

## C. R. Sherbourne's Derbyshire Views.

By ERNEST AXON.

IN the Reference Library of the Manchester Public Libraries there is a collection of over 600 water colour drawings done at the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th centuries by Mr. Charles Robert Sherbourne, one volume (vol. XI.), containing 26 drawings, being devoted to Derbyshire.

The artist, of whom little appears to be known, was the illegitimate son of Admiral the Hon. Robert Digby, who, after a distinguished career in the Navy, died in 1815. The drawings give evidence that Sherbourne was recognized by the Digby family and its connections, and that he mixed freely in many good families. In 1796 Sherbourne married Sophia Cater, one of the co-heiresses of the family of Cater who had owned the manor of Kempston Hastingsbury, in Bedfordshire, for several centuries. In 1801 the co-heiresses sold this manor. About this time Sherbourne adopted or had granted a coat of arms quite unlike any other Sherbourne or Sherbourne coat, namely Az. an ostrich head and neck, proper, holding a horse shoe in his beak, proper. This coat is merely half of the crest of the Digbys placed on a shield, It is engraved, with the Cater arms on an escutcheon of pretence, in Gregson's "Portfolio of fragments" (3rd edition, p. 181) which states that Robert Sherbourne was manager of the Plate Glass Works at St. Helen's. How long he held this position is not known, but it is evident that his duties did not prevent his having a long

holiday each year, during which he made the drawings now in the Reference Library. Late in life Sherbourne married a Miss Willis of the Halsnead family. He resided at Hirst House, Prescot, and died at the age of 80 in 1836.

Sherbourne was evidently more interested in scenery than in architecture, though occasionally he gives careful drawings of buildings, and he had a fondness for distant views. At the back of each drawing is an inscription giving date, subject and occasional historical notes, the last not always accurate. Sherbourne's visits to Derbyshire were in 1795, 1801 and 1822, and as most of his drawings belong to the two earlier years they have a special interest as indicating an appreciation of Derbyshire scenery long before Rhodes published his great work.

The following is a list of Sherbourne's drawings, the descriptions being his own :—

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| 1.  | End of the Crescent at Buxton, with the village of Fairfield in the distance.              | 18 July, 1795. |
| 2.  | The Lover's Leap near Buxton, on the River Wye.  | 14 Aug., 1801. |
| 3.  | A brook that runs into the River Wye a little below the Lover's Leap, Buxton.              | Aug., 1801.    |
| 4.  | Chee Tor about four miles from Buxton, near the village of Wormhill on the Tideswell road. | 27 Aug., 1795. |
| 5.  | Chee Tor from the springs near the village of Wormhill.                                    | 27 Aug., 1795. |
| 6.  | Entrance of Dovedale, Alstonfield Church in the distance.                                  | 15 Aug., 1801. |
| 7.  | A cave in Dovedale.  | 15 Aug., 1801. |
| 8.  | Dovedale.  | 15 Aug., 1801. |
| 9.  | Dovedale.  | 15 Aug., 1801. |
| 10. | Dovedale, called Dovedale Church.  | 15 Aug., 1801. |
| 11. | Middleton Dale.  | 18 Aug., 1801. |
| 2.  | Hathersage Valley from Speedwell Mine Pass, called the Winnets, going down to Castleton.   | 17 Aug., 1801. |
| 13. | The pass down to Castleton.  | 17 Aug., 1801. |

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| 14. | The entrance to the Peak. The castle was built by Edward, the Black Prince.                            | 17 Aug., 1801. |
| 15. | Looking out of the cave in the Peak.   | 17 Aug., 1801. |
| 16. | Matlock High Tor looking down the River Derwent towards the bath.                                      | 19 Aug., 1801. |
| 17. | Matlock High Tor looking towards the bridge.   | 19 Aug., 1801. |
| 18. | Matlock opposite the new hotel looking down the river.   | 20 Aug., 1801. |
| 19. | Matlock looking up the River Derwent towards the bridge.   | 19 Aug., 1801. |
| 20. | Matlock looking up the River Derwent towards the bridge.   | 20 Aug., 1801. |
| 21. | Matlock from the end of the walk on the opposite side of the River Derwent looking towards the bridge. | 19 Aug., 1801. |
| 22. | Haddon Hall. (Pencil drawing).   | 19 Aug., 1801. |
| 23. | Haddon Hall.   | 26 Sep., 1822. |
| 24. | Bakewell on the River Wye from Haddon Hall.  | 26 Sep., 1822. |
| 25. | Hardwick Castle belonging to the Duke of Devonshire. (Unfinished pencil drawing).                      | Oct., 1822.    |
| 26. | Crich Stand between Matlock and Alfreton (outline ink drawing).  | Undated.       |

The first view in the list, taken from the Slopes, shows one end of the Crescent, and a building not unlike the Grove Hotel, with, between the two, a view of Fairfield, showing the Church, taken down in 1836, and a few scattered buildings. The second drawing is either misnamed or the natural features have altered since 1801. Several of the drawings give a vivid idea of the roughness of Derbyshire roads of the period, and in nearly all justice, if not more than justice, is done to the rivers as features in Derbyshire landscape.