

origin, rising abruptly from the plain. It is declared to be the site of an entrenched fort erected by the Romans to overawe the disaffected Britons, whom they had driven from the neighbouring lead mines. To this military station the Romans gave the name of Occursus, or "the hill of conflict," of which Oker Hill is a corruption.

We are now at Matlock Bank, on the great slope of which a town has lately risen. Immediately on leaving Matlock we enter a cutting through the rock, known as Willersley Cutting. Our engraving, copied from a photograph, represents the beautiful appearance presented by this cutting in winter, with its walls of ice.



WILLERSLEY CUTTING IN WINTER.

Cromford was "the cradle of the cotton manufacture." Here, Arkwright, in 1771, erected the first cotton mill in the county; the works being supplied with a never-failing warm spring. Richard Arkwright, the founder of the family, was the thirteenth child of a working man at Preston. The lad was apprenticed to a barber, and carried on his trade at Wirksworth. He formed the acquaintance of a clock-maker; developed special skill in mechanical contrivance, and eventually entered into partnership with the celebrated Jedediah Strutt, of Derby, who had invented his machine for the manufacture of stockings. Richard Arkwright's son became the richest commoner in England.

From Whatstandwell Station a view may be obtained of Lea