

slope, clothed with verdure, rises rapidly to the lofty pine-clad eminence called MASSON HILL, an elevation of upwards of 1,000 feet. The base of this mountain stretches directly across the dale in front, and apparently presents a barrier to an egress from the valley on the north; but as we advance, the road is seen to wind round its foot by a defile along the left bank of the river; and the magnificent rock, called the HIGH TOR, rises in majestic grandeur on the right. The valley now gradually expands, and at the distance of about two and a half miles from the entrance at Scarthing's rock, terminates in the campaign country beyond Matlock village.* From the precipitous nature of the escarpment of mountain limestone which forms the eastern boundary of the dale, the buildings at Matlock Bath are confined to the left or western side of the Derwent, and are scattered here and there among the trees, on the projecting plots and terraces formed by the fallen cliffs of sandstone, which, during the lapse of ages, have become partially disintegrated, and are more or less concealed by vegetable soil; the projecting rocks are covered with lichens, mosses, and ferns.

The hotels, of which there are several, are all delightfully situated; but the *Temple Hotel*, which stands on a terrace on the side of Masson Hill, about a hundred feet above the river, has the pre-

* The proper name of the hamlet in the valley, generally called Matlock, is *Matlock Bath*.