

The first Trip I made, was into the *Cestria Chersonesus*, as I think we may properly call it, (*viz.*) a piece of the County, which runs out a great way into the *Irish Sea*, and is bounded by the two great Firths, or Arms of the Sea, the one call'd the Mouth of the *Dee*, and the other of two Rivers, the *Mersey*, and the *Wever*; this *Isthmus* or Neck of Land, is about 16 Miles long, and about 6 or 7 Miles over, and has not one Market Town in it, tho' tis exceeding rich and fertile; the last occasioned possibly by the Neighbourhood of two such great Towns, or Cities rather: I mean *Chester* and *Liverpool*.

Going down from *Chester*, by the *Rhoodee*, as they call it, *that is*, the Marshes of the River *Dee*, and Coasting the River after it is grown broader than the Marshes; the first Place of any Note which we come to, is *Nesson*, a long Nase or Neis of Land, which running out into the Sea, makes a kind of a Key. This is the Place where in the late War in *Ireland*, most of the Troops embark'd, when that Grand Expedition begun; after which, the Vessels go away to *Highlake*, in which as the Winds may happen they ride safe in their Way, as the Ships from *London* lye in the *Downs*, till the Wind presents for their respective Voyages.

From *Nesson* we cross'd over that fruitful Level I mentioned before, and coming to the other Water, we ferry'd over to *Liverpool*. This Town is now become so great, so populous, and so rich, that it may be call'd the *Bristol* of this Part of *England*: It had formerly but one Church, but upon the Encrease of Inhabitants, and of New Buildings in so extraordinary a manner, they have built another very fine Church in the *North* Part

clean, and spacious, and they are now well supplied with Water. The Merchants here have a very pretty *Exchange*, standing upon 12 Free-stone Columns, but it begins to be so much too little, that 'tis thought they must remove or enlarge it. They talk already as I have said above, of building two Churches more at *Liverpool*, and surrounding them with new Streets, to the *N. E.* of the old Town, which if they should, *Liverpool* will soon out do *Bristol*: In short, 'tis already the next Town to *Bristol*, and in a little time may probably exceed it, both in Commerce, and in Numbers of People.

We went no farther this way at that time, but came back to *Chester*, by the same Ferry as we went over.

As I am now at *Chester*, 'tis proper to say something of it, being a City well worth describing: *Chester* has four things very remarkable in it. 1. It's Walls, which are very firm, beautiful, and in good Repair. 2. The Castle, which is also kept up, and has a Garrison always in it. 3. The Cathedral. 4. The River *Dee*, and 5. the Bridge over it.

It is a very Antient City, and to this Day, the Buildings are very old; nor do the Rows as they call them, add any thing, in my Opinion, to the Beauty of the City; but just the contrary, they serve to make the City look both old and ugly: These Rows are certain long Galleries, up one pair of Stairs, which run along the side of the Streets, before all the Houses, tho' joined to them, and as is pretended, they are to keep the People dry in walking along. This they do indeed effectually, but then they take away all the view of the Houses from the Street, nor can a Stranger, that was to ride thro' *Chester*, see any Shops
in

of the Town; and they talk of erecting two more.

The first thing we observ'd in this Church, was a fine Marble Font, all of one entire Stone, given to the Town, or *Church rather*, by the late *Robert Heysham Esq;* a Citizen and very considerable Merchant of *London*; who was many years Representative for the Town of *Lancaster*. Here is a very fine new built Tower also, and in it a curious Ring of Eight, very good Bells.

This Part of the Town may indeed be call'd *New Liverpool*, for that, they have built more than another *Liverpool* that way, in new Streets, and fine large Houses for their Merchants: Besides this, they have made a great *Wet Dock*, for laying up their Ships, and which they greatly wanted; for tho' the *Mersey* is a Noble Harbour, and is able to ride a Thousand Sail of Ships at once, yet those Ships that are to be laid up, or lye by the Walls all the Winter, or longer, as sometimes may be the Case; must ride there, as in an open Road, or (as the Seamen call it,) be haled a Shore; neither of which wou'd be practicable in a Town of so much Trade: And in the time of the late great Storm, they suffer'd very much on that Account.

This is the only Work of its kind in *England*, except what is in the River of *Thames*, I mean for the Merchants; nor is it many years since there was not one *Wet Dock* in *England* for private use, except *Sir Henry Johnson's* at *Black Wall*.

This is still an encreasing flourishing Town, and if they go on in Trade, as they have done for some time, 'tis probable it will in a little time be as big as the City of *Dublin*. The Houses here are exceeding well built, the Streets strait,
clean,

GRANTHAM, its fine Church and Steeple, 154. A vulgar Error to say its Steeple stands awry, 155. A neat, populous, good Market-Town, *ibid.* Its Free-School, and numerous good Inns, *ibid.* Vale of Belvoir; see *Belvoir*.

Grimsby, a good Town; but indifferent Road for Shipping 142.

H

HIGHWAYS, Roman, of Icknild; Watling-Street, and the Fosse; a curious Account of them, 117, 129, 130. See *Roads of England*.

Holland in Lincolnshire, very properly so called, 143. Its Ditches navigable, *ibid.* See *Fens*.

Holnby, an ancient Royal House, its fine Situation, 131.

The Prison of King Charles I. *ibid.* Purchas'd by the Dutchess of Marlborough *ibid.*

Huntingdon, its good Inns, 166. A Place of Strength in the late Civil Wars, *ibid.* Its Bridge and Causeway over the Ouse, a great Ornament to it *ibid.*

K

KIMBOLTON, the noble and pleasant Seat of the Duke of Manchester 167

L

LEICESTER, its prodigious Stocken Trade, 133. The County a vast Magazine of Wooll for the whole Nation, 134. Produces great Numbers of large Horses for Coaches, Drays, &c. 135. Four great Rivers take their Rise in this County, *ibid.* Formerly a Town of great Strength, *ibid.* A most remarkable Piece of Antiquity there 136

Liverpool, the Bristol of that Part of England, 103. Its prodigious Increase, Commerce, and Opulence, *ibid.* Its fine new Church, and the Present made to it by the late Robert Heysham, Esq; 104. Its fine new Tower, and curious Ring of Bells, *ibid.* A great Wet-Dock there for Merchant Ships, *ibid.* Likely to equal Dublin, and exceed Bristol 105

Lincoln, vast Number of large Sheep bred in that County, 134. Numerous Ruins of religious Houses in the City, 137. Its 13 Churches, and Ruins of the old Castle, 138. Particular Situation of the City, *ibid.* Its Foss-Dike or Canal, *ibid.* Its noble Cathedral described, *ibid.* Ancient large Revenues of its Bishoprick, 139. Place of Sepulture of King Vortimer, *ibid.* Its flourishing State at the Norman Conquest, containing 53 Parish Churches, 140. Its Castle built by William the Conqueror to curb the potent

tent Cl

ibid. A

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