



OLD MARKET CROSS AT BRIDGWATER,
(SINCE DESTROYED.)

Bridgwater High Cross.

BY MR. W. BAKER.

THE Cross here represented stood on the Cornhill, at Bridgwater, opposite the entrance to High-street. It was used as a market place for many articles, especially for fish, "and over it was a cistern, to which water was conveyed from a brook, by an engine fixed in what was formerly called the Queen's mill, and from this cistern water was carried into most of the streets of the town." — *Beauties of England*, 1764.

The cross was also used for many public purposes, such as for addressing the people, for proclamations, &c.

Oldmixon says "the Duke of Monmouth, after he was proclaimed king at Taunton (in his fatal rebellion) marched to Bridgwater. He was proclaimed in this town at the high cross by the mayor and his brethren in their formalities, and here his declaration was read." Many persons remember there having been on the cross the very appropriate inscription "*mind your own business.*"

This handsome old cross was taken down about fifty years ago. It was no longer required for sending water through the town; the mill which supplied the cistern was used for grinding corn; and as a market place, it was superseded by new and more commodious buildings.