

A few miles from this heath lies Northwich, a small town, long famous for its rock salt, and brine pits. Some years ago I visited one of the mines; the stratum of salt lies about forty yards deep; that which I saw was hollowed into the form of a temple. I descended through a dome, and found the roof supported by rows of pillars, about two yards thick, and several in height; the whole was illuminated with numbers of candles, and made a most magnificent and glittering appearance. Above the salt is a bed of whitish clay,* used in making the Liverpool earthen-ware: and in the same place is also dug a good deal of the gypsum, or plaister stone. The fossil salt is generally yellow, and semi-pellucid, sometimes debased with a dull greenish earth, and is often found, but in small quantities, quite clear and colourless.

The road from this place to Macclesfield is through a flat, rich, but unpleasant country. That town is in a very flourishing state; is possessed of a great manufacture of mohair and twist buttons; has between twenty and thirty silk mills, and a very considerable copper smelting house, and brass work.

Here lived in great hospitality, at his manor-house,† Henry Stafford, duke of Buckingham, a most powerful peer, the sad instrument of the ambition of Richard III. He was at once rewarded by that monarch‡ with a grant of fifty castles and manors; but struck with remorse at being accessory to so many crimes, fell from his allegiance, and, by a just retribution, suffered on a scaffold by the mere fiat of his unfeeling master.

In the church is the sepulchral chapel, and the magnificent monuments of the family of the Savages. In this part of the church had been a chauntry of secular priests, founded about 1508 by Thomas Savage, archbishop of York,|| who directed that his heart should be deposited here. On a brass plate on the wall is this comfortable advertisement of the price of remission of sins in the other life; it was to be wished that the expence of obtaining so extensive a charter from his holiness in this world had likewise been added.

These are the words:

"The Pdon for saying of 5 Pater nost and 5 aves and a creed is 26 thousand yeres and 26 dayes of pardon."

In the chapel belonging to the Leghs of Lime is another singular inscription, and its history.

Here lyeth the body of Perkin a Legh,
That for king Richard the death did die,
Betrayed for righteousness,
And the bones of sir Peers his sonne,
That with king Henrie the fift did wonne
in Paris.

'This Perkin served king Edward the third and the black prince his sonne in all their warres in France and was at the battel of Cressie, and had Lyme given him for that service; and after their deathes served king Richard the Second, and left him not in his troubles, but was taken with him, and beheaded at Chester by king Henrie the fourth. And the sayd sir Peers his sonne served king Henrie and was slaine at the battel of Agencourt.

* Argilla crurula-linerea. Da Costa, Fossils. I. 48.

† Dugdale's Baronage. I. 168.

‡ King's Vale Royal 86.

|| Tanner, Notitia Monast. 1744. 66.