

**AN EXCURSION TO THE  
LAKES, IN WESTMORELAND  
AND CUMBERLAND,  
AUGUST 1773**

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An Excursion to the Lakes, in Westmoreland and Cumberland, August 1773 by William  
Hutchinson

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**WILLIAM HUTCHINSON**

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LAKES, IN WESTMORELAND  
AND CUMBERLAND,  
AUGUST 1773**



*J. Boutby*

*Wm Hutchinson*  
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**E X C U R S I O N**

TO THE

**L A K E S,**

In Westmoreland and Cumberland,

AUGUST 1773.



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Printed for J. WILKIE, No. 71, in St Paul's  
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MDCCLXXIV.

*W. Goldsmith*  
C O B



A N

## EXCURSION, &c.

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**W**HEN ever I have read the descriptions given by travellers of foreign countries, in which their beauties and antiquities were lavishly praised, I have always regretted a neglect which has long attended the delightful sciences at home. The monuments of antiquity dispersed over this island, are many and various ;

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2     *An* EXCURSION *to*

some of them arose in the remotest ages, and point out to us the revolutions and history of our own kingdom: a degree of knowledge which ought to stand first in importance with every Englishman.

These sentiments gave rise to a summer's excursion, the pleasures of which I have endeavoured to communicate to the reader in the following pages.

The first requisites for a pleasure jaunt, are companions of suitable taste and curiosity, and conveniences for the journey—they increase every enjoyment, and make every scene which presents itself more agreeable—these were not wanting.

Thus circumstanced, we were conducted to BOWES, in Yorkshire; to which place I shall first attempt engaging the attention of the reader.

BOWES

BOWES is of great antiquity, in which is all its merit.—The country around it is meanly cultivated, its habitations are melancholy, and what alone claims the attention of a traveller, is the ruin of a castle, supposed by some to have been of Roman construction; but by others to be the *Turris de Arcubus*, built by Allan, first Earl of Richmond, in the Conqueror's time. It is situated on the old Roman way, which leads from Cathrick, or the antient *Cateractonium*.

This castle is fifty-three feet high, is built of hewn stone, of excellent workmanship, forming a square of equal sides of eighty-one feet each; the windows are irregular, and the walls, which are cemented with lime mixed with small flints, are near five feet in thickness.—It is now much defaced, the outward casing having

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been



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been stripped off in many places; within it appears to have been divided into several apartments, one of the lower divisions of which was supported by a central pillar, from whence a roof of arches has arisen, the groins still projecting from the walls.

This castle is situated on the brink of a hill, declining swiftly to the southward, at whose foot runs the river Greta:—It is surrounded with a deep ditch, on the south side of which is a plain or platform, apparently calculated for the use of the castle.—On the eastern point of this platform we were shewn the site and remains of a bath, with its aqueduct, which are now totally in ruins, and grown over with weeds and brambles.

On a late inclosure of some common lands belonging to Bowes, an ancient  
aque-

aqueduct was discovered, which had conveyed the water from a place called Levvar, or Levy Pool, near two miles distant from the castle; which was sufficient, at once to supply the garrison with fresh water, and also the baths.

A few scanty meadows border the river Greta, and cultivation seems to awake in ignorance over the adjoining lands; where the plough share begins to make the traces of industry on the skirts of the desert\*.

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\* Camden who wrote in the latter part of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and of the 15th century, speaking of this place, says, "Bowes, which also is written Bowgh, was then a little village; where in preceding ages the Earls of Richmond had a pretty castle, the customs of thorough toll, and their furcas, which was the power of executing criminals. In old times it was called in Antonines Itinirarie, Levatrae & Lavatrae; the distance and scite thereof by the High-street, which is here evidently apparent, do prove it: but what greatly

An other occasion, besides what is mentioned by Camden, may have given the modern name of Bowes, as this place was granted by William the Conqueror to one of his attendant adventurers.

The

“ greatly confirms the antiquity of it, is an antient large  
 “ stone in the church, used by the Romans for an altar,  
 “ with the following inscription upon it, to the honour  
 “ of Hadrian the Emperor,

{	IMP CÆSARI DIVI TRAIANI PARTHICI maxfilio	}
	DIVI NERVÆ NEPOTI TRAIANO Hadria	
	NO AUG. PONT. MAXIM —————	
	Cos I ——— P-P — COH. III F —————	
	I O. SEV.	

“ This fragment was also there dug up :

{	-----	}
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	NOL. CAE	
	FRONTINUS	
	COH. I. THRAC.	

“ Whilst Virius Lupus ruled as Lieutenant General and

“ Pro-