

tion under such erroneous regulations, and the persons who have been entrusted with the administration of them have uniformly been either so negligent, or so little acquainted with the business of making or repairing roads, that at this moment it may be stated, with the utmost correctness, that there is not a road in England, except those recently made by some eminent civil engineers, which is not extremely defective in the most essential qualities of a perfect Road.

With regard to the lines of direction of the turnpike roads, they evidently have not been laid out according to any fixed principle ; they are in fact precisely the identical lines, almost in every instance, which formed the footpaths of the aboriginal inhabitants of the country.

The following passage is taken from a pamphlet called "The Landed Property of England":—"Most of the old Roads of the Kingdom (the remains of the Roman ways excepted,) owe their present lines to particular circumstances. Many of them were, no doubt, originally footpaths ; some of them, perhaps, the tracks of the aboriginal inhabitants, and these footpaths became, as the condition of society advanced, the most convenient horsepaths. According as the lands of the kingdom were appropriated, the tortuous lines of road became fixed and unalterable, there being no other legal lines left for carriage roads, and hence the origin of the crookedness and steepness of existing roads."

The crookedness and steepness in numerous places, at this moment, of almost every great road, is thus accounted for. These defects are attended with great inconvenience and danger to travellers, and are quite disgraceful to the national character.