

ENGLISH TOPOGRAPHY:

OR,

A SERIES

OF

HISTORICAL AND STATISTICAL DESCRIPTIONS

OF THE SEVERAL

Counties of England and Wales.



ACCOMPANIED BY

A MAP OF EACH COUNTY.



BY THE AUTHOR OF HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DELINEATIONS OF LONDON AND WESTMINSTER;
THE COUNTIES OF SALOP, STAFFORD, SOMERSET, ETC.



"THEE, O MY COUNTRY! ALL MY SOUL REVERES,
AND ADMIRATION SWELLS WITH RIPENING YEARS."



LONDON:

PRINTED FOR BALDWIN, CRADOCK, AND JOY, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1816.

P R E F A C E.

THE Author of the following Sketches greatly regrets the delay which has taken place with respect to their publication. This delay, however, is owing to circumstances uncontrollable in their nature, but not necessary to be detailed in this place, though an allusion to them was proper, in order to account for certain errors and omissions: these apply principally to the names of *Members of Parliament*; but, in some instances, to the *Biographical Department*; a large portion of the work having been printed many months ago.

That this publication is on a new plan, is obvious. The Maps are made from original surveys; and as to the Historical, Statistical, and Topographical Sketches, whatever may be said of the merit of their execution, they are certainly new in their extent and arrangement, as adapted to works of this nature. The trite adage, *multum in parvo*, has been the compiler's guide; and he has assiduously availed himself of every publication and authentic document within his reach, that would enable him to act upon this useful maxim with propriety. By a systematic abridgement, he has presented the reader with the substance of many valuable and expensive books. But he has not contented himself with printed materials. The MS. account of each respective county has, at a considerable expense and delay of time, been sent to one or more intelligent person or persons resident on the spot, by which much original matter has been elicited, and the descriptions of others been greatly corrected and amended. The utility of this plan requires no explanation; and it only remains for the editor to make this general acknowledgement, which he does with feelings of sincere gratitude, to those ladies and gentlemen, above sixty in number, who have thus kindly assisted him in his work.

The limited nature of the plan has prevented the possibility of inserting, by the usual method of marginal reference, the titles of the various works to which he has had recourse; but he has, where the nature of the abridgement would admit of it, confessed his obligations, either by naming his authors or by inverted commas; and where these have been omitted, oversight, or some peculiarity of circumstance, has been the cause.

Short and imperfect as these delineations necessarily are, a very slight inspection of the different heads into which they are respectively divided, will manifest that much labour and

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research have been exercised in their compilation. The department of *Eminent Persons* is the fruit of infinite toil. Though many names are omitted, the editor risks nothing by the assertion, that such a mass of materials for British Biography was never before collected.

The List of Fairs, &c. is also a new part of the work; but a perfect list does not exist. The tables however will, on many accounts, furnish useful information.

Upon the whole, it has been the desire of the Editor to render his work an useful and an agreeable companion, calculated, in a particular manner, to serve the British tourist as well as to amuse and instruct in the closet.

In concluding this Preface, it will be proper to observe, that in some instances the reader will find reference made to certain Plans of Principal Towns, and to their accompanying Descriptions, though in the present work no such Descriptions appear. It was originally intended to add to the County Maps, Plans of the Chief Towns,—a very desirable accompaniment: but the Proprietors, on more mature consideration, anxious to present the work in as cheap a form as possible, have thought it best to omit this part of their plan, reserving its execution to a future opportunity; when they purpose to publish a distinct volume of the Principal Cities, Towns, and Boroughs of England and Wales.

Should the following Work meet the eye of our respectable periodical Critics, the Author, while he reveres their opinion in most cases, has only to request from them that species of indulgence which on all former occasions he has so kindly experienced; though a writer, in making his *twenty-sixth* tour, may possibly claim a "right of way" through the Republic of Letters; and, while he infringes not on the comforts of his fellow-travellers, may feel somewhat indifferent as to their opinions respecting the objects of his journey or the mode of his travelling.

J. NIGHTINGALE.

London, October, 1816.