THE

KENTISH

TRAVELLER's COMPANION:

IN A DESCRIPTIVE VIEW

OF THE

Towns, Villages, Remarkable Buildings,

AND

Antiquities,

SITUATED ON OR NEAR THE ROAD FROM LONDON TO MARGATE, DOVER, AND CANTERBURY.

Illuſtrated with

A CORRECT MAP OF THE ROAD,

On a Scale of ONE INCH to a Mile;

AND

A TABLE OF DISTANCES IN MEASURED MILES,

FROM LONDON, AND BETWEEN THE PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

THE FOURTH EDITION,

WITH CONSIDERABLE ADDITIONS.

——— O famous Kent, ———

What County hath this Iſle, that can compare with thee!
That hath within thyſelf as much as thou canſt wiſh;
Thy rabbits, veniſon, fruits, thy ſorts of fowl and fiſh;
As what with ſtrength comports, thy hay, thy corn, thy wood,
Nor any thing doth want that any where is good.

DRAYTON's POLY-ALBION.

CANTERBURY:

PRINTED AND SOLD BY SIMMONS, KIRKEY, AND JONES; AND SOLD BY ALL THE BOOKSELLERS IN KENT; ALSO BY J. JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH YARD, LONDON.

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DISTANCES

(in measured miles) between the principal Towns in KENT, *the Market Days, and distance from London.*

		London	Tunbr. Wells	Ramsgate	Deal	Wye	Wrotham	Woolwich	Wetherham	Tunbridge	Town Malling	Tenterden	Smarden	Sheerness	Sevenoke	Sandwich	Romney	Queenborough	Milton	Margate	Lyd	Lenham	Hythe	Greenwich	Gravesend	Goudhurst	Folkstone	Faversham	Dover	Dartford	Cranbrooke	Chatham	Bromley	Ashford	Maidstone	Rochester
Canterbury	W S	56	46	16	16	12	38	50	49	41	33	27	26	29	45	12	26	25	17	16	29	20	17	52	34	39	16	9	16	41	34	25	53	15	27	26
Rochester	Fr	30	28	42	42	29	16	24	27	23	11	29	29	22	22	38	44	18	10	42	47	18	40	26	8	21	44	17	42	15	22	1	27	37	9	
Maidstone	Th	35	19	43	43	24	11	33	22	14	6	20	20	22	19	39	35	18	10	43	38	11	33	35	16	13	37	18	43	24	13	10	29	20		
Ashford	S	55	39	31	31	4	31	51	42	34	26	12	11	33	30	27	22	28	21	31	28	11	33	53	34	14	37	17	24	12	19	28	49			
Bromley	Th	10	25	69	69	53	18	9	15	20	23	40	49	51	14	65	64	47	39	72	67	40	62	8	19	34	66	45	70	12	39	28				
Chatham	S	31	29	41	41	28	17	25	28	24	11	30	30	21	23	37	45	17	9	41	48	19	41	27	9	22	45	16	41	16	23					
Cranbrooke	S	49	18	50	50	23	24	42	33	20	19	7	9	35	26	46	22	31	23	50	25	17	32	46	29	5	36	20	43	37						
Dartford	S	15	25	57	57	44	13	9	18	20	18	46	46	37	14	53	61	33	25	57	64	37	58	11	7	38	57	32	57							
Dover	W S	72	60	20	8	25	55	66	66	57	49	35	35	45	62	13	20	41	33	22	23	35	11	68	50	47	7	25								
Faversham	W S	47	37	25	25	12	29	41	40	32	24	25	18	20	37	21	41	16	8	35	44	11	26	43	25	37	26									
Folkstone	Th	72	54	27	15	18	48	66	59	51	43	32	40	50	56	20	13	46	38	29	16	28	4	70	50	44										
Goudhurst	W	44	14	55	55	28	20	42	28	15	17	12	12	35	21	51	27	31	23	55	30	20	37	48	29											
Gravesend	W S	22	32	50	50	38	20	16	25	27	19	36	36	30	21	46	51	26	18	50	54	25	47	18												
Greenwich	W S	5	33	68	68	55	22	5	21	28	27	52	52	48	22	64	68	44	36	68	71	44	65													
Hythe	S	68	49	31	19	14	44	65	55	47	39	23	24	46	42	24	9	42	34	33	12	24														
Lenham	Fr	48	30	42	42	15	22	44	33	25	17	28	11	31	30	38	33	27	19	42	36															
Lyd	Th	72	43	43	31	26	49	67	58	45	44	18	26	50	51	36	3	56	48	45																
Margate	W S	72	62	5	14	28	54	66	65	57	49	43	42	45	61	9	42	41	33																	
Milton	S	40	29	33	33	20	21	34	32	24	16	30	30	12	29	29	45	8																		
Queenboro'	M Th	48	37	41	41	28	29	42	40	32	24	38	38	4	37	37	53																			
Romney	Th	71	40	40	28	23	46	64	55	42	41	15	23	57	48	33																				
Sandwich	W S	68	58	7	5	24	50	62	61	53	45	39	38	41	57																					
Sevenoke	S	23	11	62	62	43	9	23	6	6	13	32	34	41																						
Sheerness	S	52	41	45	45	32	33	44	46	36	28	42	42																							
Smarden	Fr	36	26	42	42	15	31	53	42	29	26	9																								
Tenterden	Fr	53	25	43	43	16	31	49	40	27	26																									
Town Malling	S	30	19	49	49	30	5	23	16	14																										
Tunbridge	Fr	30	5	57	57	38	14	29	12																											
Wetherham	W	22	17	65	65	46	12	22																												
Woolwich	Fr	10	34	66	66	53	22																													
Wrotham	Tu	25	19	56	56	35																														
Wye	Th	59	43	28	28																															
Deal		72	62	12																																
Ramsgate	W S	72	62																																	
Tunbridge Wells		35																																		

Note. Canterbury and Rochester are cities, and Maidstone the county town, at which the assizes are mostly held, here also the county courts are kept, and the public business for the western division of Kent transacted, as that for the eastern division is at Canterbury.

Deal and Tunbridge Wells, though very considerable towns, have no markets weekly, but are plentifully supplied with provisions from the adjacent parts.

☞ THE Distances in this Table are according to the nearest turnpike or passable Road for a carriage, and may easily be found by inspection only.

For instance;—How many miles from Margate to Tunbridge Wells?—Find Margate amongst the towns on the left hand, and even with it on the right, under Tunbr. Wells, stands 62, the distance required.

But should the Traveller wish to make a circuitous journey along the sea-coast, and visit Sandwich, Deal, Dover, Folkstone, Hythe, and Romney in his way, the distance between each may readily be taken from the Table and added together, as in the annexed example. In this manner the exact number of miles is ascertained, let the course of the journey be either in a direct line, or ever so intricate by crossing from one town to another.

From Margate	*Miles*	
to Sandwich	-	9
- Deal	5	14
- Dover	8	22
- Folkstone	7	29
- Hythe	4	33
- Romney	9	42
- Tun. Wells	40	82

STAGE VIII.

Buckland.—St. Rhadagund's Abbey.—Walderſhare.—Weſt Langdon Abbey.—Ewell.—Barham Downs, and Watling-Street.—Broome.—Denhill.—Netherſole.—Barham.—Ileden.—Higham.—Biſhopſbourn.—Bridge.—Patrickſbourn —Bifrons.—Bekeſbourn, to Canterbury.

AFTER leaving Dover, in our road to Canterbury, the firſt place we arrive at is the little village of Buckland which has a ſmall church, but it contains nothing remarkable.* About a mile and a half to the left of this village are the remains of Bradſole, or St. Rhadagund's abbey. It was founded by Hugh, its firſt abbot, and filled with monks of the Premonſtratenſian order, which religious ſociety was inſtituted by St. Norbert, about the year 1119. Lambard ſays, at the ſuppreſſion it was valued at 98l. a year.

About five miles and a half to the right is the village of Walderſhare. The church is ſmall, but contains ſome good monuments of the ancient family of Monins, who were lords of the manor. In a ſeparate chancel, built by ſir Robert Furneſe, bart is a noble Monument of ſir Robert's father, well executed in marble. In this pariſh is an elegant and pleaſant ſeat of the earl of Guildford. The houſe, which is a fine ſtructure, ſituated within a noble park, and ſurrounded with ſpacious gardens, was built by ſir Henry Furneſe. In the park is erected an high belvidere, which commands a beautiful and moſt extenſive view of the country. Oppoſite to lord Guildford's ſeat are the remains of Weſt Langdon abbey, which was founded by ſir William de Auberville, knt. in the reign of Richard I. for monks of the Premonſtratenſian order, and dedicated to

* A new bridge, to the great convenience of paſſengers has lately been built over the river which croſſes the road at this place.

St. Mary

St. Mary and St. Thomas the Martyr, of Canterbury. It was ſuppreſſed in the reign of Henry the Eighth.

Between the ſixty-eighth and ſixty-ninth ſtones on the road is the ſmall village of Ewell. This place is remarkable for having been the reſidence of the Knight's Templars, who had a grand manſion here, which probably was ſituated about half a mile to the right, where now is a place called the Temple. Proceeding towards Canterbury, and paſſing the ſixty-third ſtone, we enter Barham down, which extends in length about four miles. On the left is a beautiful vale, which contains ſeveral pleaſant villages and gentlemen's ſeats; the view to the right is not quite ſo open from the road, but on aſcending the eminence, the proſpect are equally diverſified and more extenſive. On this down is the ſcite of an ancient camp, with three ditches round it, which ſome conjecture to be the work of Julius Cæſar, on his ſecond expedition to this iſland. Dr. Stukely, in his *Itinerarium Curioſum*, ſays, "To Dover from Canterbury the Watling-ſtreet is ſtill the common way; it is left entire over Baram-Down, with a high ridge, ſtrait pointing to Canterbury cathedral tower; as ſoon as it enters the Down it traverſes a group of Celtic barrows, then leaves a ſmall camp of Cæſar's; further on it has been incloſed through two fields*, and levelled with ploughing; then it paſſes by a ſingle barrow, whereon ſtood the mill, which is now removed higher up; then it aſcends the hill to a hedge corner where are three barrows, a great one between two little ones, all encloſed with a double ſquare entrenchment of no great bulk; I fancy them Roman, becauſe parallel to, and cloſe by, the Roman road; the great barrow has a cavity at top, and an entrance eaſtward; whether caſually, or with

* Several other conſiderable encloſures have been made ſince Dr. Stukely publiſhed his Itinerarium Curioſum.

deſign,

deſign, I know not*. At Lydden the Watling-ſtreet falls into that noble valley of Dover, made of two huge ridges of chalk, which divide themſelves into leſſer vallies dropping into the great one at regular diſtances, as the little leaves of plants meet at the main ſtem; this valley when viewed from the end, looks like a landſcape on ſcenes, leſſening, according to perſpective, to Dover, between the two *pharі*, and the ſea at the end encloſed between them. The ſtreet ſlides along the northern declivity, croſſes the rivulet which wanders through the middle of the valley at Buckland, ſo to Biggin-gate, where is its termination, by the ſide of the old port, having now run from Cheſter about 250 miles. Many barrows are on the ſides of thoſe hills."

On a part of theſe downs called Breech, ſeveral human ſkeletons were diſcovered in 1758, lying near the road ſide; one of which had round the neck a ſtring of beads of various forms and ſizes, from the bigneſs of a pigeon's egg to that of a pea; by the ſide lay three inſtruments of war, a kind of ſcymetar, a dagger and a ſpear; ſeven others lay in good order, about a yard apart, and two feet under ground, but without any thing to diſtinguiſh them.

About the year 1212 king John encamped on Barham-Down with an army of 60,000 men, to oppoſe the French, who threatened him with an invaſion. Simon Montford, Earl of Leiceſter, alſo drew up a large army here in the reign of Henry III. many other ſcenes of war and peace have paſſed, too numerous to particulariſe. In 1760, when an invaſion was expected from our natural enemies the French, here was an encampment of ſeven regiments of

* Some of theſe barrows were opened a few years ſince by that learned and ingenious antiquarian the late Rev. Bryan Fauſſet, of Heppington, when ſeveral valuable relicks of antiquity were found, ſome of which were of pure gold.

foot,

foot, under the command of his grace the late duke of Marlborough.

In the valley on the left is Broome, the fine ſeat of ſir Henry Oxenden, bart. On the right is Denhill, the ſeat of Hardinge Stracey, eſq. which commands a moſt delightful view of the adjacent country. Near this ſtood Netherſole-houſe, the ancient manſion of John Winchester, eſq. which was pulled down in 1788, by the owner of the adjoining ſeat of Denhill. John Netherſole, eſq. proprietor of this eſtate in the reign of Henry VIII. was ſo great a favourite, that he was indulged to wear a cap in the King's preſence.

To the left of the Down is the village of Barham, which gives name to this delightful ſpot. The church has in it ſome monuments of the Diggs family, who reſided at Diggs-court in this pariſh, now the ſeat of Charles Dering, eſq. On the oppoſite ſide of the Down is Ileden, the ſeat of Thomas Watkinſon Payler, eſq. and about two miles farther towards Canterbury is Higham, the new ſeat of James Hallet, eſq. On this part of the Down, Canterbury horſe races are annually exhibited. The courſe, till within theſe few years, extended two miles in length, but is now much improved and made round, by which the ſport is greatly increaſed, as the horſes paſs in view twice in each four mile heat. An handſome building was compleated in 1774 for the reception of the numerous and genteel company which frequent thoſe races, and underneath are convenient offices. On the left is Bourne Place, late the ſeat of Sir Horatio Mann, but now of John Harriſon, eſq. in the midſt of a paddock, with a beautiful trout ſtream running at an agreeable diſtance from the front of the houſe. Since the game of cricket has been patroniſed by ſeveral of our nobility and gentry, in this paddock many grand matches have been decided, between the greateſt heroes of the *Bat* this age, or

perhaps

perhaps any other, ever produced. The pariſh of Biſhopſbourn, in which this ſeat ſtands, was ſo called becauſe it was given by king Kenulph, at the requeſt of archbiſhop Atheland, to the priory of Chriſt-Church. In the church are ſeveral good monuments, particularly that of the Rev. and learned Mr. Richard Hooker, author of the Eccleſiaſtical Polity, who was rector of this pariſh; and in the ſeat of Bourne-place, is a moſt curious painted window executed from Holland.

From the weſt end of the Down we deſcend into the village of Bridge. This place took its name from a bridge over a branch of the Stour* which runs through it. It riſes from a ſpring in the pariſh of Biſhopſbourn, and is ſome times almoſt dry; at other times a flood comes down from ſprings about Elham, with great rapidity, till interrupted by what the neighbours call ſwallows, where it ſinks into the earth till that is ſaturated, then ruſhes on again to the next interruption of the ſame kind, ſo that a ſtranger might be amazed at walking near this river's ſide and down the ſtream till he has loſt it, and finds the channel dry. Near a mile to the right is the ſmall village of Patrickſbourn; formerly it had the name of Cheney, and was the reſidence of the noble family of Cheney, before they removed to Shurland in the iſle of Shepey. The church is a building of conſiderable antiquity; over the ſouth door is a curious Saxon arch, carved with a variety of figures. In this pariſh ſtood the ancient and very pleaſant ſeat called Bifrons, the reſidence of the Rev. Edward Taylor. "It was built,"

* This bridge being decayed and otherwiſe inconvenient for carriages, a new and more commodious one has been built by ſubſcription, for which the public are much indebted to the aſſiduity of the Rev. Mr. Taylor, alſo for his great attention to the improvements on the road up Bridge hill, before the repairs under the late turnpike act.

ſays

ſays Dr. Harris, " by Robert Bargrave, eſq. or one would rather think by his lady, if one may judge by this motto which was placed upon it :

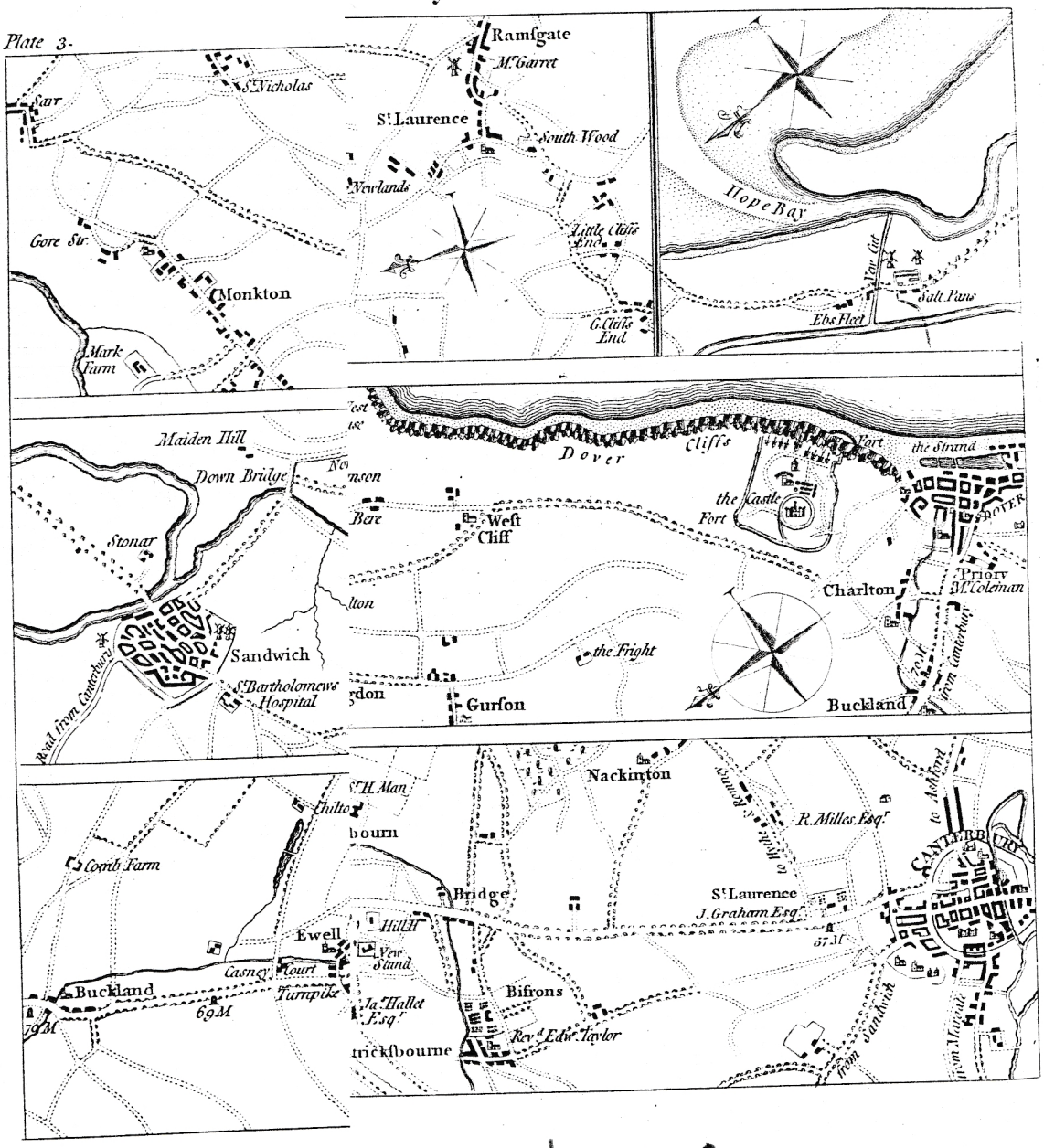
Diruta ædificat uxor bona, ædificata diruit mala.

The old houſe was pulled down in Feb. 1775, and is now rebuilt on a modern and more commodious conſtruction.

Near this village is that of Bekeſbourn, which anciently belonged to the cinque port of Haſtings, and enjoyed the ſame privileges. Henry de Beke held certain lands in this pariſh by grand ſergeantry, to find one ſhip each time Henry III. paſſed the ſea. Philipot ſays, the branch of the Stour was navigable to this place in the reign of Edward III. There was a chantry in the church, founded in 1314, by one James of Bourne, the revenues of which were tranſlated to Cokyn's hoſpital in Canterbury, in 1362. The archbiſhops of Canterbury had here a ſmall but elegant palace, of which the gate-way ſtill remains. Near Bekeſbourn is the new erected ſeat of Iſaac Bough, eſq. who bought the eſtate of Sir Philip Hales, bart. and pulled down Howletts, the ancient reſidence of the Hales family.

From Bridge to the city of Canterbury we meet with nothing remarkable till we come to St. Laurence, the ſeat of the late colonel John Graham, near which, on the left, lies the high road to Romney marſh. This ſeat is between the 56th and 57th mile-ſtone.

We have now brought our traveller to the end of our intended route ; and if we have given him that entertainment which might be expected from this little volume, we ſhall be happy on a future occaſion to accompany him to ſome other part of the county of Kent, a county ſtill fruitful in various events, and which has ever made ſo diſtinguiſhed and principal a part of our Engliſh hiſtory.



Kentish Travellers Companion 1794

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Bookcliff Chris Maclean.