



BANBURY CROSS,

Which has been visible for some time, is at length arrived at, and is an elegant structure of the hexagonal form, erected from a design by Mr Gibbs, of Oxford. It is fifty-two [1st ed. forty-nine] feet in height, of Bath stone, and is divided into three storeys or compartments. The panels of the centre compartment are richly ornamented with the foliage of the rose, ivy, acacia, chestnut, hollyhock, and vine, and graced with the arms of queens Mary and Victoria, kings Charles I and George I, the Princess Frederick William of Prussia, the earls of Banbury and Guilford, Viscount Saye and Sele, Sir William Cope, Sir William Compton, the Bishop of Lincoln, and the Rev. W. Whateley, who was vicar of Banbury from 1610 to 1639. Banbury was for centuries without a cross – the old ones having been demolished at the period of the reformation – and it was not until the occasion of the marriage of the Princess Royal of England with Frederick William of Prussia, that it was resolved to restore the Cross as the most graceful memorial of the event. When little folks are out of temper, how often good humour is restored by setting them cantering on the nurse's knee to the tune of

“Ride a cock-horse to Banbury Cross.”