

**THE BEAUTIES OF THE SHORE;
OR, A GUIDE TO THE
WATERING-PLACES ON THE
SOUTH-EAST COAST OF DEVON**

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The Beauties of the Shore; Or, a Guide to the Watering-Places on the South-East Coast of Devon
by D. M. Stirling

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D. M. STIRLING

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The Boates
THE

BEAUTIES OF THE SHORE;

OR,

A GUIDE TO THE WATERING-PLACES ON THE
SOUTH-EAST COAST OF DEVON:

COMPREHENDING COPIOUS ILLUSTRATIONS OF

The Antiquities, History, Topography, and Scenery,

OF THE FOLLOWING PARISHES:

SEATON	WIDWORTHY	OTTERTON
AXMOUTH	OFFWELL	BICTON
ROWSDOWN	NORTH-LEIGH	BUDLEIGH
UPLYME	SOUTH-LEIGH	EXMOUTH
COMBEFYNE	FARWAY	WITHECOMBE-RALEIGH
MUSBURY	BRANSCOMBE	WOODBURY
SHUTE	SALCOMBE-REGIS	SIDBURY
COLYTON	SIDMOUTH	MONITON;

AND ACCURATE

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE SEATS OF THE NOBILITY AND GENTRY,
WITH THEIR ARMS;

The Parochial Churches;

ANCIENT CAMPS, CASTLES, ROMAN ROADS, &c.

BY D. M. STIRLING,

MASTER OF THE FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL OF COLYTON,

AND AUTHOR OF

THE TORQUAY AND TERNMOUTH GUIDE, HISTORY OF NEWTON-ARDOT, DISCOURSE
OF THE SEASONS, &c.

~~~~~  
"Mirator, facilesque oculos fert omnia circum,  
Æneæ, capiturque locis; et singula lætas  
Exquirique auditque virum monumenta priorum."  
~~~~~



EXETER:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR BY W. ROBERTS.

1838.

*Gough Add. Devon
8/110*

TO THE HONOURABLE
SIR WILLIAM TEMPLER POLE, BART.

OF SHUTE-HOUSE, DEVON,

AND

TO HIS ILLUSTRIOUS AND AMIABLE

LADY,

THIS WORK IS DEDICATED,

BY

THEIR HUMBLE SERVANT,

D. M. STIRLING.

PREFACE.

LIKE Mr. Carrington, the late esteemed schoolmaster of Devonport, whose name will go down to posterity in his beautiful poem on the banks of the Tamar; and Mr. Patieson, the far-famed village-teacher of Gandercleugh, I devote my vacations, and the short intervals that I can spare from the duties of a considerable school, to literary researches; and hence this volume, the production of many a pensive and abstracted hour.

The limited state of social and reputable society in the small rustic town of Colyton, the beauty of the scenery in the immediate vicinity, with the sweet river Coly running through its long winding vale, and the magnificent contour of hills in the distance, are circumstances which I have found to be favourable incentives to the abstruse inquiries and illustrations in which I have been engaged; yet, on account of the distance between my residence and many of the places enumerated in the work, the heterogeneous nature of the topics it embraces, and the inconvenience expe-

rienced by being twenty-four miles from my printer, inaccuracies may occur in the volume. Those, however, who possess a relish for local history, and topographical delineations, will, I hope, find that my proof is as good as my promise ; if so, and if my little book is entertained as an auxiliary to the dissemination of useful knowledge, my surplus hours at Colyton, have not been misapplied.

D. M. S.

CONTENTS.

	Page.
Seaton	1
Azmouth	15
Rowedown	24
Uplyme	25
Combepyne	29
Musbury	30
Shute	34
Colyton	45
Widworthy	73
Offwell	84
Northleigh	88
Farway	90
Boycombe corrected	192
Southleigh	95
Brancombe	101
Salcombe-Regis	106
Sidmouth	109
Otterton	125
Bicton	130
Budleigh	136
Exmouth	141
Witcombe Raleigh	152
Woodbury	156
Sidbury	160
Honiton	166
Conclusion	181

THE
BEAUTIES OF THE SHORE.

SEATON.

'Through glory-streaming clouds, the sun's broad orb
Appears: the gilded vapours wave along
The verdant vale, where bright rivers wind,
Delicious in the sweetness of the morning air:
The shadowy distance melts to fluid gold,
And magic grandeur kindles into day.'

THE south coast of Devon, skirted by the English channel, exhibits a maritime outline, deeply indented by beautiful bays, and depressions, which ingress between rocky and precipitous promontories. From the Start-point in Cornwall to Exmouth, the shore, generally, fronts the south-east, whence it gradually inclines to the south until its connection with the county of Dorset at Lyme. The watering-places, of considerable public resort, on this famous extent of coast, are Torquay, Teignmouth, Exmouth, Budleigh-Salterton, Sidmouth, and Seaton. The latter, the subject of my present disquisition, though in its infancy, is in some respects inferior to but few of the former. But I may, perhaps, best convey an idea of its advantages, by premising my notice of it with a sketch of the beautiful bay on which the town is situated, and the scenery that adorns the vale. The incurvation of the shore is semi-lunar, and embraces, between the projecting capes of Beer-point and Haven Cliff, a distance of more than a

mile: this level and delightful sweep of beach, sparkling with the gems of the ocean—fine sand, variegated pebbles, coralline, madripores, shells, and other marine productions—commands the sinuosity of the magnificent frontier-shore to the bold point of Portland. The town, extending in a north-west direction from the beach along a gentle acclivity, consists principally of three clean and airy streets, forming nearly a right-angled triangle; in the chief of which are situated the head inn, or Pole's Arms, a commodious and well-conducted house, the property of Mr. W. Brown, who has always in requisition gigs, cars, and saddle horses, for the accommodation of the public; the King's Arms, the property of John Head, esq., of Colyton, conducted by Mr. Thorn; and the Golden Lion, the property of Mr. J. Thorn. Here also are some good shops, particularly the wholesale and retail houses of Mr. Ackerman and Mr. Penny. On the strand is the bathing establishment of Mr. Farrant, and the subscription billiard-room. Beside the numerous private families and shopkeepers who let suits of apartments during the bathing season, there are many handsomely-furnished lodging-houses, adapted for the accommodation of families of distinction, to be had on moderate terms. Of the latter may be noticed, particularly, the lodging-houses of J. Snook, gent., and those of Mr. Good; and of the former, the handsome apartments of Mr. Ackerman, and Mr. Penny. The houses of the resident gentry, principally detached, are as follows:—The Beach-house, erected in 1824 by J. Kingdon, esq. at an expence of £3000, and enlarged by its present proprietor, Mrs. Harbin, in 1836; Mount Pleasant, the residence of Mrs. Mortimer; the Manor-house, the property of Sir John Trevelyan, bart.; the Green