

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE NEW BONDED WAREHOUSES, PRESTON.

In the month of November last, four plots of land, on the New Quay, and about fifty yards from the river, were sold by the corporation, for the erection of warehouses for the loading of foreign produce imported into Preston. The purchasers of these plots were Mr. Alderman German, Mr. Alderman Haydock, Mr. Turner, coal-merchant, and Mr. Bond, contractor. These warehouses will be built of brick (with stone basements, carried to a height of seven feet above the roadway); fire-proof throughout, and finished according to the regulations, required by the customs, of full privileged ports. The buildings will be each five stories high, and occupy a surface of sixty feet by thirty-six. They are likely to be completed in the course of the autumn.

Thursday week was fixed upon to lay the foundation stone of the new buildings, and about one o'clock, a pretty numerous company had assembled to witness the ceremony. Among those present were the Worshipful the Mayor, Mr. Alderman German, Mr. Alderman Haydock, John Barstow, Esq., Mr. Smith, Mr. Cummings, Mr. James German, Mr. Park, Mr. Leach, Mr. Turner, Mr. G. Smith, Mr. Trench, &c. &c. A number of ladies also were in attendance. Several flags fluttered from the temporary erection on the quay, among which was a very handsome one, belonging to Mr. Bond, bearing the inscription, "Success to the Ribble." Shortly before two o'clock, the stone was hoisted in the bed, when, after three cheers had been given, the mayor addressed the ladies and gentlemen assembled. He said that, having been requested by the proprietors of the warehouses to lay the first stone, he had great pleasure in complying with that request. They learnt, from history, that Preston had been a port in ancient times; and, according to tradition, the chief magistrate of the town was, in those days, called the Portreeve. In process of time, the channel of the river became filled up; the port business was much impeded, and the importance of the town, in a commercial sense, was much reduced. Owing to the efforts of the Ribble Navigation Company the impediments had been in a great measure removed, and the commerce of the port had been increased, and already gave promise of being large and of great usefulness to the town. Her Majesty's Government, considering these circumstances, had renewed the privileges formerly enjoyed by the town of being a port, and extended them. In return for this consideration upon the part of Government, it was intended to call the new buildings, the "Victoria Warehouses." Considering the means Preston now enjoyed of rapid communication with the south of England, and the probability there was of these advantages being extended to the north and east, and of their having a branch railway to the very spot upon which they were standing, he thought they would be able to see, in a short time, commodities from every part of the world brought into this port. He had been accustomed from his youth to look upon the verdant plain near them, as so eligible a spot for the recreation of his townsmen, that at first it was with feelings of regret that he looked upon a prospect of its being covered with buildings; but he hoped that the increased labour and energy which would be called into existence by such a change, would be attended with increased wealth and prosperity, and he would then have no reason to regret the change. They would have the means to form public walks, and to further improvements in other parts of the town. The company he was sure would join him in wishing every prosperity to the Ribble Navigation Company, to the Victoria Warehouses, and the spirited proprietors.

The mayor then called for three cheers for the new undertaking, which were most heartily given.

In a cavity in the stone was deposited a bottle, containing copies of the last week's Preston new-papers, and coins of the present year. A plate bearing the following inscription (which was read by Mr. Trench) was then placed upon it:—

"The Foundation Stone of these Warehouses, to be built for Mr. Alderman German, Mr. Alderman Haydock, Mr. Councillor

Turner, and Mr. Bond, was laid on Thursday, the 20th February, 1844, by the worshipful the Mayor of the borough, John Addison, Esq.

"FRAS. W. T. ACH, Architect.
"WILLIAM BOND,
"THOMAS WHITTAKER, } Contractors."

His worship then spread the mortar, the stone was lowered, and having struck it three times with the mallet, he drank "Success to the Victoria Warehouses, and the healths of the proprietors," in a tankard of spiced wine, and the principal gentlemen present also partook of it, pledging the same toast. Mr. Alderman Haydock then proposed three cheers for the mayor, for his kindness in at once acceding to the wish of the proprietors to lay the first stone of the bonded warehouses. The proposition was responded to with the utmost enthusiasm, and the company then dispersed.

THE TIMBER TRADE.

THE state of the timber trade, at the present time, affords an illustration of the advantages resulting from a reduced scale of the duties upon important articles of consumption especially, and the following remarks, from the circular of Messrs. Chaloner and Fleming, of Liverpool, will forcibly illustrate this:—

"In conformity with the practice usual at this period, we proceed to take a review of the timber trade for the past year, and we do so with much pleasure, as evidencing a greatly improved state of the general state of the country, and refuting in a marked degree the anticipations of evil that prevailed with those opposed to the Government measure for the reduction of the duties. This year has, in fact, been the first of the operation of the new tariff, and has proved the principle of affording to consumers, at low prices an article essential as timber, it has shewn by an expanded consumption the powerful stimulus that has thus been given to the trade, when taken in connection with the improved state of the manufacturing districts. With the very untoward circumstance abroad of an unusual and excessively high price of timber, what would have been the portion of consumers had they been obliged to add thereto the late existing high duties? It is only reasonable to conclude that, with an import fully averaging that of the four years previous to that ending February, 1843 (which was the year of the change, and which was scarcely more than half an import, as explained in our last annual report), we should hardly have been in the favourable position that we now hold, with a light stock to meet an expected animated spring demand. The consumption will be found, as regards the main articles of import, to have exceeded, with one exception, any previous year since 1841, and bids fair to progress in a ratio far exceeding the most sanguine expectations of the supporters of the measure, if it be not checked by too great an advance in prices previous to the new import. These remarks apply particularly to colonial timber, which, in this locality, receives the estimation it deserves, and which is gradually superseding the use of Baltic."

Why should delays arise in the reduction of the duties upon tea, tobacco, and wool, when such favourable results are here shown?—*London Journal of Commerce.*

NEW INVENTION.—A Mr. Pauling, of Manchester (well known as an extensive and successful contractor for railway works, and who completed the Manchester and Birmingham Station, in Manchester, and who is now engaged in completing the Junction Railway to Hunt's Bank, for the Liverpool and Manchester Station), is now engaged in erecting machinery on a very extensive scale, for the purpose of executing almost every description of joiner's work; the special objects being to effect the most difficult parts, such as mortising and the making of sash-frames, &c. Report says, that this enterprising gentleman has succeeded, and that the work thus finished is incomparable; in other terms, that it is not possible for mere handcraft labour to vie with the work finished by this new invention. The works are on a very extensive scale, and, if fully employed, will of necessity revolutionize this branch of the building business.—*Preston Chronicle.*

CHURCH-BUILDING INTELLIGENCE, &c.

Dutton New Church.—The new edifice intended for a place of worship for the inhabitants of the villages of Newbarns, Howcut, Barrow, and the adjoining hamlets, has, at length, been completed, and was opened for Divine service, the other week, by the Rev. John Baldwin. The congregation was so great that numbers could not find space within the building. Although some might be attracted there by the novelty of the occurrence, yet we are certain that the little temple, humble though it be, will continually be filled, at times of its sacred services, with single-hearted and devout worshippers. At the present time service is performed under a licence. It is contemplated that a school should be taught therein.

St. Stephen's and All-Martyr's Church, Laverbridge.—This beautiful and singular new church, built of terra cotta, in the decorated English style of architecture, was opened for divine service on Sunday last. The chancel, where the material is left in its original colour, is highly decorated, and has a very pleasing appearance. The ends and back panels of the open seats, the mouldings, and letters in the cornice, the gallery front, and parts of the pulpit and desk, &c., are made of terra cotta and shew how extensively applicable the material is for ornamental work. The stained glass in the small windows and in the chancel is by Willemit; that in the transept and west window by Wailes. Mr. Sharp, of Lancaster, is the architect.—*Bolton Chronicle.*

Bury Parish Church.—Richard Walker, Esq., the highly respected member for Bury, and his brother, Oliver Ormerod Walker, Esq., have, in the most liberal manner, presented two new bells to the churchwardens of the parish church, which, with the six old bells will make a fine peal of eight. The new bells are to be cast by Messrs. Meurs of Whitechapel. Thomas Norris, Esq., of Redwale, who laid the first stone of the new steeple now in the course of erection, has presented a clock to the parishioners.—*Preston Chronicle.*

St. Nicholas Church, Dublin.—A copy of the correspondence which took place between the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for Ireland and the Dean and Chapter of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, in reference to pulling down the Church of St. Nicholas Within, in that city, was moved for by Mr. Grogan, an order by the House of Commons to be printed, 23rd February, 1844.

His Grace the Duke of Cleveland to go to erect a suitable parsonage-house in the township of Forest and Frith, near Middleton-in-Teesdale, where his Grace maintains a resident minister for the spiritual benefit of the people in that retired district.

The Roman Catholic chapel at Lincoln is undergoing an extensive embellishment and repair, in order to be fitted for the reception of the High Sheriff of the county, who will go to state to mass on the Assize Sunday.

COST OF DRAIN-TILES.—The cost in Lincolnshire of making drain-tiles 13½ inches long, 4½ inches wide, and 4 inches high, outside dimensions when burnt is, for digging, wheeling, turning, and grinding the clay, 3s.; in a 2s. 6d., exclusive of coals and leading. In 1831 one million and a half of these tiles were supplied to one landowner, who was charged 22s. 6d. per 1,000 for them by the maker. When the expense of 1s. for grinding is added to 2s. 6d., for moulding, making in all 3s. 6d., the slight advantage of machinery now in use to effect these processes will appear. Where its application actually does reduce the cost, it can only be by reducing the 3s. 6d. paid for moulding and grinding, for the other charges remain the same. Few use a bottom or the sole. There are tile-works now constructing where it is proposed to take the clay as soon as dug, at any season of the year pulverize it without adding water, and mould it into tiles, all by one operation by pressure, and at one quarter of an inch thick the tiles are of a sufficient strength; they have many projections to dispense with the use of 1½ soles. Pipe-tiles, and those of other shapes as well as sewer-tiles, are to be produced of equal comparative strength.—*Anonymous.*