

and of the proper Soils, &c. § 17

at *Ailsbury* to soften their water, which coming off a black Sand-stone, is so hard and sharp that it will often turn their Beer sour in a Week's time, so that in its Original State it's neither fit to Wash nor Brew with, but so long as the Alcaious soft Particles of the Chalk holds good, they put it to both uses.

River-waters are less liable to be loaded with metallick, petrifying, saline and other insidious Particles of the Earth, than the Well or Spring sorts are, especially at some distance from the Spring-head, because the Rain water mixes with and softens it, and are also much cured by the Sun's heat and the Air's power, for which reason I have known several so strict, that they won't let their Horses drink near the first rise of some of them; this I have seen the sad Effects of, and which has obliged me to avoid two that run cross a Road in *Bucks* and *Hertfordshire*: But in their runnings they often collect gross Particles from ouzy muddy mixtures particularly near Town, that make the Beer subject to new fermentations, and grow foul upon alteration of weather as the *Thames*-water generally does; yet is this for its softness much better than the hard soft, however both these waters are used by some Brewers as I shall hereafter observe.