

The town and the neighbourhood of Leicester are full of historic associations. Here a British temple stood, and human sacrifices were offered. Here the Romans held an important military position, and the Saxons erected walls of "amazing thickness and strength," "like great rocks," to defend themselves against the incursions of the Danes. Here, in Norman times, was a city, "well frequented and peopled." Hence, in 1485, Richard went to fight the battle of Bosworth Field; and hither his dead body was brought, "trussed behind a pursuivant at arms, like a calf—his head and arms hanging on one side the horse, and his legs on the other, all besprinkled with mire and blood." In the Civil



BRIDGE OVER THE TRENT.

War the town was successfully besieged by the King; and the house where the Parliamentary Committee had sat was, we are told, destroyed, "every soul therein was put to the sword," and the kennels ran down with blood. A few weeks later the battle of Naseby was fought, and the town surrendered to Fairfax.

Leaving Leicester for the south we pass a branch that leads to the line to Swannington, to Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and to Burton-on-Trent. In the neighbourhood of Market Harborough is Naseby Field, a spot which it has been said "no Englishman can see without emotion"—a spot where, one bright summer morning, circumstances occurred which, for a while, brought the monarchy to the dust, and otherwise more profoundly affected the destiny