

T. E. Rosenberg del.

MELKSHAM SPA BUILDINGS

C. Marsh, S. Bath

THE  
**MELKSHAM GUIDE :**

CONTAINING AN ACCOUNT OF THE  
**SALINE APERIENT AND CHALYBEATE  
SPA;**

THE HOT, TEPID, AND COLD  
**BATHS;**

THE DISORDERS IN WHICH THE WATERS  
*Have been found Efficacious;*  
AND THE BEST METHODS OF USING THEM.

TO WHICH IS ADDED  
A DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT OF THE TOWN,  
THE PRINCIPAL SEATS, PICTURESQUE SITUATIONS,  
ANTIQUITIES, MARKET TOWNS, &c.  
WITHIN THE DISTANCE OF TWENTY MILES.

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*Embellished with Two Engravings.*

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**MELKSHAM :**

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## INTRODUCTION.



WHOEVER sits down to compile a Guide to a Watering Place, can lay little claim to originality. He must select his materials from many sources, and if he is able to collect such information, as, besides being authentic, will amuse and inform his readers, it is all that he can reasonably expect.

In the present work the greatest care has been taken to cull from nature and art, whatever were considered most deserving of description, and most likely to gain a willing ear. The scenery around is highly interesting, and few situations of equal extent, afford so many objects of attraction for the curious, the antiquary, and the traveller; or a tract of country equally fa-

avourable to the recovery of the valetudinarian. Melksham itself is perhaps as little interesting as any place that is described; but it is the centre of attractions, which, by inducing exercise, promote the more rapid re-establishment of health.

It must be allowed that the town does not at present possess the splendid edifices of long established Spas, but there is every reason to believe that this will not long be the case. The excellency of the waters has already produced a spirit of speculation: accommodations increase, and a few years may enable it to vie, in every desirable convenience, with Cheltenham and Leamington.

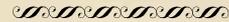
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## MELKSHAM GUIDE.



### GENERAL HISTORY OF MELKSHAM.



MELKSHAM; a pleasant town on the great road between London and Bath, is nearly a mile long, consisting principally of one street, in which are many good houses. It is divided by the river Avon, over which there is a handsome stone bridge, newly erected, the former having been destroyed by an inundation. The Inns are respectable, and the accommodations for those who visit the Spa are continually increasing. A market is held on every other monday for cattle; and an annual fair, on the 27th of July, for cattle, sheep, pigs, toys, hardware, &c.

The parish according to the returns of 1811, contained 781 houses, and 4110 inhabitants: 1891 males, and 2219 females. There were 794 families; of which 231 were employed in agriculture, and 416 in trade and manufactures.

MELKSHAM was a place of considerable note in the time of the Saxons, as it appears from Domesday Book to have been a lordship belonging to king Harold, and afterwards an appendage to the crown under the Conqueror, who established in it a court with royal jurisdiction. But though every vestige of its former importance is lost, the name of the lower part of the town, which is denominated *the city*, is a presumptive proof of its ancient superiority; and this is farther confirmed by the tallage it paid in the reign of king John, which amounted to twelve marks, a greater sum than was paid by any of his other manors in the county, Salisbury paying but forty shillings. Wyndham, in his Domesday Book, states it to have been assessed at eighty-four hides.

The town must have fallen into decay in the succeeding ages, as Leland, who de-

scribes the adjacent parts, does not even mention it. When the woollen manufacture was established, Melksham, without doubt, enjoyed a share of it; and it has till lately carried on the trade to a great extent, from which it has derived considerable advantages and opulence. However, the excellent medicinal saline and chalybeate springs, that have been lately discovered in the vicinity, and which are considered equal to any in the kingdom, induce the most sanguine hopes that it will increase in extent and respectability, and soon become a celebrated watering place, and a resort of beauty, wealth, and fashion.

MELKSHAM is distant from London 97 miles, from Bath 11, Bristol 23, Cheltenham 46, Leamington 84, and Salisbury 30.

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*The compiler of the Melksham Guide gladly embraces the opportunity to return his acknowledgments to Dr. Gibbes, an eminent physician in Bath, for his great politeness in permitting him to extract from his valuable observations, experiments, &c. on*

*the saline springs, whatever might be considered useful to the present work; he has in consequence availed himself of what Dr. Gibbes has published on the following heads: Discovery of the Old Spa. Analysis of the Old Spa. Analysis of the New Spa. Comparison of the Cheltenham, Leamington, and Melksham Waters. Melksham Aperient and Chalybeate Spa, and Disorders for which the Waters are of singular Efficacy.*

#### DISCOVERY OF THE OLD SPA.

“The spring rises in a field near Melksham, from nearly the top of a mound of earth, which was formed, about fifty years ago, of the materials which had been dug out, in sinking a shaft for the purpose of seeking for coal. After penetrating to a great depth, the miners came to a hard rock, on piercing through which this water rushed in upon them and was so abundant, that the scheme for finding coal was entirely abandoned. The shaft was filled up with timber and earth, and the spring has ever since continued to flow above the original

level of the field. At this height it produces a pint of water in three quarters of a minute; from which circumstance, it is presumed, that at some depth, an almost indefinite quantity of it might be obtained.

“Many people in this neighbourhood have for some time past experienced salutary effects from this water as a medicine, their notice having been attracted to its peculiar qualities by the consequences to the cattle that drank it, and by the frequent visits of the wood pigeons to the spring.

“It was owing to the advantage which Mr. Phillips, a gentleman of Melksham, derived from using this instead of Cheltenham water, that it was brought into notice in the summer of 1813; and it was in compliance with a request made by him, Mr. Long, and Mr. Bruges, that the following experiments and observations were then brought before the public.”

#### ANALYSIS OF THE OLD SPA.

“As the following analysis of this water, when joined to its known medicinal effects,

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certainly ranks it among the saline purgative waters of the most celebrated places in the kingdom; it cannot be deemed improper to apprise the public of the existence of so valuable a spring in the neighbourhood. The medicinal effects of this water, clearly point it out as a saline aperient; although strongly saline, it differs in its composition from, and is by no means so repulsive to the taste as sea water, and other saline spas.

“I accurately weighed four ounces of this water, in an evaporating earthen vessel, which I had previously put in equipoise, with corresponding weights in the other scale; when gradually evaporating the water, I found, after placing a four-ounce weight in the scale with the vessel, that it took twenty-one grains in the other scale to restore the exact equilibrium. The balance is a most excellent one, and nothing occurred that could detract from the accuracy of the experiment. Twenty-one grains in four ounces, allowing twelve ounces by weight to the pint, make sixty-three grains to a pint, and five hundred and four in the gallon, or five hundred and fifty-two grains

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in a gallon or more if brought to sixteen ounces avoirdupoise in a pint. As I brought the evaporation quite to dryness before a large fire, and as many saline substances found in mineral waters contain when crystallized from thirty to fifty per cent of water, this quantity far exceeds the estimate given by Dr. Fothergill of the contents of a gallon of Cheltenham water, namely five hundred and fifty-five grains of crystallized salts.

“I am authorised by Dr. Sims to state, that he procured from a beer gallon of this water nine hundred and fifty-five grains of crystallized salts, equal to seven hundred and eighty-two grains in the wine gallon, which is at least two hundred and twenty-seven grains more than Dr. Fothergill found in the same quantity of Cheltenham water, and allowing about forty per cent for the water of crystallisation, is in exact coincidence with my experiment.

“A quantity of the residuum, after evaporating the Melksham water at the heat of one hundred and eighty degrees, was submitted to the action of alcohol, and repeatedly wash-

ed in it, until all the earthy muriates were dissolved and carried off. To this filtered solution both carbonate of ammonia and pure ammonia were added, and each produced a precipitation evincing the presence of both muriate of lime and muriate of magnesia. The remaining residuum was then submitted to the action of distilled water, for the purpose of detecting the sulphates; but nitrate of lime produced no precipitation in the filtered liquor, consequently there was no sulphate of soda, and pure ammonia did not detect, by any precipitation, the presence of a magnesian sulphate.

“The remaining residuum was dissolved in diluted nitric acid, and the solution was filtered. Pure ammonia produced a slight precipitation shewing carbonate of magnesia. Carbonate of ammonia produced a great appearance of calcareous earth, and prussiate of potash evinced, by a strong blue colour, the presence of iron. The residuum, still remaining on the filtre, was found to be sulphate of lime. I have put down the carbonate of magnesia, which, though questionable as an ingredient existing with mu-

riate of lime, my experiments. have uniformly detected.

“The contents of this water, therefore, are muriate of soda, muriate of magnesia, muriate of lime, sulphate of lime, and the carbonates of lime, magnesia, and iron.

“The Melksham Spa water contains several substances that are very active, and which determine the properties of many distinguished mineral waters. Its character is saline, and the quantity of saline ingredients is equal to that of the most celebrated springs. The salts contained in it are in their nature purgative, and therefore a constant effect on the bowels is the action this medicinal water produces, whenever it is taken in suitable doses. A countervailing property in this water arises from the presence of some iron, thereby precluding that debility which so often follows the use of the stronger purgatives.

#### NEW SPA.

In consequence of the liberal offer of John Awdry, esq. to sell land, several respectable gentlemen formed themselves into

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a company, under the name of "The Melksham Spa Company," whose object was to sink a well in a field to the east of the former, in hopes of procuring an abundant supply of the saline water. For this purpose they purchased land, and laid the foundation of six genteel lodging houses. After having dug one hundred feet they commenced the process of boring, under the superintendance of Mr. Brough, an able engineer, who after twelve months labour, on the 1st of March, 1816, obtained the much desired object. Since that period one hundred feet more have been sunk.

The following are the particulars of the various strata, in the words of the engineer:

"A series of marl, dark coloured, ninety feet thick, which in the digging broke into rhomboids. Then marl again, about one hundred and thirty-two feet thick, varying in colour: most of this presented in every fracture or section, which could possibly be made, a glut of the remains of marine organized bodies, among which were many of the *cornu ammones*, most beautifully gilt with the pyrites of iron, assuming every metallic

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lustre imaginable. The *nautilus* also often occurred. The specific gravity of this mass was considerably greater than that of the foregoing, owing to its containing much iron. Towards the bottom of this marl, thin irregular beds of jet were met with; also, some large turtle-formed stones, which were extremely hard. Next a layer of stone two feet thick, in hardness equal to granite. Marl again, in thickness fifty feet, colour as above. Afterwards stone, two feet six inches thick, moderately hard, but differing from any of the foregoing, being more granulated, and, when tried between the teeth, exceedingly gritty. Then marl, in thickness eighteen feet. The character of this marl was also different from any of the above, being more indurated, as also gritty. Next stone, in thickness twenty feet, moderately hard, and of a lighter colour than any preceding. This was divided into about eight strata, by thin beds of clay, from one inch to two and a half thick. Then alternate strata of stone and clay, united thickness twenty-three feet six inches: the beds of clay from six to twelve inches. Afterwards, a bed of

stone two feet six inches thick. This was whiter than any yet met with, and moderately hard. Stone succeeded, eleven feet in thickness, very hard, and separated into about five or six strata, by beds of clay mixed with a little sand: these beds were from one to four inches thick. Total depth from the surface, three hundred and fifty-one feet six inches. It was in this stratum of eleven feet that my last hopes were fixed; and it was during the time we were boring through it that my reports to the committee were of a more cheering and confident nature, than for some time previously: when, finally, the borer entered a bed of sand, which immediately gave us demonstrative proofs that the adamantine seal was broken; for instantly the long-sought-for treasure gushed forth, in quantity sufficient for every purpose."

ANALYSIS OF THE SAND IN WHICH THE  
MELKSHAM SPRING RISES,

*As furnished by W. Nicholson, Esq. of Bath.*

Two hundred grains of the sand were boiled some time in water, and, when filtered, evinced a very trifling portion of com-

mon salt, not exceeding half a grain. The sand was digested in half an ounce of muriatic acid, and simmered nearly to dryness: to this, water was added, slightly boiled and filtered: the residuum, dried, weighed one hundred and twenty grains. This was thrown into half an ounce of sulphuric acid, and evaporated nearly to dryness: was boiled in three ounces of water, and filtered: the substance left on the filtre, when dried, weighed one hundred and thirteen grains. To the muriatic solution, sulphuric acid was slowly added, as long as any precipitation occurred: the substance separated, dried at a high temperature, weighed fifty-six grains, which was sulphate of lime. To the filtered solution prussiate of potash was added, and thirty-six grains of prussian blue were separated, evincing eighteen grains of the carbonate of iron. The residue was boiled in a solution of the carbonate of soda without any diminution; hence no gypsum. To the solution in sulphuric acid, water was added, and seven grains of alumina were thrown down by ammonia.

The following was the result:

	Grains.
Silex of flint . . . . .	113
Carbonate of iron . . . . .	18
Alumina . . . . .	7
Gypsum 56, equal to carbonate of lime	43
Muriate of soda . . . . .	.5
200 grains of the sand, well dried, lost	10
	191.5
Loss . . . . .	8.5
	200

## ANALYSIS OF THE NEW SPA.

“After counterpoising a silver dish in a very accurate pair of scales, I poured into it (says Dr. Gibbes) a pint, or twelve ounces Troy, of the Melksham water from the new well. This water I evaporated by means of spirit lamps, and obtained one hundred and thirty-three grains of dry salt, which are equal with the water of chrySTALLIZATION, to one hundred and fifty. This large residue I digested for a week, in pure alcohol, and after filtering it through white paper, I added separate portions of carbonate of ammonia and pure ammonia. Both these tests produced large precipitations, evincing the presence of both the muriate of lime and muriate of magnesia. After drying the salt

remaining on the filtre, I dissolved it in distilled water, and after filtering the solution, I added to separate portions of it nitrate of lime and pure ammonia, which by producing no precipitation, clearly show that there are no sulphates in the water, except that of lime. The substances remaining on the paper were sulphate of lime and the carbonates as before mentioned, but in extremely small quantities.

From these experiments it is clear that this new water, though containing a much larger proportion of saline ingredients, holds in solution the same salts as the other well. I subjected the water to a variety of other experiments, and tested it with nitrate of silver, tincture of galls, prussiate of potash, tincture of litmus, &c. and the result of all the experiments was the same as what I have already described, with the water of the old well, and proves it to be an aperient saline water, highly charged with the *muriates* of soda, lime, and magnesia.”

## COMPARISON OF THE CHELTENHAM, LEAMINGTON, &amp; MELKSHAM WATERS.

“I have been favoured” says Dr. Gibbes,

“with the following account of the constituent principles of the Cheltenham and Leamington waters, by a medical friend who has devoted much time to the process by which they were ascertained, the detail of which will shortly be presented by him to the public. As this statement involves no incompatibilities among the salts he has enumerated, and as he is particularly correct in his experiments, it may be relied on with perfect confidence.

*Cheltenham.*

*Mr. Thompson's Chalybeate & Carbonate Saline Wells:*

These waters contain muriate of soda, and sulphate of soda, no muriate of lime, no muriate of magnesia, and no sulphate of lime; a small portion of carbonate of soda, and perhaps a grain or two in a pint of sulphate of magnesia; the carbonates of lime, magnesia, and iron.

*Forty's Old Well:*

This water contains muriate of soda, sulphate of Soda, muriate of magnesia, sulphate of magnesia, and sulphate of lime; the three carbonates of lime, magnesia, and iron.

*Leamington Water*

Contains muriate of soda, sulphate of soda, muriate of magnesia, a small quantity of sulphate of magnesia, and a very large portion of sulphate of lime.

*Melksham Water*

Contains muriate of soda, MURIATE OF LIME, muriate of magnesia, sulphate of lime; the carbonates of lime, magnesia, and iron.

“From the above statement it appears that the peculiarity of the Melksham water consists in its containing muriate of lime, and possessing at the same time a purgative quality; from which circumstance there can be no presumption in supposing that it is entitled to medical respect, and that it may reasonably advance to a reputation similar to that so justly enjoyed by the celebrated waters of Cheltenham and Leamington.”

MELKSHAM SALINE APERIENT AND  
CHALYBEATE SPA.

“The mineral Waters of Melksham claim

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the attention of the public by the indisputable value of their constituent ingredients. It has been a long time doubted whether change of air, temperate regimen, freedom from care, and pleasant society, were not the real causes that rendered our watering places so peculiarly serviceable to the health of their visitants; and that the waters themselves were only subservient to the end of attracting the public to one salubrious spot. The waters most celebrated in this country have been thus frequently censured; and those who have come forward in praise of their virtues have been accused, with as little justice as truth, of being interested zealots. That many virtues and qualities of waters and medicines generally, are too much extolled, and that interested motives stimulate many of the actions of mankind, cannot be denied; but how otherwise should we ever have received the benefit of the most noble works of art, or raised our character among other nations for our great superiority in manufactures and commerce. It surely cannot be objected to the physician more than to other

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classes of the community, that he viciously seeks to raise his own reputation, when the object of his researches is to give ease to the afflicted, and to point out the causes and cure of disease. Deception may gain momentarily applause, but lasting credit can only depend on sound principles and sterling merit. The credit of mineral waters has, at different periods of time, been greatly dependant on the prevailing opinions of medicine: they have been taken up or degraded as they have more or less suited some predominant or fashionable theory of physic. When natural laws have been most regarded, and investigated, we find that the mild composition of mineral waters, has been supposed the best suited to the human constitution; but when, on almost all occasions, and at the earliest periods of life, the strongest preparations of antimony and mercury have been deemed indispensable, we cannot imagine that either the mild form of medicine in mineral waters would be approved of, or that those who were advocates for their use would be much regarded.

“It would not be difficult to show, that

the diseases of the present day are more dependant, than might at first sight appear, on the abuse of medicine; and that some complaints, for which mineral waters are particularly recommended, are such as the waters would in the first place have prevented. So that as a substitute for the most violent medicines, they would have prevented the very diseases for which they are now so peculiarly serviceable. I allude to scrofula, diseases of the skin, and those various glandular affections which are so much excited by mercury, and so much restrained by sea and mineral waters.

“Natural powers are only suspended in those disorders where the bowels are inactive: it often requires but a very little assistance to bring them forward. In disorders of the digestive organs, though the action of the bowels be considerably diminished, a very trifling assistance will restore its full power; and therefore it is that mild purgatives, often repeated, effect more towards a satisfactory relief than the larger doses of strong medicines. By the one, nature just receives the assistance

she requires, and the constitution is invigorated; by the other, nature is exhausted, and the frame weakened. The mild aperient waters, therefore, strengthen the constitution, whilst they assist the body in removing whatever burdens and oppresses it; and thus the powers of digestion are improved, and the hepatic secretion is healthfully promoted by the free action of the alimentary canal. It would carry us too far to enter into a description of the disorders, which are influenced by the stomach and alimentary canal, or to point out the reasons why a gentle aperient tends to remove many very extended disorders of our frame; but it will be necessary to allude to the decidedly beneficial effect that results from keeping the body under the influence of mild aperient medicine. The connection between skin complaints, and the state of the stomach and alimentary canal, is universally admitted; and here the Melksham waters have been found to answer every indication. Sea water is recommended in such cases for its external as well as internal use; and of late

years the warm sea bath has deservedly gained great reputation. The waters at Melksham are truly appropriate to such cases; for it may be asserted, that they contain every active ingredient of sea water, whilst the extreme repulsive taste of the sea is moderated in them, by a diminution of the muriate of soda; the active salts being in full proportion to produce the aperient effect with the same quantity of water.

“There are two wells at Melksham, the waters of which differ greatly in the quantity of saline impregnation: where, therefore, the bowels are more or less affected, recourse may be had to the stronger or weaker.

“Children may be even disposed to take the one, when they may resist swallowing the other; and the smaller dose of active ingredients may be the most suited to their delicate stomachs. It is a well known fact, that glandular affections, if not occasioned by, are attended with an obstinate state of the bowels. Mesenteric affections, swoln belly, pale countenance, and a

general cachetic appearance, indicate that state wherein such purgatives are serviceable; and it is in these cases that the Melksham waters are decidedly of advantage. They fully answer the high character which the sea has acquired, and they hold out even higher advantages from the situation of the place, and the easy access to it at all seasons.

“The external use produces many good effects in these cases. Baths can be obtained at any temperature, and the water can be applied locally to scrophulous sores and strumous affections.

“It has come to the knowledge of the writer of this inquiry, that children affected with sores of a scrophulous nature, where no benefit accrued from the use of other remedies under the most judicious management, have been completely relieved by the waters at Melksham; and that on their relapsing, after leaving the spa, a repetition of the cure took place on their return to it. Many diseases of this kind disappear at a certain age, and therefore should the cure not be perfected, it is of great im-

portance that the disorder be kept under, even for a definite time.

“I have the authority of some very judicious surgeons to say, that strumous sores which have resisted every other application have healed on the use of the muriate of lime; and I have seen instances of its beneficial effects. If we agree with Dr. Murray in his investigation of mineral waters, we shall attribute their powers, generally, to their containing muriate of lime. By force of chemical reasoning he shows very ingeniously, that it is most probable that the active ingredient of the chief spas may be muriate of lime, though after being evaporated for the purpose of analysis, it has been decomposed and is not discernable in the chemical result. The Melksham water, therefore, which on chemical analysis shows such an abundance of muriate of lime, must indisputably possess these advantages. This substance, Dr. Murray says, has very active properties; and he thinks that its tonic powers are sufficient with the chalybeate impregnation, to account for even the virtues of Bath waters. But I have great doubts

of its existence where there are other ingredients with which it is incompatible. Whatever qualities are attributed to it where it is supposed to exist, certainly should appear where it really does exist; and I am very much disposed to believe with Dr. Murray, that it is a most important ingredient in any mineral water, and particularly as at Melksham, when joined with the muriate of magnesia, whereby an open state of the bowels is insured during its use.

“I feel it a duty to impress the opinion that the Melksham waters are likely to prove beneficial in scrofula; there is no disease that so much baffles the art of medicine, and no one that is attended with so much misery to mankind. It would be a frightful picture to trace the numbers of young people that fall a sacrifice to this disease, and under its various forms to show the savages made by this terrible disorder. However we may differ as to the cause of it, we must admit that a great deal depends upon not provoking it to action in a constitution predisposed to it; the catching cold, or being in a bad habit of body, will often bring this

disease into activity. A strict attention to the *primæ viæ*, regular diet, and proper air and exercise, will, even in habits prone to this complaint, prevent its appearance. The Melksham water contains a substance acknowledged to be of service in scrophulous complaints; and it possesses, also, those qualities which induce a proper state of the digestive organs; it is found to improve that cachetic state to which children are so liable, and to give an activity to those functions of the alimentary canal, which, in children subject to this disorder, are found to be so sluggish.

“In scorbutic disorders the digestive organs are particularly concerned; and here, as in every other case where assistance is required to forward the process of digestion, these aperient waters have great efficacy. Warm saline water bathing is singularly serviceable in removing the local affection of the skin, and the stomach improves under a course of these waters internally. Instances have occurred of inveterate cases giving way to their use.

“A very large proportion and number of

bilious cases are referable to the digestive organs generally, and are relieved and removed by purgative medicines. Wherever there is produced a general action on the intestines, the bile is elicited; and in this way purgative waters prove serviceable. But here, as in other complaints, the degree of obstruction may require the aid of some other stronger medicines: thus a few grains of calomel may be taken over night, and the Melksham water in the morning will be proper to carry it off. But I have known the water, after two or three days taking, though at first it would hardly effect the bowels, produce great discharges of bile, and totally and completely remove all unpleasant feelings of bilious obstruction.

“It would be endless to enumerate all the cases wherein this water may be applied with reasonable hopes of advantage. Warm salt water bathing, where the temperature can be regulated to the greatest nicety, and water that in every pint contains one hundred and fifty grains of saline ingredients, are alone sufficient to stamp

an invaluable character on the place. Such hot or tepid bathing is applicable to the numerous cases of paralytic and rheumatic lameness, and to all the chronic disorders which affect the limbs and joints. It holds out the greatest hope to those who have suffered from gout, and other diseases affecting the due motion of the limbs. As a tepid bath, it would emulate the sea and the waters of Buxton in rheumatic eases, and at a lower temperature strengthen the general constitution.

“The biggest result may be expected from the combination of the external with the internal use; particularly in various obstructions where hot bathing would greatly assist in forwarding the desired effect.”

#### CHALYBEATE SPRING.

In the same field where the first saline spring rises, a chalybeate spring has been discovered, that yields about eight hundred gallons per day, of which Dr. Wilkinson, of Bath, has favoured the public with the following analysis and directions: of which, by the Doctor's kind permission,

the compiler of the Melksham Guide has gladly availed himself, and for which he desires to return his grateful acknowledgments.

“Sixteen ounces of the water were gently evaporated to dryness, in such a gradual manner as to prevent any decomposition of the muriates: the solid contents, dried at the heat of one hundred and eighty degrees, weighed eight grains and a half,” which after the proper experiments produced the following results:

	Grains
Muriate of lime.....	.6
Muriate of magnesia.....	.9
Sulphate of magnesia.....	1.5
Sulphate of lime.....	1
Carbonate of iron.....	4
	<hr/>
	8.0
Loss.....	5
	<hr/>
Solid contents in one pint of water ..	8.5

This spring has the same combinations as the Tunbridge waters, the saline chalybeate of Cheltenham, and the Bath waters, though none of these contain the same proportion of the carbonate of iron as the Melksham chalybeate.

*Directions to those who drink it.*

“It is well known to every practitioner, that the muriated tincture of iron, or iron any ways artificially dissolved, does not produce the same beneficial effects with the natural chalybeate mineral waters. In the form as arranged by nature, it is found particularly useful in all cases of constitutional debility, and in all nervous and hysterical affections. When iron is employed, all visceral obstructions should be previously removed; hence, when had recourse to in dyspeptic cases, depending on some derangement of the digestive organs, it would be advisable for the visitors at Melksham to make, use of the saline aperient spring, for a short time, before they enter upon a course of the chalybeate; and in most cases it would be advisable to take a glass of the saline early in the morning, and a glass of the chalybeate about two hours before dinner.

“As a pint of the water contains four grains of the carbonate of iron, the dose, at first, should not exceed a quarter of a pint, but in two or three weeks it may be gradually

increased to half a pint, above which it should not be augmented unless by the order of some medical gentleman.”

#### PUMP ROOM, BATHS, AND SPA BUILDINGS.

At the distance of half a mile from the town, and about one hundred yards to the eastward of the London road, is the new well, over which has just been erected an elegant pump room, fitted up with every convenience, and commanding a pleasing prospect over the surrounding country, in the various scenery of which the venerable tower of Bromham church, at the distance of four miles, forms an interesting object.

Adjoining the pump room are baths for hot or cold bathing, well fitted up, and provided with every requisite. They are so constructed that they can be filled and emptied in the most expeditious manner. The saline water is abundant, and can be readily supplied at any degree of temperature. The dressing rooms are private and comfortable, and provided with stoves. There are two spare rooms appropriated for the convenience of rest or waiting.

The pump room and baths form the centre of an intended crescent, the lower part of which is completed, and consists of six elegant houses, built for the accommodation of visitors. The accompanying engraving will convey a more perfect idea of the plans than a verbal description. The grounds, consisting of nine acres, are tastefully planted with thriving shrubs, and extend along the side of the post road for more than a quarter of a mile. Between the buildings and the shrubbery is a broad gravelled carriage way, from the lower part of which to the town, a good footpath has been raised that screens a comfortable walk to the spa.

To the front of the pump room and baths is attached a handsome veranda, well calculated either for shelter or shade, under which is an elevated walk, that in unfavourable weather affords an agreeable promenade; or when the inclination or strength of the valetudinarian does not allow of a longer excursion, furnishes assisting means of restoring health by gentle exercise, and the pleasing variety of landscape which the adjacent country offers to the view.

## CHARGES FOR DRINKING AND BATHING.

*Drinking.*

	Subscription.	Pumper.
A family, per season . . . . .	£1	11
An individual, per ditto . . . . .	1 1	0 4
A family, per month . . . . .	0	15
An individual, per ditto . . . . .	0	10
A family, per fortnight or less . . . . .	0 10 6	2 0
An individual, per ditto . . . . .	0 5	0 1

*Bathing.*

	£	s.	d.	Attendant.
Warm saline bath . . . . .	0	3		0 0
Cold ditto . . . . .	0	2		6 0
Subscription for six warm baths . . . . .	0	15	0	3 0
Ditto for six cold ditto . . . . .	0			10
Ditto for nine warm ditto . . . . .	1	1		0 4
Ditto for nine cold ditto . . . . .	0			15
Ditto for the season, warm . . . . .	2	2		0 7
Ditto ditto, cold . . . . .	1			11

## RULES FOR USING THE WATERS.

The warm season of the year is undoubtedly to be preferred for drinking mineral waters, because it admits the greater freedom of air and exercise. They may however be taken at any season, care being had to avoid cold; but they may be drunk with advantage, whenever there is a tendency of the constitution to inflammatory or eruptive disorders.

Excessive exertion should be avoided by

those who use them, lest a feverish habit of body should be induced, which might prevent the expected benefit.

The best time of the day for drinking the water is early in the morning, when half a pint may be taken, which sometimes acts freely: the quantity, however, must be regulated according to the state of the constitution of the patient. After a short interval or a walk, the dose may be repeated. Two half pints will in general be found sufficient. Children should take less, and it is to be remarked, that a violent effect is not so beneficial as a steady and regular operation on the bowels, particularly in weakly persons, children, or those who labour under symptoms of scrofula. If taken warm, a less quantity may frequently be more efficacious. It will, however, be always advisable to begin with a smaller quantity, and increase according to the effect it is found to have on the habit, which will depend much upon the age, sex, constitution, and complaint of those who drink it.

In many bilious and other cases, in which the digestive organs are obstructed, the aid

of a stronger medicine may be necessary as a preparative. In such disorders a small dose of salts, or a few grains of calomel may be taken over night, and the water in the morning.

When the water is taken cold it braces the stomach and refreshes the body; when too warm, it tends to relax it.

The duration of the course should be regulated by the nature of the disease, and the effects which the waters are found to have on the constitution. Three or four weeks will be frequently sufficient, but in obstinate chronical disorders it may be persevered in for months, even in cases of apparently great debility, without producing any inconvenience to the system.

#### *Bathing*

Is considered by many as a luxury, from the agreeable sensation it produces, and its being highly conducive to health. The cold bath exhilarates the spirits, and gives vigour to the body, while the hot and tepid soothes refreshes and invigorates the frame, and proves an invaluable remedy in complaints which require the pores of the skin to be opened without producing profuse perspiration.

“The heat of ninety-six degrees is what is usually considered tepid, being the temperature of the blood of every person in good health. Such a bath may be used as a restorative for ten minutes or a quarter of an hour every other day. The same heat may also be used in chronic diseases, and in many dry and scurfy states of the skin: but ninety or ninety-two suit some rheumatic complaints better than a greater heat, though in cases of stiffened joints, where the constitution has not been much impaired a temperature of ninety-eight, or even a hundred, may be borne daily for half an hour.

“As baths above ninety-eight degrees accelerate the pulse, they cannot be safe in full states of the stomach, nor immediately after violent exercise. The best time for hot bathing will be two or three hours before dinner, unless it be intended to bring on a violent perspiration, when evening is the most favourable time.

“The hotter the bath the less time the patient should remain in it, but the precise time call only be determined by the nature of the disease, and the constitution of the patient: general practice admits of a lati-

tude between ten minutes and half an hour. Care must be taken not to continue so long as to bring on faintness or debility.”

DESCRIPTION OF MELKSHAM AND THE  
ADJACENT COUNTRY.

Though Melksham does not afford so many objects of curiosity for the antiquary and naturalist as some other places, yet there are few, that within the distance of a ride, present more which are deserving of inspection. The seats of the marquis of Landsdowne, the marquis of Bath, Paul Methuen, esq. and many others, furnish amusement for such as delight in objects of magnificence; while the venerable remains of Stonehenge, Avebury, and Silbury Hill, never fail to excite the admiration of the beholders.

The town and neighbourhood of Melksham are not, however, destitute of interest; though neither presenting the dashing cascade, the ruined mouldering tower, nor the residence of titled grandeur. The scenery, if not grand, is pleasing. The walks through the meadows on every side, --along the towing path of the Berks and Wilts canal, and

on or near the banks of the meandering Avon, cannot fail to soothe and please the willing mind, and greatly to assist in restoring health to those who resort to so salubrious a spot; while the more distant ones to Bowden Hill, Spye Park, Sandridge Hill, and Seend, afford much variety, and command extensive and charming prospects.

After giving a concise description of the town, we shall lead the curious to every thing worth seeing within the distance of twelve or fifteen miles, and occasionally venture a mile or two farther, when any antiquity or remarkable edifice makes the excursion desirable. That this may be the more satisfactorily performed, those objects will be first described which are nearest; gradually extending the circle till we reach our utmost bounds.

*Melksham Church*

Undoubtedly claims the first attention. It is a large and spacious edifice, built of freestone, and dedicated to St. Michael. The tower stands in the centre of the transept, and is embellished with battlements and pinnacles, as is also the body of the church.

There are three chantries, belonging to the Jenkines, the Methuens, and The Wrays, besides the principal chancel at the east end.

The edifice has undergone many alterations, but some parts of it are of great antiquity, probably of the twelfth or thirteenth century, as is evident from the flat buttresses which prevailed at that period. It has lately undergone a thorough repair.

There are many neat monuments in different parts of the church, principally belonging to the Awdrys, the Selfes, and the Threshers; and one in particular, well executed, to the memory of a daughter of Mr. Thomas Selfe, and his family. There is one in the chancel, to the right of the altar, with the following in cription:

In memoriam Isaaci Selfe et Margaret parentum; Jacobus Selfe filius hoc posuit, Qui postquam Nonagesimum secundum aetatis compleverit annum numerosa sobole felix, vid. quatuor filiis et tredecem filiabus, una cum nepotibus nepotum at prole ad numerum 83. mandata creatori anima, lubens de vita migravit, Feb. 10th. A. D. 1656.

To the memory of Isaac Selfe, who joyfully departed this life in the ninety-third year of his age; being blessed with a numerous issue, namely four sons and thirteen daughters, who together with grand children, and great grandchildren, amounted before his death to eighty-three. Jacob Selfe, his son, erected this stone to the memory of his parents Isaac and Margaret Selfe.

And on the right of it another to the memory of a former vicar, with the following inscription:

Here lie the Remains  
Of the Rev. Mr. Bohun Fox,  
Vicar of this Parish for fifty-three years.  
He discharged the Duties of his Pastoral Office  
With Fidelity and Zeal;  
Defended the Doctrine and Discipline of the Church of England  
By his excellent Discourses and Writing;  
Asserted the Rights and Revenues of his Station  
With Resolution and Success,  
The Instruction of the Poor was his peculiar Care:  
To this End he established and constantly superintended  
A Charity School  
For the virtuous Education and Clothing  
of Poor Children,  
And endowed it by his last Will  
With the perpetual Interest  
Of One Hundred and Thirty-five Pounds.  
His Learning, his Integrity, and great Abilities,  
Recommended him to the unanimous Suffrages  
Of the Clergy of the Diocese,  
To represent them in Convocation,  
In the most interesting Times,  
When the late pious and glorious Queen Anne  
Cordially proposed the Advancement  
Of the Dignity, Purity, and Discipline of the Church.  
As he owed the Principles of his distinguished Endowments  
To his happy Education in Winchester College,  
His Gratitude was expressed to that celebrated Foundation  
By settling on Poor Scholars of Merit educated there  
An Ample Provision for ever.  
He died April 3d, 1750,  
In the 78th Year of his Age.

There is also a monument in the church to the memory of John May, with the fol-

lowing distich in the quaint style of the times:

Mors tua, Mors Christi, Fraus Mundi, Gloria Coeli,  
Et Dolor Inferni, sint meditanda tibi.  
Christ's death, and thine own end,  
Heaven's glory, and the world's deceit,  
With hell's dire griefs and pains,  
For thought are subjects meet.

The tower contains six musical bells, and a clock. On the north is a venerable and spreading yew tree, which is doubtless of great antiquity.

The principal religious denominations have chapels in the town, which are well attended.

The Baptist chapel is a convenient building in the city. It is well fitted up, but so surrounded with houses as to be almost concealed. The times of service are, on Sunday mornings, at half-past ten o'clock, in the afternoons at half-past two, and in the evenings at six, and at seven on Thursday evenings.

The Independant chapel is a commodious structure, near the turnpike gate, on the Devizes road. The times of service are, on Sunday mornings at half-past ten, in the

afternoons at half-past two, and in the evenings at half-past six. and on tuesday evenings at seven.

The Methodist chapel is a light building near the centre of the town. The times of service are, on sunday mornings at half-past ten, in the afternoons at two, and in the evenings at six, and on monday evenings at seven.

The Friends' meeting is a neat structure on the Trowbridge road. The times of meeting are at ten on sunday mornings, and at three in the afternoons in winter, and five in summer, and at ten on wednesday mornings.

On the south-west of the church is a mansion formerly the residence of the late Miss Thresher, now the property of the rev. Mr. Wray. In the front are grounds which afford delightful walks, particularly one, called the lovers' walk, more than half a mile long, under a vista of venerable elms. These grounds are undoubtedly part of a park, formerly of considerable extent, as is apparent from the broken vistas and rows of trees, several of which extend to the river.



T. E. Rosenberg, del

## VIEW NEAR THE BRIDGE, MELKSHAM

C. Marsh, S. Bath

The Bridge is a handsome structure, erected in the place of one which was destroyed by an inundation in the year 1809. It consists of four spacious arches. The whole is substantially built of stone, but the neat balustrades with which it is adorned, give it a tight and airy appearance.

Adjoining the bridge is one of the largest corn-mills in the county, the property of Mr. Jeffery, contiguous to which is his residence, a building remarkable for its simple neatness. The ground in front has been lately disposed in plantations, which in a few years will produce a pleasing effect.

Upon the Avon, and close to the mills, are the extensive factory and dye-houses of Messrs. Phillips and Sons, who have long carried on the manufacture of superfine, cloths to a great extent. In the front is an elegant house, just completed, and which is an ornament to that part of the town. The view presented in the accompanying engraving is taken from the south bank of the river above the bridge.

On the other side of the river is a house called the Ark, which has been so much

trout, roach, perch, pike, and eels. Many vestiges of antiquity are discernable on its banks, the history of which has been long forgotten.

Within a few years, an extensive piece of ground, called Melksham Common, has been enclosed. An act was likewise obtained in the last session of parliament for paving and lighting the town, which is expected to be shortly carried into effect. Other improvements are in contemplation and there can be no doubt but every accommodation will be made, that can render it a desirable and fashionable place of resort.

*The Royal Bath and Exeter Mail*

Comes in from London, and brings letters from all parts to the eastward, between eight and nine in the morning, and immediately proceeds to Bath and Exeter. It arrives from Exeter and Bath between six and seven in the evening, on its way to London. Letters for and from Bradford, Frome, Trowbridge, Westbury, Warminster, and the neighbouring towns and villages, are forwarded by post boys. They are delivered out every morning at ten o'clock, but may

be had at the office after the Exeter and Bath Mail arrives in the evening. The Post Office is conveniently situated in the main street, nearly opposite the King's Arms, where the mail stops; and where neat post chaises and able horses may be had, and the traveller or visiter be accommodated with every requisite for enjoyment or comfort.

*Stage Coaches.*

The following pass through Melksham daily, and stop at the Bear Inn, where travellers will meet with good accommodation:

Pickwick's from Wood Street, Cheap-side, and the Golden Cross, Charing Cross, London, to the White Hart Inn, Stall Street, Bath, at half past seven, morning and evening; and from Bath to London at half past seven in the morning, and half past five in the evening.

Pickwick's slow coach goes up at ten in the morning, and down at half past three in the afternoon.

Fromont's Coach from the Christopher Inn, Market Place, Bath, to Gerrard's Hall Basing Lane, London, at three in the afternoon, and down at six in the morning.

A coach to Trowbridge and Bradford, leaves Melksham at six in the morning, and returns at three in the afternoon.

*Errand Carts.*

Taylor's from Melksham to the Bell, Walcot Street, Bath, every wednesday and saturday, and returns on the same days.

Smith's light cart from Devizes to the Three Cups, Bath on friday, and returns on saturday.

Barnes's light cart from Laycock to Devizes on thursday, calls at the King's Arms at nine o'clock in the morning and returns in the evening.

Applegate's light caravan' from Salisbury, Warminster, &c. calls at the Royal Oak on tuesday morning at nine o'clock, on its way to Chippenham, Malmsbury, Tetbury, and Gloucester, and returns on thursday evening.

*Waggons.*

Symes's and Mitchell's from their ware-house, Bath, to 69 Old Bailey, London, daily, and takes up or leaves parcels at the turnpike gate.

Godby's leaves the Bear Inn, Melksham,

every monday evening, and goes to the Swan, Holborn Bridge, London. Goods forwarded by the same waggon to Melksham every week by way of Trowbridge.

Gundry's (late Dean's) to Crabb's Well, Temple Street, Bristol, monday and thursday; returns wednesday and saturday.

Pritchard's, same days, from and to the White Lion, Thomas Street, Bristol: stops at the New Crown Inn.

*Shaw-House,*

One mile from Melksham, on the left side of the Bath road, the property of Sir Harry Burrard Neale, is a large and ancient structure, the residence of C. Bythesea, esq. In the front is a paddock, and behind are gardens and plantations: the whole, however, has a very sombre appearance.

Near Shaw House is the Brewery of Mr. Eyles, from which families can be supplied with good malt liquor.

*Shaw-Hill-House,*

The seat of S. Heathcote, esq. about half a mile from the former, has lately undergone great alterations and repairs, and is now a

very pleasing residence; and being situated on an eminence, it has the advantage of an extensive view.

*Laycock,*

Three miles from Melksham, is a large village, containing little to interest the curious, except the Abbey for which it has been long famous. It was founded about the year 1232 by Ella, countess of Salisbury, for the health of her own soul, and those of her husband and ancestors; and in consequence of a revelation that she should build it in Snail's mede to the honour of our lady and St. Bernard, she laid the foundation on the morning of the 16th of April, for nuns of the Augustine order.

The Abbey was formerly an extensive pile of building, containing every accommodation for the habits of its secluded inmates. There are several large and nearly perfect parts remaining, but most of it has been removed, or considerably altered. It appears to have contained two quadrangular courts, one appropriate for offices, and the other for the chapel, refectory, hall,

&c. which surround a cloister, three sides of which are comparatively perfect, and present an interesting object to the antiquary, and curious observer. The piazzas within afforded the nuns a very retired walk. From the terrace on the top, is a charming prospect of the grounds, the river, Bowden Hill, and the circumjacent country. Your conductor informs you that a nun once threw herself over the battlements, into the arms of her lover, without receiving the smallest injury. You are likewise shown a picture representing the circumstance.

Within the cloisters are three monumental stones; one of the foundress, on which is inscribed:

"*Infra deposita Elao venerabilis, ossa, quae dedit has sedes sacras [a word indistinct] quarum abbatissa quidem, quaesante vixit ibidem, et Comitissa Sarum, virtutum plena bonarum, obiit 1261.*

Here are deposited the bones of the venerable Ella, who gave this sacred mansion [probably "to nuns"] of whom indeed she was abbess. She lived here piously after having been Countess of Sarum, and died full of virtues 1261.

The other stones have no inscription, but one of them has the effigy of a bishop, who is supposed to have been the son of Ella.

In an apartment said to have been the nuns' kitchen, is a large trough cut out of a single stone, eleven feet long, four feet eleven inches wide, and two feet four inches deep, which is supposed to have been for the purpose of preserving fish alive. The chapter house resembles the room just mentioned; they are both divided by columns, but those of the latter are the richer. The vestry, which is vaulted, is supported by two columns. Adjoining is the tower, and in a room near it is kept an original copy of the Magna Charta of Henry III, on the back of which is written: "Ex deposito militum Wiltishir Henrici regis filii Joannis regis de libertatibus, et quibusdam conue-tudinibus per Angliam constitutis." There are many paintings, but few of considerable merit. There are, however, some curiosities which will agreeably entertain the visitor. On the roof is an immense cistern, containing about one hundred hogsheads, that is filled by means of pipes underground, which convey the water from Bowden-Hill. It is at present occupied by J. R. Grossett, esq.

*Seend,*

Three miles from Melksham. This pleasant village presents few objects either of antiquity or superior elegance, but affords one of the most charming views, and well rewards the visitor for the fatigue and trouble of ascending to it. It is situated half a mile from the London road. The church is a neat edifice, and the salubrity of the place is apparent from the longevity of the inhabitants, many instances of great age being to be found on the tomb stones. The principal seats are an ancient mansion that has long been in the possession of the Seymours, Dukes of Somerset, and formerly the residence of the late Lord William Seymour; that of A. Awdry, esq.; and one recently completed for T. Bruges, esq. of Melksham.

*Holt,*

Three miles from Melksham. This is a small village situated on undulating ground, and is particularly deserving of notice for its medicinal spring, which was discovered many years ago, and has never fallen into disrepute, though it has not been nume-

rously visited. A treatise on its virtues was published in the beginning of the last century, and another in 1731 by "Henry Eyre sworn purveyor to her majesty for all mineral waters," who mentions upwards of one hundred eminent cures, as having been effected by the use of the Holt waters. Here are commodious lodging-houses and the distance affords an agreeable ride to Melksham Spa.

*Bowden-Hill,*

The seat of Mrs. Dickenson, four miles from Melksham. This is a modern edifice, built by Barnard Dickenson, esq. from the designs of that eminent artist Jeffery Wyatt. Its western front has a semicircular portico with Ionic columns. The house is on a steep hill, and commands delightful and extensive prospects over considerable parts of Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, and Somersetshire. The lower part of the hill is well covered with wood, and the grounds are all stocked with thriving plantations.

At the eastern extremity of the park is a neat lodge by the same architect, near which is an ancient gateway leading to Spye-Park,

which Leland says was erected at Corsham in the reign of Henry VIII, and afterwards removed to Bromham, whence it was brought to its present site.

*Spye-Park-House,*

Four miles from Melksham. This mansion, though neither possessing the magnificence, nor ample domains of some we have to notice, yet sufficiently rewards the trouble of an excursion to view it, on account of the beautiful and extensive landscape around. The edifice is for the most part ancient, but the front is of modern date. The park, which contains about five hundred acres, was formerly adorned with abundance of timber, most of which has been cut down. It is principally noted for having been the residence of John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester, at once famous for his fine genius and his dissipated character. It was long the abode of the ancient family of Baynton, but has lately been in the occupation of the celebrated Colonel Thornton.

*Bromham,*

Four miles from Melksham, is a small but pleasant village, situated on an eminence,

and is chiefly remarkable for its' salubri-  
ty, and its church, which is a large structure,  
the exterior of which is ornamented with  
roses, chains &c. and sculptured angels  
support the mouldings of the windows  
Over the east window is also an angel sup-  
porting the figures of naked children. With-  
in are various gilded ornaments on a blue  
ground. Among the monuments is the  
following inscribed to Sir Edward Baynton,  
and his two wives:

Here lyeth Sir Edward Baynton, Knight; within the  
marble clad,  
By Agnes Ryce his first tue wife, that thirteen child-  
ren had:  
Whereof she left alive with him at her departure three,  
Henry, Anne, Elizabeth, whose pictures here you see.  
The 29th day of August she deceased, of Christ the yere,  
The little figures standing represent the number here,  
1575.  
Then marryed to Anne Pakington, his bound wife she was  
For whose remembrance here entombed these lines he  
left on brass.

Anna Dno 1578.

A mural monument perpetuates the me-  
mory of Lady Anne Wilmot, co-heir of John  
Earl of Rochester, who died in 1703.

There is another mural stone to the me-  
mory of Henry Seasons, M. D. author of the  
almanack called "Season on the Seasons,"

who died at the age of eighty-two. The fol-  
lowing lines are inscribed on it:

'Tis not the tomb in marble polished high,  
The sculptured urn, or glittering trophies nigh;  
The classic learning on an impious stone,  
Where Latin tells what English blush'd to own;  
Can shroud the guilty from the eye of God,  
Incline his balance or avert his rod.  
That hand can raise the cripple and the poor,  
Spread on the way or gathered at the door,  
And blast the villain, though to altars fled,  
Who robs us living, and insults us dead.

The salubrity of the village is fully  
proved by the longevity of its inhabi-  
ants.

*Steeple Ashton,*

Five miles from Melksham, is a pleasant  
village, the church of which is the princi-  
pal object of attention. It is a lofty and  
elegant building, erected about the year  
1480, as appears from an inscription on the  
nave, but from the difference of style, the  
other parts are evidently of a later period.  
The body of the church is surmounted with  
pinnacles, rising from the buttresses at every  
third opening. The tower is lofty and ele-  
gant, the summit of which is surmounted  
with battlements and pinnacles. Leland

says that it had formerly a lofty spire. The following inscription explains the singular cause of its destruction:

Upon this tower was a famous and lofty spire, containing in height above the tower, ninety three feet, which a violent storm of thunder rent and made a great breach therein, July 25th, 1670. The parish willing to preserve such a noble and complete spire, endeavoured to repair the same, by employing able workmen for that purpose: but such was the uncontrollable providence of Almighty God, that when the spire was almost finished, and the workmen labouring thereon, another terrible storm of thunder and lightning happened the 15th October in the same year, which threw down the spire, and killed the two workmen labouring thereon, and beat down the top of the tower, great part of the body of the church, and part of the ailes thereof, the reparation whereof cost the parishoners and some well disposed neighbours the sum of 420*£*, and was finished in the year 1675.

The internal part of the church is equally elegant with the external, being profusely adorned with sculpture and tracery work. The painted glass in the windows is in good preservation. Ten clustered columns separate the aisles from the body of the church. Few village churches exhibit superior decorations and workmanship.

*Trowbridge,*

Five miles from Melksham, is noted for its manufacture of fine cloths. It is built on a declivity. The streets are narrow and the

houses irregular; but some erections which have lately been made on the north possess more uniformity, and when the streets are paved, will be much preferable to the old ones. The market is well attended. The church is dedicated to St. James, and is called the new one, though it is upwards of four hundred years old. It is a fair structure, and not unworthy of the notice of architects. At the west end is a large tower with a remarkable tapering spire. The population of the town may be estimated at about 8,000.

Trowbridge formerly contained a castle, of which no part remains, though the site of it is distinguishable by the moat with which it was surrounded. It bears the name of Castle-Hill.

About two miles to the south-east is Rowd Ashton, in which is the seat of R. Long, esq. one of the representatives for the county of Wilts. The mansion is large and commodious, and has lately undergone considerable alterations and improvements. The park is extensive, abounding with fine timber and thriving plantations.

*Bradford,*

Six miles from Melksham, is a large and populous market town, the inhabitants of which are chiefly employed in the woollen manufacture, and as is generally the case in manufacturing towns, the streets are narrow, and the houses irregularly built, though it contains some good edifices. On the entrance from Melksham, the town appears to considerable advantage, as there is a commanding view of the whole. It is situated on the lower Avon, the banks of which are chiefly occupied with dyehouses and manufactories. It rises from the river like an amphitheatre, up a steep hill, from the summit of which is an extensive prospect. The church is a spacious and ancient building of free-stone, with a tower and small steeple at the west end. It consists of a nave, north aisle, chancel, and chapel on the south side, There are but two monuments that claim attention: one under an arch on the south side, supports the figure of a knight in armour, with a sword in his right hand, and a shield in his left; the other is on the north side, and represents a lady,

but it is much mutilated. The population is about 7,000.

*Corsham-House,*

The seat of Paul Methuen, esq. one of the members of parliament for the 'county of Wilts, six miles from Melksham, is a mansion that has long attracted the attention of artists, on account of its choice collection of pictures, which is equalled by few in the Kingdom, and highly deserves the notice of the curious. It stands near the site of the palace of Ethelred, the Saxon king, and it appears from an inscription on the south front, to have been erected in 1582. It was afterwards the residence of Sir Edward Hungerford. It was much enlarged by the late possessor, and is ornamented in a style of superior elegance and grandeur. An apartment has been added seventy feet long, twenty-four wide, and twenty-four high, for the reception of the pictures, consisting of three hundred and fifty-six paintings, many of them by the most celebrated masters.

The improvements which have been lately made are thus described in the "Historical Account of Corsham-House."

"The middle of the house, on the south side, was occupied by a hall, staircase, drawing room, eating room, and a narrow passage, all of which were small and low.

These have been laid together, and formed into one hall, the ceilings taken away, and an open gallery made all round, with a staircase at both ends, leading by double flights of steps, on each side, to the galleries. This room, which is fitted up as an old baronial hall, is 110 feet in length, including the staircase, 25 broad, and 25 feet high. The west wing of the house had a square library two smaller rooms, and a staircase. The latter and the two rooms have been thrown together, and, converted into a library, 45 feet long, and 22 feet wide. The square apartment is now made a breakfast room, and is remarkable for a very *singular cornice*, which is composed of small heads in basso relieve supporting the points of groins. Though there are 160 in number, yet they are so varied that not any two are alike; and though every head is expressive of bearing weight, yet each countenance expresses it in a different way. The additional *new rooms* are on the north side of the house, and consist of a saloon, an eating room, and a music room. The two latter are of the same proportions, measuring 36 feet by 24 feet, and 18 feet high. The saloon in the middle is of an octagonal shape, 40 feet diameter and 24 feet high. It commands a beautiful view of the lawn and water. These three rooms are en-suite, and communicate with the grand picture gallery, hall, and passage. In designing the centre of the north front, the architect has judiciously chosen for his model the east end of Henry the Seventh's chapel at Westminster, the character of which is peculiarly light, and beautiful. Its form and component parts are admirably adapted to this situation; for by projecting before the regular surface of the building, and having windows in the three outer faces, it thereby gives to the saloon a variety and extent of prospect singularly advantageous. The turrets and flying buttresses are also beautiful appendages,

and by catching the rays of the sun when in the east or west, are calculated to illumine the gloom of a northern aspect."

The following pictures claim particular attention:

An emblematical picture representing an angel conveying a female infant to heaven :-*Carlo Dolci*.

The Dawn of Morning :-*Claude*.

The Nativity, in three compartments :- *Tintoretto*.

Judith going out of the City to Holofernes's Tent :-*Paul Veronese*.

Portrait of a Turk :-*Rembrandt*.

A Magdalen meditating on a Skull :-*Titian*.

Baptism of our Saviour, accompanied by Angels :-*Guido*.

Rubens and Family, with horses, dogs, wolves, foxes &c. :-*Rubens*.

Storm, a Landscape :-*N. Poussin*.

Sir Francis Xavire's Death :-*C. Maratti*.

Head of Lord Bernard Stuart :-*Vandyck*.

Sir Brian Tuke :-*Holbein*.

Margaret, Countess of Richmond and Derby, mother of Henry VII. :-*Mabuse*.

Portrait of James Stuart, Duke of Richmond and Lennox :-*Vandyck*.

The Deity, with Angels in the Clouds :-*F. Albano*, silver frame by *Alessandro Algardi*.

Landscape :-*S. Rosa*.

Martyrdom of the Innocents :-*Vandyck*.

Our Saviour Anointed by Mary Magdalen in the Pharisee's House :-*Carlo Dolci*.

Emblematical Picture of the Duties and Virtues of a Good Christian :-*Titian*.

The Virgin and Child in the Clouds :-*Murillo*.

Evening :-*Claude*.

Portrait of Fornando Cortez the Spanish Adventurer :-*Titian*.

The Corinthian Eudamidas making his Will, by *N. Poussin*: with many others too numerous to mention.

The park and gardens afford much variety, and present many beautiful and picturesque prospects, and altogether are scarcely inferior to any in the county.

The town of Corsham is very pleasant, and the air is so particularly clear and salubrious, that the inhabitants in general live to an advanced age. "Some years ago an eminent physician who was going to Bath, having put up at the Inn in the town, was accosted by some beggars of both sexes, and being curious to know how old they were, one of them answered that he was about a hundred, and that another standing by him was six score. The doctor expressed great surprise, on which the beggar added, that the preceding Christmas there was a morrice dance at a neighbouring gentleman's house, when ten of these mendicants performed their parts with great agility, whose ages united amounted to upwards of a thousand years."

By the kind permission of the proprietor Corsham-House is open for public inspection on tuesdays, and fridays, when every respectable person is admitted.

*Chippenham,*

Six miles from Melksham, though at present of little political importance, was once a royal abode, for Ethelwolf resided here for some time on his return from his expedition against the Welsh in 853. It was afterwards occupied by the Danes as their head quarters, during the time that Alfred was confined in the forest of Selwood.

It is a pleasant borough town, situated on the Avon, over which it has a handsome bridge of freestone, of sixteen arches. It consists principally of one street, near the centre of which is an opening for the market. The houses are respectable, and the town house is nearly the meanest looking building in the place. The church is a large ancient structure, which has evidently been built at different periods. In it is a mural stone, with figures and an epitaph to the memory of Sir Gilbert Pryn, knight, which is worth the inspection of the curious.

By the census of 1811 Chippenham contains 3,410 inhabitants. Its staple produce is woollens, principally fine broad cloths and kerseymeres.

*Wraxhall-House*

Six miles from Melksham, was for many years the residence of Mrs. Catherine Long, who died in 1814, leaving personal property to the amount of near £150,000.

The house is now occupied by the rev. Mr. Knight, from Bradford, as a seminary for young gentlemen. The mansion and grounds still possess considerable interest, and will sufficiently repay the trouble of an excursion to view them.

*Box,*

Seven miles from Melksham, is a small village delightfully situated in a highly picturesque valley, which is watered by a small rivulet, and bounded by lines of undulating hills, that are chequered with hamlets, villas, and plantations. At a short distance on the north is Middle-Hill-Spa, consisting of two springs, which differ essentially from each other, one resembling the waters of Cheltenham, and the other having a strong affinity to those of Harrowgate.

*Bowood,*

The seat of the Marquis of Lansdown, is seven miles from Melksham. This residence

is deservedly admired for the elegance of the structure, the extent of the pleasure grounds, and the taste with which they are laid out. The grand front faces the south, and commands a charming and diversified prospect. A large portico, supported by ten columns of the Doric order, adds greatly to the effect. Above this is a pediment on which are the family arms, beautifully sculptured. The entrance-hall, which is under the portico, is paved with tessellated marble. The apartments are very elegant, and contain a number of very valuable pictures, among which is a portrait of an old man by Sebastian del Piombo, and a landscape by Gainsborough, with many excellent productions of Albano, Rubens, &c. There is a fine portrait of Sir William Petty, the first of his family who attained to great political consideration. The mansion is an extensive and magnificent building, on an eminence rising from a lake, which covers nearly thirty acres, divided into two branches, one of which extends to a considerable distance, the other winds round a rising lawn.

The pleasure grounds, which comprise seventy acres, are most tastefully disposed, and exhibit a profusion of indigenous and exotic trees, that thrive with luxuriant vegetation. At the bottom of the ground is a cascade, where the surplus water is discharged over fragments of rocks thirty feet perpendicular, under which are formed several subterraneous grottos.

In the park is a handsome mausoleum with an inscription to the memory of the Earl of Shelbourne.

*Devizes.*

Seven miles from Melksham, is a neat borough town, principally built of brick, consisting of two parallel streets, and a few short ones. The houses are irregularly built, according to the caprice or convenience of the owners. It was once famous for its castle, which no longer exists. The chief places worthy of the inspection of the curious are, the two parish churches, the cross, the town-hall, the new gaol, and the house of industry.

St. John's church cannot fail to interest every antiquary, as it exhibits the different

styles which prevailed at the times when the respective parts were erected. The most ancient are the chancel, tower and transept, which appear to have been built about the reign of Henry I. They are still firm and substantial. The chancel is arched with broad ribs, springing from clustered capitals at the sides, and there is still an original window with a semicircular arch in the northern wall. The tower is very curious, being supported on the north and south, by pointed arches, and on the others by semicircular ones, which are ornamented with foliage and zigzag mouldings. Round the arch which connects the tower with the nave, is a great number of figures. On the top is a small spire. The other parts of the church which have undergone alterations, are evidently of modern erection.

St. Mary's church, in the north-east part of the town, exhibits the work of different periods. The chancel is in the Norman style; the south porch displays the mode of building which prevailed in the reign of Henry II. The rest of it was built in the fifteenth century, by William Smith, as is

apparent from an inscription on the roof of the nave.

This church is built of stone, but the workmanship is inferior to that of St. John's. Under a canopy at the east end, is a statue of the Virgin Mary, with the infant Saviour in her arms. The tower is square, and surmounted with battlements. The roof is supported by heads of kings and bishops; that of the chancel is similar to St. John's. These churches are well deserving of a more particular description, but our limits are too confined to admit it.

In the market-place, which is a very commodious one, is the cross, on which is an inscription recording a remarkable instance of Divine vengeance, instantly inflicted on a woman, who called God to witness the truth of what she asserted, though it was a falsehood. She solemnly affirmed that she had paid money for some corn she had bought, wishing God would strike her dead if she had not. She dropped lifeless, and the money was found in her hand! The cross, which was erected under the superintendance of Benjamin Wyatt, esq. at the

sole expense of Lord Sidmouth, is very elegant. The lower part is a square, with a buttress at each angle, upon which is an enriched pinnacle. The upper part is an octagon, with architectural ornaments.

The town-hall is a modern structure, the under part of which is used as a market; the upper, which is a large room, affords convenience for public meetings, balls, and assemblies. It is used also as a court-room, and is furnished with all the requisite offices.

The new gaol is an imposing building, newly finished, and considered one of the first in the kingdom. The governor's house is in the centre, with an infirmary over it, from the top of which is an extensive view towards Bath and Gloucester.

The Kennet and Avon canal comes close up to the town, within a mile of which are not fewer than twenty locks.

Devizes and the neighbourhood have been the scenes of many military actions, among which was the battle of Roundaway Hill, between Charles I. and his parliament, in 1643, when the royalist's obtained a complete victory.

*Bratton Castle, and the White Horse,*

Eight miles from Melksham. The castle is a strong entrenchment on a high point of land. Its form is irregular, following the shape of the hill. Where the approach is easy, the ramparts are doubled, but in other parts single, and in one place it is defended only by the inaccessibility of the ground. It is nearly a mile round, and contains an area of twenty-three acres. It is situated on an eminence, which commands a view of all the country round. Near the middle is a barrow, sixty paces long, which has probably served for a burial place for the Danes, who were slain here. Several curious pieces of armour have been dug up in the fortification.

On the same hill is the figure of a white horse in a walking attitude, cut out of the chalk, which forms the substratum of the head to the end of the tail. At a distance this is a very imposing object. Gough says it is an undoubted memorial of the battle of Edington, where Alfred gained a most signal

victory over the Danes; but Mr. Wise is of opinion that it is of modern construction, and that it was made within memory of persons living in 1742.

*Farley Castle,*

Eight miles from Melksham, is seated on a very bold hill, from which there is a steep descent on three sides; but on the south the hill rises higher than the castle. It appears to have been of Saxon origin. It formerly consisted of two courts surrounded by a lofty wall and a moat. One of the entrances was guarded by a drawbridge, the external part of which still remains. There is a square window in it over a painted arch, above which are the arms of Hungerford, with the initials E. H. in alto relievo.

Another gateway led to the inner court which was of considerable extent, and flanked with four towers, each sixty feet high, and contained the great hall, and state apartments, which are said to have been magnificent, and to have been "decorated with beautiful paintings." The hall was hung with the spoils of Cressy, Poitiers, and

Agincourt. The whole is now in ruins, and nothing remains but the foundations, from which the extent and form of the towers may be ascertained. The towers in the lower part were connected by passages. There was a fifth tower at the south-west angle, and a sixth near the south wall. But the chapel is the most entire, and deserves the notice of the curious. The chantry chapel, which is attached to it, contains several monuments.

In the middle is a fine and elevated tomb of white marble, supported by black marble steps. The slab is of black marble, eight feet long and five broad. On this are the effigies of Sir Edward Hungerford and the Lady Margaret, beautifully executed in white marble. The knight is in armour with a sword by his side, and the lady is in a loose robe with an anchor at her feet, supported by a lion. On the west end are a shield and various armorial bearings. On the south side is an inscription to the memory of Sir Edward and Lady Margaret.

The other monuments, and the suits of ancient armour are deserving of a minute

description, which our circumscribed limits will not admit.

At a short distance is Farley House, which has been recently rebuilt by Colonel Houlton, the proprietor, who has also made many improvements in the park. The edifice is elegant and the situation commanding. The principal front is towards the east. The flower garden is on the south. In the middle of the east side is a noble hall and staircase, adorned with handsome painted glass windows and suits of armour. The exterior of the building is all of freestone, and the cornices, parapets, and pinnacles, exhibit much rich sculpture. No one who is an admirer of elegance and beautiful prospects should omit to see this residence.

*Monkton Farley,*

Eight miles from Melksham. At this small village are the remains of an ancient priory for Clunine monks, which was erected in the beginning of the twelfth century. About the time of the suppression there were a prior and twelve monks, with a revenue, according to Dugdale, of £143 14, 2, and to Speed, of £217 0 4. Many tombs have

been lately discovered, as well as such remains of architecture as prove it to have been an elegant structure.

Monkton Farley House, to the north of the village, formerly belonged to the Duke of Somerset, and was for a considerable time the residence of Lord Webb Seymour. It is now the property of J. Long, esq. who has greatly improved it, and disposed the grounds so tastefully, that the whole forms an agreeable seat.

*Calne,*

Nine miles from Melksham, is situated on the small river Marlan, which runs through the centre of the town. Calne has been greatly increased during the present century. The market house and town hall is a commodious building. The church is an ancient structure. The tower and body are ornamented with foliated pinnacles. The roof is richly carved, and supported by round massy columns with square ornamented capitals. By the last census the number of inhabitants amounted to 3547. There was formerly a castle, of which no traces are now to be distinguished. In A. D. 977 a synod

was held here relative to the celibacy of priests, at which Dunstan, archbishop of Canterbury, presided, when the beams gave way, and all were either killed or wounded except Dunstan, a circumstance which was attributed to Divine interposition, and the goodness of his cause.

Calne is a borough by prescription: its corporation consists of twenty-four burgesses, who choose from among themselves two constables or guild stewards annually.

*Earl Stoke Park,*

Ten miles from Melksham. This seat is the residence of Joshua Smith, esq. who has so completely altered it, that it scarcely retains any vestige of its original form. It is on the summit of a hill, near the road, between Devizes and Westbury, and about seven miles from the former place. The house extends in front three hundred and fifty feet, and is adorned with a Doric colonade, which opens into a noble hall, ornamented with Corinthian columns. The drawing room is decorated with drawings from the first masters by Miss Smith. The style and architecture of the interior is of a very superior description.

The park, which is of considerable extent, contains a fine expanse of water, and abounds with trees. The pleasure grounds occupy a winding valley, through which runs a small stream, that falls in several cascades, between the hill and the park. The beauty of the scenery is not inferior to that of any situation in the county.

The rural village of Earle Stoke is supposed to be one of the neatest in the kingdom. Most of the houses have been erected by Mr. Smith, who has added to each a sufficiency of garden ground. All the fronts are adorned with flower gardens and evergreens, and the whole has a very pleasing effect.

*Westbury,*

Nine miles from Melksham, is an ancient borough town, situated on the western extremity of Salisbury plain. It consists chiefly of one street, at the south end of which is the church, a venerable Gothic structure of stone, with a tower in the middle, and a spacious window at the west end. It contains several monumental inscriptions to persons of considerable note, but none that

claim particular notice here. Westbury received its charter of incorporation from Edward I., and has sent representatives to parliament ever since the reign of Henry VI. The new town hall is a neat and convenient structure. The woollen manufacture is carried on to a great extent.

*Bath,*

Twelve miles from Melksham, is situated in a fruitful valley, in the north-east part of Somersetshire, twelve miles from Bristol, and one hundred and seven from London, and is one of the most beautiful cities in the kingdom. It is said to have been built by Bladud the Sage, who studied at Athens, and discovered the waters 865 years before Christ. But however fabulous this may be, it is certain that the medicinal springs were held in high estimation by the Romans, who erected elegant buildings near the spot, which they dedicated to Minerva. Ptolemy called them the Hot Waters, and Antoninus the Waters of the Sun.

There are five baths: the King's Bath the Queen's Bath, the Cross Bath, the Hot Bath, and the Kingston Bath. The heat

the waters in the different baths vary, and that which is pumped up for drinking is considerably hotter than that which is used for bathing.

Besides the above, are the new private baths in Stall-Street, which are very convenient, and furnished with every desirable accommodation. Extensive and convenient pleasure baths have also been recently constructed on the Avon.

The places of public amusement are here on a grand scale. The Pump Room, the Assembly Rooms, the Theatre, and Sydney Gardens will vie with any thing of the kind in the metropolis.

No place in England, in a full season, affords so brilliant a circle of polite company. The young, the old, the grave, the gay, the infirm, and the healthy, all resort to this vortex of amusement. Ceremony totally exploded; every one mixes in the rooms upon an equality; and the entertainments are so regulated, that although there is never a cessation of them, there is no lassitude from bad hours, or an excess of dissipation.

The ancient city is said to have been built by Alfred, about the year 900, and surrounded by a wall, a small part of which still remains, called the Borough Wall. Many vestiges of great antiquity have been found in digging for foundations, which prove its claim to remote ages.

Bath has been several times destroyed, either by civil commotions or by fires, but it has always risen from its ruins, and is now become for the elegance of its buildings, its situation, the urbanity of its inhabitants, the number and rank of its company, and the splendour of the equipages which roll through its streets, the wonder and admiration of every new visitor.

It does not comport with the design of this work to enter into a particular description of this celebrated city, nor will our limits admit of it. For further information we must refer the reader to the Bath Guide.

*Warminster,*

Thirteen miles from Melksham, is a considerable market town, the houses of which are nearly confined to one street. The parish church stands at the western extremity,

and is a handsome stone edifice, with a square tower at the end. There is also a neat chapel of ease, erected for the convenience of the inhabitants. The town contains little that is curious. There is a good market house, an assembly room, and a free grammar school for the education of twenty-four boys. The population is nearly 5,000. It has no corporation, but is under the government of the neighbouring magistrates. The malting business is carried on to a considerable extent, as well as the manufacture of woollen goods.

*Longleat,*

The seat of the Marquis of Bath, seventeen miles from Melksham. The antiquity, magnificence, size, and number of apartments of this structure, render it an object highly deserving the inspection of the curious. There are few elegant mansions so ancient. In the reign of Henry VIII, it belonged to Sir John Thyne, who was twelve years in erecting it. The front is seventy yards in length, the depth of the building near sixty, and the elevation noble. The mansion contains one hundred and seventy

rooms, and is supposed to possess as elegant a collection of historical portraits as any in the kingdom, among which is an interesting one of the celebrated Jane Shore.

The river Frome, upon a branch of which the house stands, adds much to the pleasing effect of the scenery. The architecture partakes more of the Roman than the English. It is entirely built of freestone, and is adorned with pilasters of the ionic, Doric, and Corinthian orders, with rich capitals, friezes, and cornices. The four fronts are surmounted with handsome balustrades, and the south and east sides are adorned with immense stone statues, which diversify the appearance, and render it highly picturesque. The principal entrance is on the south side; but there is an elegant one on the east, from the flower garden. Another flower garden is on the north side, bounded with green houses, conservatories, and offices. A lofty and spacious hall, libraries, dining rooms, drawing rooms, bed rooms, a chapel, staircase, and galleries, constitute the ground floor. The internal part corresponds with the external. Many of the

above apartments have been lately erected under the direction of Jeffery Wyatt, esq. who has executed them with exquisite taste. Other improvements are intended, and when the whole shall be completed, it will certainly not be inferior to any seat in the kingdom.

The park and gardens occupy a space of twelve miles in circumference, exhibiting a rich variety of scenery, heightened by the judicious arrangement of the grounds. "All is on the grand scale, and every thing around recalls the remembrances of English magnificence." Many majestic oaks, towering Scotch and lofty firs, are among the ornaments of the park.

*Avebury, and Silbury Hill,*

Eighteen miles from Melksham. The antiquities of Avebury, or Abery, have been supposed by some to be the remains of the burial place of a British chief, and by others of a vast Druidical temple, which is the more probable. In extent they are equal to Stonehenge, and may be of equal antiquity. The village is in the midst of a large plain, bounded by hills on the east, south, and

west. It is nearly encircled by a vallum and deep ditch, within which are some large stones still standing, and at a little distance south of the village are others lying prostrate, but many have been broken up to furnish materials for building houses. The number of upright stone within the ditch must have been near one hundred, of the height of fifteen or sixteen feet, and at the distance of twenty-seven feet from each other. They are now greatly reduced, amounting only to about thirty-five.

Near Abery is a vast barrow called Silbury hill, which in magnitude may vie with the pyramids of Egypt, as it far exceeds every monument of the kind to be found in any other part of the world. It is 1,680 feet round at the base, and at the summit 315. The perpendicular height is 170 feet.

*Stonehenge,*

Twenty-three miles from Melksham. This wonderful relic of antiquity is generally allowed to be druidical and consists of two circles and two ovals, respectively concentric: of which the outer circle is one hundred and eight feet in diameter.

The vallum forms a circular terrace, through which was the entrance to the north-east, by an avenue of seventeen hundred feet, bounded by two parallel ditches seventy feet apart. Of the outer circle there is now only seventeen stones standing, from eighteen to twenty feet high; and of the inner circle, which is eight feet within the outer one, only eleven. The walk between these two circles, which is three hundred feet in circumference, is equally grand and delightful. The Adytum, or Sanctum Sanctorum, is in the centre. The stones that compose it are really stupendous, whether we consider their height, breadth, or thickness; and to see so many of them placed together in a nice and regular figure with exactness; to view, as it were not a pillar of one stone, but a whole wall, a side, and end of a temple of one stone; to view them curiously, creates such an emotion in the mind, as cannot easily be described.

For some distance round these celebrated remains are numbers of sepulchral tumuli, all of them so placed as to be within view of the temple.

For a more copious account of the antiquities of Stonehenge, Avebury, and Silbury Hill we refer to the Beauties of Wiltshire, and other works that treat largely on the subject.

*Bristol,*

Twenty-four miles from Melksham, and twelve from Bath, has been considered the second city in England for trade, wealth, and population. It is situated in two counties, Somerset and Gloucester, and contains one cathedral, and eighteen churches, the inhabitants amounting to near 100,000, including those of the suburbs.

Here are many public buildings well deserving of inspection, but our object at present must be the Hot-Wells, about a mile and a half from the city. The spring rises perpendicularly out of the rock in the sloping bank of the Avon, between high and low water mark, where the river makes its entrance between those stupendous cliffs of rock which seem to have been torn asunder by the violence of an earthquake.

The season for drinking the waters is from March to September, when the place is

much frequented by the nobility and gentry. Two assembly rooms are erected contiguous to the wells, where they have balls, concerts, and public breakfasts. Here are many excellent lodging houses, as well as at the delightful village Clifton on the hill above.

Beyond the Wells are tremendous rocks, known by the name of St. Vincent's, extending a vast way on each side of the river Avon, where is found in abundance that beautiful fossil called Bristol Stone.

About five miles from Bristol are Lord Clifford's elegant house and gardens at King's Weston, in the neighbourhood of which is one of the richest, most picturesque, variegated, and extensive prospects in the kingdom, commanding at one view the Bristol Channel, the mouths of rivers Severn and Avon, the counties of Somerset, Gloucester, and Wilts, and a vast line of the Welsh coast and counties.

## ITENERARY

FROM MELKSHAM TO THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTS  
DESCRIBED IN THIS WORK, AND THE  
MOST CELEBRATED WATERING

PLACES IN ENGLAND.

Places in *Italics* have been described. l. stands for the left,  
r. for the right hand.

<i>Corsham House.</i>	<i>Bowood.</i>
Miles.	Miles.
1 Beanacre	1 Forest
2 Half-way-house	2 Sandridge Hill House
2½ Fair Sisters	2½ Sandy Lodge
3 Laycock	4 <i>Bromham, r.</i>
	5 Bromham Park
	Road to the left,
	5½ <i>Spye Park, l.</i>
	3 Sandy Lane
	7 <i>Bowood</i>
	<i>Bratton Castle.</i>
	1½ Semington
	5 <i>Steeple Ashton</i>
	6½ East Farm
	7½ Bratton
	8 <i>Bratton Castle</i>
	<i>Monkton Farley.</i>
	2 Broughton
	3 Chalfield
	5½ Lower Wraxhall
	6 <i>Wraxhall House</i>
	8 <i>Monkton Farley</i>
	<i>Farley House.</i>
	1½ Broughton, r.
	3 <i>Holt</i> Spa r.
	4 Staverton, l.
	6 <i>Bradford</i>
	N

<i>Corsham House.</i>
Miles.
1 Beanacre
2 Half-way-house
2½ Fair Sisters
3 Laycock
<i>Abbey, r.</i>
<i>Bowden Hill, 1½ r.</i>
4 Notton, r.
5 Westrop, r.
6 <i>Corsham</i>
<i>Return.</i>
1 Lintus
1½ Cook Street
2 Monks
2½ Chapel Knap
3 Whitley
3½ <i>Shaw Hill House, r.</i>
4 <i>Shaw</i>
4 <i>Melksham</i>
<i>Chippenham.</i>
3 Laycock
3½ Notton
4 Notton House
5 <i>Chippenham</i>
<i>Box.</i>
3 Atford
4½ Turn to the right
7 Box

Miles.	Cross the river Avon.
7	Lower Westwood
8½	Farley Castle
9½	Farley House
	<i>Return.</i>
1	Farley Castle.
2½	Winkfield
3	Little Troule
4½	Trowbridge
5½	Hilperton
7½	Semington
9	Melksham
	<i>Earle Stoke.</i>
3	Seend
5	Polshot, l.
6	Werton
6½	Marston, r.
8	Little Ponnell
8½	Great Cheverell
10	Earle Stoke Park Earle Stoke
	<i>Longleat.</i>
1½	Semington
5	Steeple Ashton, l.
5½	Rood Ashton, l.
6	North Bradley
7½	Heywood House, l.
9	Westbury Penleigh House, r.
11	Dilton, r.
11½	Upper Scudmore, r.
13½	Warminster
	<i>Road to the right.</i>
14½	Bugly Folly
16	Pope's House

Miles.	
17	Longleat
	Salisbury Plain extends on the left of the road, from the neighbourhood of Westbury to Warminster.
	<i>Avebury.</i>
6	Chippenham
10	Studly
17	Beckington
18	Avebury Stonehenge.
1	Bower Hill
3	Seend, r.
7	Devizes
10	Lydeaway
13	Sturt
23	Stonehenge
	<i>Bath and Bristol.</i>
3	Atford
4	Neston Meldley, r.
7	Kingsdown
8	Bathford
9	Batheaston
11	Bath
13	Twerton
14	Newton Loe, l.
15	Kelwerston House, r.
16	Salford, r.
17	Keynsham
19	Duke's Lodge
20	Brislington
21	Blackcastle, r.
22	Totterdown
23	Bristol

Miles.	Cheltenham.	Brighton.
6	Chippenham	7 Devizes
16	Malmsbury	31 Andover
27	Cirencester	43 Winchester
37	Birliip	61 Petersfield
43	Cheltenham	79 Arundel
	Or by Bath, whence are stage coaches daily	100 Brighton
	<i>Southampton.</i>	<i>Tunbridge Wells.</i>
7	Devizes	97 London
30	Salisbury	106 Bromely
50	Southampton	119 Seven Oaks
	<i>Weymouth.</i>	126 Tunbridge Wells
15	Frome	<i>Buxton.</i>
23	Bruton	43 Cheltenham
35	Sherborne	55 Evesham
43	Cerne Abbas	71 Alcester
55	Weymouth	91 Birmingham
	<i>Leamington.</i>	109 Rudgeley
6	Chippenham	126 Cheadle
16	Wooton Bassett	144 Buxton
31	Barnsley	<i>Margate.</i>
51	Moreton	97 London
65	Wellsborne	By the packets daily, or
72	Warwick	105 Shooter's Hill
75	Leamington	112 Dartford
	<i>London.</i>	119 Gravesend
7	Devizes	127 Rochester
21	Marlborough	137 Settingbourne
31	Hungerford	153 Canterbury
41	Newbury	169 Margate
58	Reading	<i>Scarborough.</i>
70	Maidenhead	16 Wootton Bassett
87	Hounslow	23 Fairford
97	London	41 Chipping Norton
		62 Southam

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Miles.		Miles.	
80	Lutterworth	160	Doncaster
94	Leicester	175	Ferry Bridge
117	Nottingham	193	York
130	Mansfield	211	New Malton
142	Worksop	230	Scarborough



☞ Since the Melksham Guide was put to press, Mr. Loder of Bath has commenced giving balls and Concerts, which are supported by the principal inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood, who hail them as the beginning of a regular series of public amusements.

FINIS.





