Love of Nature.

We write, let us now say, for the lover of nature, who not only wants something to look *at*, but has also the eye to look *with*. As much depends on the one as on the other. "We see what we bring with us the power of seeing." Two men may have walked on the same day from Ribblehead to Settle. The one seems to have taken note of everything,—the course of the river, the contour of the hills, the flowers that were in bloom, the birds that were in song. The other seems to have taken note of nothing, and as to his having learnt anything from his walk, he might as well have made the journey in a prison van. Here is an instance. Two friends were standing on the eastern end of Smearside, which is one of the best *points-de-vue* in the whole neighbourhood. The day was perfect. There was no haze. All the hills stood out in sharp, clear outline. The heather was in full bloom. The silence was broken only by the scream of the curlew. The two friends felt that it was a fine thing to be there. They were watching by the smoke that it left in its track the passage of a steamer across Morecambe Bay, when four strangers came up to the same point. These gave a hurried glance around; then one of them said, "There's nought for us up here, we'd better be going down again." Probably it was the truth,—there was nothing for *them* up there; no roast beef and bottled ale. But let the tourist carry about with him a sympathetic soul, and he shall find "something up there" whichever of our hills he may climb; something to make mind as well as body healthier. He will feel that the very silences of these hills and moors are filled with impressive speech. Let him

Smearside.

SETTLE BEAUTIES.

Montagu, in his "Gleanings in Craven" proves that he had an eye for the beautiful, not only of the inanimate, but of the animate; and I reproduce some of his remarks which are as applicable today as when written:

"I was much struck with the appearance of Settle and the neighbourhood of Giggleswick, which is, as it were sprinkled with beautifully detached villas, and seems as if respectability and wealth had selected this part of Craven for its head-quarters; and I was likewise forcibly reminded when here, of a truth which has perplexed all my "philosophy," that, towards the most mountainous countries, small feet and delicately turned ankles invariably abound; and as an anatomical sequiter—the best figures; the former being inseparable from the latter. Yorkshire women and pretty feet, are so prettily associated in my mind that I shall never think of them apart, and I shall think of them continually. A beautiful face certainly bequeaths a sweet legacy to the memory, (if not to the heart,) but the codicil affixed by observation greatly affects the will, if the face be unsupported by small and beautiful feet and ankles. A pretty face and bad feet and ankles is like a Dutch-built vessel with an elegant figure head."

AN OLD ACCOUNT OF SETTLE.

In Cox's History of Yorkshire the following notices are given of Settle and Giggleswick. I think them worth reprinting on account of the scarcity of the book.

"*Giggleswick*, a village situate on the River *Ribble*. At this Town is a noted School, founded by one Mr. *Bridges*, and well endowed."

"*Settle* hath its Market weekly on Tuesday, and Fair yearly on - - - -. It is a good town and the Lordship very early belonged to the Piercy's, at length earls of Northumberland. Richard the son of Josceline of Levaine, who by his Contract of Marriage with the Heriess of William de Percy, named Agnes, was to assume the name of Piercy, was in Possession of her Estates, of which this was a part; and left it at his death to his youngest Son Henry; but not enjoying it quietly by Reason of some Claim, his other Brother, William, had to it, he gave him the Manor of Hesset in Sussex to release his Title to it. Henry seems either to have left no issue, or that they were extinct in the Reign of Edw. II Reg. 4 for then we find Henry, the Descendant from William his elder Brother, in Possession of this Manor of Settle, and procuring the King's Charter of Free Warren for all his Demesne Lands here, and elsewhere, in this and other Counties; and after him Idomea, the Widow of another Henry, who lived in King Edward III's Reign, Anno 20, was assigned this and some other Estates for her Dowry."

AGRICULTURE IN 1793.

In 1793, Commissioners were appointed by the Government to inspect and report on the state of Agriculture in the kingdom. The following items are extracted from the report issued by the Commissioners:—"At Settle and Skipton, we found that land let so high as 40s. and 50s. per acre, while, from the best accounts we could receive in the country, 20s. and 30s. was then considered as a high rent, and in many places it was much lower."

"As for the old rich pastures about Skipton, Settle and other places, it is not easy to say what they have originally been sown with.

Leaving Grassington we passed through a wide range of uncultivated moors, and arrived at Settle. At this place we saw the finest grass we ever viewed. Indeed the richness of the soil is hardly credible to those who have not seen it, and the possessors were unanimously of opinion that it is of greater value to them when kept in grass, than when cultivated by the plough.

The nature of the soil in the neighbourhood of Settle is what is called a hazel mould, incumbent upon a dry bottom. The farms are generally small, and the occupiers seldom have leases. Great part of the higher grounds are still common, and consequently unimproved; they are pastured with sheep and Scots cattle, which are afterwards fed off upon the lower grounds. The sheep bred here are called the Malham breed, and we received favourable accounts of them. Considering the great quantity of waste ground, it is surprising the proprietors have not turned their attention more to planting, as we received great complaints of the scarcity of wood. Coals are likewise scarce which it was thought might be remedied, if proprietors were disposed to hold out rewards or favourable leases to those who discovered them.

At Settle we had an opportunity of seeing a great show of fat cattle of the country breed. They were all long horned, and seemed in shape, skin, and other circumstances, to be nearly the same as the Irish breed. We learned that of late there had not been the same attention paid as formerly to keep the breed pure, by selecting proper bulls.

Be that as it may, the long horned breed of cattle which prevails over the western part of this island, from the thickness of their skin, and the hardness of their constitutions, are much better calculated to undergo the vicissitudes of this climate, than the short horned breed of the eastern coasts.

Price of labour. A man servant about ten guineas per year, with board and washing in his master's house; a woman about five guineas, with the same; day labourers in husbandry about 2s. or 2s. 6d. per day, finding their own victuals: about ten years ago 1s. or 1s. 2d. was the common price; the advance owing to the introduction of the cotton manufactory into a country so little populous. They work from six to six in the summer, and from eight to dark in winter.

Price of provisions for the last year; beef, mutton, veal and pork, about 4½d. per pound of sixteen ounces; butter about 1s. or 1s. 1d. per pound of 22 ounces; wheat about 8s. per Winchester bushel: oats 28 or 30s. per quarter.

Parish of Giggleswick:

2,200 Inhabitants
16,500 Acres by estimation
14,685 Acress grass
315 Acres arable
150 Acres waste
300 Acres, in oats
15 Acres barley

500 acres are occasionally plowed in small quantities."

West Riding of Yorkshire } In pursuance of an Act of Parliament made in the seventh year of the reign of his present Majesty We whose hands and Seals are hereunto set two of his Majesty's Justices of the peace for the said Riding have this day viewed a certain part of the highway in the township of Settle in the Riding aforesaid adjoining on the West on a place called Daley Puddle and Do hereby Order that the Surveyors of the highways of the said township do enlarge and widen the said part of the said highway by taking from the ground on the Westside thereof so as to make the said part of the said highway thirty feet wide. Given under our hands and Seals the third day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy

Edw Lady

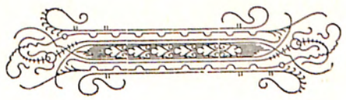
P: W: Overend

have the seeing eye and the understanding heart, and he will find that there are "sermons in these stones" —great lessons written by the hand of Time upon these old grey crags.

"Pray, pardon me, if now I raise
A stave or two to sound the praise
Of Craven's hills and caves;
Of fertile daals an' flowin' brooks,
Of water-faus an' shady nooks,
Whar t' fir an' t' hazel waves.

Whar cliffs uprear their shaggy waus,
And down below a streamlet flows,
Wi' rough and blusterin' din;
While masses of projectin' rock
Owerhing as if the slightest shock
Wad send 'em thunderin' in."

—*Tom Twisleton.*



II.

SETTLE.

Thomas Pennant. (portrait see p. 84)

A WRITER who visited Settle in 1773 spoke of it as "a small town in a little vale, exactly resembling a shabby French town with a 'place' in the middle." Perhaps the word "quaint" would have been nearer the mark than the word "shabby." Quaint the town still is, and must have been yet more so then. But even Gray, the poet, was no less severe on the Settle of a century and a quarter ago. Said he, "It is a small market-town standing directly under a rocky fell; there are not above a dozen good-looking houses, and the rest are old and low, with little wooden porticoes in front." The poet was perhaps not in a poetic mood, or he may have visited the town on a dull, foggy day; or we should surely have had from the author of the *Elegy* something more appreciative than this. There are not many towns that are set amidst finer surroundings, or which will better bear looking at, whether seen from east, west, north, or south. Changes have been made in the town since Gray saw it, but its surroundings were then as now.

Gray. Portrait p. 83. See also Vol IV. p. 267.

For Honoman's notes See Vol IV. p. 251

A Walk round Settle.

It may not be amiss to trace out for the reader what would serve for an afternoon or an evening walk, with Settle as its central point of interest. About a hundred yards from the Settle post-office there is a bend in the Long Preston road, and from this point we have a capital view of the town, with High Hill, Castlebergh, and the Banks as a back-

SETTLE IN 1773.

In the year 1773 the well known Antiquarian and Botanist, Thomas Pennant, visited Settle whilst on a Tour from Downing to Alston Moor. After leaving Malham, he says:

"Cloud Berries are found plentifully on the Moors between Malham and Settle. They take their name from their lofty situation. I have seen the berries in the Highlands of Scotland served as a dessert. The Swedes and Norwegians preserve great quantities in autumn to make tarts and other confections, and esteem them as excellent antiscorbutics. The Laplanders bruise and eat them in the milk of reindeer, and preserve them quite fresh till spring by burying them in the snow.

I descended an exceedingly tedious and steep road, having on the right a range of rocky hills with broken precipituous fronts. At the foot of a monstrous lime-stone rock, called Castleberg, that threatens destruction, lies Settle, a small town in a little vale, exactly resembling a shabby French town with a 'place' in the middle. Numbers of coiners and filers lived about the place, at this time entirely out of work, by reason of the recent salutary law respecting the weight of gold.

I dined here at the neatest and most comfortable little inn I ever was at, rendered more agreeable by the civility and attention of the landlady. This is a market town, and has a small trade in knit-worsted stockings, which are made here from two to five shillings a pair. The great hill of Penygent is seen from hence, and is about six miles distant.

Settle is destitute of a Church; its parish is that of Giggleswick, higher up the vale, which I passed after crossing the Ribble, which hurries from its source a few miles higher, on the back of Wharnside-hill between Blea-moor and Snaysfell.

This parish was one of the most ancient manors of the Percies. I believe it to have been included among the eighty-six in this county granted by the Conqueror to William de Perci, one of his Norman followers: but the first time I find mention of the Manor of Settle, as their property, is in 1230, the fifteenth of Henry III.

A little beyond the village, the road is continued on the right side of the vale, beneath a long and lofty scar of the same name. It runs for a mile in length; the height decreases with the ascent of the road, but preserves a level on its top the whole way. This scar is of white limestone, finely overgrown with ivy, has a mineral appearance, and bits of lead ore, found in forming the turnpike-road, give earnest of important discovery.

The famous flowing spring lies on the road side beneath this scar. It is a well of small size, which ebbs and flows once in a quarter of an hour, and sometimes with that force as to rise a foot high. I watched it for some time, but it happened to be quiescent; my patience was exhausted, and I pursued my journey.

The "Potentilla verna" or "Vernal Cinquefoil," Fl. Sc. 1,270, is found near this well; and those who delight in mosses, may discover, on the adjacent rocks, the "Lichen crinitus" and "polyrhizos," Fl. Sc. 11,860 and 864.

From this spot I had a fine view of Pendle hill which appeared quite insulated.

On gaining the summit of the road, the Apennines of England appeared full in view; the tops often rise into little mounts, and the sides very rocky. On the left is a flat bounded by heathy hills, and intermixed with dreary moors."

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View of Settle, from the South, circ. 1870.
(J. Walker, postman.)

Settle from "Greenhale". 1910.

View from the Druid's Circle, nr. Cavatop. 1882.

T. Gray, the Poet.
(see p. 78.)

T. Gray, the Poet.
(see p. 78.)

Stanier sculp.

THOMAS PENNANT Esq.

An. Ætat. 50.

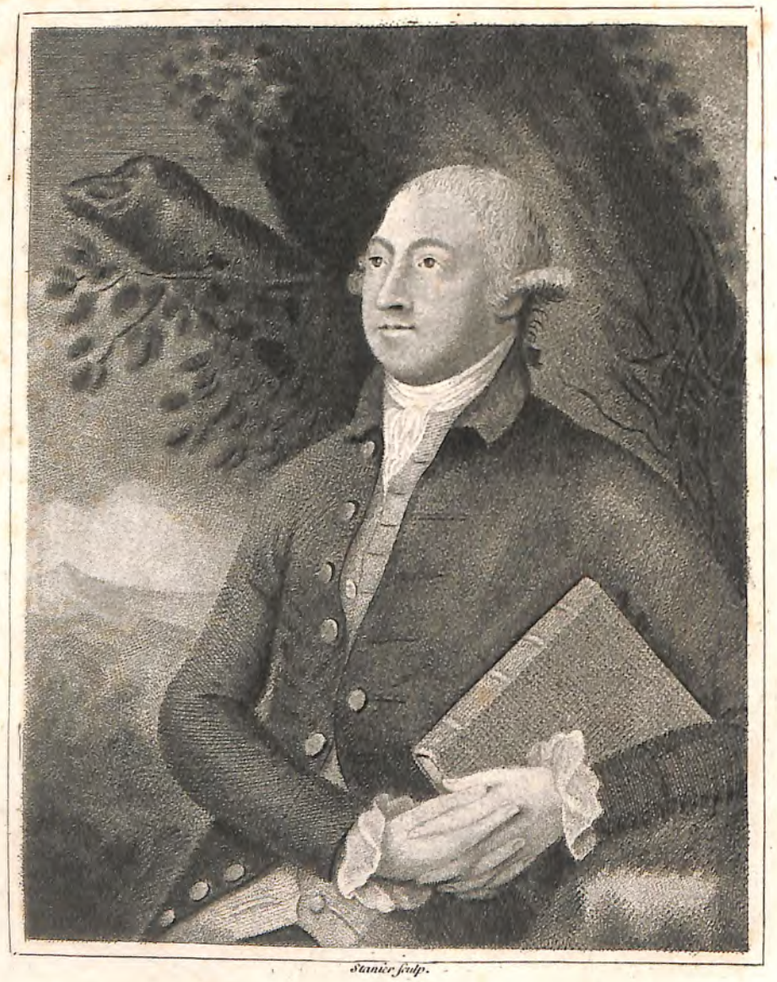
Published 1 June 1793. by J. Sewell, 32 Cornhill.

see p. 78.

ground, and Penyghent filling in the picture on the left. Here we have certainly the picturesque, and it is rather strange that photographers who supply us with pictures of the neighbourhood have missed this view. Let the reader now turn back a few yards to the stile and follow the path through the field adjoining the allotment-gardens, cross the lane and keep along the path through the fields until he reaches another lane, then pass through the opposite gate and make for the second of the two small plantations. From this point he gets another view of the town, but with an interesting change of background. On his right is High Hill, Penyghent looks over the shoulder of Castlebergh, on the left is the noble outline of Ingleboro', Smearside peeps up between the Giggleswick and Stackhouse scars, and beyond the town is the beautifully wooded dale, with Blea Moor in the far distance. Let us now turn back to the gate, and along the lane to the right. The summit of Castlebergh is our next point.

Here we may sit and rest, and dwell upon the prospect that stretches out before us. The town lies at our feet. Beyond is Giggleswick with its famous School, half hidden by the trees. Beyond this again, the wide moorland that almost connects Giggleswick with the sea. On the left is the opening valley, with the broad acres of Bolland and Gisburn Forest, and on the right the Mains and Stackhouse and the dim outline of Whernside and Blea Moor. There would be no doubt as to the reader's verdict if he could see all this as the writer does on this 10th of May, when the fields have been quickened into

See pp. 140-143



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See pp. 140-143

fresh growth by recent rains, and the trees have all the sweetness and the lighter shades of their newly-opened leaves.

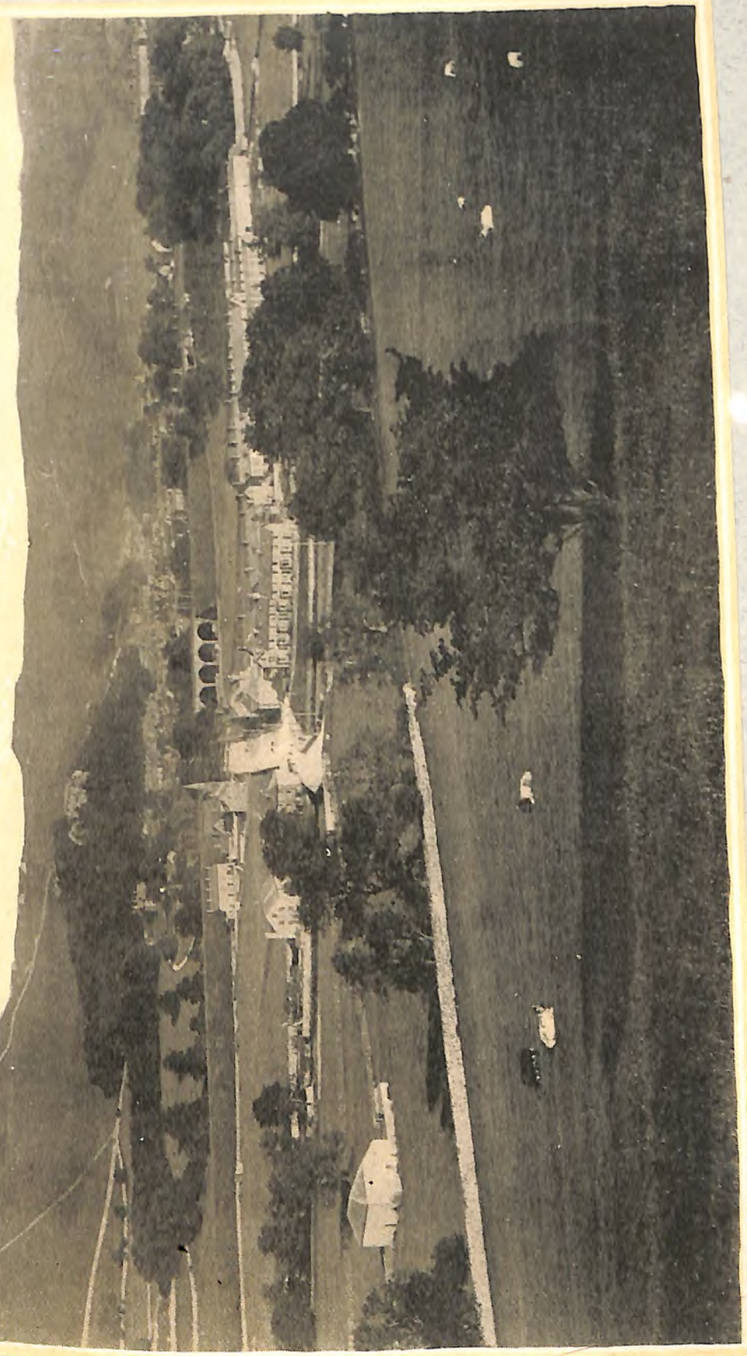
Let us now make for Settle Bridge, and keep along the Clapham Road until we come to a stile opposite the Church-yard wall. When we reach the summit of the path through the Mains we may have another look at Settle,—the river and the viaduct on the one side of it, and the Banks, Castlebergh and the Parks on the other; and on the left Penyghent, and on the right Pendle, as if they were keeping watch and guard over the whole dale. We may keep along the path through the Mains until it runs out into Stackhouse Lane, then walk along the lane towards Settle until we find a stile on the left, and follow the path through the fields to the bridge.

Why called Settle?

We have now led our reader round our little town, and have asked him to look at it from different points of view. We can now leave it with him as to whether he has seen many towns, or any town, more "beautiful for situation." And perhaps he will feel that this walk round Settle has told him the secret of its name. Why is it called *Settle?* The long bench that is seen in some farm-houses is called the "settle," or sometimes "lang-settle." It is a stationary seat with high back, on which three or four can sit.

> "Basil, my friend; come take thy place on the *settle*
> Close by the chimney-side."—*Longfellow's Evangeline*, I, *ii*.

We think of the first Saxon family that made its home at the foot of Castlebergh. Perhaps one of them had something of a poet's soul, and said: This is the place to live in; with the rocks to guard us,



Settle from "The Mains."

1840

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