

## CHAPTER III.

## RIVERS OF YORKSHIRE.

“ I know no better way of describing this County than by following the course of the Dan, Calder, Aire, Wharfe, Nid and Ouse, which rise among the mountains, are rivers of eminence, and run by considerable places.”—*Camden.*

THE area of Yorkshire is reckoned by Mr. Rickman, in the Population Returns for 1831, at 5836 square miles. Of this the larger portion, viz. about eighty parts in one hundred, delivers its springs and surface water by innumerable feeders to the Humber and German Ocean; somewhat less than thirteen parts in the hundred enter the same sea, but not through the Humber; and rather more than seven parts in the hundred flow to the Irish Channel. The particulars are contained in the subjoined statement, which I have constructed with some care from the County Maps.

Drainage of the Humber, estimated in square miles, each including 640 acres:—Swale, 543; Ure, above York, 725; additions to Ure, below York, but above Derwent, 175; Wharfe, 359; Derwent, 871; Aire and Calder together, 683; Dun, with feeders on the south and west, 691; additions to Ouse and Humber, below Derwent, 170; Hull, 286; Streams falling into Humber below Hull, 170. Total, 4673 square miles.

Drainage to the East Sea, but not through the Humber:—Tees, 347; Streams on east coast from Tees mouth to Filey, 131; Esk, 162; Streams on Holderness Coast, 100. Total 740 square miles.

Drainage to the Irish Channel:—Lune, 169; Ribble, 221; Saddleworth, 33. Total, 423 square miles.

In this enumeration the river which drains the largest surface is the Derwent, but the quantity of water which it discharges in ordinary states of the weather is comparatively small, because