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HISTORY
OF THE
CITY OF CHESTER.

FROM ITS
FOUNDATION TO THE PRESENT TIME,
WITH AN
ACCOUNT OF ITS ANTIQUITIES, CURIOSITIES, LOCAL CUSTOMS,
AND PECULIAR IMMUNITIES;

AND
A Concise Political History.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

BY JOSEPH HEMINGWAY.


VOL. II.

v. 2 - pt 1

CHESTER:

PRINTED BY T. FLETCHER, OF WHOM THE WORK MAY BE HAD
OF ALL BOOKSELLERS, AND OF THE AUTHOR, G.
NICHOLAS-STREET, CHESTER.

1831.



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HISTORY OF CHESTER.

Perambulation of the City.

(CONTINUED.)



WHOEVER travels in the prosecution of a favourite object, whether it be a *Doctor Syntax* in search of the Picturesque; or a *Cooke*, for undiscovered islands or continents; or a *Pennant*, in pursuit of historical or antiquarian knowledge—or any other man, for some definite purpose—will seldom be found willingly to retrace the region he has already passed; unless either from recollection, or new information, he finds he has overlooked some object worthy his attention. Under the latter circumstances, he will be permitted to re-measure his steps; and the author trusts to a similar indulgence, in again reverting to a subject, which he had, inattentionally,

VOL. II. A

at least, quitted.—The first volume of this work concluded by noticing the discovery of a number of hard-burnt earthenware pipes in the grounds of R. Baxter, Esq. near the main road leading to Boughton. A speculation is there offered, that these were laid by an abbot of Chester in the time of Edward I. for the conveyance of water from the *Abbot's Well* at Christleton to the cloisters, for the use of the monastery of St. Werburgh. To an objection, that the pipes were probably laid at a subsequent period, when water was brought from *Boughton* well to supply the city, my reply was, that the smallness of the bore, and the nature of the material were against this presumption. Since the concluding sheet of the first volume was put to press, I have arrived at something like *certainty*, that my postulatam was correct; and I can hardly think myself free from blame, that I should have overlooked the authorities of venerable *Webb* and the *Lysons* on this point. The former, under date of 1537, says, “Dr. Wall began the building of the conduits at *Boughton* for the bringing of the water to the Bridge-gate, IN PIPES OF LEAD.”* In the *Magna Britannia*, vol. ii. p. 614, the same fact is stated in nearly the same words.

Perhaps some of my readers may think that this subject has occupied more space than its importance deserves. As an historical fact, however, which has never received investigation, I deemed it worthy of particular attention.—I shall now proceed eastward from Mr. Baxter's mansion, by observing, that having passed this interesting spot, and proceeded a short distance, on the left is a lane leading by a footpath to Hoole, and very soon afterwards, on the same side is a delightful range of buildings, fronted by beautiful gardens, and iron pallisading. About the centre of this elegant group of buildings, thirty years ago, stood that *memento mori* to the passing traveller, vulgarly called the gallows, where many of our unfortunate fellow creatures have

* My own conjecture, therefore, that the material might be of wood, is erroneous; but the main fact assumed, is in my opinion, satisfactorily established.

forfeited their lives to the violated laws of their country. A short time prior to this period, this terrific engine of death had its station exactly on the opposite side of the road, which, on account of its elevated situation, received the appellation of *Galboas Hill*, which, by a precipitate descent, and without an inclosure, went down to the Dee. There is an incident connected with this place of execution worthy of recording. In May, 1801, as three malefactors, convicted of burglary at the spring assizes, were conveying to execution in a cart, one of them, named Clare, when opposite the gallows, and just when the vehicle was turning, gave a sudden spring, and threw himself upon the top of the precipice descending to the river, and jumped, rolled, and tumbled along till he was precipitated into it. The weight of his irons sunk him to the bottom, and before he could be brought up, life was entirely extinct. Although the unfortunate fellow thus evaded the letter of his sentence, in escaping being hanged by the neck till he was dead, yet the finisher of the law was unwilling to forego his official duty, and the dead body of the criminal was tied up after his breath had departed. The most afflictive part of the tragedy was, that the two poor men who were in a like condemnation, were kept in a state of awful suspense until the dead carcase of the drowned man was tied up beside them. It is a fact not generally known, that in the fourteenth century, the place for the execution of criminals was on Saltney, where the final tree stood, near to a piece of water, called the *Gallows-pool*, to which reference is made in describing the boundaries of the city, vol. i. p. 401. The last execution at Boughdon was that I have just recited, in 1801; at the summer assizes in the same year, two men were hanged in front of the old Northgate, since which time, these tragical scenes have been performed at the new City Gaol, for several years at the east front, but more recently at the west.

Barrel-well, which is esteemed an excellent spring, and covered in, is very near to this spot; and close by it a new brick church is now building, which will be of

road serves to the inhabitants of Broughton, and the church and the neighbouring foundation of St. Oswald's hospital, more will I find in the parochial clergy southward, and that on the left there is a very fine canal, called Tarwin-lane, where some very pretty houses have lately been built, which leads to the Forest of Pines, a road to Northwich and Greatwich; and the continuation, a little inclining to the right, conduces to Macclesfield, Wilton, Newport, and Birmingham. Within the last few years, several beautiful villas have been erected between Broughton and Christleton, some of which are occupied by Dr. Currie, Wm. Richards, Esq. Mr. Massey, Mrs. Humphreys, &c. &c. and which are considered a comfortable retreat from the cares of a busy mercantile life. When I see men, who are able to retire from the world in any circumstances, and enjoy the shade of life in comparative affluence, I cannot but exclaim with the formidable Goldsmith,—

"How happy is the man who can afford
To quit the town, and to enjoy the world!"

According to the plan laid down in my last chapter, they directed the reader from the Cross to the extremity of the city eastward; and commencing again in the former we shall proceed westward, and our survey in the first instance will lead us from thence down Warrington-street, at the top of which, and at the junction of the three other principal streets, stands the ancient church of St. Peter, and St. Paul's parsonage.

Warrington-street is narrow, consists of a line of buildings on each side, and in length about 20 houses. In this street, the ancient form of the houses is preserved more generally, than in any other part of the city, though considerable alterations have been made here within the last few years. I am inclined to think, that this street, within a very few years, this place was one of the chief, and most important, being the principal entrance from the southward, and from whence all the principal commodities were conveyed. The opening of the River Mer-

lead to the Abbey, and adjoining with the east side of the open part of the street portion of an immense row of wooden houses, which opens there, and to the west, to a garden, and a small public-house, or bridge, with a fountain, in the middle. The street of the houses, as we now call this part of the city, this street is remarkable, however, for the excellent vaulted cellarings it contains, under the rows, and some of them to consider'd to gladden under the houses. Several of these are used as bonded warehouses, by our principal wine and spirit merchants.

The south side of the street contains also many very ancient houses, perhaps the oldest in the city, one of which has a post, on which is carved the date of 1550; two or three of these are highly ornamented in front by curious old-fashioned devices. The first we come to, dated 1652, and has this motto, "God's providence is mine libertance;" said to have been inscribed by the occupier, as a grateful memorial, after escaping the plague, which had visited almost every other dwelling. Lower down, on the same side, is another very singularly decorated mansion; the lower part of the house is divided into several compartments, each having a sunk panel, representing in nicely carved work, some of the most noted events recorded in the scriptures, such as the serpent tempting Eve, the murder of Abel, Susannah, and the Flood, &c. In the two central panels are initials, supposed of Dr. George Lloyd, Bishop of Chester, who died in 1645, which date is on the panel. The upper part of the house is also richly figured in the same panelled style; nor was even the bottom neglected in the profusion of laborious handiwork, for even the pillars and brackets which support the rows, are carved in a ludicrous manner.

A little below the house we are now speaking of, there was formerly an inn, which, about fifty years ago, was esteemed the best in Chester; the coach road from the town to Commonhall-street; the Lamb and Lion, in front of Watergate-street, and is now supplied as a school for travellers. To this newly admired, but a few years

lower down, a large room, at which a fatal catastrophe occurred, by a tremendous explosion of gunpowder. I copy the account as given at the time in *Adams's Weekly Courant*, observing, that the time of the accident was on the anniversary of the gunpowder-plot, 1772: "A few minutes before nine o'clock in the evening, the inhabitants of the city were greatly alarmed by a loud unusual noise, attended with a shaking of the ground, which every one imagined to proceed from an earthquake. But the news soon spread, that a large number of people, assembled at a puppet-show, had been blown up by gunpowder, placed in a grocer's warehouse which was under the room. Amidst the universal consternation and confusion, occasioned by this dreadful calamity, it happened, most fortunately, that some gentlemen repaired to the melancholy scene a few minutes after the accident, who gave particular directions, that every person who showed the least signs of life, should be immediately carried to the infirmary, where physicians and surgeons repaired, to be ready to administer every possible means of relief. A clean bed was provided for every patient before the unfortunate sufferer could be stripped, which, in general, was by cutting off the clothes, to prevent the agony of pulling those limbs, which were broken, burned, or bruised. In this tremendous scene of horror and confusion, that no possible means of relief might be omitted, which their humanity and skill could suggest, the faculty assigned different offices to different persons; some were employed entirely in bleeding all who required such an evacuation; others washed several times over all the burns and bruises with Goulard's cooling water; the rest were engaged in setting fractured bones, reducing dislocations, &c. In these, and other offices, the faculty were most assiduously engaged from nine o'clock (when the accident happened) till four in the morning. Not one that was admitted escaped without marks of violent contusions, or large and deep burns on the face, hands, &c. and generally both. The women were much more severely burnt than the men, especially on their arms and thighs; this may be

accounted for from the different mode in their dress. It happened, that no person, man, woman, or child, but of inferior station, were sufferers in this dreadful calamity. But had they been persons of the most affluent fortunes, and carried to their own homes, none could have possibly received such immediate and effectual medical assistance as was administered to all, who were admitted into the infirmary. Besides 23 dead, and 53 hospital patients, there were about 30 more in the city, who received various degrees of injury; in all, 106.*

The following story, abridged from Cawyer's MSS.

* To this account the editor appends a few observations, which I here subjoin, as their tendency may be useful, as precautions.—“To prevent a like misfortune, it may be useful to relate some facts, which may be learned from this melancholy accident. The inside dimensions of the building were 14 feet by 20; none of the stories were divided into separate apartments; it was composed of a cellar 12 feet high, a warehouse 7 feet high, on the ground floor, where about 260 lbs. of gunpowder were lodged. The puppet-show room over it 11 feet high; a dwelling over this room 7 feet, and a garret still higher. The walls of the warehouse and show-room were of stone 2½ feet thick. It appears clearly that the chief force of the explosion had been exerted *inwards*, for it was sufficient to throw off all the floor, &c. of three stories above the warehouse; yet the walls of the building continued standing on three sides, as high as the top of the room on which the powder was lodged. Even a part of the wood floor, at the opposite end of the room, on which the powder was placed remained standing. A house, which rested on one corner of the building tumbled down, but another old house, six yards distant from the warehouse, was only injured by one side falling *inwards*. No 8 chimney was blown down, though the spot was surrounded by a great number of old houses. A great many windows were broken all round the place, even to a considerable distance; but one circumstance deserves very particular attention: nearly all the glass fell *outwards*, with some of the window frames. This fact apparently proves, that the windows were not broken by the explosive power of the gunpowder, but by the pressure of the air contained in the surrounding apartments, which rushed into the vacuum caused by the explosion. However, where the force of the gunpowder was confined by narrow passages, centrifugal or centrifugous force took place, for two boys, walking along the way in Watergate-street, opposite to a passage leading to the building, were blown, one into the street, and the other against the rail; and opposite another passage into Cornhill-lane, one side of a stable room was entirely blown in. Do not these facts evidently prove, that even the smallest quantity of gunpowder should be always kept in casks? And do they not suggest a doubt, whether the distance from towns, preserved by law, for keeping large quantities, is not greater than necessary, if the magazines be strictly separate from other buildings?”

appears not unworthy of being appended to another case of riotous action which occurred in this part of the city. About the year 1695, a Mr. Joshua Horton came down from London, and occupied a large house in Watergate-street, at the corner of Trinity-lane, (afterwards rebuilt by Alderman Thomas Warner, pleased the mansion called *Water-Mills* for three years, and supported a handsome appearance in the city for some years. One evening a great strife proceeding to the house of his neighbour, Alderman Minningham, an alarm of fire was given, but the doors being locked, and a great bustle perceived therein, a great sally was excited, which ended in a threat of forcing the door. Entrance being then given, half demolished furniture and embers were found scattered over the ceiling, and a large pair of bellows, the blast of which had forced the heat and smoke through two walls of stone and brick, by the horse adjacent. The conductor of Horton had escaped, but a press for coining was found in a room in a yard, and a bag of dies were found in the Dock next day, which had been thrown in at high water. Mr. Horton, under these circumstances, was committed to the North-gate; and on Monday, April 8, 1700, Joseph Jekyll, Esq., chief justice, came to the town-hall, and read a commission for trying him within the city, after which he was convicted of knowingly having in his custody a press for coining, and received sentence accordingly. A reprieve, however, was granted, while some doubtful points were submitted to the judges, and in this interval Mr. Horton slipped through the gaoler's door, mounted a good horse, which was waiting in the Gorse Stables, and got to London, where he lived and died in obscurity. On the 4th of September following, Mr. Jekyll ordered his men to the town-hall to inquire into the escape; which being acquitted the gaoler, but fined the city sheriff in the sum of one hundred marks.

* This was an excellent building, situated on the site of the present St. Mary's Church, and occupied by Thomas Bishop, Bishop of Exeter.

† Alderman Minningham's house.

Trinity Church stands on the north side of Watergate-street, to which adjoins the custom-house, but this will be noticed hereafter. A little lower down, on the opposite side, there is an ancient building, now occupied as cottages, but which, in its early days, was a mansion of notable repute. Its erection bears the date of 1591; its antiquity cannot be discovered from the street, the front being rebuilt with more modern brick-work. But on entering a narrow court a few paces below Nicholas-street, the sides of the venerable edifice rise full in view. This decayed mansion is a striking illustration of the mutability of all human affairs. I believe it was formerly the city residence of the Derby family, which is the more probable, on account of its contiguity to the Watergate, of which the Earl of Derby had the custody. This much, however, is certain, that it was in possession of the family, and descended to the Alderley branch; it is now the joint property of Mr. E. Hodgkinson and Mr. Boden, builders. About the middle of the last century, it was occupied by the father of Henry Fesketh, Esq. and I am credibly informed, that during the recess, was a place of general resort for the carriage of gentlemen, who visited Chester during those activities. The outside of the building is chiefly formed of upright beams and transverse pieces of wood, the intervals filled up with laths and mortar; eight antique figures radiating curved in wood decorate the upright beams. At the commencement of the last century, it was probably the only dwelling-house on either side, which stood between the east side of Nicholas and Lincenhall-streets, and the Watergate; except the old mansion, occupied by Dr. Currie, which formerly belonged to the Brooke's, of Norton Priory.

Continuing down the street, we pass the elegant mansion of H. Potts, Esq. a handsome brick building erected by that gentleman a few years ago, on the site of an old-fashioned house, formerly the residence of Dr. Currie. The front of this edifice has a north-east aspect, and the ground behind it, which are enclosed on three sides by a high wall, are spacious; while the view, and

the Roodey, and towards the Welsh hills is exquisitely delightful. On the other side the street, is a range of genteel modern houses, occupied by families of independence, or the more respectable of our tradesmen.

This will terminate our observations on Water-gate-street in a direct line, nearly to the gate, of which a description has already been given, as well as of its predecessor. I must, however, return again to the cross, for the purpose of briefly noticing the small streets which branch out of it.

Descending therefore again from the cross, a few paces bring us to an avenue on the north side, called Goss-street, and known by the same appellation in the survey of the time of Edward III. except that it then bore the more humble appellation of *lan*. But a few years ago there was no thoroughfare here: but a passage has been opened at the upper end, leading to some recent buildings called Hamilton-place, in which are two small places of worship, one devoted to the service of a branch of the Baptist, and the other to that of the Wesleyan Welsh Methodists. From hence also is a convenient foot communication with the fish-shambles on the one hand, and on the other, with the western parts of the city.

Lower down the street, also on the north is Crook-street, anciently called *Geard's-lane*, which, says the old survey, *lieth upon Parson's-lan* (now Princess-street). In this street stands the oldest dissenting meeting-house in the city, originally built for the celebrated St. John Henry, in which he officiated as minister for twenty-five years. Below this street, still on the north, is Trinity street, on one side of the entrance to which stands Trinity church, and on the other the mansion of Henry H. Hen, jun. Esq. It is a narrow inconmodious thoroughfare, in which, however, is situated the stamp-office, and a good chapel, occupied by the Methodist New Connexion. On the other side, immediately opposite, is Weaver-street, formerly named *St. Alban-lane*, which terminates by the end of Cornmarket-street, and carries into

White-frairs. Lincenhall-street, lies a little lower down on the north-side of the street, at the corner of which stands the custom-house for the port of Chester, which, though a comparatively new building, is amply sufficient for the necessary business. An old description says, "out of this street in ancient time, went a lane to St. Chad's church, *now ruined and gone*, called *Chad's-lane*, (probably Martin's-in-the-fields) and from that church there did go a lane to the walls, which was called *Logg-lane*."

Nicholas-street stands immediately opposite the south end of Lincenhall-street; wide and uniform on one side, containing some handsome modern brick buildings in the London style, with sunken kitchens, inclosed with a neat iron railing, built in 1781. From the south end of it, there is a fine spacious way leading up to the castle, intersected by the road leading from Grosvenor-street to the new bridge; on the right, Mrs. Harrison's mansion and grounds, neatly bounded by iron palliading, formerly known as the Nuns'-gardens; and on the left, the new church of St. Bridget, occupying the site of a miserable range of huts, called Nuns'-lane, taken down about fifteen years ago, to make way for those elegant improvements since carried into effect. There are two avenues on the west side of Nicholas-street, leading to the walls; the one, Smith's-walk, is of modern date, and seems to have been intended chiefly as a way to the large house called *St. O's*, belonging to Captain Wreath; within the last thirty years it was esteemed a private road, being entered from the street by a gate thrown across the path, over which was a large arch. The other avenue, though much less commodious, is certainly of high antiquity, being mentioned in the survey of Edward III.; it is now called *Wall's-lane*, though it was formerly known by the name of *Arden's-lane*. On the other side of the way stand the church of St. Martin's, a neat brick building, and

* In the order of March 1279, a narrow lane, from the High-street to the right, was assigned for the use of this lane, he used to a cart, and breaking down the wall, he put over the wall, on the Road, without the City-gate.

with stone, on each side of which there is a street leading to Bridge-street, namely, White-frairs, so called from having formerly been the site of a religious house; and Coppin-street, in which are situated the works of the gas-company, and an extensive soap manufactory, carried on by Messrs. Hodson and Witter.

The last opening from Watergate-street, is an avenue to several genteel modern buildings on the north, called Stanley-place, in which many of our city gentry reside; the situation is delightfully pleasant and airy, the one end opening to the walls, the other denked by the boundary wall, of the new Irish linen-hall. The latter is an extensive brick building, of a quadrangular form, inclosing a spacious area. The Irish linens were formerly exposed to sale in a building, on the east side of North-gate-street, near the cathedral, and which is still known by the name of the old Linnen-hall. The present hall was built for the purpose by some of the principal of the linen-merchants, in 1778; it contains thirty-six double, and twenty-four single shops.

For many years the Irish Linnen-merchants have ceased to import their Linens direct for Chester: that trade has taken an entirely new direction; and in consequence, very few of these shops are let at our Midsummer or Michaelmas fairs. It is understood that the proprietors are desirous of disposing of the whole concern.

Passing under the Water-gate, there are four long ranges of houses, two of them forming Middle Crane-street, and one on either side, that on the south called Paradise-row. The latter exactly faces the Noodeye, of which it commands an entire view, and these are some of the most pleasant residences in or without the city. Lower down are warehouses and offices, connected with the wharfs, up to which laden vessels of upwards of 500 tons occasionally come at high spring tides. On the west side of the Noodeye stands the house of industry,* adjoining to which are the extensive paper manufactory and linen

* See Public Buildings.

foundry, carried on by Alderman George Harrison, and the ship yard of Mr. Mulvey, in which vessels as high as 500 tons have been built. The Chester-built vessels have always been esteemed of the very first order.

NORTH-WIND-STREET.—The entrance into this street is still narrow and inconvenient, but was much more so before the removal of the old Pentice, and the taking down the shops beneath in 1803. The houses on the eastern side are constantly acquiring a more modern aspect, by the taking down of the old, to make way for new buildings. St. Peter's church bounds the western side, adjoining to which stand the commercial buildings, a handsome stone edifice; the ground floor in the front occupied as two handsome shops, and the premises behind, by the city library, and a subscription news-room. From hence comes the shoemaker's-row, from what circumstance so called I cannot learn, but probably owing to the Crispin brotherhood having formerly made it their market-place, or residence. The inequality of the surface, which, as before observed, forms the rows, tapers off here, till it presents a level at the fish-shauntes, and from thence, these conveniences are entirely discontinued.

Opposite to this row is the theatre royal, which, standing within the line of the other buildings, is not observable as a public edifice. The citizens of Chester appear to have been early distinguished for a love of theatricals, a taste probably acquired by the exhibition of the *Whitson plays*, as already noticed. It appears likewise that the city was early visited by companies of strolling comedians; for in 1616, the mayor issued an order, "that no players be allowed to act in the corner-hall (the present theatre); and further, that for avoiding several inconveniences, they shall not act in any place within the liberties of the city, *after six in the evening*." The Chester theatre was erected by a company of proprietors in 1773, on the site of St. Nicholas church, and opened the same year under the management of Messrs. Austin and Heaton. In 1777, the mayor thought fit to issue an edict against the further continuance of dramatic

performances, probably thinking them more demanding than the usual *ball-ball*, exhibited in presence and under the sanction of his worship and his "ancient and observant wisdom." In this emergency the proprietors applied to the crown, and obtained a patent, dated 16th of May, 1777, in the name of G. Townshend, Esq., constituting their theatre a theatre-royal. The theatre is originally fitted up, was calculated to contain about 1000; but Mr. Lewis, the Lessee of the Liverpool theatre, took a lease of it in the spring of 1828, and by raising the ceiling, obtained room for an additional tier of boxes, by which, and other enlargements, the house is now capable of containing 1700, and is altogether one of the most elegant and commodious of any out of the metropolis.

From the end of Shoemaker's-row to the Exchange, distant about fifty paces, is an open area, the left being occupied by a newly-built fish-market, the centre by the vendors of vegetables; and still further to the left, is the bank of Messrs. Dixon and Wardell, and the White Lion Hotel, where a respectable coaching establishment is, and has for many years been carried on. The street here is very wide, and nearly in the centre, stands the Exchange, a noble brick building, ornamented with stone work, through which there is an excellent thoroughfare, the western side being at present, though not in its early days, occupied by shops, and the eastern resting on round pillars of stone.*

Crossing a narrow avenue from the north end of the Exchange, and we enter through an iron-gated door, the market-house appropriated for the sale of butter, on the market-days, in which also is a similar door in the centre of each side. Six or eight yards apart from this,

* Within these pillars the meetings for carrying on the business of the courts, are always held, where every Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, the most interesting trials are held, and the law is generally considered in the most judicious manner, when every noble and noble, the most distinguished, high in rank, power, and importance as a lord of a county.

* Upon the site of this building stood a small square one of three stories of pillars, the most solid and beautiful, and one of the most interesting

in a direct line is another building of equal breadth, but longer, for butcher's meat, both of which are neatly fitted up for their respective purposes, and are well ventilated by a number of half circular openings at the upper sides of the walls; these are built of brick pointed with stone, roofed in, and lighted from the top. The market for poultry is on the east side of the street, opposite the Exchange, occupying the site of the old Engine-house.* Its back is formed by the outward wall of the Bishop's Palace, from whence a slated penthouse descends in an oblique direction nearly as far as the walking path in the street, for the purpose of shelter, and along the front is a neat iron pallsading. The width of the area within is about six yards, and in length it reaches from the end of Werburgh-street to the Abbey-gate. The potatoe-market, which was formerly held on the east side of the Exchange, where numbers of carts crowded that narrow part of the street, has been removed to the west side of the upper part of Northgate-street, where a sufficiently capacious opening has been made by the pulling down of some old houses belonging to the Corporation.

Before these improvements were made, the state of the markets was highly discreditable to the city of Chester. The flesh-market consisted of a collection of covered wooden stalls, crowded together on the north of the Exchange, and generally kept in a very filthy condition; and a similar nuisance, on the south, served for a fish-market; whilst vegetables and fruits were scattered promiscuously in various quarters. The dealers in poultry and butter displayed their commodities, sometimes in

*was brought from the Exchange, and had continued there from the year 1671; but, when, on the improvement of the markets, was removed to the upper end of Northgate-street.

The church here was erected about the year 1200, by the Duke of Chester, who had Lancaster for a fief; but the nave, which is all that is left of the city, remains unfinished. It was anciently supported by such stone beams, ornamented with carved Gothic carvings. An earthquake was played round it in 1612, and the chief work consisted in the removal of the beams.

Eastgate, and sometimes in Bridge-street, without any accommodations, or shelter from the inclemency of the weather. For several years complaints against this inconvenience had been general, both among buyers and sellers; the latter suffered in an extreme degree, as they were destined not infrequently to stand for six or eight hours up to the ankles in mud, and such, besides, the "peltings of the pitiless storm," before they could dispose of their wares. I cannot here help expressing my conviction, that the improvements were materially accelerated by the labour and energy of the public press, which was constantly on the alert, in urging the necessity and advantage of better accommodations. But the credit, the entire credit of the new markets, is immediately to be ascribed to the discernment and firmness of the late Ald. H. Bowers, who during his second magistracy of 1827-8, succeeded in originating plans for, and nearly seeing executed, during the term of his office, the erection of the market-halls. As might be expected, great opposition was made by owners of property, whose markets had been partially sold before; but if we are to wait for improvements until all interests give their consent, the idea of advancement must be abandoned for ever. Mr. Royle was the contractor, and builder of the markets.

Over against the market-halls, on the east side of the street, stands the Abbey gate, consisting of a lofty pointed arch, with a postern at the side, both of which are included in a larger oblong arch. The interior of the gateway is vaulted with stone, with ribs, and carved key-stones, at the intersections; and the rooms, now used as the registry, were originally approached by a spiral stair-case.* On the south side was the porter's lodge,

* An incident connected with these markets, and occurred about forty years ago, is still remembered and well known by many of our country gossips. A Mr. Speck, the then sheriff, was employed to sell the contents of one of the numerous fruit and vegetable shops, which were situated in that narrow passage, parallel to the market-halls. Before of an unlaboured use very long, he had been used as a store. The first one he was sold to, that she opened one of the windows looking into the market-halls, from which she threw down a large quantity of apples, which were scattered

and on the other, St. Thomas's Court, to which the tenants of several abbey manors still render rent and service. Before this gate were anciently ranged the booths for the merchants frequenting the abbots' fair, covered with red, which the monks were empowered by an especial charter to gather from Standlaw Marsh; and here also the performers in the Chester mysteries commenced the exhibition of their pageants.

On marching through the arched gate-way we enter into Abbeysquare. On the right hand is a double wall, enclosing the episcopal palace, a good stone building, but as desirous of magnificence, as it is of elegance. The edifice was wholly rebuilt by Bishop Keene, out of his private property, at an expense of 2200*l.* soon after his promotion to the see in 1752. The east side of the square contains only two good houses, one at each extremity, the interval being occupied by smaller dwellings. The north and west sides are filled up with elegant buildings, occupied by some of our first quality. The two end houses adjoining the gate stand on the site of an old edifice, called the prison-house.* On pulling down the latter, about five years ago, a narrow cell was discovered on the first floor, from which Al high was excluded, in which, it is said, that martyr to popish cruelty, George Marsh, was immured, previous to his execution at Buryton.

In the middle of the square, there is a beautiful shrubbery of a circular form, inclosed with iron pallisading, having in the centre an elliptic column. This column, consisting of one stone, formerly served a station as a support to the Exchange; and I give its history in the words of the late Alderman P. Broster, as they appear in some MS. collection of that gentleman: "In 1750, it was discovered, that all the west side of the Exchange had given way, and was ready to fall. Mr. Turner, an architect, was sent for from Wiltshire, to

* In which some persons, who were the victims of the same cruel and unchristian barbarous treatment.

* See the account of this cell in the same.

it was for the fire engines, and other suitable apparatus. The arrangements for the improvement of police regulations are now made in the superior ranks of a military and have adopted a more military method of appointment and promotion. The training appears to be excellent.

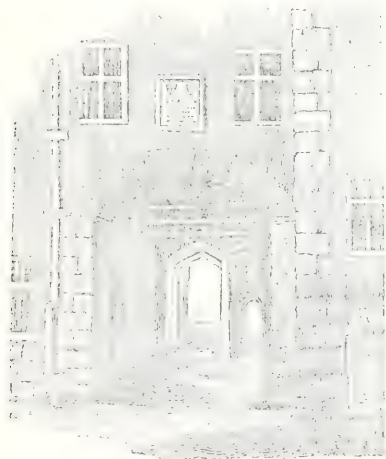
From the early adjoining distilleries the distillation house and extensive brewery occupied the site. This process in the early part of the 17th century was completed as brewing which was estimated one of the principal distilleries near the name of *The Dublin distillery*. In 1691 was held by a family of the name of *Deane*. There is no incident or two connected with this brewery including the truth of which I took may be called on as they rest on an authority already quoted, viz. by the MS. remains of the late *Admiral Boscawen*. In the year 1714, he in a voyage of Spain, the 20th, 21st, 22nd, the first lieutenant of Ireland, in his journey to London stopped at *Deane's*, till the wind served for his to pursue his journey. On the morning, the 21st, the waiters were setting out, one of the waiters ran to a house that he had a quantity, to demand payment for some articles which he had omitted to discharge. The waiter refused to pay, and the waiter, holding his sword, being held out before him, before he could do his duty, upon which the servant drew a pistol, and shot him, and soon the waiter dead upon the spot. The waiter being inspected, the lord commandant ordered that the body should be conveyed to a house, and the waiter sent to him, that he may be ready by the bag for his purpose. His presence was cited and found guilty. The mayor being informed, in a direction, ordered the commandant replied, "I will take care to save his body by and the lord commandant, a rich reward, and the waiter, and ordered the man to be executed the next morning, and the man.

The other record is no less curious than the above. *Mr. Samuel Davis* was a ribbon weaver, kept a small shop under the counter's-row, opposite *Bartholomew's*, and

born in a high house adjoining the Lincoln inn. It was observed, however, that this individual's sudden emergence from poverty and obscurity to respectability and affluence, without the appearance of any extraordinary change of circumstances. It is said, that an excellent banking-house in London had been robbed of a large sum of money by one of the clerks, who, consulting with the property, came down to Chester, and took up his domicile at the Falcon. He was pursued, and at a late hour one night, whilst he was in bed, he heard his pursuers below stairs; upon which he rose up, threw his bags, containing his treasure, through the chimney's lattice, which looked into a small area belonging to Mr. Jarvis's house, and went to bed again. He was secured and conveyed to London, but none of the property having been found upon him, he escaped confinement; but subsequently for another offence was found guilty and executed. It is added, that Mr. Jarvis found the bags in the morning in the same, which circumstance corroborated by the fact, that he had not only afterwards commenced a silk manufactory near his house, but also purchased a large estate in Middlesex, near Chester, where he built a handsome house, lately occupied by Mr. Roberts. He dying without issue, his property came to a person of the name of Deb, a gamester at Greg's Pit, near the Bowling-green, whose descendants in the second generation had squandered the property, and left no male issue. Mr. Jarvis served the office of mayor of Chester in 1723; and at the time of his death, was elected down for High sheriff of the county in ensuing year. He was buried near the altar-tomb, next to St. Oswald's church.

The streets and avenues which diverge from the bridge-street within the walls, are, on the west, Prince's-street, leading towards the Water-gate; King-street, commonly called *Beauchamp*; at the east end of which is an elegant range of houses, called *Hill-top*; Milling-street, to another line of neat dwellings, called *Martin's*; and the Fields; and close to the *Water-gate*, a street called

under and parallel with the walls, as far as the Water-tower, which was anciently denominated *Beeg-lane*. There are no other thoroughfares on the east side, than those already mentioned, Verulam-street, Abbey-court, and the Little Abbey-gate. A view and description has already been given of the present North-gate (vol. i. page 36.), and the following is a pretty correct representation of the old gate before it was taken down:—



Immediately after passing under this gate, we cross an arch thrown over the Elmsmere canal, which, however, is now a corn-mill from the street, and an entire level is preserved. Each side of the arch or bridge, is well guarded by an iron railing, from the tremendous precipice below. On the left hand, close to this spot, stands the ancient hospital of St. John, better known as the blue-coat school, the south wing of which is occupied as a chapel for divine worship, according to the form of the church of England: it is extra-parochial, is dedicated

named Little St. John's, and is in the patronage of the corporation. The centre is occupied by the school, and the parishes only are used as a title, but not as a name for either purposes. The schools which are several, and are used for aged school-boys, and there are only two in this sub-parish, I will pass.

Close adjoining to this building on the north side is a road leading to the canal church, or in whence a packet sails daily for Liverpool, which has lately received the name of Canal-street; one of which diverges another path, leading to Stone-bridge, the bulk, &c. Exactly opposite the top of Canal-street is a cross-street, leading to New-town and Flooker-hill, and lying on the left a lane, denominated Windmill-lane, and a windmill stands at its extremity near the bridge, where the monks of St. Werburgh, and afterwards the tenants of the demesne church had the privilege of holding their court. Nearly at the top of the south side of this street is the diocesan school, 50 feet long, by 33 wide; it was built by public subscription in 1813, and is under the patronage of the bishop of the diocese.

There is no particular object in Parish Northgate-street, that claims any particular notice, either from the historian or antiquarian. It contains a few good houses, but they are thinly scattered amongst many inferior ones; the street, however, is wide and spacious, and forms it no, an elegant, at least a commodious entry to this part of the city. At the further end, there are two roads verging from the centre, the one on the left hand leading to Mollington and Parkgate; the other, on the right, conducing to Clisburn, and the Liverpool ferries on the Mersey. On the ground in front, which divides these roads, is an excellent brick building, which appears to great advantage, built by, and the residence of, J. Deane, Esq. The top of this mansion is seen from Waterloo, being but a minute's walk, and is extremely well calculated, on account of its great elevation, particularly on the western point for such a purpose. On Liverpool formerly stood the church of St. Thomas of Cantuar-

the cross, which is distinctly marked on the plan of Cross-street published by Daniel Blinck, and probably taken from the same. A contemporary says, it was converted into a street, the only Alderman Richard Dutton, who survived of his namesake's family, in 1627, and was afterwards called *St. Peter's Street*. In 1655, it started its name of Cross-street, in the suburbs, and was detached, that it might be allotted to the enemy, during the siege. I have been informed, that in turning up the ground in Mr. Fletcher's garden, at the site of building his house, numerous reliques were found, indicative of the site having been a place of ancient sepulchres.

A little beyond Mr. Fletcher's house, on the eastern side, there is an excellent stone mansion built about a dozen years ago, by the late Maseic Taylor, Esq.; and here occupied by the late Rev. Mr. Moineux; and on the opposite side of the road, another has been erected by Mr. John Lewis, comptroller of the customs. These are both delightfully situated, and the grounds tastefully laid out. But I am reminded, that I have travelled as far in the direction as my proposed plan will allow; and must, as a fitting passage to this extensive view, in a separate article, of the suburbs. I must, therefore, at present return to the Cross, in order to complete my description, leading, by a survey of

ST. PETER'S CHURCH—This street is 350 yards long, and 100 feet wide and commodious: it is divided into *Upper and Lower*, the division being marked by St. Michael's church and the road leading to the new bridge. The view from the Cross extends nearly to the bottom of the street, and the variety in the buildings, in old time intermingled the antique and the modern, of which a splendid remnant presents a conspicuous appearance. In the case of the modern buildings, are more regular and elegant in the street, than is considerably common elsewhere. The view, by the tower of St. Michael's, the street, steps on to the church, which is a most respectable monument being (I apprehend) completed by its original architect.

grocers, emporia, and other retail dealers. The principal part of the city is in no place more conspicuous than in this interesting street. Every gradation of architecture, from the rickety shabby wooden hut, to the open airy commodious hotel, is here displayed; and it is not perhaps the least worthy of observation, to see the awkward confinement of low close rooms, gradually yielding to the more healthful taste of modern building. The original plan of the houses (if there was any plan at all) seems to have been in the cottage style, with the gable end of each to face the street. This mode certainly gives great extent of premises behind, but renders the lower rooms and stair-cases rather dark. The curious observer will discover in *Allin's street*, that the square brick houses, of which the houses are built, were intended to be of the same height as the houses which have been erected since, and which will therefore be a striking proof of its original formation. In this part of the city a great deal of business is carried on, it being the only thoroughfare to and from the principal part. It is to be regretted that while the magistrates were finding upon a suitable place for markets for the sale of various commodities, they did not appoint some other mart than this street for that purpose. The long range of coal carts, sometimes extending in a line from below *Pepper-street* to the *Feathers hotel*, is a nuisance that ought to be abated; and besides, taking into account the conflux of people and the numbers of carriages frequently collected together, renders their station here not less dangerous than disagreeable.

The first turning from *Bridge-street* on the right hand, is *Commonhall-street*, which is thus described by old Webb:—"As you descend from the High Cross, upon the west side lyes a lane anciently called *Norman's-lane*, and may yet call it *Commonhall-lane*, because it was situate at a great hall, where the pleas of the city and the courts whereof, and meetings of the mayor and his brethren were once holden, and it joins to *Allin's-lane*." (*Waver's-lane*). There seems to be some difficulty in fixing the exact spot where the eastern end of the street

has been affirmed by some, that it occupied the site of a building used by Mr. Wilcoxon, as a dissenting meeting-house; but by others, particularly Ormerod, with greater probability, that it stood on the *south* side of the street, near to several almshouses which are still existing, and where previously stood a decayed chapel, dedicated to St. Ursula.* On the south side of this street also stood the monastery of the White Friars, or Carmelites, which exhibited a fine spire, built in 1496, and taken down in 1597; the antiquarian Webb pathetically laments the removal of this ornament, in the following language:—“It was a great pity that the steeple was put away, being a great ornament to the city. This curious spire steeple might still have stood for grace to the city, had not private benefit, the devourer of antiquity, pulled it down with the church, and erected a house for more commodity, which since hath been of little use, so that the oldest so goodly an ornament, that times hereafter may more talk of it, being the only sea-mark for direction over the bar of Chester.” Commonhall-street contains likewise a Welsh Calvinistic chapel, and an extensive sheet manufactory, with a high circular tower, built by the late Mr. John Mellor, and now carried on by Mr. Ellis.

A little lower down Bridge-street, on the same side is a fine old house, which was formerly the residence of the *Lord of the Manor*, and which was built by the late *Lord of the Manor*, though in the time of the ancient survey had been passed to the commonhall, and was called *Peppercott Lane*. Immediately opposite this spot, is the rather *Discreet* man of very superior character, and now kept by Mr. William Jones. With this house is connected an extensive coaching establishment, from whence conveyance may be had to every part of the kingdom, and the conduct is sustained with commendable spirit, under the auspices of Messrs. Jones and Herbert. Close to this shop, the still preserved in a tolerably perfect state, there remains

* The site of the chapel is now occupied by the *Northgate*, and the *Southgate*, which are the only gates of the city.

a hypocaut, and of a sweating bath, formerly much in use among the Romans, as a superlative luxury, which will be more particularly noticed in our description of *Domus Antiquæ*. A narrow and inconvenient passage lies a few paces below, called the Feathers-lane, at the top of which are the stabling and coach-houses of the inn. The continuity of the row is broken by this passage, on each side of which there is necessarily a steep flight of steps, to connect the upper with the lower part of the walk, which is both dangerous and unseemly. As this road belongs of right to the proprietor of the Feathers inn, it is too much to expect that it will be relinquished for the public convenience; but it is a subject of surprise, if not of censure, that the police commissioners have not long since entered into some arrangement with the owner, to block it up, particularly as the back part of the premises might be easily approached from Pepper-street. As the value of the property from this lane to Michael's church is materially deteriorated by this interruption of the row, it is not less wonderful that the owners conjointly have not seen it to be their interest to effect such a compromise.

About eighty paces below this lane, on the same side, stands St. Michael's church, through the arched porch of which the row is continued, and here terminates. On the opposite side of the street, stood the church of St. Bridget, and this quarter, from the contiguity of the two sacred edifices, received the appellation of *The Two Churches*. A gateway formerly crossed the street between St. Bridget's and St. Michael's churches, dividing the Higher from the Lower Bridge-street.

From the commencement of the extensive improvements and alterations in and about our castle and county-hall, a new bridge across the Dee, from the south-eastern angle of the Roodey, with approaches to it suitable to the magnitude of the undertaking, was unobtrusively contemplated by the late Mr. Harrison, whom the county had the good fortune to engage as its chief architect. In the accomplishment of these operations, however, numerous and formidable obstacles were opposed.

particularly as they involved various conflicting interests. It was contended, that the erection of a new bridge on the proposed site, and the diversion of the road in that direction, would essentially lessen the value of all the property in Lower Bridge-street, and in Handbridge; and finally, that the old bridge and its approaches were capable of such improvements, as would render the project of but trifling advantage. The former branch of this argument was undoubtedly entitled to consideration, though probably the estimate of loss, as represented by the land-owners, was not a little exaggerated. As to the capabilities for improvement in the old structure, and the obstacles leading to and from it, though admitted to a certain extent, there are physical causes beyond the power of removal, which render that line of road unacceptible of convenience or commodiousness. The steepness of the hill on the Handbridge side of the river, with the suddenness and narrowness of its turn at the summit, and the great acclivity of the lower part of Bridge-street, will always necessarily render this road for carriages both difficult and dangerous. Nor, in estimating the comparative advantages of the two lines, should it be forgotten, that from the centre of the city a new one, besides preserving a perfect level, will save several hundred yards in point of distance. With those who calculate only on the principle of *immediate* profit or loss in pounds, shillings and pence, all arguments in favor of the improved *appearance* of the city, would pass for nothing; but men of taste, and those who look forward with enlarged minds to ultimate results, will see abundant reason for present admiration as well as future anticipation of advantage, from the completion of the plan now in progress. Before the commencement of these, our fine castle, county-hall, and the circumjacent buildings connected therewith, the finest specimens of public rural beauty in Europe, were almost entirely obscured from public observation; while the principal and almost only approach to them was by a narrow, uneven street or lane, leading at one extremity of the city, where there is hardly

room for two carriages to stand abreast. By the erection of the new road, all these attractive objects are thrown open to full view, to which is superadded, the beautiful stone church of St. Bridget; and when the new bridge, unrivalled for the dimensions of its arch, is completed, and the line of road perfected to Overleigh, we shall have one of the richest promenades that can be imagined.

It is impossible to contemplate the consummation of these improvements, not less useful than ornamental, without being assured that our city will become a point of general attraction. The new bridge at Bangor has drawn thousands of people from every part of the kingdom to behold it as a curiosity; and the neighbourhood has been essentially benefited by the amazing influx of strangers. If the bridge at Chester be not so striking an object of rarity, it will nevertheless command peculiar attention, as being unique in its kind, and not to be paralleled in this or any other country. We know, too, that the beauties and embellishments of any place have no small influence in determining the domicile of individuals and families who have not previously a localized habitation. In whatever point of view the subject is considered, and taking into account the additional tolls, necessarily created by the expence, to me it appears certain, that the remuneration, even in a pecuniary sense, will more than compensate for the requisite sacrifice.

It has already been remarked, that although several intelligent and influential individuals incessantly urged the advantage of a new bridge, with suitable approaches, numbers of others were opposed to them. However, on the 18th September, 1818, a town's meeting was held in the Exchange, at which the two following, among other resolutions, were adopted:—“That the erection of another bridge, in addition to the present one, would be highly beneficial to the public at large—to the county and city of Chester in particular; and as a national undertaking most important to the increase of the commerce of the Kingdom.”

Wales, and Ireland. That notice be immediately given in order that application may be made to parliament at the ensuing session, by Mr. Finchett, and that the business relating thereto be transacted by him, as solicitor to the undertaking," &c. These resolutions were rendered abortive by the violent opposition made to the measure, and the project was destined to slumber for nearly another seven years. In 1824, however, the plan was revived with increased energies, and in the month of June the following year, an act of parliament was passed to carry the improvements into effect. By this act, powers were taken by commissioners for the erection of the bridge, making the approaches, pulling down St. Bridget's church, and rebuilding it on another site, as well as for widening the old bridge. The three last objects have been accomplished at the time I write (July, 1830) and the first is in a considerable state of forwardness. The new line of road commences from the end of Pepper-street, taking in the site of the late St. Bridget's church, crossing in an oblique direction Cuppin and Bunce-streets, and passing further on, the extreme ends of Nicholas and Castle-street, where, on the left, stands the grand entrance gate to the esplanade and the castle. The road will then proceed in a direct line over, and on a level with the walking path of the walls to the bridge, and so on till it reaches Overleigh, where it joins the Denbighshire and Flintshire roads.

It is a subject of deep regret, that the commissioners did not obtain powers by the act of parliament, for purchasing a sufficient quantity of land on each side the new road to build a range of good houses from the entrance from Bridge-street to St. Bridget's church, and for compelling persons to build on a prescribed plan. There is probably no situation in or about the city possessing such imposing claims to elegant buildings: and yet, for want of the precaution just mentioned, the present appearance is unseemly and paltry. In one place is a dead wall, thirty or forty yards long, in another, broken fragments of mean houses, here an old barn or stable,...

the Corporation, and the Corporation, in 1858, had to make a deal for the use of land the works of the gas company, and an extensive sewerage. I believe the commissioners, as well as the public, see and resent that want of foresight which leaves this most interesting portion of the city in so miserable a condition; and I learn efforts are now making for a new application to parliament, for enlarged powers to accomplish that which ought to have been secured by the original measure of legislation. Some plans for an elegant street here have been circulated, but as there are many conflicting interests, I am quite satisfied, that unless another act of parliament be obtained, they will never be carried into execution. An account of the new bridge will be found under the head of "Public Buildings." To this skeleton of a street, the public commissioners have affixed the name of *Geostour-street*.

The first building in this road, and two good shop-fronting Bridge-street, stand on the site of an old edifice, formerly well known in Chester, by the name of the *Lamb Row*. On the basement floor were two or three small shops; the first floor, in front of which was an open space of several yards, was ascended by a flight of stone steps outside, going from Coppin-street, and the upper part of the building was supported by clumsy wooden pillars. The frame-work was of wood, and the insertions of hazel twigs, plastered over with clay and mortar. The exact period of the erection of this building is not known; it was probably about the middle of the 17th century, and it was most likely the residence of one of the Randal Holmes. Both these speculations are supported by the records of the corporation; in 1679, there is an entry, and that "the nuisance erected by Randal Holme in *his new building* in Bridge-street (near to the two churches) be taken down, as it annoys his neighbours, and hinders their prospect from their houses." The following year, "Mr. Holme, painter, was fined 6*l.* 8*s.* for coming up to the Mayor, in proceeding in his building in Bridge-street." It appears, however, that the building was not taken down.

It was subsequently converted into a tavern, bearing an outward and visible sign of *The Lark*, from whence arose the name of the *Lark Row*. The accompanying sketch of this old structure will convey a better idea of its dangerous and dilapidated state than any written description, by which it will be seen that the upper part overhangs the base, and bent forward in an alarming position. In May, 1821, *Time*, the slow but certain conqueror of all human skill, with an invisible hand, touched the edifice, and the whole front of the upper apartments, with the fore part of the roof, fell suddenly into the street. Although this happened while several of the inmates were in the interior, and at the noon-time of day, when many persons were walking to and fro in the street, not the slightest injury was sustained by any one. The ruins and the ground on which they stood, were purchased by Edward Roberts, Esq. who built several good shops upon the site; but it will be a subject of lasting regret, that some amicable arrangements were not come to, for these buildings being thrown further back, so as to widen the street, which in this part is the narrowest and most inconvenient.

Cuppin's-street, so called, as tradition says, from licensed bagnios, or *cupping-houses*, being situated here, is immediately on the south side of the buildings just mentioned: it is cut in two by the intersection of the new street; is but narrow, with many indifferent houses, and terminates at Martin's Ash, near St. Martin's church. Pepper-street lies on the east side of Bridge-street, to which St. Michael's church adjoins, but is worthy of no farther notice, than that it leads to the New-gate, New-gate-street, and the top of Park-street. The description of the remaining avenues from this street shall be given in the words of the antiquarian Webb, which is nearly applicable to the present time:—"Over against St. Olave's church lyeth Castle-lane, leading to the castle, on the south side of which lyeth another lane that leadeth to St. Mary's church. And on the east side of

Bridge-street, by St. Olive's church, byth St. Clay's lane. Beneath which, on the same side, is Clayton or Clayton's lane (now Duke-street), which butts upon the walls of the city. And on the other side, over against Clayton's-lane, lies a way out of the Bridge-rect, that leads to St. Mary's church, and anciently also was the way to Shipgate, which was then a fair gate in the wall belonging to the ferry, at which, before the building of the bridge over the Dee, both horse and man had passage into the city."

Before I take leave of this street, it may be proper to notice one or two circumstances. Within these few years, an excellent hotel has been established here, called the Albion Hotel, on premises formerly held by the late Bagot Read, Esq. elegantly fitted up, to which more recently has been added a commodious assembly-room, and behind the premises is an extensive piece of ground laid out as a bowling-green and a lawn-tennis. Immediately opposite, an excellent house, lately occupied by the Misses Hunt, and connected with the proprietary of the hotel, has been converted into a subscription news-room, to which billiard-rooms, and other conveniences for public purposes, are appended. Just below Castle-street, on the west side, is an ancient structure, to which there is an ascent by a high flight of steps, the court within being known by the name of the *Bowling-school-yard*. This house, which fronts the street, was formerly the residence of Sir Francis Gamul, who was a prominent character during the siege, and it was in this mansion, that the unfortunate Charles I. took up his residence during his short and disturbed stay in the city. The house and outbuildings behind are now divided into several dwellings of an inferior grade; and this property, with that of the Dee mills, passed by purchase from the representatives of the Gamul family, to the late E. O. Wrench, Esq. whose descendant now possesses it. Even in its ruins, there are yet in the exterior some remains of its former magnificence; particularly in one of the

principal rooms, where the chimney-piece is decorated in a superior manner, with the Gamul arms painted in the centre, probably the work of the first Bandal Holme. It seldom happens that degradation follows magnificence, without some intermediate gradations; and this is true in reference to this once abode of royalty. Between the years 1769 and 1770, these premises were occupied by a Mr. Trench, who kept an academy for dancing, and a most respectable boarding-school, from which circumstance, the present name of the place is derived. Contemporary with Mr. Trench, as a dancing-master in Chester, was a Mr. Pickmore, who also obtained some celebrity as a teacher in this line. There is a curious coincidence worthy notice, involved in the immediate descendants of these gentlemen. The son of Mr. Trench entered the army as a lieutenant in the marines, in which capacity he was employed by government on a voyage to the then infant colony of New South Wales, of which, after his return in 1793, he published an excellent history; and, passing through the different gradations, was raised to the rank of general in the service, which he still sustains. Mr. Pickmore's son chose the navy for his scene of enterprise, and acquitted himself in such a satisfactory manner in his professional duties, as to obtain a rapid advancement to the rank of admiral, in which capacity he had lately a command on the Mediterranean station. Both these distinguished individuals are natives of Chester.

Opposite to Boarding-school-yard there is an obelisk structure, now used by Messrs. Newell and Gamal as an extensive brewery; the date of its erection is unknown, as well as the purpose to which it was formerly appropriated, but it may certainly be placed as early as the thirteenth century, and the row adjoining bears evident marks of remote architecture. In the interior are several passages, now blocked up, but what ornamentation they ever had is uncertain.

A very popular opinion has long prevailed, that there anciently existed subterranean passages to connect the main and various public buildings in the city, that is,

for what purpose, or why or when discontinued, is a point not known. His idea received the authority of the author of the *Polyconion*, who says, "In this epoch many moderns have come to and stone-warks are rarely wrought; the streets are paved." In remarking upon this passage, Mr. Peapack observes, that of these not a trace, nor even a faint memory is left, notwithstanding the most diligent search and inquiries have been made. There, says he, have never been discovered, by the frequent building of cellars, for new buildings on the site of the old, any foundations delivered no such account to us; nor is their course to be traced beneath the walls in any part of their circumference. It should be recollected, however, that Mr. Peapack wrote upwards of fifty years ago, and during his time a greater number of remains of antiquity has been discovered than before his time. I can not therefore be prepared to speak decidedly on the question, but certainly I am less sceptical on the affirmative part of it, than formerly. There is some difficulty attending on the breaking up of passages and ways several yards below the surface of the ground without a full and continuous set of continuous ways, and the purpose of them, and it is not certain whether their direct end at year's end, or probably, and is not to be denied or evaded. But what has most tended to incline me as a persuasion of the existence of these hollow ways, were the arrangements of a construction passage discovered on sinking the cellar for the building now standing on the site of the old bank-room. Here was found a distinctly marked road, about five to six, and more than five yards deep from the level, occupying the whole length of the building in an oblique direction, and without termination at either end. The road seemed to proceed in a direct line from the street of the old Ferry, situate between Linn and Chestnut streets, and ending at the street of the old Ferry, situate between Linn and Chestnut streets. While digging, taking a slanting direction, and not being oriented obliquely across them, as usual. At the same time, in searching this way to press, the nature being of the proceeding a course received into the wall, the wall of the building, which will be given when the next volume is published.

A little before arriving at the Bridge-gate, the street widens, and a range of good buildings on the east-side form what is called Bridge-place. The Bridge-gate has already been described (page 555), as well as the Dove mill and the bridge (pages 372-3), and nothing more remains for observation but the suburb of Handbridge, situate on the opposite bank of the river, within the parish of St. Mary-on-the-hill: it consists of narrow steep streets, built on a red rock, and almost exclusively inhabited by the lower orders. It was the property of the predecessor of the barons of Moutalt at the conquest, and having probably passed with that barony to the crown, is now a royal manor, and held by lease from the king by the present Egertons of Oulton. In Domesday-book, this vill is written *Brage*. In some deeds of the 10th Henry VIII. it is called *Handbridge*. Handbridge was the suburb that generally fell a sacrifice to the Welsh in their predatory excursions and attacks on the city; hence, in the British language it is called *Tre-boeth*, the *boeth* or *hot* town—significant of its having been the seat of border heat and contention.



The Cathedral.



PLAN OF THE INTERIOR.

"The Cathedral of Chester is a fine specimen of the
 Norman style, and is one of the most interesting
 remains of the old city. It is a large and
 beautiful building, and is one of the most
 interesting and valuable monuments of the
 Norman period in England. It is a fine
 specimen of the Norman style, and is one of
 the most interesting and valuable monuments
 of the Norman period in England."
Journal of the Architectural Association, London.

Our history of our country abounds with records of
 evidence of the overwhelming influence of the priesthood
 during the dark days of papal superstition, and there are
 perhaps none more palpable than the number and variety
 of religious communities scattered up and down the land.

and the enormous revenues with which they were endowed. And if this be a fact applicable to the Kingdom generally, it is more peculiarly so in reference to every city or town which was constituted a kind of metropolis to an ecclesiastical district. Immediately before, and at the time of the conquest, a servile devotedness to the authority of the clergy was in its zenith; and this was especially manifested by the founding of monasteries and churches, with plentiful endowments, as a work most acceptable to God, because recommended by His accredited messengers.

Of all places remarkable for the number of religious houses in ancient times, the city of Chester stood pre-eminently, and of those within the city, the cathedral has always been considered the most considerable. Before entering upon the parochial history, and a description of the parish churches, and the decayed religious establishments, it may therefore be expected, that some account should be given of this venerable pile. The principal parts of the present edifice is stated to have been erected in the reigns of Henry VI. VII. and VIII. but chiefly during the two last; though this must be understood only of the partial renewal of some portions of it, as there are innumerable evidences of its existence, in the remains of certain tombs and grave-stones still to be seen, in different places, over some of the first abbots and others who are interred here, centuries earlier than the above dates. The original foundation has already been noticed in the ecclesiastical history of the city.

In the early part of Henry the Eighth's reign, says Ormerod, the conventual buildings, occupied nearly, if not wholly, one fourth of the city. The walls connecting these, and inclosing the immediate abbey lands, extended in a direct line almost to the Northgate, intersecting the present double row of houses fronting the street and square, and which imaginary line still separates the abbey district from the parish. The city walls from thence formed their northern and eastern boundary as far as the end of Fredsham-street, between which and the abbey

their kitchen garden was situated, still called the *Kite-yard*, to which they had access by a passage through a *Went*, which is also still open, on the left side, as an inscription over the gate informs us. A small tablet near the *Went*-gate marks the boundary of the precincts on the southern side. Within this ample area were included the pleasure grounds, gardens, the residence of the abbot, and other superiors, together with those of subordinate rank, and various offices belonging to the domestic department of the abbey.

The cathedral, from whichever side it is viewed, presents a massive stupendous pile, and exhibits a pleasing variety of styles, in accordance with the taste of different ages: some parts decorated with elaborate workmanship, whilst others are perfectly simple and unadorned. Its general style may be termed the Norman-Gothic, though some specimens of the early Saxon are to be found in its minor beauties. In the *Magaz. Britanica*, the *Lytton*, in noticing the small circular arches in the exterior of the north wall of the nave, conjecture that they are as ancient as the time of *Leofric*, the Mercian earl, who repaired and beautified the church in the eleventh century; they are decidedly of Saxon architecture. The cathedral bears the form of an irregular cross, which may easily be accounted for on account of the different periods at which it was built; it has also been remarked, that it does not stand in a direct east and western direction, a circumstance also adduced in proof of its high antiquity.

The following dimensions have been given to the building by a late survey, said to be accurately taken:

External length.....	672 Feet
Internal do.....	560
The nave or head aisle.....	115
The choir.....	149
St. Mary's or East's chapel.....	68
Transept external 200, internal.....	180
Breadth, including aisles.....	717
Height of the ceiling.....	78
Depth of the chancel.....	53
Perch of the tower.....	427
Diameter of do.....	49

Birchenshaw in 1508; but the project was most likely abandoned for want of funds. The *south-porch* of the church is in the style of the same period. On the right from the western door stands a capacious font, with the following Latin inscription above it:—"Lacrimum Heu ad a juvenit baptisterium infans Gulielmus Mercurio marmoream idem instituit Episcopus Kildarsis. Ann. Dom. 1677."

Two descents by steps lead from the western entrance into the nave. The broad skirt of light transmitted through the five western windows discovers at once the beauty and ample dimensions of the noble aisle. It has been a subject of some speculation to account for its floor being so much below the level of the surrounding ground; but the circumstance is easily accounted for by the continual accession of matter conveyed into the cemetery for uses, while on the other hand nothing was removed therefrom. This can be clearly and satisfactorily illustrated by the removal of the choir from the external walls, the basement of which now exhibited several feet below the former surface.

A considerable portion of the cathedral is said to have been built, or rather re-edified by three successive abbots, Oldham, Ripley, and Birchenshaw, who sustained the office between the years 1152 and 1537. The tower to the centre, is ascribed to the first of these; the nave, or broad aisle, to the second; and to the third, some general modifications and additions. The centre aisle is divided from the side aisles by six pointed arches on each side, sprung from clustered columns, with capitals ornamented with foliage. Just above these arches, is an ambulatory, or narrow gallery, running with little intermission round the whole building; it is, however, in an unfinished state, there being a wooden railing but without the elegant quadrifolds, from which the detached, but extremely improved

* A. C. Colburn, in his *History of the Cathedral of Chester*, published in 1809, has also computed the tower to the centre as being the work of the first abbot, and the nave and side aisles as being the work of the second.

be the general ballustrading, and which, says a contemporary, has a strong resemblance to a similar work at Carlisle, of the fourteenth century.

In taking leave of the broad aisle, it may be observed that in this spacious place are occasionally held musical festivals for the benefit of the local charities, which always prove a rich treat to the lovers of harmony. The west end upon those occasions is fitted up as an orchestra, to the centre of which the organ is removed from its usual station. These meetings are usually attended by an immense concourse of nobility and gentry from all parts of the kingdom, and the surplus of receipts above the expenditure generally amounts to from 700*l.* to 1000*l.*, which is distributed to the charitable institutions of the city, according to their importance and necessities.

West of the nave, are four piers supporting the great *central tower*, which is said to have been finished in 1215. This fact has been doubted, but it is observable, that its general proportions are those of the Norman elevation, and the massy piers that support it, have been obviously cut down to bear a closer resemblance to the columns near them. It is probable, that only an alteration in their form was made by Simon Ripley, and that the tower was new cased at the same period.

At the sides of the tower are the *transepts*, of very unequal proportions; the north transept has an ornamented oak roof, supported by angels holding emblems of the crucifixion. At the intersection of one of the beams are the arms of Wolsey. The ambulatory has rails formed of quatrefoils, and a lower ambulatory, not open on the north or west sides, but lighted on the east side by small round-headed arches, opening to the transept, resting on short cylindrical columns with squared capitals. At the south-east angle of this transept is an ancient vestry in a style of very early Norman architecture. The south transept used as the parish church of St. Oswald, is much larger than the opposite one.

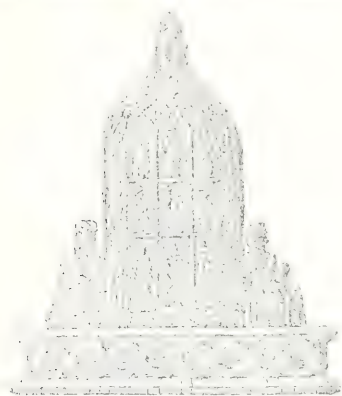
The choir is separated from the nave by a rich Gothic stone screen, above which stand the organ, said to have

been built by the celebrated artist, Smith. Its exterior is much admired for the beautiful foliated gothic panelling with which it is enriched, and is surmounted by a series of canopy work, formed by the projection of the gallery; on the latter are painted the arms of the first earls of Chester, and their barons, together with those of the see, and the archbishop of the province. The porch of light and graceful fretwork, with its corresponding moulding, gives an appropriate finish to the whole.

Within the choir are numerous objects of curiosity and admiration. The pavement is of black and white marble. At the west end are four stalls on each side of the entrance, and there are twenty others on each side of the choir. The end and sides from the entrance to the bishop's throne are ornamented with splendid mosaic work, highly enriched, and probably unparalleled for neatness of execution. The desks for the singing boys are arranged on the sides of the choir, projecting from the sides of the vicars' choral, and are evidently of modern construction. The following sketch of the dean's seat, may furnish an idea of the stalls generally. They appear to be the work of the 14th century, and have *nich' roses*, (seats turning up) with curious and ludicrous figures.



The approach to the dean's stall is up several steps, and on the door-post of the entrance is some curious carved work, of which the following is a sketch:



The bishop's throne stands on a stone base, as remarkable for its sculpture as its original use. The form is an oblong square; and each side most richly ornamented with gothic carvings, arches, and pinnacles. Above the upper part is a range of little images, designed to represent the kings and saints of the Mercian kingdom. Each held in one hand a scroll with the name inscribed. Paganic ignorance mutilated many of the labels, as well as the figures: the list was restored about the year 1743; when, as a late anonymous writer tells us, a *masot* was employed to *mend their majesties*; but the artist, not being very well acquainted with either *saints or sovereigns*, unluckily transposed their *caputs*, by putting *kings' heads* upon *saints' shoulders*, and *vice versa*. To the body of a slender virgin saint, he placed the head of a venereal mannikin. What sort of a *fool* the artist must have been, we will not pretend to say: this much, however, he might truly have boasted,—that he knew how to put old heads

upon young shoulders.' At first, there were thirty-four figures; four are lost; the remainder are minutely described, and the history of each monarch and saint accordingly given, in a small pamphlet, published in 1748, by the worthy Dr. William Cowper, who dedicated the profits of this work to the blue coat hospital in this city. These statues are placed in the following order, if we begin at the figure at the south-west angle, from the west, and thence proceed over that end, along the north front, and thence round the east end, towards the stairs up to the throne :

1. Rex Crictas.	16. Rex ————us.
2. Rex Penda.	17. S ^{us} ————iga.
3. Rex Wulphens.	18. ————us.
4. Rex Colredus.	19. ————us.
5. ————us.	20. Balduinus.
6. Rex Offa.	21. Menneloss.
7. Rex Egfridus.	22. Rex Wulfst.
8. ————us.	23. Rex Derwulph.
9. S ^{us} Radoslav.	24. Rex Berghelmus.
10. S ^{us} Wilburg.	25. ————us.
11. Rex Bertra.	26. S ^{us} ————us.
12. Rex Godwyn.	27. ————us.
13. ————us.	28. ————us.
14. S ^{us} ————ella.	29. Rex Adelbertus.
15. ————us.	30. S ^{us} Balduin.

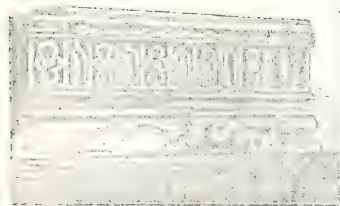
Four more images have been quite cut away, two at the west, and two at the east end. Dr. Cowper says, that the personages which were intended to be represented by these statues, were either her monarchs, or the most of them, nearly related to St. Werburgha, who was daughter of Wulphera, king of Mercia, by his queen Ervoldida; and thus describes them :—

1. Cricta, twin brother of King Woden, founder of the kingdom of Essex, about 584.
2. Penda, grandson of Cricta, a Pagan king of Mercia.
3. Wulphera, second son of Penda, (grandson of Woden), second Christian king of Mercia.
4. Colred, nephew of Wulphera, and son of Edward, first of the West-Saxons, king of Mercia.
5. ————us.
6. Offa, the great King of Mercia.
7. Egfridus, son of Offa, and King of Northumbria.
8. ————us.
9. Radoslav, son of Bernard, and King of Moravia.

real shrine, or as the French call it, *la chaise*, stood, which contained the sacred reliques. These are made of gold, silver, *marfil*, i. e. silver gilt, or some precious materials, and often enriched with gems of great value. They are of different forms, such as churches, cabinets, &c. and should the relique be a head, or limb, the *chaise* is made conformable to the shape of the part. These are seated usually conspicuous on an elevated place; and are always moveable, in order that they may be carried in procession, either in honour of the saint, or to divert some great calamity. Thus in 1180, the shrine of St. Werburgh was brought out to stop the rage of a fire in the city, which for a long time was invincible by every other means; but the approach of the holy remains to our townish writers gravely assure us it staidly proved their sanctity, by putting an end to its furious desolation."

In the chancel there were formerly four stone stalls for the officiating priests; and on the opposite side two stone recesses for the holy water and the sacred relics. The tapestry for the altar-piece is esteemed an excellent piece of workmanship, the subject a copy of Raphael's picture of Elymas stricken with blindness, which was worked at a nunnery in France. The window above contains a few fragments of its once entire and beautifully painted subject, "The genealogy of the Virgin Mary." The double line of trefoil-headed arches, supported on slender pillars above the choir, give a chaste and elegant appearance to this portion of the building. In the south aisle are three tombs, supposed to be the sepulture of three of the abbots of the fourteenth century; and also one of an altar form, popularly ascribed to Henry IV. emperor of Germany, who, according to a legendary tale before noticed, was said to have escaped from his troubles and to have resided in this city; so far called there; and to have been interred in the abbey, concerning which, however, there is a well-authenticated account, that he died his life at Liege, in 1106.

The choir is separated from the abbey by two pointed arches on each side, with decorative sculpture



ever. An ambulatory is continued under these windows, beneath which is a row of small arches, resting on light shafts, in an earlier style than that of Abbot Hopley, to whom the choir has been ascribed. In both side aisles are piscinas on the sides nearest the choir; and in both the vaulting has been finished with a more acute pitch than was originally intended, which has an unpleasant effect from the awkward joining of the ribs. In the south wall of the south aisle are six wide arches, apparently part of the original building, from the form of the mouldings and other ornaments of the pilasters between them; under these arches are coffin-shaped stones: higher up, and close to the floor of St. Mary's chapel, is a cupboard for relics, and a piscina opposite to it, under a rich canopy of which the following is a tolerably good representation:

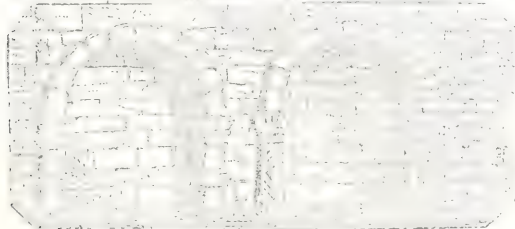


From hence, by folding doors, we are admitted into *St. Mary's chapel*, or the *Lamp's chapel*. We are separated from the choir by another stone screen, apparently of modern erection. Within this chapel, De Witt, bishop of Chester, in 1554, during the dreadful persecution in Mary's reign, sat in judgment on George Harsben, parson and minister, and condemned him to the flames for heresy. There are prayers in this chapel every morning.

at six o'clock in summer, and seven in winter, and in the choir daily, at half-past ten in the morning, and at three in the evening. This chapel consists of a middle aisle and two side aisles, handsomely vaulted with richly carved keystones. The side aisles are divided from the middle aisle by two arches, spring from a massy pier on each side, apparently part of the original building, cut down and clustered over with clusters of light pilars terminating in elegant pointed arches, with quarefoils inserted in mouldings. On the north side of the chancel, which extends beyond the side aisles, are two elegant pointed arches; one contains two piscinas, the other was apparently a seat for the officiating priest; another pointed arch also appears in the opposite side.

The cloisters are situated on the north side of the church, and form a quadrangle about 110 feet square. The cloisters originally consisted of four vaulted walks surrounding this space: but that on the south yielded a few years since to the insidious working of time and the elements, which has not been, and is never likely to be restored. The late Dean Chesmoudeley, a liberal and zealous patron of the arts, proposed the entire restoration of all the decayed parts of this fabric, and in fact accomplished some considerable improvements; but he terminated his valuable life before his purposes were realized, and with him fell the laudable design of repairing and preserving the long-neglected and venerable ruins. The general style is that of the fifteenth century, with carved keystones at the intersections of the vaulting; the windows obtusely pointed; a lavatory projects from a part of the west cloister, and extended along that of the south. Over the east cloister was a dormitory, and of this church been destroyed, or suffered to fall into decay, owing to the injury of the appearance of these venerable conventual ruins.

In the wall on the ruined side are six windows, but circular arches, resting on short piers, or on half-timbered Essex masonry. These indicate the places of windows of so many Roman walls. The beautiful roof of the



chancel is decorated with numerous sculptured figures, devices, and ornaments, that ornament the interior, as does the great nave, and here also are discovered the traces of the door-ways of the choir of Henry VII. (Cromwell's Chapel) of London, and a sculptured figure of our English Henry.

The west wall opens to the nave by an early Norman arch on the south end; and by another, somewhat later, formerly opened a passage leading to the great group of conventual offices. Another door-way of posts to the south wall (closed by a pillar placed before it, to support the present vaulting) led to an arched passage, forming the monks' way to the church. The arches of this passage are semi-circular, and the ribs unusually heavy. Along the rest of this wall extended a kind of crypt, consisting of a double row of circular arches, springing, with one exception, from short cylindrical columns. This building was probably used as a depository for the treasures of which we may form no more idea than a church of the king of the Isles, to the abbot of St. Werburgh, granting ingress and egress to the vessels of the monks of the abbey, with sale and purchase of goods, fish, and fowl of fishery upon his monks. From the circumference, as well as from the cupolas, sides of the ordinary offices, and the refectory, a tolerably current stream of the bounty of the monks to the living, and indeed their extensive establishment, and their being permitted in the range of several hundred years, are sufficiently indicative of the persuasion of the monks that Henry was not excluded from their table; it was also their boast and glory, that the poor were plentifully supplied with provisions from their bounty.

The north wade contained the chief entrance to the refectory of the convent (under a rich semi-circular arch); and at the east end was a doorway leading to the ordinary offices, and to the stair-case of the refectory. Along the greater part of the north side ranged the refectory, a noble apartment, ninety-eight feet in length, and thirty-five wide, with a roof of oak, resting on brackets.

which was removed about 1801. In the south-east angle, in the part where a space is left by a deficiency of windows on this side, is a flight of steps with a low wall leading to an Oratory, of which the following is a plan.



The oratory of the monastery, on the establishment of the see, was founded and endowed by Henry VIII, and has ever since been used as a free grammar school, under the name of the King's school. In the east wall, or in this room, is a curious stone tablet, the date of whose origin is not easy to conjecture, unless it was designed for the reading of lectures, or as a station from which to entertain the monks with music during their hours; it is highly finished in the gothic style, and of the elegant construction.

In the centre of the room, and only called the *Speller*, but more recently the *Press*, where a gas pipe is now found, there was an old cistern, of which the only remnant remains, into which water was conveyed by pipes from Christleton for the use of the monks. Near the pipe, by the accumulation of soil, and dirt for generations, the ground within this area had risen nearly six feet above the level of the window frames, which in 1775 were only six or four feet deep, and the mill race between under the direction of the late Dean Cappon, whose noble and disinterested services to improve the cathedral and parish church of St. John made his name illustrious.

record. The windows of the cloisters were originally glazed, but the glass has long since disappeared, and even its leaded frames and slender mullions are fast fading, unregarded, to decay and obliquation.

That beautiful edifice, the chapter-house, stands in the walk of the east cloister, and is divided into two apartments, the first of which, the vestibule (thirty feet four inches by twenty-seven feet four and twelve feet high), has an arched roof supported by four columns, each surrounded with eight slender pilasters, without capitals, which converge near the top of the column, and spread over the roof. Along the left side is a stone seat for the attendants on the business of the chapter. The inner apartment, or chapter-room, is fifty feet long, twenty-six feet broad, and thirty-five feet high. All the windows are in the lancet style: that at the east end consists of five lights, and a similar one is over the western entrance. An ambulatory goes round three sides of the room, and where it passes the windows is carried between the mullions, and a corresponding series of light shafts connected with them, which terminate in foliated capitals, and support the moulding of the haunch arch above. Notwithstanding the size, nature of the stone, the carvings are beautifully fresh.

The entrances both from the cloisters and between the vestibule and the chapter-house, are gothic; but apparently of a later species of architecture than either of those rooms. The windows on each side are directed the outward entrance, were filled, of modern construction, and but ill accorded with the antiquity of the building. But it is a subject of gratification, that during the year 1820 they were taken down to make way for others more suitable. Inside the old arch are two upright columns, with caps, above which are mullions, terminating in a point at the top, the interstices filled with diamond-templed panes. In the chapter-house is an excellent library, belonging to the chapter, in which are many scarce MSS. carefully preserved.

Perman lies the foundation of the chapter-house to the time of *Henry the first*, and of *Christie's*, situated at

Ed's date coinciding with his childhood years. The portrait of the Lupus, under Randall, had been intended to be the stone mark of the body; the first curs of the sheep year to come, as usually into this building, was the same. Some other person, however, which would certainly have been known to at least this college and to the town, had done it. Mr. Ogle now seems to decline to say who was this person, as to the period of his execution he observes that Mr. Pennant is most probably right in supposing that the stone receptor would have been put to the remains of our Hugh, at the time of his death, being, perhaps had then entirely but adds that this supposition merely tends to prove that a contemporary of both the Ludell Wiscars, houses was made by different hands, the architecure, it may be reasonably supposed, being a part of the present character of the building, and that the addition of the front addition, which has, however, the later period to the earlier one, this building, whether now raised up, in the same way, or raised a distance from the present site, is a house of a modern date.

In one of the wooden presses kept in the church-house, is preserved the head-part of a stone coffin found here in 1721, by Mr. Honeimann, a school-master; the coffin included a bone completely unapparently hollow, the skull and bones of which it is said, were pale, fresh, and the strings which enclosed together the coffin, genuine. Immediately over the breast was a very singular case, the case abroad made of paper nicely plied, and to form a most elegant little square of black and silver; a wolf's head was also on the coffin. From the circumstances, he generally has taken for granted, that these remains were those of the great Lupus, our first and monarch; and in this opinion our antiquary, Pennant's own country. But as to the coffin this will not, I think, by the opinion of Mr. White, who has examined it, be found to be the remains of a man, although it is true, that the year in which it was found is clearly above the year of the Lupus, the individual Lupus year, the Lupus, otherwise there is a reason for supposing that the remains

with him? Besides, as the same writers, especially the latter, do not appear to have been introduced into the story until after Richard I. who commenced his reign in 1189, it is very difficult to suppose that they were taken from the British church in the reign of the emperor, or indeed, it may likewise be known, that until the death of Henry II. the stone bears, in a single line, the name of R. S. which can have no conceivable application to a Norman monarch. Those writers who credit the veracity of their reasoning, have had recourse to one of the usual expedients of distinguished individuals, to whom the same expedient is applicable. Thus, the *Blount Bibles* are said to have designated those of *Abd. Sineschaw*, who was elected about in 1190, and what is now kept in a stone pane or a coffin is in fact the relic of some person who preceded in his time, previous to his death in 1144, in a world in Lombardy. This individual, doubtless, was distinguished for martial but his profligacy and debauchery, for which he was ultimately of a *thrice* The assumption, therefore, of the being the work of Reynolds, in connection with the various early care of the "coffin" being a relic of some monument, carries with it but a very remote probability. There is much more likelihood, that this relic designates the place of capture of abbot *Simon Ripley*, with whose name the initials are in part in accordance. The name of this abbot, who occupied his station from the year 1185 to 1201, is associated with magnificent improvements to almost every portion of the abbey, and he might therefore justly be thought worthy of honours conferred in the chapter-house. In support of this hypothesis, Mr. Ormerod observes, "the initials are clearly S. R. and the style is almost completely in style of one being with a similar one introduced by Simon Ripley on the tower of the choir" (manuscript).

THE STONE TABLET OF THE MONASTERY.

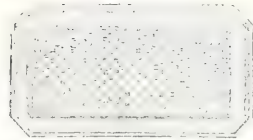
4. A second and proper question, remains, viz. How is the tablet to be explained? In reply, we have the following passage:

The following sketches will convey some idea of the nature of the stone and similitudes they appeared when carved.



THE SPINDLE.

was particularly the *great machine*, when the stone is finished, the culices will be visible under it. It was built by Alonzo Topel in the thirteenth century; but is castellated by the outer arch, pointed. On the west side, a fine lofty square tower, loaded at the top, ascended in a conical spire, the case, which, however, is much worn; but to the west is a projecting winged and underneath a noble heraldic shield; and immediately above the figure of the virgin and child, under a canopy, being large, above the inscription, and the figures above are the heads of the crown and crown. The tower was possessed by a great number of years, until the year 1750, when the possession of it was sold to the sugar plantation, the present. The independence of Chile, the granadan John de la Cruz, who was excluded of his widow in 1750, by Don Juan de la Cruz, who was included in the present San Pedro Cathedral, of Aconcagua, who is reported to be. The whole mission has long been a source of controversy, which is a considerable portion of land, but the same was recovered by Mr. Don Dávila. As a result of this, the whole portion of the mission was divided into several estates, one of which, the *San Pedro*, was a very good house; while the others were very small, and situated in the most unproductive country, produces but a small return, which is very muddy and stony. Mr. Ovando sent a captain to the *San Pedro*, and a letter of a son Trujillo, by Pedro Garcia, of the name of *Trujillo*, and his several attempts against the lady *Trujillo*, of the name



PART OF THE BRASS.

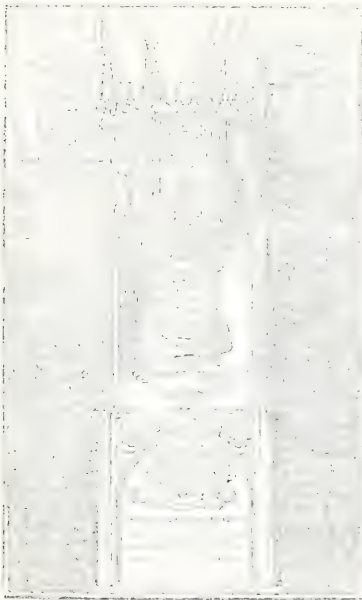
Other coffins and fragments of mortality were discovered beneath the two rooms of the chapter-house; of earls, their countesses, or of abbots; but the great level of decay, death, had reduced them to indistinguishable dust.

The earls who were interred here, were Hugh, who died in 1101; Randal the first, or de Moselimes, in 1125; Randal the second, or de Gerneum, who was poisoned in 1155, by William Peverel; Hugh Cyveling, who died at Leek in 1181; Randal the third, or de Blundeville, who died at Wallingford in 1232, where his bowels were interred: his heart was buried at the abbey of Bledarres, in Staffordshire, and his body transported to Chester; finally, John Scot, who, in 1237, underwent the same fate as Randal the second. So that every earl of the Norman line was deposited here, excepting Richard, who perished by shipwreck, in 1120. Of the abbots, exactly, who died in 1203, and six others, were buried in the chapter-house, or its vestibule.

On quitting this beautiful office, we turn to the right, and proceeding through a vaulted passage, called the Maiden aisle, we gain the site of the once extensive kitchen, cellar, &c. belonging to the monastery, but which have all been swept away to make room for modern alterations. Above these may still be seen the remnants of the ancient dormitory; here also is a view of the outside of the chapter-house; and those who have witnessed its inward excellence, will lament the progress of decay, which has destroyed the exterior appearance.

1791. The church by an inscription, which is now almost entirely obliterated, is said to have been consecrated in the year 1043.

The following are the names of the various species of plants which have been found in the collection of the University of California, and which are now deposited in the herbarium of the University of California, at Berkeley, California. The names are given in the order in which they were first discovered, and are arranged in alphabetical order of their scientific names. The names of the collectors are given in parentheses after the names of the plants.



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HISTORY OF CHURCH.

On the 17th of May, 1766, the church was dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and the people were solemnly dedicated to the service of God.

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MEMORIALS IN ST. MARY'S CHURCH.

In the north aisle are three memorials of the Gastrell family, on large stones, some of which were inscribed with runic letters. The oldest of these is a simple, round and heart-shaped in the extreme, Gothic inscription, which is so worn, which will amply justify this remark. It is a simple inscription of lead, inscribed upon the tombstone of the Rev. John Gastrell, B.A., who resigned this life the 21st of February, 1771, aged 70 years. The inscription is in runic letters, and is so worn, that it is almost illegible. The inscription is in runic letters, and is so worn, that it is almost illegible. The inscription is in runic letters, and is so worn, that it is almost illegible.

The next to the last is a memorial to the memory of Henry, the younger son of the cathedral, who died February 27, 1716, aged 22 years. The inscription is in runic letters, and is so worn, that it is almost illegible. The inscription is in runic letters, and is so worn, that it is almost illegible.

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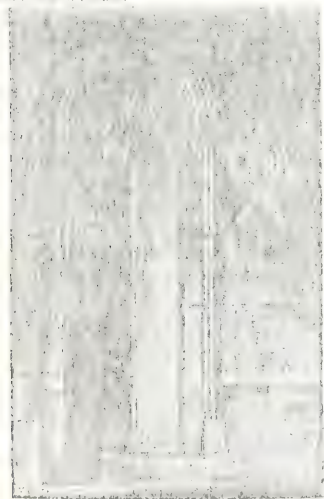
1855, by the late Rev. Thomas M. Day, D.D., George Washington, 1856, and Rev. W. W. Washburn, General and Bishop of Vermont, 1862, and 1863, and 1864. With several others of his congregation.

Organ monument recently placed in St. Mary's Chapel—Among the most precious of the sanctuary is a handsome monument of white marble—situated in the organ-loft of Bay View, the gift of Doctor Rowland Hazard, Esq. of Biddisill, near the city of Philadelphia, Pa. It is the last of those monuments, Esq. of Biddisill, of the county of Angleson, Scotland, who was happily blessed, on the 18th December, 1821, in the 70th year of his age, and was buried in the choir of the cathedral, in the year 1822, and was interred in the same ground by one of his sons, Esq. of Biddisill.

On the west side of the north transept, a noble monument, of the following inscription:—“Near this place are interred the mortal remains of the Rev. Thomas Middlebrook, M.A., late parson of the town of the Holy Trinity, in this city, and N. England, in this county. He died the 12th day of February, 1725, in the 63d year of his age, and the same day he was buried in this city. This monument was raised by several pious and well-wishing, loving Arms, and sincerely preached sisters, M. and Mary Middlebrook. And now, Lord, what is my hope? Truly thy hope is mine.” Ps. cxxv. B.

On the lower, the north side of this monument, a stone, inscribed, where, B. W. Mason, June 10, 1828, aged 56 years.—Early Parish, Jan. 6, 1828, aged 16 months.—Half and Paschal!”

In the wall on one of the piers of the west side, a fine stone, with this inscription:—“Gideon Rowland, Esq. sustained the episcopate of Vermont, in the 66th year of his age.”



renewed, so that it is now one of the neatest churches in the city. This improvement is commemorated by the following inscriptions on two tablets: the first placed in the front of the gallery,—"This church was repaired and enlarged, and the gallery erected at the expense of the parish in the year of our Lord 1826. Joseph Eaton, M.A. Vicar; James Smith, Jacob Lilly Podmore, Churchwardens; John Lancaster, Samuel Crabtree, Grocers; William Cole, architect."—The other, placed on the west side of the church, has this inscription: "For accommodation in this church was enlarged in the year 1826, which means 222 additional sittings were obtained, and in consequence of a grant from the Society for promoting the enlargement and building of churches and chapels, 222 of that number are hereby declared a free tree, and unappreciated for ever, and are in addition to 18, formerly provided. Joseph Eaton, M.A. Vicar; James Smith, Jacob Lilly Podmore, Churchwardens."

To these improvements, several others were added by the munificence of dean Copleston. The screen which divided the parish church from the choir aisles of the nave and choir was comparatively low; but this he raised to the roof; a handsome shrine for the bishop was also placed against this screen inside the church, on each side of which is an elevated seat, one for the dean, and the other for the presbytery. Under the superintendance of Dr. Copleston also, the screen within the choir, and the church-yard was lowered to its level, and a ditch dug round the building from south to north, in order to preserve the interior from dampness. Other useful improvements owe their origin to this truly zealous and learned divine, and he was progressing nicely, when he was elevated to the see of Hereford in 1827. A memorial of his distinguished services is preserved in a handsome tablet, fixed immediately over the bishop's throne in the church, which bears the following inscription:—"This tablet is raised by the parishioners of St. Oswald's, to express their sense of the munificence of the Right Rev. Edward Copleston, Dean and Bishop."

manuscript, late Dean of Chester, who copied this record in his own script. It is a complete Latin text.

On account of the cathedral service occupying the usual canonical hours in the choir, the morning service in this church commences at nine o'clock, both in morning, an arrangement rendered necessary by its proximity to the choir.

The vicar is presented by the dean and chapter. He has the tithes of Church-on-Heath, a part of all the tithes of Saighton, and the hamlet of Newbold, and a composition of 5*l.* from Lea, Huntington, and part of Saighton and the free. The tithes of the other parishes are held under the dean and chapter by various appropriators.

The registers commence in 1589 for the parish, hereon, and those of the cathedral in 1687.

According to the census of 1821, the population of the parish was 4,344; and in the cathedral precincts, 270

VICARS OF ST. WERBURGH.

Year	Name	Notes
1236	John de St. Osmund	
1266	Thomas de Radle	
1270	Thomas de Radle	
1271	Thomas de Radle	
1272	Thomas de Radle	
1273	Thomas de Radle	
1274	Thomas de Radle	
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1397	Thomas de Radle	
1398	Thomas de Radle	
1399	Thomas de Radle	
1400	Thomas de Radle	

one on the 19th day of April, and died on the 16th day of May, 1877.

Next to the above is a small tablet, inscribed, "New England Monument to the memory of Joseph H. Parquhart, born July 17, 1814, died July 17, 1877, aged 62 years, 10 months, and 10 days."

On the same, and near to the base of the monument, is a tablet inscribed by Mr. Wright, of this city. The inscription is as follows: "Joseph H. Parquhart, of this city, who departed this life, November 17th, 1877, aged 62 years, 10 months, and 10 days, was erected to his beloved memory by his family and friends."

He had a wife they could not part,

Which said, "No longer stay,

He said, "I feel they could not part,

Which bid them fly away."

On the west side, another tablet, "Sacred to the memory of Mrs. Lowe, wife of John Lowe, of this city, who died 5th of July, 1820, aged 42 years. Devoted to the duties of domestic life, the instructor of her children, and the exercise of practical religion, she lived and died an affectionate mother, a noble parent, and a sincere christian. Also under the same inscription of her three children."



Interior of St. John's Church, Chester.

PARISH AND CHURCH OF ST. JOHN.

This church occupies the site of the dissolved collegiate church dedicated to the same saint, and the cathedral of the Norman diocese of Chester. The foundation of this church is ascribed by Webb to Ethelred, King of Mercia, and stated on the authority of Giraldus to have taken place in the year 689. This authority is adopted by the author of the Pdyericon, and thus *has been* *repeatedly* *repeated*—

At the dissolution, in 1537, the college consisted of one dean, and seven prebends, or canons, a church which agrees with that of the houses belonging to the church, at the time of the Domesday survey. There were also four vicars (one of whom is called a prebendary in the pension roll) a clerk, and a sexton. The dean in the last instance retired on a pension of *xv. s.* but afterwards was made dean of Chester cathedral. The vicars obtained a prebend in the same. Willelic and Williver (other prebendaries), were living on pensions in 1556, as were also Houghton, one of the vicars, and Rately, and ap Grillyth, clerk and sexton. In the ecclesiastical taxation of 1291, this church was valued at 267. 13. 4d.

Within this church, was a chantry dedicated to St. Mary, which is unnoticed in the certificate of the commissioners at the dissolution. It will perhaps not be known whether it was the *monasterium S. Marie prope ecclesiam S. Johannis*, mentioned in *Domesday*, or the probability is in favour of that monastery having been converted by Earl Randal, and established as a benedictine monastery near the castle.

Within the precincts of St. John's were *the Templars' Chantry, the chapel of St. Anne, and the chapel of St. James*, which are noticed among the minor religious foundations of the city. Another monastic institution so also connected with this church, on which Bishop Trevelyan makes the following remarks in his *Scripta Monachorum*:—"By the Lincoln taxation of the temporalities of the clergy made 1291, it should seem, as if there had been a collegiate church of the name of *the Holy Cross*, situated under Archidiaconatus Cestrie, and immediately before Abbas Cestrie, is this memorandum: *Por iam in ecclesia prebendalis S. Crucis Cestrie, non habent temporalia, sed omnia que habent taxantur cum spiritualibus, pro fructibus asserebant*: but I have yet met with no other mention of this society, nor of any church in this city, either collegiate or parochial, so dedicated. In a note to this passage it is observed, that the words *quod dicitur* thus in the MS. copies of this tax, do not occur.

	l. s. d.
Offer of the son of St. John, for the said city.....	9 12 4
Fine money of St. Mary.....	2 13 4
Prebendary of St. Bridget.....	5 0 0
Summe.....	17 6 8

By the certificate of the commissioners it appears, that the body of the church, with one bell, was all that was deemed necessary for the use of the parishioners. The rest was probably stript of its lead, and exposed to dilapidation. In 1572, a great part of the steeple fell, and 1574, half of the whole steeple from top to bottom fell upon the west end of the church, and broke down a great part of it. In 1581, the parishioners having obtained a grant of the church from the queen, began to build some part of it again, and cut off all the chapel above the choir.

Shortly afterwards the advowson and impropriate rectory were granted to Sir Christopher Hatton, and conveyed by him to Alexander King, from whom they passed to Alexander Cotes, from which period they descended through the families of Sparkes, Wood, and Adams, to John Adams, son of the Rev. Lawrence Adams, vicar of this church, by whom they were conveyed to the Right Honourable Earl Grosvenor, the present impropriator and patron.

Ann. 41 Eliz. orders were made by the queen, under the broad seal, respecting the church and vicar of St. John's, by which the clerk, churchwardens, assessors, collectors, and auditors, were to be chosen by the parishioners. The vicar and assistant to be appointed by the impropriator and his heirs, with consent of the bishop, and if any place be vacant one month, the bishop to appoint. The vicarage of St. John's is a vicarage not charged; certified value 31*l.* 6*s.* The yearly value of augmentation, stipend, and surplice fees, was returned by the bishop in 1809, to the governors of Queen Anne's bounty, as amounting to only 17*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* The vicar is now regularly instituted, but it does not appear that any institution was made before the time of Bishop Daves.

NAMES OF THE VICARS OF ST. JOHN'S

1579	Rev. John Douglas	1665	Rev. Thomas Bridge
1597	Thomas Symond	1671	Robert Bridge
1636	John Coag	1689	Lawrence Wood
1673	George Berdies	1710	Charles Dalton
1680	John Pemberton	1742	Lawrence Adams
1686	Peter Leitch	1777	John Price
1692	Alexander Polmista	1795	William Richardson

The situation of St. John's church is within the walls, on the eastern side of the city, on a cliff of red rock, overhanging the banks of the Dee—a sight as picturesque as any which the neighbourhood of a city could present, if the imagination of the observer may be allowed to clothe the opposite bank with the forests which certainly existed there long after the foundation of Eblefred, and to remove the modern obstructions which shut out from the prospect the hills of Wales and Delamere.

At the time of the dissolution, the remains of the collegiate church were included within an oblong inclosure, at the north-west angle of which was the gate-house; lower down on the west side was the dean's house, and below this was a palace, which the bishop of Lichfield still retained near their ancient cathedral. On the north side were houses for the petty canons and vicars, and on the east side was the chapel of St. Anne, and nearer the river other houses for petty canons. The south side was formed by the cliffs; on two projections were small buildings called anchorite cells: and between these and the south door of the nave of the church was the chapel of St. James. The church was in the finest style of early Norman architecture, and was probably built shortly after the removal of the see from Chester to Coventry and the restoration of the collegiate establishment. It consisted originally, as may be gathered by collating an ancient plan with existing remains, of a nave and choir with side aisles, two transepts, and a central tower. The nave was separated from the side aisles by eight masonry screens and

arches on each side, resting on cylindrical columns, with bases and capitals. The diameter of the columns five feet six inches, and the ornaments of the capitals varied in a few instances. Over the remaining arches are two rows of galleries, with lancet-formed arches, those of the upper tier being the most acutely pointed. The arches from both tiers sprang from slender shafts with bases and capitals. The upper tier occasionally opened to small windows with circular heads, and from an imperforate row of arches in the south wall, the appearance of the gallery's seems to have been copied in the exterior. At the east end of the nave are the four main piers which supported the central tower. Their exterior appearance is broken on each side by a series of smaller shafts attached to the piers, with bases and capitals. On each side of the tower were the transverse rooms which, as mentioned, projected from existing remains, the upper row only of the galleries was continued.

East of the tower was the choir, divided into recessed aisles by three arches on each side, with clerestories. The first couple of these arches had tracery. They were of the horseshoe form, resting on cylindrical columns with capitals. The first row of galleries consisted of a series of low round-arched arcades on the same plan with the arches below, resting on slender columns. The upper row of galleries is here perfectly untraced. At the east end of the choir was a lower subcircular arch, with ornamented capitals, yet remaining in the last stage of decay, under which was the entrance to a vaulted channel, consisting of five sides of an octagon. On each side of the channel were attached a pair of small chapels, in a high state of pointed Gothic. In both these chapels specimens of brimrock are yet remaining.

It remains to speak of the present appearance of the choir, the greater part of which has been copied by the modern parish church, which comprises the remains of the nave and one of the choir, and as much of the transept as comes within the ground-line. The choir is a fine specimen of the upward style of the sixteenth century.

The architectural parts in these are tolerably perfect, but much obscured by the necessary appendages of a parish church, the pews and galleries. East of the present chancel, consisting of the space under the organ tower and the first arch of the choir, are some beautiful ruins of the west end of the ancient choir, and the adjacent chancel-part, of which has been converted into a dwelling-house.

West of the remains of the nave, forming the present body of the church, every trace of the other four arches has been obliterated, excepting some slight remains of the north aisle, which form the passage to a lofty detached bell-tower. It is obvious that much of the west end of the nave must have been destroyed before this tower could have been erected, which occupies the space of the second and third pillars of the north side of the original nave; the residue of this part was demolished in 1572 and 1574, by the falling of west and south sides of the tower. Those sides, as already mentioned, were rebuilt in 1581, in a style similar to the rest. The tower is extremely lofty, and its sides are decorated with pointed windows, in a good style, figures placed in rich frames, shafts of quadrifolts, and rows of ornamented arches. No expense appears to have been spared in the building, and all the detail is good; yet there is something displeasing in the general appearance of the tower, and its disproportion to the venerable ruins which it stands at the side of. Near the foot of the tower, on the south side of the church, is an ancient porch, forming the principal entrance, in the sides of which are two lancet arches, the extreme being under an acutely pointed arch, the moldings of which rest on a number of short shafts, which converge as they retire inwards.

The tower, about 150 feet high, and detached from the body of the church, contains an iron and a stone bell; six of them cast in 1710, and seven in 1750. The aperture to it is through the remains of the north aisle. The sides of the tower are decorated with a rich screen, and ornamented with figures placed in niches of capital workmanship. In the year 1685, the bell-tower

was thoroughly repaired; an entire new window was introduced over the communion, and the north and south transcripts rebuilt and beautified at the sole expense of Earl Grosvenor, in whom, as already noticed, the adoration of the church is vested.

Dr. Cowper, in his *II Penitens*, says,—“In this church was an ancient rod, or image of wood, of such veneration, that in a deed March 27, 1311, confirmed by Walter Langton, the church was called *The church of the Holy Cross, and St. John*. Richard H. warden, of Winwick, Lancashire, by will, dated March 28 A.D. 1503, left *vi. s. viii. d.* to whatever priest would go for him to the Holy Rod, at St. John’s, Chester.”

According to the census of this parish in 1821, the population consisted of 5098. The parish register, consisting of six folio volumes, in good preservation, and uniformly bound, commences in the year 1559; regular entries to 1611; from thence to 1652, very imperfect; but regular from 1686 to the present time.

MONUMENTS.

In the chancel (north of the altar) are several.—*Christy H. Esq.* of Ashton, gent. and *Margaret* his wife, daughter of *William Hyde* of Frodsham, gent.; she died 28th Aug. 1700, aged 60, and he died 20th Feb. 1735, having 4 sons—*Marj*, wife of *Thomas Walker*, M.D. 1696, and *Margaret*—*Robert* Balleley, son of *St. Richard Balleley*, of Barnumis, in Anglsey, Knight, who married *Phyllis*, daughter of *St. Henry Balleley*, of Stanneg. co. Cest. Kn.; he died 27th Oct. 1676, aged 70 years; she died May 26 1682, aged 67 years.—*The Rev. J. A. Esq.* Wood, rector of St. Bridget’s, and minister of St. John’s, died July 13, 1710, aged 63.

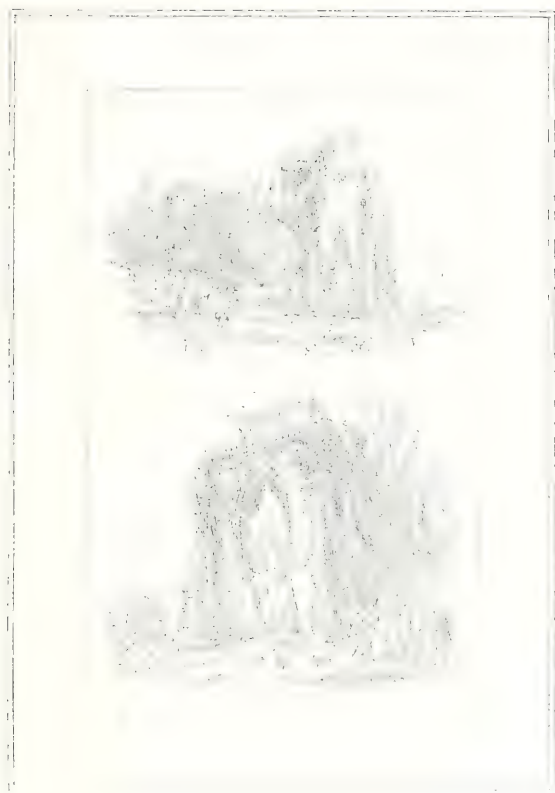
On the south side, monuments of—*Capt. Giles P. Esq.*, d. 3d 21st Nov. April, 1720. The monument erected by his father, *John P. Esq.* of *Jordan Gerard*, born at *Crookston*, in *Perthshire*, *Perth*, dispersed his first wife; he died 12th Dec. 1704; aged 69, and he was succeeded by the second son, *Richard P. Esq.* Knight Baron of the shire, who was the 3d son of *Robert W. Esq.* of *Wexley*, co. *Devon*, by his first wife, daughter of *Edward T. Esq.* of *Plas Edward*, who died 18th May, 1680.—*Thomas*, daughter and heiress of *Charles*, *Bartholomew*, *Warrington*, Esq.

APPENDIX: PARISH CHURCH

to the church are four galleries: three of which, north, east, and west, are private ones, and was built in 1727, under a faculty obtained for the purpose. The rents are attached to the farms-house, belonging to the High Street, Colton-cum-Barnston; the house in New Street, now occupied by J. J. Turner, the property of the Rectory; and Mrs. Freeman's, in St. John's Street. That at the west end of the church was begun in 1877, and finished in 1879, and for the public accommodation, and was at a cost of £1,000. The gallery upon the south side was built by the parishioners in 1741, under a faculty. After the rupture of the expense of erection, the rents were appropriated towards the payment of the interest on certain legacies (of which mention will be made hereafter) which had been applied to the use of the parish; the remainder for the minister, as provided by the faculty. By a more recent regulation, the *interest* of the interest of these legacies is paid out of these rents. The modern organ-gallery on the north side of the church was erected by J. J. Goss, Esq. for the use of the children of education in the parish school.

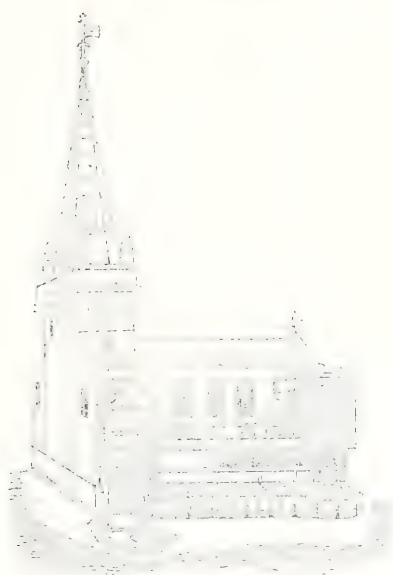
The thirteen painted tablets which are hung in various parts of the church, bearing the names of the benefactors to whose memory they are placed, were painted by either one or other of the Randal Holmes. The small shields placed in the wall on the north end of the communion table formed part of the monument of Randal in *Colton*, to which the rectory was vested, and were designed by one of the same artists, of heraldic name.

It is interesting to observe, that the only tablet which is not painted by either of the Randal Holmes, is that of the Rev. John Goss, Esq. which is placed in the west window. It is probable that this tablet was painted by the artist who painted the organ-gallery, and that the tablet of the Rev. John Goss, Esq. was painted by one of the Randal Holmes.



which he met by the road leading to Deeside, near St. John's-Place, proceeding to say that some one had the present road from the *Walden* to his house (that is present one called by present-day language, which is one of the last Bibles of Yorkster) rather than certain the original one from the *Walden* he with an arch, and up a flight of steps may be seen. The road crosses to the other direction, one leading to the house of the *Walden* (Mossy, and I am informed, made by, or with the approbation of the owner of the barbage, who built this house about the year 1733; but as he could not convey, even so the latter, like that of the others, would be available for the uses of the parish, were the whole of the other parts of the church-yard occupied by the dead. The road leading from the north-east gate to the Grove is the only ancient one; but that, according to evidence taken in 1795, was formerly but a foot-path: it being recorded in the evidence just mentioned, that eighty years ago, the entrance into the church-yard from Love-street was by a *Walden*. A date or more (what cause the heron, he came a separate property, is not known; but the parish council, fearing the inconvenience of its being so, resolved to purchase what was left of it, which was done in January, 1773.

While the interesting ruins adjoining the church is a small *Walden*, called the *Walden*, it is said by the *Walden* Cotton, from a small cottage which stood upon this spot about the middle of the last century. The middle area and niche on each side of it forming the entrance from the north into this apparently ancient dwelling, were brought from the *Walden* Gardens, where they had previously stood many centuries, as a part of the old Priory. It has been erroneously supposed that they formed a part of the ruins surrounding the house. Earl Grosvenor took up his residence here during his minority in 1797.



St. Peter's Church.

CARLTON AND CHURCH OF ST. PETER.

There is a tradition that this church was dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, and that it was erected when the patrons of the monastery, or that is, the church of the cathedral, were changed from *sanctus benedictus* to the holy Trinity. This tradition has been given by Wotton in his description of Chester, in the following terms:

"It appeareth that the christians faith and baptism came into Chester in England being a King of the Britons, which is written to have bene hundred and six years

in the sufferings of our saviour Christ, and that their church was here built, and at that time called by the name of St. Peter and Paul: and this church, which Basil-dun was the first Bishop of St. Yvelburg, by the Bishop's name, another church had burial place to all Chester, and so continued about Closter, and so continued for the space of 300 years and more. But then after, as appeareth in the same author, Ethelred, that noble holy daughter to King Edward, sister to King Edward, senior, wife to Ethelred, king of the Mercians, altered the name of this church from Peter and Paul, to Trinity and St. Oswald, and this alteration was by the general consent of the duke and spiritually, yet so as no loss should be either to the memory of those patrons (so they called the saints of whom churches in their foundations were appointed to bear their names) or to the upholding of devotion: for *another church was soon built in the midst of the city, called by the same name of Peter and Paul, which now is called St. PETER'S ONLY: hear this in his verse:—*

—And the old church of Peter and Paul,
Being general consent of the spirituality,
Which help'd upon the duke and prince's part,
Was translated to the midst of the suburbs,
Whom parish church was edified truly,
In dedication of the apostles' tower,
Which stood for ever by your direction.

Whether the above tradition be correct or otherwise, yet there is good authority to establish the high antiquity of this church: In 1033 the church was given by

* At the publication of the present history its present name is supported by the following evidence in Danish, of which a translation is also to be joined:—

† *Tæt i en ganske omplummet med kirker, en Robertus kaldet ad dæmstet at Thil-løel (near direction castles) nu gaangt pættendal i næsten 800 år, og den første, ved ad hænges' produkt, et stort kirke, omplummet med kirker, som i et stort hænges'.*

‡ The ground on which the church of St. Peter was edified, and which contains the church, was the name of the son, pættendal, and had before it now a wall in the city, but it being in the town, the church was destroyed, and the same was again erected in the same place.

Robert de Rodelent, among other donations, to the abbey of St. Ebrulf, of Utica in Normandy;* the monks of which, after several intermediate arrangements, finally abandoned their claim, and surrendered the rectory to the abbey of St. Werburgh. St. Peter's is omitted in the ecclesiastical taxation in 1291.

After the dissolution, the patronage was given by charter to the dean and chapter. In the time of bishop Bridgeman it was vested in the crown; at present the minister is licensed as a perpetual curate, and the patronage belongs to the bishop. The living is now considered only an augmented curacy. The yearly value of augmentation, rent charge, legacies, pews, and surplice fees, was stated to be 92*l.* 18*s.* 4*d.* in the returns to the governors of Queen Anne's bounty, made by the bishop of Chester.

The church stands in the north-west angle of the four principal streets. The interior consists of a nave with side aisles, divided from each other by three pointed arches, and a third side aisle on each side, which appears to have been added to the others. The span of the arches, and the height of the building, are very disproportionate to the present size of the interior, and give it the appearance of being the fragment of a larger structure. The belfrey tower is at the west end of the original middle aisle. The wood-cut standing at the head of this article is a fac-simile of a drawing by one of the Randal Holmes (Harl. MSS. 2073), taken after the siege of Chester, and exhibits the spire, built in 1580, which was taken down about 1780. On the steps is represented the pedestal of the ancient high cross,† and on the right the old Pentice,

* In the charter of confirmation of all the lands given unto the abbey of Utica by many noblemen in England, made by William the conqueror anno 1061, we read among other things thus:—Robertus vero de Rodelent, prefato Hugone Cestrensi comite domino suo concedere dedit sacro Ebrulfo theobaldiano cum duabus ecclesiis; unam scilicet que in ipso villa est, et alia prope theobaldiam in insula maris; et ecclesiam Sancti Petri apostoli que quondam pertinetur in Cestrensi urbe.

† See vol. 3. page 406.

corresponding precisely with the description given by Smith in the Vale Royal.* Before the taking down of the old Pentice, in 1803, the flight of steps leading to the entrance of the church were immediately in front of the door, and the parsonage-house over them; but, when the alteration took place, they were turned to the side of the church.

In 1787, the south side of the church was re-cased with stone; in 1813, the steeple also was recased, and a new clock placed in it. The entire body of the church was new pewed in 1814-15. In the steeple are eight bells, of which six are a peal, cast in 1709; on the treble are cast these words, "When you ring, I'll sing." The Pentice bell was cast as early as 1589, and was originally used for the purpose of summoning the magistrates; it is now rung on corporate court days only. In the beginning of the year 1818, Sunday evening lectures were established in this church, under the patronage of Bishop Law, where divine service is regularly performed by a clergyman, whose stipend, with all attendant expences, are defrayed by annual subscriptions, and collections made quarterly in the church. In the month of October in the same year, the church was first lighted with gas.

VICARS OF ST. PETERS.

<i>Presented.</i>	<i>Vicars.</i>	<i>Presented.</i>	<i>Vicars.</i>
1300	Robertus de Macclesfield	1320	D'aus Jo. de Marthill.
1360	Thomas Abbsbury.	1349	Robertus de Berrington.
1440	Gaudo de Newton.	1350	Gieardus de Bredon.
1543	Rogerus de Cheyne.	1378	Johannes de Halghton.

* The sketch of this church, as well as of the five that follow, are copied from the great work of Mr. Ormerod. They are introduced for the purpose of shewing the difference between the structures at the time they were taken, from what they are at the present day. The churches of St. Oswald's, St. John's, and St. Mary's, retain the external form they had from a distant period, and I have met with no sketches of them in any other. In a MS. volume, part of the collections of the late Rev. Thomas Crane, I observe, the following note in reference to St. John's:—"I have seen a drawing of St. John's church, in its perfect state; it was originally built in the form of a cross." T. C."



<i>Presented.</i>	<i>Years.</i>	<i>Presented.</i>	<i>Years.</i>
1105	Johannes de Crissenale, Henricus Hey.	1511	Thomas Baxter, William Orton.
1443	Rogerus Asser.	1570	Edward Basilius.
1464	Jacobus Stanley.	1573	William Dorington.
1596	Thomas Belmont, Robert Deaconsan.	1591	William Officid.
1591	John Nicholson.	1624	William Case, M.A.
		1627	James Richardson, M.A.

It was my intention to have given the names of the ministers of this church, from the year 1627, with the time of their appointment, but I have not been able to collect the information with accuracy. The first nomination that can be found in the registry office, of perpetual curates to St. Peter's church, is that of the Rev. Peter Newton, but it is without date; it is presented by the churchwardens and parishioners to Nicholas, the then bishop of Chester, on the death of the Rev. William Thompson, the late minister. There is also a stipendiary curate's nomination, dated 1731, by the Rev. Robert Fogg, perpetual curate thereof, but it does not appear when the said Robert Fogg was licensed. On the 22nd September, 1771, the Rev. John Baldwin, nominated his son John Baldwin to the stipendiary curacy; but it does not appear when Mr. B. sen. was licensed. On the 10th February, 1776, the said John Baldwin, sen. resigned his curacy, and on the 20th day of February, in the same year, the Rev. Rigby Baldwin was licensed thereto. On the 14th of May, 1794, the said Rigby Baldwin (then called Rigbye Rigbye) resigned, and on the 28th May, in the same year, the Rev. John Baldwin was licensed thereto. The Rev. John Halton (the present incumbent) was licensed to the said perpetual curacy on the 24th July, 1815.

Population of this parish according to the last census, 1016.—The registers of this parish commence, baptisms, in 1588; marriages and burials, in 1559. They consist of four folio volumes, in general of fair legible writing on parchment, and in excellent condition, having been lately uniformly rebound in rough calf, and their contents lettered on the back of each. The chasms in the register

continue whose memory, his son and heir, Sir James Bradshaw, of Kirby, in the east riding of the county of York, has erected this monument."

Against the next pillar, in the middle of the church, a marble monument inscribed:—"On the northwest side of this pillar lies the body of Mrs. Ursula Bradshaw, youngest daughter of Sir James Bradshaw, baronet of Kirby, who was sole daughter and heir of Edward Ellerton, of Kirby, in the county of York, esq. She died at Chester, 16th September, 1731, aged 40, and desiring to be buried near her grandfather, her father's uncle, brother, Miller Bradshaw, esq. in memory of her many virtues, erected this monument."

Against the same pillar is a memorial of Mary, daughter and co-heiress of Randle Leech, merchant, sheriff of Chester, and last wife of Robert Leech, draper, who died July 27, 1643, leaving five sons and one daughter.

Near this are memorials of Thomas Tylston, M.D. died Jan. 9, 1736, and John Tylston, M.D. his son, who died June 22, 1750.

In a vault on the south side of the communion table, were interred in 1602, the remains of the Rev. William Massey, of St. John's church-yard; and in 1604, those of Elizabeth, his wife. Also four children who died in their infancy.

Against the east wall, on the north side of the altar, is a monument, decorated with a bust of the deceased, with an inscription as follows:—"Pater fuit anno vobis incarnati MDXXXVIII. Goldwinus Widd, honestis parentibus Helsbati, Frothmannie, natus huius, ordis eodem preterit, ordisisq; senatori, viro gravi et moribus suavissimis, optimorum comiti, et omnibus rebus: in se potius quam in externo, in publicis, liberalibusq; patriis prodigiis, vitam omnis generis moribusq; cultus possit."

Affixed to the north side of the church is a handsome monument of white and grey marble, to the memory of George Henry Johnson, with the following elegant Latin inscription, by Dr. Baskin of Shrewsbury:—"H. S. R.—Georgius Henricus Josephi P. Johnson, cuius Pater Henricus, veniam a natura sibi concessam, optimis studijs enudavit, in hunc Græcis atque Latinis plurimum profecerat, neque erat in Geometria rudis, nihil erat in eo fictum, aut simulatum, nihil incommensurabile, sed honesta omnia, sed decorosa, sed proba, in eade parti pietate, preceperunt, sed in eadem, confidens patris morum clementia, atque innocentia, ceteris que sua virtute impendit, destitit se commendavit, sed his animi virtutibus vires corporis non respondebat, vixit tandem sex mensibus, et diebus in diebus, in diebus, et mensibus, VIII. Id. Nov. A.S. MDCCCLXXXVIII. Pater Henricus, cuius Pater Henricus, et Pater Henricus, H.M.P.C."

[This youth is interred in a vault under the monument; where his father, Joseph Johnson, and his grandfather, John Johnson, wine merchants, and several other members of the same family, are also interred.]

*Trinity Church.*

THE HOLY AND UNDIVIDED TRINITY.

The advowson of the rectory of Trinity was originally an appendage of the barony of Montalt, and passed with that barony, successively, to the crown, the earls of Salisbury, and the Stanleys of Lathom, and continuing vested in the family last-mentioned, after their loss of the barony of Montalt, is now the property of their representative, the earl of Derby. The earliest notice* of it which

* The following note, in reference to this church, occurs in the *Chronicle of the BISHOP of Salisbury*, but on what authority the information rests, I know not.—
 "The south church, commonly called St. Paul's, is said to have been built by Marston, living in Lower-lane."

17th century, the church was ornamented with a beautiful spire, a representation of which is given above, in a drawing of one of the Rev. Mr. Holmes. From its appearance, however, and the perishable quality of the stone, it required to be repaired; and in addition to these causes of natural decay, the upper part suffered much in 1763 and 1770, from severe storms; it is stated to have been three rebuilt within eight years.

Early in the year 1831, some serious apprehensions were entertained for the safety of the spire, which had probably been rendered more sensitive, from the fatal accident which had a little before happened to St. Nicholas's spire at Liverpool, by which a great number of people lost their lives. The late Thomas Harrison, Esq. was therefore employed to survey it, and in consequence of his report, it was taken down without the least accident.

I have myself the pleasure of giving the whole of this account, as it has occurred in my opinion, to this structure, when because of the possible observations to be made by this drawing, and because of the possibility of having afterwards examined the building of the spire, on which, in the hands of the present owner it without any different situation, and from the whole purpose, there appears a watchful attention to its original construction, to the purpose of perfecting the joints, of the stones, or of the mortar employed in a work of this nature, or alternately to the joining of each other such as the building the different courses properly together, and to the necessary method of masonry, but more especially in masonry. This latter has increased, though it is open, but they otherwise would be done, and in this could be the principal cause of the destruction of the spire, which would be increased by the regular and perishable nature of the stone, which was built, in the several stages, in a state of continual decay. The mortar, in a number of the joints, has perished, and is weakened by the vibration of the spire, and they are therefore now so open, that the superincumbent weight rests only upon part of the surface of many of the horizontal joints. The upper part of the spire, which was rebuilt some years since, appears, whether to have been very carelessly and improperly executed; if the joints, in general, having been left open, and others only made up with small and very insufficient masses. From an observation made with a plain-line, the upper part of the spire appears to be about six inches out of perpendicular, leaning toward the south-west. The lower part of the spire, and about the middle of the present building, which, however, is not so perishable, has been built with a regularity, and is very solid; however, the mortar in many of the joints, particularly those that it is supposed to be two or three inches from the surface of several of them have perished and fallen off in this part, which has not been originally more than an inch in thickness. The corner stones

The stones which formed the summit of the spire, called the *Rose*, were placed by Dr. Thackeray, in the infirmary garden, as a pedestal for a basaltic column, from the Giant's Causeway.* The east end and south side of this church, with the pillars and arches, being in a ruinous



of the angles adjoining to the sound-holes is in proper, from being done with stone of too small dimensions, insufficiently bound or groed, and therefore gives a weakness to this part; which, with the present decayal state of the stone in several of them, constitutes the greatest defect and danger of the spire. All buildings must have a period of decay and failure, according to their situation, construction, and the quality of the materials of which they are built; and although it may be possible with great care and trouble, but perhaps with some danger, to repair this spire, so that it might stand a number of years, yet I consider, that, from its original defects, and present state of decay, no repairs will render it standing or secure, as certainties of this kind ought to be. All spires being more or less in danger from their great altitude, compared with the size of their bases, and therefore, to prevent loading the towers too much, necessarily thin; and as they are exposed to all vicissitudes of weather, they ought always to be judiciously constructed of stone the least liable to decay, and the masonry well executed. In a spire like this, where these essential requisites have not been observed, and where the stones, in several parts, being again, in a considerable and progressive state of decay; any repairation might give an appearance of safety, without effectually removing real danger. I am, therefore, after due consideration, of opinion, that the most advisable measure should be, as soon as convenient, to take it down entirely.

* This basaltic column has a peculiar claim upon the attention of the curious. A pentagon joint is seen in the infirmary garden, and taken from one of the most perfect pillars, has five planes, and twelve more surfaces; they have their insides sloped away in an opposite curve, and the grooves in the lower part of each joint adapt it to receive those, with similar curvature, added to the former, make twice as many curve surfaces as the angle has angles. The most remarkable property of Basaltic, is its regular being never found in strata like other marbles, but always standing up in the form of regular angular columns, composed of a number of joints, one placed upon and nicely fitted to another, some square, others pentagonal, hexagonal, heptagonal, or octagonal, as it formed by the hands of a skillful workman. The noblest stone in the world seems to be that called Giant's Causeway in Ireland, and Staffa, one of the western isles of Scotland. In Ireland the Basaltic rises far up the country, runs into the sea, crosses at the bottom, and rises again on the opposite land. In Staffa, the whole end of the island is supported by natural ranges of pillars, most of them six feet high, standing in several colonades, according as the bays and points of land have formed themselves, upon a firm basis of solid unformed rocks. At Fairhead (north of Ireland), the pillars are of a gigantic magnitude, sometimes exceeding five feet in breadth, and one hundred in length.

steeple, were rebuilt from the foundation in 1670. In 1771, the church-yard was enlarged from land ceded by the rector to the parish, for which it was to pay him and his successors *4l.* a year for ever. In 1774, the church was enlarged out of the church-yard, 50 feet in length from St. Patrick's aisle, and 23 feet in width from south to north, at an expence exceeding 500*l.* In 1734, it was decreed, that the four bells, being cracked and broken, should be re-cast, and two new ones added to the peal; in 1736, the six new bells, cast by Rudhall, of Gloucester, were placed in the steeple. The burying ground adjoining the church, having been long extremely crowded with bodies, and inadequate to the use of the parish, a fresh piece of ground, north of the Linen-hall, and east of the city jail was purchased in 1809, and consecrated Sept. 22, 1810; the total expence, including chapel, railing, &c. was about 1000*l.* The interior of this church is kept in remarkably good order, every part of it presenting an appearance of beauty and cleanliness. There are two good galleries, one of them erected so late as the year 1826, a considerable portion of which is appropriated to the children of the parochial sabbath school. Within this parish is situated the Roodeye, where the city races are annually held; it is tithe free, but the parish rector is allowed the pasturage of one horse. Certified value of the living 33*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* Present rector, the Rev. F. Ayckbourn.

By the census of 1821, the parish contains 3036 inhabitants. The registers, written on parchment, contained in four volumes bound in calf, and in good condition, commence in the year 1656; and are continued to the present time, with but little interruption.

RECTORS OF TRINITY.

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Rectors.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Rectors.</i>
1166	Widerus, physician.	1320	Robertus de Waterdote.
	Alexander le Bell.	1349	Johannes de Preston.

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Rectors.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Rectors.</i>
1369	Ricardus de Penketh.	1533	Thomas Fildes.
1373	Johannes de Melton.		John Brees.
	Thomas Myndell.	1550	Henry Bole.
1381	Johannes Holston.	1613	Samuel Hales.
1419	Will. d. Newdigh.	1615	Edmund Heywood.
1467	Johannes Cross.		Christophe Sudd.
1467	Margarus Cotta, Jona.	1723	William Sudd, A. M.
1481	Richard Myntona.	1735	William Sudd, A. M.
1500	Richard	1760	James Sudd.
1507	Robert Cowley.	1766	Thomas M. Black, A. M.
1512	Thomas Bewick.	1806	Thomas M. Black, A. M.
	Thomas Budeshaw.	1825	Frederick Aylmer.
1551	Ralph Stogard.		

The patronage of this church first came into the family of the Earl of Derby in the year 1405.

MONUMENTS IN TRINITY CHURCH

At the end of the south aisle, are the monuments of Henry and Elizabeth Grey, ever united, the following is on the first—

"Dame Elizabeth isare interred here
 That hadde was of here
 To Calverley, yett has best respoynd
 To Henry Grey, her name,
 Who ruled here's patronage,
 As cattle well can shewe,
 Thus she in worst shee reth'ring
 And still in vertue grew."

Near to the above is a large marble monument to the memory of John Malwaring, of Wrenbury, of the Baddley family, who served in the reign of Weymouth. Obiit March 2, 1720, aged 64.

Adjacent, a brass plate, in memory of Peter De Witt, merchant, who died (Obiit July 13, 1631) and Sarah his wife (Obiit January 6, 1644).

Opposite these is a very large monument, with a Latin inscription, memorial of William Allen, merchant, and alderman of Chester, who died (Obiit July 1703, aged 67).

Near the east door, adjoining the monument of the Allen's, is a very early and elegant monument of the Whitman's, which originally had a shield, with the family arms on the shield; it is mentioned in the "Visitacion" of 1534, but even at that time (1620) the monumental inscription was almost extinguished. The original inscription was as follows:—"Hic jacet Joh. Whitmanus de Wilmore, obiit 3 kal. Octobr. MDCCLXXV." It was afterwards

Chester, in 1372.—This square was removed in consequence of some alterations, and deposited in a vault under the seat now occupied by Dr. Thackeray.

At the altar, a tablet :—“ Here lieth the bodies of Martha, fourth daughter of Philip Chetwood, of Oakley, by Esther his wife, daughter to William Tuckett, of Whitley, who died 1731, the 11th day of May, 1681, aged 44 years; and Eleanor, second daughter of the said Philip Chetwood. She died 1693 March, 1692, aged 42 years.”

Above this :—“ Here lieth integral the remains of Martha Meredith, spinster, sister of Sir William Meredith, of Henbury, in this county, barr. who died in this city on the 3th day of October, 1738, aged 64 years.

On the north side of the altar, a memorial of “ Sir Herbert Whalley, bart. who was born at Bangore, in Sussex, and died of a fever at Chester, May 6, 1639.”

Near to this a marble tablet, inscribed :—“ P. M. S. Thomæ Ravenscroft nuper de Picchill, in agro Deminghami, conigeri, ex antiqua Ravenscroft de Breton in com. Flint, prosapia orti: Margaretæ uxoris ejus nobilitatis: dñi Thomæ Williams nuper de Vaynall, in comitatu Carnarvon, baronis: qui cum quadraginta annos summa cum felicitate amantissime convixerunt, et ad 84 ætatis annum respective proveci plentifulissimi obierunt, ille 18mo die mensis Februarii, 1631, illa 23o Octobris, 1633: in quorum pluri memoriam eorum filia vestissima et excubatrix Dorothea Ravenscroft, pæ hoc monumentum posuit.”

Under this, on a plain marble tablet :—“ Near this place resteth in hope of a joyful resurrection, to eternal life, the body of the Rev. James Stokes, A.M. late rector of this parish. He died the 23rd day of May, in the year of our Lord 1786, aged 68.

On a brass plate fixed under the creed within the communion rails, is the following memorial to the memory of Matthew Henry, the celebrated Presbyterian divine, and his wife :—“ Mortalitatæ exuvias hic juxta deposit Katharina Henry, filia unica Samuelis Hartware armigeri, Conjugæ admodum dilectæ Matthei Henry S.S. Evangelii ministri, quæ postmodum (satis superstitè) sanctorum extracta ad patriam migravit, 14^o die Februarii, 1689, ætatis suæ 25. Posuit in lachrymâ viduæ conjugis.—Item: Mattheus Henry pietatis et ministerii officii strenue perfunctus, per labores, S.S. literis scrutandis et explicandis impensus confectum corpus huic dormitorio commisit 22mo die Junii, 1714, ætatis suæ 52; susceptis ex Maria Roberti Warburton armigeri, filia, incoerente jam viduâ, unico filio et quinque filiabus superstitibus.”

A memorial on the south side of the altar :—“ At the foot of this pillar on the chancell side is interred the body of William Ince, late alderman and justice of the peace of the city, was maior anc. 1662; he was elected the Burgess in parliament for this city; he died the 27th of January, 1677; had issue only by his second wife, Anne, daughter of Thomas Tompkin alderman and justice of the peace: she was interred in the same mo. 1644. Two sons survived their father, William the eldest, and Robert the youngest. William Ince, alderman and justice of peace of this city, was maior anc. 1677.

Patience, the post-embellisher of Cloze, was buried in this church, October 21st, 1716.

In other parts of the structure, there are memorials of—Thomas Poulton, alderman, obit. February 24, 1746.—John Stanger, mayor 1744, died May 30, 1746, aged 52.—Robert Hilditch, alderman 1752.—Margaret Hilditch, died Jan. 21, 1760, aged 130.—John Hilditch, Nov. 16, 1812, aged 43.—Elizabeth Hilditch, died Feb. 14, 1812, aged 43.—Thomas Hilditch, alderman, died Sept. 16, 1822, aged 27.—Elizabeth Hilditch, alderman, died May 20, 1823, aged 27.—John Hilditch, alderman, died Nov. 1, 1830, aged 48.—John Bennett, alderman, died Sept. 6, 1840, aged 43; leaving his wife, died August 27, 1877, aged 89; Edward, Daniel, and Thomas, their son.—Elizabeth Bennett, daughter of Henry and Alice Hilditch, died January 29, 1851, aged 70.—Henry Hilditch, Esq. died February 22, 1798, aged 78; left his wife, died February 16, 1794, aged 167.—Jana, daughter of Roger Hilditch, alderman of the town, wife of John Pooley, Sheriff of Chester, died Jan. 1, 1814, Aged 80.—Elizabeth, daughter of Rowland Gledhill, of the county of Stafford, died March 5, 1860.

On the right of the east window, is a stone white marble tablet, to the memory of the Rev. Thomas Hilditch, rector of the par. of Northgate, and preacher of the church of St. Mary, 12 years, 1825, and was interred in St. Mary's chapel, 1826, aged 70.

On the south wall, a marble tablet, under a Gothic canopy, reads:—“To the memory of Anne, wife of Thomas Poulton, alderman of this city; she died Nov. 20, 1824, aged 64.—Also the stone of Thomas Bradford, died July 8, 1821, aged 67.—Also of Samuel Bradford, father of the above Thomas Bradford, who died the 31st of August, 1823, in the 45th year.”

Near the above, a tablet:—“Sacred to the memory and virtues of J. T. H. A. Dild, who departed the life Oct. 29, 1824, aged 69 years. She was a humble, pious, and sincere Christian. This tablet is gratefully inscribed by one of her affectionate pupils.”

On the north wall:—John Bennett, alderman, died Sept. 6, 1841, aged 81. Also the body of John Bennett, son of the above, died Dec. 21, 1849.—Also, Anne Bennett, the wife of Samuel Bennett, of the county of Chester, Esq. who died the 14th of April, 1828, aged 52.”

On the west wall, a marble tablet:—“Near this place lies the body of Thomas Hill, Esq. of the bar, son of John Hill, who departed the life the 18th day of November, 1794, aged 71 years.”

Over the entry door, a red & black marble tablet, under a Gothic canopy, reads:—“Near this place lies the body of Thomas Poulton, alderman of this city, 1744, aged 52 years. And also of Anne Poulton, his wife, who died July 17th 1760.—And also of Wm. H. Porter, Esq. of the county of Stafford, who died Nov. 14, 1800, aged 60 years. Also the body of Thomas Poulton, alderman of this city, who died the 14th of April, 1828, aged 52 years.”

At the west end of the choir, a red & black marble tablet, under a Gothic canopy, reads:—“Near this place lies the body of Thomas Poulton, alderman of this city, 1744, aged 52 years. And also of Anne Poulton, his wife, who died July 17th 1760.—And also of Wm. H. Porter, Esq. of the county of Stafford, who died Nov. 14, 1800, aged 60 years. Also the body of Thomas Poulton, alderman of this city, who died the 14th of April, 1828, aged 52 years.”





St. Martin's Church.

PARISH AND CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN'S.

This church, called St. Martin's of the Ash, is a most small brick building with stone angles and finishings, and situated between the west end of Whitefields and Copping-street. The present building was erected in 1721: of which the following inscription, cut on a small stone, at the west end, is a memorial:—"This church being ruined, was new erected from the foundation, in the year 1721.—Charles Bingley, William Terry, C.W." Previous to which the church was of still smaller dimensions, and of a different form: the accompanying wood engraving is a sketch of the structure as it stood towards the close of the seventeenth century: the interior is without chancel or side aisles.

St. Martin's is a rectory in the gift of the bishop. In 1744, it was augmented by lands purchased with 4000

of which 200*l.* came by Queen Anne's bounty. In 1809, the yearly value of the living, arising from augmentation, tithes, rent charge, and surplice fees, was returned by the bishop to the governors of Queen Anne's bounty, as amounting to 75*l.* 18*s.*

The foundation of the church, says Mr. Ormerod, was certainly anterior to 1250, as appears by a deed among the evidences of the earl of Shrewsbury, whereby Bernard, lord of Tranmulle, releases to Philip the clerk, son of Galfridus Munitor, 12*l.* rent, issuing from premises near the church of St. Martin, in Chester, Alan le Zouche being then justice of Chester. William Clarke was instituted to this rectory, July 7, 1637, on the presentation of the bishop of Chester. This is the first institution extant in the episcopal registers.

"In 1670, it was ordered by the dean and chapter, y^t a presentation to this parochial church be granted to Thomas Clarke, one of y^e petty canons, in y^e preamble to which order it is said, that he had officiated there for some time in their right and by their appointment as their curate, as Will. Otty, and his father Tho. Otty, and Mr. Swann, had done before, which last had institution and induction into it."

In 1699, a minister was elected by the inhabitants. After this the rector of St. Bridget's commonly supplied the church, preaching there once a month, and administering the sacrament once a quarter. In 1752, a clerk was regularly collated to the rectory of St. Martin's, and the succession has been as follows:—

Presented. Rectors.

1725 Nathaniel Lancaster.
1738 Richard Jackson, A.B.
1739 John Baldwin, A.M.
1793 William Clarke, A.M.

Presented. Rectors.

1795 Thomas Ardis, A.L.
1806 John Wilson.
1826 Wilton Goddard, A.M.

In point of extent and population, this is the smallest parish in the city; the amount of the latter in 1821, being only 565. The registers, consisting of six volumes, in very indifferent condition, commence in 1590, and are continued, under various titles, to the present time.

MONUMENTAL MEMORIALS.

Of these, the numbers are very few, and of slender attractions.—The only memorial worthy of particular notice is a pyramidal mural monument, on the south side of the communion table, ornamented with the arms of Chewode, of Oakley, in a lozenge, and commemorating Abigail, relict of Thomas Jones, of Chutton, Esq. daughter of Sir John Chewode, of Oakley, county Stafford, bart. She died Jan. 11, 1776, aged 73.

On the west wall of the church, over the door, a circular marble tablet—
 "Sacred to the memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Trafford, late of this parish, who died 26th of January, 1716, aged 77 years."

In the aisle, a flag inscribed to the memory of Thomas Jones, of Whitefriars; died 21st of June, 1813, aged 56; and also to his two wives, Mary and Leah; the former died Dec. 18, 1803, aged 64; the latter died 14th of February, 1817, aged 52.

On a painted board on the south wall—"Samuel Henley, who was parish clerk of this parish 47 years; also parish clerk of St. Oswald's parish church 57 years; he died April 19th, 1783, aged 73 years."

On the north side of the communion, the remains of Captain George Moulson were interred 16th November, 1826, aged 44; and Nov. 21, 1828, those of his mother, Eleanor Moulson, aged 78. This notice is derived from the parish register, and the information of the clerk, there being no memorial to mark their place of sepulture.



ST. MARY'S ON THE HILL.

St. Mary's church, anciently called the church of St. Mary *de Castro*, was given to the abbey of St. Werburgh, by Randal Gormons, fourth Earl of Chester. After the dissolution, the rectory was granted to the dean and chapter of Chester; it was, however, with the other chapter estates, as previously mentioned, out of possession of by Sir Robert Cotton in the time of Dean Clive, and confirmed to the fee-farmers generally, by Pat. 22 Eliz. Previous to this final settlement, Richard Harleston had obtained from George Cotton, esq. his interest in the same for 100*l.* an. 13 Eliz. probably, however, only as a trustee of John Breerton, of Wettenhall; who had presented to this church in 1554. From this branch of the Breerton family, the rectory passed, with a moiety of Wettenhall and other estates, by sale to the Wilbrahams of Dorford; and from them by marriage to the Rev. Robert Hill, of the Hough, in right of his wife, daughter of the Rev. John Wilbraham; from whom in 1819, it passed by purchase to the Earl Grosvenor, who is the present patron.

The parish extends beyond the city liberties into the county, and comprehends the townships of Upton, Little Mollington, Moston, Marleston-cum-Lache,* and Gloverstone, in Broxton hundred, and Handbridge within the city of Chester. The church stands high on a rock, near the

* The owners and occupiers of property in this township had for some time resisted the payment of the church-rates levied by St. Mary's parish, maintaining that they were *without* its limits. The parish, however, resolved to press its claim, and a legal litigation ensued on the point being finally tried; when the objectors, having obtained the opinion of a learned civilian unfavourable to their views, yielded a reluctant compliance to the demand, and on being summoned before the city magistrates, in December, 1730, gave up the point by paying the rates.

Dee between the Bridge-gate and the castle, from which it is separated by a deep fosse, called the Castle-ditch. Like our other churches it is built of red-stone, and consists of a tower,* containing six bells, a nave and chancel, with side aisles and subordinate chancels at the end of these aisles. The aisle is divided from the side aisles by three pointed arches on each side, and by another pointed arch from the chancel: and each subordinate chancel is also divided from its aisle by a pointed arch, and by an obtuse one from the principal chancel. Of these last, the arch on the north side has been modernized. The windows on this side are more obtusely pointed than the others, and contain fragments of stained glass: among others, the arms of Breton and Ipstones, and a golden tun, probably intended as a rebus.

The south aisle was anciently called *Troutbeck chapel*, and appropriated to the family of Troutbeck, of Dunham; it was originally built about the year 1433,† by William

* The tower is only about fifty feet high; it was repaired in 1715, and a farther increase in its altitude was objected to by the proprietor of the castle, because it would command a view of the castle-park.—*Wright*.

‡ *Agreement between William Troutbeck, Esq. and Thomas Betes, mason, For building a Chapel at Chester.*

This indenture, made by twene William Troutbeck, Esquier, on the one part, and Thomas Betes, mason, on that other part, becomen witness, that the said Thomas Betes made covenant and granted to the said William, that he should make and build in the church-yard or Saynt Martin the Hill on the south side of the chancel of the church there; that is to wit, the east end of the south side, and the west end, containing the length betwene chancel and altar, and 8 feet wide with inne the walls, and so high as he shal be able possibly to ere; with window and clerly wrought windows, such of light; that is to say, on gable opposite to the east end, with 1114 panes, and 1114 windows on the south side, 1114 of 1114 lights; and on the west end, 1114 panes, such as he shal be able to devise; and 1114 panes on the south side, with 1114 windows on the west end; and the chappelle to be made the above said, in the little closet with inne the castell of Chester, with a corbel table longyng thertoo; and at upper end 1114 honest pyalls. And the foresaid William shall pay to the said Thomas such a like as the said Thomas shal require; and also the foresaid William shall give to the said Thomas, such wood, wodehassle, and staff for to segefield with such such manner of things as the foresaid Thomas nedes; and all manner of charges that shal be thereto; and the foresaid Thomas shal, by the sight of the said William, make the chappell, and all things that longen therto, as he shal see cause.

Troutbeck, and Joan his wife, and here many of that family were interred, and had splendid monuments erected to their memory. Of these monuments, one of the Raugal Holmes says, "they were thought to exceed any thing of the kind in England."* The former notice of a chantry in this church (extracted from the general Ecclesiastical Survey, 26 Henry VIII.) most probably relates to the Troutbeck chapel:—"Cantaria infra ecel'iam Beate Marie Cestrie Johannes Dutton capellanus Valet in redd' provenien' de certis terris et tenementis in civitate Cestrie annuatim per cantaristam ib'm recept' ad annua cyas. viij*l*. x*ss*. inde xs. viij."

After this chapel had stood for the space of nearly 230 years, in 1660 it fell down, by which the monuments already spoken of were destroyed. L. appears to have

honestly. In witnesse of the which thynge to these p'sentes evidenceres, the p'ties forsaid, with their assent and other, have set to their seals.—Given at Claster the Monday next before the feste of the Natyvyte of Seynt John the Baptist, in the year of Kyng Henry the Sixt after the conquest xii.

[The seal gone.—The above document was in the possession of the Earl of Shrewsbury in 1607.]

* The following is a description of the tomb of the founder, Sir Wm. Troutbeck, taken a short time before its destruction, and communicated to Mr. Ormerod, by Wm. Hamper, esq.—"It was a fair tomb of one of the Troutbecks. The man all in riche armour, with a riche border of pearles and stones, about his head, on the helmet. On the front of the helmet, over his forehead, was engraven *Jesui Nazarenus Rex*. All the plates and edges of his armour curiously wrought, as it were imbracery, with a collar of SS. about his neck, of gold, one gauntlet in his hand, and his wife's hand in the other. Under his feet a lion couchant; under her head, a helmet mounted, having on it a wreath of trouts and a moor's head. She hath her head richly attired, with a veil over her head, with a blue gown, and a short surcoat of black. At her feet a lamb, and two angels supporting the cushion under her head."

Mr. Ormerod is decidedly of opinion, that this description refers to the monument of the founder of the chapel. Webb, in King's Vale Royal, describes another splendid memorial standing in this spot, erected to Sir Adam Troutbeck, the grandson of the above Sir William: concerning which he says, that it was for "Sir Adam Troutbeck and his lady, which sheweth that she was a countess, her statue lying upon her right hand, and her collar of SS. finely adorning her bare neck; his head supported like the others, and many escutcheons of their arms were fairly engraven about both their said tombs, which might shew all their marriages and descents, but that the same by length of time are grown so old, that they cannot be well discerned."

remained in a dilapidated state until the year 1690, when, the chapel, upon the application of Sir Joseph Jekyll, chief justice of Chester, to the Earl of Shrewsbury, (the representative of the Troutbeck family) was formally given up to the parishioners.* The present south aisle

* The following is an authenticated copy of the document by which this grant was made, and which has never been published: the original is carefully preserved in an iron chest in the church:—"To all Xpian People to whom these presents shall come, the Right Honble. Charles Earle of Shrewsbury, &c. sendeth greeting.—Whereas the south chappell (conionly called Troutbeck's chappell) parcell of the parish church of St. Maryes upon the Hill, in the city of Chester is, and for divers yeares last past hath byn decayed and out of repayre, and for that the same hath byn reputed to belong unto the sayd Earle, and his ancestors, the inhabitants of the sayd parish have neglected to repayre the same, Now knowe yee that the sayd Earle, upon the earnest suite and request of the present minister and churchwardens, and the parishioners of the sayd parish of St. Mary on the Hill, in the city of Chester, and for divers other good causes and considerations bin the sayd Earle therunto moving, and especially that the sayd chancell may be forthwith repayred, and for ever hereafter kept in good repayre by the churchwardens and inhabitants of the sayd parish of St. Maryes on the Hill and their successours, and the sayd Earle and his heires and assignes for ever fully and clearly acquitted and discharged of, and from the repayre thereof hath given, graunted, released, and confirmed, and by these presents dothe freely and clearly give, graunt, release and confirm unto John Wrench and John Cotgreave, churchwardens of the sayd parish and parish church, the sayd chappell, or parte of the sayd parish church (commonly called Troutbeck's chappell), and every parte and parcell thereof, with th'appertenance and all the right, title, interest, clayme, and demanda whatsoever of him the sayd Earle, of in and to the same and every parte thereof, to have and to hold the sayd chappell, or parte of the sayd parish church and every parte thereof, with the appurtences unto the sayd John Wrench and John Cotgreave and thire successours (churchwardens of the sayd parish and parish church for the tyme being) for ever, to the use, benefit, and behoofe of the inhabitants and parishioners of the sayd parish of St. Maryes upon the Hill for ever, as a free gift of him the sayd Earle, and that freely, clearly, and absolutely, without any manner of lett, suite, trouble, disturbance, or molestation of him the sayd Earle, or of his heires or assignes, or any of them, or of any other p'son or p'sons whatsoever clayming or to clayme by from or under him them or any of them, in any wise, act and under the yearly rent of one peppercorne to be payd yearly to the sayd Earle, his heires and assignes on the feast day of St. Michael the Arch-Angell (if lawfully demanded), is taken only as an acknowledgement of the above-mentioned suite and graunt. In witness whereof he the sayd Earle hath hereunto set his hand and sealle, the fourteenth day of March, in the third yeare of the reigne of o'r Sovereign Lord and Lady William and Mary, by the Grace of God over England, &c. King and Queene, defende of the Faith, &c. Anno Dni. 1690.91:—

NO. 11. 10



of 1922, the population of the island was 1857. The islanders found it profitable to cultivate coconuts for export, but the price of coconuts fell to the point where it was no longer profitable to do this, and the islanders returned to the cultivation of sugar. The islanders found it profitable to cultivate coconuts for export, but the price of coconuts fell to the point where it was no longer profitable to do this, and the islanders returned to the cultivation of sugar.

THE HISTORY OF THE ISLAND

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THE HISTORY OF THE ISLAND



sq; minimus tamen nomine Franciscus, puculus optime spoliatus, quidem omnia bona in hoc uno voto exopto: Sic Patri simul unus.

Hanc tumulum tibi composui, charissime coniux:

Quo mea mista tuis molliter ossa cubant.

Dilexi virum, volo defunctum comitari:

Nam quos junxit amor, dissociare velis.

About the middle of the north aisle is a fair plate, with the following inscription:—"Hic subitè humatur corpus Radulphi Worsley, armig. qui fuit filius tertius Gulielmi Worsley, de Worsley M. ync, in comitatu Lancastrie, arm. ac quondam serviens, scilicet, paganus garterobæ rotulariæ ac mos dapiferorum camere facietiss. principis Henrici octavi, Dei gratiæ Angliæ, Franc. et Hiber. nuper regis. Cui idem rex ob bonam et fid. le servitium circum regiam suam personam impensum, ex regia sua magnificentiâ ad terminum vite donaverat officii satellitis corene, custodiam bonon, leonardum, et leopardorum intra Turrim Londmæon; postea rex mag. garterobæ, contra rotulari. in com. Cestr. et Flint. elarci comite Lanc. et escester. com. palat. Lancast. aliisq; remunerat. Hic accesserat prestantis animi dotes coelitus ei tributa, quibus insigniter erat imbutus, nunc singularis in Deum pietas, multiformi in pauperes beneficentiâ, et nita in cunctos charitas. Annus 39 natus et ultra. 27 die Decem. anno Dom. 1573, expiravit, relicta sobole Alicia ex conj. Tho. Powell, arm. qui hoc sumptus fecit; Katherine nupta Thome Tutelci, arm. et Avisia Thome Vaudrey, gen. de Joanna filia Johannis Pike, armig. uxore sua propositis.—Nullâ coelum reparabile Giza."

Near to this, and close to the same wall, is a very fine tomb of alabaster, curiously adorned, a well-formed statue of Philip Oldfield, dressed in the costume of the age, with a ruff round the neck, leaning on the right side, with a roll in his hand. Below, on the side, is a painted skeleton, and the slab is supported by kneeling figures of his four sons, with their right hands applied to the hilts of their swords; on the left hands are shields, with the arms of Oldfield, Wettenhall, Somerford, Mainwaring of Croxton and Leftwich. Figures of two daughters are placed at the head, supporting shields, with the arms of Shackerley, Wettenhall, and Oldfield. Above is the following inscription;—"Philipo Oldfield, ar. ob navata' in construendis viis pontibusque operam, in erendis antiquissimis familia' stemmatibus, bene de com. hoc merito: qui in pri'mo matrimonium Helenæ Gulielm' Berington de Brad: hered. copulavit ex qâ Tho. et Eliz. Joh' Wettenhale nuptam, genuit: ad secunda vota convolans, Helen Griffith, vid', fil. Guliel. Hammer, ar. duxit; p. qua' tres filios, una' filia' p'creavit. Quoru' po'genit. Phi. Mariæ unice filiæ et hered. Joh'n. Somerford de Som', ar. Mich' Elianore hered. Jacobi Mainwaringe de Croxto', ar. Gulielm' Eliz. hered. Rob'ti Leftwich de de Lefth, ar. Marga' filia' Petro Shakerley po'genito nepoti ex hered. Galfrid' Shakerley de Hulme, ar. in matrim' felicissimè cloavit, jure consulto municipalli clarissimo marito suo chariss. Helena uxor relicta sepulchr. hoc monumentum consecravit. Obiit 15 Dec. 1616. ætat. suæ 75."

Remark this elegant monument is a table, on which is inscribed:—"In June, 1733, this tombe and monument was repaired and cleaned by order of the rev. Doctor Richard Jackson, parsonary of Chester, whose mother was wife of Richard Jackson, esq. of Betchton-house, near Sandbach, in this county, and who was the only daughter of William Oldfield, esq."

Elizabeth his wife, and great grandson of Philip Oldfield, esq. and Ellen his wife, of Bradwell, in this county."

On the same pillar is attached a board, on which are painted the arms of Holme, quartering Traimoll and Lymsce, and impaling Alcock. Inscription:—Here lieth the bodies of Randle Holme, of ye county of Chester, Ald' and Justice of Peace, and was Mayor thereof 1633, and y^e 16 of June, 1655, and 164; also of Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Tho. Alcock, and widow to Tho. Chelmon, gent. She dyed the 21 of May, 1666, and y^e issue two sons, William Holme y^e died 1623, without y^e issue living; and Randle Holme, now living, who was also Mayor of this city 1643."

On the same pillar is a stone monument, at the top of which are also the family arms. Inscription:—Here lies the body of Randle Holme, gent. seneat extraordinary to King Charles y^e 2d, and Deputy to ye Kings at arms, who died 12th March, 1669; and Randle Holme his son, Deputy to Noble King at arms, who died 30th day of August, 1707. He married Margaret, daughter of Griffith Lloyd, of Llannaran, in the county of Denbigh, gent. by whom he had issue Sara, Eliz. Kot. Randle, and Kat. who died unmarried, father, and lye here interred."

Near the above, a large wooden monument, decorated with the arms and quartering of Holme, the crests of Holme and Traimoll, and smaller coats of Holme impaled with those of his two wives. On this board are also inscriptions to the memory of several branches of this family, which, however, it is unnecessary to insert.

On a brass plate to the same aisle:—Here lieth the body of William Brock, of Upton, in the county of Chester, esquire, who by Anne his wife, daughter and co-heir to Robert Mohune, of Baynton, in the county of Dorset, esq.; had y^e issue 4 sons and 7 daughters. He died on the 14th day of April, 1639; and here also lieth the body of Edward Brock, his son, who died on the 3d day of October, 1639.—Susanna, daughter to Joseph Hocker, bail, of Showich, esq. wife of William Brock.—William Brock, esq. died 10 Jan. 1715, aged 73.—William Brock, of Upton, esq. his eldest son, died Aug. 10, 1734, aged 56 years.

Adjoining is a neat marble monument, inscribed—"To the memory of Mrs. Susanna Brock, who died March 20th, 1766. She was daughter to William Brock, esq. of Upton, in this county, and the last of that ancient family. This monument was erected by her nephew and nieces, the son and daughters of John Egerton, esq. of Broxton, in this county."

In the south aisle are memorials of—Tho. Deke, mayor of Chester 1740, died 27 Nov. 1764, aged 76.—Philippa, wife of Thomas Browne, of Netherlogh, daughter of Tho. Berrington, of Chester, by whom he had 10 sons and 5 daughters; she died, aged 42, May 6, 1661.—The same Thomas, who died 1669, aged 42, having married to his second wife Jane, daughter of Richard Leicester, of Great Budworth, relict of Charles Levesby, of Chester, who survived him.—Ales, daughter of Matthew Browne, of Netherlogh, and wife of Thomas Parnel, of Chester, obiit v. Sep. 1639.—Matthew Browne, gent. obiit 21 Nov. 1634.

Richard Browne, of Upton, son and heir of Thomas Browne, by Elizabeth his wife, daughter to Henry Birkenhead, esq. clerk to the great coach to Queen Elizabeth, son and heir of Richard Browne, son and heir of Thomas Browne, of Upton. The above said Richard Browne died Jan 4,

1621, having had two wives, first, Frances, daughter of Sir Thomas Gage, of Huntingdon, but who died s. p. and 2dly, Mary, daughter of Sir Thomas Ashmole, of Ashmole, Kent, by whom he had Thomas, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Richard, of London. She was a richly furnished widow. Arrived in Chester 14th Feb. 1666, aged 47. Thomas Beaumont, son of Sir John Beaumont, of Ireland, having married Elizabeth, daughter of ——— De la Roche, of London, who he had Thomas, Robert, Francis, Richard, Mary, John, Elizabeth, and Dorothy. She died in 1671. ——— Beaumont, son and heir, married Cicely, daughter to William Glegg, of Giggleswick, who died in childhood; her daughter Cicely, March 16, 1664.

Thomas Whitehead, married Alice his wife, born 1427, died 1611; he died Jan. 1, 1601.—William, Volume, eldest son, died in 1623, and died 17 July, 1623.

On 20th Nov. in the same year.—Susanna, daughter of George of Aston, Prescott, died 3 Feb. 1722.—Gregory, son of the same, died Dec. 1, 1720.—Anne, wife of the said George, died 20 Sept. 1740, aged 70 years.—George, Prescott, merchant, died March 19, 1747, aged 67.—Thomas, Prescott, of Rainsshaw, co. Cumb. esp. died 29 Oct. 1756, and had—John, of Rainsshaw, esp. died 31 Feb. 1770, aged 72.—By 1st July 1671, he was married to July, 1690, aged 77.

In the 16th year in this parish, a college was founded.—Thomas, son and heir of Matthew Ellis, of Overleigh, a free burgess, and citizen of Chester, was one of the gardeners of the Lady, grand-daughter of King Henry 8th, son of Ellis, Esq. of Overleigh, successor to Richard, Esq. a Danish nobleman, and being succeeded by his son Peter, Thomas, called of Overleigh. He died 29 April, 1574. Alice, his wife, died 1577. His son Matthew Ellis, of Overleigh, was born 1575, whose wife, Ellen, daughter of Thomas Birkbeck, of Northwich, died 1579, having issue Judith, who was married to Thomas, Esq. of Chester, esp. Margery, and Matthew Ellis, of Overleigh, esp. died in July, 1618. His wife Alice, daughter to Richard Birkbeck, of Northwich, esp. died 16 July, 1649, having issue Richard, called of Northwich, esp. died 16 Aug. 1670, aged 47, and Elizabeth, esp. died 16 Nov. 1670, aged 38. Elizabeth, daughter to William Halsall, of Northwich, esp. died Nov. 1674. The son Matthew Ellis, of Overleigh, was succeeded by his son Richard, of Northwich, esp. He died 17 Feb. 1684, aged 40, and had issue son Captain Richard, who died 1687.

Thomas, the younger, called of Overleigh, was succeeded by his son George, of Northwich, esp. died 1687, aged 47, and had issue son George, of Northwich, esp. died 1707, aged 67.

On 20th Nov. in the same year, the following marriages were celebrated:—John, Esq. of Northwich, esp. Elizabeth, daughter of John, Esq. of Northwich, esp. died 1707, aged 67.

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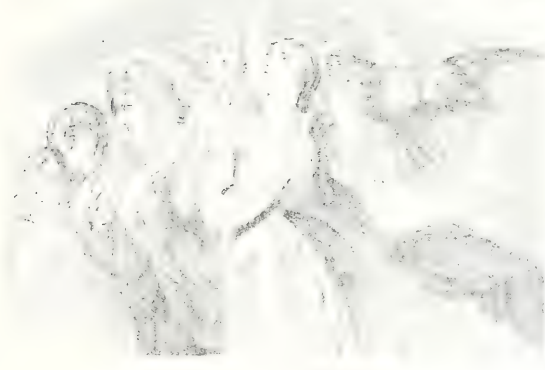
pro a'na Joh'is Willaston, quondam rectoris hujus eccl'ie, et pro a'abus
.....parentum ejus.....1400."

In St. Catherine's chapel a petition to pray for the souls of Randle
Beerton, of Chester, and his wives Cæcilia and Johanna. 1523.

In the window next to St. Catherine's chapel, two kneeling figures, with
the arms of Eaton, and underneath: Orate pro bono statu Ricard' Giesvenor,
Sibilla uxoris ejus, qui hoc opus fecit. 1524.

In another north window a figure of Matthew Ellis, in a surcoat and
helmet, and sons after him, and his wife in a veil, and daughters after her;
and in a high window in the middle aisle. "Of your charity pray for the
soul of Matthew Ellis, and Elizabeth his wife."

It does not appear from any thing I have been able to collect, when
these reliques of antiquity and superstition were destroyed; but it is probable
their demolition may be ascribed to puritanical zeal, when the parliamentary
forces had possession of the city about 1647.





St. Bridget's Church.

THE CHURCH AND PARISH OF ST. BRIDGET

The church belonging to this parish, till within the last three years, stood on a piece of ground, on the south side of Whitefriars, where the division is formed between Upper and Lower Bridge-street. Its contiguity to St. Michael's church, gave to this part of the city the popular name of *The Two Churches*, which it will probably long retain, notwithstanding the removal of the cause which gave birth to it.

The origin of St. Bridget's church* is buried in obscurity, but it may probably be dated from the reign of King Offa, who died A. D. 797, about which time we read, "That divers parish churches were erected in Chester." At an early period after the conquest, the patronage of this church was vested in the lords of Aldford, one of

* St. Bridget's church takes its name from a Queen of Sweden, 1270. See *the Crane MSS.*

whom quibclaimed the same, with the advice of Randal Blundeville, earl of Chester, shortly after the suit between the earl and Sir Richard de Malbach, in 1221. A record of the pleadings in this case, heard in the King's bench, brought into that court by writ of certiorari, 38 Henry III. still exists among the Harl. MSS. There subsequently appears a connection between this church and a chapel belonging in the thirteenth century to the family of Arneway (one of whom occurs in the list of Chester mayors 1233 to 1276), who to the abbey of St. Werburgh were great benefactors. In the chartulary of St. Werburgh it is recorded, that this chapel, with the messuages in "*Drugges-streete*," was granted by Bertram, son of William Arneway, to the abbey of St. Werburgh; and in consequence of further donations, Simon, abbot of Chester (1265-89) bound himself to maintain two chaplains to celebrate mass for the soul of the said John Arneway, one before the altar of St. Leonard, in the conventual church, and the other before the altar of the Virgin in the church of St. Bridget.

At the time of the dissolution it is found, in the "wages of P'stes," paid by this abbey, 111*l.* allowed to Richard Lowther, "Pryeste att the church of Saynte Brygggyts;" and in the pension roll of 1556, "Pene' Ric' Lowther, presbiter' nup' celebran' in ecc'ia S'e'e Brigett, in civit. Cestr. p. ann. 111*l.*" The church is now deemed a rectory; is in the gift of the bishop, and clerks have been regularly instituted since 1603. The Rev. Richard Massie is the present incumbent, who has for his curate the Rev. Thomas Bradford. The value of augmentation, stipend, and surplice fees were returned by the bishop in 1809, as amounting to 6*8*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.**

About the middle of the seventeenth century, the church was taken down, previous to which its appearance is represented by the above wood engraving, copied even a rude sketch taken by Randal Helme. On the removal of this structure, the church was rebuilt, when a wall was erected round it, which included several feet of the streets on the east and north sides, it contained

laying ground. In the year 1715, ground was purchased by the parish, behind the church, into which the inclosed walls were removed, and all the ground on the north and east of the church, then wa to the street, much to the public convenience. At this time, also, the east and north walls of the church were re-caed with stone, the west passage to the vestry closed, and an additional door made eastward of the old one, on the north side; every other part of the church, at the same time, was thoroughly repaired, at a very great expence, which was chiefly supplied by money sunk for annuities, after the rate of six per cent, by Ann Robinson and Susannah Johnson. Since 1805, the steeple required several other repairs. The accompanying engraving will shew the form and appearance of this church immediately before the time of its entire removal.

This church had four bells; there is a tradition in the parish that it formerly had five, but that one was seized by a churchwarden for a parish debt, and carried to Waverley; this appears the more probable, from there being a descent in the post, between the third and fourth bells.

When the erection of the new bridge was finally decided upon, St. Bridget's church stood upon a site which it was deemed necessary to occupy, in order to form a suitable approach to the bridge. Before, however, the church could be removed, it became requisite that ground for a new structure should be provided; and in this emergency the county magistrates, who were desirous of removing every impediment that stood in the way of the projected improvement, granted a suitable plot on the north-west side of the castle, which was accordingly inclosed for the purpose. The ceremony of laying the first stone of the new church took place Oct. 12, 1827, and was performed by the Right Rev. C. J. Harbord then lord bishop of the diocese: it was erected under the provision of the bridge act, by the county magistrates building new churches: the length is about 90 feet, and the width 50, and the church is calculated to contain

4000 persons. The structure was built from a design by W. Cole, jun. Esq. who succeeded the late Mr. Harrison, as county architect; and executed in a superior style of elegance, by Mr. John Wright, of this city. The land occupied by the building and church-yard comprizes two thousand one hundred and sixty-seven square-yards. It is rather a remarkable circumstance, that although St. Bridget's parish is wholly within the city, the ground occupied by the church and cemetery is neither within the parish or the city, but altogether within the county palatine; but by a clause in the act it is enacted, that after the consecration, it shall "for all purposes, and to all intents whatsoever, be deemed part of, and situate within the said parish of St. Bridget, and within the said city of Chester." The subjoined sketch will afford a tolerably correct idea of the external form of the church:



The old church in Bridge-street was taken down in 1828, to make room for the street leading to the new bridge, as it stood exactly across the opening; and soon after the consecration of the new burial ground, the grave-stones, and as far as practicable, the interred bodies were carefully removed to that cemetery.

RECTORS OF ST. BRIDGETS.

<i>Presented.</i>	<i>Rectors.</i>	<i>Presented.</i>	<i>Rectors.</i>
1493	John White, A.M.		Lawrence Wood.
	— Mason.	1710	John Kyles, A.L.
1508	Thomas Allen.	1717	Judas Thompson, A.M.
1609	Richard Jones.	1720	Thomas Parry, A.M.
1610	John Evans.	1755	Edward Mainwaring, A.M.
1614	Robert Lloyd.	1761	Thomas Woodwright, A.B.
1616	Francis Pilkington.	1782	William Nelson.
1633	William Cleakson.	1810	Richard Massey, A.M.
	Christopher Goodman.		

The population of this parish, in 1821, was 805. The registers, comprized in eight volumes, commence in 1649.

MONUMENTS, &c.

In St. Bridget's church, before its removal from the ancient site in Bridgstreet, the monumental inscriptions were few and unimportant. — The most interesting was one in the south chancel, containing on a large tablet, the following inscription: — "Here lyeth the body of Stephen Smith, Esq. his Majesty's customer of Chester, controulor of the port of Dublin, and escheator of the province of Munster, in the kingdom of Ireland (younger brother of Sir Thomas Smith of Chester and Hough, who was mayor of the city of Chester, 1622, and uncle of Sir Thomas Smith, bart. alderman of the said city, and Sir Lawrence Smith, of London, knight); he married Dorothy, daughter to Sir Nicholas Walgrave, Esq. and sister to the countess of Portland, by whom he had issue, Thomas, Robert, and Anne, who all died before him without issue; he departed this life the 4th of September, 1665, aged 69 years. He was the son of Lawrence Smith, Esq. by Anne his wife, daughter to Sir Raoul Mainwaring, of Peover, in the county of Cheshire, knight, who died the 19th of January, 1620; he was the sonne of Sir Thomas Smith, of Chester and Hough, knight (by Anne his wife, daughter of Sir William Brereton, of Brereton, knight), who was mayor of the said city anno 1596, and died the 21st of December, 1611; he was the son of Sir Lawrence Smith, knight (by Anne his wife, daughter of Sir Thomas Goddington, of Croxall, knight) who was mayor of Chester four times, viz. 1541, 1550, 1562, and 1571, was knighted in the Scottish wars, 1604, and died 3rd of September, 1582; he was son of Sir Thomas Smith, of Chester and Hough, knight (by Catherine his wife, daughter of Sir Andrew Brereton, knight), he was mayor of Chester several times, and died about the year 1570."

Several other memorials occupied the church, but were of little interest. According to Randle Holme, in 1530, the church contained monuments to the families of Simpson, Clayton, Goodman, Williams, Madron, Jones, Scoble, Wright, and Jones.

Since the erection of the new church, some elegant monuments have been placed therein, of which the following is a list:—

On the east wall, near the communion table, a very handsome marble monument, inscribed:—Near this monument lie enshrined the remains of Richard Barker, of Llandin, in the county of Denbigh, Esq. formerly of this parish, who died 21st October, 1816, aged 72."—*Sculp. Tyley, Bristol.*

On the other side of the altar, a beautifully executed marble tablet:—
 "Enshrined to the memory of Thomas Shaw, of this city, who died January 20, 1779, aged 59 years.—Also, Elizabeth, wife of the above Thomas Shaw, died August 1, 1806, aged 56 years.—Also Thomas, son of the above Thomas and Elizabeth Shaw, died Feb. 22, 1802, aged 26 years.—And John Mellor, of this city, died Oct. 27, 1821, aged 64 years.—And of Joanna, wife of the above, John Mellor, died 28th February 1827.—Also, of Thomas Shaw Mellor, son of the first-named John Mellor: died July 26, 1826, aged 31."—*Sculp. Mr. John Wright, Chester.*

On the north wall, a plain tablet, inscribed:—
 "Died at Jordan, and Oct. 26, 1772.—James Jordan, father of the above, died Denbigh, 1817.—Also, Abigail Jordan, wife of the above James Jordan, who died April 10, 1823, aged 79 years."

In an arched recess, on the south wall of the baptistery, is a splendid marble memorial, with this inscription:—
 "Near this place lie interred, the remains of Francis Edge Barker, of this city, Esq. who departed this life June 10th, 1827, aged 49."—*Sculp. Reeves & Son, Bath.*

[On the north wall of the baptistery, is a recess, corresponding to that which occupies Mr. Barker's monument, at present unoccupied. The author understands that this is destined to be the receptacle of a superb monument to Thomas Harrison, Esq. our late distinguished architect. A sketch of this monument has been prepared by the celebrated Chantry; and a subscription has already been set on foot by the emmy gentlemen, to defray the expense. Mr. Harrison lies interred in a vault on the north side of the church.]

On the south wall of the church is a Urn and tablet, inscribed, with this inscription:—
 "Mary Nelson, died January 24, 1795.—Died at London, Rev. William Nelson, erected this monument as a tribute of respect to his memory."—Upon a tablet underneath:—
 "This tablet is placed as a tribute of respect to the memory of the Rev. William Nelson, late rector of this parish, who died 21st of September, 1810, by his nephews, Sir Isaac Nelson and Jane Batty."

The practice of interment within the walls of the church is tedious, and it is extremely desirable that a public provision was adopted in regard to our sacred edifices.—Near vaults in the churchyard were placed the receptacles of the remains of the dead interred *within* the old structures; and all not of a very remote date were carefully deposited.—The following memorial, which the inscriptions annexed:—

On the west side of the church.

Margaret Marsden, died 11th of August, 1755.—Thomas Marsden, died 24th January, 1699.

Anne, wife of William Edwards, died January 10, 1871.—William Edman, (alderman of Chester) died May 23, 1812.—Richard, son of the above, died August 24, 1820, aged 46.

Unmarked by the remains of Elizabeth, wife of John Williams of this city, groom, died 2nd February, 1813, aged 75.—Also, the above John Williams, who died 20th of November, 1817, aged 78 years.

(Vault of Mr. John Massey, wid. out inscription.)

Robert Pierce, of Whiterians, who died July 24, 1816, aged 50.

(Vault of Mr. Thomas Parry, solicitor.)

Stands to the memory of Hugh Hayward, Esq. of this city, barrister at law, who died August 23, 1758, aged 71 years.—Also, in the same grave, are deposited the remains of alderman Hugh Stacey, who died 1715.—Also, H. Hayward, mother of the said Hugh Hayward, Esq. She died 1710.

On the north side.

Underneath lieth the remains of Præcilla Lawrenson, who departed this life March 29, 1764, aged 32.—Also, Lawrence Lawrenson, son of the above.

On the east side.

George L. Hastings, died 10th August, 1755, aged 20 months.—Charlotte L. Hastings, died 22nd February, 1797, aged nine months.

William Thomas, died 2nd December, 1813, aged 15 months.—Also, William Thomas, died 8th December, 1813, aged four months.

A vault belonging to Mr. Edward Tidy, in which are deposited the remains of Mr. Owen Tidy, surgeon, his brother.

(Vault containing the remains of T. Harrison, Esq. architect.)

(Vault belonging to the family of the late Mr. John Mellor, whose monuments in the church have been already noticed.)

(Vault of the Rev. R. Maske, rector of the parish, in which are deposited the remains of children.)

(Vault belonging to Mr. Hambleton, Esq.)





St. Michael's Church.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH AND PARISH.

The church of St. Michael's stands on the east side of Bridge-street, and the north of Pepper-street. It is a perpetual curacy, augmented by Queen Anne's bounty, and in the gift of the bishop. There is no historical data extant, by which to ascertain the period of its foundation; but, as there is mention made by Bradshaw (c. 2. c. 20) of the existence of the *monastery* of St. Michael early in the 12th century, it is probable that the *church* of that name was then in being. It is recorded by this writer, "that the monastery of St. Michael was burnt by the great fire which happened on Mid-Pent Sunday, in 1138, at eight of the clock (all being in church) and consumed the greatest part of the city." This monastery was conveyed to Norton abbey by King Henry III. An relation

to this monastery, I find the following note in the Crane MSS. "It is conjectured to be situated in Bridge-street, in Rock's entry or court; where, Dr. Williamson says, before it was converted into dwelling-houses, one might have beheld fair church-like windows, and other demonstrations of its being part of a religious house. Mr. Stone, indeed, says, upon a view, I found no such windows or tokens in 1727. But what Dr. Williamson remarks may be true, notwithstanding; for such windows and tokens might have appeared previous to the year 1727, before dwelling-houses were built in Rock's-court."

The chancel of St. Michael's church was built in 1491, and enlarged in 1678; the body of the church was new roofed in 1611. The annexed wood cut is a fac-simile of a drawing of this church by one of the Holmes, about the end of the seventeenth century. In 1710, the present steeple was built, but like most of our other churches, from the perishable nature of the stone, its exterior is so ragged and weather-beaten, as to give the appearance of extreme antiquity; the steeple is 23 yards high, and cost 363*l.*; it contains six musical bells, cast by Rudhall of Gloucester, in 1726; the weight of them 30*½* cwt. at an expense of 217*l.*

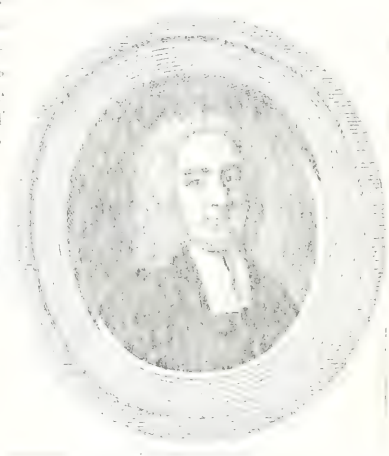
The church has an embattled tower, which is built over the east row of Bridge-street. The interior of the building consists of a nave, chancel, and north aisle divided from the body of the church by three pointed arches resting on octagonal columns with quatrefoils on the capitals. The nave has a timber roof nearly flat; that of the chancel formerly rested upon brackets which have

* This circumstance seems to have caught the attention of Dean Swift, as related, of I mistake not, by Spence. When this wit was once on his way from London to Dublin, he stopped for some time at the Yacht Inn, by Water-gate-street; and being alone, sent an invitation to several clergymen in the city to dine and spend the evening with him. Not one of them, however, made his appearance; upon which the Dean ventur'd his satire in the following epigram on the occasion.

"The chancel'd clergy at his eye
Are very near taken;—
They're *weather-beaten* all within;
And *empty* all within."

304, D, 2.

JONATHAN SWIFT.



been cut away, and was ornamented with carvings, foliage and other ornaments.

The value of the living, arising from augmentation a legacy, and surplice fees, was returned by the bishop in 1809, as amounting to 1*l.* 10*s.* The Rev. Joseph Eaton, M.A. is the present rector.

In 1556, the following pensions continued to be paid to priests who had served this church before the reformation:—

Pene. Joh'is Thompsonse presbiter', ann. celebran. in eccl'ia s'c'i Mich'is Cost. p. ann. iij*l.*

Georgii Hardie, unius presbiter. ann. celebran. in eccl'ia s'c'ch. p'd. in civitat. p'd'ia ann. x*s.* vi*l.*

The following is an extract from a MS. which appears to have been a book for the account of receipts and expenditure of the church revenue, in the possession of Mr. Leacroft, solicitor of this city:—

— Hereunto followeth the accountes of vs George Leacroft and John Goddard our parishens, of the balances longinge to the rectour, s'c'ch. p'd. of the same Landes and parsons, w'ch. are otherwise receiv'd. Costes of reparacions and dead'nes of years, sayd Leacroft receiv'd the 10 days of July, in the first year of Kinge Edward the sixth, by the gift of England and Hierarchy, supreme head — for w'ch year was our counte before this first date to this present day above shew'd.

<i>The Receipts of the same Landes</i>		<i>The same Receipts of the same Landes</i>	
Roger Leacroft's house	xxxi <i>s.</i>	To Mr. Warhamton	xxxi <i>s.</i>
Lincoln's house	xv <i>s.</i>	To Mr. Pugh	xxxi <i>s.</i>
George Grosse's house, without	xv <i>s.</i>	To Mr. Widdowes	xxxi <i>s.</i>
John Dore's house	viii <i>s.</i>	To the Sheriff	xxxi <i>s.</i>
John Leacroft's house	xv <i>s.</i>		
Thomas Widdowes's house	xv <i>s.</i>		
The house w'ch. of Thos. Widdowes's house	viii <i>s.</i>		
Also one house in the Balmes	ix <i>s.</i>		
Richard Widdowes's house	viii <i>s.</i>		
Richard Widdowes's house	viii <i>s.</i>		
Sum of these is	xl <i>s.</i>		

The priestes wages for vii years and a quarter, all total, of v*s.* xxi*s.* to xxvi*s.*

dated of this wages for vii years, vii priestes at v*s.* xxi*s.* to xxvi*s.*

Here follows a long bill of disbursements, which is continued in several bills in "B" page 100. The bills for "Food and Flesh, munges, &c. &c."

names of all the vicars and beneficed men, 1418.
 The church, with the chapel for the use of our service, to Gooden, to
 Aylmer, and to Southminster, Vicars.
 The year of the payment of the vicars the parson wages is 1418, 1428, 1438, 1448.
 The year of the usual reparations of the church is 1418, 1448.
 There were many benefices as George Layton and Aylmer, the vicars of
 the church, 1418, 1448, 1462."

LIST OF CURATES, FROM THE REGISTERS.

Records in the Church, Nov. 25, 1561.

<i>Presented.</i>	<i>Cures.</i>	<i>Presented.</i>	<i>Cures.</i>
1561 George Gray.		1760 Thomas J. French, M.A.	
1563 James Miller.		1761 Nathaniel Llewellyn, B.A.	
1564 Robert Gierke.		1767 Roger Barnston, M.A.	
1565 William Collins.		1768 Joseph Buchanan, M.A.	
1566 James Gierke.		1769 Joseph Barnston, M.A.	
1694 Robert Durdall, M.A.			

The population in 1821 was 712.—The registers of the parish commence in the year 1581.

MONUMENTS IN ST. MICHAEL'S.

There are very few monument remains in this church, possibly because the following are the only ones deserving record.—

On the second pillar from the west end is a tablet erected in 1748. The tablet depicts Thomas Goddard, a noble and enterprising merchant, a Town Clerk, and a member of the Middle Temple, 1696, and of the University of Cambridge, 1700, and of the University of Oxford, 1702, and of the University of Leyden, 1703.

On a new pyramidal mural monument in the north aisle.—"Near this place rest the remains of Roger Comberbach, esq. late owner of the manors of Chesham and Flint. His virtues were exemplified in his conduct to the poor, and the friend. He died March 27, 1771, aged 66. His wife, the daughter of H. Comberbach, widow of the said Roger Comberbach, esq. who died 29th Dec. 1814, aged 74 years."

On a fine large white marble tablet, in the north aisle, is the effigy of Elizabeth, wife of the daughter of sir Richard Worsley, knight, and daughter and heiress of sir Humphrey Bingham, knight, and the only daughter of the said sir Humphrey and two daughters, the eldest a son, only surviving son. She survived this life the 24th of June, 1699, and was 87 years of her age."

On the north side of the altar, a tablet with the inscription:—“*Widow Elizabeth, nee Day, Lovelace, of Toft;—Near this place lies the body of Thomas, Master of Arts, eldest son of Sir Henry Dalrymple, of Dalrymple, baronet, and of Elizabeth, Randle Lovelace, of the city of Chester, gent. She died Dec. 1, 1669, aged 68.*”

On the north wall, a marble tablet, inscribed:—“*Underneath rest the remains of Joseph Percival, (Jazler, who with his wife and four children survived the oldest shopkeeper in this city, he died 31 September 1777, aged 72. Also, of John his son, a proctor and public notary, who in a national expectation of the triumphant call, died April 3d, 1801, aged 56.*”

On the east-west pillar, a marble tablet, inscribed:—“*Near this place lie the remains of Thomas Richardson, esp. late colleague of this city, who departed this life the 1st of July, 1784, aged 69 years.*”

On the north wall:—“*Underneath lie the remains of John Smith, who departed this life Dec. 12, 1807, aged 76 years. Also, Elizabeth, Smith, wife of the above, who died Feb. 2, 1816, aged 66 years.*”

On the same side, a not marble tablet:—“*Underneath rest the remains of Samuel Humphreys, esp. late paragonary of the county of Chester and Flint, who July 19, 1822, aetat. 50. In his death, much respected; in death, deeply regretted.*”

On a brass plate sunk in the north wall, inscribed:—“*John Budvell, of this city, who died xx of August, 1669.—Peter Budvell, died the 22 April Also, Peter Budvell, his son, died 2d October, 1678.*”

The remains of Thomas Farnour, esp. the celebrated editor of *Stratford*, lie buried here; also those of Mrs. Adams, formerly of the *Peagles Inn*; of Alderman Broadhurst; of William Tomlinson, late of the *Royal Hotel*, who died April 12, 1830, aged 38 years; of Mr. George Bulkeley. The families of Sir John Williams, Col. Barnston, Comberbach, Whitby, &c. have vaults in this church.

* By the wall of this gentleman, it was directed, that the bones of the late Sir Crisp Huskisson should be deposited to the grave, and being deposited there, in 1845, they were found of them, and were deposited in the same vault, as directed.





St. Olave's Church.

CHURCH AND PARISH OF ST. OLAVE'S.

St. Olave's church* is situated on the east side of Lower Bridge-street, and opposite Castle-street; it is a perpetual curacy in the gift of the bishop. This church was augmented by queen Anne's bounty in 1725—160*l.* being given by Sir Thomas Hammer, 50*l.* by Sir Richard Grosvenor, and 50*l.* by the parish. Some years after, thirteen acres of land at Thornton-le-Moors were purchased with the money, and some parochial contributions. In 1771, it was again augmented by 200*l.* for which interest was paid to the Rev. Henry Docksey, who died in 1778, since which time the payment has been withheld. The value of the curacy, arising from augmentation, and charge, and surplice fees, was returned by the bishop in 1800, as amounting to 42*l.* 1*s.*

* This church derives its name from a king of the Norwegians, who, in 1042, fled a fugitive to the Danes, *Comp. MSS.*

The precise time of the erection of this church is not known, but there are documents extant which prove it to be of high antiquity. This church was given by Richard Picornia (probably says Mr. Ormerod, ancestor of the Barbers, barons of Warrington), in the time of Richard, earl of Chester, to the abbey of St. Werburgh, to which it was confirmed by his charter of 1119, with the land adjoining to the church, and two enclosures in the park to be placed given by the same. This is also noticed in the following charter, which, according to W. Vaughan is of the date between 1250 and 1254, the original of which is in the possession of W. Hauser, Esq.—“*Sciant, &c. quod ego Rogus Herre dedi Agnei filii nec et se maritum dani unum mansura terre qm' dicitur. Cui et Nich. C. filius ej's tenentur. Hinc scilicet que est jura ecclesie s'ci Olavi, quam quidem habui de decano s'ci Joh'is Baptiste, et de ej'dem loci canonicis. Hinc, &c. Redendo inde annuatim quatuordecim denarios s'ci Martini ad communiam s'ci Joh'is Baptiste de die p'curatoris et exco'm'c. Hinc, &c. in full coronato portamento Costr. Testibus. Will'o de Vignon, judic'. Steph'o Freidvell t'c Vic. Will'o C'rico Germano Dol. Way, Joh'e de Utkell, Will'o Surmeo, Hugo de Herre, et multis alijs.*—Oval seal of green wax, with delineated a whole length figure (antique) with circumscription—*S. RICHARDUS BARON*.

The church is a low, unembellished building of red stone, differing but little in its external appearance from the above fac-simile of a drawing of it taken by Randle Holme about the year 1669. In 1824, a new wooden steeple (not much better than a pleasure boat) was built, covered with lead: the old one was covered with shingles, subsequently to the year 1634, the church fell into disrepair, and the spires and heralds. Bishop Gastrell, in his Narrative of 1722, observes, “Here is no provision for the poor; and although the church be in some tolerable repair, it is not fit for any public service, nor for any performed besides baptism and burial.” The minister of St. Michael takes care of the parish at present, and has done so for twenty years past.

In the year 1819, the inside of the church, which till then was in an unseemly condition, was painted and cleaned, under the direction of the Rev. G. Pearson, then vicar, and has now a clean and comely appearance.

The Rev. Robert Yarker is the present minister of the church.

The following presentations to this church occur in the episcopal registers of Lichfield, when the patronage was in the hands of the Bishops of St. Werburgh.

RECTORS OF ST. CLAVES.

<i>Presented.</i>	<i>Rectors.</i>	<i>Presented.</i>	<i>Rectors.</i>
1379	Radulphus de Loughton.	1433	Radulphus Prentissay.
1381	Philippus de Bomas.	1434	Christophorus Knowl.
1382	Radulphus de Loughton.	1435	Thomas Wear.
	Thomas de Bomas.	1444	Williamus Penckel.
1384	Radulphus de Wigton.		Isaachus Wadley.
1377	Mathias de Bona Larga.	1455	Johannes Carey.
1387	Thomas de Wadley.		

The registers commence in 1611.—In 1821, the population of the parish was only 567.

MONUMENTS, &c.

Close to the west end of the church is a large base for a monument to the memory of Joseph Dale, of the county of Chester, who died in January 1761, and whose epitaph raises this tablet to the memory of a citizen and a good patriot.

“*Joseph Dale, Esq., on the south wall, a tablet, “Sancitæ et benevolutæ Mariæ, videlicet Therese, Theresiæ, &c. She was daughter of George Mackenzie, Esq., of Broomhall, by Anne Wale, of the county of Hereford, Widow, of Waleton, in the county of Salop. This excellent person was educated in all the notions of Piety, and was accomplished in her native tongue, French, Italian, and English, and she was so conversant in the laws and the offices of a devout Princess, if she was a stranger, a person of merit, and had an interest in humanity, she died in the 11th of February, Anno Dⁿⁱ 1774. No monument has been placed there, which is a great loss to the church, and a great injury to the public, that who have been so well educated, and whose life is measured by number of years, but that which is not to be forgotten, and to be compared with our age! Mary, daughter of Henry Mackenzie, Esq., deceased, and beloved wife of Thomas Theresiæ, Esq., died the 11th of February, Anno Dⁿⁱ 1774, aged 56. Also the stone Theresiæ, Theresiæ, &c. is now placed in the church, and is a great loss to the church, and a great injury to the public, that who have been so well educated, and whose life is measured by number of years, but that which is not to be forgotten, and to be compared with our age! Mary, daughter of Henry Mackenzie, Esq., deceased, and beloved wife of Thomas Theresiæ, Esq., died the 11th of February, Anno Dⁿⁱ 1774, aged 56. Also the stone Theresiæ, Theresiæ, &c. is now placed in the church, and is a great loss to the church, and a great injury to the public, that who have been so well educated, and whose life is measured by number of years, but that which is not to be forgotten, and to be compared with our age!”*

On the same wall, a handsome tablet—“ Sacred to the memory of William Corles, of the city of Chester, merchant, who closed an illustrious and estimable life on the 14th day of February, 1782, aged 52. Also of Helen his wife, who followed him, deservedly lamented, on the 14th of February, 1799, aged 56. Filial reverence and affection has erected this tablet to their memories.

On the north wall, a beautiful marble tablet—“ Sacred to the memory of Thomas Corles, formerly of the city of Dublin, but late of the city of Chester, merchant, who departed this life the 6th day of April, 1764, aged 60. Also of Margaret his wife, who died on the 26th March, 1799, aged 60. This monument is erected by their nephew William Corles, in a tribute of his affection and gratitude.”

In this church are also interred the remains of Joseph Del, esq. of Bridge-street; ——— Drake, esq. of Watergate-street; Mrs. Rogers, widow of Aldermen Rogers, &c. &c.

Having completed the history of our parish churches, this may not be an improper place to offer a few remarks on the scantiness of our burial grounds in this city. What renders their enlargement impracticable is, that they are mostly surrounded on every side by dense buildings. The only exceptions are the parishes of Trinity and St. Bridget's; the former having purchased and inclosed a piece of ground as a place of sepulture near the city wall, and the latter acquired a capacious church-yard near the castle. In all our other church-yards there is scarcely a square yard of land that has not been tenanted by the dead, whose flesh and bones yet remain undecayed. There is something in this state of things that shocks the firmest mind, and excites an ardent wish that this evil should be remedied. Our neighbours of Liverpool, who attend with a like inconvenience, have wisely applied themselves to the providing suitable receptacles for the dead, equally sequestered from crowded graves, and the busy footsteps of men, and not less rural, than secure from the unhallowed approach of body-stealers. One of these cemeteries is situated at the top of Duke-street, where the funeral service of the church of England is performed over the dead; and the other, near Everton, comprizing four or five acres of ground, which is open to all denominations of persons, and where the rites of sepulture are performed

by any dissenting minister, according to the choice of the friends of the deceased. At the entrance of each of these is a neat chapel, and both are surrounded with a lofty wall or pallisading. I can see no reason but something of this kind might be accomplished in Chester. The circumstance of there being but little vacant ground within the walls, might not to be considered an obstacle; for it is more desirable to have our cemeteries in the vicinity, rather than in the midst of crowded towns.* Nor can the expense be seriously objected, as an insuperable impediment. Suppose the seven parishes which are short of ground for interment, were each to club its quota, proportionate to its parochial levies, to be liquidated by rates, in the purchase of a piece of land, and the erection of a chapel, wall, &c. the burthen would be comparatively light, while the object attained would be most valuable. Indeed, I am inclined to think, that even as a pecuniary speculation, the project would be one of gain: for who that holds dear the memory of departed relatives or friends, would object to pay an additional sum for the purchase of a commodious burying place, rather than have their remains huddled together in a crowded church-yard, and placed in contact with the half-decomposed bodies of others. In my estimation the plan suggested will command itself to the approval of the public generally; nor am I inclined to believe, that either our venerable bishop or the clergy would be indisposed to it, as it might be so modified as neither to detract from their rights, or diminish their emoluments.

* In ancient times, none were buried in churches or church-yards: it was even unlawful to inter in cities, and the cemeteries were without walls. Among the primitive christians, these were held in great regard. It is observed, from Basil and Tertullian, that in the early ages they resorted to divine worship in the cemeteries. Valerian seems to have prohibited the cemeteries, and other places of divine worship, but this was afterwards removed by Athanasius. As the martyrs were held in so high esteem, the Christian cause flourished in building churches, and the Christians were distinguished from idolaters; and hence some derive the rule, which still obtains in the city of Rome, that no person is to be buried without public notice, or burial in some city.

Parochial Bequests.

Legacies to St. Oswald's Paroch.

There have been but few legacies left to the poor of this parish, some of which have been lost through the negligence of parish officers, and others have been, in my estimation, originally and illegally diverted from their legitimate object. In the year 1720, before the house of industry was built, and previous to the incorporation of the nine parishes, each parish was endowed in part in a building within its own precinct. There is no record in the church books of St. Oswald's, of the above date, nor of similar papers, that the sum of £227. 6s. "being part of the public stock or treasure, and belonging to that part of the parish of St. Oswald's within the liberty of maney or Chester," and which had been derived from impost made upon the poor, was laid out in the purchase of premises at the end of Winthill-lane in George's-street, now held by Mr. H. Brassey, as a mill manufactory, and become the parish work-house. For this purpose it was used until the erection of the house of industry in 1757; but it does not appear that, in the interval of the space between the purchase and the latter period, the poor of the parish have received the interest or dividends of the funds thus alienated. The rent now received from the premises is 100*l.* per annum, which is appropriated to paying the churchwardens' stipend *in aid of the church rates!* I do not think myself competent to give an opinion whether this property might be recovered for the poor; but I shall find very few reasonable men who will dissent from me in thinking, that the present mode of its application is neither consonant with justice to the dead, or equity to the living. By referring to the legacies of St. Oswald's parish, it will be seen, that the interest of a sum of money appropriated to a similar purpose has been recovered, and is now paid from the church rates according to the intention of the humane benefactors.

Ten shillings a year, bequeathed by will to the poor, of G. Green, who a short time since Huntington, has been suffered to remain unapplied for the last twenty-eight years; upon this legacy, therefore, £1*l.* 10*s.* were received this year, the churchwardens should take steps at least for its future payment.

The churchwardens distribute annually to the poor, the interest of 200*l.* the joint legacies of ——— Green, and ——— Barston, which in fact is the whole amount due to them upon their legacies.

Edward Russett, a parson of Chester, by his will of 1746, bequeathed 100*l.* per annum to twelve poor persons, to be distributed equally among them every Sunday throughout the year; also 10*l.* per annum to be paid to the same persons on the 20th of March; and likewise 10*l.* per annum to the same persons on the 20th of June. The interest of the annuities of the above bequest in St. Oswald's parish is 100*l.* per annum, regularly paid by the John Wood Messrs.

The parish of St. Oswald is at this time (Sept. 1850) engaged in a legal litigation with the out-parishes, which threatens disagreeable results, on the whole, at least, is certain, namely, considerable expense. This contest originates in the refusal of the latter to pay certain church rates levied lawfully by vestries entered in the reports and boardings of the church, and the execution of a new gallery in 1626. Among the ground on which the out-parishes are legally comprehended within the parish, and the object of the demand, the money being expended before the rate was levied, is the contravention of an act of parliament. In the first instance, proceedings were commenced by the parish in the ecclesiastical court against Mr. Jones, vicar of Great Boughton, to compel payment of the levy. Through his intervention is the ostensible defendant in the cause, the plaintiff landowners in the out-parishes have had common cause with him, and submitted to the jurisdiction entered into to decide the suit. Application has been made in the King's Bench, and a rule nisi obtained, to remove the case into that court, and here the question must be finally settled, unless some composition takes place, which at present seems extremely improbable. If, however, the suits in dispute should be ultimately referred to "the glorious uncertainty," it is likely, more money will be expended in the conflict by the parties, than the whole amount of the church-rates for a century to come.—Another ecclesiastical lay-payer or two, *within the parish*, have also formally signified their intention of resisting the rate, because, as they allege, St. Oswald's, as being part of the cathedral, is not really *the parish church*. It is not for me to say, whether this ground of objection be valid; but even if it should be proved so, the parish will be under little obligation to the *Schismatics*. Nor, should they be able to prosecute their purposes to a successful issue, the consequence would necessarily be, the canonised ecclesiastical rulers would *compel* the parishioners to *build* a parish church, and thus entail an expense upon them, of perhaps not less than *six or eight thousand pounds*.

LEGACIES TO ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

The legacies belonging to this parish are rather numerous: the following is the present state of them:—

John Beaton, by his will dated 27th of April, 1681, left some pounds of money to twenty poor persons, which is paid by the Treasurers of the City to the Churchwardens, on the 4th of May annually.

John Stockton and Eleanor his wife by will and deed dated 16th of July 1710, left eleven shillings to the poor, the former six shillings, and the latter five shillings, payable off Mr. Kenrick's garden near the Groves, due 11th of October yearly.

Henry Smith Esq. left in trust to the Governors of Christ's Hospital a bequest, which he directed to be divided annually amongst all the poor of various parts of the Kingdom. St. John's, St. Martin's, and St. Dunstons

in this city were fortunate enough to be of the number. The house at Stoughton, in the county of Leicesters, is the present source from whence the legacy is derived, through the agency of Messrs. Bray and Wharton, of Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury. It is due at Martinmas, and paid in October yearly.—The sum received by St. John's last year was £1178s. 7d., and was distributed in shoes, cloes, provisions, and doles, amongst 121 indigent souls.

Edward Batho, alderman, charged a messuage (now the property of Mr. John Sellar) in Fore-gate-street, with 10 shillings to the vicar for a sermon at St. John's, on the Epiphany, and 20s. to be paid to the poor at 6d. each. It is due on the 6th of January, and is received and distributed annually.

The said Edward Batho also left twenty shillings to be paid off Huntingdon Lower Meadow, to be given in bread on the first Sunday in every month. This legacy is due at Lady-day, and ten loaves, value two pence each, are given to poor persons as directed.—The said Edward Batho also bequeathed a further sum of ten shillings, payable off the Oxley Hall lands in Huntingdon, to be given to nine poor persons, and the clerk one shilling each. This is also due at Lady-day.

Peter Lealbeater bequeathed one pound six shillings a year to be given in bread to six poor persons every Sunday for ever. This legacy is paid by the parishioners, they having appropriated the principal money of £26. to the use of the parish, and the six loaves are given as directed.

— Harvey left fifteen pounds, the interest to be given to the poor for ever. The principal (like the former legacy) having been made use of by the parishioners to assist in purchasing the herbage of the church-yard in 1794, the parishioners pay fifteen shillings a year to the poor at Easter.

The following legacies were also appropriated by the parish about a century ago, not as has been stated by one or two historians, in the erection of a gallery in the church, but in employing the poor and maintaining a parish workhouse before the nine parishes were incorporated:—

Mr. Whitley's of.....	£34	Mr. Jullico's of.....	£10
Mr. Bridge's.....	5	Mrs. Salmon's.....	10
Mr. Phillips's.....	5	Ditto second.....	10
Mr. Dawson's.....	5	Mr. Radcliffe.....	10
Mr. Lawrence Woods.....	5	Mr. Cotton's.....	10
Mrs. Mary Woods.....	5	Booth's & Swarbrook's.....	15
Mr. Cows'.....	20	Mr. Fincher's.....	13
Mr. Nield's.....	10	Mr. Fletcher's.....	12
Mr. Godsall's.....	10	Mr. Aldersey's.....	10

In all £190. The interest whereof, say £9. 18s. is secured by decree of the Bishop, dated the 4th of January, 1803, and directed to be paid out of the south gallery seat rents; and it is given to the poor by the Churchwardens once about Lady-day yearly.

Thomas Wilcock's legacy is the most important one, having an entire estate at Willerton, in the hundred of Wymal, part secured by will and the remainder by deed. It was first made chargeable under the will with £20. a year to the three following parishes, in the proportions annexed, viz:

St. John's	£14	0	0
St. Bridget's	2	14	0
Neston	2	16	0

which was directed to be distributed as follows, to 40 poor housekeepers, one shilling a-piece on St. John's days, on Michael's day, New Year's Day, and Good Friday, for ever. To 24 poor persons he left a loaf to be given upon every Sunday throughout the year for ever; to the Minister for a Sermon on Good Friday, 15s.; to the Clerk 2s. 4d.; to the Churchwardens 2s.; and the billings to be paid upon auditing the accounts. The residue, which is held in trust under this deed, each parish having three trustees, being considerably increased, is consequently more beneficial to the poor and other legacies, who continue to receive annually the produce of it, which is divided in the proportion of

£.	s.	d.	
0	14	0	in the pound to St. John's,
0	2	9 St. Bridget's,
0	2	10 Neston.
<hr/>			
21	0	0	

Eighteen poor persons of this parish, in common with the poor of all the other parishes, except that of St. Olave, receive in rotation one penny in bread, and three pence in money (Ogilby's legacy) from the Clerkenwellers of St. Peter's.

Thirteen poor persons of this parish also receive in annual rotation with a like number of poor of the other parishes, a prayer-book each, being a legacy left by the late Mr. Cotton.

Mrs. Diana Salmon left a Guinea a year to the Minister for a Sermon on the 27th of December yearly, 2s. 6d. to the Clerk, and 2s. to the Sexton. These legacies are at present paid by Mrs. Richardson, of Capenhurst, the freeholder of a house in St. John's-street, formerly occupied by Mr. George Harris, a surgeon, upon which they were charged. This house was a few years since taken down, and the land upon which it stood is now in the garden of the Bank of Messrs. Williams, Hughes, & Gravelle.

In this parish there are four almshouses for old parishioners, situate in Little St. John-street, built by Mrs. Dighton Salmon, in 1730, but they have no endowment. In the front of them is this inscription:—"These almshouses were rebuilt and enlarged at the sole expense of Mrs. Dighton Salmon, of this parish."—The property of Earl Grosvenor joins the south end of these houses. In some alterations made when rebuilding, it was alleged that an encroachment had been made upon them; and a reference being agreed upon, it was awarded that his lordship should pay the cost of being a year to be distributed amongst the inmates.

Legacies to St. Peter's Parish

William Compton, of Kimmerton, Flintshire, by will dated 1470, left one half of his lands and messuages at Higher Kimmerton, to the poor of St. Peter's parish, under the direction of the mayor and aldermen of Chester. In the year 1810, this land was valued at £18 a year, and leased at the same for twenty-one years to William Richards, Esq.; a survey and map of this estate was made by J. Cadwilyr, in the year 1775, which is now preserved in the church. This legacy is paid regularly in the vestry of the church, by the minister and two senior aldermen.

Alderman Henry Bennett, who died 1715, died by will of 17th Feb. 1703, and proved 30th March, 1715, bequeath to the poor of this parish the sum of £25, the interest to be paid by his executor to 12 poor old widows every Christmas. This bequest was, with his other legacies, charged on his real estate, given to his son and executor, Henry Bennett, who died in 1741. It seems this legacy was never paid into the parish, but remained charged on his real estate at Whitby; also, that instead of the bequest of 2s. 1d. to each widow, the family were in the habit of giving 2s. 6d. to each of the 12 widows. At this time it appears, that 32s. is paid, the cause unknown, to the churchwardens of this parish, every Christmas, from the former estate of Henry Bennett, at Whitby, by the present owner, Earl Grosvenor.

Mr. Witter, of Frodsham, left £1. a year, charged on a shop and house on the west side of Higher Bridge-street, which is regularly paid.

Mr. Cooper left 52s. a year to the poor in bread, and 6d. a-penny to the clerk and sexton, for distributing the same; charged on the Old Tables, and now paid by the occupier of the Royal Hotel.

Mr. Hugh Offley, by will of May 14th, 1596, left a penny-loaf, and three-pence to twelve poor people on the first Sunday in every month to the eight city parishes in succession (St. Olave's being the one omitted), and six-pence-halfpenny each to the clerk and sexton of St. Peter's, for its distribution; now paid by the city treasurer. Also, by the same officer,

Ten shillings yearly, left by Mr. Brereton, and paid on St. George's-day.

There have been several other legacies left to this parish, but the above are all that are now available to the poor.

Legacies to Trinity Parish.

The poor of this parish have been favoured with numerous bequests, as recorded on various tablets in the church, but many of these have been lost from the negligence of those who had a duty to see that they were distributed. At the present time, the following only are still applied according to the directions of the donors:—

Peter Ince, stationer, gave by will, dated July 12th, in the 20th year of King Charles, 52 shillings yearly, for ever, to be given in bread to poor people attending church. Charged upon the cellar of the house in which he lived.

John Breton, alderman, gave ten shillings a year to the poor, paid on St. George's-day, by the city treasurer.

Robert Fletcher, of Cook, son of William Fletcher, of this city, cooper, gave, in 1677, two new houses with £4. a year for four poor widows, and 1s. a year to repair the houses for ever,* charged upon a house on the west side of Lower Bridge-street, formerly occupied by Mrs. Hunt. The appointment of pensioners is vested in the proprietors of the house charged; but if they neglect putting in a tenant for twenty days, then the selection rests with the parish officers.

Thomas Keston, carpenter, by will of July 19th, 1711, bequeathed all his real and personal estate, in trust, for the use of twelve poor widows of Trinity parish, the product to be distributed every 10th day of June, for ever. The above Thomas Keston charged his property with his debts and some small legacies, which were paid off with some parish bequests, the real estate being retained and much improved. The property when left, consisted of two houses, with a stable, and yard, on the west side of Lincolns-inn-street; also a barn, stable, and garden, on the east side of the said street. These premises, now composing nine tenements, let for the sum of £59.

Alderman Henry Bennett left the sum of £25. to this parish, and under the same regulations as his bequest to St. Peter's. In the records of Trinity, it is seen that in 1715, this legacy was at a vestry meeting ordered to be paid in, to discharge a debt due upon Haddon's houses; which order, however, does not appear to have been attended to, and was indeed at variance with the provisions of Mr. Bennett's will. The interest of the above sum, therefore, is legally chargeable on the real estate, and is now paid by Earl Grosvenor, as mentioned in St. Peter's charities.

John Grosvenor, Esq. by will, dated 27th of May, 1699, left £3. a year, to be paid to ten decayed housekeepers of the parish, charged upon his house, garden and premises in Water-gate-street, late the property and residence of William Currie, M.D. and now belonging to Henry Potts, Esq.

ALMSHOUSES.—The family of Mainwaring founded alms-houses in Trinity-street for three poor widows, with an allowance of £1. 10s. each. They are appointed by the descendants of the founder, the Mainwaring of Broad-leigh.

There are also twelve alms-houses, situated at the bottom of New Church-street, within this parish, founded by the present Earl Grosvenor, for ten decayed freemen, who receive 2s. 6d. each, weekly.

* These alms-houses are situated at the bottom of Cook's Buildings, and were formerly marked by the following inscription:—"The gift of Robert Fletcher, of Cook, cooper, son of the fourth son of William Fletcher, of this city of Chest, a cooper, and widow, at sixty years of age, of the parish of Trinity, and 20 shillings to four pensioners, to be paid yearly by the quarter, and 4 shillings yearly to repair the houses for ever, in the year 1677."

Legacies to St. Martin's Church.

This parish has shared but very scantily in the bounty of benefactors and ancestors, the benefactions being comprised in the following list:—

Robert Stone, tallow-chandler, formerly sheriff of Chelsea, 1756, to be distributed to the poor every Good Friday; 20*s.* to the minister; 10*s.* to the churchwardens or sextons of the church; and 10*s.* to the clerk annually, for ever; all which are charged on the Middle Rate, Five, in the parish of Havering, and regularly received and duly applied.

Mr. Tary left 20*s.* to the poor, and 10*s.* to the minister, to be paid every Easter Monday, for ever; charged on a house near Glover's Stone.

Mr. John Leggible left £10, the interest to be given to the poor on Christmas-day, for ever.

Legacies to St. Mary's Church.

Various small sums have been bequeathed to the poor of the parish, which appears on the tables in the church, but few remain in payment.

Ten shillings is paid on St. George's day yearly to the poor, by the church-treasurer, being what is called Breton's legacy.

Twelve shillings a year, paid by Lord Grosvenor, probably from property charged with it, now in his Lordship's possession.

This parish, (in conjunction with those of St. John's and St. Martin's) receives its quota from Henry Smith's legacy, named on the register of Stoughton, in Leicestershire. (See *Legacies in St. John's*.) The amount of this to Mary's parish, since the year 1835 has varied from £1.11*s.* 0*d.* to £11. 17*s.* 6*d.* per annum, which last sum was paid the last year. The amount is distributed to the poor parishioners in bread.

The galleries were erected with several sums derived from legacies, amounting to £78, the interest of which at five per cent. (£3. 10*s.* 0*d.*) is divided among the poor, as directed by the benefactors; and as the galleries produce no rental from seats, the amount is taken from the church-rate. Until 1822, there was a rental produced by the letting of seats.

Legacies to St. Andrew's

This parish is included in the receipt of Wilford's legacy, derived from an estate at Willaston, which at the time of its being bequeathed, produced only £20 a year, but is now let for nearly £100 per annum. The amount of this parish from the product is 2*s.* 9*d.* in the pound, and the net receipt last year was £11, which was laid out in bread for the poor.

The parish possesses a close of land in Houlditch called the *Charity*, and let for 2*s.* 6*d.* per annum, the amount of which is given to the poor, and laid out for the poor. This land was purchased by legacies from Mr. B. Mrs. Baily, Miss Salomon, and Miss Swinford.

.. their birth to trades, or towards maintaining them at universities, if not to "slavery." A sufficient number of paper debts do not every year pass themselves, and the trustees therefore have (under the judicious management of the trustees) accumulated, so that the annual income of the trust property is now about £320. The present trustees are Roger Bamston, Henry Hesketh, W. M. Thackeray, M.D. and G. B. Granville, Esquires. The following is a correct statement of the last year's produce of this property, September, 1830:—

Darham Hall farm and cottages	2113
Fern (late Antrobus's)	119
Leads in Boulton	138
Dead leads on 2200 stock in three 1 st class vessels	60

425

Loss by drawings to accounts for improvements & repairs, law charges, agency &c. &c. &c.

105

Clear income, payable to the Trustees of Dr. Oldfield's will £320

The almshouses in Pepper-street were erected by William Jones, late of the Middle Temple, esq. and by deed dated 10 July, 1656, a certain messuage and shops near St. Michael's church, and a field in Claverton, within the liberties of the city, were conveyed to trustees for their use and support, to which he afterwards added certain lands within the borough of Holt, in the county of Denbigh; these almshouses when completed, six women and four men, not to be above 55 years old, unmarried, disabled, and impotent, being past labour, and who frequent the church and public worship of God upon the Lord's day and holidays, and are not scandalous by leading dissipated, heretical or unchristian opinions, contrary to the ancient and orthodox faith of the church of England, and are not guilty of any gross sin or vice, as adultery, fornication, drunkenness, swearing, railing, or the like, but are reputed to be of honest conversation. The poor of St. Michael's parish are to be preferred on any vacancy, unless there happens to be two persons belonging to that parish already in possession of the houses. The trustees of this charity have determined, as the value of the lands has increased or otherwise, to be directed to be improved on the expiration of a lease, dated August, 1745, granted by the trustees for the term being, of the said messuage and shops, for the term of 99 years, at the rent of £14. 10s. to consistation of the sum of £500, to be laid out in rebuilding and improving the premises, deceased. The present trustees are the Rev. Joseph Laines, A.M. F.R.S.A. ordained minister; Jerg. Bamston, Robert Beyer, Thomas Dixon, G. B. Granville, W. M. Thackeray, Esquires; W. M. Thackeray, M.D.

Philip Philips, attorney at this city, by will dated January, 1611, bequeathed to the trustees, a house in Bostate-street, which should be let every year. The produce of the payments, this bequest has dwindled to, and now only amounts to seven shillings. This sum has not been paid since 1819 by Edward Jones, who has become possessed of the property; it is a regret that the trustees have not been able to recover it.

Henry Sault, of London, included this parish, with those of St. John and St. Mark, 1675, annual value 100 pounds. (See *St. John's Legacy*.) There are three parishes that formerly received the sum received by this parish: first for the year 1670, and paid February, 1680, amounted to £1200.

James Crocker, dying March 10th, 1679, left £450, one to every three years, to put out a poor man's son of this parish apprentice. This bequest being paid on four occasions in Poppestreet. In 1694 an additional £200, every three years, was added by Joseph Barrett, as an augmentation, and continued on his estate in the parish, which is now the property of Mr. Owen Crocker. Neither of these bequests have been received for many years past, but their relations to parish officers have it in contemplation to enforce their payment.

George Ballaber, Sept. 25th, 1698, left the sum of £100, vested in trustees, who are to pay the interest to the minister, but in case of vacancy, the interest to be given to the poor of St. Michael and St. Andrew, by the churchwardens of those parishes. He also left £50 towards building a school, which was received by the parish in 1703.

William Deely, left April 2nd, 1713, 12s. a year, charged on a field. Handbidge, called Cook's Croft, paid to the churchwardens by Thomas Ryan, of Coleray.

Justice Whitley left a house on the east side of Bridge-street (now tenanted by Mr. Smeeth), together, and commonly called the parsonage house, to the minister and his successors for ever, and charged the cellar under the same with 10s. a year for the clerk, and 5s. for the sexton for ever. By her will in 1706, this house is left to Mr. Barron, paying 24s. a year to the minister; but from a codicil dated July 31, 1708, the minister is to have the house, and the cellar only is reserved to Mr. Breton, paying the clerk and sexton, which by the will by the premises at large.

Peter Cotton left in 1716, thirteen large prayer-books to the poor of the five parishes of the city, in rotation. Paid by the mayor of Chester four shillings per year, received by this parish in 1727.

Thomas Dain left March 29, 1720, 250, in aid of Golding's legacy. This was in the hands of Mr. Philip Poyburg, who died the day before seven years ago, and the legacy still left by him.

The Rev. Thomas Luttrell left May 19th, 1746, 210, the interest to be laid out by the minister and churchwardens, five books, value 40s.; prayer-books, 28s.; Duty of Man, 2s. 3d.; Preparation for the Sacrament, 10s.; and 2s. 6d. every year to one poor household.

Harsh Luttrell bequeathed £20, the interest to be given to eight old maids yearly.

Three legacies, with one of £40 left by Mrs. Elizabeth Potter to the poor persons in the parish, were in the year 1729 called in, and vested in the trustees of a school in the street, under the name of the school in this parish, on the north side of the church.

John Marston (Capt. R. N.) who died in 1708, in 1750, of three per cent. annuity, the interest to put apprentice a poor child born in the parish, now vested in the names of the Rev. J. Eaton, and Mr. T. Dain (deceased).

Legatus to St. Olave's Parish.

Many small charitable bequests of five and ten pounds to the poor have been sunk in the erection of a gallery: the parish pays the interest for the money.

Elizabeth Booth, by will dated 7th February, 1722, left £100 a year to the minister of St. Olave's for ever, charged on her house and premises in the parish, now occupied by Mr. Willoughby, as the Alton Hotel.

The Rev. Benjamin Culm, a native of Chester, and minister of the parish, by will June 11th, 1714, left £100, the interest to be applied to put apprentices the children of poor people, who did not receive alms. This money, with some accumulating interest, and £20, added as a legacy by Mrs. Aubrey, has been vested in the purchase of £163, 13s. 3d. stock at five per cents.—For several years there have been but very few applicants for this charity, the reason of which is, because there is scarcely a single poor family in the parish, who have not been forced to apply for parochial assistance.

Robert Harvey, alderman of Chester, built six almshouses in the parish of St. Olave, for six poor persons, and endowed them with a fourth and an eighth of the Water-tower, in Bridge-gate, which being sold to Messrs. Hawkins and Headley, engineers of the water-works, in 1402, for £100; the sum was again vested in the concern, and now yields £6. a year, which is paid in equal proportions to the poor inmates.

EXTRA PAROCHIAL.

Little St. John's.

The Chapel of St. John's, commonly called Little St. John's, is situated in an extra-parochial spot on the north-west side of, and near to, the Northgate, without the city walls. It is a perpetual curacy, in the patronage of the corporation.

This chapel is of great antiquity. In the 15th of Edward III. a writ was directed to the justice of Chester to take into his hands the lands and rents of the hospital of St. John the Baptist, without the Northgate, by virtue of which an inquisition was held of twelve citizens of Chester, by whom it was found:—“That the said Hospital was founded by Edward duke of Brittany, and earl of Chester and Richmond, in honour of God, the Virgin, and St. John the Baptist, for the sustentation of poor and sick persons, and granted in pure and perpetual alms; that the said hospital was confirmed by Henry III. and that Edward I. when earl of Chester, gave the keeping of the said hospital to the Prior of Durham and his successors, and the lord earl of Chester is now advocate of the said hospital, the revenue of which are as follow:—

A sum given by Randal earl of Chester, paying yearly to the	
exchequer	4 7 0
Stewards in the city of Chester	0 13 0



Seal of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist, Chester.

A range of the Holme houses, sold in exchange from the prior of Bokenhead by the abbot of Chester.....	0	10	0
A messuage in Le Moss, in the co. of Lancaster.....	2	0	0
A messuage in Pausley.....	0	13	4
A messuage in Hothorbridge, and half an oxgang in the Cleyes.....	0	10	5
A messuage in Walsbarnham.....	0	13	4
Other messuages belonging to the hospital.....	0	13	4

And all the lands belonging to the hospital are worth per annum 88*l.* 1*0* s. 11*l.*

And that there ought to be, and have accustomed to be, in the said hospital, three chaplains to say mass daily, two in the church, and one staid in the chapel, before the poor and feeble sustained in the said hospital; and that one layman ought to be sustained across every day in the said hospital, and to burn every night in the whole year; and at thirteen beds competently clothed should be sustained in the said hospital, and receive thirteen poor men of the same city, whereof each shall have for daily allowance, a loaf of bread, a dish of porrage, half a gallon of competent ale, and a piece of fish or flesh, as the day shall require.—*Hart. MSS.* 2139. 104.

On xxi 2 Henry v. the king granted the master, brethren, and sisters of this hospital, and their tenants, an acquittance of all taxes, offices, and recognizances, and from all customs and assises of bread, and all suits to courts, amercements, &c. through the county of Chester.

In the reign of Edward iii. only one chaplain, and six poor widows were maintained in this hospital. In the reign of Henry viii. the corporation remonstrated with the prior of Bokenhead, for not maintaining the full complement of pensioners; but he returned for answer, that the revenues were insufficient.

The chapel and hospital were destroyed during the civil wars, but were rebuilt by col. Roger Whitley, to whom King Charles ii. granted the hospital estate for his life, and twenty years after. When the city charter was renewed, February 4th, 1685, in the 37th Charles ii. the possession was granted to the mayor and citizens for ever. Col. Whitley died in 1697, and the corporation obtained possession in 1703, who, as petitioners have since presented. The Rev. Wm. Clarke is the present minister, who, in addition to the usual divine service on the forenoon of the sabbath, has established a Wednesday evening lecture. The prescribed duties of the minister, contained in a parchment book, kept at the Ex-change, are, that the sacraments shall be administered on the Nativity, Easter-day, Whitsunday, and the last Sunday in September. To these four appointed times for administering the sacred ordinance, Mr. Clarke has added (in consequence of the increase of communicants, and with the concurrence of the corporation and the bishop) three others, making in all seven times. The same document also says, that the minister may be required to preach before the mayor and corporation on the day of election, and on All Saints Day.

In the chapel-yard are six almshouses, occupied by poor widows, called "the sisters;" they are selected by the corporation, and receive a pension of £1. 6*l.* 3*l.* each, and some perquisites.—Joseph Crew, esq. alderman of Chester, who died in 1801, bequeathed £300 per annum, to be distributed among them in equal proportions.

In the census of 1821, the inhabitants of this district, (i. e. and near those of the cathedral precincts, whose numbers were 270,)—The value of augmentation and stipend was returned by the bishop of Chester, to be only £436.

St. John Church at Boughton.

The parish of Boughton is a populous suburb of the city, the centre of which is at the distance of not less than half an hour's ride from the place of worship therein to the cathedral, and several very respectable individuals seemed disposed to either to desolate an object. The scheme was warmly patronized by Bishop Blomfield, who, some time ago, made a noble and generous donation, including *perpetuity*. "The prevalence of ignorance and vice amongst the lower classes in the populous neighbourhood of Boughton, has long been a subject of concern to many religious and charitable persons. It is impossible to pass through the streets, and to view the symptoms of the neglected children. Among three classes which may be distinguished in the streets, the first, the most obvious is, the ragged and naked children, who, without any other assistance, are confined to the work of an hour's place of worship in that neighbourhood, whereas the poorer inhabitants might be enabled to receive the sermons and services of the church." According to the last census, the population of St. John's parish exceeded 5000, and at present it cannot fall much short of 6000 persons. There was only one church in the parish, and in it very few seats for the poor of the immediate neighbourhood; whilst the distance at which it is situated from the populous district of Boughton, would of itself be a sufficient impediment to the attendance of the inhabitants, and if five could be accommodated. It was therefore highly necessary that a new church should be erected; the plan of which was, that it should be made to contain 700 or 800 persons, and that one-half of the sittings should be free to the poor; it was also calculated, that as the church building society contribute at the rate of £1. for every free sitting, about 2500, to be here granted free, that excellent institution.

The first subscription to promote the object was entered into by bishop Blomfield. The subscriptions, however, came in but tardily, until a regular committee was formed, under the presidency of bishop Sumner, in January, 1826. Having raised a sum sufficient to justify their commencing the work, and obtained a grant of land from the mayor and corporation, the first stone was laid in 1830. Mr. Colles's contribution in 1837, in building a church and Sunday school under. It is calculated, however, that a further expense of about £500, will be incurred for a wall, iron railing, bell-stove, communion plate, books, &c. &c. making altogether about £2467.

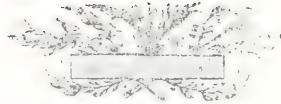
To be repaid—

Subscriptions have been received, amounting to about £1160	
Free church building society, &c.	400
Interest and drawback on building materials	100—1000
Leaving a deficiency of	£1000

As there are several respectable individuals in the city and neighbourhood of Chester, who have not yet contributed to the object, it is hoped that the above sum will eventually be raised, so as to save the committee the anxiety, upon which the Liberator has fallen.

The church is a large brick building, erected on the declivity of a bank on the south side of the road in Daughson, near to Bartelswell, under which are vaulted caverns for a Sabbath school. The church is calculated to hold 700 persons, there being 400 free sittings. The salary of the minister will be paid from the pew rents, unless there is no endowment to the church, which in fact will be in the nature of a chapel of ease to St. John's. It is expected that the church will be consecrated during the present month (Oct. 1692: 1120).

1833.
 The Liberator
 Chester, England.



as a church-yard, dependent upon St. John's parish, to the present day in which are ranged all the remains that could be saved of George Morsby, who was burnt here for his adherence to the reformed religion, in 1555.—The formal governour of the Spital is now the parson of Mr. Joseph Carter, vicar of St. John's parish, heir to his wife, whose ancestors have had it in possession for more than a century and a half.

Benedictine Monastery of St. Mary.

The following notice of a monastery dedicated to St. Mary occurs in Domesday :—“*In monasterio sancte Marie, quod est juxta ecclesiam sancti Juliani, present duo bonae terre quae waste erant, et modicum waste.*”

The monastery has been generally supposed to have merged in a nunnery, to which Randal Gernons, fourth earl of Chester, granted lands by the following charter, for the nuns to build a church upon. There is no evidence on this subject from which any thing conclusive can be drawn; and it must be left altogether to conjecture, whether the monastery referred to continued waste, whether its lands were appropriated to the chantry of St. Mary in the church of St. John, which certainly existed as late as the fifteenth century, or whether it was transferred to the site now spoken of.

The charter of earl Randal is as follows :—“*Randolf comes Cestr. civis archidiaconi, abbatibus, constab', &c. &c. salutem. Sciatis me dedisse et in perpetuum elemosinam concessisse Deo, et S. Mariæ et monialibus Cestr. nris in Xto sociis illis crectas quas Hugo filius Ricardi de d'no meo tenuit, concessione et bona voluntate ipsius Hugonis, ita quod illas clamavit quietas, coram me et comitissâ, et plurimis baronum meorum, liberas et immunitas ab omni secularibus servitiis, et omnimoda subjectione ad officium in hiis ecclesiis in honore Dei et S. Mariæ in remissionem peccatorum meorum, et ad sustentationem edificii. Volens ut et principio quod ecclesia ista in elemosinâ mea fundata, de tolucto et omni seculari exactione libera sit et quiete et caritativam et dignitatem sustentem, et omnes et per omnia, quae illi exigit elemosinâ, habeat et quam voluerit, nec nulli ex et in D'no obsequio, quousque p'dictam ecclesiam, et monachos, Deum Deo et S. Mariæ regere servent, cum omnibus ad illas pertinentibus, pro Eo et communi salute nre vitz salubrem et promovendam, commutantes et persequentes, et ne particulari quod elemosinâ meâ privetur, nec moniales in ea commutantes ab aliquibus veniantur. Test. Jofr' et Rogero capellani, Alstilda comitissa, Hugone filio comitis, Pulegno de Brethgord, Rad'o Mans B. Ric'o Pine', Apud Cestriam. Harl. MSS. 2101, 102.*

In the same volume are several other grants to this monastery, among which are the following :—

P. 103. Hugh earl of Chester, by charter, confirms to the said monastery, and to the nuns, houses, wood, fisheries, dignities, and liberties, and the gift of a mill, together with a tithing of Randal, or by others, from the said mill, water, houses, or other secular services; and forbids all persons from troubling the said nuns, or requiring any thing from them besides proper and ordinary. Witnesses, Alured de Cotr', Ralph Fitz-Warn, Roger de Linc', William de Rolfe, William Fitz-Richard, and others.

Ibid. p. 134. Confirmation of the same by Edward earl of Chester, dated at Chester, Sept. 10, 27 Edw. III.—Another confirmation by the same, dated at Chester, Sept. 21, in the same year.

Ibid. p. 136. The same grants to the same that all their tenants at will, or for term of years, and members of the guild in relation to Chester, or sworn to the liberties of the same town (*villam*) shall be exempted from juries, seizures, inquisitions, recognisances, or appraisals before any officers of the city or county of Chester; and from murage, scallage, passage, toll, wauch, customs, pontage, mises, and exactions of Tolose'r, assise of bread, and beer, &c. and from all suits of shires, courts, penalties, (pendicary), hundreds, portovotes, and works of any kind; and that no officers of the earl or others shall enter on the premises and that they shall have all amercements levied on any of their tenants in the earl's courts, and that any sheriff or officer of the city or county interfering with the said liberties, shall be liable to a fine of £10 of silver; provided that the said nuns and their successors shall not bring upon their estates tenants of any other description than those which they now have, or exercise any trade injurious to the use or welfare of the city. Dat. ap. Chest. 11 Dec. 32 Edw. III. and confirmed by Ric. II. Nov. 6. 1367 reg.

After the dissolution, the site of the nunnery, and several of its estates, were granted to the Beretons of Handford, and was a prolific cause of difference between that family and the city magistracy, from doubts as to their liability to be rated in local and parliamentary assessments. The nunnery was the occasional residence of the Beretons, but was destroyed during the siege of Chester. The severities exercised towards the city, at its surrender, by Sir William Bereton, who was a descendant of the family, are attributable to the bad feeling created by this disagreement.

The site of this monastery was immediately north-west of the castle walls. A plan of the buildings, as they existed at the dissolution, is given in Harl. MS. 2073, and has been engraved in the *Magna Britannia* Lyons. There is also a view of the ruins in Buck's print of Chester castle. The pointed arch of a door-way represented in this plate, was in existence some few years ago, which stood in the middle of a plot of ground called the Nuns' Gardens (now an inclosed field in front of Mr. Harrison's house), but no vestige of it now remains. In making the late improvements in the vicinity, many of the bones of the nuns were discovered, and several beautiful fragments of windows and doorways, some of which were in the rich style of the fifteenth century, and had been painted and gilt. Others were specimens of Norman architecture executed in Caen stone, and doubtless coeval with the time of the foundation or translation, by the charter of earl Randal.*

The first prioress was Alice de la Haye, whose name occurs in 1264; the last, Elizabeth Grosvenor, in 1537. The dissolution took place in that year; and the last-mentioned lady, with eleven nuns, were surviving, and in the receipt of pensions in the year 1556.

The following were the lands and other possessions of the nunnery, 60 Henry VIII.:

* On this establishment, Pennant gives the following dimensions:—The church was 22 yards long and 15 broad, and supported in the middle by a round pillar. The chapel measured 34 by four and thirteen eights. The cloisters were 45 yards.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Demerne lands	15	15	4	and Llanerion, South			
Tents of assize	2	6	10	Wales.....	17	6	3
Free rent from Widdly				Rectory of Baldob, and			
Abbey.....	0	13	4	chapel of Carleton....	3	0	0
Lands, tenements, and cot-				Rectory of Over.....	8	13	4
tages, in divers towns ..	47	15	10	Pension from the rectory of			
Lands and tenements in				Hendly.....	0	13	4
Hambroge.....	7	1	0	Pension from Barwath			
House, Nantwich.....	1	13	4	chapel.....	0	10	0
A salt-house in Middlewich	1	6	3	In tithes from the laic's			
A tenement in Dutton....	2	13	4	exchange of old tithes			
The rectory of Llangation,				paid.....	20	12	0

PRIARIES.

THE GRAY PRIARS, or FROISSAITS, were seated in Chester, according to Bishop Tanner, as early as the time of Henry III. Their house was in the vicinity of the Watergate. Pottam supposes that it "stood in the year 1631, near the spot occupied by the new 'Lancashire,' in the immediate neighbourhood of which, painted tiles and stained glass have occasionally been dug up.

In 1579, Peter Warburton, of Arley, D. p. and Thomas Willraham, Esq. had a grant from queen Elizabeth of certain premises in Chester, licensed by Edward Dutton, gent. consisting of the site late the habitation of the Gray Friars, then in possession of Peter Warburton, of Cassar, Bisp. ecc. The buildings remained tolerably entire to the middle of the seventeenth century, when they were occupied as the residence of Sir William Urleton. A plan taken at this time is preserved in Harl. MSS., 2678. The whole consisted of an oblong enclosure; the entrance was on the east, the church in the centre, and the cloisters occupied the north-west angle.*

THE BLACK, or PREACHING FRIARS were situated on the west side of the north end of Nicholas-street, where, according to Speed, they were established by a bishop of *Chester*, as the bishops of *Lichfield* were occasionally called; and, in 4 Edw. I. had exemption from toll as the *Deacons*. The precise site of their house is not known, but it is probable that it was near the ancient timber building, already noticed (page 9), bearing the date of 1501, and which was subsequently the residence of the *Manley* family.† It is believed that the buildings and inclosure extended from this house nearly to the Watergate westward, and almost to *Smith's walk* eastward. Mr. Ormerod mistakenly places the Black-friars in *St. Martin's parish*; but the whole establishment was doubtless in that of *Trinity*.

* On this subject Mr. Ormerod says the following, viz. "In the Abbey MSS. 74, under Chester, I possess the License of Warburton, granted to the said Peter Robert Dutton, 1579. It is in these terms, *ordinibus fratrum predicte civitatis Cassariensis, religio. xxv. cov. s. s. annuatim xx. solidos.*"

† Mr. Ormerod says, this parish belonged to the family of *Warrington*, of *Green-ton*, from which it passed to the *Stanleys*, of *Alcester*.

The monastery of the **WHITE FRIARS**, or Carmelites, was established in Chester by Thomas Stadham, gent. in 1279. The site of this, and of the two other friaries were granted by Henry VIII. to John Coker, variously passed into different hands. The White Friars, which was that of the church of St. Martin, became the property of the lord keeper, Sir Thomas Dugton, by whom the church, with its fine spire, which according to the Vale Royal was built in 1494, was taken down. This circumstance is lamented by Mr. Webb, whose remarks are as follow:—“In 1597, the White-friars’ steeple, curiously wrought, was taken down, and a barn-house built there by Sir Thomas Dugton, knight, lord keeper: a great pity that the steeple was put away, being a great ornament to the city. This curious spire-steeple might still have stood for grace to the city, had not private benefit the devourer of antiquity, pulled it down with the church, and erected a house for more commodity, which since hath been of little use, so that the city lost so goodly an ornament, that times hereafter may more talk of it, being the only sea-mark for direction over the bar of Chester.” Sir Thomas Dugton’s house stood between White Friars and Commonhall-street, the site now occupied by the houses and gardens of Philip Henderson and Mrs. Kildale. Some parts of the buildings, or boundary walls are still discernible on the east-side of Commonhall-street, and the west of Weaver-street.

The only name of any of the heads of these friaries which has occurred, is that of Richard de Douce (probably of the Uthman family), prior Infratrum Carmelitarum domus beate Marie Coste, who occurs as granting a dispensation of marriage to Sir William Brereton and Anna Venables, 12 ed. Jan. 1336.

The following document relative to the three Chester friaries, is extracted from the records of the augmentation offices, and which was communicated to Mr. Ormerod by John Caley, Esq. F.S.A.

It appears by the accounts of the cross’s ministers or receivers from Michaelmas 31 to Michaelmas 32 Hen. VIII. that the three Chester friaries were then thus answered for:—£2. 5s. 8d. for the farm of all the lands and tenements of the brothers minors called the Grey Friars, to wit:—Randal Rogerson 2s. for a small toft on the east side of the church there, within the parish of the Holy Trinity, with 24 feet of one alley there, demised to him by indenture for 80 years, from 30th Hen. VIII., and also with a close and stone wall round the same, lying on the western part of the said church, with the metes and bounds contained in the said; and also for the farm of a house or chamber, called the hostrye, with a chamber over the common kitchen there, and a chamber called the bishop’s chamber, demised to Ralph Wives, gent. by indenture 10s. for 100 years; and for the farm of 2 small chambers on the east side of the church, with a garden, called the Covent garden, 2s. 4d. demised to Thomas Martyn by indenture for 60 years; and for the farm of a house sitting upon the monastery on the east part of the church there, demised to Thomas Pyllive, esq. for 60 years; and for the farm of a house sitting lying on the east side of the chancel there, demised to John Dutton, esq. by indenture for 80 years; and for the farm of the land and soil of the whole church there 2s. 4d.; and for the farm of all other the houses and buildings and land and soil there, let to certain persons, 30s.

standing in an ancient plan of the city inscribed in the King's Vale Royal. The following notice is added from the Crane MSS. "The altar and content of St. Werburgh claimed from time immemorial (by plaint not long before the dissolution) a list of all the residents within their *parish*, and also within the Northgate ward, viz. from the Northgate of the said city unto the church of St. Thomas, once by the year to be lodged, with all manner of things and articles which to a list do appertain, &c. which list was to be holden in St. Thomas's chapel, as appears by a quo warranto, 2 Edw. III. The dean and chapter of Chester cathedral continue to hold said Thomas of Canterbury's court."

Within the walls of the abbey of St. Werburgh, were chapels dedicated to *St. Leonard*, *St. Nicholas*, and *St. Mary Magdalen*, exclusive of the *Trinity* chapel; and there were also endowed *Chantry*s for the souls of Sir John Ansonway, of Chester, and Sir Philip Burnel, of Malpas.

Within the precincts of the same abbey were, the *chapel of St. Thomas* the apostle, occupying the site of the present deanery; and a large chapel (the ruins of which exist in the walls of the present Chester Theatre) dedicated to *St. Nicholas*, used for a length of time as the church of St. Oswald's parish.

In the college of St. John, was a chapel dedicated to the Virgin.

Near to the east end of this church, within the precincts, was the *Chapel of St. Anne*, which occurs in Pat. 16, Rich. II. de fraternitate S. Marie et S. Anne fundanda in capella S. Anne, extra collegium S. Joannis.—A rental of the possessions of this fraternity is extant in Harl. MSS. 2150, p. 112.

In this church was also *Thornton's Chantry*, in memory of Sir Peter le Roten, lord of Thornton (commonly called Sir Peter Thornton), which is noticed in the general ecclesiastical survey, 23 Henry VIII.

South of the same church, was the *Chapel of St. James*, the site of which is given in a plan preserved in Harl. MSS. 2075, and was nearly contiguous to the southern entrance.

The *Hospital of St. Ursula* occupied the site of the old Court or hall, and some painted glass was remaining in its windows in 1667.

In the upper story of the great square tower of the inner ward of Chester Castle, is a small chapel, where King James II. received mass on his visit to Chester. Its dimensions are rather more than thirteen feet by sixteen, and the height upwards of six feet. The roof is vaulted and gabled, the gables being spring from short slender pillars with capitals and capitals. The tower and chapel were probably built about the time of the extension of the local walls. The following extract from the pension roll of 1556, gives the name of the officiating priest at the reformation:—"Petri Thome, canonici Cestrie infra Castrum Cestrie, p. om. c."

There was an ancient chapel in *Handbridge*, which occurs in an indulgence "pro capella Sancti Jacobi in Honbrige; and in a presentment, 21 Edw. IV. of David Chalons for putting up a pulpit in Handbrige juxta capellam Sancti Jacobi, in nocmentum civium civitatis Cestrie.

There was a chapel in *Oversleigh*. Oversleigh chapel belonged to the ... of Basingwerk—*Crane MSS.*

The monks had one chapel within the walls, and another called *Leate St. Mary's*, in *Kettle's croft*, close by the river side.—*Ibid.*

The exact site of St. Chad's is altogether uncertain, although its existence is clearly proved by many documents. There can be little doubt of its

having stood within the square formed by the city walls, the Watergate and the Northgate-streets. Thus for Mr. Ormerod. In Mr. Crane's MS. it is added:—"The site of it was bought for by those directions; Robert de Streton constituted his brother William and David Ballot his attorneys to give possession to Robert Hare, citizen of Cheshire, and William Troutbeck, Merchant, of 2 messuages and 2 gardens, jacuit in pdicta civitate. Ceterum super le Crois parochie ecclesie S^{te} Cethe existit inter messuagium Ric^{ardi} Coly ex parte australi et messuagium Boremodi Lyalton ex parte F^{ra}ncie et Ceterum messuagium Ceterum ex parte orientali, et via strata del crois ex parte meridionali. 21 Hen. VII. Stephen Cross was fined 3d. pro quod obstupavit viam quod dicit ad ecclesiam S^{te} Cethe Cestrie ad magnum incrementum civium civitatis predictae. St. Chadd's church stood in that croft where Stanley-place and the Ironshill row are. It was situate partly in the road which leads from Watergate-street to Stanley-place, and partly where Mr. Hooketh built a house on the west side of that road. In sinking a cellar to this house, tiles, which were part of the church flooring, and buried bones, were dug up. A chapel and a well in Little or Petit Parson's lane, were given to our abbey by Richard Fitzon, in Hen. 3d's time. Perhaps this chapel is the same as St. Chad's."

St. Nicholas's chapel, in Northgate-street, was converted into the Council-hall of the city, 30 Hen. VIII. 1545.



Dissenting Places of Worship.

WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF THE RISE, PROGRESS,
AND PRESENT STATE OF THEIR CONGREGA-
TIONS, IN CHESTER.

Unitarian Chapel.

The Unitarian Chapel (improperly denominated the Presbyterian Meeting-house) has a prior claim to attention of all others, not only as it was the first dissenting place of worship in the city—the parent stock from which many of the others had their origin, but also as its history is intimately connected with the rise and progress of the dissenters in this part of the kingdom, and may serve in some degree to illustrate the changes through which they have passed, both in relation to opinions and numbers, from the reign of king Charles I. down to the present time. The following account of this place of worship was drawn up by the late Rev. James Lyon, for another publication; and I adopt it not only because of the accurate and excellent manner in which it is written, but because it embodies several interesting historical facts connected with the early period of dissenters in this city. The copiousness of the general remarks will preclude the necessity of any preface to the other bodies of dissenters subsequently to be noticed.

THE PRESBYTERIAN MEETING HOUSE is a large brick building, with a burial ground in front, situated between Crook's-lane and Trinity-lane, having an entrance from each of those streets, and is generally called Crook's-lane Chapel, to distinguish it from one other piece of worship which is nearly opposite to it, in Trinity-lane. It was built in 1760, by a large, flourishing, and respectable

Society which had been formed in 1687, by the celebrated Matthew Henry, son of the learned, pious, and laborious Philip Henry, one of the ejected Ministers, whose life, written by his son, is generally esteemed a most valuable and interesting narrative, and has lately been reprinted with notes, by Dr. Wordsworth, in his *Ecclesiastical Biography*. In the Register Book belonging to the congregation of this place, there is a short account of the rise, progress, and transactions of the Society, written by Mr. Henry, in 1710, being the twenty-third year of his ministry.

From this account it appears, that in 1682, there were three dissenting congregations in Chester, which had been founded by the exertions of Mr. William Cook, Mr. Ralph Hall, and Mr. John Harvey, Ministers of the Established Church, who had been ejected from their respective livings, on account of their non-compliance with the act of uniformity.

Mr. Cook, who was ejected from St. Michael's, in this city, and who is represented by his contemporaries as a man of strong sense, of profound and varied learning, and of great piety, was, shortly after his being silenced, committed by the Mayor to the common jail, for preaching in his own house. The violence and commotion occasioned by the five-mile act, obliged him to withdraw from his public situation, and he retired to Puddington, till the times became more tolerant; when he returned to his flock in Chester, and resumed his ministry, during the short interval of indulgence granted to non-conformists by Charles II. He was greatly esteemed in this city and neighbourhood, not only for his eminent literary attainments, but also on account of the uniform integrity, meekness, and benevolence, which he displayed in the midst of the most painful privations, difficulties, and sufferings. He died in 1684. Mr. Hall, who had been ejected from Mear, in Staffordshire, was also imprisoned upon the five-mile act, for six months, in Chester jail, where he shewed a manly fortitude and unrepining patience, which he sustained his trials, and his benevolent exertions.

to enlighten and reform the unhappy criminals who were his fellow prisoners, not only greatly increased the attachment of his friends, but also procured him the cordial esteem of many to whom he was previously unknown, but who were thereby made acquainted with the goodness of his heart, and the many virtues which adorned his character. He died in 1684, a short time after his imprisonment.

After the death of Mr. Cook, and Mr. Hall, their congregations were entirely broken up and dispersed by the persecutions of the times, but such of them as continued Dissenters, either contented themselves with family worship, and occasional meetings at each other's houses, or joined Mr. Harvey's congregation, which assembled at his house, in as private a manner as possible, to avoid the penalties then in force against non-conformity, since James II. under the pretence of universal toleration, but with a view to the introduction and re-establishment of popery, granted them the liberty of public worship, of which they had been deprived in the latter part of the reign of Charles II. It was at this time that Mr. Henry began his ministry in Chester, and was enabled, through the indulgence of the government, to collect the remains of the congregations of Mr. Cook, and Mr. Hall, and to open a meeting in Whitefriar's-lane.

Mr. Harvey, who had been ejected from Wallasey, in Cheshire, continued to labour, as the Minister of a dissenting congregation in Bridge-street, for thirteen years after the toleration was granted, and, having well sustained, during a long period of great trial and difficulty, the character of a Christian Minister, he died in Nov. 1699, and was buried in the great church.

Mr. Harvey, was succeeded in the ministry by his son J. Harvey, who was brought up among the dissenters. On his resignation, 1706, in consequence of ill health, his

* This meeting-house. It has stood on or near the site of the house occupied by Miss Eoking, in Beiland's-court, in the garden of which a summer-house, said to have been the spot where Mr. Henry wrote the greatest part of his Commentary on the Bible.

congregation, which was large and opulent, was united to that of Mr. Henry, and in 1707, a large gallery was built on the north side of Crook's-lane meeting-house, for their better accommodation. Thus were the three original non-conformist societies united in one, under the pastoral care of Mr. Henry, who remained the only dissenting minister in Chester. In the account he has left of the rise and progress of the congregation in Crook's-lane, he has recorded a transaction which is exceedingly illustrative of the politics of this city in his time, and of the corrupt and arbitrary measures, by which James II. and his government endeavoured to subvert and destroy the Protestant establishment, the civil constitution of the country, and the rights and liberties of the people: "The charter of the city (says Mr. Henry) had been surrendered about 1681, and a new charter granted, by which a power was reserved to the crown, to put out magistrates and put in at pleasure. This precarious charter was joyfully accepted by those that were for surrendering the old one, that alderman Mainwaring and some other aldermen of the same honest principles, might be turned out, and none but those of their own kidney taken in. By this charter, Sir Thomas Grosvenor was the first mayor, alderman Wilson, the second, alderman Oulton, the third, and alderman Starkey, the fourth. In the latter end of his time, about 1688, one Mr. Trinder came to Chester, for the new modelling of the corporation, according to the power reserved to the crown by the new charter. He applied himself to me, told me the King thought the *government of the city needed reformation*, and if I would say who should be put out, and who put in their places, it should be done. I told him I begged his pardon, that was none of my business, nor would I in the least intermeddle in any thing of that nature. However, he got instructions from others, the new charter was cancelled, and another sent, of the same import, only altering the persons, and by it, all the dissenters of note in the city were brought to the government; the seniors to be alder-

" men, and the juniors to be common council-men, and
 " Sir Thomas Stanley, mayor. This charter was brought
 " down, and the persons called together to have notice of
 " it, and to have the time fixed for their being sworn,
 " but they, like true Englishmen, unanimously refused to
 " and desired that the ancient charter might be restored,
 " though they knew that none of them would come into
 " power by that, but that many that were their bitter
 " enemies would be restored by it. This I take to be a
 " memorable instance both of the modesty of the dissen-
 " ters, and a proof how far they are from an affection of
 " power: the top of their ambition being to live quiet and
 " peaceable lives, in the exercise of their religion accord-
 " ing to their consciences; as also of their inviolable
 " fidelity to the rights and liberties of their country."

The principles and dispositions displayed by Mr. Henry
 in this transaction, and which were so honourable to him
 as a man, an Englishman, and a Christian minister, appear
 to have governed his conduct at every period of his life.
 He was indeed a Calvinist, and a zealous assertor of the
 opinions of the non-conformists, but his spirit was never
 inflamed by fanatic rage, nor embittered by the rancour
 of bigotry and intolerance. He could esteem as brethren
 those whose honest convictions would not suffer them to
 embrace his opinions, and who conscientiously worshipped
 the Supreme Being, under forms differed from those
 which he deemed most congenial to the spirit of Christi-
 anity. The liberality of his sentiments, and the candour
 and kindness of his mind, are strikingly expressed at the
 close of his sermon on the opening of Crook's-lane meet-
 ings-house, in which he thus addresses his brethren:—
 " Be at peace with those from whom you differ in opinion,
 and receive them not with doubtful disputations. Care-
 fully watch that a diversity of communion cause not an
 alienation of affection, but be as ready to co-operate in acts
 of love, and kindness, and respect, to those from whom
 you dissent, as to those with whom you consent: and, al-
 though you differ from them, you will not differ with
 them. If our separation be necessary, let it be only

nature, as for my own part I am well satisfied that we let us not at any time make it so by our own unchristianlike opinions, or unchristianlike heats and passions."

Mr. Henry removed from Chester to Harebury, in 1713, and died of apoplexy, at Nantwich, where he had been on a visit to his friends, in June, 1714, the fifty-second year of his age, and was buried at Trinity church, in this city. He was esteemed an excellent Hebrew scholar, and, for his time, a biblical critic of no inferior consideration. His exposition of the bible has gone through a great many editions, and is still in great repute, as a practical commentary upon the sacred writings, with moderate Calvinists, both in the established church, and among the various denominations of dissenters. Mr. Henry published, besides several single sermons.—1. "A Discourse concerning the nature of Schism," 1682; 2. "The Life of Mr. Philip Henry," 1696; 3. "A Scripture Catechism," 1702; 4. "Family Hymns," 1702; 5. "The Communicant's Companion," 1704; 6. "Four Discourses against Vice and Immorality," 1705; 7. "A Method of Prayer," 1710; 8. "Directions for daily communion with God," 1712; 9. "An Exposition of the Bible," 5 vols. folio, the first volume in 1706.

Mr. John Gardner succeeded Mr. Henry as the minister of Crook's-lane meeting-house, 1713, and continued to fill that station with reputation and usefulness, for more than half a century. He died on the 2nd of November, 1765, and was interred in Trinity church, near to the remains of his predecessor, Mr. Henry. It is difficult now to ascertain, whether Mr. Gardner was a Calvinist or not, as he did not, from the press make any declaration of that nature, but from the choice of the congregation as to his successor, it seems highly probable, that whatever his religious sentiments were when he came to Chester, he had, towards the close of his life, departed in a considerable degree from the doctrines maintained by Mr. Henry.

Mr. J. Chidlaw succeeded Mr. Gardner in 1765, having been co-pastor with him fourteen years, and was

the sole minister of Crook's-lane meeting-house for thirty-three years, when, from declining health, and the rapidly increasing infirmities of old age, he was under the necessity of resigning the ministry, and was succeeded by Mr. Wm. Thomas, in 1798. Mr. Chidlaw died in 1806, and was buried in the meeting-house yard. He is still well remembered in this city, and his memory is cherished with great respect by the congregation with which he was connected, especially by the aged members of it, who were his friends and associates in early life. He was an Unitarian, and the Ministers of Crook's-lane meeting-house, since his time, have been of that denomination, maintaining the religious opinions generally held by such writers as Dr. Lardner, Dr. Priestley, Mr. Lindsey, and Mr. Belsham. At his death, Mr. Chidlaw bequeathed one hundred pounds to the trustees of Crook's-lane meeting-house, and directed that the interest of it should be applied to the use of the Minister for the time being. He published "A serious call to regard Divine Providence, a sermon preached at Chester, November 8th, 1772, on occasion of the dreadful calamity that happened there, on the 5th of the same month, by an explosion of gunpowder."

Mr. Thomas, though a young man, and apparently of a very sound and robust constitution, when he came to Chester, was, by a painful and lingering disease, which finally terminated in consumption, obliged to resign his public situation in 1808, and, by the advice of his medical attendants, he retired into South Wales, for the benefit of his native air, where he died in March, 1809. He was a man of great integrity and benevolence, and his simple, mild, and unassuming manners, attracted the sincere esteem of all who were acquainted with his character. He did not publish any thing with his name, but wrote several articles in the *Imperial Review*, which evince extensive reading, and a well cultivated mind.

Mr. James Lyons, who had been the minister of a dissenting congregation at Hull, for eleven years, succeeded Mr. Thomas, in 1808, and resigned his situation

as the minister of Crook's-lane meeting-house, in Dec. 1813. He has published two sermons, the first, "The right and duty of a faithful and fearless examination of the scriptures;" a farewell discourse on leaving his congregation at Hull, in which he states his reasons for embracing the Unitarian doctrines; and the second, "The dissemination of Unitarian principles recommended and enforced;" a discourse delivered at the annual meeting of the Unitarian Fund Society, in London, in 1803.

After Mr. Lyon's resignation, the public services were conducted by Mr. J. Parry, Mr. Theophilus Brown, late fellow of Peterhouse college, Cambridge, and others, until August, 1815, when Mr. W. J. Bakewell entered upon the pastoral office, to which he had been unanimously chosen by the congregation while a student at the dissenting college at York.—The present minister is the Rev. William Aspland.

The funds belonging to this place, which have arisen out of the donations of the wealthy members of the society from time to time, for the use of the minister, and the support of the poor, are very considerable; and are managed by trustees chosen in succession out of the congregation. They have eight almshouses, which are liberally endowed, and in which poor widows reside; funds for the education of young men for the ministry; for the instruction of the children of the poor, and other very important charities. The congregation, though respectable, is not large; the opinions of Unitarians being by no means popular in this part of the kingdom.

Independent Chapel.

This place of worship is situated on the west side of Queen-street, adjoining to which, on the south side, is a house for the minister, and behind a burial ground. The chapel is a handsome brick building, has galleries on three sides, and will accommodate about 300 persons;

in the front is an iron palisading, where there are two entrances. The founders of this place were originally a part of the Presbyterian congregation in Crook's-street, from whom they separated themselves, in consequence, as they judged, of a departure from the doctrinal sentiments held by their predecessors. For some years they worshipped in a large room now occupied by Mr. Wilcox's congregation in Commonhall-street, and formed themselves into a church in 1772, when the Rev. William Armitage was chosen their pastor.* The present structure in Queen-street was erected in 1777, and the congregation attending is large and respectable. The following is a list of the successive ministers from the formation of the church to the present time:—

* Mr. Armitage had not clear'd up his residence in Chester many days, before a singularly awful Providence spread an universal gloom over the city and vicinity; at the same time the circumstance was overlewd for various purposes to many. The event is thus related by Mr. Armitage himself: "Immediately on my coming to this place, I determin'd to preach a Thursday evening lecture, and accordingly published my design on the first Sabbath-day after my arrival. This being rather an uncommon service among the dissenters at Chester, struck the inhabitants as a novelty, and excited the curiosity of many people to attend. I was much perplexed in the interval for a subject, nor was it till just before the time of speaking that I could fix upon a text. The only words that I could find liberty to speak (trou'd last) were those recorded in Judges xiii. 23. "If the Lord were pleas'd to kill us, he would not have receiv'd a burnt offering and a meat offering at our hands; neither would he have shew'd us all these things; nor would, as at this time, have told us such things as these." I could not then account for being led out of my usual way of study; but the secret was soon unvail'd. It being reported that a company of soldiers were the same evening to exhibit a puppet-show, in a room adjacent to that in which we were to meet for the worship of God, and at the same time that I was to preach, many of our flock and many minds, whether the shew or the sermon would attend, than the puppet-show. As I was just come to town, and was entirely new to them, several on this ground resolv'd to hear me, and reserve their visit to the puppet room for a future evening. It was happy for them that they came to this resolution; for that very night, the place and about two hundred persons were blown into the air by the explosion of gunpowder, which had been there many years under that in which they were assembled. They were all in the spot, and many others were most miserably scorch'd and hurt. Those who arriv'd on me made a very bitter use of the text before I was said, "If the Lord had intended to kill us, he would have permitted us to go to the puppet-show; but as he has provided, we need never go there." Some of these have attend'd my ministry ever since, and I trust not without fruit.

The Rev. William Armitage, from 1772 to 1793.

William Thorpe, now of Bristol.

Moses Taylor, deceased.

Ebenezer White, deceased.

John Reynolds, now of Romsey.

John Thorpe, the present minister.

There is an excellent Sabbath-school taught at this chapel, under the direction of the society; who have also two branch schools, one at Handbridge, and another at Boughton, taught in the chapel where the late Rev. P. Oliver formerly officiated, and which is still occasionally used for divine worship. The aggregate number of scholars taught in these Sabbath seminaries, amounts nearly to five hundred.

Rev. Tho.

Methodian Methodist Chapel,

(Old Connexion.)

This chapel stands in John-street, and was erected in 1811. It is a large, well-built, handsome structure, with a semi-circular front, and three entrances; two of which are at the west end, near the city walls, from which a flight of steps descends into the chapel-yard; the other, which is the principal one, is from John-street. It is galleried on three sides, and behind the pulpit is a large orchestra, for the accommodation of a body of singers. The introduction of methodism into this city occurred about the year 1750; and the first preacher who visited the neighbourhood was a Mr. John Bennet. He commenced his labours at Huntington-hall, in the neighbourhood, then the residence of Mr. George Cotton; from thence the preaching was removed to the house of Mr. Richard Jones, in Love-lane, within the city, where a society was first formed. The house appropriated for their worship soon becoming too small to contain the numbers who came to hear, the society procured and fitted up a capacious barn, in Martin's Ash, situated on the south side of the church of St. Martin, from which

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... the paper - so prejudicial - introduction that - in not parted - some - a body, the - was applied to for - the - and - to - about it - they - in - the - when - the - any - the -

time they were regularly supplied with travelling preachers, and where the Rev. John Wesley frequently visited them in his annual excursions. It does not appear that during this time the society were remarkable as to their numbers, or their respectability; but after remaining at Martin's Ash for somewhat more than a dozen years, they had sufficient credit to obtain 520*l.* upon bond, with which they erected, in 1765, the Octagon chapel, near the Barrs in Foregate-street, which they continued to occupy as their place of worship, until their removal to John-street, as above-noticed. The congregation attending this chapel is both numerous and respectable; though it has been considerably reduced in the present year, by the secession of many members of the society, who have united themselves with the New Methodist connexion in the city, in consequence of what they deemed an unjustifiable assumption of authority on the part of the preachers and some of the trustees, in relation to the Sabbath-schools, of which they had the management. The ministers are itinerant preachers, who sometimes continue in a circuit for *one*, and sometimes for *two* years; though the present preachers (Messrs. Jackson and Rayner), probably for *special* reasons, by the appointment of conference, are *both* to remain in the circuit for *three* years—certainly a very *unusual* occurrence.—On the south-west angle at the back of the chapel, there is a good school built, consisting of two stories, in which children are taught to read on the Sabbath-day. The number of scholars taught here is 130*. Attached to this society is also a good brick building in Back Brook-street, in which there is a flourishing Sabbath-school, comprising not less than 320* children. The ground for this building, and a liberal sum of money, were given by an opulent and benevolent individual of the city;—and by the public liberality, the whole debt has been extinguished, so that the school now stands without any other incumbrance than what arises from the purchase of books used for teaching.

* The numbers are given by the trustees.

There is also a small chapel in Hamilton-place, belonging to John-street society, in which their doctrines are preached in the Welsh language.

Welshman Methodist Chapel.

(New Connexion.)

This structure is situated in Trinity-street, but is greatly inferior to that in John-street, both in dimensions and general appearance. It was built in 1794, by a party of the Old Methodists, who wished to have the sacrament administered to them by their own ministers, and preaching in church hours—arrangements strongly resisted by the Octagon trustees, but which were subsequently adopted by that portion of the society who continued to worship there. In the religious struggles accompanying the efforts of the Trinity-street people to obtain their object, a final separation took place between them and their brethren of the Octagon, the ministers of the latter refusing to continue to preach in their chapel, unless they would abandon what they contended for. Thus deserted, the people were reduced to the necessity of availing themselves of occasional ministers, who supplied them until the year 1797, when they joined themselves with a large body of the Methodists, who separated themselves in various parts of the kingdom from the old connexion, and became a distinct body; and whose object was to effect what they deemed a reformation in regard to the power and authority of their preachers, the management of their funds, and the general government of their societies. With this body, which by way of distinction, is denominated the *New Methodist Connexion*, Trinity-street chapel has since continued to be united. The society is less numerous than that of John-street, but it is at present in a state of considerable improvement, and the congregations have lately become so numerous, that an enlarged chapel is become necessary, for the erection of which a suitable plot of ground is in search of. The ministers

like those of John-street, are itinerant, and receive their appointments from the annual conference. The present preachers are the Revds. B. Carnshaw, and H. Seals.—Connected with this society are three excellent Sabbath-schools, one taught in the chapel, one in Bridge-street, and the other in a new building in Handbridge, which is also used as a preaching-house on the Sabbath evenings. The two latter were formerly united with John-street society; but from which they were separated in the secession already referred to.—Number of children taught in these schools, upwards of four hundred.

The Octagon Chapel

Is situated in Foregate-street, near the Barrs, and as already stated, was built in 1765, by the Wesleyan Methodists. Upon the removal of the society to John-street, it was purchased, and has, since that time, been occupied by its present possessors. The congregation was collected by the labours of the late Rev. P. Oliver, a clergyman of the established church, who embraced the religious sentiments of the celebrated Mr. Whitfield. This gentleman converted some out-buildings near his house in Boughton, into a chapel, where he officiated until his death, without any other reward, than the gratification of diffusing among his poor neighbours, according to the best of his judgment, the spirit and principles of evangelical truth. At his death he bequeathed the chapel to his congregation for a term of years; but upon their removal to the Octagon, they sold their interest in it, and it has since been used as a Sunday-school, by the Independent society, of Queen-street; and occasionally as a place of worship by that respectable body of people. The congregation at the Octagon is considerable, and is in connexion with the societies which were under the patronage of the late Countess of Huntingdon. The Rev. J. Bridgeman (who has a house adjoining the chapel), and the Rev. J. Williams, are the present officiating ministers.

The Baptists

Have two chapels, one in Hamilton-place; a small, but commodious brick building, which was erected in 1806, but the congregation have no stated minister. The other stands in Pepper-street; it is built with stone, in a neat style, and was erected in 1827. The Rev. John Sim is the pastor, but the congregation is small.

This Chapel was built upon the ruins of an old Church.

The Welsh Calvinist Chapel

Is a good brick building, and stands on the north side of Commonhall-street; it was opened for public service on the 12th of November, 1820. The society consists of about 120 members, and the individuals taught in the chapel, are about 100 scholars, chiefly adults, who learn to read Welsh. There are also two English Sabbath-schools connected with this chapel—one in Further Northgate-street, and the other at Saughall, each containing about 50 children. The public services in this place are performed in the ancient British language. Mr. John Parry principally officiates as the preacher, but is occasionally assisted by itinerant ministers from different parts of the Principality, as directed by the monthly meetings of the preachers and elders.

Commonhall-street Chapel.

This place of worship consists of a good spacious room, ascended by a flight of steps inside, and well fitted up with pulpit, seats, and benches; it nearly adjoins the shot-manufactory of Mr. Ellis, in Commonhall-street. The diversity of people who have occupied this room as a place of worship is worthy of remark. In 1772, as before intimated, it was used by the *Independents*; subsequently by the *Wesleyan Methodists*; then by the *Baptists*, who with the Rev. Mr. Aston as their minister, occupied it for several years; and lastly, in 1808, it was adopted by Mr. Wincoxon, and a part of the congregation formerly

belonging to the late Mr. Oliver, and by them it is still occupied. Mr. Wilcoxon officiates as the minister, without pecuniary emolument, whose congregation is very numerous.

The Roman Catholic Chapel

Is situated on the west side of Queen-street. It is a small but handsome brick building, with an elegant doric portico, supported by four light stone pillars in front, and was built in 1799. The congregation is respectable, and has greatly increased since the erection of the chapel. The Rev. John Briggs is the present priest.

The Quakers' Meeting House.

This is a plain building, capable of accommodating several hundred persons, with a burial ground in front; and stands on the east side of Frodsham-street. It is one of the oldest dissenting places now existing in the city, if not the *most* ancient. Dr. Pigot, in his History of Chester, gives the year 1702 as the period of its erection, which is two years after the building of Matthew Henry's chapel in Crook-street; but I am inclined to think, from a passage in Clarkson's Memoirs of William Penn, that it was in existence at least thirteen years before that structure. The biographer says, "Among the places he (W. Penn) visited in Cheshire, was Chester itself. The king (James second) who was then travelling, arriving there at the same time, went to the *Meeting House* of the Quakers* to hear him preach." This was in 1687. By a communication from one of the intelligent *Friends*

* In Gough's History of the Quakers, the origin of this appellation is thus stated:—"It was during his (George Fox's) imprisonment here (Derby) 1680, that, bidding Gervas Bunnet (one of the justices who committed him) and those in company with him, *treble at the word of the Lord*: Bunnet, turning this expression into a subject of ridicule, in derision gave G. Fox and his friends the appellation of *Quakers*, by which name this people have ever since been distinguished."

residing at Liverpool, I am also assured, "that there was a meeting-house in Chester in 1770, at the time Dr. Rutter's ancestors resided there." But whatever was the precise period when the meeting-house was built, it is certain, that there was a society in the city as early as the middle of the 17th century. In the life of George Fox, under date of 1657, that zealous champion of the body writes: "From Wrexham we came to West Chester, and it being the fair-time, we staid there awhile, and *visited Friends*;" an expression indicative of their existence here at that time. But still stronger evidence of this fact may be collected from the subsequent recitals in this article.

From the year 1650, when the society was in its infancy, and throughout the Protectorate, this harmless people endured an uninterrupted series of persecution, both in their persons and property. No sooner had the various sectaries, who had raised the standard of revolt, for the avowed purpose of obtaining liberty of conscience, obtained possession of power, than they, in their turn, became tyrants, and imposed pains and penalties upon all who differed from them in theological sentiments. The Quakers were especially marked as objects of persecution, both by the ruling powers, and the intolerance of the populace; and there are few places in the kingdom wherein they suffered greater severities, than in the city of Chester. This fact is but partially known, because on the one hand, the *Friends* have taken but little pains in publishing the cruelties exercised against them, and on the other, the books in which their harsh treatment has been exhibited, have been but very little read. It is no part of my province to write their history: but a few instances of the persecutions they suffered in Chester will not be out of place, particularly as they develop some circumstances of a curious nature relating to the city, but very imperfectly known in the present day. Besides, whatever tends to shew the cruelty and intolerance of times gone by, can never fail to render more dear to us the inestimable blessings we now enjoy, in the secure possession of our civil and religious privileges.

Thomas Yarwood, for exhorting the mayor and aldermen (as they were going to a customary feast, with music playing before them) *to stand upon a true christianity stool, which was in true holiness and the fear of the Lord*, was for so doing sent to *Little-Ease*, and kept there five hours, by which he was much distressed and hurt, being but a weak sickly man.

1671. William Simpson, going to a *steeple-house*, called St. John's in Chester, though he spake not till the priest had done, was by the mayor ordered to be set in the stocks, and when taken out again, was sent to *Little-Ease*, where they kept him nine hours. The next day, for expostulating with the mayor about the injustice of his usage, he was sent to the same place again, after he had been strack in the face, in the mayor's presence, by one of the sheriffs, so that he bled very much.

Richard Sale, for speaking to a priest in the street at Chester, on the 1st of the 11th month, 1656, was by the mayor's orders put into *Little-Ease*, and kept there about eight hours. And on the 8th of the first month following, for preaching in the streets, was kept in *Little-Ease* aforesaid four hours. This poor man, being pretty corpulent, could not be put into that narrow hole without much violence, so that four men had much ado to thrust him in, and at several times by the crushing of him, the blood gushed out of his mouth and nose. His health by this frequent barbarity was much impaired, and his body and legs swelled, so that he languished about two months, after this last time of his being put there, and then died in the 6th month, 1657, imputing the cause of his death to the cruelty of his persecutors.

John Lawson, John Badela, and Henry Murray, for going into a *steeple-house* with their hats on, though they spake not a word there, were kept in prison twenty-four weeks; one of them was put in the stocks, and the other two were severely beaten.

Richard Hubberthorn, coming to Chester about the 29th of the 6th month, 1653, to visit John Lawson, then in prison, was sent for by the mayor, out of the house where he lodged, and committed to prison, and there detained eight days.

1656. Edward Morgan, a citizen of Chester, had a servant who stole a piece of leather from him; the mayor, being informed of it, and desirous to punish Edward, sent for them both, and because Edward appeared before him with his hat on, and could not swear, the thief was discharged, and Edward himself committed to prison, where he was kept seven weeks, and then privately released. In the time of his imprisonment he sent a letter to the mayor, by one Deborah Maddocks, who finding him in the Pentice, delivered the letter, but for doing her errand too bluntly, and coming irreverently (as he called it) before magistrates (for it seems she did not make him a courtesy), he sent her by a constable to *Little-Ease*, where he was kept about four hours.

We shall close the present account of this city with the postwar case of Anthony Hutchins, a tanner in Chester, who having taken an account in writing of the sufferings of the people called Quakers there, which was afterwards published in print, he sent the manuscript copy thereof to the mayor, who put the bearer of it into *Little-Ease*, and about ten days after, being the 5th of the 7th month, the said Anthony Hutchins was sent for by constables to appear before the mayor, recorder, and another justice of the peace, who, having a copy of the book before them, proceeded to his examination. [Here follows the examination at length.] His examination being over, and he refusing to find sureties, was committed to goal *for a month*.

Whelan, as they said, he had reproached the magistrates and ministers of Chester. After he had been thirty-two days in prison, the general sessions for the county coming on, he was by *habeas corpus* removed to answer the law before the judges, who making due enquiry into the matter, and judging the cause of his commitment insufficient, discharged him; although he, before them, asserted the truth of all he had written, which he afterwards printed under the title of, *A Declaration of the Sufferings of the Sons of Chester*; in which book are many of the accounts herein before given.

From the preceding accounts it would seem, that the *Friends* were formerly more numerous than they are at present; and it appears from a passage in Thomas Story's Journal, that in 1717 he "attended meeting in a large place called the Tennis Court, being the place provided for the yearly meeting." During the last thirty years, the resident members attending the meeting here have varied from ten to fifteen: but by removals and other causes, they are now somewhat less. Neither are the visits of travelling ministers so frequent as formerly, but when they do occur, their public meetings are numerously attended by people of other denominations.

The Primitive Methodists of Lancashire.

There is a small chapel in Steam-mill-street, near the town, erected about the year 1825. The body to which they belong has very considerably increased within the last few years, and now consist of nearly 2000 members, in different parts of the kingdom. Their origin and its origin will about forty individuals, who came from the Old Methodists from the town of Bolton in Staffordshire, about 1815. Their first and principal place of worship was at the village of Linsdale, near the town of Linsdale, where they remained for several years, till the year 1818, when they began to spread themselves in the distant parts of the nation, and are now one of the most numerous bodies in the kingdom. In the year 1818, they were first called *Primitive Methodists*, from *W. D. Clarke*, one of their principal preachers, they derived the name of *Primitive*, because they had had a previous mode of worship; but they all united themselves by the incorporation of the *Primitive* Methodists, and are now called the *Primitive Methodists*.

Stone Buildings.

New Bridge over the Dni.

This stupendous structure, though not completed at the time I write (Nov. 1830), is rising into magnificence; the centres all fixed, and several courses of stone laid upon the arch.

The obstacles and the opposition which preceded this undertaking, as well as the way in which they were overcome, have already been stated. It is more than probable, as before observed, that from the period, when the late Thomas Harrison, Esq. was employed as the county architect, about the year 1738; the present bridge formed a part of a grand scheme of improvements which are now at the point of completion, in the vicinity of our county hall. Under the direction of that eminent individual, a model of the bridge was constructed, which for several years was exhibited in the grand jury-room of the shire-hall. According to this design, the bridge consists of one main arch, with a small dry arch, or towing-path, on each side, by which a land communication is preserved on both sides the river. The great distinguishing feature of this edifice is the unparalleled width of the chord or span of the main arch, which is of greater extent than that of any other ever known to be constructed.* The

* The following is a list of stone bridges, whose length, or the arch here, the nearest approach to that of Chester:—

NAME.	LOCALITY AND DESIGN.	SPAN.	INCORPORATED.	LENGTH.
Vielle Bréonde	Allier, Bréonde	183 feet	1675	1474
Clon	Clon, Co. Dub. S. 181	181	1740	1740
Garipuy	Garipuy, France	160	1750	1750
Verona	Verona, Italy	160	1770	1770
Castel Verone	Verona, Verona	160	1770	1770
Château	Doux, France	157	1770	1770
Château	Drac, Grenoble	150	1770	1770
Perregre-sur-Loire	Taife, Olam	140	1770	1770

execution of the project required a daring genius, equal to the boldness of the conception; and a competent undertaker was found in the person of Mr. Trebshaw, a gentleman of Staffordshire, who has been extensively concerned in the building of bridges, and other public edifices. A variety of opinions have prevailed as to the practicability of a successful result; but, as it approaches the test of security, the doubts of those who were the most sceptical, are assuming the sentiments of assured confidence.

The act for building the bridge and opening the approaches, was obtained in the session of 1825, in which seven years were allowed for their completion; but it was not till the month of August, 1827, that the bridge commissioners entered into contract with Mr. Trubshaw for the execution of the work. The terms of the contract were, for the erection of the bridge, 29,000*l.*, and for forming the approaches 7000*l.*, making a total of 36,000*l.* Mr. Jesse Hartley, of Liverpool, was appointed the surveyor. Of this bridge, the first stone was laid on the 1st of October in the same year, by the Right Hon. Earl Grosvenor, accompanied by the mayor, the members of the corporation, and a considerable portion of the principal gentry and others of the city and neighbourhood; and in the evening, a splendid dinner was given at the Royal Hotel, to commemorate the event.

Of the dimensions of this magnificent structure, with some particulars of its composition, the following is an accurate delineation:—The chord or span of the arch is two hundred feet, a capacity, as before observed, unequalled in the globe. Height of the arch from the springing line, 40 feet.—Dimensions of the main abutments 48 feet wide by 40; with a dry arch, as a towing-path on each side, 20 feet wide, flanked with immense wing walls, to support the embankment. The whole length of roadway, 340 feet.—Width of the bridge from outside the parapet walls, 35 feet 6 inches, divided thus: carriage road, 24 feet; the two causeways, 9 feet; thickness of the parapet walls, 2 feet 6 inches.—Altitude, from the top

of the parapet wall, to the river at low water-mark, 66 feet 6 inches.

Of the stone used in the different parts of the bridge, the following is an analysis:—The springers of the arch, scotch granite; the quoins of the arch, lime-stone, from Anglesey, and from the neighbourhood of Burton-in-Kendal, Westmorland; the arch-stones, and those in the main abutments, together with the casings of the wings, are of stone obtained from Peckforton-hills; and the backing of the wings, and the interior of the abutments above the lateral pressure of the arch, and where there is no exposure to the weather, is composed of stone got at Hough-green, near the city.

The ground in Grosvenor-street, and that near Overleigh, where the new line will join the old turnpike road, is nearly upon a level, but the bed of the river is upwards of twenty yards below this level. The intermediate valley, formed by the declivity from the entrance to the castle to the Dee, and the ascent thence to Overleigh, is to be filled up, which at present is but partially effected, so that the whole line, from Bridge-street to the latter place, will form nearly a level surface.

It is confidently anticipated, that a passage will be effected over the bridge by the middle of 1831, and that it will be finished for all the purposes of travelling by the end of that year. According to the original plan, it was intended that the site of the bridge should have been about thirty yards higher up the river, and that the termination of the new line should join the old turnpike, nearly opposite the Wrexham road. But it was found, upon examination, that no secure foundation could be obtained on the eastern bank higher up the river than that where the present site is fixed. This difficulty, in connection with the influx of the tides, gave an appearance of tardiness to the work in its commencement; but the subsequent activity and rapid advancement afford a reasonable probability, that the whole undertaking will be completed within the period prescribed by the act of parliament.

Chester Castle.

Ordericus ascribes the erection of the castle of Chester to William the Conqueror, in 1066. It was certainly the palace of the local monarchs, as well as the chief strong-hold, and retained much of the appearance of the mixed character until the recent alterations.

The castle is situated near the south-west angle of the city walls; but the ground whereon it stands, as well as a small portion of the vicinage, was constituted a part of the county palatine, by the charter of Henry VII. confirmed by subsequent acts of parliament. The upper ward stands on very high ground, defended by natural precipices on the south and west, and by an artificial elevation on the north. The ancient form and dimensions of this structure, are no more to be seen, but in the descriptive page of history; and I know of no author that can be consulted with more advantage on this subject, than the accurate Pennant, whose account I shall adopt: it was written about the year 1777.

“The castle is composed of two parts, an upper and a lower; each with a strong gate, defended by a round bastion on each side, with a ditch, and formerly with draw-bridges. Within the precincts of the upper *ballium* are to be seen some towers of Norman architecture, square, with square projections at each corner, very slightly salient. The handsomest is that called *Julius Caesar's*. Its entrance is through a large gothic door, probably of later workmanship. The lowest room has a vaulted roof, strengthened with ordinary square couples. The upper had been a chapel, as appears by the holy water pot, and some figures, almost obsolete, painted on the walls. Its dimensions are nineteen feet four inches, by sixteen six; the height also sixteen feet six. The roof is vaulted; but the couples, which are rounded, slender and elegant, run down the walls, and rest on the cornuted capitals of five short but beautiful round pillars, in the same style with those in the chapter-house of the cathedral, probably the work of the same architect. The

arsenal, some batterie, and certain habitable buildings, occupy the remaining part.

"On the sides of the lower court stands the noble room called *Hugh Lupus's* hall, in which the courts of justice for the county are held. The length is near ninety-nine feet; the breadth forty-five; the height very awful, and worthy the state apartment of a great baron. The roof supported by wood work, in a bold style, carved, and placed on the sides, resting on stout brackets. This magnificent building probably retains its original dimensions. The character of the first Norman earl required a hall suited to the greatness of his hospitality, which was confined to no bounds.* 'He was,' says Ordericus, 'not only liberal, but profuse; he did not carry a family with him, but an army. He kept no account of receipts or disbursements. He was perpetually wasting his estates; and was much fonder of falconers and huntsmen than of cultivators of land and holy men; and by his gluttony he grew so excessively fat, that he could hardly crawl about.'

* Mr. Ormerod is of opinion, that the castle of the Norman earls comprised only the *inner ward*. He states as a certainty, that the outer wall of the *lower ward* was ordered to be erected four years *after* the extinction of the local earldom; and that *Hugh Lupus's* hall, contained in that ward, was added at the same period. The authority upon which Mr. Ormerod relies for this statement is the following document, which he acknowledges to have been communicated to him by S. Lysons, Esq. and which certainly goes a great way in establishing his hypothesis:

"*De ferriaco Ballio et nova Aula Cestræ factenda.*

Manda aut est Alano Zouche Justiciario Cestræ quod mirum forisuci Ballii Castri Regis Cestræ et novam Aulam Regis Cestræ in eodem Castro novo incepta suar per visum proborum et legalium hominum perfici faciat et Computum quod ad hoc pesuerit Regi faciet alleari. Tante ut supra Respond. Windsoram 23^o Die Aprilis. Præterea habuit inde breve Computi de eodem D. 22.—Chus. 35 Hen. 3^o m. 14."

TRANSLATION.

"*For the making of the Outer Ward and new Hall of Chester.*

It is commanded to Alan le Zouche, Justice of Chester, that he cause the wall of the outer ward of the King's Castle of Chester, and the new hall of the King in the same Castle which are begun, to be finished under the inspection of skilful and lawful men. And the account he may lay out thereupon, the King will cause to be allowed him. Witnesses above the King at Windsor, the 23^o day of April. Moreover he had there the writ of record of this same date.—Chus. Rolls. 35 Hen. 3. 83m. 14."

“ Adjoining to the end of this great hall is the court of exchequer, or the chancery of the county palatine of Chester. This very building is said to have been the parliament-house of the little kings of the palatinate. It savours of antiquity in the architecture; and within are a number of seats described by Gothic arches and neat pillars; at the upper end are two, one for the earl, the other for the abbot. The eight others were allotted to his eight barons, and occupy one side of the room.

“ The county gaol for felons and debtors is the last place to be described. I can do little more than confirm the account of it by the humane Howard. Their day confinement is in a little yard, surrounded on all sides by lofty buildings, impervious to the air, excepting from above, and even unvisited by the purifying rays of the sun. Their nocturnal apartments are in cells seven feet and a half by three and a half, ranged on one side of a subterraneous dungeon, in each of which are often lodged three or four persons. The whole is rendered more (wholesomely) horrible by being pitched over three or four times in the year. The scanty air of their straight prison-yard is to travel through three passages to arrive at them, through the window of an adjacent room; through a grate in the floor of the said room into the dungeon; and finally, from the dungeon, through a little grate above the door of each of their kennels.* In such places as these are the innocent and the guilty permitted to be lodged, till the law decides their fate.† Mr. Howard

* It will be gratifying to the humane traveller to contrast the miseries here so pathetically described, with the convenient and salubrious disposition of the courts and apartments of the present places of confinement.

† Within the walls of this fortress, was an instance of a felon suffering *prison forte et dure*, for standing mute on his trial, till he died of hunger. One Adam, son of John of the Woodhouses, was, in 1310, the thief of Edward II. committed for burning his own houses, and carrying away the goods. He stood mute; a jury as usual was empanelled, who decided that he could speak if he pleased. On this he was committed *ad dictam*, and afterwards John le Morgan, constable of the castle, testified that the accused Adam was dead *ad dictam*. This was the origin of the punishment of pressing to death, or the *peine forte et dure*, which seems a sort of merciful hastening of death; for it must have been much more dreadful, if well

compares the place to the black-hole at Calcutta. The view I had of it assisted to raise the idea of a much worse prison; where

• No light, but rather darkness visible,
• Served only to discover sights of woe!''

Such was the castle of Chester, as described by Mr. Pennant, in the year 1777. Since that period, the upper ward has experienced little alteration, excepting repairs, and the demolition of its gateway with its towers. The lower ward, however, has been entirely demolished, and a series of buildings erected under the direction and from the designs of the late Mr. Harrison, which may well be classed among the most magnificent buildings of the kind which the kingdom can boast. The expences incurred by these erections have been defrayed by the county rates, aided by the revenues of the river Weaver, and by contributions from the national purse towards the parts used by government as an armoury and barracks.

The following delineation of this superb edifice, in its various divisions, may be relied on as correct, the descriptive parts having been drawn up by the distinguished architect himself; the only addition to his manuscript being an occasional tribute of praise to his transcendent genius.

The grand entrance to the castle is situated in the centre of a semi-circular sunk fence or fosse, 13 feet deep, and 319 feet in diameter, cased with hewn stone, surmounted with stone pedestals, at equal distances, and the space filled up with handsome cast iron rails, forming the north-west boundary of the castle-yard, or esplanade. The entrance extends in length 103 feet, and in depth 35 feet; it consists of three parts: a centre and two

addresses, in the manner presented by the law of the first Edward, in whose reign it originated. The term *ad dietam* was original, expressive of the food sustenance the soldier was allowed; viz. on the first day, three measures of the worst bread; on the second, three draughts of water out of the best piddle; and this was to be alternately his daily diet till he died.

wings or pavilions, connected by short covered passages. The whole is of Grecian Doric, the centre is a peristyle formed of ten fluted columns, 18 feet in height, and 3 feet in diameter, with their anti or pilasters, the carriage entrance being through the middle inter-columniation, and on each side another for foot passengers. The entablature is crowned with a low attic, formed into pannels, and over the centre of the two fronts large tablets are placed, one of which is intended for an inscription, and the other for a bas relief. The wings resemble small open temples, and have porticos of four columns in front, and two within, with their anti; the roofs terminating in pediments at each end. The ceilings of the different parts are entirely constructed of stone, and are divided into compartments by some beams, some of which weigh from four to five tons, ornamented by caissons with simple mouldings, in the manner of those in the portico of the temple of Theseus, at Athens. The whole is constructed of stone of a good quality and colour; the roofs and their covering being likewise of stone; such portions as appear harmonize with the other parts of the building, which may be regarded as the most successful imitation of pure Grecian architecture in these kingdoms. The columns, mouldings, and plain ashler, are worked and set with a precision which could not be exceeded even in marble. All the columns used in the gateway and the different buildings of the castle, amounting to 84, are each formed of a single stone. It will appear to those acquainted with Grecian architecture, that the Propylæa at Athens, may have given the idea of this entrance, as it certainly did to the designer of the Brandenburgh gate at Berlin, which, with this gate in Chester, may be considered as the only examples of the kind now in existence. Although the architect of this gate may have availed himself of the remains of that to the Acropolis at Athens, which from its situation could only be for foot passengers, he has, without injuring the effect, by deviating from the Grecian manner in using an arch, adapted this for carriages also, and given it so different and pleasing a form.

and disposition, that it may be confidently quoted as an example, to shew that however formal this style of architecture may be thought by some, it is by a skilful master, capable both of variety and picturesque effect. In this instance, it seems to have been in a great measure produced by the different heights of the centre and wings, and the upper parts of them being so detached by the low connected buildings, as to allow the Doric entablatures to be continued uninterrupted, as they always should be, round their respective buildings.

The western side of the castle-yard, or esplanade, is occupied by the armoury, which is capable of containing 20,000 stand of arms; and contains also immense quantities of ammunition, warlike stores, implements, and military accoutrements of all descriptions. To a stranger visiting Chester, this depository, which consists of one large ground-room and two smaller upper ones, is well worthy particular notice. The racks upon which the muskets are piled, are made precisely on the same principle as those in the Tower of London; pistols for the cavalry and sea-service, as well as huge masses of swords for horse and foot, are hung on the sides of the walls, and formed into varied curious devices—the whole presenting an interesting exhibition of beauty, order, and cleanliness. The very excellent manner in which this department of the public service is conducted, reflects the highest credit on the store-keeper, Capt. W. M. Henderson, by whose precision of arrangement, an instant supply of military stores can be despatched to any part of the kingdom; nor would it be just to withhold a tribute of praise from his active and intelligent master-armourer, Mr. John Grimer, whose attention and skill are not more conspicuous, than his civil and obliging manners. Some years ago, a low stone building was erected on the south-side of the upper-ward as a magazine for the immense quantity of gunpowder formerly kept here; but it has been reported and for the service, and is now only used as a depository for condemned stores. Julius Cæsar's tower, on the northeast angle of

the ward, is now appropriated to that important custody, as indeed it had long been before the erection of the building just mentioned. There is a great number of ordnance pieces here that might soon be mounted upon the battery; and it seems probable, that government is about to pay more attention to this branch of the service within our garrison, having lately placed there, apparently for permanent service a detachment of artillery-men. The importance of Chester castle, as a military depot, may be measured from the circumstance, that all the neighbouring counties in England, and those of the Principality are supplied with military stores from hence; and that there is no other nearer than Weedon barracks, in Northamptonshire, to the south, and the garrison of Hull to the east. The governor of the castle is general E. Morrison, and general Sir J. Fraser, the lieutenant-governor.

The eastern wing is chiefly occupied by the barracks which were intended for, and very commodiously accommodate, a hundred and twenty men, with their officers. Behind the barracks is the prevost, surrounded by a yard, which serves as an airing ground for the prisoners. These two wings were erected and finished at the joint expence of the county of Chester and the crown; the fronts of them are each ornamented with ten Ionic columns, 23 feet 6 inches high, supporting a simple but handsome entablature, upon which is an attic that hides the roof. The southern side of the esplanade, presenting a stone front of 310 feet in extent, is occupied by the county gaol, grand and petty jury rooms, prothonotary's and exchequer's* offices, and militia armory; and situated

* In the exchequer office, and the prothonotary's office, contained in the great front of this pile of buildings, to the west of the shire hall, are deposited the valuable series of legal documents relative to the county of Chester. An abstract of the Inquisitions, enrollments, and other records in the exchequer, was made by Mr. P. Thomas, between the years 1804 and 1811, at such times as were not occupied by his private business, but the time actually consumed may be calculated at between four and five years of constant application. The overwhelming labour of the undertaking can only be estimated by those who have seen the ancient and half-obliterated MSS.

in the centre of the whole, is the magnificent hall of justice. Before the latter, is a portico, with twelve stupendous pillars, in double rows, each of which is twenty-two feet in height, and three feet one inch and a half in diameter, hewn out of a single stone, from the Manley quarry. The ceiling, roof, and covering, are constructed of the same stone, no timber being used throughout the whole. The hall itself is of a semi-circular form, eighty feet in diameter, forty-four feet high, and including the recess for the judges, fifty feet in width. Round the extreme part of the semi-circle, is a colonade of twelve Ionic columns, each of a single stone, twenty-two feet high, supporting a semi-dome, divided into large deep and bold caissons or coffers; in the centre of each is an ornamented rose, which opening to the roof, serves the useful purpose of ventilating the whole of the court to any degree requisite. The bench of the chief justice is in the centre of the large recess, the seats for the grand and petty juries, on the right and left; the counsellors' seats are a little lower; the prisoners' box is on the same level, from whence there is a commodious passage, under the hall, to the gaol, by which means there is no noise or confusion in the bringing to, or removing prisoners from the court: from the prisoners' box is a gradual and regular elevation, by circular steps through the whole court, to the base of the Ionic pillars, which form the colonade. By this plan, upwards of a thousand spectators may have

which were examined; and the skill and precision with which the work was executed, are most honourable to the undertaker of it. These abstracts were first written on paper only, but by an order from the county authorities, Mr. Thomas is now engaged in transcribing them upon parchment—a undertaking which will preserve these valuable documents to distant posterity. I may here remark, not without regret, that the exchequer and palatine courts, which had been in existence for many generations, were totally abolished in the present year (1830) by act of parliament. This obnoxious proceeding will operate injuriously to most of the legal profession in the city of Chester, and at the same time be highly disadvantageous to the inhabitants of the whole county, on whom serious delays and expenses will be imposed in the recovery of debts. A vigorous opposition was exerted by the city and county against this obnoxious act, but Sir James Scarlett, attorney-general, by whom it was introduced, unhappily succeeded in the measure.

a perfect view of the court, prisoners, and witnesses. From its simple form, and chaste style of architecture, shewed to the best advantage by being lighted from above, this hall has an imposing effect upon the spectator, and gives a proper dignity to the seat of justice. Besides the grand centre-entrance to the hall through the portico, on each side is another, also communicating to the bench, the court, and the different jury-rooms.

The entrance to the county-prison is on the east side of the portico. It is from the nature of the ground built on two levels. The upper line of building on the east side consists of the turnkey's rooms, the large and airy yard of the male debtors; on the west side the female debtors' rooms and court-yard, with the prison hospital adjoining. Both these yards, from their elevated situation, command a delightful view of the fine ruins of Beeston-castle, the Peckforton, Broxton, and Carden hills, &c. through the iron railing, which prevents the debtors from overlooking the court yards on the lower level, which are appropriated to the felons. In the centre is the gaoler's house, projecting from the line of the upper level, so as to completely command a view of every part of the prison. The chapel of the prison is between the upper and lower level, under the gaoler's house, and in the same semi-circular form; it is so contrived as to receive the debtors in a gallery, a very few steps only below the line of their own courts, while the criminals are seated in the inferior part, which is a few steps above their courts and cells; in the centre, near the clergyman, are seats for the family of the gaoler and his domestics. On the lower level, and immediately under the extreme line of the upper, are the cells for solitary confinement and condemned criminals; also the very complete cold and warm baths, in which every prisoner committed, is made to wash himself, his clothes taken away, steamed and stoved, in an excellent apparatus for the purpose, himself clad in the gaol dress, and his own apparel carefully preserved, to be put on at the day of trial. In a semi-circular arrangement of the lower level under the gaoler's

house, are five large airy yards for felons, each containing a pump and trough, and all of them having their distinct day-rooms and sleeping cells, the whole being traversed by an area or passage completely round, and again inclosed by the thick and lofty exterior stone wall, forming the boundary of the prison. These useful and highly ornamental buildings, not only raise admiration of the architect, but must command the grateful thanks of the public to those county magistrates who selected the designs for them, and have granted the means of prosecuting and completing the expensive undertaking.* The debtors as well as criminals confined in this gaol, are all under the charge and authority of the Constable or gaoler, the county sheriff having no controul over them. J. Dunstan, Esq. is the present Constable, and the office is held by patent from the crown.

The south side of the upper ward is occupied by officers' barracks, and the apartments of the justices, who always inhabit them during the assizes. The chief justice is the military commander of the garrison from the moment he enters the castle till his departure; and the officer of the day regularly waits upon him to receive the watch-word, and take his commands. On the north side, is the delightful residence of the store-keeper, and adjoining are various work-rooms for his armourers and labourers.

* There was formerly another shire-hall, standing within the castle walls, probably near Glover's-stone. Mr. Ormerod says, "In Harl. MSS. 2029, is a letter from the city magistrates to lord (Dorset?) Feb. 1567, stating that it was *uncovered and in ruin*, and begging they might have it for shambles; adding, that though they could not gratify his lordship as they ought, yet they presumed *to send him half a dozen of Cheshire cheeses*. Mr. Glasiour and Mr. Bostock had previously a promise of it, but the citizens obtained their suit at the price of £10. and moved it into the North-gate-street. It is represented as placed opposite to the great Abbey-gate in Hollar's plan of Chester. The lower part was made into a flesh-shamble, and the upper part into a storehouse for corn and victuals for the Irish garrisons." I am inclined to think, that the date given to the magistrates's letter in the above quotation, ought to have been at least seven or eight years earlier; for Webb, in the Vale Royal, under the date of 1562, has the following notice:—"The old shire-hall was obtained in Mr. Bird's time (1566) to make a shambles for the country butchers, and was placed in the open-market in Mr. Davand's time (1561) and was this year supplied with country butcher."

In summing up his account of the prison and court-court, Mr. Ormerod justly observes:—"The whole interior of the gaol, is as remarkable for its massy strength and simplicity, as the shire-hall and the exterior of the great court are for their classical elegance; and every possible exertion has been made by the architect to combine such arrangements as may tend to the health and comfort of the prisoner, with those measures of security which the public have a right to expect." To this testimony of our Cheshire historian, I shall only add that of the celebrated Mons. Dupin, who, in his account of England, thus notices this building:—"The sessions-house and the panoptic prison of Chester, are united in the same building, which, most assuredly, is the handsomest of this kind that is to be seen in Europe. The interior arrangements are well contrived, and bespeak much regard for humanity; the architecture is equally simple and majestic."

The City Gaol and House of Correction.

This building was erected in 1807, and the prisoners from the old gaol at the Northgate removed to it the following year. It is situated immediately adjacent to the city walls between the Water-gate and the Water-tower; the two prisons are comprised in one uniform plan, being built of brick, with an entrance of stone on the west side, leading to the gaol, and one on the north side, leading to the house of correction. In the centre of the building is a commodious chapel, which serves for both establishments, each having an entrance from their proper sides. The chaplain is the Rev. William Clark, who performs divine service once every Wednesday and Friday, and twice on the Sabbath-day. Mr. Jepson is governor of the gaol, and Mr. Woolley, keeper of the house of correction; and both are under the superintendance of the city magistrates. Since the building was first erected, several expensive additions and alterations have been made, partly occasioned by acts of parliament

requiring the classification of prisoners, and partly to render the prisons more secure. For the latter purpose, the two lodges which communicated from the roof of the prisons on the east and west sides with the boundary wall have been taken down, so that there is no connection between them, there being an open space all round. Before this useful alteration, the escape of prisoners was very frequent, but that evil seems now to be effectually guarded against. About five years ago, the precincts of the prisons were considerably enlarged, by an extension of the boundary wall towards the east; on the newly-inclosed ground eight work-shops have been erected for those prisoners sentenced to hard labour; and on the north of the area, a lodge for the turnkey, with two lock-ups, one for males and the other for females. Over the western entrance stands as a *memento mori*, the fatal drop, where the county and city criminals are executed, and where numbers of unfortunate creatures have forfeited their lives to the violated laws of the country. The ground in front, lying between the gaol and the city walls, is inclosed with handsome iron railing, and occupied by the governor as a garden.

The Exchange.

This building, where all the city business is transacted, stands on the west side of Northgate-street, nearly opposite the bishop's palace. It was begun in the year 1695, and finished in 1698, in which year the elections of the mayor and city officers, and the courts formerly held in the old Common-hall were removed to this building. The structure is chiefly of brick, with stone finishings, is spacious, has a fine appearance, and originally stood on stone pillars, having a commodious thoroughfare for foot passengers from north to south; and on the east and west were formerly wide openings for the use of the citizens, and the purposes of traffic. In the year 1756, however, the west side was filled up with a range of shops, with which it is still occupied; but they appear to

have been erected less with a view to pecuniary advantage, than from a necessity of sustaining the superincumbent edifice, which was thought to be in danger. On the south front, in the centre of the building, is a full sized, well executed stone statue of queen Anne, in her coronation robes; but this exquisite work of art has been shamefully mutilated; the globe and sceptre, with a part of the royal hands, having been broken off. This mischief has arisen from party violence in the heat of electioneering conflicts, particularly during the contests of 1794 and 1812, when the party hostile to the corporation took it into their heads to avenge themselves of the body corporate, by pelting her majesty with stones. On the west side of queen Anne is also a tablet, containing the royal arms of England, as borne before the introduction of the quartering of the house of Hanover; and on the east side, a similar tablet with the arms of the earldom, &c. The banquet or assembly-room occupies the south end of the building: it is elegantly fitted up, has an orchestra in its centre, and from east to west is thirty-nine feet long, by twenty-six feet and a half. The court of justice, where the sessions are held, and the annual election of the mayor and city officers takes place, forms the middle of the building, and is a spacious room, sufficiently large for all its purposes, and furnished with suitable accommodations for the bench, counsel, juries, and witnesses. Here are placed several full length portraits of distinguished characters connected with the city. On each side the great south entrance is a baronet of the family of Grosvenor, also one nearest on the east side, all of them at different periods having served the office of mayor of the city; on the east side is also a portrait of recorder Comberbach, and on the same side an accurate likeness of our late highly respected recorder, Hugh Leicester Esq. At the north-east angle is recorder Sir William Williams; next, Sir Henry Bumbury, who was member of parliament for the city for upwards of two and twenty years successively; then John Lorton, one of the mayors; at the north-west angle is recorder Levings.

on the west side, recorder Townshend; and adjoining on the same side, Thomas Cholmondeley, Esq. mayor of the city in 1701. Adjoining and communicating with the court of justice is the council-room, where the mayor and magistrates meet to hear complaints, and transact public business. Here, over the mayor's seat is placed a full-length portrait of King George III. in his robes of state, presented to the corporation by the present Earl Grosvenor; in other parts of the room, are also full portraits of Richard, the first Lord Grosvenor, and of Thomas Grosvenor, Esq. brother of the first earl, one of the representatives for the city of Chester in several successive parliaments; these two last portraits are in their full dress robes as mayors of Chester, and were painted by the celebrated Benjamin West, in the year 1771; here also is an accurate likeness of the present Right Honourable Robert, Earl Grosvenor, in his full dress robes, as a peer of England, painted by Jackson. On the south side of the room, are likewise a series of portraits of city benefactors, with their several donations recorded under each portrait, a copy of which is given in the note below:—*

* PORTRAIT OF WILLIAM OFFLEY.

“WILLIAM OFFLEY Sheriff of this City, Anno 1517, by two wives had 26 Children, of whom 8^r; Thus; Offley, ye eldest Son by ye 1st Wife Elizabeth Dillon, was 1st Mayor of London Anno 1556, John Offley ye 2nd Son was Mayor of this city Anno 1558, Rob^t. Offley the eldest son by ye 2nd Wife The^{rs}. Wright, and Citizen of London by his Will gave 500^l to charitable uses in this City with an yearly exhibition of 5^l towards the maintenance of a Scholar in the University, being ye Son of a Citizen of this City and 5 towards ye charge of his commencing M^r. A. Hall ye 3rd ye a younger Son Att. of London by his Will gave 200^l with an yearly rent of 5^l to charitable uses in this City, Will^m. Offley another Son, Merchant ye Staple and Citizen of London by Ann his Wife had 15 Children and by his Will gave 300^l to charitable uses in this City.”

PORTRAIT OF SIR THOMAS WHITE.

“THIS worthy and pious Knight 8^r; Thus; White March T. he was born in Leicestershire, and was Lord Mayor of London Anno 1551. He was a great lover of Learning, founded many Colleges, and gave yearly 500^l sums of money to many Cities and Towns, and also a considerable sum, particularly 100^l to be paid yearly for the poor of this City, so he lived 10 years gratis, to pay freedom especially to his Will. The sum 100^l was paid Anno 1565.”

The Commercial Actes Room and Buildings,

Are situated in Northgate-street, adjoining St. Peter's Church. The beautiful and highly finished stone fronts of the Ionic order, after the designs of Mr. Harrison; on a line with the street, are two very excellent shops; above is the News Room, forty-five feet long, by twenty six wide, with a fire place at each end; it is a remarkably light and pleasant room; all the best London, and many of the Provincial Newspapers, are taken, also the various Magazines, Reviews, Journals, Lists, and Public Records. Of this establishment there are one hundred Proprietors; no annual subscribers are admitted, but the utmost facility is given to the introduction of strangers by proprietors. According to the original rules, the Right Hon. Robert

PORTRAIT OF RICHARD HARRISON.

"RICHARD HARRISON, Brewer, late one of ye Sheriffs of this City of Chester, by his last Will and Testament, did order and direct that his house call'd the Star and other Buildings thereunto adjoining in the said City, should be sold by his Executors Capt; John Sparke, Mr. Nichol. Oulton, Mr. Bradford Throggs, and with the money thereby raised, Lanes in the Country to be purchased, and ye profits thereof to go to mercer's Almshouses after the manner of Mr. John Vernon's Almshouses in the said City, & the said Mr. Harrison's said Executors have accordingly sold the said House and Buildings, and with the money thereby raised have clothed poor men with Gowns and Bedges, and ye Interest of ye remainder of ye said Money, is paid quarterly to the said poor men till a convenient purchase can be found out Anno Dom: 1696."

PORTRAIT OF OWEN JONES.

"OWEN JONES, of Chester, Butcher, who died Anno, 1653, did by his last Will and Testament give and bequeathed to the poor of every Company of this City of Chester, from year to year in order as they are usually ranked at Midsummer Shew the Tanners being first and so for the rest in their order till all the Companies in their yearly turns shou'd have enjoyed the same and then to begin again and so to proceed and continue for ever, the profits and rents of all his Lands and Mortgages in Cheshire and Denbighshire, amounting to the value of 45*l.* per Ann. or thereabouts to be employed for the use of the poor of the said Companies yearly for ever, excepting Five pounds yearly, which he thereby gave and bequeathed to the Mayor and Sheriffs of the City of Chester, for the time being, to give 1*l.* to the Mayor to buy him a Ring, and 5*l.* to each of the Sheriffs, for their care in seeing this part of his Will performed, which is accordingly done, and to be continued by the succeeding Mayors and Sheriffs of the said City of Chester for ever."

Earl Grosvenor, and the Mayor of the City, are honorary members, and have the privilege of introducing as many strangers as they think proper. Also the Members of Parliament for the City and County; the General commanding the district, and his staff, have full liberty to frequent the room. The entrance to it is from the west, with the Committee-room on one side, and on the other the apartment where the papers are filed, and the keeper of the room attends. Above these two and the entrance, is a very excellent room, let to the proprietors of the Public, or City Library. On the opposite side the court is the Commercial Tavern, also belonging to the Proprietors of the News Room, &c.

PORTRAIT OF JOHN VERNON.

“*MR. JOHN VERNON, Merchant of the Staple and Citizen of London, born in this City, 1st 1602, to purchase Lands. Which have been purchased according to the Rents thereof to be thus employ'd yearly for ever, viz. to buy thirty six tuns 60 years old Four Pounds a piece yearly, and a Cow every third year, for an Annual Summ 10^l. to the poor prisoners in the Northgate and Castle to each place 6s. 8d. for a Banquet in the Pentice 20^l. 8 then his Will to be read, & the residue for other pious and good uses therein mentioned. He likewise let 200^l. to be employ'd in Wool to use the poor to work and gave this City divers Pieces of Plate weighing 140 Ounces.”*

PORTRAIT OF JOHN LANCASTER.

“*JOHN LANCASTER of the City of Chester, Ironmonger, by his last Will and Testament did give and devise all his Lands, &c. in Shropshire, Herefordshire, &c. elsewhere, to use; That after the expiration of 14 years from the time of his Death to the Mayor and Citizens of this City of Chester for ever, the intent that the Mayor and Sheriffs for ye time being should receive ye said Lands and out of ye rents and profits thereof pay unto 60 ye best Freemen of this city, to be chosen and continued by ye Mayor and Sheriffs for the time being ye sum of 30^l. yearly at Mich'as and our Lady-day, by equal portions for ever, ye charge of ye towns being deduced, if ye rents would so extend, or else to abate proportionably, and upon the death of any of ye said poor men, ye Mayor and Sheriffs to chuse another so qualified as aforesaid, in his stead, and the said 14 years being now expired Anno Dom 1690 Francis Skillan ye Mayor, Edward Parkington &c. Randle Bathow ye Sheriffs, have set the said Lands and out of the rents and profits thereof have caused six poor wretched Children with Groats and Badges to be paid thereof to receive thereof to money.”*

PORTRAIT OF RICHARD BIRD.

“*RICHD. BIRD of the City of Sevil, in the Kingdom of Spain, Merchant, &c. of Sevil; Burd of this City Anno; and Justice of Peace Anno 12th 1661; also Burd for his Native County dyed in Sevil Anno Dom 1661. Gave*

The City Library.

Consists of a very large and choice selection of books, and is now, as above stated, contained in an excellent room of the Commercial Buildings, having been removed there from its former situation in Whitefriar's-street, in the spring of 1815. The number of proprietors is at present a hundred and twenty, many of them are also proprietors of the News Room, &c. underneath, but the two establishments are kept perfectly distinct, and are each managed by different committees.

His Will bequeathed 650*l.* Sterk; to be disposed of in this City, the place of his Nativity to charitable uses, which was accordingly performed by his Brother Mr. Wilton; and Merchants and Capt. David Constanter's Executors, and annual to continue for ever, for the relief of six poor Aged Citizens who are to be qualified chosen appall and provided for, in all respects according to the Rules and directions set down in the Last Will and Testament of Mr. John Vernon deceased, for his Almsmen in this City."

PORTRAIT OF RICHARD SNEYD.

"RICHARD SNEYD one of the City of Chester Cooper, bequeathed by His Will bearing date Nov. 15th 1773 bequeath 120*l.* the Interest of it to be applied yearly for the relief of an Aged Citizen qualified and chosen according to the Rules prescribed by Mr. Jno Vernon's Will with respect to his Almsmen, which sum was paid into the Treasury October 6th 1774 by his Executors."

PORTRAIT OF JOSEPH CREWE.

"JOSEPH CREWE Esq. one of the Alders of this City by his Will dated 19th April 1796 gave to the Mayor and Citizens 120*l.* to be applied in the maintenance of an Aged Almsman, to be qualified chosen and chosen according to the direction of Mr. Vernon's Will and by Court dated 13th July 1800 gave 600*l.* to the said Mayor and Citizens in Trust to pay 30*l.* a year by quarterly payments equally amongst the six Chapelry of Widows and directed the said Legs. to be paid within one month after his decease. — He died 12th January, 1800."

PORTRAIT OF WILLIAM LEWIS.

WILLIAM LEWIS, of Lyon House Stamford Hill in the county of Middlesex Esq, on the first February 1806 transferred to the Mayor of the Mayor & Citizens of his Native City of Chester, 200*l.* 3 p*ts* cent. Consol, in trust to pay the Dividends thereof on the 1st February in every year, for ever, unto the Widow of a Freeman of the said City having Three Children under the age of 12 years, standing in need of pecuniary assistance and never having received relief from any parish; but if the Widow of such description cannot be found, then to pay the said dividends to any deserving Widow of a Freeman being 66 years old, or upwards, in straightened circumstances and never having received such relief as aforesaid."

General Public Library.

This library was established in the year 1817, by a number of respectable residents; it was first commenced in Bellard's entry, but it was subsequently removed to a more spacious and commodious room in Fletcher's Buildings, where it now remains. The principal patrons of this library were J. Fletcher, Esq. who besides a donation of twenty guineas, presented the infant institution with a number of valuable books, among which was the Edinburgh Encyclopædia; J. Feilden, Esq. of Mollington; Capt. Henderson, and several other gentlemen, who also took an active part in its prosperity. The library is now gaining a very respectable character, both for the number and value of its books. It is governed by a committee of subscribers, and all the subscribers have the privilege of introducing a friend. The room in which the library is held is decorated with a well-finished portrait of Mr. Fletcher, executed at the request and expense of the subscribers.

The Custom House.

Is situated on the north side of Watergate-street, adjoining Trinity Church; it is an ancient structure, chiefly of brick, but partly of stone, having several entrances, and evidently built or repaired at various distant periods; over one of the doors is an armorial coat, in a stone tablet, with three garbs (without the sword) and the earl's coronet above. The edifice, although more than sufficient for the *decayed* port of Chester, is a paltry and unsightly building, intruding into the proper line of the street several feet, and it is to be hoped the commissioners of his Majesty's customs will shew themselves friendly to the improvement of the street, by taking the first opportunity of throwing it back.

The old bridge,—engine-house,—theatre, Union, Commercial, and new Linen-halls, have already been described.

Charitable Institutions.

It has elsewhere been remarked in this work, that the city of Chester abounds with institutions, whose object is to meliorate the condition of suffering humanity in all its diversified forms of wretchedness. Here is a comfortable receptacle, with wholesome food, for the poor and aged;—a well-regulated sanctuary, with skilful physicians, and requisite comforts, to alleviate the pressure of disease and pain;—seminaries in abundance for the instruction of the ignorant;—a refuge open for the unfortunate penitent Magdalen;—an asylum for the protection of pitiable maniacs;—and a sluice of mercy open to the calls of poor females, in the time of nature's sorrow. And independent of these, most of them munificently supported by voluntary contributions, the streams of charity flow copiously through numerous channels of individual kindness, to feed the hungry and clothe the naked. Of our public charities, I shall here give an enumeration, with a short sketch of their history and present state.

House of Industry.

Among the public or general charities, the House of Industry claims precedence. It is situated near the bank of the river, on the north-west angle of the Roodey, and was built by the corporation in 1757, for the accommodation of the city. It is governed by the mayor, recorder, and aldermen (being justices of the peace) for the time being, and seventy-four other guardians, elected by the nine parishes of the city, according to an act of parliament passed in the year 1762. By this act, the poor-house was vested in the above guardians for ninety-nine

years, from the 1st of May, 1762, for the sum of 90*l.* a year, with power in the guardians to terminate the engagement after the first seven years, by giving eight months notice.

In the year 1819, an additional building was erected on the west side of the poor-house, designed as an asylum for pauper lunatics. This may be considered a most humane adjunct; its cost was about 700*l.*; and the average of inmates is about twenty-two. In 1823, another and important appendage was added to the house, by the addition of a school, for educating the infant paupers, on which was expended the sum of 523*l.* and in which are constantly taught about 50 children. A warm bath was likewise fixed in the house in 1821, which, with its apparatus, is highly complete in every part.

There are few places in the kingdom where the comforts of the poor are so efficiently provided for, as in this institution. The board of guardians meet every Thursday, when each individual case of the out-poor is brought before them; and when each inmate of the house is at liberty to state his complaint, if he have any to prefer. The internal management is truly excellent, and exhibits an example that may be advantageously followed by any work-house in the nation. The food of the inmates is good and nutritious; their treatment, gentle and humane, while an appearance of cleanliness and an air of comparative comfort are prominently discoverable throughout the whole of the little community. For 20 years, Mr. Jarvis has had the superintendence and management of the house affairs, and it is to his humanity and unceasing attentions, with those of Mrs. Jarvis, who is matron of the house, that is to be attributed this excellent state of its internal government.

The annual amount of rates for the support of the poor in the nine parishes of Chester, has varied within the last forty years from 100*l.* to 2000*l.* per annum. By reference to the subjoined tables, the exact amount of the levies and expenditure from 1811 to 1830, distinguishing the amount in each year, will be seen, which will afford the most satisfactory account on the subject I can give.

Amount of Money assessed, levied, and collected for the Poor of the nine parishes of Chester, from 1811 to 1820.

Parishes	1811	1812	1813	1814	1815	1816	1817	1818	1819	1820	Total	
St. Oswald's	1187	6	7	1260	5	7	1575	12	2197	3	11601	14
St. John's	1182	8	3	1489	5	16	1997	3	2153	19	10136	9
Mary's	1652	4	10	913	1	1250	12	6109	3	6116	9	21431
Trinity	678	5	3	679	11	2	795	6	7	12	1	1397
Michael's	153	18	0	255	18	0	182	16	6	18	0	1389
Budget's	501	16	5	269	13	0	347	16	6	206	19	6
St. Peter's	516	3	0	569	11	4	363	3	4	189	13	8
St. Martin's	187	0	3	256	4	3	258	13	3	13	0	497
St. Andrew's	136	6	3	115	13	9	162	3	1	107	7	9
Total	5045	11	31	5776	14	11,725	15	11,330	17	2,026	13	1,034

Amount of Money expended by the nine parishes for the Poor, from 1811 to 1820.

Parishes	1811	1812	1813	1814	1815	1816	1817	1818	1819	1820	Total	
St. Oswald's	145	11	6	1185	6	6	1762	16	1582	8	11416	19
St. John's	169	6	1	157	12	3	1907	0	1301	1	1157	16
Mary's	795	8	0	916	9	10	1210	0	1169	2	9136	23
Trinity	20	10	5	613	13	11	666	0	1	157	13	6
Michael's	134	15	3	219	11	3	339	0	1	232	3	6
Budget's	266	5	4	225	13	19	209	16	1	523	3	6
St. Peter's	131	0	4	464	7	0	539	16	6	189	3	6
St. Martin's	246	16	1	227	5	2	237	0	6	331	33	6
St. Andrew's	149	3	10	143	7	2	172	3	1	139	13	3
Total	1723	43	3	6,667	12	3,971	13	3,863	11	6,366	11	3,937

Amount of Money received, levied, and collected for the Poor of the nine parishes of Chester, from 1821 to 1830.

Year	1821			1822			1823			1824			1825			1826			1827			1828			1829			1830							
	W.	M.	S.	W.	M.	S.	W.	M.	S.	W.	M.	S.	W.	M.	S.	W.	M.	S.	W.	M.	S.	W.	M.	S.	W.	M.	S.	W.	M.	S.					
Oswald's	1457	7	1609	17	6	574	3	10	1746	15	10	9166	5	1711	10	1349	3	3	1736	7	4	1473	19	6	1532	6	68								
John St.	1962	14	1969	3	6	1530	17	5	2317	11	5	1510	16	1	1033	18	3	3	1618	7	4	1346	17	9	1363	13	8								
Mary St.	1560	10	1486	1	4	934	18	1	563	13	5	943	16	2	1820	7	11	1124	19	9	953	19	11	1163	13	9									
Trinity's	941	5	894	16	10	636	1	4	842	18	5	609	8	7	820	6	3	249	14	4	49	14	2	753	16	7									
Michael's	296	11	292	4	5	369	5	1	333	17	10	325	5	4	320	15	6	577	1	2	351	3	9	272	12	7									
Bedford's	472	7	319	7	0	318	4	6	295	19	3	395	5	4	539	12	0	462	1	7	351	9	6	266	7	3									
Paul's	547	1	519	13	9	403	3	4	467	3	6	501	1	3	545	2	10	335	12	0	462	1	7	351	9	6	245	3	3	310	3	3			
Mary St.	213	13	244	17	3	179	7	0	346	16	1	356	15	11	233	9	3	269	10	6	266	6	6	245	3	3	310	3	3	310	3	3			
Other St.	247	10	222	15	6	202	6	11	149	16	3	127	12	6	125	17	2	150	19	3	153	4	6	128	13	6	143	13	6	143	13	6	143	13	6
Totals	763	6	7032	16	1	552	13	6	637	16	3	7313	11	11	6144	2	4	6723	5	3	6014	14	11	6132	4	3	6572	16	0						

Amount of Money expended by the nine parishes for the Poor from 1821 to 1830.

Year	1821			1822			1823			1824			1825			1826			1827			1828			1829			1830									
	W.	M.	S.	W.	M.	S.	W.	M.	S.	W.	M.	S.	W.	M.	S.	W.	M.	S.	W.	M.	S.	W.	M.	S.	W.	M.	S.	W.	M.	S.							
Oswald's	1841	11	1609	0	57	1607	1	5	1856	7	6	1671	13	16	1523	3	0	1650	3	16	1513	3	7	1353	3	7	1568	6	3								
John St.	2419	2	1336	3	31	1331	1	6	1957	6	9	1677	4	6	1677	7	6	1643	3	7	1493	16	4	1092	4	9	1366	13	3								
Mary St.	1562	17	1149	7	113	1159	4	0	994	13	11	1062	3	1	943	5	0	1152	15	2	1027	9	4	638	7	5	146	13	7								
Trinity's	959	15	765	2	0	802	1	5	796	7	11	789	13	7	653	3	8	827	8	9	713	10	1	293	15	3	353	0	0								
Michael's	309	16	247	19	1	296	5	7	303	2	10	292	10	1	291	13	3	267	19	7	277	11	3	293	15	3	353	0	0								
Bedford's	349	16	354	2	4	297	6	2	294	6	7	303	2	10	262	3	4	382	3	5	553	16	6	319	15	3	353	0	0								
Paul's	547	1	519	13	9	403	3	4	467	3	6	501	1	3	545	2	10	335	12	0	462	1	7	351	9	6	245	3	3	310	3	3					
Mary St.	213	13	244	17	3	179	7	0	346	16	1	356	15	11	233	9	3	269	10	6	266	6	6	245	3	3	310	3	3	310	3	3					
Other St.	247	10	222	15	6	202	6	11	149	16	3	127	12	6	125	17	2	150	19	3	153	4	6	128	13	6	143	13	6	143	13	6	143	13	6		
Totals	7133	0	6296	17	2	6324	7	19	6994	13	2	7123	13	11	6796	1	3	7007	15	3	6639	17	7	6262	1	9											

General Infirmary.

Of this important institution, creditable alike to our county and city, the author was anxious to obtain an accurate and correct account, from its first establishment. It was desirable, also, to ascertain its capabilities in the prosecution of its grand objects, as well as to form an estimate of its merits, as compared with other similar public hospitals. In the prosecution of such a sketch as this, he was deeply sensible of his own inability, particularly arising from a want of professional and scientific knowledge, the absence of which must have left his design, in several of its most important particulars, exceedingly defective. He has had the good fortune, however, to be relieved from this dilemma, by the kindness and assistance of one every way competent to the task, who in compliance with the author's request, consented to draw up the following summary. It is somewhat longer than the limits of the work will with propriety allow, but I am unwilling to curtail any part of it, lest the public should be deprived of a particle of its benefits, but may be allowed to print the article in a smaller type.

This noble and comprehensive charity was instituted April 1765, and opened, with the consent of the corporation, in the unoccupied part of the Blueschool, Northgate-street, January, 1766.

	Sir Richard Dando, Bart. } Trotford Barston, Esq. } William Cooper, M.D. }	Treasurers.	
	Mr. Robert Barnston, Deputy-Treasurer.		
Dr. Weaver, } Dr. Hayes, } Dr. Detton, } Dr. Tylston, }	Physicians.	Mr. Venables, } Mr. Cretgrave, } Mr. Vaughan, } Mr. Baeketta, }	Surgeons.
House-Apothecary, Mr. Thomas Crane.			

It was soon discovered, however, that the building in question was but ill adapted for the purpose of a general and charity hospital, and it appears by the report of 1758, that the governors, after long and unsuccessful attempts to possess themselves of a piece of ground lying eastward of St. John's church for the building of a new Infirmary, considered themselves fortunate that they were disappointed of the purchase, a more convenient situation being pitched upon, adjoining the city walls, and not far distant from the Water-tower.

The Infirmary, therefore, properly so called, was erected in 1761, and as for convenience and salubrity of station, few public institutions are more favourably circumstanced. It stands at an elevation of about 60 feet above the level of the river Dee, at low water, and commands a delightful view of the mountains dividing the counties of Flint and Denbigh.

The plan of the building is that of a quadrangle of four stories, fronting the west, with an area of 54 feet by 42 in the centre. The sunk or basement story consists of a series of vaulted cellars and other partitions, and the places, but being badly lighted, drained, and ventilated, have never been of little use. The ground floor is occupied by offices, divided from the weather by a corridor, or open gallery, running round the interior of the building, while the first and second floors are appropriated to lodging the sick and hurt.

The principal wards lie to the north and south, and run the whole length (100 feet) of the Infirmary. Each ward contains 24 beds, ranging along the opposite sides—and as for the east and west sides of the quadrangle, they are taken up with scullery, chapel, and four small rooms, for nurses, &c. bedding (see plate) into the area.

From what has been said I would in the present day be generally admitted, that the original plan of our Infirmary was defective, as in addition to the want of day-rooms, &c. for the convalescent, there was no provision made for the separation and classification of patients, according to disease and urgency of symptoms. “Whoever has frequented,” says Dr. Aiken, “the miserable habitations of the lowest class of poor, and has seen disease aggravated by a total want of every comfort arising from suitable diet, cleanliness, and medicine, must be struck with pleasure at the change on their admission into an hospital, where these wants are abundantly supplied, and where a number of skilful persons are co-operating for their relief. On the other hand, when he walks through the long wards of a crowded hospital, and surveys the languid countenances of the patients—when he feels the peculiarly noisome effluvia so unfriendly to every vigorous principle of life, and compares their transient effect upon him, with that to be expected by those who are constantly breathing them, and imbibing them at every pore, he will be apt to look upon a hospital as a dismal prison, where the sick are shut up from the rest of mankind to perish by mutual contagion.

“The disposition of the lodging-rooms (continues the same author) into long wards, is a pernicious fault, inasmuch that I would assign it as the principal cause of bad air in hospitals, and it is evident that this must be the case from the very reason which led to the contrivance: viz. that a large number might be lodged in a small space. Every person even in health, by his breath and the effluvia arising from his body vitiates a quantity of air around him; and the only reason why we do not in general perceive any bad effects from the poison generated by this vitiation is that it is usually diluted with a large quantity of fresh air, and carried off by a free circulation. If the quantity of air be lessened, or its circulation impeded, noxious effects will be proportionally shown. The degree to which this may be done without producing any injury of consequence cannot be exactly ascertained; but there is no doubt that it must become hurtful when such a number as from 20 to 50 persons, many of them afflicted with ulcers and other diseases, which tend to aggravate the putrescency of the fluids, are constantly confined together in a room just large enough to hold their beds. The circumstance of continuing through the day in the room where they slept, is a considerable aggravation of the evil. The bed cloaths acquire a strong impregnation from the perspired vapours of the night, as is evident on first entering the bed chamber of a single person in health, and their soft porous texture renders them extremely tenacious of every kind of effluvia. It would therefore be a good regulation in every hospital, especially such as are in any degree crowded, that all the patients who are capable of sitting up should remain through the day in large airy halls, and that their wards and bedding should, in the mean time, be as much as possible exposed to ventilation.”

In making these quotations, my design is far from wishing to raise a prejudice against this or any other similar charity; on the contrary, my object

is to introduce the Chester Infirmary to the notice of this public, *improvementably* to the suggestions of reason and experience, and by far the most valuable of the numerous charitable institutions in this ancient city. "We hold that the defects of all establishments whose aim is the alleviation of human misery, should be freely stated, that their supporters may be continually animated by the desire of improvement and encouraged in their exertions to effect it."

For the last six years persevering endeavours have been made by a respectable body of subscribers to introduce the improvements adopted "in plan as well as in government," at other similar institutions. That a diversity of opinion on these topics should have prevailed is hardly to be wondered at. Happily, however, opposition may be said to be at an end, and it is devoutly to be hoped that all future difficulties "will be surmounted by the zealous and harmonious co-operation of the real friends of this noble institution."

"17th Nov. 1827.

"At a Stated General Board, holden this day; present Lord Belgrave, president, the Lord Bishop of Chester, &c. &c.

"It was resolved.

"That a dispensary branch be added to this institution, and that a committee of seven gentlemen be appointed (three to be a quorum) to decide which of the plans in the report (read this day) shall be adopted. The following to form the committee:—Rev. J. Briggs, Mr. Simon Snow, Mr. Murrell, Mr. Swanwick, Captain Wrench, Major Tomkinson, and the Very Rev. the Dean of Chester.

"That the Lord is most anxious to see the acknowledged improvements which have been adopted as well in plan as in government of other charitable medical institutions, carried into effect with the least possible delay at the Chester Infirmary.

"That this board in furtherance of this object, appoint the following committee to alter and repair the Infirmary; for which purpose it authorises the sale of stock not exceeding £2000, and commits the order of this sum to their discretion and judgment. (Four to form a quorum.) The committee to consist of the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Chester, Sir F. Curlew, Bart. W. Tomkinson, Esq. R. G. Perry, Esq. H. Fouts, Esq. the Rev. J. Briggs, and Lord Belgrave. The first meeting of this committee to be at half-past twelve on Tuesday next.

"That the thanks of this board be given to Lord Belgrave for his efficient services in the chair."

In attempting to convey an idea of the improvements effected, I shall begin with the labours of the building committee, of whose zeal and efficiency it would be impossible to speak in terms of too high praise.

By forming an area round three sides of the building, an admirable wash-house, laundry, and drying-room, in the basement (to the east) have been obtained, while the greater part of the premises to the north are rendered available as laboratories, surgery-rooms, &c. &c. The rooms to the front are proportionably high and airy, and as they are furnished with drains, &c., if wanted, be readily converted into wards for receiving patients labouring under the higher forms of delirium, epilepsy, hysteria, &c. Nor should it be forgotten, that the said wards could be well adapted (being completely separated

from the other wards) for visiting cases of casual small-pox, and other infectious diseases hardly admissible regard being paid to the safety of others in the ordinary wards of an Infirmary.

The brew-house and cellars remain as formerly, save inasmuch as they now are drained and ventilated; and in general terms it may be asserted that the improvements realized in this story would justify the expenditure of nearly the whole sum (£2000) voted for repairing and altering the Infirmary.

On the ground floor important improvements have also been made—thus an independent suite of apartments for the dispensary branch of the charity, consisting of a waiting room for patients, a medical shop, a consulting and examining room for the physician and surgeon in attendance, and a sitting and bed room for the visiting surgeon, have been provided, leaving the following range of spaces for the hospital:—viz. Board-room, Library, medical store, house-surgeon's sitting and bed-room, pupil's bed-room, matron's parlour and dining-room, servants' bed-room, kitchen and back-kitchen, matron's office and store-room.

To make up for the waiting and receiving rooms displaced by the dispensary arrangements, it is intended that the in-patients on Tuesdays, shall assemble in the entrance-hall, and that the library be used the same days as the admission room; half the spaces under the nurses' rooms (see plan) are occupied by boilers for supplying water and steam to a set of six convertible baths, hot, cold, shower, and vapour. The two adjoining the rooms in which the boilers are placed are for the use of the public, one for the rich upon the payment of the usual charge, the other for the dispensary patients, gratis. The remaining four, on the first and second floors are for the use of patients, male and female respectively.

By referring to the comparative plan, it will be perceived that the galleries, nurses' rooms, baths, and water closets are altogether new or super-added; that the long wards are divided, and that the small rooms to the east and west have become, by throwing the passages in front into them, the most desirable wards in the Infirmary.

It is proposed to make the wards to the east into day or dining-rooms, and those to the front of the building into sleeping-rooms for the convalescent, thus providing a change of air and scene, with the advantage of the exercise of walking, without incurring the risk of disturbing their neighbours, confined to bed through accident or by dangerous illness.

The plan of the second floor as to galleries, &c. is similar to the first, and inasmuch as the fever-wards were originally fitted up in a temporary manner, by merely dividing the long ward to the north by a wooden partition for men and women, the addition of day-rooms to the east and west for the convalescent of each sex, forms an important improvement. The wards moreover are now counterbalanced, and the establishment of galleries has obviated the necessity of transmitting the female patients through the men's ward as formerly. The nurse's room is placed in the centre, thereby enabling her to attend to either the sick or the bathers, &c. &c. in this important division of the institution, &c. &c. I feel to add to the services of the physician in cases of given emergency. Having thus attempted to develop the domestic improvements, I have now to give an account of the government of the institution, with a notice of the more important alterations made in different times in the regulations.

GOVERNMENT.

The government of this institution is placed in the hands of certain governors, by the name of Governors of the General Infirmary at Chester:—Benefactors of twenty guineas or upwards, at one time, are governors for life; subscribers of two guineas per annum, or upwards, are governors during payment; subscribers of one guinea yearly have the privilege of recommending any number of out-patients; and subscribers of two guineas yearly (governors) have the same privilege as to out-patients, and further, of recommending two in-patients annually. The physicians and surgeons of the Infirmary are governors.

The committee of management consist of twelve governors, exclusively of the president, vice-president, and physician and surgeon in attendance; four of the twelve go out at each of the stated boards in November and May, when four others are elected, and so on at the end of every six months.

The weekly board of the committee, consisting of three at least, independently of the physician and surgeon of the week, meet every Tuesday, at eleven o'clock, to regulate all matters relating to the discharge and admission of patients, and internal management of the house.

The medical staff of the Infirmary is composed of three physicians and three surgeons, of a house surgeon, and a visiting surgeon for the dispensary. No physician is eligible who is not a graduate of the following universities.—Oxford, Cambridge, Dublin, Edinburgh, or Glasgow.

It is to be regretted that the custom of prefacing the annual reports with an address to the public has for many years been discontinued, as surely the auditors might contrive to exhibit the state of the Infirmary in language sufficiently varied to avoid the risk of giving offence to the most fastidious by its sameness. A few extracts from the medical registers of the institution in connexion with meteorological observations for the different months of the year, would prove an endless source of interest to the subscribers in general, and especially to those engaged in the investigation of the influence of the seasons upon public health in different districts.

That the governors of the Chester Infirmary have been honorably distinguished in the race of improvement is unquestionable. In the report for 1778, it is remarked, "The Infirmary was instituted and maintained by the most amiable principle in the human breast, that of preserving the lives of their fellow-creatures, and of relieving extreme wretchedness when oppressed with disease and poverty. Incited by the same humane principle, the Governors of the charity have extended their patronage to another benevolent institution."

At a special general board, held at the Infirmary on the 12th of Nov. 1778, rewards were offered for recovering persons apparently dead; being convinced by the most incontrovertible evidence that persons recoverable by proper treatment, have even lost their lives to a fatal disease, opposed to them by drowning.

In imitation of the Royal Humane Society, instituted in 1774, rewards were offered to those persons affording the first assistance; the physicians and surgeons of the Infirmary engaged to give their assistance when called to unhappy sufferers; the best method of treatment for recovering persons apparently dead was published in the Chester Current and Chronicle, and ad-

printed on a separate paper, in order to be dispersed wherever there was a probability of being useful.

In the report for the following year it is stated, "We now beg leave to call the public attention to another point, viz. the scheme for preventing the progress of the natural small pox, and for general inoculation. This is carried on by a separate fund. (See the Humane Society.) In favour of the practice of inoculation it is observed, scarcely one in a hundred dies of the inoculated patients, and about one in five of those who take the natural small pox, so that we may fairly conclude the inoculation of a hundred patients may be the saving of nineteen lives."

The report concludes by recommending to the subscribers a stricter attention to the general meetings, and even to particular board days, as the burden of attendance often lay on the gentlemen of the family, or whose unwearied zeal and attention to every point wherein they can be useful, deserve the thanks of all who wish well to the Infirmary.

It is proper to explain, say the auditors for 1783, "what we think a very important improvement in the regulations of this charity. According to the statutes of most Infirmaries infectious diseases are excluded, particularly infectious fevers. By this prohibition the most distressed and afflicted objects have been rendered incapable of relief from this charitable establishment. When a fever comes into a poor family it is generally propagated by infection. The whole family are frequently seized one after another, and exhibit a scene of wretchedness the most completely miserable; they become incapable of assisting one another, and the neighbours are unwilling to offer them assistance through fear of the infection; they have hitherto been deprived of the aid of hospitals, lest the infection should spread to the other patients, but the institution of the small-pox society has taught us with what ease and certainty even that most pestilential infection may be avoided by the observance of a few simple regulations.

"Last autumn more putrid fevers appeared in Chester than at any time since the year 1774, they had spread through many poor families; the injury they had already done, and the still greater injury that might reasonably be apprehended, induced the governors to comply with the advice of the Physicians to admit fevers into separate apartments of the Infirmary. This measure has been justified, as in no instance was the infection communicated, but to one of the attendants on the fever patients. Thirty cases of fever were admitted, many of them in the most imminent danger, yet they all, except one recovered. The mischief prevented in this way can only be calculated by the stability in other towns where the same fever has raged, and this salutary regulation has not been adopted."

To deny the existence of febrile contagion, would be to set aside every law of medical evidence. There is no doubt, however, that many cases of fever are referred to *subsisting* contagion, that really depend upon local causes, aided by poverty, the want of fresh air, and of personal cleanliness: hence the humanity of removing fever patients in general to dry, lofty, and well aired apartments, as the chance of recovery will be greatly increased, by a change of situation, whether the disease shall have sprung from contagious or non-contagion. That the correspondence and publications of the late Dr. Haygarth have had an extensive influence on the opinions of physicians, in regard to contagion, can hardly be doubted; but in tracing the progress of the fever

3. That the salary of the visiting surgeon be sixty pounds per annum.
4. That the qualifications necessary for this office be such as to entitle the holder to the degree of Surgeon.
5. That if any other necessary articles be provided by the committee, or any other body acting in the management of the hospital.
6. That the medicines for the out-patients be dispensed by the visiting surgeon, or by any other qualified person, with a list directed to some apothecary supplying the nature of, name, and directions for each medicine.
7. That out-patients be admitted on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; their cases and recommendations being presented for that purpose between nine and eleven o'clock in the forenoon; and that they take the case of the physician or apothecary of the day; such patients shall attend the dispensary the same day in each subsequent week, unless their physician or apothecary authorize that absence, or attend on the next day.
8. That in certain necessary cases, patients being too ill to attend in person, may be attended by the visiting surgeon or other duly qualified person, or by a person authorized by the visiting surgeon to do so.
9. That the out-patients or practitioners shall, as soon as it shall be possible, give certificates of the Dispensary, and in the meantime that they be visited by a visiting physician, who shall report their cases to the physician or surgeon of the week, and shall either prescribe for them himself, or shall act under the orders of the physician or surgeon, in whose week they are committed, according as such physician or surgeon shall direct.
10. That in like manner, when ordinary out-patients shall be prevented by increased illness from attending at the Dispensary, they shall be visited by the visiting surgeon at their homes, who shall report their cases to their respective physician or surgeon, and such physician or surgeon shall direct what to be done, or as he shall be then directed.
11. That all business be regularly discharged by the committee from a general meeting, and pressing cases from their respective physicians or surgeons to out-patients.
12. That no patient be allowed to remain out-patient of any physician or surgeon for a longer period than eight weeks, after which time he may be readmitted on having a fresh recommendation.
13. That the apprentice to the visiting surgeon do in no case prescribe for patients.
14. That the register be presented every week to the committee in management, and that the committee be the inspectors of subscribers, concerning their contributions to the charity, which every income patient was prescribed for, on the week.
15. That the visiting surgeon keep an assortment of the best London and other medicines, as he shall be directed from a general meeting.
16. That the visiting surgeon procureably attend to the practice and giving of vaccination; and that he be constantly provided with supplies of fresh virus to be furnished (on recommendation of governors) to country practitioners.
17. That such laws of the Infirmary as shall be found to be unprofitable to the charity, be referred to for the regulation of those matters not provided for in the preceding rules.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The Infirmary was originally planned to contain 100 beds, thus affording about 1000 cubic feet of space to each patient; by the recent improvements and additions, the same number of patients will enjoy, inclusive of galleries and day-rooms, upwards of 1600 feet each, and it is a fact never to be forgotten, that the general salubrity of a hospital, under similar circumstances, is in proportion to the space allowed to the sick.

The following is the enumeration and appropriation of the wards of the Infirmary:—

First Floor—Male Patients, & the South.

No. 1. Day or Day-rooms.—2. Surgical Ward, ten beds.—3. Medical Ward, ten beds.—4. Convalescent Ward, six beds.—5. Vaccination Ward, four beds.

Female Apartments to the North.

No. 6. Day or Day-rooms.—7. Surgical Ward, ten beds.—8. Medical Ward, ten beds.—9. Convalescent Ward, six beds.

SECOND FLOOR.—*Surgical Wards to the South.*

No. 10 and 11. Magdalen Wards, eight beds.—12. Ward for Sons, men, ten beds.—13. Ophthalmic Ward, men, four beds.—14. Theatre for Operations.—15. Operation Ward for men, three beds.—16. Ditto for women, three beds.

Medical Wards to the North.

No. 17. Convalescent Fever Ward for men, three beds.—18. Fever Ward for ditto, ten beds.—19. Ditto for women, ten beds.—20. Convalescent Ward for ditto, three beds.

In all twenty wards, with four excellent nurses' rooms, four convertible beds: hot, cold, shower, and vapour baths; nine water-closets, abundantly supplied with water; with airy galleries connecting the different wards, and well adapted for the exercise of the convalescent in unfavourable weather.

ACCOUNTS.

The annual accounts commence on the 25th of March, and they are made up to the same date the following year. In 1757, the annual subscriptions amounted to £630; in 1790, to £798; and the interest on the funded property, £102; in 1713, to £1292 2s. 6d.; and in 1820, to £984. The interest of the funded property amounted in 1813, to £550 16s. 10d.; and in 1820, to £633; 12s. 2d. showing that the increase of the permanent fund is by no means equal to the falling off in the annual subscriptions during the same period.

Dividing, therefore, the expenditure, £2446, by the number of patients, 641, discharged, the average of expense (inclusive of repairs, and the cost of medicines for the out-patients) will be for each in-patient £3. 16s. 3d. in 1820. The average number of in-patients in 1820, was 66; that of the out-patients, 134.—Total of patients admitted since the opening of the Institution in 1756, 133,823.

LIST OF MEDICAL OFFICERS,

From the commencement of the Institution.

(Those marked with an * are in office Nov. 1820.)

PHYSICIANS.		SURGEONS.	
1755 J. Weaver		1755 G. Venables	
1755 T. Hayes		1755 J. Colgrain	
1755 A. Danson		1755 R. H. Vaughan, Bart.	
1755 J. Tyldon		1755 A. Richardson	
1766 J. Haygarth		1763 J. Keay	
1767 W. Keibowser		1763 J. Edwards	
1773 W. Currie		1767 J. Frodsham	
(Resigned in 1782, re-elected 1800.)		1767 G. Johnson	
1790 W. Houghton		1770 D. Orrod	
1796 W. M. Thackeray		1773 C. Howard	
1798 J. Arden		1765 G. Rowlands	
1799 R. P. Currie		1767 S. Freeman	
(Resigned in 1800, re-elected 1800.)		1795 C. Morrall, Jun.	
1804 G. Cunningham*		1804 S. N. Richardson*	
(Resigned in 1805, re-elected 1802.)		1803 W. Wainor	
1805 J. Laidlaw		1806 T. Haggall*	
1807 R. Bowker		1809 O. Tiley	
1807 J. M. B. Pigot		1823 G. Harrison*	
1811 L. Jones*			
1811 C. Whitell			
1820 E. T. Hassecombe*			

See also

The preceding account, drawn up as before remarked, by a gentleman conversant with the concerns of the establishment, develops some interesting facts which cannot but be gratifying to its friends, and particularly as it exhibits a material increase of its funds and capabilities of good within the last *thirty years*. In 1801,^{*} when its annual subscriptions were but 923*l.* 10*s.* and its funded property only 219*l.* it was found necessary to restrict its benefits; and at a special general board, held on the 27th of Oct. in that year, when forty-seven governors were present, it was resolved, "that no more than thirty in-patients be admitted, exclusive of fever-patients." By a strict regard to economic arrangements, however, coupled with the persevering efforts of the weekly boards of that and the subsequent period, the institution was soon recovered from its state of comparative depression; its annual income and permanent property were considerably augmented, as may be seen by a reference to the preceding statement of the *accounts*, or to the subsequent *table* of the sources of income; so that being enabled to remove the restriction as to the number of in-patients, upwards of *eighty* were usually inmates of the house.

Without giving an opinion on the subject, the gentleman who has favoured me with his kind assistance states, that in 1827, "an important change was effected in the regulations of the house, by transferring the management of its affairs from open weekly boards to a committee of management." I have no disposition whatever to enter into a discussion on the comparative merits of the two modes of government; but I may be allowed to say, because I know the fact, that many respectable gentlemen, zealous friends of the charity, are strongly

* At this period, the difficulties of the Infirmary had been veed increasing. The weekly board called the governors together, to consider what means should be adopted to maintain the establishment, when it was determined to have a charitable assembly at the Exchange, to solicit the clergy and ministers of different congregations to preach sermons, and to concert an augmentation of subscriptions.

prepossession in favour of that which is abolished, as best calculated to effect the greatest good; first, because an efficient number of the definite members of the committee can seldom be brought to attend the weekly meetings; and secondly, because the present method excludes many of those governors, whose zeal and experience render their services of the utmost importance to the prosperity of the institution. Of the fact I cannot speak with certainty, but most assuredly a rumour is abroad, that ere long an effort will be made to restore the former arrangement.

The Dispensary branch of the Infirmary has also been noticed in the preceding summary with considerable commendation, and it is not for me to controvert the hypothesis. As a faithful historian, however, it is necessary to be observed, that many of the long-tried friends of the institution decidedly object to it, on account of the additional expence for the salary and maintenance of another medical officer, porter, &c. and because they are of opinion, that the house surgeon has now nothing to do, being confined wholly to the house; and also, that the sick poor must be left to a young man, just escaped from the schools, who will probably, from the smallness of the salary, be changed every year.

There is one topic yet remains on which I beg to offer a few words. Speaking of the modes whereby the interests of this noble charity might be improved, I cannot but express my surprise, that a very natural one has been so long unattended to: I allude to that important branch, which includes the physicians and surgeons. These gentlemen naturally wish, after a certain number of years (say twenty), to retire from the heavy and continual labours of the institution. What should prevent their services being preserved, and their connexion with it prolonged, as physicians and surgeons *extraordinary*—to attend in all cases of difficulty, of consultations, and of operations? By this means almost all the talent and experience of the medical body in the city would be collected in aid of our sick poor, and the attachment of men

to whom the public are indebted for long and gratuitous services cherished and protracted. Such an arrangement would at once be a just tribute of respect to gentlemen who have so long aided the institution, and of good will to the poor, suffering under disease and accident. Something of this kind would open an honourable retreat to the veteran, and bring into practice a young and distinguished practitioner.

Before taking leave of the Infirmary history, it will be but an act of justice to introduce the respectable name of W. Cole, jun. Esq. who was a pupil of the late Thomas Harrison, Esq. and who has succeeded that gentleman as our county architect. It was from the designs and plans of Mr. Cole that the late valuable improvements were taken, and which, under his sole direction, the building committee have carried into effect. In the above excellent account of the institution, these improvements have received no higher a commendation than they deserve; the author has also reason to know, that they have given great satisfaction to the noble chairman, and several of the county gentlemen who are governors; and to shew the estimation in which Mr. Cole's services were held by the gentlemen engaged in the management, it will be sufficient to quote the following resolution passed at a stated general board, held on the 16th of November, 1830, under the presidency of the Lord Bishop of Chester:—"That the thanks of this meeting be given to Mr. W. Cole, the architect, for the ability and attention he has evinced in the progress of the works at the Infirmary, and the liberality he has shewn on the occasion."—When this sheet was putting to press, the author learnt, that Mr. Cole is about to publish a complete set of plans and sections, shewing more particularly the alterations and additions, with a general description of the advantages gained to the institution; dedicated, by permission, to Lord Viscount Belgrave, chairman of the building committee.

CHESTER INFIRMARY.

Tabular View of Income, made up to Lady-day in each year, from 1780 to 1830.

	RECEIPTS			PAID TO USE			BALANCE		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Subscriptions, average amount of ten years.....	833	3	9	1036	8	2	1153	11	3
Interest on stock.....	176	2	1	319	3	1	514	1	6
Donations and Legacies.....	423	11	6	139	12	2	355	4	6
Miscellaneous, including Apprentice Fees, Music Festivals, Balls, Sermons, &c. . . .	218	11	3	315	7	6	469	17	1
Total Income.....	1653	12	0	2110	10	11	2432	11	1

CHESTER INFIRMARY.

Tabular View of Expenditures, made up to Lady-day in each year, from 1730 to 1830.

EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT.	1730 to 1739.			1740 to 1749.			1750 to 1759.			1760 to 1769.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Inclusive Bread, Butcher's Meat, Butter, Cheese, Flour, Fish, Fowls, Groceries, Milk, Oatmeal, Peas, Rice, Potatoes, Salt, Wine, Eggs, and Malt Liquor.	569	3	1	655	16	11	1082	4	1	1057	1	9
Miscellaneous—Including Carriage, Postage, Gate, Stable, Gardens, Oil and Gas, Insurance, Ropes, Houses, Schools, Lecturers, Printing, Veterinary, Tools, Candles, Receipts, Stumps, Church Taxes, Licences, and Burial.	76	6	3	101	13	8	122	1	5	121	11	9
Wages, Wood, Fuel, and Earthwork and Furniture.	23	12	0	22	3	6	91	11	7	61	12	2
Coal.	74	1	11	75	7	5	103	0	9	104	3	0
Salaries, Nurses and Servants' Wages.	133	1	11	200	9	7	227	6	3	312	3	10
Repairs.	51	4	16	95	7	5	107	12	6	191	12	0
Shoe-Drummers.—Including Apothecary's Ingredients, Drugs, Lemons, Fishals, Cakes, Spirits of Wine, Sherry, and other liquors, and Surgeons' Instruments.	275	1	3	291	3	5	414	2	2	578	3	9
Total Expenditure.	1169	16	3	1613	16	5	2097	13	7	2555	2	3

PATIENTS ADMITTED.

Annual average number of In-Patients.	1730 to 1769.	1770 to 1799.	1800 to 1830.
Ditto—Males.	531	576	613
Ditto—Females.	230	192	225

Ladies' Mendicant Institution.

This very useful charity was instituted in the year 1798, and owes its origin to the late Mr. Griffith Rowland, surgeon, aided by the ladies of Chester and the neighbourhood, who have ever been warm patronesses of the institution. Its object was the gratuitous delivery of poor married lying-in women at their own houses, and the furnishing them with a certain portion of articles of comfort and necessity. From the first establishment of the charity to the year 1812, Mr. Rowland was the sole superintending accoucher, who had several competent midwives under his direction. At the last-mentioned period, however, several other professional gentlemen were appended to the establishment, and the present surgeons are, Mr. J. Harrison, Mr. G. Harrison, Mr. Davies, Mr. Roberts, and Mr. G. Harrison, jun. These gentlemen attend the charity in monthly rotation, superintend the midwives, and give professional assistance when requisite. The midwives at present employed are, Mrs. Batenham, Mrs. Parry, Mrs. Johnson, and Mrs. Dale. Matron, Mrs. Teggan. Every annual subscriber of half a guinea has the privilege of recommending one poor woman for the benefits of the charity, and more after the same rate. The patients are supplied with the necessary articles of linen, sheets, &c. during their confinement; with two pounds of sugar, a quarter of a pound of tea, and a pound of soap each, but no other provision for food, except from the private assistance of the individual recommending. Baby clothes are found in cases of great poverty, and the children are expected to be vaccinated within the month. The number of poor women delivered in the last year, 297. It appears from the last report, that the funds of this charity are in a most prosperous condition, the receipts amounting in the year 1829, to 3467. 14s. 2½d. and the expenditure only 2127. 11s. 6½d. The revenue arises from annual subscriptions, benefactions, and the interest of money in the public funds.

Chester Penitentiary.

On the scale of public institutions, avowedly charitable in their object, and in number honourable and praiseworthy to our city, the FEMALE PENITENTIARY ranks lower than others only in date, not in goodness of design, nor in the ground of hope for success in the deeds of mercy to be achieved; and the following epitome of its history, from the first organization of the institution down to the present year's operations, may therefore, be acceptable to the reader, and I shall certainly not regret it in any instances, it should awaken a spirit of sympathy kindred to that of its most liberal friends and supporters.

"An earnest address to the inhabitants of Chester and its vicinity," having been widely circulated, a numerous and highly respectable meeting was held in the assembly room at the Exchange, on Thursday the 8th of February, 1827, John Larion, Esq. the mayor, in the chair, and this institution was established under the title of the "CHESTER FEMALE PENITENTIARY," for the purpose of affording an asylum to females who, having deviated from the paths of virtue, might be desirous of being restored by religious instruction, and the formation of moral and industrious habits, to a respectable station in society. The Right Hon. Earl Grosvenor, and the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Chester, became patrons; the Right Worshipful the Mayor, president; the Hon. Edward Massy, the Very Rev. the Dean, the Venerable Archdeacon Wrangham, and Richard Tyrwhitt, Esq. recorder, vice-presidents; George B. Granville, Esq. treasurer; and the Rev. William Clarke, and Mr. Thomas Whittell, secretaries; who, together with a committee of twenty-four gentlemen, stood pledged, with the help of God, to accomplish the object in view. The appeal just adverted to received the cordial approbation of the christian public, and was answered by the handsome sum of about 900*l.* in donations and annual subscriptions; and after various hindrances (common to the rise and progress of most charitable objects) contended with and

overcome; the committee announced in their second year's report, that a house with premises, situated near the Spittal in Brompton, had been purchased and fitted up to accommodate fifteen or sixteen penitents, at the expence of 715*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*; and that the "CHRISTIAN FEMALE PENITENTIARY" was then open for the reception of applicants; Dr. Thackeray having been appointed physician; Mr. Weaver the surgeon; and Mrs. Moore the matron of the institution; chaplains, Revds. William Clarke, Evan Evans, William Harrison, John Hoskins, and Richard Massie. With regard to the general management, and especially as to the internal economy (confined to a ladies' committee and secretaries) the note below will afford some useful information.*

* The laws and regulations for the government of the institution are well adapted to their proposed objects; they are too voluminous to insert at length here, but the following abstract will sufficiently develop their general character:—The permanent property of the institution is vested in twelve trustees, of whom the following is the present list:—Lord Viscount Belgrave, Alderman Larden, Dr. Thackeray, Henry Potts, Esq. Rev. Richard Massie, John Fletcher, Esq. Alderman Francis, Hon. Edward Mossy, H. R. Hughes, Esq. J. P. Maddock, Esq. Rev. P. W. Houston, Thomas Dixon, Esq. The gentlemen's committee to appoint, pay, suspend, and dismiss the stipendiary servants of the institution; and they are also to elect twelve ladies from the list of subscribers, or wives of gentlemen being subscribers, as a committee of ladies. The committee of ladies are to order and superintend the employment, hours of rest, diet, and dress of the penitents, examine their work, converse with them, and read to them; two of them are to visit the house weekly; they have power to expel any female they shall think proper for misbehaviour; and also to appoint a sub-committee to decide as to the admission of applicants into the institution. The chaplains to visit the institution as often as convenient, and to perform divine service at least once every week. The physician and surgeon, whose services are gratuitous, to attend the house whenever required by the ladies' committee or the matron; they must be married men, and not under thirty years of age, and are not permitted to attend any patient, except in the presence of the matron or her assistant. The matron and assistant to be examined and recommended by the ladies' committee, previous to their being appointed by the gentlemen's committee. The duties of the matron comprize, a residence in the house; an observation of the behaviour of the penitents, and their habits to make amends; the care of the household goods and clothes; and the distribution of provisions and other necessaries; to keep a weekly account of the increased expenses; instruction of the novices in reading, writing, needlework, and the operation in the laundry; to attend in the morning meeting and evening; when a psalm or hymn is to be sung, and chapter in the scriptures read, and

Since the period when the institution was opened, *seventeen* females have been admitted on the books; *eight* have been dismissed or have left for reasons assigned in the reports; and *nine* remain in the house, many of them affording satisfactory evidence of a decided change of heart, and a determination to "flee from the wrath to come."

The annual subscriptions (according to the last year's report) appear to be 138*l.* 1*s.*; and the expenses of the house (for an average of about seven patients for the year) 90*l.*; and the matron's salary 30*l.*; sundries 5*l.* 12*s.* 3½*d.* leaving, as it would seem, a balance of about 127*l.* 8*s.* 5½*d.* that is, in the current expenses of the year, and for that limited number of patients. But we understand that the cost of furnishing the house, even upon the most economical terms, and providing the inmates with clothing, has quite exhausted the funds; and that the committee have been forced reluctantly to adopt a resolution that no more than nine females shall be in the institution at one time, until an additional income can be realized. I feel confident however, that a charity, commiserating a most wretched class of outcasts from society, and so

the service to be concluded with prayer. Application for admission to be made to the matron, who is to submit each claim to the sub-committee of ladies, who shall have the power to admit the applicant. After the prisoner has been three months in the house, the ladies' committee shall enter in their minute book, that she is then qualified for full admission, when the matron shall admit her accordingly. No penitent to be permitted to go out of the premises without the consent of two of the ladies' committee and of the matron, and only in case of absolute necessity. The employment of the females to be such as may best qualify them, as domestic servants; one fourth of the profit of each female's work to be given her or expended for her, on her leaving the institution, under the direction of the ladies' committee, a reasonable value being fixed upon the services of those who are employed in the kitchen, or other departments of the house. Every female who has left the institution, and has been placed in service, and who shall be recommended by her master or mistress to the ladies' committee, on account of her good behaviour, and reported by them to the gentlemen's committee, shall receive at the end of her first year of service one guinea, and at the end of the second year, if the favourable report is repeated, two guineas. No female after having been once discharged shall, on any account whatever, be received a second time into the penitentiary.

obviously entitled to the support of His followers, who pitied and pardoned a penitent, washing his feet and wiping them with the hairs of her head, cannot long be obliged on such grounds, to close its doors against the very objects whom it was intended, and would rejoice to relieve.

Chester Humane Society.

This very excellent institution, of which Earl Grosvenor is patron, was established in September, 1821, and has hitherto been well supported by donations and annual subscriptions. Its object is to restore persons apparently drowned; as also those who from various causes may be in a state of suspended animation. The city of Chester especially called for such an establishment, the place being nearly surrounded by water, and numerous fatal accidents having actually occurred in several preceding years. The active committee, on their formation, vigorously proceeded in providing the means of assistance, by distributing manuals and posting bills, containing proper instructions. They also procured two cases of resuscitating apparatus, one to be deposited at the house of industry, and one to remain under the care of the secretary; drags were placed in convenient situations; a stomach pump was purchased; and ice-ladders and poles were also procured, and placed at Bache Pool and in the Groves. During the time of severe frost, a number of men are stationed by the society in various places, where the most imminent danger is contemplated, for the express purpose of affording prompt assistance in cases of accident. In February 1829, the society published a list of cases, in number above fifty, wherein the efforts of its agents had been successful in rescuing so many individuals from death or imminent danger. Mr. Thomas Bowers is the efficient secretary of the society.

Besides the above permanent provision made for the aged and sick poor; for the needy female in the hour of

distress ; and for the wretched wanderer from the path of virtue ; there are several charitable associations mostly in operation, both among the members of the establishment, and the various bodies of dissenters, for relieving the sick and poor at their own habitations with food and clothing. There are also numerous almshouses, and many valuable bequests for charitable purposes, most of which are elsewhere enumerated.

ENDOWED AND CHARITABLE SCHOOLS.

The King's School.

This school was founded by King Henry VIII. in the 36th year of his reign, for twenty-four boys, to receive 3*l.* 4*s.* each, who are appointed by the dean and chapter. They are not admissible under nine years of age ; they may continue four years, if their conduct is regular, and a year of grace may be added by the dean. Two masters (elected by the dean and chapter) were appointed by the founder's statutes, with salaries of 22*l.* to the head-master, and 10*l.* to the under-master. But by a regulation in 1814, the head-master's salary was increased on the condition that he took the sole charge and instruction of the foundation scholars, and confined the number of his private pupils to six. A part of the old refectory of Chester abbey is used as the school-room.

West-coat School.

This school is a handsome brick building, forming three sides of a quadrangle, on the west side of Further Northgate-street, inclosed in front by a lofty iron railing, and occupying the extra-parochial site of the ancient hospital of St. John the Baptist. The south wing is used for a chapel, and is in the patronage of the corporation ; the centre is occupied by schools, and the remaining wing is the residence of the master, and is also

used for other purposes. The foundation of the present establishment took place at the instance of Bishop Stratford, in 1700, and the greatest part of the present building was erected in 1717, at the joint expence of the corporation and the benefactors. The ground whereon this building stands, with the large play-yard, &c. on the west side, was conveyed to trustees by the corporation, for the especial purpose to which it is now appropriated. At present there are twenty-eight boys educated, boarded, and clothed in a blue uniform, who are allowed to remain from the age of twelve to fourteen; and likewise sixty-four day scholars, called Green Caps, taught by the same master, in accordance with the plans of Bell and Lancaster. The blue-coat boys are usually elected from the green caps. According to the printed report for 1829, the total receipts in that year were 698*l.* 19*s.* 9*d.* including a balance of 43*l.* 3*s.* from the preceding year. This receipt covered the expenses of the establishment for the year, and left a balance of 38*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.* in the hands of the treasurer. The funds of the school are amply sufficient for all its important purposes. Of the revenues above mentioned, about 450*l.* per annum is derived from permanent property in the public funds and landed estates; the annual subscriptions for the year amounted to 182*l.* 14*s.* 0*d.* and the collections at the churches to 63*l.* 2*s.* 0*d.* The present master is Mr. Samuel Venables, who for a long course of years has obtained the uniform approbation of the board and the public.

Blue Girls' School.

This excellent charity has existed in various forms, and under different modifications for 109 years, being instituted in 1721. During that period it has been under the management of ladies residing in and near the town, assisted by regular subscribers. The charity has attained a permanent locality, in St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, where in 1810, the present school-house was

built, by benefactions, on part of the ground belonging to the trustees of the Infirmary, and granted by them for that sole purpose, on a lease for ninety years, at *£l.* per annum. The females benefitted by it (16 in number) are properly instructed in religious and moral duties, and taught every part of household business; such as washing, cleaning, plain cooking, sewing, knitting, &c. They are clothed from the produce of the work done at the school, which, from the industry of the girls, the activity of the matron, and the kindness of numerous friends sending work, amounted during the year ending the 1st of May, 1830, to the sum of *52*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.** Two guineas are given as a bounty when a girl leaves the school for service, which is expended by the mistress, under the superintendance of some of the ladies in useful clothing; and a further bounty of one guinea, if she remain in her service two years. Seven scholars, called probationers, have lately been added to the establishment. These probationers are selected alternately from girls taught in the diocesan and the countess Grosvenor's schools; and from these probationers also are the vacancies in the Blue Girls' school filled up, a procedure by which the patrons of the latter have the best assurance that can be obtained, of the previous good conduct of their scholars. They are required to attend punctually at nine in the morning, and two in the afternoon during the week, and twice on the Sunday, one hour previous to morning and afternoon service, in order to receive religious instruction, and to accompany the mistress to church. Matron, Mrs. Elizabeth Parry. The concerns of the charity are conducted by a committee of ladies; a board is held on the first Monday in every month, and a meeting of all the subscribers annually. The revenue of the institution arises from donations, subscriptions, collections in churches, and the interest on funded property; the proceeds from the girls' work always being appropriated to their clothing, and if there is any surplus, it is added to the general fund. The last report states, that the deficiency of the charity during the last year arises from deaths and change of resi-

dence of the subscribers, and the reduction of the four per cent. stocks; and urges as a motive to renewed energy the following interesting statement:—"Since the establishment of the institution, five hundred females have been educated and discharged, fully competent to undertake domestic situations in families, and have by their faithful and honest servitude demonstrated the deep importance of impressing on youthful minds sound principles of religion and morality."

Consolidated Sunday and Evening School.

This school sprang from a number of smaller ones, which were respectively supported by the benevolence of private individuals. It is entirely composed of about 70 females, who are taught the rudiments of learning, and various branches of plain sewing, &c. The original schools were formed into this one establishment in the year 1816, and a portion of the building occupied by the blue coat scholars assigned to it. Mrs. Ann Richards is the mistress, whose discretion and ability eminently qualify her for the situation. The management is confided to a committee of ladies, under the direction of the national central society in London. The charity is supported by voluntary subscriptions, which, together with a year's dividend on 95*l.* produced in 1829-30, the sum of 9*l.* 6*s.* 10*d.*—the year's disbursements being only 68*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* Connected with this charity is a fund for clothing the children; the produce of which, with work done by the scholars, and their pennies a week, amounted last year to 34*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.* and the disbursements, independent of several gratuitous presentations, to 25*l.* 10*s.* 9*d.* This charity is very handsomely supported.

Diocesan School.

This institution was established Jan. 2, 1812, by public subscription, under the patronage of the Bishop of Chester. Its object and design were to promote the edu-

education of poor children in the principles of the established church, within the diocese of Chester, by the formation and encouragement of new schools, and the remodelling of old ones if necessary, to be conducted on the Madras system, and in union with the national institution, established in London. It was also designed to afford pecuniary aid to those schools which most needed it; to supply the school under its care with proper books; and when a central school should be established, to furnish teachers acquainted with the new system, and capable of arranging and conducting a school; also to receive and instruct persons who wished to become acquainted with the new mode of teaching. A school was immediately formed on this plan, and for several years embraced all its original objects; it is now, however, principally confined to the tuition of its own scholars. The building is situated on the south side of the top of George-street; is 80 feet long by 33 wide, and is capable of instructing 100 children; there is also a good house adjoining for the master. This, like most of our other public charities, is supported by benefactions and annual subscriptions, and the institution is in a prosperous condition. According to the last report, the number of boys taught in the school is 201. The present master is Mr. Thomas Richards, who has creditably held the situation since the first establishment of the school.

Earl and Countess of Grosvenor's School.

This is a fine lofty brick building, situated on the north-side of St. John's church yard, and was erected in the year 1813, for the gratuitous education of the children of the poor. It consists of two stories, the lower one of which is occupied by boys, and the upper by girls. Both rooms are fitted up in the most complete manner with benches, desks, &c. and capable of holding 200 children. The present number taught are 500 boys and 200 girls. This excellent institution was built at the sole expense of the Earl and Countess of Grosvenor, the latter of whom

takes the females under her especial protection, numbers of whom are annually furnished with decent dresses. By the munificence of these noble individuals also a master and mistress are provided with a handsome salary and a good dwelling-house; the children are entirely supplied with books, slates, and every requisite for tuition; and on New-year's day every year, an excellent dinner of roast beef and plum-pudding is provided at his lordship's cost, who, with other branches of his family, usually attend; when his lordship delivers an appropriate address to the scholars, distributing an immense quantity of books to those children who have been returned by the master as deserving of distinction for their progress in learning or good behaviour. This ceremony is distinguished as peculiarly interesting; and it is one which cannot be witnessed without sensations of delight. Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton have continued to be the judicious master and mistress of this school since its establishment.

Chester Infant Schools.

This interesting institution may be said to have originated with a few benevolent individuals who suggested the desirableness of an Infant School in Chester to the bishop, the Right Rev. Dr. Blomfield, since translated to the see of London. His lordship warmly concurred with them in the design, the civil authorities of the place promptly lent their aid, and at a numerous and respectable meeting of the inhabitants of Chester, holden at the Exchange on the 22nd Nov. 1825, the society was formed according to the plans and regulations proposed by the bishop, who may indeed be regarded as its fostering father.

Its first school, in the Kale Yards, which was raised by subscription, was opened in July, 1826, under the direction of Mrs. Swindells, the mistress of it. The society incurred a debt of about 100*l.* by the erection of the building, &c.; to enable them to pay this, a bazaar was set on foot, under the patronage of Mrs. Blomfield, which was so liberally supported by herself and the ladies of Chester and the neighbourhood, as to produce the sum

of 3577. The society was thus enabled to extend the benefits of their institution to other parts of Chester. A second school was opened in Boughton in Oct. 1827, of which Mrs. Pritchard is the mistress; and in August, 1828, a third school was opened in Handbridge, of which Mrs. Smith is the mistress. There have been about 4000 children received into these three schools, which are calculated to accommodate about 380 at once; the number in them at present is 250. The deficiency is at the two last mentioned schools, which will, we trust, be better filled when the inhabitants of those districts have learned to appreciate the benefits which their children might derive from infant education. The schools are supported by the weekly pence paid by the parents, one penny for each child, and by annual subscriptions. The expenditure of the society at present exceeds the receipts by 30% per annum, which I mention here, in the hope that some benevolent individuals whose eye meets this statement, may be induced to contribute to the funds of this excellent charity. The success of its labours has quite equalled the expectations which were formed of it as regards the improvement of the children. Its schools are found to be admirably fitted for the formation of their tempers and dispositions, and it is surprising how much useful knowledge their minds are capable of, even at their early age. I may, however, observe, that in the Chester Infant Schools no endeavour is made to give to the children either such knowledge as is not adapted to their years or to their station in life. They are taught the simple elements of religion, and useful knowledge; they are exercised in the delightful occupation of singing the praises of their great Creator, and are trained up in habits of obedience, of gentleness and love towards each other. These schools thus become useful nurseries for the more advanced national schools. By their joint co-operation, under the Divine blessing, it may be hoped that many children have been effectually brought unto Him, who said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God."—The Rev. Robert Yarker is secretary and treasurer to the society.

Population of Chester.

The population of this city has varied at different periods, but has been on the increase almost ever since the time in which we have any authentic data by which to ascertain its extent. By a document given in a preceding part of this work it appears, that in the reign of Edward the Confessor, there were 431 houses in Chester which paid tax to the king, and 56 others which paid tax to the bishop; but it is by no means certain that these numbers included the whole population of the city, as there might have been houses exempt from paying taxes to the king or bishop. It appears from the survey, that when Hugh Lupus received the city of Chester from the hands of William the Conqueror, its value was much diminished from what it had been in the reign of King Edward, 205 houses out of 431, which had formerly paid taxes, being then in ruins, none having been rebuilt when the survey was taken. We have no intermediate accounts of the population of Chester till the year 1774, when the inhabitants having been numbered under the superintendance of the late Dr. Haygarth, then resident in the city, they were found to be 14,713. It appears by the returns made under the act for ascertaining the population of the kingdom in 1801, that the total number of inhabitants was then 15,152; and taking both these accounts to be correct, the actual increase in 27 years was but 793 individuals. The official census of 1811, gives the population at 17,472, shewing the increase within the preceding ten years to be 2,320; and the census of 1821, numbers the inhabitants at 19,949—from which it appears that the

increase in the interval between 1811 and 1821, was not less than 2477. This statement certainly does not exhibit any symptoms of decay in the ancient city of Chester. By an act passed in the last session of parliament, a new census is directed to be taken in 1831, and if an extraordinary accumulation of dwellings, erected in the city within the last ten years, be a fair criterion, it may be presumed, that our population at that period will nearly approach 24,000. The number of inhabitants, as given in the last census is thus distributed in the different parishes:—

St. Bridget's	465
Cathedral and Little St. John's	270
St. John's	5093
St. Martin's	565
St. Mary's	3376
St. Michael's	712
St. Olave's	57
St. Oswald's	4334
St. Peter's	1616
Spital Boughton, <i>extra parochial</i> ,	150
Holy Trinity	3036
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	1994



The Suburbs.

HAVING noticed the principal objects worthy of observation within the city, I shall briefly direct the reader's attention to the suburbs, and to the main road-leading from thence, taking them in the order of east, west, north, and south. On the eastern part of the city, after passing Boughton, and a little to the left of the turnpike-road, is the village of Christleton, where there is a good church, of which the Rev. Mostyn Lloyd is rector, and the Rev. Evan Evans, curate. In this village there are several excellent mansions and respectable residents, among whom may be numbered Townshend Ince, J. Taylor, Thomas Hodson, — Parkin, Esqrs. and the Rev. Mr. Pulford, the two latter of whom direct prosperous academies for the education of young gentlemen. About a mile from Christleton is the village of Rowton, and three miles from thence of Handley, from whence the road directs to Barnhill, near to which stands Bolesworth Castle, the residence of George Walmsley, Esq. A new line has lately been cut from the foot of the hill to Malpas, through which the coach road now passes to Whitechurch, Shrewsbury, and Birmingham.

From Boughton, another line of road turns to the left, passes Vicar's Cross and Littleton, where there are two elegant mansions, one built by the late Alderman Seller, and the other by Thomas Dixon, Esq. banker; and onward to Tarvin, a respectable village, having a good church, and some excellent houses. Here the main road divides into two, the one taking the direction of the Forest of Delamere, Northwich, and Manchester, and the other passing on to Tarporley and Nantwich, towards London.—At the village of Hooke, on the road leading

from Flockersbrook to the Traffords, Dunham, Frodsham, and Warrington, there are several pleasant mansions, particularly those of the Rev. P. W. Hamilton, J. Sedgwick, Esq. and Lady Broughton, the latter of whom has some of the finest gardens in the county: Henry Hesketh, Esq. and the Misses Parker, not far distant, have also delightfully situated dwellings.

The environs on the western side of the city, approached through the Water-gate, consist principally of a fine level tract of country, called the Sands, about six miles in length, and from two to three in breadth, over which the sea formerly flowed, but which has been recovered from the waters by the persevering efforts of the River Dee Company. This tract of country is divided into good farms, extremely fertile, yielding all kinds of agricultural produce in abundance, and is particularly distinguished for the excellency of its potatoes.

The north part of the vicinity has some excellent land, and two or three good mansions. At Mollington, on the Parkgate road, is a handsome house, the residence of John Feilden, Esq. and at Bache, on the road to Eastham and the ferries on the Mersey, is an ancient hall, occupied by R. H. Hughes, Esq. banker. At a little beyond the latter, a short distance from the road on the left, stands a large building, erected under the direction of the county magistrates, as a county lunatic asylum. This benevolent institution was raised at the expence of the county, to which that never failing source of revenue, the river Weaver, materially contributed. It occupies, with its gardens, airing grounds and roads, ten statute acres of land, which was purchased from the late Rev. Sir Philip Egerton, Bart. The terms for maintaining lunatic paupers belonging to the county are 7s. 6d. per week; and those beyond its limits, 10s. The unfortunate inmates of a higher class are provided for by special agreement. Present number of lunatics in the house between fifty and sixty.

The plan of the building (for which see the accompanying plate), prepared by W. Cole, jun. Esq. county

W. Cole, jun.

architect, was selected by the county magistrates from a variety of others that were submitted for their consideration (and to it was awarded the first premium), which, with little or no variation, has been carried into effect. The contractor was Mr. W. Quay, of Neston, who has given complete satisfaction in the execution of the work. The building is of brick, with dressings of stone; it was commenced in the month of March, 1827, and completed for the reception of patients in September, 1829—a very short period, considering the extent of the undertaking. Ll. Jones, M.D. is the physician, Mr. W. Rose medical superintendent, and Mrs. Bird, matron of the institution.

The following description of this extensive edifice, with its particular arrangements, has been drawn up with great accuracy, and will afford a correct view of its accommodations and arrangements:—

The site of the building is as desirable as could possibly be wished for such an establishment; it is sufficiently elevated, and has a considerable fall to the west, by which means its drainage is complete, rendering thereby the building, as well as the grounds perfectly dry. The surrounding country is open, and free from any objects that might obstruct pure air and ventilation; and to the west, which is the prospect seen from the galleries of the patients, commands an extensive and beautiful view into Wales and part of Cheshire.

It was designed to accommodate ninety patients in the whole, with apartments arranged to contain twenty patients each of that number, for a better class, who might afford to pay for their own maintenance; the remainder was devoted to pauper patients, to be kept by their respective townships and parishes.

The general form of the building, with its entrance from the main road, its various riding ground and yards, will be better comprehended from the plan subjoined than from description.

At the general entrance from the main road is situated a lodge, occupied by the gardener and his wife, the latter acting as keeper to this entrance, but the principal and only entrance to the precincts of the establishment is, as shown on the plan, entered by gates in the great court in front of the building, at which gates is situated, the lodge occupied by the head porter, who is answerable for every person that may go to or from the asylum, or any thing that may be brought out or into it.

The Building consists of a centre with two front wings and two return wings; the centre is eight stories in height, with the basement story of the two front wings, devoted to the domestic part of the establishment, whilst the remainder of the front wings, and the whole of the return wings, are occupied by the patients, and are three stories in height, those on the north side of the centre being for the female patients, and those on the south by the male

On the plan is shewn the domestic yards, that communicate with the basement story of the front wings, which as before-mentioned are devoted to the domestic part of the establishment, and consist, with the basement story of the centre building, of a kitchen and its offices; larder, dairy, and storerooms; a laundry (in which is fixed a complete drying-stove), and wash-house, a brew and bake-house, with necessary cellars, and other minor offices. Below the basement story and communicating from the sunk area, are situated the stoves for heating and ventilating the building. The basement story itself is five feet below the level of the surrounding ground, but having an area round the whole, laid with flags and well drained, with a sloping bank of grass extending fifteen feet from the building, renders it perfectly dry. In the north and south return wings are the sleeping rooms and galleries of the worst class of patients, with their respective airing grounds Nos. 1 and 6; in the south airing ground No. 1, belonging to the males, is a well of pure spring water, in which is fixed a forcing pump, to fill the cisterns at the top of the building hereafter spoken of, which is worked by means of an upright *capstan*, with four horizontal arms, and affords exercise to the patients, as twenty may work it at the same time, so that it may become more a source of recreation than labour. There is an internal communication to the galleries on this story from the passages of the offices in the front wings, as well as a direct external one from the domestic yard, the latter being of some consequence to this class of patients, as must be well known to persons at all acquainted with establishments of this kind.

The ground or principal floor is entered from a portico which communicates to the great court by two flights of steps; on this floor in the centre building is situated the superintendent's and matron's sitting rooms, with a physician's room, and waiting room. The sleeping rooms and galleries in the front wings are for the better class of patients, and in the return wings are the sleeping rooms and galleries for the second class of pauper patients; in the east gallery in the return wings are two day rooms Nos. 6, 6, and 7, 7; Nos. 6, 6 being open to the galleries are particularly light and cheerful, and the keeper's rooms being situate at No. 3, with a window looking into the day rooms No. 6, commands a view of what is going forward in both. The arrangements in the front and return wings on the second floor are similar in every respect to the principal floor just described, but in the centre building, over the superintendent's and matron's room and passage is the committee-room, which will likewise serve as a chapel, and the front rooms are occupied by the superintendent as bed-rooms, &c. The whole of the third story of the centre building is taken up by the bed-rooms of the women servants, together with the matrons. The airing grounds Nos. 3 and 8 belong to the north and south galleries of the first floor, and Nos. 5 and 10 to the second floor. The airing grounds Nos. 4 and 9 belong to the galleries of the better class of patients, and from the doors situated at the extremity of the yards Nos. 4, 9, 5 and 10, the better class of patients can communicate with their respective pleasure grounds, and the convalescent pauper admitted to clean the pleasure grounds, or to work in the garden; each airing ground belonging to the pauper patients is commanded from the windows of its respective day or keeper's room. Nos. 4 and 9 are inspected from the superintendent's and matron's sitting-rooms, and in all the airing grounds covered walks have been erected for the exercise of patients in hot or damp weather.

The general communication for the domestic establishment to the gardens, is from the west entrance, in the centre building, along a passage between the walls of the airing grounds Nos. 4 and 9.

In the centre building is constructed a stone geometrical stair-case (see plan No. 8) from the basement story to the third floor, and is the communication for the establishment to the galleries of the better class of patients, as well as to their own rooms; each gallery in the north and south return wings has a separate and distinct stair-case to its own individual airing ground, and the stair-case marked No. 8 communicates with all the stories in the front and return wings, by which means the keepers are enabled to render immediate assistance to one another in case of need.

Attached to all the galleries upon each story are hot, cold, and shower baths, with closets, sculleries, &c. and an ample provision is made for the supply of water, as over the day room, No. 6, 6; in the front wings are fixed large cisterns, which being regularly filled by means of the pump before-mentioned, supply the whole of the establishment. There are likewise large tanks in the domestic yards that receive the rain water from the roofs, supplying the offices in the basement story with soft water.

The only part of the suburbs remaining to be noticed are those on the south, approached through the Bridge-gate. On the other side of the Dee, stands old Handbridge, where in the olden times, if tradition is to be credited, many a mortal conflict has taken place between the citizens and their Welsh invaders; and near to which, a little inclining to the west, are yet to be seen a curious relique of antiquity. In a field on the right of Handbridge, called *Edgar's Field*, is an ancient piece of sculpture, supposed to be intended for the figure of *Pallas* (the *Dea armigera* of the Romans). The goddess appears in her warlike dress, with her bird and altar. Adjoining this figure, is a considerable indentation in the rock, to which tradition has given the name of *Edgar's cave*. The sculpture is certainly of great antiquity, being noticed by Malmesbury, who wrote in 1140; by Hoveden, in 1192; by Selden, Camden, the *Polychronicon*, and the *Saxon Chronicle*; and Dr. Cowper, in a note on his "H Penseroso," about 1747, says, "The foundations of his (Edgar's) princely mansion, are now *apparent* just below Chester-bridge southward." Beyond this, several centuries ago, stood some ancient buildings, whose site is marked by certain hollows; for, says Pannant, who wrote about 1778, the ground (probably over the vaults) gave

way and fell in within the remembrance of persons now alive. Tradition calls the spot the site of the palace of Edgar. Nothing is now left, from which any judgment can be formed, whether it had been a *Roman* building, as Dr. Stukeley surmises; or *Saxon*, according to the present notion; or *Norman*, according to *Brown*, who, in his ancient plan of this city,* styles the ruins, then actually existing, *Ruinosa domus Comitis Cestriensis*. Perhaps it might have been used successively by one of them, who added or improved according to their respective national modes.

Immediately on rising the hill at Handbridge, there is a good road, turning to the left, called Eccleston-lane. At a short distance on the road to Eaton, on the right hand side, stands Netherlegh-house, the residence and property of Sir John Cotgreave,† who served the office of

* This ancient plan, which is now very scarce, was published in the year 1574. The author was aware of this rare document being in existence, and in the early part of his labours inserted an advertisement in his work, announcing, "that if any gentleman had it in possession, and would permit an engraving to be taken of it, the obligation would be equally felt by the advertiser, and appreciated by the public." The application, however, was unsuccessful, until after a lapse of nearly 15 months, when his work was drawing towards a close, the author learnt that this precious *manuscript* had been placed for sale in the hands of a Chester bookseller, by a Chester gentleman, who affects a civility respect for our antiquities, and who has assigned *different* reasons to *different* individuals for withdrawing it from this work. In another part, it will be the author's duty and pleasure to acknowledge his obligations to many gentlemen who have honoured him with their kind assistance; and he cannot do less than at the same time notice, with peculiar feelings of *gratitude*, the *liberal* treatment he has just alluded to. In the mean time, the author is happy to say, that through the kindness of Mr. Scosson, bookseller, he has been favoured with an inspection of this curious document. It is now 256 years since the publication of this plan, in which several ancient edifices were standing, that have long since mouldered into dust, and the very places where they stood are no longer known. In this point of view this relique may be considered important, and the author has availed himself of its information, which will be given at the end of the work in an appendix.

† The Cotgreaves of Netherlegh sprang from a younger branch of the Cotgreaves of Malpas, who were descended from Robert Fitzlugh, Baron of Malpas. The ancient line became extinct in the year 1361, by reason of the marriage of the heiress with the Bereton's. The family is now represented

mayor of Chester in 1815, when he received the honour of knighthood from King George III. on presenting an address to his majesty, on the marriage of the late Princess Charlotte of Wales. It is beautifully situated, commands a fine view of the city, and is surrounded by some excellent garden-ground. The ancient mansion is within a moated site, and is now occupied as a farm-house. During the siege of Chester in 1645, this house was fortified by the parliamentary general, Sir William Brereton, who fixed his head-quarters there.*

A few hundred yards beyond Netherleigh-house, on the right hand, is a neat stone lodge, from whence there is a beautiful drive to Eaton-hall: and nearly opposite to the former, a handsome mansion, the property and residence of Ald. J. S. Rogers, to which the appellation of *The Green Bank* has been given. But a very short distance from hence, on the same side, there is a delightfully situated villa, overhanging and commanding a fine view of the windings of the Dee, whose site has from the remotest ages been known by the name of *Iron Bridge*, the property of Earl Grosvenor, and now occupied by

by Sir John Cotgreave, of Netherleigh. The Cotgreaves of Guilden Sutton were also of this family. Ralph, second son of Thomas Cotgreave, of Chester, settled there in 1515, according to the pedigree now in possession of Sir John, from which it is pretty well established, that this gentleman is the presumptive heir and representative of this family. What renders this the more probable is, that the arms of the Guilden Sutton family are precisely the same as those always used by the Netherleigh family. Among other estates, that of Netherleigh was given by John Lacy, constable of Chester, and Baron of Halton, to Adam Dutton, and granted in trust to Herbert de Orreby by Geoffrey de Dutton, about 1270, when he went with the crusaders. It was afterwards held under the Warburton's by the Orreby's of Gausworth, and passed by marriage with an heiress to the Firon's, and subsequently to the Stanley's of Alderley, who sold it in 1755 to John Cotgreave, Esq. then mayor of Chester. His son, Thomas Cotgreave, Esq. in 1790 devised the estate to his brother, John Cotgreave, with remainder in default of issue, to the present proprietor, his heir at law, who assumed the name and arms of Cotgreave in 1795. The coat armorial of the family, which is subjoined, has been gratuitously presented by Sir John, for this work.

* Numerous ancient reliques have been found near Netherleigh-house, for an account of which see Antiquities.

Mrs. Lyon. About a mile further on, we enter the rural village of Eccleston, which contains several excellent residences, a fine church, of which the Rev. C. Myton is rector, with six musical bells, and a good inn. Every object in and about this village presents a scene of order, cleanliness, and beauty, highly captivating; and realizes to a contemplative wanderer, on a calm summer's evening, the finest exhibition imaginable of the beauties of nature and the culture of art. A few hundred yards beyond Eccleston, is a ferry-boat across the Dee, with which is connected a road leading to the villages of Aldford, Churton-beath, Saughton, &c. And within a mile still further south, rises the sumptuous and magnificent edifice of Eaton Hall, the residence of the Right Hon. Earl Grosvenor. This splendid mansion forms an object of universal attraction to travellers from all parts of the country, and very few visit the precincts of the city of Chester, without gratifying a laudable curiosity in surveying its grandeur. The following sketch, taken from minute observation will convey but an imperfect conception of its vast exterior:—

“This splendid mansion is about four miles to the south of Chester, and stands in an extensive park on a gentle rising ground, about five hundred yards from the river Dee; and is, perhaps, the most magnificent gothic residence in the kingdom. To the park there are four approaches, to each of which is a beautiful gothic lodge, one conducting from Bealston-lane at Green-bank, one from Aldford by the new iron bridge, a third from Pulford, and the fourth from the Wrexham-road near Belgrave.

“The centre or main part of the building, was begun in the year 1465, on the site of the old mansion, some part of the walls of which are still remaining under the more elegant coverings of the present erection. The designs were furnished by the late Mr. Perden, and the execution department was committed to the immediate direction of Mr. Gummow, beneath whose scrutinising eye the recent additions at either end have likewise sprung into existence.

“From whatever point of view the house is seen, it makes a grand and imposing appearance, with a rich display of towers, turrets, pinnacles, and balustrades. It is built of a beautiful white freestone brought from Debnare Forest, and was always considered a most highly finished specimen of the modern gothic, even previously to its now splendid enlargement, which consists of two extensive wings, with octagonal towers at each end of the main building; making one uninterrupted line of four hundred and fifty seven length; and if this be added to the length of the coach-house and stable-

joining, which are built in a corresponding style, the frontage of the building will be near seven hundred feet.

"The principal entrance is in the centre of the west front, under a superb portico of richly grained arches and clustered pillars, which admit carriages to the foot of the steps leading to the great door. This is the place where visitors apply for admittance to see the interior of the house. Round the battlements and towers, as well as the outward wall-standing, are shields charged in relief with the memorial bearings of the Grosvenors, and other ancient families, which by intermarriages they are entitled to quarter with their own. The bases of the pinnacles and ornaments round the windows are enriched with a profusion of grotesque sculptured heads of various sizes, adapted to the angles and other parts on which they are placed. The window frames are finely worked in gothic tracery, and are of cast iron made to imitate stone, with sashes of bronzed copper, and panes of plate glass; those in the principal rooms being thirty-nine inches in height.

"The eastern entrance, or garden front, is approached by a flight of steps from a broad terrace, which runs the whole length of the centre and wings of the main building. To the right and left of the steps is a noble range of cloisters of one hundred and eighty feet in length. A massy gothic fence, with rich heraldic shields, runs round the house, and separates it from the grounds.

"The gardens and pleasure grounds are formed on the before-mentioned gentle declivity of the Dee. They are laid out in a very tasteful manner, and contain a choice collection of exotics and rare fruits of every description. The conservatory is built in the style of one of the wings of the house, and is a very handsome erection. The hot-houses and other buildings partake of the general character of the mansion: indeed wherever an opportunity presents, the gothic is introduced throughout the whole domain. The present earl has recently built a new cast-iron bridge, close to Aldford; and as the scenery here is highly interesting, it has a very picturesque effect, in addition to its utility."—*See a small tract published by Eatonham, entitled A Visit to Eaton.*

To describe the interior of Eaton-hall, with its rich and costly furniture and decorations, would require more space than can be here allotted to such a purpose; it would occupy a volume. Suffice it to say, that it abounds with every elegance that ingenuity and art can invent, and with every profusion that wealth can purchase. Among the numerous valuables of the hall, is an extensive library, containing a choice collection of books and manuscripts, to which daily additions are making: together with many fine paintings and statues by the first masters. The noble proprietor of this princely mansion is not less distinguished for the amiableness of his private character.

than the munificence of his public charities. It is no part of my business, even if I had the ability and inclination, to enumerate a catalogue of his lordship's acts of benevolence in those distant counties where he has extensive estates and residences; but it cannot be out of the province of an historian of Chester, to record actions by which its population and neighbourhood are essentially benefitted. Sufficient therefore to my purpose, in illustration of his lordship's open-hearted liberality, is the single fact, that, aided by the active and *personal* assiduities of his amiable countess, he gives gratuitous education, clothing and books to the children of the poor, within a circle of five miles round the city, which alone are chargeable to his lordship, to the amount of not less than from five to eight hundred pounds a year. If the authority of our great poet, that whatever is given for the purposes of charity is "twice blessed;" or if the higher sanction of him, who said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," be credible; how highly privileged does that individual stand, who having large possessions, has also a heart disposed to direct their current into the channels of charity and benevolence.*

* The Grosvenors came over into England, with the conqueror, and took their name from the office they held in the Norman court, that of *grand bouteviller*. Their first settlement in this county was, Over Loozook, bestowed by Hugh Lupus on his great nephew Robert le Grosvenour. In 1234, Richard le Grosvenour purchased and fixed his seat at Hulme; but in the reign of Henry VI. by the marriage of Rawlin or Ralph Grosvenour with Jean daughter of John Eaton, or Eaton, Esq. it was transferred to this place. While chivalry was the passion of the times, few families shone in so distinguished a manner; none shewed equal spirit in vindicating their rights to their honours. Witness the famous cause between Sir Robert le Grosvenour and Sir Richard le Scrope, plaintiff, about a coat of arms, *azur une bordure*; tried before the high constable and high marshal of England, in the reign of Richard II. which lasted three years. Kings, princes of the blood, and most of the nobility, bore witness in this important affair. The sentence was conciliating, that both parties should bear the same arms; but the Grosvenours refused to receive the *bordure d'argent*. Sir Robert resents it; appeals to the king. The king's will is confirmed; the choice is left to the defendant, either to use the *bordure*, or to beat the arms of their relations, the ancient earls of Chester, *azur a gerbe d'or*. He rejected the mortifying distinction, and took the *gerbe*, which is the family coat to this day.

Returning again to that part of Handbridge, where the road diverges towards Eaton, and advancing onward about two hundred yards, another road turns to the left, which leads to Wrexham, a distance of twelve miles; in the course of which the village of Dodleston* and Gresford are passed on the right, and those of Palford, the Rosset, Marford, and Acton, in front. The main turnpike, preserving a straight direction, conducts to Mold, Hawarden and Holywell, being the line of the mail to Holyhead, first passing by Overleigh, and on a long stretch of road, formerly called Saltney Marsh.† About three miles in this direction is the boundary between the counties of Chester and Flint, and between England and the northern division of the principality of Wales.

All the turnpike roads leading from the city are kept in an excellent state of repair, the Macadamizing system being principally adopted. In several directions, how-

* It may not be generally known, that the remains of the illustrious progenitor of the Bridgewater family, Thomas Egerton, viscount Brackley, (better probably remembered by his inferior but earlier title of baron Ellesmere) who for upwards of twenty years, 1606-1617, held the great seal of England with distinguished ability and integrity, had till very lately lain under a nameless stone in Dodleston church. In 1829, however, this want of regard to the memory of a great and good man was supplied. The present rector of Dodleston, the venerable archdeacon Wingham, under the impression, that "the splendour of ancestry is intended to be not only a glory, but also a light and guide to posterity," made application to one of his affluent descendants (the late Rev. the earl of Bridgewater) and procured for "buried merit its tardy bust." A marble monument, handsomely executed by Mr. Kelly, of Chester, now distinguishes the spot where these long neglected remains rest. It bears the following inscription, from the pen of the archdeacon:—

“*Morsorum gloria posteris quasi lumen est, vobis hæc ævâ pavidâ mortale
fuit Thomæ Baronis de Ellesmere et vice-comitis de Brackley viri antiquæ
veritate ac fide per viginti plures annos regni Angliæ cancellarij, secretarij scrip-
taevnia spectatissimi hominibz exemptus est. obiit. Id. April. anno sacro
mDC. XXVII. et. circiter. Æ. XX. et. obiit. sepulchrum quoniam præcessit.*”

The final (£100) for defraying the expenses of the erection, was wholly supplied by the late eccentric but munificently disposed earl, in a remittance from Paris.

† In 1766, Sir John Glynne, with a view of effecting an easier communi-
cation between his colliery at Yaldreoff and the city of Chester, projected

ever, the tolls are particularly heavy, which necessarily operates at a serious disadvantage on the conveyance of goods by land carriage. I am at a loss to account for the amazing increase in these tolls, which in some instances have been advanced within the last three years not less than two-thirds, which will be shewn by the following table:—

A Table of Tolls taken on the different Turnpike Roads leading to and from the city of Chester with the Tolls formerly taken; shewing the difference between the present and former charge. The table is taken on a waggon and four horses, the wheels being of the breadth of six inches.

	Distance from Chester.	Present Tolls.	Former Tolls.	Difference more than 1 cent.
	MILES.	8 6.	8 6.	8 6.
Chester to Preston-brook and back.	14	3 4	1 3	6 6
Wrexham ditto.	10	5 0	1 3	3 4
Wrexham ditto.	12	3 0	2 3	5 4
Muhl ditto.	12	7 4	4 0	3 4
Basham ditto.	19	1 4	1 4	0 0
Whitchurch . . ditto.	20	2 3	2 3	0 0
Northwich . . . ditto.	13	10 0	4 4	5 6

The Toll from Wrexham to Shrewsbury and back, a distance of 23 miles each way, is only six *shillings*.

the plan of carrying the coals over Saltney Marsh by water, the road being so thin and sandy and very heavy for draught. To this end a canal was cut along side and parallel with the turnpike-road, till it turns off towards a point near the Dock, about two miles below Chester. The coals were accordingly carried to a coal-yard in Brown, and forwarded thence on punts constructed for the purpose. This canal, however, proved an unsuccessful speculation: the coals being unloaded at Bretton, reloaded on the punts of the canal, unloaded again at the end of the canal, and reloaded on punts upon the river, became so broken, as to be scarcely saleable, independent of the loss or breakage. Mr. Temant in his *Tour*, speaks of this canal as then existing; but it appears to have been filled up about the year 1775.—In 1776, an act of parliament was obtained for inclosing Saltney Marsh, containing by advertisement 2,000 acres of rich land, not including 600 acres copped out before-time by the Stanleys. This undertaking was effected at a vast expense, as a new and more substantial river bank was required on the south side, more effectually to prevent the inroads of the tide, which strikes every office land, meads, and drain waters. This great work was expeditiously performed, and the lands of the Marsh divided and allotted by the commissioners, Samuel Wyatt, Esq. Mr. Edward Stelfox, and Mr. John Earl, each of whom received £500. l. s. and the award was signed 1783. This succeeded about 1780, and to the Glenn estate.

Historical Events,

FROM THE

SIEGE OF CHESTER TO THE PRESENT TIME.

[From Vol. I. p. 198.]

The gallant defence sustained by the city of Chester, has already been noticed at large, with its surrender to the parliamentary forces under Sir William Brereton. In these times of civil commotion, the city, as a fortress of considerable strength, was deemed of the greatest importance by the conflicting parties. In the month of May, 1648, some attempts being then on foot in the north for restoring the king's power, the fortifications of Chester were put in complete repair; and in the August following, Captain Oldham, Lieutenant Ashton, and several others, partizans of the royal cause, formed a plan for seizing the city and castle, for the use of the king, but the design being discovered, the two former were arrested, and shot in the corn-market, suffering with truly heroic courage, exhorting the bye-standers to loyalty and fidelity towards the king and royal family.

In July, 1649, colonel Robert Dukentfield was appointed governor of Chester; and in the same year, king Charles II. was proclaimed a traitor at the High Cross, and other places of the city. The king's arms were removed from the shire-hall, and those of the commons sent to the exchange, by order of the judges, Humphrey Macclesfield (deputy to Bradshaw) and Thomas Fidd.

1650. The bishop's palace, with all the furniture, were sold, December 13, to Robert Maller and William Richardson, for 1059*l*.

In 1651, a court martial was established at Chester, where a number of prisoners were brought from Newport for trial. Of these, ten were condemned on the act against holding a correspondence with the king, and five were executed, including a captain Symkins, who had carried the king's letter of invitation to sir Thomas Middleton. Shortly afterwards the earl of Derby, sir Timothy Fetherstonhaugh, and captain Benbow were condemned by the said tribunal.* The two first to be

* The following is an account of the proceedings of a court martial against these unfortunate gentlemen, from *Sonnars' Tracts*, 3 Charles II. A. D. 1652:—On Wednesday being the 1st of this instant month, the earl of Derby was brought to his trial, before the court martial holden at Chester, in the year of our Lord God, 1651. By virtue of a commission from his Excellency the lord general Cromwell, grounded upon an act of parliament of the 12th of August last, intituled, "An act prohibiting correspondence with Charles Stuart, or his party, directed to major-general Milton," &c. The said court being assembled together, after silence proclaimed, the names of the officers were called over (twenty in number.)

After the court was proclaimed, the president gave order for the prisoner to be brought to the bar; and accordingly he was guarded from the castle to the said court, where judge Mackworth read the act of parliament, prohibiting correspondence with Charles Stuart, or his party. And when his lordship came to the latter clause of the said act, viz. "That whosoever shall offend against this act and declaration, shall or may be proceeded against by a council of war, who are hereby authorized to hear and determine all and every the said offences; and such as by the said council be condemned to suffer death, shall also forfeit all his and their lands, goods, and other estates, as in case of high treason;" upon which words the earl of Derby said, "I am no traitor, neither." "Sir," said the president, "your words are contemptible; you must be silent during the reading of the act, and your charge." After his lordship had read the said charge of high treason, &c. the earl pleaded, that he had quarter given him for his life by one Captain Edge, which (said he) he conceived a good bar to avoid trial for life by a council of war, unless he had committed some new fact since quarter given, that might bring him within the cognizance of a court-martial. Hereupon the commissioners took the matter into consideration, and after a long and serious debate, they agreed to over-rule him in his plea, and finding him guilty of treason, passed sentence upon him in these words:—1. Resolved, by the court, upon the question, "That James, earl of Derby, is guilty of the breach of the said act of the 12th of August, last past, intituled, "An act prohibiting correspondence with Charles Stuart or his party," and so of high treason against the commonwealth of England, and therefore is worthy of death." 2. Resolved, &c. "That the said James Earl of Derby is a traitor to the commonwealth of England, and an abettor, encourager, and assister of the declared traitors and enemies thereof, and shall be put to death, by severing his head from his

beheaded severally at Bolton and Chester, and the third to be shot at Shrewsbury. On the 14th of October, the earl took leave of Fetherstonhaugh, and then proceeded from the castle, attended quite through the city by numbers of people weeping and praying for him, to whom

body, at the market-places in the town of Bolton, in Lancashire, upon Wednesday the 15th of this instant, October, about the hour of one o'clock of the same day.—The court then proceeded in the same summary way in the trials of Sir Timothy Fetherstonhaugh and Capt. John Bendow, both of whom were found guilty, the former to be beheaded the 22d of the month at Chester; and the latter to be shot at Shrewsbury on the 15th.

[FROM WHITELOCKE'S MEMORIALS, P. 486.]

Oct. 6, 1651. Letters, that the Earl of Pembroke was tried at a court martial at Chester, at which were twenty officers, captains, and above that degree, five colonels, and above that degree, Major-General Mitton, and Colonel Maclworth, president. That the earl confessed the plot for a general rising of the Presbyterians in Lancashire, to join with the King, but it was disappointed by the apprehension of Mr. Birkenhead. That Sir Thomas Tiddeley, Major Ashurst, and Major-General Massey were principal actors in the conspiracy. He confessed the matters of treason charged against him, and submitted to the mercy of parliament. And for plea, 1. He alleged he had quarter given him, and therefore was not to be tried by a court martial for life; but this was over-ruled by the court. 2. He pleaded 'ignorance of the acts of treason set forth by the parliament,' which plea was also over-ruled; and the court sentenced him to be beheaded for his treasons at Bolton, where he had killed a man in cold blood. The earl seemed very desirous for life, and petitioned the lord general upon the point of his having quarter, but had no relief from him. The court sentenced Sir Timothy Fetherstonhaugh to be beheaded for the same treasons, and Captain Bendow to be shot to death.

Oct. 13. Letters, that the Earl of Derby attempted to escape, and was let down by a rope from the leads of his chamber, but some hearing a noise made after him, and he was re-taken upon Dec-bank.* He wrote a hand-

* On his attempt to escape, the brave earl was less successful than one of the old princes of North Wales, as related by John the Rev. W. Warrington, in his history of Wales, relating the following story:—"Griffith ap Iwan had languished in prison in captivity in the castle of Chester, neglecting his subject, or so at least he supposed, without ever having had the ability to procure his release. The officers of the prison, on the persuasion of a young man, named Kywitt Bir, a native of Brecknock, who determined, if possible, to effect his escape out of prison, through every obstacle to be met with. This enterprise was brave, generous, and full of danger. At one of his windows however, he repaired to Chester, under pretence of buying some necessaries, and as he was standing near the castle, at the edge of night, while the guards were asleep, he caused a rope to be carried away to his room, the rope being fastened to a chimney, and conveyed down with safety to his own chamber. Thence he descended by a rope, and he scarcely escaped out of the hands of his enemies, he had barely done so, when the king's army, upon his escape, were either disheartened, or all in confusion, and the English were masters of the country. He obtained possession of the castle, and he was obliged to retire from without, through the narrow streets, being taken to a castle, where the barons had retired during the absence of the king, and he resumed the entire possession of his kingdom."

at Flookers-brook he bid adieu with an humble yet noble behaviour. Near to Hoole-heath he alighted from his horse, and by the coach side, took leave of his two daughters, saluting them and praying for them, and then, after a sad parting, proceeded on his way to Bolton.

During the months of June and July, 1655, many of the principal gentry of this county, among whom were Sir Peter Leycester, of Tabley; Peter Venables, baron of Kinderton; Sir Richard Grosvenor; Mr. Shakerley; Mr. Warren, of Poynton; and Mr. Massey, of Pudington; were sent prisoners to the castle of Chester, under suspicion of being disaffected to Cromwell's government. In the month of November in this year, the parliament passed a resolution that the castle of Chester should be rendered untenable, and the city wall rased between the Eastgate and Newgate. This order was partially carried into effect.

About the middle of July, 1659, several attempts were made to seize the principal strong-holds in England for Charles the Second, "of which enterprizes," says Clarendon, "only one succeeded, which was that undertaken by Sir George Booth; all the rest failed. The Lord Willoughby of Parham, and Sir Horatio Townsend, and most of their friends, were apprehended before the day, and made prisoners, most of them upon general suspicion, as men able to do hurt. Only Sir George Booth, being a person of the best quality, and fortune of that county, of those who had never been of the king's party, came into Chester, with such persons as he thought fit to take with him the night before; so that though the tempestuousness of the night and the next morning had the same effect as in other places, to break or disorder the

some passionate letter to his lady to comfort her, and advised her, as other matters stood, to surrender the Isle of Man upon good conditions.

Oct. 24. Letters of the particulars of the Earl of Derby's death on the 14th at Bolton; who carried himself with stoutness and Christian-like temper.

Nov. 1. Letters, that Sir Timothy Fethers, onhaugh was executed in the market-place, Chester, according to the sentence of the parliament; and that only a few prayers out of the common prayer-book.

rendezvous that was appointed within four or five miles of that city, yet Sir George being himself there with a good troop of horse he brought with him, and finding others, though not in the number he looked for, he retired with those he had into Chester, where his party was strong enough, and Sir Thomas Middleton having kept his rendezvous, came thither to him, and brought strength enough to keep those parts at their devotion, and to suppress all those who had inclination to oppose them."

Sir George Booth (who, as it was afterwards known, had a commission from King Charles II. appointing him commander-in-chief of all his forces in Cheshire, Lancashire, and North Wales) hearing that General Lambert was on his way to oppose him, marched with his army, consisting of upwards of three thousand men to give him battle. Sir George, accompanied by Lord Cholmondeley, Lord Kilmorey, and several of the principal gentlemen of the county, mustered his army on Rowton-heath, the spot which had proved so unfortunate to King Charles I. and there read and published a declaration setting forth that they took up arms for a free parliament, and to deliver the nation from the slavery they then laboured under. General Lambert being sent by the parliament, with an army against Sir George, the conflicting forces met at Winnington-bridge, near Northwich, on the 16th of Aug. when an action ensued, in which Booth's forces were soon defeated; he himself escaped from the field in disguise, but was taken at Newport Pagnell, and sent to the tower. After the engagement, Lambert marched with his army to Chester, then held by Colonel Croxton, which was immediately surrendered. As a punishment for this rebellion against their power, the parliament passed a vote on the 17th of September, to dissolve the corporation of the city of Chester, and that it should be no longer a county of itself. The speedy demolition of the authority of the parliament by whom this order was issued, rendered the resolution of very immaterial consequence.

With the restoration of the royal family, in 1660, the ancient order of the church was re-established. In the

month of September in that year, Dr. Brian Walton, being appointed bishop of Chester, most of the clergy of the city and county went to meet him on his coming to take possession of his bishopric. The trained bands of the city were drawn up along the Foregate-street, and at the Bars, the mayor and corporation in their formalities, received their new bishop, and walked before him to the palace, amidst the acclamations of the people, expressing the greatest joy at the restoration of episcopacy. Immediately after his arrival, he put on his robes, and went to perform his devotions in the Cathedral, where the dean, Dr. Bridgeman, and all the chapter, received him.

In 1683, the kingdom was again threatened with civil commotion, from the restless ambition of the Duke of Monmouth, a natural son of Charles II. who had entered into a conspiracy with Lord Russel, Algernon Sydney, and other mal-contents. The following relation of this young gentleman's visit to Chester, is taken from the Cowper MSS. which places the loyalty of the citizens of that day in a somewhat questionable shape:— "In the middle of August, James Duke of Monmouth came to Chester, greatly affecting popularity, and giving countenance to riotous assemblies and tumultuous mobs, whose violence was such as to pelt with stones the windows of several gentlemen's houses in the city, and otherwise to damage the same. They likewise furiously forced the doors of the Cathedral church, and destroyed most of the painted glass, burst open the little vestries and cupboards, wherein were the surplices and hoods belonging to the clergy, which they rent to rags and carried away; they beat to pieces the baptismal font, pulled down some monuments, attempted to demolish the organ, and committed other enormous outrages. On Thursday the 25th of the said month, the duke went to the horse-races at Wallasey in Wirral, which meeting served as a rendezvous for his friends in this part of the kingdom, a junto of whom sat in consultation in the summer-house at Bidston, where was concerted that insurrection which was afterwards attended with such fatal consequences."

Monmouth was taken into custody on his return from Chester at Stafford, at a splendid entertainment given him by the members of that corporation. His progress through Cheshire was attended with considerable tumult, and securities of the peace were required from the numerous county gentlemen who appeared to favour him. A memoir of his reception in the city notices several of Monmouth's acts to gain popularity. The infant of the mayor was christened Henrietta, his grace condescending to stand sponsor. The following day the duke is said to have rode his own horse and won the plate at Wallasey, and in the evening to have presented it to his god-daughter.

The following six chronological items are copied from the Cowper MSS. :—

1687. Aug. 27. "James II. came to Chester on Saturday, and was received near the Bars in Foregate-street by the corporation in their robes. He was afterwards splendidly entertained at the Pentice, where he was seated under a canopy of crimson velvet, prepared for the occasion. His majesty lodged at the bishop's palace, from whence next morning he walked through the city to the castle (the mayor bareheaded carrying the sword before him), and heard mass in the shire-hall.* On Monday he went to Holywell, and on Tuesday returned to Chester, and the day following closeted several gentlemen both of the city and county, in order to prevail upon them to approve of the repeal of the penal laws and test-act, but met with very little encouragement in that affair. On Thursday, Sept. 1, the king left Chester, not much satisfied with the disposition of the people."

1688. Tuesday, Nov. 27. "About midnight, lord Molineux's Lancashire regiment (mostly Roman catholics) entered the city, which caused a general consternation, and the citizens were rising up in arms, but by the prudence of the magistracy, matters were quieted, and no violence committed."

* He also received the sacrament according to the Rites of the Church in the chapel in the square tower of the castle.

1690. Friday, June 2. "King William came to Combermere, and the next day to Peel-hall, the seat of Col. Roger Whitley, and on Sunday morning arrived at Chester, and went immediately to the cathedral church where being seated in the episcopal throne, he heard divine service, and a sermon preached by Dr. Stratford, the bishop of the diocese, after which he set out immediately for Gayton-hall, in Wirral, the seat of William Glegg, esq. upon whom the King was on the following day pleased to confer the honour of knighthood; and all things being ready for his embarkation, from thence he proceeded to the reduction of Ireland."

1696. A mint being this year set up in Chester, coinage of money began on the 2nd of October. There was coined 101,660 ounces of wrought plate: all the pieces had the letter C. under the king's head.

1715. "This winter lord Charles Murray, (son to the duke of Athol) with several gentlemen, and a great number of private men, who had been taken (Nov. 13) in the rebellion at Preston, were brought prisoners to Chester castle. The weather was very severe, and the snow lay a yard deep in the roads. Many of the above mentioned prisoners died in the castle by the severity of the season; many were carried off by a very malignant fever; and most of the survivors were transported to the plantations in America. As the castle was quite filled with these prisoners, the Lent assizes were held at Nantwich."

1745. "Towards the latter end of this year the rebel army from Scotland marching into this kingdom, and entering Lancashire, the earl of Cholmondeley, lord lieutenant of the county, and governor of Chester, began dispositions for the defence of this city, in which was one veteran regiment, and three new raised ones. The Watergate, Northgate, and Sally-ports were walled up, and the several buildings adjoining to the walls pulled down. The main guard was kept in the Bridge-street, at the end of Commonhall-lane, subalterns had the charge of the gates, through which no one was allowed to pass

but by day light; advanced parties were placed at proper places in the suburbs, and picket guards patrolled on the walls all night long. On the 19th of November orders were given that all householders should lay in a stock of provisions for a fortnight. The fortifications of the castle were repaired, and some new works added: ammunition and necessary stores were provided. On Sunday, Nov. 24th, the church-yard walls of St. Mary's-on-the-hill were taken down, and the materials taken into the castle. Several adjoining buildings were likewise taken down, and their foundations levelled, and the citadel and town were made as tenable as the time would permit. However, the rebels did not approach the city, but marched through a part of the county into Staffordshire."

Dr. Cowper adds, that all trade and business ceased for some weeks, the principal inhabitants having removed all their valuables. The four regiments quartered in the city were chiefly accommodated in private houses. Shortly after the surrender of Carlisle, a number of the rebels were brought prisoners in sixteen carts to Chester, and lodged in the castle, which they completely filled. In consequence of this, the spring assizes were held at Flookersbrook, but no sort of business was brought before the grand jury.

The loyalty of the gentry in this neighbourhood, upon the breaking out of the Scotch rebellion is thus noticed in the Gentleman's Magazine for 1745.—"At an assembly of nobility and gentry at the castle of Chester, measures were entered upon to raise and maintain 2500 men for his Majesty's service; Sir Robert Grosvenor gave 2000*l.* and promised as much more when required; many gentlemen subscribed a year's income of their estates, and the bishop subscribed 200*l.* and even the Catholics of the best distinction shewed their zeal for the government."

From this period down to the present time, there have been no very interesting occurrences within the city that will require particular detail. The barrenness of incidents in this department of the work arises from the

nature of the arrangement of the material. By giving under distinct heads an account of the remarkable events, and of our public buildings and institutions, with their origin, progress, and present state, but little remains to be said here, except a bare recital of some facts that may be thought worthy of notice, and these shall be given in chronological order, commencing with the year

1691. June 8, Whit-Monday, being a day of general recreation, eleven young women were in a boat rowed by two watermen, upon the river just under St. John's church, when one of the watermen threw an apple among them, which they attempting to scramble for, and rushing to one side of the boat, overset it, by which accident ten of them were drowned. The two watermen swam to shore, when Phœbe Jones, catching hold of the leg of one of them, held so fast, that he drew her after him to the bank side, but in the action of swimming he had with the heel of his shoe, beat out all her front teeth.

1720. Part of the Roodee cop being washed down, was rebuilt and faced with stone.

1727. In this year, a newspaper was published in the city, called the *Chester Journal*. From this publication the following advertisement is quoted, which is curious, as shewing the rude state in which our theatricals were in that day:—"On Monday evening will be acted, the historical tragedy of King Richard III. at the Wool-hall in Chester, with the bloody murder of the two young princes in the tower of London, the tragical murder of the good and quiet king Henry by king Richard, after which he marries lady Anne, whose heart he broke; to conclude with the bloody battle of Bosworth field, in which king Richard and the great earl of Richmond fight a long while furiously with large swords till Richmond runs Richard through the body, and *he dies as natural as life!*—N.B. Nobody will take it amiss that they cannot come behind the scenes, on account of the great hurry and bustle of the play."

The following curious extract is from the *Gentleman's Magazine*:—"17th October, 1732. Entered the

poll for Mayor of Chester, when the numbers were—for Alderman Johnson, 1097; Alderman Ellams, 1005, in the Grosvenor interest: Alderman Maynwaring, 858; Alderman Bennet, 858, for Mr. Manley and Navigation. The two first were returned, and the former sworn into office. On this occasion the contest was so great, that 20*l.* was given for a vote; about 6,000*l.* spent, and, as reported, some lives lost."

In 1734, a severe contest for the representation of the city occurred between sir Robert Grosvenor and R. Manley, esq. which lasted seven days, and terminated in favour of the former.—The act for incorporating the river Dee company passed in this year, and on the 20th of April in the year following the first sod of the new cut of the river was taken up by R. Manley, Esq.

In the year 1734, was commenced a newspaper, called *Adams's Weekly Courant*, at which time it appears, the *Chester Journal* had been discontinued. At this period, there were but few provincial papers in the kingdom; and compared with the journals of the present day, whether considered in reference to their size, or matter, or management, they exhibited but a contemptible figure. Little ingenuity, labour, or expence were then deemed requisite for carrying on a country newspaper, the whole of its contents, besides an invitation to buy the wares of the trades-men, being confined to a few paragraphs of news copied from the *Lloyd's Evening Post*, the announcement of deaths and marriages, the perpetration of a daring robbery or bloody murder, or the occurrence of some dreadful accident within the immediate district. In those days, and indeed for half a century afterwards, the importance or even the name of *Editor* was little known, and still less would be understood the meaning of that lately fashionable phrase, *the gentlemen of the press!* This paper, now called the *Chester Courant*, was established by a Mr. Adams, and upon his death, continued by his widow, who being married to Mr. John Meak, it of course passed into his hands; then into the hands of his eldest son, Edmund; and afterwards into those of his second

son, John, by whose widow it is now published, on the very premises where it was commenced in Newgate-street.

1739. The mayor was this year refused admittance into the Abbey-court, by bishop Peplow, when proclaiming war against Spain, whereupon his worship ordered the Abbey-gates to be broken down.

On a petition from several freemen of Chester to the house of commons against the return of Mr. Warburton, the following important resolution was adopted by the house on the 2nd of February, 1747, which has ever since regulated the mode of election:—"That the right of election of citizens to serve in parliament for the city of Chester, is in the mayor, aldermen, and common-council of the said city, and in such freemen of the said city, not receiving alms, as shall have been commorant within the said city, or the liberties thereof, for the space of one whole year next before the election of the citizens to serve in parliament."

At the spring assizes held at Chester, in March, 1748, not one single bill of indictment was offered to the grand jury. If the amount of crime, as exhibited in our criminal calenders, be taken as a criterion of national morals, this fact speaks loudly in favour of former times; the number of offenders usually indicted at our spring assizes at Chester of late years, being not less than from 60 to 80.

The shops on the west side of the Exchange built in the year 1756; and in 1758, the house of industry was erected, in which were immediately placed 200 poor people.

In the year 1762, the first police act for the government of the city was obtained, which continued in operation till 1803, when another act was passed for amending and enlarging its powers.—In the former year the spire of St. Peter's church was rebuilt, when one Wright, in attempting to gain the top of the scaffolding for a trifling wager, fell on the leads of the church, and was killed.

1771. The city was illuminated, in consequence of the passing of an act for making a canal to Nantwich. The first sod was cut on the 4th of May.

1772. A horrid explosion of gunpowder on the 5th of November, in Watergate-street, by which a great number of people were blown up.—(Vide vol. i. page 7.)

On the 2nd of May, 1773, the *Chester Chronicle* was commenced by Messrs. Barker, Poole, & Co. under whose joint proprietary it was carried on for about ten years. During this period, the journal never acquired a robust stability of constitution, and was in danger of expiring, probably from the prescriptions of *too many doctors*, when it was taken under the auspices of Mr. John Fletcher, the present proprietor, by whose management and attentions, it has risen into a healthful maturity.

In 1776, the communication between the canal and the river Dec near the Water Tower, was opened on the 4th of September, and the first barge passed on the 11th of December.—On the 12th of January in this year a fire occurred in the shop of Miss Washington, milliner, East-gate-street, which destroyed a considerable part of the stock.—April 28, the bans of marriage published in the church of St. Oswald's between George Harding, aged *one hundred and four years*, and Jane Darlington, of Mollington, aged *eighty-four*.

1777. In the month of January in this year, Dr. Beilby Porteus was elected bishop of this diocese.—In May, J. Townshend, Esq. obtained a royal license for the theatre.—In September, a slight shock of an earthquake was felt in the city.

1778. During this year three privateers sailed from this port, namely, the *Empress of Russia*, of 24 guns and 120 men; the *Hero*, of 16 guns and 80 men; and the *Spy*, of ten four-pounders, 12 swivels, and 50 men. The former, after capturing a Swedish ship of 300 tons, was taken by a French frigate, and sent into L'Orient.

In August, 1779, the canal between Chester and Nantwich was opened; and on the 13th of February in the following year, the city was illuminated in celebration of the victory obtained by Adm. Rodney over the Spanish Adm. Langera.—In April, 1781, the warehouses of Mr. Topham, adjoining the snuff mills were burnt down.

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George Rodney

At this time, England was engaged in an unequal contest with her American colonies, and France, Spain, Holland, and was threatened with invasion from her Gallie neighbours. The city of Chester, ever distinguished for its loyalty, raised a body of volunteers, who were trained and disciplined, and rendered efficient for the purpose of resisting foreign invasion, or repressing domestic commotions.*

* It is no disparagement to the most renowned military men, that they do not fight, when no enemy dares to present himself in the field before them. Had the Frenchmen presumed to approach our shores in a hostile attitude, there is no doubt but the Chester Volunteers of that day would have covered themselves with glory; and that they did not do so, was no fault of theirs. Although these brave men were disappointed, in meeting a foreign enemy, an occurrence most fortunate for their credit and honour, an opportunity for shewing their prowess; and as this military exploit has never been recorded in the Gazette, it shall have a place here. Towards the close of the American war, a numerous and lawless band of rascals, gathered for the purpose of plunder and robbery, in the vicinity of Chester, who by their continual depredations, threw the whole neighbourhood into a state of constant trepidation and alarm, while by the well-managed secrecy of their movements, their place of rendezvous remained undiscoverable to the eyes of the civil authorities. At length, however, a noted thief of the name of Bobbington was apprehended for a criminal offence, and lodged in the Northgate prison; he was shrewdly suspected of being one of the dangerous gang, and the sly rogue, either with a view of passing a mischievous hoax, or in the hopes of benefiting himself, seemed disposed to favour the suspicion. The capture of this fellow was now considered of the highest importance, as no doubt existed but he could give such information as might lead to the apprehension of his confederates. On being pressed to compliance, Bobbington at first affected some scrupulosity, and then, as if yielding to a sense of duty, assured the magistrates, that the marauders were exceedingly numerous, but their purposes were of the most desperate nature; that as a use of arms had rendered them quite desperate, and that it would require an overwhelming force to capture them; and at the same time describing with minute precision the particular places of their concealment, the edge of the forest, and about Felsal. A consultation of the magistracy was immediately held, and a resolution entered into to storm the enemy's camp. But the enterprize was deemed too formidable, without the aid of the military; the command of the volunteers was applied to, who instantly offered their services, the gallies sent; and as a night attack was deemed the most effectual, on the afternoon of the same day, the drums beat to arms, and a flight more than an hour's march, the whole corps was mustered in marching order, at a place called the field, in the number of about one hundred volunteers, and 100 militia. The resolution was executed, and the camp of the marauding band was burnt, and a number of the rascals were taken, and sent to prison, and the rest dispersed.

1780. In September, a grand musical festival, vocal and instrumental, upwards of 6000/.

1781. On the 8th of November in this year, George Cooke, the celebrated tragedian, made his first appearance at our theatre, in the character of Hamlet, for the benefit of Mr. Pratt. He was annointed as "the young gentleman; his second appearance on the stage."

one thing and some another, but all agree, in this, that the scene was of the most perilous and important kind. Appalling incursions were heard by every quarter; and when the world was awake, and when the revels would their steps through the streets, the piercing cries of mothers, children, sisters, grandmothers and nurses, were truly pitiable. They only sigh'd that they should see their houses more! The reason of these alarms was towards the north, and it was now a long march, as they call'd from them, that they were destined to engage against a numerous and desperate band of armed robbers. It was in the depth of winter, the roads were cold and in mud, and ere they had well cleared the suburbs of the city, the sun, or night had closed in upon them. The historian is not inform'd, that at this stage of the expedition a single ejaculation on the part of the soldier's file, had escaped the lips of officer or private, which was the signal for martial glory. And to relieve the fatigues of a long march, Scotland-yard presented a very suitable place for a halting place, without the loss of a single party, (the sign-post caught the passing eye,) and where courage and good resolution were rewarded and sustained, with almost every drop of beverage that the village could furnish. Arrived at Tarpole, a small inn, where some refreshment was made on the stool of every diligenter, and ere they were half the road, not even the remnant of a barrel or bottle remain'd to sustain the passing traveller on his way. It has been said, that several distinguished instances of bravery were manifest in this village, as the soldiers, with a courage of rage, and the capture of a dozen or more of the robbers, who curiosity had drawn together to witness the martial military parade, and the particulars have not been unanimously recorded, I shall pass them over with the slightest notice. The brave little army, however, still proceeding, arriv'd near the scene of the fight, and they approach'd the village of Nethel where their operations were to commence, with great expectation; the commander-in-chief having issued his orders with caution and skill. The first post to be assail'd was a dwelling-house situated at the end of the village, in which were said to be conceal'd considerable numbers of the robbers, with immense quantities of booty, arms, and ammunition; and having made every possible disposition on each of the sides, the principal company, as well as the odds of the commander were engaged. The assault, at that time the town was surrounded, and the summons press'd and repeated, knock'd at the door, and it demand to surrender at discretion. The robbers, if they required without effort, when, as the gates were open, they might be given a full and more manly view, and had they not been so well posted, they had at a single blow, rather than a long combat, have been cut off, and had with success done in their retreat, and it is not to be imagin'd,

1785. The 1st of Sept. Captain G. French, a gentleman still resident in Chester, ascended in Lunardi's balloon, from the Castle-yard, four p. m. and descended at six at Macclesfield, 40 miles.—On the 7th, Mr. Baldwin ascended from the same place at one p. m. and descended beyond Warrington.

not to suffer any of the enemy to escape in those directions. The concealed thieves and booty were demanded with great sternness, while a poor old woman, the only human being visible in the house, almost petrified with fear, wrung her hands, exclaiming, "O gentlemen, I never thought it would come to this; bless you don't take him away; he will marry her, indeed he will." This inexplicable appeal rather increased than allayed suspicion, and they proceeded to search the premises. After diligent inquisition, they found a young country fellow, stretched on the floor under a bed whom they dragged forth, half dead with fear, and who, on being interrogated, could be brought to no other answer, than that "he would marry her." Recourse now being had to several persons in the village, the result was found to be, that the supposed harbour for thieves and magazine for booty, was the residence of a quiet old widow of good repute; that the countryman whom they had seized as a prisoner, was her son; that a young woman in a neighbouring parish was pregnant by him, whom he had shewn some repugnance to marry; and that both the widow and her son, supposing the attack upon the house to be connected with a design of the parish officers to take him to prison, had extracted from them both, an assurance that "he would marry her!" Two or three other places on the borders of the forest had been described by Bebbington as retreats of the banditti, but the deception in the above instance, seems to have abated their credulity, or cooled their military ardour. It was now past midnight, and in the depth of winter; they were seven or eight miles from home; without quarters; and withal many of them worse for their stimulating libations. Their military exploit being accomplished, there seemed no further necessity for military discipline; they grouped together in twos, threes, or half dozens, as chance or inclination dictated. The first of the returning victors did not reach Chester till after day-light next morning, and many of the rear not till towards evening. An awful suspense pervaded the city during the preceding night, and before the appearance of day terrific rumours were general, that the gallant band had encountered a numerous enemy on Delamere forest, and been cut to pieces. It is gratifying, however, to say, that notwithstanding the danger and severity of the service, not a life was lost, the only injury sustained being a few slight wounds and contusions occasioned by some clumsy movements in the lanes, from which they all happily recovered. Two or three of those hardy veterans only are now living, who still recount with much glee and good humour the glories of that eventful night. It may just be added, that the only Bebbington afterwards succeeded in detaching a posse of the civil power into Wirral, in quest of the rogues, where he pretended they were assembled: but this, like several former, proved a sheer hoax.

1786. St. Bridget's church repaired, and Bridge-street widened.—August 28, a man ran from the Eastgate to Christleton, and afterwards round the outside of the city walls in 51 minutes; a distance of near seven miles.—Grand festival of music in the Cathedral; the orchestra for the first time erected next the great west window.—On the 10th of October, the double toll formerly claimed by the corporation at the fairs, abolished.

1788. John Howard, the celebrated philanthropist, visited Chester.—Dec. 5. John Parry, a civil officer, shot by Thomas Mate, in Handbridge, whom he was ordered to arrest.—July 3. The old Watergate began to be taken down.

1789. Jan. 13, fire at the Pied Bull stables, in which the hostler was burnt to death, having it is supposed gone into the loft with a lighted candle, in a state of intoxication.—March 16, the city illuminated in celebration of the king's recovery.—Sept. 20, Mrs. Jordan performed at our theatre; she took away, in four night's performance, about 130*l.*—Sept. 21, the Dee mills destroyed by fire; loss supposed to be 4000*l.*

1790. June 18, Lord Belgrave (the present Lord Grosvenor) elected representative for Chester, in the room of R. W. Bootle, Esq. who resigned.

1791. The Cheshire militia embodied; their parade ground in the Bottom's-fields.—Sept. 6, third grand festival of music.

1792. Jan. 25, the coachman of Mrs. Cowper, of Overleigh, having taken the carriage with a pair of horses down by the toll-house at the bridge, to the river to wash, drove them beyond their depth (the tide then flowing); the footman and horses were drowned; the coachman clung to the carriage, and saved himself.

1793. Jan. 9, Tom Paine burnt in effigy at the Cross.—The lead coffin of Lord Chancellor Gerard, who held the Irish seals in the reign of Elizabeth, found near the altar in St. Oswald's church, in perfect preservation; it had been interred 212 years.

1791. Sir W. W. Wynn's cavalry regiment of Ancient Britons raised, in which were included a great number of Chester lads.—Mr. Ralph Eddowes, long distinguished for his opposition to the corporation, this year embarked for America.

1795. Death of Thomas Grosvenor, Esq. representative of this city for near forty years: he was succeeded by Colonel (now General) Grosvenor, who was member for the city until the year 1826.—At the spring assizes, like those of 1748, there was not a single prisoner for trial.—On the 1st of July, the packet-boat made its first trip on the canal to Ellesmere port.—On the 10th of November, a shock of an earthquake was felt in the city.

1796. Jan. 19, the mail between Chester and Warrington, robbed near Trafford, by Thomas Brown and James Price, who were afterwards executed for the offence.

1797. In this year, in the midst of the French war, the supplementary militia and provisional cavalry were raised; and in April, the regiment of Ancient Britons, commanded by Sir W. W. Wynn, embarked for Ireland.—Oct. 1, the first stone of the large column of the portico of the shire-hall, laid in the presence of the Royal Chester volunteers, invalids of the garrison, and Cornish light-horse.—Oct. 19, the city illuminated in honour of Duncan's victory.—Oct. 27, the mayor's feast formerly held on the first Sunday after his election, abolished by Rowland Jones, mayor.

1798. To the calamities of foreign war, were this year superadded, a bloody rebellion in Ireland, and a voluntary subscription in aid of the country was recommended by government. The sum raised by the city of Chester amounted to 624*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*—Arthur O'Connor, the Irish traitor, passed through this city in custody of a king's officer, on his way to Dublin.—During this year, an immense number of military passed through the city on their route to Ireland.—Oct. 4, the city brilliantly illuminated in celebration of Nelson's victory of the Nile.

—Oct. 10, the Nag's-head stable, in Foregate-street, destroyed by fire, in which ten fine horses were burnt to death.

1799. On the 7th of November, the regiment of Ancient Britons arrived in Chester, from Ireland; having by their gallant conduct materially contributed to the suppression of the rebellion in that country.

1800. On the 5th of December, the royal Cheshire militia arrived here, and on the 28th, the supplementary militia, preparatory to their being disbanded.—The 1st of August in this year, wheat sold in Chester market at 25s. per bushel.—Dr. Majendie appointed bishop of the diocese.

1801. Shock of an earthquake felt here about 2 a.m. its direction from north to south.—Aug. 2, dreadful storm of thunder, lightning, and rain: Mr. J. Chamberlain's house in Smith's-walk, struck by the lightning; a young woman so frighten'd by it, as to cause her almost immediate death.—Oct. 11, the city illuminated in consequence of the peace, a royal salute fired from the castle.

1802. Jan. 21. Dreadful storm of wind; it commenced about nine o'clock in the evening, and continued till the next day in the forenoon. The vanes blown off the churches, and many houses unroofed.—March 31, five prisoners broke out of the castle.—April 25, the militia disembodied.—May 10, the volunteers disbanded at the castle.—July 6. Lord Belgrave and General Grosvenor elected members for the city.—Aug. 5, Earl Grosvenor died; he was the oldest alderman of the corporation of the city. On the 17th, his lordship's remains passed through the city for interment at Eccleston, in grand procession; 23 carriages formed part of it, in nine of which were the mayor and corporation, and a long train of tenantry on horseback.—Aug. 25, first court held by the mayor in the Exchange, since the taking down of the Pentice at the Cross.—Dec. 15. Mr. Drex Grosvenor returned member for the city.

1803. The insolence and ambitious projects of Buonaparte, now raised to the consulship of France, and so fully developed themselves, that it had become obvious in

an early period of this year, hostilities were inevitable. The preparations for invading Britain, made by France, called forth a simultaneous burst of loyalty and patriotism from all classes in every part of the kingdom, and in this competition, the citizens of Chester were not behind the most zealous of their fellow-subjects. In a very brief interval upwards of four hundred thousand men appeared in arms, ready to defend their native shores. So numerous, indeed, were these voluntary associations, that it rendered a previous act of the legislature for raising the levy *en masse* perfectly superfluous. The French ruler viewed with astonishment this extraordinary display of national energy; and though his preparations were continued, the intention of carrying them into effect is thought to have been secretly abandoned. In addition to the grand fleet at Brest, which was supposed to be destined for the invasion of Ireland, an immense number of transports and gun-boats had been ordered to be built, with the greatest expedition, in the French ports, under the idea that some thousands of them might be required. On the 27th of July, a public meeting was held in the Exchange for the purpose of raising a corps, and giving the citizens an opportunity of enrolling their names: the hall was filled to excess, all ranks pressing forward to place themselves among the defenders of their country; and in the course of a few days, the Chester volunteers numbered upwards of thirteen hundred effective men. On the 1st of September, Prince William of Gloucester arrived in Chester; on the day following, the freedom of the city was presented to his highness; and on Sunday the 4th, he inspected the volunteers on the Roodee, and accompanied them to cathedral, where the bishop preached a sermon. On the 21st the London Gazette contained the names of the officers, of whom the following is a list:

Lieut.-Colonel Commandant—Roger Bannister.

Lieut. Colonels—J. O. Wrench, E. Holt.

Major—J. Wilnot, R. Sweetnam.

Captains—C. Hamilton, J. Flaite, S. Lytle, H. F. Hague, H. J. Massey, C. Merrall, F. Humberston, H. H. Hrisse, G. French, W. M. R. F. Carré.

Lieutenants—H. Bowers, J. Cotgreave, T. Cotton, H. Grey, P. W. Ward, E. Vernon, G. Archer, J. Waud, P. Elenagan, W. Siller, T. Jenkins, R. Britain, D. Aldersey, T. Rathbone, J. Parry, E. Roberts, S. Humphreys, T. Evans, J. Cooper, T. Peole, T. Smith, T. Francis, W. Howard, W. Cole, J. Monk.

Ensigns—S. Davies, J. Finchett, J. Moulson, G. Bailey, D. F. Jones, W. Baga, P. Stamford, W. Shaw, T. Crane.

Chaplain—Rev. P. Ward, D.D.

Pay-Master—T. Edwards.

Surgeon—W. Wynne.

Adjutant—W. M. Henderson.

Quarter-Master—R. Bowers.

ARTILLERY COMPANY.—*Captain*—T. Dixon. *Lieutenants*—J. Lloyd, W. Courtney, T. Atkinson.

On the 28th of December, in this year, an affray occurred in the city which threatened serious consequences. A press-gang was here actively engaged in securing seafaring men for his Majesty's navy. On the above day, the volunteers had been on duty; it is probable the press-gang had received information that one of their body, Daniel Jackson, had been at sea, and notwithstanding his military capacity, and while numbers of the corps were walking about the streets, they seized him, with an intent to take him to the rendezvous. This irritated his companions, who attempted a rescue; and after a severe scuffle between the votaries of the land and sea service, Jackson was lodged in the Northgate gaol for security. By this act the volunteers were still more violently incensed, and collecting together in great numbers, still wearing their military habiliments, they surrounded the prison, which they burst open, and liberated their companion. Some slight commotions followed, but the tumult ended without any material injury. A court of inquiry was subsequently held to investigate the affair between the press-gang and the volunteers, when the latter, as a body, were exonerated from censure. At the autumn assizes following, D. Humphreys was convicted of being concerned in the tumult.

1804. Feb. 7, the volunteers inspected by Col. Cuyler.—March 19, the colours presented to the Chester volunteers by the lady of Colonel Barnston, in the area

fronting his house in Foregate-street. After the ceremony, the regiment marched to the cathedral, where the colours were consecrated. From church the corps proceeded about a mile on the Wrexham road, to escort into the city two new beautiful brass field pieces (short sixes, cast at Bersham).—May 18. Ashton light horse, Wigan rifle corps, and St. Helen's volunteers, on permanent duty here.—June 4, 5, the Chester volunteers marched to Oswestry and Ellesmere.—June 20, the Warrington volunteers marched into Chester on permanent duty.—Oct. 1, the Chester volunteers reviewed by General Burton; after which they set off in 56 waggons through the city to Vicar's Cross, then through Littleton and Christleton to Foregate-street, with a view of ascertaining the facility with which they might be conveyed, in case of invasion.—Oct. 5, the volunteers reviewed by the Duke of Gloucester, and his son, Prince William, on the Roodee. Their royal highnesses were received on the ground with presented arms, followed by a general salute.—In the election for sheriffs this year, Mr. John Williamson was started against Mr. Broster, whose father had rendered himself unpopular by the part he took in favour of the press-gang, in the preceding December. Mr. Williamson was returned, without a contest.—In November, Master Betty, the "Young Roscius," was performing at our theatre.

1805. Parry and Truss's coach manufactory, in Foregate-street, burnt down.—May 15, the Chester volunteers marched to Warrington for 21 days permanent duty.—Nov. 20, the city brilliantly illuminated in honour of Nelson's victory at Trafalgar. On this occasion, the volunteers, at intervals, fired round the city walls a *feu de joie*, and a royal salute was fired by the artillery, stationed opposite Colonel Wrench's house, near the Watergate.—Dec. 10. Death of Dean Cotton, at Bath.

1806. March 4, old buildings at the Cross pulled down.—May 22, Davies Davenport, Esq. returned for the county, in the room of W. Egerton, Esq. deceased.—July 28, dreadful storm: the mast of a ship at the Crane



MR. JOHN WILLIAMSON,
MASTER BETTY'S MANAGER.



shivered to pieces by the lightning.—Sept. 14, loss of the King George packet, off Hoylake, in this port, with 170 passengers on board: only the steward and four sailors were saved.—Sept. 30, a grand festival of music.—Oct. 31, General Grosvenor and R. E. D. Grosvenor returned members for the city.—Nov. 25, the snuff mills burnt down.

1807. Jan. 7, a watchman named Boulton found drowned in the canal locks at the Tower Wharf; verdict, *wilful murder*.—May 6, Mr. John Egerton elected member of parliament for the city.—Oct. 23, Earl Grosvenor elected mayor.—Nov. 5, five convicts made their escape from the castle.—Dec. 15, grand dinner given by Mr. Egerton to the officers of the volunteers at Oulton.

1808. Jan. 1, splendid dinner given by Earl Grosvenor (mayor) at the Exchange, to 200 persons: a Christmas pie on the table which weighed 154lbs.—Nov. Chester local militia established; its number 1223 men.

1809. Jan. 13, the sugar-house in Cuppin-street destroyed by fire.—Jan. 27, fire in the Hop-pole-yard; part of the Chronicle-office destroyed, and a large quantity of stationary.—July 5, Union-hall in Foregate-street first opened.—Oct. B. E. Sparks bishop of Chester.—Oct. 25, celebration of the jubilee; his Majesty having attained the 50th year of his reign. An ox roasted. The corporation and all the public bodies went in procession to the cathedral.—Oct. 31, the Cheshire militia left this city for Tamerton.

1810. May 12, the shop of Mr. Fletcher, watchmaker, at the Eastgate, robbed, for which two men, Smith and Clarke, were afterwards executed.—July 10, the bank of Messrs. Rowton and Morhall stopped payment.—Aug. 22, the Prince of Orange visited Chester.—Nov. 9, a piece of plate, value 150gs. holding about two gallons, presented by the officers of the local militia, to Colonel Barnston.—General Grosvenor elected mayor.

1811. Scaffolding erecting for taking down the spire of Trinity church.—June 20, first stone of the Propyleum, or great entrance to the castle, laid by Lieut.-col. Tra-



ford, of the Congleton local militia.—Sept. Earl Grosvenor presented two elegant full-length portraits of himself and his noble father, to the corporation, which were placed in the council chamber.—Dec. 5, Parry and Truss's coach manufactory burnt down a *second* time.

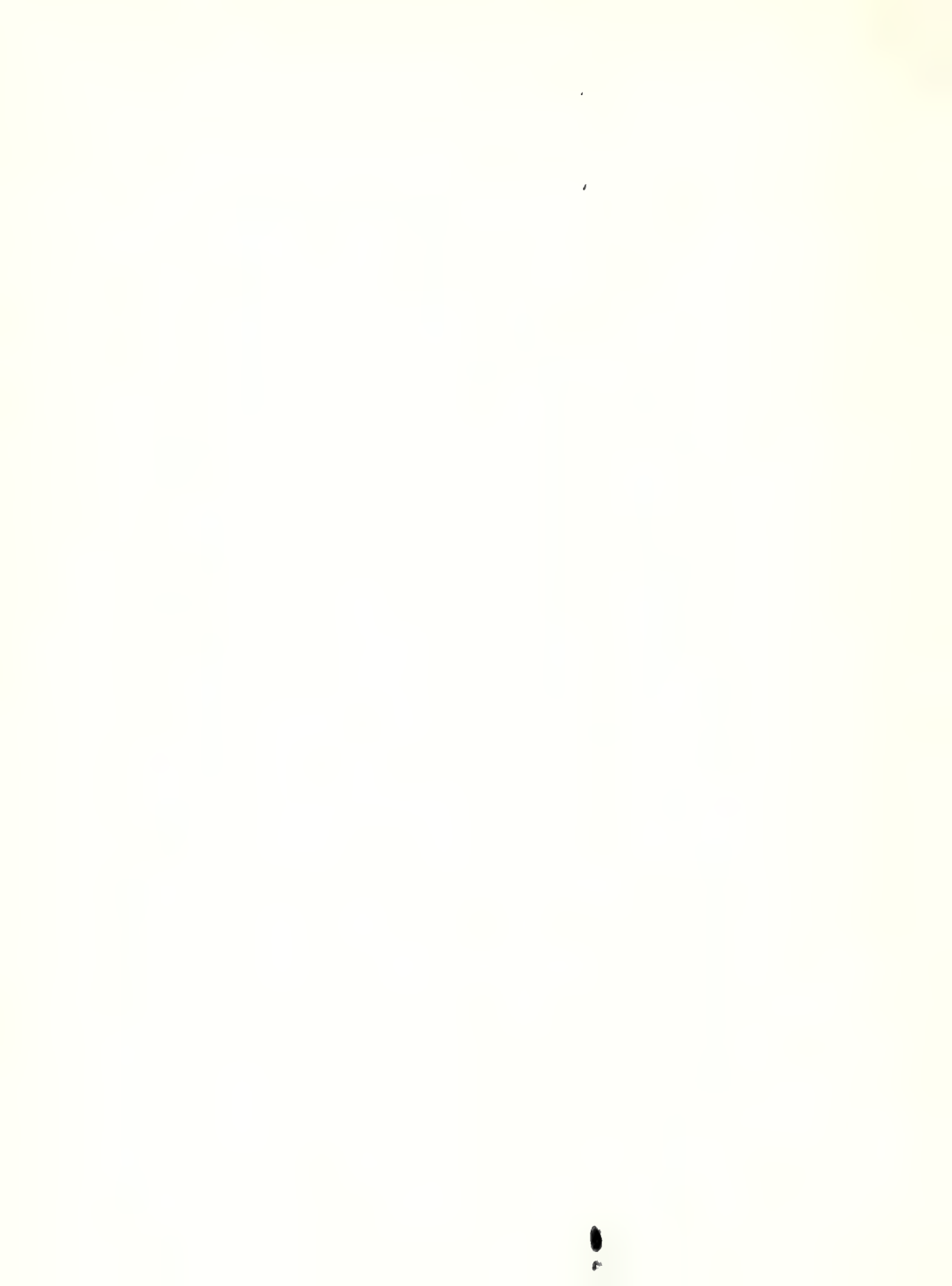
1812. April 23, arrival of a great number of Luddites at the castle, escorted by the Ashton Hayes cavalry.—May 6, a strong detachment of the Chester regiment of local militia, with their rifle and artillery companies, with field pieces, and a large supply of ammunition, marched to quell the riots in and about Stockport.—Part of the local militia assembled on permanent duty in the city, during the trials of the rioters by the special commission.—May 24, opening of the commission: on this occasion an iron railing was for the first time fixed round the bar.—Sir W. W. Wynn elected Mayor this year.

1813. June, Mr. Webb, the philanthropist visited the city; he left several small donations to be distributed under the supervision of that estimable gentleman, Dr. Thackeray.—Dec. Mrs. Jordan performed at the theatre.—This year the new clock at St. Peter's was put up, by Mr. Ald. R. Bowers. St. Michael's clock also had the addition of a new face and minute movement.—Jan. 10, this day, the *Chester Herald* died a natural death; it had been commenced in 1810, by Mr. Cutter, but never gave a fair promise of a permanent existence.

1814. June 17, the city illumined in commemoration of the general peace. Dinners were given by the principal tradesmen to their workmen; a regatta took place on the Dee, and the bells of the cathedral were for the first time in the interval of sixty years rung. In fastening up the lamps at the new bank, a stone was displaced, which fell upon a fine young woman below, and fracturing her skull, her death ensued.—July 7, a grand procession of the corporation, trade companies, free masons, friendly societies, &c. to the cathedral, being the day of thanksgiving for the peace.—Aug. 15, the citizens of Chester, anxious to shew their admiration of the heroic generals, Lords Cornwallis and Hill, for their noble exploits



SIR ROWLAND BLAND.



under the immortal Wellington, in Portugal, Spain and France, invited them to a grand dinner at the Royal Hotel. Lord Combermere was escorted from Hawarden (coming out of Wales) by Sir S. R. Glynne's troop of light horse, under the command of Lieut. S. Boydell. At Overleigh the generals ascended a triumphal car, elegantly decorated, and drawn by four white horses, with drivers in scarlet liveries; they were then addressed by Colonel Barnston, in a most elegant, energetic and appropriate complimentary speech, to which each of the noble generals returned short and modest answers. At the Bridge-gate they were received by the corporation in their robes, with the sword and mace of the city, the mayor congratulating the generals on their safe return after their glorious career of victory in the Peninsula; they were conducted through files of the 22nd regiment to the Exchange, where the freedom of the city was conferred in the usual manner, and afterwards escorted to the Royal Hotel, where a sumptuous dinner had been prepared, and the ball-room splendidly decorated for the occasion. A very large and most respectable company attended; every thing was conducted with the utmost regularity, and the noble lords several times addressed the meeting in suitable speeches, on the healths of themselves and of other members of their families being drank.—Sept. 21, a man named George Post, who had been convicted on false evidence of highway robbery, and was to have been executed on the 24th, received a respite, and afterwards a free pardon. He was indebted for his life to the indefatigable exertions of the humane constable of the castle, Mr. Hudson.—Sept. 27, grand festival of music.—Nov. St. Mary's church-yard inclosed with iron railing.

1815. March 8, the body of Frances Buller, a respectable woman between 60 and 70 years of age, from Newton-in-the-Willows, was discovered lying on the river bank, near the sluice-house; the skull was completely fractured in several directions, the bones of the nose and forehead beat in, with some incisions as if given with a sharp instrument, the skin was also off her hands, and

there were other bruises as if received in struggling with some one, or warding off blows. A very full investigation before the coroner took place, when the jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against some person or persons unknown.—Sept. 23, Kean, the tragedian, first appeared at the Chester theatre, in the character of Richard III.—Oct. 23, the Prince Regent's regiment of Cheshire yeomanry cavalry, about 420 strong, and a remarkably fine body of men most admirably mounted, under the command of their colonel, Sir J. F. Leicester, marched into the city on permanent duty.

1816. March, Ann Moore, the celebrated Fasting woman, confined in the castle, for a robbery at Stockport: during her confinement, she *miraculously* recovered her appetite.—April 21, the body of Samuel Williams, collector of the Northgate tolls, found in the canal, under the old house of correction; it was supposed by some that he had been murdered.—May 24, the warehouse of Mr. Whittell, on the Roodie, destroyed by fire.—July 4, the mayor, J. Cotgreave, Esq. received the honour of knighthood.—Sept. 4, the different lodges of the five masons went in procession from the Feathers inn to Boughton, from whence they proceeded in carriages, to assist the P. G. M. in the ceremony of laying the key stone of the steeple arch of DeLAMERE church.

1817. On the 4th of Jan. the grand duke Nicholas of Russia (the present emperor) who had been making a tour of the northern part of England, visited Chester. He was attended by General Kutosow, whose father had driven Buonaparte out of Russia, General Dowrason, and several other Russian noblemen. On the following day, his highness, attended by his suite, inspected our walls and several of the public buildings, and in the evening set off for Wynn-stay, the seat of Sir W. W. Wynn. When the illustrious stranger inspected his sleeping apartment at the Royal Hotel, he ordered a quantity of clean straw to be placed on the floor in a convenient part of the room for his bed, observing to Mrs. Jackson, that he was a soldier, and that was the material on which he always

reposed.—A subscription of 1500*l.* raised in aid of the poor during the severity of the season.—On the 28th of February, a public meeting was held at the Town-hall, convened by the mayor, to consider the propriety of petitioning parliament against the suspension of the *habeas corpus* act, and notwithstanding a strong opposition was offered, the resolutions for petitions were carried by large majorities. At this period, an active political ferment pervaded the country generally, and especially the manufacturing districts of this county. The dangerous yell for annual parliaments and universal suffrage had been echoed by the demagogue orators of the day, and every grade beneath the middle ranks of society, rose up in arms to support the sacred cause. Popular meetings held in the open air, became general, and doctrines that threatened the subversion of all government were proclaimed in language approaching to rebellion. On the 13th of March, a coach, escorted by a strong body of the Earl of Chester's cavalry arrived at the castle, containing 21 of these infatuated men, charged with treasonable and seditious practices, apprehended at Heaton Norris, and committed to our castle, under the act then recently passed for suspending the *habeas corpus* act.—On the 3rd of June a very serious fire occurred in the ship-yard of Mr. Cortney, near the Crane, by which considerable property was destroyed.—The ministers of the crown having intimated an intention of extending the term for the suspension of the *habeas corpus* act, a second public meeting was held at the Town-hall, and resolutions adopted by the majority, to present petitions to the legislature against that measure; counter-petitions were also signed and presented. In the following week, a number of respectable gentlemen of the city held a meeting in the Inner Pentice, and agreed to form an association, to be called the *King and Constitution Club*; of this club, Colonel Barnston was elected president, and the members, in a few days were announced to be one hundred and forty-eight.—On the 20th of October, a savings bank for the city was established, at a public meeting held at the Town-



hall.—The 19th of November, was a day on which the citizens of Chester warmly sympathized in the national sorrow, and on which were committed to the dust, the remains of the Princess Charlotte of Wales: not only were the shutters closed, but all the shops were completely made up, and there was a general suspension of business: the pulpits were hung with black, and deep mourning generally worn: at an early hour in the morning the bells of the several churches commenced tolling by minutes, and continued their mournful monotony till midnight.—In September in this year, a *second* attempt was made to establish a *third* newspaper in this city, under the title of the *Chester Guardian*, which in its commencement appeared to possess an extent of patronage that bade fair to draw it through all the disadvantages of an infant up-hill establishment. Several influential individuals in the county, who embraced nobility in their train, and a still greater number of gentlemen within the city, opened their purse-strings, and subscribed what were considered ample sums in aid of this favourite undertaking. A gentleman of the name of Gorton, a man of superior talent, was brought down from London, as the Editor, to whom was assigned a salary which few provincial journals could bear, while every department of the concern was over-weighted with expence. The political principles of the paper were decidedly those of the *Whig*, or *Liberal*, and indeed, the dissemination of these was obviously more an object with the proprietors, than profit. But the spirit of the times in this district was then adverse, generally speaking, to all national policy that was not directed by the government, and the *Guardian* received but a very partial share of public support. It is also to be considered, that where there is already a medium of public communication sufficient for the purposes of trade, commerce, and intelligence, every additional vehicle operates as a tax upon all descriptions of property; and as *two* newspapers had long been existing in the city, the necessity of a *third*, for any of these objects, were not recognized. Hence this essential source of a newspaper's

revenue failing with the Guardian, connected with its limited circulation, imposed the necessity of a continual demand upon the pockets of its parents; who, in about two years grew weary of the expenses, and finally left it to its fate. In an evil hour, Mr. Galway, who for some time had been its printer, took the concern upon himself, and dragged on the paper till the month of November, 1823, when it demised. Thus after two attempts to establish a third paper in Chester, in both which several thousand pounds have been thrown away, the facility of such a project is quite apparent. The district is not equal to it; and nothing but extreme incapacity, or excessive delinquency in one or both of the present journals, can ever warrant the experiment.

1818. I have in vain looked through the annals of this year for something interesting or amusing; but scarcely an incident is to be found either of importance or novelty beyond this, that the sun rose and set as usual. I of course except two electioneering contests which occurred, one for members of parliament, and the other for city sheriffs; but the account of these will be embodied in the *Political History*.

1819. In January this year, some additional light was thrown upon Foregate-street, by the introduction of gas-lamps.—About one o'clock at noon, on the 6th of March, the city was thrown into great agitation, in which exultation and gloom were about equally blended, by the arrival of an express from London, bringing intelligence that a committee of the commons had pronounced that General Grosvenor and Lord Belgrave were the members to be elected; against whose return Sir J. G. Egerton and Mr. Williams had petitioned.—On the same night, however, an occurrence took place in the city, which could only excite one common feeling of sorrow. A little before twelve o'clock, it was discovered that a fire had broken out in the upper story of that extensive building, the Dee Mills. The progress of the flames were extremely rapid, and in half an hour the entire fabric presented one vast volume of flame. There was a great

1818
 Feb 10
 The night we went
 happened in the house which we
 William's time. A young man
 on coming to the street, and
 needed his horse when with one
 drink of ale he had been
 when they commenced running
 and shouting, in the night
 some feet, and I got by the
 down a new bottle of spi-
 rit of turpentine, which a
 young man named Charles
 Johnson had been under the
 stairs, and put up with his
 clothes when a sharp pain
 in a moment of another being
 applied, I had a severe
 lighted, as to some which
 in, but the spirit is in a
 blaze, with a lamp in the
 place, a gas-lamp is set
 and here is the first time
 speaking of the gas-lamp
 from a street, the gas-lamp
 coming to the street, the
 city lights.



quantity of corn, both barley and wheat, on the premises, and the flames ascending to an immense height, illuminated the country throughout a circuit of several miles—presenting a magnificent but terrific spectacle; the engines were soon on the spot, and were ably directed. The saving of the mills soon became a hopeless object, and it then occurred as a matter of the highest importance, to prevent the spread of the devouring element to the property adjoining, for at one time the water-works and the paper-mill were in imminent peril. Those buildings were fortunately secured, as was also the whole line of warehouses in Skinner-street. In the mean time every endeavour was used to save the property in the mill, but about 100 bags of corn only were thrown out. Mr. Frost, with much difficulty and appalling risk, contrived to snatch his books from the general ruin, but a man considerably advanced in years, named Davies, fell a victim to his intrepidity—he was literally burnt to a cinder; and when found about eleven o'clock next morning, merely the body, shoulders, and thighs remained, parched into an undistinguishable mass, not three feet in length. About two o'clock on Sunday morning the roof fell in, and by six o'clock, a portion only of the outside walls remained standing. Two of the engines were employed nearly the whole of Sunday playing on the smoking ruins. How the fire originated could not be ascertained, but no doubt existed that it was entirely accidental. The destruction of property has been estimated at 40,000*l.* the building, however, was ensured to a considerable amount. It is somewhat extraordinary, that this was the third time these mills had been destroyed by fire. This immense edifice has been rebuilt, but it is a subject of deep regret, that the offer of the proprietor to fall back in the foundation, by which the entrance to the bridge would have been materially weakened, was not acceded to.—On the 15th of March a public meeting was held in the Town-hall, to take into consideration the propriety of petitioning parliament to erect a bridge over the river Conway. &c. &c. when a resolution was adopted. This



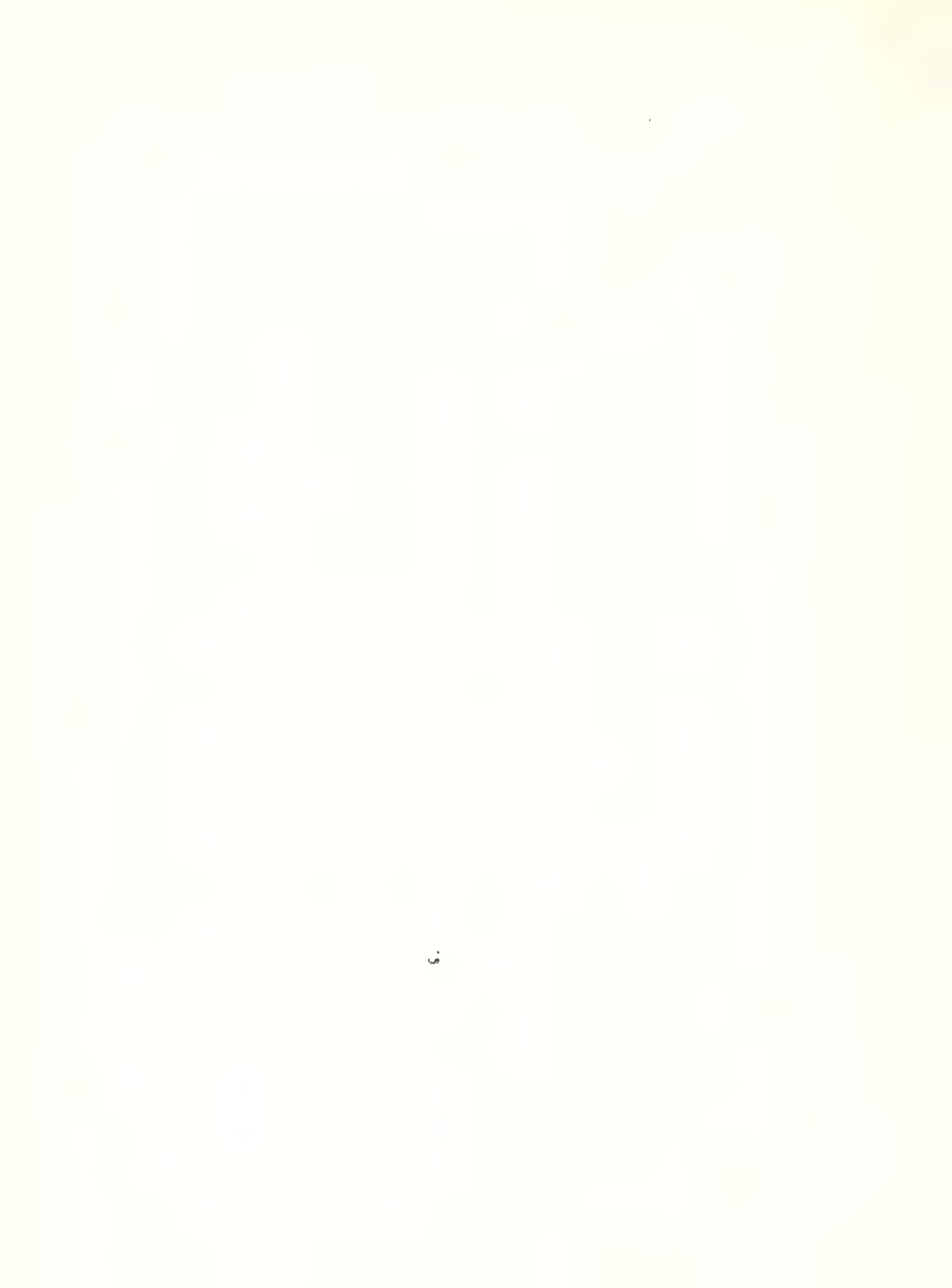
national measure has been since completed; which, taken in connection with the fine new bridge over the Dee at Chester, will certainly tend to preserve our present, if not restore a portion of our lost travelling, from the north and eastern counties of England through Chester to Ireland.—On the 10th of May, Gen. Grosvenor was presented with a piece of plate, in the form of a candelabra, by the mayor, at the Feathers Inn, on behalf of his fellow-citizens, for his long and faithful parliamentary services; on which occasion, a grand dinner was given.—Oct. 16th, Prince Leopold, consort of our beloved Princess Charlotte, honoured the city with a visit. His royal highness had been invited by Earl Grosvenor, to spend a few days at Eaton-hall, from whence he made several excursions to the city, whose antiquities he examined with great precision. The prince remained with his noble host from Saturday to Tuesday, in which interval he was presented with the freedom of the city by the corporation.—An opposition to the corporation nomination of mayor and sheriff was this year again attempted, but in both cases failed; Mr. Williamson was raised to the office of chief magistrate, and Mr. Sefton to that of sheriff.—Great popular commotions pervaded the neighbouring county of Lancaster, and some parts of Cheshire during this year. The phrenzy for parliamentary reform seems now to have reached its zenith; but the city itself was preserved in undisturbed placidity. In the manufacturing district, where the very lowest grade of society formed the overwhelming bulk of the population, the harangues of mob orators were suited to the capacities and the inflamed passions of the multitude; but here, if not higher in the scale of intellectual endowments, the lower orders of Chester were at least less under the influence of depraved principles; and it deserves to be recorded to the credit of our old city, that during the long period of political conflict the district was destined to endure, I am not aware of a single inhabitant who was drawn into the vortex of disaffection.

1820. In January the gentry and higher orders in the city were laudably employed in raising a public

Crossing the Dee

The bridge was
 opened Jan. 11.
 ...
 ...
 It is a structure
 ...
 37 feet above
 the suspension
 points, and ending
 secured within 600 yards
 to the east the other
 to the small Island
 in the eastern side
 from which a strong
 and wide cable extends
 has been raised to the
 Westchester side.

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subscription for the suffering poor in the city during the inclemency of a severe season, which was liberally supported and effectively applied; Earl Grosvenor headed the subscription by a benefaction of 100*l*.—Towards the end of this month, the citizens were called upon to mourn for the death of the king's fourth son, the Duke of Kent; and in a very few days afterwards, for our revered monarch, George the Third.—On the 10th of June, the court of king's bench granted a rule for a criminal information against Mr. Williamson, mayor of Chester, for refusing to admit several individuals to their freedom during the late election, by which Sir J. G. Egerton had been deprived of his seat in parliament.—On the 23rd of December, the Duke of Wellington, by invitation, paid a visit to Combermere Abbey, the seat of his friend and companion in arms, Lord Combermere. A knowledge of this fact having transpired, a numerous meeting of the gentry and principal tradesmen of the city was held at the Exchange, when it was unanimously resolved to invite the hero of Waterloo to a grand public dinner. A deputation being appointed to wait upon his grace, to obtain his consent, the following Wednesday, the 27th, was fixed upon, when his grace, accompanied by Lord Combermere and suite, arrived within our walls. He took up his quarters at the Albion Hotel, from whence he made a short excursion to the castle, inspected that building, armoury, &c. and afterwards proceeded to the Exchange, where a most sumptuous banquet had been prepared. Colonel Barnston presided at the festive board, which was surrounded by about 150 guests, amongst whom were Lords Combermere, Hill, and Kenyon, Sir W. W. Wynn, Sir James Lyon, Sir H. M. Mainwaring, Col. Thomas Cholmondeley, Major-General Peckwith, and other individuals of distinction. During the evening, and indeed while he remained in Chester, his grace received very mark of respect that could be shown to a character, whose eminent services in the field of battle had entitled him to the gratitude of his country. He had been spoken of as a subject of regret, that his usual

compliment of presenting the duke with the freedom of the city was omitted; but I am inclined to think, that this omission arose solely from a mistake or misapprehension in some of those individuals whose business it was to attend to the necessary proceedings, and not to any intentional disrespect.—This year was distinguished by another severe contest for the representation, and by more than usual acrimony on general politics. The proceedings against Queen Caroline had nearly equally divided the citizens; and although the government party laboured to bring the friends of her Majesty into disrepute, by identifying them with disaffection and radicalism, yet still, many of the most loyal of the king's subjects in the city were decidedly opposed to the measures of administration on this important question.—In this year a whig club was established at Chester, for Cheshire and several of the adjoining counties, which held its annual meetings at the Royal Hotel.

1821. On the night of the 13th of January, a fire broke out in the paint room of the extensive lead works of Messrs. Walker and Co. which threatened the most disastrous consequences to that ponderous establishment; but by an early attendance of the engines, and active exertions of the citizens, the ravages of the flames were confined to the place where the fire originated.—The coronation of George IV. was celebrated with great magnificence in the city on the 11th of June; three fine triumphal arches were erected at the ends of Bridge-street, Northgate-street, and Eastgate-street; a grand procession, consisting of the clergy in their canonicals, body corporate, children composing the schools, the clubs, trade companies, royal mail and other coaches, a detachment of the 88th regiment, with bands of music, paraded the principal streets, and afterwards attended divine service at the cathedral; and a grand dinner was given at the Albion Hotel by the king and constitution club. On Tuesday the 25th of September, a grand festival of music commenced in our fine cathedral, which closed on the Friday; this, like all the former festivals, yielded

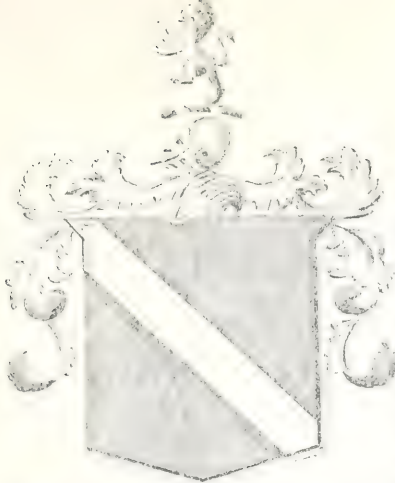


QUEEN CAROLINE

a handsome sum to our public charities.—The month of October in this year was a time of bustle and conflict among our corporators and anti-corporators, two sets of aldermen and common councilmen being elected, but the particulars will fall to our political history.

1822. On the 24th of March, the Sunday evening lecture at St. Mary's church was opened by a discourse from the Rev. F. Ayckbowm, which has been continued and well supported ever since.—On the 31st of March, Samuel Yate Benyon, Esq. Recorder of Chester, died in London.—A most afflictive accident happened in the city on the 29th June, by the bursting of a steam boiler in Cuppin-street, belonging to Mr. Boulton, tobacco manufacturer. The explosion was terrific, and instantly laid a considerable portion of the premises in ruins; the windows of the adjoining houses were completely broken, and a building near fifty yards from the scene of destruction set on fire by pieces of ignited fuel falling upon its roof. The boiler employed in this manufactory was connected with machinery requiring steam of great expansive force for its movements, and known by the term of a *high pressure engine*. It appears that on the preceding evening, the engine was put in full work, and the machinery acted in the best possible manner. It was then determined to make a more decided trial the following day, preparatory to the putting the whole in motion on the succeeding Monday. The steam was speedily raised in a very powerful manner, so much so, that it is said, the boiler was perceived to have a sort of oscillating movement for a considerable time. At this period, when the steam had attained an expansive force which could not be restrained, and while Mr. Boulton and four of his men were standing close to the machine, the boiler suddenly burst, owing to the safety valve being improperly overloaded. The men were thrown back with resistless violence, all of them dreadfully scalded and bruised, so much so, that one of them, Richard Wildman, died of his wounds on Monday evening. Two others were conveyed to the infirmary, most seriously injured. Mr. Boulton was

forced with his breast on a grinding-stone, and was nearly buried in the ruins occasioned by the explosion; and in this situation a heavy beam fell upon his back. Indeed it was next to a miracle that any one of them escaped without instantaneous death. Prompt assistance was had from the neighbours, and the rubbish being removed, the sufferers were extricated. Mr. Boulton was carried to an adjoining public-house, where every attention was afforded to him; in the evening he was removed to his own house in Foregate-street, and it was then thought that a hope might be indulged for his recovery—but alas! that hope soon fled: symptoms of inflammation became apparent, and Mr. B. laboured under a great pressure at the stomach. He was in extreme pain, but throughout his agonizing sufferings he was calm and collected, making repeated enquiries after the welfare of his men. About eleven o'clock on Tuesday night, he was released from his sufferings, leaving a wife, and several children, the eldest of whom is now a partner in the respectable firm of Poole and Boulton, booksellers. Mr. Boulton was in the 42nd year of his age; his remains were interred in the unitarian burial ground, in this city. Two of the unfortunate men of Mr. Boulton, Thomas and James Owen, brothers, who were present at the explosion, and had been removed to the infirmary, survived the accident but a few days, thus making four human beings who fell victims to a kind of scientific experiment.—During the greater part of this year, there was a great bustle in the city for the erection of market halls. Public meetings were held, the object of which seemed to be quite indifferent to those who attended them; resolutions passed which were never carried into execution; and committees formed; apparently for no other purpose than to make a report, that they had done—*nothing!* At one time, the old linen-hall was to be the site for the new markets, but this project was met with an objection that it was dean and chapter property, and could not be alienated; then the piece of ground behind the Feathers hotel in Bridge-street, was the favourite spot, but the



WILLIAM HARWOOD FOLLIOTT
THE NEW MARKETS.

To the Editor of the Chester Courant.

Sir,—It is probable you will take some notice in your next *Courant* of the opening, this day, of the New Shambles and Fowl Market. The rates of the former I am glad to find are extremely satisfactory to the butchers, who occupy the stalls with great avidity at the following prices:—

	Per Annum
Large Stalls 2s. each Saturday, amounting to £7. 10s.	
Second do. 2s. 6d. ditto	£6. 10s.
Third do. 2s. 0d. ditto	£5. 4s.
Fourth do. 1s. 6d. ditto	£3. 18s.

Those of the latter (the Fowl Market) are 2d. for two eggs of hen, or 2d. per basket; and the Butcher's Market, which I am glad to find is opened this day week, the occupiers of which are to pay 2d. per basket. All of which rates, in comparison with those charged at the New Market Hall, Liverpool, are very moderate indeed.

A Turnstile, or Clock, in the centre of the Butcher's Hall, is indispensable. And I recommend to the Corporation to be pleased to repair the outside of the Exchange.

I congratulate the public at thus having accomplished the object for many years near my heart, which I hope and believe with the blessing of Providence will, for many generations, administer to their comfort, convenience, health, and satisfaction.

I am, very respectfully,

Your faithful and obedient servant,

WM. HARWOOD FOLLIOTT.

Nov. 11, 1823.

was rejected on account of the difficulties of making the approaches. Anon, a parcel of ground on the west side of the fish-shambles; then some unimportant land on the south side of Watergate-street; and lastly, the site of the new linen-hall, were situations each recommended in its turn, and each in its turn decided against. In short, the whole year passed away, and at the end of it, the project was just where it was at the beginning. The improvement was destined to remain unaccomplished and even untouched for several years after this period. It must be acknowledged, however, that several gentlemen laboured with great zeal and industry in the promotion of the scheme; and perhaps no individual shewed equal unbending perseverance with W. H. Folljott, Esq. who displayed unwearied diligence in urging the point; no meeting was convened in which this gentleman did not pour forth the force of his eloquence; and scarcely was a newspaper printed in which the most cogent arguments were not offered.

—At the same time, or a short time before, the market-hall scheme was prosecuting, the attention of the Chester people was directed to another project, originating with Mr. Broster, which, however, was destined to share the same fate. This was a scheme for forming a steam-packet establishment at Dawpool: a spot on the Wirral side of the Dee, about four miles below Parkgate, which, it was assumed would open a safe and speedy passage to Ireland. It was calculated also, that if this establishment could be brought about, it would almost supersede the Shrewsbury line of road to Holyhead, and restore to the city of Chester its former importance as a thoroughfare to the sister island. It must be confessed that Dawpool is admirably adapted for the purpose intended, and probably superior to any other station on the coast. "One of the largest class of steam vessels," says Lieutenant Monk, of the royal navy, "would always have sufficient depth of water to come into and sail out of Dawpool. Dawpool possesses many advantages over Liverpool for steam vessels to sail from and to Dublin." And the testimony of Mr. Gibbon, of the Ballast-office, Dublin, is

still more decisive. He says, "I have frequently passed over Chester bar with a head wind, at low water, in vessels of ten feet draught, and ran up to Dawpool; the great safety of the passage, compared to that of Liverpool, strikes me as a recommendation that must ensure success. Navigating within, in place of outside the great Hoyle Bank, is very desirable indeed; for in case of encountering heavy seas or thick weather, you have the land close aboard, and several convenient harbours to shelter in." Printed descriptions of the place, with the advantages to be derived from the scheme, accompanied with plans and drawings, were plentifully circulated, and an interest excited that promised the most successful results. A public meeting was held at the Town-hall, at which resolutions were agreed upon to procure soundings and a survey, for which the celebrated engineer Mr. Telford was engaged, and to defray the expenses, a subscription was entered into. Thus far all went on swimmingly. But, alas! a circumstance was soon developed, which seemed to put an extinguisher upon the whole undertaking. Although the report of Mr. Telford was upon the whole favourable to the practicability of the plan, yet in its tail was contained the onerous fact, that the sum of *forty thousand pounds* would be requisite to build suitable piers and prepare other necessary apparatus at Dawpool for the proposed establishment. Some further ineffectual efforts were attempted to surmount this astounding obstacle, but, however the public feelings had been excited in favour of the project, the whole affair terminated, a few bills of some tradesmen only remaining undischarged, *for want of assets*.—At the close of this year, the city of Chester, in common with many other places in the neighbourhood, was visited by one of the severest storms of wind that had ever been known in this latitude. This tremendous storm occurred during the night of Thursday the 5th of December. About four o'clock in the afternoon the wind blew from the west, and brought with it a heavy fall of rain; it increased hourly, and the rain fell in torrents, but nothing serious was yet

apprehended. Between nine and ten, when the wind had shifted to the north-west, the resistless gusts of wind gave melancholy note of the devastation which was approaching; the sky was pitchy dark, and the spirit of the storm rode in tremendous majesty; and what at this time not a little tended to increase the general alarm, was the ringing of the fire-bell, and the whirling of the watchmens' rattles. A fire had broken out at Mr. Holland's, in King-street, and notwithstanding the gas-light were mostly extinguished, the sign-posts and shutters making a deafening rattle, the rain descending in torrents, the wind blowing an hurricane, and the slates and bricks flying in all descriptions, yet were there thousands of people in the streets, flocking to the fire. Providentially the latter calamity was trifling in itself, and was soon put out, and the multitude sought shelter in their various habitations. The anxieties and alarms of that terrific night will perhaps never be obliterated from the recollection of those who witnessed its wide-spreading desolation: there was no neighbourhood, nor scarcely a habitation, but was either the scene of ruin, or their inmates placed within hearing of the crash of falling chimnies, the bursting in of windows, or the confused noise of broken fragments of houses descending upon the pavement. The storm continued to rage with unceasing fury till about three o'clock in the morning, when it suddenly abated, as if worn out by its own over-exerted violence. Until this hour few eyes, except those of unconscious infancy, had been closed; and those who now retired to short repose, awoke in the morning only to behold the general desolation. The author well remembers perambulating the city on the morning of the 6th, when the scene before him presented an idea of a place that had been bombarded. The streets were strewed with stones, brick, timber, slates, broken window frames, glass and every other material used in building—in some places they lay in immense heaps—roofs and walls completely cleared away, so as to expose the furniture in the interior. In noticing this calamitous visitation, I shall briefly

recount a few of its distressing results. Many of the windows of our venerable cathedral were entirely destroyed—several large fruit trees in the Kale-yards, although protected by the city walls, were torn up by the roots, and laid prostrate on the ground. The free-school nearly unroofed, and the lead from Mrs. Williams's house at the east end of Abbey-street curled up, and hurled beyond the walls; many of the houses in George-street much damaged; a wall blown down in Abbey-green. The blue coat hospital seriously injured; many windows blown out in Further Northgate-street; and a wall belonging to W. Ward, Esq. levelled with the ground; material injury was also sustained by the houses in King's-buildings, the roof of one of which was laid open; by the higher wards of the castle; by the warehouses in Skinner's-lane, and by the Dee mills. A little before twelve o'clock, the massive and lofty chimney of Mr. Ellis's house, the Talbot, in Newgate-street, notwithstanding it was bound to the adjoining chimney of the Royal Hotel by a thick bar of iron, and carrying with it nearly all the roof, completely destroyed the upper bed-rooms, hurling the pediment front, windows and coping-stones into the street, in one promiscuous heap! At the same time, the chimney of Miss Coker and Bryan, also adjoining, in its fall destroyed a great portion of the roof of their dwelling, and broke into their bed-rooms, which two of the family had a few seconds before left. But the escape of Mr. Ellis's children and family was almost miraculous. One of them, a fine boy, was actually on his way up stairs, when the tremendous avalanche took place. Another extraordinary escape occurred at Mr. Allender's in Newgate-street; Mr. and Mrs. A. had retired to their bedroom in an attic story, about twelve o'clock. The former had got into bed, but Mrs. A. having forgotten something, below, went down stairs. She had scarcely quitted the room when a tremendous gust of wind blew down the chimney upon the roof, which giving way, fell down into the bed-room, at the same time forcing away the roof three yards behind its entire front. Mr. A. jumped

of bed, but the materials which had fallen in, had barricaded the door, and it was not before he had ratted it off its hinges, that he found the means of escape from the scene of ruins. One of the bedsteads, from four to five inches in diameter, was snapped in two by the weight of the falling materials. Had Mrs. A. remained in the room half a minute longer, it is hardly possible she could have escaped instant death. A fourth escape was instanced in the Abbey-square. Two chimnies were blown down at the house of G. Rowland, Esq.; one of them fell into an adjoining yard, but the other burst through the roof into the bed-room of one of the maid servants, who was in the act of taking a lamp from the dressing-table, but she providentially escaped unhurt.—At Mr. Huxley's, writing stationer, in Watergate-street, his two young men had just gone to bed, when a chimney, which sprang immediately above, fell into the room, and though the rubbish every where surrounded them, they were untouched. A similar escape occurred at Mr. Lewis's, in Bridge-street, where the chimney fell into the room of Mr. Dunack, who was in bed. The Royal Hotel suffered considerably during the storm by the fall of chimnies, and the destruction of sky-lights and other glass, which broke into the house, and spread the stair-cases over with fragments of bricks and slates.—Chimnies were blown down at the houses of Mr. Preb. Maddock, the late Mr. Townshend, Mrs. Potts, the Rev. M. Taylor, Mrs. Nicholls, Mr. Ellis, wine-merchant, Mr. Shearing, druggist, Mr. Palin, Mr. Heppard, Mr. Huxley, cheesemonger, Mrs. Rutter, &c. &c. which did great damage to the roofs. Mr. Palin's house was almost unroofed, as was that of Alderman Rogers, near the castle, in which quarter the storm was particularly furious. The union and commercial halls sustained considerable injury; the lofty wall of the ball court at the Brewer's Arms, in Foregate-street, was blown down, as was that of Mr. Massey's garden, behind the Groves; another in Queen-street, and a fourth at Mr. Fletcher's, Further Northgate-street, the roof of whose house was much injured. The damage in the

suburbs, at Handbridge and Boughton, was extensive; and indeed the whole surrounding country felt the disastrous consequences. Of these it is not my province to state the particulars, but I cannot omit the recital of a most calamitous event connected with the storm, which involved a great loss of human life, namely, the wreck of the Prince Regent steam packet, plying between Liverpool and Ellesmere port. The packet sailed from the pier-head for the latter place about three o'clock on Thursday, with from 22 to 24 persons on board, the crew included. The wind at that time blew pretty strong, but as it was quite a-head, no fears were entertained by those aboard. The vessel, however, made little progress, as the tide was ebbing; and about five o'clock, when she was near Enthan, the gale had very much increased. Some slight apprehensions were then entertained by several passengers, but they were quieted by the confidence with which the captain (James Dimond) spoke of their safety. At six, the packet was off Pool-hall, about a mile from Ellesmere Port, and at this time the extreme violence of the storm rendered their danger imminent and obvious. The vessel was tossing about in all directions, and had become nearly unmanageable—the night extremely dark and chilly. The captain was recommended by Mr. J. Hickson, of Ellesmere Port, to run the boat into a neighbouring creek whilst opportunity afforded, and which advice, if taken, would probably have been the means of saving all on board; but Dimond objected, persisting in declaring that the vessel would live; and then put her round, in order to return to Liverpool. His endeavours to return, however, were impracticable, the tide was receding, and the boat beating about, and heaving on the banks. The pitchy darkness of the atmosphere, the bustle which prevailed, and the total absence of all light even in the distance, had already enthroned terror on her awful throne. As one resource it was suggested that the anchor should be thrown out—it was done; but the vessel dragged; and in the midst of the howling sea, about midnight, a violent concussion alarmed the passengers with the idea

that they had struck against a bank or rock, and were about to be engulfed in the waste of waters. One side of the packet was, at this time, under water, and despair was now at its height. It was soon discovered, that they had struck against a flat (belonging to Mr. Fletcher, of Chester) which remained but a few seconds alongside, in which time many of the passengers and all the crew availed themselves of the opportunity of getting on board, the captain only excepted, who said he would stay by the vessel. Mr. Burt, artist of this city, and Mr. Hickson, jun. were in the number; the former had a very narrow escape, having hung for several minutes by his hands to the side of the flat before he could muster strength to gain the deck. At this perilous moment, the flat separated from the packet, and the violence of the tempest hurried her out rapidly into the current of the river. What a moment was this for parental feeling! for the separation of the two vessels had also severed Mr. Burt from a beloved son, a fine boy about nine years old, whom he had left in the packet *for ever*. The packet was thus again left by itself, and the captain determined on cutting the cable; this was a work of some time, there being only small pocket knives on board. The task, however, was accomplished, and the vessel soon drifted, as was afterwards discovered, towards Ellesmere. At this time there were no coals on board; the engine furnace was burnt out. Her course became more irregular every yard of her progress—the waves incessantly dashing over her, and there were several feet of water in the cabin. It was near one o'clock when the tide began to flow, and with it the peril of those on board increased. The vessel continued striking on the bank as the waves gave the impetus; eventually, however, she took ground a short distance west of Stanlow-house, and the faint glimmerings of a hazy moon, which now dimly rendered "darkness-visible," only served to make their situation more frightful. They were within seventy yards of the shore, and the intermediate distance was chiefly composed of thin-species of mud and quicksands called a *land-sough*;—it

The History of the Packet, and the manner of its capture, are related in the following manner, as given by Mr. Burt, the artist, who was present at the time.

The vessel was at anchor in the river, and the tide was out, when she was struck by the waves, and

been engaged in party warfare, the better feelings of the heart upon this occasion triumphed over political hostility, and the whole city appeared to be in one mind to shew their high respect to this noble family on the joyful occasion. A very liberal subscription was raised in which all ranks and parties united, for the purpose of giving eclat to public rejoicings on an extended scale. A fine ox was roasted on the Roodee, and distributed to the populace, with a suitable quantity of bread, to which were appended twenty barrels of strong ale. Earl Grosvenor, in the midst of a numerous company of gentry, witnessed this scene of festivity, with all its concomitants of fun and frolic, from the roof of the grand stand, where he was greeted with repeated cheers from the populace. A grand dinner was given at the Royal Hotel, where his lordship was present, and in the evening, there was a splendid display of fire works on the Roodee.—On the 13th of May, a young gentleman of the name of Yate, of considerable personal accomplishments and good connexions, met with a premature death, by the upsetting of his boat in the Dee, opposite the Groves, while taking an aquatic excursion, in company with two others. He had indiscreetly hoisted too much sail, when a sudden gust of wind upset the boat, which sunk in deep water. The two young gentlemen in company with him both made the shore in safety; but Mr. Yate immediately went under water, and could not be found for at least an hour afterwards.—During the spring and summer of this year, the Dawpool steam packet station occupied a considerable portion of public attention; the committee, which had been formed in the preceding year, pressed the subject with great zeal and perseverance, but with little success, the main sinew of public improvements being still wanting. The merchants, tradesmen, and post-masters of Chester were appealed to, and the advantages of the scheme placed before them in the most advantageous light, but the dull Cestrians had no taste for a speculation which required the advance of a considerable sum before there was a *certainly* of ample remuneration. Nor were



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the good people of Liverpool more disposed to enter into the measure, but probably for a very different reason; they did not appear to have any taste for transferring the advantages they were in possession of to the *Dee*. At all events, I am not aware of any offers from individuals on either side the Mersey that promised the slightest chance of carrying the project into effect. As the last expiring effort to forward the Dawpool establishment, it was resolved to hire a steam vessel, for a trip from the proposed station to Dublin, in order to give a *practical* proof of the advantages of this line. So zealous were the Liverpool merchants on this point, that there appears to have been some difficulty in engaging a suitable vessel. At length, however, this obstacle was surmounted, and the *Montaineer* steam packet, of one hundred horse power, was hired for the voyage, for which the sum of 110*l.* was demanded and paid. On Sunday the 3rd of August, the packet got round the rock, and anchored in deep water at Dawpool, to which place a good number of people from Chester, and the neighbourhood repaired, anxious to procure a passage in this voyage of experiment, the fare from Chester to Dublin and back, being fixed at 1*l.* 5*s.* At twenty minutes before eight in the evening, the paddles were in motion, and the vessel proceeded majestically along the bosom of the lake on her way to Dublin. In an account subsequently published of the voyage, it is said, that the wind blew a heavy gale direct in the teeth of the ship, and continued to increase till near the completion of the passage. The packet arrived at Howth at half-past 2 p.m. on Monday; a chaise was then procured which reached the Dublin post-office at a quarter past three o'clock, and where the certificate of time, &c. was signed. The published account states, "Had there been moderate weather, it is the opinion of the experienced captain, that the newspapers would have been in Dublin post-office at *eight o'clock in the morning*, instead of a *quarter before three in the evening*, giving an *enormous* advantage of nearly *seven hours* in favour of the Dawpool packet;" and it is added, "The violent state of the wind

was rather favourable to the experiment than otherwise inasmuch as it proved, that with this great obstacle against it, the packet was enabled to deliver the London evening papers of Saturday in Dublin, *about four hours earlier than those by the way of Strewsbury and Holyhead.* The hospitality with which the warm-hearted citizens of Dublin treated our Cestrian voyagers was highly spoken of: and many respectable individuals are said to have hailed this passage of experiment as an earnest of an accelerated intercourse with England. Much, however, as they seemed enamoured with the projects, none came forward with their pecuniary offers to bring this embryo scheme into active existence. At six o'clock on Tuesday evening, the *Mountaineer* left Howth on its return, and, after a pleasant voyage, arrived at Gayton lane end at half past eight o'clock on Wednesday morning, completing the voyage home in about thirteen hours and a half, and passing over Chester bar in a gallant style, with some six or seven feet water under the vessel's keel. After this voyage, some vigorous attempts were made, *on paper*, to stimulate the public to raise the funds necessary for effecting a permanent establishment at Dawpool, but there does not appear to have been the slightest progress made towards that object. Chester is a place by no means distinguished for speculative enterprize; and for reasons already assigned, the scheme never could be expected to be a favourite with the *leviathans* of Liverpool. However, as there appear to be several circumstances favourable to the plan, it may possibly be taken up by our more spirited descendants, and the voyage of experiment may still remain as a permanent data, on which to found a future proceeding.—On the 30th of Sept. the coming of age of R. H. Barnston, son and heir of Col. Barnston, was celebrated in the city with lively demonstrations of attachment. A fine ox was on the preceding evening set down to roast on the Rooster; and on the day just mentioned, at about one o'clock, was up and distributed to the poor, with 24 barrels of strong ale. Eleven fine sheep were roasted at so many public houses, where the

friends of the family dined: a grand dinner was also given at the Albion Hotel; and in the evening, there was a splendid display of fire-works on the Roodee.

1824. This year furnished but few local incidents worthy of notice, the first of which is the ascent of Mr. Sadler, in his balloon, from the esplanade in front of the castle. This took place on the 7th of June, and although these aerial excursions had become very general in different parts of the Kingdom, yet an interval of 39 years had elapsed since a similar ascent had taken place in Chester. The balloon was inflated by leathern pipes from the gas works, at a very short distance, and a few minutes after six o'clock, the adventurous aeronaut ascended. The vehicle took a direction S. E. and after being borne aloft for little more than an hour, he gradually and without injury descended near Utkinson; from thence with the assistance of the country people he proceeded with his balloon to Tarporley, and returned the same evening to Chester. At the time when these aerial ascents were in their infancy, great expectations were held out that they might eventually be turned to some practical objects of advantage; but this hope having long since vanished, there can be no motive to justify any individual to tempt the dangerous element. A few months after his ascent from Chester, Mr. Sadler fell a victim to his own temerity, while engaged in a similar enterprize in Lancashire. — On the 25th of June, a most frightful accident occurred on the Lee, at the Lower Ferry, by which thirteen individuals lost their lives. A kind of regatta had been held on the above day, after which a considerable portion of the company had adjourned to the Ferry-house, where drinking and dancing were indulged in till a late hour. About eleven o'clock, the tide running with great impetuosity, a boat, containing about seventeen persons, pushed from the shore, with a view of crossing, and while on the way there was a struggle among some of the unfortunate men with the boys who had the management of the vessel, for the supremacy of the oars: in this they succeeded, but in their awkward attempts to evade the

*The following is a description of the
Ascent of the Balloon, on the 7th of
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power of the tide, they were driven with great violence, so as absolutely to stove in the side of the boat against the chain cable of the Thetis sloop lying in the river, which was waiting for her cargo, and the whole were instantly overwhelmed. Such exertions were made as the lateness of the hour, and the suddenness of the accident rendered available, but only four, chiefly boys, were saved. Among the victims were two fine young women, one of whom was attended by her lover; and it is a singular fact, they were found in one spot, as if determined that even in death they would not be divided; while their ill-fated companions were either lying far from them, or were swept away by the tide.—Sept. 2, the coach manufactory of Messrs. Parry & Truss, for the *fourth* time was burnt down, when the whole building with its valuable contents were entirely consumed: the fire was discovered at three o'clock in the morning, but its origin, like that of the preceding ones, could not be traced to any satisfactory cause. It was strongly suspected to be the work of an incendiary.

1825. At the spring assizes in this year, a cause was tried in the county court, which in its results went to establish the right of strangers to carry on business within the city, without being compelled to purchase their freedom. The action was brought by George Harrison, and John Larden, Esqrs. treasurers of the city of Chester, against Thomas Williams, tanner, for carrying on trade within the city, not being free, and sought to recover the penalty of 5*l.* for the same, being a breach of a bye-law of the corporation, by which they were empowered to exclude persons, not freemen, from trading. The cause broke down after the examination of four witnesses on behalf of the plaintiffs, who, without proceeding further, were non-suited. Since this decision, no attempt has been made to enforce the purchase of freedom, nor is it ever likely again to be attempted. It has always been held, and with much appearance of truth, that the exacting of large sums of money from strangers, previous to their entering into trade, has operated prejudicially to the

prosperity and interests of the city; and if so, it is a subject of speculation, that the practice has ceased to exist.—Early in June, a number of our *No Popery* citizens presented two fine dresses, one to his royal highness the Duke of York, and the other to the Bishop of the diocese, for their determined opposition to the Catholic claims. The duke's present weighed 12lb. and the bishop's nearly as much, and were fine specimens of the staple commodity of the county.—The bill for erecting a new bridge over the Dee, repairing the old one, the removal of St. Bridget's church, and the erection of the new church, passed both houses of parliament in the month of June.—During this year, a new steam packet, called the St. David, plied between Chester and Bagillt, for the conveyance of passengers and luggage. The vessel was built principally by tradesmen, and was held in shares: Mr. Sarsfield, a lieutenant in the royal navy, was appointed to command her. This proved a seriously losing speculation to the proprietors, the receipts proving inadequate to meet the current charges. The packet, however, continued to be employed to its original purpose, and in occasional trips to Liverpool, Bangor, &c. until the month of December the following year, when the *saintly* vessel was brought to the hammer, to the no small loss of the speculating proprietors.

1826. In the spring of this year, the extreme depression of the silk trade in the towns of Macclesfield and Congleton, had thrown half the population into a state of absolute starvation, and so exhausted both parochial and individual funds, as to threaten most disastrous consequences. An appeal to the sympathies of the citizens of Chester being made on their behalf, a charitable ball was decided upon, of which the mayoress, Mrs. Fletcher, and several of the leading ladies in the city became patronesses. On the 4th of May this charitable assembly was held in the assembly-room at the town-hall, which was numerously attended and ably supported. Including donations of 100*l.* from the Earl and Countess of Grosvenor, and 50*l.* from Lord and Lady Belgrave, the proceeds

amounted to upwards of 500; and that there might be no drawback from this emanation of public benevolence, liberal refreshments were furnished at the sole expense of Mr. Fletcher, the mayor, who was also at the charge of lighting the rooms, and defraying the demands of the musicians, of whom there was a most respectable orchestra. The money was remitted to the respective committees in Macclesfield and Congleton, and proved a seasonable relief.—In May, this year, the Chester water-works bill passed both houses of parliament.—A melancholy event, which appears to involve the crime of murder, but which has ever since continued to be wrapt in mystery, marked the conclusion of this year. Early on the morning of the 9th of December, the body of a young man of about twenty years of age, of the name of Thomas Reeves, who had occasionally been employed in different breweries, was discovered in that part of the canal nearly opposite the Phoenix Tower, and not more than about a yard from the shore on the towing path side. On the discovery of the body by some passengers, it was dragged out of the water, and conveyed to Mr. Musgrave's timber yard, where it was a few hours afterwards recognized by the distressed mother of the deceased, who on the first report of such an occurrence, and knowing that her son had not been at home during the night, repaired to the spot, when her fearful apprehensions were realized. The circumstance of a severe wound on the head, the tattered appearance of some parts of his apparel, and above all, the finding his hat upon the walls, at the distance of about eighty yards from the place opposite to which he was found, near to the bottom of Abbey-street, naturally suggested a suspicion, that after a struggle with some murderous villains, from whom he had attempted to run away, he had been thrown over the parapet wall. At this precise place, the perpendicular height from which he must have been precipitated, to the bank of the canal, is from fifteen to sixteen yards, and his being found in the water may well be accounted for, from the certainty that in his fall he must have struck against a projecting rock.

which is about equi-distant between the top of the wall and the ground below, having first lit on the towing-path, and then rolled into the canal. In a close investigation by a coroner's inquest, nothing was elicited that could lead to any satisfactory conclusion as to the cause of the young man's death; but the testimony of one witness, independent of the circumstances above noted, strengthens the suspicion that his end was occasioned by violence: that witness deposed, that at the hour of half-past two on the same morning, while waiting at the door of Mr. Snape's brewery, he observed three men, under very suspicious circumstances, in very great haste, all coming in a direction from the place where the tragical occurrence is supposed to have taken place.—In the month of June, the citizens had another delectable treat in the shape of a contested election for members of parliament, in which Lord Belgrave and the Hon. Robert Grosvenor were the successful candidates. Some part of the proceedings were excessively turbulent, and upon one occasion it was found necessary to call in the aid of the military.

1827. The only incident worthy of recording during this year, was the laying the first stone of that stupendous edifice, the new bridge over the Dec. Of this ceremony the principal object of which will carry down to posterity the spirit and taste of the present age, though it has before been incidentally touched upon, I shall give a detailed account, as it may long remain a subject of interest to our descendants, while this great work of art shall hereafter be contemplated with admiration. At the request of the committee, the Right Hon. Earl Grosvenor was invited to lay the stone, and the 1st of October was the day fixed for the occasion. Soon after eleven o'clock all the schools and clubs of the city were assembled in the Abbey-square, and about half-past twelve Earl Grosvenor arrived at the Exchange, where the corporation were assembled to receive him. His lordship's approach was announced at the May-pole in Handbridge by the sound of the bugle, in answer to which the castle guns fired

nine rounds, and a detachment of the Royal Fusiliers immediately took their station on the elevated ground on the opposite side of the river. The appearance of the military had a most imposing effect, and had the resemblance of a fixed wall. At two o'clock the procession began to move: the schools led the van, preceded by colours and bands of music, followed by the members of eighteen friendly societies, with their respective flags and banners; the corporation, in their habiliments: Mr. Trubshaw, the builder, and Mr. Hartley, the surveyor; the foreman of the works, carrying the trowel on a velvet cushion; the Earl Grosvenor, supported by W. W. Currie, Esq. chairman of the original committee, and the Rev. Prebendary Blomfield, followed by the committee of the commissioners; the whole attended by an immense concourse of people from the city and neighbourhood. While the ceremony was performing, repeated volleys were fired by the military, and from the great guns of the castle, under the direction of Capt. Henderson. The collar-dam which was designated as the place for the stone, was approachable only by a platform of from fifteen to twenty yards from the shore, and the stone itself of the dimensions of 9 feet in length, and 3 feet 6 inches in breadth, was moved forward by a crane, on a tram-road of balks. On the stone being moved, Mr. Trubshaw placed the mortar on the foundation, and his lordship proceeded to spread it on the surface, giving the immense stone the usual three gentle taps. The silver trowel, which was tastefully executed by Mr. Lowe, goldsmith, and engraved by Mr. Dean, had the following inscription upon it:—"With this trowel was laid the first stone of the new bridge over the river Dee at Chester, by the Right Honourable Robert Earl Grosvenor, on the first of October, A.D. 1827, in the eighth year of the reign of his most gracious Majesty King George the Fourth, and in the mayoralty of Thomas Francis, Esquire.—Thomas Harrison, architect; James Trubshaw, builder; Jesse Hartley, surveyor; John Finchett-Maddock, clerk to the commissioners." Immediately after the ceremony, the

Rev. Prebendary Blomfield offered up the following de-
 catory prayer:—"Almighty God, the creator and designer
 of the world, and of all that is therein, we now presume
 to entreat thy blessing upon this undertaking. We ac-
 knowledge that except the Lord build the house, their
 labour is but lost that build it: look down therefore we
 beseech thee, with a favourable eye upon this beginning
 of our work. As thou hast given man the skill to design
 it, give him also the power to execute it, that it may
 stand to future ages the memorial of what great things
 man can do when the Lord's blessing is upon his under-
 takings: And, as whatever tends to the accommodation
 and comfort of thy creatures, contributes also to thy
 honour and glory, accept, we beseech thee, and approve
 our offering. As this first stone is laid in faith, let us
 humbly look for thy assistance towards the completion
 of that which is built thereon; and as this work of men's
 hands will join together those whom the water divides,
 let it be a token to us of that firm fellowship and christ-
 ian charity, in which we should be united together, as the
 servants and children of one gracious Lord and Master:—
 and may the glorious majesty of the Lord our God be
 upon us—prosper thou the work of our hands upon us:
 O prosper thou our handi-work, through Jesus Christ
 our Lord." When the prayer was finished, Lord Gros-
 venor addressed the multitude and said, "After the excel-
 lent prayer which had been delivered, he should trouble
 that great assembly with but a few words.—He only
 hoped that the vast arch about to be raised on the stone
 he had just placed, would be as solid, firm, and perman-
 ent, as he had no doubt it would be beautiful and mag-
 nificent; he also prayed God that he would shower down
 his blessings on the undertaking, and particularly that no
 evil accident might befall any of the persons employed in
 the construction of it." The following coins were now
 deposited in a cavity cut in the foundation stone—namely:
 three half-penny, and penny; silver penny, two penny,
 fourpenny, and sixpenny pieces; shilling, half-crown, and
 six-shilling pieces; a half-sovereign, and a sovereign.

On the plate which enclosed the coins was an inscription, similar in substance to that engraved on the trowel. A salute of twelve guns was fired while the stone was laying, and three volleys by the Fusileers, which, with the sounds of soft music heard at intervals, and the shouts of the assembled multitude, reverberated along the winding banks of Deva, whilst the procession left the site. As it proceeded past the intended new church, the workmen mounted the walls of the rising edifice, and cheered most heartily; and on its way through Nicholas-street, Watergate-street, and Northgate-street, to the Exchange, his lordship and the whole of the procession were hailed with every demonstration of respect and attention—cheering, clapping of hands, and waving of handkerchiefs prevailed throughout the whole line of march. In Northgate-street, the head of the procession opened its columns, and the corporation and commissioners passed through into the Exchange, when the mayor took his seat on the bench, and presented to Lord Grosvenor the trowel—remarking, that he had no doubt his lordship would preserve it as a token of what had just occurred, as well as of the conspicuous part he had taken in laying the foundation of an erection, which would stand as a monument to future ages of the spirited conduct of the inhabitants of the city of Chester. His lordship briefly replied, that he received it with great pleasure, and should keep it not only as a token of what had transpired that day, but as a pledge of the union which subsisted between his house and the city of Chester, which it was his most anxious wish to maintain; and he assured his worship that no exertion should be wanting on his part to further the prosperity of the city of Chester. The festivities of the day were concluded by a splendid dinner at the Royal Hotel.

1828. The summer of this year was remarkable for storms of thunder, lightning, and rain. The last of these occurred on the 25th of June, when a good deal of injury was done in the city and neighbourhood by the electric fluid, and by the flood, which overflowed the low grounds, and did much mischief to the growing crops. And a still

*Stone of the main
Laid 25th June 1828.*

more serious and destructive storm was witnessed on the 24th and 25th of July. During the former day and night, the rains were almost incessant, but on the latter, the descent was so tremendous in the city as to give it the appearance of one unbroken sheet of water. About noon a storm of hail came on, and such was its violence, that considerable damage was done by the demolition of glass. Our streets were literally impassable by reason of impetuous torrents with which they were inundated, and the market people compelled to seek shelter in the different rows. In the course of the afternoon, about fifteen yards of the city walls, situate between Abbey-street and the Phoenix Tower, fell down with a terrible crash, into Mr. Harrison's rope-walk, taking away not only the parapet wall, but the whole of the outside masonry work to that extent, and also the flags on the walking path nearly to half its breadth; the earth beneath having been completely excavated and washed away by the descending torrent. About the same time, and from a similar cause, a portion of Mr. Fletcher's garden wall, on the Parkgate road, shared the same fate. In the evening of Saturday, many of the half-drowned country people who attended our market, and serious obstacles to encounter in returning to their homes, the rising floods in several directions having intercepted their approach to them. At Bache Pool the turnpike road was overflowed to the depth of from three to four feet, and from the strength of the current, which carried away a great part of the wall in front of Mr. Hughes's mansion, the fording the water with a good cart or other carriage was no inconsiderable adventure. A still greater difficulty was opposed to the residents on the Sands, nearly the whole of that flat district being laid under water from below the sluice-house to the extent of what is termed the first *take-in*. On Sunday morning, however, this region presented a still more appalling appearance: at Blacon Point the water was from three to four feet deep, and the lower parts of the dwellings of the farmers were flooded, and it was ascertained by a gentleman who resided on the spot at the

July 24th 1793. A violent storm of rain and hail fell upon the city of London, and the wind blew from the north-west. The rain was so heavy that it was impossible to go out of doors. The hail was so large that it was like a shower of stones. The wind was so strong that it was impossible to stand against it. The rain and hail continued until about midnight, when it ceased. The wind then blew from the south-east. The rain and hail were so heavy that it was impossible to go out of doors. The hail was so large that it was like a shower of stones. The wind was so strong that it was impossible to stand against it. The rain and hail continued until about midnight, when it ceased. The wind then blew from the south-east.

time of the great flood in 1795 (the largest ever known that on this day the waters were several inches higher than at the former period). Every attempt to secure any part of the agricultural produce was perfectly impracticable, nor was it a task of easy performance to save the lives of the cattle, in which it was necessary to employ a boat that had been drawn out of the Dee for the purpose. An immense quantity of hay and other produce were entirely spoiled or washed away. The freshes in the Dee were remarkably great; on the Sunday, a cock of hay, apparently in its original size and form, was seen floating down, upon the top of which were observed two leverets, which had no doubt taken refuge there to preserve themselves from the watery element, when some persons being on the spot in a boat, the little fugitives were rescued from their perilous situation.—On the 30th September, a fire broke out in the oil and drug warehouses of Mr. Thomas Bowers, situated in that section of the city bounded by the lower part of Northgate-street, Eastgate-street, and Werburgh's-street, and near to Pepper-alley. The warehouses were stored with drugs, oils, saltpetre, spirits of wine, turpentine, and other articles of a highly inflammable nature. The fire was discovered about four o'clock in the morning: and when the scene and extent of danger were ascertained, the strongest feeling of alarm and apprehension was created, as it was justly feared, the closeness of the surrounding buildings, the contiguity of another warehouse of a similar description, and the intensity of the flames, endangered the houses and property in the whole neighbourhood. The engines were soon upon the spot, but there being a short supply of water, their operation for some time was extremely inefficient. By six o'clock, the four upper rooms of the larger warehouse, and the whole of the smaller one, with their contents, appeared as one consolidated sheet of flame, ascending in spiral columns high above the surrounding buildings, and illuminating the atmosphere for a considerable distance. The back part of Mr. Bowers's dwelling-house, was not more than three yards from the burning pile.

and Mr. Walker's adjoined it, against the lodging-room - of both of which the flames played with great violence. Two window frames of the former gentleman were half burnt through, almost every pane of glass shivered to pieces, and the curtains of a bed near one of the windows, were once actually in a blaze. Before the roof fell in, the upper floors had successively given way, and the ground floor of the warehouses now sustained the burning mass of the interior of the building. Under these was a cellar, leading to which were a wooden staircase and stairs. In this cellar was deposited a great number of hogsheds of oil, and a quantity of turpentine, &c. &c. and it is easy to contemplate the horrible consequences, if these inflammable materials had been ignited, and added their influence to the already extended calamity. What renders the preservation of these from the flames extraordinary is, that the staircase and stairs were nearly consumed, and that some of the articles just mentioned, were within a yard of the burning materials: and in addition to this, the flooring of the cellars, which was also of wood had not taken fire. To the well-directed energies of the engines on this point of danger may be ascribed this extraordinary and favourable result. About seven o'clock the great object of confining the disaster within the walls of the building was happily accomplished: a part of the walls of the warehouses only remained standing: but all the other closely connected mass of buildings was placed in a state of safety. While the raging element was completing its work of destruction in the rear, and especially during the period of its threatening aspect, the front of Northgate-street presented a picture of desolation and ruin. The persons inhabiting houses and occupying shops contiguous to the fire, were anxiously employed in removing their stocks and furniture. Most of the neighbouring houses apart from the danger, were stowed with various articles: St. Peter's church-yard, the commercial buildings, the White Lion yard, and other vacant places were crowded with preciserous heaps of goods of all descriptions, which, however, were safely guarded by

detachments of the 87th regiment. Before Mr. Bowers's family, or that of any others in the immediate vicinity, were apprized of the calamity, the fire had acquired great power, and they were aroused from their slumbers only to behold the impending danger with which they were threatened. It is hardly necessary to say, that under such terrific appearances the first impulse was to secure the personal safety of each member of every family, particularly the children, the aged, and the infirm; and it is gratifying to say, that this was done without any serious accident, by removing them from the scene of calamity. Among this number, the most interesting instances were those of Mrs. Samuel Jones and Mrs. Podmore, close neighbours to Mr. Bowers, who had each lain-in but a few days, and who, with their little ones, were carefully conveyed to friends' houses, with no other injury than the sudden fright. On inquiry into the origin of the fire, it appeared that Mr. Bowers's family had been washing on the preceding day. There was a boiler in the wash-house which stood immediately under the small warehouse, the latter, on the first floor, communicating with the large one, and the chimney of the boiler ran into the flue above. Although the fire was apparently extinguished on the evening, it seems that some timber in the flue had taken fire during the night, and thus communicated itself to other parts of the building. Mr. Bowers's property was insured, but not to the amount of the injury that was sustained. Some palpable defects in the state of the engines and the supply of water were obvious upon the above occasion,—facts that cannot be too severely censured. This occurrence, however, in connexion with another similar calamity of less magnitude which had happened a few days before, roused the inhabitants to a sense of the necessity of taking precautionary measures to meet with greater efficiency the recurrence of like accidents. A town's meeting was held, several excellent resolutions passed, and a committee appointed, by whom the number of fire-men were increased, a periodical inspection of the engines ordered, and arrangements made

- 1777.—April 10. S. Thorley, executed for the horrible murder of Ann Smith, a ballad-singer, near Congleton. After cutting off her head, he severed her legs and arms from her body, which he threw into a brook; part, however, he actually broiled and eat! He was hung in chains on the heath, near Congleton.
- 1779.—April 16. William Ellis for burglary, and William Lucas, for discharging a loaded pistol at Charles Warren, of Congleton, executed at Boughton.—Oct. 2. Sarah Jones, executed for stealing 26 yards of chintz, from the shop of Mr. Meacock, Chester.
- 1783.—Resolution Heap, and Martha Brown; the former for a burglary at Whaley; the latter for a similar offence at Over.
- 1784.—April 26. Elizabeth Wood, hung for poisoning James Sticker, at Budbury.—May 13. John Oakes, hung for coining.
- 1786.—April 24. Execution of Peter Steers, for the murder of his wife, by poison.—May 6. Edward Hoit, for a burglary at Knutsford.—Oct. 1. Thomas Buckley, aged 20, for a burglary at Chester.—Oct. 7. Thomas Hyde, aged 25, for horse-stealing.—Oct. 10. James Buckley, aged 23, for a burglary in Miss Lloyd's house in Newgate-street, Chester.
- 1789.—Feb. 4. Thomas Mate, for the murder of John Parry, a constable, in Handbridge. He was 64 years old, and when at the gallows, he charged his wife, 70 years old, with infidelity.
- 1790.—John Dean, from Stockport, for the most brutal murder of his wife, who was seven months advanced in her pregnancy. He was hung in chains on Stockport moor.
- 1791.—April 21. Execution of Lowntes, for robbing the Warrington mail. His prosecution, it is said, cost £2000. He was hung in chains on Helsby-hill; but the gibbet pole was in a short time after cut down by some people in the neighbourhood, and was not again erected.—Oct. 8. Allen, Aston, and Knox, for a burglary at Northern. Upon this occasion, the fatal tree was removed from the Hows-hill to the opposite side of the road, where it continued until 1801, when the place of execution was finally removed within the walls of the city.
- 1795.—April 30. Thomas Brown and James Price, for robbing the Warrington mail. They were hung in chains on Trafford-green, and remained there till 1820, when the pole was taken down, the place having been previously infested. In the skull of Price was found a robin's nest.
- 1798.—John Thornhill, for the murder of his sweetheart, Sarah Malone, at Lymm.—Oct. 4. Peter Martin, alias Joseph Lanthier, for being at a boat's crew of the Acteon, in the Mersey, when employed on the impost service.
- 1800.—Thomas Bosworth, for forgery, and Alexander Morton, for felony.—Oct. 18. Mary Lloyd, for forgery at Stockport.
- 1801.—May 9. Thompson, Morgan, and Clare, for burglaries.—When near the gallows, Clare made a spring from the cart, rushed through the crowd, which made way for him, rolled down a gutter-way towards the Dee—a rapid descent—and plunged into the river. He was covered, having immediately sunk from the weight of his chains, but his body was found, and afterwards hung up with the others, the other two malefactors being kept in the cart in the interval. These were the last criminals being at Boughton, which had been the place of execution for some

- centuries.—Oct. 3. Aaron Gee and Thomas Gibson, hung out of a temporary window way, in the attics, on the south side of the old Northgate, a building not now in existence. The unfortunate men were propelled from the window about five feet, and dropped near four inches, their bodies beating against the windows beneath, so as to break the glass in them.
- 1809.—May 6. Execution of George Glover and William Frodhouse, in front of the house of correction, for shooting at an officer of excise at Odd Rode. When the drop (used for the first time) sunk, the ropes broke, and the poor men fell to the platform, half-strangled; new ropes were procured, and the sentence was carried into effect about an hour after the accident.
- 1810.—May 2. Execution of John Done, for the murder of Betty Ekersley, a woman of bad character, at Lynn. He denied the offence to his last moment.—Oct. 10. Execution of Smith and Clarke, for a burglary and felony in the shop of Mr. Fletcher, watch-maker, Eastgate. The conduct of Smith on the drop was exceedingly unbending and audacious, and the night before his execution he played at cards with some of his companions. They were buried in St. Martin's church-yard.
- 1812.—June 15. Temple and Thompson for rioting. They were connected with the Luddites.—Aug. 24. Execution of John Lomas, for the murder of his master, Mr. Morrey, of Hanklow.
- 1813.—Edith Morrey, executed for the murder of her husband. She was tried with Lomas, and with him found guilty on the clearest testimony. Immediately after conviction she pleaded pregnancy, and a jury of matrons being impanelled, she was pronounced quick with child and her sentence of course respited till after her delivery. It appeared that an illicit intercourse had for some time existed between her and Lomas, which led to her exciting him to destroy her husband, and the crime was perpetrated with circumstances of peculiarly savage atrocity.—June 26. Execution of William Wilkinson, James Yarwood, and William Burgess, for a rape on Mary Peeter, near Weston Point. They were hanged, and when Wilkinson (a fine stout man about six feet high) mounted the scaffold, he exclaimed to his companions: "Keep up your spirits; never mind, my lads—we are all murdered men; that justice happen as it as I was going to a play!" and when the laiton was placed round his neck, he added, "My new handkerchief fits me nice and tight."
- 1814.—May 28. William Wilson, an old sailor, in his 70th year, executed for arson, at Tiverton, near Tarporley. His exit was most extraordinary: on the morning of his death he entertained a number of persons in the parlour of the constable's house, with an account of his naval exploits; and in his way along the streets to the city goal, he chewed bread in his mouth, and threw it at the bundle, observing he was like Peeping Tom of Coventry. On the drop he said: "What curious people are here to see an old man hang; here's as much mischief done were a hundred to be hanged."
- 1815.—April 22. Execution of Griffith and Wood, for a burglary in the house of John Holme, near Stockport.
- 1817.—May 10. Execution of Joseph Allen, for entering bank of England notes to a large amount. In a declaration made on the morning of his

- execution, he said he had been wrongfully accused, and that he did not know good notes from bad ones. For six days after his condemnation, he took no other refreshment than water.
- 1816.—May 9. Abraham Rostern and Isaac Moors, the former for a burglary at Edgely, the latter for a similar offence at Cleavele Bulkeley. Both of them acknowledged their guilt.—Sept. 26. John Moor, executed for a burglary.
- 1819.—May 7. Joseph Walker, for robbing his former master on the highway between Northwich and Manchester. He denied his guilt to the last.—Sept. 25. Samuel Hooley and John Johnson (a man of colour) for a burglary at Dowden.
- 1820.—April 15. Jacob M'Ghinnes, for shooting Mr. Birch, at Stockport. He was connected with the radical reformers, and his intention was to have shot Mr. Lloyd, then solicitor of that town, and now pretentious of the county court. This unfortunate man had not only embraced the politics but the theology of Tom Paine, but during his confinement, and before his execution, he was brought to embrace the christian system, and died with great composure.—April 22. Thomas Miller, for a burglary at Bowdon.—Sept. 16. Execution of Ralph Ellis, for a burglary at Blon, and William Ricklington, for setting fire to the rectory house at Coddington.
- 1821.—May 5. Execution of Samuel Healey, for a highway robbery at Stockport.
- 1822.—May 4. William Tongue for a rape on an infant, and George Green for a highway robbery on a man named Joseph Kennedy.—Sept. 14. Thomas Biterley, for a highway robbery near Cuddington.
- 1823.—April 14. Execution of Samuel Fallows, for the murder of his sweet-heart, at Disley. Several galvanic experiments were made on his body previous to dissection.—May 29. Execution of John Krugson, for a rape on an infant at Stockport.—Sept. 13. Execution of Edward Clarke, for a highway robbery at Stockport.
- 1824.—April 21. Joseph Dale, for the murder of Mr. Wood, at Disley. He had been convicted at the preceding assizes, but execution was deferred, in order to take the opinion of the judges on a point of law urged in his favour by Mr. D. F. Jones, his counsel. He died with great composure.
- 1826.—April 26. Philip MUGSWAN, for the robbery of Mr. Marsden, a gentleman of upwards of seventy years of age, near Goshwaite-bridge, under circumstances of great violence. On this melancholy occasion, the apparatus for executions, was removed from the east to the west end of the city goal, where these melancholy spectacles have ever since been exhibited.—Aug. 26. John Green, for burglary.
- 1829.—May 9. John Proudlove, for highway robbery, and John Lick, for burglary in the house of the Rev. Matthew Bloor, attended with aggravated circumstances of violence.—Sept. 26. Joseph Woods, for a rape on his own daughter; and Joseph Heald, for taking the keepers, while poaching in the grounds of the Earl of Shrewsbury at Warrington.
- 1832 May 12 James Cunningham aged 34 years for setting fire to Green Hacks, and other property in the town of Sedlington Hall near Sandwich.

The River Dee—Its Navigation.

THE DEE is only partially a Cheshire river. It rises in Merionethshire, runs through Bala Pool, skirts the counties of Denbigh and Flint, and becomes a boundary to Cheshire near Shocklach, and passing by Farndon to Alford, has the county on both sides; thence it runs on by Eaton and Eccleston to Chester. From Bangor bridge it is navigable for barges; at Chester bridge, where it meets the tide-water, it is about 100 yards wide; from thence it passes through an artificial channel along the marshes to the estuary, the latter spreading over an extent of sands, in some parts seven miles in width. The Dee empties itself into the sea much nearer to the Flintshire than to the Cheshire shore, and not far from the Point of Air.

All our ancient authors, who have written on the city of Chester, have attached high importance to the Dee, as affording the greatest facility to its trade and commerce, and as the primitive source of its greatness and renown. In celebrating this river, Webb, in King's Vale Royal, passes the following eulogium:—"To which water no man can now express how much this ancient city hath been beholden; may (I suppose) if I should call it the mother, the nurse, the maintainer, the advancer and preserver thereof, I should not greatly err; for the same river, after that it approacheth the county of Chester, and receives some waters on either side, which makes it take the more state upon it, and to rouse up itself to prepare for meeting with the sea; in which respect, our writers say of it, that it rather rusheth than runneth out of Wales into Chester, and then addresseth itself to the said meeting; even there, where the sea hath determin'd

that creek which shoots in between Flintshire and the west side of Wirral hundred, was founded that beautiful city, and made the receptacle of merchandize from all kingdoms and nations, who traded into the British or Irish ocean, and became the very key or inlet, whereby not only the Romans, in their time, made their passage to and from Ireland, and the other western and northern islands; but all other kings and princes, ever since, upon all needful occasions."

That the Dee was navigable for vessels of great burden from the sea up to Chester in very ancient times, is beyond all doubt; and it is equally certain, that early in the 14th century, the navigation had been materially impeded by the shifting of the sands. The first notice we have of the latter circumstance is contained in letters patent of Richard II. who releaseth to the citizens 7*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.* parcel of the 100*l.* for the fee-farm reserved by the charter of Edward I. which the city was in arrears: in which also is assigned, as the reason of this indulgence, *the ruinous estate of the city, and of the haven.* Henry VI. in confirming all the former charters of the city, recites "what great concourse in times past, as well by strangers as others, has been made with merchandize into this city, *by reason of the goodness of the port thereof,* and also what great trading for victuals into and out of Wales to the great profit of the city;" and then shows, "*how the same port of Chester was lamentably decayed,* by reason of the abundance of sands which had choked the creek; and for these considerations released to the city 10*l.* of the fee-farm reserved by Edward I.* The same reason is adduced by Henry VII. in his great charter to the city for reducing the fee-farm from 100*l.* to 2*l.* 1*s.*"

* This fee-farm rent, or royalty, was reserved in the crown mint, originally from Edward I. to Henry VII. except that upon one occasion it was granted to the Earl of Arundel for his life. This mint was afterwards sold by the crown, under an act of parliament, to Charles de la Gramme, a descendant to the family of the Merdons, of whom it was purchased in 1729, by Sir Richard Grosvenor, whose descendant, the present Earl, still holds it. This fee-farm rent of 2*l.* was annually paid to his lordship by the citizens of the city. Some few years ago, upon one occasion, the sheriff's demand to

An author who wrote early in the seventeenth century, has not only stated the facts as related above, but has also left us his speculations on the causes of the obstruction of our river, in the following quotation :—“ The mouth or opening of this river into the sea lies very bleak upon the north-eastern, western, and south-western winds; and the ground or bottom of the creek is altogether of a loose, light, white, skittering sand, which, upon any powerful drift of wind or water, will give place like drifts of snow, and when a strong wind, at low water, hath opened a gap never so little in one of the huge banks or bars of sands, which have long gathered and increased to be, as one would think very firm and strong, the next tide-water violently rushing into that gap, and the wind continuing for many tides together to add more and more strength to that violence, the channel that was the main passage before will now rake up, as forsaken by the great stream, and the other new made will more and more prevail, until the like vicissitude happen the other way. From whence it is, that these mighty heaps of sand, by continuance of time, brought by fierce and strong winds up into the narrowness of the creek, for which there is no return back again, neither wind nor water being able to recoil them; that the haven which in time past received ships of great burthen up to the city skirts, scarce now hath sea-room for little barques, which only at high-water do bring in their unladings of great vessels from the keys and stations which can receive them, five, six, or ten miles off. And hence it is, that even within these few years there have been such losses and gainings between the shores of Cheshire and Flintshire, near unto this city, that if I should estimate the same according to my own judgment, I should scarcely be believed of such as do not behold them with their eyes.”

The detriment to the city, arising from the obstruction of the navigation, was seriously felt; and it was not the claim, whose scruples, however, were soon removed, by the satisfactory evidence adduced on the part of his lordship. But from some years past, the annual payment of this sum has been made by the corporation, instead of the sheriff.

fill about the middle of the 16th century that even a partial remedy to the evil was attempted. About that period a new quay or haven was erected on the Cheshire shore near Neston, about eight miles from the city, which gave rise to the assemblage of houses called Parkgate, built on the shore beneath that town. In the Harleian MSS. (No. 2082) is a letter from the citizens of Chester to the lord treasurer (the Marquis of Winchester) praying his intercession with the king for a sum of money in aid of their new haven or quay in Wirral, then building all of stone, "in the face and belly of the sea, which would at least cost 5000*l.* or 6000*l.*" In 1560 a collection for the new haven at Chester, was made in all churches throughout the kingdom; and in 1567 there was an assessment for the same purpose on the city. The new haven was at length completed, and for many years, all goods and merchandizes coming to, and going from the port of Chester, were there loaded and unloaded.

The credit of the first suggestion for recovering the navigation of the river, has invariably been given by all our historians to a Mr. And. Yarranton, a gentleman extremely conversant in the commercial advantages of this island, who published a work in which the subject is investigated, in 1677;* and if the question be referred to any *definite* project, I am quite willing to concede the point in his favour. In the mean time, I beg to observe, that the practicability and the desirableness of such a scheme

* The title of this curious book is, "England's Improvement by Sea and Land; to out-do the Dutch without fighting, to pay debts without money, to set at work all the Poor of England with the growth of their own lands." &c. In an address to the reader, appended at the end of his work, Mr. Yarranton thus recites his qualifications for his undertaking:—"I was an apprentice to a linen-draper, when this king (Charles II.) was born, and continued in the trade some years; but the shop being too narrow and short for my large mind, I took leave of my master, but said nothing. Then I lived a country-life for some years, and in the late wars I was a soldier, and sometimes had the honour and misfortune to lodge and disbelly amongly. In the year one thousand six hundred and fifty-two, I entred upon iron-works, and plid them several years, and in them times I made it my business to survey the three great rivers of England, and some small ones, and made two navigables, and a third almost completid."

was intimated more than fifty years before Yarranton's book made its appearance, by the respectable author I have before quoted, a native citizen, Mr. Webb. At all events, the *modesty* and *humility* with which this author introduces his sentiments on the feasibility of restoring the navigation, will not operate to his disadvantage with the candid reader. But I will quote his words:—

“Two things, one of greater, and one of lesser consequence here offer themselves, wherein, if I, silly wretch, the meanest of a thousand, may shew my desire, it may be, I hope, pardonable; and if no notice be taken thereof, it shall not to the reader be much troublesome. The first is, that men of place, judgment and skill, would but a little in their wisdom consider, whether the matter were not as easy, or as likely, as some artists and experienced wits seem to give out, that this haven might be won again to as much advantage of trade or traffick to this city, as ever it was; and that with no great ado, in comparison with those great achievements which have been effected in the havens of Dover, Plymouth, Harwich, and Yarmouth, this being but the turning of a lapid to any of them. And so to the augmentation of his majesty's customs, the honour of the whole kingdom, and especially to the advancement of the prince's highness, this his most renowned and famous earldom of Chester: the particular inducements to which motion, I dare not adventure to open, till better occasions do incite thereunto.—The other is, that the said greater matter of renewing the haven, lying as it doth asleep, and not soon to be hoped to be effected, the worthy citizens of this time would take into their consideration how easily and to good purpose, they may even now provide a better key and dock for entertainment of such vessels as can come up the water to the city, and may do it now, with the gaining clear of a most fine circuit of firm land, to be added to that Rood-eye they have already, without prejudice of any place or person, and without stepping one foot out of their own liberties.”

This is the first suggestion I am acquainted with for restoring the navigation, although it must be allowed there is no specific mode pointed out by which the improvement might be effected. The project, however, seems to have slept until the appearance of Mr. Yarranton's book in 1677, which certainly roused the public attention to the scheme, although it was more than thirty years afterwards before it began to be acted upon. This work is now very scarce, but having, through the kindness of a gentleman of this city, obtained the loan of it, I shall here transcribe what the author has said in relation to the Dee, which, to say the least of it, is curious, if not important.

“Now I must make a step to Westchester, and endeavour to find out how the river Dee may be made so navigable to Bangor-bridge, that thereby it may be made communicable with the river Severne. In the month of July, 1674, I was prevailed with by a person of honour to survey the river Dee, running by the city of Chester to the Irish sea, and finding the river choked with the sands that a vessel of twenty tons could not come to that noble city, and the ships forc'd to lye at *Newson*, in a very bad harbour, whereby the ships receive much damage, and trade made so uncertain and chargeable, that the trade of Chester is much decayed, and gone to *Liverpool*; and that old great city in danger of being ruin'd, if the river Dee be not made navigable by act of parliament, and ships brought to the city. I have formerly drawn a map of the new river to be made to bring up the ships to the city side, which map was presented to the Duke of York, by the Lord Windsor and Colonel Warden, and therein the reasons are inserted, how it may be done, and the advantage it will be to trade, and the city also. The map is now at Chester in the keeping of the mayor. His Highness the Duke of York was pleas'd to promise the recommending of it to the parliament, for the making it navigable. And if it were made to Chester navigable by a new cut, as in the map prescribed, there would be three thousand acres of land gained out of the sea, and

made rich land, besides the coles from Aston will be brought to the city of Chester by water, which now are brought by land, and all goods and other things carried and recarried from England to Ireland, and from Ireland into England, with much less charge than now it is. And Dee being made navigable to Bangor-bridge will be a means to make the river Severne helpful to convey all goods to London, by sending it down the river Severne, and up the river Avon, and so down the Thames to London; whereby much moneys will be saved, and trade advanced. The river Dee must be taken up with a very strong wear over against the Water-gate of the city of Chester, and so the river Dee must be carried in a large cut or trench, through the lauds below Alderman Wright's house,* along the sands, as far as Flint castle, and then dropt by a large cut into the deep water below the Brew-house.† There must also be a cut drawn along the Welsh shore, and so from Aston pits, and dropt into the main trench, thereby the waste water that comes from the hills and mountains will be voided, and the coles that are now carried by land to Chester will then be carried by water, and at least 1000*l.* per annum saved in carriage. This trench must be very large, that two ships may sail one by the other, and the sea-banks must be made very firm and strong, not upright, but very much sloaping. There must also be made five very strong locks and sluices of stone, which is there very necessary, at the end of the trench. This will be done for 15,000*l.* The river Dee being let down upon a sudden through the great trench, will cause the sands to fly, and deepen the channel, and thereby make the harbour safe, and help to open and deepen the bar. But it must be done when the tide is going out, and when the wind bloweth hard at east, with a strong fresh of water coming off the mountains."

To this project is appended a plan of the new channel. Future times had the advantage of his inventive

* Brewer's Shop.

† A building on the Chester-shore near Neston.

genius—though a long interval succeeded before the scheme was carried into effect. It may be observed, that Mr. Yarranton's scheme, and that which has been adopted, are pretty nearly the same, with the omission of the lock, and with this difference also, that Mr. Yarranton's cut was to terminate opposite to Flint, while the present one opens opposite to Wepre, nearer to Chester.

In 1693, Evan Jones brought forward a proposal for making the river Dee navigable, and bringing up ships of a hundred tons burthen to the Roodee, at his own expence, on condition that he should have all such lands as should be recovered, upon payment of the usual rent of recovered lands to the crown, and one fourth of the clear rents or profits to the companies of the city, and that he and his heirs should be entitled to certain duties on coals, lime and lime-stone. This proposal was rejected, on account of the required duty on coals, lime, &c. In 1698, Francis Gell, Esq. made a proposal to the body corporate, nearly similar to that of Evan Jones, with some modification of the duties on coals, &c. and additional security as to the performance of the contract, but without any allotment of a fourth part to the city companies. This proposal was also in the first instance rejected; but upon being a second time brought forward, and a still further security being proposed by Mr. Gell, who offered to deposit the sum of 1000*l.* in the hands of trustees for that purpose, it was agreed to by the corporation on the 16th of October, 1698; a petition was in consequence presented to parliament, and in 1699 an act passed, the preamble of which recited, "that the said river Dee was thentofore navigable for ships and vessels of a considerable burthen from the sea to the city of Chester, but by neglect of the said river, and for want of sufficient banks, works, and fences on the sides thereof, against the flux and reflux of the sea, the channel of the said river was become so various and uncertain, that, by sands and otherwise, the navigation to the said city was almost lost and destroyed; the mayor and citizens of the said city of Chester, and their successors were empow'ered to make

the said river navigable from the sea to the said city of Chester, for ships of one hundred tons or upwards, and to enable them to do so, certain duties in the said act mentioned were laid upon coals, lime, and lime-stone, brought to and unloaded within the liberties of the said city, for the term of twenty-one years, and the property of the sands, soil, and ground therein mentioned, was immediately, from and after such time as the said river and channel should be made navigable and passable with and for such ships and vessels to and from the said city of Chester, to be vested in the said mayor and citizens, and their successors for ever," &c.

It appears, that this attempt for restoring the navigation, undertaken by the *major and citizens* entirely failed in its object: for after expending considerable sums, the scheme was entirely abandoned. From this period, the undertaking slumbered for about thirty years, when it was again revived under more favourable auspices, and with better success. Nathaniel Kinderley, supported by a number of spirited gentlemen, made a survey of the estuary; and declaring for the practicability of restoring the navigation, and rendering it a speculation of profit to the undertakers, provided they should receive certain dues of tonnage, and the profits of the lands to be recovered from the sea, an application was made to parliament for an act, which was obtained in the year 1732, in which these demands were conceded. This act stipulates, that there shall be 16 feet water in every part of the river at a moderate spring tide; and also enacts, that if, when the navigation is completed, it shall be proved that vessels laden with cheese drawing 14 feet water cannot safely pass down the river, Mr. Kinderley, or his assigns shall within twelve months, after notice of this fact given, at their own cost and charges, make a wet dock or basin, capable of holding twenty ships at least, within two miles of the lower parts of the works of navigation; in case of neglect or refusal, the commissioners may order others to do it, and reimburse themselves from the tonnage dues.

The first sod of the navigation was cut on the 20th of April, 1733, by Mr. R. Manley, and the water of the old channel was turned into that of the new in April, 1737. The channel of the river is confined by strong embankments extending about seven miles from Chester seaward, and beyond these by a large stone causeway of about a mile and a half in length from the lower end of the river embankment. This causeway is composed of an immense body of rough stone, at a cost of not less than 8*l.* for every yard of it in length. Vessels of from 250 to 300 tons may now come up to the city with the greatest safety.

In the 14th of Geo. II. (1740) another act was obtained, by which the undertakers were erected into a corporation by the name of "The company of proprietors of the undertaking for recovering and preserving the navigation of the river Dee." In 1736, the joint stock of the undertakers, amounted to 40,000*l.* divided into 400 shares of 100*l.* each; it was subsequently raised to 52,000*l.* and now amounts to 81,000*l.*

In the 17th of Geo. II. (1743) a third act passed, lowering the rates of tonnage, particularly those of cheesc-vessels, from 6*d.* to 2*d.* per ton; the required depth of water in the channel reduced from 16 to 15 feet from the sea to Wilcoxon Point;* the provision for two ferry-boats over the river made more intelligible;† as well as that relative to the roads from the said ferries to Chester,

* This point is situated near the ship-building yard, and opposite the old Lime-kiln, which formerly stood on the Roodee.

† By the act of Geo. II. the passage across the river for passengers on horseback, or for carts or carriages, could only be demanded of the ferry boats, when the river was so deep as that at low water the river was not fordable; a clause so indefinite in its nature as to give rise to constant disputes. To remedy these, it was provided by the act of 17 Geo. II. "that two ferry-boats shall at all times be constantly kept by the company at their own proper costs and charges, with proper and sufficient attendants, and all good, substantial, and effectual ropes, tackle, and necessaries proper thereunto; and that the person or persons attending such boats, shall transport, and receive passengers in the said boats at all times when required thereto, without being paid any thing for the same."

and to Shotwick and Saughall, which are to be kept in repair by the company. The act also directs, that two supervisors shall be appointed, one by the company and the other by the corporation, whose duty is to take soundings, and report the depth of water to the commissioners; and it is also directed, that if there be less than 15 foot of water in every part of the river at a moderate spring-tide, according to the standard then in being,* from the sea to Wilcox-point, notice thereof is to be given to the company's agent; and if it continue for four months unremedied, tonnage duties to cease, till the depth be obtained; and if for the space of eight months after the four months, the commissioners are authorised to enter into and upon the white sands, lands, grounds, &c. and receive the rents and profits thereof, until they obtain a sum that will enable them to regain the said depth of water, with all the requisite charges, &c.

By a fourth act of 26 Geo. II. (1752) the company are directed to pay 200*l.* annually for ever to Sir John Glynne, his heirs, &c. and other freeholders of the parish of Hawarden, for the waste lands, commons, and salt-marshes on the north side of the new channel.

Having now disposed of the various acts of parliament relative to the company, I proceed to remark, that the first embankment to inclose land, was formed in a straight line beginning at a point of the river immediately opposite to Sandycroft mark, and ending on a point on the Cheshire shore about midway between the two Saughalls. This embankment was destroyed by a high tide, and abandoned in the year 1749. Of the subsequent exertions of the company in the recovery of land from the

* The standard, by which a moderate spring-tide was to be determined, has long been destroyed; its existence is not remembered by the oldest inhabitant. All that is known of it is, that it was put up in 1750, and that it was standing in 1753, allusion being made to it in the act passed in that year; it is also referred to in the late Mr. William Griffith's book of soundings, as late as the month of February, 1776.

can, the following statement may be depended upon as accurate:—

In 1754..... were inclosed	1411 acres
In 1763	664
In 1769	343
In 1790	1699
In 1826	371
Total.....	3994

{ The land between the line of the old channel of the river and the Cheshire shore belonging to adjoining land-owners, is included in these quantities.*]

In the early part of this great undertaking, many individuals were seriously injured, and some probably entirely ruined. This is a result of no uncommon occurrence in extensive projects. Embarking the whole, or the greater part of their property in speculative schemes, in which innumerable contingencies are involved, in expectation of speedy and abundant remuneration, thousands of individuals suffer the bitterest disappointment from a total failure of their project, or what is equally ruinous to them, from extreme delay of dividends. From the latter cause, numbers of the original subscribers to the Dee navigation suffered severe losses, some forfeiting the whole of their subscriptions, rather than meet the calls for further advances, and others disposing of their shares at an immense loss. By these defections and transfers, the concern fell into wealthier hands, and the company is now considered to be in a flourishing condition. This, however, must be considered as referring rather prospectively to the income of the company, than to the profits already derived from the capital. The following statement will illustrate this observation:—

The first dividend of 2 per cent. began in 1775, and ceased in 1781; in 1789, a dividend of $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. was paid, and was gradually increased to $5\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. in 1814.

* In consequence of the works of the navigation, between five and four thousand acres of land have been inclosed from the early the first land-owners, holders of the adjoining parish, on the Flintshire side of the new channel of the river.

but has since declined to 4 per cent. So that in 80 years from 1732 to 1831, there have been fifty years without any dividend at all being paid; and for the forty-nine years that dividends have been paid, they have not averaged more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. (not reckoning the loss of interest in the *fifty years*) and the dividend now (1831) is only 4 per cent.

By the act of 6 Geo. II. the qualification of commissioners required each to be seized of an estate of freehold lands, tenements, or hereditaments of the value of 100*l.* per annum; which by a subsequent act was raised to 200*l.* the mayor, recorder, and aldermen of the city of Chester, being commissioners by virtue of their offices; the annual meeting of the commissioners directed to be held at the shire hall, on the first of August. It is a notorious fact, that for a long series of years after the completion of the navigation, the corporation were guilty of the greatest apathy and palpable neglect of their duties. By the act 17 Geo. II. it is directed that the mayor, aldermen, and common council of the city of Chester, and the company shall each respectively appoint a supervisor, and in case of death or removal, the vacancy to be supplied within a month; "And in case the said mayor, aldermen, and common council of the said city of Chester, or the said company respectively, shall be guilty of any neglect in the premises, *they shall for every week they shall not have a supervisor appointed, sworn, and enrolled, as aforesaid, respectively forfeit the sum of FIVE POUNDS.*" Notwithstanding this penalty, and the calls of duty to protect the interests of the city, it does not appear that the corporation appointed a supervisor at all until the year 1799, a period of fifty-six years from the passing of the act. If the whole penalties for this neglect had been enforced, they would have amounted to 14,000*l.*— Soon after the commencement of the present century, a feeling of interest began to be shewn by some of the resident commissioners, who it appears made a representation to the company on the subject of the bad state of the funds

gation. On the 26th of June, 1805, the company agreed to a survey of the river, for which purpose Mr. Dudley Clarke and Mr. Charles Wolfe, two excellent engineers, were appointed. On the 8th of November, in the same year, at an adjourned meeting of the commissioners, on which occasion the late Sir R. Clayton Barr, was chairman, these gentlemen made the following declaration: "The standard has been destroyed, and the standard has within these five years been raised, the accuracy of which has been much doubted." They reported also, that the new standard was one foot seven inches too high, and that when it appeared by that standard the water was nine feet deep from a certain fixed point, it was in reality only seven feet five inches deep.

Since the period I am now speaking of, and especially within the last half dozen years, the annual meetings of the commissioners have been numerously attended, and strenuous exertions made to urge the river Dees company to increased efforts in giving the river *depth* to the navigation.* What has given a still greater interest to these meetings, was the avowed purpose of the Cheshire land-owners to open a communication between that shire and the town of Liverpool, by the lower ferry, by which the circuitous route through Chester would be rendered unnecessary, and the increased tolls arising from the erection of the new bridge avoided. It was more than surmized, in the first instance, that a bridge across the Dee at the lower ferry, was contemplated, to facilitate this object. This project met with the most vigorous opposition from the resident commissioners, a injurious

* It may be stated, as the principal cause of the late state of the river, that from forty to fifty years ago the company were in the habit of complying with the requisition of the land-owners to dig out the channel, in order to discharge the profits of the sale of the gravel, &c. into the river, and to prevent the profits from being taken out of the river, &c. by the land-owners. Mr. Gordon Rogers, and the other gentlemen, who have been already mentioned, were the first to be called upon to do this, and they received considerable damages. In consequence of this, the profits were prohibited, by which the late state of the river was effected, and the company was obliged to have recourse to the land-owners, so as to contract the channel, and thereby to increase the depth.

to the navigation of the river, and essential to the interests of the city, and it appears to have been finally abandoned. In the session, however, of 1629, our Flintshire neighbours obtained an act for making new turnpike roads from the towns of Flint and Mold to the lower ferry, and from thence, on the Cheshire side of the Dee, to the Chester and Parkgate-road, to join the latter at Woodbank-lane. Attempts have also been made to increase the facilities of the ferry for the conveyance of carriages across the Dee; but as these can only be taken over at a particular state of the tide and weather, and when the current is moderate, it can hardly be expected that this route will ever be adopted as the general line for travelling.

But to return to the transactions between the commissioners and the Dee company. At all the various meetings of the commissioners, the same subject of complaint was, that the river was not of the depth required by act of parliament, and that the interests of the city of Chester were thereby seriously injured in its trade. It must be allowed indeed, that the former complaint has been uniformly well-founded, as appears from all the reports of the supervisors, according to their assumed height of a moderate spring tide. As a fair specimen of the general tenor of these reports, the following is the statement of one of the supervisors as the depth of the channel at High water in the shallowest part of the river, at the subsequent periods:—

Year	Month	Day	Depth in fathoms
1800	February	22	17½
	April	9	17
	May	8	17
	July	9	17
	September	18	17
	October	15	17
	December	9	16
1853	February	10	17
	March	5	16

This ratio of the present depth of the river, I have said, may be taken as the average, at a moderate spring tide, in the shallowest part, by which the water may

say publication, which being entirely omitted, the wheel once again fell to the ground. This extraordinary measure created much dissatisfaction in some, and surprise in all, and never received that satisfactory explanation the importance demanded. It has been stated, however, that Gais, an attendant of proceedings was attended by a wish to conciliate the company, who, it was apprehended, might be disposed to lend their imposing influence to the project of the Flashed, he had owners in throwing a bridge over the Dee at the lower ferry, an object then thought to be in agitation, and which, if carried in effect, would have been extremely injurious to Chester, as a thoroughfare between the principality and the town of Liverpool. There is also strong reasons for believing, that other members of the committee expressed a conviction, that the company had not only done every thing which they could do to improve the navigation of the river under Mr. Telford's directions, but that they were well disposed to follow up every other improvement by such further measures as he should recommend. Whether one or both of these suppositions be well founded or otherwise, the withholding the notice from the Gazette completely neutralized all the former proceedings, and if ever the commissioners should see it proper to prosecute their hostile resolution, they must commence *de novo*.

That a safe navigation in the river is of the first consequence to the city, is a fact of undeniable importance, but whether the channel has that depth of water required by the act of parliament, can never with certainty be ascertained, in the absence of the original standard. Nor is it unreasonable that the commissioners should be inclined to enforce the stipulations on the company. On the other hand, it must be admitted, that the company have not been regardless of the complaint, which from time to time have been urged. In the year 1817, the celebrated Mr. Telford was engaged by the company, and has ever since been retained, for the express purpose of exercising his well known abilities in deepening the

channel. The last report of that gentleman laid before the commissioners, states "that the navigation of the river has been maintained uniform and regular since 1826, and at present is in as perfect a state as it is capable of." On the subject of the means employed to deepen the channel, the testimony of Mr. Wedge, the company's agent, a gentleman of undoubted veracity, is entitled to considerable weight. In one of the late meetings of the commissioners, he observed, "that he could most truly and sincerely assure the gentlemen present, and he begged upon Mr. Telford to bear witness to the fact, that Mr. T.'s opinion had been invariably solicited and acted upon, not as to the way in which the company might be benefited, but as to the best means of improving the river; that had been the sole object of the company, in which, during six or seven years preceding 1828, they had expended from 15,000*l.* to 16,000*l.* If any gentleman was not disposed to take his assertion on this fact, he was prepared to confirm it by an oath. It had been asserted that nothing had been done; and that a shilling had not been expended to improve the river; he therefore asked Mr. Telford (continued Mr. Wedge), whether every thing had not been done that he has recommended, and whether he was ever solicited to consult any other object than the improvement of the river?" To these interrogatories, Mr. Telford replied, "I know no other object; every thing has been done that I have recommended."

That Mr. Telford stands high in his profession, no doubt can be entertained; nor can I be altogether disposed to question his veracity or integrity. But still as an individual employed by a party, whose interests stand in concert with those of the resident commissioners, it has always occurred to me as a palpable omission, that the latter have not engaged some eminent engineers to survey the channel, with a view of pointing out the capabilities of improvement, and the means by which, in any, the requisite object might be attained. If it should appear, that the operation of physical forces renders its attainment absolutely impracticable, it must be so, and it may

maintain, to press the company on the subject; or if they did, and that successfully, all the proceeds of the company's property, which they would be empowered to employ, would be expended in vain. On the other hand, should it be made satisfactorily to appear, that by some specific process, the required depth of water might be acquired, then, indeed, a good foundation would be laid for enforcing the act, and the amount of expenditure to the company ought not to weigh as an opposing consideration. In the mean time, the crude opinions of men unacquainted with so difficult a subject, which have been plentifully scattered abroad, ought to pass for nothing.* While it is

* Without offering an opinion on the feasibility of the ordinary plan, I shall here only join a quotation from an old Plan, proposed by the city, who wrote about the year 1607, relative to the Decree. "The means that the celebrated Mr. Smeaton took to deepen Ravigat, (but our time is long expired to me (in conjunction with the driving of piles to confine the stream, if possible, within proper limits) particularly calculated to deepen the bed of the river below the embankment, and likewise to increase the quantity of water in the extended part, and cleanse it when necessary. At the upper end of the harbour he erected an iron pipe structure, which, filled with the flood-tides, and the currents of water, were, by means of sluices, exploded at intervals, against the accumulated sand and mud. This soon produced effects, to which your government had in vain expended many thousands; the harbour was considerably deepened, and has been the means of receiving hundreds of vessels, which otherwise might have been lost on the neighbouring shoals. To obtain this, and many other valuable purposes, I wish to propose to the River-Dee company, to erect a lock with small sluices or valves near the extremity, or perhaps the termination of the new cut. I believe the materials for erecting it, and the prospect for the creation will be found in a harbour creek near this point. At low tide, this creek, vessels would enter at the flood, or any other time of the tide, when there was depth of water enough below the lock to float them into it. Upon the ebb of the tide, the gates being shut, the water above the lock would be retained, so as to form a noble wet dock, extending in a navigable shape in a south-east direction, past the city, as far perhaps as Banpar."†

Whichever credit is due to this speculation, it is certainly entitled to more respect than some other hypotheses that have been advanced. The writer, Richard Tyrwatt, who is deserving of our remembrance, for his zealous exertions in pressing the company to the fulfilment of their engagements, took up a most unfortunate position in his argument, maintaining, "that the merchants, and the laying down of grates, which had been produced in evidence of the company's wish to fulfil their engagements, had had a direct effect of improving, instead of improving the navigation." At the same almost unbroken stream of ratherness upon this theory, the following

fines and forfeitures against all persons using unlawful acts, &c. their jurisdiction extending from Iron-bridge to Arnoldshier.* In former times, say 50 years ago, such

* In ancient times the serjeantship of the river was vested in the Grosvenor family. I have not been able to ascertain what precise period this office was granted, but documents are extant to show that it was exercised by the head of that house in the reign of Edward IV. It appears that subsequently to the grant of Henry the Seventh's charter, the right was still assumed by the family, though afterwards abandoned. Among the Eaton MSS. I find a precept issued by Sir Richard Middleton, of Chirk-castle, and Francis Cholmondeley of Vale Royal, executors of Sir Thomas Grosvenor, and guardians of his son Sir Richard then a minor, relating to the latter this office. This document is dated June 24, 1701, and from which the following are extracts :—“Whereas the office of serjeantship and custody of the said river Dee both belong to us, R. Middleton and Francis Cholmondeley, during the minority of Sir Richard Grosvenor, and all and whatsoever to the said office of serjeantship of the said river Dee in any way belonging, and appertaining,” &c. “ * * * * * Now know ye, that we the aforesaid have constituted, ordeined, and in our place put Robert Brerewood, of the city of Chester, Esq. to be our sufficient deputy in the said office of serjeantship, &c. from the place commonly called the Iron-bridge, above Chester bridge, to the place called Arnoldshier, and to have the custody, &c. with full power for the said Robert Brerewood, his deputies, agents, assistants and servants, to have, hold, use, &c. during the minority of the said Sir Richard Grosvenor, yielding an account yearly of his doings, actings, and proceedings, when and as often as he shall be required.”

In consequence of this appointment, Mr. Brerewood seems to have addressed an order to the stewards of the company or society of drawers in Dee,[†] commanding their attendance upon him on a certain day, to which the following words are added :—“Thus I went with Mr. Edward Warrington, mayor of Chester, who, by the advice of the recorder, refused to sign; on which I sent my own warrant, as I am attorney of the company of the drawers in Dee, commanding them to attend me in the right of Sir Richard Grosvenor, according to ancient custom, which accordingly they all did, many hundreds of people being present at my setting out, and at my return home. A true account of my proceedings is with Cozen Francis Cholmondeley, to be kept with other evidences in the Chancery at London. ROBERT BREREWOOD, 24 July, 1705.”

[†] 10 Aug. 1705.—A particular of my acts and doings.

“I desired the mayor's warrant to command the company of drawers in Dee, that they attend me, but they would not give the mayor's warrant, nor my warrant for the purpose; he desired that the office of serjeant should be changed to the city of Chester, by Henry VII. I made answer that Robert Grosvenor, Dep. of Eaton, had exercised that office in his own right in the reign of King Edward the Fourth, which was long before the entry's pretensions, on which they all were willing I should proceed to execute the said office in the right of Sir Richard Grosvenor; but they consider said it was not convenient for the mayor to sign a warrant, though I showed a warrant written

was the abundance of salmon taken in the river, that a person now living in Houlbridge informs me, he can remember this fish being sold in Chester as low as two pence halfpenny a pound, and seldom more than six pence; and not more than thirty years since, the supply was so great, that after furnishing our own market of the city and neighbourhood, five or six one-horse carts were employed in conveying it for sale to distant places. There are at present about thirty-two oared boats employed in the fishery, which, notwithstanding the advanced price of the article, is much less profitable to the fishermen than formerly; and a still stronger evidence of the diminished quantity of fish is to be found in this fact, that the salmon cage, situated at the south side of the causeway, is now rented at half the sum it was thirty years ago. This reduction in an article of food, which is now deemed one of our prime luxuries, is much to be regretted, and it may also be thought a subject of wonder, inasmuch as there have been more legislative enactments to preserve the salmon fishery than that of any other similar productions. Among the principal causes of this evil, are the following:—1. The practice of using nets, not allowed by act of parliament, particularly in the months of March, April, and May, under pretence of catching sparlings; whereas the object and practice is to take the young fry.

by old George Bullcley, formerly clerk of the Parishes, relating to the service of a warrant myself, being Alderman of the said company. On the 10th I set out from Darwen with five boats, and at the bridge at Chester I was met by all the company's boats, and several of the said boats were able to alack out at sea; but they being contrary, I could not get out of stakes, but got safe at night into Hulton, and three boats only, though we had nine in company when we came from Chester."—"The next and only other assumption of sovereignty by the Grosvenor family took place nearly two years after the above, since which, I believe, no attempt has been made to maintain the right. Mr. Brevint's account of his last excursion is as follows:—"May 23d. 1710. I went down the river, at which time we went down the river Dee, to cleanse the channel from every obstruction, but might be there that might hinder the free passage of the said river, to the right of Sir Edward Grosvenor, Bart. but notice is my going down to my return to Eaton, burnt any nets, stakes, or other obstructions, and a fever. Witness my hand the day and year above written.—RETURNED BY THE GOVERNOR."

—2. Taking the fish during the fence months, that is, between the 12th of August and the 12th November.—3. By placing nets in the mill race, at the bottom of the water, in the months of March, April, and May; and on the passage of the fish from the sea in July, August, and September.—4. In July, August, and September, the salmon fry begin to take the river in great abundance, at from half a pound to a pound and a half weight: a great portion of these are taken in the river between the Lower Ferry and the causeway in nets, the small meshes of which, in the breast and bag are made for the purpose. If these illegal and destructive practices were suppressed, it is believed, that the fishery might be restored to its former prosperity: nor does the remedy appear impracticable. The law already allows the seizure of nets of improper dimensions, as well as of all fish below a certain size, and in certain seasons, besides the infliction of a penalty of 5*l.* upon each offender. The appointment of an authorised person by the magistrates, narrowly to inspect, and vigilantly to apply himself in the detection of offences, would go a great way in suppressing the evil; and what would render this duty the less difficult of execution is this, that the fishermen themselves would be inclined to lend their aid in putting a stop to it. It may be true that the illegal practices are followed by all, but each pursues them because his neighbours do the same, though he is conscious that whatever tends to a premature destruction of the young fry is ultimately injurious to the general interests of the craft. At all events, the importance of restoring the fishery to the public would justify the most strenuous efforts of the magistracy in adopting measures to promote so valuable an object.

* By a clause in what is termed the Drummond's act, the magistrates have a discretionary power to fix the time, number, and general use, which is minutely regulated with the fishery, as soon as the magistrates shall alter the present limits of these rivers, the 1st of December to the 1st of January, they would confer a singular advantage on the fishery.

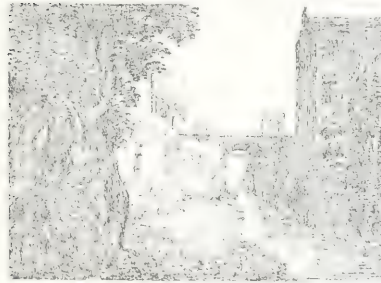
Canals.

NANTWICH CANAL.—Acts 11 and 17 Geo. III.—The general direction of this canal is about south-east for about 18 miles, in the county of Chester; it is not greatly elevated above the level of the sea; its principal objects are the export of farming produce, and the import of coals and lime for Nantwich town, and the surrounding country; it forms a double communication between two points in the line of the Ellesmere canal, at Chester and at Francheaton common. The canal commences in the tide-way in the Dee, in the city of Chester, near to where the Ellesmere canal crosses the same, and terminates at the town of Nantwich; at Stoke, in the parish of Acton, it is joined by the Whitechurch branch of the Ellesmere canal; from Chester to Barbridge, 8½ miles long, with a fall of 40 feet, to Middlewich, near to the Trent and Mersey canal, but not into it. Although this branch, intended for bringing salt to Chester, was not executed, the expenses amounted to 800,000*l.* and the shares became perhaps the most depreciated of any concern in the kingdom, being sold at one time for less than 1 per cent. of their original value. When this project was first entered upon, the good folks of Chester appear to have thought that their fortunes were about to be made: the cutting of the first sod was celebrated by public rejoicings; and almost every one that could by any means scrape together a hundred pounds, was anxious to embark in this golden scheme, by purchasing a share in it.

ELLESMERE CANAL.—Acts 53, two of the 56, 41, 42, and 44 of Geo. III. The general direction of this canal is nearly south for 57 miles by a crooked course through

the counties of Chester, Denbigh, and Salop; its principal summit is considerably elevated above the sea; its great object is the improvement of the agriculture of the extensive and fertile tracts through which it passes, for uniting the Mersey, Dee, and Severn rivers, and exporting coals, lime, and slate from the skirts of the Welsh hills. This canal commences in the Mersey river (nine miles above Liverpool) at Ellesmere-port in Netherpool, and terminates in the Severn, at Bagley bridge, very near to the termination of the Shrewsbury canal. At the s. w. part of Chester city, it connects with the Nantwich canal, and near the same place, crosses and connects with the tide-way in the Dee river. From Francton common is a branch of about twenty-five miles, passing from the town of Whitebarch to the Chester canal at Stoke, in Acton parish, near Nantwich; from which branch, another of about seven miles proceeds from Fee-moss to Pross-beath; from Hordley, on the main line, a branch of near 11 miles proceeds to the line of the Montgomery canal near Llanymynech and the Verniew river; there being from this branch another to the termination of the Montgomery canal at Portywain lime-works near Llanyblodwell. From the Mersey to the Dee (sometimes called the Wirral branch), the distance is ten miles. The depth of water in this canal is $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet, and the canal in general is calculated for boats of 70 feet long and 7 wide; but the Wirral branch is formed for boats of 70 feet long and 14 feet wide. There is a tunnel near Chirk of 775 yards in length, and another at Weston Lullingfield of 487 yards in length. At Pont-cysyllty, this canal is carried over the river Dee in an immense aqueduct trough, composed of cast iron plates, 20 feet wide, 6 feet deep, and 320 feet long; this is supported on 19 pair of conical stone pillars, at 52 feet asunder, and the middle ones 125 feet in height. At Chirk is a very large stone aqueduct bridge of ten arches, 200 yards in length, and 65 feet high over the George river; and over the Wilton river there is a stone aqueduct bridge. This canal is fed from the Dee river by the Llandisilio branch, and that river is compensated by

a cut from Bala-pool; and, all springs within two miles from this canal may be taken for its use. Near Rumbon one of Rowland and Co.'s balance locks was, in 1797, tried on a 12 feet fall, for saving water. The engineers employed on this extensive work, were Messrs. William Jessop, Thomas Telford, John Fletcher, and Thomas Dadford. The most considerable progress was first made at the northern end of the line, and in February, 1796, flats laden with coals began to arrive at Chester from the Lancashire collieries by the Wirral branch, and soon after convenient passage boats were established, for the regular conveyance of passengers towards Liverpool or back, on lower rates than are charged on the Bridgewater canal, according to distance. In January, 1797, the navigation was continued to Beeston-brook; and in the same year the southern end of the line was opened from Shrewsbury to the Weston-Lullingfield tunnel. The company are authorised to raise 500,000*l.*, the amount of shares being 100*l.* which at this time (1831) are about 25*l.* below par.



THE BRIDGE OVER THE NANTWICH CANAL ABOVE
NORTHGATE

reign there was a great exportation of cheese for the use of the Roman armies, in which this county doubtlessly had the greatest share. The imports were the spices and other luxuries of the east, procured either from Venice, or afterwards from the cities of Pisa and Amalfi, the magazines of the precious Asiatic commodities. Cloth was brought from Flanders and linen from Germany, reliques and ecclesiastical finery from Italy, the staple of superstition. Rich armour was another considerable article; for war and religion created in those ages the most important commerce of the state. The warriors and the sainted images were the beaux of the time; the crimes of the former were supposed to be readily expiated by prostration to the latter; and acceptance was announced by the priest in proportion to the value of the offering. France and Spain supplied them with wine; and the discovery made towards the north by Onbere, under the direction of Alfred, gave us furs, whalebone, feathers, walrus' teeth, and other articles from that cold region. Martins skins are twice mentioned in the Doomsday book among the imports of Chester. Ireland might also supply them with furs, and several other commodities; this being the channel of communication on this side of the Kingdom, and the great mart for the Irish commodities. A sensible but uncouth poem, about the year 1430, published in *Hakluyt* i. 199, gives us a list of its articles of commerce:—

Hides and fish, salmon, hake, herrings,
Irish wooll, and linnen cloth, foldings,
 And warters goed be her marchandis,
 Hertes hides and other of venerie.
 Skins of otter, squirrel, and *Irish* hare
 O' sheepe, lambs, and foxe, is her chaffare,
 Felles of kiddes, and conies great plenty.

It is certain that Chester has long been a celebrated port. It appears to have been a station for the Saxon navy, and frequently the seat of the court of the Mercian kingdom, both during the heptarchy, and after it became a province at the general union under Hyber.

From what has been already advanced, it may be concluded that the commerce of the port of Chester must have been very inconsiderable, from the 15th to the 18th century, in consequence of the impracticability of the navigation of the Dee. In the reigns of Queen Elizabeth, James I. and the beginning of that of Charles I. the principal trade seems to have been in calves skins. In the first of those monopolizing times, the queen grants one Arthur Balsano a licence to export 6500 dickers a tender of calves skins, ten dozen to every dicker, for seven years, paying five shillings per dicker. James I. granted to James Maxwell, Esq. a licence to export 10,000 dickers for the same duty, and for twenty-one years, and this was afterwards confirmed to him by Charles I.

In 1771, the foreign trade of Chester seems to have been at its meridian, since the restoration of the channel; in that year was entered at the custom-house, 55 vessels inwards from foreign parts, and 246 entered outwards. The following table, commencing with the year 1776, will shew how great the decrease of our foreign trade was within six years afterwards, and its continued state from the latter period up to the present time. The number of coasting vessels entered in the above year (1771) inwards 297; outwards 526. The table below will shew an amazing increase in this branch of commerce. The importation of Irish linen into Chester, at our Midsummer and Michaelmas fairs, was formerly very extensive, and a large hall being erected, containing upwards of a hundred shops for vending that article, drew purchasers from all the surrounding country. This trade began about the year 1736, in which 440,654 yards were imported. The importation continued to increase till 1786, at which period it was at its height, and in which year the quantity brought in was 1684 packs; 11 chests; 988 boxes; 20 bales; 16 cases; 6 parcels; and 8 bundles; making altogether more than 100,000 pieces, or upwards of 5,000,000 of yards; in 1796 only 582 packs and 908 boxes were imported into Chester, and in 1806 only 327 packs and 936 boxes. From the latter period, the

direct importation has been regularly diminishing, and has now totally ceased.

Comparative State of the Trade of Chester from the year 1776 to 1830.

[Communicated by the Comptroller of the Customs.]

TRADE OF CHESTER.	1776	1783	1790	1823	1830
Coasting vessels entered inwards	209	241	206	434	786
Do do outwards	619	454	492	1326	1972
Ireland inwards	140	48	32	28	61
Do outwards	104	103	51	160	155
Isle of Man and other foreign ports outw.	3	13	1	19	8
Do inwards	4	23	15	46	30
Number of ships in foreign trade be- longing to this port	22	3	6	5	3
Do coasting trade	13	25	17	67	74

But perhaps nothing will serve to exhibit the increased trade of the port within late years so forcibly as the following statement:—

	E.	s.	d.
In 1813, the annual receipts of the port were	7021	16	5½
From the 6th of Jan. 1823 to 6th Jan. 1829	24919	6	3½
From the 6th of Jan. 1829 to 6th Jan. 1830	24652	5	3½

Notwithstanding the increase of vessels employed in the port, it will be seen, from the above table, that it is chiefly in the coasting trade; that of the foreign being very inconsiderable. This shews the absence of that commercial genius of the inhabitants which so eminently distinguishes our neighbours across the Mersey; yet the port extends on the Cheshire side of the estuary, as far as the end of Wirral; and on the Flintshire, to the Vôr-ryd, or the mouth of the Chvyd. This, properly speaking, is only a division of the great port of Chester, which reaches one way as far as Barmouth in Merionethshire, and another way to the extremity of Lancashire. In those tracts are several other ports, all subordinate to the comptroller of Chester; and even Liverpool, in the patent, is styled a *creek of the port of Chester*. The dependent eldred has long since outgrown the ancient parent.

* In the year 1665, the shipping of this port was increased nearly as, according to an estimate in that year's return: it appears consequently

Manufactures.

From the earliest era, of which we have any records, it is clear, that one of our principal local manufactures was that of dressing the skins and hides of animals. Thus in the translation of a transcript I have given out of the greater Doomsday-book (*vide vol. i. p. 125*), *martens skins** were known as an article of consequence in the time of Edward the Confessor. A great portion of our early imports consisted of large quantities of kid and lamb-skins from Leghorn and other parts of Italy, which were dressed here, and then manufactured into gloves. The dressing of sheep and calf-skins also formed a large branch of manufacture. Such, indeed, may be considered the staple of the place, and gave rise to that immense pile of warehouses and work-shops on the borders of the river, known by the name of *Skinner's-street*. In this description, however, must also be included the tanning trade, which was carried on here to a great extent, and which seems to have had its seat principally on the north side of Foregate-street. *Horn-lane*, (now called Steam-mill-street) is said, with great probability, to derive its name from the number of the *horns* of beams which were there piled together, and formed a kind of fence or boundary on each side of the road. It may also be noticed, that in digging foundations for houses on the opening of

vessels belonging to that port was only 12, and they were employed by 75 men; and the number of berks belonging to the port of Wall was, on the Cheslin-shoek, was 3, and which employed 14 seamen. In 1700, the number of ships belonging to Liverpool was 34; in 1720, or 180; in 1796, or 224; in 1798, the number had increased to 606, which number has since been more than doubled. In the year 1724, the amount of the excise duties was only £381, in 1807, they amounted to £92,531, and are now upwards of £400,000. The increase of population and prosperity in Liverpool with that of the commerce of the town. In 1565, the number of the householders and taxpayers was only 156, which, allowing seven persons to a house, would make the number of inhabitants 1092. In 1700, the population was 3200; in 1730, it had increased to 11,000; and according to the census of 1821, (an interval of 90 years) the population of Liverpool amounted to 170,472.

* This animal is a large kind of weasel, and so called, because its skins were long used, and consequently to have been obtained by *martens*.

Seller-street, a great number of tan-pits were discovered. Both these branches of manufacture have greatly declined, particularly the former; there is now no direct importation of the Italian leather, and the dressing of it, as well as the glove trade, have chiefly migrated to Worcestershire. The remains of the skinning trade are now in the hands of Messrs. W. and T. Topham, and Messrs. Rogers and Pover; and the whole of the workshops and warehouses principally occupied in the branch have been pulled down, the site of which is to be encircled by the city walls, in order to enlarge the precincts of the castle. The tanning trade, though much reduced, is still carried on to a considerable extent.

Ship-building has been carried on at Chester for many centuries, for which there are capacious yards situated on the border of the Dee, near the house of industry, and which are the property of the corporation.* During the late war, several vessels of war were built here, carrying about 24 guns each, and merchant ships have been launched of 500 tons burthen. In the *Magna Britannia*, published in 1810, Messrs. Lysons offer the following complimentary tribute to this branch of our manufacture: "There are now more ships built at Chester than at Liverpool, they being in great estimation among the merchants at that and other principal sea-ports of England and Scotland, as particularly well-founded, and in the mariner's phrase *sea-worthy*." The ship-yard is at present occupied by Mr. Mulvey and son.

On the north side of the old canal, nearly opposite to Boughton, are situated the extensive lead-works of Messrs. Walker, Parker, & Co. which employ a great number of hands. In these works are comprised a patent shot manufactory, which is carried on in a circular tower of brick, 150 feet high, considered a very perfect building of the kind; and also a large red and white lead manufactory, in which the steam engine, the steel rollers, and every part of the machinery, are formed upon the most improved principles. Another shot manufactory, but of less extent, and of more recent erection, is in Commonhall-street.

built by the late Mr. Mellor, but now occupied and carried on by Mr. Ellis. Here also we have some respectable iron foundries, paper mills, roperies, and several extensive tobacco and snuff manufactories, the latter furnishing a commodity of superior quality, with which the greater part of North Wales and the adjoining counties are supplied. There was formerly a very extensive manufacture of tobacco pipes at Chester, established upwards of two centuries ago; these pipes were esteemed the best in Europe, and about fifty years ago, were exported in great quantities to foreign countries; pipes of a peculiar sort, called *hog-pipes*, being shorter than those in common use, were made for the Guinea trade; the home consumption trade now only remains, and that in a diminished state. The editors of the *Magna Britannia*, published in 1720, speak of the trade of Chester, as having been much augmented by the industry and ingenuity of a colony of Dutch, who had then lately settled there. I cannot discover any trace of such a circumstance, nor do any Dutch names appear in the parochial records of that period. It is not improbable that the Palatines were meant, for it appears that many of those distressed foreigners who sought a refuge in England in the year 1709, remained in this kingdom, and some of them are known to have resided at Chester, in St. John's parish.

During the reign of Edward the Confessor, there were seven mint masters in Chester, who annually paid 7*l.* during the time their mints were at work. Chester was one of the six cities in which mints were established during the reign of William III. The goldsmiths of the city were incorporated in 1700, and had the authority of parliament to elect an assay-master. The gentleman who now fills the office is Mr. John Walker, goldsmith.

From what has been said, it will be seen, that although some of our staple manufactures have left the city, we have still several extensive establishments, which furnish employment for the working classes; and notwithstanding the fashionable complaint, that we have lost our trade, and with it the source of our prosperity, yet there

are incontrovertible evidences which shew that Chester still maintains its station for wealth and consequence. In fact we can boast of some as opulent traders perhaps can be found in more celebrated towns of enterprise, and many of our shopkeepers may be ranked among the most respectable of the kingdom. The progressive increase of the population, with a corresponding accumulation of dwelling-houses are no less indicative of the prosperous condition of the city. The census of 1801 gives our population at 15,152, and that of 1821 at 19,929, making an increase of 4797 persons, or nearly one-fourth in twenty years; and there is very sufficient reason to believe, that within the last ten years, our numbers have been augmented beyond this increased ratio. Another proof of improvement may be found in the extended intercourse of the city with other parts of the kingdom, and in its enlarged condition as a thoroughfare for travellers. This fact cannot be more forcibly elucidated than by the following—

Comparative Statement of the Number of Coaches leaving Chester daily in the years 1800 and 1831:*

Places.	In 1801.	In 1831.	Number of Horses.	Wheels.
To London	2	5	4	1
Manchester	1	4	3	1
Liverpool	2	6	5	3
Strewsbury	1	4	3	1
Walspool	0	2	2	0
Holywell	1	2	2	0
Wrexham	0	1	1	0
	<u>7</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>6</u>

Besides the above, there is also a daily communication between Chester and Liverpool, by the packet from

* At a period somewhat earlier, the means of travelling were still more circumscribed. About the year 1760, a stage coach from the north of England to London, passed through Warrington every week. It was customary for travellers from Chester not to expect to go to Warrington on Saturday, but to be ready to set out in the coach on three o'clock on Monday morning, and the passengers considered themselves fortunate if they arrived in London before the following Saturday evening. The roads were therefore, particularly between Warrington and Holbeck Chapel, that the coach was drawn by six, and occasionally by eight horses.

