

made in this county. A great deal of its meadow ground is turned into ponds and pools, to drive hammer-mills by the flashes. Here we were regaled with the delicious bird, called the wheat-ear, for which this county is particularly famous. 'Tis no bigger than a lark, and is taken by digging a hole in the ground, into which they put a snare of horse-hair, and then cover the hole, very near, with the turf, turning the grassy side downwards; this bird being so very timorous, that the shadow even of a cloud frightens them into these little cavities. They are so fat, that, when caught, they cannot be carried many miles without being tainted: and even in plucking them they must be handled as little as possible: and they are fattest when the wheat is ready to be cut down.

I was told, that in winter the roads were so deep in some parts, that they were obliged to draw their coaches with oxen.

We at last arrived in Kent, which is the most eastern county on the English channel, and of which I had retained great notions, from the account my tutor had given of its having been an entire kingdom of itself in the time of the heptarchy; and how the Kentish men obliged William the Conqueror to confirm their ancient privileges. This county stands as it were in a corner, and may properly be divided into three parts, according to the nature of its soil; viz. the downs, which may be said to have health without wealth; the marshy parts, which have wealth without health; and the middle, which enjoy both health and wealth. But

The county, in general, abounds with plantations of hops, fields of corn, pastures, and woods of oak, beech, and chestnuts, and fine orchards of cherries and pippins; and, about Boxley, Footh Cray, North Cray, &c. are many woods of birch, from whence the broom-makers are supplied, who live in Kent Street, Southwark. The cattle here, of all sorts, are reckoned larger than they are in the neighbouring counties; and the Weald of Kent is noted for its large bullocks, as well as for its great timber for shipping. Here are several parks of fallow deer, and warrens of grayish rabbits. Here are mines of iron, and pits of marle and chalk; woad, and madder, for dyers; wool, flax, saintfoyn; and on the cliffs, between Folkstone and Dover, is plenty of samphire.

From Kent we crossed the water at Greenwich, and arrived at Limehouse, in the county of Middlesex. This is but a small county, but pleasant, fruitful, and dignified with the city of London, the capital of the nation, and the city of Westminster, which is the seat of the British monarchs. It abounds with rich and pleasant villages; and I may in one word complete its character, when I declare it to be my opinion, that here are more ingenious men, and more money spent in costly apparel, eating, drinking, plays, operas, and other diversions and gaieties of life, than in any other tract of land of the same circumference in the whole world besides.

As to the produce, manufactures, and trade of this county, I am informed, that the whole county almost is cantoned out into corn or pasture, and garden grounds near the city. The manufactures are chiefly confined to the city or suburbs, of which hereafter: But it is amazing to see in the neighbouring fields the immense tale of bricks and tiles which are daily making for the supply of new buildings. The trade being wholly carried on in the port of London, it will be more properly remarked when I give an account of that great and opulent city.

Having staid some time in London, we proceeded on our journey cross Bow-bridge, which divides Middlesex from Essex, a county so called, as has been before related, from the East Saxons, by whom it was inhabited.