

'In their memorie Sir Peter Leigh of Lyme knight descended from them finding the sayd ould verses written upon a stone in this chappel did reedifie this place an dni. 1620.'

After leaving this town, the country almost instantly changes and becomes very mountainous and barren, at least on the surface; but the bowels compensate for the external sterility, by yielding a sufficient quantity of coal for the use of the neighbouring parts of Cheshire, and for the burning of lime: vast quantity is made near Buxton, and being carried to all parts for the purposes of agriculture, is become a considerable article of commerce.

The celebrated warm bath of Buxton* is seated in a bottom, amidst these hills, in a most cheerless spot, and would be little frequented, did not Hygeia often reside here, and dispense to her votaries the chief blessings of life, ease and health. With joy and gratitude I this moment reflect on the efficacious qualities of the waters; I recollect with rapture the return of spirits, the flight of pain, and re-animation of my long, long-crippled rheumatic limbs. But how unfortunate is it, that what Providence designed for the general good should be rendered only a partial one, and denied to all, except the opulent; or I may say to the (comparatively) few that can get admittance into the house where these waters are imprisoned? There are other springs (Camden says nine) very near that in the Hall, and in all probability of equal virtue. I was informed that the late duke of Devonshire, not long before his death, had ordered some of these to be inclosed and formed into baths. It is to be hoped that his successor will not fail adopting so useful and humane a plan; that he will form it on the most enlarged system, that they may open not solely to those whom misused wealth hath rendered invalids, but to the poor cripple, whom honest labour hath made a burthen to himself and his country; and to the soldier and sailor, who by hard service have lost the use of those very limbs which once were active in our defence. The honour resulting from such a foundation would be as great, as the satisfaction arising from a consciousness of so benevolent a work would be unspeakable. The charms of dissipation would then lose their force; and every human luxury would appear to him insipid, who had it in his power thus to lay open these fountains of health, and to be able to exult in such pathetic and comfortable strains as these: "When the ear heard me, then it blessed me; and when the eye saw me, it gave witness to me;

"Because I had delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him.

"The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me, and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy.

"I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame."

After leaving Buxton, passed through Middleton dale, a deep narrow chasm between two vast cliffs, which extend on each side near a mile in length: this road is very singular, but the rocks are in general too naked to be beautiful. At the end is the small village of Stoney Middleton; here the prospect opens, and at Barsley-Bridge exhibits a pretty view of a small but fertile vale, watered by the Derwent, and terminated by Chatsworth and its plantations. Arrived and lay at

Chesterfield, an ugly town. In this place is a great manufacture of worsted stockings, and another of a brown earthen-ware, much of which is sent into Holland, the country which, within less than half a century ago, supplied not only these kingdoms but half of

* The Romans, who were remarkably fond of warm baths, did not overlook these agreeable waters: they had a bath, inclosed with a brick wall, adjacent to the present St. Anne's well, which Dr. Short, in his Essay on Mineral Waters, says was razed in 1709.