

which we passed; and made my particular observations on the genius of the people, their different methods of dealing; and distinguished the several cities, towns, and villages, which are most remarkable for trade and navigation; of all which, take the following true, though rude and unpolished account. I begin with Cornwall, the county in which I landed.

Cornwall is the most western county of England, and is so washed by the sea on the north, south, and west, and the river Tamer on the east, that it is a perfect peninsula shaped like a horn. I presently found the people of this county valued themselves upon some pretensions above the other part of the nation, which I was informed was their ability in wrestling, and strength of body; their having most of the old British blood in their families; and their peculiar honour of giving title of Duke without creation to the eldest son of the king of Great Britain.

This is not the most fruitful part of England, the soil being for the most part mountainous, thin, and rocky underneath: yet the vallies are fat with corn and good pasture; the hills are rich in tin and copper mines; and they every where abound in wild fowls, especially the dainty woodcock. Nor must I forget their produce of eringo, samphire, fine slate, and marble. But their chief metal and manufacture is tin. When the ore is brought above ground in the stone, it is broke with hammers, and then carried to the stamping mills, which make it ready for other mills, whereby it is ground to powder. After it is washed and cleared from earth, &c. it is melted at the blowing-houses into pigs of three or four hundred weight, marked with the owner's name, and the value is set upon it at the coining-house, where it is assayed, to know what it is worth. The times for coining or making it are midsummer and Michaelmas; and for such as have not their tin then ready, there is a post-coinage at Lady-day and Christmas. The stamp is, the seal of the Duchy of Cornwall. The tanners are regulated by Stannary laws, so called from stannum, the Latin word for tin; and the trials of their causes are by juries, returned by the mayors of the stannary towns; for which purpose, courts are held by the Lord Warden of the stannaries, who has also a deputy. When all the legal duties are satisfied, the tinner may sell his tin where he will: only, if the King, or the Duke of Cornwall, have a mind to be purchasers, they have a right of pre-emption.

The coinage towns are Leskard, Lestwithiel, Truro, Helston and Pensance; and the tanners are reckoned at least 100,000.

The mundic, in which the tin lies as in its bed, yields such a quantity of lapis calaminaris, for making brass, that instead of importing copper and brass, which yearly heretofore did amount to 100,000*l*. they now export as much, if not more.

In this county also is carried on a great trade for pilchards, which are caught between July and November, of which the merchants export vast quantities to foreign markets, and for which they fit them by fuming, pressing, and pickling: These are salted, but not gutted, the entrails being reckoned the best part; and, after having been piled in heaps in a cellar for ten days, and pressed, to drain off the superfluous moisture of the blood and salt, they are barrelled up with pickle, for France; but without it, for Spain, Italy, and other hotter countries.

We pass through this county into Devonshire, travelling eastward; which being not so much incompassed with the sea, is of a more pure air: and both the roads are better, and the soil more fruitful; though Devonshire has many both hills and woods.

Its commodities are corn, cattle, wool, &c. and its manufactures, kerses, serges, druggs, perpetuanas, long-ells, shalloons, narrow cloths, &c. as also bonelace.