

NEWSTEAD ABBEY.

THE figure which this ancient edifice cuts in the memoirs, as well as in the works of the poet, and having given a view of it in the vignette, make it almost essential that this work should contain some account of it. I am indebted to Lake's Life of Lord Byron for the following particulars :

" This Abbey was founded in the year 1170, by Henry II., as a Priory of Black Canons, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. It continued in the family of the Byrons until the time of our poet, who sold it first to Mr. Claughton, for the sum of 140,000*l.*, and on that gentleman's not being able to fulfil the agreement, and paying 20,000*l.* of a forfeit, it was afterwards sold to another person, and most of the money vested in trustees, for the jointure of Lady Byron. The greater part of the edifice still remains. The present possessor, Major Wildman, is, with genuine taste, repairing this beautiful specimen of gothic architecture. The late Lord Byron repaired a considerable part of it, but forgetting the roof, he turned his attention to the inside, and the consequence was, that in a few years, the rain penetrating to the apartments, soon destroyed all those elegant devices which his Lordship contrived. Lord Byron's own study was a neat little apartment, decorated with some good classic busts, a select collection of books, an antique cross, a sword in a gilt case, and at the end of the room two finely-polished skulls, on a pair of light fancy stands. In the garden likewise, there was a great number of these skulls, taken from the burial-ground of the Abbey, and piled up together, but they were afterwards recommitted to the earth. A writer, who visited it soon after Lord Byron had sold it, says, ' In one corner of the servants' hall lay a stone coffin,