

Bla'dud.

Bladud built the city of Bath, and dedicated the medicinal waters to Minerva. He was a man of great invention, and practiced the arts of magic, till, having made him wings to fly, he fell down upon the temple of Apollo, in Trinovant, and so died, after twenty years' reign.

Lear.

Lear, who next reigned, built Leicester, and called it after his name. He had no male issue, but only three daughters. When grown old, he determined to divide his kingdom among his daughters, and bestow them in marriage. But first, to try which of them loved him best, he determined to ask them solemnly in order, and judge of the warmth of their affection by their answers. Goneril, the eldest, knowing well her father's weakness, made answer :

"Sir I love you more than words can wield the matter,
Dearer than eyesight, space, and liberty ;
No less than life, with grace, health, beauty, honor,
As much as child e'er loved."—KING LEAR.

"Since thou so honorest my declining age," said the old man, "to thee and to thy husband I give the third part of my realm." Such good success for a few words soon uttered was ample instruction to Regan, the second daughter, what to say. She therefore to the same question replied :

"I am made of the self-same metal as my sister,
And prize me at her worth."—KING LEAR.

and so received an equal reward with her sister. But Cordeilla, the youngest, and hitherto the best beloved, too honest to profess in words more than she felt in her heart, was not moved from the solid purpose of a sincere and virtuous answer, and replied :

"Unhappy that I am, I cannot heave
My heart into my mouth : I love your Majesty
According to my bond ; no more, nor less."—KING LEAR.

When the old man, sorry to hear this, and wishing her to recall these words, persisted in asking, she still restrained her expressions so as to say rather less than more than the truth. Then Lear, all in a passion, burst forth :