

FILEY.

The coast between Specton and Filey Brig is not picturesque. Its height diminishes as we proceed northward to about 70 feet at Filey; a height so moderate as to countenance the notion that the Derwent may once have discharged its waters to the open sea on the east, instead of seeking the Vale of York through the gorge at New Malton. Leland (fol. 49) says,—“The commune opinion ys yet that part of Darwent Water ran to Scarburge, but by excaving of two sides of hilles, stones and yerth felle in great quantitie doun and stoppid that course.” Whether this alludes to a supposed discharge of Derwent through the cross valley below Hackness to Scalby, or by some other less probable channel to Seamer Meer and Scarborough, I cannot affirm. Many such *conjectures* may be made, but it is certain that if we remove from the cliffs near Filey the alluvial and diluvial covering, the Kimmeridge clays beneath will be found excavated in several parts below the sea-level. *Before the date* of these superficial accumulations, the Vale of Pickering may have been a sea-loch opening to the east; and even after they were deposited, and the vale had become an inland lake (as Dr. Buckland has explained in the ‘*Reliquiæ Diluvianæ*’), it must have discharged to the east by Filey, if the gorge at New Malton had not then been excavated.

If Flamborough Head be (as Mr. Walker suggested) the ‘*Ocelum Promontorium*’ of Ptolemy, Filey must be in the *εὐλίμενος κόλπος*, the ‘well-havened bay’ of the same author; owing to the protection of Filey Brig its rather flattering title. That Filey has been a place of importance in early ages appears by its large and handsome church; that the tide of population is now returning to it is proved by the many new and elegant houses which have lately been added. The great attractions of Filey are the firm and extensive sands, terminated on the north by the far-projecting reef called (from the Norwegian) the ‘Brig’ (see the Lithograph). This remarkable rock gives rise to mag-