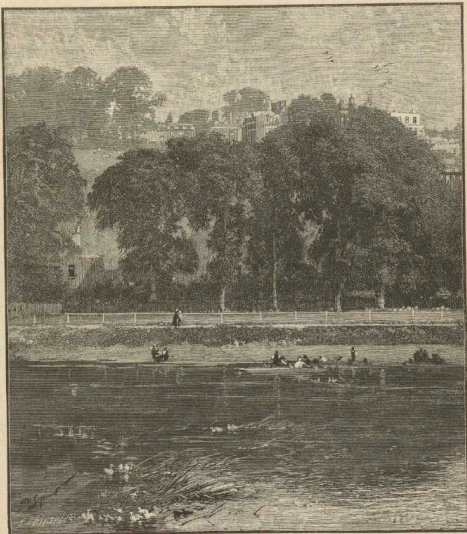


both Thomson and Gay; its surroundings, however, were as bright and sylvan then as now, for, as Pope writes to a friend—"I have seen no scenes of Paradise, no happy bowers, equal to those on the banks of the Thames."

What a delightful ornament to a country is the

of the ancients (the modern Po) has been celebrated by Virgil, Claudian, and Lucan; Denham and Pope have immortalised the Thames; and even the rivers in savage climes, that roll their immensity of waters through vast solitary wilds, have neither been neglected nor unsung by descriptive poets.



THE TERRACE, FROM THE RIVER.

winding course of a river! How much more exquisitely enchanting does it render the most beautiful landscape! And of what an unspeakable variety of benefits is it productive to the countries through which it flows! Hence rivers, in all their diversities of scenery, ever appear a favourite theme in poetical composition. Homer seldom mentions the country of any of his great personages without introducing the principal river that waters it by some distinguishing characteristic. The Eridanus

The river hereabouts, in summer time, is in high favour alike with lovers of aquatic amusement and with that soberer and more pensive class who love quiet English scenery.

Horace Walpole describes a regatta on the Thames here in August, 1776:—"I have since been at the regatta at Richmond, which was the prettiest and the foolishlest sight in the world, as all regattas are. The scene, which lay between the Duke of Montagu's and Lady Cowper's, is so