UP THE RIVER FROM WESTMINSTER TO WINDSOR: A PANORAMA IN PEN AND INK

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649398799

Up the River from Westminster to Windsor: A Panorama in Pen and Ink by Anonymous

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UP THE RIVER FROM WESTMINSTER TO WINDSOR: A PANORAMA IN PEN AND INK



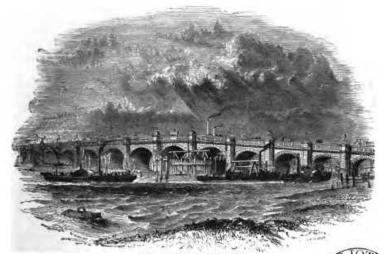
UP THE RIVER

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WESTMINSTER TO WINDSOR.

A PANORAMA IN PEN AND INK.

Illustrated with Gighty-one Engravings and a May.



OLD WESTMINSTER BRIDGE.

For I have loved the rural walk O'er hills, through valleys, and by river's brink. E'er since, a truant hoy, I passed my bounds T'enjoy a ramble on the hanks of Thames.

Comper.

LONDON: HARDWICKE & BOGUE, 192, PICCADILLY.

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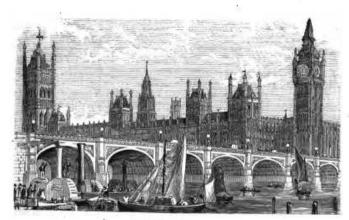
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UP THE RIVER.

I,

WESTMINSTER TO RICHMOND.



NEW WESTMINSTER BRIDGE.

WHAT Londoner, choked with the dust of streets, and deafened by the noise of traffic, has not often looked with wistful eyes at the one dustless and noiseless thoroughfare of the huge city, "Old Father Thames"? Poring over desk and book by gaslight at mid-

day during one of our cheerful fogs, with what longing do we think of the grassy banks a few miles up the river, where there is sunlight and fresh air; and we envy the flowing tide, muddy as it looks, which will so soon have passed for a little while out of dreariness

into daylight. There is a special attraction for all Londoners in going "up stream;" the contrast of scene, the change of atmosphere, are both greater than they can be if we take the other course and journey towards the river's mouth. There is, no doubt, a frame of mind in which we are disposed to seek those haunts where we know it is possible to "spend a happy day;" to eat whitebait at Purfleet (at the risk of being blown up by the largest powder magazine in the kingdom), or shrimps We do not disparage at Southend. Greenwich, with its memories of pensioners, and the attractions of its telescopes, but in our best moods these are not the scenes to which our longing turns; we look up the stream, and pine for the atmosphere of old-world tranquillity which yet hangs around the villas and villages upon its banks. It is above Westminster bridge, starting from the Houses of Parliament, that we look for the haunts of heroes of the past, hard fighters and hard thinkers, and for some of the most characteristic charms of English landscape scenery. Let us suppose, then, either that the long desired holiday has arrived for our Londoner at last, or that our American cousin has run over for a trip to inspect the little island which Americans are always laughing at-with a laugh half envious, half affectionate; the city attractions have lost their charm for each; the Londoner has had enough of the city for the present; the American has "done" the Tower, St. Paul's, the docks, and the wine vaults (why do all Americans make a point of doing the wine Perhaps because Hawthorne vaults? "did" them once !); let us try "fresh fields and pastures new," up the river.

Our starting point, though above the limits of the city proper, is five, six or seven—no one can tell exactly how many—miles below the western edge of the metropolis. The ancient city, with three hundred thousand inhabitants more than two centuries ago, and hardly a hundred thousand to-day, is but the dingy nucleus of a vast nebula of brick, that differs

from a comet in constantly expanding and never contracting. As a sample of its progress, the opening, in the ten years from 1861 to 1871, of six hundred and thirty-five miles of new streets will serve. Nine or ten thousand houses are annually erected-twice as many as are in the same time added to the most rapidly growing American city. About four millions of souls occupy an area of one hundred and thirty-one square miles; this being still but a corner of the space -five hundred and seventy-six-included within the beats of the metropolitan police. London has thus gathered to itself not only home provinces, but outlying colonies. More populous than Rome ever was, her commissariat gives her none of the worry that so complicated the politics of her prototype. Seventy miles of beeves, ten abreast, stalk calmly every year into her capacious maw, and yet she is unsatisfied, and will not be appeased with anything short of a corresponding tribute of sheep, pigs and poultry, to say nothing of fish, vegetables and bread. Statistics like these pass from the arithmetical into the poetic, and approach the sub-Hecatombs do capital duty in lime. the old epics, but what are hecatombs to such nations of live-stock as these? An army, said Napoleon or Wellington, or both, travels on its belly. London equals in numbers, and exceeds in consumption, forty armies larger than either of these generals had at Waterloo. Indeed, we are bewildered by our very starting point; we have to traverse so much ground before we can get away. A great part of the time is consumed in attaining the point The most determined of departure. sightseer is apt to be wearied before reaching the rural part of his tour, unless he courageously makes up his mind to notice nothing until he is really "off." In these days of underground travelling, this is rendered easier than it used to be.

A century or two ago, when the Lord Mayor and aldermen set out on their annual hunting excursion, their route

lay from "Cheapside down by Fen--church Street, and so to Aldgate Pump,' and they soon found themselves, despite the tardy locomotion of their Flemish horses, among the fields! We almost smile now, as we turn from the Strand down towards Whitehall, to think that this was once the "village of Charing," and remember how far away the fields are at present. From where we start on our river expedition, instead of fields or grassy banks, we see, as our eye follows the course of the stream, the traces of the rapid growth of the mighty city, forced prominently on our notice by the magnificent embankment, one of the greatest works of Queen Victoria's reign; and, with all our holiday ardour for the "good old times," we are forced to confess that the beauty and fresh air and health which Westminster and Vauxhall owe to the Thames Embankment, are to be preferred, even by the lover of the picturesque, to the expanse of dreary mud, and noisome tide-marshes, which many of us remember so well,

As we stand on Westminster bridge, we cannot help rocalling another famous bridge, of which the poet said, that he saw there "a palace and a prison on each hand;" and again drawing a contrast in our own favour. Happier, in-

deed, to be in the England of to-day, even though the bridge on which we stand benot yet a century and a half old, when, instead of the "palace and the prison" of the Venetian bridge of sighs, we see a palace, not of a tyrant, but of the nation's representatives; a prison, not for the votary or the victim of crime, but for the sick and suffering — the magnificent St. Thomas' Hospital. However, we must not be too hasty in selfgratulation; a glance up the stream. painfully reminds us that the prison is not yet a thing of the past, as our eye is caught by the heavy pile of Millbank a little higher up on the north side of the river. Nearly opposite to it, Lambeth, the ancient residence of the Archbishops of Canterbury, combines the associations of both palace and prison. Replete with memories of Cardinal Pole, Laud, Juxon, Tillotson, and their successors, that part of its irregular facade which is first sought by the eye of the stranger is the Lollards' tower, wherein the followers of Wyeliffe tasted the first fruits, on English soil, of religious persecution.

But far different recollections are awakened by the name of Vauxhall, the southern district where Lambeth Palace stands. Here were the famous gardens,



CHELSEA PROM THE RIVER.