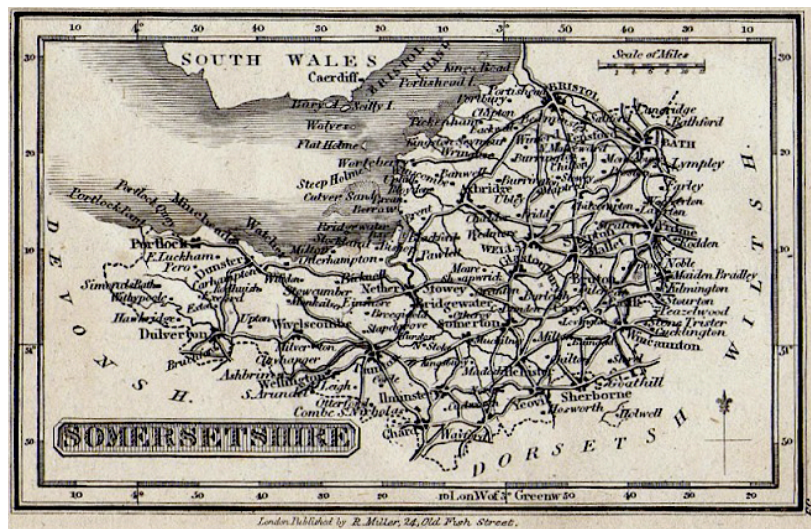




No earlier examples of Robert Miller's miniature county maps were known until the winter of 1986/1987, when a map dealer mailed a list of more than thirty cartographical cards on offer. Many had the imprint of Thomas Crabb (above left) and the map of Scotland was dated 1819. All the fifty-six individual plates, engraved after John Cary (see 1789), were subsequently acquired by Miller, who added numbers and substituted his own imprint before reissuing the cards. Stratford is shown as the county town on the map of Staffordshire and remained unchanged over the years. He also published a miniature county atlas, engraved throughout, with the maps in an unusual sequence:

*London Westminster and Southwark; England & Wales; Scotland; Ireland; Middlesex; Hertfordshire; Essex; Suffolk; Norfolk; Cambridge Sh; Huntingdonshire; Bedfordshire; Buckinghamshire; Oxfordshire; Northampton Sh; Warwickshire; Worcestershire; Herefordshire; Shropshire; Stafford Sh.; Leicester Sh.; Rutlandshire; Lincolnshire; Nottingham Sh.; Derbyshire; Cheshire; Yorkshire; Lancashire; Durham; Westmoreland; Cumberland; Northumberland; Surrey; Kent; Sussex; Hampshire; Berkshire; Wiltshire; Somersetshire; Gloucester Sh.; Dorsetshire; Devonshire; Cornwall; Monmouthshire; Glamorganshire; Brecknockshire; Carmarthenshire; Pembrokeshire; Cardiganshire; Radnorshire; Montgomerysh.; Merionethsh; Denbighshire; Flintshire; Carnarvonshire; Anglesea.*



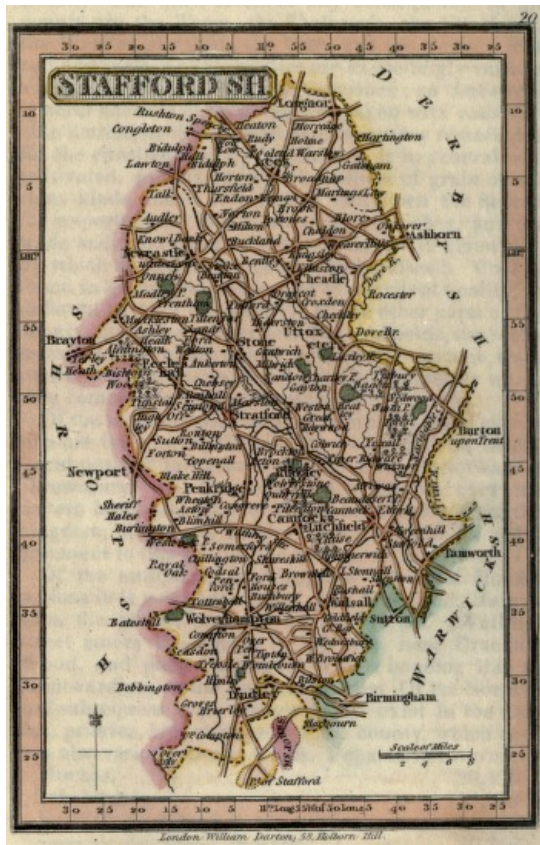


These maps measure only about 105 x 70 mm. and are sometimes found with full hand-colour. The atlas was issued both with and without several leaves of letterpress advertisements at the rear, entitled 'A Catalogue of books & fancy articles'. Both the atlas and the cards cost five shillings (25p) plain and half as much again coloured, but the cards were also available singly at two and three pence (about 1p). Among the many little artifacts on sale at Miller's shop were circular pincushions, with 50 mm. diameter maps printed on silk with his imprint below the bottom border and the titles above the top one: *England; Scotland; Ireland*.





The plates then came into the hands of William Darton Junior (1781-1854), who was apprenticed to his father in 1795 and then set up for himself in 1804. He replaced Miller's imprint with his own and reprinted them. After appropriately retouching Miller's engraved title-page, he re-used it for his own atlas, which had text in duodecimo format. He also used Miller's index plate (contents page) so the maps were in the same sequence of London to the north of England, then westwards to Cornwall and north to Anglesey. They are on the verso and usually coloured with each followed by a leaf of descriptive letterpress: a lovely little book about 160 x 100 mm.

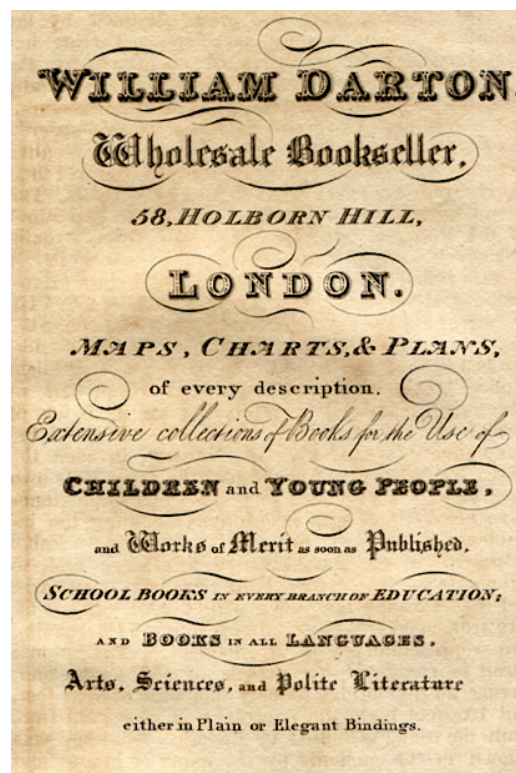
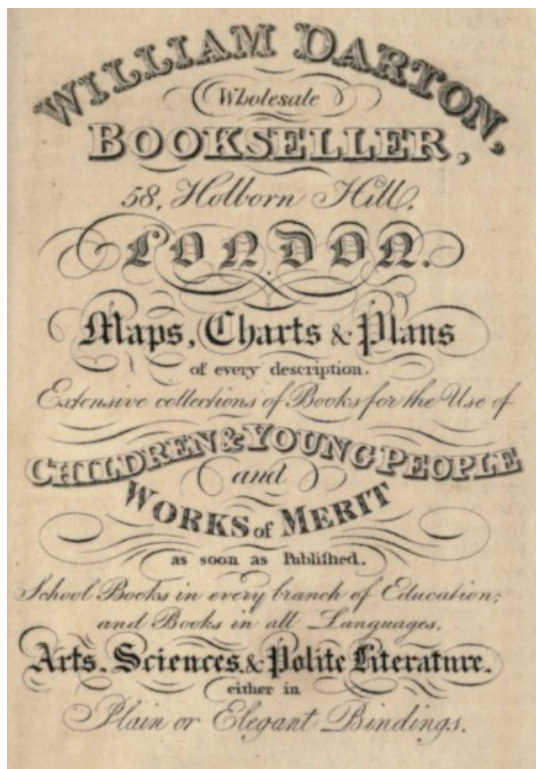


The later juvenile work contains forty reworked lithographic versions of the English maps, lacking any imprint but with railways added. They are surrounded with hand-tinted vignettes depicting local scenery and are about 150 x 200 mm. overall. Reuben Ramble was a fun pseudonym for Darton's business partner Samuel Clark. The work was also issued in five paper covered parts with each containing eight counties and titled *Reuben Ramble's Travels in the the northern/southern/eastern/western/midland counties of England*. The eight eastern county maps were also included in a composite work of thirty-two lithographs entitled *The Child's treasury*.

The dating of the issues after the first is problematical but there are several clues:

- a copy of Miller's atlas is printed on paper with an 1820 watermark;
- Darton's text relating to map 27 (Yorkshire) refers to 'now (1821)' and the population figures given are 'in 1821';

- copies of Darton's atlas are known with different advertisements at the end, suggesting more than one issue (see below);
- Clark left the partnership with Darton in 1843.



A similar set of maps to these appeared at about the same time and the two are so alike that they are often confused (see 1820a). For many years it was not known which came first, so which ones were copied from the other.

set of cards. London, Thomas Crabb, 1819.

set of cards. London, Robert Miller, (1820/1).

*Miller's New miniature atlas, containing a complete set of county maps.* London, Robert Miller, (1820/1).

set of cards. London, William Darton, (1822/3).

*Darton's New miniature atlas, containing a complete set of county maps.* London, William Darton, (1822/3).

*Reuben Ramble's Travels through the counties of England.* London, William Darton & Samuel Clark, (1843); Darton & Co., (1850).

