



COPLEY'S GUIDE

TO THE

**WAKEFIELD, PONTEFRACT AND
COOLE RAILWAY.**

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

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to mark the boundaries of townships and parishes ; and, therefore, though the shaft might be Roman, and erected by that people, as a memento of some victorious achievement ;—it might, after the introduction of christianity, be chosen to form part of the cross, on account of its antiquity, and the elegance of its workmanship. The stump cross answers as a boundary mark, between the townships of Ferryfryston and Pontefract.

The road near to St. Thomas's Hill is cut through the solid rock, and has acquired the name of '*Nevison's Leap*,' from the following singular tale :—' Nevison a noted highwayman of the last century, having committed a robbery in the neighbourhood of Pontefract, and being closely pressed by his pursuers, in order to make his escape, desperately leapt across the road, where the rock is cut through at the greatest width, and thus eluded for awhile, the grasp of his pursuers.'

The Bridge over the Ferrybridge Road, near the New Hall, is exactly 9 miles from the Wakefield Station. *Holmfild House*, the residence of Chas. Charnock, Esq. and *Fryston Hall*, the seat of R. P. Milnes, Esq., (who together with his son, have represented the Borough of Pontefract in Parliament for many years,) are situated to the left. We now pass in succession, *Dandy Mill*, *Stump Cross Lane*, and a portion of the great North Road leading from Doncaster through Ferrybridge, having most part of the way a delightful view of the Villages of FERRYBRIDGE and BROTHERTON, with *Byram Hall*, the seat of Lady Ramsden.

In excavating the Stump Cross Lane Bridge, large quantities of stone were removed by the process of blasting, and some very extraordinary circumstances were connected therewith. After an explosion, between twelve and

twenty frogs were seen alive amongst the solid stones, to the depth of four feet; many of the stones that were broken, were found to have been hollow, and were about the size of a cricket ball; this led to the supposition that the frogs must have come out of the stones, and a search was immediately commenced, when three round stones about the size mentioned, were found containing live frogs, there being no other opening in the stone, than a little hole, the size of a common nut. How they got into the stones is quite miraculous, and certainly appears incredible, but the information may be relied upon as being correct. The inside of each stone had a hard crystallized surface, and the Frogs were of a coal black colour with most beautiful eyes, and altogether appeared of a superior class to the common Frog. One of them lived three weeks after being taken out of the stone, and another only three days but they had no doubt lived for many years in the stone.

Ferrybridge was a few years ago a place of great importance, being situated upon the great North Road, and having an immense Coaching Traffic passing through it daily, to the number of between 20 and 30. The Inns being of the first description, and an immense number of post horses being kept, the nobility in passing to and from the North availed themselves of its excellent accommodations and stopped here during the night, which gained it a character of being one of the first posting towns in the kingdom; but since the opening of the York and North Midland Railway, the traffic has been entirely diverted. The Aire and Calder Navigation Co. possess very extensive wharfs for the shipment of goods at this place. Ferrybridge is supposed to derive its name from