

A
NEW DISPLAY
OF THE
Beauties of England;
OR

A Description of the most Elegant or Magnificent
PUBLIC EDIFICES, ROYAL PALACES,
NOBLEMEN'S and GENTLEMEN'S SEATS,
and other CURIOSITIES, Natural or Artificial,
in the different parts of the Kingdom.

ADORNED WITH
a Variety of COPPER PLATE CUTS, neatly Engraved.

VOLUME the FIRST.

The THIRD EDITION.

L O N D O N :

Printed for R. GOADBY; and Sold by J. TOWERS, at
N^o. 11, in Fore Street, near Cripplegate: & R. BALDWIN,
N^o. 47, in Pater-noster Row.

MDCCLXXVI.

P R E F A C E.

AS the principal design of this Work was to give descriptions of the most elegant and magnificent Public Edifices, Royal Palaces, and Noblemens and Gentlemens Seats in England, it was judged not improper to begin with that part of the Kingdom, which is within the distance of about twenty miles round London, where a greater

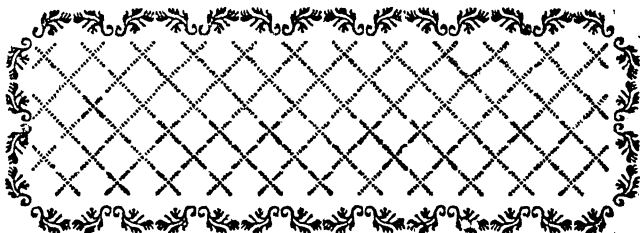
greater number of these are to be found, than in any other district of the same extent. And as the greatest part of our first Volume is employed in describing this district, it was found most convenient not to attend to the division of the Counties. But in the second Volume, wherein remoter parts of the Kingdom are given an account of, the places described have been exactly classed under their respective Counties.

A description of a greater number of Noblemens and Gentlemens Seats is to be found in this Work, than can be met with in any other publication ; as this was
our

our capital object. And of these a very unusual number of engraved views are given. But in order to render the Work more compleat, some account is also given of all the cities and market-towns in the kingdom, LONDON excepted, a description of which could not have been comprehended within our intended limits.

It is presumed, that this Work will be found an agreeable companion for those who may occasionally visit different parts of England, in order to take a view of the many fine palaces and seats with which this kingdom abounds. And those who may not have an
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opportunity of personally visiting those delightful retreats, may yet receive no inconsiderable degree of satisfaction, from those accounts and views of them, which are given in this Work.



A

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OF THE

BEAUTIES OF ENGLAND.

NOTHING is more natural than a desire of being acquainted with whatever is most beautiful, remarkable, or curious in our own country. If we are pleasingly gratified with descriptions of foreign countries, surely the curiosities of our native land cannot be less worthy our attention. ENGLAND is not only endeared to us by our connection with it, but has a just claim to our regard from the great variety of natural and artificial curiosities with which it abounds. It is the favourite residence of plenty and of freedom, of wealth, and of commerce; and the many advantages and excellencies with which nature has liberally endowed it, have been aided by the indefatigable industry of the inhabitants; which is sufficiently evinced by the high degree of cultivation which appears in almost every part of the kingdom.

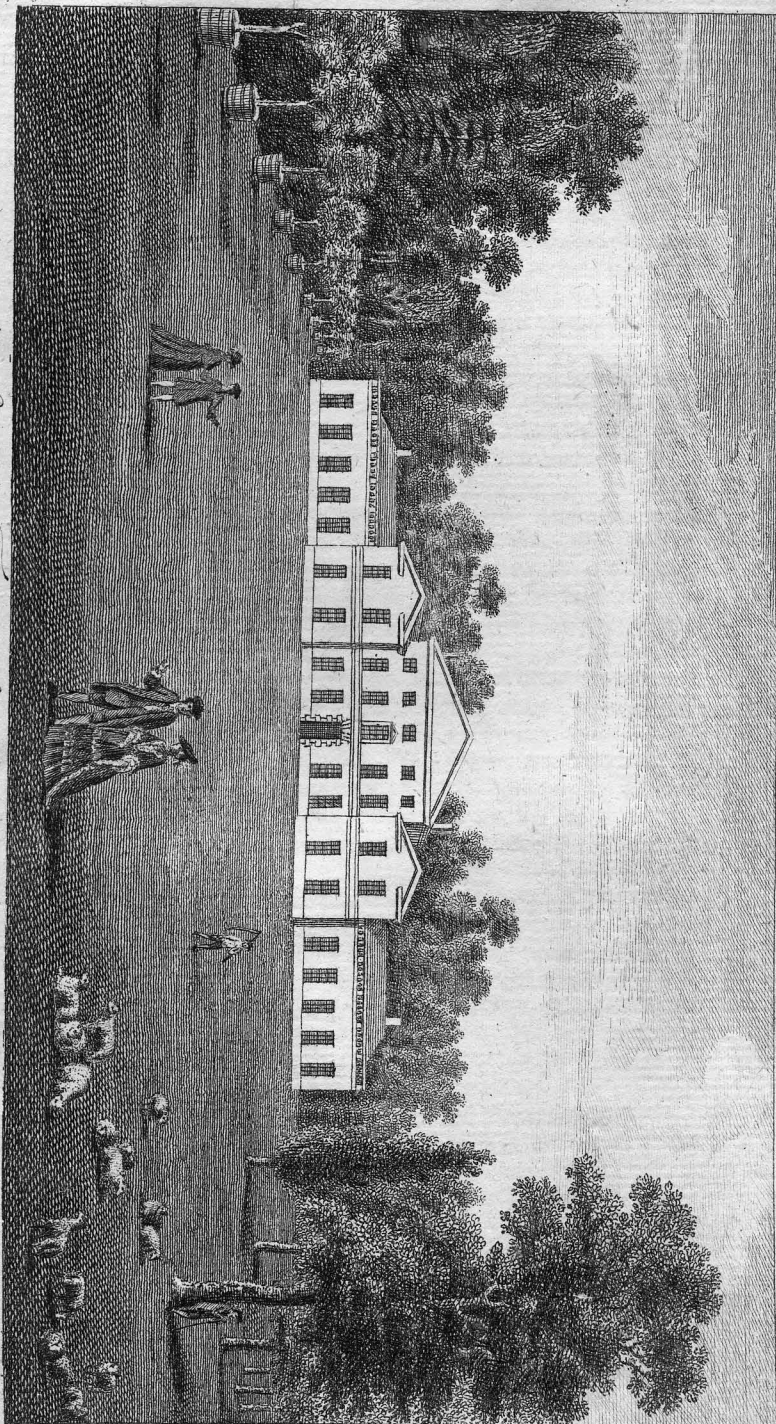
Though the air of England is for the most part thick and heavy, and the weather very precarious, and often extremely

foggy; yet even this variety of weather is attended with considerable advantages. For, in the first place, it secures the island from those extremes of heat and cold, to which other nations, though within the same degree of latitude, are annually exposed; and it is in a great measure owing to this moderation of the climate, that the inhabitants of this island live to as great an age as in any part of Europe whatsoever. And that perpetual verdure for which England is remarkable, and for which it is greatly admired by all foreigners who come hither, is occasioned by the refreshing showers and the warm vapours of the sea.

With respect to the climate of England, there is an observation concerning it that was made by King Charles the Second, as we are informed by Sir William Temple, that deserves to be remembered. ‘ I must needs add one thing (says Sir William) in favour of our climate, which I heard the King say, and I thought new and right, and truly like a King of England, that loved and esteemed his own country. ’Twas in reply to some company, that were reviling our climate, and extolling those of Italy and Spain, or at least of France. He said, “ He thought that that was the best climate, where he could be abroad in the air with pleasure, or at least without trouble or inconvenience, the most days of the year, and the most hours of the day; and this he thought he could be in England, more than in any country he knew in Europe.” And I believe (adds Sir William) it is true, not only of the hot and the cold, but even among our neighbours in France and the Low Countries themselves, where the heats or the colds, and changes of seasons, are less treatable than they are with us.”

It has been justly observed, that no country in the world can equal the cultivated parts of England for the great number of beautiful scenes with which it is adorned. The variety of high-lands and low-lands, the former gently swelling, and both of them forming prospects equal to the most luxuriant imagination, the corn and meadow ground, the intermixtures of inclosures and plantations, the noble seats, comfortable houses, chearful villages, and well-stocked farms, often rising in the neighbourhood of populous towns and cities, decorated with the most vivid colours of nature, afford an inexpressible pleasure.

Before we proceed to treat of the more distant parts of the kingdom, we shall give some account of the palaces, most elegant.



The Garden Front of the Royal Palace at St. Petersburg.

gant country seats, and other curiosities, within the distance of about twenty miles round London. And we shall begin with KEW, as that place is at present honoured with being the residence of his Majesty.

The Palace of Kew is a neat, plain building; but by no means suitable to the dignity of a King of Great Britain. The principal court of the palace is in the middle; the stable court on the left hand; and the kitchen courts on the right. As you enter the house from the principal court, a vestibule leads to the great hall, which occupies two stories in height, and receives its light from windows in the upper story. It is furnished with full-length portraits, representing King William III. Queen Mary, the present King of Prussia, the late Emperor of Germany, the present hereditary Prince of Brunswick, the late Elector of Cologne, and that famous Statesman Lord Treasurer Burleigh. Besides which there is a very good hunting piece by Mr. Wootton, wherein are represented the late Frederick Prince of Wales, Lord Baltimore, Lord Cholmondeley, Lord Boston, Colonel Pelham, and several of his Royal Highness's attendants. In this room are likewise two large vases of statuary marble, on which are cut in basso relievo the four seasons of the year.

From the hall a passage leads to the garden, and on the right hand of this passage is their Majesties apartment, consisting of an anti-chamber, a drawing-room, a cabinet, and a gallery, with waiting rooms, and other conveniencies for attendants. The anti-chamber is hung with tapestry, and over the doors are two portraits, the one of the late Lord Cobham, the other of the late Earl of Chesterfield.

The drawing room is likewise hung with tapestry. Over the doors are the portraits of King George I. and the late Prince of Wales, father to his present Majesty. There is also another picture in the room with three heads, being the portraits of the late Princess of Orange, and the Princesses Amelia and Caroline.

The cabinet is furnished with 'pannels of Japan; the cieling is gilt; which, together with the chimney piece, was designed by the late ingenious Mr. Kent. The gallery, with all its furniture, is entirely executed from designs of the same artist. The colour of the wainscoting is blue, and the ornaments are gilt. Over the chimney is a portrait of the late Princess of Orange, in a riding-dress; and on each side of it is a very fine picture by the celebrated Mr. Wootton; the

one representing a flag at bay, and the other a return from the chase. The scene of both is Windsor forest, and the persons represented are the late Prince of Wales, the late Duke of Marlborough, Mr. Spencer, the Duke of Chandos, the Marquis of Powis, Lord Jersey, and several other noblemen, gentlemen, and attendants.

On the left of the passage which leads to the garden, are the apartments of the bed-chamber-women. In their drawing-room is a very large collection of Portraits of illustrious persons of both sexes; none of them very finely painted, yet curious and very entertaining. The ceiling is executed from a design of Mr. Kent's; as are likewise the ceiling, chimney piece, and all other parts of their dining room.

The ceiling of the great staircase was also designed by Mr. Kent. The principal floor is distributed into one state-apartment for their Majesties, and into lodging-rooms for their children and attendants. The state-apartment consists of a gallery, a drawing-room, a dressing-room, an anti-chamber, a bed-room, and closets.

The walls of the gallery are adorned with grotesque paintings, and children in theatrical dresses, by the late Mr. John Ellis. The chimney-piece and all the furniture, are from designs of Mr. Kent; and on the piers between the windows are four large painted looking glasses from China.

The ceiling of the drawing-room was designed and painted by Mr. Kent, with grotesque ornaments, in party colours and gold. The center compartment represents the story of Leda. The room is hung with green silk; and furnished with a very pretty collection of pictures, by Domenichino, Paul Veronese, Albano, Claude Lorrain, Cornelius Jansen, &c.

The Dressing Room is richly furnished with Japan cabinets, and a great variety of curious works in Dresden porcelain, amber, ivory, &c. and there are also in it two large pictures, the one by Dupan, representing the children of the royal family at play; and the other, the late Princess Dowager of Wales, with his present Majesty, the late Duke of York, and the Princess of Brunswick, all in their infancy, attended by Lord Boston, Lady Archibald Hamilton, and Mrs. Herbert.

Their Majesties bed-chamber is hung with tapestry; the ceiling and chimney piece were designed by Mr. Kent. The anti-chamber and closets contain nothing remarkable, excepting an hygrometer of a very curious construction, invented and executed by the ingenious Mr. Pullen, one of the Chaplains to the late Princess Dowager.

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