

A REMARKABLE JOURNEY.

A Yorkshireman's Pilgrimage.

From a source inaccessible to the majority of our readers, Mr. W. Smith, of Morley, supplies an account of a Yorkshireman's travels in search of health, taken, a century and a quarter ago, from Mirfield, in Yorkshire, to Glastonbury, in Somersetshire. The eccentric individual who made this memorable journey has left us what he is pleased to call his "Memoirs," or Diary of his perigrinations, which cannot fail to be full of interest. A gentleman who "interviewed" the traveller on his return has left the following observations relating to the journey:—"On Saturday ye 15th day of November, 1755, N.S., John Jackson set out of his journey in ye 71st year of his age, poorly provided for so long a journey with a sore leg, and but little money to drink and bath at the Chaingate water and to see ye White Thorn bud and blossom at Glastenbury on Old Christmas Day and notwithstanding ye rigorous season and dead time of ye year the inclemency of ye weather and ye splashy roads rendered almost impassable by heavy rains and great floods, he surmounted all difficulties, and travell'd through 7 Counties, passed through above 55 Hamlets and Villages, 23 Market Towns and 6 Cities viewed ye Cathedrals and Churches &c. and returned to Mirfield ye 7th day of February, 1756 N.S. and brought some twigs of ye Holy Thoru full of buds and some also in blossom in two vials full of Chaingate water, also severall fragments of stone from ye venerable ruins of Glastenbury Abbey. He was on his Journey 13 weeks and 4 days." Jackson supplements this account as follows:—"Although by the mercy of God almost contrary to all peoples expectation I returned safe home again yet notwithstanding I found I had got such a desperate surfiect as had undoubtedly cost me my Life had I not through Gods good and mercifull providence brought me under ye hand of that honest and ingenious person vulgarly called Doctor Man of Gomersal Hill top, hard by Birstall, near Leeds, in ye West Riding of Yorkshire to whose skill and care next under God I owe my life and health, for he has not only cured my desperate surfiect but my leg, and I think in conscience I ought to make it to be known that others who may happen to suffer as I have done, may as I have done go where they may be sure to find without faile a sure and speedy remedy and the Lord direct us all. Ecclesiasticus chap. ye 38th to vers ye 16th is very applicable to the matter in hand." Jackson, in his "Memoirs" or Diary, gives many interesting particulars of the places which he visited, and the whole narrative is well worthy of publication; but as it would occupy too much space, we propose to give extracts illustrative of the traveller's powers of observation. Having given an account of his journey to Glastonbury and what he saw and did in that ancient town, he commences his homeward track, and on the 26th of December he writes:—"I went to Chilquill to the mayor's house and he gave me a pass signed and seled with ye corporation seal i.e. Mitre and Crosier, and afterward I went and lodged at the 7 Stars till morn."

"Wednesday the 27th day Saint Johu's Day a close calm and a gloomy rainy day, after I had took leave of ye 7 Stars, from whence I brought some Sweet Leek seeds yt Mr. Bartlet gave me I came away, went up ye Torr and brought away a stone from St. Michall's Old ruind Church. And hard it rained. I stayd at Widow Winter's all night and aleras morning I saw a man yt was making China Toys for ye gentry melt China and Flint Glass with candleulaze. He first melted a stick off from ye side of a white little China cup and then another off from a Flint Glass salt and after that melted and joynd both together, and this was on Thursday, the 28th day of Decr. ye Old Children's Mass Day yt I saw ye toy maker work ye Chainy and Glass above specified. I took leave of Widow Winter about 2 in ye afternoon, passed by Vinegar Church and donna a lane, and lay at Thomas Neater's ye sign of ye George, where there was a merry young Landlady sung cheeifully."

On Friday, Jackson went to Bath, stopping there to view "ye town and Cathedrall," the former of which, he says, "stands very like Halifax, but twice ye bigness of it." On Sunday, the 31st day of December, he left Bath and travelled to Bristol, and here he ended up the Old Year 1755.

Now 55 is past and gone
And I a Pilgrim far from home,
But hope Gods goodness will defend
And bring me to my Journeys End.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

On New Year's Day he went into Bristol and view'd "the half ruind Cathedrall ye least in all England, also ye Colledge Green and ye flus cross thereon, and then ye Harbour with Ships and other vessells, and ye town all in a hurry and continuall bustle far worse than London."

On 2nd of January Jackson went to Thornbury, and from thence to Berkely and Dursley, afterwards, through Carn to Whitminster, where he was "entertained very well," and writes—"N.B. To this come a many people from all places about for cure of mad dogs bitings and its said are always cured, and this is ye Old Wassal night indeed." On the 6th he reached Gloucester, and on the following day, Sunday, he attended oivine service at the Cathedrall where a stranger from Loudon preached an excellent sermon on "A bruised reed shall He not break," and "a worthy sermon indeed it was." On the 10th January, our traveller reached "Teuxbury," and the day following left this placé, "coming from thence by Ripple to Kemry, where I went into ye Churchyard and wrote down Nicholas Hancocks Epitaph as it is here written verbatim—

Farwell, false world, I've had enough of thee;
I value not what thou can'st say of me;
Thy smiles I court not, nor thy frowns I fear—
All's one to me—my head lyes quiet here.
What ill thou hast seen in me take care to shun,
And look at home, there's something to be done!"

On the 12th January our traveller went to Upton and Worcester, reaching Droitwich on the 15th, of which town he says—"This town had formerly in it four churches i.e. Saint Andrews, St. Peters, St. Nicholas and Dodrel on the Hill. This town has in it 30 Salt houses and pays above 4000 pounds in every month for duty to ye King and ye salt makers buy their salt of ye hucksters shops. This salt is called Basket Salt and is ye finest salt in all England." From this town Jackson proceeded to Bromsgrove, Sutton Coñield, Birmingham, Lichfield, and Darby. On the 24th January he arrived at Duffield, and "on the Thursday the 25th St. Paul at morn I find a strinking snow and crazl ng frost and fair clear sunshine, went to ye Church yard and took 2 or 3 epitaphs." From Duffield he went to Alreton, Clay Cross, "where at ye sign of ye George, there was a sad crue of cursers and swearers." On Sunday ye 28th January he reached Chesterfield, and "lay at ye Revd Mr. Savages, who gave me severall books to lend but without titles."

"Tuesday ye 30th day I came into Sheffield and I lay at ye Sign of ye Bacchus and Finley Manson trind me again and I drank with him and ye printes and others besides them.

"Wednesday ye 31st day I drest ye clock and was rewarded for it and Mrs. Steel gave me a pair of plain stript worsted garters and bid me wear em for her sake, and so about noon or after I came away and travell'd to Worsbor (Worsborough). Lay at Mr. Dixons, and so shut up ye gate of Old Janus.

"Thursday ye first day of February. The last night ye weather changed from calm to windy and ys was a rainy day. All this day I rested at Worsbor, at Mr. Dixons and lay there, and just a little before dark in ye evening came Esquire Gour to Mr. Dixons and took me to his house where I was amicably treated and had 18 pence given and returned to Mr. Dixons and lay there again, and a fierce windy night it was, and this wind did much damage in severall places. It tore a Hay Stack all to pieces at Worsbor and unthatched a house and took ye Irish slate off Britton New Ch. and took down a new house on Heaton Moor.

"Friday ye 2nd Candlemas day. Something calmer; but cloudy and cold. In ye torenoon I left Worsbor, came to Barnsley and to Britton and lay at ye Clarks Mr. Adam Bayldons.

"Saturday ye 3rd day ditto. At noon I went to Britton Hall and see the wind had torn off one side of ye rails and banisters of ye Hall. Away I went to ye Parkmill and ye Old Hall and lay at Adam Wolfendens. I lay there also on the Sunday.

"Munday ye 5th day ditto at morn I left ye Old Hall came to Flockton by Emly called at Widow Seniers and ye Clark Hampshires and Wat Kays, and went to Cock Mills and lay there.

"Tuesday ye 6th day, at morn I left Cock Mills and by Dumb Steeple I went to the Hutt, calld at John Woods and Robert Pools oth Fulhouse and down to Mirfield I went, called at Mr. Isways and lay at Jacob Hemingways.

"Wednesday ye 7th day as before about noon or after I went to Hopton and lay at Daniel Micklethwaits.

"Thursday ye 8th ditto at morn I left Daniels and went to Kirkheaton to Mr. Madleys, and tarry'd till morn at Chapels oth Kirk Brigg.

"Friday ye 9th day as before at morn I went to Thomas Castles and was sent for to go to Mr. Clarks ye Rector, and I went and was conducted into ye chamber, conversed a good while with ye parson and came away and had 6 pence sent after me, and I came away and called at ye Hole Bottom and Stafford Hill. Came back to Hopton Hall and lay at Danjo Mickliffe.

"Saturday ye 10th day ditto in ye forenoon leaving Hepton I went to Mirfield and lay again at Jacob Hemingws.

"Sunday ye 11th day a fine gallant warm sunshine day like Summer. All ye day I was at Mirfield.

"Munday ye 12th day ditto after noon I set homeward by Castle Hall and Dewsbury. Calld at Mr. Wheelers and found em absent. I calld at Mr. Turners and by Cracking Edge and Common side I went to Millbank and lay there.

"Tuesday ye 13th day gloomy and rain. At morn I left Millbank. Calld at Mr. Scots came over Honley Park to Wood Kirk and lay in my own Bed Cloths at B. Rhodes.

"Wednesday ye 14th day as ye day before it. Having visited ye neighbours I came home made a fire and lay in ye Cabbie. And here ends ye story of my long and tedious and troublesome Glastenbury Journey."