

CHAPTER IX.

Detour. — The Leasowes deteriorated wherever the Poet had built, and improved wherever he had planted. — View from the Hanging Wood. — Stratagem of the Island Screen. — Virgil's Grave. — Mound of the Hales Owen and Birmingham Canal; its sad Interference with Shenstone's Poetic Description of the Infancy of the Stour. — Vanished Cascade and Root-house. — Somerville's Urn. — "To all Friends round the Wrekin." — *River Scenery of the Leasowes; their great Variety.* — Peculiar Arts of the Poet; his Vistas, when seen from the wrong end, Realizations of Hogarth's Caricature. — Shenstone the greatest of Landscape Gardeners. — Estimate of Johnson. — Goldsmith's History of the Leasowes; their after History. 175

CHAPTER X.

Shenstone's Verses. — The singular Unhappiness of his Paradise. — English Cider. — Scotch and English Dwellings contrasted. — The Nailers of Hales Owen; their Politics a Century ago. — Competition of the Scotch Nailers; unsuccessful, and why. — Samuel Salt, the Hales Owen Poet. — Village Church. — Salt Works at Droitwich; their great Antiquity. — Appearance of the Village. — Problem furnished by the Salt Deposits of England; various Theories. — Rock Salt deemed by some a Volcanic Product; by others the Deposition of an overcharged Sea; by yet others the Produce of vast Lagoons. — Leland. — The Manufacture of Salt from Sea-water superseded, even in Scotland, by the Rock Salt of England. 193

CHAPTER XI.

Walk to the Clent Hills. — Incident in a Fruit Shop. — St. Kenelm's Chapel. — Legend of St. Kenelm. — Ancient Village of Clent; its Ap-