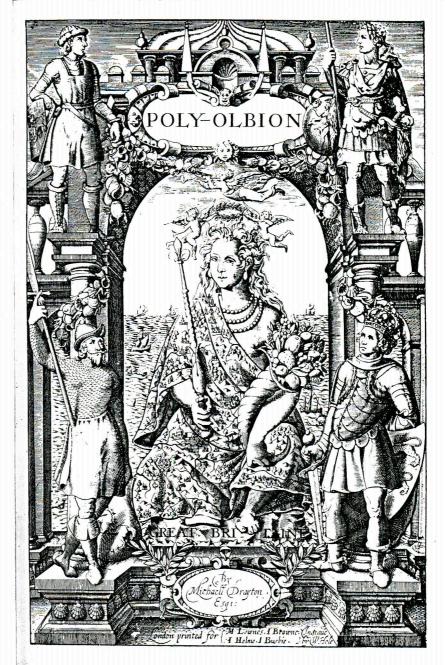
## UPON THE FRONTISPICE.

\* Insula Caruli. a So Havillan & Uptonanciently delivered. I justific it not; yet, can his other attributed Arms, I might. b Object not, that it should be the Eagle, because it is now borne by the Emperors; and that some Heralds ignorantly publish it, as J. Casars Coat, Double beaded. They move me not; for plainly the Eagle was single at that time (unles you call it Οἰωνῶν Βασιληα δίδυ-

THROUGH a Triumphant Arch, see Albion plas't, ▲ In Happy site, in Neptunes armes embras't, In Power and Plenty, on hir Cleevy Throne as well as others Circled with Natures Ghirlands, being alone Stil'd th' Oceans \* Island. On the Columnes beene (As Trophies raiz'd) what Princes Time hath seene Ambitious of her. In hir yonger years, Vast Earth-bred Giants woo'd her: but, who bears In a Golden field the Lion passantred, Æneas Nephew (Brute) them conquered. Next, Laureat Casar, as a Philtre, brings, On's shield, his Grandame b Venus: Him hir Kings Withstood. At length, the Roman, by long sute, Gain'd her (most Part) from th'ancient race of Brute. Divors't from Him, the Saxon c sable Horse, Borne by sterne Hengist, wins her: but, through force Garding the d Norman Leopards bath' din Gules, She chang'd hir Love to Him, whose Line yet rules.

μον, as Pindar doth four Eagle) and but newly us'd among the Romans (first by Marius) as their Standard, not otherwise, untill afterward Constantine made it respect the two Empires: and since, it hath beene borne on a Shield. I tooke Venus proper to him, for that the stamp of hir face (she being his Ancestor Eneas his mother) in his Coins is frequent; and can so maintaine it here fitter, then many of those invented Coats (without colour of reason) attributed to the old Heroes. As for matter of Armory, Venus being a Goddesse may be as good Bearing, if not better then Atalanta, which, by expresse Authority of Euripides, was borne, in the Theban warre by Parthenopaus. eHengist hath other Armes in some traditions, which are to be respected as Old wives fictions. His name expresses a Horse, and the Dukes of Saxony are said to have borne it anciently, before their Christianity, Sable: therfore, if you give him any, with most reason, let him have this. dThe common Blazon of the Norman Armes justifies it. And, if you please, see for it

to the XI. Canto.



Poly-Olbion Song XVI High woody

Her Purlewes, and her Parks, her circuit full as large, As some (perhaps) whose state requires a greater charge. Whose \* Holts that view the East, do wistly stand to look Upon the winding course of Lee's delightfull Brook. Where Mimer comming in, invites her Sister Beane, Amongst the chalky Banks t'increase their Mistresse traine; Whom by the dainty hand, obsequiously they lead (By Hartford gliding on, through many a pleasant Mead. And comming in hir course, to crosse the common Fare, For kindnes she doth kisse that hospitable Ware.) 270 Yet scarsely comfort Lee (alasse!) so woe begonne, Complaining in her course, thus to her selfe alone; How should my beauty now give Waltham such delight. Or I poore silly Brook take pleasure in her sight? Antiquity (for that it stands so far from view, And would her doating dreames should be believ'd for true) Dare lowdly lie for Colne, that somtimes Ships did passe, To Verlam by her Streame, when Verlam famous was; But, by these later times, suspected but to faine, She Planks and Anchors shews, her errour to maintaine: 280 Which were, indeede, of Boats, for pleasure there to rowe Upon her (then a Lake) the Roman Pompe to showe, When Rome, her forces here did every yeere supply, And at old Verlam kept a warlike Colony. But I distressed Lee, whose course doth plainely tell, That what of Colne is said, of me none could refell, Whom \* Alfred but too wise (poore River) I may say (When he the cruell Danes, did cunningly betray, Which Hartford then besieg'd, whose Navy there abode, And on my spacious brest, before the Castle road) 290 By vantage of my soyle, he did divide my Streame: That they might ne're returne to Neptunes watry Realme. And, since, distressed Lee I have been left forlorne, A by-word to each Brook, and to the World a scorne.

When Sturt, a Nymph of hers (whose faith she oft had prov'd. And whom, of all her traine, Lee most intirely lov'd) Least so excessive greefe, her Mistresse might invade, Thus (by faire gentle speech) to patience doth perswade:

Though you be not so great to others as before, Yet not a jot for that dislike your selfe the more.

Your case is not alone, nor is (at all) so strange; Sith every thing on earth subjects it selfe to change. Where rivers sometime ran, is firme and certaine ground: And where before were Hills, now standing Lakes are found. And that which most you urge, your beauty to dispoile, Doth recompence your Bank, with quantitie of soyle, Beset with ranks of Swans; that, in their wonted pride, Do prune their snowy plumes upon your pleasant side. And Waltham wooes you still, and smiles with wonted cheere: And Tames as at the first, so still doth hold you deer.

To much beloved Lee, this scarcely Sturt had spoke, But goodly Londons sight their further purpose broke: When Tames his either Banks, adorn'd with buildings faire, The City to salute doth bid the Muse prepare. Whose Turrets, Fanes, and Spyres, when wistly she beholds, Her wonder at the site, thus strangely she unfolds: At thy great Builders wit, who's he but wonder may? Nay: of his wisedom, thus, ensuing times shall say; O more then mortall man, that did this Towne begin! Whose knowledge found the plot, so fit to set it in. What God, or heavenly power was harbourd in thy breast, From whom with such successe thy labours should be blest? Built on a rising Bank, within a Vale to stand, And for thy healthfull soyle, chose gravell mixt with sand. And where faire Tames his course into a Crescent casts (That, forced by his Tydes, as still by her he hasts, He might his surging waves into her bosome send) Because too farre in length, his Towne should not extend.

And to the North and South, upon an equal reach, Two Hils their even Banks do somewhat seeme to stretch, 330 Those \* two extreamer Winds from hurting it to let; And only levell lies, upon the Rise and Set. Of all this goodly Ile, where breathes most cheerefull aire And every way there-to the wayes most smooth and faire; As in the fittest place, by man that could be thought, To which by Land, or Sea, provision might be brought. And such a Road for Ships scarce all the world commands, As is the goodly Tames, neer where Brute's City stands. Nor any Haven lies to which is more resort, Commodities to bring, as also to transport:

Vol. IV y

300

32 I

340

From Poly-Olbion (Middlesex and Hortford Shire) Song XVI

London

Hartfordshire.

Tanes = Thames

Fanes = temples

The goodly situation of

The North & South winds.

Bout was thought to be the founds of Landon.

See to the XII. Song.

Poly-Olbion Song XVI Our Kingdome that enricht (through which we flourisht long)
E're idle Gentry up in such aboundance sprong.
Now pestring all this Ile: whose disproportion drawes
The publique wealth so drie, and only is the cause
Our gold goes out so fast, for foolish foraine things,
Which upstart Gentry still into our Country brings;
Who their insatiate pride seek chiefly to maintaine
By that, which only serves to uses vile and vaine:
Which our plaine Fathers earst would have accounted sinne,
Before the costly Coach, and silken stock came in;
Before that Indian weed so strongly was imbrac't;
Wherin, such mighty summes we prodigally waste;

Tobacco.

Before the costly Coach, and silken stock came in;
Before that Indian weed so strongly was imbrac't;
Wherin, such mighty summes we prodigally waste;
That Merchants long train'd up in Gayn's deceitful schoole,
And subtly having learn'd to sooth the humorous foole,
Present their painted toyes unto this frantique gull,
Disparaging our Tinne, our Leather, Corne, and Wooll;
When Forrainers, with ours them warmly cloath and feed,
Transporting trash to us, of which we nere had need.

But whilst the angry Muse, thus on the Time exclames, Sith every thing therin consisteth in extreames; 360 Lest she inforc't with wrongs, her limits should transcend, Here of this present Song she briefly makes an end. gull = Fool (ie, the idle gent leman)



Drayton, Roby-Olsion
Map preceding



Drayton, Poly-Olbion

## The seventeenth Song.

\* THE ARGUMENT.

To Medway, Tames a suter goes;
But fancies Mole, as forth he flowes.
Her Mother, Homesdale, holds her in:
She digs through Earth, the Tames to win.
Great Tames, as King of Rivers, sings
The Catalogue of th' English Kings.
Thence the light Muse, to th' Southward soares,
The Surrian and Sussexian shores;
The Forrests and the Downes survaies,
With Rillets running to those Seas;
This Song of hers then cutteth short,
For things to come, of much import.

AT LENGTH it came to passe, that Isis and her Tame Of Medway understood, a Nymph of wondrous fame; And much desirous were, their princely Tames shuld prove If (as a wooer) he could win her Maiden-love; That of so great descent, and of so large a Dower, Might well-allie their House, and much increase his power: And striving to preferre their Sonne, the best they may, Set forth the lusty Flood, in rich and brave array, Bankt with imbrodered Meads, of sundry sutes of flowres, His brest adorn'd with Swans, oft washt with silver showres: A traine of gallant Floods, at such a costly rate

As might beseeme their care, and fitting his estate.

Attended and attyr'd magnificently thus,
They send him to the Court of great Oceanus,
The Worlds huge wealth to see; yet with a full intent,
To wooe the lovely Nymph, faire Medway, as he went.
Who to his Dame and Sire, his duty scarce had done,
And whil'st they sadly wept at parting of their Sonne,
See what the Tames befell, when t'was suspected least.

As still his goodly traine yet every houre increast, And from the *Surrian* shores cleere *Wey* came down to meet His Greatnes, whom the *Tames* so gratiously doth greet, Isis and Tome are the "garent" rivers of the

\*Comming by Fernham, so called of Ferne there growing.

Isis.

A very woody

Vale in Surry.

That with the \*Fearne-crown'd Flood he Minion-like doth play: Yet is not this the Brook, entiseth him to stay.

But as they thus, in pompe, came sporting on the shole,
Gainst Hampton-Court he meets the soft and gentle Mole.

Whose eyes so piere't his breast, that seeming to foreslowe
The way which he so long, intended was to go,
With trifling up and down, he wandreth here and there;
And that he in her sight, transparent might appeare,
Applyes himselfe to Fords, and setteth his delight
On that which most might make him gratious in her sight.

Then Isis and the Tame from their conjoyned bed,
Desirous still to learne how Tames their son had sped
(For greatly they had hop't, his time had so been spent,
That he ere this had won the goodly heyre of Kent)
And sending to enquire, had newes return'd againe
(By such as they imploy'd, on purpose in his traine)
How this their only heyre, the Iles emperiall Flood,
Had loytered thus in love, neglectfull of his good.

No marvaile (at the newes) though \* Ouse and Tame were sad, More comfort of their sonne expecting to have had.

Nor blame them, in their looks much sorrow though they show'd: Who fearing least he might thus meanely be bestow'd, And knowing danger still increased by delay, Employ their utmost power, to hasten him away. But Tames would hardly on: oft turning back to show, From his much loved Mole how loth he was to go.

The mother of the Mole, old \* Homesdale, likewise beares
Th'affection of her childe, as ill as they do theirs:

Who nobly though deriv'd, yet could have been content,
T'have matcht her with a Flood, of farre more mean descent.
But Mole respects her words, as vaine and idle dreames,
Compar'd with that high joy, to be belov'd of Tames:
And head-long holds her course, his company to win.
But, Homesdale raised Hills, to keep the straggler in;
That of her daughters stay she need no more to doubt:
(Yet never was there help, but love could finde it out.)
§. Mole digs her selfe a Path, by working day and night
(According to her name, to shew her nature right)
And underneath the Earth, for three miles space doth creep:
Till gotten out of sight, quite from her mothers keep,

Her foreintended course the wanton Nymph doth run; As longing to imbrace old *Tame* and *Isis* son.

When Tames now understood, what paines the Mole did take, How farre the loving Nymph adventur'd for his sake; Although with Medway matcht, yet never could remove The often quickning sparks of his more ancient love. So that it comes to passe, when by great Natures guide The Ocean doth returne, and thrusteth-in the Tide;

10 Up tow'rds the place, where first his much-lov'd Mole was seen,

§. He ever since doth flow, beyond delightfull Sheene.

Then Wandal commeth in, the Moles beloved mate,
So amiable, faire, so pure, so delicate,
So plump, so full, so fresh, her eyes so wondrous cleer:
And first unto her Lord, at Wandsworth doth appeare,
That in the goodly Court, of their great soveraigne Tames,
There might no other speech be had amongst the Streames,
But only of this Nymph, sweet Wandal, what she wore;
Of her complection, grace, and how her selfe she bore.

But now this mighty Flood, upon his voiage prest (That found how with his strength, his beauties still increast, From where, brave Windsor stood on tip-toe to behold The faire and goodly Tames, so farre as ere he could, With Kingly houses Crown'd, of more then earthly pride, Upon his either Banks, as he along doth glide) With wonderfull delight, doth his long course pursue, Where Otlands, Hampton Court, and Richmond he doth view, Then Westminster the next great Tames doth entertaine; That vaunts her Palace large, and her most sumptuous Fane: The Lands tribunall seate that challengeth for hers, The crowning of our Kings, their famous sepulchers. Then goes he on along by that more beautious Strand, Expressing both the wealth and bravery of the Land. (So many sumptuous Bowres, within so little space, The All-beholding Sun scarse sees in all his race.) And on by London leads, which like a Crescent lies, Whose windowes seem to mock the Star-befreckled skies; Besides her rising Spyres, so thick themselves that show, As doe the bristling reeds, within his Banks that growe. There sees his crouded Wharfes, and people-pestred shores, His Bosome over-spread, with shoales of labouring ores:

Poly-Olbion Song XVII

Tames ebbes & flowes beyond Richmond.

London lying like a halfe Moon.

With that most costly Bridge, that doth him most renowne, By which he cleerely puts all other Rivers downe.

Thus furnished with all that appertain'd to State,
Desired by the Floods (his Greatnes which awayt)
That as the rest before, so somewhat he would sing,
Both worthy of their praise, and of himselfe their King;
A Catalogue of those, the Scepter heer that swayd,
The Princely Tames recites, and thus his Song he laid;

As Bastard William first, by Conquest hither came, And brought the Norman Rule, upon the English name: So with a tedious warre, and almost endlesse toyles, Throughout his troubled raigne, here held his hard-got spoyles. Deceasing at the last, through his unsetled State, §. Left (with his ill-got Crown) unnaturall debate. For, dying at his home, his eldest sonne abroad (Who, in the Holy-warre, his person then bestow'd) His second Rufus next usurpt the wronged raigne: And by a fatall dart, in his New Forgest slaine, 120 Whilst in his proper right religious Robert slept, Through craft into the Throng, the younger Beau-cleark crept. From whom his Scepter, then, whil'st Robert strove to wrest, The other (of his power that amply was possest) With him in battell joyn'd: and, in that dreadfull day (Where Fortune shew'd her selfe all humane power to sway) Duke Robert went to wrack; and taken in the flight, §. Was by that cruell King deprived of his sight, And in close prison put; where miserably he dy'd:

But Henries whole intent was by just heaven deny'd.
For, as of light, and life, he that sad Lord bereft;
So his, to whom the Land, he purpos'd to have left,
The \*raging Seas devowr'd, as hitherward they saild.

130

When, in this Line direct, the Conquerors issue faild,
Twixt Henries Daughter Mauld, the Almayne Emperours Bride
(Which after to the Earle of Anjou was affi'd)
And Stephen Earle of Bloys, the Conquerors Sisters son,
A fierce and cruell war immediately begun;
Who with their severall powers, arrived here from France,
By force of hostile Armes, their Titles to advance.

140
But, Stephen, what by coyne, and what by forraine strength,
Through Worlds of danger gain'd the glorious goale at length.

But, left without an heyre, the Empresse issue next,
No Title else on foote; upon so faire pretext,
The second Henry soon upon the Throne was set.

Song XVII

The second Henry soon upon the Throne was set,
(Which Mauld to Jeffrey bare) the first Plantaginet.
Who held strong wars with Wales, that his subjection spurn'd:
Which oftentimes he beat; and, beaten oft, return'd:
With his sterne Children vext: who (whil's the strove t'advance
His right within this Ile) rays'd war on him in France.
With his hie fame in fight, what colde brest was not fir'd?
Through all the Westerne world, for wisedome most admyr'd.
Then Richard got the Rule, his most renowned sonne,

Whose courage, him the name of Care De Lion won.
With those first earthly Gods, had this brave Prince been borne,
His daring hand had from Alcides shoulders torne
The Nemean Lyon's hyde: who in the Holy-land
So dreadfull was, as though from Jove and Neptunes hand,
The thundring three-forkt Fire, and Trident he had reft,
And him to rule their charge they only then had left.
Him John againe succeeds; who, having put-away
Yong Arthur (Richards sonne) the Scepter took to sway.
Who, of the common wealth first havock having made,
§. His sacrilegious hands upon the Churches laid,
In cruelty and rape continuing out his raigne;
That his outrageous lust and courses to restraine,
§. The Baronage were forc't defensive Armes to raise,
Their daughters to redeeme, that he by force would seise.

And from the Line of France yong Lewes to have brought, To take on him our Rule: but, Henry got the Throne, By his more forcefull friends: who, wise and puissant growne, §. The generall Charter seiz'd: that into slavery drew The freest borne English blood. Of which such discord grew, And in the Barons breasts so rough combustions rais'd, With much expence of blood as long was not appeaz'd, By strong and tedious gusts held up on either side, Betwixt the Prince and Peeres, with equall power and pride. He knew the worst of warre, matcht with the Barons strong;

That to depose their Prince, th'revengefull people thought;

Which the first Civill warre in England here begun.

And for his sake such hate his sonne young Henry won,

Yet victor liv'd, and raign'd both happily and long.

Poly-Olbion Song XVII This Iland kept in awe, and did her power extend Afflicted France to ayde, her owne as to defend; Against th' Iberian rule, the Flemmings sure defence: Rude Ireland's deadly scourge; who sent her Navies hence Unto the either Inde, and to that shore so greene, Virginia which we call, of her a Virgin Queen: In Portugall gainst Spaine, her English ensignes spred; Took Cales, when from her ayde the brav'd Iberia fled. Most flourishing in State: that, all our Kings among, Scarse any rul'd so well: but \* two, that raign'd so long.

Henry III. and Edward III. the one raigned 56. the other. 50.

\*The Sun in

Aries.

Here suddainly he staid: and with his kingly Song,
Whil'st yet on every side the City loudly rong,
He with the Eddy turn'd, a space to look about:
The Tide, retiring soon, did strongly thrust him out.
And soon the pliant Muse, doth her brave wing advance,
Tow'rds those Sea-bordring shores of ours, that point at France;
The harder Surrian Heath, and the Sussexian Downe.
Which with so great increase though Nature do not crowne,
As many other Shires, of this inviron'd Ile:

Yet on the \* Weathers head, when as the sunne doth smile, Nurst by the Southern Winds, that soft and gently blowe, Here doth the lusty sap as soon begin to flowe; The Earth as soon puts on her gaudy Summers sute; The Woods as soon in green, and orchards great with fruit.

To Sea-ward, from the seat where first our Song begun, Exhaled to the South by the ascending sunne, Fower stately Wood Nymphs stand on the Sussexian ground, Great \* Andredsweld's sometime: who, when she did abound, In circuit and in growth, all other quite supprest: But in her wane of pride, as she in strength decreast, Her Nymphs assum'd them names, each one to her delight. As, Water-downe, so call'd of her depressed site: And Ash-Downe, of those Trees that most in her do growe, Set higher to the Downes, as th'other standeth lowe. Saint Leonards, of the seat by which she next is plac't, And Whord that with the like delighteth to be grac't. These Forrests as I say, the daughters of the Weald (That in their heavie breasts, had long their greefs conceal'd) Foreseeing, their decay each howre so fast came on. Under the axes stroak, fetcht many a grievous grone,

A Forrest, containing most part of Kent, Sussex, and Surrey.

Poly-Olbion Song XVII

When as the anviles weight, and hammers dreadfull sound, Even rent the hollow Woods, and shook the queachy ground. So that the trembling Nymphs, opprest through gastly feare, Ran madding to the Downes, with loose dishev'ld hayre. The Sylvans that about the neighbouring woods did dwell, Both in the tufty Frith and in the mossy Fell, Forsook their gloomy Bowres, and wandred farre abroad, Expeld their quiet seats, and place of their abode, When labouring carts they saw to hold their dayly trade, Where they in summer wont to sport them in the shade. Could we, say they, suppose, that any would us cherish, Which suffer (every day) the holiest things to perish? Or to our daily want to minister supply? These yron times breed none, that minde posteritie. Tis but in vaine to tell, what we before have been, Or changes of the world, that we in time have seen; When, not devising how to spend our wealth with waste, We to the savage swine, let fall our larding mast. 400 But now, alas, our selves we have not to sustaine, Nor can our tops suffice to shield our Roots from raine. Joves Oke, the warlike Ash, veyn'd Elme, the softer Beech, Short Hazell, Maple plaine, light Aspe, the bending Wych, Tough Holly, and smooth Birch, must altogether burne: What should the Builder serve, supplies the Forgers turne; When under publike good, base private gaine takes holde, And we poore woefull Woods, to ruine lastly solde.

This uttered they with griefe: and more they would have spoke, But that the envious Downes, int'open laughter broke;
As joying in those wants, which Nature them had given,
Sith to as great distresse the Forrests should be driven.
Like him that long time hath anothers state envy'd,
And sees a following Ebbe, unto his former Tide;
The more he is deprest, and bruiz'd with fortunes might,
The larger Reane his foe doth give to his despight:
So did the envious Downes; but that againe the Floods
(Their fountaines that derive, from those unpittied Woods,
And so much grace thy Downes, as through their Dales they creep,
Their glories to convay unto the Celiick deep)
It very hardly tooke, much murmuring at their pride.
Cleere Lavant, that doth keep the Southamptonian side

Poly-Olbion Song XVII

(Dividing it well-neere from the Sussexian lands That Selsey doth survay, and Solents troubled sands) To Chichester their wrongs impatiently doth tell: §. And Arun (which doth name the beautious Arundell) As on her course she came, it to her Forrest tolde. Which, nettled with the newes, had not the power to hold: But breaking into rage, wisht Tempests them might rive; And on their barren scalps, still flint and chauke might thrive, The brave and nobler Woods which basely thus upbraid. §. And Adur comming on, to Shoreham softly said, The Downes did very ill, poore Woods so to debase. But now, the Ouse, a Nymph of very scornefull grace, So touchy waxt therewith, and was so squeamish growne, That her old name she scorn'd should publiquely be knowne. Whose haven out of mind when as it almost grew, The lately passed times denominate, the New. So Cucmer with the rest put to her utmost might: As Ashburne undertakes to doe the Forrests right 440 (At Pemsey, where she powres her soft and gentler Flood) And Asten once distain'd with native English blood: (Whose Soyle, when yet but wet with any little raine, §. Doth blush; as put in mind of those there sadly slaine,

New-Haven.

340

When Hastings harbour gave unto the Norman powers, Whose name and honors now are denizend for ours)
That boding ominous Brook, it through the Forrests rung:
Which ecchoing it againe the mighty Weald along,
Great stirre was like to grow; but that the Muse did charme
Their furies, and her selfe for nobler things did arme.