

T. R. MALTHUS:
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a rocky valley between Height knot,²¹⁸ & a part of Glanamara,*²¹⁹ sat for some time upon Knot Howe²²⁰ where I thought I had a finer view of this dale than from Castle crag; Skiddaw compleated* the circle of fells very handsomely; but the lake appeared too small. The people that you meet have an odd kind of pleasant familiarity. Pray what kind of crop have you? Well, I'll tell you what, it is but light. Set off about 12. for Buttermere. Went over a²²¹ high fell,²²² a most stony horse way, by the side of a brawling beck with some fine views back upon Borrowdale.²²³ From the summit descended* into a very deep narrow valley with a rocky mountain to the right & the most tremendous perpendicular crag I have yet seen to the left. I observed* soon after I began to descend, that²²⁴ a distant fell seen thro the narrow valley gave me the most mountainous idea I had yet had. I certainly shoud* not take any body to the bottom of Skiddaw to give them a notion of mountains. The scenery from Honistiar* crag²²⁵ to Buttermere is quite of the terrific kind. The huge masses are here thrown about in all the wild forms of convulsed nature, as the man says in the book.²²⁶ High Steel*²²⁷ is a fine craggy alpine looking fell, & from its perpendicularity appears the highest that I have seen yet. I asked some men about it who said they believed it was as high as any in the country except Skiddaw & great Gavel²²⁸ which is a mountain further to the West.

My hostess, a little tight old woman very much like dame Tucky, was baking oat cakes, which is perform'd upon a large flat iron on the fire. She brought in some of them to me as a treat²²⁹ after dinner, & I found that with a great deal of fine flavour'd butter they were excellent. In the afternoon walked down to the two lakes Buttermere & Crummock²³¹ – They are very well worth seeing. The margins of the lakes want richness, but the mountains²³² rise so

bold & abrupt, that where you can get a tolerable foreground the views are grand & beautiful. Crummock is a fine lake with hardly a single rush, & from the lower end of it looking up towards Buttermere are some of the best views. Mine hostess's daughter returned in the evening from market, & brought with her a most profuse head of hair. Cockermonth²³⁴ is reckoned a cheaper market than Keswick,²³⁵ & is as much frequented by the buttermerians tho it is two miles further off. Wind N. & NE.

July 21st. Morning bright, warm. Walk'd before breakfast to a celebrated fall²³⁶ about two miles off, 52 y^{ds} quite perpendicular in a dark chasm of solid rock overhanging near the top by birch & mountain ash.²³⁷ When the stream is full it falls clear of the rock, but now it is low, it runs down it. In its present state however it is very beautiful, & highly worth seeing from its extraordinary situation. I found it a very welcome retreat after a hot walk. I question if the lower parts of the cleft ever see the sun.

Before dinner rode by the side of Crummock with an intent of seeing Lowes water,²³⁸ but miss'd my way & got beyond it. I could see no soul to ask; hallow'd for sometime at a farm house to know if I was right for Lowes water, heard a kind of assenting aye & went on; but seeing no probability of coming to a lake I returnd,* & found that the person who had given me my information was a house lamb. At last I came to a smart house with a very pretty girl in the window, who seeing me look wistfully at her came out, & was kind enough

²¹⁸ Possibly High Knott.

²¹⁹ Glanamara, one of the mountains that enclose Borrowdale, described by West as 'a mountain of perpendicular naked rock, immense in height, and much broken' (West, 1799, p. 96).

²²⁰ Possibly Low Buck How.

²²¹ 'a very' is del. and 'a' is ins. ²²² 'by' is del.

²²³ 'with some fine views back upon Borrowdale' is ins.

²²⁴ 'fell' is del. ²²⁵ Honister Hause.

²²⁶ Possibly a reference to West's description of the mountains around Honister Crag and Buttermere – 'all the horrors of cloven rock, broken cliff, and mountain streams tumbling headlong ... the most extraordinary amphitheatre of mountainous rocks that ever eye beheld' (West, 1799, pp. 132, 133).

²²⁷ High Stile, on the west side of Buttermere.

²²⁸ Great Gable, or Great Gavel, 'so called from its shape' (Parson and White [1829] 1976, p. 81), is south-east of Buttermere.

²²⁹ 'I found by this description of its situation to be Helvellyn, tho they did not know it by that name.' is del. and 'is a mountain further to the west' is ins.

²³⁰ 'for' is del. ²³¹ Crummock Water, less than one mile north-west of Buttermere.

²³² 'The margins of the lakes want richness, but the mountains' is changed from 'The mountains want richness at bottom, but they'.

²³³ 'they appear very' is del. and 'the views are' is ins.

²³⁴ The town of Cockermonth is about ten miles north of Buttermere.

²³⁵ 'but it is two miles further from Buttermere' is del.

²³⁶ i.e., Scale Force, described as follows by Parson and White ([1829] 1976, pp. 74–5): 'SCALE FORCE, on the western side of Crummock Lake, about two miles W. by N. of Buttermere, is the deepest cataract in all the region of the lakes, the water being precipitated in one grand fall to the depth of 156 feet, besides a smaller fall below. The water sinks into a tremendous chasm, between two mural rocks of sienite, beautifully overhung with trees, which have fixed their roots in the crevices; whilst the sides are clad with a profusion of plants, which glitter with the spray, caused by the falling water. Visitors* generally enter from below into this stupendous chasm, where the air, filled with moisture and shaded from the sun, is cold and damp. Passing the lower, they may proceed towards the foot of the principal fall, till the more copious sprinkling of the spray compels them to return.' This was probably the waterfall that West said 'exceeds the boasted Lowdore, in height of rock, and unity of fall' (West, 1799, p. 104).

²³⁷ 'The water' is del.

²³⁸ Loweswater, a small lake about two miles west of Crummock Water. Malthus' view that it is 'not worth seeing' differs from that of Parson and White who assert that, in one direction, 'it exhibits a sweet rural landscape, the cultivated slopes being ornamented with neat farm-houses', and, in the opposite direction, 'the lake makes a middle distance, to a combination of mountains scarcely to be equalled' (Parson and White [1829] 1976, p. 68). And in Wordsworth's opinion 'Lowes-water is lame at the head, but towards its outlet has a magnificent assemblage of mountains' (Wordsworth [1835] 1977, p. 97n).

to send me all the way²³⁹ back; ²⁴⁰ & I found myself at dinner without having seen Lowes water: but I comforted myself with the reflection, that I certainly should* not have miss'd it in so extraordinary a manner, if it had not been very small & not worth seeing. The country about Crummock & buttermere ²⁴¹ is certainly much more mountainous than near any of the other lakes. Grasmire*²⁴² & Mellbreak²⁴³ & on the eastern & western side of Crummock; the craggy fell to the west of²⁴⁴ buttermere from which rise the²⁴⁵ points of high steel, * red pike²⁴⁶ &c with Honistar* crag; green Gavel,²⁴⁷ Fleetwith²⁴⁹ & many others to the South & west form altogether a fine range of mountains.

Returned in the evening thro Newlandvale²⁵¹ to Keswick - was caught in a slight thunder shower; & observd* that High Steel* seen in the rain thro the vista of two fells on each side appeared of very great height. Newland vale is worth seeing. Rocky channels down which mountain torrents have roared are to be met with on the sides of almost every fell.

Butter at buttermere 8 pence a pound. Hay very generally about. The men who work in the quarries at Honistar* crag earn only 20 pence or 22 pence a day, & have five miles to walk to it. W. NE. a little haziness at noon.

July 22. Morning cloudy with small rain, which continued with harder showers at times till near one.

Walk'd before dinner up the side of Latrig,*²⁵² which is one of M^r West[s] stations & commands a fine view of the lake & vale. The mountains were clear & had some fine lights upon them. A good deal of hay carried about Keswick. Beef & lamb five pence. Mutton 4 pence & 4 pence $\frac{1}{2}$. Veal 3 pence & 3 pence $\frac{1}{2}$. In the afternoon made an attempt to go up Skiddaw, but some rain came on & the clouds got low, & I was obliged to return. W.S.W.

July 23rd. A good deal of rain in the night, & small rain most of the morning - betook myself to Shakspear.* Went before dinner to see M^r Hutton²⁵³ the guide's museum. His eagle, tho only six months old when he died, is a fine specimen.

It was caught in a fox trap at two months old. No golden eagles were ever before known to breed in the country. Walk'd to Crow park to see if the rain had affected Lowdore* fall, but did not perceive much difference. Afternoon rainy - took the opportunity of having my hair cut. W. W.

July 24. Rain in the night, & morning. Rode as soon as it held up to Lowdore.*²⁵⁴ Overtook a man who advised me ²⁵⁵ to call at M^r Pocklingtons, Barrow house in my way & see his fall,²⁵⁶ which I did, & was very much pleased with it. It consists of two descents which from the bottom appear as one of above 60 feet in height & 7 or 8 in breadth. The situation is very pretty, & it makes a good shew* with a moderate quantity of water. M^r P has built a vile kind of summer house or rather seat at top ²⁵⁷ painted red on the inside, with two high white horns, which are seen all over the country except fortunately from the bottom of the fall. Lowdore* had increased in water, but not sufficiently to make much figure: the bed is so large & rocky, that an absolute torrent is required to cover it. The Rain had fallen much heavier ²⁵⁸ Skiddaw way than about Borrowdale, contrary I understand to the general custom. There was a temporary torrent from Skiddaw, & the guide said that if the same quantity of rain had fallen at Barrowside, there woud* not have been a rock of Lowdore* to be seen.

Got an early dinner of cold meat, & set off at $\frac{1}{2}$ past one, to go over the fells to Ulswater.*²⁵⁹ Gave eightpence ²⁶⁰ for a guide who conducted me very safely some way along a turnpike road: - as for the foggy mountain he said he was²⁶¹ pretty sure that I should* be able to find my way over that without his assistance, & so we parted. It is true I did find my way, & did not get bog'd: but I think²⁶² I could* have got along the turnpike road with as little danger & difficulty. Came down by a village call'd Matterdale into Gobarrow* Park²⁶³ - saw a very fine fall there,²⁶⁴ but I think inferior to M^r Pocklingtons. I almost

²⁵⁴ The cataract or cascade of Lodore is near the south-east corner of Derwent Water, about four miles south of Keswick. 'It is a very considerable stream, rushing through an immense chasm, and bounding with great fury over and among the huge blocks of stone with which the channel is filled' (Parson and White [1829] 1976, p.74). West described it as 'the renowned cataract of Lowdore* ... the Niagara of the Lake' (West, 1799, p.91).

²⁵⁵ 'first' is del.

²⁵⁶ 'with' is del. ²⁵⁷ Barrow Cascade, two miles south of Keswick.

²⁵⁸ 'on' is del.

²⁵⁹ Ulswater, to the east of Derwent Water, is the second largest lake in the Lake District.

²⁶⁰ 'to the' is del. ²⁶¹ 'was' is ins. ²⁶² 'am pretty sure that' is del. and 'think' is ins.

²⁶³ Gobarrow Park, now a National Trust property.

²⁶⁴ Aira Force, a 60-foot-high waterfall, on the northern side of Ulswater, in Gobarrow Park, about six miles south-west of Pooley Bridge. 'The water, compressed between two cheeks of rock, rushes forth with great violence, and dashing from rock to rock, forms a spray, which, with the run in a favourable direction, exhibits all the colours of the rainbow' (Parson and White [1829] 1976, p.75).

²³⁹ 'all the way' is ins. ²⁴⁰ 'the way I came' is del. ²⁴¹ 'lakes' is del.

²⁴² Grasmere, a mountain on the eastern side of Crummock Water, $\frac{3}{4}$ miles north of Buttermere.

²⁴³ Mellbreak, a mountain about half-a-mile from the western side of Crummock Water.

²⁴⁴ 'of' is repeated. ²⁴⁵ 'the' is repeated.

²⁴⁶ Red Pike, about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile high, and about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile north-west of High Stile.

²⁴⁷ Green Gable, about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north-east of Great Gable.

²⁴⁸ & many' is del. ²⁴⁹ Fleetwith Pike. ²⁵⁰ 'west &' is del. ²⁵¹ Vale of Newlands.

²⁵² Latrigg, 1160 feet, a spur of Skiddaw to the north of Keswick, described by West as 'Station VII ... a soft green hill, that interposes between the town and Skiddaw' (West, 1799, p.104).

²⁵³ Possibly the boatman/guide mentioned on 19 July.