



Bodleian Libraries

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

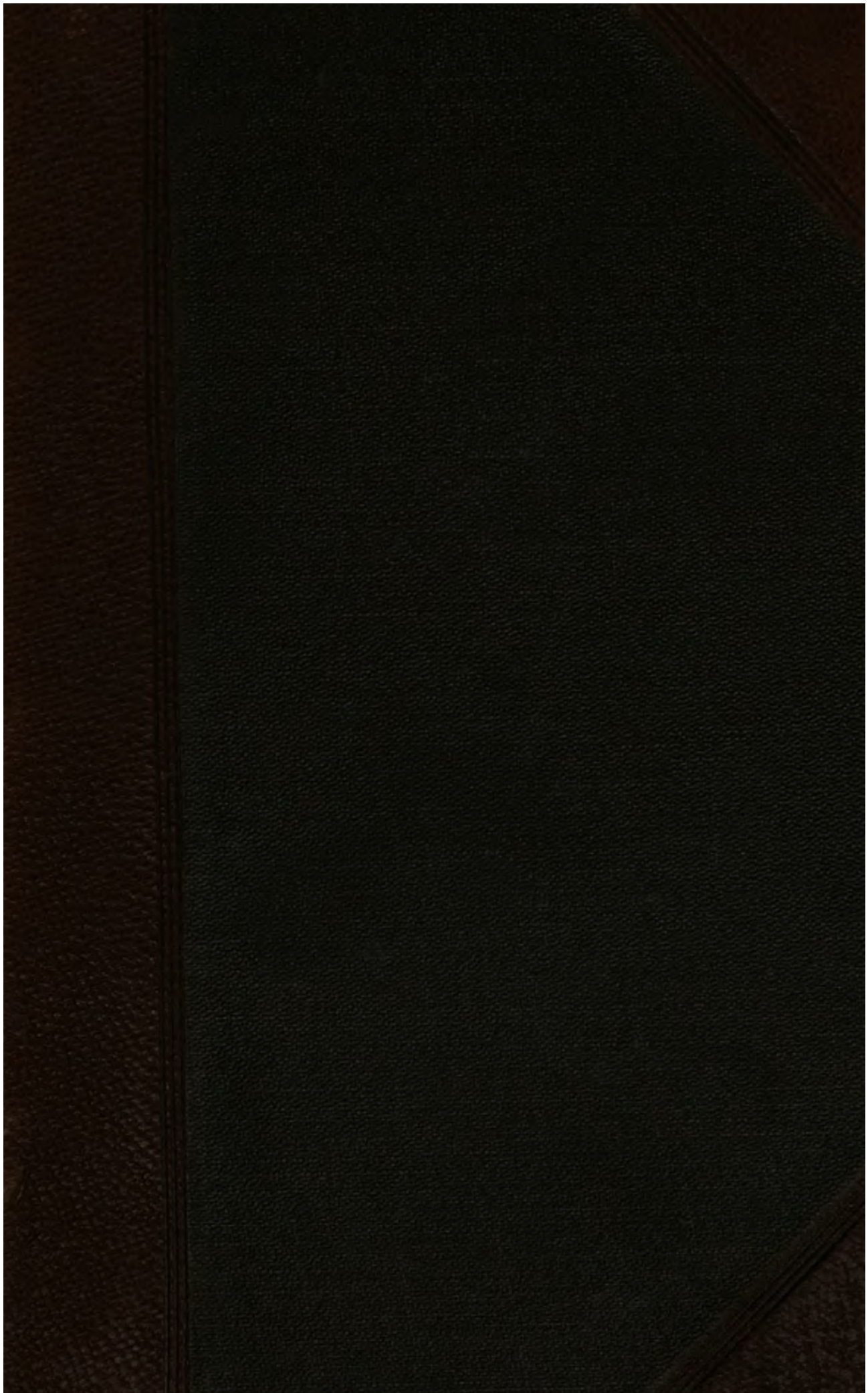
This book is part of the collection held by the Bodleian Libraries and scanned by Google, Inc. for the Google Books Library Project.

For more information see:

<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/dbooks>

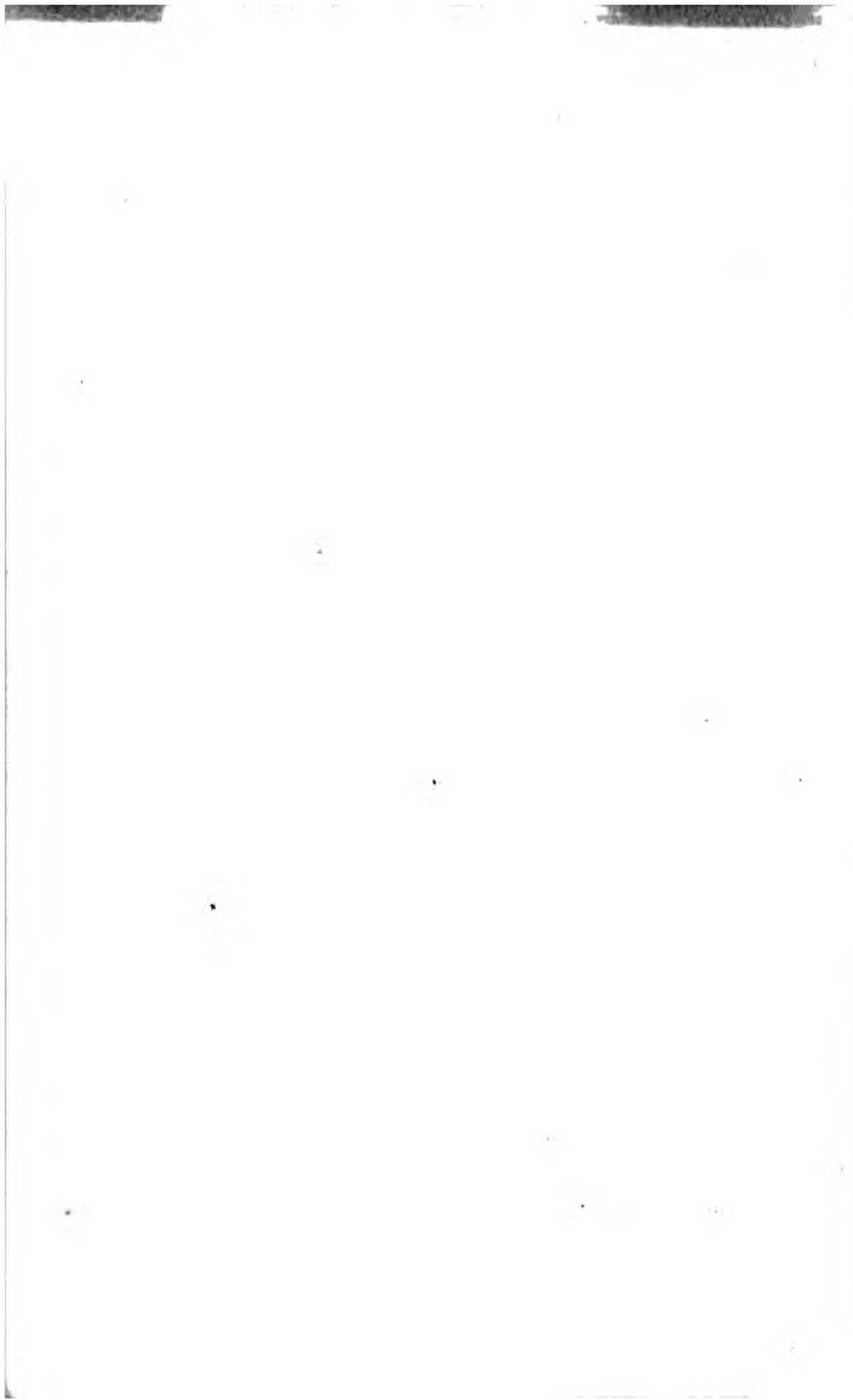


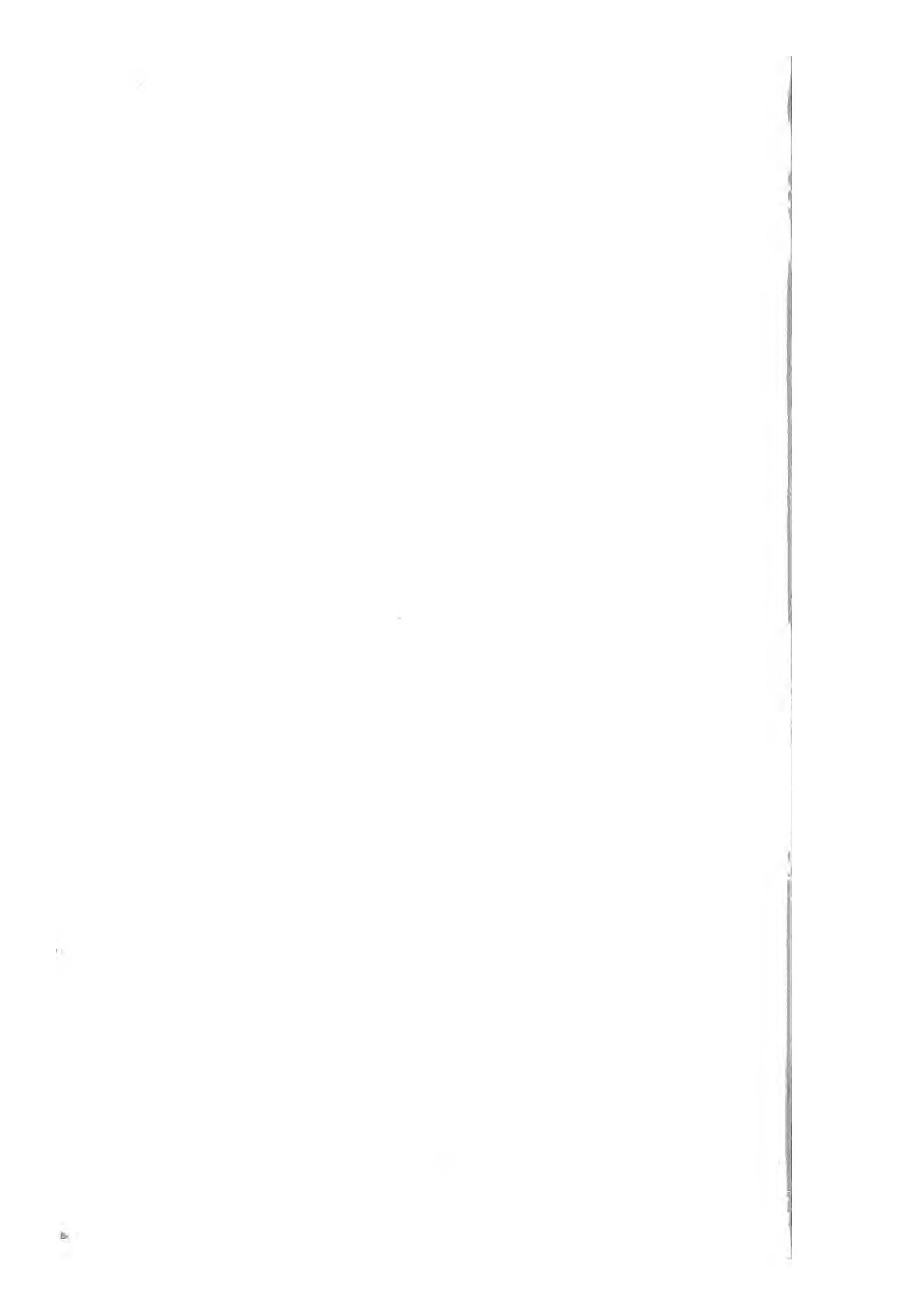
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 2.0 UK: England & Wales (CC BY-NC-SA 2.0) licence.

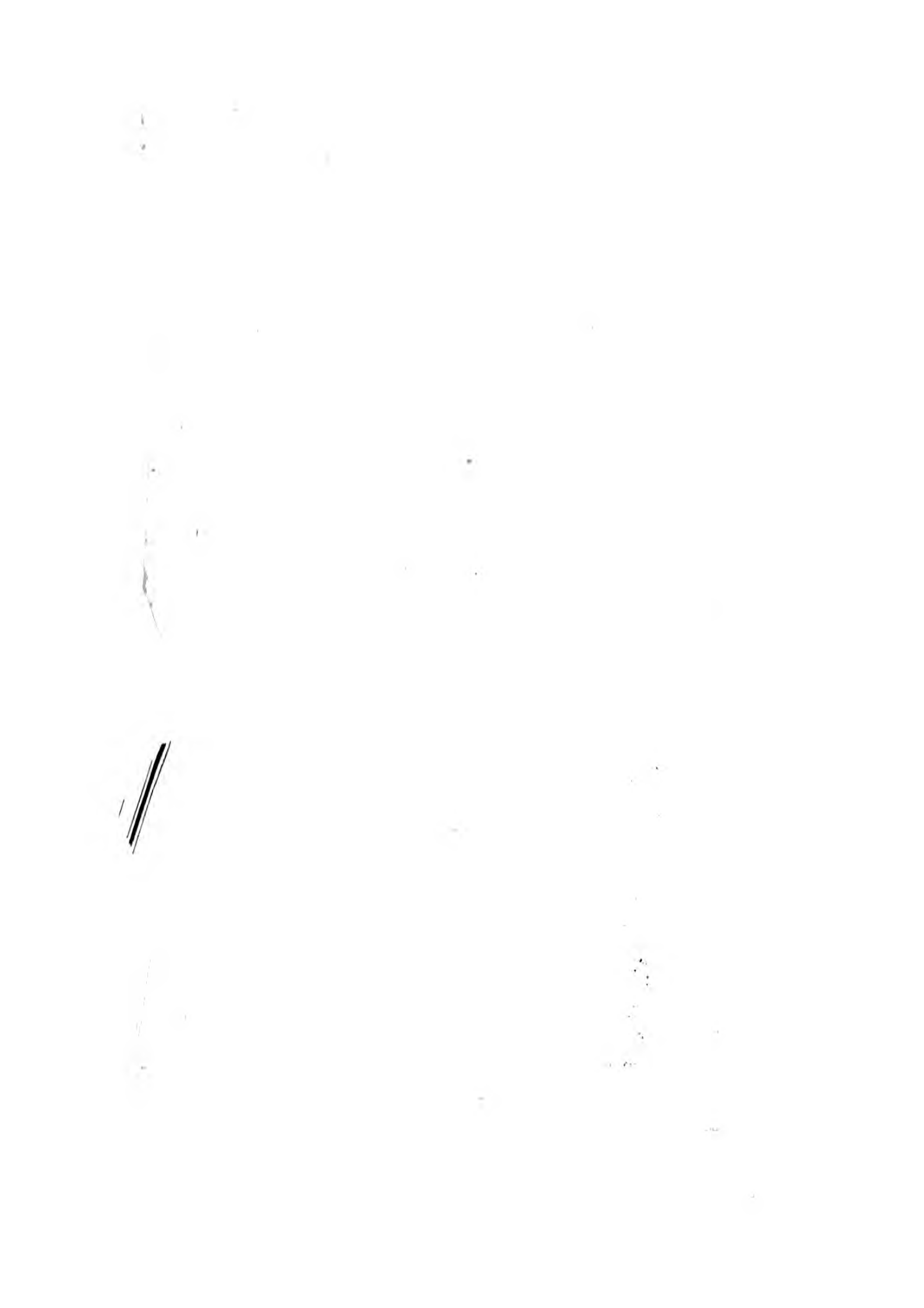


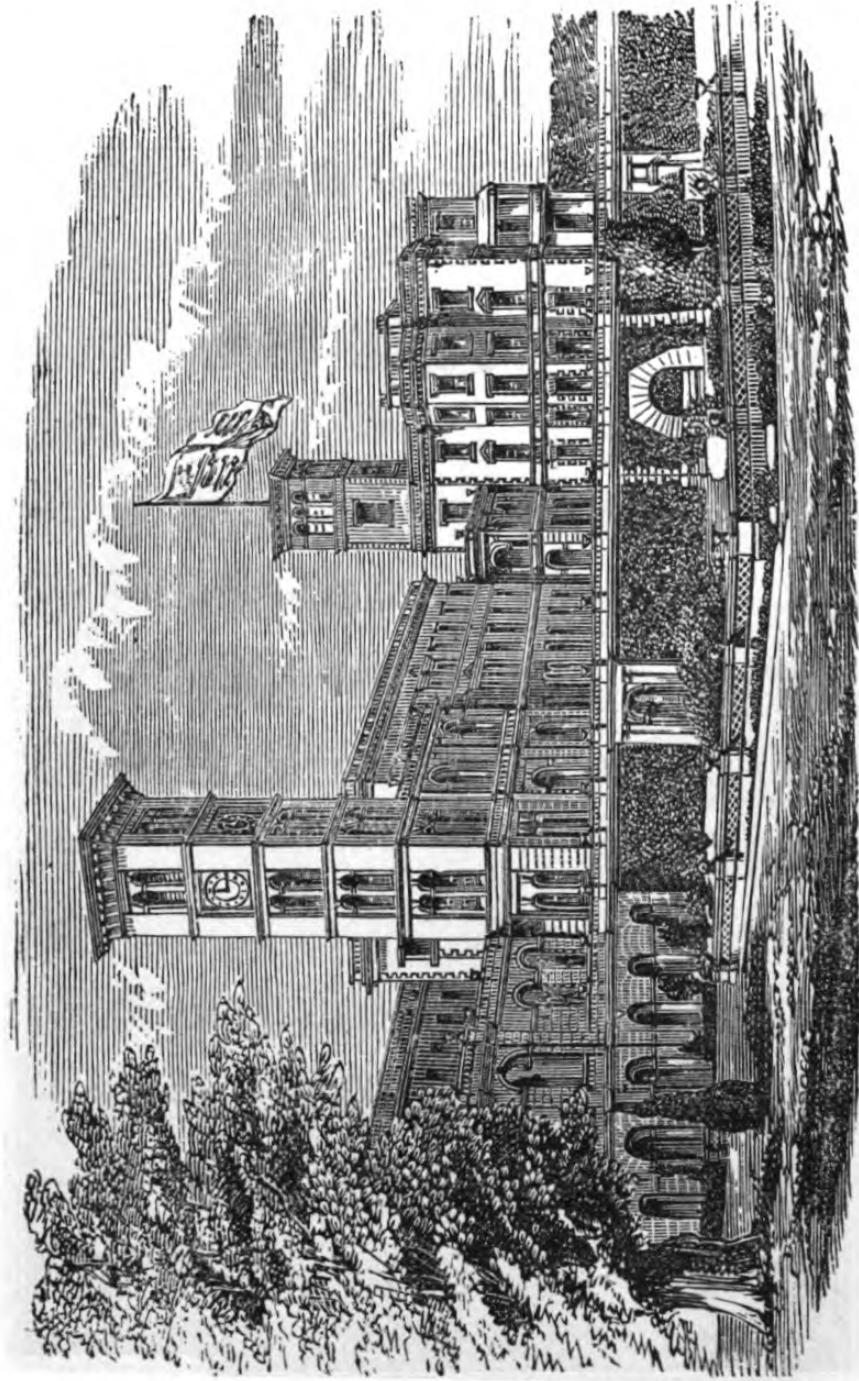
Map catalogue











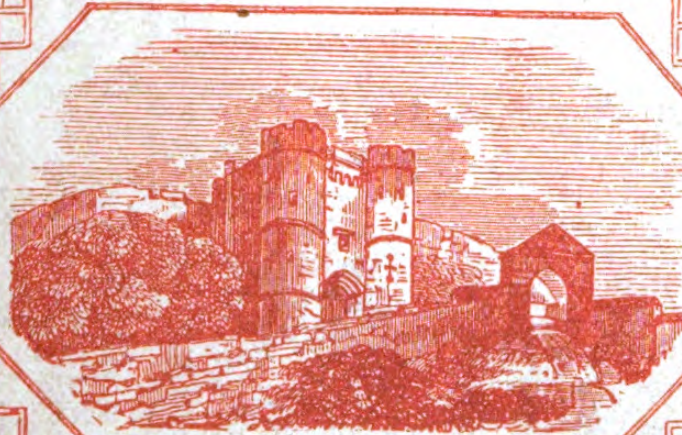
OSBORNE HOUSE, THE MARINE RESIDENCE OF HER MAJESTY.

THE
LATEST EDITION
OF

MASON'S

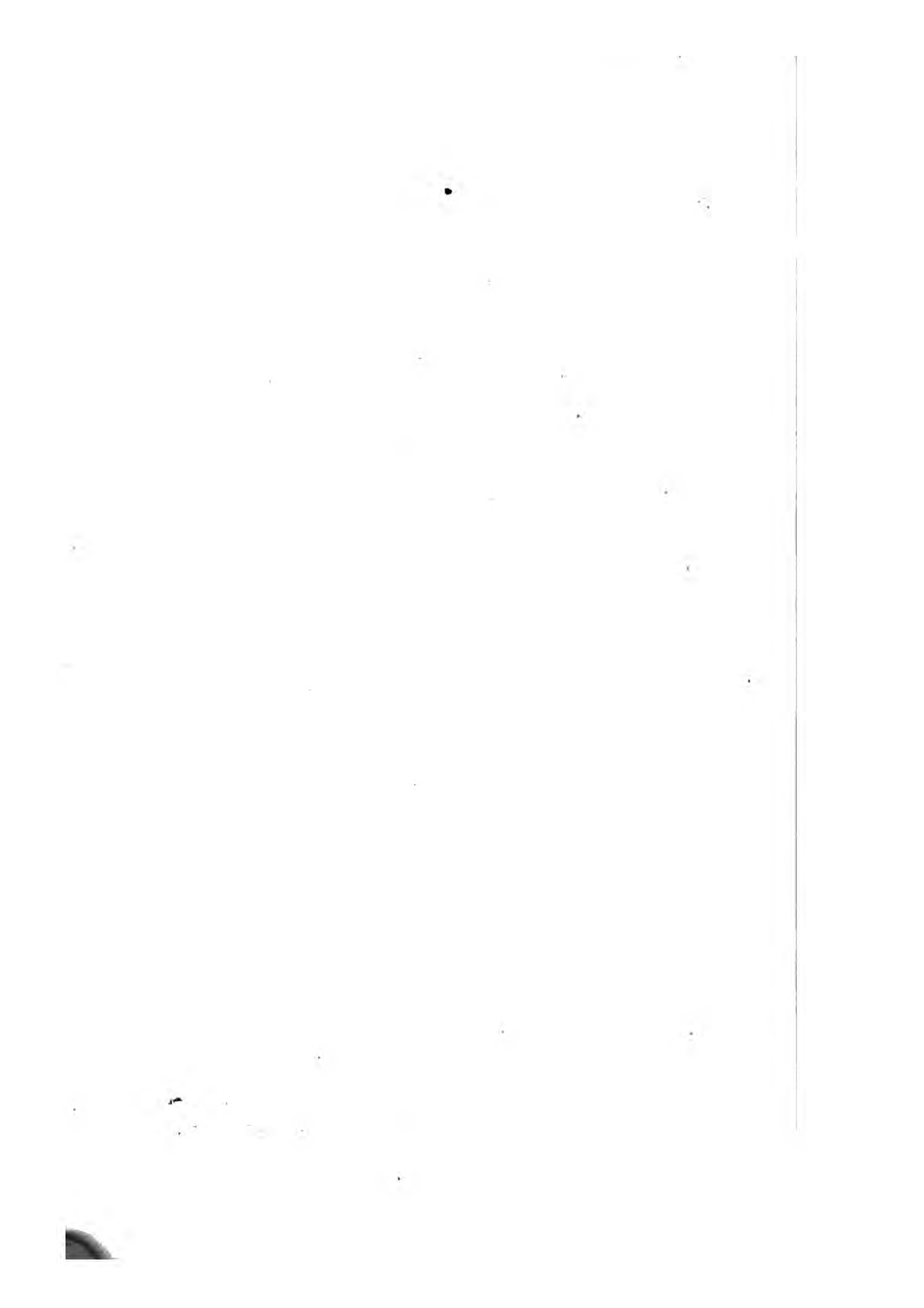
New Handy Guide

TO THE
ISLE OF WIGHT.



MASON, PUBLISHER, RYDE.

Gough Add's Hunts
8/116.



REVISED EDITION.



MASON'S
NEW: HANDY GUIDE

TO THE

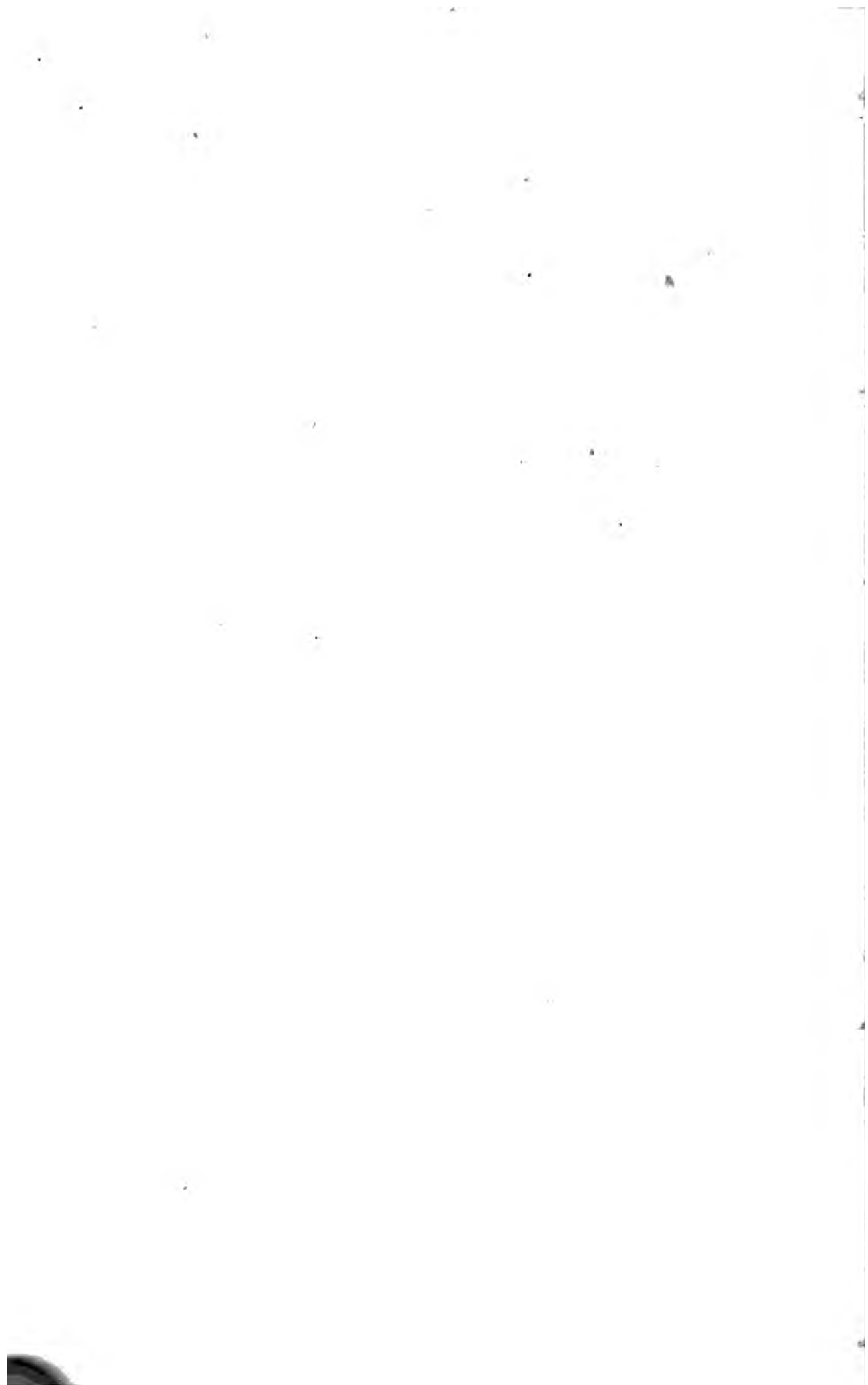
ISLE OF WIGHT.

A Descriptive and Practical Handbook to the
Chief Places of Resort,

EXPRESSLY PREPARED FOR THE USE OF VISITORS.

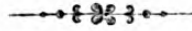


RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY JAMES MASON,
7, CROSS STREET.





Preface to the Fifth Edition.



THIS HANDBOOK is not intended to meet the requirements of the antiquary, the geologist, or the scholar ; but as a *vade mecum* to the tourist it will probably be more convenient than larger volumes. The publisher has endeavoured to produce a useful handy guide, and the rapid sale of the previous editions prove that his efforts have been fully appreciated.

So much has been written of the natural beauties of the Isle of Wight that anything really new on the subject can hardly be expected : but as thousands annually make short visits, who have neither time nor inclination to peruse voluminous and historical guide books, it occurred to the publisher, that a volume like that now submitted to the public would be serviceable to them.

He also thanks those who have kindly assisted in giving desired information, and will gladly receive any correction that may be suggested for a future edition.







General Description.

Nature with unsparing hand
Has brought the beauties of each land
And blent them in this favoured spot,
Without a shadow, stain, or blot ;
And formed the sea around the coast,
To guard the spot she values most.

THE ISLE OF WIGHT, the veritable “ Isle of Beauty,” comprises an area of about 105,000 acres, is twenty-three miles in length from east to west, and thirteen in its extreme breadth. It tapers at both ends, especially towards the west. The Island is in the county of Hants, and diocese of Winchester. Before the passing of the Reform Bill in 1832, it sent six members to Parliament—two each from Newport, Yarmouth, and Newtown. Since that period Newport has returned two members, and the Island is represented as a county by one member. The recent act of legislation deprives Newport of one member ; so that there are but two members of Parliament for the Island. It is divided into two nearly equal hundreds (the East and West Medene) by the river Medina, which rises in the south and flows in a northern

direction through the town of Newport, and joins the Solent at Cowes. These hundreds are subdivided into thirty-two parishes. The population of the Island according to the census of 1871 was 65,903.

The general appearance of the Island is diversified, and continually interchanged with variety of scenery. A range of chalk hills intersects it from east to west, and gives birth to the abundant streams that are found in every direction. To the south, in the eastern portion of the island, there is a still loftier range of hills of a different formation. The land to the north of the chalk hills is a stiff loam or clay, and is in many places adapted only to the growth of timber, with which it is partly covered ; but the soil on the southern side of the island is inferior to none in England, and is highly productive. It was of old the boast of the island that it produced seven times the amount of grain required for home consumption ; but its population has increased so rapidly of late years, and so much land has been taken for ornamental purposes, that this statement is no longer true. Large quantities of grain are, however, still grown in the island, and the earliest lambs are sent to the London market.

The northern and southern coasts are vastly different. On the north the island is separated from Hampshire by the Solent, which varies from two to six miles in width, and is indented with deep inlets and creeks, the coast being everywhere clothed with verdure, the woods and fields extending to the water's edge. This majestic piece of water is regarded by the inhabitants of its shores with a feeling of veneration, well expressed in the following lines :—

Calm and delightful Solent ! now reposing
Beneath the radiance of a summer noon,

That proudly glides o'er yon dark woods of oak
 And sheds a chaste and mellow light on all.
 Thou hast to me a most familiar face,
 For I was born and nurtured on thy shore,
 And on thee I have ever loved to gaze—
 Both in the summer, when o'er all thy breast
 The wanton zephyrs, kissing thy blue waves,
 Have lulled them into slumber so serene
 That thou hast rested, placid as a lake ;
 And in the winter, when thy troubled tide,
 Chafed by rude Boreas in his fiercest mood,
 Or blustering Auster with his fitful gusts,
 Has been one yawning plain of foaming waves
 Increasing the loud breezes with its roar.
 Thus have I seen thee, and I still have found
 Thee beautiful. But summer is thy prime,
 When all thy shores are robed in annual green,
 And all thy waters slumber placidly,
 Save that thy gentle ebb and flow confess
 The wondrous influence of Diana's orb,
 O'er all thy face the white-winged vessels glide,
 Advancing some, some sailing far away ;
 Others emerging from yon broad arm'd port,
 Or disappearing in some sheltered creek,
 While ever and anon some smaller boat
 Is seen to steal round a dark-wooded point,
 And, like a sea-bird, skim the blue expanse :
 Or else retire to some sequestered bay
 Where sloping woods bend o'er the chastened wave,
 Scarce heard to murmur on the level sands ;
 And towering in the distance, ride secure
 The thunder-bearing barks, " the iron walls
 Of England," and the bulwarks of her shore ;
 And proudly rising, by the varying coast,
 Magnific towns, with their cloud-kissing towers,
 And villages retired, and sombre woods,
 And wide expanse of cultivated plain,
 And flowery fields, and ever-flowing streams
 Diversify the lovely scenery ;
 And all united, form a view and prospect
 Of passing loveliness—yielding at once
 The marginal mild beauties of a lake
 And the sea's motion, depth, and majesty.

The southern coast is a continuous line of cliffs of various heights, formed either of chalk or a barren sombre looking stone, utterly destitute of verdure, and in many cases inter-

sected by those curious ravines known locally as "Chines." Its whole length is bold and highly magnificent, and in the same extent of space probably unequalled. Lord Jeffery, the Edinburgh reviewer, in one of his letters says "The chief beauty of the island lies on the south, where it opens to the wide ocean, and meets a warmer sun than shines on any other spot of our kingdom. On this side it is for the most part, bounded by lofty chalk cliffs, which rise in the most dazzling whiteness, out of the blue sea into the blue sky ; and make a composition something like Wedgwood's enamel. The cliffs are in some places enormously high, from 600 to 700 feet. The beautiful places are either where they sink deep into bays and valleys opening like a theatre into the sun and the sea, or where there has been a terrace of lowland formed at their feet, which stretches under the shelter of that enormous wall, like a rich garden plot, roughened over with masses of rock, fallen in distant ages and overshadowed with thickets of myrtle and roses, or geraniums, which all grow wild here in luxuriance and profusion." Facing the English Channel and exposed to the fury of south-westerly gales, this shore is subject to all the violence of the sea, which breaks on its tremendous barrier rocks with a force and grandeur truly sublime ; but alas ! too often fatal to the unwary mariner, who having escaped the perils of the open ocean, is wrecked on the otherwise friendly shores of his native land.

With respect to the climate of the island, the air is exceedingly clear and healthful, and is kept at an equal temperature by the surrounding sea. The winters are less severe than on the main, and the heat of summer is tempered by the genial influence of sea breezes. Those who object to the keenness of the sea air will find in the

sheltered vales of the Island and on the sunny slopes of its hills, spots where they may repose beyond the sphere of its unpleasantness, but not of its salubrity. Of the Undercliff, Sir James Clark, a high authority, observes, "It would be difficult to find in any northern country a district of equal extent and variety of surface, and it may be added, of equal beauty in point of scenery, so completely screened from the cutting north-east winds of the spring on the one hand, and from the boisterous southerly gales of the autumn and winter on the other;" and Dr. Hooper, author of the *Medical Dictionary*, writes, "The only places on the south coast which we consider deserving of particular notice are the Undercliff in the Isle of Wight, and Hastings and Brighton on the coast of Sussex. The Undercliff is decidedly the most sheltered and warmest of these places, and it has moreover this convenience over most of our other winter residences that it also affords a good summer climate."





Historical Account.

“ How many flashing ensigns bold,
O'er the sweet calm of this fair isle
Have waved in grand imperial fold
On lordly battlemented pile,
From the rude Celtic and the barbarous Dane,
To the proud standard of Victoria's reign.”

THE history of a spot so circumscribed as the Isle of Wight, always a dependency of the “solitary great Island,” its mother, can afford but little of general interest. It may not, however, be wholly useless or uninteresting to give a condensed sketch of its affairs, and to briefly trace its progress to the present time. Of the Island nothing is known during the occupation of the Britons, who styled it Guith or Guict, signifying a breach or separation, from which the modern name is derived. In proof of the fitness of this appellation, an old tradition is adduced asserting that the Island was once joined to the mainland. It is said that the Phœnicians traded hither with tin from Cornwall, which was shipped to France. In support of this notion an old road not far from West Cowes

is pointed out, running in a southerly direction across the Island, and passing near Carisbrooke Castle, to the east of which it may still be traced. Its southern termination is unknown, but it began at Gurnard, where it is supposed that the junction was, or at least that the water was there so shallow as to be fordable.

The Isle of Wight was conquered A.D. 43, by the Romans, under Vespasian, at that time Lieutenant of Plautius, governor of Britain. Little or nothing is known of the state of the Island during its occupation by the Romans. It is evident, however, that Carisbrooke was their principal station, as large quantities of coins have at various times been here found, and in 1858, some workmen employed in making certain alterations in the garden attached to the Vicarage at Carisbrooke discovered the remains of a Roman villa, which, from its size and general arrangements, had evidently been the abode of some person of high rank and distinction. Another station of the Romans was Centurion, at the head of Brading harbour, where some unimportant remains have been found. With the exception of Carisbrooke and Brading, the Romans do not appear to have erected any fortifications in the Island, and probably lived at peace with the inhabitants during the four centuries they were in possession. To the Island they gave the name of "Vectis," a bar or bolt, probably on account either of its longitudinal form, or the peculiar stratifications of its southern shore. The strait between the Island and main land they called "Solvente," to separate—from whence is derived "the Solent."

In the year 530, the Saxons, led by Cerdic and Ciuric, conquered the Island with great ferocity. To Cerdic, in 534, succeeded his nephews, Stuff and Withgar, who

extirpated the few remaining Britons. In 657, an old chronicler informs us that Wulfer, King of Mercia, "set upon the Ile of Wight and well neere destroyed all the inhabitants, meaning to inhabit it with his owne people. He bound himself also by vow, although as yet he was not baptised, that if he might conquer it he would give a fourth part unto the Lord. Thus was this Ile brought to the faith of Christ last of all other the parties of this owre Britaine, after that the same faith had failed here by the coming of the Saxons." All the inhabitants who refused to embrace Christianity having been put to death, the remainder, to the number of 300 families, were baptised by Wilfred, Bishop of Selsea, at Brading, where the first church erected on the island was soon after built. From this period down to the Conquest, the inhabitants suffered greatly by the ravages of the Danes, who made it a place of retreat after their incursions on the mainland. The tumuli, so numerous on our island hills, are supposed to be the works of these invaders, who, it is said, spared neither age nor sex, causing the valleys to run with blood. During the reign of the Confessor, Earl Godwin, at that time in rebellion, landed on the Island and mercilessly pillaged the wretched inhabitants of what the fury of the Danes had spared them.

After the decisive battle of Hastings, the Conqueror gave the Island to William Fitz-Osborn, Earl of Hereford, to be held as freely as he himself held the realm of England. Pursuant to this grant, Fitz-Osborn subjected the Island and parcelled it out among his retainers; but being slain not long after in Flanders, he was succeeded by his third son, Roger de Bretteville, who forfeited his estates and personal liberty by entering into a conspiracy against his

sovereign. The next grant was to Richard de Redvers, Earl of Devon, who, having assisted Henry I. against his brother Robert, Duke of Normandy, received the lordship of the Island as a recompense. His successor, Baldwin, espousing the cause of the Empress Maud, fortified the Island against King Stephen, by whom he was finally overcome, his estates and honours forfeited, and himself exiled ; but on the opposing parties settling their differences, he was reinstated. Baldwin died A.D. 1155, and was interred at Quarr Abbey, of which he was the founder. Baldwin was succeeded by Richard, Count of Cornwall, who was followed by his two sons, but as the latter died without issue, the title and estates went to their uncle William, surnamed De Vernon, who stood high in the favour of Richard I., and was one of the supporters of the canopy borne over that monarch at his coronation. On the accession of King John, De Vernon, being suspected of favouring the designs of Louis, the Dauphin, on the English throne, was compelled to pay 500 marks for the privilege of exercising his right as Lord of the Wight, and to give up his grandson as hostage for his allegiance. John, who was then meditating revenge against the barons who had compelled him to sign Magna Charta, hid himself in the Island, but did not venture further than a place called King's Quay, so named from the circumstance of his landing there. The actions of King John while lurking in the Island have been represented as very unkingly, and it is even asserted that he turned pirate.

After passing to several descendants of William de Vernon, the Lordship of the Isle of Wight, in A.D. 1283, finally came to Isabella de Fortibus, daughter of Baldwin de Redvers, and widow of the Count Albemarle. This

lady lived in great state at Carisbrooke, and had knights and pages in her train, and a body guard of men-at-arms. She conferred important privileges upon the rising town of Newport, and granted charters to both Yarmouth and Newtown. The children of Isabella de Fortibus all died during her life, and she died at Stockwell, in Surrey, in 1293. On her death-bed she executed a deed by which, for the sum of 6,000 marks (upwards of £60,000) she parted with all the powers attached to the Lordship of the Wight to Edward I. Hugh de Courtney, the heir, disputed the testament of the Countess, and declared the same to be a forgery. The charge was formally investigated by Parliament, and declared to be unfounded. After the death of Isabella de Fortibus, the Island was governed by wardens or captains till the Restoration.

During the wars of King Edward III. with France, the troops of that nation effected several landings in the Island. In the year 1340, a French force landed at St. Helen's, and after plundering the inhabitants, rapidly pressed forward into the interior where they were met by Sir Theobald Russell at the head of the insular forces, and after a brief and sanguinary struggle, in which Sir Theobald was killed, they were driven back to their ships. In 1377, the French again landed on the island, and succeeded in forcing their way to Newport. The inhabitants of that town sheltered themselves under the fortress of Carisbrooke, and having drawn the French into an ambuscade the latter were completely cut to pieces. The place where the French were entrapped was afterwards known as "Noddies' Hill" (now Node Hill), and the place where they were buried as "Dead Man's Lane." In this invasion the towns of Yarmouth and Newtown were burnt to the ground.

The island being thus liable to periodical invasions from the French, in the reigns of Henry VII. and VIII., forts were erected on all accessible parts of the shore, and the inhabitants provided with parochial artillery, in the use of which long practice made them proficient. These guns were mostly one-pounders, and the farmers were compelled to find horses to draw them to places where they were required. One of these guns is still in the possession of Sir Henry Oglander. During the time of the apprehended arrival of the Spanish Armada, Sir George Carey, who was then captain of the Island, gave great offence to the inhabitants by putting the Island into a state of defence and his removal was petitioned for, but unsuccessfully. The island was not afterwards invaded by any enemy.

On the breaking out of the Civil War, Jerome, Earl of Portland, was captain of the island; but having made himself obnoxious by his loyalty and "extraordinary vivacity," he was seized on and imprisoned. His wife, however, managed to retain possession of Carisbrooke Castle, and with a garrison of no more than twenty men commanded by a Colonel Brett, held out against the Republican party, who headed by Moses Read, the fanatical mayor of Newport, had invested it. She obtained an honourable capitulation. Early in the war, the bulk of the inhabitants of the Island had sided with the Parliament, and this fact and its insular position saved it from a participation in the deadly strife. Many persons, therefore, came from the mainland to the island for safety.

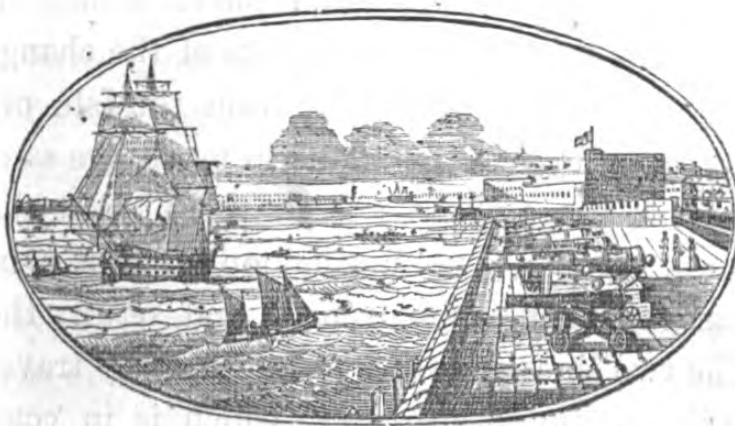
The most important event connected with the history of the island is the imprisonment of Charles I. in Carisbrooke Castle, where he arrived on the 11th of November, 1647, and was received by Col. Hammond, who was nephew to

his own chaplain, Dr. Hammond, from which circumstance the ill-fated monarch hoped to find a friend in the commander of the fortress. Hammond was, however, wholly in the other interest ; having married a daughter of the celebrated John Hampden, and obtained through the interest of Cromwell, the post of Captain of the Wight. At first the king was allowed to range over the island, but not unattended, but this lasted not long : for he was afterwards confined to the castle, and ultimately to his own apartment. An attempt to release the king was made by one Captain Butley, but the affair being sadly mismanaged, it proved abortive, and Butley, for his share in the matter, was executed. Another attempt was made by a person, named Firebrace, at whose suggestion Charles endeavoured to escape through the window of his chamber, but after getting his head out, he could not force his body between the bars, and was obliged to withdraw. Afterwards, aquafortis and files were conveyed to the king, by the aid of which he destroyed the bars, but just as he was about to descend he saw a number of people on the watch, and, finding that his design was known, he instantly withdrew, and placed a light in the window to warn his friends to escape. The plot, it appears, was well known to the governor, who was not, however, present at the time, Major Rolf, who was left in charge, avowed that it was his intention to have shot the king had he descended. On the 30th of November, 1648, the king removed to Newport to treat with the Parliamentary Commissioners ; while there he was seized by the army and conveyed to Hurst Castle, and from thence to London.

After the death of Charles, his children, the Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Gloucester, were confined in

Carisbrooke Castle, where they were humanely treated ; their only hardship, besides the loss of liberty, was the order of Parliament that no person should be allowed to kiss their hands, and that they should merely be treated as the children of an ordinary gentleman. Mildmay, at that time captain of the Castle, observed this order so strictly that the Duke was never called other than Master Harry. Elizabeth died here on the 8th of September, 1650, and was buried in St. Thomas' Church, Newport, where her remains were discovered in 1793. Two years after the death of his sister, the prince was liberated by the advice and influence of Cromwell, who caused £500 to be paid by the Treasury to defray the expenses of his removal, the only condition imposed being that he should sail directly from the Island and touch at no part of the English coast.

From this period the Island has been under various governors, whose administrations offer nothing worthy of note. The present governor and captain of the Island is the Right Hon. Viscount Eversley, G.C.B.,P.C. The office is merely honorary, the salary attached to it having been abolished some years ago.





Access to the Island.

WITHIN the memory of many now living, access to the Isle of Wight from London was a tedious affair, involving at least a journey of six hours by coach, and an uncertain passage in a sailing vessel. It was not till 1825, that there was any steam communication between the island and the mainland. The first introduction of steam-packets to run from Ryde to Portsmouth provoked a considerable amount of opposition from a few gentlemen resident in the island, some of whom are still alive to witness the marvellous effects of the change. In olden times a journey to London from the Isle of Wight was looked upon by its inhabitants in much the same light as a voyage to the antipodes is in the present day. In these days of steam it is not uncommon for men of business in the island to visit the metropolis and return the same day. The two lines of railway most used by travellers to Portsmouth are the Mid-Sussex, which is in connection with the Brighton and South-Coast Railway; and the London and Portsmouth Direct, which is connected with

the South-Western Railway. On the London, Brighton, and South-Coast Railway (Mid-Sussex), through tickets can be taken at Victoria, London Bridge, Kensington, Battersea, and Clapham Junction Stations for Portsmouth or Ryde. The scenery on the Mid-Sussex is most beautiful, and the carriages of a superior character. Through tickets are issued on the London and South-Western Railway at Waterloo Bridge, Vauxhall, Kensington, Battersea, and Clapham Junction Stations. Passengers may take their choice of being conveyed on this line to either Portsmouth or Stokes Bay. A reference to "Bradshaw" will make the reader acquainted with the different routes; travellers, however, with much luggage, should understand that the Stokes Bay Railway is brought to the water's edge, and much inconvenience and confusion thereby avoided. The sea passage from Stokes Bay to Ryde is also somewhat shorter than that from Portsmouth, where there is a tramway connection between the rail and Southsea Pier. In all cases it is advisable to take through tickets, which free both packet and piers. A branch of the Great-Western Railway extending to Southampton, the island may be said to be open by rail to the whole Kingdom. It should, however, be borne in mind that only those who desire a pleasant voyage on the Southampton Water should take the route from London to Southampton, and that the Port of Lymington is serviceable merely to those who intend to visit the western part of the island, as there is no railway communication between Yarmouth and the other towns of the island.



The Town of Ryde.

“Ascending with the gentle slope
From the blue Solent’s tide;
We know not of a fairer place,
Than this our lovely Ryde.

* * *

Thy white-walled homes among the trees,
Touched by the heavenly beam,
Resemble less an earthly scene,
Than some bright fairy dream.”



PLEASANT and cheerful countenance is a great recommendation to a town, especially if that town depend for its existence upon the patronage of those in pursuit of health and pleasure. All who have written descriptions of the town of Ryde, and the hundreds of thousands who have visited it during the last forty years, are unanimous in the opinion that for beauty and attractiveness, Ryde stands without a rival. Within the memory of men and women now living the site on which this popular watering-place now stands was occupied by two insignificant

villages, the inhabitants of which were mostly fishermen.* In 1795, the united populations of Upper and Lower Ryde, as these villages were then termed, did not amount to more than 600, nor did the place advance much till 1813, when the first pier was erected. That Ryde possesses something more than a pleasant and attractive appearance must be evident from the fact that from that period to the present it has yearly increased, and that its population at the present time, inclusive of the suburbs, is 12,000. This large increase it should be remembered cannot be attributed in any degree to the absence of rivals; for on all sides watering-places have sprung up, both in and out of the

* Fielding (the author of *Joseph Andrews*) in 1753, on his voyage to Lisbon, to which place he was proceeding in the last stage of consumption, was detained in Ryde several days, and to this celebrated novelist we are indebted for a lively picture of the village. "Between the sea and the shore," he says, "there was at low water an impassable gulf, if I may so call it, of deep mud, which could neither be traversed by walking or swimming; so that, for one half of the twenty-four hours, Ryde was inaccessible to friend or foe." He was taken in a small boat as near as possible to the shore, and then "taken by two sailors, who waded with me through the mud, and placed me on a chair on the land." The village could then only boast of one butcher, but according to Fielding's landlady, "he was a very good one, and one that killed all sorts of meat in season, beef two or three times a year, and mutton all the year round." As to tea, "the whole place could not supply a single leaf, for as to what Mrs. Humphreys (his landlady) and the shopman called by that name it was not of Chinese growth but 'a tobacco of the mundungus species.'" Notwithstanding these little drawbacks to comfort, Fielding was greatly impressed with the beauty of the place. "Its situation," he writes, "is most delightful and in the most pleasant spot in the whole island. It is true it wants the advantage of that beautiful river, which leads from Newport to Cowes, but the prospect here, extending to the sea, and taking in Portsmouth, Spithead, and St. Helens, would be more than a recompense for the loss of the Thames itself, even in the most delightful parts of Berkshire and Buckinghamshire."

island. We think, therefore, it may be fairly inferred that the very large amount of favour bestowed upon this town is attributable to the fact that within it are to be found more comfort and freedom, as well as greater varieties of enjoyment, than can be had elsewhere.

Some writers, with a view to disparage Ryde as a winter residence, have urged that its exposure to the easterly and north-easterly winds renders it unfit for the abode of aged and infirm persons. The large number of buildings erected shelter the town to a great extent from this unpleasantness ; and, with respect to the temperature during the winter months, it is satisfactorily proved by the late Dr. Mark Brown, that it is considerably higher than that of London. A military officer of high rank, about thirty-seven years ago, purchased a mansion in the town very near to the shore. This gentleman was subsequently informed that the severity of the weather during the winter months would render the place unendurable, and he felt almost disposed to get rid of his purchase. How unfounded were these apprehensions of the General may be inferred from the fact, that he came to Ryde after a long residence in India at the age of seventy, and lived therein till he was ninety-three.

A detailed list of the vast number of distinguished personages who have visited Ryde would fill our pages : we may, however, observe that the people of Ryde are essentially a lodging-letting community. The resident gentry for change not unfrequently let their houses during the summer months, and thus it is that the town can offer accommodation suitable either to royalty or the humble bourgeois. The ex-royal family of France, in 1860, occupied the splendid mansion of Sir Augustus

Clifford ; and in 1861, the Grand Duke Constantine, brother to the Emperor of Russia, sojourned at the late residence of Lord and Lady Downes, at Binstead ; and again visited Ryde in 1871. The King of the Belgians also was visitor here in 1871. Ryde, and the island generally, is especially patronized by newly-wedded couples, who can here, in quietude, enjoy the first month of wedded bliss.

Prior to the year 1813, when the pier was erected, Ryde may be said to have had no history. That event was unquestionably the turning point of its fortunes ; for in the year 1829, its population had arisen to upwards of 2,000, and among other distinguished personages who made it their summer residence were the Duke of Buckingham and Earl Spencer. In this year, the first Ryde Improvement Act was obtained, under which the administration of the town was placed in the hands of a board of commissioners, who were required to possess a property qualification within the boundaries of the town to the amount of £1,000. In the year 1832, the town was first lighted with gas, and the number of resident gentry continued to increase till 1845, when the Hon. Linsey Burrell, in conjunction with Thomas Fleming, Esq., and other gentlemen, founded the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, and in the following year, the first stone of the Club-house was laid by the late lamented Prince Consort. In 1854, the second Ryde Improvement Act was obtained, and in lieu of a self-elected body, a more popular assembly, elected by the ratepayers, was formed. Powers were obtained to erect water-works, and the sum of £22,000 was expended in bringing water from Ashe. This supply being found insufficient, the Commissioners, at a further cost of £30,000 or thereabouts, erected water-works

at Knighton, and from these two sources an ample supply of spring water is sent into the town.

A direct line of rail from Ryde to Ventnor was opened in 1864, having stations at Brading, Sandown, Shanklin, and Wroxall, which proves a great accommodation to visitors whose time is limited, and it has greatly tended to the prosperity of those places. Nearly the whole of the town of Ryde was formerly in the parish of Newchurch (which extended southwards and included the town of Ventnor), the parish church being distant upwards of six miles. In 1866, the late vicar, the Rev. W. H. Girdlestone, then vicar of Newchurch-with-Ryde, strongly impressed with the great advantage that must result from a division of a parish in which there were two considerable towns, and a large agricultural district, made the necessary arrangements for carrying out that object, and an Act was obtained constituting Ryde a parish. In addition to this great change, Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen has been pleased, through privy Council, to grant the prayer of the inhabitants, and a charter of incorporation by which Ryde has been constituted a borough town, took effect in November, 1868.

The principal public structures in Ryde we will now describe, the first and foremost being

THE PIER, which may be said to be the glory of the town. As we have before stated this structure was commenced by a company in 1813. At first it extended no further than 1740 feet; in 1824, the length of the pier was increased 500; and in 1833, a further addition was made, by which the pier was extended to nearly its present length, which is 2,304 feet. The tramway pier alongside the original is a structure of enormous strength, and was erected in 1862, and forms a connection with the railway.

As a promenade, Ryde pier is perhaps unequalled ; but to be fully appreciated as such it must be seen on a regatta day. Then may be witnessed an assembly of grace, beauty, and fashion, seldom to be surpassed. A foreigner once enquired whether it was customary to bring all the beautiful women in England to Ryde pier once a year. The question was not a strange one, for on these holidays the high-born beauty, the neatly-clad village girl, the fair maiden of Ryde, and others from neighbouring towns, with naval and military officers, and yachtsmen, form a vast assembly the like of which, we venture to observe, all those who have not visited Ryde have not seen.

The view from the pier is of great beauty and extent, commencing with the town of Ryde, the buildings of which intermingled with trees, rise gradually from the margin of the sea. The eye, turned to the westward, wanders over a richly wooded country thickly dotted with elegant villas, and passing Wootton creek and the adjacent woodland scenery, rests on the stately towers of Osborne and the ivied walls of Norris Castle. On the northern side, Cowes roads and the far-off expanse of the New Forest present a fair prospect, the latter of historical interest ; then Calshot Castle and Southampton Water, and if the day be clear the towers and spires of the town of Southampton and Netley Hospital. Next Stokes Bay and the marine residences of Anglesea. Then old Portsmouth, with its grim fortifications and towers, and masts of shipping, while in the distance stretches the long outline of Portsdown with its magnificent forts. Nearer at hand is Spithead, seldom without a ship of war reposing majestically on its broad waters. Following the line of coast rise the terraces of Southsea, Hayling Island, and Selsea Bill, a bold headland,

the distant hills of Sussex, with the spire of Chichester Cathedral, meet the eye, which in crossing the waters of the English Channel, with its newly-erected forts, encounters Bembridge Point, the eastern extremity of the island, and glancing over the mouth of Brading Haven, proceeds along the shore, where lie the villages of Sea View and Spring Vale, and Puckpool Fort, to St. Clare, Appley, and St. John's, clothed with wood and ornamented with villas and mansions, to Ryde again.

The numerous boats and vessels moving around the pier during the summer months, and the steamers arriving and departing, give life and animation to a scene, to which no description can do justice. Visitors should be acquainted with the fact that the pier is open to them by payment of a moderate subscription.

THE VICTORIA PIER AND DOCKS.—These works were erected in 1859, by a company known as the Isle of Wight Ferry Company, whose intention it was to carry out the pier to the length of the old pier, and to have a carriage road thereon to the packets. The promoters of the undertaking were warned when erecting the pier that it was not sufficiently high to resist the violence of a south-easterly gale ; but heedless of the advice given, the iron piles were made three feet shorter than they are at present, and the result was as predicted, the greater part of the pier was destroyed, the iron pillars being in many instances bent together like so many pins. The company rectified this error, but from some cause or other there were continual disputes and litigation between them and the commissioners of the town. The powers invested in the Ferry Company to complete the pier expired, and being compelled to wind up their affairs, the whole of their works were sold to the

old Pier Company, to whom they now belong. It is admitted on all sides that the dock and basin have been of great service to the town, and the Pier Company have utilized the Victoria Pier by the erection of stages for the purposes of bathing, which afford accommodation for this healthy recreation, both for ladies and gentlemen, unsurpassed in the kingdom. Combining security, privacy, and an extensive range, and commanding a magnificent sea view, they form a pleasant resort. Weekly, monthly, and season tickets may be obtained as well as for single baths.

THE ESPLANADE.—To the Eastward of Ryde, in 1845, there was a large open plain known as “the Duver,” the resting place of many of the bodies of the seamen who were drowned when the “Royal George” sank at Spithead, in 1782. This space was offered to the town by its owner, the late Sir Richard Simeon, Bart., at a very low sum, and it was proposed that it should be laid out as a park and pleasure grounds. The extreme caution of the early commissioners caused them to neglect this opportunity of improving the town, and the land was subsequently let for building; but the houses erected thereon were exposed to the sea. In 1856, the commissioners determined to form a carriage drive from the pier to Appley. The sea-wall erected is 1,200 feet in length, and the Esplanade varies from 50 to 100 feet in breadth. The cost was about £5,000. It forms altogether a splendid marine promenade.

THE ROYAL VICTORIA YACHT CLUB.—This distinguished club is under the patronage of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen. The King of the Netherlands, and other foreigners of note, are also included in the list of its mem-

bers, of which there are 170 who are the owners of yachts. The onerous duties of Secretary are ably performed by A. D. McArthur, Esq. The club-house (the foundation stone of which was laid by the late Prince Consort), was erected in 1846, and is near the water, its appearance when first erected was unquestionably superior to the present; for the continually increasing number of its members (now upwards of 700), rendered an enlargement necessary. Its interior comforts, however, are greatly increased thereby. The regatta and the regatta ball, in connection with this club are institutions of the town, the former generally occurs about the middle of August.

ALL SAINTS' PARISH CHURCH.—This church, situated at the entrance to Queen's Road, was designed by Sir Gilbert G. Scott, R.A., is of the middle period of decorated Gothic, and consists of nave, north and south aisles, chancel and transept. When the tower and spire are completed, the latter rising to a height of 160 feet, it will serve as a good landmark to the mariner. The foundation stone was laid by Her Royal Highness Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, accompanied by their Royal Highnesses Princess Louise and Prince Christian, on August 4th, 1869, and it was consecrated by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Winchester, on Tuesday, Jan. 2nd, 1872. The church is very large and solidly constructed, yet its chaste and graceful architecture, and the perfect proportions of most of its windows convey an impression of extreme lightness. The first objects that attract attention on entering are the great east and west windows; both very effective. We would draw the reader's attention to the splendid decoration of the ceiling of the sanctuary, the magnificent altar rail in polished brass, the carving, and the pulpit. The pulpit is a really lovely work of art—and alone would render Ryde church

notable. It is of variegated alabaster, and is based upon a cluster of fluted columns of polished Derbyshire marble ; with panels into which Sir Gilbert Scott has introduced subjects sculptured with masterly skill. in white alabaster—each panel comprising two representative figures of Old and New Testament, or præ Nicean saints and martyrs. The Rev. Alex. Poole, M.A., is the vicar of Ryde.*

ST. THOMAS'S CHURCH.—The manor of Ryde was a portion of the possessions of the Dillington family, but Sir John Dillington sold it to Henry Player, Esq., whose son Thomas built the first chapel here in 1719. This structure, which was a chapel of ease to the parish church of Newchurch, having become inadequate to the wants of the inhabitants, it was entirely re-built in 1827, by the late George Player, Esq. It is of the plain unornamented semi-gothic style, and terminated at the west end by a well-proportioned tower, over which is a spire. The burial ground was closed in 1853, but interments occasionally take place by leave of the Secretary of State. The officiating minister is the Rev. A. Poole, M. A., vicar of Ryde.

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH was erected in 1827, by W. Hughes Hughes, Esq., M.P. for Oxford, and Alderman of the city of London. It is in the Gothic style, terminated by two wings, with octagonal turrets, and over the central doorway is a cupola. The exterior is stuccoed and battlemented ; standing low the building is seen to disadvantage. The interior having galleries on three sides, is not inelegant and very commodious. Here laboured the Rev. R. Waldo Sibthorp, who seceded to the Church of Rome, of which he is now a recognised priest. The Rev. W. H. Redknap, minister.

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY.—The appearance of this beautiful structure is in the highest degree picturesque. It is built in the early English style, and was erected in 1845,

* For times of Services of Churches and Chapels, see Appendix.

by voluntary subscription. T. Hellyer, Esq., was the architect. Situated on a commanding eminence, its elegant spire is a conspicuous object for miles. The interior originally consisted of a nave with north and south aisles; but the requirements of the district have necessitated the erection of two transepts. 500 sittings are free. The Rev. A. J. Wade, M.A., is the incumbent.

ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS is a church erected at Swanmore. There are a presbytery and schools attached thereto, the whole building having a rather heavy appearance. It was erected in 1862 by public subscription. The Rev. H. E. Wix, M.A., is the incumbent.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH is pleasantly situated at St. John's Park. It is in the early English style, and was designed by T. Hellyer, Esq., of Ryde. The stained glass windows at the end have a pleasing effect. This church was erected by private subscription, in 1843, the land being presented by the late Sir Richard Simeon, Bart., lord of the manor. There is a school in connection with the church and a residence for the schoolmaster. The present incumbent is the Rev. H. Ewbank, M.A.

ST. MARIES (CATHOLIC) CHURCH is in the upper part of the High Street, that situation having been selected on account of there being no other piece of freehold land suitable for the purpose to be obtained in the town. This handsome structure was erected at the sole cost of the Dowager Countess of Clare, a benevolent lady long resident in Ryde, and who is sister to the Hon. Linsey Burrell, the founder of the Royal Victoria Yacht Club. Over the principal entrance there is a carved coronet, underneath which is a latin inscription, in which the faithful are requested to "Pray for the good estate of the Lady Elizabeth, Countess of Clare, who built this church, dedicated to God, under the patronage of St. Mary, in the year 1845. Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on her. Amen."

The church is in the early English style, and the interior is richly decorated. Over the altar is a copy of Raphael's "Crucifixion," and in the chapel of St. John the Evangelist is the picture of the Annunciation after Guido. The entire cost of the church, presbytery, and schools was £18,000. The mission is endowed to the extent of many thousands, one individual, a resident of Ryde, having alone given £10,000 for that purpose. The Rev. J. B. Cahill, priest.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH is situated at the junction of George-street and Melville-street. This church has been recently re-built (the former one having been destroyed by fire), in the Gothic style of the fourteenth century. It consists of a nave, with north and south aisles; and at the north-west corner of the building is a lofty tower and spire. The architect was Richard J. Jones, Esq. Accommodation is afforded for about 900 worshippers. Situated on a good eminence, it is one of the most prominent buildings viewed from the pier.

THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL is a neat and commodious building in Nelson-street. It has recently been enlarged by the erection of galleries, new entrance porch, and other improvements.

CHRIST CHURCH (BAPTIST).—This place of worship, which is in the early English style, and built of bricks, is situated in Upper George-street. It has an elegant spire, and is altogether a light and attractive building. Sir Morton Peto largely contributed to the expense of the erection.

PARK-ROAD (BAPTIST) CHAPEL is a neat and commodious iron building for the congregation formerly worshipping in the Victoria Rooms.

THE PRIMITIVE METHODISTS have a neat Chapel in Star-street.

THE BIBLE CHRISTIAN CHAPEL is situated in Newport-street.

THE CHRISTIANS, or "The Brethren," as they are termed, hold services in Albert-street, and in the Victoria Rooms.

In the suburbs, there are CONGREGATIONAL CHAPELS at Haylands and Weeks ; and a FREE WESLEYAN CHAPEL at Swanmore.

THE TOWN HALL AND MARKET HOUSE.—This edifice has been materially altered since its erection in 1830. It formerly consisted of a centre and two long massive wings. The late Miss Player, lady of the manor, and owner of a large portion of the freehold of Ryde, desiring to leave behind some memento of her good feeling to the town in which she had resided all her life, presented the handsome clock which is now fixed in the tower of the town hall, the expense of erecting the tower being defrayed partly by the town and partly by the family of the amiable lady to whom we have referred. The want of a large assembly room having been experienced for some years past, the commissioners decided to build one over the market-place capable of seating 750 persons, and this spacious assembly room was opened April 14th, 1869. The whole building has a fine and rather massive appearance.

THE THEATRE stands in a commanding position at the top of Union-street, and is a very large and imposing building, recently erected on the site of the old and ugly one. The interior is well finished, with all the modern appliances. The building as a theatre is one of the best in the south of England.

THE INFIRMARY.—This excellent institution, which since its erection in 1847, has proved a great blessing to the whole island, was established by the unremitting exertions of the late Dr. Dodd, and is under royal patronage. It is situated on the road to Swanmore. Attached to it are well-shrubbed grounds in which convalescent patients can walk. In cases of accident patients are admitted at all hours, but in other instances a letter from a subscriber is necessary. Considering the fact that seamen from merchant ships, when lying off the Mother-bank, are often admitted to this inestimable institution, it has its claims upon ship-owners and others residing out of the

island, which have not been fully recognized. Visitors desirous of contributing to this noble and cosmopolitan charity may do so at the gate of the infirmary, or at the pier, where boxes are fixed for that purpose. In 1871, a fever ward was erected in connection with this noble institution.

THE CEMETERY.—Until 1842, the poorer classes of Ryde were compelled to convey their dead to the burial ground at Newchurch, a distance of six miles ; and it was not an unfrequent sight for the pleasure tourist to meet or pass a cart followed by mourners slowly and sorrowfully ascending the steep hills which intervened between Ryde and the parish church. The late Mrs. Lind generously presented an acre of land for burial purposes, and the same was walled in and consecrated, the expense being defrayed by public subscription. In 1860, the Ryde Commissioners became a legally constituted burial board, and by them the cemetery has been greatly enlarged, and it is now kept in excellent order. A portion of the cemetery is set apart for the burial of Roman Catholics, and was duly consecrated by Bishop Grant in 1863 ; this part of the cemetery is distinguished by a memorial cross ; another portion is also devoted to Nonconformists. There are several handsome monuments in the grounds, the most conspicuous of which are to the memory of the late respected priest of St. Marie's Catholic church, the Rev. John Telford ; the late Archdeacon Wix, and Sir James Caldwell, K.C.B., who died in 1863, aged 93 years ; but the tomb that most attracts attention, and awakens deepest sympathy in the hearts of those who visit it, is a white cross garland to the memory of Bellina Lees, great grand-daughter to the last named gentleman, and the daughter of Sir John and Lady Lees. This young lady was suddenly snatched from her beloved relatives at the early age of 17. With tender care her grave is kept in the most scrupulous order. Flowers tastefully arranged grow

around it, and daily an affectionate hand replenishes the vase placed over the tomb.

THE ROYAL VICTORIA ARCADE, in Union-street, deserves a passing remark. It is a large structure erected by a private individual, who found it a very unprofitable investment. It is built in the Italian style, from designs by Westmacott, and cost £12,000, but owing to its confined situation it is not seen to advantage.

THE PHILOSOPHICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.—This society has a museum and lecture room in Melville-street. There are about 80 members, among whom are many private gentlemen, and most of the professional men, resident in the town and neighbourhood. Lectures on scientific subjects are given in connection with the society. The museum contains a collection interesting to the learned and curious, and is open free to the public on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, from ten till four o'clock.

THE LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE.—A portion of the market-house has been appropriated for the use of this society. There is a comfortable reading-room, supplied with the daily and weekly papers, and many of the leading periodicals of the day. Attached to the institute there is a library, consisting of 3,000 volumes. Ladies can have the use of the library.

THE SCHOOL OF ART occupies part of the buildings used by the Literary and Scientific Institute, in Lind-street. Mr. Swallow is the master.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.—A very commodious building in connection with this association has recently been erected in Lind-street, opposite the Town Hall, at a cost of more than £1,000. It contains reading-room, library, reference library, class and committee rooms. The number of members and associates is upwards of 400, and there is an

excellent library of over 3,000 volumes. A course of popular lectures is given in the winter. Visitors may subscribe for short periods to the library and reading room.

THE MASONIC HALL is in John Street. The East Medina Lodge, No. 204, and the Ryde Lodge, No. 999, meet here. There is also a Rose Croix Chapter.

THE VICTORIA ROOMS, opposite the Town Hall, were built by a private individual, and are used for lectures, meetings, concerts, and other amusements. They supply a great want to the town, and have been extensively patronised.

HOTELS.—The principal are the PIER, (D. Barnes,) near the pier; YELF'S, (J. Wavell), Union-street; KENT, (F. Wheeler), Union-street; YORK, (W. H. Childe), George-street; SIVIER'S, (H. Pragnell), Pier-street, near the Club-house; EAGLE, in Pier-street; ESPLANADE, (J. Kemp), on the Esplanade; CROWN, (R. Candy), St. Thomas's-square; BELGRAVE, Nelson-street. These are excellent establishments, and the visitor can obtain every accommodation. There are also several very good taverns and inns.

BANKS.—The Hampshire Banking Company have a branch in Union-street, and draw on the London Joint Stock Bank, Princes-street. The National Provincial Bank has also a branch in Union-street in connection with the head office, Bishopsgate-street, London.

The POST OFFICE is in Union-street; there are also pillar boxes at the Nag's Head, High-street; Dover-street; Spencer-road; Queen's-road; Esplanade; Monkton-street, near the Railway Station; near the toll-gate, St. John's; and at Haylands, Swanmore, and Binstead.

THE RAILWAY STATION is situated at the junction of Monkton-street and St. John's-road, where it connects the railway with the Ryde Pier tramway. Trains run at short intervals to Brading, Sandown, Shanklin, Wroxall, and Vent-

nor, and *vicē versa*. A bill has been passed in Parliament sanctioning a "direct" route from Ryde to Newport. An indirect line, *viâ* Sandown, is being constructed, and is rapidly approaching completion.

ALMSHOUSES.—These were built in 1854, by the widow of the late Francis Shannon Wilder, Esq., to perpetuate his memory. They comprise three large double cottages in the Tudor style. They are situated in Newport-street.

SEA BATHING.—Excellent bathing accommodation exists in the town. On the Victoria Pier first-class accommodation has been provided, and also at Mr. Kemp's establishment at the east end of the Esplanade. There is a large bathing stage erected at the eastern end of the Esplanade, which is open to the public free of charge.

LIBRARIES.—Gibbs' Royal Marine, Union-street; Mason's and Watts', Cross-street; Pittman's and Wagner's, Union-street; and Ticehurst's, Monkton-street; as well as those already named.



Other Information useful to visitors will be found in the Appendix.



Walks Round Ryde.

THE walk to the west of Ryde, although affording less extensive and diversified views than the others, is decidedly the most pleasant. Quitting the town by a retired and shaded road, open only to the pedestrian, known as Spencer Road, Westfield, the mansion of Vice-Admiral Sir Augustus Clifford, Bart., Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, first claims attention and may be recognised by its ornamental gateway, over which is inscribed "Qui si sana," signifying "Here is health." The gateway is crowned with the beautiful figure of a stag, which was much admired in the Great Exhibition of 1851; having attracted the admiration of the late lamented Prince Consort, whose Royal Widow is said to have visited the spot expressly to view it in its present position. The mansion is of modern build, with magnificently laid-out gardens attached thereto, extending to the shore, in which are tastefully arranged statuary and other works of art.

To the liberality of the proprietor the public have been often indebted for the privilege of viewing these delightful grounds, when any public or charitable object could be promoted thereby. The traveller should not omit in passing along this road, to notice on the right, one of the most beautiful suburbs of the town, called Pelham Fields, where villas and mansions extend to the water's edge, and form a most delightful and charming retreat. The whole of the Spencer Road is studded with villas, the last of which is Ryde House, the residence of the late Miss Player, fronted towards the sea by a park.

BINSTEAD.

After passing through the gates at the end of Spencer Road, we walk along a pleasant footpath towards Binstead Church, by Stonepits, the mansion of the late Capt. Brigstocke, and Brookfield, the marine residence of the Marquis of Exeter. A small stream bridged over divides the town of Ryde from this parish, after crossing which, a short walk brings us to the Church, a modest, unpretending building, but most delightfully situated, and a true realization of an English village church. Over the outer gateway is a rude piece of sculpture representing a man on a ram's head, which is said to have been a Saxon idol ; also may be seen, worked in some portion of the building, emblems of the Holy Dove, Eternity, Sin, &c. The principal object of interest in the interior is the font, on which are some well designed illustrations of Scriptural events. The parish of Binstead was originally a grant of half a hide of land from the crown in the eleventh century to the Bishop of

Winchester to enable him to dig stone for the cathedral. Binstead stone was used for that purpose by William of Wykeham, and its conveyance to the shore was entrusted to the Abbot of Quarr, the name of which place is derived from the adjacent quarries.* To the north of the churchyard is the mansion of Sir Charles Locock, Bart., M.D., an eminent physician, who has been specially honoured by the friendship and confidence of his sovereign. This marine residence is of exceedingly plain exterior, which is, however, more than compensated for by the beauty of the grounds and the extent and loveliness of its prospects. Pursuing the path, we pass the Parsonage, the residence of the Rev. Philip Hewitt, which harmonises delightfully with the surrounding landscape. The village of Binstead is on the high road, and consists of about seventy newly-built cottages, near to which there is a cemetery and a Wesleyan chapel. Leaving the village on our left, we enter the shady avenue to Quarr Copse, on which of late years some beautiful villas have been erected, and after a delightful walk, reach the ruins of

QUARR ABBEY.

These ruins stand in a beautiful valley, open to the sea on the north, and sheltered on the other sides by groves of oak and elm ; a little stream flows through the vale and after passing among the ruins discharges itself into the sea. Quarr Abbey was founded 1132, by Baldwin de Redvers, Earl of Devon and Lord of the Wight. He died and was

* These quarries claim the attention of geologists—See Mantell's *Geology of the Isle of Wight*.

buried there, as was his wife and son Henry.* At the dissolution the abbey was purchased by a merchant of Southampton, and pulled down for the sake of its materials ; not even the church or the tombs of the dead being spared. It was subsequently purchased by Lord Chief Justice Fleming in the reign of James II., to whose descendant John Fleming, Esq., of Stoneham Park, Hants, it still belongs. The abbey walls enclosed forty acres of land ; a portion of the eastern front is still in existence, and the chapter house and refectory now form part of a barn. A few ancient arches, doors, shafts and windows may also be seen ; and these constitute the remains of a pile which for four centuries had been the proudest sanctuary of religion in the island. Spots once consecrated to religion seldom fail to inspire the mind with some feeling of reverence, and few can gaze on the ruins of this once proud abbey† without reflecting on the mutability of all things earthly. Here now the bat makes its home, and the hoot of the night-loving owl is heard instead of the midnight hymn of the penitential monk—decay and desolation make it their throne, and soon

“ Oblivion will steal silently
The remnant of its fame.”

* The various grants made to this Abbey may be seen in Worsley's History of the Island.

† The following legend may not prove uninteresting to the readers:—“ At a short distance south of the ruins of the Abbey, is a wood, formerly thickly timbered, but now only consisting of a few decayed oaks and brushwood ; it is called Eleanor's Grove, from a tradition that Eleanor of Guienne, Queen of Henry II., was imprisoned at Quarr, and frequented this secluded spot ; where, after death, it is related, she was interred in a golden coffin, which is supposed still to be protected from sacrilegious cupidity, by magical spells.

Leaving Quarr, the walk may be prolonged by proceeding through the gate of the late Sir Thomas Cochrane's Lodge, and following the pathway to

FISHBOURNE,

Or Fish-house, which is pleasantly situated at the entrance of Wootton Creek. The building of yachts is carried on here. Most of the property at Fishbourne belonged to the late Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane, who built a number of neat cottages for the labouring classes, and with a view to promote sobriety, prohibited any shop from selling beer to be drunk on the premises. The shore opposite Fish-house, is fringed with luxuriant wood, and rises gradually to Wootton Church and farm. It is sometimes practicable to return to Ryde by the shore, but hardly safe for a stranger. If therefore a change is desired, the traveller should inquire for and take the road which leads to the main road from Ryde to Newport, near the quiet and picturesque village of

WOOTTON.

The church of Wootton is about a mile from the village, and is one of the oldest in the Island. It contains some monuments of the Lisle family, a family that settled at Wootton at the Conquest, but became extinct at the end of the last century. Sir John Lisle, of this family, was one of the Commissioners who tried Charles I. At the Restoration he fled to Switzerland where he was assassinated. His widow was beheaded when upwards of seventy years of age for having received into her house some persons said to have been concerned in Monmouth's rebellion. There

are two Wesleyan Chapels in the village of Wootton, one for the Old Connexion and the other for the Free Wesleyans. There are also a post-office, and an inn at which the stage coaches to Newport stop. The pedestrian can return to Ryde either by the main road through Binstead, or by another near Kite Hill through Firestone Copse.



A PLEASANT walk to the east of Ryde is along the Esplanade, near to which we may remind our readers were buried a number of the crew of the ill-fated "Royal George," which sank at Spithead, through the gross negligence of the lieutenant in command, on the 29th of August, 1782. The graves of these "Mariners of England" are now built over, but for many years after the catastrophe the little hillocks that marked the place of their interment remained. In 1841, a subscription was opened in Ryde to erect a monument over these graves and a considerable amount was collected, but that laudable object was frustrated by the failure of the bank in which the amount so raised was lodged.

Having passed the Esplanade, we proceed along the shore by Appley, to the castellated mansion of St. Clare, which was erected by the late Lord Vernon, whose marine residence it was for years. His lordship was one of the first who gave an impetus to yachting, and his residence in the Island was highly beneficial to Ryde. The grounds of St. Clare are laid out with exquisite taste; it is, in fact, a little earthly paradise, and it was spoken of at one time as likely to be the marine residence of the heir-apparent to the British Crown. St. Clare is now the property of Col-

Harcourt, who occasionally resides there in the summer. Her Majesty the Queen has often visited this beautiful estate during her sojourn at Osborne. Passing St. Clare, we come to the fort at Puckpool, which was erected during the administration of the late Lord Palmerston. From this fort (still keeping along the shore), we arrive presently at a small hamlet, which is known as

SPRING VALE.

Here there is a small hotel, where hot and cold baths can be had ; also machines for sea bathing, the shore being sandy and firm. The lodging-houses here let well during the summer months. This walk may be extended to Sea View and Nettlestone. The pedestrian may, however, if he please turn back, and taking the road by the fort, reach Ryde, passing on his journey, Sturbridge House, the residence of Robert Yelf, Esq. ; Appley Towers, the mansion of Sir William Hutt ; St. John's House, once the seat of Sir Richard Simeon, Bart. ; St. John's Church and Parsonage ; and the residences of many gentlemen in St. John's Park, through which he can pass.

THE next walk deserving notice is one by which we leave Ryde in a southerly direction, and passing the Royal Isle of Wight Infirmary, at the top of the town, continue on the high road through Swanmore to Haylands. This estate, which was formerly the property of the late Admiral Lock, has been laid out for building purposes, and some elegant villas have been recently erected

thereon. Thence we proceed to Holmwood, the seat of Mrs. Maynard, and by the windmill at Aldermoor, which is a conspicuous object for miles around. The prospect here is both extensive and diversified, including a considerable portion of the Island, the downs, the Solent, and the opposite coast. The country around is well wooded. To the east is seen the lake-like inlet of Brading, and to the south, Asheys land-mark which crowns the down of that name. The pedestrian may vary his pleasure, by either proceeding to Asheys Down, or, taking the road to the left hand, which is beautifully shaded, and conducts to Smallbrook, and thence to Ryde ; or that on the right which leads to the retired hamlet of

HAVEN STREET.

Where a neat district church, of which the Rev. F. S. Stockdale is the incumbent, has been recently erected. The pedestrian may return by way of Firestone Copse, Ninham, and Binstead, or by a succession of pleasant footpaths branching from the main road a little to the east of the village.





Sea View.

THIS village, properly so named, stands on an elevated point of land, commanding an extensive prospect to the east and north. The inhabitants of the place are mostly pilots, who have lodging houses also ; and many people prefer to locate themselves in this quiet village rather than mingle in the gaieties of the more fashionable town of Ryde, which is about three miles distant. The sands off Sea View are hard and firm, and at low water a carriage may be taken across the shore as far as Spring Vale, by which the distance to Ryde is considerably shortened. There is a neat little church erected here in the early English style, with nave and north aisle, divided by segmental arches in red and yellow brick, after designs by T. Hellyer, Esq. There are two Wesleyan chapels and two small hotels. To the east of Sea View the shore curves inwards in two semi-circular sweeps, the easternmost curve being known as Priory Bay. The Priory is the name of an estate, so called from the fact that a

priory of Cluniac monks existed thereon in the reign of Edward III. The pedestrian may extend his walk through the Priory-grounds, in which is a mansion of plain structure, but for a carriage drive, the high road must be taken to a little village called Nettlestone, near to which stands "Fairy Hill," the family mansion of W. A. Glynn, Esq., a resident landowner of the neighbourhood.

ST. HELENS.

About a mile from Nettlestone on the high road is St. Helens' Church and National Schools. The original church stood near the entrance of Brading Haven, but the greater part of it was washed away by the sea. The present church has been several times enlarged. The Rev. M. Richards is the vicar. On entering the village the first object that strikes the eye of the visitor is an elegant building, with spacious grounds, called "The Castle," which was erected by S. W. Ridley, Esq., a London merchant. It faces Brading Haven, which at full tide has a beautiful lake-like appearance; on the opposite side, the pretty village of Bembridge, with its neat villas and church, is seen to great advantage. The village of St. Helens is a collection of humble dwellings surrounding a spacious green. In war time it was a place of some importance and supplied the fleet and convoys lying at St. Helens roads with provisions and water. Its population is now chiefly composed of fishermen and agricultural labourers. There are Chapels for the Old Connexional and Free Wesleyans and Bible Christians. Quitting the village we descend by a pleasant walk towards the shore, and take a

view of the remnant of the old church spared by the sea, and which is kept there as a land mark. From St. Helens there is a Ferry to

BEMBRIDGE,

Which the tourist will do well to visit. This is a large village of "much quiet beauty, and emblematic of repose," at the extremity of a peninsula, the south-eastern portion of which is a lofty down, called Bembridge Down, and terminating in the celebrated Culver Cliffs. Referring to these cliffs, Sir Henry Englefield says: "The chalk rises directly out of the sea, very nearly perpendicular to a great height; and being totally in shadow when opposed to the blue sky above, and the pellucid green of the sea at its foot, it has a sort of aerial tint, which looks as if it were semi-transparent; while here and there a projecting sharp point of the terminating edge of the cliff, catching the sunshine, is of a whiteness so resplendent that it seems to sparkle by its own native light." At the west end of the cliffs is a cavern known as the "Hermit's Hole," the descent to which is, however, considered difficult. The church is a neat edifice in the early English style, and was designed by Mr. T. Hellyer. The Rev. J. Le Mesurier, M.A., is perpetual curate. Here is also a Wesleyan chapel. There are many pleasant walks around Bembridge, which have been vividly described by the Rev. Legh Richmond in his "Annals of the Poor;" but its situation renders it so difficult of access, that very few visit it. Some speculators obtained an Act for a branch railway from Brading, but it was never carried out.

BRADING

Is entered from Ryde through an avenue of lofty elms. On the right is Nunwell House, the seat of Sir Henry Oglander, Bart. It is surrounded by wood of venerable growth, indeed some of the decaying, but still majestic oaks appear to have been coeval with the Conquest, at which period the lineal ancestor of the present occupant became possessor of the manor. On entering this ancient town, the first object that engages our attention is its venerable church, into the old burial ground of which we at once enter. We have heard of a little boy who endeavoured to explain to a still younger brother the immediate result of death so far as the body was concerned. "When you are dead and buried," said he, "they put up a stone and write your name on it with a black-lead pencil." In this old place of sepulture is strong evidence that this child unwittingly spoke a great truth; for the indian rubber of time has been very busy here with the pencil marks, the inscriptions on some scores of head-stones being quite obliterated. However the sexton obligingly points out what we wish to see, and we read once more the beautiful lines, which have been so ably tuned by Dr. Callcott :--

"Forgive blest shade the tributary tear,
That mourns thy exit from a world like this :
Forgive the wish that would have kept thee here,
And stay'd thy progress to the seats of bliss.

No more confined to grov'ling scenes of night,
No more a tenant pent in mortal clay,—
We rather now should hail thy glorious flight,
And trace thy journey to the realms of day:"

And we stand over the grave of the humble peasant girl whom the pen of Legh Richmond has immortalized where from a modest headstone we read :—

“ Ye who the power of God delight to trace,
And mark with joy each monument of grace ;
Tread lightly o'er this grave, as ye explore
The short and simple annals of the poor.

A child reposes underneath this sod,
A child to memory dear, and dear to God :
Rejoice ! but shed the sympathetic tear,
Jane, ‘ the Young Cottager,’ lies buried here.”

On entering the ancient structure, which probably is as old as the Conquest, we find that the interior has been recently completely restored, and we are informed that the people of Brading are indebted to the munificence of Sir Henry Oglander for this desirable improvement. The church consists of a chancel, nave, and side aisles, divided by massive round Norman columns, supporting pointed arches of the earliest construction, and has a tower and spire at the west end. The whole edifice is interesting, but in point of architecture the chancel claims precedence. In this last named part is the family burial chapel of the Oglanders, which contains, besides monumental brasses and tombs, two full length recumbent figures in armour carved in elm. As restored, this chapel has been pronounced a perfect gem, illustrative of mediæval art. The Rev. J. Glover, M.A., is the present vicar. Brading is a corporate and market town. Near the church there is the ancient town hall, and the stocks, neither of which are used. It is governed by a senior and junior mayor, and thirteen jurats, acting under a charter from the crown, and having a common seal with the

legend "**The Kyng's Towne of Brading.**" It once sent two members to Parliament, but as in those days payment for such privilege was demanded, the inhabitants petitioned to be relieved, and their prayer was granted. At the upper part of the town may be seen the ring formerly used for bull-baiting, the favourite, but barbarous sport of our forefathers. Here is a large Congregational Chapel situated on the Mall, with a neat Cemetery attached; and a Bible Christian Chapel. Brading can be reached by rail from Ryde, Ventnor, Sandown, Shanklin, and Wroxall.

YAUERLAND.

Departing from Brading, and passing through the little village of Yarbridge, we arrive at Yaverland, which is distant from Brading about a mile and a half. Yaverland Church* was built in the reign of Edward I., by one of the Russells who then held the manor. It is a small antiquated structure in the Norman style, consisting of a nave and chancel, having thick walls without buttresses. The doorway is formed by two low Norman pilasters, surmounted by a semi-circular arch, adorned with mouldings. Between the nave and the chancel is a larger arch, in a similar style. The church is in good preservation, and is a fine specimen of the architectural era to which it belongs. The present rector is the Rev. W. M. Lee, M.A. There is no burial ground at Yaverland, the parishioners interring their dead at Brading. The scene around lies out of the usual route of visitors, and is one of retired beauty. The church is

* "This miniature church is remarkable for being the place where Legh Richmond made his first essay in extemporary preaching, but completely failed."—*Holloway's Walks round Ryde.*

embowered by venerable elms, and close at hand is the old manor house, a large structure of the Elizabethan age. The prospect on all sides is rich and diversified, calm and beautiful—so much so that it drew from a poetic mind the following touching stanzas :—

“ Grey, lowly, ancient fane of God,
 Embowered by umbrageous wood,
 Surrounded by the velvet sod,
 And looking out o'er fell and flood,
 When sunset with sweet hues imbued
 Upon thee streams o'er yonder hill,
 That mortal must be cold of mood
 Who does not with devotion thrill.

Thou art devoted all to prayer ;
 Man's rottenness pollutes not thee
 Breathing contagion to the air,
 The lowly graves of poverty,
 The costly tombs and pageantry,
 That hide the ashes of the great,
 And seek to gild Death's misery,
 Here come not to contaminate.

When life has no more joy to lend.
 When fancy's eye is dim and sere
 And time shall lead me to my end,
 May I unnoticed moulder here.
 Let not the pomp of woe be near,
 But flow'rets o'er my ashes bloom,
 And all unwatered by a tear,
 Be the sweet earth my only tomb.

So would I rest, not that I shun
 Communion with my kindred clay,
 But this calm spot from me hath won
 A wish my form might here decay

Whereon o'er yonder hill the day
Its lingering smile delights to shed
That smile upon my grave shall play,
And kiss the turf that wraps my head."

Quitting this tranquil spot the pedestrian may mount Bembridge Down, where a monument to the memory of the late Lord Yarborough is fixed, from this down one of the most extensive views is obtained. A heavily armed fort is erected at the top and a military road to it has been constructed, which the pedestrian can take,—passing Redcliff, Yauerland, and Sandown forts, the tourist will soon reach the rising town of Sandown.





Sandown.

THE rapid growth of this now flourishing watering-place is most remarkable. Five and twenty years ago, all that it could boast of was an old fort, a dilapidated barracks, a coast-guard station, a small inn, a few cottages, and the remains of "the villakin" of the once famous demagogue—John Wilkes. In 1845, the Rev. W. Thomas, then curate of Brading, conceived the idea of erecting a church here, land for that purpose having been offered by the late Sir William Oglander. Since the erection of the church, visitors have annually increased, as have the number of resident gentry, and Sandown is now an extensive town governed by a board of commissioners, under the Local Government Act. The town is greatly indebted for its prosperity to its famous bay and fine beach, which render it very attractive to the lovers of sea bathing. Unfortunately, as in other places, where persons take land and build thereon according to their own individual notions, a great deal of irregularity occurs, and the result here has

been that the streets have not been laid out with that uniformity which is such a pleasing feature in the town of Ryde. Sandown is, however, notwithstanding this drawback, a very pretty place, and the governing body of the town have paid great attention to sanitary matters. The town is connected by rail with Ryde and Ventnor, and a line of rail is being completed from Sandown to Newport. The population is about 3,000, which is doubled by visitors in summer.

CHRIST CHURCH, which is situated near the barracks, was erected in 1847, but was enlarged in 1864, and now accommodates 673 persons. It is, upon the whole, a pleasing edifice, built in the Early English style, and contrary to the usual custom the altar is to the north. There are some excellent schools attached. The Rev. Gilbert Karney, is the vicar.

THE CHURCH OF ST. CLEMENT is situated near to the entrance of the town from Brading. It is a small iron building, recently erected.

WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL.—This handsome chapel is situated in the Station-road. This place of worship, which is in the Early English style, was designed by W. W. Pocock, Esq., and is an ornament and great improvement to that part of the town in which it stands.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL is now being constructed in a central part of the town.

THE BIBLE CHRISTIANS and PRIMITIVE METHODISTS have neat chapels.

THE TOWN HALL.—There has recently been erected in Grafton-street, a neat and commodious building, which was very much needed.

THE INSTITUTE and YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION have each rooms here.

The **HOTELS** are the Sandown, King's Head, Star and Garter, York, and Railway Hotel, near the Station. At all of these, excellent accommodation is afforded. There are also the Commercial and several other inns.

THE FORT.—This is a massive erection on the east side of the Bay, 68-pounders are mounted. A small force of artillery is stationed here, and at the Barracks, which are at the upper part of the town.

WALKS.—The visitor may at low water enjoy a delightful walk along the shore to Shanklin, during which he will have a fine view of the dark and unbroken promontory of Duinose, or he may pass along a pleasant footpath over the cliffs, which are of great height. In other directions, which will be readily pointed out, are Yaverland, Brading, and Bembridge, and the Culver Cliffs, to all of which places we have already referred.



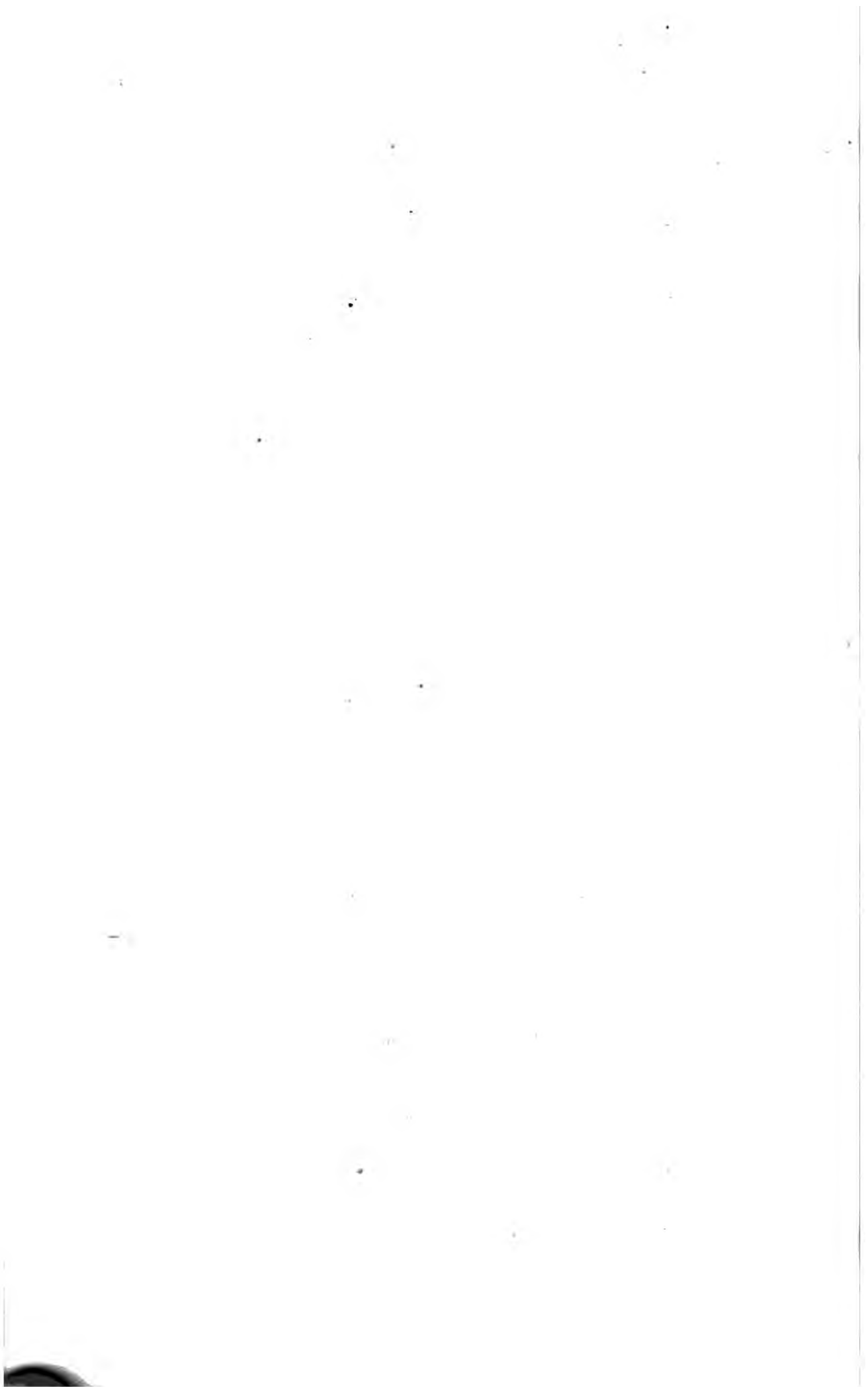


Shanklin.

THE lovely village of Shanklin, situated in a valley some hundreds of feet above the level of the sea, was the delight of visitors in the days of the four-horse coach, which on its journey from Ryde to Ventnor stayed for an hour at Daish's Hotel, to afford passengers an opportunity of visiting the Chine. Now it is very much changed. It is no longer a little village, but is fast becoming an extensive watering-place. The speculative builder has been busily at work, and the result is, that for want of proper restrictions, buildings are scattered indiscriminately over the place, many of which are not in harmony with the surrounding scenery. Most of these buildings have been erected since the opening of the railway from Ryde ; and so largely has the population of the place increased that it has been necessary to form it into a district under the Local Government Act. An idea of its rapid growth may be formed from the fact of the population being only 355 in 1861, while in 1871 it numbered 2,069—an increase almost unprecedented. The Commissioners are making great efforts to improve the place, which is now lighted with gas, and they will we



SHANKLIN CHINE.



doubt not endeavour to preserve as much of its beauty as is possible. The fine hard sandy beach off Shanklin is a great recommendation, and has caused it for years to be visited by families of distinction, amongst whom have been several members of the imperial family of Russia.

A writer in *Once a Week* thus describes Shanklin :—“ Of all the fair spots which dot the pleasant southern coast of England, in spring or summer, autumn or winter, few are fairer than the Isle of Wight : and in that lovely island a traveller might walk hither and thither for many a long day before he could find out a spot more delicious than Shanklin, on its south-eastern coast. Looking down upon the calm blue sea from above the ruddy sandstone cliffs through which opens the ‘Chine,’ it seems the model of a watering-place for those who wish for peace and retirement ; for peaceful and quiet it still is, though we fear that the recent opening of a railway to it from Ryde will shortly put an end to its charms, and cover the green fields which now surround it with rows of ‘Prospect Villas,’ and cockney ‘Victoria Terraces.’”

THE CHINE, its chief attraction, is very extensively celebrated, but not beyond its just claims. Chine is a word of doubtful etymology, and signifies a ravine or fissure, with a stream of water running through it. No description of the Chine is more interesting than the following given by the Rev. Legh Richmond :—“In the widely sweeping curve of a beautiful bay, there is a kind of chasm or opening in one of the lofty cliffs which bound it. This produces a very romantic and striking effect. The steep descending sides of this opening in the cliff are covered with trees, bushes, wild flowers, ferns, wormwood, and many other herbs, here and there contrasted with bold masses of rock or brown earth.

From the upper extremity of this great chine or opening in the cliff a small stream of water enters by a cascade, flows through the bottom, winding in a varying course about a quarter of a mile in length, and then running into the sea across a smooth expanse of firm hard sand at the lower extremity of the chasm. At this point the sides of the woody banks are very lofty, and to the spectator from the bottom exhibit a mixture of the grand and beautiful not often exceeded. Near the mouth of this opening was a little hollow recess or cave in the cliff, from whence on one hand I could see the above described romantic scene ; on the other a long train of perpendicular cliffs terminating in a bold and wild-shaped promontory, which closed the bay at one end, while the conspicuous white cliff stood directly opposite, about four miles distant at the further point of the bay. * * * At my feet the little rivulet gently rippling over pebbles soon mingled with the sand and was lost in the waters of the mighty ocean. The murmuring of the waves as the tide ebbed or flowed on the sand ; their dashing against some more distant rocks, which were covered fantastically with sea weed and shells ; sea birds floating in the air aloft, or occasionally screaming from their holes in the cliffs ; the hum of human voices in the ships and boats borne along the water ; all these sounds served to promote rather than interrupt meditation."

The stream which flows through the chine rises on the down above the village, and becomes a deep channel before reaching the chine. The view to the sea is grand and bounded by the horizon ; and the appearance of the chine from the shore is truly romantic and interesting. The oppo-

site sides of the chasm are between two and three hundred feet high. In an abrupt declivity of the chine is situated the Chine Inn, and lower down the cottage of the keeper, to whom it is customary to give a small gratuity.

“Sheltered by the downs, and attracted by the very moderate rental of good houses, Shanklin, of late, has become a favourite winter residence with those in search of health or of retirement and economy. The air is strong and bracing, the drainage admirable; there are walks to be found sheltered from all winds. The only precaution to be attended to by persons of delicate chests is to secure the early portion of the day for their walk or drive; as, in consequence of the height of the surrounding downs, Shanklin loses the sun’s rays between three and four o’clock. By this hour, however, invalids ought to be at the fireside, and under the home roof. Cold winds may be defied, while the system, braced by the air and fair sights of the morning, may well rest content in the pleasing thought of bright scenes past, and brighter scenes to come.”—*Once a Week*.

ST. JOHN’S (Old) CHURCH is dedicated to St. John the Baptist, has of late years been considerably enlarged. It is a cruciform structure, and is situated about a mile from the village, near the old manor house. Not much can be said in favour of its exterior appearance. The Rev. G. W. Southouse, M.A., rural dean, is the incumbent.

ST. SAVIOUR’S CHURCH, was erected on the cliff in 1869, from designs by Mr. T. Hellyer, of Ryde. It is in the Gothic style, and will seat 600 persons. The Rev. C. J. Burland, M.A., incumbent.

ST HELENS CHURCH is a temporary iron church recently erected in the Station-road.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL.—This is a commodious and well-built chapel.

THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL is a neat brick edifice in the Station-road.

THE BIBLE CHRISTIANS have also a chapel here.

There is a LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION.

HOTELS.—The principal are Daish's, and Hollier's, formerly known as "William's;" the Marine, near the railway station; and the Falcon, in the Station-road. There are also the Crab and the Chine inns.

WALKS.—To visitors staying at Shanklin the sands at low water afford an extensive promenade, and by paying attention to the state of the tide,

LUCCOMBE CHINE

May be reached by proceeding southwards. This chine is more diminutive than that of Shanklin, but in picturesque beauty is nearly its equal. The sombre cliffs that compose its sides, its over-shading trees, the little stream murmuring through it, and the magnificent shore which it intersects, give it an impressive character. From Luccombe the tourist may proceed to Bonchurch, of which a description will be given hereafter. "The return walk from Luccombe to Shanklin is finer than any I have seen in the island. At our feet is the bay, with Sandown and Shanklin lying snugly upon its shores. Brading Down shuts out Spithead and Portsmouth, but you can see Selsey Bill, and trace the billowy outline of the South Downs. As you draw nearer Shanklin, you have the most comprehensive view of the town, and see the little shingled spire of the parish church peeping out from its surrounding trees."—*Once a Week*.

There is a footpath from Shanklin to Wroxall, by which the pedestrian will pass Cook's Castle, an artificial ruin, erected to improve the view from the late Earl of Yarborough's mansion at Appuldurcombe; the latter, however, has been abandoned by the Earl's noble successor, and is now used as a school. By the use of a map the tourist may diverge so as to reach Shanklin Down, where he will be abundantly compensated for his pains by a view of large extent and loveliness. The most delightful walk, however, is along the Landslip or Undercliff.

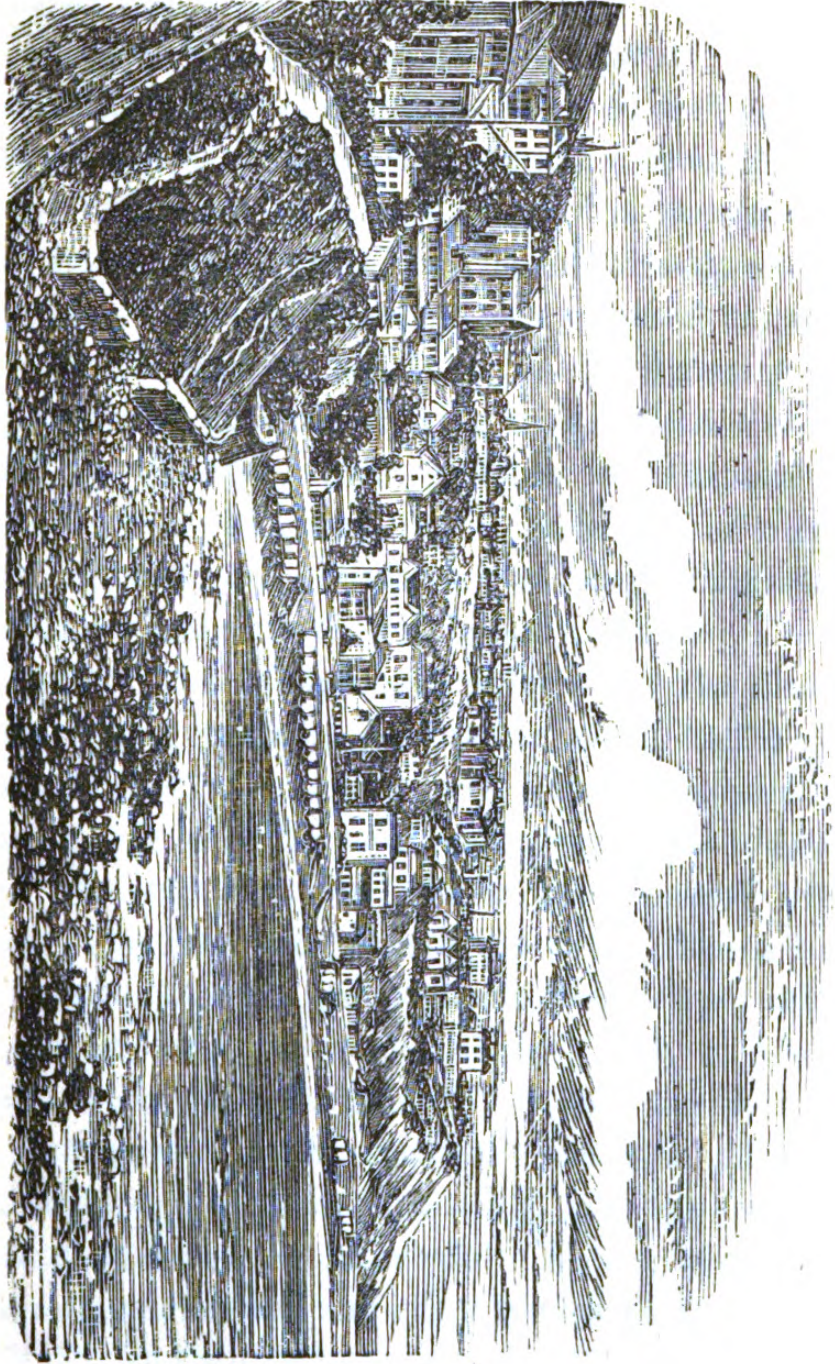




Ventnor.

“Prized is thy climate : soft and mild
Thy genial atmosphere ;
Prolonging life—imparting health
To those who seek it here.”—MIDLANE.

VENTNOR, the “English Madeira,” was probably until the formation of the railway from Ryde the most land-locked town in the kingdom ; and the journey from Shanklin to Ventnor one of the most tedious it is possible to conceive. Notwithstanding this obstacle to its progress, this singularly situated and romantic place has in a very few years established a world-wide fame, and become one of the most popular resorts both in winter and summer. Sir James Clark, having in his celebrated treatise on the influence of climate, expressed an opinion that no portion of the kingdom was so suitable for the residence of invalids requiring a mild and sunny climate, a few enterprising individuals commenced building, and in 1836, the late John Hamborough, Esq., munificently



VENTNOR.



erected a church, parsonage house, and schools. The rise of the town dates from that period.

To describe Ventnor is somewhat difficult. Owing to the inequalities of its site, and the want of method at the commencement, it is peculiarly irregular both in the formation and dimensions of its streets, and the disposition and style of its buildings, which vary from the rustic cottage to the mansion. Notwithstanding this want of regularity, Ventnor is far from unsightly ; for the diversity of its dwellings, which are erected with an excellent free stone quarried on the spot, their newness and general good taste, and their situations on a succession of natural terraces, give it an extremely picturesque appearance, which harmonizes with the fine scenery around.

“ Ventnor,” to quote from a popular work, *The Land we Live in*, “ forty years ago, contained about half a dozen humble cottages, and its few inhabitants were nearly all fishermen. It was the most picturesque spot along the coast. The platform was broken into several uneven terraces. The huge hills towered up aloft. Down to the broad smooth beach the ground ran in rough slopes, mingled with abrupt banks of rock, along which a brawling rivulet careered gaily towards the sea, and the few fishermen’s huts gave a piquant rustic liveliness to all besides. The climate seemed most favourable, and the neighbourhood most agreeable to the invalid. In the open gardens of the cottages, myrtles and other tender plants flourished abundantly, and without need of protection, even in winter ; snow hardly ever lay on the ground ; sunny and sheltered walks abounded ; and the beach was excellent for bathing. Ventnor at once caught the attention of the crowd of

visitors, and it was one of the first places to provide them suitable accommodation. In the tiny fishing hamlet soon sprung up hotels, and boarding houses, and shops, and a church. Ventnor became the little capital of the Undercliff. Invalids came here for a winter retreat, as well as a summer resort. Speculation was stimulated, and now, as Fuller has it, 'the plague of building' lighted on it, and it spread until every possible spot was planted with some staring building, or row of buildings. The variety of odd forms is most edifying. We have hotels, churches, shops, cottages, and villas, in every conceivable style, and every outrageous shape. Strawberry Hill Gothic, Sea-side Swiss, and Carpenter's palazzo ; each has its representative.

Ventnor is screened on the north and east by a range of downs, and open in other quarters to the rays of the sun, which its contiguity to the sea renders less oppressive. From its elevation the air is dry and bracing, and the correctness of the opinion given by the eminent physician we have named is confirmed every year. In 1863, a pier was erected, but the structure was not sufficiently strong to withstand the fury of the waves, and after causing the destruction of a valuable steamer, which ventured along side, was removed. In 1844, an Act of Parliament was obtained for paving, lighting, and otherwise improving the town, and since then it has made great and rapid progress. It is well paved, lighted with gas, efficiently drained, and supplied abundantly with water. The present population is estimated at about 5,000.

Many testimonies could be given proving Ventnor to be unsurpassed in England for mildness, united with general dryness and equability of temperature. If better be required

it must be sought for abroad. "The remarkable healthiness of Ventnor is demonstrated by the returns of the annual rate of mortality in different parts of England, in which it contrasts very favourably with other watering-places. The mean annual rate was 15.4 deaths out of every 1,000, while at Torquay the corresponding rate was 17.1, and that of Clifton 17.6."—*The Undercliff, by Canon Venables.*

ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH is an elegant structure in the early ornamented Gothic style, and is terminated at the west end by a handsome tower and beautiful light spire, and the whole pile is a favourable specimen of modern ecclesiastical architecture. Rev. J. Marland, B.A., incumbent. Rev. C. Wills, M.A., officiating minister and surrogate.

THE HOLY TRINITY.—This church, which is in the early decorated style, is situated near Bonchurch, in a commanding position. It has nave, side aisles, chancel, transepts, and recessed entrance. A tower, with a spire, rising to a great height, gives to the building an imposing appearance. Rev. A. L. B. Peile, M.A., incumbent and surrogate.

ST. WILFRID'S CATHOLIC CHURCH is near the end of the town leading to Bonchurch.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL is a handsome Gothic building in the High-street, from the designs of Mr. Raffles Brown, of Liverpool, at a cost of £1,800.

THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL is a plain Gothic building in the High-street.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL is in Albert-street.

BIBLE CHRISTIAN CHAPEL is in St. Catherine's-street.

THE BAPTISTS hold services in their newly built School-room in Mill-street.

THE BRETHERN meet in a room at Tulse Hill.

A PROMENADE PIER is now completed, and will prove a valuable acquisition to the town.

THE MARKET HOUSE is a red brick building, and was erected in 1856.

THE LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION is a plain building, with library, reading room, and lecture hall attached, at the east end of High-street. Mr. R. Medley, Honorary Secretary.

WORKING MEN'S READING ROOM.—Mr. R. B. Atty, Town Missionary and Secretary.

THE POST OFFICE is in High-street. Mr. G. M. Burt, Postmaster.

THE HOTELS of Ventnor may with equal propriety be termed boarding houses, as visitors may make advantageous arrangements for a lengthened stay therein. The principal are—The Royal, Marine, Esplanade, Crab and Lobster, Commercial, Prince of Wales, and Terminus. There are also several good inns.

LIBRARIES.—In the High-street, Knight and Son's, and Medley's; and in Church-street, Logan's Marine Library.

BATHING.—The shore is well adapted for bathing, except at low water; and many machines are close at hand. There are Bull's Undercliff and Harding's Baths on the Esplanade.





The Undercliff.

THE walks round Ventnor are pleasant and cheerful, but that which gives the chief charm is the romantic scenery of the Undercliff, which is first sought after by visitors. This is a long strip of land, about six miles in length, and varying in width from a quarter of a mile to a mile and a half, having on its northern side a precipitous cliff of great height, which effectually screens it from all ungenial blasts ; while to the south it lies open to the sea. The wildness of scenery, magnificence of prospect, grandeur of particular spots, and beauty of others here, almost baffle description, and create a feeling that in delineating such uncommon objects the pencil must ever challenge preference over the pen.

This interesting plateau is formed by a succession of landslips, commencing at an unrecorded period, and continuing to a comparatively recent date. That the earlier ones had subsided long before the Conquest is evident from the fact that the churches of St. Lawrence and Boniface are

recorded in the Doomsday book ; and it is certain that they would not have been built if the soil had been in a state of recent disruption. The latest of these slips occurred in 1818, and displaced fifty acres of land ; a previous one in 1810 removed thirty ; both of these were at the eastern termination of the Undercliff. The majestic cliffs which rise on the north, contrast with the luxuriant foliage which springs up in the most fertile spots. The continued change of scene, the verdant meadow, the waving corn-field, the hanging wood, the water rushing to the shore in all directions, the humble thatched cottage, the ornate villa, the lordly mansion, the modest church, the calm beauty of the sheltered glen, the savage sublimity of the towering masses of rock, and to crown all the glowing blue ocean extending in immensity before us, render this a spot to which the admirer of nature will hasten with impatience, in which he will linger with delight, and from which he will depart with reluctance.

After a short walk eastward from Ventnor the miniature valley of Bonchurch lies spread before the tourist in romantic loveliness, while on the left is the lofty hill of St. Boniface, near the summit of which is a scanty spring once held in great veneration.* To the right the lands descend

* "The Wishing Well on St. Boniface Down was once a limpid fountain, consecrated by a fantastic legend. Favoured with the benison of a Saint, it possessed a remarkable and highly useful property. Whatsoever might be the wish you breathed to your own heart, before you first tasted the crystal stream, it would infallibly receive a speedy fulfilment. So, Louisa of the dark deep eyes, and Caroline of the raven locks, and Kate of the fair broad brow, oft-speeded—in all simplicity and with due faith—for of what use is a legend without ye have faith in it?—speeded to the well of St. Boniface, and ere they drank of its lucent waters silently formed the wishes on whose fulfilment their souls were most intent."—*Adam's Garden Isle.*

in a series of precipitous terraces to the sea, and in perspective stretches the widely variegated Undercliff.

BONCHURCH,*

Which is reached by this pleasant walk, is the fashionable suburb of the town of Ventnor. It has for years past been, and still is, the chosen home of several literary celebrities ; amongst them we may mention the late Rev. W. Adams, author of the "Shadow of the Cross," (on whose tomb a raised iron cross has been placed so that the shadow may fall thereon) ; the late Rev. James White, author of the "Eighteen Christian Centuries ;" and the highly gifted John Sterling, of whom Carlyle has so feelingly written ; the remains of these rest in the adjacent churchyard.

Bonchurch is delightfully secluded and embowered with exuberant wood, but has of late years lost much of its retired rural beauty. Enchantingly lovely, however, it still remains, and its romantic features can never be effaced. It is dotted over with mansions and villa residences, to some of which extensive and magnificent grounds are attached. Access to these is seldom obtained by visitors, some thousands of whom visit the place during the summer. The mildness of the climate is apparent from the luxurious growth of the plants and shrubs which ornament the gardens and adorn the residences around, reaching in many instances to the dimensions of trees. The tourist should not quit Bonchurch without paying a visit to the "Pulpit Rock,"

* This village was the birth-place of Admiral Hobson, who, by a daring act when a poor sailor boy, acquired the notice of his commanding officer, and rose in consequence rapidly to honour and distinction. He was one of the first naval commanders in the reign of Queen Anne.

(400 feet above the sea) so called from a wooden cross placed on its summit, where he will gain a view not easily forgotten. Here there is a first-class hotel (Ribbands), which has been highly recommended as offering an admirable winter retreat to such as are indisposed to incur the trouble of housekeeping.

THE OLD CHURCH stands between the road and the sea, and is surrounded by a grove of venerable elms. It is a small, ancient structure of the Norman style, but now unused. A very pleasing building, which oft invites the pencil of the artist. Was probably erected in 1070-80.

THE NEW CHURCH, which is in the Early Norman style, was erected in 1848, the foundation stone being laid by the Rev. W. Adams, July 24th, 1847. The interior is plain, and the windows are of stained glass. The font is a tribute to the memory of the Rev. W. Adams. The churchyard is one of great beauty, and has few rivals. Well designed schools are adjoining.



ST. LAWRENCE.

TAKING the high road through Ventnor, the tourist will pass Steephill Castle, a large castellated mansion, placed on a commanding position, and surrounded by a richly wooded domain. This pleasant straggling village, which is situated in a beautifully wooded dell, is one of the prettiest parts of the Undercliff. Several handsome villas have recently been erected here. By the roadside is a beautiful spring of pure rippling water, known as

St. Lawrence's Well.

Where "A little Gothic shrine consecrates a leafy dell. It is surmounted with a cross, and encloses a bright, spray-scattering stream which issues from a dolphin's mouth into a wide shell, and thence ripples away beneath the road to mingle with the sea"—*Adams*. We are extremely sorry that this well, where so many pilgrims have quenched their thirst, should now be closed to the public.

THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE, long considered as unique in its dimensions and the smallest in the kingdom, no longer lays claim to such distinctions; for having become wholly inadequate to the accommodation of the parishioners, it has been enlarged. The former dimensions were 11ft. $\frac{1}{4}$ in. breadth; 11ft. $4\frac{1}{4}$ in. high; 25ft. $4\frac{3}{4}$ in. long. The present vicar is the Rev. C. Malden, M.A.

NATIONAL COTTAGE HOSPITAL.—The foundation-stone of the second pair of buildings in connection with the National Cottage Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest was laid in Her Majesty's name, by Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise Caroline Alberta, accompanied by their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess Christian, July 28th, 1869. The hospital is situated nearly two miles from Ventnor, on a site admirably adapted for the object, commanding a lovely view of both land and sea, altogether possessing advantages which are not to be surpassed by any in the Undercliff, and not to be equalled in any other part of the country.

NITON.

Passing several villas and mansions, a journey of three miles from St. Lawrence and five from Ventnor, would bring the tourist to the quiet village of Niton, situated in a hollow of St. Catherine's Hill. The village is scattered

the more modern portion being known as Sandrock, where there is an excellent hotel, (The Royal Sandrock), which has more the appearance of a villa than an inn, and commands, from its elevated site, a wide and extensive view. From this point may be traced the effects of the great landslip of 1799. Its extent is marked by the broken surface of the ground, which is literally bristled with rocks, and torn and upheaved into every possible rugged shape.

THE CHURCH is a low antiquated pile, possessing no great attractions. The living is a rectory, held with the vicarage of Godshill and perpetual curacy of Whitwell. Rev. G. Hayton, M.A., rector. In the parish register is the following entry :—

“July the 1st, Anno Domini 1675, Charles II., King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, etc., came safely ashore at Puckaster, after he had endured a great and dangerous storm at sea.”

Off the shore is St. Catherine's Lighthouse, erected as a security, against a dangerous reef extending into the sea. It is a lofty octagonal pile, having a spiral staircase in the interior, and beheld from Sandrock Hotel, has the appearance of a majestic column. This lighthouse was erected by the Trinity Corporation, and was completed in 1840. The height from the water level is 204 feet, the terrace upon which it stands being 80 feet above the sea. The staircase to the lantern-room numbers 152 steps.

ST. CATHERINE'S DOWN*

There are several pleasant walks in the neighbourhood, that especially deserving attention, being the ascent to St. Catherine's Down, 769 feet above the level of the sea, where the prospect is one of almost unequalled extent, and

beauty. The view from this down will well repay the pedestrian. To the south is the broad expanse of the English Channel,† where on the 25th of July, 1588, Howard of Effingham, had a partial engagement with the "Invincible Armada," when opposite this hill, of which there was a representation on the celebrated tapestry of the House of Lords.

Around us is the diversified scenery of the island. Beneath us lies the terrace of the Undercliff; looking westward from Black Gang we see the noble cliffs of Freshwater and the Needles; northward the blue course of the Solent, wandering along like some majestic river; and beyond stretch the coasts of Hampshire and Sussex, backed by a range of gently swelling downs.

It is distinguished by an octagonal tower and the remains of an old Hermitage. There is also a column known as the Alexandrian Pillar, 72 feet high, with the following inscription:—

" In commemoration of the visit of
His Imperial Majesty, Alexander I., Emperor of all the Russias,
to Great Britain, in the year 1814,
and in remembrance of many happy years' residence
in his dominions,
this pillar was erected by Michael Hoy.

* "St. Catherine's Down has been for ages invested with the kind of sanctity which often attaches to lofty peaks and mountain tops. The legend of the transference of the decapitated body of St. Catherine from Alexandria by angelic hands to the summit of Mount Sinai, which has stamped itself on the Jabel Catherine, was probably brought from Palestine by the Crusaders, and traces of it are to be met with in different parts of Europe, where lofty elevations often bear the name of the Alexandrian saint."—*The Undercliff*, by the Rev. Canon Venables.

† Cooke, in his *Picture of the Isle of Wight*, asserts that "even the highest part of the French coast, adjoining Cherbourg," may sometimes be seen; and on a clear day the Islands of Portland and Purbeck may be distinguished.

BLACK GANG CHINE.

Which is about a mile from the Sandrock Hotel, is an attractive object. In point of grandeur and magnitude, it far exceeds that of Shanklin; to which however, it yields in picturesque beauty and general loveliness. The impending masses of gloomy and almost black rock, which form its sides, attain an altitude of nearly 500 feet, and the little stream which runs through it falls over a precipice of nearly eighty feet in height in its descent to the shore. Nature here assumes her wildest features and most unadorned aspect. The rugged cliffs which form this terrific chasm are entirely destitute of verdure, and gloomy in the extreme; while the lofty and precipitous St. Catherine's in the background, and the bold and dangerous shore in front are adjuncts to a scene which for grandeur and majesty is rarely surpassed. The little stream which in summer scarcely trickles over the edge of the cliff is, during the prevalence of autumnal or winter rains, swollen to an impetuous torrent, which rolls towards the shore with overwhelming force, and has probably formed the rugged ravine which extends to some distance inland. The best spot for viewing this rude scene is the beach, which is easy of access. This has been the scene of many a fatal shipwreck. On the 11th of October, 1836, the *Clarendon*, West Indiaman, was dashed to pieces on this terrible shore in a few minutes, and of twenty-eight persons on board only three escaped. From the summit of the chine may be traced the whole line of coast westward, including the lofty precipices of Freshwater and the Needles beyond. Black Gang Chine Hotel affords ample accommodation either for

the tourist or those desirous of making a lengthened sojourn. At this point terminates the Undercliff, a tract of limited extent, but so abundant in every variety of romantic beauty that few turn from it without regret.

The usual entrance to the chine is at the Bazaar, near the hotel, where visitors are expected to make a purchase. Near to the bazaar is a long building containing the skeleton of a whale, caught at Alum Bay, in 1842.

CHALE.

Quitting the shore, from Black Gang, the road turns inland and leads to the little village of Chale. The farm house which is near is an interesting relic of the domestic architecture of our forefathers. The church is venerable and weather-worn, being built about 1113-14. Rev. C. Theobald, B.A., rector. There are chapels here for the Wesleyans and Bible Christians.

KINGSTON.

Lying between Chale and Shorwell, has only a population of 68 souls, the small church on the hill, and the Manor-house, now known as Kingston Farm, are both worth a visit.

GODSHILL.

This village may be reached by taking the train to Wroxall, from whence there is a pleasant walk through Appuldurcombe Park. Godshill is a large, and even handsome village, situated picturesquely on a bold eminence or

headland on which stands the church. The church is a cruciform edifice of considerable antiquity and magnitude, and contains memorials to some of the Worsleys, whose burial vault is beneath. The Griffin Inn is a commodious house.

APPULDURCOMBE.

The noble mansion of the Worsleys, which formerly contained the many objects of vertu collected by Sir Richard Worsley, and known as the Museum Worsleianum (afterwards the residence of the Earl of Yarborough), is now a school. There is a delightful walk through the park to the railway station at Wroxall.

WHITWELL.

Which lies to the south-west of Godshill, offers nothing more remarkable than its ancient church, which consists of two distinct chapels; one dedicated to "Our Lady of Whitwell," and the other to "St. Radigund." The style of the building is Norman. Rev. R. B. Oliver, M.A., incumbent.

NEWCHURCH.

This village stands on an eminence, and the view from the well-kept burial place, near the base of which wanders a gentle stream, is delightful. The church is a large plain structure (formerly the parish church of Ryde and Ventnor) in the form of a cross, and the only memorials of consequence within its precincts are those of the Dillingtons,

the former possessors of Knighton House. The next village is

ARRETON.

Arreton is situated in a fertile and highly cultivated district, it is a long straggling, yet pretty village, and has an additional interest as having been the home of the "Dairyman's Daughter," to whom the pen of Legh Richmond has given such celebrity. The place of her abode stands on the south side of the road. Arreton Church, dedicated to St. George, is an old edifice, with a large embattled tower. In it are several mural tablets: in the aisle is a flat tomb inlaid with the effigy of a warrior, with his feet on a lion; and on an adjacent pillar is a wooden tablet, recording in doggerel verse the good deeds of a benefactor to the parish; here also, in a desk erected for that purpose, is kept an illustrated copy of "Foxe's Acts and Monuments," 9th ed., 1631. In the churchyard are deposited the remains of Elizabeth Wallbridge, the "Dairyman's Daughter," whose epitaph is universally known.

Arreton Down, which rises to the north of the village, commands rich and diversified views, though not essentially different from those obtained at Ashe; it derives an antiquarian interest from two large barrows on its summit, from which specimens of ancient armour have been taken.





Newport

STANDS in the centre of the Island, of which it is the metropolis, but now by no means the largest or most important place. It is a borough and market town, and being situated on the River Medina, is a place of considerable trade. It is connected with Cowes by a railway ; but from Ryde and the other towns in the island, visitors must, even in these days of steam, be content with the old stage coach, or hire a carriage. Newport is regularly built, having five principal streets, which are crossed by others almost at right angles, affording at the points of intersection space sufficient for the holding of markets, for which purpose they are used. The general appearance of the town is plain and business-like rather than ornamental, and from its central position, and its facilities for trade, amongst which may be mentioned its excellent water mills, it must continue the *entrepot* of the commerce of the island. We should not omit to notice that there is a large factory here for the manufacture of lace.

In early times, Carisbrooke, which had sprung up with the fortress, was the capital of the island ; but when this

petty sovereignty merged into the crown, Newport rapidly increased. It received a charter from Richard de Redvers in 1184, and another from Isabella Fortibus between 1260 and 1292, and was incorporated in the first year of James I. The corporation consists of a mayor, six aldermen, and eighteen councillors, being nine for each of the two wards into which the town is divided. By the last Reform Bill, Newport now sends one member to Parliament instead of two.

THE MARKET HOUSE AND TOWN HALL, forming altogether a large pile, are situated in the High-street, the basement, formed on two sides by open arches supports two sets of Ionic columns ; those on the west are surmounted by a pediment. The building was erected in 1815, at a cost of £10,000, after a plan presented to the corporation by Mr. Nash. The lower part is used as a market. The upper part contains the law courts of the borough and the island.

THE CORN EXCHANGE has recently been covered in for the accommodation of those who attend the corn markets.

THE ISLE OF WIGHT LITERARY INSTITUTION, in St. James's-square, is a handsome building, erected at a cost of £3,000 in 1810, after a design by Mr. Nash. It has a good library, a reading room well supplied with newspapers, and also a museum.

The GRAMMAR SCHOOL stands in St. James's-street. It was erected in 1619, and is endowed with thirty-four acres of land in the Forest of Parkhurst. It is the oldest public building in Newport, and is memorable as the house occupied by Charles I., while endeavouring to effect accommodation with the Parliamentary Commissioners.

THE FREEMASONS' HALL is in Lugley-street.

THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL, established 1761, for clothing and educating a limited number of poor girls, is in the same street.

ST. THOMAS'S CHURCH stands near the corn market, due east and west. The old church which occupied the same site, was built in the reign of Henry II., at the period when Thomas a Becket was making so much noise in the world ; at his canonization it was dedicated to him. It was a dilapidated and time-worn edifice, offering in an architectural point of view nothing worthy of notice. It was demolished in 1853, when various relics and antiquities, such as coins, mural paintings, and specimens of encaustic tiles, were removed to the museum, where they may still be seen. The present imposing structure was erected in 1854, the foundation stone being laid by His late Royal Highness the Prince Consort. Mr. Daulkes was the architect, and the cost altogether was upwards of £12,000. It is worthy of the royal patronage it received, and is the pride and ornament of the town. The building consists of a nave with clerestory side aisles, north and south porches and chapels, chancel, sacristy, grand western entrance arch, and a high massive tower, which is a very conspicuous object from every direction around the town. The belfry has a good peal of eight bells, and two double windows on each side. John Woodward, Esq., of Rookley, made the town a present of the clock. The interior of the church is elegant and well proportioned, and the tombs and monuments are of historical interest and well worth inspecting. The monument of Sir Edward Horsey, governor of the island in the reign of Elizabeth, is a very fine specimen of mediæval sculpture. It is carved in alabaster, and represents the figure of a knight in complete armour.

The spot where lie the remains of the daughter of the unfortunate Charles I. should not be overlooked, while the classic monument over them will be viewed with more than ordinary interest, since it was placed there by the "Sovereign Lady" who not only sways the sceptre of these realms, as did the Stuart, but rules in the hearts of her people. The tomb of the royal maiden was discovered in 1793, by some workmen who were digging a grave, and the spot was afterwards distinguished by a tablet. After the re-building of the church Her Majesty commissioned the erection of the present monument. The design is beautiful and most appropriate, and nobly has the famed Italian sculptor (Baron Marochetti) executed the Queen's commands. It is in Carrara marble, and the dress is in accordance with the fashion of the period in which she lived. The bare neck is beautifully curved, her long ringlets dishevelled, and her cheek reclines on an open bible, on the page of which we read "Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." On the panel of the monument is the following noble inscription :—

To the memory of
The Princess Elizabeth, daughter of King Charles I.,
 Who died at Carisbrooke Castle, on Sunday, Sept. 8th, 1650,
 and is interred beneath the chancel of this Church,
 This Monument is erected
 As a token of respect for her virtues and of sympathy for her misfortunes
 By Victoria R., 1856.

In the north aisle is a chaste medallion of the late Prince Consort in white marble. The chancel is full of sculptured emblems, one of which, illustrative of martyrdom and its reward, has inscribed on it in illuminated characters, "The noble army of martyrs praise thee."

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH (Node-hill) is in the pointed Gothic style, with lancet shaped windows : at the west are two octagonal turrets, and the whole edifice, both externally and internally, is in good taste.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH is situated at the eastern part of the town, near Barton's village. It is in imitation of the Norman style, with body and side aisles.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, dedicated to St. Thomas of Canterbury, is in Pyle-street.

THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL is in Pyle-street.

THE BAPTIST CHAPEL is situated in Castle-hold.

CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL, Node-hill.

CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL, St. James-street.

THE UNITARIAN CHAPEL is in High-street.

THE CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC CHURCH is in Holyrood-street.

THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL is in Pyle-street.

THE FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE is in High-street

THE BRETHREN meet in a Room in Holywell-street.

BIBLE CHRISTIAN CHAPEL is in Quay-street.

THE CEMETERY is on the road to Ryde.

HOTELS.—The Bugle, Wheatsheaf, Green Dragon, Warburton's, Rose and Crown, Star, and the Castle





Carisbrooke.

CARISBROOKE is connected with Newport by a favourite walk, called the Mall, and is distant from Newport about a mile. The first object of interest which attracts the attention of visitors on entering the village is the Church, an ancient structure first founded in 1064. It is of the Norman period, but much changed by innovations effected at different times. The most interesting portion of the church is the tower, which in point of style and execution is said to be the finest in the island. In the church are two monuments worthy of notice : one to the memory of the lady of Sir Nicholas Wadham, governor of the island in the reign of Henry VIII. ; and the other to that of Capt. Keeling, on which is a quaint and curious inscription, highly characteristic of by-gone times. The Rev. E. B. James, M.A., vicar.

In the churchyard the epitaph on Charles Dixon, a farrier and blacksmith, reads

“ My sledge and hammer lie reclined,
 My bellows too have lost their wind.
 My fire's extinct, my forge decayed,
 My vice all in the dust is laid,
 My coal is spent, my iron gone,
 My last nail's driven, my work is done.”

The remains of a Roman Villa lie near the new vicarage, being discovered when digging the foundation of the vicar's new stables, in 1859. It appears to have covered a space of about 120 feet by 50 ; and some rich mosaic pavement may be seen. Visitors may inspect the villa by the payment of a small gratuity, which is applied to the support of the village schools.

On the north side of the church formerly stood a Priory for Benedictine monks, but nearly every remnant of this has disappeared. Attached thereto was “ a chapel for lepers” dedicated to St. Augustus, but no traces are left.

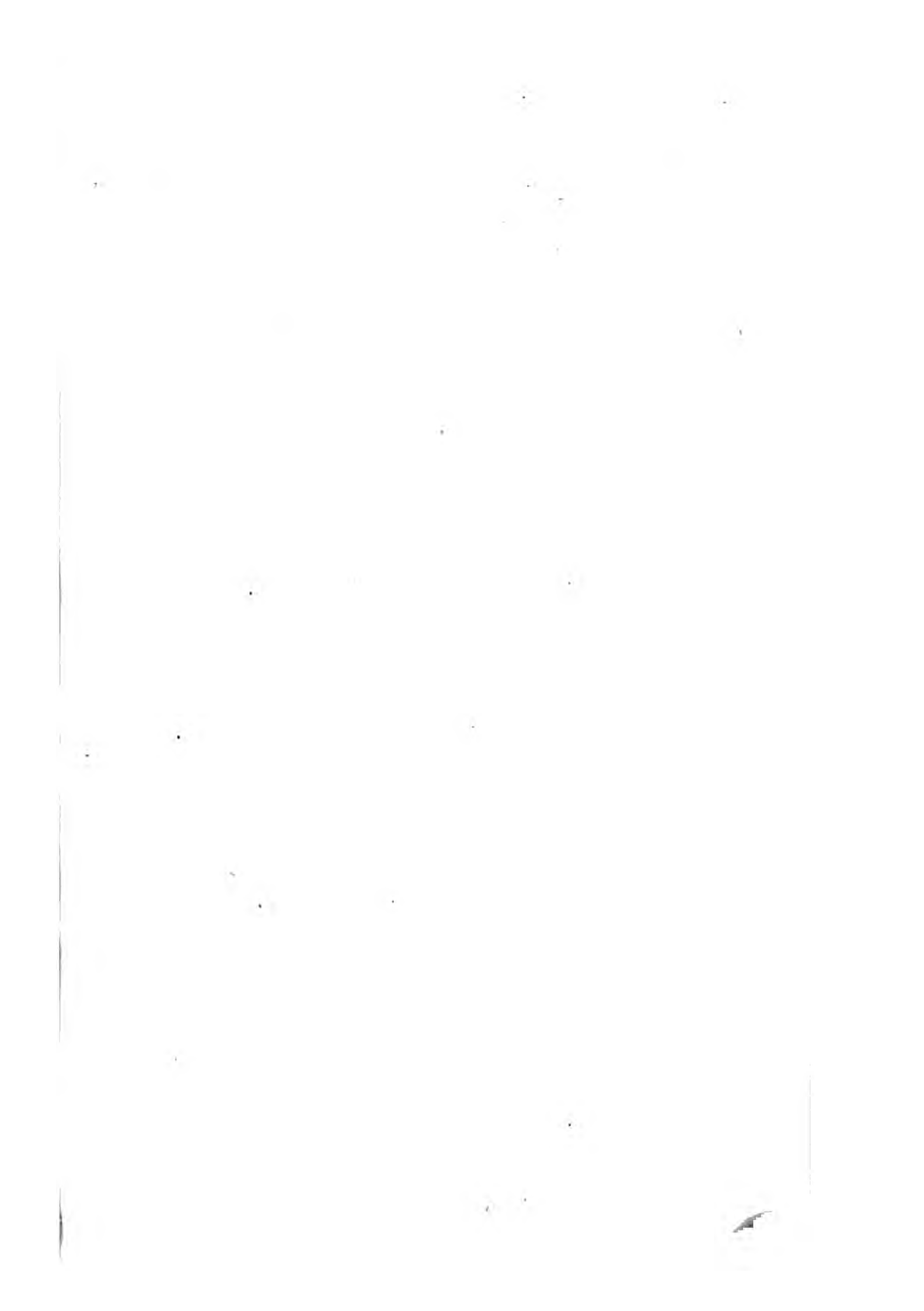
THE CEMETERY lies near the castle, a good view of which may be obtained from the keep

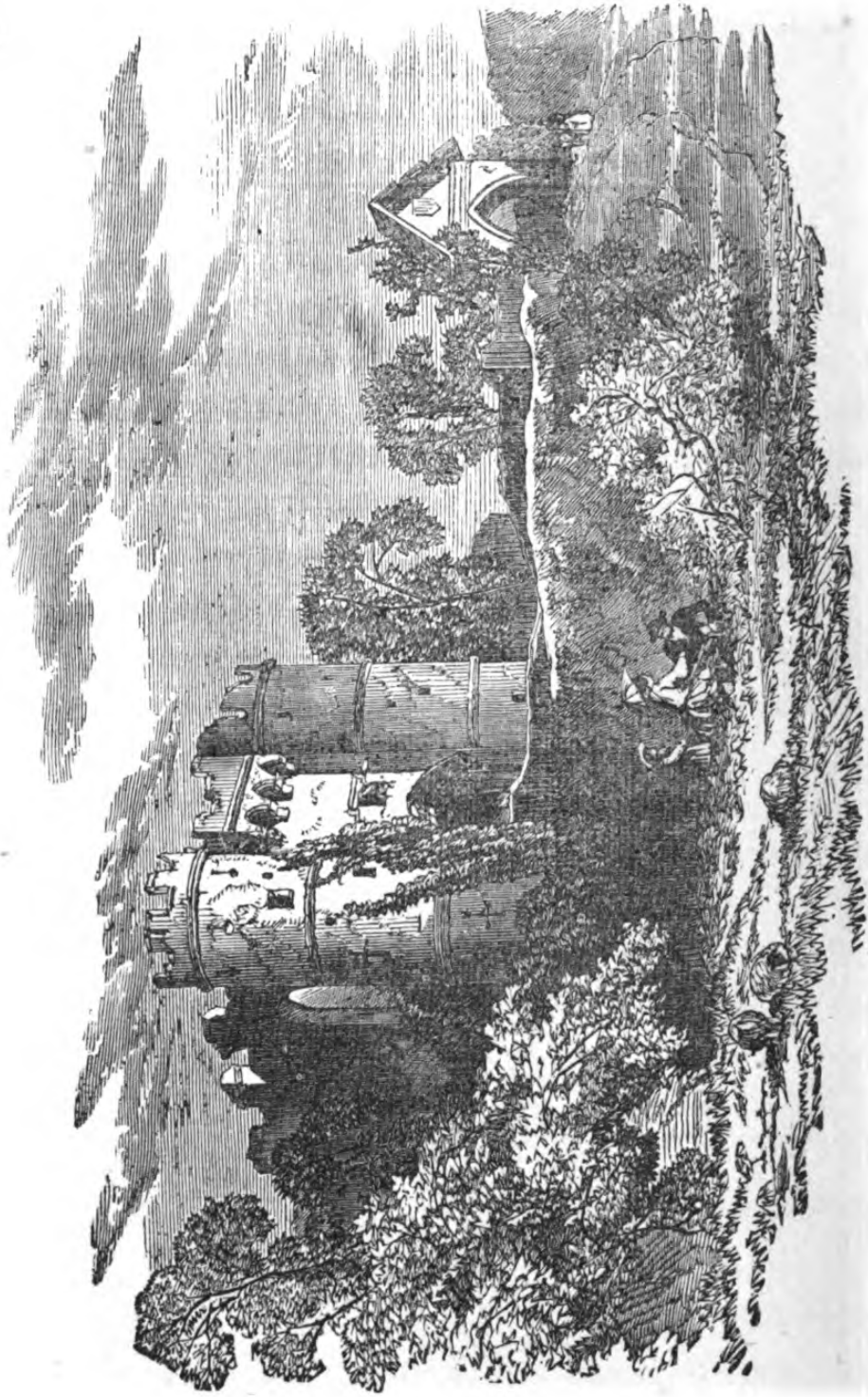
Near to the castle, and recently erected, stands a Convent, dedicated to Our Lady of Reparation, and belonging to the order of St. Dominic.

The Red Lion, Eight Bells, The Castle, and The Bugle, are the principal inns.

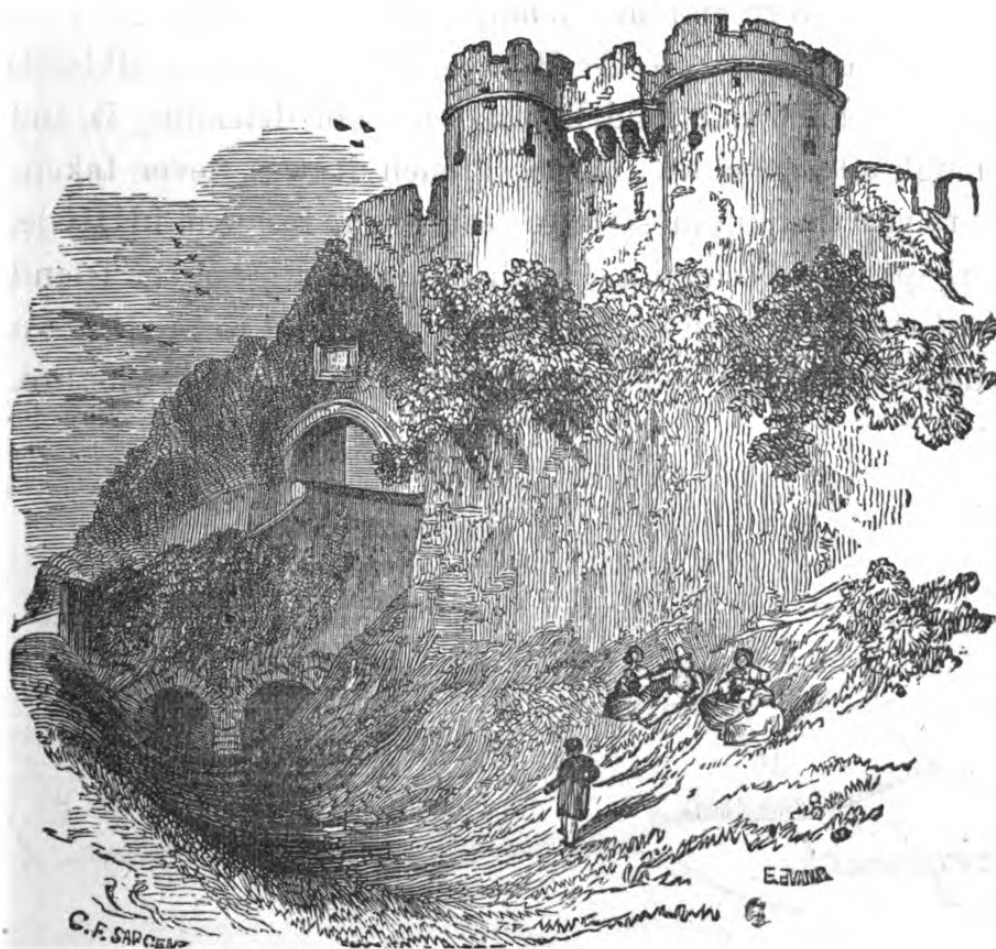
The great attraction of Carisbrooke is the Castle.







CARISBROOKE CASTLE.

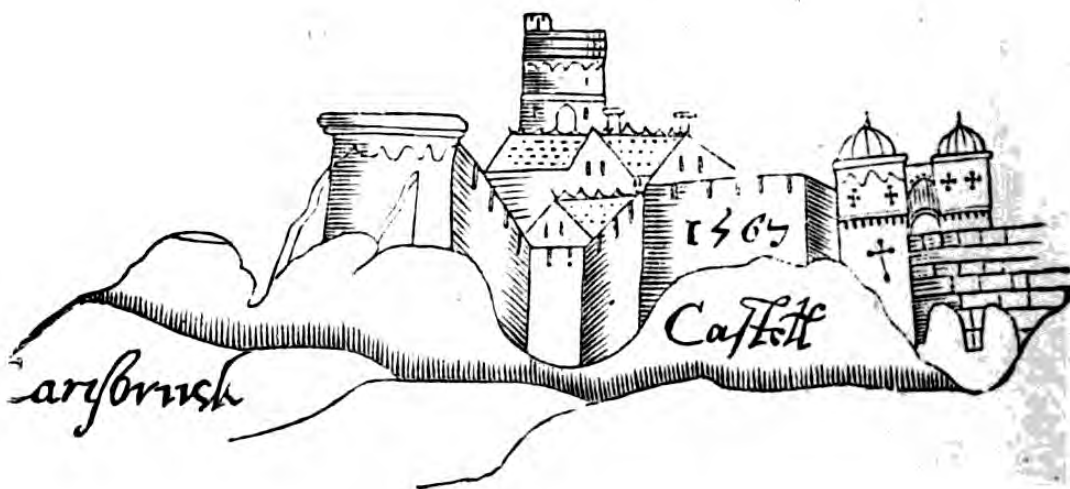


Carisbrooke Castle



AS originally a Saxon fortress, of which, however, there are few traces, the present structure being evidently Norman. It yields to few in antiquity and historical associations. The general appearance of the castle is ruinous and dilapidated, but the old wooden gates which opened to receive the captive monarch

still remain. A walk around its extreme bounds will afford a good view of the whole ; but the best spot for viewing it is the high road, to the west of the village, from whence it may be seen frowning along the abrupt eminence which it crowns in stern and melancholy grandeur. In feudal times this castle was termed the Honour of Carisbrooke ; all lands in the island being held by the tenure of defending it, and though often assailed by the French it was never taken. Through the kindness of a gentleman, resident in Ryde, perhaps better acquainted with the antiquities of the island than any other individual, we are permitted to produce an illustration, never before published, of this ancient structure.



The engraving illustrates the castle prior to the time of Queen Elizabeth, in whose reign additions were made. The outworks were then added, at the representation of the governor, Sir George Carey, when the country was menaced by the Spanish Armada. The entrance to the castle from the road is by a small stone gateway, on which are the initials E. R., 40.* On entering the castle, the first object

is the chapel of St. Nicholas, erected in 1738, on the site of an older one, which existed at the compilation of Doomsday Book.

On the left-hand side are the ruins of the apartments in which Charles I. was incarcerated, and the window through which he attempted to escape still remains in the outer wall. Through the kindness of the gentleman already referred to, we are enabled to present our readers with a fac-simile of the signature of the prisoner-king.

Carisbrooke Saturday 2 Sep. 1648

Charles R

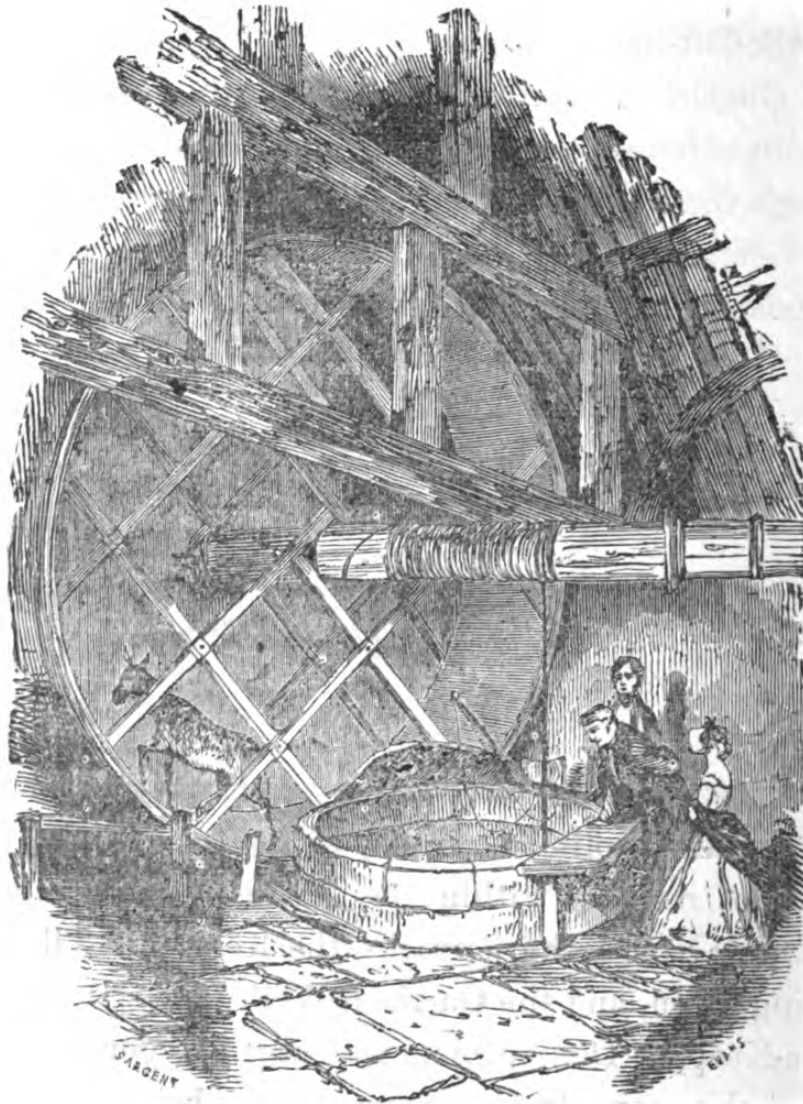
The keeper of the castle, from whom the visitor will be sure to receive polite attention, will point out the various objects of interest within the castle, which include the Governor's House, the Barracks, the Keep, the Tilt-yard or Bowling-green, and the Garrison Well,

The Keep, or Donjon, is an irregular polygon ; the ascent to it is by seventy-two steps, each being about nine inches. There is a well within the keep, now filled up. The battlements command most extensive views.

The Tilt-yard, or Bowling-green, is almost as perfect now as when King Charles walked there, or the

* In aid of the expenses Queen Elizabeth gave four thousand pounds; the gentlemen of the island gave four hundred more, and the commonalty contributed their personal labour by digging the outward ditch gratis.

Princess Elizabeth played "at bowls, a sport she much delighted in."



The Garrison Well, the depth of which has been variously estimated at 240 to 450 feet, is in reality 144 feet deep, with 37 feet depth of water. Entering the well-house, the far-famed donkey, whose ancestors have for more than a century been accustomed to work the miniature treadmill by which the water is drawn to the surface, will be found waiting to

commence operations. The predecessor of this docile animal was engaged in this useful occupation for 40 years. To the delight of children, and children of a larger growth, "Jack," as he is named, performs his duties so methodically, and with such alacrity and willingness, that he is an especial favourite. He will accept testimonials to his merits in the shape of buns, biscuits, and fruit, with the air of a donkey that knows he deserves them. The intelligence and docility of the donkey at Carisbrooke Castle is another instance of the good effects of kindness—so that even within the precincts of this grim fortress a lesson in humanity is learnt. Jack's duty having been performed, and visitors having taken a cooling drink, the keeper throws a small portion of water down the well to give an idea of its depth by the loud report which follows after a lapse of three seconds ; he also sends down a lighted lamp. If a pin be dropped down the well it produces a sound much greater than can be well conceived by those who have not heard it. The water furnished by the castle-well is remarkably pure and sparkling ; and in instances where it has been carried to India and back, it has retained its native purity.

We should not omit to mention that a fee of four-pence is required from each person to view the interior of the castle ; and that it is closed on Sundays.

PARKHURST

Lies about a mile from Newport on the road to West Cowes, where three large buildings attract the attention of visitors : the House of Industry, the Albany Barracks, and the Prison.

THE HOUSE OF INDUSTRY, better known as "the Forest House," is the poor-house of the island, which was consolidated into one union, by Act of Parliament in 1770, when a grant of 80 acres of land from the Forest of Parkhurst was obtained from government. • It is a large plain building; where the aged and destitute poor of the island are provided for, and the able-bodied employed in manufacturing various articles required by themselves, or in the cultivation of the land attached to the house. The act worked so well that the present poor laws were based upon the same principle.

THE BARRACKS, on the opposite side of the road, were erected in 1798, on a portion of the Forest of Parkhurst; including the hospital and cemetery, they cover about 100 acres of land.

THE PRISON, situated to the north of the Barracks, was formerly a penitentiary for juvenile culprits, but now invalided male prisoners are kept here.

GATCOMBE.

This is a pleasant, little old-fashioned village surrounded by charming inland scenery, distant three miles and a half from Newport. The church, an ancient edifice, dedicated to St. Olave, contains a monumental effigy of a man in armour, carved in wood, and commonly styled "the wooden saint."

SHORWELL.

A road from Carisbrooke leads through the fertile and sheltered valley of Bowcombe to this pleasant and picturesque

village, which stands on the sunny slope of the chalk hills. The church, an antiquated structure of various periods, contains a curious slab inlaid with the figure of a priest, and several monuments of the Leighs, the former owners of Northcote House, which is close at hand.

BRIXTON,

Or Brighstone, distant seven miles from Newport, is pleasantly situated at the foot of high chalk downs, which screen it on the north. The parsonage was the home of Bishop Ken, who was rector of the parish; also in this village Wilberforce spent the closing years of his life. The present Bishop of Winchester (formerly Bishop of Oxford), was ten years rector, and gave one of the stained-glass windows. The present Bishop of Salisbury was lately rector of Brixton. The church is of an ancient and uncertain date.

MOTTISTONE,

Which lies two miles beyond Brixton, is situated on a gentle eminence, and its church, which is small and dedicated to SS. Peter and Paul, offers specimens of various architectural epochs.

On the side of the hill above the church stands the singular relic of either Celtic or Druidic days, known as Long Stone, but the general opinion pronounces it to be a *cromlech*, or Druidic funeral stone.

BROOKE

Is a small village having a population of about 156 souls
Brooke House, the seat of C. Seely, Esq., M.P., who had
the honour of entertaining General Garibaldi during his
late visit to England, is an elegant mansion, the grounds
attached are spacious and tastefully laid out A short
distance from the village, upon rising ground, stands the
church, a small edifice recently rebuilt, retaining only the
tower of the old church.





East and West Cowes,

“The two great Cowes that in loud thunder roar,
This on the eastern, that the western shore,
Where Newport enters stately Wight.”

Leland

ARE situated at the mouth of the Medina, and pleasantly and commandingly placed on the slopes of opposite hills ; and when approached by water have an impressive appearance. On the eastern side is East Cowes Castle ; and on the western the Royal Yacht Squadron Club-house and Marine Parade, with many elegant villas in the rear, intermixed with a profusion of foliage, form a scene of great attraction ; which is, however, in great part lost on landing ; as the streets are in general narrow, and the houses in the old part of the town plain and confined ; but the western, or more recent portion, is free from such objections.

Cowes is the only port of the island, and is the site of the Custom-house. It is much frequented during the winter months by vessels requiring repairs, for the execution of which there is here every facility. Adding to these advantages the honour of being selected as the principal station of the Royal Yacht Squadron, and the summer station of the Royal Thames Yacht Club, it has an air of business as well as pleasure, not to be met with in every watering-place.

There is a commodious landing-place at the back of the Fountain Hotel, which was erected and made public by the late G. Ward, Esq., of Northwood House. The Marine Parade, extending from the Marine Hotel to the Castle, is a delightful and fashionable promenade, commanding a view of the entrance of the harbour, the roadstead, the Solent, Calshot Castle, Southampton Water, and the opposite shore. The Castle, which is now the Royal Yacht Squadron Club-house, was originally built in the reign of Henry VIII., and formerly mounted eleven 9-pounders.

To the west of the castle is a plot of ground neatly laid out, which was generously presented to the town by G. R. Stephenson, Esq., for a promenade or recreation ground.

The Annual Regatta takes place in August, which from the beauty of the contending vessels, the skill displayed in working them, and the general animation and loveliness of the scene, is highly attractive. The Squadron was formed in 1812, and enrols many of the first names of the kingdom as its members. The public buildings of West Cowes are neither numerous nor striking.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH.—This edifice was erected in 1657,

as a chapel-of-ease to Northwood, it was not dedicated to any particular saint, which may be accounted for by its erection taking place during the Commonwealth. It was enlarged in 1822, entirely rebuilt 1867-8, and consecrated by the Bishop of Bombay, on June 24th, 1868. The church now presents an elegant and beautiful appearance.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY was erected in 1832, at the expense of Mrs. Goodwin, It is in the pointed Gothic style, the characteristics of which are well preserved both externally and internally. The interior is fitted up in a manner peculiarly appropriate and tasteful. Rev. J. D. Middleton, vicar.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, Carvel-place, is dedicated to St. Thomas of Canterbury.

CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL, Sun-hill.

WESLEYAN CHAPEL, Medina-road.

FREE WESLEYAN CHAPEL, St. Mary's-street.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL, Market-hill.

BIBLE CHRISTIAN CHAPEL, Cross-street.

THE BAPTISTS meet in the Foresters' Hall.

HOTELS.—The principal are the Gloucester, Fountain, Marine, Vine, Dolphin, and Globe.

The Town Hall and Market House is a small plain building.

The baths are situated to the west of the Castle or Club-house. Sea bathing can be enjoyed at all times of the tide.

The Dóckyard of Messrs. White deserves notice, having attained a world-wide reputation.

The Cemetery is a short distance from the town, on the Newport-road. It is beautifully laid out, and many of the monuments are worthy of notice.

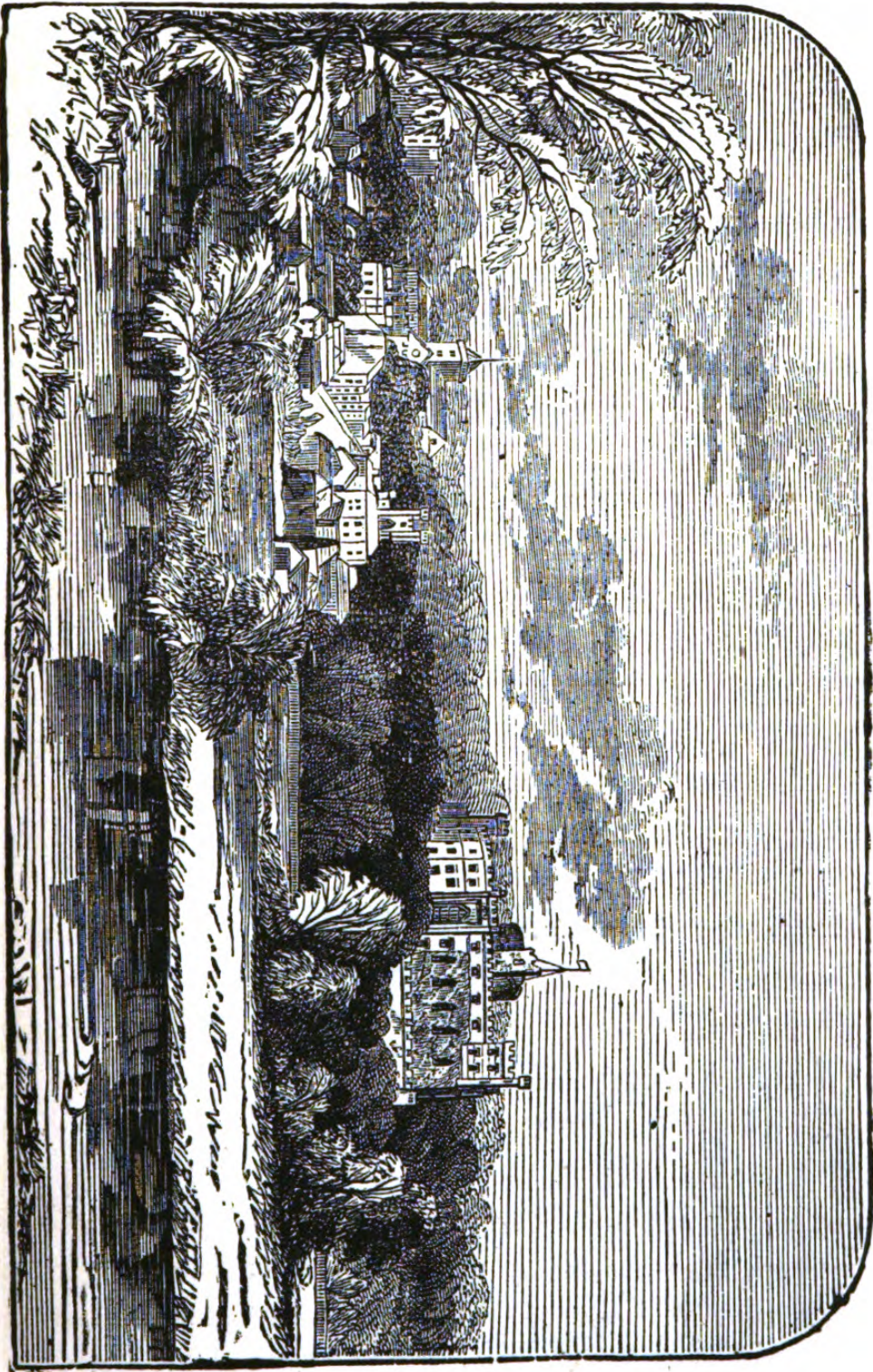
NORTHWOOD.

A short distance from the Cemetery is Northwood Church, the mother church of West Cowes. It is a plain building. The new tower and spire were erected at the expense of the Misses Ward, of Cowes.

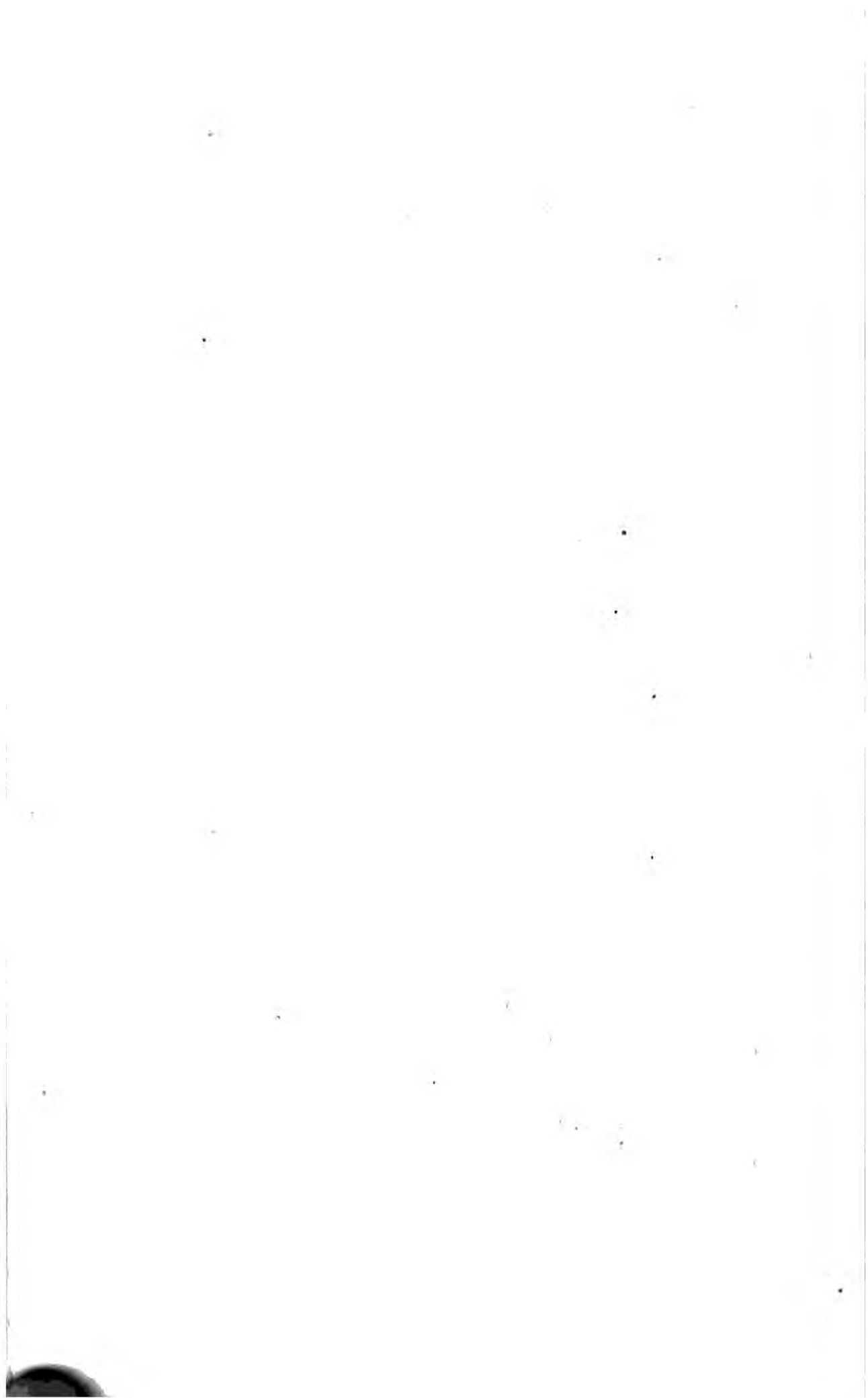
EAST COWES,

To which there is a steam-ferry, is a place of some bustle and business. It is not in itself attractive, but from its nearness to the marine residence of the Queen, the number and beauty of the seats, as well as the general features of the country, a large number of visitors resort hither. Close by is East Cowes Castle, built by, and for some years the residence of, Mr. Nash, the architect. It is a large castellated mansion, and when beheld from the sea, or the opposite banks of the Medina, with its towers and battlements rising above the luxuriant plantations around, has a fine and pleasing effect. Further on is Norris Castle, also castellated Gothic, built with stone so prepared as to imitate the stains of time, and, from the profusion of ivy which mantles over its lofty turrets, has a venerable and ancient appearance. Here the Queen (then Princess Victoria) and the Duchess of Kent resided in 1831.

On the acclivity to the south of the town, a large park has been laid out, and an enormous sum expended in preparing the site for villa residences, of which there are many erected. Although the site is a most agreeable one, the enterprise of the proprietor has not yet been adequately rewarded.



EAST COWES.



THE CHURCH, dedicated to St. James, is the chapel of-ease to the parish of Whippingham. The ceremony of laying the first stone was performed by Her Majesty (when Princess Victoria) in 1831. The church has recently been very extensively improved.

CHAPELS.—The Congregationalists, Wesleyans, and the Primitive Methodists have each places of worship here.

The Medina is the principal hotel, attached to which are assembly rooms. In its immediate vicinity are Baths, which afford the usual accommodation.





Osborne House,

THE Marine Retreat of Her Majesty, is a stately mansion in the domestic Italian style, with two square towers—a flag tower 107 feet high, and a clock tower. It stands in a large park, well timbered with oak, and commands various and far-stretching views. It is said that the designs for the palace were furnished principally by His Royal Highness, the late lamented Prince Consort, and both the interior and exterior correspond with the noble simplicity and grandeur of his character. Having a beautiful sea beach and a private landing place, it is admirably adapted to secure that privacy and retirement which is so seldom found in royal palaces. The estate contains about 5,000 acres of land, and Her Majesty can enjoy a drive of eight miles on her island domain.

The soil is a hard barren clay, but by draining and adopting the other appliances of scientific farming, the estate has been rendered highly productive. Many labourers' cottages—models worthy of imitation—are erected thereon, evidences of the thought and care bestowed by Her Majesty

and her Royal Consort on the humblest of her subjects. Excellent new Schools have also been erected. Neither the grounds nor the palace are accessible to the public, even during Her Majesty's absence.

WHIPPINGHAM CHURCH,

The mother church of East Cowes, is pleasantly situated, and the vicinity commands a fine view of the Medina. The present church, which was erected by Her Majesty, is a neat edifice in the Norman Style, and is made interesting by the fact that here the royal family, when residing at Osborne, usually worship. Rev. G. Prothero, (Chaplain to the Queen, and Canon of Westminster), is the rector. Over the Queen's chair, in the side aisle of the chancel is a white marble monument to the memory of the late Prince Consort, chastely decorated with gold. The inscription is as follows :—

TO THE BELOVED MEMORY

OF

FRANCIS ALBERT CHARLES AUGUSTUS EMMANUEL
PRINCE CONSORT,

WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE, DECEMBER 14, 1861,
IN HIS 43RD YEAR.

“ BE THOU FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH,
AND I WILL GIVE THEE A CROWN OF LIFE.”

Rev. 2. verse 10.

THIS MONUMENT IS PLACED
IN THE CHURCH ERECTED UNDER HIS DIRECTION,
BY
HIS BROKEN-HEARTED AND DEVOTED WIDOW,
QUEEN VICTORIA,
1864.



Warmouth,

STANDING, as its name imports, at the mouth of the Yar, is the largest place in the western part of the island, and bears evident marks of having once been larger than it is now. Lying partly out of the general route of tourists, and possessing in itself but few attractions, it has not perhaps received its due share of attention. Within the last few years, however, some symptoms of increased vitality have been visible, and this ancient town may become a place of resort for visitors from the West of England. It is a corporate town, having a mayor and twelve burgesses, and formerly sent two members to Parliament. The town was twice burnt by the French, the last time in the reign of Henry VIII., who caused the Castle to be erected. The Market House, over which is the Town Hall, is a plain brick building of small dimensions, in the centre of the town.

THE CHURCH is a small structure, dedicated to St. James. In 1831, it was repaired and adorned by the elevation of its tower, which is visible for a considerable distance around. In a side chapel is a well executed statue of Sir Robert Holmes, governor of the island from 1667 to 1692. A long Latin inscription beneath records his various exploits.

The Wesleyans, Baptists, and Bible Christians have each chapels here.

HOTELS.—The principal is the George (once the residence of Sir Robert Holmes, and in which he entertained Charles II.), also the Bugle, and the King's Head.

Communication is maintained by Steam Boats with Lymington, and with Cowes, Southampton, Ryde, and Portsmouth.

THORLEY.

This is a small village, with a church of singular appearance, standing among the buildings attached to a large farm.

NEWTOWN

Was originally called "Francheville," and was once the most important town in the island. It is now hardly entitled to the name of a village. Before the passing of the Reform Bill in 1832, it returned two members to Parliament, and has been represented in its time by John Churchill, the famous Duke of Marlborough, and by Pitt and Canning. It stands on an extensive inlet of

the Solent, capable of admitting vessels of 500 tons. There is a small church.

SHALFLEET.

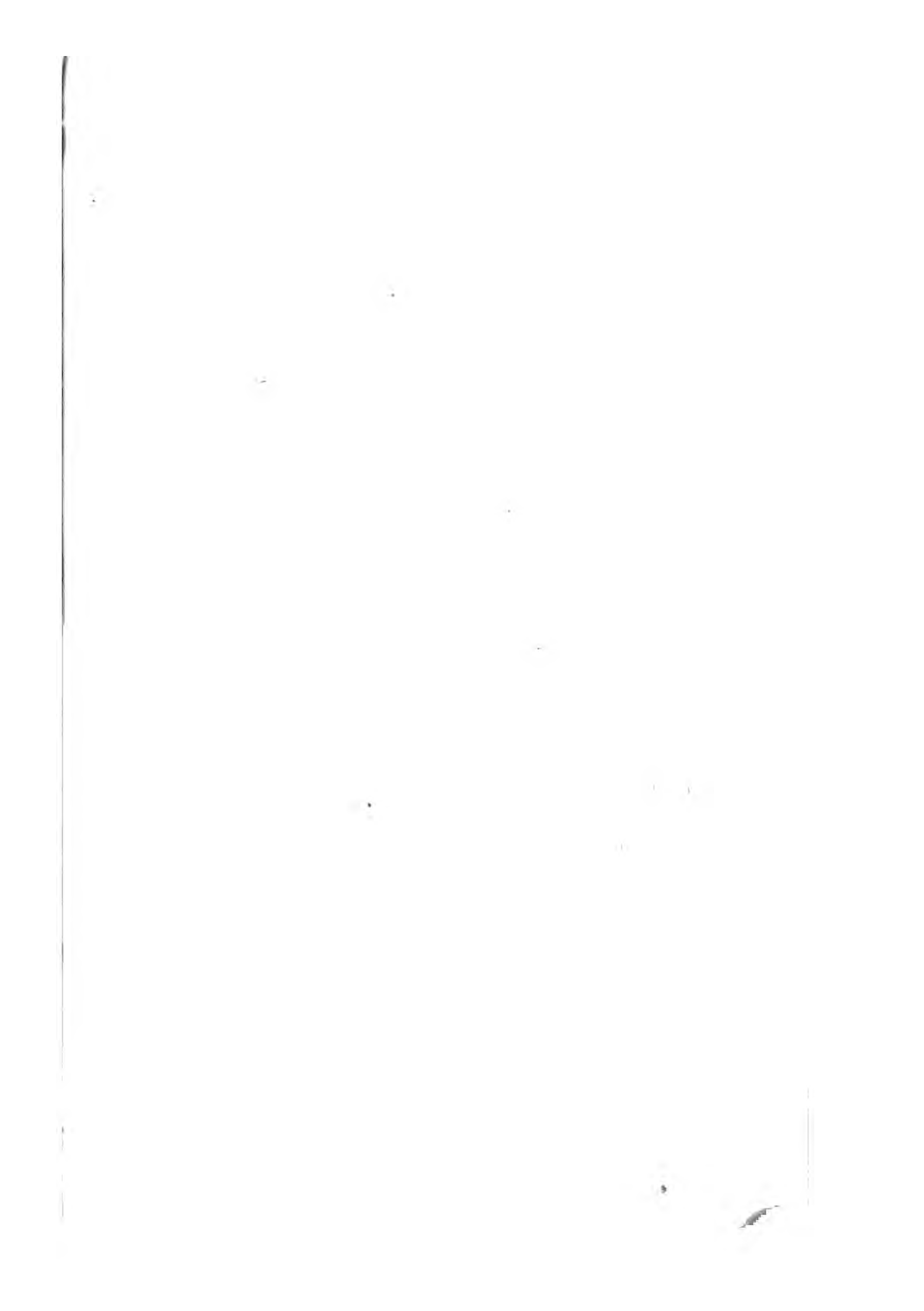
A sequestered and interesting village, with its little stream and picturesque mill. The church has a peculiarly venerable appearance, in the Norman and Early English styles ; over the northern doorway is a rude sculpture of doubtful meaning.

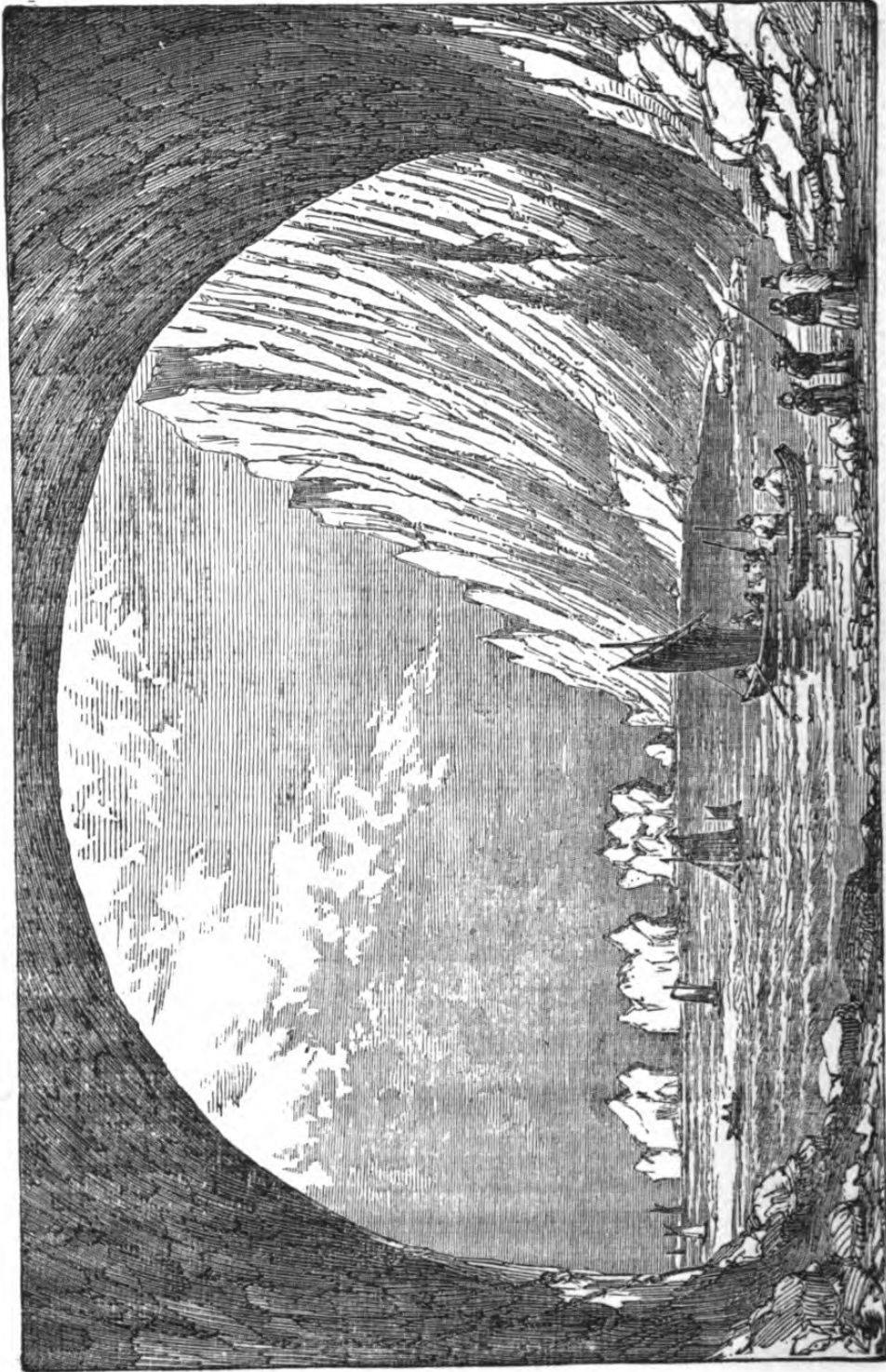
CALBOURNE,

Near to which is Swainston, the seat of Sir J. Barrington Simeon, Bart. It stands on the site of the ancient palace that once belonged to the Bishops of Winchester. Calbourne is a small quiet village, and its church, which is of the time of Henry III., or Edward I., contains a raised tomb, inlaid with the effigy of a man in armour, resting his feet upon a dog, while over his head is an enriched canopy. Rev. C. W. Wilson, M.A., is the rector and Archdeacon of the Island.

The village of Newbridge, which is near the Dodpit quarries, and about a mile from Calbourne, has much increased of late years.





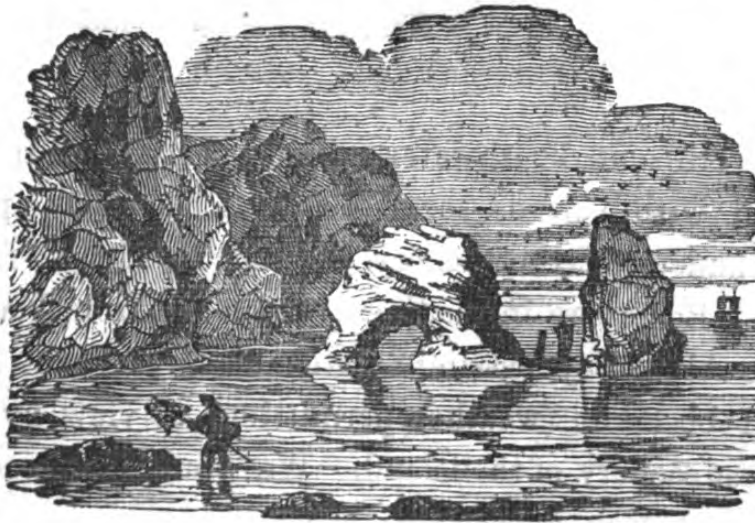


THE NEEDLES, FROM SCRATCHELL'S BAY.



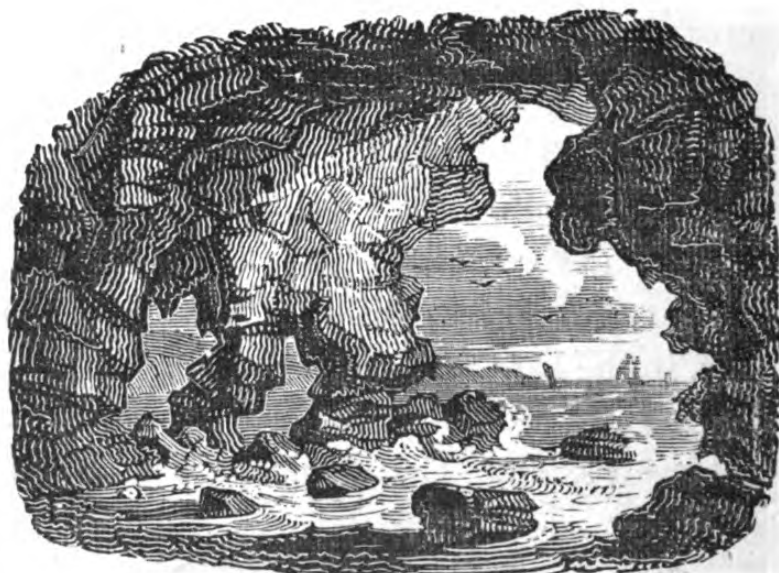
Freshwater.

FRESHWATER GATE is that spot where the island is almost cut asunder by the river Yar, which here rises. The name of gate being probably derived from its position at “the only gate, gap, or entrance, in the barrier of downs which stretches from Brighstone to the Needles.” At this place are two excellent hotels—Plumbly’s, and The Albion. The Bay is close



by, where there is excellent sea-bathing. On the eastern side of the bay, are two huge rocks known as the Stag and Arched Rock.

The stupendous cliffs, which here attain an almost perpendicular altitude of 600 feet, are probably unequalled by any chalk precipices in the world, and they also possess an additional attraction from the numerous and singular caverns by which they are perforated. These caverns may be entered by boat in calm weather.



The cliffs at Freshwater extend nearly three miles, and abound with various sorts of birds. To fully appreciate the grandeur of the scenery it must be viewed from the water. Boats are in readiness, and a sail from Freshwater Bay to Alum Bay, passing Scratchell's Bay and the Needles, should be taken (weather permitting) to view by far the grandest scenery of the island. We would also recommend landing at each place.

The village of Freshwater stands about a mile from the bay. The church, dedicated to All Saints, claims a passing view. Rev. J. F. Isaacson, B. D., rector.

The Wesleyans, Bible Christians, and Baptists, have places of worship here.

FORTS.—The coast is well protected by the following defences: Freshwater Redoubt, Goulden-hill Fort, the Needles Battery, Atherton Point, Warden Ledge, Cliff End, and Victoria Forts, and Yarmouth Castle.

From Freshwater many very agreeable rambles can be made; one to the pretty village of Norton, and others along the cliffs to the Needles and Alum Bay.



The Needles are large rocks of glittering chalk, once perhaps, forming the western part of the Island. They derive their name from a large and tapered one which stood 120 feet high, but which fell by the incessant force of the waves.

The scenery of Alum Bay is a great contrast to that of Freshwater. A vast wall of chalk, which is almost a

regular curve, 400 feet high with a succession of clay and sand strata, of various and finely contrasted colours, presents a novel and unparalleled appearance.

From this spot the ascent of the high downs may be performed, from the extremity of which, extensive, diversified, and beautiful views can be obtained. He who would behold a scene never to be forgotten, should at day-break climb these downs, or from the ocean, near the Needles, watch the rising sun tinge the island with purple and crimson folds, and gild the crest of every wave, together with the Needles and the stupendous white cliffs, presenting a scene than which neither poet nor painter could desire richer.

This delightful district seems all that could be desired for the home of England's greatest living poet—ALFRED TENNYSON. His home, at Farringford, he thus describes in his invitation to the late Rev. F. D. Maurice, his child's godfather :—

“ Where, far from noise and smoke of town,
I watch the twilight falling brown,
All round a careless-order'd garden,
Close to the ridge of a noble down.

You'll have no scandal while you dine,
But honest talk and wholesome wine,
And only hear the magpie gossip
Garrulous under a roof of pine.

For groves of pine on either hand,
To break the blast of winter stand ;
And further on, the hoary Channel,
Tumbles a breaker on chalk and sand,

Where, if below the milky steep
Some ship of battle slowly creep,
And on thro' zones of light and shadow
Glimmer away to the lonely deep.

We might discuss the Northern sin
Which made a selfish war begin ;
 Dispute the claims, arrange the chances
Emperor, Ottoman, which shall win :

Or whether war's avenging rod
Shall lash all Europe into blood :
 Till you should turn to dearer matters,
Dear to the man that is dear to God ;

How best to help the slender store,
How mend the dwellings of the poor ;
 How gain in life, as life advances.
Valour and charity more and more."





We have much pleasure in presenting to our Readers the following Article reprinted (by permission) from the "Standard."

THE REGATTA WEEK AT RYDE.

YACHTSMEN, yachtswomen, and yachting, nautical gossip, some might say *ad nauseam*, fashionable chit-chat in the same unlimited proportions, endless discussions on the comparative merits of diverse rigs, discussions that never terminate on the length of beam possessed by the Firefly, or the breadth of bow characteristic of the Seafoam, "hazardous remarks on the flying-jib,"—to quote Albert Smith's phrase—every variety of marine costume, donned by both sexes, of which it is possible to conceive, an atmosphere laden with the murmur of comments thereupon, eulogistic and dyslogistic, the latter it is only human, or at least feminine nature to suppose being in a distinct majority, flirts in numbers; numberless flirtations with and without discretion, diurnal and nocturnal, upon the pier, upon the decks of the delicate craft that lie beyond, in drawing rooms that overlook the sea—these are some few of the outward visible signs which symbolise the celebration of the regatta week at Ryde. Full, indeed, to overflowing is this gay little town; full are the lodging houses, fuller still the hotels; and, in spite of all this, we have fresh consignments of visitors perpetually arriving by each one of that endless succession of steamers which ply between here and the numerous contiguous ports of embarkment on the

mainland confronting us. For this week, at any rate, elastic should be the only building material recognised in Ryde—a truth which will probably be realised as one capable of a somewhat wider application than to the mere instance of sleeping apartments and lodging-houses less than twelve hours hence ; for to-night we have a ball at the club, to be held in a room belonging to the said club calculated for the reception of about a hundred persons—a number standing towards that for which tickets have been already issued precisely in the relation of one to four. At these times, however, the spectacle and the crowd are everything ; facility of locomotion, saltatory or otherwise, is a requisite neither expected nor desired by the bulk of the regatta week visitors.

The regatta is, indeed, the avowed central object of attraction for the well-dressed and merry-minded specimens of humanity that swarm here just now. We are nothing if we are not to a certain extent nautical—very contemptible and base-minded landmen and landwomen, if we do not evince flashes of the acutest interest in the details of yesterday's race round the island, or in the horoscope, which is freely drawn for us, of the probable results of the almost more interesting race which is to come off—the whole of it within sight of the pier—to-morrow. But then those who are very poor sailors at sea are excellent sailors on shore, and the greatest masters of that jargon constituting the sum of marine gossip are after all those who inhale the salt ideas but do not feel the heaving motion of a life on the ocean wave. On these occasions a sufficiency of inspiration for an abundance of nautical talk is derived from the mere sight of the sea. It is quite enough to live near the rose without being the rose ; and it is ample to survey the blue waters of the Solent from the Ryde pier without experiencing in reality how they make “the vessel move like a thing of life,” to be able to vie in fecundity of marine vocabulary with the most eloquent tar afloat. The pier,

jutting out as it does more than half a mile into the deliciously blue tide, is an extremely happy compromise between the qualmy perils of the deep and the secure tranquility of the shore. One experiences in this way all the comfort of the latter, and the exhilarating influences of the former ; one completely shakes off as it were the lubberliness which at this time so pre-eminently sacred to Thetis, Nereus, and the whole choir of Oceanides, is necessarily associated with the land, and feels, in spirit at any rate, quite as much of a nautical celebrity as the yachtsman who has just crossed the Atlantic in his elegant schooner. The pier, therefore, is at this period the great place at Ryde, the *alpha* and the *omega* of all our perambulations, the *terminus a quo* and *ad quem* of all movements. It is the pier which begins our day, and the pier which ends it, which is the prevailing focus of our ideas, and the sole business of our life. If we want exercise, where get it better, or where with a more liberal allowance of invigorating accompaniments in the shape of fresh air than here ? Do we desire to contemplate human nature as philosophic observers, or as interested spectators, where else could we do so better than on the pier ? Would we look upon the sea, and the white-sailed yachts which fleck its surface ? Then, as a matter of course, the pier is the thing. Are we anxious to view the beauties of the coast-line of the island ? Then from the extremity of the pier we have a prospect of ten miles of beautifully varied scenery spread out before us.

So much for the capacities of this ingeniously-contrived wooden structure, multitudinous enough it must be allowed. As a matter of fact, however, one can scarcely avoid coming to the conclusion that by far the greatest number of those who spend the major portion of their days on Ryde pier entertain quite the same opinion as that professed two thousand years ago by one Socrates, and have no doubt whatever that the only proper study of mankind is man. Toilettes of excruciatingly elaborate kinds, costumes of the very latest

description, fashion, beauty, demoiselles and dames, blondes and brunettes, heroes and heroines of a hundred drawing-room tales, faces that are as familiar to you, whether seen in the Park, the salons of Mayfair and Belgravia, watering-places English and Continental, as is your own front door—others again that inspire you with a certain sense of novelty and innocence, gossip, scandal, chit-chat criticism—*que voulez vous ?*—you have them all galore on Ryde pier. The hour four, and the band—no matter to which of the three regiments quartered within available distance of this place it belongs—playing at the termination of some race, momentarily expected, and you have Ryde pier under one of its most favourable aspects, if not the most. For all practical purposes the pier at such a period simply means the pier-head, and the pier-head is a promenade some two hundred feet in extent. Into this space is compressed everybody in Ryde who is anybody, and the anybodies number not less than half a thousand. Imagine a selection from the Row during the season, or, better still, the occupants of one or two drawing-rooms, at that hour of the day at which the modern Kettledrum is generally celebrated, placed on the wooden platform “far above the melancholy main,” and you have a fair idea of the scene. To move at all is not an easy matter, to move swiftly is an impossibility. Skirts of every texture and every hue sweep the ground, and the sea breeze as it comes in makes music with the silken and muslin folds, and infuses into the odours of Piesse and Lubin an aromatic element of saline. Flirtation! Why, under these inspiring influences the sea air, the exquisite music, to say nothing of the fair feminine provocatives to this occupation, the absence of it would be out of the question. Scandal! Well, 'tis nothing more than we could expect that there should be some of this also. Nor could we be where we are without hearing how pretty little Mrs. Vidua has been far longer in the enjoyment of a state of widowhood than she desires; or how Miss Laura Gossamer

is fairly caught at last ; or what a fortunate thing it was for Frank Flyaway Quick that he should persuade Clara Golightly, who must eventually have £10,000 a year, just as "the hands of spring were on winter traces," or, to adopt a less poetic kind of parlance, insolvency and a hurried retreat to Boulogne were staring him full in the face. Human nature is essentially garrulous, and where human beings are gathered together there assuredly gossip will be in the midst of them.

And the gentlemen. In appearance, at any rate they are yachtsmen all. The members of the Royal Victoria Yacht Club—you know them at a glance—their entire suits of dark blue, which look like and mean business. Then we have a whole crowd, tedious to analyse, or particularly and minutely to describe, whom one may call butterfly yachtsmen—gentlemen these in gay attire, with multi-coloured ties, and hats of delicate material, giving you generally, as you look at them, the impression that a good drenching would rob them of their delicate bloom, just as a good toss amid yonder crested waves would distort their complacent countenances into a series of wry and melancholy expressions. Undeniably Ryde pier in preference to the Solent is essentially the place for these.

Non eadem facies semper : Ryde pier vastly differs at different hours of the day. If the afternoon is especially the time of beauty and fashion, the morning is more particularly consecrated to its occupancy by distinctly family parties, nursemaids and children, tobacco-smoking and newspaper-reading gentlemen. A book-stall is established close to the extremity of the pier, and as the ten o'clock boat from Southsea arrives, bringing us the London journals of the day, great is the rush round this extemporised structure for the closely-printed broadsheets. Go, take your place upon this same pier when the shades of night have fallen, and the sight is extremely pretty. Gaze shoreward, and you have Ryde lit up, the houses rising tier above tier,

looking more like a Continental than an English town ; gaze seaward, and your eyes are met by the many twinkling lanterns that are suspended from the masts of the fleet of yachts anchored in the Solent ; and if the air be only moderately clear, you may notice distinctly across the separating six miles of sea the evening lights of Portsmouth and Southampton. So much for the main features of this particular regatta week at Ryde.

With your permission I shall devote a second letter to drawing attention to several points possessed of an exceptional degree of interest at this holiday season, which "Ryde Revisited" naturally suggests.

RYDE RE-VISITED.

THE excessive enthusiasm which the *habitue's* of Ryde profess and feel for their island watering-place is at any rate intelligible. There is no question about the fact that "the town with the pier," as the sanguine young ladies and gentlemen who, in their inability to muster sufficient energy for direct methods of expression, are by an elegant periphrasis in the habit of terming this very metropolis of yachts and yachting, is a genuine queen of sea-side resorts—a haunt possessed of attractions entirely peculiar to itself; completely *sui generis*, and thus to a certain extent unrivalled. That Ryde revisited is a very different place from what it was to the loungeur or tourist who knew it some ten or fifteen years since, is simply what we might expect in the nature of things. That, slightly to paraphrase Lord Byron's perfect poetical expression, time is impotent to change the aspect of the ocean, may be perfectly true when applied merely to the sea itself ; it is egregiously untrue when applied to those portions of the mainland which abut upon its waters, or to drop circumlocution, to sea-side towns. The *fugaces*

anni, which "write no wrinkle on the azure brow" of the English Channel, effect a marvellous number of alterations upon the homes of the landsmen contiguous to it; and, in changing its appearance, I may say even improving, Ryde has but kept pace with the spirit of the times. It is unnecessary to date back one's memories to that remote period, whatever it may be, within the recollection of the "earliest inhabitant," and totally superfluous to refer to that epoch some three decades distant, when one wandered along the space known now as the Strand, and found in lieu of a fashionable promenade, flanked by elegant villas and elaborately-kept gardens, a bleakly desolate moorland, prolific in wild ducks and populous with snipe, to note some of the most rapid strides in social importance which Ryde has made. The retrospect may be much more confined but it will be significant enough. Even ten years since this town was but a faint image of what it is now. At the old castle, a building which is metamorphosed into the business offices of the London and South Coast Railway, old Ryde terminated. The Strand, in its present aspect, was as yet an undeveloped feature. The elegant villas only existed in infinitesimal proportions, and the sea wall which extends at present past Sea View was not. The waves of the Solent were free to stray at their own watery will up the beach so far as they liked, and at the period of the spring tides wandered with so much licence and liberty as to flood more or less, the path devoted to wayfarers and carriages close by. Then again, in the upper portion of the town an analogous increase in the matter of bricks and mortar is distinctly observable. There are streets now where there were fields a very few years since, and Binstead, which was once a lonely hamlet, is rapidly assuming the dimensions of a populous and favoured village.

So much for archæological research in a modest way, On what is founded the reputation which I have

partially ventured to vindicate for Ryde? Wherein consists its claims to the *curiosa felicitas* that may fairly be pronounced its main characteristic? They may be briefly stated, and claims which are based on facts they undoubtedly are. The attractions of Ryde are exceptional, and it is the existence of these which draw to it such a host of visitors, and that not so variously composed. The popularity that Ryde has so swiftly acquired has not robbed it of the charms which it presented to the visitor of twenty years since. It has not been purchased at the price of the inducements which formerly drew people hither. Because Ryde has become popular, it has not, like so many other places, become vulgarised. Nay more, it has not become if I may be allowed the comparison, purely and solely fashionable. It is true, as I imagine I made it sufficiently plain in my former letter, that for a concentration and amalgam of all that merits this epithet Ryde pier is unequalled, and that for those who are of the world which the adjective connotes, Ryde pier is the epitome of Ryde. But then if you are wearied of crowds, if you are jaded with the effects of a hard working season, if you do not want to hear gossip, scandal, and chit-chat on matters touching costume, to the extent of surfeit, there is no reason why you should show up on the pier at all. You may stay in the place without being of it; and if your fagged nerves and sated senses seek for quiet and partial enjoyment, rather than for a continuation of the dissipations and atmosphere of London, *plus* the sea breeze, you may have this too. Herein is Ryde, then, peculiarly blest. Brighton and Hastings—these are places where you have none of the opportunities for revelling in the luxury of rural abandonment that Ryde affords. Do what you will and you will never escape from the absorbing sense of London-super-Mare. But at this place, within ten minutes' walk of the gay centre which the pier constitutes, you may place yourself in the midst of a Sylvan solitude as

remote for all practical purposes as the hills of Ross-shire or the lanes of Devon. As we know, it is the regatta week. You would see the exquisite spectacle of the white-rigged barques racing each other without being brought at every moment in contact with your fellow-creatures. What easier? Take the train to Brading, a journey of four miles; wander through those delicious fields, adorned with the woodbine and meadow sweet clamber up the down, which the fort surmounts, and there you will be able to gaze down upon the yachts as they round the headland which protects Ventnor from the blasts of winter, thus conferring upon it the title of the English Maderia; will be able to see, in fact, the race itself infinitely better than any of the spectators from the pier are able, without, it is most probable, meeting a single soul. As for the immense number of perfectly country excursions which you may take from Ryde easily in a day, the trips to Blackgang, and the drive or walk to Freshwater—a region erewhile hallowed by the habitation of the Laureate—I need say nothing.

After all, it is the question of lodgings and lodging-houses, tradesmen and prices, which must agitate the breast of the British father of a family who contemplates an outing. How about these matters? Well, on the whole, the reply which I am able, after some experience and much comprehensive inquiry, to make, is satisfactory. When Ryde first began to be popular, lodgings—I cannot bring myself to employ the detestable phrase apartments—were decidedly expensive; competition, however, the true friend of economy, set in, and the result is that at present lodging-houses are so plentiful in Ryde that rooms can be had at prices considerably lower than those with which I am acquainted elsewhere. If merely rooms are not sufficient for your purpose, whole houses are readily procurable, and it may be some satisfaction to your readers to know that these are to be had for sums varying between two and

three, and twenty and thirty pounds a week. Again, as for tradesmen, we have nothing of which seriously to complain. Fancy prices are not current, save for fancy goods, and in the main the charges are tolerably consistent with those of the London market, possibly somewhat lower. Do you desire to pass a winter of severe economy and strict retrenchment? If so, then by all means come to Ryde. There are houses to be let here during the six months which are just out of the season, of 14 rooms, for 30s. to 35s. a week, and these commanding a view and in a situation as good as any to be met with in the island. As a rule, it is the vivid fear of sharks in the shape of lodging-house keepers which constitutes the bar sinister to watering-places. It is plain justice to say a word in praise of the lodging-house keeper of Ryde.

As for the *personnel* of the visiting body visible during the season at Ryde, I have already said enough to indicate that it differs from that to be met with elsewhere. If on the pier we are eminently fashionable and well bred, we are conspicuously decorous everywhere. In a word, we have none of the flashiness and ostentation which are features by no means the reverse of prominent at the customary seaside resorts of metropolitan health and pleasure seekers. If you come to Ryde you must not expect the clamorous distractions and the wild gaieties of Margate or Ramsgate. We are absolutely destitute of nigger bands. We have no imposing arrays of donkey proprietors. It is quite possible to walk by the side of the sea without being pestered at every turn with queries as to whether you want a boat; indeed, unless you make your wish known, you will not be asked to have one. For those who miss these phenomena Ryde is certainly not the place. For those who rejoice in their absence, who take a pleasure in the features which we have mentioned above, and who revel in the intense perfection of an atmosphere soft as silk, yet withal exhilarating, restorative, and non-relaxing, I can give no better advice than to purchase one of the monthly tickets at

the extremely low rate at which they are issued, between Waterloo and Ryde. As for some of the best-known beauties of the island—and they are many—I shall have something to say, if you will allow me, in yet a further letter.

ROUND THE WIGHT.

AFTER all, there is a kind of magnetic influence about the Ryde Pier which tempts you to linger, no matter whether the observation of nature animate or inanimate be your primary and particular fancy, far longer than you had probably intended, about its precincts. On such a morning as we have just had, the attraction of the place is irresistible. You will not, indeed, have had the distractions of the afternoon ; will have been without the enlivening harmonies of the military band which the three o'clock boat punctually conveys from Gosport to commence its operations ; will have missed the rainbow tints of feminine costume, and the careful adjustment of masculine attire, visible then. But in its way the forenoon aspect of the pier has as many charms as the afternoon, and the morning toilet of our English maidens and dames is a sight not less pleasant to gaze upon than their displays of vesture visible later in the day. If you have not now all the elaborate devices of French millinery which will be observable a few hours further on, "the gloss of satin and glimmer of pearls," conspicuous in the promenade during the band-playing hours, you have more than ample compensation for the absence of these in the gracefully looped or elegantly trailing dresses of daintily coloured muslins and camlets—I trust my orthography is correct—in the artistic negligence with which piquant little hats are perched on rich piles of glossy hair, in the freshness of

the hues which surmount fair cheeks, and in the sparkle of eyes not less bright than the laughter of the sea in the sunshine beyond. These are the accompaniments and accessories of Ryde pier during the period of the forenoon, and very pleasant in their way they are. Not less pleasant to gaze out through the vista of the transient throng—a throng not sufficiently dense to obscure the view—upon the lazily flapping and whitely glistening sails of the little fleet of yachts, the remnant of our last week's gaiety, upon the delicious blue of the Solent waters, and from these on to the very distinct outline of the Hampshire coast. Pleasant enough, indeed, and perhaps all the more pleasant in consequence of the gratefully melancholy reflection—the expression may sound paradoxical, but if “music and sunlight are one,” it follows that the melancholy which Jessica experienced in hearing the perfection of the former, must be extended also to the sense of basking in the latter—that the regatta week, the great week of the year at Ryde, is over, and that in one or two days, possibly one or two hours, this same pier on which one lounges will be robbed of the major portion of its occupants who constitute now one of its main charms.

Yet Ryde, at this present time, is very far indeed from showing any serious signs of approaching desolation—witness that heavily laden excursion boat just puffing its departure *en route* a voyage round the island. Very heavily laden in truth it is, and presenting, with its closely packed crowd of indefatigable excursionists no small contrast to the deck of the steamer engaged by the Royal Victoria Club on Saturday to accompany the yachts in their circum-insular race. A pretty and pleasant trip, the feat of circumnavigation constitutes, especially when performed under such atmospheric conditions as those which prevailed the day before yesterday—a sky almost cloudless, or with only just enough of cloud to secure, by way of contrast and relief to the universal sunshine, a picturesque effect in the

shadow flung upon the rocks, and shore, and sea ; a breeze sufficiently fresh to cause the yachts to go at a good pace, without inspiring the most moderately practised sailing amateur with any misgivings as to the wisdom of entrusting himself to the bosom of the waves, to say nothing of the presence of a well-selected company, and of certain not less well-selected hampers, snugly stowed away, strangely suggestive of the Widow Cliquot and of lunch.

It may be questioned whether there is in the whole of England any coast line of equal extent with that of the Isle of Wight possessed of the same amount of picturesque diversity. The richly wooded slopes, that almost hide their verdure in the waters ; the long lagoons of sand which cause you to realize, more perhaps than you have ever done before, the applicability of Homer's epithet "barren" to the sea shore ! the occasional mile of shingle ; the rocks, here lying so low and so gradual in their descent as not to merit the name of cliffs at all, here suddenly rising to an altitude of four or five hundred feet, composed of every kind of geological strata—now of "the old red sandstone," and now of the soft and yielding chalk—now regular and now grandly rugged in their outline, with their retreating caverns and grass grown fissures ; then the widely varying prospect of the inland landscape opened up to you, consisting here of ripe corn lands or pink clover fields, and here of noble unenclosed downs, flanked by the "forests of pine" which the Laureate, speaking of his own residence, celebrates, alternately wild and cultivated, stern and subdued. These are the more general of the physical features with which you are brought in contact, as you look on the land from the waters of the sea in a day's sail round the Isle of Wight. What more could we want at any time, given that important requisite of fine weather, to add interest to the cruise, it may be asked. Well, the interest will be none the less, if you have, as on Saturday you would have had, the enlivening accompani-

ment of a very capital and more than interesting yacht race if you had been able to vary your admiring look at the dark woods of Osborne with a moment's attention to the miraculous way in which the Condor outstripped the Egeria and Aline, or the glance of curiosity through your binocular upon the multicoloured formation of the rock in Alum Bay, whose tints, blue, yellow, red, and green, have much the same effect as that which might be produced by a selection of different ribands laid lengthways down the precipice with a prospective survey at the manner in which the too open course which Mr. Ewing's cutter has steered has caused her almost to be becalmed, and with a retrospective eye witness the good luck which sends the Egeria the timely puff of wind that fills her sails, sends her on "hand over hand," and affords a new illustration of the glorious uncertainties, and the manifold excitement attendant upon the occupation of yachting. And for these to be realised, a yacht race must be observed, not from the land, where little more than the beginning and the start are to the ordinary spectator visible, but from the sea. It is only in this way that you can catch the whole spirit of the thing, that you can form an adequate idea of the exquisite nicety of tactics upon which success depends, that you can fully understand the necessity of consummate judgment and skill, that you can know how much depends upon the slightest breath that blows, upon the fact of sailing a little closer to the wind, or a little further from it, that you can, in fact, sympathise with the devotion of the yachtsman to his sport, and can realise the truth that there is just as much excitement in the race which yachts sail, as in the race which horses run. Nor to feel this excitement need your nautical education be at all of an elaborate character. You might be the most untutored landsman in the world, still ten minutes' observation, and a very little information will enable you fully to enter into the fun of the thing. Finally, a fresh element of interest is imparted to all yacht regattas by the handi-

capping that prevails. One fortunate craft has already outstripped the winning post, and perhaps the race seems over. It is not over, however, for all that. How much time does the yacht which has just finished her course give to your rival that is just sailing up at racing speed? Will this same rival save her distance; and will the gun which announces that the flag boat is passed, fire within the prescribed limit? These are the real questions to ask, and it is in the answer which facts will presently accord to these questions that the winning or the losing of the race will depend. Saturday's regatta has already been amply and excellently described in your columns; the beginning, middle, and the end are known to your readers, equally known to many of whom is the coast which lies between Freshwater and Ventnor, and between Ventnor and Ryde. On Saturday we sailed within a mile of the greater portion of it, and could see it all distinctly: the Undercliff, above Puckaster Cove, one of the landing places of Charles II., the landslip at Bonchurch, memorialised by Mr. Adams in his allegory of the "Old Man's Home," the towering downs of Boniface and Shanklin, the huge wooded clift in the chalk rocks, known as Shanklin Chine, till past Sandown Bay and Culver Cliff, we find ourselves fairly in sight of the Nab Light and the four massive circular forts which are in process of preparation—a year ago they were surrounded by scaffoldings, and now the greater part of the mere masonry is complete—for the defence of Portsmouth Harbour, and between the guns of two of which, for they are arranged *en echelon*, any vessel bound with hostile purposes for Portsmouth Harbour would have to pass. As for the race, are not its results written in your daily history of the contemporary world, bearing the same date as that which I have prefixed to this letter?

What I have said already of Ryde—that it has become popularised without being plebified—is true in a general way of the whole island. Its beauties are tolerably well

known—hackneyed is not the expression to employ—and their visitors are proportionately numerous; but over all the places which are seen and “done,” there is an air of noticeable tranquillity. It is, indeed, this impression of pervading calm and repose which is produced by all the many beauties of the Isle of Wight. It is neither large enough, nor are its salient features of loveliness developed in a sufficiently striking degree of “grandeur” to use what has now become merely a cant expression—to attract a promiscuous herd of unreasoning worshippers. The thorough-paced tourist in the Isle of Wight would consider himself totally devoid of any occupation; he would be an anomaly and an incubus. You may wander through the island for many a pleasant summer and autumn’s day without meeting anything whatever harshly to jar upon you, or disagreeably to grate upon the most shaken nerves. There is no hurrying to and fro; no ardent peripatetic, knapsack on back and staff in hand, neither seeking nor requiring rest; no irritated British patres familias standing on eminences and wildly waving umbrellas. The breeze is indeed softly exhilarating, but it is soothing and tranquillizing to the last degree. If Ventnor and Bonchurch, with their perfect paradises of villas, sheltered by mossy banks and a sea of shrubberies, from all aerial rudeness, have as much beauty as it is well possible to conceive of, they strike us by comparison with other sea-side places that one knows as being the very embodiments of peace. Take the train from Waterloo, spend one, two, or three days in either of these places, and you will seem to have suddenly been transported from the bustle of real life to the dreamy delights of fairy land. If my language sounds hyperbolic it is not unjust.



A Trip Round the Island.

ALTHOUGH splendid views of the magnificent scenery of the Island are to be obtained from the land, there are some which cannot be seen to advantage but from the water; from whence their magnitude, wildness of form, and beauty of colour, make an impression on the mind of the beholder not easily obliterated. The excursion round the island affords a complete view of the whole of this varied and highly interesting coast, with portions of Dorset, Hants, and Sussex. Trips round the island are performed by steam-boats two or three times a week during the summer months. Starting from Ryde, westward, we pass Westfield (the seat of Sir Augustus Clifford), Binstead, Quarr Abbey, and soon find ourselves at the mouth of Wootton River, the tower of Fern Hill conspicuous in the distance. The next inlet is King's Quay, and immediately we come in sight of Her Majesty's Marine Palace, Osborne House; and close by is Norris Castle. Across the Medina, past West Cowes, Gurnard Bay, Thorness Bay, and Hampstead Hill. The shore is low and uninteresting until we come in sight of Yarmouth and the bold slope of Norton. Remark, now, the ramparts of Victoria and Albert Forts (Sconce and Cliff End) commanding, in conjunction with the opposite stronghold (Hurst Castle), the entrance of the Solent. Let us glide swiftly across Colwell and around Warden Ledge; shoot across Colwell and Alum Bays; pass the famous rocks of the Needles; enter Scratchell's Bay; and sail in the shadow of the lofty cliffs of Main Bench, and the Nodes

to Watcombe Bay, and Freshwater Gate. Now, we enter Compton Bay, and the chief points of interest we successively pass are Brixton Bay, Chale Bay, St. Catherine's Point and Lighthouse, Wreeth Bay, Puckaster Cove, Binnel Bay and Point, Woody Bay and Point, Orchard Bay, Steep-hill Cove, Ventnor, Bonchurch, and Dunnose. The coast from Dunnose to Ryde is well worth notice. Lofty cliffs stretch northward, until they dip down to the level sands of Sandown, rent at Luccombe and Shanklin by bold deep chines. After passing Sandown, the cliffs gradually rise into the promontory of Culver. Now, we sweep into Whitecliff Bay, and rounding Bembridge Point and the Foreland, pass the village of Bembridge, across Brading Haven to St. Helens; we are now in sight of Nettlestone Point and Sea View. Remark the little hamlet of Spring Vale, the castellated pile of St. Clare, the woods of Apply, the Ryde Esplanade, and, finally, the Ryde Pier, so well known to yachtsmen and promenaders, the boast and glory of the most fashionable watering-place in England.



Appendix to Mason's Handy Guide.

PLACES OF WORSHIP,

WITH MINISTERS' NAMES, AND HOURS OF DIVINE SERVICE.

RYDE.

- All Saints' Parish Church—Sundays, 11, 3, and 7. First Sunday in every month, Litany and Catechising at 3. Rev. A. Poole, M.A., vicar.
- St. Thomas's Church—Sundays, 11, and 3; Wednesdays and Fridays at 11. Rev. A. Poole, M.A., vicar.
- Holy Trinity Church—Sundays, 11, 3, and 6-30; Daily, every morning at 8. except Wednesdays at 11 and 8; Fridays and all Holy Days at 11. Rev. A. J. Wade, M.A., vicar.
- St. James's Church—Sundays, 11, and 6-30; and Thursday Evenings at 7. Rev. W. H. Redknap, incumbent.
- St. John's Church—Sundays, 11, and 3-30. Rev. H. Ewbank M.A., incumbent.
- St. Michael and All Angels—Sundays at 7, 8, 10-30, 3-30, and 7; Weekdays, 8 and 10-30; Evensong 8 o'clock daily. Rev. R. H. E. Wix, M.A., vicar.
- St. Marie's Church, (Roman Catholic)—Sundays, Mass at 8, High Mass 11, Vespers and Benedictions at 3; Weekdays Mass at 9. Rev. J. B. Cahill, priest.
- Congregational Church—Sundays, 11 and 6-30; Wednesday Evenings at 7.
- Wesleyan Chapel—Sundays 10-30 and 6-30; and Thursday Evenings at 7. Rev. L. Waterhouse, minister.
- Christ Church (Baptist)—Sundays, 11 and 6-30; and Thursday Evenings at 7-30. Rev. T. Aston Binns, minister.
- Park Road Chapel (Baptist)—Sundays, 11 and 6-30; and Thursday Evenings at 7-30. Rev. J. Harrison, minister.
- Primitive Methodist Chapel—Sundays, 10-30 and 6-30; and Wednesday Evenings at 7.
- Bible Christian Chapel—Sundays, 10-30 and 6-30; and Thursday Evenings at 7.
- Christians' Meeting—Sundays, 11, at Albert-street, and 6-30, in the Victoria Rooms,

SANDOWN.

Christ Church—Sundays, 11 and 6-30. Rev. Gilbert S. Karney, M.A., incumbent.

Temporary Church—Sundays, 3.

Wesleyan Methodist Chapel—Sundays, 11 and 6-30 ; Tuesdays at 7.

Bible Christian Chapel—Sundays, 10-30. and 6-30.

Congregational Chapel—Sundays, 11 and 6-30 ; Thursdays, 7. Rev. W. J. Craig, minister.

Primitive Methodist Chapel—Sundays, 10-30 and 6-30.

YAVERLAND.

Church—Sundays, 11 and 3. Rev. W. M. Lee, M.A. rector.

BRADING.

Church—Sundays, 11 and 6. Rev. J. Glover, M.A., vicar.

Congregational Chapel—Sundays, 10-30 and 6; Wednesdays, 7.

Bible Christian Chapel—Sundays, 10-30 and 6.

SHANKLIN.

St. John's Church—Sundays, 11 and 6-30. Rev. G. W. Southouse, M.A., rector.

St. Saviour on the Cliff—Sundays 11, 3-30, and 6-30 ; Wednesdays and Fridays, 11. Rev. C. I. Burland, M.A., vicar.

Gatten Iron Church—Sundays 11 and 6-30 ; Tuesdays 7.

Congregational Chapel—Sundays 11 and 6 ; Wednesdays, 7.

Wesleyan Chapel—Sundays 10-30 and 6-30.

Bible Christian Chapel—Sundays, 10-30 and 6 ; Fridays, 7.

VENTNOR.

St. Catherine's Church—Sundays, 11, 3, and 6-30 ; Wednesdays and Fridays at 11 Holy Communion every Sunday at mid-day. Rev. J. Marland, incumbent. Rev. C. Wills, officiating minister.

Holy Trinity Church—Sundays, 11 and 6 30 Holy Communion every Sunday after Morning Service and on the Festivals. Daily Prayers from April to November at 8 ; from November to April at 4 ; Wednesday and Friday at 11-30 throughout the year. Rev. A. L. B. Peile, M.A., incumbent.

VENTNOR—*continued.*

Congregational Church—Sundays, 11 and 6-30 ; Wednesdays at 7-30. Rev. R. Allen Davies, minister.

Wesleyan Methodist Chapel—Sundays, 10-30 and 6-30 ; Tuesdays at 7-30, Fridays at 7-30.

Primitive Methodist Chapel—Sundays, 10-30 and 6-30 ; Mondays and Thursdays, 7.

Bible Christian Chapel—Sundays, 10-30 and 6-30 ; Tuesdays, 7.

Baptist Church—Sundays, 11 and 6-30 ; Rev. J. Wilkinson, minister.

St. Wilfrid's Catholic Chapel—Sundays and Holy days, Mass at 10 ; Instructions at 3-30. Rev. J. D. Mooney, priest.

The Brethren—Sundays, 11 and 6 ; Wednesdays at 7.

BONCHURCH.

Church—Sundays, 11 and 3-30 ; Saints' days at 11. Rev. H. J. Maddock, M.A., rector.

ST. LAWRENCE.

Church—Sundays, 10-45 and 3. Rev. C. Malden, M.A., rector.

WEST COWES.

St. Mary's Church—Sundays, 11 and 6-30 ; Saints' days, 11. Rev. J. B. Atkinson, M.A., vicar.

Church of the Holy Trinity—Sundays, 11, 3-30, and 6-30 ; Saints' days, 11 ; Wednesdays, 7-30. Rev. J. D. Middleton, M.A., incumbent.

Roman Catholic Church—Sundays, 10-30 and 6-30. Rev. J. Bower, priest.

Congregational Chapel—Sundays, 10-30 and 6-30 ; Wednesdays, 7.

Wesleyan Chapel—Sundays, 10-30 and 6-30 ; Tuesdays, 7.

Free Wesleyan Chapel—Sundays, 10-30 and 6-30 ; Wednesdays, 7-30.

Bible Christian Chapel—Sundays, 10-30 and 6-30.

Primitive Methodist Chapel—Sundays, 10-30 and 6-30.

Baptists (Foresters' Hall)—Sundays, 10-30 and 6-30 ; Tuesdays at 7.

EAST COWES.

- St. James' Church—Sundays, 11 and 6-30 ; Wednesdays, 7.
Rev. R. H. Gibson, M.A., incumbent.
- Independent Chapel—Sundays, 11 and 6-30 ; Wednesdays, 7.
Rev. F. H. Williams, minister.

NEWPORT.

- St. Thomas' Church—Sundays, 10-30, 3, and 6-30 ; Wednesdays, 7. Rev. G. H. Conner, M.A., vicar.
- St. Paul's Church—Sundays, 10-45 and 6-30. Rev. W. L. Sharp, M.A., incumbent.
- St. John's Church—Sundays, 10-30 and 6.30 ; Thursdays at 7.
Rev. R. Hollings, incumbent.
- Roman Catholic Church—Sundays, 9, 10-30, and 6-30 ; Week-days, 7-30 and 9, Rev. T. Fryer, priest.
- Wesleyan Chapel—Sundays, 10-30 and 6-30 ; Wednesdays, 7.
- Congregational Church (Node Hill)—Sundays, 10-30 and 6-30 ;
Wednesdays, 7. Rev. J. Bainton, minister.
- Congregational Church (St. James'-street)—Sundays, 10-30
and 6-30 ; Wednesdays, 7. Rev. J. M. Newland, minister.
- Baptist Chapel—Sundays, 10-30 and 6-30 ; Mondays and Wednesdays, 7. Rev. F. Trestrail, minister.
- Unitarian Chapel—Sundays, 10-45 and 6-30. Rev. W. Hargrave, B.A., minister.
- Catholic Apostolic Church—Sundays, 10-30 and 4-15.
- Primitive Methodist Chapel—Sundays, 10-30 and 6-30.
Thursdays, 7.
- Bible Christian Chapel—Sundays, 10-30 & 6-30 ; Wednesdays, 7.
- The Brethren—Sundays, 11 and 6-30 ; Wednesdays, 7-30.
- The Friends—Sundays, 10-30 and 6-30 ; Thursdays, 11.



LIST OF THE HOTELS AND INNS.

RYDE :—

The Pier Hotel, near the Pier ;
Yelf's Hotel, Union-street ;
Kent Hotel, Union-street ;
York Hotel, George-street ;
Sivier's Hotel, Pier-street ;
The Vine Hotel, Pier-street ;
Eagle Hotel, Pier-street ;
Esplanade Hotel, on the Esplanade ;
Crown Hotel, St. Thomas' Square ;
Belgrave Hotel, Nelson-street ;
Star Hotel, High-street.

NEWPORT :—

The Bugle, High-Street ;
The Wheatsheaf, Corn Market
Warburton's Hotel ;
The Green Dragon, Pyle-street.

COWES, WEST :—

The Gloucester Hotel ;
The Fountain Hotel ;
The Marine Hotel ;
The Vine Hotel ;
The Dolphin Hotel ;
The Globe Hotel.

COWES, EAST :—

The Medina Hotel ;
Prince of Wales Hotel.

VENTNOR :—

The Royal Hotel ;
The Marine Hotel ;
The Esplanade Hotel ;
The Crab and Lobster.

SANDOWN :—

Sandown Hotel (Mew) ;
Star and Garter Hotel ;
King's Head Hotel.

SHANKLIN :—

Hollier's Hotel ;
Daish's Hotel ;
The Clarendon ;
The Madeira ;
The Marine Hotel ;
The Falcon Hotel.

UNDERCLIFF :—

The Sandrock Hotel, Niton ;
The White Lion, Niton Village ;
The St. Lawrence Hotel, St. Lawrence.

BLACK GANG :—

The Chive Hotel ;
The Clarendon.

BONCHURCH :—

Bonchurch Hotel (Ribbands).

FRESHWATER GATE :—

The Albion Hotel ;
Plumbley's Hotel.

ALUM BAY :—

The Needles Hotel ;
The Royal Hotel.

YARMOUTH :—

The George Hotel ;
The Bugle Inn ;
King's Head Inn.

BINSTEAD :—

The Fleming Arms.

WOOTTON BRIDGE :—

The Sloop Inn.

BRADING :—

The New Inn ;
The Wheatsheaf Inn.

GODSHILL :—

The Griffin.

SEA VIEW :—

The Hotel (D. Caws) ;
The Crown Inn.



EXCURSIONS from RYDE.

ARRANGED TO SUIT TOURISTS TRAVELLING BY CARRIAGES,
AND PEDESTRIANS.

A FOUR DAYS' TOUR.

1		3	
	<i>miles.</i>		<i>miles.</i>
Ryde to Saint Helens	4	Freshwater Gate to	
Brading -	2	Alum Bay -	2
Yaverland -	1	Freshwater -	2
Bembridge -	3	Yarmouth -	3
Sandown -	4	Carisbrooke -	9
Shanklin -	3	Newport -	1
Bonchurch -	3	West Cowes -	5 22
Ventnor -	1 21		
2		4	
Ventnor to Steephill -	1	Ferry to East Cowes,	
St. Lawrence -	1	Newport -	5
Sandrock and Niton	3	Arreton -	4
Black Gang Chine -	2	Godshill -	4
Through Kingston,		Appuldurcombe -	1
Shorwell, Brixton,		Newchurch -	4
Mottistone, Brooketo		Ryde -	6 24
Freshwater Gate -	15 22		

DAY JOURNEYS.

Ryde to Brading -	4	Black Gang Chine -	1
Sandown -	2	Merston -	7
Lake -	1	Arreton -	1
Shanklin -	2	Haven Street -	3
Bonchurch -	3	Ryde -	3 31
Ventnor -	1		
Wroxall -	2	Ryde to Wootton -	3
Appuldurcombe -	1	Newport -	4
Newchurch -	4	Carisbrooke -	1
Ashey Down -	2	West Cowes -	6
Ryde -	4 26	Newport -	5
		Ryde -	7 26
Ryde to Newport -	7	or <i>Ferry to East Cowes</i>	
Carisbrooke -	1	Whippingham -	3
Gatcombe -	2	Wootton Bridge -	3
Chale -	6	Ryde -	3

Fares of Isle of Wight Railway.

Trains run between Ryde and Ventnor, calling at Brading, Sandown, Shanklin, and Wroxall, nearly every hour (see Time Table) at the following rates :—

	SINGLE.			RETURN.	
	1st cl.	2nd cl.	3rd cl.	1st cl.	2nd cl.
Ryde to Brading	0 10	0 7	0 3½	1 3	0 11
„ Sandown	1 3	0 11	0 5½	1 8	1 5
„ Shanklin	1 8	1 2	0 7	2 0	1 9
„ Wroxall	2 3	1 7	0 10½	2 8	2 5
„ Ventnor	2 8	1 10	0 11½	3 3	2 9
Ventnor to Wroxall	0 4	0 4	0 1½	0 6	0 6
„ Shanklin	1 0	0 9	0 4	1 6	1 2
„ Sandown	1 4	0 11	0 6	1 8	1 5
„ Brading	1 10	1 3	0 7	2 3	1 11
„ Ryde	2 8	1 10	0 11½	3 3	2 9

* * The times of departure of Steamers, Trains, and Coaches, are so often altered, that any attempt to supply them would probably cause the public to be misled.

Newspapers.

The “Ryde News,” published on Friday evenings, price 1d. Offices : 7, Cross-street, and 23, Union-road, Ryde. J. Mason, proprietor.

The “Isle of Wight Observer,” published on Friday evenings, price 1½d. Office : Colonade, Ryde. H. Butler, proprietress.

The “Isle of Wight Times,” published on Wednesday evenings, price 1½d. Office : Union-street, Ryde. H. Wayland, proprietor.

The “Ryde Ventilator,” published on Saturday mornings, price 1d. Office : 16, Bellevue-road, Ryde. E. Hartnall, proprietor.

The “Pilot,” published on Saturday mornings, price 1½d. Office : 45, Union-street, Ryde.

- The "Isle of Wight Express," published on Saturday mornings, price 2d. Office : High-street, Ventnor. W. Tomkins, proprietor.
- The "Isle of Wight Advertiser," published on Saturday, Price 2d. Office : Church-street, Ventnor. F. Moor, proprietor.
- The "Isle of Wight Mercury," published on Thursday, price 1d. Office : Esplanade, Ventnor. J. Briddon, proprietor.
- The "Isle of Wight Journal," published on Saturdays, price 1d. Office : East Cliff-road, Shanklin. G. Matthews, proprietor.
- The "Isle of Wight Chronicle," published on Thursdays, price 1d. Office : High-street, Sandown. J. C. Taylor, proprietress.
- The "Isle of Wight Herald," published on Saturdays, price 1½d. Office : High-street, West Cowes. J. Hall Smith, proprietor.

House Agents.

RYDE—Wallis, Riddett, and Down, Marvin and Sons, Scott, and Hancock, Union-street ; Knight, Pier-street ; Hansford Brothers, Cross-street ; Purnell, W. H. Wallis, and Peasegood, High-street.

SANDOWN—Yelf and Co., Higgs, Withers, Mearman and Taylor.

SHANKLIN—Johnson, and Howard.

BONCHURCH—Jolliffe and Son.

VENTNOR—John Spary, Wicker, Raynes, and Brown.



Index to Towns and Villages,

ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED

	PAGE
ARRETON	85
BEMBRIDGE	51
BINSTEAD	42
BONCHURCH	77
BRADING	52
BROOKE	102
BRIXTON	101
CALBOURNE	114
CARISBROOKE	91
CHALE	83
COWES, WEST	103
COWES, EAST	106
FISHBOURNE	45
FRESHWATER	117
GATCOMBE	100
GODSHILL	83
HAVEN STREET	48
KINGSTON	83
MOTTISTONE	101
NEWBRIDGE	114
NEWCHURCH	84
NEWPORT	86
NEWTOWN	113

	PAGE.
NITON	79
NORTHWOOD	106
PARKHURST	99
RYDE	24
SANDOWN	57
SEA VIEW	49
SHALFLEET	114
SHORWELL... ..	100
SHANKLIN	60
SPRING VALE	47
ST. HELENS	50
ST. LAWRENCE	78
THORLEY	113
VENTNOR	68
WHIPPINGHAM	111
WHITWELL	84
WOOTTON	45
YARMOUTH	112
YAVERLAND	54



CONTENTS.

	PAGE
General Description of the Island	9
Historical Account	14
Access to the Island	22
RYDE—Description 24 ; the Pier, 28 ; the Victoria Pier, Docks, and Baths, 30 ; the Esplanade, 31 ; the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, 31 ; Churches, 32 ; Chapels, 35 ; Town Hall ; Theatre ; Infirmary ; 36 ; Cemetery, 37 ; Arcade, Philosophical and Scientific Society ; Literary and Scientific Institute ; School of Art ; Young Men's Christian Association, 38 ; Masonic Hall ; Victoria Rooms ; Hotels ; Banks ; Post Office ; Railway Station, 39 ; Almshouses ; Sea Bathing ; Libraries	40
Walks round Ryde	41
Binstead	42
Quarr Abbey	43
Fishbourne	45
Wootton	45
Spring Vale	47
Haven Street	48
Sea View	49
St. Helens	50
Bembridge	51
Brading	52
Yaverland	54

	PAGE
SANDOWN—Description of, 57 ; Churches ; Chapels ; Town Hall ; The Institute ; Young Men's Christian Association, 58 ; Hotels Fort ; Walks	59
SHANKLIN—Description of, 60 ; Chine, 63 ; Churches, 65 ; Chapels ; Literary and Scientific Institution ; Hotels ; Walks	66
Luccombe Chine	66
VENTNOR—Description of, 68 ; Churches ; Chapels, 73 ; Pier ; Market House ; Literary and Scientific Insti- tution ; Working Men's Reading Room ; Post Office ; Hotels ; Libraries ; Bathing	74
The Undercliff	75
Bonchurch	77
St. Lawrence	78
St. Lawrence's Well	79
National Cottage Hospital	79
Niton... ..	79
St. Catherine's Down	80
Blackgang Chine	82
Chale	83
Kingston	83
Godshill	83
Appuldurcombe	84
Whitwell	84
Newchurch	84
Arreton	85
NEWPORT—Description of, 86 ; Market House and Town Hall ; Corn Exchange ; Isle of Wight Literary Institution ; Grammer School ; Freemason's Hall, 87 ; Blue Coat School ; Churches, 88 ; Chapels ; the Cemetery ; Hotels	90
CARISBROOKE—Village and Church, 91 ; Roman Villa ; the Cemetery ; Convent ; Inns	92

	PAGE
THE CASTLE, 95 ; the Keep, 97 ; the Well, &c. ...	98
Parkhurst	99
Gatcombe	100
Shorwell	100
Brixton... ..	101
Mottistone... ..	101
Brooke	102
COWES, West—Description of, 103 ; Churches and Chapels ; Hotels ; Town Hall ; Baths ; Dockyard ; Cemetery	105
Northwood	106
East Cowes	106
OSBORNE HOUSE	110
Whippingham Church	111
YARMOUTH... ..	112
Thorley	113
Newtown	113
Shalfleet	114
Calbourne	114
Newbridge... ..	114
FRESHWATER—Gate and Bay, 117 ; Rocks, Cliffs, and Caves, 118 ; Church, Chapels, Forts Alum Bay and Needles	119
Regatta Week at Ryde	122
Ryde Re-visited	127
Round the Wight	132
Trip Round the Island	138
Places of Worship with Times of Service and Ministers' Names	140
List of the Hotels and Inns... ..	144
Tours of the Island	146
Fares of the Isle of Wight Railway	147

	PAGE
List of Newspapers	147
House Agents	148
Alphabetical List of Towns and Villages	149



LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

-
- Osborne House
 - Shanklin Chine
 - Ventnor
 - Carisbrooke Castle
 - Ditto, original structure
 - Well at Carisbrooke Castle
 - East Cowes
 - The Needles from Scratchell's Bay
 - Rocks at Freshwater Bay
 - Caves at Freshwater
 - Alum Bay and the Needles.



Under the patronage of
Royalty.

ROWLAND'S KALYDOR 4/6

And the
Aristocracy of Europe.

FOR THE COMPLEXION, HANDS, & ARMS.
ASK ANY CHEMIST OR PERFUMER
FOR ROWLAND'S KALYDOR.

Tourists and Travellers

VISITORS TO THE SEA-SIDE AND OTHERS,

Exposed to the Scorching Rays of the Sun, and heated particles of Dust
will find

ROWLAND'S KALYDOR,

A most refreshing preparation for the Complexion, dispelling the cloud of languor and relaxation, allaying all heat and irritability, and immediately affording the pleasing sensation attending restored elasticity and healthful state of the Skin.

Freckles, Tan, Spots, Pimples, Flushes, and Discoloration, fly before its application, and give place to delicate clearness, and transparency of Complexion. In cases of Sunburn, or stings of insects, its virtues have long been acknowledged. Price 4s. 6d. and 8s. 6d. per bottle.

—:o:—

The heat of Summer also frequently communicates a dryness to the hair, and a tendency to fall off, which may be completely obviated by the use of

ROWLANDS' MACASSAR OIL,

A delightfully fragrant and transparent preparation, and as an invigorator and beautifier of the hair beyond all precedent.

Price 8s. 6d. ; 7s. ; 10s. 6d. ; (equal to four small); and 21s. per bottle.

Nor can we be too careful to preserve the Teeth from the deleterious effects of Vegetable Acids (an immediate cause of Toothache), by a systematic employment night and morning, of

ROWLAND'S ODONTO,

OR PEARL DENTRIFRICE.

A White Powder compounded of the choicest and most fragrant exotics. It bestows on the Teeth a Pearl-like Whiteness, frees them from Tartar, and imparts to the Gums a healthy firmness, and to the breath a pleasing fragrance. Price 2s. 9d. per box.

—:o:—

SOLD BY CHEMISTS AND PERFUMERS.

ASK FOR "ROWLANDS'" ARTICLES.

THE "OFFICIAL INK."

G. H. FLETCHER,

(Manager and Practical Manufacturer for 25
years to the late H. MORRELL,)

QUILL MERCHANT,

MANUFACTURER OF

THE "OFFICIAL INK,"

ENTERED AT STATIONER'S HALL,
SPECIALLY PREPARED FOR THE LEGAL PROFESSION, AND FOR
DOCUMENTS REQUIRING GREAT DURABILITY.

COPYING INK,

PRODUCING SEVERAL LASTING COPIES.

ORIENTAL INK,

RED INK.

A BRILLIANT FLUID FOR STEEL PENS.

SCHOOL INK,

BLACK AND LIMPID.

WRITING FLUIDS AND PRINTING INKS, INK POWDERS,
SEALING WAX, AND BLACK LEAD PENCILS.

:0:

MANUFACTORY:—

9, FETTER LANE, FLEET STREET, LONDON.

SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS & STATIONERS.

UNDER THE IMMEDIATE PATRONAGE OF
Her Majesty the Queen,
 AND THE MEMBERS OF THE
Royal Yacht Squadron.



BROWN & WHEELER,
 Portrait, Marine, and Landscape
 Photographers,
 WEST COWES, I.W.

PUBLISHERS OF ISLE OF WIGHT VIEWS.
 Yachts Photographed and Painted in Oil or
 Water Colours.

*Portraits Enlarged from Carte-de-Visite to Life-Size, and
 finished in Crayons, Oil, or Water Colours.*

Carte-de-Visite Portraits	...	10s. 6d. per doz.
Cabinet ditto	21s. 0d. per doz.

MESSRS. BROWN AND WHEELER beg particularly to call attention to their large and interesting SERIES OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF YACHTS of the Royal Yacht Squadron, Royal Victoria, Royal Thames, and other clubs, including the Aline, Guinevere, Flying Cloud, Egeria, Livonia, Cambria, Astarte, Vanguard, Sappho, and many other English and American crack Yachts. A series of these Photographs to yachting men will be found of considerable interest.

Price—Cabinet Size, 2s.; on 15in. by 10in. Mounts, 3s. 6d.; 19in. by 13in. do., 5s.; or unmounted for the Scrap Book, at a proportionate reduction.

A few subjects Carte size, 1s. each, free, book post.



JAMES MASON,

Printer, Stationer, and Bookseller,

7, CROSS STREET, RYDE.

PLAIN & FANCY STATIONERY

OF SUPERIOR QUALITY, AND AT LOWEST PRICES.

Guide Books, Views, and Maps of the Island,
In great variety.

Circulating Library,
Single Volumes may be taken out. Twopence per Volume.

Superior Views of the Island on Glass,
In Pincushions, Paper Weights, &c.

Bibles, Prayer Books, and Church Services,
In choice and elegant bindings.

A Large Assortment of Books,
For Sea-Side Reading.

COXON,
Pastry Cook and Confectioner,

FANCY BREAD AND BISCUIT BAKER,
ST. THOMAS' SQUARE, RYDE.

— o —
WHITE AND FAIRCHILD'S COFFEE.
Home-made Cobourg & Genuine Brown Bread,

— — —
AGENT FOR STOWER'S BRITISH WINES.

— — —
AGENT by APPOINTMENT for
HORNIMAN'S PURE TEA,
Unequaled in STRENGTH and CHEAPNESS.

STEPHEN BURDEN,
Practical Engraver,
PRINTER, EMBOSSEUR, STATIONER,
ETC., ETC.,
10, UNION STREET, RYDE.

— — —
**STEEL DIES ENGRAVED AS GEMS AND STAMPED IN GOLD,
SILVER, OR ANY COLOUR, ON PAPER AND ENVELOPES**

No charge for Plain Stamping.

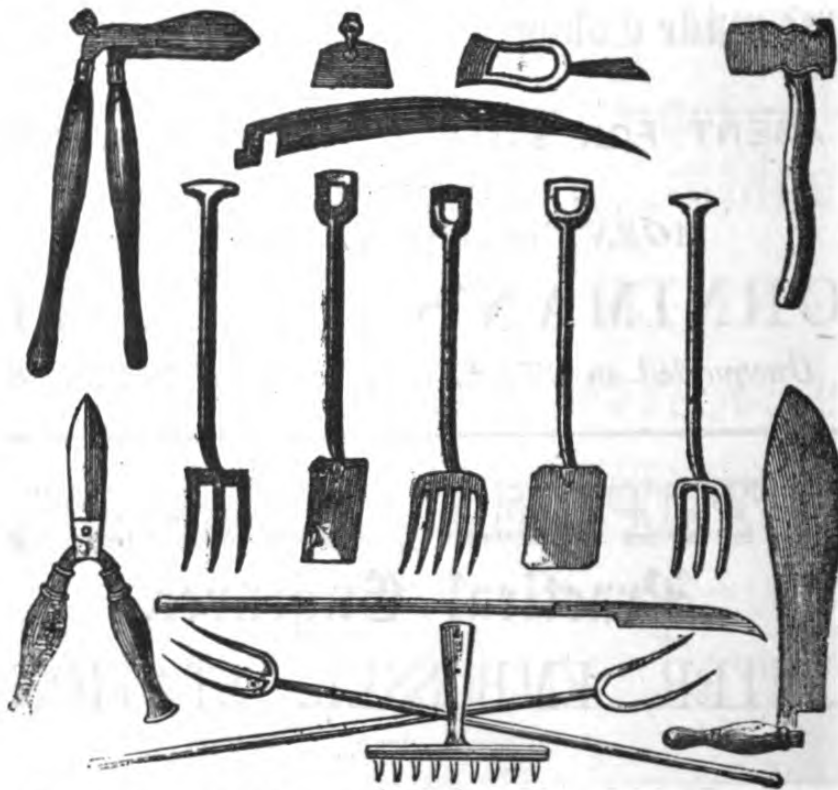
**ARMS, CRESTS, CYPHERS, ETC., ENGRAVED ON EVERY KIND OF METAL,
Visiting Cards, At Home, Invitations, Notes, &c., Engraved and
Printed on the shortest notice.**

Brass or Zinc Door and Window Plates Engraved at London Prices.

ADDRESSES ILLUMINATED ON PARCHMENT, BOOKS, &c.

14, HIGH STREET, RYDE.

M. H. GELLING,
FURNISHING AND GENERAL
Ironmonger,



Brazier, Tin & Iron Plate Worker & Gas-fitter.

Superior Cutlery, Electro-plated and Metal Goods.

All kinds of Stove, Grate, and Kitchen Ranges.

BATHS ON SALE OR HIRE.

Iron Bedsteads, Fenders, Fire-Irons, Trays, Lamps, &c.

**Show Rooms & Agricultural
Implement Depot - } JOHN STREET**

RYDE ISLE OF WIGHT.

MILLER'S
TEMPERANCE HOTEL,
No. 9, High Street.

PLEASANT, QUIET, AND CLEAN.

Good Accommodation for Excursionists.

Shanklin Photographic Studio,
HIGH STREET.

—:0:—
J. M. BROWN,
PROPRIETOR.

—:0:—
A LARGE VARIETY OF PHOTOGRAPHIC VIEWS
OF ISLAND SCENERY.

Carte-de-Visite and Cabinet Portraits in any style.

PUBLISHED SATURDAYS, ONE PENNY,
THE RYDE NEWS,
General Advertiser and Weekly Chronicle of
Events in the Borough of Ryde.

A high-class Family Journal, published every Saturday
Morning, at 7, Cross Street, Ryde.

The Ryde News was established for the purpose of promoting the prosperity of Ryde, and of giving full and impartial reports of everything connected with the Borough. Being the cheapest and best Newspaper, published in Ryde, it has obtained a large circulation, and is read by all classes of the community. It is therefore a first-rate medium for Advertisements. The scale of charges may be had on application at the office contracts for consecutive insertions on liberal terms.

Printing,
Bookselling,
Stationery.



Library,
Bookbinding,
Engraving.

JAMES MASON, General Printer,

Bookseller, Stationer, and Bookbinder,
7, CROSS STREET, RYDE,

RESPECTFULLY tenders his sincere thanks to the Public generally, for the patronage with which he has been favoured, and assures them that their future favours will receive prompt attention and care. His stock includes both useful and fancy articles, and will always be found extensive, varied, and modern.

In the Printing Department,
BILLS, CIRCULARS, BILL-HEADS, CARDS. ETC.,
Are executed with neatness and dispatch.

CIRCULATING LIBRARY,
SINGLE VOLUMES MAY BE HAD.

Bibles, Prayer Books, and Church Services.

—:o:—

Guides, Maps, and Views of the Island.

Odor Suavis Insulae Vertis ;
OR,
THE GARDEN ISLE
(L.W.)
BOUQUET.

A most fragrant and lasting Perfume for the Handkerchief ;
perfectly unique, having no resemblance to many Perfumes
with similar names.

PREPARED ONLY BY
HENRY H. POLLARD,
Family & Dispensing Chemist,
MEMBER OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY,
140, High Street, Ryde.

Sold in Bottles, price 1/9, 2/6, 3/6, and 5/- each, by the
proprietor, and by
J. MASON, STATIONER, 7, CROSS STREET.

To avoid disappointment observe the Name and Address.

London, Brighton & South Coast Railway

NEW DIRECT MID-SUSSEX LINE,

Passing through some of the most beautiful Scenery in the South of England, affords to Passengers an especially pleasant route between

SINGLE TICKETS are available for two days, and to break the journey at Portsmouth for Southsea.

THE
ISLE OF WIGHT
(VENTNOR, SHANKLIN, SANDOWN, RYDE, COWES,
NEWPORT, &c.)
AND
THE WEST END AND CITY OF
LONDON,
VIA SOUTHSEA AND PORTSMOUTH,
To and from which latter place and the London Termini
VICTORIA (West End) & LONDON BRIDGE (City),
NO CHANGE OF CARRIAGE IS NECESSARY.

The WEST END TERMINUS (VICTORIA STATION) is situated close to Buckingham Palace, in the centre of Belgravia, near Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament and Government Offices, and is within a short walk of all the Western Parts of the Metropolis.
The West End Booking & Enquiry Office for the Isle of Wight, &c., is at 29 REGENT CIRCUS, PICCADILLY.

Passengers for all parts of the South-Eastern Line can join the Trains of that Company at London Bridge.

Passengers for places beyond Victoria can join Metropolitan, Great Western, London and North Western, Midland, North London, and Great Northern Trains, which run from Victoria Station at frequent intervals.

West End Passengers should travel to and from Victoria or Kensington Stations, and City Passengers to and from London Bridge Station.

ORDINARY RETURN TICKETS, London to the Isle of Wight, and *vice versa*, are available to break the journey at Portsmouth for Southsea, and to return within four days, including date of issue and return.

FAMILY RETURN TICKETS are issued during the summer season, available to return within one calendar month, and to break the journey also at Portsmouth.

CHEAP SATURDAY TO MONDAY RETURN TICKETS are issued from London to Portsmouth, Sandown, Shanklin, Ventnor, &c., every Saturday or Sunday, available by all Trains having the same class of Carriages attached, and available to return by any Train of the same class on Sunday or Monday.

CARRIAGES FOR FAMILIES travelling to and from the Isle of Wight, and Victoria Kensington, or London Bridge, by the NEW DIRECT MID-SUSSEX ROUTE, will be provided on application at the above Stations or to the General Manager.

Complete arrangements by this route for the THROUGH BOOKING of Passengers, Parcels, and Luggage, between the Isle of Wight and London, including Tramway conveyance between the Stations and Piers (at Portsmouth and Ryde) and every other expense.

London Bridge Terminus.

J. P. KNIGHT, General Manager.

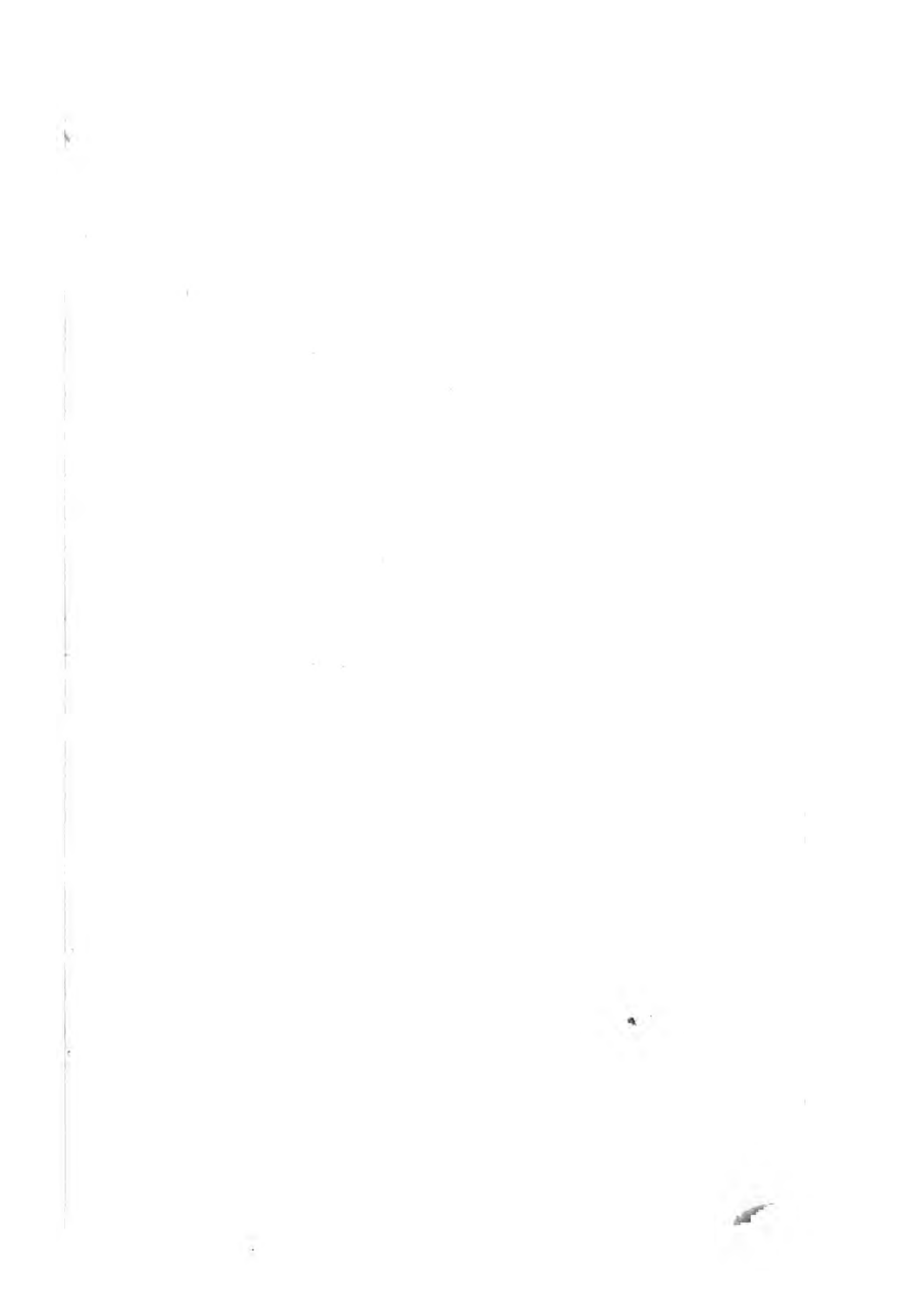


TABLE OF DISTANCES.

Arreton	17	Arreton	17	Alum Bay
Bembridge	24	Bembridge	8	Bembridge
Blackgang	16	Blackgang	8	Blackgang
Bonchurch	22	Bonchurch	8	Bonchurch
Brixton	9	Brixton	11	Brixton
Brading	20	Brading	4	Brading
Carisbrooke Castle	12	Carisbrooke Castle	5	Carisbrooke Castle
Cowes, West	16	Cowes, West	9	Cowes, West
Cowes, East	18	Cowes, East	6	Cowes, East
Freshwater Gate	2	Freshwater Gate	15	Freshwater Gate
Helens, Saint	22	Helens, Saint	7	Helens, Saint
Lawrence, Saint	19	Lawrence, Saint	8	Lawrence, Saint
Newport	13	Newport	4	Newport
Needles	1	Needles	18	Needles
Niton	18	Niton	8	Niton
Ryde	20	Ryde	8	Ryde
Sandown	22	Sandown	5	Sandown
Shanklin	23	Shanklin	5	Shanklin
Ventnor	23	Ventnor	7	Ventnor
Yarmouth	5	Yarmouth	14	Yarmouth

DISTANCES OF PLACES FROM RYDE.

Binstead	1	Cowes, East	7	Sea View	3	Whippingham	7
Brading	4	Quarr Abbey	3	Shanklin	8	Wootton	4
Cowes, West	8	Sandown	6	Ventnor	12	Yaverland	6

DISTANCES OF PLACES FROM VENTNOR.

Appuldurcombe	2	Bonchurch	1	St. Lawrence	2	Sandown	6
Arreton	7	Brading	8	Niton	5	Shanklin	4
Blackgang	7	Godshill	5	Ryde	12	Yarmouth	20

