

*Brimham Rocks.*

Brimham Rocks, elevated nearly 600 feet above the Nidd, and 990 feet above the sea, stand nearly opposite to the dome of Greenhow Hill, and the precipitous edge of Guisecliff, and offer to the artist a wonderful variety of gigantic crags, cleft by convulsion, and wasted by the atmosphere. Immense solitary pillars—groups of enormous fragments—one huge stone loose and moveable on another—stand out conspicuous on a rugged surface, richly covered with heath, and startle the most incurious eye with innumerable picturesque combinations. For the geologist these vast rocks have the solemn charm with which archæology invests the ruins of human art; these are Nature's ruins, destined from day to day to suffer still greater decay. Man may have somewhat modified their forms; here he may have excavated, and there he may have balanced the loose block into a rocking stone; but for the most part thousands of years of atmospheric vicissitude have been the sculptors of the romantic scenes of Brimham, and under the same agency other forms will appear in later times. And while the summits of our barren hills are slowly wasting away, the materials thus obtained are transported by the rivers and accumulated at some distant point, to constitute new land in a more favourable region. (See Pl. XIV.)—Page 71.

*Roman Villas at York.*

The most fashionable part of the suburbs was on the west side of the river, on the road to Calcaria. In this quarter several pavements in mosaic have been found at different times. One of the most elegant is preserved only by an accurate drawing of Fowler—the object was slowly destroyed in a stable.

And now (1853) other excavations in the same line near the Railway Station have brought to light two adjacent pavements in mosaic: one, 13 ft. by 13 ft. 6 in., contains four angle compartments representing the Four Seasons, the central ornament being Medusa: beneath it were Roman urns and pottery. The other pavement filled a larger apartment (18 ft.), and was formed of larger tesserae, in a different style: its central portion had been removed. Close to these rooms was a bath, not far off a well, formed of coarse gritstone cut to a cylindrical sweep. The fine pavements noticed above are now in the Yorkshire Museum.—Page 76.