

THE RIBBLE.

The RIBBLE rises near the edge of Wensleydale, on the west of Cam Fell, by small branches, whose variable sources are about 1300 feet above the sea. These gather toward the centre of the space between Whernside, Cam Fell, and Ingleborough, where in the broad limestone area is the feeble but constant rill which is honoured with the title of Ribble Head (about 1000 feet). Near this is Gearstones—anciently ‘Deer Stones,’—a comfortable inn, the best station for exploring the mountains round the sources of Ribble.

From Ribblehead the stream descends through limestone a few miles, and then enters the singular band of slaty Silurian rocks which lie under that limestone in Craven. Small streams come in from the east, their courses partly interrupted by the numerous ‘swallow-holes’ which are so common in the limestone ranges of Yorkshire. Still smaller rills enter from the west, and in one of these under Moughton Scar, an uncommon junction may be seen of the limestone and Silurians with interposed beds not known elsewhere. The Silurian strata dip in various directions very steeply, but their top is nearly level, as if cut off or planed away by some great and widely acting force; and the limestone lies level above them. The slate or rather flagstone quarries near Horton yield *Orthoceratites*, *Favosites*, and *Lituities* but rarely. Penyghent on one side and Ingleborough on the other, each rising above broad and lofty scars of limestone, make this part of Ribblesdale very interesting.

Swallow-holes, fantastic little glens and caverns, diversify the aspect of the limestone. Among these may be noticed a long subterranean passage, once ornamented by stalactites, called Catknot Cave, near Gearstones; Allen or Hellen Pot, near Sel-side—a deep and gloomy *Avernus*, connected with other remarkable and complicated caverns called Long Churn and Diccan Pot, difficult of access, but rendered interesting by underground falls of water; Browgill, on the east side of the dale, gives sub-