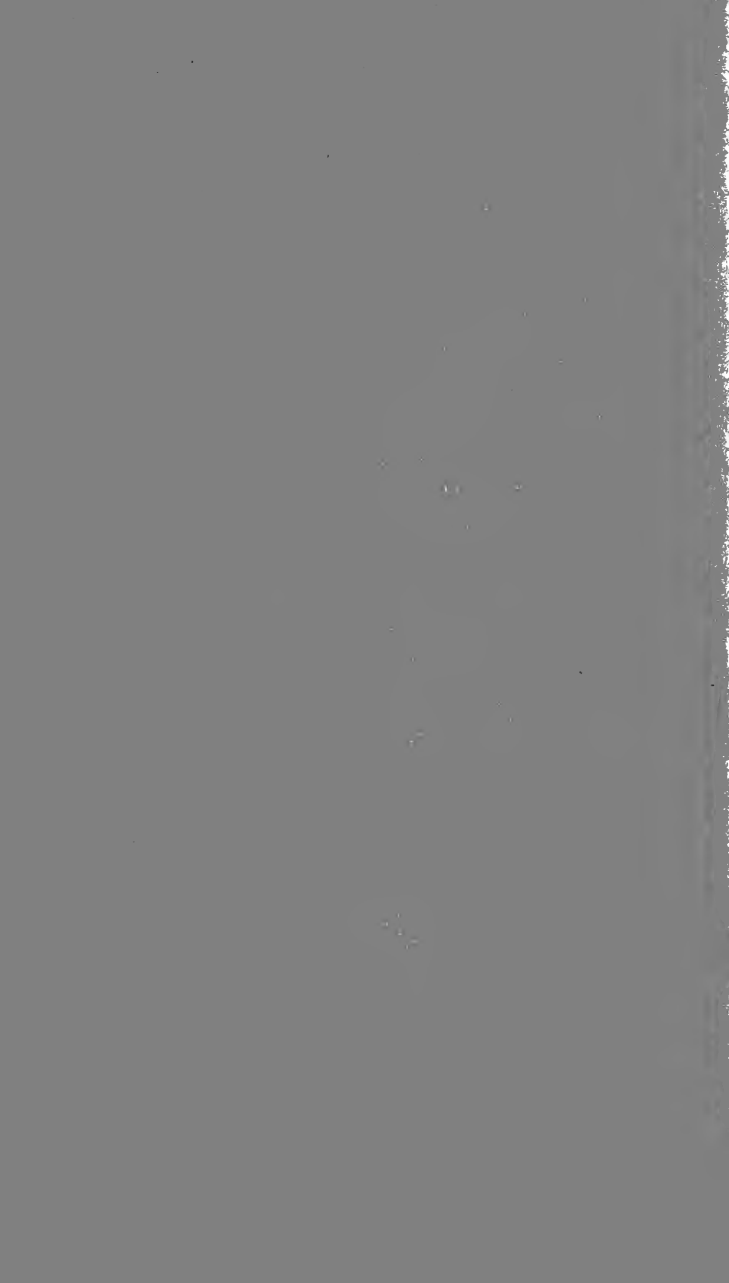




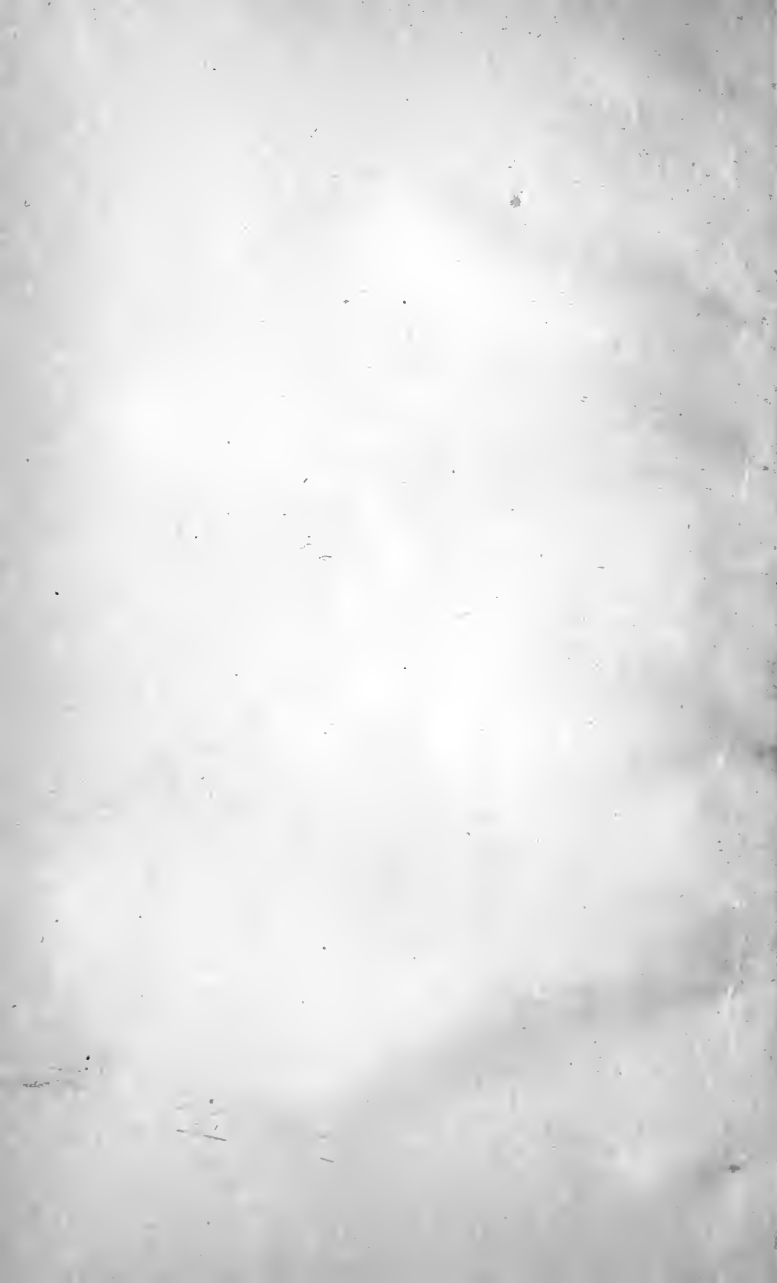


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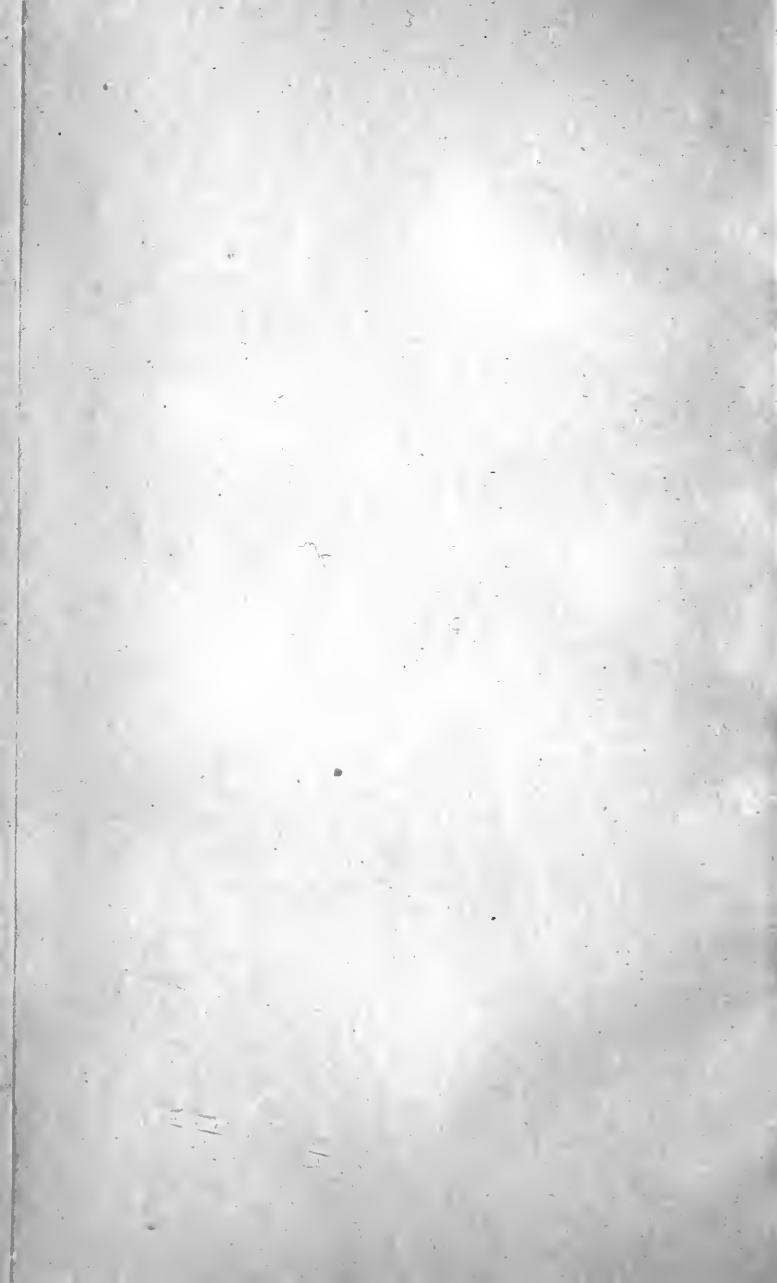
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BIRMINGHAM ILLUSTRATED.

CORNISH'S
STRANGER'S GUIDE

THROUGH
BIRMINGHAM.

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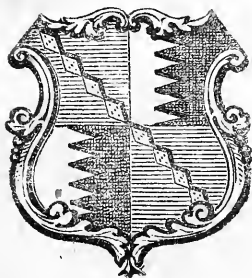
BEING AN ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF ALL THE

Public Buildings,

RELIGIOUS, EDUCATIONAL, AND CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS,
LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS, AND
MANUFACTORIES.

AS WELL AS ALL OTHER

PLACES OF PUBLIC RESORT IN THE VICINITY.



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BIRMINGHAM:
CORNISH, BROTHERS, AT THE OLD ESTABLISHED
CHEAP BOOK DEPOT, No. 37, NEW STREET,
Next Door to the Journal Office.
AND J. CORNISH, LONDON.
1851.

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THE STRANGER'S GUIDE

THROUGH BIRMINGHAM.

Chapter I.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE TOWN OF BIRMINGHAM.

BIRMINGHAM, the capital of the Midland Counties and emporium of the mechanical arts, is situated in the north-west extremity of Warwickshire, in latitude $52^{\circ} 29'$ north, and longitude $1^{\circ} 48'$ west. It is a borough town, returning two members to parliament; distance $97\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Liverpool, and $112\frac{1}{2}$ from London.

On account of the antiquity of the Town, the derivation of its name cannot be correctly ascertained. Mr. Hamper has enumerated more than one hundred ways of spelling Birmingham. Dugdale is of opinion that the name is derived from that of the first lord who possessed

it; but Mr. Hutton, an inhabitant of the Town, and its best historian, believed it to be derived from the words Brom, Wych, and Ham; Brom signifying a shrub, which there is reason to believe abounded in the neighbourhood; Wych, signifying a descent; and Ham signifying home.

Little is known of the ancient history of the Town. From the arguments adduced by Mr. Hutton, it is probable that in the days of the ancient Britons, Birmingham was celebrated for its manufacture of arms; and that the arms of that people were made here. That it was a place of some importance, is certain, from the ancient British way called Icknield-street, afterwards converted into a Roman military road, and the Roman roads, Shirley Street and Monkswell Street, having been carried so near to the Town. That Birmingham was a place of consideration in the time of the Saxons, appears from William de Birmingham, lord of the manor, having in the year 1309, proved that his ancestors had, before the conquest, the privilege of a market.

In the Norman Survey, the Town was rated for four miles of land, and for wood, of half a mile in length, and four furlongs in breadth; the whole being valued at twenty shillings.

From the year 1050 to 1537, the possession of the place was vested in the family of Birmingham. It then passed into the hands of John Dudley, duke of Northumberland; after his execution it reverted in the reign of Queen Mary to the crown, and by the queen it was granted to Thomas Marrow, Esq. whose descendants continued to be lords of the manor for upwards of two hundred years. In 1746, the manor was purchased by

Thomas Archer, Esq. ; and it is at present the property of Christopher Musgrave, Esq.

The manor house, the residence of the lords of Birmingham, was situated at the Moat, about eighty yards south of St. Martin's church, now called Moat Row ; the water which supplied the moat, was obtained from a small stream, which divided the parishes of Edgbaston and Birmingham. In the reign of Henry the Second, Peter de Birmingham had a castle here, in which he resided in great splendour. The succeeding lords also made it their residence, until the usurpation of the manor by the Duke of Northumberland in 1537. In the year 1730, a house was built on the site of the old castle ; some remains of which house continued until 1816 ; when the moat was filled up, and the site of the mansion converted into a market-place for the sale of cattle, and now called Smithfield.

On the spot now occupied by the old square stood the priory of St. Thomas the Apostle ; which was founded by the house of Birmingham, and was dissolved at the reformation. Clodshale's chantry was another religious endowment, founded by Walter de Clodshale, who acquired a fortune, and resided in the manor house of Saltley. There was also a guild of the holy cross, but no traces of these religious establishments remain.*

From the period of the Norman conquest to the war of the commonwealth, the inhabitants enjoyed the blessings of peace, taking no part in the wars between the houses of York and Lancaster. During this period, the inhabitants

* The endowment of the Free Grammar school consists in part of the lands which belonged to the Guild of the Holy Cross.

were principally smiths and cutlers; though a great trade in leather was carried on. The shops of the smiths occupied the fronts of the houses; and the line of street, extending from Deritend to Digbeth, was filled with their smithies.

But when the parliament declared war against Charles I., the inhabitants of Birmingham espoused the cause of the commonwealth. Detachments of the republican troops were stationed here; the carriages of the king, with his plate and furniture, were seized, as they were passing with the king through the town; and were conveyed to Warwick castle. The townsmen refused to make arms for the soldiers of the royal army; while they sent fifteen thousand swords to the cavalry of the republicans; joined to which, several bands of volunteers were raised to serve against the king.

Prince Rupert in April, 1643, with an army of two thousand men, marching into the north of England, arrived at Birmingham, for the purpose of opening a line of march to the north, and of punishing the inhabitants for their disloyalty to the king. After some severe fighting at the suburbs, which were defended by the townsmen, who fought with great courage, the Prince entered the principal streets, and set fire to a great part of the town. In the battle the Earl of Denbigh was wounded, and shortly after died.

On the entrance to the town, upon the London road, is a place still called Camphill, where the troops of the prince encamped. In the year 1791, the peace of the town was disturbed by one of those outbreaks of the people, which, though of rare occurrence in England, cannot be regarded without feelings of the deepest regret.

For three days, the people committed the greatest violence, burning the principal meeting houses, and the houses of several of the most worthy inhabitants. The arrival of a division of cavalry at length put a stop to these excesses.

According to the statement of Mr. Hutton, at the Restoration, Birmingham contained fifteen streets; nine hundred and seven houses; and five thousand seven hundred and forty two inhabitants. Since the Reformation, the town has been rapidly progressing in size, and increasing in population. The number of its present inhabitants is about two hundred and twenty thousand.

Chapter II.

ITS PRESENT STATE.

IF one town more than another is entitled to the merit of having improved the machinery which tends to civilize the human race—that town is Birmingham. Here John Baskerville devoted his talents and his capital to the founding of type for printing, in which labour he was eminently successful. Here Priestly pursued his studies in chemistry and electricity; and in the groves of Soho, James Watt laid the foundation of that power, which is more mighty in its effects on the condition of mankind than any human

invention has hitherto been. It is through the genius, energies, and perseverance of these great men, that Birmingham enjoys its present pre-eminence.

Birmingham, until the Reform Act, in 1832, was unrepresented in the councils of the nation. It now sends two members to Parliament. On the 31st of October, 1838, the town received a charter of incorporation; and on the 26th of December of the same year, the first election of mayor, town councillors, and aldermen took place, when the Borough was divided into thirteen wards, and sixteen aldermen elected to represent them. The three extra are elected by the body corporate to act in the absence of any of the regular representatives; forty-eight councillors have been elected. The population consists of 220,000 persons, who, with a few exceptions, are a religious, moral, well-educated, and industrious body; for an estimate of the state of religion, we have only to turn to the number of places of worship, when it will be discovered to the credit of the inhabitants, there are more than sixty churches and chapels; of these, eighteen belong to the Established Church, the rest are places of worship of the different sects and denominations of dissenters, except three devoted to the Roman Catholics, and one to the religion of the Jews. In each of the churches and chapels service is performed twice on a Sabbath, in many of them three times, and, with few exceptions, evening service is performed at each once or twice in the course of the week. Though containing such a variety of religious sects, whose principles of religion are in many cases directly opposite, the town exhibits no example of religious strife; the greatest tolerance in religion is shown by the inhabitants to each other. One interesting feature

connected with the religion of the Town, is, that almost all the churches and chapels have been built by the subscriptions of the inhabitants. With regard to the morals of the population, we may infer from the preceding observations that a great degree of decorum prevails; nevertheless, as in all large and populous towns, considerable immorality exists, which is principally occasioned by the employing of the youth of both sexes in crowded manufactories, thrown together at a tender age: they form improper connexions, or marry early, the consequences of which are too frequently distressing to themselves. The wealthier inhabitants are remarkable, generally speaking, for a strict observance of those outward forms which, while beneficial to themselves, afford good example to those beneath them.

The Charitable Institutions form not the least of these claims which Birmingham possesses to the admiration of the strangers. Of the Asylums for the relief of the poor, the principal are the General Hospital, the Queen's Hospital, the Workhouse for the relief of the aged poor, and the Asylum for the reception of poor children. Besides these, there are a Public Dispensary, a self-supporting Dispensary, a Magdalen Asylum, and an eye Infirmary.

The Town is amply provided with means of education; attached to every place of worship is a Sunday-school for the children of the congregation, and which are sufficient to afford instruction to every poor child; besides which there are Infant Schools, a Lancastrian, a National and Ragged Schools, and those noble institutions, the Blue-coat Charity and the Free Grammar Schools. There is also a Proprietary School, and several excellent private acad-

mies in the neighbourhood. For the adult population, there is the Philosophical Institution, the Polytechnic Athenic Institution, and the Society of Arts; all of which it is pleasing to know are duly appreciated and encouraged. With regard to the amusements of the inhabitants the town is little celebrated. The mechanic too frequently finds his transient pleasure in one of the numerous public-houses of the Town, which is scarcely to be wondered at, when we consider that no recreation of any kind is provided as a relief to that almost ceaseless labour to which he is subjected. Even amongst the more wealthy there does not appear to be that love of amusement so common to the inhabitants of large towns. There are, however, public, card, and dancing parties, and private concerts at Dee's Hotel, during the winter season, and public concerts are frequently given at the Town Hall, which are well attended.

The principal place of amusement is the Theatre, but though a great number of the inhabitants frequent the Theatre, it is by a larger number neglected. Theatrical amusements always have been, and probably always will be, attendant on a high degree of civilization; that more patronage is not bestowed upon the drama arises from local causes, the principal of which is, the number of dissenters who reside in the town, who never visit the Theatre, on account of objections they entertain to theatrical performances.

To the credit of the proprietors, the Botanical Gardens have been lately thrown open, at a very low rate of admission, on certain days of the week, affording a cheap, healthful, and rational recreation to the inhabitants. Such amusements, by creating in man a happy and cheerful

mind, fit him for the performance of those severe labours to which he is called.

In point of situation as regards health the Town is most advantageously placed. It is the elevated situation that renders the Town so conducive to health. Mr. Hutton has instanced many individuals who have lived to advanced ages. Contagious disorders are scarcely known here. The Inspector of Sanatory Commission, when in Birmingham, said that it was in better condition than any town he had visited; a greater proof of its general salubrity cannot be adduced than the fact, that, during the prevalence of the cholera, which raged in the neighbourhood, the Town was exempt from its visitation.

The general appearance of the Town is highly prepossessing. Though the streets do not traverse the Town in a direct manner, the irregularity is advantageous; for it gives nooks and corners, which, well-managed, form excellent sites for public buildings. The angular approach to the Town Hall is an example of this kind. The site of Christ Church, near the Town Hall, is so fine, that it is to be wished the building itself were better. St. Martin's Church, in the Bull Ring, has a similar fine site. The corner of Dale End and Bull Street, and the corner of High Street and New Street, are similar salient angles, which would afford scope for fine buildings. The streets themselves are lively and bustling, full of good shops, and crowded with people. New Street is the Bond Street of Birmingham. What with its glittering array of shops, its inns, its fine Elizabethan School, its School of Arts, its Theatre, its Post Office, gives the ton to that part of the Town. High Street and Bull Street are localities of good shops and trade. The rest of the streets are almost

entirely occupied by the numerous variety of Birmingham manufacturers.

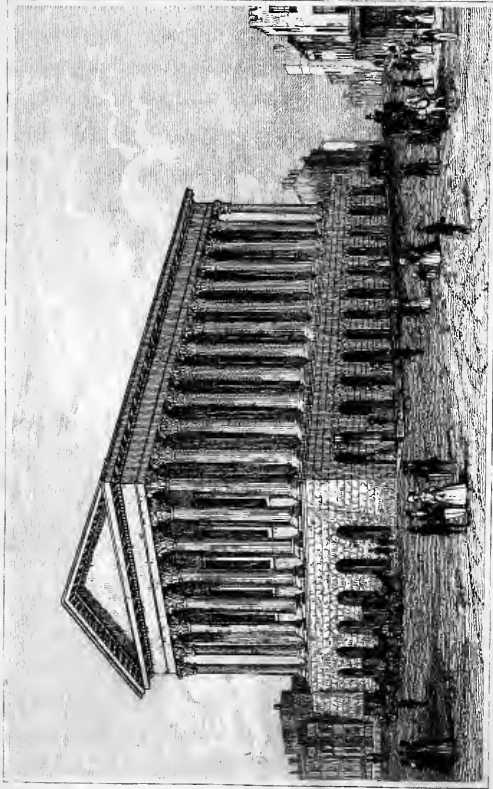
But it is not the appearance of the Town that will most interest the visitor. He will derive most pleasure from the contemplation of the resources it possesses. Its noble institutions, its extensive and far-famed manufactories, and the ingenious machines employed therein, are objects to which his attention will be directed : and to secure such aid, by laying before the visitor all possible information upon such interesting points, the following pages have been devoted.

Chapter III.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND INSTITUTIONS OF BIRMINGHAM.

THE TOWN HALL,

situated at the top of New Street, and at the corner of two converging streets, is decidedly the most attractive and splendid building in the town ; it was erected by Messrs. Hansom and Welch, from the model of one of the ancient temples of Greece. A rustic basement supports a series of noble Corinthian columns, which extend round the front and two sides of the building. The hall, esteemed the most spacious room in the kingdom, is orna-



A. Johnson sculp.

TOWN HALL, BIRMINGHAM.



mented with mural pillars, which rise to the elaborately worked roof. In a recess at the end stands a magnificent organ, erected at an expense of between £3000 and £4000. The Town Hall is devoted to the public assemblies of the inhabitants, who frequently meet here, in great numbers, on political and local subjects. It is calculated that four thousand persons may assemble in the hall without inconvenience. The triennial musical festivals are held here; and a series of concerts are given in the season, which (taking into account the beauty and extent of the building, the talent of the performers, and the number of well dressed persons who attend) can scarcely be surpassed.

The Birmingham Town Hall is a successful attempt to apply to modern uses the most beautiful examples of Grecian and Roman architecture. The material with which it is built, an imperishable marble obtained from the island of Anglesey, is of a similar description to that used by the ancients in the construction of their temples:

We subjoin a table of the principal dimensions and characteristics of the building.

Height of the basement	23 feet
Height of the column	36 feet
Diameter of the columns	3 feet 6 in.
Height of the capital	4 feet
Weight of each column	26 tons

The dimensions of the great room are:

Length	145 feet
Breadth	65 feet
Height	65 feet

Making 600,000 cubical feet.

Besides the principal room, the building contains ex-

tensive corridors, a saloon, a grand staircase and ante-rooms, under the gallery a committee room, and several other apartments. The basement of the building forms a promenade, whereon more than one thousand five hundred persons may conveniently stand.

The magnificent organ is of the following dimensions: The organ case is forty feet wide, forty-five feet high, and seventeen feet deep. The largest wood pipe measures, in the interior, two hundred and twenty-four cubic feet. The bellows of the organ are very large. They contain three hundred square feet of surface, and upwards of three tons weight upon the bellows are required to give the necessary pressure. It is calculated that the trackers in the organ, if laid out in a straight line, would reach above five miles. There are seventy-eight draw-stops, four sets of keys, and above four thousand pipes. The weight of the instrument is about forty-five tons; and in the depth, power, variety, and sweetness of its tone far surpasses any in Europe. It was built by Mr. Hill, of London.

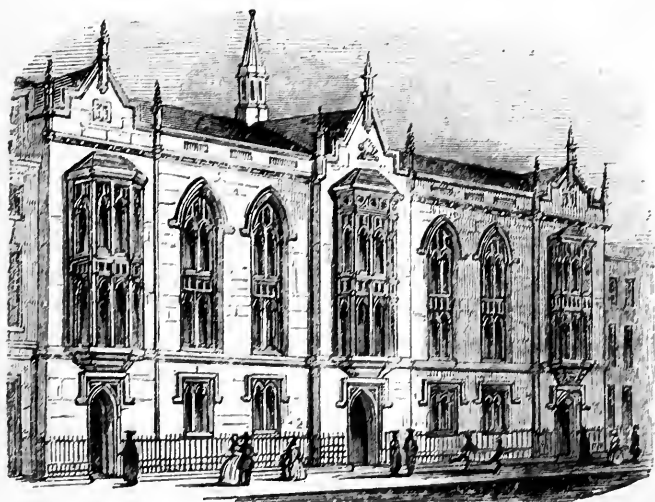
On Monday evenings, commencing at eight o'clock in summer and at half-past seven in winter, a musical entertainment is given, on which occasion our talented organist, Mr. Stimpson, plays a variety of pieces of the first class. Vocal music is also introduced with great advantage. The price of admission is three-pence. The inhabitants cannot but congratulate themselves in having at their command so cheap and intellectual a treat. It is generally well and respectably attended.

For the convenience of strangers passing through the town, a performance takes place nearly every Thursday, from one to two o'clock, when the price of admission is one shilling.

Opposite the Town Hall, in Paradise Street, is

THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE,

which is an imposing building of Gothic architecture, founded in the year 1828, by Sands Cox, Esq., F.R.S., and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1843, and again in 1847. The course of instruction qualifies for the B.M. and M.D. degrees in the University of London and fo



the diplomas of the Royal College of Surgeons and Society of Apothecaries; the council grant certificates also for the degrees of B.A., M.A., B.C.L., and D.C.L. to be conferred by the University of London. The buildings comprise rooms for seventy resident students, lecture halls, chemical laboratory, engineering workshops, model room:

museums, libraries, and a chapel. The chapel, which was consecrated in 1845, contains a beautiful window of stained glass, (Christ healing the sick), executed at the expense of the students by the eminent Messrs. Pemberton, from a design furnished by Mr. Brooke Smith, jun. In the dining hall are placed fine portraits of the founder, of the first principal, Dr. Johnstone, and of the great benefactor to the College, the Rev. Samuel Wilson Warneford, LL.D., also three magnificent paintings from the palace at Wells, presented by the Rev. Chancellor Law, the Vice-Principal, one of which, "The Return of the Prodigal Son," by David, merits especial notice. The institution is under the direction and management of a council; the students are under the superintendence of the senior tutor and chaplain, a graduate of Oxford. The Rev. Samuel Wilson Warneford, LL.D. who, besides gifts for the hospital and the erection of the college chapel, has endowed the chaplaincy, the professorship of Theology, and the Medical Tutorship, and founded four scholarships of £10, tenable for two years, and two prizes, the interest of £1000, to be annually awarded for the best essays on some subject taken out of any branch of anatomical, physiological or pathological science, always and especially with a view to exemplify the wisdom, goodness, and power of God." Other prizes are given by the governors, and by the professors, tutors, masters, in their respective classes.

The Theological department, under the superintendence of a warden is intended to locate at Numbers 7 and 8 in the Crescent. Law students, desirous of obtaining a degree, are admitted into this department.

At Numbers 4, 5, 6, in the Crescent, is the department for resident junior students, under the superintendence of

a mathematical tutor, a graduate of Cambridge, and an assistant classical tutor. In this department, the students enter for the full period of five years, to spend two years in elementary training—after which they occupy rooms in the college.

Non-resident students are admitted into either of the departments. They are required to live with their parents or guardians, or in lodgings selected by their parents or guardians, and approved by the senior tutor and dean of the faculty.

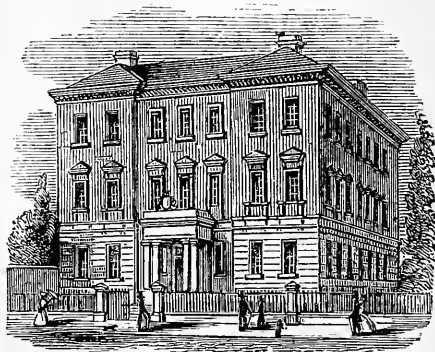
Connected with the College are Museums of Human and Comparative Anatomy, containing upwards of 3000 specimens; enriched by collections of the late George Freer, and the late Alfred Jukes, surgeons of the General Hospital, and the late John Ingleby, surgeon of the Dispensary, the pathological models of the late Dr. Felix Thibert; of Zoology, Geology, and the other departments of natural history; enriched by the invaluable collection of the late Earl of Mountnorris, and the late Viscount Valentia; also by the Weaver collection, purchased at the sum of £1500. Open daily from eleven o'clock till dusk, Monday and Fridays, admission sixpence; and on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, one shilling.

In connexion with the College, and situated at Holloway Head, near St. Thomas's Church, is the

QUEEN'S HOSPITAL,

a chaste and elegant structure, from the design of Bateman and Drury, the architects of the college; it is approached by an elegant portico surmounted by the arms of Rev. D. Warnford (a great benefactor to the Hospital). The building consists of a centre and two wings. There

is a separate Fever Hospital. The institution was founded by William Sands Cox, Esq. under the auspices of the Rev. Chancellor Law; the foundation stone was laid on



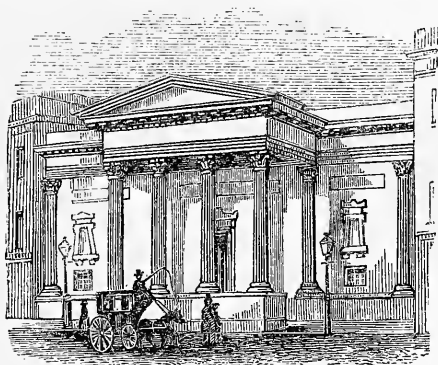
the 18th June, 1840, by the Earl Howe; and the wards were opened in the following year by the bishop of the diocese.

In New Street stands the

SOCIETY OF ARTS AND GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS OF DESIGN,

which has a fine front, in the Grecian style of architecture, consisting of a lofty and bold portico supported by fluted columns, which are crowned with rich capitals. The large exhibition room is of a circular form, 52 feet in diameter, and adjoining are smaller ones for the reception of casts and marbles, &c., now used for modelling drawing from the antique, &c. The formation of this institution is due, in a great measure, to Sir Robert Lawley, who, in 1821, presented a collection of casts moulded

from the original Grecian marbles. It has also received donations, presents of works of art, and valuable books, from many noblemen and gentlemen. The management is vested in a committee, and the office of president has been filled by several noblemen and gentlemen of



distinction. In 1843, the School was opened as a School of Design—a liberal grant, and donation of casts and necessary furniture, having been made by the council of the Government School of Design, in London. The grant has been since increased, and for the last year amounted to £400. The number of pupils at present, are 524, who are admitted on the payment of small fees, or the nomination of a subscriber. There are classes for male and female pupils at stated hours. An annual meeting of the subscribers takes place in May, when prizes are given to the most deserving pupils.

Immediately below, is the

DISTRICT FIRE OFFICE, AND POLICE STATION,

and opposite, is the

POST OFFICE,

a spacious building, admirably adapted to the increasing wants of the town. Since its removal from the corner of the opposite street, considerable improvements have been made. Branch offices have also been opened in various parts of the town and its suburbs. There are three deliveries a day, at 8 a.m., 11 a.m., and at 4 p.m. The box is open for London stamped letters till 12 p.m.

In the same building is the **EXCISE OFFICE**, and nearly adjoining is the

THEATRE,

an elegant building, distinguished by the chasteness and beauty of its design. The façade in front, presenting a piazza surrounded by a colonade, and ornamented with wings at the extremities, in the face of which are medallions, representing Shakspeare and Garrick. The first building erected on this spot for dramatic performances, was 1774, which, in August, 1792, was destroyed by fire, when a larger and more commodious edifice was built, which, likewise became a prey to the flames, in 1820, but fortunately on neither occasion was the front injured. In the course of the same year, the present Theatre was built, which in point of accommodation, chasteness of design, and scenic effect of its stage is not to be surpassed by any provincial theatre. It contains a commodious pit, two

rows of boxes, and an extensive gallery, and will hold about two thousand persons. Few theatres have produced so many distinguished actors; amongst whom, Mr. Macready may be mentioned. But not alone, great actors have received their first meed of applause in connexion with this Theatre—Mr. Stanfield, late the scene painter at Drury Lane, and Mr. Alfred Bunn, the late lessee of Covent Garden Theatre, held like official appointments here.

Under the spirited management of its present enterprising lessee Mr. Simpson, this Theatre has risen to a degree of popularity in the town, never hitherto reached, which may be, owing in a great measure, to the number of thriving theatres possessed by Mr. Simpson in various parts of the country, enabling him to command a choice of talent, and a continued stream of novelty throughout the season.

The entrance to the boxes is in New Street; to the pit, through a small passage in Lower Temple Street, and to the gallery from a small street at the back of the Theatre. Prices of admission, dress boxes, three shillings; upper boxes, two shillings; pit, one shilling; gallery, sixpence.

A few doors up Bennett's Hill, opposite the Theatre, is the

BRANCH BANK OF ENGLAND,

an elegant and commodious building. On the opposite side are the offices of the

BIRMINGHAM BANKING COMPANY,

the first of the Joint Stock Banks, established in Birming-

ham. The bank is an elegant stone building, ornamented with rows of Corinthian columns; it contains a fine room, in which the business of the bank is transacted.

The other buildings in Bennett's Hill, worthy of notice, are the

NORWICH UNION FIRE OFFICE,

and the

NEWS ROOM,

a building in the Grecian style, erected from the designs of Messrs. Rickman and Hutchinson. The arrangement of the interior is appropriate. The property is vested in the hands of shareholders, and the room is supported by a numerous body of subscribers, to whom it was opened in 1825. The whole of the leading London and foreign journals, with a good selection of provincial papers, are taken in for the use of subscribers, *who have the privilege of introducing strangers to the room.* Since the first erection, additional rooms have been added.

In Waterloo Street are the

WATERLOO ROOMS AND COURT OF BANKRUPTCY.

In this street, and its immediate neighbourhood, are the offices of the greater part of the attorneys, solicitors, gentlemen connected with the Bankruptcy Court, &c.

Returning to the end of the street, and passing the

STAMP OFFICE

and St. Philip's Church, of which we give a description

in page 56, we arrive at the Athenæum rooms, now used by the

SOCIETY OF ARTISTS,

at the corner of Upper Temple Street, which arose from some disagreement between the professional and non professional members of the Society of Arts, in New Street, which terminated by the secession of the artists from that society, and engaging these premises for their exhibitions and other purposes connected with that object.

In the same building, is the

SAVINGS BANK,

which was established in 1827, and has proved of infinite service to the working portion of the town.

In Temple Street is the

ODDFELLOWS' LITERARY INSTITUTE,

A handsome building, from the design of Messrs. Cox and Goodwin. The frontage, extending about forty-five feet, though not elaborately decorated, has an elegant appearance. Internally, the arrangements are very complete and convenient. On either side of the entrance on the ground floor, the secretary and house-steward's apartments are arranged with every convenience attached. Extending backwards are the library and news-room, and other apartments, spacious and lofty, and specially adapted for that purpose. On the second floor, a committee room, capable of containing about 120 persons, extends along the front, and behind, occupying nearly the whole area of the building, is the principal hall. This spacious apartment, which will afford accommodation for nearly 1000

persons, is decorated in an appropriate style. It is lighted from the roof; and a small and neat gallery, which adds considerably to the appearance of the room, is erected over the entrance. The library and reading room are both judiciously selected, and are thrown open on very liberal terms, owing to which circumstance they enjoy an extensive patronage.

On the eastern side of the churchyard is the

BLUE COAT CHARITY SCHOOL,

a noble building, erected in the year 1724, for the purpose of receiving and educating a limited number of poor children. The charity is supported by private and other contributions; the average number of children in the school is one hundred and forty boys and sixty girls.

Near the Blue Coat School is

DEE'S ROYAL HOTEL,

a lofty brick building, with a neat portico, and one of the most respectable houses in the town. It possesses a good ASSEMBLY ROOM, in which are held private concerts and assemblies.

Leaving the Hotel, and proceeding along Temple Row, we arrive at Cherry Street, in which, on the right, is the Office of the BIRMINGHAM GAS COMPANY and the old established BANK OF MESSRS MOILLIET AND SONS. Two doors from the bank is Cannon Street, at the extremity of which, on the left hand side of the way, is

THE PHILOSOPHICAL INSTITUTION,

which was founded in 1800; in 1812 the present building

was devoted to the purposes of the society. It contains a Laboratory, Museum, Theatre, and News Room. The Laboratory is amply furnished with the means of pursuing chemical science, and classes meet periodically under the direction of a teacher. The instruction is of a purely practical kind, each student engaging in a systematic course of experiment, under the able direction of George Shaw, Esq. The Museum contains an extensive series of fossil remains, and is particularly rich in local fossils. It also possesses a collection of minerals, and an extensive series of recent shells. The Museum is open to the public gratuitously. The Lecture Theatre is small but convenient, and the delivery of lectures is an important feature in the institution. The News Room is supplied with the daily papers, periodicals, &c. Attached to the institution is an observatory, furnished with an excellent transit instrument for observations, with which the clock (made by Dent) is regulated. The anemometer on the roof of the building is self-acting, and the daily indications of this instrument have for many years been registered.

THE POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

is in Steelhouse Lane. It arose from the ashes of the old Mechanics' Institution, which, strange to say, in a town like Birmingham, has ceased to exist, owing either to the apathetic indifference of the inhabitants of the town to intellectual improvement, or from the bad management of its officers: it is satisfactory to know that this existing institute appears to be in a flourishing condition. Classes are formed in all the essentials of a sound practical English course of

knowledge, and also in the Latin, German, French, and other languages. It possesses also an extensive library, at terms within the means of the humblest aspirant. Lectures are given every Tuesday evening in the theatre of the Philosophical Institution, Cannon Street.

ATHENIC INSTITUTE,

Suffolk street, established in 1848; its object being to provide its members with the means by which may be obtained mental, moral, and physical improvement, together with rational amusement.

THE EYE INFIRMARY,

founded by Joseph Hodgson, Esq., F.R.S., in the year 1824. It is supported entirely by voluntary contributions, and, with a subscription list of barely £200, relieves upwards of 3000 patients in a year. There are two wards for the reception of patients, whose cases require particular care, or operations for their care, in consequence of the very inadequate support given to the charity. The in-patients are subjected to a small weekly charge for their board. A short distance from the Eye Infirmary, in Little Cannon Street, stands the

ASSAY OFFICE,

at which articles of gold or silver, manufactured in or between thirty miles of Birmingham, are assayed and marked by proper officers. Returning into Cherry Street, joining Union Street, is the MIDLAND BANK, a joint stock banking company; and adjoining the bank is the office of the *Birmingham Herald*, a weekly newspaper devoted to advertisements. It was established on the plan of a gra-

tuitous circulation, and about five thousand five hundred copies are distributed each week in Birmingham, the towns in the neighbourhood, and the principal towns and cities in the kingdom. It takes no part in politics, and being well filled with advertisements, contains but little local or general news. It is published on Thursday morning.

Almost opposite the bank is the Union inn, an excellent commercial house. A little below the Union is the

BIRMINGHAM OLD LIBRARY.

The building is of stone, and was erected in 1798. Over the portico is the following inscription—“*Ad mercatarum bonarum artium, perfectus et tibi et omnibus ditiesces.*” The library was formed under the direction of Dr. Priestley. It contains upwards of twenty thousand volumes, many of which are rare and valuable works. The number of subscribers (each of whom must be a shareholder) is between five and six hundred. The subscription is thirty shillings per year. Strangers to the Town, upon being introduced by a shareholder, are admitted as subscribers for one quarter.

Adjoining the Library is the

BIRMINGHAM FIRE OFFICE,

which was established in 1805. The capital of the Company, £300,000, was raised by three hundred shares, of one thousand pounds each. At the bottom of Union Street, on the left, is the

DISPENSARY.

There is nothing striking in the exterior of the building,

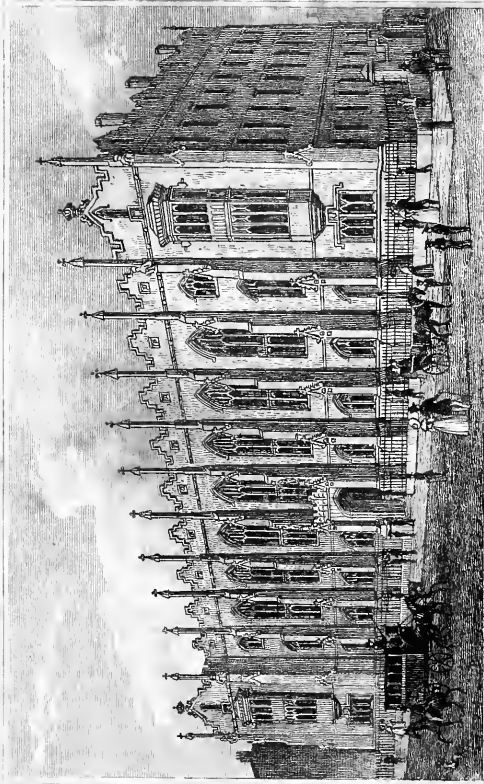
but the interior is commodious, and is well adapted for the humane object for which it is designed. Over the entrance is a piece of sculpture in relief, the work of Mr. H. Hollins. The Dispensary was established in 1794, and the object of the Charity is to relieve poor patients, who must be recommended by a subscriber. The lowest subscription is a guinea per year. There are two resident surgeons, a dispensary apothecary, and an accoucheur. Three physicians and six surgeons, also attend, whose services are gratuitous. Almost opposite the Dispensary is the office of *Aris's Birmingham Gazette*, a weekly newspaper of Conservative politics. It is published every Monday morning, and is conducted with ability and spirit. Returning into New Street, through Union Passage, facing us is the

FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

This school was founded by Edward the Sixth, in 1552, the fifth year of his reign. The original endowment of this charity, belonged to a building called the Guild of the Holy Cross, erected in 1383, valued by the commissioners of Henry the Eighth, at £31 annually. The present income is probably £7000. The first edifice was taken down in 1707 and another erected in its stead. This latter falling into decay, the Governors obtained an Act of Parliament to rebuild the school, and to establish branch or preparatory schools in various parts of the town.

The present beautiful building was erected, from the plan of Mr. Barry, the architect of the New Palace at Westminster. The design is Gothic, with elaborate carvings, and seven ranges of flattish windows in front, with accompanying buttresses, pinnacles, crowns, crosses, &c., with bold

FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, BIRMINGHAM.



A. Johnson sculp.



bay windows at each extremity. The material employed is Derbyshire stone. The dimensions of the building are, one hundred and seventy-four feet in front, one hundred and twenty-five feet in the flanks, and sixty feet in height. The form of the building is quadrangular; and the entrance is through a spacious porch highly ornamented. Two large apartments, with oak pannelled walls and ceilings, are the school rooms for the commercial school, in which are 215 boys; and the classical school, in which are 255 boys, is 120 feet long, forty-five feet high, and thirty feet wide, and has a lofty angular roof supported by a series of magnificent obtuse angled arches of the Tudor style. At the end, where the chair of the head master is placed, is a handsome, lofty oak carved screen. The second master's chair is opposite to this, and the ushers' chairs are on the sides. The desks and forms for the boys occupy the intermediate space, and are capable of accommodating 250 pupils, and is worthy the inspection of the stranger. The cost of the building, was about £40,000. The salary of the head master, is £400 per year, of the second master £300, besides privileges of considerable value. There are also under masters; salaries varying from £160 to £250 each. There are ten exhibitions of £50 each, at either of the universities. A number of gentlemen, elected as governors, have the management of the property. It contains a good library, and there is a fine bust of Edward VI., by Scheemaker. Besides these, there are four other schools, in different parts of the town, in which about 260 girls and nearly 500 boys receive instruction.

Standing at the school entrance and looking towards the Town Hall, several doors farther up the opposite side of

New Street, is the office of the BIRMINGHAM JOURNAL, a newspaper of liberal principles, and conducted with talent, energy, and spirit of the first order, and commands a very large circulation, published on Saturday morning.

Next door to the JOURNAL OFFICE, and opposite the intended

RAILWAY STATION

of the London and North Western, and Stour Valley Railway, is

CORNISH BROTHERS' CHEAP BOOK ESTABLISHMENT,

(THE PUBLISHERS OF THIS WORK.)

They will feel great pleasure in affording strangers every information respecting the manufactories, &c. of the Town, and they may add, that their establishment contains about 50,000 volumes of books in every department of literature, open alike to the stranger and the inhabitant, for *inspection or reference without charge*; an unemployed hour may be disposed of thus with advantage; their stock is so extensive, that almost any work of name may be obtained at this establishment.

Opposite Cornish Brothers is the office of the BIRMINGHAM MERCURY, which is carried on with great talent and spirit, and is issued on Saturday morning.

Retracing our steps back past the Free Grammar School, we come to the

HEN AND CHICKENS HOTEL,

an elegant and modern stone building, ornamented with

a portico of the Doric order. An excellent family and commercial hotel, which, from its situation, is a great favourite with visitors.

Next door to the Hen and Chickens is the old established and highly respectable BANK OF MESSRS. ATTWOOD, SPOONER, and Co., the second bank that was established in Birmingham. In a lane, opposite the end of New Street is the

COURT OF REQUESTS,

which was established by Act of Parliament in 1752, for the recovery of debts not exceeding five pounds.

Proceeding down the Bull Ring, we arrive at the

MARKET HALL,

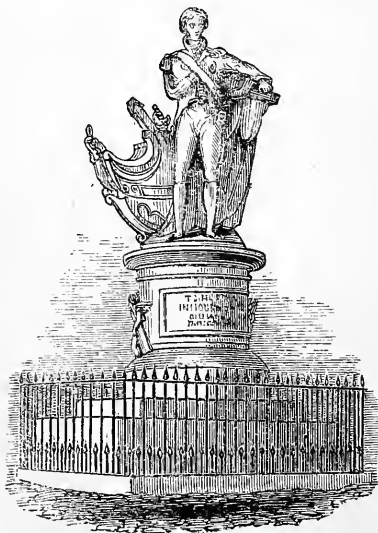
which was built from the design of Mr. Edge. It is in the Grecian style of architecture. The entrances are arched, and supported by Grecian Doric columns. Its length is three hundred and sixty feet; its width one hundred and eight feet; its height sixty feet. The building is lighted by twenty-five windows on each side, with three at the east, and six at the west end. The hall contains accommodation for six hundred stalls. Its cost was about £67,261.

A new organisation of the Market Hall is taking place, when the object will be to improve its general appearance, and increase the accommodation, and in which the public will not only be supplied with the common necessaries of life, but with the more luxurious articles. There will be on either side of the High Street entrance, nineteen fruit shops, which will be similar to the shops in the centre avenue of Covent Garden Market, London. There will

be seven fish, game and poultry shops, fitted with moveable sashes and slabs. Twelve butcher's shops, and eighteen fish stalls in the centre of the hall, each of these stalls, as well as the fish and game shops, to be fitted with a water tap, and an independent drain to each, preventing escape into the hall of any offensive effluvia. There will be a fountain bason, which will contain 600 gallons of water. The whole of these improvements, including the magnificent fountain, are estimated to cost £2000.

In the centre of the Bull Ring stands

NELSON'S STATUE.



This handsome work was executed in bronze, by Westmacott, at an expense of about £2500. The work was

opened 25th Oct. 1809, being the day on which was celebrated the jubilee of his late Majesty George III. The figure rests on a round marble pedestal, which is ornamented with sculpture; the left arm reclines upon an anchor, and the group is made up with the model of a ship of war. The statue is surrounded by a square of iron palisades, the corners of which are appropriately ornamented with castings of cannon.

Below this stands the old church, (which we have described, page 50.)

Nearly opposite the Statue, on the left, is Moor Street, in which on the right, is the

PUBLIC OFFICE,

which was erected in the year 1806. The front of the building is appropriated to the use of the Borough Magistrates and the Commissioners of the Street Act. At the back is the prison, which is separated from the Public Office, by an extensive yard; it has two departments, one for male, the other for female prisoners. Prison keeper, Mr. George Redfern. The Public Office is about to be transferred to the Corporation.

Police Force consists of one chief superintendent, five inspectors, six sub-inspectors, twenty-two sergeants, and 282 constables.

Returning into the Bull Ring, the scene of the Chartist riots in 1839, and passing St. Martin's, or the Old Church, on our left we arrive at

SMITHFIELD MARKET.

This fine market place was formed in 1816, on the ground originally, and for many centuries, occupied by the residence of the Lords of the Manor. There are three de

partments, each of which is surrounded with a brick wall and palisades. The two first are reserved for cattle, the last for sheep and pigs. There is also another department allotted for the horse fair. The beast market is held on Thursday, and there is a hay market on Tuesday.

A little to the left of the market, in Cheapside, are the

INFANTRY BARRACKS,

formerly Beardsworth's Horse and Carriage Repository. A spacious building, well adapted for the purpose to which it is now in requisition. The

CAVALRY BARRACKS

are in Great Brook Street, Ashted. In consequence of the riots in 1761, the Government determined to form in Birmingham a military station for the security of the town, and the present barracks were built in 1793. The barrack yard is extensive, and on each side of it are ranges of stabling, above which are the rooms of the soldiers and non-commissioned officers. A handsome house is appropriated to the use of the officers. The head quarters of a regiment of cavalry, with three or four troops, are generally stationed here. The Infantry Barracks take their rise also from the *émeute*, in 1839, in the Bull Ring. Adjoining Smithfield Market, in Bradford Street, is the

CIRCUS CHAPEL,

a large cemented brick building, formerly used as the Amphitheatre; and converted into a chapel, at the expense of £1200; it is well fitted up in the interior, and will seat 800 persons, and was opened, October 24th, 1848.

Proceeding through Smithfield, Spiceall Street, and Edgbaston Street, at a short distance from the end of which, in a turning on the left, we arrive at the

LADY WELL,

A spring of beautifully clear, soft, and pure water, situated near the site of the old parsonage house. From its name it is probable it was devoted to the Virgin Mary. A great part of the town is supplied with water from this spring, by means of carriers; it also supplies the large swimming bath adjoining, called the **LADY WELL BATHS**, an extensive establishment, conducted by Mr. Monro, where there is also a ladies' bath, neatly laid with marble.

There is a **SWIMMING BATH** in George Street, Balsall Heath; the water is pure and fresh, and continually running.

There are also Swimming Baths at Hunter's Lane, at the back of the Convent; they consist of a large and small swimming bath, besides six private baths; the water, beautifully clear, is supplied from a spring which possesses medicinal qualities.

In High Street is

THE CORN EXCHANGE.

This handsome structure was built by Mr. Heming, at a cost of £600, was opened to the public October 25th, 1847. The architecture of the interior is of the Italian Doric style, and the room covers an area of 166 feet, the vaulted roof is remarkably light and elegant. The annual subscription to each stall is £6. The supporters are the first corn merchants in the district. The room is admirably adapted for balls, assemblies, and public entertainments, for which purpose it is frequently engaged.

Near the Exchange are many of the booking-offices, from which the omnibuses or coaches to most of the neighbouring districts, as Halesowen, Hagley, Stourbridge, Kidderminster, West Bromwich, Wolverhampton, Dudley, &c. start. Also the BANK OF MESSRS. TAYLOR AND LLOYDS, a spacious building. Further on and in Dale End, is the

FISH MARKET,

generally supplied in abundance with every variety of fish in season, and also with GAME.

At the end of Coleshill Street is the

NEW MARKET HALL, BELMONT ROW.

In consequence of the increase of population in the immediate neighbourhood, it was deemed expedient to erect a Market Hall here. The market is divided into compartments for the sale of provisions, and a house is attached, in which the superintendent of the market resides.

Passing up the Lower Priory we arrive at the

OLD SQUARE.

On or near the site of the Old Square stood the PRIORY or Hospital of St. Thomas the Apostle; a religious house founded at the close of the thirteenth century, and principally endowed by the family of the De Birmingham. The domain of the Priory occupied about fourteen acres, extending over the ground now occupied by Bull Street, Steelhouse Lane, Newton and John Streets. This reli-

gious house was dissolved, in common with the monasteries and other religious establishments, by Henry the Eighth.

In the Square is the

STORK HOTEL,

A favourite commercial house, and an excellent family hotel. Also the

BIRMINGHAM AND STAFFORDSHIRE GAS COMPANY.

The present company was established by Act of Parliament in 1825. The extensive works of the company are situated at West Bromwich, whence the gas is conveyed to Birmingham, a distance of about seven miles.

In Lichfield Street, which runs from the Square, is the

BIRMINGHAM WORKHOUSE,

which was erected in 1733 for the reception of the poor of the parish of Birmingham. The left wing of the building appropriated as a Town Infirmary, was built in 1766; the right wing consists of governor's apartments, and of rooms for the use of the overseers. The officers to whose management the affairs are entrusted, are twelve overseers, and one hundred and eight guardians. The guardians are elected triennially; the overseers hold office for one year only, one half of the body being appointed every six months. There are also twelve assistant overseers, who are appointed to collect the poor rates. The greatest attention is paid to the domestic comfort of the unfortunate individuals who are inmates of the house. The present

building is sadly insufficient for the increasing wants of the Town. Another is now being built on Birmingham Heath.

Connected with the Workhouse is the

ASYLUM.

This excellent establishment was formed in the year 1797, for the purpose of affording an asylum to the infant children of the poor. It is under the management of a committee of overseers and guardians. The establishment is provided with a play-ground, a bath, and a chapel for divine service. Those who are old enough to labour are employed in the light manufactures of straw plat, lace, and pins, which, while it adds to the funds of the charity, establishes in the youthful recipients habits of industry.

In Summer Lane, on the left, at a short distance from Snow Hill, we arrive at the

GENERAL HOSPITAL,

a noble institution for the relief of the poor inhabitants of the Town. The extensive building, which is of brick, was commenced in the year 1766, but the funds being exhausted, the structure was delayed till 1778, when other subscriptions and donations were obtained, and, in 1779, it was opened to the public. The wings were added in 1791. The interior is well arranged, containing extensive wards for the accommodation of its sick inmates, with excellent ranges of offices, and apartments for the medical and other officers connected with the institution. A fine room, in which the committee assemble, contains a portrait by Sir Joshua Reynolds, of Dr. Ash, an eminent physician,

to whose exertions the establishment of the hospital is mainly to be attributed. It contains also a good portrait of the late Mr. Freer, by T. Phillips, R.A., also one of Joseph Hodgson, Esq., F.R.S., placed there in 1849 by public subscription, and a bust of the late Charles Lloyd, Esq. There are also busts of William Rolfe, Esq., a great benefactor to the charity, and the late G. Barker, Esq. The institution is under the management of a board of directors; four physicians and four surgeons render gratuitous service; twelve visitors are appointed to inspect the wards, and a clergyman of the Church of England officiates as chaplain. There are also a resident Physician and Surgeon, and an attendant Apothecary, with a steward and matron, who also reside at the hospital. The hospital is supported by subscription, and by funds arising from the triennial musical festivals. The first festival was held in September, 1778, at St. Philip's Church, and the performance, consisting of selections of sacred music, lasted three days. Since the completion of the Town Hall, they have been held there. The morning performances are generally an oratorio of Handel, or of some other celebrated composer, and the evening concerts, consisting of selections from the compositions of foreign and English masters, are perhaps the most magnificent that are held in the kingdom. The orchestra usually includes the first vocal and instrumental performers in Europe. On the last evening a dress ball is given. The receipts arising from these festivals average from four to five thousand pounds.

Leaving the hospital, we enter Snow Hill, at its junction with Constitution Hill, and passing up Great Charles Street into Cambridge Street, arrive at

THE CRESCENT,

which was designed to be a range of lofty stone houses, forming a fine curve, with wings at the extremities, and commanding a delightful view, but it has not been completed, a part has been bought for the Theological, and Junior departments of the Queen's College. There is a drive in front of the houses, beautified with a plantation.

Beneath the Crescent are a series of wharfs, arranged along the side of the canal, and occupied by the principal carriers of the town.

Passing along Cambridge Street and part of Easy Row, we arrive at

BASKERVILLE HOUSE,

which was built by, and was for many years, the residence of the celebrated Baskerville. This justly celebrated man, whose name is associated with those of Fournier, Breitkopt, Bodini, Didot, &c., as one of the true restorers of typographic art, has been so long and intimately associated with Birmingham, that our readers will excuse our devoting some space to a notice of the operations of his genius, and of the singular character of the man, as manifested in his pursuits and habits of life.

Of a family coeval with the Conquest, John Baskerville was born at Wolverly in Worcestershire, 1706. Nichols, in his Literary Anecdotes, asserts that he was brought up to no business, but we are told by Hutton, that he was trained to that of a stone-cutter, and that about ten years later, "he taught school in the Bull Ring and wrote an excellent hand," and to this proficiency in calligraphy, and his early pursuit of stone-cutting, may

probably be ascribed his subsequent skill and taste in the formation of printing type.

Having abandoned his scholastic occupation he devoted himself to another branch of the art of design, and became a printer of japanned trays, in which lucrative occupation he acquired considerable wealth, and, in 1774, "he took a lease of about eight acres north-west of the town, to which he gave the name of Easy Hill, converted it into a little Eden, and built a house in the centre; but the town, as if conscious of his merit, followed his retreat, and surrounded it with buildings. Here he continued the business of a japanner for life. His carriage, each panel of which was a distinct picture, and might be considered as the pattern-card of his trade, was drawn by a pair of beautiful cream-coloured horses." But amidst the course of increasing business, he had not neglected literature and art; his taste for which developing itself, led him to devote a part of his acquired wealth to the improvement and perfection of their mechanical vehicles. Caslon had recently cut a variety of matrices, with a view of superseding by their beautiful form the Dutch types, till then imported into England; and, incited by his example, Baskerville, in 1750, devoted himself to the noble art, whose province and privilege it is to give the airy tribes of mind a permanent and material form, so that the wise of the earth, being dead, may yet speak to the eyes of generations to come. So fastidious was his taste, that he spent £600 before he produced one letter to please himself; and so entirely did he devote himself to his new pursuit, that, according to a letter to Sir Horace Walpole, he manufactured his own ink, presses, moulds for casting, and all the apparatus for printing. Dr. Dib-

din thus characterises his typography. "It is eminently beautiful; his letters are in general of a very slender and delicate form, calculated for an octavo, or even a quarto, but not sufficiently bold to fill the space of an imperial folio, as is evident from a view of his great Bible. He united in a singularly happy manner the elegance of Plantin with the clearness of the Elzevers: his 4to and 12mo Virgil, and a small prayer-book, and 12mo Horace, of 1762, sufficiently confirm the truth of this remark. He seems to have been extremely curious in the choice of his paper and ink, the former being the fruit of Dutch manufacture, and the latter partaking of a peculiarly soft lustre bordering upon purple. In the Italic letter, whether capital or small, he stands unrivalled. Such elegance, freedom, and perfect symmetry, being in vain to be looked for among the specimens of Aldus and Colonæus." His talents and exertions became generally recognised, and his growing reputation brought him acquainted with Dodsley, Shenstone, Dr. Franklin, Dr. Keppis, and Mr. Derrick, who in a letter to the Earl of Cork, speaks highly of his urbanity and hospitality to strangers; but it is to be regretted that his useful and ingenious pursuits were more productive to others than pecuniary reward to himself. He had obtained leave from the University of Cambridge to print a Bible in royal folio, and two editions of the Common Prayer in three sizes. But for the permission he had to pay £20 per thousand copies of the Bible, £12:10s. for each thousand of the Prayer Book, and to the Stationers' Company £32, for their permission to print the Psalms, without which the Prayer Book would have been incomplete. A melancholy letter to Sir Horace Walpole is preserved, in which he com-

plains of the want of encouragement from the booksellers, of his wish to dispose of the whole scheme, and to withdraw from the business of printing, "Which," says he, "I am heartily tired of, and repent I ever attempted." We cannot read without pain, that, in case of his Bible not selling, he contemplated the necessity of alienating his patrimony, which produced about £74 a year, in order to pay off the debt incurred in printing it.

He died without issue, January 8, 1775, leaving the bulk of his fortune, amounting to about £1,200, to his widow, who sold the stock, and retired to the house which her husband built. Many efforts were made to dispose of the types, and, after having remained on hand as lumber, rejected by the Universities, the London booksellers, and the whole commonwealth of letters, they were at last purchased by a literary association in Paris, for £3,700, for the purpose of printing a magnificent edition of Voltaire, under the editorial care of Beaumarchais. In conformity with his will, in which he explicitly avowed his total disbelief of Christianity, he was buried in a tomb of conical masonry, in his garden, with the following remarkable inscription:—"Stranger, beneath this stone, in unconsecrated ground, a friend to the liberties of mankind, directed his body to be interred. May the example contribute to emancipate the mind from the fears of superstition, and the wicked arts of priestcraft." The mausoleum above mentioned, was destroyed at the Birmingham riots in 1791; since when the pleasure-garden, in which the philosophic printer delighted, has been converted into wharfs. Baskerville House afterwards became the property of Mr. Ryland, and is now used as a manufactory. Facing the end of Paradise Street, stand the OFFICES

OF THE BIRMINGHAM CANAL COMPANY, behind which are extensive Coal and Coke Wharfs, whence the manufactories of the town derive their principal supply.

In Paradise Street is the office of the

BIRMINGHAM WATER WORKS.

An Act of Parliament was obtained in 1826 for the purpose of enabling a company of shareholders to establish Water Works, for the better supply of water to the town. An extensive reservoir has been formed at Aston, which is principally supplied from the brooks in the neighbourhood, and a powerful engine is placed there for the purpose of pumping the water from the reservoir.

Leaving Paradise Street and continuing our walk up Broad Street, we pass BINDLEY HOUSE, the residence of the late Charles Lloyd, Esq., many years one of the principal bankers of the town. The house is at present occupied by a member of the family.

A little above is the

LYING-IN-HOSPITAL,

an institution which owes its existence to the indefatigable exertions of a few charitable individuals, which exertions, we believe, have been amply rewarded by the support of the public. Nearly £1500 was received as the proceeds of the Town Hall Bazaar

On the opposite side is the

MAGDALEN ASYLUM,

which was established in 1828. The management of this institution is entrusted to a committee of ladies, under whose care every religious and moral instruction is afforded to the inmates, about sixteen or seventeen in number. A neat chapel is attached to the building.

On the same side, near the Five Ways, is

THE GENERAL INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND,

which was originated in July 1846, by the benevolent efforts of a few ladies; through whose means instruction is afforded to several pupils in music and reading, on Lucas' Stenographic System, and basket-work has lately been introduced under the superintendence of qualified persons. Islington House, the present structure, is taken for a limited period, and is at present occupied to the full extent of its accommodation, and as many more are applying for admission, the committee are using every endeavour to raise sufficient funds for the erection of a more commodious building. The public are admitted to view the Institution on any Thursday, from twelve o'clock till four. Music and singing in the morning only.

BIRMINHGAM AND EDCBASTON PROPRIETARY SCHOOL,

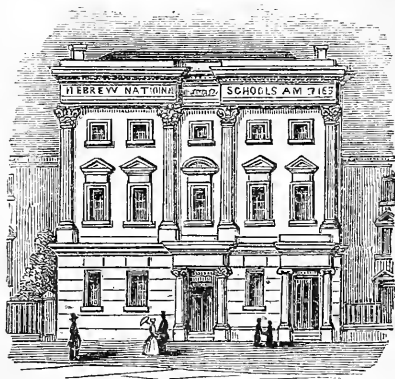
was established by a body of proprietors in January, 1838, in order to provide for their sons a school, in which the advantages of a classical and commercial education should be combined, and from which corporal punishment should be excluded. The shares, which are transferable, are £20 each, and may still be had on application to the committee. Proprietors have the right, under certain regulations, of nominating one pupil in respect of each share. Persons not proprietors must obtain the nomination of a proprietor. There are eight masters besides the principal, the Rev. Mr. Ilingworth.

PROTESTANT DISSENTERS' CHARITY SCHOOL,

in Graham Street, Newhall Hill, was established in Park

Street, about 1760, and is entirely supported by voluntary contributions; it is earnestly recommended to the attention and support of the benevolent friends of education of all denominations. Between thirty and forty poor girls are clothed, educated, and fitted for service. D. R. Hill, Esq., was the architect of this elegant building.

HEBREW NATIONAL SCHOOL,



in Lower Hurst Street, is a recently erected and spacious building, and is under the management of the Rev. Dr. Raphall, whose learning and enlightened views are of European celebrity.

SPRING HILL COLLEGE,

a branch of the London University, is a Theological School for Independents, including also a course in Arts. There is a well-furnished library for the use of the students about twenty in number. Ground has been purchased at Moseley for the erection of a college, more spacious and convenient than the present.

In the eastern margin of the Town is the

STATION OF THE LONDON & NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

There are extensive booking-offices, and a magnificent shed supported by cast-iron pillars. A numerous establishment of attentive servants adds greatly to the comfort of the traveller, who cannot fail to be pleased at the order which is displayed, and effective police is also established along the line. The large round house, seen from the inside of the Station, is used for the reception of the locomotive engines belonging to the Company. Every department of the railway affords a proof of the order with which the most extensive undertakings may be conducted by the establishment of efficient regulations, and by preserving a strict discipline. In 1832, after repeated delays, the Birmingham and London Railway Bill received the royal assent, Mr. Stephenson being appointed Engineer in Chief. The estimate of the cost of the railway was two million five hundred thousand pounds; but owing to circumstances over which the Engineer had no control, such as the rise of materials, the exorbitant demands of landowners, through whose estate the line passes, and the difficulties which presented themselves in the tunnelling department, the cost of the whole was about five millions. This railway, viewed either as a work of great utility, or as a noble triumph of human art, cannot be contemplated without admiration. As a work of engineering, its noble viaducts, its massive bridges, its lofty embankments, and deep cuttings, entitle it to the highest rank. Our description will find a suitable termination in an extract from the work of Lieut. Lecount, an eminent mathematician, who was employed on the work: "The London and Birmingham Railway

is unquestionably the greatest work ever executed in ancient or modern times. If we estimate its importance by the labour alone which has been expended on it, perhaps the great Chinese wall might compete with it. But when we consider the immense outlay of capital which it has required, the great and varied talents which have been in constant requisition during the whole [of its progress, together with the unprecedented difficulties which, we are happy to say, are now overcome, the gigantic work of the Chinese sinks totally into the shade." "As a mode of viewing the magnitude of this work, let us take the circumference of the earth, in round numbers, at one hundred and thirty million feet, then, as there are about four hundred millions of cubic feet to be moved in the railway, we see that the quantity of material alone, without looking to any thing else, would, if spread in a band one foot high and one foot broad, more than three times encompass the earth at the equator." The London and Birmingham Railway will remain, to many ages, an example of what may be accomplished by the united capital of many individuals directed by the talent of one.

The spacious offices of the Grand Junction Railway, which amalgamated with the London and Birmingham line in 1845, are still further on in the long range of building which composes this general terminus.

The royal assent was given to the Grand Junction Railway Bill in the year 1833, and the works were immediately commenced under the superintendence of Mr. Locke, the Engineer to the Company. In July 1837, the line was opened for the conveyance of passengers. The cost of the railway was about a million and a half sterling. The principal works on the line are the Birmingham

Viaduct, which consists of a range of twenty-eight arches thrown over Lawley Street and the low ground adjoining the Station; the Vale Royal Viaduct; and the Dutton Viaduct, which crosses the beautiful valley of the Weaver. This Viaduct was constructed from the designs of Mr. Stephenson, under the direction of Mr. Locke.

In 1847 an act was obtained to extend the London and North Western Railway to a new station, in the centre of the town, in New Street; the new line commences a little eastward of the present station, pursues a course over Banbury and Fazeley Streets, then passing on a level with Bartholomew, proceeds with a cutting through the burial grounds, and under High Street and Worcester Street, emerges into a space at the back of the Grammar School, where will be a station of magnificent dimensions.

BIRMINGHAM, WOLVERHAMPTON, AND STOUR VALLEY RAILWAY

is from the New Station in New Street, where it joins the London and North Western Railway, proceeds by tunnel under the Queen's College, Paradise Street, Broad Street, and emerges into the fields the other side of the Canal at the end of the Crescent, it then winds by the side of the Canal to Dudley, Wolverhampton, &c.

THE SHROPSHIRE UNION RAILWAY

Opened June 1st 1849, this railway, by which the county of Salop and the adjacent district are placed in direct communication with Birmingham, by means of the London and North-Western Railway, with which they join at Stafford. Passengers from London will now be able to reach Shrewsbury, 160 miles, in five hours. The line is to be worked by the London and North-Western Com-

pany. Special trains also run throughout the day over the Shrewsbury and Birmingham Line, which, in common with the Shropshire Union, runs over the same ground as far as Wellington, by which £7000 per mile is saved to each company. Thence it runs for thirteen miles to Oaken Gates, the chief town upon the route being Shiffnal, where there is a considerable viaduct and embankment.

THE MIDLAND RAILWAY STATION

lies in the hollow formed by the London and Birmingham and Grand Junction Railways. From this Station parties may book to Derby, Sheffield, Leeds, York, Hull, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and Scotland. In the summer months cheap and delightful trips are got up on this line to Matlock and the Peak in Derbyshire.

The offices of the

BRISTOL AND BIRMINGHAM RAILWAY

immediately adjoin the preceding; by it parties can proceed to all parts of the West of England, Devonshire, Cornwall, and the Southern Coast. It is now under the management of the Midland Company.

BIRMINGHAM AND OXFORD, AND BIRMINGHAM, WOLVERHAMPTON AND DUDLEY RAILWAYS,

received Parliamentary sanction in 1845. Station to be in Snow Hill, (see Map,) the former railway passes by tunnel under the back of the Blue Coat, under Dee's Hotel, High Street, and Cars Lane; it then passes over the London and North Western extension, and thence over one of the finest Viaducts built, it then passes on through Solihull and Stratford-on-Avon to Oxford, where it joins the Great Western. The other railway proceeds by tunnel, which emerges

near Vyse Street ; when passing the Cemetery, it proceeds on embankments to Dudley and Wolverhampton.

The hotels nearest the Railway Station are **THE QUEEN'S HOTEL**, once the station of the London and Birmingham Railway, on the most extensive and commodious principle, and **BEECH'S RAILWAY HOTEL**, a comfortable and well conducted house.

There are also **REFRESHMENT ROOMS** at all the Stations.

In 1775, a man was determined to try if a hackney-coach would succeed ; he had not mounted the box many times, before he inadvertently dropped the expression, "thirty shillings a day," and very soon a second rolled into the circus ; in 1793 were augmented to fifteen, and there are now about 30 car stands, averaging from 3 to 10 cars on each stand.

CAR STANDS.

FARES ONE SHILLING PER MILE.

New Street.	Bristol Road.
Islington Row.	Dale End.
Five Ways.	Snow Hill.
Square.	Bath Row.
Temple Row.	Spark Brook.
Ball Ring.	Pershore Road.
Colmore Row.	Wellington Road.
Ann Street.	Constitution Hill.
Paradise Street.	Great Charles Street.
Hockley Hill.	Graham Street.
Aston Street.	St. Martin's Church.
Infantry Barracks.	Deritend.
Broad Street.	Friday Bridge.
Camp Hill.	Vauxhall.
Great Hampton Street.	

Chapter VII.

RELIGIOUS EDIFICES IN BIRMINGHAM.

HAVING proceeded thus far, we will now turn our attention to the principal churches, chapels, and other edifices in the town dedicated to a religious purpose, commencing with

SAINT MARTIN'S CHURCH.



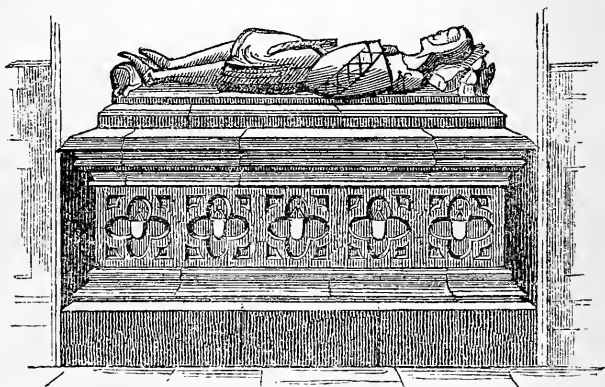
Although there is no doubt that the foundations of Saint Martin's Church are of a far more ancient date, the present edifice (consisting of a spacious nave, with clerestory, chancel, south aisle with vestry at the east end, and north aisle, at the west end of which stands a large massive

tower containing a peal of twelve musical bells for chimes, which may be heard at 3, 6, 9, and 12, o'clock, A.M., 3, 6, 9, and 12, P.M., surmounted by a spire of great symmetry, cannot be assigned to an earlier period than the beginning of the thirteenth century. The interior windows of the belfry, as also other portions of the tower, are evidently of the early decorated style of architecture; and during the late repairs a window or doorway of the same style was discovered at the west end of the south aisle. It is not improbable, therefore, that some portion of the church was erected by that Sir William de Birmingham, whose monument is situated in the south aisle. In the year 1690 the church and tower were cased with brick. The spire has several times been injured by lightning and its altitude diminished. The meridian line on the south side of the tower was placed there by Ferguson the astronomer.

The church was, in 1291, valued [at seven and a half marks, but in the twenty-sixth year of Henry the Eighth, it was valued at £19. 3s. 6d.; the living is a rectory. In the year 1331 Walter de Clodshale, of Saltley, gave certain lands and messuages for the founding of a chantry at the altar of the Blessed Virgin, in this church, and for maintaining one priest to celebrate divine service there for the souls of himself, his wife, their ancestors, and all the faithful deceased. His son, Richard, gave other lands, &c. for the like purposes. In the twenty-sixth year of Henry the Eighth the value of the lands and tenements was esteemed at a hundred and one shillings: Sir Thomas Allen and Sir John Greve, priests, being wardens thereof. A chapel must have been attached, as we find Richard de Clodshale, who served as sheriff for this county and Leicestershire in 1426, by his testament bearing date at

Edgbaston, 1428, bequeathed his body to sepulture in the church, "within his own proper chapel of Our Lady," constituting the Duke of Bedford one of his executors.

During the year 1846, through the exertions of Mr. H. M. Blews, the restoration of the ancient monuments of the "Lords of Birmingham" has been effected. As they are exceedingly curious we intend giving them more than a cursory description.



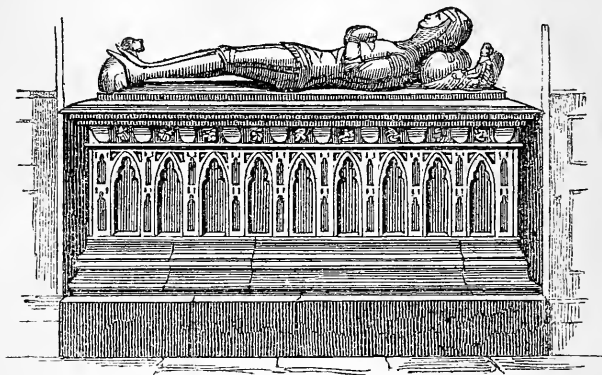
The most ancient is situated in the fifth window opening of the south aisle; it is the effigy of a knight, cross-legged and recumbent, lying on a coffin-shaped slab, gradually rising on each side to an obtuse angle or ridge; his armour consists of a hooded hawberk, or tunic and chausses, or breeches of mail; over the hawberk appears a long loose surcoat, or linen frock, encircled above the hip by a belt; the left leg crosses the right, and in front of each leg, from the knee to the instep, is an iron greave;

a shield, charged with a *bend lozenge*, is attached to the left arm, and his hands are joined in prayer. It is supposed to represent Sir William de Birmingham, who bore for his arms the charge which appears on the shield. We find him in the year 1297 in the service of his sovereign, Edward the First, under the command of the Earl of Lincoln, who, attempting to relieve Bellegard, then besieged by the French, was defeated by the besiegers, and the earl, together with Sir William, eight more knights, and very many esquires, were taken prisoners and carried in great triumph to Paris. He died in the latter part of Edward the First's reign. The design of the tomb on which the effigy is placed is from one of the same period in Moccas Church, Hertfordshire. It was furnished by M. H. Bloxam, Esq., of Rugby.

The next monument in antiquity is situated in the west window of the south aisle. From the porous nature of the stone, and its extreme dilapidation, a perfect restoration of this was prevented. It is supposed to be the effigy of William de Birmingham, a man of great repute in the time of the second and third Edwards.

We return to the south aisle, and notice next a high altar tomb of alabaster, divided into compartments, on which is the effigy of a knight in plate armour; he wears on his head a basinet; the tilting helmet appears beneath the head of the effigy in a mutilated condition; attached to the basinet is a camail, or tippet of chain mail. The shoulders are protected by epaulieres, the upper arms by rerebraces, and the lower by vambraces, the wrists and hands by gauntlets. Over the hawberk of mail is a breast-plate covered by the jupon, a short and close fitting surcoat, charged with armorial bearings. The thighs are encased

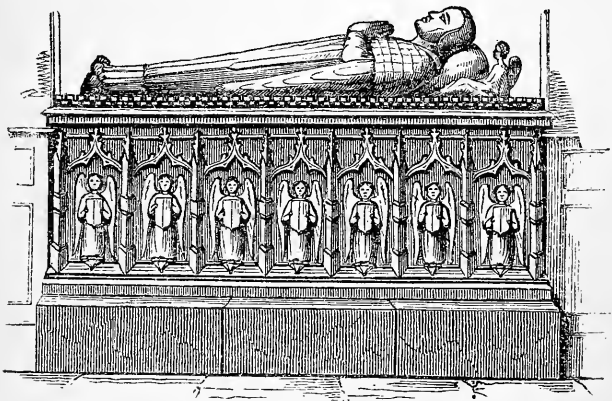
in cuisses, the knees protected by plain caps, the legs in jambs, and the feet by sollerets. Round the body is worn



a rich bawdrick, or belt, and the feet rest on the effigy of a lion. The slab on which the effigy reclines is of the form termed *en dos d'âne*. It is presumed to represent John de Birmingham, who bore for his arms *partie per pale, indented argent, and sable*, which charge appears on the jupon of the effigy, and who, in the year 1379, was sheriff of this county and Leicestershire; he was one of the knights of the shire in the parliament held at Westminster in 1382, and a commissioner for raising power against the rebels, *i. e.* the followers of John Wickliffe. To this John de Birmingham we are indebted for the erection of one of the most splendid specimens of ecclesiastical architecture, viz. the two western towers of York Cathedral, which were built by him about the year 1402.

The most interesting of these monuments is the effigy of an ecclesiastic, placed upon a high tomb of alabaster,

divided into seven compartments, each consisting of a pointed arch flanked by small pinnacled buttresses. Beneath each arch, on a small projecting bracket, stands the figure of an angel, clad in an alb, with outstretched wings, supporting in his arms a shield. The priest is vested as a canon of some cathedral, or member of a collegiate or conventional foundation, in the choir habit; his hands are joined on the breast in prayer; his under robe consists of a long scarlet coloured cassock, the skirts and sleeves of which are visible about the feet and wrists; over this is worn a vestment (the surplice), above which appears the almucium, or aumasse, a furred tippet and hood, covering

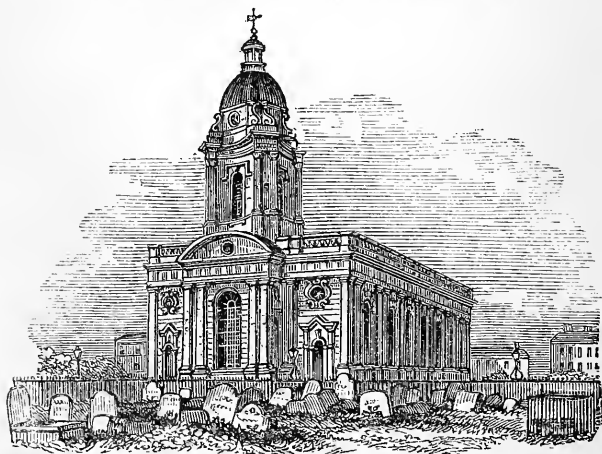


the shoulders and breast, with broad pendant bands hanging down in front. The attire is precisely the same (allowing for the change of fashion in the different articles) as that prescribed to be worn, and worn at the present time by many of the clergy of the Church of Eng-

land ; for they wear, as a clerical habit, the cassock, as a vestment the surplice, and, as a denotation of rank, the scarf; this is, in reality, the tippet, answering to the ancient aumasse, or tippet of fur, which continued to be worn by bishops, and other dignitaries of the church, in the reign of Elizabeth, when it was superseded by a similar habit of silk, the precursor of the present scarf. Mr. Bloxam has assigned the date to the latter part of the fifteenth century, and considers it one of the most *curious monumental effigies* extant. The church will hold two thousand.

Rector . . . Rev. J. C. Miller, M.A.

SAINT PHILIP'S CHURCH



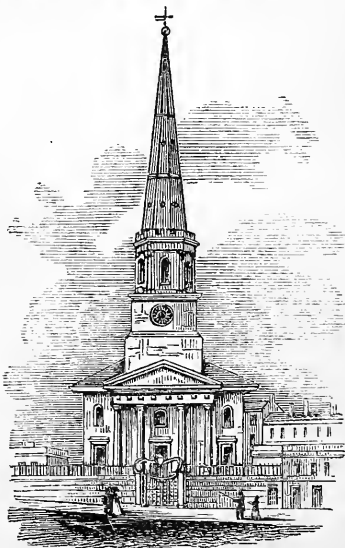
Is judiciously placed in an open area of about four acres, and the most elevated spot in the town. The walks through the churchyard are railed off from the tombs with neat

palisades, and double rows of lime trees ornament the boundary walk. The ground now occupied by the church and churchyard, and that upon which the Blue Coat School stands, was the gift of Mrs. Elizabeth Phillips, and her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. William Inge. The church, a beautiful piece of architecture, is about a hundred and forty feet long, and seventy-five feet broad. The stone of which the church is built is not good; but, as Mr. Hutton truly observes, "it is rather a misfortune to be lamented than an error to be complained of, the country producing no better." The church was commenced in 1711, and was consecrated in 1715. It is built in the mixed Italian style, and is much admired by architects. Its pedestal line, its lofty pilasters, its handsome balustrade, its well proportioned tower and cupola, have a pleasing effect. In the tower is a ring of ten bells and chimes. The interior of the church, which will contain 1800 persons, is very handsome; lofty arches support the roof. There are two side and one end galleries, which are well lighted, and commodiously fitted up with pews, as is the body of the church. The triennial musical festivals for the benefit of the hospital were, previous to the erection of the Town Hall, generally held in this church. From the top of the tower a fine view is obtained of the town and neighbourhood. At the corner of the churchyard is the PARSONAGE HOUSE, the residence of the rector, the Hon. and Rev. Grantham Yorke, a gentleman, whose charitable, active, and persevering exertions in improving his parish, are meeting with great success. In the parsonage house is a THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY, bequeathed by the Rev. William Higgs, about a century since, for the use of the clergy of the neighbourhood.

SAINT PETER'S CHURCH,

Dale End. This church is built in the Grecian style of architecture. A massive portico of the tetrastyle Doric order, supported by four columns, forms the entrance. An octagonal turret rises above the roof. This is one of those built by the Commissioners appointed for building new churches. The first stone was laid in 1825, and the church was opened for divine service in 1827. A few years ago, the whole of the interior was consumed by fire. The altar piece is "The Ascension," by Messrs. Pemberton, of Newhall Hill. The benefice is a perpetual curacy, in the presentation of the rector of Saint Philip's.

CHRIST CHURCH,



New Street. This excellent and useful place of worship

was commenced in 1805, but the funds being found inadequate, the building was not finished till 1815. The architecture is Grecian. It is built of stone, and possesses a lofty portico and spire. The interior is tastefully fitted up; the body of the church being provided with free seats for the accommodation of the poor. The altar piece is of carved mahogany, supporting a painting of a cross, surrounded by clouds. Beneath the church are catacombs used for interment. The land was presented by William Phillipe Inge, Esq., the executors of Isaac Hawkins, Esq. gave £1000, and a donation of £1000 was given by His Majesty George III, who it was expected would have laid the first stone, but he was prevented by illness. The ceremony was performed by Richard Bratchett, Esq., the High Bailiff of the town. Rev. Mr. Lea, curate.

SAINT THOMAS'S,

Holloway Head. The front of this edifice, which is built in the Grecian style, is almost semi-circular. Over the portico is a tower 130 feet high. It is ornamented with six chaste Ionic columns. The eastern end is also ornamented with Roman Ionic columns supporting a pediment. The church will contain about two thousand four hundred persons; one thousand four hundred of whom are provided with free sittings. This is the third church erected in the town by the King's Commissioners. It was consecrated in 1829. Rev. G. S. Bull, rector.

SAINT BARTHOLOMEW'S.

This church was built of brick in 1749, on land presented by John Jennens, Esq. It is a very plain building, but an altar piece graces the interior; it was the gift of the Earl of Denbigh: the communion plate was presented by Mrs.

Mary Careless. A remarkable circumstance connected with the church is, that the chancel points to the north instead of being placed due east. Rev. D. Long, Curate.

SAINT MARY'S,

which is built of brick, is of an octagonal form, and is devoid of architectural beauty or embellishment. The interior of the church is spacious, well fitted up, and contains a fine organ. It was erected in 1774, in pursuance of an Act passed in 1772, for the erection of two additional chapels in Birmingham. The land was presented by Mrs. Weaman, in whom the right of presentation was vested. Rev. J. C. Barratt, Rector.

SAINT JOHN'S,

Deritend. This church was founded in the year 1381; but the ancient building having fallen to decay, the body of the present structure, which is a commodious place of worship, was built of brick in 1735, and in 1762, a square brick tower was added, at the west end, wherein eight bells and a clock was fixed in 1777. It is a chapel of ease for the parish of Ashton, and is capable of holding seven hundred persons. Rev. W. B. Smith, Incumbent.

SAINT JAMES'S,

Ashted. This place of worship was formerly the residence of the celebrated Dr. Ash, by whom it was erected; being purchased by an attorney in 1789, he transformed the house into a church. The burial ground was attached in 1810, in which year the church was consecrated by the Bishop of the Diocese. Rev. F. Allport, Incumbent.

HOLY TRINITY CHAPEL, BORDLESLEY, on the top of Bradford Street. This beautiful edifice was built from the design of Mr. Godwin, of London. It is faced with stone, and is a fine specimen of Gothic archi-

ecture; the noble arch, which forms the entrance, constitutes its finest feature; and at the eastern end is a large and beautiful window. The church contains a fine organ, and a beautiful altar piece, painted by Foggo, representing Christ healing the paralytic at the pool of Bethesda. The church was consecrated in 1823, and contains 1821 sittings. The whole of the gallery is free. The Rev. J. Oldknow, Incumbent.

BISHOP RYDER'S CHURCH,

near Gosta Green. The dense and increasing population of this part of the town, which was not supplied with any place of worship, attracted the attention of the late Bishop Ryder, by whose example and influence subscriptions were raised for building the present church, which bears the name of the inestimable man, through whose exertion it was erected. This is a neat structure of brick, edged with stone and the tower lofty, seats are provided for the poor, and near to the church is one of the branch schools of the Free Grammar School.

SAINT PAUL'S,

in St. Paul's Square. The body of the church was built in 1779, and has nothing striking in its architecture; but the spire is one of great beauty, built from the design of Mr. Goodwyn. For want of funds the spire was not erected until 1823. A beautiful window of painted glass ornaments the eastern end of the church, by Egginton, which cost four hundred guineas. The subject represents the Conversion of St. Paul. The land was presented by Charles Colmore, Esq. The neat burial ground, which surrounds the chapel, is ornamented with rows of trees, which add to the appearance of the whole. Rev. G. B. P. Latimer, Incumbent.

SAINT GEORGE'S CHURCH,

near Tower Street ; is a beautiful specimen of the decorated Gothic architecture, built from the design of Messrs. Rickman and Hutchinson. At the west end rises a tower, which, to the top of the pinnacles, is 114 feet high. The galleries are supported on iron shafts, and the communion is ornamented with a fine altar piece, over which is a window of tracery work, decorated with painted glass. The first stone of the church was laid in 1820, by the Commissioners appointed under the Act of Parliament for erecting churches; and the church was opened for divine service in 1822. It contains about 2000 sittings, of which 1400 are free. Rev. J. Garbett, Rector.

SAINT MATTHEW'S,

Duddeston-cum-Nechells. This church was the first built by a society formed in 1838-9 to build ten churches. But only half that number will be obtained. It is placed at the east end of Great Lister Street, in nearly a direct line eastward from the Square, near Bull Street, and on the Castle Bromwich Road. It is of brick, in the Gothic style, with lancet windows, and a tower and spire. It accommodates about one thousand, including free and children's seats. It was consecrated in October, 1840. The trustees and patrons are the Bishop of Worcester, the Vicar of Aston, Lord Calthorpe, John O. Bacchus, and William Chance, Esquires. By these patrons the Rev. George Stringer Bull was appointed incumbent in 1840. Since then a legal district for ecclesiastical purposes has been assigned, containing now 11,000 inhabitants of the borough. Schools for daily instruction of infants, girls, boys, and adults, and Sunday schools, have been formed, and about one thousand young persons weekly attend them. The population of the district consists principally of the labouring classes.

ALL SAINTS'.

An elegant structure at Birmingham Heath, opened in 1833

SAINT MARK'S,

in King Edward Street, Summer Hill, one of the new churches recently erected.

SAINT STEPHEN'S,

Newtown Row, is fourth of the ten new churches proposed to be erected by the Rev. John Garbett, Rural Dean; it is built in the Gothic style of architecture—cost £3220. A steeple is yet to be added, at a cost of £700. It will

accommodate one thousand persons, of which number five hundred are free. Consecrated July 23, 1844. Population of the parish assigned to it is nine thousand, which formerly was a part of St. George's parish, but divided by Sir Robert Peel's Act for the better spiritual provision of large parishes.

SAINT LUKE'S,

in the Bristol Road, is built in the Norman style of architecture. It consists of three aisles; the tower is placed at the west angle of the church. There is a fine stained glass window, by the eminent Messrs. C. & F. Pemberton, of Newhall Hill. There are about one thousand sittings, nearly five hundred of which are free. It was erected by the Birmingham Church Building Society. At the rear of the church are extensive Sunday and day schools. Rev. J. O. Oldham, Incumbent.

SAINT ANDREW'S,

is a beautiful edifice of the later English style of architecture. It consists of a nave, chancel, and north aisle. The tower surmounted with a spire, is situated at the north west angle. In the west end of the church is a beautiful stained glass window, from the design of R. Carpenter, Esq. This parish was formed in 1846, under the Act denominated Sir Robert Peel's Act, for the better spiritual provision of large parishes.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL.

dedicated to St. Chad, who was Bishop of Lichfield in the seventh century, stands at the junction of Bath Street and Shadwell Street. It is built of brick, with stone dressings, after the example of many continental churches. The interior height is 75 feet, its length, with the porch in-

cluded, 156 feet, and its width 58 feet. The nave is divided from the aisles by twelve clusters of pillars, six on each side, from the capitals of which a series of pointed arches spring completely up to the roof, without any break for a triforium, or clerestory, thus forming the loftiest range of arches in the kingdom. A handsome screen, surmounted by the holy rood, divides the choir from the nave, and a similar, though richer description of screen, partitions off the Lady Chapel, or Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, from the top of the north aisle. The windows in the choir and down the sides, with the exception of those in the transepts, are long lancets, divided each into two bays; while the west window, and the windows of the transepts, are very large apertures, distributed each into six compartments, affording great facilities for the display of stained glass. Some good specimens of this description of ornament are already to be found in the choir, representing ancient Saxon Saints; in the Lady Chapel, where the Blessed Virgin stands in glory between St. Cuthbert and St. Chad: and in the north transept, where St. James, St. Thomas, and St. Patrick, are accompanied by the leading features in their history. Among the antiquities of the cathedral may be mentioned the pulpit, an elaborate carving in oak of the sixteenth century; and an episcopal throne and stalls of the fifteenth century. All these are either of Flemish or German workmanship. Beneath the cathedral is a crypt, or undercroft, dedicated to St. Peter, and divided into separate chauntries, which subserve the double purpose of oratories and burial places for the dead. Besides the principal chauntry or chapel, three others are already fitted up, one (St. John the Baptist's) for Mr. Hardman's family; another (St. James's) for Mr. Wareing's; and the third (St. John the Evangelist's) for Mr.

Poncia's. There is mass in one or other of these chauntries every Monday and Friday morning at half-past seven. The hours for mass in the cathedral are—every morning at seven, and on Sundays at seven, quarter-past nine, and eleven o'clock, the one at eleven being the high mass. The vespers, followed by benediction, are at half-past six on Sundays, and there is a public service every Monday and Thursday evening at half-past seven. The side doors of the cathedral are opened, for private devotion, every morning and evening at six o'clock; but visitors wishing to enter the church during the day must apply to the sacristan, who lives near the north door in Shadwell Street.

BISHOP'S HOUSE.

Nearly opposite the west front of the cathedral, in Bath Street, is the residence of the Bishop and such clergymen as are employed about St. Chad's. The entrance is through an arched doorway into a short cloister, which communicates on one side with the kitchen offices, and an almonry for the poor, and on the other with the private and public rooms of the establishment. In the second or principal story are found the Bishop's apartments, the library, the domestic chapel, and the refectory, or common hall, which is an apartment about thirty feet long, and is built and decorated in the style of a college hall. Most of these rooms are stencilled with various devices, have carved fire-places, and are enriched with stained glass. The present Bishop is Right Rev. Dr. Ullathorne, and the clergy residing with him, are Very Rev. Dr. Weedall, Rev. B. Ivers, Rev. T. Leith, and the Rev. Mr. O'Neil.

CONVENT OF SISTERS OF MERCY,

By "Sisters of Mercy" is meant a community of ladies, who, having voluntarily forsaken the world, live in one common house, and labour together for the spiritual and temporal good of their destitute fellow creatures. They have a convent in Hunter's Lane, within a mile of the centre of the town, which was provided for their accommodation, by the late John Hardman, Esquire. It is constructed of brick, with stone doorways, windows, &c., and resembles, in form and character, the conventual buildings of the middle ages. It consists of chapel, cloisters, oratory, cemetery, refectory, reception room, cells, and community room for the religious, and kitchen offices. The chapel is laid with encaustic tiles, and highly ornamented with painting and coloured glass. An open screen divides the chapel into two parts; in the interior of which are two ranges of stalls for the religious. Niches filled with ancient carvings, representing chiefly circumstances in our Lord's history, break the long line of the cloister walls.

HOUSE OF MERCY.

At a short distance from the convent, and united to it by a very picturesque cloister, is the *House of Mercy*, which was erected at almost the sole expense of the sisterhood. In it poor destitute young women are entertained, if they can bring with them a good character; and they are boarded, clothed, and provided with work until proper situations can be procured for them. They are maintained, during their residence in the house, partly by their labour, and partly by the alms of visitors and other friends; and it is the study of their superiors to teach

them habits of steadiness, sobriety, industry, cleanliness, and docility. They have every facility afforded them for improving themselves and learning useful arts. There is an excellent laundry, washhouse, drying room, work-room, bakehouse, and kitchen. There are several well aired extensive dormitories; and medicines are prepared, under the direction of an experienced physician, in a dispensary on the premises. The number of young women in the house is usually about sixty, including eight or ten orphan children, who reside permanently in the house. Servants are sent from this establishment all over the kingdom, and applications may be made for the purpose either personally or by letter. But strangers who wish merely to inspect either this institution or the convent, must first of all procure a recommendation from one of the Roman Catholic clergymen of the town. As, however, the object of this arrangement is only to secure the convent from impertinent intruders, the application of a respectable person, on giving his name and address, either at St. Chad's or St. Peter's, is immediately attended to. It may be as well, however, to add, that visitors are not admitted on Sundays nor during Lent or Advent. A beautiful little church has recently been added to the conventual buildings, to which the public may have access every morning at seven o'clock, on Sundays at half past ten and four o'clock, and on Thursday evenings at five; it is enriched with some exquisite stained glass, by Mr. Hardman, from designs by Mr. Pugin.

SAINT PETER'S, BROAD STREET,

Is a plain brick structure—Mass and service as at St Chads. Rev. G. Jeffries, Minister.

THE ORATORY, ALCESTER STREET,

The congregation of the Oratory is a society of priests and laymen, living together under the rule of St. Philip Neri, the apostle and patron of Rome. The priests are called fathers of the Oratory, the rest brothers; and those not intended for holy orders, are called lay brothers. The object of the society is to win persons to the frequentation of the sacraments, and the practice of religion by means of frequent and popular services, consisting of sermons, litanies, hymns and music. The word oratorio is derived from the practice of sacred music at these oratories. The members of the congregation in Birmingham, are the first who have established themselves in this country. The society at present consists of nine fathers and brothers, and seven lay brothers. The father superior is the Rev. J. H. Newman, formerly fellow of Oriel College, Oxford. The Sunday services are, a series of masses from seven till half-past twelve o'clock; Rosary at three o'clock, and Benediction at seven; on Wednesdays masses from seven till nine; Lecture every evening (except Saturday,) at eight o'clock.

FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE,

in Bull Street, is a plain building, possessing a neat interior; at the back is a cemetery. The Society of Friends, though not a numerous body, contains members of great respectability.

CARR'S LANE CHAPEL

was originally built in 1748. It was entirely rebuilt in 1802, and the present fine structure, with an imposing front, in the Grecian style, was erected in 1820. It is under the ministry of the Rev. J. Angel James. The con-

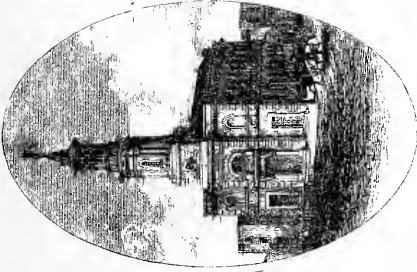
gregation is numerous and highly respectable. A spacious building has been erected at the back of the chapel, for school-rooms, &c.

NEW JERUSALEM CHURCH,

Summer Lane. The members of the New Church, or the New Jerusalem Church, are receivers of the doctrines of the word of God as expounded in the writings of the Hon. E. Swedenborg, a Swedish nobleman, 'as distinguished for his profound learning as he was illustrious for his attainments in philosophy and science. A small society, in connexion with this increasing and respectable body of Christians, was first established in Birmingham about fifty-five years ago. In the year 1830, the society, under their present minister, the Rev. E. Madeley, erected for themselves a handsome and commodious structure, in Summer Lane, which is called the *New Jerusalem Church*, capable of accommodating about six hundred hearers. In the year 1833, a large day school was built, adjoining the church, for the instruction of children of all denominations, which is supported by voluntary contributions, and a trifling payment from the scholars, aided by a small annual grant from the General Conference of the New Church. The number of scholars is upwards of two hundred. The Sunday Schools belonging to this church, contain about three hundred boys and girls, instructed gratuitously by about thirty teachers. To these schools there are attached libraries, a provident institution, a clothing club, &c.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BROAD STREET,

is an elegant edifice in the Italian style of architecture, with a handsome tower and belfry. The foundation stone was laid July 24, 1848, by C. Cowan, Esq., M.P., Edin-



BIRMINGHAM
SCOTCH
CHURCH



burgh; and in the evening of that day an interesting meeting of the congregation was held in the Corn Exchange, when addresses were delivered by the Rev. J. C. Miller, M.A., Rector of St. Martin's, Dr. Cooke of Belfast, Rev. James Hamilton, Regent Square, London, Rev. J. Angel James of Carrs Lane, and others. The church is tastefully lighted from the roof, with good effect, and the interior on the whole has a very handsome appearance. There are 900 sittings provided, and with side galleries, which may be erected hereafter, a thousand and sixty may be accommodated. The Rev. J. R. Mackenzie, M.A., is the pastor, who was member of the General Assembly, in Scotland, which, under Dr. Chalmers, founded the Church of Scotland. An Infant School has been built at the end of Cumberland Street, by the liberal and respectable congregation, and ground has been purchased for the erection of Juvenile Schools, in order to convey, at a low rate, a substantial and scriptural education, after the Scotch model, and in harmony with the doctrines of the Westminster Confession of Faith.

THE OLD MEETING,

in Old Meeting Street, was originally built in 1689, destroyed in the riots of 1791, and rebuilt in 1794. Attached are schools and a library, formed on most liberal principles, and which have effected a great deal of good among the working classes. Rev. Hugh Hutton, Minister.

THE NEW MEETING,

in Moor Street, built in 1692, and destroyed by the riots, and the present edifice was erected in 1802. It is attended by Unitarians; attached are schools, and a library. It was in the old building, that the celebrated and learned Dr. Priestley preached. Rev. S. Bache, Minister.

CANNON STREET CHAPEL,

was erected for the Particular Baptists, in 1738, enlarged in 1780, and rebuilt in 1806. The Rev. T. Swan is the regular Minister.

CHURCH OF THE SAVIOUR,

This church was opened in August, 1847. Though plain outwardly, its interior is, (next to the Town Hall,) the most beautiful of its style in Birmingham. It has many improvements upon the common type of chapels. It is lighted wholly from above, has no side galleries, open benches instead of pews, and an elegant platform in place of a pulpit. It is, however, chiefly remarkable as being in connexion with no sect. The congregation is composed of persons between whom many differences of theological opinion exist. Its members do not think that agreement of intellectual conviction is the true basis of Christian union; that that basis should not be dogmatic, but moral and spiritual. They strive to realize outwardly that communion of Christians of every sect, which has been admitted to have had an invisible existence, by the best men of every age. The minister is Mr. George Dawson, M.A.

THE JEWS' SYNAGOGUE

is in Severn Street. Services commence at half-past eight during the winter months, and eight in the summer, one in the afternoon, and at sunset. One of the BURIAL PLACES is near Bath Row, and the other near the Worcester Canal.

THE WESLEYANS

have seven or eight large chapels in various parts of the town. Of these, Belmont Row Chapel may be regarded as the parent, although Cherry Street and

Wesley are of more ample dimensions. The town is divided into two circuits by this body; the west circuit numbering about 2000 members, and the east 1700. Cherry Street Chapel is at the head of the former, and Belmont Row of the latter. Each chapel has its Sabbath Schools, and Day Schools, connected with it, giving education on the aggregate, to some thousands of children. In addition to the Wesleyan-Methodist Society, properly so called, there are in this town, as in most other English towns, chapels connected with the New Connexion Methodists, the Primitive Methodists, and the Association Methodists; these too have their schools in connection with them. The chapel in Unett Street represents the New Connection, and is large and commodious; that in Bath Street, the Association; and that in Oxford Street, the Primitive Methodists.

Chapter VII.

ITS MANUFACTURES.

As the stranger to our town may rely upon receiving from the heads of those establishments of which we give a description, the utmost courtesy and attention, it cannot be doubted that he will leave Birmingham with an overwhelming admiration of the skill and industry of its inhabitants as well as of the splendour of its productions.

PRINCE ALBERT'S VISIT.

On Wednesday, November 29th, 1844, Prince Albert

honoured Birmingham with his presence, and in order to give His Royal Highness every facility for inspecting the *lions* of the town, arrangements were made on a grand scale for his proper reception, as well as a committee of gentlemen appointed personally to attend the Prince during the period of his stay.

The principal object of the Prince's visit was to inspect the manufactories. He was accompanied by the Hon. G. E. Anson. and Colonel Bouverie ; and, in alighting at the terminus of the Birmingham and Derby Railway, was received by the Earl of Warwick, the Lord Lieutenant of the county, Colonel Thorn, the Military Commandant of the district, and the Mayor and Corporation of the town.

The first establishment His Royal Highness visited, was the extensive Glass Works of Messrs. Bacchus and Son and after observing the various modes of blowing, heating, cutting, and pressing glass, and attentively viewing the show rooms of the establishment, His Royal Highness proceeded to the Rolling Mills of Messrs. Muntz, which he inspected with evident satisfaction ; after which His Royal Highness visited the celebrated Papier Machée establishment of Messrs. Jennens and Bettridge, and, on being shewn the various stages of this beautiful manufacture, seemed equally pleased and delighted at the variety of tasteful and useful purposes to which it was applied ; the show-room contained specimens of work tables, chairs folding screens, cabinets, work boxes, desks, picture frames, and various other articles. On leaving Messrs. Jennens and Bettridge, with whose establishment the Prince expressed himself much delighted, His Royal Highness proceeded to the extensive Gun and Sword Blade Manufactory of Messrs. Sargant, where the process of rolling

gun barrels, and turning and boring them by steam machinery, is carried on. The highly finished and perfect style in which the barrel was turned out excited the admiration of the Prince, who examined, with the judgment of a connoisseur and the eye of a sportsman, the smooth and glassy surface of a variety of guns which had just been completed for Government. On His Royal Highness entering and leaving the yard, the workmen, among whom were several Waterloo heroes, fired a royal salute.

Leaving the Messrs. Sargant's, His Royal Highness proceeded to the Electro Plating Establishment of Elkington, Mason, and Co. Here also His Royal Highness seemed much pleased, and particularly interested in the various processes of electro plating.

The last establishment His Royal Highness visited was Mr. Armfield's Button Manufactory in Newhall Street, where were presented to his notice many objects of interest; after which the Prince entered the Town Hall, which was crowded within and surrounded without by a multitude of persons anxious to have a glimpse at His Royal Highness. Mr. Stimpson, the organist, fully displayed the powers of the organ, by playing "God save the Queen," "Luther's Hymn," a voluntary, &c. His Royal Highness remained from a quarter to half an hour in the hall, with the noble proportions of which, as well with the power and flexibility of its magnificent organ, he expressed his high gratification.

On leaving the hall, His Royal Highness proceeded to the Free Grammar School, where an elegant collation was provided by the Head Master, the Rev. J. P. Lee, (now Bishop of Manchester), and after inspecting the *minutiae* of the School, His Royal Highness proceeded to the Rail-

way Station, and left Birmingham for Drayton Manor, with the good and loyal wishes of the whole of the inhabitants, whose hearts, his noble and courteous bearing, had filled with admiration and respect.

SKETCH OF THE PRINCIPAL MANUFACTORIES.

In proceeding to notice the manufactories, show rooms, &c., of this town and neighbourhood, we begin with the

CAMBRIDGE STREET WORKS,

the extensive and excellent establishment of R. W. Winfield, which are situated at the upper end of Great Charles Street. This is one of the largest manufactories in Birmingham, and forms a considerable ornament to that part of the town in which it is situated. Here upwards of four hundred men receive constant employment, and the order, regularity, and system preserved throughout the whole are justly celebrated. The various processes in the manufactory are very interesting, and the different show rooms contain many beautiful specimens. Metallic bedsteads of every description are here manufactured. Mr. Winfield is the proprietor of the original patent for the construction of these articles, and the patentee and inventor of several improvements in them. Bedsteads, from the common stump-suitable for workhouses, asylums, and public institutions, to the most elaborately finished four-post, richly ornamented, are manufactured in great variety. The department of the works connected with the various articles in gas fittings is extremely interesting. In this branch Mr. Winfield is the most extensive manufacturer in the kingdom. The rapid progress of art applied to manufactures

is at once obvious in the many beautiful lamps and chandeliers which adorn the show room. Another department of these works is devoted to the general furnishing and ironmongery, consisting of cornices, cornice ends, patent glass curtain bends, picture frames, china, and every description of mortise furniture, balustrade bars, pier and console tables, with marble and papier machée tops, hat, umbrella, and flower stands, shop fronts, &c. Tubes and wire of all kinds are also made here in large quantities, and stamped and general brass foundery of every description. The show rooms are always open for inspection, and there is no difficulty in obtaining an order from Mr. Winfield for admission into the manufactory. The interesting processes carried on throughout will amply repay the visitor's attention.—We observed with much satisfaction that attached to the works was an excellent school, where between one and two hundred of the boys employed, also the children of the workmen, receive ample instruction in the various branches of reading and useful knowledge.

G. R. COLLIS AND CO.'S FINE ELECTRO PLATE,
SILVER WORKS AND SHOW ROOMS,

late the establishment of Sir Edward Thomason and Co., Church Street. In the manufactory the visitor is conducted through a variety of workshops, in which are exhibited the manufacturing of solid silver and electro plate services, from the richest as well as the most simple designs; bronzing; the manufacture of silver and plated wares; and also medals and buttons: the machines in the manufacture of the latter are exceedingly ingenious. The medal department contains powerful presses, and the dies, which are neatly arranged, form the most extensive collection in

Europe. The show rooms are fitted up in an elegant and costly style, and contain a varied assortment of silver and plated goods, of medals, of japanned goods, &c. &c. In the vase room is a copy of the antique vase at Warwick Castle; the model is composed of bronzed metal, and occupied seven years in its completion. There is also a bronze statue of George the Fourth in his coronation robes. Both these works of art were performed by Sir Edward Thomason, on whom they reflect the highest credit. This establishment has been visited by strangers of the first rank and distinction, who have never failed to express the high pleasure they derived from an inspection of it. The firm has an establishment for the sale of their manufactures at No. 1, Langham place, Regent Street, London.

JOHN RODGERS AND SON'S INDIA RUBBER WORKS,

in Broad Street. In this manufactory the process of Weaving India Rubber into elastic webs is very interesting. Here also are made webs of every description for girths, rollers, belts, braces, &c., and afterwards manufactured into the various articles for which they are intended both for home and export trade. This firm are the patentees of the *spring hooks and eyes*, so much approved by Her Majesty, for ladies and children's dresses. Ladies are allowed to view their works on the payment of one shilling, for which they receive a box containing one gross of the patent spring hooks and eyes.

PHIPSON'S PIN MANUFACTORY

is in Mott Street, to which visitors may be admitted on purchasing to the amount of five shillings, the profit of

which is devoted to the benevolent purpose of a sick fund for the manufactory. The wonders of pin-making, or the process by which a pin is produced, may well excite astonishment, if we consider the many and complicated operations performed—reducing the wire, by successive steps, to the requisite thickness; the cutting to lengths; the pointing; making the head; fastening on the same. The quantity manufactured, did we consider what is daily consumed, almost exceed the bounds of credibility. Thus only in a single room of this establishment 1,500,000 pins are made in one day, or 10,000,000 weekly.

We shall now direct our reader's attention to

BACCHUS'S GLASS WORKS,

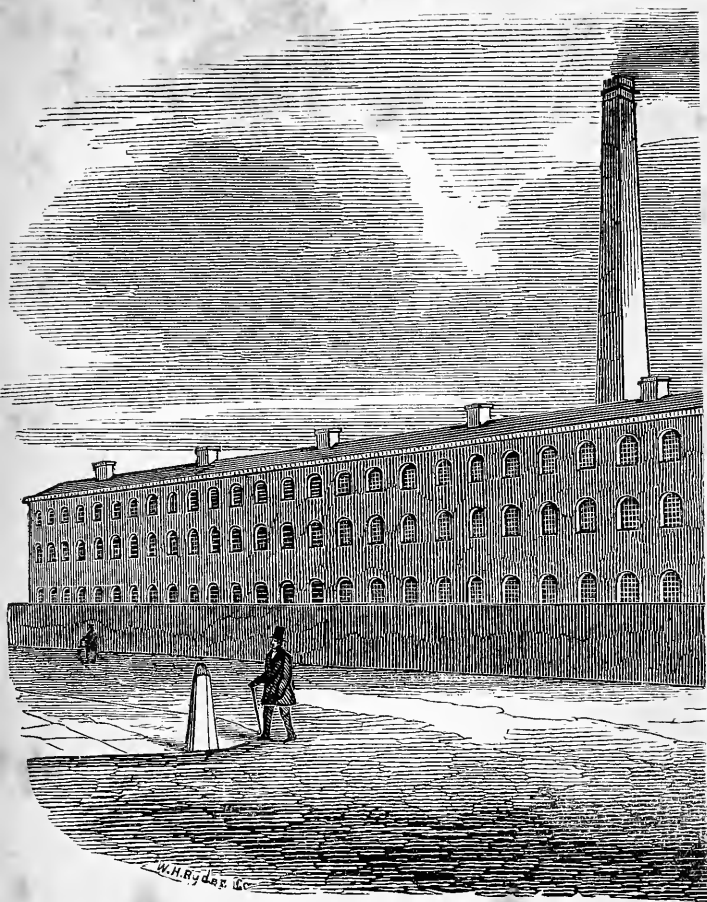
in Dartmouth Street, which has long enjoyed a reputation for the clearness, purity, and brilliancy of its productions. In some of the coloured shapes, more particularly green, the establishment is unsurpassed. The show rooms are extensive, and have a first rate selection of goods exhibited, elegant in shape, and chaste in design. A visit to this important glass establishment should not be neglected.

M'CALLUM AND HODSON,

149, Brearley Street, Newtown Row, are manufacturers of papier machêe, consisting of all the elegancies in ladies' work tables, work boxes, cabinets—patent multifarious portfolios, pale and handsome writing desks, wine trays, chairs inlaid with pearl, trays, card racks, envelope boxes, and cabinet work tables, and other articles of use and elegance, in great variety.

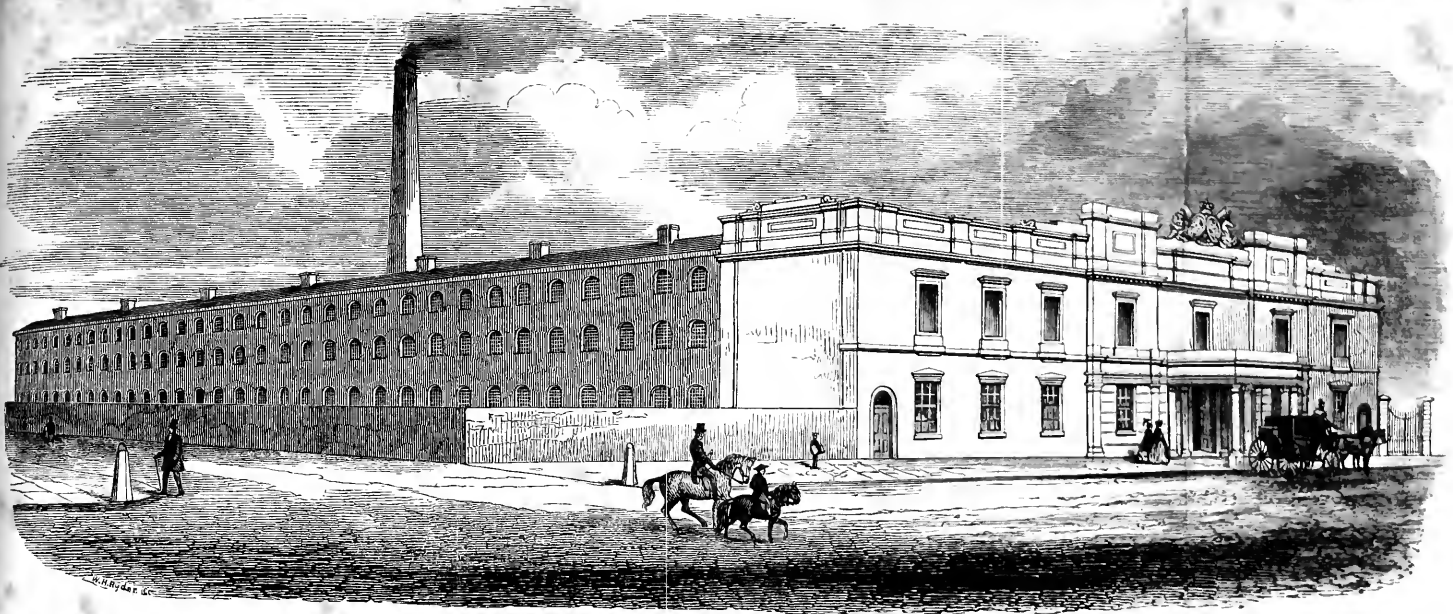
ELKINGTON, MASON AND CO.'S
ELECTRO-PLATE WORKS,

Are situated on the west side of Newhall Street, and in addition to a fine façade to the street, forming a magnificent show room, occupy an extensive area, wherein the whole business of the manufactory is carried on. The remark, that the monuments of Birmingham are her manufactures, is nowhere more strikingly confirmed than in these works. It is not the mere fact that here are reproduced the finest works of Greece and Rome; that an artistic taste gives beauty and coherence to the skill of the artisan; that to articles of domestic use are imparted a form and finish harmonious in their proportions, and pleasing in their general effect; it is not simply the perfection of design and execution that renders this establishment famous wherever Birmingham manufactures are known, but it is the union of these with that marvellous discovery—plating by the agency of electricity—that gives more than a mere artistic interest to these works. Here the union of science, art, and manufactures is fully consummated, realising the fable of Pygmalion's statue of Galatea; the artist conceiving beautiful forms, the artisan giving them existence, and the Promethean fire, electricity, vivifying and glorifying the work. The reader need not be informed that the precipitation of metal by means of the galvanic battery is a discovery of yesterday; and it is no less universally known that the name of the firm whose establishment we are noticing, is intimately connected with the successful application of the phenomena of galvanic action to the purposes of manufacture. This

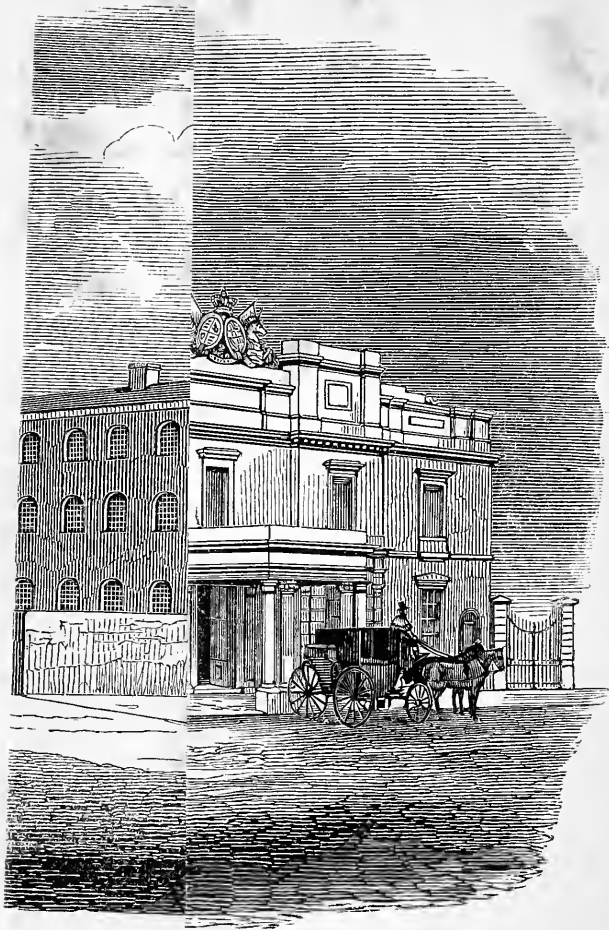


SILVER, ELECT





ELKINGTON, MASON, & CO'S
SILVER, ELECTRO PLATE, AND BRONZE MANUFACTORY.



ELKIN
PRO PTORY.

discovery has effected a revolution in the production of articles in the finer metals, not only with respect to their surface beauty, but in the scope which this system of plating affords for the manufacture of boldly relieved forms and elaborate combinations. Nor is it less important that while it has added to the beauty of the manufacture, it has also cheapened production ; thus bringing within the reach of a class hitherto precluded from their possession articles combining utility and beauty in an extraordinary degree.

A visit to the SHOW ROOMS is therefore very interesting. Entering a vestibule on the ground floor, the visitor is conducted to the fine suite of apartments forming the show rooms. Here the eye is for a time distracted by the multitude of articles in gold, silver, and bronze, profusely disposed around. Candelabra elaborate and simple, from the ornate combinations of floral ornament and mythological fable, to the modest water lily, or the lotus flower ; epergnes chaste in design and matchless in execution ; tea urns on the pure models of Greece, the quaint conceptions of an age still more remote, and in the more picturesque, if not more beautiful, style of Roman art. These prominent objects are diversified by dinner and tea services, salvers, inkstands, and articles of *bijouterie*, all remarkable for elegance of form and excellence of workmanship. The visitor will not fail to notice some articles in bronze, which are also produced by the agency of electricity. Before the discovery of this art the manufacture of bronzes was almost completely confined to France ; for there, in addition to the facilities which an educated taste afforded for the perfect reproduction of statuary, abundance of skilled labour and cheap material gave the

French a virtual monopoly of the trade. To use their own phrase, '*Nous avons changé tout cela*'—we have changed all that—and the bronzes in this establishment are proofs of the fact. In perfection of drawing, the specimens in these rooms are quite equal to those of continental manufacture, and they surpass them in surface finish and in richness of colour. "The young Apollo," "Ajax," and several of the single figures of Thorwaldsen, are amongst the large specimens shewn. The small pieces embrace vases from Pompeii and Herculaneum, bassi relievi, medallions, and reduced copies of most of the great works of antiquity.

The mention of a magnificent and wholly unique service in gold, being copies of vases from Pompeii and Herculaneum, and adapted to the dinner, tea, and desert table, may well form an appropriate climax to this notice of the most attractive, and as we have shown, for many reasons, most interesting of our Birmingham manufactories.

THE CUT GLASS MANUFACTORY OF MESSRS. OSLER, BROAD STREET. Osler

The establishment of these enterprising manufacturers is more especially devoted to the richer and more elaborate department of the glass trade. The chief portion of the articles manufactured and sold by them consists of glass chandeliers, candelabra, lustres, and the finer description of cut glass for the table, these however, are of too great a variety to render a description of them in this work practicable.

The Messrs. Osler are well known to the world as being the manufacturers of that pair of unique and beautiful

crystal glass candelabra for Ibrahim Pasha's palace at Cairo, of which a full account appeared in the Art Journal for 1847, as well as in many of the London and Provincial papers. From this exquisite specimen of workmanship, Messrs. Osler were commanded by H. R. H. Prince Albert, to manufacture a similar pair on a smaller scale, for presentation to Her Majesty on her birthday, and now are placed in Osborne House.

The Proprietors have an Establishment, in London at 44, Oxford Street, where a large and splendid assortment of their manufactures is always on view.

ROTARY CUT NAIL WORKS,

in Berkeley Street, Broad Street, is also worth inspection. Nails were formerly produced by hand, but the improvements in mechanical contrivance has at length accomplished their manufacture by machinery. Thus, in the establishment at present before us, a single steam engine moves long ranges of machines, before each of which stands a lad with a rod of iron in his hand, and the duty of the operative consists in little else than holding the rod to the machine, which chops off and stamps a head upon the nails at the rate of at least fifty in a minute. The produce of nails at this manufactory is nearly 20,000,000 weekly. It is not unusual to receive an order for 1,000,000 nails of only one size.

MUNTZ'S ROLLING MILLS,

in Water Street, is well worthy of inspection. The importance of reducing metals by means of rollers will be readily understood—uniformity of thickness, solidity, and

the quickness by which these qualities are effected all speak in favour of machinery. The rolling machines consist principally of smooth iron cylinders revolving at a certain distance from each other, which, by dragging in the piece of metal offered to them by a man on one side, press it to the desired thickness and delivers it to a person opposite. The metal is annealed at certain stages; this facilitates the process on passing through the rolls, hardens the sheet, and makes it brittle. Copper for coins, sheathing, and other purposes, metal for buttons, zinc for house covering, &c., are by such means pressed with ease.

J. AND C. RATCLIFF, SUFFOLK STREET,

are also leading manufacturers; being most extensively engaged in the manufacture of every description of brass work for lamps, lustres, and chandeliers, adapted for oil and gas. Their show rooms present a large and choice selection of specimens, well calculated to illustrate the trades and productions of the town, and although we have spoken of lamps and chandeliers as the principal articles of this establishment, we by no means intend it to be understood that such alone comprises their only manufacture. The visitor will observe beautiful specimens of art, in bronze and ormolu—many of them possessing considerable merit in design; the ornaments being generally pure and good copies from veritable antiques, adapted with judicious skill to suit the various objects with which they were associated. In all the articles submitted to us in this establishment, we could not fail to remark the exceeding brilliancy of colour they had received in passing through the hands of the artizan—in many instances rivalling if not

surpassing in beauty and richness of tone the ormolu of France. Messrs. Ratcliff have also embarked extensively and successfully in the recently discovered process of plating and gilding by electricity, and by a peculiar method of their own (which ultimately must prove of great importance) they effect perfect deposits upon metals which heretofore had effectually resisted adhesion.

THE ROYAL PAPIER MACHE MANUFACTORY
AND SHOW ROOMS OF
MESSRS. JENNENS AND BETTRIDGE,

99, Constitution Hill, which, as will be seen, by the accompanying map, is situated in one of the leading thoroughfares within a few minutes walk from the centre of the town, and surrounded by some of the principal and most interesting works of Birmingham. This establishment is well worthy of a visit. The magnificent productions which, from time to time, have emanated from it, cannot well be described here; but they have elicited the admiration of the most illustrious and scientific in this realm, and are, undoubtedly, an honour to our town. This establishment has been the means of creating a trade which has now become most beneficial, both by the employment of many persons and improving the public taste for works of art.

The articles manufactured by Jennens and Bettridge consist of their patented gem enamelling, paper tea trays, chess tables, sofas, cabinets, chairs, writing desks, folios, work boxes, dressing cases, &c.

This manufactory has been patronized by royalty, during the last three reigns, and was visited by Her Most Gracious Majesty, (prior to her accession), and also by H.R.H.

Prince Albert, Prince Louis Napoleon, Duchess of Kent, Henry de France, Duc de Nemours, the late Ibrahim Pacha, and by almost every distinguished personage who has honoured our borough with their presence. Probably many of our readers visited the exposition of manufactures held at the Society of Arts, London, during the spring of 1849, in which they must have noticed specimens of the recent "Patented Gem Enamelling" and Papier Maché of this firm, and of which Her Most Gracious Majesty and H.R.H. Prince Albert were pleased to express their great admiration.

We were happy to learn that the Society of Arts presented to Messrs Jennens and Bettridge "the Gold Iris Medal," and also "the Honorary Testimonial" for their superior quality and artistic merit of their productions.

We would strongly advise our readers to avail themselves of the opportunity of visiting these works, which by the courtesy of the proprietors is permitted to all persons of respectability,

Parties visiting this establishment may also obtain every facility in viewing the most interesting works and Show Rooms in the town, which we feel will be gratefully acknowledged by the stranger.

The London Manufactory and Show Rooms—Halkin Street West, Belgrave Square.

CORNFORTH'S BRITANNIA METAL AND ELECTRO PLATE WORKS,

Newhall Street, (immediately opposite Messrs. Elkington and Co.'s establishment). Here are manufactured every variety of electro plated and Britannia metal goods. The

new method of casting tea and coffee services, &c. in argentine metal, is a very interesting and ingenious process. This branch of manufacture is carried on here to a great extent, and the show rooms and manufactory are well worthy of observation.

GILLOTT'S STEEL PEN MANUFACTORY

is in Graham Street, and it is the largest steel pen manufactory in the kingdom. Upwards of three hundred persons being regularly employed. This manufactory contains much that is interesting.

HAMMOND, TURNER, AND CO.'S BUTTON MANUFACTORY, SNOW HILL.

This establishment is also exceedingly worthy of attention. There you will see the finest dye and the richest gilt and pattern of buttons made—with gilt, plated, bronzed metal, pearl, &c. ; and the different processes they undergo, in order to their full maturity, are extremely interesting. Even in this apparently simple article, much taste and ingenuity are necessarily displayed ; and though a profitable portion of the trade may slightly be diminished in consequence of the change in fashion, yet from elaborate and richly gilt to even plain florentine buttons, the proprietors flatter themselves that the visitor and curious observer will find much to interest as well as much to admire. We recommend an early visit to this establishment. The proprietors do not admit strangers, unless with a letter of introduction.

SHERWOOD'S MANUFACTORY OF PLATE

in Lichfield Street, is one of the largest plating establish-

ments in the town—the new system of electro plating is extensively used here, being licenced from the patentees. Persons respectably introduced can be conducted over the works.

THE PAPIER MACHE MANUFACTORY OF MESSRS. FOOTHORAPE AND CO.,

situated a few doors down, on the left hand side of Church Street, is well worthy of a visit from the stranger. He will here see a vast display of tables, chairs, screens, envelope boxes, blotting cases, cabinets, tea caddies, trays, &c. too numerous to mention ; all of which reflect great credit on the taste, spirit, and enterprise of the proprietors, and afford undeniable evidence of the superior taste and skill of Birmingham artists and mechanics.

HARRIS'S GLASS WORKS,

Islington, are very extensive, and conducted with a high degree of spirit and enterprise. This establishment is chiefly distinguished by the excellence of the pressed goods ; many of the specimens produced are little, if at all, inferior to the cut article, while they are much cheaper. Mr. H. has of late entered extensively into the manufacture of coloured glass articles, such as chimney ornaments, toilet glasses, &c. ; he has also introduced with success enamel gilding and colouring. In the show rooms, which are open to the public, will be seen excellent specimens in all the varieties of articles manufactured in the glass trade. About four hundred and fifty persons are employed on these works.

THE GUN BARREL PROOFHOUSE

is situated in Banbury Street near the Railway Station. An Act of Parliament was passed in 1813 for providing for the proper manufacture of fire arms. According to the provisions of the Act, a body of gentlemen was elected, bearing the name of "The Guardians, Trustees, and Wardens of the Gun Barrel Proofhouse of Birmingham." At this establishment the barrels of fire arms which are made in Birmingham are proved.

GRIFFITH'S AND HOPKINS'S SHOW ROOMS,

Copper Jelly mould makers, tin plate workers and manufacturers, in Bradford Street, are remarkable for the beauty and finish displayed in the manufacture of tin ware by a peculiar process.

SWORD AND MATCHET MANUFACTORY OF MESSRS. REEVES, GREAVES, & REEVES,

28, Bartholomew Street. This firm has been established a great number of years, and is justly celebrated for the excellence of their manufactures, which are made with great care and attention, under the personal management of the proprietors themselves, who feel much pride in producing that important weapon, *the sword*, in every essential point superior to any other country.

THE GREAT MIDLAND EMPORIUM, BULL RING.

This establishment, conducted by the spirited proprietor, Mr. Herbert Room, will afford much pleasure to strangers who visit it. The show rooms are very extensive,

Lamps of every description, from the splendid candelabra and lustres to the carriage lamp, are here to be seen in great variety. Of Sheffield cutlery and plated goods the stock is very varied and extensive. The collection of elegant stoves, grates, fenders, &c. is very large; and the papier maché, bronzes, ormolu, pearl, ivory, tortoiseshell, and Berlin iron ornaments, tea-trays, waiters, and in fact everything required in furnishing may be procured, from the most handsome and; costly; to the smallest article, at this emporium, which is in high repute amongst the nobility and gentry of the midland counties. We cannot do better than recommend the visitor to pay this extensive and elegant establishment a visit, being one of the best places of the kind in the town, and as the proprietor allows parties to inspect his establishment, though they may not be purchasers.

MONSIEUR REMOND'S ENVELOPE MANUFACTORY,

Great Charles Street. The proprietor has invented a very ingenious machine, which facilitates the production of envelopes in a very efficient and admirable manner, those it turns out being perfect and uniform in their construction. The quantity of work which the machine accomplishes is most astonishing. Supposing it to be turned by manual labour, one man, with the aid of three or four young girls or boys to gather the envelopes, would, it is calculated, by its means, be able to manufacture from 30,000 to 35,000 in a working day; while an expert hand, in the ordinary way, cannot, upon the average, make more than 2500, in the same manner as those in question.

LANE'S JAPAN MANUFACTORY, '

Great Hampton Street. In this manufactory may be seen a new and very interesting application by the introduction of japanned subjects behind glass, associated with highly reflecting substances, such as mother-of-pearl; for this a patent has been obtained. Among the specimens which may be seen in the show rooms of this establishment, which are of the most splendid description, are many of rare and high artistic merit, while the effect produced by the new process is so successful as to leave little to be desired, either in regard to taste, ornament, or utility.

PEYTON AND HARLOW'S PATENT METALLIC
BEDSTEAD MANUFACTORY,

situated in High Street, Bordesley, opposite the Coventry Road. At these works the manufacture of brass and iron bedsteads is carried on upon a very extensive scale. The proprietors devote their attention exclusively to this branch of manufacture, and they have succeeded in very much improving the manufacture and style of these articles. The facilities which their patents secure to them in the methods of manufacturing enable them to construct even their commonest bedsteads upon principles which, while affording the greatest facility in putting up and taking down, render them as firm when put together as if formed of one solid piece of iron. They are all fitted by means of circular dovetail joints, and are entirely free from pins, screws, nuts, or rivets, and consequently require no tools either in putting up or taking down. The brass bedsteads are manufactured of handsome taper tubes cased upon iron, and are free from

solder, lead, or other soft metal. The better kind of iron bedsteads have also taper tube pillars, and are painted to resemble mahogany, maple, and other woods; they are also painted to any pattern of papier maché furniture. The commonest bedsteads are exceedingly neat in appearance, and many of the designs of the higher qualities of both brass and iron bedsteads are in the very best style of art.

At this establishment are also manufactured Bothway's invalid bedstead, (which is calculated to afford great convenience in time of suffering, and is adapted to give every facility in cases where surgical operations are required to be performed;) and also the rheioclone bedstead, by the peculiarity of its construction, stands unrivalled, as affording that combination of softness and coolness so desirable in hot climates and in hot weather and has in many cases been preferred by invalids to Arnott's water bed.

The London Branch of the establishment is No. 12, Panton Square, Haymarket.

MAPPLEBECK AND LOWE'S ESTABLISHMENTS,

in the Bull Ring, Smithfield, and Gloucester Street, are well worthy of inspection. It would be impossible for us to give the reader anything like an adequate idea of the extent of these spacious show rooms. The stock consists of a great variety of stove grates, fenders, fire irons, kitchen ranges, hot air stoves, and general ironfoundry goods. The Bull Ring show rooms contain a splendid assortment of cutlery from the celebrated Joseph Rodgers and Sons, of Sheffield, and a most extensive stock of Sheffield plated wares and sterling silver articles; also a very choice and

extensive selection of papier maché trays, tea urns, lamps, chandeliers, ladies and gentlemen's dressing cases, work boxes, Berlin castings, figures, and iron and brass bedsteads, baths, and general ironmongery ; also an extensive variety of useful and fancy articles manufactured in the town of Birmingham. The agricultural implement repository connected with this establishment in Gloucester Street, adjoining Smithfield, contains a large and general assortment of implements and machinery from all the celebrated manufacturers and eminent men of the day. Messrs. Mapplebeck and Lowe are the inventors of several important articles in this branch of their business, and have frequently taken prizes at the Royal Agricultural and other societies. The proprietors of this great dépôt are glad to shew the rooms to any visitors, who may be also accommodated with cards of admission to many of the principal manufactories.

Chapter VIII.

THE ENVIRONS.

THE beautiful environs that surround Birmingham, and the objects worthy the attention of the stranger, which they contain, demand a description in the present work. In performing the pleasant task we have chosen, for the convenience of the visitor, to describe the environs under the respective parishes which surround the town. We commence with

EDGBASTON.

The neighbourhood of Edgbaston will not fail to please the visitor, with its villas, terraces, and park-like and picturesque beauty, forming, as it does, the *west end* of Birmingham. It is here the aristocracy of the town take up their residence. The visitor, as he paces the spacious and finely-built streets of Edgbaston—the elegant villas and terraces, which are profusely scattered on every side, will acknowledge that the business man of Birmingham carries with him, into his retirement, a correct taste not only for the useful, but also for the beautiful and the picturesque.

The present proprietor of Edgbaston, is Lord Calthorpe, who will not permit any small houses to be erected on his estate, and has paid such attention to its improve-

ment, as to render it, independent of other advantages, the most eligible spot for building in the neighbourhood of Birmingham. Edgbaston is approached on one side by Holloway Head, and on the other from Broad Street. The ground rising rapidly from the former and more gradually from the latter, as far as the Five Ways, whence it spreads over a fine level surface for a considerable distance, intersected by roads, and laid out with such skill and ingenuity as to present the most tempting sites for villa residences, and to afford the most delightful promenades. The roads are excellent, and for the most part bordered with trees of luxuriant growth, behind which are placed extremely handsome houses, in every variety of style and dimensions. There are few points in the kingdom which exhibit such an architectural beauty amidst prospects of so rural a character, which, from the endless diversity of the sylvan scenery, is ever charming and new. The emerald of the green sward here wears a more delicate freshness, and the luxuriant foliage of the trees a brighter green than elsewhere. The villas peeping out of their leafy screen, and the shaded walks and delicious gardens sending forth their odours. The extensive and diversified scenery which now and then break upon the sight, forms an *ensemble* that defies eulogium.

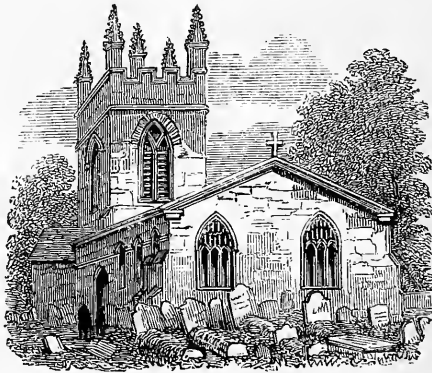
EDGBASTON HALL,

now the seat of Edward Johnstone, Esq., M.D., was formerly the seat of the Lords of the Manor, and during the Civil Wars was garrisoned by detachments of the Parliamentary army. It was burned by the population at the Revolution, who feared it might become a refuge for

Roman Catholics. The present Hall was built by Sir Richard Gough. It is placed in a small but well wooded park, formerly open to the inhabitants, it is now closed from the depredations committed, and is ornamented with a fine sheet of water,

EDGBASTON CHURCH,

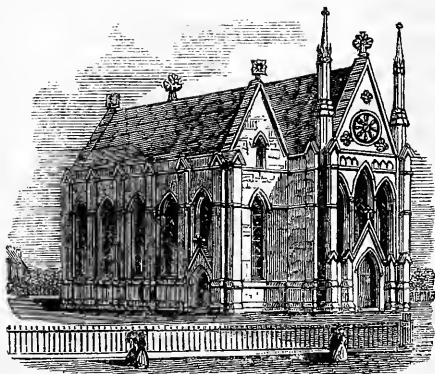
reposes amidst the trees which surround the Hall, and has a very pleasing and picturesque appearance. The church is believed to have been founded in the eighth century.



It is dedicated to St. Bartholomew, and is frequently mentioned in old records and documents, and also in doomsday. In common with many other places of worship, it was pillaged by the Republican soldiers, who completely destroyed it. After the Restoration it was rebuilt, and the interior decorated by Sir R. Gough. The body of the church was taken down and rebuilt in 1810. It was also thoroughly repaired and reroofed in 1845.

The low tower, a portion of the ancient structure, contains a peal of bells ; in the interior, are several interesting marble monuments, principally of the Gough family.

ST. GEORGE'S OR NEW CHURCH,



is a fine Gothic building, erected by the munificence of Lord Calthorpe, as a chapel of ease to the old church.

THE MONUMENT

is an odd looking structure of brick, erected in 1758, seven stories in height. It had acquired the name of "Perrott's Folly," but was evidently erected for scientific purposes. It is a prominent object from various parts of the parish.

THE BOTANICAL GARDENS.

These beautiful grounds are situated in the Westbourne Road, and at the end of the Vicarage Road, and will be found a delightful walk or drive from the town. They

were opened in 1829, and contain a large conservatory, hothouses, and a great variety of rare shrubs and plants. The situation, the manner of laying out, and the beauty of the neighbourhood, is delightful. It is the property of a number of shareholders, conducted by a committee of management in a most liberal and satisfactory manner. On Monday admittance to the grounds is allowed to all at one penny each person, for other days of the week the charge is higher, and therefore more select. The gardens will well repay a visit.

MRS. WILMORE'S STRAWBERRY AND FLOWER GARDENS

are among the pleasant and fashionable places of resort during the summer months. They occupy nearly the whole of a deep and rich valley, which is approached by a rapid descent from the road leading to the church. The charge for admission is one shilling, the value of which may be had in strawberries, flowers, &c.

THE RESERVOIR,

situated near Monument Lane, is a noble expanse of water, covering about seventy acres, surrounded by an extensive plantation, through which a road has been formed, so as to enable the visitor to make the entire circuit of the lake.

DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTION,

an excellent charity founded in 1815, principally by the exertions of Drs. De Lys and Blair. There is accommodation for sixty-five children; the present number

amounts to about fifty boys and girls. Other pupils are admitted besides those of the charity, who are kept entirely separate, and taught the more liberal branches of education. Strangers are admitted from twelve to one o'clock each day, to view this interesting institution.

HARBORNE.

A delightful drive may be taken to the village of Harborne. The church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, and has a late perpendicular tower. From the churchyard a beautiful view is obtained of the Clent Hills, the Bromsgrove Lickey, and other parts of Worcestershire. The road from Harborne to Birmingham is lined with the seats and villas of gentlemen connected with the town. From its delightful scenery and the pleasant rides and walks in the neighbourhood, Harborne is well adapted for a country residence.

HANDSWORTH

is situated in Staffordshire, about two miles north of Birmingham, was the scene of the labours of the immortal Watt, and in Handsworth repose his remains and that of his partner, Mr. Boulton.

HANDSWORTH OLD CHURCH

is dedicated to St. Mary; with the exception of the tower it has been mostly rebuilt; the living, a rectory in the gift of Sir Robert Peel, and is but a short drive from the town. The principal attraction in the church is the chaste and beautiful statue in white marble of the great machinist, Watt, from the chisel of Chantrey, placed in a

chapel, expressly erected for its reception by his son, the hallowed stillness of which cannot but have its effect on the spectator. There are several old monuments in the church; one, the figure of a knight, has, to the disgrace of the authorities, been sawn in two, to make way for a staircase. There is also a striking bust of Bolton by the celebrated Flaxman. The church is beautifully and rurally situated; in the churchyard are several handsome monuments.

Handsworth New Church on the West Bromwich road is a handsome structure.

A delightful walk through the fields from Handsworth church brings us to

ASTON.

THE HALL AND PARK,

seen to the best advantage from the lane leading to the church. It is a noble edifice, in the Elizabethan style, with a fine avenue of trees at its front, and sheltered on all sides by the foliage; was erected in the reign of James I., by Sir Thomas Holt, Bart., who had the honour of entertaining Charles I. for two nights previous to the battle of Edge Hill; in consequence of which loyalty, the Parliamentary Forces levied heavy contributions upon Sir Thomas Holt, and cannonaded the hall: the marks of the balls are still shewn on the stair-case. It was for some years the residence of the late James Watt, Esq., son of the eminent engineer.

ASTON CHURCH,

situated near the hall, a fine and picturesque structure, is dedicated to

ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL.—The following is a brief account of this beautiful and highly interesting church.



George Paganel, Baron of Dudley, in the time of Henry the Second, appropriated the great tithes of Aston to Tickford Priory, at Newport Paganel, Bucks. These were confirmed to the monks by Giles de Erdington, in A.D. 1231, (the 15th of Henry the Third,) at which time it is supposed the nave and west part of the chancel were built.

In Edward the Second's reign, the east end of the chancel, comprising one north and south window, and the east window, and the chancel arch were added—and the *capitals* of the piers on the north side of the nave were *altered* to correspond with the style of that day.

In Henry the Sixth's reign the fine tower and spire

were erected. It will be well to observe that the tower is what is termed *early* perpendicular work,—the four-centred arch is not found—but the *clerestory*, where we see *flat* four-centred arches, is *late* perpendicular, supposed to have been inserted about Henry the Seventh's reign.

On the south-west of chancel, is a window, which originally (as may be seen) came down lower than the others. This is termed by some a "Lychnoscope." The use of it is much disputed.

An early English window remains on the north and south sides of the chancel, but blocked up.

At the north-west corner of the chancel, there once evidently was a lean-to building. The weather-moulding remains, and the entrance-door from the chancel, now blocked up, is supposed to have been the sacristy. The priest's door, also blocked, remains on the south side.

And now of the interior.—In the chancel are four altar tombs.

The one at the north-east was erected to the memory of Walter de Arden, A.D. 1407, and was originally placed in the north aisle of the nave.

The two on the south side of the chancel came from the Erdington chantry, (founded in 27 of Henry the Sixth for one priest, by Thomas de Erdington, for an altar of the Blessed Virgin,) at the east end of the south aisle of nave, (where now the pews are higher than the rest.)

The monument at north-west of the chancel is to the memory of Sir Edward Devereux, who died in 1677. This erection caused a window to be blocked up.

In the north aisle of the nave there is an altar-tomb to

the memory of one of the Holt family, and a brass (A.D. 1540,) with this inscription under the figures,

**Thomas Holt here lyeth in grave, and for thy passion
On him, Lord, have compassion, and his soul do save.**

A legend likewise runs round the stone.

There are a great number of mural tablets of all kinds in the church, with their usual accompaniments of weeping cherubs, &c., but these deserve no detailed notice.

The church was greatly modernized and mutilated, A.D. 1790. In this fatal year the floor was raised eighteen inches—the roofs ceiled—the nave filled with new pews—the sedilia in the chancel, and the piscinæ (one in chancel and one in the Erdington chantry) blocked up—the west gallery made, blocking up the beautiful tower arch, the barbarous doors on the north and south of nave inserted, the monials and bracerie of the nave windows removed—the parapets taken down—the western door made into a window—the west porch into a vestry—and a floor constructed for the ringers, hiding the interior view of the fine perpendicular windows of the tower.

The four stalls, now existing in the chancel, were removed a few years since from Saint Margaret's, Leicester, being displaced from their original position in the chancel of that church as rubbish! These four of course form only a small remnant of the original series, which were erected by Abbot Penny, who died, A.D. 1509, and have been engraved in the "glossary of architecture" as very fine specimens of that kind of work.

A relic of the churchyard cross, of early English date, is preserved in the chancel; the subjects carved on it are worthy of note. On one side is the Crucifixion, on the

opposite the Virgin and Child, and on the two others figures of St. Peter and St. Paul.

The west window of the south aisle was a few years since erected, and filled with stained glass of a very beautiful character, in memory of two sisters, from the design of Mr. Pugin.

The present battlement and pinnacles of the tower are modern.

VAUXHALL.

THE VAUXHALL GARDENS.

Strangers should take an opportunity to visit these gardens, where they will be greatly delighted. The principal lawn, surrounded by a line of majestic trees, is disposed into picturesque parterres, beautified by flowers and evergreens. These radiate from a centred division, in which a handsome fountain is erected, which pours its liquid treasures into an ample basin. Under the trees which fringe the square, snug and picturesque, and sometimes fantastic, bowers cluster; and between each a sloping bank, adorned with vases and flowers, forms a striking combination. The whole constitutes a delightful promenade, which, without let or hindrance, Mr. Stewart has thrown open to the public. In such a town as this, with so few facilities for indulgence in out-door recreation, such a privilege is invaluable.

THE NEW VAUXHALL GARDENS.

But for several unmistakeable landmarks which fix the locality of these pleasure grounds, they might easily be mistaken for some sylvan spot, remote from the workshops

of labouring thousands, beautified by the liberality of its possessor, whose good taste was ably seconded by his pecuniary ability to minister to its suggestions. The entrance is through a handsome hotel, the elevated situation of which, commands a rich and diversified prospect of the natural and artificial treasures that so plentifully adorn them, from whence may be seen winding walks and elegant bowers—velvet lawns and beautiful fountains, whose “flashy waters seek the sky,” and a multiplicity of handsome statues “instinct with life” studding and enriching the miniature paradise in all directions, evincing high classical taste, both as regards the selection of the models, which are, with few exceptions, pure Grecian; and the arrangement, grouping and situations. At the rear of the gardens, crossing a capacious basin of ornamental water, is the startling enigma—*The Aerial Bridge*—stretching its slim and weblike consistence, the distance of some 100 feet, and which, from its apparently slight mechanism, “one’s apprehension dares not risk a tread,” is yet, we are told, capable of fording a regiment of soldiers with safety, and forms a romantic and highly picturesque approach to a handsome collonade of 300 feet in length, which is fitted up with every convenience for promenade or dancing; though roofed to protect from heat or inclemency, the sides are thrown open, and disposed with seats, where the visitor can sit at ease and admire the surrounding gardens.

MOSELEY.

The rural village of Moseley is situated in the parish of Kings Norton, Worcestershire, about two miles south of

Birmingham, on the Alcester road. From Trinity chapel a direct line of road, passing through Highgate, from which a fine prospect may be obtained of Birmingham, leads to the village of Moseley which consists of small but neat houses; the Church dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is an ancient stone edifice, with a tower containing three bells. Surrounding the church are several elegant villas, and in the immediate neighbourhood is

MOSELEY HALL,

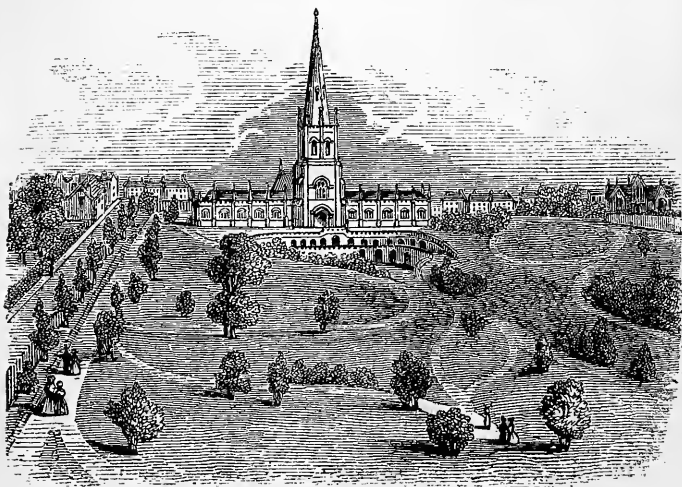
the seat of the late James Taylor, Esq. The mansion, which is approached through an avenue of ancient trees, is a plain stone building, surrounded by park-like enclosures. The Common, a mile from the church, commands an extensive view. The plantations are inclosures which surround it, and the neat houses interspersed here and there, add to its natural beauty. It forms a fine exercise and review ground for the regiments of cavalry stationed in the town. There are several beautifully rural walks in and about Moseley.

THE GENERAL CEMETERY,

in Warstone Lane, is a favourite place of resort for the inhabitants. In the centre of the grounds stands the chapel in which the burial service is performed. The grounds are agreeably and tastefully laid out with walks, interspersed with lawns and shrubberies. Like the celebrated cemetery at Liverpool, this is mostly excavated from the rock, in which are placed the catacombs. Several of the monuments are of superior merit; one in particular, in white marble, by Mr. Hollins—flowers in full bloom, cut by a scythe—is really worthy of attention.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND CEMETERY,

Warstone, was established by Act of Parliament in 1846, and consecrated 28th August, 1848. About nine acres of ground are now enclosed and consecrated; the whole of which has been laid out and planted with considerable taste. The church is dedicated to St. Michael. It is a very beautiful building, in the perpendicular style of architecture, with nave, chancel, tower and spire. The fine window at the east end was placed there by the munificence of Messrs. Chance Brothers. There are two cloisters, ranging north and south of the chief entrance, forming a handsome elevation to the front, and extended for the reception of monumental tablets and tombs.



There are cloisters separated from the body of the church, which form an ambulatory, of about 150 feet, with a range of rich painted windows on the western front, and at each end. In front of the church is a fine terrace walk, overlooking the grounds and the adjacent country, and crowning a circular range of catacombs constructed in the banks of a deep and dry bed or bank of gravel faced with rough stonework, and which now forms a handsome basement to the main buildings. The lodge, in the domestic style of architecture of the same age, fronts to Warstone lane, a convenient residence for the secretary, with offices and rooms for the directors. The bishop of Worcester is the patron.

Chapter IX.

THE VICINITY OF BIRMINGHAM,

POINTING OUT THE OBJECTS OF ATTRACTION IN NATURE
AND ART WITHIN A CIRCLE OF FROM
25 TO 30 MILES.

As regards a neighbourhood teeming with attractive, delightful and interesting objects—objects rich in literary and historical remembrance, as well as natural scenery; few spots in the kingdom are so advantageously situated as Birmingham in this respect: Within its twenty-five mile circle are Stratford-on-Avon, Warwick, Kenilworth and Dudley

castles, Leamington, Coventry, and Rugby College. The cathedrals of Worcester and Lichfield, as well as the classic groves of Hagley, and the blossom bearing hills of Clent and Malvern, and a number of other equally interesting spots, presenting such a combination of attraction as is probably unique, and affording exhaustless food for inquiry and contemplation. Nearly all these popular localities have railway communication, the most distant of which may be reached in the space of an hour and a half, and those places not possessing the convenience of rail may be reached at the pleasure of the traveller, either by omnibus or coach, which are of a respectable class, and distinguished for convenience and celerity, always plying between Birmingham and their respective destinations.

As most of the towns are situated in entirely different directions, and therefore impossible to be seen all at once, we have disposed the vicinity into "routes" for the convenience of the stranger, each comprehending all the places of interest, within its particular neighbourhood.

KENILWORTH CASTLE.

About five miles from Coventry, on the line of railway connecting that town with Leamington, rises the venerable and magnificent ruin of Kenilworth Castle from the midst of woods and meadows, in the most beautiful sylvan neighbourhood of the country. To those who have enjoyed the delicious description of the "Great Northern Wizard," there will be no difficulty in tracing many of the sites of feudal grandeur and royal entertainment. Among the

remains are still distinguishable the great banqueting hall, the pleasance, the tilt-yard, the Leicester buildings, &c. &c. The meadows, where now the stream winds its crystal way ornamented with tasteful bridges, were formerly a sheet of water, and formed the lake so graphically described, with its accompanying pageants, by Laneham, on the occasion of Queen Elizabeth's visit; but now drained for the more profitable purpose of providing food for our rising population. Many beauties will be found in the neighbourhood by the admirers of rural scenery; and to those who delight in *pic nic* parties, among the ruins, on the turf, or in the shade of the surrounding woods, an occasional day there spent will be found time well bestowed, and the contemplation of the changes which a few years produce will be here held up to the mind with scenic effect.

THE RUINS OF THE PRIORY.

The gate house is all that remains, which is still magnificent in spite of corroding time. It closely adjoins the south-western side of the churchyard.

KENILWORTH CHURCH

is dedicated to St. Nicholas, and is a very ancient building. It contains a curious inscription of a man who died in 1656, having lived 152 years.

Three miles from Kenilworth, on the road to Warwick, near the monument, which marks the place of the execution of Pierce Gaveston, one of the favourites of Edward the Second, is the charming mansion of

CUY'S CLIFF,

being the reputed devotional retreat of the renowned Guy during his latter days. It now exhibits a most delightful

seat, in a perfect state of repair, built in olden times on a romantic cliff in a commanding situation on the Avon, which here forms a most delightful lake, after passing a *romantic* Swiss mill, which, with its waterfalls, form a most agreeable object from the house. Our space admits not of a catalogue of some of the beauties of this gem, and we well recommend those who visit this favoured spot to notice the chapel, the vestibule, the great drawing-room, library, &c., all containing choice works of art, in sculpture and paintings, both ancient and modern: among the latter will be found many by a youthful member of the family of the present possessor; one alone deserves particular notice, "The Cave of Despair," from Spencer's *Fairy Queen*. Many other most agreeable objects should be brought under the notice of visitors, as the cave, the well, the stables in the rock, the avenue, the gardens, &c., all of which can be seen on application.

One mile from Guy's Cliff is

WARWICK.

This rare old town is situated on a rocky eminence, on the banks of the Avon, over which is thrown a stone bridge, erected at the sole expense of the late Earl of Warwick, is of Saxon origin, and of great antiquity, and was the residence of Warrenmunde, a Mercian chief. In 1572, Queen Elizabeth visited this town during her sojourn at Kenilworth. In 1694, a great part of the town was destroyed by fire, when Queen Anne contributed £1000 towards a subscription for enabling the inhabitants to repair their losses.

This borough returns two members to Parliament.

There are several manufactories in the town, principally worsted and silk mills.

There are several handsome buildings. The County Hall, where the county assizes and quarter sessions are held. The county Gaol and the Bridewell. The Town Hall was erected in 1730, at the expense of the Corporation: they were charged before the Court of Chancery with misappropriating the public money in the erection of this building, and were in consequence suspended from the exercise of their powers, until 1738, when they were restored.

The church and chapel of St. Mary are open daily to visitors, who are admitted upon payment of a small gratuity. There are several very interesting monuments in the interior. The church of St. Nicholas is without any recommendation to notice.

Twelve fairs are held here during the year.

WARWICK CASTLE.

About four miles beyond Kenilworth, on a pleasing eminence, stands the county town of Warwick, and adjoining the stately castle, which is the baronial residence of the Lord Lieutenant of the County, the Earl of Warwick. The castle stands on a rock which rises out of the river Avon, which winds its silent stream around its base, having the ruins of a picturesque broken bridge at its foot, but superseded in its use by a modern one of a single arch, having a beautiful effect. In the enchanting grounds, with woods of cedars, will be found many objects of interest, among which may be named a white marble vase capable of containing one hundred and sixty-three gallons, found at the bottom of a lake near Rome, now known as the Warwick Vase, and placed in a conservatory in the gardens. Guy's accoutrements also, his porridge pot and flesh fork,

are objects of curiosity and wonder, being all of a colossal magnitude. The building will well repay a visit; among its worthies may be named, the great hall, the great dining-room, the cedar drawing-room, wainscoted with cedar and floored with polished oak; the gilt-room, the state bed chamber, hung with Brussels tapestry and containing Queen Anne's bed; the chapel, the armoury, gallery, &c. &c., all stored with choice pictures, ancient relics, antique furniture, &c.; whilst the rich views from the Gothic windows in the suites of apartments delight the visitant, and speak favourably of the taste of its ancient founders.

The castle may be seen during the absence of the family: the indication of their presence may be known by the flag waving on Guy's Tower.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON,

In the county of Warwickshire, contains about 3000 inhabitants. It is beautifully situated in the south-west border of the county, upon an eminence rising gently from the west bank of the Avon. It was originally called Streetford, deriving its name from its situation on the north road. It was distinguished prior to the conquest for its monastery. During the civil wars, Henrietta-Maria, queen of Charles I., remained three days at New Place, the residence of Shakspeare's daughter, where she was hospitably entertained by the family. Stratford possesses several spacious streets, intersecting each other, some at right angles, and some obliquely. The houses in the part called the Old Town, though rather ancient, are in general, commodious and well-built, occasionally interspersed with modern buildings of handsome appearance. In some of the streets are smaller houses, amongst

which, is a part of the ancient house in which Shakspeare is said to have been born, still preserved in its antique state. It was sold on the 16th of September, 1847, for £3000 to the committee appointed for ensuring its possession to the nation, and other premises adjoining and forming part of the original house, were purchased by the committee at the same time. The house in which Shakspeare lived for a few years previous to his death was originally a mansion of the Clopton family, and was purchased by the bard, who, after improving it, called it New Place. It was taken down by a late proprietor, who also cut away the mulberry tree planted by Shakspeare in the gardens. Here Shakspeare's name is almost in every mouth, and you can scarcely turn a corner but what some vestige of him meets the eye. It would seem that though he, throughout life, was the least ambitious, the most careless about his fame, he was, of all distinguished men, by the very echo of that fame, after the lapse of centuries, to give the chief impulse to some five or six thousand persons dwelling on the spot where he first drew breath. There are the Shakspeare relics—the Shakspeare theatre—the Shakspeare hotel—the Shakspeare bust—the Shakspeare tomb. Every body tells you of them, every body is ready to rise and run and show them to the stranger. The ancient house and chamber where he was born, are humble to meanness, yet walls and ceilings and casketed albums are written over and rewritten with the names of the pilgrim visitants from various climes—princes, nobles, poets, philosophers and sages. The Town Hall a plain but substantial edifice, of the Tuscan order, was dedicated to Shakspeare in 1769, the period of the jubilee, instituted

by Garrick, which festival has recently been revived, and is celebrated every three years. In a niche at the north end of the building is a finely sculptured statue of Shakspeare, presented by Garrick. The upper story comprises a handsome banquetting room, decorated with paintings, including a full length portrait by Benjamin Wilson, of Shakspeare sitting in an antique chair, and at the opposite end, Garrick reclining against a bust of the poet by Gainsborough. The parochial church formerly collegiate, is a spacious and venerable cruciform structure, chiefly in the early English style, with square embattled tower rising from the centre, and surmounted by a lofty octagonal spire. The interior is agreeable, also has some stately monuments, and the architecture of the chancel is extremely beautiful. The celebrated bust of Shakspeare is near it in a niche upon the northern wall, in the right hand is a pen and the left a scroll, a cushion is before him. The forehead is high and noble. This bust which is a well attested likeness, bore a strict resemblance to the complexion, the colour of the eyes and hair of the poet, but was by the direction of Malone, one of his commentators, painted in imitation of stone, and now forms a lamentable contrast with those of the Clopton family and others in the church. Stratford is pre-eminently distinguished as the birth-place and residence of the immortal bard, which circumstance has conferred upon this town a dignity superior to that of any other spot in the kingdom. Shottery, where Ann Hathaway's cottage stands, is about one mile distant from the church.

HAGLEY AND CLENT HILLS.

From these hills the eye surveys a complete panorama of the Midland counties, comprising an arena of 60 miles, in

which the Malvern hills, the Wreken, and the stupendous heights of Derbyshire are distinctly visible. The hills of Clent are said to have been the scene of many fierce conflicts between the ancient Britons and the Romans. The antiquarian will be much interested with St. Kenelm's chapel, erected during the Saxon heptarchy by the murderers of St. Kenelm, prince of Mercia, in expiation of their crime.

HAGLEY HALL,

In this magnificent park of fallow deer is to be seen an elegant statue of Prince Frederick; a fine old hermitage, with the castle and its splendid tower commanding a prospect, which for grandeur and variety, stands unrivalled. The obelisk and temple of Theseus must recall to the classical student many pleasing associations: Lovers of poetry will not fail to observe the beautiful urns dedicated to the memory of the poets, Pope, Thomson and Shenstone. In the gardens of the mansion are flowers growing in all their luxuriance, and the orange, pine, lemon, and foreign fruits in abundance.

LEASOWES,

the much admired seat of the elegant poet Shenstone, is situated in the parish of Halesowen, eight miles from Birmingham, a region of unsurpassing beauty, and will more than amply repay a visit from the tourist.^a They abound with picturesque beauties, and command extensive prospects. The traveller is at one time enveloped in wood, at another, views equally grand, extensive, and diversified, break upon the sight. There are many lofty eminences separated by dingles, mantled with thickets of oaks, and watered by torrents, which heighten the

effect of this romantic scenery by their incessant roar and glistening foam. On this highly favoured spot nature has profusely lavished the richest and most diversified scenery, and which the hand of art, guided with a glowing imagination, has constituted the most poetic romantic character conceivable—and demands the attention of those persons who take delight in bold scenery; and for the accommodation of those who are inclined to meditate and contemplate, numerous seats are fitted up in different directions. Such scenes as the Leasowes walks afford are very seldom to be met with in any other part of England, and therefore, those who are in pursuit of amusement will not regret if they even devote one whole day to them.

DUDLEY

is situated south-west of Wednesbury, a market town in the county of Worcester. To the geologist and the antiquarian, Dudley unquestionably presents the greatest treat in this part of the kingdom. It derives its name from Dodo or Dudo, a Saxon prince who built a castle about the year 700. The town contains two churches; one dedicated to St. Thomas, the other to St. Edmund; the former an elegant gothic structure, and the latter a plain brick building; besides which, there are places of worship for almost every description of dissenters, and various schools and charities dependent on the church and dissenting bodies. The whole of the town and parish is in Worcestershire, but

DUDLEY CASTLE,

which is a grand and spacious ruin, is in the county of Stafford, and was one of the last which surrendered to

the Parliament in the civil wars. Its situation commands diversified, beautiful, and extensive prospects in every direction, and was formerly the seat of the ancestors of the present noble owner, Lord Dudley and Ward. Near the castle, and adjoining the town, are the interesting remains of a priory of Benedictine monks, founded by Gervase Pagnell, about the year 1161. Not far hence, are vast subterraneous lime-stone caverns, frequently entered by wondering strangers, more extensive than the caves of Castleton and Matlock, in Derbyshire. In these caverns numerous fossils are found, one of which, called the "Dudley Locust," is greatly esteemed by the collector, and is supposed to be an extinct species of monocus. In the vicinity of the town, there are several chalybeate springs and a valuable spa, held in much repute for its efficacy in cutaneous disorders. The population of Dudley in 1841 was 31,232, the greater part of whom are engaged in mining, making of nails, smelting iron ore, and the manufacture of flint-glass. It sends one member to the House of Commons, and its market day is Saturday.

Having fulfilled the object of this work in conducting the visitor through Birmingham, and giving him descriptions of every thing worthy of notice in the town and environs, as well as historical descriptions of its vicinity, we shall next insert a few address cards, which we have no doubt will prove exceedingly useful to the stranger.

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WELLINGTON AND NAPOLEON,

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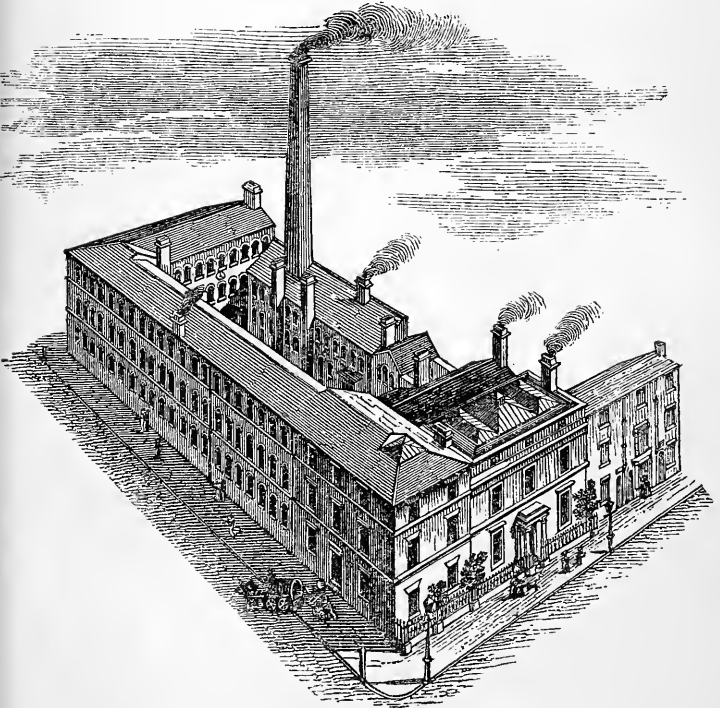
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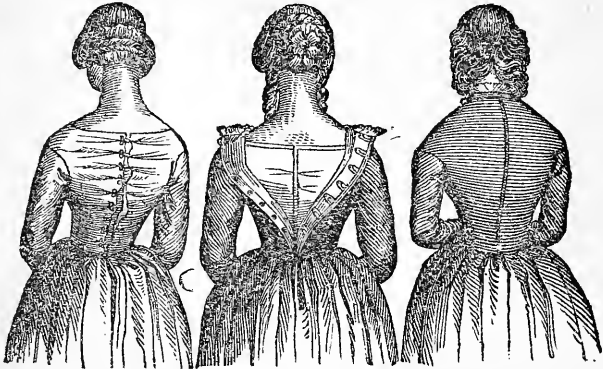
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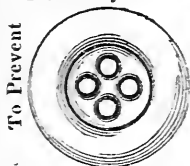
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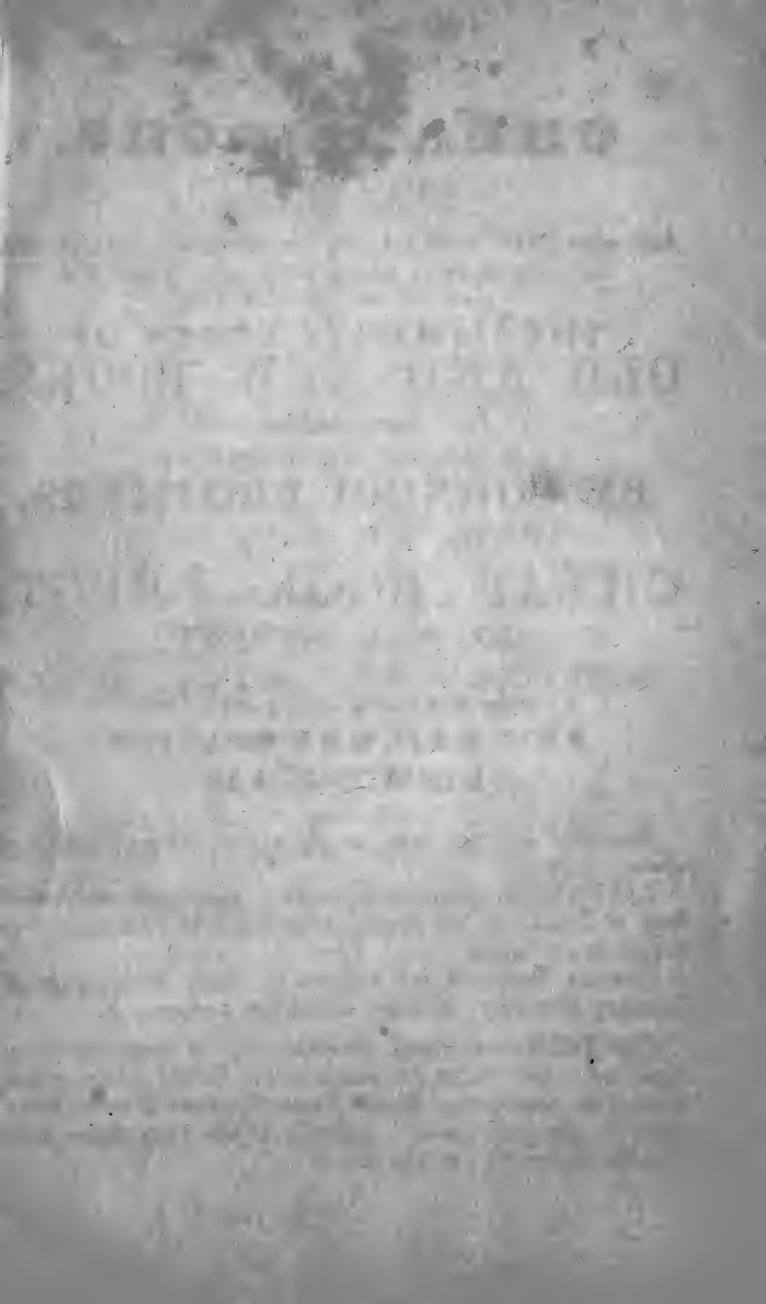
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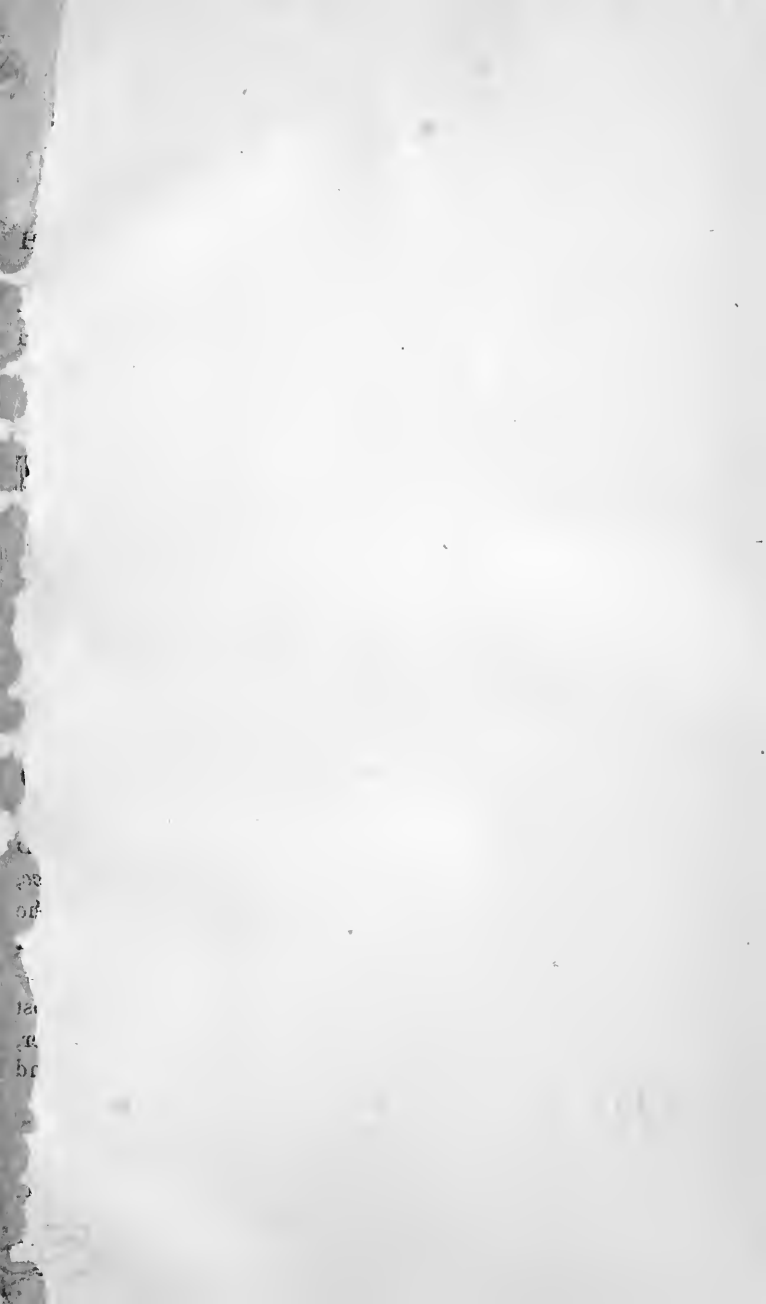
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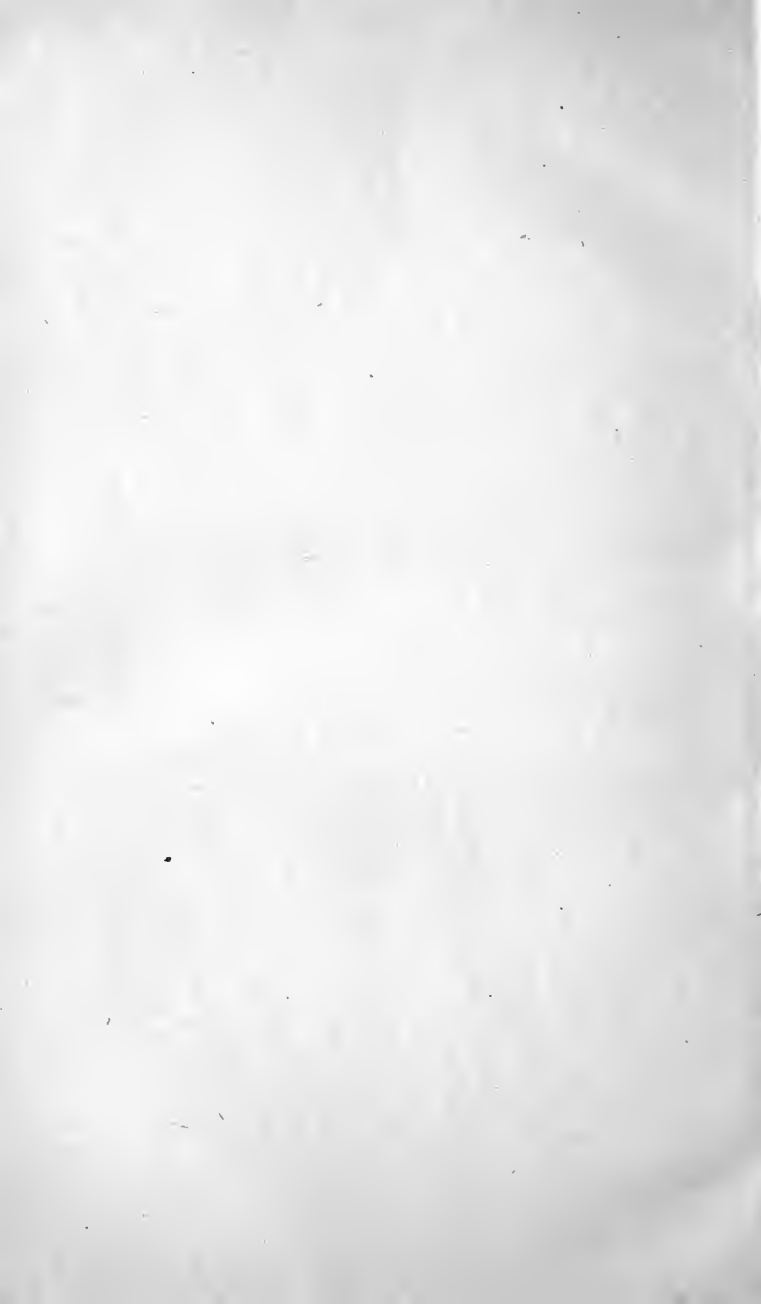
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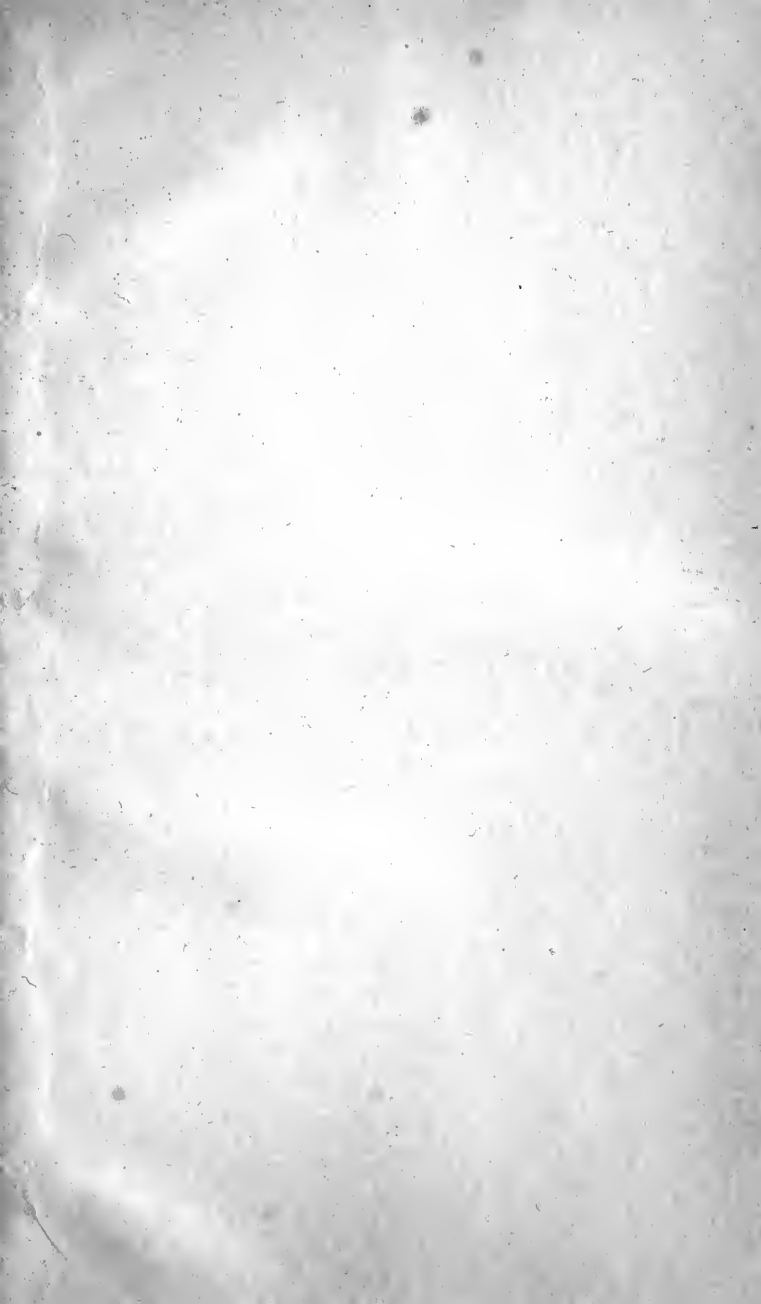
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