Parallel-Text Comparison of Wordsworth’s Five Editions of the Guide to the Lakes
Compiled by Nicholas Mason

Overview
As detailed in the introduction to this edition, Wordsworth released five distinct versions of the Guide between 1810 and 1835. His original text of 1810, a 27,000-word supplement to Joseph Wilkinson’s Selected Views, was trimmed to 20,000 words for the River Duddon collection of 1820. From that point he steadily expanded the text, to 30,000 words in 1822, 35,000 in 1823, and 38,000 in 1835. While all five versions include significant additions and emendations, the most radical revisions came in the 2nd (1820) and 5th (1835) editions. The 1820 edition reorganizes some sections, adds several paragraphs, and, most drastically, cuts 19 paragraphs (#65-83 below) from the 1810 original. For its part, the 1835 edition not only includes significant additions, but it also features a major reordering of the text, with “Directions and Information for Tourists” (paragraphs #129-55 in the chart that follows) moving from the book’s ending to its beginning.

Capitalizing on some of the distinctive features of a digital edition—particularly the ability to perform instantaneous searches across five editions and a wide-screen, color-coded layout that would be difficult to replicate in codex form—we have compiled the following parallel-text comparison of Wordsworth’s five versions of the Guide. This chart allows the casual reader to quickly assess how extensively any given section of the Guide morphed over time. For the scholar, it aims to significantly expedite the line-by-line analysis of Wordsworth’s revisions and provide new insights into his evolving views on the shifting topography and politics of the Lake District between 1810 and 1835.

Notes on Formatting
- Changes from the immediately preceding edition are marked as follows: new words and phrases appear in bold; deletions are struck through; sentences that have been reworded without any key additions or deletions appear in standard script.
- Explanations of significant revisions are highlighted in yellow.
- Yellow arrows ↓ indicate where paragraphs have been lengthened in subsequent editions and are used to preserve line-level parallelism.
- Wordsworth’s footnotes appear in red script.
- Table cells shaded entirely in grey indicate where an entire paragraph did not appear in a particular edition.
- These charts do not note changes in punctuation (, to ;), capitalization (Mountains → mountains), spelling (vallies → valleys), and simple usage (which → that).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>¶</th>
<th>Line</th>
<th>1810 (Wilkinson) (1st)</th>
<th>1820 (Duddon) (2nd)</th>
<th>1822 (3rd)</th>
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<th>1835 (5th)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>To Top. Descrip. of the C. of the L.</td>
<td>View of the C. as formed by nature.</td>
<td>Switzerland, is</td>
<td>Switzerland, is</td>
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<td>Switzerland, is</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>At Lucerne in Switzerland there existed a model of a large portion of the Alpine country encompassing the lake of the four Cantons. The spectator ascended a little platform and saw Mountains, Lakes, Glaciers, Rivers, Woods, Waterfalls, and Valleys, and their Cottage and other objects which they contained, lying at his feet; all things being represented in their exact proportions and appropriate colours. It may be easily conceived that this exhibition afforded an exquisite delight to the imagination, which was tempted to wander from valley to valley, from mountain to mountain, at will through the deepest recesses of the Alps. But it supplied also a more solid and substantial pleasure; for the sublime and beautiful region, with all its hidden treasures and their relations and bearings to each other, was thereby comprehended and understood at once.</td>
<td>which encompasses the lake</td>
<td>which is shown a model of the Alpine</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Something of this kind (as far as can be performed by words, which must needs be most inadequately) will be attempted in the following introductory pages, with reference to the country which has furnished the subjects of the Drawings now offered to the public, adding to a verbal representation of its permanent features such appearances as are transitory from their dependence upon accidents of season and weather.</td>
<td>which was thus tempted to wander from valley to valley at will from mountain</td>
<td>which was thus tempted to wander from valley to valley at will from mountain</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>This, if tolerably executed, will in some instances communicate to the traveller, who has already seen the objects, new information; and will assist him to give to his recollections a more orderly arrangement than his own opportunities of observing may have permitted him to do; while it will be still more useful to the</td>
<td>their bearings and relations</td>
<td>their bearings and relations</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>far as it can be</td>
<td>kind, without touching upon minute details and individualities which would only confuse and embarrass, will here be attempted</td>
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future traveller by directing his attention
at once to distinctions in things which,
without such previous aid, a length of
time only could enable him to discover.
And, as must be obvious, this general
introduction will combine with the
Etchings certain notices of things which,
though they may not lie within the
province of the pencil, cannot but tend to
render its productions more interesting;
especially in a case like the present, where
a work wishes to recommend itself by a
twofold claim, viz. by furnishing pleasing
Sketches, and at the same time accurate
Portraits of those scenes from which they
are taken.

To begin then with the main
demarkation of the Country, I know not
how I can give the reader a more distinct
image of this than by requesting him to
place himself in imagination upon some
given point; let it be the top of either of
the mountains of Great Gavel or
Scawfell; or rather let him suppose his
station to be a cloud hanging midway
between the two mountains, at not more
than half a mile’s distance from the
summit of each, and but a few yards
above their highest elevation, he will then
see stretched at his feet a number of
Vallies, not fewer than nine, diverging
from the point, on which he is supposed
to stand, like spokes from the nave of a
wheel. First he will note, lying to the
south east, the Vale of Langdale which
will conduct his eye to the long Lake of
Winandermere stretching, as appears,
neatly to the sea, or rather to the sands of
the vast Bay of Morcambe, which here
serves for the rim of this imaginary wheel,
trace it in a direction from the south east
towards the south, and he will next fix his
eyes upon the Vale of Coniston running
up likewise from the sea, but not (as all
the other vallies do) to the station which I
have considered as the nave of the wheel;
and therefore it may not be inaptness
represented as a broken spoke sticking in
the main outlines
demarkation of the country. I know not
how to more readily give
image of these more
himself in imagination
mountains of Great
to suppose our station
between these two
not many but a few yards
we shall then see
at our feet a number
we are supposed
First, we shall
conduct the eye
stretched, as appears, nearly to the sea
Morcambe, serving here for the rim of
this imaginary wheel—let us trace
we shall next fix our eyes
to the station which I
have considered as the nave

And, as must be obvious, this general
introduction will combine with the
Etchings certain notices of things which,
though they may not lie within the
province of the pencil, cannot but tend to
render its productions more interesting;
especially in a case like the present, where
a work wishes to recommend itself by a
twofold claim, viz. by furnishing pleasing
Sketches, and at the same time accurate
Portraits of those scenes from which they
are taken. It is hoped, also, that this
Essay may become generally serviceable
by leading to habits of more exact and
considerate observation than, as far as
the writer knows, have hitherto been
applied to local scenery.
Looking forth again, with an inclination towards the west, immediately at our feet lies the Vale of Duddon, in which is no Lake but a copious river winding among fields, rocks, and mountains, and terminating its course in the Sands of Duddon. The fourth valley which we shall next observe, viz. that of Eskdale, is of the same general character as the last, yet beautifully discriminated from it by features which, in the more minute details attached to the several parts of this work, will hereafter be described.

Next, almost due west, look down upon and into the deep Valley of Wastdale with its little chapel and half a dozen neat scattered dwellings, a plain of meadow and corn ground intersected with stone walls apparently innumerable, like a large piece of lawless patch-work, or an array of mathematical figures, such as in the ancient schools of geometry might have been sportively and fantastically traced upon sand. Beyond this little fertile plain lies, within its bed of steep mountains, the long, narrow, stern, and desolate Lake of Wastdale; and beyond this a dusky tract of level ground conducts the eye to the Irish Sea.

The several Vales of Ennerdale and Buttermere, with their Lakes, next present themselves; and lastly the Vale of Borrowdale, of which that of Keswick is only a continuation, stretching due north, brings us to a point nearly opposite to the Vale of Winandermer with which we began. From this it will appear that the image of a wheel, which I have made use of, and which is thus far exact, is not much more than half complete; but the deficiency on the eastern side may be supplied by the vales of Wyteburn, Ullswater, Hawswater, and the Vale of Grasmere and Rydale; none of these

The Vale of Buttermere, with the lake and village of that name, and Crummock-water, beyond, next present themselves. We will follow the main stream, the Cocker, through the fertile and beautiful vale of Lorton, till it is lost in the Derwent, below the noble ruins of Cockermouth. Lastly, Borrowdale, of which the vale of Keswick is only...
however run up to the central point between Great Gavel and Scawfell. From this, hitherto our central point, take a flight of not more than three or four miles eastward to the ridge of Helvellyn and you will look down upon Wytheburn and St. John’s Vale, which are a branch of the Vale of Keswick, upon Ullswater stretching due east; and not far beyond to the south east, (though from this point not visible) lie the Vale and Lake of Haweswater; and lastly the winding Vale of Grasmere, Rydale, and Ambleside, brings you back to Winandermere, thus completing, though on the eastern side in an irregular manner, the representative figure of the wheel.

Such, concisely given, is the general topographical view of the country of the Lakes in the North of England. But it must be observed that the visits of travellers are for the most part confined to the Vales of Coniston, Winandermere with the intermediate country between Ambleside and Keswick, the Vale of Keswick itself, Buttermere, and Ullswater, which are the most easy of access, and indeed from their several characters most likely to repay general curiosity; though each of the other more retired vales, as will appear when we enter into detail in the several numbers of this publication, has its own appropriate beauties—all exquisite in their kind.

This Introduction will be confined as much as possible to general remarks. And first, returning to the illustrative figure which has been employed, it may be observed that from the circumference to the centre, that is from the sea or plain country, to the mountains of Great Gavel and Scawfell, there is in the several ridges that enclose these vales, and divide them from each other, I mean in the forms and surfaces, first of the swelling grounds,
next of the hills and rocks, and lastly of
the mountains, an ascent by almost
regular gradation from elegance and
richness to the highest point of grandeur.
It follows therefore from this, first, that
these rocks, hills, and mountains, must
present themselves to the view in stages
rising above each other, the mountains
clustering together towards the central
point; and, next, that an observer familiar
with the several vales, must, from their
various position in relation to the sun,
have had before his eyes every possible
embellishment of beauty, dignity, and
splendour, which light and shadow can
bestow upon objects so diversified. For
example, in the Vale of Winandermerge, if
the spectator looks for gentle and lovely
scenes, his eye is turned towards the
south; if for the grand, towards the north;
in the Vale of Keswick, which (as hath
been said) lies almost due north of this, it
is directly the reverse. Hence, when the
sun is setting in summer far to the north
west, it is seen by the spectator from the
shores or breast of Winandermerge resting
among the summits of the loftiest
mountains, some of which will perhaps
be half or wholly hidden by clouds, or by
the blaze of light which the orb diffuses
around it; and the surface of the lake will
reflect before the eye correspondent
colours through every variety of beauty,
and through all degrees of splendour. In
the Vale of Keswick, at the same period,
the sun sets over the humbler regions of
the landscape, and showers down upon
them the radiance which at once veils and
glorifies, sending forth, meanwhile, broad
streams of rosy, crimson, purple, or
golden, light towards the grand
mountains in the south and south east,
which, thus illuminated, with all their
projections and cavities, and with an
intermixture of solemn shadows, are seen
distinctly through a cool and clear
atmosphere. Of course there is as marked
a difference between the noontide
appearance of these two opposite vales.
The dimming haze that overspreads the
south, and the clear atmosphere and
determined shadows of the clouds in the
north, at the same time of the day, are

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appearance of these two opposite vales.
The dimming haze that overspreads the
south, and the clear atmosphere and
determined shadows of the clouds in the
north, at the same time of the day, are
each seen, in these several vales, with a contrast as striking. The reader perceiving in what degree the intermediate vales will partake of the same variety.

The reader will easily perceive 

upon the sublime or beautiful grand or gentle features 

between the mountains of Great Gavel 

at but a small 

Yet, though thus clustered together, every valley has its distinct and separate character; in some instances as if they had been formed in studied contrast to each other, and in others with the united pleasing differences and resemblances of a sisterly rivalry. This concentration of interest gives to the country a decided superiority over the most attractive districts of Scotland and Wales, especially for the pedestrian traveller. In Scotland and Wales are found undoubtedly individual scenes which in their several kinds cannot be surpassed. But in Scotland particularly what desolate and unimpressive tracts of country almost perpetually intervene! so that the traveller, when he reaches a spot deservedly of great celebrity, is often at a loss to determine how much of his pleasure is owing to excellence inherent in the landscape itself, and how much to an instantaneous recovery from an oppression left upon his spirits by the barrenness and desolation through which he has passed.

But, to proceed with our survey;—and first of the Mountains. For the forms of these mountains I refer to the Etchings to which these pages are an Introduction, and from which it will appear that their outlines are endlessly diversified, sweeping easily or boldly in simple majesty, abrupt and precipitous,
or soft and elegant. In magnitude and grandeur these mountains are individually inferior to the most celebrated of those in some other parts of this island; but in the combinations which they make, towering above each other, or lifting themselves in ridges like the waves of a tumultuous sea, and in the beauty and variety of their surfaces and their colours, they are surpassed by none.

The general surface of the mountains is turf made rich and green by the moisture of the climate. Sometimes the turf, as in the neighbourhood of Newlands, in particular, is little broken, the whole covering being soft and downy pasturage. In other places rocks predominate; the soil is laid bare by torrents and burstings of water from the sides of the mountains in heavy rains; and occasionally their perpendicular sides are seamed by ravines formed also by rains and torrents, which, meeting in angular points, entrench and scar over the surface with numerous figures like the letters W and Y.

The Mountains are composed of the stone by mineralogists termed schist, which, as you approach the plain country, gives way to limestone; but, schist being the substance of the mountains, the predominant colour of their rocky parts is bluish or of hoary grey—the general tint of the lichens with which the bare stone is encrusted. With this blue and grey colour is frequently intermixed a red tinge proceeding from the iron with which the stone is interveined and the soil in many places impregnated. The iron is the principle of decomposition in these rocks; and hence, when they become pulverized, the elementary particles crumbling down overspread in many places the steep and almost precipitous sides of the mountains with an intermixture of colours like the compound hues of a dove’s neck. When, in the heat of advancing summer, the freshness of the green tint of the herbage has somewhat faded, it is again revived by the appearance of the fern profusely spread every where; and upon this plant more than upon any thing else do the

In the ridge that divides Eskdale from Wasdale, granite is found; but the Mountains are for the most part composed
changes, which the seasons make in the
colouring of the mountains depend. By
the first week in October, the rich green
which was preserved through the whole
summer by the herbage and by this plant,
has usually passed away; its brilliant and
various colours of light yellow, orange,
and brown, are then in harmony with the
autumnal woods; bright yellow or lemon
colour, at the base of the mountains,
melting gradually through orange to a
dark russet brown towards the summits,
where the plant being more exposed to
the weather, is in a more advanced state
of decay. Neither heath nor furze are
generally found upon the sides of these
mountains, though in some places they
are richly adorned by them. We may add,
that the mountains are of height
sufficient to have the surface towards the
summits softened by distance, and to
imbibe the finest aerial hues. In common
also with other mountains, their apparent
forms and colours are perpetually
changed by the clouds and vapours which
float round them: the effect indeed of
mist and haze, in a country of this
character, is like that of magic. I have
seen six or seven ridges rising above each
other, all created in a moment by the
vapours upon the side of a mountain,
which, in its ordinary appearance, shewed
not a projecting point to furnish even a
hint for such an operation.

I will take this opportunity of observing
that they, who have studied the
appearances of nature, feel that the
superiority, in point of visual interest, of
mountainous over other countries—is
more strikingly displayed in winter than
in summer. This, as must be obvious, is
partly owing to the forms of the
mountains, which of course are not
affected by the seasons; but also, in no
small degree, to the greater variety which
exists in their winter than their summer
colouring. This variety is such and so
harmoniously preserved, that it leaves
little cause of regret when the splendour
of autumn is passed away. The coppice
woods, upon the sides of the mountains,
retain russet leaves; the birch stands
conspicuous with its silver stem and puce-

The oak-coppices
coppice woods, upon
coloured twigs; the hollies have come forth to view, with green leaves and scarlet berries, from among the deciduous trees whose summer foliage had concealed them; the ivy is now apparent upon the stems and boughs of the trees, and among the woody rocks. In place of the uniform summer green of the herbage and fern, many rich colours play into each other over the surface of the mountains; turf (whose tints are interchangeably tawny-green, olive, and brown), beds of withered fern, and grey rocks, being harmoniously blended together. The mosses and lichens are never so fresh and flourishing as in winter, if it be not a season of frost; and their minute beauties prodigally adorn the foreground. Wherever we turn, we find these productions of nature, to which winter is rather favourable than unkindly, scattered over the walls, banks of earth, rocks, and stones, and upon the trunks of trees, with the intermixture of several species of small fern, now green and fresh; and to the observing passenger their forms and colours are a source of inexhaustible admiration. Add to this the hoar frost and snow with all the varieties which they create, and which volumes would not be sufficient to describe. I will content myself with one instance of the colouring produced by snow, which may not be uninteresting to Painters. It is extracted from the memorandum book of a friend, and for its accuracy I can speak, as I myself was an eyewitness of the appearance. "I observed," says he, "the beautiful effect of the drifted snow upon the mountains, and the perfect tone of colour. From the top of the mountains downward a rich olive was produced by the powdery snow and the grass, which olive was warmed with a little brown, and in this way harmoniously combined, by insensible gradations, with the white. The drifting took away all the monotony of snow; and the whole vale of Grasmere, seen from the terrace walk in Easedale, was as varied, perhaps more so, than even in the pomp of autumn. In the distance was Loughrigg Fell, the basin wall of the lake; this, from the summit downward,
was a rich orange-olive; then the lake a bright olive-green, nearly the same tint as the snow-powdered mountain tops and high slopes in Easedale; and lastly the church with its firs, forming the centre of the view. The firs looked magnificent, and carried the eye back to some firs in Brother’s Wood on the left side of the lake (we looking towards Loughrigg). Next to the church with its firs came nine distinguishable hills, six of them with woody sides turned towards us, all of them oak-copse with their bright red leaves and snow-powdered twigs; these hills all distinguishable indeed from the summit downward, but none seen all the way down, so as to give the strongest sense of number with unity; and these hills so variously situated to each other and to the view in general, so variously powdered, some only enough to give the herbage a rich brown tint, one intensely white and lighting up all the others, and yet so placed as in the most inobtrusive manner to harmonize by contrast with a perfect naked, snowless bleak summit in the far distance in the left—the variety of site, of colour, of woodiness, &c. &c. made it not merely number with unity, but intricacy combined that activity of feeling, which intricacy awakens, with the complacency and repose of perfect unity."

Having spoken of the forms, surface, and colour of the mountains, let us descend into the VALLIES. Though these have been represented under the general image of the spokes of a wheel, they are for the most part winding; the windings of many being abrupt and intricate. And it may be observed that in one circumstance, the general shape of them all has been determined by that primitive conformation through which so many became receptacles of lakes. For they are not formed, as are most of the celebrated Welsh Vallyes, by an approximation of the sloping bases of the opposite mountains towards each other, leaving little more between than a channel for the passage of a hasty river; but the bottom of these vallies is, for the most part, a

vallies is mostly for the most part a
spacious and gently declining area
or the surface of a lake, and beautifully
broken in many cases by rocks and hills
which rise up like islands from the plain.
As the valleys make many windings, these
level areas open upon the traveller in
succession, divided from each other
sometimes by a mutual approximation of
the hills leaving only a passage for a river;
sometimes by correspondent windings
without such approximation; and
sometimes by a bold advance of one
mountain towards that which is opposite
to it. It may here be observed, with
propriety, that the several rocks and hills,
which I have described as rising up like
islands from the level area of the vale,
have regulated the choice of the
inhabitants in the situation of their
dwellings. Where none of these are found
and the inclination of the ground is not
sufficiently rapid easily to carry off the
waters (as in the higher part of Langdale
for instance), the houses are not sprinkled
over the middle part of the vales but
confined to their sides, being placed
merely so far up the mountain as to
protect them from the floods. But, where
these rocks and hills have been scattered
over the plain of the vale (as in Grasmere,
Seathwaite, Eskdale, &c.) the beauty
which they give to the scene is much
heightened by a single cottage or clustre
of cottages which will be almost always
found under them or upon their sides;
dryness and shelter having tempted the
Dalesmen to fix their habitations there.

In such of the valleys as these windings
make

leaving only a passage

which I have been described

middle part of the vales

be protected from

Donnerdale, Sawlthwaite, Eskdale

I shall now say a few words concerning
the LAKES of this country. The form of
the lake is most perfect when, like
Derwent-water and some of the smaller
lakes, it least resembles that of a river. I
mean, when being looked at from any
given point where the whole may be seen
at once, the width of it bears such
proportion to the length that, however
the outline may be diversified by
far-shooting bays, it never assumes the
shape of a river, and is contemplated with
that placid and quiet feeling which
belongs peculiarly to the lake as a body of
still water under the influence of no
current, reflecting therefore the clouds, 
the light, and all the imagery of the sky
and surrounding hills, expressing and
making visible the changes of the
atmosphere, and motion of the lightest
breeze, and subject to agitation only from
the winds—

"the visible scene
Would enter unawares into his mind
With all its solemn imagery, its rocks,
Its wood, and that uncertain heaven receiv’d
Into the bosom of the steady lake."

It must be noticed as a favourable
characteristic of the lakes of this country
that though several of the largest, such as
Winandermere, Uliwater, Hawswater,
&c. do, when the whole length of them is
commanded from an elevated point, lose
somewhat of the peculiar form of the lake
and assume the resemblance of a
magnificent river; yet, as their shape is
winding (particularly that of Ulswater
and Hawswater), when the view of the
whole is obstructed by those barriers
which determine the windings, and the
spectator is confined to one reach, the
appropriate feeling is revived; and one
lake may thus in succession present the
essential characteristic of many. Hence I
am led to remark that, while the forms of
the large lakes have this advantage, it is a
circumstance still more favourable to the
beauty of the country that the largest of
them are small; and that the same valley
generally furnishes a succession of lakes,
instead of being filled by one. The vallies
in North Wales, as hath been observed,
are not formed for the reception of lakes;
those of Switzerland, Scotland, and this
part of the North England, are so formed;
but in Switzerland and Scotland the
proportion of diffused water is often too
great, as at the lake of Geneva for
instance, and most of the Scotch lakes.

No doubt it sounds magnificent and
flatters the imagination to hear at a
distance of such expanses of water so
many leagues in length and miles in
width; and such ample room may be
delightful to the fresh water sailor
scudding with a lively breeze amid the
rapidly shifting scenery. But who ever
travelled along the banks of Loch
Lomond variegated as the lower part is with islands, without wishing for a speedier termination of the long vista of blank water, for an interposition of green meadows, trees, and cottages, and a sparkling stream to run by his side? in fact, a notion of grandeur, as connected with magnitude, has seduced persons of taste into a general mistake upon this subject. It is much more desirable for the purposes of pleasure that lakes should be numerous, and small or middle sized than large, not only for communication by walks and rides, but for variety and recurrence of similar appearances. To illustrate this only by one instance:—how pleasing is it to have a ready and frequent opportunity of watching at the outlet of a lake, the stream pushing its way among the rocks in lively contrast with the stillness from which it has escaped; and how amusing to compare its noisy and turbulent motions with the gentle playfulness of the breezes, which may be starting up or wandering here and there over the faintly rippled surface of the broad water. I may add, as a general remark upon this subject, that in lakes of great width, the shores cannot be distinctly seen at the same time, and therefore contribute little to mutual illustration and ornament; and if, like the American and Asiatic lakes, the opposite shores are out of sight of each other, then unfortunately the traveller is reminded of a nobler object; he has the blankness of a sea prospect without the same grandeur and accompanying sense of power.

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<th>13-15</th>
<th>This is the most thoroughly revised passage of the Guide. The 2nd ed. adds several sentences and reorders paragraphs 13-15 of the 1st ed. New material for the 2nd ed. is bolded. Corresponding passages in the 1st and 2nd eds. are color-coded.</th>
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As the comparatively small size of the lakes in the North of England is favourable to the production of variegated landscape, their boundary-line also is for the most part gracefully or boldly indented. That uniformity which prevails in the primitive frame of the lower grounds among all chains or clusters of mountains where large bodies of still water are bedded, is broken by the secondary agents of nature, ever at work to supply the deficiencies of the mould in which things were originally cast. It need scarcely be observed that using the
word, deficiencies, I do not speak with reference to those stronger emotions which a region of mountains is peculiarly fitted to excite. The bases of those huge barriers may run for a long space in straight lines, and these parallel to each other; the opposite sides of a profound vale may ascend as exact counterparts or in mutual reflection like the billows of a troubled sea; and the impression be, from its very simplicity, more awful and sublime. Sublimity is the result of Nature's first great dealings with the superfi- 
cies of the earth; but the general tendency of her subsequent operations, is towards the production of beauty, by a multiplicity of symmetrical parts uniting in a consistent whole. This is everywhere exemplified along the margin of these lakes. Masses of rock, that have been precipitated from the heights into the area of waters, lie frequently like stranded ships; or have acquired the compact structure of jutting piers; or project in little peninsulas crested with native wood. The smallest rivulet — one whose silent influx is scarcely noticeable in a season of dry weather so faint is the dimple made by it on the surface of the smooth lake — will be found to have been not useless in shaping, by its deposits of gravel and soil in time of flood, a curve that would not otherwise have existed. But the more powerful brooks, encroaching upon the level of the lake, have in course of time given birth to ample promontories, whose sweeping line often contrasts boldly with the longitudinal base of the steeps on the opposite shore; while their flat or gently-sloping surface never fails to introduce, into the midst of desolation and barrenness, the elements of fertility, even where the habitations of men may not happen to have been raised. These alluvial promontories, however, threaten in some places to bisect the waters which they have long adorned; and, in course of ages, they will cause some of the lakes to dwindle.
...into numerous and insignificant pools; which, in their turn, will finally be filled up. But the man of taste will say, it is an impertinent calculation that leads to such unwelcome conclusions; — let us rather be content with appearances as they are, and pursue in imagination the meandering shores, whether rugged steeps, admitting of no cultivation, descend abruptly into the water; or in many places the shore is formed by gently-sloping lawns and rich woods, or by the interposition of flat and fertile meadows stretching between the margin of the lake and the mountains. Among minutest recommendations will be noted with pleasure the curved rim of fine blue gravel thrown up by the waves, especially in bays exposed to the setting-in of strong winds; here and there are found, bordering the lake, groves, if I may so call them, of reeds and bulrushes; and plots of water-lilies lifting up their large circular leaves to the breeze, while the white flower is heaving upon the wave.

But the man of taste will say, it is an impertinent calculation that leads to such unwelcome conclusions. But checking these intrusive calculations, let us be noticed, especially along bays exposed to the setting-in of strong winds, the curved rim of fine blue gravel, thrown up in course of time by the waves, half of it perhaps gleaming from under the water, and the corresponding half of a lighter hue; and in other parts bordering the lake...
The ISLANDS are neither so numerous, nor so beautiful, as might be expected from the account which I have given of the manner in which the level areas of the vales are so frequently diversified by rocks, hills, and hillocks, scattered over them; nor are they ornamented, as are sometimes the islands of the lakes in Scotland, by the remains of castles or other places of defence, or of monastic edifices. The Islands are neither so numerous nor so beautiful as might be expected from the account I have given of the manner in which the level areas of the vales are so frequently diversified by rocks, hills, and hillocks, scattered over them; nor are they ornamented, as are several islands of the lakes in Scotland and Ireland, by the remains of old castles or other places of defence, or of monastic edifices.

There is however a beautiful cluster of islands at Winandermere; a pair of pleasingly contrasted at Rydal; nor must the solitary green Island of Grasmere be forgotten. In the bosom of each of the lakes of Ennerdale and Devoe-water is a single rock which owing to its beauty is surpassed by none. They tempt the sun to sport amid their plumes, Painted more soft and fair as they descend. Almost to touch;—then up again aloft, Up with a sally and a flash of speed, As if they scot’d both resting-place and rest! M.S.

The Islands, dispersed among these Lakes, are neither beautiful nor so numerous; nor so beautiful as might be expected from the account I have given of the manner in which the level areas of the vales are so frequently diversified by rocks, hills, and hillocks, scattered over them; nor are they ornamented, as are several islands of the lakes in Scotland and Ireland, by the remains of old castles or other places of defence, or of monastic edifices. The Islands are neither so numerous nor so beautiful as might be expected from the account I have given of the manner in which the level areas of the vales are so frequently diversified by rocks, hills, and hillocks, scattered over them; nor are they ornamented, as are several islands of the lakes in Scotland and Ireland, by the remains of old castles or other places of defence, or of monastic edifices.

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neighbourhood to the sea, is  

"The haunt of Cormorants and Sea-mews clang;"

a music suited to the stern and wild character of the several scenes.

This part of the subject may be concluded with observing — that, from the multitude of brooks and torrents that fall into these lakes, and of internal springs by which they are fed, and which circulate through them like veins, they are truly living lakes, “vivi lacus;” and are thus discriminated from the stagnant and sullen pools frequent among mountains that have been formed by volcanoes, and from the shallow meres found in flat and fenny countries. The water is also pure and crystalline; so that, if it were not for the reflections of the incumbent mountains by which it is darkened, a delusion might be felt, by a person resting quietly in a boat on the bosom of Winandermere or Derwentwater, similar to that which Carver so beautifully describes when he was floating alone in the middle of the lake Erie or Ontario, and could almost have imagined that his boat was suspended in an element as pure as air, or rather that the air and water were one.

It may be worth while here to mention (not as an object of beauty, but of curiosity) that there occasionally appears above the surface of Derwent-water, and always in the same place, a considerable tract of spungy ground covered with aquatic plants, which is called the Floating, but with more propriety might be named the Buoyant Island; and, on one of the pools near the lake of Esthwaite, may sometimes be seen a mossy islet, with trees upon it, shifting about before the wind, a lusus naturae frequent on the great rivers of America, and not unknown in other parts of the world.

*See that admirable middle of the lake Erie

[New footnote] *See that admirable
Having spoken of lakes I must not omit to mention, as a kindred feature of this country, those bodies of still water which are called TARNs. These are found in some of the vallies, and are very numerous upon the mountains. A Tarn in a vale implies, for the most part, that the bed of the vale is not happily formed; that the water of the brooks can neither wholly escape, nor diffuse itself over a large area. Accordingly, in such situations, tarns are often surrounded by a tract of boggy ground which has an unsightly appearance; but this is not always the case, and in the cultivated parts of the country, when the shores of the tarn are determined, it differs only from the lake in being smaller and in belonging mostly to a smaller valley or circular recess. Of this miniature class of lakes Loughrigg Tarn near Grasmere is the most beautiful example. It has its margin of green firm meadows, of rocks and rocky woods, a few reeds here, a little company of water lilies there, with beds of gravel or stone beyond; a tiny stream issuing neither briskly nor sluggishly out of it; but its water which are called Tarns. These are found in some of the vallies. In the economy of nature these are useful, as auxiliars to Lakes; for if the whole quantity of water which falls upon the mountains in time of storm were poured down upon the plains without intervention, in some quarters, of such receptacles, the habitable grounds would be much more subject than they are to inundation. But, as some of the collateral brooks spend their fury, finding a free course down the channel of the main stream of the vale before those that have to pass through the higher tarns and lakes have filled their several basins, a gradual distribution is effected; and the waters thus reserved, instead of uniting with those which meet with no such detention to spread ravage and deformity, contribute to support, for a length of time, the vigour of many streams without a fresh fall of rain. Tarns are found in some of the vales, and are numerous upon the mountains.
feeding rills, from the shortness of their course, so small as to be scarcely visible. Five or six cottages are reflected in its peaceful bosom; rocky and barren steeps rise up above the hanging enclosures; and the solemn pikes of Langdale overlook, from a distance, the low cultivated ridge of land that forms the northern boundary of this small, quiet, and fertile domain. The mountain tarns can only be recommended to the notice of the inquisitive traveller who has time to spare. They are difficult of access and naked; yet some of them are, in their permanent forms, very grand; and there are accidents of things which would make the meanest of them interesting. In the first place one of these pools is an acceptable sight to the mountain wanderer, not merely as an incident that diversifies the prospect, but as forming in his mind a spot or conspicuous point to which objects, otherwise disconnected or unsubordinated, may be referred. Some few have a varied outline, with bold heath-clad promontories; and, as they mostly lie at the foot of a steep precipice, the water appears black and sullen; and round the margin, masses of rock are scattered.

At all events, in the first place one

a centre spot or

the water, where the sun is not shining upon it, appears black and sullen; and round the margin, huge stones and masses of rock are scattered: some defying conjecture as to the means by which they came there, and others obviously fallen from on high — the contribution of ages! The sense, also, of some repulsive power strongly put forth — excited by the prospect of a body of pure water unattended with groves and other cheerful rural images by which fresh water is usually accompanied, and unable to give any furtherance to the meagre vegetation around it — heightens the melancholy natural to such scenes. Nor is the feeling of solitude often more forcibly or more solemnly
came thither, and ages! A not unpleasing sadness is induced by this perplexity, and these images of decay; while the prospect
give any

around it — excites a sense of some repulsive power strongly put forth, and thus deepens the melancholy natural

The feeling of solitude is seldom more strongly and more solemnly impressed than by the side of one of these mountain pools: though desolate and forbidding, it seems a distinct place to repair to, yet where the visitants must be rare, and there can be no disturbance — Water fowl flock thither; and the lonely angler may oftentimes here be seen; but the
imagination, not content with this, is tempted to attribute a voluntary power to every change which takes place in such a spot, whether it be the breeze that wanders over the surface of the water, or the splendid lights of evening that rest upon it in the midst of the awful precipices.

There sometimes doth a leaping fish Send through the tarn a lonely cheer;
The crags repeat the raven’s croak In symphony austere:
Thither the rainbow comes, the cloud, And mists that spread the flying shroud, And sunbeams, and the sounding blast,—

with this scanty allowance of society, is that resting midst of the awful

It will be observed that this country is, on one side, bounded by the sea which combines beautifully, from many elevated points of view, with the inland scenery; and, from the bay of Morcamb, the sloping shores and back-ground of distant mountains are seen composing pictures equally distinguished for grandeur and amenity. But the estuaries cannot pretend to vie with those of Scotland and Wales on this coast are in a great measure bare at low water, and there is no instance of the sea running far up among the mountains, and mingling with the Lakes, which are such in the strict and usual sense of the word, being all of fresh water. Nor have the rivers streams, from

yet no where are found the grand estuaries which are common in Scotland and Wales:

the lakes are such in the strict and usual sense of the word, being all of fresh water; nor have the rivers themselves, from the shortness of their course, time to acquire that body of water necessary to confer upon them much majesty. In fact, while they continue in the mountain and lake country, they are rather large brooks than rivers. The water is perfectly pellucid, through which in many places are seen to a great depth their beds of rock or of blue gravel, which give to the water itself an exquisitely cerulean colour: this is particularly striking in the rivers of Derwent and Duddon which may confidently be compared, such and so various are their beauties, to any two rivers of equal length of course in any country. The number of the torrents and smaller brooks is infinite, with their waterfalls and water-breaks; and they need not here be described. I will only observe that, as many, even of the
smallest of these rills, have either found
or made for themselves recesses in the
sides of the mountains or in the vales,
they have tempted the primitive
inhabitants to settle near them for
household accommodation and for
shelter; and hence the retirement and
seclusion by which these cottages are
endeared to the eye of the man of
sensibility.

In fact there is not
an instance of a harbour on the
Cumberland side of the Solway firth
that is not dry at low water; that of
Ravenglass, at the mouth of the Esk, as
a natural harbour is much the best.
The Sea appears to have been retiring
slowly for ages
from this coast.

The woods consist chiefly of oak, ash,
and birch, and here and there (though
very rarely) a species of elm, with
underwood of hazel, the white and black
thorn and hollies; in the moist places
alders and willows abound; and yew
among the rocks. Formerly the whole
country must have been covered with
wood to a great height up the mountains;
and native Scotch firs (as in the northern
parts of Scotland to this day) must have
grown in great profusion. But no one of
these old inhabitants of the country
remains, or perhaps has done for some
hundreds of years: beautiful traces,
however, of the universal sylvan
appearance, which the country formerly
had, are yet seen both in the native
coppice woods which remain, and which
have been protected by enclosures, and
also in the forest trees and hollies which,
though disappearing fast, are yet scattered
over both the enclosed and unenclosed
parts of the mountains. The same is
expressed by the beauty and intricacy
with which the fields and coppice-woods
are often intermingled: the plough of the

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an instance of a harbour on the
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that is not dry at low water; that of
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a natural harbour is much the best.
The Sea appears to have been retiring
slowly for ages from this coast. From
Whitehaven to St. Bees extends a track
of level ground, about five miles in
length, which formerly must have been
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stretches between it and the Sea.

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But not one of these
old inhabitants of the country remains, or has existed, perhaps for some hundreds
appearance, which the country had, yet survive in the native
coppice-woods that remain, and that have been protected

sylvan* [Note added] years; the beautiful traces

Scotch firs* [Note added]
first settlers having followed naturally the veins of richer, dryer, or less stony soil; and thus it has shaped out an intermixture of wood and lawn the grace and wildness of which it would have been impossible for the hand of studied art to produce. Other trees have been introduced within these last fifty years, such as beeches, larches, elms, limes, &c., and plantations of Scotch firs, seldom with advantage, and often with great injury to the appearance of the country: but the sycamore (which I believe was brought into this island from Germany not more than two hundred years ago) has long been the favourite of the cottagers; and, with the Scotch fir, has been chosen to screen their dwellings; and is sometimes found in the fields whither the winds or waters may have carried its seeds.

The want which is most felt, however, is that of timber trees. There are few magnificent ones to be found near any of the lakes; and indeed, unless greater care be taken, there will in a short time scarcely be left an oak that would repay the cost of felling. The neighbourhood of Rydale, notwithstanding the havoc which has been made, is yet nobly distinguished; and we have reason to hope, will long continue so. In the woods of Lowther also are found store of the grandest trees, and all the majesty and wildness of the native forest.

Among the smaller vegetable ornaments which nature has here provided, must be reckoned the juniper, bilberry, provided here by nature, must be reckoned the juniper, bilberry, a ground plant never so beautiful as in
and the broom plant, with which the hills and woods abound, the Dutch myrtle in moist places, and the endless variety of brilliant flowers in the fields and meadows; which, if the agriculture of the country were more carefully attended to, would disappear. Nor can I omit again to notice the lichens and mosses, which, in profusion, beauty, and variety, exceed those of any other country I have seen.

It may now be proper to say a few words respecting climate, and "skiey influences," in which this region, as far as the character of its landscapes is affected by them, may, upon the whole, be considered fortunate. The country is, indeed, subject to much bad weather, and it has been ascertained that twice as much rain falls here as in many parts of the island; but the number of black drizzling days, that blot out the face of things, is by no means proportionally great. Nor is a continuance of thick, flagging, damp air, so common as in the West of England and Ireland. The rain here comes down heartily, and is frequently succeeded by clear, bright weather, when every brook is vocal, and every torrent sonorous; brooks and torrents, which are never muddy, even in the heaviest floods, except after a drought they happen to be defiled for a short time by waters that have swept along dusty roads, or broken out into ploughed fields. Days of unsettled weather, with partial showers, are very frequent; but the showers, darkening or brightening as they fly from hill to hill, and early spring, when it is seen under bare or budding trees, that imperfectly intercept the sun-shine, covering the rocky knolls with a pure mantle of fresh verdure, more lively than the herbage of the open fields; the broom that spreads luxuriantly along rough pastures, and in the month of June intervenes the steep copses with its golden blossoms; and the juniper, a rich evergreen, that thrives in spite of cattle, upon the unenclosed parts of the mountains;—and the broom plant, the Dutch myrtle diffuses fragrance in moist places, and there is an endless variety of their profusion.
hill, are not less grateful to the eye
than finely interwoven passages of gay
and sad music are touching to the ear.
Vapours exhaling from the lakes and
meadows after sun-rise, in a hot
season, or, in moist weather, brooding
upon the heights, or descending
towards the valleys with inaudible
motion, give a visionary character to
every thing around them; and are in
themselves so beautiful, as to dispose
us to enter into the feelings of those
simple nations (such as the Laplanders
of this day) by whom they are taken
for guardian deities of the mountains;
or to sympathise with others who have
fancied these delicate apparitions to be
the spirits of their departed ancestors.
Akin to these are fleecy clouds resting
upon the hill tops; they are not easily
managed in picture, with their
accompanyments of blue sky; but how
glorious are they in nature! how
pregnant with imagination for the
poet! and the height of the Cumbrian
mountains is sufficient to exhibit daily
and hourly instances of those
mysterious attachments. Such clouds,
cleaving to their stations, or lifting up
suddenly their glittering heads from
behind rocky barriers, or hurrying out
of sight with speed of the sharpest
edge, will often tempt an inhabitant to
congratulate himself on belonging to a
country of mists, and clouds, and
storms, and make him think of the
blank sky of Egypt, and of the cerulean
vacancy of Italy, as an unanimated and
even a sad spectacle. The atmosphere,
however, as in every other country
subject to much rain, is frequently
unfavourable to landscape, especially
when keen winds succeed the rain,
which are apt to produce coldness,
spottiness, and an unmeaning or
repulsive detail in the distance;—a
sunless frost, under a canopy of leaden
and shapeless clouds, is, as far as it
allows things to be seen, equally
disagreeable.

It has been said that in human life
there are moments worth ages. In a
more subdued tone of sympathy may

[Three new paragraphs in 4th ed.]
we affirm, that in the climate of England there are, for the lover of nature, days which are worth whole months,—I might say—even years. One of these favoured days sometimes occurs in spring-time, when that soft air is breathing over the blossoms and new-born verdure, which inspired Buchanan with his beautiful Ode to the first of May; the air, which, in the luxuriance of his fancy, he likens to that of the golden age,—to that which gives motion to the funereal cypresses on the banks of Lethe;—to the air which is to salute beatified spirits when expiatory fires shall have consumed the earth with all her habitations. But it is in autumn that days of such affecting influence most frequently intervene;—the atmosphere seems refined, and the sky rendered more crystalline, as the vivifying heat of the year abates; the lights and shadows are more delicate; the colouring is richer and more finely harmonized; and, in this season of stillness, the ear being unoccupied, or only gently excited, the sense of vision becomes more susceptible of its appropriate enjoyments. A resident in a country like this which we are treating of, will agree with me, that the presence of a lake is indispensable to exhibit in perfection the beauty of one of these days; and he must have experienced, while looking on the unruffled waters, that the imagination, by their aid, is carried into recesses of feeling otherwise impenetrable. The reason of this is, that the heavens are not only brought down into the bosom of the earth, but that the earth is mainly looked at, and thought of, through the medium of a purer element. The happiest time is when the equinoctial gales are departed; but their fury may probably be called to mind by the sight of a few shattered boughs, whose leaves do not differ in colour from the faded foliage of the stately oaks from which these relics of the storm depend;—all else speaks of tranquillity;—not a breath of air, no
restlessness of insects, and not a moving object perceptible—except the clouds gliding in the depths of the lake, or the traveller passing along, an inverted image, whose motion seems governed by the quiet of a time, to which its archetype, the living person, is, perhaps, insensible:—or it may happen, that the figure of one of the larger birds, a raven or a heron, is crossing silently among the reflected clouds, while the voice of the real bird, from the element aloft, gently awakens in the spectator the recollection of appetites and instincts, pursuits and occupations, that deform and agitate the world,—yet have no power to prevent nature from putting on an aspect capable of satisfying the most intense cravings for the tranquil, the lovely, and the perfect, to which man, the noblest of her creatures, is subject.

Thus far of climate, as influencing the feelings through its effect on the objects of sense. We may add, that whatever has been said upon the advantages derived to these scenes from a changeable atmosphere, would apply, perhaps still more forcibly, to their appearance under the varied solemnities of night. Milton, it will be remembered, has given a clouded moon to Paradise itself. In the night-season also, the narrowness of the vales, and comparative smallness of the lakes, are especially adapted to bring surrounding objects home to the eye and to the heart. The stars, taking their stations above the hill-tops, are contemplated from a spot like the Abyssinian recess of Rasselas, with much more touching interest than they are likely to excite when looked at from an open country with ordinary undulations: and it must be obvious, that it is the bays only of large lakes that can present such contrasts of light and shadow as those of smaller dimensions display from every quarter. A deep contracted valley, with diffused waters, and plains level and wide as those of Chaldea, are the two extremes in which the beauty of the heavens and
their connexion with the earth are most sensibly felt. Nor do the advantages I have been speaking of imply here an exclusion of the aerial effects of distance. These are insured by the height of the mountains, and are found, even in the narrowest vales, where they lengthen in perspective, or act (if the expression may be used) as telescopes for the open country.

The subject would bear to be enlarged upon; but I will conclude this section with a night-scene suggested by the Vale of Keswick. The Fragment is well known; but it gratifies me to insert it, as the Writer was one of the first who led the way to a worthy admiration of this country.

"Now sunk the sun, now twilight sunk, and night
Rode in her zenith; not a passing breeze
Sigh'd to the grove, which in the midnight air
Stood motionless, and in the peaceful floods
Inverted hung: for now the billows slept
Along the shores, nor hear'd the deep; but spread
A shining mirror to the moon's pale orb,
Which, dim and waning, o'er the shadowy cliffs,
The solemn woods, and spiky mountain tops,
Her glimmering faintness threw: now every eye,
Oppress'd with toil, was drown'd in deep repose,
Save that the unseen Shepherd in his watch,
Propp'd on his crook, stood listening by the fold,
And gaz'd the starry vault, and pendant moon;
Nor voice, nor sound, broke on the deep serene;
But the soft murmur of soft-gushing rills,
Forth issuing from the mountain's distant steep,
(Unheard till now, and now scarce heard) proclaim'd
All things at rest, and imag'd the still voice
Of quiet, whispering in the ear of night."

*Dr. Brown, the author of this fragment, was a native of Cumberland, and should have remembered that the practice of folding sheep by night is unknown among these mountains, and that the image of the Shepherd upon the watch is out of its place, and belongs only to countries, with a warmer climate, that are subject to ravages from beasts of prey. It is pleasing to notice a dawn of imaginative feeling in these verses. Tickel, a man of no common genius, chose, for the subject of a Poem, Kensington Gardens, in preference to the Banks of the Derwent, within a mile or two of which he was born. But this was in the reign of Queen Anne.
SECTION SECOND. ASPECT OF THE COUNTRY AS AFFECTED BY ITS INHABITANTS.

Thus far I have chiefly spoken of the features by which Nature has discriminated this country from others. I will now describe in general terms, in what manner it is indebted to the hand of man. What I have to notice on this subject will emanate most easily and perspicuously from a description of the ancient and present inhabitants, their occupations, their condition of life, the distribution of landed property among them, and the tenure by which it is holden.

The reader will here suffer me to recall to his mind the description which I have given of the substance and form of these mountains, the shape of the vallies and their position with respect to each other. He will people the vallies with lakes and rivers, the sides and coves of the mountains with pools and torrents; and will bound half of the circle which we have contemplated by the sands of the sea, or by the sea itself. He will conceive that, from the point upon which he before stood he looks down upon this scene before the country had been penetrated by any inhabitants: to vary his sensations and to break in upon their stillness, he will form to himself an image of the tides visiting and revisiting the Friths, the main sea dashing against the bolder shore, the rivers pursuing their course to be lost in the mighty mass of waters. He may see or hear in fancy the winds sweeping over the lakes, or piping with a loud noise among the mountain peaks; and lastly may think of the primaeval woods shedding and renewing their leaves with no human eye to notice, or human heart to regret or welcome the change. “When the first settlers entered this region, (says an animated writer) they found it overspread with wood; forest trees, the fir, the oak, the ash, and the

or George the first. Progress must have been made in the interval; though the traces of it, except in the works of Thomson and Dyer, are not very obvious.

Thus far Hitherto

The reader will suffer me here to recall to his mind the shapes of the valleys and their position with respect to each other, and the forms and substance of the intervening mountains.

The coves and sides

he before stood

loud voice noise among
**Table 1**

<table>
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<th>Page</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Such was the state and appearance of this region when the aboriginal colonists of the Celtic tribes were first driven or drawn towards it, and became joint tenants with the wolf, the boar, the wild bull, the red deer and the leigh, a gigantic species of deer which has been long extinct; while the inaccessible crags were occupied by the falcon, the raven, and the eagle. The inner parts were too secluded and of too little value to participate much of the benefit of Roman manners; and though these conquerors encouraged the Britons to the improvement of their lands in the plain country of Furness and Cumberland, they seem to have had little connection with the mountains which were not subservient to the profit they drew from the mines.</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>When the Romans retired from Great Britain, it is well known that these mountain fastnesses furnished a protection to some unsubdued Britons, long after the more accessible and more fertile districts had been seized by the Saxon or Danish invader. A few traces of Roman forts or camps, as at Ambleside and upon Dunmallet, (erected probably to secure a quiet transfer of the ore from the mines) and two or three circles of rude stones attributed to the Druids, are the only visible vestiges, that remain upon the surface of the country, of these ancient occupants; and as the Saxons and Danes, who succeeded to the possession of the villages and hamlets which had been established by the Britons, seem to have confined themselves to the open country, —we may descend at once to times long posterior to the conquest by the Normans when their feudal policy was regularly established. We may easily conceive that these narrow dales and mountain sides, choked up as they would be with wood, lying out of the way of communication with other parts of the mountains, except for military purposes, or in subservience which were not subservient to the profit.</td>
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*Note added*
Island, and upon the edge of a hostile kingdom, would have little attraction for the high-born and powerful; especially as the more open parts of the country furnished positions for castles and houses of defence sufficient to repel any of those sudden attacks, which in the then rude state of military knowledge, could be made upon them. Accordingly the more retired regions (and observe it is to these I am now confining myself) must have been neglected or shunned even by the persons whose baronial or seignioral rights extended over them, and left doubtless partly as a place of refuge for outlaws and robbers, and partly granted out for the more settled habitation of a few vassals following the employment of shepherds or woodlanders. Hence these lakes and inner valleys are unadorned by any of the remains of ancient grandeur, castles or monastic edifices, which are only found upon the skirts of this country, as Furness Abbey, Calder Abbey, the Priory of Lanercost, Gleaston Castle, the original residence of the Flemings, and the numerous ancient Castles of the Cliffs and the Dacres. On the southern side of these mountains, (especially in that part known by the name of Furness Fells, which is more remote from the borders) the state of society would necessarily be more settled; though it was fashioned not a little, with the rest of this country, by its neighbourhood to a hostile kingdom. We will therefore give a sketch of the oeconomy of the Abbots in the distribution of lands among their tenants, as similar plans were doubtless adopted by other Lords, and as the consequences have affected the face of the country materially to the present day, being in fact one of the principal causes which give it such a striking superiority, in beauty and interest over all other parts of the Island.

[New footnote] *It is not improbable that these circles were once numerous, and that many of them may yet endure in a perfect state, under no very deep covering of soil. A friend of the
Author, while making a trench in a level piece of ground, not far from the banks of the Emont, but in no connection with that river, met with some stones which seemed to him formally arranged; this excited his curiosity, and proceeding, he uncovered a perfect circle of stones, from two, to three or four feet high, with a *sanctum sanctorum*—the whole a complete place of Druidical worship of small dimensions, having the same sort of relation to the Stones of Shap, or Long Meg and her Daughters, near the banks of the river Eden, that a rural chapel bears to our noble cathedrals. This interesting little monument having passed, with the field in which it was found, into other hands, has been destroyed. It is much to be regretted, that the striking relic of antiquity at Shap has been in a great measure destroyed also. It is thus described in the History of Westmorland:—

"Towards the south end of the village of Shap, near the turnpike road, on the east side thereof, there is a remarkable monument of antiquity; which is an area upwards of half a mile in length, and between twenty and thirty yards broad, encompassed with large stones (with which that country abounds), many of them three or four yards in diameter, at eight, ten, or twelve yards distance, which are of such immense weight that no carriage now in use could support them. Undoubtedly this hath been a place of Druid worship, which they always performed in the open air, within this kind of enclosure, shaded with wood, as this place of old time appears to have been, although there is now scarce a tree to be seen, (Shapthorn only excepted, planted on the top of the hill for the direction of travellers). At the high end of this place of worship there is a circle of the like stones about eighteen feet in diameter, which was their *sanctum sanctorum* (as relation to Stonehenge, the Stones of Shap, Long Meg and her Daughters near the banks of the river Eden, and Karl Lofte near Shap, if this last be not Danish), that a rural chapel bears to a stately church, or to one of our noble cathedrals.

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it were), and place of sacrifice. The stone is a kind of granite, and when broken appears beautifully variegated with bright shining spots, like spar. The country people have blasted and carried away some of these stones, for the foundation-stones of buildings. In other places some have cut these stones (but with difficulty) for mill-stones. When polished they would make beautiful chimney-pieces. Some contend that this is a Danish monument.

The Daughters of Long Meg are placed not in an oblong, as the Stones of Shap, but in a perfect circle, eighty yards in diameter, and seventy-two in number, and from above three yards high, to less than so many feet: a little way out of the circle stands Long Meg herself—a single stone eighteen feet high.

When the Author first saw this monument he came upon it by surprise, therefore might over-rate its importance as an object; but he must say, that though it is not to be compared with Stonehenge, he has not seen any other remains of those dark ages, which can pretend to rival it in singularity and dignity of appearance.

A weight of awe not easy to be borne
Fell suddenly upon my spirit, cast
From the dread bosom of the unknown past,
When first I saw that sisterhood forlorn;
—And her, whose strength and stature seem to scorn
The power of years—pre-eminent, and placed
Apart, to overlook the circle vast.
Speak, Giant-mother! tell it to the Morn,
While she dispels the cumbrous shades of night;
Let the Moon hear, emerging from a cloud,
When, how, and wherefore, rose on British gr
dThat wond'rous Monument, whose mystic round
Forth shadows, some have deem'd, to mortal sight
The inviolable God that tames the proud.

"When the Abbots of Furness," says an author before cited, "enfranchised their villains, and raised them to the dignity of customary tenants, the lands, which they had cultivated for their lord were divided into whole tenements; each of which, besides the customary annual rent, was charged with the obligation of having in readiness a man completely armed for the king's service on the borders or elsewhere:
Each of these whole tenements was again subdivided into four equal parts; each villain had one; and the party tenant contributed his share to the support of the man at arms, and of other burthens. These divisions were not properly distinguished; the land remained mixed; each tenant had a share through all the arable and meadow land, and common of pasture over all the wastes. These subtenements were judged sufficient for the support of so many families; and no further division was permitted. These divisions and subdivisions were convenient at the time for which they were calculated; the land, so parcelled out, was of necessity more attended to; and the industry greater, when more persons were to be supported by the produce of it. The frontier of the kingdom, within which Furness was considered, was in a constant state of attack and defence; more hands therefore were necessary to guard the coast, to repel an invasion from Scotland, or make reprisals on the hostile neighbour. The dividing the lands in such manner as has been shewn, increased the number of inhabitants, and kept them at home till called for; and, the land being mixed, and the several tenants united in equipping the plough, the absence of the fourth man was no prejudice to the cultivation of his land, which was committed to the care of three.

While the villains of Low Furness were thus distributed over the land, and employed in agriculture; those of High Furness were charged with the care of flocks and herds, to protect them from the wolves which lurked in the thickets, and in winter to browse them with the tender sprouts of hollies and ash. This custom was not till lately discontinued in High Furness; and holly trees were carefully preserved for that purpose, when all other wood was cleared off; large tracts of common being so covered with these trees as to have the appearance of a forest of hollies. At the Shepherd’s call the flocks surrounded the holly bush, and received the cropping at his hand which they greedily nibbled up, bleating for...
more. The Abbots of Furness enfranchised these pastoral vassals, and permitted them to enclose quillets to their houses for which they paid encroachment rent.”—West's Antiquities of Furness.

However desirable for the purposes of defence a numerous population might be, it was not possible to make at once the same numerous allotments among the untilled vallies and upon the sides of the mountains as had been made in the cultivated plains. The enfranchised shepherd or woodlander, having chosen there his place of residence, builds it of sods or of the mountain stone, and with the permission of his lord, encloses, like Robinson Crusoe, a small croft or two immediately at his door for such animals chiefly as he wishes to protect. Others are happy to imitate his example, and avail themselves of the same privileges; and thus population creeps on towards the more secluded parts of the vallies. Chapels, daughters of some distant mother church, are first erected in the more open and fertile vales, as those of Bowness and Grasmere, offsets of Kendal; which again after a period, as the settled population increases, become mother churches to smaller edifices scattered at length almost in every dale throughout the country. The enclosures, formed by the tenantry, are for a long time confined to the homesteads; and the arable and meadow land of the vales is possessed in common field; the several portions being marked out by stones, bushes, or trees; which portions, where the custom has survived, to this day are called Dales, probably from the Belgic word deylen, (to distribute) but while the vale was thus lying open, enclosures seem to have taken place, upon the sides of the mountains; because the land there was not intermixed, and was of little comparative value; and therefore small opposition would be made to its being appropriated by those to whose habitations it was contiguous. Hence the singular appearance which the sides of many of
| 48 | these mountains exhibit, intersected as they are almost to their summit, with stone walls, of which the fences are always formed. When first erected, they must have little disfigured the face of the country; as part of the lines would every where be hidden by the quantity of native wood then remaining; and the lines would also be broken (as they still are) by the rocks which interrupt and vary their course. In the meadows, and in those parts of the lower grounds where the soil has not been sufficiently drained and could not afford a stable foundation, there, when the encreasing value of land and the inconvenience suffered from intermixed plots of ground in common field had induced each inhabitant to enclose his own, they were compelled to make the fences of alders, willows, and other trees. These where the native wood had disappeared, have frequently enriched the vallies with a sylvan appearance; while the intricate intermixture of property has given to the fences a graceful irregularity, which, where large properties are prevalent and large capitals employed in agriculture, is unknown. This sylvan appearance is still further heightened by the number of ash trees which have been planted in rows along the quick fences, and along the walls, for the purpose of brouzing cattle at the approach of winter. The branches are lopped off and strewed upon the pastures; and, when the cattle have stripped them of the leaves, they are used for repairing hedges or for fuel. |
| 49 | almost to the their summit |
| 50 | walls, of which the fences are always formed. When first erected, these stone fences they must |
| 51 | appearance is still further heightened |
| 52 | trees which have been planted |
| 53 | browsing the cattle |
| 54 | repairing the hedges |
| 55 | We have thus seen a numerous body of dalesmen creeping into possession of their homesteads, their little crofts, their mountain enclosures; and finally, the whole vale is visibly divided; except perhaps here and there some marshy ground, which till fully drained, would not repay the trouble of enclosing. But these last partitions do not seem to have been general till long after the pacification of the Borders, by the union of the two crowns; when the cause, which had first determined the distribution of land into such small parcels, have not only ceased,—but likewise a general }
improvement had taken place in the country, with a correspondent rise in the value of its produce. From the time of the union of the two kingdoms, it is certain that this species of feudal population would rapidly diminish. That it was formerly much more numerous than it is at present, is evident from the multitude of tenements (I do not mean houses, but small divisions of land) which belonged formerly each to its several proprietor, and for which separate fines are paid to the manorial lord at this day. These are often in the proportion of four to one, of the present occupants. "Sir Launcelot Threlkeld who lived in the reign of Henry VII, was wont to say, he had three noble houses, one for pleasure, Crosby in Westmoreland, where he had a park full of deer; one for profit and warmth, wherein to reside in winter, namely, Yanwith nigh Penrith; and the third, Threlkeld (on the edge of the vale of Keswick) well stocked with tenants to go with him to the wars." But, as I have said, from the union of the two kingdoms this numerous vassalage (their services not being wanted) would rapidly diminish; various tenements would be united in one possessor; and the aboriginal houses, probably little better than hovels, like the kraels of savages or the huts of the Highlanders of Scotland, would many of them fall into decay and wholly disappear, while the place of many be supplied by substantial and comfortable buildings, a majority of which remain to this day scattered over the valleys, and are in many the only dwellings found in them.

From the time of the erection of these houses, till within the last forty years, the state of society, though no doubt slowly and gradually improving, underwent no material change. Corn was grown in these vales (through which no carriage road had been made) sufficient upon each estate to furnish bread for each family, and no more: notwithstanding the union of several tenements, the possessions of each inhabitant still being small, in the same field was seen an intermixture of different crops; and the plough was interrupted by

union of the two kingdoms, it

must would rapidly have diminished

two crowns kingdoms, this

would many of them fall into decay, and wholly disappear, while the places of many be supplied

often in many the only

last fifty years

last sixty years

carriage-road had yet been
little rocks, mostly overgrown with wood, or by spungy places which the Tillers of the soil had neither leisure nor capital to convert into firm land. The storms and moisture of the climate induced them to sprinkle their upland property with outhouses of native stone as places of shelter for their sheep, where in tempestuous weather food was distributed to them. Every family spun from its own flock the wool with which it was clothed; a weaver was here and there found among them; and the rest of their wants were supplied by the produce of the yarn, which they carded and spun in their own houses upon the large wheel, and carried it to market either under their arms, or more frequently on pack-horses, a small train taking their way weekly down the valley or over the mountains to the most commodious town. They had, as I have said, their rural chapel, and of course their Minister, in cloathing or in manner of life in no respect differing from themselves, except on the Sabbath-day; this was the sole distinguished individual among them; every thing else, person and possession, exhibited a perfect equality, a community of Shepherds, and Agriculturalists, proprietors for the most part of the lands which they occupied and cultivated.

While the process above detailed was going on, the native Forests must have been every where receding; but trees were planted for the sustenance of the flocks in winter, such was the then rude state of agriculture; and, for the same cause, it was necessary that care should be taken of some part of the growth of the native forest. Accordingly in Queen Elizabeth’s time this was so strongly felt, that a petition was made to the Crown praying "that the Blomaries in high Furness might be abolished on account of the quantity of wood which was consumed in them for the use of the Mines, to the great detriment of the cattle." But this same cause, about a hundred years after, produced effects directly contrary to those which had been deprecated. The re-establishment, at that period, of furnaces upon a large scale
made it the interest of the people to convert the steepest and more stony of the enclosures, sprinkled over with the remains of the native forest, into close woods, which, when cattle and sheep were excluded, rapidly sowed and thickened themselves. I have already directed the Reader’s attention to the cause by which tufts of wood, pasturage, meadow and arable land with its various produce are intricately intermingled in the same field; and he will now see in like manner how enclosures entirely of wood, and those of cultivated ground, are blended all over the country under a law of similar wildness.

An historic detail has thus been given of the manner in which the hand of man has acted upon the surface of the inner regions of the mountainous country, as incorporated with and subservient to the powers and processes of nature. We will now take a view of the same agency acting within narrower bounds for the production of the few works of art and accommodations of life which in so simple a state of society, could be necessary. These are merely habitations of man and coverts for beasts, roads and bridges, and places of worship.

And to begin with the COTTAGES. They are scattered over the vallies, and under the hill sides, and on the rocks; and to this day in the more retired dales, without any intrusion of more assuming buildings, clustered like stars some few, but single most, and lurking dimly in their shy retreats, or glancing on each other cheerful looks, like separated stars with clouds between.

The dwelling houses, and contiguous outhouses are in many instances of the colour of the native rock out of which they have been built; but frequently the dwelling house has been distinguished from the barn and byre by rough-cast, and white wash, which, as the inhabitants are not hasty in renewing it, in a few years acquires, by the influence of the weather, a tint at once sober and variegated. As these houses have been from father to son inhabited by persons

\[\text{the steeper}\]
engaged in the same occupations,
yet necessarily with changes in
their circumstances, they have
received additions and accommodations
adapted to the needs of each successive
occupant, who, being for the most part
proprietor, was at liberty to follow his
own fancy; so that these humble
dwellings remind the contemplative
spectator of a production of nature, and
may (using a strong expression) rather be
said to have grown than to have been
erected—to have risen by an instinct of
their own out of the native rock; so little
is there in them of formality; such is their
wildness and beauty. Among the
numerous recesses and projections in the
walls and in the different stages of their
roofs are seen the boldest and most
harmonious effects of contrasted sunshine
and shadow. It is a favourable
circumstance that the strong winds which
sweep down the vallies induced the
inhabitants, at a time when the materials
for building were easily procured, to
furnish many of these dwellings with
substantial porches; and such as have not
this defence are seldom unprovided with
a projection of two large slates over their
thresholds. Nor will the singular beauty
of the chimneys escape the eye of the
attentive traveller. Sometimes a low
chimney, almost upon a level with the
roof, is overlaid with a slate, supported
upon four slender pillars, to prevent the
wind from driving the smoke down the
chimney. Others are of a quadrangular
shape rising one or two feet above the
roof; which low square is surmounted by
a tall cylinder giving to the cottage
chimney the most beautiful shape in
which it is ever seen. Nor will it be too
fanciful or refined to remark, as a general
principle, that there is a pleasing
harmony between a tall chimney of this
circular form and the living column of
smoke through the still air ascending
from it. These dwellings, as has been said,
mostly built, as has

received without incongruity additions

are seen the boldest bold and most

is often surmounted

remark, as a general principle, that

These dwellings, mostly built, as has

ascending from it through the still air.
rough and uneven in their surfaces. Both
the coverings and sides of the houses have
furnished places of rest for the seeds of
lichens, mosses, fern, and flowers. Hence
buildings, which in their very form call to
mind the processes of nature, do thus, by
this vegetable garb with which they are
clothed, appear to be received into the
bosom of the living principle of things, as
it acts and exists among the woods and
fields; and, by their colour and their
shape, affectingly direct the thoughts to
that tranquil course of nature and
simplicity along which the humble-
minded inhabitants have through so
many generations been led. Add the little
garden with its shed for beehives, its small
beds of pot-herbs, and its border and
patches of flowers for Sunday posies, with
sometimes a choice few too much prized
to be plucked; an orchard of
proportioned size; a cheese-press often
supported by some tree near the door; a
cluster of embowering sycamores for
summer shade, with a tall Scotch fir
through which the winds sing when other
trees are leafless; the little rill or
household spout murmuring in all
seasons—combine these incidents and
images together, and you have the
representative idea of a mountain cottage
in this country, so beautifully formed in
itself and so richly adorned by the hand
of nature.

Till within the last forty years there was
no communication between any of these
vales by carriage roads; all bulky articles
were transported on pack-horses. But,
owing to the population not being
concentrated in villages but scattered, the
vallies themselves were intersected as now
by innumerable lanes and pathways
leading from house to house and from
field to field. These lanes where they are
fenced by stone walls are mostly bordered
with ashes, hazels, wild roses, and beds of
tall fern, at their base; while the walls
themselves if old, are overspread with
mosses, small ferns, wild strawberries, the
geranium, and lichens; and, if the wall
happens to rest against a bank of earth, it
is sometimes almost wholly concealed by

last fifty years

last sixty years

Owing, however, to the population
a rich facing of stone-fern. It is a great advantage to a traveller or resident, that these numerous lanes and paths, if he be a zealous admirer of nature, will introduce him, nay, will lead him on into all the recesses of the country, so that the hidden treasures of its landscapes will by an ever ready guide be laid open to his eyes.

Likewise to the smallness of the several properties is owing the great number of bridges over the brooks and torrents, and the daring and graceful neglect of danger or accommodation with which so many of them are constructed, the rudeness of the forms of some, and their endless variety. But, when I speak of this rudeness, I must at the same time add that many of these structures are in themselves models of elegance, as if they had been formed upon principles of the most thoughtful architecture. It is to be regretted that these monuments of the skill of our ancestors, and of that happiness of instinct by which consummate beauty was produced, are disappearing fast; but sufficient specimens remain to give a high gratification to the man of genuine taste. Such travellers as may not have been accustomed to pay attention to these things will excuse me if I point out the proportion between the span and elevation of the arch, the lightness of the parapet, and the graceful manner in which its curve follows faithfully that of the arch.
improvement may be looked for in future; the gentry recently have copied the old models, and successful instances might be pointed out, if I could take the liberty.

Upon this subject I have nothing further to notice, except the places of worship, which have mostly a little schoolhouse adjoining. The lowliness of simple elegance of these churches and chapels, a [Additions in 2nd ed.] well proportioned oblong with a porch, in some instances a steeple tower, and in others nothing more than a small belfry in which one or two bells hang visibly,—these are objects which, though pleasing in their forms, must necessarily, more than any others in rural scenery, derive their interest from the feelings of piety and reverence for the modest virtues and simple manners of humble life with which they may be contemplated. A man must be very insensible who would not be touched with pleasure at the sight of the Chapel of Buttermere, which by its diminutive size, so strikingly expresses how small must be the congregation there assembled, as it were like one family, and proclaiming at the same time to the passenger, in connection with the surrounding mountains, the depth of that seclusion in which the people live which has rendered necessary the building of a separate place of worship for so few. A Patriot, calling to mind the image of the stately fabrics of Canterbury, York, or Westminster, will find a heartfelt satisfaction in presence of this lowly pile, as a monument of the wise institutions of our country, and as evidence of the all-pervading and paternal care of that venerable Establishment of which it is perhaps the humblest daughter.—The edifice is scarcely larger than many of the

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The architecture lowliness of simple elegance of these churches and chapels, where they have not been recently rebuilt or modernised, is of a style not less appropriate and admirable than that of the dwelling-houses and other structures. How sacred the spirit by which our forefathers were directed! The religio loci is no where outraged by these unstinted, yet unpretending, works of human hands. They exhibit generally a well-proportioned oblong with a suitable porch.

But these are objects which, though than any others the sentiments feelings of piety

Buttermere, so strikingly expressing by its diminutive size, how small proclaiming proclaims at
single stones or fragments of rock which are scattered near it.

[New footnote] *In some places scholars were formerly taught in the church, and at others the school-house was a sort of anti-chapel to the place of worship, being under the same roof; an arrangement which was abandoned as irreverent. It continues, however, to this day in Borrowdale. In the parish register of that chapel is a notice, that a Youth who had quitted the valley, and died in one of the towns on the coast of Cumberland, had requested that his body should be brought and interred at the foot of the pillar by which he had been accustomed to sit while a schoolboy. One cannot but regret that parish registers so seldom contain any thing but bare names; in a few of this country, especially in that of Lowerwater, I have found interesting notices of unusual natural occurrences—characters of the deceased, and particulars of their lives. There is no good reason why such memorials should not be frequent; these short and simple annals would in future ages become precious.

We have thus far confined our observations on this division of the subject to that part of these Dales which runs far up into the mountains. In addition to such objects as have been hitherto described, it may be mentioned that, as we descend towards the open part of the Vales, we meet with the remains of ancient Parks, and with old mansions of more stately architecture; and it may be observed that to these circumstances the country owes whatever ornament it retains of majestic and full-grown timber, as the remains of the park of the ancient family of the Ratcliffs at Derwent-water, Gowbray-park, and the venerable woods of Rydale. Through the more open part of the vales also are scattered houses of a middle rank between the pastoral cottage and the old hall-residences of the more wealthy estaterman with more spacious domains attached to them.
As we descend towards the open country, we meet with halls and mansions, many of which have been places of defence against the incursions of the Scottish borderers; and they not unfrequently retain their towers and battlements. To these houses, parks are sometimes attached, and to their successive proprietors we chiefly owe whatever ornament is still left to the country of majestic timber. Through the open parts of the vales are scattered, also, houses of a middle rank between the pastoral cottage and the old hall residence of the knight or esquire. Such houses differ much from the rugged cottages before described, and are generally graced with a little court or garden in front, where may yet be seen specimens of those fantastic and quaint figures which our ancestors were fond of shaping out in yew-tree, holly, or box-wood. The passenger will sometimes smile at such elaborate display of petty art, while the house does not deign to look upon the natural beauty or the sublimity which its situation almost unavoidably commands.

Thus has been given a faithful description, the minuteness of which the Reader will pardon, of the face of this country as it was and had been through centuries till within the last forty years. Towards the head of these Dales was found a perfect Republic of Shepherds and Agriculturists, among whom the plough of each man was confined to the maintenance of his own family, or to the occasional accommodation of his neighbour. Two or three cows furnished each family with milk and cheese. The Chapel was the only edifice that presided over these dwellings, the supreme head of this pure Commonwealth; the members of which existed in the midst of a powerful empire, like an ideal society or an organized community whose constitution had been imposed and regulated by the mountains which protected it. Neither Knight nor Squire nor high-born Nobleman was here; but many of these humble sons of the hills last fifty years. last sixty years. neighbour. * [Note added]

Neither high-born Nobleman, Knight, nor Esquire, was here.
had a consciousness that the land, which
they walked over and tilled, had for more
than five hundred years been possessed by
men of their name and blood—and
venerable was the transition when a
curious traveller, descending from the
heart of the mountains, had come to
some ancient manorial residence in the
more open part of the vales, which, with
the rights attached to its proprietor,
connected the almost visionary mountain
Republic which he had been
contemplating with the substantial frame
of society as existing in the laws and
constitution of a mighty empire.

open parts of the vales, which, through
with the rights

Republic which he

---

[New footnote] *One of the most
pleasing characteristics of manners in
secluded and thinly-peopled districts,
is a sense of the degree in which
human happiness and comfort are
dependent on the contingency of
neighbourhood. This is implied by a
rhyming adage common here, “Friends
are far, when neighbours are nar”
(near). This mutual helpfulness is not
confined to out-of-doors work; but is
ready upon all occasions. Formerly, if a
person became sick, especially the
mistress of a family, it was usual for
those of the neighbours who were
more particularly connected with the
party by amicable offices, to visit the
house, carrying a present; this practice,
which is by no means obsolete, is
called owning the family, and is
regarded as a pledge of a disposition to
be otherwise serviceable in a time of
disability and distress.

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Such, as I have said, was the appearance
of things till within these last forty years.
A practice which by a strange abuse of
terms has been denominated ornamental
gardening, was at that time, becoming
generally prevalent over England. In
union with an admiration of this art, and
in some instances in opposition to it, had
been generated a relish for select parts of

last fifty years.

practice which by
terms has been
denominated
generally prevalent

Such, as hath been I have said,
within the last sixty years

practice, by a strange abuse of terms
natural scenery; and Travellers, instead of
confining their observations to Towns,
Manufactures, or Mines, began (a thing
till then unheard of) to wander over
the Island in search of sequestered
spots which they might have accidentally
learnt were distinguished for the
sublimity and beauty of the forms of
nature there to be seen. Dr. Brown the
celebrated author of the "Estimate of the
Manners and Principles of the Times,"
&c. published a letter to a friend in
which the attractions of the Vale of
Keswick were delineated with a powerful
crystal and the feeling of a genuine
enthusiast. Gray, the Poet followed;
and the report, which he gave, was
circulated among his friends. He died
soon after his forlorn and melancholy
pilgrimage to the Vale of Keswick; and
the record which he left behind him of
what he had seen and felt in this journey
excited that pensive interest with which
the human mind is ever disposed to listen
to the farewell words of a man of genius.
The journal of Gray feelingly recorded
the manner in which the gloom of ill
health and low spirits had been irradiated
by objects most beautiful and sublime
which the Author's powers of mind
enabled him to describe with distinctness
and unaffected simplicity.

The Vale of Grasmere is thus happily
discriminated at the close of his
description. — "Not a single red tile,
no gentleman's flaring house or garden
walls, break in upon the repose of this
little unsuspected paradise; but all is
peace, rusticity, and happy poverty, in its
neatest and most becoming attire."

What is here so justly said of Grasmere
applied almost equally to all its sister
vales. It was well for the undisturbed
pleasure of the Poet's mind that he had
no forebodings of what was so soon after
to take place; and it might have been
hoped that these words, at once the
dictate of a sympathetic heart, a pure
imagination, and a genuine taste, would

Manufactories, Manufactures, or Mines
spots distinguished, as they might
accidentally have learned, for the
sublimity or and beauty

&c.

and the report, which he gave, was
circulated among his friends.

record which he left

feelingly showed recorded
how the gloom in which the gloom
objects most beautiful and sublime which

Every reader of this journal must have been impressed with
the words that conclude his notice of
the Vale of Grasmere is thus happily
discriminated at the close of his
description.
no flaring gentleman's house or garden
wall, breaks
almost of themselves have preserved the ancient franchises of this and other kindred mountain retirements from trespass or intrusion, or (shall I dare say?) would have secured scenes so consecrated from profanation. The Lakes had now become celebrated; the mania of ornamental gardening and prospect hunting had spread wide; visitors flocked hither from all parts of the Island; the fancies of some of these were so strongly smitten that they became settlers; and numerous violations soon ensued.

The venerable wood that had grown for centuries round the small house called St. Herbert’s Hermitage, had indeed some years before been felled by its native proprietor, and the whole island had been planted anew with Scotch firs left to spindle up by each other’s side — a melancholy phalanx, defying the power of the winds, and disregarding the regret of the spectator, who might otherwise have cheated himself into a belief, that some of the decayed remains of those oaks, the place of which is in this manner usurped, had been planted by the Hermit’s own hand. Comparatively, however, this sainted spot suffered little injury. The Hind’s Cottage upon Vicar’s island, in the same lake, with its embowering sycamores and cattle shed, disappeared, at the bidding of an alien improver, from the corner where they had stood; and right in the middle, and upon the precise point of the island’s highest elevation, rose a tall square habitation, with four sides exposed, like an observatory, or a warren-house reared upon an eminence for the detection of depredators, or, like the temple of Cælus, where all the winds pay him obeisance. Round this novel structure, but at respectful distance, platoons of firs were stationed, as if to protect their

island had been planted which was in

This sainted spot, however, suffered comparatively little. At the bidding of an alien improver, the Hind’s Cottage, upon Vicar’s island, in the same lake, with its embowering sycamores and cattle-shed, disappeared from the corner where they stood;

an astronomer’s observatory

at a respectful
commander when weather and time should somewhat have shattered his strength. Within the narrow limits of this island were typified also the state and strength of a kingdom, and its religion as it had been and was, — for neither was the druidical circle uncreated, nor the church of the present establishment; nor the stately pier, emblem of commerce and navigation; nor the fort, to deal out thunder upon the approaching invader. The taste of a succeeding proprietor rectified the mistakes as far as was practicable, and has ridded the spot of all its puerilities. The church, after having been docked of its steeple, is applied, both ostensibly and really, to the purpose for which the body of the pile was actually erected, namely, a boathouse; the fort is demolished, and, without indignation on the part of the spirits of the ancient Druids who officiated at the circle upon the opposite hill, the mimic arrangement of stones, with its sanctum sanctorum, has been swept away.

This beautiful country has, in a great variety of instances, suffered from the spirit of tasteless and capricious innovation. The present instance has been singled out, extravagant as it is, because, unquestionably, this beautiful country has, in numerous other places a great variety of instances, suffered from the same spirit of tasteless and capricious innovation, though not clothed exactly in the same form, nor active in an equal degree. It will be sufficient here to utter a regret for the changes that have been made upon the principal Island at Winanderemere, and in its neighbourhood. What could be more unfortunate than the taste that suggested the paring of the shores, and surrounding with an embankment this spot of ground, the natural shape of which was so beautiful! An artificial appearance has thus been given to the whole, while infinite varieties of minute beauty have been destroyed. Could not the margin of this noble island be given back to nature? Winds and waves work with a careless and graceful hand; and, should they in some places carry away a portion of the
No one can now travel through the more frequented tracts, without finding at almost every turn the venerable and pure simplicity of nature vitiated by some act of inconsiderate and impertinent art; without being offended by an introduction of discordant objects, disturbing everywhere that peaceful harmony of form and colour which had been through a long lapse of ages most happily preserved.

soil, the trifling loss would be amply compensated by the additional spirit, dignity, and loveliness, which these agents and the other powers of nature would soon communicate to what was left behind. As to the larch-plantations upon the main shore, — they who remember the original appearance of the rocky steeps scattered over with native hollies and ash-trees, will be prepared to agree with what I shall have to say hereafter upon plantations in general. But, in truth, no one without being offended finding at almost every turn the venerable and pure simplicity of nature vitiated by some act of inconsiderate and impertinent art; without being offended by an introduction of discordant objects disturbing everywhere that peaceful harmony of form and colour which had been through a long lapse of ages most happily preserved.

All gross transgressions of this kind in matters of taste originate in a feeling natural and honourable to the human mind, viz., the pleasure which we receive from distinct ideas and from the perception of order, regularity, and contrivance. Now unpractised minds receive these impressions only from objects between which there exists eternally a strong demarcation; hence the pleasure with which such minds are smitten by formality and harsh contrast.

But I would beg of those who, under the control of this craving for distinct ideas, are hasting setting about the production of food by which it may be gratified, to temper their impatience, to look carefully about them, to observe and to watch; and they will find gradually growing within them a sense by which they will be enabled to perceive objects that are divided from each other by between which there exists eternally a strong lines of demarcation; hence the delight pleasure with

kind in matters of taste originate, doubtless, in a feeling

But I would beg of those who, under the control of this craving for distinct ideas, are hasting setting about the production of food by which it may be gratified, to temper their impatience, to look carefully about them, to observe and to watch; and they will find gradually growing within them a sense by which they will be enabled to perceive

[New footnote] *These are disappearing fast, under the management of the present Proprietor, and native wood is resuming its place.

[Note added] [Para. break added in 5th ed.]

[Paragraph break added in 5th ed.]

[New footnote] *These are disappearing fast, under the management of the present Proprietor, and native wood is resuming its place.
to study what already exists; and they will find in a country so lavishly gifted by nature an abundant ever-renewing variety of forms which will be marked out with a precision that will satisfy their desires. Moreover, a new habit of pleasure will be formed forming in the mind the opposite of this, viz., a habit arising out of the perception of the fine gradations by which in nature one thing passes away into another, and the boundaries that constitute individuality disappear in one instance only to be renewed in another under a more alluring form. My meaning will be revived elsewhere renewed in another under a more alluring form. My meaning will at once be obvious to those who remember the hill of Dunmallet at the foot of Ulswater divided into different portions, as it once was by avenues of fir trees with a green and almost perpendicular lane descending down the steep hill through each avenue; who can recall to mind the delight with which they might as children have looked at this quaint appearance; and are enabled to contrast that remembrance with the pleasure which the more practiced eye of mature age would create for itself from the image of the same hill overgrown with self-planted wood, each tree springing up in the situation best suited to its kind, and with that shape which the same situation constrained or suffered it to take. What endless melting and playing into each other of forms and colours does the one offer to a mind at once attentive and active; and how insipid and lifeless, compared with it, appear those parts of its former exhibition with which a child, a peasant perhaps, or a citizen unfamiliar with natural imagery, would have been most delighted!

I cannot however omit observing that the disfigurement, which this country has undergone has not proceeded wholly from those common feelings of human nature which have been referred to as the primary sources of bad taste in rural scenery; another cause must be added, which has chiefly shewn itself in its effect upon buildings. I mean a constraint or warping of the natural mind arising out of a sense occasioned by a consciousness that
house would be looked at and commented upon either for approbation or censure. Hence all the deformity and ungracefulness which ever pursue the steps of constraint or affectation. Men, who in Leicestershire or Northamptonshire would probably have built a modest dwelling like those of their sensible neighbours, have been turned out of their course; and acting a part, no wonder if, having had little experience, they act it ill. Moreover, the craving for prospect which is immoderate, particularly in new settlers, has rendered it impossible that buildings, whatever might have been their architecture, should in most instances be ornamental to the landscape; starting, as they do on the summits of naked hills in staring contrast to the snugness and privacy of the ancient houses.

Moreover, the craving for prospect also, which rising starting as they do from

No man is to be condemned for I do not condemn in any man a desire to decorate his residence and possessions should draw upon them the approbation of the judicious; nor do I censurate attempts to decorate them for that purpose. I rather applaud both the one and the other; and such an endeavor, I would shew how in what manner the end may be best attained.

The rule is simple; with respect to grounds,—work, where you can, in the spirit of nature with an invisible hand of art. Planting, and a removal of wood, may thus and thus only be carried on with good effect; and the like may be said of building, if antiquity which may be styled the copartner and sister of nature, be not denied the respect to which she is entitled. I have already spoken of the beautiful forms of the ancient mansions of this country, and of the happy manner in which they harmonize with the forms of nature. Why cannot these be taken as a model and modern internal convenience be confined within their external grace and dignity? But, should expense to be avoided or difficulties to be overcome prevent a close adherence to this model, still it might be followed to a certain degree in the style of architecture and in
the choice of situation, if the craving for prospect were mitigated by those considerations of comfort, shelter, and convenience, which used to be chiefly sought after. But should an aversion to old fashions unfortunately exist accompanied with a desire to transplant into the cold and stormy North, the elegancies of a villa formed upon a model taken from countries with a milder climate, I will adduce a passage from an English Poet, the divine Spenser, which will shew in what manner such a plan may be realized without injury to the native beauty of these scenes.

"Into that forest faire they shende him led,
Where was their dwelling in a pleasant glade
With mountains round about environed,
And mighty woods which did the valley shade,
And like a stately theatre it made,
Spreading itself into a spacious plaine;
And in the midst a little river plaide
Emongst the pumy stones which seem’d to ’plaine
With gentle murmure that his course they did restraine.
Beside the same a dainty place there lay,
Planted with mirtle trees and laures green,
In which the birds sang many a lovely lay
Of God’s high praise, and of their sweet teene,
As it an earthly paradise had beene;
In whose enclosed shadow there was pight
A fair pavilion, scarcely to be seen,
The which was all within most richly dight,
That greatest princes living it mote w

I have been treating of the erection of houses or mansions suited to a grand and beautiful mountainous region; and I have laid it down as a position that they should be "not obvious, nor obtrusive, but retired;" and the reasons for this, though they have been little adverted to, are evident. Mountainous countries more frequently and forcibly than others, remind us of the power of the elements as it is exhibited in winds, snows, and torrents, and accordingly make the notion of exposure very unpleasing; while shelter and comfort are in proportion necessary and acceptable. Far-winding vallies, which are difficult of access, and the our feelings of simplicity which are habitually connected with mountain retirements, prompt us to turn from ostentation as a thing there eminently unnatural and out of place. A mansion amid such scenes can never have sufficient dignity or interest to become principal in the landscape and render the
mountains, lakes, or torrents, by which it may be surrounded, a subordinate part of the view; nor are the grand features of nature to be absorbed by the puny efforts of human art. It is, I grant, easy to conceive that an ancient castellated mansion hanging over a precipice or raised upon an island or the peninsula of a lake, like that of Kilchurn Castle near Loch Awe, may not want, whether deserted or inhabited, that majesty which shall enable it to preside for a moment in the spectator’s thoughts over the high mountains among which it is embosomed; but its titles are from antiquity—a power which is readily submitted to upon occasions as the vicegerent of Nature: it is respected as having owed its existence to the necessity of things—as a monument of security in times of disturbance and danger long passed away—as a record of the pomp and violence of passion, and a symbol of the wisdom of law—it bears a countenance of authority which is not impaired by decay.

These honours render it worthy of its situation; and to which of these honours can a modern edifice pretend? Obtruding itself in rivalry with the grandeur of Nature, it only displays the presumption and caprice of its individual founder, or the class to which he belongs. But, towards the verge of a district like this of which we are treating, where the mountains subside into hills of moderate elevation, or in an undulating or flat country, a Gentleman’s Mansion may with propriety become a principal feature in the landscape; and, itself being a work of art, works and traces of artificial

The view, nor are the grand features of nature to be absorbed by the puny efforts of human art.

building mansion

 upon near Loch

inhabited sufficient that majesty which shall enable is to preside

a power which is readily

"Child of loud-throated war, the mountain-stream Roars in thy hearing; but thy hour of rest Is come, and thou art silent in thy age!" MS.

To such honours a modern edifice can lay no claim; and the puny efforts of elegance appear contemptible, when, in such situations, they are obtruded in rivalry with the sublimities of Nature. But, towards the verge of a district like this of which we are treating, where the mountains subside into hills of moderate elevation, or in an undulating or flat country, a gentleman’s mansion
The principle which ought to determine
the position, apparent size, and
architecture of a house, viz., that it should
be so constructed, and (if large) so much
of it hidden, as to admit of its being
gently incorporated with the scenery of
Nature —should also determine its
colour. Sir Joshua Reynolds used to say
"if you would fix upon the best colour for
your house, turn up a stone, or pluck up
a handful of grass by the roots, and see
what is the colour of the soil where the
house is to stand, and let that be your
choice." Of course the precept, given in
conversation, could not have been meant
to be taken literally. For example in Low
Furness, where the soil from its strong
impregnation with iron is universally of a
deep red, if this rule were strictly
followed, the house also must be of a
glaring red; in other places it must be of a
sullen black; which would only be adding
annoyance to annoyance. The rule
however, as a general guide, is good; and
in agricultural districts where large tracts
of soil are laid bare by the plough,
particularly if (the face of the country
being undulating) they are held up to
view, this rule, though not to be
implicitly adhered to, should never be
lost sight of, that is, the colour of the
house ought, if possible, to have a cast or
shade of the colour of the soil. The
principle is that the house must
harmonize with the surrounding
landscape: accordingly, in mountainous
countries, with still more confidence may it be said, “look at the rocks and those parts of the mountains where the soil is visible, and they will furnish a safe general direction.” Nevertheless, it will often happen that the rocks may bear so large a proportion to the rest of the landscape, and may be of such a tone of colour that the rule may not even here admit of being implicitly followed. For instance, the chief defect in the colouring of the Country of the Lakes (which is most strongly felt in the summer season) is an over-prevalence of a bluish tint, which the green of the herbage, the fern, and the woods, does not sufficiently counteract. This blue tint proceeds from the diffused water, and still more from the rocks which the reader will remember are generally of this colour. If a house therefore should stand where this defect prevails, I have no hesitation in saying that the colour of the neighboring rocks would not be the best that could be chosen. A tint ought to be introduced approaching nearer to those which, in the technical language of painters, are called warm; this, if happily selected, would not disturb, but would animate the landscape. How often do we see this exemplified upon a small scale by the native cottages, in cases where the glare of white wash has been subdued by time and enriched by weather-stains. No harshness is then seen; but one of these cottages thus coloured, will often form a central point to a landscape by which the whole shall be connected, and the influence of pleasure diffused over all the objects of which the picture is composed. Where however the cold blue tint of the rocks is animated by hues of the iron tinge, the colour cannot be too closely imitated; and it will be produced of itself by the stones hewn from the adjoining quarry, and by the mortar which may be tempered with the most gravelly part of the soil. But, should the mason object to this, as they will do, and insist upon the mortar being tempered by blue gravel from the bed of the river, and say that the house must be rough-cast, otherwise it
cannot be kept dry, then the builder of taste will set about contriving such means as may enable him to come the nearest to the effect aimed at.

I will therefore say a few words upon this subject because many persons, not deficient in taste, are admirers of this colour for rural residences. The reasons are manifold; first, as is obvious, the air of cleanliness and neatness which is thus given not only to an individual house, but, where the practice is general, to the whole face of the country; which moral associations are so powerful that, in the minds of many, they take place of every other relating to such objects. But what has been already said upon the subject of cottages must have convinced men of feeling and imagination, that a human habitation of the humblest class may be rendered more deeply interesting to the affections, and far more pleasing to the eye, by other influences than by a sprightly tone of colour spread over its outside. I do not however mean to deny that a small white building, embowered in trees, may in some situations be a delightful and animating object — in no way injurious to the landscape; but this only where it sparkles from the midst of a thick shade, and in rare and solitary instances; especially if the country be in itself rich and pleasing and full of grand forms. On the sides of bleak and desolate moors, one is indeed thankful for the sight of white Cottages and white houses plentifully scattered, where without these perhaps every thing would be cheerless: this is said however with hesitation, and in the sleep of some of the higher faculties of the mind. But I have certainly seen such buildings glittering at sunrise and in
wandering lights with no common pleasure. The continental Traveller also will remember that the Convents hanging from the rocks of the Rhine, the Rhone, the Danube, or among the Appenines or the Mountains of Spain, are not looked at with less complacency when, as is often the case, they happen to be of a brilliant white. But this is perhaps owing, in no small degree, to the contrast of that lively colour with the feeling of gloom associated with monastic life, and to the general want of rural residences of smiling and attractive appearance in those countries.

The objections to white as a colour in large spots or masses in landscape, especially in a mountainous country, are insurmountable. In nature it is scarcely ever found but in small objects, such as flowers; or in those which are transitory, as the clouds, foam of rivers, and snow. Mr. Gilpin, who notices this, has also recorded the just remark of Mr. Locke of N—— that white destroys the gradations of the distance, and therefore an object of pure white can scarcely ever be managed with good effect in landscape painting. Five or six white houses, scattered over a valley, by their obtrusiveness dot the surface and divide it into triangles or other mathematical figures which haunt the eye and disturb that repose which might otherwise be perfect. I have seen a single white house materially impair the majesty of a mountain, cutting away by a harsh separation the whole of the base below the point on which the house stood. Thus was the apparent size of the mountain reduced not by the interposition of another object in a manner to call forth the imagination, which will give more than the eye loses; but what had been abstracted in this case was left visible; and the mountain appeared to take its beginning or to rise from the line of the house instead of its own natural base. But, if I may express my own individual feeling, it is after sunset at the coming on of twilight that white objects are most to be complained of. The solemnity and quietness of nature at that time is always marred and often
destroyed by them. When the ground is
covered with snow, they are inoffensive;
and in moonshine they are always
pleasing—it is a tone of light with which
they accord; and the dimness of the scene
is enlivened by an object at once
conspicuous and cheerful. I will conclude
this subject with noticing that the cold
slaty colour, which many persons who
have heard the white condemned have
adopted in its stead, must be disapproved
of for the reason already given. The
flaring yellow runs into the opposite
extreme, and is still more censurable.
Upon the whole, the safest colour for
general use is something between a cream
and a dust colour commonly called stone-
colour—there are among the Lakes
typical examples of this which need not be
pointed out.

The principle which we have taken for
our guide, viz., that the house should be
so formed and of such apparent size and
colour as to admit of its being gently
incorporated with the scenery of nature,
should also be applied to the
management of the grounds and
plantations, and is here more urgently
needed; for it is from abuses in this
department, far more even than from the
introduction of exotic in architecture, (if
the phrase may be used) that this country
has suffered. Larch and fir plantations
have been spread everywhere, not merely
with a view to profit, but in many
instances for the sake of ornament. To
those who plant for profit, and are
thrusting every other tree out of the way
to make room for their favourite the
Larch, I would utter first a regret that
they should have selected these lovely
vales for their vegetable manufactory,
when there is so much barren and
irreclaimable land in other parts of the
Island which might have been had for
this purpose at a far cheaper rate. And I
will also beg leave to represent to them

[Note added] *A proper colouring of
houses is now becoming general. It is
best that the colouring material should
be mixed with the rough-cast, and not
laid on as a wash afterwards.
that they ought not to be carried away by flattering promises from the speedy growth of this tree; because, in rich soils and sheltered situations, the wood, though it thrives fast, is full of sap, and of little value, and is likewise very subject to ravage from the attacks of insects and from blight. Accordingly in Scotland, where planting is much better understood, and carried on upon an incomparably larger scale than among us, good soil and sheltered situations are appropriated to the oak, the ash, and other native deciduous trees; and the larch is now generally confined to barren and exposed ground. There the plant, which is a hardy one, is of slower growth; much less liable to the injuries which I have mentioned; and the timber is of better quality. But there are many whose circumstances permit them, and whose taste leads them, to plant with little regard to profit; and others less wealthy who have such a lively feeling of the native beauty of these scenes, that they are laudably not unwilling to make some sacrifices to heighten it. Both these classes of persons I would entreat to enquire of themselves wherein that beauty which they admire consists. They would then see that, after the feeling has been gratified which prompts us to gather round our dwelling a few flowers and shrubs which, from the circumstance of their not being native, may, by their very looks, remind us that they owe their existence to our hands and their prosperity to our care, they will see that, after this natural desire has been provided for, the course of all beyond has been predetermined by the spirit of the place.

Before I proceed with this subject, I will prepare my way with a remark of general application by reminding those, who are not satisfied with the restraint thus laid upon them, that they are liable to a charge of inconsistency when they are so eager to change the face of that country, the native attractions of which by the act of erecting their habitations in it they have emphatically and conspicuous acknowledged. And surely there is not in this country a single spot...
that would not have, if well managed, 
sufficient dignity to support itself 
unaided by the productions of other 
climates or by elaborate decorations 
which might be becoming elsewhere.

But to return; having adverted to the 
considerations which justify the 
introduction of a few exotic plants, 
provided they be confined almost to the 
doors of the house, we may add, that a 
transition should be contrived without 
abruptness from these foreigners to the 
rest of the shrubs, which ought to be of 
the kinds scattered by nature through the 
woods—holly, broom, wild rose, elder, 
dogberry, white and black thorn, &c., 
either these only, or such as are carefully 
selected in consequence of their uniting 
in form, and harmonizing in colour with 
them, especially, with respect to colour, 
when the tints are most diversified, as in 
autumn and spring. The various sorts of 
fruit and blossom-bearing trees usually 
found in orchards, to which may be 
added those of the woods; the wilding, 
black cherry tree, and wild cluster cherry 
(here called heck-berry) may be happily 
admitted as an intermediate link between 
the shrubs and the forest trees; which last 
ought almost entirely to be such as are 
natives of the country, oak, ash, birch, 
mountain ash, &c. &c. Of the birch, one 
of the most beautiful of the native trees, it 
may be noticed, that, in dry and rocky 
situations, it outstrips even the larch 
which many persons are tempted to plant 
merely on account of the speed of its 
growth. Sycamore, and the Scotch fir 
(which, when it has room to spread out 
its arms, is a noble tree) may be placed 
with advantage near the house; for, from their massiveness, they unite 
well with buildings, and in some 
situations with rocks also; having in their 
forms and apparent substances, the effect 
of something intermediate between the 
immovableness and solidity of stone and 
the sprays and foliage of the lighter trees. 
If these general rules be just, what shall
we say to whole acres of artificial
shrubbery and exotic trees among rocks
and dashing torrents with their own wild
wood in sight—where we have the whole
contents of the nurseryman's catalogue
jumbled together—colour at war with
colour, and form with form—among the
most peaceful subjects of nature's
kingdom every where discord, distraction,
and bewilderment! But this deformity,
bad as it is, is not so obstructive as the
small patches and large tracts of larch
plantations which are over-running the
hillsides. To justify our condemnation of
these, let us again recur to nature. The
process by which she forms woods and
forests, is as follows. Seeds are scattered
indiscriminately by winds, brought by
waters, and dropped by birds. They
perish or produce, according as the soil
upon which they fall is suited to them:
and under the same dependence the
seedling or sucker, if not cropped by
animals,

thrifts, and the tree grows, sometimes
single, taking its own shape without
constraint, but for the most part being
compelled to conform itself to some law
imposed upon it by its neighbours. From
low and sheltered places vegetation travels
upwards to the more exposed; and the
young plants are protected, and to a
certain degree fashioned, by those which
have preceded them. The continuous
mass of foliage which would thus be
produced is broken by rocks or by glades
or open places where the browsing of
animals has prevented the growth of
wood. As vegetation ascends, the winds
begin also to bear their part in moulding
the forms of the trees; but, thus mutually
protected, trees, though not of the
hardest kind, are enabled to climb high
up the mountains. Gradually however, by
the nature of the ground and by
increasing exposure, a stop is put to their
ascent; the hardy trees only are left; these
also, by little and little, give way; and a
wild and irregular boundary is
established, which, while it is graceful in
its outline, is never contemplated without

animals, (which Nature is often careful
to prevent by fencing it about with
brambles or other prickly shrubs)
thrifts
some feeling more or less distinct of the
powers of nature by which it has been
imposed.

Contrast the liberty and law under which
this is carried on, as a joint work of
nature and time, with the disheartening
necessities, restrictions, and
disadvantages, under which the artificial
planter must proceed, even he whom
long observation and fine feeling have
best qualified to tread in the path of
nature. In the first place his trees,
however well chosen and adapted to their
several situations, must generally all start
at the same time; and this circumstance
would of itself prevent that fine
connection of parts, that sympathy and
organization, if I may so express myself,
which pervades the whole of a natural
wood, and which appears to the eye in its
single trees, its masses of foliage, and their
various colours when they are held up to
view on the side of a mountain; or, when
spread over a valley, they are looked
down upon from an eminence. It is then
impossible under any circumstances for
the artificial planter to rival the beauty of
nature. But a moment’s thought will
show that, if ten thousand of this spiky
tree, the larch, are stuck in at once upon
the side of a hill, they can grow up into
nothing but deformity; that, while they
are suffered to stand, an absolute and
insurmountable obstacle will prevent the
realization of any of those appearances
which we have described as the chief
cause of the beauty of a natural wood.

It must be acknowledged that the larch,
till it has outgrown the size of a shrub,
has, when looked at singly, some elegance
in its form and appearance, especially in
spring when decorated by the pink tassels
of its blossoms; but as a tree, it is less than
any other pleasing; its branches (for
boughs it has none) have novariety in the
youth of the tree, and little dignity even
when it attains its full growth; leaves it
cannot be said to have; consequently
neither affords shade, nor shelter. In
spring it becomes green long before the
native trees; and its green is so peculiar
and vivid, that, finding nothing to

Contrast the liberty that encourages,
and the law under which that is carried
on, as a joint work for his task.

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harmonize with it, it makes a speck and deformity in the landscape. In summer when all other trees are in their pride, it is of a dingy lifeless hue, and in winter appears absolutely dead. In this respect it is lamentably distinguished from every other tree of the forest.

If an attempt be made to mingle thickets, or a certain proportion of other forest trees, with the larch, — its horizontal branches intolerantly cut them down as with a scythe or force them to spindle up to keep pace with it. The spike, in which it terminates, renders it impossible, when it is planted in numbers, that the several trees should ever blend together so as to form a mass or masses of wood. Add thousands to tens of thousands, and the appearance is still the same—a collection of separate individual trees which obstinately present themselves as such; and, from whatever point they are looked at, if but seen, may be counted upon the fingers. Sunshine or shadow has little power to adorn the surface of such a wood; and the trees not carrying up their heads, the wind produces among them no majestic undulations. It is indeed, true that, in countries where the larch is a native, and where without interruption it may sweep from valley to valley and from hill to hill, a sublime image may be produced by such a forest in the same manner as by one composed of any other single tree to the spreading of which no limits can be assigned. For sublimity will never be wanting, where the sense of innumerable multitude is lost in, and alternates with, that of intense unity; and to the ready perception of this effect similarity and almost identity of individual form and monotony of colour contribute. But this feeling is confined to the native immeasurable forest; no artificial plantation can give it.

The foregoing observations will, I hope, (as nothing has been condemned or recommended without a substantial reason) have some influence upon those
who plant for ornament mainly. To those, who plant for profit, I have already spoken. Let me then entreat that the native deciduous trees may be left in complete possession of the lower ground; and that the plantations of larch, if introduced at all, may be confined to the higher and more barren tracts. Interposition of rocks would there break the dreary uniformity of which we have been complaining; and the winds would take hold of the trees, and imprint upon their shapes a wildness congenial to their situation.

Having determined what kinds of trees must be wholly rejected, or at least very sparingly used by those who are unwilling to disfigure the country; and having shewn what kinds ought to be chosen; I should have given, if I had not already overstepped my limits, a few practical rules for the manner in which trees ought to be disposed in planting. But to this subject I should attach little importance, if I could succeed in banishing such trees as introduce deformity, and could prevail upon the Proprietor to confine himself either to those which form the native woods, or to such as accord with them. This is indeed the main point; for, much as these scenes have been injured by what has been taken from them—buildings, trees and woods, either through negligence, necessity, avarice, or caprice—it is not these removals, but the harsh additions that have been made, which are the worst grievance—a standing and unavoidable annoyance. Often have I felt this distinction with mingled satisfaction and regret; for if no positive deformity or discordance be substituted or superinduced, such is the benignity of nature that, take away from her beauty after beauty and ornament after ornament, her appearance cannot be lastingly marred;—the scars, if any be left, will gradually disappear before a healing spirit; and what remains will still be soothing and pleasing.—"Many hearts;" says a living Poet speaking of a noble wood which had been felled in an interesting situation;
many hearts deplored

The fate of those old trees; and oft with pain

The traveller at this day will stop and gaze

On wrongs which nature scarcely seems to heed:

For shelter’d places, bosoms, nooks, and bays,

And the pure mountains, and the gentle Tweed,

And the green silent pastures yet remain.

There are few ancient woods left in this part of England upon which such indiscriminate ravage could now be committed. But out of the numerous copses fine woods might in time be raised, probably without any sacrifice of profit, by leaving at the periodical fellings a due proportion of the healthiest trees to grow up into timber.—This plan has fortunately, in many instances, been adopted; and they, who have set the example, are entitled to the thanks of all persons of taste. As to the management of planting with reasonable attention to ornament, let the images of nature be your guide, and the whole secret lurks in a few words; thickets or underwoods—single trees—trees clustered or in groups—groves—unbroken woods, but with varied masses of foliage—glades—invisible or winding boundaries—in rocky districts a seemly proportion of rock left wholly bare, and other parts half hidden—disagreeable objects concealed, and formal lines broken—trees climbing up to the horizon, and in some places ascending from its sharp edge in which they are rooted, with the whole body of the tree appearing to stand in the clear sky—in other parts woods surmounted by rocks utterly bare and naked, which add to the sense of height as if vegetation could not thither be carried, and impress a feeling of duration, power of resistance, and security from change.

I have been induced to speak thus at length with a wish to preserve the native beauty of this delightful district, because still farther changes in its appearance must inevitably follow, from the change of inhabitants and owners which is rapidly taking place.—About the same time that strangers began to be attracted to the country, and to feel a wish to settle in it, the difficulty, which would have stood in the way of their procuring situations, was lessened by an unfortunate alteration in the circumstances of the...
native Peasantry, proceeding from a cause which then began to operate, and is now felt in every house. The family of each man, whether estatesman or farmer, formerly had a twofold support; first, the produce of his lands and flocks; and secondly the profit which was drawn from the employment of the women and children, as manufacturers; spinning their own wool in their own houses (which was done chiefly in the winter season) and carrying it to market for sale. Hence, however numerous the children, the income of the family kept pace with its increase. But, by the invention and universal application of machinery, this second resource has been almost wholly cut off; the gains being so far reduced, as not to be sought after but by a few aged persons disabled from other employment.

Doubtless the invention of machinery has not been to these people a pure loss; for the profits arising from home-manufactures operated as a strong temptation to choose that mode of labour in neglect of husbandry. They also participate in the general benefit which the Island has derived from the increased value of the produce of land, brought about by the establishment of manufactories, and in the consequent quickening of agricultural industry. But this is far from making them amends; and now, that home-manufactures are nearly done away, though the women and children might at many seasons of the year employ themselves with advantage in the fields beyond what they are accustomed to do, yet still all possible exertion in this way cannot be rationally expected from persons whose agricultural knowledge is so confined, and above all where there must necessarily be so small a capital. The consequence, then, is— that, proprietors and farmers being...
wish to become residents, erect new
mansions out of the ruins of the ancient
cottages whose little enclosures, with all
the wild graces which grew out of them
and around them, disappear. The feudal
tenure of these estates has indeed done
something towards checking this influx of
new settlers; but so strong is the
inclination that these galling restraints are
endured; and it is probable that in a few
years the country of the Lakes will fall
almost entirely into the possession of
Gentry, either strangers or natives. It is
then much to be wished, that a better
taste should prevail among these new
proprietors; and, as they cannot be
expected to leave things to themselves,
that skill and knowledge should prevent
unnecessary deviations from that path of
simplicity and beauty in which, without
design and unconsciously, their humble
predecessors have moved. In this wish the
author will be joined by persons of pure
taste throughout the whole Island, who
by their visits, often repeated, to the
Lakes to the North of England, testify
that they deem the district a sort of
national property, in which every man
has a right and interest who has an eye to
perceive and a heart to enjoy.

The Writer may now express a hope that
the end, which was proposed in the
commencement of this Introduction, has
not been wholly unattained; and that
there is no impropriety in connecting
these latter remarks with the Etchings
now offered to the public. For it is certain
that, if the evil complained of should
continue to spread, these Vales,
notwithstanding their lakes, rivers,
torrents, and surrounding rocks and
mountains, will lose their chief
recommendation for the eye of the
painter and the man of imagination and
feeling. And, upon the present occasion,
the Artist is bound to acknowledge that,
it is owing entirely to the models which
he has had before him, in a country
which retained till lately an appearance
unimpaired of MAN and NATURE
animated, as it were, by one spirit for the
production of beauty, grace, and

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has indeed
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beauty along in which

Lakes in in the North

Para. omitted after first edition
In the Introduction to this Work a survey has been given of the face of the country, in which our English Lakes are situated which will not perhaps prove unserviceable even to Natives and Residents, however well acquainted with its appearance, as it will probably direct their attention to some objects which they have overlooked, and will exhibit others under relations of which they have been unconscious. I will now address myself more particularly to the Stranger and the Traveller; and, without attempting to give a formal Tour through the country, and without binding myself servilely to accompany the Etchings, I will attach to the Work such directions, descriptions, and remarks, as I hope will confer an additional interest upon the Views, and will also be of use to a person preparing for a first visit to these scenes, and during his progress through them. To begin then with the time which he ought to choose:—

Mr. West recommends the interval from the beginning of June to the end of August; and the two latter months, being a season of vacation and leisure, are those which are generally selected; but they are by no means the best; for the disadvantages belonging to them are many and great. The principal are, the monotonous green of the Mountains and of the Woods, and the embrowned colour of the grass in the Vallies.

Mr. West, in his well-known Guide to the Lakes, recommends leisure, it is almost exclusively in these that strangers visit the Country. But that season is by no means the best; for the disadvantages belonging to them are many and great. The principal are, the monotonous green of the Mountains and of the Woods, and the embrowned colour of the grass in the Vallies; there is a want of variety in the colouring of the mountains and woods; which, unless where they are diversified by rocks, are of a monotonous green; and, as a large portion of the Valleys is allotted to hay-grass, a want of variety

A few words may not improperly be annexed, with an especial view to promote the enjoyment of the Tourist. And first, in respect to the Time when this Country can be seen to most advantage.
This however is variegated and enlivened after hay-making begins, which is much later than in the southern parts of the Island. An objection which will be more strongly felt, is rainy weather, which often sets in at this period with a vigour, and continues with a perseverance, that may remind the disappointed and dejected Traveller of the wet season between the Tropics; or of those deluges of rain which fall among the Abyssinian Mountains for the annual supply of the Nile. Hence, as a very large majority of strangers visit the Lakes at this season, the country labours under the ill repute of being scarcely ever free from rain.—The months of September and October, (particularly October) are generally attended with much finer weather; and the scenery is then, beyond comparison, more diversified, more splendid and beautiful: but, on the other hand, short days prevent long excursions, and sharp and chill gales are unfavorable to parties of pleasure out of doors. Nevertheless the beauty of this country in Autumn so far surpasses that of Midsummer, that to the sincere admirer of Nature, who is in good health and spirits and at liberty to make a choice, the six weeks following the first of September may be recommended in preference to July and August.—For there is no inconvenience arising from the Season which to such a person would not amply be compensated by the Autumnal appearance of any of the more retired Vallies, into which discordant plantations and unsuitable buildings have not yet found entrance.—In such spots at this season, there is an admirable and affecting compass and proportion of natural harmony in form and colour, through the whole scale of objects; in the tender green of the after-grass upon the meadows interspersed with islands of grey or mossy rocks crowned by shrubs and trees; in the irregular inclosures of standing corn or stubble-fields in like manner broken; in the mountain-sides glowing with fern of divers colours; in the calm blue Lakes or River-pools; and in...
the foliage of the trees through all the
tints of Autumn, from the pale and
brilliant yellow of the birch and ash to
the deep greens of the unfaded oak and
the alder, and of the ivy upon the rocks,
the trees, and the cottages. Yet as most
travellers are either stinted or stint
themselves for time, I would recommend
the space between the middle or last week
in May and the middle or last week of
June as affording the best combination of
long days, fine weather, and variety of
impressions. Few of the native trees are
indeed then in full leaf, but for whatever
may be wanting in depth of shade, far
more than an equivalent will be found in
the diversity of foliage, and the blossoms
of the fruit- and berry-bearing Trees
which abound in the woods, and in the
golden flowers of the broom and other
shrubs, with which many of the
copse are variegated. In those woods,
also, and on those mountain-sides which
have a northern aspect, and in the deep
dells, many of the earlier spring-flowers
still linger; while the open and sunny
places are stocked with the flowers of
approaching summer. And, besides, is not
an exquisite pleasure still untasted by him
who has not heard the choir of Linnets
and Thrushes chanting their love-songs
in the copses, woods, and hedge-rows, of
a mountainous country; safe from the
birds of prey, which build in the
inaccessible crags, for protection. Neither are
Nightingales here to be heard; but almost
all the other tribes of our English warblers
are numerous; and their notes, when
listened to by the side of broad still
waters, or when heard in unison with the
murmuring of mountain brooks, have
much more power over the heart, and the
imagination than in other places.

—There is also an imaginative influence

for time, I would recommend
the space
June, may be pointed out as affording
in the voice of the Cuckoo, when that
to have taken possession of a deep
mountain Valley, which is very different
from any thing which can be excited by
the same sound in a flat country. Nor
must I omit a circumstance which here
renders the close of Spring especially
interesting: I mean the practice of
bringing down the Ewes from the
Mountains, to yean in the Vallies and
closed grounds.—The springing
herbage being thus cropped, that first
tender and emerald green of the season,
which would otherwise last little more
than a fortnight, is prolonged in the
pastures and meadows for many weeks;
while they are farther enlivened by the
multitude of lambs bleating and skipping
about; which, as they gather strength, are
turned out upon the open mountains,
and with their slender limbs, their snow
white colour, and their wild and light
motions, beautifully accord or contrast
with the lawns and rocks, upon and
among which they must now begin to
seek their food. But, what is of most
consequence, the Traveller at this season
would be almost sure of having fine
weather.—The opinion which I have
given concerning the comparative
advantages of the different times for
visiting these Lakes, is founded upon a
long acquaintance with the Country, and
an intimate knowledge of its appearance
at all seasons.

But, I am aware that few of those, who
may be satisfied with the reasons, by
which this opinion is supported, will be
able to profit from what has been said; as
the time and manner of an excursion of
this kind are mostly regulated by
circumstances which prevent an entire
freedom of choice. It will therefore be
more pleasant to me to observe that,
though the months of July and August
are liable to the objections which have
been mentioned, yet it not unfrequently
happens that the weather, at this time, is
not more wet or stormy than they, who
must a circumstance be omitted
The herbage
being thus cropped as it springs, that first
tender and emerald green
otherwise have lasted little
about which. These sportive creatures,
as they
rocks and lawns, upon and
among which
But, what is of most
consequence, the Traveller at this season
would be almost sure of having fine
weather.—The opinion which I have
given concerning the comparative
advantages of the different times for
visiting these Lakes, is founded upon a
long acquaintance with the Country, and
an intimate knowledge of its appearance
at all seasons. And last, but not least,
at this time the traveller will be
sure of room and comfortable
accommodation, even in the smaller
inns. But, I am aware that few of those,
who may be inclined to profit by this
recommendation, will be able to do so, profit
from what has been said, as the time
kind it is mostly
pleasant to me to
to many the objections which have
been mentioned
yet it often not unfrequently
are really capable of enjoying the sublime forms of Nature in their height of sublimity, would desire. For no Traveller, provided he is in good health and with any command of time, would have a just privilege to visit such scenes, if he could grudge the price of a little confinement among them or interruption in his journey from the sight or sound of a storm coming-on or clearing-away; and he would congratulate himself upon the bold bursts of sunshine, the descending vapours, and wandering lights and shadows, the invigorated torrents and waterfalls, with which broken weather, in a mountainous region, is accompanied.—At such a time the monotony of midsummer colouring, and the want of variety caused by this, and by the glaring atmosphere of long, cloudless and hot days, is wholly removed.

It is obvious that the point, from which a Stranger should begin this Tour, and the order in which it will be convenient to him to see the different Vales will depend upon this circumstance; viz: from what quarter of the Island he comes. If from Scotland, or by the way of Stainmoor, it will suit him to start from Penrith, taking the scenery of Lowther in his way to Hawes-water. He will next visit Ullswater, &c. reversing the order which Mr. West has judiciously directed those to whom it is convenient to proceed from Lancaster over the sands to take Furness Abbey in their way, if so inclined; and then to advance by the Lake of Coniston. This is unquestionably the most favourable approach. The beautiful Lake of Coniston will thus be traced upwards from its outlet, the only way in which it can be seen, for the first time, without an entire yielding up of its most delightful appearances. And further, the Stranger, from the moment he sets his foot upon the Sands, seems to leave the turmoil and the traffic of the world behind him; and crossing the majestic Plain from which the Sea has retired, he beholds, rising apparently from its base, that cluster of
Mountains, among the recesses of which he is going to wander, and into which, by the Vale of Coniston, he is gradually and peaceably introduced. The Lake and Vale of Coniston, approached in this manner, improve in appearance with every step. And I may here make this general remark, which, indeed the Reader may have deduced from the representation of the Country, given in the Introduction, that, wherever it is possible, these Lakes and Valleys should be approached from the foot; otherwise most things will come upon the Spectator to great disadvantage. This general rule applies, though not with equal force to all the Lakes, with the single exception of Lowes-water, which, lying in a direction opposite to the rest, has its most favourable aspects determined accordingly.

At the head of Coniston close to the water side is a small and comfortable Inn, which I would advise the Traveller, who is not part of a large company, and who does not look for a parade of accommodation, to make his headquarters for two days. The first of these days, if the weather permit, may be agreeably passed in an excursion to the Vale of Duddon, or Donnerdale, as part of it is called, and which name may with propriety be given to the whole. It lies over the high hill which bounds the Vale of Coniston on the West. This Valley is very rarely visited; but I recommend it with confidence to the notice of the Traveller of taste and feeling. It will be best approached by a road, ascending from near the church of Coniston, which leads to that part of Donnerdale called Seathwaite. The road is so long and steep that the Traveller will be obliged to lead his horse a considerable part of it. The ascent and descent cannot I think be less than five miles; but, nothing can be found more beautiful than the scene, into which he will be received at the bottom of the hill on the other side. This little compartment of the long winding Vale, through which flows the stream of Duddon; and its Brook finds its way to the River. Advancing, you will come to
the lowly Chapel of Seathwaite, and a
field or two beyond, is a Farm-house,
where, though there be no sign-board, or
outward mark of an Inn, the Traveller
who can content himself with homely
diet may be accommodated—Having
satisfied himself with strolling about
Seathwaite, he will proceed down
Donnerdale to Ulpha Kirk; and from this
Churchyard he will have as grand a
combination of mountain lines and forms
as perhaps this country furnishes. The
whole scene is inspirited by the sound
and sight of the River rolling immediately
below the steep ground upon the top of
which the Church stands. From Ulpha
Kirk proceed down the Vale towards
Broughton. The same character of
mingled wildness and cultivation is still
preserved. Rocky grounds, which must
for ever forbid the entrance of the
plough, here and there, interrupt the
cultivation; and in part or wholly fill up
the bottom or sides of the Vale.—This
beautiful Vale does not gradually
disappear in a flat Plain, but terminates
abruptly in a prospect of the Sands of
Duddon, and of the Irish Sea. These are
seen in conjunction with its River, and
deep recesses of wood. On this account,
and for the sake of descending upon
Seathwaite so advantageously, I have
recommended in opposition to the
general rule, that it should be approached
from the upper part, rather than from its
outlet. From Broughton return to
Coniston by the nearest road. The
morning of the next day may be
employed in sailing upon, and looking
about the higher part of the Lake, and in
strolling upon its Banks; and the other
half in an excursion to the Valley of
Yewdale (a branch of the Vale of
Coniston) and round the sequestered
Valley of Tilberthwaite, which may be
considered as a remoter apartment of the
Valley of Yewdale. This excursion may be
about five miles, and may be taken either
on foot or horseback; but not in a
carriage. From the Valley of Yewdale
having mounted to that of Tilberthwaite,
with the Brook upon the right hand,
pursue the road till it leads to the furthest
of two Cottages; there, ask the way
through the fields to an house called
Holm-ground. If, on horseback, alight
there; and from a rocky and woody hill,
behind the house you will look down
upon this wild, beautiful, and singularly
secluded Valley. From Holm-ground
return to the Inn at Coniston. Next day
proceed to Hawkshead; and thence by the
side of Estwaite looking back a little while
after the road has left the Lake side upon
a line view (which will be found among
these Etchings) of the Lake of Estwaite.
Thence, through the two Villages of
Sawrey, you come to the Ferry-house
upon Windermere where are good
accommodations for the night.

The Tourist has now reached
Windermere, and has been introduced in
his road to some sequestered spots not
exemplified in these Etchings, but, which,
if he wishes to have a complete
knowledge of the various features of this
Country, he will be glad to have visited.
Every thing that is of consequence has
been taken in its best order, except that
the first burst of the Vale of Windermere,
though very interesting from this
approach, is much inferior to that which
would have come upon him had he
descended by the road from Kendal.
Before the Traveller, whom I have thus
far accompanied, enters the Peninsula, at
the extremity of which the Ferry House
stands, it will be adviseable to ascend to a
Pleasure-house belonging to J.C.
Curwen, Esq. which he will see upon the
side of the rocks on his left hand.—There
is a gate, and a person, attending at a
little Lodge, or Cot adjoining, who will
conduct him. From this point he will
look down upon the cluster of Islands in
the central part of the Lake, upon
Bowness, Rayrigg, and the Mountains of
Troutbeck; and will have a prospect of
the lower division of this expanse of water
to its extremity. The upper part is
hidden. The Pleasure house is happily
situated, and is well in its kind, but,
without intending any harsh reflections
on the contriver, from whom it was
purchased by its present Proprietor, it
may be said that he, who remembers the
spot on which this building stands, and the immediate surrounding grounds as they were less than thirty years ago, will sigh for the coming of that day when Art, through every rank of society, shall be taught to have more reverence for Nature. This scene is, in its natural constitution, far too beautiful to require any exotic or obtrusive embellishments, either of planting or architecture. With Windermere a large majority of Visitants begin this Tour. The ordinary course is from Kendal, by the nearest road to Bowness; but I would recommend it to all persons, whatever may be their mode of conveyance, or however large their party, when they shall have reached the Turnpike-house, about a mile beyond Kendal, not to take, as is commonly done, the road which leads directly to Bowness; but that through Stavely: inasmuch as the break of prospect from Orrest-head, where the road brings you to the first sight of Windermere, in itself one of the finest things in the Tour, is much grander than as it appears from the other road. This for two reasons: first, that you are between two and three miles nearer the sublime mountains and large expanse of water at the head of the Lake; and secondly that the new houses and plantations, and the number of trim and artificial objects with which the neighbourhood of Bowness is crowded, are so far removed from this point, as not to be individually offensive, as they melt into the general mass of the Landscape. At the bottom of the hill, you find a Guide-post; and, turning, abruptly to the left, will immediately come in sight of the same general prospect which has been seen above, from a point, which, as it is comparatively low, necessarily changes the character of the scene. Thence on, through the close woods of Rayrigg, to the bustling Inn of Bowness.

I will not call upon the Reader to waste his time upon descriptions of things, which every one makes a point of seeing, and of such as lie open to the notice of the most inattentive Traveller. This, with respect to a country now so well known, would be useless in itself; and would be
especially improper in a publication of this kind, the main purport of which is, to exhibit scenes which lie apart from the beaten course of observation.— Accordingly I shall chiefly expatiate upon those retired spots, which have furnished subjects for the majority of these Etchings, or upon others of the same character; and when I treat of the more frequent scenes, I shall attempt little more than to point out qualities by which they are characterized, which may easily escape the notice of the cursory Spectator. The appearance of the neighbourhood of Bowness, within the last five and thirty years, has undergone many changes, and most of these for the worse, for want of due attention to those principles of taste, and those rules for planting and building in a country of this kind, which have been discussed at large in the Introduction. The Islands of Windermere are beautifully shaped and intermingled. Upon the largest are a few fine old trees; but a great part of this delightful spot, when it first fell into the Improver’s hand, was struck over with trees that are here out of place; and, had the present public-spirited Proprietor sufficient leisure amidst his important avocations to examine the principles which have been enforced in these pages, he would probably be induced to weed these foreigners out by little and little, and introduce more appropriate trees in their stead; such as would be pleasing to look at in their youth, and in maturity and old age might succeed to those venerable natives which the axe has spared. The embankment also, which has been raised round this Island for the sake of preserving the land, could only, it should seem, have been necessary in a few exposed points; and the artificial appearance which this has given to the whole spot is much to be regretted; not to speak of the infinite varieties of minute beauty which it must have destroyed. Could not the margin of this noble Island be given back to Nature? Winds and Waves work with a careless and graceful hand; and any thing which they take away would be amply compensated by
the additional spirit, dignity and
loveliness which these agents and the
other powers of Nature would soon
communicate to what was left behind.

Windermere ought to be seen both from
its shores and from its surface. None of
the other Lakes unfold so many fresh
beauties to him who sails upon them.
This is owing to its greater size, to its
Islands, and to a circumstance in which
this Lake differs from all the rest, viz. that
of having two Vales at its head, with their
accompanying mountains of nearly equal
dignity. Nor can the whole grandeur of
these two terminations be seen at the
same time from any one point, except
from the bosom of the Lake. The Islands
may be explored at any time of the day;
but one bright unruffled evening at least,
must, if possible, be set apart for the
splendour, the stillness and solemnity of a
three hours voyage upon the higher
division of the Lake, not omitting,
towards the end of the excursion, to quit
the expanse of water, and peep into the
close and calm River at the head; which,
in its quiet character, at such a time,
appears rather like an overflow of the
peaceful Lake itself than to have any more
immediate connection with the rough
mountains from which it has descended,
or the turbulent Torrents of which it is
composed. Many persons content
themselves with what they see of
Windermere in their progress in a boat
from Bowness to the head of the Lake,
walking thence to Ambleside; but this is
doing things by halves. The whole road
from Bowness is rich in diversity of
pleasing or grand scenery; there is scarcely
a field on the road side which, if it were
entered, would not give to the Landscape
some additional charm. Low-wood Inn, a
mile from the head of Windermere is a
pleasant halting-place; and the fields
above it, and the lane which leads to the
Troutbeck, present beautiful views
towards each extremity of the Lake. From
this place, and still more conveniently
from Ambleside, rides on horseback or in
carriages may be taken in almost every
direction, and the interesting walks are
inexhaustible.
This Town or Market-village was formerly perhaps more rich in picturesque beauty, arising from a combination of rustic architecture and natural scenery than any small Town or Village in Great Britain. Many of the ancient buildings with their porches, projections, round chimneys and galleries have been displaced to make way for the docked, featureless, and memberless edifices of modern architecture; which look as if fresh brought upon wheels from the Foundry, where they had been cast. Yet this Town, if carefully noticed, will still be found to retain such store of picturesque materials as will secure the praise of what it once was from any suspicion of partiality. The Brook, which divides the Town ought to be explored along its channel; if the state of the stream will permit. Below the Bridge is a Mill, and also an old Summer-house, with other old buildings, ivied Trunks of Trees, and mossy Stones, which have furnished subjects for many a picture; and above the Bridge, though there are no Buildings, every step is interesting till the curious Traveller is stopped by the huge breastwork of Stock-gill Force. Within a quarter of a mile of Ambleside is a scene called the Nook, which deserves to be explored. It is to be found in Scandle Gill, the channel of the first Brook that comes down Scandle Fell to the North of Ambleside. I need not describe the scene; its principal feature is a Bridge thrown over the Torrent. From this Bridge I wish it were in my power to re-commend it to the Traveller to proceed northwards, along the slope of the hill-side, till he reaches the Park of Rydale; but this would be a trespass; for there is no path, and high and envious stone walls interpose. We must therefore give up the best approach to some of the most glorious scenes in the world; this may be yet said, though not without painful regret for the havoc which has been made among them. Some hundreds of oaks are gone,

"Whose boughs were mossed with age,
And high tops bold with dry antiquity,"
a majestic Forest covering a mountain side! into the recesses of which penetrated like a vision, Landscapes of rivers, broad waters, vallies, rocks and mountains:— The Lake of Rydale on the Northwest, with its Islands and rocky steeps, circular and deeply embosomed; and to the South the long Valley of Ambleside and the gleaming Lake of Windermere. The noblest of these trees have been sacrificed; but the side of the hill, though thinned, is not wholly laid bare; and the Herons and Rooks that hover round this choice retreat have yet a remnant of their ancient roosting-place. The unfrequented spots, of which I have been speaking may be visited, with permission from the Mansion, after the Waterfall has been seen.

Of places at a distance from Ambleside, but commodiously visited from that Village, Coniston may be first mentioned; though this Lake as I said before, will thus be approached to great disadvantage.—Next comes Great Langdale, a Vale which should on no account be missed by him who has a true enjoyment of grand separate Forms composing a sublime Unity, austere but reconciled and rendered attractive to the affections by the deep serenity that is spread over every thing. There is no good carriage road through this Vale; nor ought that to be regretted; for it would impair its solemnity: but the road is tolerable for about the distance of three miles from Ambleside, namely along the Vale of Brathay, and above the western banks of Loughrigg Tarn, and still further, to the entrance of Langdale itself; but the small and peaceful Valley of Loughrigg is seen to much greater advantage from the eastern side. When therefore you have quitted the River Brathay enquire at the first house for the foot road, which will conduct you round the lower extremity of the Tarn, and so on to its head, where, at a little distance from the Tarn the path again leads to the publick road and about a mile further conducts you to Langdale Chapel.—A little way beyond this sequestered and simple place of worship is a narrow
passage on the right leading into a slate-quarry which has been finely excavated.
Pursuing this road a few hundred yards further, you come in view of the noblest reach of this Vale, which I shall not attempt to describe. Under the Precipice adjoining to the Pikes lies invisibly Stickle Tarn, and thence descends a conspicuous Torrent down the breast of the Mountain. Near this Torrent is Dungeon Gill Force, which cannot be found without a Guide, who may be taken up at one of the Cottages at the foot of the Mountain.

"Into the chasm a mighty block Hath fallen, and made a bridge of rock; The gulf is deep below, And in a basin black and small Receives a lofty Waterfall."

At the head of Langdale is a passage over to the Borrowdale; but this ought on no account to be taken by a person who has not seen the main features of the country from their best approaches.—If the Traveller has been zealous enough to advance as far as Dungeon-gill Force, let him enquire for Blea Tarn; he may return by that circuit to Ambleside. Blea Tarn is not an object of any beauty in itself, but it is situated in a small, deep circular Valley of peculiar character; for it contains only one Dwelling-house and two or three cultivated fields. Passing down this Valley fail not to look back now and then, and you will see Langdale Pikes, from behind the rocky steeps that form its northeastern boundary, lifting themselves, as if on tiptoe, to pry into it. Quitting the Valley you will descend into little Langdale, and thence may proceed by Colwith Force and Bridge. Leaving Skelwith-Bridge on your left ascend with the road to Skelwith; and from a field on the northern side of that small cluster of houses, you will look down upon a grand view of the River Brathay, Elter-water and the mountains of Langdale, &c. Thence proceed occasionally looking, down the Brathay on the side of the River opposite to that by which you had ascended in your way to Louthrigg Tarn. The whole of this excursion may be as much as 18 miles, and would require a
long morning to be devoted to the accomplishment. I will now mention only one more ride or walk from Ambleside. Go to the Bridge over the Rothay (of which a view is given in the Etchings), between Ambleside and Clappersgate. When you have crossed the Bridge, turn to a Gate on the right hand, and proceed with the road up the Valley of Ambleside, till you come opposite to the Village of Rydale; do not cross over to Rydale, but keep close to the Mountain on you left hand, with the River at a little distance on your right, till you come in view of Rydale Lake. Advance with the Lake on your right till you quit the Vale of Rydale, and come in view of Grasmere. Follow the road, which will conduct you round along the lower extremity of the Lake of Grasmere, till you reach the Church; thence into the main road back to Ambleside, looking behind you frequently.

The two hours before sunset are the most favourable time of the day for seeing the lower division of Wytheburne Lake, but it is advisable to choose the earlier part of this time, in order that the Traveller may be enabled to descend into the Vale of Keswick while the sunbeams are upon it. That this first impression of that Vale should be received under the most favourable circumstances, is very desirable; and therefore I do not recommend, as I should otherwise have done, that the Traveller, who has been guided by my directions thus far, should lengthen his journey to Keswick still further, and follow the stream that issues out of Wytheburn Lake till it enters St. John’s Vale, which he may do if he be on foot, keeping to the side of it almost all the way; and, if on horseback, he may return to it by a small circuit, after having crossed Shoulthwaite Moss. I should have directed the Traveller in this case to proceed a mile and a half down St. John’s Vale, and then to cross Naddle Fell, by St. John’s Chapel, which would bring him into the road between Ambleside and Keswick, something better than two miles short of the latter place. This may easily be done, taking the lower division
We have now reached Keswick. I shall not attempt a general description of this celebrated Vale, because this has already been admirably performed by Dr. Brown, and by the Poet Gray; and the place is at this time very generally well known. As the Views in this work have been taken almost exclusively from retired spots in the Ghylls, or Gills, and smaller Vallies that branch off from the trunk of the Vale, it will be more appropriate to this publication, and will better suit its narrow limits, to say a few words upon them. And to begin with one of the smallest, Applethwaite (for Views of which see Nos. 22, 23, and 24). This is a hamlet of six of seven houses, hidden in a small recess at the foot of Skiddaw, and adorned by a little Brook, which, having descended from a great height in a silver line down the steep blue side of the Mountain, trickles past the doors of the Cottages. This concealed spot is very interesting as you approach from the bottom, with your face towards the green and blue mass of Skiddaw; and is not less pleasing when, having advanced by a gentle slope for some space, you turn your head and look out from this chink or fissure, which is sprinkled with little orchards and trees, and behold the whole splendour of the upper and middle part of the Vale of Keswick, with its Lakes and Mountains spread before your eyes. A small Spinning-mill has lately been erected here, and some of the old Cottages, with their picturesque appendages, are fallen into decay. This is to be regretted; for, these blemishes excepted, the scene is a rare and almost singular combination of minute and sequestered beauty, with splendid and extensive prospects. On the opposite side of the Vale of Keswick lie the Valley of Newlands, and the Village of Braithwaite, with its stream descending from a cave of the Mountain. From both these spots I have given Views, from which an idea of their features may be collected.
in the road to Lorton and Cockermouth; and through Newlands passes the nearest road to Buttermere. Returning to the eastern side of the Vale of Keswick, we find the narrow and retired Valley of Watenlath, enclosed on each side and at the head by craggy Mountains. In the Mountains at the head, the stream rises, which forms the Cascade of Lodore. This, after flowing a short way through a pastoral tract, falls into a small Lake or Tarn, which lies midway in the long Valley of Watenlath. At the point where the stream issues out of the Tarn, is a beautiful Bridge of one arch, and close beside the Bridge is a little Hamlet, a cluster of grey Cottages. There are no other dwellings in the Valley; and a more secluded spot than this Hamlet cannot well be conceived: yet ascend a very little up the hill above it, and you have a most magnificent prospect of the Vale of Keswick, as far as Skiddaw; and, pursuing the Valley of Watenlath to its head, if you look back, the view of the little Valley itself, with its Lake, Bridge, and Cottages, is combined with that of the majestic Vale beyond, so that each seems to be a part of the other. But the most considerable of the Dales which communicate with the Vale of Keswick are Borrowdale and St. John’s. Of St. John’s we have already spoken; and Borrowdale is in fact the head of the Vale of Keswick. It would be an endless task to attempt, by verbal descriptions, to guide the traveller among the infinite variety of beautiful or interesting objects which are found in the different reaches of the broad Valley itself, nor less so to attempt to lead him through its little recesses, its nooks, and tributary glens. I must content myself with saying, that this Valley surpasses all the others in variety. Rocks and Woods are intermingled on the hillsides with profuse wildness; and on the plain below (for the area of the Valley, through all its windings is generally a level plain, out of which the Mountains rise as from their base,) the single Cottages and clusters of Houses are numerous; not glaringly spread before the
| 104 | eye, but unobtrusive as the rocks themselves, and mostly coloured like them. There is scarcely a Cottage that has not its own tuft of trees. The Yew-tree has been a favourite with the former Inhabitants of Borrowdale; for many fine old Yew-trees yet remain near the Cottages, probably first planted for an ornament to their gardens, and now preserved as a shelter, and for the sake of their venerable appearance. But the noblest Yew-trees to be found here, are a cluster of three, with a fourth a little detached, which do not stand in connection with any houses; they are in that part of Borrowdale which is called Seathwaite, immediately under the entrance into the Lead-mines. Nothing of the kind can be conceived more solemn and impressive than the small gloomy grove formed by these trees. |
| 75 | The lower part of the Vale of Keswick is occupied by the Lake of Bassenthwaite; and he who coasts its western shore, will be well and variously recompensed; and in particular by the appearance of Skiddaw, rising immediately from the opposite side of the Lake. Following this road, we cross the lower extremity of Embleton Vale. Embleton may be mentioned as the last of the Vallies collateral to the main Vale of Keswick. It unfolds on the west, near the foot of Bassenthwaite Lake, a scene of humble and gentle character; but deriving animated beauty from the Lake, and striking majesty from the Mountain of Skiddaw, which is on this side broken and rugged, and of an aspect which is forcibly contrasted with that with which it looks upon Derwent Lake. The view of the whole vista of the Vale of Keswick from Armthwaite and Ouze Bridge is magnificent; and the scenes upon the River Derwent, as far as the grand ruins of Cockermouth Castle, are soft and varied, and well worthy of the notice of the Pedestrian, who has leisure to go in search of them. |
| 76 | From the Vale of Keswick, of which there is no need to say any thing more, the Tourist usually proceeds to Buttermere, to which there are three roads; the one |
through part of Borrowdale, which brings him down into the Vale of Buttermere, at its head: but Borrowdale I suppose to have been already explored, a strong reason against choosing this approach. Yet in justice to this road I must add, that the descent into Gatesgarth, immediately under Honister Crag, causes one of the sublimest impressions which this country can produce. The second road leads through Newlands. The descent into Buttermere by this way is solitary and grand; but the Vale of Newlands itself I suppose also to have been visited in the Tour round the Lake of Keswick (which no person of taste ought to omit), or in other rambles. It follows, then, that the third is the road which I would recommend, namely, the carriage road, which leads over Whinlater, through part of the Vale of Lorton, to the outlet of Crummock-water. Here was formerly an inn, kept at a house called Scale Hill, an accommodation which I believe no longer exists. It would, however, be ill-judged not to turn aside to Scale Hill; the carriage or horses might be sent forward by the high-road, and ordered to wait till the Traveller rejoined them by the footpath, which leads through the woods along the side of Crummock. This path presents noble scenes, looking up the Lake towards Buttermere. If the Traveller be desirous of visiting Lowes-water, instead of proceeding directly along this path, he must cross the Bridge over the Cocker, near Scale Hill, to which he must return after a walk or ride of three or four miles. I am not sure that the circuit of this Lake can be made on horseback; but every path and field in the neighbourhood would well repay the active exertions of the Pedestrian. Nor will the most hasty Visitant fail to notice with pleasure, that community of attractive and substantial houses which are dispersed over the fertile inclosures at the foot of those rugged Mountains, and form a most impressive contrast with the humble and rude dwellings which are usually found at the head of these far-winding Dales. It must be mentioned also, that there is scarcely any thing finer
than the view from a boat in the centre of
Crummock-water. The scene is deep, and
solemn, and lonely; and in no other spot
is the majesty of the Mountains so
irresistibly felt as an omnipresence, or so
passively submitted to as a spirit
incumbent upon the imagination. Near
the head of Crummock-water, on the
right, is Scale Force, a Waterfall worthy
of being visited, both for its own sake,
and for the sublime View across the Lake,
looking back in your ascent towards the
Chasm. The Fall is perpendicular from an
immense height, a slender stream faintly
illuminating a gloomy fissure. This spot is
never seen to a more advantage than
when it happens, that, while you are
looking up through the Chasm towards
the summit of the lofty Waterfall, large
fleecy clouds, of dazzling brightness,
suddenly ascend into view, and disappear
silently upon the wind. The Village of
Buttermere lies a mile and a half higher
up the Vale, and of the intermediate
country I have nothing to say. It would
be advisable, if time permit, that you
should go as far up the Vale as Honister
Crag; and if in horseback, or on foot, you
may return to Keswick by Newlands.

The rest of the scenes in this part of the
country of which I have given views,
namely, those of Ennerdale and
Westdale, cannot, without a good deal of
trouble, be approached in a carriage. For
Foot-travellers, and for those who are not
afraid of leading their horses through
difficult ways, there is a road from
Buttermere directly over the mountains
to Ennerdale; there is also another road
from the head of Buttermere to the head
of Westdale, without going into
Borrowdale: but both Ennerdale and
Westdale are best seen by making a
considerable circuit; namely, by retracing
our steps to Scale Hill, and thence by
Lowes-water and Lamplugh to Ennerdale.
The first burst of Ennerdale from an
eminence is very noble, and the mind is
more alive to the impression, because we
have quitted for a while the heart of the
mountains, and been led through a tamer
country. Ennerdale is bold and savage in
its general aspect, though not destitute,
towards the higher part of the Lake, of fertile and beautiful spots. From Ennerdale-Bridge to Calder-Bridge, the road leads over Cold Fell. The distance is six miles, a desolate tract, with the exception of the last half mile, through a narrow and well-wooded Valley, in which is a small, but beautiful fragment of Calder Abbey. The village lying close to Calder-Bridge has good inns, and the bed of the River about the Bridge is rocky and spirited. We are here in a plain country near to the sea, and therefore better prepared to enjoy the mountain sublitudes of Westdale, which soon begin to shew themselves, and grow upon us at every step, till we reach the margin of the Lake. This Water (for the Lakes are generally called Waters by the country people) is not so much as four miles in length, and becomes very narrow for the space of half a mile towards its outlet. On one side it is bordered by a continued straight line of high and almost perpendicular steeps, rising immediately from the Lake, without any bays or indentings. This is a very striking feature: for these steeps, or screes (as places of this kind are named), are not more distinguished by their height and extent, than by the beautiful colours with which the pulverized rock, for ever crumbling down their sides, overspreads them. The surface has the apparent softness of the dove’s neck, and (as was before mentioned, in reference to spots of this kind,) resembles a dove’s neck strongly in its hues, and in the manner in which they are intermingled. On the other side, Wast water is bordered by knotty and projecting rocky mountains, which, retiring in one place, admit the interposition of a few green fields between them and the Lake, with a solitary farm-house. From the termination of the Screes rises Scaw Fell, deemed higher than Skiddaw, or Helvellyn, or any of the Mountains. The summit, as seen from Westdale, is bold and abrupt, and if you should quit the Valley and ascend towards it, it appears, from the Cove beneath, like the shattered walls or towers of an enormous edifice.
Upon the summit of one of those towers is a fragment of rock that looks like an eagle, or a large owl, on that commanding eminence, stationary through all seasons. The Views which I have given are from the shore about the middle of Wast-water, from a point where the Vale appears to be terminated by three large conical Mountains, Yewbarrow on the left, Great Gavel in the centre, and Lingmoor on the right. About two miles further is the Division of Westdale Head, with its lowly Chapel. This place formerly consisted of twenty tenements. It is now reduced to six. This Valley has been described in the Introduction, as seen from the summit of Great Gavel; but the Traveller will be pleased with a nearer view of these pastoral dwellings, which in the inside are as comfortable as their outside is beautiful and picturesque. A hospitable people live here, and do not repine at the distance and the barriers which separate them from the noisy world. Give them more sunshine and a richer soil, and they would have little to complain of. The Stranger will observe here and elsewhere large heaps of stones, like Sepulchral Barrows, which have been collected from the fields and thrown together by the labours of many generations. From the summits either of Great Gavel, or Scaw Fell, there are sublime prospects. Great Gavel may be proud of the Vallies which it looks down into, and Scaw Fell of the dark multitudinous Mountains, rising ridge above ridge, which it commands on the one side, and of the extent of sea and sand spreading in a level plain on the other. The ascent of Scaw Fell is easy, that of Great Gavel laborious. I cannot deny myself the pleasure of adding, that on the highest point of Great Gavel is a small triangular receptacle of water in a rock. It is not a spring; yet the shepherds say it is never dry: certainly when I was there, during a season of drought, it was well supplied with water. Here the Traveller may slake his thirst plenteously with a pure and celestial beverage; for it appears that this cup or bason has no other feeder than the dews of heaven, the
showers, the vapours, the hoar frost, and the spotless snow. From Wastdale return to Keswick by Styhead and Borrowdale. Take a look backwards upon Wastdale, from the last point where it is visible. The long strait vista of the Vale, and the sea beyond, apparent between the Mountains, form a grand whole. A few steps further bring you to Styhead Tarn (for which see No. 43). By the side of the Tarn, an eagle (I believe of the ospray species) was killed last spring. Though large, it was very light, and seemed exhausted by hunger. The stream which flows into this Tarn comes from another, called Sprinkling Tarn, famous among anglers for the finest trouts in the country. In rainy seasons there is a magnificent waterfall formed by the stream which issues from Styhead Tarn. You have it on your left as you descend into Seathwaite division of Rovendale. About a mile further down upon the left is that cluster of yew-trees recommended to notice; thence through a succession of magnificent scenes to Keswick.

It remains that we should speak of Ullswater. There are two roads by which this Lake may be visited from Keswick. That which is adapted for Travellers on horseback, or on foot, crosses the lower part of St. John’s Vale, and brings you down through the Valley and scattered Village of Matterdale into Gowbarrow Park, unfolding at once a magnificent view of the two higher reaches of the Lake. Airey Force thunders down the Ghyll, or Gill, on the left, at a small distance from the road; but you are separated from it by the Park-wall. In a carriage, Ullswater is best approached from Penrith. A mile and a half brings you to the winding Vale of Emont, and the prospects increase in interest till you reach Patterdale; but the first four miles along Ullswater by this road are comparatively tame, and in order to see the lower part of the Lake to advantage, it is absolutely necessary to go round by Poolly-Bridge, and to ride at least three miles along the Westmoreland side of the Water, towards Martindale. The Views
from this quarter, especially if you ascend from the road into the fields, are magnificent; yet I only mention this that the transient Traveller may know what exists; for it will be very inconvenient for him to go in search of them. The person who takes this course of three or four miles, which I am now recommending, on foot, should take care to have a boat in readiness at the end of his walk, to carry him right across to the Cumberland side, along which he may pursue his way upwards to Patterdale.

Having conducted the Traveller hither, I shall treat no further of the body of this celebrated Vale; but, for the same reasons which governed me when I was speaking of Keswick, I shall confine myself to the Glens and Vallies which branch off from it.

At Dalemain, about three miles from Penrith, a Stream is crossed, called Dacre, which, rising in the moorish country about Penruddock, flows down a soft sequestered Valley, passing by the ancient mansions of Hutton John and Dacre Castle. The former is pleasantly situated, though of a character somewhat gloomy and monastic; and from some of the fields near Dalemain, Dacre Castle, backed by the jagged summit of Saddleback, and with the Valley and Stream in front of it, forms a grand picture. There is no other stream that conducts us to any glen or valley worthy of being mentioned, till you reach the one which leads you up to Airey Force, and then into Matterdale, before spoken of. Matterdale, though a wild and interesting spot, has no peculiar features that would make it worth the Stranger's while to go in search of them; but in Gowbarrow Park the lover of Nature might wish to linger for hours. Here is a powerful Brook, which dashes among rocks through a deep glen, hung on every side with a rich and happy intermixture of native wood; here are beds of luxuriant fern, aged hawthorns, and hollies decked with honeysuckles; and fallow-deer glancing and bounding over the lawns and through the thickets. These are the attractions of the retired views, or
constitute a foreground to ever-varying pictures of the majestic Lake, forced to take a winding course by bold promontories, and environed by mountains of sublime form, towering above each other. Having passed under a plantation of larches, we reach, at the outlet of Gowbarrow Park, a third Stream, which flows through a little recess called Glencoin, in which lurks a single house, yet visible from the road. Let the Artist and leisurely Traveller turn aside to it for the buildings, and the objects around them are both romantic and exquisitely picturesque. Having passed under the steeps of Styebarrow Crag, and the remains of its native woods, you cross, at Glenridding-Bridge, a fourth Stream, which, if followed up, would lead to Red Tarn and the recesses of Helvellyn. The opening on the side of Ullswater Vale, down which the Stream flows, is adorned with fertile fields, cottages, and natural groves, which agreeably coalesce with the transverse views of the Lake; and the Stream, if followed up after the enclosures are left behind, will lead along bold water-breaks and waterfalls to a silent Tarn in the recesses of Helvellyn. This desolate spot was formerly haunted by eagles, that built in the precipice which forms its western barrier. These birds used to wheel and hover round the head of the solitary angler. It also now derives a melancholy interest from the fate of a young man, a stranger, who perished here a few years ago, by falling down the rocks in his attempt to cross over to Grasmere. His remains were discovered by means of a faithful dog, which had lingered here for the space of three months, self supported, and probably retaining to the last an attachment to the skeleton of its dead master. But to return to the road which we have left in the main Vale of Ullswater.—At the head of the Lake (being now in Patterdale) we cross a fifth Stream, Grisdale Beck; this conducts through a woody steep, where may be seen some unusually large ancient hollies, up to the level area of the Valley of Grisdale; hence there is a path for Foot-
travellers, and along which a horse may
be led, but not without difficulty, to
Grasmere. I know not any where a more
sublime combination of mountain forms
than those which appear in front, as we
ascend along the bed of this Valley; and
the impression increases with every step
till the path grows steep; and as we climb
almost immediately under the projecting
masses of Helvellyn, the mind is
overcome with a sensation, which in
some would amount to personal fear, and
cannot but be awful even to those who
are most familiar with the images of
duration, and power, and other kindred
influences, by which mountainous
countries control or exalt the
impressions of men. It is not
uninteresting to know, that in the last
house but one of this Valley, separated, as
it might seem, from all the ambition and
troubles of the world, from its wars and
commotions, was born the youth, who,
in Spain, took prisoner the Colonel of the
Imperial Guard of Buonaparte. This
favourite of the tyrant fled from the
assault of our British mountaineer with
his two attendants, who escaped; but he
himself was not so fortunate. Having
retraced the banks of this stream to
Patterdale, and pursued our way up the
main Dale, the next considerable stream
which we cross, would, if ascended in the
same manner, conduct us into Deepdale,
the character of which Valley may be
conjectured by its name. It is terminated
by a cove, a craggy and gloomy abyss,
with precipitous sides; a faithful
receptacle of the snows, which are carried
into it, by the west wind, from the
summit of Fairfield. Lastly, having gone
along the western side of Brothers-water
and passed Hartsop Hall, we are brought
soon after to a stream which issues from a
cove richly decorated with native wood.
This spot is, I believe, never explored by
Travellers; but whether from these sylvan
and rocky recesses you look back on the
gleaming surface of Brothers-water, or
forward to the precipitous sides and lofty
ridges of the mountains, you will be
equally pleased with the beauty, the
grandeur, and the wildness of the scenery.
We have thus noticed no less than seven Glens, or Vallyes, which branch off from the western side of the long Vally which we have been ascending. The opposite side has only two streams of any importance, one of which flows by the Village of Hartsop, near the foot of Brothers-water, and the other, coming down Martindale, enters Ullswater at Sandwyke, opposite to Gowbarrow Park.

Of Martindale I shall say a few words, but I must first return to our headquarters at the Village of Patterdale. No persons, but such as come to this place merely to pass through it, should fail to walk a mile and a half down the side of the Lake opposite to that on which the high-road lies: they should proceed beyond the point where the inclosures terminate. I have already had too frequent reason to lament the changes which have been made in the face of this country; and scarcely anywhere has a more grievous loss been sustained than upon the Farm of Blowick, the only enclosed land which on this side borders the higher part of the Lake. The axe has indiscriminately levelled a rich wood of birches and oaks, which, two or three years ago, varied this favoured spot into a thousand pictures. It has yet its land-locked bay and promontories; but now those beautiful woods are gone, which clothed its lawns and perfected its seclusion. Who, then, will not regret that those scenes, which might formerly have been compared to an inexhaustible volume, are now spread before the eye in a single sheet, magnificent indeed, but seemingly perused in a moment? From Blowick, a narrow tract, by which a horse may be led, but with difficulty, conducts along the cragged side of Place Fell, richly adorned with juniper, and sprinkled over with birches, to the Village of Sandwyke; a few straggling houses, which, with the small estates attached to them, occupy an opening opposite to Lyulph’s Tower and Gowbarrow Park. This stream flows down Martindale, a Vally deficient in richness, but interesting from its seclusion. In Vallyes of this character the general want of wood gives a peculiar
interest to the scattered cottages, embowered in sycamores; and few of the Mountain Chapels are more striking than this of Martindale, standing as it does in the centre of the Valley, with one dark yew-tree, and enclosed by "a bare ring of mossy wall." The name of Boardale, a bare, deep, and houseless Valley, which communicates with Martindale, shews that the wild swine were once numerous in that nook; and Martindale Forest is yet one the few spots in England ranged over by red deer. These are the descendants of the aboriginal herds. In Martindale, the road loses sight of the Lake, and leads over a steep hill, bringing you again into view of Ullswater. Its lowest reach, four miles in length, is before you; and the View is terminated by the long ridge of Cross Fell at a distance. Immediately under the eye is a deep-indented bay, with a plot of fertile land by the side of it, traversed by a small brook, and rendered cheerful by two or three substantial houses of a more ornamental and shewy appearance than is usual in these wild spots. Poolly-Bridge, at the foot of the Lake, to which we have again returned, has a good inn; and from this place Hawes-water, which has furnished me with the subject of an Etching, may be conveniently visited. Of Hawes-water I shall only say, that it is a lesser Ullswater, with this advantage, that it remains undefiled by the intrusion of bad taste.

Lowther Castle is about four miles from Poolly-Bridge, and if during this Tour the Stranger has complained, as he will have reason to do, of a want of majestic trees, he may be abundantly recompensed for his loss in the far-spreading woods which surround that mansion.

I must now express my hope, that the Reader of the foregoing pages will not blame me for having led him through unfrequented paths so much out of the common road. In this I have acted in conformity to the spirit of the Etchings, which are chiefly taken from sequestered scenes; and these must become every day more attractive in the eyes of the man of taste, unless juster notions and more appropriate feelings should find their way...
into the minds of those who, either from
t vanity, want of judgment, or some other
cause, are rapidly taking away the native
beauties of such parts of this Country as
are most frequented, or most easy of
access; and who are disguising the Vales,
and the Borders of the Lakes, by an
accumulation of unsightly buildings and
discordant objects.

Thus far respecting the most eligible
season for visiting this country. As to
the order in which objects are best seen
— a Lake being composed of water
flowing from higher grounds, and
expanding itself till its receptacle is
filled to the brim, — it follows
from the nature of things, that it will
appear to most advantage when
approached from its outlet, especially
if the Lake be in a mountainous
country; for, by this way of approach,
the traveller faces the grander features
of the scene, and is gradually
conducted into its most sublime
recesses. Now, every one knows, that
from amenity and beauty the
transition to sublimity is easy and
favourable; but the reverse is not so;
for, after the faculties have been raised
by communion with the sublime, they
are indisposed to humbler excitement.

Thus far concerning respecting the most
debile the respective advantages and
disadvantages of the different seasons
for visiting this country.

[New paras. in 2nd ed.] [New footnote] The only instances to
which the foregoing observations do
not apply, are Derwent-water and
Loweswater. Derwent is distinguished
from all the other Lakes by being
surrounded with sublimity: the
fantastic mountains of Borrowdale to
the south, the solitary majesty of
Skiddaw to the north, the bold Steeps
of Wallow-crag and Lodore to the east,
and to the west the clustering
mountains of Newlands. Loweswater is
tame at the head, but towards its outlet
has a magnificent assemblage of
mountains. Yet as far as respects the
formation of such receptacles, the
general observation holds good,
neither Derwent nor Loweswater
derive any supplies from the streams of
those mountains that dignify the
landscape towards the outlets.
It is not likely that a mountain will be ascended without disappointment if a wide range of prospect be the object, unless either the summit be reached before sun-rise, or the visitant remains there until the time of sun-set, and afterwards. The precipitous sides of the mountain, and the neighbouring summits, may be seen with effect under any atmosphere which allows them to be seen at all; but he is the most fortunate adventurer who chances to be involved in vapours which open and let in an extent of country partially, or, dispersing suddenly, reveal the whole region from centre to circumference.

A stranger to a mountainous country may not be aware that his walk in the early morning, ought to be taken on the eastern side of the vale, otherwise he will lose the morning light, first touching the tops, and thence creeping down the sides of the opposite hills, as the sun ascends, or he may go to some central eminence, commanding both the shadows from the eastern, and the lights upon the western, mountains. But, if the horizon line in the east be low, the western side may be taken for the sake of the reflections, upon the water, of light from the rising sun. In the evening, for like reasons, the contrary course should be taken.

Nothing is more injurious to genuine feeling than the practice of hastily and ungraciously depreciating the face of one country by comparing it with that of another. True it is, Qui bene distinguat bene docet; yet fastidiousness is a wretched travelling companion; and the best guide to which in matters of taste we can entrust ourselves, is a disposition to be pleased. For example, if a Traveller be among the Alps, let him surrender up his mind to the fury of the gigantic
torrents, and take delight in the contemplation of their almost irresistible violence, without complaining of the monotony of their foaming course, or being disgusted with the muddiness of the water — apparent wherever it is unagitated. In Cumberland and Westmorland let not the comparative weakness of the streams prevent him from sympathising with such impetuosity as they possess; and, making the most of present objects, let him, as he justly may do, observe with admiration the unrivalled brilliancy of the Water, and that variety of motion, mood, and character, that arises out of the want of those resources by which the power of the streams in the Alps is supported. — Again, with respect to the mountains; though these are comparatively of diminutive size, though there is little of perpetual snow, and no voice of summer-avalanches is heard among them; and though traces left by the ravage of the elements are here comparatively rare and unimpressive, yet out of this very deficiency proceeds a sense of stability and permanence that is, to many minds, more grateful —

"While the coarse rushes to the sweeping breeze
Sigh forth their ancient melodies."

Among the Alps are few places that do not preclude this feeling of tranquil sublimity. Havoc, and ruin, and desolation, and encroachment, are every where more or less obtruded; and it is difficult, notwithstanding the naked loftiness of the Pikes, and the snow-capped summits of the Mounts, to escape from the depressing sensation that the whole are in a rapid process of dissolution, and, were it not that the destructive agency must abate as the heights diminish, would, in time to come, be levelled with the plains. Nevertheless I would relish to the utmost the demonstrations of every species of power at work to effect such changes.

From these general views let us
A stranger to mountain scenery naturally on his first arrival looks out for sublimity in every object that admits of it; and is almost always disappointed. For this disappointment there exists, I believe, no general preventive; nor is it desirable that there should. But, with regard to one class of objects, there is a point in which injurious expectations may be easily corrected. It is generally supposed that waterfalls are scarcely worth being looked at except after much rain, and that, the more swollen the stream, the more fortunate the spectator; but this is true only of large cataracts with sublime accompaniments; and not even of these without some drawbacks.

The principal charm of the smaller waterfalls or cascades, consists in certain proportions of form and affinities of colour, among the component parts of the scene, and in the contrast maintained between the falling water and that which is apparently at rest; or rather settling gradually into quiet, in the pool below. Peculiarly, also, is the beauty of such a scene, where there is naturally so much agitation, heightened, here by the glimmering, and, towards the verge of the pool, by the steady reflection of the surrounding images. Now, all those delicate distinctions are destroyed by heavy floods, and the whole stream rushes along in foam and tumultuous confusion. I will conclude with observing, that a happy proportion of component parts is generally noticeable among the landscapes of the North of England; and, in this characteristic essential to a perfect picture, they surpass the scenes of
Scotland, and, in a still greater degree, those of Switzerland.

THE END.

As a resident among the Lakes, I frequently hear the scenery of this country compared with that of the Alps; and therefore a few words shall be added to what has been incidentally said upon that subject.

If we could recall, to this region of lakes, the native pine-forests, with which many hundred years ago a large portion of the heights was covered, then, during spring and autumn, it might frequently, with much propriety, be compared to Switzerland,—the elements of the landscape would be the same,—one country representing the other in miniature. Villages, churches, rural seats, bridges and roads; green meadows and arable grounds, with their various produce, and deciduous woods of diversified foliage which occupy the vales and lower regions of the mountains, would, as in Switzerland, be divided by dark forests from ridges and round-topped heights covered with snow, and from pikes and sharp declivities imperfectly arrayed in the same glittering mantle: and the resemblance would be still more perfect on those days when vapours resting upon, and floating around the summits, leave the elevation of the mountains less dependent upon the eye than on the imagination. But the pine-forests have wholly disappeared; and only during late Spring and early Autumn is realized here that assemblage of the imagery of different seasons, which is exhibited through the whole summer among the Alps,—winter in the distance,—and warmth, leafy woods, verdure and fertility at hand,—and widely diffused.

Striking, then, from among the permanent materials of the landscape, that stage of vegetation which is occupied by pine-forests, and, above that, the perennial snows, we have mountains, the highest of which little exceed 3000 feet, while some of the
Alps do not fall short of 14,000 or
15,000, and 8,000 or 10,000 is not an
uncommon elevation. Our tracts of
wood and water are almost as
diminutive in comparison; therefore,
as far as sublimity is dependent upon
absolute bulk and height, and
atmospherical influences in connection
with these, it is obvious, that there can
be no rivalship. But a short residence
among the British Mountains will
furnish abundant proof, that, after a
certain point, the sense of sublimity
depends more upon form and relation
of objects to each other than upon
their actual magnitude; and, that an
elevation of 3000 feet is sufficient to
call forth in a most impressive degree
the creative and magnifying powers of
the atmosphere; so that, on the score
even of sublimity, the superiority of
the Alps is by no means so great as
might hastily be inferred: — and, as to
the beauty of the lower regions of the
Swiss Mountains, it is noticeable—
that, as they are all regularly mown,
their surface has nothing of that
mellow tone and variety of hues by
which mountain turf, that is never
touched by the scythe, is distinguished.
On the smooth and steep slopes of the
Swiss hills, these plots of verdure do
indeed
make a lively contrast of colour, with
the dark green pine-groves that define
them, and among which, they run in
endless variety of shapes—but this is
most pleasing at first sight: the
permanent gratification of the eye
requires finer gradations of tone, and a
more delicate blending of hues into
each other. Besides, it is only in Spring
and late Autumn that cattle animate by
their presence the Swiss lawns; and,
though the pastures of the higher
regions where they feed during the
Summer are left in their natural state
of flowery herbage, those pastures are
so remote, that their texture and
colour are of no consequence in the composition of any picture in which a lake of the Vales is a feature. Yet in those lofty regions, how vegetation is invigorated by the genial climate of that country! Among the luxuriant flowers there met with, groves, or forests, if I may so call them, of Monks'-hood are frequently seen; the plant of deep, rich blue, and as tall as in our gardens; and this at an elevation where, in Cumberland, Icelandic moss would only be found, or the stony summits be utterly bare.

We have, then, for the colouring of Switzerland, principally a vivid green herbage, black woods, and dazzling snows, presented in masses with a grandeur to which no one can be insensible; but not often graduated by Nature into soothing harmony, and so ill suited to the pencil, that though abundance of good subjects may be there found, they are not such as can be deemed characteristic of the country; nor is this unfitness confined to colour: the forms of the mountains, though many of them in some points of view the noblest that can be conceived, are apt to run into spikes and needles, and present a jagged outline which has a mean effect, transferred to canvas. This must have been felt by the ancient masters; for, if I am not mistaken, they have not left a single landscape, the materials of which are taken from the peculiar features of the Alps; yet Titian passed his life almost in their neighbourhood; the Poussins and Claude must have been well acquainted with their aspects; and several admirable painters, as Tibaldi and Luino, were born among the Italian Alps. A few experiments have lately been made by Englishmen, but they only prove that courage, skill, and judgment, may surmount any obstacles; and it may be safely affirmed, that they who have done best in this bold adventure, will be the least likely to repeat the attempt. But, though our scenes are better suited to painting than those of
the Alps, I should be sorry to contemplate either country in reference to that art, further than as its fitness or unfitness for the pencil renders it more or less pleasing to the eye of the spectator, who has learned to observe and feel, chiefly from Nature herself.

Deeming the points in which Alpine imagery is superior to British too obvious to be insisted upon, I will observe that the deciduous woods, though in many places unapproachable by the axe, and triumphing in the pomp and prodigality of Nature, have, in general,* [Note 1] neither the variety nor beauty which would exist in those of the Mountains of Britain, if left to themselves. Magnificent walnut-trees grow upon the plains of Switzerland; and fine trees, of that species, are found scattered over the hill-sides: birches also grow here and there, in luxuriant beauty; but neither these, nor oaks, are ever a prevailing tree, nor can even be said to be common; and the oaks, as far as I had an opportunity of observing, are greatly inferior to those of Britain. Among the interior vallies, the proportion of beeches and pines is so great that other trees are scarcely noticeable; and surely such woods are at all seasons much less agreeable than that rich and harmonious distribution of oak, ash, elm, birch, and alder, that formerly clothed the sides of Snowdon and Helvellyn; and of which no mean remains still survive at the head of Ullswater. On the Italian side of the Alps, chestnut and walnut-trees grow to a considerable height on the mountains; but, even there, the foliage is not equal in beauty to the natural product of this climate.

In fact the sunshine of the South of Europe, so envied when heard of at a distance, is in many respects injurious to rural beauty, particularly as it incites to the cultivation of spots of ground which in colder climates would be left in the hands of nature, favouring at the same time the culture.
of plants that are more valuable on account of the fruit they produce to gratify the palate, than for affording pleasure to the eye, as materials of landscape. Take, for instance, the Promontory of Bellagio, so fortunate in its command of the three branches of the Lake of Como, yet the ridge of the Promontory itself, being for the most part covered with vines interspersed with olive trees, accords but ill with the vastness of the green unappropriated mountains, and derogates not a little from the sublimity of those finely contrasted pictures to which it is a foreground. The vine, when cultivated upon a large scale, notwithstanding all that may be said of it in poetry,* makes but a dull formal appearance in landscape; and the olive tree (though one is loth to say so) is but not more grateful to the eye than our common willow, which it much resembles; but the hoariness of hue, common to both, has in the aquatic plant an appropriate delicacy, harmonising with the situation in which it most delights. The same may no doubt be said of the olive among the dry rocks of Attica, but I am speaking of it as found in gardens and vineyards in the North of Italy. At Bellagio, what Englishman can resist the temptation of substituting, in his fancy, for these formal treasures of cultivation, the natural variety of one of our parks—its pastured lawns, coverts of hawthorn, of wild rose, and honeysuckle, and the majesty of forest trees?—such wild graces as the banks of Derwent-water shewed in the time of the Ratcliffes; and Gowbarrow Park, Lowther, and Rydal do at this day.

[Footnote 1] *The greatest variety of trees is found in the Valais.

[Footnote 2] * Lucretius has charmingly described a scene of this kind.

*Inque dies magis in montem succedere sylvas
Cogebant, infraque locum concedere cultis.
As my object is to reconcile a Briton to the scenery of his own country, though not at the expense of truth, I am not afraid of asserting that in many points of view, our Lakes also are much more interesting than those of the Alps; first, as is implied above, from being more happily proportioned to the other features of the landscape, and next, both as being infinitely more pellucid, and less subject to agitation from the winds. Como (which may perhaps be styled the King of Lakes, as Lugano is certainly the Queen) is disturbed by a periodical wind blowing from the head in the morning, and towards it in the afternoon. The magnificent Lake of the four Cantons, especially its noblest division, called the Lake of Uri, is not only much agitated by winds, but in the night time is disturbed from the bottom, as I was told, and indeed as I witnessed, without any apparent commotion in the air; and, when at rest, the water is not pure to the eye, —as is that of all the other lakes apparently, according to the degree in which they are fed by melted snows. If the Lake of Geneva furnishes an exception, this is probably owing to its vast extent which allows the water to deposit its impurities. The water of the English Lakes, on the contrary, being of a crystalline clearness, the reflections of the surrounding hills are frequently so lively, that it is scarcely possible to distinguish the point where the real object terminates, and its unsubstantial duplicate begins. The lower part of the Lake of Geneva, from its narrowness, must be much less subject to agitation than the higher divisions, and, as the water is clearer than that of the other Swiss Lakes, it may exhibit this appearance, though it is not possible in an equal degree. During two comprehensive Tours among the Alps, winds. [*Note added*] Como
I did not observe, except on one of the smaller Lakes, between Lugano and Ponte Tresa, a single instance of those beautiful repetitions of the surrounding scenery on the bosom of the water, which are so frequently seen here: not to speak of the fine dazzling trembling net-work, breezy motions, and streaks and circles of intermingled smooth and rippled water, which make the surface of our Lakes a field of endless variety. But among the Alps where every thing tends to the grand and the sublime, in surfaces as well as in forms, if the Lakes do not court the placid reflections of land objects, those of first-rate magnitude make compensation, in some degree, by exhibiting those ever-changing fields of green, blue, and purple shadows or lights, (one scarcely knows which to name them) that call to mind a sea-prospect contemplated from a lofty cliff.

[New footnote] *It is remarkable that Como (as is probably the case with other Italian Lakes) is more troubled by storms in summer than in winter. Hence the propriety of the following verses:

"Lari! margine ubique confregero
Nulli coelicolum negas sacellum
Picto pariete saxeloque tecto;
Hinc miracula multa navitarum
Audis, nec placido refellis ore,
Sed nova usque paras, Noto vel Euro
Aestivas quatientibus cavernas,
Vel surgentis ab Addaue cubili
Caeco grandinis imbre provoluto."

Landor.

The subject of torrents and water falls has already been touched upon; but it may be added that the perpetual accompaniment of snow upon the higher regions, takes much from the effect of foaming white streams; while, from their frequency, they obstruct in some degree each other’s influence upon the mind of the spectator; and, in all cases, the effect of an individual cataract, excepting the great Fall of the Rhine at Schaffhausen, is diminished by the general fury of the stream of water.
Recurring to the reflexions from still water, I will describe a singular phenomenon of this kind of which I was an eye-witness.

Walking by the side of Ullswater upon a calm September morning, I saw, deep within the bosom of the lake, a magnificent Castle, with towers and battlements; nothing could be more distinct than the whole edifice; — after gazing with delight upon it for some time, as upon a work of enchantment, I could not but regret that my previous knowledge of the place enabled me to account for the appearance. It was in fact the reflexion of a pleasure-house called Lyulph’s Tower— the towers and battlements magnified and so much changed in shape as not to be immediately recognized. In the meanwhile, the pleasure-house itself was altogether hidden from my view by a body of vapour stretching over it and along the hill-side on which it stands, but not so as to have intercepted its communication with the lake; and hence this novel and most impressive object, which if I had been a stranger to the spot, would, from its being inexplicable, have long detained the mind in a state of pleasing astonishment.

An appearance of this kind, acting upon the credulity of early ages, may have given birth to the stories of subaqueous palaces, gardens, and pleasure-grounds — the brilliant ornaments of Romance.

With this inverted scene I will couple a much more extraordinary phenomenon, which may shew how other elegant fancies may have had their origin, less in invention than in the actual processes of Nature.

About eleven o’clock on the forenoon of a winter’s day, coming suddenly, in company of a friend, into view of the Lake of Grasmere, we were alarmed by the sight of a newly-created Island; the transitory thought of the moment was, that it had been produced by an
earthquake or some other convulsion of nature. Recovering from the alarm, which was greater than the reader can possibly sympathize with, but which was shared to its full extent by my companion, we proceeded to examine the object before us. The elevation of this new island exceeded considerably that of the old one, its neighbour; it was likewise larger in circumference, comprehending a space of about five acres; its surface rocky, speckled with snow, and sprinkled over with birch-trees; it was divided towards the south from the other island by a narrow frith, and in like manner from the northern shore of the lake: on the east and west it was separated from the shore by a much larger space of smooth water.

Marvellous was the illusion! Comparing the new with the old Island, the surface of which is soft, green, and unvaried, I do not scruple to say that, as an object of sight, it was much the more distinct. "How little faith," we exclaimed, "is due to one sense, unless its evidence be confirmed by some of its fellows. What Stranger could possibly be persuaded that this, which we know to be an unsubstantial mockery, is really so; and that there exists only a single Island on this beautiful Lake?" At length the appearance underwent a gradual transmutation; it lost its prominence and passed into a glimmering and dim inversion, and then totally disappeared;—leaving behind it a clear open area of ice of the same dimensions. We now perceived that this bed of ice, which was thinly suffused with water, had produced the illusion, by reflecting and refracting (as persons skilled in optics would no doubt easily explain) a rocky and woody section of the opposite mountain named Silver How.

Having dwelt so much upon the beauty of pure and still water, and pointed out the advantage which the Lakes of the North of England have in this particular over those of the Alps, it
would be injustice not to advert to the sublimity that must often be given to Alpine scenes, by the agitations to which these vast bodies of diffused water are there subject. I have witnessed many tremendous thunderstorms among the Alps, and the most glorious effects of light and shadow; but I never happened to be present when any Lake was agitated by those hurricanes which I imagine must often torment them. If the commotions be at all proportionable to the expanse and depth of the waters and the height of the surrounding mountains, then, if I may judge from what is frequently seen here, the exhibition must be awful and astonishing.—On this day, March 30, 1822, the winds have been acting upon the small Lake of Rydal, as if they had received command to carry its waters from their bed into the sky; the white billows in different quarters disappeared under clouds, or rather drifts, of spray, that were whirled along and up into the air by scouring winds, charging each other in squadrons in every direction, upon the Lake. The spray, having been hurried aloft till it lost its consistency and whiteness, was driven along the mountain-tops like flying showers that vanish in the distance. Frequently an eddying wind scooped the waters out of the basin, and forced them upwards in the very shape of an Icelandic Geyser, or boiling fountain, to the height of 800 or 900 feet.

This small Mere of Rydal, from its position, is subject in a peculiar degree to these commotions. The present season, however, is unusually stormy—great numbers of fish, two of them not less than 12 pounds weight, were a few days ago cast on the shores of Derwent-water by the force of the waves.

Lest, in the foregoing comparative estimate, I should be suspected of partiality to my native mountains, I will support my general opinion by the authority of Mr. West, whose Guide to the Lakes has been eminently
serviceable to the Tourist for nearly 50 years. The Author, a Roman Catholic Clergyman, had passed much time abroad, and was well acquainted with the scenery of the Continent. He thus expresses himself: “They who intend to make the Continental tour should begin here; as it will give, in miniature, an idea of what they are to meet with there, in traversing the Alps and Appenines; to which our northern mountains are not inferior in beauty of line, or variety of summit, number of lakes, and transparency of water; not in colouring of rock, or softness of turf; but in height and extent only. The mountains here are all accessible to the summit, and furnish prospects no less surprizing, and with more variety, than the Alps themselves. The tops of the highest Alps are inaccessible, being covered with everlasting snow, which commencing at regular heights above the cultivated tracts, or wooded and verdant sides, form indeed the highest contrast in nature. For there may be seen all the variety of climate in one view. To this, however, we oppose the sight of the ocean, from the summits of all the higher mountains, as it appears intersected with promontories, decorated with islands, and animated with navigation.”—West’s Guide, p. 5.

[No section break in 3rd ed.]

EXCURSIONS TO THE TOP OF SCARFELL AND ON THE BANKS OF ULSWATER.

It was my intention, several years ago, to describe a regular tour through this country, taking the different scenes in the most favourable order; but after some progress had been made in the work it was abandoned from a conviction, that, if well executed, it would lessen the pleasure of the Traveller by anticipation, and, if the contrary, it would only mislead him. The Reader may not however be displeased with the following extract from a letter to a Friend, giving an account of a visit to a summit of one of the highest of these mountains; of which I am reminded by the
Having left Rossthwaite in Borrowdale, on a bright morning in the first week of October, we ascended from Seathwaite to the top of the ridge, called Ash-course, and thence beheld three distinct views. On one side, the continuous Vale of Borrowdale, Keswick, and Bassenthwaite,—with Skiddaw, Helvellyn, Saddleback, and numerous other mountains,—and, in the distance, the Solway Frith and the Mountains of Scotland. On the other side, and below us, the Langdale Pikes—their own vale below them; — Windermere, — and, far beyond Windermere, Ingleborough in Yorkshire. But how shall I speak of the deliciousness of the third prospect! At this time, that was most favoured by sunshine and shade. The green Vale of Esk—deep and green, with its glittering serpent stream, was below us; and, on we looked to the Mountains near the Sea —Black Comb pre-eminent,—and, still beyond, to the Sea itself in dazzling brightness. Turning round we saw the Mountains of Wastdale in tumult; to our right, Great Gavel, the loftiest, a distinct, and huge form, though the middle of the mountain was, to our eyes, as its base.

We had attained the object of this journey; but our ambition now mounted higher. We saw the summit of Scawfell, apparently very near to us; and we shaped our course towards it; but, discovering that it could not be reached without first making a considerable descent, we resolved, instead, to aim at another point of the same mountain, called the Pikes, which I have since found has been estimated as higher than the summit bearing the name of Scawfell Head, where the Stone Man is built.

The sun had never once been overshadowed by a cloud during the whole of our progress from the centre...
of Borrowdale: — on the summit of the Pike, which we gained after much toil though without difficulty, there was not a breath of air to stir even the papers containing our refreshment, as they lay spread out upon a rock. The stillness seemed to be not of this world: — we paused, and kept silence to listen; and no sound could be heard: the Scawfell Cataracts were voiceless to us; and there was not an insect to hum in the air. The vales which we had seen from Ash-course lay yet in view; and, side by side with Eskdale, we now saw the sister Vale of Donnerdale terminated by the Duddon Sands. But the majesty of the mountains below, and close to us, is not to be conceived. We now beheld the whole mass of Great Gavel from its base,—the Den of Wastdale at our feet—a gulph immeasurable: Grasmire and the other mountains of Crummock,—Ennerdale and its mountains; and the Sea beyond! Gladly would we have tempered our beverage (for there was no spring or well near us) with such a supply of delicious water as we might have procured, had we been on the rival summit of Great Gavel; for on its highest point is a small triangular receptacle of water in the native rock, which, the shepherds say, is never dry. There, we might have slaked our thirst plenteously with a pure and celestial beverage, for the cup or basin, it appears, has no other feeder than the dews of heaven, the showers, the vapours, the hoar frost, and the spotless snow. While we were gazing around, "Look," I exclaimed, "at yon ship upon the glittering sea!" "Is it a Ship?" replied our Shepherd-guide. "It can be nothing else," interposed my companion; "I cannot be mistaken, I am so accustomed to the appearance of Ships at sea." The Guide dropped the argument; but, before a minute was gone, he quietly said, "Now look at your Ship; it is changed into a Horse." So indeed it was,—a horse with a gallant neck and head. We laughed heartily; and, I hope, when again
inclined to be positive, I may remember the Ship and the Horse upon the glittering Sea; and the calm confidence, yet submissiveness, of our wise Man of the Mountains, who certainly had more knowledge of clouds than we, whatever might be our knowledge of ships.

I know not how long we might have remained on the summit of the Pike, without a thought of moving, had not our guide warned us that we must not linger; for a storm was coming. We looked in vain to espy the signs of it. Mountains, vales, and sea were touched with the clear light of the sun. "It is there," he said, pointing to the sea beyond Whitehaven, and there we perceived a light vapour unnoticeable but by a Shepherd accustomed to watch all mountain bodings. We gazed around again, and yet again, unwilling to lose the remembrance of what lay before us in that lofty solitude; and then prepared to depart. Meanwhile the air changed to cold, and we saw that tiny vapour swelled into mighty masses of cloud which came boiling over the mountains. Great Gavel, Helvellyn, and Skiddaw, were wrapped in storm; yet Langdale, and the mountains in that quarter, remained all bright in sunshine. Soon the storm reached us; we sheltered under a crag; and almost as rapidly as it had come it passed away, and left us free to observe the struggles of gloom and sunshine in other quarters. Langdale now had its share, and the Pikes of Langdale were decorated by two splendid Rainbows; Skiddaw also had its own Rainbows. Before we again reached Ash-course every cloud had vanished from every summit.

I ought to have mentioned that round the top of Scawfell Pike not a blade of grass is to be seen. A few cushions or tufts of moss, parched and brown, appear between the huge blocks and stones that lie in heaps on all sides to a great distance, like skeletons or bones of the earth not needed at the creation, and there left to be covered with seen. A few Cushions
never-dying lichens, which the clouds and dews nourish; and adorn with colours of vivid and exquisite beauty. Flowers, the most brilliant feathers, and even gems, scarcely surpass in colouring some of those masses of stone, which no human eye beholds, except the Shepherd or Traveller be led thither by curiosity: and how seldom must this happen! For the other Eminence is the one visited by the adventurous Traveller; and the Shepherd has no inducement to ascend the Pike in quest of his Sheep; for no food is there to tempt them.

We certainly were singularly favoured in the weather; for when we were seated on the summit, our Conductor, turning his eyes thoughtfully round, said, "I do not know that in my whole life, I was ever, at any season of the year, so high upon the mountains on so calm a day." (It was the 7th of October.) Afterwards we had the storm, which exhibited the grandeur of the earth and heavens commingled; yet without terror. We knew that it would pass away; — for so our prophetic Guide had assured us.

Afterwards we had a spectacle of the storm, which exhibited the grandeur of the earth and heaven commingled.

Before we reached Seathwaite in Borrowdale, a few stars had appeared, and we pursued our way down the Vale, to Rossthwaite, by moonlight.

Several new paragraphs in 4th ed. and one more in 5th ed. 3rd ed. resumes with para. 139 below.] [New para. and poem added in 5th ed.]

Scawfell and Helvellyn being the two Mountains of this region which will best repay the fatigue of ascending them, the following Verses may be here introduced with propriety. They are from the Author's Miscellaneous Poems.

To ———,
ON HER FIRST ASCENT TO THE SUMMIT OF HELVELLYN.

INNATE of a Mountain Dwelling,
Thou hast climb aloft, and gazed,
From the watch-towers of Helvellyn:
Awed, delighted, and amazed!

Potent was the spell that bound thee
Not unwilling to obey;
For blue Ether's arm, slung round thee,
Stilled the pantings of dismay.

Let! the dwindled woods and meadow! What a vast abyss is there!
Lo! the clouds, the solemn shadows,
And the glistenings—heavenly fair!
And a record of commotion
Which a thousand ridges yield;
Ridge, and gulf, and distant ocean
Gleaming like a silver shield!
—Take thy flight—possess, inherit
Alps or Andes—they are thine!
With the morning’s rosy Spirit,
Sweep their length of snowy line;
Or survey the bright dominions
In the gorgeous colours drest
Flung from off the purple pinions,
Evening spreads throughout the west!
Thine are all the coral fountains
Warbling in each sparry vault
Of the untrodden lunar mountains;
Listen to their songs!
— or halt,
To Niphate’s top invited,
Whither spiteful Satan steered;
Or descend where the ark alighted,
When the green earth reappeared:
For the power of hills is on thee,
As was witnessed through thine eye
Then, when old Helvellyn won thee
To confess their majesty!

Having said so much of a point of view to which few are likely to ascend,
I am induced to subjoin an account of a short excursion through more accessible parts of the country, made at a time when it is seldom seen but by the inhabitants. As the journal was written for one acquainted with the general features of the country, only those effects and appearances are dwelt upon, which are produced by the changeableness of the atmosphere, or belong to the season when the excursion was made.

A. D. 1805.—On the 7th of November, on a damp and gloomy morning, we left Grasmere Vale, intending to pass a few days on the banks of Ullswater. A mild and dry autumn had been unusually favourable to the preservation and beauty of foliage; and, far advanced as the season was, the trees on the larger Island of Rydal—mere retained a splendour which did not need the heightening of sunshine. We noticed, as we passed, that the line of the grey rocky shore of that island, shaggy with variegated bushes and shrubs, and spotted and...
striped with purplish brown heath, indistinguishably blending with its image reflected in the still water, produced a curious resemblance, both in form and colour, to a richly-coated caterpillar, as it might appear through a magnifying glass of extraordinary power. The mists gathered as we went along: but, when we reached the top of Kirkstone, we were glad we had not been discouraged by the apprehension of bad weather. Though not able to see a hundred yards before us, we were more than contented. At such a time, and in such a place, every scattered stone the size of one’s head becomes a companion. Near the top of the pass is the remnant of an old wall, which, (magnified, though obscured, by the vapour) might have been taken for a fragment of some monument of ancient grandeur,—yet that same pile of stones we had never before even observed. This situation, it must be allowed, is not favourable to gaiety; but a pleasing hurry of spirits accompanies the surprise occasioned by objects transformed, dilated, or distorted, as they are when seen through such a medium. Many of the fragments of rock on the top and slopes of Kirkstone, and of similar places are fantastic enough in themselves; but the full effect of such impressions can only be had in a state of weather when they are not likely to be sought for. It was not till we had descended considerably that the fields of Hartshope were seen, like a lake tinged by the reflection of sunny clouds: I mistook them for Brotherswater, but, soon after, we saw that Lake gleaming faintly with a steely brightness, —then, as we continued to descend, appeared the brown oaks, and the birches of lively yellow—and the cottages—and the lowly flail of Hartshope, with its long roof and ancient chimneys. During great part of our way to Patterdale, we had rain, or rather drizzling vapour; for there was never a drop upon our hair or clothes larger than the smallest
The following morning, incessant rain till 11 o'clock, when the sky began to clear, and we walked along the eastern shore of Ullswater towards the farm of Blowick. The wind blew strong, and drove the clouds forward, on the side of the mountain above our heads;—two storm-stiffened black yew-trees fixed our notice, seen through, or under the edge of, the flying mists,—four or five goats were bounding among the rocks,—the sheep moved about more quietly, or cowered beneath their sheltering places. This is the only part of the country where goats are now found;" [Note] but this morning, before we had seen these, I was reminded of that picturesque animal by two rams of mountain breed, both with Ammonian horns, and with beards majestic as that which Michael Angelo has given to his statue of Moses. But to return;—when our path had brought us to that part of the naked common which overlooks the woods and bush-besprinkled fields of Blowick, the lake, clouds, and mists were all in motion to the sound of sweeping winds;—the church and cottages of Patterdale scarcely visible, or seen only by fits between the shifting vapours. To the northward the scene was less visionary;—Place Fell steady and bold;—the whole lake driving onward like a great river,—waves dancing round the small islands. The house at Blowick was the boundary of our walk; and we returned, lamenting to see a decaying and uncomfortable dwelling in a place where sublimity and beauty seemed to contend with each other. But these regrets were dispelled by a glance on the woods that clothe the opposite steeps of the lake. How exquisite was the mixture of sober and splendid hues! The general colouring of the trees was brown,—rather that of ripe hazel nuts: but towards the water, there were yet beds of green, and in the highest parts of the wood, was abundance of yellow foliage, which,
glimmering through a vapoury lustre, reminded us of masses of clouds, as you see them gathered together in the west, and touched with the golden light of the setting sun.

[Note] *A.D. 1805. These also have disappeared.*

After dinner we walked up the Vale: I had never had an idea of its extent and width in passing along the public road on the other side. We followed the path that leads from house to house;—two or three times it took us through some of those copses or groves that cover the little hillocks in the middle of the vale, making an intricate and pleasing intermixture of lawn and wood. Our fancies could not resist the temptation; and we fixed upon a spot for a cottage, which we began to build; and finished as easily as castles are raised in the air.—Visited the same spot in the evening. I shall say nothing of the moonlight aspect of the situation which had charmed us so much in the afternoon; but I wish you had been with us when, in returning to our friend’s house, we espied his lady’s large white dog, lying in the moonshine upon the round knoll under the old yew-tree in the garden, a romantic image—the dark tree and its dark shadow—and the elegant creature, as fair as a spirit! The torrents murmured softly: the mountains down which they were falling did not, to my sight, furnish a back-ground for this Ossianic picture; but I had a consciousness of the depth of the seclusion, and that mountains were embracing us on all sides; “I saw not, but I felt that they were there.”

Friday, November 9th.—Rain, as yesterday, till 10 o’clock when we took a boat to row down the lake. The day improved,—clouds and sunny gleams on the mountains. In the large bay under Place Fell, three fishermen were dragging a net, a picturesque group beneath the high and bare crags! A raven was seen aloft; not hovering like the kite, for that is not the habit of the
bird; but passing on with a straightforward perseverance, and timing the motion of its wings to its own croaking. The waters were agitated; and the iron tone of the raven’s voice, which strikes upon the ear at all times as the more dolorous from its regularity, was in fine keeping with the wild scene before our eyes. This carnivorous fowl is a great enemy to the lambs of these solitudes; I recollect frequently seeing, when a boy, bunches of unfledged ravens suspended from the churchyard gates of H------- for which a reward of so much a head was given to the adventurous destroyer.—The fishermen drew their net ashore, and hundreds of fish were leaping in their prison. They were all of the kind called skellies, a sort of freshwater herring, shoals of which may sometimes be seen dimpling or rippling the surface of the lake in calm weather. This species is not found, I believe, in any other of these lakes; nor, as far as I know, is the chevin, that spiritless fish, (though I am loth to call it so, for it was a prime favourite with Isaac Walton,) which must frequent Ullswater, as I have seen a large shoal passing into the lake from the river Emont. Here are no pike, and the char are smaller than those of the other lakes, and of inferior quality; but the grey trout attains a very large size, sometimes weighing above twenty pounds. This lordly creature seems to know that "retiredness is a piece of majesty;" for it is scarcely ever caught, or even seen, except when it quits the depths of the lake in the spawning season, and runs up into the streams, where it is too often destroyed in disregard of the law of the land and of nature.

Quitted the boat in the bay of Sandwyke, and pursued our way towards Martindale along a pleasant path—at first through a coppice, bordering the lake, then through green fields—and came to the village, (if village it may be called, for the houses
are few, and separated from each
other,) a sequestered spot, shut out
from the view of the lake. Crossed the
one-arched bridge, below the chapel,
with its "bare ring of mossy wall," and
single yew-tree. At the last house in
the dale we were greeted by the master,
who was sitting at his door, with a
flock of sheep collected round him, for
the purpose of smearing them with tar
(according to the custom of the
season) for protection against the
winter’s cold. He invited us to enter,
and view a room built by Mr. Hasell
for the accommodation of his friends
at the annual chase of red deer in his
forests at the head of these dales. The
room is fitted up in the sportsman’s
style, with a cupboard for bottles and
glasses, with strong chairs, and a
dining-table; and ornamented with the
horns of the stags caught at these
hunts for a succession of years—the
length of the last race each had run
being recorded under his spreading
antlers. The good woman treated us
with oaten cake, new and crisp; and
after this welcome refreshment and
rest, we proceeded on our return to
Patterdale by a short cut over the
mountains. On leaving the fields of
Sandwyke, while ascending by a gentle
slope along the valley of Martindale,
we had occasion to observe that in
thinly-peopled glens of this character
the general want of wood gives a
peculiar interest to the scattered
cottages embowered in sycamore.
Towards its head, this valley splits into
two parts; and in one of these (that to
the left) there is no house, nor any
building to be seen but a cattle-shed
on the side of a hill, which is sprinkled
over with trees, evidently the remains
of an extensive forest. Near the
entrance of the other division stands
the house where we were entertained,
and beyond the enclosures of that farm
there are no other. A few old trees
remain, relics of the forest, a little
stream hastens, though with serpentine
windings, through the uncultivated
hollow, where many cattle were
pasturing. The cattle of this country are generally white, or light coloured; but these were dark brown, or black, which heightened the resemblance this scene bears to many parts of the Highlands of Scotland.—While we paused to rest upon the hillside, though well contented with the quiet everyday sounds—the lowing of cattle, bleating of sheep, and the very gentle murmuring of the valley stream, we could not but think what a grand effect the music of the bugle-horn would have among these mountains. It is still heard once every year, at the chace I have spoken of; a day of festivity for the inhabitants of this district except the poor deer, the most ancient of them all. Our ascent even to the top was very easy; when it was accomplished we had exceedingly fine views, some of the lofty Fells being resplendent with sunshine, and others partly shrouded by clouds. Ullswater, bordered by black steeps, was of dazzling brightness: the plain beyond Penrith smooth and bright, or rather gleamy, as the sea or sea sands. Looked down into Boardale, which, like Stybarrow, has been named from the wild swine that formerly abounded here; but it has now no sylvan covert, being smooth and bare, a long, narrow, deep, cradle-shaped glen, lying so sheltered that one would be pleased to see it planted by human hands, there being a sufficiency of soil; and the trees would be sheltered almost like shrubs in a green-house.—After having walked some way along the top of the hill, came in view of Glenriddin and the mountains at the head of Grisdale.—Before we began to descend, turned aside to a small ruin, called at this day the chapel, where it is said the inhabitants of Martindale and Patterdale were accustomed to assemble for worship. There are now no traces from which you could infer for what use the building had been erected; the loose stones and the few which yet continue piled up resemble those which lie elsewhere on the
mountain; but the shape of the building having been oblong, its remains differ from those of a common sheepfold; and it has stood east and west. Scarcely did the Druids, when they fled to these fastnesses, perform their rites in any situation more exposed to disturbance from the elements. One cannot pass by without being reminded that the rustic psalmody must have had the accompaniment of many a wildly-whistling blast; and what dismal storms must have often drowned the voice of the preacher! As we descend Patterdale opens upon the eye in grand simplicity, screened by mountains, and proceeding from two heads, Deepdale and Hartshope, where lies the little lake of Brotherswater, named in old maps Broaderwater, and probably rightly so; for Bassenthwaite Mere, at this day, is familiarly called Broadwater; but the change in the appellation of this small lake or pool (if it be a corruption) may have been assisted by some melancholy accident similar to what happened about twenty years ago, when two brothers were drowned there, having gone out to take their holiday pleasure upon the ice on a new-year's day.

A rough and precipitous peat track brought us down to our friend's house.—Another fine moonlight night; but a thick fog rising from the neighbouring river, enveloped the rocky and wood-crested knoll on which our fancy-cottage had been erected; and, under the damp cast upon my feelings, I consol'd myself with moralizing on the folly of hasty decisions in matters of importance, and the necessity of having at least one year's knowledge of a place before you realise airy suggestions in solid stone.

Saturday, November 10th. At the breakfast-table tidings reached us of the death of Lord Nelson, and of the victory at Trafalgar. Sequestered as we were from the sympathy of a crowd, we were shocked to hear that the bells had been ringing joyously at Penrith to
celebrate the triumph. In the rebellion of the year 1745, people fled with their valuables from the open country to Patterdale, as a place of refuge secure from the incursions of strangers. At that time, news such as we had heard might have been long in penetrating so far into the recesses of the mountains; but now, as you know, the approach is easy, and the communication, in summer time, almost hourly; nor is this strange, for travellers after pleasure are become not less active, and more numerous than those who formerly left their homes for purposes of gain. The priest on the banks of the remotest stream of Lapland will talk familiarly of Buonaparte’s last conquests, and discuss the progress of the French revolution, having acquired much of his information from adventurers impelled by curiosity alone.

The morning was clear and cheerful after a night of sharp frost. At 10 o’clock we took our way on foot towards Pooley Bridge, on the same side of the lake we had coasted in a boat the day before.—Looked backwards to the south from our favourite station above Blowick. The dazzling sunbeams striking upon the church and village, while the earth was steaming with exhalations not traceable in other quarters, rendered their forms even more indistinct than the partial and flitting veil of unillumined vapour had done two days before. The grass on which we trod, and the trees in every thicket were dripping with melted hoar-frost. We observed the lemon-coloured leaves of the birches, as the breeze turned them to the sun, sparkle, or rather flash, like diamonds, and the leafless purple twigs were tipped with globes of shining crystal.

The day continued delightful, and unclouded to the end. I will not describe the country which we slowly travelled through, nor relate our adventures; and will only add, that on the afternoon of the 13th we returned
along the banks of Ullswater by the usual road. The lake was in deep repose after the agitations of a wet and stormy morning. The trees in Gowbarrow park were in that state when what is gained by the disclosure of their bark and branches compensates, almost, for the loss of foliage, exhibiting the variety which characterises the point of time between autumn and winter. The hawthorns were leafless; their round heads covered with rich red berries, and adorned with arches of green brambles, and eglantines hung with glossy hips; and the grey trunks of some of the ancient oaks, which in the summer season might have been regarded only for their venerable majesty, now attracted notice by a pretty embellishment of green mosses and ferns intermixed with russet leaves retained by those slender outstarting twigs which the veteran tree would not have tolerated in his strength. The smooth silver branches of the ashes were bare; most of the alders as green as the Devonshire cottage myrtle that weathers the snows of Christmas.—Will you accept it as some apology for my having dwelt so long on the woodland ornaments of these scenes—that artists speak of the trees on the banks of Ullswater, and especially along the bays of Stybarrow crags, as having a peculiar character of picturesque intricacy in their stems and branches, which their rocky stations and the mountain winds have combined to give them?

At the end of Gowbarrow park a large herd of deer were either moving slowly or standing still among the fern. I was sorry when a chance companion, who had joined us by the way, startled them with a whistle, disturbing an image of grave simplicity and thoughtful enjoyment; for I could have fancied that those natives of this wild and beautiful region were partaking with us a sensation of the solemnity of the closing day. The sun had been set some time; and we could perceive that
the light was fading away from the
coves of Helvellyn, but the lake, under
a luminous sky, was more brilliant
than before.

After tea at Patterdale, set out again:—
a fine evening; the seven stars close to
the mountain-top; all the stars seemed
brighter than usual. The steepes
were reflected in Brotherswater, and, above
the lake, appeared like enormous black
perpendicular walls. The Kirkstone
torrents had been swoln by the rains,
and now filled the mountain pass with
their roaring, which added greatly to
the solemnity of our walk. Behind us,
when we had climbed to a great
height, we saw one light, very distant,
in the vale, like a large red star—a
solitary one in the gloomy region. The
cheerfulness of the scene was in the sky
above us.

Reached home a little before midnight.

The following verses (from the
Author’s Miscellaneous Poems,) after
what has just been read may be
acceptable to the reader, by way of
conclusion to this little Volume.

ODE.
THE PASS OF KIRKSTONE.

1. Within the mind strong fancies work,
   A deep delight the bosom thrill,
   Oft as I pass along the fork
   Of these fraternal hills:
   Where, save the rugged road, we find
   No appendage of human kind;
   Nor hint of man, if stone or rock
   Seem not his handy-work to mock
   By something cognizably shaped;
   Mockery—or model roughly hewn,
   And left as if by earthquake strewn,
   Or from the Flood escaped:
   Altars for Druid service fit;
   (But where no fire was ever lit,
   Unless the glow-worm to the skies
   Thence offer nightly sacrifice;)
   Wrinkled Egyptian monument;
   Green moss-grown tower; or hoary tent;
   Tents of a camp that never shall be raised;
   On which four thousand years have gazed!

2. Ye plough-shares sparkling on the slopes!
   Ye snow-white lambs that trip
   Imprisoned ‘mid the formal props
   Of restless ownership!
   Ye trees, that may to-morrow fall
   To feed the insatiate Prodigal?
   Lawns, houses, chatells, groves, and fields,
All that the fertile valley shields;
Wages of folly—baits of crime,—
Of life’s unsafe game the stake,
Playthings that keep the eye awake
Of drowsy, dotard Time;
O care! O guilt!—O vales and plains,
Here, ‘mid his own unvexed domains,
A Genius dwells, that can subdue
At once all memory of You,—
Most potent when mists veil the sky,
Mists that distort and magnify;
While the course rushes, to the sweeping breeze,
Sigh forth their ancient melodies!

3.
List to those shriller notes!—that march
Perchance was on the blast,
When through this Height’s inverted arch,
Rome’s earliest legion passed!
—They saw, adventurously impelled,
And older eyes than theirs beheld,
This block—and yon, whose Church-like frame
Gives to the savage Pass its name.

Aspiring Road! that lov’st to hide
Thy daring in a vapoury bourn,
Not seldom may the hour return
When thou shalt be my Guide:
And I (as often we find cause,
When life is at a weary pause,
And we have panted up the hill
Of duty with reluctant will)
Be thankful, even though tired and faint,
For the rich bounties of Constraint;
Whence oft invigorating transports flow
That Choice lacked courage to bestow!

4.
My Soul was grateful for delight
That wore a threatening brow;
A veil is lifted—can she slight
The scene that opens now?
Though habitation none appear,
The greenness tells, man must be there;
The shelter—that the perspective
Is of the clime in which we live;
Where Toil pursues his daily round;
Where Pity sheds sweet tears, and Love,
In woodbine bower or birchen grove,
Inflicts his tender wound.
—Who comes not hither ne’er shall know
How beautiful the world below;
Nor can he guess how lightly leaps
The brook adown the rocky steeps.
Farewell, thou desolate Domain!
Hope, pointing to the cultured Plain,
Carols like a shepherd boy;
And who is she?—Can that be Joy!
Who, with a sun-beam for her guide,
Smoothly skims the meadows wide;
While Faith, from yonder opening cloud,
To hill and vale proclaims aloud,
"Whate’er the weak may dread, the wicked dare,
Thy lot, O man, is good, thy portion fair!"

[New section in 3rd ed.]
DIRECTIONS AND INFORMATION FOR THE TOURIST.

[The following section, “Directions and Information for the Tourist,” was moved to the front of the 5th ed. of the Guide. Paras. 129-38 were at that time added to the section’s beginning.]

129}
Author’s principal wish to furnish a Guide or Companion for the Minds of Persons of taste, and feeling for Landscape, who might be inclined to explore the District of the Lakes with that degree of attention to which its beauty may fairly lay claim. For the more sure attainment, however, of this primary object, he will begin by undertaking the humble and tedious task of supplying the Tourist with directions how to approach the several scenes in their best, or most convenient, order. But first, supposing the approach to be made from the south, and through Yorkshire, there are certain interesting spots which may be confidently recommended to his notice, if time can be spared before entering upon the Lake District; and the route may be changed in returning.

There are three approaches to the Lakes through Yorkshire; the least adviseable is the great north road by Catterick and Greta Bridge, and onwards to Penrith. The Traveller, however, taking this route, might halt at Greta Bridge, and be well recompenced if he can afford to give an hour or two to the banks of the Greta, and of the Tees, at Rokeby. Barnard Castle also, about two miles up the Tees, is a striking object, and the main North Road might be rejoined at Bowes. Every one has heard of the great fall of the Tees above Middleham, interesting for its grandeur, as the avenue of rocks that leads to it, is to the geologist. But this place lies so far out of the way as scarcely to be within the compass of our notice. It might, however, be visited by a Traveller on foot, or on horseback, who could rejoin the main road upon Stanemoor.

The second road leads through a more interesting tract of country, beginning at Ripon, from which place see Fountain’s Abbey, and thence by Hackfall, and Masham, to Jervaux Abbey, and up the vale of Wensley; turning aside before Askrigg is
reached, to see Aygargth-force, upon the Ure; and again, near Hawes, to Hardraw Scar, of which, with its waterfall, Turner has a fine drawing. Thence over the fells to Sedbergh, and Kendal.

The third approach from Yorkshire is through Leeds. Four miles beyond that town are the ruins of Kirkstall Abbey, should that road to Skipton be chosen; but the other by Otley may be made much more interesting by turning off at Addington to Bolton Bridge, for the sake of visiting the Abbey and grounds. It would be well, however, for a party previously to secure beds, if wanted, at the inn, as there is but one, and it is much resorted to in summer.

The Traveller on foot, or horseback, would do well to follow the banks of the Wharf upwards, to Burnsall, and thence cross over the hills to Gordale—a noble scene, beautifully described in Gray’s Tour, and with which no one can be disappointed. Thence to Malham, where there is a respectable village inn, and so on, by Malham Cove, to Settle.

Travellers in carriages must go from Bolton Bridge to Skipton, where they rejoin the main road; and should they be inclined to visit Gordale, a tolerable road turns off beyond Skipton. Beyond Settle, under Giggleswick Scar, the road passes an ebbing and flowing well, worthy the notice of the Naturalist. Four miles to the right of Ingleton, is Weathercote Cave, a fine object, but whoever diverges for this, must return to Ingleton. Near Kirkby Lonsdale observe the view from the bridge over the Lune, and descend to the channel of the river, and by no means omit looking at the Vale of Lune from the Church-yard.

The journey towards the lake country through Lancashire, is, with the exception of the Vale of the Ribble, at Preston, uninteresting; till you come near Lancaster, and obtain a view of the fells and mountains of Lancashire and Westmorland; with Lancaster Castle, and the Tower of the Church.
They who wish to see the celebrated ruins of Furness Abbey, and are not afraid of crossing the Sands, may go from Lancaster to Ulverston; from which place take the direct road to Dalton; but by all means return through Urswick, for the sake of the view from the top of the hill, before descending into the grounds of Conishead Priory. From this quarter the Lakes would be advantageously approached by Coniston; thence to Hawkshead, and by the Ferry over Windermere, to Bowness: a much better introduction than by going direct from Coniston to Ambleside, which ought not to be done, as that would greatly take off from the effect of Windermere.

Let us now go back to Lancaster. The direct road thence to Kendal is 22 miles, but by making a circuit of eight miles, the Vale of the Lune to Kirkby Lonsdale will be included. The whole tract is pleasing; there is one view mentioned by Gray and Mason especially so. In West’s Guide it is thus pointed out—"About a quarter of a mile beyond the third mile-stone, where the road makes a turn to the right, there is a gate on the left which leads into a field where the station meant, will be found." Thus far for those who approach the Lakes from the South.

Travellers from the North would do well to go from Carlisle by Wigton, and proceed along the Lake of Bassenthwaite to Keswick; or, if convenience should take them first to Penrith, it would still be better to cross the country to Keswick, and begin with that vale, rather than with Ullswater. It is worth while to mention, in this place, that the banks of the river Eden, about Corby, are well worthy of notice, both on account of their natural beauty, and the viaducts which have recently been carried over the bed of the river, and over a neighbouring ravine. In the Church of
Wetherby, close by, is a fine piece of monumental sculpture by Nollekins. The scenes of Nunney, upon the Eden, or rather that part of them which is upon Croglin, a mountain stream there falling into the Eden, are, in their way, unrivalled. But the nearest road thither, from Corby, is so bad, that no one can be advised to take it in a carriage. Nunney may be reached from Corby by making a circuit and crossing the Eden at Armathwaite bridge. A portion of this road, however, is bad enough.

A Brief notice shall here be given of particulars in the several Vales of which the Country is composed. We will begin, as before, with

WINDERMERE.

This Lake is approached, by Travellers from the South, about the middle of its eastern side, at Bowness or by Orrest-head. The lower part is rarely visited, but has many interesting points of view, especially at Storr’s Hall and at Fellfort, where the Coniston Mountains peer nobly over the western barrier, which elsewhere along the whole Lake is comparatively tame. To one also who has ascended the hill from Grathwaite on the western side, the promontory called Rawlinson’s Nab, Storr’s Hall, and the Troutbeck Mountains, about sunset, make a splendid landscape. The view from the Pleasure-house of the Station near the Ferry has suffered much from Larch plantations, and from other causes. Windermere ought to be seen both from its shores and from its surface. None of the other Lakes unfold so
many fresh beauties to him who sails upon them. This is owing to its greater size, to the islands* [Note 1] and its having two vales at the head, with their accompanying mountains of nearly equal dignity. Nor can the grandeur of these two terminations be seen at the same time from any one point, except from the bosom of the Lake. The Islands may be explored at any time of the day; but one bright unruffled evening, must, if possible, be set apart for the splendour, the stillness, and solemnity of a three hours' voyage upon the higher division of the Lake, not omitting, towards the end of the excursion, to quit the expanse of water, and peep into the close and calm River at the head; which, in its quiet character, at such a time, appears rather like an overflow of the peaceful Lake itself, than to have any more immediate connection with the rough mountains whence it has descended, or the turbulent torrents by which it is supplied. Many persons content themselves with what they see of Windermere during their progress in a boat from Bowness to the head of the Lake, walking thence to Ambleside. But the whole road from Bowness is rich in diversity of pleasing or grand scenery; there is scarcely a field on the road side, which, if entered, would not give to the landscape some additional charm. Low-wood Inn, a mile from the head of Windermere, is a pleasant halting-place; and the fields above it, and the lane that leads to Troutbeck, present beautiful views towards each extremity of the Lake. From this place and from Ambleside, rides may be taken in numerous directions, and the interesting walks are inexhaustible;* [Note 2] a few out of the main road may be particularized; — the lane that leads towards Skelgill; the ride, or walk by Rothay Bridge, and up the stream under Loughrigg Fell, continued on the western side of Rydal Lake, and along the fell to the foot of Grasmere.

the islands [Note deleted], and to its be seen at once the same time from any one point

halting-place; no inn in the whole district is so agreeably situated for water views and excursions: and the fields above it, and the lane from [line break added] AMBLESIDE

lane that leads from Ambleside to Skelgill
From Ambleside is another a charming excursion by Skelwith-fold and Colwith-force up Little Langdale, Blea Tarn, Dungeon-ghyll waterfall (if there be time) and down Great Langdale. Stockghyll-force and Rydal waterfalls, every one hears of. In addition to the two streams at its head with their Vales, Windermere communicates with two lateral Vales, that of Troutbeck, distinguished by the mountains at its head, by picturesque remains of cottage architecture, and by fine fore-grounds formed by the steep and winding banks of the river. The other, the vale of Haweshead, is seen to most advantage by the approach from the ferry over Windermere — the Lake of Esthwaite, Haweshead Church, and the cone of Langdale Pike in the distance. There are delightful walks in that part of Grasmere, called Easedale; and the Vale is advantageously seen from Butterlip How. As this point is four miles on the way to Keswick, it may here be mentioned, that, from the high road between Keswick and Ambleside, which passes along the eastern side of the several Lakes of Rydal, Grasmere, and part of Wythburn, these lakes are not seen to the best advantage, particularly Rydal, and Wythburn — the lower half of which is entirely lost. If, therefore, the excursion from Ambleside has not been taken, a traveller on foot or on horseback would be well recompensed by quitting the high road at Rydal over Pelter Bridge, — proceeding on the western side of the two lakes to Grasmere Church; and, thence to Butterlip How. A second deviation may be made when he has advanced a little beyond the mile-stone, the sixth short of Keswick, whence there is a fine view of Legbertwhaite, with Blencathara (commonly called Saddleback) in front. Having previously enquired, at the inn near two vales Streams at its head with their Vales, Windermere
Wythburn Chapel, the best way from this mile-stone to the bridge that divides the Lake, he must cross it, and proceed, with the Lake on the right, to the Hamlet near its termination, and rejoin the main road upon Shoulthwaite Moss, about four miles from Keswick. These two deviations lengthen the journey something less than three miles. Helvellyn may be ascended from Dunmail-rise by a foot Traveller, or from the Inn at Wythburn.

Note 1. "This Lake has seventeen
Islands. Among those that lie near the largest, formerly called "Great Holm," may be noticed "Lady Holm," so called from the Virgin who had formerly a Chapel or Oratory there. On the road from Kendal to the Great-boat, might lately, and perhaps may still be seen, the ruins of the Holy Cross; a place where the Pilgrims to this beautifully situated shrine, must have been in the habit of offering up their devotions. — Two other of these Islands are named from the lily of the valley, which grows there in profusion.

[Note 2] *Mr. Green's Guide to the Lakes in two vols. contains a complete Magazine of minute and accurate information of this kind, with the names of mountains, streams, &c.

[New footnote] *No longer strictly applicable, on account of recent plantations.

CONISTON.

The next principal Vale, that of Coniston, is best seen by entering the Country over the Sands of Lancaster. The Stranger, from the moment he sets his foot on those Sands, seems to leave the turmoil and traffic of the world behind him; and, crossing the majestic plain whence the Sea has retired, he beholds, rising apparently from its base, the cluster of mountains among which he is going to wander, and towards whose recesses, by the Vale of Coniston he is gradually and peacefully led. From the Inn at the head of Coniston Lake, a leisurely Traveller might have much pleasure in looking into Yewdale and Tilberthwaite, returning to his Inn from the head of Yewdale by a mountain track which has the farm of Tarn Hows, a little on the right;—by this road is seen much the best view of Coniston Lake from the South. From Coniston it is best to pass by Hawkshead to the Ferry of Windermere, instead of going direct to
Amblinside, which would bring the Traveller upon the head of the Lake, and consequently with much injury to its effect. If the Lake of Coniston be visited from the upper end, it is scarcely worth while to proceed further than about a mile and a half down its eastern shore, for the sake of the views on returning.

DONNERDALE, or the Vale of the Duddon (or signifies upon) and the adjoining Vale of the Esk, are rarely visited by Travellers.—Donnerdale is best approached by Coniston over Walna Scar, down to Seathwaite, Newfield, and to the rocks where the river issues from a narrow pass into the broad Vale. The Stream is very interesting for the space of a mile above this point, and below, by Ulpha Kirk, till it enters the Sands, where it is overlooked by the solitary Mountain Black Comb, the summit of which, as that experienced surveyor, the late Colonel Mudge, declared, commands a more extensive view than any point in Britain. Ireland he saw from it more than once, but not when the sun was above the horizon.

"Close by the Sea, lone sentinel,
Black-Comb his forward station keeps;
He breaks the sea's tumultuous swell,—
And ponders o'er the level deeps.
He listens to the bugle horn,
Where Eskdale's lovely valley bends;
Sea-birds to Holker's woods he sends.
Beneath his feet the sunk ship rests,
In Duddon Sands, its mast all bare:"

The Minstrels of Windermere, by Chas. Fustich, B. D.

ULPHA KIRK
Over Birker moor, to Birker-force, at the head of the finest ravine in the country; and thence up the Vale of the Esk, by Hardknot and Wrynose, back to Ambleside. Details of this Vale are to be found in the Author's Poem "The River Duddon." In the Vale of Esk is
an interesting Waterfall, called Birker Force, that lies apart; and, from the chasm, a fine mountain view of Scawfell. At the head of the Vale are conspicuous Remains of a Roman Fortress.

[New sentences in 5th ed.]

Before you leave Ambleside give three minutes to looking at a passage of the brook which runs through the town; it is to be seen from a garden on the right bank of the stream, a few steps above the bridge—the garden at present is rented by Mrs. Airey. Stockgill-force, upon the same stream, will have been mentioned to you as one of the sights of the neighbourhood. And by a Tourist halting a few days in Ambleside, the Nook also might be visited; a spot where there is a bridge over Scandale-beck, which makes a pretty subject for the pencil. Lastly, for residents of a week or so at Ambleside, there are delightful rambles over every part of Loughrigg Fell and among the enclosures on its sides; particularly about Loughrigg Tarn, and on its eastern side about Fox How and the properties adjoining to the northwards.
ROAD FROM AMBLESIDE TO KESWICK.

The Waterfalls of Rydal are pointed out to every one. But it ought to be observed here, that Rydal-mere is nowhere seen to advantage from the main road. Fine views of it may be had from Rydal Park; but these grounds, as well as those of Rydal Mount and Ivy Cottage, from which also it is viewed to advantage, are private. A foot road passing behind Rydal Mount and under Nab Scar to Grasmere, is very favourable to views of the Lake and the Vale, looking back towards Ambleside. The horse road also, along the western side of the Lake, under Loughrigg fell, as before mentioned, does justice to the beauties of this small mere, of which the Traveller who keeps the high road is not at all aware.

GRASMERE

There are two small Inns in the Vale of Grasmere, one near the Church, from which it may be conveniently explored in every direction, and a mountain walk taken up Ease-dale to Easedale Tarn, one of the finest tarns in the country, thence to Stickle Tarn, and to the top of Langdale Pikes. See also the Vale of Grasmere from Butterlip How. A boat is kept by the innkeeper, and this circular Vale, in the solemnity of a fine evening, will make, from the bosom of the Lake, an impression that will be scarcely ever effaced.

The direct road from Grasmere to Keswick does not (as has been observed of Rydal Mere) shew to advantage Thirlmere, or Wythburn Lake, with its surrounding mountains. By a Traveller proceeding at leisure, a deviation ought to be made from the main road, when he has advanced a little beyond the sixth mile-stone short of Keswick, from which point there is a noble view of the Vale of Legberthwaite, with Blencathra (commonly called Saddle-back) in front. Having previously enquired, at
15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 | 101 | 102 | 103 | 104 | 105 | 106 | 107 | 108 | 109 | 110 | 111 | 112 | 113 | 114 | 115 | 116 | 117 | 118 | 119 | 120 | 121 | 122 | 123 | 124 | 125 | 126 | 127 | 128 | 129 | 130 | 131 | 132 | 133 | 134 | 135 | 136 | 137 | 138 | 139 | 140 | 141 | 142 | 143 | 144 | 145 | 146 | 147 | 148

| 147-148 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33

These paragraphs were thoroughly revised, expanded, and rearranged for the 5th ed. Color-coding signals corresponding passages.

WASTDALE.

Into this Dale are three horse-roads, viz., over the Stye from Borrowdale; a short cut over a ridge of Scafell, by Burnmoor Tarn, which road descends upon the head of the Lake; and the principal entrance from the open country at its foot; this is much the best approach. Wastdale is well worth the notice of the Traveller who is not afraid of fatigue; no part of the country is more distinguished by sublimity.

ENNERDALE.

This Vale and Lake, though presenting some bold features, are only to be taken as leading to something else; — the Vale may be approached by Pedestrians, at its head, from Wastdale; and also over the mountains from Buttermere; and, by an indifferent Carriage-road, either from Calder Bridge, or Loweswater.

THE VALE OF BUTTERMERE, &c.

We are again in the beaten track of the Lake, near Wythburn Chapel, the best way from this mile-stone to the bridge that divides the Lake, he must cross it, and proceed with the Lake on the right, to the hamlet a little beyond its termination, and rejoin the main road upon Shoulthwaite Moss, about four miles from Keswick; or, if on foot, the Tourist may follow the stream that issues from Thirlmere down the romantic Vale of St. John’s, and so (enquiring the way at some cottage) to Keswick, by a circuit of little more than a mile. A more interesting tract of country is scarcely any where to be seen, than the road between Ambleside and Keswick, with the deviations that have been pointed out. Helvellyn may be conveniently ascended from the Inn at Wythburn.

THE VALE OF KESWICK.

Which place is the head-quarters of Tourists. This Vale stretches, without winding, nearly North and South, from the head of Derwent Water to the foot of Bassenthwaite Lake. It communicates with Borrowdale on the South; with the river Greta, and Thirlmere, on the East, with which the Traveller has become acquainted on his way from Ambleside; and with the Vale of Newlands on the West— which last Vale he may pass through, in going to, or returning from, Buttermere.

The best views of Keswick Lake are from Crow Park; Frier’s Crag; the Stable field, close by; the Vicarage, and by taking the circuit of the Lake. More distant views, and perhaps full as interesting, are from the side of Latrigg; from Ormathwaite, and Applethwaite; and thence along the road at the foot of Skiddaw towards Bassenthwaite, for about a quarter of a mile. There are fine bird’s-eye views from the Castle hill; from Ashness, on the road to Watenlath, and by following the Watenlath Stream downwards to the Cataract of Lodore. This Lake also, if the weather be fine, ought to be circumnavigated. There are good views along the western side of Bassenthwaite.
Lakes, I will therefore pass to

THE VALE OF KESWICK,

Which place is the head-quarters of Tourists. The best views of Keswick Lake are from Crow Park; Friar’s Crag; the Stable field, close by; the Vicarage, and by taking the circuit of the Lake. More distant views, and perhaps full as interesting, are from the side of Latrigg; from Ormathwaite, and Applethwaite; and then along the road at the foot of Skiddaw towards Bassenthwaite, for about a quarter of a mile. There are fine bird’s-eye views from the Castle hill; from Ashness, on the road to Watenlath, and by following the Watenlath Stream downwards to the Cataract of Lodore. This Lake also, if the weather be fine, ought to be circumnavigated. There are good views along the western side of Bassenthwaite Lake, and from Armathwaite at its foot; but the eastern side from the high road has little to recommend it. The Traveller from Carlisle approaching by way of Ireby has, from the old road on the top of Bassenthwaite-hawse, much the most striking view of the Plain and Lake of Bassenthwaite, flanked by Skiddaw, and terminated by Wallow crag on the south-east of Derwent Lake; the same point commands an extensive view of Solway Frith and the Scotch Mountains. They who take the circuit of Derwent Lake, may at the same time include Borrowdale, going as far as Bowder-Stone, or Rossthwaite; Borrowdale is also conveniently seen on the way to Wastdale over Styhead; or to Buttermere, by Seatoller and Honister Crag; or, going over the Stake, through Seatoller, to Langdale, and Ambleside. Buttermere may be visited by a shorter way, through Newlands, but the best approach is from Scale-hill: the Mountains of this vale are nowhere so impressive as from the bosom of Crummock Lake. Scale-force is a fine Waterfall, though the descent upon the Vale of Buttermere, by this approach, is very striking, as it also is to one entering by the head of the Vale, under Honister Crag, yet, after all, the best entrance from Keswick is from the lower part of the Vale, having gone over Whinlater to Scale Hill, where there is a roomy Inn, with very good accommodations. The Mountains of the Vale of

BUTTERMERE AND CRUMMOCK

Are nowhere so impressive as from the bosom of Crummock Water. Scale-force, near it, is a fine charm, with a lofty, though but slender, fall of water. From Scale Hill a pleasant walk may be taken to an eminence in Mr. Marshall’s woods, and another by crossing the bridge at the foot of the hill, upon which the Inn stands, and turning to the right, after the opposite hill has been ascended a little way,
then follow the road for half a mile or so that leads towards Lorton, looking back upon Crummock Water, &c., between the openings of the fences. Turn back and make your way to

LOWESWATER.

But this small Lake is only approached to advantage from the other end; therefore any Traveller going by this road to Wastdale, must look back upon it. This road to Wastdale, after passing the village of Lamplugh Cross, presents suddenly a fine view of the Lake of Ennerdale, with its Mountains; and, six or seven miles beyond, leads down upon Calder Abbey. Little of this ruin is left, but that little is well worthy of notice. At Calder Bridge are two comfortable Inns, and, a few miles beyond, accommodations may be had at the Strands, at the foot of Wastdale. Into

WASTDALE.

Into this Dale are three horse-roads, viz. over the Stye from Borrowdale; a short cut from Eskdale over a ridge of Scawfell, by Burnmoor Tarn, which road descends upon the head of the Lake; and the principal entrance from the open country by the Strands at its foot. This last is much the best approach. Wastdale is well worth the notice of the Traveller who is not afraid of fatigue; no part of the country is more distinguished by sublimity. Wastdale may also be visited from Ambleside; by going up Langdale, over Hardknott and Wrynose—down Eskdale and by Irton Hall to the Strands; but this road can only be taken on foot, or on horseback, or in a cart.

ENNERDALE.

This Vale and Lake, though presenting some bold features, are only to be taken as leading to something else; the Vale may be approached by Pedestrians, at its head, from Wastdale; and also over the
mountains from Buttermere; and, by an indifferent Carriage-road, either from Calder Bridge, or Loweswater.

THE VALE OF BUTTERMERE, &c.

We are again in the beaten track of the Lakes, I will therefore pass to

ULLSWATER

Is finely approached from Keswick* [Note] by Matterdale and Lyulph’s Tower into Gowbarrow Park; — a magnificent view is unfolded of the two higher reaches of the Lake. Airye Force thunders down the Ghyll on the left, at a small distance from the road. If Ullswater be approached from Penrith, a mile and a half brings you to the winding vale of Emont, and the prospects increase in interest till you reach Patterdale; but the first four miles along Ullswater by this road are comparatively tame, and in order to see the lower part of the Lake to advantage, it is necessary to go round by Pooly-bridge, and to ride at least three miles along the Westmorland side of the water, towards Martindale. The views, especially if you ascend from the road into the fields, are magnificent; yet this is only mentioned that the transient Visitant may know what exists; for it would be inconvenient to go in search of them. They who take this course of three or four miles on foot, should have a boat in readiness at the end of the walk, to carry them across to the Cumberland side of the Lake, near Old Church.

We will conclude with

ULLSWATER,

As being, perhaps, upon the whole, the happiest combination of beauty and grandeur, which any of the Lakes affords. It lies not more than ten miles from Ambleside, and the Pass of Kirkstone and the descent from it are very impressive; but, notwithstanding, this Vale, like the others, loses much of its effect by being entered from the head; so that it is better to go Is finely approached from Keswick [Note deleted] through by Matterdale and Lyulph’s Tower, and descend upon Gowbarrow Park: you are thus brought at once upon a magnificent view & unfolded of the two
thence to pursue the road upwards to Patterdale. The Church-yard Yew-tree survives at Old Church, but there are no remains of a Place of Worship, a New Chapel having been erected in a more central situation, which Chapel was consecrated by the then Bishop of Carlisle, when on his way to crown Queen Elizabeth, he being the only Prelate who would undertake the office. It may be here mentioned that Bassenthwaite Chapel, yet stands in a bay as sequestered, as the Site of Old Church; such situations having been chosen in disturbed times to elude marauders.

[Footnote] Pedestrians and Travellers on horseback cross the lower part of St. John’s Vale, but a carriage must go a few miles along Hutton Moor before it turns off.

The Trunk, or Body of the Vale of Ullswater need not be further noticed, as its beauties shew themselves: but the curious Traveller may wish to know something of its tributary Streams.

At Dalemain, about three miles from Penrith, a Stream is crossed called the Dacre, or Dacor, which name it bore as early as the time of the Venerable Bede. This stream does not enter the Lake, but joins the Emont a mile below; it rises in the moorish Country about Penruddock, flows down a soft sequestered Valley, passing by the ancient mansions of Hutton John and Dacre Castle. The former is pleasantly situated, though of a character somewhat gloomy and monastic, and from some of the fields near Dalemain, Dacre Castle, backed by the jagged summit of Saddle Back, with the Valley and Stream in front, forms a grand picture. There is no other stream that conducts to any glen or valley worthy of being mentioned, till we reach that which leads up to Airey Force, and thence into Matterdale, before spoken of. Matterdale, though a wild and interesting spot, has no peculiar features that would make it worth the Stranger’s while to go in
search of them; but in Gowbarrow Park, the lover of Nature might linger for hours. Here is a powerful Brook, which dashes among rocks through a deep glen, hung on every side with a rich and happy intermixture of native wood; here are beds of luxuriant fern, aged hawthorns, and hollies decked with honeysuckle; and fallow-deer glancing and bounding over the lawns and through the thickets. These are the attractions of the retired views, or constitute a foreground for ever-varying pictures of the majestic Lake, forced to take a winding course by bold promontories, and environed by mountains of sublime form, towering above each other. At the outlet of Gowbarrow Park, we reach a third stream, which flows through a little recess called Glencoin, where lurks a single house, yet visible from the road. Let the Artist or leisurely Traveller turn aside to it, for the buildings and objects around them are romantic and picturesque. Having passed under the steeps of Styebarrow Crag, and the remains of its native woods, at Glenridding Bridge, a fourth Stream is crossed.

The opening on the side of Ullswater Vale, down which the Stream flows, is adorned with fertile fields, cottages, and natural groves, that agreeably unite with the transverse views of the Lake; and the Stream, if followed up after the enclosures are left behind, will lead along bold water-breaks and waterfalls to a silent Tarn in the recesses of Helvellyn. This desolate spot was formerly haunted by eagles, that built in the precipice which forms its western barrier. These birds used to wheel and hover round the head of the solitary angler. It also derives a melancholy interest from the fate of a young man, a stranger, who perished some years ago, by falling down the rocks in his attempt to cross over to Grasmere. His remains were discovered by means of a faithful dog that had lingered here for the space of three months, self-supported, and probably...
Seven Glens or Vallies have been noticed, which branch off from the Cumberland side of the Vale. The opposite side has only two Streams of any importance, one of which would lead up from the point where it crosses the Kirkstone-road, near the foot of Brother's-water, to the decaying hamlet of Hartsop, remarkable for its cottage architecture, and thence to Grasmere. A sublime combination of mountain forms appears in front while ascending the bed of this valley, and the impression increases till the path leads almost immediately under the projecting masses of Helvellyn. Having retraced the banks of the Stream to Patterdale, and pursued the road up the main Dale, the next considerable Stream would, if ascended in the same manner, conduct to Deepdale, the character of which Valley may be conjectured from its name. It is terminated by a cove, a craggy and gloomy abyss, with precipitous sides; a faithful receptacle of the snows that are driven into it, by the west wind, from the summit of Fairfield. Lastly, having gone along the western side of Brother's-water and passed Hartsop Hall, a Stream soon after issues from a cove richly decorated with native wood. This spot is, I believe, never explored by Travellers; but, from these sylvan and rocky recesses whoever looks back on the gleaming surface of Brother's-water, or forward to the precipitous sides and lofty ridges of Dove Crag, &c. will be equally pleased with the beauty, the grandeur, and the wildness of the scenery.

Seven Glens or Vallies have been noticed, which branch off from the Cumberland side of the Vale. The opposite side has only two Streams of any importance, one of which would lead up from the point where it crosses the Kirkstone-road, near the foot of Brother's-water, to the decaying hamlet of Hartsop, remarkable for its cottage architecture, and thence to

| 24 | retaining to the last an attachment to the skeleton of its master. But to return to the road in the main Vale of Ullswater.—At the head of the Lake (being now in Patterdale) we cross a fifth Stream, Grisdale Beck; this would conduct through a woody steep, where may be seen some unusually large ancient hollies, up to the level area of the Valley of Grisdale; hence there is a path for foottravellers, and along which a horse may be led, to Grasmere. A sublime combination of mountain forms appears in front while ascending the bed of this valley, and the impression increases till the path leads almost immediately under the projecting masses of Helvellyn. Having retraced the banks of the Stream to Patterdale, and pursued the road up the main Dale, the next considerable Stream would, if ascended in the same manner, conduct to Deep-dale, the character of which Valley may be conjectured from its name. It is terminated by a cove, a craggy and gloomy abyss, with precipitous sides; a faithful receptacle of the snows that are driven into it, by the west wind, from the summit of Fairfield. Lastly, having gone along the western side of Brother's-water and passed Hartsop Hall, a Stream soon after issues from a cove richly decorated with native wood. This spot is, I believe, never explored by Travellers; but, from these sylvan and rocky recesses whoever looks back on the gleaming surface of Brother's-water, or forward to the precipitous sides and lofty ridges of Dove Crag, &c. will be equally pleased with the beauty, the grandeur, and the wildness of the scenery. |
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Hayswater, much frequented by anglers. The other, coming down Martindale, enters Ullswater at Sandwike, opposite to Gowbarrow Park. No persons but such as come to Patterdale, merely to pass through it, should fail to walk as far as Blowick, the only enclosed land which on this side borders the higher part of the Lake. The axe has here indiscriminately levelled a rich wood of birches and oaks, that divided this favoured spot into a hundred pictures. It has yet its land-locked bays, and rocky promontories; but those beautiful woods are gone, which perfected its seclusion; and scenes, that might formerly have been compared to an inexhaustible volume, are now spread before the eye in a single sheet, magnificent indeed, but seemingly perused in a moment! From Blowick a narrow track conducts along the craggy side of Place-fell, richly adorned with juniper, and sprinkled over with birches, to the Village of Sandwyke; a few straggling houses, that with the small estates attached to them, occupy an opening opposite to Lyulph's Tower and Gowbarrow Park. This stream flows down Martindale, a valley deficient in richness, but interesting from its seclusion. In Vales of this character the general want of wood gives a peculiar interest to the scattered cottages, embowered in sycamores; and few of the Mountain Chapels are more striking than this of Martindale, standing as it does in the centre of the Valley, with one dark yew-tree, and enclosed by "a bare ring of mossy wall." The name of Boardale, a deep, bare, and houseless Valley, which communicates with Martindale, shows that the wild Swine were once numerous in that nook; and Martindale Forest is yet one of the few spots in England ranged over by red deer. These are the descendants of the aboriginal herds. In Martindale, the road loses sight of the Lake, and leads over a steep hill, bringing you again into view of Ullswater. Its lowest
reach, four miles in length is before you; and the view terminated by the long ridge of Cross Fell in the distance. Immediately under the eye is a deep-indented bay, with a plot of fertile land, traversed by a small brook, and rendered cheerful by two or three substantial houses of a more ornamented and showy appearance than usual in these wild spots.

[New footnote] *See Page 122. [para. 121 above]*

From Poolly Bridge, at the foot of the Lake, Hawes-water may be conveniently visited. Hawes-water is a lesser Ullswater, with this advantage, that it remains undefiled by the intrusion of bad taste.

Lowther Castle is about four miles from Poolly Bridge, and, if during this Tour the Stranger has complained, as he will have had reason to do, of a want of majestic trees, he may be abundantly recompenced for his loss in the far-spreading woods which surround that mansion.

THE END