

EASTERN VIRGINIA—PRINCE WILLIAM.

273

TOWNS, VILLAGES, POST OFFICES, &c.

BRENTSVILLE, P. V. and seat of justice, 104 ms. from R. and 48 S. W. of W.—The Court House, clerk's office and jail are handsomely situated on the main street, in a public square of three acres. Besides them, the village contains 19 dwelling houses, 3 miscellaneous stores 2 handsome taverns, built of brick and stuccoed, 1 house of entertainment, 1 house of public worship, free for all denominations,—a bible society, a sunday school, a temperance and a tract society, which have been of considerable utility for the last 5 or 6 years. There is in the vicinity a common school in which the rudiments of English education are taught. Brentsville is of recent establishment, having been located around the site of the new court house in 1822, at which time it was completed, and the courts removed from Dumfries. It has progressed with its improvements perhaps more rapidly than has been observable with other county towns within the same period after their establishment, though it may be considered nearly stationary for the present. The wasteful tenure of the Bristoe estate, the property of the commonwealth, in the midst of which it is located, has in a manner cut it off from the benefits of a thriving neighborhood. This tract, containing near 7000 acres and naturally the best land in this section, has been ravaged of all its timber, and for the most part "ploughed down to be barren," by an unmerciful course of cultivation, under a numerous tenantry, for upwards of 70 years. Most of the lots around the place have become freed from their lease, by the direliction of the tenants, who have left them an immense common: but by an act of Assembly of 1832-4, authorising the sale of this estate on such terms as the president and directors of the Literary Fund may di-

rect, there is no doubt but the desert will soon be made to blossom under the labors of individual enterprise, and Brentsville will take a new start towards prosperity. Situated at the head of Occoquan river, which could easily be made navigable for boats at a cheap rate, and laying near two large runs, (Broad and Cedar,) which here form the Occoquan. Brentsville is 14 miles from Dumfries, 18 from Occoquan mills, and equidistant 33 ms. from Fredericksburg and Alexandria, 12 from Hay Market, and 20 from Warrenton. It is within 9 or 10 ms. of the Warrenton and Alexandria turnpike. Population 130 persons, of whom 3 are attorneys and 3 regular physicians. The place is healthy and has a beautiful prospect of the Bull Run and Watery range of mountains, and the more distant Blue Ridge.

*County Courts* are held on the 1st Monday, in every month:—*Quarterly* in March, June, August and November.

JUDGE SCOTT holds his Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery on the 1st of May, and October.

BUCKLAND, P. V. in the north-western part of the county, 5 ms. S. W. of Hay Market, 116 from R. and 42 from W. This village has an elevated and romantic situation on Broad Run, a never failing stream, on which two extensive flour manufacturing mills are situated,—the one in the town and the other on its edge. A turnpike runs through the village which extends 35 ms. below to Alexandria, and 8 ms. above to Warrenton. This village and its suburbs contains 22 dwelling houses, 1 general store, 1 large and extensive distillery, 1 apothecary shop, 1 house of public worship free for all denominations, and 2 houses of entertainment. The mechanics are, 1 tanner and currier, 1 wagon maker, 1 boot and shoe

manufacturer, 1 cooper, 1 hatter, 1 millwright, 1 blacksmith, 1 tailor and saddler. Buckland is an incorporated town, and for beauty of situation and circumjacent scenery is perhaps not to be surpassed by any other in the county. There is one well organized sunday school, and 1 common school. Population 130 whites; of whom 1 is a physician; and 50 blacks.

DUMFRIES, P. V. 33 ms. S. S. W. of W. and 89 from R., situated on Quantico creek, near the Potomac river. It contains 80 dwelling houses, 3 mercantile stores, a Baptist and a Methodist house of worship, 1 school house, 2 taverns, 1 manufacturing flour mill, 1 woollen manufactory, 1 temperance society, a tanyard, 2 saddlers, 5 house carpenters, and 2 blacksmith shops. During the freeze in the winter when the steam boat between the city of Washington and Potomac creek is obstructed by ice, the great northern and southern mail from W. C. to New Orleans, is carried through this town. The road in its neighborhood between Fredericksburg and Alexandria, is in a worse condition than perhaps any in the middle States, so utterly impassable at times that the mail cannot travel. This road being the principal source of the irregularities of the mail at the south, a canal was undertaken, and about three-eighths of a mile completed, but the whole scheme failed for the want of the proper direction of the funds. The mouth of Quantico,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Dumfries, is the best winter harbor on the Potomac. The river seldom freezes lower than that point.

Dumfries is one of the oldest towns in the United States, and once could boast of much commerce, but owing to a variety of circumstances, like many old settlements, it is now in a great measure abandoned, and many of its excellent dwellings are in a state of rapid decay. Population

500 persons; of whom 1 is an attorney and 2 are regular physicians.

HAY MARKET, P. O. situated in the northern part of the county on the head of Occoquan creek, 120 ms. from R. and 43 from W.

LIBERIA, P. V. 112 ms. from R. and 33 S. W. of W. C. It contains a store, ware house and blacksmith shop, and a little distance from these under the same name, 7 other buildings. This place was established in 1825, and the post-office in 1829. It is 7 ms. distant from *Brentsville*, in a N. E. direction. A mail goes once a week from this place to Centreville 5 ms. N. of it, at which place it intersects the S. W. mail from W. C. The trade of the place is in dry goods and groceries, and the purchase of country produce. The country around is thickly settled, and the inhabitants are distinguished for their moral deportment. The land of the surrounding country was of universally good quality, but has been much abused by a system of miserable cultivation; it is yet susceptible of a high degree of improvement, by the use of clover and gypsum, of which many farmers have commenced the use.

OCOQUAN, P. V. 23 ms. S. W. of W. and 99 from R., situated in the N. E. part of the county on the south side of Occoquan river. It was established by act of Assembly in the year 1804. The site on which this town is situated is extremely rugged and ill-suited for building. The town is regularly laid out, the streets generally cross each other at right angles. It contains about 50 dwelling houses, several mercantile stores, and various mechanics,—a cotton manufactory in complete operation, and one of the first established in the State, now running 1000 spindles, 1 extensive manufacturing flour mill, grinding in the ordinary season 150 barrels per day,—with the necessary appendages of grist saw and plaster

**A NEW  
AND  
COMPREHENSIVE  
GAZETTEER OF VIRGINIA,  
AND THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:**

CONTAINING  
A COPIOUS COLLECTION  
OF  
GEOGRAPHICAL, STATISTICAL, COMMERCIAL, RELIGIOUS, MORAL AND MISCELLANEOUS  
INFORMATION, COLLECTED AND COMPILED FROM THE MOST RESPECTABLE,  
AND CHIEFLY FROM ORIGINAL SOURCES.

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**BY JOSEPH MARTIN.**

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TO WHICH IS ADDED  
**A HISTORY OF VIRGINIA**  
FROM ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE YEAR 1754:  
WITH AN ABSTRACT OF THE PRINCIPAL EVENTS FROM THAT PERIOD TO THE  
**INDEPENDENCE OF VIRGINIA,**  
WRITTEN EXPRESSLY FOR THE WORK  
BY A CITIZEN OF VIRGINIA.

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