DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT

OF THE

KYMIN PAVILION,

AND

BEAULIEU GROVE,

WITH THEIR

VARIOUS VIEWS;

ALSO, THE

NAVAL TEMPLE:

WITH NEW NOTICES OF

BUCKSTONE,

A SUPPOSED DRUIDICAL RELIQUE, NEAR IT:

TO WHICH IS NOW FIRST ADDED,

LORD NELSON'S VISIT

TO

MONMOUTH,

HIS SPEECHES AND CONVERSATION AT THE DINNER TABLE,

HIS OWN REMARKS ON HIS IMPORTANT VICTORIES,

WITH HIS PUBLIC RECEPTION AT RUDHALL, HEREFORD, AND OTHER PLACES, ON HIS TOUR.

BY CHARLES HEATH.

MONMOUTH,

PRINTED AND SOLD BY HIM, IN THE MARKET PLACE:

SOLD IN LONDON BY LONGMAN AND CO.

AND BY ALL THE BOOKSELLERS IN THE SURROUNDING COUNTIES.

PREFACE.

THE pleasure received from passing a day at this charming spot, suggested the idea, "that if the exquisite scenery, which here presents itself, could be allotted, so as to enable the eye to comprehend it in distinct parts, the separation would greatly enhance the stranger's satisfaction in visiting the Pavilion."

A situation so eminently beautiful as the KYMIN, could not fail of attracting the notice of tourists, who visit Monmouth in the summer season; while, on the other hand, such a description of the views would render the excursion to the hill more agreeable, by pointing out the objects, to which the attention was directed.

With what success it has been accomplished, is submitted to the public judgment. The country was explained by a gentleman, who has resided in it during an active life of considerable extent, and I flatter myself the objects contained in the views will be found correctly named.

The addition which has been made, by the erection of the NAVAL TEMPLE, as also the accommodations in the GROVE, have rendered it necessary to re-print the work, for the purpose of introducing a Description of that patriotic building, which at present stands unrivalled in the United Kingdom.

To

PREFACE.

To the efforts of an individual, whose zeal first projected the scheme, and unwearied exertions brought it to its present happy conclusion, we are indebted for this Public Monument to the "Honor of the British Navy."

While seated under its protection, we enjoy in the most agreeable manner, one of the finest landscapes which the eye could wish to survey, embraced by a semi-circle of hills more than one hundred miles in extent, around some of the sweetest country in the whole Island of Great Britain.

After acknowledging the generosity of his Grace the Duke of Beaufort and family, in subscribing so large a sum towards the building, and adding the carriage road to the house, it would be wronging the public obligations were we to omit mentioning the very liberal behaviour of Thomas Swinnerton, esq. the proprietor of the Beaulieu Grove, in permitting the Walks to be made through it, in any manner that would increase the public pleasure, for the grove may be deemed equal, in point of interesting views, to any part of the surrounding grounds.

These donations on the part of the Nobility, Gentry, and other Subscribers, have been embodied, and the Pavilion, Pleasure Grounds, and Naval Temple, received form, from the unwearied exertions of Philip Meakins Hardwick, esq. of Monmouth, to whom the gentlemen of the town have rendered their tribute of respect for his Patriotism, by causing his Portrait to be painted at

their

their Expence, and placed in the Banquetting Room;—and I join in adding my public thanks for his assistance in bringing forward this work, as well as for those marks of friendship which I have on so many occasions received from him.

In the following pages all inflated description has been studiously avoided; considering it as a mockery both of the scene and the judgment of the visitor; for all the travellers that I have accompanied to the Kymin (and the generality of them had seen almost every part of the kingdom) have voluntarily declared, that, "taken altogether, it exceeded every thing of "the kind they had before witnessed."

To have been the means of making it publickly known gives me the sincerest satisfaction; and I offer the attempt with every degree of deference to the reader; convinced, that to the Gentleman, under whose management the whole has been executed, the merit (if any) of this publication is principally due; because no other person has devoted such attention to the spot, or could, with the least pretensions, describe the objects in the Views with such minute exactness;—and should my pages be the means of imparting any gratification to the visitors of these delightful regions, I have my first and best reward.

Charles Heath.

Monmouth, June 1808.

PREFACE.

The pleasure which an excursion to the Pavilion excited in the mind of the late Lord NELSON, when on a Tour through this county, in the year 1802,—has induced the writer to insert, in this new edition, an account of his Lordships reception at Monmouth,—his speeches at the dinner table,—his own observations on his glorious victories,—with many other oral communications, which are now, for the first time, laid before the reader,—together with Mr. BURNET's complimentary Lines, on the patriotic Spirit of Monmouthshire.

The flattering manner my pages have been received at the hands of the visitors to these regions of taste, have only served to stimulate every exertion to render them more worthy of public approbation.

June 1809.

LINES

LINES,

WRITTEN ON AN OCCASIONAL VISIT

TO THE

KYMIN PAVILION.

BY T. BURNET.

From a Collection of Poems, called "The Sweets of Solitude."

[Printed by Permission of the Author.]

Delightful scene of varied beauty fair!
What eye can o'er thy mingled prospects gaze,
Without a silent, meditative, pause?
What Fancy, soaring on recursive wing,
Without a thrill of intellectual bliss,
Can slowly glide o'er these sequester'd vales;
Retreats of smiling Peace and hallow'd Liberty?
These winding streams of sweet effect! these hills
In dark-green mantle cloth'd!—those distant cliffs,
That loose, in azure's hue, their mellow'd form!

O, Monmouth! thine are Nature's choicest pictures!
Her pencil, dipt in Titian taste, hath ting'd
Thy rich environs; blending soft the touch
Of grand design, and beauty's waving shade!
Genius of GWENT!* well may'st thou fondly smile;
Well may sublime affection melt thy heart,
While each enravish'd Grace, in love's sweet lay,
Woos thy mild glance, as mid thy bowery groves,
With nature, hand in hand, thou walk'st at eve!
Thee, too, the Muse, wild-rambling with delight
O'er thy rich panorama, invocates:

* GWENT, the ancient name of Monmouthshire.

For,

For, without thee, associately to guide
Her desultory steps, what Muse can gain
An exit from thy magic labyrinths?

The glow of classic elegance is spread
O'er each surrounding scene!—Well might the Bard,*
On viewing Gwent's attractive landscapes, fire;
And, in poetic rhapsody, exclaim—
"This is the Seat of Pleasure!"
† But here, the Muse, ev'n mid these scenes of joy,
Stifles her rising transport with a tear:—
For, who can read, unmov'd, those Heroes' names,
Who bravely fell, that Britain might not fall?
Nobly, O Monmouth! hast thou prov'd thy love
For Albion's glory and Britannia's weal,
Thus to inscribe, on HONOR's trophied pillar,
The laurell'd names of champions, once the scourge
Of Freedom's scouting foes:—champions, whose brave spirits
Still stalk protective round our sea-lav'd shores!
To such bright worth, a monument to raise,
Did well become the birth-place of a King:
A King, whose dazzling banners o'er proud Gaul
Victorious wav'd—whose deeds puissant fir'd
With patriot zeal each free-born Briton's breast,
And stampt on Monmouth that ennobling badge,
Which, from the plains of blood-dy'd Agincourt,
He, dauntless warrior, won!—Then did the world,
In trembling awe, shrink from Britannia's lance;
And hear, with conscious dread, the armies shout,
"Harry of Monmouth hath unsheath'd his sword!"
Then did the dastard phalanxes of Gaul
Flee from the Hero's blade; as did of late
Her crowded navies from our Nelson's wrath!
O, NELSON! at THY Name, how fades the smile
From Triumph's cheek!—how droop'd the din of mirth,

* Gray, author of the Elegy, adopts the above expression, in a letter to his friend Mr. Mason, when speaking of Monmouth.

† Alluding to the Naval Temple.

When

LINES ON THE KYMIN.

When, mourning on the shore, Britannia shriek'd,
" Alas! my son—my noblest son is slain!"
Intrepid Briton! what a tide of grief
Swells o'er the Muse's heart, while here she views
Thy nautic deeds depicted, and admires
The sad memorial of thy patriot life!

To groups of chequer'd scenery, the Muse
Attends erratic Fancy. Down the banks
Of royal Wye, that, to forsake these vales
Unwilling seems; and winds, with slow remorse,
Amid the woods of fascinating Gwent,
They shape their way; or by the curling wave
Of honor'd Monnow, or the babbling rill
Of Trothy, ambulate. The music wild,
Soft-echoing from the brakes, anon arrests
The listening ear, while Fancy looks around,
And, lo! Thessalian Tempe is the scene!
Hail! rich retirements of enraptur'd Taste!
Suffuse with joy, o'er your alluring tints
Of tangling shades, that green the mossy rock;
Of half-seen paths, that slope beside the stream;
Of hamlets peeping from the hillocks side;
Fond Memory, remindful of her own,
Fails not to languish; and reverts the eye,
With glowing love, to Caledonia's glens!

Wrapt in their sombre veil of azure mist,
The Craig-y-dorth, Iscareth, and the Machen;
The Hatt'rell, source of Monnow's lambent stream;
Gar-vawr, and Carig; sweet-nam'd Sugar loaf;
Breconia's hills, and distant mounts of Radnor;
Malvern and Lickey shew their shaded heads,
And stop the progress of the trembling eye!
When Rome's emblazon'd eagle strove to curb
The innate ardor of Britannia's chiefs,
These were the bulwarks of fair Freedom's vale.
Fierce, from their wooded mountains, on the foe

Our

LINES ON THE KYMIN.

Our brave forefathers rush'd, with vengeful ire,
And dar'd ev'n Cæsar's legions:—fearful he paus'd,
Surveying, with true Roman admiration,
The martial fire of Britain's future sons!

With pondering step, slow down the Kymin's side
I move: unwilling to forego the sweets
That wak'd Imagination catches at:—
But in the western wave now sinks the sun,
And sheds a glimmering paleness all around.
Farewell! romantic Gwent!—long may thy shades
Of Sylvan joy exhilerate thy swains!
Ne'er may thy native amaranthine bow'rs,
Thy Wye-lav'd verdure, nor thy acorn woods,
By hands invasive of Britannia's bliss
Be spoil'd ignobly!—O'er his Monmouth plains
Still may the Spirit of thy matchless Harry,
With guardian warmth, and jealous fondness, watch!

THE KYMIN CLUB.

During the most pleasant part of the Summer season, the principal Gentlemen of Monmouth and its vicinity, hold a Weekly Meeting at the Kymin, on a Tuesday, for the purpose of dining together, and spending the day in a social and friendly manner.

The Dinner, which is provided by each member in his turn, consists of a cold collation; a desert of fruits, with wine and other liquors to a certain limitation.

TO THE PUBLIC.

As many Additions and Improvements are intended to be made at the Pavilion, both to the Walks and Buildings,—Ladies and Gentlemen, who wish to encourage the Scheme, are requested to leave their Subscriptions at the House, and enter their Names in the Book,* kept there for that purpose, or with Mr. P. Hardwick, Monmouth.

* When Lord Nelson visited the Pavilson, he was pleased to become a Subscriber, and wrote his Name in the Subscription Book;—but some unknown visitor, anxious to possess such a treasure, secretly cut it out of the page.

The writing and cutting of Names in the Alcove and on the Pillars of the Temple, is equally an outrage,—and deserving of Public Censure.

REGULATIONS

For Visitors to the Pavilion.

Every person dining in the Banqueting Room, to pay Sixpence to the Housekeeper.

Parties or individuals may be accommodated with TEA, at One Shilling each;—

Or, finding their own Tea and Sugar, at Sixpence.

☞ What other refreshment than Tea company deem necessary, must be provided by them at Monmouth.

But if strangers chuse to take or send Provisions and Liquor, the Dinner will be dressed and the cloth laid at any hour, provided the Room be not pre-engaged by other visitors.

Near the house is a roomy Stable, built on purpose for the horses of such company as frequent the Pavilion,—open at all times for their accommodation.

☞ I would recommend it to strangers, to let their servants. or others, attend them with Provision and Liquor from their Inn,—convinced, that they will be unwilling to have the pleasure of their excursion to the Kymin abridged, from the want of such previous attention.

THE

KYMIN PAVILION.

*** It may be necessary to observe, that C in the Welch is pronounced as K in the English,—there being no K in the Welch language.—Hence we pronounce the word KYMIN.

ON the eastern side of the town (forming, as it were, a boundary* to the counties of Monmouth and Glocester), a broad face of Hill rises irregularly from the bank of the Wye, to the height of near 700 feet† from the bed of that river; on the summit of which has been erected a building, called "THE KYMIN PAVILION,"—from whence is enjoyed a Prospect, equal in point of richness and picturesque beauty, to any inland view in the whole range of the kingdom.

By the kind communication of a gentleman, well acquainted with the language, I am informed, that CAE in the Welch,—which is written KE in the Irish,—signifies *a ledge*: MAEN signifies *a large stone*: and the compound word, "Cae-y-Maen," or "Ce-y-Maen," which appears to be the old British name of the hill, signifies, "*the ledge of large stones*, or *pieces of rock*." This ETYMOLOGY so perfectly accords with the spot, that there can be no doubt of its correctness; more especi-

* A small brook, about a quarter of a mile from the Pavilion, divides the two counties.

† Taken with a quadrant, it measured 230 yards.

especially when we recollect, that the Welch gave names to all their towns and particular places from local circumstances.*

* In addition to the above, I add the following etymology :
" CHIMIN anciently signified a Highway generally, but was more " particularly applied to a Highway leading to or through a FOREST ; and " CHIMINAGE was an ancient TOLL, for Wayfarage thro' a Forest."

" Nullus forestarius de cetero, qui not sit forestarius de fœdo, reddens " nobis firmam pro balvia sua, capiat CHIMINAGIUM aliquid in balvia " sua."—[Translation. No forester, from henceforth, who is not a forester of the fee, paying us a rent for his bailwick, shall take any Chiminage (Wayfarage) in his bailwick.]—Charta de Forestæ, 9 H. 3.

Further,—Howell's Interpreter, quoting from Kitchen :

" CHIMIN, French, CHEMIN, signifies, in a law phrase, a way : It is " divided into two sorts, the king's highway, and a private way. The " king's highway, is that by which the king's subjects, and all under his " protection, have free liberty to pass, though the property of the soil, " of each side, where the way lieth, may perhaps belong to some private " man. A way private, is that, by which one man or more have " liberty to pass, either by prescription or by charter, through another " man's ground."

In the memory of many of the inhabitants, the public highway, from Monmouth (through Stanton, the adjoining parish, and the Forest of Dean), to Glocester and LONDON, was the DITCH on the left hand, running parallel with the path, immediately as you enter the fields belonging to the Hill Farm,—and the ingenious etymology of BUCKSTONE, by the late Rev. Dr. Griffin, of Hadnock, supports this latter authority. An old man, residing in Stanton, told the person from whom I received the information, that he had seen the JUDGES, when on the Circuit, ride this way on horseback, with their jack-boots on, into Monmouth. See more on this subject in my " Account of Monmouth." If we complain of the roads at the present day, what must they have been at the period under consideration ?

The

The upper part of the Hill is formed by a grand *girdle of rocks*,—similar to those above New-Wear, on the left bank of the Wye,—and immediately underneath are thickly scattered about stones of an enormous magnitude, in a variety of fantastic shapes and forms, nearly the whole extent of the eminence.

Though the objects included in this interesting scene will be minutely described from the Pavilion, it may not be importunate briefly to notice the Walk up to it; which is rendered as easy as the nature of the ground will admit,—not only by a *winding* path, but also by oak benches placed at convenient distances from each other; the whole of which are so judiciously arranged, that, while they accommodate the visitor, they immediately front some of the most beautiful parts in the picture.

Passing Wye Bridge, and the turnpike house at the end of it, a path (on the left) conducts through two fields which lead to the farm house on the Hill. From an oak bench, in the middle of this rise, we enjoy what might truly be deemed a picturesque view of the Town, —behind which recede, and bound the horizon, the fine hills of Monmouthshire,—a more distinct notice of which will be taken in its proper place.

On gaining the first steep, the country leading towards Ross more extensively unfolds itself;—entering the field, the hill comes immediately in front;—passing into the Coach Road, now formed for the accommodation of Carriage Visitors, another part of the country rises to view;—still ascending, the grand woody eminences,

between

between which the Wye winds its course, come in sight;—while, at the extremity, the county of Glocester is the prominent feature in the landscape;—in which manner it continues varying, from one point to the other, the whole extent of the walk.

The summit is formed by a kind of oblong square, about three hundred yards long, by fifty wide; the ground falling down in an easy slope to the eastward, which includes the Beaulieu Farm,—while beyond it rises majestically a rich and extensive Wood, called Stanton Meend, where stands an interesting body of ROCK, named "Buck-Stone," a visit to which will well reward the stranger's curiosity. The North and South sides are formed by the Beaulieu Grove, and woods stretching towards Red-Brook.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PAVILION,

The House is placed in the centre of the summit of the Hill, and consists of a circular embattled tower, thirty feet high,—containing two rooms, fifteen feet in the clear inside;—the lower apartment forming a commodious kitchen; the upper one, the Banqueting-room, which is fitted up in a manner suitable for the purposes of friendship and conviviality, to which it is devoted. In the front,—a light iron railing is carried before it, for some yards; at the end of which, a range of upright stones extend along the brow of the eminence, from one extremity to the other.

MOTIVES

WHICH GAVE BIRTH TO

THE PAVILION.

Before we proceed to detail the views from their respective WINDOWS, we shall introduce the Motives which gave birth to the erection of the building.

A select party of friends had been in the habit of spending a social day together annually, in the course of the summer season, on some pleasant spot in the neighbourhood of Monmouth, but not confined to any particular situation;—sometimes on the Graig Hill, sometimes in one place, and sometimes in another, as best suited the arrangements of the company. In the year 1793, one of the gentlemen proposed to meet and dine among the Kymin Rocks (not having been there for several years) which was immediately agreed to, and they met accordingly. Owing to the fineness of the day, and the beauty of the prospect, the party were so much pleased, that, contrary to their usual custom, they agreed to dine together, on the same spot, the week following. Dinner after dinner succeeded for some time, the repetition of which served only to enhance their partiality for the place, till the change of the season at last compelled them to break up their meetings for that year.

Com-

Compulsory motives for separation are never in unison with the feelings of any society, much less with that whose object is professedly convivial. Under these circumstances, one of the company expressed a wish to have a slight building erected, as a security from the inclemency of the weather. What will you give towards such a purpose? was the question proposed:—I'll give my Guinea, said one—I'll give mine, said another:—I'll add mine, said a third:—in short, such was the spirit which prevailed, that twenty guineas were immediately subscribed, which in a week after amounted to forty, and in the course of a month (by the party's interest among their friends), to the respectable sum of something more than 80 guineas. With such a subscrsption in hand, and finding the wishes of the public (in support of the new edifice) to keep pace with those of the party who proposed the scheme, P. M. HARDWICK, esq. of Monmouth (who was appointed Treasurer, and under whose direction it was to be executed), was induced to erect something more comfortable than a mere protection from the elements. Accordingly, he ordered a drawing to be made of a pleasant Summer House, on a neat plan, with an estimate of the expence thereof, which being delivered in, and much approved of,—on Thursday, May the First, 1794, the first stone of its foundation was laid by Mr. Hardwick, in the presence of several gentlemen and other friends to the undertaking.

Considerable efforts were immediately made speedily to erect and cover in the building, in order to guard against

against the delay which bad weather might occasion; but before the masons had proceeded as high as the first room, the public mind was so much delighted with the place, that parties assembled almost the whole of the day to partake of such refreshments as they had brought with them, even under the circumstance of the workmen going on with their employ; and when the floor of the upper room was laid, the labours of the artificers were almost suspended for some time, so great was the delight the town and neighbourhood felt at the comfort and pleasure it promised, when finished, for their reception. In the course of TWO years it assumed the appearance it now presents to us. Mr. Roberts, of Monmouth, executed the building.

METHOD OF ARRANGING THE VIEWS.

TO render the excursion to this delightful spot as interesting as possible to every description of visitors, the kindness of Mr. Hardwick, whose long residence in Monmouth, and intimate knowledge of the surrounding district, make his observations highly valuable, induced him to undertake a most minute notice of every object to be seen from the banqueting room, within the pale of the horizon.

In a View, comprehending such an infinite variety of objects as here meet the eye, some *order* was necessary in

in the arrangement. To lay them down, therefore, in such a manner as should make them perfectly intelligible, the following method was adopted, viz.

As the room contains *five* windows, the objects will be taken from each distinctly,—beginning with the window on the left hand as you enter it.

I. To give the *foreground*, with the objects immediately *before the eye*, from *left to right*.

II. To *extend the sight* as far as the *foot* of the *hilly terminations*, carrying the eye on as before.

III. To increase the sight to the *utmost boundary of the horizon*,—adopting the same manner in conducting the view from left to right.

Windows No. III. and IV. embracing such an extent of country, the objects in each were divided,—as for instance, beginning first with Troy House, and going on to Pont-y-Pool;—returning again to Gibraltar, and then concluding the scene.

Window No. IV. begins with the Tump house, and extends to the Radnorshire mountains;—returns to Dixton church, and concludes as before from left to right.

To the mind of the writer, this plan appeared the most easy to be understood by the visitor; but, as he wishes the book to be as useful as possible, in pointing out the objects distinctly, the judgment of individuals, which tends to a better arrangement of the views, will be received with every degree of respect it deserves.

WINDOW,

WINDOW, *No.* I.

The FOREGROUND is an easy rise, interspersed with fine woods, corn and pasture lands, and stretches itself to the Glocestershire hills (beyond the river Severn), which terminate the View.

Immediately before the eye,

Stanton Meend, a grand woody and rocky hill, with that interesting body of stone, called BUCKSTONE.

The ruins of a grand mansion, called High-meadow house, formerly the seat of Lord Gage

The fine church of New-Land, 4 miles from Monmouth, a noble edifice

Clearwell house and park, the seat of the late Charles Edwin, esq.

The summer house in the woods at the Rt. Hon. Chas. Bragge's park, at Lidney. The Village of St. Briavels, church, and castle

The chace adjoining, with the road to the Old Passage

The Maypole hill at Whitebrook, near the river Wye, where are extensive paper mills

The horizon is bounded, beginning on the left, by

Rodborough hill, near Stroud, with the seat of —— Petit, esq.

Hampton common, leading to Tetbury

The Fleece inn, on the road from Stroud to Bath

Frocester hill, comprehending a large part of Lord Ducie's park, on the road to Bath

STINCHCOMB HILL, near North Nibley. [Language is inadequate to express the glowing beauties of this eminence.]

Uley Bury, near it

The eminence crowned with firs, at Wootton-under-Edge. A British officer observed (who had made the campaign), the view from thence very much resembled the Delta in Egypt

Alderley, and its firs, the seat of Matthew Adeane, esq.

[That distinguished ornament to his profession, Judge Hales, was here buried.]

Other eminences, planted with firs, near it, which bear the names of several Lords of the Manors, viz. Hartley's, Gibbs's, &c.

Didmarton church

Badminton Lodge, leading to the seat of his Grace the Duke of Beaufort

Oldbury church, an interesting land mark for vessels navigating the river Severn.

All this part of the VIEW comprehends the county of Glocester.

The RIGHT, is terminated by Dundry Tower, near Bristol

The Knoll Tump,—and the Mendip hills, Somersetshire.

Mr. Codrington's seat lies in the centre of the valley

And a Lodge in his park forms an interesting object in the view.

Parish Churches out of number lie in the vale of Glocestershire.

WINDOW, *No.* II.

The FOREGROUND is a declivity to the river Wye,—the opposite shore rises in an hasty manner, and presents a face of country rich and varied as the preceding aspect.

Immediately before the eye,

In the centre, Penalt church and common

The Argoed house,—terminated by the Trellick beacons (which are supposed to be the highest grounds in Monmouthshire

The farthest mount, to the right, is Windcliff, the highest point in Persfield Walks, the far-famed seat of Nathaniel Wells, esq.

The wood, under which the Wye flows, is called the Levox grove

The grounds above are called Troy park

To the right,—Lydart house, belonging to the late Colonel K. Evans, of the Guards, now to Mrs. Evans, Barbourn lodge, Worcester

Terminated by

Nicholls's firs, on a hill, leading from Usk to Caerleon

Nearer home,—the Craig-y-dorth (Welch, the stoney hill), rendered famous by the battle of Monmouth 1401, between Owen Glendwr and Henry IV. Shakespeare has here laid a scene in his play of that King.

WINDOW,

WINDOW, *No.* III.

The FOREGROUND is formed by the same declivity as that which lies before the preceding window. This View, which comprehends all that is beautiful in landscape, and on which we might long expatiate, is formed by the following profusion of interesting objects:

Before the eye, on the opposite shore of the river,

Troy house the seat of the Duke of Beaufort

Mitchel Troy church, in which parish the above house is situate

Pen-y-clawith church

The Hill farm, on Trostree hill, belonging to Samuel Fludyer, esq.

Extending the eye,—the seat and park of Capel Leigh, esq. Pont-y-pool, (20 miles)

Returning again into the vale before us,

On a rise, Gibraltar, a box, belonging to Mrs. Duberly, Monmouth

Saint Dial's farm, occupied by Mr. Leigh

Wonastow church, and mansion house, the seat of T. Swinnerton esq.

Dingatstow church, and court house, the seat of Sam. Bosanquet, esq.

Ragland castle (a magnificent ruin), church and village

Inclining to the right (on an eminence),

Tre-Owen house and farm, an ancient mansion

Tregaire and Brungwyn churches

Clytha castle, a beautiful pleasure house belonging to the late William Jones, esq.

Pant-y-goitree, the residence of the late Thos. Hooper, esq.

Lanellin church.

Still on the right,

Lanarth court, the seat of John Jones, esq.

Lansanfraed court, the residence of Lord Avenmore

Lanover house, B. Waddington, esq. with the church

Langattock juxta Usk. All this is highly beautiful.

And down the vale, the Hardwick farm, occupied by Mr. Ewer.

[All these objects lie on and near the road leading from Monmouth to Abergavenny.]

Imme-

Immediately in front,

The principal feature is the town of Monmouth,—
And a little more to the right
The churches of Landilo, Lanthewy Skerid, Whitecastle,
And Langattock Lingoed.

The terminations are,

The three Machen mountains in Glamorganshire
Pen Twyn Barloom in Monmouthshire
Monyd Meen, near Pont-y-pool
The Blorens, near Abergavenny
The two Breconshire beacons
The great and little Iscareth mountains
The Sugarloaf hill (from its conical form)
Crick-howell beacons, Breconshire (23 miles)
The Hatteral hills, in which the river Monnow rises
Gaer Vawr,—and Dial Carig.

WINDOW, *No.* IV.

The FOREGROUND is formed by the same sloping hill as that which marks the third window.—The mind might truly be said to be held captive in looking over so exquisite a scene, which embraces a tract of country varied and beautiful as the imagination can frame.

Beyond the Town,

A most fertile valley, watered by the river Monnow,—in which appear
The Tump houſe and farm, the residence of R. Willis, esq.
Parthyre house, an ancient mension, belonging to Mr. Lorymer.
Tregot house and castle, with the encampment called the Skinshill
On the left,—Upper Hilstone house, Wm. Pilkinton, esq.
Lower Hilstone, Mrs. H. Phillips, Monmouth,
The hill in front is called the Graig.
The valley, opening between Garway Hill and Tregot, is called the Golden Valley, from the richness of its produce.

The

THE KYMIN.

The terminations are formed by

The two Black mountains in Herefordshire
Hay or Talgarth hills in Breconshire—and the Radnorshire mountains,

Bringing the eye again near home,

On the right, in the valley underneath, Dixton church
And the Priory farm, part of the old domain of the Priory in Monmouth

Still on the right (white houses),

Newton Place, Mrs. Griffin—Newton Court, Mr. R. Philpott's farm
The tump in the distance is called Garway hill,
And near it Kentchurch park, the seat of Rd. Scudamore, esq. M. P. for Hereford.

Looking up the Wye,—

On a knoll, the Lays house, the seat of S. Attlay, esq.
Beyond it, the Fort, the seat of Henry Barnes, esq.

And from the middle of the window,

The beautiful valley called URCHENFIELD,
Comprehending the parishes of Whitchurch, Goodrich, Langarron, St. Weonards, &c. the most fertile parts of the county of Hereford, with some part of Worcestershire.

Terminated, on the left, by

Aconbury and Dinmore hills
Part of Stoke Edith park,—all near Hereford.
In front, by the Clee hill, Shropshire,—60 miles from Monmouth
And, on the right, by Oakley woods, in Herefordshire.
On the right of Mr. ATTLAY's house,* the grand mountain, called DOWARD, is a fine object,—
And, from its summit, you obtain rich views of the surrounding country.

---

* Before Mr. Attlay erected this beautiful mansion,—the ground was a ruffet, and lying waste, being covered with thorns and brambles. By his taste, it ranks among the most pleasant residences in the district.

WINDOW,

WINDOW, *No.* V.

The view from this window is the least interesting of any seen from the Room.—The FOREGROUND is a rich wood, called the "BEAULIEU GROVE," descending to the edge of the river Wye.

The church and town of Ross
Perrystone court, Mrs. Clifford's, 4 miles from Ross
Perrystone hill, on the road to Ledbury,—a most beautiful view round the neighbourhood
On the right,—Over Ross, the late John Nourse's, esq.
Penyard woods, and the Bollin farm
On the right,—the Summer house on the Coppat hill, near Court-field
Symond's gate, the grand feature of rock, over the Wye, at New-wear
Ruer-dean church
Firs on May-hill, and Huntley tump, between Ross and Glocester
Still to the right,—Stanton church and village
The forest of Dean, and Little Dean hill
And on the left,—Lackhampton quarry, near Cheltenham (35 miles)

This view is terminated, on the left, by

Malvern hills, in Worcestershire
The Lickey, near Bromsgrove,—and the Callow tump,
with some other eminences in the same county.

RECAPITULATION

OF THE

Ten Counties which form these glorious Views, viz.

Monmouth, Glocester, Hereford, Worcester, Salop, and Somerset.

Brecon, Glamorgan, Radnor, and Montgomery.

THE

BEAULIEU GROVE.

From the French, BEAU-LIEU, signifying a beautiful place,—a name it justly merits.

HAVING directed the stranger's attention to the different objects to be seen from the SUMMER HOUSE, we will attend him to the WOOD, on the right of the Building,—where the mind will feel an equal portion of delight, with that it must have received from surveying the scenes we have just described.

At the distance of fifty yards from the House, a beautiful wood, called the "Beaulieu Grove," extends itself on a level with the hill, through which two walks are carried along the extent of its summit,—presenting the country in the most picturesque manner, and which form an admirable conclusion to the preceding interesting scenery.

You enter it through a large door,—which, when shut, so perfectly secludes the stranger, that he his almost induced to believe it *enchantment*, after being dazzled with such splendid scenery as that viewed from the Summer House. To enjoy the Walks to the greatest advantage, we pursue the path on the LEFT HAND,—when, passing on a few yards, we reach

SEAT,

BEAULIEU GROVE.

SEAT, No. I.

This View, which is seen thro' a small break of the Wood, comprehends

The town of Monmouth, with the Wye bridge and arches
The church, and entrance into town from Dixton gate.
Looking up the valley,—the fine mead of Chippenham,—a fine sweep of the river Monnow,
Terminated by the White hill, Little Skerret, and Blorens mountain.

SEAT, No. II.

This View, seen under the before mentioned circumstance, includes

Mr. Addis's garden grounds,—with the county gaol
The iron works on the river Monnow,—Mr. Styants's farm, Ofbaston
Mrs. Harding's new house, at Rockfield
A beautiful valley lies beyond it, terminated by the Welch hills.

SEAT, No. III.

This View is seen as the preceding, and includes

Dixton church, and reach of the river Wye
Mr. Addis's, the Priory farm
The Cottage, a neat box, belonging to J. Price, esq. Monmouth
Rome,—the Tump,—Parthyre,—and Tregot farms
With the fertile side of the Graig Hill,
And is terminated by the Black Mountains.

SEAT, No. IV.

Like the foregoing, this View is seen thro' a break of the Wood,—which includes

Newton Place (a noble house), Mrs. G. Griffin,
With Newton Court, and Newton farm
The rising ground, on the right, is Newton common,
— — on the left, is the Gist castle
In the front, the Callow hill woods, R. Berkley's, esq. Spetchley
And is terminated by the Herefordshire hills.

SEAT

SEAT, No. V.

Before the writer proceeds with a description of the View from *this* Seat, he admits the impossibility of *his* pen to do even tolerable justice to the scene.

The point is a bold rise of rock. The wood, which the eye overlooks, falls down in a fine taste to the river Wye, that forms a beautiful crescent, extending itself from Dixton church to its junction with the Monnow at Chippenham. The town lies immediately in the vale, in which the Church, with its light and elegant spire, becomes an attractive object; and behind it lies a country so rich, so varied, so beautiful, and extensive, that the eye may be said *not to know where to repose.* All the charming eminences of Monmouthshire, such as the Sugar-loaf, Blorens, Great and Little Skerret, with the Hatteral hills, are contained in the View, forming the back-ground of the landscape,—which, from their shapes, and agreeable distances from each other, give an admirable finish to this highly rich and interesting picture.

The WYE, as it parades before us, receives the tributary streams of the rivers *Monnow* and *Trothy*, which resign themselves within a few yards of each other, after having watered a considerable part of the county. *On a fine Summer evening this scene is exquisite.*

The front of the rock is secured by a neat railing; and in the centre is placed a large circular stone table, with commodious seats round it, so that the stranger may enjoy any refreshment he chuses to attend him, in the most agreeable and pleasant manner.

Returning by the same path we entered the seat (which no mind of taste can leave, without having received the highest gratification from the View), we make an abrupt turn to the left, which in a few yards brings us to

SEAT, No. VI.

That TERMINATES *the* WALKS.

Rocks, starting up in rude forms, crown the brow of the wood, which stretches itself nearly to the water's edge, in a beautiful and easy slope.

A fine reach of the river, called Hadnock stream (from the force of the current), runs through the centre of the view,—its screens formed, on both sides, by rich woody eminences, and the grand hill of DOWARD. In looking forward from the ground we stand on,—Hadnock House, the charming residence of Mrs. Griffin; the Lays, and the Fort, lie before us,—with the luxuriant vale of URCHENFIELD, comprehending a large portion of the richest part of the county of Hereford,—terminated by the Malvern hills, near Worcester. This scene is greatly enlivened by the passing of vessels up and down the river;—if the wind sets in up the current, a number following each other under different sails, give it an interesting as well as picturesque appearance.

The attention of the visitor must be particularly engaged, in contemplating the course of the WYE from the stand on this rock.—In looking up the fine reach before us, the abrupt termination it meets with from Doward, makes it appear to the unprepared eye that the river flowed, or had its rise, from that mountain;—

and

and when you look towards Monmouth, it seems again to emerge from a subterraneous passage. Indeed, its beauty is such, that it more resembles the effort of art in a gentleman's pleasure ground, than the natural course of a public navigable river.

On the right,—an opening is made, which overlooks another part of the country. The wood here falls down more precipitately into the vale, which is very narrow, —formed by rich oak and other trees,—and the ground rising again in the same abrupt manner, presents a bold face of woody and rocky hill,—plentifully stocked with Deer, the property of the Right Hon. Lord GAGE, of High-Meadow.

The distant grounds are finely broken,—and diversified with corn, pasture, and wood land: the boundaries of which are the hills mentioned under window No. V, in the summer house.

This point, like the preceding Seat, is furnished with a large stone table, and benches around it,—and is screened behind by a circle of rock,—whose rude appearance is softened by a coat of moss,—which, added to the beauty of the surrounding scenery, invites the stranger's stay to share that repose, which it so enviably holds forth. With a book, or the society of a friend, where could the mind enjoy more undisturbed those pure delights which flow from such tranquil pleasures?

The effect which even a common gun produces, when discharged from hence, is astonishing,—little inferior to a loud clap of thunder;—bounding from rock to rock, and repeating its echo for many seconds.

THE

THE RETURNING PATH,

Running nearly parallel with the preceding walk, conducts us to the door by which we entered the Grove.

Two openings have lately been made on the left side of this walk,—the first commands a view of the Church of Stanton; the other of Buckstone; which give a great relief to the otherwise uniformity of the scene.

This Wood is the property of *Thomas Swinnerton*, esq. of Wonastow, near Monmouth, and Butterton Hall, in Staffordshire,—being part of the possessions of the Milborne family, the heiress of which he married.

When Mr. Hardwick *first* laid down the WALKS in this Grove, the wood was then in great beauty, being of many years growth; and all the objects here enumerated, were shewn through partial breaks, forming a kind of vista, by tying the boughs of the trees together; while at each opening, seats were placed for the accommodation of visitors. But the coppice becoming valuable for charcoal, it was fallen a few years ago; so that the views from hence, at Nos. I. II. III. IV. are, in a great measure, deprived of their former interest, by exposing the objects before we arrive at the intended point. The wood, however, is fast springing up again, and will soon furnish an opportunity of exhibiting the country, agreeable to the tasteful plan of its original promoter.

CURSORY

CURSORY REMARKS.

THE MASSES OF STONE,*

Which form and lie scattered about the summit of the Hill, are not the least interesting objects at this place, to the inquisitive or attentive mind, some of them being many tons weight, of various shapes, and among the rest one of them, on the left of the house, appears like the keel of a ship lying on the bank of a river at low water.

Conjecture has been exercised on their creation.—It is supposed, that at the Deluge, or some violent convulsion of Nature, the soil (which is a gravel), was reduced to a state of mortar, and being cemented by the Sun—which is well known will produce stone under such circumstances,—we by those means witness their present appearance.

The strata of stone beneath the surface of the ground, is of an opposite nature within a very short distance, of which I had an opportunity of observing.

In digging a cellar close adjoining the summer house, it was curious to witness the extreme *hardness* of the rock. Three able men were employed, a whole week, in cut-

* This conglutinated stone is called the BRECCIA, or PUDDING STONE, formed more or less compact. Such vast fragments,—confirming the grand truth of an Universal Deluge,—deservedly claim the attention of every mind possessed with taste for enquiry or contemplation.

ting

ting the circumference of a few yards, six feet deep; for such was its firmness, that it resisted the efforts of their tools and strength, as though they had been separating a blacksmith's anvil.

On the other side,—When digging the foundation for the New Naval Temple, the stone was of such a light and friable nature, that the workmen rose it with the utmost ease and pleasure.

It is apparently difficult to account for such an astonishing difference in the course of a few yards; and it appeared to me, "that by whatever means the stones "on the surface of the ground were formed, the rock "first noticed bears not the smallest analogy to the "hypothesis here suggested,"—unless we admit, that its northwardly aspect was the occasion of it.

PHENOMENON

Of the MOON RISING *and* SUN SETTING *at the same Time, as seen from the Summer House.*

Towards the latter end of the Autumn season, when the division of time is equal, with regard to light and darkness, the rising of the MOON and the setting of the SUN, *at the same moment*, afford a spectacle in the highest degree sublime, beautiful, and worthy the contemplation of the philosophic mind. Such scenes, indeed, call forth a mingled portion of awe and admiration,—justifying the exclamation of the Psalmist, "that the Hea-"vens declare the Glory of God; and that the Firma-"ment sheweth his handy Work!"

THE INHABITANTS
OF THE KYMIN.

BEFORE the memory of man had any recollection, the western aspect of the KYMIN HILL, has afforded a peaceful asylum to a considerable body of Labourers in Husbandry, employed in the surrounding farms, by their erecting on it a number of Cottages, extending from the middle to near the summit of the mount; and to each of their dwellings is added a neat garden, many of them stored also with numerous fruit trees, which give to their homely mansions not only a cheerful appearance, but also furnish them with a considerable portion of their food. To the labours of the husband (for the settlers are chiefly married men with families) the female part of the community add the surplus produce of their gardens, which they bring to market for sale, and by such exertions gain their daily bread.

THE CLUMPS OF FIRS,

Planted by Mr. Hardwick, when the carriage road was first formed, now begin to give an ornament to the Hill, —and since that time, a row of beech and other trees have been also added on each side of the way, which, in a few years, will form a pleasing protection from the heat of the Sun, when shelter from its rays is to be desired.

NEW

NEW CARRIAGE ROAD

TO THE KYMIN.

On the 30th of August 1799, the day following the Presentation of Colours* to the first raised corps of Monmouth Volunteer Infantry, the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort, attended by a large party of their family and friends, visited the Pavilion, with which, and the WALKS, they expressed the highest gratification.

Previous to their excursion, the road to it was not only circuitous, but also difficult and dangerous for carriages to pass, even with the consent of the occupier of the Beaulieu Farm, through which estate part of the road then led. But, at this visit, and at the particular desire of the Duchess, a grand ROAD was ordered to be immediately made, at his Grace's expence, for the accommodation of Carriage Visitors, *now completed*, which cost two hundred and fifty pounds, exclusive of the other liberal subscriptions of the noble family; thereby rendering it a pleasant excursion, at all times, from the town, to the numerous strangers, who visit this country in the Summer season.

Such an act of public attention, was compatible with their GRACE's characters, and distinguished rank in society.

* Delivered in Chippenham, to the "Townsmen of King Henry the Fifth," by the Duchess of Beaufort.

DESCRIPTIVE
ACCOUNT
OF THE
NAVAL TEMPLE.

PEACE TO THE SOULS OF OUR HEROES,
FOR THEIR DEEDS WERE GREAT IN WAR!

Around the ever honour'd Urn,
In Thoughts that breathe, and Words that burn,
Engrave each deathless Name;
To these the grateful Fabric raise,
To these award their Country's Praise,—
Oh, give them endless Fame!

INTRODUCTION.

FROM the reign of Queen Elizabeth, under whose auspices the English Navy first lays claim to our attention, down to the present honorable æra of its history, her gallant sons have shewn to the different nations of Europe, who have presumed to dispute with them the Empire of the Seas, "That the Ocean is the British Sailor's Home."

Nor, while we yield them our Gratitude, for the spirit with which they have fought and bled in defence of their country, our Admiration is not less due to their private Virtues; for, in the list of those valuable characters, whose actions have been recorded in the page of History, many of the brightest ornaments of society are to be found among our Naval Commanders.

The highest fountain of Public Applause,—the British Senate,—has decreed, again and again, the Nation's Obligations to her Heroes of the Ocean; and justly indeed might they award the praise; for it may be boldly asserted, that principally to their exertions, we owe our existence as a free nation at the present day.

Under

INTRODUCTION.

Under our gracious Sovereign, the actions of a Howe, Vincent, Nelson, Duncan, Parker, and others, have for ever immortalized the British Character; nor has the Nation been insensible of the blessings which have flowed from their unparalleled exertions and bravery; for, after ennobling them with Titles, and other marks of distinction, we find it attentively employed in calling into action the talents of our most eminent artists, for the purpose of forming the Model of Naval Pillar, to be erected by public Subscription, in order to transmit to posterity the Memory of those illustrious Heroes, who have deserved so distinguished a mark of its applause.

A PUBLIC MONUMENT, in unison with that so ardently patronized by the nation, bearing the name of

THE NAVAL TEMPLE,

has been erected on the summit of the KYMIN, one of the beautiful hills that encircle the town of Monmouth,—which building, as it is the first and only thing of the kind in the whole range of the kingdom, may, in the course of time, as it becomes known, excite a zeal in other counties, for emulating the bright example and patriotic spirit of Monmouthshire.

Long may this Temple continue to record the proud superiority of the British Navy; and the general sentiment confirmed, to the end of time, "That Neptune "may ever acknowledge BRITAIN's KING for his "SOVEREIGN."

DESCRIP-

DESCRIPTION

OF THE

NAVAL TEMPLE.

ON the South Side of the Pavilion, and within the distance of a few yards, a neat walk, one hundred and eighty feet long, by fifteen wide, commences, walled on each side with stone, two feet four inches high, and conducts, through an elegant gate, ten feet high, to the Naval Temple.

The Building,—a square of thirteen feet,—is situate on a bold ridge of rock, and enclosed by a circular wall, rising from eighteen to thirty-six feet from the ground,—with a walk seven yards wide, nearly sixty yards in circumference, neatly laid down with turf.

It consists of two fronts, with seats in each for the accommodation of company,—above is a broad Frieze, ornamented, round the four sides of the Temple, with Medallions of our most distinguished Naval Commanders in the last and present wars, with the days and years of their victories,—while the ground on which they are painted, White, Red, or Blue, expresses the Flag under which each Admiral ranked at those important periods.

To

To the Duchess of Beaufort, not with more propriety as a Lady of the first rank in the kingdom, than as Daughter of the late Admiral Boscawen, this Temple has been dedicated; for while to the Duke the public owe much, for his extensive liberality towards the Pavilion, so to the Duchess it is indebted for the fine Carriage Road, which was ordered to be made at her Grace's express desire.

Whether we consider this TEMPLE as a national Monument, to perpetuate the memories of men, who have deserved so well of their country;—or, resort to it as place of recreation, the mind must view it with delight;—for, from the Terrace such a prospect presents itself, that will always call forth the stranger's admiration. In carrying the eye into the vale, the town of Monmouth becomes an interesting object, with the fine mead of Chippenham, around which the Wye and Monnow wind their courses; and stretching the sight to the boundary of the horizon, we embrace a semicircle of more than an hundred miles in extent,—over a country equal in point of beauty to any part of the world.

Turning the eye to the eastern side of the Temple, the fine wood of Stanton Meend, with the Buckstone, lie before us; and sweeping again the horizon, we comprehend a view from the Malvern Hills, in the county of Worcester, to the Mendip Hills, in Somersetshire, a space of more than eighty miles.

That

That the completion of such a building should excite a wish on the part of the gentleman, who had been so instrumental in its erection, to honor it with high marks of public festivity, was reasonably to be expected;—accordingly, June 24th, 1802, was fixed on for opening the Temple, for the inspection of all ranks, with a Public Breakfast and Dancing on the HILL;—on which occasion, a large assemblage of the first characters honored the meeting with their presence. At three o'clock, the company adjourned to the Beaufort Arms Inn, where an elegant dinner was provided:—Mirth and Song afterwards united their influence over their votaries till nine, when they again assembled at a Ball, in the Town Hall, where they continued the mazy dance, till the light of the morning conducted them to their respective homes.—All ranks seemed to join in the general joy,—pronouncing the day among the most happy ever known at Monmouth.

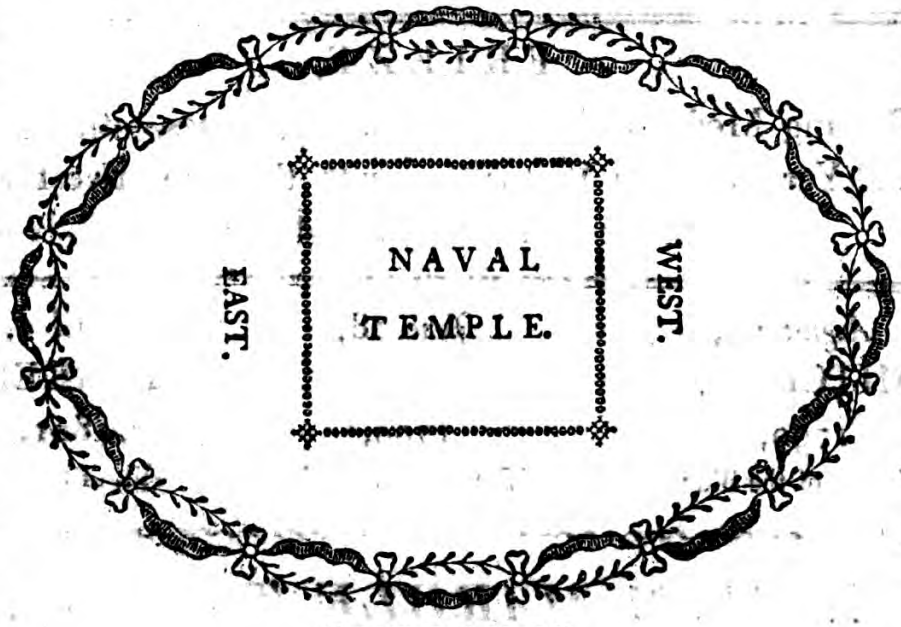
In the following pages, I have attempted to describe, —and I hope not unsuccessfully,—the TEMPLE and its DECORATIONS with Types; so that the Stranger who has not seen it, may be able to comprehend the separate parts of the Building. It probably may not carry with it the elegance of engraving, but in point of communication, it will not suffer any dimunition by comparison. Information, to be useful, should always come recommended in the cheapest form possible,—an idea I have ever kept in view, with respect to those local tracts I have presumed to lay before the public.

NORTH FRONT,

OR,

THE TEMPLE

AS IT APPEARS FROM THE PAVILION.



ENTRANCE.

A BEAUTIFUL GATE,

TEN FEET HIGH.

WALK

From the Pavilion to the Temple Sixty Yards.

Entrance into the Walk from the Pavilion.

THE NORTH, OR

ENTRANCE FRONT.

The Pillar of the Arch, on which Britannia is placed, is decorated with an ANCHOR, finely executed.

FRIEZE,

Bearing Medallions of Commanders Names,—the Days and Years of their Victories,—with the respective Flags under which they fought, viz.

August 28,	*June* 18,	*April* 2,
MITCHEL,	KEITH,	PARKER,
1799,	1799,	1801.
V.-Ad. of the Blue.	V.Ad. of the Red.	Ad. of the Blue.

WHITE MARBLE TABLET.

THIS NAVAL TEMPLE
WAS ERECTED AUGUST 1, 1800,
TO PERPETUATE THE NAMES OF THOSE
NOBLE ADMIRALS
WHO DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES BY THEIR
GLORIOUS VICTORIES FOR ENGLAND
IN THE LAST AND PRESENT WARS
AND IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO
HER GRACE THE DUCHESS OF BEAUFORT
DAUGHTER OF ADMIRAL BOSCAWEN.

*** This Inscription is executed with peculiar Taste.

NAVAL TEMPLE.

WEST FRONT.

BRITANNIA

SEATED ON A ROCK.

[The Figure, Four Feet Six Inches high.]

Medallion.

August 18,

BOSCAWEN.

1759.

Ad. of the Blue.

Father to the Duch. Beaufort.

PAINTING:

Representing the Standard of Great Britain, waving triumphant over the fallen and captive Flags of France, Spain, and Holland.

Span of the Arch, Five Feet 5 Inches.
Height, Three Feet 7 Inches.
Depth, Eighteen Inches.
Ornamented with Laurel Leaf.

Medallion.

Feb. 14,

THOMPSON.

1797.

V.Ad. of the Blue.

Sir C. Thompson,

M.P. Monmouth.

ASCENT OF FIVE STEPS.

FRIEZE,

With Medallions of Commanders Names, the Days and Years of their Victories, and the Flags under which they fought, viz.

Decem. 18,
HOOD,
1793.
V.-Ad. of the Blue.

June 1,
HOWE,
1794.
Adm. of the White.

Octob. 11,
DUNCAN,
1797.
Adm. of the Blue.

BRITAIN'S GLORY.

UNDERNEATH,

THE ALCOVE,

With Seats for the Accommodation of Company,
Fronted by a WALK, Seven Yards wide,—from whence is enjoyed a Prospect, that embraces a Semicircle of a Hundred Miles.
On the Platform are mounted Two long Four Pounders.

NAVAL TEMPLE.

SOUTH FRONT,

This Pillar of the Arch, on which Britannia is placed, is also decorated with an ANCHOR, finely executed.

FRIEZE,

Bearing Medallions of Commanders Names,—the Days and Years of their Victories,—with the different Flags under which they fought.

October 12,	*June* 16,	*December*
WARREN,	CORNWALLIS,	GELL,
1798.	1795.	1793.
R.-Ad. of the Blue.	Ad. of the White.	V.-Ad. of the Red.

UNDERNEATH THE FRIEZE,

IN THE CENTRE OF THE BUILDING,

A TABLET,

BEARING THE FOLLOWING INSCRIPTION:

THE FIGURE WHICH CROWNS THE TEMPLE,
EXHIBITS BRITANNIA SEATED ON A ROCK;
THE PAINTING IN FRONT,
REPRESENTS THE STANDARD OF GREAT BRITAIN,
WAVING TRIUMPHANT OVER THE FALLEN AND CAPTIVE
FLAGS OF FRANCE, SPAIN, AND HOLLAND:
THE OPPOSITE SIDE,
THE GLORIOUS AND EVER MEMORABLE BATTLE
OF THE NILE.

NAVAL TEMPLE.

EAST FRONT.

Medallion.
August 1,
NELSON,
1798.
R.-Adm. of
the Blue.

PAINTING.
The Glorious
And Ever-memorable
Battle of the Nile.

Medallion.
February 14,
VINCENT.
1797.
Admiral of
the Blue.

ASCENT OF FIVE STEPS.

EACH A FOOT DEEP.

FRIEZE,

Decorated with Medallions of Commanders Names,
With the Days and Years of their Victories, and the Flags under which they ranked in the Navy.

April 12,
RODNEY,
1782.
Ad. of the White.

Nov. 20,
HAWKE,
1759.
Ad. of the Blue.

June 23,
BRIDPORT,
1795.
Ad. of the White.

GLORIOUS VICTORY.

UNDERNEATH.

THE ALCOVE.

With Seats for the Accommodation of Company.
Stanton Church, Buckstone, and New-Land, are fine objects from this Aspect;—and sweeping the Horizon,
We embrace the country from the "towering Cliffs of proud Malvern," to the Mendip Hills. Eighty Miles.

*** Two long Four Pounders are also mounted on the Platform.

HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP

MONMOUTH.

An elegant DRAWING of the above SHIP under sail, was lately presented to Mr. Hardwick, and now decorates the Banqueting Room of the Pavilion.

The following ODE, written by the Chaplain of the Ship, in Memory of her gallant Officers, who so ably fought her when she took the *Foudroyant* French Man of War of 80 guns, will be received with pleasure at *Monmouth*, in compliment to which Town she was named.

AS LEWIS sat in regal state,
The Monarch, insolently great,
Accosts his crouching slaves;
" Yon stubborn Isle at last must bend,
" For now my FOUDROYANT I send,
" The terror of the waves."

He spake,—th' obedient sails were spread,
And Neptune rear'd his hoary head,
To view the glorious sight;
The Tritons and the Nereids came,
And floated round the high-built frame,
With wonder and delight.

When Neptune thus the Gods addrest:
" The sight is noble, 'tis confest,
" The structure we admire;
" But, yet, that monstrous pile shall meet
" With one small ship in Britain's fleet,
" And strike to British fire."

As

As from his mouth the sentence flew,
Behold the favorite sails in view,
  And signal made to chace;
Swift as Camilla o'er the plain,
The Monmouth skimm'd along the main,
  And rival'd in the race.

Close to her mighty foe she came,
Resolv'd to sink, or gain a name
  That envy might admire;
Devouring guns tumultuous sound,
Destructive slaughter flam'd around,
  The seas appeared on fire!

When, lo, the godlike GARDINER fell,
Whose worth the muse attempts to tell,
  But finds her efforts vain;
Some other bard must sing his praise,
And to the Cherubins must raise
  The sadly mournful strain.

CARRET, who well his place supply'd,
The mangling bolts of death defy'd,
  That furious round him rage:
Whilst HAMET points his guns with care,
Nor sends one faithless shot in air,
  But skilfully engage.

BARON and WINDSOR's conduct shew'd,
Whose hearts with untam'd courage glow'd,
  And manly rage display'd;
Whilst every seaman firmly stood,
'Midst heaps of limbs and streams of blood,
  Undaunted, undismay'd!

AUSTIN and CAMPBELL next the muse
Thro' fiery deluges pursues,
  Serenely calm and great;
With them the youthful PRESTON's name
Shall shine enroll'd in lists of fame,
  Above the reach of Fate.

Now

Ode on the Monmouth Man of War.

Now, hark! tumultuous tempests roar,
And peals on peals contending pour,
  To strike the world with wonder;
The FOUDROYANT her honor ceas'd,
And while the MONMOUTH's fire increas'd,
  Lost all her power to thunder.

If e'er again her voice is heard,
With British thunderbolts prepar'd,
  And on their coast appears;
Such dreadful sounds her tongue will send,
As all the neighbouring rocks will rend,
  And shake vain FRANCE with fears!

This ship is famous in the Naval History of England, for always having been ably commanded whenever she engaged. During the American War, when commanded by Captain Fancourt, she run the gauntlet thro' the French Fleet, and got off, after a severe beating. Under the command of Captain James Alms, (who prior to that had the Alarm frigate, and captured two Spanish frigates of equal force), she was in the action of St. Jago, April 16th, 1781, and in all Sir Edward Hughes's actions in the East Indies, when opposed by the famous French admiral, Suffrein. In one of those engagements, April 12th, 1782, she was opposed to the French admiral's ship La Heros, of 74 guns and 1100 men; La Hanibal, 74; and the captured English Hanibal, 50 guns. Having only 360 men on board, she fought them four hours, and beat them off, with the loss of her main and mizen masts,—50 men killed and 100 wounded. The French admiral alone had 200 killed, and went away a mere wreck, with four feet water in her hold.

After the war, she returned to England,—was rebuilt,—and is now an ornament to the British Navy.

*** The preceding Poem was communicated to me by S. Wale, esq. [who presented the Drawing] an officer in the Hon. East India Company's Naval Service, thro' the favor of Jos. Price, esq. Monmouth.

PROUD

PROUD DAYS FOR MONMOUTH.

LORD NELSON's

VISIT.

IT has been my happiness to share in THREE days of PUBLIC TRIUMPH at Monmouth; but, I am induced to believe, many years will pass away before I shall again witness such scenes of general joy. The *first* was on Monday, the 19th of August 1799, on the Presentation of Colours to the new raised corps of Volunteer Infantry, in that town, by her Grace the Duchess of Beaufort.

The *second* was on Thursday, the 24th of June 1801, on the opening of the Kymin Naval Temple. And the *third*, on Thursday, August 19, 1802, when a Public Breakfast at the Kymin, and a Public Dinner at the Beaufort Arms, were given by the Corporation to

THE HERO OF THE NILE,

And his friends, on their making a visit to Monmouth.

What, indeed, could be more honorable to our national feelings, or more strongly evince our love for the glorious land we live in, than to witness on the threat of invasion by a foreign foe, all classes, (even the highest)

highest), forgetting the distinctions of society, and joining the hostile ranks, to repel the taunting boast of the enemy; cloathing, as well as accoutring, themselves, at their own expence, and learning the use of arms with a zeal and promptitude that spoke their sincerity in the cause they had undertaken to defend. On this occasion,* the Monmouthshire Cavalry, commanded by Richard Lewis, esq. of Landilo, and the Chepstow, by Charles Lewis, esq. of St. Pierre, volunteered their services to keep the ground, who formed the flanks of the infantry, when drawn up in the market place, and when the corps marched off the parade, cold must have been the heart, and unworthy of being cherished in a British bosom, that did not beat high on hearing the martial sounds of the numerous and finely appointed band of the Monmouth Militia, which the Lord Lieutenant had ordered from Bristol to be present at this interesting ceremony. After the military duties of the day were over, his Grace the Duke of Beaufort invited the infantry to dine with him at the inn which bears his arms,† and if we might be allowed to form an opinion of the feelings of the noble president, from the interest he took in the meeting, as well as from the patriotic toast which he gave from the chair, viz. "The Volunteers of all England, who had saved the "kingdom," we have good reason for supposing, that he justly appreciated the services rendered by the Macedonian phalanx to the united kingdom.

* The Presentation of Colours.

† The Cavalry were also sumptuously entertained at the King's Head, at his Grace's Expence.

"Britain,

"Britain," said Lord Melville, "to be an independent nation, should be a warlike nation;" and we may venture to predict, from the zeal which has been shewn by her brave Volunteers,* that the issue of the contest would only serve to expose the folly of the attempt of an hoard of slaves, however numerous, at reducing to obedience the inhabitants of a country, who had sworn, on its altars, to live free or die.

Not less interesting was the meeting at the opening of the Naval Temple, which might be deemed a tribute of gratitude for the exertions of the British Navy, whose daring chiefs had so fully shewn, by their actions, that all endeavours to dispute with them the Empire of the Seas, only exposed their enemies to the contempt of

* The patriotism of the Monmouthshire Volunteers was complimented, on the preceding meeting, with an appropriate loyal song, written by a gentleman residing in the county, who was invited to the honors of a seat at table by the Duke of Beaufort. In the course of the evening, he sung the lines,—and afterwards, Collins's humorous ballad of "The learned Pig, or the Philosopher on All-Fours," in such an admirable manner, as called forth, from the beginning to the end, the most tumultuous approbation of the whole company. Often do we now, in our private parties, when speaking of the hilarity of this day, call to mind the pleasure the Noble Duke enjoyed in hearing it; who was irresistibly compelled to throw himself back in his chair, and put his hands to his jolly sides, to enjoy the full scope of laughter, in common with the surrounding guests. Meeting with —— who had been absent some time from Monmouth, and enquiring after my former friends, with whom, by the addition of his vocal excellence, I had been so often delighted, and in particular after "The Philosopher," 'ycleped "Learned," he VERY GRAVELY replied, "the Great Bacon was EAT,—that he had "puffed "out the LITTLE FARTHING RUSHLIGHT,"—and that the "Glocestershire "Bumpkin, JOHN BULL," was become a GENTLEMAN.

the world, and eventually drawed down the vengeance of an insulted and free-born people on their devoted heads. *I hate the French!* (was the expression of the Hero of the Nile, when at Monmouth, to Mr. Hardwick), and the account, which I am now going to detail, will serve to confirm, if it were wanting, his ardent love for that country, in whose defence he so greatly acted, and so gloriously closed his life.

Monmouth was not wholly unknown to Lord Nelson previous to this visit, neither had its inhabitants been unmindful of his meritorious public services; for, following the example of other places, the Corporation had presented his Lordship with the Freedom of their ancient Borough,* which was delivered by the Recorder, the Right Hon. Charles Bragge Bathurst, of Lidney Park, and M. P. for Bristol; nor did the Hero think slightly of the respect shewn to him, as the following Letter, addressed to Thomas Hollings, esq. then Mayor, will best express:

* The Freedom was printed by me, on WHITE Satin, [in allusion to the FLAG under which his Lordship then ranked] which was afterwards tastefully embroidered with oak and laurel leaves, from the directions of Mrs. Clack and Miss Tudor, who preside over the seminary for young ladies in this Town. The same mark of respect was also shewn to EARL ST. VINCENT, accompanied with Accounts of the Kymin Pavilion and Naval Temple, in which their Lordships Names stand high among the illustrious chiefs of the ocean, held up for the admiration of mankind.

SIR,

Merton, July 9th, 1801.

SIR,

When Mr. Bragge presented me with the freedom of your ancient and respectable borough, I expressed myself to him in the manner I was best able, to mark my gratitude for the great honor you had conferred upon me, which I trust Mr. Bragge communicated to you, but I think I ought to thank you myself for your kindness towards me.

I must therefore request the favor of you to express to the Corporation the sense I entertain of their kindness, and that it will never be forgotten, by

SIR,

Your and their most obliged servant,

NELSON & BRONTE.

T. Hollings, esq.

In the early part of the summer of 1802, his Lordship, accompanied by his brother and sister, the present Earl and Countess Merton; their son, the late Viscount Trafalgar [then a fine boy, about 14 years of age], with Sir William and Lady Hamilton, set out from London, on a party of pleasure, to South Wales, to visit (as it was mentioned), some estates in Pembrokeshire, belonging to Sir William, which he had not seen for many years.

At

At Oxford, the party were received by the Senate of that University, who were pleased to confer the degree of DOCTOR IN DIVINITY, on his Lordship's brother, and afterwards to accompany the visitors to every place of public resort in that venerable seat of Literature. From Oxford they proceeded to Glocester, and from thence to Ross, where they arrived on the evening of Saturday, and were shewn the monument of the Man of Ross in that church, as also the beautiful walks and pleasure grounds, belonging to the late Walter Hill, esq. of that town. On Sunday the party proceeded down the Wye from thence to Monmouth, which was the origin of the interesting public day intended to be here noticed.

Soon as it was known that the visitors were descending the river to this town, a meeting of the Corporation was convened, for the purpose of receiving his Lordship and friends with that respect due to their rank in life. The band of the county militia being then stationed here, they preceded the Corporation, who went in procession, dressed in their formalities, attended by their officers, to Wye bridge to receive them; about four o'clock in the afternoon the firing of the cannons at the Kymin announced the approach of the party, and when the pleasure boat came in sight of the town at Hadnock reach, the band struck up *See the Conquering Hero comes*,—whose sounds were rapturously joined in by the loud and heart-cheering huzzas of the people, who had lined the banks of the river for near two miles to behold this great and darling Son of the Ocean.

His

Lord Nelson, on this salute, immediately left his seat in the boat, advanced to the bow, and taking off his hat there stood, and remained uncovered till he reached the town. On his Lordship and the party's landing, the Corporation welcomed them to the birth-place of King Henry the Fifth, when the band struck up the martial air of *Rule Britannia*; and after the exchange of civilities, they walked, preceded by the music, to the Beaufort Arms inn. Lord Nelson was very sensibly affected with this unlooked for tribute of respect, and observed to the magistracy, how much he felt indebted to them for this mark of attention. Had I, says his Lordship, arrived at any of the great sea-port towns in the kingdom, I should not have been much surprised at this token of attachment from my Jolly Jack Tars, but to be known *at such a little gut of a river as the Wye, fills me with astonishment.* In reply to which, it may be said with truth, his glorious deeds had made his name both known and respected, in every part of the civilized world.

After dinner, his Lordship paid a visit to Mr. Hollings, the Mayor, and Mr. Hardwick; with each of whom he drank a few glasses of wine, and expressed his acknowledgments to those gentlemen, for the marked attentions shewn to himself and friends by the Magistracy of the borough. His Lordship was invited to remain in town the next day, to visit the KYMIN, and to honor the Corporation with his company at dinner, at their expence, at the Beaufort Arms Inn. To this request he politely observed, that his party could not conveniently then accept of their kind solicitation; but

if

if on their return time would permit, they would very cheerfully avail themselves of the promised pleasure, so disinterestedly held forth to them at Monmouth, and of which they would, by letter, give Mr. Hollings three days notice previous to their arrival.

It is not the writer's intention to follow his Lordship further on his tour towards South Wales,—where all classes of people must have felt an equal portion of joy at his presence among them, as was expressed by the inhabitants of this town,—but to confine himself to the *return* of the party to Monmouth, and the public festivity which took place, in honor of that day.

Agreeable to the promise made by Lord Nelson to the Corporation, his Lordship addressed the following Letter to the Mayor, announcing the intention of himself and friends to accept the honor of their former invitation, to a public dinner, at Monmouth:

St. Clairs, August 14, 1802.

SIR,

You and several gentlemen of the Corporation wishing to know a few days previous to my return through Monmouth, I now beg leave to tell you, that I shall be at Monmouth with our party on Wednesday next the 18*th in the evening and remain at Monmouth on Thursday, to accept the honor of the polite invitation we have received.*

I am Sir, with much respect, your obliged friend,

NELSON & BRONTE.

T. Hollings, esq.

They

They arrived again, at the Beaufort Arms inn, Monmouth, on Wednesday evening, the 18th of August; and, at nine o'clock on Thursday morning, his Lordship and friends set out, in two coaches, to visit the New Naval Temple, and partake of a public breakfast at the Kymin Pavilion, prepared on the occasion. The party were received by the Corporation; and after the repast was concluded, they proceeded to view the beauties of this enchanting spot. His Lordship, in walking round the Temple, paid particular attention to every part of it.—He surveyed the painting of his own great exploit, the *Battle of the Nile*, for some time, as well as the Names of the different British Commanders, many of whom had been companions in his splendid achievments. He made the highest compliments to Mr. Hardwick,—observing, "It was not only one "of the most beautiful places he had ever seen, but, "to the boast of Monmouth, the Temple was the only "Monument of the kind erected to the English Navy, "in the whole range of the kingdom." He further added, "The nation has been engaged, for some time, "in collecting money, in order to erect, by public "subscriptions, a magnificent structure of this kind, "without accomplishing its purpose.—This at the "Kymin is enough; and for which the Admirals, "whose services are here recorded, *are very much obliged* "*to you.*"

As his Lordship proceeded round the Temple, I felt a desire to witness the manner of his viewing the painting of his glorious victory, as well as the sensa-

tions

tions it might create in his mind: for which purpose I took my station near him.—On his Lordship's arrival at this part of the building, he surveyed, with an opera glass, which he held in his hand, this representation of his fame *with the most calm emotion*, as though it had been accomplished by another officer,—and after pausing on it for some minutes, he directed his attention to other interesting objects around him.

About two o'clock, his Lordship and friends left the Pavilion, and returned into town on foot; to gratify the solicitude of the numerous visitors, assembled to pay their respects to such distinguished visitors.

THE DINNER

AT THE BEAUFORT ARMS INN.

A sumptuous entertainment having been provided at the above house, for which a fine buck (selected with great care from the park at Badminton), was presented by his Grace the Duke of Beaufort,—at four o'clock dinner was announced to the company. Lord Nelson and friends entered the room, and were conducted to their seats by the members of the Corporation, —the Hon. John and Lady Charlotte Lindsay) then residing in Monmouth), Sir Wm. Hamilton, Doctor and Mrs. Nelson, being seated on the right,—Lady Hamilton and Lord Nelson on the left, hand of the Mayor, who presided;—Mr. Thomas Phillips, Town Clerk,

Clerk, conducting the honors of the lower part of the table. His Lordship was dressed in a blue frock having gold epaulets,—decorated with the Orders of the Bath,* the Crescent. and St. Joachim,—and appeared in excellent spirits after his excursion to the Pavilion.

Soon as the cloth was removed, and the health of our gracious Sovereign, with that of the other branches of the Royal Family, were remembered in our glasses, Mr. Hollings gave, as a toast from the Chair,

" THE HEALTH OF LORD NELSON,

" *With Thanks to his Lordship for his most important*
" *Public Services.*"

As soon as the Toast was drank, and the company were seated, his LORDSHIP rose up, and in the most dignified and eloquent manner (worthy of the HERO of the NILE and of COPENHAGEN) commanding at once the profound attention and respect of all present, addressed the Meeting in the following never to be forgotten Words:

* During the heat of the action off Cape Trafalgar, when the men began to drop fast, from the system of sharp shooting from the tops of the Bucentaur, Admiral Villeneuve's ship, Lord Nelson was advised not to appear so conspicuously, in full uniform, to the mark of the top-men of the enemy. His answer ought to be recorded in the heart of every Briton, and engraven on his monument. " No, said his Lordship, whatever " may be the consequence, the insignia of the honors I now wear, I gain- " ed by the exertions of British seamen, under my command, in various " parts of the world; and in the hour of danger I am proud to shew them " to the enemies of Old England, I will never part from them; if it " please God I am to fall, I will expire with these trophies entwined " round my heart."

LORD NELSON'S

GENTLEMEN,

I beg leave to return you my most respectful thanks, for the honour done me in drinking my health, and also for the acknowledgment of the important public services, you are pleased to say, I have rendered my country.

It was my good fortune to have under my command some of the most experienced officers in the English Navy, whose professional skill was seconded by the undaunted courage of British Sailors; and whatever merit might attach itself to *me*, I must declare, that I had only to *shew them the enemy, and* VICTORY CROWNED THE STANDARD!

The British Navy has received a large portion of public applause; but, however well deserved, it should be told, that the same valour, and sense of duty, would have marked the conduct of the *British Army*, had it been placed in such situations, as would have afforded it an equal opportunity of displaying its national courage; but it has unluckily happened, that the same good fortune, in this instance, did not occur, or we should have had *equal reason for praising its heroism and public services.*

When the English Army was sent to EGYPT, it was the opinion of many intelligent characters, *that it would be destroyed.* For my own part, *I never thought so,* —for wherever the British Soldiers have been opposed to those of France, they have uniformly conquered them.

And

In my own person, I have received an overflowing measure of the Nation's Gratitude,—far more than I either merited or expected; because the same success would have crowned the efforts of any other British Admiral, who had under his command such distinguished Officers, and such gallant Crews.

And here let me impress it on the mind of every Officer in the service,—That to whatever quarter of the globe he may be destined; whether to the East or West Indies, to Africa, or America, *the* EYES OF HIS COUNTRY *are upon him*; and so long as public men, in public stations, exert themselves in those situations, to fulfil the duty demanded from them by the public, they will always find the British Nation ready to heap upon them the *utmost extent of its Gratitude and its Applause.*

Mirth and Song now began to hold their influence over the meeting; and immediately on his Lordship's being seated, Lady Hamilton favoured the company with a Song, in appropriate words to the National Hymn of *God Save the King*, with the highest effect.

During the course of the evening, many other very excellent songs were given, particularly by Mr. Callendar and Mr. Yarworth, which were received with great marks of approbation; and after the song of the *British Grenadiers*, by the Hon. Mr. Lindsay, LORD NELSON again rose up; and in his former dignified and impressive manner, addressed the meeting in the following words:

GEN-

GENTLEMEN,

I must repeat my obligations to you, for the MARKED ATTENTIONS I have received from the Inhabitants of MONMOUTH, as well as from the Company assembled on the present occasion. Nor can I leave you without wishing to impress my sentiments on your minds, and to bring them home to the feelings of every individual.

Whenever the British Army has been opposed to the French forces, without the incumbrance of German, Russian, or other auxiliaries, it has invariably defeated them. The fact is, all the great Battles the French obtained *were over our Allies*, and *not over the* BRITISH SOLDIERS; and if those Allies had been as *faithful* to their engagements as ourselves, the French would not have to boast of what they deem "their splendid victories."

Gentlemen,—I shall now speak to you as an Englishman;—if ever WAR was again to take place, I would send every Ship, every regular Soldier, out of the kingdom, and leave the nation to be protected intirely by *the Courage of her Sons at Home.* I remember in the year 1759, there were great threats of a *French Invasion!* but all reasonable men only smiled at the idea of such an attempt. Suppose the FRENCH were to land in ENGLAND, what would be the consequence? They might plunder and destroy a village,—they might burn Monmouth,—but I will engage for it they never would advance as far as Hereford, *for they would always find* BRITONS *ready to receive them.*

In

In all the histories of Kingdoms and States that I have read, it was the want of UNANIMITY among themselves that produced *their* fall, and that alone will be able to effect the overthrow of *our own:* for so long as the People continue to unite *Hand and Heart* (as we have seen on the late threatened Invasion by the FRENCH) *we have nothing to fear, either from their efforts, or from those* OF ALL THE WORLD UNITED IN ARMS AGAINST US!

At the conclusion of this second address, Lady Hamilton sung appropriate words to the National Air of *Rule Britannia*, with such taste and powers of execution, as called forth the utmost astonishment and delight in the mind of every person at table. The talents, indeed, of those professional British females the writer ever heard at the London theatres, were placed at an immeasurable distance, when compared with the vocal accomplishments of this Lady.

In the course of the evening, when the attention of the company was not called upon by the speeches of Lord Nelson or by songs, the late Mr. Henry Parry, of this town, who was seated next below his Lordship at table, took an opportunity of asking the illustrious chief a question respecting the action off Copenhagen. "It has been asserted, said Mr. Parry, "that the action of that day was more severely con-"tended than the battle of the Nile." "Yes, sir, "replied his Lordship; if that had been a *French* fleet, "I should have destroyed it *in two hours*; but the *Danes* "*fought like men!*"

This

This remark of his Lordship, is confirmed by a former assertion; for speaking to Colonel Lindholme, at Copenhagen, immediately after that event, he said: "I have been in an hundred engagements in the course "of my life, but that of to-day was the most terrible "of all."

About eight o'clock, his Lordship and friends took leave of the meeting in the most polite manner,—and afterwards accompanied Colonel Lindsay to the beautiful summer house in his garden,—at this time in the possession of Mr. Thomas Phillips,—there to enjoy the refreshments of tea and coffee, and pass the remainder of the evening in that charming retreat.

Never were the "the feast of reason and the flow of soul" more happily enjoyed than at this meeting. His Lordship addressed the company with an energy peculiarly *his own*,*—whose words, like the notes of the above Lady, might be said still to vibrate on our ears; and I may venture to assert, there is not a person who shared in its pleasures that would, for a very large boon, dismiss the recollection of them from his memory.

* "Did not Lord Nelson SPEAK well to you yesterday," Mr. Heath,—said Lady Hamilton, when she honored me with a visit on the following day.—"And did not your Ladyship SING well to us," was my reply:—further adding, it would be difficult to decide, whether the speeches of his Lordship, or her Ladyship's songs, were most to be admired by those who had the happiness of hearing them.

The words to the hymn of "God save the King," I had seen printed, in a political collection, from mention been made of the "Scandinavian shore,"—but the words to the Air of "Rule Britannia," I have reason to believe have never been publicly dispersed.

In

In the morning of Friday,—Lord Nelson, accompanied by Mr. Hardwick, viewed the church, public buildings, and other parts of the town; and about eleven o'clock his Lordship with the whole of his friends, did the writer the honor of a visit, and were pleased to receive from him copies of his description of Monmouthshire, with the scenery of which they expressed themselves so much delighted.

The feelings of that man are not to be envied, who could receive with coldness such a mark of attention from a nobleman, who might be deemed the pride and glory of his country. On receiving the books, he thanked me in the most gracious manner, and taking his hat off, laid it on the shop counter, which drew from me the remark "that as monarchs had taken off "their hats to his Lordship, it was impossible for him "to remain uncovered in the presence of a country "printer, and that he would permit me to replace it "again on his head."

VANITY has no share whatever in detailing the conversation which passed at this interview;—it has *better* and more *interesting* motives. Observing to his Lordship, "That the company at Dinner were extremely gratified by his Addresses to them; and if it would not be considered as taking a liberty, I should feel obliged in receiving his permission to commit them to press?"—To which he immediately replied, "No, Mr. Heath, I am an old man, and may not live long; it is my wish that posterity should know my sentiments; therefore, *do it*." I accordingly published them in a few days, and, for the first time, give them a place in my collections.

Receiv-

Receiving so kind an answer, I was further induced to know from his Lordship, the truth or fallacy of an heroic action, said to be performed by him, off Cape St. Vincent, on the 14th of February, 1797, with the Spanish fleet, which had often appeared to me as an instance of the greatest personal valour, and worthy of being recorded among the brightest achievments of his ever memorable life. In consequence of which, I then said, "It would very much increase my obligations, if he would permit me to ask him another question;" and his lordship replying, "*I might ask as many as I pleased,*" —I proceeded with my inquiries. I mentioned, "I had seen, *in a low print,*—such as were hawked about by the Jews,* a representation of his Lordship, in the above glorious action, after having captured the Santissima Trinidada, boarding another of the enemy's ships, by following a Marine along the bowsprit of his own vessel, and jumping into the San Josef at the quarter gallery window, *if the circumstance was founded in fact.*"—"IT IS VERY TRUE," was his Lordship's immediate reply,—"*the man went in first, and I followed him.*" I was also very particular in enquiring, "if his Lordship ever knew who the gallant fellow was?" and whether, like another Alexander, "he lived to fight the battle o'er again?" but he only repeated for answer, "that all he knew of the man was, he was a *private soldier*, belonging to the 69th regiment of foot, doing

* There is a very fine print of this subject, from a painting by Singleton. The scene of action is laid on the quarter deck of the San Josef, in which Lord Nelson and Sir Edward Berry, with sailors and marines, are distinguished characters, in this honorable instance of British intrepidity.

duty

duty as a *marine*:—what his *fate* was, every person, in moments like those, was too much engaged in his own duty, to be acquainted with the fortunes of others. But when his lordship left my house, and joined again in conversation, he observed to Mr. Hollings, on whose arm he rested, "Since Mr. Heath has challenged my memory, I have a better recollection of the circumstance to which he alludes: Two men left the ship with me, but one of them fell into the sea;—the other, as soon as he got near the end of the bowsprit, knocked in, with the but end of his musket, the quarter gallery windows of the enemy's vessel, jumped through them into the ship, *and I followed him*. The soldier, besides his musket, had some other dreadful instrument of death (which his lordship named, but which Mr. Hollings did not afterwards recollect), and when he met the enemy, he used it with such fury, that I soon after exclaimed to him, *Mercy, mercy! stop, stop!* and immediately the Spaniards surrendered up their ship." Hence it may be said, that, by the daring spirit of a British private soldier, this vessel was almost instantly wrested from the power of the enemy, and its commander, the commodore, laid prostrate at the conqueror's feet.

His lordship now desired me to send him the provincial newspapers, and writing his address to Merton, requested me to keep it as a memorandum of his visit. He then took me by the hand, in the most gracious manner; and, leaving the house, observed, *He should feel a pleasure in rendering me any service, either present or future, that lay in his power.*

A few weeks enabled me to fulfil his lordship's desire, and having printed his sentiments delivered at the public dinner, I inclosed a copy with the newspapers, which produced the following LETTER, rendered more estimable by being written with his own hand:

Merton, September 14th, 1803.

SIR,

Lady Hamilton and myself beg leave to return you our thanks for your kind attention to our wishes in sending the newspapers and my speech; which, although it flowed immediate from the heart, was but ill suited to meet the eye of the public, except those partial friends of Monmouth, to whom we, with Sir William, Doctor and Mrs. Nelson, beg to be remembered with the utmost esteem, and I beg you to believe that I feel myself

Your much obliged and obedient Servant,

NELSON & BRONTE.

Mr. Chas. Heath.

Not to me alone was his lordships courtesy confined. After the dinner cloth, at the Beaufort Arms inn, was removed, on his first arrival here, Mr. Watkins (of Deep Holm, who then kept the house), acquainted his illustrious guest, he had a few bottles of claret in the cellar, that had lain there some years, which, with permission, he should feel a pleasure in placing before him. To this request, Lord Nelson assented; and, on their

their being brought, desired the host to take a seat by his side. His lordship then filled his glass, and drank Mr. Watkins's health. On returning thanks for the honor done him, Mr. W. remarked, that he had filled many a glass to his lordship's health, in common with the rest of his countrymen, when he was fighting their battles in distant climes; but he never expected the pleasure of so doing in his present situation.—Where was I, he then asked, when you drank my health?—After the battle of the Nile, my lord, was the reply. *Poh*, said his lordship, *that was nothing! I always did beat the French, and I always will, Watkins, whenever they give me an opportunity of meeting with them.* But, he added, *I have had a harder day since!* On Mr. Watkins asking, in what action? he answered, *At Copenhagen, that was a terrible day indeed!*

The same frankness accompanied all his conversations with every individual, who appealed to him for information. Mr. Hardwick took an opportunity of inquiring of his lordship, if he had preserved any of the spoils taken in his distinguished victories; if ever so trifling an article, whether a sword, musket, pistol, flag, &c. the present would be received with every degree of respect it merited, and hung up in the Kymin Pavilion, as a memorial of esteem for the distinguished character, by whom the trophy had been bestowed. And here we have a fine trait of his noble mind,—who returned for answer, "That whatever was obtained from an enemy, he considered as the property of his King; and the only article he ever possessed, *was the sword of Admiral Breuis,*

who

who commanded the French fleet at the battle of the Nile, which he afterwards presented to the Corporation of the city of LONDON, in whose possession it now remains."

Let me still further increase the colloquy.—When taking leave of his lordship, Mr. Hardwick hoped, that from the important public services he had rendered his country, and the agonizing wounds he had suffered in its defence, the remainder of his glorious life would be passed in ease and comfort:—To which remark he instantly replied, "No, Hardwick, I consider my life as devoted to my King;—and should war again take place, I shall quit my retirement, solicit a command, and employ all my exertions against the common enemy;—concluding with *his detestation of the French*, whom, as was before observed, he considered *as a set of d—d perfidious rascals.*"

These sentiments, which were expressed with all the energy of mind so peculiar to his lordship's character, have been further confirmed by an observation he is said to have made, to his friend Admiral Stirling, just before he went upon the service, which terminated so brilliantly for his own fame, and for that of his country, "My health is so bad that I ought to retire; but as my generous countrymen seem to think that I could do something if I were to meet the enemy, I feel it to be a duty to do what I can. I shall therefore go, and hope I shall be able to meet and conquer them; and I shall think my life gloriously sacrificed in such a cause."

It

VISIT TO MONMOUTH.

It will be gratifying to the inhabitants of Monmouth the being informed, that their attentions to this illustrious Hero were *neither overlooked nor forgotten*. Observing, in the public prints, the arrival at Cheltenham of one of his lordship's most intimate naval captains, who had borne a distinguised share in all his glorious achievments, the writer presented for his acceptance a copy of the *History of Monmouth*, he had just published; which procured him the following LETTER: and to add to its value, if possible,—being written by an officer who commanded a ship of the line, both at the battle of Abouquir and Trafalgar,—it was franked to him by the not less distinguished conqueror at Alexandria:

August 26, 1806.

SIR,

I request you will accept my best thanks for your very acceptable present, which I shall preserve as a memento of one who feels as he ought for the memory of the great Lord Nelson. I have heard him, with pleasure, speak of the handsome testimonies of respect and attention paid him by the town of Monmouth; and I beg you will assure yourself, that if my health permitted it, I should take great pleasure in visiting Monmouth, and personally thanking you for this mark of attention. I am, sir,

Your obliged and very faithful servant,

* * * * * *

Mr. Heath, Monmouth.

Friday

Friday noon, Lord Nelson and friends left Monmouth, and proceeded from thence to Rudhall, the seat of Thomas Westfaling, esq.; who, whilst upon a tour on the continent, was at Naples during most of the important events which agitated that country in the late war, and acquired an intimacy with his Lordship at that Court.

At Ross, their carriages attempted to pass by a private way; but, to gratify the wishes af the inhabitants, they drove along the principal street, where, opposite the Swan Inn, a triumphal arch, ornamented with laurel and oak, and an appropriate inscription, had been erected, for his lordship and party to pass through.*

At Rudhall House, every preparation had been previously made to receive his Lordship with the honors due to so distinguished a character. The gardens were thrown open, a band of music attended, and all the principal families of the neighbourhood were invited to join in the fete. An elegant collation, with fruit and wines, was served on the lawn; and in the evening a grand display of fire-works took place; and an arch, with a star above, formed of variegated lamps, made a striking part of the illumination.

* The beautiful pleasure grounds, belonging to the late Walter Hill, esq. which Lord Nelson so much admired when at Ross, and in the Summer House partook of an elegant breakfast, previous to his descending the river Wye for Monmouth, have been since purchased by Mr. Hooper, of that town, who is erecting thereon a handsome dwelling, to be called "Merton House," in compliment to the memory of that distinguished visitor, who trod the paths with unspeakable delight.

The

VISIT TO RUDHALL.

The following lines were presented to his Lordship, with a wreath of laurel.

Go, laurel, pluck'd from Rudhall's bower,
To bind the temples of the brave;
Crown him amid these festive hours,
And grace the Hero of the Wave.

He whom each free-born Briton boasts,
Our terrors to the world has shewn;
Seiz'd many a wreath on foreign coasts,
And taught them to respect his own.

Thy boughs inviolate appear'd,
A sacred shade upon the plain,
While war's wide-wasting blast was heard,
And NELSON thunder'd on the main.

But whilst his voice dispell'd the gloom,
And taught our rocky shores to smile,
What hostile hand could e'er presume
To tear a wreath from Albions isle?

Go, say to him who knows no fear;
" Grateful for thy protecting care,
" The British laurel waits thee here,
" Twin'd by the hande of British fair!"

The following Lines were also placed on the branch of a venerable Oak near the house:

Ye Britons venerate this tree,
The guardian of our liberty,
Through many a distant age.
Beneath its shade the Druid rose,
And waked the British youth from woes,
To true heroic rage.

Forth

Forth from their woods they rush'd like flame;
What time Rome's hostile legions came,
They met them at the waves;—
And who shall call the conflict vain?
They perished on their native plain,
Nor liv'd a race of slaves.

And still this tree, to Britons dear,
Protects our rights from year to year;
Hence are our terrors hurl'd.
Ye Britons, venerate the oak;
NELSON from this in thunder spoke,
And shook'd th' astonish'd world.

While this shall flourish in the glade,
What foe shall dare our rights invade!
O, lovely tree! increase:
Still spread thy bending branches far,
Protect us from the woes of war,
And shelter us in peace.

The whole concluded with a Ball, which detained the company till an early hour the next morning, when they quitted with reluctance the scene of so much hospitality and pleasure. Some thousands of spectators were present; and several hogsheads of cider were liberally dispersed among them.

It was a circumstance of a very singular nature, that his lordship should meet with, at the table of a private gentleman in Herefordshire, one of the characters who had signed the treaty, after the action at Copenhagen. Baron ANKER, the person alluded to, had been travelling through Monmouthshire and South Wales, to inspect the Iron Works in those parts of the kingdom, having,

having very extensive engagements in that branch of commerce in Denmark, where he resided. Being seated at the dinner table at Rudhall, Lord Nelson, on hearing the name pronounced, suddenly repeated it with much surprise; and after mutual expressions of astonishment at their meeting had taken place, they sat down again, to join in the pleasures of the festive board.

During their stay at Rudhall, a deputation from the Mayor and Corporation of Hereford waited on Lord Nelson, to request he would honor that city with his presence, to which his lordship kindly consented; and, accompanied by his friends, proceeded thither on Monday. The noble party arrived about 12 o'clock, and the presence of the Hero of the Nile excited those demonstrations of joy, to which his transcendent merit duly intitled him. The populace met him at the entrance into the city, and taking the horses from his carriage, drew it themselves to Bennet's Hotel; whence, after making a short stay, he proceeded with the Duke of Norfolk, Sir Wm. Hamilton, and the Rev. Dr. Nelson, to the Town Hall, where the Corporation were in waiting to receive him. After this introduction, Mr. LAMB, the Town Clerk, thus addressed him:

"My Lord,

"By the permission of our noble lord chief steward his grace the Duke of Norfolk, I have the particular honor of addressing your Lordship on the part of the mayor, aldermen, and citizens, and to attempt to express, though very inadequate, the great honor we feel

 in

in your gracious visit to this city. We look up with wonder, as well at your own intrepid courage, as your cool conduct and humanity in the many signal victories you have gained for your country, in whose preservation you have had so eminent a share, both in delivering her from impending ruin, and exalting her to that pitch of glory and greatness in which she now shines amid the states of Europe. In a particular manner we are impressed with admiration at your Lordship's humility on the day of battle, and in the very flush of victory, in wholly divesting yourself of all the glory, so justly your due, and ascribing to him, whose will determinates the fate of battles and of nations, all the honor of praise for the success of those great events! You have, by this your conduct, my Lord, fully evinced your worthy descent, and that in your veins flows some of the blood of your great and pious ancestor, whose writings will be the study and consolation of all good christians in this country, to the end of time. Your honors and fame, my Lord, are so completely full, and even overflowing, that though all we may attempt to add to them is but as the dust upon the scale, or a drop in the ocean, yet we are emulous of casting in our poor mite, as well to yours as our own fame, by having your name enrolled among the citizens of this ancient and loyal city, which will be a never-fading honor to it. Accept then, great sir, this small suffrage of our gratitude, enclosed in a box of that tree, which is the pride of this country; and of whose noble juice, many libations will not fail to be offered to the long health, prosperity, and happi-

ness,

ness, of the great and glorious conqueror of the Nile.

"*I decus, I, nostrum: felicibus utere fatis.*"

[Proceed, proceed, thou ornament of our nation! and may the Fates prove more propitious to thee. Æneid, b. vi. l. 546.]

Lord Nelson returned his sincere thanks, for an honor which he said he should never forget,—that of having his name enrolled among the freemen of Hereford. It was true he had stood forward in the defence of his king and country in many engagements, yet the honor and renown for the brilliant victories which the fleets under him had obtained, were not attributable to himself, but must be ascribed first to the Deity, and next to the undaunted courage, skill, and discipline, of those officers and seamen, which it had been his good fortune to command, not one of whom, he was proud to say, had ever in the least swerved from his duty. Respecting the loyalty of the country, his Lordship drew a most flattering picture: should this nation, (observed he), ever again experience a state similar to that from which it has been recently extricated, I have not the slightest doubt, from the result of my observations during this tour, that the native, the in-bred spirit of Britons, whilst it continues as firmly united as at present, is fully adequate successfully to repel any attack, either foreign or domestic, which our enemies may dare to make. You have but to say to your fleets and armies, "Go ye forth and fight your "battles, whilst we, true to ourselves, protect and "support our wives and little ones at home."

The

The Rev. M. Morgan, canon residentiary on the part of the Lord Bishop of the diocese, then rose up and said,

" My Lord Nelson,

" I am charged by the Lord Bishop of the diocese, to express his sincere regret that age and infirmity deprive him of the honor of paying his personal respects to your Lordship here, and of testifying his grateful sense, which he and all his clergy entertain of your very eminent public services. To your Lordship's splendid and unparalelled achievements, they ascribe, under providence, the blessing of their present peace and security; and you will be pleased to accept their assurance, that merit so distinguished, and benefits so important, are sensibly felt, and will be ever gratefully remembered." To this Lord Nelson replied, that, as the son of a clergyman, and from having been bred up in a sense of the highest veneration for the church and its able ministers, whilst he sincerely lamented the cause of his Lordship's absence, he conceived it a duty, which he would perform with the greatest willingness, to wait upon him at the palace. This, upon his return from the hall, he accordingly did. His Lordship now went through the necessary forms, and a box of APPLE TREE WOOD with the following

INSCRIPTION:

" AUGUST XXIII, M.D.CCCII,
LORD NELSON MADE AN HONORARY
FREEMAN OF HEREFORD."

And

And containing the freedom of the city, was presented to him, which he most graciously received and cordially pressed to his lips.

The noble visitants, before their departure, remained a considerable time in the great room at the Hotel, which afforded the inhabitants a better opportunity of gratifying their wish to see their illustrious guest. About two o'clock they proceeded on their rout to Downton Castle, near Ludlow, the beautiful seat of R. P. Knight, esq.

From Downton, his lordship and friends proceeded to Worcester, where the same honors were paid him by the corporation of that city, as had been before conferred on him at Hereford. After viewing the cathedral and other public buildings, he visited the china manufactory, with which he was much gratified. His lordship paid a well merited compliment to the proprietors, by declaring, that the specimens they had shewn to him equalled the finest productions of Dresden or Naples in his possession. The whole party behaved in the most polite manner, and gave extensive orders to the manufacturers, for different services for their respective families.

Birmingham next claimed the noble party's attention, —and the testimonies of grateful joy evinced by the people at large on his lordship's arrival there, must have been as gratifying to the Hero's feelings, as it was honorable to the character of its inhabitants. Like his brave predecessors, the late Lord Rodney and Lord Heathfield, when they honored the town with their

pre-

presence, the air echoed with the loud acclamations of public regard;—confirming, as it were, the grand truth of his own observations at Monmouth, "That when "public men, in public stations, exert themselves in "those situations, to fulfil the duty demanded of them "by their country, they will always find the British "nation ready to heap upon them the utmost extent "of its gratitude and its applause."

In wandering thus far from the scenes I have attempted to celebrate, let me solicit the reader's pardon. Anxious as the public have been to collect memorials of his Lordship's life, my efforts to perpetuate the remembrance of his visit to Monmouth and other places, have not been before so amply noticed,—while his conversations with different characters, are, for the first time, laid before the reader. My reverence for his immortal memory, excited by the distinguished kindness with which I was honored by him, have induced me to offer them as a small tribute of respect to one of the most exalted characters that ever adorned the annals of British History. No subject of any nation or empire ever descended to the tomb, whose manes were consecrated with such universal testimonies of sorrow; nor their bier attended with such an assemblage of worth as marked HIS passage to the grave. And though it is not possible, by any means like these, to advance his Lordship's fame,—having gained for himself a name beyond the reach of time,—I feel gratified in concluding my digression with the following elegant compsosition, from the pen of a distinguished Poet of the present day:

WRITTEN

WRITTEN IN THE TEMPLE,

DEDICATED TO

BRITISH NAVAL HEROES,

ON THE

KYMIN HILL, MONMOUTH.

INSCRIPTION.

STRANGER, if thou hast pass'd from vale to vale,
A weary man, still thinking of thy HOME;
Seeking, perhaps, like me the smile of health;
From this aerial summit, where the gale
Comes soften'd to thy breast, thou may'st review
The windings of thy distant way, and think
Of those, who, far beyond yon mountain range,
With rising hope, or sad solicitude,
REMEMBER THEE! But soon from social thoughts
Awaken'd, thy expanding heart shall beat,
As all around, the hurrying eye surveys
Mountain on Mountain heap'd; the LIVING map
Of thy LOV'D COUNTRY; then let thy cold cheek

Catch

INSCRIPTION.

Catch instant animation at the thought
Of THEM, who BLED TO SAVE HER! chief, of HIM,
Who pour'd the sanguine surge on EGYPT'S SHORE,
And hurl'd back the deep thunder, as of heav'n,
On THOSE, who vaunting trampled on the laws
Of NATURE and of GOD! HE, his career
Clos'd glorious, whilst he rais'd his dying eyes
To the loud shout of Victory, that peal'd
Around him, as he sunk, when CONQUEST'S self
Hung down and wet her banners with a tear!
THOU BLESS HIS MEM'RY, and REVERE THEIR NAMES,
Whom the same patriot feelings fir'd; nor pass
Without a prayer, That long as yonder hills
(The circling mountains, that record the name
Of the FIFTH HARRY, nurtur'd mid their scenes),
Shall lift their tow'ring heads inviolate,
And reckless of the storm that rolls below;
So may thy COUNTRY stand; nor ever want
DEFENDERS, such as made proud GALLIA pale,
And dy'd the plains of AZINCOURT with blood!

WILLIAM LISLE BOWLES.

By whom it was presented, when at Monmouth, to C. Heath, as a mark of his good wishes for the success of this publication.

BUCKSTONE.

ABOUT a mile from the Summer House, to which a pleasant path conducts the visitor,—in the Wood of Stanton Meend, stands a curiosity highly deserving notice, called BUCKSTONE.

This ponderous body of rock, on whose summit many persons might be commodiously seated, rests literally on a pivot so small, that it will scarcely be believed by the spectator, more especially when he is informed, that it has remained so for ages. It is generally supposed to be a Druidical relique, of which there are many of the sort in this kingdom. The Rev. Dr. BOOKER thus mentions it, in his Poem called the "Hop-Garden:"—

"The most perfect the Author ever saw, is in a fine "wood, the property of Lord GAGE, near Monmouth, "commonly called the 'Buckstone;' probably from "the Deer having been accustomed to resort to it, "both as 'a shadow from the heat, and a shelter from "the storm.' The tradition that a BUCK, in order to "escape from its hunters, when closely pursued, "bounded upon the top of it,—only merits a place "among those marvellous legends which are received "by idle credulity. So exactly does this gigantic "insulated Rock seem to equilibrate, that a spectator "would almost suppose, he could dislodge it from its "narrow base with the force of his single arm, and

" send it headlong down the steep declivity on which " it stands. Such attempts, an aged villager informed " the author, he had often seen made, by the united " efforts of a number of stout young rustics; and that " he had perceived it gently to move in a kind of " rocking motion; but invariably settling on its an- " cient pivot, from which it is evidently detached.— " Close by it is another Druidical relique, not unlike a " small baptismal font, or rather Romish recess for " holy water; used, most probably, for some sacri- " ficial purpose." *Note,—page* 117.

Mr. KING, in his " Munimenta Antiqua," certainly alludes to this stone:—" *Logan*, or *Rocking Stones*, were " British remains; and as these huge masses of rock " bear the marks of the tool upon them, they must " have been of the later ages of Druidism. A most " surprising fragment of this kind, prepared nearly by " the hand of nature, exists near New-Land, in Glo- " cestershire. It is in figure very near an irregular " square inverted pyramid, poised on its apex, which, " where it touches the pedestal, is not above two feet " square, and is said to be moveable. Its height is " ten feet. Its south-east side measures 19 feet 5 " inches; on the west, 21 feet 5 inches, and on the " south, 14 feet.*

* Mr. King gives this account after describing all the Rocking Stones in the known world, many of which, of much larger dimensions, are still moveable with a single finger. As he seldom omits the name by which they are known in the neighbourhood, I am surprised that he overlooked mentioning Buckstone; but from its being as near to New-Land as to Monmouth, there is just reason for supposing it to be that here described.

" At

"At a small distance, to the east, is a rock scooped "into a kind of bason, with a channel, seemingly in- "tended to let out the water after it is filled to a cer- "tain height. Whether this was a work of art or "nature, may be doubtful; but the whole seems to "indicate a Druidical superstitious designation."

A DRAWING of this STONE, by Miss PALMER, of Bath, was lately presented to the Rev. Mr. THOMAS, of New-Land, by that very ingenious young lady—our mutual friend,—and, while in my possession for a few days, it fortunately happened that some very intelligent travellers, who were passing through the country, did me the favor to inspect it, as did also several other gentlemen, not less eminent for their taste and talents.

Considerable doubts are entertained among those who have delivered their opinions, whether or not the stone in question is a *Druidical* remain. By those who have declared in its favor, it is supposed, from its *situation*, to have been a *Druidical altar*,—and resting on such a pivot, whereby it might be shook with little force, strengthens this conclusion. It appears, on the testimony here cited, "that stones of this kind were "always thus placed, the intent of which was, that "when their Priests wished to impress any important "duty or observation on the minds of their auditors, "they struck the stone with some force, which *shook* "or *rocked* by their efforts,—and by its yielding to a "slight power, it was meant to enforce an idea, that

"they

" they possessed a supernatural agency, delegated to
" them exclusively from above."

Communicated by Dr. Griffin.—I conceive its present name to be wrong. It is properly the *Bwlch Stone*. BWLCH is a Welch word, and signifies a *passage between hills*. In this etymology I am confirmed, from the public road between Monmouth and Glocester passing thro' Stanton, as well as from the name of the place, *Staen ton*, the stony town. Its purposes were judicial, as well as religious. The guilt or innocence of the prisoner, when placed before his judges here, was declared, by the *motion* or *stability* of the Stone. But (adds my authority, mingling pleasantry with science), I am of opinion, the culprit's fate was determined upon before the Stone was appealed to for the denial or affirmation of his crime.

On the other hand,—it has been asserted by a friend, in whose talents the public have the highest confidence, " That the stone is merely a composition of sand and " gravel, cemented by the sun (dissolvable in vinegar, " or other acid), without having the least reference to " Druidical purposes, and that he expected its fall in " the course of a few years."

But, in order to set aside this latter objection, it is a fact, that some years ago, a large party of the workmen employed at Redbrook, went to the wood avowedly to overturn the stone;—yet, in spite of all their efforts, aided as they were with crows and other levers, they were not able to make the least impression on its gravity.

The

The question of POPE's,

"Who shall decide, when Doctors disagree?"

might, with great propriety, be applied to the object under consideration. In the course of last summer, the writer accompanied an intimate acquaintance of the gentleman,* whose opinion he last quoted, to Buckstone, who, on viewing it, immediately declared it *druidical*, and one of the most interesting among the many he had witnessed. After his curiosity had been here gratified, he further observed, he would endeavour to find out the place *where the Arch-druid reposed*, which he he soon discovered, on the Meend, at a short distance from the wood, being a large barrow, or mound, fifty yards long, by ten wide, but now much overgrown with gorse, fern, and brambles.

In a field, at a short distance from Stanton, near the road leading from thence to Coleford, is a huge upright stone, known by the name of the LONGSTONE, whose origin is unquestionable connected with that of Buckstone, and those mentioned at Trellick, in the other part of this tour down the Wye. In addition to these "monuments of the highest antiquity in a dead language," as Mr. King happily terms them, I had the pleasure to discover, on Trellick common, two CARNES,—confirming, as it were, the opinion of Dr. Griffin, that all these remains, which lie scattered round about Monmouth, arose, in the most remote ages, out of religious ceremonies.

* Both of them not more distinguished for their literary attainments, than for their virtues in private life.

That

That the intention of the labourers from Redbrook, —as idle as it was wicked—was defeated, every visitor of taste will rejoice to hear; for, let the purposes of this STONE have been what they may,—when we consider the peculiarity of its situation, its enormous weight resting on such a pivot, with its very singular form, —we may undoubtedly pronouce it one of the first curiosities of the kind in this kingdom.

MEASUREMENT OF BUCKSTONE.

Width of the East side,	- -	6½ yards.
- - North side,	-	8 yards.
- - South side,	-	4¾ yards.
Height fronting the East,	- -	5½ yards.
- - West,	-	4¾ yards.
Circumference of the Base,	-	3¾ yards.
- - at Top,	-	18¾ yards.
Diameter of the Base, or Pivot,	3 feet 2 Inches.	

*** STANTON, in which parish this Stone is situated, is an inconsiderable village in the county of Glocester, around which the Right Hon. Lord GAGE has extensive possessions, especially the fine WOODS, which alone are worthy the stranger's notice, particularly that part of them adjoining the Wye, which are eminently beautiful, when surveyed from a point of rock, at the entrance of the village from Monmouth, conveying to the mind the idea of a GRAND BASON. The CHURCH (a Saxon edifice), occupies a bold and commanding eminence, and its ancient tower is an object for many miles round about. The Living, is a Vicarage, in the patronage of the above nobleman, reputed to be worth about 200 l. a year. Few clergymen in the country can boast of such a good and pleasant parsonage house.—The principal inhabitant is Mr. George White, farmer,—whose distinguished kindness to the poor, in the late times of scarcity, was the means of alleviating the distress of many a sorrowful heart, and intitles him to the highest parochial acknowledgments.

DRUIDICAL REMARKS.

It is not at all wonderful, that ſuch a ſelect Body of men as the Druids, the chief part of whoſe worſhip conſiſted of ceremonies, ſhould leave a number of their monuments ſcattered up and down in the country where they reſided, and accordingly we meet with many of them, of various ſorts and conſtructions. Though groves were the original and favorite places of the Druids worſhip, yet it appears clear enough that they alſo frequented open temples on certain public occaſions, and ſtones as well as oaks, are confeſſed to have come in for ſome ſhare of ſuppoſed local ſanctity; though, perhaps, as ſome writers have remarked, theſe places might not have been appropriated ſolely to religious uſes, but ſometimes ſerved for courts of council and national aſſemblies.

SINGLE STONES,

Like Longstone, and others on Trellick Common,—are the moſt ſimple of theſe. They have indeed often ſerved as memorials of remarkable events, and we find them mentioned as having been ſet up ſo early as the patriarchal times, as mentioned in Holy Writ, and by many ancient writers. It has been obſerved, that they have frequently become the objects of a ſort of idolatry among the ignorant: and even ſince the days of Paganiſm, it has been cuſtomary for the uninformed to pay them a ſort of blind veneration, or tell ſome ſuperſtitious tales of them. Sometimes people have fancied theſe to be petrified men; this likewiſe has been ſaid of whole circles of them: ſuch is the ſtory told of thoſe called the Hurlers in Cornwall, who are ſaid to have been thus transformed for playing at their favorite game on the Sabbath Day.

CARNES,

Such as I diſcovered on Trellick Common,—are ſtones of different ſizes, thrown together in the form of a CONE. They were of different ſizes, and a hundred cart loads of ſtones muſt have been employed in ſome of them. It has been thought, that ſacrificing fires were kindled on the flat ſtones of them, at the beginning of the ſummer, and of the winter ſeaſon; at which times, the people new lighted their domeſtic fires, which were every where extinguiſhed, in order that they might claim ſuch a precious privilege. They were made eaſy of aſcent for the Druid's convenience, and were generally placed on eminences [as theſe are] within ſight of each other. The ſmaller of theſe have been ſet down, by ſome writers, as ſepulchral monuments; but it is generally agreed that the larger ones were intended for ſacrifices, or in memorial of ſome religious ceremonies.

THE CROMLECH,

As in Trellick churchyard. Theſe Altars of ſtone, where ſtone ſerved to raiſe them up, were huge, broad, flattiſh ſtones, mounted up and laid upon erect ones, leaning with a little declivity, in ſome places, on thoſe pitched ſupporters, which poſture, for ſome unaccountable reaſon, the Druids ſeem to have affected.

ROCK BASONS,

Like that adjoining Buckſtone,—are found cut in the ſurface of rocks, as it has been conjectured, for the purpoſe of preſerving dew or rain pure as it firſt deſcended from the heavens. What was thus preſerved, we may eaſily conceive the Druids uſed in ablutions, and the ſprinklings performed with vervain or miſletoe, for which they ſought the pureſt fluid that poſſibly could be procured.

HIGH

HIGH-MEADOW HOUSE,

Was formerly the seat of VISCOUNT GAGE, and when in its splendor, was one of the chief ornaments of this part of the kingdom. But, from falling into decay, and his Lordship possessing a fine mansion and estate at Ferle, in Sussex, he thought proper to dispose of the materials of this house, which were purchased by a company of tradesmen at Coleford (a small adjoining market town) for one thousand guineas. It was built in the form of the letter H, and derived its name from occupying the lofty part of a spacious meed. It has been remarked, that if his Lordship had possessed the whole landscape, he could not have wished to displace a single object. It is situated in the parish of NEW-LAND, whose fine church, with its lofty tower enriched with gothic pinacles, are seen to great advantage from this eminence. The village is the residence of several persons of considerable fortune, whose houses are compatible with their situation in life. They are not arranged in a strait line, but form part of a square, with the church and churchyard, both very large and handsome, situated where the area would be, if the square were complete. The Living, is a vicarage, in the gift of the Bishop of Landaff, to whom the rectorial Tythes belong. The Rev. P. M. Procter, is the present incumbent, who here resides. Edmund Probyn, esq. has a handsome house and a considerable estate in this parish, as well as in other parts of the county; and the Rev. T. Birt, —the Rev. T. Thomas; - - - Fitzgerald, M. D. with many other valuable characters, add to the pleasures of society in this much admired village.

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