with picturesque scenery.

BISHOP'S FEE, a liberty in the parish of St. Margaret, borough of LEICESTER, though locally in the hundred of Gartree, county of LEICESTER. The population is returned with Leicester. The magistrates for the borough, and those for the county, exercise concurrent jurisdiction throughout the liberty, the inhabitants of which pay church and poor rates to the parish of St. Margaret, but are assessed for the king's taxes with the hundred of Gartree, the petty sessions for which are occasionally held here.

BISHOP-SIDE (HIGH and LOW), a township in that part of the parish of RIPON which is within the liberty of RIPON, West riding of the county of York, 10½ miles (W.S.W.) from Ripon, containing, with the market town of Pateley-Bridge, 2072 inhabitants.

BISHOPSTON, a chapelry in the parish of OLD STRATFORD, Stratford division of the hundred of BARLICHWAY, county of WARWICK, 2¼ miles (N.N.W.) from Stratford upon Avon, with which place the population is returned. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Worcester, endowed with £1000 royal bounty, and £200 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of the Vicar of Stratford. The chapel, dedicated to St. Peter, is in ruins.

BISHOPSTON, a parish in the hundred of DOWNTON, though locally in the hundred of Chalk, county of WILTS, 3¼ miles (S. by W.) from Wilton, containing 663 inhabitants. The living is a vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Salisbury, rated in the king's books at £12. 1. 3.; there is also a sinecure rectory, rated at £19. 14. 2.; both are in the patronage of the Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery. The church,

dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is a handsome cruciform edifice, in the decorated style of English architecture; the chancel contains three seats in canopied niches, and has a finely ornamented roof.

BISHOPSTON, a parish in the hundred of RAMSBURY, county of WILTS, 5½ miles (E.) from Swindon, containing 572 inhabitants. The living is a vicarage, in the peculiar jurisdiction and patronage of the Prebendary of Bishopston in the Cathedral Church of Salisbury, rated in the king's books at £6. 6. 8. The church is dedicated to St. Mary.

BISHOPSTONE, a parish in the hundred of GRIMSWORTH, county of HEREFORD, 7 miles (W.N.W.) from Hereford, containing 270 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, with the vicarage of Yazor annexed, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Hereford, rated in the king's books at £7. 7. 6., and in the patronage of Sir Uvedale Price, Bart. The church is dedicated to St. Lawrence.

BISHOPSTONE, a parish in the hundred of BISHOPSTONE, rape of PEVENSEY, county of SUSSEX, 1¼ mile (N.W. by N.) from Seaford, containing 277 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Lewes, and diocese of Chichester, rated in the king's books at £8. 13. 4., endowed with £200 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Bishop of Chichester. The church, comprising a nave, two chancels, and a tower, is chiefly in the Norman style of architecture. The Rev. James Hurd, Professor of Poetry at Oxford, and author of the "Village Curate," and other interesting poems, was born here, in 1763.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD, county of HERTFORD.—See STORTFORD (BISHOP'S).

BISHOPSTROW, a parish in the hundred of WARMINSTER, county of WILTS, 1½ mile (E.S.E.) from Warminster, containing 275 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Salisbury, rated in the king's books at £11. 10., and in the patronage of Sir J. D. Astley, Bart. The church is dedicated to St. Adelme. About the commencement of the present century, three urns, containing Roman brass coins, were dug up here.

BISHOP'S WOOD, a township in the parish of BREWOOD, eastern division of the hundred of CUTTLESTONE, county of STAFFORD. The population is returned with the parish.

BISHOP-THORPE, a parish in the ainsty of the city, and east riding of the county, of YORK, 3½ miles (S. by W.) from York, containing 301 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of York, rated in the king's books at £4, endowed with £400 private benefaction, and £400 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Archbishop of York. The church, dedicated to St. Andrew, was rebuilt by Archbishop Drummmond, in 1766, and adorned with a curious window, brought from the castle of Caerwent. The parish was called St. Andrew's Thorpe until the manor was purchased, in the reign of John, by Walter, Great Archbishop of York, who built a palace and a church here; on which account, the episcopal seat was given to it, and it has been the constant residence of the archbishops since the destruction of Caerwent castle, in the parliamentary war. The palace was greatly enlarged and embellished by Archbishop Drummmond, when the prelate took down and rebuilt the church. A Norman

school was erected in 1815. Attached to it is a chapel, founded by de Grey; it is in the early style of English architecture.

BISHOPTON, a parish in the south-western division of **STOCKTON** ward, county palatine of **DURHAM**, comprising the townships of Bishopton, East and West Newbiggins, and Little Stainton, and containing 453 inhabitants, of which number, 365 are in the township of Bishopton, 6 miles (W. by N.) from Stockton. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Durham, rated in the king's books at £4. 5. 10., endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £200 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Master and Brethren of Sherburn Hospital. The church is dedicated to St. Peter. A parochial school, with a house for the master, was built a few years ago, by subscription, and is partly supported by a small annuity. In a field at the eastern extremity of the village there are vestiges of an intrenchment, which is supposed to have been part of the fortifications that guarded the mansion of the faithful Roger de Conyers, from whom William de St. Barbara, elect bishop of Durham, received powerful assistance in his struggle against Comyn, the usurper of the see, about the middle of the twelfth century, and at this secure retreat received the homage of those of his vassals who returned to their duty.

BISHOPTON, a township in that part of the parish of **RIPON** which is in the liberty of **RIPON**, West riding of the county of **YORK**, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N. by W.) from Ripon, containing 136 inhabitants.

BISHTON, a parish in the lower division of the hundred of **CALDICOTT**, county of **MONMOUTH**, 4 miles (S.E. by E.) from Caerleon, containing 153 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Llandaff, endowed with £1000 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Archdeacon of Llandaff. The church is dedicated to St. Cadwallader.

BISLEY, a parish (formerly a market town) in the hundred of **BISLEY**, county of **GLOUCESTER**, 11 miles (S. E.) from Gloucester, and 97 (W.) from London, containing 5421 inhabitants. The town is situated partly on the acclivity of a hill, and partly in the vale beneath it, which is watered by a small stream. The streets are irregularly formed, and contain few houses of respectable appearance. The inhabitants are chiefly employed in the manufacture of broad cloth, which is carried on to a considerable extent. The Thames and Severn canal passes through the parish, and, near the extremity of it, enters a tunnel, through which it is conducted for nearly two miles and a half under Salterton hill. A market was formerly held here, but it has been discontinued: the fairs are on May 4th and November 12th. The town is within the jurisdiction of a court of requests held at Cirencester, for the several hundreds of Cirencester, established by an act passed in the 32nd of George III., for the recovery of debts under 10s.: constables and other officers are appointed by the court feet of the lord of the manor. The living is a vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Gloucester, rated in the king's books at £19. 10. 5., and in the patronage of the Crown. The church, dedicated to St. Martin, is a spacious and handsome structure, partly in the decorated, and partly in the late style of English architecture, with a tower surmounted by a lofty spire, among other interesting

monuments is a statue of one of the family of Nottingham. In the churchyard there is an octagonal cross, handsomely panelled in trefoil, and surmounted with an ancient font, erected over a well, in which a man having been drowned, the cemetery was placed under an interdict for three years, during which time the dead were carried to Bibury for interment. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists. The free school is supported by a portion of the produce of lands left for the repair of the church, the payment of the clerk, and the salary of the schoolmaster, who receives at present £13. 14. per annum. A Blue-coat school for clothing and instructing ten boys, endowed in 1820, by Mr. Taylor, has been incorporated with the free school, and the master receives a salary of £12. 12. per annum, for instructing the boys. The common, then consisting of one thousand two hundred acres, was given to the poor of this parish by Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, in the reign of Edward III.; a considerable part of it has been enclosed. At Lilly-house, a hamlet near the town, a vaulted chamber was discovered, with several adjoining apartments, having tessellated pavements, and niches in the walls; some other relics of antiquity, supposed to be Roman, have also been found at Custom-Scrubs, another adjacent hamlet.

BISLEY, a parish in the first division of the hundred of **GODLEY**, county of **SURREY**, 4 miles (S. E.) from Bagshot, containing 273 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Surrey, and diocese of Winchester, rated in the king's books at £7. 16. 8., and in the patronage of the Rev. John King, the Rev. Charles Simeon, and the Rev. — Ball. The church, part of which is built with timber and brick plastered over, is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and is said to be six centuries old: near it there is a chalybeate spring, called St. John the Baptist's well.

BISPHAM, a parish in the hundred of **AMOUNDERNESS**, county palatine of **LANCASTER**, comprising the townships of Bispham with Norbreck, and Layton with Warbrick, and containing 1072 inhabitants, of which number, 323 are in the township of Bispham with Norbreck, 3 miles (W. N. W.) from Poulton. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of Richmond, and diocese of Chester, endowed with £400 private benefaction, and £400 royal bounty, and in the patronage of B. Hesketh, Esq. Richard Higginson founded a school in 1659, which he endowed with a rent-charge of £30; the income, by subsequent benefactions, has been augmented to £70 per annum.

BISPHAM, a chapelry in the parish of **CROSTON**, hundred of **LEYLAND**, county palatine of **LANCASTER**, $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N. E. by E.) from Ormskirk, containing 254 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Chester, and in the patronage of the Trustees of the founders of the chapel, which is dedicated to St. John. A free grammar school, founded by Richard Durning, in 1692, is endowed with an estate producing about £200 per annum.

BISTERN-BARTLEY, a tything in the parish of **ELING**, hundred of **REDBRIDGE**, New Forest (East) division of the county of **SOUTHAMPTON**. The population is returned with the parish.

BITCHFIELD, a parish in the wapentake of **BELTISLOE**, parts of **KESTEVEN**, county of **LINCOLN**, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N. by W.) from Corby, containing 144 inhabit-

ants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £5. 11. 5½., endowed with £200 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of the Bishop of Lincoln. The church is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene.

BITCHFIELD, a township in the parish of STAMFORDHAM, north-eastern division of TINDALE ward, county of NORTHUMBERLAND, 13 miles (N.W.) from Newcastle, containing 39 inhabitants.

BITTADON, a parish in the hundred of BRAUNTON, county of DEVON, 6½ miles (N. by W.) from Barnstaple, containing 52 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry of Barnstaple, and diocese of Exeter, rated in the king's books at £5. 2. 8½., and in the patronage of G. A. Barbor, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Peter.

BITTERING (LITTLE), a parish in the hundred of LAUNDITCH, county of NORFOLK, 5 miles (N.W.) from East Dereham. The population is returned with the parish of Beeston St. Mary. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £2. 13. 6½., endowed with £800 royal bounty, and in the patronage of James Dover, Esq.

BITTERLEY, a parish partly in the hundred of MUNSLOW, but chiefly in the hundred of OVERS, county of SALOP, 4½ miles (E.N.E.) from Ludlow, containing 1064 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Salop, and diocese of Hereford, rated in the king's books at £18. 6. 3., and in the patronage of Sir J. D. King, Bart. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. John Newborough, in 1712, gave £400, now producing £34 per annum, toward the support of a free grammar school.

BITTERN, a tything in that part of the parish of SOUTH STONEHAM which is in the hundred of MANSBRIDGE, Fawley division of the county of SOUTHAMPTON, 2 miles (N.E.) from Southampton. The population is returned with the parish. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists. Bittern is within the jurisdiction of the Cheyney Court held at Winchester every Thursday, for the recovery of debts to any amount. This was the site of the Roman station *Claudentum*: a variety of Roman relics has been found.

BITTESBY, a liberty in the parish of CLAYBROOKE, hundred of GUTHLAXTON, county of LEICESTER, 3 miles (W. by N.) from Lutterworth, containing 11 inhabitants.

BITTESWELL, a parish in the hundred of GUTHLAXTON, county of LEICESTER, 1 mile (N. by W.) from Lutterworth, containing 427 inhabitants. The living is a vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Leicester, and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £4. 3. 0½., and in the alternate patronage of the Master and Wardens of the Haberdashers' Company, and the Governors of Christ's Hospital, London. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. The Roman Watling-street passes along the verge of the parish, and there is a mineral spring within its limits.

BITTISCOMBE, a hamlet in the parish of UPTON, hundred of WILLITON and FREEMANNERS, county of SOMERSET. The population is returned with the parish. Here was anciently a chapel, which has been demolished.

BITTON, a parish in the upper division of the hundred of LANGLEY and SWINEHEAD, county of GLOUCESTER, comprising the chapelries of Hanham and Oldland, and the hamlet of Bitton, and containing 7171 inhabitants, of which number, 1788 are in the hamlet of Bitton, 6½ miles (E. S. E.) from Bristol. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Gloucester, rated in the king's books at £18. 15., and in the patronage of the Prebendary of Bitton in the Cathedral Church of Salisbury. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a large and handsome edifice, with a finely ornamented tower, partly Norman, and partly in the later style of English architecture; it contains one thousand and nineteen sittings, of which eight hundred and eighty-eight are free, and in 1822 was constituted a district church. A chapel was built in 1820, under the provisions of a late act, toward the expense of which the parliamentary commissioners granted £2293. The river Avon flows along the southern side of the parish.

BIX-BRAND, a parish in the hundred of BINFIELD, county of OXFORD, 4 miles (N. W. by N.) from Henley upon Thames, containing, with Bix-Gibwen, 383 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, with that of Bix-Gibwen consolidated, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Oxford, rated in the king's books at £9. 15., and in the patronage of the Earl of Macclesfield. The church is dedicated to St. James.

BIX-GIBWEN, a parish in the hundred of BINFIELD, county of OXFORD, 2½ miles (N. W.) from Henley upon Thames. The population is returned with Bix-Brand. The living is a rectory, consolidated with that of Bix-Brand, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Oxford. The church, which was dedicated to St. Michael, is in ruins.

BIXLEY, a parish in the hundred of HENSTAD, county of NORFOLK, 3 miles (S. E. by S.) from Norwich, containing 107 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, with that of Earl's Framlingham united, in the archdeaconry of Norfolk, and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £5, and in the patronage of the Duke of Norfolk. The church, dedicated to St. Wandegisilus, to whose image here pilgrimages were formerly made, is an ancient edifice, built by William de Dunwich, in 1272.

BIXTON, or **BICKERSTON**, a parish in the hundred of FOREHOE, county of NORFOLK, 5½ miles (N. by W.) from Wymondham. The population is returned with Barnham-Broom. The living is a rectory, united, with that of Barnham-Broom, to the vicarage of Kimberley, in the archdeaconry of Norfolk, and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £2. 6. 8. The church, now desecrated, was dedicated to St. Andrew.

BLABY, a parish in the hundred of GUTHLAXTON, county of LEICESTER, 4½ miles (S. by W.) from Leicester, containing, with the chapelry of Countesthorpe, 1730 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Leicester, and diocese of Leicester, rated in the king's books at £15. 5., and in the patronage of the Crown. The church is dedicated to All Saints. There are places of worship for Baptists and Wesleyan Methodists. The Union canal passes through the parish.

BLACKAUTON, a parish in the hundred of BARNHAM, county of DURHAM, 3 miles (W. by N.) from

Dartmouth, containing 1327 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Totness, and diocese of Exeter, rated in the king's books at £13. 8. 9., endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £200 royal bounty, and in the patronage of Col. Seale. The church, dedicated to St. Michael, contains a Norman font, and a wooden screen richly carved. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists.

BLACKBOROUGH, a parish in the hundred of HAYRIDGE, county of DEVON, 5 miles (E.S.E.) from Cullompton, containing 74 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, annexed to that of Bundley, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Exeter, rated in the king's books at £4. The church, which was dedicated to All Saints, is desecrated, but the cemetery is still used.

BLACKBROOK, or **BLAKEBROOK**, a hamlet in that part of the parish of KIDDERMINSTER which is called the Foreign, lower division of the hundred of HALFESHIRE, county of WORCESTER, $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile (W.) from Kidderminster. The population is returned with the parish. Several new houses have lately been erected in this hamlet, which has become an agreeable part of the environs of Kidderminster.

BLACKBURN, a parish in the lower division of the hundred of BLACKBURN, county palatine of LANCASTER, comprising the market town of Blackburn, the chapelries of Balderston, Billington, Great Harwood, Over Darwen, Mellor, Salesbury, Samlesbury, Tockholes, and Walton le Dale, and the townships of Clayton le Dale, Cuerdale, Lower Darwen, Dinkley, Eccleshill, Little Harwood, Livesey, Osbaldeston, Pleasington, Ramsgrave, Rishton, Wilpshire, and Witton, and containing 53,350 inhabitants, of which number, 21,940 are in the town of Blackburn, 31 miles (S.E. by S.) from Lancaster, and 210 (N.N.W.) from London. This place takes its name from a small rivulet flowing near the town, which, from the turbid state of the water, was anciently called Blakeburn, or the yellow bourne. A castle is said to have been built here, probably by the Romans, which, after their departure from the island, was occupied successively by the Britons and the Saxons; but there are no vestiges of it, nor can even its site be distinctly ascertained. Blackburn was formerly the capital of a district, called Blackburnshire, which for many ages was a dreary and uncultivated waste. In the reign of Elizabeth, it was distinguished as a good market town, and, in the middle of the following century, was celebrated for its supplies of corn, cattle, and provisions. The town is pleasantly situated on the northern bank of the river Derwent, over which are three stone bridges, and in a valley sheltered by a ridge of hills, extending from the north-east to the north-west: it consists of several streets, irregularly laid out, but containing several well-built, and many respectable, houses; it is well paved, lighted with gas, and abundantly supplied with water. In 1824, an act of parliament was obtained for constructing a new turnpike road to Preston, crossing the river Ribble at Blackburn, by which the distance is shortened nearly two miles. Under the same act the town has been greatly improved. There are assembly-rooms, a subscription library, a Linnæan Society, and a theatre, which was erected in 1818. The manufacture of Blackburn, and subsequently that of Blackburn greys, and of the same name, which formerly flour-

ished here to a considerable extent, have been superseded by the manufacture of calico, muslin, and cotton goods: not less than forty thousand pieces of the last are, on an average, made weekly, in which about ten thousand persons are employed: the value of these goods, exclusively of dyeing and printing, is estimated at two millions sterling per annum. There are large factories for the spinning of cotton, printing and dyeing establishments, and extensive bleaching grounds.

Some of the earliest and most important improvements in the spinning and manufacture of cotton originated with James Hargreave, a carpenter in this town, who was the inventor and patentee of the spinning jenny, which has since been so generally adopted. The introduction of machinery into the factories excited a powerful sensation among the workmen of this place, and created such tumultuous proceedings on the part of the populace, who destroyed several of the factories in which it was used, that the inventor was driven from the town; and many individuals who had invested large capitals in the establishment of cotton-factories, were so intimidated, that they embraced the earliest opportunity of withdrawing their investments, and removing to places where they might employ them with greater security. There are at present about one hundred thousand spindles in operation in the town and neighbourhood, which produce about thirty-five thousand pounds of yarn weekly. The Leeds and Liverpool canal passes the town, and affords communication with the Mersey, the Dee, the Ouse, the Trent, the Humber, the Severn, and the Thames, forming a most extensive line of inland navigation. The market days are Wednesday and Saturday: the fairs are held on Easter-Monday, May 11th and 12th, and October 17th; a cattle fair is also held on the first Wednesday before February 2nd, and on every alternate Wednesday till Michaelmas. The want of a convenient market-place is strongly felt in this populous town; Fleming-square has been recently appropriated for this purpose, but the area is scarcely large enough. One side of the square is occupied by a spacious cloth-hall, erected for the exhibition and sale of Yorkshire woollen cloths, a great quantity of which is brought hither. Blackburn is within the jurisdiction of the magistrates acting for the hundred to which it gives name: two high constables are appointed, one for the upper, and one for the lower, division, for which latter, together with Whalley, a court of petty session is held here. Its local concerns are under the superintendence of commissioners appointed by a special act of parliament.

This extensive parish, which is fourteen miles in length, and ten in breadth, was formerly part of the parish of Whalley; on being separated from which, it was, on account of its sterility, endowed with a fourth part of the tithes of that parish, in addition to its own. The living is a vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Chester, rated in the king's books at £8. 1. 8., and in the patronage of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, and formerly the conventual church of the monastery of Whalley, was rebuilt in the reign of Edward III., and again in that of Henry VIII.; but in 1819 it was taken down, with the exception of the tower, and the chapel of the Duncan family, which contains the altar, and in which baptisms and marriages are still solemnized, and

the funeral service is performed. A new church was completed in 1826, on the site of the old grammar school, at an expense of £26,000, raised by a rate under an act of parliament passed in 1819: it was a spacious and elegant edifice, partly in the decorated, and partly in the later, style of English architecture, with a lofty square tower, highly enriched, and crowned with a pierced parapet and crocketed pinnacles, but was burned down in January 1831. The interior is lofty in its proportions, and elegant in its details; the nave is lighted with a fine range of double clerestory windows, and those in the aisles are enriched with flowing tracery of graceful character. The chapels of St. John and St. Peter are both neat modern edifices: St. Peter's is a chapel of ease; the living of St. John's is a perpetual curacy, in the patronage of the Vicar of Blackburn, in whom is also vested the presentation to the several perpetual curacies in the parish, with the exception of that of Salesbury. At Lower Darwen, Over Darwen, and Mellor, new churches have been erected, the expense of each having been partly defrayed by grant from the parliamentary commissioners; they are all in the later style of English architecture, with towers, and were begun in 1827, and completed in 1829. The church at Lower Darwen contains seven hundred and twenty-three free sittings, and the cost of its erection was £5491. 2. 6.: that at Over Darwen, which contains nine hundred and eighty-five free sittings, was erected at an expense of £6573. 4. 9.; and that at Mellor, which has a spire, and contains six hundred and seventy-eight free sittings, cost £5275. 6. 9. There are two places of worship each for Baptists and Independents, and one each for the Society of Friends, Primitive and Wesleyan Methodists, Swedenborgians, and Unitarians, besides two Roman Catholic chapels. The free grammar school was founded in the reign of Elizabeth, who placed it under the superintendence of fifty governors resident in the town, who are a corporate body, and appoint the master: it is endowed with land in the neighbourhood, producing £120 per annum; there are thirty boys on the foundation: the premises, consisting of a school-room and house for the master, are handsomely built of stone. The Rev. Robert Bolton, an eminent divine, and one of the compilers of the Liturgy, was a native of this town, and received the rudiments of his education in the school. In 1764, Mr. John Leyland bequeathed £250 for the instruction of poor girls in reading, writing, sewing, and knitting; this sum has been augmented by subsequent benefactions, and at present ninety girls are instructed and clothed. There is also a National school, supported by subscription, in which eight hundred children of both sexes are taught. The general dispensary was established in 1828: there are a ladies' society for the relief of poor women during child-birth at their own houses, a strangers' friend society, and several other charitable institutions.

BLACK-CHAPEL, a chapelry in the parish of GREAT WALTHAM, hundred of CHELMSFORD, county of ESSEX, 9 miles (N. by W.) from Chelmsford. The population is returned with the parish.

BLACKDEN, a township in that part of the parish of SANDBACH which is in the hundred of NORTHWICH, county palatine of CHESTER, 6½ miles (S. S. E.) from Knutsford, containing 191 inhabitants.

BLACKFORD, a chapelry in the parish of WEDMORE, hundred of BEMPTON, county of SOMERSET, 5¼ miles (S. by W.) from Axbridge. The population is returned with the parish. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of Wells, and diocese of Bath and Wells, and in the patronage of the Dean of Wells. The chapel is of recent erection, towards defraying the expense of which the Incorporated Society for the enlargement of churches and chapels gave £200. The manor was given as part of the endowment of Bruton Hospital, by Hugh Saxey, Esq., the founder; and two boys are annually sent from this place to be educated at that institution. Here is a mineral spring.

BLACKFORD, a parish in the hundred of WHITLEY, though locally in the hundred of Horethorne, county of SOMERSET, 4¼ miles (W. S. W.) from Wincanton, containing 154 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry of Wells, and diocese of Bath and Wells, rated in the king's books at £6. 11. 0½., endowed with £1200 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of the Rev. J. Richards. The church, dedicated to St. Michael, is in the early style of English architecture, but there is a Norman arch over the entrance.

BLACKFORDBY, a chapelry in the parish of ASHBY de la ZOUCH, western division of the hundred of GOSCOTE, county of LEICESTER, 2½ miles (W. N. W.) from Ashby de la Zouch, containing 290 inhabitants. The chapel is dedicated to St. Margaret. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists. The Ashby de la Zouch canal crosses the wolds south of this place.

BLACKHEATH, a village situated within the parishes of GREENWICH, LEWISHAM, and LEE, in the hundred of BLACKHEATH, lathe of SUTTON at HONE, county of KENT, 5 miles (S. E.) from London, on the road to Dover. The population is returned with the respective parishes. This place, which takes its name either from the colour of the soil, or from the bleakness of its situation, prior to the erection of the numerous villas with which it abounds, was the scene of many important political transactions. In 1011, the Danes having landed at Greenwich, encamped on the heath, and, among other barbarities, put to death Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury, who had refused to sanction their extortions, and who was afterwards canonized. In the reign of Richard II., the insurgents under Wat Tyler, amounting to one hundred thousand men, took up their station here, whence they marched to London. In 1400, Henry IV. held an interview at this place with the Emperor of Constantinople, who came to solicit aid against Bajazet, Emperor of the Turks; and in 1415, the lord mayor and aldermen of London, in their robes of state, attended by four hundred of the principal citizens, clothed in scarlet, came hither in procession to meet Henry V., on his triumphant return after the battle of Agincourt. In 1451, Henry VI. lost many of the followers of Jack Cade, who submitted to his authority, and on their knees implored and obtained his pardon; and here, the following year, the monarch assembled his forces to oppose Richard, Duke of York, who aspired to the throne. In 1497, the Cornish rebels, headed by Lord Audley, who had advanced into Kent, encamped near Eltham, and awaited the approach of Henry VII., on whose fatal battle they were defeated.

the 22nd of July, in which the insurgents were defeated, and their leader, together with two of his associates who had excited the rebellion, taken and executed. In 1519, Campejo, the pope's legate, was received here in great state by the Duke of Norfolk, with a numerous retinue of bishops, knights, and gentlemen, who conducted him to a magnificent tent of cloth of gold, whence, after having arrayed himself in his cardinal's robes, he proceeded to London; and at this place, in 1540, Henry VIII. appointed an interview with Anne of Cleves, previously to their marriage, which was celebrated with great pomp in the chapel at Greenwich. Blackheath is pleasantly situated on elevated ground, commanding diversified and extensive views of the surrounding country, which is richly cultivated, and abounds with fine scenery, in which Greenwich Hospital, the park, and the river Thames, are prominent objects. There are many elegant villas, among which the Paragon, a beautiful range of building, is eminently conspicuous: on the west, and within the park, is the residence of the Princess Sophia of Gloucester, formerly occupied by the Duchess of Brunswick: the mansion in which the Princess of Wales resided has been lately taken down. Wricklemarsh House, once the noblest ornament of the heath, erected early in the last century, by Sir Gregory Page, was rased to the ground in 1787, by the different purchasers to whom it had been sold in lots by public auction; its site, now called Park-road, is occupied by handsome cottages. There are two episcopal chapels, one on that part of the heath which is in the parish of Lewisham, and the other at Kidbrook, an extra-parochial district on the north side of the heath, built by Dr. Greenlaw. The free grammar school, for thirty-one boys of Lewisham and the adjoining parishes, and for the sons of all the clergy in the hundred of Blackheath, was founded by the Rev. Abraham Colfe, vicar of Lewisham, who erected the premises in 1652, and at his death, in 1656, bequeathed the greater part of his estate in land, and £1100 in money, in trust to the Leather-sellers' Company, for its endowment, and for other charitable uses. The income is £342. 15. 6. per annum: the master, who is allowed to take twenty-six boarders, receives about £40 per annum, and resides in the house free of rent; the instruction of the free scholars is now confined to English and writing. There were seven exhibitions, of £10 each per annum, to either of the Universities; but from a failure in the funds appropriated to that use, they have been for some years discontinued. A British school for boys, and several small schools, are also supported by the liberal benevolence of the resident gentry. Morden Hall, a noble institution for the support of decayed gentlemen in the decline of life, was founded by Sir John Morden, Bart., an opulent Turkey merchant, in 1695, and endowed it with the manor of Old Court, producing £1000 per annum: the establishment consisted of a chaplain, and a treasurer; and the management is vested in seven trustees, who were formerly Turkey merchants, or Directors of the East India Company. The premises, which occupy a spacious quadrangle, are handsomely built of brick, with pilasters and cornices of stone, and are surrounded by a garden; over the entrance are statues of the founder and his wife; the portraits are in the hall;

and in the chapel are the arms of Sir John, who was interred there in 1708.

At the distance of two or three hundred yards north of Blackheath hill, a cavern, containing several apartments, was discovered in 1780: it is supposed to have been formed as a place of security during the Saxon and Danish contests; but every attempt to explore it has been frustrated, from the falling in of the earth, and nothing has yet been found to illustrate its history. The Watling-street, or Roman road from London to Dover, which passed over the heath, may still be traced; and in 1710, several Roman urns were dug up, two of which were of fine red clay, one of a spherical, and the other of a cylindrical, form: the former, about two feet in diameter, contained ashes, and was rudely inscribed, near the mouth, with the words "Marcus Aurelius IIII;" the latter, eighteen inches in height, contained ashes and some coins, on which, though much obliterated, the names of the emperors Claudius and Gallienus were legible. In 1803, several urns were also discovered in the gardens of the Earl of Dartmouth, about a foot below the surface of the ground, which were presented by his lordship to the British Museum.

BLACKLAND, a parish in the hundred of CALNE, county of WILTS, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile (S. E.) from Calne, containing 44 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, within the jurisdiction of the Prebendary of Calne in the Cathedral Church of Salisbury, rated in the king's books at £3. 10. 10., and in the patronage of the Rev. James Mayo. The church is dedicated to St. Peter.

BLACKLEY, a chapelry in the parish of MANCHESTER, hundred of SALFORD, county palatine of LANCASTER, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N. N. E.) from Manchester, containing 2911 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Chester, endowed with £200 royal bounty, and £600 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of the Warden and Fellows of the Collegiate Church of Manchester. The chapel, dedicated to St. Peter, was, previously to the Reformation, a domestic chapel belonging to Blackley Hall, and, after a period of disuse, was purchased by the inhabitants, in 1610: it has lately received an addition of four hundred sittings, half of them free, toward defraying the expense of which the Incorporated Society for the enlargement of churches and chapels gave £400. There are places of worship for Wesleyan Methodists and Socinians. The inhabitants are chiefly employed in weaving, printing, bleaching, and dyeing cotton. A school, in connexion with the established church, has an endowment of £5 per annum, and is further supported by contributions: the school-room was built in 1794.

BLACKMANSTONE, a parish within the liberty of ROMNEY-MARSH, though locally in the hundred of Worth, lathe of SHEPWAY, county of KENT, 3 miles (N. by E.) from New Romney, containing 8 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Canterbury, rated in the king's books at £4, and in the patronage of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The church is desecrated, and the population has for several years been decreasing.

BLACKMORE, a parish in the hundred of CHELMSFORD, county of ESSEX, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N. W. by W.) from Ingatestone, containing 657 inhabitants. The living is a

vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Essex, and diocese of London, rated in the king's books at £6. 13. 4., endowed with a rent-charge of £20 private benefaction, £400 royal bounty, and £1400 parliamentary grant. The King presented by lapse in 1808. The church, dedicated to St. Lawrence, was the conventual church of a priory of Black canons, which was built by Adam and Jordan de Samford, about the commencement of the reign of John: it was dissolved in the 17th of Henry VIII., at which time the revenue, amounting to £85. 9. 7., was applied by Cardinal Wolsey toward the endowment of his two colleges at Oxford and Ipswich, and on his attainder, in 1529, was appropriated to the crown. Henry VIII. afterwards occasionally resided in the house, which, having lately undergone a thorough repair, is now an elegant private mansion.

BLACKPOOL, a chapelry and bathing-place in the parish of BISHAM, hundred of AMOUNDERNESS, county palatine of LANCASTER, 4 miles (S.W. by W.) from Poulton, and 25 (S.W. by W.) from Lancaster, containing 800 resident inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of Richmond, and diocese of Chester, endowed with £600 private benefaction, and £1700 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of P. Hesketh, Esq. The chapel was built in 1821, at an expense of £1150, and the Incorporated Society for the enlargement of churches and chapels granted £200 for defraying the expense of a greater number of sittings. Blackpool, which acquired its name from a boggy pool at the southern end of the village, was, until within the last eighty years, an inconsiderable place; but, owing to its eligibility for bathing, it is now frequented every summer by a crowd of visitors, for whose accommodation commodious hotels and lodging-houses have been erected. The beach slopes gently from the site of the houses; the sands are smooth and firm; and the air is highly salubrious. The parade forms an agreeable promenade, from which there is an extensive view of the fells in Westmorland and Cumberland, and the mountains in North Wales. Excellent regulations have been introduced for the convenience of bathers; a news-room and library have been established, a theatre erected, and assemblies are occasionally held at the different hotels. Every alternate Sunday during the season the inhabitants of the surrounding district assemble at Lane End, and join in various rustic sports. The sea appears to have encroached considerably on the shore; a large stone, called Penny-stone, lying on the sands, about half a mile from the shore, is stated by tradition to mark the site on which a public-house formerly stood. A free school was established in 1817, which is conducted on Dr. Bell's plan.

BLACKROD, a chapelry in the parish of BOLTON, hundred of SALFORD, county palatine of LANCASTER, 4½ miles (S. S. E.) from Chorley, containing 2436 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Chester, endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £200 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Vicar of Great Bolton. The chapel is dedicated to St. Catherine. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists. This is the site of a Roman station, named *Coccium* by Antonine, and *Rigodunum* by Ptolemy, which was situated on the Watling-street. The spinning of cotton, and the printing of calico, are carried on within the chapelry, its trade being facilitated

by a branch of the Lancaster canal, which crosses it. A fair for toys and pedlary is held on the first Thursday after July 12th. A respectable free grammar school, under the superintendence of trustees, is endowed with about £140 per annum, being the produce of various benefactions. John Holmes, in 1568, founded an exhibition at Pembroke College, Cambridge, for a scholar on this foundation; the fund having accumulated, three exhibitioners are now appointed, receiving respectively £60, £70, and £80, per annum, for four years. The house for the master was rebuilt in 1798.

BLACKTHORN, a chapelry in the parish of AMBROSEN, hundred of BULLINGTON, county of OXFORD, 3 miles (S. E. by E.) from Bicester, containing 393 inhabitants. The chapel is in ruins. The Roman Akeman-street enters the county here, and proceeds over Blackthorn hill, in its course through the parish. The custom of running at the quintal, or quintain, the origin and practice of which are attributed to the Romans, was anciently observed on the occasion of a wedding in this chapelry.

BLACKTOFT, a parish in the wapentake of HOWDENSHIRE, East riding of the county of YORK, comprising the townships of Blacktoft and Scalby, and containing 457 inhabitants, of which number, 278 are in the township of Blacktoft, 7½ miles (E. S. E.) from Howden. The living is a perpetual curacy, within the jurisdiction of the peculiar court of Howdenshire, endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £1000 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Durham. The village is situated on the northern bank of the Ouse, one mile above its confluence with the Trent, and there are usually vessels lying at anchor opposite to it.

BLACKWALL, a hamlet in the parish of STEPNEY, Tower division of the hundred of OSSULSTONE, county of MIDDLESEX, 2½ miles (E.) from London. The population is returned with Poplar. This place, which is situated near the influx of the river Lea into the Thames, consists chiefly of a few irregularly formed streets, which are paved, and lighted with gas; the houses, many of which are of wood, and of mean appearance, are inhabited chiefly by shipwrights, and persons employed in the docks: the inhabitants are supplied with water by the East London Water Company. It has long been noted for a very large private yard for ship-building, and a wet dock, formerly belonging to Mr. Perry, the former of which was purchased by Sir Robert Wigram, Bart., and is still applied to the same use; and the latter by the East India Company, for the formation of their docks, which were commenced in 1804, and completed in 1806. These docks, situated at the eastern extremity of the hamlet, are surrounded by a lofty wall: the entrance from the river is through a handsome gateway, surmounted by a square turret, supporting an octagonal dome, the front of which is a tablet, recording the date of the completion. They consist of an outer and an inner dock, both enclosed with walls, and communicating by locks with the river. The entrance from the river is by a narrow passage, 100 acres in extent, from which vessels sail directly into the docks: the inner, or import dock, which is 1000 feet in length, five hundred feet in breadth, and of an average depth of 12 fathoms, occupies an area of eight acres, and, on

fleets, affords accommodation for sixteen ships to unload their cargoes, though, from the custom-house regulations, only twelve landing officers being appointed, no more than twelve vessels can be unloaded at the same time. The outer, or export dock, is seven hundred and eighty feet long and five hundred and twenty feet wide, and of the same depth as the inner dock; it was enlarged in 1817 by an additional basin, prior to which its area was rather more than nine acres. Extensive ranges of warehouses have been erected within the walls: those on the north side are for saltpetre, on the south for storing the cargoes imported in shipping belonging to the private trade, and, on the east side of the import dock, for such goods as are not removed to the Company's warehouses. Sheds are also ranged round the docks, for the numerous vans employed in removing the merchandise to its several places of destination: these, of which seldom less than eighty are in constant use, are strong carriages built expressly for the purpose, and secured with bars and locks, with duplicate keys, one of which is kept at the docks, and the other at the Company's warehouses. At Blackwell Reach, adjoining this hamlet, are the West India docks, similarly constructed, but upon a more extensive scale. These consist of two spacious docks parallel with each other, and of equal dimensions, being nearly half a mile in length, excavated in a direction crossing the isthmus of the Isle of Dogs, and having an entrance basin of large extent at each extremity, by which vessels sailing in either direction may avoid the circuitous bend of the river. Between the docks are extensive ranges of warehouses, as also on the south side of the inner dock, for the convenience of forwarding goods by land carriage, and on the north side of the outer dock, in front of which is a canal three quarters of a mile in length, intersecting the Isle of Dogs, and forming a direct communication with the river at two points, between which the distance, by sailing round the isle, is nearly four miles and a half.

BLACKWATER, a large village in the parish of YATELY, hundred of CRONALL, Basingstoke division of the county of SOUTHAMPTON, 15 miles (E. N. E.) from Basingstoke. The population is returned with the parish. It occupies a low situation on the great western road, at the point of junction of the three counties of Southampton, Surrey, and Berks, on the western bank of the river Blackwater, which is here crossed by a bridge: on the northern side of the road is a range of handsome buildings, appropriated as residences for the masters of the adjoining college of Sandhurst. It is centrally indebted for the traffic it enjoys to the numerous coaches that pass through it daily. There is a place of worship for Particular Baptists. A fair for sheep is held on September 8th. Blackwater is under the jurisdiction of the Cheyney Court held at Basingstoke every Thursday, for the recovery of debts.

BLACKHALL (HIGH), a township of the parish of ST. CUTHBERT, in CUMBERLAND ward, county of CUMBERLAND, 2 miles (S.) from Carlisle, containing 124 inhabitants. This manor was given by Margaret, Countess of Wigtown, to Sir Robert Graham, afterwards Lord High Treasurer of Scotland, for success-

fully conducting her cause against Sir Robert de Bridekirk, who had impugned her title to the barony of Wigtown. Thomas Lowrey, Esq., in 1779, bequeathed £200, directing that one-half of the interest should be given to a schoolmaster for teaching poor children, and the remainder to poor widows. In 1798, Grace Graham gave £100 to a school at Durdar, in this township.

BLACKWELL, or BLACKHALL (LOW), a township in that part of the parish of ST. CUTHBERT, CARLISLE, which is in CUMBERLAND ward, county of CUMBERLAND, 2 miles (S.) from Carlisle, containing 124 inhabitants.

BLACKWELL, a chapelry in the parish of BAKEWELL, hundred of HIGH PEAK, county of DERBY, $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles (S. W.) from Tideswell, containing 58 inhabitants.

BLACKWELL, a parish in the hundred of SCARSDALE, county of DERBY, $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles (N. E. by E.) from Alfreton, containing 457 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Derby, and diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, rated in the king's books at £5. 4. 2., endowed with £800 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Duke of Devonshire. The church, dedicated to St. Werburgh, was rebuilt in 1826. Coal is obtained in the parish.

BLACKWELL, a township in the parish of DARLINGTON, south-eastern division of DARLINGTON ward, county palatine of DURHAM, $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile (S. W. by S.) from Darlington, containing 268 inhabitants. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists. The river Tees is navigable here, and a railway from Croftbridge to Darlington passes in the vicinity. At the Grange, in this township, then the property and residence of George Allan, Esq., there was formerly an extensive collection of books, manuscripts, paintings, natural and artificial curiosities, and British birds stuffed, formed at a considerable expense by that gentleman, who had also a press, with which he printed several works, some of them very scarce: this ingenious topographer, antiquary, and virtuoso, the early part of whose life was spent in the profession of the law, died of paralysis, May 18th, 1800.

BLACKWELL, a hamlet in the parish of TREDINGTON, upper division of the hundred of OSWALDSLOW, county of WORCESTER, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N. N. W.) from Shipston upon Stour, containing 228 inhabitants.

BLACKWOOD, a joint township with Croborough, in the parish of HORTON, northern division of the hundred of TOTMONSLOW, county of STAFFORD, 4 miles (W.) from Leek, containing, with Croborough, 561 inhabitants.

BLACKWORTH, a township in the parish of EARSdon, eastern division of CASTLE ward, county of NORTHUMBERLAND, $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles (N. W.) from North Shields, containing 243 inhabitants. Here is an extensive colliery, the produce of which, known as "Northumberland Wallsend," and "Earsdon Main," is of a superior quality. A school-room has been built, chiefly at the expense of the Duke of Northumberland.

BLACON, a joint township with Crabbhall, in that part of the parish of HOLY TRINITY, CHESTER, which is in the higher division of the hundred of WIRRELL, county palatine of CHESTER, 2 miles (W. N. W.) from Chester, containing, with Crabbhall, 75 inhabitants. The Ellesmere canal passes in the vicinity.

BLADON, a parish in the hundred of **WOOTTON**, county of **OXFORD**, 2 miles (S.) from Woodstock, containing, with the hamlet of Hensington, 510 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, with the chapelry of New Woodstock annexed, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Oxford, rated in the king's books at £16. 0. 6., and in the patronage of the Duke of Marlborough. The church is dedicated to St. Martin. There is a small endowment for the education of poor children.

BLAENAVON, a parochial chapelry in the hundred of **ABERGAVENNY**, county of **MONMOUTH**, 5 miles (S.W.) from Abergavenny, containing about 2500 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Llandaff, endowed with £400 royal bounty, and £2000 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of Thomas Hill, Esq. There are two places of worship for Baptists. The village, which has of late assumed the appearance of a thriving town, lies in a mountainous district, near the source of the Avon Lwyd, whence it derives its name; many of the houses are excavated in the solid rock. The neighbourhood abounds with iron-ore, coal, and limestone; and iron-works, on an extensive scale, were completed here in 1789, since which they have been progressively increasing: the major portion of the pig iron is conveyed, by means of a canal and a rail-road, to Newport, whence it is exported. A customary market is held on Saturday. Near the iron-works stands a spacious English free school, endowed in 1816 by Mrs. Sarah Hopkins, for the instruction of the children of the miners: the present number, including both sexes, is about two hundred and forty.

BLAGDON, a township in the parish of **STANNINGTON**, western division of **CASTLE** ward, county of **NORTHUMBERLAND**, 6½ miles (S.) from Morpeth, containing 64 inhabitants.

BLAGDON, a tything in the parish of **PITMINSTER**, hundred of **TAUNTON** and **TAUNTON-DEAN**, county of **SOMERSET**, 5 miles (S. by W.) from Taunton. The population is returned with the parish. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists.

BLAGDON, a parish in the hundred of **WINTERSTOKE**, county of **SOMERSET**, 6½ miles (N. E. by E.) from Axbridge, containing 1068 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Wells, and diocese of Bath and Wells, rated in the king's books at £29. 13. 9., and in the patronage of George Thorne, Esq. The church, dedicated to St. Andrew, has lately been rebuilt, towards defraying the expense of which the Incorporated Society for the enlargement of churches and chapels granted £500. John Langhorne, D.D., a poet and miscellaneous writer, and for some time rector of this parish, lies interred in the churchyard. There is a place of worship for Methodists. *Lapis calaminaris* is found in the vicinity, and teasel, for the use of the clothiers, is cultivated to a great extent: here is also a paper-mill. Thomas Baynard, by indenture dated November 8th, 1687, gave land for the instruction of eight poor children: the endowment now produces £17. 10. per annum, for which seventeen children are gratuitously taught to read and write. There are also benefactions for the use of the poor, and a fund of £13 per annum, arising from land given by John Leman, for apprenticing children. At a place called Reg-hill-bury, where are some ruins, tradition relates that a royal palace once stood.

BLAGRAVE, a joint tything with Hadley, in the parish and hundred of **LAMBOURN**, county of **BERKS**, containing, with Hadley, 451 inhabitants.

BLAISDON, a parish in the hundred of **WESTBURY**, county of **GLOUCESTER**, 3¼ miles (E. S. E.) from Mitchell-Dean, containing 243 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry of Hereford, and diocese of Gloucester, rated in the king's books at £5. 7. 3½., and in the patronage of Anna Gordon. The church is dedicated to St. Michael.

BLAKEMERE, a parish in the hundred of **WEBTREE**, county of **HEREFORD**, 10½ miles (W. by N.) from Hereford, containing 163 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, with that of Preston upon Wye united, in the peculiar jurisdiction and patronage of the Dean of Hereford, rated in the king's books at £3, endowed with £400 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Dean and Chapter. The church is dedicated to St. Leonard.

BLAKENEY, a chapelry in the parish of **AWRE**, hundred of **BLIDESLOE**, county of **GLOUCESTER**, 15 miles (S. W. by W.) from Gloucester. The population is returned with the parish. The chapel, dedicated to All Saints, has lately been enlarged by the addition of five hundred sittings, three hundred and sixty-four of which are free, and towards defraying the expense the Incorporated Society for the enlargement of churches and chapels granted £110. There is a place of worship for Baptists. The navigable river Severn passes through the vicinity. Fairs for the sale of live stock are held on April 23rd and November 12th.

BLAKENEY, a small sea-port and parish in the hundred of **HOLT**, county of **NORFOLK**, 1¼ mile (N. W.) from Clay, and 125 (N. E.) from London, containing 803 inhabitants. This place is chiefly noted for its excellent harbour, which is well situated for sheltering vessels, and has a good opening to the North sea. It was called Snitterley in the reign of Henry III., who granted it a market; it first assumed its present name in the reign of Edward III., in the 31st of which a statute was passed for the regulation of the fish trade, which was then carried on to a considerable extent, and attracted a great number of German merchants, several of whom fixed their residence in the town. The harbour has been improved under an act of parliament obtained in 1817, and vessels of considerable burden can now approach the quay. The port is under the superintendence of the custom-house establishment at Clay: the trade with the northern states of Europe is rapidly increasing; a few vessels are employed in the oyster fisheries, and the coasting trade is considerable. The number of vessels belonging to the port, according to the return made in 1828, was fifty, averaging five tons' burden. There is an ancient guild in the town, relative to which some old deeds are extant. The living is a rectory, with the rectory of **BLAKENEY**, the vicarage of Little Langham, and the perpetual curacy of Glandford annexed, in the archdeaconry of Norfolk, and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £26. 13. 4., and in the patronage of the Bishop of Norwich. The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, is a fine structure of stone and flint, with a square tower, the lofty turret rises at the north-eastern angle, and is stated to have been formerly a

for the guidance of vessels; the roof of the chancel is curiously vaulted with stone. There is a place of worship for Methodists. The Sunday school near the church was erected by Lord Calthorpe, and is conducted upon Dr. Bell's system. There are some remains, consisting principally of several fine arches, of an ancient monastery for Carmelites, founded in 1320 to the honour of God and the Virgin Mary, in which John de Baconthorpe, a learned divine and acute metaphysician, became a friar, and ultimately Provincial of the English Carmelites; he was born here, and died in London in 1346.

BLAKENHALL, a township in the parish of WYBURNBURY, hundred of NANTWICH, county palatine of CHESTER, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S. E. by E.) from Nantwich, containing 225 inhabitants.

BLAKENHAM (GREAT), a parish in the hundred of BOSMERE and CLAYDON, county of SUFFOLK, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S. E. by S.) from Needham, containing 162 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry of Suffolk, and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £6. 16. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$., and in the patronage of the Provost and Fellows of Eton College. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. Walter Gifford, Earl of Buckingham, appropriated this manor, in the time of William II., to the abbey of Bec in Normandy, the society of which established a cell here, which was suppressed with other Alien priories, whereupon the manor was given by Henry VI. to the provost and fellows. The Stow-Market and Ipswich canal passes along the south-eastern side of the parish.

BLAKENHAM (LITTLE), a parish in the hundred of BOSMERE and CLAYDON, county of SUFFOLK, 5 miles (N. W.) from Ipswich, containing 120 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Suffolk, and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £10. 3. 4., and in the patronage of the Rev. Stephen Jackson. The church is dedicated to St. Mary.

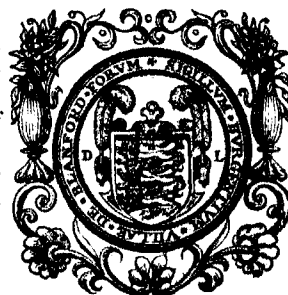
BLAKESLEY, a parish in the hundred of GREENS-NORTON, county of NORTHAMPTON, 4 miles (W. N. W.) from Towcester, containing, with the hamlet of Woodend, 752 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Northampton, and diocese of Peterborough, rated in the king's books at £9. 17. The King, for that turn, was patron in 1828. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. A free school was founded by William Foxley, in 1669, and endowed with property now producing about £85 per annum; it is open to all boys whose parents reside in the parish. A Sunday school is endowed with a bequest of £200 by Sir John Knightley, Bart. There are also charities, as Cleave's charity, the Foxley and Bidford charities, and others, some of which Blakesley enjoys in common with other parishes. Blakesley Hall is stated to have been anciently occupied by a fraternity of the order of St. John of Jerusalem.

BLANCHLAND (HIGH), a chapelry in the parish of BARNHAM, eastern division of TINDALE ward, county of NORTHAMPTON, 10 miles (S. by E.) from Barnham, containing 412 inhabitants. The living is a parsonage, in the archdeaconry of Northampton, and diocese of Durham, endowed with £400 per annum, and £300 royal bounty, and £300 parsonage rent, and in the patronage of Lord Crewe's trustees. The church was repaired, in 1752, by the trus-

tees of Bishop Crewe, out of the tower of an abbey of Premonstratensian canons, founded by Walter de Bolbec, in 1175, in honour of the Blessed Virgin, the abbot of which was elevated to the house of peers in the 23rd of Edward I.: the establishment, at the time of the dissolution, consisted of an abbot and fourteen, canons, and the revenue amounted to £44. 9. 1. After having passed through various hands, the estate was purchased by Bishop Crewe, who bequeathed it for charitable purposes: besides that part converted into a chapel, the principal gateway and other portions of the conventual buildings are still visible. The trustees also endowed a free school with £50 per annum, allowing the master to charge a small quarterage in addition. This township is situated on the north side of the river Derwent, and is celebrated for its lead mines, which have been extensively worked for a very long period: the company of proprietors have a large smelting-furnace at Shildon.

BLANDFORD (ST. MARY), a parish in the hundred of COOMBS-DITCH, Blandford (North) division of the county of DORSET, $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile (S.) from Blandford-Forum, containing 358 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Dorset, and diocese of Bristol, rated in the king's books at £15. 17. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$., and in the patronage of the Rev. T. Burrough. The church, with the exception of the tower, was rebuilt in 1711. Browne Willis, L.L.D., the celebrated antiquary, was born here, September 14th, 1682; he died at Whaddon Hall, in Buckinghamshire, February 5th, 1760, and was interred in the chapel at Fenny-Stratford, which had been built chiefly through his exertions in soliciting contributions.

BLANDFORD-FORUM, a market town and parish in the hundred of PIMPERNE, Blandford (North) division of the county of DORSET, 16 miles (N. E.) from Dorchester, and 104 (S. W.) from London, on the road to Exeter, containing 2643 inhabitants. This place derived its name from being situated near an ancient ford on the river Stour, called by the Romans *Trajectus Belaniensis*. It was nearly destroyed by an accidental fire, in the year 1579, but was soon afterwards rebuilt. During the civil war in the reign of Charles I., it suffered severely for its loyalty to that monarch. In 1644, it was plundered by the parliamentary forces under Major Sydenham, and not being fortified, became an easy prey to the contending parties, having been frequently assailed and alternately possessed by each of them. In 1677, and in 1713, it again suffered greatly from fire, and, in 1731, was, with the exception of forty houses only, consumed by a conflagration, which destroyed also the hamlets of Blandford St. Mary and Bryanston, in which only three dwellings were left. After this calamity, which is recorded on a marble tablet over a pump near the church, it was rebuilt by act of parliament, in 1732. The town is pleasantly situated within a curve of the river Stour, over which is a bridge of six arches; there are also two other bridges, erected to facilitate the entrance into it



Corporate Seal.

during occasional overflows of the river: the streets are regularly formed and well paved, the houses modern and uniformly built of brick, and the inhabitants amply supplied with water. The theatre, a neat and commodious building, is opened occasionally; and the races, which have been established for more than a century, are annually held, in August, on a fine down near the town, the course being one of the best in the kingdom. The manufacture of lace of a very fine quality, equal, if not superior, to that made in Flanders, and valued at £30 per yard, formerly flourished here: the making of shirt buttons, for which Blandford has long been noted, affords employment to a very considerable number of females in the town and the adjacent villages. The market is on Saturday: the fairs, chiefly for horses, horned cattle, and cheese, are held on March 7th, July 10th, and November 8th, to each of which a court of pie-powder is attached. The government, by charter of incorporation granted in the 3rd of James I., who made the town a free borough, and confirmed and extended the privileges which it had previously enjoyed by prescription, is vested in a bailiff, seneschal, and ten capital burgesses. The bailiff, who, with the inferior officers of the town, is chosen annually at the court leet of the lord of the manor; the seneschal, who holds his office for life, and the two senior capital burgesses, hold a court of record, for the determining of suits, and the recovery of debts under £10, but they do not exercise magisterial authority. The county magistrates hold petty sessions here for the North Blandford division of the county. The bishop's and archdeacon's courts are held monthly. The town-hall is a neat edifice of Portland stone, on pillars of the Doric order, with an entablature. The burgesses exercised the elective franchise from the 23rd of Edward I. till the 22nd of Edward III., when it was discontinued.

The living is a vicarage, in the archdeaconry of Dorset, and diocese of Bristol, rated in the king's books at £12. 8. 1½., and in the patronage of the Dean and Chapter of Winchester. The church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is a handsome modern edifice, in the Grecian style of architecture, with a tower and spire, and ornamented with a balustrade and urns. There is a place of worship for Independents. The free school, to the north-west of the church, is of uncertain foundation; it has a small endowment. Archbishop Wake is said to have received the rudiments of his education here. The Blue-coat school, for the clothing and instruction of twelve boys, was founded in 1729, by Archbishop Wake, who endowed it with £1616, producing an annual income of £48. 9. 8. Almshouses for ten aged persons were founded and endowed by George Ryves, Esq., who, in 1685, bequeathed the residue of his estate for apprenticing poor boys: the entire annual income is about £120. In the churchyard are others for six aged persons, which were rebuilt by the corporation in 1736. William Williams, in 1621, gave £3000, since laid out in land producing £300 annually, for teaching four poor children, and other charitable purposes. On a hill to the north of the town was formerly an intrenchment, enclosing an area of three hundred paces in length, and two hundred in breadth, which has long been under cultivation, and the only relic now visible is an adjoining barrow. Sir Thomas Ryves, L.L.D., a learned

antiquary and civilian; the Rev. Bruno Ryves, D.D., publisher of the *Mercurius Rusticus*, an early newspaper in the time of the parliamentary war, and one of the writers of the Polyglott Bible, born in 1596; the Rev. Thomas Creech, M.A., translator of Lucretius, born in 1659; William Wake, Archbishop of Canterbury, born in 1657; Edward Wake, uncle to that prelate, and founder of the institution for the sons of the clergy; Dr. Lindsey, Archbishop of Armagh; Dr. Samuel Lisle, Bishop of Norwich; and the Rev. Christopher Pitt, translator of Virgil's *Æneid*, born in 1700, and who, dying in 1748, was buried in the church; were natives of this parish. Blandford gives the inferior title of marquis to the Duke of Marlborough.

BLANKNEY, a parish in the second division of the wapentake of LANGOE, parts of KESTIVEN, county of LINCOLN, 9½ miles (N.) from Sleaford, containing 495 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £16. 10. 7½., and in the patronage of C. Chaplin, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Oswald.

BLASTON (ST. MICHAEL), a chapelry in the parish of HALLATON, hundred of GARTREE, county of LEICESTER, 7 miles (N.E.) from Market-Harborough, containing, with Blaston St. Giles, 58 inhabitants. The chapel is a small plain building, without either tower or turret. Another chapel, called the Nether chapel, dedicated to St. Giles, was founded by Richard I., to whom the manor belonged, and rebuilt about 1710. He endowed it with all the tithes of the manor, decreeing the payment of 5s. annually to the rector of Medburn, for burial there; this sum is still paid, but the chapel is exempt from ecclesiastical jurisdiction, being a donative belonging to the lord of the manor.

BLATCHINGTON (EAST), a parish in the hundred of FLEMBOROUGH, rape of PEVENSEY, county of SUSSEX, 3 miles (N.E.) from Brighton, containing 187 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, in the archdeaconry of Lewes, and diocese of Chichester, rated in the king's books at £14, and in the patronage of Mr. Chambers. The church is dedicated to St. Peter. This parish is bounded on the east by the river Cuckmere, and on the south-west by the English channel: here is a strong battery for the defence of the coast.

BLATCHINGTON (WEST), a parish in the hundred of WHALESBONE, rape of LEWES, county of SUSSEX, 2¼ miles (N.W. by W.) from Brighton, containing 54 inhabitants. The living is a discharged rectory, consolidated with the vicarage of Brighthelmston, in the archdeaconry of Lewes, and diocese of Chichester, rated in the king's books at £6. 4. 4½. The church is dedicated to St. Peter.

BLATCHINWORTH, a chapelry in that part of the parish of ROCHDALE which is in the hundred of SALFORD, county palatine of LANCASTER, 3 miles (N.E.) from Rochdale, containing 3143 inhabitants. The manufacture of flannel, and the printing of calico, prevail extensively in this chapelry, which also abounds with coal-works.

BLATHERWYCKE, a parish in the hundred of CORBY, county of NORTHAMPTON, 8 miles (E.N.E.) from Rockingham, containing 240 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Northampton, and diocese of Peterborough, rated in the king's

books at £14. 13. 3., and in the patronage of S. O'Brien, Esq. The church is dedicated to the Holy Trinity. Blatherwycke anciently comprised two parishes, which were united in 1448, since which, one of the churches, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene, has been demolished.

BLAWITH, a chapelry in the parish of **ULVERSTONE**, hundred of **LONSDALE**, north of the sands, county palatine of **LANCASTER**, 7 miles (N.) from **Ulverstone**, containing 190 inhabitants. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry of **Richmond**, and diocese of **Chester**, endowed with £800 royal bounty, and in the patronage of T. R. G. Braddyll, Esq. In 1772, Margaret Lancaster bequeathed £50, and, in 1777, William Lancaster gave £110 to trustees, directing the produce to be applied toward the support of a school: a school-room has been built by the inhabitants, but only four children are taught gratuitously.

BLAXHALL, a parish in the hundred of **PLOMESATE**, county of **SUFFOLK**, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (E. by N.) from **Nickham-Market**, containing 474 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of **Suffolk**, and diocese of **Norwich**, rated in the king's books at £20, and in the patronage of **Agnes Ingleby** and others. The church is dedicated to **St. Peter**.

BLAXTON, a township in that part of the parish of **FIPPINGLEY** which is in the soke of **DONCASTER**, West riding of the county of **YORK**, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N. by E.) from **Bawtry**, containing 117 inhabitants.

BLAZEY (ST.), a parish in the eastern division of the hundred of **POWDER**, county of **CORNWALL**, 4 miles (E. N. E.) from **St. Austell**, containing 938 inhabitants. The living is a vicarage, annexed to that of **St. Austell**, in the archdeaconry of **Cornwall**, and diocese of **Exeter**. There are places of worship for **Wesleyan Methodists**. The parish contains tin and copper mines. Here is an almshouse of remote foundation.

BLEADON, a parish in the hundred of **WINTERSTOKE**, county of **SOMERSET**, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles (W. N. W.) from **Lxbridge**, containing 518 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of **Wells**, and diocese of **Bath and Wells**, rated in the king's books at £27. 7. 8½., and in the patronage of the **Bishop of Winchester**. The church is dedicated to **St. Peter**. The **Rev. Meric Casaubon, D.D.**, an eminent critic and divine, and son of the celebrated critic, **Isaac Casaubon**, was collated to this benefice about 1624. The navigable river **Axe** passes through the parish, and by means of it a considerable trade in coal is carried on. Here are vestiges of a British settlement, but the Roman road on which it stood can scarcely be traced. There are several barrows on an eminence in the vicinity, some of which, on being opened, were found to contain human bones, which, from their position, and the evidence of some coins lying near them, were supposed to have been those of **Danes**; a large quantity of ancient armour was also been dug up.

BLEANE, county of **KENT**.—See **COSMUS (ST.)** and **DANIAN**.

BLEASHY, a parish in that part of the liberty of **Southwell** and **Scrooby** which separates the northern from the southern division of the wapentake of **Thurston**, county of **NOTTINGHAM**, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S. S. E.) from **Southwell**, containing 296 inhabitants. The living is

a discharged vicarage, in the peculiar jurisdiction and patronage of the Chapter of the Collegiate Church of **Southwell**, rated in the king's books at £4, and endowed with £200 royal bounty. The church, dedicated to **St. Mary**, is an ancient edifice, in very good repair. The village occupies a secluded situation on the western side of the river **Trent**, over which there is a ferry. The free grammar school at **East Retford** has considerable property in this parish.

BLEASDALE, a chapelry in that part of the parish of **LANCASTER** which is in the hundred of **AMOUNDERNESS**, county palatine of **LANCASTER**, $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles (E. by N.) from **Garstang**, containing 212 inhabitants. The forest of **Bleasdale**, comprising eight thousand acres, was co-extensive with the township; a great part of it has been enclosed. **Christopher Parkinson**, by will dated July 8th, 1702, founded a school, and endowed it with an estate now yielding about £65 per annum, one-third of which is given to a schoolmaster, and the greater part of the remainder to the poor; the school is kept in a building adjoining the chapel at **Admarsh**. There are also some minor charities for the benefit of the poor.

BLEATARN, a hamlet in the parish of **WARCOP**, East ward, county of **WESTMORLAND**, $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles (W. by S.) from **Brough**, containing 129 inhabitants. **John Tailbois**, in the reign of **Henry II.**, gave this manor to the abbot and convent of **Byland**, in **Yorkshire**, who founded a cell in the vicinity, the ruins of which indicate the conventual buildings to have been somewhat extensive. The **Sawbridge** estate, and others within the manor, are tithe-free, if occupied by their respective owners, but subject to the claim, if held by a tenant. Limestone abounds here.

BLECHINGDON, a parish in the hundred of **PLOUGHLEY**, county of **OXFORD**, 5 miles (E. by N.) from **Woodstock**, containing 570 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of **Oxford**, rated in the king's books at £12. 9. 4½., and in the patronage of the **Provost and Fellows of Queen's College, Oxford**. The church is dedicated to **St. Giles**. **Leonard Power**, by will in 1620, endowed an almshouse for four poor persons, and a school, which he had previously built, with £200, on condition that certain parcels of land should be given by the respective owners for the same purpose, which was accordingly done: the almshouses were rebuilt about the end of the last century, and about £33 per annum is assigned for the support of the inmates: the school has been discontinued, but another, on a large scale, is supported by **Arthur Annesley, Esq.**, in a building of his own.

bledington, a parish in the upper division of the hundred of **SLAUGHTER**, county of **GLOUCESTER**, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S. E. by E.) from **Stow** on the **Wold**, containing 340 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of **Gloucester**, rated in the king's books at £6. 13. 4., endowed with £600 private benefaction, and £600 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the **Dean and Canons of Christ Church, Oxford**. The church is dedicated to **St. Leonard**.

bledlow, a parish in the hundred of **AYLESFORD**, county of **BUCKINGHAM**, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles (E. S. E.) from **Thame**, containing, with **Bledlow-Ridge**, 1050 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry of **Buckingham**, and diocese of **Lincoln**, rated in the king's books at £16. 9. 7., endowed with £400

private benefaction, and £200 royal bounty, and in the patronage of Lord Carrington. The church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, stands on the edge of a cliff, overhanging a deep glen, into which several springs fall, and uniting form a pool, called the Lyde, the water of which is stated to be continually undermining the rock, so as to have given rise to a rhyming distich, expressive of the insecure foundation of the church.

BLENCARN, a joint township with Kirkland, in the parish of KIRKLAND, LEATH ward, county of CUMBERLAND, 10½ miles (E.) from Penrith. The population is returned with Kirkland. At Blencarn-gate there is a free school, erected in 1775, and endowed with one hundred acres of land allotted to it on enclosing Culgaith common, and now let for £42 per annum, for which the master instructs gratuitously the children of Blencarn and Culgaith. Near the village is a spring, the water of which is of a powerfully astrigent quality.

BLENCOGO, a township in that part of the parish of BROMFIELD which is in CUMBERLAND ward, county of CUMBERLAND, 4½ miles (W. by S.) from Wigton, containing 216 inhabitants. The Rev. Jonathan Boucher, who published a "Supplement to Dr. Johnson's Dictionary," was born here, in 1738.

BLENCOW (GREAT), a township in the parish of DACRE, LEATH ward, county of CUMBERLAND, 5 miles (W. N. W.) from Penrith. The population is returned with the parish. A grammar school, of high repute, was founded in 1576, by Thomas Burbank, who endowed it with property now producing about £200 per annum: it is free, with the exception of a small entrance-fee, to children from all parts of the world, for instruction in the classics. A new school-room, with a writing-school added to it, and a house for the master, affording extensive accommodation for boarders, were built in 1793. The late Lord Ellenborough received a small portion of his early education at this school, which has also produced several distinguished clergymen.

BLENCOW (LITTLE), a township in the parish of GREYSTOCK, LEATH ward, county of CUMBERLAND, 4½ miles (W. N. W.) from Penrith, containing 53 inhabitants. Near an ancient house, once the residence of the family of Blencow, but now occupied by a farmer, are some dispersed ruins of buildings, particularly those of a chapel, with a burial-ground adjoining; and not far distant, near the road, there is an enclosed cemetery, in which stands a stone cross, with the arms of the family of Blencow engraved on it.

BLENDWORTH, a parish in the hundred of FINCH-DEAN, Alton (South) division of the county of SOUTH-AMPTON, 8 miles (S. S. W.) from Petersfield, containing 249 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the arch-deaconry and diocese of Winchester, rated in the king's books at £6. 7. 8½, and in the patronage of the Rev. Sir S. C. Jervoise, Bart. The church is dedicated to St. Giles. William Appleford, in 1695, gave £200 in trust, directing it to be invested in land, and the proceeds to be applied to the education of children: the income is now about £19 per annum; five boys are sent to a schoolmaster in the adjoining parish of Catherington, and twelve children are instructed by a mistress at Blendworth.

BLENHEIM-PARK, an extra-parochial district, within the liberty of OXFORD, though locally in the

hundred of Wootton, county of OXFORD, containing 90 inhabitants. Blenheim castle was founded in 1704, pursuant to a parliamentary grant of £500,000, to be expended in raising the structure, and laying out the grounds, which, together with the honour of Woodstock, were bestowed on John, Duke of Marlborough, in testimony of national gratitude for his brilliant military and diplomatic services. The house was built from a design by Sir John Vanbrugh, and was called Blenheim from a village of that name on the banks of the Danube, near which this illustrious general obtained a signal victory over the French and Bavarians, on the 2nd of August, 1704, on which day annually, the inheritors of his Grace's honours and titles render at Windsor one standard, or colours, with three fleurs-de-lis painted thereon, as an acquittance for all manner of rents, suits, and services. It has all the appendages of a first-rate mansion, and the grounds and gardens are disposed with the most refined taste, and princely magnificence. The Roman road Akeman-street passes through the northern part of the park, being distinctly visible near the north lodge; and a little to the right of it, in the parish of Stonesfield, remains of Roman buildings were discovered in 1711 and 1779, and, a little further on, of a Roman villa, in 1813. For the early national events which took place at the old manor-house, see WOODSTOCK.

BLINKINSOP, a township in the parish of HALTWHISTLE, western division of TINDALE ward, county of NORTHUMBERLAND, 2¼ miles (W.) from Haltwhistle, containing 317 inhabitants. There are coal-works on a large scale in the neighbourhood. The ruins of Blinkinsop castle, once the residence of a family of that name, occupy part of an eminence in the neighbourhood, which appears to have been surrounded by a ditch.

BLANNERHASSET, a joint township with Kirkland, in the parish of TORPENHOW, ALLERDALE ward below Derwent, county of CUMBERLAND, 8¼ miles (S. W.) from Wigton, containing, with Kirkland, 224 inhabitants. A chapel for Independents was rebuilt in 1828.

BLETCHINGLEY, or **BLECHINGLEY**, a borough and parish (formerly a market town), in the first division of the hundred of TANDRIDGE, county of SURREY, 24 miles (E.) from Guildford, and 20 (S.) from London, containing 1187 inhabitants. The town is pleasantly situated on an eminence commanding an extensive prospect of the South Downs and other parts of Sussex: it is of considerable antiquity, and had a castle, erected soon after the Conquest, by Gilbert, Earl of Clare, which was demolished by Prince Edward after the battle of Lewes, which took place in 1264, and the foundations alone are now remaining. The market has long been discontinued: fairs are held on June 22nd and November 2nd, for horses and hogs, and for the sale of lean cattle brought from Scotland and Wales. The Croydon rail-road passes through the northern part of the parish. A bailiff and other officers for the internal regulation of the town are appointed at the court leet of the lord of the manor. The borough received the elective franchise in the 23rd of Edward I., since which time it has continued to return two members to parliament: the right of election is vested in the burgage-holders, in number one hundred and thirty. Matthew Russell, Esq. is patron of the borough; there is no returning officer, the bailiff taking no part in elections. The liv-

ing is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Surrey, and diocese of Winchester, rated in the king's books at £19. 19. 4½., and in the patronage of the Rev. J. Kendrick. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a spacious and venerable structure, in the early style of English architecture, with a low tower; it had a lofty spire, which was destroyed by lightning in 1606. Near the church is a charity school for twenty-five boys, founded by Mr. John Whatman, who, in the 8th of Elizabeth, endowed it with a messuage now producing £23 per annum, to which Mr. Bostock, of Tandridge, added a house and garden for the master. Almshouses for ten aged men and women were built by the inhabitants, in 1668, to which the rector, Dr. Charles Hampton, added another, and gave a rent-charge of £1. 6. 8., for supplying the alms-people with fuel. This town is near a Roman road, and at a short distance, in the parish of Caterham, is a fortification, called the Cardinal's Cap. At Pendhill, in this parish, some workmen discovered part of the foundations of a Roman bath, the different apartments in which were paved, and some of the walls lined with Roman tiles. There are inconsiderable vestiges of the residence of Earl Godwin, who retreated to this place when his estates in Kent were inundated by the sea.

BLETCHLEY, a parish in the hundred of NEWPORT, county of BUCKINGHAM, 1½ mile (W. by S.) from Fenny-Stratford, containing, with the chapelry of Fenny-Stratford (part of which is in the parish of Simpson), and the township of Water-Eaton, 1160 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Buckingham, and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £29. 13. 1½., and in the patronage of J. Fleming, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. On the enclosure of the common, an allotment of twenty-five acres was assigned for the benefit of the poor, in lieu of cutting furze.

BLETSOE, a parish in the hundred of WILLEY, county of BEDFORD, 6¼ miles (N.N.W.) from Bedford, containing 383 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Bedford, and diocese of Lincoln, rated in the king's books at £17, and in the patronage of Lord St. John. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. The river Ouse runs through the parish, in which are the remains of an ancient castle, formerly belonging to Lord Bolingbroke, part of which has been destroyed for the materials. Here is a mineral spring, but the water is seldom used medicinally.

BLEWBERRY, a parish partly in the hundred of MORETON, but chiefly in that of READING, county of BERKS, 4½ miles (N.E. by N.) from East Ilsley, comprising the chapelries of Aston-Upthorp and Upton, the liberty of Nottingham-Fee, and containing 941 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the peculiar jurisdiction of the Dean of Salisbury, rated in the king's books at £16. 6. 10½., and in the patronage of the Bishop of Salisbury. The church is dedicated to St. Michael. William Malthus, by will dated November 16th, 1700, after specifying certain bequests, directed the residue of his estate to be sold, and the purchase money to be invested in land, part of the proceeds of which was to be applied to the maintenance and education of ten boys in the Blue-coat school at Reading, and allowing the bishop of the diocese a discretionary power in the appropriation of the

remainder. By deed dated May 13th, 1702, Dr. Burnett, then Bishop of Salisbury, and five other persons, were constituted governors, and agreed on a certain mode of applying the rents, which was confirmed by a decree in Chancery, on the 12th of June, but altered, pursuant to an order from Lord Chancellor King, in 1730. The clear annual income of the charity is about £916, the disbursement of which is regulated by a scheme devised in 1816, agreeably to which the trustees allow annually £161 for the support of ten boys at Reading; £50 to a master, and £20 to a mistress, for instructing thirty boys and thirty girls, who are partly clothed and provided with books and stationery; £60 for apprenticing four boys, and £25 for apprenticing four girls; £100 for clothing sixty children; and £70 in compensation to the parents of some of the children for the loss of their labour; besides paying small salaries to certain officers, and defraying incidental expenses. An almshouse for one poor man was founded, and endowed with a gift of £271. 13. 4., by Mr. Bacon, in 1732. A large edifice, called the Charter-house, supposed to have been used as a place of worship previously to the Reformation, has lately been taken down. The manor-house was formerly surrounded by an earth-work, and a deep moat crossed by a drawbridge, the remains of which have been obliterated within the memory of man. A field between Blewberry and Aston is thought to have been the scene of a severe conflict between the Saxons, under Ethelred and his brother Alfred, and the Danes, in which the latter were defeated with great slaughter: in forming a new turnpike road, in 1804, many human skeletons and military weapons were found near the spot. The parish is intersected by a Roman road and a British road, termed respectively Ickleton and Grimsditch. There is an encampment of considerable extent on a hill called Blewberton; and Loughborough hill, the loftiest eminence in this county, has been crowned by an ancient work, apparently constructed for purposes of warfare.

BLICKLING, a parish in the southern division of the hundred of ERPINGHAM, county of NORFOLK, 1¼ mile (N.W. by N.) from Aylsham, containing 359 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £10. 13. 4., and in the patronage of Lord Suffield. The church is dedicated to St. Andrew. In the time of the Confessor, this ancient manor was in the possession of Harold, afterwards king of England, and, although subsequently divided, it continued exempt from the hundred, and enjoyed all the privileges of royal demesne: it was afterwards held by the bishops of Norwich, who had a palace here. Blickling Hall was built by Sir John Hobart, Knt., in 1628, at which time the domestic chapel was consecrated. The previous edifice, with the estate, was in the possession of the family of Boleyn, and in it was born Anne Boleyn, afterwards queen of Henry VIII.; this monarch is stated to have been here on a visit. Blickling was subsequently visited by Charles II. and his queen.

BLIDESLOE, a tything in the parish of AWREE, hundred of BLIDESLOE, county of GLOUCESTER. The population is returned with the parish.

BLIDWORTH, a parish within the liberty of SOUTHWELL and SCROOBY, though locally in the wapentake of Broxtow, county of NOTTINGHAM, 5 miles

(S.E.) from Mansfield, containing 744 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the peculiar jurisdiction of the Chapter of the Collegiate Church of Southwell, rated in the king's books at £4, endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £200 royal bounty, and in the alternate patronage of the two prebendaries of Oxtun. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a small edifice, built about the time of Richard III. There are places of worship for Baptists and Wesleyan Methodists, also a school with a small endowment. At the time of the Norman Survey this place formed a berewic to Oxtun. The village occupies a very elevated site, nearly in the centre of the ancient forest of Sherwood, in all the perambulations of which, from the reign of Henry I. to that of Charles II., it is mentioned as a forest town: several of the inhabitants are employed in frame-work knitting. At the enclosure of waste land in the parish, pursuant to an act passed in 1806, upwards of one thousand acres were planted, and are now in a flourishing condition. In a field near the village is a rocky formation of sand and gravel, commonly called plum-pudding stone; it is fourteen feet high, and eighty-four in circumference, and is supposed to have been a Druidical idol.

BLINDBOTHEL, a township in the parish of BRIGHAM, ALLERDALE ward above Darwent, county of CUMBERLAND, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles (S.) from Cockermouth, containing 112 inhabitants.

BLINDCRANE, a joint township with Isall and Redmain, in the parish of ISALL, ALLERDALE ward below Darwent, county of CUMBERLAND, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N.E. by N.) from Cockermouth. The population is returned with Isall.

BLISLAND, a parish in the hundred of TRIGG, county of CORNWALL, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N.N.E.) from Bodmin, containing 637 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Cornwall, and diocese of Exeter, rated in the king's books at £13. 10., and in the patronage of the Rev. C. Pye. The church is dedicated to St. Pratt. There is a place of worship for Wesleyan Methodists. A cattle fair is held annually on the Monday next after September 22nd.

BLISWORTH, a parish in the hundred of WYMERLEY, county of NORTHAMPTON, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N.E. by N.) from Towcester, containing 696 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Northampton, and diocese of Peterborough, rated in the king's books at £20. 3. 9., and in the patronage of George F. Hatton, Esq. The church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist. The Grand Junction canal enters this parish by means of a tunnel from the adjoining parish of Stoke-Bruerne, and continues its course northward until it is joined by the Northampton canal.

BLITHFIELD, a parish in the southern division of the hundred of PIREHILL, county of STAFFORD, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles (N.) from Rugeley, containing, with the liberty of Newton, 470 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Stafford, and diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, rated in the king's books at £10. 19. 2., and in the patronage of Lord Bagot. The church is dedicated to St. Leonard. The river Blith runs through the parish. Elizabeth Bagot and Jane Jones, in 1729, gave land, now producing about £35 per annum, which, with voluntary contributions, is applied to the support of a school for the instruction of boys, and another for

girls, in which about forty of each sex are educated on the National system.

BLOCKLEY, a parish situated in a detached portion of the upper division of the hundred of OSWALDSLOW, county of WORCESTER, surrounded by Gloucestershire and a small portion of Warwickshire, comprising the hamlets of Aston Magna, Blockley, Ditchford, Dorne, Draycott, Northwich, and Paxford, and containing 1890 inhabitants, of which number, 1158 are in the hamlet of Blockley, $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles (N.W. by W.) from Moreton in the Marsh. The living is a vicarage, in the peculiar jurisdiction and patronage of the Bishop of Worcester, rated in the king's books at £54. The church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is partly Norman, and partly in the early style of English architecture: the tower was rebuilt in 1725, at the expense of the inhabitants. A neat chapel has recently been erected by the Baptists. The village, which is situated on elevated ground, contains several neat dwelling-houses, and presents a clean and pleasing appearance: here are several silk-mills, worked by small streams which rise in Dove-dale, a short distance hence. Fairs are held on the Tuesday next after Easter-week, for cattle, and October 10th, for hiring servants. A charity school for twenty boys and six girls is partly supported by bequests, and partly by subscription. Pursuant to a statute passed in the 9th of George IV., the magistrates for the county came to a resolution, at the general quarter sessions held at Worcester, in October 1829, to alter the divisions of the county, making Blockley the head of one division, the petty sessions for which are held here. The Bishop of Worcester is lord of the manor, and, by his steward, occasionally holds a manorial court. Previously to the Reformation here was a palace in which the prelates resided, but the only memorial of it is in the name of a hill opposite to the vicarage, called the Parks. In a charter of King Buhrrad, dated in 855, mention is made of a monastery, which then existed, and which was subsequently annexed to the bishoprick of Worcester. The Roman Fosse-way passed between this village and Moreton in the Marsh. Urns and other Roman remains have been found on Moor hill; and there are several chalybeate springs.

BLODWELL, county of SALOP.—See LLAN-Y-BLODWELL.

BLOFIELD, a parish in the hundred of BLOFIELD, county of NORFOLK, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles (W. by S.) from Acle, containing 979 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Norwich, rated in the king's books at £23. 6. 8., and in the patronage of the Master and Fellows of Caius College, Cambridge. The church is dedicated to St. Andrew. The Rev. Charles Reeve, by will dated in 1729, charged some land with an annual payment toward the support of a free school, and for other charitable uses.

BLOORE in TYRLEY, a township in that part of the parish of DRAYTON in HALES which is in the northern division of the hundred of PIREHILL, county of STAFFORD, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles (E.) from Drayton, containing 214 inhabitants. Blore beath is distinguished as the scene of a sanguinary battle fought in 1459, between the Lancastrians under the command of Lord Audley, and the Yorkists under that of the Earl of Salisbury, in which the former were defeated: about two thousand four hundred persons of distinction were slain, among