

Tower, you have left unseen one of the most remarkable places in it.

Thousands of persons in London know but little about the Tower, and hundreds of thousands of people in the country know nothing more of it, than that it is a large building, with wild beasts in it. A short account, then, shall here be given, which, if read with attention, will make you, perhaps, wiser than your neighbours concerning the Tower.

This large pile has been celebrated as a fortress, a splendid palace, and a secure prison. It stands on a rising piece of ground on the banks of the river Thames, and covers a space of twelve acres.

It often happens that correct information cannot be obtained about the erection of ancient buildings, and this is the case with respect to the Tower; for though the building now standing was originally founded by William the Conqueror, yet there is every reason to believe that, long before his time, the Romans had a fort on the spot. The wide ditch around it, and the more modern part of the building, have been added in later periods. The Tower is, indeed, a monument of ancient times, wherein those, who are acquainted with history, may read the uncertainty of earthly possessions, and the changing customs of mankind. William the Conqueror built the tower to overcome the citizens of London, being fearful of their revolting against him.

The kings and queens of England, from William the Conqueror to Elizabeth, occasionally resided in the Tower. Here it was that king John reposed in imaginary security when his barons besieged him in his palace, after which he was compelled to sign Magna Charta. Here, too, Henry the Second took refuge against his barons and the citizens of London. The Tower was the principal scene of action during the rebellion of Jack Cade, in the reign of Henry the Sixth. It was in the Tower, also, that Richard the Third is said to have caused the murder of the two young princes, Edward the Fifth and the duke of York.

Now listen to a striking instance of the sudden change to which human greatness is liable. Ann Boleyn was married by Henry the Eighth, and became a queen. She was borne to the Tower of London in a grand procession, consisting of fifty barges. Bands of music playing incessantly: the Tower guns were fired, and hundreds of thousands of people crowded to behold the imposing spectacle. The queen was, at that time borne on a litter of white cloth of gold, drawn by palfreys covered with white damask, a golden canopy rose over her, her ladies rode in chariots, and her guards were richly arrayed. As she passed, fountains of white marble spouted forth the richest wines, and the figures of goddesses offered her gifts.— These were the honours which were paid to

her, and yet Ann Boleyn was, soon after carried there a prisoner, then led out of the Tower, as a condemned malefactor, though falsely accused, and perished beneath the axe of the executioner. Who would envy the great, when we consider such changes? It is better to dwell in a lowly cottage in peace, than in a palace with such dangers around.

Among the many prisoners who have been confined in the Tower, may be mentioned those men of God, bishop Latimer and archbishop Cranmer, during the reign of queen Mary.

The Tower of London has, in later years, been principally used as a state prison, and is now principally occupied as a magazine for arms. Cannon and large field-pieces are kept in the lower story of the building, and the smaller armour above. There are muskets, and other implements of destruction, sufficient to arm more than a hundred thousand men. O what misery has sin brought upon mankind! If it were not for sin what need would there be for fortresses, and cannon, and muskets, and instruments of cruelty and death!

The arms are arranged very tastefully in the Tower in the shape of pillars, columns, cornices, stars, and other devices; and, in the horse armoury, there are figures on horse back in complete suits of armour, representing most of the sovereigns who have reigned in England from William the conqueror to George the Second. No one can look on these without being carried back in thought to generations long gone by, and to manners & customs now altogether changed. In the Spanish armoury there are the arms and instruments of torture which were taken from the Spanish Armada when the Spaniards invaded England. Who can look on these instruments without offering praise to the God of armies, for delivering England from the cruel scourge that threatened her?

Among these instruments of torture are thumbscrews, iron collars for the neck, and others with sharp poisoned points. When man has his evil passions excited, and is destitute of the restraining power of God's grace, he is more cruel and relentless than a famished tiger. It is dreadful to think of the hard-hearted bitterness with which men have persecuted their fellow sinners.

In the Tower, also, are kept the crown jewels, which are of great value, and among them is to be seen the imperial crown, worn by our kings at their coronation. The jewels are said to be worth two millions of money, and are kept with very great care, as more than one attempt has been made to carry off the crown. An iron railing prevents the spectator from drawing too near, and every one who visits the place is locked up in the room before he is allowed to look at the treasure.

A TALE OF TRUTH.

In the autumn of 182—, as Mr. H. was travelling on horse-back in the western part of Virginia, he was late in the evening overtaken by a storm. He was in the middle of a large forest, without any attendant, and the only dwelling within a considerable distance, was an obscure log hut, or cabin, as it is there called. He had no alternative but to crave admittance into this humble mansion, or to remain exposed to the severity of the storm. He determined on the former; and having dismounted from his horse and knocked repeatedly at the door, he was, after some delay, directed to enter by a harsh voice, which, on complying with the uncourteous invitation, he found to proceed from an aged female, whose appearance evinced a mind brutalized by poverty.

Mr. M. asked shelter from the storm; and though at first refused, he at length obtained permission to place his horse in an adjoining hovel, and to remain himself for the night in the only room the rude dwelling afforded. He accordingly provided for the horse in the best manner the uncomfortable shed would permit, and then entered the scarcely preferable dwelling of his churlish hostess. His attempts at conversation were received with sullenness, and answered in monosyllables. He could only learn that her husband was a forester—was then from home—and would not probably return till the following day. His apologies for the trouble he had caused, and the thanks for the reception he had received, though delivered in suitable accents, had failed to move the stupid, or sulky taciturnity of his hostess. Having spread his great coat by the fire, he laid himself upon the floor resting his head on the valves which contained a considerable sum of money, and had scarcely closed his eyes when he was roused by the unexpected return of the forester.

Immediately on his entrance, he asked who that was lying on the floor, and on being told he was a traveller who had asked admittance from the storm, he seated himself on a bench before the fire, and commenced a conversation with his wife too low to be overheard. Mr. M. carefully examined the appearance of the husband, and thought it even more forbidding than that of his wife. His limbs seemed rather hardened than enfeebled by years, and his large harsh features, as the unsteady light of the declining fire faintly gleamed upon his face, betrayed a mind, whose native ferocity had been matured by the wild scenes and savage habits to which the life of a Virginia forester had exposed it. He appeared to be a man whom nature had wisely stationed on the extreme boundary of civilization, where the hardihood of his character and strength of the frame, had admirably fitted him to erect and guard the outposts of society, without repining at a lot which excluded him from