

ROUND ABOUT ENGLAND.

IV.



BIRTHPLACE OF THE MIDLAND RAILWAY.

A LITTLE group of coal-owners sitting round the parlour table of Eastwood Inn in Nottinghamshire were the first pioneers of the great Midland Railway. Five miles to the north, a tramway, worked by horses, had for twelve years or more wound its devious way among the hills, carrying coal and cotton up to Mansfield, and bringing back stone, lime and corn to the canal.

Though the Midland Company had so small a beginning, it has had a great ending. It now extends more than 1700 miles in length through half the counties of England and Wales, from the Bristol Channel to the Humber, from the German Ocean to the Mersey, and from the English Channel to the Solway Firth. It has cost more than £80,000,000 of money; it has an income of more than £7,000,000 a year; it employs more than 45,000 servants; and its engines run a distance equal to five times round the world every day.

The tourist who travels by it from Liverpool will find that the Midland Railway offers him remarkable attractions. In an hour's ride he will reach the High Peak of Derbyshire, with its engineering works, its spots full of historic interest, and its picturesque and beautiful scenery. He can visit the Caves of Castleton, and the Castle of William Peveril, which Sir Walter Scott has im-