

traces of ancient population and worship : the hills on the south are not much inferior in height. The same general characters belong to this river as it sweeps by Bingley and Shipley, under the remarkable elevation called Baildon Hill\*, and the valley becomes narrower and more woody as we approach to Bramley Fall, whence so much gritstone has been taken for building purposes.

Kirkstall Abbey, placed below the rocky gorge of Bramley, stood amid pleasant meadows by the Aire, backed by rising grounds and ancient woods. It is still a splendid monument, mostly of the 12th century ; the upper part of the tower is of later style.

Since the day when Henry de Lacy brought the Cistercians to this sweet retreat (1152), how changed are the scenes which the river looks upon ! Then, from the high rocks of Malham, and the pastures of Craven to Loidis in Elmete, the deer, wild boar, and white bull were wandering in unfrequented woods, or wading in untainted waters, or roaming over boundless heaths. Now, hundreds of thousands of men of many races have extirpated the wood, dyed the waters with tints derived from other lands, turned the heaths into fertile fields, and filled the valley with mills and looms, water-wheels and engine-chimneys. Yet is not all the beauty of Airedale lost ; nor should the thoughtful mind which now regards the busy stream of the Aire, lament the change. The quiet spinner is happier than the rude and violent hunter ; the spirit of true religion fills these populous villages as well as once it filled those cloistered walls ; the woods are gone, and in their place the iron road : but that road conducts the intelligent lover of beauty to other hills and dales where art has had no contest with nature, and by enabling him to compare one region with another, corrects his judgement, heightens his enjoyment, and deepens his sympathy with man.

Leeds was anciently 'Loidis in Elmete,' a small British territory, of which Barwick may have been the principal military

\* Here tumuli and entrenchments are seen.