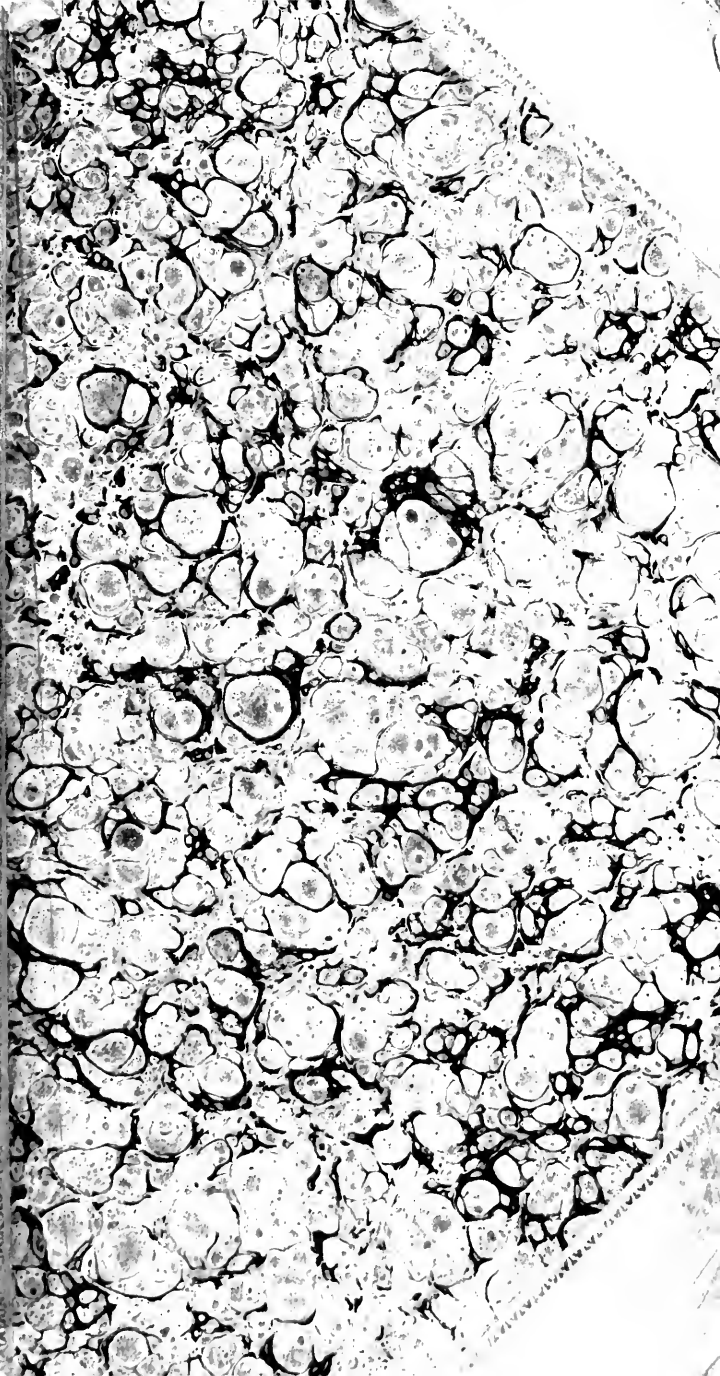
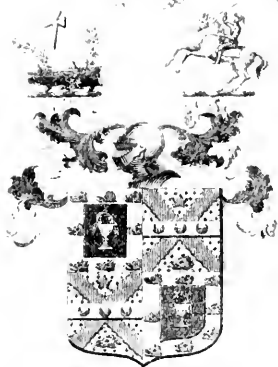


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LONDON

The Great Exhibition of 1851



TALLIS'S

ILLUSTRATED LONDON,

IN COMMEMORATION OF

THE GREAT EXHIBITION

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Forming a Complete Guide

TO

THE BRITISH METROPOLIS

AND ITS ENVIRONS.

ILLUSTRATED BY UPWARDS OF TWO HUNDRED STEEL ENGRAVINGS FROM ORIGINAL
DRAWINGS AND DAGUERRETYPES.

With Historical and Descriptive Letter-press,

By WILLIAM GASPEY, Esq.

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JOHN TALLIS AND COMPANY,
LONDON AND NEW YORK.

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TALLIS'S ILLUSTRATED LONDON.

PRELIMINARY CHAPTER.

LONDON is upon the eve of a great national festival, surpassing in importance all former celebrations, more valuable from the impressions it will leave, and, in its nature, peculiarly adapted to display the appropriateness of selecting the British capital to be the emporium of the world's industry. The popular idea of bringing into one common centre, and placing together in friendly competition, the various creations of human ingenuity, the combined results proceeding from the action of mind upon matter, as exhibited in the manifold productions of the nations of the globe, emanated from a Prince—the august consort of her Majesty. In other times, and in other countries, rarely has royalty condescended to promote a popular movement, still less to originate a plan to develop the mental capacities and industrial resources of the people at large. This Prince Albert has done; he has done more than this—he has rendered his elevated position subservient to his wish of doing good; he has availed himself of his high rank to enforce attention to a project fraught with benefit to the English public, and

giving advantageous prominence to ability, mental and manual, irrespective of creed, colour, or country. And this design, so comprehensive in its bearings, has been cordially responded to by all classes of the community, who have freely given their co-operation, pecuniary and otherwise, to carry into effect the philanthropic views of the Prince. The Grand Exhibition of the Industry of all Nations, of which London is to be the stage, in the spring of 1851, will indeed render the metropolis a point of attraction, to which thousands, from the European and remoter continents, of every faith, and of every shade of opinion, will resort, to witness the centralization of those labours which denote the intellectual advance of the world, and the ascendancy of science and letters, where barbarism and ignorance once prevailed.

To the intelligent foreigners and others who, thus called together, visit the metropolis of England, the locality of the exhibition, no less than the exhibition itself, will suggest much for wonder—more for contemplation. London, a monster city, presenting to the sober eye of common sense more real marvels than all the fabled prodigies with which the poets loved to invest the cities of antiquity, in itself a world with a population exceeding that of many petty kingdoms, the most glorious temple of civilization, offers a theme too interesting to be cursorily passed over by the stranger. Its history, political and social, its institutions, its edifices, venerable from time, or famous from association, will excite his interest; and to describe the same in a consecutive form, and within moderate com-

pass, is the object to which the present publication is devoted

London, ever varying in its features, ever increasing in extent, affords to the historian a theme of which the novelty can never be wholly exhausted. That STOWE, MAITLAND, PENNANT, and other chroniclers have traced the rise and progress of this mighty city, constitutes no sufficient reason why it should not again and again be made the subject of historical research, and minute description. On the contrary, the interest of a topic recommended by the authorities just named, will be heightened by any additional elucidation of which it may be found susceptible. Few readers will complain of satiety of detail, when the annals of a capital, which may be called the queen of cities, are submitted to them in a form hitherto unattempted, and at a price calculated to insure universal circulation. The publishers are ambitious of rendering this work unquestionably the most profusely illustrated, the most comprehensive, and the cheapest History of London ever issued from the press.

In its compilation and arrangement, the best, and frequently exclusive, sources of information will be resorted to, and a full, faithful, and interesting record given of the metropolitan city of the empire, from the remotest periods to the present time. The stirring events of which it has been the scene—the important charters which have added to its influence—the municipal bodies that have matured its strength, and augmented its wealth—the religious, philanthropic, commercial, and learned institutions which

establish its social pre-eminence over other capitals—the public buildings and works of art which represent its magnificence and taste, and the worthies from whom it has received distinction—all will be perpetuated in “TALLIS’S ILLUSTRATED LONDON.” And in order to impart more effectually a correct idea of the magnitude, and the superb edifices of the British metropolis, the publishers have, at a great cost, engaged artists of eminence to furnish graphic representations of whatever is most deserving of notice in London and its tributary neighbourhoods. The letter-press, thus aided and rendered more significant by the choicest labours of art, will impart to those unacquainted with, and residing at a distance from, London, more accurate notions of its grandeur and dimensions than has been supplied by any previous publication.

In conclusion, the proprietors desire to impress earnestly upon their friends and the public, that this edition of the History of London will, both as regards the getting up and the price, merit universal patronage, and be no unworthy contribution to the Grand Exhibition of the Industry of all Nations.

CHAPTER I.

STRESS is frequently laid upon the impressive signification of a particular word; perhaps there is no word more comprehensive in its character, more interesting in its development, and more indicative of the progress of national power and national industry than the dissyllable, London. The hieroglyphic inscriptions on the pyramids are said to record the territorial greatness, and the pre-eminence in learning and art, for which, in ancient days, Egypt was renowned; but what pyramid—were there no other means of communicating with posterity—would be a sufficiently expansive tablet whereon to perpetuate the wonders of London in 1850? London, and its suburbs, with which it is connected by outlets from every point of the compass, forms a city of stupendous magnitude, exceeding in extent any other capital, and containing according to the most recent estimate of the registrar-general, upwards of 270,000 houses, and 2,172,386 souls; while the facts that in 1845, its customs receipts exceeded £11,000,000; and that in 1846, there entered into its port 32,607 vessels, forming a vast total of 5,049,594 tons, establish it as the first commercial city in the world. A trading centre to which all the products of industry, native or foreign are brought, where labour of every description finds its most remunerative and most permanent market, the residence of the court, the seat of the legislature, the hall of justice, the shrine of art, and the home of letters, London necessarily abounds in attractive features which it will be our agreeable duty to delineate.

Reserving its by-gone history for subsequent researches, we shall perambulate its localities, and avail ourselves of every possible conveyance, aquatic, atmospheric, and equestrian, to travel not merely through the town, but to those places which, though beyond its civic limits.

may be considered its dependencies. We shall make shipping excursions, go over the chief manufactories, visit the docks with a tasting order, pay fees to vergers for liberty to enter St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey, ascend the Monument, stroll through the exhibitions, lounge at the operas and theatres, dream of the white and red roses in the Tower, make a call on the Bank, and drop in (we hope) to the hospitalities of Guildhall and the Mansion House. Then the parks—from Victoria, in the far east, to St. James's, famous for its palaces, and to Hyde Park, equally famous for its equipages; with Kensington Gardens, where promenading and military orchestras constitute the enjoyment, and the Zoological, Horticultural, Vauxhall, and other gardens, or fine-weather resorts, will pleasantly beguile our summer leisure. As loyal subjects, we cannot do less than pay our respects to Windsor Castle, not overlooking, on our way thither, Chiswick, Kew, Richmond, Hampton Court, and other picturesque situations through which the Thames, as yet unpolluted and innocent of offensive residuums, winds its silvery course. Returning to London, we shall progress in a contrary direction, and search for relaxation in that emporium of shrimps, tea-gardens, and bathing-machines—Gravesend. We shall make some stoppages *en route*, especially at Greenwich, famous as the abode of royalty in other days, and as the birth-place of Queen Elizabeth; celebrated, also, for its hospital, its park, and that ichthyological delicacy, which both fills the hotels and the guests—whitebait. Again, we must pause at Woolwich, a military depôt and nursery, in which the genius of war seems to abide; inspect the arsenal and dockyard; and satisfy ourselves how efficiently the defences of England are maintained, and what ample provision is made against the aggressions of envious or ambitious neighbours. Re-entering the boat, we are soon transported to Gravesend, especially sacred to the recreations of the Londoners, who delight, amid its rural and artificial charms, to obtain for a season a respite from the wear and tear of money-



getting, and to give themselves up, unrestrainedly, to promenades on the pier, airings on the beach, climbing up the hills, descending into the valleys, and bathing in the streams of this most proximate of watering-places.

We have said enough of our intentions: it now behoves us to render them practical, and to set out forthwith upon our contemplated survey, leisurely noting what is most worthy of observation. As a starting-point, let us begin with our national cathedral, St. Paul's, which, towering above the neighbouring spires, seems, with its majestic dome, the presiding genius of London; and, by its sacred character, to impress on the beholders, before all things, the pious supplication embodied in the city motto—
"Domine dirige nos."

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

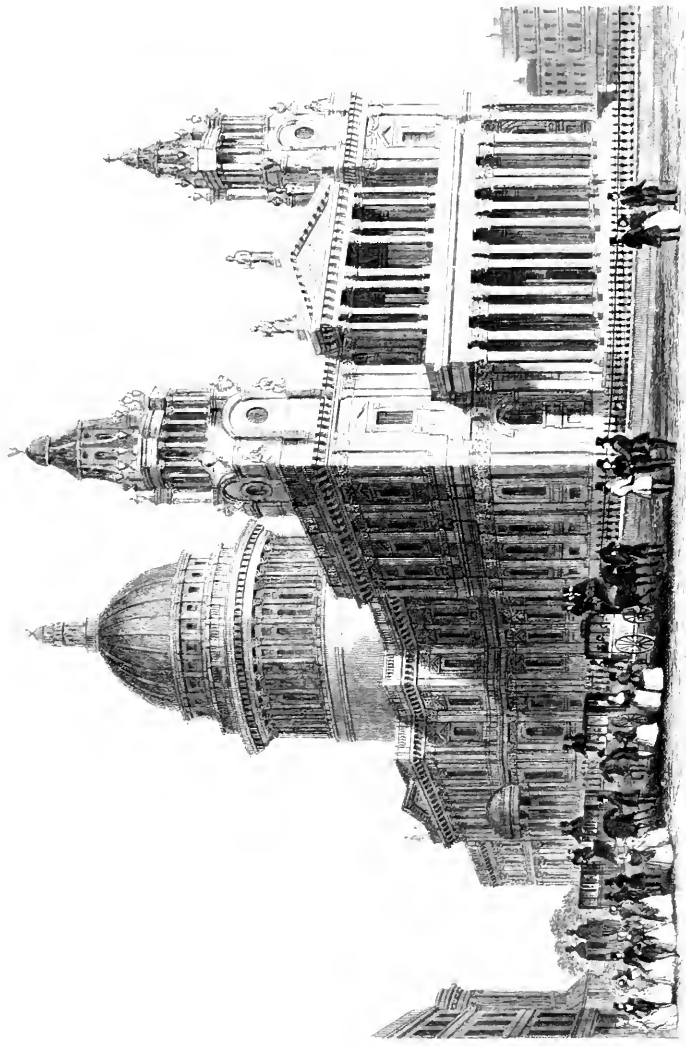
The central site upon which this magnificent temple of religion is placed, has been, from time immemorial, appropriated to devotional purposes. The *chef-d'œuvre* of Sir Christopher Wren occupies the same spot upon which have arisen and disappeared several churches in the lapse of ages. A vague tradition prevails, that a temple of Diana once stood on this eminence; but Wren refutes this idea altogether, and believes that the first church erected on this spot was a Christian one, built in the time of the Romans; and, in confirmation of his impression, states, that while seeking for the foundations for his own design, he met with those of the original semicircular chancel of the old church. They were composed of Kentish rubble-stone, elaborately worked, and united with very hard mortar, in the Roman mode, much surpassing the superstructure. This (the first) church is believed to have been destroyed during the persecution in the reign of Dioclesian: by Constantine, the friend of the Christians, another edifice was raised, and this met the same fate as its predecessor, at the hands of the Saxon infidels. Again, a church to St. Paul was raised in 603, by Sebert,

a tributary prince, under the auspices of Ethelbert, king of Kent, the first Christian king of the Saxon dynasty. Ethelbert endowed the cathedral by charter, with revenues for its maintenance, and, at the request of St. Augustine, nominated Melitus first bishop of London. Erkenwald, the son of King Offa, and fourth prelate, in succession, from Melitus, beautified and enriched the cathedral at his own cost. In 1086, when a great part of the city of London was consumed by fire, this church was burnt.

Bishop Mauritius undertook the restoration of the cathedral, upon a more magnificent and extensive scale than had been hitherto attempted, and to defray the expense thereof from his own revenues. Neither Mauritius nor his successor, De Belmeis, each of whom held the diocese for twenty years, lived to see the building completed, such was the grandeur of the design. The first had the ruins of the Palatine Tower granted to him as materials for the building; and Henry I. gave to the same prelate part of the ditch belonging to the Tower, which, with the purchases made by himself, enabled him to circumvallate the whole. Henry also exempted from toll every vessel bringing stone for the church; gave to Mauritius "all the great fish taken in his precincts, except the tongues;" and finally secured to him and his successor the tithes of all his venison in Essex.

In 1221 the steeple was completed. The subterranean church of St. Faith, anciently called *Ecclesia Sancta Fidis in cryptis*, was commenced in 1257. It was situated at the west end of Jesus Chapel, under the choir, and which was used as parish church for Paternoster-row, St. Paul's-churchyard, part of Ivy-lane, Warwick-lane, Queen's Head-court, and other places. Upon the suppression of Jesus' Chapel, the parishioners of St. Faith were, in 1551, permitted to remove into the under-ground church; and it continued a parochial place of worship till the destruction of the cathedral by the great fire.

The undercroft, as these kinds of edifices were named, contained several chantries and monuments. Henry Lacie,



earl of Lincoln, who died in 1312, formed what was called the New Work, at the eastern end, in which were the chapels of our Lady and St. Dunstan. In the latter of these was the sepulchre of this nobleman.

The chapter-house, adjacent to the south transept, was circular, and supported by four central pillars, of more elegant Gothic than the remainder of the pile. This projected into a most beautiful cloister, two stories in height. On the walls of a cloister on the north side of St. Paul's, called Pardon-church-haugh, was painted the Machabre, or Dance of Death. It pourtrayed a long train of men, of all classes, from the Pope to the humblest of human beings, each figure with Death for his partner, the pale phantom shaking his remembering-glass. Farther to the west, adjoining the south side, was the parish church of St. Gregory. One of the towers above, ornamenting the western front, was the bishop's prison, or Lollards' tower; and was, we are told by Pennant, the scene of many a midnight murder.

The style of old St. Paul's was a most beautiful Gothic. Over the east end was a superb circular window; and from the central tower there radiated a lofty and elegant spire.

The dimensions of this noble church, as given in 1309, were as follow:—the length, 629 feet; the breadth, 120; the height of the roof of the west part, from the floor, 102; of the tower, 260; of the east part, 188; of the spire, made of wood, covered with lead, 27 ft. The entire area occupied by the ancient cathedral was three acres and-a-half, one rood and-a-half, and six perches.

The nave was sustained by clustered pillars and circular arches, in the style retained by the Normans, after the conquered Saxons; the galleries and windows of the transepts were also finished with rounded arches. The screens to the choir, and the chapel of the Virgin Mary, were Gothic; the former was adorned with statues on each side of the door, presented by Sir Paul Pindar.

The ancient cathedral, like the present one, was renowned as the burying-place of the illustrious dead.

John of Gaunt, and his first wife, Blanche, were here entombed, a magnificent shrine arising over their ashes, which was destroyed by the barbarous fanatics of Cromwell's time. The learned and liberal Dean Colet, who nobly consecrated his large fortune to the erection of St. Paul's School, in honour of the infant Jesus, for the instruction of one hundred and fifty-five scholars; the magnanimous Sir Philip Sidney; the great Walsingham, who died so poor that his friends were compelled to steal his remains into their last home, lest they should be arrested by rapacious creditors; and many other worthies of Britain were enshrined and entombed here. The monument of Dr. Donne, the wit, the poet, and divine, deserves especial mention. According to Pennant, the dean, not long before his death, attired himself in a shroud, placed his feet on an urn fixed on a board exactly of his own height, and, shutting his eyes like a departed person, was drawn, in that attitude, by a skilful painter. This sombre piece he kept in his room till the day of his death, the 31st of March, 1631; after which it served as a pattern for his tomb.

Our sketch of old St. Paul's must not be dismissed without referring to some of the most interesting reminiscences of its history.

The high altar glistened with jewels and gold, the presents of the numerous worshippers. John, king of France, when almost a voluntary captive in England, upon first making homage to St. Erkenwald's shrine, offered four basins of gold. On the day of the miraculous conversion of the tutelar saint, the charities were immense, first to the souls, when an indulgence of forty days' pardon was given; and by order of Henry III., 1,500 tapers were placed in the church, and 15,000 poor people fed in the churchyard.

The precincts of Old St. Paul's acquired an unenviable notoriety as the resort of thieves and profligates of every description, by whom in the night murders and other crimes were often perpetrated. To remedy this evil,

Edward I. authorized the dean and canons to wall round the whole, and to erect gates which, closing at night, shut out the disorderlies by whom its sanctity had formerly been profaned. On the north-west side of this enclosure was the episcopal palace; Froissart, in his *Chronicles*, states, that after the great tournament in Smithfield, upon the occasion of the marriage of King Edward III., that sovereign and his consort remained here. To this palace the hapless prince, Edward V., was conducted, as he believed, to assume that crown which was wrested from him by the perfidy of his usurping uncle; here also, in 1591, Catherine of Arragon was brought to meet her first husband, Prince Arthur, and on the 14th of November she was united to him in the cathedral. They held their nuptial banquet at the palace, where they sojourned till the king and queen visited them, and conveyed the royal couple by water from Baynard Castle to Westminster. Opposite to the palace were the dean's house, and the mansions of the prebendaries and canons residentiary. The palace has long since disappeared; only in the page of history do the associations which rendered it famous remain. The residences of the chief dignitaries of the cathedral are still found on the same site, their venerable character, it may be, not enhanced by their close contiguity to the haunts of traffic and the monster establishments of rival linendrapers.

For some centuries the old church of St. Paul's was a common thoroughfare; horses and other animals were taken through it; and like the parks at a later period, it was a spot of assignations, and the lounging place of idle men of the town. This public causeway through the centre of the cathedral, which was unceremoniously used by porters, hucksters and others, who carried their merchandise through the temple of devotion, to save themselves the trouble of making the circuit of the churchyard, was called St. Paul's Walk, and was an exemplification of all the follies of Vanity Fair.

In front of the cathedral was the celebrated Paul's Cross, situated a little to the east of the entrance to Canon-alley. Here the citizens were accustomed to congregate to appoint their magistrates and to discuss on public affairs. In subsequent times, the cross was chiefly made available for proclamations and other proceedings, civic and clerical. A pulpit composed of wood and mounted upon steps of stone, and covered with lead, was attached to it, and in the forenoon on Sundays sermons were preached by eminent divines, which were called Paul's Cross sermons. The court, the municipal authorities, and the chief citizens, resorted here. The royal portion of the company were protected from the weather by covered galleries, and a similar shelter was provided for the superior class of people, but the greater proportion of the congregation were exposed to the open air. When the weather was very inclement, the poorer part of the company retreated to the Shrouds, a covered place abutting upon the church wall. In 1483 the beautiful but frail Jane Shore did penance before St. Paul's Cross, by command of the malevolent Gloucester. At the instigation of the same tyrant, Dr. Shaw and an Augustine friar named Pinke declared from this pulpit, that the children of Edward IV. were illegitimate, and had no claim to the throne. Hollinshed and other old English chroniclers state that Pinke lost his voice in the middle of the sermon, and was compelled to come down, and that Shaw, afterwards struck with remorse and universally contemned, died of a broken heart. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, pious and eloquent ministers were appointed to promulgate from this Cross the doctrines of the reformed religion, and the invalidity of papal influence; the first sermon was delivered on April 9, 1559; and here that envious and revengeful queen tarnished in perpetuity her fame, by employing venal orators to traduce the memory of her once-beloved Essex, who fell the victim of her jealousy and of her vanity. It would exceed our limits to dwell further upon the events of national impor-

tance by which this once famous structure was distinguished.

The cathedral was greatly damaged in 1561, when its noble spire was entirely consumed; some say, by lightning, but others, with more probability, report that it was owing to the carelessness of a plumber employed in repairing the spire, and who left a pan of coals burning near some wood-work, during his absence at dinner, by which this noble ornament was burnt to ashes, and the church otherwise injured. The sacred edifice was restored, but it was no longer graced by a spire. In 1620 Inigo Jones received the commands of James I. to repair the church; nothing, however, was done till the year 1633, when the first stone was laid by Archbishop Laud, and the fourth by Jones. This architect placed at the west end a portico of the Corinthian order, and to the ends of the two transepts he attached Gothic fronts.

A great fire which desolated London, in 1666, swept away in its ravages the ancient cathedral of St. Paul's, and the erection of a new church was entrusted to Sir Christopher Wren, the surveyor-general of his Majesty's works. Two designs, on the second of which Sir Christopher set a high value, were rejected by arbiters of questionable taste, but the third, the plan of the present magnificent temple was adopted. While Wren was adjusting the dimensions of the dome, he ordered a labourer to bring him a flat stone to be laid as a direction to the masons. The man brought by chance a fragment of a gravestone on which the word *Resurgam* was inscribed. This suggested to Sir Christopher the idea of the phoenix, which he placed on the south portico with that word cut beneath. The first stone of St. Paul's cathedral was laid on June 21st, 1675; and the building was completed by him in 1710, in which year the last stone of the lantern on the cupola was laid by Mr. Christopher Wren, the son of the architect; but the whole decorations were not till 1723. Although the church occupied in its construction more than thirty-five years,

it was commenced and finished by one architect, and under one prelate, Henry Compton, Bishop of London. Its entire cost was one million two hundred thousand pounds, part of which was defrayed by a duty on coal. In digging the foundations Sir Christopher found many ivory and wooden pins, by which it is supposed the shrouds of the ancient Britons were fastened. Over these were the graves of the Saxons lined with chalk-stones, or consisting of stones hollowed out; and lower down he found Roman urns and other relics. The foundation of the original church was on a layer of hard and close pot-earth. Wren, on advancing farther, only met with loose sand; at length he reached water and sand mixed with periwinkles and other sea-shells; and by boring came at last to the beach, and under that the natural hard clay, proving that the sea had once flowed over the site now occupied by our national cathedral.

The church being completed in the reign of Anne, the statue of that sovereign in white marble, the work of Francis Bird, was placed at the western entrance, facing Ludgate-hill. At the base of the statue are the figures of Britain, France, Ireland, and America, over *all* of which countries the English monarch long held a titular sway. Mr. Strong was the principal mason employed, and he as well as Wren lived to witness the completion of this stately pile; and Cibber, Gibbons, Bird, and others, were principally engaged on the decorations of the cathedral. Divine service was first celebrated in the new church in 1696, the choir being opened on the 2nd of December in that year, when that eminent prelate, Gilbert Burnet, officiated, William III. and his court being present, the day being famous in the annals of history as one of public thanksgiving for the peace of Ryswick. The Morning Prayer Chapel on the north-west side of the cathedral, was opened for divine service on the 1st of February, 1699.

In 1618, at the advanced age of ninety, Wren was superseded in his office (which he had held for fifty years) by an obscure person named Benson, whose incapacity

soon became so evident that his appointment was almost immediately followed by his dismissal. When Sir Christopher died in the plenitude of years and fame, his remains were honourably interred in the cathedral. A Latin inscription (which we Anglicize) on a marble slab under the organ, near the choir, thus perpetuates the memory of the great architect:—

“Underneath rests Sir Christopher Wren, the builder of this Church and this City; who lived beyond ninety years; not for himself, but for the public good.

“Reader! if you seek his monument—LOOK AROUND!”

The body of the great architect reposes below in the south aisle of the crypt on the spot said to be that over which the high altar of old St. Paul's stood. The grave is covered with a flat stone sunk into the pavement, and bearing this inscription:—

“Here lieth SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN, Knight, the Builder of this Cathedral Church of St. Paul, who died in the year of our Lord 1723, and of his age 91.”

Adjacent are the tombs of his sister, daughter, and daughter-in-law.

The cathedral is built of Portland stone, in the shape of a cross. Over the space where the lines traverse each other is a superb dome, on the summit of which is a beautiful lantern, encompassed by a balcony. The lantern is surmounted by a ball and a cross. There are three porticoes to the church; one facing the west, and the two others in a north and south direction. The western portico is composed of twelve lofty Corinthian columns, above which are eight others of the composite order, sustaining a grand pediment, on which are sculptured the leading events of the life of St. Paul. The grand portico occupies an elevated base, reached by a flight of twenty-two steps of black marble. Over the whole are two campanile towers, the north one serving as the belfry, and the south one enclosing the clock. The portico at the northern entrance consists of a dome, supported by six Corinthian columns, with an ascent of twelve circular

steps of black marble. The pediment over the dome is adorned with the royal arms, regalia, and other ornaments. The southern portico is similar, having for its entablature a phoenix by Cibber. The circumstances which led Wren to adopt this insignium, we have already referred to.

The interior of this edifice is constructed after the plan of the ancient cathedrals; that of a long cross, having a nave, choir, transepts, and side aisles; but in place of the lofty tower, the dome rises in this building in elevated grandeur from the central intersection. The piers and arches which divide the nave from the side aisles are ornamented with columns and pilasters of the Corinthian and composite order, and are further adorned with shields, festoons, chaplets, and other ornaments. The whole pavement of the church is of marble, composed of square slabs, alternately black and white. The altar is paved with the same kind of marble, blended with porphyry, and is enriched with four fluted pilasters, painted and veined with gold. The organ gallery is sustained by eight Corinthian columns of black and white marble, elaborately worked, and an eagle of gilded brass, with open wings, standing on a pillar which is railed round forms the reading-desk. The interior of the eastern end of the church presents much fine sculpture, particularly the cipher W. R., in the compartment of palm branches, and surmounted by the imperial crown, in memory of William III. The cathedral may be regarded as one of the pantheons of England, in which monuments commemorative of the deeds of our noblest heroes and patriots are erected. Among them, those of Nelson and Pitt are the most conspicuous. Prominence is also given to the memorials of Lord Collingwood, Lord Heathfield, Sir Ralph Abercrombie, Sir John Moore, Rodney, Lord Howe, Sir Thomas Picton, General Sir Thomas Dundas, Sir William Jones, Dr. Johnson, and others, who have won celebrity either by the sword or by the pen.

The cathedral is open for divine service three times a day: at seven o'clock in the morning in summer, and

eight in winter; a quarter before ten in the forenoon; and a quarter past three in the afternoon. At other times the doors are closed; but admission may be always procured at the northern door, by the payment of a small fee; and for an additional donation visitors may ascend to the Whispering-gallery, (whence are seen Sir James Thornhill's beautiful paintings representative of the chief events in the life of St. Paul), the gallery above the dome, and see every part of this noble pile. The morning-prayer chapel, on the north side, and the consistory on the south, occupy the respective extremities of the western transepts; these are separated from the aisles by insulated columns and screens of ornamental carved work. The dome is an octagon, composed of eight massive piers, with their several apertures.

The choir is similar in form and style to the body of the church, its east end terminated by the semi-circular apsis, over which are three large windows, and below three smaller ones, richly ornamented. A screen of wrought iron, the elaborate work of M. Tijon, divides it from the nave, and through this screen, entrance is also gained to the side aisles. Over these gates, and sustained by a double range of eight Corinthian columns of blue and white veined marble, is the organ-gallery, profusely decorated with the oaken carvings of Gibbons. The organ, an instrument not to be excelled for fine tone, was manufactured about 1694, by Bernard Schmydt, for two thousand pounds. There is on each side of the choir a range of fifteen stalls, with the episcopal throne or chair of state, near the altar, adorned with sculptured flowers and fruits, and surmounted by a mitre; it is chiefly used when a new bishop of London is inaugurated. Opposite to the prelate's throne is the lord mayor's seat, embellished with the civic insignia. Beneath the organ-loft is the stall of the dean, which is canopied, and covered with ornamental carvings.

The cathedral is the scene of two great annual celebrations; the first is a music meeting held in May, for the

benefit of the orphans and widows of clergymen. In November, 1655, the Rev. G. Hall preached in the then church before the sons of such of the clergy as with their families had been brought to poverty by the parliamentary sequestrations then enforced against non-conformists. The contributions made on that occasion led to the delivery of a sermon yearly for the like benevolent objects, and the founders of the charity were incorporated in the reign of Charles II., and sanctioned to hold an estate not exceeding the yearly value of two thousand pounds, which was subsequently advanced to three thousand pounds. The anniversary solemnizations have been held in the present cathedral since 1697, when a sermon and a grand performance of sacred music are given, and a large amount collected in aid of the funds of this excellent charity.—The second meeting, which takes place in June, is that of the metropolitan charity children, who, numbering from nine to ten thousand, meet beneath the capacious dome of St. Paul's. A temporary scaffolding in the form of an amphitheatre is raised for their accommodation, and the eleemosynary scholars unite in the choral singing incidental to the service. The sittings in the area and along the nave of the church, nearly up to the western entrance, are occupied by the patrons of the anniversary, the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge, and the public. Admission can only be procured to this interesting spectacle by tickets; but to the rehearsal, which is held two days previous to the chief meeting, entrance may be obtained on the payment of sixpence.

The dimensions of St. Paul's Cathedral are as follow :—From east to west, within the wall, 510 feet; north to south, within the doors of the porticos, 282; breadth of west entrance, 100; circuit, 2,292; height within, from centre of floor to the cross, 404; circumference of dome, 420; diameter of ball, 6; from ball to top of cross, 30; diameter of columns of portico, 4; height of ditto, 48; top of west pediment, under figure of St. Paul, 120; top of tower of west front, 287.

To the Whispering-gallery, 280 steps conduct; to the Golden-gallery, 534; and to the ball, 616 steps. The weight of the ball is 5,600 lbs.; that of the cross, 3,360 lbs. The great bell weighs 11,474 lbs.; the clapper, 180 lbs.; the diameter of the bell, 10 feet, on which the hour of the clock strikes; and the quarters strike on two lesser bells below. The great bell was cast in the reign of Edward I., and was placed in the bell-tower facing the gate of Westminster-hall, to intimate the hour of day to the judges in the law courts. It was originally named the "Edward of Westminster," which it retained till the reformation, when its present name of "Great Tom" was given to it. It was presented by William III. to the new cathedral of St. Paul's, and removed from Westminster on the 1st of January, 1699. It has been twice recast since then, each time receiving additional metal. It is never tolled but upon the death of one of the royal family, or the decease of a bishop of London. The length of the minute-hand is 8 feet, its weight 75 lbs.; the hour-hand measures 5 feet 6 inches, and weighs 44 lbs.; the length of the hour-figures is 2 feet 2½ inches, and the circumference of the dial 57 feet. The cathedral and graveyard occupy an area of 2 acres, 16 perches, 23 yards, and 1 foot, and are encompassed by an iron balustrade, composed of 2,500 palisadoes.

The *Chapter House*, on the north side of the churchyard, is a plain brick building, where the convocation of the province of Canterbury assemble, when summoned by the royal writ. At the east end is *St. Paul's School*, a handsome modern building. Dr. John Colet, dean of St. Paul's, and one of the authors of the well-known *Eton Latin Grammar*, founded this school in 1509, for the education of 155 boys, and the Mercers' Company were appointed trustees of the charity. The school is richly endowed, and has exhibitions to the universities. The ancient school-house was taken down in 1822, and the present handsome structure erected in its place. It is fronted with stone, and consists of a centre and wings.

DOCTORS' COMMONS.

South of St. Paul's is Doctors' Commons, situate in Knightrider-street, and extending to Thames-street. It consists chiefly of two squares, and is properly a college for students in the civil and ecclesiastical laws, and contains courts in which those laws are administered; and several offices within the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London. The maritime and ecclesiastical courts held here are the Arches, which took its name—*curia de arcubus*—from having been once kept in Bow Church, Cheapside; the Admiralty; the Prerogative; the Delegates; and the Consistory. In all of these, the business is chiefly transacted in writing, according to the forms of the Roman civil law, by doctors and proctors—synonymous terms with barristers and attorneys. The Admiralty Court takes cognizance of all causes relating to merchants and mariners. The Arches is the principal ecclesiastical court in the kingdom, and here all appeals within the province of the Archbishop of Canterbury are directed; and the judge of this court is called the Dean of Arches. The office of the Prerogative Court is open in winter, from nine till three; and in summer, till an hour later. All wills are deposited here, and are registered from the year 1383. The charge for searching for wills is one shilling each, and stamped copies may be always had upon application.

COLLEGE OF HERALDS.

Immediately adjacent to these courts, on Bennet's-hill, is the College of Arms, commonly called the Herald's Office. It is a brick edifice, having a front facing the street, with an arched gateway, conducting to a quadrangle. The corporation is very ancient, consisting of three kings-at-arms, six heralds-at-arms, and four pursuivants-at-arms, all nominated by the Earl Marshal of

England, and retaining their places by patent, during good behaviour. Pennant says, that their office "is to keep the records of the blood of all the families of the kingdom, and all matters belonging to the same, such as the bearing of coats of arms, &c.; to attend his majesty on great occasions; to make proclamations in certain cases; to marshal public processions, &c. One herald and one pursuivant attend the college daily, in rotation, to answer all questions relative to armorial bearings, &c., &c. The fee for a common search is five shillings, and for a general search, one guinea; the fees for a new coat of arms are from ten pounds upwards, according to the labour employed." The mansion occupied by the heralds belonged to the Earl of Derby, and they were incorporated in the reign of Richard III. During the great fire, the house was consumed, and rebuilt chiefly at the cost of the officers of the college. The three kings-at-arms are severally styled Garter, Clarencieux, and Norroy. The original appointment of Garter was made by King Henry V.; and the office of this king-at-arms is to attend at the installation of the knights of the Garter, and to perform all duties in regard to that order; to marshal the ceremonies at coronations, and the obsequies of princes and the peerage; to take cognizance of the arms of the nobility, and to grant "supporters" to newly-created peers. Clarencieux, the second king, owes his name to Lionel, third son of King Edward III., who, having married the heiress of Ulster, in Ireland, became thereby possessed of the honour of Clare, and was created Duke of Clarence, and he was consequently entitled to have a herald. Edward IV., succeeding to the duchy on the death of his brother, made the herald thereof, the second king-at-arms, by the appellation of Clarencieux. This officer is to marshal funeral solemnities of the nobility south of the Trent, to register families, and keep account of their several coats of arms. The office of Norroy king-at-arms, is similar to that of Clarencieux; but his jurisdiction extends over the north side of the Trent.

as his name implies. "These mock kings," says John Thomas Smith, "were formerly created and crowned by the king himself, but that ceremony is now performed by the Duke of Norfolk, as hereditary Earl Marshal of England, or his deputy."

LUDGATE-HILL—PATERNOSTER-ROW—OLD BAILEY—
FARRINGDON-STREET, ETC.

Leaving the west front of St. Paul's behind us, we enter *Ludgate-street*, the continuation of *Ludgate-hill*, by which latter name, the whole thoroughfare is more familiarly known. It is a broad street of splendid houses and shops, which, for elegance, are inferior to none in the metropolis. Lud-Gate was built during the contest of the barons with King John; in 1215 the former entered the city, destroyed the dwellings of the hapless Jews, and with their houses repaired the city walls and built this gate, which stood in the middle of Ludgate-hill. When Sir Thomas Wyatt had with some loss led his troops through the Strand and Fleet-street, hoping that the citizens would rally around his standard, he found this gate shut against him, and strongly fortified; despairingly he retreated down the hill, and throwing himself on a bench opposite the Belle Sauvage inn, bitterly repented the rash precipitation by which he had suffered himself to be guided. A herald called upon him to surrender, to which he acceded on condition that he should be delivered into the hands of a gentleman, and his terms being agreed to, he yielded himself up, never again to be restored to liberty; and soon afterwards expiated his rebellion by a public death on Tower-hill. Mr. Pennant says that in his memory this building was a wretched prison for debtors. It was pulled down in 1760. Close to the spot where this gate stood is the parish church of St. Martin, Ludgate, upon the site of another, constructed in the year 1437, and rebuilt in 1684.

The once ecclesiastical or rather monkish character of

the immediate neighbourhood, may be inferred from the names borne by several streets and lanes diverging right and left from Ludgate-hill. Among them are Credo or Creed-lane, Ave-Maria-lane, Amen-corner, and Paternoster-row. Ave-Maria-lane, on the north side of Ludgate-street, leads to *Paternoster-row*, the great emporium of the book-trade. It is supposed by some to be indebted for its name to those persons who formerly were makers of paternosters, beads, rosaries, and other external emblems of the Roman Catholic faith. Others believe the name of this and the adjoining streets to be derived from the Romish processions on Corpus Christi day, or Holy Thursday. The members of the procession assembled at that end of Paternoster-row contiguous to Cheapside, thence they marched in a westerly direction, and began to chant the "Paternoster," which they continued through the whole extent of the street, called in memory thereof, *Paternoster-row*. On reaching the bottom of that street they entered into "Ave-Maria"-lane, at the same time commencing to chant the salutation of the Virgin, "Ave-Maria," which they sang until reaching Ludgate-hill; then crossing the way to "Creed"-lane they opened with the chant of the "Credo," which was continued until reaching the spot now called "Amen"-corner, where they sang the closing "Amen." Paternoster-row subsequently became celebrated as a mart for lacemen, mercers, haberdashers, barbers, sempstresses, and other trades, but has been, since 1724, the chief seat of the bookselling business, of which Little Britain was originally the principal depôt.

Several of the turnings in the "Row" deserve a brief notice.

Ivy-lane was thus named from the ivy which clustered on the walls of the prebendal residences which occupied this avenue. No. 3 in this lane was once a tavern where Goldsmith, Johnson, and other celebrities of their day were wont to assemble. The *Spectator* says that the "Hundred Club" was a society composed of very honest gentlemen of pacific temperaments, who used to sit

together, smoke their pipes, and not utter a word till midnight.

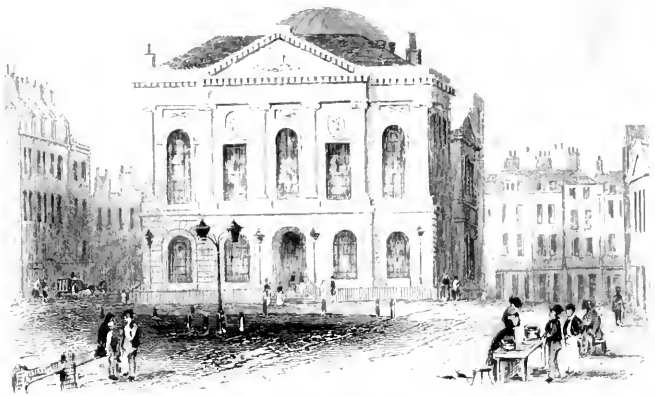
Lovell's-court is erected upon the site of a mansion once the abode of the Dukes of Bretagne, and afterwards of the family of Richard Lovell. In the garden of his friend Alderman Bridgen, a locality now occupied by the premises of Messrs. Rivington, Richardson composed his popular novels of *Pamela* and *Sir Charles Grandison*.

Panjer-alley takes its name from a stone monument erected therein, on which is inscribed the figure of a panuier, across which a naked boy is seated with a bunch of grapes held between his hand and foot. Below is a square tablet, on which this couplet appears:—

“ When you have sought the city round,
Yet still this is the highest ground.
August the 27, 1688.”

Newgate-market occupies an extensive square. It contains a large market-house with clock and bell-turret in the centre. It is chiefly devoted to butchers, poulterers, and salesmen. It has also entrances from Warwick-lane and Newgate-street.

Warwick-lane, one of the chief communications from Paternoster-row to Newgate-street, is named from a house of the Beauchamps, Earls of Warwick, which once stood upon this spot. Cecily, a countess of Warwick, dwelt here in the reign of Henry VI. ; afterwards it became the property of Richard Neville, the famous king-making Earl of Warwick. Stowe describes his coming to London at the famous convention of 1458, “ with six hundred men all dressed in red jackets embroidered with ragged staves, before and behind, and was lodged in Warwick-lane ; in whose house there were often six oxen eaten at a breakfast, and every tavern was full of his meat ; for he that had any acquaintance in that house, might have there so much of sodden and roast meat as he could prick and carry upon a long dagger.” Upon the side of a house at the Newgate-street end, is let in a stone tablet of the famous and almost fabulous Earl of Warwick, resembling



a miniature of him in the chapel of St. Mary Magdalen, in Guy's-cliff, near Warwick. It bears the date of 1668, and the arms and the shield are, *chequé, or, and azure, a chereron ermine*, which were his arms, afterwards *gold*, by the Beauchamps, Earls of Warwick. In this lane is the building formerly occupied by the College of Physicians, now removed to Pall Mall East. It was the work of Sir Christopher Wren, and on the summit of the dome is a gilt ball, which Garth wittily calls the gilded pill. The premises now belong to Messrs. Tylor, braziers, who have appropriated the lower part of them as a kind of supplementary meat market to Newgate-market. Archbishop Leighton died at the Bell inn, in Warwick-lane.

Amen Corner is chiefly inhabited by the canons residentiary of the cathedral. Thence an open square court called,

Stationers' Hall-court, where the book trade is extensively carried on, brings us back to Ludgate-hill. A notice of Stationers' Hall will be found in the summary which hereafter will be given of the city halls and companies.

Scarcely have we emerged from Stationers' Hall-court into Ludgate-hill, before a neighbouring street, the *Old Bailey*, arrests us in our onward route, on which we pause to take a brief survey of a place, the most prominent associations of which are those furnished by the annals of crime. This street, extending from Ludgate-hill to a point at which Giltspur-street, Newgate-street, and Skinner-street converge, took its name, according to Maitland, from Bale-hill, an elevation upon which was built the bale or bailiff's-house, where he held a court for the trial of criminals. On the west side of the street stood Sydney-house, the town mansion of the Sydneys, till they removed to Leicester-house, in Leicester-fields. Subsequently it became the residence of the notorious thief-catcher, Jonathan Wild. On the north side of this street is *Green Arbour-court*, a collection of squalid tene-

ments. At No. 12 in this humble locality, the accomplished Oliver Goldsmith occupied for some time an apartment, in which he is said to have written the *Vicar of Wakefield*, and the poem of *The Traveller*. That profound historian and antiquary, Camden, was born in the Old Bailey.

The principal building in the Old Bailey is *Newgate*, the great criminal prison of the city. It is indebted for its name to one of those gates through which, in olden times, entrance to the city was gained. Early in the thirteenth century the gaol of Newgate was used as a place of imprisonment, and persons of title were incarcerated here long before the Tower was appropriated to their reception. It was rebuilt in 1412, by the executors of the famous Sir Richard Whittington, the Lord Mayor of London; and his statue, with that of the cat, the fabulous and feline source of his prosperity, long remained in a niche in the wall. The gate was destroyed in the great fire of 1666; another one was soon erected with a great arch, and a postern for passengers, and on each side a half hexagon tower. In 1750 that frightful distemper, the gaol-fever, broke out in the prison, and Sir Samuel Pennant, the Lord Mayor, Alderman Lambert, two judges, one of the undersheriffs of Middlesex, several barristers, jurors, and other persons, were sacrificed to its virulence. This fearful pestilence led to some attempt on the part of the municipal authorities to amend the internal economy of Newgate, in which the prisoners were separated as far as practicable, and a better system of ventilation introduced. Nevertheless, the gaol still remained in a disreputable condition, and in 1770 the corporation of London applied to and obtained from parliament a grant of fifty thousand pounds, to enable them to construct an entirely new prison, of which the first stone was laid by Sir William Beckford, the Lord Mayor. Mr. George Dance was the architect under whose direction it was commenced and finished. It was hardly completed, when, in 1780, Lord George Gordon's rioters

burst open the doors, rescued nearly three hundred prisoners, and destroyed the whole of the interior by fire; the massive stone walls alone remained standing, uninjured by the flames. The scene of destruction is ably described by an eye-witness, who says that felons confined even in the strongest dungeons were released; stones of two or three tons in weight, to which the doors of their cells were fastened, were raised. So great was the violence of the fire, that the large iron bars of the windows were eaten through, and the adjacent stones vitrified. Money was afterwards voted by the House of Commons to make the necessary restorations, and in 1782 the existing prison was completed, the cost of its erection having exceeded the original estimate by forty thousand pounds.

Newgate offers an uniform exterior looking west, consisting of two wings, and the governor's house as a centre. Its front occupies nearly one entire side of the Old Bailey, and extends to Newgate-street, of which it forms a corner. A broad court-yard on the south divides the prison from the Sessions-house, where twelve sessions are held in the course of the year, for the trial of prisoners. By a recent act of parliament this court has been called the "Central Criminal Court," and its jurisdiction considerably extended. The business of the session is transacted in three courts, severally named the Old Court, the New Court, and the Third Court. In the first of these the crown judges and the recorder of London preside; and here persons charged with the more serious crimes are tried. In the New Court, offences of less magnitude are adjudicated upon before the common-serjeant; and the Third Court, very recently established, is appropriated to a similar object, and lightens the labours of the session. The Lord Mayor and aldermen of London are also, in right of their offices, judges of the Central Criminal Court. Adjoining the Sessions House is a building, constructed for the accommodation of witnesses in attendance during the trials. It is a colonnade of two rows of Doric fluted pillars, sustaining a ceiling, and entered by

three iron gates. Above are the offices of the clerk of the peace, and other legal functionaries.

The interior of the city prison demands some notice. It contains a neat chapel, to which, when condemned sermons were preached (that is, sermons preached on the Sunday preceding the execution of convicted felons, in the presence of the doomed men), the public were accustomed to resort in great numbers. Some years back, it was deemed expedient to exclude them from these melancholy services, and to allow the last hours of the condemned to be undisturbed by the curious gaze and unfeeling curiosity of a thoughtless multitude. The philanthropic exertions of the benevolent Howard, of the exemplary Mrs. Fry, and others who have followed in the like career of mercy, have gone far to render this prison unequalled in the world for the excellence of its internal arrangements, not the least important of which is the attention paid to the physical comforts and moral exigencies of the prisoners. The gaol is divided into a male and female side, and the several wards present the cleanliness and order of a private dwelling. The allowance of food to the inmates is liberal; they have paved court-yards, in which to walk; and every indulgence is shown to them compatible with their safe keeping; the former exploits of prison-breakers having rendered the prevention of escape one of the chief objects to be considered in the construction of this building. The condemned yard, in which convicts under sentence of death are kept in solitary cells the greater part of the day, adjoins Newgate-street. It is long and narrow; and each cell is nine feet long by six wide. Criminals are executed in front of that wing of the prison called the Debtors' Door, before which the scaffold is erected. Executions take place at eight in the morning; and the condemned, upon leaving their cells, after traversing some gloomy labyrinths, emerge into the kitchen of Newgate, whence they ascend, through a door opening on to the street, to the fatal drop. These melancholy spectacles are

now, owing to the amelioration of the criminal code, of rare occurrence; none save those who have imbrued their hands in the blood of their fellow-creatures undergoing the last dread penalty of the law—making an expiation, with their lives, to outraged justice.

Formerly condemned prisoners were conveyed in a cart from Newgate, along Holborn and Oxford-street to Tyburn, a site opposite the entrance to Hyde-park, where they suffered capital punishment. The remains of Oliver Cromwell are interred upon the spot where Tyburn-turnpike once stood. Robert Dow, a merchant-tailor, who died in 1612, bequeathed the yearly sum of £1 6s. 8*d.*, in perpetuity, to the sexton of St. Sepulchre's, on condition that he should deliver two solemn admonitions to criminals sentenced to die; one to them in the prison of Newgate, on the night before they suffered, and the other on the morning of their execution, as they passed the wall of St. Sepulchre's church, on their way to Tyburn. In conformity with this strange bequest, at midnight preceding the fatal morning, the sexton, provided with a large bell, and followed by men with torches, entered the condemned cell, and after ringing his bell, aggravated, if possible, the affliction of the doomed by an admonition, commencing with a couplet of doggerel rhyme, in which he reminded them of their dreadful fate, and besought them to repent of their sins. On the following morning they were again aroused to a painful sense of their unhappy condition by another exhortation, delivered by the same official, as they passed by the gate of St. Sepulchre's. The lugubrious address opened thus—"All good people, pray heartily unto God for these poor sinners, who are now going to their deaths, and for whom this great bell doth toll. You that are condemned to die, repent with lamentable tears." It concluded with the invocation—"Lord have mercy upon you! Christ have mercy on you!" This well-meant, but, to the sufferers, agonizing formula, has long since fallen into desuetude: probably the tolling of St. Sepulchre's bell, which, till recently, was heard when an execu-

tion was about to take place at Newgate, was a relief of this by-gone ceremonial. Death by the hand of justice is sufficiently awful; the thoughts of the dying should not be distracted by externals, which can serve no other purpose than to make them feel more acutely the appalling position to which they are reduced. Newgate executions are now almost a record of the past; but the associations connected with them remain. The histories of many of those who have suffered here have become part and parcel of our household annals, and the heroes and the victims of the hangman are more familiarly remembered than those who have figured upon a more extensive and a nobler stage. These closing scenes have been witnessed by the multitude, and consequently are more indelibly implanted on their minds than the deaths of glory with which they are only acquainted through the medium of a royal gazette. Newgate has its demigods, its panegyrist, and its poets; but more enlightened days are dawning upon us, and the time is fast approaching when crime shall be expiated in obscurity, and no longer be the theme of vulgar admiration and morbid sympathy.

We return to Ludgate-hill, descending which we reach a point where Bridge-street and Farringdon-street intersect the road, which Fleet-street continues. *Farringdon-street*, a wide and noble avenue, on the right, conducting to Holborn, first claims attention. At its head stands a handsome obelisk, with four lamps, which is a memorial to the late Alderman Waitlman, and a safeguard against carriages to the pedestrian. This street occupies the site of old Fleet-market, which was taken down in 1828. The antecedent of Fleet-market was Fleet ditch, which had its entrance from the Thames, immediately below Bride-well, and extended to Holborn-bridge, at the foot of Holborn-hill. Into this creek flowed the little river Fleet, Turmill brook, and another stream, called Oldbourn, whence Holborn derives its name. It was traversed by four stone bridges, and extensive quays and warehouses were on the side. So useful was it, that it was scoured

and kept open at great cost; and, in 1606, nearly £28,000 were expended upon that object. Eventually this canal became a nuisance, was filled up, and a sewer constructed beneath to convey the water to the river. In 1733, the corporation of London, having determined to erect an official residence for the Lord Mayor, the spot called Stocks-market was selected, and the present Mansion-house erected upon that site. The market was removed, and the Fleet ditch, being walled over, was its new locality. The remaining part of the Fleet ditch, from Bridge-street to the Thames, remained open for more than thirty years afterwards, and was finally covered in when the approaches to Blackfriars-bridge were completed, and Chatham-place arose in lieu of the "muddy and genuine ditch," which Pennant remembers. In a recess on the west side of Farringdon-street, between which and Shoe-lane it lies, is *Farringdon-market*, the successor of Fleet-market; but its concealed situation detracts from its popularity, and the many untenanted shops indicate that as a speculation, it has been far from successful. In form it is a parallelogram, occupying about one acre and a half of ground; three sides of it are appropriated to buildings, shops, standings, &c.; the fourth side is open to the street, from which it is separated by a lofty iron palisading. The central area is 232 feet in length, by 150 feet in breadth, and is principally devoted to dealers in vegetables and fruit, by whom, indeed, the staple business of the market is carried on. From Farringdon-street and Shoe-lane there are several entrances; the chief public accesses are, however, in *Stonecutter-street*, one side of which is formed by the south and open side of the market. Farringdon-market was opened in November, 1829, and the entire expense of its construction and of removing the old Fleet-market, amounted to about £212,000.

On the east side of Farringdon-street a long line of dead wall indicates all that remains of the *Fleet Prison*, which was taken down a very few years since. This

remarkable prison was founded, it is said, in the reign of Richard I., for debtors, and was also a place of confinement for those who had rendered themselves obnoxious to that inquisitorial court, the Star Chamber, and for persons generally, who were convicted of contempt of court. It was under the government of a warder, and had a coroner of its own. Great cruelties were practised here by the chief gaoler and his myrmidons, by whom prisoners for debt were frequently loaded with irons and cast into noisome dungeons. To such a height had these abuses attained, that in 1729 a committee was appointed by the House of Commons to visit the gaol and report thereupon. The result of their enquiries showed that Huggins, the warder of the Fleet, Bambridge, his deputy, and William Acton, turnkey, had been guilty of frightful barbarity towards the unhappy persons who had been committed to their keeping. They were brought to trial, charged with the murder of five unfortunate men who had been in their custody, and whom they had literally worried to death. Beyond being disqualified for again holding those offices which they had so dishonoured, these wretches escaped punishment—that condign punishment which they so abundantly merited. An unenviable celebrity attached to the Fleet Prison, as the scene of impromptu and profligate marriages. Of these, speaking from his own experience, the acute author of *Some Account of London*, says, “In walking along the street in my youth, I have often been tempted by the question, ‘*Sir, will you be pleased to walk in and be married?*’ Along this most lawless space was frequently hung up the sign of a male and female hand conjoined, with ‘*Marriages performed within,*’ written beneath. A dirty fellow invited you in. The parson was seen walking before his shop; a squalid profligate figure, clad in a tattered plaid night-gown, with a fiery face, and ready to couple you for a dram of gin or roll of tobacco. Our great chancellor, Lord Hardwicke, put these demons to flight, and saved thousands from the misery and disgrace which would be entailed by these ex-

temporary thoughtless unions." Malcolm writes, "To such an extent were the proceedings carried, that twenty and thirty couples were joined in one day, at from ten to twenty shillings each;" and "between the 19th October, 1704, and the 12th February, 1705, 2,954 marriages were celebrated. To these neither licence nor certificate were required; and they concealed, by private marks, the names of those who chose to pay them for it." These scandalous excesses were brought to an end by the passing of the Marriage Act, and hymeneal chains were no longer forged in the Fleet Prison. When this building was pulled down in 1846, its inmates were removed to the Queen's Prison, better known as the King's Bench. Farringdon-street ends at a point where Holborn and Snowhill join; it is continued by *Victoria-street*, a new street, forming the opening of a direct road to be made from Holborn to Islington.

Returning to Ludgate-hill, we proceed by *New Bridge-street*, which is now principally occupied by insurance offices, hotels, and a prison for the refractory; although, before the gradual emigration of fashion from the east to the west, it formed part of a royal and aristocratic neighbourhood. The Black Friars, or Dominicans, whose name is perpetuated in this part of the city, came to England early in the thirteenth century. Their priory, in 1250, stood upon the spot now known as Lincoln's Inn, whence, in the reign of Edward I., they transferred themselves to the shores of the Thames, and erected for themselves another monastic residence, upon the site now covered by the buildings on the left side of Bridge-street. There the Dominicans dwelt until the time of Henry VIII., by whom their priory was converted into a palace. Both in the reigns of Henry VI. and Henry VIII. parliaments were held in the Black Friars' Priory. On the latter occasion (April, 1524) Henry somewhat alarmed his subjects by levying the then novel imposition of an income-tax, of no less than four shillings in the pound. The sum which he sought to raise was £300,000; but,

tyrant as that sovereign was, the demand was as stoutly resisted by those upon whom it was made, and was equally unpalatable as was a similar infliction imposed in modern times, not under a despotic, but a constitutional sovereignty; and eventually the tax was reduced to ten per cent., to be paid by those possessing an annual revenue of £20, with a progressive increase of the rate upon all incomes above that average. On the opposite side of the way stood another palace, which time and the tide of fashion have metamorphosed into *Bridewell Hospital*. The ancient palace of Bridewell was erected anterior to the accession of King John, and was partially constructed from the relics of an ancient castle, called the western *Arc Palatina* of the city, which stood upon that small tributary of the Thames, the river Fleet. Although occasionally the abode of royalty, Bridewell Palace does not appear to have been of any great note until that ambitious and luxurions prelate, Wolsey, came by permission of the king to reside here, in 1522. His Majesty, who was endowed with a facility for raising money which must have been envied by his less exacting and more conscientious successors, summoned to this palace all the abbots and other ecclesiastical dignitaries, from whom he obtained £100,000, an immense amount in those days. The Cistercians, who refused to recognise in Henry the head of the church, paid for this contumacy, as the oppressor would name it, or for liberty of conscience, as it would be designated by the oppressed, the exorbitant penalty of £33,000. With a portion of the money thus obtained from the representatives of the church, Henry VIII. rebuilt the palace, in a most magnificent manner, in the space of six weeks (as we are told), for the reception of the Emperor Charles V., who came to England in 1522. The Emperor, however, fixed upon the Black Friars' Palace as his personal residence, while the new palace was appropriated to the accommodation of his suite, a gallery of communication between the two dwellings being thrown across the Fleet, and a passage

cut through the city wall into the Emperor's apartment. King Henry often made the Bridewell Palace his temporary abode; and he was living here when the question of his divorce from Queen Katherine was first contemplated. The trial, which resulted in procuring the accomplishment of the King's wishes, by separating him from Katherine, and leaving him free to marry Anna Boleyn, was brought to a close in the opposite palace of Black Friars, where the actual speech of Katherine, in her defence, and which Shakspeare has done no more than paraphrase, was delivered by that injured princess. After this event the King never lived in Bridewell; and the palace gradually fell into decay, and was granted by Edward VI. to Bishop Ridley, to be employed for charitable purposes. The grant provided that the building should be used as a workhouse for the poor and idle persons of the city of London; and seven hundred marks of the Savoy rent, with the furniture of the hospital of the Savoy, were devoted to its maintenance, in conjunction with the hospital of St. Thomas, in the borough of Southwark. In after years, additional grants were made, to give greater effect to the benevolent views of its patrons, and Bridewell became, not only a place of punishment and reformation for disobedient apprentices and disorderly characters, but an asylum where deserted children were received and instructed in useful employments. In 1666, the great fire of London destroyed the original building: the hospital was rebuilt two years afterwards. Its affairs are controlled by the same committee that manage the Bedlam Hospital, to which it is united, as one of the five royal hospitals of the city. The building in Bridge-street is a house of correction for dissolute persons, idle apprentices, and vagrants: the governors have founded a new house of occupation in St. George's Fields, Southwark, where the honest and industrious poor are liberally provided for, and instructed in occupations, by which they may hereafter earn their own livings.

Bridge-street, is called after *Blackfriars-bridge*, the third

metropolitan bridge erected over the river Thames. It was built after the plan of Mr. Robert Mylne, and the cost of its construction was £152,840 3s. 10*d.* The first stone was laid on October 30th, 1760; and the bridge was completed towards the close of the year 1768. It is built on nine elliptical arches, the central one being 100 feet in width; in length, the bridge is 995 feet; in breadth, the carriage-way is 28 feet; and the two foot-ways 7 feet each. This bridge was partially built, and for a long time sustained, from the proceeds of a toll, for which, on Sundays, a double charge was made.

Every foot-passenger crossing the bridge paid a half-penny, and on Sundays a penny. The toll was purchased by government, and in 1785 the bridge was thrown open to the public. During the "no-popery" disturbances incited by Lord George Gordon, the toll-gates at Blackfriars were burnt down, the rioters expecting that the produce of the tolls would yield them a rich booty. Some lives were sacrificed in consequence, and one unfortunate man who was shot, after running for some forty yards, shrieking with agony, fell dead. To commemorate his statesmanship, the municipal authorities originally intended to call the bridge Pitt's Bridge, after William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, the father of the great minister of George III.; and under the foundation-stone, with the coins, were placed two tin plates, bearing a Latin inscription, eulogistic of the first William Pitt, and stating that the bridge was named after him, "that there might remain to posterity a monument of this city's affection to the man who by the strength of his genius, the steadiness of his mind, and a certain kind of happy contagion of his probity and spirit (under the divine favour and fortunate auspices of George II.), recovered, augmented, and secured the British empire in Asia, Africa, and America, and restored the ancient reputation of his country amongst the nations of Europe." Locality, however, triumphed over civic gratitude, and the bridge took from the neighbourhood its present name of Blackfriars-bridge. New

Bridge-street, the principal approach to the bridge on the Middlesex side, was of course the offspring of the bridge, to which it is linked by *Chatham-place*, a pile of elegant buildings, named after the statesman just mentioned, and which have more faithfully perpetuated his memory than the bridge.

At the head of New Bridge-street is an obelisk in honour of that notorious politician, John Wilkes, immediately opposite to that of Waithman. On the east side of the street is the *Royal Humane Society*, which has for its object the recovery of persons apparently drowned. It was founded in 1774, since which period many thousand lives have been saved by its valuable intervention, and prizes awarded to nearly thirty thousand persons, who have placed their own lives in peril to save others. Ascending towards the bridge several streets on the left-hand side of New Bridge-street conduct to a dim and dreary maze of courts, alleys, and lanes; to many of them, however, classic and literary reminiscences belong. *Union-street* is a wide opening leading directly to Apothecaries-hall, which will be noticed in its proper place. Closely adjacent is *Playhouse-yard*, the site of *Blackfriars Theatre*, which was first erected on this spot in 1576, by James Burbage. Twenty years later it was remodelled, and Richard Burbage and Shakspeare became its lessees. Shakspeare occasionally acted on this stage, on which several of his plays were represented for the first time. In 1655 the theatre was pulled down, but the modern associations of Playhouse-yard are not less worthy of remembrance than the ancient ones; for when winter sets in severely, a refuge is here thrown open for houseless wanderers, who require no other certificate beyond that of want and distress to insure them a good straw bed, a comfortable fire, and wherewithal to appease the immediate cravings of hunger. Within a stone's throw is *Printing-house-square*, of world-wide celebrity, a modern temple of fame, where "the leading journal of Europe" is printed. From this comparatively tranquil nook issues the diurnal

broad sheet of *The Times*, possessing an influence in political, commercial, and social matters to which none of its contemporaries can approach. Unequalled for its sources of information this paper has acquired fame by its early intelligence, and not unfrequently it has the advantage of government in this respect. To give an idea of the vast amount of business which is transacted in London, one need only look during the busy season in the advertising sheet of *The Times*. Mighty indeed is the power of the press—it has been the pioneer of civilization, and the promoter of taste; and through its means the commerce of Britain has been extended to the remotest corners of the earth. *Earl-street* branches from *New Bridge-street* to *Thames-street*. The latter street, one of the most ancient, and formerly one of the principal in the city, we shall duly notice in the course of our wanderings. On the right-hand of *New Bridge-street* are several streets which lead to the Temple, but neither their importance nor our limits entitle them to further mention.

CHAPTER II.

FLEET-STREET—ST. BRIDE'S CHURCH—WHITEFRIARS-STREET
—FETTER-LANE—DUNSTAN'S CHURCH—CHANCERY-
LANE—THE TEMPLE—TEMPLE-BAR, ETC.

MODERN *Fleet-street*, the chief link connecting London with Westminster, is one of the principal seats of retail traffic in the city. Here bankers and hotels abound; but *Fleet-street* is more especially celebrated for its literary associations, past and present. From this locality issue many daily and weekly newspapers of every shade of politics, representing the church establishment, dissent, the turf, the drama, the railway, and other interests.

Not only the street, but the numerous courts, lanes, squares, and streets, of which it forms the arterial centre, contain vast printing establishments, of which the chief is the Queen's Printing-office, in *New-street square*, behind Fleet-street, and between Shoe and Fetter lanes. Fleet-street, it is almost superfluous to mention, derives its name from the subterranean river Fleet.

We will walk along the north side first, as that appears to be the most antiquated portion of the street. Fabian and other old chroniclers represent this to be the principal part of the Saxon city; and that in Ethelred's reign, London had more buildings from Ludgate towards Westminster, and scarcely any, where the heart of the city now is placed. Tradition reports that the ambitious Earl Godwin, the father of Harold, the last Saxon king of England, occupied a palace on this site. *Shoe-lane*, a narrow, black-looking passage from Fleet-street to Holborn, once exhibited a less repulsive aspect. All that densely populated labyrinth of buildings lying between Shoe-lane and Chancery-lane had no existence in the reign of Elizabeth. Then the estate was covered with gardens, with a few cottages scattered about, the two above-mentioned lanes and Fetter-lane intersecting it. In Shoe-lane, the only mansion of consequence, was the town residence of the Bishop of Bangor, which was standing in the reign of Edward III. *Bangor-court*, behind St. Andrew's church, at the Holborn end of the lane, indicates the situation of the episcopal palace. After the restoration the prelates ceased to reside here; the mansion was converted into a lodging-house, and mean houses were erected upon the grounds. It was afterwards entirely pulled down, and a printing establishment now stands upon its site.

In *Gunpowder-alley*, leading from Shoe-lane, Richard Lovelace, the poet, died in a state of penury, in 1658. Between Shoe-lane and Fetter-lane, there are several courts branching from Fleet-street. Of these the most celebrated are *Bolt-court* and *Johnson's-court*, in both of

which the great lexicographer, Dr. Johnson, lived for many years, and *Wine-office-court*, where Goldsmith lodged for some time.

Fetter-lane, a long, narrow communication between Fleet-street and Holborn, was originally called Fewterer's-lane, *fewterers* being a class of lazy disorderly persons who frequented the neighbourhood, and of whom the American *loafers* appear the genuine posterity. The house which Dryden occupied here is still in existence, the *quondam* abode of the muse now assuming the form of a beer-house. The infamous Mrs. Brownrigg, who was executed in 1767, for the murder of Mary Clifford, her apprentice, inhabited a house in Fleur-de-lis-court, looking into Fetter-lane; but this place has been pulled down in order to widen the Fleet-street entrance. Near Fetter-lane stood the parish church of St. Dunstan's-in-the-west, supposed to be more than four hundred years old. The great fire stopped within a few yards of the church on the one side, and only a few houses off the Inner Temple-gate on the other. In the bell-tower of the old church, over the clock, were two figures (said to be of ancient Britons), armed with clubs, with which they struck the hour. In 1831, the old church was pulled down, and the present handsome structure, after the design of Mr. John Shaw, arose. The architect only lived twelve days after the external completion of his edifice, in which the first funereal tablet placed, was that sacred to his memory. An avenue by the side of the church leads into *Clifford's-inn*, the ancient residence of the De Cliffords. It was demised in 1337, by the widow of Robert de Clifford, to students in common law, at an annual rent of £10, and has since remained in possession of the followers of the legal profession. It is also entered from Fetter-lane.

Chancery-lane dates from the time of Henry III., when it was called New-street. Subsequently it was named Chancellor's-lane, and in the reign of Edward I., was so miry and full of holes, that according to Strype, John Briton, the custos of London, had it barred up, and the

thoroughfare stopped to prevent accident, and the Bishop of Chichester kept up the bar for many years. Eventually the lane was reopened and placed in a condition so as to render the passage of vehicles unattended with danger. On the east side of the lane is a handsome modern pile of buildings called *Serjeants-inn*. The ancient inn, upon the site of which the present one stands, was appropriated to serjeants and judges in the reign of Henry IV. It was then called Farringdon-inn, for which its present appellation was substituted in 1484. The exclusive right of serjeants to plead in the Common Pleas was taken away by an act of parliament, passed in 1845. The judges were formerly always selected from this branch of the profession, and whenever a barrister is raised to the bench, he is previously created a serjeant. Serjeant's-inn communicates with Clifford's-inn. We shall have occasion to return to Chancery-lane. *Lower Searle's-place* is the last turning on the north side of Fleet-street: till 1845 it was known as Shire-lane, and was so called because it divided the city from the shire or county of Middlesex. We have now reached Temple-bar, before passing through which, we must take a brief survey of the south side of Fleet-street.

In *Bride-lane*, which communicates from Fleet-street to New Bridge-street, at the east end of the church-wall is a pump, covering the once famous *St. Bride's Well*, after which a parish, a church, a palace, and a house of correction were named. A few steps onward we reach the avenue, whence is seen one of Wren's finest works—*St. Bride's church*, dedicated to St. Bridget, or St. Bride, an Irish saint. The ancient church was consumed by the great fire of 1666, and in 1680 the present noble structure was completed. The height of the spire was 234 feet, but being injured by lightning, it was deemed expedient to reduce it by eight feet. In 1796, the church was thoroughly renovated and beautified by act of parliament. Until 1824, the front view of this church was obstructed by the houses before it in Fleet-street. In

that year a fire breaking out, cleared away these houses, and the city authorities purchasing the ground, the present advantageous opening was made. The poet Lovelace; Wynkin de Worde, the eminent printer of Fleet-street; Sir Richard Baker, author of the *Chronicles*; Richardson, whose novel of *Pamela* caused in its day, a sensation which it has rarely been the fate of modern fiction to create, and others of note are buried here. Milton lodged for some time in St. Bride's church-yard. *Salisbury-square* and the places immediately adjacent, indicate the spot where once stood the palace of the bishops of Salisbury. It afterwards came into possession of the Earl of Dorset, and was successively called Dorset-house and Sackville-house. Deserted by its lordly owners, the mansion and its appurtenances were pulled down, and several streets formed upon the site. The new buildings being levelled by the great fire, a theatre was next erected by Sir Christopher Wren. In Dorset-gardens Theatre, Sir. Wm. Davenant's company, described as the Duke of York's servants, performed; and this stage was one of the earliest scenes of Betterton's triumphs. Before 1730 the theatre had disappeared, and "the boards," were succeeded by a timber-yard. We now approach *Whitefriars*, the principal streets in which are *Whitefriars-street* (formerly *Water-lane*) and *Bouverie-street*. This district, which comprises that collection of streets, lanes, and alleys, in the rear of Fleet-street, between the Temple and Bridewell, took its name from the church and priory of the Carmelites, or White Friars; the former of which stood between the Green Dragon public-house and *Water-lane*. Sir Richard Grey founded the priory in 1211. Many distinguished persons were buried here. When Henry VIII. broke up the monasteries and convents, the priory of White Friars shared the common fate, and the neighbourhood became one of the seats of fashion, retaining, however, the privileges of sanctuary. This led to great evils. Thieves, murderers, and all offenders, except traitors, originally enjoyed immunity from arrest in the precincts of White-

friars; but after the fifteenth century this privilege was extended to debtors only. Affording a refuge to the disorderly, the *soubriquet* of Alsatia was given to it, and all the respectable inhabitants abandoned it as a place of bad repute. *Ram-alley*, *Mitre-court*, and *Lombard-street* were those parts of Whitefriars called Alsatia. Towards the close of the reign of William III. an act of parliament was passed, abolishing all the traditional privileges which Whitefriars had so long abused; and, also, abolishing the sanctuaries of the Savoy, in the Strand; Fulwood's Rents, Holborn; Baldwin's Gardens, Gray's-inn-lane; the Minories; and the Clink, and the Mint, in Southwark. The Mint, however, no act of parliament has been able to purify; the roadmaker and the builder are the only agents by which that place can be divested of its questionable associations.

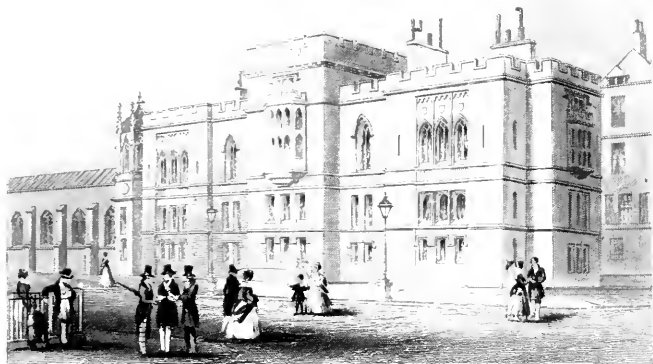
Returning to Fleet-street, we arrive at another *Serjeant's Inn*, a small square, entered from the street through an iron gate. Here the serjeants-at-law dwelt until the inn was destroyed by the great fire. It was rebuilt in 1670, and about the commencement of the present century, the existing court was erected. The site of its hall and chapel is now covered by the offices of the Amicable Assurance Company.

At No. 1, Fleet-street, adjoining Temple Bar, is the banking house of *Child and Co.*, the oldest in London; it having been originated by Mr. Francis Child, a goldsmith, soon after the Restoration. The celebrated *Devil Tavern* was contiguous, where rare "Ben Jonson" and his contemporaries held their literary orgies; the sparkling wit of the dramatist attracting a host of customers to the house, and conferring upon it an enviable notoriety. In subsequent years Pope, Garth, Addison, Dr. Johnson, Goldsmith, and others, contributed to swell the symposium of wits assembling in this tavern, which disappeared in 1788, the present *Child's-place*, 2 broad paved court, overlooking Middle Temple-lane, being built upon the site. Within a few yards of this spot taverns abound: the

Cock, famous for its stout and snug suppers, which was in existence at the commencement of the reign of Charles II., and closed during the great plague of 1665, the host flying to the country to avoid the pestilence, and not returning till its virulence had abated; Dick's Coffee House, a favourite resort of Sir Richard Steele; the Rainbow, and others of ancient date, and literary reputation. At No. 19 is the banking-house of Gosling and Co., the supposed founder of which was Major Pinekey, a goldsmith, dwelling, in 1673, according to the *London Gazette*, at the "Three Squirrels," over against St. Dunstan's Church. The banking establishment of Messrs. Hoare and Co. is at No. 37, and is one of the most superb edifices of the kind in London. An old *London Gazette* states that Mr. Richard Hoare was a banker at the "Golden Bottle," in Fleet-street, in 1693. Amongst the distinguished residents in this street we may name Wynkyn de Worde, the celebrated printer and successor of Caxton, the poets, Michael Drayton and Cowley; the fanatical leather-seller, Praise-God-bare-bones, and Bernard Lintot, and Edmund Curl, the eminent publishers. The principal newspaper offices here are the *Morning Advertiser*, the *John Bull*, the *Britannia*, the *Dispatch*, the *Railway Times*, and the *Sunday Times*.

THE TEMPLE.

This name, now appropriated to one of the principal strongholds of the law, originated with a military and religious order, called the *Knights Templars*, who, devoting themselves to a holy life, established themselves in England in the year 1118, and had, for their first metropolitan residence, the site now occupied by Southampton-buildings, in Holborn. This edifice was called the *Old Temple*; but, as their weight and influence increased, they quitted their early abode to become the inmates of a more splendid establishment, erected opposite New-street, now Chancery-lane, and distinguished by the appellation of the *New Temple*. This was in the reign of



Henry II. The rank and importance of this semi-ecclesiastical body became such, that not only were parliaments and general councils held within the New Temple, but it became a general treasury depôt, or treasury, for the property of persons of distinction, and also the keeping-place of the crown jewels. The Temple Church, one of the few round churches in England, was erected by the Knights Templars, in 1185, upon the model of the church of the "Holy Sepulchre," at Jerusalem, and was consecrated by Heraclius, the patriarch of that see, who had been sent upon a mission to England by the Pope, to invite Henry II. to fill the throne of Jerusalem. It was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, but is now called St. Mary's Church, from the circumstance of its being a second time dedicated in 1240, when the existing structure is supposed to have been raised by the Knights Hospitallers. It is in the Norman style of architecture, and is thus described by that profound antiquary, Mr. Brayley, "This building is particularly interesting; for though there is such a remarkable dissimilarity between the circular vestibule and the rectangular body of the church, there is great reason to believe that they were built from one original design. All the exterior walls, which are five feet in thickness, are strengthened by projecting buttresses. In the upright, the vestibule consists of two stories, the upper one being about half the diameter of the lower story, which measures 58 feet across the area. The lower part of the upper story is surrounded by a series of semicircular arches, intersecting each other, and forming a blank arcade, behind which, and over the circular aisle (if it may be so termed), there is a continued passage. The staircase, leading to the latter, is on the north-west side; and about half-way up, in the substance of the wall, is a small dark celi, most probably intended as a place of confinement. Over the arcade are six semicircular headed windows. The clustered columns which support the roof, are each formed by four distinct shafts, which are surrounded, near the middle, by a tri-

plicated band, and have square-headed capital ornaments in the Norman style. The principal entrance is directly from the west : but there is a smaller one on the south-west side. The former opens from an arched porch, and consists of a receding semi-circular archway, having four columns on each side, supporting archivolt mouldings, which, as well as the capitals and jambs, are ornamented with sculptured foliage, busts, and lozenges. A ponderous organ screen of wainscot, erected in the reign of George I., separates the vestibule from the interior, which is neatly pewed, and has a very airy appearance. The nave is divided from the aisle by four clustered columns on each side, or rather, single columns wrought into the resemblance of four supporting pointed arches. On each side are five windows, and at the west end are three others ; all these windows, which are on a uniform plan, are composed of three high lance-headed divisions, but the centre one is considerably more lofty than those at the sides. The altar part is handsomely fitted up, and exhibits the tables of the Decalogue, Belief, and Lord's Prayer." This church has been beautified and repaired many times, but still its ancient characteristics are retained. The monuments are very interesting, especially those of the Knights Templars, on the pavement of the spacious round tower at the west end. These figures consist of two groups ; five are cross-legged, and the remainder straight : three of these knights are in complete mail, and plain helmets, flat at the top, and with very long shields. It is apocryphal whom these effigies represent, nothing being certain respecting them, except that they belong to the thirteenth century. The part of this church used for divine service is the length of four of the pillars, which are clustered, and extremely light and airy. The eminent jurist, Selden, Dr. Mead, Sir William Follett, attorney-general in the reign of Queen Victoria, and other men, who have achieved celebrity, repose here.

The Master of the New Temple sat in the House of

Lords towards the close of the reign of Henry III., a parliamentary distinction which the Masters continued to hold until the extinction of the order. Various preposterous and ungrounded charges of witchcraft, and other offences, were preferred against the Templars, and the Roman pontiff was too ready to lend a credulous ear to accusations which, while their tendency was to ruin a meritorious body of men, were also equally calculated to enrich their calumniators. In vain did Edward II. endeavour to avert from the Templars resident in England the doom which the Vatican had thundered against them; the papal bull, which was to denunciate them, arrived from Rome, and King Edward II. was not endowed with that audacity which led Henry VIII. to *take the bull by the horns*. Under the authority of this tremendous document the Templars were tried before Ralph de Baldock, Bishop of London, upon indictments charging them with sorcery, heresy, idolatry, and other heinous crimes. The testimony was wretchedly defective, but, nevertheless, they were convicted, their estates seized, their order dissolved, and the members of their society condemned to expiate, by different degrees of punishment and penance, in the monasteries where they were incarcerated, the alleged offences imputed to them. The Temple and its appurtenances were granted by Edward II., in 1314, to Aymer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, a grant which two years afterwards was rescinded, another equivalent having been bestowed on that nobleman. The next recipient of this noble manor was Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, who, by treason, forfeiting the favour of his sovereign, the property reverted to the crown. Pursuant to a decree of a council held at Vienna in 1324, the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem became the next owners of the Temple, their tenure in which they preserved till their order was broken up in the reign of Henry VIII. A society of law students, previously the occupants of Thavies Inn, Holborn, which Pennant wittily calls "an extinct volcano," became, under the Hospitallers, lessees of the Temple in 1375, paying for

the same a yearly rental of £10. During the riots of Wat Tyler and Jack Cade this legal sanctuary suffered some damage, and was partially burnt and sacked, the mass of the people in those days not entertaining a very profound respect for lawyers. In the reigns of Elizabeth and of her immediate successors great festivals and masques were frequently held in the Temple; and there is extant a curious and interesting description of the grand Christmas which was kept here in the fourth year of Elizabeth's reign, when Lord Robert Dudley, afterwards Earl of Leicester, Sir Christopher Hatton, afterwards Lord Chancellor, the Chief Justices of the Queen's Bench and Common Pleas, the Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and other high personages, participated in the mumming and revelry. Chaucer, Gower, and Spencer, our old English poets, were among the earliest students of the Temple; and Sackville, (Earl of Dorset), Lord Clarendon, Coke, Plowden, Beaumont, Congreve, Burke, Cowper, Dr. Johnson, Goldsmith, and others of equal fame, have resided in this great seminary of Themis.

The *Inner Temple Hall* is very extensive, and has been frequently altered, burnt, and rebuilt, since the reign of Edward III. The present structure was erected in the year 1678. The front which faces the Thames is of Portland stone, with three buttresses, and a semi-hexagonal turret; the roof sustains a small cupola; the entrance is through a very large door in the western wing, with pillars and a pediment; the interior is decorated in an elegant manner; and, besides portraits of several famous judges, contains those of King William and Queen Mary, Queen Anne, George II., and Queen Caroline. The Library looks on the gardens, and is fitted up very superbly. It contains many thousands of legal and general works. The *Garden of the Inner Temple* is of considerable extent, and commands an excellent view of the river. It is kept in good order, and is planted with trees and flowers; the greater portion of it, however, being laid out as a green sward. Its advantageous position, flanked by two rows of

palatial edifices, and situated between the magnificent Hall and the glittering highway of the Thames, renders it a favourite and delightful promenade of a summer's evening. According to Shakspeare, the Temple garden was the place where the badge of the White and Red Rose originated—the distinctive symbol of the houses of York and Lancaster, under which the several partisans of each arranged themselves in the sanguinary contest which raged for so many subsequent years in England—

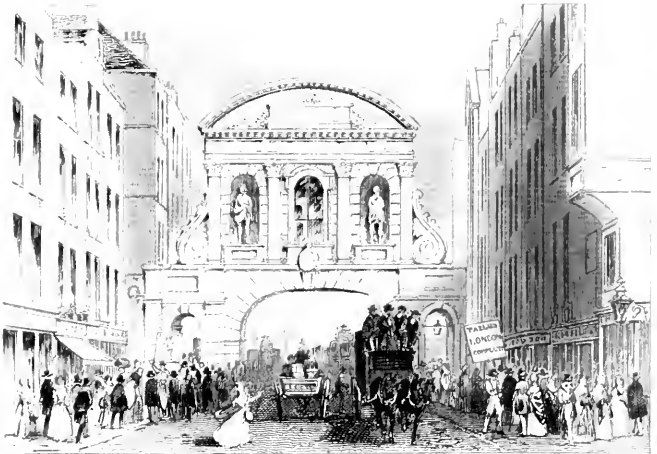
“ The brawl to-day
Grown to this faction in the Temple Garden,
Shall send between the Red rose and the White,
A thousand fools to death and deadly night.”

The *Middle Temple Hall* is of older date than that of the Inner Temple, having been commenced in 1562, and completed in 1572. In modern times it has been carefully repaired, and the entrance rebuilt. At the present day it presents a square tower, with small octangular towers rising at the angles. Generally speaking, the building is composed of brick, but the mouldings of the doors and windows are of Bath stone. The Hall is in the Elizabethan style, and the façade is divided into four parts by three oriel windows. Painted glass adorns every window, and the roof is considered a work of extraordinary ingenuity. Resting on stone brackets, are inserted small pedestals in the piers between the windows of the north and south walls, which support segments of ribs or circles of large size, which ascend to great beams that project from the cornice above the window; these form the bases of other small segments, sustaining beams of a second cornice, and small pillars rising from this support the centre of the roof. A pointed arch is thus formed by the outline of each rib from the piers to the summit, which is divided into three escalops of equal size, connected east and west by arched ribs projecting from one beam to another. Three pendants ornament each great rib, and sufficient light is admitted from an opening under the lantern, to allow a distinct view of these architectural niceties. On the wains-

cot are displayed several busts, among the principal of which are the Twelve Caesars; and on the west wall there is an excellent painting of Charles I. in armour, on a white horse, passing through an arch, attended by an equerry carrying his helmet; together with portraits of Charles II., Queen Anne, George I., and George II. A bay window of extraordinary beauty, composed of painted glass, representing the arms of noble personages, also decorates this Hall. The beautiful oak screen, forming one of the chief ornaments of the Hall, was made in 1575; every bench, master of the outer-bar office, attorney, and member of the society, having to contribute his quota towards its cost. The Parliament Chamber of the society was used in the reign of King James I. by committees of the House of Commons. Adjacent to the Hall is the Library of this society, founded under the bequest of Robert Ashley, Esq., in 1641, and rebuilt by Mr. Hakewill about the year 1824. Near this hall a stream of water is forced to a considerable height, and falling is received into a circular basin placed in the centre of a plantation. Hence a flight of steps conducts to a small and pleasant garden, with excellent gravel walks, bordered by shrubs.

The first *Middle Temple Gate* was built by Sir Amias Powlet. This gentleman, in 1501, placed in the stocks the clergyman of Lymington, who afterwards became famous as Cardinal Wolsey. When that prelate gained elevation, this ancient insult rankled in his mind, and he sent for Sir Amias Powlet to London, whom he commanded to remain in town until he had permission to depart. He resided five or six years in this gateway, which he rebuilt, and, to make his peace with the proud prelate, decorated the front with a cardinal's cap, and other types of sacerdotal pomp. The Gate was burnt down in the Great Fire of London, and the one now existing was raised by Sir Christopher Wren in 1684.

The Temple is a thoroughfare during the day, but the gates are closed after a certain hour in the evening. Besides Middle Temple-lane there are two other approaches



to it from Fleet-street, and two entrances from Devereux-court in the Strand, and from Temple-street, Blackfriars. There are several public law-offices in the Temple.

TEMPLE BAR.

THE westward boundary of the City of London and its Liberty is Temple Bar. Formerly this point of demarcation between London and Westminster was only indicated by posts, rail, and a chain, a barrier which, from its being contiguous to the Temple, was denominated Temple Bar. A wooden structure, stretching across the street, with a narrow gateway, was erected early in the seventeenth century. The edifice being consumed by that insatiable "*edax rerum*," the great fire of London, the existing Temple Bar was raised by Sir Christopher Wren. It was commenced in 1670, and completed in 1672. A gateway for carriages forms the centre, and the sides are furnished with posterns for pedestrians. The fabric is of Portland stone, with a rustic basement, which the Corinthian order surmounts. Over the gateway is a spacious hall or chamber, which has long been appropriated by the firm of Messrs. Childs, the bankers. In niches on the Fleet-street side are statues of Queen Elizabeth and James I., and on the Strand side those of Charles I. and Charles II. are seen in Roman costume. On iron poles above the bar were affixed the heads of many unhappy adherents of the Pretender, who were decapitated for the part which they took in the rebellions of 1715 and 1745. One of the spikes employed for these barbarous spectacles was not removed till the beginning of the present century. Most disreputable was it to the civic authorities that such a monument of cruelty and malignant vengeance should have been permitted so long to disfigure and dishonour one of the chief entrances to the city. Certain puerile ceremonies, which would be "more honoured in the breach than the observance," are performed at Temple Bar whenever the monarch enters the city of London. The portals are closed, and liberty of egress for the sovereign of the realm—for the

ruler on whose vast empire the sun never sets, is solicited from the king of the city, the puissant Lord Mayor. Permission having been obtained, the gates are thrown open, and the Guildhall potentate delivers the keys of the city to the sovereign, who courteously returns them, declaring that they cannot be in more honourable custody. This formality was last enacted upon the opening of the Royal Exchange in 1844, when Queen Victoria was entertained in a costly manner by the municipal authorities and the members of the Gresham committee.

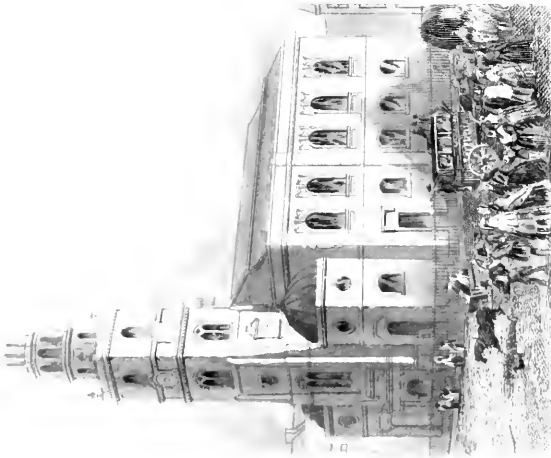
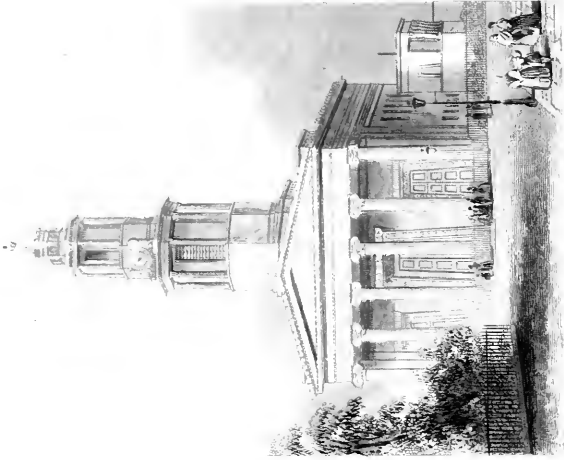
We now quit the city for a while, and, passing through Temple Bar, enter into the time-honoured region of Westminster.

CHAPTER III.

THE STRAND.

THE *Strand*, one of the most important business-streets in Westminster, was, some few centuries back, a very aristocratic demesne, the south side being chiefly occupied by the residences of noblemen, with long gardens extending to the shore or *strand* of the river, and hence the name of this bustling thoroughfare. All these have disappeared, with the solitary exception of Northumberland House, the town mansion of the Duke of Northumberland, from the noble proportions of which some idea may be formed of the group of palaces which once reared their stately fronts between Charing Cross and Temple Bar.

Entering the Strand from Fleet-street, the first street of note which we reach is *Essex Street*, on the south side, stretching down to and communicating with the river. There stood the abode of the ill-fated Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, the favourite and the victim of the Maiden



Queen of England. When he failed in his attempt to excite an insurrection in London, he retreated to his palace in the Strand, passing from Queenhithe to Essex House in a boat. In his strongly-fortified mansion he tried to defend himself, but the siege was carried on with such vigour, that he was forced to surrender, and soon after he was beheaded on Tower-hill, an act of vengeance which embittered the remaining days of Elizabeth with remorse.

Crossing the road, we reach that part of the Strand called *Pickett Street*. There stood upon this spot, until the close of the last century, a miserable line of dirty hovels, styled Butcher-row, which had been a flesh-market so far back as the reign of Queen Elizabeth. By the liberality and enterprise of Alderman Pickett these noisome fabrics were removed, and the present handsome range of buildings arose in their place. A lofty archway to the north of Pickett-street leads to *Clement's Inn* and *New Inn*, minor inns of law which adjoin; and to *Old* and *New Boswell Courts*, in the former of which Dr. Johnson once resided. In the centre of the street, and facing the archway, stands the church of *St. Clement Danes*. Many centuries since a church was founded here, and ancient chronicles relate, that in the reign of Ethelred there was a frightful massacre of Danes in this temple of religion, whither they had fled for sanctuary, and to this profane tragedy its second name is by some ascribed. Henry II. gave the church to the Knights Templar. The present structure was built in 1680 by Edward Pierce, under the direction of Sir Christopher Wren; its steeple, which was not added till 1719, being the work of Gibbs. The church, which is composed entirely of stone, is of the Corinthian order, and the body is lighted by two series of windows. The entrance on the south side is by a portico, covered with a dome supported by six Ionic columns. The steeple is carried to a great height in several stages; where it begins to lessen, the Ionic order takes place, and its entablature sustains vases. The next stage is of the Corinthian order, and above that stands the composite, uphold-

ing a dome which is crowned with a smaller, whence rise the ball and a vane. The tower contains eight bells. Nathaniel Lee, the dramatist, is buried in the churchyard of St. Clement's-street. Returning homeward from the "Bear and Harrow," in Butcher-row, in a state of intoxication, he fell, and was suffocated in the snow. Intemperance was the cause of his madness, and he was incarcerated for a long time in Bedlam, where he composed a play in twenty-five acts. From Pickett-street the Strand is no longer continued in an unbroken line, but forms, for some extent, three narrow streets. *Wych Street*, the northern avenue, contains the principal entrance to New Inn, where the famous Sir Thomas More first learnt the rudiments of law. The west end of this street was once graced by Drury House, the mansion of Sir William Drury, a commander who distinguished himself in the Irish wars in the reign of Elizabeth. In the following century the house came into the possession of the gallant Lord Craven, who rebuilt it. Craven-buildings indicate its situation. Wych-street is continued by Drury-lane.

Parallel with Wych-street is *Holywell-street*, named after a neighbouring spring, which, till late years, was principally tenanted by Jew clothesmen, of whom only a few remain, the street now being one of the head-quarters of second-hand booksellers. *Newcastle-street*, to which it leads, conducts to *Lyons Inn*, a dingy appendage of the Inner Temple, the gloomiest-looking of the legal sanctuaries in London. Returning to the southern line of street, westward of St. Clement's, *Arundel-street* demands notice. On the ground which it occupies, the house and gardens of the Bishop of Bath and Wells, called Bath's Inn, and sometimes Hampton-place, were once situate. In the reign of Edward VI. the episcopal palace came into the possession of Lord Thomas Seymour, the High Admiral, the second husband of Queen Catherine Parr, who had the good fortune to survive her first, the wife-destroying Henry VIII. Upon the death of his wife he aspired to the hand of the Princess Elizabeth, who, before

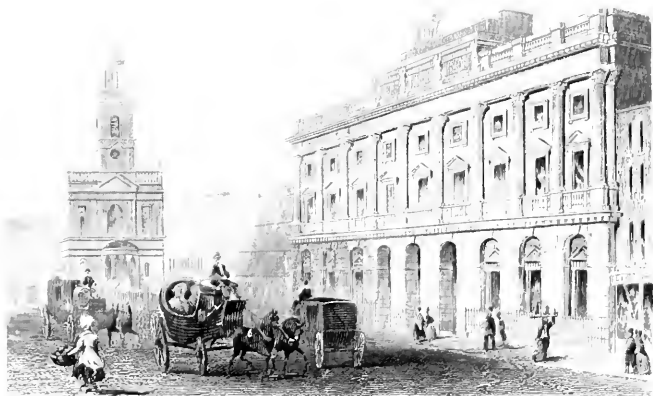
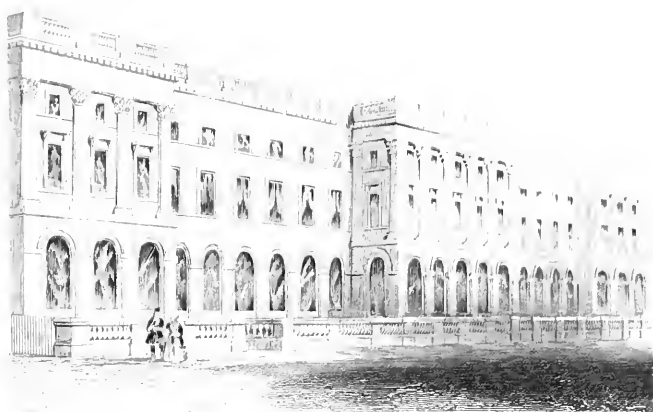
her step-mother died, had been domesticated with Seymour; and the maiden queen might possibly have accepted the handsome libertine for her consort, had not the provisions of her father's will directed that any matrimonial indiscretion of his daughters should exclude them from the throne. When Seymour perished on the scaffold, for high-treason, Seymour's Place, as the house was then called, was purchased, with several other messuages, by the Earl of Arundel, for £41 6s. 8d., and was by him styled Arundel-house. It was here that an Earl of Arundel collected the Arundelian Marbles, a portion of which is now preserved at Oxford. By marriage the property fell into the hands of the Howard family, and then it became known as Norfolk House. After the great fire of 1666, on the invitation of the Duke of Norfolk, the members of the Royal Society made it their temporary residence. Till nearly the close of the seventeenth century it was inhabited by that noble family, when it was pulled down, and Arundel, *Norfolk*, *Howard*, and *Surrey* streets built upon the spacious plot which it had covered.

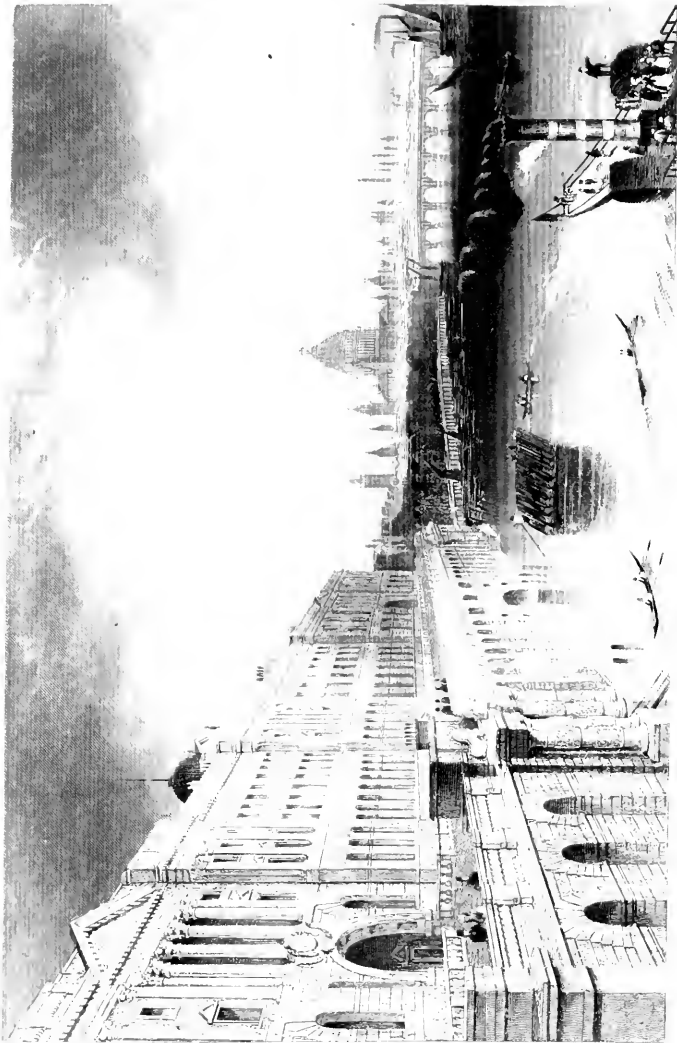
Immediately west of this point, an ancient cross once stood, where, Stowe writes, that in the year 1294, and at other times, the judges sat, without the city, to administer justice. When this cross disappeared a May-pole succeeded it, erected by Charges, a smith, whose daughter became the duchess of General George Monk, Duke of Albemarle, in the reign of Charles II. In 1713, the May-pole, being in a decayed condition, was removed, and a new one, with two gilt balls and a vane on the top of it, erected in its stead; but this symbol of rustic sports did not remain, for being regarded as an obstruction to the church, then in progress, it was taken away, and the parochial authorities presented it to Sir Isaac Newton, by whom it was placed in Wanstead Park, where it long supported the largest telescope in Europe—owned by Sir Isaac's friend, Mr. Pound, the rector of Wanstead. The church of *St. Mary-le-Strand*, sometimes called the *New*

Church, and one of the fifty churches ordered to be built in the reign of Queen Anne, was erected by Gibbs. The old church, called St. Mary-without-Temple-bar, stood in a more southerly direction, and was, in 1549, pulled down with other fabrics, by the Protector Somerset, to make way for his new palace; an act of aggrandizement the consequences of which the parish felt for centuries, being unprovided with a church from the reign of Edward VI. to that of Queen Anne. The first stone of the present structure was laid in 1714; it was completed about 1718, and consecrated on the first day of 1721. Of its architectural merits there are different views; but the prevailing opinion is, that it is too much overladen by ornament to hold high rank as a work of art. The area westward of this church is said to have been the first hackney-coach stand in the metropolis. From Hungary coaches were introduced into England, about 1580, by the Earl of Arundel; but it was not till 1634 that coaches publicly plied for hire, when four hackney-coaches, with drivers in livery, occupied a stand at the May-pole.

KING'S COLLEGE.

ON the south side of the church, and at the east end of Somerset House, is King's College, an institution "founded with the intent that instruction in the duties and doctrines of Christianity, as taught in the united churches of England and Ireland, shall be for ever combined with the instruction in the various branches of science and literature." Here youth receive the advantages of a university education for less than £20 a year. A medical school and hospital are attached to the college. This edifice was commenced in September, 1829, and opened in October 1831, when divine service was performed, and a sermon, appropriate to the occasion, delivered by the Bishop of London. Its area contains between 50,000 and 60,000 square feet. The building extends from the Strand to the Thames, and its front, which faces the west, comprises three stories and five





parts—the centre, two wings, and a pavilion at each end. The centre is embellished in the second story with half columns of the Corinthian order, and the pavilions with pilasters of the same order between the windows. It is entered through a semicircular archway from the Strand, over which are placed the symbolical figures of Holiness and Wisdom, between which the Royal arms appear, surmounting the motto, *Sancte et Sapienter*. The western front of the college is 304 feet long, and harmonizes with the corresponding buildings of Somerset House. King's College was built after designs from Mr. (now Sir) Robert Smirke. The centre of the first floor is occupied by a spacious chapel, beneath which is a hall for the examinations and other public matters. There are various lecture-rooms, a library, and museums, in the institution. The residence of the Principal, and the apartments for the professors, are situate in that part of the structure adjoining the river. The building is of stone; Portland, Yorkshire, and Scotch granite being the materials used in its construction.

SOMERSET HOUSE.

EDWARD SEYMOUR, Duke of Somerset, who was Protector in the reign of Edward VI., built the first Somerset House, about the year 1549; not only pulling down, as has before been noticed, the church of St. Mary-without-Temple-bar, but appropriating part of the conventual church of St. John of Jerusalem, Clerkenwell, and the tower and cloisters on the north side of St. Paul's, with the charnel-houses and adjacent chapel, to supply materials for the new structure. The town residences of the bishops of Worcester, Lichfield, and Llandaff, and the Strand Inn, an inn of Chancery, belonging to the Temple, were also pulled down to make room for the Protector's palace, which he contemplated making more magnificent than any that had ever before been known in England. The bribe of a large sum of money alone prevented him from dismantling Westminster Abbey, to add to the

grandeur of his residence. John of Padua, who was the first to introduce regular architecture into England, raised the pile, his allowance being a grant of two shillings daily. When Somerset was executed for high treason, his magnificent dwelling was forfeited to the Crown, and Queen Elizabeth occasionally resided here. Anne of Denmark, Queen of James I., held her court here, whence it was called Denmark House, and here the body of James I. lay in state. The body of Oliver Cromwell also lay in state in the great hall; and, after the restoration, Henrietta Maria, the queen mother, took up her residence in the palace, in which she made many internal improvements. Upon the death of General Monk, Duke of Albermarle, his body lay in state in Somerset House, in 1670. Catherine of Braganza, the Queen of Charles II., also resided in, and on the death of the king removed entirely to, Somerset House, where, after remaining for seven years, she went to Portugal. Upon her death, in 1705, the property reverted to the Crown, and was frequently appropriated to the use of ambassadors or other illustrious persons visiting England. It belonged to several successive queens till the time of George III., when Buckingham House, anciently called the Queen's House, was given to Queen Charlotte, and Somerset House was destined to be converted into offices for the transaction of the business of the country. The *European Magazine* thus describes some of the most prominent features of old Somerset House: "At the extremity of the royal apartments, which might be termed semi-modern, two large folding-doors connected the architecture of Inigo Jones with the old structure; these opened into a long gallery, on the first floor of the building, which occupied one side of the water garden; at the lower end of which was another gallery, or suite of apartments, which made an angle, forming the original front towards the river. The old part of the mansion had been long shut up, and was reputed to be haunted. When opened by the direction of Sir William Chambers, the long gallery was

observed to be lined with oak, in small panels; the heights of their mouldings had been touched with gold; it had an oaken floor and stuccoed ceiling, from which still depended part of the chains, &c., to which had hung chandeliers. Against the sides some sconces still remained. Several circumstances indicated that this gallery had been used as a ball-room. In the suite of apartments which formed the other side of the angle, fronting the Thames, and which had been adorned in a style of splendour and magnificence creditable to the taste of the age of Edward VI., part of the ancient furniture remained, and, indeed, from the stability of its materials and construction, might have remained for centuries, had proper attention been paid to its preservation. The audience chamber had been hung with silk, which was in tatters, as were the curtains, gilt leather covers, and painted screens. In this, and a much larger room, were various articles, which had been confusedly removed from other apartments: some of the sconces, though reversed, were still against the hangings; one of the brass gilt chandeliers still depended from the ceiling. Passing through those rooms, a pair of doors, with difficulty opened, gave access to an apartment on the first floor of a small pile, which formed a kind of tower at the end of the building, and the internal part of which was unquestionably the work of Inigo Jones. This had been used as a breakfast or dressing-room by Catherine, the Queen of Charles II., and had more the appearance of a small temple than a room. It was of an octagonal form, and the ceiling rose in a dome from a beautiful cornice. There appeared such an elegant simplicity in the architecture, and such a truly attic grace in the ornaments, that Sir William Chambers exceedingly regretted the necessity there was for its dilapidation. The figures painted on the panels were in fresco; the ornaments under the surbase were in their heights touched with gold. The few articles of furniture that remained here were in the antique style, and there were several pictures upon the

ground. From this room a small door opened upon the staircase ; and on the ground floor was an apartment of an octagonal form, lined with entirely white marble ; in the interior closets of which were a hot and cold bath."

In 1775, pursuant to an act of parliament, the destruction of the palace of Somerset House took place ; and in the same year the new building was commenced, the plan of Sir William Chambers being adopted. The Strand front is 135 feet wide and 61 feet deep, and has two wings, each 46 feet wide and 42 feet in depth, the whole being seven stories high. It is faced with Portland stone ; and consists of a rustic basement, sustaining a range of Corinthian columns, crowned in the centre with an attic story, and adorned at the extremities with a balustrade. The grand entrance, by three lofty arches, opens to an extensive and elegant vestibule, enriched with Doric columns. This front forms the northern side of a large quadrangular court, 210 feet wide, and 296 feet deep ; on three sides of which are buildings, 54 feet deep, and six stories in height, in which are some of the chief government offices. Among them are those of the Navy Pay, the Inland Revenue, the Poor Law Commission, the Audit, and the Duchy of Cornwall. The south, or river front, of Somerset House has been greatly admired for its unique character, and may be regarded as one of the most superb of the many stately edifices and palaces which adorn the banks of the Thames. It is erected upon a parapetted terrace, 53 feet in width, and the length of the entire structure is about 1,100 feet. A rustic basement, erected upon an arcade comprising 32 arches, sustains the terrace. Projections, ornamented by rusticated Ionic columns, impart variety to this arcade ; and the terrace commands a view of the most interesting part of the river—taking in at one prospect Blackfriars, Waterloo, Hungerford, and Westminster Bridges. In the centre of the front court is a statue of George III., and at his feet Old Father Thames, under the allegorical figure of a river deity, is represented pouring from a cornucopia

wealth and abundance. This sculpture was executed by Bacon, to commemorate the king's recovery, in 1789.

The Society of Antiquaries, and other learned bodies, hold their sittings in Somerset House: and here the Royal Academy was originally established, in 1768, Sir Joshua Reynolds, who received the honour of knighthood on the occasion, being appointed the first President. It was founded for the encouragement of design, painting, sculpture, and the fine arts generally, and was conducted by a committee of eminent artists, styled Royal Academicians. For many years there were annual exhibitions of the works of modern artists held here, the admission to which defrayed the expenses of the establishment. Upon the erection of the National Gallery, in Trafalgar-square, the exhibitions of the Royal Academy of Arts, were removed from Somerset House to the new and more eligible building.

Nearly opposite Somerset House is *Drury Court*, formerly Little Drury-lane, and once the only avenue from the Strand to the theatre. This black and dirty passage conducted to a road by the side of Craven House, and other princely mansions, to St. Giles-in-the-Fields and the country. The road was lined by hedges, and partially overshadowed by trees. A little beyond this court is *Catherine Street*, which takes its name from Catherine of Braganza, the queen of Charles the Second. Here, in the reign of Edward the Sixth, a stream of water ran to the Thames, over which was a bridge, called Strand Bridge. *Brydges Street*, which is a continuation of Catherine-street, built about 1637, was named after George Brydges Lord Chandos. *The Morning Herald* (daily), the *Naval and Military Gazette*, the *Era* (weekly), and other journals, are published in Catherine-street, the general character of which has not much progressed since Gay referred to it in his *Trivia*. After midnight Catherine and Brydges-streets convey the idea of Pandemonium unloosed, from the flaunting lamps, and the discordant revelry heard to issue from the saloons of vice and inebriety, of which they

have long been the favourite localities. On the right-hand side of Catherine-street is a small but elegant arcade, terminating in Wellington-street, North, called *New Exeter Change*. In Brydges-street is the front entrance of Drury-lane theatre, an establishment of which notice will be taken under a classified list of the dramatic and other places of entertainmet in London. Brydges-street extends to a point where *Great Russell Street* and *Little Russell Street* unite. The former conducts to Covent-garden market and the Piazza; the latter, the whole of one side of which is flanked by the colomnade of Drury-lane theatre, runs into Drury-lane, and is continued by Duke-street, which stretches into Lincoln's-inn-fields. Opposite the colomnade is *Crown Court*, principally known as the locality of the Scotch Church, of which that able divine, Dr. Cumming, has been for many years the minister.

Returning to the Strand, and crossing to its south side, Wellington-street is reached. This street is a spacious and handsome avenue leading to that unequalled monument of British architecture,

WATERLOO BRIDGE.

To make room for this structure, a considerable portion of the precincts of the Old Savoy Palace was removed. The first stone was laid in September, 1811, and the bridge was completed in 1817. The name originally destined for it was the Strand Bridge, but the decisive battle of Waterloo having been fought before its completion, it was determined, in the name of the new bridge, to perpetuate the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte and the triumph of British prowess; accordingly it was called Waterloo Bridge. When the structure was finished, it was opened with appropriate ceremonies on the 18th of June, 1817; the Duke of Wellington, who, on that day two years previously, on the plains of Waterloo, dissolved the *prestige* of the emperor's military infallibility, he Prince Regent, the Duke of York, and other high personages being present. The plan was laid by Mr. G. Dodd, and completed



under the superintendence of the late Mr. Rennie. The bridge is supported on nine elliptical arches of 125 feet span and 35 feet in height. The piers are 20 feet thick, and each stands on a platform based on 320 piles; Tuscan columns being supported by these piers. From shore to shore its measurement is 1,242 feet. The balustrades are of Aberdeen granite, all the other parts being composed of Cornwall granite. At each end of the bridge are toll-houses, built in the Doric style. Metal turnstiles are attached to these containing an index-plate, which, by some internal machinery, gives the number of pedestrians that traverse the bridge. The toll for foot passengers was originally a penny, and for a long period there is too much reason to believe that the bridge *tolled* but indifferently for the company by whom it was raised, but some years back the tolls were reduced one-half, and the London Terminus of the South-Western Railway having been extended to the Waterloo-road, these circumstances concurred to increase in a very important degree the traffic of the bridge, and to gladden the hearts of its shareholders by gleams of prosperity long withheld. The government granted a loan of £60,000 to the company to enable them to finish the grand opening of the Waterloo-road, from the bridge to the Obelisk in St. George's-fields, and to form two minor roads—eastward to Blackfriars, and westward to Westminster-road.

Returning to the Strand by Wellington-street, we cross the road to its continuation, *Wellington-street, North*, opened in 1834, the aperture which it forms in the continuous line of road having been previously occupied by the office of the *Courier*, a defunct daily evening paper, and the old Lyceum Theatre, which was destroyed by fire in 1830, after a brief existence of fifteen years. On the left-hand side is the new Lyceum Theatre, immediately beyond which is *Exeter-street*, a street at present of little account, its east end branching into Catherine-street, and its west end having no outlet. Yet, once upon this dark, shabby, and unwholesome spot stood the town mansion of Lord

Burleigh, the sagacious minister of Elizabeth; who once, while he was ill of the gout, honoured his house with her presence. Dr. Johnson, when he first came to London, lodged in a garret in this street, at the house of a stay-maker, named Norris. This street was built in 1677; and in the following year *Burleigh-street*, a short street connecting it with the Strand, and which also indicates a portion of the site where the palace of Burleigh, and his successors, once opened its hospitable doors to the needy and afflicted. Ascending Wellington-street, North, we reach that point at which York and Tavistock streets form a junction.

York-street, a short street, one end of which communicates with Catherine-street, was named in honour of the Duke of York, afterwards James II. It is a street of respectable character, its principal residents being booksellers and publishers. *Tavistock-street*, which joins York-street, and extends to Southampton-street, derives its name from one of the titles of the Bedford family, and was, previously to the formation of Bond-street, the fashionable west-end street of business. Many celebrated theatricals, among whom may be named Macklin and Fawcett, have resided here. In this street the *Literary Gazette* is published. Wellington-street, North, is continued by *Upper Wellington-street*, once called *Charles-street*, in memory of Charles I., and by which it emerges into Great Russell-street to a point, immediately opposite to which is Bow-street. The *Athenæum*, and other literary journals are published here.

Bow-street, both from its ancient and modern associations, is entitled to notice. It was built in 1637, and according to Strype was so called "as running in shape of a bent bow," a distinction to which the late widening of the street has in a great and convenient degree removed its claim. The chief police office of the metropolis is here established, having been founded in 1749; and Fielding, the popular author of *Tom Jones*, was one of its earliest chief magistrates. A few yards beyond the police-

office is Covent Garden Theatre, which will be described in a future page. In this street was born, in 1661, that great statesman, Robert Harley, the Earl of Oxford; here lived Waller the poet; the accomplished Earl of Dorset; Wycherly the dramatist; Gibbons the sculptor, and other men of science and learning. The printing-house of Jacob Tonson, the publisher of Dryden's works, was in this street—the literary reminiscences of which contrast strangely with its present attributes. Now, besides the police-office, a police-station is found here, and low coffee-houses, and places where what, by a singular perversion of language, is termed “life,” may be seen to profane the spot once sacred to wit and poetry. The only real attraction which modern Bow-street offers to the stranger in London, is that ornament, not merely to the street, but to the neighbourhood, Covent-garden Theatre, or, as it is at present styled, the Royal Italian Opera House.

Bow-street extends into *Long-Acre*, a street which has been long famous as the great mart for coachmakers, and of the inferior branches of the trade; its eastern extremity branching into Drury-lane, its west end into St. Martin's-lane. When Henry VIII. reigned, here was an extensive meadow, called the Elms, a row of those trees shadowing the place. In the time of Charles I. it was plotted out for building, when it was called the Seven Acres, a name which subsequently gave place to Long-Acre. Here the fearful pestilence which visited London, in 1665, originally broke out. Daniel Defoe writes, that the first person who died of the plague was one who had taken the infection from a parcel of silks, which were opened in the house where he died. The premises of the coach-builders in Long-acre are, for their extent and architectural pretensions, inferior to no business establishments in London, and will amply repay inspection. *St. Martin's Hall*, a building of very recent erection, and established for choral meetings and concerts generally, on the same scale as Exeter Hall, is a structure the noble

dimensions of which admirably qualify it for those "monster" demonstrations of vocal and instrumental practice to which it is appropriated.

Leaving Long-Acre, and crossing Drury-lane, we enter *Great Queen-street*, which was erected in the reign of Charles I., and was, during the reigns of that monarch and his posterity, one of the most fashionable thoroughfares of the capital. Among the aristocratic residences were Conway House, belonging to the distinguished family of that name; Paulet House, the mansion of the Marquis of Winchester; the superb edifice in which that literary and romantic peer, Lord Herbert of Cherbury, breathed his last; and the house of the Earl of Bristol, at whose festive board, attracted by the beauty of Lord Bristol's fascinating relatives (the Misses Brook), the "merry monarch" frequently condescended to be a guest. Here also lived Sir Godfrey Kneller, Dr. Radcliffe, and Hoole, who translated *Tasso* into English verse. The notorious Protestant Association met at Coach-makers' Hall, in this street, where the violent language employed, fomented the deplorable disturbances of 1780, in which Lord George Gordon figured, not very creditably, as the hero. The *Freemasons' Tavern* is the chief structure in this street, to which it preserves an importance which otherwise would have departed with its distinguished residents. Lord Petre laid the foundation stone on the 1st of May 1775, in the presence of the principal officers of the Order of Free-Masons. The Freemasons' Hall is spacious and magnificent, and the ceiling is richly decorated with symbolical figures and hieroglyphics of the order. For public dinners and meetings this hall has long been a favourite place; here the impassioned eloquence of the statesman, the brilliant declamation of the scholar, and the melodious tones of the singer, have often gratified, in their turn, crowded, and, not unfrequently, illustrious audiences. The anniversary dinners of the Literary Fund Society are held here, festive occasions, on which, at long intervals between,

the father and the consort of the Queen—the late Duke of Kent, and Prince Albert—have presided.

Retracing our steps to the Strand—in the course of our progress through which we shall have frequently to depart from the line of street, into the many localities of which it forms the centre—and crossing to the southern side, a few yards beyond Wellington-street, we reach *Savoy-street*, leading to a square occupied by a German Lutheran Church. Here, and upon the site now filled up by *Lancaster-place*, a handsome terrace on the west side of Wellington-street, stood the palace of the Savoy, one of the most magnificent buildings on the banks of the Thames, and famous for the historical reminiscences with which its name is associated. It was founded in 1245, by Peter de Savoy, uncle to Eleanor, the Queen of Henry III. Visiting his illustrious relative in England he was ennobled by the king, under the title of the Earl of Savoy and Richmond; and, among other possessions, had the ground upon which he built his residence in the Strand, granted to him. He afterwards transferred it to the friars of Montjoy, from whom it was purchased by Queen Eleanor, as a residence for her son, the Earl of Lancaster. In 1357 the palace was allotted as a residence to John, King of France, who had been made prisoner by Edward the Black Prince, at the battle of Poitiers. Here he remained till 1360, when the immense sum of £300,000 was fixed upon for his ransom. He returned to France, but finding a difficulty in carrying out the arrangement which had been made on his behalf, he voluntarily came back to England, prompted chiefly to this step, it has been reported, by the attachment which he had conceived for a beautiful English lady. He again made the Savoy his dwelling, where he died in 1364. In 1381, John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, being then owner of the palace, the Kentish rebels, under the command of Wat Tyler, burnt down the noble pile, and pillaged it of its valuable contents. Entering the wine cellars, the rioters imbibed without

ceremony the rare produce of the grape. In one cellar, a fall of stones and rubbish enclosed thirty-two of them, who there perished of suffocation. Some barrels found by the mob were cast into the flames; they were full of gunpowder, which, exploding, blew up the great hall, destroyed many houses, and reduced the Savoy Palace to dust. The ruins of the palace were permitted to remain for one hundred and twenty years, and must have presented a remarkable spectacle of insulated decay, in a neighbourhood which was beginning to acquire celebrity as the favoured residence of many of the highest nobles in the land. In the reign of Henry VII. the ground was cleared, and the foundation of an hospital laid upon its site, which was completed by Henry VIII., in the fifteenth year of his reign. Thus the fortunes of the Savoy were diametrically opposite to those of St. James's Palace—the latter being converted from an hospital to a palace, while, in the case of the Savoy, an hospital sprang from the ruins of a palace. The hospital was dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and consisted of a master, and four chaplains, who officiated alternately. They were to stand in their turns, by day and night, at the portal, and to proffer the hospitality of their establishment to any distressed persons whom they might see, bestowing upon them food and lodging for the night, with a letter of introduction to the next hospital, and sufficient money to carry them to their destination. A chapel was attached to the hospital, and when the original church of St. Mary-le-Church was destroyed by the impious Somerset, the inhabitants of that parish united themselves to those of the Savoy, and, using the chapel as their place of worship, it became known as *St. Mary-le-Savoy*. In this chapel the liturgy was first read. Eventually the benevolent objects for which the hospital was founded were disregarded, and it became a kind of sanctuary for disorderly characters, while its funds were grossly misappropriated by a series of governors, with whom personal aggrandisement, rather than the relief of distress, was the

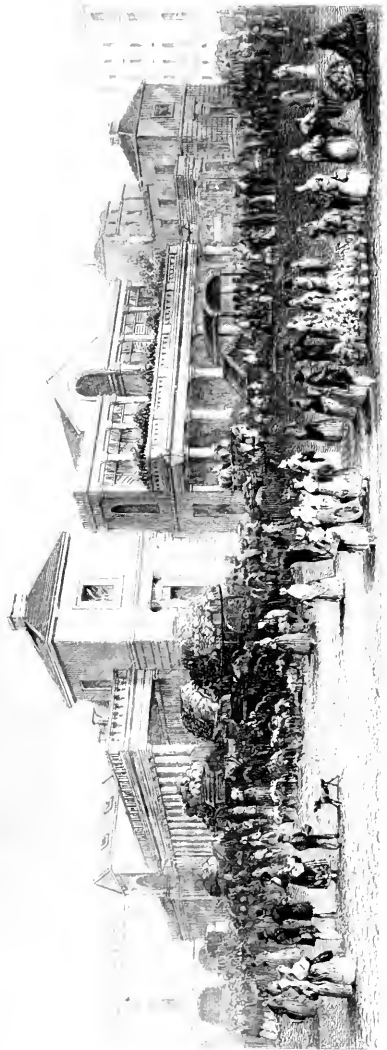
actuating motive. In the reign of Queen Anne the hospital was suppressed, and then it became a barracks for soldiers, and afterwards a prison for deserters. The remains of the Savoy, with the exception of the church of St. John the Baptist (or St. Mary-le-Savoy), were, as we have previously stated, removed to make way for Waterloo Bridge, and its Strand approaches. The church was renovated, and partially rebuilt, in the reign of George I., and is now used as a German Lutheran place of worship. George Wither, the poet, was buried in this church.

Beaufort-buildings, adjoining Savoy-street, were covered in the time of Henry VIII. by the mansion and grounds of the Duke of Bedford, known as Bedford, or Russell, House. The estate, in the reign of James I., became the property of the Earl of Worcester, and the son of the last earl being created Duke of Beaufort, the edifice was denominated Beaufort House. Being taken down, a smaller house was erected, by the duke, on its area. This was destroyed by fire in 1695, upon which another street was added to the Strand, the present Beaufort-buildings arising in place of, and perpetuating in their name, the ancient palace.

Crossing over the way, the line of the Strand, to the west of Wellington-street North, and between the latter and Burlington-street, indicates the place where stood the original *Exeter 'Change*, built upon the grounds of Exeter House, the town mansion of Lord Burlington. It extended from the spot where Wellington-street North commences to the corner of Exeter-street. It presented the appearance of a large gloomy apartment, and constituted a public thoroughfare. Stalls for the sale of fancy articles were arranged on each side, and a diamond-shaped old-fashioned clock, suspended from the ceiling, was in the centre. On the floor above this bazaar, was held for many years the largest exhibition of wild beasts in London. At the beginning of the present century, a Mr. Pidcock was the proprietor; the next owner was

named Polito; and, finally, the menagerie came into the possession of Mr. Cross. When it was determined to widen the Strand, and to construct Wellington-street North, one of the preliminary steps was the demolition of Exeter 'Change. Its late tenants, the wild beasts, were first removed to the mews at Charing-cross, and afterwards to the Surrey Zoological Gardens. That portion of the Strand once occupied by Exeter 'Change is now distinguished by a range of beautiful houses of business, of considerable architectural pretensions. *Exeter Hall*, which stands upon part of the site of the old Exchange, is a structure of more than ordinary magnitude, and is deservedly admired for the taste exhibited in its external and internal arrangements. It was erected as a rendezvous where the various charitable and religious associations of the capital might assemble, and as the great meeting-place of the various religious bodies in the month of May, presents at that time a very animated spectacle. It was erected in 1830, by Mr. Deering, the architect. Its Strand front simply consists of a doubly pillared portico, and two pilasters, surmounted by the Greek motto, *Philadelphain*. In the building are various apartments, used as offices and committee-rooms for different societies, besides two halls, one capable of holding 800 persons, and the other sufficiently extensive to accommodate 3,000. The latter is 136 feet long, by 76 wide, and 48 feet in height. The ceiling presents alternate sunken squares, and parallelograms, ornamented in their centres with raised rosettes. A platform, or dais, is prepared at the eastern end for the convenience of the speakers, who here attract numerous audiences. There are two galleries, and the hall is, moreover, furnished with a superb organ. The Sacred Harmonic Societies hold their concerts here; and beneath this lofty saloon the tones of Jenny Lind have given additional significance and expression to the inspired compositions of Handel.

Nearly opposite to Exeter-hall are *Cecil* and *Salisbury* streets, two respectable double rows of private residences,



extending to the river. They are built upon the plot of ground once covered by Salisbury House, the mansion of Sir Robert Cecil, the second son of Lord Burleigh. On the other side of the Strand is *Southampton-street*, which, in its name, perpetuates Lady Rachel, the estimable wife of Lord William Russell, and daughter of the last Earl of Southampton. On the eastern side, Tavistock-street, already named, communicates with York-street; and, on the western side, is *Maiden-lane*, a narrow avenue (with no thoroughfare for carriages), extending into Bedford-street. This lane, we read in the "Curiosities of Literature," took its name from an image of the Virgin, which once gave a holy reputation to a locality since intimately identified with theatrical affairs and convivial meetings. When Voltaire visited England, in 1727, he lodged at a house, called the White Peruke, in this lane. Here the *Cyder Cellar*, a nocturnal elysium of song and supper, is situate, where the gratification of the demands of appetite is rendered doubly agreeable by its association with sweet sounds. Classical reminiscences, however, attach to the Cyder Cellar, which, Mr. Jesse tells us, was once the favourite resort of those great scholars, Porson and Parr. Southampton-street conducts to the extensive district of

COVENT GARDEN.

Convent Garden was the original name of this interesting locality, it having formerly been an immense garden, attached to the Convent of the Abbots of Westminster. Upon the dissolution of religious houses, the estate was bestowed upon the Protector Somerset, and, when he was attainted of high treason, its ownership was transferred to John, Duke of Bedford, a most valuable property, which has descended to his posterity, and whose names and titles are commemorated in Bedford-street, Russell-street, Tavistock-street, and Bedfordbury. In 1634, Francis, fourth Earl of Bedford, prepared the ground for the large square enclosing Covent-garden Market, and engaged Inigo Jones to build the handsome *Piazas* on its north and east

sides, which even now are noble specimens of solid masonry and architectural taste. The Piazzas were, when first constructed, continued along the south-eastern side, where the Hummums Hotel stands, but this portion of them was destroyed by fire a few years after their erection, and was not rebuilt. Towards the close of the reign of Charles I. the following appearance was presented by the great square of Covent-garden: the north and east sides were occupied by the Piazzas, on the west was the church of St. Paul, and the wall of the garden of Bedford House formed the southern barrier. We will now particularize some of the leading objects of attraction in the little parish of Covent-garden, the situation of which, in reference to that of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, is insular.

Covent-garden Market. Some authorities state that this market dates so far back as 1634; but we prefer adopting the account of Mr. Peter Cunningham, who writes that it "originated about 1656, in a few temporary sheds and stalls at the back of the garden wall of Bedford House." In 1704, the mansion was taken down, and a line of street arose upon its site, in consequence of which the market people gradually hedged off the pavement to the centre of the square, which henceforth became a permanent fruit, vegetable, and herb market. The present market, which contains three acres of ground, was erected in 1830, by the then Duke of Bedford, at a cost of £12,000. A façade has been added to the north-west side, and is composed of four principal parts, each of which have like characteristics. The centre is formed by an arch, on the entablature of two Tuscan columns; with a single-faced archivolt, supported by two piers, which sustain an elevated triangular pediment, the tympanum of which is adorned by the armorial bearings, and motto (*Che sara, sara*), of the Bedford family. On each side of this centre, which is large enough to allow entrance to a lofty loaded waggon into the area, is a colonnade of the Tuscan order, projecting before the slopes. The columns are of granite, and of the Palladium Tuscan, with an





ornamental balustrade, employed for the business of the market. At each of the extreme angles of the four portions, is a raised quadrangular pavilion. Over the centre of the building is a conservatory for exotic and other plants for sale, which is called the Bedford Conservatory, which is reached by a flight of steps at either end, and the pediment is an emblematic figure of Plenty. The central arcade, running the whole length of the market, from east to west, is entirely occupied with handsome shops, where the finest fruit, and most beautiful flowers, attract the eye, and impregnate the atmosphere with their agreeable perfume. The arrival of vegetable produce, at Covent-garden, about three o'clock of a summer's morning, is one of the sights of London.

St. Paul's Church, Covent-garden. This church was built in the year 1640, as a chapel of ease to that of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, at the cost of the Earl of Bedford. The architect was Inigo Jones, and Horace Walpole tells that the earl sent for Jones, and said that he required a chapel for the tenants living on his estate; adding, that he wished the edifice to be as plain, as convenient, and as little expensive as possible: "in fact," observed his lordship, "I would not have it much better than a barn." To this the architect replied, "Then, my lord, you shall have the handsomest barn in England." The sum paid for the construction of the "barn" was £4,500. In 1788, this church was thoroughly repaired, at an outlay more than doubling its original cost—£11,000 being expended. The external walls, which were formerly of brick, were at that time strongly cased with Portland stone. In 1795, a fire, occasioned by the neglect of the plumbers employed to repair the lead on the roof, destroyed the whole of the interior. It was soon afterwards restored by the parishioners; Mr. Hardwick, the architect, superintending its renovation. The front is a plain, but massive, portico of the Tuscan order; and the capacious roof is sustained by walls alone, without pillars. When an election of members of Parliament, for the City

of Westminster, takes place, the hustings are erected before this church.

We cannot quit this sacred precinct without recording the names of some of the once famous of the earth, whose ashes rest beneath this church, and in its churchyard. Here Robert Carr, the Earl of Somerset, the favourite of Charles I., and the assassin of Sir Thomas Overbury, was interred. It is worthy of note that this illustrious murderer was the grandfather of that true patriot, Lord William Russell. Butler, the uncompromising foe of hypocrisy and cant, which with a master's hand he has portrayed in his matchless satire of *Hudibras*, sleeps in an obscure corner in this churchyard, where he was buried at the expense of his friend, Mr. Longueville, that gentleman having vainly endeavoured to prevail on the professed friends and admirers of the poet, to contribute towards the cost of a tomb in Westminster Abbey. Alderman Barber afterwards caused a monument, in honour of Butler, to be raised in the Abbey; and another memorial, of more recent date, has been placed in St. Paul's Churchyard, to indicate the spot where the remains of the wit are laid. The last four lines of the inscription thus truthfully allude to the ungrateful desertion of the bard, by those to whom his pen had rendered such powerful service :

“ But oh ! let all be taught from Butler's fate,
 Who hope to make their fortune from the great,
 That wit and pride are always dangerous things,
 And little faith is due to courts or kings.”

Wycherly and Southerne, the dramatists; Sir Peter Lely, the court painter; Macklin, the comedian; Dr. Walcot (Peter Pindar); Dr. Arne, the musical composer; and others of renown, are also buried here.

Covent-garden is famous for its hotels, some of the principal of which are situated in the Piazzas, beneath the portico of which, towards the close of the seventeenth century, the London apprentices used to play at cricket. The scene is now changed, handsome places of entertain-

ment having long occupied the ground once devoted to athletic sports. Among these hotels may be named the *Tavistock*, the *Bedford*, and the *Piazza*; between the two last-named there is a very commodious entrance to the theatre. The *Bedford* is celebrated in literary history as a favourite resort of Fielding, Churchill, Hogarth, Goldsmith, and their contemporaries; and Fox, Burke, and Richard Brinsley Sheridan have, by their social and witty reunions, conferred lasting distinction on the *Piazza*. At the south-eastern side of the square are two large hotels, called the *Old Hummums*, and the *New Hummums*. The former was originally a place celebrated for its baths, and the name is, in fact, derived from the Arabic word *Hamman*, which signifies a bath or bagnio. *Evans' Hotel*, a fine old mansion, at the north-west of Covent-garden, was originally the abode of Admiral Russell, Earl of Orford, who, in 1692, achieved a great victory over the French, off Cape la Hogue. Its next resident was Lord Archer, who dying, about 1770, the title became extinct. In 1774, it was converted into an hotel by David Low, and is said to have been (we know not with what accuracy) the first family hotel established in the metropolis. It owes its present name to Mr. Evans, its late proprietor, formerly a singer of some reputation at Covent-garden Theatre. In addition to its hotel accommodations, it is familiarly known as a snug supper house, where some excellent glee-singing, and other vocal entertainments, add zest to that last, but not least, interesting meal of the day.

Where the garden wall of Bedford House once projected, a range of business houses, of good elevation, called *Tavistock-row*, extend to the corner of Southampton-street. In our progress through the Strand we have already had occasion to speak of some of the principal streets in Covent-garden; and of those to which we have not referred, we need do little more than mention them, for the purpose of showing in how very great a degree the names and titles of the Stuart royal family

have been perpetuated, in the streets of this locality ; a peculiarity also traecable in the neighbourhood of Drury-lane, and Lincoln's Inn ; and, almost more forcibly impressing, than written history can do, the brilliant reminiscences which attach to these quondam court ends of the town. *Henrietta-street*, a continuation of Tavistock-row into Bedford-street, is a noble brick and mortar memorial of Henrietta Maria, the Queen of Charles I. *James-street*, a short street between the Piazzas and Long-Aere, bears the name of her son, James, Duke of York ; and *King-street*, a row of handsome houses, shops, and hotels, was so styled in honour of King Charles I. At No. 35, in this street, is the *Garrick Club*, founded within the last quarter of a century ; an agreeable place of resort for actors, dramatists, and gentlemen of literary and histrionic tastes. It is embellished with a very large and admirable collection of theatrical portraits. In a black and dirty alley, called *Rose-street*, at the north-west corner of King-street, Samuel Butler lived for many years, and, it is supposed, that he breathed his last in this squalid court. Whatever literary associations may have once ennobled it, they belong to Rose-street no longer, which, with its miserable and disreputable purlieus, between King-street and Long-aere, it is to be regretted are still allowed to cumber the ground. West of King-street is *Bedford-street*, a broad street of fine houses, extending to a point between Maiden-lane and Chandos-street, and thence into the Strand. Only the former part of this street is in the parish of St. Paul's, Covent-garden, and was erected about 1637 ; the latter part, emerging into the Strand, was not called Bedford-street till 1766, it being previously known as Half-Moon-street. This portion of Bedford-street is in the parish of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields. Among the former distinguished residents in this street, may be mentioned the accomplished Earl of Chesterfield, Quin, the actor, and Richard Brinsley Sheridan. *New-street*, a double row of good shops, adjoins King-street, and reaches to St. Martin's-lane.

Having thus briefly noticed Covent-garden, before returning to the Strand, it will be necessary, to render this guide-book as clear and concise as possible, to make a retrograde movement. Between the districts of Drury-lane and Covent-garden there exists, in many respects, so great an analogy—having been simultaneously the high resorts of fashion, wit, learning, and the drama—and having, in an equal degree, descended from the once proud eminence of locality which they enjoyed—that we cannot place them more appropriately than in juxtaposition. For a time, therefore, the stirring records of the Strand must be deferred, in order to note the ancient and modern characteristics of

DRURY LANE.

Drury-lane, properly so called, is a long irregular street abounding in public houses, coffee-shops, eating-houses, brokers' shops, and other businesses, which denote a low but populous neighbourhood, and joining Wych-street, Strand; its straggling serpentine course finds northern vent in Broad-street, St. Giles. But under the general head of Drury-lane must also be named all those tributary streets which, branching from it, partake of its generic character. Some of these, which almost equally belong to the Strand, have been already mentioned, but we must still devote some time to wandering

“Thro' the roads
Of Drury's mazy courts and dark abodes.”

Drury House, which it has been stated, stood at the west end of Wych-street, gave its name to the lane, the whole of which as far as St. Giles-in-the-Fields, previous to the erection of the mansion, was called the “Via de Aldwych,” the last syllable of which is still preserved in Wych Street. Sir William Drury, its gallant founder, was slain in a duel with Sir John Burroughs, arising out of a foolish dispute about precedency. Under his son, Sir Robert Drury, Drury House opened its hospitable doors to Dr. Donne and

his wife, until happier fortune smiled upon the reverend poet and wit. In the reign of James II. the old mansion came into the possession of Earl Craven, the hero of a romantic career, and equally renowned in the annals of love and war. He was the eldest son of Sir William Craven, Lord Mayor of London, in 1611. The greater portion of his life he spent on the continent, where he served in the armies of Gustavus Adolphus, and achieved a brilliant reputation for courage. When Charles II. regained the crown of his ancestors, he ennobled this brave soldier by the titles of Viscount and Earl Craven. Lord Craven pulled down the dwelling of the Druries, erecting in lieu thereof a large brick pile, four stories in height, which became celebrated as Craven House, and as the residence of the blooming and fascinating Queen of Bohemia, daughter of James I. ; but some authorities represent that the royal beauty resided in an adjacent house, between which and Craven House there is supposed to have been a subterranean communication. It is generally believed that the Earl of Craven was privately married to this illustrious lady, whose amiability of temper and gentleness of manners, caused her to be universally beloved in England and Bohemia, in which latter country, her endearing qualities procured for her the enviable *soubriquet* of "the Queen of Hearts." Mr. J. T. Smith says, that by right of their descent from her the family of Hanover ascended the throne of this kingdom. When she died she bequeathed to Lord Craven her books, paintings, and documents. Her portrait is preserved at Hampton Court. His lordship was so indefatigable in preserving order at the frequent fires which in those days broke out in London, that it was said his very horse smelt the fire at a distance. With the Duke of Albemarle (General Monk), he remained in town while the dreadful pestilence raged, and at the hazard of their lives they rendered much benefit during that epoch of terror. Gardening, with military exercises divided his time ; his garden stretched a considerable distance in a parallel point with Drury-lane,

where the philosophic Evelyn sometimes visited him. This gallant and happy-tempered nobleman reached the protracted age of eighty-five, and died in 1697, at his mansion in Drury-lane. About 1723 Craven House was taken down and the present Craven-buildings erected upon the ground, while the house, which had been celebrated as the residence of the lovely "Queen of Hearts," degenerated into a public-house, rescued, however from obscurity by the sign of the "Queen of Bohemia." In 1790, a fire which destroyed several dwellings rendered the tavern untenable. It remained in this state for some ten or twelve years, when every vestige of it was removed, to make way for the Olympic Pavilion, afterwards the Olympic Theatre, of which we shall speak further hereafter.

In the reign of William III. Drury-lane ceased to be a place of fashionable resort; actors, needy authors, and other professionals in kindred avocations, making it their headquarters, until at length they deserted the locality, and it sank lower in the social scale, exhibiting features which Gay broadly exposed, but which here can only be hinted at, as in the present day giving an unenviable prominence to the place. On the western side of Drury-lane are several narrow streets and courts communicating with the Strand, Catherine and Brydges-streets; and also Little Russell-street, joining Great Russell-street, and Long-acre, previously described. The eastern side demands a fuller detail. *Clare-court* and some other avenues adjacent to Craven-buildings conduct to a series of streets, which running into *Clare-market* form the open-air portion of that mart, which is chiefly appropriated to the sale of butchers' meat and vegetables. This ill-favoured assemblage of gloomy and narrow sheds, occupies the ground on which once stood the mansion of the Earls of Clare, the names and titles of which family are still retained in *Hollis*, *Denzell*, *Vere*, and other streets. The area was originally called *Clement's-Inn-fields*. At the eastern end of *Clare-market* is *Portugal-street*, extending to *Lincoln's-inn*, an-

other of the various streets in this vicinity, which owe their names to the Queen of Charles II. On the right-hand side is a burial ground belonging to the church of St. Clement Danes, in which the celebrated Joe Miller, whose very name is proverbially used to indicate a venerable joke, is buried. The large building overlooking the ground was formerly a workhouse attached to the Strand union, but is now an hospital belonging to King's College. Nearly opposite to this hospital is the site rendered memorable by Sir William Davenant's playhouse, called the Duke's Theatre, in honour of the Duke of York. This was the first theatre visited by Charles II. after his restoration; the first where scenes were introduced and brought into regular use, and the first where women appeared as performers, female characters having been, anterior to the reign of Charles II., always sustained by youths in female clothing. Davenant's company left the Duke's theatre in 1671, to return to Salisbury-court, and in 1694 it was re-opened by Betterton and Congreve. They held it for about ten years, after which the theatre remained closed till 1714, when it was re-opened by Rich, but the mediocrity of his company yielded only "a beggarly account of empty boxes," the superior performances at the Drury-lane Theatre withdrawing public patronage from the Duke's Theatre.* In this dilemma, Rich, who was fertile in expedients, invented that pantomimic entertainment which has ever since been the Christmas fare at the London theatres, and under his auspices, *Harlequin*, *Clown*, *Pantaloon*, and all the *dramatis personæ* of the pantomime first appeared upon an English stage. Of Rich's inimitable representation of *Harlequin* several excellent stories are told. This new theatrical invention answered the end of its projector, whom it literally made *Rich*, not only nominally, but in a pecuniary sense. In 1733 the manager and his corps removed to Covent-garden Theatre,

* The Duke's Theatre, although it has disappeared, deserves to be remembered for the many alterations in the dramatic fashions of which it was the stage.

then newly erected, and in 1737 the theatre in Portugal-street ceased to be a temple of the drama. It was afterwards converted into a Staffordshire pottery warehouse, and was only pulled down about two years back.

On the same side of the way, a few yards higher up, is the *Insolvent Debtors' Court*, built in 1824, after the designs of Sir John Soane.

Returning to the eastern side of Drury-lane, and passing some obscure courts, we arrive at *Duke-street*, a memento of the Duke of York, afterwards James II., opposite Little Russell-street, and the other extremity of which terminates in Lincoln's Inn-fields. In this street is a Roman Catholic chapel, once belonging to the Sardinian embassy, which narrowly escaped destruction during the "No-Popery" riots of 1780; opposite to this chapel lodged Benjamin Franklin when he first visited England in 1725, being then employed as journeyman printer in *Great Wyld-street*, a street winding from Duke-street into Queen-street. In Duke-street also lodged the unfortunate Nathaniel Lee. The remaining streets on the east side are Queen-street, which has been noticed at length, and some other streets, the oblivious obscurity of which we need not disturb.

Among the former residents of Drury-lane, the celebrated Nell Gwynn, the ancestress of the St. Albans family, ranks conspicuous. That agreeable gossip, Pepys, thus refers to her in his Diary of May 1st, 1667:—"To Westminster, in the way, many milkmaids with garlands upon their pails, dancing with a fiddier before them; and saw pretty Nelly stand at her lodging door in Drury-lane, in her smock sleeves and bodice, looking upon one; she seemed a mighty pretty creature."

Re-entering the Strand, we proceed along the southern side, the remaining portion of which we will describe in consecutive order. Between the Strand and river is situate a noble pile of building, the monument of fraternal affection and unity of purpose; it is appropriately named from a Greek noun, signifying *the brothers*, and is called

THE ADELPHI.

The projectors and architects of this fine range of riverward streets were Robert and John Adam, who were born at Kirkaldy, and educated at Edinburgh, and who, previously to that great undertaking, by which their names were rendered famous, had distinguished themselves as the architects of Lansdowne House, in Berkeley-square, and of Caen-wood House, in the vicinity of Hampstead. Before, however, describing the Adelphi, it will be proper to give the previous history of the spot upon which it is built. Durham Place, or Palace, with its offices and grounds, extending from the Strand to the river, was erected about the middle of the thirteenth century, by Thomas de Hatfield, bishop of Durham; or rather, re-erected, for as early as the reign of Edward I. a mansion was raised on this site by Anthony de Beck, patriarch of Jerusalem, and bishop of Durham. The palace of De Hatfield was inhabited by himself and his successors, until the time of bishop Tonstal, who gave it to Henry VIII. in exchange for another residence, in Thames-street. Durham-place thus became a royal palace. On the occasion of the marriage of Henry with Anne of Cleves, a magnificent tournament, which lasted for six days, was held in the Tilt-yard, at Westminster; and after the sports of each day, the combatants rode to Durham House, where they gave grand banquets to the king and queen, the members of the court, and other personages of distinction. The entertainment and gallantry of the challengers were acknowledged by Henry, who bestowed an annual grant of one hundred marks each, to them and their heirs in perpetuity, with a residence, payable out of the revenue of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. In the reign of Edward VI. a mint was founded in Durham-place, by the ambitious Lord Thomas Seymour, and placed under the superintendance of Sir William Sharrington. The Lord Admiral proposed to employ the money coined here in bribing the army, and

in promoting his designs on the throne. His schemes failed, and the scaffold was the *finis* of his ambition. Sharrington only escaped a similar doom, by inculpating his employer, and was again engaged by John Dudley, Earl of Northumberland, the next incumbent of Durham-place. In this palace, in May, 1553, Northumberland solemnized with princely splendour the nuptials of his son, Lord Guildford Dudley, with the amiable and accomplished Lady Jane Grey; those of Lord Herbert, heir to the Earl of Pembroke, with Catherine, youngest sister of Lady Jane; and those of Lord Hastings, heir to the Earl of Huntingdon, with his youngest daughter, Lady Catherine Dudley. From Sion House, Lady Jane was brought by the Duke to claim the crown, which Edward VI. had been persuaded to leave her, to the exclusion of his sisters, to Durham-place, whence she went in royal procession to the Tower, to become queen, for a period hardly extending over a fortnight. Some legal documents between July 5th and 17th, 1553, are issued in the name of Jane as queen. With her life, this innocent instrument of Northumberland's aggrandisement, soon paid the penalty of her involuntary assumption of the regal dignity; in the short space of eight months, having become a bride, a queen, and a victim to the sanguinary revenge of the unforgiving Mary. The palace was again granted in reversion by Queen Mary to the see of Durham, by which it was not long enjoyed, it being claimed by Elizabeth on her ascending the throne, as one of the royal palaces, and by that Queen it was given as a residence to Sir Walter Raleigh, who continued to dwell there till the death of his patroness. When Raleigh was cast into prison by James I., that monarch granted the palace to Toby Matthew, Bishop of Durham. In 1640, Philip, Earl of Pembroke purchased from the see, Durham-place, pulled it down, and built houses on the ground. Upon the site of the stables, to the north of Durham-place was erected, in 1608, an exchange, exclusively for the sale of millinery, none others but semp-

tresses and milliners being allowed to occupy it. James I. and his consort were present at its opening, and the Queen named it "the Bourse of Britain," a name for which the New Exchange was afterwards substituted. It was constructed after the style of the Royal Exchange, with cellars beneath, a walk above, and over that, rows of shops. This was a place of fashionable resort. In the time of William III., a sempstress attired in white, and wearing a white mask, was noticed daily to take her station at a stall. She was called the "White Milliner," and great interest being excited by the mystery attached to her, she was patronised extensively by the fashionable world. Eventually she was discovered to be the Duchess of Tyreconnell, widow of Richard Talbot, Lord Deputy of Ireland under James II., who fell into such destitution after the death of her husband that, but for the resources of her needle, she must have starved. When the circumstances became public, a provision was made for the White Milliner by her relatives. The New Exchange was taken down in 1737, and houses and shops erected looking on the Strand.

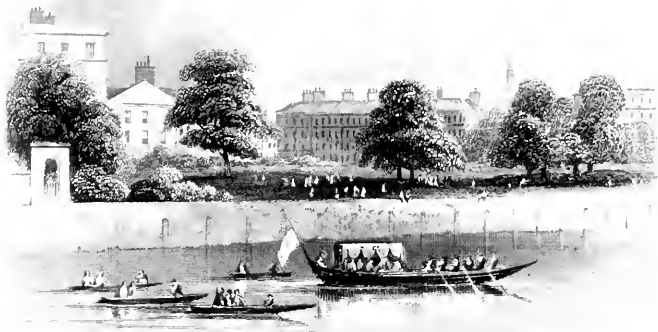
In 1760 the brothers Robert and John Adam purchased from the Earl of Pembroke Durham-yard, the ancient court-yard of Durham Palace, which, when bought by them, writes Mr. Peter Cunningham, "was occupied by a heap of small low-lying houses, coal-sheds, and hay-stalls, washed by the muddy deposits of the Thames. The change effected by the brothers was, indeed, extraordinary. They threw a series of arches over the whole declivity, allowed the wharfs to remain, and over these extensive vaultings erected a series of well-built streets, a noble terrace towards the river, and lofty rooms for the then recently established Society of Arts." *Adam Street*, leading from the Strand to the Adelphi, preserves the surname of the brothers whose christian names are retained in *Robert*, *John*, *James*, and *George* streets. At *Osborn's Hotel*, in Johnstreet, resided the King of the Sandwich Islands, when, in the reign of George IV., he paid a visit to England; a

fatal one for his Otahcitan majesty, who did not live to return to his realm. In this street is also *The Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce*, a society which cannot fail to be regarded with deep interest by the visitors which the Great Exhibition of All Nations will necessarily concentrate in London during 1851. The building is a favourable specimen of the beauty and grandeur which result from simplicity of composition and boldness of projection. The interior is at once commodious and elegant. A most noble apartment is the great room, which is illuminated by a handsome dome, and measures 47 feet in length, 42 in breadth, and 40 in height. The walls are embellished by six large paintings from the pencil of James Barry, exhibiting the progressive improvement of the condition of society from a state of uncultivated barbarity to that of the most refined civilization; and intended to illustrate the axiom which declares "that the attainment of happiness, public as well as private, depends upon the development, proper cultivation, and perfection of the human faculties, physical and moral, which are so well calculated to elevate the human mind to its true station, as originally designed by Providence." The first picture represents mankind in a savage state, suffering from their ignorance of cultivation; the second, a Grecian Harvest Home, or a Thanksgiving to Ceres and Bacchus; the third, the Victors at the Olympic Games; the fourth, Navigation, or the Triumphs of the Thames; the fifth, the Distribution of Rewards by the Society of Arts; and the last, Elysium, or the State of Final Retribution. Each of the pictures is 11 feet 6 inches in height; the first, second, fourth, and fifth, are 15 feet 2 inches long; the third and sixth, severally occupying the entire breadth of the room at the north and south ends, are each 42 feet in length. The room also contains portraits of the various presidents of the society since its foundation in 1753, by Lords Folkestone and Romney, and other paintings, statues, and busts of men illustrious in the annals of learning and science. The plan of the building was laid by Mr.

William Shipley. H.R.H. Prince Albert is the president. The principal objects of this society are the improvement of the Arts, Commerce, and Manufactures of the kingdom, by offering and awarding premiums for useful inventions and discoveries. This distribution is made on the anniversary, which is held in the month of June. Every person receiving a premium is required to deposit a model, and the society, consequently, possesses the most valuable collection of the kind in Europe. The public are admitted to see the paintings and models every day, with the exception of Wednesday, between the hours of ten and two o'clock.

Adelphi-terrace, fronting the *Thames*, which bounds and crowns the architectural labours, of the brothers, presents a row of stately mansions, among the noblest and pleasantest in London. The centre house, No. 5, was purchased by David Garrick, and here that great actor dwelt from 1772 to 1779, the year of his exit from the stage of life. The mansion was most costly in its arrangements; the pencil of Antonio Zucchi, an artist of eminence, decorated the ceiling of the front drawing-room and, in the same apartment, was a white marble chimney-piece, valued at £300. Dr. Johnson, gazing on the splendid domicile, which success had placed at the command of his quondam pupil, uttered the prophetic admonition, "Oh! David, these are the things which make death dreadful!" The widow of Garrick, once the lovely opera dancer, *Violette*, survived her husband more than 40 years, dying in the same house, in 1822. The eldest of the brothers, Mr. Robert Adam, died in 1792, and was buried in Westminster Abbey, the Duke of Buccleuch, the Earl of Coventry, the Earl of Lauderdale, and others holding the pall.

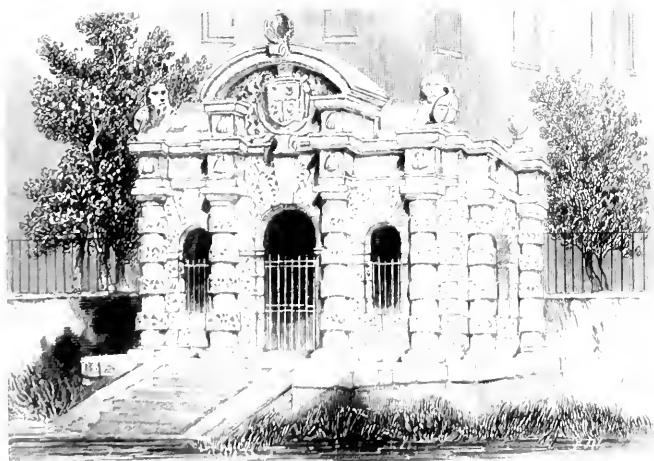
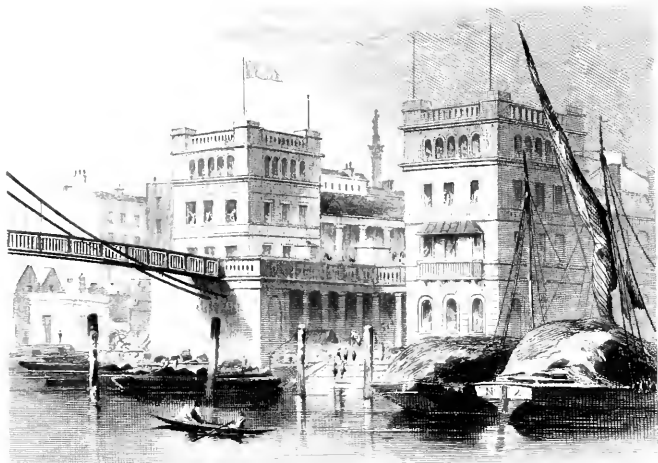
Durham-street, a short dingy declivity, leads from the Strand to the vaults and stables under the Adelphi, the cavernous entry to which gives the idea of a modern *descensus Averni*. *Villiers-street*, running from the Strand in a parallel line with the east side of Hungerford Market,



covers a site upon which the Bishop of Norwich's inn originally stood. Subsequently, Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, became its owner; and, in the reign of Mary, it again became an episcopal palace, having been purchased by the Archbishop of York, by whom it was styled York House. In the time of Queen Elizabeth, York House was the residence of Sir Nicholas Bacon, lord keeper; and here his distinguished son, Francis, was born, and lived the greater part of his existence, celebrating his sixtieth birth-day beneath the natal roof. When Lord Bacon fell from his high estate, York House was granted to the Duke of Buckingham, for whom it was rebuilt in a magnificent manner by Inigo Jones. Buckingham falling by the hand of the assassin Felton, the mansion became the dwelling of his gay heir; and was afterwards, with all its costly appurtenances, leased to the Earl of Northumberland. In 1649, Cromwell bestowed York House on General Fairfax, whose daughter marrying the second Duke of Buckingham, the estate reverted to its true owner. He lived here for many years after the restoration, in luxurious fashion, but his extravagance causing him to run short of money, he disposed of the entire estate of York House, which was pulled down, and a number of streets were erected upon its plot, which were generally known as York-buildings, but afterwards were distinguished as at present; each of their names giving a word or name of the title of the last noble proprietor, viz.: *George-street*, *Villiers-street*, *Duke-street*, *Of-alley*, and *Buckingham-street*. The last house, on the east side of Buckingham-street, towards the river, was occupied by Peter the Great, during his visit to this country. "Here," says Mr. J. T. Smith, "after rowing about on the Thames, between Deptford and London, he used often to retire and spend his evenings with Lord Caermarthen, drinking hot brandy with pepper in it, a fiery beverage of which he was fond, and which served to digest the raw viands, and the train oil, of his ordinary diet."

The *York Stairs*, or *Buckingham Water-gate*, at the end of Buckingham-street, the last relic of the gorgeous pile of York House, will furnish some conception of the surpassing beauty of the whole fabric. It is considered one of the most perfect and elaborate relics of Inigo Jones. We approach York Stairs from a small inclosed terrace, planted with lime trees, an agreeable promenade for the residents in the neighbourhood, who maintain the gate and terrace in good order, from the proceeds of a rate levied on their houses for that object. On the Thames front is a large archway, opening upon steps, that conduct to the water, with a window on either side. These, and four rusticated columns, sustain an entablature, surmounted by an arched pediment, and two couchant lions, bearing shields. In the centre of the pediment, within a scroll, are the arms of the house of Villiers. On the north side are three arches, flanked by pilasters, upholding an entablature, whereon are four balls. Over the key-stones of the arches are ornamental shields, with anchors, that in the centre the arms of the Villiers family impaling those of Manners. Upon the frieze, the motto, *Fidei coticula crux* is inscribed.

Hungerford-street, a short but wide avenue, leads into *Hungerford Market*, where, in the time of Charles II., stood the mansion of Sir Edward Hungerford, of Farleigh, in Wiltshire. He took down his residence, and upon the ground erected a market and small tenements. Old Hungerford Market, as seen by the present generation, was a deplorably dirty-looking piece of ground, flanked by squalid houses, and little better than a monster dust-heap, and a cemetery for the dead dogs and cats of the neighbourhood. At length, the advantageous position of the site attracted the notice of some public-spirited individuals, and a company was formed for the purpose of building a new market, Mr. Charles Fowler being engaged as architect. The first stone of the fabric was laid on June 18th, 1831, and the market opened on July 2nd, 1833. The approach from the Strand exhibits,





on the right and left, piazzas of handsome elevation, a number of shops; those on the right side being chiefly occupied by butchers and poulterers, those on the left by dealers in vegetables, fruits, flowers, &c. The principal covered portion of the market comprises a nave, and two aisles, the whole roofed in, the centre roof being elevated above the other parts, and sustained by open arches. Beyond the central market-place are two terraces, or approaches, to the suspension bridge, which are well supplied with fishmongers' shops. The fish-market was originally in a broad court, below the level of the market, to which flights of stone steps formed the descent. In connection with the market are numerous wharfs and warehouses: and its southern boundary is formed by that noble ornament to the river—

CHARING-CROSS BRIDGE.

This structure, which is sometimes called *Hungerford Suspension Bridge*, is for foot-passengers only, and was raised from the plans, and under the superintendence, of that distinguished architect, Brunel. The first stone was laid in 1841, and, in the spring of 1845, this proprietary bridge was opened, a half-penny toll being established at the Middlesex and Surrey sides. It consists of three arches; the span of the centre is 676 feet 6 inches, and that of each of the side arches 333 feet. The altitude of the roadway from high-water mark, at the abutment, is 22 feet 6 inches; at the piers 28 feet, and in the centre 32 feet. The width of the platform is 14 feet, and the height of the two red brick or campanile towers, which carry the chain, is 58 feet above the roadway. These towers, which are 22 feet square, are each composed of four solid piers of brickwork in cement, 7 feet 6 inches square, connected by inverted arches at the bottom, and are built on the natural bed of the river, without piles. They are in the Italian style, and were designed by Mr. Bunning, to correspond with the buildings belonging to the market. The platform is carried by four chains, in two

lines, with single suspension rods on each side, 12 feet apart. The chains pass over rollers in the upper part of the towers, so as to equalize the strain, and are secured in tunnels, at the abutments, to two iron girders, 44 feet long and 5 feet deep, solidly embedded in a mass of brick-work in cement, additionally strengthened and backed up with concrete. The suspension-rods carry two longitudinal bearers of fir, 9 by 9, running from end to end on each side of roadway, one above the other, and between these are placed the ends of cross-beams, which beams receive a flooring of three-inch deal. The cross-beams are double every 12 feet, that is, at the point where the suspension rod comes through (each of the two pieces is 11 by 3, and side by side); the intermediate beams, two in each space, are 11 by 5½. There is a third longitudinal bearer under the cross beams, down the centre, 10 by 6, and the whole is trussed diagonally, from side to side, with iron. The wood employed in the construction is Paynized, and between ten and eleven thousand tons of iron were consumed. The entire number of links in the chain is 2,600, and their weight 715 tons. The length of the bridge is 1,440 feet. For the substance of the above notice of the proportions of this, the only suspension bridge in the metropolis, we are indebted to a very comprehensive and able description of the fabric, by Mr. George Godwin, junior. A descent of steps from the first campanile tower, on the Middlesex side, conducts to the steam-boat pier, whence boats continually running up and down the river, present a very animated scene in the spring and summer seasons.

Craven-street, a genteel street, chiefly composed of private houses, leading from the Strand towards the Thames, deserves a passing remark as the locality in which several gifted individuals have lived. In 1777, the house No. 7, was occupied by Benjamin Franklin, upon his second visit to England; and James Smith, the accomplished wit, and one of the authors of *Rejected Addresses* resided at No. 27. An epigram of his, in reference to the peculiarities of Cra-

ven-street, although it will be recognised as an old acquaintance, is intrinsically too good to omit. It is as follows:—

“ At the top of my street, the attorneys abound,
And down at the bottom the barges are found :
Fly, honesty fly, to some safer retreat,
For there's *craft* in the river, and *craft* in the street !”

His friend, Sir George Rose, is said to have given this extemporaneous rejoinder:—

“ Why should honesty fly to some safer retreat,
From attorneys and barges,—'od-rot-'em—
For the lawyers are *just* at the top of the street,
And the barges are *just* at the bottom.”

The last street on the southern side of the Strand, is *Northumberland-street*, similar in character to Craven-street, and communicating with Scotland-yard. We now approach an edifice which merits especially the notice of the historian, exhibiting as it does, the last of that noble range of palaces which once, with their beautiful gardens, stretched from the main line of road to the *strand* or shore of the Thames—and which may be considered as a solitary link connecting the past and present records of the Strand. *Northumberland House* stands upon the site, once occupied by the hospital of Saint Mary Rounceval. By Henry VIII. it was granted to Sir Thomas Cawarden. Subsequently, it was transferred to Henry Howard, Earl of Northampton, who, in the reign of James I., built upon the ground a spacious mansion, which he named after himself. The greater portion of the fabric was erected by an architect named Bernard Jansen. Upon the death of his lordship, Northampton House, by his will, became the property of the Earl of Suffolk; and Algernon Percy, Earl of Northumberland, wedding with Elizabeth, daughter of Theophilus, Earl of Suffolk in 1642, the mansion came into possession of the present noble family, and has since been known as Northumberland House. The house, as constructed by Jansen, originally comprised three sides of a quadrangle, and the chief rooms were in the upper story next to the Strand. When Algernon Percy

became the proprietor, he erected a fourth side, under the superintendence of Inigo Jones, looking towards the river, so that the principal apartments might be away from the dust and turmoil of the then narrow and alley-like Strand. This side, which commanded a view over an ornamental and extensive garden and the Surrey hills, combined the advantage of a palatial residence, seated in the centre of a large and crowded city, with the retirement of a country seat. In 1660, General Monk met here the Earl of Northumberland, and others of the nobility, to concert measures for effecting the restoration of Charles II. The entire of the front adjoining the street was nearly rebuilt, about 1750, by the widowed Duchess of Northumberland; and in 1830, additional alterations were made. On the summit of the screen or front facing the Strand and Trafalgar-square, is the statue of a lion *pussant*, the crest of the Percy family. The vestibule of the interior is eighty-two feet in length, and exceeds twelve in breadth, and is sustained by Doric columns. Each end communicates with a staircase ascending to the principal apartments, looking on the Thames, and which contain paintings by Titian and other eminent masters. The state gallery, on the left, is 106 feet in length, and is ornamented in a most gorgeous style. In Northumberland House there are upwards of 150 apartments. The garden is situate between the house and Scotland-yard, the only rural appendage of that kind, in the Strand or its neighbourhood, which has escaped the unpicturesque encroachments of brick-and-mortar capitalists.

The remaining portion of the north side of the Strand must now be dispatched. A few yards beyond Bedford-street, in a westerly direction, the Strand has of late years been modernized, and widened, after the style of Regent street, and the dark and narrow alleys in its rear removed, to make room for handsome and spacious streets, the whole being distinctively called *West Strand*. So recently as 1826, the only approach from the Strand to St. Martin's Church was through a mean court, and an

extremely narrow thoroughfare formed the entrance to St. Martin's-lane. In the above-mentioned and subsequent years, more than eleven hundred houses in St. Martin's parish, were pulled down to make room for the Strand improvements. West Strand is an elegant range of buildings, consisting of a handsome centre, the first and second stories of which are ornamented by columns with rich capitals, while the attic story is raised above that of the wings by balustrades. In the centre of this pile is the *Lowther Arcade*, leading in a transverse direction to Adelaide-street, at the back of St. Martin's Church. Its altitude is nearly equal to the second floor in the façade, but the harmony of its proportion is maintained by this part of the façade forming a screen-front to the arcade, the roof of which is sustained by arches, resting on pilasters, the whole abounding in florid ornament. The length is 245 feet, the width 20, and the height 35. Fancy articles and toys are sold at the shops; indeed, it has latterly assumed the character of a bazaar, or fancy fair. At the Adelaide-street end is the entrance to the *Adelaide Gallery*, a long apartment, with galleries, running parallel with the arcade, and which is devoted to various popular entertainments. The tributary streets of *West Strand* are *Agar-street* and *King William-street*, communicating with Chandos-street; *Duncannon-street*, opposite Hungerford-street, forming a portion of a wide line of road, leading by St. Martin's Church to Trafalgar-square and Pall Mall; and *Adelaide-street*, running from Duncannon-street, by the back of the church, into Chandos-street. At the angle of King William-street the *Charing-Cross Hospital* is situate, the first stone of which was laid by the Duke of Sussex, in 1831. The front extends about 180 feet towards Agar-street. It is built in the Grecian style, after the design of Mr. Decimus Burton. The chief façade comprehends a centre and two wings, with a range of seventeen windows towards Agar-street, and a rusticated ground story, continued through the edifice. The south front corresponds with the build-

ings in West Strand. This institution, which contains 100 beds, unites the advantages of a dispensary with those of a hospital. At the north-west corner of King William-street is another valuable foundation, the *Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Infirmary*. One side of Duncannon-street is occupied by the *Golden Cross Inn*, the front of which is in the Strand. The present structure stands upon the site of an inn of considerable antiquity, and which, before the railway era, was a famous coaching house. We next arrive at *Morley's Hotel*, a building of some architectural pretensions, on the floor of which is a general post branch office. This hotel is at the corner of Trafalgar-square, and is the last house on the north side of the Strand, approaching the west. Our researches through the Strand having terminated, a bird's-eye view of the interesting localities, into which we now emerge, must be reserved for another chapter.

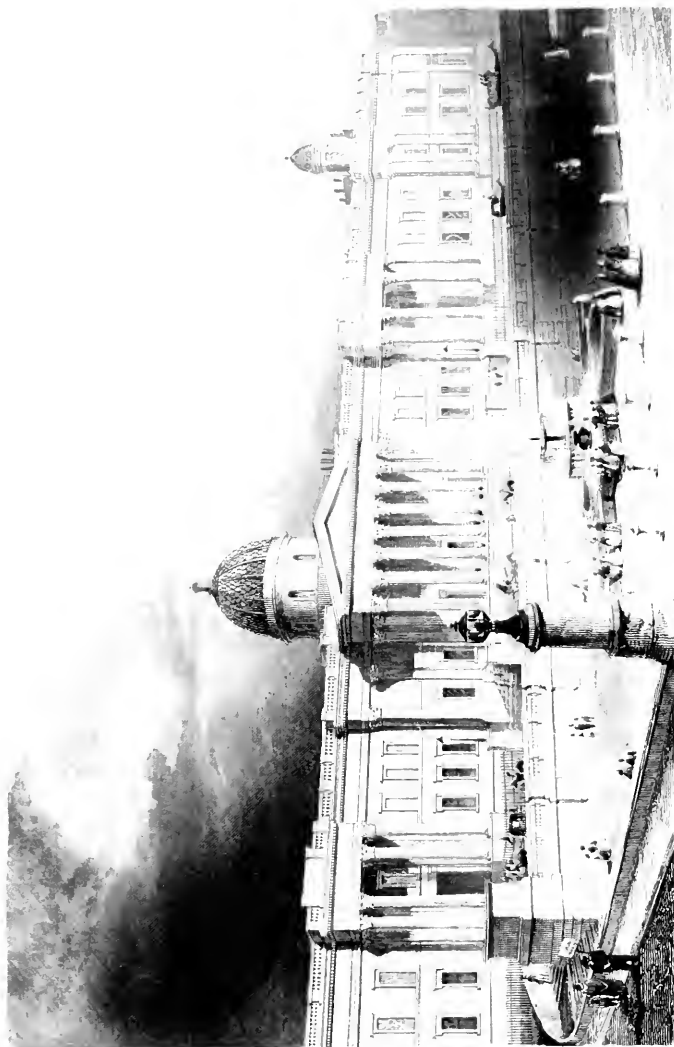
CHAPTER IV.

TRAFALGAR SQUARE—THE NATIONAL GALLERY—ST. MARTIN'S LANE—ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH—LEICESTER SQUARE
—CHARING-CROSS—WHITEHALL, &c.

THE site now occupied by Trafalgar-square, and the National Gallery, was formerly covered by a number of buildings, called the King's Mews, the word being frequently spelt Meuse. Gay thus alludes to the features of the neighbourhood, in his time—

“Where branching streets from Charing Cross divide ;
His treble voice resounds along the Meuse,
And Whitehall echoes—clean your Honor's shoes.”

So early as the reign of Edward I. the king's falcons were kept here. The royal stables at Bloomsbury being consumed by fire, in the time of Henry VIII., the mews was converted into stables for the royal steeds. In 1732,



the original mews was taken down, and a more commodious fabric raised upon the spot. These royal stables, after standing for about a century; were pulled down. As soon as it had been decided that the king's mews should be removed, a claim was preferred, on behalf of the residents in the vicinity, that the area in front should not again be covered with brick and stone. A promenade was demanded, as being at once necessary for the health of the people, and required as ornamental to the metropolis. This wish was conceded, and a fine open paved space, called *Trafalgar-square*, was accordingly formed, with two handsome fountains in its centre. On its west side is St. Martin's Church; on the eastern, Pall Mall; on the north, the National Gallery; and on the south, the Nelson column and Charing-cross. From its north side, two flights of steps descend into the square. The *National Gallery* was erected between the years 1834 and 1837, from the design of Mr. Charles Wilkins. The front is five hundred feet in length. In the centre is a portico, with eight columns of the Corinthian order, to which a flight of steps at each side conduct, the whole crowned by an ornamented dome. The western wing is appropriated to the late Mr. Augerstein's collection of paintings. Mr. Augerstein lived at No. 100, Pall Mall, and, after his death, the government purchased his magnificent pictures for £60,000, and the nucleus of a national gallery was thus formed; and it was first opened free to the public in May, 1824. The collection was afterwards enlarged, by the liberality of Sir George Beaumont, who presented the whole of his splendid pictures to the nation, and other private individuals following his generous example, the contents of the Pall Mall gallery became sufficiently numerous and costly to require a more appropriate shrine than had hitherto been granted to some of the rarest gems of art. Hence the construction of the new edifice for their reception. Among its brilliant contents are some of the masterpieces of the Caracci, Canaletti, Correggio, Claude, Parmegiano, the Poussins, Rubens, Rembrandt,

Gainsborough, Hogarth, Sir Joshua Reynolds, West, and Wilkie. The gallery is open to the public gratuitously every day, except Friday and Saturday, on which two days it is exclusively granted to artists for study. Mr. Vernon, a most liberal patron to art, who died very recently, presented, in 1849, to the British public, a superb collection of paintings, by British artists, painted expressly for him. The Vernon Gallery, as this collection was called, was deposited in the National Gallery, but the rooms assigned to the new pictures being on the basement, and very indifferently lighted, general dissatisfaction was felt at the inadequate accommodation. Upon the death of Queen Adelaide, in 1849, it was determined to transfer the Vernon collection to the residence of her late majesty, Marlborough House, in Pall Mall, and it was accordingly removed from its subterranean depository to a more fitting temple of art, where its varied contents could be seen to advantage, and better appreciated than in the dim straggling light to which they had been previously consigned.

The Nelson Pillar owes its existence to a patriotic wish which his late majesty William IV. entertained, to commemorate by a suitable monument the exploits of England's greatest naval hero, one, who by his prowess, confirmed to Britain that sovereignty of the ocean, which rival nations disputed, but which they vainly attempted to destroy or to share. "*Aut Cæsar, aut nullus,*" was a principle with Nelson, and he did not deem death too great a sacrifice when by such a sacrifice, victory was purchased. The Nelson Pillar, built after the design of Mr. Railton, is of the Corinthian order. Sculptured lions in a recumbent position are placed at the angles of the pedestal, on the sides of which are pictorial representations of Nelson's four chief triumphs, at St. Vincent, Copenhagen, the Nile, and Trafalgar, each tableau being eighteen feet square. Over the pedestal a fluted shaft partially ornamented with oak-foliage rises. The capital is copied from the column of Mars the Avenger, at Rome,





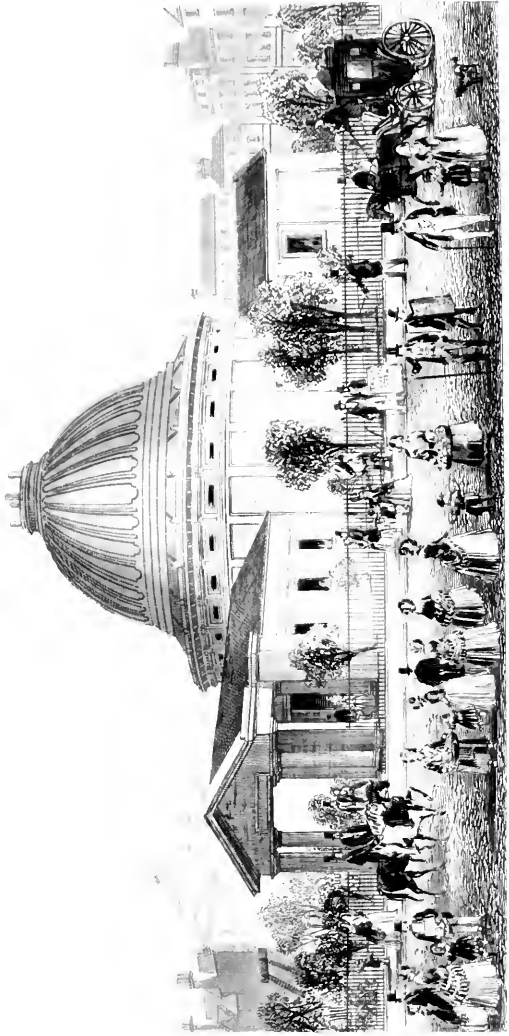


on each side of which is a figure of Victory. Above is a circular pedestal wreathed with laurel, and the whole is crowned by a colossal figure of Nelson, 17 feet in height. The base is 10 feet high and 104 feet wide, the pedestal 39 feet high, and 206 feet wide, and the total altitude of the column is 193 feet.

So much of *St. Martin's-lane* as extended from the Strand to Chandos-street, was taken down to facilitate the Strand improvements, and that portion of the lane is replaced by the north side of Trafalgar-square, formed by Morley's Hotel and other buildings, and St. Martin'-place, a handsome range of houses. The *Church of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields* was built after the design of James Gibbs, a native of Aberdeen, who died in 1754. Upon the ground which it covers a church stood so early as the thirteenth century, for it is recorded that in 1222 a dispute arose between William, abbot of Westminster, and Eustace, bishop of London, in consequence of the latter claiming jurisdiction over the church. Three centuries after, the original edifice being in a state of dilapidation, a small church was raised by Henry VIII. at his own expense, in consequence of the alleged poverty of the parishioners, who at that period, when the Haymarket and Whitcombe-street were green lanes, could not have been numerous. The neighbourhood increasing, it became requisite to enlarge the church in 1607, and in 1721 the entire fabric was removed, and the present stately structure, the first stone of which was laid by George I., rose in its place. It occupied five years in building, and cost £37,000. This church is of stone, and in the west front, a flight of steps ascends to a portico of Corinthian columns, sustaining a pediment with the royal arms in bas-relief. The same order is continued round in pilasters, and in the inter-columniations are two series of windows encompassed with rustic. On each side of the doors are lofty Corinthian columns; the roof is concealed by a handsome balustrade; the steeple, which is admired for its elegance, is 185 feet in height; and the tower contains a peal of twelve bells. The

internal decorations are very rich ; the ceiling is elliptical, and is divided into panels, adorned with fretwork. Slender Corinthian columns on high pedestals, rising in the front, sustain the galleries and roof, which rest upon them in an ornamental arch-work. The east end is enriched with fretwork and gilding, and over the altar is a large Venetian window with stained glass. Among those who have been buried in the church and its precincts, may be named Sir Edmondbury Godfrey, murdered on Primrose-hill, Hampstead, in the time of Charles II. ; the beautiful Nell Gwynne, who bequeathed to the ringers of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields a small sum yearly, a legacy which they still enjoy ; John Laacy, the dancing-master, soldier, actor, dramatist, and a favourite with Charles II. ; Farquhar ; Sir Winston Churchill, the father of the famous Duke of Marlborough ; Mrs. Centlivre, the author of *The Wonder* ; Ronbiliae, the sculptor ; George Colman, the younger ; and John Banister.

Within the last quarter of a century St. Martin's-lane has undergone so many changes at its several outlets, that from a narrow, crooked, and inconvenient defile, it has risen to the rank of a respectable second-rate street. Here Anne Killegrew, the lovely maid of honour at the court of Charles II., but still more ennobled by her genius for poetry and art, was born. She died at the early age of twenty-four. At No. 103 dwelt for some time Sir James Thornhill, the father-in-law of Hogarth ; and in the same house Sir Joshua Reynolds subsequently resided. Old Slaughter's Coffee-house was a famous nightly resort for artists, where Hogarth was a frequent visitor. It has been removed to make way for a County Court. Between 1739 and 1767 another association of artists assembled, under the presidency of Mr. Moser, in St. Peter's-court, St. Martin's-lane. They subsequently met at the Turk's Head, in Greek-street, when they petitioned George III. to become the patron of a Royal Academy of Art. The king acceded to their wishes, and apartments were taken by the new society in Pall-mall, which they occupied till 1771,





when a suite of rooms in Old Somerset House was granted to them by his majesty. It is worthy to be remembered, that after many changes the Royal Academy has finally settled in a locality, close to where its nucleus was formed.

The northern extremity of St. Martin's-lane branches into a number of poor streets, in the direction of Broad-street, St. Giles. Some of these have recently been widened, modernized, and re-named, but require no separate mention, being all of the same character, a collection of low public-houses, old clothes, and other second-hand shops, and poor lodging-houses, chiefly colonized by Irish. From the centre of this group, seven streets radiate, giving to the neighbourhood the characteristic name of *Seven Dials*, and to which, with some slight qualification, the description of Gay is still very applicable:—

“Where famed St. Giles's ancient limits spread,
 An inrailed column rears its lofty head;
 Here to sev'n streets sev'n dials count the day,
 And from each other catch the circling ray:
 Here oft the peasant, with enquiring face,
 Bewildered, trudges on from place to place;
 He dwells on every sign with stupid gaze,
 Enters the narrow alley's doubtful maze;
 Tries every winding court and street in vain,
 And doubles o'er his weary steps again.”

Opposite that point where Long-acre runs into St. Martin's-lane, is *Cranbourn-street*, a wide street with houses of good elevation. It is of recent erection, its predecessor having been Cranbourn-alley, one side of which being pulled down, it was replaced by buildings of a more elegant character, a carriage-way made, and the alley promoted to the rank of a street. This business street runs into *Leicester-square*, a place which, denuded of its ancient royal and aristocratic associations, is occupied with shops, hotels, and lodging-houses. It is a locality especially favoured by foreigners, and Mr. J. T. Smith says:—
 “Were it not for the trees and statue in the middle, it might well be mistaken for the Grande Place of some con-

tinental city. On every side rise hotels with foreign names, kept by foreign landlords, and marked *Restaurant*. Occasionally a label may be seen in the window with the inscription *Table d'hote à cinq heures*. The linen-drapers, and other shop-keepers take especial care to inform all passengers that they can speak French or German, and the cigar-shops here or in the streets adjoining, add to that information that their owners can even speak Spanish and Portuguese." Maitland, writing a century back, remarks of this vicinity, "Many parts of it so greatly abound with French, that it is an easy matter for a stranger to imagine himself in France." The enclosure in the square which has been permitted to fall into decay, presents none of the bright and vernal tints which enliven most of the other squares in Westminster, and the equestrian statue of George I. in its centre, looks more like the effigy of a chimney-sweep than that of a monarch. The by-gone records of the square are interesting. On its north side, whence *Leicester-place* emerges, stood Leicester House, the mansion of the Sidneys, Earls of Leicester, and the only house which covered the area of the present square in the middle of the seventeenth century. Here died in 1662, Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia, whose previous history has been given in the description of Drury-lane. When the brave Prince Eugene visited England in 1711, he had apartments there. In that century, Leicester House, writes Pennant, "was successively the pouting place of princes." The Prince of Wales, afterwards George II., upon quarrelling with his father, retired with his family to this mansion; and the example set by George II. was followed by his own son, Frederick, Prince of Wales (father of George III.), who not being able to agree with his austere parent, made Leicester House his permanent residence. He died here in 1751, from the effects of a neglected cold. So little idea had his family of a fatal termination to his illness, that nearly up to the time of his death they were playing at cards in an ante-chamber. He coughed violently between nine and ten at night, and ex-

claiming that he felt death at hand, the Princess rushed from the foot of the bed towards him, but before she could reach him he expired. Sir Nicholas Wraxall, in his *Memoirs of his own Times*, states, his royal highness died in the arms of Desnoyèrs, a famous dancing-master, who at the critical moment of the fatal attack, was performing on the violin for the entertainment of the dying prince. In 1806 Leicester House was pulled down. To the west of its site is *Saville House*, originally the town mansion of the Saville family. George III., before his accession to the throne, dwelt here, and upon becoming King gave up his apartments to his brother, the Duke of York, who resided here till a new palace was erected for him in Pall Mall. Upon the Duke of York vacating Saville House, it became the abode of Sir George Saville, M.P. for Yorkshire. Sir George, in 1779, moved in the House of Commons the first reading of a bill giving toleration to Roman Catholic places of worship. This rendered him unpopular with the "No-Popery" mobs of 1780, and in that year the rioters attacked his house, and despoiling it of its valuable furniture, books, and paintings, made a vast bonfire of the whole. Afterwards Miss Linwood's Exhibition of Needlework, consisting of copies of the finest pictures of the English and foreign schools, was exhibited here for about forty years. The collection was recently sold, the principal picture, however, having been bequeathed by Miss Linwood to her Majesty, Queen Victoria. Sir James Thornhill, Hogarth, and Sir Joshua Reynolds were residents of Leicester-square. The first-named died here in 1764; Hogarth, his son-in-law, occupied one of the two houses that now form the Sabloniere Hotel, and died in the same month, the same year, and the same square, and they were both buried in the same place—Chiswick. Reynolds died in 1792, at No. 47, Leicester-square. When the Polish patriot, Kosciusko visited England, he lived in the house in which Hogarth had closed his existence. The house adjoining had the distinguished surgeon, John Hunter, for its inmate, and here he formed his anatomical museum.

On the west side of the square *Sydney-alley*, named after the noble family of Sydney, a narrow avenue, leads into Princes-street, crossing which Coventry-street, Piccadilly, and the west-end generally is gained, but intending to approach that fashionable quarter by a different route, we shall at present suspend our researches in that direction. The chief opening on the west side of Leicester-square is *New Coventry-street*, consisting of several houses which are very ornate specimens of modern shop architecture.

To the right of Cranbourn-street is *Great Newport-street*, where Horne Tooke was born, leading to *Newport-market*—a butcher and provision market, with no pretensions to architectural taste. In this neighbourhood is *Gerrard-street*, running nearly parallel with the south side of Leicester-square. This street was, in the last and preceding centuries, one of fashionable repute; and several of the fine old mansions which are still found here, give silent evidence of its former rank. It derives its name from Gerrard, Earl of Macclesfield, whose title is commemorated in the adjacent street. Dryden lived here for many years, dying at his house in 1701. Edmund Burke was also a resident in this street, which abounds in associations, interesting indeed, but which our limits preclude us from noticing further. In close proximity to Gerrard-street are several streets communicating with Soho-square and Oxford-street. Of these the chief are *Dean-street*, *Frith-street*, and *Greek-street*,—streets which have long formed the favourite locality of artists. The church of *St. Anna, Soho*, completed in 1686, and dedicated to St. Ann, in compliment to the Princess Ann of Denmark, is in Dean-street. This edifice is remarkable for a circular tower surmounted with a large ball, containing a clock with four dials. At the back of this church is a tablet erected by Lord Oxford in 1758, on which is inscribed: "Near this place is interred Theodore King of Corsica, who died in this parish Dec. xi., MDCCLVI. immediately after leaving the King's Bench Prison, by the benefit of the Act of In-

solveney; in consequence of which he registered his kingdom of Corsica for the use of his creditors.

“The grave, great teacher, to a level brings,
 Heroes and beggars, galley-slaves and kings.
 But Theodore, this moral learn'd ere dead; }
 Fate pour'd its lessons on his living head, }
 Bestow'd a kingdom, and denied him bread.”

It is rather curious that the name of Greek-street should be a perversion of Grig-street, and, unlike most corruptions, a very excellent change for the dignity of the street. *Soho-square*, into which there are approaches from every point of the compass, is one of the earliest squares in the metropolis, and the West-end character which it once maintained is hardly yet departed from it, it being the resort, if not the residence, of a considerable proportion of the fashionable world. It was commenced in the reign of Charles II., and the unfortunate Duke of Monmouth lived in the centre house, opposite the statue. The square was originally called, in honour of that nobleman, Monmouth-square, and subsequently it acquired the name of King-square. Pennant says, that upon the death of the Duke of Monmouth, his admirers changed the name to *Soho*, being the word of the day at the field of Sedgmoor, but this account is refuted by a work printed in 1683, four years anterior to the battle of Sedgmoor, in which the London house of the Duke of Monmouth is stated to be in “*Soho*”-square. Thus the origin of its present name is unexplained. Among the other distinguished residents here, may be named the noble family of Carlisle; Mary Cromwell, Countess of Fauconberg, third daughter of Oliver Cromwell; Admiral Sir Cloudesley Shovel, and Sir Joseph Banks. By the last named gentleman, the Linnæan Society was founded, and its museum still remains in *Soho-square*, to perpetuate the researches of Sir Joseph, its first president. Here is the *Soho Bazaar*, the first institution of the kind started in the metropolis, it having been opened in 1815. These premises, originally appropriated by the Storekeeper-

general, are very extensive; and consist of several rooms fitted up with mahogany counters; the walls are hung with red cloth, adorned with large mirrors at the ends, and the whole building is comfortably lighted, warm, and ventilated. About 200 respectable females preside at the various stalls, to sell fancy and other goods; and the variety of articles exhibited and the commodiousness of the bazaar render it one of the most fashionable morning lounges in town. In the centre of the enclosure of the square is a statue of James II., at the feet of which are allegorical figures representing the Thames, the Trent, the Severn, and the Humber.

Having deviated from our western progress, in order to notice localities which lie out of the regular line of road, and which it was more advisable at once to visit than to seek them subsequently by a circuitous approach, we now return to a spot abounding in interesting recollections. Not merely as a scene of historical incidents, but as a central landmark, whence the commercial, the fashionable, the political, and the artistical neighbourhoods of the capital radiate, more than a cursory notice must be bestowed on

CHARING-CROSS.

At Charing-cross, wrote Dr. Johnson, flows the full tide of human existence. The village of Charing was a quiet and retired spot in the reign of Henry III., containing a hermitage and a chapel, of which St. Catharine was the patron-saint. In this road-side hamlet there were not more than a dozen cottages or huts. The supplemental name of Cross, it owes to a wooden cross erected by Edward I., in memory of his beloved and lamented queen, Eleanor of Castile. Her remains were borne from Grant-ham, Lincolnshire, to Westminster Abbey, their final place of rest, and wherever the cavalcade paused, during its transit from Lincolnshire to London, there the tender-hearted monarch set up a cross, as a record of that devoted love which could now only be manifested by

reverence for the memory of the departed queen. A stone cross, designed by Cavalini, replaced the wooden one, and this monument of conjugal affection remained intact, and respected through the various revolutions and wars, by which England was desolated, until the advent of that "reign of terror," fanaticism, and intolerance, which prevailed under the auspices of Cromwell and his Roundheads. Before these ignorant pretenders to infallibility, much that was beautiful in art, much that was beautiful in human nature, was prostrated; and it was not very probable that the men who did not hesitate to smite down, and to murder, with relentless ferocity, their weak, but benevolent sovereign, would hesitate about laying their ruthless hands upon the records sacred to kingly affection, and the cross of Cavalini, and many other remarkable works of art, were demolished by these Vandals of the conventicle. In 1647, by order of the House of Commons, it was destroyed, and some of the stones were employed to pave the path before Whitehall. This cross was of an octagonal form, and, in an upper stage, ornamented with eight figures. Thirty-one years afterwards, nearly upon the same spot, was placed the present equestrian statue of Charles I., cast in 1633 by Le Sœur, for Lord Arundel. Before the time fixed upon for its erection, it was seized by the Parliament, who ordered it to be sold and broken to pieces. It was purchased by one John Rivet, a brazier, who, having a shrewd notion that royalty would one day be re-established in England, buried the statue, according to some authorities, in his garden in Holborn, while others affirm that it was concealed in a vault under the church of St. Paul's, Covent-garden. He manufactured from old brass, knife and fork handles, candlesticks, and other trifling household articles, which he ostensibly sold as being constructed from the bronze of the condemned statue. His ingenuity was amply rewarded, for the Puritans bought his wares as memorials of the downfall of the king, and the Royalists, as records of their beloved sovereign. After the Restoration, the statue was brought

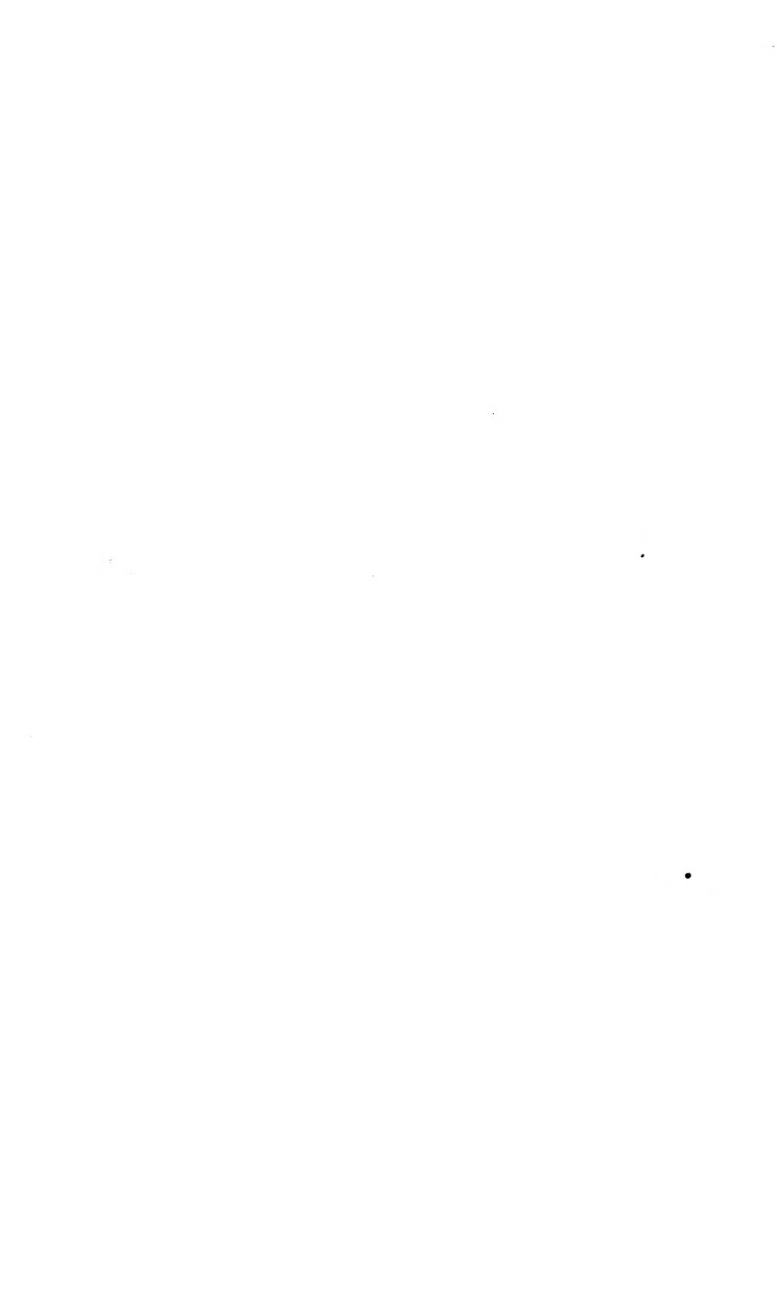
forth from its hiding-place, uninjured, and restored to government; and, in 1678, it was placed on the pedestal, seventeen feet high, the work of Grinlin Gibbons. Charles I. is represented in armour, with his own hair, uncovered, on horseback. The figures look towards Whitehall, and are of the size of life. The arms of England, trophies, cupids, palm-branches, &c., ornament, and a rail and banister of iron-work, enclose. The pedestal is erected in the centre of a circle of stone, 30 feet in diameter; its area being one step above that of the street, fenced with strong posts. As a place of punishment, Charing-cross was formerly conspicuous; here, Titus Oates was placed in the pillory for perjury, as was Parsons, the inventor of that notable imposition, called the "Cock Lane Ghost." Hugh Peters, Harrison, and other regicides suffered the last dreadful penalty of the law, at Charing-cross, upon the site now occupied by the pedestal of the statue. Most barbarous was the punishment inflicted in those days for treason. Harrison, having been hanged, was cut down alive, and stripped; his belly was then cut open, and his bowels taken out and burnt before his eyes. In the madness of his agony, he rose up and gave the executioner a blow on the ear, and then fell down insensible. Between 1680 and 1730, Charing-cross was famous for the taverns by which it was encircled, and where men of wit and letters were frequent guests. Sir George Etherege, Prior, Savage, Thomson, and others, were among those who sought recreation in these places. It is said, that upon the spot now occupied by the banking-house of Drummond & Co., Oliver Cromwell, when he was Protector, had a house; and Milton must have been a neighbour, as his dwelling overlooked Spring Gardens.

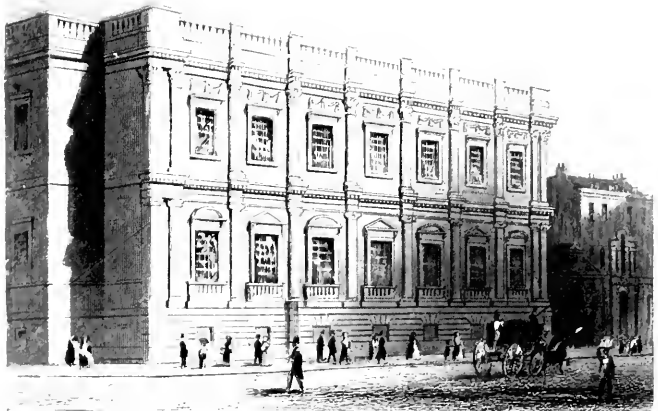
South-east of Charing-cross is *Cockspur-street*. The British Coffee House, which still exists here, was a principal rendezvous of the unhappy Jacobite noblemen and gentlemen who were executed for the parts which they acted in the rebellion of 1715. From Cockspur-street, *Spring Gardens* is reached; an elegant range of houses

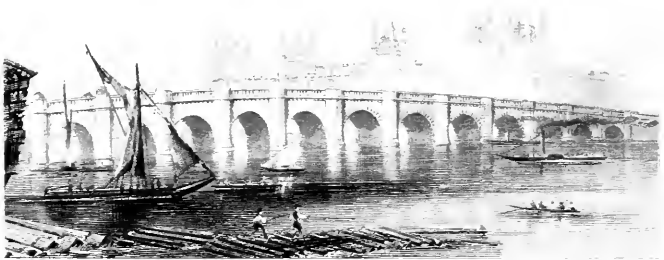
with an entrance from the east end of the Mall into St. James's Park. In the reign of James I., certain gardens were planted here, containing several springs of excellent water, and hence the name of this locality. In *Spring Garden-terrace*, every house still contains a well. There were, in the reign of Charles I., an ordinary and bowling-green in Spring Gardens, and the king was a frequent visitor to the latter. Spring Gardens continued to be a place of amusement during the reign of Charles II.; Prince Rupert died at his house here in 1684.

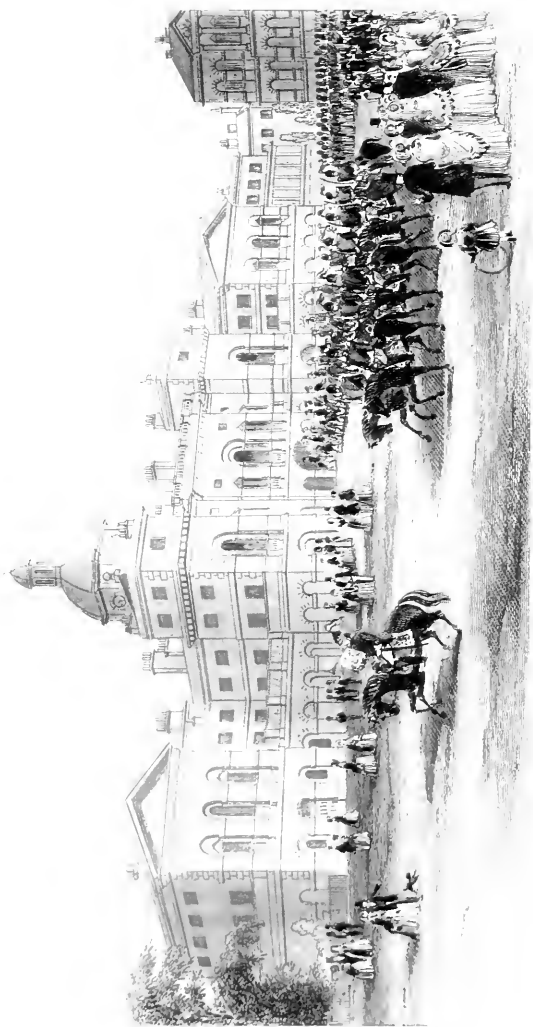
The road between Charing-cross and Westminster Abbey consists of many public offices, noble residences, and elegant streets and terraces, there being several entrances, on the west side, into St. James's Park. This avenue, as far as Parliament-street, is remarkably broad, and forms the most eligible approach to the Houses of Parliament. This convenience must be duly appreciated, when it is remembered, that less than two centuries back the royal cavalcade, in its procession to Parliament, had no wider streets for its progress than King-street, and others of equally circumscribed dimensions. Descending from Charing-cross to Whitehall, on the left hand side, a large archway leads into *Scotland-yard*, in which is the chief office of the Police Commissioners. It derives its name from the circumstance of a palace which once stood here being appropriated by King Edgar to Kenneth III., when he came to London to do homage to the English sovereign for his kingdom of Scotland. Subsequently, when the Scotch monarchs performed homage for Cumberland and other fiefs of the Crown, the palace was enlarged, and became a magnificent edifice. Its latest occupant was Margaret, sister of Henry VIII., and widow of James V. of Scotland, who resided here for some time, after the death of her husband. Subsequently, it was incorporated in the royal palace of Whitehall, and appropriated to the members of the household. No relics of it remain. *Whitehall-place*, the next street on the same side of the way, is composed of two handsome rows of

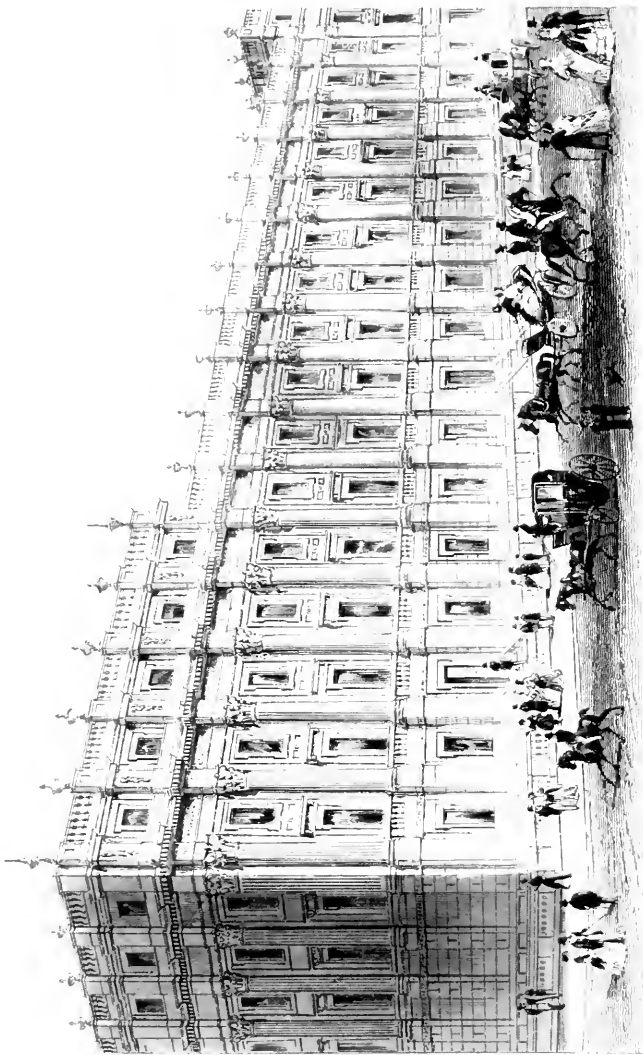
private dwelling-houses, from the end of which, a fine view of the river is obtained. Nearly opposite, is the *Admiralty Office*, removed from Duke-street, Westminster. This structure, rebuilt in the reign of George II., by Ripley, is a handsome edifice of brick and stone. The front has two deep wings, and a very lofty portico supported by four massy stone pillars. Besides the hall and offices, there were raised seven large houses for the Lords Commissioners. The screen before the court was built by one of the brothers Adam. During the late war, telegraphs on the top of this building were frequently employed in receiving and communicating intelligence between it and the sea-ports; but the Admiralty telegraph is now entirely superseded by the electric. The Admiralty nearly occupies the site of Wallingford House, built in the reign of James I. by Viscount Wallingford, afterwards Earl of Bunbury. Many curious facts attach to Wallingford House; we can only refer to a few. After the murder of the Duke of Buckingham, by Felton, his remains were brought here, whence, at midnight, they were secretly conveyed to Westminster Abbey. From the roof of this house, Archbishop Usher witnessed his royal master, Charles I., taken to the scaffold—a sight which so horrified him that he swooned away. When Charles II. ascended the throne of his fathers, Wallingford House reverted to the Buckingham family, the second duke of which was honoured with more brilliant obsequies, in Westminster, than had been allotted to his unhappy predecessor. Adjoining the Admiralty is the *Horse Guards*, consisting of a centre and two wings, erected by Vardy, from a design by Kent. In the centre are arched passages into St. James's Park, under the principal of which the sovereign formerly passed when he went in state to the House of Lords; on each side are pavilions and stables for the use of the Horse Guards and other troops. The uniformity of the building is broken by a cupola erected on its summit, without injuring the harmony of its structure. The plainness of the wings











contrasts with the centre, and under the two pavilions fronting the street, mounted sentinels are constantly on duty. The offices of the War Department are held here. *Dover House*, sometimes called *Melbourne House*, adjacent to the Horse Guards, was built by Payne, the architect, for Sir Matthew Featherstonehaugh. It was subsequently the residence of Lord Melbourne, the Duke of York, and Lord Dover. The *Treasury Offices* are contiguous. The ancient remnant of a building, forming part of the suite, is supposed to be a relic of Wolsey's mansion of York-place. The Park-front that reaches to the end of Downing-street, on which a low archway conducs to the Park, was built after the design of Kent, and consists of three stories in the Tuscan, Doric, and Ionic styles. The new building, called the *Council Office*, facing Whitehall, was erected in 1826, under the superintendence of Sir John Soane. In the Treasury Buildings, the *Privy Council* office, the *Board of Trade*, and other government offices are found. These edifices cover a site where once stood the ancient Cock Pit formed for the amusement of Henry VIII., a sport to which even the Maiden Queen did not refuse her auspices. *Downing-street*, in which the destinies of this great country are decided upon, is named after Sir George Downing, originally an *employé* of Cromwell, and afterwards in the pay of Charles II. In this street is the official residence of the Prime Minister, or First Lord of the Treasury, that of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Foreign and Colonial offices, &c. A history might be written of Downing-street alone; of the mighty enterprises of which it has been the cradle; of the eminent ministers who have made it their home. "Here," says Leigh Hunt, "Sir Robert Walpole, with whom the official abode commenced, and who made it his private residence during the decline of his power, is described by his son Horace, as 'sitting in a strange unwonted fashion,' without speaking, and his eyes fixed for an hour together, lost to the jovial good sense which had secured the Hanover succession. Here Lord North, having more

resources of heart and of a loving family, never lost his placidity or his wit, in spite of losing the American colonies. Here, Pitt had his heart broken by Napoleon; and Fox tasted of power for a short, dropsical time; and Canning found that the aristocracy would use, but not obey him."

From Downing-street, *King-street*, a narrow, incommensurable thoroughfare, runs into Great George-street. But, little as there is in its present appearance to recommend it, little evidence as it gives of past dignity, King-street, at no very remote era, was one of the most important and time-honoured streets of Westminster. Through this street the greater part of our sovereigns, after the conquest, have proceeded to their coronations at Westminster; and many of them, at an after period, to their mausoleums in the Abbey. The street had gates at both extremities; that at the north being the work of Holbein, and its name generally was applied to all that space between it and Charing-cross. The brilliant author of "The Fairy Queen" lived and died in this street;—his death was caused, writes Drummond of Hawthornden, by absolute want of bread; he refused twenty pieces sent him by the Earl of Essex, and gave this answer to the person who brought them—"that he was sure he had no time to spend them." Although Spencer was literally allowed to perish of starvation, his obsequies were attended by the great and the noble, as if this hollow mockery of pomp for the dead, could atone for heartless neglect of the living. Here also resided the poets, Thomas Carew, and the Earl of Dorset, author of the well-known song, "To all you ladies now on land." Through this street, Charles I. was led, on the first and last days of his trial in Westminster Hall. As he passed through it after his condemnation, the inhabitants stood at their stalls and windows, many of them weeping, and, as they looked at their fallen sovereign, they offered up prayers to the Throne of Mercy for his safety and eternal welfare. Cromwell was living in King-street at the time of the

execution of his royal victim. Some years afterwards, as the Protector was passing in his carriage through King-street to Westminster, he was seriously alarmed by a tall man bursting out of a cobbler's shop, with a sword by his side, while the coach was hemmed in by a dense crowd. The man escaped from the guards. Cromwell, who fancied that the man had lain in wait to assassinate him, came no more by King-street, but a little time after sickened and died. The next occasion on which he passed through King-street, was to his tomb in Westminster Abbey; where his body was not suffered to rest after royalty became again ascendant; when Charles II., not content with punishing those who were alive to answer for their misdeeds wreaked an ignoble revenge on the dead.

WHITEHALL.

The *Palace of Whitehall* was originally built by Sir Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent, in the reign of Henry III., and was, at his death, bequeathed by him to the Convent of Black Friars, in Holborn. In 1248, that body disposed of it to Walter de Grey the Archbishop of York, and it was inhabited by the prelates of that see until the time of Wolsey, and was called *York House*. It was almost entirely reconstructed by the luxurious cardinal, who dwelt here for some years, in a style of splendour to which churchman had never yet aspired. "Here," writes Mr. Jesse, "he accumulated his vast libraries and exquisite picture galleries. The walls of his apartments were covered with hangings of cloth-of-gold and tissue, and his tables with velvets, satins, and damasks of various hues. The great gallery is described as a scene of unparalleled magnificence; and in two other apartments, known as the Gilt and Council Chambers, two large tables were covered with plate of solid gold, many of them studded with pearls and precious stones. The household of this haughty churchman consisted of 800 persons, many of whom were knights and noblemen. These numerous retainers were clad in the most magni-

ficent liveries ; even the master-cook of the cardinal was dressed in velvet and satin, and wore a chain of gold round his neck. Wolsey was the first clergyman in England who wore silk and gold, and this not only on his person, but on the saddles and trappings of his horses. As a priest, he rode on a mule, the trappings of which were of crimson velvet and the stirrups of silver, gilt." In December, 1529, when this proud ecclesiastic fell into disgrace with his royal master, he surrendered his palace into the hands of Henry ; soon after which, the name of York House was prohibited, and that of Whitehall substituted in its stead. Whitehall was much enlarged by Henry VIII. He bought and enclosed the ground now called St. James's Park, and formed a tennis court, cock-pit, and bowling-green, the site of which are now indicated by the Treasury offices. He also erected a gallery overlooking the tilt-yard on the spot, now partially covered by the Horse Guards and Dover House. These structures were joined to the old palace by a noble gateway and arch, designed by Holbein. The gate was removed a century back to facilitate the widening of the street. At this palace, in January, 1533, Henry was privately married to Anne Boleyn ; and in January, 1548, that tyrant expired here, having, only a few days before, sent that accomplished gentleman and poet, the Earl of Surrey, to the scaffold. Queen Elizabeth kept the first Christmas after her succession in Whitehall, which became one of her most favoured residences. Her successor, James I., also held his court here, and the pageantry for which, during the last reign, Whitehall had been celebrated, continued to prevail. The present *Banqueting House*, which is the work of Inigo Jones, was erected by James I. It was originally contemplated to extend it 1150 feet along the bank of the Thames, and to the same distance in front of the present street of Whitehall. The extravagant habits of James I., and the civil war which disturbed the reign of his successor, prevented the completion of this design. The Banqueting House was begun

in 1619, and finished in about two years, at an outlay of £17,000. It is a stone edifice of two stories, ornamented with columns and pilasters. The splendid room, in which James I. held his fêtes—where Charles I. so often dined in state with his queen—where Cromwell gave an entertainment to a puritanical parliament—and where Charles II. loved to exhibit himself in the dance—is now converted into a chapel, founded by George I., where service is performed morning and evening. On the accession of Charles I., Whitehall presented scenes of unwonted taste and magnificence. Masques were frequently performed here, Jonson being the laureate, and Inigo Jones the artist. Not only was Whitehall celebrated for the high character of its entertainments, but it became famous as a palace of hospitality, eighty-six tables, well supplied, being laid out daily. In an old work, entitled, “The Present State of London,” and dated 1681, we find that “the king’s servants being men of quality, by his majesty’s special order, went to Westminster Hall in Term time, to invite gentlemen to eat of the king’s viands; and in Parliament time, to invite the parliament’s men thereto.” The picture gallery in this palace was deservedly famous, for it included twenty-eight paintings by Titian, eleven by Corregio, sixteen by Julio Romano, nine by Raphael, seven by Parmegiano, besides several of the *chefs-d’œuvres* of Reubens and Vandyke. But a more dismal history attaches to Whitehall, which is now chiefly associated with the commission of a national tragedy, reflecting dishonour on the memory of its perpetrators, and which no expedient could justify, no after-repentance atone for. The Banqueting House, so often the scene of gaiety and of domestic enjoyment, was the room whence Charles I. passed, through a passage broken in the wall, to the block. The scaffold was erected in the centre of the building, between the upper and lower window, in the open street before Whitehall. Cromwell afterwards became the occupant of the palace, where he died in 1658. Richard Cromwell was the next tenant, but his residence was brief; and a

few days after he resigned the Protectorship, Whitehall was besieged by bailiffs and writ-servers, anxious to pounce upon the imprudent ex-Protector. In 1660, Charles II. went to Whitehall, and under his sanction all its former revelries were renewed. The old palace, in the time of the "Merry Monarch," was of an immense size and magnificence. It stretched along the river, and in front along the present Parliament and Whitehall-streets, as far as Scotland-yard, and on the other side of those streets, to the turning into Spring-gardens, beyond the Admiralty, looking into St. James's-park. The king, his queen, his royal brother, Prince Rupert, the Duke of Monmouth, the great officers, and all the courtly train, had their lodgings within these walls; and all the royal family had their different offices, such as kitchens, cellars, pantries, spiceries, cider-house, bake-house, wash-yards, coal-yards, and slaughter-houses. The public stairs, or water entrance, to the palace, still remain on the spot where they existed in the time of Wolsey. Charles II. died in this palace, of apoplexy in February, 1685, after a very short indisposition, and not without suspicion of having been unfairly dealt by. Six days before his death, he was in his usual health. Evelyn, writing the day after this event, thus records what he had witnessed in the royal apartments of Whitehall so soon before the closing scene of the king's career. "I could never forget," said he, "the inexpressible luxury and profaneness, gaming and all dissoluteness, and as it were total forgetfulness of God (it being Sunday evening), which this day se'enight I was witness of; the king sitting and toying with his favourites, Portsmouth, Cleveland, Mazarine, &c.; a French boy singing love songs in that glorious gallery; whilst about twenty of the great courtiers and other dissolute persons were at bassett round a large table, a bank of at least £2,000 in gold before them, upon which two gentlemen, who were with me, held up their hands with astonishment. Six days after, all was in the dust!" In December, 1688, James II. and his queen left the royal dwelling and the

kingdom for ever. In the following February, William III. and Queen Mary became occupants of the palace, abandoned by the Stuarts. But the glory of Whitehall was now upon the wane; and between 1690 and 1700, two destructive fires occurred by which the greater portion of this superb fabric was destroyed, the Banqueting House, that still remains, some offices, and the lodgings of a few of the nobility, being all that was saved from the general wreck. Besides the royal apartments, 150 dwellings, tenanted by court officials and others, were consumed, and twenty other houses were blown up with gunpowder, to prevent the conflagration spreading. The Banqueting House, as previously mentioned, is now an episcopal chapel, where the garrison at the Horse Guards attend every Sunday.

The ground upon which the greater portion of the ancient palace stood, is covered by the district including Scotland Yard, Whitehall-place, Privy Gardens, Richmond-terrace, on the river side of the public street, and includes the mansions of the Duke of Buccleuch, the Earl of Selkirk, and other members of the aristocracy. Privy Gardens consist of several elegant mansions behind the Banqueting House, divided from the main street by well-planted shrubberies, and commanding in their rear a free view of the panoramic scenery of the river. In Privy Gardens lived that honest, that brilliant, that lamented statesman, Sir Robert Peel, whose untimely death in the summer of 1850, was felt to be a national calamity; all classes, men of every shade of politics, in every rank of life, combining to offer tribute to the memory of—

“ The patriot statesman who, upon the shrine
Of Principle, made sacrifice of Power.”

A public funeral was volunteered on behalf of majesty to the remains of the departed senator, but the distinction thus proffered was declined by his family, it being the express wish of Sir Robert Peel, that for any services which he might have rendered the state, no such osten-

tations acknowledgment should be made ; and he also prohibited his survivors from receiving, in their own person, any ennoblement or aggrandizement on that account. A public journalist, commenting on this calamity, observes,—“ Sir Robert Peel falls by a sudden casualty, before his strength has begun to fail or his mind to decline. Did not the thought suggest a murmur at the dispensations of Omnipotence, one might call it a waste of precious power, a mighty soul lost to the world by the merest trifle,—by the silly panic or momentary impatience of a brute. How much had such a man still to do ! How many noble thoughts and splendid anticipations to deliver ! How many enlarged views carefully elaborated ; what treasures of observation, and acquisitions of political lore ; nay, what a mighty part he might still have played, had opportunity again invited, or necessity demanded his potent intervention ! But, in a moment, all this is beyond the grave.”

At the commencement of *Parliament-street* is a most beautiful enclosed range of mansions looking in the direction of *Privy Gardens*, and stretching towards the river, with a handsome carriage drive in front, called *Richmond-terrace*. These houses occupy the site of part of *Privy Gardens* and *Richmond House*, which was formerly the residence of the Duke of Richmond. When that Hindoo celebrity, the Nepanlese ambassador, visited England in 1850, he and his suite took up their residence here.

Advancing southward, we enter *Parliament-street*, a wide and handsome street of private dwelling-houses of good elevation, formed since the construction of *Westminster bridge*, and certainly constituting a more eligible thoroughfare to the Houses of Parliament than the narrow *King-street*, with which it lies parallel. Between *Parliament-street* and the river is *Cannon-row*, formerly called *Channel-row*, and considerably below the level of the adjoining streets. At a very remote period it is said to have borne the name of *St. Stephen's-alley*, from its

being the residence of the Dean and Canons of St. Stephen's collegiate chapel. Subsequently, many of the nobility had their mansions here. The palace of Ann Stanhope, the second Duchess of the Protector Somerset; that of the Stanleys, Earls of Derby, in the reign of Elizabeth; the house of Henry, second Earl of Lincoln, one of those who pronounced condemnation on Mary Queen of Scots; and the town residences of the Earls of Dorset, the Earls of Cumberland, and the Earls of Manchester, were in this locality. The site of Manchester House is now marked by *Manchester-buildings*, a double row of houses running out of Cannon-row towards the river, and appropriated to the accommodation of Members of Parliament during the session. Cannon-row is now occupied by parliamentary and other offices.

We approach a spot, conspicuous as the stage on which some of the most memorable events in the history of the country have taken place, a description of which must be reserved for another chapter.

CHAPTER V.

BRIDGE-STREET—WESTMINSTER BRIDGE—GREAT GEORGE-STREET—DUKE-STREET—NEW PALACE-YARD—WESTMINSTER HALL—WESTMINSTER ABBEY—ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH—ABINGDON-STREET—TOTHILL-STREET—MILBANK PENITENTIARY, ETC.

THE south end of Parliament-street is reached; but before we continue the line of road leading to Palace-yard, and to those enduring monuments of architectural skill, which are clustered together in this precinct, the streets to the left and right of Parliament-street claim notice. That to the left is *Bridge-street*, consisting of

well-proportioned shops and buildings, but chiefly important as the principal approach to

WESTMINSTER BRIDGE.

For more than two centuries, the friends of local improvement had thought a bridge over the Thames from Westminster to Lambeth would be desirable. Though often proposed, it was as often resisted with great determination. The City of London, in their petition, declared that such an erection would be fatal to the trade of the metropolis; and the watermen showed that the various ferries, established at a great expense, would be rendered utterly useless. They in fact did not scruple to say, that a bridge would render the navigation of the river Thames dangerous if not impracticable. Notwithstanding all this opposition, an act was passed on the 31st of March, 1736, for making such a structure from the Woolstaple, in the parish of St. Margaret, Westminster, to the opposite shore in Lambeth. It authorized the raising, by means of a lottery, the sum necessary: £625,000 were to be raised from the public; and, the prizes in the lottery paid, it was expected that £100,000 would remain applicable to the new erection. In 1737, another act was passed for continuing the lottery, and enlarging the sum that was to be raised to £700,000; and a silver cistern having been made by Henry Jernyngham, the goldsmith, the workmanship of which alone cost several thousand pounds, on his petition, a provision was made in the bridge-building bill that that should become one of the prizes. The second lottery produced a much larger supply of money than the first. One Labelye, an ingenious Swiss, was the architect employed. For six centuries, that is, since the building of the first stone London Bridge, the inhabitants of the capital had seen no work of such magnitude undertaken. Labelye found the width of the river at Westminster was 1220 feet, exceeding, by 300 feet, the breadth of the Thames at London Bridge. He proposed to the bridge

commissioners that the foundation of every pier should be laid on a strong grating of timber, having previously ascertained the existence of a bed of gravel across the Thames. The grating was to be planked beneath. The grating of timber was, in fact, to be the bottom of a vessel such as the French term a "*caisson*," so constructed that the sides might be taken away when the pier should have been completed. The bed of the river was to be dug to a sufficient depth, and levelled to receive the "*caisson*," and where the ground beneath should prove good, it was thought there would be no necessity for piles, which, however, were to be used if the foundation pit should not prove sufficiently firm for the purpose. The first stone was laid by the Earl of Pembroke in January, 1739. While in progress, Labeleye was much annoyed by predictions hazarded that he would never be able to finish his task. In excavating the foundation for the second pier, an ancient copper medal was found, about the size of a half-penny, having on one side the head of the Emperor Domitian, and on the other a female figure holding a pair of scales and the cornucopia. After conquering various difficulties the work was finally completed in November, 1750. A day of public rejoicing was appointed by the commissioners, and through some singular negligence, Sunday was named, and this having been discovered too late to correct the blunder, it was determined the celebration should take place after midnight on the Saturday night, and be hastily disposed of. Accordingly, on the 18th of November, shortly after 12 o'clock, there was a torch-light procession, opening with kettle-drums and trumpets, and accompanied by the firing of guns. This midnight arrangement was ordered to avoid desecrating the Sabbath, but it is recorded, that all the next day the bridge was like a fair. The cost of the whole edifice, Labeleye states, was £218,000, but Maitland makes it reach £389,500. The whole is composed of Portland stone, except the spandrils of the arches. In the construction of this bridge, double the quantity of stone was

used to that in St. Paul's cathedral. It is 1223 feet long and 44 feet broad ; has 15 large semicircular arches, the centre one of which is 76 feet wide ; the others decreasing in width 5 feet. Upon it were placed 28 semi-octangular towers, forming the recesses in the footway, and over which the lamps were placed. These alcoves were taken down a few years since, and the bridge, being in a dilapidated state, has recently been dismantled of its balustrades, and preparations are now in progress (1851) for removing it altogether, and erecting a new bridge, from Westminster to Lambeth. The present age might be called the era of bridges, for subsequent to the commencement of the present century six bridges have been built across the Thames ;— Waterloo, Vauxhall, Southwark, London, Hungerford, and Hammersmith ; in addition to which, before many years, a new Westminster bridge, and a bridge from Battersea-fields to Chelsea will arise. Thus the 19th century may be said to have nearly trebled the number of bridges which for hundreds of years previously had spanned the Thames.

On the right-hand side of Parliament-street is *Great George-street*, a spacious double row of elegant mansions leading to Storey's-gate, one of the entrances into St. James's-park. This street, notwithstanding the migrations of rank to more westerly and more assuming erections, for many years, was one of high fashionable repute ; and even now it is not entirely deserted by the aristocracy, a few of the oldest nobility being still content to pitch their town residences here. *Duke-street*, branching out of this street, and commanding a view of the Park, contained a house built by Judge Jefferies, which was purchased of his son by the government for the use of the Commissioners of the Admiralty, while one of the wings was converted into a chapel of ease to St. Margaret parish. The offices of the Admiralty, as previously stated, were removed to a more eligible situation ; the chapel remains, and the flight of steps which lead from it into the Park, Jefferies received permission to construct, by the particular favour of

his sovereign, James II. At the north end of this street a new *State Paper Office*, of very elegant proportions, the chief frontage of which is in the Park, has been erected for the custody of the Public Records. *Storey's-gate*, dividing Great George-street from St. James's-park, was formerly named Storehouse-gate, a store-house of the Ordnance having once stood on the spot.

The ancient City of Westminster, with its time-honoured Abbey, its relics of the olden palace of the Saxon sovereigns, and its dim and narrow avenues, once inhabited by nobles, courtiers, and peers, may be regarded as one of the most interesting portions of the capital. Here are the Sanctuary celebrated in history; the beauteous but decaying cloisters of the old Abbey; the Almonry, called in early times the Elccemosynary, where the monks gave alms to the poor, and where Caxton, under the patronage of that enlightened prelate, Bishop Islip, founded the first printing-press of England; and lastly, Westminster Hall, the walls of which have witnessed some of the most solemn ceremonials which nation ever knew, remains to us uninjured, and apparently impregnable to the assaults of time. Westminster, originally, was only a borough; it afterwards became a city, by its establishment as a bishopric. Thomas Thirleby was the first and last who enjoyed that dignity, and on his translation to Norwich, in 1550, the see was suppressed; but Westminster has ever since ranked as a city, and the second in the empire. Its ecclesiastical authorities are now styled the Dean and Chapter of the Conventual Church of St. Peter's Abbey of Westminster. Westminster, doubtless, is indebted for its importance, and for its high civic rank, to the magnificent Abbey which has for so many centuries formed its principal ornament. We now must briefly describe that noble pile, the initiative of which was erected at so remote a period that the monkish accounts of its origin are veiled in the mists of fable.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

The ground covered by this gorgeous temple of devotion was, in early times, one of the most desolate-looking tracts in the neighbourhood of the capital; encompassed on three sides by water, overgrown with brambles, and appropriately called Thorney Island. A church was founded on it in 610 by Sebert, king of the East Saxons, on the ruins of the Temple of Apollo erected by the Romans, and cast down, according to tradition, by an earthquake, in the fifth century. The king dedicated his new church to St. Peter, and that saint, says the Romish legend, descended from heaven, with a host of angelic choristers, to consecrate it, instead of Mellitus, Bishop of London. The night was dark and stormy, and the saint missed his way, and instead of descending on Thorney Island, alighted at Lambeth, on the Surrey side of the river, a circumstance which greatly perplexed Peter. The celestial choir, by whom he was accompanied, made good use of their wings, and took a flight over the Thames with the greatest ease, but the saint was compelled to look out for a ferry-boat. Edric, a fisherman, undertook to row him across without remuneration, and St. Peter at length landed upon Thorney Island. He directed Edric to wait for him until he returned, and to notice particularly what he should behold in the church. The fisherman obeyed, and to his amazement witnessed a most glorious illumination in the new church, and heard the sound of angelic voices breathing the divinest music. These heavenly melodies were followed by a solemn voice pronouncing the prayers of the Christian ritual and the ceremonial of the mass. It lasted for half-an-hour, when the lights were extinguished, and the stranger suddenly appearing at Edric's side, demanded to be taken back to Lambeth. During the passage across the Thames, St. Peter, himself a fisherman, revealed his sacred mission to the fisherman Edric, whom he charged on the morrow to go to Mellitus, and inform him that the church required



no further consecration; and that there would be found, as evidence of the supernatural visit, the chrism that had been employed in the ceremony, and the dripping of the miraculous wax candles with which the church had been illuminated. The saint directed Edric to fling out his nets, and the latter was rewarded by a miraculous draught of salmon; and he promised to the fisherman and his successors, that they should never want plenty of salmon, provided they presented every tenth fish to his church. This legend was implicitly believed until the Reformation, and a custom springing out of it, was observed until the year 1382. On the anniversary of the consecration of the Abbey the fisherman had a right to sit at the same table with the prior, and he might demand of the cellarer, ale and bread; and the cellarer might take of his fish as much as he could grasp of the tail with his four fingers only, holding his thumb erect. St. Peter's church was known by the name of the Westminster, which gave the name to the great city that, in process of time, was formed around it. It is worthy of remark, that its eastern contemporary, St. Paul's Church, which was founded about the same time by king Seburt, was called, in contradistinction, the Eastminster, a name which was soon after discontinued. St. Peter's Church, probably a wooden one, was burnt by the Danes, but restored in 958 by king Edgar, under the influence of St. Dunstan. The new edifice, which was also of wood, was taken down about ninety years afterwards by Edward the Confessor, who rebuilt the structure with stone, in a most magnificent manner. The Abbey, which was commenced in 1049, and completed in 1066, was one of the earliest churches made in the cruciform shape, and was munificently endowed, and sumptuously adorned. The pious Confessor enriched the church with what must, even in those credulous days, have appeared remarkable relics. "Among them were," writes Dort, "part of the place and manger where Christ were born; some of the frankincense offered to him by the Eastern magi; of the table of our Lord; of

the bread which He blessed ; of the seat where He was presented in the Temple ; of the wilderness where He fasted ; of the jail where He was imprisoned ; of His undivided garment ; of the sponge, lance, and scourge, with which He was tortured ; of the sepulchre, and cloth which bound His head." Here were also to be found the veil and some of the milk of the Virgin ; the blade-bone of St. Benedict ; the finger of St. Alphage ; the head of St. Maxilla ; and half the jaw-bone of St. Anastasius. Edward had intended to consecrate his new church on Innocent's day, but on Christmas Eve being seized with a mortal complaint, his queen Editha presided at the ceremony. He was buried in his own church. William the Conqueror bestowed on his tomb a rich pall, and Henry II. raised a splendid monument over his remains. From the Conquest to the present time every monarch of England has been crowned in Westminster Abbey. Here William the Conqueror returned thanks after his victory over the unfortunate Harold at Hastings ; and on the Christmas day following, the haughty Norman was crowned by the side of the tomb of the Confessor.

In 1215 Henry III. began to take down the edifice which had been reared by the piety of the Confessor, intending to rebuild the abbey in a more magnificent style than the Saxon monarch had done, but he did not live to complete his design, which was slowly carried on by succeeding princes. In 1269 a considerable portion of the abbey, as it now appears, viz., the eastern part, with the choir to some distance beyond the transept, was opened for divine service. At the same time Henry translated the remains of Sebert to a tomb of touchstone beneath an arch made in the wall. He also caused a shrine to be made (by Cavalini) in honour of the Confessor, and placed in a chapel which bears his name. This memorial consists of three rows of arches, the lower pointed, the upper round, and on each side of the lower an elegant twisted pillar. When Henry III. died, the building of the abbey had proceeded no further than the fourth arch west of the

middle tower, and the vaulted roof of this part was not completed till 1296. The work was continued by Edward I., and finished in the fourteenth year of his reign, but only so far as the end of the choir. Westminster Abbey was finally perfected in the reign of Henry VII., when he erected that elegant chapel which bears his name. That monarch determined to construct a magnificent mausoleum for his own family; for which purpose he pulled down Henry the Third's chapel, and an adjoining house called "The White Rose Tavern," and which, with other houses, was built against the abbey walls, a fashion prevalent to this day in cathedral towns on the continent. Sir Reginald Bray was the architect, and the foundation-stone was laid by the ecclesiastic Islop in 1503. When the religious houses were dissolved by Henry VIII., the monks of Westminster, led by their abbot, William Benson, gave up their monastery to the king, and Benson became the first dean. The insatiate protector, Somerset, meditated taking down Westminster Abbey and St. Margaret's church adjacent, and to appropriate the materials to the construction of a palace for himself in the Strand. He did not dare to profane the abbey, but he laid sacrilegious hands on St. Margaret's, on the demolition of which his workmen were actually engaged, when the parishioners assembled in great strength, drove away the labourers, and for some days kept a watch around the sacred edifice, to prevent a repetition of the attempt. Queen Mary restored the abbot and monks of Westminster to their ancient residence and privileges, but they were all expelled by her successor, Elizabeth, and Fakenham, their superior, incarcerated for life in Wisbeach castle. In 1560 the old monastic pile was converted into a collegiate church, consisting of a dean and twelve secular canons, thirty petty canons, and other members, two schoolmasters, and forty king's or queen's scholars, twelve almsmen, and many officers and servants. But there seems to have been a school attached to the abbey from its earliest foundation, for Ingulphus, abbot of Crowland, was educated there in

the reign of Edward the Confessor. The abbey was found to be in so dilapidated a state in 1629 that reparation, on an extensive scale, was deemed necessary, and Dr. Williams, the dean (afterwards Archbishop of York), at his own expense renovated the building, increased the library, and augmented the number of scholars on the foundation. Considerable injury was inflicted on the abbey during the period of the Commonwealth. Its usual services were suspended, its revenues confiscated, its vessels of gold and silver carried away, and its walls defaced by the hands of the brutalised soldiery. In the following century a parliamentary grant was voted for the reparation of Westminster Abbey, a labour in which Sir Christopher Wren was engaged for twenty-five years, from 1698 to his death, in 1723. Under his superintendence the two great western towers were completed; and it was his intention to have also erected a lofty steeple. In the reign of George II. additional sums were granted by parliament for carrying on the works, which were thoroughly repaired at the national expense. At the close of the last century a handsome choir was erected, after a design of Mr. Keene, surveyor to the abbey. In 1803 a fire broke out in the square tower on the roof, owing to the negligence of some workmen who had been employed to repair the leads, and had left their furnace unguarded while they went to dinner. The flames greatly damaged the new choir, and threatened the destruction of the entire building. Crowds of people assembled, eager to avert the ruin which impended over the venerable abbey, and brought water in buckets from the Thames to extinguish the fire, but it was not arrested till the arrival of the engines, and it was four hours before all the danger was past. The damage, which was considerable, was repaired by the dean and chapter, and soon afterwards parliamentary grants were voted for the restoration of Henry the Seventh's chapel, a labour which was most admirably accomplished.

Having given the history of Westminster Abbey, we proceed to notice its dimensions, externally and internally,

and those costly chapels and monuments which are found beneath its roof. Its proportions are as follow:—Length from east to west, exclusive of Henry the Seventh's chapel, 416 feet; height of the west towers 225; length, within the walls, 383; breadth of the transept, 203; length of the nave, 166; breadth of nave, 39; height of nave, 102; breadth of each aisle, 17; length of the choir, 156; breadth of the choir, 28; height of the roof, 92. The magnificent portico of the north cross of the abbey has been styled "The Beautiful," or "Solomon's Gate." It was built by Richard II. Over it is a window of modern date, elaborately wrought. The Gothic arches and side aisles are supported by 48 pillars of grey marble, each composed of slender clusters covered with ornament. On entering the west door, the whole body of the church is seen in one view; the pillars divide the nave from the side aisles, without obstructing the side openings; nor is the sight terminated in the east but by the fine painted windows over Edward the Confessor's chapel, and the pillars end in that direction by a sweep enclosing this chapel in a kind of semi-circle. As far as the gates of the choir they are filleted with brass, but all beyond with stone. In conformity with the central range of pillars, there are others in the wall which, as they rise, spring into semi-arches, and meet in acute angles with their opposites, which, in the roof, are adorned with a variety of carvings. At the bottom of the walls, between the pillars, are shallow niches, arched, in which the arms of the original benefactors are depicted; round these are their styles and titles. On the arches of the pillars are galleries of double columns, 15 feet wide, covering the side aisles, and illuminated by a middle range of windows, over which is an upper range still larger; through these, and the four capital windows facing the north, east, south, and west, light is diffused over the whole fabric. The choir is, comparatively, a recent improvement, where divine service is performed every day at 10 in the morning, and three in the afternoon. Around the choir are 11 chapels, of which

the principal are those of Edward the Confessor, Henry V., and Henry VII. In the first-named of these the ashes of the Confessor are deposited, and it also contains the tombs of Henry III., of Edward I., and that of Eleanor his queen, of Edward III. and queen Philippa, and of Richard II. and his consort Ann of Bohemia. In the Confessor's chapel is preserved the ancient Coronation Chair, which was brought from Scotland by Edward I., in 1297, after he had overcome John Baliol, king of Scotland, in several battles. The stone under the seat, of an oblong shape and a rough cast, is reported to have been Jacob's pillow on the night that he had the dream foretelling his future elevation. There can be no doubt, however, that the stone is of great antiquity. Some writers relate that king Fergus was crowned on it 330 years before Christ, but no positive data exist to prove that it was the coronation seat of the kings of Scotland before the reign of Kenneth II., who placed it in the palace of Seone about 840. Fordun, the Scottish chronicler, says that a Latin inscription to the following effect was anciently engraved on this stone:

“ Except old saws do fail,
And wizards' wits be blind,
The Scots in place must reign
Where they this stone shall find.”

This prophecy was realized when James I. succeeded to the English crown. The other Coronation Chair was made for Queen Mary II., and when a royal inauguration takes place one or both of these are covered with gold tissue, and placed before the altar in the choir. In the Confessor's chapel the Long Iron Sword and the wooden part of the shield of that saintly monarch are here preserved. The chapel of Henry V., built by his successor, Henry VII., in honour of the memory of the hero of Agincourt, is of beautiful Gothic workmanship, in open iron work, and is ornamented with various images. It is on the same floor with that of the Confessor, from which a stone screen, with an iron gate, divides it. Within is the tomb of Henry V., which was previously erected by

his queen Catherine, who placed the image of her departed lord, cut in heart of oak, and covered over with silver, on the monument; the head was of solid silver, and this, with a sceptre and ball, were stolen in the time of Henry VIII.

Henry the Seventh's Chapel is situate east of the Abbey, and is built in the florid Gothic style; on the exterior are fourteen octagonal towers, ornamented profusely with sculpture. It is so nearly joined to the Abbey as to appear part of the original building. The ascent to the inside of this chapel is by steps of black marble, under a stately portico conducting to the gates of the nave, on each hand, opening to the side aisles. The gates are of brass elaborately wrought in the manner of framework, the panels being ornamented with a rose and portcullis alternately. The lofty ceiling is of stone, into which a great variety of figures is inworked. The stalls are of brown wainscot with Gothic canopies beautifully carved, as are the seats, with quaint devices; the floor is of black and white marble. The Brass Chapel and tomb of the founder are seen from the entrance; within, are the chapels of the Dukes of Buckingham and Richmond. The roof is supported on arches, between the nave and side aisles, which turn upon twelve stately pillars adorned with figures, fruit, and foliage. This chapel contains, besides the tombs of its founder and his consort Elizabeth, those of King Edward VI.; Queen Elizabeth, and her fair rival, Mary, Queen of Scots; James I., and his consort, Queen Ann of Denmark, with their first-born, Prince Henry; Charles II.; Prince Rupert; William III. and Queen Mary; Queen Anne and her consort, Prince George of Denmark; George II. and his consort, Queen Caroline; Frederick, Prince of Wales, and his Princess, Augusta of Saxe-Gotha—the parents of George III.; William, Duke of Cumberland, the ferocious conqueror of Culloden; the first George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, and his gay and profligate successor; George Monk, Duke of Albemarle, and his Duchess; the beautiful and

ill-fated Lady Arabella Stuart ; Anne Hyde, Duchess of York ; Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon ; and William Congreve, the dramatist. Congreve received remarkable posthumous honours ; not only was his body permitted to lie in this chapel, but the Duke of Bridgewater, the Earl of Godolphin, Lord Cobham, Lord Wilmington, the Hon. George Berkeley, and General Churchill, sustained his pall. The monument to his memory in Poets' Corner was erected at the cost of the beautiful Duchess of Marlborough. Here, also, was permitted to rest undisturbed, Cromwell's favourite daughter, Mrs. Claypole ; and others, rendered illustrious either by rank or genius, repose in this costly sepulchre. But perhaps the most remarkable tomb here, is one bearing an inscription, in Latin, to this purport : " Here rest the remains of Edward the Fifth, King of England, and Richard, Duke of York ; who, being imprisoned in the Tower, and there stifled with pillows, were privately and obscurely buried, by order of their treacherous uncle, Richard the Usurper. Their bones, long sought after and wished for, after remaining 190 years in the stairs, (those lately leading to the chapel in the White Tower,) were, on the 17th of July, 1674, by undoubted proofs, discovered, being buried deep in that place. Charles II., pitying their unhappy fate, ordered these unfortunate princes to be laid among the relics of their predecessors, in the years 1678, and in the 30th of his reign." This memorial, designed by Sir Christopher Wren, was erected by order of Charles. The walls of the chapel contain 120 large statues of patriarchs, saints, martyrs, and confessors ; besides angels and other small figures. Five of the windows were restored in 1815, and most of them display stained glass, each pane having a white rose. From the south aisle is an entry into the nave of the chapel, where the Knights of the Order of the Bath are installed ; their banners float above, and their armorial bearings are inscribed on their stalls. The dimensions of Henry the Seventh's Chapel are : length from east to west, including the walls, 115 feet ; breadth,

80; height of the octagonal towers, 71; to the top of roof, 86; to the top of west turrets, 102; length of the nave, 104; breadth, 36; height 61; breadth of each aisle, 17. The *Poets' Corner*, which forms the east entrance to the Abbey, is so named from the monuments erected there to the memory of celebrated English poets. But not exclusively is this spot confined to the professors of the tuneful art; for here are found memorials to John, Duke of Argyle, to Camden the antiquary, to Dr. Isaac Barrow, to Thomas Parr, who reached the patriarchal age of 152 years, and others who have achieved fame. The dust of Shakspeare does not rest within this consecrated fane, but an interesting monument perpetuates his memory. The sculptor has delineated admirably the attitude, air, figure, and dress of the "poet of all time," in the effigy, which is one of the most conspicuous objects in this place. Here are also memorials of Spencer, Chaucer, Ben Jonson, Butler, Milton, Dryden, Cowley, Gray, Prior, Thomson, Rowe, Gay, Goldsmith, Handel, Addison, Garrick, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Watts, Mason, Richard Brinsley Sheridan, Thomas Campbell, the accomplished author of "*The Pleasures of Hope*," and others of inferior note. In the north aisle of the Abbey are monuments to the memory of Lord Mansfield, the celebrated Lord Chatham, Pitt and Fox, the great political rivals, who, distant in life, sleep side by side in death; Castlereagh, Wilberforce, Grattan, George Canning, Warren Hastings, John Philip Kemble, Sir Humphry Davy, and Thomas Telford, the celebrated engineer. Westminster Abbey is also the mausoleum of William Croft, the admired composer, Dr. Charles Burney, author of "*The History of Music*," and that brilliant musical genius, Henry Purcell; his epitaph is a striking one,—"*Here lies Henry Purcell, Esquire, who left this life, and is gone to that blessed place where only his harmony can be exceeded.*" The remains of Major André were brought from America, and buried in the west aisle, in 1821. Among the other distinguished characters who either are

buried or commemorated by monuments in the Abbey may be named, Sir Isaac Newton, Sir Godfrey Kneller Mrs. Oldfield, the actress, Atterbury, Bishop of Rochester, Earl Godolphin, the minister of Queen Anne, Spencer Perceval, the premier, who was assassinated upon entering the House of Commons, in 1812, Zachary Macaulay, George Tierney, Sir Cloudesley Shovel, the gallant Howe, Kemperfeldt, Wolfe, who, like Nelson, perished on the scene of his triumphs, and others, of whose undying fame, this venerable temple of devotion is the most appropriate and most ennobling sanctuary.

The *Cloisters*, an ancient appendage to the Abbey, still remain entire, and are filled with monuments, among which may be traced those of several abbots who died 700 or 800 years ago, and of Gervase de Blois, natural son of king Stephen, who died in 1156. Here also, among others, are buried the great actors Betterton and Barry; the beautiful Mrs. Cibber, Mrs. Bracegirdle, Mrs. Yates, and the laugh-inspiring comedian, Samuel Foote; Lawes, the friend of Milton, and the composer of the music of *Comus*; Dr. William King, Archbishop of Dublin; and Sir Edmundbury Godfrey, whose mysterious murder created, at the time, a sensation which extended through all classes of society. The Cloisters are quadrangular, with piazzas towards the court; on one side is the entrance to the *Chapter House*, built in 1250; it is a Gothic portal, exquisitely carved in 1377. The Commons of Great Britain first held their parliament in this place, where they sat till 1547, when Edward VI. granted them the Chapel of St. Stephen. It is at present filled with ancient records, among which is the Domesday Book, now nearly 700 years old. Beneath is a very remarkable Crypt,—the walls of which are eighteen feet thick, and form a firm base to the superstructure. Contiguous to the Cloisters, in the south-west end of the Abbey, is the famous *Jerusalem Chamber*, once a part of the abbot's lodging, and interesting as being the apartment in which Henry IV. breathed his last. This monarch was offering up

devotions, at the shrine of Edward the Confessor, when he was seized with a fit, and was with difficulty removed to the abbot's apartments. Being informed that it was the Jerusalem Chamber, he is reported to have observed, that it had been prophesied that he should die only at Jerusalem, which he had vainly supposed to mean the Holy Land. In this chamber the bodies of several illustrious individuals have lain in state previous to their sepulture in the Abbey. Mr. Heneage Jesse, the painstaking antiquary, who has made London a rich field of research, says very aptly, in reference to the Cloisters:—
“Those who would witness perhaps the most beautiful and impressive scene which London can afford should wander on a moonlight night from Dean's-yard into the solitary Cloisters of Westminster Abbey. The sudden transition from the noise and bustle of the streets to the most solemn stillness; the gloom of the vaulted roof; the light playing on the beautiful tracery of the arches; the mouldering tombs of departed abbots and monks which lie around us; and, above all, the glorious Abbey, with its lofty towers and massy buttresses steeped in and mellowed by the moonlight; present, altogether, a scene of beauty and interest to which no language could do justice.

“ And through the open arches I behold
That pile o'er which a thousand years have roll'd,
Calm on its lofty towers the moonlight falls,
Gilding its pinnacled and buttressed walls;
Above me frowns the Cloister's vaulted gloom,
Beneath me rest the slumberers of the tomb;
Some o'er whose dust affection's tears still flow,
And some who died a thousand years ago;
Learning's pale sons, and Pleasure's laughing crew,
Warriors whose fame through frighten'd regions flew;
Who waved in Paynim lands their battle blade,
And spurned the Crescent in the red Crusade;
Beauty, whose smile a pleading lover blessed,
Maids of the melting eye and snowy breast;
Churchmen who hurled, unawed by earthly things,
Their dread anathemas on trembling kings.
What are they now, those meteors of their day,
The brave, the fair, the haughty, what are they!”

The Abbey of Westminster is supposed to have been the most ancient place of sanctuary in England, a charter of Edward the Confessor, conferring that privilege, being extant. Among the most distinguished individuals who availed themselves of this sanctuary, were Elizabeth, the widowed queen of Edward IV., and her infant son, the Duke of York, who fled to the abbey, dreading the sinister purposes of the usurper, Richard. The tyrant proposed, in a council meeting, to violate the sanctuary, in order to obtain possession of the young prince ; but this was firmly opposed by Cardinal Bourchier, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Rotherham, Archbishop of York : the former offered his mediation, and unhappily, by his influence, persuaded the queen to place the Duke of York in the hands of his uncle, never again to return to her alive. The Sanctuary, properly so called, occupied the site now covered by the Westminster Hospital and the Sessions House. An ancient church, of cruciform shape, attached to it, was taken down in 1750. In connection with the abbey is that famous foundation, Westminster School, to which we have before adverted. It is situated in Dean's-yard, adjacent to the cloisters. One of its earliest principals was the distinguished antiquary, William Camden ; and here Ben Jonson acquired his classical lore. This school is remarkable as having numbered among its scholars many of our greatest poets, the following having been educated there :—Cowley, Dryden, Nat Lee, Prior, Rowe, Dyer, Cowper, Churchill, and Southey. Sir Harry Vane, Locke, Sir Christopher Wren, the Duke of Newcastle, minister to George II., Bishop Newton, Warren Hastings, Cumberland, and George Colman, were also pupils in this school. This interesting locality, abounding in relics and buildings connected with the abbey, to be fully and minutely described, would demand a greater space than is consistent with our limits ; and, indeed, nothing less than a personal survey would enable a stranger thoroughly to comprehend all its attractive associations.

Nearly opposite to the chapel of Henry VII, standing

beneath the shadow of the abbey, is the *Church of St. Maryaret, Westminster*, built originally by Edward the Confessor. Previously, the parish church had been in the abbey, to the great inconvenience of the monks. In the time of Edward I. this structure was rebuilt by the parishioners, with the exception of its chancel, which was added by the Abbot of Westminster. St. Margaret's Church was again re-erected by Edward IV. In 1803, the church was completely repaired. It was then decorated with a richly-ornamented pulpit and desk, and a new organ; and the Speaker's chair placed in front of the west gallery. It possesses considerable architectural merit; but its most attractive feature is the magnificent eastern window, which, as a superb specimen of painted glass, is not surpassed by any in Europe. The painting represents the whole narrative of the crucifixion of Our Saviour. Not the least interesting trait of the window is its remarkable history: never before did window pass unharmed through such a series of "moving accidents." It was made by order of the magistrates of Dort, in Holland, with the design of presenting it to Henry VII., as an appropriate adornment for his chapel. On one side that king is represented on his knees, with St. George, his patron saint, encased in armour, in a niche over him. On the other side, the queen is seen at her prayers; and above her, in a corresponding recess, St. Catherine. The completion of this work of art took five years, at the expiration of which time Henry VII. had ceased to live. Upon reaching England, it fell into the hands of the Abbot of Waltham, by whom it was set up in his private chapel at Copt Hall, where it remained till the dissolution of religious houses. It was preserved from destruction by the last Abbot of Waltham, who sent it to New Hall, a seat of the Butlers, earls of Ormond, in Wiltshire. In the ensuing century, New Hall and its costly contents, including the window, were successively transferred to the Earl of Wiltshire, father of Anne Boleyn; Thomas Radcliffe, Earl of Sussex; George Villiers, Duke of

Buckingham, and General Monk. To the last-named personage it belonged when the civil wars broke out; and apprehensive lest this magnificent relic should be sacrificed to the intemperate zeal which the puritans manifested against works of art, he had it carefully taken to pieces and interred in the garden at New Hall. When the Restoration took place, it was replaced in its former position. The window was again taken down some years subsequently, when the chapel at New Hall fell to decay, and was bought by Mr. Conyers for his chapel at Epping. The committee appointed to repair and beautify St. Margaret's church, purchased it in 1758, from the son of this gentleman, for four hundred guineas; and the window, after all its *pane*-ful vicissitudes, found a permanent refuge in that peaceful asylum, of which it is now the most prominent ornament. The remains of many celebrated characters repose in the vaults of this church, or in the straggling churchyard adjoining, which is a much frequented thoroughfare. Caxton; Skelton, the satirist, who by the boldness of his verse, excited the ire of Wolsey, from whose vengeance he was compelled to retreat to the Sanctuary where he died; the chivalric poet, Churehyard; Lord Howard of Effingham, famous for his naval achievements in the reign of Elizabeth; Sir Walter Raleigh; Harrington, the author of *Oceana*; Catherine Woodcock, the second wife of Milton; Thomas May, the translator of *Lucan*, and the historian of the Commonwealth; and Dr. Dorislaus, assistant to the High Court of Justice, by which Charles I. was tried, are buried here.

The Royal Palace of Westminster was founded by the Confessor, and stood near the Thames, occupying the area which is now filled up by the new Houses of Parliament. Old records tell, that anterior to the erection of the Confessor's palace, a royal dwelling stood upon the same spot in the reign of Canute, where that sovereign frequently held his court, and from one of the windows of this residence, Duke Edric, the Saxon traitor was cast,



by order of the royal Dane, into the Thames. This palace shared the common fate of many early structures, being destroyed by fire. The stairs by which the Confessor's palace was reached from the river, or rather their successors, are still called Palace-stairs; and the two Palace-yards also belonged to this extensive pile. The Old Palace-yard indicates the situation of the palace of the Confessor, and New Palace-yard, the site of the additional erections raised by the Norman sovereigns. The kings of England made the old Palace of Westminster one of their favourite residences, Henry VIII. being the last monarch who dwelt here. In 1512, the greater part of it was destroyed by fire. The only portions that remained of it in modern times, were the large apartment used before the conflagration of 1834, as the House of Lords, and afterwards, for a considerable time, as the House of Commons; the Painted Chamber, supposed to have been the chamber of the Confessor, and the one in which he breathed his last, and which, after the fire of 1834, was temporarily used as the House of Lords; and St. Stephen's Chapel, originally built by King Stephen; rebuilt by Edward I., and on the suppression of the monasteries, converted into a House of Commons.

WESTMINSTER HALL.

Westminster Hall, probably the most splendid, and most interesting apartment in Europe, was constructed by William II., as a banqueting-hall to the adjacent Palace of Westminster. In 1099 it was finished; and in that year, Rufus held his court there. The festivities of Christmas he frequently kept here in great state, and succeeding monarchs celebrated their coronation feasts in this spacious apartment. Henry III., on New Year's Day, 1236, gave a feast in Westminster Hall, and other rooms, to 6,000 poor men, women, and children. In the reign of Richard II., the edifice having fallen into decay, was rebuilt in its present form in 1397; the expense of the alterations and improvements being defrayed by a tax

on all foreigners or refugees in the country. The present matchless roof of timber, consisting chiefly of chestnut wood, most curiously constructed, was added, and the exterior coated with thick walls of stone. This hall exceeds in its dimensions, any in Europe, unsupported by pillars ; it being, according to Pennant, 270 feet long by 74 broad ; Mr. Barry, the architect of the new Houses of Parliament, however, represents the length to be 239 feet ; the width 68 feet, and the height 90 feet. The hall is profusely ornamented with the armorial bearings of those sovereigns who have contributed to its permanence and beauty. King Richard kept his Christmas in it, in a style of profuseness and splendour, without parallel. Twenty-eight oxen, 300 sheep, and many thousands of fowls, were daily consumed. The number of guests each day has been estimated at 10,000, and 2,000 cooks were employed. A very different scene was witnessed in this hall on the 30th of September, 1399, where the parliament assembled to hear Richard II., who had so lately held high festival there, renounce his crown, and to offer their allegiance to the usurping Henry of Lancaster, made by his arms and their acquiescence, king of England. Parliament frequently sat in this hall. In 1397 Richard II. built a temporary room for his parliament in the original hall, formed of wood, and covered with tiles. On all sides it was open that the constituency might witness the sayings and doings of their representatives. To secure freedom of debate, an old historian tells us, Richard surrounded the house with 4,000 Cheshire archers, with bows bent, and arrows nocked, ready to shoot. This surveillance of the legislative body, perhaps, suggested the extraordinary precautions which were taken during the first French revolution to make the popular representatives vote in conformity with the wish of the ruling dictators. In 1484 Richard III. kept his Christmas in this ancient hall, with great magnificence, and eight months afterwards his conqueror and successor held his coronation banquet in the same place, wearing, during

the feast, the same diadem which had been taken from the bleeding corpse of Richard, on the eventful field of Bosworth. Not only as a place for festivities and banquets, and, as the occasional parliament house, is Westminster Hall celebrated; as a hall of justice, as the scene of some of the most extraordinary trials witnessed in any age or in any country, it is replete with reminiscences of the most stirring character. Courts of justice sat in this hall in early times, generally presided over by the monarchs themselves, for which reason it was called *Curia Domini Regis*; whence originated the Court of King's Bench. Here were tried and convicted Sir Thomas More, for denying the king's supremacy; the Protector, Somerset; Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk, the lover of Mary Queen of Scots; the Earl of Essex, the ill-starred favourite of Queen Elizabeth; and Guido Fawkes, with his fellow-conspirators in the Gunpowder Plot. One of the most memorable trials in this hall was that of the unfortunate Earl of Strafford, who fell a victim to party hate, and whose life his royal master in vain endeavoured to save. Charles weakly yielded up his minister to the rabid foes by whom he was pursued, and eight years afterwards his own turn came. On the coronation of Charles I. some incidents occurred, perhaps trifling in themselves, but which were subsequently remembered, and supposed to bear an ominous relation to the disastrous fate which overtook that royal personage. Charles was crowned in Westminster Abbey in 1626, and at the conclusion of the ceremony dined in the hall. He was robed in white satin, but preceding kings having always worn purple at their coronations, the superstitious inferred that he would have hereafter to place more confidence in his own integrity than upon regal influence. During the coronation ceremony, the golden dove fell from the sceptre, which was considered to be an evil sign, and the infelicitous text chosen by bishop Senhouse for the discourse—"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life," was not unreasonably thought

more suitable for a funeral sermon, than for the splendid ceremonial of which it was intended to be the moral commentary.

In 1649, a ceremony of a more mournful character, in which Charles I. was also the chief actor, was witnessed in this venerable hall. On the 9th of January in that year, a mounted serjeant-at-arms galloped into the middle of this apartment, and announced to the wondering multitude, that the British commons had decreed that their sovereign should be tried before a judicial tribunal, for high crimes and misdemeanours. On the 21st, the unprecedented spectacle of a people assembled to judge and to pass condemnation upon their king, (for to expect an impartial trial from the men who thirsted after his blood would have been futile,) commenced with great pomp. At the higher extremity of the hall, on benches covered with scarlet cloth, and rising in progression, the judges appointed to try the king, numbering about seventy, were seated. An elevated platform occupied the centre, whereon a state chair, with a cover of crimson velvet, as well as a desk, were placed for Colonel Bradshaw, the president. At a short distance, another chair, also covered with velvet, was placed for the royal prisoner. The space between the monarch and his judges, contained a large table, on which was laid a rich Turkey carpet, where the mace and sword of justice were deposited, and before which the two clerks of the tribunal were seated. As upon festal occasions, galleries for the convenience of spectators lined the sides of the hall; and behind, and on the right and left hand of Charles, the soldiers and officers of the court were assembled. On the king's right hand was Cook, the solicitor, representing the people of England. A substantial bar formed a partition in the middle of the hall, behind which were densely packed together, in somewhat disrespectful fashion, the sovereign people, of whom the well-accommodated and comfortably-seated judges professed to be the representatives. In order to protect these lawless judges, the leads and windows of Westmin-

ster Hall were occupied by the military, a circumstance which seems to indicate that the parliamentary party were not yet quite assured of the success of their daring, their illegal, and their sanguinary enterprise. It would be superfluous to enter into the details of a trial so remarkable, and at the same time so well known, as that of Charles I.—to dwell upon the insolence which petty and upstart minds loved to inflict upon fallen greatness: these circumstances, even the minutest details, have been handed down to posterity with close historic fidelity; and we principally refer to this great national event, on account of the stage where it was enacted—Westminster Hall. On the fourth day of the trial, sentence of death was pronounced by Bradshaw upon the king. Charles heard his doom with tranquillity. With inconceivable harshness, the unhappy sovereign was denied the privilege of addressing a few words to his judges after his condemnation. He was rudely and coarsely interrupted; upon which, even his tranquil spirit was somewhat ruffled; and he uttered this remarkable exclamation—an exclamation fraught with an impressive moral to all future approvers of policy similar to that pursued by the regicides—“I am not suffered to speak! Expect what justice the people will have!” The last scene of this revolutionary tragedy we have already touched upon.

Eight years afterwards, the installation of Oliver Cromwell, as Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of Great Britain and Ireland, took place in the same hall. The ceremonial was marked by much magnificence; for although Cromwell had refused to accept the crown of England, yet, during his virtual reign, he had imbibed a taste for pomp and splendour somewhat at variance with the ascetism which marked his early career. Upon this occasion he discarded the modest suit of sable velvet with which, upon his initiation into power, he had been content, and was attired in robes of purple velvet, lined with ermine, and carried the sceptre in his hand. A table was placed before him, covered with pink-coloured Genoa

velvet, fringed with gold, on which the bible, the sword, and other insignia of the Commonwealth were laid. In the galleries, the Protector's own family, and many spectators assembled, to behold this new phase of his prosperous ambition. What an impressive change was witnessed in this hall three years subsequently—a change illustrating, in no ordinary degree, the alternating nature of worldly greatness. In 1660, the head of Cromwell, so lately the possessor of more than kingly power, was affixed to a pole on the roof of that very room in which he had shone in all the plenitude of his human glory. And in sad companionship, the heads of Ireton and Bradshaw were also seen.

Here, in 1716, the unfortunate Earl of Derwentwater, and other Scotch lords, adherents of the Pretender, were tried and convicted. Derwentwater and Kenmure were executed on Tower-hill; the confiscated estates of the former nobleman being added to the revenues of Greenwich Hospital. In 1746, Lord Balmerino and the Earls of Cromartie and Kilmarnock received sentence of death in Westminster Hall, for a like offence, participation in the fortunes of Charles Edward, the Pretender; and towards the close of the same year, Lord Lovat, an octogenarian, was added to the list of those who suffered for their share in the rebellion of 1745.

The coronation of George III. and his queen took place on the 22nd of September, 1761; and, the solemn ceremony over, the monarch and his consort presided at a state banquet in Westminster Hall. Among the spectators who looked down from the galleries on this regal splendour, was (we are told, on the authority of Hume) the young Pretender. Notwithstanding his incognito, he was recognised by a gentleman, who expressed his astonishment at meeting him in such a place, and on such an occasion. "It was curiosity that led me," replied the descendant of the Stuarts; "but I assure you that the person who is the object of all this pomp and magnificence is the man I envy the least."

The last trial of importance, in Westminster Hall, was that of Warren Hastings, the governor-general of India, whose important services in that vast territory were required, on his return to England, not by honours and by distinction, but by his being placed upon his trial for imputed acts of oppression towards the native princes and population of Hindostan. This remarkable trial, promoted by the jealousy of angry competitors for Indian elevation, commenced in 1788, and terminated in 1797, when Hastings was acquitted of the charges preferred against him; but, by a strange anomaly of justice, condemned to pay the costs of this tedious inquiry. From 1761 to 1820, only one coronation, that of George III., was celebrated in Westminster Hall; and between the last-named date and 1838, three of these grand ceremonials have taken place there, those of George IV., William IV., and her present gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria.

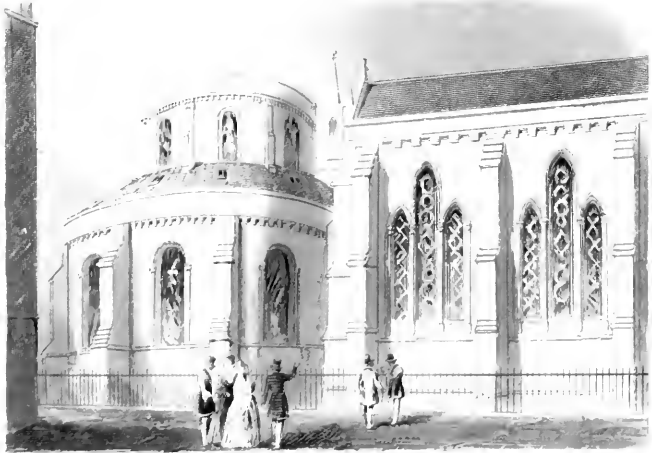
On the right-hand side of the hall are avenues leading to the four chief courts of justice, the courts of Chancery, Exchequer, Common Pleas, and the Queen's Bench, with three courts pertaining to the Chancery and the Queen's Bench; the Vice Chancellor's and the Rolls' courts, and the Bail Court. Of these, the most ancient is the *Court of Chancery*, in which, from the time of William the Conqueror to the middle of the sixteenth century, the functions of Lord Chancellor were usually discharged by ecclesiastics, Thomas à Becket and Cardinal Wolsey being among those who have filled the high office. The *Court of King's Bench*, or *Queen's Bench*, is also of very high antiquity, and, as we have previously mentioned, derives its name from its being the tribunal where the monarchs once sat in person. Here several of the Saxon and Norman kings were accustomed to preside, and to hear complaints; but no sovereign since Edward IV. has officiated as judge. The *Court of Common Pleas* was founded in 1215, and that of *Exchequer* in 1079. In the Common Pleas, until very recently, only serjeants-at-law could practise; but it is now open to all barristers. The halls in which the busi-

ness of these courts was transacted were built by Kent, in the reign of George II. In 1813, considerable improvements were made in them by Mr. James Wyatt; subsequently they were taken down, and the present handsome courts erected, after the designs of Sir John Soane.

The Houses of Parliament, or, as Mr. Barry's noble building is sometimes called, the New Palace of Westminster, adjoin the Hall, and present a magnificent frontage to the Thames. As one of the most stately ornaments to the banks of the river, a description of the palace of the legislature will more appropriately come within the scope of our review of the Thames, and the attractive objects that crown its shores.

Tothill-street, the principal entrance to which faces the western towers of the Abbey, stands upon the site of a spacious meadow called *Tothill-fields*, in which, during the time of the great plague, were situated several buildings known as pest-houses, or hospitals for those afflicted with the disorder. The neighbourhood, although now deplorably low, was in the time of Elizabeth a fashionable quarter of the town, several noblemen having residences here; and it will probably soon regain respectability, a great portion of it being in the progress of removal, to make way for a new street, to be called *Victoria-street*, establishing a direct communication between the Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace, Belgravia, and Piccadily.

In this vicinity is the prison called *Tothill-fields Bridewell*, the arrangements in which elicited the commendation of Howard, the philanthropist. From the number of streets running out of and intersecting *Tothill-street*, this locality may be described as a kind of western *Sevendials*. These streets principally lead into the *Vauxhall Bridge-road*, and into *Pimlico*, but their general features are too unattractive to demand individual notice. *Petty France*, thus named from the French refugees who settled here when Louis XIV. revoked the Edict of Nantes, is at the end of *Tothill-street*. On the left is the *Broadway*,



the principal mart of the district. Entering it, we look upon the New Chapel, originally erected in the time of Charles I., and during the civil wars appropriated as a stable for the horses of the republican soldiers. At the Restoration it was again used for devotional purposes. In its cemetery are interred the remains of Wincellaus Hollar, the artist of Old London, and who, in his works, has given curious representations of the capital, exhibiting meadows, maypoles, and village-greens, the sites of which are now covered with densely-populated streets. Within the original chapel was buried the notorious Colonel Blood, whose attempted robbery of the crown and regalia was requited by Charles II., not with a halter, but with ill-bestowed favour and distinction. Blood died in *Bowling-street*, Westminster. The minister who attended him in his closing moments found this desperado sensible, and heard him say that death was no terror to him. At the eastern end of *Bowling-street* is *College-street*, conducting into a superior neighbourhood to that at which we have glanced. On the left-hand side of this street, as entered from *Bowling-street*, is the wall of the garden of Westminster School, opposite to which are houses of a very respectable kind, and in one of which Gibbon, the historian, was a resident in his youth. At the back of *College-street*, in *Smith-square*, is the church of *St. John the Evangelist*, commenced in 1721, and finished in 1728. On the north and south sides of this edifice are superb porticoes sustained by massive stone pillars, as is also the roof of the church. At each of the four corners is a beautiful stone tower and pinnacle, forming somewhat picturesque landmarks from the river. The pillars supporting the elegant portico in the front are of the Doric order. West of this church is *Millbank*, so called from a mill which formerly stood here. The mansion of the Mortons, earls of Peterborough, was at *Millbank*, and was the residence, so recently as the last century, of a branch of the Grosvenor family. The principal building which now occupies this large plot of ground is the *Penitentiary*

a prison for convicts and others, who are incarcerated here instead of being sent to the hulks, the object in view being their employment and reformation. It originated in the suggestion of Jeremy Bentham, and was erected at a cost of between £10,000 and £50,000. Solitude, labour, and religious instruction, are the chief points of discipline preserved here. This edifice is raised on the angle formed by the river and the Vauxhall-bridge-road. It is built of brick, is circumvallated, and with its pointed towers seems like a fortress. It extends over more than twelve acres of ground. The entrance is very imposing, having the word "Penitentiary" over the gateway, which leads to a spacious area. The rooms appropriated to the convicts are about 12 feet by 6, lofty and arched; the windows are internally glazed, protected by iron bars on the exterior. The apartments radiate towards the centre of a circle, which is divided by brick walls into court-yards for exercise. A chapel, a school, and an infirmary, are attached to the prison. Opposite to the Penitentiary, and extending the whole length of the road between Millbank-street and Vauxhall-bridge, is a dwarf river-wall. At the end of this agreeable promenade is the Vauxhall-bridge-road, about a mile in length, extending from the bridge, in a right-hand direction, to Pimlico, through which, and Grosvenor-place, a fine opening continues to Hyde-park-corner. Parallel with this thoroughfare a new line of road, raised upon arches, forms a continuation of the fashionable district of Belgravia, at the opening of which, looking towards the bridge, is a group of elegant mansions, called *Besborough-gardens*.

VAUXHALL BRIDGE.

This bridge was opened in July, 1816. It is formed of nine arches, each spanning about 80 feet, made of cast-iron, and raised upon stone piers, 14 feet wide. The elevation of the centre arch, above high-water mark, is 30 feet; the bridge is 800 feet long, and 50 wide, exclusive of footways. Its sides are protected by light iron palisades,



varied by recesses. To defray the cost of its structure tolls are imposed upon vehicles and foot-passengers, the latter paying a penny each time they cross it. The approach on the Surrey side is in close proximity to Vauxhall-gardens and the South-Western Railway.

Returning to Charing-cross by way of Millbank and Millbank-street, *Abingdon-street* is reached, so called from a mansion once standing there belonging to the earls of Abingdon, and previously known as Lindsey House, the seat of the Berties, earls of Lindsey. On the left-hand side are several residences of elegant dimensions, but the chief modern feature in the street is the Royal Entrance to the House of Lords, of which, hereafter, a full description will be given. In the enclosure, or square, between St. Margaret's church and Great George-street, is a statue of that eminent statesman, Mr. Canning, erected in May, 1832.

We again take up our position at Charing-cross, whence we pursue, with little deviation, our way to the western regions of the capital. From Trafalgar-square a short street, called *Pall-mall East*, runs into the Haymarket and Pall-mall. Here the *New College of Physicians* forms part of a fine group of buildings with the *Union* club-house, the latter having a frontage in Cockspur-street. Sir Robert Smirke erected this structure, which is divided into two stories, and the windows are decorated with architraves and sub-cornices. The eastern front forms, with a corresponding wing and receding portico, the chief front of the *Union* club-house, built in 1824, by the same architect. Here the Society of Painters in Water Colours is established. It was founded in 1804, and the present gallery was opened in 1824. The public are admitted to this exhibition on payment of one shilling. On the right-hand side of *Pall-mall East* is a narrow thoroughfare called *Whitcombe-street*, extending as far as Prince's-street, between Leicester-square and Coventry-street. In the obscurity of *Whitcombe-street* there is little to attract, far less than when it was appropriately called *Hedge-lane*, in

the days of Charles I., and was surrounded by pleasant fields, and presented the appearance which some of the green lanes in Norwood or Hornsey now shew. Nearly opposite to the College of Physicians is *Suffolk-street*, at the corner of which is the *United University* club-house, with two fronts severally opening to *Suffolk-street* and *Pall-mall East*. It was built in 1823, and presents an exquisite union of the Grecian, Doric, and Ionic orders. In this street is the Society of British Artists, first opened in 1824, and where there is an annual exhibition of paintings similar to that at the Royal Academy. *Pall-mall East* joins *Pall-mall*, where the latter appears a continuation of *Cockspur-street*. At this point of junction, in the open space near the Haymarket, is the equestrian statue of George III., erected in 1837 by the late Sir Matthew Cotes Wyatt.

On the north side of *Pall-mall* several important and fashionable streets are found, and before reviewing its historical associations we shall proceed through these streets in consecutive order.

THE HAYMARKET.

The Haymarket, which leads from the east corner of *Pall-mall* to *Coventry-street*, is a leading street which has some historical repute; combining in itself the elements of fashion and of trade. In the reigns of Charles I., and his successor, it was a rural lane, bounded by hedges; and beyond, north, east, and west, was the open country. Subsequently, carts laden with hay and straw stood here, toll-free; but, in 1692, the street was paved, and a toll of sixpence levied, by statute, upon the load of hay, and twopence for straw. A great improvement was accomplished by the erection of the Italian Opera House, in the beginning of the eighteenth century. That of the Haymarket Theatre followed, and of numerous handsome shops and houses, which rendered it one of the gayest, and most traffic-crowded streets at that end of the town. During the last thirty years, it has derived additional im-

portance from the splendoid edifices which have adorned its site, and, from its contiguity to that fine neighbourhood, which has arisen in place of the mean alleys, and obscure courts, which once lay so thickly together in this quarter. Notwithstanding its fashionable appearance and exaltation, it remained as a depôt for hay and straw until a few years back, when the haymarket, *de facto*, was removed to a spacious area, called Cumberland Market, near the New Road. This street is 1,000 feet long, and abounds in hotels and coffee-houses, which greatly preponderate over other businesses in the locality. Ascending the Haymarket, *Suffolk-place*, a respectable avenue, conducts into Suffolk-street. The next turning is *James-street*, in which stands an uncouth gloomy-looking building, called the *Tennis Court*, up to a very recent date the scene of pugilistic encounters, and of still more demoralising sports. It was founded in the reign of Charles II., and is said to have been frequented by that king and his brother James. Passing by several other streets, which claim no particular notice, the head of the Haymarket is gained, where Piccadilly, Tichbourne, and *Coventry* streets unite. The last street is named from Coventry House, the residence of the Lord Keeper Coventry, and where Henry Coventry, Secretary of State, died in 1686. It was built upon the site of a notorious gaming-house, which, in 1668, was the only house standing at the Haymarket end of Piccadilly. Both gaming-house and palace have disappeared before the engulfing tide of trade. Coventry-street is the connecting link between Leicester-square and Piccadilly.

REGENT STREET.

The buildings and shops in *Regent-street*, (thus named in honour of the office filled by George, Prince of Wales, who, during the malady and until the death of his royal father, acted as Prince Regent, and exercised sovereign power,) regarded from all its approaches, have a palatial appearance, agreeably contrasting with the homelier

features of the streets in its vicinity. The opening from the centre of Pall-mall is effective in the highest degree, from the combination of agreeable objects, which please the eye, and are in accordance with severe taste. To the south of Regent-street, at its union with Waterloo-place, stands the York Column, on the extensive area of Carlton-terrace, from which eminence we look down on the sylvan promenades of St. James's Park ; and the scenic effect is heightened by the spires and turrets of those costly accessories in the back ground—Westminster Abbey and Hall, and the New Palace of the Legislature. Regent-street, viewed from its Coventry-street approach, has a very imposing air. Although the colonnade and its pillars, whence this part of the street was called the Quadrant, have disappeared, still, the extensive view of elaborately ornamented houses, excites an admiration which, perhaps, no other street in Europe can elicit. Another principal point in which Regent-street may be advantageously seen, is at the union, formed north, east, west, and south, by the intersection of that street with Oxford-street, the spot thus environed being called Regent Circus. Here Regent-street, with its white façades, exhibits its breadth and principal length. Here, at one glance, we witness the character and associations of the street, an excursion to which is inseparably connected with the idea of recreation. Before advancing further, it may be proper briefly to glance at the former neighbourhood of a street which has no superior in the world. That affluent and aristocratic district, which is now vertebrated by Regent-street, so recently as 1810, was encompassed by dirty, poor-looking streets, of which Swallow-street was one. A grand opening to the north having been decided upon, it was commenced opposite Carlton House, Pall-mall, the palace of the Prince of Wales, and thence carried forward, crossing Jernyn-street and Piccadilly ; inclining to the north-west, it reached Mary-le-bone-street near the end of Glasshouse-street, and absorbing almost the whole of Swallow street, traversed Oxford-street, and passed to the

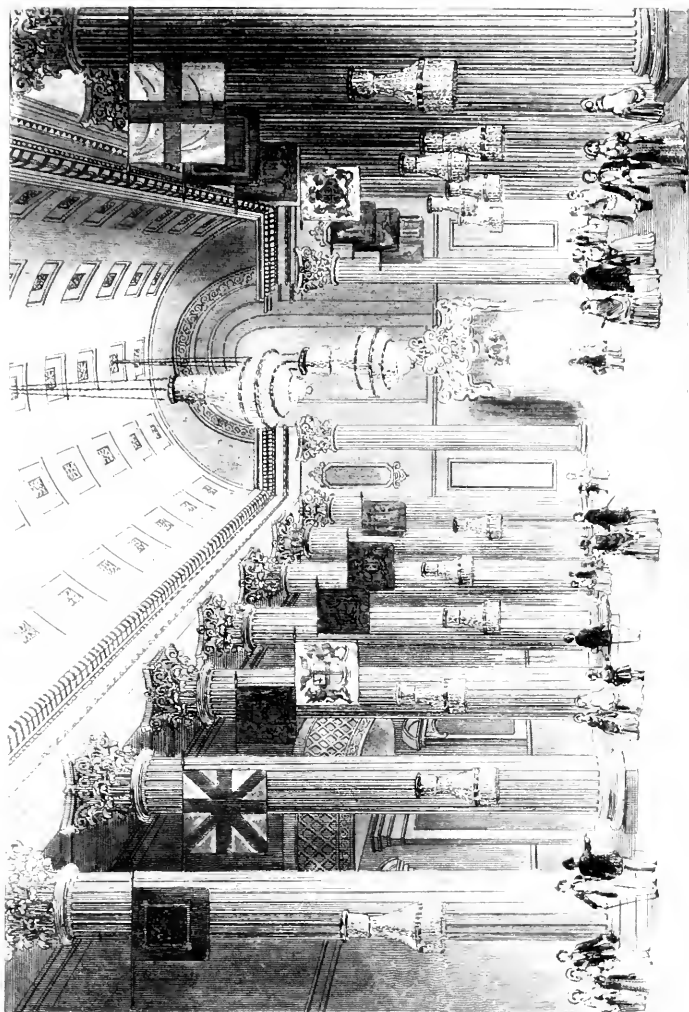
right of Cavendish-square, whence it was continued nearly midway between Harley-street and Portland-road to the New-road. The design of this new street originated with Mr. John Nash, architect of the Board of Works. In early life he was a carpenter, and being employed at the Pavilion, Brighton, he attracted the favourable notice of the Prince of Wales. He was subsequently consulted on most of the gigantic improvements made at the west-end. The Regent's Park we owe to him, which, though it is said to have been a park in the days of Queen Elizabeth, offered no vestige of its past honours, presenting little but a series of unattractive fields.

From Pall-mall is entered *Waterloo-place*—the head of Regent-street, from which it is divided by *Charles-street*, running right and left, and connecting St. James's-square and the Haymarket. In that part of Charles-street branching towards the Haymarket, is seen the front portico of the *Junior United Service Club-house*, one side of which faces Regent-street; and nearly opposite, is a portion of the colonnade of the Opera-house, and the avenue in its rear, familiarly known as *Fops'-alley*. Advancing up Regent-street, attention is drawn to St. Philip's chapel on the left hand. It is built after the design of Sir William Chambers. Its pillars are of the Roman Doric order; and the structure generally, is a copy of the choragic monument of Lysicrates, commonly called the Lanthorn of Demosthenes, at Athens. In the interior, the Corinthian order is adopted, and the altar is placed by the eastern front of the church, while the tower is over the west; thus reversing the course which, for centuries has been preferred. A few yards higher up on the other side of the way, a spacious fore-court leads to an elegant mansion receding several yards from the general line of street. Here Mr. Nash formerly resided; it is now called the *Gallery of Illustration*, and is appropriated to the exhibition of revolving dioramas. Higher up, *Jermyn-street* leads, from the left to St. James's-street, from the right to the Haymarket. It was formerly a

very important locality, and is still, in what is called the season, inhabited by persons of fashion and political note. It was named after Henry Jermyn, Earl of St. Albans, whose mansion and gardens, in the reign of Charles I., covered the ground on which Waterloo-place stands. The Earl was known as the lover and putative husband of Henrietta Maria, the relict of his unfortunate master. Sir Isaac Newton lived here in 1699, and about seventy years later, Thomas Gray the poet. The first *Regent-circus*, which, in contradistinction to that which Oxford-street intersects, may be named the southern circus, forms a splendid centre, into which Regent-street, Piccadilly, and Tichborne-street radiate. Within its area are comprised the County Fire Office, some handsome shops, and several railway and steam-packet offices for transporting travellers and freight to every part of the known world; from the million-crowded streets of the modern Babylon, to the deserted and silent site of the ancient capital of Assyria; from the *trottoir* of Regent-street to the plains of Egypt. The *County Fire Office*, originated by Mr. Barber Beaumont in 1807, is a noble and commanding structure. The edifice was erected by Mr. Robert Abraham, in 1819. The principal frontage has a Portland-stone rustic basement carried over the footway, above which are six Corinthian columns, and two angle pilasters, sustaining an enriched entablature, with a balustraded parapet surmounting it, in the centre of which is a colossal figure of Britannia, with a couchant lion. The proportions and enrichments of the columns and entablature are from the portico of the Pantheon at Rome. From this end of Regent-street, several streets diverge, some of which convey an idea of the ancient locality which the enterprise of Mr. Nash has not been able completely to remove. Of these, *Air-street* and *Vine-street* are smaller and less important thoroughfares, extending from Piccadilly across Regent-street into the street branching into Golden-square; a fragment of the ancient *Swallow-street* remains on the left, and is partly

occupied as a mews. *Vigo-street*, is a genteel street, composed of shops and private houses. It leads from the west side of Regent-street, and passing to the rear of Burlington-gardens, runs into Old Bond-street. Here we find *Sackville-street*, remarkable for being the longest street in the metropolis, which has no turning branching out of it. It was built on the spot where *Piccadilly Hall* formerly stood. When that hall was sold and pulled down, its name was given to the important street with which Sackville-street connects itself. Continuing to walk up *Vigo-street* towards the west, the *Albany* is reached, the chambers in which are occupied chiefly by members of parliament, the bachelor-nobility of England, and their connexions. Here a former Lord Melbourne had his town mansion, which passed from him to the Duke of York; and when his royal highness disposed of his interest in the premises, the Albany Chambers were erected upon the site, deriving their patronymic from the second title of their late royal proprietor. The chief entrance to the Albany is from Piccadilly. At each end are porter's lodges and the thoroughfare is only on sufferance. Anterior to the mutations just mentioned, a person of some historical notoriety lived here. Pennant says, "The house of that monster of treachery, that profligate minister, the Earl of Sunderland, who, by his destructive advice, premeditatedly brought ruin on his unsuspecting master, James II., stood on or near the present Melbourne House, once the most magnificent in London, built by Sir William Chambers. At the very time he sold him to the Prince of Orange, he encouraged his majesty in every step which was certain of involving him and his family in utter ruin." Passing by the wall of Burlington-gardens, a few paces bring to *Burlington Arcade*, which has also an entrance from Piccadilly. This favourite place of resort was built from designs by Samuel Ware, and has a triplicated entrance at each end. It is a long and commodious archway, with a glazed roof, and contains a double row of handsome

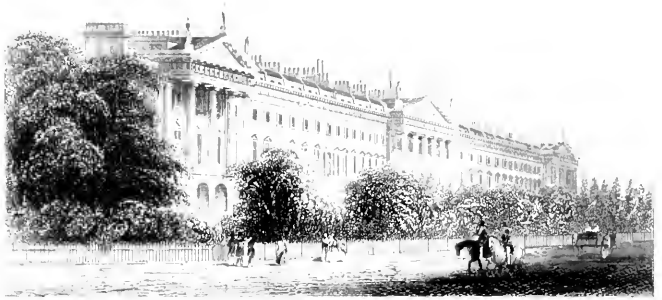
shops with dormitories over them. None, but what may be called genteel businesses, are carried on here; jewellers, fancy stationers, book and music-sellers, and vendors of toys, perfumery, and pictures, being the chief occupants. Here an agreeable promenade may be enjoyed when the state of the weather precludes it in the uncovered streets. Returning towards Regent-street, *Old Burlington-street* leads to the north, and into New Burlington-street. At the end stands *Burlington School*, founded by Lady Burlington for the maintenance, clothing, and education of eighty female children; a charity conceived in the most benevolent spirit, and carried out with consistent liberality. At the south end of this street, stands the mansion built by Leoni for the Duke of Queensbury, the munificent patron of Gay. It is a handsome stone edifice, and was raised here in order to gratify his grace with a view of Burlington-gardens. The prospect is still beautiful, as brick and mortar have not invaded the fair domain which its early owner was anxious to display, for the pleasure of a friend. The mansion is now known as *Uxbridge House*, having been purchased by the late earl when it was in a dilapidated condition, and by him restored to more than its pristine grandeur. It is peculiarly interesting as the residence of the gallant Marquis of Anglesey, one of the most celebrated of the peninsular heroes. Running parallel with this street is *Saville-row*, the principal residences in which belong to distinguished members of the faculty. Re-entering Regent-street, opposite Vigo-street, is *Glasshouse-street*, a place of great traffic; to the right of which, at the back of Regent-street, is *Marylebone-street*, a street chiefly occupied by good shops, which, although greatly inferior to its parallel, is by no means of a mediocore character. From Marylebone-street a series of streets branch to *Golden-square*, which was built before the year 1700. In the fields upon which it was erected, was a lazaretto, during the plague of 1665, built by that warrior and philanthropist, Lord Craven, of whom we have already made honourable mention. Although in a



western locality, fashion is by no means identified with this comparatively obscure square. A celebrated character of modern times, however, resides here—Cardinal Wiseman—the pontifical chief of the Roman Catholics in England. Among the last-named streets is *Warwick-street*, containing the Bavarian ambassador's chapel, in which during the Opera season, some of the principal foreign vocalists assist in the celebration of the service. We now return to Regent-street, the central portion of which excels the other parts, and is occupied with the most costly shops. On the right-hand side, *Chapel-court* next presents itself; so named, from the place of worship known as *Archbishop Tennison's Chapel*. A simple, plain, but elegant, new frontage in Regent-street, has been supplied to this chapel, the venerable founder of which lived in no fewer than six reigns, having been born in the reign of Charles I., and dying in that of George I. *Foubert's-place*, is a paved passage conducting to King-street. It is called after a Major Foubert, who established a military academy here in the reign of Charles II., which was afterwards converted into a House of Industry. Nearly opposite Chapel-court, on the western side of the way, lies *New Burlington-street*, leading from Regent-street to the end of Saville-row. It is a quiet genteel street, chiefly composed of private houses. The next street is *Conduit-street*, a first-rate business locality, communicating with New Bond-street. It is indebted for its name to a conduit which was established here before rival companies were enabled to convey water to the interior of every dwelling. In this street, the eminent surgeon, Sir Astley Paston Cooper, resided. Towards the Bond-street end stands *Trinity Chapel*, the history of which is somewhat curious. It is said to have been originally built of wood by command of James II., for the celebration of private mass; and fixed on wheels, that it might accompany the royal devotee when he moved to some distance from London. After that sovereign's abdication, the chapel was enlarged by the rector of St. Martin's parish, and fixed on a

spot adjacent to that which it now fills. Archbishop Tennyson completed, or rather re-created it with a portion of the old materials, but supplied with good brick walls, on its present site. On the opposite side of the way is *George-street*, chiefly containing the residences of rank and opulence. Entering it from *Conduit-street*, the attention at this point is more particularly drawn to *St. George's Church*, *Hanover-square*. This church may be regarded as the antipodes of *Gretna-green*. At the latter all is (or was) furtive, hurried, and unseemly; at *St. George's* ostentatious display, leisurely dignity, and careful arrangement, court the admiring gaze of all observers. It was built by John James, an architect of reputation, in 1724, when that part of the metropolis began to take something of its present shape. The church is of stone, the roof being covered with lead, and arched over each of the three aisles. The interior is sustained by eight pillars of the Corinthian order, raised upon pedestals. A band in ornamental scroll-work extends from column to column, the intermediate spaces filled with sunken panels, on which are inscribed a brilliant array of lordly names, memorials of those who have officiated as churchwardens. The church is pewed with oak, and paved with Purbeck stone. The marble altar is elevated three feet above the floor of the nave, and four pillars of fluted oak add materially to the effect of this part of the stately edifice. The west front of the church is deservedly admired, six Corinthian pillars sustaining the pediment and entablature. From the graceful and well-proportioned steeple a clock-tower is carried to the roof. The portico is second only to that of *St. Martin's church*.

Proceeding up *Regent-street*, *Argyll-place*, a respectable avenue, runs into *Great Marlborough-street*. *Blenheim-steps*, which lead into it from *Oxford-street*, and other local names, remind us of the conqueror of Marshal Talland. This street, named after the victory of the day, was in high repute while the gallant *Marlborough* flourished and is still esteemed highly respectable. No edi-



fices of public interest are found here, unless the police-office, and the Pantheon, which has its back-front in Great Marlborough-street, be excepted. Crossing to the western side of Regent-street, and passing through *Hanover-street*, which is composed of private residences and shops, *Hanover-square* is entered. In the garden enclosure is a statue of that great statesman, Mr. Pitt, looking towards George-street and Conduit-street. It is of bronze, is 10 feet in height, and stands on a pedestal of Scotch granite, the altitude of which is 16 feet. This statue is considered one of the finest works of Chantrey. The square was erected soon after the death of Queen Anne, and received its title in honour of the house of Hanover. It has an aristocratic air, and its wide and handsome avenues much enhance its appearance. One of the chief edifices in the square is that on the east side, at the corner of Hanover-street, known as the *Queen's Concert Rooms*, its original appellation being the Hanover-square Rooms. Here Paganini astonished and delighted by the tones which he evoked from his matchless violin; and Strauss, the gifted composer, with his brilliant company, here celebrated his first triumphs in England. The periodical concerts of the Royal Academy of Music take place in these rooms, which are considered the handsomest public suite in London, and are fitted up internally with the utmost taste and elegance. On the north of the square, at the corner of Tenterden-street, a structure of considerable magnitude meets the eye; it is the *Oriental Club-house*, and is principally attended by military gentlemen and others connected with East India affairs. Nearly opposite, in *Tenterden-street*, stands the *Royal Academy of Music*, a modern institution, expressly founded to cultivate native musical talent. It was established by charter, in the reign of George IV., and great success has attended its movements, many of our most distinguished professionals having acquired their initiative in this academy. From the northern side of the square we return through *Prince's street*, similar in character to Hanover-street,

into Regent-street. Midway between the first and second streets is *Hanover District Chapel*, built after the designs of Mr. W. E. R. Cockerell. It is of that order of ancient temples denominated, in architectural phrase, *prostyle*, having columns only in the front, and belongs to the second order of sacred buildings described by Vitruvius. Some yards higher up, the second *Regent Circus* is gained intersected south and north by Regent-street, and east and west by Oxford-street. The disposition of this circus greatly adds to the appearance of Regent street, of which it forms a bold and handsome centre. Leaving the Oxford-street circus, and passing by some streets which branch across Regent-street, we reach *Margaret-street*, running right and left; the left avenue terminates in *Cavendish-square*, which was planned in 1715—the ground being laid out about 1718. It is a splendid area; and the mansions of several of the nobility are found there. In the garden is a statue of that Duke of Cumberland, whose inhumanity, at Culloden, entailed upon him the odious *soubriquet* of “the Butcher.” In this square resided the celebrated and witty Lady Mary Wortley Montague. From the Earldom of Mortimer, and the Barony of Harley and Wigmore, the names of Mortimer-street, Harley-street, and Wigmore-street were derived; and the whole of this aristocratic neighbourhood, in the names of its streets, bears reference to the genealogical ties, and family honours, of the house of Oxford. *Harley-street*, a long and elegant street, extending from Cavendish-square to the Regent’s Park, and other parallel streets, were not in existence till many years subsequent to the construction of the square. The plot was once called *Harley-fields*, and, towards 1770, was a favourite resort of that religious enthusiast, Whitfield. *Bentinck-street* has acquired some reputation as the residence of the historian of *the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*; and in *Holles-street*, Byron, the greatest of modern poets, was born, in 1788. James Brydges, Duke of Chandos, resided at *Chandos House*, where he lived

with great magnificence, and was, not unaptly, called the "princely Chandos." The duke had prepared a splendid entertainment, to celebrate the christening of his infant son and heir. This ceremonial was invested with more than usual grandeur, for the king and queen had condescended to be god-parents of the noble child. On the appointed evening, the royal family, and a brilliant array of distinguished guests, assembled in the superb apartments of the ducal palace; and the child was borne by his nurse to the place of honour, which had been appointed for the ceremony of making him a member of the Christian church. A mournful reverse came over this scene of animated expectation. The dazzling glare of light, which illuminated the walls with all the radiance of day, was too powerful for the infant's feeble organs of sight. He fell into convulsions; the ceremony was abruptly closed; the visitors withdrew from the house of mourning; and, before the hour of midnight, the beloved object, upon which all this extraordinary pomp had been lavished, was cold in death. Both the duke and his consort felt acutely their irreparable loss. The heartbroken father soon afterwards rejoined his child, and the duchess secluded herself from society, but still resided in the house which had been the scene of her happiest feelings, and of the premature withering of her maternal hopes.

To return to Regent-street. Opposite *Little Portland-street*, leading to *Great Portland-street*, stands the *Royal Polytechnic Institution*. This is an exhibition on a scale of great magnitude, in which the progress of experimental science is illustrated. The solar microscope, diving-bell, and dissolving views, form a portion of the experiments which it daily furnishes. A few yards beyond, is situated *Langham-place*, which, so far as All-Saints' Church, is, in spirit and appearance, a continuation of Regent-street. *All-Saints' Church* is an elegant and appropriate apex to the long line of street from which we have just emerged. With the exception of the steeple and portico, the exterior

presents a plain stone building, illuminated by two tiers of windows, and terminated by a balustraded parapet. The steeple comprehends two portions—a circular tower, and a cone ; the first is sustained by a flight of steps, and is occupied, to a great portion of its altitude, by a peristyle of twelve Ionic columns, sustaining the entablature of the order. The capitals are highly enriched ; from the volutes festoons of foliage depend, and between them is a cherub with expanded wings. The cone, by a metal finish, is brought to a complete point. This church was designed by Mr. Nash. The remainder of Langham-place is occupied with stately residences. It joins *Portland-place*, which is a magnificent avenue, 123 feet wide, extending to the chief entrances of the Regent's Park. The mansions in this street, which are of vast size, are of brick, ornamented with pediments, pilastres, and balustrades. This beautiful street, which was once considered the finest in Europe, is still one of the most regular and spacious in the metropolis. At its termination in Park-crescent is a colossal statue of the Duke of Kent, the fourth son of George III., and the father of Queen Victoria. The figure is represented in robes, resting on a column, with a scroll in the left hand. The inscription on the pedestal states, that the statue was raised by the friends of those numerous charities, of which, during his lifetime, the duke was so liberal a supporter. From this point, the road, diverging right and left in front of a noble crescent, terminates in the New-road, immediately opposite the Regent's Park.

ST. JAMES'S-SQUARE.

Having made the circuit of Regent-street, we return to Pall-mall, one of the leading outlets of which is *St. James's-square*. This square covers the site of *St. James's-fields*, and the streets which encompass it are, in their names, memorials of Charles II. and his brother the Duke of York, afterwards James II. ; namely, King-street, Charles-street, Duke-street, and York-street. It is worthy

of notice, that York-street was the first street in London where pavement was laid down for pedestrians. In the garden of the square is a bronze statue of King William III., designed by Bacon. Its place was occupied by a stone conduit in the reign of Charles I., when, in all Pall-mall no houses were to be found, it being an open space from the village of Charing to the palace of St. James. This square is the oldest West-end square, and when Clerkenwell-close, the Barbican, Aldersgate-street, and the Strand, were the fashionable residences of the nobility, a few of the aristocracy anticipated the general migration of rank to the west, and fixed their abodes in this square. In 1683 the Marquis of Dorchester and the earls of Essex, Kent and St. Albans, lived here. In 1698 the Count De Tallard, the French ambassador, occupied a house in this square, for which he paid the enormous rental of £600. There was a great accession of titled residents at the commencement of the eighteenth century, for, in 1708, the Duke of Norfolk, the Duke of Northumberland, the Duke of Ormond, Lord Pembroke, Lord Radnor, and, a few years later, the Earl of Sunderland and Lord Bathurst had in it their town mansions. At one time of his life, the celebrated minister, Sir Robert Walpole, was an inhabitant, and on the other side of the square that mirror of politeness, Lord Chesterfield, dwelt. When the differences between George II. and his son, Frederick Prince of Wales, had attained so great a height that St. James's Palace was too hot to hold the sovereign and the heir-apparent, the latter, compelled to depart from the royal residence, removed his household to Norfolk House, on the east side of the square. That the enmity existing between father and son was not trivial, may be inferred from the fact, that the king prohibited the admission to his presence of all individuals belonging to the party of the Prince of Wales. On the fourth of June his late majesty George III. was born at Norfolk House. Sir Nicholas Wraxall says that the identical bed "is now at the Duke of Norfolk's seat at Worksop, in the county of

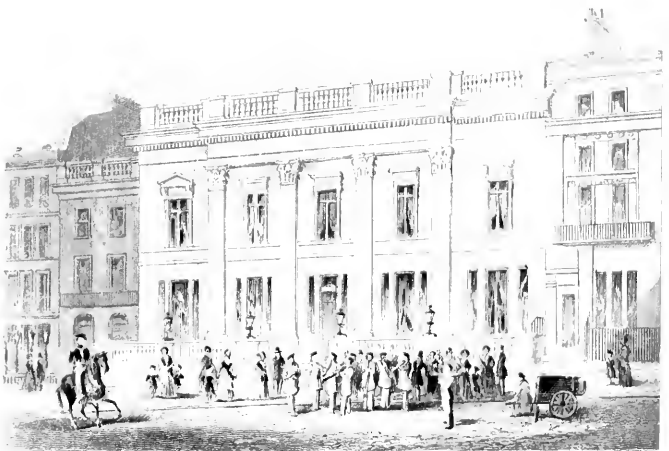
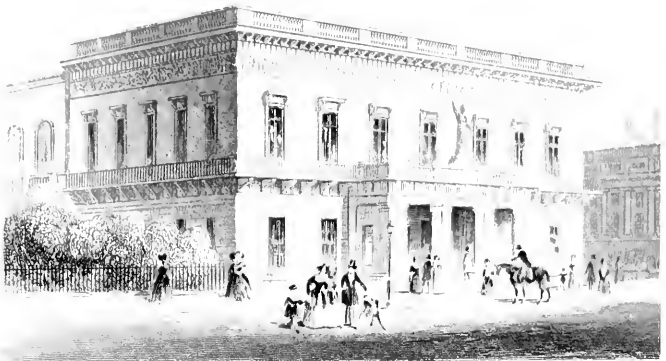
Nottingham. Except that the furniture is of green silk, the bed has nothing splendid about it, and would hardly be esteemed fit for a person of ordinary condition in the present times." On the 14th of March, in the ensuing year, Edward Augustus, Duke of York, was born at the same place. Adjoining Norfolk House is the town palace of the Bishop of London; and the Bishop of Chichester has also a mansion in the square. In this square resided that truly great man, Warren Hastings, and at No. 15, dwelt his envious and implacable enemy, Sir Philip Francis, almost undoubtedly proved to be the author of *The Letters of Junius*. The use of this house was granted by Lady Francis, the widow of Sir Philip, to Queen Caroline in August, 1820, and from this temporary residence her majesty went daily in state to the House of Peers, whilst the memorable Bill of Pains and Penalties was in progress. That unfortunate statesman, lord Londonderry, was the tenant of No. 16. No. 13 is Lichfield House, famed in political history as the seat of the cabals of the Whig party. These premises were occupied till 1851 by the Naval and Military club. On the western side of the square Lord Amherst dwelt whilst commander-in-chief. In the mansion two doors farther on, towards King-street, Mrs. Boehm, a celebrated leader of fashion, resided. His royal highness the Prince Regent was at one of this lady's parties towards the close of June, 1815, when dispatches announcing the triumph which the English had gained at Waterloo, arrived. The prince went out into the balcony, and communicated the glorious tidings to the crowd assembled in front of the house, at the same time displaying the eagles and trophies which had been captured on the battle-field. *King-street* leads from the west side of the square into St. James's-street. In this street is a brilliant assembly room, called Willis's Rooms, built after the design of Robert Mylne, the architect of Blackfriars' Bridge. Here that fashionable and exclusive assembly, known as *Almack's*, is held, and has long been celebrated for the magnificent balls where the combined nobility and

beauty of England meet. This elegant association is under the complete control of its lady patronesses, vouchers from whom are necessary to procure admission, and from their fiat there is no appeal. The Caledonian balls, and some other fashionable *reunions* meet in these rooms. One of the most distinguished residents in this street was Louis Napoleon, who, after many reverses of fortune, quitted England in 1848, to become the first president of the French Republic.

ST. JAMES'S STREET.

At the end of Pall-mall, and facing St. James's Palace, to which it is the chief approach from Piccadilly, is *St. James's-street*, which was called the "*Long-street*," in 1670. So far back as the days of Charles II., it was a popular street, and a fashionable lounging-place, a character which it still retains. One of the most daring exploits of the notorious Colonel Blood was perpetrated in this street. The high-spirited Duke of Ormond had, while Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, caused to be executed some of the accomplices of Blood, who had been implicated in a plot for seizing on Dublin Castle. Blood, incensed at this act of the duke's, openly avowed his intention to seize the person of that nobleman and hang him at Tyburn. One very dark night as his grace was returning from a civic festivity, and was turning the bottom of St. James's-street, near which he then resided, the door of his vehicle was burst open, and Blood, with four bravoos, dragged out his intended victim, who was fastened to a horse behind one of the ruffians, who galloped on rapidly towards Tyburn, bent upon accomplishing the fell purpose above-mentioned. The Duke of Ormond had six footmen in attendance on him; but in order to prevent them mounting his carriage and thereby inflicting a great additional weight upon the horses, the coach was spiked behind. Thus his domestics being on foot, were not sufficiently near their master at the time, to prevent his being dragged from his vehicle. It is reported that Blood proceeded in advance of the

fellow who had the duke in custody, to arrange the rope on the gibbet. A close prisoner, the old nobleman was hurried up St. James's-street, and had reached that spot covered by the present Devonshire House, when he, unloosing one of his feet, struggled with his captor, and succeeded in thrusting him from his seat. Both fell to the ground, and after a brief contest, the duke's footmen arrived in time to rescue him, and his opponent discharged two pistols at his lordship, without effect, after which the villains rode off at full speed. Subsequently, at the earnest solicitation of Charles II., the Duke of Ormond was induced to pardon Blood for this gross outrage. His reply, when spoken to by the King on this subject, was a noble one: "If your majesty," said he, "forgive his attempt on the crown, how can I withhold my forgiveness of his attempt on my life." When Queen Anne reigned St. James's-street was in high repute for its chocolate houses, frequented by men of wit and rank. The *Cocoa-tree Club*, and *White's* were the offspring of the *Cocoa-tree Tavern* and *White's Chocolate-house*, in the last-named reign. The Cocoa-tree was a favourite resort of George IV., when Prince of Wales, and has only recently ceased to exist. Gibbon, the historian, died at No. 76, in 1794; but so little did he anticipate that event, that twenty hours before his death, speaking of the probable duration of his existence, he expressed an opinion that he had a good life for ten, twelve, or perhaps twenty years. Lord Byron, in the early part of his career, when he had achieved a reputation by the publication of his *English Bards and Scotch Reviewers*, resided at No. 8, in this street. St. James's-street is one great focus of the clubs; which abound in that region of which this street, Pall-mall, and Regent-street, are the chief tributaries. The leading club-houses are characterised by the massive elegance of their external and internal decorations; expense has not been spared to lavish upon them all the attraction which a refined taste could suggest; and they in fact combine the splendour of a palace with the



coziness of a home. To describe them severally as we pass through the streets in which they stand, would perhaps detain us too long from the progressive history now pursuing, and the leading club-houses will therefore, in common with various other public edifices, be noticed in a distinct classification. The *Thatched-house Tavern*, lately rebuilt, was so called in 1711, and from its original appearance was probably one of the first houses raised so near to the palace. It is memorable as the place of meeting of some of the leading associations of rank and talent in this country, among which may be named the *Dilettanti* society. At the Piccadilly end of St. James's-street is a very large building, consisting of a lofty ground story, lighted up by five spacious Venetian windows, and the magnificent upper, or principal story, with an equal number of French casement windows. This was once known (and to many the experience was most painful) as *Crockford's Club-house*. Although it has ceased to be the chief emporium of the gaming-table, the associations with which it is fraught are too remarkable to be passed over very briefly. The following is a description of the interior of this celebrated Pandemonium in the days when it was the resort of the most daring gamblers, and the wealthiest members of the aristocracy. "On entering from the street, a magnificent vestibule and staircase break upon the view. To the right and left of the hall are the reading and dining rooms. The staircases are of sinuous form, sustained by four columns of the Doric order; above which are a series of examples in the Ionic order, forming a quadrangle with apertures to the chief apartments. Above the pillars is a covered ceiling, perforated with numerous panels of stained glass, from which springs a dome of surpassing beauty: from the dome depends a lantern containing a magnificent chandelier. The state drawing-room next attracts attention,—a most noble apartment, decorated in the most florid style of the school of Louis XIV. The room presents a series of panels, containing

subjects in the style of Watteau, alternated with splendid mirrors; a chandelier of exquisite workmanship hangs from the centre of the ceiling; and three large tables, beautifully carved and gilded, and covered with rich blue and crimson velvet, are placed in different parts of the room. The upholstery and decorative adjuncts are imitative of the gorgeous taste in which George IV. delighted. Royalty can scarcely be conceived to vie with the style and consummate splendour of this magnificent chamber. The play-room is comparatively small, but handsomely furnished. In the centre of the apartment stands the all-attractive hazard-table. This bench of business is large and of oval-shape, well stuffed and covered with fine green cloth, marked with yellow lines, denoting the different departments of speculation. Round these compartments are double lines, similarly marked, for the odds or proportions between what is technically known as the *main* and *chance*. In the centre, on each side, are indented positions for the *croupiers*, or persons engaged at the table in calling the main and chance, regulating the stakes, and paying and receiving money as the events decisive of gain and loss occur. Over the table is suspended a three-light lamp, conveniently shaded, so as to throw its full luminous power on the cloth; and at the same time, to protect the eyes of the *croupiers* from the light's too strong effect. At another part of the room is fixed a writing-table, or desk, where the Pluto of the place was wont to preside, or to mete out loans on draft or other security, and to answer all demands by successful players. Chairs of easy make, dice-boxes, bowls for holding counters, representing sums from £1 to £200, and small hand-rakes used by players to draw their counters from any inconvenient distance on the table, may be said to complete the furniture, and the machinery and implements of this great workshop." In this splendid temple of iniquity, what flattering hopes have been wrecked, succeeded by the blackest and most irremediable despair. Here, indeed, have been witnessed

the most harrowing tragedies of real life. Ruin has assumed a palpable form, and the victims who have staked their happiness or misery on the turn of a card, have quitted this "hall of Eblis," some to linger out a life of hopeless penury, others to seek a fancied oblivion of their anguish in a suicide's grave. As a gambling-house, none can regret that its "occupation's gone." This monster hell was built in 1827 by the Messrs. Wyatt, for William Crockford—a man of very low origin, and of whose low habits, the vast fortune which he acquired was no corrective. He was originally known as the owner of a mean little fishmonger's shop adjacent to Temple-bar on the Strand side. Some successful ventures on the turf, and other gambling speculations, enabled him to sink the shop, and to start in the more dazzling, but less creditable career of a gaming-house keeper. By some, however, it was thought that there was an analogy between his original and his subsequent professions;—having in early life netted fish, and in his subsequent career hooked gudgeons. When Crockford died, the club-house was gradually deserted, and has since been appropriated to other and more creditable purposes. *St. James's-place*, on the western side of the street, has always been famous as the residence of individuals of celebrity. Addison had apartments in it before he married the Countess of Warwick; and that remarkable politician, John Wilkes, resided here in 1756. For many years, No. 22, built by James Wyatt, R.A., on the site of a mansion belonging to the late Duke of St. Albans, has been the residence of Rogers, the author of the "Pleasures of Memory." Seldom has a poet's residence presented so many of the costly accessories of wealth and luxury;—seldom has a poet been so exempted from the proverbial indigence of the gentle craft, as the venerable Samuel Rogers, the only banker-poet on record.

PALL-MALL.

Two centuries ago *Pall-mall*, now the region of club-houses, stately palaces, and aristocratic residences, presented a very different appearance to that which it now exhibits. In 1660 the ground covered by Pall-mall, St. James's-square, Piccadilly, and their adjacent neighbourhoods, was open field, the only street, then partly built, being St. James's-street. The south side of Pall-mall was bounded by the wall of St. James's-park, and the chief edifices lying west of Charing-cross were a small church, the Conduit in St. James's-fields, a gothic building in the same locality, and a house of public entertainment. The last-named is supposed to have been a tavern called the Old Pall-Mall, where that amusing gossip, Pepys, tells us he sometimes supped. In 1554 Sir Thomas Wyatt, when he attempted to make himself master of London, marched his troops through the site of this street. A dreadful tragedy was perpetrated in Pall-mall in 1682, the murder of Lord Thomas Thynne, opposite to the present Opera Arcade, in those days a dark and dreary nook. Elizabeth, the heiress of Jocelyn Percy, the eleventh earl of Northumberland, had been married, or rather betrothed in early girlhood, to Henry Cavendish earl of Ogle, the eldest son of the Duke of Newcastle, who died in 1680, his widow being still very young. Her grandmother, the Countess of Northumberland, soon afterwards contracted her to Lord Thomas Thynne, but on account of her tender years her marriage was postponed for a twelvemonth. During this interval Count Coningsmark, who subsequently became distinguished as the lover of the unfortunate Princess Sophia, of Zell, and who perished by the blow of an assassin, was attracted by the charms of the youthful heiress, whom he resolved to make his own. To facilitate this object, he thought the removal of Thynne an indispensable preliminary, and employed three foreign mercenaries, Captain Vratz, a German; Lieutenant Stern, a Swede; and Borotzki, a Pole, to despatch his favoured rival. These bra-

voes, mounted on horseback, stationed themselves, one dark winter's evening, at the spot we have previously indicated, and upon Thynne's carriage approaching, the murderers rode up to it, compelled the coachman to stop, and the Pole discharged the contents of a blunderbuss through the window at his lordship, whose body was perforated by five bullets. Coningsmark and his accomplices were tried for this murder at Hicks's-hall, when the three agents were found guilty, but by a gross perversion of justice the count was acquitted. Thynne was assassinated on the 12th of February, 1682, and on the 10th of March following the instruments, but not the instigator of his death, suffered the final sentence of the law on the spot where their crime had been perpetrated.

Pall-mall does not appear to have been completed as a street till 1690, a few years anterior to which Nell Gwynne built a house there on the south side, the freehold of which was granted to her by her royal admirer. "The house in question," writes Mr. Jesse, in 1847, "is No. 79, Pall-mall, and is still the only freehold residence on the Park side of the street." Here that favoured beauty died in 1691. In 1703 Defoe, writing of Pall-mall, thus describes the peculiarities which it then presented:—"I am lodged in the street called Pall-mall, the ordinary residence of all strangers, because of its vicinity to the queen's palace, the park, the parliament-house, the theatres, and the chocolate and coffee-houses, where the best company frequent. We rise by nine, and those that frequent great men's levees find entertainment at them till eleven, or, as in Holland, go to tea-tables; about twelve the *beau monde* assembles in several coffee or chocolate-houses; the best of which are the Cocoa Tree, and White's chocolate houses, St. James's, the Smyrna, Mrs. Rocheford, and the British coffee-houses; and all these so near one another, that in less than an hour you see the company of them all. We are carried to these places in chairs (or sedans), which are here very cheap, a guinea a-week, or a shilling per hour; and your chairmen serve you for

porters, to run on errands, as your gondoliers do at Venice." Gay thus commemorates the attractions of Pall-mall, early in the last century :—

“ Oh bear me to the paths of fair Pall-mall ;
 Safe are thy pavements, grateful is thy smell !
 At distance rolls along the gilded coach,
 Nor sturdy carmen on thy walks enroach ;
 No lets would bar thy ways, where chairs denied,
 The soft support of laziness and pride ;
 Shops breathe perfumes, thro' sashes ribands glow,
 The mutual arms of ladies and the beau,
 Yet still ev'n here, where rains the passage hide,
 Oft' the loose stone spirits up a muddy tide
 Beneath thy careless foot ; and from on high
 Where masons mount the ladder, fragments fly ;
 Mortar and crumbled lime in showers descend,
 And o'er thy head, destructive tiles impend.”

What a contrast between this description and the present appearance of Pall-mall, now one of the most commodious, agreeable, and cleanly thoroughfares in the west. A celebrated tavern in Pall-mall, in the reign of Queen Anne, was the Star and Garter, for more than fifty years the meeting-place of clubs composed of men of wit, learning, and rank. In this tavern, in 1765, a memorable duel was fought between the fifth Lord Byron, great uncle of the poet, and Mr. Chaworth. According to Horace Walpole, a club of Nottinghamshire gentlemen had dined at the tavern, and a dispute arose between Lord Byron and Mr. Chaworth, as to which of them had the most game on his manor. The company, not apprehensive of any serious results, separated at eight o'clock. Lord Byron retired into another chamber, to which, having summoned Mr. Chaworth, by the dim light of a tallow-candle, the adversaries fought with swords across the table. Mr. Chaworth, who was a skilful swordsman, ran Lord Byron through the sleeve of his coat, and then received a wound fourteen inches deep in his body. He died on the following morning, having previously admitted that the duel was a fair one. For the part which he had acted in this melancholy business Lord Byron was tried by his peers in

Westminster-hall, and convicted of manslaughter. He, however, claimed the privilege of the statute of Edward VI., and was discharged upon the payment of his fees. Between the neighbouring houses of Byron and Chaworth an ill-feeling long prevailed, but this was healed when the poet succeeded to the honours of his grand-uncle. Byron conceived a tender attachment for the heiress of the Chaworths, to whom, under the name of "Mary," some of his most touching poetry was consecrated.

Before proceeding to speak further of the leading buildings which stand, or have stood in Pall-mall, it will be relevant, in point of chronology, to glance at some of the distinguished residents who, early in the last century, had their abodes in this locality. In 1710 Swift lodged in this street, and upon his return from exile Lord Bolingbroke occupied a house in it. Gibbon resided here for a short time, and in 1735 Robert Dodsley, the famous publisher, (who had previously been a footman, but afterwards aspired to shine as a poet and a dramatist,) commenced business here. In his shop Pope, Young, Akenside, Gray, the Wartons, Horace Walpole, Burke, and other literary celebrities of that period were wont to assemble.

Opposite to Waterloo-place stood, not many years ago, *Carlton-house*. It originally was the property of the Earl Burlington, and in 1732 was occupied by the Countess Dowager of Burlington. There were then houses in front of it which were pulled down to make way for an architectural screen designed by Holland. In the last-named year it was purchased by Frederick Prince of Wales, who made it his occasional residence. It subsequently was the abode of his grandson, George Prince of Wales, eldest son of George III. He continued to live in it when he was made Prince Regent, and after he had ascended the throne. By its last royal occupant it was at various periods the scene of hospitality, and frequently of convivial festivity when all was unhappily

"More than hospitably good."

Here Sheridan, Fox, and many of the most eminent po-

litical opponents of Mr. Pitt were frequently guests; and here wits and poets of all parties, and of all classes, often assembled. Here Curran, the son of a peasant, Moore, of melodious celebrity, and others of literary renown, were at various periods entertained, and subsequently requited their host with eloquent panegyrics and bitter withering satire, as the course of events made him their patron, or rendered his name a host to their enemies. At these mirthful meetings the best vocalists of the day often assisted; and the Prince himself did not disdain to sing for the entertainment of his friends, and that too in a style which would have won admiration, had not his station commanded it. When the formation of Regent-street was under the consideration of Parliament, one argument in favour of the new thoroughfare was, that a noble and leading avenue ought to exist in front of the town residence of the sovereign. The work was accordingly entered upon, and the new and magnificent road completed; but the palace which it was intended to ornament has been razed to the ground. Its demolition took place in 1827. Upon a part of the site of Carlton House those elegant club-houses the Athenæum and Senior United Service stand, with a frontage to Pall-mall. Between them is a wide road leading to the York column, and those palatial mansions known as Carlton-terrace and Carlton-gardens, erected upon the plot once covered with the gardens of Carlton House. The open space in front of these edifices consist of plantations arranged with much taste. Between these buildings a broad flight of steps form a magnificent avenue into St. James's park, an opening which was made by command of William IV. on his coronation-day. These steps are composed of granite brought from the island of Herne near Guernsey. On the summit of the steps is placed one of the finest pillars in the metropolis—the *York Column*. It was erected after the design of Mr. Benjamin Wyatt, between 1830 and 1833, and is 124 feet in height, being the same as that of Trajan's column at Rome. It is surmounted by a bronze statue, 14 feet high,

of Frederick, Duke of York, second son of George III. This colossal figure is from the chisel of Westmacott. For a small fee the public may ascend to the gallery encircling the top of the column, whence a fine panoramic view of the parks, and the western portion of London is gained. Recently an unhappy individual committed self-destruction here, throwing himself from this gallery, in consequence of which the top has been roofed in to prevent the recurrence of similar catastrophes.

No. 100, on the south side of Pall-mall was the residence of the late Mr. Angerstein, whose collection of paintings, as we have elsewhere mentioned, was purchased by the government, and thrown open to the public in 1821. In 1837 the National Gallery was transferred from Pall-mall to Trafalgar-square, and the house previously appropriated to it taken down, that handsome building the Reform Club, arising in its place. A few yards onward bring us to *Marlborough House*, a stately brick residence, which was erected in 1709, after the plan of Sir Christopher Wren, as a national tribute to that popular hero the Duke of Marlborough, at an expense of £40,000. It has two wings adorned with rustic stone-work. The vestibule is enriched with paintings of the battles of Blenheim and Hochstadt, in which are portraits of Marlborough, Prince Eugene, and Marshal Talland. After the decease of the Princess Charlotte in 1817, it was appropriated as the residence of Prince Leopold, subsequently King of the Belgians. When William IV. died, the use of Marlborough House was granted to his estimable relict, the Queen Dowager Adelaide, who expired in December, 1819. It then was prepared for the reception of that noble gift to the nation, the Vernon Gallery, and it is destined to become, some years hence, the residence of his royal highness the Prince of Wales.

ST. JAMES'S PALACE.

At the west-end of Pall-mall on the south side, opposite to St. James's-street, is the front of *St. James's Palace*, pre-

senting the appearance of a lofty antiquated gate-house, leading to a paved quadrangular court with a piazza on the right, into which several of the apartments look, and where a military band performs every morning between ten and eleven. The history of this ancient palace, long the principal town residence of our sovereigns is very curious ; the mutations through which it has passed invest it with more adventure than it could be fancied attached to such an old-fashioned manorial building. On the spot where this royal mansion stands, some benevolent citizens, anterior to the Conquest, founded a hospital for the reception of fourteen leprous unmarried females, and subsequently eight brethren were added to assist in the celebration of divine worship. In the reign of Henry III. the hospital was rebuilt. Its custody was entrusted to Eton College, and in the time of Henry VIII. its revenue was valued at £100 annually. That covetous monarch, admiring the situation of the hospital on account of its proximity to Whitehall palace, gave the living of Chattisham and other property in Suffolk in exchange for it, and settled pensions on the sisters whom he dislodged. The hospital was then pulled down, and Henry raised in its place the present palace, described by Stow as "a pleasant manor," and by Holinshed as "a fair mansion and park." Its erection was commenced in the same year that the king married Anne Boleyn, and on either of the chief entrances to the palace from the street, are small arched doorways, each of them sculptured with the love-knot of the uxorious Henry and the ill-fated Anne Boleyn. Henry VIII. also enclosed the adjacent park, appropriating it as a royal appanage to the palaces of Whitehall and St. James.

Queen Mary, at whose remorseless bidding the fires of martyrdom in Smithfield and other places were rekindled, finished her short and troubled reign in this palace. Grief accelerated her end, but of the causes of her sorrow there are different statements. She felt deeply the loss of her father-in-law Charles V. of Spain, and the absence of her consort King Philip, tended still more to depress her.

According to Bishop Godwin, the queen declared in her latter hours that "she should die, though they were yet strangers to the cause of her death; but if they would know it hereafter, they must dissect her, and they would find Calais at her heart." Her meaning was that she had received her death-pang from the loss of that strong key to the continent, the last of the possessions retained by the English in France, although for several centuries after the British sovereign kept the barren title of King of France. The queen died of dropsy, the symptoms of which her ignorant physicians mistook for those indicating that she was about to give a successor to the throne. By James I. the palace was presented to his accomplished son, Henry, Prince of Wales. The prince held his court here, and so popular was he that the attendance at his levees was more numerous than at those of the monarch himself. Prince Henry died in St. James's Palace in November, 1612, at the early age of nineteen, and there were dark rumours afloat at the time that a slow and subtle poison had been employed to terminate a career which dawned so brightly, and from which such goodly promise was anticipated. Charles II. and James II. were born in this palace, and here their unfortunate sire was brought from Windsor on January 19th, 1649, his apartment being hastily furnished by his servant, Mr. Kinnersley, of the wardrobe. The intervening days between the last-named day and the 27th, were spent in Westminster Hall, and at the house of Sir Robert Cotton, contiguous to the tribunal. On the 27th he was taken back to St. James's palace, whence on the 30th he was carried through the park to the place of execution. During the reign of Charles II. this edifice was granted as a state residence to his brother the Duke of York, who when he became King frequently held his court here. In this palace his first wife, Anne Hyde, died, and several of his children were born here, among them the prince, afterwards known as the Pretender, and Queen Anne and Queen Mary II. Pennant writes that James II. "sent to the Prince of Orange when he approached in

force near the capital a most necessitated invitation to take his lodgings at that palace. The prince accepted it : but at the same time hinted to the frightened prince that he must leave Whitehall." The Princess Mary, afterwards the second queen of that name, was married here in November, 1677, at eleven at night, to the Prince of Orange, Charles II. bestowing the bride, the Duke and Duchess of York and many of the nobility being present at the ceremony. William III., on being called to the English throne, was a temporary resident of the palace, which, soon after his accession, was prepared as a dwelling for the Princess Anne and Prince George of Denmark her husband, to whom she was here united in 1683. Upon the accession of Queen Anne she made this her chief domiciliary palace, that of Whitehall having been destroyed by fire in 1695. When the crown passed to the Brunswick dynasty, George I. and George II. constantly lived at St. James's, where in 1737 Caroline, the queen of the last-mentioned monarch died. The palace was inhabited by the succeeding kings, but her present majesty's abode is Buckingham Palace. Still that of St. James's is not shorn entirely of its ancient state and splendour, the levees and drawing-rooms continuing to be held in it. In June, 1809, the palace received serious injury from a fire which consumed the east wing of the inner court-yard, and the damage was estimated to fall very little short of £100,000.

Upon entering St. James's, the first room reached is the guard-room, a gallery fitted up as an armoury, where upon state occasions the yeomen of the guard attend in full costume. Beyond are the state apartments, looking upon the park. They comprehend a suite of three rooms, the innermost being the presence-chamber, and the other two, drawing-rooms. By George IV. they were fitted up in a style of the most costly elegance in 1824. In the first of these drawing-rooms are fine paintings of Tournay and Lisle, places memorable as the scenes of British valour, and a portrait of George II. ; the other is enriched with

two naval pieces, illustrating the triumphs of Howe and Nelson, with a portrait of George III. In the presence-chamber is a splendid throne, over which extends a canopy of crimson velvet trimmed with broad gold lace, and embroidered in gold with a star and crown. The piers of this room are fitted up with plate glass. The window-curtains are of crimson satin, trimmed with gold-coloured fringe; and the cornices, mouldings, and other accessories to the apartment are richly gilt. Two fine pictures representing the battles of Vittoria and Waterloo embellish this magnificent room. The queen's closet, where the queen gives audience to her ministers, is behind the presence-chamber. On the west side of the court-yard is the *Chapel Royal*, said to have been the identical one attached to the hospital. The ceiling is partitioned into small painted squares. Divine service is here conducted in the same manner as at cathedrals. The establishment includes a dean, usually the Bishop of London, a lord almoner, a sub-dean, and forty-eight chaplains, who officiate alternately, before the royal family. There are also in connection with it, gentlemen of the chapel, choristers, organists, and other functionaries.

Opposite to the gateway of St. James's Palace is *Cleveland-row*, so named from the town-house of the beautiful Barbara, Duchess of Cleveland, who lived in the reign of Charles II. Cleveland House originally belonged to the Earls of Berkshire, from whom it was purchased by Charles, and presented to the fair Barbara. The house being a larger one than the Duchess required, she disposed of a part of it, which was converted into separate dwellings, keeping the remaining portion for herself. Cleveland House was taken down a few years since. Facing this site, and just within the verge of the Green Park, is a modern stately stone fabric, which within a period not much exceeding twenty years, has borne the several names of York House, Stafford House, and *Sutherland House*. It was commenced in 1825 for the late Duke of York, who, however, did not live to inhabit it. Upon the death of that

prince it was purchased by the late Marquis of Stafford, and finished in a splendid style after the designs of Mr. Benjamin Wyatt. It is now the residence of the Duke of Sutherland. In shape it is quadrangular, and has four perfect fronts encased with stone. The ground story is rusticated, the upper part being of the Corinthian order. An elegant bulustrade conceals the third story, and a lantern in the centre of the roof diffuses light over the staircase, which is approached by a grand vestibule, fourteen feet broad. The state apartments on the first floor, comprehend a noble picture gallery, 130 feet in length. The chief front is to the north, and presents a portico of eight Corinthian columns, forming the entrance. The south and west project at each end, both enriched with six Corinthian columns, sustaining a pediment. No columns appear on the east, but over the pilasters there is an entablature of the Corinthian order. Opposite to the entrance of Sutherland House is a handsome modern mansion in which William IV. resided when Duke of Clarence.

On the north side of Pall-mall, between St. James's-street and square, is the gallery of the *British Institution*, established under the auspices of George III. in 1805, on the recommendation of Sir Thomas Barnard, in order to encourage British artists, and to give opportunities of exhibiting historical subjects to greater advantage than in the rooms of the Royal Academy. In the spring the works of living artists are exhibited for sale; in the autumn it is converted into a studio, furnished with pictures painted by the most celebrated masters, for the use of academic and other pupils in art. The exhibition-room bought for this institution, was erected by Alderman Boydell for the reception of his celebrated Shakspeare Gallery. The building is sculptured in front with a group representing Shakspeare, with Painting and Poetry as his associates. In the hall there is a fine statue of Achilles.

The first gas lamps that irradiated London were erected in Pall-mall in 1807.

CHAPTER VII.

PICCADILLY—MAY-FAIR, ETC.

PICCADILLY is one of the longest, most populous, and most fashionable thoroughfares in the western quarter of the capital, extending from Coventry-street to Hyde Park Corner. Its boundaries may be thus defined: Coventry-street and Leicester-square on its east; Jermyn-street, Pall-mall, and the Green Park, south; Regent-street and Oxford-street, north; Knightsbridge and Kensington, west. There is something anomalous in the character of this street, shops, hotels, and princely mansions being in close juxtaposition; plebeian and patrician houses associating together in a more neighbourly union than the fantastic code of etiquette permits their several inhabitants to do. Highly prized as Piccadilly is for its aristocratic associations, yet, as in vicinities less *recherché* and more presuming, there is no bar or hindrance to the full tide of vehicular traffic; no "private road" exclusiveness that prohibits the revolving of an omnibus or a hackney cab in the same parallel with the carriage of a peer or an ambassador. In all seasons Piccadilly is a pleasant lounging place, few streets in London exhibiting more animation. According to an ancient chart of London, printed in 1560, the existing line of Piccadilly, from the Haymarket to Hyde Park Corner, was a road running through an open country, only distinguished as "The Way to Reading." Soon after 1640 it assumed the form of a street, but was not carried on beyond the point where Swallow-street subsequently stood. By Charles II. it was extended towards Hyde Park, and the new street was named, in compliment to his consort, Portugal-street. The origin of the name Piccadilly is involved in doubt. By some it is said to derive its appellation from Peccadilla Hall, a place

for the sale of a kind of ruff called Pickadilles. Mr. Jesse, however says, that "this article of dress was not introduced till nearly twenty years after Pickadilla had become a familiar name." He adds—"Pickadilla House, which stood nearly on the site of the present Pantonsquare, was a fashionable place of amusement apparently as far back as the reign of Elizabeth, and continued to be so nearly till the time of the Commonwealth. It had been the custom of all countries to confer an alluring name on places of amusement, and I cannot, therefore, but think that the Pickadilla House derived its name from the Spanish word *peccadillo*, literally meaning a venial fault. It seems far more reasonable to suppose that the newly-invented ruff should have derived its name from being worn by the fair ladies and silken gallants who frequented Pickadilla House, than that a trifling article of dress should have given a name first to the suburban emporium in which it is asserted to have been sold, and afterwards to one of the principal streets in Europe." The original buildings which formed Piccadilly did not give much promise of rendering it that fashionable locality which it is acknowledged to be in the present age. That portion of it facing the Green Park was, in the last century, one of the most squalid and disreputable districts in London, abounding in low taverns, among the signs of which were "The Pillars of Hercules," "The Triumphant Car," "The Running Horse," "The White Horse," and the "Half Moon." Such of these public-houses as were adjacent to Hyde Park were much frequented by the soldiers on review days, when there were long wooden benches fixed in the streets in front of the houses for the convenience of some half-dozen barbers, who were on field-days engaged in powdering and other tonsorial operations on behalf of those military aspirants who were ambitious to be distinguished by their toilettes.

In describing Piccadilly as it at present appears, the mansions which embellish its line of road, the pleasant streets, and stately squares by which it is flanked, and

also for what their several sites have been memorable, the most eligible point to start from is Hyde Park Corner. In so doing, however, we shall not at present notice Hyde Park, as the more appropriate description of that favoured resort will come under our general surveys of the metropolitan parks.

At the corner of Hyde Park, and fronting Piccadilly, stands *Apsley House*, the residence of that veteran warrior the Duke of Wellington, whose very name has become "a household word," and whose popularity is abundantly proved by the statues and memorials of him, seen in all directions, and by the countless streets of which he has been made the unconscious sponsor. The mansion was originally built, after a design of the brothers Adam, in 1770, for Lord Chancellor Apsley, who subsequently was known as the second Earl Bathurst. It afterwards was the residence of the late Marquis Wellesley, and in 1828 became the property of the Duke of Wellington, when it was entirely remodelled and much enlarged by Sir Geoffry Wyatville. The chief front comprehends a centre and two wings. The portico is of the Corinthian order, supported by a rusticated arcade of three apertures communicating with the entrance hall, and a rusticated ground-story forms the basement of the building. The west front comprises two wings. The centre slightly recedes and has four windows, with a handsome balcony. The portico is surmounted by a pediment of classic proportions. A bronzed palisade, between leaved pillars, (to correspond with the entrance gates of Hyde Park), encloses the Piccadilly front. The ball-room and the picture gallery, extending the whole length of the mansion, are two of the most brilliant saloons in the metropolis. Nearly adjacent, and east of Apsley House, there stood in the last century an inn called the "Pillars of Hercules," a favourite resort of travellers from the West of England, and a popular eating-house with the military. Between this public-house and that range of princely dwellings called *Hamilton-place*, stood a group of shabby buildings,

of which not a few were public-houses. To one of these, it is recorded by Dr. Johnson, Sir Richard Steele conducted the unfortunate poet Savage, who acted as Steele's amanuensis while he composed a pamphlet. The festal part of the entertainment was extremely poor, and before even that could be paid for, Savage had to go forth and hawk Sir Richard's production for sale, for which with some trouble, he procured two guineas, and thus they were enabled to defray the cost of their very slender banquet. These hovels have long since disappeared, the handsome edifices forming *Piccadilly Terrace* covering their site. At No. 13 Lord Byron lived soon after his marriage, and it was while an occupant of this house that his separation from Lady Byron took place. He composed his poems of *Parisina* and the *Siege of Corinth*, during his residence here.

Passing by Hamilton-place, *Park-lane*, a series of splendid mansions looking upon Hyde Park, is reached. Its original name was Tyburn-lane, an appellation which its increased gentility has long since indignantly discarded. It extends from Piccadilly to Cumberland-place, the western termination of Oxford-street. At the south-west corner of the Piccadilly end of Park-lane is the mansion of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester, of which the first proprietor was the Earl of Elgin. This nobleman, distinguished for his antiquarian taste, here first exhibited the marbles imported by him from the lands of classic memory, and which have long perpetuated his name. Notwithstanding Byron's caustic satire, the Elgin marbles were justly appreciated by the British public and government, and in 1816 they were purchased by Parliament and transferred to the British Museum. The Marquis of Westminster's Gallery forms the western wing of his spacious mansion in Park-lane. It was erected for the reception of the superb Grosvenor collection, the foundation of which was formed by the purchase of Mr. Agar's paintings for 30,000 guineas. It is esteemed one of the finest collections in the country.

Half Moon-street, on the north side of Piccadilly, is indebted for its name to a public-house called the "Half Moon," which was situate at its corner. Madame D'Arblay, the accomplished writer of "Evelina," dwelt at No. 1, and that fascinating actress, Mrs. Pope, who performed on the boards of Drury-lane for the long period of forty years, died here. *Clarges-street* stands upon the site of *Clarges House*, the residence of Sir Thomas Clarges, the brother-in-law of George Monk, Duke of Albemarle, to whose singular matrimonial connection we have elsewhere alluded. In 1810, No. 80, Piccadilly was the object of a regular siege, the besiegers being the serjeant-at-arms of the House of Commons, and his assistants, and the defender of the fortress, Sir Francis Burdett. Great excitement prevailed in Piccadilly, where large multitudes assembled, much incensed at the attempt being made to capture their favourite. Eventually the authority of the Speaker's warrant prevailed, and Sir Francis was taken from his stronghold in Piccadilly to the Tower of London, where he remained, till the close of the parliamentary session restored him to liberty. *Stratton-street* is a handsome avenue overlooking the gardens of Devonshire House, and is one of the streets named after Lord Berkeley of Stratton, to whose titles and estate of Hay Hill Farm, Berkeley-square, Hill-street, Hay-hill, and Farm-street, are also indebted for their names. At the corner of Stratton-street is the mansion occupied by the late Duchess of St. Albans, originally favourably known to the play-going public as Miss Mellon, an actress of sterling capabilities. She quitted the stage to be the consort of the banker *millionaire*, Coutts; and upon his death, the late Duke of St. Albans became her second husband. The mansion is now the residence of Miss Burdett Coutts (daughter of Sir Francis Burdett), to whom the Duchess bequeathed the bulk of her immense fortune—a fortune which several adventurers have in vain endeavoured to share by offering their hands to its discriminating and munificent possessor. Leaving Stratton-street we approach that gorgeous building, *Devon-*

shire House, which occupies nearly the same plot on which Berkeley House stood, erected by Lord Berkeley of Stratton in 1670. Evelyn, who dined with Lord John Berkeley in 1672, thus speaks of the edifice—"It was in his new house, or rather palace, for I am assured it stood him in £30,000. The staircase is of cedar; the furniture is princely. The forecourt is noble, so are the stables, and above all the gardens, which are incomparable, by reason of the inequality of the ground and a pretty *piscina*. The holly hedges on the terrace, I advised the planting of." Berkeley House was at that time the last in the street towards Hyde Park Corner, and its gardens stretched over the ground on which Lansdowne House and Berkeley-square have since arisen. Queen Anne, when Princess of Denmark, lived here for some time, with her consort. About the commencement of the eighteenth century Berkeley House was consumed by fire, and the present structure was erected after the designs of Kent, for William, the third Duke of Devonshire. The hospitality of Devonshire House has been long celebrated; Fox, Burke, and Sheridan, offered the tributes of wit and eloquence to their beautiful hostess, Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, and the present Duke keeps up in a liberal spirit its ancient character. *Berkeley-street*, the west side of which is bounded by the garden-wall of the mansion just-named, conduets into Berkeley-square. At No. 9, in this street, resided the famous poet, Alexander Pope, the neighbour of his friend and patron, Lord Burlington. *Berkeley-square*, the situation of which is rendered very agreeable by its being adjacent to the gardens of Devonshire House, was formed in the early part of the last century. Its principal mansion is Lansdowne House, built by John Earl of Bute, the famous minister in 1765, and and subsequently sold by him to Lord Shelburn, afterwards the Marquis of Lansdowne. In Berkeley-square Lord Clive lived, and here the amusing letter-writer Horace Walpole died. The residence of Lord Brougham is in this square. At the east end of it is *Hay Hill*, a short

street memorable as the scene of a skirmish which took place in 1554 between the Queen's troops and the rebels, under Sir Thomas Wyatt, in which the latter was defeated with severe loss; Wyatt, who was the son of the accomplished poet, was imprisoned in the Tower, and being convicted of high treason, was capitally punished. His head was affixed to a pole placed at the top of Hay Hill, his legs upon London Bridge, and other parts of his body similarly disposed of about the capital. Three of his confederates were also gibbeted on Hay Hill, which was then, and for nearly two centuries afterwards, an open field remote from any habitation.

We now approximate into the fashionable region of *May Fair*, which in the last century was a worthy contemporary of Bartholomew Fair. Its site was originally called Brook Fields; and when the ancient fair granted by Edward I. to St. James's Hospital ceased with the dissolution of monasteries, the fair was removed, and called May Fair from its being held on the first days of that month. The fair generally lasted fifteen days. Upon the ground now covered by May-fair Chapel, Hertford-street, Curzon-street, and Shepherd's-market, the principal exhibitions of this once famous place were held. "The fair," writes Pennant "was attended with such disorders, riots, thefts, and even murders, that in 1700 it was prevented by the magistrates, but revived again; and I remember the last celebrations. The place was covered with booths, temporary theatres, and every enticement to low pleasure." In May 1708, that amusing essayist the "Tatler," indulges in the following jeremiad on the consequences of the suppression of the fair—"The downfall of May Fair has sunk the price of that noble creature, the elephant, as well as of many other curiosities of nature. A tiger will sell almost as cheap as an ox; and I am credibly informed a man may purchase a calf with three legs for nearly the value of one with four. I hear likewise that there is great desolation among the ladies and gentlemen who were the ornaments of the town, and used to

shine in plumes and diadems, the heroes being most of them pressed, and the queens beating hemp." May Fair, however, was not quite extinct, and its celebration continued to be held, waxing

"Fine by degrees, and beautifully less,"

till 1764, when its raree-show revels were brought to a close. Streets of elegant houses, the abodes of affluence and rank, have sprung up on the spot where once all the vagabonds in town held their annual saturnalia. In *Curzon-street* lived George Lord Macartney, whose embassy to China has conferred fame on his name; in *Hertford-street* dwelt the fascinating Mrs. Jordan, and No. 4, in *Chesterfield-street*, was rendered distinguished as the abode of that renowned dandy, Beau Brummell. "Frequently," writes Mr. Jesse, "George IV., when Prince of Wales, would pay him a morning visit in *Chesterfield-street*, to watch the progress of his friend's inimitable toilet; sometimes sending his horses away, and remaining to so late an hour, that he was compelled to insist on Brummell's giving him a quiet dinner, which not uncommonly terminated in a midnight debauch."

This street is named after *Chesterfield House*, erected in the reign of George II. by that authority for etiquette and polished manners, the Earl of Chesterfield. The stone colonnades leading from the house to the wings are extremely beautiful, and the staircase which is of marble, formerly belonged to the superb mansion of the Duke of Chandos at Cannons. *South Audley-street* is entered from *Curzon-street*. In the chapel of this street the remains of the Lord Chesterfield above named, and John Wilkes are interred. Louis XVIII. and Charles X., when driven by popular commotions from France, both resided at the same house in this street at different periods; and in an adjacent house, commanding a view of Hyde Park, lived first the pet, and afterwards the victim of the French revolutionists, Egalité, Philippe due d'Orleans, the father of the late Louis Philippe, king of the

French. South Audley-street is one of the several fine approaches to *Grosvenor-square*, a square which notwithstanding its comparative antiquity, and the rapid increase of squares in these favourite localities, is still unsurpassed, hardly equalled in London. It was erected on the ground of Sir Richard Grosvenor, cup-bearer at the coronation of George II. During the civil wars the insurgents constructed strong fortifications upon this area, and Mount-street is indebted for its name to a redoubt called Oliver's Mount, which was among their military works. The garden-entrance was planned by the landscape gardener, Kent, and the centre is ornamented with an equestrian statue of George I. by Van Nost. The houses in this square are truly magnificent, many of their fronts being of stone, and others of rubbed brick with quoins, fascias, windows, and door-cases of stone; and some are adorned with stone columns of the various architectural orders. True to its aristocratic predilections against change, Grosvenor-square was one of the last squares in London to be irradiated with gas, adhering to oil lamps until it became a reluctant convert to the new lights. From Grosvenor-square, *Upper Grosvenor-street*, and *Upper Brook-street*, parallel streets run to Hyde Park. In the former, William, duke of Cumberland, the ferocious conqueror of Culloden, expired in 1765. Upper Brook-street is one of the grandest streets in this affluent district. The entrance to the Marquis of Westminster's splendid mansion, which extends into Park-lane, is here. This street was the scene of a memorable calamity on the 6th of May, 1763, the particulars of which are given by that interesting chronicler, Horace Walpole. Writing to Marshal Conway, he says,—"Lady Molesworth's house in Upper Brook-street, was burnt to the ground between four and five this morning. She herself, two of her daughters, her brother, and six servants, perished. Two other young ladies jumped out of the two-pair of stairs and garret windows; one broke her thigh, the other (the eldest of all), broke hers too, and has had it cut off. The fifth daughter is much

burnt; the French governess leaped from the garret and was dashed to pieces; Dr. Molesworth and his wife who were there on a visit, escaped,—the wife by jumping from two pair of stairs, and saving herself by a rail—he by hanging by his hands till a second ladder was brought, after a first had proved too short. Nobody knows how or where the fire began; the catastrophe is shocking beyond what one ever heard, and poor Lady Molesworth, whose character and conduct were the most amiable in the world, is universally lamented.” When the intelligence of this sad occurrence reached the king, he sent to the surviving daughters of Lady Molesworth a very liberal present; directed that a house should be at once prepared for them at his own cost, and increasing by £200 per annum the pension which their mother had enjoyed, continued it to them.

Re-entering Piccadilly, and pursuing an eastward course, we reach *Dover-street* and *Albemarle-street*, two wide and handsome streets containing hotels and private dwellings. *Albemarle-street*, and *Grafton-street*, one of its tributaries, extending into *Bond-street*, cover the site once dignified by *Clarendon House*, built by the great Lord Clarendon in 1667, with the stones intended for the rebuilding of *St. Paul's Cathedral*. It cost £50,000, and 300 men were employed upon the work. It was called *Dunkirk House* by his enemies, who charged him with having erected it with the money arising from the sale of *Dunkirk*, which had just before been given up to the French for a large sum by his royal master. In 1683 *Clarendon House* was purchased of the son of its founder by the Duke of *Albemarle* for £25,000, but his necessities did not allow him to keep it long. He disposed of the property, and the house was taken down, and *Albemarle-street*, *Grafton-street*, and other streets, arose upon the ground. “The earliest date,” says Mr. J. T. Smith, “now to be found on the site of *Clarendon House* is cut in stone, and let into the south wall of a public-house, the sign of the Duke of *Albemarle*, in *Dover-street*, thus:—

‘This is Stafford Street, 1686.’” In Albemarle-street lived the late Mr. Murray, the publisher of Byron’s works, and the poetry of the noble bard has given an enduring reputation to that street from which it first issued, to revive the declining taste for verse, and the intrinsic merit of which commanded the admiration of all classes. Byron was, indeed, a mighty poet; his writings were read and appreciated quite irrespective of the rank of the author; and to them, at least, the sarcasms of an untitled poet were not applicable—

“But let a lord once own the happy lines,
How the wit brightens, how the sense refines.”

The next street of consequence in Piccadilly is *Bond-street*, the fashionable attractions of which have long been proverbial, its *habitués* so far back as 1717, being styled “Bond-street loungers.” Bond-street was built in 1686, and was named after Sir Thomas Bond, Baronet of Peckham, Surrey, Comptroller of the Household to Queen Henrietta Maria. He had also a house in Piccadilly, which was rented by the French ambassador in 1699. Sir Thomas gave up honour and place, and went voluntarily into exile with James II. In 1700 *Old Bond-street* was built no farther than the west-end of Clifford-street. The present *New Bond-street* was at that time an open field, called Conduit-mead. Bond-street abounds in literary associations. Here Gibbon had a residence, while composing his *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, and Sterne died at his lodgings in this street on the 18th of March, 1768. The narrative of his last moments, as given by the elder D’Israeli, is interesting. He says—“I find the moment of his death described in a singular book, the *Life of a Footman*.” The passage was as follows:—“About this time, Mr. Sterne, the celebrated author, was taken ill at the silk-bag shop in Old Bond-street. He was sometimes called Tristram Shandy, and sometimes Yorick, a very great favourite of the gentlemen. ‘John,’ said my master, ‘go and enquire how Mr. Sterne is to-

day.' I went to Mr. Sterne's lodgings—the mistress opened the door. I enquired how he did. She told me to go up to the nurse; I went into the room, and he was just a-dying. I waited ten minutes; but in five, he said, 'Now it is come!' He put up his hand as if to stop a blow, and died in a minute." Bond-street (Old and New), stretches from Piccadilly to Oxford-street, and is a continuous line of costly shops and fine hotels. Of these the *Clarendon* and *Long's* are held in high repute by the fashionable world. In Old Bond-street is the *Western Exchange*, (to which there is also an entrance from Burlington Arcade,) a bazaar established in 1817 for the sale of fancy articles, and very tastefully arranged. The streets on the right-hand side of Bond-street, entering Piccadilly, have no particular feature; they chiefly lead into Hanover-square, Burlington-street, and the neighbourhood of Regent-street. Those upon the left-hand claim more individual notice. *Bruton-street*, leading into Berkeley-street, is composed of handsome private residences, in one of which Richard Brinsley Sheridan lived. *Brook-street*, similar in character to Upper Brook-street, forms a handsome approach from Bond-street to Grosvenor-square. In this street is that magnificent house, *Mivart's Hotel*, the attractive *locale* of which, in close proximity to the parks and the most eligible neighbourhoods of the west; together with the splendour of its appointments, its vast extent of accommodation, and withal its apt illustration of the cozy and comfortable, have rendered it a favourite temporary residence with the nobility and others of note. It is also frequented by foreigners of distinction; the Grand Duke Alexander, heir-apparent to the Emperor of Russia, the late King of Holland, and other continental potentates, have on their visits to England occupied the state apartments.

Leaving Bond-street, and resuming our walk through Piccadilly, after passing by Burlington Arcade already described, *Burlington House* is reached, of which the front is of stone. The circular colonnade is of the Doric order,

and by this the wings are connected. Its beautiful front is concealed from the street by a heavy brick screen. Upon the spot which it occupies, the poet Sir John Denham built a house in the reign of Charles II. The present structure was raised by the accomplished Richard Boyle, third Earl of Burlington, after his own design. Handel was domiciled for three years at Burlington House, the hospitable doors of which were ever open to men of genius. Gay thus commemorates this abode of rank and refined taste :

“ Yet Burlington’s fair palace still remains ;
 Beauty within, without proportion reigns,
 Beneath his eye declining art revives,
 The wall with animated pictures lives.
 There Handel strikes the strings, the melting strain
 Transports the soul, and thrills thro’ every vein.
 There oft I enter, (but with eleaner shoes)
 For Burlington’s beloved by every Muse.”

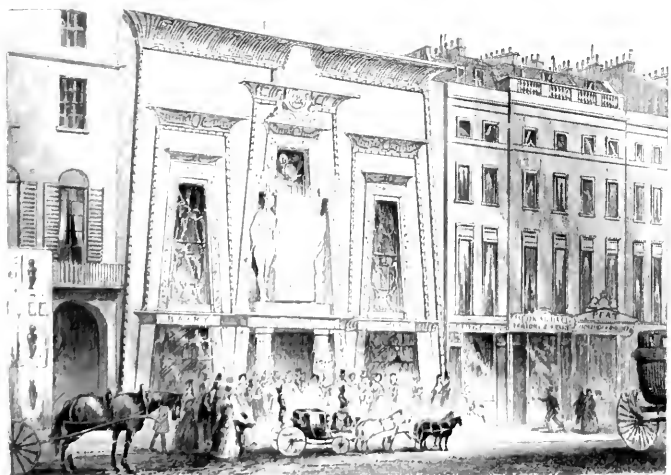
Its noble grounds between the Arcade and the Albany extend to Burlington Gardens, a continuation of Vigostreet, their boundary wall being opposite Queensbury House, the residence of the Marquis of Anglesey. Burlington House afterwards became the property of the Devonshire family, and was sold to Lord George Cavendish by the present Duke of Devonshire. Proceeding onward, and crossing that portion of Piccadilly which Regentstreet intersects, we come to a paved court called *Panton-square*, on the site of which stood Piccadilla Hall. The property was purchased by Colonel Panton, a notorious gambler, who having the good fortune to win in one night a sum sufficient to maintain him for life, adopted the wise resolution of abandoning the hazardous pursuit of play for ever. Close by this point Piccadilly is joined by Coventry-street.

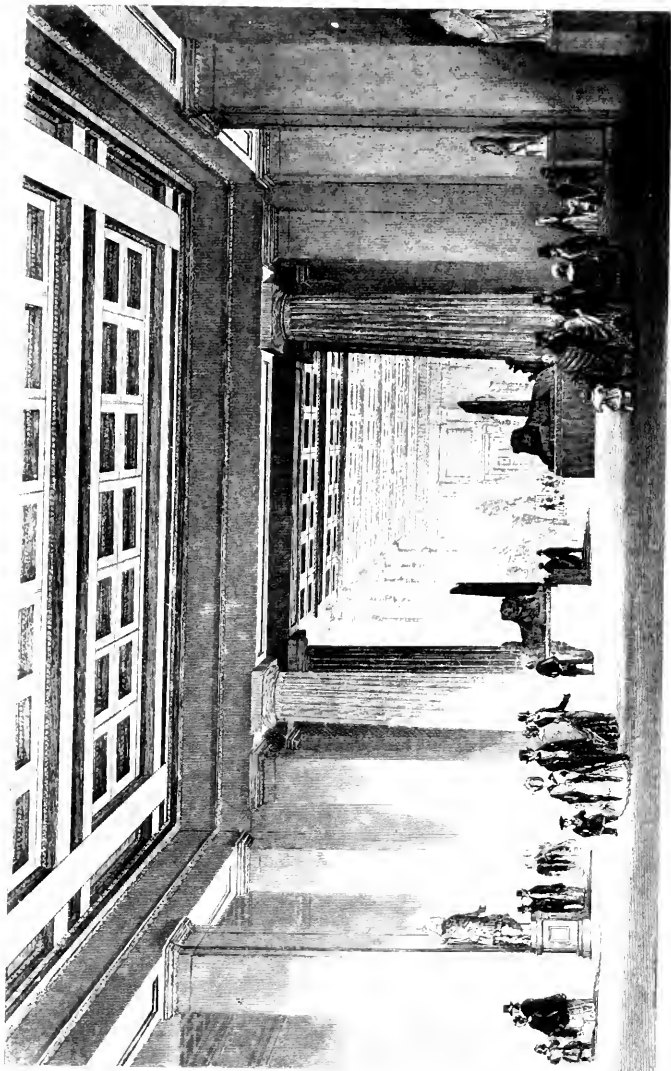
The southern side of this great thoroughfare must now be briefly touched upon.

Returning toward Hyde Park Corner, on the south side of Piccadilly, the parish church of St. James, nearly opposite Sackville-street, meets the eye. Externally it is com-

posed of yellow brick-work ; the rustic quoins and facing being of Portland stone. It is 84 feet long, 68 wide, and 42 high ; the tower at the west end crowned by a spire reaching an altitude of 150 feet. The interior is partitioned into a nave by two rows of six Corinthian columns, ascending from square panelled piers, by which the galleries are sustained. The roof, a broad coved one, divided into sunken and enriched panels is partially broken by arches, which stretch towards the external walls. The east window is composed of two stories ; the lower similar in style to the church, the upper of the composite order. A beautiful carved font by Grinling Gibbons, faces the great entrance from the west end. "It is hewn out of white marble, and is nearly five feet in height ; the circumference of the bowl being about six feet. The shaft represents the tree of life, with the serpent coiled around it, and stooping down to offer the forbidden fruit to Eve, who with Adam stands beneath. On the upper part, in basso-relievo, are represented the baptism of our Saviour in Jordan ; the baptizing of the Treasurer of Candace by St. Philip the Deacon ; and the ark of Noah, with the dove bearing the olive-branch of peace in its beak. A beautiful cover, held by a flying angel, ornamented with rich foliage, and supported by a chain of brass, around which was a group of cherubims, was stolen before the beginning of this century, and it is said by Mr. Brayley to have been revoltingly hung up as the sign of a spirit shop hard by."* This church was built in 1684 by Sir Christopher Wren, as a chapel of ease to St. Martin's Church, and it was consecrated in 1685, in honour to the new king, by the name of St. James's-in-the-Fields. The district was included in the overgrown parish of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, but in the first year of the reign of James II. the inhabitants petitioned Parliament that their district might be made a distinct parish, independent of the mother church. Their prayer was complied with, and from St. Martin's parish was severed that fashionable territory called the

* The Rev. M. E. C. Walcott.





parish of St. James, within the liberty of Westminster. Dr. Tenison, Dr. Wake, Dr. Secker, each of whom were subsequently raised to the see of Canterbury, and the learned Samuel Clarke, may be named among the eminent men who have filled the rectory of St. James. In the vaults and in the cemetery of this church are buried a host of persons once distinguished by their rank, their influence, and their talents, from the names of whom we select the following :—Charles Cotton, the friend of Walton ; William Vandervelde, the Dutch marine painter ; Tom d'Urfey the jester, and merry companion of Charles II., and author of " Pills to Purge Melancholy ;" Dr. Arbuthnot, the literary colleague of Swift ; Akenside, the poet ; James Dodsley, the publisher ; Gillray, the celebrated caricaturist ; and George Henry Harlow, an artist of great promise.

The *Egyptian Hall*, opposite to Burlington Arcade, was built in 1812. The design, which is Egyptian, is a copy of the Temple of Tentyra. The entablature of the centre window is sustained by two colossal figures, beneath which large columns serve for their pedestals. This building is appropriated to occasional exhibitions, panoramas, &c. Perhaps the most interesting exhibition ever witnessed was the exquisite model of the Pyramids and other Egyptian monuments, as described by that enterprising traveller Belzoni.

Arlington-street, the houses on the west side of which look into the Green Park, has long been a favourite residence with persons of the highest rank. In all the bloom of youthful beauty, enhanced by her sparkling wit, the admired Lady Mary Wortley Montague lived here before her marriage. Sir Robert Walpole, the famous minister, died in this street, and here for many years resided his son Horace Walpole, a great portion of whose interesting letters are dated from this street. Fox was also a resident ; and in 1828, after a lingering illness, the late Duke of York died at the house of the Duke of Rutland.

The remaining portion of Piccadilly on this side of the way to the entrance of the parks is singularly agreeable, a light railing only dividing it from the Green Park. Some years since, to make a more ample footway, a portion of the last-named park was added to the street, but good taste preserved the trees from destruction. Thus that part of Piccadilly opposite the Terrace and Hamilton-place presents a shady walk, abounding in foliage in the summer-time, and yielding to one of the most crowded thoroughfares in the capital, all the freshness and pleasantness of the country.

CHAPTER VIII.

CONSTITUTION HILL — GROSVENOR PLACE — BELGRAVIA —
 CHELSEA — KNIGHTSBRIDGE — BROMPTON — KENSINGTON —
 BAYSWATER, ETC.

CONSTITUTION HILL is a wide and handsome road on the south side of the Green Park, between which and the garden-wall of Buckingham Palace it extends to the western entrance of Piccadilly. The entrance to Constitution-hill is formed by a grand triumphal arch with gates, erected some years since by Mr. D. Burton. The arch is surmounted by a colossal equestrian statue of the Duke of Wellington, the work of the late Mr. M. C. Wyatt. Leaving Piccadilly, and advancing westward we turn down *Grosvenor-place*, a fashionable locality in the rear of the gardens of her majesty's palace. Hence we advance into a splendid district which has sprung up within the last thirty years, covering some unprofitable fields in Chelsea and Pimlico with a series of superb squares, crescents, terraces, and



streets, collectively known under the name of *Belgravia*. *Belgrave-square*, immediately at the back of Grosvenor-place is considered one of the finest squares in London, and is 684 feet long, and 617 broad. The front elevation is partly stuccoed and partly stone, and is adorned with Corinthian columns. This square and the region which it names were built by that enterprising and affluent peer the Marquis of Westminster, and is styled after one of his titles; his country seat, the county in which it is situated, and other associations of his princely house being commemorated in the appellations borne by the buildings of the surrounding neighbourhood. In a continuous line with Belgrave-square are *Eaton* and *Chester Squares*, to the last-named of which the *Church of St. Michael's* forms a partial back-ground. Adjacent to Belgrave-square is *Wilton-crescent*, in which Lord John Russell, the Premier of England, resided for some years. The *Pantehnicon*, an immense bazaar of considerable architectural beauty, is between Halkin-street west and Motecombe-street, Belgrave-square. It was erected for the sale of carriages, works of art, and valuable property. The north side of Belgravia, or that portion of it lying between Knights-bridge and Chelsea, is extremely *recherché*; the south side, between Belgrave-place, Pimlico, and Vauxhall bridge, running in a right angle from the Bridge-road towards the north bank of the river, though less distinguished, still abounds in handsome squares and spacious streets, residences in which only opulence can command. *Eccleston* and *Warwick-squares* are recent erections upon a superb scale. The houses here are built upon arches, their site being the marsh of the Thames, drained, and artificially elevated by the engineering labours of the Messrs. Cubitt. Besborough-gardens (which we have noticed) facing Vauxhall bridge, constitute the extreme southern limit of Belgravia.

Chelsea, originally called a village, might from the large extent of buildings which now crowd its surface, be entitled to claim rank as a metropolitan borough. It lies on

the north bank of the Thames, facing Battersea, and adjoins Pimlico, forming a junction with Brompton. This populous district has already found an able local historian, but it being only one of the many limbs of London, we can no more than glance at a few of its features. This locality has been rendered famous by the celebrated naturalist and physician Sir Hans Sloane, whose names are perpetuated in *Sloane-square*, the appearance of which is very plebeian beside its gorgeous Belgravian neighbours; *Sloane-street*, a spacious street opening from Knightsbridge; *Hans-place*, and other parts of Chelsea. Sir Hans Sloane bequeathed his *Botanical Garden* in Chelsea to the Company of Apothecaries, upon condition that they should present annually to the Royal Society fifty *new* plants, till the number should amount to 2,000. This condition was punctually fulfilled. The students and others who are admitted to this garden, have a ticket presented to them, bearing the motto *Herbarum est subjecta nobis*. This distinguished man is buried in the cemetery of *Old Chelsea Church*, his mausoleum being one of the most prominent objects in that suburb of the dead. The church, a picturesque edifice, looks upon the river, being at the western extremity of *Cheyne-walk*, a row of antique mansions, in front of which are trees, many of which have witnessed their centenary. In Chelsea was that delightful place of amusement *Ranelagh-gardens*, once the favourite resort of "forgotten generations." There, rank and beauty, wit and learning were wont to seek in music and the dance, in groves glittering with light, and vocal with mirth, a temporary oblivion of thought. They have vanished—long since quitted life and all its concerns, and the very spot erewhile the scene of their gay revels, and their most careless moments, has departed like a dream, a fairy fabric crumbled into nothingness beneath the iron fingers of Time. Ranelagh started into existence about the middle of last century, a few years subsequent to the opening of Vauxhall Gardens, and became highly fashionable, its masquerades winning a celebrity which no later entertain-

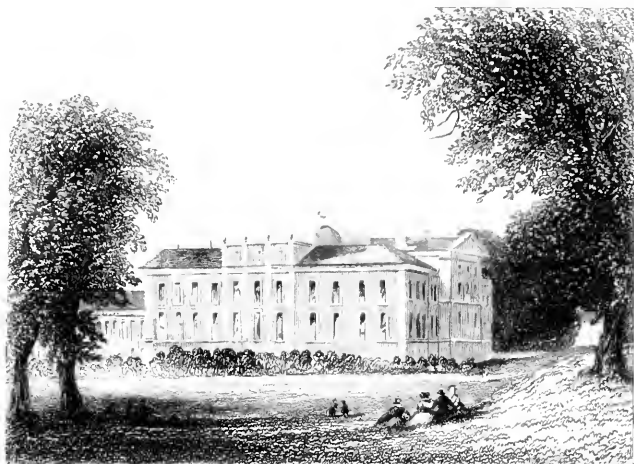


ments of that kind in England have ever gained. It declined towards the commencement of the present century, and little more than forty years back these gardens of gaiety closed their brilliant career; and the spot where they once stood is now covered with the stern substantialities of brick and mortar, yielding enormous rents. Cremorne Gardens (of which hereafter) may be considered a kind of successor to Ranelagh. *Chelsea Hospital*, the famous refuge of superannuated and invalided soldiers, will be described in another portion of this work. The *Royal Military Asylum*, adjoining the King's-road, was erected in 1801 by the Duke of York, second son of George III., for the education and maintenance of the children of soldiers of the regular army. Here 700 boys and 300 girls are lodged. It is encompassed by high walls, and has a handsome iron railing before the front. This structure forms three sides of a quadrangle, with an elegant stone balustrade. The appearance of the western front is much enhanced by a fine portico of the Doric order, and a well-proportioned pediment, on the frieze of which is inscribed the name of the institution.

Returning through Grosvenor-place, and continuing the road west of Hyde Park-corner we enter *Knightsbridge*, a kind of avenue leading to that point whence the Fulham and Kensington roads branch off. The north side of Knightsbridge is partially flanked by the railing of Hyde Park, and on the south are several entrances leading to Belgravia and Chelsea. In the central part of Knightsbridge is one of the finest entrances to Hyde Park—*Albert Gate*. The entire gate or entrance is divided into five parts. The central one is composed of an iron balustrade, forming an abutment for a carriage-way on each side, and beyond are entrances for pedestrians. The structure is surmounted with six large gas-lamps. The gates are embellished with escutcheons of the royal arms, and on the summit of the stone wall which separates the adjacent houses on both sides of the roadway, is the figure of a stag, removed, it is said, from the ranger's house in

Piccadilly. On each side are two immense houses, which from their colossal proportions were at the time of their erection nicknamed Gog and Magog. The mansion nearer to Piccadilly has been rendered noted as the residence of royalty—railway royalty at least—it being the town palace of Hudson, the railway king, and once the scene of his levées, levées which were summoned to do homage and pay fealty to the universal sovereignty of gold. Nearly opposite is *Loundes-square*, the residences in which are deservedly admired for the richness and varied character of their architectural decoration. A few steps onward bring us to the head of Sloane-street, leading to *Cadogan-place*, and its beautiful enclosures and nursery grounds. In Hans'-place lived for many years the admired poetess, Miss Landon, afterwards Mrs. Maclean, whose melancholy fate involved as deep a romance as did any of her own imaginative legends. Beyond Sloane-street run two parallel roads, one leading to Brompton and Fulham, and the other to Kensington, Chiswick, and the places beyond.

Pursuing the left-hand road we enter into that pleasant and salubrious western suburb, *Brompton*, which for the purity and health-bestowing qualities of its air, has been by some assimilated to Montpelier. Elegant villas, groves, terraces, rows, and squares in this district, well populated, indicate the absence of poverty and the existence of wealth, or at least of competence. *Alexander*, *Brompton*, and *Thurloe-squares*, are of an attractive character; and in the first-named of these, Guizot, the minister of the late King of the French, when driven from France by a popular insurrection resided, distinguishing himself in the paths of literature during his sojourn in England; in the tenancy of the identical house he was succeeded by his political opponent, Ledru Rollin, in his turn an exile. Here Jenny Lind occupied a villa during her engagement at Her Majesty's Theatre. *The Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest*, an edifice which confers honour on Brompton, was founded in 1841. The area selected is a



few yards out of the road to Fulham, and a spacious garden has been planted for the accommodation of the inmates. The Elizabethan style is preferred for the mansion, which is built of red brick, relieved by ornamental dressings and various architectural embellishments. The internal arrangements are nothing inferior to the outside appearance. We refer to the care which has been bestowed on the means of securing comfort to those whom sickness has compelled to remain within its walls, and above all, the skill employed to increase their chances of being rescued from the withering embrace of a hopeless disease. Ventilation, diet, physical and mental recreation, have all been judiciously anticipated for the invalids who may become inmates of this hospital. By an estimate made some years since it was calculated that the annual number of victims to that insidious disease, consumption, did not fall short of 60,000. In 1848, Mademoiselle Lind generously volunteered her free services on behalf of this institution. On the 30th of June a concert in aid of its funds was given in the concert-room of the Italian Opera-house, where the attractive vocalization of the Swedish Nightingale realized the large amount of £1,766. This sum was appropriated to the construction of an additional wing to the hospital, containing many additional beds for patients, and forming an enduring memento of the well-timed liberality and womanly feeling of Jenny Lind.

Returning to that point where the two roads branch off near Sloane-street, our course now lies by the right-hand one, the barrier of which is the wall of Hyde Park, conducting to the little town of *Kensington*, the approach to which is lined by mansions and villas of great architectural elegance, looking upon the verdant plains and slopes of Hyde Park. In Kensington Gore, just at the entrance of the town is a stately building in the centre of well-planted grounds, known as *Gore House*. Here for many years resided that beautiful woman and accomplished authoress the late Lady Blessington, around whose hospitable board would gather a symposium of the most distinguished poets

and brilliant wits of the age. On quitting Gore House, she went to reside in Paris, in which she had not been many weeks when sudden death closed her career. The house has since been taken by that renowned culinary *chef*, Alexis Soyer, under whose auspices it is to be thrown open to the public, combining all the conveniences and comforts of an hotel, with the elegance and refinement of a private residence. We now reach the clean and well-built suburb of Kensington, which derives its importance from the royal palace and noble gardens of which it is the locality. *Kensington Palace* was purchased by the Earl of Nottingham, son of the Lord Chancellor of that name, by King William III., who partially rebuilt and much enlarged it, under the direction of Nicholas Hawksmoor, from designs by Sir Christopher Wren. This palace, in consequence of its salubrious situation and contiguity to town, was very convenient for the king, whose health required a fine air and relief from fatigue. The mansion, when King William bought it, had only 26 acres of land attached to it ; 30 more were purchased by Queen Anne ; and Queen Caroline, the wife of George II., encroached on Hyde Park for 300 acres more, which now collectively form Kensington Gardens. The palace is a large irregular edifice of brick, built at various times. The state apartments are very noble, and comprehend a suite of twelve rooms. The first ascent is by the great staircase in which are painted balconies. The pictures in this palace are numerous, including several by Holbein, Leonardo da Vinci, and other eminent masters. Queen Mary, wife of William III., died here, and so deep was the affection cherished for her memory by the king that bracelets composed of her hair were found upon one of his arms after his death. Here also died Prince George of Denmark, the consort of Queen Anne, and their promising son, the Duke of Gloucester. George I. resided much at the palace, which received some material alterations in his reign, but still more during that of his successor. To Queen Caroline this royal dwelling is indebted for its best



ornaments, a fine gallery of paintings, and several busts, produced in obedience to her commands by Rysbrack and Roubilliac. Both Queen Caroline and George II. died in Kensington Palace, where his majesty had principally resided during his reign. This sovereign was the last British monarch domiciliated here, but a portion of it has always been appropriated as a residence for members of the royal family. Here her present majesty, when the Princess Victoria, resided with her mother the Duchess of Kent, during her early girlhood; and the late Duke of Sussex, who lived in the palace for many years, collected an extensive and curious library of immense value which after his death was disposed of by public auction. *Kensington Gardens* form a delightful adjunct to the palace. They are about three miles in circumference, and were principally laid out in the reign of George II. by Brown, whose taste procured for him the title of *capability* Brown. For beauty of arrangement they are not excelled by any promenade in Europe. Latterly great improvement has been effected by under-draining, hereby rendering the whole dry throughout the year. The gravel walks, grass-plots, and various avenues have been recently completed, with the additional ornamental plantation. The gardens are open all day to the public, for whose accommodation rustic seats are provided, and a military band generally performs once a-day. There are several entrances to the gardens from Kensington, Hyde Park, and Bayswater. Kensington Gardens, as well as Hyde Park, are supplied with water from the Serpentine, a small stream rising at Bayswater, and discharging itself into the Thames near Chelsea. It also divides Chelsea and the parish of St. George, Hanover-square. This small river furnishing the least supply when most wanted, during the summer is now replenished by artificial means from the Thames. A handsome stone bridge at the eastern end of Kensington Gardens spans the stream. It was designed by the Messrs. Rennie, and is composed of five water and two land arches. Its upper surface is level, connecting the northern and

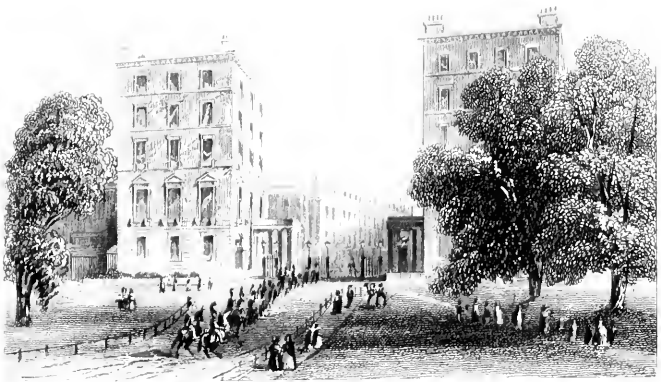
southern banks of the canal together by its roadway. The material employed in its construction is Yorkshire sandstone. In hard winters, when the Serpentine is frozen over, and its waters converted into a solid causeway for pedestrians, its surface is covered with skaters, who are frequently placed in imminent peril by the treacherous nature of the icy floor over which they glide. That excellent institution, the Royal Humane Society, has erected on the banks of this miniature river a house for the reception and recovery of persons taken out of the water apparently drowned, and by the means which it directs to be employed many have been resened from death and restored to their friends, living monuments of the admirable workings of this society.

Adjacent to the gardens are many superb edifices, of which those forming *Queen's Road Palace Gardens*, stretching from Kensington to Bayswater, are especially worthy of note. Beyond Kensington, the road extends to Chiswick, Hammersmith, Brentford, Kew, Richmond, and other picturesque localities.

CHAPTER IX.

ST. MARTINS-LE-GRAND — THE POST-OFFICE — GRESHAM-STREET — LITTLE BRITAIN — ALDERSGATE-STREET — THE CHARTERHOUSE — BARBICAN — ST. GILES'S CHURCH, CRIPPLEGATE — GOSWELL-ROAD — ISLINGTON — HIGHBURY — HOLLOWAY — HIGHGATE, ETC.

HAVING traversed that portion of the western end of the metropolis south of Oxford-street and the New-road, we return to our original starting-place, St. Paul's church, whence we take a northern route. Leaving Cheapside



and Newgate-street to the right, we find ourself in the wide street of *St. Martin's-le-Grand*, on the site of whose ancient church and sanctuary the General Post Office is now seen. On this spot stood, in 700, a college established by Wythred, king of Kent, and rebuilt and chiefly endowed in 1056 by Ingelric and Edward, two Saxon brothers of noble birth. William the Conqueror confirmed it in 1068, and made it independent of every other ecclesiastical jurisdiction, from the regal and even papal. It was governed by a dean, and had several secular canons. The privilege of sanctuary was attached to it from its beginning, and consequently it became the resort of the abandoned, the murderer and the thief, once safe within its precincts, enjoying immunity, and defying the secular power. In 1548 both church and college were surrendered to Edward VI., and taken down, and a great tavern and houses were erected upon the ground. The dean of chapter of the collegiate church of St. Peter's, Westminster, possessed and still maintain jurisdiction over St. Martin's-le-Grand. This church, with those of Bow, Cripplegate, and Barking, retained the curfew-bell long after its general discontinuance. It was sounded to caution the citizens of those districts to keep within doors after night, and not to hazard their security by wandering through the streets, which were infested with ruffians eager for plunder.

The principal building in St. Martin's-le-Grand, and, indeed, one of the noblest structures in the metropolis, is the *General Post Office*. Xenophon attributes the invention of posts to Cyrus, who made use of them on his Scythian expedition, about five hundred years before Christ; and he describes the houses which were raised for the relays or the refreshment of the couriers as magnificently built. Each courier on arriving at the station delivered his dispatches to the postmaster, by whom they were immediately forwarded. It is supposed that posts were known during the time of the Roman republic, but the first certain evidence we have of their use is in the reign

of Augustus. Suetonius writes that posts were established along all the great roads of the empire. At a later period Charlemagne, the great monarch of France, seems to have been the first to revive the use of posts, which were discontinued at his death, and nothing further is reported of them till 1464, when that suspicious monarch, Louis XI., employed 230 couriers to deliver his commands at various stations, and to gain intelligence of everything that was passing in remote provinces. No regular post, however, appears to have been recognised till nearly two centuries subsequent to that period. In England posts seem to have been established so far back as the reign of Richard III. The first postmaster in England was appointed in the year 1581, when Sir Thomas Randolph, an able diplomatist, who had been employed in no fewer than eighteen distinct embassies, filled that office. Antecedent to this period the foreign merchants settled in London had been permitted to select among themselves an individual to whom the management of foreign mails was given, but in 1568 a dispute arose between the Flemings and the Spaniards, when each chose a postmaster of their own. The inconvenience of this proceeding being felt, Queen Elizabeth, on the petition of the citizens, appointed a postmaster-general from one of her English subjects; but in the reign of her successor the business of the foreign post was for some time under the direction of Matthew le Quester, a foreigner. In 1635 a letter-office, which communicated with most of the principal mails, was opened under the direction of Thomas Witherines, who was removed for abuses in his office five years afterwards. During the Commonwealth, Prideaux, attorney-general, became post-master, and established a weekly conveyance of letters to all parts of the country. The emoluments soon became so evident that the common-council attempted an opposition post-office, but the House of Commons declared that the patronage of postmaster was and ought to be in the sole power and disposal of Parliament. The post-office which, in 1653, was farmed of Parliament

for £10,000, received its first organization from Cromwell as a General Post-office three years afterwards, and Charles II., confirming the regulations of the Protector, settled the revenue arising from it on his brother James, Duke of York, the produce being, in 1663, £21,500. In 1673 the amount was doubled, and continued to increase until the reign of William III., when it was considerably influenced by the hostile or tranquil condition of the country. On the union of Scotland with England, in 1710, a general post-office was established by act of Parliament, which included not only Great Britain and Ireland, but our West Indian and American colonies. This extension of the post-office increased the revenue to £111,461. In 1784 Mr. Palmer's plan of sending the letters by the coaches, instead of the old custom of transmitting them by post-boys on horseback, was adopted. From this moment the prosperity of the Post-office commenced, and the receipts which, after the progress of two centuries, in 1783, only produced £146,400 yearly, in 1813 yielded a net revenue nearly amounting to £1,700,000. The Twopenny Post-office (now consolidated under the improved arrangements of the General Post-office), originated for the transmission of letters from one part of the metropolis to another, was projected by Mr. Murray, an upholsterer of Paternoster-row, in 1683, and the plan was for some time pursued as a private speculation by Mr. William Dockwra, to whom Murray communicated it. At first the postage was only a penny, but afterwards was raised to twopence by the government, who, taking the business into their own hands, granted Dockwra an annuity.

The greatest reformer in the arrangements of the Post-office was Mr. Rowland Hill, whose plan for an universal penny-postage throughout the kingdom came into operation on the 10th of January, 1840. Under this admirable system a uniform rate of a penny is charged upon every letter not exceeding half-an-ounce, the scale of weight for letters advancing from a single rate for each of the first two half-ounces by an increase of twopence for an ounce,

or for any fraction of an ounce, up to sixteen ounces ; the postage to be paid previously by the parties sending, or double postage to be paid by the party receiving the letter. The privilege enjoyed by members of Parliament and others, of sending and receiving a certain number of letters free, ceased on the above day ; even her Majesty yielded a ready compliance to this rule. On the 6th of May, in the same year, the use of postage-stamps was introduced, this convenience having been suggested by Mr. Charles Knight, and adopted by Mr. Rowland Hill. This great reduction in postage has had a beneficial tendency on society, and correspondence by letter has increased in an enormous ratio, and still progresses. The office of postmaster-general is invariably filled by one of the sovereign's ministers, subordinate to whom are a secretary to the Post-office, a secretary to the postmaster-general, and numerous other officials.

The Post-office is divided into the Inland, the Foreign, and the London district offices. We must now speak of the building itself. Early in the last century the Post-office was in *Cloak-lane*, near Dowgate, thence it was transferred to Bishopsgate-street, and afterwards to a house in *Lombard-street*, which had been the residence of Sir Richard Viner, Lord Mayor of London in 1675. The building in Lombard-street having been found inadequate to the public requirements, the precinct of St. Martin's-le-Grand was chosen as an appropriate site for a new edifice, and an act of Parliament was obtained in 1815, granting the necessary powers for clearing the area formerly occupied by the church and sanctuary. The structure was commenced in 1818, under the superintendence of Mr. (now Sir Robert) Smirke, but delayed for some time from a deficiency of funds, which Government made up, and the present establishment was opened for business on the 23rd of September, 1829. It is a massive building, cased with Portland stone, and is about 389 feet long, 130 feet wide, and 64 feet high, standing in an enclosure of irregular figure. The front towards St. Martin's-le-Grand

has three Ionic porticoes, one of four columns at either end, and one of six, in the centre, a pediment surmounting it. The centre portico is the only one which covers an entrance, and through it, after ascending a flight of steps, the great hall in the centre of the edifice is entered, forming a noble thoroughfare from St. Martin's-le-Grand to Foster-lane. It is 80 feet wide, 60 long, and 50 high, and is divided like the nave of a cathedral by Ionic colonnades into a centre and two aisles. The different departments are so arranged as to communicate with this great hall. On the north side are the newspaper, foreign, inland, and ship-letter offices; on the south side are the receiver-general's and accountants' offices; at the south-eastern end the London district department; and at the western, on each side of the chief entrance, are affixed the names of persons to whom letters have been addressed, and whose right directions are not known. A staircase at the eastern end leads to the Dead, Mis-sent, and Returned Letter Office. The business of granting and paying money-orders is carried on in a distinct building, a large brick erection nearly facing the parent establishment. Under the great hall is a tunnel for the conveyance of letters from one department of the office to another, and a subterranean communication is established with the Electric Telegraph Office in Lothbury. The entire building is warmed by heated air. The machinery by which the multitudinous business of the Post-office is transacted it will be superfluous to describe, and in omitting to do so we impose no great stretch on the imagination of those who are at all familiar with the resources of a great commercial country.

Opposite to the General Post-office is the *Queen's Hotel*, better known, perhaps, by its original name, the *Bull and Mouth*, in the time of stage-coaches, one of the first coaching establishments in the kingdom, and now one of most comfortable and convenient hotels in the city. The term Bull and Mouth is a corruption of *Boulogne Mouth*, which became a popular sign after the capture of that

famous harbour by Henry VIII. *St. Ann's-lane*, to the right of the Post Office, leads into the very arcanum of mercantile industry, *Gresham-street*, formerly known as *Lad-lane* and *Cateaton-street*. Buildings were removed, and these two last-named streets being widened, elegant ranges of mercantile establishments sprung up, and the entire line of street from *Foster-lane* to *Lothbury* was named after that munificent patron of the city of London, the merchant-prince who founded the Royal Exchange, Sir Thomas Gresham. By his will he left £50 each yearly to three persons, who should deliver lectures on Law, Physic, and Rhetoric; and like amounts to four lecturers on Divinity, Geometry, Astronomy, and Music. These discourses were first given at his residence in Old Broad-street, subsequently named Gresham College, but on that extensive pile being purchased by the Commissioners of Excise in 1768, an apartment in the Royal Exchange was used as a lecture-room, and an additional yearly allowance of £50 granted to each lecturer. They are now delivered in a more appropriate place, a handsome theatre in *Gresham-street*, with a richly-embellished entrance in *Basinghall-street*, having been erected for the purpose. These lectures are delivered in term-time, principally in the morning. They are read in Latin at twelve at noon, and again in English at one. The music lecture is invariably given in the evening, and delivered in the living, not the dead language. In this street are the office and extensive warehouses of those universal carriers, Messrs. Pickford and Co.

Returning through *St. Ann's-lane* we re-enter *Aldersgate-street*, a continuation of *St. Martin's-le-Grand*, and which is remarkable as having been, in former ages, the favourite abiding-place of some of the most distinguished members of the British peerage. *Bull and Mouth-street*, on the western side of this street, occupies the spot once covered by the princely residence of Henry Percy, the first Earl of Northumberland; and *Westmorland-buildings* stand on the site of the town-house of the Nevilles, Earls



of Westmorland. Nearly opposite remains a splendid specimen of the art of Inigo Jones, Shaftesbury House, with a front adorned by Ionic columns, heretofore the habitation of Anthony Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury. This aristocratic building is now converted into two or three shops. The warehouses of Mr. Seddon, the upholsterer, which Pennant, referring to an ancestor of the present owner, describes to be "the greatest and most elegant repository of goods in the article of the cabinet manufactory in the world," covers the spot once dignified by London House, the ancient palace of the bishop of London. According to Stow it was first known as Petre House, the lords Petre having lived there till 1639. In 1657 it belonged to the Marquis of Dorchester, from which noble family it passed to the prelates of London, whose residence anterior to the great fire was near the cathedral of St. Paul. Lauderdale House, the town-seat of the Duke of Lauderdale, stood on the east side of the northern end of this street. Adjacent to Bull and Mouth-street and the Money-order establishment of the Post-office is the church of *St. Botolph*, south of which stood the ancient city-gate called Aldersgate. On the north side of this church is the street called *Little Britain*, according to some authorities, thus named on account of its having been the residence of the dukes of Bretagne. Before the removal of the book-trade to Paternoster-row, Little Britain was its principal seat, and in 1664 as many as 460 pamphlets were published in this street. Roger North writes that "Little Britain was a plentiful and perpetual emporium of learned authors, and men went thither as to a market. This drew a mighty trade, the rather because the shops were spacious, and the learned gladly resorted to them, where they seldom failed to meet with agreeable conversation; and the booksellers themselves were knowing and conversible men, with whom, for the sake of bookish knowledge, the greatest wits were pleased to converse." Here, at the beginning of the last century, resided a celebrated publisher, John Dunton, who is called by his

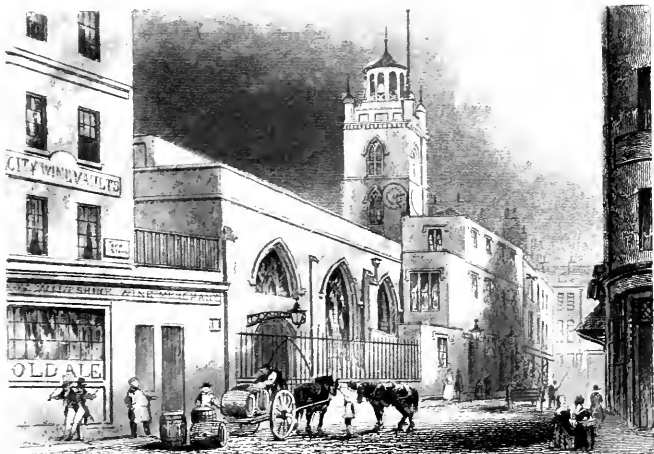
biographer "the most eminent in his profession in the three kingdoms, who well deserves the title of Metropolitan Bookseller of England. *He has not been known to print either a bad book, or on bad paper.*" At the west end a noble approach has been made to the eastern front of Christ's Hospital, the entrance to which is through a spacious iron gate, flanked on either side with a dwarf wall and handsome railing. The western end of Little Britain thus enlarged is known by the sub-title of *Bluecoat Buildings*, a handsome range of houses, in which is the principal bookselling and publishing establishment of Messrs. *John Tallis and Co.*, the publishers of this work. Bluecoat-buildings, from its central and accessible position, is singularly well adapted for business, it being approached from St. Martin's-le-Grand and Aldersgate-street, by Bull and Mouth-street, Angel-street, and Little Britain; from Newgate-street by King Edward-street, formerly Butcher-hall-lane; and from Smithfield by Duke-street, and being within five minutes' walk of the General Post-office. From the establishment we have just mentioned an arched passage, on the left, conducts into *King Edward-street*, thus re-named in honour of the munificent and royal founder of Christ's Hospital. Into this street Bull and Mouth and Angel-streets extend from Aldersgate. On its west side is the wall of the garden attached to the residence of the chief-master of Christ's Hospital, and on the east side are several handsome houses appropriated to the under-masters.

Returning into Aldersgate, and pursuing a northward direction, a few doors beyond Little Britain, is the *City of London Literary and Scientific Institution*, to which, reading-rooms and an excellent library are attached, besides which educational classes are held, to which the members are admitted free, and lectures on literature, science, history, &c., are delivered. Milton resided in a house which stood upon the site of this institution. The author of *Paradise Lost* also lived in Jewin-street, nearly opposite. Passing by the warehouse of Mr. Seddon, the *Albion Hotel*,

an extensive pile of buildings is reached. It was built by Alderman Harley, and is in high repute for the superb civic banquets which it frequently furnishes. Beyond is *Long-lane*, an approach to Smithfield. Opposite to this last is the street called *Barbican*, which, continued by Chiswell and other streets, runs into Finsbury-square. It is of great antiquity, for in very early times on this spot was a barbican, specula, or watch-tower, which stood a little without the walls to the east of Aldersgate. Here the Romans kept cohorts of soldiers in continual service to watch in the night, that if any sudden fire should happen they might be in readiness to extinguish it, as also to give notice if any enemy were gathering or marching towards the city to surprise them. In short it was a watch-tower by day, and at night they lighted some combustible matter on the top thereof, as a landmark for the weary traveller repairing to the city. By the Saxons the barbicans were called burgh-kenning, and were deemed so important that the custody was always committed to some nobleman. The Barbican of Aldersgate was entrusted to the care of Robert Ufford, Earl of Suffolk, by Edward III., by the name of Basse Court, which descended, by the marriage of one of his daughters, to Sir John Willoughby, afterwards Lord Willoughby, of Parham. Here was anciently a manor-house of the king's, called Basse Court, or Barbican, destroyed in 1251, but subsequently restored. In the reign of Queen Mary it belonged to Catherine, widow of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, in her own right Baroness Willoughby of Eresby, and afterwards the wife of Thomas Bertie, ancestor of the Duke of Ancaster. This lady, in her zeal against Popery, had dressed a dog in a surplice used by bishops, and in affront to the prelate Gardiner, had named a dog after him. In consequence she and her husband were compelled to abandon their house at Barbican, and go abroad till Queen Mary had ceased to live. The mansion was of great size, and afterwards inhabited by her son, who was called Peregrine, because he happened to be born abroad during the en-

forced flight of his parents. The Earls of Bridgewater had also a house in the Barbican called after their title. The mansion was burnt down in 1675, and Lord Brackly, eldest son of the earl, and a younger brother, with their tutor, were destroyed by the fire. *Bridgewater-square*, a gloomy and dismal-looking area, indicates the ancient locality of the ducal palace. Barbican is now converted into houses of business and shops. From the Barbican *Redcross-street*, an ancient street, points down towards *Cripplegate*. This gate received its name from the number of *cripples* and beggars with which it was infested. At the south end of Redcross-street stands the church of *St. Giles*, one of the best Gothic buildings in London, erected in 1546, on the site of the ancient church built by Alfune, the first master of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, in 1090, and burnt down in 1545. It is a light, airy, and well-proportioned structure, which will always be attractive to the antiquary and the poet, on account of its being the last resting-place of Speed, the historian, Foxe, the martyrologist, and Milton, "who in loftiness of thought surpassed." This illustrious poet was buried under the clerk's desk on the 12th November, 1674, from his house in Bunhill-fields. His father was also buried in this church in 1647. A tablet in memory of the father and his gifted son was placed in the church many years afterwards by Mr. Whitbread, the eminent brewer and member of Parliament.

In *Chiswell-street* is one of the largest breweries in the world, that of the Messrs. Whitbread. The net-work of streets in this vicinity are too numerous to be categorically named within our limits; we can only refer to a few of the most interesting. In *Whitecross-street* is a prison for debtors, the first stone of which was laid by the late Mr. Alderman Wood in 1813, and when completed, all the prisoners for debt previously incarcerated in Newgate and the Compter, were removed here. The freemen of the city have a separate wing assigned to them, with other peculiar advantages. Near *Whitecross-street*, so



recently as when Maitland wrote, stood a large brick building once distinguished as the Fortune theatre, erected in 1599, by that celebrated and benevolent actor Edward Alleyn, the founder of Dulwich College. *Playhouse-yard* indicates its exact position. In the time of Charles I. it was one of the most popular of the six playhouses allowed in town, but when the civil wars broke out its performances were suppressed. To the east of Whitecross is *Milton-street*, better known under its old cognomen, *Grub-street*, and long famous as the asylum of poor and obscure authors. Nevertheless, some of the most illustrious writers have been content to take up their quarters here. Foxe, author of the *Book of Martyrs*, lived and died here; and Speed, the historian, and Milton, were among its residents; to the last-named of whom it is indebted for its modern appellation.

Re-entering Aldersgate-street, *Carthusian-street*, immediately beyond Long-lane, conduces into *Charterhouse-square*, one of the finest of the city squares. The square takes its name from the *Charter House*, which is situated on its north side. This foundation stands upon the site of an ancient monastery for Carthusian monks, called the *Chartreuse*. The origin of this religious house is ascribed to the plague which, in 1308, ravaged England and a part of the continent, the spot having been consecrated by the Bishop of London for a place of interment. Sir Walter de Manny, a distinguished commander in the French wars under Edward III., purchased this ground, upon which, in conjunction with Northburg, Bishop of London, he built and endowed a priory for a superior and twenty-four monks of the Carthusian order, which was completed in 1370. The monastery was suppressed in 1538, in spite of the persevering resistance of the monks, many of whom suffered death rather than sanction the spoliation. Seven of them were conveyed on hurdles through the city to the place of execution, some were gibbeted, and others subjected to the torture. Upon the dissolution of the *Chartreuse* the house and grounds passed into the possession of

the Howard family. James I., on entering his new capital on the 1st of May, 1604, visited the Lord Thomas Howard, who hospitably entertained his majesty and suite four days at the Charter House. Seven years afterwards Lord Howard, who had been created Earl of Suffolk, sold his estate for £13,000 to Mr. Thomas Sutton, citizen and girdler. Mr. Sutton, who was of a good family in Lincolnshire, had eminently distinguished himself by his military sagacity, and contributed to the failure of the Spanish Armada. He afterwards became merchant, and acquired a splendid fortune. He converted the Charter House into a most magnificent hospital, comprehending a master, a preacher, a head-schoolmaster, a second master, with forty-four boys, eighty decayed gentlemen who had been soldiers or merchants, besides physicians, surgeons, and other officers. He endowed the foundation with lands, of which the present value is several thousands of pounds annually, and the income being thus greatly augmented additional efficiency is given to the benevolent views of the testator. The boys on the foundation receive a classical education, and some of the first scholars of the day have gained their initiative in the Charter House. Twenty pounds per annum, for eight years, is allowed to a certain number of students at the universities, and there are several ecclesiastical preferments, the patronage of which is vested in the governors. The gate of the first court opening into Charter House Square leads to a long gallery, with Elizabethan windows; an arched way, over which are the armorial bearings of Mr. Sutton, conducts to another court formed on the east side by the hall; a small portico before the door has the arms of James I. At the south end is a very large projecting window, divided into fifteen parts. The old court-room is a venerable apartment, fitted up by the Duke of Norfolk during his residence here in the reign of James I., and contains a profusion of colours. The chapel is built principally of brick, and lined with wainscot; it has two aisles with Gothic windows; two of those in the north wall contains

the arms of Mr. Sutton, in painted glass. In the chapel are several monuments, among which is the tomb of the founder, erected at a cost of £400. Modern buildings have been added of late years, in conformity with the increased accommodation required. The grounds, which are large and well laid out, extending to Wilderness-row, and flanked on one side by a considerable portion of Goswell-street, yield a fine promenade to the inmates. Well has Pennant observed, "This is the greatest gift in England, either in Protestant or Catholic times, ever bestowed by a single man, till we come to the time of the foundation of Guy's Hospital in Southwark." What is now Charterhouse-square was originally the churchyard of the monastery. In the north-east corner of this square was the town-house of the earls of Rutland. In 1656 it was converted into an opera-house, of which Sir William Davenant was the manager.

To *Aldersgate-street*, *Goswell-street* forms a continuous line of road, pursuing which we emerge at that angle where St. John's, Goswell, and the City roads meet. The *Angel-inn* here forms a conspicuous object, being the point from which the Great North and the New roads diverge. Although commonly known as the Angel at Islington, it actually stands in Clerkenwell, and has, as an inn, been in existence upwards of two centuries, having been always a great place of resort with graziers, farmers, and others repairing to Smithfield-market. Before the era of railways, standing upon the verge of the Great North-road, it was a famous coaching-house, and is now the general rendezvous of omnibuses and short stages running on the roads which radiate from it. It was rebuilt in 1819. *Islington* is a very extensive district, watered by the New River, agreeably shadowed by trees, and offering all the features of *rus in urbe*. Its chalybeate spring once gave it great celebrity, and rendered it a place of very fashionable resort. The Islington Spa, or New Tunbridge Wells, a spring of chalybeate water, now in a small garden in Lloyd's-row, near the New River Head, was discovered about

1690, and free access granted to the poor. Some years afterwards the spa assumed the characteristics that now distinguish Bath, Cheltenham, and other watering-places, it being advertised in the year 1700 that there was "music for dancing all day long every Monday and Thursday during the summer season;" but from these entertainments masks were excluded. During the season of 1733 the use of the mineral waters having been recommended to them, their royal highnesses, the Princesses Caroline and Amelia, visited Islington Spa daily, and the nobility and gentry crowded to drink the waters which royalty had condescended to favour. The birth-days of the princesses were always commemorated at this Spa by discharges of artillery, bonfires, and other joyous manifestations. The breakfast-room, which was 40 feet long, was furnished with an orchestra, and the gardens, besides music, were rendered attractive by fireworks and other amusements, varied in Lent by an orrery and evening lectures. The tea-gardens of Islington were long famous, but the value of the ground which they once covered for building purposes has led to their extinction. *White Conduit House*, which was celebrated for its beautifully laid out gardens, derived its name from an ancient stone conduit, built in the year 1641, which supplied the Charter-house with water through a leaden pipe. As well as a place of popular recreation, it was for many years the favourite arena and banquetting-house of political reformers. So recently as 1850 its grounds were dismantled and the house taken down, new streets arising on its site, and a smaller tavern erected, bearing the name of its venerable predecessor.

One of the most attractive features in Islington, and which highly conduces to its salubrity, is the New River, to which a very interesting history attaches. In the reigns of Elizabeth and James I. acts of parliaments were passed for the better supplying the capital with water, but they were not carried into effect till Mr. Hugh Middleton, a native of Denbigh, and goldsmith of London, engaged to

convey water from Chadwell and Amwell, near Ware in Hertfordshire, a distance exceeding 20 miles. The work was commenced on the 20th of February, 1608, and completed in five years. The course of the river extends about 39 miles, being in a serpentine direction. The great reservoir, called the *New River Head*, is at Islington, into which the water was first let in on Michaelmas-day, 1613, the day on which Sir Thomas Middelton, the brother of Sir Hugh, was elected Lord Mayor. On the opening of the basin the Lord Mayor, the Lord Mayor elect, the aldermen, and other city dignitaries, went in procession to the appointed spot, when a company of sixty labourers, preceded by drums, and supplied with spades, shovels, and pickaxes, marched twice or thrice round the cistern, and then presented themselves before the visitors. One of the workmen pronounced an address, which thus concluded:—

“ Now for the fruits ; then flow forth, precious spring
 So long and dearly sought for, and now bring
 Comfort to all that love thee ; loudly sing,
 And with thy crystal murmurs struck together,
 Bid all thy true well-wishers welcome hither.”

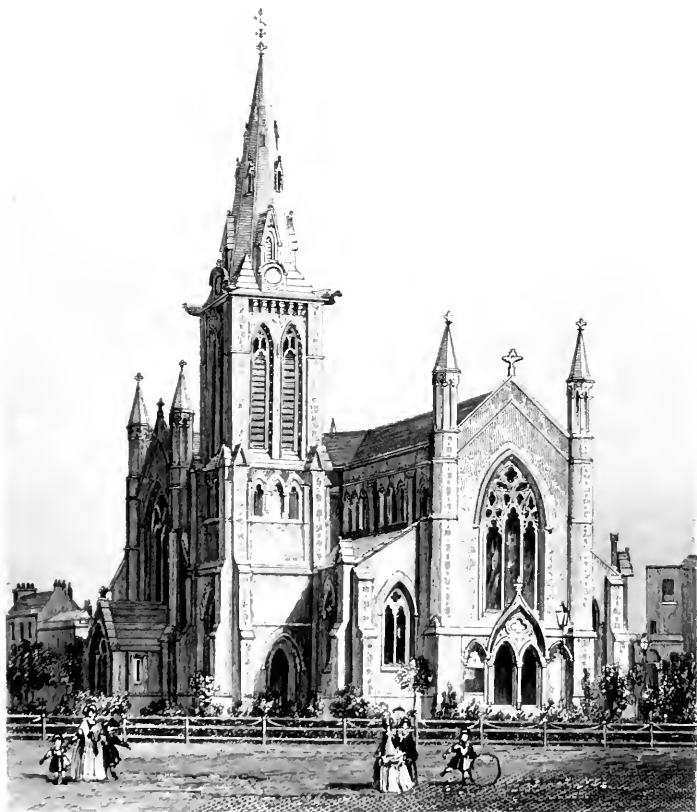
At the conclusion of these words “the flood-gate flew open, and the stream ran swiftly into the cistern, with drums and trumpets sounding, and guns firing, in a triumphant manner.” The New River for a long time yielded no profit, and for nineteen years after its completion the seventy-two shares into which it was divided gave no higher profit than 12s. each, but subsequently their value increased in so prodigious a degree that they sold at £14,000 each. The founder of this great work, by which so many handsome fortunes have been realized, did not reap the reward of his great services to the metropolis. He died in poverty, the chief acknowledgment which he received for his successfully-carried-out plan being promotion to the baronetcy ; and in the Cottonian manuscripts an entry appears, stating that the fees of the creation were to be remitted to him. *Middelton-square, Chadwell-street, Amwell-street*, and other places in the neighbourhood.

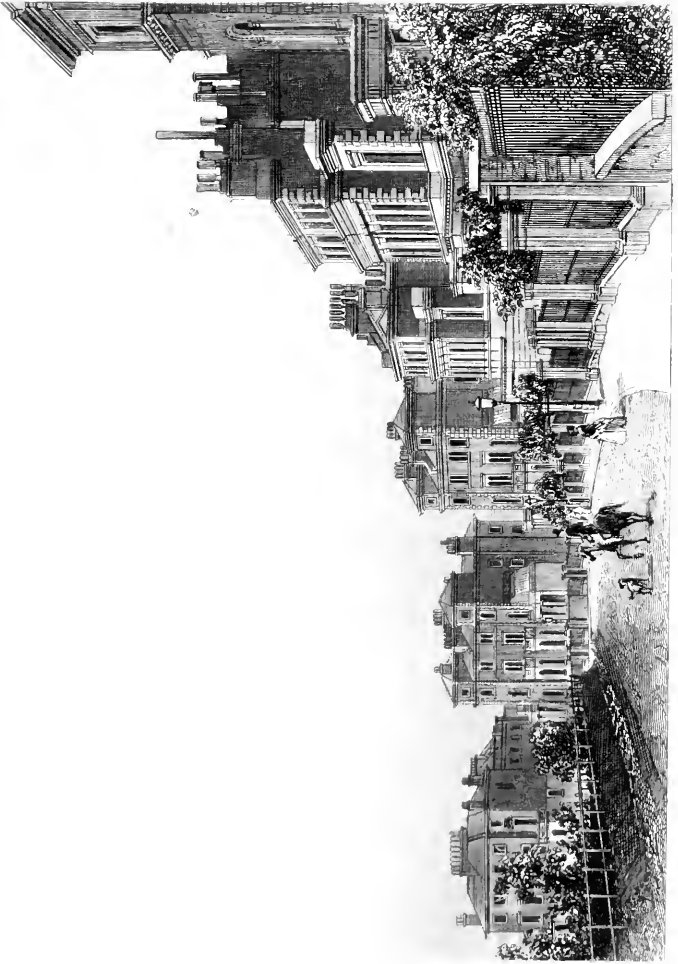
commemorate the New River and its sources, and its ill-requited projector.

Islington is so extensive that it might claim by itself a separate history. From the turnpike north of the Angel three roads branch, and pursuing the centre one, we pass by the church of *St. Mary's, Islington*, a brick edifice with a very handsome steeple, into a wide and handsome road, at the end of which, in a continuous line, Highbury-place is reached, while to the left, the Great North Road is continued through Holloway and Highgate. *Highbury* is a neighbourhood eminently beautiful, containing mansions, villas, and a beautifully laid out park. *Highbury Barn* is an hotel of great extent, and much frequented on account of the attractive pleasure-grounds attached to it. *Highbury College* is one of the largest establishments for the education of students intending for the Dissenting ministry in or near London. *Holloway*, a pleasant suburb on the North Road, is joined by *Upper Holloway*, of which one of the leading objects is *St. John's Church*, a building of much architectural merit. We now approach Highgate, famous for the beauty of its scenery, its Hill, its Archway, its cemetery, and above all as the scene of the legendary adventure of Whittington, afterwards Lord Mayor of London. According to tradition, Whittington, a London 'prentice, ran away from his master, and having reached Highgate Hill, seated himself on a stone to consider his future movements; suddenly he heard the chimes of the Bow bells, and fancied that he could trace this prophecy in their sound—

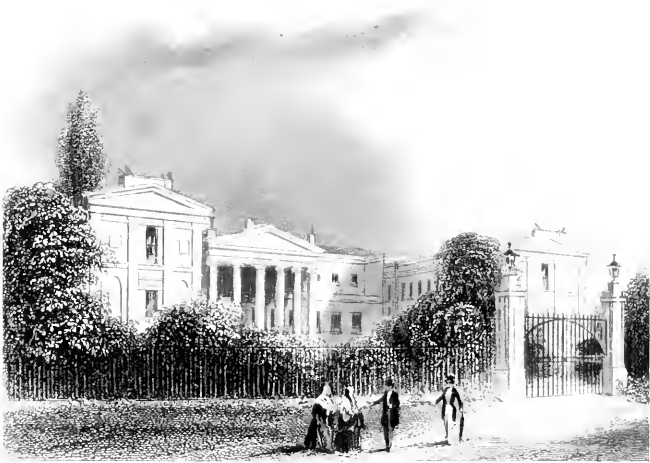
“Turn again, Whittington,
Thrice Lord Mayor of London.”

At the foot of Highgate Hill is a stone on which are inscribed the words “Whittington's Stone.” Not vouching for the fabulous incidents mixed up with his history, it is certain that Sir Richard Whittington was a great London merchant, and a member of the Mercers' Company. In the boyhood of Whittington the burning of coal was deemed such a nuisance that it was prohibited by act of











parliament, under penalty of death, but in 1419, when Whittington had been "thrice Lord Mayor of London," the coal-trade had become one of the great branches of commercial industry. Probably Whittington was among those who made a fortune in the coal trade, and the vessel which he constructed for the purpose of carrying the merchandize from port to port, from its excellent sailing qualities being called a *cat*, may account for the popular belief that Whittington owed his aggrandizement to an individual of the feline species. From Henry V. he received great favours, probably the monopoly in some article of commerce, and he manifested his gratitude by presenting the King with an immense sum, equivalent in our own days to half a million sterling. "Never before," said Whittington, "had subject such a King;" and the reply of Henry was, "Nor King such a subject." Sir Richard Whittington was a munificent benefactor to the city. He built the chapel of Guildhall, and the library of Christ's Hospital, made large additions to the Guildhall and St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and left funds at his death for rebuilding the prison of Newgate, previously in a most ruinous state. He annexed to the church of St. Michael Royal a college of priests, which was called God's House, and almshouses for thirteen poor persons. The college was suppressed in the time of Edward VI., its site being now covered by College Hill; but the almshouses remained under the patronage of the Mercers' Company. They were taken down some years back and rebuilt at Highgate, as well as the school which bears their name, and was formerly attached to their hall in the Old Jewry. *Whittington's College* or *Almshouse*, located on Highgate Hill, is a pile of singular architectural beauty, and a commanding object of attention. Whittington was buried in the church of St. Michael Royal, College Hill, and in the inscription to his memory he is styled, "Flos Mercatorum,"—the "Flower of Merchants." In the reign of Edward VI. the minister of St. Michael's Church, to which Whittington had been so generous a

benefactor, in the sordid desire of finding some wealth buried with the corpse, had the tomb broken open, and when disappointed in his avaricious dreams, rather than withdraw empty-handed, he robbed the body of its leaden covering. In the following reign the parishioners determined to restore it, and again were the ashes of this great man disturbed in order to be again shrouded in lead, and thenceforth no desecrating hand has disturbed their repose.

CHAPTER X.

ST. JOHN-STREET—SPA FIELDS—HOUSE OF CORRECTION—
CLERKENWELL SESSIONS-HOUSE—ST. JOHN'S SQUARE—
ST. JOHN'S GATE—SMITHFIELD—CLOTH FAIR—GILTSPUR-
STREET—THE COMPTER, ETC.

PENETRATING no further north, we retrace our steps to that bustling hostelry, the Angel, whence we descend into *St. John-street*, on the right hand side of which, inclining in the direction of the New Road, are several handsome squares and tributary streets of modern erection: the former comprehend *Middelton*, *Claremont*, *Holford*, *Granville* and *Lloyd* squares. Passing by Sadler's Wells Theatre, *Middelton-street* on the right hand leads into *Exmouth-street*, on the south side of which is *Spa Fields Chapel*, which, anterior to 1779 was a tea-house, but was purchased for a chapel by the late Countess of Huntingdon, and the garden converted into a cemetery. These streets, and the surrounding neighbourhood, stand on the whole of the ground formerly known as *Spa Fields*, at no very remote period a pleasant summer evening promenade. At the north-western extremity of the fields was

Bagnigge Wells, a highly fashionable watering-place in the last century, and said to have once been the residence of Nell Gwynne. In 1767 two springs of mineral water, one chalybeate, the other cathartic, were discovered; these were opened to the public, and some beautiful gardens laid out for similar entertainments to those given at Vauxhall. Their site is now covered by the buildings of the Messrs. Cubitt. From Exmouth-street that broad area formed by *Cold-Bath-Fields* and *Mount Pleasant* is reached. Here a most prominent object stands—the House of Correction for the County of Middlesex—one of the largest prisons in Europe, a vast square building of brick and stone, encompassed by a high wall and buttresses. The handsome gate, forming the principal entrance, is of Portland stone, with appropriate devices. This prison, which was raised to carry out the suggestions of Mr. Howard, comprehends the principal or old gaol erected in 1794; the new vagrants' wards finished in 1831, and the new female wards completed in 1832. It contains two chapels, seven schools, and thirty-six tread-mills. Here the silent system is in practice, and at night the prisoners sleep in different cells. The greatest number of individuals ever confined here at one time was 1220. Fauntleroy the forger was incarcerated here.

Continuing the line of St. John's-street, *Aylesbury-street* is reached, thus named after the house and gardens of the Earls of Aylesbury, which previously belonged to the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem. This extends to *Clerkenwell-green*, on the west side of which is the *Sessions House* for Middlesex. It was built in place of one that stood opposite the end of St. John's-lane, and which being erected by Sir Baptist Hicks in 1612, was called Hicks's Hall. The existing edifice rose in 1778. The front is of stone with a rustic basement; four Ionic pillars and two pilasters sustain an architrave, frieze, and cornice, with a pediment above the pillars. Over the centre window is a medallion of George III., and the other windows are surmounted by insignia of Justice; the tympanum

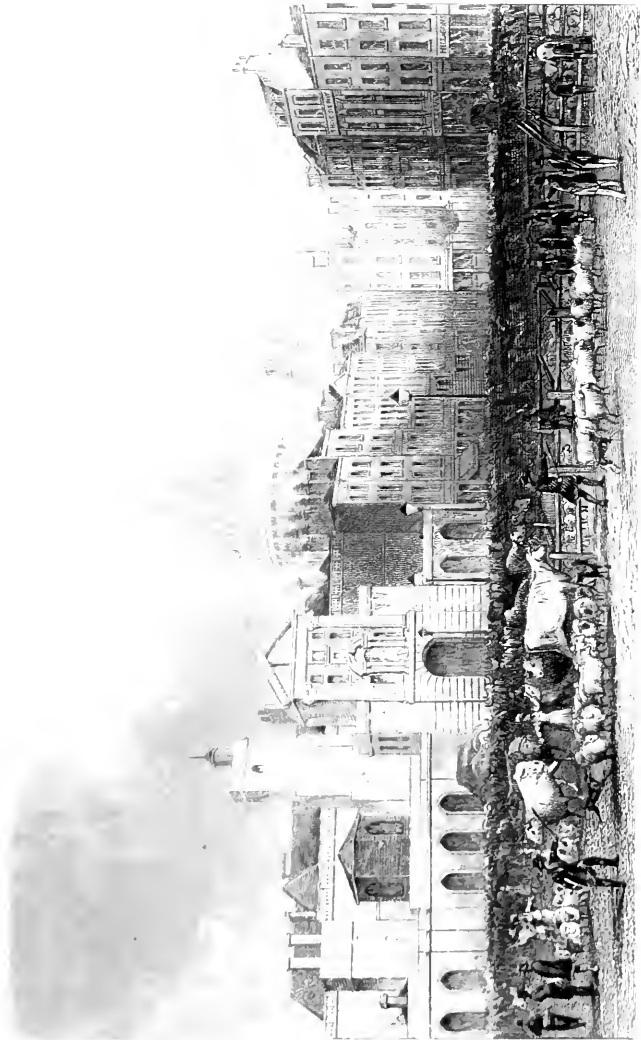
exhibits the arms of the county, and the roof is crowned by a dome. At the lower end of Clerkenwell-green, in Ray-street, is a pump in a recess, the only memorial of the famous fountain called *Clerks*, or *Clerkenwell*, so styled from the Parish Clerks of the city of London who met there annually for the representation of sacred dramas ; and which were frequently attended by the nobility, as well as by the Lord Mayor and citizens. The usual place of performance of these scriptural dramas was a green at the bottom of a hill, on which stood the Priory of St. John of Jerusalem, and near to the said spring. In 1391 the clerks exhibited here for three days successively before Richard II. and his court ; and in 1409 the subject of their sacred mystery was the creation of the world ; the time of which performance occupied exactly a week. From this spring the church and parish derive their name. The spring is situate four feet east of the location of the pump. The prior and brethren of the order of St. John of Jerusalem and the Benedictine Nuns, held the water of this well in great estimation. On the north side of Clerkenwell-green is the church of *St. James*, Clerkenwell. The ancient church was attached to the order of St. John of Jerusalem, and in the reign of Edward VI. it was blown up with gunpowder by order of the Protector Somerset, (who would fain have made Westminster Abbey his stone quarry,) and its materials appropriated towards the construction of his new palace in the Strand. The first stone of the present edifice was laid in 1788, and the church was consecrated in 1792. On its south side are two wings ; within these are Doric entrances ; over which are large arched windows. The tower is Tuscan, crowned by balustrades and vases. The lantern is octagon ; and is surmounted by a sexagon obelisk, placed on balls with a vane. At the end of St. James's Walk, in the rear of this church, is the *House of Detention*, a prison in which offenders whose transgressions are not very heinous, are confined during the interval between their committal and trial.

St. John's-lane is the next deviation to be made from the main street. On a house at the corner of this street is a stone tablet bearing the inscription — “Opposite this spot Hicks’s Hall formerly stood.” From this point all the distances on the North Road were once measured, and some obsolete mile-stones still intimate that they are land-marks to a place without visible existence—Hicks’s Hall. At the end of this lane is *St. John's-square*, a locality celebrated not only for its chivalric, but its literary reminiscences. It was in the early ages the site of the house or Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, the style of a celebrated order of knights. After Jerusalem had been taken from the Saracens, many pilgrims travelled to Palestine to offer their devotions at the Holy Sepulchre. Among the visitants was one named Gerardus, who assumed a black robe, whereon was a white cross with eight spikes. He undertook the curatorship of an hospital previously established at Jerusalem for the use of pilgrims; and he engaged also to protect them from injury or insult on their outward and homeward journey. This order of knighthood was founded by Godfrey of Boulogne, and to reward the bravery of Gerardus at the battle of Ascalon, he granted large estates to the knights, so that they might be enabled to carry out the purposes of their institution, of which the kings of France were the sovereigns. After the capture of Jerusalem they wandered from place to place in search of an asylum, and having taken Rhodes settled there, and were called the Knights of Rhodes. Upon the loss of Rhodes they withdrew to Malta, by the name of which their order was then known. Jordan Briset and Muriel his wife, people of rank, founded the Hospital of St. John in 1100, having purchased of the prioress and nuns of Clerkenwell, ten acres of land. The hospital was consecrated by Heraclius, the patriarch of St. John of Jerusalem, and in the course of time became the chief seat in England of the Knights Hospitallers. In 1323, the revenues of the English knight templars were given to them, and to such distinction did they attain, that their

prior held rank as the first baron, and lived in a style of corresponding magnificence. Luxury was their bane, and the prime cause of their downfall; the insurgents of Kent and Essex under Wat Tyler, burnt their house to the ground, and upon its ruins rose another structure far surpassing the old one in splendour. Covetous of the wealth of the knights, Henry VIII. suppressed the institution in 1541. The first prior was Garnerius de Neapoli; the last, Sir William Weston, to whom the royal spoliator granted an annual pension of £1,000, but Sir William died of a broken heart on Ascension Day, 1540, the very day that the house was confiscated. St. John's-square is of an oblong form, and was entered by two gates, north and south; the latter called *St. John's Gate* remains. It has a lofty Gothic arch, and is the principal relic of the gorgeous priory. By James I. the gateway was bestowed on Sir Roger Wilbraham, who made it his residence. Over this gate the *Gentleman's Magazine* was first printed, more than a century back, by Cave. The other gate looking into Aylesbury-street, though lofty, was considerably narrower than this, being without posterns, and was removed in 1760. *Red Lion-street* covers part of the gardens of the hospital.

The printing and engraving establishment of Messrs. John Tallis and Co. is carried on in the extensive premises, 100, *St. John-street, Smithfield-bars*, and extending for a considerable distance into Charterhouse-lane.

From *Smithfield-bars*, the northern boundary of the city liberty, we enter into the extensive area of that large cattle-market, *Smithfield*, called *West Smithfield*, to distinguish it from East Smithfield, near the Tower of London. Few places abound in such high historical interest as Smithfield—few places have undergone so many metamorphoses as this truly classic ground has witnessed. If we may credit some of the city chroniclers, the antiquity of Smithfield is coeval with that of Westminster Abbey, for Holinshed writes that in the time of Canute it was a vineyard, and that it was granted by that sovereign to one





of his knights. It is remarkable that one of the earliest purposes to which Smithfield, or Smoothfield, was converted, was that to which in the course of centuries it has been again brought—a horse and cattle-market. Fitzstephen says, that in his time (the reign of Henry II.), an active trade in live stock, as well as in implements of husbandry, was carried on. He observes—“Without one of the gates is a *smooth* field, both in name and deed, where every Friday, unless it be a solemn bidden holiday, is a noble show of horses to be sold. Earls, barons, knights, and citizens, resort thither to see or to buy.” In the 12th century Smithfield was considered one of the chief lungs of London, and was resorted to, as the parks now are, by the citizens, in search of pure air and rural scenery. A number of elm-trees grew in that part of Smithfield which Cow-lane now covers, and hence this portion of the enclosure was called the Elms, and here in the reign of Richard I., William Fitzosbert, familiarly known as *Longbeard*, a real patriot, and no pretender to that honoured name, was put to death. “The country,” says Dr. Mackay, “was at that time sorely distressed by the taxation unmercifully levied upon it for the expenses of the Crusaders, and for the ransom money of the King; and besides this grievance, of which the whole nation complained, the Saxon portion of it groaned under the ruthless tyranny of the Norman chiefs, by whom they were treated as a conquered and degraded people. At this time Fitzosbert stood forth the asserter of the rights of his countrymen. His influence over the people became unbounded; he was the Massaniello of the day, with more real power, and more clear-sightedness, eloquence, and energy, than that leader; or, if he might be compared to another, he was the Rienzi of the English Saxons, as eloquent as he, and cherishing similar ambitions plans for the renovation of an oppressed people. The fame of his oratory was such, that whenever a Saxon was wronged, he came to Longbeard and found a zealous advocate, who, with a determination of character and with

an eloquence that was irresistible, wrested justice from those who should have been its willing administrators, but were in those times its perverters or withholders. The fame of his oratory was such, that whenever it was known he was to plead for a Saxon in any of the courts or before the Mayor of London, then a judge of no small power or authority, immense crowds congregated to hang upon his words, and applaud every sentence that fell from his lips, till the magistrates were offended at the popular applause, and hated the man who was the subject of it." The rulers of England witnessed with displeasure and jealousy the increasing influence of this advocate, whose career they ineffectually endeavoured to close by assassination. In consequence of this Longbeard "never went abroad unless in armour, and carrying a huge battle-axe, followed by a hundred men, chiefly artizans, all well-armed to defend him from sudden attack. And this strange spectacle was constantly seen in London for months; the lawyer with battle-axe and coat of mail, with a little army at his heels, going to plead without a fee for his poor countrymen; overawing the judges upon the bench, and snatching justice from those who would otherwise have denied it." Upon a new poll-tax being levied, a great assemblage met at Paul's Cross, who after hearing Longbeard, resolved not to pay the tax. The authorities attempted to disperse the multitude; bloodshed and loss of life ensued, and the malcontents were victorious. They threatened to burn the city to the ground, a menace which they were only deterred from carrying into effect by the persuasion of their chief. They, however, proceeded to Lombard-street, where they fired the house of Fitzalwyn, the mayor of London. Longbeard was summoned to Westminster Hall, there to answer to the Archbishop of Canterbury for his participation in the riot, but intimidated by the number of his followers, no attempt was made to detain him, and the reverend judge dismissed him with a caution to avoid gatherings of the people which were perilous to the

security of the realm. What violence could not accomplish, misrepresentation effected. Crimes of the most heinous description were attributed to him, and in consequence his friends began to diminish. His old enemy, the Lord Mayor, watched his opportunity, and suddenly set upon him in Cheapside, with a large party of soldiers and citizens, when he was only attended by eight men. It was opposite the church of St. Mary-le-Bow. As his sole chance of escape he rushed into the sacred edifice with his companions, and barred the massive doors upon his pursuers. The people were moved to pity; his friends attempted to stir them up in his behalf, and great crowds assembled in various parts of London, and especially in Cheapside, in Smithfield, and at St. Paul's Cross. There was no time to be lost; the Archbishop gave his reluctant consent to force the sanctuary, and the church of St. Mary-le-Bow was set on fire immediately: Longbeard and his unhappy companions fought their way through the flames with the courage of despair, but were captured in the street, and conveyed to the Tower almost before the people had time to know what had taken place. They were brought to trial immediately, and sentenced to be hanged and beheaded on the following morning at the Elms, Smithfield. The trial was not concluded till late in the evening, and before day-light, Fitzosbert and his companions had ceased to exist.* In the middle of the thirteenth century the Elms was discontinued as a place of execution for criminals, its dismal uses being transferred to Tyburn. It is curious that in the revolutions of time the locality of the gallows (at Newgate) should again be found in its ancient neighbourhood.

In the spot now only vocal with the cries of impatient drovers, the bleating of sheep, the bellowing of oxen, and the squeaking of terrified pigs, gallant knights have assembled to display their prowess in the gay tournaments, and bright-eyed ladies from their glittering balconies have smiled applause upon the exploits of chivalry.

* *An Antiquarian Ramble in the Streets of London.*

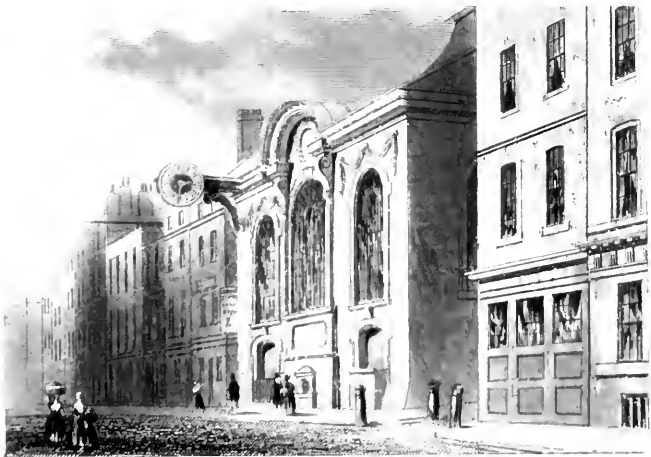
When Edward III. held the Kings of France and Scotland prisoners, he frequently prepared tournaments for their amusement. One, which was held in 1374, in honour of the fair Alice Pierce, in Smithfield, was famous for the splendour of its details. This beautiful dame, who assumed the title of "Lady of the Sun," appeared by the King's side in a triumphal car, most magnificently arrayed, and accompanied by many ladies of title, each of whom led a knight on horseback by the bridle. The cavalcade started from the Tower, and was attended by the principal nobility to Smithfield, where the tournaments were held for seven consecutive days. In 1390 a still more memorable tournament was held in Smithfield, under the auspices of Richard II. The tournament was appointed to take place on the Sunday following Michaelmas, and the king previously dispatched heralds to announce the grand festival to all the leading European courts. The invitation was accepted by several sovereigns, and on the day named, the champions, mounted on sixty steeds, departed from the Tower towards Smithfield; the knights attended by esquires, and led by ladies riding on palfreys, who with golden chains conducted them to the arena of the sports. The sovereign and his queen were present at the jousts, which lasted for several days. On this occasion, Richard, at the palace of the Bishop of London, hospitably entertained persons of all ranks, and each evening the gaieties closed with dancing. Far different was the scene witnessed upon the same spot in the reign of the same monarch ten years before. That insolent and vindictive rebel, the Kentish blacksmith, here assembled with his lawless bands, and endeavoured by intimidation to extort from the young king concessions, widely differing from the ostensible object of their gathering—the repeal of the poll-tax. William Walworth, Lord Mayor of London, indignant at the insulting attitude assumed by Wat Tyler towards his sovereign, smote the disloyal braggart with a dagger, which terminated his life, and the King, hardly fifteen years of age, inviting the

insurgents to accept him as a chief in lieu of their defunct leader, they followed him to St. George's Fields, where they were dispersed by a seasonable reinforcement of armed citizens; and an insurrection crushed, which if successful, would have been fraught with the most miserable consequences to the state; one of the avowed objects of the rebels being to fire and plunder the city of London. The Lord Mayor, Walworth, was knighted on the spot by Richard, and after him a populous suburb on the Surrey side of the bridges is named. In commemoration of this event the dagger was added to the armorial bearings of the city of London.

But Smithfield is, perhaps, more celebrated as the scene of the fiery martyrdom of the victims of religious persecution, condemned by bigotry to expiate their fancied errors by a death of excruciating pain. The first person who suffered death for religious opinions in England was William Sautre, a Lollard, who was burnt alive in 1404, in Smithfield, by the authority of the King's writ, *de heretico comburendo*. Hecatombs of victims were sent to the stake in succeeding years. To Henry VII. belongs the unenviable fame of having condemned to perish by fire in Smithfield, Joan Boughton, the first female martyr in England, an aged woman who had seen more than eighty years. Latimer, Cranmer, Ridley, and a host of religious reformers here manifested that their convictions were too deeply implanted to be shaken by the terrors of an ignominious and agonizing death. The founders of our national faith joyfully went through fire to prove the divine authority of that faith. It must, however, in justice be owned, that not only Romanists, but sometimes Protestants, lighted the sacrificial pile of intolerance. "Here," says Pennant, "our martyr Latimer preached patience to Friar Forrest, agonizing under the torture of a slow fire, for denying the king's supremacy; and to this place our martyr Cranmer compelled the amiable Edward, by forcing his reluctant hand to the warrant, to send Joan Bocher, a silly woman, to the

stake." "Our gracious Queen Elizabeth could likewise burn people for religion. Two Dutchmen, anabaptists, suffered in this place in 1575, and died, as Holinshed sagely remarks, 'roring and ericing.'" The last person who suffered at the stake in England was Bartholomew Leggatt, who was burnt in England for denying the Athanasian and Nicene creeds, pursuant to the sentence of John King, the protestant Bishop of London; and James I., whom the translators of the Bible, in their fulsome dedication, call "a most tender and loving nursing father," did not hesitate to give full effect to the barbarous decree. The space in the centre of the pens, and facing the gate of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, where the martyrs were consumed by flame, was long clearly indicated, being near a large board on which were inscribed the market regulations; the ground about the stake was paved with stones, circularly placed. The board has been removed to that part of the market near Smithfield Bars, and a lamp, with a large gas-light, substituted. Upon this spot, a frightful species of punishment not to be surpassed by Asiatic tortures, was twice inflicted—viz. boiling to death; which horrible retribution was enforced against those convicted of poisoning. On the 5th of April, 1531, John Roose, a cook, was boiled to death in Smithfield, for administering poisoned pottage, or gruel, to seventeen persons at the Bishop of Rochester's palace, from the effects of which two died, and the majority of the remainder never regained their health. In 1541, Margaret Davie, a young woman, suffered in the same place and manner for poisoning her mistress and other persons.

It has already been stated that Fitzstephen described Smithfield to have been a market for the sale of live stock in the reign of Henry II.; and in 1315 it was recognised as a cattle-market by the city authorities, who made regulations for its government. But it was not till the reign of William III. that a charter for holding a cattle-market in Smithfield was obtained by the city.



since which time Smithfield has not been diverted from its business objects by any pageants more splendid than those which Bartholomew Fair can supply. The cattle-market is held on Monday and Friday, that on the former day being the most important. In Smithfield-market there were sold in the year 1848, 280,000 beasts; 1,291,770 sheep and lambs; 28,856 calves; and 27,350 pigs; reaching an average value of £6,594,977. On the afternoon of every Friday a horse-market is held here, but more noted for knackers than for high mettled racers: the number of horses exposed for sale in 1848 was 12,867. On the days not appropriated to cattle, there is likewise a hay and straw-market: there were 18,537 loads of hay, and 1,751 of straw sold in 1848. The last association that need be named in connection with Smithfield, is *Bartholomew Fair*. Stow says, that to the priory of St. Bartholomew (now the Hospital), "King Henry II. granted the privilege of a fair to be kept yearly at Bartholomew tide, to wit, the eve, the day, and the morn, to which the clothiers of England and the drapers of London repaired and had their booths." The time of the fair's duration soon became extended, for Stow relates that in his time three days were set apart for business, and the rest "to see drolls, farces, rope-dancing, feats of activity, wonderful and monstrous creatures, wild beasts made tame, giants, &c." The fair becoming a great nuisance, many efforts were made to suppress it, and these were so far successful that since 1840 the fair has only been a nominal one, composed of some half-dozen stalls; and, stripped of its tinsel grandeur, its advent and departure pass unnoticed. One instance of a particular branch of business adhering to the same locality is connected with this fair. On the east side of Smithfield there is a narrow lane chiefly occupied by clothiers or woollen drapers, and which retains the name of *Cloth Fair*. On this spot was formerly the ancient churchyard of the priory, within which the clothiers had their booths and standings. From this part of Smithfield

Duke-street extends to Bluecoat-buildings. *Duke-street* is an elegant corruption of *Duck-lane*, a famous neighbourhood for old book-shops.

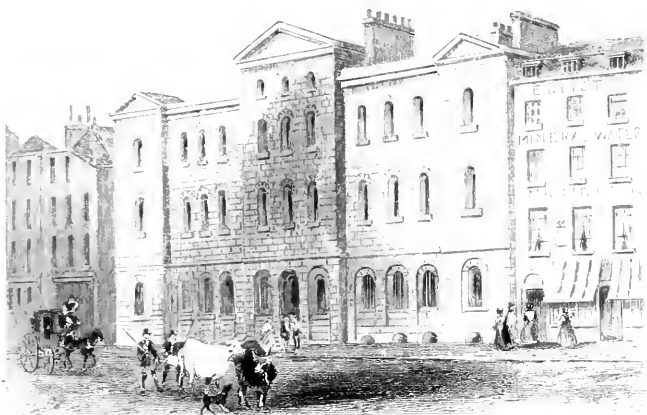
Emerging from *Smithfield* on the west side, we arrive at *Giltspur-street*, thus named according to *Stow*, "because of the knights, who in quality of their honour, wore gilt spurs, and who, with others, rode that way to the tournament, and other feats of arms used in *Smithfield*." The *Compter* in this street was built according to a plan suggested by the philanthropic *Howard*. It is exclusively confined to the city of *London*, and is a prison for offenders previous to trial, and a house of correction for such as have been convicted and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, from one month to two years. It is also used for persons committed for assaults, night-charges, disorderly persons, vagrants, and prisoners remanded for future examination.

Descending from *Giltspur-street*, in a continuous line, is the *Old Bailey*, at the end of which, *Ludgate-street*, on the east, conducts us back to our original point, *St. Paul's Cathedral*; having arrived at which we will now explore another of the many roads which radiate from this centre.

CHAPTER XI.

WATLING-STREET—BREAD-STREET—GERARD'S HALL—QUEEN STRET—WALBROOK—BUCKLERSBURY—CANNON-STREET—LONDON STONE—EASTCHEAP—THAMES-STREET—BAYNARD CASTLE—BILLINGSGATE—COAL EXCHANGE, ETC.

On the south-east corner of *St. Paul's churchyard* is the entrance to *Watling-street*, remarkable for indicating the site of the ancient Roman road crossing England, from *Dover* to *Cardigan*. This famous road commenced at



Dover, whence it traversed Barham Downs, Canterbury, Harbledown, Broughton, Judde Hill, Stowe, Beacon Hill, Bapchild, and Sittingbourne, to the Roman station of Durolevin, the positive site of which is unknown. Thence it ascended Chatham Hill to Durocobrivum, or Rochester, where there was a ferry across the Medway; thence by Cobham Park, and on to the Roman station of Noviomagus, believed to have been near Crayford, and over Bexley Heath, Shooter's Hill, and the borders of Blackheath towards Lewisham, to Kent-street, Southwark. Thence was a ferry from Dowgate-wharf, and the road continued through Watling-street and Aldersgate-street to Islington; and by St. Alban's and Dunstable, through the country to Cardigan. A few yards below Watling-street is *Little Carter-lane*, beyond which is *Sermon-lane*, an odd perversion of Sheremoniers-lane, where the silver money was prepared, cut and rounded for the coiners of the Old Change. On the north of Watling-street is *Old Change*, a short street running into Cheapside. The back of St. Paul's School chiefly covers its west side, and opposite are the extensive business premises of Messrs. Leaf and Co., who hold rank among the largest warehousemen in this vast city. At the southwestern corner is the church of *St. Nicholas*, the parochial church of Old Fish-street, thus named from being a locality for fishmongers, and the spot in which two of their halls were situate. Proceeding along Watling-street we come to that point where it is intersected by *Bread-street*, from which an extensive city ward takes its name. In ancient times this was the bread-market, a statute of Edward I., passed in the year 1302, prohibiting the bakers from selling bread in their shops and houses, and restricting the sale of that commodity to the market in this street. Buckingham House, the town mansion of the Earls of Wiltshire and Dukes of Buckingham, was in this street. Here there was also formerly a gaol belonging to the Sheriffs, called the Bread-street Compter, the prisoners from which were

removed in 1555 to a new compter in Wood-streed. This measure was adopted on account of the cruel manner in which the keeper treated his captives. The poet Milton was born in Bread-street, but the house of his nativity was destroyed in the great fire in 1666. The churches of *St. Mildred* and *All Hallows*, built by Sir Christopher Wren, are in Bread-street, the northern wall of the latter being in *Watling-street*. The last-named church was erected in 1684, and consists of a plain body with a square tower, 86 feet high, divided into four stages near the top. The church that previously occupied this spot was consumed by the great fire, and is memorable as the sacred edifice in which Milton received the baptismal rite. Upon a stone in the external wall of the existing fabric in *Watling-street*, is the following inscription :—

“Three poets, in three distant ages born,
Greece, Italy, and England did adorn ;
The first in loftiness of thought surpast,
The next in majesty, in both the last ;
The force of nature could no further go,
To make a third, she joined the former two !”

John Milton was born in Bread-street, on Friday, the 9th December, 1698 ; and was baptized in the parish church of All Hallows, Bread-street, on the 20th of December, 1698.” Adjacent to Bread-street is *Basing-lane*, which Stow supposes to have been a corruption of Bakehouse, from the circumstance of bakers living there in the reign of Richard II. The inn known by the name of *Gerard's Hall* is a place of some celebrity. A tradition attaches to this place the scene of the adventures of that fabulous hero, Gerard the Giant. In Gerard's Hall there was kept for a long time a huge fir pole some thirty or forty feet in length, with this the redoubtable monster used to sally forth to battle, as also a ladder by which he sometimes allowed the pigmy order of mankind to ascend to the top of his faulehion to take a bird's-eye view of the metropolis. “Gerard's Hall,” says Stow, “is a corruption of Gisors' Hall, once the property of Sir John

Gisors, Lord Mayor of London in 1311; the giant's faulchion nothing but an old May-pole; and the ladder the same which was used to deck the said May-pole when erected on the green." Remains of the ancient hall erected by Sir John Gisors, may be still seen here by descending a stair-case about twenty feet below the level of Basing-lane. Here are the original vaultings of the foundation supported by sixteen pillars: the apartment appears like an ancient crypt, and forms part of the cellaring of the inn.

The next street running into Watling-street is *Bow-lane*, which from the trade once carried on in it, was called *Cordwainer-street*, afterwards was inhabited by hosiers, and took the name of *Hosier-lane*; and its present title it owes to its proximity to Bow Church. On its eastern side is the parish of St. Mary, Aldermary. Richard Chaucer, citizen and vintner, the father of our first English poet of renown, bestowed upon the old church, (destroyed in the fire of London), his tenement and tavern at the corner of Kerion-lane, now *Maiden-lane*. Watling-street is next intersected by *Queen-street*, the north end running into Cheapside, the south to Southwark Bridge. Formerly the upper part was called *Sopar-lane*, after Allen le Sopar, owner of the land in the reign of Edward II. Here the pepperers, or spice dealers, generally resided. The lower portion of the street was called *Broad-lane*, and was made soon after the fire in 1666 to afford a direct passage from Guildhall to the Thames, whence the Lord Mayor and Sheriff's were accustomed to embark on the 9th of November, to take the customary oaths at Whitehall. Watling-street is continued by *Budge-row*, so called from having been the residence of dealers in *budge*, or lamb-skin furs. As great alterations are being made in this neighbourhood in order to widen the streets, and places rich in historic interest are being covered with new edifices, we must premise that some of the places we are now about to name will have materially changed their appearance, and that antiquity

must make way for "city improvements," before the close of 1851. Opposite the parish church of St. Antholin in this street, is a street named *Tower Royal*, on the site of a tower built by Henry I., and where, Stowe relates, King Stephen resided. Edward III. sojourned some time in it. Here the Princess Joan, widow of the Black Prince withdrew, when Wat Tyler and his adherents were in strength, and had gained possession of the Tower; and here she was found by her son, the juvenile monarch, after he had quelled the excesses of the mob. In *Tower Royal*, Richard II., in 1386, appropriated apartments to Leon III., King of Armenia, who had been expelled his kingdom by the Turks, and took refuge in England. Richard treated him with the utmost munificence, loaded him with gifts, and settled on the unfortunate prince a thousand pounds a year for life, which he did not long live to enjoy, dying at Paris in 1393. In the reign of Richard III. *Tower Royal* was granted to one of his staunchest supporters, the Duke of Norfolk, who made it his residence. After the reign of Elizabeth, the once favoured abode of kings, princesses, and nobles, dwindled into tenements and stables, which were swept away by the fire of London, after which the present buildings arose. *Dowgate-hill*, now covered with warehouses, was the point at which stood one of the Roman gates, through which was the way for passengers who took boats at the *trajectus* or ferry, into the continuation of the military way towards Dover. The Britons are supposed to have given it the name of *Dwr*, or *Dwy*, water; and the Saxons added the word *Gate*, which signifies way. It became a famous wharf, and was called the port of *Downgate*. In the reigns of Henry III. and Edward III. customs were ordered to be paid by ships resting there. Near *Dowgate* runs, concealed, into the Thames the ancient *Wal-brook*, or river of Wells, mentioned in a chart of William the Conqueror to the College of St. Martin's-le Grand. It rises to the north of *Moorfields* and traversed through *London Wall*, between *Bishop-gate* and *Moor-gate*, and ran through

the city. For a considerable period it was entirely open, and had over it several bridges which were maintained by the priors of several religious edifices and others. Between two and three centuries ago it was vaulted over with brick, the top paved and formed into a street. This street, which divides Budge-row and Cannon-streecet, extends into Cheapside. At the north end is the beautiful church of *St. Stephen*, which has been esteemed the master-piece of Sir Christopher Wren, and the admirable proportions of which have lately been brought out by a judicious and well-timed process of restoration. The fine painting of the martyrdom of St. Stephen, by Mr. West, is placed over the altar. The steeple rises square to a considerable height, and is then surrounded by a balustrade within, from which a very light and graceful tower arises on two stages; the first adorned with Corinthian, the second with Composite columns, covered with a dome. The roof within, over the central aisle, is arched and supported by columns and pilasters of the Corinthian order; there are three aisles and a cross aisle. The roof and the cupola are adorned with an entablature, and arches ornamented with shields, palm-branches, roses of fret-work, and panels of crocket-work. The walls are wainscoted ten feet high, having the Grocers' Arms in a handsome compartment of palm-branches. At the north end of the cross-aisle is a door-case elaborately adorned with various kind of fruits and leaves, and at the west end another equally magnificent. The appearance of the entire edifice, upon first entering, has a very imposing effect, the eye being attracted by every part at once, the columns excepted, which are concealed by the carving on the tops of the pews. Nearly opposite to the church is *Bucklersbury*, called after a person named Buckle, who had here a large stone manorial dwelling. Formerly it was chiefly inhabited by grocers and druggists, the latter being also herbalists, and their houses during the ravages of the plague were generally free from its visitations. To "smell like Bucklersbury in simple time," is a

phrase employed by Shakspeare. The perfume of spices and other aromatic articles, has been supposed by Monfet to have preserved this street from the fearful ravages of the pestilence. Bucklersbury is now the seat of a particular traffic, for which, from its quiet and secluded situation, although in the very heart of the city, it is well adapted. Here, in those brief intervals in the middle of the day, when the toils of business are for awhile suspended, the citizens, clerks, and others employed in the commercial hive retire to the numerous eating-houses, taverns, and coffee-houses, which constitute the staple trade of this locality. Dinner in Bucklersbury is a matter of high importance, and it would be no uninteresting index to the vast consumption of food in the city, if the dining statistics of this street of bill of fares were published. At one o'clock in the afternoon its restaurants are literally crowded with consumers, who require no supernatural, or far-fetched zest to create an appetite.

We return through Walbrook to *Cannon-street*, which is a perversion of Canwick or Candlewick-street, in early times the residence of candlemakers. Here also weavers of woollen cloth carried on their business; having been invited from Flanders by Edward III. They held their meetings in the church-yard of St. Lawrence, Poultry. According to Stow, there were at that time in Cannon-street, "Weavers of drapery, tapery, and napery." The church of *St. Swithin* is situated at the south-west corner of St. Swithin's-lane, in Cannon-street. The present structure was built by Sir Christopher Wren. The most singular memorial in connection with this edifice is the *London Stone*. This relic of antiquity is supposed to have been a Roman milliarium in the line of the great road to Watling-street; similar to that in the forum at Rome, where all the highways of the country met in a point, and from which they were measured. The rebel Jack Cade, on his victorious progress through London, struck this stone with his sword, exclaiming, "Now is Mortimer

lord of this city, and here, sitting upon London Stone, I charge and command that of the city's cost the priory conduit run nothing but claret wine this first year of our reign, and now henceforward it shall be treason for any one that calls me other than Lord Mortimer." Upon important occasions it was usual for the conduits to flow with red wine at the expense of the city, and it is evident that, abolitionist as he was, Jack Cade had no desire to put down this relic of costly conviviality. This stone has been, and continues to be, preserved with great care. It is placed in the south wall of St. Swithin's church, being cased with another stone cut hollow, so that the ancient one may be open to inspection without being exposed to injury. Originally it stood on the other side of the street, but in 1742 it was placed on the edge of the curb on the north side. In 1798, when St. Swithin's Church was repaired, it was condemned as a nuisance, and narrowly escaped destruction; but this act of Vandalism was prevented by Mr. Maiden, a printer in Sherborn-lane, at whose instance the parochial authorities inserted it in the church wall, where it is now seen. In 1598 the mansion of the Veres, Earls of Oxford, stood in *Saint Swithin's-lane*, and was called Oxford-place. Contiguous to the garden of this edifice were the houses of Empson and Dudley, the favourites of Henry VII., and whose oppressions and cruel exactions weighed heavily upon the people. When Henry VIII. ascended the throne, with an affected hatred of tyranny, which it is to be regretted his subsequent career did not confirm, he caused these men to be tried for their rapacious and unjust actions during the reign of his predecessor. They were condemned to be hanged, drawn, and quartered, a sentence which was carried into effect on Tower Hill. In Saint Swithin's-lane is *New-court*, of monetary celebrity, as containing the offices of that merchant and Israelitish *millionaire*, Baron Rothschild. Cannon-street is continued by *East-cheap*, the only existing portion of which is now on the east side of King William-street. Though modern East-

cheap presents no feature more striking than that of a wide well-appointed street of business, to ancient Eastcheap some very interesting histories belong ; and of its olden glories, Shakspeare has not disdained to be a chronicler. Eastcheap was not merely memorable for being the scene of the revels of our fifth Harry, when Prince of Wales, and of the facetious and unctuous knight, Sir John Falstaff ; it was also famous for the number of its eating-houses, as we learn by Lydgate's song of the "London Lickpenny," written in the reign of Henry V. In making way for the approaches to the New Bridge, the Boar's Head, in Eastcheap, which till then indicated the precise position of the celebrated tavern in which Prince Harry and his rollicking associates were wont to make merry, was removed with all the houses to the eastern end of the street. Under the sign of the Boar's Head was inscribed, "This is the oldest Tavern in London." From Eastcheap there is a direct line of communication to Tower Hill, and the metropolitan suburbs lying in the far east, at which we must hereafter give a cursory glance.

In a parallel line with Watling-street, Cannon-street, and Eastcheap, is *Thames-street*, lying between these streets and the Thames ; and from its being so adjacent to the river, is in great repute for its wharfs and warehouses. It is a very long street, being about a mile in extent, narrow at its western end, but gradually increasing in width as it approaches its eastern extremity. It was formerly a street of very great distinction, and retains, to this day, some of its early importance, a few of the public buildings being situate in the locality. At the western end of this street on the shore of the Thames were formerly two celebrated castles,—Mountfitchet and Castle Baynard, and the latter gives its name to the city ward in which it was placed. Castle Baynard was originally built by William Baynard, an adventurous soldier, who accompanied William the Conqueror to England. The Baynards incurring the displeasure of Henry I., their

possessions were confiscated, and the castle given to the Earl of Clare, from whom it passed into the family of Robert, Baron Fitzwalter, a nobleman who, Matthew Paris says, signalised himself by leading the armed Barons who came to King John in the Temple, demanding those reforms which were afterwards embodied in that reluctantly-granted concession—Magna Charta. In 1428 the castle was destroyed by fire, and was rebuilt by Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, into whose hands it had passed. Upon the death and attainder of this prince it was made a royal palace by Henry VI., and here the Earl of March was proclaimed King under the title of Edward IV. His unhappy son, Edward V., was also proclaimed here. Chiefly, however, as the residence of Richard III., a prince who, notwithstanding the enormities imputed to him, has not been without his apologists, it is famed. Shakspeare describes this castle as being the abode of Richard when the citizens of London came to offer him the crown, and which, after great apparent unwillingness to assume the heavy responsibilities of royalty, he consents to accept, in these words, addressed to his adherent Buckingham :

“ Will you enforce me to a world of cares ?

Well, call them again, I am not made of stone,
But penetrable to your kind entreaties,
Albeit against my conscience and my soul.”

Henry VII. beautified and renovated this castle, and frequently lodged here. A grant of it was subsequently made by the crown to the Earl of Pembroke, and here on the 19th of July, 1553, the council, under the guidance of that nobleman, determined to abandon the cause of Lady Jane Grey, and to proclaim Queen Mary, which was forthwith done in various parts of the city. The last residents here were the Earls of Shrewsbury, who lived in the castle till it was reduced to ashes in the conflagration of 1666. It is represented in an old picture of London as a square pile encompassing a court, many towers arising above it. In the centre of the south side a large gate-

way led to the river by a bridge of two arches and stairs. Its site is now covered with wharfs and warehouses.

The next place of interest in this street upon the Thames bank is *Queenhithe*, the original name of which was *Edred's-hithe*, which probably existed in the time of the Saxons. This was one of the places for large boats and even ships to discharge their lading, for there was a drawbridge in one part of London Bridge which was occasionally pulled up to admit the passage of large vessels. When this hithe fell into King Stephen's hands, he gave it to William de Ypres, by whom it was bestowed upon the convent of the Holy Trinity, near Aldgate. It reverted to the crown in the time of Henry III., when it acquired its present name, being called *Ripa Reginae*, the Queen's Wharf. That king compelled the ships of the Cinque Ports to bring their corn here, and to no other place. Pennant suggests that the revenue thus derived was part of her Majesty's pin money. In the same reign Richard, Earl of Cornwall, became possessor of *Queenhithe*, which in consideration of an annuity, he conveyed to the mayor and corporation of London. The wharf is now an extensive one, where corn, flour, malt, and other dry goods are landed. It gives its name to the ward in which it is located.

Proceeding up Thames-street we reach *Suffolk-lane*, in which is situate *Merchant Tailor's School*, founded in 1561 by the company on a piece of ground formerly called the Manor of the Rose, belonging to the Duke of Buckingham. Here 300 boys receive a classical education; the statutes of this institution providing that one hundred boys shall be instructed at five shillings per quarter, fifty at half-a-crown a quarter, and the remainder gratuitously. Sir Thomas White, a member of the Merchant Tailors' Company, and Lord Mayor in 1553, founded Saint John's College, Oxford, the scholarships of which are regularly supplied from this school, besides 46 fellowships. Among those educated at this school, have been three archbishops (Juxon, Dawes, and Gilbert), eight bishops, several judges,

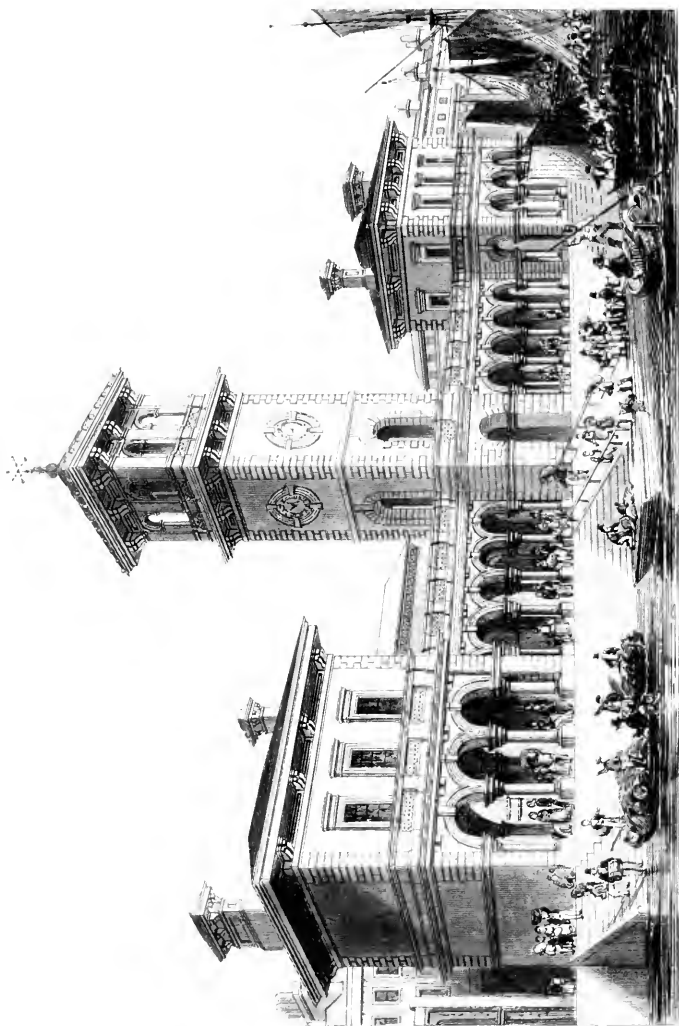


FIG. 1. A. E. G. P. L.

and a vast number of eminent literary men. Opposite to this lane is *Cold Harbour-lane*, the original name of which was probably Coal Harbour, a landing-place or wharf for coals. A magnificent mansion stood upon this spot in the reign of Edward II., which was afterwards given to the Earl of Shrewsbury by Edward VI. Nearly at the end of this lane is the Church of *All-Hallows, Thames-street*, built in 1683. It contains a fine specimen of wrought work, a beautiful screen made at Hamburgh, and presented by the merchants exporting to the Hanse towns, who were the original occupants of the *Still* or *Steel Yard* on this spot, long famous as one of the great repositories of the iron imported into this country. Near London Bridge are several steam packet wharfs, whence steam-boats are constantly running to all parts of the river at very moderate charges. Passing under the arch of the bridge which spans Thames-street, another steam packet wharf is reached, whence vessels start for Gravesend, Margate, Newcastle, and other parts of the coast; also for the continent. We are now in that part of Thames-street called *Upper Thames-street*, a place which though small in extent, and inelegant in its approaches, contains some of our principal palaces of commerce; little, however, can be said of the architectural beauties of the fish-market, which do not abound more than classical language in the existing *Billingsgate*. But a new market-place is in the course of construction, which will be worthy of the improved taste of our age. To this market, which is the chief London depôt for fish, some of our antiquarians have attributed an origin far from ignoble. They say it was called *Belin's-gate*, or the gate of Belinus, King of Britain, fellow adventurer of Brennus, King of the Gauls, at the sacking of Rome 360 years before the Christian era. In the thirteenth, fourteenth, and for a considerable part of the fifteenth centuries, Queenhithe was the only place at which fish was permitted to be landed, and the fish-market was held in a street, the name of which still perpetuates that fact, Old Fish-street. In 1164 the monopoly enjoyed by Queen-

hithe was trenched upon by a statute extending to Billingsgate, some of those privileges which had heretofore been exclusively enjoyed by the rival landing-place. In 1699 it was made by William III. a free port for fish, which might be sold there every day in the week except on Sunday. The value of the yearly consumption of fish in London is calculated to exceed one million sterling. Among the strange fish upon which our ancestors were wont to regale, may be named the porpoise and the seal.

THE NEW COAL EXCHANGE.

What a wonderful change a few centuries have wrought in the importance of the coal-trade. In 1238 a charter was first granted by Henry III. to the town of Newcastle, authorising its inhabitants to dig for coals, but seventy years afterwards a royal proclamation was issued prohibiting the use of coal for fuel, because it was detrimental to the sale of wood, which, previous to the discovery of the mineral wealth of Newcastle, had been used for that purpose. Now coal forms not only one of the necessaries of life, but is the generator of our best artificial light, an indispensable agent for the development of steam-power, and one of the country's most profitable sources of revenue. In 1845 the quantity of coal brought into the port of London was 3,403,320 tons. The old Coal Exchange was erected in 1805 in Lower Thames-street at the corner of St. Mary-at-Hill, opposite Billingsgate. Previously to 1807, this Exchange was the property of private individuals, after which it passed to the Lord Mayor and Corporation of London. The *New Coal Exchange*, which covers the same site, was erected after the designs of Mr. J. B. Bunning, the architect, the contractor for the building of the edifice being Mr. Trego. The total cost of the structure was £41,487 6s. 8d. In excavating the old Exchange for the erection of the new one, at the base thereof were discovered the remains of a Roman bath. The front of the Exchange in Thames-street and St. Mary-at-Hill, are severally 112 feet wide by 61 feet high.

At the angle of the building formed by these two streets is a circular tower, divided into three stories, 109 feet high to the top of a gilded ball, and 22 feet in diameter at the lowest part. The lowest story, containing the entrance vestibule is in the Roman-Doric style of architecture. The wall of the tower also serves as a centre to a flight of steps which conduct on either hand to a landing on the first story of the building, and thence a spiral staircase ascends up in the tower to the other stories. The first story is of the Ionic order, with an entablature, and is lighted by windows. The upper story, 15 feet in diameter, is ornamented by pilasters, entablature, and windows, and is covered with a conical roof surmounted with a gilded ball. The interior is singularly beautiful. It forms a circular area 60 feet in diameter, above which, at the height of 80 feet rises a dome, from the eye of which a lesser eupola ascends to the altitude of 74 feet. The roof is sustained by eight piers, the space between each of which is separated by stanchions into three compartments, and the circumference of the hall is spanned by three galleries, from which entrance is gained into the offices of the buildings. In this fabric 300 tons of iron are used, each of the 32 ribs weighing two tons. The frame-work to the offices is of wood, and panelled with rough plate glass, so that they may receive light from the great dome. The dome itself is glazed with large pieces of roughened plate glass of great thickness, and the small upper domes contain glass of a yellow tint. The chief public offices surrounding the Rotunda are appropriated to the corporation officers who have to collect the coal dues, the factors' board-room, the weighers' society, and to the merchants and factors. The flooring of the area, which is sixty feet in diameter is composed of desiccated wood, and is arranged in the form of a gigantic mariner's compass—the needle pointing due north, to the left of the entrance. In the centre is the city shield, the anchor, and other devices, in brilliant colours. The prevailing hues of the floor are dark, and light brown and white,

tastefully arranged, and the whole consists of upwards of 4,000 pieces. The woods employed are black ebony, black oak, common and red English oak, wainscot, white holly, mahogany, American elm, red and white walnut (French and English), and mulberry. The black oak is part of an old tree which was discovered and removed from the bed of the river Tyne. It is supposed to have grown upon the spot where it was found, and owing to its large dimensions, must have been 400 or 500 years old at the time it fell. The mulberry wood introduced in the blade of the dagger in the city shield also possesses some historical interest, being a portion of a tree planted by Peter the Great, when working as a shipwright in this country. The walls of the interior are embellished with coloured decorations, representing vases with fruit, arabesque foliage, &c., and on the panels are painted figures symbolical of Wisdom, Fortitude, Vigilance, Temperance, Perseverance, Watchfulness, Justice, and Faith. Newcastle, Sunderland, Wallsend Colliery, the air-shaft at Wallsend, Shields, the Percy Main pit, and other appropriate illustrations of coal, and of the rich fields in which this profitable material of commerce, this veritable fire-side comfort is gathered, also grace the walls.

The Coal Exchange was opened with great pomp and splendour on the 30th of October, 1849: the ceremony was to have been performed by Queen Victoria, but her majesty being prevented from attending, the office was deputed to her illustrious consort, Prince Albert. His royal highness, accompanied by the Prince of Wales and the Princess Royal took water at Whitehall Stairs, and landed at the Custom House Quay, the royal water pageant being one of the most splendid civic spectacles ever witnessed, and the day being regarded throughout town as a holiday. His royal highness, surrounded by all the great officers of state, the civic authorities, the Duke of Wellington, the late Sir Robert Peel, and a glittering galaxy of rank and beauty, opened the new exchange with an appropriate speech. The Exchange had been most

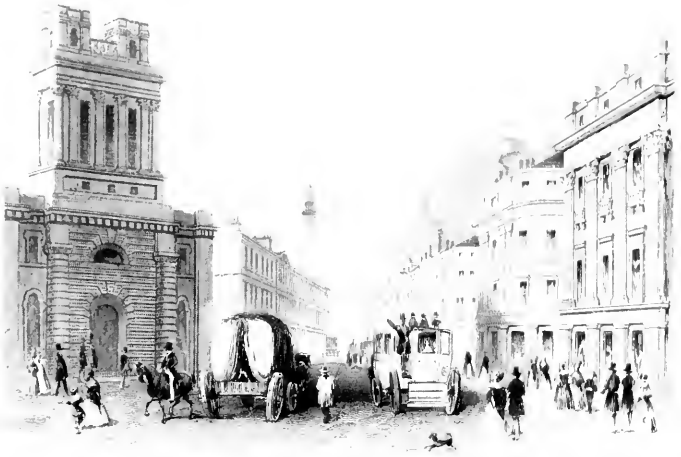
gorgeously fitted up in anticipation of a visit from the Queen to the city. The throne occupied three divisions under the gallery; the exterior covering was of rich crimson drapery, with trimmings of gold lace; a vallance of the same material suspended from a cornice formed the canopy. The dais was also of crimson velvet, finished with a golden fringe. The back interior of the centre compartment of the throne was of white fluted satin, with a fall of white muslin, bearing the royal arms in the centre. The state chairs had massive gold frames, and crimson velvet backs; over that of the Prince of Wales was a silvery plume of spun glass feathers. The royal retiring rooms were hung with alternate flutings of pink and white satin. The windows were ornamented with crimson, green, and gold tapestry curtains, and the sofas and chairs were of gold, their seats and backs corresponding with the curtains. This grand ceremonial terminated with a splendid banquet. In describing the Coal Exchange we have been more diffuse than is our wont, but the recent date of its opening, and the magnificent pageant connected therewith reviving some of those brilliant associations of the olden time with which the city is identified, will justify us for departing from the rule by which, during our perambulations, we are generally guided.

On the same side as the Coal Exchange are *Harp-lane*, *Water-lane*, and some other respectable streets ascending into Tower-street. On the river side of Lower Thames-street, adjoining Billingsgate, is the *Custom House*, a description of which will be found in another part of this work. Lower Thames-street extends to Tower Hill, and also to the end of this chapter.

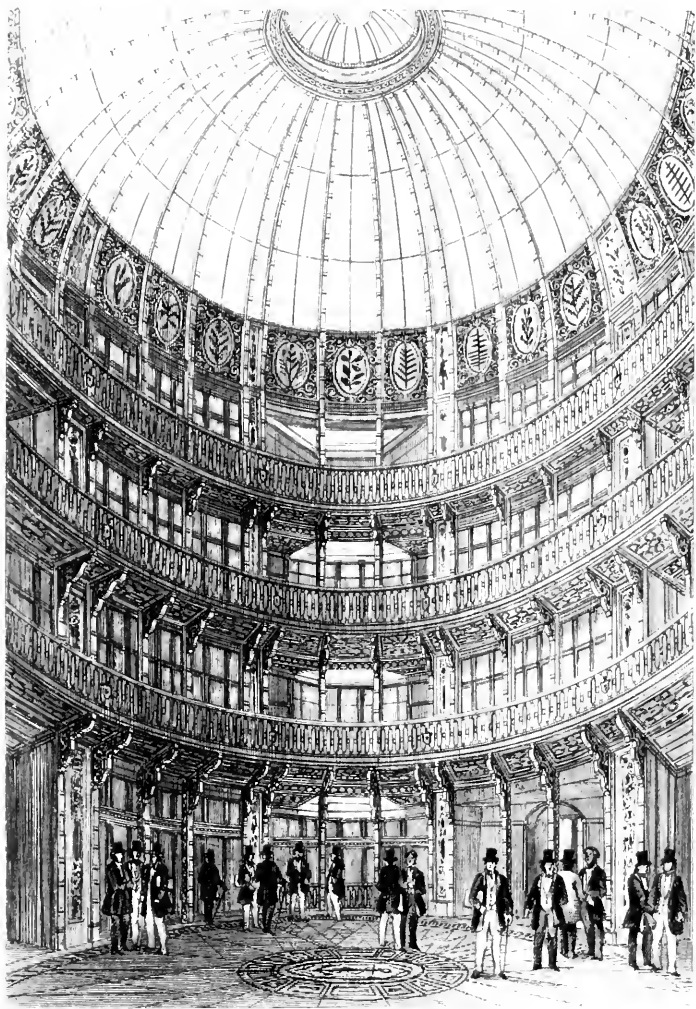
CHAPTER XII.

CHEAPSIDE—BOW CHURCH—WOOD-STREET—MILK-STREET—
HONEY LANE—KING-STREET—GUILDHALL—BASINGHALL-
STREET—OLD JEWRY—COLEMAN-STREET—POULTRY, ETC.

AGAIN we must make St. Paul's Churchyard our starting point, at the north-east corner of which a broad avenue conducts to that famous city thoroughfare and street of handsome shops, *Cheapside*. Cheapside is bounded on the west by Paternoster-row, Newgate-street, and St. Paul's; on the east by Lombard-street and Cornhill; on the north by St. Martin's-le-Grand and Aldersgate-street; and on the south by Watling-street and Thames-street. Though the progressive migration of fashionable society westward has denuded Cheapside of that aristocratic repute which appertained to the ancient "Chepe," it still abounds in chivalric and romantic reminiscences of the olden times, when it was a place of tournaments and royal festivals, and gallant knights, on barbed steeds, careered over the selfsame ground now pressed, from "dewy morn to silent eve," by cabs and omnibuses. A shadowy vestige of its past grandeur is annually recalled by the civic procession on the ninth of November, the prime holiday of the citizens. In the year 1246 this (now) great seat of commerce was an open field called Crown-field, from an inn with the sign of a crown at the east end. It was subsequently called Chepe, a market, as originally the great street of splendid shops. Under the name of West Cheap it was anciently the leading thoroughfare of old London, and the scene, more than any other street, of the numerous fêtes and pageants in which our forefathers delighted. The Standard, the great Conduit of the city, the cross, founded by King Edward I. in memory of the Queen Eleanor, once stood here. The Standard was situate



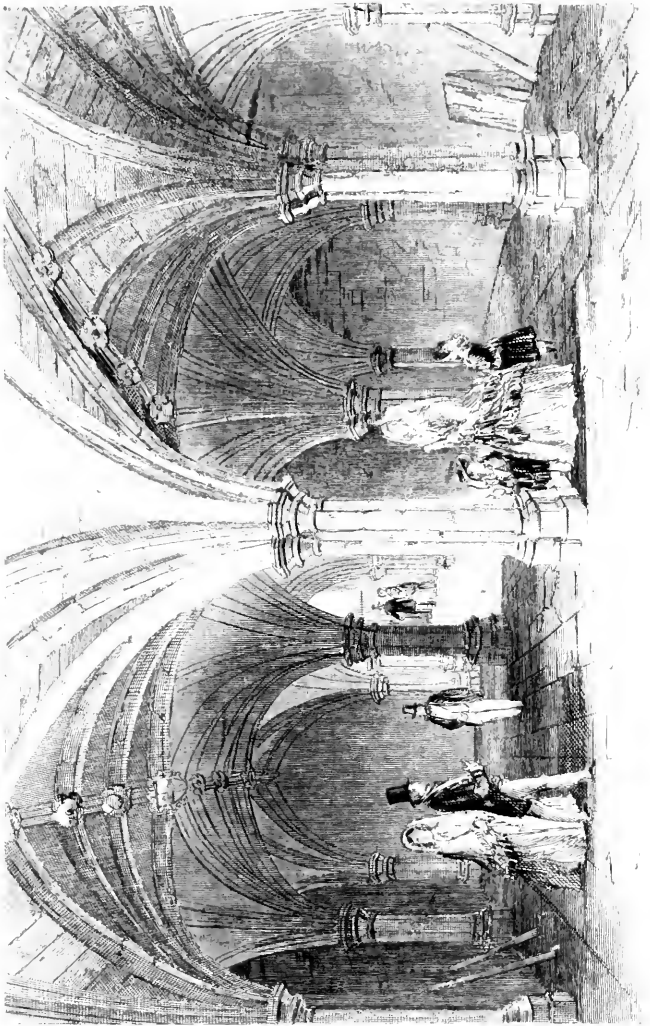




in Honey-lane, but the time of its original construction is unknown. Here penal sentences were frequently inflicted. The Conduit was commenced between 1281 and 1284. Heretofore Walbrook, the Fleet, the river of Wells, and other small streams intersecting it, had supplied the city with water, but these being inadequate, a grant was obtained of sundry springs near St. Mary's Bourn, now Marylebone, whence water was to be, through leaden pipes, impelled into the conduits or reservoirs. Of these the principal one was in Cheapside, the building of which occupied forty-eight years. It was rebuilt in 1479 by one of the sheriffs, and remained in use till it was superseded by the successful but ill-requited enterprise of Sir Hugh Middelton for supplying water to the metropolis. It was destroyed in the fire of 1666. The Cross, which has been named, placed here by Edward I. in memory of his queen, was erected in 1290. In the reign of Henry VI. it was reconstructed, and elaborately ornamented with images of the Virgin Mary and other objects of Roman Catholic worship. Whenever a sovereign publicly visited the city it was regilded and burnished. In 1643, by command of the Parliament, it was destroyed by Sir Robert Harlow, a fierce and barbarous Puritan, who, accompanied by troops of horse and foot, razed to the ground the obnoxious monument of the conjugal tenderness of one of England's greatest warrior-kings. The scenes witnessed in Cheapside are identified with some of the most important events of British history; the feuds of rival companies, the forays of 'prentices, and the ferocious exploits of rebellious mobs. About 1328 conflicts frequently arose between gangs of armed banditti and persons whom they tried to rob in the open day; an evil which was so seriously felt that the citizens, becoming special constables, formed a combination for mutual protection, and captured several of the felon ringleaders, who were summarily executed in Cheapside without trial, their accomplices retreating to the Surrey side of the water. In Cheapside Wat Tyler's mob decapitated several persons, and upon

the same spot Lord Saye and Sele was assassinated by Jack Cade. One of the most prominent and beautiful objects in Cheapside is the parish church of St. Mary-le-Bow, usually called *Bow Church*, a most elaborate performance of Sir Christopher Wren. The church, thus originally named, was erected in the reign of William I., and called New Mary Church; subsequently the addition of *de arcubus*, or le-bow, was made. The steeple was not completed til 1512, when arches, bews, and lanterns were incorporated with it. In 1666, the church and steeple were consumed by fire, and the present edifice was built in 1673. In 1819, it having been ascertained that the steeple was in a dangerous condition, it was taken down and re-erected on the same model. We have already referred to some of the interesting incidents connected with this sacred pile. The principal streets on the south side of Cheapside communicating with Watling-street have been alluded to. Of those on the north a brief notice is requisite. A most conspicuous landmark to *Wood-street* is a noble elm tree at the corner, which rears its leafy spires above the summit of its neighbouring houses, and in which, sometimes, the rare spectacle of a rook's nest is seen. Wordsworth, in his poem of "Poor Susan," has beautifully introduced this tree, as recalling to the harmless maniac, visions of the pleasant woods and fields of her native place, which she may never more behold. The church of *St. Alban*, in this street, is one of the most venerable foundations in London. According to Stow, the first church that stood here was in the reign of King Athelstan, the Saxon, who ascended the throne about 924. Old legends tell that his house was the east end thereof, with a door communicating with Adel-street, to which it gave the name, now degenerated into Addle-street. This street is principally occupied by Manchester and other warehousemen. *Milk-street* is permanently famous as the birth-place of Sir Thomas More; and nearly adjacent is *Honey-lane* and its market, which occupy the site of two parish churches destroyed by the fire of 1666. Lawrence-



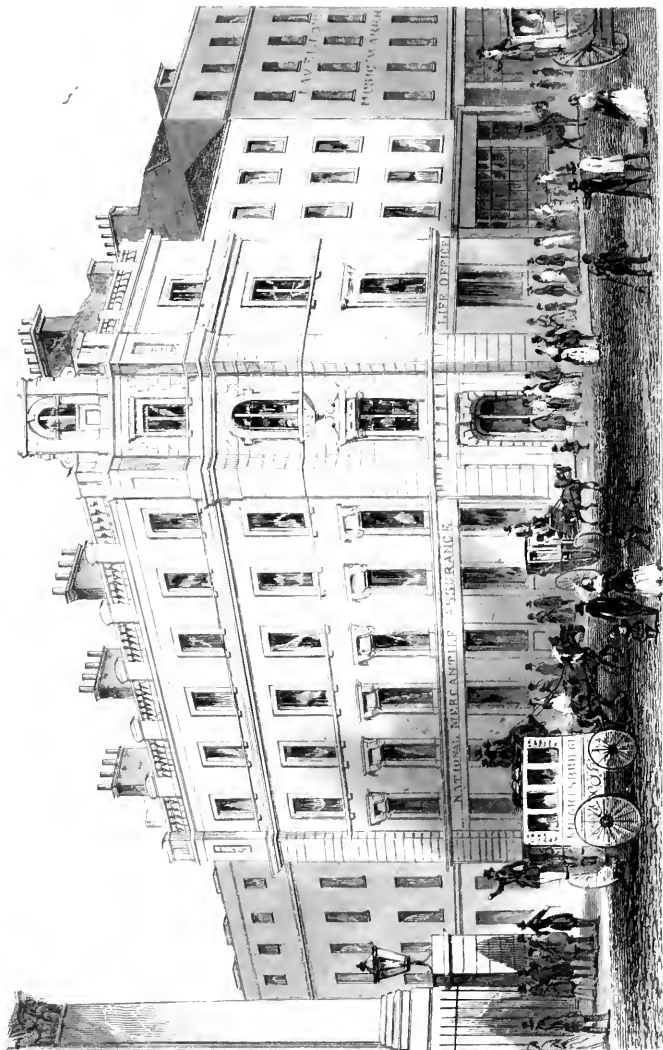


lane, a thoroughfare of business, takes its name from the saint, who is further perpetuated by a noble church in Gresham-street. We now reach *King-street*, a spacious street which, intersecting Gresham-street, forms the principal approach to

GUILDHALL,

the judicial palace of the city potentate, and the seat of municipal government. The Guildhall, prior to 1411, was a small cottage in Aldermanbury. In the above year a more appropriate structure was commenced, but in the present front no part of the ancient building is preserved, except the central archway and its sustaining columns. Among those who contributed towards its erection was Sir Richard Whittington, at whose cost it was paved with Purbeck stone. Progressive additions were made to it until the commencement of the sixteenth century. Considerable injury was inflicted on it by the great fire, which consumed its out-offices, but it was substantially restored at an outlay of £3,000. Early in the eighteenth century, in 1789, in 1790, and finally in 1837, repairs and additions were made to it. The front now consists of three divisions, separated by fluted piers terminating above the parapet, in pinnacles of three gradations, crowned with firebosses, and ornamented with a kind of scalloped battlement. The piers of the porch have oblong and pointed pannels, with an inverted arch battlement above, continued along the parapet over the archway. The parapet of the roof is similarly decorated, and the central divisions sustain the armorial bearings of the city, supported by large dragons, with the motto *Domine Dirige Nos* inscribed in a compartment below. The dimensions of the great hall are, length 150 feet; breadth, 50 feet; and altitude, 55 feet; and it will contain nearly 7,000 persons. It is used for city elections (parliamentary and municipal), and for civic festivals and fêtes, the taste for which, while other ancient customs have fallen into desuetude, have been handed down undiminished to the present generation of citizens.

Both at the east and west end of the hall are magnificent windows. At each angle of the latter window are placed the gigantic figures of Gog and Magog, between which is a superb dial. These statues are 14 feet in height, and have, for nearly two centuries, kept their silent vigils in the hall. They are supposed to represent a Saxon and an ancient Briton. The walls are adorned with several tablets and monuments in honour of, among other distinguished personages, William Beckford, who was twice elected Lord Mayor, the Earl of Chatham, the Right Hon. William Pitt, and Lord Nelson. The following nine city courts are held in Guildhall:—the Court of Common Council, of Lord Mayor and Aldermen, of Hustings, of Orphans, of Sheriffs, of the Wardmote, of the Hallmote, and the Chamberlain's Court for the binding of Apprentices and giving them their freedom. The most splendid entertainment ever given in Guildhall was on the 18th of June, 1814, when the Prince Regent, and the allied sovereigns who came to England on the restoration of peace, paid a state visit to the city. The entire expense of the banquet and its brilliant accessories was estimated at £25,000. Adjoining the hall the chief apartment is the Common Council Chamber, the ceiling of which forms a cupola, with a lantern in its centre. Here the courts and meetings of the city parliament are held, the business of which, however, unlike that of St. Stephen's Chapel, is transacted in the day-time. In some of the chambers over the front of Guildhall is the city library, established in 1824 by the corporation, who made a preliminary grant of £500, and an annual allowance of £200 for books, of which there is now a most valuable collection, principally relating to the annals of the city. On the right-hand side of Guildhall are the new courts of Queen's Bench and Common Pleas, held, with the Court of Exchequer, at Guildhall three several times during each term, and on the next day but one after each term, from time immemorial. The city receives 3s. 6d. for each verdict given in these courts, in payment for the use of the buildings



provided.* The new courts are substantial brick buildings, erected on the site of Guildhall Chapel, opposite to which is the Justice Hall, where an alderman sits daily to hear complaints for that portion of the city which is west of King-street.

In the avenue leading from Guildhall to Basinghall-street, and opposite to the new courts, is the court for the Commissioners of Bankrupts. *Basinghall-street* is held in high reputation as a cloth-mart, and contains, besides, some of the city halls, the Lord Mayor's Court, the Secondaries' Court, and other public buildings. Returning to Cheapside, the next street of importance to inspect is the *Old Jewry*, so called after the great synagogue which stood upon the spot till the Jews were banished from England in 1291. Upon their expulsion the brothers of the Sack, or *de penitentia*, a monastic order, obtained possession of the Jewish temple, and by them, in 1305, it was assigned to Robert Fitzwalter, the great banner-bearer of the city. In 1439 it was occupied by Robert Large, Lord Mayor, who kept his mayoralty in the house, as did Sir Hugh Clapton in 1492. It subsequently was converted into a tavern called the Windmill. It is now a street of respectable houses of business, among which are several insurance offices, and extends to a point in Gresham-street, where it is continued by *Coleman-street*. This street, which is of considerable extent, runs towards London-wall and Fore-street, in the direction of Finsbury-square. On the west side, towards the southern extremity, is the church of *St. Stephen*, erected four years subsequently to the great fire, the roof of which is unsupported by pillars. Over the entrance-gate is a fine representation of the general resurrection carved in stone. Returning through the Old Jewry into Cheapside, we find ourselves at that point where the last named thoroughfare is joined by *The Poultry*, which is thus named from the poulterers' stalls that were once stationed here. In the Poultry was a court called Scalding-alley, where the fowls were scalded pre-

* A. C. Lee.

vious to their being exposed for sale. *St. Mildred's-court* stands upon its site. The original church of *St. Mildred* is said to have been erected by *Merowald*, the daughter of a Saxon prince. A subsequent church being destroyed in the fire of 1666, the present was raised ten years afterwards. From the *Poultry* we emerge into the very heart of the city of London.

CHAPTER XIII.

THE MANSION-HOUSE—THE CITY WARDS—THE BANK OF ENGLAND—THE ROYAL EXCHANGE—THE STOCK EXCHANGE, ETC.

BETWEEN the *Poultry* and that angle described by *Cornhill*, *Threadneedle-street* and *Broad-street*, are some of the most important national establishments which crowd this vast and wealthy city. Of these the *Mansion House*, as the official residence of that civic sovereign the Lord Mayor of London, claims appropriate precedence. In the time of the Conqueror, and till the reign of *Richard I.*, the name of the civil governor who had been called from time immemorial a *Portreve*, or *Portgrave*, or guardian of the port, remained the same. The citizens having advanced to *King Richard* a large sum of money in aid of his expedition to the Holy Land, that monarch permitted them in return to elect yearly two officers under the name of bailiffs or sheriffs, who were to supersede the *Portreve*. The two earliest appear to have been *Wolgarius* and *Geffry de Magnum*. In the following reign the office of Mayor, a title and office borrowed from the Norman *Maire*, was added. *Henry Fitzalwyn* was the first upon whom that distinction was conferred. *Henry III.* made a new form of

government for the city over which he appointed twenty-four citizens to preside. When the first Edward ascended the throne the city was divided into twenty-four wards, the supreme magistrate of each of which was named Alderman, a Saxon title of great antiquity. *Aelder-man* meant a man advanced in age, and accordingly accredited of superior wisdom and gravity. In Edgar's time this office was one of the first in the kingdom. In this place it will be as well to mention, that the city and liberties thereof are divided into twenty-six wards or aldermanries, returning members to the court of common council. They are as follow:—the wards of Farringdon Within and Without, originally but one ward, named after William Faryngdon, goldsmith and sheriff in 1279; Bridge-ward Within; Bishopgate-ward, that derives its name from the gate which formerly divided it, and which is supposed to have been raised by one of the earlier bishop of London; Bread-street-ward; Cheap-ward; Tower-street, Broad-street, and Cripplegate-wards; Langbourn-ward, which takes its name from a brook that formerly ran from Fenchurch-street, whence it sprung, to the Thames; Castle Baynard-ward; Billingsgate-ward; Vintry-ward, comprising a part of the north bank of the Thames where the merchants of Bourdeaux formerly bonded and sold their wines; Candlewick-ward; Cordwainers'-ward, which derives its title from Cordwainers'-street, (now Bow-lane); Walbrook-ward; Aldersgate-ward; Cornhill-ward; Aldgate-ward; Queenhithe-ward; Coleman-street-ward, which is indebted for its title to a family of the name of Coleman, who were buried in the church of Saint Margaret, Lothbury; Portsoken-ward, the origin of which name signifying "Franchise at the gate," is ascribed by Stow to the age of King Edgar; Lime-street-ward; Bassishaw-ward, the smallest ward in the city, and the name of which is a corruption of *Basinges-haugh* or *hall*, a large mansion formerly the residence of the Basinges, a family of great rank and antiquity; and Bridge-ward Without, which includes the chief part of

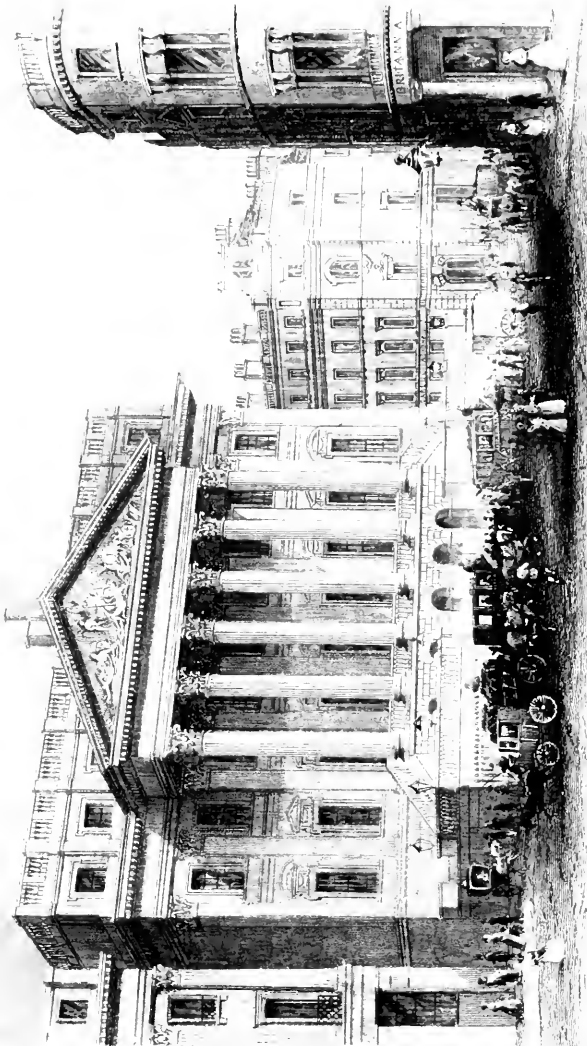
the borough and liberties of Southwark, and the population of which far exceeds that of any of the other wards ; the Alderman who governs it is entitled the "Father to the City," and yet it is totally unrepresented in the court of common council, Southwark, although so long *annexed* to London, never having been incorporated with it.

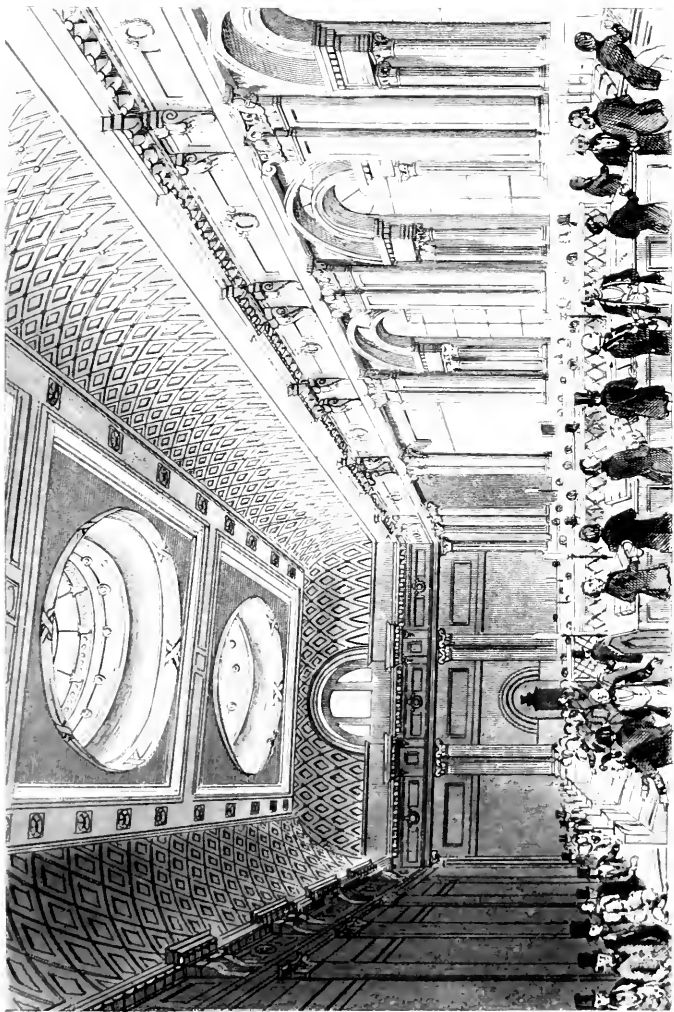
The Lord Mayor is the chief magistrate of London, nominated yearly by the citizens, but the appointment is subject to the approval of the sovereign. The election takes place on Michaelmas Day, when a court of hustings is held in Guildhall, under the presidency of the sheriffs. The two Aldermen below the chair who have served the office of Sheriff, are proposed and returned to the court of Aldermen, who generally pronounce the senior of the two so returned to be the Lord Mayor elect. On the 8th of November the new Mayor takes the oath of faithful administration at Guildhall, and on the following day he is finally installed into office by the barons of the Exchequer at Westminster. On this day that famous civic pageant known as the *Lord Mayor's show* is celebrated, it being a perfect holiday in that part of the city through which the procession passes, where the shops are closed, and there is a general suspension of business. The cavalcade, after perambulating that ward of which the new Lord Mayor is the chief, generally takes water at the Middlesex side of Blackfriars' Bridge, when the Lord Mayor and his principal officers enter the state barge, and with several of the city companies in their respective barges, proceed to Palace Stairs, Westminster. There the chief magistrate and his suite land, and repairing to the Court of Exchequer in Westminster Hall, are sworn in as above-mentioned. The Recorder then, as the chief judge of the city, invites the barons of the Exchequer to the inauguration banquet at the Guildhall ; after which, visiting the other courts sitting at Westminster, he extends the invitation to their several judges. The procession returns, and disembarking at Blackfriars' Bridge, its members go to Guildhall, where a brilliant

banquet, over which the newly appointed city chief presides, and at which the cabinet ministers, members of both houses of Parliament, and foreign ambassadors, are generally present, closes the festivities of this memorable day. Of late years much has been done to improve the character of the pageant: many new features, significantly illustrative of those sources of wealth to which London owes its prosperity, were introduced upon the occasion of Mr. Alderman Musgrove's celebration of his opening day as Lord Mayor in 1850. When the sovereign dies, the Lord Mayor takes the first place in the Privy Council until the new monarch is proclaimed, and at the coronation acts as chief butler. The Lord Mayor has a numerous suite of officers for the support of his state and dignity, a chaplain, remembrancer, sword-bearer, huntsman, (called the common hunt), serjeant carvers, serjeants of the chamber, &c. Formerly his retinue was increased by a poet laureate and a jester, to assist in the production of pageants on great occasions. Among the civic laureats the distinguished name of Ben Jonson appears.

Some notice must now be taken of the hospitable city palace of the chief magistrate. For many years the Lord Mayor had no fixed place of residence during his year of office. When his own private house was insufficient for the requirements inseparable from his state and dignity, the halls of some of the chief companies were engaged for that purpose at a great outlay. In 1734 the common council determined to appropriate the fines paid into the chamber in default of serving the office of sheriff, towards erecting a suitable mansion house for the accommodation of the Lord Mayor for the time being. The site determined upon was that once covered by the Stocks Market, a structure which the city owed to the munificence of Henry de Wallies, who was Lord Mayor from 1281 to 1285. When the market buildings were taken down, the ground which they had occupied was found to have so many springs running into the Walbrook, that it

was considered expedient to erect the new building entirely upon piles. The first stone was laid on the 25th October, 1739, and the Mansion House was completed in 1753, during the mayoralty of Sir Crisp Gascoyne, who was the first chief magistrate that made it his residence. The total cost of the structure was £42,638 odd. The *Mansion House*, which was built from a design by Mr. George Dance, is a spacious and stately edifice. A bold flight of steps conducts to a portico in front, composed of six Corinthian columns, which spring lightly from a massy rustic basement, and are surmounted by a pediment, the tympanum of which exhibits a sculpture in alto-relievo by Taylor, emblematic of the opulence and dignity of the City of London. In the centre stands a female, crowned with turrets, imaging the city; and with her left foot on the figure of Envy, she bears in her right hand a wand, and reposes her left arm upon the city heraldic bearings on a large shield. On her right is a Cupid holding the cap of liberty on a staff over his shoulder, beyond is a river deity, symbolic of the Thames, recumbent, and pouring out a stream of water from a vase; and adjacent is an anchor fastened to its cable, with shells lying on the strand. On the left of London, Plenty is kneeling and begging the city to accept the fruits of her cornucopia, and in her rear are two boys with bales of goods, representative of commerce. The building is oblong, and its general body presents two tiers of lofty windows, and over these is an attic story surmounted by a balustrade; the cornices are rich and deep, and are sustained by Corinthian pillars. The interior, however, of this famous edifice is that which is most interesting to citizens, associated as it is with recollections of civic splendour and princely hospitality. Passing through the chief entrance that spacious saloon, the Egyptian Hall, is reached. It is a magnificent banqueting apartment, about 90 feet from east to west (extending the entire width of the house), and 60 feet broad, with a lofty concave roof displayed into compartments and richly ornamented.





This hall is flanked with a justice room, a sword-bearer's room, and a very handsome apartment called Wilkes's parlour. The area over the roof of the Egyptian Hall being left open, the apartments of the upper stories constitute a surrounding quadrangle with communicating galleries. Of these apartments the chief is the ball-room, frequently used as a supper-room, equal in length to the Egyptian Hall, but considerably narrower; a withdrawing room, and a chief bedchamber, the state bed of which displays in its appointments regal splendour. Such is the official abode of the Lord Mayor of London, judiciously placed in the centre of that great commercial emporium over which he presides, uniting with the functions of the lawgiver those of the liberal host, around whose board assemble not only his fellow-citizens, but individuals distinguished for their rank, their talents, their achievements, of every shade of politics, and of every country.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

THIS great national establishment is situate in *Threadneedle-street*, at the end of the Poultry, a little to the north of the Mansion-house. Its boundaries are Princes-street on the west, Lothbury on the north, Bartholomew-lane on the east, and Threadneedle-street and the Royal Exchange on the south. The existing structure is a handsome stone edifice, to which that eminent architect, the late Sir John Soane, imparted its present appearance. The several elevations are of Corinthian design, chosen and adapted from the Sybilline Temple at Tivoli. The building covers about four acres of ground. The square contains several open courts, which yield light to the various offices, there being no windows in the external walls. A brief biography of the "Old Lady of Threadneedle-street," as the Bank is familiarly denominated, will probably have more interest than an elaborate detail of its architectural features, and this we accordingly submit to our readers. The Bank of England, often called the Bank of the World, was proposed by William Paterson, a Scot-

tish gentleman, renowned for originating the Darien Expedition. In 1694 the charter was granted in consideration of certain sums of money advanced to the government of King William. In 1697, owing to the recoinage, the Bank was in difficulties, its notes being sold at 50 per cent. discount. Out of this trouble the directors were assisted by the ministry, and it resumed its triumphant career. Its business was first conducted at Mercers', and afterwards at Grocers' Hall, where, in a large room, Addison describes the directors and clerks mingling together very primitively. In 1732 the garden and grounds of Sir John Houblen, the first governor, were purchased as a site for building on, and in 1734 the new building was completed. Its architect was Mr. Sampson. Escaping the perils of the South Sea bubble, it became liable, in 1758, to the forgery of its notes, which, for the first time, was effected by Richard William Vaughan, a young linendraper. From this period its notes were freely forged, and the forgers as freely hung. In 1797 the Bank suspended payment, the gold in its coffers being only £1,086,000, to meet £9,675,000 of outstanding notes. Nor did it resume cash payments until the celebrated bill of Mr. Peel in 1819. The Great Panic was the next epoch in the annals of the Bank, when seventy town and country bankers were gazetted bankrupts, or compounded with their creditors. Eighty per cent. per annum was paid for money during this eventful period; and it was acknowledged on all sides that nothing but the well-timed liberality of the directors in the emission of their notes, by increasing their discounts, saved the country from a state of ruin. Mr. Francis, in his "History of the Bank of England, its times, and traditions," an interesting and authentic work to which we are indebted, explodes the oft-repeated assertion, that a box of £1 notes was discovered accidentally. It was Mr. Huskisson's opinion, that had not the Bank acted with the promptitude it did, forty-eight hours more would have reduced England to a state of barter. Certain legislative enactments followed. The Bank-note was made a legal

tender, and it was not until 1838 that similar difficulties were again experienced. At this period, however, the Bank of France aided our great corporation by a loan, which once more relieved them. In 1847, owing to the operations of Sir Robert Peel's charter, the Bank was restricted from assisting the mercantile interest, and house after house fell in most disgraceful ruin. The governor of the Bank failed among the first, several Bank directors followed; merchants whose names were once good for hundreds of thousands were unable to pay a shilling in the pound, and throughout the city sad and sorrowful faces were everywhere seen. At this crisis the government sanctioned a relaxation of the charter. Money was allowed to be advanced at eight per cent., and quiet was again restored. Our limits will scarcely allow us to dwell on Mr. Smee's alterations, by which the public were benefited as well as the Bank, or on certain alterations which are now (1851) being carried on. The charter will expire in 1855. It has been asserted that Mr. Sampson was the first architect. Sir Robert Taylor followed, and erected the noble court-room, which is said to be unrivalled in London. Sir John Soane succeeded Sir Robert Taylor, and was the author of the greater part of the building as it now exists. Mr. C. R. Cockerell, whom to know is to esteem, is the present architect, and beneath his superintendence the fine room devoted to the banking department has been erected. It combines—and this combination never has before been attained in the Bank of England—beauty and health, and is a perfect specimen of elegant but useful architecture. In 1850 the court of directors voted £500 for the foundation of a library for the clerks, of whom there are nearly 800. A £5 note remains in circulation, on an average, 72 days, and a thousand pound note 11 days. "The curiosities of the Bank," says Mr. Francis, "are very few." The printing the bank-notes is, however, a rare piece of machinery, as each note registers a number in another room, so that the printers are not able to print for their own benefit more than the proper number. To

obtain a proper insight into the Bank the order of the governor or deputy-governor is necessary, which can only be used on a Tuesday or a Thursday. The building is, however, well worth a visit, being open to all, and containing some fine specimens of architecture. The principal entrance is from Threadneedle-street. The chief cashier's room is modelled from the Temple of the Sun and Moon. The Rotunda is a copy of an ancient mausoleum, and was built in 1795. The Consul is an imitation of the Roman baths. The entry from Lothbury is adorned with ornaments from the hands of Banks, the sculptor, and is, with its noble flight of steps, and its arched entrance, a most interesting object. The bullion room, which is close by, is devoted to the care of the gold and silver, where, by the last accounts, upwards of £14,000,000 were kept to answer the demand of £20,000,000 bank-notes and bank post-bills. The affairs of the corporation are managed by 24 directors, a governor, and deputy-governor. By the charter no banker and no East India director can be director of the Bank of England.

THE ROYAL EXCHANGE.

OPPOSITE to the bank, and between Threadneedle-street and Cornhill, stands the *Royal Exchange*, a beautiful edifice, reflecting credit on the taste and liberality of the city. What an eventful narrative is that of the Bourse of London. The present structure is the third Exchange which has been raised for the merchants, its two predecessors having been destroyed by fire. As the Royal Exchange is the seat of the monetary transactions of our merchant-princes, the great emporium of business, to dilate upon its past and present history, and to offer some tribute to the memory of its illustrious founder, will not be out of place in a work specially devoted to illustrate the vast resources and the commercial prosperity of the British metropolis.

The first Royal Exchange was built by Sir Thomas Gresham, an eminent merchant of Lombard-street, the





son of Sir Richard Gresham, who was Lord Mayor of London in 1537, and who died at Bethnal-green in 1549. Thomas Gresham, his accomplished son, having rendered himself closely conversant with the money-market of Flanders, received the appointment of "King's Factor with the trading interest," or "King's Merchant," to Edward VI.; one of the duties of which post was to obtain loans for the sovereign on the most advantageous terms. This occupation rendered it desirable for him to live at Antwerp, whither he removed with his family. Upon the accession of Queen Mary he was confirmed in his appointment, after a brief suspension, and found great favour by the skill with which he negotiated loans on her behalf. He had also a London establishment in Lombard-street, then the finest street in the capital. Over the door of his shop was placed as a sign his crest, the Grasshopper. The banking-house of Stone and Co. covers the site of Gresham's house. In the reign of Elizabeth he received the honour of knighthood, and was frequently consulted by that sovereign in matters of commercial importance. Upon his elevation he removed from Lombard-street to a more suitable mansion in Bishopsgate-street, which was called Gresham House, where the Duke of Norfolk, Lord Burleigh, and other distinguished personages of the time, were among his guests. His national pride was offended at seeing the city of London deficient in a merchants' Exchange, while Antwerp, and other inferior towns on the continent, were provided with suitable Burses, and in 1563 he announced to the civic authorities that he would build an exchange at his own cost, if they would furnish an appropriate site. His offer was accepted, and a subscription was opened, to which 715 citizens contributed, and loans effected from the city companies for defraying the expense of the preliminaries to this great enterprise. The ground selected was on the north-west side of Cornhill, and the cost to the city of its purchase, and of taking down the houses in that part of Cornhill, and the courts and lanes radiating from it, was

£3,737 0s. 6d. On the 7th of June, 1565, Sir Thomas Gresham laid the *first stone* of the first Exchange, in the presence of some aldermen, each of whom, according to Stow, "laid a piece of gold, which the workmen took up." The structure was completed in 1568. Externally this Bourse presented a lofty square tower, with two balconied galleries, and a grasshopper surmounting the ball at its top, which stood on one side of the entrance, and formed a bell-tower, from which issued, at twelve at noon and at six in the evening, the merchants' call to "'Change." The pillars were of marble, and the corners of the building were ornamented with the device of the grasshopper. The fabric comprehended an upper and a lower division; the first being laid out in shops, one hundred in number, and the other into walks and rooms for the merchants, with shops outside.* The architect employed by Gresham on this great work was a Fleming, named Henryke. At first the Bourse did not appear popular; its shops were comparatively empty, but some two years after its erection Queen Elizabeth intimated that she intended to visit the Bourse, and give it a name. On this occasion Sir Thomas visited the shopkeepers in the building, and promised them that if they would light up their wares with wax-lights in honour of her majesty's visit, they should hold their shops rent-free for that year. The royal visit is thus described by Stow:—"The queen's majesty, attended with her nobility, came from her house at the Strand, called Somerset House, and entered the city by Temple-bar, through Fleet-street, Cheap, and so by the north side of the Bourse to Sir Thomas Gresham's house in Bishopsgate-street, where she dined. After dinner her majesty returned through Cornhill, entered the Bourse on the north side, and after that she had viewed every part thereof above the ground, especially the Pawn,† which was richly furnished with all sorts of the finest wares in the city, she caused the Bourse, by herald and trumpet, to be proclaimed the *Royal Exchange*. Henceforth the career of Gresham was one of

* Wilson's Royal Exchange.

† A range of shops.

prosperity, honour, and distinction, the favourite of his sovereign, and the friend of his fellow-citizens. His death was awfully sudden. Returning one evening, in November, 1579, from the Royal Exchange to his residence in Bishopsgate, he was struck with an apoplectic stroke, and found speechless on his kitchen-floor, in a few minutes after which he breathed his last. He was buried on the 15th of December in the church of St. Helen, Bishopsgate-street, his funeral obsequies costing the immense sum (in those days) of £800. None of his children survived Sir Thomas, several of them having died in infancy, and his last remaining son, Richard, expired in 1564. Lady Gresham died in 1596, and she was interred in the same tomb with her husband, her remains being committed to the earth on the anniversary of his funeral.

Sir Thomas Gresham was a most liberal benefactor to the city. By his will he bequeathed the whole of the Royal Exchange in equal moiety to the city of London and to the Mercers' Company. Out of their individual proportions he provided that the city and the Mercers' Company should grant yearly salaries to professors who were to deliver lectures on divinity, astronomy, music, civil law, physic, and rhetoric. Allusion has been made to these lectures in our notice of Gresham-street. The corporation were also to distribute every year, £10 to Newgate, Ludgate, Wood-street Compter, and the King's Bench Prison. He likewise willed that £100 should be yearly devoted to four quarterly entertainments in the Mercers' Hall for the entertainment of that body; and likewise bequeathed, severally, to Christ's Hospital, the hospitals of St. Thomas, St. Bartholomew, Bethlehem, the Spital, and the Poultry Compter, the annual sum of £10.

In 1665, during the awful visitation of the plague, we are told that the stoppage of public business was so complete that grass grew within the area of the Royal Exchange. In September, 1666, the Royal Exchange was consumed by that tremendous conflagration

“ Which levelled half the city with the ground.”

The progress of the fire in Cornhill, towards the Royal Exchange, is thus graphically told:—"The flames quickly cross the way, and so they lick up the whole street as they go; they mount up to the top of the highest houses; they descend down to the bottom of the lowest vaults and cellars, and march along on both sides of the way with such a roaring noise as was never heard in the city of London: no stately buildings so great as to resist their fury, the Royal Exchange itself, the glory of the merchants, is now invaded with much violence. * * * When the fire was entered, how quickly did it run around the galleries, filling them with flames, then descending the stairs, compasseth the walks, giving forth flaming volleys, and filling the court with sheets of fire. By and by the kings fell all down upon their faces, and the greater part of the stone building after them (the founder's statue alone remaining), with such a noise as was dreadful and astonishing."*

It being determined to erect the new Royal Exchange on the same area which had been covered by the structure of Gresham early in 1667, Mr. Edward Jerman was appointed surveyor, and his designs were adopted for the new building. The *first stone* of the second Royal Exchange was laid on the 6th of May in the same year, and on the 22nd of October following Charles II. laid the base of the column on the west side of the north entrance. The royal guest was entertained by the city with a substantial banquet, including a chine of beef, gammons of bacon, dried tongues, a grand dish of fowl, &c. On the 31st of the same month the first stone of the eastern column was laid by the Duke of York, and that of the pillar on the east side of the south entrance by Prince Rupert, both of the royal personages partaking of civic hospitality. The second Royal Exchange was opened on the 28th of September, 1669, by Sir William Turner, Lord Mayor of London. Its cost was estimated at about £70,000. A Latin inscription was placed over the south entrance,

• Vincent.

stating the destruction by fire of the old Exchange in 1666, and the erection of the new one in 1669. This Exchange was of quadrangular form, and included a spacious open court, with porticoes round it, and also on the north and south side of the structure. The Cornhill front was 210 feet in breadth. The centre was formed of a lofty archway, "opening," says the work before quoted, "from the middle intercolumniation of four Corinthian three-quarter columns, supporting a bold entablature, over the centre of which were the royal arms, and on each side a balustrade, &c., surmounted by statues emblematic of the four quarters of the globe. Within the lateral intercolumniations over the lesser entrance to the arcade were niches containing the statues of King Charles the First and Second, in Roman habits, by Bushnell." The tower rising from the middle of the portico contained three stories. In the first of these was niched the statue of Sir Thomas Gresham; over the cornice a bust of Queen Elizabeth, and at the angles huge griffins bearing the city arms. The second story contained a clock with four dials, and also four wind-dials. The third story (supporting a bell) was surmounted by a dome on which was a large brazen vane in the shape of a grasshopper. The altitude of the tower to the summit of the dome was upwards of 128 feet. The open court within the quadrangle was 144 feet by 117 feet, environed by a spacious arcade, which as well as the area itself was classified into several parts called walks, appropriated to the foreign and home merchants who met there daily for the transaction of business. In the middle of the court placed on a pedestal, protected by an iron railing, was a statue of Charles II. in Roman attire, the work of Spiller. A series of semi-circular arches springing from columns formed the piazza. Above the arches of the portico were twenty-five embellished niches containing statues of the monarchs of England from the Conquest, the greater proportion of which were from the chisel of Cibber. Space will not allow us to dwell further on the ornate decorations of the second

Royal Exchange. Between 1819 and 1825 many repairs and alterations were made in the building, involving an outlay of upwards of £34,000. A modern cupola after the design of Mr. George Smith, surveyor to the Mercers' Company was substituted for the old tower of Jerman, which was at the time of its removal in a ruinous condition.

About 10 o'clock on the night of the 10th of January, 1838, the north-east corner of the structure caught fire. An intense frost prevailed, in consequence of which much delay occurred before the hose attached to the engines could be worked, it being requisite to pour hot water on it in order to thaw it. The flames spread rapidly, and towards two in the morning a musical peal of eight bells, and a tenor of eighteen hundred weight, placed in the tower of the Exchange, fell, destroying in their descent the roof and stonework over the entrance facing the Bank of England. The north-west and south sides of the fabric were levelled by half-past three, and at four o'clock the east side, with the shops in Sweeting's-alley, were in flames. The interior walls were cast down with an awful crash, and the statues of the kings and queens were, as in the first conflagration, again prostrated in the dust. Till late in the day the fire raged, but judicious precautions had been adopted to prevent it spreading. When night returned, where on the previous evening a goodly pile, the fitting temple of commercial industry, had reared its lofty walls, a heap of smoking ruins were all that remained, the pitiable wreck of the second Royal Exchange.

The third Royal Exchange now demands our notice. Deprived of their usual place of assembling, the merchants first met in Guildhall, but afterwards adjourned to the area of the Excise Office (formerly the site of Gresham's house and college,) which they considered yielded better temporary accommodation. Preliminary to the erection of the new Exchange, an act of Parliament was obtained authorizing the removal of all the houses west of the old Exchange, called Bank-buildings, and also the old struc-

tures to the east approximating to Finch-lane, and to raise £150,000 upon the credit of the London Bridge fund to defray the consequent outlay. After a considerable delay the number of architects remaining to compete for the honour of erecting the new building was narrowed to two, — Mr. William Tite and Mr. Charles Robert Cockerell. These gentlemen accordingly sent in their designs, and on the 7th of May, a majority of 13 to 7 decided in favour of Mr. Tite.

On the 17th of January, 1842, the *first stone* of the New Royal Exchange was laid by his royal highness Prince Albert, the consort of Queen Victoria. The ceremony was a most gorgeous one, the great officers of state, and the municipal authorities being present, but it is unnecessary to enter into details. On its conclusion the Lord Mayor (John Pirie, Esq.) entertained the prince and the other visitors to the city with a superb banquet at the Mansion House.

For the substance of the following we are indebted to *Wilson's Description of the New Royal Exchange*. The building stands nearly due east and west; the extreme length from the portico on the west to the columns on the east is 308 feet. The width of the portico is 96 feet, the extreme width of the west end 119 feet, and of the east end 175 feet. The dimensions of that part appropriated for the meeting of merchants, is an area of 170 feet by 112 feet, of which 111 feet by 53 are uncovered and open to the sky. The diameter of the columns is 4 feet 2; the extreme height to the apex of the pediment at the west end is 74 feet; and the height of the tower at the east to the top of the vane 177 feet.

At the west end is a portico of eight Corinthian columns, with two intercolumniations in actual projection, and the centre part deeply recessed in addition. Beneath is the chief western entrance, which is ascended by thirteen granite steps from the level of the street. The great eastern entrance is below the tower. In the interior there is a small area for diffusing light and air to

the inner mass of that portion of the building. At the north end of this area is the entrance to *Lloyd's*, or the Society of Underwriters, which has long been known as the largest establishment in the world for marine insurances, where property at sea can be secured from the lowest amount to sums that would cover the richest argosies ever trusted on the waves. The body of underwriters can date their origin so far back as the 16th century. When they first had rooms in the Royal Exchange, in the time of Charles I., they did not bear their present title.

After the fire of London the society assembled in Cornhill, whence they removed into Lombard-street to a coffee-house kept by a Mr. *Lloyd*, from whom the establishment took its modern name. This association occupies all the east end and the chief portion of the north side of the Royal Exchange. In the centre of the building there are likewise entrances from the north and south to the merchants' area. The south front is one line of pilasters with rusticated arches on the ground floor for shops and entrances, the three centre spaces being deeply recessed; above these are elaborately decorated windows, and over the cornice are a balustrade and attic. On the north side the centre projects, and the pilasters are omitted at the end spaces. The arches of the ground floor are rusticated, and in other respects a similarity to the south side exists. In the centre of the east front are four Corinthian columns, from which ascends the tower. The first story of the tower is square, ornamented with pilasters; at the angles on the east front is a niche containing a statue of Sir Thomas Gresham by Behnes: over this is an attic for the dials of the clock. The next story is a circular one, enriched with Corinthian columns, and surmounted by a dome carved with leaves. The grasshopper, which was a prominent object on the summit of the old Exchange, and which was almost invulnerable to the fire, forms the vane to the new building. It is of copper gilt, and 11 feet in length. A peal of 15 bells is placed in the tower.

The one pair or principal floor of the building contains four suites of apartments, in which, besides Lloyds, are the offices of the Royal Exchange Assurance, and the London Assurance Companies. The ground floor of the Exchange is chiefly devoted to shops and offices, separated from each other by party walls and brick arches of great strength, precautions so well calculated for preventing the spread of fire, that it is almost impossible that the Royal Exchange can be a third time the scene of a destructive conflagration.

On the frieze of the portico a Latin inscription records the foundation of the first structure in the thirteenth year of Queen Elizabeth, and its restoration in the seventh year of Queen Victoria. In the centre of the key-stones of the three great arches appear the merchant's mark of Gresham; and on the key-stones of the side arches are sculptured the arms of the merchant adventurers of his time, and the staple of Calais. North and south of the portico, and in the attic, are the civic emblems,—the sword and the mace, &c.; and in the lower panels, mantles, on which are inscribed the initials of Queens Elizabeth and Victoria. Above the three centre arches on the south side are the armorial bearings of Gresham, the City, and the Mercers' Company; which arms also embellish the east end of the entablature. Over the three centre arches of the north front are the following inscriptions:—the centre one in ancient French is the motto of Sir Thomas Gresham, *Fortun a my*; on the right side the city motto, *Domine dirige nos*; and on the left side that of the Mercers' Company, *Honor Deo*. At the western end of the Exchange the tympanum of the pediment is enriched with allegorical representations of Commerce, designed by Sir Richard Westmacott. Over the principal figure appears the following inscription—"The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof."

The interior of the Royal Exchange realizes what might be expected from its attractive external. The ground floor is formed by Doric columns and rusticated arches,

above which are Ionic columns with arches and windows, surmounted by an ornamental pierced parapet. The keystones of the arches of the principal story are embellished with the arms of every nation of the globe; those of England are in the centre of the eastern side. This area is an uncovered one, forming a square, on the four sides of which is the ambulatory or merchants' walk, a well sheltered and spacious promenade. Beams and panelling divide the ceiling, which is highly painted and decorated in encaustic. The arms of the various nations embazoned in their proper colours, decorate the centre of each panel; and those of Edward the Confessor, Edward III., Queen Elizabeth, and Charles II., appear in the four angles. A statue of Queen Elizabeth is placed in the south-east angle; and a marble one of Charles II., which was uninjured by the fire, in the south-west angle. In the centre of the open court, placed on a pedestal, is an exquisitely carved statue of her Majesty Queen Victoria, and which offers a most faithful portraiture of that distinguished lady. The ambulatory is paved with Yorkshire stone, divided into panels by margins and lines of black stone, with squares of red Aberdeen granite at the intersections. A handsome tessellated pavement is laid down in the open area.

During the erection of the Royal Exchange the late Alderman Pirie, Alderman Humphrey, and Alderman Magnay, severally occupied the civic throne; and Messrs. Pooley, Sutton, and Watney, during the same period were respectively Masters of the Mercers' Company: facts which are commemorated by the introduction of their arms in eight small circular panels in the ambulatory.

The approach to the Royal Exchange from the west is extremely imposing. Between the Bank of England and Cornhill a broad pavement, handsomely laid out, conducts to the steps ascending into the building. In the centre of this pavement is a handsome bronze equestrian figure of the Duke of Wellington, cast by Chantrey, from the metal of guns taken by that great captain during his continental career of triumph. The statue was raised in

its present commanding position, appropriately enough on the anniversary of the battle of Waterloo, the 18th of June, 1844. The inauguration of the statue took place in the presence of the Lord Mayor, the city authorities, the Gresham Committee, and an illustrious visitor to the Mansion House, the King of Saxony.

The opening of the third Royal Exchange surpassed in grandeur the corresponding ceremonies observed on the occasions of the throwing open of its two ill-fated predecessors. Not till the first Exchange gave evident symptoms of failure and ruinous consequences to its projector, did Queen Elizabeth condescend by her presence to give a revival to the hopes of Gresham, and an impetus to his fortunes; the second Royal Exchange was opened by the then Lord Mayor, no royal personages by their presence giving *clat* to the ceremony: the honour was reserved for the third Royal Exchange of being opened by the reigning and justly popular sovereign of this great country. The day appointed for this magnificent celebration was October 28th, 1844, when Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, accompanied by Prince Albert, made a truly royal progress by way of Pall-mall, the Strand, Fleet-street, Ludgate-hill, St. Paul's Church-yard and Cheapside to the Royal Exchange. The ceremonial was a splendid one, the citizens sparing no cost to manifest their sense of the honour conferred upon them by the Queen. A temporary throne of superb character was fitted up on the principal floor of the Exchange, and her Majesty having taken her seat on the throne, in the presence of the great officers of state, the foreign ambassadors, the Lord Mayor and Aldermen, and a host of distinguished guests, the Recorder of London approached and delivered an appropriate address. The Queen replied in a brief but emphatic speech, the closing passages of which merit preservation:—"This day I gladly celebrate the completion of the work quickly executed, but grand and perfect in all its parts. The relief of the indigent, the advancement of science, the extension of commerce, were the objects

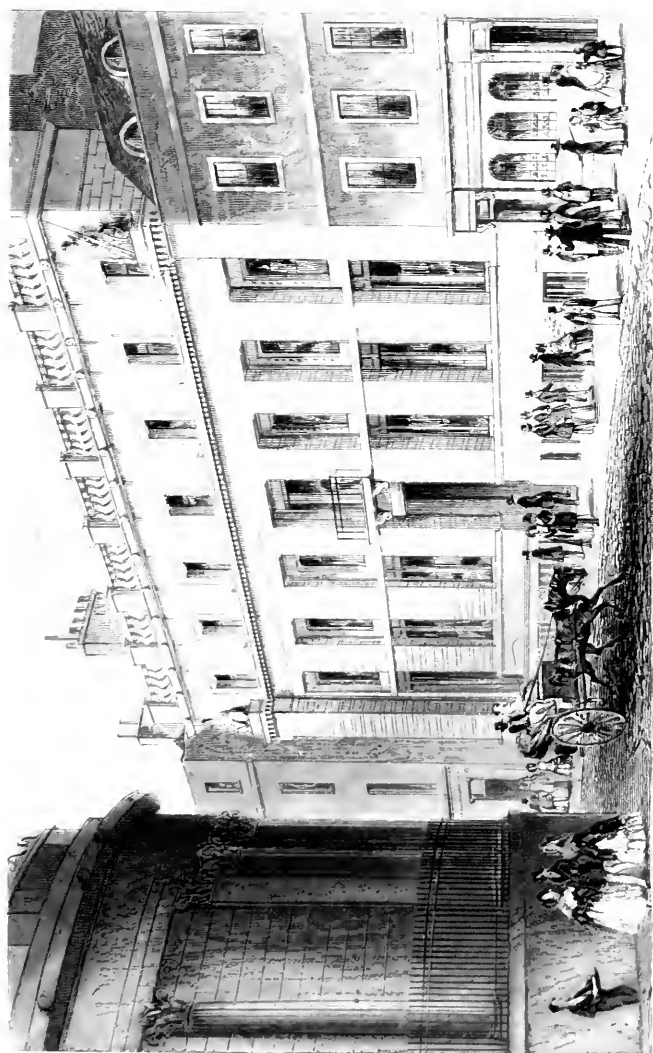
contemplated by the founder of the Exchange. These objects are near to my heart. Their attainment will, I trust, be recorded among the peaceful triumphs of my reign ; and I shall rejoice if I am thus enabled, by the blessing of Divine Providence, to promote the prosperity and happiness of all classes of my subjects." At the conclusion of the ceremony the banqueting room was thrown open, where the Queen took her seat at the cross table, supported by Prince Albert, the Duchess of Kent, and the Duke of Cambridge. Medals of gold and silver, commemorative of the great event of the day, were distributed among the visitors. Soon afterwards the royal party descended the staircase to the quadrangle of the Exchange. The Lord Mayor, the members of the corporation, and the chief ministers of state, encircled her Majesty, who then said, "It is my royal will and pleasure that this building be hereafter called the *Royal Exchange*." "As on the first royal visit to that spot," says Wilson, "the trumpets sounded, and the will of her Majesty was duly proclaimed by the attendant heralds."

The entire expense incurred in the erection of this noble work of art, and arena of commerce, was £100,000.

At the eastern end of the Bank is *Bartholomew-lane*, extending from Threadneedle-street to that point where Lothbury and Throgmorton-street unite. At the south end of this lane is the Sun Fire Insurance Office, a handsome modern structure, built upon the site of St. Bartholomew's Church. Here also, opposite to the eastern entrance of the Bank, is *Capel Court*, the principal opening to that famous mart of speculation,

THE STOCK EXCHANGE,

which is merely worthy of mention as the place where the stock of our great national debt is bought and sold. The brokers used to meet at Jonathan's Coffee-house, in Change-alley, to transact their business ; but this not affording adequate accommodation, they subscribed together and erected the present building, which was opened





in 1802. The jobbers and the brokers are the actors at this mart, and their mercantile phrasology is curiously symbolic, including such phrases as "bull," "bear," and "lame duck;" the first of these indicates those who speculate for an advance; the second are those who seek to cause a depreciation in the prices; and the third, an unequivocal defaulter. The national debt in which they traffic exceeds the enormous sum of £800,000,000. Besides this, railroad, mining, gas, insurance, and other shares have greatly increased their business within the last few years.

The last house in Bartholomew-lane is the *Auction Mart*, which was opened in 1810, for the sale by auction of estates, and every description of valuable property. The upper story, which is illumined by large lantern lights contains several spacious auction galleries.

CHAPTER XIV.

LOTHBURY—THROGMORTON-STREET — BROAD-STREET — EX-
CISE OFFICE—AUSTIN-FRIARS — LONDON-WALL — MOOR-
FIELDS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPEL, ETC.

AT the north side of the Bank is a wide and handsome street of business called *Lothbury*, covering the site once occupied by the residence of Loth, a great man in the early Saxon or Danish times. The church of Saint Margaret in this street, is one of Sir Christopher Wren's erections, and was built in 1690. Attached to this sacred edifice is a valuable preferment under the patronage of a leading city Company, known as the *Golden Lectureship*. The emoluments exceed £400 annually, and the duties involve the reading of prayers and the delivery of a

sermon every Tuesday throughout the year. Some yards beyond is the chief office of the *London and Westminster Bank*, an edifice the architectural combinations of which produce a very striking effect.

From Lothbury *Throgmorton-street*, containing Drapers' Hall, leads into *Broad-street*, a street with which Thread-needle-street also communicates. This street, which is divided into Old and New Broad-street, is spacious and filled with houses of handsome elevation, including several insurance offices, banking houses, a club house, and the *Excise Office*. The business of this office was originally transacted on the west side of Ironmonger-lane, but in 1768 the ground occupied by Gresham College was sold to the crown, and the present structure was erected on the site of the college and ten alms-houses. The building is of stone, four stories in height, and is separated by a large court-yard from another building of brick, nearly equal in proportions to the principal edifice. By a recent legislative enactment, the business of the Excise is comprehended under the definition of the Inland Revenue. At the west end of Broad-street an archway conducts to *Austin Friars*, a quiet neighbourhood in the centre of city bustle, once the magnificent residence of the order of Saint Augustine, and still distinguished by the spacious remains of their beautiful church. This church was a portion of a priory raised in the 13th century by Humphrey Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex. Once it was ornamented with a spire, and the interior contained many handsome monuments, in memory, among others, of the founder; Edmund, half-brother to Richard II., and the Duke of Buckingham, decapitated in 1521. With a cupidity of which a Vandal might have been ashamed, the Marquis of Winchester at the commencement of the 17th century, removed the steeple and the choir of this splendid church, and sold its time-honoured monuments for £100. The edifice is now used as a Dutch church.

On the left hand side of Broad-street, some distance from the Excise Office, is a long street extending to

Moorgate-street and Finsbury-pavement called *London Wall*.

Here in the time of Queen Elizabeth stood Old Bethlem Hospital, and upon its removal a portion of the ground which it occupied was converted into a cemetery for the relief of the metropolitan parishes, and subsequently the resting-place of the dead was appropriated to abodes for the living. Previously to taking down Bethlem Hospital, the greatest portion of the ancient London Wall remaining visible was to be seen here. Anciently it traversed eastward to Wormwood-street, Camomile-street, Shoemaker-row, Poor Jewry-street and Tower Hill to the Postern. In a south-western direction it ran from Cripplegate by Monkwell-street to Aldersgate-street, along Tower Ditch, on to the Old Bailey, to Little Bridge-street in the rear of Ludgate-hill, and continued to the Thames near Blackfriars Bridge. On the south side of Cripplegate church-yard may be witnessed the remains of the only one of the many round towers which used to stud the walls at equal distances. At the eastern end of Bread-street, opposite Liverpool-street, a respectable avenue branching from Bishopsgate-street, is *Bloomfield-street*, at the end of which is the Moorfields *Roman Catholic Chapel*. Its front is tri-partite; in the centre is a deep recess ornamented by two Corinthian columns. The whole is completed by a pediment, in the tympanum of which is the cross sustained by two female figures. The interior presents great beauty of design, and is divided into a body and aisles with a semicircular tribune at the altar end. The ceiling is elliptically arched, terminating at each extremity in a semi-dome; and it is covered with brilliant paintings. On the large panel in the centre appear the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, and the four Evangelists, encompassed by square and oblong panels containing scriptural subjects. The ceiling of the aisles is horizontal and painted in panels, the plain surfaces of which represent clouds. In the sanctuary is a grand arch, resting on piers. It is elliptical, and sustains two

coupled, and two single Corinthian columns of Como marble, copied from the choragic monument of Lysicrates. They support a highly enriched entablature, the frieze decorated with honeysuckles, and the cornice with Grecian tiles. Behind this superb screen is seen a magnificent fresco painting of the Crucifixion by Aglio. It presents a most graphic portraiture of that stupendous event; the horror of the followers of our Lord at his ignominious doom; the cruel scorn of the executioners of that dark deed; and the heartfelt sorrow of his female disciples, are represented with a master's power. The elements also appear sentient of the fearful sacrifice which guilty and unbelieving Man is in the act of perpetrating; for over the hitherto fair and undimmed horizon, black and portentous clouds are seen gradually to gather, as if their mission were to cover the earth with darkness, that she might not witness the consummation of so impious a tragedy. In this painting there indeed appears not only colouring, expression, finish, but that with which every work of excellence is stamped—mind. The altar is of fine marble, and raised on three flights of steps of the same material. It is lighted from the roof. The first stone of the chapel was laid in 1817, and the building consecrated in 1820. Its cost was £26,000.

We are now in *Moorfields*, originally a moor outside the walls of the city to the north, which Cunningham states was first drained in 1527; laid out into walks in 1606, and first built upon towards the close of the reign of Charles II. *Finsbury-square*, *Finsbury-circus*, and the *City-road* absorb a portion of *Moorfields*; and that part of it lying between *Finsbury* and *Shoreditch* does not possess sufficient features of interest to call for any further note here.



THE CHAPEL OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, SOUTH PLACE



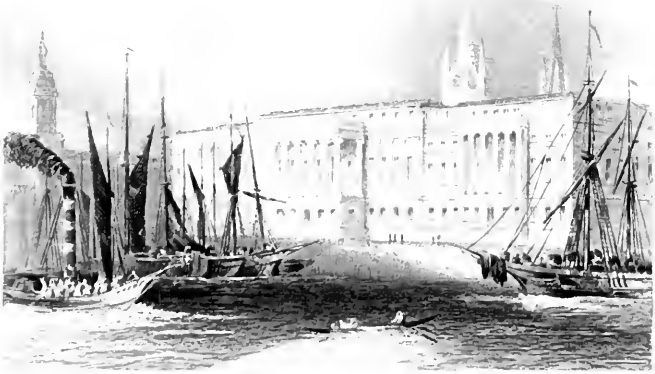
CHAPTER XV.

LOMBARD-STREET — FENCHURCH-STREET — MARK-LANE —
THE CORN EXCHANGE—CORNHILL—POPE'S HEAD ALLEY—
CHANGE ALLEY—GARRAWAY'S—ST. MICHAEL'S ALLEY—
ST. PETER'S CHURCH, ETC.

SOUTH of the Royal Exchange are Cornhill and Lombard-street, and extreme south is King William-street, three streets which are not surpassed in the city either for elegance of design or for amount of business. *Lombard-street*, which is the central one, was thus named from its being anciently the residence of merchants from Lombardy, the great money-changers, and usurers of early times. They settled here in the 13th century, lending money often to the sovereigns of England, and remained in this street to the 16th century. Lombard-street still retains its monetary character, containing the offices of several eminent bankers, and some of the chief insurance offices in London. The husband of the ill-fated heroine Jane Shore is said to have carried on the business of a silversmith in this street, in which, as before-mentioned, was the shop of Sir Thomas Gresham. Alexander Pope, the poet, was born in this street in 1688, where his father kept a linen-draper's shop; and Guy the bookseller, who has left an enduring monument of his munificence in that noble structure for the sick, Guy's Hospital, was also a resident here. In a passage in this street stood the old general post-office, once the residence of Sir R. Viner, Lord Mayor in 1675. In 1829 the business of the general post-office was transferred to the more appropriate building in St. Martins-le-grand, and the Lombard-street establishment reduced to a branch post-office. At the angle of Lombard-street and King William-street, and a little east of the Mansion House, is the beautiful church of St. Mary, Woolnoth, thus named from the ancient wool staple in this neighbourhood. It was built

in 1716 by Nicholas Hawksmoor, the pupil of Sir Christopher Wren, and has been much admired for the extreme beauty of design by which both the interior and exterior are characterized. The Rev. John Newton, the friend and correspondent of Cowper, was rector of this parish. In this street we also find the church of *All Hallows*, one of Wren's edifices, and the parish church of *St. Edmund, the King*.

Crossing Gracechurch-street, which intersects Lombard-street and *Fenchurch-street*, we enter the last-named street, which, running parallel with Leadenhall-street, stretches into Aldgate. Anciently a brook ran through the ground which this street covers; it was arched over and carried into the Thames by the common sewer. At the corner of Fenchurch-street and Gracechurch-street is the church of *St. Bennet, Gracechurch-street*. The original fabric was burnt down in 1666; and the present edifice raised in 1685. Stow says that the parish church of St. Bennet was called Grass-church on account of the herb-market held close by. Holinshed writes that in this street was Denmark House, in which was lodged the first ambassador sent here "from the Emperor of Cathaic, Moscovia, and Russeland." As we need not pursue the line of Fenchurch-street beyond its termination in Aldgate, for the sake of perspicuity we will notice first the principal streets on the left hand side of the way, entering from Gracechurch-street and return into the street just named by the right. *Lime-street*, which gives its name to one of the city wards, and includes within its limits Leadenhall-street, Stow supposes to have been a depôt for lime. At the south-west corner is the church of *St. Dionis, Back Church*, so called from its situation, one of Wren's churches. Its wall in Fenchurch-street is screened by a house and shop of much younger date than the church; the practice of blocking up every available space by the side of a church, and hiding its best proportions with shops, is of common occurrence in the city, and one which cannot be too severely reprehended. *Billiter-street*,



chiefly composed of warehouses, leading to *Billiter-square* and *Leadenhall-street*, was originally called *Belzettar's-lane*, after the name of its founder. In the time of Henry VIII. it was inhabited by such a crew of impudent beggars that it was deemed necessary to close the thoroughfare. Returning through *Fenchurch-street* on the right hand side, *London-street* is reached, a short thoroughfare leading to the Blackwall Railway. *Mincing-lane*, extending to *Tower-street*, the great commercial mart of sugar-brokers and others, was originally called *Minchun's-lane*, from several tenements on its site belonging to the Minchuns or Nuns of St. Helen's, Bishopsgate. Several noble mansions may be seen in this lane from the designs of Wren, in whose time the merchants not only transacted their business, but had their private residences in the city. Here stands that extensive range of building the *Commercial Sale Rooms*. *Mark-lane* is a name familiar to agricultural ears as the seat of the *Corn Exchange*, which was first opened in 1747. In 1827 a part of the edifice was rebuilt, and many alterations made, and the renovated structure was thrown open in 1828. The Exchange is of the Doric order, and two coffee-houses are connected with it. An interior quadrangle is surrounded by a colonnade. Here the brokers sit, and exhibit the sample of grains for sale. The corn-market is held on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. *Philpot-lane* occupies the spot once appropriated to the mansion of Sir John Philpot, a citizen, who in the reign of Richard II. fitted up a fleet at his own cost to suppress the pirates who infested the English sea.

Cornhill, one of the chief city wards, lies to the south of the Royal Exchange, and between *Threadneedle-street* and *Lombard-street*. Upon this site in ancient times a corn-market was held. Cornhill appears to have been a wide street with a market-place aspect, the prison very intrusively breaking the line on the left-hand side. The space in its front was the scene of Mayings, and other quaint gaieties. In 1283 Henry de Walleis built on Cornhill a prison for the incarceration of improper

persons, and the same was called the Tun-upon-Cornhill, because it was in the shape of that vessel. In 1401 the tun was converted into a cistern for sweet water, conveyed by leaden pipes from Tyburn, and thenceforth called the Conduit-on-Cornhill. "Then was the wall planked over, and a cage with a pair of stocks placed therein for the confinement and correction of immoral characters; on the top of the cage was fixed a pillory for the punishment of fraudulent bakers, for millers stealing corn at the mills, for scolds, and other feminine offenders." Of the origin of the Standard in Cornhill, so long the ideal point by which the suburban mile-stones measured their distances from the city, an ancient local historian gives the following account.—"In 1582, Peter Morris, a Dutchman, having contracted with the city for the construction of an engine under London Bridge to force water into the eastern parts thereof, erected at the east end of Cornhill, in the middle of the high street, where four ways part, a water standard at the charge of the city, which standard had four spouts that ran plentifully with every tide four ways to Bishopsgate, Aldgate, the Bridge, and to Walbrook, or Stocks Market. This being at the same time supposed to be the highest ground in the city." Passing from the western extremity of Cornhill, the outlets on the left-hand side are not of sufficient interest to demand distinct notice. The first opening on the right-hand side is *Pope's Head-alley*, which communicates with *Lombard-street*. Here some ancient chronicles relate, that King John once owned a palace, and possibly the celebrated but ignominious scene which passed between him and Pandulph, in which the diadem of England was prostrated before the representative of the Pope, was acted or planned here. It might be that from this event a building afterwards rose in honour of the Pope, called *Pope's Head*, which was a place of considerable importance, and built of stone. It certainly had been inhabited, if not by royalty, at least by some very considerable personage, and adorned with the arms of England, such as they were seen before the

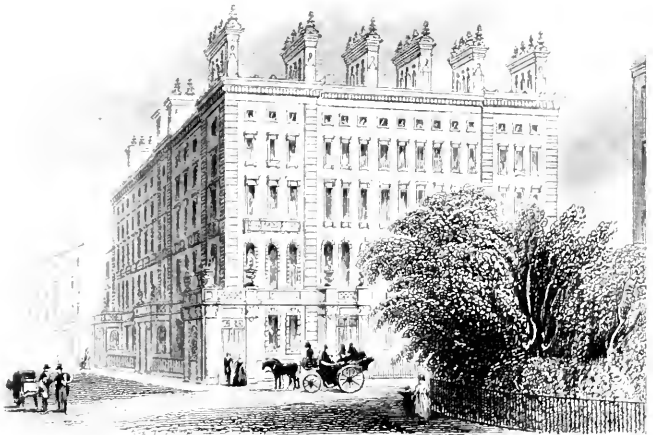
time of Edward III., with two angel-supporters; they decorated the front of the house towards Cornhill. A tavern and ship-broker's offices now cover the site.

CHANGE ALLEY,

An abbreviation of Exchange Alley, has two entrances from Cornhill, and extends to Lombard-street. Here is *Garraway's Coffee-house*, which has long been celebrated for the sales of estates and other valuable property which take place beneath its roof. Prior to the erection of the Auction Mart, every public sale of importance in the city was effected here, and it still maintains the character which Maitland applies to it in his "Survey," written in 1756:—"It is known all over the mercantile world on account of the business transacted there in money affairs." It was also the grand market for selling stocks, lottery-tickets, &c., nearly two centuries back, a character which it maintained till the chief branch of this business was transferred to the Stock Exchange. D'Israeli in his *Curiosities of Literature*, gives an account of the founder of this coffee-house. He says:—"Thomas Garway, in Exchange-alley, tobacconist and coffee-man, was the first who sold and retailed tea, recommending it for the cure of all disorders. The following shop-bill is more curious than any historical account we have:—"Tea in England, hath been sold in the leaf for £6 and sometimes for £10 the pound weight, and in respect of its former scarceness and dearness, it hath only been used as a regalia in high treatments and entertainments, and presents made thereof to princes and grandees till the year 1357. The said Thomas Garway did purchase a quantity thereof, and first publicly sold the said tea in leaf, and drink made according to the directions of the most knowing merchants and travellers into the Eastern countries, and upon knowledge and experience of the said Garway's continued care and industry in obtaining the best tea, and making tea thereof, very many noblemen, physicians, merchants, and gentlemen of quality have ever

sent to him for the said leaf, and daily resort to his house in Exchange-alley aforesaid, to drink the drink thereof; and to the end that all persons of eminence and quality, gentlemen and others, who have occasion for tea in leaf may be supplied, these are to give notice, that the said Thomas Garway hath tea to sell from sixteen to fifty shillings the pound.'” The coffee-room of Garraway's, in which sherry and sandwiches, and other savoury comestibles are discussed in business hours, is very primitive but very comfortable; rough settles which have never known the effeminacy of a cushion, and ancient tables which are indebted for their polish to perhaps centuries of use, being its chief furniture. *Birchin-lane* connects Cornhill and Lombard-street, and is occupied by merchants, bankers, and assurance companies. *St. Michael's Alley* next *Birchin-lane* conducs to *St. Michael's Church*. The original church existed here so early as 1133. To this church was attached a pulpit-cross like that of *St. Paul's*, erected by Sir John Rudstone, Lord Mayor in 1528, who was buried in a vault beneath in 1531. Robert Fabian, alderman and sheriff, but far better known as an historian, was interred here in 1511. The body of this church was burnt in 1666, and rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren. Its Gothic tower on the south side of Cornhill is justly admired. At each corner is an angulated turret as high as the belfry, where the turrets become fluted, and the capital ornamented with sculptures of human faces; from them they spire into very elegant pinnacles. At the corner of the church-yard stands *Jamaica Coffee-house*, where in the last century the slave-trade traffic was briskly carried on. It is a rendezvous where West Indian merchants and others interested in the rum and sugar trades daily meet to transact business. As *Change-alley* was the first place in England in which tea was publicly sold, so *St. Michael's-alley* is remarkable as the earliest locality in which that popular beverage, coffee was sold, and as the seat of the first coffee-house in England. D'Israeli writes:—“An English Turkish mer-





chant brought a Greek servant in 1652, who knowing how to roast and make it (coffee), opened a house to sell it publicly. I have also discovered his handbill, in which he sets forth, 'The virtue of the coffee-drink, first publicly made and sold in England, by Pasqua Rosce, in St. Michael's Alley, at the sign of his own head.'"* From St. Michael's-alley we pass southward through the George and Vulture Tavern to *George-yard*, leading to Lombard-street. Eastward smaller passages connect it with Lombard-street and Gracechurch-street. In *Cowper's-court* is the *Jerusalem Coffee House*, the meeting-place of merchants in the East Indian, Chinese, and Austrian trades.

The last avenue on the south side of Cornhill is *St. Peter's Alley*, a place of considerable business. The most attractive object upon this spot is *St. Peter's Church*, the origin of which is lost in the obscurity of bygone ages. There is, however, a tradition which is perpetuated by a tablet preserved in the church which sets forth that the first church founded in London was that of "Sent Peter upon Cornhyl," which it is further said was raised in the year 179 by Lucius, the first Christian king of this land. It adds, that it was made the cathedral of an archiepiscopal see, and continued so for more than 410 years, when the diocese was removed from Cornhill to Derebernaum, which is now called Canterbury, and where "yt remeyneth to this dey." Maitland states that the first account of St. Peter's Church which he had found that could be regarded as authentic, set forth that "William Kingston, before the year 1228, gave to it his tenement in Grass-street called Horse Mill." The ancient church in 1411 was conveyed by Richard Whittington, the famous citizen, and others, to the commonalty of London, in whom the right of advowson is vested. It was destroyed in the conflagration of 1666, and upon the ruins thereof the present handsome pile (by Wren) arose. There is a monument in this church to the memory of seven

children, the whole offspring of Jane and Mary Woodhouse, who were burnt to death at the house of their parents in Leadenhall-street in 1782.

We have now reached the top of Cornhill, a point at which Bishopsgate and Gracechurch-streets meet, and Leadenhall-street to the east continues the grand thoroughfare from the Cornhill line.

CHAPTER XIV.

LEADENHALL-STREET—LEADENHALL-MARKET—EAST INDIA-HOUSE — ALDGATE — HOUNSDITCH — WHITECHAPEL — MINORIES — GOODMAN'S FIELDS — TOWER-HILL — THE TRINITY HOUSE—THE MINT—WAPPING—THE THAMES TUNNEL—SHADWELL—STEPNEY—LIMEHOUSE—POPLAR—BLACKWALL, ETC

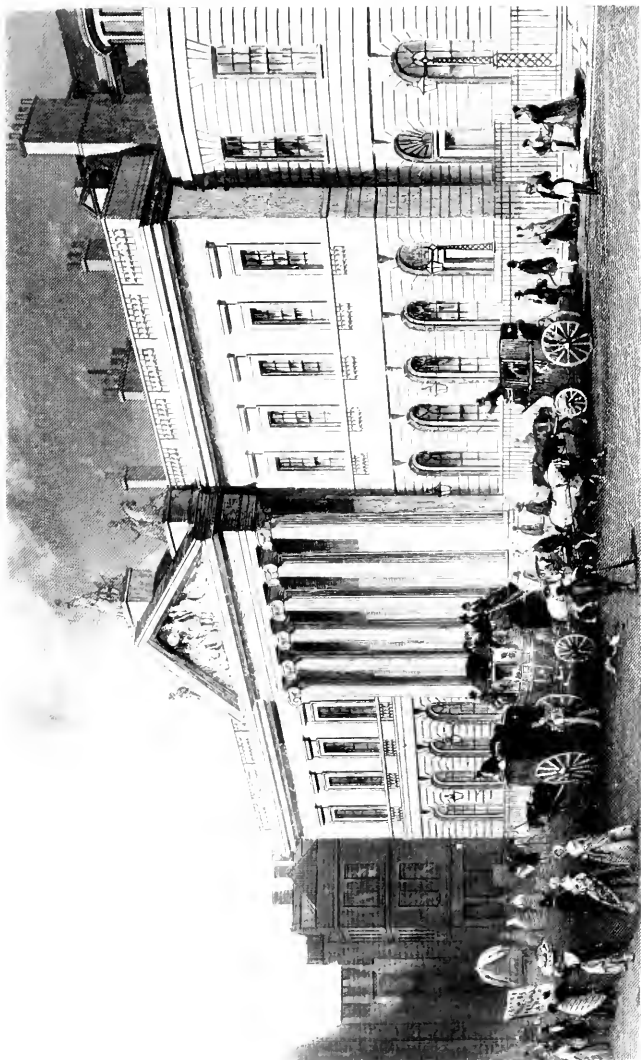
LEADENHALL-STREET, into which we now enter, is of considerable antiquity, and extends from Cornhill to Aldgate. It derives its name from a large plain building or manor-house, the property, in 1309, of Sir Hugh Nevil, lord of the manor, and roofed with lead. In 1384 Humphrey Bohun, earl of Hereford, became its possessor, and sixteen years later it was transferred to Sir Richard Whittington, by whom it was presented to the mayor and commonalty of London. A few years afterwards Sir Simon Eyre, Lord Mayor of London, covered the greater part of the site with a public granary built with stone, and designed to be always filled with corn as a preservative against famine. This granary or market was square in form, and within the area Sir Simon also founded a chapel and left 3,000 marks to the Drapers' Company, properly to endow it. His wishes were not carried out, but in 1466 a fraternity of

sixty priests, who were alternately to perform divine service on every market-day, was founded. The building was used for other purposes besides those of a granary or market. Here the artillery and city arms were kept, and like the Tower, it was regarded as an important civic fortress. "Here," Pennant quaintly remarks, "in 1546, while Henry VIII. lay putrefying in state, Heath, bishop of Winchester, his almoner, and other his ministers, distributed great sums of money, during twelve days to the poor of the city for the salvation of his soul, but I greatly fear his majesty was past ransom!" Sir Simon Eyre died in 1459, and was interred in the church of St. Mary, Woolnoth. The present *Leadenhall-market* is one of the most extensive and varied in the city, having entrances from Gracechurch-street, Leadenhall-street, and Lime-street, and being appropriated to the sale of butcher's meat, poultry, fish, vegetables, leather, hides, &c. On the north side of Leadenhall-street is the church of *St. Catherine Cree*, or *Christ*, a Gothic edifice 90 feet long, and 51 feet broad. Archbishop Land incurred great odium by the superstitious manner in which he consecrated this church on January 16th, 1630-31, and this was one, among other causes of popular dissatisfaction, which brought this unfortunate prelate to the scaffold. In this church are monuments in memory of Sir Nicholas Throgmorton, chief butler of the kingdom in the time of Queen Elizabeth, and after whom Throgmorton-street is named, and Hans Holbein, the famous artist, who died of the plague in 1554 at the Duke of Norfolk's, in Christchurch Priory, near Aldgate. West of this church, and nearly opposite to Lime-street, is the church of *St. Andrew, Undershaft*, thus styled from a shaft or May-pole formerly erected here, higher than the steeple. On the east window of stained glass are full length portraits of Edward VI., Queen Elizabeth, James I., Charles I. and Charles II. John Stow, the famous chronicler, died in 1605 at the age of eighty, in great poverty, and is buried in this church, where a monument is raised to his memory.

United to this parish church is a street and parish called *St. Mary Axe*, from the circumstance of its being situate near the *Axe Inn*, and one of the principal Jewish quarters in the city. *Leadenhall-street* is chiefly celebrated as containing that handsome pile of building

THE EAST INDIA HOUSE.

A commercial association for trading with India was formed in 1599, numbering 101 persons, who subscribed upwards of £30,000 towards the undertaking. The first charter granted to the Company was dated on the 31st of December, 1600, its duration being limited to fifteen years. The capital of the adventurers was augmented to nearly £70,000; which was appropriated to the purchase and equipment of ships, and to bullion and goods, which were carried out to form the nucleus of the India trade. The first expedition of the East India Company sailed from *Torbay* on the 2nd of May, 1601, and from this and succeeding voyages immense profits were realised. The company's charter was renewed in 1609 for an unlimited period, with the proviso that if its operation were found injurious to the public, the privileges granted to the company should cease after three years' notice. Three years subsequently this privileged body became a joint stock company. The vast territorial possessions which have by the chances of war or successful policy been acquired by the company in India form matter of history, and the military genius of *Lord Clive* and *Warren Hastings*, perhaps, effected more for the interests of the company than had ever previously been accomplished. For many years the company had an exclusive trade with *China*. The first order given by the East India Company for tea was in 1677-8, when their agents were directed to send *one hundred pounds' weight only*. The government of the company's Indian possessions is entrusted to a viceroy or governor-general, who resides in *India*. The home affairs of the company are managed by a court of twenty-four directors, elected by the proprietors of *East India*



Stock, of whom six go out annually by rotation. The East India House was originally built in 1726 on the site of the house of Sir William Craven, Lord Mayor in 1610. The old building was taken down, and the present edifice raised in 1799 by Mr. Jupp, and afterwards extended from designs by Messrs. Cockerell and Wilkins. The front consists of a portico of six fluted Ionic columns, sustaining an ornamented frieze, and two wings surmounted by a balustrade. The interior of this vast edifice contains the grand court-room, adorned with fine paintings illustrative of Indian scenery, the new sale-room, the library, in which is an unparalleled collection of oriental literature, the general offices, and a museum open on Saturdays to the public between the hours of eleven and three. The collection of Indian idols, paintings, and curiosities here assembled, render this one of the most attractive places of resort in London. Hoole, the poet, who translated Tasso, Charles Lamb, and Mr. James Mill, who wrote a history of British India, were employed as clerks in the India House.

The eastern end of Leadenhall-street is continued by the *High-street, Aldgate*. Aldgate was thus called to indicate the remoteness of its origin. This was one and the first of the four principal city gates, and is referred to by that early chronicler, Fitzstephen. The original gate was removed in 1606, and one of very elaborate construction replaced it, stretching across the High-street till 1768, when it was taken down. Entering into High-street the road suddenly widens, the most prominent object being the church of St. Botolph, which although commonly called *Aldgate Church*, is in Portsoken Ward. The present fabric was built after the designs of Dance, the architect of the Mansion House. When the great plague of 1665 spread devastation and death through the metropolis, the severity of the visitation was especially felt in the Aldgate quarter. In Aldgate church-yard after several pits, capable of holding 60 or 100 bodies had been dug and filled, the churchwardens caused one to be formed

so large, that they were blamed as making preparations to bury the whole parish. It was about 40 feet in length, and 15 or 16 broad, and in some parts about 20 feet deep. Into this gulf they began to throw the dead on the 14th of September, and by the 20th of that month they had cast into it 1,114 dead bodies, when they were obliged to fill it up as it was within six feet of the surface. On the west side of Aldgate Church is *Houndsditch*, a long street running into Bishopsgate, and chiefly inhabited by tradesmen of the Jewish persuasion. Its elden reminiscences are not of a very flattering character, it being, according to Stow, a huge ditch in which the refuse of the streets was thrown, and especially dead dogs, whence this canine cemetery was called Houndsditch. Proceeding eastward of Aldgate, the High-street joins the street and suburbs of *Whitechapel*, on the south side of which a long range of butchers' shops constitute what is called *Whitechapel Market*. Nathan Meyer Rothchild, the head of the Rothchild family, is interred in the Jewish cemetery in Whitechapel Road. This road is the principal entrance to London from Essex.

Opposite to Aldgate Church is the *Minories*, a street covering the site of a convent of Minorettes, founded in 1293 by Blanch, Queen of Navarre, the consort of Edmund, Earl of Lancaster. Upon the suppression of the convent by Henry VIII. it was converted into a palatial residence, and passed successively into the possession of the Bishops of Bath and Wells, and Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk, in the reign of Edward VI. On the attainder of this nobleman, the estate reverted to the crown. By Charles II. it was granted to Colonel William Legge, the ancestor of the Earls of Dartmouth. In 1672 he was buried with great pomp in the adjacent church of Trinity, Minories; and Pennant (writing in 1791) says:—"His descendants of the Dartmouth family still continue to make it the place of their interment." The ancient abode, first of religious recluses, and then of aristocratic families, is now a bustling street of business, in which with its

tributaries, America-square, the Crescent, the Circus, and the surrounding neighbourhood, many opulent Jews reside. To the east of the Minories is a neighbourhood bearing the generic name of *Goodman's Fields*, comprehending several extensive streets, similar in character to the Minories. Comparatively unattractive as the locality of Goodman's Fields now appears to all, except those whose business is confined within its circle, yet there are some memorable associations connected with its former history. Stow relates that in these fields there was a farm belonging to the Minoreesses, whence he was accustomed to fetch, when a boy, many a halfpenny worth of milk, never having less than three ale-pints for his money in the summer, and one ale-quart in the winter. He adds:—"One Trolop and afterwards Goodman, were the farmers there, and had thirty or forty kine to the pail. Goodman's son let out the ground first for grazing of horses, and then for garden plots, and lived like a gentleman thereby." In the course of time streets arose upon the fields, among the principal of which are Mansell-street, Prescott-street, Leman-street, Great Alic-street, &c. *Prescott-street* was the first street in London distinguished by the numbers upon the houses, a convenience which till the reign of Queen Anne was confined to the inns of court and chancery. The *Goodman's Fields Theatre*, famous as the London stage upon which Garrick made his *début*, was situate in *Leman-street*, and built in 1729 by "Thomas Odell, a dramatic author, and the first licenser of the stage under the famous licensing act of Sir Robert Walpole. A sermon was preached against the theatre in the church of St. Botolph, Aldgate, and Odell in consequence was induced to part with his property to Mr. Henry Giffard, who nothing daunted by a sermon, opened a new house on the same spot on the 20th of October, 1732. The clamour, however increasing, Giffard was induced to remove in 1735 to Lincoln's Inn Fields. Here he remained two seasons, after which he returned to his old quarters, and on the 19th of October, 1741, had the honour to

introduce to an Aldgate audience David Garrick, who made his first appearance on the stage in Goodman's Fields Theatre in the character of Richard III.* The new dramatic star became the celebrity of the town, and so anxious was the desire to witness the new prodigy, that we are assured he drew an audience of nobility and gentry whose carriages filled the whole space from Temple Bar to Whitechapel. It is, however, a great stretch upon our credulity to require us to believe that such an immense concourse of people could have been packed together at the same time in a theatre, even of larger dimensions than ever was found in eastern London. In 1746 the theatre, which had been rendered classic ground by the first appearance of Garrick, was taken down, and another one raised upon the same site, which in 1802 was destroyed by what appears to be the natural fate of playhouses—being burnt to the ground. In 1830 a handsome little theatre called the *Garrick*, was raised in the same locality, and this also was consumed by fire a few years back. In this neighbourhood some other theatres and their calamities claim a brief notice. *The Royalty Theatre*, in *Wellclose-square*, was founded by John Palmer, a celebrated actor, the manner of whose death, (falling dead on the stage after uttering in the part of the *Stranger* this line,

“There is another and a better world,”)

has probably more than anything else preserved his memory. It was opened in 1787, and burnt down in 1826. A more melancholy fate awaited its successor the *Brunswick Theatre*, a fate actually induced by the means adopted in its construction to guard against fire. It was built by an architect named Whitwell in seven months, and provided with an iron roof. The new theatre was opened on February 25th, 1828. Three days afterwards, during the progress of a rehearsal the walls gave way, and the structure fell in, a catastrophe by which ten persons, (including Mr. David Maurice, an eminent printer, and

* Peter Cunningham.

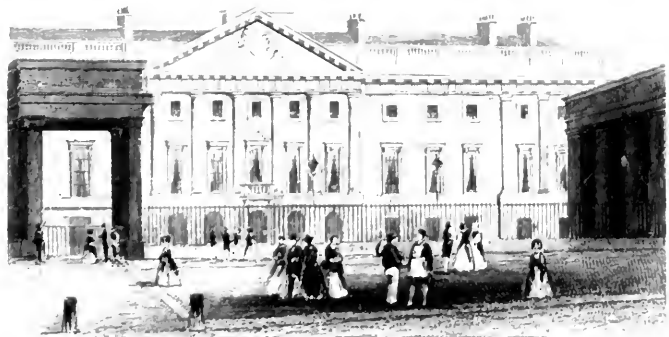
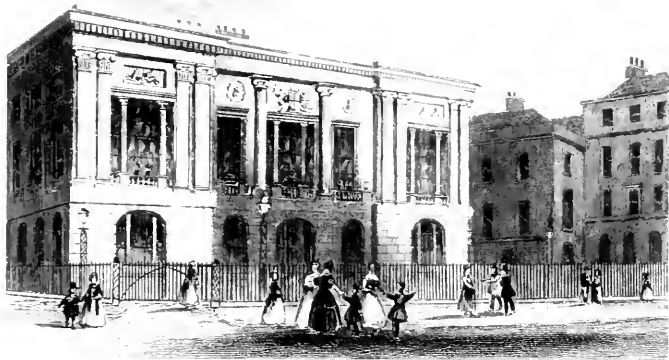
one of the proprietors) were killed, and several dangerously injured.

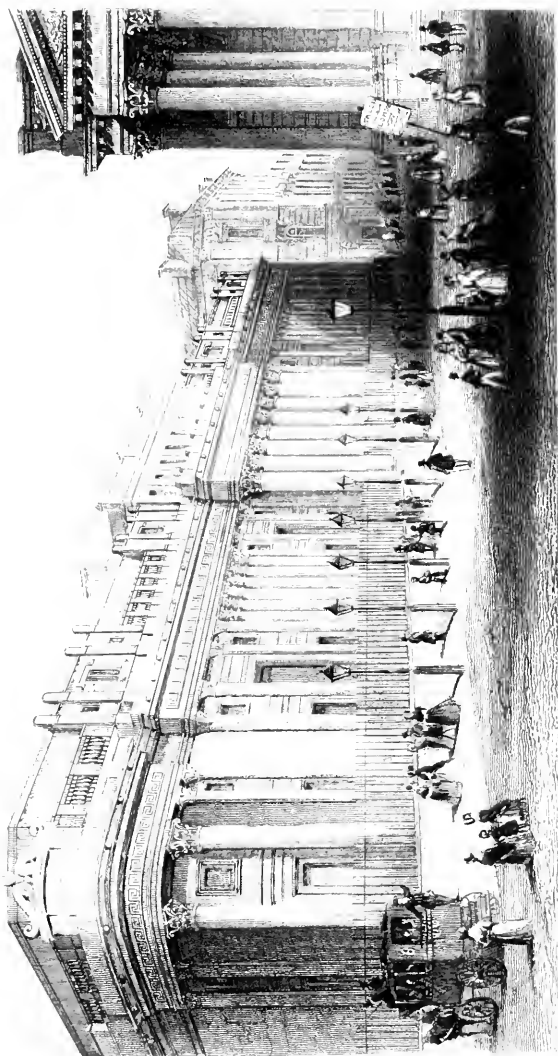
West of the Minories several streets conduct to *Crutched Friars*, the site of an establishment belonging to the Crutched or Crossed Friars, or *Fratres sancti Crucis*, an order founded about 1169 by Gerard, prior of St. Mary de Morello at Bologna. They appeared in England in 1244, and were provided with a residence by two citizens who joined their order. Their house was granted by Henry VIII. to Sir Thomas Wyat the elder, a poet of considerable note. After being inhabited by several noble families, the house was taken down, and the Navy Office erected in this place; the business of this office being removed to Somerset House, the East India Company raised some noble warehouses on the spot. South of the Minories is *Rosemary-lane*, or *Rag Fair*, a noted depôt for the sale of old clothes, from which "the light of other days" has long since faded. "Shocking bad hats," and habiliments more fit for the investiture of scarecrows than the embellishment of the "human form divine," here constitute the staple business. "The articles of commerce," says Pennant, "by no means belye the name. There is no expressing the poverty of the goods: nor yet their cheapness. A distinguished merchant, engaged with a purchaser, observing me to look on him with great attention, called out to me, as his customer was going off with his bargain, to observe that man—'For,' says he, 'I have actually clothed him for fourteen pence!'"

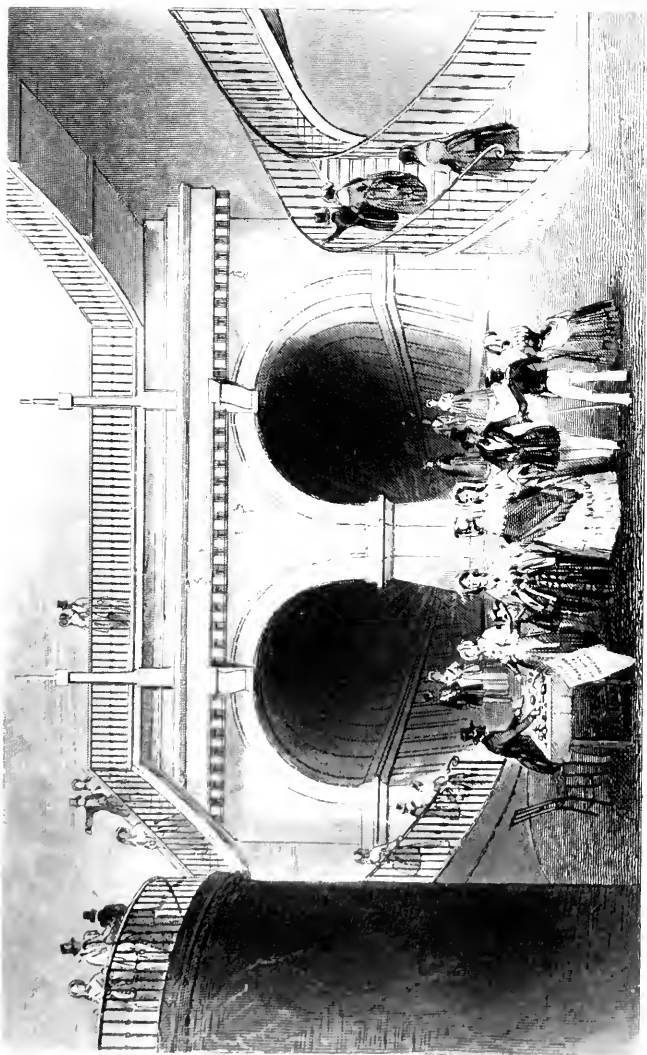
Leaving the Minories we enter upon that remarkable spot *Tower Hill*, which in connexion with that great fortress to which it owes its name, has been the scene of some of the most stirring events in the history of this country. Among the remarkable characters who have here perished on the block, may be named Sir Thomas More; Cromwell, Earl of Essex; the accomplished Earl of Surrey; the Lord Admiral Seymour, the lover of Queen Elizabeth before her accession to the throne; the Protector Somerset, whose pride despoiled the finest

London churches to make an appropriate residence for his greatness; Sir Thomas Wyatt; the Earl of Strafford; Archbishop Laud; the Duke of Monmouth; the Earl of Derwentwater, and other Scotch noblemen who participated in the rebellions of 1715 and 1745. Of one of these Simon Lord Lovat, decapitated on April 9th, 1747, Mr. Cunningham remarks:—"He was not only the last person beheaded on Tower Hill, but the last person beheaded in this country." The Tower of London in which these illustrious captives were confined, and which is the most remarkable fortress in this or perhaps any other country, will be noticed in our chapter of remarkable objects on the banks of the Thames. Tower Hill, over which more than a century has rolled since it was the stage of one of those sanguinary spectacles too common in the olden times, now presents a peaceable aspect enough, and is encompassed with the evidences of high civilization and increasing commerce. Its principal area, in the centre of which is a garden enclosure, is called *Trinity-square*, and is the most open and spacious square east of Temple Bar. The square takes its name from the *Trinity House*, an elegant structure, after the design of the late Samuel Wyatt, on the north side of Tower Hill, and facing the principal entrance to the Tower. The corporation to whose use this building is applied, was founded in 1529 by Sir Thomas Spert, Navy Comptroller to Henry VIII. The company comprehends a master, deputy-master, 31 elder brethren, and an unlimited number of younger brethren. They appoint pilots for the Thames, erect lighthouses and sea-marks, supervise ballastage in the river, and transact other business chiefly connected with the Thames. Their surplus revenue (derived from tonnage, beaconage, &c.) they appropriate to the maintenance of decayed mariners, and the widows and orphans of seamen. The present master of the Trinity House (1851) is the Duke of Wellington.

The *Royal Mint* on Tower Hill, where the monies of the realm are coined and issued, occupies the site of







the old Victualling Office, and was principally built after the design of Sir Robert Smirke. The structure is in the Grecian style, composed of a long stone front, consisting of three stories, surmounted by a handsome balustrade. The wings are ornamented with pilasters, the centre with demi-columns, and a pediment on which are sculptured the armorial bearings of the United Kingdom. Over the porch is a gallery of the Doric order. Admission to see the process of coining can only be procured by a card from the Master of the Mint, which is not transferable. Until very recently the office of Master of the Mint was generally filled by a member of the government.

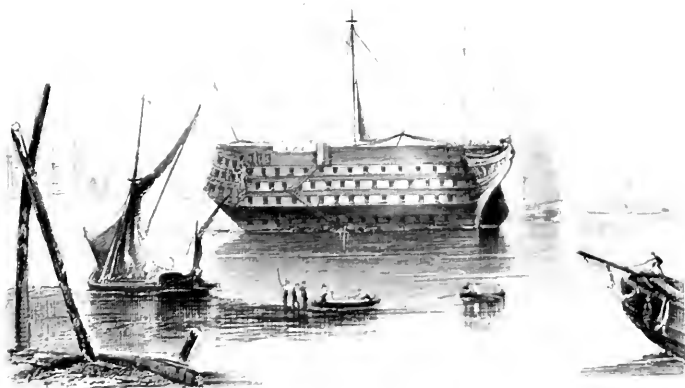
Between the Tower and Blackwall, is a very densely populated district chiefly occupied by the marine population of London, and those employed in administering to their wants. Here live ship-owners, ship-builders, sailors, rope-makers, and dealers in the various stores required for our navy; and docks, canals, tram-roads, ship-building yards, wharfs, and all the appliances of a large maritime commerce are found here. Nearest to the Tower are the districts of *Wapping* and *Ratcliffe-highway*, a great part of the parish of Wapping being covered by the London Docks. The most remarkable feature, however, in Wapping is

THE THAMES TUNNEL.

The late Sir Isambard K. Brunel was the projector of that stupendous work the Thames Tunnel, a subterranean communication beneath the bed of the Thames from Wapping on the left side, to Rotherhithe on the right side of the river. The undertaking was commenced in 1825, and 420 feet of the passage had been excavated when an inundation from the river above poured into the Tunnel. At the time of the accident 120 labourers were engaged, all of whom effected their escape. The hole was stopped up, and the work proceeded, but in the following year, 1828, the river again broke through, and six of the excavators were drowned. Further progress was

suspended till 1835, when government making an advance of £247,000 to complete the works, operations were resumed. Three more irruptions occurred, but perseverance overcame every difficulty, and the Tunnel was thrown open to the public in 1843, the total outlay employed in its construction reaching £614,000. It is the property of the Thames Tunnel Company. The Tunnel consists of a square mass of brickwork, 37 feet by 22, containing in it two arched passages, each 16 feet 4 inches wide, with a path 3 feet in width for pedestrians. The length of the Tunnel is 1,200 feet ; it is brilliantly lighted up, and contains numerous shops for the sale of refreshments and fancy articles. It is descended and ascended at each end by large circular stairs of 100 steps each, and foot passengers using this subterranean thoroughfare, pay individually a toll of one penny.

Shadwell, Stepney, Limehouse, Poplar, and Blackwall, continuous townships on the left bank of the river are similar neighbourhoods to those we have just named, but they improve in character and appearance as their distance from the city increases. Through their centre to the West India Docks in the Isle of Dogs, between Limehouse and Blackwall, runs a wide and handsome road known as the *Commercial Road*, a continuation of *Church-lane*, Whitechapel, and along which is a tram-road, whereby are conveyed the rich produce of the Indies. The parish of *St. Paul's, Shadwell*, was formerly a part of that of Stepney, from which it was separated in 1670. *Stepney* was formerly an immense parish, the now distinct parishes of Spitalfields, Bethnal Green, Whitechapel, Shadwell, Poplar, and Limehouse, being within its limits. It was originally a Saxon manor called Stibbenhedde, or Stebonheath. Stow relates that in 1299 Edward I. held a parliament at the house of Henry de Walleis in Stepney, at which that monarch confirmed the Charter of Liberties. The Bishops of London formerly had a palace here. In Stepney Church are buried the remains of Sir Thomas Spert, the founder of the Trinity House. The epitaphs



in Stepney are more remarkable and quaint than any in London, and are particularly noticed in that lively publication of the last century, the *Spectator*. *Limehouse* is a very populous parish between Wapping and Poplar, and is famous for its ship-building yards. It was separated from Stepney in 1730. The church dedicated to St. Anne was one of the fifty new churches erected in the reign of Queen Anne after the designs of Nicholas Hawksmoor, the architect of St. Mary, Woolnoth. The interior was destroyed by fire in 1850, but has since been restored. *Poplar* was separated from Stepney, and formed into a parish of itself in 1817, under the name of All Saints, Poplar. The poplar trees with which this place once abounded, gave to it its name, and the numerous gardens which are still found here, impart to this bustling neighbourhood some of its former rural appearance. Adjoining is *Blackwall*, famous not only as a railway station, but as the point from which many continental steamers depart. To epicures its hotels offer great attraction, and they have long been celebrated, in common with those of Greenwich, for that piscine delicacy, whitebait. The author of the *Hand Book for London* elaborately describes the process by which these ichthyological dainties are cooked: we need not follow his example, but will merely advise our readers who are curious on that matter to eat the whitebait, and place perfect reliance on the cookery. The townships or hamlets which we have thus briefly mentioned, present one feature in common as the great metropolitan seat of our maritime commerce; to describe them fully, and to enter into a special detail of their several resources, would not unprofitably fill a volume. However important they may be, we can only remember that they form but a fraction of the vast extent of ground represented by the metropolis, and while we could not be silent regarding them, we have said no more than sufficient to excite the curiosity of the stranger, and to prompt a visit to these great naval storehouses of the country.

CHAPTER XVII.

FISH-STREET-HILL — THE MONUMENT — GRACECHURCH-STREET—BISHOPSGATE-STREET—NORTON FOLGATE—SPIT-ALFIELDS—BETHNAL GREEN—SHOREDITCH—HACKNEY—KINGSLAND—HOXTON—OLD-STREET-ROAD, ETC.

ANOTHER interesting portion of the city now demands notice, that line of street comprehending Fish-street-hill, Gracechurch-street, Bishopsgate-street, Norton Folgate, and Shoreditch, together with their tributary neighbourhood. *Fish-street-hill*, prior to the erection of New London Bridge, was a place of much greater importance than it is now, being the high road to Old London Bridge. It lies to the left, and many feet below the elevation of King William-street, the noble approach to the new bridge. Lower Thames-street is its southern extremity, and at the southernmost angle formed by the junction of these two streets is the church of *St. Magnus*. Standing at the foot of the old bridge it was called St. Magnus, London Bridge, and is situated in Bridge Ward within. The original church was consumed in the fire of 1666, and the present structure is from the creative genius of Wren. Over the communion table there is a memorial to Miles Coverdale, a rector of the church, and bishop of Exeter, a prelate under whose superintendence, in 1535, was published the first English printed edition of the Bible. Ascending Fish-street-hill, we reach that memorable edifice

THE MONUMENT,

to which Pope's celebrated couplet is no longer applicable,

“—— London's column, pointing at the skies,
Like a tall bully lifts its head and lies.”

The Monument is a noble fluted column of the Doric order, erected as a memento of the great fire of London. It was designed by Sir Christopher Wren. The column, which

stands in Monument-yard, facing Fish-street-hill, is 202 feet high, that being the exact distance of the base from the spot in Pudding-lane where the fire commenced, and which by a remarkable coincidence terminated in Pye-corner, near Smithfield. The pedestal is 40 feet high, and the plinth 28 feet square; the shaft of the column is 120 feet high; it is hollow, and encloses a staircase of black marble consisting of 345 steps, by which a balcony within 32 feet of the top is reached. The column is surmounted with an urn 42 feet in altitude, from which flames are represented as issuing. The Monument was commenced in 1671 and finished in 1677, the outlay being £13,700. On three sides of the pedestal are Latin inscriptions, and the fourth is occupied with a piece of sculpture allegorically representing the destruction and rebuilding of the city. In one compartment, the city appears in flames, the inhabitants with outstretched arms calling for succour,—the insignia of the city lying thrown down, and mutilated, while a female wearing a civic crown and bearing a sword, indicates that the municipal authority was still upheld. The king, Charles II., occupies a prominent situation; He is represented in a Roman habit, and is trampling under his feet Envy, which seeks to renew the calamity by blowing flames from its mouth. Near the monarch are three female figures, emblematic of Liberty, Imagination, and Architecture. Time is offering consolation to the sufferers, and Providence gives assurance of peace and content. Behind the king stands his brother the Duke of York, with a garland in one hand to crown the rising city, and a sword in the other for her defence, and the two figures in the rear are Justice and Fortitude, the former with a coronet, the latter with a reined lion. In the upper part of the plinth the reconstruction of the city is represented by builders and labourers at work upon houses. The inscription on the north side relates the great calamity, observing that “to the estates and fortunes of the citizens it was merciless, but to their lives very favourable, that it might in all things resemble the

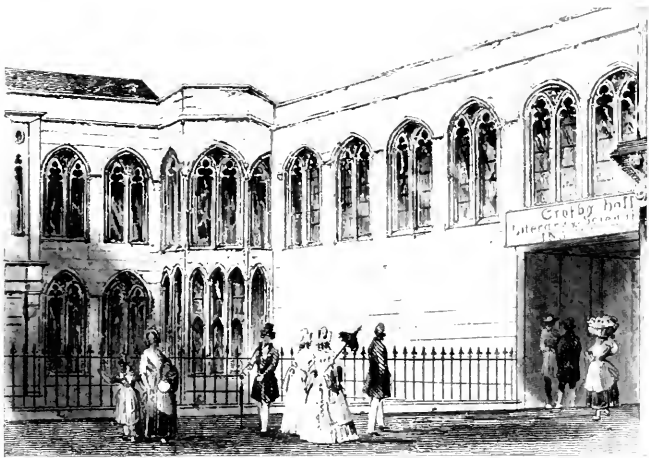
last conflagration of the world." Another inscription on the south side records the activity with which, under the auspices and direction of the King the city was rebuilt. Previously wood had been principally employed in the construction of houses; this inscription is remarkable as directing the use of brick and stone in the future structures. It relates that acts were passed directing that "public works should be restored to greater beauty with public money, to be raised by an impost on coals; that churches and the cathedral of St. Paul should be rebuilt from their foundations with all magnificence; the bridges, gates, and prisons should be new made, the sewers cleansed, the streets made straight and regular; such as were steep levelled, and those too narrow to be made wider; markets and shambles removed to separate places. They also enacted that every house should be built with party walls, and all in front raised of equal height, and those walls all of square stone or brick; and that no man should delay building beyond the space of seven years." It finishes thus:—"At three years' time the world saw that finished which was supposed to be the business of an age." On the third side of the pedestal the names of the chief magistrates of the city, during whose mayoralties the Monument was erected, are inscribed; and round the base was an inscription attributing the destruction of the city to a "popish faction," in order to carry on the "horrid plot for extirpating the Protestant religion and old English liberty, and the introducing of popery and slavery." This insulting record was defaced during the reign of James II., in compliment to his partiality for the Romanist faith, and on the accession of William III. it was very deeply re-engraved. In the reign of William IV. it was finally obliterated (January 26th, 1831,) by order of the corporation. For the fee of sixpence visitors may ascend to the gallery, whence on a clear day a fine view of the metropolis and the country beyond, especially the Kent and Surrey hills, may be gained. Several persons have committed suicide by flinging themselves from

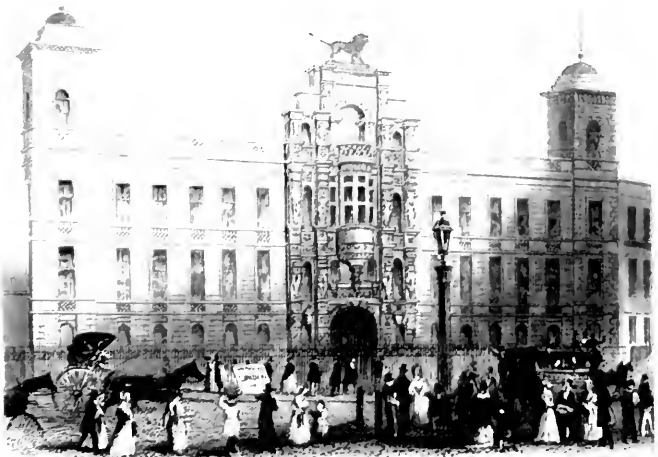
the gallery of the Monument to the pavement below. On June 25th, 1750, William Green, a weaver, fell from the top of the Monument, but whether from accident or design was not satisfactorily ascertained. That the following committed wilful self-destruction is beyond all doubt: on the 7th of July, 1788, Thomas Cradock, a baker, flung himself from the north side, and fell outside the railing; on the 18th of January, 1810, Lyon Levy, a diamond merchant, cast himself from the east side of the gallery, and fell against the pedestal; on the 11th of September, 1839, Margaret Moyes, a baker's daughter, threw herself off; on the 18th of October in the same year, Robert Hawes, an errand boy, aged 15, committed a like fearful act of self-murder; the last person who precipitated herself from the dizzy height was a servant girl named Jane Cooper, aged 17, who put an end to her existence in August, 1842. To prevent a recurrence of similar catastrophes the gallery is now enclosed in iron trellis-work, forming a kind of cage, and an effectual preventive to the indulgence of that suicidal mania which the gallery of the Monument, without such guard, had previously fostered.

Gracechurch-street, a street of considerable traffic, forms a continuation of Fish-street-hill, and extends to the eastern point of Cornhill. Its name is borrowed from the adjacent church of St. Bennet, *Grasschurch*, thus called, as previously stated, on account of the Herb Market formerly occupying the spot. Time, and perhaps a respect for sacred names, softened Grasschurch into Gracechurch-street, which sometimes was styled Gracious-street. It is full of handsome shops, and excellent taverns. Gracechurch-street is the station for omnibuses running from the city to the suburbs on the Surrey side of the Thames.

Bishopsgate-street, which continues the line of road, is divided into Bishopsgate-street *Within*, from Cornhill to Camomile-street, and thus called from being within the city walls or rather jurisdiction; and Bishopsgate-street

Without, beyond the civic limit, and reaching to Norton Folgate. This street and ward derive their name from the old city gate which formerly divided the street. The foundation of the original gate is attributed to Erkenwald, elected Bishop of London in 675 ; and its reparation to a prelate who flourished in the reign of William I. Henry III. confirmed the Hanse merchants in the enjoyment of certain privileges, in consideration of which they were bound to keep the gate in good preservation, and in 1179 it was substantially rebuilt by them. The gate was adorned with statues of the bishops who were its originators. In the last century, like several other of the city gates, it was considered to impede the thoroughfare, and was accordingly removed. Bishopsgate-street *Within*, contains three churches, those of *St. Martin Outwich* at the angle of Threadneedle-street ; *St. Ethelburga*, one of the smallest churches in the city ; and *St. Helen*. The last-named church, so called on account of its being dedicated to Helen, the mother of Constantine the Great, is in the centre of an open piece of ground or square in the rear of the east side of Bishopsgate-street, called *Great St. Helen's*. Originally here was a priory of black nuns founded previously to the reign of Henry III. *St. Helen's-place*, a range of handsome private residences, built at the commencement of the present century, occupies the ancient site of the convent-hall. The church, which is a light Gothic structure with a tower, was built in 1669. In this church were buried Sir John Crosby, the founder of Crosby Hall ; the great city benefactor, Sir Thomas Gresham ; Sir Julius Adelmar Cæsar, a Master of the Rolls ; and other eminent persons. The epitaph of Sir Julius Cæsar is cut on a black slab, in form of a piece of parchment, with a seal appendant, by which he gives his bond to Heaven to resign his life willingly whenever it should please God to call him. *In cujus rei testimonium manum meam et sigillum apposui.* Adjacent to Great St. Helen's is *Crosby Hall*, a place of historic repute, the original of which was built by Sir John Crosbie, grocer and wool-





stapler, and sheriff in 1470, on ground held by him on lease from Alice Ashfield, the prioress of St. Helen's. When Crosby House was first erected, it was considered the loftiest and most splendid private mansion in London, and occupied the entire area of Crosby-square. It afterwards became the residence of the Duke of Gloucester, and appears to have been the scene of those sanguinary machinations which ended in the murder of his nephews, and the elevation of himself to the throne under the title of Richard III. Crosby-place is frequently referred to by Shakspeare in his tragedy of Richard III. In one place he makes the following colloquy occur:—

Gloucester.—Are you now going to dispatch this thing?

1st Murd.—We are, my lord; and come to have the warrant, That we may be admitted where he is.

Gloucester.—Well thought upon; I have it here about me.

[*Gives the warrant.*]

When you have done, repair to Crosby-place.

In 1542 Crosby House was granted by Henry VIII. to Antonio Bonvicca, a rich Italian merchant. In the reign of Elizabeth it was appropriated to the reception of foreign ambassadors. It afterwards passed into possession of Sir John Spencer, Lord Mayor of London in 1594, who kept his mayoralty here. Sir John Spencer was an ancestor of the noble family of Northampton, and their compound surname of Spencer-Compton proves that they have no wish to forget their civic origin. In the time of Charles II. it became a Presbyterian meeting-house, and afterwards some of the offices were taken down, and houses erected on their site. The hall falling into a dilapidated state, and the lease terminating soon after 1831, subscriptions were raised, and this interesting monument of early times was restored, and preserved from that destruction which the mania for modernizing classic neighbourhoods has entailed upon so many interesting edifices of ancestral fame. Crosby Hall is now used as a literary institution, and as a concert-room.—On the west side of Bishopsgate-street, nearer to Cornhill, is the *London*

Tavern, long celebrated for the public dinners and great city meetings which are held beneath its capacious roof.

Bishopsgate-street-without is wider and longer than Bishopsgate-street-within, and hardly less replete with interesting reminiscences of the past. On the east side *Devonshire-street* leads into *Devonshire-square*, where the Earls of Devonshire had a town house, at which the second earl of that name died in 1628. It was originally built by Jasper Fisher, a clerk in Chancery, and there were attached to it pleasure-gardens and bowling-alleys. He was ruined by his extravagant habits, and the mansion acquired the name of Fisher's Folly. After this it frequently changed owners, belonging at one time to Edward, Earl of Oxford, Lord High Chamberlain, who is said to have presented Queen Elizabeth with the first pair of perfumed gloves ever brought into England. On one of her visits to the city that queen lodged in this house. It afterwards devolved to the Earls of Devonshire, who were its last occupants, and at the commencement of the last century the existing square was raised upon the site of the residence which had known so many distinguished owners. Nearly opposite is the church of *St. Botolph*, Bishopsgate-without, which was raised in 1728 upon the spot occupied by a previous church. The living, which is in the patronage of the Bishop of London, is the most valuable one in the city. Among its monuments is one in memory of Sir Paul Pindar, a distinguished English merchant in the reigns of James I. and Charles I. By the former sovereign he was sent as ambassador to the court of Turkey, and on his return from the Ottoman empire brought with him a diamond, the estimated value of which was £30,000. The king wished to purchase this gem ; Pindar, however, declined to part with it, but favoured his royal master sometimes with the loan thereof on fête days. The coveted jewel was bought of the merchant by Charles I. Pindar must have been the Rothschild of his day, for in 1639 he was worth the even now

colossal sum of £236,000. His transactions with the luckless King Charles, under whom he farmed the Customs, involved him in ruin, and he was cast into prison for debt. The King, it is said, owed him and the rest of the old Commissioners of the Customs £300,000. He died in 1650, at the age of 84, and with his death the calamities which had befallen his house did not terminate. He left his affairs in so perplexed a condition that William Toomes, his executor, overwhelmed with disappointment, put an end to his existence, and received the ignominious and unhallowed sepulture of a suicide. The house of Sir Paul Pindar in the course of time was converted into an inn, bearing the sign of the Sir Paul Pindar's Head. It has been recently altered and improved, and the name of Pindar is perpetuated by this antiquated and interesting hostelry. On the same side as St. Botolph's Church, and a considerable distance to the north of it, is *Holywell-street*, the site of the ancient monastery so called, one end of it running towards Shoreditch, and the other towards the Curtain-road. To the west of this street was the spring which gave its name to the whole liberty, as well as to the convent of Benedictine nuns established by Robert Fitzgelran in the time of Richard I., and subsequently rebuilt by Sir Thomas Lovell, in the reign of Henry VII., who was interred in a chapel here raised at his own cost. *Holywell Mount* was made level about the year 1777, and is now covered by a chapel and several respectable streets. The *Curtain-road* adjacent, contained a theatre, where Richard Tarleton, "one of Queen Elizabeth's twelve players, with wages and livery," performed. Holywell Mount was commonly believed to have been formed out of the rubbish of the fire of London, but it is on public record that this ground when a meadow was granted by the city of London for a public laystall or dunghill. In *Worship-street*, Curtain-road, is the police-court for the district. The street of Bishops-gate-without is connected by a short street called *Norton Folgate* with Shoreditch.

Before entering Shoreditch it will be necessary to glance at a dismal squalid district, but the seat of manufacturing industry, lying in the rear of the eastern side of Bishopsgate-street-without—we mean, *Spitalfields*. It is believed to have been the burial-place of Roman London, and it is curious that we are, after the lapse of centuries, returning to the wisdom of our remote ancestors by resuming extramural interments. It owes its appellation to the fact that the fields were part of the estate of the priory and hospital of St. Mary Spital, founded in 1197 by Walter Brune, Sheriff of London, and Rosia his wife, for canons regular of the order of St. Augustine. In the church-yard of the priory, the situation of which *Spital-square* now indicates, there was a pulpit cross, at which a preacher was accustomed to utter a discourse, being a compendium of four others which had been delivered at St. Paul's Cross on Good Friday, and on Easter Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday; after which he preached a sermon of his own composition. The cross was pulled down during the civil wars in the reign of Charles I. Stow says that the ancient name of Spitalfields was Lolesworth. When Louis XIV. revoked the edict of Nantes, the fiercely-pursued Huguenots or French Protestants came over in thousands to England, where they found a secure asylum from persecution, and were permitted the unrestricted exercise of their religious faith. A large body of them settled in Spitalfields, where they introduced the silk manufacture, which is now the staple business of this district and the contiguous neighbourhood. *Christ Church, Spitalfields*, one of Queen Anne's fifty churches, was built by Nicholas Hawksmoor. A beautiful monument to the memory of Sir Robert Ladbrooke, by Flaxman, adorns the interior. *Spitalfields Market* is one of the largest vegetable markets in London, and is held three times a week. The hamlet of *Bethnal Green* is adjacent to Spitalfields, and once appertained to Stepney, from which it was separated in 1743, and constituted a distinct parish of itself, under the name



of *St. Matthew, Bethnal Green*. Like Spitalfields it is principally inhabited by silk-weavers, and though abounding in narrow streets and densely-populated alleys, is not utterly devoid of open spaces and green fields. On Bethnal Green there stood till lately an antiquated mansion, called Bishop's Hall, where Bishop Bonner, the ferocious and willing instrument of Queen Mary's cruelties, is said to have resided. The vicinity is still called Bonner's Fields. New churches are rapidly springing up in this locality, to meet the spiritual destitution which has so long been felt here.

Returning to the line of street, from which we have deviated to notice cursorily the seat of the metropolitan silk manufacture, we enter into the populous and traffic-crowded thoroughfare of *Shoreditch*, a name the etymology of which has been variously defined. A common impression prevails that Shoreditch is indebted for its name to the unfortunate but frail beauty, Jane Shore, whom some imaginative writers have represented of perishing of hunger in a ditch in its vicinity. Jane Shore appears to have been in no ways connected with Shoreditch, and so far from her dying in the manner represented, she survived her beauty, and attained a very advanced age, being alive in the time of Sir Thomas More. He says:—"Proper she was, and faire: nothing in hir bodie that you would have changed; but you would have wished hir somewhat higher. Thus saie they that knew hir in hir youth. Now she is old, leane, withered, and dried up; nothing left but rivelled skin and hard bone; and yet, being even such, who so well advise her visage, might gesse and devise, which parts how filled would make it a faire face." A more matter-of-fact conjecture supposes a sewer-ditch to have been promoted by the name of Shoreditch; and Strype, Pennant, and other historians, believe that it derives its name from Sir John de Sorditch, lord of the manor, sent by Edward III. in 1343 on a mission to Pope Clement VI., to remonstrate with the pontiff against his assumed right of presenting

to English benefices, and filling them with foreigners. Sir John de Sorditch was interred in Hackney Church. When archery was a popular sport, the captain of the London archers was distinguished by the title of the Duke of Shoreditch, from the circumstance, that when Henry VIII. appointed a grand shooting-match at Windsor, Barlow, an inhabitant of Shoreditch, and a citizen, was the victor, and so pleased was the King with his skill, that he named him on the spot, Duke of Shoreditch. The parish church of *St. Leonard's, Shoreditch*, was erected by Dance, in 1740, upon the spot which the previous church had covered. Here several eminent characters, and some of the associates of Shakspeare, were buried. Among them may be named, William Somers, jester to Henry VIII.; Richard Tarlton, the merry-andrew who delighted the subjects of Queen Elizabeth; James Burbadge, and Richard Burbadge, his son, the friend and associate of Shakspeare; William Sly, Nicholas Wilkinson, and Richard Cowley, original actors, in the plays of Shakspeare; and the Countess of Rutland, daughter and only child of Sir Philip Sydney. In Shoreditch is the station of the Eastern and North-Eastern Counties Railway.

From that point of Shoreditch where St. Leonard's Church stands three roads diverge:—Hackney-road to the left; Old-street-road to the right; and Kingsland-road, a continuation of the line of Shoreditch. *Hackney-road*, a long and wide thoroughfare, claiming no special notice, conducts to the village and parish of *Hackney*, a quiet rural place, abounding in schools and chapels of various denominations. In former times it was the favourite residence of the Veres, the Brookes, and other aristocratic families. The historian Strype was a lecturer at Hackney for nearly forty years, where he died in 1737; and here Matthew Henry, the celebrated scriptural commentator, was a preacher. *Kingsland*, which is in the parish of Hackney, is a handsome road leading to the pleasant townships of Stoke Newington and Tottenham, and was,

before the introduction of railways, the high road to Cambridge. Between Kingsland and Islington lies the populous suburb of *Hoxton*, formerly called by the not very euphonious name of Hogsden. It is in the parish of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch. In *Hoxton-fields* a duel was fought between Ben Jonson and Gabriel Spencer, the actor, which terminated fatally for the latter. In *Charles-square* the Rev. John Newton, the principal correspondent of the poet Cowper, lived for many years. In Hoxton were formerly resident several of the nobility, but its glory has long since departed, and its attractions are insufficient to command further detail. *Old-street-road* extends from Shoreditch Church to Goswell-street, and says Mr. Cunningham, "contains more almshouses than any other street in London." That portion of it from St. Luke's Hospital to the Charter-house is called *Old-street*, which it is obvious gives its name to the road. Stow writes that it was called Eald-street, because it was the old highway from Aldersgate-street for the north-east parts of England before Bishopsgate was built. *Old-street-road* was formerly part of a Roman road from Colchester. Since the formation of the City and New Roads it has dwindled into a mere street. The church of *St. Luke, Old Street*, was one of the fifty new churches built in 1732. *St. Luke's Hospital*, in this street, is an asylum for lunatics. It was first raised in 1751, for the reception of those patients who could not obtain admission into Old Bethlem Hospital. The present edifice was built in 1782, by Dance, and is of brick and stone. In the front is a broad space circumvallated, with a portico in the centre. The hospital contains accommodation for 300 individuals, and has a large revenue exceeding £8,000 annually.

CHAPTER XVIII.

KING WILLIAM-STREET — PRINCES-STREET — MOORGATE-STREET — FINSBURY — THE ARTILLERY-GROUND — BUNHILL-FIELDS—THE CITY-ROAD—THE NEW-ROAD — HAMSTEAD—MARYLEBONE, ETC.

THAT portion of the city in which the most recent alterations have been made will now command our attention, *King William-street* being the starting point whence we shall travel to the western part of the metropolis. King William-street is the principal approach to London Bridge, between which and the point where the Poultry and Cornhill join, it forms a direct communication, stands upon the site of part of Lombard-street, and in its course cuts through Nicholas-lane, Clement's-lane, Abchurch-lane, St. Swithin's-lane, and Crooked-lane, upon the original proportions of which it has much intruded. Eastcheap, the memorable scene of the frolics of Prince Hal and his obese friend Falstaff, was also curtailed to make way for the new approach. Hence King William-street proceeds, making an acute angle with Gracechurch-street, passing Cannon-street, and extending to the commencement of New London Bridge. It is a spacious and handsome street, constructed, though on a far smaller scale, somewhat after the plan of Regent-street, the houses being elegant structures with imitation stone fronts. Entering this magnificent thoroughfare from Lombard-street, *Abchurch-lane* deserves brief notice. It contains the parish church of *St. Mary, Abchurch*, one of Sir Christopher Wren's erections. In November, 1683, the Duke of Monmouth, Lord Gray, and Lord Russell assembled at a house in this lane to debate or advance their insurrectionary designs. Passing Nicholas-lane, *Clement's-lane* is reached, in which stands the parish church of *St. Clement's, Eastcheap*. On the spot where a curve is formed by King William-street and Gracechurch-street, a statue of his

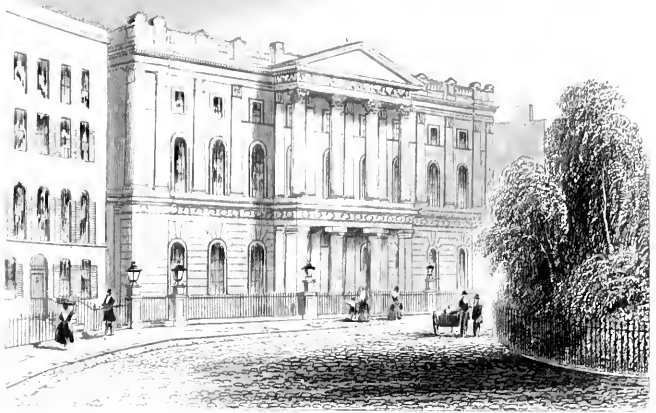


late majesty William IV. appears on a pedestal, and railed round. It came from the studio of Mr. Nixon, and was placed in its present location in December, 1814. The height of the figure is 15 feet 3 inches, it is formed of two blocks of granite, and its weight is 20 tons. According to Mr. Peter Cunningham this statue indicates the site of the Boar's Head Tavern.

In the Poultry, nearly opposite to the entrance of King William-street, is *Princes-street*, on the east side of which the western walls of the Bank of England extend, while on the other side are several great banking-houses, and the garden entrance to Grocers' Hall. This street has recently been widened and beautified, and is continued, after crossing Lothbury, by *Moorgate-street*, an entirely new city street, built upon the site occupied some few years since by the numerous little courts and streets between Coleman-street, London Wall, and Lothbury. Moorgate-street joins *Finsbury-parement*, a wide street leading to Finsbury-square, and from which on the right hand side an opening conducts in Finsbury-circus. The handsome streets and buildings in this vicinity cover a part of the immense area of Finsbury-fields, or Fensbury. They were in the days of Fitzstephen a vast fen, which, when frozen over in the winter time, was resorted to by thousands of the citizens in like manner as the Serpentine now attracts, when it becomes a sheet of ice. Finsbury-fields were long the scene of the evening recreations of the city apprentices, and their pastimes on this once immense village green are graphically described in the *Fortunes of Nigel*. Pennant calls these fields "the great gymnasium of our capital, the resort of wrestlers, boxers, runners, and foot-ball players, and every manly recreation. Here the mountebanks set up their stages, and dispensed infallible medicines for every species of disease to the gaping gulls who surrounded them. On the north part of these fields stood the *Doyge-house*, in which were kept the hounds for the amusement of the Lord Mayor. Here resided the *Common Hunt*, an officer, the second in

rank among those who formed the Prætorian establishment." In the time of Edward II. the ground was of so little value that the whole was let at the rent of four marks a year. It could only be passed over on causeways, raised for the benefit of travellers. Such was the antecedent of the present affluent district and populous borough of Finsbury. *Finsbury-square*, a very handsome range of houses with an extensive garden enclosure, was built in 1789 over the last remains of the fields commemorated by Pennant, and *Finsbury-circus* was erected about twenty-five years later. In this Circus is the *London Institution*, fronting the spot once covered by old Bethlem Hospital. The Institution was founded in 1805, and opened in 1806. It comprehends an extensive library of books in every language, reading-rooms, and lecture-rooms. In 1807 this Institution was made a corporate body by royal charter. A house in the Old Jewry, and afterwards one in King's Arm's-yard, were appropriated to the objects of the Institution. In 1816 the present building, which is of stone, was completed for that purpose. It is 108 feet long, with wings on either side, each of which measure 16 feet. The library is 97 feet long by 42 feet wide, having a gallery on every side. The lecture-room is 62 feet long by 44, and will contain 750 persons. The learned Professor Porson was librarian to this Institution up to the time of his sudden death.

Between the west side of Finsbury-square and Artillery-place, which continues the road, is the principal entrance to the *Artillery Ground*, a spacious enclosure extending westward, as far as Bunhill-row, from which and Chiswell-street it is also entered. It is the place of exercise for the Artillery Company of the City of London, and is remarkable as being the largest piece of meadow ground in London, and the only remnant of Finsbury Fields which has not been covered by houses. It is a part of the ancient manor of Finsbury, which was granted in 1215 by Robert Baldock to the mayor and citizens of London. Subsequently this portion was demised to the Artillery



Company by whom the armoury, a substantial brick edifice, was raised on its north side. The large open area facing this building is used as the exercising place for the Company, who form a volunteer association of armed citizens, sometimes called the City Trained Bands. The apprehensions which the threat of Spanish invasion awakened, led to the formation of this Company in 1585; and when the preparations to resist the formidable Armada were going on, some members of the Company, under the title of Captains of the Artillery Ground, had commands in the fort at Tilbury. The old Artillery Ground, which in the time of the Romans was their Campus Martius, was situate in Bishopsgate-street, occupying some land belonging to the priory of St. Mary Spital. William, the last prior, granted it for a very long term to the fraternity of Artillery, or the gunners of the Tower, for the practice of great and small ordnance, and it was long styled the Artillery Garden. The Company increased in numbers and importance, in 1657 numbering 12,000 men; and when Charles II. ascended the throne, they counted 18,000 infantry, and 600 cavalry. In 1622 the old place of exercise being too small, the Company removed from Bishopsgate-street to the new Artillery Ground, Finsbury, being the third field from Moor-gate next to the Windmills, and here for more than two centuries they have held their loyal musters. The society now does not number 300. It is governed by a court of assistants, comprehending a president, vice-president, treasurer, colonel, lieutenant-colonel, and major; the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Sheriffs for the time being, with twenty-four elective assistants. Prince Albert is the present colonel, an office which, under the title of captain-general, has been filled by George IV. and other royal personages. In 1784 Lanardi, the aeronaut, made his first balloon ascent from these beautiful grounds. We are now in the *City-road*, a populous thoroughfare, extending from Finsbury to the Angel Inn, Islington, where it is continued by the New-road. This undertaking was

the work of Mr. Dingley, and it was thrown open for passengers and vehicles on the 29th of June, 1761.

Artillery-place, adjoining the west side of Finsbury-square, is a handsome range of buildings commencing the metropolitan end of the City-road. Adjacent is the *Bunhill-fields Burial-ground*, a cemetery in which many eminent Dissenters are buried. According to Maitland it was formerly called *Bon*, or Good-hill; another authority attributes its name to the circumstance of its having been the southern *bon*, or archery spot of the Finsbury archers, and some believe it to have been called *Bonehill* from its early use as a cemetery. When the plague broke out in 1665, Bonhill-field was consecrated as a place of interment for such of the dead as could not be provided with space in the parochial church-yards. Of this pest-field Defoe writes:—"I have heard that in a great pit in Finsbury in the parish of Cripple-gate, it lying open then to the fields, for it was not then walled about, many who were infected and near their end, and delirious also, ran wrapt in blaikets or rags, and threw themselves in and expired there, before any earth could be thrown upon them. When they came to bury others and found them, they were quite dead, though not cold." When the plague ceased, the field was walled in, and let on lease by the Corporation of London to Dr. Tindal, who converted it into a general cemetery for persons of all religious persuasions, and henceforth it became the chief place of interment for Dissenters. This burial-ground contains about five acres, and probably there is no church-yard or cemetery except Westminster Abbey or St. Paul's, in which so many eminent persons have been interred. Among those who have been sepulchred in Bunhill-fields, may be named, Richard Cromwell, the son and feeble successor of Oliver Cromwell; John Bunyan, author of the *Pilgrim's Progress*; George Fox, who founded the Society of Friends; Fleetwood, the son-in-law of Cromwell; Daniel Defoe, author of *Robinson Crusoe*, and the *Memoirs of the Plague*, just quoted; Susannah Wesley, mother of John

Wesley; Dr. Watts, author of the *Hymns*; Dr. Abraham Rees, editor of the *Cyclopædia*; Ritson, the antiquary; Thomas Hardy and John Horne Tooke; and Thomas Stothard, the royal academician. The burial-ground is now open in front towards the city-road, a dwarf wall and an iron railing superseding the former enclosure. Opposite there formerly stood a place called the Old Foundry, used for the casting of cannon, and in which the great bell of St. Paul's Cathedral was recast. Upon the site there is now seen a handsome chapel, the first stone of which was laid by the Rev. John Wesley in 1777. Southey writes that upon this interesting occasion, Wesley observed, in reference to a plate of brass bearing his name and the date fixed upon the first stone—"Probably this will be seen no more by any human eye, but will remain there till the earth and the works thereof are burnt up." In this chapel the remains of its venerable founder were deposited at the close of his lengthened career of Christian usefulness and benevolence.

Continuing the line of the City-road, from Bunhill-fields Burial-ground, and crossing Old-street-road, by which it is intersected, one side of St. Luke's Hospital being in the City-road, pleasant rows and terraces, with planted fore-courts, indicate that we are entering a suburban district. On the east side, a short distance beyond the City-road turnpike, is the *Eagle Tavern and Grecian Saloon*, which from being a mere tea-garden has, through the increasing populousness of the neighbourhood, swelled into a theatre, the staple performances of which are opera, ballet, and farce. The theatre is situated in grounds, which upon gala-nights are lighted up, and offer the attractions of a miniature Vauxhall, and there are several concert and ball-rooms attached to the premises. It is a place much resorted to by the denizens of this crowded vicinity, to meet whose theatrical necessities the *Albert Saloon*, and other places, still lower in the scale of entertainment, are in close proximity. Ascending the City-road, we reach that point where it is crossed by the

Regent's Canal, over which a neat bridge is thrown. On one side of the extensive basin here erected, are warehouses and wharfs of the great carriers, Pickford and Co. The road widens and improves in appearance, as it draws near to Islington, and in that part, where it is traversed by the New-river, *Duncan-terrace*, in front of which the stream flows, a handsome Roman Catholic Chapel and several elegant streets and terraces on the east side, pleasantly relieve its uniformity. The City-road terminates at the Angel-inn, Islington, a culminating point at which also the New-road, Goswell-road, St. John's-road, and the Great North-road meet. We have in another place noticed this Inn, and also Islington and its associations.

The City-road is continued by the New-road, which extends from the Angel-inn to the Yorkshire Stingo-tavern, near *Lisson-grove*, and was constructed about the same time as the City-road. Between its Islington terminus and *Battle-bridge*, *Pentonville* and its genteel squares and streets are scattered, the chief features in which have been previously noticed. *Battle-bridge*, or to call it by its new, but not improved appellation *King's-cross*, at the New-road end of *Gray's-inn-lane* is believed to have been the scene of some of the most memorable events in the early history of Britain. Here it is said, that Julius Cæsar with Mark Antony and Cicero were encamped, for two years, and upon this site the battle so fearful in its results, of which *Boadicea*, queen of the *Iceni*, was the heroine, was fought, whence tradition relates the place assumed the nomenclature of *Battle-bridge*. It is also stated that a conflict between King Alfred and the Danes, added to the warlike reputation of the locality. Near this spot was the observatory of Oliver Cromwell. The original Roman North-road, and great pass to the metropolis commenced here, bounded by the river Fleet. A very common-place circumstance, literally a kind of idol-worship, substituted for *Battle-bridge* the unattractive name of *King's-cross*. A dumpy miserably-executed

statue of George IV. which became the laughing-stock of all passers by, and the theme of comic canticles, was installed here, and the legendary name of the ground hallowed by the patriotic valour of Boadicea, was changed, in compliment to a hideous, expressionless, lump of stone. This burlesque on art was removed in 1842. Nearly opposite, *Copenhagen-fields* for many years yielded a pleasant promenade to thousands of the children of toil, who in this metropolitan lung were wont to breathe the fresh air, and to enjoy one day in seven a country walk. They are now nearly built over, *Caledonia-road*, and many genteel streets absorbing a great portion of them. *The Small Pox and Vaccination Hospital* facing King's-cross was taken down recently to make room for the Great Northern Railway terminus, and a new hospital erected at Islington.

We are now in the parish of St. Pancras, to arrive at the old church of which we must deviate from the New-road, and pursue a road branching from King's-cross towards Kentish-town. On the north side of it is the *Old Church of St. Pancras*, built towards the close of the twelfth century, and enlarged and improved in 1818. Paley, author of the *Evidences of Christianity*, was one of the ministers of this church. Among the celebrated persons buried here may be mentioned Godwin, the author of *Caleb Williams*; Theobald, the Shaksperian commentator, John Walker, the author of the *Pronouncing Dictionary*; the gallant but unfortunate Corsican, General Paoli; the Archbishop of Narbonne, and seven Bishops driven from France; and the Chevalier D'Eon. Returning by the New-road, and advancing west, we pass *Burton-crescent*, (designed by and named after Mr. Burton, the architect, and lying between the New-road and the streets communicating with Russell, Tavistock, and the adjacent squares,) and reach *St. Pancras New Church*, a pile of considerable architectural pretensions, erected after the plans of Messrs. Inwood. The design of this church was taken from the triple temple upon the Acropolis, at Athens. The pulpit and reading-desk are beautiful speci-

mens of carved oak, and are formed from the wood of the celebrated Fairlop oak. The late Duke of York laid the first stone of the church in 1819, and it was consecrated in 1822. The entire expense of this beautiful fabric exceeded £76,000.

Immediately beyond this church is *Euston-square*, on both sides of the New-road, the carriage road running between the two garden enclosures. It forms two handsome oblong rows of houses, and is built upon ground belonging to the Fitzroys, Dukes of Grafton, to whose second title, the Earls of Euston, it is indebted for its patronymic. The streets on its north side conduct to the terminus of the London and North-Western Railway, those on the south side to Tavistock and other squares on the Bedford estate. Proceeding a short distance, *Upper Gower-street*, a continuation of Gower-street, Bedford-square, is reached. In this street is located the *London University*, commonly called *University College, London*, erected after the plan of W. Wilkins, R.A. The first stone was laid on the 30th of April, 1827, by the late Duke of York, and the mallet employed in the ceremony was the identical one used in laying the first stone of St. Paul's Cathedral, and was presented by Sir Christopher Wren to the Masonic Lodge of Antiquity. Its objects are stated to embrace "the general advancement of literature and science, by affording to young men adequate opportunities for obtaining literary and scientific education at a moderate expense," and the instruction is nearly universal, theology being the only exception. Lecture-theatres, lecture-rooms, a public hall and a medical museum, a laboratory, and numerous suites of rooms are found in this establishment. The building comprehends a central portico, consisting of ten Corinthian columns, sustaining an enriched entablature and pediment, adorned with emblematic ornaments. Over the whole, arising from the vestibule, is an elevated dome, surmounted by a Grecian temple of eight pillars; over each wing corresponding domes of a smaller size are seen. The University covers about seven acres



of ground. The plan of education comprises public lectures, examination by the professors, and mutual instruction, with the aid of tutors. The Junior School, under the superintendence of the Council of the College, provides an excellent education for the annual fee of £18.

Passing by Upper Gower-street we arrive at that point in the New-road where Tottenham-court runs into it, and is continued by the *Hampstead-road*, the first portion of which is crowded with shops. Having run the gauntlet of these the road improves in sightliness, and *Mornington-crescent*, *Harrington-square*, *Oakley-square*, and other new squares attest our entrance into a genteel neighbourhood. *Camden-town*, a pleasant suburb, was commenced in 1791, and is named after the noble family of Camden. In contiguity with Camden-town are *Kentish-town*, originally called Kaunteloe, which likewise belongs to the Marquis Camden, and *Somers-town* begun in 1786; but both inferior in appearance and extent to Camden-town. The *Hampstead-road*, as we advance towards the pretty village after which it is named, assumes a more beautiful aspect, and on either side elegant villas, cottages, and mansions meet the eye. *Hampstead* is extremely picturesque, and the salubrity of its air, the loveliness of its scenery, and its magnificent heath, whence a bird's-eye view is gained of the metropolis, and from which also several counties can be seen, render it a favourite abode with invalids and with persons of rank and fortune.

Resuming our journey up the New-road, an avenue on the left hand leads to that fine pile of buildings known as *Fitzroy-square*, begun in 1793, and named after Charles Fitzroy, second Duke of Grafton. The houses are faced with stone, and are profusely ornamented. The north side of the square, which is faced with stucco, was not built until 1825. Nearly opposite, in the rear of the New-road, we approach by *York-square* and *Clarence-gardens*, places, which in spite of their grand names are shabby and insignificant, to a large space called *Cumberland-market*, to which the hay and straw market formerly

held in that fashionable thoroughfare, the Haymarket, was removed. It is also called the *Regent's Park Market*. *Albany-street*, *Osnaburgh-street*, and other streets of modern erection, which from their proximity to the Regent's Park claim a semi-fashionable repute, we pass, and arrive at that pleasant part of the New-road bounded on one side by the Regent's Park, and on the other by the plantations of Park-crescent, into which Portland-place runs. We are now in the very heart of that favoured and populous parish St. Marylebone, originally called St. Mary-le-bourne, after the church of St. Mary, erected on a bourne or brook. At the corner of the New-road is *High-street*, in which is situated the parish church of *St. Marylebone*, commenced in 1813 on the site of a previous church. Opposite to this church stood the old manor-house, which was taken down in 1791. Behind this mansion was a tavern and bowling-green, much frequented by titled personages in the reign of Queen Anne. Subsequently the gardens were opened for public breakfasts and other entertainments about 1740, and it became a place of popular amusement, similar in character to Vauxhall Gardens. In 1777 the career of Marylebone Gardens closed, the ground was purchased, and the houses in *Devonshire-place*, *Devonshire-street*, and *Beaumont-street* erected thereupon.

The New-road now takes a very noble appearance, and fine streets on the left hand communicate with Oxford-street and the adjacent squares; and upon the right extend to the Regent's Park, to which there are many elegant entrances in this part. At the *Yorkshire Stingo*, the New-road closes, but the thoroughfare continues to *Oxford* and *Cambridge Terraces*, rows of superb mansions stretching towards Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens. Where the New-road ends a road to the right conducts to *St. John's Wood*, a neighbourhood abounding in villas with lawns and gardens, lying west of the Regent's Park, and named after its former owners, the Priors of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. And now we depart from the New-road to enter upon a New Volume.



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