

# **Walks through Bath,**

DESCRIBING

EVERY THING WORTHY OF INTEREST

CONNECTED WITH THE

*Public Buildings, the Rooms, Crescents, Theatre,  
Concerts, Baths, its Literature, &c.*

INCLUDING

**WALCOT AND WIDCOMBE,**

AND THE

**Surrounding Vicinity;**

With Sketches of

PRIOR-PARK-HOUSE, THE ROCKS OF WICK, CORSHAM-HOUSE, AND  
ITS FINE COLLECTION OF PAINTINGS:

ALSO AN EXCURSION TO

**CLIFTON AND BRISTOL HOT-WELLS,**

*With a Visit to Lord de Clifford's House, and some Remarks upon its Pictures:*

The whole forming

**A complete Guide**

TO THE

**VISITORS OF THE ABOVE CITY.**

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**By P. EGAN.**

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## WALK (OR EXCURSION) XIII.



*A sail down the Avon through the Majestic Rocks of ST. VINCENT to PILL. Cross the River to Weeks's Hotel, in Gloucestershire. (FERRY, 1d.) WALK to PEN POLE, through the Village of Shirehampton, the Park of LORD DE CLIFFORD's to King's Weston Hill and Tavern. A VISIT TO LORD DE CLIFFORD'S HOUSE AND CELEBRATED COLLECTION OF PAINTINGS BY THE OLD MASTERS. RETURN to BRISTOL over Durdham Downs, pass the Black Boy in the main Road, the King's Parade, Tyndall's Park, Berkeley-Square, through Park-Street to College-Green, cross the Docks up Clare-Street to the Bush Tavern, where Stages are always in readiness to convey the Traveller to BATH.*



SHOULD the traveller feel inclined to prolong his stay at *Clifton* for one evening, in order to enjoy the salubrious breezes from an early aquatic excursion in the morning, on the *Avon*, to the little sea-port of *PILL*, about the distance of six miles, and that, too, at the trifling expense of SIXPENCE, (vessels and boats always passing from Bristol); also to partake of one of the most extensive and delightful prospects in the kingdom, at *PEN POLE*; and from thence to *WALK* through the fine grounds, witnessing the picturesque scenery with which the Park of *LORD DE CLIFFORD* so fertilely abounds: likewise to view the fine mansion of his Lordship, and his

unique collection of Paintings, considered in point of talent and value as the third private collection in England, from the pencils of the following great painters, VANDYCK, POUSSIN, TENIERS, CLAUDE LORRAIN, MICHAEL ANGELO, GUIDO, GUERCINO, VANBLOOM, CANALOTTI, RUBENS, &c. &c. The time so employed must be considered, by every intelligent mind, as well devoted to the combined advantages of pleasure and instruction.

The sail from Rownham Tavern (the Ferry) is truly delightful. The effect is sublime. Encompassed, as it were, on each side by the majestic rocks of St. Vincent, appearing like a huge cavern rent asunder. The numerous market-boats, sloops, brigs, Indiamen, &c. continually passing to and from Bristol; the men employed in blowing up the rocks; the foot-passengers promenading up and down alongside of the river; the green hills in front, trees, &c. with the charming variety which the windings of the *Avon* offers to the enraptured eyes of the spectator, affords contemplation of the most extensive and enlightened description. The passage becomes rather rough as *Hongroad* is approached, at which place a large clustre of fine trees, on the left, are much admired. PILL is at length made, which has a convenient bay for shipping; and the packets for Cork, Waterford, &c. sail from this port. It is full of public-houses, among which the Waterloo-Inn, Red Lion, and Duke of Wellington, are the most conspicuous. Near the river it has something like the appearance of Wapping; but, at its extremity, towards the country, it possesses the



neatness of a village. It has a small Church. Here are also some signs put up at two or three huckster's shops, pointing out the widows and orphans of the men who were lost in the *William and Mary Packet*, belonging to PILL, in 1818, as a means of attracting custom. One penny is charged for the ferry across the water to *Weeks's Hotel*, when the traveller arrives in Gloucestershire. PILL, with the ships, craft, &c. has a pretty effect from the above hotel. The first road on the left leads to *Lamplighter's Hall*, and the village of *Shirehampton* appears on the right. The singular and delightful elevation of PEN POLE is soon ascertained, from which one of the most extensive prospects in the world is witnessed:—

What a scene !

What various views unnumber'd spread beneath !  
Woods, tow'rs, vales, caves, dells, cliffs, and torrent floods,  
And here and there, between the spiry rocks,  
The broad flat sea.

The grounds of LORD DE CLIFFORD extend to PEN POLE, and upon which elevation a sort of sundial is erected, in order to accommodate, as well as give a direction to the telescopes of the travellers. The trees, valleys, and picturesque scenery immediately adjoining and beneath PEN POLE is very pleasing, but the vast expanse which unfolds itself is of so sublime a nature, that imagination must supply the defect of description. In the centre appears the immense space of the Severn, into which the *Avon* empties itself. Ships making and leaving *Bristol*. The range of hills and mountains encompassing the view as far as the eye can pos-

sibly stretch. To the right is seen the New Passage-House to Wales, and the Passage-House on the other side. In the circle on the right is also the fine range of hills in Somersetshire. On quitting PEN POLE the village of *Shirchampton* is passed through, when the traveller soon enters the delightful Park of Lord de Clifford, and gains the fourth mile-stone from Bristol. This Park affords some charming views of Dundry Tower, the Old Ruin at *Clifton*, the windings of the Avon, and the seats of Mr. Nash and Mr. Miles, also add considerable grandeur to the scene. This latter mansion, which has been recently finished, is a very superior building. It has in the front of it a fine portico with lofty pillars, and likewise a portico with pillars on each of its sides. The above seat is the property of a rich merchant, who has not only consulted taste in its formation, but it is said to have cost upwards of £150,000. It contains 132 rooms. The expenses of the hall alone were £20,000. The interior has also to boast of the advantages of the most modern furniture, with all its superb embellishments. An extensive library is forming; and several of the paintings which decorate the principal rooms are from the first masters of antiquity. Three of which cost £30,000. On proceeding through the Park, the spectator obtains a front view of the mansion of Lord de Clifford, which was erected from a design of Sir John Vanbrugh, the architect who built Blenheim-House. It has rather a heavy appearance, and not much admired for its style of architecture. On passing an elegant modern little cottage, near to which on the



left is *King's Weston Hill*; upon this eminence is erected a very commodious Inn, with large stabling, &c. which proves extremely convenient to those parties who leave *Bristol* to admire the prospects of *PEN POLE*, and to visit the House and Paintings of Lord de Clifford. On the summit of *King's Weston Hill*, the view, if possible, is still more extensive than witnessed at *PEN POLE*. 'Tomb Marle, the highest mountain in Wales, is distinctly seen; also the Denny, Chepstow, Carcliff, &c. &c. Upon quitting the above Inn, a lane on the right is the carriage-road, and only entrance for visitors that leads to the front door and hall of Lord de Clifford's mansion, which is about the distance of three hundred yards from King's Weston Inn. The hours of admittance are from eleven to two o'clock; and, from the liberality of his Lordship, in order to gratify the curiosity of the public, the Paintings are to be seen nine months in the year. The visitor has nothing more to do than to ring a bell, and upon announcing his wishes to a footman, the housekeeper instantly presents herself, and the apartments are shown without delay.

On entering the *HALL*, which is very lofty and in the form of a square, the effect is interesting and attractive. *Thirty-six* large portraits, consisting of the male and female branches of the ancient family of *DE CLIFFORD*, completely cover all the walls, in white projecting frames. The whole of the above portraits, painted by Sir Godfrey Kneller and Sir Peter Lely, are in fine preservation, and retain all their original excellence and beauty of colouring.

From this place, which, perhaps, might with more propriety be termed the PORTRAIT GALLERY, a door leads into an elegant inner-hall, in which a very fine piece of antiquity immediately interests the attention of the spectator, a wide old oak winding staircase, with handsomely carved bannisters, capacious landing-places, and very highly polished, which leads to

LADY DE CLIFFORD'S DRESSING-ROOM.—Of this most magnificent apartment, viewed as a *Lady's Dressing-Room*, it may be urged, without disparagement or fear of contradiction, to have no equal in the kingdom ; it does not, however, owe its importance to the art of the upholsterer, adorned with the newest fashions—it has no fascinating draperies tastefully folded to enrapture the eyes of the spectator—no enticing Grecian sofa, by way of invitation to loll the time away with a novel, or interesting *tête-à-tête*—in short, there is nothing of the *boudoir* about it ; nor are there any traces of the waiting maid's "occupation" to be witnessed, (although it is used by LADY DE CLIFFORD every day, and a small simple toilette is the only appendage of dress) that in any way tends to give it the above designation. The room is rather long and lofty ; the fine oak floor is highly polished ; and containing three capacious windows in a half circular front. From which the same delightful extensive prospect is witnessed as at PEN POLE. Not a ship enters, or goes out from the port of Bristol, but is distinctly seen from this delightful apartment :—

As far as I could cast my eyes,  
Upon the sea, something, methought, did rise



Like blueish mists, which, still appearing more,  
Took dreadful shapes, and thus mov'd tow'ards the shore:  
The object, I could first distinctly view,  
Was tall straight trees, which on the water flew:  
Wings on their sides instead of leaves did grow,  
Which gather'd all the breath the winds could blow:  
And at their roots grew FLOATING PALACES,  
Whose out-blown bellies cut the yielding seas!

The walls of the room are covered with paintings in gilt frames. The subjects in general are small, but they are of the first excellence. Some beautiful inlaid cabinets, rich and costly shells, &c. also decorate this dressing-room. The following are the most eminent of the pictures:—

Two Landscapes..... Poussin.

These paintings are pronounced to be two of the best subjects of this great master; and were particularly admired by the Duchess of York, on her visit to *De Clifford-House*.

The Holy Family ..... Unes.

To the passing eye of the spectator nothing more appears than a small wreath of flowers; and it almost requires the aid of a microscope to discover the Holy Family. It is a painting of extraordinary talent; and the beauty and symmetry of the figures are finely preserved and distinctly executed. It is worthy of the most minute investigation.

The Last Supper ..... Franks.

This is also an admirable production.

A view of King's Weston-Hill, with the Seat of

Lord de Clifford ..... *A Modern Painter*.

Three delightfully executed views of Venice.

Numerous Scripture and other pieces of great beauty and talent.

A fine collection of Miniatures by the first Artists in that line of painting.

In Crayons, over the fire-place, the Dowager Lady de Clifford and her Children; among whom is recognized the present Earl ..... *Gardner*.

Also Venus at her Toilet, in white marble; a most delicate and highly finished piece of sculpture.

Thy fair ideas, thy delightful forms,  
By Love imagin'd, by the Graces touch'd  
The boast of well-pleas'd Nature! *Sculpture seiz'd,*  
And bade them ever smile in Parian stone.  
Selecting Beauty's choice, and that again  
Exalting, blending in a perfect whole  
Thy workmen left even *Nature's* self behind.

**The DRAWING-ROOM.**—This apartment, the walls of which are covered with crimson damask



silk, possesses all the *character* of former times; the antique grate and old chairs still retain their places, and the harmony of the scene is not interrupted from the introduction of any articles of modern invention. The paintings too are from the pencils of some of the oldest masters, and portray most exquisitely the highest order of the art.

St. John in the Wilderness ..... *Raphael.*

A Connoisseur in painting would think a hundred miles but a trifling distance to behold such a fine picture, independently of the beauty of its colouring, and possessing several other highly finished requisites; the foot of St. John positively appears protruded from the canvass. It is almost reality personified, and its excellence and effect cannot be communicated by description.

Susanna and the Elders ..... *Rubens.*

This is a small painting, but the face of the woman is exquisitely beautiful; the shame of her exposed situation is depicted with great expression; and the peeping curiosity of the Elders is also portrayed with the utmost skill.

St. Cecilia ..... *Domenichino.*

The drapery of this portrait is the admiration of all persons who have witnessed it.

A Magdalen ..... *Guido.*

Joseph and our Saviour ..... *Ditto.*

The countenance of our Saviour is finely delineated; it is a face not of this world; and possesses all those sublime touches for which the heads of this great master are so eminently characterized. The hand of Joseph is also executed with uncommon beauty. Both the above paintings cannot be too much admired.

St. Cecilia and her Children ..... *Maratti.*

These portraits are sweetly interesting. The harmony of all the faces are admirably personified.

Lot and his Two Daughters

Moses in the Bulrushes ..... *Poussin.*

The excellence of the water in this picture is the admiration of every artist, and the praise of every spectator. It appears almost transparent.

This room also contains several other fine paintings.

Over the fire-place stands the Judgment of Paris, in white marble. It is a finely executed piece of sculpture.

A Satyr tied is also worthy of inspection.

Two most superb inlaid cabinets, and the highly polished oak-floor, tend to give the Drawing-Room the appearance of ancient grandeur.

### The PARLOUR:

Samson and Delilah ..... *Poussin.*

The strength and energy of Samson, and the beauty and fascinating softness of Delilah, are finely contrasted. It is an admirable painting.

A Madona and sleeping Child ..... *Guercino.*

The loveliness of the face of the Madona and the very natural situation of the Infant claims attention.

Venus and Cupid ..... *Guido.*

The powerful attractions of Venus, and the liveliness of the young urchin, have been portrayed with great felicity by this distinguished artist. This painting imparts all the warmth of love.

There are also some fine views of Ancient Rome, much admired for the grandeur of their architecture.

### EATING-PARLOUR:

Two whole-length Portraits of Lady Elizabeth

Cromwell, and Thomas Earl of Essex..... *Sir Godfrey Kneller.*

The beauty of Lady Elizabeth, her elegant figure, and the richness of the drapery and laces, are delineated with all the happy perfection of this great portrait-painter; but the fine interesting appearance of the Earl is truly captivating. The expression of the countenance contains some exquisite touches of colouring.

Some excellently finished bronzed figures also decorate this parlour; and the doors of which that lead into the other apartments are of solid mahogany.

The remuneration to the housekeeper is left entirely to the liberality of the visitors.

Upon leaving the inn at *King's Weston-Hill*, a delightful walk is experienced through the fields on returning to Bristol. The seats of the following gentlemen are also passed: Sneyd-Park, Mr. Hall; Sir Henry Lippincott's; and Mr. Webb, M.P. for Gloucester. The fine Downs of Durdham, upon which are numerous rich lofty trees, render this situation truly picturesque. The Bristol Races are also held upon these Downs; and the course is considered a very good one. The main road is soon acquired, and the line of direction is in passing the sign of the Black Boy, King's Parade, Tindall's Park, Berkeley-Square, through Park-Street to College-Green, and upon crossing the Docks to Clare-Street. The BUSH TAVERN has always numerous stages to convey the traveller, almost at every hour in the day, to the City of BATH.